





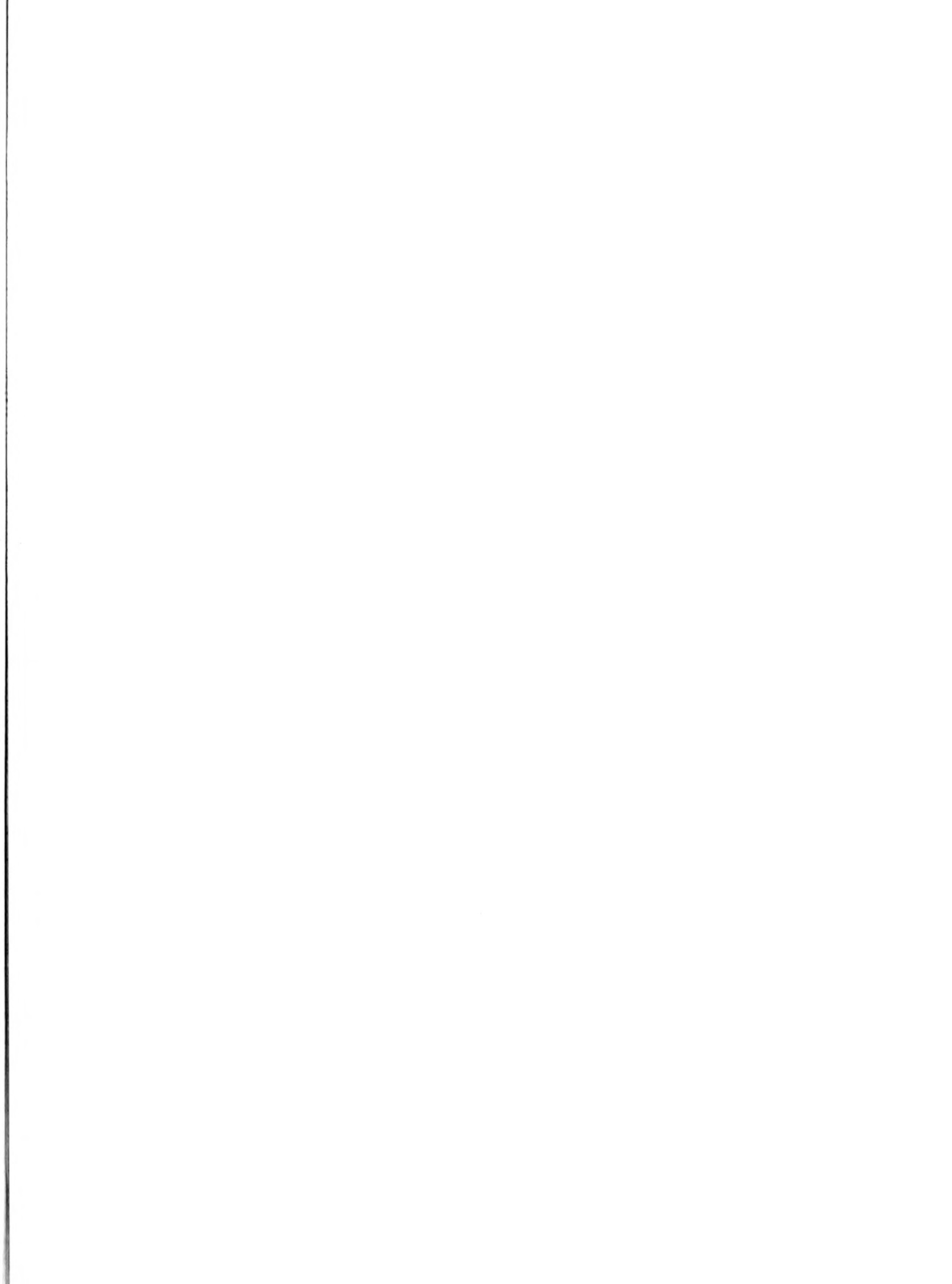
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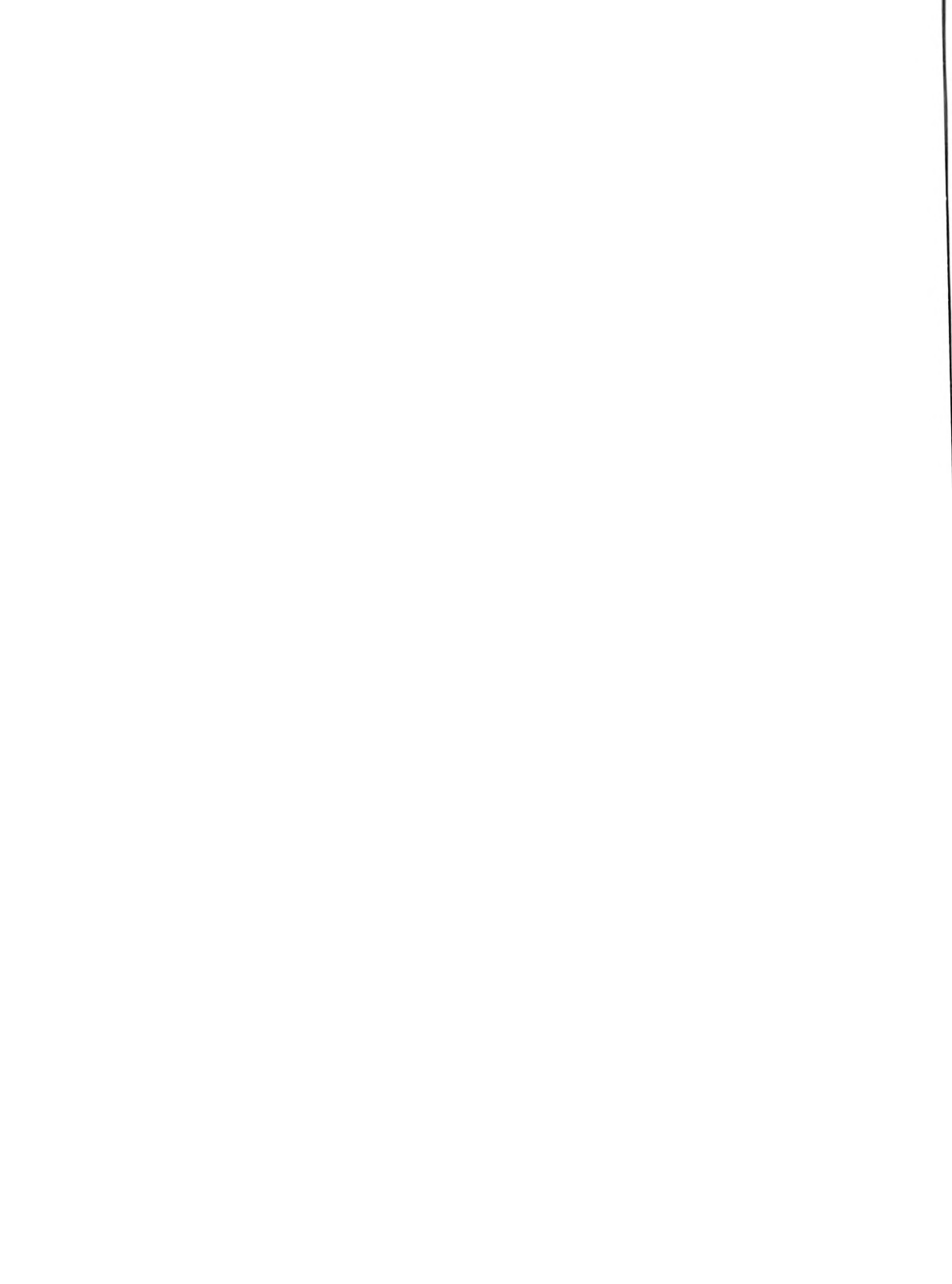
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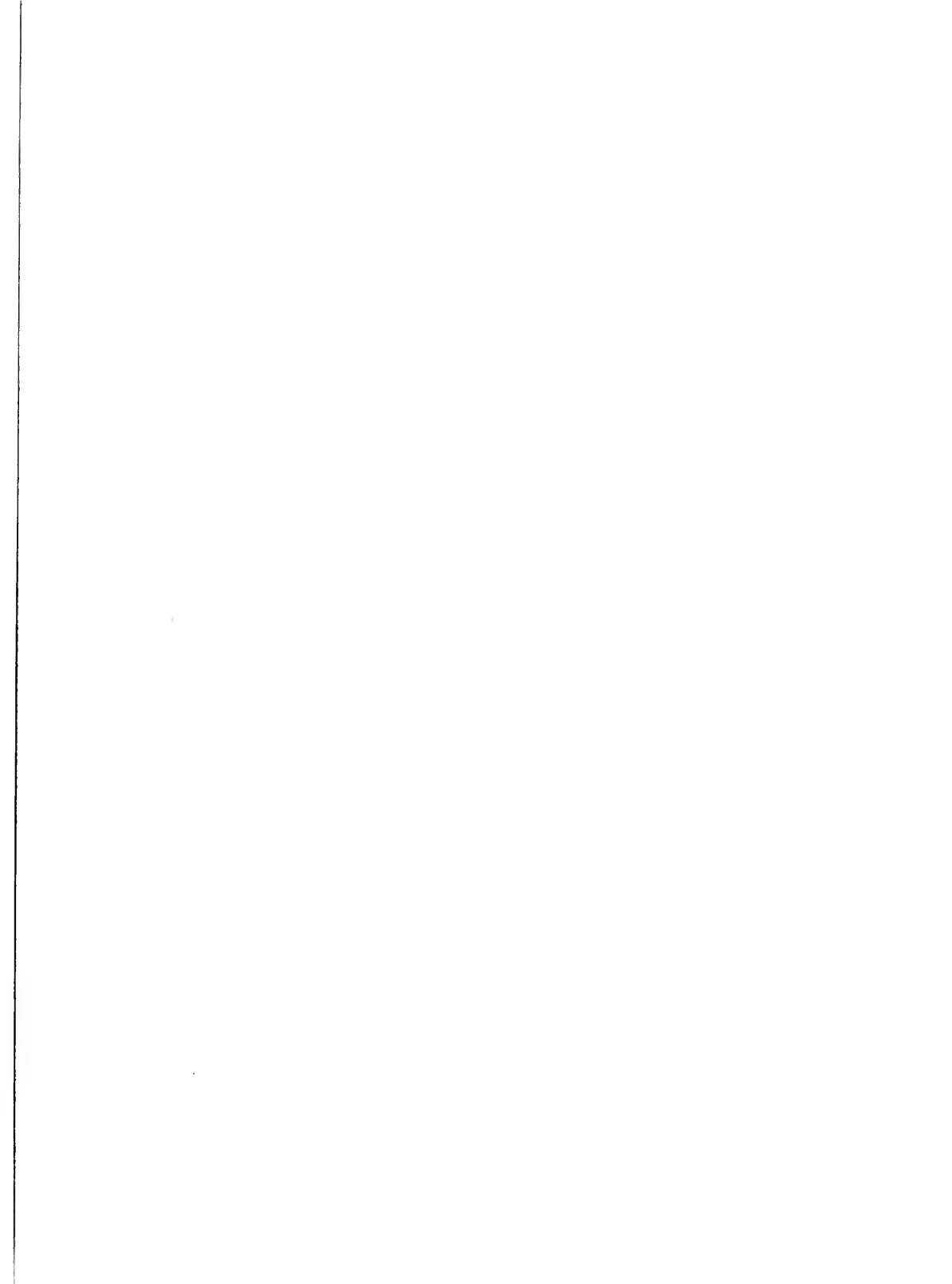
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THE EAGLE'S  
HISTORY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS

1683 TO 1905



BY  
EDMUND PLATT

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1905

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## PREFACE.

Ever since the publication of the *Souvenir Eagle* at the time of the completion of the Poughkeepsie Bridge in 1880 I have had in mind the idea of writing a history of Poughkeepsie, and began then in a rather desultory way the collection of materials. It is doubtful, however, if the plan would have taken definite form had not Mr. F. T. Smiley, of New York, induced the publishers of the *Eagle* to enter into a contract with him for a History of Poughkeepsie, similar to the histories which had been publishing for other cities. Preliminary canvassing was done under his direction, which showed that a demand certainly existed for such a work, but feeling that a satisfactory history could not be written without long study of a great mass of material, consuming much more time than had been anticipated, the contract was surrendered and the preparation of the history was turned over to me in November, 1903.

Much material for a history of Poughkeepsie had been collected since the publication of the two Dutchess County Histories (1877 and 1882). Continuous newspaper files had been brought together at the Adriance Memorial Library or at Vassar Institute, covering the period from 1806 to the present, and a few earlier volumes, together with many single copies of the old Poughkeepsie Journal had been collected by Mr. Henry Booth, Mr. Tristram Coffin and Mr. Frank Van Kleeck. Mr. Booth and Mr. Coffin had long been collectors of local historical documents, very few of which had been made use of in the county histories. Mr. Van Kleeck had preserved in scrap books nearly all the historical sketches and obituary notices of prominent citizens published during the last twenty-five years, and had also collected many rare old photographs and prints. Mr. Charles N. Arnold had saved many documents of interest and value, and Mr. Silas Wodell had made an excellent collection of local maps. To these gentlemen I am particularly indebted not only for the use of their collections, but also for many valuable suggestions and for aid in solving the problems which have arisen at all stages of the work. Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds's genealogical studies and familiarity with the early county records have also been of great service.

Many newspaper files and documents of historical interest still remain scattered in the hands of many owners, and ought to be brought together. A good many files of the early newspapers cannot be found, but others are treasured by their owners and are reasonably safe from destruction from everything but fire. I wish to acknowledge indebtedness for much assistance from the files of the *Dutchess Observer* and of the *Poughkeepsie Telegraph*, in the office of the *News-Press* and continuous from 1815; from the *Poughkeepsie Journals*, 1831-1844, in the possession of Mr. A. C. Tobey, of the *Courier*; and from the early files of the *Guardian* and of the *Political Barometer* belonging to Mrs. C. M. Nelson. Many other persons have assisted me with loans of papers, documents or photographs, including Mr. John A. Roosevelt, Mrs. Isaac Tompkins, Mr. Alfred M. Frost and Mr. Helms W. Barratt.

The early county records, surprisingly complete when one considers that they have been through two court house fires, have been for the first time made easily accessible in the new court house. They contain much interesting historical matter which has previously been overlooked. Two of the books of minutes of the old Village of Poughkeepsie have been lost, together with many of the early ordinances and assessment rolls, but the first book of minutes is in good preservation (beginning 1803) and later deficiencies can generally be supplied from newspapers. The Town of Poughkeepsie records of elections are complete from 1743 and have been placed in the city library.

The State of New York has done much in recent years to make the work of the local historian easier and to add to his material. The publication of the *Public Papers of George Clinton*, now almost finished, is perhaps the most important recent State work, and as many of Governor Clinton's Revolutionary letters were written in Poughkeepsie, this work is of particular interest to the historian of Poughkeepsie. I am indebted to Mr. Hugh Hastings, State Historian, for proofs of one of the volumes of *Clinton Papers* not yet published.

Many local historical sketches of Poughkeepsie were

written by Benson J. Lossing, long a resident of the place, and by Isaac Platt, who founded the Poughkeepsie Eagle in 1828, and began to put into print the stories he had heard and matters that he remembered in 1848, on the anniversary of the beginning of his career as a newspaper editor and proprietor. Later versions of these sketches, printed mostly from twenty to twenty-five years later than the originals, with numerous additions and omissions, were the basis of many of the statements in the county histories, and account for their inaccuracies. The original sketches are very valuable as guides and in matters within the recollection of their authors, but are not to be accepted against the direct evidence of the records. Every effort has been made in the preparation of this history to trace statements to their sources and to obtain the main facts directly from impeccable records and contemporary documents. The completion of the book has been long delayed, but the delay has resulted in many improvements and important additions to the narrative. New material, in fact, is constantly coming to light, and the task of preparing such a history is in a sense endless. The author, however, must make his final choice of material at some time and finish his work.

During the past two years I have published a number of historical sketches in the Eagle with the purpose of bringing out additional information, and much of value has been obtained through letters from persons interested.

Probably some of the genealogists will be disappointed that the book does not include sketches of the leading families of the early days, but these seemed out of place in a chronological history and were not possible within the limits of the present volume. I have endeavored to indicate where some of the most prominent families came from and when they settled in the neighborhood, but in general have taken the names as I found them in the records.

The photographs from which the excellent fac-simile and other illustrations were made were nearly all taken by Mr. O. N. Seaman, whose work speaks for itself. A few are reprints from a series of plates made about twenty-five years ago by C. S. Lucas, and others are copies of rare photographs taken by various persons.

EDMUND PLATT.

Poughkeepsie, June 1st, 1905.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.  
THE NAME "POUGHKEEPSIE," WHERE IT WAS  
FIRST GIVEN AND WHAT IT MEANS. THE  
APOKREPSING DERIVATION NOT SUSTAINED. 19-15

CHAPTER II.  
COLONIAL HISTORY ..... 10-33  
The First Settlers and the First Land Titles..... 16-18  
Beginnings of Development, the Post Road..... 18-19  
County Organization and the First Court House..... 19-20  
The First Tax List..... 21  
Some Interesting Entries in the First Book of  
Records of Supervisors and Assessors..... 21  
The First Dutch Church..... 22  
The First English Church..... 23-24  
Oaths Signed by Office Holders..... 24  
The Precinct or Town of Poughkeepsie..... 25-26  
Interesting Colonial Events..... 26-27  
Signs of Growth..... 27  
Prominent Colonial Families..... 29-33

CHAPTER III.  
THE REVOLUTION ..... 34-53  
Early Meetings and Development of Anti British  
Sentiment ..... 34-39  
The "Associators" and the Tories..... 39-38  
Military Organization ..... 38  
Poughkeepsie's First Boom; Ship Building for the  
Continental Navy..... 39-41  
The Critical Year 1777..... 41-42  
Fall of Fort Montgomery and Vaughn's Raid..... 42-46  
Poughkeepsie Becomes the State Capital..... 46-48  
Governor Clinton's Letters..... 48-51  
Continental in Poughkeepsie..... 51-52  
Last Years of the War; The Fishkill Beacons..... 52-53

CHAPTER IV.  
FROM THE REVOLUTION TO THE INCORPORATION OF  
THE VILLAGE (1783-1799) ..... 54-71  
James Kent ..... 54-55  
The Poughkeepsie Journal..... 55-59  
Ratification of the Constitution of the United  
States ..... 59-61  
Early Politics in Town and County..... 61-62  
Rival Newspapers..... 62  
Slavery in Poughkeepsie..... 62-64  
Town Development ..... 64-68  
The Churches..... 68  
The First State School Money..... 69  
Incorporation as a Village..... 69-71

CHAPTER V.  
FROM THE INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE TO  
THE CLOSE OF THE WAR OF 1812..... 72-93  
Village Organization ..... 72-75  
The Court House Fire, 1806..... 75-76  
The Village Streets..... 76-81  
River Industries and Freighting..... 81-83  
Other Manufacturing Industries..... 83-85  
The Vassar Brewery..... 85-86  
Developing a Business Centre..... 86-88  
Some Popular Amusements..... 88-89  
Banks, Schools and Incorporated Companies..... 89-90  
Churches..... 90  
Newspapers and Politics..... 91-92

CHAPTER VI.  
FROM THE CLOSE OF THE WAR OF 1812 TO THE  
PANIC OF 1837..... 95-127  
Gen. Tallmadge and the Missouri Compromise..... 99-107  
Lafayette's Visit..... 98-101  
The Lottery in Poughkeepsie..... 101-102  
Party Changes; The Telegraph and the Dutchess  
Intelligencer..... 102-104  
Banks and Bankers..... 104-107  
The Improvement Party..... 108-110  
The Whaling Companies..... 110-115  
Other Industries..... 115-117  
The Era of the Steamboat..... 117-119  
The Reservoir and the Big Fire of 1836..... 119-120  
The Fire Department..... 120  
Churches and Schools..... 121-126  
The Real Estate Boom..... 126-127

CHAPTER VII.  
FROM THE PANIC OF 1837 TO THE INCORPORATION  
OF THE CITY, 1854..... 128-152  
Political Effects of the Panic, Senator N. P. Tall-  
madge and the Conservatives..... 128-135  
The Panic and the Improvement Party..... 135-139  
Building of the Hudson River Railroad..... 139-143  
Schools, the First Free Schools..... 144-145  
The Public Library and the Lyceum..... 145-146  
New Churches..... 146-148  
The Rural Cemetery..... 148  
A Daily Newspaper and Gas Light..... 148  
The Village Fire Department..... 149-150  
A City Charter..... 150-151

|  |   |
|--|---|
| CHAPTER VIII.  | APPENDIX.   |
| FROM THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY TO THE<br>CIVIL WAR . . . . .   | BIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX . . . . .   |
| CIVIL WAR . . . . .  | Biographical and historical sketches of William Samuel<br>Aekert, M. D., Charles X. Arnold, Seward Barculo, Joseph<br>F. Barnard, H. W. Barnum, M. D., Oliver H. Booth, Capt.<br>John H. Brömckerhoff, Samuel H. Brown, Edward M.<br>Burns, M. D., Allison Butts, Col. Henry F. Clark, Martin<br>W. Collins, George Corlies, Jacob Corlies, John H. Cotter,<br>M. D., The DeLaval Separator Company, John DePeyster<br>Down, The Dutchess Insurance Company, The Eagle, Ed-<br>ward Elsworth, James Emott, Everton Ancestry, Clement<br>Carrington Games, Stephen G. Guernsey, Martin Heer-<br>manne, James Hoyt, M. D., George Innis, John H. Ketcham,<br>Francis G. Landon, Charles Edward Lane, Frank B. Lowm,<br>Laukey, Platt & Co., George W. Lumb, John E. Mack, J.<br>Marill, M. D., Thomas McWhinnie, Joseph Morschauser,<br>George Nagenast, William Nelson, Stephen Palmer, D. D.<br>S., E. H. Parker, M. D., A. H. Peckham, M. D., J. Wilson<br>Poncher, M. D., Poughkeepsie Glass Works, Poughkeepsie<br>Savings Bank, Poughkeepsie Trust Company, Poughkeepsie<br>Underwear Company, William Thacher Reynolds, River-<br>view Military Academy, James E. Sadlier, M. D., Robert<br>Sanford, Jacob Schrauth and Sons, Oscar Nelson Seaman,<br>John Sutcliffe, Albert Tower, Robert K. Tutbill, M. D.,<br>David B. Ward, M. D., Charles Wheaton, James L. Wil-<br>liams |
| BEGINNINGS OF CITY GOVERNMENT . . . . .  |   |
| THE DUTCH CHURCH AND OTHER CHURCHES . . . . .  |   |
| NEW CHURCHES AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS . . . . .   |   |
| BUSINESS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT . . . . .   |   |
| SCHOOLS, THE LAW SCHOOL AND EASTMAN COLLEGE . . . . .  |   |
| FOUNDING OF VASSAR COLLEGE . . . . .   |   |
| SPORTS—BASE BALL, ICE YACHTING . . . . .   |   |
| POLITICS BEFORE THE WAR . . . . .  |   |
| CHAPTER IX.  |   |
| THE CIVIL WAR . . . . .  |   |
| EARLY MEETINGS AND ENLISTMENTS . . . . .   |   |
| THE 128TH REGIMENT . . . . .   |   |
| THE 150TH REGIMENT . . . . .   |   |
| ECHOES OF THE DRAFT RIOTS—HOME EVENTS . . . . .  |   |
| POLITICS—THE CAMPAIGN OF 1864 . . . . .  |   |
| EASTMAN COLLEGE—BUSINESS CONDITIONS . . . . .  |   |
| THE SANITARY FAIR . . . . .  |   |
| THE CLOSE OF THE WAR . . . . .   |   |
| CHAPTER X.   |   |
| FROM THE CLOSE OF THE WAR TO THE PANIC OF<br>1873 . . . . .  |   |
| RETURN OF THE SOLDIERS . . . . .   |   |
| WONDERFUL SUCCESS OF EASTMAN COLLEGE . . . . .   |   |
| OPENING AND ORGANIZATION OF VASSAR COLLEGE . . . . .   |   |
| CHANGES AMONG CITY SCHOOLS . . . . .   |   |
| POLITICS . . . . .   |   |
| CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS . . . . .  |   |
| THE HUDSON RIVER STATE HOSPITAL . . . . .  |   |
| MANUFACTURING AND OTHER INDUSTRIES . . . . .   |   |
| GROWTH AND MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT, THE WATER<br>AND SEWER SYSTEMS . . . . .   |   |
| THE POUGHKEEPSIE AND EASTERN AND CITY RAIL-<br>WAYS . . . . .  |   |
| THE REAL ESTATE BOOM . . . . .   |   |
| THE POUGHKEEPSIE BRIDGE . . . . .  |   |
| SOCIAL LIFE, SPORTS AND CLUBS . . . . .  |   |
| CHAPTER XI.  |   |
| FROM THE PANIC OF 1873 TO THE PRESENT<br>(1905) . . . . .  |   |
| REDUING EXPENSES, THE CHARTER OF 1874 AND PO-<br>LITICAL CHANGES . . . . .   |   |
| REORGANIZATION AND READJUSTMENT . . . . .  |   |
| BUILDING THE POUGHKEEPSIE BRIDGE . . . . .   |   |
| THE OLD AND THE NEW—THE RIVER FRONT . . . . .  |   |
| THE OLD AND THE NEW—UP-TOWN INDUSTRIES . . . . .   |   |
| THE CHARTER OF 1883—RECENT POLITICS . . . . .  |   |
| THE NEW VASSAR COLLEGE . . . . .   |   |
| THE REFORMATION OF MATTHEW VASSAR, JR., AND<br>THE NEW VASSAR . . . . .  |   |
| CITY OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATIONS . . . . .  |   |
| CITY CHAMBERLAINS . . . . .  |   |
| CITY ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS . . . . .  |   |
| CITY CLERKS, CITY TREASURERS, CITY ATTORNEYS,<br>AND CITY ENGINEERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT . . . . .   |   |
| CITY CLERKS, CITY TREASURERS, ETC. . . . .   |   |
| CITY ENGINEERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT . . . . .  |   |
| GENERAL APPENDIX . . . . .   |   |
| INSCRIPTIONS ON STONES IN OLD DUTCH BURIAL GROUND—<br>300. Signers of the Revolutionary Pledge of Associa-<br>tion, 1775. Poughkeepsie Precinct—300, 301. Those Who<br>Refused to Sign—301. Names of Persons in the Precinct<br>of Poughkeepsie Whose Personal Property was Confiscated<br>and Sold in 1777—301. Persons Who Manumitted their<br>Slaves in the Town of Poughkeepsie—301, 302. Persons<br>Who Registered Slave Births under Act of March 29, 1799—<br>302. One of the Forms for Registering the Birth of a<br>Slave under Act of 1799—302. Militia Officers—1786-<br>1799—302, 303. Trustees of the Village of Poughkeepsie<br>1799-1854—304, 305. First Ordinances Naming Streets—<br>305, 306. Population Statistics for County of Dutchess,<br>Town, Village and City of Poughkeepsie—306. Sale of<br>Poughkeepsie Hotel in 1864 for Political Headquarters, with<br>List of Subscribers to the Stock—306, 307. Names of<br>Signers of the First Paving Petitions on Main Street (1812),<br>Cannon Street (1814), Garden Street (1833), Mill Street<br>(1833), Market Street (1831), Lower Main Street (1831)—<br>307, 308. Clinton Catechism (1810)—308, 309. Appeal<br>of the Conservatives of 1821 against Revision of the State<br>Constitution, with list of Signers—310. Buildings in<br>Poughkeepsie in 1841—310, 311. Postmasters of Pough-<br>keepsie—311. Subscribers to Hudson River Railroad<br>Stock, January, 1847—311. Names of Original Plot Hold-<br>ers in Reformed Dutch Cemetery on Hyde Park Road, just<br>north of City Limits (1810)—311. Names of Original<br>Plot Holders in Baptist Burial Ground on Garden Street<br>(1812)—312. The First Lamp District (1851)—312.<br>List of Poughkeepsians Who Served on the Steamboats<br>Reliance (Adelphi) and Dutchess (Lancer) in the Civil<br>War—312. List of City Officers, Mayors, Recorders,<br>City Chamberlains, City Treasurers, City Attorneys, and<br>Chief Engineers of the Fire Department—312, 313. |   |
| ADDENDA AND ERRATA . . . . .   |   |
| INDEX . . . . .  |   |

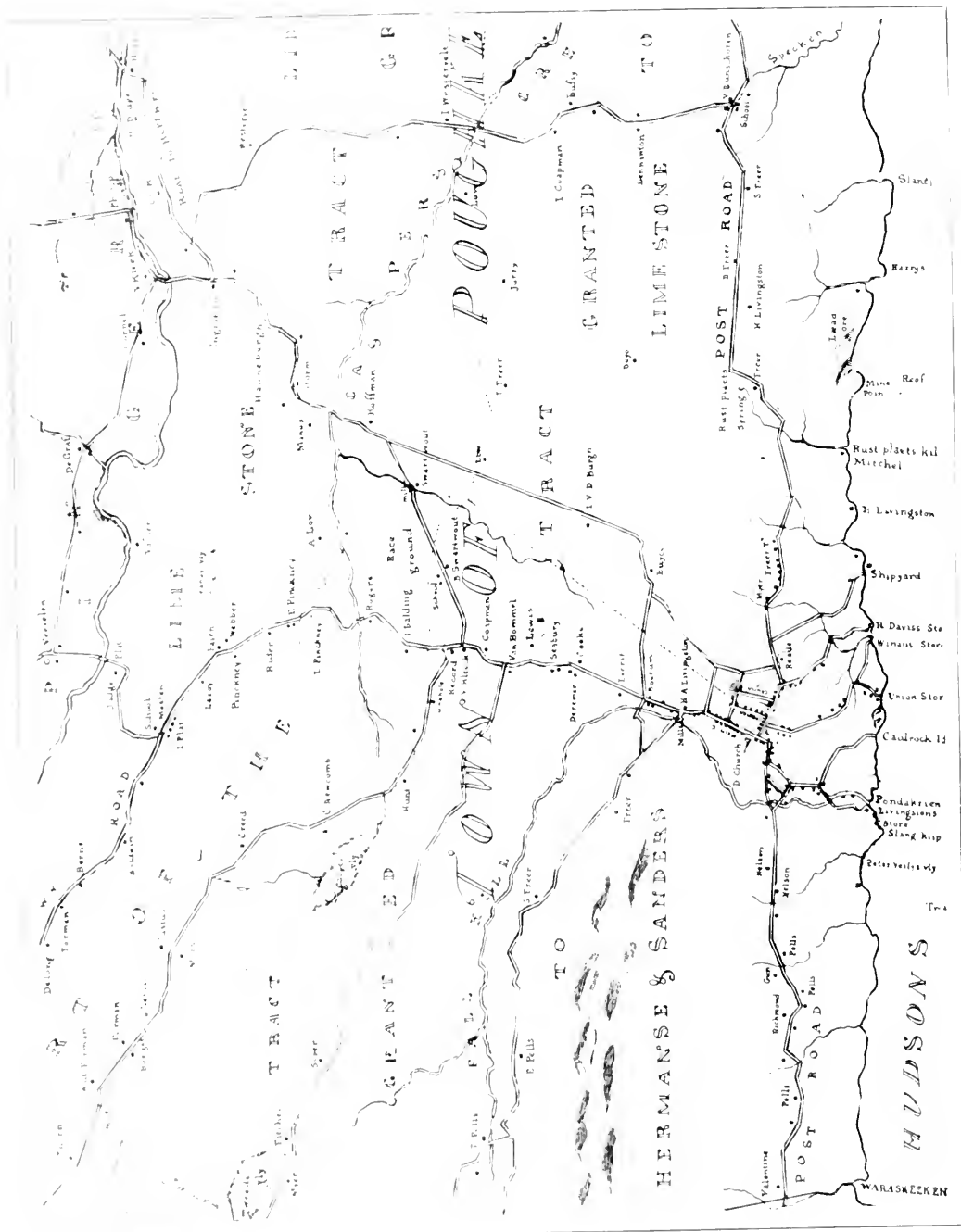
# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Map of Poughkeepsie and Vicinity in 1748                                   | 8   |
| The Waterfall at the Mouth of the Fall Kill                                | 13  |
| Scene on the Mahwena-wasig or Wappingers Kill                              | 15  |
| The Van Kleeck House (Lossing, 1838)                                       | 19  |
| English Church "Glebe House"   | 24  |
| The Hoffman or Sherman House   | 29  |
| Henry Livingston House in 1870   | 29  |
| Map of Poughkeepsie in 1770  | 31  |
| Rear View of Noxon House   | 33  |
| Fac-simile of Commission Signed by Governor Clinton                        | 40  |
| The Everett or "Clinton House," before alteration                          | 47  |
| Fac-simile of State Currency Printed by John Holt                          | 50  |
| Seal Used on State Commissions   | 53  |
| Fac-simile of "Extra" printed during the Constitutional Convention in 1788 | 60  |
| Map of Poughkeepsie in 1799  | 65  |
| House Purchased by Governor Clinton in 1799                                | 66  |
| Episcopal "Parsonage House"  | 68  |
| Map of Poughkeepsie in 1799  | 71  |
| Court House and "Lawyers' Row," in 1870                                    | 70  |
| Court House and Hotel, from Turmpoke Map                                   | 72  |
| The Wmams, or Southwick House  | 78  |
| The George Booth House   | 84  |
| The Arnold Cotton Factory  | 84  |
| Cannon Street from Liberty west in 1875                                    | 88  |
| Fac-simile Middle District Bank Note                                       | 89  |
| Reynolds House   | 96  |
| Fac-simile Lottery Circular  | 100 |
| Building of Poughkeepsie Trust Company (formerly the Poughkeepsie Bank)    | 100 |
| The Vassar Street Brewery  | 108 |
| Fac-simile Stock of Poughkeepsie Whaling Company                           | 110 |
| Map of Poughkeepsie in 1837  | 111 |
| Fac-simile Note of Dutchess Whaling Company                                | 112 |
| Poughkeepsie Glass Works   | 114 |
| Fac-Simile Stock of Poughkeepsie Silk Company                              | 116 |
| Northern Hotel   | 118 |
| City Hall, formerly the Village Hall                                       | 119 |
| Old Christ Church  | 121 |
| Presbyterian, afterwards Universalist, Church                              | 121 |
| College Hill School Building   | 123 |
| Fac-simile Stock of College Hill School                                    | 124 |
| Poughkeepsie in 1836 from College Hill                                     | 125 |
| The N. P. Tallmadge House  | 127 |
| Fac-simile Bill of Journal and Eagle                                       | 131 |
| The Vassar Brewery at the River  | 136 |
| Poughkeepsie in 1840   | 137 |
| Old Picture of Vassar Brewery  | 142 |
| The Lower Furnace (1880)   | 143 |
| The Cannon St. Methodist Church  | 146 |
| Presbyterian Church  | 147 |
| "Goose Neck" Fire Engine   | 149 |
| Old Phenix Hose House  | 150 |
| Poughkeepsie in 1852   | 151 |
| Church of the Holy Comforter   | 156 |
| Red Mills Buildings  | 158 |
| Main Street in 1860  | 160 |
| Dutchess Insurance Co.'s Building  | 162 |
| Corner Main and Market Streets in 1861                                     | 178 |
| Fac-simile of Poughkeepsie War Shipplaster (first series)                  | 191 |
| Fac-simile of Poughkeepsie War Shipplasters (second series)                | 192 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Market Street in 1865  | 196 |
| Eastman Park in 1875   | 198 |
| The Soldiers' Fountain   | 199 |
| Vassar College in 1870   | 202 |
| The Filter Beds in 1875  | 202 |
| Poughkeepsie & Eastern Station                                       | 207 |
| Eastman Terrace in 1875  | 208 |
| Corner of Main and Garden Streets after the Fire of Dec. 29, 1870    | 210 |
| Old Buildings on the Site of Kitchner Hall                           | 219 |
| Walter Adriance's Cartoon of H. G. Eastman                           | 221 |
| 1875 Snow Scene, Main Street   | 227 |
| Bridge Casson (1877)   | 228 |
| The Poughkeepsie Bridge  | 229 |
| Looking South from the Bridge (1880)                                 | 232 |
| The Poughkeepsie Iron Works  | 233 |
| De Laval Separator Company's Buildings                               | 234 |
| N. Y. C. & H. R. R. R. Station (1880)                                | 235 |
| Factory of Poughkeepsie Underwear Company                            | 236 |
| Main Street in 1880  | 237 |
| Old Telegraph (Enterprise) Building                                  | 242 |
| The Frederick E. Thompson Memorial Library at Vassar College         | 247 |
| The First Dutchess County Academy                                    | 253 |
| The Building of Lacey, Platt & Co.                                   | 256 |
| Residence of the late Capt. John H. Brinckerhoff                     | 273 |
| The Eagle Building   | 279 |
| Interior view Jacob Schrauth's Sons' Ice Cream Parlors and Salesroom | 290 |

## PORTRAITS.

|                         |     |                        |     |
|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| Gov. George Clinton     | 45  | William T. Reynolds    | 211 |
| George B. Eyertson      | 80  | John Sutcliffe         | 213 |
| Timis Van Kleeck        | 87  | Jacob Corlies          | 217 |
| Hon. William Nelson     | 93  | Frank B. Lown          | 229 |
| George P. Oakley        | 99  | John H. Brinckerhoff   | 231 |
| Matthew Vassar          | 108 | John I. Platt          | 238 |
| George Corlies          | 109 | Albion Butts           | 239 |
| Hon. Seward Barendse    | 132 | Hon. Martin Heermance  | 240 |
| Isaac Platt             | 134 | James W. Hinkley       | 241 |
| James Emott             | 152 | Hon. Charles N. Arnold | 243 |
| George Wilkinson        | 154 | Samuel H. Brown        | 245 |
| Charles W. Swift        | 155 | Joseph Morsehauser     | 246 |
| Albert Tower            | 159 | Hon. Edward Elsworth   | 249 |
| Robert Sanford          | 163 | William W. Smith       | 252 |
| Rev. D. G. Wright       | 165 | Martin W. Collins      | 254 |
| Matthew Vassar          | 169 | Clement C. Gaines      | 255 |
| Oliver H. Booth         | 170 | Joseph B. Beebe        | 256 |
| Charles Wheaton         | 177 | Dr. Charles E. Lane    | 257 |
| Dr. Robert K. Tutbull   | 180 | George W. Lamb         | 258 |
| James Bowne             | 183 | George Nagengast       | 261 |
| Hon. Homer A. Nelson    | 184 | Dr. H. F. Clark        | 262 |
| George Imis             | 187 | Francis G. Landon      | 265 |
| Judge Joseph E. Barnard | 189 | Dr. H. W. Barnum       | 272 |
| Hon. John H. Ketcham    | 195 | John E. Mack           | 288 |
| Albert Van Kleeck       | 199 | Dr. Stephen Palmer     | 290 |
| Harvey G. Eastman       | 201 | William H. Schrauth    | 296 |
| Dr. Edward H. Parker    | 207 | Jacob Schrauth         | 296 |
| Thomas McWhinnie        | 209 | Edward L. Schrauth     | 299 |



POUGHKEEPSIE AND VICINITY IN 1798.

H U D S O N S

HERMANSE & SANDERS

T R A C T

T R A C T

T R A C T

STONE

LITTLE

T R A C T

ROAD

POST

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G R A N T E D

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Sland

Berrys

Lead

Roaf

Mine

Post

Rust plates kil

Mitchel

J: Livingston

Shippard

R: Daviss Ste

Winans Steer

Union Stor

Caulrock Id

Pondakegen

Livingens

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# CHAPTER I.

## THE NAME "POUGHKEEPSIE," WHERE IT WAS FIRST GIVEN AND WHAT IT MEANS—THE "APOKEEPSING"<sup>1</sup> DERIVATION NOT SUSTAINED.

Poughkeepsie is one of the old towns of New York State, dating well back into Colonial times, but it was not one of the first settled, and from its earliest beginnings, near the close of the seventeenth century down to the Revolution, which made the United States an independent nation, its growth was very slow. The name goes back of the origin of the town itself to the time when the Indians held undisputed control. The first Dutch farmers and woodsmen found the name here when they came, and much fun has been made of their many and various attempts to spell it as they heard it pronounced by the Indians around them. Phonetic spelling was the rule in those early days, which should have delighted the spelling reformer. Even the commonest names were frequently spelled in two or three different ways in the same document. An extreme instance of phonetic spelling is found on page 33 of Liber A of Deeds, recorded in the County Clerk's Office of Dutchess County, where "hutchens river" is mentioned in the bounding of a piece of land.

All historians who have had any occasion to mention Poughkeepsie have gravely informed us that the name has been spelled in more than forty different ways, which is after all not better than the record of Schenectady or of many other towns the Indian names of which are long enough to admit some variety in the arrangement of letters. Not all the various spellings were the work of the early settlers, and some have been added by the antiquarians and etymologists in their efforts to explain the derivation and meaning of the name.

The word *Apokeepsing*, from which the name Poughkeepsie is generally believed to have been derived, is, I think I shall be able to show, a pure invention. No such form is to be found in any recorded deeds or documents, and there is no evidence that it was ever used by the Indians here or anywhere else. Its origin is ascribed to Schoolcraft,<sup>1</sup> who was fol-

lowed by Benson J. Lossing and later writers. Mr. William Wallace Tooker, author of the Algonquian Series of monographs on Indian names, and probably the leading authority on eastern Indian nomenclature, says of *Apokeepsing*, in a contribution to the *American Anthropologist* (1899, page 170), "no warrant can be found for that form nor for such a translation" (safe harbor). There has been some variety in translation introduced, however, mostly by recent writers. The word has been defined as meaning "safe harbor," "place of refuge," "safe harbor for small boats," "pleasant harbor," "deep water,"<sup>2</sup> and "at the rock pool,"<sup>3</sup> certainly a pleasing variety.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Lossing and others seem to have been much impressed with the harbor idea, possibly from some such legend as that related in Lossing's *Hudson* (p. 188) about the Indian maiden who is said to have fled with her lover across the river in a canoe, finding a "safe harbor" at the mouth of the Fall Kill. Having satisfied themselves as to the proper translation the next thing was to provide a word to translate, not so very difficult if you can combine scraps of the dialects of several different Indian nations. "Apokeepsing," or "Apokeepsinck," was the result.

Now, unless we accept the legend, which did not originate, so far as we can find out, until long after the Revolution—if indeed it was not invented by Mr. Lossing himself—there was no reason for constructing a word to mean "safe harbor." Indian names were generally given to some conspicuous feature of the land or water, and there was no "safe harbor" at the mouth of the Fall Kill as a conspicuous feature. It must be evident to any one who will examine the locality that the falls were almost at the river's edge. Two hundred years of erosion, as well as the filling in of the bay or "cove" between Reynolds' Hill and the Kaal (or Call) Rock, are to be considered. If the

<sup>1</sup>Indian names published by the U. S. government and compiled chiefly from Schoolcraft's works.

<sup>2</sup>W. M. Beauchamp—"Indian Name in New York," p. 10.

<sup>3</sup>W. R. Gerard *American Anthropologist*, 1899, vol. 1, p. 586.

<sup>3</sup>"Dutchess" County History, p. 357 and note.

<sup>1</sup>I have not been able after considerable searching to find this in Schoolcraft's works, but see Rittenber's "Indian Tribes of Hudson's River," page 371. The word, with the popular definition "safe harbor," is given in a pamphlet on

inlet was small and certainly not an important feature, the broad cove could hardly have been worthy of special designation as a harbor, for there were dozens of other coves, many of them deeper, within short paddling distance. Finally it may be worth while to remember that canoes navigating a river like the Hudson do not stand in great need of harbors, but when wind or waves threaten can be run ashore and pulled out of harm's way wherever there is a bit of beach.

While there is no evidence that such a word as *Apokepsin* was used to describe either the little inlet or the cove at the mouth of the Fall Kill, and no reason why a word meaning "safe harbor" should have been employed to describe that particular locality, there is the best of evidence that the word "Poughkeepsie" in a form very much like the present was used by the Indians to designate the one conspicuous feature of the neighborhood—the waterfall, which during much of the year, and certainly at all times of high water, must have attracted attention from all passing canoes or other vessels on the river. This waterfall is very naturally named in the first known deed to property within the present city limits, as will appear. A somewhat similar word was borrowed from the Indians and used by the first settlers as the name of the Casper Kill, which flows through the Vassar College grounds and empties into the river at Clinton Point.

At length, long before there was any town of Poughkeepsie, or village of Poughkeepsie, the name was used to describe a considerable section of land, as many early deeds on record in the County Clerk's Office clearly show. It certainly belongs to the town of Poughkeepsie, as well as to the section included in the city. A curious print<sup>1</sup> which purports to be "A View in Hudson's River of Pakepsie & the Cats-Kill Mountains from Sopas Island in Hudson's River," is evidence of the wide application of the name. The print declares itself to be the reproduction of a sketch made "on the Spot by his Excellency Governor Pownall," and is a view looking northward from Esopus Island. Governor Pownall published a series of prints of scenes in America, and was in this country between October, 1753, and June, 1760. Long before that time there was a court house and a church, a tavern or two, and the nucleus of a village well started on the hill where is now Poughkeepsie, but they do not seem to have had exclusive title to the name, though Governor Pownall stretched his license as an artist a good deal when he turned his back on them and carried the name above Esopus Island.

<sup>1</sup>In the Adams Memorial Library, north side of entrance.

The first certain mention of the word Poughkeepsie that I have been able to find occurs in an Indian deed, the earliest known conveyance of property now in the corporate limits of the city, recorded among the notarial papers in the Fort Orange Records at the County Clerk's Office in Albany, and published in Documents of Colonial History, Vol. XIII, page 571, as follows:

This fifth day of May 1683 appeared before me Adrian van Ipendam, Notary Public in New Albany and the undersigned witnesses a Highland Indian, called Massany, who declares herewith that he has given as a free gift a bowery to Pieter Lausingh and bowery to Jan Smeedes, a young glazier, also a waterfall near the bank of the river to build a mill thereon. The waterfall is called *Pooghkepesingh* and the land Minnisingh situate on the Eastside of the river. He acknowledges this gift herewith in the presence of their Honors the Commissaries Cornelis van Dyke and Direk Wesselsen Ten Broeck, who themselves have heard the Indians testify, one called Speck and the other Vechpaidmo, that the aforesaid Massany had surrendered the aforesaid land to the said Pieter Lausingh and Jan Smeedes without retaining for him or for his descendants the right to claim even a stayver's worth from them; also that the said Indian Massany is the lawful owner and inheritor of the said land.

The foregoing has been interpreted in the presence of their said honors the commissaries, by the wife of Jurien Teunissen and the aforesaid Indian has signed it with his own hand at New Albany, on the date as above.

This is the mark  
made by Massany  
himself which I  
certify

Adrian van Ipendam, Not Public

As witnesses  
Cornelius van Dyk  
Direk Wesselsen.

The spelling by the Dutch scribe of the word the Indians used in describing the waterfall, *Pooghkepesingh*, it will be noticed, is not so very unlike that which has come down to us as the official and final spelling of the name, first of the precinct or township, then of the village, and at length of the city which grew near the waterfall.

There is, however, a still earlier Indian deed on record in Albany which gives a somewhat similar name to a stream. It is quoted by Ruttenber in his "Indian Tribes of Hudson's River" (p. 371), and here occurs the first questioning of the authenticity of

<sup>1</sup>See also Irving Eling's "Dutch Village Communities of the Hudson River," p. 40, note.

*Apokepsing*. Rutenber's custom was to look for documentary evidence of the earliest forms of Indian names, instead of accepting them on tradition alone. "In a deed to Arnout Veil, 1680, covering the tract," says he, "the boundaries are described as 'beginning at a creek called *Pakaksing*, by the river side;' in a petition from William Caldwell, the orthography is *Pogkeepke*; in an affidavit by Myndert Harnance, it is *Pokepsinck*; in other papers the prevailing orthography is *Pokeepke*, and finally it is found applied to a pond of water lying in the vicinity of the city and its signification given: or 'muddy pond,' an explanation that accords well with the accepted interpretation of *Ramepogh*—a simple generic term for pond, or ponds, modified by locality or character."

Mr. William Wallace Tooker, in a paper published in the *American Anthropologist* in 1890, taking the evidence of the Veile deed, concluded that "Poughkeepsie" was one of a long series of names derived from the Algonquian term "Poquosin," which indicated, according to Mr. Tooker, a place where a stream overflowed in time of freshet, or where it opened out into a shallow pond. The term was applied by the early settlers in many places throughout the east to swamps and streams, and with a wide variety of spellings.

The deed above quoted is in Dutch, and is recorded in the Fort Orange Records, Book 3, Deeds, p. 72, and dated June 15, 1680, or three years before there was any Dutchess County. It is the earliest deed I have found to land within the present limits of the county. There are two partial translations or abstracts of it which differ somewhat. One is published in the Documents of Colonial History XIII, 545, as follows:

"Indian deed for Land given by the Indian owners Kashepan alias Calkoen, Waspacheck alias Speck,<sup>1</sup> and Phillipuwias, having power of attorney from Awannis, one of the owners, to Arnout Cornelissen Viele as a present. The land consists of three flats through which a kil called *Alynachkee* runs, one being about 25 morgens and lying on the Northside of the Kil, the other two on the Southside containing together about 12 morgens. The grant includes the above kil from the river to the second fall called Matapan, a distance of about three English miles, also the woodland adjoining it and stretching about two English miles to the North and one mile to the South of the above described land along the river and back from the river as far as the aforesaid second fall,

including two small kils, one in the woods to the North, which empties into the river and is called Pakakeing, the other emptying into the large Kil from the South.

The other translated abstract is in the State library in manuscript, and contains the important addition that the kil, here spelled *Wynachkee*, on which the land lies is "opposite Danskammer." The kil in the woods to the north is here spelled Pakakeing, which is the spelling of the Dutch deed, still a perfectly legible document as recorded.

These early deeds, and also many of the land patents from the crown, were without punctuation, and the boundaries are very indefinite, sometimes doubtless purposely left so in order that the land might be taken up where it seemed most valuable. In this deed the words as to the location "opposite Danskammer" are in the margin. Now Danskammer<sup>1</sup> was a point well fixed at that time. Capt. Couwenhoven lay there in his sloop negotiating with the Indians after the massacre at Wiltwyck (Kingston) in 1693, and it is frequently mentioned in the old records. The only kil that can be called "opposite Danskammer" is the Wappingers, and fortunately by a succession of documents we can trace this land far enough to show definitely that this is the stream called "*Wynachkee*," and not the Fall Kill. In the notarial papers at Albany there was recorded only two years after the Arnout Cornelissen Viele deed, a "bond and mortgage given by a Highland Indian, Tapicua, for a debt to Lawrence van Me and Gerrit Lansing, secured by his land situate upon Hudson's River, on the Eastside, nearly opposite Danskammer, it being a flat on the West side of a Kil called *Wynachkee* beginning at the second fall, where Arnout Cornelissen's land ends."<sup>2</sup>

By 1685 crown grants or "patents" were beginning to be given for large tracts of land in Dutchess County and the settlers on the Arnout Viele land, presently found themselves in danger of being dispossessed despite their Indian deeds; hence in 1704 we find Viele, who was a well-known man, joining with Pieter Lansing (either the same man mentioned with Jan Smeedes in the deed granting the *Poughkeepsingh* waterfall, or his son), in an application for a patent to make his title good. This document is in English, and is in excellent preservation (page 183, Vol. III, Land Papers) in the Secretary of State's Office. In it the boundaries become more easily fol-

<sup>1</sup>See Rutenber, "Indian Tribes of Hudson's River," pp. 383 and 20.

<sup>2</sup>Does, Col. Hist. XIII, 572. O'Callaghan is certainly wrong in placing this land in Putnam County.

It will be noticed that an Indian of the same name is mentioned in the Poughkeepsingh waterfall deed.

lowed and the name *Hynachkee* is not mentioned, but *Pacaksing* comes to the front. It reads as follows:

To his Excellency Edward Vicount Cornbury, Captain General and Governor in Chief, etc.

The humble petition of Pieter Lausing and Arnout Cornelissson Vele

Sheweth

That whereas ye above named Pieter Lausing by his petition formerly prayed a Patent for a certain piece of land in Dutchess County lying on Hudson's River beginning at a Creek called Pacaksing by ye river side running in a straight line three English miles Eastward into the woods thence to Matapan fall, thence westward along ye great kill, to Wappingis creek thence along Hudson's river Northward to Pacaksing creek aforesaid which is the same land which certain Indian Proprietors thereof, the 15th day of June 1680 gave as a free gift and granted and conveyed ye same to ye above namd Arnout Cornelissson Vele as more fully appears by a certain writing under ye seal of ye towne of Albany taken out of ye records there by ye said Arnout; having had leave from Gr. Edmond Andros then at Albany to accept of ye same from ye Indians in consideration of his long and faithful service to ye Government as Indian Interpreter. All which ye said Arnout by his joyning in ye signing of this Petition does testify and aver to be truth, and hereby acknowldge to have granted and conveyed ye said Pieter Lausing for a valuable consideration ye 26th day of June 1690.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Excy will be graciously pleased to grant a patent under his seal of this province to ye said Lausing for ye sd lands as above mentioned to his only use and behoof having a great charge of children under a moderate Quit Rent.

And in duty bound shall ever pray

Pieter Lausing  
Arnout Vele

This interesting document is endorsed on the back: "Read in council 15 April 1704 ordered to ly on the table 14th May 1704 granted."

It is perfectly clear that the Pacaksing or Pakakincg Kill mentioned in these papers was the Casper Kill, and the grant to Vele, instead of covering the tract where Poughkeepsie now is, as Rittenber thought, was to land between the Casper Kill and the Wappingers, the line running from the mouth of the Casper Kill to the second fall (Matapan) just above Wappingers Lake, and including the flats where the lake now is. The name *Hynachkee* properly applied to these flats which are known to have been

cultivated by the Indians.<sup>1</sup> The Schuyler patent,<sup>2</sup> dated 1688, which included much of the present town of Poughkeepsie, was "Bounded on the South & East by a Certaine Creek that runs into Hudson's River on the North side of a Certain House now in the Possession and occupacon of one Peter the Brewer, the said creek being Called by the Indians where it runs into the River Thamaekkonek & where it Runs further up into the Woods Pietawiecktquasseick." In a transfer from Schuyler to Sanders and Harmense (Lib. A. p. 276, Dutchess Co. Deeds) the same long Indian name is given with the statement, "Known by the Christians for Jan Casperses Creek." I believe it the same name<sup>3</sup> as *Pacaksing* or *Pakakincg*, spelled with more letters. The name may easily have come from the Algonquin term *Poquosin*, which would have been appropriate enough for much of the upper part of the Casper Kill along which are a number of flood plains of considerable size for a hilly country. The level plain, partly swamp, near the brick yard just beyond Arlington, will be recalled as one, and also the flat lands along the tributary stream, the Fountain Kill, that crosses College Avenue and flows through Vassar College Lake.

Indians applied such terms as *Poquosin* and *Hynachkee*, as descriptive terms to localities, and they were borrowed by the early settlers, who did not clearly understand their significance or limitations, and extended as names of streams throughout their courses. The same terms may have been applied by the Indians to some small flats along the Fall Kill and Pacaksing may have been appropriated by some of the settlers as the name of a pond within or near the present limits of the city of Poughkeepsie. The word may thus have had an influence upon the extension of some of the forms of "Poughkeepsie" to a considerable stretch of territory, and may have contributed to the wide variations of spelling, but it disappears as a name of the Casper Kill, even in its long form, soon after the first transfers of land are made, and the Casper Kill is too far from the scene of the first settlements, too far from the mill-site and waterfall granted to Jan Smeedes to have been a determining influence in naming the growing hamlet.

With this in mind I wrote Mr. William Wallace Tooker, and asked him if the form *Poughkeepsingh*,

<sup>1</sup>My authority for this statement is Mr. William K. Roy of Wappingers Falls, who has studied the subject thoroughly and contributed many historical articles to the Chronicle and News-Press. The name Mawenawasigh was given to the Wappingers creek in the Rombout patent which covered this same territory 1683. Book of Patents for 1680-1686, p. 72, also D. C. History, p. 49.

<sup>2</sup>Book of Patents for 1680-1690, p. 325.

<sup>3</sup>See Mr. Tooker's letter at end of chapter.

as given in the Jan Smeedes deed of 1683, could not have been rightly applied according to the principles of



The Waterfall in 1904.

Indian nomenclature as descriptive of the waterfall conveyed for a mill. He replied:

As far as my own etymology of the name is concerned, as given in my paper on the name *Poquasson*, the main stem of *Pooghkepesingh*, is the same as I give there; but this fuller form of the name, as is evident, warrants a different interpretation and application, for we know it was applied to a waterfall. The prefix *Pooghke*—Mohegan *Pawcke*—denotes the act of breaking, opening, beating out, etc. The same base enters into many words having the idea of division or separation. In composition *pe* is the radical for "water," *s* is the diminutive, *ingh*, locative, denoting a place where the action is performed. Thus we have from this analysis *Pooghke-pe-singh*, "where the water breaks," "runs over," "falls down," or "opens out." The name will bear these translations and still be correct. This etymology, as you will notice, and as you have believed, gives the name to the falls where it was originally bestowed according to the "Highland Indian Massany." I am glad to be able from your suggestions to modify my former interpretation and application of the name. To tell the truth I have always had some doubts about the name being the exact equivalent of *Poquasson* or its varieties owing to the insistence of the early notations of its modern form, i. e., *Poghkeppe*, 1702, *Pokepsinck*, 1703, *Poghkepsie*, 1760, *Poughkipsingh*, 1767. The present render-

ing, which is now undoubtedly correct, makes the name decidedly more interesting and much more satisfactory in every way.

In a postscript<sup>1</sup> Mr. Tooker added: "It is quite possible that the name *Pacaksing* is entirely distinct from *Pooghkepesingh* and applied to some other portion of the stream." I have found no documentary evidence that it was applied to any stream in this neighborhood except the Casper Kill. The Van Kleeck deed,<sup>2</sup> 1697, one of the earliest transfers from the patentees, seems to show the influence of the Indian deed of 1683 to Pieter Lansing and Jan Smeedes, for it refers to the patent as conveying "that Tract of Land called by the native Indians *Minnisink* and *Poghkepsing*."<sup>3</sup>

This patent, to Robert Sanders and Meynardt Harmans, dated Oct. 24, 1686, was the earliest grant of land from the crown, or the provincial government, within the limits of Poughkeepsie. It is a puzzling document, of very uncertain boundaries. There is no mention of Poughkeepsie, but the land is called *Minnisink*, as in the waterfall deed of 1683 to Lansing and Smeedes. It conveys "a certain Tract or Parcels of Land Called *Minnisink* Lying on the East side of Hudsons River to the North of the Land of Savereyn alias Called the Baker with the arable and Wood Land Marshes with the Creeke Called *Wynackkee* with Trees Stones (or Tones) and further Range or out Drift for Cattle and the fall of Watters Called *Pondanickrien* and another marsh to the north of the fall of Watters Called *Warekeechen*."<sup>4</sup>

Reference is then made to a preceding deed, dated July 30th, 1685, by which the Indian title was extinguished. This patent is quoted here because of its mention of "the fall of Watters Called *Pondanickrien*."<sup>5</sup> A deed recorded in Book A of Deeds (page 251) in the Dutchess County Clerk's Office, conveying part of this land in 1710 to Leonard Lewis, quotes the patent as being "A certain tract of land containing

<sup>1</sup>I had also asked Mr. Tooker for the meaning of *Poughquag*. He replied that it is a very common name, and occurs frequently in many forms all over New England and upon Long Island. It means "open land"—land naturally clear. The word may be found in Documents of Colonial History in several forms.

<sup>2</sup>Robert Sanders to Balthazer Van Cleake, p. 533, Vol. 17, Deeds, Secretary of State's Office, also Van Kleeck Family History, p. 55.

<sup>3</sup>In a considerable number of deeds the spelling is *Pochkepsing*, or *Poghkepsing*—See "Duchess" County History, p. 362.

<sup>4</sup>*Warekeechen*, on Livingston's map, 1708, is the name given the stream at the foot of Teller Hill, flowing through the Webendorfer place.

<sup>5</sup>For the probable meaning of these words see letter quoted at end of chapter.

twelve thousand acres<sup>1</sup> in one entire piece \* \* \* in Dutchess County aforesaid called *Munnisnick*," etc. The quotation continues through the mention of the two waterfalls, the first of which here becomes "Pendauick Reen." The reference to the "creek called Wynoghke" is quoted from the patent, but when this deed describes more particularly the land conveyed to Lewis there is no mention of this name, but instead references to "the creek having Water Falls," and also "the Great Creek." The land conveyed was evidently along the "Creek having Water Falls," but there is nothing to prove that the "creek called Wynoghke" in the patent was the same stream, nor is there anything to show definitely what fall is called "Pendauick Reen." To add to the puzzle we find that in deeds made two and three years earlier the "Fall Kill" is named unmistakably, first in a conveyance from "Myndert Harmeen" to "Jan Oosterom of Pogkeepsinck," June 17, 1707, and again in a deed to Peter U. Zelic, June 8, 1708. I have quoted all this because in a map of lands about Poughkeepsie made by Henry Livingston in 1798, "*Pondauickrien*" is placed as the name of the fall at the mouth of the Fall Kill, where Livingston's Mills then were, and persons in ignorance of the existence of the much earlier grant of this fall to Jan Smeedes with the name *Pooghkepesingh*, have supposed "*Pondauickrien*" or "*reen*" to have been its Indian name, thus lending color to the assumption that Apokeepsing was applied to the hypothetical "safe harbor." Mr. Tooker thinks that *Pondauickrien* is the same as a word sometimes spelled *Pongautcheeran*, meaning "the shallow overflow." In seasons of low water such a word would have been applicable to these falls, as well as to several other streams, not far away, but its use does not in the least destroy the force of the direct evidence for the much earlier use of the word *Pooghkepesingh*, which had already begun to be employed as a name of the neighboring lands.

It only remains to mention the latest defender of *Apokeepsing*, Mr. W. R. Gerard, a former well-known resident of Poughkeepsie. Writing in answer to Mr. Tooker's paper on "Pogposin," in the *American Anthropologist* (p. 586, vol. for 1899), Mr. Gerard says:

"As Mr. Tooker attempts to connect the name Poughkeepsie with the word '*pogposin*' and con-

<sup>1</sup>The Van Kleeck deed already quoted refers to this patent as conveying twelve hundred acres. A dispute arose over this question later, as shown by some of the Christ Church globe papers.

fidently asserts that 'there appears to be absolutely no question as to its identity' with the latter, it may not be out of place to explain the meaning of the appellation of the city of the alleged 'safe harbor.' Having resided in Poughkeepsie many years, I am perfectly familiar with its topography and with the exact locality to which the name originally applied. This was a rocky cove or basin worn away at the foot of the fall near the river just north of the present railroad station. On May 5, 1683, a Highland (west side of Hudson) Indian gave as a present to one Jan Smeedes a farm and also 'a fall on the shore to set a mill upon.' Smeedes erected a mill upon the site of a pool or basin near the foot of the fall whence he obtained his water power. In the deed of gift the Dutch scribe wrote the name of the mill-site '*Pooghkepesingh*' for '*Apoghkipising*,' a word which in German orthography would have been *Apuchkipisink*. The word means 'at the rock pool,' or 'at the rock basin of water,' and accurately describes the locality to which the name was applied by the Indian owner."

Of this Mr. Tooker says (p. 701 same volume): "If there were nothing else that would show the worthlessness of Mr. Gerard's derivation, the taking of the Lenapé inseparable *apuchk*, 'a standing rock' (Mass *ompsk*), and employing it as a possible prefix to an impossible name, would be enough to condemn it. It is well known that this generic cannot be so used, and the fact bears witness that Mr. Gerard's criticisms are not based on the strict rules of Algonquian nomenclature."

It is perhaps unnecessary to add anything to this but I cannot refrain from pointing out that Mr. Gerard, knowing the locality and knowing of the Smeedes deed, threw over the "safe harbor" theory, but clinging to *Apokeepsing* as a word, looked around for a new construction and translation of it. In very much the same way Mr. Lossing, supposing the word *Wynoghke* to refer only to the Fall Kill reconstructed it into Winnikee and gave its meaning as "Leap Stream" in his Hudson.

In conclusion, I think it may be said that the evidence of the Indian and other early deeds, and Mr. Tooker's definition of *Pooghkepesingh* as a name properly given to the waterfall at the mouth of the Fall Kill, settle the derivation of our city's name.

## NEIGHBORING INDIAN NAMES EXPLAINED.

Sag Harbor, N. Y., Dec. 3, 1903.

Dear Mr. Platt:—I have read your letter with much interest, and your researches show that you are on the right track. The deed quoted by Ruttenber which you found at Albany I also find in the Colonial History, Vol. XIII, pp. 545-6. Wymachkee is there, however, Mynachkee, an evident error. From the evidence so conclusively given I agree with you that the *Pakaksing* is the Casper Kill, and that *Plickarick-quassick* is a variation of the same name. Wymachkee belonged originally to land thereabouts and not to the kill. There is absolutely nothing in the name that would justify "leaping brook." It probably described one of the flats through which the "kill runs," "*W'in-askcht*," "fine or pleasant green place, plain or flat." If you will turn to page 545 (Col. Hist.) you will notice another deed where a "great flat" is called *Machuckkeek—Mach-askcht*, i. e. "the great green place or flat." We have on Long Island a locality called "*Comac*" originally *Winnecomac*, varied as *Wyncomie*. "the pleasant or good field." Chel-sea, Mass., was called

*Winnemet W'in-ash-mut*, "at the pleasant springs." "Matapan fall" in the above record denotes a "sitting down place," a "portage," a name occurring in various parts of the country. "Matapony Creek," in Virginia, is the only one I now recall. I am inclined to believe that *Minnissingh* as applied to the east side of the river, is a transfer from the Indian tribe bearing the name. They moved about considerably (see vol. XIII, p. 550, under Minnissings). They took the name from the "small island," perhaps the "Minnissing Island" in the Delaware, where more than likely they had a fort for refuge (see Ruttenber, p. 99). Sauthier's map quoted by Ruttenber, locates this island about where Van Der Donck locates the tribe on his map. Their name gave title to a large tract known as the "Minnisneck Patent" (Cal. of Land Papers in the office of Sec. of State, p. 47, et seq.) Pondauckrien is probably the Massachusetts *Pong-antche-yan*, "the shadow overflow," i. e. "shallow to ford or wade over."

Yours sincerely,

WM. WALLACE TOOKER.



Scene on Wynoghkee, Mahwematasig or Wappingers Kill,  
engraved by Lossing.

## CHAPTER II.

THE FIRST SETTLERS AND THE FIRST LAND TITLES—BEGINNINGS OF DEVELOPMENT—THE POST ROAD—COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND THE FIRST COURT HOUSE—THE FIRST TAX LIST—SOME INTERESTING ENTRIES IN THE FIRST BOOK OF RECORDS OF SUPERVISORS AND ASSESSORS—THE FIRST DUTCH CHURCH—THE FIRST ENGLISH CHURCH—THE PRECINCT OR TOWN OF PoughKEEPSIE—INTERESTING COLONIAL EVENTS—SIGNS OF GROWTH—SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES.

It is evident from the documents quoted in the preceding chapter that there were some persons besides Indians living in the neighborhood that was described as Poughkeepsie, before the first provincial land grants or patents were issued. There seems to be no conclusive evidence that Jan Smeedes built his mill at the Poughkeepsie waterfall, but Peter Lansing, mentioned in the same deed, was certainly living within the limits of the town of Poughkeepsie not long after 1683, as will presently appear. The Indians of the Long Reach—that straight stretch of river from the Highlands to Krom Elbow—were generally peaceable, and there is little doubt that a few white people were living among them even before the first efforts to obtain titles to the land. Certainly a long enough time had elapsed since 1609, when that famous old Arctic explorer, Henry Hudson, sailed up the river that bears his name, to say nothing of the French trading expeditions of the preceding century, for somebody to have observed the advantages of the location.

The first land patent, that to Messrs. Sanders and Harmans, as we have seen, locates the tract "to the north of the land of Sovryn alias called the Baker." This grant made in 1686, refers to an Indian deed of 1685, so that it appears that Sovryn was here by that time somewhere, though no such man is recorded as having received any grant or deed. In later years a dispute arose as to the size and boundaries of the Sanders-Harmans tract, and when maps<sup>1</sup> came to be made a "Sovryn About the Baker" was marked as living on the Casper Kill north of the brick-yard camp, but it seems more likely that he lived at first nearer the river, and it is certain that Sanders and Harmans made settlements south of that point.

The second patent to lands hereabout, that to

Colonel Peter Schuyler in 1688, does not mention the baker, but describes the tract as "Bounded on the North by the Lands of Robert Sanders and Myndert Harmense," and "on the South by a Certain Creek that runs into Hudson's River on the North side of a Certain House now in the Possession & occupation of one Peter the Brewer." This was at the mouth of the Casper Kill, as shown in the preceding chapter, and "Peter the Brewer" was none other than Pieter Lansing (Lansing or Lassing) who was therefore already on the ground, with a house built two years before the land had been formally transferred to him by Arnout Cornelison Viele, according to the statement in the application for a patent in 1704. It is probable, in fact, that he settled on this same land under the Indian deed of 1683, in which he is mentioned as having been given a "bouwerie" (farm) at the time the *Poughkeepsie* waterfall was granted to Jan Smeedes. Finding himself on land already deeded to Arnout Viele, title from him was also obtained in 1690.

Whether this Pieter<sup>1</sup> was himself the well known Albany brewer, or his son, there is some doubt, but unquestionably, with his "great charge of children," he was the ancestor of the Lansing, Lossing and Lawson families, members of which are still living at New Hamburg, as well as in Poughkeepsie and other parts of Dutchess. A Peter Lassing continued to live near the mouth of the Casper Kill for many years, and is frequently mentioned in the early road and other records of the county and of the precinct or town of

<sup>1</sup> According to Munsell's or Pierson's Genealogical records, Peter Lansing, the Albany brewer, was born in Amsterdam in 1620. He sold his interest in the brewery somewhere about 1683, and may have come to Dutchess himself. Benson J. Lossing claimed him as his ancestor, but his son has always been given as the first of the family to settle here in 1690—See Smith's Hist. of Dutchess Co., page 170.

A deed on record in the County Clerk's Office refers to "Isaac Lawson otherwise called Isaac Lassing."

<sup>1</sup> Map of S. J. van Harmans' Lands, apparently made by 1700. It is not dated, on file in Albany. The Patent Records in the Book of Patents, 1680-1686, page 575, 1700, in the State Office.



Poughkeepsie. Gerret Lansing (a name persisting to the present time among local members of the Lansing family) and Lawrence van Ale seem also to have been in the neighborhood by 1683, as shown by the mortgage given by "a Highland Indian, Tapias," for land on the Wynackee or Wappingers Kill "where Arnout Cornelisson's land ends." Arnout Cornelisson Viele himself probably did not settle on his land for any considerable time, if at all, for as an Indian interpreter, he was constantly traveling, and in 1690 was stationed among the Onondagas; but members of the Viele family were very early settlers, as shown by deeds already quoted.

Nearly every early deed, in fact, mentions someone on the ground still earlier, or indicates that the grantee was here before he obtained his title. The Van Kleeck family was certainly in the neighborhood before 1697, the date of the deed to the first Baltus or Balthazar, who is referred to as "of Long Rock in the County of Dutchess," (probably a misprint for Long Reach) and may have been here as early as 1692.<sup>1</sup>

It seems probable that the first settlements in the county were near Rhinebeck opposite Wiltwyck (Esopus or Kingston) which received its charter in 1664, while there had been a fort at Rondout since 1614; but the applications for Indian deeds in that section do not antedate the deeds for portions of the town of Poughkeepsie, nor do the Fishkill deeds, though the first patent to lands in the county of Dutchess (the Rombout patent, Oct. 17, 1685) included the Fish Kill and Wappingers valleys. The Dutch and the French Huguenots<sup>2</sup> were evidently here almost at the same time, and perhaps some of the first of the latter came from Wiltwyck or wandered through the woods from New Paltz, which was settled in 1677.

It is not improbable that the influential persons seeking large land grants or patents first studied the Indian deeds on file to see where the land was likely to prove valuable, and then in some cases, after they had obtained their patents, ousted<sup>3</sup> the poor fellows who were on the ground first. Indian deeds, as we have seen, did not give a good title unless authorized by the governor, and even when they were authorized, the same land was often granted to other persons. This was the case with the land near the mouth of the Wappingers. Disputes over titles there, due partly to this and partly to the fact that sales in that neighborhood,

under the division of the Rombout patent, were suspended during the life of the minor Verplanck heirs, doubtless retarded settlement.

In the upbuilding of a city at Poughkeepsie, slowly as it was accomplished, most precedents were violated. The neighborhood at the mouth of the Wappingers, the largest stream in the county, was the natural place for such development. The stream furnished a highway to the interior, and was to some extent navigated by the Indians in their canoes, as the Indian name of the second fall, "Matapan" (a portage), indicates. It is probable, however, that the falls prevented much navigation, and the course of the stream, bringing it not more than four miles from the mouth of the Fall Kill, doubtless led to the divergence of foot travel from the Wappingers to the Fall Kill valleys, as a shorter route to the river. Indian trails were very often the precursors of roads and even of railroads. The Wappingers valley was certainly well enough known long before the first mention of Poughkeepsie, for William Hawthorne, Capt. John Pyncheon and other Englishmen from Hartford caused old Governor Stuyvesant a good deal of uneasiness by proposing to "settle a town fifteen miles from the North river east of the Wappingers Kill" in 1659.<sup>1</sup> Permission was refused, and when settlers began to come, about twenty years after the end of Dutch control, they preferred the Poughkeepsie neighborhood. There was at one time an Indian village here, and a considerable number of arrow heads and other relics have been found in the neighborhood of Ship-Yard or Fox's Point,<sup>2</sup> but this village was not important enough to be mentioned on any of the Dutch maps or records and trade with the Indians was apparently not one of the inducements to white settlers. The only obvious advantages of the neighborhood were the mill site at the river, a better site for such mills as were erected at that time than the Wappingers falls afforded, and the existence of considerable comparatively level land upon the hill, rather nearer the river than at other points. Probably some of this land was natural meadow land.

Since "the Dutchesses County"<sup>3</sup> bounds were defined before the first land grants "to be from the bounds of the County of Westchester on the South Side of the Highlands along the Eastside of Hudsons River as farr as Roelof Jansens Creeke and Eastward into the wood twenty miles," it is not impossible to con-

<sup>1</sup>See Van Kleeck Family History, p. 24.

<sup>2</sup>"Sovryn the Baker" was doubtless a Frenchman and Smeedes is a New Paltz name.

<sup>3</sup>See Smith's History of Dutchess County for an account of the settlement of Nicholas Eighmie at Fishkill under an Indian deed to land extending from Fishkill to Poughkeepsie.

<sup>1</sup>Calendar of Dutch Colonial Manuscripts, p. 321; also Dutchess County History, p. 56.

<sup>2</sup>By Messrs. Henry Booth and Clarence Lown.

<sup>3</sup>Dongan's Laws, Nov. 1, 1683, Docs. Col. Hist. XIII, 575

ceive that the Sanders, Heermance, Schuyler, Ten Eyck<sup>1</sup> and other early patentees were shrewd enough to foresee the probable location of the county seat at such a central point. That Sanders and Heermance started to settle their tract as a village community seems a fair inference from the fact that the earliest deeds nearly all contain stipulations for rights in "common lands." The Van Kleeck deed of 1667 grants the land "with privilege of Commons belonging to said patent (that is to say) the dividend thereof proportionate to the Quantity of land hereby granted." Pasturage and wood cutting were the usual privileges of Commons, and Mr. Irving Elting in his "Dutch Village Communities of the Hudson River" shows that the Dutch brought this custom by inheritance from remote Germanic ancestors.

Colonial deeds are of course all dated from the year of the reign of the King or Queen of the time, and Dutchess deeds begin with William of Orange. The land was at first held "according to the Tenure of East Greenwich in the County of Kent within his Majesties Realm of England" upon a quit rent of so many bushels of wheat, and quit rents were collected from time to time, though often much in arrears, until a statute was passed for their commutation in cash and final abolition.

#### BEGINNINGS OF DEVELOPMENT—THE ALBANY ROAD.

The first development of the tract of land called "Memisink and Pogkeepsing" began when the partners in the first patent, "Robert Sanders and Mjenardt Hermans by their joint consent did make Division and partition of part of the said Land adjoining to Hudson's River aforesaid called Pogkeepsing," as we learn from the Van Kleeck deed, which, however, does not give the year of the contract of partition. Baltus Van Kleeck, called Balthazar Van Cleake in the deed, but whose name before coming here is given as Baltus Barents, was a brother-in-law of Robert Sanders, which accounts for his early arrival. Sanders is always described in the deeds as "of the City of New York," and Hermans, whose name is spelled in three different ways in this one deed, was the resident partner. We find that by the time of this deed, June 3, 1667, the property was already in part divided into "Lots, sixty-eight Rood" "in breadth front and rear" and that the Van Kleeck purchase was bounded on the south by "four parcells or Lots the which is now or

lately hath been in the Tenure possession and occupation of Mynardt Harmens, Balthazar Barnse, Hendrick Ostrom and Symon Scoutte," evidently the beginnings of a little community containing the germs of a village. There was doubtless a saw mill at the Poughkeepsing waterfall before this time because we find it referred to in a deed from Col. Peter Schuyler, the second patentee to lands hereabouts, to Sanders and Harmense in 1660, as follows:

"All that Certain Tract or Parcell of Land Scituate Lying and being on ye East side of the Hudson's River in Dutchess County at a Certain Place caled ye Long Reach Slenting over Against Juffrows Hook At a Place Called the Rust Plaest, Runs from Thence East Ward into the Wood to a Creek Caled by the Indians Pietawickquasick Known by the Christians for Jan Casperses Creek Northwarde to a Water fall where the Saw Mill belonging to Myndert Harmense Aforsaid Stands Upon and so Southwarde Amongst Hudson's River Aforsaid to said Rust Plaest."—p. 278, Liber A, County Clerk's Office.

It does not seem to me that this deed was as important as the authors of the Dutchess County histories have supposed. Sanders and Heermance had already settled part of the tract, as shown above from the Van Kleeck deed, and it does not appear from the patents that Schuyler's title to it was any better than theirs, but the transfer made the titles of the grantees good and furnished a definite boundary, the "Rust Plaest" being the stream which flows through the present Rural Cemetery grounds. Juffrows Hook was the southeast corner of the New Paltz patent, (granted 1678) and was generally taken to be what we now call Blue Point.<sup>2</sup>

The first impetus towards concentration and improvement, once the titles were secure, was furnished when the Colonial Assembly in 1703 authorized the construction of what afterwards became the Post Road,<sup>2</sup> from "King Bridge aforesaid to the Ferry at Crawlewe over against Albany."

There must have been some sort of a trail along the east side of the river before this time, and we may be sure that the commissioners for Dutchess, "Mr. Baltus Van Clift, Mr. Johannes Tarbus and Mr. Robert Livingston" did something towards its improvement. The act required that the road be finished "as well for the Carriage of goods as the passage of Travellers within the space of eighteen months." Had a good road suitable for travelers in coaches been constructed at once this would have been relatively as important as the building of the railroad some one hundred and

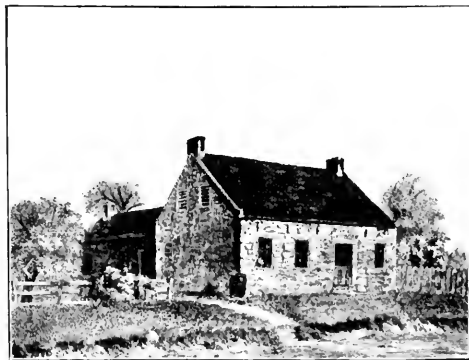
<sup>1</sup>The Ten Eyck or Poughkeepsie patent is referred to in a deed (Liber A, p. 25) conveying property to John Rodman and William Huddleston, 1668. It included the same property granted in earlier patents, and was declared fraudulent.

<sup>2</sup>On this, however, see letter of Frank Hasbrouck in *New Paltz Independent*, Nov. 10, 1893.

<sup>2</sup>Colonial Laws, Vol. 1, p. 533.

fifty years later, but one paragraph of the act provided that the people of Dutchess "are not hereby Obligated to Clear or maintain any other path or Highway than for Horse and man only." By 1712, however, there is a reference to it as "The waggon path leading to Poepsink,"<sup>1</sup> and in the course of a few years more it became known as the King's Road. Traveling was nevertheless mostly on horseback even between Poughkeepsie and Fishkill for a long time after this, but the laying out of the road determined the building of Poughkeepsie on the hill rather than on the river front.

It is impossible to tell from such of the old surveys as remain just what the original route of the road was, but I have found no evidence that it followed the line of Jefferson Street through to Bridge as some people have thought. No early map shows a road across that section of Poughkeepsie. The post road has been many times relocated for short distances. It once ran through a part of what is now Eastman Park, according to tradition, following the line of the street to the west of the Soldiers' Fountain, and was west<sup>2</sup> of the Freartown settlement until after 1799, but in general it was kept well up on the hill, out of the swampy places, and in the central part of Poughkeepsie the evidence is that it followed about the line of the present Market street from very early times, then curved around partly on the lines of Washington, Mill and Bridge Streets to an easy fording place over the Fall Kill.



*Van Kleeck House, from Lossing's Wood Cut published in the Family Magazine in 1838.*

The Van Kleeck house, a substantial stone building, had been already built (1702) on the road leading to the mill, when the post road act was passed.

<sup>1</sup>Deed from Elsie Sanders to Johnes Pruin.—Lib. A. p. 19.

<sup>2</sup>The 1708 map (frontispiece); also Lib. 14, Deeds, p. 195.

and there is every reason to believe that the two roads were the same in front of this house, which stood "on the premises now known as Nos. 224 and 226 Mill St." The Van Kleeck house was not, of course, the first house in Poughkeepsie, for Van Kleeck bought a house and barn with his land in 1697, as his deed shows, but it was probably the first stone house, and long served as an important gathering place, where meetings were held and travelers were entertained. It was loop-holed for muskets and was strong enough to serve as a fortress against Indian attacks in case of necessity.

#### COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND FIRST COURT HOUSE.

Whether Sovryn the baker was living on the Casper Kill east of Poughkeepsie as early as 1680 or not, there were certainly some settlements in that neighborhood by 1700 and soon afterwards also in the Wappingers valley over the ridge. A trail or road led from them to the mill at the river, following somewhat the lines of the present Main Street and the junction of this trail with the King's Road became the natural place for the location of the first blacksmith shop.<sup>1</sup> Incidental references in early documents seem to show that a little hamlet had already begun to spring up at the crossroads when the county organization was first determined upon, but it must have been a very insignificant hamlet, for according to the census taken in 1714 there were but 445 persons in the whole county, of whom 29 were slaves.

The county had been attached to Ulster until the year before when (Oct. 23, 1713) a provincial act had requested the Justices of the Peace to issue warrants for the election of one supervisor, a treasurer, two assessors and two collectors, but there is no evidence that any election was held for several years. On July 21, 1715, an act was passed requiring the Justices of the Peace to call together the freeholders of the county to elect two of their number "to be Supervisors and Directors for the building and erecting a County-House and Prison within the said County, at such a convenient place as to them shall be meet and convenient, for the most ease and benefit of the Inhabitants of the said County." The act directed that the building must be erected "within two years next after the publication hereof," and that a tax be levied on the county not to exceed "the Sum of Two hundred and fifty Ounces of good Mexico, Pillar or Sevill Plate"

<sup>1</sup>The first mention of a blacksmith occurs in a deed dated 1713, Peter U. Zelic (or Velic) to William Titsoor.—Lib. A. p. 33. See also Smith's "History of Dutchess County," p. 179. "Until 1712 the nearest blacksmith to the Fishkill settlers was at Esopus, then called Wiltwyck."

to pay for it. There is no record to show that anything was done under the act and surely the necessity of a county house and prison was not very pressing, but the project was not given up.

Some sort of a county organization was formed by this time, for Richard Sackett became the first county clerk in 1815, and Leonard Lewis represented the county in the Fifteenth Assembly (1713-1714). In the Sixteenth Assembly (1715) Baltus Van Kleeck and Leonard Lewis were both members and continued in the next assembly until Van Kleeck's death in 1717. Both lived in the neighborhood called Poughkeepsie and Lewis had been appointed the first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1710. Their influence was doubtless of weight in the passing of the second act for the construction of a county or court house, May 27th, 1717, and in providing for its location "at or near the most Convenient place at Poghkepsc" This act allowed three years for the completion of the work, and despite the assertions of the two histories of "Dutchess" County that the first court house was not built until 1745 or 1749, the proof is convincing that it was finished within the time limit fixed in the act of 1717. The first book<sup>1</sup> of the supervisors and assessors shows that a meeting of the "trie houlders" was held at the house of Leonard Lewis June 22, 1717, and that Barendt Van Kleeck and Jacobus Van den Bogert were chosen as a building committee. A few pages further on we find the tax levies prefaced by the statement, "It is amongst other things enacted that the County hose and preson shall be built wid-in three years." The entries do not clearly show how much money was spent, but it is certain that the building, surely not a very elaborate structure, was ready for use soon after the passage of the act of July 6, 1720,<sup>2</sup> which provided that "from henceforth there shall be held and kept at Poghkepson near the Centre of said County, a General Sessions of the Peace, on the third Tuesday in May and the third Tuesday in October." In the records of a meeting of supervisors and assessors held in 1722 at "Poekkepsinck" pursuant to a colonial act for the improvement of the roads, these words are used describing the post road: "Also Persning from the County house by Jacobus Van Den Bogert

<sup>1</sup>This book was probably unknown to the authors of the tax histories, as well as to Benson J. Lossing, though there is quotation from it in a historical sketch in the Weekly Eagle of July 8, 1876. It covers the period from 1717 to Dec. 17, 1722, and contains also receipts for taxes paid in New York in 1715.

<sup>2</sup>Doc. mentar., History of New York, Vol. III, 972. I do not find this act in the Colonial Laws as published by the State in 1894. The county records however show that the first session of General Sessions was held here in 1721. In 1722, Harmen Rynders was appointed "Stobo or bell ringer,"

to the Bridge of Jan Kasper's Creek as the Rod is now used and so to Peter Lassings." The second record book of the supervisors and assessors, beginning 1722, contains direct statements that meetings were held in the court house, and to complete the proof that the building was there one has only to turn to the Colonial laws (Vol. III, p. 336, 1894 edition) and read the act authorizing the construction of the second court house, passed Dec. 17, 1743: "An Act to Enable the Justices of the Peace in Dutchess County to build a Court House & Goal or to enlarge and Repair the old one." It has been stated that the property on which the court house was built was conveyed by Jacobus Van Den Bogart to Barendt Van Kleeck, Justice of the Peace, in 1718, but there is no deed on record to this effect. The earliest deed to the property seems to be that of Nov. 13th, 1747, a "lease and release" of the land "with the court house and goals already built on the same" to Isaac Van Den Bogert, Jacobus Ter Bos, Anthony Yelverton, Lewis Du Bois and John Tenbruck "four of his Majesties Justices of the Peace." The parchment release is preserved in the County Clerk's Office among the maps. It provides that the property shall revert to the Van Den Bogart family if used for any other purpose than that for which it was granted.

It is interesting to find in Liber 1 of Deeds, page 20, confirmation of the tradition that the Van Den Bogart and Heermance families are the same. In July, 1700, "Myndert Harmse of poghkeepsink in Dutchess County Voeman and helena his wife for divers good Causes & Considerations them thereunto moving but more especially for and in Consideration of ye Love and affection which they bare unto their Eldest Sunn Jacobus Van den bogart" conveyed a considerable amount of land to the latter, and the court house stands on a part of it. This Jacobus is said to have planted the first apple orchard in the neighborhood, the word "bogart" (modern Dutch "boomgaard") meaning orchard.

Liber A or 1 of deeds in the Dutchess County Clerk's Office was begun in 1718, but many earlier deeds, as we have seen, were recorded in it. Most of the deeds dating back of 1700 were recorded in Ulster County, in Albany County, or in the records of the Colonial Government at New York. The last named are now in the Secretary of State's Office in Albany, while those originally recorded at Albany are among the Fort Orange Records in the Albany County Clerk's Office. Although the Dutch language was spoken by the great majority of the people of Dutchess County until almost the time of the Revolution, none of the records are in Dutch, except the first will in Liber A of Wills.

THE FIRST TAX LIST.

THE INHABITANTS, RESIDENTS, SOJOURNERS AND FREE-HOLDERS OF DUTCHS COUNTY ARE RATED & ASSESSED BY ASSESSORES CHOSEN FOR YE

SAME THE DAY OF 1717<sup>s</sup>

FOR YE MEEDEL WARD,

VIZ:

|                                | £  | ℓ  |    |                               |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|-------------------------------|
| Thomas Sanders,                | 35 | 02 | 12 | 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Elias Van Bumschoote,          | 10 | 00 | 12 | 1                             |
| Zacharias Flegelar,            | 04 | 00 | 04 | 10                            |
| Hendrick Van Der Burgh,        | 53 | 03 | 04 | 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Jacob Titsort,                 | 04 | 00 | 04 | 10                            |
| Josias Crego,                  | 00 | 00 | 07 | 3                             |
| Evert Van Wagene,              | 10 | 00 | 12 | 1                             |
| Johannes Van Kleek             | 11 | 00 | 13 | 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Myndert Van Denbogert,         | 20 | 01 | 04 | 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Harmon Rynderse,               | 01 | 00 | 01 | 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Jan Ostrom,                    | 13 | 00 | 01 | 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Barenet Van Kleek,             | 35 | 02 | 02 | 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Fransoy Le Roy,                | 24 | 01 | 00 | 0                             |
| Lowarance Van Kleek,           | 05 | 00 | 00 | 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Jacobus Van Den Bogart,        | 05 | 00 | 06 | 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| De Weden Van Baltus Van Kleek, | 58 | 03 | 10 | 1                             |
| De Weden Van Myndert harmese   | 52 | 03 | 02 | 10                            |
| Jan De Graef,                  | 11 | 00 | 13 | 3                             |
| Bartholomeus Hoogeboom         | 05 | 00 | 00 | 0                             |
| Leonard Lewis,                 | 55 | 03 | 06 | 5                             |
| De Weden Van Jan keep,         | 05 | 00 | 06 | 0                             |
| Pieter Vielece,                | 22 | 01 | 00 | 7                             |
| Hendrick Pels,                 | 13 | 00 | 15 | 8                             |
| William Titsor,                | 13 | 00 | 15 | 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Magiel Palmietier Jun,         | 03 | 00 | 03 | 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Magiel Palmietier Sniure       | 45 | 02 | 14 | 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Pieter Palmietier,             | 14 | 00 | 16 | 11                            |
| Hendrick Buys,                 | 03 | 00 | 01 | 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| John Egerton,                  | 01 | 00 | 01 | 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Thomas Lewis,                  | 01 | 00 | 01 | 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> |
| Thomas Chadwick,               | 02 | 00 | 02 | 5                             |
| Jonas Scoot,                   | 02 | 00 | 02 | 5                             |
| Richard Sackett,               | 10 | 00 | 12 | 1                             |

The first column of figures is of course the assessment and the next three the tax in pounds, shillings and pence, colonial money. A curious outcropping of Dutch will be noticed in "De Weden Van," for "the widow of." A few years later Zacharias Flegelar's name drops out and "De Weden Van Zaacharias Flegelar" appears on the roll. Notice also the method of dating "the day of 1717<sup>s</sup>" which means Jan. 1, 1718. Dates between January and March were often written both "old and new style" like this 7<sup>s</sup>. This first assessment roll, when the other two wards are included, contains 120 Dutch, 2 French and 8 English names, and the last assessment in the book, 1722, contains 171 Dutch names, 2 French and 14 English. The scarcity of French names seems to show that the Du Bois, Freer and other Huguenot families from New Paltz

had not yet arrived. The increase of the English is also noteworthy.

SOME INTERESTING RECORDS.

The little supervisors' book from which this assessment is taken contains a number of entries that throw light upon the life of the people. There are records of several payments to the Indians, but without clear indication of their purpose. Probably some of them were bounty payments for killing wolves, as several Colonial acts were passed to authorize such bounties in Dutchess County. Here is an entry which shows that bad spelling was not the only vice of our ancestors:

Dutches County  
february the 19  
Annoq 1717<sup>s</sup> At a Special Sesioues  
held at Pockepsink  
Present  
Leonard Lewis Judge  
Capt Barendt Van Kleeck  
Machill Palmater, Esqurs Justices

Have Taeken Information of Bartholomeus Hoogeboom and Franscys Van Den Bogard Rachel Buckley That John De Grafe has Retald Stong Liequors by Smal Measure as apereth by thare Several Affidatides.

Dutches County  
february 28 Annoq  
1717<sup>s</sup> Upon Request of Mr. John De Grafe  
The Gusteses of Sl County Meet

Present  
Leonard Lewis Esq. Judge  
Capt Barendt Van Kleeck  
Machil Parmentier Justices

The Said John De Grave Being Sincebell of his Erorre beged the Justiss to be Exquised of his fine and promisith for the time to come not to fall in the lick Erorss Wareupon the Justices have taken it into consideration to be of mean Capacity and a Great famely to meantain they have ackquitted the said John De Grave of five Pound which de said John De Grafe is ffalen under.

A study of the assessment rolls makes it a little doubtful whether John was of "mean Capacity." In the first assessment he is down at £11, while only four years later, 1722, his wealth had risen to £30, showing that there must have been some profit in the sale of "Strong Liequors by Smal Measure." Once again in July, 1719, he got into trouble, but the record does not show clearly whether he escaped his fine or not.

Another interesting entry is the following under date of January 20th, 1721:

To Mr. Jacob Plough for Sarviss Done for the County for Tow Viges from Kips berge to pockepsink upon the Business of a Negro of Johans Dickman that was Burnt and forgot to bring it to the County Charge afore and is allowed 12s.

This is obscure enough, but it may refer to the burning of a negro at the stake. Two such horrible incidents have been related in historical sketches of Poughkeepsie, usually with a later but not very definite date. Isaac Platt in a historical sketch published in the *Weekly Eagle* in May, 1858, spoke of the burning of a white man and negro "on the eve of the Revolution," and stated that it took place on the ground next south of John Thompson's place on Market Street. Punishments were often harsh and brutal in Colonial days, and there are several references in the early books of the supervisors to a whipping post, and to chains and stocks for securing prisoners. The records also show that prisoners were in need of better security than the jail afforded, for its locks and bars were a source of much expense and were not infrequently broken.

#### THE FIRST CHURCH.

The first deed<sup>1</sup> in Liber A of Deeds is that which conveys the lot on which the first church was built, from Jacobus Van Den Bogert to "Capt. Barendt Van Kleeck, Mr. Myndert Van Den Bogert, Mr. Pieter fielee and Mr. Johannes van Kleeck All Yomen." It is dated December 20th, 1716, and was recorded August 20th, 1718, by Henry Van Derburgh, the second County Clerk. The congregation had been organized Oct. 16th, 1716, when Rev. Petrus Vas, pastor of the church at Kingston, installed Michael Parmenter and Pieter du Bois as elders, and Elias Van Benschoten and Pieter Parmenter as deacons, and also baptised Marytjen, daughter of Frans De Lange and Marytjen Van Schaak. Rev. A. P. Van Gieson has translated many of the early Dutch records for his history of the church and he tells us that the first Church Master's book contains copies of subscription lists that were circulated in 1717 to raise money for the building of the church. 1,427 guilders<sup>2</sup> were subscribed in money and 61 days work estimated at six guilders per day. Evidently community life was taking form at this time and the future of the little hamlet at Poughkeepsie was assured, with the court house on one side of the King's Road and the church on the other. The church was finished in 1723 and is said to have been of stone. Its location is clearly shown by the description of the property in the deed: "Situatied Lying and being in poebkpepseng in the

afore said County, butted and Bomdett Vz on the Nort Sid to the Rood that Runs to the Eastward to the fore said Cap<sup>t</sup> Barendt Van Kleecks and on the west along the Rood that Runs to the Sout." This was of course on the southeast corner of Market and Main street, and the church still owns the property, as will appear in subsequent chapters.

That the early Dutch settlers who built the church and the court house were not devoid of enterprise is apparent. They were so few in numbers that the church was united with that organized about the same time at Fishkill, and it was not until 1731 that the first minister, Rev. Cornelius Van Schie arrived from Holland to take charge of the two backwoods congregations. If Dominie Van Schie received what the two churches agreed to pay him in the call (which Dr. Van Gieson prints in full) he got the princely salary of £70 (\$175) New York money, the time of his salary "to begin with the lifting of the anchor of the ship on which he shall sail from Amsterdam." He was also furnished with firewood for summer and winter "to be piled by his house" and was presented with a brown horse which cost "four pounds & Teen shillings." A house, "three morgens of pasture, also a garden in suitable fence," and several minor inducements were included in the call, but as he remained less than two years he may not have received all these good things. The parsonage, pasture, etc. were to be located either at Poughkeepsie or Fishkill, and Dominie Van Schie was to be perfectly free to decide which place he preferred for his residence. He preferred Poughkeepsie, and here the two congregations jointly purchased the land on a part of which the present church stands and built the first parsonage, probably in 1732. In a call sent to Holland in 1734, it is described as "A new and suitable residence, forty-five feet long and twenty-seven broad, having three rooms, and a study upstairs, a large cellar under the house, and a well with good water, a garden, and an orchard planted with 100 trees."

Dominie Van Schie went to Albany in 1733 and it was twelve years before another minister could be induced to come out from Holland. The salary had then been raised to £110. The calls of course had to be sent through others by power of attorney, as it was impossible for the consistory of the little churches in Dutchess to know what young ministers were available on the other side of the ocean. When the second minister, Rev. B. Meynema, arrived and had looked over the ground he asked, among other things, "that he might be reimbursed for any expense in riding to the church, or from the church to his home, on account of storms, high water, and necessity of being helped through the creek," and the request was grant-

<sup>1</sup>Printed in full in the "History of the First Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie," by Rev. A. P. Van Gieson, D. D. (p. 122).

<sup>2</sup>The guilder was commonly reckoned at one shilling (12 + 2 + 1) = New York currency. The term disappears from the Poughkeepsie Church records in 1740. Dr. Van Gieson's History, p. 85.

ed. This of course, referred to the long ride to and from Fishkill.

What happened to destroy the first church is not known. Rev. Samuel Seabury,<sup>1</sup> the English Church missionary, writing about 1756, says, "The Dutch Church at Poughkeepsie was not enclosed or unpierced but standing on blocks, nor floored or preached in though raised for several years." If the date of this letter is correct it seems as if it must refer to a second church building, though according to the church records the second building was not determined upon by the Consistory until Feb. 15th, 1766, at which time the minutes state that the walls of the old church had fallen. Boudewyn Lacounte, Elias Van Benschoten, Leonard Van Kleeck and James Livingston were the building committee, and this church was erected on the North side of East Lane, as Main Street is called in the deed from Gale Yelverton conveying the property, October 25th, 1700. It stood until 1822, on the lot just to the east of the present Nelson House Annex opposite the end of Market Street, and there are still a few interesting grave stones<sup>2</sup> remaining in the rear of the buildings there. After this church was built the old church lot, on the corner across the road, continued to be used as a burial ground until well into the nineteenth century.

Before the second building was determined upon the dissension between the Coetus and Conferentie parties had begun and the harmony of the Dutch church was not restored until the Revolution. The Coetus party held that ministers could be ordained in America, while the Conferentie party maintained that the only authority was in Holland. When the fourth pastor of the Poughkeepsie and Fishkill churches, Dominic Henricus Schoonmaker arrived in Poughkeepsie in 1764 for ordination he found the church in the possession of the opposing (Conferentie or Holland) party and the service took place under a tree not far from where the present church is located, the officiating minister, Rev. John H. Goetschius, standing in a wagon. Elder Peter Van Kleeck and Deacon John Conklin of the Conferentie party organized a bolting consistory and called Rev. Isaac Rysdyck from Holland. He accepted, and from 1765 to 1772 the Poughkeepsie and Fishkill churches had two pastors. Dr. Rysdyck left the Poughkeepsie church to take charge of the Fishkill, Hopewell and New Haekensack churches in 1773, which marks the separation of the Poughkeepsie church from Fishkill. It is interesting to note that Mr. Schoonmaker, who was in his time said to be the most eloquent preacher

in the Dutch language, left Poughkeepsie in 1774, largely because he could not preach well in English. The Dutch language was steadily losing ground and disappears entirely from the church records in 1783, though occasionally used in preaching until 1794. The first record of preaching in English was in 1740 and in Dominic Schoonmaker's time it had become customary to hold services alternately in Dutch and in English. The church was evidently then much in the position of the Lutheran church of to-day.

#### THE FIRST ENGLISH CHURCH.

The increase of the English population and of the English language, as well as the dissensions in the Dutch church made a place for the Church of England (Episcopal) and for the Presbyterians. The latter,<sup>1</sup> it appears, were first in the field with an organization as early as 1749, but failed to maintain themselves on a permanent basis or to erect a building until some time after the beginning of the 19th century. They held frequent services, however, first in connection with Fishkill and afterwards in connection with "Charlotte Precinct," which included Washington Hollow and Pleasant Valley, until 1772, and then the records show only an occasional sermon for a long period. At Pleasant Valley, on the other hand, the denomination increased in strength, and the first church was built there about 1770, when Rev. Wheeler Case left the Poughkeepsie congregation to become its pastor. The Pleasant Valley congregation was built up by immigration from the north of Ireland and soon became stronger even than the "Pittsburgy Church," organized at what was afterwards called Washington Hollow, in 1749.

The Church of England started in Poughkeepsie with a vigorous organization in 1766, as a result of meetings held during a number of visits from 1755 by Rev. Samuel Seabury of Hempstead, Long Island, who was in the service of the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts." It continued to flourish until the Revolution was well started, when prejudice against it became so strong on account of the loyalty of many of the members to the King, that services had to be suspended. Christ Church<sup>2</sup> in connection with Rombout (Fishkill), Beckmans and Charlotte, in the year of its organization called Rev. John Beardsley of Groton, Ct., to be its

<sup>1</sup>The History of the Presbyterian Church in Dutchess County has never been fully written, but see Daily Eagle, June 8th, 1895.

<sup>2</sup>Daily Eagle, May 25, 1895. The records of this church are in good preservation and a complete history is in course of preparation by Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds of Poughkeepsie.

<sup>1</sup>Rev. H. O. Ladd's "Founding of the Episcopal Church in Dutchess County," p. 22, note.

<sup>2</sup>See appendix for names.

first rector, and the next year purchased a farm or "glebe" of 87 acres from Gideon Ostrander on the Falktown Road (Main St.). The "glebe house," or rectory, built of brick in 1767, is still standing nearly in its original form on the north side of Main Street opposite the end of Church Street. At the meeting which extended the call to Mr. Beardsley, Bartholomew Crannell, Peter Harris, Johannes Ferdon, Johannes Mollair and Charles Moss were present from Poughkeepsie. A royal charter was granted to Christ Church, March 6th, 1773, by King George III, under the corporate title of "The Rector and Inhabitants of Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County in Communion of the Church of England, as by law established," and by it a grant of two hundred acres of land previously regarded as "common land" was added to the glebe. This land in after years caused the church many law suits, as squatters settled on it and claimed title by right of occupation.



Christ Church Glebe House. Taken 1904

Rev. H. O. Ladd in his "Founding of the Episcopal Church in Dutchess County" makes Trinity Church, Fishkill, antedate Christ Church by virtue of a subscription paper circulated for the building of a church in 1756, but no organization was formed at Fishkill until ten years later in connection with Poughkeepsie, and it does not appear that the church was built until 1766. The first Christ Church building was erected in 1774 on land given by Lewis DuBois, facing the Post Road, where the State Armory now is. There was some opposition to the establishment of the Church of England from the staunch old dissenters who had come into the county bringing with them the religion of the Stuarts of England, but the Dutch inhabitants do not seem to have been greatly disturbed, for not Dutch names began to appear on the records of the town after it was fairly settled.

1766—The first meeting in Savings Bank, in the care of Moses L. L., one of the wardens.

#### OATHS SIGNED BY OFFICE HOLDERS.

Something of the religious prejudices of Colonial days, as well as the English fear of a return of the Stuarts to the throne and of Roman Catholic influence, are shown in the oaths of abjuration and fealty required to be taken by office holders in Dutchess County. These oaths were long, and abounded in every sort of legal repetition and prolixity. The shortest of them, as used in 1729, was as follows:

I, A. B., do swear that I do from my heart abhor Detest and abjure as Impious and Heretical, that Damnable Doctrine and position that Princes Excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, or any Authority of the see of Rome may be deposed or Murdered by their subjects or any other whatsoever, and I do declare that no Person Prelate State or Potentate has or ought to have any Jurisdiction Power Superiority Preeminence of authority: Ecclesiastical or Spiritual within this Realm

So help me God

The oath of fealty declared "that our Sovereign Lord George the Second is Lawful and Rightful King of this Realm \* \* \* and I do Solemnly and Sincerely declare \* \* \* that the person pretended to be Prince of Wales during the Life of the Late King James and since his Decease pretending to be \* \* \* King of England by the name of James the third hath not any Rights or Title whatsoever," etc.

A third oath declared that "in the Sacrament of the Lords Supper; there is not any Transubstantiation," etc., and that various practices of the Church of Rome are "Superstitious and Idolatrous."

A copy of one of these oaths found in the attic of the old Court House contains the following signatures for the dates given:

1729.

Benthinsen, Jan—captain.  
 Du Bois, Peter—justice.  
 Du Lang, Frans—captain.  
 Hermans, Hendricks—captain.  
 Hussey, James—captain.  
 Kip, Jacob, Jr.—captain.  
 Kip, R'd—justice.  
 Knickerbaecker, Lowerens—captain.  
 La Roy, Frans—captain.  
 Mumross, John—captain.  
 Oosterhout, Lowerens—captain.  
 Sanders, Thomas—  
 Scheffer, Henric  
 Scott, William—coroner.  
 Swartwout, Jacobus—  
 Swartwout, Rudolf—sheriff.



Ter Bos, Jacobus—  
 Ter Bos, Johannes—  
 Van Benschoten, Elias—captain.  
 Van Cleece, Lowerens—captain.  
 Vanderburg, Henry—clerk.  
 Van Eften, Jacobus—  
 Van Kleeck, Barent—major.  
 Van Cleeck, Pieter—justice.  
 Van Cloek, Johannes—  
 Van Wagenen, Evert—captain.  
 Westfalle, Wouter—

1730.

Kip, Jacob, Jr.—captain.  
 Van Wagenen Gerrit—captain.

1734.

Brett, Francis—ensign.  
 Brinkerhoff, Abraham—  
 Bumshoten, Elias—captain.  
 De Witt, Jacob—lieutenant.  
 Du Bois, Matthias—justice.  
 Filkins, Frans—judge.  
 Hussey, James—captain.  
 Kip, R'd—justice of the quorum.  
 Livingston, Gil—major.  
 Osterhout, Jan—ensign.  
 Scott, William—coroner and justice.  
 Squire, William—sheriff.  
 Swartwout, Bernardus—  
 Swartwout, Jacobus—justice.  
 Tebos, Jacobus—justice.  
 Terbos, Johannes—judge.  
 Van Campen, Jacob—captain.  
 Van Cleece, Lowerens—lieutenant and justice.  
 Vanderburg, Henry—  
 Van Kleeck, Barent—lieutenant and colonel.  
 Van Kleeck, Machiel—lieutenant.  
 Vanwyck, Cornelius—

1735.

Beekman, Henry—justice.  
 \*Crawler, Peter.  
 †Crandler, Peter.  
 Haber, Fragharys—  
 Knickerbaecker, Lourens—justice.  
 Spater, Johannes—minister.  
 Wilson, James—sheriff.

It is a little difficult to tell from the old paper just what the offices held were in all cases. The list does not exactly agree with the colonial civil list as published by the State, which does not give Rudolf Swartwout among the sheriffs. The two persons whose names are preceded by a star could not write their names and are marked "naturalized," as is also Mr.

Spater, the minister. There are two later colonial lists on file among the county papers.

THE PRECINCT OR TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

The County of Dutchess, as has already been shown by the first recorded tax roll, was divided into three wards as soon as it had enough population to warrant a division. "The South Division to begin at the South side of the Highlands & Northward to Wapauingers Creek, the Middle Division to begin at the aforesaid Wapauingers Creek, & so Northward to Cline sopas Island, & the North Division to begin on the Northside of the Middle Division, and ending on the Northernmost bounds & extent of the County." No eastern boundaries were assigned. "Cline sopas Island" is the present Esopus Island, not far from Hyde Park. The Middle Division was therefore very much the smallest of the three, indicating that the population was mostly concentrated there. In 1737 the county was further divided into seven precincts, in general corresponding to the great land grants, except the "Poughkeepsie Precinct," which included "all the Lands to the Northwest of Wappingers Kill or Creek from the mouth thereof And up along the said Kill or Creek & Hudson's River until it meets the Patent Granted to Heathcote & Company called the Lower Nine Partners." Thus the precinct or town of Poughkeepsie came into existence with practically its present boundaries. This act provided for the election of supervisors, assessors, etc. the first Tuesday in April, but there was no provision for a Town or Precinct Clerk until 1741. In 1749 the "Precinct of Poghkeepsie"—this was the official spelling until after the Revolution—bought a book and copied in it the records from 1742, and from that time the records of the town elections are complete. Town meetings were of course held in Poughkeepsie and the town clerk's office remained here for many years. The first page of the town book is as follows:

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Poughkeepsie Precinct in Dutchess County on Tuesday the Sixth Day of April 1742 when by a Plurality of Votes were chosen for the year Ensuing viz:

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| John Van Kleeck                                   | Supervisor          |
| Lewis Du Bois                                     | Assessors           |
| Bowdewine La Count                                |                     |
| Barent Lewis, Overseer of ye Road to ye Northward |                     |
| Benjamin Van Keuren                               | Do To ye Southward  |
| John Tappen                                       | Do To ye Eastward   |
| John Maxfield                                     | Do To ye North East |
| Henry Livingston                                  | Town Clerk          |
| John Ten Brook                                    | Collector           |

\*Colonial Laws, Vol. I, p. 1033. This act is dated June 24, 1719, but it appears from the tax roll quoted that the division had been made as early as 1717.

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Abraham Freer       | Pound Master          |
| Peter Vele          | Fence Viewers         |
| Frans La Roy        |                       |
| Jacob Low           | Overseers of the Poor |
| Bartholomew Noxon   |                       |
| Henry Van Den Burgh | Constables            |
| Johannes Swartwout  |                       |

In the next year John Conklin, Jacobus Van Bonell, Moses De Graff and Augustus Turick come on the list of precinct officers and Abraham Freer is designated "Pounder." The overseers of the roads in 1743 were

Henry Livingston—Overseer of ye Road to ye Northward.

Isaac Lassing—Do To ye Southward.

Myndert Van Den Bogert—Do to Du Bois.

John Rynders—Do To ye nine partners.

Nearly all these men lived in or near the present city limits of Poughkeepsie. The references to the roads are clear except that "To Du Bois." In the record of the next year's election, 1744, the road "To ye nine partners" becomes the road "To filkintown." Henry Filkins was sheriff from 1743 to 1748 and the settlement named from him was in the neighborhood of Mabbettsville. In the 1744 records five roads are mentioned and among the overseers are:

Matewis Kip—from Lewis Du Bois to Callrugh.

Gerret Davis—from Lassing's to Du Bois Mill.

In 1745<sup>1</sup> the roads are designated simply "North," "South," "filkintown," "Simeon La Roy" and "Lewis Du Bois." In 1751 Gulian Ackerman is mentioned as overseer to "Du Bois Bridge" and Peter Du Bois to "La Roy's Bridge," while a sixth road "from Perdon's to P. Lassings" comes in. In 1754 Clear Everitt was overseer "To Larroy's Bridge" and Francis Littamore "From Gedion Dubois to P. Road." Clear Everitt became sheriff in 1754 and he lived, I believe, at the mouth of the Fall Kill and owned the mill<sup>2</sup> there. This leads one to conjecture that the road in his charge might have been Mill Street and that there was a bridge across the Fall Kill somewhere near him called La Roy's Bridge. In 1755 the road masters were:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Post Road South                          | Roelif Westerfelt   |
| Post Road North                          | James G. Livingston |
| From Galton Dubois to Post Road          | James Lucky         |
| Filkintown Road                          | Gabriel H. Ludlow   |
| From Call Rugh to Simeon Larroy's Bridge | John DeGraff        |
| From Perdon's to Hook Landing            | Abraham Lassen      |

"Call Rugh" must be our Kaal or Call Rock and early maps show a road leading around from it to Mill Street about at the junction of Mill and Clover

<sup>1</sup>Thuis Van Vliet comes on the records as road overseer in this year and Casparus Westerfelt in 1746.

<sup>2</sup>A deed from Henry Bayeux to Anne Everet, dated 1761, refers to him as owner of this mill.

Streets. It has all sorts of spellings and in the 1759 records becomes Call Bergh and is once or twice spelled Colburgh. There was evidently a landing place there with an authorized town road leading to it as early as 1744. It comes all the way down in the records to 1790 with occasional omissions. Mr. Lossing says that the rock received its name because it was the place from which passing sloops were signalled, and the fact that the landing place there was used as early as 1744 and appears to have been the principal Poughkeepsie landing place for a time, makes it seem possible that he was right, though a derivation from the Dutch word *Kahl* (bald) has been suggested as more probable. The road mentioned in 1744 "from Lewis Dubois to Callrugh" is puzzling. If Dubois lived where road surveys of the same date seem to place him, on what we now call the New Hackensack Road, and where he certainly was living a few years later—DuBois's Mill was in 1770 at the outlet of what is now Vassar College Lake—then there must have been a road regarded as continuous all the way from his neighborhood to the Call Rock landing, certainly evidence of the importance of the landing. No map shows such a road, unless it may be taken to include the New Hackensack Road to Main Street, and the winding way on about the lines of Washington, Mill and Clover Streets. The old road books contain many such puzzles and modern surveyors who have gone through them searching for the early lines have marked a considerable number of the roads "unknown." Doubtless the location of some has been so entirely changed as to be unrecognizable, but the puzzles presented by most of them could be worked out by a careful comparison of old maps, deeds and traditions as to where the people mentioned lived.

#### SOME COLONIAL EVENTS.

There were a number of events of sufficient excitement to lend variety to the life of the little hamlet of Poughkeepsie in Colonial days, but they were generally county matters brought to the county seat for legal action. The examinations in 1744 at "Pikipsi" of the Moravians, Buttner, Rauch and Mack, who had established a successful mission among the Indians at Shekomeko, reflected the bitter religious prejudices of the times and the fear of the French. The driving of these noble, unselfish Christians from the county was an episode of which no one can be proud. The history of the Moravian mission has been pretty fully written, and is well covered in the Dutchess County History published in 1882. There is little evidence that the persecuted missionaries found much sympathy among the inhabitants of Poughkeepsie, who doubtless shared the insane suspicion of the day that the

Moravians were in some way acting in the interest of the French. That fear of the French was not altogether absurd at this time the following letter to Henry Livingston, the County Clerk, from his brother-in-law, shows:

Rinebeck Novem. 23—1745

Loving Brother,

We are att presnt in good health, hope by god's Blessing this may find you & family the same

I Recieved this Morning at 5 oclock a letter from Uncle P. Livingston to witt—that there was ooo french & Indians near hosick Drawing Down to the English Settlements which news came Post Down to him & he sent it Likewise to me, his Letter was Dated Last night 12 oclock

I Emedietely sent it over pr post as your father was the nearest Colonel

I Dount Doudt but you have heard of the murder committed att scharightoga were they kild all they could gitt both man & beast, as for the particulars we have not yet heard, it is supposed that Mr. Philip Schyler is first shot & then burnt in his own house

my wife son & self joyn in Love to you sister & Gille & am your to command,

JACOB RUTSEN.

On the side of the sheet are written the words "In great haste." News carried by direct messengers on horseback was not so slow as we are inclined to imagine, but additional particulars were hard to obtain and alarm was proportionally greater. Here is another letter which shows something of the feelings of one Dutchess County boy pursuing the French far away from home.

Launciston June ye 1st, 1745

Loving Brother this is to let you know that I am in good health and I hope this will find you in the same dear brother I am very sorry that I did not stay at home with you for I do repent very much my coming in a man of war for here is nothing else but Cursing and swaring every day Now we are Cruising of Capertuny 18th of last may we took a french man of war of 64 Guns Brother I wish I was now with you at home out of this miserable place I hope you and sister and Cousin Gilbert are in good health, no more at present but am your Loving brother

SAMUEL LIVINGSTON.

During the French and Indian War Governor Hardy called out the militia of Dutchess and Ulster Counties, after the surrender of Oswego to the French in 1756. There was much traveling by important personages up and down the river throughout the war, for Albany was the military headquarters. The Earl of London marched an army from New York to Albany by the Post Road, which we are told was opened by him through the Highlands where it had been merely a trail before. The Dutchess militia were sent to reinforce his army at Lake George and probably a few residents of Poughkeepsie town spent

the fall of 1756 in the wilderness at Fort William Henry, watching the French at Ticonderoga, and then in the winter returned home leaving the work to the British regulars. Probably also some of them were among Webb's provincials at Fort Edward, who failed<sup>1</sup> to go to the relief of Fort William Henry in time to prevent its capture by Montcalm the next year.

In 1766 there were soldiers again at Poughkeepsie, British regulars, and we learn from a letter<sup>2</sup> written by Sheriff James Livingston that there was a skirmish between the military and the people. This skirmish, however, took place in the eastern part of the county near Quaker Hill and was a part of the "anti-rent war" against the great land holders. One of the anti-rent leaders, William Pendergast, was brought to Poughkeepsie and his trial is one of the *causes celebres* of Colonial days. He conducted his own defense assisted by his wife, but the jury found him guilty. The wife, as soon as the result was announced, started at once on horseback for New York, obtained a reprieve from the Governor, and was back in three days. Such a woman could hardly be expected to fail in what she undertook. She followed up her success with an application to the King himself, and in six months a full pardon came from George III and Pendergast and his noble wife went home amid great rejoicings.<sup>3</sup> The eastern Dutchess people were mostly Yankees from Connecticut and not so deliberate in their movements as the Dutch of the river neighborhoods.

#### SOME SIGNS OF GROWTH.

The development of a town in the neighborhood of the Court House and Dutch Church was about as deliberate as anything could be, but after 1750 the County of Dutchess began to grow rapidly and the population was almost doubled between 1740 and 1756, the census of the latter year putting it at 14,157. In 1756 William Smith, the historian of New York, said of the county, "The only villages in it are Poughkeepsie and the Fishkill, but they scarce deserve the name." It is something to know that Poughkeepsie was called a village at that time, forty-three years before it was officially incorporated, and it may also be some satisfaction to know that Newburgh wasn't yet heard of. Of Orange County Smith says, "Their villages are Goshen, Bethlehem and Little Britain." Kingston, on the other hand already had "about one-hundred and fifty houses, mostly of stone, is regularly laid out on a dry, level spot and has a large stone church and court

<sup>1</sup>Parkman's "Montcalm and Wolfe," Vol. I, pp. 430-497 and Vol. II, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup>Calendar of English Manuscripts, Sec. of State's Office, p. 793.

<sup>3</sup>Sketch in Weekly Eagle, May 17th, 1836.

house near the centre." He might have mentioned the fact that we had a pretty good Court House also at that time, judging from the time required to finish it. The second Court House was authorized as we have seen, in 1743, when an appropriation of £300 was made, then in 1745 £300 more were appropriated, in 1750 £130 more and in 1753 an additional £50, according to the Colonial acts. Presumably, therefore this Court House was finished for something less than \$2,000, but money purchased a great deal more in labor and material then than it does now. In 1704 another £70 was authorized for converting "one of the Jury Rooms in the County House into a Jail," and in 1705 £200 was added to this. Both the Court House and the jail were certainly large enough to be of a great deal of service during the Revolution.

By 1750 the English population had so much increased, as we have seen, as to attract the occasional services of a missionary of the Church of England, and the Presbyterians were also on the ground. Rev. Samuel Seabury, the Church of England missionary, is authority for the statement that a considerable number of families from Long Island were settling in Dutchess County at this time.

The river trade was becoming of some importance in Poughkeepsie, as references already made to the "Call Rugh" road show, and doubtless there was also a landing place at the mouth of the Fall Kill. According to tradition the old grist mill, which preceded the dye-wood mills, was raised on the day of Braddock's defeat in 1755, and stood until 1849, when it was burned. It was during this period that the two crooked roads to the river that we now know as Pine Street and Union Street originated. In a deed<sup>1</sup> from William Van Derburgh to Richard Davis, dated Oct. 9th, 1761, the three acres of ground conveyed are described as "Beginning at a white oak tree standing at the South side of a small Creek called the landing place Killetje," and there is a stipulation for "a convenient open road of the breadth of three rods from the post road through the other lands of the said William Van Derburgh to a Store House that may be hereafter built or building to be and remain a publick and open road forever." This was the road marked on the maps of a few years later as "Richard Davis's Road" and after 1800 was named Pine Street. It followed a winding course seeking an easy grade into the valley of the Killetje (little kill.) Evidently the landing place had been used before that time, but had not been improved. Four small streams converged at this landing place, as shown on the 1768 and 1799 maps, see frontispiece, also Chapter V.

and the last of them has only recently been put into the sewer. One of them flowed through Eastman Park, coming down between Montgomery and Noxon Streets, but the ground has been so completely changed by filling that its course is difficult to trace. The cove at the mouth of the Killetje was as much of a "safe harbor" as that at the mouth of the Fall Kill.

John De Graff, (either the same man mentioned in the first supervisors and justices' records or his son), owned the next farm north of William Van Derburgh, and had also built a store house at the river front by 1706. In 1707 a road was laid out by the town commissioners (Book C, Roads, p. 74) on petition of John De Graff and his son-in-law James Winans "petitioners having both a Dwelling and a store House near Hudson's river and being desirous to have a public Landing place there and not having an open road from the Kings Road to the premises." The road is described as beginning "at said Store House thence along the Bank to the Dug way thence up the Bank as the road now goes to the Top of the Hill thence along the east side of the Hill to the west of the Brook till it comes to the Creek thence over the same as the road is now opened To the Kings road at the south side of the Court House." Who could recognize all this for Union Street, except by the terminus at the south side of the Court House? A little consideration of old maps and the situation of the ground will show pretty plainly that the "Dug Way" and the "top of the Hill" must refer to the lower part of Union Street (the road up from the old Lower Furnace). This landing place during or soon after the Revolution became known as the "Union Landing" and the road to it was called "The Union Store Road." James Winans in the meantime had built himself a store house and a landing further south, near Richard Davis's store house, but on the north side of the Killetje. The fact that a branch road from the Union Store Road led to it (a road which became the end of South Water Street) appears to indicate that the Killetje was not bridged so that Davis's road could be reached from that side.

When the first store house was erected at the mouth of the Fall Kill we do not know, but it probably antedated all the others, and a deed from Clear Everitt to Nathaniel Seaman in 1764 refers to "Houses, Mill, Mill House, Store Houses," etc. Down to this time this property, the site of the first mill in Poughkeepsie, can be clearly traced through deeds on record. It passed from Myndert Heermance to Leonard Lewis in 1710, from Lewis to his wife by will, dated 1723,

<sup>1</sup>It furnished the water for flooding the old Eastman skating park.

and then to Anthony Yelverton in 1740. He sold in 1755 to Martin Hoffman of Rhinebeck, which seems to mark the coming of the Hoffman family, who lived in that neighborhood many years. Hoffman sold (perhaps not all the property) to Clear Everitt in 1760 and Everitt sold to Nathaniel Seaman, as noted, in 1764. There the record stops. Robert L. Livingston of Clermont came into the possession of the mill after this in some way, but perhaps not until after the Revolution. He is said to have built the substantial stone house, afterwards the home of the Hoffman and Sherman families and recently the home of Mr. Charles N. Arnold. This house of course originally had a peaked roof.



*The Hoffman or Sherman House—Taken 1904*

#### PROMINENT COLONIAL FAMILIES.

An interesting little survey map<sup>1</sup> of the Hudson River from "the mine point to the crum elbow"—a map upon which Gilbert Livingston endorsed a statement in 1794 that it was made by his father about 56 years earlier—has the mill marked "Lewis Mill." If Henry Livingston did make the survey and map as early as 1738, it was made before he came to Poughkeepsie, or at least before he bought property here. The marks on the map indicating buildings and their owners, etc., were certainly later additions, for a "ship-yard" is indicated in the neighborhood afterward called "Ship Yard Point" and "Richard Davis's Store House" is so marked. Near the "Rust platts Killitie" is a house marked "Conklin's," which would seem to show that Gilbert Livingston or one of his brothers wrote the names on the map, for they naturally knew all about that place. Henry Livingston,<sup>2</sup> the first of his name in Poughkeepsie, was a son of Gilbert Liv-

ingston and Cornelia Beckman, and was born at Kingston, Sept. 8th, 1714. His father was a son of the "first lord" of Livingston Manor. He married Susan Conklin and purchased his property here from John Conklyn, as the name is spelled in the deed, Nov. 16th, 1742, and the same year became county clerk, an office which he retained until 1780, and in which he was succeeded first by his son Robert Henry Livingston and then in 1804 by another son, Gilbert Livingston.

Henry Livingston's brother, James G. Livingston, was sheriff of Dutchess County from 1761 to 1769 (succeeding Clear Everitt), and also lived in Poughkeepsie. Philip J. Livingston of Livingston Manor, the Tory sheriff of early Revolutionary times, probably also lived here during his term of office. Besides these and their families there was Robert L. Livingston already mentioned as owning the mill at the mouth of the Fall Kill at one time. He is said to have lived at Rhinebeck, where he also owned mills, but may have resided here for a time, as one of his daughters married<sup>3</sup> John Crooke of Poughkeepsie, and his son, Robert G., married Marthe de Reimer of the same place.



*Henry Livingston House—Taken about 1870*

The house built by Henry Livingston, probably soon after his purchase in 1742 of a part of the Conklin property just south of Poughkeepsie, on the river front, is still standing, though much disfigured, and is now used as an office by the Phoenix Horse Shoe Company. It was a delightful country seat far into the present century and was occupied by descendants of Henry Livingston until about 1870, though the railroad destroyed much of its attractiveness. Henry

<sup>1</sup>Map 5, County Clerk's Office.

<sup>2</sup>A good sketch of the family will be found in the Sunday Courier, Feb. 21, 1892. See also C. E. Smith's History of Rhinebeck, p. 77.

<sup>3</sup>History of Rhinebeck, p. 78.

Livingston's children, of whom we shall learn more in subsequent chapters, were Beckman, Robert, Henry, John H., Gilbert, Catherine, Joanna, Susan, Alida, Cornelia, and Helen. Some of them were buried in the little family burying ground now in a neglected condition on the old Livingston Place.

A Kingston family, the Tappens, begin to appear on the Poughkeepsie town records not long after the Livingstons, Teunis Tappen, who is mentioned as a road overseer in 1750, being apparently the first of the name. Bartholomew Cramell, whose father had been sheriff of New York, settled in Poughkeepsie about the same time and became the law partner of Henry Livingston, and also owner of a large tract of land now in the heart of the city, mostly north of Main and east of Catherine Street. His wife was a Van Kleeck, according to the genealogists, and his three daughters all married in Poughkeepsie—one of them Gilbert Livingston, a son of Henry Livingston, another Peter Tappen and the third Rev. John Beardsley, first rector of the English Church, of which Mr. Cramell was perhaps the most prominent member, the Livingstons and Tappens being members of the Dutch Church. In 1704 Bartholomew Cramell gave to Gilbert Livingston and Catherine his wife, "Daughter of the said Bartholomew Cramell," property on the north side of the Filkins town Road, and they lived in a pleasant house which stood for many years where the First National Bank is. Catherine Street thus obtained its name. To Peter Tappen and Elizabeth, his wife, Mr. Cramell presented adjoining property to the eastward, and Cramell Street marks about the location, as will appear in another chapter. Bartholomew Cramell himself lived in a house which stood on the south side of the road, near what is now the corner of South Clinton Street, and he owned the mill on the Fall Kill near by. When the first mill in this neighborhood was built I have no evidence, but Cramell owned it as early as 1707. There was also a road at that time leading from the Filkins town Road, from about opposite Cramell's house, across the Fall Kill below the dam and taking about the direction of Smith Street. It first appears on the town records in 1760 as the "New Laid out Road thro' the Commons."

Cramell's house was built in 1744, as appears from the following entry in the account book of Francis Filkin, who was probably the proprietor of the first shop or store in Poughkeepsie:

Bartholomew's Cramell

1744 I Carted all what Belongs to his building of his house and yidding he and wife 5 mounts and yidding all his workmen of his house and my people workt sev-

eral weeks at said house which Came to thirty pounds which I never had one farding for it.

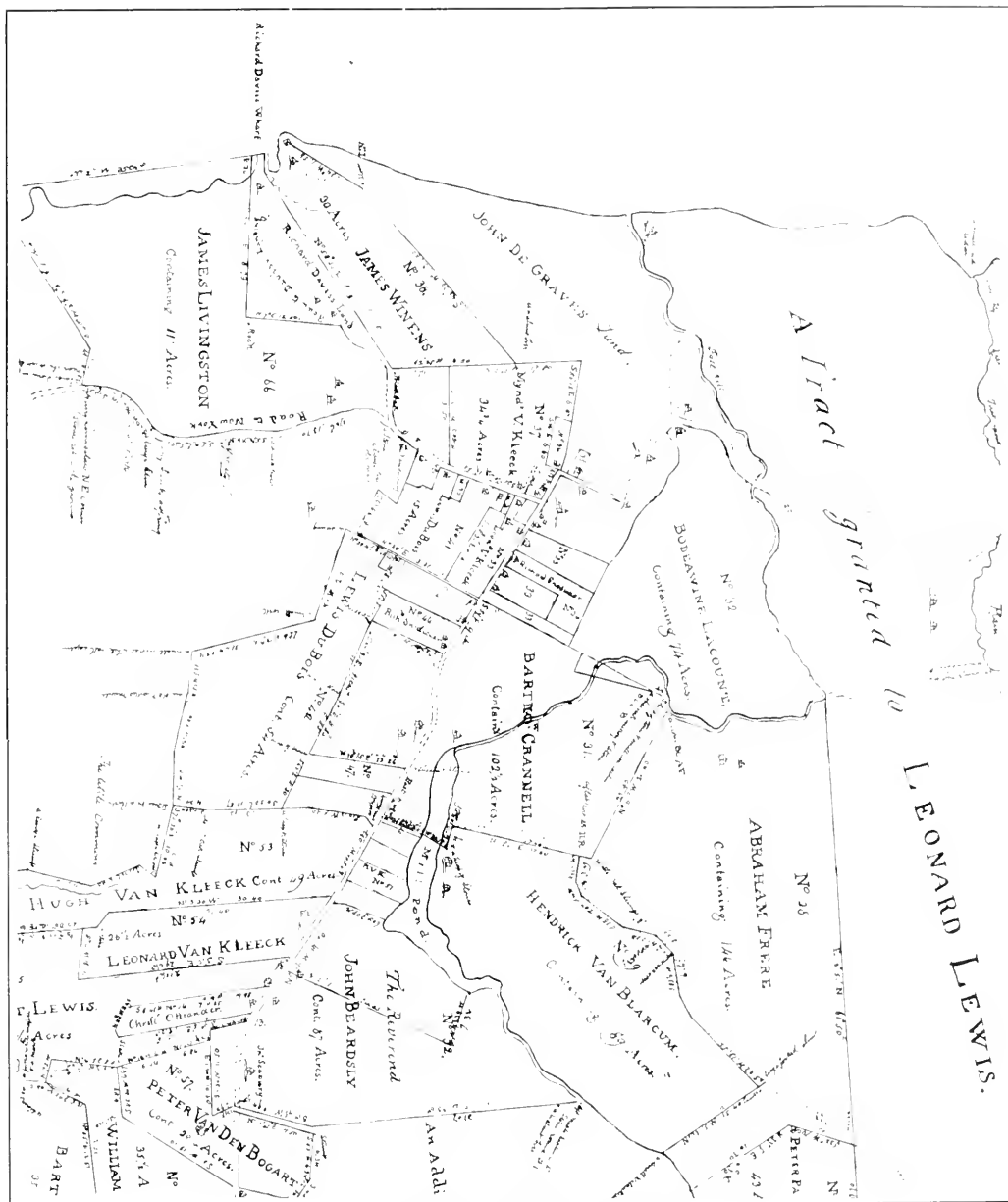
Filkin was apparently keeping shop in Poughkeepsie as early as 1730, and he left an account book which is partly also a diary and full of interesting entries. This book is partly in Dutch and has curiously enough been preserved in the County Clerk's Office among the records, possibly because no one has known just what it was. He married Cathrena Lewis, daughter of Leonard Lewis and widow of Pieter Van Kleeck, Sept. 8th, 1733, and his account contains his whole family record, and a good deal about other people in the neighborhood. Among other things "June 25, 1744, don is trintie van Kleeck Getrouwt met Bartholomew Cramell by domini Wise."

Not everybody in Poughkeepsie was married by a dominie in those days. Filkin was a justice and performed a considerable number of ceremonies himself, of which he leaves the following interesting record:

heer onder stan de personen Ghe schreven dien ick  
Ghe trout heb als Justies  
desm 1735 Baltus van Kleeck jnr met anna van  
d'burgh  
Janr 17 1736-7 Lowerens Gebrants met mery de Graef  
wedo  
mey 1738 Rollef de duiser met trintie Rinders  
mey 1737 Arry de Langh jar met margrita  
vlegelar  
Apr 1738 Enel Meegriery met Getruiv vleglar  
Nov 1738 Lowerens de Langh met neltie par-  
montir  
May 4 1739 Simon Laroy wer: met blandina v  
Kleeck wedo  
Acto 1 1735 necklas van wagen met hester de  
Graef  
desm 21 1739 Getrouwt de onste son van Isack Lass-  
ing met selitie Coke her biet piter  
April 26 1740 Ghe trout piter van kleeck met trintie  
van Kleeck docter van Louwerens v  
Kleeck  
Supm 1740 Ghe trout Isack Hegeman met nela  
d Graef  
desm 1740 Ghe trout mindert vilen met Rebacka  
palmeter  
April 18 1741 Ghe trout Abraham de Graef met  
marritie van wagen  
mey 13 dagh Ghe trout Isack wite met helena  
Rinders by een Justies  
desm 1742 dan Getrouwt Hendrick pels met Jan-  
natie osterom  
Augt 9 1741 dan Ge trout William allen met Sara  
Hegeman  
Janvi 1744-5 dan ge truit Clear Everet met magh-  
dalena van dr burgh  
mey 6 1745 dan Getrouwt daved Roomin wer: met  
marya Freer in de Cerek

I bleve I married John Jarnon with Elisabeth Filkin I vergat to sat it down.

<sup>1</sup>Liber 19, p. 395.



**POUGHKEEPSIE IN 1770.**

*Part of map of lands held under the Sanders-Harmans Patent, made by Will Cockburn.*

Indeed the order of some of the dates above seems to indicate that he "vergat to sat" any of them down until some time after the weddings took place. Most of these dates indicate times when there was no Dominic in Poughkeepsie, and Kingston Church records show that some Poughkeepsie couples went there to be married.

Will Cockburn's map, a part of which is shown on the opposite page, gives the names of the principal landholders in the present limits of Poughkeepsie. Crannell, it will be noticed, was one of the largest, with 102½ acres mostly on the north side of the Filkintown Road, but with a considerable tract about his house on the south side. Lewis Du Bois was a leading landholder on the south side of the road, his land lying mostly east of Academy Street, which is indicated as a lane. James Livingston, the sheriff, owned a large tract, from Richard Davis's (Pine Street) South and to the Henry Livingston place, which we have not included. Myndert Van Kleeck, John De Graff, Leonard Van Kleeck, Richard Suedecker, Bodewein La Comt, Barent Lewis, and other names will be noted on the map. We shall meet these names in subsequent chapters.

This map, which is on file at Albany, appears to have been made as a result of a "petition of the inhabitants of the town of Poughkeepsie praying a warrant to lay out the lands purchased by them under the grant to Robert Sanders and Myndert Harmanse, and that they may obtain letters patent for the same."<sup>1</sup> There was evidently much litigation and questioning of titles at this time, as shown by numerous documents preserved in the land papers in Albany, from 1769, the date of the petition, to 1772. The land holders apparently all had to sue for separate grants from the Colonial government. Many of these grants may have been to lands previously regarded as commons and undivided. The map does not indicate all the roads laid out, and does not mention all the land holders of the neighborhood. Clear Everitt, for instance, is not on it, nor his son, Richard Everitt, but a deed on record from the former to the latter dated 1767, conveys "All that certain lott piece and parcel of land lying in poghkeepsie precinct bounded easterly on lands belonging to Hugh Van Kleeck, Northerly on the fallkill or Mr. Crannell's mill pond westerly on a lott of land belonging to Leonard Van Bummel and southerly on the road leading from the Court House to Filkintown." This was unmistakably the lot on which the stone house, now called the Clinton House or Museum, stands. The lot forming the eastern boundary will be noticed on

the map with the initials H. V. K. This map was a land map, made to show boundaries, and may not give all the houses then built, but as it does show many houses it seems a fair inference that it would at least have indicated the ownership of this lot, had so fine a house as this was been standing at the time, though the deed to Richard Everitt was not filed until 1796. The house was probably built soon after 1770, but there is no evidence as to whether Clear Everitt or Richard Everitt built it. The questions as to its use during the Revolution will be discussed in the next chapter. Leonard Van Bummel, who owned the next lot west, is said to have changed his name in after years to Maisson.

Surveys were made in 1770 of four tracts of land belonging to Leonard Van Kleeck in Poughkeepsie Precinct, and May 4th, 1771, Richard Suedecker and Lewis Dubois requested the Colonial governor that "the lots laid out for them in the map returned by Mr. Wm. Cockburn and surveyed at the request of the inhabitants of Poughkeepsie may be returned in the name of Leonard Van Kleeck." In the same year various inhabitants of Poughkeepsie asked for grants from a tract of 687½ acres of undivided land contiguous to their farms. In 1772 Richard Davis petitioned for a grant of 500 feet of land under water opposite his lands, "for the purpose of erecting docks," and there were several other grants of land under water.

Further information as to the important Colonial families of this time is to be obtained from town and county records already quoted, particularly from the assessment rolls. The total assessment of the "Poghkeepsie precinct" in 1771 was £868 and there were 235 persons on the roll. The largest taxpayers were Leonard Van Kleeck, assessed at £32, Henry Livingston £30, Robert Hoffman £22, Richard Suedecker £22, James Livingston, Zephaniah Platt, Isaac Belding,<sup>1</sup> Henry and George Sands, each £16, Peter Harris £14, John Bailey, Jun. £13, Peter Van Kleeck £12, John Frost £12, John Freer £11, Joshua Owen £11, John Conklin, Jacobus Palmatier, Arie Van Vliet and Richard Davis £10 each. Clear Everitt is assessed at only £3 and Richard Everitt at £1. Bartholomew Noxon at £2, and William Emmott at £1. Bartholomew Noxon's house on the Post Road was certainly built at this time and is said to have been built in 1741. It is still standing, though the front has been so modernized that it

<sup>1</sup>This is, I think, the same man recorded as Isaac Baldwin during the Revolution, as refusing to sign the Pledge of Association. Our own county records contain evidence that Belding, Belding, Belden, Bolden and Baldwin are all variations of one family name.

<sup>1</sup>Land Papers, Vol. 25, p. 58.



looks like an old house only when seen from the rear, and is probably the oldest building in Poughkeepsie.

Houses are sometimes mentioned in the tax lists and seem to have been assessed at a uniform rate of £1.

The last census of Dutchess County before the Revolution was taken in 1771, and showed a population of 22,404, which placed the county very nearly at the head of the counties of the colony. Still the county seat remained a hamlet of not more than thirty-five or forty houses (see 1790 map, Chap. IV, for houses built before 1770.) The town officers for this year were:

Supervisor—Richard Suedeker.  
 Assessors—Mindert Van Kleecck.  
           Peter Harris, Esq.  
 Town Clerk—John Van Kleecck.  
 Poor Masters—Mindert Van Kleecck.  
           John Van Kleecck.  
           Joel Du Bois.  
 Constables—Richard Warner.  
           Joel Du Bois.  
           Francis Leroy.  
 Collector—Johannes Fort.  
 Fence Viewers—Abraham Van Bummel.  
           Abraham Frear.  
 Pound Master—Francis Leroy.  
 Pathmasters as follows:  
 Post Road North—Michael Pels.

Post Road Centre—James Livingston.  
 Post Road South—Cornelius Brewer.  
 Kings Road to Hook Landing—Aron Moller.  
 from ye Call Rugh to Bleekers—John Childs.  
 from Bleekers to Leroy's Bridge—Jacobus Frear.  
 Filkin Town Road—John Low.  
 New Road Leading through ye Commons—Joshua Moss.  
 from Capt Harris to Cap Van Kenrens—Peter Lyster.  
 from Capt Harris to Thorns Bridge—Joseph Scott.  
 from Suedekers farm to the Cross Road leading to the Hook Landing—Isaac Lassing Jr.

The Hook Landing was the old name of New Hamburg. A considerable increase in the number of roads is shown from the first record in 1712 and the town in the neighborhood of Poughkeepsie was evidently pretty well settled and much of the primeval forest must have been cleared. This town meeting of 1771 "voted also that sheep are not to be free Commoners."

The Dutchess representatives in the last Colonial Assembly, 1766-1770, were Leonard Van Kleecck and Dirk Brinckerhoff. Philip J. Livingston of Livingston Manor, was the last Colonial sheriff, and Beverly Robinson, who lived down in the Highlands and owned a large part of what afterwards became Putnam County, the last Colonial judge of the Court of Common Pleas.



Rear View of Noxon House, 1901.

## CHAPTER III.

THE REVOLUTION—EARLY MEETINGS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-BRITISH SENTIMENT—THE "ASSOCIATORS" AND THE TORIES—MILITARY ORGANIZATION—POUGHKEEPSIE'S FIRST BOOM—SHIP BUILDING FOR THE CONTINENTAL NAVY—THE CRITICAL YEAR, 1777—FALL OF FORT MONTGOMERY AND VAUGHN'S RAID—POUGHKEEPSIE BECOMES THE STATE CAPITAL—GOVERNOR CLINTON'S LETTERS—LAST YEARS OF THE WAR.

No battle was fought at Poughkeepsie during the war which brought the United States into existence as a nation, and from a military standpoint the town was not notable; but it became the center of great activity at an early period, was made the State capital after the eventful year 1777, and emerged from the war a town of much consequence despite its small population. We have but scanty records of the period preceding the outbreak of actual war in 1775, but Lossing tells us that a meeting was held at the Van Kleeck house to protest against the Boston Port Bill, and it is probable that there was some local action at the time of the Stamp Act Congress in 1765. We do not know whether the sturdy Dutch and English residents of the little town were much stirred by the earlier agitations that excited the New England and other sea-port towns, but we may be sure that though considerably divided in sentiment they were not much behind the times.

As early as the summer of 1774 they were certainly in line with other patriotic neighborhoods, as we find from the following report of a meeting, Aug. 10th, with the resolutions adopted. (American Archives, Vol. I, p. 702):

### POUGHKEEPSIE (N. Y.) RESOLUTIONS.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of Poughkeepsie Precinct in Dutchess County, in consequence of an advertisement of the Supervisors of said Precinct, on the 10th of August, 1774

Zephaniah Platt, Chairman

The question was put, "Whether we will choose a Committee agreeable to a request contained in a Letter from Mr. Isaac Low, Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence in New York"

Which was carried in the Negative.

The following Resolves were then unanimously entered into:

1st Resolved, That although the members of this meeting (and they are persuaded the inhabitants of America in general) are firm and unshaken in their

allegiance to his Majesty King George, and are entirely averse to breaking their connection with the mother country, yet they think it necessary to declare, that they agree fully in opinion with the many respectable bodies who have already published their sentiments, in declaring that the unlimited right claimed by the British Parliament, in which we neither are, or can be represented, of making laws of every kind to be binding on the Colonies, particularly of imposing taxes, whatever may be the name or form under which they are attempted to be introduced, is contrary to the spirit of the British Constitution, and consequently inconsistent with the liberty which we, as British subjects, have a right to claim, and, therefore,

2d Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that letters of Instruction be directed to the Members of the General Assembly for the County of Dutchess, desiring that at the next meeting of the General Assembly for the Province of New York, they will lay before that honourable House the dangerous consequences flowing from several late Acts of the British Parliament imposing Duties and taxes on the British Colonies in America, for the sole purpose of raising a revenue, and that they use their influence in the said House, and with the several branches of the Legislature, to lay before his Majesty an humble Petition and Remonstrance, setting forth the state of our several grievances, and praying his Royal interposition for a repeal of the said Acts.

3d Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, that they ought, and are willing to bear and pay such part and proportion of the national expenses as their circumstances will admit of, in such manner and form as the General Assembly of this Province shall think proper; and that like sentiments, adopted by the Legislatures of other Colonies, will have a tendency to conciliate the affections of the mother country and the colonies, upon which their mutual happiness, we conceive, principally depends.

Ordered, That the Chairman of this meeting forward a copy of these our proceedings to the Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence in New York, as also a copy to one of the Printers of the public papers in New York, to be forthwith published.

By order of the Meeting,

John Davis, Clerk.

There is no evidence of any hysterical demands for "liberty or death" in these well-written resolutions. Not only is complete loyalty to the King expressed, but there is a spirit of fairness in the suggestion that "they ought, and are willing to bear and pay such proportion of the national expenses as their circumstances will admit," though "in such manner and form as the General Assembly of this province shall think proper." There is distinct denial of the right of Parliament to impose taxes directly. On the whole the resolutions were those of a conservative, order-loving community, desirous of peace but not unmindful of the principles at stake. The conservatism of the people of the Poughkeepsie Precinct is also shown in their refusal at this meeting to appoint a committee, but it appears from the minutes of the Provincial Convention<sup>1</sup> that in the same month a county meeting called to nominate delegates to the first Continental Congress elected as a "Standing Committee of Correspondence" Anthony Hoffman, John Van Ness and Egbert Benson, probably without the support of Poughkeepsie.

The opponents of the early plans for resisting British authority at this time called themselves "Friends of Constitutional Liberty" and included several of the large landholders of the Poughkeepsie Precinct. They had the law and the General Assembly on their side and saw no good reason for so much bluster over petty matters of taxation. They did not propose to bind themselves not to buy tea and other articles taxed or brought over in British ships. In fact a number of them entered into an association at a meeting held on Jan. 15th, 1775,<sup>2</sup> declaring "That we will upon all occasions mutually support each other in the free exercise and enjoyment of our undoubted right to liberty in eating, drinking, buying, selling, communing and acting what, with whom and as we please, consistent with the laws of God, and the laws of the land, notwithstanding the Association entered into by the Continental Congress to the contrary." They declared that "our Sovereign Lord King George the Third, is the only Sovereign to whom British Americans can or ought to owe and bear true and faithful allegiance" and that "our Representatives, in General Assembly convened, are the only guardians of our Rights and Liberties; that without them no laws here can be made to bind us, and that they only are the channel through which our grievances can properly be represented for redress," etc.

In this we see an indication of the state of affairs in the colony of New York. While in Massachusetts and Virginia the provincial legislatures had taken a leading part in the struggle, in New York the majority of the Assembly, which did not hold its last session until April 3d, was at first loyal to the King and refused to send delegates to the Continental Congress. The election of delegates in this colony, first by counties and afterwards by provincial conventions, was therefore more distinctly extra-legal and revolutionary than in some other colonies, and there was more force here in the plea that the Acts of the Continental Congress were not binding. It will be remembered that the first Continental Congress in the fall of '74 adopted articles of association against trading with Great Britain, and this meeting of protest in Dutchess was doubtless called soon after the news reached here. We have not the names of the signers but may be certain that they were good citizens.

Party feeling between the Whigs and the Tories was running pretty high in the spring of 1775 and "On the 21st of March a few friends to liberty met at the house of Mr. John Bailey, about two or three miles from Poughkeepsie and erected a pole on his land with a flag on it, bearing on one side the *King*, and on the other *the Congress and Liberty*; but the Sheriff of Dutchess County the next day, attended by a Judge of the Inferior Court, two of His Majesties Justices of the Peace, and a Constable, with some others, friends to constitutional liberty and good order, cut the same down as a publick nuisance."<sup>3</sup> The "friends of constitutional liberty" even when accompanied by Sheriff Livingston, two justices and a constable, evidently felt it necessary to be out in some force, and the story is doubtless true that there was an altercation<sup>2</sup> and threats of arrest, whether or not "Zephaniah Platt seized a club and threatened to brain the sheriff."

Early in April of the same year when meetings<sup>3</sup> were held to select delegates for the provincial convention which was to send representatives to the second Continental Congress, Poughkeepsie Precinct again showed its conservatism, voting 110 to 77 against sending delegates, and Charlotte Precinct, the next east, was of the same opinion by 140 to 35. The county was nevertheless represented through the action of other precincts by Robert R. Livingston, Jr., Egbert Benson and Morris Graham.

<sup>1</sup>N. Y. newspaper account in American Archives, Vol. II, p. 179.

<sup>2</sup>Benson J. Lossing in "Sketches in Local History," Dutchess Farmer, Dec. 12, 1876, and "Dutchess" County History, p. 130.

<sup>3</sup>American Archives, Vol. II, p. 304.

<sup>1</sup>Reference to the year before in the minutes of April 21st, 1775.—American Archives, Vol. II, p. 356.

<sup>2</sup>American Archives, Vol. I, 1164.

but it looked a little doubtful whether these men really represented the sentiment of the county.

All this was before the first fighting at Concord and Lexington, news of which reached New York on the 23d of April, the day after the provincial convention adjourned. Now the people were really stirred and the Revolutionary committees went to work energetically and systematically. A call was sent out by the committee of New York City for a new provincial convention or congress and we find that "At a county meeting in consequence of notifications for that purpose on the 16th of May Dirck Brinckerhoff, Anthony Hoffman, Zephaniah Platt, Richard Montgomery, Ephraim Paine, Gilbert Livingston and Jonathan Landon Esqrs., and Messrs Gysbert Schenck, Melanethon Smith and Nathaniel Sackett were by a majority of voices Elected Deputies for the term of Six months to represent the county of Dutchess in the Provincial convention to be held at the city of New York on the 22nd instant." This appears to be the first record of Poughkeepsie representation in the Revolutionary conventions, at least two of these men, Gilbert Livingston and Zephaniah Platt, being from this precinct. The Poughkeepsie Livingstons were early supporters of the cause of American freedom, thought some of their relatives up the river were Tories. Platt lived out at what is now the Frank De Carmo place on the Wappingers Creek and the house still standing is said to have been built by him. Dirck Brinckerhoff of Fishkill was a member of the Colonial Assembly, never to meet again but still officially in existence, and was evidently not of the Tory majority. Richard Montgomery of Red Hook was soon to become a famous general and one of the early martyrs to the cause. Most of the others we shall also hear from again. Of almost equal interest are the names of some of the signers of the certificate of election. Beverly Robinson, County Judge, heads the list, a man who afterwards became the leader of a noted Tory Regiment, which is evidence that some of the most conservative men were at this time supporters of the cause of the colonists, though they could not approve actual separation from England. The other signers were James Smith, Abraham Pockey, Cornelius Humphrey, Roswell Hopkins, Ananias Cooper, Jacob Swartwout, Jonathan Lewis and Egbert Benson.

#### THE PLEDGE OF ASSOCIATION AND THE TORIES.

Among the acts of the Provincial Convention or Congress to which the meeting of May 16th elected delegates was the endorsement of the "Pledge of Asso-

<sup>1</sup>Calendar of Revolutionary Papers, Sec. of State's Office, Vol. 1.

ciation," which had been formulated by "the freemen, freeholders and inhabitants of the city and county of New York" for the purpose of binding all who signed "to adopt and carry into execution whatever measures may be recommended by the Continental Congress or resolved upon by our Provincial Convention." Committees were immediately appointed to circulate this pledge, and the districts covered were small enough so that every man could be seen. The names of those who refused to sign as well as the signers were put on record, and very soon the former began to find their position uncomfortable. It is recorded that even while the pledge was circulating here in Dutchess County in June and July many men changed from the "no" to the "yes" ranks. There were 1820 signers<sup>1</sup> in the county and 964 were returned as refusing. The Poughkeepsie precinct was apparently divided into six districts. The return of one of the sub-committeemen shows 32 signers and none refusing, of another 32 refusers and 21 signers. Of the leading land owners shown on the 1770 map Lewis Du Bois, Myndert Van Kleeck, James Winans, Leonard Van Kleeck, Richard Snedecker, James Livingston, William Forman and Richard Davis are recorded as signing and Bartholomew Crannell and John De Graff as refusing. Some are not mentioned at all and a few of these had probably died between 1770 and 1775. In place of Jacob Conklin appear the names of John, Matthew and Nathaniel Conklin as signers, also James Lewis instead of Barent Lewis, and several Swartwouts, Van Kleecks, and Van de Bogerts, in place of those given on the map. The Van Kleeck family was divided, two members refusing to sign. Of other prominent residents William Emott, Bartholomew Noxon, Ebenezer Badger, five Van Deburghs and several Ferdons were returned as refusing. The Everitts are not mentioned, and there is evidence from the assessment rolls that Richard Everitt was a Tory and was absent during a part of the Revolution at least. Clear Everitt, the former sheriff, may not have been an open supporter of the King. The minutes of the Supervisors for June 1st, 1784, contain the following: "To Clear Everitt for the use of his room for the use of the Court of Oyer and Terminer to set in in June 1778 £2." Compensation for the use of Tory property was not usual at that time.

Some of the papers returned by the sub-committeemen show the strong feeling of the Revolutionary organizers against those who refused to sign. Silas Marsh, who made the canvass for one district of North East Precinct encloses the names of three men

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix for Poughkeepsie Precinct list; also American Archives, Vol. III, and Calendar of Revolutionary Papers, Vol. 1, pp. 77, 78 and 79.

in a black border, inscribes them "The black Role of Tories," and adds, "Tho' out of my limits I am compelled to remind you Gentlemen of James Smith, Esqr. who is notoriously wicked." The lists of "Associators" are not conclusive evidence as to opinions throughout the Revolution, for some of the signers like Richard Snelcker were afterwards known as Tories, while a few who were on the "black list" afterwards supported the cause of American liberty warmly, and others after they saw themselves powerless to stem the popular current ceased outspoken opposition. Something like forty or fifty residents of the town of Poughkeepsie incurred the suspicion of the local committees so strongly that their personal property was sold under forfeiture, possibly because they had abandoned it, in 1777, but I think very few of them entered the British service. Bartholomew Crannell was one of the few, and was the only person in the neighborhood of the village whose real estate was confiscated, so far as I have been able to find. The account of the sales of personal property has been preserved in a book now in the care of the Custodian of Records in the State Library at Albany. Each article sold is enumerated with the price, and the faithful certainly obtained some fine bargains in horses, cattle and even in mahogany furniture. It is rather difficult to tell to what precinct or town the persons<sup>1</sup> whose property was sold belonged in all cases, for the arrangement is somewhat confused, but only a small proportion of the names of those who seem to have belonged to the Precinct of Poughkeepsie are to be found in the list of men who refused to sign the Pledge of Association. They included, however, Henry Van Derburgh, Richard Van Der Burgh, Jacob Ferdon, several of the Lassings, John Beardsley, the rector of the English Church, and Bartholomew Crannell. Here again there is no mention of the Everitts.

In spite of Crannell's unswerving loyalty to the King, his two daughters, Mrs. Livingston and Mrs. Tappen, became equally strong adherents of the popular side, and are said to have offended their father very early in the dispute by wearing aprons embroidered "Liberty" and "No Tea" in his presence. The Tories were disarmed and closely watched, and if they refused to take the oath of allegiance, after the Declaration of Independence had been proclaimed, were arrested and kept in confinement or assigned to certain limits. Many of them also were sent within the British lines in exchange for Whigs. They were always suspected of furnishing information to the enemy, of harboring British recruiting agents, or of

encouraging the bands of marauders that later in the war made the name of Tory so thoroughly detested. They were rounded up, not all at once but at various times, according to the exigencies of the occasion, as will be shown.

Some of the arrests were unjustifiable, it is stated that a sixteen-year-old boy was arrested near Fishkill, brought to Poughkeepsie and hung, an incident which nearly caused a riot. Of one youth, William Hafl, who got into trouble during the Revolution, a romantic story is told. He lived a short distance east of Poughkeepsie and was doubtless a somewhat wild, roystering youth, but withal a great favorite among the people, and especially among the young women in his neighborhood. He had incurred the animosity of a justice of the peace before whom he was brought for some prank, and who made use of his authority by sentencing Hafl to be publicly whipped. This was entirely too much for the proud spirit of the young man, and he forthwith pitched into the justice, gave him, so the story goes, a sound licking and then ran away to the southward, where he ultimately joined the British army. After a while, becoming homesick for the sight of some of his old friends, and especially for a certain young woman with whom he was acquainted, he ventured up into the vicinity of his old home, was captured, tried and convicted as a deserter, and sentenced to be hung. While awaiting execution he was confined in the jail in Poughkeepsie, which was guarded by soldiers. At certain times the prisoners were allowed the freedom of a hall, or corridor, which extended from the front of the Court House on Market Street, to the rear of the building, facing westward, for air and exercise. Hafl did not lose his spirits because of his perilous situation, but, as among his other accomplishments, he was a fine singer, occasionally would stand at the front window and sing, his fine strong voice often attracting a crowd of people who stood in the street below to listen. Whether he had planned his subsequent action from the beginning, or whether it was suggested by the fact that he noticed the soldiers stopping their patrol to stand beneath the window with the crowd while he sang, is not known, but one day at noon Hafl appeared at the front window and sang with unusual vigor and expression. There was a little pause, during which the sentries made the circuit of the building to see that all was safe, and Hafl began singing again before they got back. A few minutes later there was another pause, and the soldiers remained on the Market Street front, waiting for him to resume, but this time he failed to reappear, and after waiting a few minutes they marched round the Court House, to find when they reached the west side that the window opening from

<sup>1</sup>For list of persons who appear to have lived in the Town of Poughkeepsie, see Appendix.

the hall was open. Hafl had jumped out and was already out of sight in the woods which then lay between the Court House and the river. An alarm was at once sounded and parties started to capture the daring prisoner, but they never saw him again till the war was over. Then among the conditions of peace there had been established a full amnesty for all military offences, whereupon Mr. Hafl returned to Poughkeepsie, sporting his red coat and full British uniform as he marched up and down the streets, to the chagrin of his former persecutors, but to the great admiration of some of the young people, including the young woman for whom he had risked his life, and whom tradition appropriately says he afterwards married.

The Declaration of Independence was the turning point which many good citizens felt that they could not approve, and it put the Church of England at once in a serious position, dependent as it was upon the authority of the Bishops of the mother country. In the Christ Church records is the following minute:

"At a vestry meeting held at the house of the Rev. Mr. John Beardsley on Saturday, July 13th, 1776, to consider of the Rector stoping divine service in the church (in consequence of the independency being declared by Continental Congress) until the vestry can hear from New York. Present the Rev'd John Beardsley Rector; Isaac Baldwin church Warden; Bartholomew Crannell, William Emmott, Isaac Baldwin, Jr.; Robert Noxon, Eli Emans, John Davis, vestrymen.

Taking the above affair in consideration Resolved that the Rector do from this time stop all Divine Service in the church until word can be had from the Rector of New York or from a convention of the clergy."

Whether this was a purely voluntary act or whether public clamor against the well-known opinions of the rector and several of the vestry had its influence does not appear. Mr. Crannell was probably arrested and sent to New York not long after this time, if the statement that he reached there before the British took possession is true, but the permission to go to New York for "The Reverend Mr. John Beardsley, his Wife and five Children His Negro Wench & three Negro Female Children with the Wearing Apparel, necessary Bedding for the Family & provision for their Passage,"<sup>1</sup> is dated January 17, 1778. Mr. Beardsley's removal had been ordered in December, 1777, according to the church records. He became chaplain of Beverly Robinson's regiment of Loyal Americans and after the war settled at

Mangerville,<sup>1</sup> New Brunswick. Some of his descendants, particularly his youngest son Bartholomew Crannell Beardsley, attained considerable distinction in Canada.

#### MILITARY ORGANIZATION.

As the war progressed every man was forced to declare himself, and pretty nearly every able-bodied man was forced to serve in the army at some time, or subject himself to arrest. Under the Colonial system all able-bodied men were required to enroll in the militia, and when the Revolution was organized the system was continued. A special "black list" of those who refused to sign the "Pledge of Association" was kept for each company. Dutchess County had seven regiments during the war, according to the rolls published by the State, though probably not all were in existence at the same time. They included two regiments of "Minute Men," one commanded by Col. Jacobus Swartwout, which appears to have been numbered the First Regiment. The 2nd Dutchess Regiment was commanded by Col. Abraham Brinckerhoff, the 3d by Col. John Field and Andrew Morehouse, the 4th by Col. John Frear, the 5th by Cols. William Humphrey and John Vanderburgh, the 6th by Cols. Morris Graham and Roswell Hopkins and the 7th by Col. Henry Luden-ton. The organization of the militia regiments was decidedly loose, there was little discipline, and they often failed when most wanted, but weak as they were, they always formed a reserve for emergencies and rendered some important service. Despite their unwillingness to turn out and leave their homes, there were times when the American cause would have fared much worse had it not been for the militia of Dutchess County, which during part of the war was the largest and strongest county in the State, both in population and in taxable wealth. Besides the militia, though formed from it, there were independent companies specially organized to drill and prepare for service. One such was formed in Poughkeepsie in 1775 with John Schenck, Captain, Dr. Peter Tappen, 1st Lieutenant, John Child, 2d Lieutenant, and Matthew Van Keuren, Ensign. When their commissions arrived in September they found themselves attached to Col. Swartwout's regiment of minute men, and on Oct. 20th they petitioned to be kept independent, apparently a local manifestation of the unwillingness to serve under general officers.

The real soldiers of the Revolution were those of the Continental Army, enlisted for a term of years. Warrants for enlisting recruits in Dutchess County were issued June 28, 1775, to Captains Henry B. Liv-

<sup>1</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. II, p. 574. This permission included Henry Vanderburgh and family, Mrs. Catherine Clopper and several others.

<sup>1</sup>Eaton's "The Church in Nova Scotia," p. 161.

ingston, Louis DuBois, Andrew Billings and Rufus Herrick; to First Lieutenants Jacob Thomas, Elias Van Benschoten, Jr., Ezekiel Cooper and Charles Graham; and to Second Lieutenants Roswell Wilcox, Cornelius Adriaance, John Langdon and Jesse Thompson. Of these men Henry B. Livingston became colonel of the 4th Line Regiment of Continentals, Rufus Herrick a captain and Roswell Wilcox and Jesse Thompson lieutenants. In the third line regiment, commanded by James Clinton, are found the names of Andrew Billings, Elias Van Benschoten, Lewis Duboys and Ezekiel Cooper as captains. The others do not appear in the lists published. Ezekiel Cooper seems also to have commanded a company known as the rangers during part of the war. There were certainly many enlistments from Dutchess and among the records of the Committee of Safety, dated July 12, 1775, is a letter from Capt. Andrew Billings of Poughkeepsie stating that he had enlisted seventy-two men and asking for orders. He was directed to put himself under the command of Col. Clinton. When Richard Montgomery of Red Hook had been commissioned a General and selected as a leader in the daring invasion of Canada in the fall of '75, many men from Dutchess accompanied him. Elias Van Benschoten was one of these and was recommended by Gen. George Clinton for promotion at a latter period, because of his service under Montgomery.

#### POUGHKEEPSIE'S FIRST "BOOM"—SHIP BUILDING FOR THE NEW NAVY.

Mr. Joel Benton has been quoted as saying: "In colonial days few were the people here; but they were a bright and stirring handful."<sup>1</sup> They accomplished enough during the Revolution to justify this assertion, and the little town was a wonderfully busy place during most of the war. The fact of its location, far enough above the Highlands to be considered safe from the British, attracted a few families from New York, and also caused its selection as the place at which to build two of the thirteen frigates authorized by the Continental Congress in December, 1775. This selection gave the town its first importance, and at about the same time it became the centre from which the Revolutionary correspondence of the county was conducted, having been previously barred by its conservatism. December 7th, 1775, Egbert Benson of Red Hook wrote to the Provincial Congress stating that the county committee had appointed "Col Freer, Capt. Platt, and Messrs. John Child, Paul Schenck and Peter Tappen (all residing in Poughkeepsie) a Committee of Correspondence," because they were

more conveniently located than he to communicate with all parts of the county. During this month there was some correspondence about certain persons who refused to recognize the authority of the county committee to compel them to testify concerning the presence and business of one John Harris, who was charged with enlisting men for "the Ministerial army." The Provincial Congress authorized the imprisonment of these persons and some were sent to the Poughkeepsie jail. The weeding out of Tories was evidently well started, but the following communication seems to hint that the Poughkeepsie precinct was not yet to be trusted too far. Writing of one Timothy Doughty from Rhinebeck, Jan 29, 1776, Mr. Benson says: "Not only from the disaffection of the county, but as there will be an election at Poughkeepsie on Tuesday next and a vast number of people necessarily assemble, we thought it prudent to commit him to the jail in Kingston."<sup>2</sup>

Preparations for building the two frigates for the navy were probably by this time in progress and bringing to Poughkeepsie some important visitors. The spring of 1776 was fortunately an early one, and we learn from a letter written by Robert Erskine to George Clinton, dated Feb. 29th,<sup>2</sup> that six tons of iron had been shipped by sloop from New York to New Windsor by that time, "to be forwarded from thence, by the first opportunity, to Messrs. Samuel Tudor & Aug't Lawrence, Superintendents, to the Shipbuilding near Poughkeepsie." The opportunity came before long and Mr. Lossing states that lumber was brought down the river from Gen. Schuyler's mills at Saratoga about the middle of March, men and materials having been forwarded from New York still earlier.

The reference in the letter above quoted to the "Ship-building near Poughkeepsie," together with a comparison of maps shows pretty conclusively that the Continental ship-yard was on the Livingston property just south of the town. There was a ship-yard in that neighborhood before the Revolution, and "Ship-yard Point" was carried on all the early maps well down into the 19th Century as the name of what we now call Fox's Point. In 1800 also there was a division among the heirs of Henry Livingston of the "Ship-yard Property," a map of which is on file. Smith's History of the county, however, says that the "Continental navy yard was on the site of the late Edward Southwick's tannery, near the Lower Landing." Sloops and schooners, as will appear, were built in the latter neighborhood after 1800, but I have seen no evidence that any such work was done there during

<sup>1</sup>American Archives, Vol. IV, p. 1118.

<sup>2</sup>Public Papers of George Clinton, Vol. I, p. 226.

<sup>1</sup>Bacon's Hudson, p. 426.

the Revolution, though there was considerable boat building of various kinds here during the war, and it may not have been confined to one locality.

General Washington himself ordered that fire rafts should be built at Poughkeepsie early in the summer of 1776 and it appears from letters of Jacobus Van Zandt, of the secret committee then in session here, that at least fourteen such craft were launched in July. (Clinton Papers, Vol. I, pp. 254 and 275.)

The theatre of war had now been shifted from New England to New York, a British fleet was in possession of the harbor and a British army was gathering on Staten Island; the Declaration of Independence had been signed and accepted, and the Colony or Province of New York had become a State. The Convention, successor of the Provincial Congress, sent John Jay with five others to Poughkeepsie, "to devise and carry into execution such measures as to them shall appear most effectual for obstructing the channel of Hudson's River or annoying the enemy's ships." This committee "held its first meeting at the house of Mr. Van Kleeck in Poughkeepsie," according to Pellet's Life of John Jay (page 62), "and it once sent Jay to the Salisbury Iron Works in Connecticut for cannon and shot," which he at length obtained.<sup>1</sup>

The critical period of the Revolution was beginning and all depended upon holding the Hudson. Poughkeepsie became the centre of the development of plans for defense and besides the fire rafts above mentioned old sloops were rigged up to be sunk for obstructing the channel, and an immense iron chain, which had been used in an attempt to keep British vessels out of Lake Champlain, was sent down from Ticonderoga. Theophilus Anthony and other blacksmiths in the neighborhood were set to work forging additional links to piece it out so that it would be long enough to reach across the Hudson at Fort Montgomery, which had been constructed near the lower entrance to the Highlands.

Of course when the British began to threaten New York many of the Tories seized the opportunity to show their colors, and anticipating trouble the Provincial Congress had, on June 20th, passed a resolution providing for the raising of three companies of 50 men each in Dutchess and Westchester counties to keep them in check. Melancthon Smith and John Darlin were appointed captains of the Dutchess companies, but it appears that most of the serious disaffection was in the lower part of the county, now Putnam County. When at length the British army

<sup>1</sup>For his report see Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay, Vol. I, p. 75.

was strong enough to move to attack General Washington, there was great alarm throughout the Hudson river counties. On the 27th of August, 1776, two days after Washington's defeat at the Battle of Long Island, the State Convention resolved to call out the militia of Westchester, Dutchess, Orange and Ulster Counties, but on Sept. 4th there was a report against such action on the ground that the militia of the four counties did not exceed 3,100, while the "disarmed and disaffected" numbered 2,300 and the slaves 2,300. From Dutchess County Col. Swartwout's and Col. Morris Graham's regiments were nevertheless in the field and took part in the battles at White Plains and Harlem. Many Tories were arrested during this summer and fall and the jail at Poughkeepsie was full.

Between the hurrying of the defenses of the Highlands, the mustering of the troops in response to the numerous alarms and the surveillance of the Tories, the local committees led a strenuous existence. The general expectation was that the British would seek to push past the defenses in the Highlands for the purpose of destroying the two big frigates building at Poughkeepsie, and messengers were constantly dashing up the Post Road with news that the British ships were about to advance or had advanced towards Fort Montgomery. Most urgent letters were sent by General Washington, General Israel Putnam, General George Clinton, and the Convention, to induce all possible haste in the construction of the war ships and the big chain. At the same time the members of the Poughkeepsie committee were often without money, and at their wit's ends to keep things moving. The following letter from their secretary to the Convention will serve as an illustration of some of the problems at hand:

In Committee, Poughkeepsie Aug 9, 1776

Sirs: From the present situation of publick affairs, the Committee of Poughkeepsie labor under many difficulties for want of cash, as well to answer publick accounts already due, which they have become bound for, as to answer emergencies of which the following are instances: Colonel Clinton wrote us to send him a number of boards down to Fort Constitution, to make shelter for the troops then ordered there, which the barracks would not contain. On his request we purchased a quantity of Mr. Child and sent them down. On return of the sloop Mr. Child received an order on us for the money, which we could not pay; in consequence of which he returned the order to Colonel Clinton, which we are informed remains yet unpaid. Colonel Clinton also drew on us to pay the freight of the above boards.

Major-General Schuyler sent down a party of men for stores from the shipyards. These men called on us to provide them provisions. We have to request the honorable the Convention of the State of New



York would intrust the Committee of Poughkeepsie with a sum of money \* \* \*

JOHN SCHENCK, Secretary.

The ship carpenters more than once went on strike with good reason, for they received scarcely enough to buy the barest necessities of life, and worst of all were often without rum. In November the shipwrights, who were then getting eight shillings per day, declared in a petition<sup>1</sup> signed by George Peck and Robert Hutton that the lowest they would work for was "14s per Day & a half Pint Rum" for the foreman and "11s per Day & half pint Rum" for each of the journeymen. The Revolutionary correspondence shows that rum was quite as necessary in carrying on war as powder and pork, and gave the commissary officers almost as much concern.

In spite of all difficulties the work went forward. A letter<sup>2</sup> written by John McKesson at Fishkill, Nov. 3, 1776, says, "part of the chain went down to the forts yesterday," and adds "One of the Frigates at Poughkeepsie is to be launched to-morrow at Eight o'clock in the morning." It may be worth while to state here that nearly all local historians have confused this chain with the one stretched across the river two years later at West Point. The chain which was partly forged here in '76 went to Fort Montgomery (there was no fort at West Point at this time), and though great things were expected of it there was trouble from the first to make it so much as bear its own weight. As to the frigates, they were duly launched and sent to Rondout Creek for the winter, but were not rigged until the summer of '77, were never fully armed or manned, and never got to sea, as will presently appear.

#### THE CRITICAL YEAR.

It is well to remember that there were two distinct periods in the defense of the Hudson, as in the Revolution itself—the first ending with the capture of the lower forts by Sir Henry Clinton, Vaughn's raid to Kingston and Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga. The best writers agree that the Revolution was really won on the Hudson River by the events of the autumn of 1777—later events were in the nature of holding on, though often serious enough, and depending much on keeping the British from a second dash through the Highlands.

The critical period began in the spring of '77, and from that time until Burgoyne's surrender the alarms, first from the Highlands and afterwards from both

north and south, were almost continuous. The militia of Dutchess County was ordered out so often that it became very difficult to get the men to respond at all when the danger seemed most urgent. They were generally sent down to help garrison Fort Montgomery, Fort Independence or Fort Constitution, or to replace some of Putnam's Continentals whom Washington needed elsewhere. As garrison troops the militia was almost worthless, especially when farm work at home was pressing. April 24th, 1777, the Convention passed resolutions and appointed a committee to enquire why "a great Part of the militia of Dutchess County have neglected to obey the orders of General Clinton \* \* \* to Garrison the forts and guard the passes in the Highlands." In May, Egbert Benson and Peter Cantine, Jr., were in Poughkeepsie as a commission to detect conspiracies and were having great difficulty to obtain enough soldiers to guard the jail. Richard Snedeker was one of the Tories arrested at this time. No enemies at home were to be tolerated, for affairs were becoming very threatening.

At first it was believed that Burgoyne's advance by way of Lake Champlain would be checked at Ticonderoga, and when the news of the fall of that stronghold reached Poughkeepsie early in July, the time which really tried men's souls had arrived. Had General Howe known enough to send an expedition up the Hudson then, probably nothing could have stopped him, and the colonies would have been effectually divided. How strenuous the efforts of Washington were to prevent such a disaster his letters, as well as those of George Clinton, Israel Putnam and others well show. There was great relief when it was found that the British general had sailed off to attack Philadelphia, and Washington resolved to keep him there, feeling that Putnam and Clinton could now look after the lower Hudson and that the militia could be depended upon to defeat Burgoyne, for they could fight when their homes were threatened. Gen. Schuyler at once began making most urgent demands for reinforcements and Putnam sent Nixon's brigade from the Highlands up the river in sloops, ordering out militia to take their places, while at the same time a draft of 500 men was made upon the militia of Dutchess and Ulster to march to Albany under Cols. Graham and Humphrey. "Every man that can bear arms must on this occasion be brought to the field," wrote Clinton on August 22nd, then just elected the first governor of the state. In the meantime, as no attack from below seemed as imminent as the danger in the north, Putnam, on Aug. 14th, had sent two more regiments from the Highlands to Gates, who had superseded Schuyler.

<sup>1</sup>A later petition was signed by Platt Titus and Stephen Seaman.—Calendar of Revolutionary Documents, Vol. I.

<sup>2</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. I, p. 412.

How nobly the militia of Dutchess responded to the draft to go to Albany in this crisis, the most serious of the war, may be judged from the following report made by Col. Humphrey to Governor Clinton, Aug. 28, 1777:

Hon'd Sir, Agreeably to order, I met Colo Graham on the 11th instant, and agreed to raise 74 men, on the eighth I had the battalion together and drafted the number, and ordered them to appear at Poughkeepsie on the 12th instant, and appointed one captain and one lieutenant. Accordingly the officers met at Poughkeepsie, and finding a small number of men appear, the captain was dissatisfied and resigned his commission. I then appointed another captain, and sent to the several captains of the battalion to muster their drafted men; they sent me word that the chief part of their men were gone away or concealed; I then wrote warrants to each captain to send out guards and search for them, and appointed them and the captain to meet and march with as many as we could find, and all that would refuse to go, send them to the county jail. . . . We raised a bounty of nine pounds per man, and have paid twenty seven the bounty; and several farmers have given thirty pound to men to go in their place. . . . On the 20th instant I met them, when forty men appeared with the officers, at the house of Capt. Reynold. The men seemed willing to march, when the captain told me he would not march unless he had fifty men; I went out in order to tell the men I would get another captain, and order them to be ready to march on the shortest notice; but when they found the officers declined, they dispersed immediately, and I could not get them together again any more. Several of the men have enlisted in the standing forces to avoid going to Albany. I do not know what farther to do, and shall wait your orders.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, Colo.

This looks like collusion between officers and men to find every excuse against obeying orders, but it appears from Col. Graham's letters that part of his regiment was in camp at Van Schaick's Island near Albany, by the 21st. This was about the darkest period. The news of the British defeat at Bemington came a few days later and then the reports from the north were steadily better. Burgoyne was held in check, and Howe, instead of going to join him, was fighting Washington around Philadelphia. However, after the battle of Brandywine, in September, Washington again drew on Putnam for reinforcements, and on the 15th "the whole of the Militia as far north on both Sides of the River as Poughkeepsie" was ordered to march immediately to join Putnam at Peekskill and to strengthen the garrison at Fort Montgomery.

#### FALL OF FORT MONTGOMERY AND DESTRUCTION OF THE FRIGATES.

It appears that only 300 men out of six regiments had responded<sup>1</sup> to this urgent call by the 20th.

<sup>1</sup>George Clinton Papers, Vol. II, p. 319. A postscript to orders to Col. Field, Ludington, Brickerhoff, Humphrey, Sutcland, Freer and Swartwout.

The tension had relaxed in the north somewhat but alarm was greater in the Highlands. This time it was no cry of "Wolf, wolf, when there was no wolf." Oct. 4th Gen. James Clinton reported from Fort Montgomery that the enemy was moving up the river, "that the inhabitants at Peekskill are moving away, and are in the Utmost Confusion," but still "there is very few Militia yet come Down." George Clinton hastened to the assistance of his brother. The British under Sir Henry Clinton had outwitted Putnam and crossed to the west side. On the 6th they broke the famous chain, took Fort Montgomery and the river was open. George Clinton reported<sup>1</sup> his defeat on the 6th to Washington and says:

"I have to add that by some fatality the two Continental frigates were lost, they having been ordered down by General Putnam to the defense of the chain; but being badly manned, they could not be got off in time, though I ordered the ship Congress to proceed to Fort Constitution [opposite West Point] the day before the attack, lest she should meet with a disaster; and the ship Montgomery, which lay near the chain, having neither anchor nor cables to secure her, it being the ebb of tide and the wind falling, fell down so near the chain, that Captain Hodge was constrained to set her on fire to prevent her from falling into the hands of the enemy. The Congress, unfortunately getting aground on the flat near Fort Constitution, shared the same fate."

So much for the two fine ships built here. Governor Clinton had taken the cables from the Montgomery and stretched them across the river in front of the great chain, a piece of utter foolishness which made the ship helpless. Sir Henry Clinton had proved his superiority to the two American Clintons and to General Putnam, but his dilatory proceedings after he had captured the forts and opened the way to Albany lost him all the advantage gained. News of Burgoyne's defeat at Bemis Heights reached Poughkeepsie only a day or two after the fall of Fort Montgomery and it was of course supposed that Sir Henry would immediately advance up the river to his aid.

#### VAUGHN'S RAID.

Putnam had retreated to Fishkill and Oct. 8th Clinton wrote to the Committee of Safety, "I am this moment informed that the eastern militia come in very fast; that he is confident that he will soon have ten thousand men with him; in which case he will keep posts as far as Poughkeepsie and Rynbeck to head the enemy should they push up the river." The alarm was now sufficient to stir the militia to action. People began moving back from the river in a great panic. Mrs. Clinton had been at Poughkeepsie in charge of

<sup>1</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. II, pp. 380 to 395.

her brother, Dr. Peter Tappen, who wrote as follows to Col. Hughes at Fishkill:

Plisent Valley! about 8 miles back of Poughkeepsie

Oct'r 10th, 1777.

Sir, I just now Received you' Letter. I have got Mrs. Clinton as far as Mrs. Barnes Eight miles from the River where I hope we may be safe; However if you Should think the Enemy would penetrate Farther into the Country we should be glad of a Couple of Covered weagons. I Suppose the Intention of the Enemy is to go up to Albany and if they can do that, will not penetrate into the Country as far as this. I sent the sloop with the Governors affects to Ensupos Excepting a little Close and Some of her Bedding. I have given Directions they might be Caried into the Country there as it was Impossible for me through the hurry to git them up from Poughkeepsie. I will leave the sending of Weagons holely to you; if you think it necessary you will Send them to this Place. If you see the Governor be kind Enough to let him know Mrs. Clinton is as well as Common

I Remain you humble Ser't

PETER TAPPEN.

The governor himself was on the west side of the river ready to march to Kingston via the Wallkill. On the 12th "An armed Schooner, two Row Gallies & a small Brigg passed the Chevaux Defrize & are ought of Sight up the River," wrote Governor Clinton from Little Britain, near New Windsor. The chevaux-defrise was a timber crib with sharpened points sunk in the river opposite New Windsor to Pollipel's Island. It was not entirely finished and the British had little trouble in passing it. One wonders why this little reconnoitering fleet was not badly peppered as it went up the river but the Governor explains. "If we had Round Shott for our 24 lb'r we might make this small fleet very uneasy in the River but this we have not, nor do I know any nearer than Albany to which place I begg you would send for 100 of that size and 200 for 4 lb'rs." Hard indeed to do much fighting without shot! Sir James Wallace was in command of this little fleet, which proceeded with little opposition as far as Theophilus Anthony's (the Gill place about three miles below Poughkeepsie), where they burned the little shop which had helped forge the great chain and also burned the mill,<sup>2</sup> but

<sup>1</sup>George Clinton Papers, Vol. II, p. 400.

<sup>2</sup>This expedition is reported in the 1882 Dutchess County History to have burned "Van Buren's Mills" evidently a misprint for Van Keuren's. Theophilus Anthony had purchased the mill from Matthew Van Keuren only a year or two before. According to tradition in the Gill family the British after burning the mill went to the house and asked for bread. No one had remained at home but a slave woman, who had just finished baking and had the kitchen tables covered with loaves. These the red coats took and departed satisfied.

spared the house, which is still standing. They then turned back and reported the river clear.

Already Burgoyne was in a desperate position, about to surrender, but it was not until the 15th that Sir Henry Clinton started General Vaughn and Sir James Wallace up the river with a formidable force. There were thirty or forty vessels in this expedition, some of them large full rigged ships, doubtless the largest fleet that ever navigated this section of the Hudson. They passed Poughkeepsie on the afternoon of the 15th and anchored for the night just above Hyde Park. General Putnam followed on this side of the river with a part of his army from Fishkill and Gov. Clinton on the other side. Putnam appears to have been half a day behind the ships, for he did not reach Red Hook until after the British had landed and burned a number of buildings. He wrote on the 16th, "Yesterday about forty sail passed up the river, crowded with troops, and are at anchor above Poughkeepsie—the wind not favoring. We were on our march after them when I met the agreeable news of Burgoyne's surrender."<sup>1</sup> This was the day of the burning of Kingston, which Clinton was unable to prevent, though he was there in time and wrote General Gates that morning (Oct. 16th), "the Enemy's Fleet consisting of upward of thirty Sail anchored last night about six miles below the Landing Place at this Town, which they now lie directly opposite and appear to be making dispositions for Landing."<sup>2</sup>

Oct. 18th Putnam wrote to Clinton from "Leroys Staatsford"<sup>3</sup> above Poughkeepsie, at 5 o'clock in the morning: "Yours of the 17th Reccd last night, and am sorry to hear of the Enemy Destroying the Several Houses &c. Last night I arrived here & all the Troops excepting General Stillmans Brigade which I expect will join me in the morning; Colonel Samuel Willis with his regiment are about 6 mile a Head, I am just setting off and this morning expect to reach the Shipping." In a postscript he adds:

"General Parsons Remains at Peckskill with about 2000, Colonels Humphrey's & Brinckerhoff Regiments of Militia are Left at Fishkill, Colonel Platt with abt 150 at Poughkeepsie."

At noon the same day Clinton replied, advising that more troops he left at Poughkeepsie and Fishkill. "The Enemy," he says, "is 8 or 10 Miles above this burning away \* \* \* I mean at present to continue where I am now in front of the most valuable settlements & were the Stores & Effects from

<sup>1</sup>Cutler's Life of Putnam, p. 317.

<sup>2</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. II, p. 444.

<sup>3</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. II, pp. 469 and 470. Is this Staatsburgh?

Kingston are removed. I imagine the Enemy will not proceed much higher up the River & that on their Return they will attempt to lay waste the Places they have passed going up after our Troops are drawn from them." In this connection the following letter<sup>1</sup> is of special interest:

Poughkeepsie, Oct'r 22d, 1777

Sir:

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

I have the honor to remain Sir,

Your very humble servant

ZEPHIA PLATT.

To His Excellency George Clinton, Esqr. at Hurley.

On the day that Col. Platt wrote (Oct. 22) Putnam was at Red Hook and the enemy had retired at his approach to their ships. Putnam feared they might attempt to march over to Salisbury, Ct., to destroy the iron furnace, which was a great source of supply for cannon, but Burgoyne had surrendered, the people were thoroughly aroused, and militia from New Jersey were beginning to arrive in considerable numbers at Newburgh and New Windsor. Vaughn's return might easily be cut off and Putnam had a fair chance to defeat him if he should attempt a long march. He turned back and sailed down the river on the 24th, to the immense relief of the people of Poughkeepsie, who doubtless fired a few shots at the ships, and received a few in return, both harmless. Col. Jacobus Freer is said to have been stationed under cover of a thick grove of cedars on the hill just south of Kaal Rock, with his regiment or company of Dutchess Invincibles.<sup>2</sup> According to the County his-

<sup>1</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. II, p. 470

<sup>2</sup>Philip H. Smith's History of Dutchess County. The story that Richard Davis stood on his wharf and shouted "Hurrah for King George," and then pointed to James Wimans, his rival in business, as a rebel, I believe may be true. The ships, it is said, fired at Wimans or his building and Mrs. William S.

tories this was on the 15th, when the ships passed up the river, but it is not improbable that the firing from Freer's men and from Reynolds Hill, of which stories<sup>1</sup> have come down to us, was mostly on the return and retreat of the fleet. One shot from the ships struck near the old Vassar Brewery on Vassar Street and another struck the Livingston Mansion, south of the city, where its mark is still visible. It was an iron ball some four inches in diameter, and is preserved in the Washington's Headquarters museum at Newburgh.

The presence of Putnam's army in the near neighborhood undoubtedly prevented any attempt to do extensive damage in Poughkeepsie. The wind was so light that he was able to keep almost even with the ships on their retreat, and the rapidity of his march is shown by the following letter written on the 20th by Governor Clinton from Poughkeepsie to Gen. Gates: "The next evening after the fleet left the River at Kingston I crossed over on this Side in hopes to have met Gen. Putnam to advise with him of the proper Measures to be pursued but unfortunately found he had moved down the Day before with his Army. I rode till midnight in hopes to have come up with him at this Place but was again disappointed. He had left this about Noon for Fishkill. I then concluded it best to move my small Force down to New Windsor & accordingly sent them Orders yesterday."

There is one interesting little local record of Vaughn's raid, to be found in Book G of Writs and Processes in the County Clerk's Office. Both the Court of General Sessions and the Court of Common Pleas had been suspended for a time after the Declaration of Independence. The May court in 1776 was held as usual, then come the following entries: "October Court 1776 No Court Opened the Judges did not attend," "January Court 1777 the like," "May Court 1777 the like." Following this is a page of writs and processes issued under authority of a resolution of the Council of Safety "passed June the 5th 1777 at Kingston," and then on the next page (250) this record:

"October 1777 no Court held here principally Occasioned by the Enemy Coming up the River with an army and fleet and on the sixth of October Took Fort

Morgan, his granddaughter, tells me that she had often seen the marks of the bullets when a girl. She remembers hearing that the British sent a boat ashore and had a conference with Davis, but this seems hardly likely unless the shore thereabouts was left entirely unguarded. Davis appears to have remained in business, for in Nov., 1776, he is recorded as receiving for goods brought up on a sloop under flag of trade. Clinton Papers, Vol. V, p. 376.

<sup>1</sup>History of Dutchess County (1882), p. 136.



GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON.

*From portrait in Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh.  
(By courtesy of Newburgh Journal.)*

Montgomery in the High Lands and proceeding up the River as far as Red Hook and Burned Kingston in Ulster county and diverse Houses Mills Barns &c in this County and by reason of the unsettled Condition of this state and no Officers of the Court Properly appointed there was no Court in January 1778. But this Winter the assembly sitting: There was a Law passed

was to become still more than before the centre from which such work was directed. Kingston had been burned just as the newly formed State Government was about to be organized there, and Poughkeepsie became the most available place for the State capital. Governor Clinton had been in Poughkeepsie frequently before this time, either to visit Dr. Peter Tappen.



Commission signed by Governor Clinton in Poughkeepsie.

by the governor Senate and Assembly that all Courts in future should sit on such days as formerly were appointed by Ordinance."

This is not dated but immediately precedes the records of the May Court.

POUGHKEEPSIE, THE SEAT CAPITAL. GOVERNOR CLINTON'S RESIDENCE.

From the retreat of Vaughn and Wallace begins a new period in the Revolutionary History of the Hudson River and of Poughkeepsie. The British abandoned all they had gained, but destroyed the captured forts in the lower Highlands. New defenses had to be planned and constructed, and Poughkeepsie

his brother in law, or to look after the work of constructing the frigates and the various appliances for obstructing the river. His first published letter from Poughkeepsie is dated January 24th, 1776. After his arduous campaigning at the time of Vaughn's raid, he spent some time here resting and was joined by the Council of Safety, to which the legislative functions of government had been hastily intrusted when Kingston was threatened. Thus Poughkeepsie became the seat of government, and after a visit to his home at New Windsor the Governor returned here in December and issued his proclamation to call together the scattered legislators as follows:

A PROCLAMATION:

The Honorable the Congress having by sundry Resolutions, recommended several important Matters to the Consideration of the different States; The Senate and Assembly of this State are therefore hereby required to meet at Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County, on Monday the fifth Day of January next, to proceed on Business; of which all the good People of this State are to take Notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms, at Poughkeepsie aforesaid, the fifteenth Day of December, in the Year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

GEO. CLINTON.

God save the People.

direct reference to the Everitt house. Tradition,<sup>1</sup> however, points so strongly to its use for important purposes during the Revolution that the State has been induced to purchase it and it is now in the custody of the D. A. R. and known as the Clinton Museum. It is the only house in Poughkeepsie that has survived the years with any tradition of association with Revolutionary leaders, and it is not improbable that Clinton did occupy it at some time during his residence here, but that it was the first gubernatorial mansion or the principal one in Poughkeepsie is extremely doubtful. The little map dated 1790 (see page 95), has the Crannell house marked, "Occupied by G. Clinton during the Revolution," and in support of this is the following document indorsed:



*The Everitt House as it appeared before alteration. Copyrighted 1907, by Helms W. Barrall, as "The Residence in Poughkeepsie of Governor George Clinton."*

From this time Governor Clinton's letters show him to have been living in Poughkeepsie, and there has been much discussion as to what house or houses he occupied. In connection with this subject it is to be remembered that a number of prominent Tories had already left Poughkeepsie and their property had been taken temporarily for the use of patriots. There is evidence, either in the Clinton papers published by the State or in other records, that the State paid for repairs of two different houses in Poughkeepsie on Governor Clinton's orders. One of these was the Snelcker house and the other the Crannell house, but the searches instituted by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution have failed to find any

*Captain North's Receipt for Boards, etc., for the Repair of the House Formerly Belonging to Crannell:*

|        |   |      |       |
|--------|---|------|-------|
| 1780   | State of New York to Robt. North Dr.                                      |      |       |
| Oct 10 | for the freight of 600 bricks from Albany to Pockepsie <i>a</i> 2 pr 11hd | £ 0: | 12: 0 |
|        | for 100 inch bord <i>a</i> 2  | 10:  | 00: 0 |
| Nov'br | for 32 floor boards <i>a</i> 2 6d   | 4:   | 00: 0 |
|        | for 5 plank <i>a</i> 3  | 0:   | 15: 0 |
|        |   | £15: | 7: 0  |

Received of George Clinton, Esqr. Gov'r of the State, sixty four Pounds twelve Shillings for the above articles in the new

<sup>1</sup>See article by Tristram Coffin, Esq., in Daily Eagle, Feb. 22, 1904.

<sup>2</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. VI, p. 50.

Emission computed at four for one in Specie being supposed the present passing Value, this 23rd July, 1781.

ROBERT NORTH.

Besides this direct evidence for the Crannell house it seems entirely natural and probable that Gilbert Livingston and Peter Tappen, whose influence was locally all powerful, would desire to protect their father-in-law's property by assigning it to the governor as his residence. The Crannell property, furthermore, was not sold under confiscation until 1788, and then Livingston and Tappen purchased it.<sup>1</sup> How long the house stood after the Revolution I have not been able to determine, nor have I seen any evidence to indicate whether it was built of stone, brick or wood, but as Crannell was one of the rich men of the day, it is a fair assumption that his house was one of the best in town, and for that reason alone likely to have been assigned to the governor. The following statement of the Tory New York Gazette, July 4th, 1781, has been held to point to the Everitt house:

"There is a set of mob legislators met at Poughkeepsie; a little time will show whether they mean to expose themselves to all the vengeance of which the majority of the late Assembly and Senate live in constant dread, many of them changing their lodgings to elude the search of the avengers of the innocent blood they have shed. Mr. Clinton, the titular Governor, has fortified his hut against a sudden surprise, and the rebel slaves of Poughkeepsie guard it every night."

Philip H. Smith's History of Dutchess County interpolates after the word "hut" "the fine stone mansion of Clear Everitt," but on what authority no one has been able to determine. Smith's history was published in 1877, and he is said to have had the assistance of Benson J. Lossing, but I know of no statement in Lossing's early writings in support of this assertion concerning the Everitt house. Assuming on the evidence of the assessment rolls and of traditions, that Everitt was a Tory and was absent, there is no doubt that his house was used<sup>2</sup> by the Revolutionary leaders in some way, for they had need of all the buildings they could obtain, as the little town was often crowded with distinguished visitors during the sessions of the legislature. That Washington and Lafayette were entertained there is not improbable. The house has been called "The old fort," the "Head-quarters house," and the "prison house," with probably some reason for all three. The Poughkeepsie jail could not have held all the Tory prisoners that were sent here at various times, and it was not usual

<sup>1</sup>Liber 27 Deeds, p. 129.

<sup>2</sup>An act creating a Board of Sequestration to take charge of and lease the property of Tories who had left their homes was passed in May, 1777.

to confine well-known and respectable persons in jail if it could be avoided. Ann Lee, the Shaker leader, we are told, was confined in the old Van Kleeck house, and it is certain that prisoners of similar standing were confined in other stone houses in the neighborhood, though I doubt the statement that the cellar of the Everitt house was used as a dungeon.

Governor Clinton, according to the records, paid taxes on property somewhere in the town of Poughkeepsie as early as 1778, and is known to have purchased property here at various times, though most of his deeds were not recorded. The property at the mouth of the Casper Kill in the neighborhood still known as Clinton Point, was not purchased by him until 1804, as papers in Volume 42 of the Clinton Mss. in Albany show.

#### GOVERNOR CLINTON'S LETTERS.

Several hundreds of the letters of George Clinton were written in Poughkeepsie, but I have found in them nothing to indicate what house he occupied. They contain much of local interest, however, and from them could be constructed a history of the Revolution, nearly complete, and containing much new material. They show, among other things, that Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County were of paramount importance during the second period of the war. Dutchess was the only county not at some time invaded by the enemy, it paid more taxes than any other county, furnished a very large proportion of the provisions necessary for the army, and also a large number of soldiers. In emergencies Dutchess was the main stay of the State. Without its aid, without the aid of the sturdy band of patriots in Poughkeepsie, it is hard to see how the Highlands could have been held, perhaps it is not too much to say, how the Revolution itself could have been won. The difficulties of building the new fortifications, of finding provisions, of raising money, of keeping the army together during the years of holding on, were serious enough, as will appear. As to the importance of Dutchess County the following statement<sup>1</sup> of taxes paid by the counties of the State from the Declaration of Independence to Oct. 1st, 1781, is significant:

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Albany       | £ 875,720 |
| Dutchess     | 1,116,141 |
| Ulster       | 620,068   |
| Orange       | 280,741   |
| West Chester | 70,450    |
| Tryon        | 32,450    |
| Charlotte    | 3,821     |

£3,068,479

<sup>1</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. VII, p. 366.



It must be remembered that New York, Kings, Queens, Suffolk, Richmond and a part of Westchester Counties were in the possession of the enemy. Charlotte County is now in Vermont and Tryon became Montgomery after the war.

Writing from Poughkeepsie to General Washington, December 20th, 1777, Governor Clinton advised against attempting to rebuild the forts destroyed by the British at the lower entrance to the Highlands, and suggested the fortification of West Point as a better location. This suggestion met with approval and was acted upon during the next year, Clinton doing his utmost to help forward the work. Among other things he negotiated for cannon to be cast at Salisbury, Ct., for West Point. Some of them were hauled in wagons to Poughkeepsie and here fitted with carriages. Others were shipped via Rhinebeck. The governor was constantly called upon to forward materials and provisions, but the great iron chain stretched across the river at West Point was made by the Sterling Iron Works of Orange County under contract, and Poughkeepsie did no work upon it. During the winter of '78 he collected provisions also, to be sent to Washington's army at Valley Forge.

From a letter dated March 26th, it appears that Kosciuszko, who had been appointed to take charge of the work at West Point, came first to Poughkeepsie to consult Clinton, who gave him a letter of introduction to General Parsons stating, "I believe you will find him an Ingenious Young Man & disposed to do every Thing he can in the most agreeable Manner." Lafayette had been here in February on his way to take command of the projected "Northern Expedition," one of Gates's schemes that served only to hamper the West Point work and was happily not carried out.

The legislature, which met in January, after the usual delay in obtaining a quorum, passed a number of important measures which belong rather to State than to local history. Among them may be mentioned the resolutions of February 25th, giving the New York delegates in Congress authority to ratify the Articles of Confederation.

Clinton remained in Poughkeepsie, as his letters show, after the adjournment, April 4th, busy with many matters of importance. It has been stated that the legislative sessions were held at the old Van Kleeck house on Mill Street, but there is every reason to believe that they could not have been held elsewhere than at the Court House, or possibly in one of the churches. The legislative journals afford no certain evidence on this point, but there are a number of references to an "Assembly Chamber" and a "Senate Chamber," which seem to shut out the churches. The

Van Kleeck house was too small for anything but committee meetings, and the Court House was the natural place. It is significant that after it was burned in 1785, the legislature did not return here until a new building had been finished in 1788, and the records appear to show also that important sessions of the courts were not held while the legislature was meeting here. For instance on the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th of April, shortly after the first adjournment,<sup>1</sup> John Jay Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature of the State of New York, John Sloss Hobart one of the Puisne Judges of the said Court and Ephraim Paine first Judge of the inferior Court of common Pleas for the County of Dutchess held "a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal Delivery" at Poughkeepsie.

Much of the governor's correspondence was about the granting of passes to visit New York or about the exchange of Tories for adherents of the American cause. Sloops frequently plied up and down the river under flags of truce, and privileges were occasionally abused. A pass to visit in New York was granted to William Emott in November, 1777, which excited the suspicion of the local Revolutionary leaders. Emott was pretty well known to be of English sympathies, though he had taken the oath of allegiance and had not followed Bartholomew Cramell and other leading members of the English Church into open support of the British. November 23d, Peter Tappen and Gilbert Livingston wrote to the governor, then at New Windsor, stating that he was believed to be "a Sly, Crafty, Designing Tory," advising against the pass and forwarding a protest signed by Augustus Lawrence, George Peck, Andw Billings, Elishu Marshall, Stephen Seaman, Robert Hatton, James Pritchard, Stephen Hendrickson, Sam'l Tuder, Daniel Lawrence, Daniel Shaw, Alexd'r Litch Miller, Richard Warner, Platt Titus, Malcom McLéuen, Lancaster Burling and George Smeart. The pass was revoked. Some of the signers of this protest were shipbuilders, and they were several times in distress after the completion of the frigates. Clinton appealed to the Council of Safety on their behalf and in 1778 they were given some work constructing gunboats for the defense of the River.

From several letters it appears that there was a strong suspicion that some persons in Dutchess County were carrying on a contraband business in flour, which was much wanted for the army. Clinton and Putnam said, in a joint letter to Governor Trumbull of Connecticut, "The most exhorbitant Prices given

<sup>1</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. III, p. 18t.

for that Article by the People concerned in this Trade is alone Presumptive Evidence against them; their sending it from Poughkeepsie by the Way of Norwalk for Boston Strengthens the Presumption especially from Mills & Stores, as high up the River as Poughkeepsie & North of that."<sup>1</sup> It was believed that much of this flour found its way to Long Island and to the British in New York.

In the latter part of April Clinton heard of the French alliance, and later in the year 1778 the British again concentrated their forces at New York and there was another succession of alarms, with mustering of militia to the defense of the Highlands. Washing-

ton stated that he once spent several weeks here with headquarters in Valentine Baker's house,<sup>2</sup> afterwards known as the Brush house, corner Union and Market Streets. This seems improbable, but is not impossible. Proof could be found that nearly all the prominent Revolutionary leaders visited Poughkeepsie at some time during the years of Governor's Clinton's residence. John Adams mentions in his diary a brief visit, when he had to ride to Poughkeepsie from Fishkill in order to find ice strong enough for crossing the river. Chancellor Kent in his memoirs speaks of the benefits he received while in Poughkeepsie from "the great men that visited there, such as George Clinton,



[Face.]



[Back.]

*Lawrence's State Currency, printed by John Holt in Poughkeepsie. Original in possession of Messrs. Green and George Foot.*

ton moved his headquarters to Peekskill and his army formed its long line from there across New Jersey, a position maintained with little change until the final departure in 1781 for Yorktown. Probably during this period he sometimes visited Poughkeepsie, the State capital, though the first definitely recorded visit was on December 27, 1782, according to the minutes of the Solomon's Lodge, No. 1, of Free Masons. There is also proof that he visited Poughkeepsie in May, 1783,<sup>3</sup> his headquarters having then been established for some time at Newburgh, and it has been

<sup>1</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. II, p. 501

<sup>2</sup>Address to Mrs. Myra L. Avery, Daily Eagle, March 6, 1884.

Washington, Hamilton, Lawrence, Schuyler, Duer, Duché," etc.

The Tory and Indian raids of 1778 occupy much of Governor Clinton's correspondence and show how small the State of New York was at that time, with its frontiers no further west than the Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains, through which the treacherous enemy roamed at will, striking the settlements most unprotected. The massacre of Wyoming, in July, greatly stirred the people of Poughkeepsie, for it happened that a considerable number of those who escaped the Indian tomahawk fled eastward and found their way here. The story of their sufferings was printed in

<sup>3</sup>Local newspaper article, April 10, 1884.

*John Holt's Journal*<sup>1</sup> and was copied in nearly every newspaper in the country. Holt had fled from New York to Kingston with his printing press in the summer of 1776, and set up his establishment in Poughkeepsie after Kingston was burned in the fall of 1777. He remained here until the British evacuated New York in 1783 and was the official State Printer. During part of his residence he appears to have lived in the neighborhood we now call Arlington.

There was naturally another round-up of Tories in the fall of '78 and also a series of Courts Martial to bring the militia to a keener sense of duty. Special arrangements had to be made to provide a sufficient guard for the Poughkeepsie jail. Writing to Sheriff Isaac Nicholl of Goshen, Orange County in November, Governor Clinton says: "We have Claudius Smith, Austin Smith and several other Capital Offenders in Prison here. They are well secured with Irons and added to this the Principal people of the Place to the Number of thirty have voluntarily divided themselves into Parties of six each Night. They sit in the Court Room and visit the Prisoners every Hour, and mean to continue this Duty until the Goal is discharged. Let me therefore recommend similar Measures to be pursued by the Inhabitants of Goshen who I trust have at Least equal Zeal for the public Security."

A little later than this, according to a reference in a Court Martial report, the neighboring militia were divided into classes by lot to furnish a guard for the Governor as well as for the jail. Stories of a British attempt to kidnap the Governor are mentioned in his correspondence, and had probably already begun to occasion apprehension.

#### CONTINENTALS IN POUGHKEEPSIE.

In the winter of 1778-1779 a regiment of Continental troops was quartered in Poughkeepsie by order of General Alexander McDougall, commanding in the Highlands. The Governor at first vigorously protested against this, writing to McDougall, December 15, 1778, "This little town (now almost the only one left us) is already so full of Refugees as to afford but very Indifferent Accommodation for the Members of Legislature. \* \* \* The public Offices of the State are now fixed at this Place. They cannot easily be removed to another & they must be near the Legislature." Furthermore he added, "The Forrage Masters assisted by the Civil Magistrate, have already impressed for the use of the Army, all the Forrage

the Inhabitants have, leaving them only a very small Supply to bring through the Winter their own stock."

McDougall in reply drew a harrowing picture of the condition of the troops in the Highlands, two regiments being still in tents at Fishkill, about four hundred men in the hospitals and all much pressed for subsistence. "The severe weather is fast approaching. In this state of the Troops and of the Post, I was reduced, and still am, to the utmost Difficulty to cover them, and to provide them for winter; when I was informed there were Public Buildings sufficient to cover two hundred men at Poughkeepsie; Boards near it to aid in covering the rest and public Wood Cut on the other side. \* \* \* As to billeting or quartering the Troops in Houses, I meant no more than bare House Room for them a few Days. And if such of the inhabitants as can spare it, according to Law, will not cheerfully give it, when officers and Soldiers are exposed to most violent Storms of Rain & Snow, they do not deserve to be free."

Clinton feared the troops would interfere with the Legislature, would appropriate all the fencing for fire wood, etc., but he finally yielded and on the 3d of February, when the Regiment, which numbered less than two hundred men and officers, was about to be withdrawn, it is pleasant to find him writing:

"The Troops stationed at this Place has behaved in the most orderly manner & have made themselves very agreeable to the Inhabitants & having by indefatigable Industry repaired their Barracks & laid in an ample Supply of Firewood their Quarters is become very comfortable & therefore extremely loath to leave them."<sup>1</sup>

One wonders what the public buildings were that would cover two hundred men. Evidently there were rough barracks here of some sort, but in all probability Christ Church, then unoccupied, was used by the troops. Their huts were somewhere on the south side of the town.

The Legislature<sup>2</sup> held three sessions in Poughkeepsie in 1778 and the winter session of 1779. August 11th to October 25th, 1779, it met in Kingston; January 27th to March 14th in Albany (for the first time); April 22nd to July 2nd in Kingston; September 7th to October 10th, 1780, in Poughkeepsie; January 17th to March 31st, 1781, in Albany, and after that always in Poughkeepsie until the end of the war. The State officers evidently remained here and the Governor's family remained here generally, even when the Legislature was in session elsewhere, as shown by incidental mention in several letters. October 5th, 1779, for in-

<sup>1</sup>For statement of some of Holt's troubles as a Publisher, and for some of his financial views, see Clinton Papers, Vol. V, p. 622.

<sup>1</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. IV, p. 542. From this letter it appears that four months' pay was due the regiment.

<sup>2</sup>See New York State Civil List.

stance, Clinton says in a letter to John Jay: "I received your favor of the 29th Ultimo on my way from Kingston to this Place whither I was called by the Indisposition of my little Boy, who is so extremely low as to leave us but little hope of his Recovery."

#### LAST YEARS OF THE WAR—THE FISHKILL BEACONS.

When the British advanced up the river in the summer of 1779 and fortified Verplanck's and Stony Points, most of the militia of Dutchess County was in the field and the rest was ordered to be ready to march to the defense of the Highlands at a moment's notice. The Governor, as Commander-in-Chief of State forces, went to the front himself for a time, and on his return wrote to John Jay, June 23rd: "On this occasion I have the Pleasure to inform you, that the Militia, particularly of this County, behave with an alacrity and Spirit that does them great honor." He nevertheless preserved for posterity a long list of the delinquents of some of the regiments.

It was during this summer that beacons were constructed on the hills south of Fishkill and on Butter Hill (Storm King) in order to arouse the country, without making it necessary to take the farmers from their work until the last minute. The first suggestion for this method of signalling to the country north of the Highlands was contained in letters written by General Washington in March, 1779, to General McDougall and to Governor Clinton,<sup>1</sup> but it appears that the plan was not carried out before the middle of June. I have seen no evidence in support of the statements of Lossing and Smith that beacon fires were lighted, or even suggested, in 1777, when Fort Montgomery fell and Vaughn started his raid to Kingston. After the gallant storming of Stony Point by Wayne in July the danger was over for a time, but the beacons were manned in the fall, when there was a renewal of alarms. There appears no record that they were ever intentionally lighted, but the brush pile on the hill near Fishkill (presumably North Beacon) caught fire accidentally on May 7th, 1780, and Captain Abraham Williams sent an express rider to Poughkeepsie to notify the governor that it was not intended for an alarm. Any extraordinary gathering of troops and ships at New York was sure to produce uneasiness up the Hudson and cause steps to be taken for increasing the garrisons at West Point and elsewhere in the Highlands, but early in the winter of 1779-1780 the British, after making some feints up the river to attract attention, sailed away to Charleston, and fighting from that time was mostly in the South.

<sup>1</sup>Clinton Papers, Vol. IV, p. 636.

This winter was one of the most severe on record. New York Harbor was frozen over for weeks so that cavalry and cannon were taken across the ice.<sup>1</sup> There had been a prolonged drought in the fall of '79 and it was only with the utmost difficulty that the Continental army was supplied with flour. Wheat was scarce, prices enormous, the Continental currency almost worthless, and the mills had no water to grind with. Governor Clinton, at Poughkeepsie, was exerting every effort to collect and forward supplies, and his services were of incalculable value at this time, when it was necessary to enforce the recently passed act for impressing wheat from the farmers. He convened the purchasing commissaries in Poughkeepsie late in December and stirred up the officials and the people, but it was scarcely possible to feed the army from day to day, to say nothing of accumulating stores to enable the garrison at West Point to stand a siege. On Jan. 6th, Clinton wrote:

"Our present situation is more distressing than any Thing we have experienced since the commencement of the War. It has been with the utmost Difficulty notwithstanding the great Exertions of the State that we have been hitherto able to Feed the Troops Stationed at the different Posts in the Highlands by a precarious Supply brought in daily. We have now near three Feet Snow on the Ground & most of the Mills in the Country either Froze up or without water."

Certainly the situation was desperate, and the soldiers at West Point and elsewhere went frequently several days without bread and with scanty rations generally, but they pulled through. An attack upon the Highlands was feared again in the summer of 1780, when some of the militia were ordered out, and in September came the treason of Benedict Arnold.

The spring and early summer of this year was an exceedingly busy one for Governor Clinton. The Legislature was in session during all of May and June at Kingston.<sup>2</sup> At the same time Sir John Johnson's Tories and Indians were so troublesome that in the latter part of May the Governor personally took the field against them in an expedition to Lake George. There were at the same time reasons why he would have liked to spend a little more time at home, as we learn from the following paragraph in a letter written July 13th to Abraham Yates: "Mrs.

<sup>1</sup>See letter of General James Pattison to Sir Henry Clinton.—Clinton Papers, Vol. V, p. 448.

<sup>2</sup>The session began April 22nd, and was possibly called to meet in Kingston because of the trial in Poughkeepsie of Huddleston, the spy, captured near Yonkers. According to Lossing's Field Book (pp. 383-384), he was tried, condemned and executed in April, 1780, the scaffold being erected on Forbus Hill.

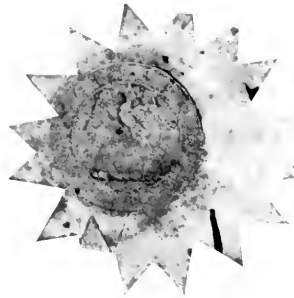
Clinton, after waiting till the alarm below and the great hurry of Business was over very decently presented me with a fine Girl. She joins me in our best Respects, your lady and family."

The Legislature was in session at Poughkeepsie when the news of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown was received, and both houses with the Governor,<sup>1</sup> we are told, proceeded to the Dutch Church, and there offered thanksgiving to God for the great deliverance. Rev. John H. Livingston, then pastor of the Church, afterwards President of Rutgers' College, conducted the service. Cannon were fired, bon-fires lighted in the streets and there was general rejoicing. At that time there were only

<sup>1</sup>Dutchess County History (1882), p. 112. These statements are doubtless substantially correct, though I have not found their original source.

two stores in Poughkeepsie, one kept by Beckman Livingston, on the site of the News-Press Building, corner of Market and Cannon Streets, and the other by Archibald Stewart, adjoining the Dutch Church. Stewart, it is said, was a Tory and would not illuminate his store.

We should like to have a contemporary description of the busy little town at this time, but none has been found. De Chastellux, the French traveler, passed through Poughkeepsie in the winter of 1780, but finding the Legislature in session and "all the taverns full" he passed on to Pride's Tavern, three miles north, and had little to say of the town. Farming must have been still the chief occupation of the people, with tavern keeping, milling and ship building engaging the services of a number of men. State officials and lawyers added variety.



*Seal used on State Commission, page 15.*

## CHAPTER IV.

FROM THE REVOLUTION TO THE INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE, 1783-1790—JAMES KENT—THE FIRST LOCAL NEWSPAPER, THE "POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL"—RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES—EARLY POLITICS IN TOWN AND COUNTY—RIVAL NEWSPAPERS—SLAVERY IN POUGHKEEPSIE—TOWN DEVELOPMENT AND THE 1790 MAP—INCORPORATION AS A VILLAGE.

When the British troops finally left New York City, November 25th, 1783, some of the families that had fled to the country returned and the Legislature began to hold its sessions there in 1784, though the State offices apparently remained in Poughkeepsie for a number of years. The resumption of river traffic doubtless more than made up for any losses to local business. Dutchess was at this time one of the largest counties in the State, and its growth was continuous and rapid. From 22,404 in 1771 it had increased in population to 32,636 in 1786, and in 1790 became the second county in the State, (with Albany first and New York third), a position maintained until Putnam<sup>1</sup> was set off in 1812. A considerable section of central Dutchess, including most of the rich Wappingers Valley, naturally shipped its produce to New York by sloops from Poughkeepsie, and the three or four crooked roads to the river were doubtless often filled with teams waiting their turn at the landings during this period. The local inn-keepers and shop-keepers profited. Between 1770 and 1790 the number of houses in the central section of Poughkeepsie about doubled (see map page 65) and there is evidence that this growth was in large part after 1783. At the same time much of the prestige as a social and legal center, gained during the war, remained. A number of the most eminent lawyers in the State continued to live here, and many others, like Hamilton and Jay, were frequent visitors during Court sessions.

### JAMES KENT IN POUGHKEEPSIE.

Here in November, 1781, came James Kent to study law in the office of the State Attorney General, Egbert Benson, then "the acknowledged leader of the New York Bar," and afterwards distinguished in several high judicial positions, though now chiefly

<sup>1</sup> Putnam's population was only about 9000 at that time. See statistics of Dutchess County and the town and city of Poughkeepsie, in Appendix.

remembered because of the greatness of his pupil. Kent was admitted to the bar in 1785 and for a few months tried unsuccessfully to obtain a foothold in Catron,<sup>1</sup> a hamlet on the outskirts of Dutchess County, where we are told, a committee of citizens one day made him a visit, informed him that the people regarded lawyers as destructive of the peace and good order of the town, and requested him to leave. He soon returned to Poughkeepsie, entered into partnership with Gilbert Livingston, then surrogate, and the same year married Elizabeth Bailey, daughter of Col. John Bailey, and a sister of Theodorus Bailey, who afterwards became a United States Senator and was one of the most prominent citizens of the State. "I was twenty-one and my wife sixteen when we were married," wrote the Chancellor many years later, "and that lovely girl has been the idol and solace of my life, and is now with me in my office, unconscious that I am writing this about her. \* \* \* After boarding a year and a half at my father-in-law's, I had purchased and prepared and fitted a snug dwelling house in town." His father-in-law lived a little way out and was probably the same John Bailey near whose house the first Liberty Pole was erected early in the Revolution.

There is much in the Chancellor's Memoirs about his early life in Poughkeepsie: "I owned one acre of ground and fitted up, in neat style for that day," he wrote, "a snug and endearing little cottage, and I cultivated an excellent garden, and my income by practice did not reach an average above \$500 a year. \* \* \* I studied in my little cottage mornings and devoted an hour to Greek and another to Latin. I soon increased it to two for each tongue in the twenty-four hours." Indeed the amount of reading he tells us he did would fairly stagger the average young man of to-day. The snug little cottage and excellent garden, to which the great Jurist's mind so often reverted in later years, was located where the Morgan

<sup>1</sup>History of the Bench and Bar of New York, p. 379

House now stands, on the north side of the Filkintown Road, and a goodly mortgage was necessary in its purchase (Liber 4 Mortgages, page 335). He retained the property until 1709, when he sold to Abraham Brinckerhoff. Neither Kent nor his brother-in-law, Theodorus Bailey, who lived next east of him, was well enough known in 1700 to be named on the map of the town made in that year, though the two houses are shown, with Gilbert Livingston, Kent's partner, marked as living next to them. The fact that Livingston's office is also marked on the map throws some doubt upon the local tradition that Kent's office was in the little building on Cannon Street, torn down in 1868, to make room for the Hinkley building. The map furnishes evidence, however, that the Cannon Street building was there at the time, and it is not at all improbable that Kent may have made it his office at a later date. Dr. Peter Tappen, of Revolutionary fame, lived not far east of the Livingston place—both Livingston and Tappen, it will be remembered, on property given them by their father-in-law, Bartholomew Crannell. Opposite Gilbert Livingston lived Major Andrew Billings, also of Revolutionary fame and a noted silversmith and jeweler. Letters preserved in various collections show that Billings made silver cups or did other work for General Washington, Lord Stirling and other prominent Revolutionary leaders. He married Cornelia Livingston, sister of Kent's partner. Nearly all the prominent families of the town were related or connected with each other by marriage and they must have enjoyed some social advantages. Kent's Memoirs unfortunately do not describe much of the life of the time, and no contemporary letters have been found that add anything of consequence.

Kent took strong ground in favor of Jay and against the counting in of Clinton in the contested election of 1792, when the vote of several counties was thrown out on technicalities, and this produced so much feeling among his Poughkeepsie friends, strong partisans of Clinton, including his partner and his wife's relatives, as to cause him to remove to New York, the climax in the estrangement coming when his brother-in-law, Theodorus Bailey, ran against him and beat him for Congress in 1793. He wrote to his brother, Moss Kent, on March 14th: "Mr. Bailey carried his election by a majority of 132 votes. The evil reports circulated on the eve of election in the newspapers \* \* \* contributed not a little to this event. Besides the influence and exertions of Mr. Bailey and family, of Judge Platt, the Hoffmans, etc. in Poughkeepsie were great. That town never gave so many votes before. Every elector turned out." Kent seems to have cherished no grudges, however,

for we find him returning to visit the Baileys for six weeks in the autumn of 1795 to escape an epidemic of yellow fever then raging in New York, and in 1798, on his appointment as a Supreme Court Judge, he hoped to be able to live here permanently, and did return for a year, selling his house in New York. The increasing necessity of "riding the circuits" in the central part of the State then caused him to remove to Albany, recently made the permanent State capital. He first conducted court in Poughkeepsie June 11, 1790, according to the Oyer and Terminer Records.

Poughkeepsie has been the home of many brilliant lawyers. One of James Kent's own pupils in 1788 was Smith Thompson, who practiced law here for several years, and afterwards became Secretary of the Navy under President Monroe, and still later Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. James Tallmadge, Jr., James Emott, the elder, Cadwallader D. Colden, Thomas J. Oakley and Jonas Platt<sup>1</sup> (son of Judge Platt) were among young men afterwards distinguished in high office who lived, studied law and practiced their profession in Poughkeepsie at a period only a few years later.

#### THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL.

From the spring of 1785 Poughkeepsie had a local newspaper of its own, a successor in a sense to *John Holt's Journal*, though there appears to be no definite evidence that it made use of his equipment or local subscription list. The earliest bound file begins with December 22, 1785, and extends into 1787, with many numbers missing. Few bound volumes remain for the period before 1806, but many single copies have been preserved by local collectors, and a few also are in the possession of the New York Historical Society.

The first number, so far as is known, is not in existence. It is stated<sup>2</sup> that the paper began publication April 11th, 1785, but if that date is correct, it was not at first issued every week. No. 10, dated October 13th, is in good preservation in the Adriance Memorial Library in this city. It contains the opening announcement, which had probably been kept standing since the first number, as follows:

#### TO THE PUBLIC.

The Subscriber, being encouraged by a numerous collection of the Inhabitants of Dutchess County, has set up, and established a Printing Office in this town, where he publishes this Paper once a Week every Thursday morning; and

<sup>1</sup>Jonas Platt afterwards settled near Utica. He married Helen, one of the daughters of Henry Livingston.

<sup>2</sup>Dutchess County History (1882), p. 401.

takes in Subscriptions at the low price of Fourteen Shillings a year, one Dollar to be paid at the Time of subscribing, or an equivalent in any kind of Grain, and the remaining Six Shillings at the end of the year. The price given by the merchants in this place will be allowed.

He returns his sincere thanks to those Gentlemen who have already shown their Willingness to support this useful and beneficial Undertaking, and flatters himself that his steady Attention to Business, and Endeavours to give general Satisfaction to the Public, (being a young Beginner) will lead the Generous to give him every Encouragement in their Power— And while he solicits the Assistance of the learned, for the Favour of publishing their Productions, either useful or entertaining assures them this Paper shall neither be a Conveyance of Scandal or personal Abuse.

Any Essays, Articles of Intelligence, Advertisements, &c., will be gratefully received by  
The Public's devoted  
Very humble servant  
N. POWER.

The paper at this time was called *The Country Journal and Poughkeepsie Advertiser* and it was printed "a few doors east of the court house." By 1701<sup>1</sup> it had become simply *The Poughkeepsie Journal* and in all probability the long title had been dropped before this time. Kent calls it the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in his memoirs and tells us that he started to publish in it an abstract of *The Federalist* when the constitution was under discussion in 1787 and 1788. He states that it was the only newspaper published in New York State, outside of New York and Albany, at the time of the Constitutional Convention. In 1792, its editor, Nicholas Power, became the first Poughkeepsie postmaster, according to the official records in Washington, and later issues of the paper bear the line "Published at the Post Office." The location of the office was on the north side of Main Street, not far above Van Kleeck's<sup>2</sup> hat store.

In calling the *Journal* the first local newspaper, I must not be understood as implying that it published local news. Few newspapers, even in the largest American cities, did that until a much later period, with the exception of an occasional report of a fire, a Fourth of July celebration, or a public meeting of importance. The news was mostly from Europe by sailing vessel a month or two late. One may study the French Revolution and the campaigns of Napoleon's armies from the columns of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* and may get an excellent summary of the

debates in Congress, but there is little about Poughkeepsie except in the advertisements. An exception is found in the paper of Dec. 22, 1785, which contains the following: "Saturday last sailed from hence the Sloop Dolphin, Captain Christopher Hughes, belonging to this place, with 37 horses &c. on board. And on Sunday sailed the Sloop Sally, Capt. Clark, belonging to Claverack, with 20 horses, both bound to the West Indies." From this and from many advertisements of stallions it appears that Dutchess county was largely engaged in raising horses. One of the papers in 1798 has nearly a page of stallion advertisements.

Occasionally also there is news in the laws published. On the 4th of April, 1785, an act was passed by the legislature giving Isaac Van Wyck, Tallmadge Hall and John Kinney "an exclusive right of keeping Stage-Waggons on the East Side of Hudson's River between the cities of New York and Albany for the term of ten years." They were required to provide "at least two good and sufficient stage waggons, to be drawn each by four able horses" \* \* \* and the fare "shall not exceed four-pence per mile including the liberty of carrying fourteen pounds of baggage, \* \* \* and such stage waggon or waggons shall proceed at least once in every week."

In March, 1798, the *Journal* proposed the establishment of a literary weekly "to contain sixteen pages octavo" and to be called *The Rural Casket*. The subscription price was fixed at \$2.50 a year, and no advertisements were to be admitted, "as this work is intended to combine the flowers of fancy with the fruits of judgment, and designed alone to please and improve." The *Journal* of May 22nd, announced that the first number would be issued "on Tuesday, the 5th of June next." It probably did not last very long, but its publication was characteristic of the ambitions of the times.

#### RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Court House in which the Legislature had so often held its sessions during the Revolution was burned early in 1785, the date being nearly fixed by a law passed April 4th, giving the sheriff (Harmon Hoffman) authority to "imprison and confine certain debtors and criminals in the Goal of Ulster County" because of the destruction of the Dutchess County jail. The records of the Board of Supervisors contain much about the building of the new Court House and show that it was finished sufficiently for occupancy by the end of 1787, and in January, 1788, we find the Legislature returning to hold its winter session here after a long absence. That session was undoubtedly held

<sup>1</sup>Copies for Dec. 22, 1791, and May 22, 1798, in the collection of Tristram Coffin, Esq. Nov. 10, 1799; Aug. 8, 1797; Nov. 6, 1804, and March, 12, 1805, in City Library.

<sup>2</sup>See Chap. V.



in the new Court House and it was there that the proposed new Constitution for the United States was submitted to the members for their action. Governor Clinton had gone to New York to live in 1784, but he may have retained a residence in Poughkeepsie. At any rate some of the State officers had remained here until at least 1788 and probably the statement made by Benson J. Lossing (letter published in *Daily Eagle*, Feb. 18, 1888), that Poughkeepsie was still the State capital is substantially true.

Governor Clinton was so strongly opposed to the new constitution that in laying it before the Legislature he made no reference to it whatever, and would have preferred to have it ignored by the members. Egbert Benson, of Poughkeepsie, was one of the leaders of the fight in favor of calling a convention to consider the question of ratification, but the opposition of the Governor and his friends was so strong that the resolution passed by a majority of only two votes.

The convention thus called to meet at "the court house in Poughkeepsie" on June 17th, was the one conspicuous historical event that has taken place here, and the only event of which there has been a local centennial celebration. Much interesting information about its deliberations, and the causes which led to the formation of the Constitution at Philadelphia, as well as to its tardy ratification at Poughkeepsie, may be obtained from the address delivered at the Centennial, July 26th, 1888, by Mr. John E. Platt, and also from an address delivered a few years later by Rev. A. P. Van Gieson, D. D., and published in pamphlet form. Mr. Lossing in his *Field Book of the Revolution* stated that the convention met in the old Van Kleeck house, but in a later edition corrected this statement. There still remained, however, some doubt as to the place of meeting; Dr. Van Gieson, therefore, examined all the evidence and showed conclusively that the Court House was the place.

The period immediately preceding the formation of the Constitution has been called "The Critical Period of American History" by John Fisk, and the importance of the ratification by the State of New York at the Poughkeepsie convention has not been exaggerated, except possibly by Martha J. Lamb, who says in her *History of New York* (page 321, vol. 2), "This turned the pivot in the history of the English speaking race." The critical period, as we have seen from Governor Clinton's own letters written in Poughkeepsie, was beginning in the severe winter of 1779-1780, when the Continental currency would no longer purchase provisions for the army and when it became necessary to seize the wheat and other produce of the farmers under impress warrants in order to keep

the army together. During some of the first efforts to obtain a better form of government, insuring a steady revenue, Governor Clinton was favorable to increased national powers, but he nevertheless became "the bitterest hater of the Constitution that could be found anywhere in the thirteen states." In explanation of his change of opinion, it must be remembered that after the war the relative position of the State of New York began to change until it soon became apparent that the revenue of her unsurpassed sea port would afford ample means for the payment of her own debts and if shared with the other states would contribute largely to the payment of their debts. George Clinton was not quite great enough to view the situation from a national standpoint, and his chief objection to the Constitution was against surrendering this revenue.

It has been generally conceded that all the Dutchess County delegates to the convention were chosen as opponents of the Constitution, but one may question whether they were not so classed largely because they were friends, and some of them former neighbors of the governor. Egbert Benson represented this district in the Assembly which met in January and was a leading champion of the Constitution, as already stated. James Kent was elected to the legislature as a Federalist only two years later. The people of the neighborhood of Poughkeepsie were at least open to conviction as to the merits of the Constitution and there is no evidence that they were not entirely satisfied with the votes of their representatives, Melancthon Smith, Zephaniah Platt and Gilbert Livingston, in its favor. These were able men who had served in many positions during the Revolution, as we have seen in the last chapter, and continued to serve in high positions after the Constitution had been adopted. All three had been members of the Provincial Congress, Melancthon Smith and Zephaniah Platt had been members of the Continental Congress. Smith was the first sheriff of the county after the formation of the State government, Platt was at the time of the convention the county judge and Livingston the surrogate. Smith had been a resident of Poughkeepsie most of the time since 1777, but is said to have been living in New York when chosen a delegate to the convention. This is not singular when we remember that Governor Clinton himself sat as a delegate from Ulster.

The elections of delegates for the convention throughout the State turned out "beyond expectation favorable to the Anti-Federal party. They have a majority of two thirds in the Convention, and according to the best estimate I can form of about four sevenths in the community," wrote Hamilton to Madison on

June 8th,<sup>1</sup> On the 21st John Jay<sup>2</sup> wrote to his wife as follows, from Poughkeepsie:

My dear Sally

A gentleman now in town, and who will set out for New York in about an hour, gives me an opportunity for writing you a few lines. The convention assembled with unusual punctuality. There are not more than two members that I can recollect absent, and the house has entered in the business with great assiduity and regularity. As yet these proceedings and debates have been temperate and inoffensive to either party. The opposition to the proposed constitution appears formidable, though more so from numbers than from other considerations. What the event will be is uncertain. For my part I do not despair on the one hand, although I see much room for apprehension on the other.

On the 10th, H. Knox wrote to Rufus King,<sup>3</sup> still a resident of Boston:

The majority of the Antis is so great at Poughkeepsie that I ask no questions. Some person compelled me to hear that Gov. Clinton was chosen president on Tuesday, 51 members present.

The Antis, however, had made a serious mistake in postponing action upon the Constitution so long. Eight states had already ratified when the convention met on June 17th, and only one more was needed to bring the new government into being. Alexander Hamilton and the Federalist leaders were shrewd enough to take every advantage of the strength that would come from the news of ratification by New Hampshire or Virginia, where the conventions were also in session. Hamilton had written to Madison, May 16th, "As Clinton is truly the leader of his party and is inflexibly obstinate, I count little on overcoming opposition by reason. Our only chance will be the previous ratification by nine states which may shake the firmness of his followers, and a change in the sentiments of the people, which have for some time been traveling toward the Constitution." New Hampshire was known to be favorable to the Constitution and Hamilton had arranged that express riders should bring the news of its ratification to Poughkeepsie at the earliest possible moment. The horseman with the expected news came galloping into town on the 24th of June, and on the 30th John Jay wrote to General Washington, "The greater number are, I believe, adverse to a vote of rejection. Some would be content with recommendatory amendments; others wish for explanatory ones, and I am much mistaken if there are not a few who prefer a separation from the Union to any national government whatever.

The people, however, are gradually com-

ing right, notwithstanding the singular means taken to prevent it. The accession of New Hampshire does good and that of Virginia would do more." Isaac Roosevelt,<sup>4</sup> one of the New York City delegates, wrote to Hon. Richard Varick of New York, July 1st:

"I wish it was in my power to inform you that our Convention had agreed to adopt the Constitution or even what the probable event will be. Our opponents keep themselves much at a distance from us, and we cannot collect any of their sentiments, either out or in doors, by any means whatever.

In our discussion on the Constitution we have got only to the 8th Section of the first Article. The time is mostly taken up in reasoning on the impropriety of their proposed amendments.

I now only can suggest that the event of Virginia may influence their determination. Should they reject, I think it probable our Convention will, but should they adopt I am not clear ours will. They may propose an adjournment to collect the sense of their respective constituents."

Governor Clinton was evidently afraid his supporters were weakening, but Melancthon Smith declared that the change of circumstances made no change in his views. He was the "anti-champion" in debate, adding "the subtlety of Locke to the candour of Sydney," in the words of one who described the convention in a letter published in the *New York Journal*, July 4th, 1788. The doors of the convention were open and the people of Poughkeepsie availed themselves of the opportunity to hear the great speakers. Hamilton was described as the "the political porcupine, armed at all points," and pouring a "stream of eloquence deep as the Ganges and irresistible as the Gadaraiqui." Mr. Jay's reasoning was said to be as "weighty as gold, polished as silver, and strong as steel." Chancellor Livingston was also a strong influence for the Constitution. The weight of eloquence and logic was certainly with the Federalists, and the debates as published<sup>5</sup> are good reading to-day. The very extravagance of the Antis, who described the Constitution as a "triple-headed monster" and said that "The dagger of ambition is now pointed at the fair bosom of liberty," with much else of the same sort, was probably beginning to react. June 27th Hamilton wrote to Madison that "there are some slight hopes of relaxation in some of the leaders, which authorizes a gleam of hope, if you do well, but certainly I think not otherwise." At this very moment a letter was on its way from Richmond, coming as fast as horses could, bringing the news that Virginia had done well. Ben-

<sup>1</sup>Works of Hamilton, Vol. I, p. 151.

<sup>2</sup>Jay Papers, Vol. III, p. 340. Of the 65 delegates 21 were classed as for ratification and 44 against. Memoirs of James Kent, p. 303.

<sup>3</sup>Life and Correspondence of Rufus King, Vol. I, p. 335.

<sup>4</sup>Great grandfather of Mr. John A. Roosevelt (who has the letter quoted), and a brother of the great grandfather of President Roosevelt.

<sup>5</sup>Fac-simile, 1905, by Vassar Brothers' Institute.

son J. Lossing has published the following interview<sup>1</sup> with one who was present when the news arrived:

"It was about noon, on a very hot day," said the old man, "when I saw an express rider, on a powerful bay horse flecked with foam, dismount at the Court House door and placing his bridle reins in the hands of a negro boy standing by, hasten to the door of the Convention chamber, and deliver a sealed package to Mr. Barclay, the door-keeper. The courier was Colonel William Smith Livingston, who had ridden express (changing horses several times) from New York City to Poughkeepsie, a distance of eighty-one miles, in less than ten hours. The package he brought contained a despatch from the President of the Virginia Convention at Richmond and a letter from Madison to Hamilton, announcing that Virginia had, on the 25th day of June, unconditionally ratified the constitution. The reading of that despatch gave great joy to the Federalists in the Convention, and they cheered loudly. Many people out of curiosity had gathered in front of the Court House after the arrival of the courier, and when his errand was made known, a part of them formed a little procession, and led by the music of a fife and drum, marched around the Court House several times. In the evening they lighted a small bonfire. Before sunset Power had printed an 'Extra' on a sheet of paper seven by ten inches in size which contained the form of the ratification by Virginia."

The governor's friends seem now to have begun to see that the Constitution must be ratified, and turned their efforts towards its amendment. The celebration of the Fourth of July was a pleasant relief from the tension of daily parliamentary battle and served to promote good feeling. John Jay wrote to his wife on the 5th, "Yesterday was a day of festivity and both parties united in celebrating it. Two tables, but in different houses, were spread for the convention, and the two parties mingled at each table and the toasts (of which each had copies) were communicated by the sound of drum and accompanied by the discharge of artillery."

In the novel entitled "The Conqueror" is presented an imaginary picture of the scenes of the convention with the statement that there were charming women and pretty girls in Poughkeepsie then, who knew how to entertain the great men at receptions and dinner parties. Contemporary letters are uncommonly silent about these events. Besides the celebration of Independence Day almost the only outside diversion John Jay mentions is the following: "Last night my sorrel mare was taken out of the stable, and I think it is very doubtful whether I shall see her again. I am much obliged to the thief for leaving the horse. You see it might have been worse."

Isaac Roosevelt, writing on the 5th of July, omits

<sup>1</sup>Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle, Feb. 18, 1888

all reference to the 4th and omits to Mr. Barck a change of tactics on the part of the friends of the Constitution. "We now permit our opponents to go on with their objections and propose their amendments without interruption. When they have gone through we may more fully learn their intentions. We have now got to the 3rd Article on the Judiciary Department."

Days passed in debate and then, on the 15th of July, Melancthon Smith moved for ratification "upon Condition" that a new convention of the states be called to pass amendments. Hamilton at once wrote to Madison, then in New York attending Congress, and received in reply by express messenger a statement that any condition would vitiate the ratification. The State of New York must either join the Union now already formed or take the responsibility of staying out. All felt the gravity of the situation. On July 18th, "the convention met, but such was the deep sense of responsibility that no one offered to speak. Silence prevailed and after a time the House adjourned." In New York City news from the convention was awaited with great anxiety and on the 21st an imposing Federalist parade was held there planned to influence "the obstinate body at Poughkeepsie." The obstinacy of some of the opponents of the Constitution was gradually breaking down. "The members generally assumed a more conciliatory tone," wrote James Kent, and what followed is well told in his own words:

"The spirit of the House was liberal and cheering, and at last Samuel Jones, one of the Anti-Federal members, had the magnanimity to move to substitute the words 'in full confidence' in lieu of the words 'upon condition.' He was supported by Melancthon Smith, who had so eminently distinguished himself throughout the whole course of the session, and by Zephaniah Platt, then first judge of the County of Dutchess, who made a few observations expressing in a plain, frank manner, his sense of duty on that occasion and his determination to follow it. The members who came over from the Anti-Federal side of the house were twelve in number, being four members from the Dutchess, four from Queens, three from Suffolk, and one from Washington, and, uniting themselves with the nineteen Federal members from New York, Westchester, Kings and Richmond, they constituted a majority of the Convention."<sup>1</sup>

This does not tell quite the whole story. The Jones motion was carried July 25th by a bare majority of two votes, 31 to 29 in committee of the whole.

"Mr. Lansing then moved," wrote Isaac Roosevelt the same day, "that the words should follow the ratification, 'Reserving to this State a Right to With-

<sup>1</sup>Letter to Mrs. Hamilton, 1832—Kent Memoirs, p. 311

# POUGHKEEPSIE

July 2d, 1788.

## JUST ARRIVED BY EXPRESS,

The Ratification of the New Constitution by the Convention of the State of Virginia, on Wednesday the 25th June, by a majority of 10 ; 88 agreeing, and 78 dissenting to its adoption.

“**W** E the Delegates of the People of Virginia, duly elected in Pursuance of a Recommendation of the General Assembly, and now met in Convention, having fully and fairly investigated and discussed the Proceedings of the Federal Convention, and being prepared as well as the most mature Deliberation will enable us to decide thereon, DO, in the Name and on Behalf of the People of Virginia, declare and make known, that the Powers granted under the Constitution being derived from the People of the United States, may be resumed by them whenever the same shall be perverted to their Injury or Oppression, and that every Power not granted thereby remains with them and at their Will: That therefore no Right, of any Denomination, can be cancelled, abridged, restrained or modified by the Congress, by the Senate, or House of Representatives, acting in any Capacity, by the President, or any Department or Officer of the United States, except in those instances where Power is given by the Constitution for those Purposes: That among other essential Rights, the Liberty of Conscience, and of the Press, cannot be cancelled, abridged, restrained or modified by any Authority of the United States

With these Impressions, with a solemn Appeal to the Searcher of Hearts for the Purity of our Intentions, and under the Conviction, that whatsoever Imperfections may exist in the Constitution, ought rather to be examined as the Mode prescribed therein, than to bring the Union into Danger by Delay, with a Hope of obtaining Amendments previous to the Ratification:

We the said Delegates, in the Name and in Behalf of the People of Virginia, do by these presents assent to and ratify the Constitution, recommended on the 17th day of September, 1787, by the Federal Convention for the Government of the United States; hereby announcing to all those whom it may concern, that the said Constitution is binding upon the said People, according to an authentic copy hereunto annexed, in the Words following:—

[Here comes in the Constitution.]

A Letter from Richmond advises, that a Motion for previous Amendments was rejected by a Majority of Eight; but that some days would be passed in considering subsequent Amendments, and these, it appeared, from the temper of the Convention, would be recommended.

EXTRA PRINTED BY POWER AT THE POUGHKEEPSIE  
JOURNAL OFFICE.

Original in possession of Mr. John A. Roosevelt.

PHOTO BY O. N. SEAMAN.

draw from the Union if the Constitution is not revised by General Convention.' \* On this debate ensued, which took up the day and it was not known how the 'Brittle Blades' would vote, the taking of the question was waved till to-morrow."

Gilbert Livingston had announced that he should vote for ratification and it was stated that Hamilton closed the debate in a speech of three hours duration.

There was a majority of three against Lansing's last amendment and the final vote on Saturday, the 26th, was by the same narrow margin, 30 to 27 for unconditional ratification, but Kent says that several other members would have voted for ratification "but could not be brought to desert Governor Clinton who remained inflexible. Had he consented to vote for the Constitution, the final ratification of it would probably have been unanimous."

It is perhaps not too much to add that Dutchess County saved the day. Kent pays a high tribute to the "men who made this memorable and unbought sacrifice of prejudice, error and pride on the altar of patriotism. \* \* \* It was quite an heroic effort to quit such a leader as Governor Clinton, and such men as Yates and Lansing, who had been members of the General Convention." Dutchess had seven delegates, and besides the three mentioned, John De Witt voted for the Constitution, Ezra Thompson was absent and Jacobus Swartwout, the doughty colonel of the Revolutionary Minute Men, with Jonathan Atkins voted no. There seems to be no evidence that those who broke away from Clinton's boss-ship on this occasion incurred his enmity. Smith stumped the State for him in 1792 when he ran for the sixth time, and we have already noted the feelings of Gilbert Livingston and Judge Platt when Kent declared that Clinton's counting in on that occasion was fraudulent.

#### EARLY POLITICS OF TOWN AND COUNTY.

A year after the convention a wave of sympathy for the French Revolution, in which Lafayette was an early leader, swept over the new American Republic, and then, as the excesses of the French began to excite a reaction among the more conservative, party feeling in America was greatly intensified. The friends of Jefferson, embracing most of the Anti-Federalists, continued to espouse the cause of the French, even at the risk of involving the United States in another war with England, while the Federalists, under Hamilton's leadership, came more and more into a position of hostility to the French. Governor Clinton, though he prevented the fitting out of a French privateer in New York harbor, was in sympathy with their plans and one of his daughters, in 1793, became the wife of the notorious French minister, "Citizen

Genet," who remained in America. It is altogether probable that Kent's defeat for Congress in 1793 was partly at least due to the French partisanship of the governor's friends in Poughkeepsie, though the town was certainly not entirely carried away by the French craze. Men of strong English sympathies, suspected of being Tories in the Revolution, were restored to favor sufficiently to hold town offices soon after the war, and their names continue on the town books. Richard Everitt and William Emott, for example, were almost continuously office holders from 1788 until well into the 19th century. Everitt became town clerk in 1795 and Emott a justice of the peace in 1798, both offices of much importance at that time. In 1800 Squire Emott, as he was called, was elected to the Assembly. He was the father of the elder James Emott, a very prominent Federalist in the early part of the 19th century.

It is difficult to tell much about the politics of Poughkeepsie before 1800, except from the few hints given by Kent's Memoirs and from items in the few copies of the early newspapers. By comparison of these with the civil list of the State it is evident that the county was debatable ground and was drifting away from the control of Governor Clinton and his friends. The Federalists were likely to win in off years and not infrequently elected their Assemblymen even when Anti-Federalists were sent to Congress. Thus the Assembly delegations of 1794, 1795, 1796 and 1797, appear to have been Federal. All four include Jesse Oakley, who is known to have been a strong Federalist, and the first three include David Brooks of Poughkeepsie. Theodorius Bailey, however, was reelected to Congress in 1795, but David Brooks succeeded him in 1797. In 1798 John Jay, Federalist candidate for governor, carried the county by a small majority, receiving 908 votes to 901 for Robert R. Livingston. The town of Poughkeepsie voted Livingston 90 and Jay 82. To complete the see-saw, Theodorius Bailey was again elected to Congress in 1799.

It was during this period of political change and probably partly because of it that Zephaniah Platt,<sup>1</sup> who was succeeded as Judge of the Court of Common

<sup>1</sup>There were three or four families of Platts in Dutchess County before this time. Israel Platt, who lived in Eastern Dutchess, was a captain of one of the militia regiments in the Revolution and was the ancestor of the late Mrs. John P. Adriaance. Eliphalet Platt, who lived near Pleasant Valley, was a militia lieutenant in the Revolution, and was the grandfather of Isaac Platt, founder of the Poughkeepsie Eagle, and also of Dr. Eliphalet Platt, first president of the village of Rhinebeck. A John Platt is also mentioned in the records. Israel, Eliphalet and John were probably brothers and consins of Zephaniah. All came from the neighborhood of Huntington, Long Island, at apparently about the same time.

Pleas in 1795, by David Brooks, left Poughkeepsie and with his brothers, Dr. Charles Platt and Nathaniel Platt, went to Lake Champlain, whither another brother, Daniel Platt, had preceded them as early as 1792, and founded Plattsburgh. John Bailey, father of Theodorus, and probably some other Poughkeepsie people, also went to Plattsburgh.

#### RIVAL NEWSPAPERS.

The first rival of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* seems to have been the *Republican Journal*, started in 1795 by Nathan Douglas of Danbury, Ct. It doubtless represented the party of Jefferson and George Clinton, and indicates that the older *Journal*, though admitting communications of all shades of opinion, was already regarded as a Federalist organ. I know of only one number of this paper, "Vol. I, No. 41," dated Wednesday, July 6, 1796.<sup>1</sup> It bore the motto:

"Plant as Reeds, where streams of Freedom glide  
Firm as the Hills, to stem Oppression's tide"

and was "printed and published by Richard Vanderburgh & Co., near the Court House." It contains the statement, dated June 20th, that Nathan Douglas had sold the paper to Mr. Vanderburgh "and will shortly return to Danbury, Ct., to conduct the publication of the *Farmer's Chronicle*." Fourth of July, says this paper, "was ushered in by the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells." There was a parade of the officers of Col. Van Bunschoten's regiment of militia, Captain Venont's light horse and Captain Mott's riflemen. Then one company of men convened at Colonel Van Bunschoten's for a banquet and another at Captain Hendrickson's. There is a suggestion of partisanship in the separation and in the lists of toasts.

In this paper Nathan Myers advertised for sale a stone house "containing two large rooms on the lower floor, on the Post Road leading to Albany and on the road leading to the upper landing." This must have been a near neighbor of the old Van Kleeck house. An early gazetteer states that most of the houses in Poughkeepsie were of stone at this time.

Vanderburgh evidently formed a partnership with Nicholas Power and the *Republican Journal* was absorbed by the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, but this partnership was soon dissolved, as we learn from a notice in the issue of Nov. 16, 1796, which also contains an advertisement of a small printing office "with every necessity to begin a country newspaper to be sold cheap." Were it not for this advertisement I should think it possible that there had been only one paper

<sup>1</sup>On the possession of Mr. Frank Van Kleeck

all the while, and that Power had sold the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in 1795 and taken it back in 1796, the temporary proprietors making a slight change in the name and numbering<sup>1</sup> the issues as if it were a new paper.

On January 8, 1798, another newspaper, *The American Farmer and Dutchess County Advertiser*, made its appearance, printed by John Woods. It did not openly support Jefferson, and its editor announced that he should "endeavor to conduct the paper by the line of impartiality." The French Revolution seems to have been still the leading issue, and the following excellent example of early editorial eloquence implies that the doings of the French had not hitherto been impartially reported:

While the Genius of Liberty is yet struggling with the Demon of Tyranny and oppression; while the blood-stained steps of Slaughter are still smoking in the desolated fields of Europe; while fell Discord with her brazen trumpet is sounding the alarm of war through our happy land where Party Spirit seems assuming the garb of General Good; while Political Frenzy appears to predominate over each quarter of the globe and while the party mind is raised to the summit of expectation no one surely can stand an indifferent observer of these awful scenes, or not wish to be regularly informed of the important events which are about to close the eighteenth and usher in the nineteenth century.

Isaac Mitchell was the editor of this paper for a time, and he stated a few years later<sup>2</sup> that it failed soon after he left it. Only the first copy is known to be in existence.

#### SLAVERY IN POUGHKEEPSIE.

Every issue of the early newspapers contains at least one advertisement offering a reward for the return of a runaway slave, and this one is rather surprising:

#### FIVE DOLLARS REWARD.

RUNAWAY From the subscriber, his Negro man, Gill, about twenty-five years of age, a short stocky fellow; he wears a watch, a claret coloured coat, and brown cloth watch coat lined with green baze. The above will be paid for confining him in any Goal, and notice given that he may be had with all reasonable charges, by

RICHARD DAVIS.

Poughkeepsie, Feb. 5, 1798

Watches were very much of a luxury at that time, but there is no intimation in the advertisement that this watch was stolen, or was not the rightful

<sup>1</sup>The volume and number never afford conclusive evidence as to the origin of a newspaper, and I know of no copies of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* for the early months of 1796.

<sup>2</sup>Opening editorial *Political Barometer*, June 8, 1802.

property of the slave. A few letters of the period before the Revolution indicate that some of the brutal features of the institution of slavery were to be found in this neighborhood, but very soon after the Revolution slavery itself began to fall into disfavor. One or two of John Jay's letters as President of the Manumission Society were written about the time of the Constitutional Convention and probably from Poughkeepsie. He says that slaves in this section of the country were "treated as well as other servants," and many stories and traditions are handed down, showing their frequent devotion to their masters and the easy position they held in many families. The conviction was growing that slavery, no matter what its conditions, was inconsistent with the expressions in the constitution of the rights of human liberty, and manumissions were becoming more common.

The first recorded manumissions of slaves in New York State were made under an act passed February 22d, 1788, at Poughkeepsie, and the Legislature was careful to provide that the persons set free should not become town charges. This act, Chapter XL, Laws of the Eleventh Session, declares that:

"When the owner or owners of any slave under fifty years of age, and of sufficient ability to provide for himself or herself, shall be disposed to manumit such slave, he or they shall, previous thereto, procure a certificate, signed by the overseers of the poor, or the major part of them, of the city, town or place, and of two justices of the peace of the county where such person or persons shall dwell or reside . . . \* certifying that such slave appears to be under fifty years of age, and of sufficient ability to provide for himself or herself, and shall cause such certificate of manumission to be registered; \* \* \* then it shall be lawful \* \* \* to manumit such slave without giving or providing any security \* \* \* and the clerk for registering such certificate shall be entitled to two shillings and no more."

In accordance with these provisions former Attorney General, Egbert Benson, registered the first manumission in the town of Poughkeepsie, as follows:

Entered this nineteenth day of November 1790 the following Copy of the manumission of a negro slave i. e.

We Peter Tappen & Timis Tappen two of the trustees of the peace for the County of Dutchess and William Emott and William Terry overseer of the Poor for the town of Poughkeepsie in the County aforesaid, do hereby Certify, that it appears to us that Francis a Male Negro Slave of Egbert Benson of the Said Town is under the age of fifty years and of Sufficient abilities to provide for himself

Dated as above.

PETER TAPPEN,  
TINIS TAPPEN,  
WILLIAM EMOTT,  
WILLIAM TERRY

of the above named Egbert Benson of Town of Poughkeepsie and set at Liberty the above named Francis a Male Negro Slave of the age and year above mentioned.

Egbert Benson.

John Frear, 1794, records the second manumission,<sup>1</sup> "a Negro boy named Bill, aged four years, and nine months, being a Son of my Woman Slave named Susan." Judge Zephaniah Platt's application for a certificate of manumission, the third, begins, "Agreeably to the Republican Spirit of the constitution of our country."

On March 20th, 1799, was passed an act "for the gradual abolition of slavery," and April 8th, 1801, an act "concerning slaves and servants" provided that "Every child born within this state after the fourth day of April, 1799, shall be free, but shall remain the servant of the owner of his or her mother . . . until the age of twenty-eight years, if a boy, and twenty-five years, if a girl." This act, as well as that of 1799, required the registry of all births of children in slavery, under penalty of five dollars fine, and the first person to comply with the requirement was Smith Thompson,<sup>2</sup> May 26th, 1800, already a prominent lawyer and to begin his public career the same year as a member of Assembly.

The records of births in the books of the town of Poughkeepsie extend down to 1815, and the manumissions down to 1825. Few of the early certificates show any family names for the negroes set free, but soon after 1800 such names were generally given. In some cases the names were of the former owners, in others, names probably chosen by the negroes themselves. Abraham Adriance in 1815 set free a slave named Grace Vanderbilt. A few agreements are recorded similar to the usual apprenticing articles, showing that owners occasionally leased, or bound out, their slaves for a term of years, at the end of which, if faithful service had been performed, the slaves were given their freedom, and a good many slaves were freed by will at the death of their masters or mistresses. Some of the slaves who had grown much attached to the families in which they had been brought up virtually refused to accept freedom, and not a few of the older and more helpless ones were supported until their death by their former owners, who would not allow them to become town charges. On the other hand there are two or three records of young children delivered over to the town as paupers under the provisions of one of the abolition acts. One record shows that negroes them-

<sup>1</sup>For full list of manumissions recorded, and list of persons recording births of slaves under act of April 8, 1801, see Appendix.

<sup>2</sup>Certificate in full in Appendix.

selves might hold slaves, that of "Toney Fox, a black man of the town of Poughkeepsie," who received a certificate for the manumission "of his wife and slave, Margaret," October 20th, 1804.

It has often been said that slavery was abolished in the Northern States because it was unprofitable, but there is little, if any, local evidence that this was true in 1790 or before. Slaves were occasionally sent South for sale, indicating a better market there, but the results were not always satisfactory. Christ Church, for instance, once owned a slave left it by will. He proved a very undesirable piece of property for a church, ran away into Connecticut, and was finally sent to the South where the expenses of his sale amounted to more than the proceeds. Steady, able-bodied slaves, however, brought fair prices at home, if one may judge from the advertisements in the early papers, but there seems to have been some sentiment against selling them, as indicated by an occasional advertisement in which a slave girl is offered "partly by her own request." There are also a number of curious notices offering merely nominal rewards, as low as two cents, for the return of run-aways, as if their owners were merely complying with some technicality of the law.

#### TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

Among the laws passed by the Legislative session of the winter of 1788 at the new Poughkeepsie Court House were acts for the division of the State into counties and the counties into towns. These for the most part were merely re-enactments of earlier colonial laws, the boundaries of the town of Poughkeepsie<sup>1</sup> were the same as of the old precinct of Poughkeepsie, but they were followed here by considerable activity on the part of the town authorities, especially in the matter of laying out new roads and improving old ones. The first street in Poughkeepsie, as distinguished from the roads that met at the Court House or led to the river, was Cannon Street. It is described in a deed of 1786 as "the new lane or Cannon Street." Its name probably came from some Revolutionary incident, and tradition has several stories to account for it, the most plausible of which seems to be that its intersection with the Post Road was once marked with old cannons stuck upright in the ground. The name, at any rate, was evidently given by common consent, before it was ratified by town authority. Church Street was also named in the same way only a few years later. In 1788 the Town Road Commissioners, Peter Tappan and E. Van Benschoten, straightened out the New Hackensack road and carried branches to the Filkintown road and to the Post

road. These branches became Montgomery Street, Academy Street and Hamilton Street. The main survey carries the road through Academy to Cannon and down Cannon Street to the Court House. Then Academy is extended to Main Street, Church Street is laid out and the branches above mentioned. The landmarks in surveying Academy Street were Baltus Van Kleeck's "white house" on the south and Gilbert Livingston's house on the north. Only Cannon Street and Church Street are named.

Academy Street was originally a lane<sup>1</sup> leading to Van Kleeck's "white house," which stood as the accompanying map shows, just south of Montgomery Street. The street is named "Ragged Lane" on the map, but deeds on record show that several efforts were made to give it other names, before the Dutchess County Academy was built on the corner of Cannon Street in 1791 or 1792. This 1790 map, the original of which was long in the possession of the late John F. Hull and is now the property of Mr. Henry Booth, has been the subject of some controversy. It is not on record and its genuineness has been disputed by those who believe the Everitt House to have been Governor George Clinton's residence during the Revolution. This matter was discussed in the last chapter, and it remains only to add that the map is of undoubted genuineness. Reference to deeds recorded in Liber II, pp. 384-386, show that a map was made by Henry Livingston, Jr., dated September 25th, 1790, for the purpose of describing and dividing into lots the property on Church and Cannon Streets where the lots are numbered. The first of these deeds is dated November 9, 1791, and is from Thomas Ellison and George Ludlow of New York City, "assignees and trustees for the creditors of Myndert Van Kleeck, survivor of Leonard Van Kleeck, and Myndert Van Kleeck," to James B. Clark of New York, attorney at law. By the second deed, dated November 10, the same property is decided back to the assignees. The lot numbers as referred to in the deeds are not exactly the same as in the map here reproduced, but the difference is trifling. There is one less number on the south side of Church Street and two more on the north side. Nine lots are conveyed on the north side, beginning at the south-east corner of the burial ground of the Episcopal Church, "being known on above map" as lots 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and excepting lot No. 12, "commonly called the school house lot." The "school house" lot is not numbered in the map as here given. It is evidently the same lot now occupied

<sup>1</sup>In deed from Lewis Du Bois to Myndert Van Kleeck (1773) referred to as "the lane leading from the farm of the late Lawrence Van Kleeck, deceased, to the Filkintown road" Lib. 2, 299.

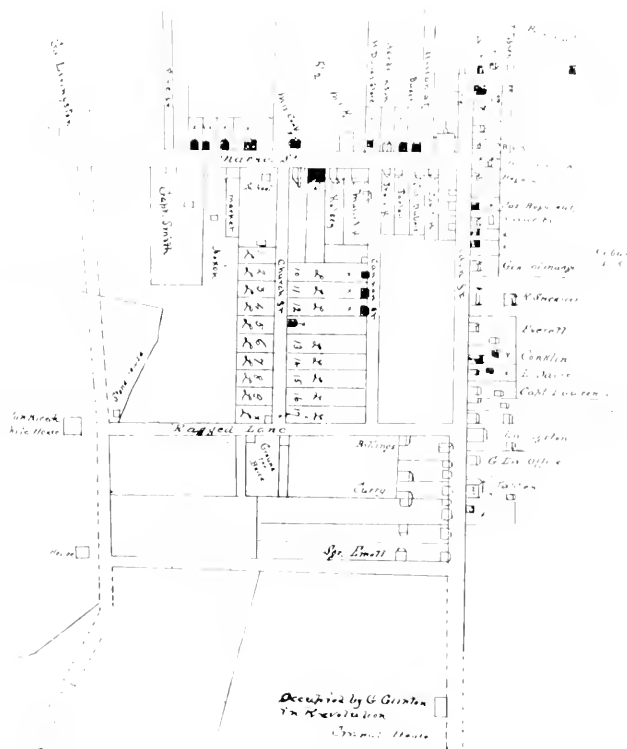
<sup>1</sup>Col. 96; LMA, Sec. 96; Law, 1, March 7, 1788.



by School No. 2, or "The Alexander Hamilton School."

In these deeds also the eastern boundry is "Ludlow Street," not Ragged Lane, which was evidently not acceptable as a name. In the deeds to the Academy trustees, May 8th, 1792, and December 18, 1792 (Lib. 21, pp. 496 and 530), the street is called "Charles Street," evidently an attempt to name it

Van Kleeck's "white house," so often referred to, was evidently an important place. It is described in an advertisement which ran for some time in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in 1785, as "situated on a very pleasant eminence, within a quarter of a mile of the town of Poughkeepsie, commanding the full view of the same. The house being two and a half stories high with four genteel rooms on a floor, and a com-



Map of Poughkeepsie - 1790.  
Houses marked x were built after 1770

from Dr. Charles Crooke, who had owned the lot. Crooke had recently died and the property was sold to pay his debts. His widow very promptly married William Keteltas, and the first deed, dated May 8th, conveys her dower right to the lot "on which an Academy is now erected." The building could not have been finished much before this time, for the Academy was incorporated by the regents in 1791. It soon gave the final name to the street.

modious cellar under the whole, with good well of water, and about sixty-two acres of good land, with a good meadow and orchard belonging to the same." One cannot but suspect that some of the important Revolutionary meetings said to have been held at "Mr. Van Kleeck's house" may have been held here, especially if its Revolutionary owner was the same Baltus, who refused to sign the pledge of Association in 1775. At any rate the number of houses

occupied or owned by Van Kleecks in 1790 suggests doubt as to the reliability of the traditions which have assigned so much Revolutionary importance to the oldest, and probably the smallest of them all. This "white house" property was in part at least situated on what had been "The Little Commons" (see map p. 31) and was also in part at least the property which afterwards came into the possession of Bronson French, and then into the possession of Christ Church and other parties as mentioned in Chapter VI. It used to be said that French obtained title to much of it simply as a squatter and by pushing his fences more and more out into the "Common." The following advertisement dated July 12, 1802, will show that the squatting was done before French's time:

The subscriber has returned to town for a few days, and offers for sale a number of lots on the Common or White House lot.

N. B. It has been maliciously asserted that my title to this land is not good and sufficient—I invite any person, capable of paying the costs of suit, to come forward and publicly declare it.

LAW L. VAN KLEECK.

There are many interesting things about the 1790 map. It will be noticed that what is now called the Swift house is among the buildings built between 1770



*House purchased by Governor Clinton in 1790. Note the Residence of Rev. and Mrs. A. P. Van Gleason.*

and 1790, on the south side of Cannon Street. This house is particularly interesting, as the only one, so far as we know, that was ever owned by Governor George Clinton within the corporate limits of Poughkeepsie. The lawyers have traced this property back to a mortgage made in 1702 by William Bailey, merchant, to "the new loan commissioners," and the mortgage (Vol. 2, p. 325, Loan of 1702) contains on its back endorsements showing that Clinton was one of those who paid interest on it. The Clinton deed is not on record but his field book tells of the purchase, October 10th, 1790, and the opening sentence

of the entry seems to imply that he owned a part of it before William Bailey did, and may possibly have built the house himself. The entry is as follows:

HOUSE AND LOT IN POUGHKEEPSIE DUTCHESS COUNTY.

On the 10th day of October 1791 by Indenture of Lease and Release conveyed to William Bailey a certain Messuage or Lot of Land in the Town of Poughkeepsie and Thomas Norton the 30th of March 1792 in like manner conveyed to the said William Bailey one other Messuage or Lot adjoining the above and

William Bailey being so seized in Fee of the aforesaid two Messuages or Lots mortgaged the same to the Loan Officers of Dutchess County to secure the Payment of a certain Sum of Money he had taken on Loan from that Office and afterwards to wit, on the 3th day of February 1794 (the said Mortgage being unredeemed & in full force) by Indenture of Release conveyed the said two Messuages and Lots to Cadwallader D. Colden in Fee for consideration of £625 and the said Colden and Maria his wife executed a Mortgage of the Premises for securing the Payment of £525 due to said William Bailey, and on

The 10th November 1799 the said Cadwallader D. Colden and Maria his Wife for the Consideration of £800 by Indenture of Release duly made and executed by them conveyed the said two Messuages & Lots to James Scott Smith Esquire in Fee Simple And the said James Scott Smith on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ executed a Mortgage of the same for securing the Payment of a Debt due from the said James Scott Smith to him as will appear by the Register of the same in the Clerks Office in said County.

In the Term of April in the year 1799 John Starks Robinson obtained a Judgment in the Supreme Court of Judicature of the said State against the said James Scott Smith for 18504 Dollars & eleven Cents and a Writ of Testatum Fieri Facies was thereupon issued out of the said Court to the Sheriff of Dutchess County who in virtue thereof and for Want of Goods and Chattles of said Smith to satisfy said Judgment seized the said Messuages and Lots of Land and having advertised the same according to Law exposed the same to sale at public Auction and the said George Clinton being the highest Bidder they were struck off to him accordingly and -

William Radcliff the Sheriff aforesaid by Indenture bearing date the 10th day of October 1790 under his Hand and seal duly made and executed as Sheriff aforesaid conveyed the same and all the Estate Right Title and Interest of the said James Scott Smith therein or thereto to the said George Clinton in Fee Simple for the consideration of 100 Dollars. The said Messuages and Lots, being bounded and described as follows, to wit

All that certain Messuage or House and Lot of Ground situate lying and being in the Village of Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess Beginning at the Northeasterly Corner of the Lot of Thomas Warner running thence along the said Thomas Warners Lot Southerly one hundred and sixty five feet, Thence Easterly one hundred and one Foot to the Southwest Corner of Thomas Mott's Lot Thence Northerly along the said Thomas Mott's Lot one hundred and sixty five feet to the street called Cannon Street Thence west erty along the said Street to the Place of Beginning Containing one quarter of an Acre and twenty one Perches and seven thirty thirds of a Perch of Land

Besides this there are many papers in the Clinton Manuscripts in Albany (Vol. 42) referring to this property and showing that there was considerable litigation over it. Clinton was out of office in 1790, and was rather closely associated with several prominent residents of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County in real estate and other business matters. It seems likely that some tradition would have connected his name with the Cannon Street house if he had ever lived in it, but he was certainly often in Poughkeepsie from this time until his election as Vice-President in 1808. He was elected Governor again in 1801 and served till 1804, and about at the expiration of his term purchased of Samuel Pinkney the Casper Kill farms, where he built a house which stood until a few years ago at what is now called Clinton Point. This house he certainly lived in at least as a summer residence. The deeds for the place are not on record, but the consent to sell, November 1st, 1814, is recorded in Liber 25 of Deeds, page 66, signed by Elizabeth Tallmadge and Maria Beckman, "daughters and heirs of the late Vice President George Clinton, Esq.," George Clinton Genet, Henry James Genet, Maria Louisa Genet, Charles Alexander Genet, Cornelia T. Genet, grandchildren; Ann Varick, a devisee of George Washington Clinton, son of George Clinton, and George William Floyd Clinton (infant), son of George W. Clinton.

It remains to be said of the Cannon Street house that nearly all its known occupants and owners were prominent men. Cadwallader D. Colden, afterwards Mayor of New York, was a lawyer of high standing, and a grandson of one of the last Colonial Governors. James Scott Smith, whose wealth is shown by the size of the judgment against him, was the first president of the Village of Poughkeepsie. The endorsements on the back of the mortgage to the loan commissioners show that Jeremiah Hageman paid several installments of the interest before Clinton's purchase. Smith's payments are recorded, but no payment from Colden. This mortgage remained in force until it was paid by George B. Everson in 1813. The big chimneys and other features of the house are evidences of antiquity, but it seems unlikely that it was built before the street was opened. The interior contains evidence that the western section of the house was an addition, but made at a very early period, and it is probable that the rich men who owned it during the first half of the Nineteenth Century changed it considerably. The eastern wing is of course a comparatively recent addition.

Returning to the 1790 map, it should be noted that Myndert Van Kleeck lived on the corner of Market and Cannon Streets. He sold in 1790 to Theodorius

Bailey, whose name appears there on the village map made in that year. The William Bailey mortgage, and George Clinton's field book, describe the Clinton property as beginning at Thomas Warner's north-east corner. Warner had purchased, in 1785 (Liber 10, 310), a lot beginning at the northeast corner of Myndert Van Kleeck's garden fence along "the new street," and this is the first deed to a lot on the street I have seen. As already noted, it was called "the new lane or Cannon Street," in a deed of the next year, 1786 (Van Kleeck to Melancthon L. Woolsey to "the second lot from the east end thereof"). The names Market, Main and Pine Streets are perhaps later additions to the 1790 map. They may have been used at that time, but were certainly not fixed, for Market Street is called Main on maps and deeds of later date. Probably none of the names had yet been given with authority, and it does not appear that any of the new roads or streets surveyed in 1788 and mapped in 1790 were actually worked by the town authorities before the incorporation of the Village of Poughkeepsie. At any rate I have been unable to identify them in the descriptions of roads or road sections of which pathmasters were appointed. These in 1798, were as follows:

- 1 From Court House to Baltus Frairs..... Robert Noxon
- 2 From Frairs to Major Forts including the Road  
from Gills to Anthony's..... Elias Trave
- 3 From Anthony Hoffmans to John Wilsons.....  
Thomas Nelson
- 4 From John Wilsons to Bartholome Gays..... Abraham Pells
- 5 from the House of George Stewart Dec'd to the  
old Store including by Gerret Lamsings over the  
fall kill ..... Joseph Bowmar
- 6 from Court House to James Winans Encloding the  
Road to the Uning Store..... George B. Everson
- 7 from Sammel Smiths to Richard Davis Store.....  
Richard Davis
- 8 from Anthony Hoffmans Encloding from him to the  
house late of William Rider..... John Beckwith
- 9 from the house late of William Riders to Clinton  
line Encloding to Platts Bridge..... Elias Delong
- 10 from Semones house to the model of the bridge  
at Duncan Engrens ..... Isaac Hoffman
- 11 from Engrens stone house to Natz Brewers En-  
clud Booth Roads to the Crick..... Peter Burgan
- 12 from Engrens to Spaeken Kill..... Elias V. Benschoten
- 13 from Myndert Van Kleecks to Clinton Line Enclud  
from T. Frairs to Elias Duboys..... John Palmatier
- 14 from Casper Kill to Mesiers Bridge..... Nazareth Brewer
- 15 from Cornelius Brewers to Peter Leroy's Peter L. Lawm
- 16 from Burlingams to James Welses..... Caleb Bishop
- 17 from Bates to the Hook..... Abraham Van Wyck
- 18 from Van Brummels to Clinton line, near Soles.....  
Evert Pells
- 19 from Records to Clinton Line..... William Davis
- 20 from John Van Anden to Theodoris Bales Enclud  
ing the road to John Burruus..... John Van Anden

- 20 from Barnege to Locke's Land. Encluding the  
Road to Major Forts . . . . . Peter Miller  
22 from Vauseekles to Pells Mill. No path Master Chosen.

After this year roads were entered in the town book only by numbers. It is of course difficult to identify most of these roads. Nos. 1 and 2, however, are plainly the Post Road south, as Major Fort lived near the Casper Kill, in the old stone house still standing on the east side of the road. No. 14 is another section of the Post Road to Wappingers Falls (Mesiers Bridge). No. 6 is Union Street and No. 7 Pine Street. Nos. 3, 4 and 5 are perhaps sections of the Post Road north, the last including also Mill Street. Nos. 8 and 9 may be Main Street, and the Filkintown Road, the last (to Platt's bridge) including what is now generally called the Ayrault road. Nos. 10, 11 and 12 may be parts of the New Hackensack road and branches from it. No. 20 seems to include Cherry Street, "the road to John Burms." Some of the others may be studied out by reference to the map made in 1798. (see frontispiece).

#### THE CHURCHES.

The survey of the street leading to the Episcopal Church on the Post Road suggests the return of its members as the prejudices of the Revolution began to lessen. The organization of Christ Church had never entirely lapsed, for elections of wardens and vestrymen were held every Easter Tuesday throughout the war. The first rector after the war bore the Dutch name of Henry Van Dyke, who took charge of the churches of Fishkill and Poughkeepsie in 1787. For several years the church had a hard struggle and

upon which the church had taken a mortgage in 1796, opposite the Academy, was purchased in 1799 and is still standing, now used as a blacksmith shop. It was at one time the home of the Street family, and Mrs. Levi P. Morton is said to have been born in it.

The Dutch Church, by dissensions over the language question, seems again to have made an opportunity for the Episcopalians or for some one else. After having had the very able services of Rev. John H. Livingston during the last years of the war it remained for seven years without a settled pastor. The Dutch language was finally given up during this period and the church was incorporated in 1780, with Henry Hegeman, Peter Tappen, Isaac Romine, John Frear, Myndert Van Kleeck, Henry Livingston, Jr., Abraham Fort and Benjamin Westervelt as elders and deacons.

The Presbyterians were not yet strong enough to organize permanently, and Methodist circuit riders were only just beginning to come into the neighborhood. The first recorded Methodist sermon in Poughkeepsie was in 1796, when Rev. Freeborn Garretson preached in the Dutch Church.

#### THE FIRST STATE SCHOOL MONEY.

In January, 1795, the Legislature returned for a final and very short session in Poughkeepsie, January 6th to 14th, then adjourned to New York, where the session was resumed on the 20th. In his message, read at the organization in Poughkeepsie, Governor Clinton recommended "an act for the encouragement of schools," and in accordance with his recommendation the legislation which became the foundation of the system of State aid to the schools was passed near the close of the session in New York. Under this act the following apportionment of school moneys was made in Dutchess County, as recorded in the town book:

"Whereas, By an Act of the Legislature of this state Entitled an Act for the Encouragement of schools, Passed the ninth day of April 1795 among other things Therein contained the sum of £2,100 is distributed to the county of Dutchess, to be Apportioned to the purposes therein mentioned among the Several Towns of said County. In pursuance then of the act aforesaid the Board of Supervisors for said county certify that to the Town of Rhinebeck is allotted the sum of £216 5s. 3d." etc.

In the record book of the town of Poughkeepsie the allotments are written out as above, but will be more easily read if tabulated as subsequent allotments were.

Rev. L. M. Vincent's "Methodism in Poughkeepsie," p. 13.



*Episcopal Parsonage House.  
Photographed 1897.*

in 1797 Trinity Church of New York assisted it with a gift of £500 for a "parsonage house." A building,

|                         | £   | s. | d. |
|-------------------------|-----|----|----|
| Town of Rhinebeck ..... | 216 | 5  | 3  |
| " " North East .....    | 154 | 1  | 0  |
| " " Amenia .....        | 117 | 10 | 3  |
| " " Clinton .....       | 81  | 14 | 0  |
| " " Frankling .....     | 81  | 10 | 3  |
| " " Pawling .....       | 102 | 11 | 3  |
| " " Phillips .....      | 116 | 10 | 6  |
| " " North East .....    | 115 | 10 | 0  |
| " " Stamford .....      | 97  | 15 | 3  |
| " " Poughkeepsie .....  | 152 | 1  | 6  |
| " " Washington .....    | 120 | 0  | 0  |
| " " Fishkill .....      | 207 | 12 | 3  |
| " " Carmel .....        | 100 | 12 | 3  |
| " " Frederick .....     | 80  | 10 | 6  |
| " " Beckmans .....      | 167 | 17 | 6  |

"After the treasurer's fees are deducted Given under our hands and seals the 30th Day of May 1795."

TABNA MORTON,  
 RICHARD D. CONKLIN,  
 AARON STOCKHOLM,  
 JESSE OAKLEY,  
 JOSEPH CRANE, JR.,  
 EZRA THOMPSON,  
 SAMUEL TOWNER,  
 E. V. BUNSCHOEN,  
 EBENEZER MOTT,  
 EDWARD PER LEE,  
 JOSEPH NOLLA,  
 WILLIAM TABER.

Attests, RICHARD EVERETT,  
 Town Clerk.

The first commissioners of schools for the town of Poughkeepsie were Jacob Radcliff, Archibald Stuart and Samuel Luckey, elected in 1706.

INCORPORATION AS A VILLAGE.

Advertisements of property for sale during this period usually refer to the "town of Poughkeepsie," as if the name "town" were popularly applied only to the central section shown on the map made in 1700, where most of the stores were located, as well as the two churches, the Court House, the lawyers offices and the homes of leading citizens. By 1708, six stores were advertising in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, and also Knower & Hobson's hat manufactory. It is probable, of course, that there were several others not advertising. One or two of the stores were at the river, the rest on the hill in Market or Main Streets. John P. Vermont advertised, at his store, a few doors north of the Court House, "dry goods, West India goods, ironmongery, carpenters' tools, Croekery, &c.": Van Kleeck & Thorn advertised a similar assortment; John Cooke, "a few doors east of Anthony Hoffman's," advertised wines, rum, sugar, teas and a general stock of groceries, with tobacco, glass and stone ware, nails, &c.: Dr. James L. Van Kleeck advertised a "Cheap Medical

Store," and stated that "Dr. Van Kleeck will give his advice to farmers, who shall call at his store for medicines without expense." Anthony Ernest advertised "a wholesale and retail ironmongery and hardware store," with a long and tempting list of articles, from anvils and vises to tooth brushes, tinder boxes and ink powder. He flattered himself that country storekeepers would "save the time and expense of sending or going to New York for such goods." Boards and planks were offered at "the Col-rock landing" by William Rider, lumberer, and a variety of articles at the general store at the upper landing, where also Robert L. Livingston's mill advertised boards and planks, plaster, etc. No name is signed to the first upper landing advertisement,<sup>1</sup> but it contains this interesting note at the end:

"N. B. The FERRY is now established upon a regular plan, and Travellers to the Westward will find it much to their convenience to cross the River at the above place, as it shortens their journey, and they may be assured they will meet with no detention."

This doubtless indicates the beginning of regular ferry service at Poughkeepsie, though the ferry had probably been established for several years. Richard Davis, Gilbert Livingston, Valentine Baker, Walter Livingston, Peter Tappen and Noah Elting applied for grants of water lots "opposite Poughkeepsie and New Paltz" in 1701, which seems to imply an intention to start a ferry. Gilbert Livingston and Peter Tappen then owned the Union Landing and land was granted to them in 1702. Noah Elting lived on the west side of the river and is there said to have established the first ferry, but local tradition has usually assigned the beginning of the enterprise to the Hoffmans on this side. There seems to be no record of a franchise from the State. Doubtless travellers before 1708 usually had crossed at the older Van Keuren Ferry, later Theophilus Anthony's (Milton Ferry), four miles below Poughkeepsie. The first local ferry is said to have been a barge or scow rowed by slaves.

All this shows that the little town near the Court House had begun to specialize in storekeeping, required better facilities of travel and would naturally soon be looking for incorporation as a village. Just what agitation, if any, preceded incorporation, is not known.

The first charter, passed March 27th, 1790, says in its preamble, "it has been represented to the Legislature by the inhabitants of the Village of Poughkeepsie, that the existing laws are inadequate to an-

<sup>1</sup>All these are from the Poughkeepsie Journal of May 22, 1708.

swer the end of enabling them to regulate their inferior police." The word "police" must not be taken in its present meaning; there was no police force besides a watchman or two and the town constables for many years. The charter created a board of trustees to be composed of "five discreet freeholders" elected annually on the third Tuesday in May, by the "freeholders and inhabitants of the said village, qualified to vote at town meetings." At the same time the voters were authorized to choose "not less than three nor more than five judicious inhabitants, being freeholders, as assessors; one treasurer, being also a freeholder; one collector, and as many fire wardens as the trustees may direct." Any one who should refuse to serve as trustee, assessor or fire warden was liable to a fine of \$25.00.

The trustees were given power to make "such prudential by-laws, rules and regulations, as they from time to time shall deem meet and proper, and such in particular as are relative to public markets, streets, and draining, filling up, paying, keeping in order, and improving the same; relative to slaughter houses and nuisances generally; relative to a town watch and lighting the streets; relative to the number of taverns or inns to be licensed; relative to restraining geese, swine, or cattle of any kind; relative to the better improving their common lands; relative to the inspection of weights and measures; relative to erecting and regulating hay-scales, and relative to anything whatsoever that may concern the public and good government of the said village; but no such by-laws shall extend to the regulating or ascertaining the prices of any commodities or articles of provision, except the article of bread,<sup>1</sup> that may be offered for sale."

A special section is devoted to bread. This matter is covered in the next chapter.

Firemen were to be exempted "from serving as jurymen, or in the militia" except in cases of actual invasion of this State, or insurrection therein: "Provided that the number of firemen do not exceed twenty."

The boundaries of Poughkeepsie as given in this first village charter remain the boundaries of the City of Poughkeepsie to-day, as follows:

Beginning at the mouth of a small brook falling into Hudson's river, at a small distance south of a point of land commonly called ship yard point, which mouth of said brook is on the land of the late Henry Livingston, deceased; thence east, as the magnetic needle now points, one hundred and thirty chains to a stone set in the ground, on which is engraven the word "Corporation;" again, from the mouth of the brook aforesaid, northerly along Hudson's river, including the flats or shoals between high waters' mark and the channel of the said river, to the mouth of another small brook, or where the same joins the waters of Hudson's river aforesaid, which last mentioned brook is commonly known by the name of Kidney's creek or kill, and divides the land of Robert L. Livingston from the land of Abraham Pells; then from the mouth of the said brook last mentioned up the middle of the same, however it runs, to the post road; thence due east as the magnetic needle now points so far as that on a straight line due west it will be one hundred and thirty chains from Hudson's river, to a stone set in the ground, on which is engraven the word "Corporation;" and thence in a direct line to the stone set in the ground first above mentioned.

Henry Livingston's map, made at the time of incorporation, shows just what the village of Poughkeepsie was then. There is no record of a census apart from the town for a number of years but the village must have had more than 1,000 inhabitants in 1800, for the town had 3,246.



## CHAPTER V.

FROM THE INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE TO THE CLOSE OF THE WAR OF 1812—VILLAGE ORGANIZATION—THE DUTCH CHURCH AND THE MARKET—THE FIRE DEPARTMENT—THE VILLAGE STREETS—RIVER INDUSTRIES—FALL KILL INDUSTRIES—OTHER MANUFACTORIES—THE VASSAR BREWERY—DEVELOPING A BUSINESS CENTRE—BANKS, SCHOOLS, ETC.—CHURCHES—NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICS.

For some reason, of which I have found no record, the village of Poughkeepsie seems to have made two starts before it fairly got going. The "freeholders and inhabitants" were directed to meet annually on the first Tuesday of May and choose "five discreet freeholders" as trustees. They did so meet in 1700 and elected James S. Smith, Valentine Baker, Andrew Billings, Ebenezer Badger and Thomas Nelson, the first of whom became president of the board. Doubtless at the same meeting assessors, a treasurer, a collector and fire wardens were also elected. Several ordinances<sup>1</sup> passed by the trustees in 1700 have come down to us, among them that establishing the "bee hive" as the device on the corporation seal, an ordinance for the collection of taxes and "a law to prevent horses running loose in the streets and highways, to prevent racing and violent riding and driving from yards &c into and upon the streets," etc. There is therefore no doubt that the corporation was organized and that the officials elected exercised the authority conferred upon them by the charter. Possibly there was a drawn battle over the second election—it was a time of strong political feeling—possibly merely some technical failure to comply with the law. At any rate the charter was reenacted in exactly the same language by the legislature on April 8th, 1801. No village ordinances for the year of 1800, and no list of trustees for that year have been handed down. It would seem, however, that the corporate life of the village was regarded as continuous, because ordinances passed in 1700 continued in force apparently without reenactment. Regular minutes of the proceedings of the trustees were not kept until 1803 and we have the names of only the presidents of the board for the years 1801 and 1802. That of G. B. Van Ness, 1802,

<sup>1</sup>Much of this information is from a pamphlet printed in 1843 by Platt & Ramey, entitled "Charter and Laws of the Corporation of the Village of Poughkeepsie," and also from an earlier pamphlet not dated but apparently printed about 1820.

was but recently found in a newspaper for that year, but not a single complete copy of a Poughkeepsie newspaper for 1800 is known to exist. The first book of minutes covers the period from the election of May, 1803, to Oct. 8th, 1817, and the first page is as follows:

### RECORDS OF THE CORPORATION.

At a meeting of the trustees of the Village of Poughkeepsie held at the Court House in said village on the third Tuesday in May 1803 the following persons were duly elected by the freeholders and inhabitants of said village, officers for the ensuing year, viz:

|                              |   |              |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Andrew Billings              | } | Trustees     |
| Ebenezer Badger              |   |              |
| Robert Noxon                 |   |              |
| Jesse Oakley &               |   |              |
| Robert H. Livingston         |   |              |
| Richard Everitt              | } | Assessors    |
| Robert Noxon                 |   |              |
| John Manney                  |   |              |
| Peter B. Morgan              | } | Fire Wardens |
| Matthew Caldwell             |   |              |
| John N. Bailey               |   |              |
| Leonard B. Lewis, Collector. |   |              |
| William Emott, Treasurer.    |   |              |

### VOTED.

That the sum of two hundred and fifty Dollars be raised in this village for the purpose of digging wells; or otherwise supplying the fire engine with water, for repairing or procuring fire-hooks and hozen to the engine, and for other contingent purposes for the ensuing year.

On the next page is the record of a meeting "held at Baldwin's Hotel on the twenty-sixth day of May, 1803," at which meeting Andrew Billings was elected President and was directed to procure "a large folio book well bound in which are to be transcribed the Charter & Laws of the Village—and also a smaller book in which are to be kept the minutes of the proceedings & accounts of the corporation." Among other things it was resolved:



That that part of the Law passed March 2nd 1803 entitled "An act to prevent damage being done by swine in the Village of Poughkeepsie," which refers to the Pound Masters advertising be and hereby is repealed—and that instead thereof the following is ordained viz: That the Pound Master shall affix one advertisement at the door of the Pound, one at the Market and one at the Court House door.

There was therefore, already a fire engine, a pound and a village market, perhaps all three inherited from the town organization. In fact there was also a fire company, as appears from the minutes of a meeting held July 18th, when the firemen petitioned for "the privilege of nominating persons to fill all vacancies which may happen in the said company." The market stood on the southeast corner of Market and Main Streets, adjoining the Dutch burying ground. The stalls or stands in it were sold each year at public auction and in 1803 went to John Arden, \$7.00; James Slater, \$3.00; Mr. Jefferies, \$3.00 and George Markle \$3.00. Michael Verien also rented a stall for a part of the year. The market, the firemen and the corporation wells and pumps fill up a good deal of space in the early records. The first especially gave trouble.

In November, 1805, the Consistory of the Dutch Church gave a lease of the old grave-yard for 21 years to Tunis Van Kleeck, John Everitt and Randall S. Street, and at a special meeting of the trustees, on the 13th, these gentlemen appeared with the demand that the "Market House now standing opposite the Dutch burial ground be moved." The trustees showed fight at once and required the "applicants to produce the title Deed under which the Trustees of the Dutch Church claim the land in question." A public meeting was called for Dec. 5th at the Court House and there was a large attendance. William Emott, George P. Oakley and John Sayers, the trustees present, made a long statement (covering more than three pages of the minutes), of their position and read a copy of the deed of 1718, which they said, "conveys the land in question to several persons in trust for the neighborhood in order that they might build a church and inter their deceased friends there." The question was at once raised as to the right of the church to use or allow the use of the land for any other purposes, and the people voted by a large majority not to move the market, but to raise \$100 to defend their position. Suit was begun in chancery by the village to determine the issue, and the lessees of the property also brought ejectment suits against the lessees of the market stalls. The matter dragged along for a year, the Chancellor meanwhile having granted an injunction against the erection of buildings on the ground. There was an agreement in November, 1806, to postpone action and under date of Jan. 10th, 1807, it

was "Resolved unanimously that the market be removed to the west side of Market Street opposite to where it now stands and adjoining the Court House yard." Bills for \$75,851<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> were audited in May for the removal, and from that time until 1814 or later the building stood in the middle of the street, though it is probable there was no roadway on the west side of it until after the Court House fence and yard were abolished. In 1814 Tallmadge & Bloom, attorneys, advised the trustees that they could not "maintain the market in the street in opposition to the Highland Turnpike," which then controlled the Post Road and had entered complaint. Another series of public meetings was held and finally the building was sold, Sept. 7th, for \$65. It was removed but was rebuilt by order of the trustees in 1818, and some persons are still living who remember it. One or the other of these old market buildings was removed to the east side of Academy Street, No. 31, and converted into a dwelling which remains in use.

Although the lessees of the burial ground seem to have won their case, only small buildings of a temporary nature were erected there until after 1830, and interments are said to have continued there until about 1817. Samuel Neilson, the Irish patriot, who died of yellow fever in Poughkeepsie in 1803, was doubtless buried there, and his body was moved about 1830 by Egbert B. Killey, then one of the editors of the *Telegraph*, to the Episcopal Cemetery (purchased 1828) on Montgomery Street. It was again disinterred, Sept. 15th, 1886, and removed with appropriate ceremony to a plot in the Rural Cemetery. The following interesting account of Neilson's life and death is taken from *The Political Barometer* of Sept. 6th, 1803:

"Died in this village, on Monday, the 20th ult., Mr. Samuel Neilson, a native of Ireland, and lately from that country. He was one of those famous Irish patriots who, with Fitzgerald, Grattan, O'Connor, Bond Tone, McRevin, &c., headed the United Irishmen in their attempts to obtain a reform in parliament, and their subsequent struggles for liberty, which finally brought upon them the severest vengeance and cruelty of the British government, after the failure of the French expedition to assist them. He, for some years, conducted the celebrated paper, the *Northern Star*; his property was destroyed or confiscated, and he was kept in close confinement, for the space of about six years, the latter part of which time, he assisted in negotiations between the United Irishmen and the British government. \* \* \* Mr. Neilson was never liberated from prison until he was sent on board ship, with a number of other prisoners, at a few hours warning, without even being allowed the liberty of bidding his dearest friends adieu; he arrived in this country, we understand, about 10 or 11 months ago.

"Some few weeks since Mr. Neilson issued proposals for publishing an evening paper in New York; driven from thence by the calamitous disease which now prevails in the city, he was taken sick on his passage up the river, landed here on Sunday, and died on Monday morning; his remains were decently interred in the Dutch Presbyterian burying ground in this village."

There was evidently an engine house for the fire engine on the Court House lot before 1803, though the first reference to it in the minutes of the trustees is under date of March 7, 1804:

That the President employ some person to repair the two public pumps in this village and also the door of the Engine House by clearing away the obstructions occasioned by the ice and snow—and that the engine be cleaned and oiled.

Apparently the engine had not been much in use during the winter. The first corporation well was at the Court House corner, and Sept. 12, 1803, a second well was ordered to "be digged . . . nearly opposite the drain made by the turnpike company opposite the lane between the houses of James Tallmadge and Stephen Durando." This was on the north side of Main Street, the lane mentioned afterwards becoming Garden Street. Even before this the matter of a general water supply had been agitated, as appears from the following under date of July 6, 1803: "Ordered that the trustees view the situation of the ground around the village in order to determine the practicability of conducting water to the village for the purpose of extinguishing fires." At the same meeting two good ladders "and also one good strong fire hook on each side of which is to be affixed a chain" were ordered. At the meeting of May 2nd, 1804, the firemen reported "the following persons as constituting their company to wit:

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Richard Harris    | Joshua Degruff        |
| John Nelson       | Simon I. Frear        |
| John Armstrong    | Joseph Fowel          |
| Wm. Smith         | Joseph Maxon          |
| Moses Yelverton   | John E. Pells         |
| John Field        | Casper Billequist     |
| Chris. Marglea    | James Tallmadge, Jun. |
| William R. Barnes | Geo. P. Oakley.       |

"Mr. Joseph Fowel was elected Captain of said company in the place of John Smith dec'd. The trustees also chose four firemen whose places were vacant viz William Kidney, John Hobson, Matthew Caldwell & John Swartwout. Messrs. Gilbert Livingston, Jesse Oakley, John Davis, Valentine Baker, Stephen Hoyt & Levy McKen were chosen "*Bag Men*" whose duty it is in case of fire to take charge of all property which may be endangered & deliver it over to the owner on application being made."

On Jan. 3d, 1805, it was resolved "that there shall

be proper persons appointed and denominated as Hook and ladder men," and soon afterwards a new fire house was built on the southwest corner of the Court House lot "adjoining the house of Peter B. Morgan." This was evidently on Union Street. James Emott's barn on Market Street was used as an engine house in 1806 and he was paid for its use "by balancing the fine laid . . . of 5 dollars for unlawfully burning his chimney." Well No. 3 was dug 1805, in the neighborhood of Hamilton and Main Streets opposite William Emott's. In Sept, 1811, a second engine company was organized and a house was built for it "near Mrs. Livingston's office," (north side of Main Street east of Catherine), and Well No. 4 was dug close by, April 5, 1814, a third fire engine was purchased of George Booth, and a third company was organized.

Along with the minutes of a special meeting held Sept. 23, 1805, the following inventory of village property is recorded:

- 1 Market House
- 1 Common Seal
- 1 Statute Book
- 1 Record Book
- 3 Wells—pumps
- 1 Fire Engine House
- 1 Fire Engine & Apparatus
- 4 Fire Hooks
- 1 Fire Pole
- 4 Ladders—No. 1, 2, 3 & 4.
- 2 Tackle blocks—with a fall & a spare piece of rope
- A Tri-Shares for the purpose of assisting in cleaning out wells.
- 2 Tubs for do do
- 1 Pail
- 1 Iron pump Hook
- 1 Iron spare Pump Handle
- A piece of Iron part of pump apparatus—lost
- A parcel of Plank & Timber which was taken from the old fixtures of Well No. 1 & 2
- A Map of the Village with Wm. Emott.
- A Screw for Hoes—with do
- The exemptionification & other papers relative to the Village now (June 24, 1806) with Wm. Emott President.
- 1 Pair of Scales & Beams & Sett copper or brass weights from 1-16 oz up to 2lb inclusive for the use of the Bread Inspector.

It will be noted that fire buckets are not included in the inventory. They were the property of the citizens and every house was required to be provided with them. There are numerous records of punishment or prosecution threatened for failure in this matter, and all male citizens "from the ages of 12 to 60" were expected to turn out at fires and assist the firemen by forming lines and passing buckets. In an ordinance dated Jan. 27, 1806, the firemen are directed "to collect all the buckets and leave them at the

court house," after a fire. The ordinance seems to have been passed for the purpose of organizing a new company or of reorganizing the old one. It provides that among the officers shall be "three fire engineers and four managers of hooks and ladders and eight persons to be denominated the committee of trust to take charge of the property endangered by fire."

The Bread Inspector above mentioned was an important officer in early village days. The first one named was John Forbus, 6th July, 1803. The charter (Art. 5) provided that the trustees should have power to enact an ordinance prohibiting any baker or other person "from selling any bread at any higher price or rate than bread of the like quality at the time of such sale shall be assized in and for the City of New York." Such an ordinance was evidently enforced from an early date, as the following notice from the *Political Barometer* in 1802 shows:

ASSIZE OF BREAD.

At a meeting of the trustees of the Village of Poughkeepsie, on the 4th day of August instant, Ordered That the Assize of Bread after the 11th inst. shall be as follows:

|   |                                     |      |     |    |     |
|---|-------------------------------------|------|-----|----|-----|
| 1 | Loaf of superfine flour shall weigh | 1 11 | for | 6  | cts |
| 1 | Loaf do do                          | 3 6  | for | 12 |     |
| 1 | " com. flour                        | 1 13 | for | 6  |     |
| 1 | " do do                             | 3 10 | for | 12 |     |
| 1 | " Rye                               | 2 12 | for | 6  |     |
| 1 | " do do                             | 5 18 | for | 12 |     |

G. B. VAN NESS, President.

Similar notices appear in the village minutes and in the newspapers for many years. Every time the price of flour rose the bakers petitioned for a change, and when the price fell the citizens kept the trustees to their duty, of increasing the loaf or decreasing the price. From time to time lists of bakers were given in the village minutes.

THE COURT HOUSE FIRE, 1806.

The most important fire of this period was that of Sept. 25th, 1806, which consumed the Court House, the historic building in which the great men of 1788 had met to ratify the constitution. It is seldom that one gets much local news from the early newspapers, but the *Journal* departed from the rule this time, and in its issue of Tuesday, Sept. 30th, published this report:

FIRE.—On Thursday night last, between the hours of ten and eleven, the inhabitants of this village were alarmed by the cry of fire which proved to be in the Court House. It originated in one of the lower apartments of the jail, from which, notwithstanding the great exertions that were made to stop its progress, it

extended between the ceiling and the floor in the second story, to the court room and in a little time the whole building was enveloped in flames. Several of the adjacent buildings were much exposed to the fire, particularly Mr. Morgan's two houses which were the buildings nearest to the Court House. But owing to the perfect calmness of the evening, and the dampness of the houses, in consequence of the rain which fell during the preceding afternoon Mr. Morgan's buildings, by the exertions of the citizens, were preserved, and the fire extinguished without doing farther damage than destroying the Court House.

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

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

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

On the next page of the same paper is the following notice:

TO THE PUBLIC.

The sheriff of the County of Dutchess tenders his most sincere thanks to the Firemen and Citizens of this village and county, for their exertions, in his absence, in assisting Mr. Forbus to secure the criminals; and their exertions to extinguish the fire at the late destruction of the jail and Court-House in this village.

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

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

JOSEPH THORP, Sheriff.

Poughkeepsie, September 20th, 1806.

John Forbus, the deputy sheriff, and his assistants, succeeded in saving the public documents entire, as he tells us in a notice appended to that of the Sheriff, but doubtless some things that would have been of historical interest were burned in this fire as well as in that of 1785. No description of this historic Court House has been found. References to it in surveys etc., show, however, that it was built of stone or brick, had a steeple and was probably not much smaller in size than the building which succeeded it. Maps made during its existence seem to show that it covered the whole space from Main to Union Streets. (See pp. 65 and 71, and also cut, p. 78.)

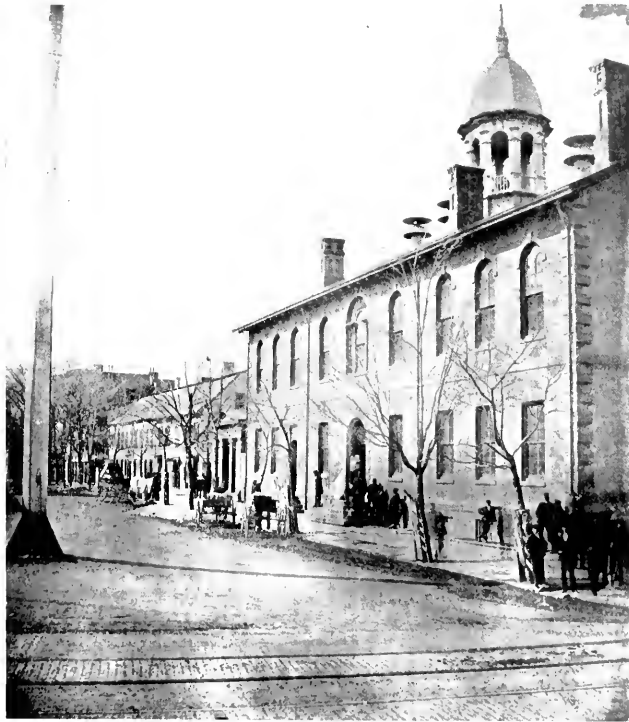
Very soon after the fire communications began to appear in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in favor of rebuild-

ing in a new location. Levi McKeen, who owned a large farm north of Main Street, offered ground for the building free of charge, and it was stated that the old site on Market Street could be sold for \$5,000, saving that amount to the county. Possibly some one unearthed the old Van den Bogart lease, providing that the property should revert to that family if used for any other purpose than that for which it was granted, but more probably public convenience determined the decision to rebuild on the old site. At any rate the

originally covered with stucco, but have seen no record showing when the change was made.

#### THE VILLAGE STREETS.

The Levi McKeen mentioned above, lived in a house a part of which, at least, stood until a few years ago incorporated in the Cottage Hill School buildings. It was perhaps originally the Bodewein Lacont place shown on the 1770 map, and the lane leading to it became Garden Street, and was so named apparently be-



*The Court House and Old "Lawyers' Row." Photograph taken about 1870.*

supervisors did so decide and the Court House which stood for almost one hundred years (until 1903) was built in 1800. The little building for the surrogate on the corner of Union Street, was erected much later, apparently in 1847, and the separate jail not until 1860. Dungeons of the grim old type, characteristic of the days when the comfort and health of criminals were not considered worthy of thought, were provided in the cellar for the worst offenders. I have been told that the stone walls of the Court House were not

cause it led to Levi McKeen's garden gate not far north of Mill Street.

Occasionally one gets from the records of the trustees a little picture of one of the old streets. Under date of Nov. 2nd, 1803, the trustees resolved, "That James Moore be allowed the sum of four Dollars to level and gravel so much of the old Dutch Cemetery as lies between the fence of the said cemetery and the ditch of the turnpike." Main Street had recently been worked by the Dutchess Turnpike

Company from the Court House east, and there were deep ditches on each side. The same conditions prevailed in all the other streets and very little grading had been done except to make the water run through the ditches. The resolution quoted seems to indicate also the first sidewalk improvement on the south side of Main Street. Poughkeepsie was undoubtedly a very muddy little village in wet weather, but improvements were coming. For the present—the early part of the period before the War of 1812—the chief business was laying out new streets, especially in the region west of the Post Road where they were demanded by the development of the river trade. The town (not the village) road commissioners had charge of this matter, and were particularly active in the year 1800. On the 6th of May in that year they extended Main Street to the river, "at or near the place commonly called the Caul rock landing," which had become too important to tolerate longer the winding approach from Mill Street. The old road was straightened out and extended south to the "road leading from the court house to Everson's store" (Union Street) and became Clover Street. Montgomery Street was extended westward "to the Road of Richard Davis" (Pine Street) as a part of another road to the river, following the lines somewhat of Lincoln Avenue, Columbia and Prospect Streets, to John Reed's landing near Ship-Yard Point (Fox's). Prospect, Livingston, Fayette, Commerce and Navigation Streets had been mapped in the same year in a partition of the "Shipyard Property" among the heirs of Henry Livingston who died in 1799. These streets were all soon afterwards accepted by the commissioners though some with changed names. Navigation Street is several times mentioned in later surveys and was intended to run along the water front. Washington Street became Jefferson, and Commerce Street was mapped about where the present Columbia is. There was of course an old road leading to the ship-yard and Reade's landing, but the rest remained "paper streets" for a considerable number of years. The first village ordinance<sup>2</sup> naming the streets was passed Nov. 6th, 1801, giving Market, Main, Washington, Academy,

Canon, Church, Mill, Union, Pine, Livingston, Jefferson, Columbia, Clover, Bridge, and Montgomery their present names.

On March 11th, 1803, the commissioners laid out Water Street, from Union "to the Creek opposite the South west corner of Martin Hoffman & Co. Lower Grist Mill," and in May it was extended southward to "the Road leading to Winans shipyard," and Jefferson Street was extended across Fayette to Livingston. August 23d, 1806, Mill Street was extended east of Washington "to the publick road that leads from the turnpike by the Mill of the said Gerardus Smith" (Smith Street), and Hamilton was extended north to meet it. By an ordinance passed Sept. 10th, 1806, Laurel, Tulip, Hamilton, Smith, Water, John, Cherry, Mechanic and Garden Streets were named.

Before this the improvement of the roads leading into Poughkeepsie as turnpikes had begun. The Dutchess turnpike was surveyed in 1802 by John Beadle, father of the late Dr. Beadle, who formerly owned the Tower place on the north road, and in May of that year advertisements appeared in the Poughkeepsie papers, the *Journal* and *Political Barometer*, asking for subscriptions to the stock, the commissioners named being William Emott, Poughkeepsie; Robert Abbott, Pleasant Valley; Zachæus Newcomb and Timothy Beadle, Clinton; Rufus Peck, Amenia; William Thorn, Washington; Isaac Smith, Amenia, and Joseph Balding, Pawlings. The road was surveyed from "the North East corner of the Court House" and the courses show much of interest about the old village.

## FROM THE SURVEY OF DUTCHESS TURNPIKE.

Map 29 A, Filed Aug. 31, 1804.

"Said road is in every place laid out four rods wide To wit; Beginning on the southern side of sd road, at the North East corner of the Court House, thence:

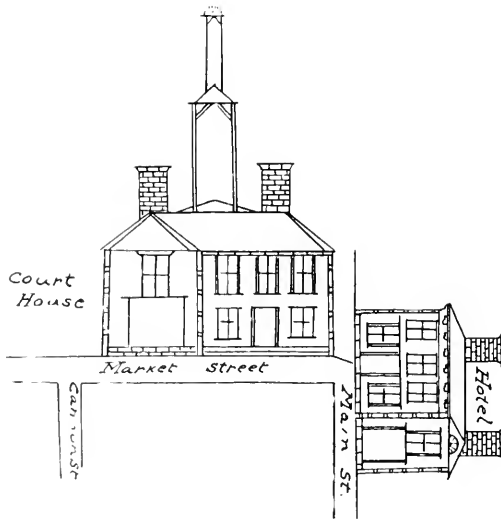
|       | D. | C. L. |  |
|-------|----|-------|--|
| n81e  | 0  | 35    | to the East Side of the Court House yard Main Street   |
| S63E  | 3  | 70    | to the Northwest Corner of M. Bosworth the Baker.  |
| S53E. | 11 | 00    | to the West Side of Acadamia Street.   |
| S30W  | 0  | 20    | along the West Side of Said Academy Street.  |
| S63E  | 0  | 25    | to a fast stone marked near the house of William Emott, Esq. From thence returned to the place of Beginning. |
| N34E  | 1  | 25    | to the South west post of Hotel.   |
| S64E  | 0  | 81    | to the South east post of the hotel.   |
| S66E  | 6  | 06    | to spot in Col. Talmadge's door yard found nearly west of the South west corner.                             |
| S52E  | 1  | 63    | To the south east part of Stephen Dorinda's Sitting post.  |

<sup>1</sup>Papers in County Clerk's Office. The commissioners for this division were Thomas Mitchell, Archibald Stewart and John Mott, appointed on petition of Gilbert Livingston, John H. Livingston, Henry Livingston, Robert H. Livingston, Gerardus Dyckink, Melancthon L. Wolsey, Jonas Platt, Paul Schenek, Smith Thompson and Cornelius Van Kleeck, (the last two assigns of Beekman Livingston, deceased).

<sup>2</sup>For this ordinance in full see Appendix. It will be noticed that Columbia Street extended from Reade's landing northeasterly to Jefferson. It included the road to the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club and a part of Prospect which was not named in the ordinance.

|      |       |  |
|------|-------|--|
| S70E | 7 25  | Opposite the South East Corner of Smith Thompson esq, 9 links from said house.   |
| S30W | 0 20  | to the South side of a locust tree opposite said house.  |
| S02E | 0 00  | opposite the East end of Francis Le-Roy's house seven links from said house.   |
| S00E | 4 25  | to the South west Corner of the House of John Sayr.  |
| S73E | 2 47  | opposite the East end of the House of Moses Yelverton.   |
| N82E | 5 25  | to a stone marked with X near the House occupied by Jared Sloan.   |
| S03E | 12 00 | to a notch in the west fence of Stephen Harris Garden.   |
| S07E | 1 05  | to a Hub in the Ground near the east end of a House of Francis Pells.  |
| S57E | 13 75 | Over the Old Road on the Land of Richard Everet to a black ash tree on the north loze (?) of the Road.                           |
| S58E | 16 10 | Over the Old Road on the land of Temperance Cook to a stake in peter Deremer's Land East of his house and north of the Old Road. |
| S72E | 34 80 | Over the Land of William Arnold Leonard Lewis and John Copeman to a stake near his oven south west of his house.                 |

The hotel referred to in the beginning of this survey is said to have been built in 1797, on the site of



*Court House and Hotel, as drawn on the Map of the Dutchess Turnpike, 1801.*

the later Poughkeepsie Hotel. This final survey of the road with its branches to Dover and Sharon, was

filed in 1804, after the work of improvement had begun. The road seems to have been completed in 1805, when the company advertised for persons to keep it in repair. Not long afterwards stages were run from Poughkeepsie to Litchfield, Conn., and provided a great stimulus to travel and trade. A year or two later the Post Road was resurveyed, relocated in several places, and became the Highland Turnpike. Its charter was repealed in 1833 but the Dutchess Turnpike continued to collect tolls until 1888, when the last toll-gate, at what is now called Arlington, was abandoned. The "Beckmans and Pawling Turnpike" is first mentioned in 1811, and probably the Manchester Road from Poughkeepsie was built as a part of it.

Cannon Street was extended east to Hamilton in 1807, from the "Dwelling House of Andrew Billings" (the Thomas House still standing) across the lands of Rev. Cornelius Brower and William Emott, Esq. The survey of the south side of the street passed "along the north side of the parsonage house so-called belonging to the Episcopal Church" (see page 68) which is also mentioned as "now occupied by the Reverend Benjamin Bulkley." Major Andrew Billings in 1790 and 1799 lived on the corner of Main Street, so the Billings (Thomas) house on the corner of Cannon Street must have been built between 1799 and 1807. Tradition says it was built for Cornelia Billings soon after her marriage to Randall S. Street, formerly of Catskill, in 1802. There is still a window pane in the house on which "Cornelia Street" has been scratched with a diamond. This was probably the work of one of Randall S. Street's children, of whom there were ten. They included William I. Street, Mrs. Levi P. Morton's father, who afterwards lived in the Episcopal parsonage house, and Alfred Billings Street, well known as a historical writer and as State librarian. Major Billings is said to have lived, during the last years of his life in the little white house (now the property of Charles Kirchner) near the corner of Church Street.

North Street (Parker Avenue) was surveyed and laid out by the commissioners as a private road in November, 1807, "from near the house of Richard Valentine" (on the Creek road?) over lands of Valentine, of Levi McKeen, Thomas Nelson, Thomas Baycaux and George Parker, joining the "turnpike road lately surveyed" near Parker's house and twenty-one links from "the east side of the present post road." In October, 1806, a street was surveyed from Mill to Main on the division line "between the heirs of Baltus Van Kleeck and John E. Pells." This was first called Division Street, but was afterwards (1814) relocated as an extension of Bridge Street on petition of James Slater, George Booth, George P. Oakley, James Rey-





GEORGE B. EVERTSON.

*From portrait in possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. E. G. Putnam.*



nolds, Oliver Holden, James Wilson, John Armstrong, Richard Booth, E. W. A. Bailey, Martin Hoffman, Robert Hoffman and David Phillips. It seems not to have been opened until 1819 and Bridge Street north of Mill was altered in 1822 to make the ends of the two streets come together. The petitioners mentioned above asked also for a straightening of Mill Street and the survey for this reads, "Beginning at a point six feet north of the northeast corner of the Old Stone House on the south side of Mill Street formerly belonging to Baltus Van Kleeck, deceased, now belonging to \* \* \* Margaret Vassar \* \* \* through the lands of said Margaret Vassar and James Vassar (after crossing Vassar Street), John E. Pells (after crossing Division Street) and Thomas Bayeaux," to a point near the northeast corner of Thomas Bayeaux's old cooper shop. This survey shows the location of the old Van Kleeck house, the Margaret Vassar mentioned being the mother of the late Matthew Vassar, Jr. (1809), and John Guy Vassar (1811), who were born in the house. Her husband, then recently deceased, was John Guy Vassar, a brother of the founder of Vassar College. At a subsequent widening and straightening of Mill Street, during the boom times of 1836, the line was run through the famous old house, which was then sacrificed to the demon of improvement.

Perry Street was put through from Main to Union in 1814, and Front Street, called at first Navigation Street, and part of the plan before mentioned and already partly mapped for a street along the whole water front, was surveyed from opposite the house of James Reynolds (a frame house, probably not the one still standing) on Mill Street to Union Street. From Mill to Main Street it ran through the lands of George P. Oakley, James Slater, William Davis and Stephen Pardee. The survey south from Main Street began "at the northwest corner of Cornelius Simpson's house, exclusive of the piazza." This house is still standing.

From all this it is evident that the development of the town was at this period mostly in the territory between the Post road and the river. The division of several farms facilitated this growth. Divisions of the Van Kleeck and Livingston properties in 1800 have already been noted. In 1804 the property of James Winans<sup>1</sup> at the lower landing, was divided among his heirs and mapped into lots and streets.

<sup>1</sup>The property was left by James Winans, the elder, to his grandchildren (children of James and Joanna Winans), who were "John Winans, James J. Winans, David Winans, Stephen Winans, Catalina Winans, Sarah Sprague, Mary Darrow, Elizabeth Reynolds, and Joanna Winans, the younger."

Some of these streets, owing to the nature of the ground (in the neighborhood of Adriance, Platt & Co.'s factory) have never been opened. Tulip Street was laid out from Union Street south, apparently as a result of the Winans division, and in 1812 Prospect Street was extended to meet it. At the close of the War of 1812 the frame work of Poughkeepsie was constructed, and after a charter amendment, passed May 20th, 1812, paving and grading were begun.

The first paving notice published in the *Journal* is dated August 11th, 1812, and calls for "a meeting of the owners of lots fronting on that part of Main Street extending from the east line of the parsonage lot now in the occupation of the Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler, to the east line of the lot occupied by John Brush, Esq." At the meeting which was held September 10th there were not enough votes to carry the whole section, but there was a majority (for names of voters see Appendix) in favor of paving from Market to Academy Streets, and the trustees accordingly entered into contract with Lewis Relay on October 1st for the work. It was not until 1814 that a majority could be obtained for extending the pavement to Washington Street, and in the same year Cannon Street was paved to Academy. Market Street, on the other hand, fought shy of paving assessments through meeting after meeting until the business depression which followed the war put a stop to what may be called the early cobblestone era.

#### RIVER INDUSTRIES AND FREIGHTING.

During this period the freighting industry in sailing vessels reached the top of its climax and the steamboat made a beginning. *Spafford's Gazetteer*, published in 1813, mentions the "five serpentine roads" leading to the landings in Poughkeepsie, and says the trade is very extensive, requiring eight large sloops sailing weekly to New York. That vessels sometimes sailed to much more distant ports is shown by such advertisements as the following:

FOR BOSTON AND PASSAMAQUODDY.

The new Schooner *Jane Barnes*, Allen Wardwell, Master. For freight or passage apply at the store of

G. B. EVERSON,<sup>1</sup>

June 30, 1806.

George B. Everson, or Evertson, owned the storehouse and landing at the foot of Union Street, as we have seen. In 1806 he purchased of John Murray the handsome house on Cannon Street, men-

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix for historical Sketch of the Evertson family.

tioned in the last chapter as owned by Governor George Clinton. He probably enlarged the house, which he occupied until his failure in 1827, when George P. Oakley, as trustee, sold it to N. P. Tallmadge. In 1835 Tallmadge sold to Anthony Rutgers and he in turn to Walter Cunningham in 1839. Soon after this Cunningham failed, as will appear in the next chapter, and in 1841 the house came into the possession of Henry Swift, a prominent lawyer. It has since been known as the Swift house, and is now owned and occupied by Henry Swift's granddaughter. Everton at the time of his failure owned nearly the whole block between Cannon and Church Streets. He sold the Union Landing property before 1815, at which time he was one of the five largest taxpayers in the town of Poughkeepsie, with an assessment of \$33,000. The others were William Davis, \$105,000; Valentine Baker, \$40,750; Henry Davis, \$30,000, and Levi McKeen, \$25,000. Of these the first and third made much of their money in freighting. William Davis, or Davies' came to Poughkeepsie before 1800 and bought considerable property in the lower part of the village, including the Kaal Rock Landing, which he greatly extended and rebuilt, filling in a section of the water front. This became Main Street Landing when the street was opened through, but it seems to have been sold to Samuel Pine and then to Stephen Pardee soon afterwards. Henry Davis was a son of the Richard Davis who founded the Lower Landing. Martin Hoffman & Co. were assessed \$15,000 on a farm, Mills and landing (foot of Mill Street) in 1815; Joseph Harris & Co. \$12,500 on the Union Landing, Stephen Pardee \$3,500 on the dock and store house, foot of Main Street, John Pearce on store and landing, \$6,000, and Thomas Sweet on houses, store and dock, \$5,000.

It is difficult to tell whether there were two men, a William Davies and a William Davis, in Poughkeepsie, or whether William Davies, the father of Thomas L., allowed his name to be spelled both ways. The family, at any rate, was distinct from that of Richard Davis, who with his brother John, settled in Poughkeepsie before the Revolution. John apparently left no children, but Richard, who died July 24, 1814, left three sons, Richard, Henry and Leonard, and one daughter, also grandchildren by another daughter, as shown by his will. As to the Davies family, in the first deed indexed William Davies, May 8, 1768, Lib. 15, p. 273, the grantee is described as "William Davis of Sharon in the State of Connecticut Gentleman," and the name is spelled Davis throughout. The property conveyed was on Main Street. A second deed, April 9, 1768, from Catherine Lester, conveyed the sixty acres in the lower part of the village, fronting on the river, which descended to William A. Davies. I find a William Davis mentioned December 1, 1802, as executor of the estate of Solomon Sutherland and a William Davies mentioned in a foreclosure notice in June of the same year.

One of the last mentioned may have been at Barnegat. John Drake, Jr., was assessed \$0,550 on docks, store and thirty acres of land, doubtless at what is now New Hamburg, then called Wappingers Creek, or Wappingers Landing.

Fulton's first steamboat, the Clermont, passed Poughkeepsie going north, August 17th, 1807, to the great wonderment of the people. In 1808 an advertisement was printed in the leading papers along the river, stating that "The steamboat will leave New York every Saturday afternoon exactly at 6 o'clock and will pass \* \* \* Newburg 7 o'clock Sunday morning, Poughkeepsie 11 o'clock Sunday morning," etc. It adds that "As the time at which the boat may arrive may vary an hour, more or less, according to the advantage of wind and tide, those who wish to come on board will see the necessity of being on the spot an hour before the time." The fare from New York to Poughkeepsie was given as \$3.50—some advertisements<sup>1</sup> make it \$4.00—and it was not reduced until 1824, when the courts overthrew the monopoly which had been granted to Fulton & Livingston. An advertisement dated April 1, 1811, in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, informs the public "that the North River Steam Boat will leave New York on Tuesday evening at precisely 5 o'clock and arrive at Poughkeepsie on or about 10 o'clock Wednesday morning." The time had therefore not been reduced during the three years. At first the steamboats did not make landings at Poughkeepsie, but had begun to do so in 1811, as indicated by the following words from an advertisement in the *Republican Herald* for November 27: "The steamboat will come to the dock, so that passengers can step on board without being exposed in a small boat, except when the wind will not permit; in which case will be prepared for the reception of passengers." In 1813 George Crawford advertised a hotel at the foot of Main Street, together with the landing of the steamboats Paragon, Car of Neptune and North River, three boats a week each way. Stephen Schofield also advertised an "Authorized Steamboat House" in the same locality in the same year.

In 1814 Poughkeepsie became a steamboat terminal, and appears to have been the first town so honored between New York and Albany (see Morrison's "History of American Steam Navigation," page 155). The Fire Fly, the smallest of the Fulton & Livingston fleet, was the first Poughkeepsie boat and was first advertised March 26th to make two trips a week. On June 13th "The proprietors of the steamboat *Fire Fly*, anxious to accommodate the public as far as

<sup>1</sup>See Bacon's Hudson, p. 28

in their power," announced in the *Journal* that the boat would run three times a week, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from New York, at 8 o'clock in the morning, and Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from Poughkeepsie, at the same hour. "Her station in Poughkeepsie will be Pardee's dock, at the foot of Main street."

Main Street Landing grew in importance with the growth of steamboat travel, but the centers of freighting continued at the Upper, Lower and Union Landings for many years and steamboats were not a strong factor in business until after the War of 1812. At the Lower Landing (Pine Street) an important group of industries began to grow early in the century. Winans's ship-yard, afterwards Darrow's, built sloops and schooners, and Zadock Southwick's tannery, established in 1807, soon obtained a large business. There was also a mill in this neighborhood, run by power from the small streams that converged there. Near



*The Winans House, built about 1808.  
(Long occupied by the Southwick Family.)*

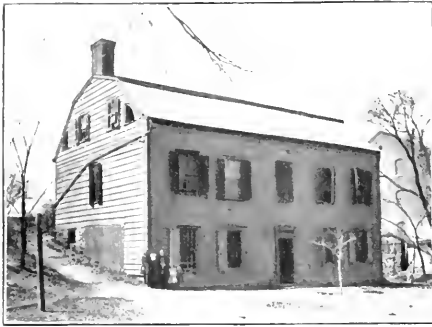
the Union Landing a pottery had been established before the close of the eighteenth century. The relative importance of the landings in the freighting business changed from time to time, but the Upper Landing soon became the most important of all, on account of the water power afforded by the Fall Kill and the increasing importance of the ferry. By 1800, or soon afterwards, there were two mills in the neighborhood, a general store and probably two freighting firms. The Hoffmans, as we have seen, were there before the Revolution, then Robert L. Livingston of Clermont came into possession of a mill and landing there. By deed dated April 1st, 1800, he sold to Martin Hoffman, Isaac Hoffman and Robert Hoffman, "of the town of Poughkeepsie," property "including dock and storehouse known as Poughkeepsie Upper Landing." A blacksmith shop and a dwelling house, "now possession of John Starr and Joseph Bowman," are also included.

The Oakley family became interested in the industries at the Upper Landing soon after 1800, when Jesse Oakley moved into Poughkeepsie from Bockman. George Peters Oakley, Thomas Jefferson Oakley and John Oakley were his sons. Jesse Oakley & Son had been in business since April 17th, 1802, "two doors west of the hay scales" (the hay scales at one time stood on the site of the Phenix Hose Co.'s house), but dissolved partnership September 30, 1807, and on the same date George P. Oakley advertised the formation of a partnership with Martin, Robert H., Isaac H., and Abraham Hoffman, "in storing, freighting, ferrying, &c.," at the Upper Landing. The firm name was George P. Oakley & Co. On the same date also Martin Hoffman & Co. advertised to pay cash for rye and wheat at their "new mill." This mill was probably the upper mill. In a deed of property from Martin, Robert, Isaac and Abraham Hoffman to George P. Oakley September 10th, 1807, a new mill, an old mill, and a plaster mill are mentioned. James Reynolds, referred to in a deed from the Hoffmans and Oakley, in 1810, as "of the village of Poughkeepsie, shipcarpenter," was probably there before that time and soon afterwards entered into partnership with Aaron Innis in the freighting business. All of these old Upper Landing families were in partnerships with each other at various times and property was transferred back and forth among them. By 1815 there were two grist mills, a plaster mill, a saw mill and a nail factory, all using water power from the Fall Kill. The old Arnold chair factory building was built for a nail factory about this time, by George P. Oakley, who also built the large house, now generally known as the William C. Arnold house. It appears, however, that there was a still earlier nail factory in the same neighborhood, for June 11th, 1805, Voice Hinckley and Frederick Pennoyer advertised cut nails for sale "at the house of V. Hinckley in Market Street, or at their Nail Manufactory, at Hoffman's Landing." V. Hinckley's house was also advertised as a tavern, known as "The Foul Anchor," and situated about midway between Cannon and Church Streets, on the east side of Market.

#### OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Only a little way up the Fall Kill was the important woolen factory of George Booth, who built what was afterwards called Pelton's Pond, and is said to have brought from England the first wool carding machinery ever used in this country. An advertisement in the *Political Barometer*, May 14th, 1803, states that "The works are erected near the bridge on the road leading to Hoffman's Landing." July 3rd

of the same year Mr. Booth informed his patrons that "he is now erecting machines at Wapping's Creek near Mr. Meiser's Mill and will be ready to receive wool about the middle of this month." When the embargo and the War of 1812 put a stop to all foreign importation the factory in Poughkeepsie was much enlarged to manufacture a considerable line of finished woolen goods. Mr. Booth received first prize at the State fair



*The George Booth House.*

in 1811 for the best woolen cloth manufactured in the State. His residence, in which his son, the late Oliver H. Booth was born, is still in good preservation, opposite St. Peter's Church. His second wife was Maria Vassar, a sister of Matthew Vassar. Some of the Booth factory buildings remained until a recent period.

Not far from the Booth Mill Pond, and also using the Fall Kill water power, was a thriving cotton factory established about 1811 by David<sup>1</sup> and Benjamin Arnold. This was called The Eagle Factory in January, 1815, when the proprietors advertised to "furnish cotton yarn for forty looms during the season which they wish to put out to weave at liberal prices." Apparently at this time the factory did only spinning. During the cold winter of 1812 it is said that cotton was brought to Poughkeepsie by teams overland from the South at a cost of 60 cents a pound. The building, partly of stone and partly of brick, is still standing at the end of Charles Street.

Above the Arnold factory was Parker's grist mill, built in 1806 on the east side of Washington Street, and still further up stream the mills at Smith Street, afterwards known as The Red Mills.

There was also a cotton factory at Manchester, established by Samuel Slee. Dec. 5th, 1814, Benjamin Herrick advertised yarn for sale, made at Slee's

<sup>1</sup>Grandfather of Ex Mayor Charles S. Arnold.—See Appendix.

"Dutchess Cotton Manufactory" and asked for ten or twelve men acquainted with weaving, but it is not clear whether these men were to be employed in the factory or outside. *Spafford's Gazetteer*, 1813, says there were 50 looms in families, in the town of Poughkeepsie, "which produce 20,000 yards yearly of cloth for common clothing." It has been stated that no cotton factory in the United States is known to have done both spinning and weaving under one roof until 1813.

Among the outlying factories was a nail factory established at Hyde Park as early as 1813 by Hunting Sherrill and Henry Miller, and Spafford gives the names of a number of little manufacturing hamlets in the town of Poughkeepsie, not now in existence. He says there were fourteen grain mills in the town, showing that the County then raised much more grain than now. Four, or possibly five of these mills were in the village, and most of the others were along the Wappingers or Casper Kills, with one, still in existence, at the mouth of the Specken Kill.

The first iron foundry of which I have found any record in Poughkeepsie, was advertised as "now com-



*The Old Arnold Cotton Factory.*

pleted and ready for operation," Nov. 9th, 1814, by David Phillips and Seth Howard, who called it the "Poughkeepsie Hot Air Furnace." It was "near the corner of Washington and Main Streets where they intend casting iron ware, machinery," etc.

A neighboring Main Street industry is described in the following advertisement:

#### FOR SALE THAT VALUABLE TANNERY

Belonging to the subscriber, in the village of Poughkeepsie.

Situate in Main Street, a few rods west of the Market. The works are judiciously arranged and sufficiently large for the employment of a handsome capital.—The buildings are large and convenient forming

a square on the north and west sides two stories high, and one-hundred and thirty-four feet in length and well calculated for the accommodation of the works, all in good repair. Between one and two thousand skins may be taken fresh from the market annually at a reasonable rate, and hides in proportion. Hudson's river running within half a mile will always supply any quantity of bark. The above works being without a rival in this populous and growing town renders the situation truly enviable. The terms will be liberal and payments made easy—possession given the first of March next, and if not then sold will be rented. The advanced age of the subscriber having induced him to relinquish the business.

Also for sale—Three or four Building Lots adjoining the above which are well calculated for the establishment of either a Brewery, Distillery, Soapboiling & Chandlery, or Morocco Manufactory, there being on the premises a never failing spring of the best water, sufficient to supply any or all of the above branches of business. Any person inclining to employ a capital in any of the above lucrative branches of business, will do well to call and view

EBENEZER BADGER.

June 2, 1807.

Badger's tannery is shown on the 1799 map at the northwest corner of Main and Washington Streets. His name has been several times mentioned in preceding pages. He was a prominent citizen, and lived in a pleasant house, surrounded by a garden famous for its lilacs and other flowers, where the City Hall now stands. The tannery passed into the hands of John Gary of Troy, and a few years later David Boyd came there as a boy from America, to learn the trade. Mr. Boyd afterwards purchased the tannery and lived in a house which stood on what is now the corner of Washington Street and Lafayette Place. This house, in which his son, the late John G. Boyd was born, is still standing, but has been turned half around to face the newer street.

#### THE VASSAR BREWERY.

The reference in the tannery advertisement to a spring and site for a brewery indicates the source of water supply for the Vassar Brewery. James Vassar came to the neighborhood of Poughkeepsie before 1798 from England, and on January 4th, 1803, inserted an advertisement in the *Political Barometer* stating that he had completed his brewery and was ready to supply the people of Poughkeepsie with ale, etc. The location of this brewery is not definitely known. It may have been in the rear of the old Van Kleeck house, or it may have been on the site of the later Vassar Street Brewery. Mr. Vassar seems to have been doing considerable business in 1807 when he published the fol-

#### NOTICE.

The subscriber wants to make a contract with some person who will agree to supply him with three thousand bushels of coals annually for a number of years. All kinds of hard wood burned into coals will answer his purpose.

JAMES VASSAR.

Poughkeepsie, Aug. 18, 1807.

A new brewery, according to Mr. Lossing's "Vassar College and Its Founder," was built in 1809 in Vassar Street. This was burned May 10th, 1811, and the fire was reported as follows in the *Journal* of Wednesday, May 15th:

FIRE—About one o'clock on Saturday last the Brewery of Mess. Vassar in this village was discovered to be on fire. The alarm was immediately given and the citizens assembled with great alacrity. The buildings were already so completely enveloped in flames as to render in a measure unavailing the utmost exertions of the citizens to save them. A considerable quantity of Ale and some other property was saved, but the buildings were entirely consumed. The loss is estimated at 13 or \$14,000. We understand the property was insured for \$10,000.

Mr. Lossing says that Mr. Vassar had no insurance, and that he met with other losses of property at about the same time, in addition to the loss of his eldest son, John Gay Vassar, who in attempting to save some hops at the bottom of a vat among the ruins two days after the fire, was suffocated by carbonic acid gas. It appears probable, however, from an advertisement dated Dec. 4th, 1810, of the dissolution of the partnership of James Vassar & Co., that James Vassar may have retired from the brewing business before this fire, for persons having open accounts were "requested to settle them with John G. and M. Vassar." James Vassar spent his last years on a farm a little north of the village and his second son, Matthew, made a new start. According to the accounts given by Lossing and others he sought the help of his brother-in-law, George Booth, who loaned him money and gave him the use of his dye house as a temporary brewery. Three barrels of ale were made at a brewing and Mr. Vassar carried it around to his customers. He then rented a basement room in the new Court House for a saloon and is said to have been the first to introduce oysters to Poughkeepsie. In January, 1812, the business was advertised under the firm name of "M. Vassar & Co.," but with no indication of the name of Mr. Vassar's partner. July 14th, 1813, Thomas Purser and M. Vassar informed the public that they had entered into partnership "and that they are now rebuilding the Brewery in this village. \* \* \* which they intend to have in operation the ensuing fall." Mr. Purser was an Englishman of considerable

fortune and doubtless furnished the capital, but did not remain long in the business, for on June 10th, 1815, the Poughkeepsie papers contained a notice that he had sold his interest to J. M. and N. Conklin, jun. The Vassar brewery was not yet making any fortunes but it was on the road to prosperity.

#### DEVELOPING A BUSINESS CENTRE.

Although new streets were laid out in the territory between the Post Road and the river, that section remained open fields with only a few straggling houses along the the older roads for many years, while on the hill the village was growing more compact. Soon after 1800 it was settled that Main Street rather than Market would become the chief business street. The former was gaining, though still mostly a residence street, with a garden and the usual village group of barns and sheds about each house. Gradually the lower floors of the old houses were converted into shops or stores, their proprietors living in the upper stories and in the rear rooms. A few of these old houses remain and in one of them the same business is carried on that was established there during this period

the business of DuBois Brothers at 321 Main Street.

An advertisement in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in November, 1814, states that N. Conklin has removed to "the store lately occupied by Paul Schenck, two doors east from Jesse Oakley in Main Street." A part of the present building was evidently the old Schenck house, built in the eighteenth century. The business had been started a few years earlier by Nathan and Mulford Conklin, and remained in the partial possession of their descendants until Nathan Trowbridge Boyd retired a few years ago. The firm became Conklin & Bowne (James Bowne) in the 30's and then Bowne and Trowbridge (Stephen B. Trowbridge and afterwards Nathan Conklin Trowbridge). Several other business establishments of the present date from this period and two of them are still conducted by the same family. The Van Kleeck hat business is the oldest. It was founded by Tunis Van Kleeck in 1799, and in 1808 was removed to a location very near the present as shown by the following advertisement in the *Journal*:

#### TUNIS VAN KLEECK.

informs his friends and the public that he has removed his Hat Manufactory to the house formerly occupied by Nicholas Power, four doors east of the Hotel.

Poughkeepsie, May, 2, 1808.

The hats made at this time were described as "Gentleman and Ladies Beaver, Castor and Roram Hats."

This establishment in July, 1853, was removed "three doors west," and from this combination of advertisements we are able to determine just where Nicholas Power printed the *Poughkeepsie Journal* and also where the Poughkeepsie post office was located.

The following note appended to an advertisement of a partnership with John Field tells of the beginning of a business still in the same family, though not conducted continuously by its members.

N. B. George Halliwell presents his respects to the public, and informs them; that from his thorough knowledge of the Watch and Clock making business, it will be much to the advantage of those who want Clocks, Watches, or repairs, to apply to him, having served his apprenticeship, and worked in some of the first shops in England, where business was conducted on a very extensive scale, has had a superior opportunity to most workmen in this country of perfecting himself in general and detached branches.

Poughkeepsie, May 10, 1806.

Among other business men advertising during this period were David B. Lent, "Ladies' and Gentlemen's Saddles, Coach Lace, Feathers, &c., &c.;" Leonard Davis and Walter Cunningham, partnership in the dry goods business, May 23, 1814; Isaac Doty, Jr. removed, April 12, 1814, "to the brick building formerly occupied by Joseph C. Dean two doors east of the Post Office;" Adriance & Cook, clock and watch makers, "five doors east of Potter's book store;" J. H. Cunningham, "corner of Main and Liberty Street and directly opposite P. Potter's book store," Nov. 8, 1814, (this is the first mention I have seen of Liberty Street); James Mills, cabinet maker Nov. 20, 1813, "opposite Storm and Wilson's;" Barnes & Willoughby, drugs, etc.; Cornelius B. Swartwout and Richard Vanderburgh (dissolved partnership Sept. 23, 1814), boots and shoes, opposite the Court House; Jeremiah Martin, boots and shoes, "four doors east of the hotel;" Thomas L. Davies, hardware, "Brick store, five doors east of the hotel;" M. & E. Bailey, hat manufacturers, succeeding John Hobson, May 13, 1814; Oliver Holden, fish; E. Metzler, ladies' tailor; Richard S. Balding and Charles B. Tallmadge (dissolved partnership Oct. 20, 1813); P. Everitt and Zephaniah Pells (dissolved partnership April, 1814). Elias Trivett was in the drug business on the west corner of Main and Mechanic Street and Benjamin Herrick, on the opposite corner in dry goods, etc.

A few small manufacturing concerns besides those mentioned were to be found on Main Street. On Sept. 12th, 1805, P. R. Maison and others complained to the village trustees that "Gerard S. Sloan has erected a soap and Candle manufactory in a certain section of Main Street that the ingredients used in such manufactory includes a certain quantity of putrid



TUNIS VAN KLEECK.

*Born June 14, 1773; Died September 1, 1831; Great grandson of the first Baltus Van Kleeck.*

animal substance which on being detached from the mass impregnates the air with noxious and offensive effluvia and also that he from time to time discharges into the water ways of the Turnpike Road large quantities of Salt Lye to the great annoyance of the neighborhood."

Nearly all the business men mentioned were on Main Street, but Market Street had a number of shops and several small hotels or taverns. The business of the village, of course, nearly all came from the farmers, who drove into town with their produce to be shipped to New York. Many of them came from long distances and had to stay over night, which created a demand for taverns. The Poughkeepsie Hotel was apparently called Baldwin's Hotel in 1803, and I am not sure that it was ever advertised under the first name until it had been rebuilt about 1820 and came under the management of A. S. Hatch. Ebenezer Baldwin was the proprietor until its purchase in 1804 by a committee of Anti-Federal or Republican politicians,<sup>1</sup> headed by George Clinton, for a political headquarters. Then, or soon after, Garwood Cunningham, father of Walter Cunningham, took charge and the hotel became known as Cunnings-



Cannon Street from Liberty west in 1875. Old Dutchess Hotel on the right.

ham's. The Forbus House, I think, was not built until after 1815, but Stephen Hendrickson's tavern on the same site was an important place of refreshment and entertainment. Nearly all the taverns and hotels of the period were built with verandas across the whole front, the larger ones with two-story verandas. Amazin Blakeslie advertised the Farmers Hotel, in June, 1806, "in Cannon Street opposite the

<sup>1</sup>For a list of the names, from deed see Appendix.

Academy," and in 1811 N. C. Minturn announced the opening of the Dutchess Hotel, in Cannon Street, corner of Mechanic. The last mentioned is still standing, and still preserves part of its verandas. It was built by Benjamin Herrick, who doubtless owned the land all the way through to Main Street, where his store was. There were a number of taverns of the old type on the east side of Market Street, one about opposite Stephen Hendrickson's, another on the north corner of Cannon, and a third, already mentioned as kept by Voice Hinckley, between Cannon and Church. The building afterwards known as the Franklin House, on the corner of Main and Washington, was possibly built by this time, but the hotel on the corner of Mill and Washington Streets, afterwards known as "The Northern Hotel," was erected later.

#### SOME POPULAR AMUSEMENTS.

An interesting enterprise in 1806, was the exhibition for several weeks of a real *African Lion*. "This noble animal," says the advertisement in the *Political Barometer*, "is between three and four feet high, measures nine feet from the nostrils to the tail, and is of a beautiful dun colour, and when he stands on his tail is nine feet high. He is fifteen years old and weighs six hundred weight. His legs and tail are thicker than those of a common sized ox. He was caught in the woods of Goree in Africa when a Whelp. \* \* \* It is said by those who have seen Lions in the Tower of London and other parts, that he is really worthy of the contemplation of the curious." The advertisement also includes the following:

#### TAKE NOTICE.

On the 14th day of October next a  
GRAND BAIT

Will take place between this Lion and 6 Bears and 12 Bull-Dogs, in Capt. Hendrickson's large field, where ample accommodations will be prepared for spectators.—Admittance on that day, for grown persons One Dollar, for Children 25 cents.

\* \* \* \* \*

N. B. The subscriber will give a generous price for 6 Bears delivered to him in Poughkeepsie.

JOHN ARDEN.

Poughkeepsie, Sept. 26, 1806.

Who says that our ancestors were so good that they did not know how to enjoy themselves? A few years later, Poughkeepsie had what was called a theatre. September 1, 1812, an advertisement appeared in *The Poughkeepsie Journal* as follows: "The public are respectfully informed that the Theatre



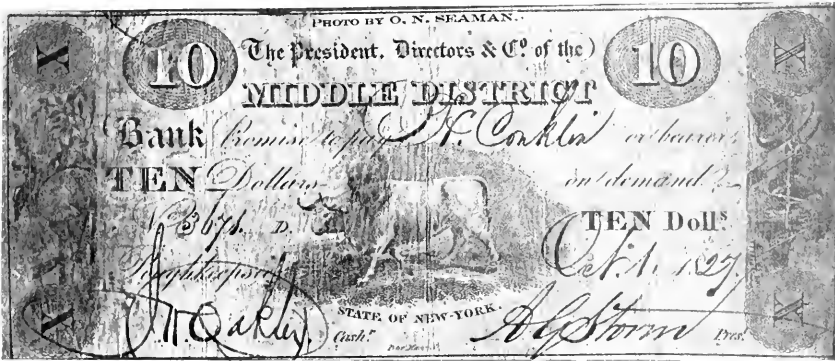
which is building in Church Street will be ready by Friday next, Sept. 5th, when will be presented Kotzebue's Celebrated play of *The Stranger or Misanthropy & Repentance* with the Musical farce of the Sprigs of Laurel. Box St. Pitt 75 cts." A few days later, Sept. 14th, the play *Guerre Ouverte* was announced, "after which an entire new piece in one act written for the occasion by a gentleman of this town called *The Naval Column or the Glory of Columbia's Tars*, interspersed with singing, Dancing &c in honor of our great naval victories." George Barnwell was the proprietor.

#### BANKS, SCHOOLS, AND INCORPORATED COMPANIES.

Soon after the incorporation of the village there was enough business in Poughkeepsie to create a demand for banking facilities, and accordingly a branch of the Manhattan Bank of New York was established

William Taber, Peter R. Maison, Henry A. Livingston, Levi McKeen, Thomas Nelson, Abram G. Storm, and Ezra Thompson, Jr., were named as the commissioners to effect the organization in Poughkeepsie. Guy Hyde was the first cashier and Levi McKeen was probably the first president. Peter Everitt, son of Richard Everitt, became a heavy stockholder at an early period, and George B. Evertson was one of the early presidents.

Levi McKeen was the postmaster of Poughkeepsie from 1802 to 1810, and the post office was then on the south side of Main Street, just east of Liberty Street. He is said also to have been a private banker at one time and a good story is told of how he stopped a run on the bank. He announced that a wagon load of specie would arrive from New York on a certain steamer, and sure enough in due time a wagon filled with small kegs drove up from the steamboat landing



Fac-simile Middle District Bank Note.

in the brick building which had been the residence of Theodorus Bailey, on the corner of Market and Cannon Streets. As this was not a purely local institution the records do not appear to show just when it was started, but it was here before 1811 as a newspaper reference shows (see Appendix). At that time its president was James Tallmadge, Jr. George B. Evertson is said to have been its first president and Daniel F. Coolidge and Guy Hyde were among its cashiers. It was assessed on various properties as late as 1831. There was a demand for a Dutchess County Bank as early as January, 1811, but when the application for a charter came before the Legislature the plan was changed to make it a Middle District Bank, with a branch at Kingston. The charter was passed March 22d, 1811, providing for twenty-one directors, of whom fourteen were required to be residents of Dutchess County and seven of Ulster. Theron Rudd,

to the bank. Two men struggled into the building through the crowd of anxious depositors and note holders carrying one of the kegs, which at the proper moment slipped from their fingers and burst open, scattering coins in every direction. This demonstration of wealth satisfied the people, but it was afterwards reported that all the other kegs were filled with nails.

Poughkeepsie was already at this time laying the foundation for its reputation as an educational center. The Academy was an excellent school for its time, and a number of private schools were advertised in the newspapers from time to time. "The Poughkeepsie Boarding School for Young Ladies" was advertised as early as 1801 by M. E. and A. Sketchley, and attained considerable reputation. I am not sure of its location, but have been told that it was in a frame building which stood on Market Street near the cor-

ner of Church, where the Hon. John Thompson afterwards built his residence. There was at any rate a building there which was used as a school for many years, and some people are now living who obtained their early education in it. A Dutchess Seminary on Market Street, taught by Rev. John Phillips, was advertised in 1806. That the residents of the little village were progressive and desirous of keeping themselves well informed at an early period is also shown by the following notice in the *Journal* of July 15th, 1806.

POUGHKEEPSIE LIBRARY.

The Proprietors of the Poughkeepsie Library are requested to attend their annual meeting on Thursday the 17th inst. at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at the Court House, for the purpose of electing their Trustees for the ensuing year—and adopting such measures as may be necessary for the benefit of the institution.

PETER R. MASON,  
Librarian.

Long lists of new books were advertised in the newspapers and a considerable number of books were published by the Poughkeepsie printers. March 11th, 1814, the Lancaster School Society was incorporated, with John Reed (rector of the Episcopal Church), Cornelius C. Cuyler (pastor of the Dutch Church), Leonard Lewis, William Emott, James Wilson, George Bloom and Paraclote Potter as trustees. This school was in line with the latest educational fad of the day, the plan being to have the older pupils instruct the younger. Its building was on Church Street, on the same lot mentioned in the 1791 deeds as the "school-house lot" and now occupied by School No. 2.

The following notice published Tuesday, September 23d, 1806, shows something of the beginnings of an important institution.

DUTCHESS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

At a large and respectable meeting of the Physicians of the County of Dutchess, at Cunningham's Hotel, Sept. 20th, 1806, agreeable to public notice.

Resolved, That the Physicians present do form themselves into a society pursuant to "an act to incorporate Medical Societies for the purpose of regulating the practice of Physic and Surgery in this state" passed the 4th of April, 1806.

This was not the actual beginning of the society, but was not many years from it. At this meeting Samuel Bard was elected president, Benjamin De Lavergne, vice president, Robert Noxon, treasurer, and J. Livingston Van Kleeck, secretary. Dr. John Thomas was one of the censors for Poughkeepsie.

A Dutchess County Insurance Company was in-

corporated in 1814 with Jesse Oakley, George B. Evertson, James Emott, James Tallmadge, Jr., William Davis, Nathan Myers, Henry A. Livingston, Henry Davis, John Brush, Randall S. Street, Paraclote Potter, John Forbus and John Radcliffe, as its first directors. There appears to be no evidence to connect this with the later Dutchess County Mutual Insurance Company.

CHURCHES.

The population of the village of Poughkeepsie was 2,081 in 1810, and according to *Stafford's Gazetteer* there were in 1812 seven or eight public buildings, five churches and 470 houses and stores. Two of the churches, as we have seen, were founded before the Revolution, two more, the Methodist and Baptist, soon after 1800, and the fifth must have been an early Friends' Meeting House on Clover Street, said to have been built by Zadock Southwick. There appear to be no records of this Meeting House<sup>1</sup> but it certainly existed at this time. The Quakers had long been numerous in Dutchess County and were represented in Poughkeepsie by several prominent families before 1812, among whom may be mentioned Zadock Southwick, Valentine Baker, Levi McKeen, David and Benjamin Arnold.

The Methodists built their first church about 1805, on the east side of Jefferson Street at a point still marked by a little abandoned grave-yard. Before this time meetings had been held for a year or two in the garret of Charles H. Dumcomb's house on Main Street, (on the site of Luckey, Platt & Co.'s store). The first church was a building 50 by 40 feet with galleries, but, according to Vincent's "Methodism in Poughkeepsie," (p. 15), was left unplastered above the galleries, until 1814, when Poughkeepsie was for the first time made a Methodist station with a settled minister, Rev. J. M. Smith.

The Baptists<sup>2</sup> organized in July, 1807, at a meeting held at the house of George Parker on Washington Street, at which George Parker, William Goss, John Forbus, John Harbottle, William Young, Isaac Waddell, Benjamin Bonker, Benjamin Fuller, Jonathan Newhouse, Ann Vassar, Abigail Cornish, Edy Bullmore, Ruth Bonker, Eleanor Waddell, Sarah Goss and Naomi Burton were enrolled. Rev. Francis Way-

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. William S. Morgan and others remember seeing or hearing of this building. See also Dutchess County History, p. 422; also, (as to absence of records), Daily Eagle, July 13, 1895.

<sup>2</sup>Baptist records are complete and well preserved, owing to the care of Rev. Rufus Balcock, three times pastor of the church. A history of the church prepared by him was published by Platt & Ranney in 1841.

land was called as pastor and during his four years of work a church was built on the site of the present Baptist Church in Mill Street, the lot having been donated by Col. James Tallmadge.

#### NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICS.

From November 10th, 1801, there have always been at least two newspapers in Poughkeepsie. At that date, and probably using the press of the earlier *American Farmer*, Jesse Buel and Nathaniel Joyner started a paper called *The Guardian*, which was a pronounced supporter of Jefferson, then president. Apparently the patronage of this paper was not very strong for it went through many changes of hands and several changes of name, as will appear. June 8th, 1802, Joyner's interest was purchased by Isaac Mitchell and the paper came out as *The Political Barometer*. Mitchell had been connected with the *American Farmer* and was evidently a man of ability, though apparently unfortunate. Little is known about him personally, except that he went to Albany after he had sold the *Barometer* and became editor of *The Republican Crisis*. Early in 1811 he seems to have returned to Poughkeepsie. He was the author of "ALONZO AND MELISSA," which has recently been described as "one of the most popular novels ever published in America,"<sup>1</sup> but it is doubtful if he ever received any profit from it himself. The book was originally published in Poughkeepsie by Joseph Nelson, with the title "THE ASYLUM, OR ALONZO AND MELISSA, an American tale founded on fact by Isaac Mitchell." It came out in October, 1811, and was advertised for a few weeks in the *Barometer*, and for a year or more in the *Journal*, but I have not been able to find any other local reference to it. In 1824 it was republished without the title "Asylum" and without the introduction, with Daniel Jackson, Jr., named as the author. Then its popularity began and it ran through many editions, Jackson receiving all the credit.

Jesse Buel, too, was a man of ability and destined to more success. He and Mitchell for a time published both the *Barometer* in Poughkeepsie and *The Plebeian* in Kingston. In 1805 they dissolved partnership, Mitchell retaining the Poughkeepsie newspaper and Buel taking *The Plebeian*. Buel afterwards went to Albany and became the first editor of *The Argus*. He was candidate for governor in 1836 against William L. Marcy.

In their opening editorial in the *Barometer* Mitchell and Buel declared among other things,

<sup>1</sup>Edward B. Reed in New York Evening Post, Dec. 10, 1904.

their determination to "hold up to public execration whatever shall appear to aim at aristocratic influence upon the understanding, the actions, or the possessions of the people." \* \* \* We shall applaud plain and simple manners even if discovered in our chief magistrate."

Not long after this the Federalists became divided into factions and the Republicans obtained control of Dutchess county. *The Barometer*, May 6th, 1806, says "In this town the Republican ticket succeeded over that of the opposition by an average majority of 4 and 5 to 1." The "Clintonians"—supporters of De Witt Clinton, then Mayor of New York,—are mentioned as one of the factions of the opposition. 1806 was a year of general change in the local newspaper situation, probably due to party changes. A new paper, *The Farmer*, was started, but so few copies of it have been preserved that its political position is not clear. Mitchell sold the *Political Barometer* in August to Thomas Nelson & Son, and the *Journal* also changed hands. Paraclete Potter, who was destined to become and remain for a long time a leading figure in local journalism and politics, was one of the new owners, the firm being Bowman, Parsons and Potter, which continued until May 24th, 1815, when Potter came into full control. During this period the paper was called *The Poughkeepsie Journal and Constitutional Republican*, the latter part of the title signifying an effort of a branch of the party to shake off the name Federalist.

The Jeffersonian supremacy did not last long in Dutchess, and in 1808 the county elected to the Assembly "2 Federalists, 2 Clintonians, and 2 Lewisites," while James Emott, Federalist, received a majority of 1,100 for Congress. August 28, 1811, the *Political Barometer* changed hands again, and changed its name for a second time, coming out as the *Republican Herald*, under the management of C. C. Adams and D. Mac Duffee, who refer in their announcement to "The county of Dutchess long the sport of disunion and for some time past the seat of federal triumphs." The same sort of complaint is to be found in every new paper started as a Republican organ for the next twenty-five years, while the *Journal*, under Potter's able management, weathered all the storms and survived, without loss of prestige, even its bitter and determined opposition to the War of 1812.

The war appears to have been unpopular with the substantial citizens of Poughkeepsie, but must nevertheless have aroused considerable enthusiasm among the rank and file. There was a repetition of Revolutionary excitement to some extent, with recruiting offices opened, troops passing up and down the river, and express riders galloping through the village or

the Post Road. The Poughkeepsie Fusileers, a uniformed company, were ordered out early in the struggle and their "former officers," T. Rudd, J. Brush and B. Herrick, gave them a banquet at Minturn's Hotel. In the *Republican Herald* for September 2, 1812, we read:

"The uniform company of Artillery and infantry of this village, under the command of Capts. Nelson and Wilson, in compliance with the orders of the Governor, took passage on board the packet on Friday last for New York. After falling in with the companies from Barnegat and Newburgh and waiting the arrival of the governor with the northern companies on Saturday the whole proceeded together for New York.

"The alacrity with which the men composing these companies left their families, their homes, and their business, will entitle them to the esteem of their fellow citizens and the thanks of their country."

These companies, I think, saw no actual fighting, but companies of Dutchess County militia were in service on several other occasions, and a considerable number of volunteers went into the army from Poughkeepsie. Randall S. Street and Dr. William Thomas were among them, the former returning with the title of General. Dr. Thomas was in the Battle of New Orleans. Some were doubtless called out by the draft, which the *Journal* vigorously denounced as tearing men away from the support of their families to prolong a war brought on by Jefferson and Madison for the sole purpose of increasing the power of their party.

James Emott in Congress was equally outspoken in his opposition to the war, as his speeches printed in the *Journal* show, but this seems to have caused little interruption to his career, for after serving two terms in Congress he went into the Assembly for two terms, and then became county judge. That the Federalist control was not shaken as in so many other places, is shown by the establishment of another Republican paper, the *Observer*, apparently a special organ of the Tammany faction, soon after the announcement of the treaty of peace in 1815. Its opening editorial, March 10th, contains this harrowing picture:

Time was, when this unhappy, deluded, and long abused County, presented a Republican phalanx to

the front of its enemies, in an overwhelming majority of votes—at once the pride of the friends of the Republic, and the terror of its foes. \* \* \* No redeeming arm appears stretched forth to snatch this wandering prodigal from the error of her ways. \* \* \* It is only to the well conducted public journal like the bow on the clouds which announces the storm is past, that the friends to Republicanism can look for as a precursor to the assurance and triumph of their cause.

Charles P. Barnum and Richard Nelson were the publishers of this paper. The *Republican Herald* passed into the hands of Stockholm and Brownjohn and continued to represent one of the numerous factions of the day. It became bitterly opposed to James Tallmadge, Jr., and was sued by him for libel in 1818. It was finally discontinued after the election of 1823.

Prominent local politicians during this period, besides those already mentioned, were Thomas J. Oakley, Surrogate in 1810, elected to Congress in 1813; Randall S. Street, district attorney 1810 and again 1813; David Brooks, three times County Clerk and several times Member of Assembly; George Bloom, law partner of James Tallmadge, and Surrogate in 1811; Abraham Adriaance, several times Member of Assembly and State Senator. Theodorius Bailey was perhaps the most prominent man of the early part of this period. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1803, but soon afterwards resigned from the Senate to become postmaster of New York City, DeWitt Clinton resigning the same office at the same time to become Mayor. His residence after that, I think, was in New York. Thomas J. Oakley purchased and for a long time lived in the house on the corner of Cannon and Market Streets, where Bailey had lived. Philo Ruggles, who became Surrogate in 1813, was another prominent man of this time. He built about 1800 the fine house still standing on the west side of Market Street, which afterwards became the home of James Hooker, and is now used as an office building. George Bloom lived on Cannon Street, in a house where there is now a vacant lot, next east of the George Van Kleeck house (Dr. J. P. Wilson's residence). James Emott lived on Market Street directly opposite Cannon, in the brick building still standing.



HON. WILLIAM NELSON.

*A son of Thomas Nelson and brother of Joseph Nelson, editors of the "Political Barometer." William Nelson was educated at the Dutchess County Academy, and studied law in the office of Theron Kudd. After admission to the bar he removed to Peekskill, where he became very prominent. (See Appendix for further sketch of his career.)*



## CHAPTER VI.

FROM THE CLOSE OF THE WAR OF 1812 TO THE PANIC OF 1837—GENERAL TALLMADGE ON SLAVERY IN MISSOURI—LAFAYETTE'S VISIT—THE LOTTERY—POLITICAL CHANGES—THE "TELEGRAPH," THE "DUTCHESS INTELLIGENCER" AND THE "EAGLE"—BENSON J. LOSSING—NEW BANKS—THE IMPROVEMENT PARTY—THE WHALING INDUSTRY AND OTHER ENTERPRISES—THE ERA OF THE STEAM-BOAT—THE CANNON STREET RESERVOIR AND THE BIG FIRE OF 1836—THE FIRE DEPARTMENT—NEW CHURCHES—COLLEGE HILL AND OTHER SCHOOLS—THE REAL ESTATE BOOM.

In the year 1815 Poughkeepsie was a vigorous, growing village, and during the period covered by this chapter was to experience a rapid development, culminating in a real estate boom of proportions which we are now accustomed to associate only with new towns in the West—a boom which left the place laid out into streets and lots almost as it is at present. In fact it required the work of nearly half a century to complete the improvements, and build up the streets, planned before 1837.

The years immediately following the treaty of peace with England were nevertheless years of falling prices, and of considerable depression. The flood of foreign importations ruined several thriving local industries, including the Booth woolen mills, the Arnold cotton factory and the Oakley nail factory. There was a great scarcity of currency, particularly of small change, which caused the printing of shipplasters by private firms and even by village corporations. D. & B. Arnold of the Eagle cotton factory and the Village of Pleasant Valley issued shipplasters in 1815, the latter signed by Robert Abbott, which have been preserved in local collections. The long continued popular reckoning in shillings and pence was partly due to the large number of foreign coins<sup>1</sup> that came into circulation at all periods of financial depression prior to the debasement of subsidiary coinage in 1853. The first record book of the Village of Poughkeepsie shows most of the accounts in dollars and cents, but the cash book beginning at the end of the year 1817 is mostly in pounds, shillings and pence.

Before 1820 recovery was in progress and the village began to reach out for more trade, with an enterprise that suggests the later days of railroad and bridge building, as the following entries in the village cash book for January 3rd, 1820, show:

<sup>1</sup>Eagle editorial, "Down with the Pence," April 2nd, 1853.

To George P. Oakley and others, By order of a Vote of the Village for their expenses in exploring a Route for a Turnpike Road West of the Shawangunk Mountain to intersect the Turnpike of Lucas Elmendorf at or near War War Sink £5: 18s: 10d  
To expenses pd G. P. Oakley and others to defray expenses for advertising for alteration of the Turnpike West of the Hudson River for advertising in Kingston and Albany papers £2: 0: 0

It seems rather extraordinary that the village as a corporate body should have been interesting itself in roads so far away, but these are by no means the only instances. The second entry seems to imply that the New Paltz road had already been made a turnpike, though Mr. LeFevre, in his History of New Paltz, says the turnpike was made after 1830.

The incorporation of the Poughkeepsie and New Paltz Ferry Company in 1810, for the purpose of building "a Team Ferry Boat" to take the place of the sail ferry, also implies closer connection with New Paltz. The company organized in June, 1810, and elected Nicholas Thorne, John Green, Gilbert Wilkinson, James Reynolds and Henry Elting directors. The landing on this side was "between the south side of the dock of George P. Oakley and the north side of the dock of Martin Hoffman," and on the west side of the river "at the dock of Henry D. Elting." The Team Ferry Boat was the first "horse boat" at Poughkeepsie, the motive power furnished by two horses in a treadmill, the earlier ferry having been a "perianger" or scow, with both sails and oars. Great things were expected of the team boat in the way of bringing trade to the village from the west, and also from the eastward. One of the arguments in its favor was that it would bring this way a part of

the stream of westward emigration. Ohio wagons, it was stated, were frequently seen on the Dutchess Turnpike as far west as the second toll gate, whence they made their way over rough roads to Fishkill, where a team boat had already been established. The



*Reynolds House, built by James Reynolds near Upper Landing, (and ferry), about 1827.*

sail ferry was uncertain and inconvenient, and according to a statement made many years later by Nathan Gifford, would not accommodate more than one or two wagons, and was entered from the side. Often the horses were unhitched, and tied behind the boat to swim across. The team boat, or horse boat, was evidently successful, for there were two on the route a few years later, one sailed by Deyo Elting and the other by Henry Ogden. Horse ferries also ran from Milton, New Hamburg and Hyde Park, at a little later date. The Milton horse boat was the last on the river and ran until after 1850.

In 1825 there was another strong effort to attract trade from the west side of the river, and committees were appointed to endeavor to make New Paltz Landing the terminus of a great state road which was expected to extend to Buffalo. The breakdown of the Fulton & Livingston monopoly of steamboat navigation in 1824 was then also a stimulus to river traffic, and in 1830 the horse ferry was superseded by a steam ferry. That was almost at the beginning of the period of expansion and speculation.

The cholera epidemic of 1832 was a serious interruption to business, and was long remembered. It gave rise to what was probably the first local board of health, comprising the village trustees, together with Elias Trivett, the druggist, and Dr. William Thomas. Cholera had been raging in New York for several weeks before it reached Poughkeepsie, and had even passed us and broken out in Albany, but in the latter part of July a few imported cases were reported in the lower part of town, and before the

end of August the dread disease had claimed about eighty victims. A number of families left the village in order to escape and never returned. Says the *Dutchess Intelligencer* of August 15th: "From Sunday, the 5th, to Saturday, the 11th, it seemed to be at its worst and the state of things became truly alarming. A general gloom seemed to rest upon every countenance, business was at a stand, and anxious inquiries were constantly made about the cholera."

Occasionally social events attracted sufficient notice in the newspapers of the day to show that young people enjoyed themselves much as they do now. In August, 1819, the West Point cadets, two hundred strong, marched to Albany, and encamped for a week at Poughkeepsie, under command of Captain John R. Bell. On the evening of August 16th a big ball was given in their honor, "which was attended by about one hundred of the Cadets and graced by most of the beauty and fashion of the village."

#### GENERAL TALLMADGE AND SLAVERY IN MISSOURI.

Politics absorbed a large share of attention, and with such men as Thomas J. Oakley and James Tallmadge, Jr., as leaders, Poughkeepsie was at the front in both State and National matters. The so-called "Era of Good Feeling" which the historians tell us followed the War of 1812, was not very marked in New York State, certainly not in Dutchess County, where the Federal Party did not break down until the time of Jackson. James Tallmadge, Jr., usually called General Tallmadge, was one of the most notable of the representatives of Dutchess County in Congress. Elected to fill a vacancy, he at once took high rank, and in February, 1819, when the question of the admission of Missouri as a state came up, it was he who moved the amendment that precipitated the first great debate over the extension of slavery. The amendment provided:

"That the further introduction of slavery or involuntary servitude be prohibited, except for the punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been fully convicted, and that all children born within the said State, after the admission thereof into the Union, shall be free at the age of twenty-five years."

The debate started by this amendment was a heated one and accompanied on the part of the Southern representatives by threats of dismission. Replying to the opponents of the amendment, who included the speaker of the House, Henry Clay, Mr. Tallmadge, on February 16th, used these words, as reported in Benton's *Abridgement*:<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Benton's *Abridgement of Debates in Congress*, Vol. VI, p. 350. See also p. 333 and note.



"Sir, if a dissolution of the Union must take place, let it be so! If civil war, which gentlemen so threaten must come, I can only say, let it come! My hold on life is probably as frail as that of any man who now hears me; but while that hold lasts, it shall be devoted to the service of my country—to the freedom of man. If blood is necessary to extinguish any fire which I have assisted to kindle, I can assure gentlemen, while I regret the necessity, I shall not forbear to contribute my mite. Sir, the violence to which gentlemen have resorted on this subject will not move my purpose, nor drive me from my place. I have the fortune and honor to stand here as the representative of freemen, who possess intelligence to know their rights, who have the spirit to maintain them. Whatever might be my own private sentiments on this subject, standing here as the representative of others no choice is left me. I know the will of my constituents, and regardless of consequences, I will avow it; as their representative I will proclaim their hatred of slavery in every shape; as their representative here I will hold my stand, until this floor, with the constitution of my country which supports it, shall sink beneath me."

The Tallmadge amendment was adopted by the House, but rejected by the Senate, and the controversy was not settled until the next year—by the famous Missouri Compromise. From a local standpoint the question is, did Mr. Tallmadge correctly represent the prevailing opinion of the people of Dutchess when in the course of this noble speech he proclaimed "their hatred of slavery in every shape?" He had already been defeated for re-election to Congress by Randall S. Street eight months before he made the speech (elections were held in May until 1828) but that was simply because Street was a Federalist and Tallmadge a Tammany Republican or Democrat. His anti-slavery speech was published in full in the *Dutchess Observer* of April 7th, which also copied from other newspapers, including the *New York Columbian*, various notices of approval of his action, but made apparently no comment of its own. I cannot find that the Federalist organ, the *Journal*, made any reference whatever to the speech, or to the General's attitude on the admission of Missouri. The investigation of General Jackson's conduct in the Seminole War monopolized attention. The *Republican Herald* abused Tallmadge roundly, but not because of this action, so far as one can tell from the answers to its articles in the *Observer*. (No copies of the *Herald* for that year have been found.) General Tallmadge was nominated by the Clintonian faction for the State senate in the spring of 1810, and was beaten, which seems to show at least that hatred of his constituents for slavery was not yet a moving political force. His vote in the town of Poughkeepsie and also in Dutchess was considerably larger, however, than

that of his colleague, or than that received by either of the successful candidates, but was smaller than either of the Federalist candidates received. The vote of the county was: Federalists—Philip J. Schuyler, 1,042; James Morris, 808; Clintonians—James Tallmadge, Jr., 754; Pierre Van Courtland, 527; Anti-Clintonians—Peter R. Livingston 680; John Townsend, 605. As senators were then elected on general tickets in large districts and Dutchess had been attached to the southern district, with New York and the Long Island Counties since 1815, the Federalist vote of the river counties was overwhelmed by the anti-Clintonian vote of New York.

In 1820 the pendulum swung away from the Federalists and the *Observer*, May 3d, said: "Dutchess County has nobly done its duty. This is the first time that Republican Assemblymen have been elected in this county in fifteen years." At the same election the county gave De Witt Clinton, for governor, a majority of 158 over Daniel D. Tompkins, indicating the shifting of the Federalists to Clinton. In the next year General Tallmadge came to the front again and was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

The small total vote of Dutchess, less than 3,000 out of a population of 40,000, has doubtless been noticed. Under the first State constitution, ownership of property valued above £20, or the renting of property at 40 shillings or more a year, was required, and evidently shut out a good many votes. The local results, it must be admitted, were good. Even the smallest town offices were filled by men of prominence and standing, and commanded an amount of respect from the community hard to realize now. When the call for a new Constitutional Convention had gone forth in 1821 in response to the advocates of the repeal of the voting qualifications, Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County contained a strong element in opposition to change and the following appeal was issued:

"TO THE CITIZENS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY.

"Our constitution was framed by wise and patriotic men, at a time when among the common friends of our country the spirit of genuine liberty prevailed, without the alloy of party feelings or interests. Under this constitution the good people of the state have enjoyed for near half a century, all the blessings of a free government, and have arrived to a degree of national prosperity and happiness, unexampled in the history of the old world. We feel and we trust you all feel, that a constitution which in its practical results has been thus happy, ought to be approached with the utmost caution; that no alterations ought to be made, except such as experience has shown to be clearly necessary, that no wild plans of innovation

ought to be indulged, that party spirit ought not to be suffered to intrude," etc.

This was signed by a considerable number<sup>1</sup> of the substantial citizens of Poughkeepsie and of the county, who called a meeting to be held June 11th, at the house of Luther Gay in the town of Washington, "for the purpose of agreeing upon candidates." The party papers, *Observer* and *Journal*, waged bitter warfare over the matter. The former said that under a show of independence "few but Federalists and decided Clintonians had signed this address," and indulged in vigorous criticism of Chancellor Kent and of all who had opposed the convention. The *Journal* in reply said: "We have seldom seen condensed in so small a compass so much spite and ill nature as is contained in the *Observer* of last week," with much in defense of the conservatives. The meeting at Luther Gay's house was duly held and nominated Morgan Lewis, James Emott, James Grant, William Taber, and Thomas Tillotson, but they were defeated by Peter R. Livingston, James Tallmadge, Jr., Abraham Schenck, Isaac Hunting and Elisha Barlow, described in the *Journal* as "advocates of a party convention," and also as "worshippers of St. Tammany."

#### LAFAYETTE'S VISIT.

The visit of Lafayette to Poughkeepsie<sup>2</sup> Sept. 16th, 1824, was an event long remembered and often referred to, a pleasant interruption to the political agitation of the times. He arrived at Poughkeepsie early in the morning, on the steamboat James Kent, and was received by several regiments of militia, commanded by General Brush, and a great crowd of people. The procession moved up Main Street to Academy and down Cannon to Forbus's Hotel, where the distinguished visitor was received by the trustees of the village. Solomon V. Frost was president of the village at that time, and it is related that being a Quaker he would not ride in the procession in which a brass band and several militia regiments took part. The address of welcome was made by Col. Henry A. Livingston, from the piazza in front of the Forbus House. "In this village," said he, "the immortal Washington was frequently the guest of the venerable George Clinton. In this village that Constitution which is the palladium and pride of United America, was adopted by the Convention of New York, nor were the resplendent talents, and commanding eloquence of a Hamilton, the wisdom of a Chancellor Livingston, or the sagacity of a Jay, displayed in

vain. To these prominent eras, permit us to add, as their apex, the transactions of this memorable occasion," etc. "To this address," says the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, "the General made an appropriate and feeling reply, in the course of which he adverted to his former acquaintance with the village, and to the great and astonishing changes, which, in common with our country generally, it had undergone." Neither of the newspapers of the day reported Lafayette's speech in full.

From the Forbus House the party proceeded to the Poughkeepsie Hotel, where breakfast was served, at the expense of the village, for sixty-five people. Opposite Lafayette, we are told<sup>1</sup>, sat Major Swartwout, a soldier of the Revolution, then 95 years old. Walter Cunningham acted as marshal of the day, and among those at the table were James Tallmadge, Thomas J. Oakley, James Emott, Smith Thompson, Matthew Vassar, General Brush, Paraclete Potter, Nathaniel P. Tallmadge, Alexander J. Coffin, John Armstrong, Jr., and Dr. William Thomas. Interesting side lights are thrown upon this celebration by the following entries in the village cash book, for September 16th:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Samuel Henderson. To ringing court house Bell for La Fayette .....     | \$ 0 75 |
| John Cornish. To ring Episcopal Church bell La Fayette .....           | 1 00    |
| Joel Du Bois. To ringing Dutch Church bell La Fayette .....            | 1 00    |
| Paraclete Potter. To printing 1,000 hand bills for La Fayette .....    | 8 50    |
| John Cowles. To express to West Point and Newburgh .....               | 5 00    |
| John Francis. To printing 500 Arrangements .....                       | 4 00    |
| Peter B. Myer. To sixty-five breakfasts for La Fayette and suite ..... | 05 00   |
| Philo C. Brush. To four carriages for La Fayette ..                    | 15 00   |
| Charles Butler. To four carriages for La Fayette ..                    | 15 00   |
| Myers & Osborne. To printing 500 bills La Fayette ..                   | 4 00    |

A noteworthy item in this list is that payment of \$5 to John Cowles. So anxious were the villagers to have their welcome all ready that they provided an express rider to gallop up the post road and bring the good news that the steamboat was coming. The boat arrived here at 2:30 in the morning and a great bonfire on Kaal Rock was one of the features of its reception, with salutes of artillery. Doubtless Lafayette had learned how to get along without sleep during the trying days of the Revolution. He left here not long after breakfast and proceeded to the residence of Governor Morgan Lewis, near Staatsburgh.

The best descriptions of Lafayette's visit are curiously enough not from the newspaper reports, but

<sup>1</sup>For list of signers see Appendix.

<sup>2</sup>Reports in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* and in the *Republican Telegraph*, Wednesday, Sept. 22d, 1824.

<sup>1</sup>Dutchess County History, p. 378.

from the lottery advertisements of George P. Oakley, whose genius as an "ad writer" was of the highest order. He had announced in the papers of Sept. 15th, along with "New York State Literature Lottery No.



GEORGE P. OAKLEY.

2," the following: "My fellow citizens will not forget that LA FAYETTE is coming, and that he is welcome to our country, to our homes, and to our hearts. They will likewise not forget that the only LA FAYETTE tickets in the village, are to be found at the 'TEMPLE.'" In the papers of the next week, Oakley wrote, also in his advertising space:

"On Thursday last our much beloved and much respected General honored us with his company.—He came with the rising SUN, and exhilarated and ennobled the moral, as that warmed and enlightened the natural world. \* \* \* \*

"It is not my business to give a history of the day. I shall therefore be laconic, though it is difficult to be so on a subject so diffuse. \* \* \* \*

"The breakfast room at Myer's Hotel which I was so fortunate as to see the day before the jubilee, was splendidly decorated with an elegance altogether creditable to the taste and industry of the ladies who volunteered in this patriotic employment. Brevity forbids a detailed description of this apartment of Portraits, and Banners, and Emblems, and Evergreens, and Flowers, and Festoons, and Garlands, and Temples, and Plate, and Porcelain, and Arches, and Mottos. It was indeed a fairy scene, and the beauties of nature and of art were so happily combined, that, though they strongly vied for precedence, all was harmony.

"WASHINGTON" appeared in laurel leaved letters over one mantle piece, and "LA FAYETTE" over the other, both encircled with wreaths of flowers. Over the folding doors appeared "WELCOME LA FAYETTE"

in letters made entirely of the rich blossoms of the china-astor—These letters, having the symmetry, and accuracy of beautiful types, were wrought by two sisters, young ladies of our village, who merit for their ingenuity and industry the highest encomiums, and if these desirable qualities are to be found, in the same perfection, in their domestic concerns, of which the performance in question is indicative, the man who would want a better wife than either of these, ought to live a bachelor till he should be as old as FRANCISCO.

"The General received the address of Col. Livingston and answered it, on Forbus's upper piazza, which then, by evergreens and flowers and grace and beauty in festoons and clusters, was made more than ever an allusive picture of Eden. He received the salutations of the citizens in front of the lower piazza which likewise was tastefully ornamented.

"The scene at Forbus's was highly interesting and if a view of it was permitted to the IMMORTAL MONTGOMERY, he beheld it with heavenly complacency. This illustrious martyr to his devotion in the American cause was brought to my recollection, at the moment, by the old sign which hung above, and which has been fanned by the breezes and bleached by the snows of forty-seven summers and winters.

"Major Bailey's tree of Liberty, which grew in front of his shop, pleased me. My limits will not permit me to say more about it than that it was very green and flourishing, and was bending with the richest fruits personifying Washington and La Fayette, all the ex-presidents, some of the presidential candidates and all the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

"The military on the cal-rock, at break of day made a very martial appearance, which I understand was spoken of by the General and his retinue in terms of applause. The salute fired from the rock was uncommonly fine, and its echo and re-echo bounded as merrily and proudly among the western hills as if a band of Tritons, inspired by the occasion, had left their coral groves to ramble and blow their thousand shells in the green woods of Ulster.

"LA FAYETTE TICKETS are now selling rapidly at the Temple of Fortune," etc.

When Lafayette died, in 1834, Poughkeepsie, in common with many other places in the country, rendered public honor to his memory. A special meeting of the trustees on June 30th, at which Alexander Forbus, Isaac I. Balding, James Mills, Richard Pudney and Josiah Burritt were present, made the following arrangements which are recorded on the minutes:

"At Sunrise on Thursday the 31 July next a salute of 24 guns will be fired from Pines Hill, Mansion Street and one gun every half hour until sun set. At 10 o'clock A. M. a procession will form at the Hotel and proceed through Washington, Mill, Catherine, Main and Market Streets to the Episcopal church, under Gen'l Leonard Maison, Grand Marshall of the day, in the following order

# TEMPLE OF FORTUNE.

*New-York. January 19, 1826.*

The drawing of the Literature Lottery, No. 3 for 1825.

17, 21, 7, 35, 6, 31.

The next Lottery is the Union Canal, No. 19, and draws in Philadelphia, on Wednesday, February 1st.

## PRIZES.

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 50,000 Dollars, | 5,000 Dollars, |
| 20,000 Dollars, | 5,000 Dollars, |
| 10,000 Dollars, | 3,970 Dollars, |
| 10,000 Dollars, | 3,970 Dollars, |
| 5,000 Dollars,  |                |

And 189 from 100 to 1,000 Dollars, &c.

Tickets \$9.00  
Halves 4.50

Quarters 2.25  
Eighths 1.12

Prizes in all the current Lotteries, paid by

**GEO. P. OAKLEY,**

*Poughkeepsie.*

With gratitude and pleasure I give to my friends and the public the following unvarnished history. And I am induced to do it not because I wish to publish my own good fortune, but because it would be very difficult and troublesome to conceal it, because I wish to gratify public curiosity, and because it will prevent many erroneous reports which would otherwise naturally proceed from such an occurrence.

Among the tickets of which I purchased of the managers in Literature Lottery, No. 3, the drawing of which appears above, was a half ticket having for its combination 7, 17, 21. This half I offered for sale for some time to my customers, when I apprehended I should have a surplus of tickets left on hand, and therefore sent it, with some others, to a worthy friend in New-York to be sold. He endeavoured without success to effect a sale, and returned the whole to me, when they were offered again and again, and when the evening of the 19th of January arrived, I had a small surplus of tickets remaining, including the aforesaid half and three others. These four halves were repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, offered on the day of the drawing, and during the evening a company of gentlemen were pressingly invited to purchase them at a reduced price, which they declined; the consequence was they, with other tickets, were not sold, and after the sales were closed and the surplus packed up, Mr. Gilbert Wilkinson, who assisted me in doing it, proposed purchasing the half of the said surplus; some conversation ensued, when I told him he might have, at scheme price, the whole or any part of it. The result was that he took one fourth, and the further result is that we have been so fortunate as to draw with the said half ticket the half of One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

I have sold to my customers, besides numerous Fifty Dollar Prizes and parts thereof, many of One Hundred and several of Five Hundred Dollars, and I hear that several respectable prizes have been drawn in the county by tickets which were purchased elsewhere.

I congratulate my fellow citizens of Dutchess County and its vicinity on this recent gain of good fortune, and am very respectfully, their Obedient Servant.

GEO. P. OAKLEY. 77

Grand Marshall  
 Capt. Slater's Company of Artillery  
 Horse caparisoned in funeral dress  
 The Reverend the Clergy  
 Orator of the day, Rob't Wilkinson, Esq.  
 Trustees of the Village  
 Revolutionary Soldiers  
 Military Officers  
 Judges of the Courts  
 Members of the Bar  
 Sheriff of the County of Dutchess  
 Magistrates of the Village  
 The Board of Trade  
 The Fire Companies  
 The Benevolent Cordwainers Society  
 Officers and Students of the Academy  
 Citizens Generally

Black crape to be worn on the left arm. The Bells of the Village will be tolled during the procession. The Trustees request masters of vessels and proprietors of public houses to have their colors hoisted half mast during the day."

THE LOTTERY IN POUGHKEEPSIE.

Lafayette's visit was at the height of the lottery craze, which seems to have begun about 1820. In *The Poughkeepsie Journal* for May 3rd, 1824, there are more than a column and a half of lottery advertisements, from G. P. Oakley, W. Cunningham, A. G. Storm & Co., and Conklin & Bowne. Before 1820 lottery advertisements were not conspicuous, though there was generally one in each of the local papers. Here is one of Storm & Wilson's announcements published in March, 1811:

**\$25,000.**

UNION COLLEGE LOTTERY  
 No. 2.

Will commence its drawing in the city of New York on the fourth Tuesday in April next and will continue to draw Six Hundred Tickets per day till finished—The scheme of which contains 3 prizes of \$25,000 one of \$10,000 and one of \$5,000, and many other valuable prizes. Tickets, Halves, Quarters and Eighths, for sale in a variety of Nos by  
 STORM AND WILSON.

Lotteries were conducted for all sorts of causes, Churches and colleges were built from their proceeds, and the largest prizes at the time of the Lafayette visit, or a little later, were in the Literature Lotteries for the benefits of the State schools and guaranteed by the State of New York. The early drawings seem to have been mostly on the "Six hundred tickets a day" plan, but later there were all sorts of plans and the big lotteries were often advertised to be "finished in a few minutes." Thus the "Washington Lodge Lotteries," under the "authority of the State of Rhode Island," advertised the "150 numbers binary combination and permutation—28 ballots drawn." There were 22,350

tickets at \$2.20 each. The numbers drawn were combined 1st and 2nd, 2nd and 1st, etc. In another Rhode Island lottery, with 10,000 tickets, only 6 ballots were drawn.

George P. Oakley was the leading lottery agent in Poughkeepsie from 1823 to 1826, and when he sold out the business he had won the largest lottery prize ever taken in this neighborhood. He was earlier, as we have seen, in the milling and freighting business with his father, Jesse Oakley, at the Upper Landing. In 1810 he failed and the mills went to the Middle District Bank and were deeded in 1821 to James Reynolds and Aaron Innis, who had previously been in the freighting business. The deed included a plaster mill and a grist mill on the north side of the stream, and mentions also a nail factory and a saw mill on the south side. Oakley was a man of too much ability to be kept down and was soon engaged in keeping a general store. His "Bulletin No. 1," announcing the opening of his "Temple of Fortune," "opposite Potter's Book Store," is dated Aug. 1, 1823, and the location was about on the corner of Liberty Street, which had probably not long been opened. In this bulletin he states that two \$20,000 prizes had recently been won in Poughkeepsie and that two similar ones had preceded them. In his bulletin No. 10, dated Dec. 17th, 1823, he gives the following list of "Some of the many prizes which have enriched our citizens, in the course of a few years," as follows:

|     |                |   |          |
|-----|----------------|---|----------|
| 1   | Prize drawn by | Valentine Baker of                          | \$10,000 |
| 1   | "              | James Sands of                              | 3,000    |
| 1   | "              | the Fire Company & Messrs                   |          |
|     |                | Angevine Ellmore & Jay-                     |          |
|     |                | cocks each one quarter of                   | 1,000    |
| 1   | "              | " A company of Gentlemen in                 |          |
|     |                | Poughkeepsie of which 1                     |          |
|     |                | was one                                     | 500      |
| 1   | "              | " A Gentleman of                            | 500      |
| 1   | "              | " Cornelius Wiltzie and                     |          |
|     |                | George Brinckerhoff of                      | 5,000    |
| 1/4 | "              | " The Messrs Ellmore of                     | 100,000  |
| 1   | "              | " Mr. Flagler of                            | 1,000    |
| 1   | "              | " George P. Oakley of                       | 1,000    |
| 1   | "              | " Gilbert Wilkinson                         | 1,000    |
| 1   | "              | " Abm P. Knapp and others of                | 500      |
| 1   | "              | " Peter Everitt of                          | 1,000    |
| 1/4 | "              | " A. C. Warner of                           | 20,000   |
| 1   | "              | " A number of Gentlemen in a                |          |
|     |                | package of 2nd class, of                    | 20,000   |
| 1   | "              | " Martin Hoffman Jr. of                     | 1,500    |
|     |                | And last though not least Isaac Germond and |          |
|     |                | Geo. P. Oakley (selected by the latter)     | 10,000   |

Evidently fortune came Oakley's way with some rapidity and a good share of it went to other Pough-

keepsie. This deed (Lib 63, p. 162) contains an interesting agreement as to water rights on the Fallkill.

keepersians. Oakley does not omit to mention the prizes sold or won by his competitors, who in addition to those already given included Isaac T. Doughty, Hayes & Adriance and Peter Everitt. Thus he tells us that W. Cunningham, whom he sometimes refers to as "Sir Walter," won half of a \$10,000 prize, the rest of which he had sold to persons in the county. December 28th, 1824, Oakley says: "One day last week I enjoyed the pleasure of paying to Miss Elizabeth Ward \$8,500 and also \$8,500 to Mr. Seneca Howland," both of the town of Washington. "These worthy persons are both single," he adds, "and had the good luck to purchase of me jointly." In readable qualities and cleverness Oakley's advertisements are models: "Who would pinch through life without being able to do one generous action, when with money enough and to spare he might give liberally to the oppressed Greeks, at the grand military ball which will be celebrated in the city for their benefit on the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans." Again in January, 1825, he begins a bulletin, "Any man who is fool enough to burn Lehigh Coal at the Commencement of the New Year instead of buying a ticket in this lottery."

This is the first local reference to coal I have seen, and indicates that it was a decided luxury. In fact, it was rather an interesting experiment than a luxury at this time, for many people found much difficulty in making it burn. The first Lehigh coal is said to have been much harder than most of the anthracite now in use and it could rarely be made to burn in a grate without keeping the blower up almost continuously. Coal was served to customers for a number of years in big lumps which had to be broken up with a hammer. Dr. Thomas was one of the first men in Poughkeepsie to use it, and it was not generally of much service until after the Delaware and Hudson Canal had been opened and after stoves had been specially constructed for burning it. David C. Foster was the first local dealer to make its sale a leading feature.

The decline of the lottery craze, which reached such a point that it demoralized business and people, came about partly from the growth of public sentiment against it, but more from the opening of newer and larger fields of speculation with the organization of stock companies. Oakley's crowning achievement was the winning of a prize of \$50,000 in partnership with Gilbert Wilkinson, his brother-in-law, who, however, had but a one-fourth interest in it. He thought it necessary to explain their good luck in an elaborate circular, a fac-simile of which is given on page 100. He was not only a good advertiser, but was evidently a man of careful business methods, for all his lottery circulars were pasted in scrap books which have been

saved. He seems to have continued in the lottery business until about 1826, and probably sold to Richard Pindney, who advertised "The Temple of Fortune" after that time. Oakley became Comy Treasurer and then cashier of the Poughkeepsie Bank at its organization in 1830.

#### PARTY CHANGES—THE TELEGRAPH AND THE DUTCH- ESS INTELLIGENCER.

After the adoption of the constitution, which abolished most of the voting qualifications, as well as the Council of Revision<sup>1</sup> and Council of Appointment, we find the *Journal* in 1824 favoring the next great step towards democracy, the proposition to allow the people to vote directly for presidential electors, which was not, however, carried in time to be available before the election of 1828. Parties were then much broken up and in a state of transition. As a result of the turmoil the Poughkeepsie members of the Republican party became dissatisfied with the *Observer* as an organ, bought an entirely new newspaper outfit and established the *Republican Telegraph*, placing William Sands and Isaac Platt in charge, the latter being but 21 years of age and having recently completed his apprenticeship in the office of the *Journal*.

In one of his reminiscences, published many years later, Mr. Platt said that most of his early education was obtained in the printing office and in Paraclete Potter's book store. He had the privilege of reading many of the books in stock and was assisted in selecting them by Horatio Potter, a nephew of the proprietor and clerk in the store, afterwards Bishop of New York. Potter's book store was a great village institution, a sort of club where all those who were fond of literature and of discussion were wont to gather.

The political committee which controlled the new paper was James Hooker, Leonard Maison, Abraham G. Storm, John S. Myers, Jacob Van Ness, Ebenezer Nye and Obadiah Titus. The first number was printed May 5th, 1824, "a few doors south of the Court House." From the opening announcement we hear again the story, "For a considerable period and until within a few years past the old Federal party have had a majority in this county, which at every successive election enabled them to return to the Legislature their members of Assembly," and alas, after two years of Republican success the county in 1823 had gone back to the Federalists or Clintonians again. Nor was the *Republican Telegraph* able to hold it. The

<sup>1</sup>It is worthy of note that in the Council of Revision which decided the fate of the act passed in 1816 for building the Erie Canal were three former Poughkeepsians: Chancellor Kent, Judge Smith Thompson and Judge Jonas Platt.

paper started with opposition to De Witt Clinton just when his removal from the canal commission aroused public indignation to such an extent that he was again elected governor, while in the same year the party lost the support of the national administration through the election of John Quincy Adams to the presidency. General James Tallmadge was nominated and elected Lieutenant Governor at this time, and might have had the nomination for governor, according to Thurlow Weed,<sup>1</sup> if he had consented to denounce the removal of Clinton from the Canal Commission. That he consented to run on the ticket with Clinton shows the generally mixed-up condition of political affairs. Tallmadge then was a leader of the Tammany faction, and had strenuously opposed the Erie Canal and its chief advocate. The *Poughkeepsie Telegraph* survived the succession of party disasters, but ceased to be a party organ the next year and was sold to Charles P. Barnum, one of the proprietors of the *Observer*. The two papers were then combined and published as *The Telegraph and Observer* until 1828, when the name of the older paper was dropped.

In the wreck of old parties the *Journal*, still published by Paraclete Potter, lost its moorings and drifted with the popular tide into support of Jackson for the Presidency in 1827, several months ahead of the *Telegraph*. Then early in 1828 another new paper, *The Dutchess True American*,<sup>2</sup> was started by Peter K. Allen, who also shouted for the Hero of New Orleans. Apparently everybody was for Jackson, but there were a few Adams men left in old Dutchess and presently they got together a nondescript, second-hand outfit and established *The Dutchess Intelligencer*, which published its first number April 30th, 1828. Charles F. Ames, a young man from Hudson, was hired as editor, with Frederick T. Parsons to look after the type setting. The opening editorial stated that "a great and absorbing question agitates the minds of the citizens of this vast Republic \* \* \* Who shall be our next president? John Quincy Adams or Andrew Jackson? the accomplished civilian, the unrivalled statesman, the upright man, and the unassuming Republican, or the Victorious, but sanguinary and remorseless soldier?" In another column of the same issue we read: "At the next annual election the citizens of this State will for the first time since the organization of the government, exercise the important privilege of choosing at

the Polls the Electors of President and Vice President of the United States." Ames soon retired from the editorial management of the *Intelligencer* and Parsons ran a few issues alone. Then the owners gave the plant to Isaac Platt, Parsons remaining as a partner. Their announcement is in the issue of Aug. 20th. The paper now began to bristle with vigorous editorials, but Jackson's "hurrah campaign" carried the county in November by a large majority. The *Intelligencer* ascribed his victory locally "to the political depravity and want of principle in a few leaders of both the old parties \* \* \* who formed an alliance for the sole and only purpose of bartering away the vote of this county to Gen. Jackson," and adds, "The democratic party split in two nearly equal parts, leaving a small majority in favor of Mr. Adams. But the movements of Messrs Potter & Co. [the *Journal*] carried a great majority of the federal party and federal influence in favor of Jackson."

Judge Smith Thompson of Poughkeepsie was the nominee of the Administration or Adams party for governor in 1828, but was overwhelmed in the landslide. He received 4,558 votes in Dutchess, and Martin Van Buren, the "wizard of the Albany Regency," received 3,257. This was the first election at which the Anti-Masonic party became an influence. Thurlow Weed in his Autobiography devotes several pages (303-307) to an effort to show that had Francis Granger been nominated by the Adams men, instead of Judge Thompson, Van Buren might have been defeated. Granger, however, ran for Lieut.-Governor along with Thompson. The feeling against the Free Masons was not yet a force in Dutchess County, or in this part of the State, but was strong in some of the western counties. Mr. Weed states that after the nomination of Thompson he spent a day or two trying to reconcile the Anti-Masons of the western section, and finding his efforts in vain came to Poughkeepsie to endeavor to persuade Judge Thompson to withdraw in favor of Granger, so as to prevent the nomination of an Anti-Masonic ticket. He reached here by steamboat just as the committee that had notified Judge Thompson of his nomination was leaving. They had obtained the Judge's acceptance of the nomination with considerable difficulty, and when Mr. Weed wanted them to go back with him to the Judge's residence and ask him to withdraw his acceptance they were naturally very reluctant, but at length consented, some of them for the express purpose of combatting Mr. Weed's arguments. The mission proved very embarrassing for all, and the Judge, having once made up his mind to run, decided to stand by his decision. His vote in the State was 106,415, while Van Buren had 136,786

<sup>1</sup>Autobiography of Thurlow Weed, p. 108.

<sup>2</sup>I know of no copies of this paper in existence, but it was discontinued after one year and moved to Ulster County, according to a historical sketch of the Press of Poughkeepsie, written by Isaac Platt for the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Eagle and published April 30th, 1853.

and Solomon Southwick, the Anti-Masonic candidate, 33,335. The combined Adams and Anti-Masonic votes would have elected the Adams candidate, but it is by no means certain that Granger or anyone else could have held them all. Southwick got only 113 votes in Dutchess.

So discouraging was the outlook for the *Intelligencer* at the close of its first year that Mr. Parsons declared he could not live on his share of the profits, and withdrew from the partnership, but was prevailed upon to remain as an employee at a salary of \$7 a week.<sup>1</sup> By 1830 the paper had nevertheless obtained a good patronage, and maintained it in spite of the fact that the factional differences of the times gave rise to two more papers, the *Inquirer* in 1820—a successor to the *True American*—and the *Dutchess Republican* in July, 1831, started by Thomas S. Ranney as an "Anti-Regency" paper, opposed to Martin Van Buren's control of the party in the State. The Anti-Masonic movement was sweeping over the State then, and as the *Intelligencer* refused to become its organ, after the election of 1830, the *Inquirer* was purchased and its name changed to *The Anti-Mason*. The feeling locally was strong enough to close up the old King Solomon's Lodge which Washington had visited and Masonry was not revived in Poughkeepsie until 1852.

In 1833 Messrs. Platt and Ranney united their papers, beginning on the last Wednesday of April the publication of the *Intelligencer and Republican*, a title so awkward that the next year it was changed to *The Poughkeepsie Eagle*. Meanwhile Jackson had carried the county in 1832 by a considerably reduced majority, and Van Buren carried it again in 1836 by a still smaller majority. After that Dutchess County became doubtful territory, and so remained until after the formation of the Republican party, a few years before the Civil War. In 1832 the *Intelligencer* called itself the organ of the National Republicans, but before 1836, in common with other supporters of Henry Clay, it had taken the name of Whig and was referring to its opponents as Tories.

The *Telegraph* continued for several years to call itself Republican and to refer to Clay's party as Federalists. Egbert B. Killey and Aaron Low had been publishing this paper for a number of years, but in 1835 Mr. Low sold his interest to Benson J. Lossing, and this marks the entry of another notable

<sup>1</sup> H. C. Platt often used to tell this story, as an illustration both of the difficulties of his early career and of the prevailing rate of wages at that time. He received help and encouragement in his venture from the Adams committee; John H. Davis, Judge Edmund H. Pendleton, Abraham G. Storm, Alexander T. Coffin, Stephen Cleveland and Gen. John Brush.

figure into Poughkeepsie journalism. Mr. Lossing had been before this a member of the firm of Henderson & Lossing, jewelers, advertising "Gold and Silver Watches," etc. When he began newspaper work he soon saw the value of illustrations and turned his skill as a jeweler to wood engraving. Always interested in history and in general literature, Mr. Lossing revived the old *Poughkeepsie Casket*, wrote many articles for it and illustrated them himself. In 1838 he was also engaged in editing and illustrating the *Family Magazine* of New York, and began writing historical articles, preserving the recollections of the old people about him of Colonial and Revolutionary events. His "Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution" made him the most popular historian of the day. Though never a very careful student of records or other original sources of accurate information, Mr. Lossing's books are always readable and served greatly to stimulate interest in American history. Among his contemporaries in the jewelry business may be mentioned E. D. Morgan & Son, the son being William S. Morgan.

#### BANKS AND BANKERS.

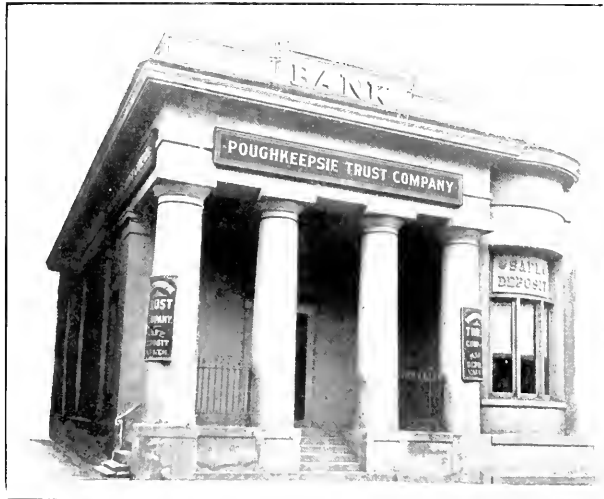
As early as 1816 an effort had been made to procure a charter for a Dutchess County Bank. Nov. 15th of that year Nathaniel Ferris, Nathan Conklin, Jr., Albert Cook, Jacob Green and Benjamin Herrick met at Bading's Hotel and signed an application. Presumably the financial depression stopped this enterprise, but there was at least one private bank in Poughkeepsie then or soon afterwards, known as the Exchange Bank. A note payable "at my Exchange Bank," signed by Henry Davis and by Walter Cunningham cashier, Sept. 15, 1816, is still in existence. This bank was probably conducted at Davis's house, which has been rebuilt as the Falkkill National Bank. Cunningham afterwards became prominent in politics and it was largely through his influence<sup>1</sup> at Albany that a charter was obtained, April 12, 1825, for the Dutchess County Bank. The capital authorized was \$150,000, but when the books were opened, in May, the subscriptions<sup>2</sup> were found to amount to \$700,000, and in 1836 the capital was increased to \$600,000. The organization took place on July 12th, Henry Davis becoming the first president and Walter Cunningham the first cashier. Other directors then chosen were James Tallmadge, John T. Schryver, Thomas L. Davies, James Grant, Jacob Shook, Gilbert Thorn, Caleb Barker, Solomon V. Frost, Matthew Vassar, Henry Conklin and James Hooker.

<sup>1</sup> Autobiography of Thurlow Weed, p. 106.

<sup>2</sup> *Telegraph*, May 25, 1825.







*Poughkeepsie Bank Building, now the Poughkeepsie Trust Company, (see Appendix 1).  
The addition to the right was recently built.*

The careers of Cunningham and Oakley were not the only ones that connect the lottery business with local banking. A. G. Storm, president of the Middle District Bank, Peter Everitt, chief stockholder of the same, James Grant, Jr., who became cashier of the Farmers and Manufacturers on its organization, and several other prominent bank officials had conducted "lottery and exchange" offices. They occupied apparently much the same position in the community that the leading brokers do to-day, and the transition from the lottery business to banking was not unnatural, for the lottery men nearly all advertised to deal in uncurrent bank notes and became experts in discounts and in detecting counterfeits. A notable example was John Thompson, who first taught a private school in Mill Street, and then in 1828 advertised as a dealer in lottery tickets. He at length removed to New York, established "Thompson's Bank Note Reporter," a most important publication for many years, and became a leading organizer of several prominent banking institutions in the metropolis, including the First National Bank. He lived for a number of years in the house still standing back of the West Shore station opposite Poughkeepsie, and was the father of the late Frederick Thompson, who has been so prominent a recent benefactor of Vassar and other colleges.

The Middle District and Dutchess County banks were in business on the north side of Main Street, the former on the site of the Taylor Building, and the latter on the site of the present Merchants' National Bank. Between them, in 1828, was a "Plough and Stove Factory" conducted by Coffin & Schofield. The failure of the Middle District Bank, May 28th, 1829, brought to light some interesting features of the banking methods of the day. George P. Oakley, N. P. Tallmadge, Peter Everitt and Thomas L. Davies were appointed a committee to examine the bank; they found<sup>1</sup> that \$275,000 of the capital of \$500,000 was held by Peter Everitt on a note, and that he also owed the Kingston branch \$61,000. He had been receiving six per cent dividends on the bank stock and paying five per cent. on the loan. Truly there were financiers in those days! The bank had deposits of \$21,885.05 in Poughkeepsie, \$10,104.06 in Kingston, and \$140,007.00 notes in circulation. Its good resources were put down as \$118,367.89 and doubtful resources at \$107,543.55. Its notes were freely taken at par as soon as the committee made its report, but afterwards went down to 75 cents on the dollar and perhaps lower. Up to March 17th, 1830,

dividends of 62 1-2 per cent had been paid to note holders and depositors, and in 1833 all the remaining effects were advertised for sale, but items in the newspapers seem to indicate that the final settlement was much later. The State held \$50,000 of the stock, fully paid in. Noteholders and depositors were paid almost in full. This was the only bank failure in the history of Poughkeepsie.

In the same year, 1829, the Safety Fund Act, which made New York bank notes the best in the country, was passed, and in 1830 the Poughkeepsie Bank was organized with a capital of \$100,000. The first directors, elected June 17th, were Thomas L. Davies, James Thompson, Albro Aikin, Thomas Taber 2d, James Hooker, N. P. Tallmadge, Nathan Conklin, John Lockwood, Aaron Innis, Richard Pindney, Alexander J. Coffin, Matthew Vassar, and Gilbert Wilkinson. Thomas L. Davies was chosen president.

The Farmers and Manufacturers Bank, the second under the Safety Fund Act, was organized as the result of a meeting held at Hatch's Hotel (The Poughkeepsie) May 23d, 1834, at which Homer Wheaton, Gideon P. Hewitt, James Grant, Jr., Aaron Innis, William Schell, Jacob Van Benthuyssen and James Hooker were appointed to receive subscriptions. On the 19th of July the first board of directors, which included William A. Davies and Matthew Vassar, was elected; James Hooker was made president and James Grant, Jr., cashier. The old Myer Tavern, corner of Cannon and Market Streets, was purchased and torn down, and in February, 1835, the bank began business in its present building. Matthew Vassar had then become the president.

The Savings Bank, chartered<sup>1</sup> April 16th, 1831, began business in 1833 in the old Middle District Bank building. William Davies, James Emmott, Frederick Barnard, Matthew Vassar, Temis Van Kleeck, Thomas W. Tallmadge, Nehemiah Conklin, Griffin Williamson, Henry A. Livingston and Stephen Armstrong were named as trustees. Col. Livingston<sup>2</sup> was the first president.

<sup>1</sup>Chapter 134, Laws of 1831.

<sup>2</sup>Col. Henry A. Livingston was a leading man in Poughkeepsie as already indicated. He was a son of Rev. John H. Livingston and a grandson of Henry Livingston, so long the colonial county clerk. He lived in the old Livingston mansion (see p. 20) which went to him after the division of the property in 1800. He was not always popular, though many times elected to important offices, and in 1806 a blackmailing attempt was made against him, the record of which was published in the New York Sun in December, 1801, and was republished in the Poughkeepsie Eagle 24th Feb., 1905. Col. Livingston died June 6th, 1849.

<sup>1</sup>Dutchess Intelligencer, June 24th, 1820.

## THE IMPROVEMENT PARTY.

George P. Oakley and Walter Cunningham began to invest their lottery winnings in real estate and local enterprises soon after 1830 and, with Nathaniel P. Tallmadge, became the leaders of the Improvement Party, which played a very important part in the development of Poughkeepsie, though its operations culminated in a great real estate boom which collapsed and left nearly all its promoters penniless. N. P. Tallmadge, who has been already mentioned as a bank director, was perhaps the most important man of the period. He was a son of Joel Tallmadge, and was little or no relation to General James Tallmadge. He was a Member of Assembly in 1820, postmaster of the village in 1821; in 1827 became president of the village trustees; in 1830 State Senator, and in 1833 United States Senator.

The term "Improvement Party" seems to have been used in the newspapers of the time to designate those who favored pushing all sorts of municipal im-



MATTHEW VASSAR.

*From a Daguerrotype, photographed by Mr. Henry Booth.*

provements, new streets, pavements, etc., but was afterwards applied to the promoters of the many enterprises of the day. At the charter election of 1835 what was described as the "Moderate Improvement Party," whose candidates for village trustees were Isaac I. Balding, Schemiah Sweet and David Boyd, ran against J. Van Benthuyssen, Gideon P.

Hewitt and Samuel B. Dutton of the "Ultra Improvement Party," with Matthew Vassar and Edward C. Southwick on both tickets. The "Moderates" elected Balding and the "Ultras" Van Benthuyssen and Hewitt. Matthew Vassar was chosen president of the board.

Much had been done to improve the streets before this time, the second cobblestone era beginning about 1830. Isaac H. Ver Valin, who then lived on the southeast corner of Main and Academy Streets, Wil-



*The Vassar Street Brewery, Bridge Street Front, from a drawing made by Henry Whinfield in 1837.*

liam Thomas, Thomas Platt and Leonard Davis petitioned for the paving of Academy Street between Main and Cannon, July 28th, 1830, about at the beginning of the movement. Market Street did not escape this time, and the pavement from Main to Church was ordered at a meeting of the trustees September 14th, 1831.<sup>1</sup> Not long afterwards the Main Street pavement was extended to the river and from Academy to Hamilton Street. Before 1837 all the principal streets had been cobbled, and excluding macadam, the area of pavement has not been greatly increased since. The old brick sidewalks, mostly discarded within the past twenty years, date also from this period. May 18th, 1831, the following paper was presented to the trustees:

We the undersigned owners of lots fronting on Main street in Poughkeepsie between the court house and the river do hereby engage to pave or flag the sidewalks before our said lots in such manner as the trustees of the village shall direct as witness our hands this third day of Nov., 1830.

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| H. CONKLIN,     | WM. DAVIES,        |
| WM. TURNER,     | STEPHEN ARMSTRONG, |
| P. POTTER,      | M. VASSAR,         |
| MARINUS PIERCE, | A. BLAKESLEE,      |
| J. M. NELSON.   |                    |

This was evidently before the village had begun to require paved sidewalks, while they were still a

<sup>1</sup>For list of signers on Market, Garden and Mill Streets see Appendix.

matter of individual enterprise, and doubtless with many intervals of gravel and mud in front of the premises of the less enterprising. The first sidewalk order I have found is dated September 8th, 1831, and requires that "the Sidewalks in Main Street from Washington to Academy Street be pitched and Flaged with Brick in good and substantial manner—under the direction of the trustees—and that they cause a tax to be assessed, Levied and collected on the owners of the Lots for that purpose." Sidewalks were ordered on "Academy Street from Washington Street to Cannon,"<sup>1</sup> at the same time. The word "flag" evidently did not imply blue stone, but the records show that stone was occasionally used. The village was lifting itself out of the mud and preparing for the great period of expansion that was to come. The following petition presents a glimpse of the old life when Main Street, at least above Academy, was a residence street, at the beginning of the improvement period.

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

The undersigned respectfully represents that the inhabitants of that section of Main Street which lies between the corner of Isaac H. Ver Valin and the corner of Hamilton and Main Streets have been subjected to greater expense in paving that section by reason of the increased width of the street than the inhabitants of any other section will be subjected to. That in the section named there are no crossings except at Ver Valin's corner. The undersigned respectfully suggests that in said section there should be at least two crossings, one nearly opposite the pump at the easterly end of said section and one opposite the brick house occupied by Doctor Tapping. The reasons therefore are as follows: My family, the families living in the two houses West of me are obliged to get their water at the pump mentioned, their yards being too rocky to admit of wells being dug therein. The families living in the houses on the corner of Hamilton and Cannon streets get all their water at the pump mentioned. The children of almost every family living on the south side of Main Street are sent to Dr. Tapping's school. These with other considerations of general convenience render it desirable that there should be crossways at the places mentioned," etc.

LEON'D MAISON.

Poughkeepsie, 20th July, 1831.

The "Doctor Tapping" here mentioned was a son of Dr. Peter Tappen, the Revolutionary leader, whose widow was still living in August, 1824, when the town commissioners laid out Crannell Street, "by and with the consent and approbation of Elizabeth Tappen, the proprietor of the land." The survey began from the corner of her house and the street was of course named for her father, Bartholomew Crannell, who had

given the land to her husband so many years before. Catherine Street was surveyed from Theodorius Gregory's house (on the site of the Morgan House) in 1831, and was extended through to Cottage in 1834, when Mansion Street and many of the other streets north of Mill were laid out. It was named from Catherine Livingston, Gilbert Livingston's widow, who died in 1830. Dr. Tappen built some of the first houses on Mill Street above Catherine, including what is now called the Wimpleberg house. One of his daughters married James Bowne, Leonard Maison, signer of the petition, was a famous character, a very able lawyer and politician.

The real estate projects with which the leading members of the Improvement Party were most closely associated were generally on the north side of Main Street, but during the boom farms were cut up into lots



GEORGE CORLIES.

and sold at auction in all sections. Dr. John Barnes, Richard A. Varick, George Corlies and Caleb Barker put through one of the largest deals, when they purchased the Bronson French farm, extending from Montgomery Street to Holmes and from Hamilton to Market, with the exception of the section purchased by Christ Church in 1828, the greater portion of which was used as a burying ground, where now the church itself stands. On this farm they mapped<sup>1</sup> and staked out the extensions of Academy and Hamilton Streets, south of Montgomery, and laid out Carroll, South

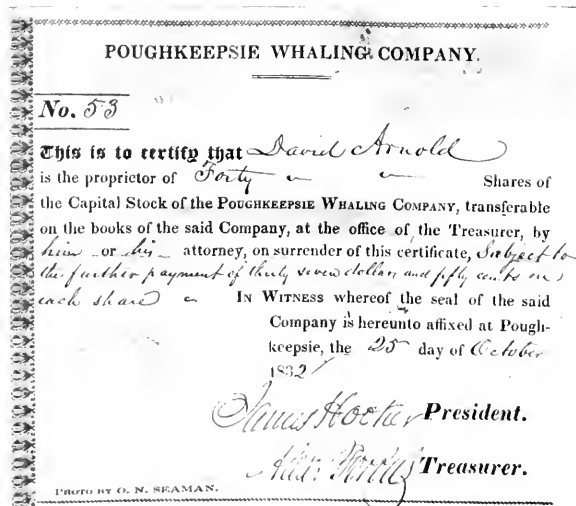
<sup>1</sup>Maps 74 and 84 County Clerk's Office. Barclay and Holmes are mapped through to Market. The Church property originally extended to Hamilton, and the former rectory corner Hamilton and Barclay, was built in 1853.

<sup>1</sup>So in original. Probably means Main Street to Cannon.

Liberty, Barclay, Franklin and Holmes. According to the late Henry D. Myers<sup>1</sup>, who did part of the surveying, the first day's sales at the auction of lots on this tract amounted to \$80,000, and lots on South Liberty Street (now Garfield Place) brought \$25 a foot. George Corlies<sup>2</sup> was the leading spirit in the development of this property, now one of the principal residence sections of the city, and he is said to have been the first to plant shade trees along the streets. The farm next south of this was mapped not long afterwards and was advertised for sale in June, 1836, by Solomon V. Frost and George P. Oakley, as "the Eden Hills." "These hills," says the advertisement, "are raised on sixty acres of land, situate in the south part

opened and are to this day mostly pasture land or meadow. Many of the maps of the period are on file and some others are to be found in collections. On a map made to advertise a sale at auction, Sept. 14th, 1836, of land bounded by Cherry, Mansion, Main Streets and the Fall Kill, the line of White Street is run through a part of the kitchen wing of the old Everitt stone house, which was doubtless lopped off when the street was opened. Jas. Bleeker & Sons were the leading auctioneers of the day.

Until this period nearly all of the successful up-town business and professional men lived over their stores on Main Street, or not far away in Mill, Cannon or Market Streets, while persons engaged in



*Stock of the Poughkeepsie Whaling Company.*

of the village of Poughkeepsie, adjoining the Highland Turnpike, and the land lately sold by Mr. French to Mr. Barker and others, and the elegant mansion site of Mr. Holmes." Obadiah Holmes, from whom Holmes Street was named, owned the place which came into the possession of Hubert Van Wagenen in 1839, and at his death in 1853 was sold to Henry L. Young. The house was probably built by Mr. Van Wagenen.

This was well out into the country at that time, but still further in the woods were some of the tracts laid out on the north side. The map of Poughkeepsie published in 1837, shows a whole section of streets, Star, Willow, Morton, etc., that have never been

the profitable river trade lived near the landings. With the real estate boom began a migration to more distinct residence sections, but the boomers did not think it probable that many people in business at the river would ever care to live up-town, hence they planned Delafield Street to be a street of handsome residences, each to be placed at least fifty feet back with a fine lawn in front. In order to give value to this property they established their leading industries in the neighborhood of the Upper Landing, already an important centre.

#### THE WHALING COMPANIES.

The most important of the new enterprises of this period were the Whaling Companies. That great ships were sent to sea from Poughkeepsie for whale

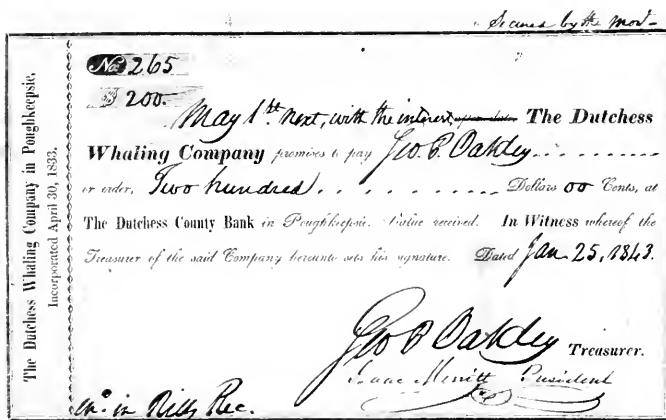
<sup>1</sup>Ed. with an Old Citizen — Eagle July 30, 1884

<sup>2</sup>For biographical sketch see Appendix



oil, in competition with such places as New Bedford, seems strange enough now, but Hudson, Newburgh, and other towns equally remote from the ocean, were doing the same thing. The Poughkeepsie Whaling Company<sup>1</sup> was incorporated April 20th, 1832, "for the purpose of engaging in the whale fishery in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and elsewhere, and in the manufacture of oil and spermaceti candles." James Hooker, Matthew Vassar, Gilbert Brewster, Thomas L. Davies, Paraclete Potter, Nathan Conklin, Alexander J. Coffin and Richard Pudney are named as organizers in the charter. James Hooker became president and Alexander Forbus treasurer. The Dutchess Whaling Company was incorporated a year later (April 30, 1833), by Nathaniel P. Tallmadge,

mount on a four years cruise, during which the crew mutinied and killed their captain. The ship *Siroc* wrecked at Valparaiso, Chili, was fitted out in 1834 and in the same year the ship *Elbe* was purchased. The *Eagle* of May 13th, 1835, says, "The whaling business made a worse beginning at this town than at any other place but is now looking up." The ship *Siroc* is mentioned as lying at Cape Town completely dismantled. The Poughkeepsie Whaling Co. then had two ships at sea and two in port refitting. Not long after this the company moved its headquarters to the Whale Dock, where the Dutchess Company was already established. The late James F. Marble<sup>2</sup> came to Poughkeepsie in 1834 with others from New Bedford, Mass., to go into the employ of the Dutchess Whaling



Note of the Dutchess Whaling Company.

Jacob Van Benthuysen, Walter Cunningham, Aaron Innis, John Adriance, Peter P. Hayes, Caleb Barker, Abraham G. Storm, Paraclete Potter, George P. Oakley and John Green. Most of the numerous newspaper sketches of the old whaling business confuse these two companies hopelessly, and some do not mention the second and most successful company at all.

The Poughkeepsie Whaling Company began business<sup>2</sup> between the foot of Main Street and the Vassar Brewery, which was not built, however, until three or four years later. This company, of which Captain Frederick Barnard, father of the late Justice Joseph F. Barnard was the first agent, sent the barque Ver-

Company, of which David S. Sherman was the local agent. The house built by Captain Sherman on North Water Street, near Whitfield, is still standing. Captain Barnard lived on the North Road until about 1845, when he purchased the large house built by Walter Cunningham in Cannon Street, still known as the Barnard house.

The *Eagle* of May 20th, 1835, says of the Dutchess Whale Dock: "On Friday last the company's new store was raised. It is 50 x 100 feet. Upon this dock are also a cooper shop, thirty feet by fifty, two stories high and a large shed, with a rigging loft, attached to the ship yard of Messrs. Tooker & Hait. Other buildings, among which are a large candle factory and a shop for boat building will

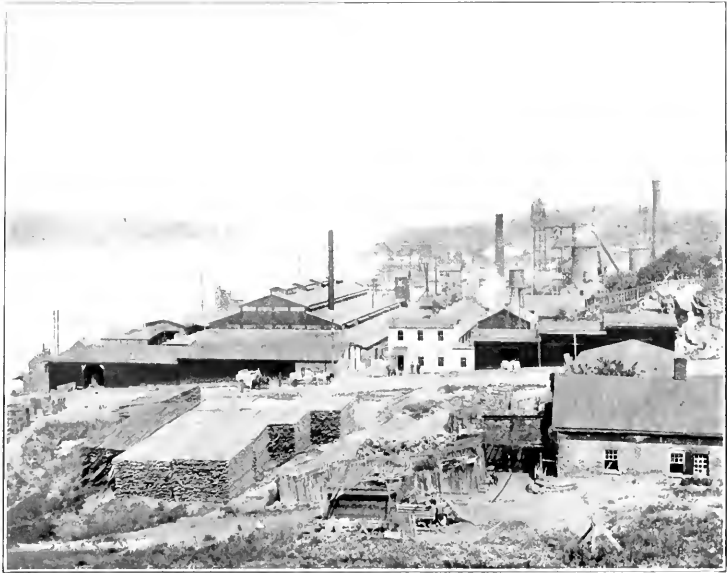
<sup>1</sup>Chapter 208, Laws of 1832.

<sup>2</sup>Our First Shipyards." Courier, 1886.

<sup>3</sup>Souvenir Eagle, p. 10.







POUGHKEEPSIE GLASS WORKS.

*On the site of the Whale Dock.*

*For account of organization of Company see Chapter XI and Appendix. The little building at the right in the picture was the blacksmith shop of the Whaling Company.*

be put up as soon as possible. Both whaling companies are determined to have all the work of building, rigging and fitting out their ships done here, so that the town may have all the benefit of their patronage." The local papers by this time had certainly learned to print local news, and the same article states that the Dutchess Company was planning to build a new ship as soon as the "Newark" was ready for sea, and mentions a large building on the corner of Mill and Delafield Streets, "intended to be occupied as an extensive coach factory." The new ship planned was doubtless the "N. P. Tallmadge," launched in 1836.

The "New England," one of the Dutchess Company's ships, was given some notoriety by mention in R. H. Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast*, published in 1840 as a true record of a voyage in the brig "Pilgrim" from Boston, and still a popular boys' book. Under date of Friday, Nov. 14, soon after the Pilgrim had rounded Cape Horn going westward, Dana writes:

"At two p. m. we saw a sail on our larboard beam and at four we made it out to be a large ship steering our course, under single-reefed top-sails \* \* \* He ran down for us, and answered our hail as the whale-ship New England of Poughkeepsie, one hundred and twenty days from New York \* \* \* About half-past ten (the next day) their whale boat came alongside, and Captain Job Terry sprung on board, a man known in every port and by every vessel in the Pacific Ocean. \* \* \* His boat's crew were a pretty raw set, just out of the bush, and as the sailor's phrase is, 'hadn't got the hayseed out of their hair.'

\* \* \* \* \* One of the lads who came in this boat, a thoroughly countryfied looking fellow, seemed to care very little about the vessel rigging or anything else, but went round looking at the live stock and leaned over the pigsty, and said he wished he was back again tending his father's pigs."

As this narrative indicates, a considerable number of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County boys shipped for a voyage or two on the old whalers, and some of them went round the world. A very few survivors may still be found who can spin the old-time yarns about their cruises. The Dutchess Whaling Company at one time had a fleet of six or seven ships, and the "Whale Dock" with its ship-yard, cooperages, repair shops, etc., was a very busy, and a very odoriferous neighborhood. Of all the buildings only the old blacksmith shop, now a dwelling, remains. This is on the south side of Dutchess Avenue just east of the location of the old ship-yard. The glass works occupy the site of most of the Whale Dock buildings. The end of the industry will be noted in the next chap-

ter, but here are some statistics from U. S. government publications:

## WHALING INDUSTRY OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

| Year | Number of Vessels | Bbls. of Sperm Oil | Bbls. of Whale Oil | Lbs. of Bone |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1835 | 1                 | 500                |                    |              |
| 1836 | 1                 | 800                |                    |              |
| 1837 | 2                 | 1,300              |                    |              |
| 1839 | 6                 | ?                  | (2045)?            |              |
| 1840 | 6                 |                    |                    |              |
| 1841 | 7                 | 500                | 200                |              |
| 1842 | 4                 |                    |                    |              |
| 1843 | 3                 | 1770               | 5700               | 57000        |
| 1844 | 1                 | 700                | 1600               | 13000        |

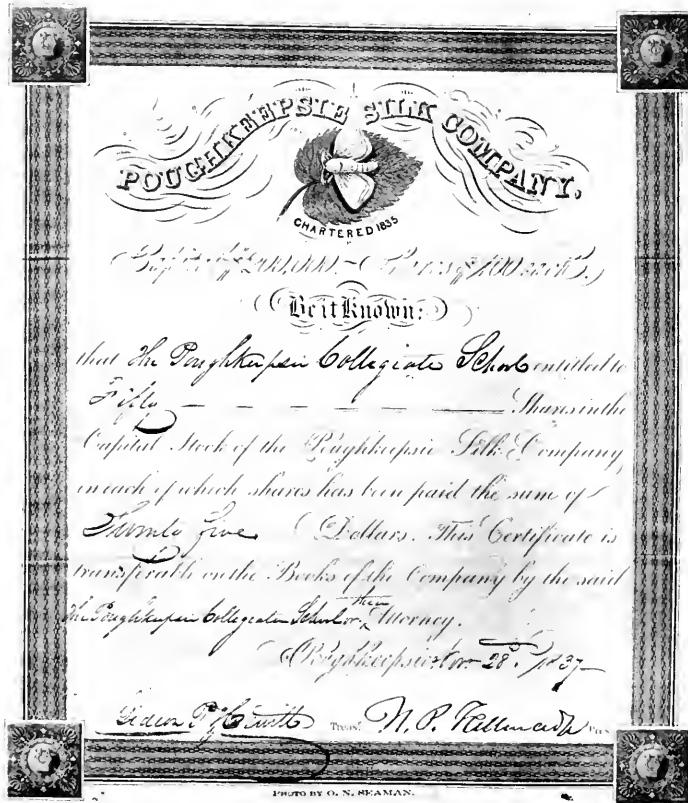
## OTHER INDUSTRIES.

The other leading industrial establishment of the Improvement Party, the Poughkeepsie Silk Company, might have become a great establishment, if it had been launched at a more auspicious time. Incorporated in 1835, its chief building, erected in that year, was long a centre of important manufacturing, and, as rebuilt after the fire of 1854, is still in use. The company constructed an elaborate plant for the day and even went into the culture of silk worms, growing mulberry trees on a tract of land near the junction of Delafield Street and the Post Road. It had not succeeded in obtaining much of a foothold in the industrial world when overtaken by the panic. Charles M. Pelton in 1837 rented the third floor of the building temporarily for the manufacture of carpets, but it did not become the Pelton factory until 1850.

Other projects of the Improvement Party were the "Dutchess Rail Road Company," the origin of the plan so long in abeyance for a railroad eastward, incorporated March 28th, 1832, with William Davies, Henry Conklin, Paraclete Potter, and Morgan Carpenter as organizing commissioners; the Poughkeepsie Locomotive Engine Company, started after the panic of '37, and described in the next chapter; the "Poughkeepsie Manufacturing Company," chartered April 25th, 1832, "for the purpose of manufacturing cotton and woolen goods and machinery," and the Poughkeepsie Screw Manufacturing Company, also described briefly in the next chapter. The Dutchess Mutual Insurance Company was chartered April 12th, 1836, and its first board of directors was James Emott, James Mabbett, Alexander Forbes, Thomas Tabor, Abraham Boecker, Daniel D. Akin, Homer Wheaton, William H. Bostwick, J. T. Schryver, Stephen Thorn, Silas Germond, John N. Ketcham, and James Vincent. It was perhaps not distinctly an Improvement Party enterprise, and has survived all

vicissitudes and grown into a strong and important institution. Among other industries of this period were two iron foundries, one of which survives as the "Poughkeepsie Foundry and Machine Company" with a new plant on the north side of the city. It was established about 1831 on the site of the recently abandoned Main Street plant of the company, by Solomon V. Frost and Benjamin Vail. The Dutch-

360 Main Street. By 1835 this was becoming a rather populous neighborhood for a tannery, and Mr. Boyd about that time purchased some property in the Red Mills neighborhood and established a large tannery there. He also for a time conducted a tannery on the north-east corner of Hamilton and Main Streets. Soon after this the Southwicks established a store and depot for the purchase of hides at 370 Main Street,



Stock of the Poughkeepsie Silk Company.

ess Foundry, east of Hamilton Street, was started still earlier, and continued in business until after 1880.

As this was the period of cattle raising in Dutchess County the tanning business reached considerable importance. David Boyd opened a leather store in Main Street above Market (about 262) in 1821, and a few years later abandoned the old tannery on the corner of Washington Street and established one at

where the leather business is still carried on by the same family. Mr. Boyd then, to meet this competition, built a small wooden building on the corner of South Clinton Street and placed his son, John G. Boyd, there to intercept the farmers as they came into town. This was soon abandoned, but the little building is still standing, having been moved to front Clinton Street. The Red Mills Tannery was conducted by John G.

Boyd and Abraham Wiltzie, then by Thomas Longking, until the purchase of the property by Robert Sanford. One or two of the buildings, including the engine room and chimney are still there.

The wool business also attained much importance during this period, and David Boyd dealt considerably in this staple as an adjunct of the tanning business. Conklin & Bowne were also large dealers in wool and built the brick warehouse which still bears the letters "wool," in the rear of 311 Main Street. Under the heading of "Poughkeepsie Wool Market" the *Eagle* of June 24th, 1835, says: "The speculations in wool during the last week have been large and at good prices. We understand that at least 100,000 pounds have been sold at prices varying according to quality from 40 to 85 cents a pound cash."

It was during this period that Nathan Gifford started the cutting of dye woods in Poughkeepsie, afterwards and for many years one of the most important industries of the place. Mr. Gifford had worked for Beria Swift at Mechanic (now Millbrook), who is said to have invented the first machinery for cutting dye woods used in America, and came to Poughkeepsie in 1816, to work as a machinist in the Reynolds & Innis mills. Reynolds & Innis dissolved partnership, probably before the dye wood business began, James Reynolds and his sons taking the freighting and grocery business, the last of which has now become one of the leading wholesale establishments on the river, while Aaron Innis retained the mills. At Mr. Innis's death in 1838 Howland R. Sherman, who had been bookkeeper at the storehouse on the dock, entered into partnership with Nathan Gifford and the grinding of dye-woods was made a specialty. The firm became Gifford, Sherman & Innis in 1847, when Mr. Innis's eldest son, George Innis, entered it.

#### THE ERA OF THE STEAMBOAT.

During this period, 1815-1837, the river steamboat reached the highest point of its commercial usefulness, a fact which had much to do with the growth of Poughkeepsie. In 1825, with competition for the Fulton and Livingston Company, passenger fares had begun to come down, and by 1834 a fare of \$1.00 to New York was advertised. March 30th, 1827, a Poughkeepsie Steamboat Company was incorporated by James Tallmadge, Thomas J. Oakley, Peter Everitt, James Hooker, N. P. Tallmadge, William Davis, Samuel Pine, Henry Conklin, Aaron Innis, Matthew Vassar, James Reynolds, John C. Van Valkenburgh, Nathan Conklin, Jr., and John Green, but apparently they did not carry out their plans, for in 1835 the papers were advocating the establishment of a local

company, and at a village meeting held December 2nd Matthew Vassar, Peter P. Hayes, Henry Conklin, John Brush, Isaac Platt, Gideon P. Hewitt and Elias Trivett were appointed a committee to see if they could not secure a line to the village. This must have been an effort for a fast passenger day line, for there were already at least four boats each week to New York towing barges and according to Gordon's *Gazetteer* two steamboats were principally owned in Dutchess County. Advertisements show that the steamboat Congress was towing the "tow-boat" (this was the old name for barge) Clinton from the Upper Landing, J. R. Cary & Co., every Wednesday afternoon; the Union was towing the Hindson from the Union Landing, Vincent, Hayt & Co., every Friday. U. Gregory & Co., who conducted the Lower Landing, were not advertising in 1835, in either the *Eagle* or the *Telegraph*, but in 1836 they announced a change of firm to Gregory, Hunt & Co., and also the sailings of the new and substantial barge "Poughkeepsie." In 1836 G. I. Vincent & Co.<sup>1</sup> advertised the "tow-boat" Union from Main Street Landing. The first mention I have seen of "Tow Boats" was in the *Telegraph*, June 29th, 1825, when they were brought into use for passengers, who were thus carried "at such a safe distance as to be out of all danger should any accident happen to the boilers and free from the noise of the machinery." They were soon popular and were in use at most of the Poughkeepsie landings before 1830. Back in 1831 Ver Valin, Adriance & Co.,<sup>2</sup> at the Union Landing advertised that they had bought the Steamboat Richmond, which would run to New York every Wednesday for passengers and freight, and in 1837 G. Wilkinson & Co.<sup>3</sup> at the Upper Landing announced the purchase of the steamboat Emerald, which would run to New York.

The Newburgh and Albany Line was started in 1835, and there was also a line from Hyde Park to New York, stopping at Poughkeepsie. Gordon mentions a steamboat plying "twice a day from Poughkeepsie to Newburgh." Regular lines of sloops were still holding a share of the business, and in 1835 the sloop Marian, Capt. Joseph Tice, of the "Troy and Poughkeepsie Line," ran from "Marinus Pierce's Lumber Yard, foot of Main Street, north side of Steamboat House," and the "Poughkeepsie and Albany

<sup>1</sup>G. I. Vincent, Thomas M. Vail, U. Conklin and Robert Marshall.

<sup>2</sup>Isaac H. Ver Valin, John Adriance, Hiram H. Van Albet, and David Ver Valin.—*Dutchess Republican*, Aug. 24, 1831.

<sup>3</sup>Geo. Wilkinson, Aaron Innis, James R. Cary and Howland R. Sherman.—*Telegraph* 1837. The personnel of these freighting firms changed almost from year to year.

Line," packet sloop Index, Capt. Abraham Underwood, from the Upper Landing.

The strong rivalry between the various up-river steamboats that landed at Main Street is well shown by an article in the *Eagle* of April 22, 1835 under the head of:

STEAMBOAT DEWITT CLINTON—A MEAN TRICK.

It is universally admitted, we believe, that the steamboat DeWitt Clinton is one of the best night boats in the United States \* \* \* We therefore deeply regret to find ourselves under the necessity of recording a very mean and unwarrantable trick, performed by the officers of this boat on the 12th inst.

There were on that evening three boats coming down the river; the North America between two and three miles ahead of the others, and the Westchester just far enough ahead of the De Witt Clinton to reach the landing first. The two first boats made their regular landings, but about twenty passengers waited to take the DeWitt Clinton, not doubting that she would stop. To the surprise of everybody she sent her passengers ashore at the Upper dock with a small boat, and then dashed gallantly past giving the passengers who had waited for her an opportunity of witnessing her energetic movements, and reflecting at leisure on the pleasure of being left behind till the next night.

As to the freighting business the steamboats and "tow boats" did in 1835, the following from the *Eagle* of Dec. 16th is interesting: "The amount of pork and other freight taken to New York by our tow boats for the past three weeks has been almost incredible. They have left four times each week and have carried upon an average nearly or quite three hundred tons of freight each, \* \* \* Our streets have been constantly crowded with teams from all parts of this county, with many from different parts of Columbia and Ulster Counties, and also some from Connecticut." There was a special cause for this rush, as a cold snap had closed the river above Poughkeepsie, and that very day, according to the next week's *Eagle*, the thermometer began to go down until it reached 22 degrees below zero at the Academy on the 17th, "being the coldest weather ever known at this place since thermometers have been used except the famous cold Monday of last year, when it sunk to 29."

This was a period of great development for the hotels everywhere, a by-product of the freighting business. The Exchange House at the foot of Main Street was built in 1834, and Capt. Warren Skinner, one of the early proprietors, is said to have made a fortune there. It was a popular summer resort for New Yorkers. About 1831 Theodorus Gregory bought the Eastern House, corner of Main and Catherine Streets,

developing it from a small tavern to a good hotel, later to acquire fame as a temperance house. Isaac I. Balding's Northern Hotel, corner of Mill and Washington, was also flourishing. Traveling everywhere was greatly stimulated by the steamboat, but in winter the stage coach still held sway, even on the Post Road. "Owing to the bad travelling to the north," says the



Northern Hotel, from photograph made about 1875.

*Intelligencer* of March 27th, 1833, "or to the attractiveness of our village and the excellent hotels it contains, we have been favored for a few days with the presence of several gentlemen direct from Washington. Among them were Hon. Silas Wright, John A. Collier, Gen. Root and Gen. Pitcher. They appeared in fine health and spirits, the recent campaign against nullification notwithstanding."

There is ample testimony<sup>1</sup> as to the growth of the village at this time. Gordon's *Gazetteer* (1836), before quoted, says, "The increase of the village in the last six years has been 100 per cent," and adds:

"Since 1831 more than \$100,000 have been expended in opening, regulating and paving streets; over \$25,000 in the construction of a reservoir, pipes, etc., for supplying the village with water for the extinguishment of fires, and the following valuable improvements have been made: 1000 feet of dock and bulkhead including the new shipyard and dock of the whaling companies (which alone have a water front of 450 feet) a new brick brewery near 200 feet long, a silk factory of brick 4 stories high, 36 x 100 feet, a new market and village hall at a cost of \$20,000, 2 Episcopal churches, a new Baptist church on the site

<sup>1</sup>A little volume entitled "Letters about the Hudson" (Freeman, Hunt & Co., New York, 1837), contains several letters from Poughkeepsie describing its advantages and its growth.

of the old one, a Roman Catholic Church, a second Presbyterian Church, a collegiate school 77 x 100 feet, a young ladies' seminary of large dimensions, two elegant banking houses, a new post office and range of offices attached, a new park or square highly ornamented and stocked with deer, a splendid mansion house opposite and about 40 fashionable modern dwellings mostly of brick in the immediate vicinity. Four whaling ships have been built or fitted for sea, and the keel of another lately laid, besides numerous schooners sloops and tow boats. Within the last year upwards of 160 buildings have been erected, property has risen greatly in value, and in 1835 there was not a single unoccupied tenement in the village."

This quotation from Gordon indicates about the date of the erection of a new Christ Church (the old one torn down in 1880), the building of the Congregational Church (first organized as a Second Presbyterian) and of the first Roman Catholic church in Poughkeepsie. Some of Gordon's items deserve more than passing notice. The "new market and village hall" mentioned was authorized at a village meeting in the spring of 1831. On May 24th the trustees



*The Village Hall, now the City Hall. Photographed in 1880, when the rear building was erected.*

voted the payment of \$6,000 to Paraclete Potter and Gilbert Brewster for the site, and on June 13th an additional piece of land was purchased of Benjamin Howland at a cost of \$1,000 "for the purpose of steighting the Market site and giving sufficient room for the fish market." The corporation borrowed \$12,000 for the expenses of building and lot, and July 11th ordered notices published for proposals "for building a public market 90 feet long and thirty-six feet wide two stories high to be built of brick in a good and substantial manner and the upper part to be finished for public rooms." John B. Forbus, James B. Frear and A. J. Coffin were the building committee, and in August they contracted with John

G. Sturgis and Wm. Carey, who agreed to put up the building for \$7,200. It was finished before winter, and remains serviceable, though considerable additions have recently been made in the rear to accommodate the city police and public works departments. The use of the lower floor as a market continued until about the time of the war.

#### THE RESERVOIR AND THE BIG FIRE OF 1836.

The establishment of the first central water supply, was not effected without a long struggle. A water company was incorporated in 1831, but seems not to have done any work, and apparently its incorporators, Walter Cunningham, James Hooker, Gilbert Brewster, William Thomas and Alexander Forbus, did not oppose action by the village. The first definite action recorded was the resolution of March 1st, 1833, passed by a "Meeting of the Trustees together with Freeholders and inhabitants" as follows:

Resolved that the Trustees be Authorized and empowered to purchase a Lot in their disgression for the purpose of erecting a cistern or fountain sufficient to supply the village with water from the Fallkill for the extinguishment of fires and leading the same over the village in pipes, if it shall be found expedient so to do and the following gentlemen shall be a committee associated with the Trustees for the purpose of determining as to the Expediency. Viz: James Hooker, Walter Cunningham, Matthew Vassar, Richard D. Davis and Rufus Potter.

The committee began to meet difficulties at the start, the most serious from the owners of mill privileges and water rights on the Fall Kill. Henry Swift, one of the leading lawyers of the day, gave a formal opinion that the trustees had the right to take water from the creek, and John Brush gave a contrary opinion at a meeting held July 25th. There was also a remonstrance from James Reynolds, Aaron Imis and other owners of mill privileges, and another from "Thomas Sweet, James Emott and ninety-one other individuals" asking that action be deferred. The trustees, under the presidency of George P. Oakley, nevertheless went ahead. At a special meeting August 1st "it was resolved unanimously that the Trustees proceed to build the reservoir, and lay pipes from it to the Dutch Reformed Church." They had already chosen the Reservoir site on land purchased for \$1,000 of Captain Joseph Harris on the top of the hill since known as Cannon Street Hill. A meeting of the "Freeholders and Inhabitants" authorized an expenditure not to exceed \$15,000. Then there was a law suit over water rights, but finally on May 19th, 1834, it is recorded that "Captain Harris delivered the deed to the village for Reservoir lots" and the *Eagle* of

November 4th, 1835, rejoiced that the reservoir had at last been completed at a cost of \$30,000, and controversies settled. It was to be used only for extinguishing fires.

The severe drought of that fall prevented it from getting any water until after the middle of December, and it was temporarily out of water again, undergoing repairs, on the memorable night of Thursday, May 12th, 1836, when "Poughkeepsie was visited by the most extensive fire that has ever been known in this place," words still true to-day. From the brick building now occupied by Charles L. Dates it burned all buildings on the south side of Main Street to Academy. When the fire broke out at 11.30 in the shop of Messrs. Gorman & Nelson, cabinet makers, there was a strong south wind blowing and the flames spread very rapidly. Sparks set fire to the roofs of several houses on the north side of the street "being all of wood and dry as tinder." The destruction of all the northern part of the village seemed inevitable, but, "At this critical and frightful juncture, (the forcing pump for supplying the reservoir having been put in operation almost as soon as the fire appeared) an abundant supply came down from the reservoir, and most fortunately at this time also the wind subsided to a calm." By truly heroic efforts the firemen and citizens put out the fires on the north side of the street and managed to confine the destruction on the south side to the frame buildings. Meantime people had moved out their goods and furniture from most of the buildings between Garden and Catherine streets, and from some much farther away. Even Primrose Green (Brookside) the new residence of George P. Oakley, "half a mile away," was considered in danger at one time. The loss was given as \$50,000 and the buildings burned belonged to David B. Lent, Henry Flagler, Leonard Maison, Wm. T. Livingston, N. G. Cairnes, Mrs. Leonard Davis and the estate of Charles Warner. They were occupied by the stores of J. A. Wendover, Wm. Frost and Henry Powell, the Cold-stream tobacco factory, Haggadorn's shoe store, Lent & Bogardus's saddle and harness stores, Harvey's Confectionery, Miss Pell's millinery, Flagler & Adriaance's grocery and several minor establishments.

#### THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

This fire occurred just before the annual village election, of May 17th, at which a resolution was passed to establish fire limits: "the lots on both sides of the streets now paved" within which "all buildings hereafter to be erected shall be required to have their outer walls constructed of brick or stone and their roofs of Slate, Tile or Metal." The following

appropriations were carried at this election, the last, by the way, which was held in May, later village elections occurring in March:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| For the Village Watch . . . . .  | \$2,000 00 |
| New Engine and for a Engine & Hook & Ladder horse on the Market Ground . . | 2,500 00   |
| For a new Engine House near the Booth Pond . . . . .                       | 300 00     |
| For a lot on which to erect the same . . . . .                             | 200 00     |
| For a Hose house near Academy & Main Street . . . . .                      | 200 00     |
| For contingent expenses . . . . .  | 3,000 00   |
| For a new Hay Scales on Market Ground . .                                  | 200 00     |

The fire department was already pretty well developed, with three engine companies, two hose companies and a hook and ladder company. The hose companies appear to have been organized soon after the completion of the reservoir and hydrants on Main Street in 1835, the first mention of Hose Co. No. 1 being the appointment of Israel P. Hall as foreman, March 5th. Eli Jennings was commissioned as foreman of "Engine Co. No. 5," at the trustees meeting of May 20th, but this company was organized as Hose Co. No. 2, afterwards known as Howard Hose. The organization of Engine Co. No. 4<sup>1</sup> was authorized at the same time, but was not carried out until after the appropriations voted at the next annual meeting, quoted above, and is recorded in the minutes of Nov. 3d, 1836. The hook and ladder horse erected on the Market ground as a result of the 1836 vote was probably the old Phoenix house<sup>2</sup>. The village minutes do not seem to show the date of the formal organization of the hook and ladder men into a company. There was a foreman of "Hooks" as early as 1811, and the village, October 17th, 1831, paid Paraclete Potter \$67.50 for rent of a lot for Hook and Ladder House, but the ladders seem to have been carried to fires by the members up to March 25th, 1836 when the chief engineer was authorized to purchase a "Hook and Ladder Carriage," and 1836 appears to be the first certain date of "Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1" in the register of firemen's certificates. The name "Davy Crockett" was probably given in 1838, when it was first painted on the truck. On March 30th, 1837, the trustees of the village "Resolved that another Hook & Ladder Company to be called Hook & Ladder Co. No. 2, be established and the following persons be commissioned as Firemen to be attached to said company." The list is missing from the records.

There are occasional reports in the papers of this period of the visits of firemen from other towns, but

<sup>1</sup>For list of charter members of No. 4, see Appendix.

<sup>2</sup>This building was built in 1837, according to a committee report made April 21, 1851.



I have seen none in which the home companies were given names.

#### CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

The building of the new churches mentioned by Gordon indicates that the growth of the village had brought in a share of the foreign immigration then coming to America. The two Episcopal churches indicate the coming of Englishmen, and the arrival of North of Ireland immigrants and occasional Scotchmen doubtless helped to bring the Presbyterian strength up to a point where a permanent organization, a building and a settled pastorate were possible. As we have seen, the Presbyterians were very early on the ground, but were not able to build a church. Some of them doubtless entered the Dutch Church<sup>1</sup> after the

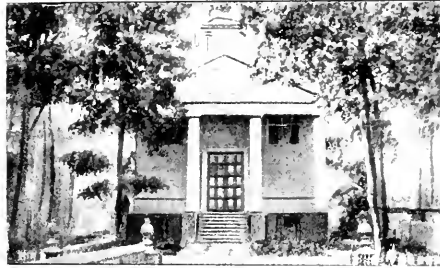


*Old Christ Church, erected 1833. Toin down to make room for the Armory, 1889.*

use of the Dutch language had been abandoned, but they again formed an organization in 1817, and in 1821, acquired the little burying ground on Main Street, east of the junction of Church. This, I believe, was the old Lewis family burying ground. One of the headstones indicates that the first Leonard Lewis, who died in 1730, was buried there. For a time services were held in the Lancaster School building, but in September, 1826, they purchased of Dr. William Thomas the Cannon Street lot next west of the Dutch-

<sup>1</sup>A recent letter from Mr. Henry J. Ruggles, who lived as a boy in the Ruggles (afterwards Hooker) house on Market Street, until his family moved away in 1824, says: "I do not remember any Dutch Church, so called, in Poughkeepsie. But possibly the Presbyterian Church was a Dutch Reformed. Of this a Dr. Cuyler was pastor. It was situated on Main Street on the south side some little distance westward from the Court House."

ess County Academy. There were then eighteen members<sup>1</sup> and Joseph Allen, David Hibbard, William Williams, and Marquis de LaFayette Phillips were chosen as ruling elders. The trustees were George B. Everson, Nehemiah Conklin, David B. Lent, Joseph Allen, John S. Meyers, M. D. L. F. Phillips, John B. Swartwout, Samuel Lee and John Beckwith. The building was dedicated on December 19th and the next day Rev. Alonzo Welton was installed the first pastor. In 1827 the trustees bought of David B. Lent the lot on Church Street, in the rear of the Church, and there built the first parsonage, which is still standing.



*Presbyterian Church, on the site of the V. W. C. A. Building.*

At the time the church was built the controversy that in 1837 divided the denomination into "New School" and "Old School," was raging, and, finding his congregation much divided, Mr. Welton left in 1831. After an absence of four years he returned and organized a Second Presbyterian Church, to which seventy-one persons were dismissed from the first church. Mr. Welton is said to have been a "New School" man, but his church had disbanded before the actual division of the denomination, and when that division took place the older organization became and remained "New School." Probably his following was largely personal. In June, 1835, the Second Presbyterian Church asked the parent congregation to give it the old Van Kleeck burial lot, on the west side of Vassar Street—a lot which had come into the hands of the Presbyterians—as a site for a church edifice, but the trustees found that they had no legal power to do this, and the seceders thereupon obtained property on the corner of Mill Street and Vassar, and erected the building which still stands, now a Jewish Synagogue. Being few in numbers and heavily in debt Rev. Jedediah Burchard, a noted evangelist, was engaged to hold a revival, which was notable not only as adding more than two hundred members to the new church, but because it stirred up a controversy

<sup>1</sup>Sketch of Presbyterian Church history, compiled by Mr. James B. Platt, in Year Book for 1900.

which created much feeling and called forth a pamphlet from John Thompson, then a young lawyer, afterwards one of the leading lawyers in Poughkeepsie and an elder in the Presbyterian Church, on "Burchardism vs. Christianity." The new church went to pieces in the panic of '37, and had to give up its building, but in July of that year many of its members organized as a Congregational Church<sup>1</sup>, called Rev. Almon Underwood as their pastor, and the next year were strong enough to repurchase the edifice.

Roman Catholics were comparatively few in Poughkeepsie until the days of railroad building, but the abundance of work provided by the operations of the Improvement Party had brought enough of them by 1832 or 1833 to warrant an occasional effort to get them together by mission priests sent out from New York. The first mass was said, according to the best obtainable information, in the old Van Kleeck house on Mill Street, about this time. It was occupied then by George Belton, who with his brother, William, came from Ireland in 1831, and settled here the same year. The first church, where the present St. Peter's is located, was erected about 1837 on a lot conveyed by "John Delafield of the city of New York," one of the men who furnished capital for the Improvement Party, "to the Right Reverend John DuBois<sup>2</sup>, Catholic Bishop of New York." There is no definite record of names of the first priests in charge.

It was during this period that the Dutch Church, under the able pastorate of Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler (1800-1833) built its third building, the first on the present site (1822) and again entered upon the policy of disposing of its surplus Main Street land by long leases, the previous controversy having been settled. These were made before the real estate boom had gained headway, but nevertheless at a time when the town was rapidly growing. Three lots on the north side of Main Street, where the second church had stood, were first leased to Henry D. Myers, but the principal lease was made May 1st, 1830, to Gilbert Brewster for a term of 100 years at an annual rental of \$550. The lot so conveyed had a frontage of 62 feet on Main Street and 61 feet 10 inches on Market Street. The church authorities agreed to remove the buildings (small frame affairs) on the property and "to dig up and remove the corpses in the premises." Here was erected the "Brewster Block," long considered the finest business block in town, and still an important building. Of equal date and term with this lease to Brewster were leases

for Main Street frontages of eighteen feet to John B. Forbus, eighteen feet to Griffin Williamson, eighteen feet to Stephen Frost and Townsend E. Gidley, each at an annual rental of \$108; of 21 feet 8 inches to John Caswell at \$120 and of 4 feet at \$20 to James B. Freer, whose lot formed the eastern boundary of the church property. Thomas W. Tallmadge had previously leased a lot between the last two. These lots are about 92 feet deep. The lessees agreed to erect substantial brick buildings of uniform height and appearance. For the church those who signed the agreements were "Cor. C. Cuyler, Minister, J. E. Van Valkenburgh, David Ver Valin, Sidney M. Livingston, Amos T. DeGroff, Abraham Overbaugh, Isaac Roosevelt, Robert Forrest, Law L. V. Kleeck, Peter A. Schryver and Charles W. Tallmadge." The leasing of the property, and especially the removal of the "corpses" caused a heated controversy, remembered by some persons still living.

The Friends, in 1820, had abandoned their old meeting house on Clover Street and erected a new one on the rear of a Washington Street lot<sup>1</sup> purchased of Samuel Pine in the name of John Green and Caleb Barker. The town assessment book of the year 1818 gives a list of Quakers taxed \$4 each, as follows: James Downing, Silas Downing, Zebulon Haight, Joseph Howland, Peleg Howland, Henry Kelly, Jno. Lockwood, Caleb Powell, Henry Powell, Edward Southwick, Robert B. Southwick, Jos. Thorne, Jr. William White. What the occasion of the special tax was I have not found out, but it was probably something in connection with military service, and certainly did not include all the Quakers in the neighborhood. After the separation of the Hicksite and Orthodox Friends, the latter were strong enough in 1820 to purchase a lot on Mill Street, not far above Garden on the north side, and there built a meeting house, which is now a dwelling on Conklin Street. The Hicksites when Lafayette Place was opened in 1841 traded their Washington Street frontage and turned their meeting house around to face the new street. It was altered into a double dwelling house in 1804, when the present meeting house was built adjoining.

Shortly after the Quakers had built on Washington Street the Methodists<sup>2</sup> followed, and in 1826 Josiah Williams purchased for \$650 the lot where Eastman College now stands, and the new church there was dedicated December 27th of that year. The Methodists at that time had but 182 members and were \$900 in debt on the old Jefferson Street building,

<sup>1</sup>Daily Eagle, July 27, 1805. The information came from the late James H. Dudley, who was one of the organizers.

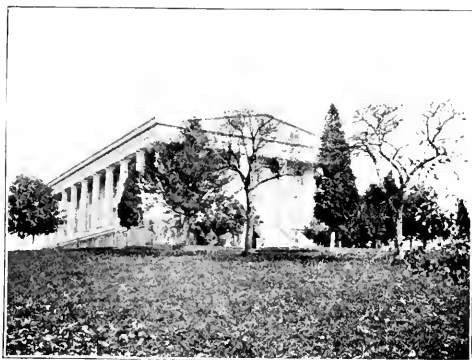
<sup>2</sup>Daily Eagle, July 9, 1805.

<sup>1</sup>Daily Eagle, July 13, 1805.

<sup>2</sup>Vincent's "Methodism in Poughkeepsie," p. 18.

but by 1837 they had increased to 616 and were talking of organizing a second congregation.

St. Paul's Church was part of the plan to build up the neighborhood around Mansion Square. It was organized in August, 1835, at a meeting of the boomers held at the Mansion House, a new hotel<sup>1</sup> (now the home of the Jewett family) and was built in the prevailing Grecian Doric style in 1837 on land donated by Walter Cunningham, Geo. P. Oakley and Paraclete Potter. Part of the funds were subscribed by the real estate owners, but Trinity Church, of New York, added \$5,000. The first rector was Rev. F. W. Hatch, called from Washington, and the vestry was as follows: John Delafield and George P. Oakley, wardens; Elias Trivett, N. P. Tallmadge, Charles H. Ruggles, Paraclete Potter, James Grant, Jr., A. S. Hatch, Hiram Veltman and Samuel Dutton.



*College Hill School Building.*

As they built churches so also the Improvement Party, built schools, and it was due to their energy and wisdom that Poughkeepsie academies and seminaries attained something like preeminence in the state, attracting pupils from all parts of the country. The crowning achievement was the purchase and improvement of a commanding elevation, north of the village, and the erection of that famous imitation of the Parthenon, so long known as College Hill School.

This property had been improved early in the century by Thomas Femer, who is said to have built the fine house at the foot of the hill—the house now known as the Morgan Homestead—and also the road to the summit of the hill. His land extended all the way to the Dutchess Turnpike, and it was from his executors

<sup>1</sup>Washington Davids, grandfather of the present city editor of the Eagle, was one of the first proprietors. After a few years as a hotel the building was long used as a Quaker school.

that David B. Lent purchased his Smith Street property. Femer died in 1815, and Levi McKeen occupied the place for several years. In 1834, when Henry Whinfield made his map of the village, the house on Oakley Street and the hill were in the possession of C. P. Adriance, and the hill is marked "Adriance's Hill." It had already obtained some renown as a sightly location when the Improvement Party purchased it.

The Collegiate School was incorporated in 1835 by N. P. Tallmadge, George P. Oakley, John Delafield, Peter P. Hayes, Walter Cunningham, Paraclete Potter, Stephen Hendrickson, Gideon P. Hewitt, Elias Trivett, Gamaliel Gay and Jacob Van Fenthuysen. Charles Bartlett, who had been conducting a school at Fishkill Landing, became its principal in 1836, when it was opened.

The Poughkeepsie Female Seminary was incorporated in 1834 by almost the same men except that James Bowne, Henry Conklin and Stephen B. Trowbridge appear among them. This company purchased of Henry A. Livingston two lots on the north side of Mill Street, each 33 feet wide, June 9th, 1835, and in 1836 purchased an additional piece of land extending to the Fall Kill (Lib. 57, p. 171 and Lib. 58, p. 41). There is no mention of Garden Street in these deeds and the property evidently did not include the old Levi McKeen house, Cottage Hill, which was afterwards called the "Seminary," and had been used as a school, before this time. Apparently this incorporated Female Seminary was merged with the Female Academy which built the large school building in Cannon Street (now the W. C. T. U. building), and opened in May, 1836, with Miss Arabella Bosworth as the first principal. Miss Bosworth was a teacher of high reputation and had conducted successful girls' schools in several locations about the village, one of which was the old Dutchess Hotel building, corner of Mechanic and Cannon Streets. In 1838 Mrs. Isabella Holt was principal of the Female Academy, which advertised board and tuition in English and Latin for a term of 22 weeks at \$75. "Mons. Aweng" was the teacher of French, and continued an active teacher until almost the time of his death a few years ago.

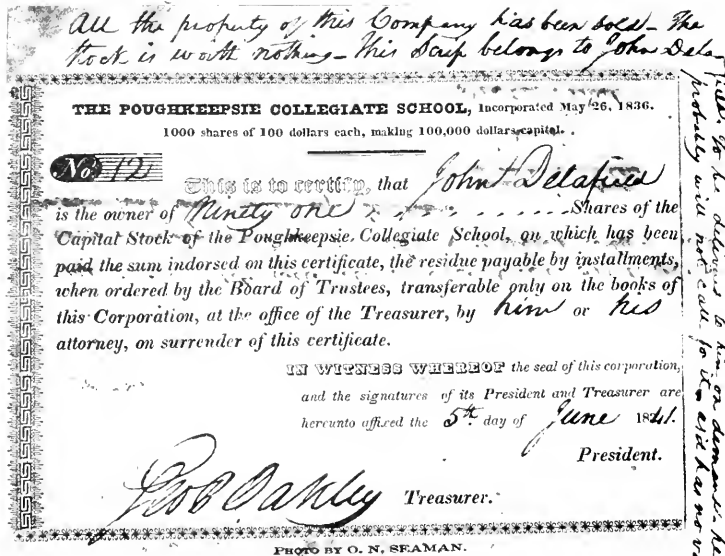
Mrs. Congdon's Seminary was advertised in 1835, and Miss Lydia Booth's Female Seminary<sup>1</sup> must have started not long afterwards in the Cottage Hill building. Miss Booth was a step niece of Matthew Vassar, and in "Vassar College and Its Founder" (p. 59), Mr. Lossing says the Cottage Hill building had once "acquired no little fame as the shelter of the exiled

<sup>1</sup>The first of Miss Booth's advertisements I have seen was in 1838. She issued her "14th semi-annual circular" in 1843

Bourbon of the Orleans line, Louis Philippe, afterwards king of France, who was accompanied by Prince Talleyrand." I know of no evidence in support of this statement, but in later years Mr. Lossing lived in the house next south of Cottage Hill on Garden Street, and he may have had information not now accessible about its early history.

One of the most important school improvements of this period was the building of a new Dutchess County Academy on the corner of Hamilton and Montgomery Streets, a location then pretty well outside of the village. The old building was sold in

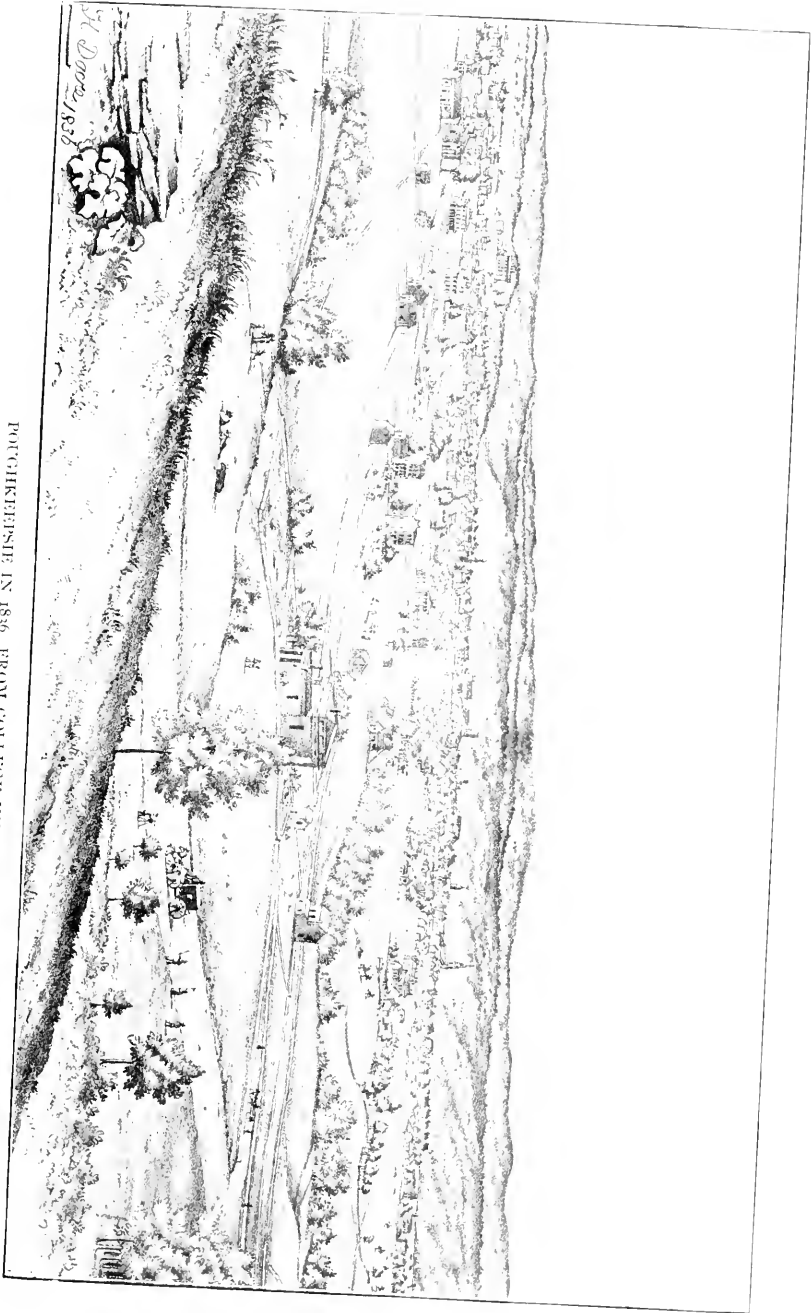
Most of the important buildings mentioned in this chapter can readily be identified in the excellent picture of Poughkeepsie in 1830, on the opposite page. The large house in the foreground is still standing, on the corner of North Clinton and Oakley Streets, though much changed in appearance by the loss of its Grecian columns and the addition of verandas. It was for a long time the home of David Arnold. At the left is Mansion Square, with the Mansion House (now the Jewett House), the large building on the southwest corner of Clinton Street and Mansion Square, and the old Thomas L. Davies house,



Stock of the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School.

1837 to John Forbus and was removed from the street to which it gave its name to the corner of Thompson and North Clinton Streets, where it still stands. One of the last principals in the old building was Eliphaz Fay, who in 1835 went to the New Paltz Academy for a time, then entered the ministry, and finally returned to Poughkeepsie to conduct a private school still well remembered by older residents. He died in 1854. William Jeamy was the first principal of the new Academy, and at that time there were one hundred and twelve pupils. Many persons of prominence were educated in the Academy.

conspicuous. St. Paul's Church was not yet built, but a little further west is the Matthew J. Myers house, in 1830, and for several years later the home of Gideon P. Hewitt. More in the background are the Dutchess County Academy, the Presbyterian Church, Christ Church, the Female Academy, the Court House, and the Dutch Church. The little church almost at the extreme right is probably the old St. Peter's. The picture presents in the foreground the chief neighborhood which the Improvement Party was booming, with the newest buildings particularly prominent. Mansion Square was evi-



POTCHFREENSE IN 1856. FROM COLLEGE HILL.  
*Original the property of Mr. Henry Booth.*

dently not yet inclosed and it is very doubtful if Gordon ever had any warrant for his statement that it was "stocked with deer." (See p. 119). It is also difficult to pick out the "40 fashionable modern dwellings mostly of brick in the immediate vicinity." The exaggeration usual at a time of real estate booming was doubtless to be expected.

#### THE REAL ESTATE BOOM.

A few words in closing this chapter should be said about the culminating speculation of the period. The boom was well started in Poughkeepsie by 1835. The *Eagle* of May 27th, says:

"As an instance of the rise in real estate in this village, we will mention that two lots in the northern section, which last year were sold for \$3.75 per foot, again changed hands last week and brought \$20 per foot."

Truly a fair profit! Who would buy lottery tickets or speculate in stock exchange securities, with so good a chance to get rich right under his nose at home! The *Eagle* of Oct. 28th, describes one of the big sales as follows:

The public sale of village lots by Geo. P. Oakley, Esq. on Thursday last, went off with spirit and activity which many did not expect. Every lot advertised—sixty-nine in number—was sold and at a fair price, ranging from \$12 to 75 cents a foot, the lots selling lowest being situated on low ground and on the margin of the red mill pond. The total amount of the sales was \$11,750.77. We understand that upon these sales Mr. Oakley realized an advance of more than \$6,000."

It was natural in the midst of such a boom that the census of 1835 should prove unsatisfactory, and fail to show as many people as the improvement party hoped. The local papers complained vigorously and even refused to print the figures—6,281, according to Williams's *American Register* (1836) compared with 5,023 in 1830. The enumerator must nevertheless have counted most of the boarding school girls, for there was a large excess of females, and Freeman Hunt<sup>1</sup>, in a letter dated Sept. 25th, says:

"If you have any young men in your goodly city in want of wives, and good ones I have no doubt—some of the fair are certainly very beautiful—I advise you to send them on forthwith to the care of our gallant young friend of the Poughkeepsie Hotel, (A. S. Hatch), as there are in the village, according to the census just completed, one thousand one hundred and thirteen unmarried young ladies, ready doubtless, to enter into the blissful state of matrimony."

Apparently the advance of property continued with

<sup>1</sup>Letters About the Hudson, p. 19.

little interruption up to the early part of the year 1837, when Walter Cunningham was advertising as follows:

#### DESIRABLE VILLAGE LOTS FOR SALE.

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 5  | lots upon Main St. lying nearly opposite the residence of Mr. Vassar.             |
| 10 | " " Union St. next Mrs. Taylor's residence.                                       |
| 5  | " " Jefferson street  |
| 15 | " " Academy street  |
| 16 | " " Holmes "  |
| 27 | " " Montgomery  |
| 30 | " " Church  |
| 32 | " " Cherry } near the reservoir and Main street                                   |
| 20 | " " Cedar }   |
| 10 | " " Mansion street near the Mansion House and Mansion square                      |
| 11 | " " Cottage street  |
| 8  | " " Clinton "   |
| 10 | " " Hamilton "  |
| 15 | " " Catherine "   |
| 5  | " " Conklin "   |
| 9  | " " Mansion street, near the Seminary property.                                   |
| 5  | " " Washington "  |
| 18 | " " Delafield "   |
| 16 | " " Tallmadge "   |
| 21 | " " Water "   |
| 20 | " " Dock "  |
| 10 | " " Hudson street and the river lying directly south of the Whale dock.           |
| 5  | " " Dutchess Ave. fronting on the Park near the residence of N. P. Tallmadge Esq. |

A credit of 5 years with interest annually will be given to those who purchase to improve.

Some of these lots doubtless have not yet been built upon, and would not bring as high a price now as they did then, and some streets mapped during the boom have remained unopened or have been opened on different lines and with different names only recently. Despite all the activity in real estate, and the laying out and grading of many new streets the village north of Mill Street and south of Montgomery was still mostly "on paper" only, a fact rather graphically illustrated in the newspapers of the day whenever a circus came to town. The circus grounds were on Mill Street, "near the hotel of Isaac I. Balding"—the old Northern Hotel, corner of Washington Street. "The Green," on the opposite (southeast) corner, where the militia had trained probably as late as 1820, was only partly built up and Mill Street still showed vacant lots and ample space between houses.

On the south side there were very few houses south of Cannon Street, except on Academy and Market and on the old part of Church Street, between Academy and Market Streets.

The leaders of the Improvement Party, however, showed their faith in the future by building large houses for themselves in the new sections. Senator N. P. Tallmadge built on Delafield Street the house af-

terwards purchased by Captain Luther Elting, and George P. Oakley built Brookside, then called Primrose Green, though he lived there only a very short time, the place passing into the possession of Judge Charles H. Ruggles. This house was originally an exact duplicate of the house built by Gilbert Wilkinson on Garden Street, afterwards for a long time the home of Abraham Wiltsie.

It may interest some people to know that even in those busy times Poughkeepsie had its "haunted house." Henry Brush was the owner and the house was located on the corner of Pine and Tulip Streets. The words "haunted house" appear in the occupant column of the assessment roll.

Unfortunately most of the old assessment rolls are not to be found and most of those available are for the Town of Poughkeepsie, and not for the village. Of these I have found none covering the years of the real estate boom. In 1831, however, the town assessment was \$956,302 real estate and \$609,350 personal, making a total of \$1,655,652. In 1839 the total had increased to \$4,458,060, made up of \$2,624,342 real estate and \$1,833,718 personal. The 1839 list shows that a considerable number of non-residents had been drawn into the real estate movement. John Delafield was the largest real estate holder among these. Jethro

Delano was another, and he owned among other lots several on Jay Street, the occupants of which are put down as "Blacks." The Poughkeepsie Silk Company was assessed on many pieces of property, among others on "The Hoffman farm, north of Mill Street," and "The Phillips farm." The latter, I have been told, was the property now known as the Whitehouse Knolls, where it is said the company intended to raise mulberry trees. Of course Cunningham and Oakley and Talmadge occupy a good deal of space in the assessment rolls of the day, and among others who owned more than four lots, or parcels of property each, were John Barnes & Co., assessed on the old French farm, south of Montgomery Street (see p. 109), Peter P. Hayes, Gideon P. Hewitt, Henry Brush, Caleb Barker, Solomon V. Frost, John Giles, Smith Thompson, Henry A. Livingston, David B. Lent, James Hooker, Joseph Harris, Uriah Gregory, Theodorus Gregory, William Davies, Thomas L. Davies, Henry Conklin, Nathan Conklin, Estate of Gilbert Brewster, Abel J. Gunn, Maria Tappen and Helen Overbaugh, Joseph Wright, Joseph Williams, Dr. Elias Trivett, James Mills, Abraham G. Storm, Jacob I. Eckert and Eli Jennings. The Forbus and Vassar families had large assessments, but on only a few parcels of property.



*The N. P. Talmadge House. Long the Home in recent years of Captain Luther Elting. Now the home of C. W. H. Arnold, Esq.*

## CHAPTER VII.

FROM THE PANIC OF 1837 TO THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF Poughkeepsie, 1854—POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE PANIC—SENATOR N. P. TALLMADGE AND THE CONSERVATIVES—THE PANIC AND THE IMPROVEMENT PARTY—BUILDING OF THE RAILROAD—THE FIRST FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS—THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE LYCEUM—NEW CHURCHES—THE RURAL CEMETERY—FIRST DAILY NEWS-PAPERS—GAS LIGHTING—THE VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT—A CITY CHARTER.

The panic of 1837 followed a period of extraordinary real estate speculation throughout the country, stimulated by a great extension of credit from shaky banks. In Poughkeepsie, however, and in New York State generally the banks were able to weather the storm, though some of them had backed the boomers to a dangerous extent.

On the 11th of May, the New York city banks, by concerted action, suspended specie payments, and the three Poughkeepsie banks of course had to follow them, as soon as they heard of the action. That same evening a public meeting at the Village Hall, presided over by Henry A. Livingston, passed resolutions expressing approval of the suspension, pledging the support of the people and asking the Legislature to suspend "until February next the operation of the law requiring banks to redeem their notes in specie." The real estate boom had flattened out two or three months before this and by March there were many items in the local papers complaining of the increasing hard times, and on the part of the Whig organ, charging the troubles all to Jackson's anti-bank policy and Van Buren's persistence in the same course. The final blow, nevertheless, seems to have been unexpected, and to have caused an almost total paralysis of business for a short time. In addition to the collapse of credit, the disappearance of all small change made it impossible to carry on retail trade. The *Eagle* derisively asked, "Where is the boasted gold currency that appeared in the hands of the stool pigeons in 1834? Where the vaunted 'yellow boys,' 'Benton mint drops,' and 'Jackson gold' that were soon to glitter in the purses of the citizens? Where the 'constitutional currency' that Gen. Jackson exerted his 'humble efforts' to restore? Where the prosperity of the country

that was so sagely attributed to the wisdom of the administration?"

The panic caused a tremendous outburst of partisanship and against the fierce invectives of the Whigs, who saw at last the legitimate outcome of the financial policy they had been so long denouncing, the two Democratic organs made a rather feeble resistance. The publishers of both the *Telegraph* and the *Journal* joined with Senator Tallmadge in the call for a county convention, issued a few days after the suspension, to demand the repeal of the law forbidding the issuing of small bills, although that law had been passed by their own party only a few years before. In the meantime private bills of all sorts were put in circulation to keep business going, a fact which inspired a number of satirical squibs in the *Eagle*, like the following from the issue of June 31:

"Our readers will please to excuse any errors they may find in this paper, for we have so many SIX PLASTERS to print that we can hardly spare time to give it necessary attention. DOWN WITH THE BANKS! !"

Having taken his stand against one of the chief policies of his party, Senator Tallmadge gradually became the leader of a faction known as the Conservatives, who opposed the establishment of a sub-treasury and the withdrawal of government deposits from the banks. The *Journal* warmly supported him and hoisted at the head of its editorial columns the motto "SMALL BILLS AND NO SUB TREASURY." The breach with the regular Democracy, upon whom the term "Loco-Foco" was now fastened, steadily widened until Tallmadge was finally read out of his party, and in the spring of 1838 he was proposed as a Whig candidate for vice-president of the United States, as we learn from the following editorial in the *Eagle* of May 10th under the head of:



## CONSERVATIVE NOMINATIONS.

The New York Times—the leading conservative paper in this state—of Thursday last, displays the flag of Henry Clay, for the next presidency, and Nathaniel P. Tallmadge for the vice presidency. This movement is an important one, and it is said by those who profess to know that it will be followed by the conservatives of Virginia. We look upon Mr. Clay's nomination by our National Convention, and subsequent election, to be as certain as any other future event. Towards Mr. Tallmadge we cherish the most friendly feelings personally, but he must furnish evidence of repentance for his political sin of voting for the *damning expunge* of the tyrant Jackson's administration, and submit his claims to the national Convention, to obtain the support of the Whigs.

Presumably Senator Tallmadge furnished evidence of repentance when he supported, and virtually elected, William H. Seward governor of the State over William H. Marcy in the fall. The Conservatives had a separate organization in Dutchess County in 1838, their central committee being Joseph Harris, Henry Conklin, Paraclete Potter, Gilbert I. Vincent, Samuel B. Dutton, William Broas, Peter P. Hayes, John M. Cable, Barnet Hawkins, John Adriance and Joseph H. Jackson. The last of these was the editor of the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, which had been in the possession of Jackson & Schram since 1834, and had been a Democratic paper since 1828. In September, 1838, it hoisted Seward's name above Marcy's for governor and became thereafter virtually a Whig organ, the *Telegraph* meanwhile, after some wabbling, which called down upon it occasional criticism from extreme Loco-Focos, swung back into line before the fall election. The Democratic or Loco-Foco Central Committee of Dutchess County in this campaign was Elias T. Van Benschoten, Seward Barculo, Caleb Morgan, Elias Westervelt, George C. Marshall, Egbert B. Killey, Robert Mitchell, Elijah Baker and Isaac Nash. The Whig committee was Henry A. Livingston, Gilbert Wilkinson, John Cowles, Isaac I. Balding, Josiah Burritt, Matthew Vassar, Jr., Isaac Platt, John G. Parker, H. R. Sherman, William I. Street, and Jacob De Groff.

The combination of Whigs and Conservatives carried everything, and the Whig legislature of 1839 rewarded N. P. Tallmadge by re-electing him to the United States Senate, where he had become a leader of national importance.

During the summer of 1830 both President Van Buren and Henry Clay visited Poughkeepsie. Van Buren, who had been here several times before he became President, arrived via the post road from the south on July 15th. He was met at Charmingville by

Hon. Charles H. Ruggles, then a circuit judge, and a considerable number of enthusiastic Democrats from Poughkeepsie. The ardor of the reception on the arrival of the President in the village was somewhat dampened by a steady rain, but marshalled by Gen. Leonard Maison, with Col. Henry Pine and David Barnes, Jr., as assistants, the procession traversed the most important streets and ended at the Poughkeepsie Hotel, where President Van Buren remained over night. There were speeches and receptions, and the *Telegraph* said, "More than two thousand persons must have shaken the President by the hand during the day." These included very few of his opponents, for so intense was the partisan feeling that Conservatives and Whigs remained at home or came out only to jeer and taunt the Democrats. The *Journal* said of the President: "He comes among us like a snake in the grass, seeking under his official character to forward party measures," and the *Eagle* printed a long mock address to "His Majesty, King Martin I." In the morning President Van Buren drove down below town to call upon Hon. Smith Thompson, who lived where the Rural Cemetery is now located, and then paid a visit to the school at College Hill, the pride of the village.

Henry Clay's visit to Poughkeepsie occurred on Monday, August 10th. He came down from the north on the Steamboat Erie, accompanied by Senator Tallmadge and Gen. Brush and was welcomed by a great crowd of citizens from all parts of the county. He was escorted to the Poughkeepsie Hotel, then kept by Leonard B. Van Kleeck, where an address of welcome was delivered by Robert Wilkinson, Esq., to which the great Whig leader eloquently responded, addressing the cheering crowd in the streets from the piazza of the hotel. "Who that visits Poughkeepsie," said Mr. Clay, "while admiring the beauty and pleasantness of the place, can forget the gallant band of Conservatives in this and adjoining counties, who burst asunder the shackles of party to unite with their former opponents and preserve their country and its institutions." This prefaced a warm personal tribute to Mr. Tallmadge. There was a reception at the court house and a dinner, attended by three hundred men, at the hotel, and in the afternoon Mr. Clay must needs be taken to visit the schools. At College Hill "he was introduced by Mr. Bartlett to a large number of ladies." He next visited the "flourishing Friends' Boarding School" on Mansion Square, and "in the evening he received the calls of ladies who repaired to the hotel in great numbers to see him. The rooms were also constantly thronged until ten o'clock by citizens." The next day Mr. Clay drove in a barouche to

<sup>1</sup>Thurlow Weed's Autobiography, p. 460.

Fishkill, escorted by a cavalcade of horsemen from Wappingers Falls and a large number of his friends. The *Eagle* report says that a spectator on the steps of Christ Church counted eighty-six carriages in the procession as it passed down Market Street, and adds, "At no period in our history, the reception of La-Fayette included, has such enthusiasm been witnessed among our people." A rather ungracious comparison was made with the reception of President Van Buren, who was described as "a haughty aristocrat with his coach and out rider, a dandy in tights displaying a courtly grace to the aristocracy and too proud to dine with the people."

The disappointment of the Poughkeepsie Whigs was keen enough at the failure of the Harrisburgh convention of December, 1830, to nominate Clay for the presidency, though the *Eagle* bowed to the "wisdom of the convention" and even managed to say on the next week that the nomination of Harrison and Tyler gave "universal satisfaction." No local reference seems to have been made at the time to the fact that Senator Tallmadge had refused<sup>1</sup> the nomination for vice president on the ticket with General Harrison, along with several other friends of Henry Clay. Could he have foreseen that "Tippecanoe and Tallmadge too" might have become a popular alliteration, he would probably not have thrust aside his one chance for the presidency of the United States, and Poughkeepsie's chance of being the home of a president. He seems to have repented his rashness before the next presidential campaign, for in 1843, the *Poughkeepsie Journal* carried his name at the top of its editorial column with Henry Clay's. I think there is no evidence that he had any very good chance for the nomination at that time, though he would doubtless have been a stronger candidate than Frelinghuysen.

It is notable that during this time of partisan bitterness the record of long tenure of the Poughkeepsie postoffice was made<sup>2</sup>. Col. Jacob Van Benthuysen had been appointed postmaster by President Jackson in 1829. The extreme Loco Focos of Van Buren's administration made some efforts to prevent his re-appointment and the Whigs objected somewhat to his retention under Harrison and Tyler, but he held the office to the time of his death in July, 1846, when President Polk appointed Egbert B. Killey, editor of the *Telegraph*. The office, it is said, had been in the old "Lawyers' Row"—the site of the present post-office in Market Street before Col. Van Benthuysen's time, but he moved it to Garden Street, doubtless to "the new post office" referred to in the quotation from Gordon's *Gazetteer* in the last chapter (p. 110).

<sup>1</sup>Carl Schurz's "Henry Clay" Vol. II, p. 180

<sup>2</sup>For list of postmasters of Poughkeepsie see Appendix.

This building stood on the east side of the street, and was a part of the property burned in the big fire of Dec. 20th, 1870. Mr. Killey continued the office there and it remained in the same place until May, 1851, when Isaac Platt moved it back to Market Street, to the old Brush house, on the corner of Union Street, where it remained until Albert Van Kleeck took the more commodious quarters in the lower floor of the City Hall after the war.

Mr. Albert S. Pease, who succeeded Isaac Platt as postmaster in 1853, was a clerk in the old Garden Street office during Mr. Killey's term, and with Andrew Ely, another clerk, slept in the office. He relates that Mr. Killey had "a large and very noisy bell" suspended over their bed, so that they could be awakened if the mail arrived in the night, the bell being connected to a knob outside. It was not long before the boys and the general public learned the location of the knob "and it soon seemed to become the duty of every person who went through Garden Street, at any and all hours of the night, to give that knob a yank and make the clamorous, sleep-murdering bell ring like—Sheel." In those days, before the building of the railroad, the mails from north and south were still brought by stage coach when the river was closed in the winter.

"The stages were due to arrive at some uncertain hour in the night—hence the supposed need of that accursed bell. Sometimes the stages from the north would be a day or two behind time, by reason of depth and drifts of snow. The mail they carried was all in one great leather bag as big as a hog's head, the whole contents of which had to be dumped out upon a great table and looked over, and after all matter for Poughkeepsie and such county offices as had stage connection from Poughkeepsie had been extracted, all the remaining matter, together with that to be sent from Poughkeepsie, was returned to the great bag and hoisted upon the stage and safely secured in the 'boot,' and away she went behind four weary horses wet with ice, snow and perspiration, which steamed from their warm bodies in clouds of mist."

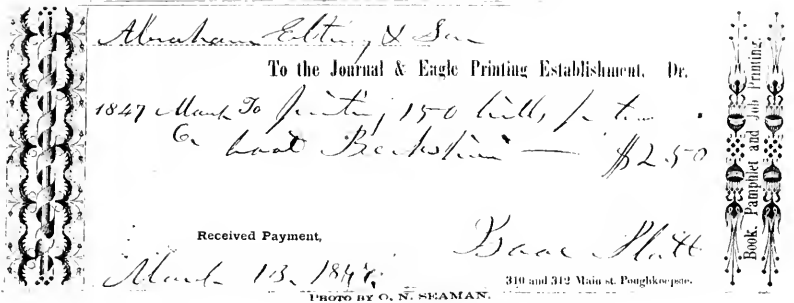
Garden Street was a favorite neighborhood for lawyers' offices at this time, the "Law Building" on the west side of the street—where Frost & Luckey are located—having been recently erected. The Surrogate's office was there for some time before 1847; then after a contest of more than usual spirit, in which John P. H. Tallman defeated John Thompson, the little building on the corner of Market and Union Streets was erected by the county. It was built originally with only one room in order to prevent the Surrogate from carrying on his own law practice there.

In 1845 Daniel Webster was in Poughkeepsie apparently for several days, but his visit was not political. The *Telegraph* of Nov. 26, in its report of circuit court cases on trial at the Court House, has the following under date of Nov. 21st:

"Derrick Lansing and others vs. David Russell and wife and others. This is an issue from the Court of Chancery, sent here from the third circuit to try the validity of two deeds executed by Cornelius Lansing, in his life time, and alleged by the plaintiffs to have been obtained by fraud. The cause commenced this morning and occupied all day, all day Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, and was still going on when our reporter left. \* \* \* For the plaintiff Judge Buel of Troy, Messrs. Barculo & Swift of Poughkeepsie. For the defense Hon. Daniel Webster of Mass., Samuel Stevens of Albany and Gen. Maison of Poughkeepsie."

was the official celebration, but each of the political parties had planned to take advantage of the occasion. The Democrats started the idea and then the Whigs determined to outdo them. Excursions by steamboat came from many river towns, and the crowd was estimated at from 10,000 to 15,000. The Democrats were content at length with a crowded meeting in the village hall, but the Whigs had a monster parade marshalled by Charles W. Swift, and a great mass meeting at College Grove, on the west side of College Hill, where Senator William C. Preston of North Carolina, and Hon. Henry A. Wise of Virginia, were among the speakers. A dinner at the Poughkeepsie Hotel, and more speaking in the evening, from a platform in front of the Court House, followed.

The log cabin, raccoon and hard cider, and the



Bill of Journal and Eagle.

Webster summed up for the defense, the court room being crowded with people, including many ladies. The lawyers are still telling stories as to how much brandy he consumed the night before, and one of the traditions is to the effect that he had to be helped to the court room. There is naturally no proof in support of these assertions. The *Telegraph* (unfriendly to Webster's party) said on Dec. 3d: "We think the argument of Daniel Webster on that occasion not only did credit to his great abilities, but was such a feast as we are not often treated with. The jury after being out but a short time came with a verdict for the defendants."

The campaign of 1840 deserves more than passing notice. It included a monster celebration of the Fourth of July, often referred to in later years, and described as a sort of triple celebration. In the morning the military held the usual parade, marshalled by Col. Henry Pine, with William L. Street as orator. This

torchlight parades, so popular everywhere, were not wanting in Poughkeepsie. The log cabin was erected on the north side of Main Street below Washington, about where Mrs. Foster's soda bottling works are located. Robert Fanning, a respectable citizen, was raising a flag on it soon after its completion when he slipped and fell to the ground and was killed. It was the subject of numerous cartoons in Benson J. Lossing's *Fire of the Flint*, a paper started for this campaign only, though revived in 1844. With all the enthusiasm of the marching and song singing Poughkeepsie was carried by the Whigs by but a small majority, while the county went Democratic and Richard D. Davis was elected member of congress. The Whigs did not again win the county until 1844, when Poughkeepsie gave Clay 463 majority.

At the close of the year 1843 the old *Poughkeepsie Journal* ceased to have have a separate existence. Mr. Jackson sold his interest, William Schram entered into



HON. SEWARD BARCULO,  
*County Judge 1815. Supreme Court Judge 1817.*

partnership with Isaac Platt, and on January 6, 1844, the first number of the *Journal and Eagle* was issued. The double title was retained until 1850 when the name "*Journal*" was dropped. In August, 1844, the publishers installed a new press described as a "Napier double cylinder, and calculated to roll out news at the rate of fifteen hundred or two thousand an hour without puffing at all." During the campaign of that year Messrs. Platt & Schram published a paper called *The Club* in opposition to Lossing's *Fire of the Flint*. It was advertised at 75 cents per annum or "from its commencement until Henry Clay's election to the Presidency at fifty cents."

One of the young men who learned the printer's trade in Poughkeepsie, in the office of the *Telegraph*, not long before this time, was Isaac Van Anden, who went from here first to White Plains, and then to Brooklyn, where, in 1841, he established *The Brooklyn Eagle*, named presumably from the Poughkeepsie *Eagle*. He was afterwards joined by Samuel W. Hester, his brother-in-law, a well-known Poughkeepsie builder.

A story often told by the late Judge E. Q. Eldridge illustrates how news was obtained before there was either railroad or telegraph. A few days after the election in 1840, a big crowd of Democrats, jubilant in the knowledge of having carried Dutchess County, assembled at the foot of Main Street with a brass band to await the arrival of the steambot from the south with the expected news of Van Buren's reelection. Presently the watchers on Kaal Rock reported the steamer in sight and Van Buren cheers rent the air. As the boat drew nearer the sound of music on board could be faintly heard and it was noticed that she was decorated with flags. Surely she had the news, but what news? The crowd was silenced while all ears were strained to try to make out what the band on the boat was playing. Could it be—yes it was "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too!" There was a stir in the crowd, the news spread rapidly, and a lot of people were observed making their way back up Main Street hill. By the time the steambot reached the landing there was just as large a crowd as before and unbounded enthusiasm, but all were Whigs!

The issues growing out of the Panic of 1837 held more or less attention until 1844, by which time slavery, the proposed annexation of Texas, and the Native American or "Know Nothing" movement were occupying much of the local editorial space. The Temperance movement was also becoming important. In August, 1841, the *Journal* said: "The Temperance cause is progressing rapidly in Poughkeepsie. The Young Men's Temperance Society meets once and sometimes twice a week and adds to its member-

ship at each meeting from 50 to 60 members." In 1842 a paper called *The Temperance Safeguard* was started by G. K. Lyman. It was "devoted to total abstinence, morals, agriculture, miscellany and news," surely an attractive combination, and was published for at least five years. The fact that among its advertisers was "The New Temperance Grocery," 358 Main Street, Richard Aldrich, reminds us of the time when every grocery store thought it necessary to offer a customer a glass of rum. The Sons of Temperance were organized before 1847, probably by Rev. Charles Van Loan. According to French's *Gazetteer* there was also a paper in Poughkeepsie called *The Safeguard*, distinct from *The Temperance Safeguard*. *The Thompsonian*, devoted to the doctrines of the Thompsonian School of Medicine, was first published, May 12th, 1838. It was edited by Dr. A. H. Platt and owned by Thomas Lapham.

The Native American movement was strong enough in November, 1845, to warrant the establishment of a newspaper, the *Poughkeepsie American*, by Augustus T. Cowman. In 1848 the paper supported General Taylor for president, and in 1840 was sold to Isaac Tompkins and became a Democratic organ. Elias Pitts purchased it in 1850 and sold it in 1853 to Edward B. Osborne, who changed the name to *The Dutchess Democrat*, and made it the organ of the "hard shell" branch of the party.

The anti-Masonic party had in the meantime long since spent its force. The organization of the Odd Fellows in 1838 shows the decay of the general feeling against secret societies, and in 1852 Masonry was again started with the founding of Poughkeepsie Lodge, the charter members of which were Abram N. Sweet, John Broas, Samuel Chichester, George Gausman, John E. Eisel, Elias G. Hopkins, George Kent, Isaac F. Russell, and Andrew Gentner.

The nomination of General Taylor in 1848 was an even greater disappointment to the Poughkeepsie Whigs than that of Gen. Harrison had been in 1840 and it was several weeks before the *Eagle* got squarely into line in his support but he carried the county by a large majority, the vote standing—Taylor 5,377, Cass 3,227, and Van Buren 1,204. The Free Soilers apparently had no local organ then, which perhaps accounts for the small Van Buren vote, but this branch of the party nevertheless steadily increased and not long after Cass's defeat the *Telegraph* became its representative. President Taylor appointed the editor of the *Eagle* postmaster to succeed the editor of the *Telegraph*, a fact which did not deter the *Eagle* from vigorous denunciation of the fugitive slave law passed in Fillmore's administration.



ISAAC PLATT.

There were some arrests of fugitive slaves in Poughkeepsie, which stirred the people considerably, notably that of a man named John M. Bolding, who had lived here four years and become well established as a tailor, but was claimed as the property of Barrett Anderson of South Carolina. The *Eagle* of August 30, 1851, says in its report: "He was seized therefore while suspecting nothing, hurried directly into the carriage and that driven rapidly down the street to the cars, and placed in them only two or three minutes before the whistle blew and they were off. He had been married some six months before, but had no time to speak or send a message to his wife after his arrest." Subsequent issues of the paper tell of efforts to secure the man's release on habeas corpus proceedings without success, and then of a popular subscription to purchase his freedom, "although his master exhibits a most mean and vindictive spirit, demanding for him \$1,500 and \$200 for his expenses, far more than he can obtain for him anywhere." The money was successfully raised in a few days and Bolding returned and lived here until his death in April, 1876. In an obituary article published then it is stated that Bolding had escaped from a Mrs. Dickinson, who afterwards happened to come to Poughkeepsie to live, and finding him here sold him without his knowledge to Anderson of South Carolina for \$800, the dramatic arrest by a U. S. marshal from New York following.

#### THE PANIC AND THE IMPROVEMENT PARTY.

It is time now to turn back and study more in detail the effects of the Panic of 1837 on the affairs and prospects of Poughkeepsie. There seems to have been a rapid recovery of a certain amount of confidence after the suspension of the banks, and the panic did not at once ruin the promoters known as the Improvement Party, or their enterprises. The schools established, as we have seen, became the pride of the village, the whaling companies continued, and it was evidently the increasing scarcity of whales and some losses by shipwreck that caused their final suspension. The *Telegraph* of May 17th, 1837, has the following:

"Good Voyage.—The whale ship Vermont, Captain W. H. Topham, belonging to the Poughkeepsie Whaling Company, arrived here on Monday with a full cargo, having on board 3000 barrels of oil, of which between 400 and 500 are sperm, and about 28,000 lbs whale bone. The Vermont has been on the coast of New Holland<sup>1</sup> and New Zealand, and was just one year and eleven months from the time of leaving the port of New York to making it again."

Possibly the hard times affected the market for oil and whalebone. At any rate Alexander Forbus was appointed receiver of this company in September,

1838, but its remaining ships were purchased by the Dutchess Company which continued in business until after 1844. In the *Eagle* of November 10th, 1838, we read that the ship *N. P. Tallmadge* was spoken in May last, "when she had taken 1050 barrels of sperm, and 350 of whale oil; with the accompanying quantity of bone, all worth at least \$35,000. This sounds very well and shows that those speculators who have excited the wrath of the correspondent of the *New York Evening Post* have not quite ruined the town yet." The Democrats, of course, charged the panic all to the speculators, and Richard D. Davis, who as we have seen was elected to congress in 1840, was defeated as a candidate for village trustee in 1838, partly perhaps because he was quoted as saying that there were a large number of men "in this town who must go down because they owe five times as much as they can pay." It does not appear, however, that the leading boomers did go down until 1841, probably as a result of the second period of depression that began in 1840.

The intense partisanship that grew out of the discussions over the panic affected even village elections, which up to this time seem to have been generally decided upon purely local issues. The trustees of 1837 were all re-elected, however, in 1838, though they had scarcely paused in the levying of assessments for street improvement. Only two weeks after the suspension of specie payments an assessment of 60 cents a foot was recorded against Union Street "from the end of the pavement to the east side of Clover Street." On June 1st Mansion Street was assessed for grading, gravelling, curbing, etc., at \$1.12 a foot from Hamilton to Catherine. This fell chiefly on the real estate boomers, the lot owners being Paraclete Potter, Gideon P. Hewitt, George P. Oakley, Elan Dunbar, John Collier, Isaac Broas, John D. Robinson and St. Paul's Church. Clinton Street, from Main to Mansion, and Smith Street, from Main "to the lane north of David B. Lent's dwelling house," were assessed for improvement in October and November. Next to Mr. Lent, Theodoros Gregory was the largest landholder in this section. Church Street, but recently extended down the hill from Market, was assessed to Clover Street Nov. 16th at \$2.00 a foot for grading, etc. James Hooker, James Emott, Philip S. Croke and Henry Brush appear as the largest owners. There were other minor assessments on the older streets, and if all the newly opened lots were unsalable the burden must have been a rather heavy one for some persons. Clinton Street from Main south, Cannon Street from Hamilton to the Reservoir and Church Street from Hamilton to Clinton were laid out about this time.

<sup>1</sup>Old name of Australia.

In the country farm lands continued to advance. The *Journal* of Jan. 31st, 1838, tells of several good sales, including a 200 acre farm in Amenia "purchased four years since for \$45, sold during the last ten days for \$60½ the acre," and a farm in the town of Washington which brought \$110 an acre. "It is one of the strange features of the times that while the business of the merchant has been greatly embarrassed, and the operation of the mechanic and manufacturer almost wholly suspended, the products of the farm, with the single exception of wool, have commanded a very ready market at very high prices." The backbone of business was evidently sound and with the resumption of specie payments in the spring the hopes of the boomers in Poughkeepsie were evidently revived.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* of June 13th and June 20th, contains articles on *Poughkeepsie Improvements During the Pressure*, which present an outline of the leading industries of the village and show conclusively that the spirit of enterprise was still alive. "Indeed so indomitable is the spirit of improvement among us, that even the severe pressure of the past season could not wholly restrain its movements." The furnace of Messrs. McDuffie, Sharp & Proper is mentioned as having cast \$40,000 worth of stoves during the year. It was located near the whale dock. Henry Whitfield & Co. had erected their carpet manufactory "of brick and very substantial" at a cost of more than \$25,000 since the fall of 1837. It had 30 looms. "This establishment is adjacent to the silk factory and in the same vicinity are also Mr. Pelton's and Mr. Delafield's Carpet factories." Of Charles M. Pelton's factory the *Journal* says: "This establishment has been gotten up within the past eighteen months and manufactures about 30,000 yards of ingrain Carpeting per annum." Delafield's Carpet and Rug Factory made about 15,000 yards of ingrain carpeting "and about 300 beautiful hearth rugs per annum." Messrs. Thomas Christy & Co. made "paper hangings" in a brick building "very spacious and substantial," erected on Water Street, "by William Davis, Esq." This establishment had "sprung up in defiance of pressure" and was "manufacturing even in these times 3,000 pieces of paper hangings per week." The Poughkeepsie Screw Manufacturing Company "commenced in a small way 5th of July last in the very midst of the panic," was now enlarging and was making "weekly 800 gross of wood screws of assorted sizes" and hoped soon to make 1,000. It was described as due to the "exertions of our ingenious and enterprising townsman Gen. Thomas W. Harvey." Williams's Woolen Factory, idle for a year, had come into the hands of Mr. Richard Titus and

was "doing a large business." Vassar's Brewery, "completed eighteen months since," was making "notwithstanding the hard times rising 20,000 barrels of ale" worth \$6 to \$6.50 a barrel. A revival of business at the brickyards was also noted. "Messrs. R. Tyson & Co. set up a new yard last year which with the very extensive concerns of Messrs. C. Vassar & Co., of Mr. Haley and of Mr. Underhill are all fully employed in



*The Brewery at the River.  
From Lossing's Vassar College and its Founder.*

the manufacture of those large and beautiful pressed bricks which have latterly been so generally used in the city for the fronts of their best houses, and which are so familiarly known by the name of Poughkeepsie Stretchers."

Charles Vassar lived in the large house still standing on the southwest corner of Main and Clover Streets until 1837, when he sold to James Clegg, who opened a grocery store in the lower floor, which was long a prominent down-town place of resort. Mr. Vassar built the brick row of buildings on Market Street from the Armory northward, and is said to have lost heavily by the venture. His brickyard, I have been told, was on the site of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad station on lower Main Street. He was a brother of Matthew Vassar, but Thomas Vassar, who lived where the Lamb factory building stands, below Water Street, was not a near relative.

Among recent improvements noted in the *Journal's* article was the widening of Main Street, the building of a number of houses, and the enlargement of the Dutchess Whaling Company's wharf. The Whaling Company then had five ships at sea, including the *Elbe* which had just sailed.

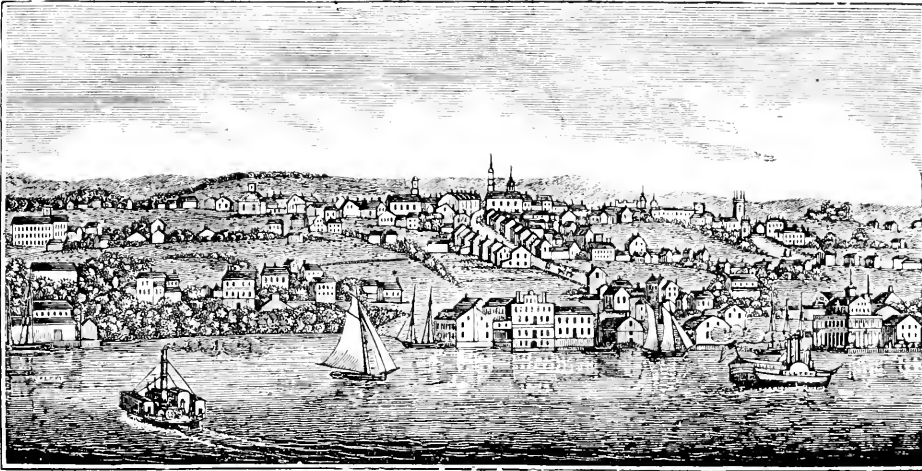
The Poughkeepsie Locomotive Engine Company's works were given an extended notice. This was one



of the most daring enterprises of the day. The company was incorporated April 6th, 1838, but this *Journal* article says, "The erection of the buildings was commenced a year ago last autumn" and had cost "rising \$90,000. This heavy outlay has been all made during the past eighteen months of general despondency. The establishment has commenced operations on a limited scale, and only waits for a return of better times to go into full operation, when it will afford steady employment, in the manufacture of Locomotives, Tenders, &c. &c. to more than 200 machinists." The better times evidently did not come soon enough and the company was already bankrupt. A few weeks later the notice of dissolution, signed by Henry F. Tallmadge, agent, was published. N. P. Tallmadge, Thomas W. Harvey, Walter Cunningham, Henry F.

late Henry D. Myers stated in an interview (July 30, 1884) that but one locomotive was built here. It ran for a long time on the Long Island Railroad, to which it must have been shipped by boat.

The completion of the Locomotive Engine factory preceded the railroad by rather more than ten years, and its failure was doubtless due in part to the long delay in the realization of the various railroad plans and in part to the failure of its promoters, who had evidently been bolstering each other up and dragging in their friends for help during several years before their final collapse in 1841. George P. Oakley was apparently in trouble by 1830, when he offered "Primrose Green" for sale, and the record of his assignments shows that a number of prominent men, including Charles Bartlett, were involved



POUGHKEEPSIE IN 1840.

Wood Cut made for Barber & Howe's "Historical Collections of the State of New York," published in 1841.

Tallmadge, Henry Ibbottson and Paraclete Potter were the organizing commissioners of this company, the purpose of which was described as "the manufacture of locomotive engines, iron rails, plates and other iron apparatus of rail roads and rail-road cars." Mr. Lossing in an illustrated article on Poughkeepsie in *The Family Magazine* (Vol. 6, p. 240) says: "This establishment is situated on the Hudson, directly north of the Poughkeepsie Whaling Company. It is much the most extensive of the kind in America, being capable of producing from seventy-five to one hundred locomotive engines with their tenders annually. It is under the direction of R. M. Bouton, Esq., one of the best engineers in the country." The main building was some two hundred and fifty feet in length. The

as lenders or endorsers. It seems rather remarkable that the banks were able to hold out. Oakley was succeeded as cashier of the Poughkeepsie by E. P. Benjamin soon after the panic, and Cunningham was succeeded by James H. Fonda, father of Walter Cunningham Fonda, as cashier of the Dutchess County, in 1841. The Farmers' Bank, it is said, did not even pass a dividend and there is no evidence that the Poughkeepsie Bank was in danger, but the Dutchess County Bank was found to be so badly involved in the enterprises of Cunningham and his friends, that at the expiration of its charter, July 1st, 1845, its business was wound up and the Merchants' Bank was organized to take its place. This was not regarded exactly as a failure, for in the course of

time the Dutchess County Bank was able to realize on much of its security, paid all note holders and depositors and about 30 per cent. to stockholders. More than its full capital had been loaned to the members of the Improvement Party, and \$317,410, or more than half its capital, to its own officers and stockholders, according to the statement of its condition on May 10th, 1837. No bank has ever been organized in Poughkeepsie since with so large a capital.

The Merchants' Bank started July 20, 1845, with capital of \$110,000, and with Matthew J. Myers president and James H. Fonda cashier. The first directors were Matthew J. Myers, Alexander Forbus, Isaac Merritt, Abraham G. Storm, Caleb Barker, John Adriance, Thomas M. Vail, John T. Schryver, Alexander J. Coffin, James Emmott, Jr., Solomon V. Frost, George Pomeroy and David Arnold. The effects of the panic were long felt, but by 1852 the growth of business warranted the organization of a fifth bank, the Fallkill. William C. Sterling, Augustus Jillson, Henry Coffin, John Thompson, Casper D. Smith, Samuel T. Taber, Thomas R. Payne, Eleazer D. Sweet, Elias Titus, Henry D. Myers, Joseph C. Doughty, William W. Reynolds and John Bloom were the first directors. Mr. Sterling was chosen president, John F. Hull cashier and Zebulon Rudd book-keeper. This bank has had but two cashiers. Mr. Hull served until 1862, when he was succeeded by William Schickel.

It is not improbable that house building continued almost as rapidly after the panic as before. Land is often too valuable to build upon during a boom. It was nevertheless a long time before there were more than one or two houses on the new lots sold at auction at such handsome advances, and many of them came back to the original owners by foreclosure or otherwise. George Corlies built the first house on South Liberty Street, now Garfield Place, in 1852,—the house now owned by Mrs. C. P. Luncey. At that time the land to the westward was all farming land, with very few trees, and Mr. Jacob Corlies tells me that the river could be seen for a stretch of several miles. He remembers standing at the rear of the house and counting as many as seventy sloops and schooners on the river. On Academy Street south of Montgomery, Caleb Barker's house, now Professor J. L. Moore's, was about the only house built by that time. There were only about three houses on South Hamilton Street, between Church and Montgomery, in 1850, when Isaac Platt built his brick house, and most of the land thereabout was owned by Alexander Forbus. On the southwest corner of Montgomery and Hamil-

ton Streets there was a swamp often flooded in winter enough for skating.

The *Telegraph* of January 6th, 1841, says that thirty buildings had been erected during the year before, and publishes an enumeration of the buildings on every street in the village (see Appendix). It was probably not long after this that the first village directory was published\*. There were seventy-nine streets, on which there were 1,055 dwelling houses exclusive of other buildings. The population was given as 7,710. By 1841 there was a revival in street improvement, and on April 12th of that year an ordinance was passed for numbering the houses and lots. J. M. Arnold, W. A. Royce, E. F. Grant, D. W. Beadle, E. M. Haynes, W. C. Southwick and L. Carpenter were appointed to do the numbering of Main Market, Washington, Garden, Academy and Liberty Streets. The north and south divisions of Clinton, Hamilton, Bridge, Clover and Water Streets had not been adopted at this time. For instance: "The numbering of Clinton Street shall commence at the Reservoir of said village and run thence northwardly to the northern extremity of said street."

A number of the leading boomers of the previous period, finding their fortunes gone, left Poughkeepsie for the West, most of them for Wisconsin. Paraclete Potter was appointed Registrar of the United States Land Office at Milwaukee in April, 1841, William Wilson succeeding him in the Poughkeepsie book business. Gideon P. Hewitt, Henry Conklin and Nathaniel P. Tallmadge were among those who followed him, Tallmadge resigning from the United States Senate to become governor of the Territory of Wisconsin in 1844. They settled at Green Bay. Tallmadge became a Spiritualist probably before he left Poughkeepsie, for there was at that time a coterie of Spiritualists here, among whom a tailor, Andrew Jackson Davis, called "The Seer of Poughkeepsie," became a leader. As was natural in a leading educational center, Poughkeepsie was the home of many seekers for light of various kinds. Spiritualism is said to have obtained its first important foothold here, and a number of prominent men besides Senator Tallmadge embraced its doctrines and listened to its mysterious messages. Even Richard D. Davis, said to have been one of the most brilliant public men in the State, was a Spiritualist for a time. Davis was a strong opponent of Tallmadge politically, after the latter had become a Whig, and when Tallmadge joined the Spiritualists that was too much for him, and he left the fold. He was no relation, I believe, to Andrew

\*A nearly complete collection of directories, beginning with that published by C. P. Luyster in 1843, has been presented to the Adriance Library by Mr. Henry Booth.

Jackson Davis, "the Seer," who published several books, which attracted some attention. James Russell Lowell, in his "Fable for Critics," making fun of the cult, tells of a man whose aloe tree would not bloom unless he watered it "with the blood of his unmarried daughter." Long the poor fellow struggled with his conscience. Lowell continues:

"I told Philothea his struggles and doubts,  
And how he considered the ins and the outs  
Of the visions he had and the dreadful dyspepsy,  
How he went to the seer that lives in Po'keepsie  
How the seer advised him to sleep on it first,  
And to read his big volume in case of the worst,  
And further advised he should pay him five dollars  
For writing HUM, HUM, on his wristbands and collars;  
Three years and ten days these dark words he had  
studied  
When his daughter was missed and his aloe had budded!"

Just which of Davis's numerous volumes had such a dire influence, and attracted the attention of Lowell, I am not sure. He published among other things four or five volumes entitled "The Great Harmonium," but nearly all his books were copyrighted later than 1848, the date of Lowell's "Fable for Critics." Another local Spiritualistic author was Levi M. Arnold, who in 1852 published a volume entitled "The History of the Origin of All Things and Particularly of the Earth." Among the celebrities of the period may also be mentioned William H. Van Wagner, Jr., who travelled around the country with a big tent giving temperance and other lectures, calling himself "The Poughkeepsie Blacksmith."

#### BUILDING OF THE HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.

The failure of the Poughkeepsie Locomotive Engine Company, which built a large factory here long before there was any railroad, has already been mentioned. What railroad did the promoters of the locomotive factory expect their engines to run upon? Certainly not upon a railroad between New York and Albany along the river. Such a road had indeed been talked of, but was rather a joke than a serious proposition until after 1840. The New Year's address of the *Dutchess Intelligencer* for 1832 contains the following doggerel:

Railroads are all the rage of latter years—  
They talk of one to go from here to York,  
To quell the city people's anxious fears,  
And carry down the Dutchess County pork—  
The cars are wondrous things to load our trash on  
And tho' our boatmen starve we'll be in fashion.

That was the year the river closed early and froze in several barges loaded with pork.<sup>1</sup> No one seriously

<sup>1</sup>See "Memories of Poughkeepsie, 1825-1832."—Daily Eagle, April 21, 1904.

proposed such a road, but on March 28th of the same year "The Dutchess County Rail Road" was incorporated for the purpose of building to the Connecticut line. Property and persons were to be transported "by the power and force of steam, of animals, or any mechanical power or any combination of them." William Davis (Davies?) Harry Conklin, Paraclete Potter, Homer Wheaton and Morgan Carpenter, were appointed commissioners to receive subscriptions, and it was stipulated that the road should be finished within five years. Apparently little money was raised during the first year under this charter, perhaps because many people favored a canal across the county. The next year the following petition was presented:

#### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

The undersigned deeply impressed with the importance of a communication by means of a railroad or Canal, from the Village of Poughkeepsie to Pine Plains, from thence through a part of Columbia County to the line of Massachusetts, do request the Trustees will take immediate measures to have said route examined by a competent and experienced Engineer. As this is a subject of such vital importance to the prosperity of this Village the undersigned do not entertain a doubt but that the expenditure of any reasonable amount, by the Trustees to accomplish the above object, will be sanctioned and approved of by the citizens at large.

Pokeepsie, Sept. 2d 1833

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| PETER P HAYES    |                |
| M VASSAR         |                |
| N. P. TALLMADGE  |                |
| P. EVERITT       |                |
| P. POTTER        |                |
| J VAN BENTHUYSEN | HIRAM VELTMAN  |
| W CUNNINGHAM     | CHARLES WARNER |
| A G STORM        |                |
| GEO VAN KLEECK   |                |
| ELIAS TRIVETT    |                |

At their meeting on Sept. 5th of that year the village trustees appointed Henry Conklin and Hon. N. P. Tallmadge a committee with power to employ an engineer. It was probably under this authority that Henry Whinfield and William Dewey made their first survey, though perhaps some sort of a preliminary examination had been made before this. The *Eagle* and other papers continued to agitate the matter from time to time, and in 1836 the charter was renewed under the same title, but with greater latitude in the location of the line. The first idea was to build the railroad to Amenia, and had this been done before the Hudson River and Harlem lines were built, the history of Dutchess County and Poughkeepsie would have been considerably changed. It was, however, a very difficult proposition to lay out a railroad across Dutchess County, that should go through the

principal towns and reach any point of importance on the Connecticut line. All the hills run north and south across the county and the Poughkeepsie boomers seem to have been more willing to get other people to put in money than to invest their own. The project was put to sleep by the panic, though undoubtedly the promoters of the Locomotive Engine Company expected it to be revived in time to make use of the products of their factory. Its long postponement, as will appear, was due to the fact that as soon as efforts were made to enlist the aid of the farmers and the people of Pine Plains and other interior towns, the rival plan of a terminus at Fishkill was encountered.

The Hudson River Railroad was merely a dream until 1841, and was seriously discussed only when the Harlem road, then called the "New York and Albany,"<sup>1</sup> had actually begun preparations to extend its line through Eastern Dutchess to Albany. Matthew Vassar and a few others then began to fear that the county trade would be diverted from Poughkeepsie to the eastern towns. They employed Richard D. Morgan, an engineer, to make a cursory survey to see if it was possible to build a line along the promontories through the Highlands and he reported favorably. That there could ever have been controversies and serious difficulties over obtaining a charter and necessary capital for "America's Greatest Railroad" seems almost incredible now, but such was the case. After his cursory survey in the Highlands Mr. Morgan addressed a meeting at the Poughkeepsie Hotel, Feb. 25th, 1842, at which we are told only a very few people would listen to his arguments at all. Some thought a railroad along the river preposterous—that it could never compete with the boats—while some of the boatmen on the other hand thought it might ruin their business. The *Eagle* and the *Telegraph* kept the project before the people, and, according to the former, "a small body comprising about a baker's dozen, resolved to go ahead for the work, and they made an application to the legislature for a charter." Their petitions were treated at Albany "with so much contempt that those who undertook to call attention to them in the legislature were hardly treated with decent courtesy." In March, 1842, a convention of delegates from river towns assembled at the village hall at Poughkeepsie, but only a dozen or so represented other places and there were not more than thirty persons in the hall. This meeting, nevertheless, appointed a "Hudson River Rail Road Central Executive

<sup>1</sup>The New York and Albany Rail Road Company have advertised for proposals for the grading, masonry and bridges on ninety miles of the road in Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties." Jan. 6, 1841, *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

Finance and Correspondence Committee," made up of the men who had already been active in the matter: M. Vassar, Thomas L. Davies, Isaac Platt and E. B. Killey. The *Telegraph* gives the chief credit for the completion of the enterprise to this committee. Subscription books were opened and \$1,450 were raised for the preliminary expenses of obtaining a complete survey, and a charter. The survey was made by Richard D. Morgan, but at a second attempt before the Legislature for a charter "A respectful hearing could not be obtained." "Not a village on the river aided us in the expense," says the *Eagle*, "and had exertions stopped here all would have been lost."

The applicants for a charter were charged with wishing merely to head off the Harlem road, and in 1843 there was a bitter controversy between Alderman Moses G. Leonard, of New York, and Matthew Vassar, the former charging the latter with having said "that they had no intention to construct a Railroad along the River, but they had merely resorted to this movement in order to protect their property along the river." The *Journal* seems to imply, in the following, from an article in its issue of March 22d, that there was possibly some truth in the assertion: "Mr. Vassar had no authority to speak on that point for any but himself, and if he did say (which he denies) what is attributed to him, it furnishes no proof either of the infeasibility of the river route or of the opinions of the hundreds who have petitioned for a charter. We know that the committee of which Mr. Vassar is chairman entertain no such views."

Very few people in New York city could be got to listen to the scheme of the Poughkeepsie committee, and the city newspapers either condemned it or considered it of small importance until 1845, when John Child, an eminent engineer<sup>1</sup> of Springfield, Mass., published a letter expressing faith in its practicability. Then going to work once more with a will, the committee succeeded in enlisting a number of New York men of wealth and standing, and finally overcame objections and obtained the charter, May 12th, 1846. The enemies of the road, however, succeeded in the incorporation of a requirement that \$3,000,000 must be subscribed before March 1st, 1847, with 10 per cent. paid in. This necessitated strenuous exertions and while they were in progress, Oct. 19th, 1846, the first telegraph office was opened in Poughkeepsie by "The New York, Albany and Buffalo Telegraph Company." Professor Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, lived just outside of the limits of the

<sup>1</sup>Isaac Platt had himself helped to keep the project alive by writing a series of articles, published in the New York Times and signed "Civil Engineer."

village, and there was much interest in his method of sending communications "as quick as lightning." It was none too quick for the people during the last week or two of February, 1847, and when the dots and dashes of the tape roll in the office in Garden Street conveyed the news that the \$3,000,000 necessary to "save the charter" of the Hudson River Railroad had been subscribed<sup>1</sup> there was great rejoicing. The *Eagle* of February 27th, which printed the announcement, with a historical sketch of the progress and difficulties of the original promoters, says that the excitement in Poughkeepsie was so great that even the approaching municipal election was almost forgotten.

Bonfires were lighted and salutes were fired and there was a general celebration with a "splendid supper at the first depot, the Poughkeepsie Hotel \* \* \* prepared by the host, Mr. Rutzer, in the best style of the times. \* \* \* The first business being completed, M. Vassar, Esq.,<sup>2</sup> acting as chief conductor, aided by Jacob B. Jewett, Stephen B. Trowbridge and John Adriaance, assistant conductors, Isaac Platt and E. B. Killey as brakemen, started the train upon a new track." This was, of course, the speech-making, which included also D. B. Lent and General Maison. One of the chief toasts was to Richard D. Morgan, "to whose pioneer efforts the public are indebted for their knowledge of the practicability of the route." We are told that as this was a temperance banquet, there was no danger of an explosion or of any one getting off the track. In relation to the prospects for business for the railroad the *Eagle* of Feb. 27th, says:

"We are not among those who calculate that the building of the road will take all travel from the river, but that its completion will have the effect to *double* the present amount of travel there cannot be a reasonable doubt. Of this the road will get its *share*, extending to at least half of the through travel during the most favorable seasons of navigation, and when obliged to compete with the best boats, while at the same time, of the way travel it will command by far the largest proportion, so that heavier passenger trains than have ever yet been seen in this country will run in mid-summer, even if the boats are full at the same time. But for four months, when the navigation at Albany is closed, and while railroad communications extend north to Canada and west to Wisconsin, not only hundreds, but thousands will fill the cars daily, and freight lines will run constantly."

Says the *Telegraph* of Wednesday, Jan. 6th, 1850: "This great public improvement, second only to the

New York and Erie Canal, is now completed to the station house in this village. The first train<sup>3</sup> of cars reached it on Friday evening last, and was greeted with enthusiastic cheers as it passed under the fine bridge arched over Main street near the depot." The first time table published in the Poughkeepsie papers was as follows:

#### HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.

Winter Mail arrangements. On and after Monday next; the passenger trains will run as follows, daily (Sundays excepted).

Leave New York for Poughkeepsie and intermediate places: At 8 A. M. carrying the way mails; at 4 P. M. do through mails.

Leave Poughkeepsie for New York and intermediate places: At 6 A. M. carrying the way mails; at 11½ A. M. do through do.

The 4 P. M. train going North, and the 11½ A. M. train going South will not stop at Hastings, Garrison's Dock, or Low Point.

A line of Stages will be found in readiness at Poughkeepsie to leave for Albany and intermediate places on the arrival of the trains from New York. Where offices of the Company are established, passengers will procure Tickets before entering the cars.

W. C. YouNG, Chief Engineer.

New York, Dec. 27, 1849.

The days of the stage coach on the post road were not yet over, but they were numbered. The northern section of the railroad was built from Albany down, and was opened in October, 1851. The directors elected in June, 1849, who finished the southern section of the road, were James Boorman, Gouverneur Kemble, Gardner R. Howland, Thomas Suffern, James Hooker, John B. Jervis, Elisha Peck, Japhet Bishop, Edward Jones, John David Wolfe, Moses H. Grinnell, Edwin D. Morgan, and Erastus Corning. Mr. Boorman, who had a summer home north of Poughkeepsie, was the president—and it was to his subscription in 1847 that the building of the road was chiefly due—Mr. Jones, vice-president, Mr. Jervis, chief engineer, John M. Hopkins, treasurer and George H. Butler, legal agent.

The rock taken from the heavy cuttings in Poughkeepsie was partly used in filling along the water front and it was at this time that the territory where Arnold's lumber yard is located, south of the Fall Kill, was mostly created.

The Hudson River Railroad was built long after railroads had ceased to be an experiment, was well equipped and was successful from the start. The

<sup>1</sup>Trains had been running before this for several weeks as far as Pine St., where the old Hunt house was used as a station.

<sup>1</sup>For list of subscribers up to Jan. 23, 1847, see Appendix.

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Vassar was evidently given much of the credit of having started the enterprise, though he was in Europe when the charter was obtained.

running time of passenger trains was surprisingly near that of the present locals. The *Eagle* of Jan. 12th, 1850, contains a description of a trip to New York over the road, which includes the following:

"Since the first train reached us there has been all but an avalanche of business, both in the line of passengers and freight, the receipts of the Company being near twelve hundred dollars per day. The cars run through between this place and 31st street, New York, regularly within two hours and a half, the running time not exceeding in any case two hours, and from Chambers street within three hours. This is quicker time than is made on any other railroad in the United States and comes fully up to the original calculations of the engineers. When the track is thoroughly settled, every trip to and from the city, will doubtless be made within two hours."

In fact there were some runs of two hours within the year 1850. Four trains each way, besides a Peckskill train, were put on March 11th, and on May 17th a freight train to leave Poughkeepsie at 7 A. M. and the "Canal street freight depot" in New York at 12



*Cut of Vassar Brewery, showing Old-Time Railroad Train and Steamboat.*

noon was announced, with the statement that "No freight will be carried on the Passenger Trains after Tuesday, June 4th, except under special arrangements." The summer time table dated May 21st, announces that trains will connect at Poughkeepsie "with the fast sailing steamers New World, Alida, Joseph Belknap, and South America." Passengers could then leave New York at 7 A. M. and arrive at Albany at 3 P. M. The connection was made at a dock, to which a covered passageway led, where the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club House stands. This property is still owned by the railroad company.

The first annual statement of the road covering nine months of operation up to Sept. 30th, showed passenger earnings of \$242,575 10 and freight earnings of \$18,575,76. There was a balance above operating expenses of \$110,074.83. The road had then been double tracked to Peekskill. At this time the right of way had not all been obtained above Poughkeepsie and John Thompson, who was employed in obtaining it, was having considerable trouble with the owners of large estates along the river.

The continued prosperity of the railroad was a source of much satisfaction and the local papers contain many items about it. On January 7th, 1854, in connection with the announcement of the purchase of six locomotives and a number of passenger cars is the following: "The road now uses thirty-six thousand cords of wood a year, which costs with the sawing, \$5.50 per cord. One locomotive is in use burning coal." In 1853, when the Harlem Railroad was straining every nerve to get business away from the Hudson River Railroad, and had reduced the fare from Albany to New York to \$1.00, the latter company was advised not to meet the ruinous reduction. It was then, however, carrying passengers at a rate of one cent a mile. During that year the double track was completed to Poughkeepsie. A year earlier, February 1st, 1852, the necessity of a break in the journey from New York to Albany for luncheon had been recognized, and William S. Johnston had come here from New York to establish the first railroad restaurant on the line and one of the first in the country. Mr. Johnston and his brothers, Theodore and Floy M. Johnston, eventually acquired control of nearly all the restaurants on the New York Central system, a control which lasted until the company took possession of them in 1900. Though living in New York at the time the railroad was built the Johnstons were a Poughkeepsie family, their father, William Sherman Johnston, having been born here.

Poughkeepsie continued to be a division point on the railroad, where all trains changed locomotives until the spring of 1876, when the first order was issued to run through to Albany. All trains continued to stop here ten minutes until some ten years later.

The almost immediate success of the railroad could not fail to affect the river trade, but the cutting off of the business of Eastern Dutchess by the Harlem railroad did fully as much damage as the completion of the Hudson River Railroad. The *Eagle* said of the boats in May, 1853: "If we can judge at all by appearance, they are doing much more business than usual, notwithstanding the amount done on the railroad." Ruinous competition probably had much to do with this appearance of business, for in 1852 the boats were carrying passengers to New York from Poughkeepsie for one shilling. The Reindeer, Armenia, Alida and Henry Clay, then formed the day line. "Faster boats never floated," says the *Press* of May 13th.

There was in 1841, and for some years afterwards, a local day line to New York, the steamer *Osceola*

leaving Main Street landing every morning at 7 o'clock, and leaving New York every afternoon at 4. Probably the prospect of railroad competition caused its abandonment; at any rate while the railroad was building, the old Union Landing, which had been running the steamboat *Gazelle* twice a week to New York, and had been one of the most important of the four village landings, went out of business and its property passed into the hands of William Bushnell, who had been interested in the Dutchess Iron Works on Main Street. He built a charcoal blast furnace there about 1848. The same year Joseph Tuckerman appears to have become a partner in the business, and on Nov. 14th Tuckerman & Bushnell<sup>1</sup> conveyed the

had become interested and on April 2d we read that Tuckerman & Beech are building a second furnace or stack "capable of producing 20 tons of iron per day, or 4 more than the present one." Albert E. Tower was the superintendent.

Ship-building was an important industry at this time, as an outgrowth partly of the freighting and partly of the whaling business. Barges, steamboats, sloops and schooners were built here by Henry Finch, who bought the whale dock ship-yard of Tooker and Hait in 1846. Finch built the schooner *M. Vassar* in that year and she was chartered by the government and sent to Vera Cruz with stores for the army in the Mexican War. Returning to Poughkeepsie after the war the *M. Vassar* sailed around the Horn to California with Abraham Spencer and a party of gold hunters about 1850, and was sold in California. Finch is said to have built more than sixty sailing vessels before he left here, but possibly some of these should be credited to George W. Polk, who came here about 1850 to work for him and succeeded him in business. An item in the *Eagle* of April 2d, 1853, stating that the Whale Dock and Finch's Ship Yard had been sold to Stillman & Co. for a brick yard, is incorrect. Finch continued for several years after that. The brick yard was established on a part of the Whale Dock property and was not successful.

An improvement in inland transportation facilities for this period was the plank road. It was a short-lived improvement on account of the great expense of repairs when the planks began to wear out, but for a few years the plank roads were splendid highways. The records of their incorporation show that they were mostly started from 1847 to 1854. The Poughkeepsie and Pine Plains Plank Road Company was incorporated in 1850, and in the same year the local newspapers were urging a plank road to Ellenville as a "mighty improvement to throw open to Poughkeepsie the trade of a vast and rich section." In 1853 the books were opened "for subscription to the capital stock of the Poughkeepsie and Salt Point Plank Road." Only a few of these many projects were carried out, and the only plank road constructed in this immediate neighborhood was that leading to New Hackensack and Stormville. This road was for a time successful and paid dividends, perhaps because of its continuous use by the teams bringing iron ore to the furnace at the foot of Union Street. The planks extended into town as far as Hamilton Street. A part of the New Paltz turnpike, from the ferry landing up to Highland, was once planked.



*Lower Furnace. Photographed about 1880, by C. S. Lucas.*

property to The Poughkeepsie Iron Company. This was the beginning of the pig iron industry in Poughkeepsie. The ores smelted were hauled by mule teams from the Sylvan Lake neighborhood, and fluxed with Barnegat lime stone. The ore teams were long a familiar street feature, and without the snorting of the blowing engine at the "Lower Furnace" residents of the southern section of Poughkeepsie scarcely knew how to go to sleep at night. By 1853 Edward Beech

<sup>1</sup>Liber 88 Deeds, p. 80. In this deed, a street called West Street, probably the same as Front Street, is mentioned. I believe that the large house about half way down the hill below Water Street dates back to the early days of the landing. The brick house, with Grecian pillars, on the corner of Water and Union Streets was built by Uriah Gregory, about 1841.

## SCHOOLS—THE FIRST FREE SCHOOLS.

The schools enumerated in the *Telegraph's* article of Jan. 6th, 1841, were the "Dutchess County Academy, Lancaster School, Poughkeepsie High School and 18 other schools." The High School was a private institution conducted by James Hyatt and sometimes advertised as a teachers' institute. That the schools were prosperous is shown by many references to them in the papers. The *Journal* of Sept. 29th, 1841, says:

"Through the boarding schools alone, not less than \$70,000 per year, brought from abroad, is distributed among the citizens of Poughkeepsie. \* \* \* Nearly one-half the amount we have named is annually distributed among us by the Collegiate School. \* \* \* The female boarding schools, and the academies in proportion, contribute their share towards sustaining the business of our village and 'tis to them more than to anything else, we may attribute the fact that Poughkeepsie has suffered less than other places from the revulsion consequent upon the over-trading and speculation of '36 and '37."

Poughkeepsie Schools were in fact almost at their height and attracting pupils from all parts of the country. There were, however, no free schools, supported entirely by taxation, though it is not quite true to say there were no public schools. As the term was then used the Academies and the Lancaster School were public schools. They received a share of the State money<sup>1</sup> and were under the supervision of the regents. The tuition in the Dutchess County Academy was as low as \$4 a quarter for ordinary English branches, and the instruction was good. In this and in other like schools a few pupils were received free of charge, though they generally rendered some service in return. Since 1795, and perhaps earlier, there had been what were called "common schools," furnishing free tuition to those who could not afford to pay, and supported apparently partly by private subscription and partly by taxation. Meetings were held from time to time to devise means for improving them, and it appears from the reports that they were very indifferently conducted. The Lancaster school system also provided for the free instruction of a considerable number of younger children, and it was proposed at one time to so extend it as to include all who could be induced to attend; but the system was unsatisfactory, and was losing ground elsewhere, while the free public schools supported by taxation were everywhere gaining.

<sup>1</sup>For first apportionment see p. 60. I am not quite sure that the Lancaster school received State money.

In March, 1841, an educational meeting, of which David Arnold was chairman and Thomas S. Ranney secretary, received the report of a committee which had been investigating the general condition of the village in the matter of school attendance. A census had been made of the children between the ages of 5 and 16 years in the sections west of Washington and Market Streets, and the rest were estimated. Of the 1,641 children in the village the committee stated that about 382 attended no school, though some of these had attended for a few terms. There were 300 children in the section north of Main and west of Washington Street, "of whom 36 attend the Lancaster School, 51 other schools taught by male teachers, 113 attend schools taught by female teachers, and 110 are not attending school at present." This meeting reported in favor of an extension and improvement of the Lancaster system. The *Journal* was opposed to a free school system, of which it said the *Eagle* and the *Telegraph* were "the especial advocates." Abraham Bockee, who was a member of the State Senate from 1842 to 1845, introduced and advocated early in 1843 a special act creating a village board of education of twelve members, with authority to borrow \$12,000 for the erection of buildings, and to raise by taxation about \$7,000 a year. Of this the *Journal* said:

"Seven thousand a year besides the interest on the loan made for the erection of school houses and the installments of principal when they become due, will make a handsome addition to the burdens of the village, which is already encumbered with a debt of \$35,000 and an annual tax of \$7,000 more, besides her share of the town and county expenses and of the state tax of \$600,000."

The act was nevertheless passed April 18th and was approved at a special village election, May 17th, by a majority of 168 in a total poll of 976 voters. It directed an annual election on the first Tuesday of June each year for members of the board of education, who were at once "to build and furnish one good and substantial school house, containing two rooms of sufficient capacity to accommodate not less than one hundred and twenty-five pupils each, and to rent five other rooms for primary schools." The *Journal* did not yet cease its opposition, charged that the law was proposed for political purposes "for furthering the prospects of Killey & Co.," and on June 7th said: "That which costs nothing is lightly prized, and the free schools if filled at all, will be with those indifferent to what they learn, by children of parents who not having the stimulus common to all of 'getting their



money's worth,' will send irregularly, as convenience or inclination may indicate." This prediction was to some extent fulfilled down to recent times and the passage of the compulsory law. At the election for the first board of education David L. Starr, Ira Armstrong, Thomas Austin, Benjamin Gile, Isaac Platt, Egbert B. Killey, George C. Marshall, Barnet Hawkins, James Reynolds, Jr., William P. Gibbons, Christopher Appleton and Matthew J. Myers were chosen<sup>1</sup> with a vote ranging from 330 to 424. The opponents of the school law put an opposition ticket in the field and attempted a stratagem, withholding their votes until the afternoon, when they cast about 324 for each of the following: Charles Crooke, Caleb Barker, Nathan H. Jewett, James W. Bogardus, Nehemiah Sweet, Joseph H. Jackson, Caleb Morgan, Charles Carman, Seward Barcomb, Gilbert I. Vincent, William H. Tallmadge and Geo. W. Farrington.

The board organized June 20th, choosing William P. Gibbons president and Thomas Austin clerk. In July the lot on the corner of Mill and Bridge Streets was purchased and on Jan. 20th "the first grammar school for boys under the free school act" was opened in the building, still in use (School No. 1), with 119 "qualified scholars" in attendance, under the superintendence of Josiah L. Underhill. Rooms were rented for primary schools in August in "the building formerly occupied as a theatre, situated in Market near Jay Street," and "in the building situated on the corner of Clinton and Thompson Streets (the old Academy)," at \$80 per annum in each case. The Clinton Street school was No. 1, the Market Street school No. 2 and in December No. 3 was opened in "a room in a coach factory at the junction of Mill and Dutchess Avenue."<sup>2</sup> Such were the beginnings of our free public schools, which it must be confessed, have until recently remained rather backward. The private schools and academies had the prestige, and the free schools were at first expected to take care only of those children whose parents were not able to pay tuition, and did not afford much real competition for a good many years.

<sup>1</sup>In 1879 and 1894 the board published historical sketches of the public schools and the city library with lists of members of the board, of the graduates of the high school, school enrollment and attendance. The first board of education does not contain the name of Matthew J. Myers. He declined to serve and Henry Angevine was appointed in his place. Thomas Austin and David L. Starr resigned in December, 1843, and Alexander J. Coffin and Nathan Gifford were appointed in their places.

<sup>2</sup>1879 Report of Board of Education.

At the close of the Civil War the appropriation for schools was only about \$7,000.

New private schools were in fact started almost every year. "The Poughkeepsie Female Collegiate Institute" for instance, was founded in 1848 by Dr. Charles H. P. McClellan, and is still flourishing under the name of "Lyndon Hall." It was organized with a board of trustees, which in 1849 was as follows: Samuel B. Johnston, Howland R. Sherman, David H. Barnes, Tunis Brinckerhoff, Abraham Varick, George R. Henderson, Jacob Degroff, Per Lee Pine, William S. Morgan, Caspar D. Smith, John P. H. Tallman, and Rev. Charles Whitehead, all of Poughkeepsie, and William H. Bostwick, Amenia; Nathan Barratt, Staten Island; Rev. E. S. Porter, Chatham Four Corners; Rev. A. Polhemus, Hopewell. This school had a vacation of four weeks in the spring and a summer vacation of six weeks beginning about the middle of July.

The *Daily Press*, May 15th, 1852, contains an article on the schools of Poughkeepsie, describing particularly Mr. Bartlett's School on College Hill, "the best of its kind in America," the Dutchess County Academy, then in charge of William MacGeorge; the Mansion Square Female Academy, Dr. W. P. Gibbons principal, (this school occupied the building built for a hotel, now the Jewett House); the Poughkeepsie Female Academy, Mr. J. C. Tooker, principal. On May 20th of the same year, the *Press* "wrote up" the public schools, with the statement: "No village in the union possesses a superior Free educational establishment." There were then a grammar school and five primary schools, one of which was for colored children.

The fame of the village was so great that "The State and National Law School" was brought here late in December, 1852, from Ballston, but as it was hardly fairly established before Poughkeepsie became a city, further mention of it may be deferred to the next chapter.

#### THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE LYCEUM.

The Public Library was moved into what was long called "The Library Building," 233 and 235 Main Street, early in December, 1852, and only a few weeks before the Law School began in the same building. This building in fact was long a literary center. Tomlinson's Poughkeepsie Museum occupied a part of the upper floors at this time and for several years afterwards. The Library was formed under the school district library law in 1835 doubtless inheriting some of the books from the older subscription

libraries. It was consolidated with the Lancaster Library in 1843, and was removed to the upper floor of what afterwards became the Phoenix Hose House in the rear of the First Reformed Church. Here it grew slowly to about 3,000 volumes<sup>1</sup> until its removal to Main Street above noted.

"The Poughkeepsie Lyceum of Literature, Science and the Mechanic Arts" was incorporated in 1838, "for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a library, cabinet, philosophical apparatus, reading room, literary and scientific lectures, and other means of promoting moral and intellectual improvement, and of accumulating a fund for the benefit of its members as a resource in case of sickness, infirmity and misfortune." The incorporation was the result of a union of the older Lyceum Association and of the Mechanics Literary and Benevolent Association. The first of these, we are told, had a cabinet of 1,500 minerals and a few books, and the latter had a library of 270 volumes. The books ultimately went to the city library and the minerals, etc., to Vassar Institute. The Lyceum Association was long an important educational force in Poughkeepsie, and brought here the most prominent lecturers and public men of the days when people liked to hear live questions discussed by men who knew all about them. It is still nominally in existence, but gave up its lecture course in 1880, and in 1903 voted to devote its annual income, about \$125, to the purchase of books for the city library. Nearly all the leading citizens of Poughkeepsie from 1838 until a recent period have been at some time members of the Association. Matthew Vassar was its president in 1852, and the papers of early December give considerable space to his address on opening the course of lectures. R. W. Emerson was one of the lecturers that winter. After 1850, for many years the lectures were held in the Universalist Church (previously Presbyterian) in Cannon Street. John Grubb, then a bookseller, later became one of the most successful managers of the Lyceum, and his name was identified with its work for a long time.

Efforts were made to bolster up and continue the Lancaster School after the board schools were opened, but without success, and from 1840-50 the building on Church Street was used by the German Methodists as a place of worship, while their first church, on the site of the present one in South Bridge Street, was building. The Lancaster school house presently passed to the possession of the board of education and in 1857 the present School No. 2 was finished and opened.

<sup>1</sup>See report of committee on fire houses. Village minutes, April 21, 1851.

#### NEW CHURCHES.

The Germans came to Poughkeepsie in considerable numbers only a few years after the Irish and settled mostly on the south side of Main Street, west of Market. By 1838 occasional services had begun to be conducted by the German teachers in the Collegiate School. The Methodists were first in obtaining an organization in 1847, under Rev. Daniel Duerstein, aided by C. Lyon of the Washington Street Church and Jacob Bahret of the Presbyterian Church. Their first church was dedicated Sept. 22d, 1850, on the site of the present one in South Bridge Street. When the Lutherans found out that Mr. Duerstein was a Methodist they withdrew to the basement of the Dutch Reformed Church. They were not completely organized until 1850 under Rev. E. Hoffman and were not able to own a place of worship until 1858, when the old Noxon house on Market Street was purchased and fitted for their use.



*The Cannon Street Methodist Church.*

A number of new churches testify to the vigor of the village during this period. The Baptists in 1830 built the Lafayette Street Church (now Polish Catholic) at a cost of \$20,000, one-half of which was donated by Matthew Vassar, who persuaded Rev. Rufus Babcock to return to the pastorate. The old church in Mill Street was rented to the Methodists, who in 1840 had increased so much as to form a second congregation with Thomas M. Brewer, Thomas Simpson, William Wall Reynolds, Edmund B. Bailey, Harry Wray, David Norris and Egbert B. Killey as trustees. In 1842 a Universalist congregation was formed and bought the Mill Street Baptist Church, the Methodists finding a temporary home at the Vil-

lage Hall and the Court House until 1845 when the Cannon Street Church (now the Masonic Temple) was built at a cost of \$8,650. Meanwhile a revival had added greatly to the Baptist membership and Dr. Babcock had resigned a second time, being succeeded by Rev. Charles Van Loon, who was aided by Rev. Lewis Raymond, a noted evangelist. Out of this second revival grew differences which divided the congregation and Mr. Van Loon, with about two-thirds of the members, bought back the Mill Street Church. The Universalists were then without a home until the Presbyterians in 1850 decided to build a new church, when they purchased the old church in Cannon Street. Considerable building was going on east of Hamilton Street and the Presbyterians, then under



*Presbyterian Church, torn down 1905. The Fence was removed about 1890.*

the pastorate of Rev. Henry G. Ludlow, dedicated their present church<sup>1</sup> May 7th, 1851. A notable contribution towards its erection was \$5,000 in the stock of the Washington and New Orleans Magnetic Telegraph Company by Samuel F. B. Morse, who was an active member, and a constant attendant whenever he was in Poughkeepsie. The church trustees held this stock for twenty-five years and finally sold it for half its face value within a short time of the consolidation into the Western Union Company, which would have given it the value its donor had expected it to have.

The Catholic Church at this time was under the able rectorship of Rev. Michael Riordan, who steered

<sup>1</sup>Now (1905) replaced by a much larger and finer building.

it safely through the Native American, or "Know Nothing" agitation and brought it to greatly increased strength and respect. He had unbounded influence over the Irish laborers who were building the railroad, and more than once quelled what threatened to be serious riots among them. Not a few of them settled purchasing homes. The Silk Company, which owned much real estate, gave an additional piece of ground permanently in Poughkeepsie, saving their wages and to the church in 1830, and a part of the present building was erected in 1844. This became the transept when the building was enlarged to nearly its present form in 1853. In the same year (1853) the German Catholics completed their first church on Union Street, where the present Church of the Nativity stands. The first building cost only \$500, the work having been partly contributed by zealous Catholics, Irish as well as Germans. Rev. John Tanzer was the first rector.

In 1847 the Dutch Reformed congregation, under Rev. A. M. Mami's pastorate, outgrew its building and organized a second congregation with the following consistory: Tunis Brinkerhoff, Charles P. Adriance, Abraham G. Storm and Joseph H. Jackson, elders, and James W. Bogardus, Casper D. Smith, Albert Brett and John P. Flagler, deacons. The present building, corner of Mill and Catherine Streets, was dedicated Feb. 22d, 1849. It cost \$12,800. Rev. Charles Whitehead was installed as the first pastor October 7th, and the church began with a membership of fifty.

In 1843 the colored members of the Methodist Church, who had separated from the Washington Street congregation in 1837, built their first church on the site of the present one in Catherine Street. In 1853 the Methodists sent out still another congregation, when the Hedding Church on Clover Street was built.

One union religious organization, which still exists, dates from this period—The Woman's Union Bible and Tract Society. The report of this society published in 1805, gives its history. Bishop Janes, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, had presided at an annual meeting of The Dutchess County Bible Society in 1840, and had so profoundly stirred many of the women present that under the leadership of Mrs. Robert Wilkinson they determined to found a village organization. Accordingly, October 14th, a union meeting was held at the Dutch Reformed Church, at which a constitution was adopted and officers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. Frederick W. Hatch (wife of the rector of St. Paul's

Church); vice-president, Mrs. Peter P. Sanford (wife of the presiding elder of the Methodists); corresponding secretary, Mrs. Alexander M. Mann (wife of the pastor of the Dutch Church); recording secretary, Mrs. Theodorius Gregory; treasurer, Mrs. Robert Wilkinson. For eight years this "Female Union Bible Society," as it was called, remained auxiliary to the county society. The work of distribution of tracts was added in 1862, through the influence of Mrs. Eliza Hager, and in 1868 the society first employed a Bible reader to give her time to the work.

#### THE RURAL CEMETERY.

Before 1850 the village of Poughkeepsie had begun to surround most of the little denominational grave-yards in the village. The Dutch Reformed Church had already been driven from two, and had established a third on the Post Road north of the city limits, and the Episcopal burial ground on Montgomery Street was no longer on the outskirts. The Baptist grave-yard<sup>1</sup> near Garden Street was already inadequate. As long ago as 1800 the village had appropriated \$500 for a grave-yard on Montgomery Street, and the records seem to indicate that the purchase was made, but unless the ground was a part of the same taken by Christ Church in 1828 no trace of it is to be found, and it was certainly small. Possibly the idea of a cemetery association was an outgrowth of the cholera epidemic of 1842, though it did not take form until several years later, when Matthew Vassar, James Bowne and Egbert B. Killey were appointed by a village meeting a committee to select a site. Mr. Vassar, on recommendation of the committee, bought for \$8,000 about fifty acres of land on the east side of Academy Street below Eden Hill. The association was formed December 30th, 1852, with the following directors: Thomas L. Davies, Elias Trivett, Seward Barenbo, J. P. H. Tallman, William W. Reynolds, M. Vassar, George Van Kleeck, C. W. Swift, Jacob B. Jewett, S. B. Johnston, W. C. Sterling and James Bowne. They decided not to take the property purchased by Mr. Vassar and he therefore had it out for himself, from plans made by A. J. Downing, the landscape architect, and called it Spring-side, a name which it still bears. Mr. Vassar lived there for several summers, the cemetery meanwhile having been located on the Smith Thompson place on the South Road. Judge Thompson had died in December, 1843, and was buried in the old Livingston family plot, where his monument still stands, only a

<sup>1</sup>For list of first plot owners in the Dutch Reformed cemetery on the Post Road, and in the Baptist burying ground, see Appendix.

few hundred feet north of the cemetery fence. His wife was a Livingston. The Thompson place was called the "Rust Platz" as was also the stream (mentioned in Chapter I) which ran through it, and it is rather a pity that this name could not have been retained for the cemetery, as the meaning, "resting place," is certainly appropriate. The cemetery was dedicated Nov. 2d, 1853, Rev. H. G. Ludlow, Rev. A. M. Mann, Rev. Samuel Buel (of Christ Church), Jacob B. Jewett and John Thompson taking part in the exercises. The old Thompson house, built before the Revolution, probably by the Conklin family, from whom the first Henry Livingston bought his land, stood until August, 1870.

#### A DAILY NEWSPAPER AND GAS LIGHT.

The first daily newspaper in Poughkeepsie was started by Isaac Tompkins, editor of the *Dutchess Democrat*, in November, 1849, and was called *The Daily Bulletin*. The town seems not to have been ready for a daily then and its career was short, but on May 3d, 1852, Nichols, Bush & Co., started *The Daily Press*, non-partisan, with Thomas J. Nichols as editor. It was a small paper, a "broadside" of only two pages, and was printed on a hand press until Sept. 5th, 1853. Albert S. Pease, who had conducted the *Telegraph* after Mr. Killey's death in 1852 until about 1856, purchased the *Press* November 15th, 1858, and in December enlarged it to four pages. John W. Spaight and John C. P. Holden were associated with him and at one time the paper was called *The Daily City Press*. Among items of news in the first number was an outline of a plan for a railroad "from Canajoharie to Poughkeepsie," copied from the *Prattsville Advertiser*. Such a railroad, the writer maintained, "would shorten the distance to New York from Canajoharie and all points west of that on the Central Line of Railroads, at least fifty and probably sixty miles."

More important news was the burning of the popular river steamboat Henry Clay, near Yonkers on July 28th, 1852. Several residents of Poughkeepsie lost their lives in this disaster, including the wife of Charles Bartlett, the principal of the Collegiate School.

Even before the first daily newspaper was the advent of gas light. Pipes were laid in the streets under authorization from the trustees<sup>1</sup> in 1850 and in December 10th of that year the taxpayers at a special

<sup>1</sup>February 18, 1850 Resolution authorizing Charles B. Dungan, of Philadelphia, and others to open streets on application of Henry D. Varick.

election voted down a proposition to use the new illuminant for street lighting. This, however, was merely a vote against hasty action and soon afterwards the legislature was asked to amend the charter and establish a lamp district.<sup>1</sup> After this had been done (Chapter 401, Laws of 1851) on July 8th, 1851, there was a meeting of the owners of real estate, September 1st, in the district, and they voted just as stockholders vote at ordinary corporation meetings, according to the amount of their holdings. Out of an assessment of \$914,950 it is recorded that \$641,700 voted for gas lights, and the trustees of the village accordingly, October 13th, levied a tax of one mill per dollar on the district, and accepted the proposition of the Poughkeepsie Gas Company to furnish 47 lamp posts, and gas at \$2.50 per 1,000 feet. November 3d the trustees advertised for "burning fluid and for lighting lamps not within the lamp district."

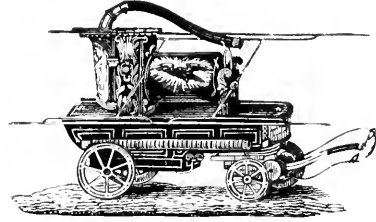
#### THE VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Apparently the establishment of adequate street lighting was partly the result of agitation growing out of the unusual number of fires that occurred in the winter of 1850-1851, many of which were probably of incendiary origin. Edward P. Taylor, the chief engineer, reported March 17th that there had been seventeen fires between November 16th and March 4th. Public meetings were held, a reward was offered for the conviction of the incendiary and a committee of safety was organized. The chief reported the fire department "second to none in efficiency." It was about this time that the silk factory burned, but it does not appear that any of the other fires were very serious, though several of them were on Main Street. There were five fire engines, two hose carts, one hook and ladder truck, 3,950 feet of hose, and 204 firemen, 36 of whom belonged to Davy Crockett Hook and Ladder Company, and 16 to each of the hose companies. The fire companies sometimes got into trouble through rowdiness among their members, and in 1844 the old No. 1 or Red Rover Hose Company had been disbanded and locked out by the "corporation lock." Oliver H. Booth in June of that year organized Phoenix Hose Company in its place, and became the foreman, with W. D. Cable as assistant.

Engine Company No. 5, known as "Neptune," was organized Sept. 28th, 1848, with William C. Smith as foreman. Albert H. Champlin, Henry Morris and Richard Kenworthy were among the charter members. A house was built for the company in Liberty Street.

<sup>1</sup>For first lamp district see Appendix.

where Lady Washington Hose Company is now located, and a new engine, of the piano-box type, then the latest thing in fire engines, was constructed under contract by Foster & Gale, a Poughkeepsie firm, for about \$1,000. Up to this time all the engines in use in Poughkeepsie had been of the old "goose neck" pattern, each engine throwing only one stream. The



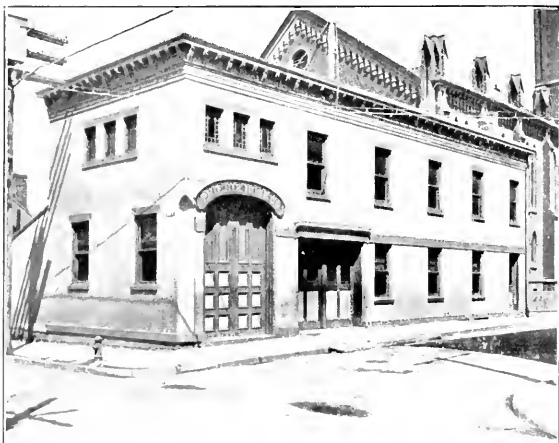
"Goose Neck" Fire Engine.

new No. 5 was called a "double engine" because she had two couplings for attaching hose, and was expected to be powerful enough to supply two other engines with water. She was never very successful, but was reported as doing good work at the fire which burned the dye wood mills of Gifford, Sherman & Innis<sup>1</sup> in February, 1849. The old method of fire-fighting was well illustrated at this fire. No. 1 took suction at the river and supplied water to No. 4, and No. 4 supplied water to No. 5, which threw two streams on the fire. It hardly seems that a line of three engines could have been necessary with the river so near at hand, but long lines of hose were often laid with engines at intervals to push the water along. The men on the brakes of the first engine always worked like beavers on these occasions to "wash," or flood, the engine next ahead, and when this feat was accomplished it was received with shouts of approval from the partisans of the successful company, and was the cause of much boasting. Water pipes had been laid on Main Street at first only to the Dutch Church, but were extended after a few years to Bayeaux Street, and in 1848 to Clover Street. Branches were laid through Market Street to Christ Church, through Academy to Cannon and on the north side as far as Mill Street. Wells and cisterns were often pumped dry before a line of hose from the nearest hydrant could be laid.

As a result of the alarm over the fires of 1850 and 1851, \$350 was voted in 1851 for a new hook and lad-

<sup>1</sup>Along with the report of this fire the Eagle published a history of the mill, with the statement that it was raised on the day of Braddock's defeat in 1755. "The business of dye-wood cutting, etc., was commenced first in this country at this place by Messrs. Swift, Barnes & Gifford in the year 1816."

der truck, and appropriations were also made for a new house for Engine Company No. 4. The firemen asked for the use of the upper floor of the hook and ladder building (the old Phoenix building) then the public library, and two long reports by special committees were made, the first of which, April 21st, recommended that the market in the lower floor of the village hall be given up and the space be refitted for the library. The second report by J. H. Fonda, M. Vassar, Jr., and J. M. Cable recommended (May 25th) that a new hook and ladder house be built "on the east side of Market Square . . . a part of which is now used for a Public Pound," and that Phoenix Hose, then housed in a small building back of the Surrogate's office, be placed in the building



*Old Phoenix Hose House. Town down in 1901. The Union Street end was a comparatively recent addition.*

on the corner of Union Street. These recommendations were carried out in 1852 and resulted in the removal of the library to "Dr. Pine's new building" (opposite the court house) and the building of the first Davy Crockett house on the present site. No. 1's new house was built in 1851 at 100 Main Street. The older company, located in Clover Street, near Mill, had been disbanded about 1846 and was but recently reorganized with the name Cataract No. 4. The names "Protection" for No. 1, "Niagara" for No. 2, and "Washington" for No. 3 seem to date from about 1847.

Oliver H. Booth was chief of the department during the eventful years, 1851 and 1852, and he had still another company to reorganize. Howard Hose Company No. 2, jealous of the new houses of Davy

Crockett and Cataract, presented so many resignations that it had to be disbanded, and in the spring of 1853 the chief organized a new company, which was named in his honor O. H. Booth Hose Company. There was much rivalry and jealousy among the old village fire companies and they occasionally needed the command of a firm hand. The new houses of this period afforded the first adequate room for the development of club life among the firemen, a feature which has since become very prominent.

#### A CITY CHARTER.

In 1850 Poughkeepsie had a population of 10,000 or more and was considerably larger than some places that had been calling themselves cities for a long time. Hudson, for instance, a smaller place, had been masquerading as a "city" for more than fifty years. The limitations of the village charter began to be felt with the introduction of the new and sometimes disorderly elements brought by the railroad. "We have not so much as one corporation police officer, bound, as such, to discharge police duties," said the *Eagle*, in March, 1853. There were, it is true, certain watchmen, appointed and at least partly paid by the village, but the town constables were the only regular officers. There was far more disorder and drunkenness in the village then than there is in the city now. Several gangs of Irishmen known locally as Corkonians, Fardowners, Whale-dockers, etc., used to indulge occasionally in street fights, and they did not always get along well with the English and German residents. On election days and horse racing days the village was "wide open," and the streets were often filled with drunken brawlers, creating a situation with which the town constables were utterly unable to cope.

There was a conflict of authority also over the streets. The highway commissioners of the township had charge of surveying and laying out new streets, while the village attended to grading, gravelling, paving and repairing. School matters introduced a further complication. The board of education, under the act of 1843, was entirely independent of both town and village, but the town still had the collection of regular school taxes, a part of which were paid back to the village. It was also a source of complaint that the village constituted only a single school district and hence did not get its share of State money. These were reasons sufficient for an amendment to the char-

ter, at least, and there was a conflict for a time between the conservative people who wished to retain the village name and organization and those who wanted an entirely new dispensation with the enlarged powers of a city. The latter were evidently influenced, as in all similar cases, by a feeling that the word "city" sounded much larger than "village" and would give the place more standing and add to its prosperity. A place which had unrivalled water and rail transportation facilities, important industries, five banks, eight fire companies, the best schools in the State, excellent hotels, a daily newspaper and gas

and provided that no ballots for trustees should be counted which contained more than two names—an apparent effort to secure minority representation. The president was given extended authority, but there was no provision for a police force. On March 5th the *Eagle* said of the proposed charter, "Many of its provisions are good but these give us a regular city government in everything but name." At a special election, March 21st, the people overwhelmed the proposition by a vote of 528 noes and only 31 ayes. The matter rested until after the fall elections, and then with George W. Sterling in the Assembly and



POUGHKEEPSIE IN 1852.

From a Lithograph by E. Whitefield. This picture shows the old Whale Dock Buildings at the extreme left.

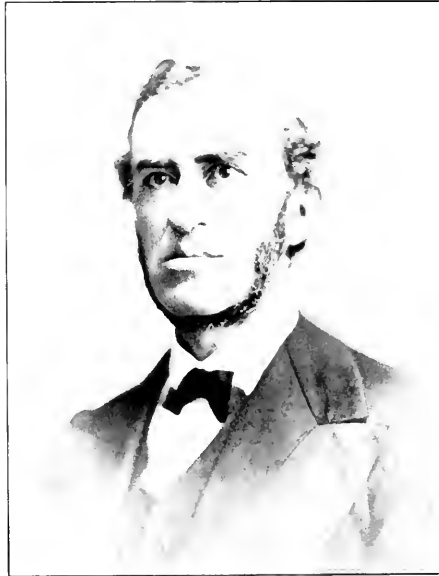
lighted streets, was entitled to "put on airs" in the middle of the last century.

Active agitation for a city charter began with the *Eagle* in 1852, and was at first mildly opposed by the *Telegraph*, *American* and *Daily Press*. Public sentiment grew steadily more favorable, though many leading citizens were afraid the change would greatly increase taxes. On Thursday, Feb. 8th, 1853, at a public meeting, Joseph H. Jackson, Jacob B. Jewett, Charles M. Pelton, William C. Sterling, George B. Adriance and John Thompson, a committee previously appointed, reported in favor of charter amendments that retained the name of village, outlined a division into four wards, with three trustees from each

Robert A. Barnard in the Senate, the first city charter was introduced in 1854. In the course of a plea in its favor, February 4th, the *Eagle* gave the village expenses under the various authorities as follows:

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Corporation expenses | \$13,000 |
| Town charges         | 12,000   |
| Schools              | 4,000    |
| Highways taxes       | 3,500    |
| Total                | \$32,500 |

The bill was passed and was signed by Governor Myron H. Clark, on March 28th, and the first city election was assigned for the second Tuesday in April, the 11th.



JAMES EMOTT,  
*First Mayor of Troughkepsie.*



## CHAPTER VIII.

FROM THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY (1854) TO THE CIVIL WAR (1861)—BEGINNINGS OF CITY GOVERNMENT—THE DUTCH CHURCH AND OTHER FIRES—NEW CHURCHES AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS—BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES—THE LAW SCHOOL AND EASTMAN COLLEGE—FOUNDING OF VASSAR COLLEGE—SPORTS, ICE YACHTING, ROWING, BASE BALL—POLITICS BEFORE THE WAR.

The City of Poughkeepsie was separated entirely from the Town of Poughkeepsie, bounded the same as the village, and was divided into four wards, with the first and third on the north side of Main Street, and the second and fourth on the south side, Market and Garden Streets forming the east and west boundaries. The first city election was on strict party lines, the Whigs nominating James Emott for Mayor and the Democrats James H. Weeks, who had been a member of Assembly in 1853. Emott won by a majority of 307 in a total vote of 1,035, and Dr. William Thomas was elected Recorder by 384 over Edward A. Bottolph. The vote by wards was as follows:

|                      | 1st. | 2d. | 3d. | 4th. |
|----------------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| James Emott .....    | 320  | 232 | 257 | 173  |
| James H. Weeks ..... | 195  | 130 | 127 | 124  |

The First Ward was evidently not yet a stronghold of Democracy, and in fact the city had scarcely yet begun the development of residence districts for the well-to-do uptown. The choice of Garden Street, instead of Washington, for the boundary between the first and third wards was not therefore altogether a "gerrymander." The aldermen elected were as follows.

First Ward—William H. Tallmadge, Benjamin B. Reynolds.

Second Ward—James H. Seaman, James T. Hill.

Third Ward—William A. Fanning, Henry S. Martin.

Fourth Ward—Henry D. Varick, Lewis F. Streit.

Mr. Seaman was the only Democrat elected. The meeting for organization was on Monday, April 17th, at 10 o'clock in the morning. Benjamin B. Reynolds was appointed clerk pro tem. "Ordinances in relation to the meetings of the Common Council, the passage and publication of Corporation Laws and to establish a City Seal" were passed. Aldermen Varick, Tallmadge and Seaman were appointed an ordinance com-

mittee, and then there was an adjournment to 7 p. m. At the evening session Robert N. Palmer was chosen City Chamberlain and his bond was fixed at \$25,000, and Warren Skinner was appointed Commissioner of Streets, with a bond of \$5,000. Committees on excise, (the license fee was \$30), on streets, and on public buildings were appointed and the following additional city officers were chosen by the Aldermen:

John Winslow, City Marshal.

William Graham and James Sparks, police officers.

William Berry, Chief Engineer, fire department.

Samuel Budd, First Asst. Engineer.

Stephen Armstrong, Second Asst. Engineer.

Fire Wardens—Enos H. Palmer, John H. P. Yelverton, James W. Bogardus, John C. Harvey, William C. Southwick, Charles Underwood, William H. Green, Charles C. Carman, James Brower, Henry R. Power, E. F. Basley, Robert K. Tuthill, James H. Dudley, John R. Lent, Elias G. Hopkins and Oliver S. Henderson.

Mayor Emott resigned in January, 1856, having been elected a Supreme Court justice, and Henry D. Varick was appointed to fill the vacancy until the election in March, when George Wilkinson, the first candidate of the new Republican party, was chosen mayor by a vote of 844 to 607 for Leonard B. Sackett.

In 1858 Charles W. Swift was elected the third mayor of Poughkeepsie, receiving 1,054 votes, while John H. Otis, (Dem.), who had been State senator in 1852 and 1853, received 850. At this election Henry W. Shaw (Josh Billings) became an alderman from the Fourth Ward. He lived at that time on the corner of Hamilton and Cannon Streets, and had not yet begun to win fame as a spelling reformer and humorist, but was picking up a rather precarious living as an auctioneer. His first published writings were little squibs in correct spelling over the signature "Sled-length," generally in the *Press*. In 1860 he inserted a full page advertisement in Lent's city directory, con-

taining only the words, "Henry W. Shaw, Hamilton Place, Cor. South Hamilton and Church, Poughkeepsie." He then lived where St. Mary's Church now stands, and was still an alderman.

All city elections were contested on strict party lines and all, except the first, were held in March until 1874. John H. Otis was the Democratic candidate for mayor again in 1861 and carried both the First and Third Wards, this being the first time the Democrats had carried the First Ward in a municipal elec-



GEORGE WILKINSON.  
*Second Mayor of Poughkeepsie.*

tion. James Bowne, his Republican opponent, was nevertheless elected by a small majority, receiving 1,025 votes to 996 for Otis. James Emott was, perhaps, the most notable of the early mayors, but George Wilkinson and Charles W. Swift were men of prominence and high standing, members of families long among the leading forces in the community. George Wilkinson was a brother of Robert and Gilbert Wilkinson, of whom we have read something in former chapters.

#### THE DUTCH CHURCH AND OTHER FIRES.

There was considerable agitation soon after the city's incorporation in favor of a water supply that could be used for all purposes as well as for extinguishing fires, but the war caused a suspension of the plans. The city evidently took over from the village a rather dilapidated lot of fire apparatus, according to the report of the chief engineer published March 20th, 1854. "No. 3 I find much worn. \* \* \* Her company have abandoned her and have not appeared at fires since election day. No. 4 is in good working order, but not large enough to take her place in line with No. 1, and No. 5 is entirely abandoned by her company." A sixth engine company was organized in 1856 called Young America, and was located in the growing southwestern part of town, at first in a barn on Tulip Street. Old Protection No. 1 was disbanded about 1856, and reorganized. After the war, at a second reorganization, it was called for a short time Perseverance No. 1.

One of the important fires of this time, and in fact one of the most memorable events of the city's history, was the burning of the Dutch Church on Main Street, Sunday, January 18th, 1857. It was an intensely cold day. No old resident will admit that the weather has ever been so cold since then, even during the past winter (1904). The *Weekly Eagle* of January 24th says the cold was almost unbearable. The thermometer was at 13 below zero at noon and a strong north wind was blowing which forced it down to 20 before dark, though in the meantime a snow storm had set in. The fire started in the roof of the church just at the close of Rev. Dr. Mann's morning sermon and was discovered soon after the congregation had been dismissed.

"The firemen rushed to the rescue with their machines, but as the hydrants were partially frozen, there was some delay before water could be obtained. In the meantime the flames were increasing with fearful rapidity in the roof of the church, fanned to a fury by the continuous blasts of wind. When things were ready, one heroic fireman started up the long ladder planted on the east side, to take up the pipe to the roof, but the cold was so intense it was doubtful if he could live there twenty minutes, and the hose was so slippery with ice it was impossible for his assistants to hold it up. So efforts to save the church had to be abandoned, and attention directed to the buildings around. \* \* \*

"As the fire progressed, the sight became fearful and sublime, if not terrible in the extreme. The entire roof, being composed of wood, cedar shingles laid on pine backing, sent up a mass of red flames, crackling and roaring in the wind, the extent and grandeur of which can hardly be imagined. But the



CHARLES W. SWIFT.  
*Third Mayor of Poughkeepsie.*

greatest sight of all was the burning steeple. As the flames got hold of that they ascended with a rapidity that occupied but a few minutes until the red volume shot up beyond the ball and vane at the summit, presenting a fearful column of fire ascending far up towards the clouds. Above and below all was flame and smoke for a short time; but soon the lower timbers that supported the steeple were burned away, and then down came the lofty spire with a tremendous crash, carrying what remained of the burning roof with it down to the interior of the church. There the mass of burning material was so great that the entire space inside the walls, which fortunately stood, seemed filled with flames until ten at night, although several streams of water were steadily poured in by the engines."

A number of the firemen were severely frost-bitten on this occasion and the piano-box engine No. 5, froze up solidly and went out of service. A few weeks later (Feb. 24th) the "Red Mills" on Smith Street were burned,—John R. Lent's plaster mill, David B. Lent's bedstead manufactory, and Sanford & Hull's machine shop, with some smaller buildings. The loss was estimated at \$25,000. The present brick factory buildings at the head of Mill Street were erected soon afterwards.

The most serious fire of the period, scarcely less serious than the great fire of 1836, described in Chapter VI, broke out about 3 o'clock on the morning of July 24th, 1860, in the stable attached to Ebenezer Cary's market. "In less than an hour the whole block bounded by Catherine, Main and Crannell Streets was in a blaze, and the buildings on the other side of the street were scorching and were only saved by almost miraculous exertions." It was a strenuous night for the firemen, for the Commercial Paint Works, a good sized building, just west of Pelton's factory on lower Mill Street, had burned the evening before, and the firemen had barely reached their homes when they were summoned to cope with the much greater fire on Main Street. Several buildings on Catherine and Crannell Streets as well as all those between were destroyed. Caleb Morgan owned four of the buildings burned, near Catherine Street, and his loss was put down as \$10,000. Nathaniel Hill also owned four buildings, loss \$5,000. Abraham Wright three, loss \$2,500. Andrus & Dudley, who had a furniture store in the block, lost \$6,500. Among others burned out were B. L. Hannah's *Gazette* printing office, John F. Coxhead, John W. Shields, N. Hill & Son's soap factory and John P. Nelson.

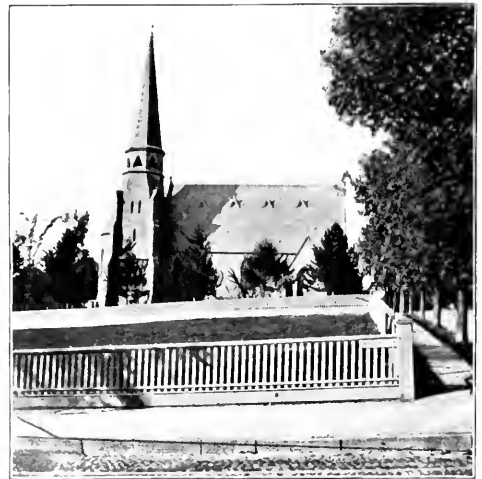
This fire resulted in an agitation for a steam fire engine, combated by some of the conservative, who thought another hand engine would do as well. The hand engine proposition was voted down shortly be-

fore the war, and April 22d, 1861, the taxpayers authorized an appropriation of \$3,100 for a steamer by a vote of 111 to 4. The engine arrived in 1862 and was assigned to No. 4. It was of the rotary type and rather heavy, but still not too heavy to be dragged around with ropes by the sturdy firemen of the day. A second steamer, for Niagara No. 2, was purchased a few years later.

#### NEW CHURCHES AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The present First Reformed Church was built soon after the fire on the same site and was dedicated September 7th, 1858. The tower, as originally built, was surmounted by a lofty spire, which remained until 1878, when it was condemned as unsafe and was taken down. The present Congregational Church was finished and dedicated June 5th, 1860, and the old Congregational Church on the corner of Vassar and Mill Streets was sold for a Jewish synagogue, the Hebrews having maintained an organization here, under the name of "The Children of Israel" since 1848.

The Church of the Holy Comforter was the result of meetings begun in the winter of 1854-1855, and received in 1858 under the auspices of Christ Church. They were held in Shaw's Hall on Main Street, near the old No. 4 Engine House, and the attendance be-



*Church of the Holy Comforter before the Fences were Removed.*

came so encouraging that William A. Davies, who was greatly interested, became convinced of the necessity of a free church in that part of the city, and determined to build it himself. He lived in the house on

Main Street, afterwards the home of Hon. George Innis, and with his brother, Thomas L. Davies, owned considerable property in the neighborhood. May 10th, 1850, articles of incorporation were filed, the first trustees being Samuel Bucl, Thomas L. Davies, William A. Davies, Robert E. Coxe, John W. Van Wagner, George Cornwell and Benjamin R. Tenney. A new street, Davies Place, was opened and Wm. A. and Thomas L. Davies gave the church a lot 125 feet square by deed dated May 10th. On June 20th the corner stone was laid by Bishop Horatio Potter and on October 25th, 1860, the new church was consecrated, Rev. John Scarborough becoming the first rector. He remained until 1867 when he was succeeded by Rev. Robert Fulton Crary, still in active service.

The building of the Home for the Friendless, corner of Hamilton and Franklin Streets, was finished in 1857, but the society known as "The Poughkeepsie Female Guardian Society" dates back to 1847 and was incorporated in 1852. No very large donations were made for the home, but "slowly little by little the mites were gathered." There seems to have been an unusual amount of poverty and distress in Poughkeepsie during the winter of 1857, judging from the reports of meetings held for the relief of the poor, and the home was opened at the right time. It was at first designed to "provide a temporary home for respectable females without employment or friends" as well as "destitute and friendless children of both sexes, until they can be committed to the guardianship of foster-parents, or worthy families." The board of managers has always been a large one, "not to exceed forty" and "comprising as far as practicable, a representation from the various evangelical denominations." In 1861 there were twenty-eight ladies in the board. The "Home for the Friendless" was considered a notable institution and there is much about it in the newspapers of the first few years after it was founded. It was visited by philanthropists from other cities and was considered one of the show places of the town. The name "Female Guardian Society" was dropped in 1868 and also the words of the original charter as to providing a home for unemployed women. Most of the leading women in Poughkeepsie have served, or are serving, on the board of managers, and among those who were most active in the early days may be mentioned Mrs. Julia A. Killey, Mrs. Theodorus Gregory and Mrs. Isaac

Platt. Mrs. Killey left her own comfortable home for a year and served as matron of the Home without pay in order to see it well started.

In July, 1870, there was a proposition to remove the Home for the Friendless into the country, Mr. William C. Smilie offering his handsome place and thirty-six acres on the Hyde Park road. As the present property could not be sold to advantage he gave the society \$5,000 in cash instead.

The Young Men's Christian Union, a forerunner of the Young Men's Christian Association, was organized April 6th, 1856, with the following officers: President, Alfred B. Smith; vice-presidents, for the Baptist Church, Thomas E. Vassar; Congregational Church, Robert K. Tuthill; Episcopal Church, Abraham Bockee; Dutch Reformed Church, J. Henry Hager; Methodist Church, William Lee; corresponding secretary, John I. Platt; recording secretary, James Smith, Jr.; treasurer, Henry Seaman; librarian, William Halpin; registrar, James Bowne, Jr.; managers, John S. Perkins, R. K. Tuthill, A. Bockee, J. H. Hager, J. F. Lewis, Robert F. Wilkinson. On the day of the burning of the Morgan Block this association conducted a steamboat excursion to New York to see the wonderful steamship Great Eastern. The meeting rooms were at No. 2 Union Street, "adjoining the post office."

#### BUSINESS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT.

About the time of the incorporation of the city an effort was made to revive the manufacture of locomotives in Poughkeepsie. The *Eagle* of July 9th, 1853, spoke of "the great locomotive factory of this place, built seventeen years ago and still standing deserted," adding "Poughkeepsie locomotives ought to be as far famed throughout the Union as Poughkeepsie schools or Dutchess County agriculture." Not long afterwards a company was formed to take this factory, and for a time blue vitriol and other chemicals were manufactured there, under the direction of Ludwig Ebstein, afterwards for many years chemist for Gifford, Sherman & Innis. The buildings were purchased by the Fallkill Iron Company and were torn down in 1850 when the "Upper Furnace" was built. In the same neighborhood, near the foot of Hoffman Street, which then extended through to the river, were two cooperages, relics of whaling days, one conducted by the Lowns and the other by Sleight & Paulding. An effort was made to revive the project for a railroad to the eastward in 1855 and 1856, but it entered another long period of rest after the panic of 1857.

Before the Upper Furnace was built the local iron

<sup>1</sup>The first constitution and a meagre history of the origin of the work is given in the first printed report, for the year ending February 22, 1861.

industry went through a reorganization, caused by the failure of Edward Beech, who was a partner in the Cunard Steamship Company. The steamship business failed in the panic of 1857 but the local iron business remained sound and was taken over by William A. Davies, James Emott and Charles W. Swift until matters were straightened out, when Albert E. Tower came into possession of a much larger interest. Judge Emott became the first president of the Fallkill Iron Company, which conducted the Upper Furnace until the consolidation. The Lower Furnace was abandoned in 1885 and scarcely a trace of it remains.

An industry that was to become as far-famed as it was hoped that Poughkeepsie locomotives might be was just beginning at this time. John Adriance, whose name has several times already appeared in this history, had become interested in the recently invented mowing machines. He had been one of the partners in the old Dutchess Iron Works, and had begun to build a mowing machine called the "For-bush." In the fall of 1854 his son, John P. Adriance, who was a member of the wholesale hardware firm



*Red Mills Buildings. Photographed about 1880*

of Sears, Adriance & Platt in New York, became interested in the "Manny" mower and went for a few years to Worcester, Mass., where it was manufactured. In 1857 the firm purchased the right to make and sell, in their territory, a mower patented by Antman & Miller, of Canton, Ohio, and in 1850 Mr. Adriance returned to Poughkeepsie and leased the Red Mills, newly rebuilt, for the manufacture of the Adriance Buckeye. Thomas S. Brown, who had become associated with Mr. Adriance in May, 1858, greatly improved this mowing machine by his inventions and in 1864 the Red Mills property became too small and the present location, formerly a part of the South-

wick property, was purchased. The buildings were completed and occupied in 1865, as will appear in the next chapter.

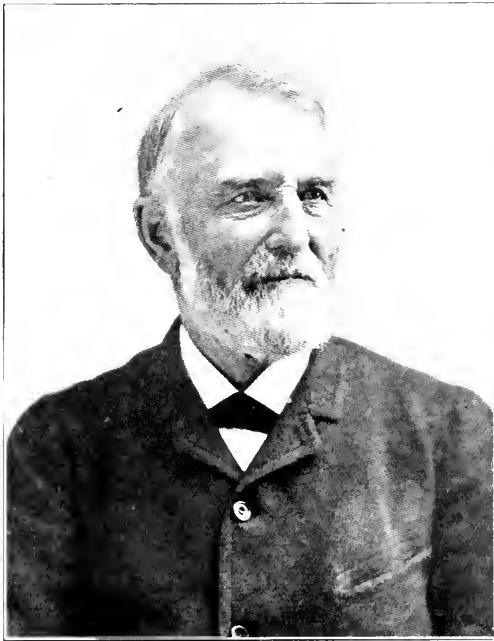
An important industry of this period was Louis Wiethan's piano factory, on Market Street. Mr. Wiethan's sales were largely in the south, and his business was ruined by the war, though it was revived and carried on by his sons on Main Street. The large frame building on Market Street stood for many years as a tenement house, until it was torn down to make room for the Adriance Memorial Library.

Ship-building at the Finch Ship-yard, foot of Dutchess Avenue, continued to flourish. The large steamboat "Reliance" was built there in 1854, the fast schooner, Matthew Vassar, Jr., in 1855-56 and the schooner O. H. Booth soon afterwards. Finch sold the yard to Charles Murphy in 1850, and removed to Bull's Ferry, and George Polk set up ways on the brewery property in partnership with Oliver H. Booth, and constructed a considerable number of vessels there. The propeller Joseph H. Barnard, was built just before the war, and was finally sold to some alleged Cubans or Spaniards. The government suspected that she was wanted by the Confederates and she got to sea only after considerable difficulty. Charles Murphy, who purchased the old Finch shipyard, made little use of it, and soon sold the ways. He owned considerable property in the neighborhood, including most of the old Whale Dock. The lime kilns, remains of which may still be seen on the north side of Dutchess Avenue, were conducted by him.

During this period Charles Crook & Co. (Charles Crook and James Collingwood) were running the propeller "Sherman" twice a week from the Lower Landing to New York, while the barge "Exchange" was run from Main Street, and the barge "Republic" from the Upper Landing. The steamboat "Dutchess" succeeded the "Exchange" at Main Street not long before the war.

The wagon and carriage manufacturing business was carried on by a number of firms, chief among whom were Streit & Lockwood, 426, 428 and 428½ Main Street; Brooks & Marshall, 401 and 403 Main Street, and John W. Frederick. The latter advertised in Underhill's directory for 1857, "The largest and oldest establishment of the kind in Dutchess County," on Main Street, near Vassar Street. This was the same factory which, after the war, was conducted for a time by G. C. Burnap, who built the Atwater House opposite Springside.<sup>1</sup> Hannah & Storm, 423, 425

Burnap was a retired manufacturer, and purchased the property known as "Woodside" in 1856.



ALBERT TOWER.

and 427 Main Street, advertised in 1850 as "Silver and electro platers, manufacturers of carriage and saddlery, hardware, brass and silver carriage bands, hickory spokes, fellos, seat spindles, &c."

Among present enterprises established before the war may be mentioned the brewery of V. Frank's Sons, which dates from 1858 and is to-day the only survivor of the once great Poughkeepsie brewing industry. At the time of its establishment there were several small breweries, as well as the great Vassar establishment, all doing apparently a good business.

advertised the opening of their "new store," 328 Main Street, mentioning Charles P. Luckey as a partner, and also all their salesmen, "Daniel Jones, Benjamin M. Vail, Spencer C. Doty, Frank E. Whipple." This firm, the predecessor of Luckey, Platt & Co., had been located at 245 Main Street, in the Brewster Block, and on moving to its new quarters tore out the old front, with its folding shutters, and put in the first plate glass show windows in town. Down to this time the general aspect of Main Street was much like that of the average village business street. Almost



*Main Street in 1860, looking West from above the corner of Liberty and Garden Streets.*

Many men, afterward prominent, began their careers as clerks about the time of the incorporation of the city, or soon afterward. Charles P. Luckey, J. DuBois Carpenter, William T. Reynolds, James H. Ward and Edmund P. Platt were among them. The leading advertisers in the *Eagle* in 1860 were the druggists, Van Valkenburgh & Coffin, James G. Wood & Co., and Morgan L. Farnum; the dry goods firms, W. S. & W. H. Crosby, and Robert Slee & Co.; and W. H. Tallmadge, hardware. Mr. Tallmadge advertised "The oldest established house in the city," 260 Main Street. Robert Slee & Co., in the spring of 1860,

all the store floors were up at least two steps from the sidewalk, the windows were of small panes, and the only two continuous rows of brick stores were the Brewster Block, built in 1830, and the block west of Academy Street in the district burned in 1836. Except in these two blocks most of the stores had been originally houses. Thomas L. Davies, one of the richest men in town, had lived on Main Street until 1853, when he sold his house to William A. Van Kleeck and moved to Mansion Square. The Main Street house retained its flights of steps for a long time after it was converted into a hat store. Most of the brick build-



ings on the street were but two stories and a half high. Farmers' teams, hitched to posts, lined the street during busy seasons, and droves of sheep and cattle going to and from the river were not unusual.

Besides the firms already mentioned, other prominent advertisers in 1860 were George M. Van Kleeck, 310 and 312 Main Street, on the second floor of which the *Eagle* was printed until it was burned out in 1862; George H. Beattys, 254 Main Street, Edwin J. Wilber, 302 Main Street, dry goods; J. Bowne & Co., 318 Main Street, and Broas Brothers, 314 Main Street, carpets; Payne & Fowler, 330 Main Street, and F. S. Phinney, 267 Main Street, drugs; Stephen Uhl, 270 Main Street, hardware; J. Ransom, 330 Main Street, crockery and glassware; William Frost & Son, corner Main and Garden Streets, Daniels, Briggs & DuBois, 268 Main Street, stoves and tinware; Trowbridge & Wilkinson, 321 Main Street, "Farmers' Store;" James Collingwood, Lower Landing, coal and lumber; Riedenger & Caïre, pottery; S. Cleveland, 255 Main Street, books and musical instruments; Stephen H. Bogardus, "nearly opposite the Gregory House," harness, saddles, etc.; Overbaugh & Stanton, sporting goods; Boyd & Wiltsie, leather belts, etc.; J. H. Dobbs, merchant tailor, and George T. Brown, clothier. A few grocers, including John W. Dean & Son (cor. Bridge Street), John McLean, (next west of Poughkeepsie Hotel), Lemuel J. Hopkins and John W. Miller, were advertising occasionally. James Smith & Son, 11 and 18 Market Street, announced that they had "lately gone to a great expense in fitting up a large Dining Saloon in their new building lately erected for a first class confectionery." This marks the beginning, in its present location, of the long famous "Smith's Restaurant," but not the beginning of the business, which was a number of years earlier.

The list of business men may be completed by consulting the directory for 1850-60, in which the leading advertisers were David S. Mallory, 350 Main; Andrus & Dudley, 351 Main, furniture; R. S. Forster, 215 Main, soda and mineral waters; Palmer & Bull, 347 Main, stoves; Joseph E. Allen, cor. Academy, stoves; Dudley & Thompson, foot of Main Street, coal and lumber; Van Kleeck & Knickerbocker, "next north of Dudley & Thompson's lumber yard," box manufacturers; S. L. Walker, corner Main and Garden Streets, "Poughkeepsie Gallery of Art," or "Daguerrian Gallery;" J. S. Atkins, 320 Main, ice cream, oysters, etc.; William C. Arnold, Upper Landing, lumber; William B. West, "opposite Gregory House," hardware; P. S. Rowland, 211 Main, "city bakery;" Joseph W. Gerow & Co., 10 Garden, George W. Halliwell, 290 Main, Adam Henderson, corner of Main St.

and South Avenue, Lewis C. Hammond, 283 Main, and F. F. Quintard, 7 Liberty, jewelers; Henry A. Reed, 255 Main, books and stationery; Liberty Hyde, 205 Main, Helms & Peters, 8 Garden, Charles Anthes, 274 Main, S. B. Reckard, 324 Main, S. Shultz, 200 Main, boots and shoes; Thomas Platto, South Hamilton, near Main, blacksmith and dealer in lightning rods; Adam Robson, 204 Main, blacksmith; William H. Barry, cor. Main and Garden, book bindery; P. A. Joy, near H. R. R. depot, stone cutter; William Shields, 381 Main, painter; James Mulrein, South Avenue, plumber; Joseph H. Cogswell, 230 Main, agent for Rochester nurseries; John R. Lent, Red Mills, plaster, flour and feed; Hiram Haight, auctioneer; L. M. Arnold, 374 Main, A. J. Coffin & Co., Mill, corner Delafield, L. H. Collier, 420, 422, 424 Main, iron foundries; C. H. & William Sedgewick, 157, 150 Main; J. & J. Ogden, G. Sanford, Red Mills, machine shops; E. O. Flagler, "Director of Music at the Presbyterian Church," teacher of organ and piano, residence 40 N. Clover; E. C. Andrus, S. Clover, teacher of vocal music; Henry C. Miller, D. Bartlett, Solomon V. Frost, insurance; Simpson & Beesmer, coal, Southwick's dock; Gregory House, T. Gregory; The Poughkeepsie Hotel, John H. Rutzer; Northern Hotel, Isaac L. Balding; Forbus House, E. P. Taylor; Fowler House, cor. Main and Washington, George P. Fowler. Among the dentists advertising were Charles H. Roberts, 254 Main, J. A. Jillson, 328 Main, A. Clark, 332 Main, "over J. Bartlett's bakery," A. Fonla, 205 Main, Farrington & Co., 206 Main Street, advertiser crockery, etc., in the 1857 directory, and Carpenter & Brother (successors to Leonard Carpenter), advertised groceries at 320 Main Street. James Blanchard, Underwood & Son, N. H. Canfield, Wright & Irish, R. E. Adriance & Co., and Thomas Clegg were among grocers advertising in 1860. James T. Hill, 20 Catharine Street, Annabury & Seaman, 6 Union Street, were the advertising liverymen.

D. Scott & Co.'s soap and candle factory was running in 1850 at its present location, corner of Mill and Bayeaux Streets, but the building had been used not long before as a public school. At about the same time the old factory building in the same neighborhood was used as a chair factory by West & Depew. The Bartlett Bakery, which had been started as a bakery of "pilot bread" near the river in whaling days, was at this time at 332 Main Street, the bakery in the rear

There are nine other boot and shoe dealers named in the directory but not advertising. They included W. A. Candee, 258 Main; and there were also nineteen persons classed as "Foot and Shoe Manufacturers."

at the present location, but it was not exclusively devoted to the production of crackers until after the war. Joseph O. Bartlett lived over the store, and it was there that his daughter married Otis Bisbee.

Bank presidents and cashiers in 1850-60 were: Bank of Poughkeepsie, Thomas L. Davies, president, Reuben North, cashier; Fallkill Bank, William C. Sterling, president, John F. Hull, cashier; Farmers' and Manufacturers' Bank, William A. Davies, president, Fred W. Davis, cashier; Merchants' Bank, James Emott, president, Joseph C. Harris, cashier; Savings Bank, John B. Forbus, president, Josiah I. Underhill, treasurer.

The City Bank was organized March 3rd, 1860, with John P. H. Tallman, Joseph F. Barnard, Samuel

panies were to be found in many places, but nearly all of them failed, as did the Poughkeepsie Mutual, because of the difficulty of collecting assessments whenever losses were unusually heavy. The Dutchess Mutual had the support of strong men and was long under the presidency of James Emott, the elder, but it had its times of depression, before its reorganization as a stock company, as told in the excellent sketch to be found in the Appendix. Its present building was purchased in 1855, and has recently been much enlarged by an addition in the rear.

Among persons of wealth and prominence who came to Poughkeepsie during this period, because of its attractions as a place of residence, were Henry L. Young, John de Peyster Dow and Robert Sanford.



*Dutchess Mutual Insurance Company.*

Matthews, George Lamoree, Christopher Hughes, Milton Ham, Moses G. Sands, Nicholas Strippel, William R. Schell, Ambrose Mygatt, Wilson B. Sheldon, David D. Vincent, Benjamin Hopkins, John Brill, Benjamin Halstead, William Doughty and C. A. Van Valkenburgh as the first directors. Joseph F. Barnard was the first president and John T. Banker the first cashier. (Further particulars about both this bank and the Poughkeepsie Bank are to be found in the sketch of the Poughkeepsie Trust Company, in the Appendix).

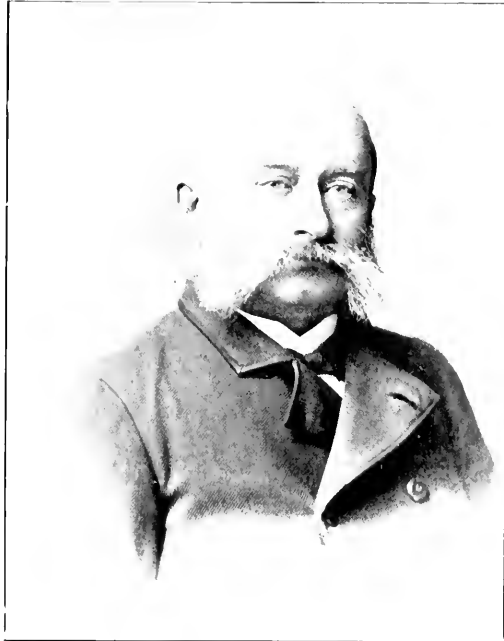
There were two insurance companies at this time in Poughkeepsie, the Old Dutchess Mutual, the organization of which was noted on page 115, and The Poughkeepsie Mutual. The office of the latter was at No. 6 Garden Street, in charge of S. B. Dutton, secretary. At that time mutual fire insurance com-

Mr. Young's purchase of the Van Wagenen place on South Hamilton Street has already been mentioned. Mr. Dow<sup>1</sup> was of a distinguished Albany family, several of his ancestors having been mayors of that city. He came to Poughkeepsie in 1854 and rented from George B. Lent the property now owned by Robert Sanford, who purchased it a few years later, soon after Col. Dow moved to North Avenue. Mr. Sanford was a son of Hon. Nathan Sanford, one of the most prominent men in the State, and the successor of James Kent as Chancellor.

SCHOOLS.—THE LAW SCHOOL AND EASTMAN COLLEGE.

The removal of the State and National Law School to Poughkeepsie in December, 1852, has already been briefly mentioned. John W. Fowler, the president of

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix for biographical sketch.



ROBERT SANFORD.

*(See Appendix for biographical sketch.)*



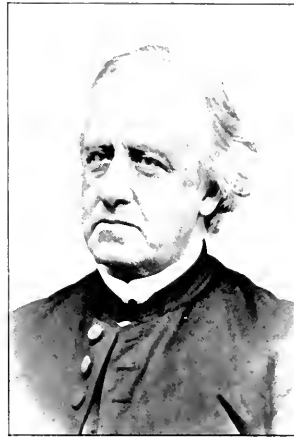
the institution, had been the first lecturer in the Lyceum course in 1852-1853, and spoke for two hours, "but who on Friday evening noted time," says the *Press* report of the lecture. "The man revels in the richness of fancy. There is no effort, the thoughts flow upon him eager for the drapery of his eloquence." Those were the days of oratory and "fine writing," and though Mr. Fowler was undoubtedly a man of much ability, some of the people who remember him describe him as a very pompous personage who wore a much-padded coat.

In his circular letter announcing the removal of the school to Poughkeepsie, Mr. Fowler says that the people had promised to raise funds to place the institution on a "high and permanent basis," and to increase the library, "with the privilege of constant access by the students to a choice miscellaneous list of 4,000 volumes, in the same building where the school will be conducted." He adds "The village to which we have removed is much larger and more pleasant than Ballston, containing six or eight flourishing Literary Institutions, of which four are Female Seminaries." There was indeed an attraction worth mentioning.

In reference to these six or eight Literary Institutions I find the following schools advertised in Underhill's directory for 1856-7: The Dutchess County Academy, William McGeorge, principal; The Poughkeepsie Female Collegiate Institute, corner of Mill and Catherine Streets, C. H. P. McLellan, principal; Cottage Hill Seminary for Young Ladies, Prof. M. P. Jewett, A. M., principal; Bisbee's High School for boys, corner of Mill and Hamilton Streets; Mansion Square Female Institute, corner of Mansion and Catherine Streets "adjoining 'Primrose Green' or 'Brookside,'" Mrs. H. W. Bliven, principal. The same schools appear in the directory for 1860, with the exception of Bisbee's. The Female Collegiate Institute had in the meantime doubled the size of its building. Otis Bisbee had come to Poughkeepsie several years before to teach for Charles Bartlett, on College Hill, and had also taught for Eliphaz Fay before starting a school of his own. In 1857, when Mr. Bartlett died, Mr. Bisbee sold his school on Hamilton Street to George W. McLellan, and went into partnership with Charles B. Warring to conduct the College Hill school. Mr. McLellan soon afterwards gave up the school started by Mr. Bisbee, and became the first principal of the "Free Academy," or High School, opened about 1850 in the old Church Street School building. G. M. Wilber was at this time principal of the grammar school on Mill Street, with Hannah Camach as first assistant.

David E. Bartlett was conducting a school for deaf mutes, in 1850-60, at what is now the Beech place, north of Poughkeepsie, the present house including part of the former school building. "The school," says the advertisement, "consists of two departments; one for deaf mute children, the other hearing and speaking children—particularly brothers and sisters of the little deaf mutes whose parents wish them associated in education." There was hardly demand enough for such a school to make it a permanent success.

The Poughkeepsie Female Academy was not advertising at this time. Jacob C. Tooker died in 1850 and the school was conducted by his widow until 1850, when it came into the control of Rev. D. G. Wright,



REV. D. G. WRIGHT.

for a long time one of the notable school proprietors and teachers of the city.

The Law School expanded greatly during the years before the war, and many of its students were from the South. Among its distinguished graduates was L. B. McEnery, one of the present United States Senators from Louisiana. Other prominent graduates were Hon. B. F. Hanchette, of Wisconsin, Judge George Van Hoesen, of New York, Col. Clark E. Carr, of Illinois, Hon. B. Platt Carpenter, Hon. Edward Elsworth, Hon. Mark D. Wilber and Robert Sanford, of Poughkeepsie. Judge Conkling, of Utica, father of Roscoe Conkling, and Judge Henry Booth, of Chicago, were among the professors of Common Law and Practice, and Matthew Hale was one of the professors of Pleadings, Evidence and Code Practice.

When Abraham Tomlinson decamped with most of

the collection of curios and documents that had constituted "The Poughkeepsie Museum," the Law School added his rooms in the Library Building to those already occupied. I have seen no record to show just when Tomlinson left. He was still here in 1855 when he published "The Military Journal of Two Private Soldiers—1758-1775," with a partial catalogue of articles and manuscripts in the museum. Apparently the first magic lantern shows in Poughkeepsie were given by him about 1852. His institution was considered of so much educational value that the board of supervisors was once urged to make an appropriation to enable him to preserve "the relics of the county, about many of which cluster so many historical associations." He did "preserve" some of these relics, taking them all away with him, even the documents and articles loaned to him.

When the beginning of the war crippled the State and National Law School a still more important educational institution was already started in the same building. Harvey G. Eastman, born at Marshall, Oneida County, in 1832, had been a teacher in a commercial school conducted by his uncle at Rochester, and the proprietor of schools founded by himself in Oswego, N. Y., and St. Louis, Mo., before the reputation of Poughkeepsie as an educational centre induced him to try his fortune here. His advertising elsewhere had been so extensive, before he had arrived here, that Postmaster George P. Pelton was in much wonderment at the great pile of letters that had accumulated for a man totally unknown. In October, 1850, Mr. Eastman inserted the following advertisement, four inches single column, in the Poughkeepsie papers:

NOTICE TO

## *Young Men*

### Parents and Guardians

Circulars of the Commercial College which will open in the Library Building in this city, on **Wednesday, Nov. 2nd** can be had at the Bookstores, News Rooms and this office. This College has been established at Oswego, N. Y. and St. Louis, Mo., for eight years, and we ask the attention of citizens to the report of prominent men, Lecturers and patrons given in the Circular.

It will be open for both **LADIES and GENTLEMEN**, established as a permanent school of instruction in the practical and useful arts of life.

A new system of instruction will be introduced into the Bookkeeping and Penmanship department, combining **Theory and Practice.**

**MR. EASTMAN** will give his undivided attention to this College, and his published Works on Bookkeeping, Success in Business, Money and Life, &c., may be had at the College Office in the Library Building, after Nov. 2nd.

Young men from abroad will address, for Pamphlets and Circulars

H. G. EASTMAN,  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Mr. Eastman's enterprise started on a very small scale in a room which he had rented for 75 cents a week. Andrew Houston, of Bellevale, Orange County, was the first student, and in November, 1850, he visited the college and told the students his experience.<sup>1</sup> When he first came here with his father in the fall of 1850, and enquired for Eastman College, no one had heard of such an institution, but by good fortune they happened to meet Mr. Eastman at the Poughkeepsie Hotel, where they had gone for dinner. Houston describes the room in which the "College" began as "in what was then the Library Building on Vassar Street. This room was approached through a long dark alley, running between the Library Building and the Jewish Synagogue." His memory is certainly at fault here, for there was no "Library Building" on Vassar Street, nor was there any "long, dark alley" between the Jewish Synagogue and the next building. For three days Houston worked alone with Mr. Eastman as the sole instructor, "then Prof. George Fred Davis came in with another student by the name of George L. Root, of Oneida County \* \* \* and in about a month the college numbered some twenty students."

Mr. Eastman was a man of great ability and energy, full of enthusiasm for whatever he undertook, an enthusiasm that was contagious. He was a very clever and liberal advertiser, and in his scheme of teaching by actual business operations, using notes, bills and a fractional currency of some real value, he had an idea worth developing—it was the beginning of the educational idea we have recently been hearing much of under the title, "Learning by doing." One of his chief advertising plans from the start was to bring to the college men of the highest reputation as lecturers, and in fact he had been virtually compelled to leave St. Louis because his lecture course there included several anti-slavery agitators, such as Joshua R. Giddings, Gerritt Smith, Charles Sumner and Elihu Burritt. In the spring of 1860 he left his small rooms in the Library Building and opened the school in the old Congregational Church, corner of Mill and Vassar Streets.

### FOUNDING OF VASSAR COLLEGE.

In previous chapters something has been shown of the rise of Matthew Vassar to the possession of a fortune. He was one of the few men, actively interested in the enterprises before 1837, who was not ruined by the panic. In fact he was in a position to purchase at his own figures what others were com-

<sup>1</sup>The Eastman Journal, December, 1850.

pelled to part with, and a considerable part of his fortune was made by taking advantage of such opportunities. Though a hard-headed, shrewd bargainer he was more than a mere money maker, and from the beginning of his prosperity became a liberal contributor to the Baptist Church and various local charitable enterprises. Having no children he began at a comparatively early age to consider plans for leaving most of his fortune to found some institution. In April, 1845, leaving his business to the management of his nephews, Matthew Vassar, Jr., and John Guy Vassar, he sailed for England in the packet ship Northumberland and remained abroad nearly three years, with Cyrus Swan as guide and travelling companion.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Lossing relates that among the sights visited in London was a great hospital erected by Thomas Guy, a distant relative of the Vassars, and from this Mr. Vassar formed the idea of building a similar hospital in Poughkeepsie. The changing of this idea in favor of an institution for the education of women has been credited partly to Miss Lydia Booth, his step-niece, who, as has been stated, was long a successful teacher and school proprietor in Poughkeepsie, and partly to Milo P. Jewett. Mr. Vassar owned "Cottage Hill," in Garden Street, while Miss Booth's school was there, and sold it in 1855 to Dr. Jewett. The Vassar College germ may have been planted and nourished by these two, but Mr. Vassar certainly furnished a congenial medium for its growth. He was considerably interested in educational matters long before Dr. Jewett came to Poughkeepsie, as the following letter to Mr. Howland R. Sherman, of Poughkeepsie, Member of Assembly in 1851, shows:

POUGHKEEPSIE, March 10th, 1851.

HOWLAND R. SHERMAN, ESQ.

Dear Sir:

I understand a bill has been unanimously reported in your house (Assembly) by the Committee on Education to appropriate \$50,000 to the University of Rochester, and as I am one of its earliest friends, and intend, at some future day, to extend my subscription I avail myself of the present opportunity to say that in my humble opinion the Rochester University as a matter of simple justice to Western New York, is entitled to receive of the State appropriations for colleges her share of the public funds. You may not be aware, perhaps, that in no instance in educational enterprises of our State have any schemes been more liberally and promptly responded to by private contributions of the citizens than this institution, and if I mistake not the subscriptions amount already to some \$150,000—to accomplish their whole plan will require about \$75,000 more, and it would be a serious loss

to the entire State should it now fail for the want of a timely and generous support of the present Legislature. Will you and our friends, Messrs. Teller and Robinson, examine into the merits and claims of the institution and give it such support as it is justly entitled to as a great public measure.

With my best regards to you and each of our respected representatives, I subscribe myself, Your Obedient Servant,

M. VASSAR.

Howland R. Sherman, /  
Wm. B. Teller, / Esqrs.,  
Ch. Robinson, / Albany.

Doubtless Dr. Jewett was instrumental in fostering the idea of a real college for women, "an institution that should be to their sex what Yale and Harvard are to our own." Several "Ladies' Collegiate Institutes" had already been founded in various parts of the country, and Mr. Vassar soon perceived that the time was ripe for something better. He sought the advice of some of the leading educators of the country, and Thomas A. Tefft, an eminent school architect, was asked to prepare plans for buildings to accommodate four hundred pupils. This appears to have been in 1856, according to Mr. Lossing, but it was not until the spring of 1860 that Mr. Vassar finally determined to proceed with the work. Dr. Jewett sold the Cottage Hill property at the close of the summer term, that he might give his whole time to the plans for the proposed college. A charter was drawn up by Cyrus Swan, and was passed by the Legislature January 18th, 1861, beginning as follows:

SECTION 1. Matthew Vassar, Ira Harris, William Kelly, James Harper, Martin B. Anderson, John Thompson, Edward Lathrop, Charles W. Swift, E. L. Magoon, S. M. Buckingham, Milo P. Jewett, Nathan Bishop, Matthew Vassar, Jr., Benson J. Lossing, E. G. Robinson, Samuel F. B. Morse, S. S. Constant, John Guy Vassar, William Hague, Rufus Babcock, Cornelius DuBois, John H. Raymond, Morgan L. Smith, Cyrus Swan, George W. Sterling, George T. Pierce, Smith Sheldon, Joseph C. Doughty, and A. L. Allen, are hereby constituted a body corporate, by the name of "Vassar Female College," to be located in Dutchess County, near the city of Poughkeepsie. By that name the said corporation shall have perpetual succession, with power to fill vacancies, etc.

The college charter, we are told, attracted the greatest attention, and the legislative reporters of the principal daily newspapers "sent abroad from the Capitol the most glowing details of the novel and magnificent enterprise." John H. Ketcham was our representative in the Senate, and John B. Dutcher and Samuel J. Farnum were the Dutchess County Members of Assembly. The bill went through both houses in advance of others and was "the first or second bill of that

<sup>1</sup>"Vassar College and Its Founder" contains a detailed account of the trip.

session that received the signature of the Governor, Edwin D. Morgan."

Of the twenty-eight persons chosen by Mr. Vassar as the first trustees, Mr. Lossing says, "One-half of them were his fellow-townsmen; and it so happened that a majority of them were Baptists, some of whom were leading clergymen and public educators of that denomination. This was an accidental result of his choice, occurring because Mr. Vassar's principal associates among men of learning were of that branch of the Christian Church." The board of trustees was organized February 20th, 1861, at a meeting held at the Gregory House, with Hon. William Kelly, of Rhinebeck, who had been Democratic candidate for Governor against Edwin D. Morgan, chairman. Mr. Vassar formally turned over to the trustees a box containing \$400,000 in securities, including a deed for two hundred acres of land as a site for the college, and made a memorable statement of his plans, in which he used the words which Hon. George William Curtis said at the twenty-fifth anniversary, "might well be carved in gold over the entrance to Vassar College."

"It occurred to me that woman, having received from her Creator the same intellectual constitution as man, has the same right as man to intellectual culture and development."

The funds were placed in the hands of Matthew Vassar Jr., who was elected treasurer, and Milo P. Jewett was chosen the first president. Newspaper accounts show that the plans were pretty thoroughly matured, not only for the buildings, but also for the equipment. Plans for the main building, drawn by James Renwick, Jr.,<sup>1</sup> architect of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, were before the trustees at their organization and were accepted. An executive committee, Charles W. Swift, Matthew Vassar, Cornelius Du Bois, Matthew Vassar, Jr., and Cyrus Swan, was appointed, and also committees on "faculty and studies," "library," "cabinet and apparatus," "art gallery," etc. Contracts were soon entered into with Mr. Renwick and with William Harloe, of Poughkeepsie, for the erection of the buildings. The site had been selected, Mr. Lossing tells us, after due consideration of the advantages of a location on the banks of the river. The level section of the college grounds, adjoining the highway (Raymond Avenue), was once the Dutchess County Race Course.

Mr. Vassar formally "broke ground" June 4th, 1861, and the spade full of earth he lifted is preserved in the college museum. This was just at the beginning of the civil war, which caused a great deprecia-

tion in the value of the securities of the college and also caused a great rise in the price of building materials and labor, but at the close of the war the securities had risen again and the endowment fund was intact. Mr. Harloe, the contractor, however, was not so fortunate, and though the contract was finally taken off his hands without enforcement of penalty, he claimed to have lost \$30,000. The main building was finished at the close of the war, but had been long in construction because of the extraordinary precautions to ensure a substantial structure as nearly fire-proof as the architects of the day could make it. Brick partitions were carried to the roof and it was required that the walls should stand a certain length of time to settle. The observatory was finished at about the same time as the main building, and the riding school or gymnasium (now the museum) a few months later.

#### SPORTS—BASE BALL, ICE YACHTING.

It has been stated that a part of the Vassar College grounds were once the Dutchess County Race Course. The track had been in that locality since 1798<sup>1</sup> at least, but there is said to have been an older race course on Main Street. In the days of running races, before trotting came into vogue, there was probably more interest in horses among Poughkeepsians than there is now, though I think the town was never as thoroughly devoted to this form of sport as some other places. There were some famous races, however, on the old track.

Poughkeepsie has been chiefly noted, in the sporting line, as a centre of rowing and ice yachting. The ice yacht, in fact, first came into existence here as a racing craft, and was made known to the world through the reports of the early races of the Poughkeepsie Ice Yacht Club. Zadock Southwick is said to have built the first ice boat not long after he came here (1807), but there is no evidence that the sport was of much consequence until just before the war. The first boats were set upon skates for runners and were small, clumsy affairs, the principal frame work being a triangle of 13 foot joists with a centre timber into which the mast was stepped. The Vassar Brewery office was the club house where all the river sportsmen gathered to discuss matters and partake of Mr. Booth's specially brewed ale. About 1858 the possibilities of the development of the skate-boats was under consideration among the brewery coterie, and experiments of various kinds were tried with steel runners, heavy and light centre timbers and various sorts of sails. George Polk and Jacob Buckhout were

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Tefft, the first architect selected, had died in Europe.

<sup>2</sup>See 1798 map, frontispiece.





MATTHEW VASSAR.

among the men who worked out the plans, and the latter became the creator of the modern ice yacht. The Poughkeepsie Ice Yacht Club was organized in 1861, the charter members being Oliver H. Booth, Aaron Imis, John A. Roosevelt, Theodore V. Johnson, Theodore Van Kleeck, William C. Arnold, Hudson Taylor, H. G. Eastman, J. E. Buckhout, Walter Van Kleeck, Henry S. Frost, John R. Struyvesant. This



OLIVER H. BOOTH.

apparently was the first formal organization of the sport, and it was only after this organization that items appear in the newspapers about ice yachts, except very rarely.

Ice yachting in the early days was not particularly expensive, but as the rivalry created by the races stimulated improvements, the expenses naturally increased. The sport has been at its best on an average only two or three weeks each winter, but Poughkeepsie is a better location for it than many places further north because winter rains and thaws can generally be depended upon to remove snow from the river. Down to a recent period all local races were held in front of the city, but with the advent of a more powerful ferry, keeping an open track, the headquarters were transferred first to John A. Roosevelt's, about three miles north, and then to Hyde Park. The leading rivals in the period of the Poughkeepsie Club's

supremacy were John A. Roosevelt and Aaron Imis, whose "Leifele" and "Have," as remodelled after the "Robert Scott" about 1884, have not been very greatly improved upon.

Most of the same men who formed the first ice-yacht club were interested in rowing, which had been a popular means of recreation at Poughkeepsie for many years. Before 1837 there was a local four-oared crew known as the Washingtons, who entered races with Newburgh and other river towns, and attracted considerable newspaper notice. Large crowds attended these races, which seem to have been of a semi-professional nature. There were a good many amateur scrub races, purely for fun, during the period just before and just after the war.

Interest in rowing was greatly stimulated in 1860 by a two-days regatta held at Poughkeepsie, Sept. 5th and 6th. Arrangements for this event were started at a public meeting held at the City Hall August 4th, at which Samuel J. Farnum presided. The following ward committees were appointed to solicit funds: First Ward—Nelson J. Pardee, S. J. Farnum; Second Ward—James T. Hill, C. C. Hoff; Third Ward—William A. Fanning, John R. Cooper; Fourth Ward—Henry W. Shaw (Josh Billings), Edward Post. There were all sorts of events at the regatta, single and double scull races, fours and sixes. The course was five miles, two and a half miles up the river from Kaal Rock and return. "Josh" Ward was one of the leading oarsmen and the favorite in single sculls, but was badly beaten. The great race of the first day was the six-oared, in which Newburgh was entered against Poughkeepsie, and was beaten, in spite of the fact that Josh Ward rowed with Newburgh. The victorious Poughkeepsie crew was: William Stevens, John Best, Ezekiel Beneway, Homer Wooden, Daniel LeRoy and Madison Eagan. The time was 32:40. The four-oared race, the second day, again occasioned great excitement. Three crews were entered, representing Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and Brooklyn. The Poughkeepsie crew, which won in 32:10, was Homer Wooden, William Stevens, Ezekiel Beneway and John Best, and the Newburgh crew, Dennis Leary, John Biglin, James Biglin and Bernard Biglin, called the Biglin crew. Thousands of people came to Poughkeepsie to see this regatta, and the *Eagle* said of it: "One day with its excitements would do very well, but two days for a quiet town like Poughkeepsie was rather too much."

The Poughkeepsie crews had been organized chiefly from among men employed in the cooperages and were backed heavily by local sportsmen. George Polk made for them the first spoon oars used at this place. The

four-oared crew at a later period rowed in a boat called "The Stranger," and came to be known as "The Stranger Crew." The excitement of the 1860 regatta, with its crowd of professional gamblers and toughs, was small indeed compared with that which attended the final race of "The Strangers," July 18th, 1865, with the Biglins, who then represented New York. The Poughkeepsie crew was the same as that at the 1860 regatta, except that William Burger had taken the place of John Best. The course was the same, two and one-half miles and return, and the race was for a purse of \$6,000 and the championship of America. According to newspaper accounts, this memorable event brought ten thousand people to Poughkeepsie, and as much as \$100,000 was wagered on the result.

The New York men led at the start, but on the home stretch the Poughkeepsie crew gained and attempted to pass them. Excitement ran high, and the Biglins steered their boat so as to head off the Stranger and so finished first. The Poughkeepsie crew and all who had money wagered upon its success claimed a foul, and the decision rested upon the referee, Charles Gausman, who with the judges, were driven at once to the Poughkeepsie Hotel and attempted to get into a room by themselves. The late Isaac H. Wood, last proprietor of the Exchange House, was one of the judges.

"As they entered the room crowds of thugs and roughs pressed in after them, and they also crawled into the room through the windows. The apartment was packed to suffocation with as murderous a set of villains as the eye ever gazed upon, who at once began to intimidate the referee, and pistols, knives and clubs were drawn. Joe Colburn, who was then a famous prize fighter, had bet heavily on the Poughkeepsie crew and shaking his ponderous fist at the referee and crowd yelled, 'I want a fair thing! You can't murder us here! It is a fair foul and I can lick any of you single handed!' There were cries of 'Shoot him!' 'Give up the money!' and even 'Fire the Hotel!' Gausman at length decided that the New Yorkers had won in 37 minutes 20 seconds, and barely escaped with his life, an experience shared by some of the stake holders. For two days and nights the city was filled with desperate thieves and pickpockets, and the night before the race Thomas L. Davies' residence was robbed of \$5,000 worth of jewelry."<sup>1</sup>

The day after the race Stevens of the Poughkeepsie crew, while in a down-town saloon, knocked down and killed a man named Thomas DeMott, who had accused him of selling the race.

The history of this event illustrates well the roughness of the times. On every such occasion, and even at

many elections, the crowd owned the town, and drunkenness and street fights were more than common. The city police did not attain an efficiency sufficient to stop street fights until well into the '70s.

Base ball as an organized sport began in Poughkeepsie in 1850, when Joseph H. Cogswell came here as an agent of the Rochester nurseries. He had been a member of the "Flour City Ball Club," and proceeded to form a similar club here. The Poughkeepsie Base Ball Club, in strong contrast with the present clubs, appears to have been strictly an amateur organization, perhaps the first amateur athletic club in the city, and comparable with the golf and tennis clubs of to-day. The members played ball for fun and exercise, paid initiation fees and dues as at other clubs, and the rules provided for the choosing of sides as nearly equal as possible when enough members came upon the field for a game. A "first nine" was made up of the best players and occasionally met outside teams in match games. The first of these "first nines" was as follows: A. F. Lindley, p., Edwin Marshall, c., J. H. Cogswell, 1st b., John Troybridge, 2nd b., Aaron Innis, 3rd b., Edward Vincent, s. s., G. P. Lansing, l. f., N. O. Chichester, c. f., S. H. Conklin, r. f. Other charter members of the club, as given in the interesting little pamphlet of "Constitution and By-Laws with Rules and Regulations," published by Osborne & Killey in 1850, were James C. Aikin, George S. Brown, J. C. Babcock, B. S. Bross, George H. Beattys, Wm. Collingwood, B. Platt Carpenter, A. H. Champlin, Oscar A. Fowler, Morgan L. Farnum, James Haggerty, William Highet, J. A. Jillson, E. B. Killey, D. R. Norman, E. B. Osborne, George H. Parker, Charles Place, Charles C. Peters, John C. Payne, Henry W. Shaw, Edward Storm, Cyrus Swan, Charles Towle, Isaac Tompkins, Hiram W. Wood, George S. Wilson and Charles H. S. Williams.

The "Rules and Regulations" contain much that would interest base ball players, but it is enough to note here that the game was substantially the same as that of to-day, except that the ball was "pitched," not thrown to the batter, and a third strike or a foul was "out" if caught on the first bound. The base ball field was between Main and Cannon Streets, opposite where the power house of the electric street railroad now stands. The newspapers of 1860 contain several reports of games played with Newburgh and other places.

#### POLITICS BEFORE THE WAR.

When the great question of slavery became of paramount importance there was the same readjustment of political lines in Dutchess County as else-

<sup>1</sup>Eagle, April 29, 1886.

where in the North. The "soft shell" Democrats first became the dominant faction and then lost many of their members to the new Republican party. The "hards" ceased to be important enough to support a newspaper in 1850, when the *Democrat* was consolidated with the *Telegraph*, Mr. Osborne forming a partnership with Egbert B. Killey, Jr. In 1852, however, the county went Democratic by a small majority, Franklin Pierce obtaining 105 more votes than General Winfield Scott, while Horatio Seymour for governor had a majority of 99. Gilbert Dean, a prominent Poughkeepsie lawyer, was elected to a second term in Congress at this time, but resigned in 1854, and was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Supreme Court caused by the death of Seward Bareulo, who had been a Justice in the second district since June 7th, 1847. Bareulo was one of the great Poughkeepsie lawyers, and was first elected county judge in 1845, in which office he was followed by Abraham Boeke.

In 1854 when there were four party candidates for governor the vote of Dutchess was: Myron H. Clark (Whig) 3,411, Horatio Seymour ("soft" Dem.) 3,150, Daniel Ullman (American or "Know Nothing") 1,849, Green C. Bronson ("hard" Dem.) 724. Poughkeepsie city gave Clark 818, Seymour 532, Ullman 215 and Bronson 78. On Assemblymen the two Democratic factions combined and elected their men, the Whig candidates being handicapped, as many persons thought, by their pledge to support a prohibitory liquor law. There was much more about prohibition in the newspapers of that day than there is now, but its advocates were generally called "Maine Law" men. They had carried the Second Assembly District in 1853, electing George W. Sterling to the Assembly. A big meeting for "Freedom and Prohibition" was held in the city hall in July, 1855. There were also some Abolitionists in Poughkeepsie, but I have seen no record to show that they had an organization. George W. Sterling was in full sympathy with them, and is generally credited with having been an officer of "the underground railroad." The Abolitionists had no local organ and were generally denounced by the party papers.

Theodore Gregory was one of the leading prohibition advocates of this time. For several years after his purchase of the Eastern House he conducted it as an ordinary country tavern, selling liquor, and filling up with gamblers on horse racing days. Then he was converted and became a temperance man. He was told that he could not run a hotel without a bar, but he decided to try and was successful. The old Eastern House burned in March, 1853, and the new

building, finished in the spring of 1854, was opened as the Gregory House. It became, of course, the best hotel in the city, far surpassing the Forbus House and Poughkeepsie Hotel, but Mr. Gregory conducted it as a temperance house, and also had family prayers every day in the parlors, and grace before meals in the dining room. The hotel was sold after the war to George Morgan, and became the Morgan House. James Bowne was another leading temperance man. Some years before this time the old firm of Bowne & Trowbridge sold a great deal of liquor, and Mr. Bowne signaled his conversion by knocking in the heads of the rum barrels and spilling the contents into the gutter.

In 1855 the Republican party was organized in Dutchess County and formally consolidated with the Whigs, the parties holding a joint convention at Emigh's Hotel, Washington Hollow, on the 17th of October. The Whig county committee was John H. Ketcham, Smith Cronk, J. A. Underhill, C. Swan, Edgar Thorn, Edwin Hall, Edward Hunting, D. C. Marshall and George W. Paine. Thirty-seven names were signed to the Republican call, headed by A. J. Coffin, George Van Kleeck and Cornelius Du Bois. Most of the names seem to be those of former Whigs, though some were Free Soil Democrats. They included Isaac Tice, Wm. C. Southwick, L. M. Arnold, Aaron Frost, Wm. S. Morgan, John Thompson, Augustus L. Allen, Richard Kenworthy, Isaac Sisson, Stephen Baker, A. Van Kleeck, E. M. Swift, Henry W. Morris, James S. Post and Charles E. Bowne.

In the fall of 1855 John H. Ketcham was first elected to the Assembly, and the Republicans were also successful in the 3rd district, electing Jacob B. Carpenter, but in the 2nd, including the city of Poughkeepsie, George Wilkinson was defeated by Daniel O. Ward, of Pleasant Valley.

The presidential campaign of 1850 was a notable one in Poughkeepsie, on account of the great public meetings held on Forbus Hill. The Democrats held a great rally for Buchanan on October 1st, to which it is said fifteen steamboats ran excursions. Amasa J. Parker, candidate for governor, was the chief speaker. The crowd on this occasion, though large, is said to have been far eclipsed by the Fremont rally of the river counties on the 10th, at which Hon. Charles H. Ruggles presided. From 9 o'clock in the morning until after noon there was almost a continuous procession of teams and of horsemen coming in from the country, "until the town was full," says the *Eagle*. The railroad, the steamers Oregon, from Albany, South America from Hudson, and Thomas Powell from New York, added thousands. When the delega-

tions from neighboring counties marched from the steamers, the horsemen from the country were drawn up in close order, facing the street, and extended from the Exchange House to Hamilton Street. There were 800 of them, it is said. In the great open field constituting Forbes Hill four stands had been erected, and there was continuous speaking from each one for more than three hours. From the principal stand, around which there were seats, Senator Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts, spoke for two and one-half hours, and was followed by Joseph Hoxie, of New York, for one hour. At the central stand, for which no seats had been provided, Governor Ford, of Ohio, spoke two hours, and Joseph Blunt, of New York, an hour and a half. At other stands there were five German speakers. The Rhinebeck Glee Club, the Albany Glee Club, Messrs. Sherwood and Cone, of Albany, and Mr. Atherton, of Poughkeepsie, furnished music. The county gave Fremont 5,512 votes, Buchanan 4,030, and Fillmore 2,013. John Thompson was elected to Congress, and John H. Ketcham returned to the Assembly, though by a majority of only one vote, over Albert Emans. The second district elected Franklin Dudley to the Assembly. The city voted Fremont 1,120, Buchanan 950, and Fillmore 318. B. Platt Carpenter began his political career soon after this, and became District Attorney in 1858, succeeding Silas Wadell.

The *Eagle* contained many strong anti-slavery editorials at this time, and the "dough faces," as well as the "slaveocracy" were vigorously denounced. It was an ardent supporter of William H. Seward for the presidential nomination in 1860, and Isaac Platt, in a letter dated Chicago, May 20th, describes the methods by which Seward was defeated in the convention, and expresses his opinion of those who combined against him very freely, adding:

"But while I feel bound to say these harsh things of the active enemies of Senator Seward, and feel that even more severe language would fail to do them justice, it would be doing a great wrong to the majority of the convention if I failed to add that the choice fell upon the next best man that could have been selected. The very last one whom the patrons of Pennsylvania, and Indiana and the sneaks of New England—who could have rendered Mr. Seward's nomination certain had they been true—would have fallen back upon was Mr. Lincoln, had they had anything but Hobson's choice in the matter."

The campaign of 1860 was a memorable one everywhere, and not long after the nomination of Lincoln and Hamlin, Republican marching clubs called "Wide Awakes" were organized all over the North.

The Poughkeepsie club was organized in July with John Trowbridge president, William C. Arnold, C. C. Hoff, James McKinney and J. W. Vincent vice-presidents; George H. Beattys, recording secretary, Davis Van Kleek, corresponding secretary, and John T. Banker, treasurer. Daniel H. Turner was elected captain at a subsequent meeting, and Robert E. Taylor lieutenant. There was also a Lincoln and Hamlin Club, of which J. V. W. Doty was president. The chief Democratic marching clubs were called "The Little Giants," from Stephen A. Douglas's favorite nickname. In Poughkeepsie Benjamin Atkins was their captain, and both he and Turner were officers in the Twenty-first Regiment. Party feeling ran so high that stones were sometimes thrown at the paraders in hostile wards, but the two captains were friends. The Wide Awakes had their headquarters in the basement under Rowland's bakery, opposite the end of Market Street, and it is related that on one occasion when they had just returned from a parade and were storing away their torches and capes, the order came to turn out again. They hurried up the steps, and there were the Little Giants coming down the street. Some of the boys thought there were prospects of a fight, but "Dan" Turner lined them all up along the curb, and as their opponents approached gave the order "Present torches," and then "Three cheers for Ben Atkins and the Little Giants!" The order was promptly obeyed and the Little Giants returned the courtesy. After that it is said there was never any trouble between the two organizations. Occasionally they would meet on parade, when one would open order and allow the other to march between them, presenting torches.

The Bell and Everett men also had a marching club which paraded around ringing a large bell obtained from one of the foundries. In general this campaign is described by those who remember it as the greatest on record, with something going on almost every day for several months. The Wide Awakes and Little Giants often visited other cities to take part in parades there.

The Republicans held a great meeting on Forbes Hill, October 10th, which was addressed in the afternoon for two hours by Hon. Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio. Gen. Thomas L. Davies presided at this meeting, and the vice-presidents were: Hon. Charles H. Ruggles, William C. Sterling, John G. Halstead, F. R. Johnston, J. Wesley Stark, Edward H. Simmons, Herrick Thorne, D. Lewis, James Winslow, Hon. Morgan Carpenter, George H. Knapp, James Ketcham, Hiram Vail, Orson Graves, E. D. Sweet, C. White. The secretaries were: Alfred B. Smith, George Sweet,

George Lamoree, B. Platt Carpenter, R. D. Cornell, and James McCarthy.

I think this was the last great meeting on Forbus Hill. Grand Street had been laid out across it several years before and building was beginning to encroach on the neighborhood so long devoted to circuses, political rallies and military reviews. At one time, before the railroad was built, there was a lookout back of the Forbus House, on which observers were stationed to watch for the coming of steamboats, so that the hotel stage could leave for the landing without running the risk of long waits. Many stories are told about events which took place on Forbus Hill, but the ground has been so changed by grading and building that no one thinks of it now as a hill, apart from the general slope of the ground.

The city in 1860 was still to a considerable extent divided into sections, with stretches of open fields between. The Upper Landing and the Lower Landing were rather isolated communities connected with the business section on the hill by a fringe of houses along Mill and Union Streets. Lower Main Street consisted of "Blakesleville," on the flat between Bridge and Clover Streets, with only a few buildings immediately above or below, except at the landing. Then there were the suburban settlements of Freartown, in the southern section, Boecetown, near the junction of Cherry Street and Hooker Avenue, and Lectown, afterwards Bill's Head, now Arlington. Nor was Forbus Hill the only hill named. Christian Hill, near Pine Street, Crow Hill, South Hamilton Street, south of Montgomery, and others were familiar to the people of the day, and are still occasionally named.

Many meetings were held throughout the county during this campaign, and the Poughkeepsie Republican speakers mentioned in the papers were John Thompson, William Wilkinson, Col. George Bisbee, J. Spencer Van Cleef, Charles H. S. Williams and John I. Platt. This was Mr. Platt's entrance into politics, and was probably not far from the first appearance on the stump of most of the others named, except Mr. Thompson and Mr. Wilkinson.

Dutchess County gave Abraham Lincoln a majority of 602 over the Erison (Douglas, Breckinridge and Bell) Democratic ticket, and in Poughkeepsie Lincoln carried the 2nd Ward by 182, the 3rd by 28 and the 4th by 130, the 1st Ward alone going Democratic by 57. Stephen Baker, of Poughkeepsie, was elected to Congress.

Occasionally an item like the following, Sept. 5th,

1857, attracts attention in the local papers: "*Free*—It is said that a colored man recently passed through this place on the underground railroad, having made his escape from slavery in a Southern State. He is probably now enjoying *freedom* in Canada, under the protection of the British Queen."

On Aug. 20, 1857, the *Eagle* tells of the breaking of the first Atlantic cable "after having paid out successfully 335 nautical miles of cable, and the last 100 miles of it in water over two miles deep." In spite of the political agitation at home there was much interest in foreign news and the completion of the cable was awaited with eager anticipation. When it was apparently finished in 1858 all the bells in Poughkeepsie were rung in celebration of the event. Before the cable foreign news was always headed "Three days later from Europe," "Four days later from Europe," or whatever the interval was between steamers. After reading under this heading "There is nothing later from India" for several weeks, it is with something of a thrill that one reads on Nov. 28, 1857, "Gen. Havelock with 2,500 men crossed the Ganges from Cawnpore Sept. 10 and relieved Lucknow residency on the 25th, just as it was ready to be blown up by the besiegers."

When the city was incorporated, both the *Eagle* and the *Telegraph* had planned to issue daily papers, but ventures in that line had not been particularly successful. The first daily started had lasted but a short time, and the *Press*, without any well-established weekly behind it, was struggling along with no very great profit to its publishers. The *Telegraph* tried the experiment of a daily edition for three weeks, beginning Nov. 28, 1854, and then gave it up, while the *Eagle* found in the financial depression of that year a sufficient reason for the abandonment of its plans. In 1860, however, the city had a population of about 15,000, and the interest in public events, in the great issues which were soon to plunge the country into civil war, and in local matters, had greatly increased, and another daily was fully warranted. On Tuesday morning, December 4th, Vol. 1 No. 1 of the *Daily Eagle* was issued. It bore the motto, "Neutral in nothing," and its strong editorials and excellent telegraphic service soon gave it a commanding position and an influence that was more than local. The *Daily Press*, which had been a morning paper up to this time, soon changed to an afternoon paper, and so remained as long as it had a separate existence.

## CHAPTER IX.

THE CIVIL WAR—EARLY MEETINGS AND ENLISTMENTS—THE 128TH AND 150TH REGIMENTS—THE 150TH  
REGIMENT AND THE DRAFT—ECHOES OF THE DRAFT RIOTS—HOME EVENTS—POLITICS, INCLUDING  
THE CAMPAIGN OF 1860—EASTMAN COLLEGE—THE RETURN OF PROSPERITY—THE SANITARY FAIR.

The news of the firing upon Fort Sumter was published on Saturday, April 13th, 1861, and there was intense excitement in Poughkeepsie as well as elsewhere. The *Eagle* issued "extras" which were eagerly snatched from the press on Saturday evening and again on Sunday. On the 15th President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers was published, and on the same day a small item recorded that "Matthew Vassar, Jr. has tendered his fast sailing schooner, The Matthew Vassar, Jr., to the United States government." On the 16th "Messrs. W. W. and J. Reynolds tendered to the government their substantial and well arranged steamer *Reliance*." Both of these offers were accepted. The Matthew Vassar, Jr. was one of Farragut's fleet of mortar boats at the taking of the forts at the mouth of the Mississippi River, and the *Reliance*<sup>1</sup> served as a gun boat in the Burnside expedition and also as a transport. The steamboats *Dutchess* from Main Street Landing and *Sherman* from the Lower Landing were also sold to the government, as were many other river steamers.

April 17th there was a brief report in the local papers of a meeting of the 21st Regiment, with the statement, "We have ascertained that there are one hundred volunteers ready to answer the government's call." Loyal citizens everywhere began to display the flag in front of their homes and places of business, and we read that "political feelings are fast disappearing in this city." On the 18th a call for a meeting to be held at the City Hall for the purpose of organizing a volunteer company was published over the signatures of John R. Cooper, John H. Otis, J. Spencer Van Cleef, James H. Seaman and R. E. Taylor. Jerome Williams and A. B. Smith were among those who addressed this meeting, which resulted in a preliminary organization in the following form:

"We hereby form ourselves into a volunteer company to be offered to the Governor of this State for

<sup>1</sup>For list of Poughkeepsie men who went out with the *Reliance* see Appendix.

immediate service, under the provisions of the act lately passed by the Legislature of this State in reference to the raising of a volunteer force."

April 18th, 1861.

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| R. E. Taylor,        | Nathaniel Palmer,    |
| S. H. Bogardus, Jr., | Alfred Atkins,       |
| P. J. Palmatier,     | John Sanders,        |
| John H. Bartlett,    | Joseph Williams,     |
| Herbert Stearns,     | John N. Longfield,   |
| John Cox,            | G. W. Underwood,     |
| Alfred Sherman,      | Isaac Van Wagner,    |
| Benj. Slater,        | Daniel Johnson, Sr., |
| Albert R. Heermance, | Joseph Rosell,       |
| Cornelius Ferdon,    | Martin Riggs,        |
| Nathaniel Gayton,    | D. B. Morris,        |
| George C. Smith,     | John Ward,           |
| Daniel Brinckerhoff, | Wm. H. Clark,        |
| Marcus B. White,     | Andrew Holziter,     |
| Wm. Conklin,         | A. B. Smith,         |
| James B. Jones,      | Dewitt C. Underwood, |
| Jas. T. Clear,       | Patrick Akins,       |
| R. N. Bush,          | Thomas Walker,       |
| F. Schwandel,        | Beitung Fedrick,     |
| Joseph Heidel,       | Carl Hardenburgh,    |
| Anson Morey,         | John H. Filkins,     |
| Edward Post,         | Patrick Whalen, Sr., |
| Thomas Eagan,        | Jas. Nicolson,       |
| Wm. Upham,           | John H. Moreland,    |

These did not all enter the service, but certainly all were willing to enlist, at least for three months. There was no dearth of volunteers under the first call, however, and as a rule only militia companies fully equipped, were accepted. The 20th, of Kingston, enlisted for three months, and the fact that the 21st was not ready to offer itself caused some comment in which the statement was made that the military spirit had not been greatly cultivated in Poughkeepsie. The independent company formed at the meeting of the 18th went on to perfect its organization. On the 20th, when William Berry was made temporary captain, there were seventy-five names on the roll. On the 23rd the company was reorganized with Harrison Halliday as captain, but was rather slow in getting ready to leave, and some of the boys became im-

patient. A few managed to get into militia regiments already at the front: these included James E. Schram, who sailed in the steamer "Daylight" on the 24th to join the Seventh Regiment,<sup>1</sup> Alfred Way and Alfred Dunlap, who went out with the 13th of Brooklyn. Adam Schuster and Charles Couterier enlisted in the 20th N. Y. Vols., (the German Turner regiment) and April 24th the following men left Poughkeepsie to join them: Rudolph Schwickard, Rudolph Prellwitz, Joseph Mayer, Charles Solger, George Kahn, Adam Barthel, Charles Propson, Henry W. Kohn, Augustus Long, John Meyer, Gottfried Kuhn, Nicholas Schoppert, Andrew Simon, Reinhold Policke, Henry Klages, Professor W. Simhold, Friedrich Blume, and Friedrich Breitung. Most of these names are to be found on the published roll of Company D. Captain Joseph Otto. Couterier went as ensign and Simhold as first sergeant. The next day, April 25th,<sup>2</sup> Alfred Atkins, Stephen H. Bogardus, Daniel Brinckerhoff, C. Becker and Isaac Van Wagner went to New York and enlisted in the 5th Regiment, Colonel Abram Duryea's Zouaves. They were joined soon afterwards by William F. Boshart, Wm. H. Dishrow, Albert O. Cheney, James C. Allro, Cyrus Hagadorn, Alphonzo C. Morgan, Joseph Tyndall, C. E. Dennis, D. S. Bradley, James W. Shurter, C. Jewell, A. Conover, James Van Wagner, W. Stall, H. Lyons, G. F. Lawrence, Godfrey Winzenreid and H. Stearns,<sup>3</sup> according to the newspapers of the day. Not all these names appear in the imperfect muster rolls published by the State, but some of them may have joined after the roll, dated May 9th, was made up. William De Groot and James Morrissy, of Poughkeepsie, appear on the roll, but were not mentioned in the newspapers, and I am informed<sup>4</sup> that William F. Davidson, James Denton, Michael Krieg, Isaac Blythe and Theron Van Keuren were certainly in the regiment, though neither on the May 9th muster roll nor mentioned in the newspapers up to the time of the departure of the regiment

A letter describing the trip of the 7th to Annapolis, published in Eagle May 2, signed "Brother George," seems to imply that other Poughkeepsians were in this regiment.

<sup>1</sup>Names in Eagle April 26.

<sup>2</sup>Second list of 21 names in Eagle May 14.

<sup>3</sup>Captain William F. Boshart has furnished much of this information. The failure of the contemporary newspaper lists, the muster rolls and the recollections of the veterans to agree is easily explained. The newspaper lists indicate the supposed intentions of the men when they left Poughkeepsie. A few men when they reached New York joined other organizations, or did not enlist at all. The veterans naturally remember the men who were with them in camp or on the battlefield. The State muster rolls are imperfect anyway, containing only 60 or 70 privates in each company, and furnishing no indication of later enlistments.

for the front. The 5th was in active service early enough to take part in the battle of Big Bethel. Van Keuren, Denton, Davidson and Hagadorn were killed in battle in 1862.

Meanwhile there were stirring times at home. On Sunday, April 21st "Almost every clergyman in this city \* \* \* preached on the subject of the national crisis, calling upon the people to sustain the government as a sacred duty." On the 10th a call was published over the signature of several hundred men for a mass meeting in Pine Hall, then but recently completed on the site of the old Franklin House, and the leading place for lectures, meetings and theatrical performances in the city. The meeting was held on the evening of the 24th, Hon. James Emott presiding, and among those named as vice-presidents were several prominent Democrats, including Edward B. Osborne, then editor of the *Telegraph*, Judge Charles H. Ruggles, James H. Weeks, and Hon. William Kelley of Rhinebeck. Rev. Francis B. Wheeler, of the Presbyterian Church, opened the meeting with prayer, and stated that "The ministers of the Church are with you in their sympathies and if need be will mingle their blood with yours in defense of the right." There were addresses by Judge Emott, Hon. Wm. Kelley, Hon. George W. Sterling, Homer A. Nelson (then county judge), Hon. John Thompson, Hon. George T. Pierce, Joseph F. Barnard, Rev. F. D. Brown, Rev. Samuel Buel, of Christ Church, and Rev. M. Wakeley. Charles Wheaton, who became county judge when Judge Nelson was elected to Congress in 1862, was chairman of the committee which prepared a series of strongly patriotic resolutions, including the following:

*Resolved*, That no effort is too severe, no contest too long, no expenditure too great, that will put down and crush out, now and for all time, an armed resistance to the authority of the Constitution, the Laws and the chosen Officers of the Government.

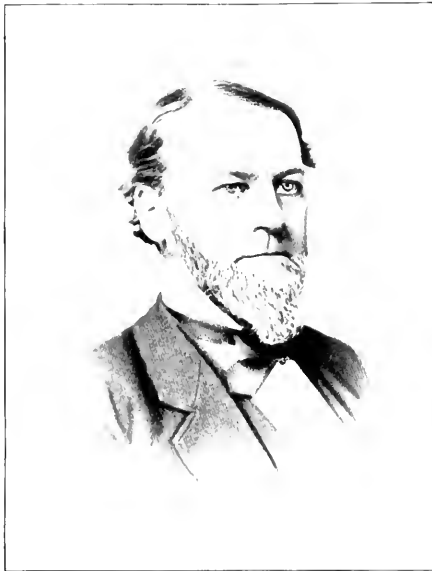
A resolution was also passed, on motion of Charles W. Swift, asking the Common Council to borrow \$10,000 on the credit of the city, the money to be placed in the hands of a committee of five "for the relief and support of the families and dependents" of those who enlisted in the army. Mayor James Bowne, Gaius C. Burnap, Dr. Per Lee Pine, James H. Weeks and Edgar M. Van Kleeck were named as the committee. The Common Council carried out this suggestion, and the fund was supplemented<sup>4</sup> by many contributions from the citizens. A few days later the ladies began to organize for the purpose of making

<sup>4</sup>The girls of Dr. Rider's School (Cottage Hill, Garden Street) raised \$75 for this fund by a concert.



shirts and other clothing for the soldiers, many of whom were in sorry condition, government supplies proving entirely inadequate. In May the Woman's Relief Association was organized, with Mrs. John Thompson president, and Mrs. Henry L. Young secretary.

Many of the men who first volunteered were members of the fire companies, and Cataract No. 4, A. J. Valentine, foreman, at a special meeting, April 25th, offered its services in connection with the 21st Regi-



CHARLES WHEATON

ment. Captain Halliday, meanwhile was enlisting most of the members of old Protection. Colonel William Berry was appointed mustering officer, and the company went into barracks in the old Methodist Church (afterwards Eastman College) on the 28th, and on the 4th of May left town for Albany, to become Company E of the 30th New York Volunteers, commanded by Col. Edward Frisbie. The following were given as its members at this time:

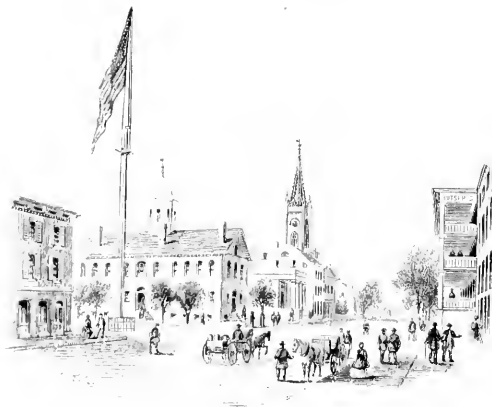
- Captain—Harrison Holliday.
- Lieutenant—Edgar S. Jennings.
- Ensign—Nathaniel Palmer.
- 1st Sergeant—Alfred Sherman.
- 2d Sergeant—Joseph D. Williams.
- 3d Sergeant—Nathaniel Gayton.
- 4th Sergeant—John C. Ecker.
- 1st Corporal—Marcus L. White.

- 2d Corporal—John R. Brockway.
- 3d Corporal—Monzo Case.
- 4th Corporal—Frank C. Fink.
- Adams, John O.
- Akins, Patrick
- Allen, Egbert D.
- Baker, Chas.
- Bartlett, John H.
- Beads, Elijah
- Burns, Hugh
- Bush, Robt. M.
- Byss, George
- Cambot, Wm.
- Case, Chas. H.
- Clark, Wm. H.
- Cummings, James
- Dahn, Joseph H.
- Daley, James
- Davis, Ferris
- Decker, Robt. G.
- DeGroot, Wm. H.
- Dixon, Jacob B.
- Downs, Aluc
- Dusenbury, Jno. W.
- Egan, Fergus
- Ferguson, Uriah L.
- Gilman, Wm. G.
- Gladdin, Geo.
- Hall, Chas. W. H.
- Harrington, John
- Heidel, Joseph
- Hemingway, John
- Henderson, Hugh
- Hernance, Albert R.
- Hicks, Andrew I.
- Hogan, Martel
- Holthizer, Andrew
- Hunt, Chas. A.
- Hyde, Edwin M.
- Jay, Clairck M.
- Jones, Wm. D.
- Kinderburg, C. F. W.
- Kip, Daniel
- Kip, Wm. H.
- Kirby, Stephen M.
- Lake, James I.
- Lake, Wm. D.
- McFarland, Wm. H.
- McKeena, Mitchell
- Morris, David G. B.
- Morey, Anson
- Myrich, Geo.
- Murphy, James
- Moseley, Ben. F.
- Marshall, Moses
- Marshall, John R.
- McCard, Jno. D.
- McIntyre, Chas.
- Nicholson, James
- Odell, James W.
- Oldroyd, Job
- Ostrom, Wm. H.
- Palmater, Peter J.
- Palmater, Wm. G.
- Price, Chas.
- Rowlands, Nelson H.
- Roberts, John
- Rosell, Joseph
- Ruler, James B.
- Riggs, Martin
- Rogers, Charles
- Stanton, Coles
- Schnadel, Ferdinand
- Suckels, Edward
- Sprague, Wm.
- Sanders, John
- Smith, Geo. C.
- Slater, Benj. F.
- Storms, Everett
- Sleight, John
- Thill, John
- Underwood, George
- Walker, Thomas
- Weaver, Chas. E.
- Wright, Wm. K.
- Whalen, Patrick H.
- Ward, John
- Wakeman, Norman
- Wright, Wm. H.
- Williams, Louis H.
- Wilbur, Wm. H.
- Welsh, Mitchell
- White, Wm. T.

This was the first Poughkeepsie company, and was mustered into the United States service June 1st and left for the front June 28th. The names marked with a star in the above list do not appear in the muster rolls, but some of them are found on the rolls of other regiments. A few were deserters, of whom the government took little notice at this time, as recruits were offering faster than they could be accepted; others probably did not pass the medical officers, and still others on account of illness were not able to go with the company. U. L. Ferguson, for instance, was

in the hospital at Albany, when the company left. He came back home and enlisted in the 57th New York Regiment, Company K, of which was largely recruited in Poughkeepsie, sixty-two names being on its roll from this city. Wm. H. De Groot, William Sprague and James Riding (?) are also on the roll of the 57th, which went into the United States service September 4th. Long before this time, recruiting offices for the many regiments had been opened in Poughkeepsie. One of the first of these was opened about April 24th in Market Street, in the interest of Colonel James H. Van Allen's regiment of Rangers, one of the earliest volunteer cavalry regiments to enter the service, though according to the muster rolls of this regiment, the 3rd, no enlistments were made before August, and none are recorded from Poughkeepsie. Until after the call for 100,000 troops that followed the Battle of Bull Run, branch depots for enlistments were not authorized by Governor Morgan, and the early muster rolls show only the places of rendezvous.

During May local patriotism was manifested in flag raisings and in meetings throughout the county,



Corner of Main and Market Streets in 1861, showing Liberty Pole, Poughkeepsie Hotel and old Morris Building. (From Lossing's *Vassar College and its Founder*.)

Benson J. Lossing was a frequent speaker at these meetings, and contributed a series of signed articles to the newspapers under such headings as "The Union and the Constitution Shall be Preserved." On the 16th of May a liberty pole at the junction of Clover and Main Streets, "in front of Thomas Clegge's store," was raised with appropriate ceremony and speeches. That night some one stole the flag from this pole and buried it in the river weighted with stones, whence it was pulled up by some boys who were fishing a day or two later. There was general complaint of the steal-

ing of flags from private residences, apparently the work of "copperheads." A notable flag raising took place at St. Peter's Church on Saturday evening, May 18th. "There was an immense crowd present," says the *Eagle*. "The Jackson Republican Guard and Poughkeepsie Grenadiers turned out to do honor to the occasion. The flag was raised by Rev. Mr. Riordan, and saluted by 34 guns. Addresses were made by Rev. Mr. Riordan, Benson J. Lossing and Mark D. Wilker." On the 28th the tall mast in the centre of Market Street at the junction with Main was ready for its flag, which was hoisted by O. H. Booth "amid the cheers of the multitude, and the roar of cannon, the city band playing the Star Spangled Banner." Rev. Moses Tyler, of the Congregational Church, afterwards a professor at Cornell University, opened the exercises with prayer, and there were speeches by Mayor Boyne, Judge Emott, Rev. Michael Riordan, William Wilkinson, Allard Anthony and Rev. G. F. Kettell.

Before Captain Halliday's company had left town a call had been issued for the formation of another company, to be ready when wanted, and a military organization was formed under command of John P. Adriance, called at first the Poughkeepsie Drill Guards, afterwards the "Ellsworth Greys." This company drilled so frequently and with so much enthusiasm that its services were much in demand for exhibitions of military art and tactics, and many of its members entered the army at a somewhat later period as officers. It did not, however, volunteer as an organization, and the second Poughkeepsie Company was raised by Arthur Wilkinson, who issued his first call May 20th for from seventy five to one hundred men "to be attached to Colonel George B. Hall's Excelsior Regiment." Any man who could enlist a company could obtain a commission as its captain at this time, and Wilkinson had about sixty men enrolled in twelve days. They left town on the barge *Republic* on June 10th, and were escorted to the landing by the Poughkeepsie Drill Corps, and about 2,000 citizens. The company was officered as follows:

Captain— Arthur Wilkinson.  
 1st Lieut.— Chas. Jackson.  
 2d Lieut.— Albert Johnson.  
 1st Sergeant— Matthew Harloe.  
 2d Sergeant— James L. Frazier.  
 3d Sergeant— Benj. W. Murgatroyd.  
 4th Sergeant— Lyman P. Harris.  
 5th Sergeant— Edward Pardee.  
 1st Corporal— John P. Brous.  
 2d Corporal— Isaac A. Bloomfield.  
 3d Corporal— Joseph Conn.  
 4th Corporal— John H. Mead.





DR. R. K. TUTHILL.  
*(For biographical sketch see Appendix.)*

On arrival at Camp Scott, Staten Island, where the company was to be attached to the 74th Regiment, dissensions at once arose. Apparently Wilkinson did not have enough men to obtain his commission as captain and offered to "sell them out" to another company in which he was to become first lieutenant. This was not an uncommon practice later in the war, but it excited great indignation at the time, especially among the men who had been promised the lieutenantcies by Wilkinson before he left Poughkeepsie. Charles Jackson, Albert Johnson, Matthew Harloe and P. Herrick came home, and on July 10th wrote a communication to the local papers, stating that "they learned they were being used as tools to elevate the ambition of one who would sacrifice every man for self-elevation," that "the position of First Lieutenant was solemnly promised to five different men," etc. Fourteen men signed an answer to this which was published on the 20th charging that the "broken and dismissed lieutenants" had entered into a conspiracy to break up the company. Whatever the truth of these charges and counter charges<sup>1</sup> the company was effectually broken up, and of the names given in the newspapers at the time they left Poughkeepsie scarcely one is to be found on the roll of "Captain Arthur Wilkinson's company" in the 74th. One of the men went into the Duryea Zouaves, 5th Regiment, then at Fortress Monroe; six or eight enlisted in the 62nd Regiment, Anderson's Zouaves; at least four entered the 65th Regiment, known as Chasseurs, then forming at Palace Garden, 14th Street; and one or two names from the company are to be found on the rolls of the 70th, 71st and other regiments, while some of the men came home, and did not enter the service until a later period, if at all.

Poughkeepsie names are scattered through so many different regiments that it appears impossible to collect them all, and some, it is said, went into other states to enlist. Following is a list of organizations in which there were Poughkeepsie enlistments during the year 1861, as shown by comparisons of contemporary references with the muster rolls.

- 20th Regiment (Turner Reg.) N. Y. Vols., Col. Max Weber. Seventeen from Poughkeepsie in Co. D.
- 5th Regiment (Col. Duryea's Zouaves.)
- 30th N. Y. Vols., Co. E., Capt. Halliday.
- 47th; Col. Henry Moore, forty men in Co. D on muster rolls from Dutchess County.
- 48th N. Y. Vols., Col. James H. Perry, two men from Poughkeepsie, one of whom, David Johnson, is on original roll of Co. D.

<sup>1</sup>See Daily Eagle, May 4, 1904, for summary of charges and names of men in company.

53rd Regiment (D'Epineuil's Zouaves) eleven men from Poughkeepsie in Co. D, Captain George L. Chester, two in Co. H.

57th Regiment (Ramsey's Voltiguers) sixty-five men from Poughkeepsie in Co. K, Captain La Vallie, and two or three in other companies.

61st Regt. (Clinton Guards), Col. S. W. Cone.

62nd Regt. (Anderson's Zouaves).

65th Regiment (1st Regiment Chasseurs) five men from Poughkeepsie in Co. D.

70th Regiment (1st Excelsior), two from Poughkeepsie in Co. G, Captain H. B. O'Reilly.

71st Regiment, Col. George B. Hall, Richard G. Shurter in Co. G, Daniel Malady, and some others credited to other places, but probably from Poughkeepsie.

74th Regiment, Col. Charles K. Graham, Captain Arthur Wilkinson's company (Co. F) mentioned, apparently with one or two other Poughkeepsie names in it.

78th Regiment, Col. Daniel Ullman, two men from Poughkeepsie.

80th Regiment (the 20th Militia of Kingston.)

87th Regiment, Col. Stephen A. Dodge, nine from Poughkeepsie in Co. G, Capt. E. B. Coombs. Also fifteen men in Co. F, Capt. John H. Stone.

91st Regiment, Col. Jacob Van Zandt, one from Poughkeepsie in Capt. C. A. Burt's company.

This is doubtless not a complete list by any means. Thirty men left Poughkeepsie September 24, 1861, to join Capt. Cronwell's 1st New York Cavalry.

Most of these regiments had only one or two original enlistments from Poughkeepsie, except as already noted of the 5th, 30th and 57th. The 80th also took out a considerable number of men from Poughkeepsie, including most of the commissioned officers of two companies. This regiment was the 20th, or Ulster County Militia, and recruited for service during the remainder of the war in September and October after returning from service under the three months call. Dr. Robert K. Tutthill went as assistant surgeon, and Theodore Van Kleeck as sergeant-major. In Company A, the commissioned officers, James Smith, C. S. Wilkinson and Joseph H. Harrison and nearly half of the non-commissioned officers were from Poughkeepsie; also the First Lieutenant of Co. B, John R. Leslie, the First Lieutenant of Co. E, Albert S. Pease and the two lieutenants of Co. H, Ely R. Dobbs and Martin H. Swartwout. The lieutenants of Co. E resigned soon after the regiment had gone to the front, and Theodore Van Kleeck became for a time second lieutenant of this company. This regiment spent a day in Poughkeepsie before going to the front. It was in considerable hard fighting and lost many men. All of those who went as officers from Poughkeepsie had been members of the Elsworth Greys.

THE 128TH REGIMENT.<sup>1</sup>

After the call for 300,000 troops in June, 1862, the state was divided into military districts, corresponding generally with the Senate districts, and the Governor appointed Hon. William Kelly, of Rhinebeck, and Isaac Platt, of Poughkeepsie, a committee, with power to add to their number, to begin the work of organizing a regiment. The Dutchess County members of this committee when it met on July 17th in Poughkeepsie were Hon. William Kelly, chairman, James Emott, James H. Weeks, Isaac Platt, John C. Cruger, J. F. Barnard, C. W. Swift, H. A. Nelson, J. H. Ketcham, H. H. Hustis, Albert Emans, J. B. Dutcher, J. B. Carpenter, Benson J. Lossing, John S. Thorne, John H. Otis, Isaac W. White, William S. Johnston, Gilbert Dean, A. Wager, H. H. Smeedox, Joel Benton, Richard Peck, William Chamberlain, Henry Staats and Herriek Thorne. "At that meeting Mr. Wager presented the request of P. Chichester, of Poughkeepsie, to be enrolled as the first recruit."

A few days later George Parker, Frank N. Sterling, S. C. Doty and Robert F. Wilkinson opened offices for the enlistment of recruits, the first three joining forces. John A. Van Keuren, Dewitt C. Underwood and John P. Wilkinson also opened a recruiting office. The quota of Poughkeepsie under the call of July 2, 1862, was 227 men, and the early enthusiasm for enlistment had begun to wear off. Big meetings were again held throughout the county to stir the people up and local bounties were beginning to be offered at first from money raised by subscription. At a large meeting in Pine Hall, August 12th, Judge Emott stated that he was authorized to present \$10 to each of the first five recruits who enlisted that night. Before this C. W. Swift, James Emott, George Innis, M. Vassar, Jr., and A. Van Kleeck had placed in the hands of the committee \$100 to be paid the first captain mustered into service from this county, \$75 to the second captain, \$50 to the third and \$25 to the fourth. This was, of course, to stimulate effort on the part of those who expected commissions as a reward for obtaining a certain number of men. The regiment was nearly completed by the middle of August and was mustered into the United States service on September 4th, as the 128th N. Y. Volunteers. Co. D, the officers of which were George Parker, captain; Francis N. Sterling, 1st lieutenant; Spencer C. Doty, 2nd lieutenant, and Arnout Cannon, Jr., 1st sergeant, was more than half from Poughkeepsie; Co. H, of which John A. Van Keuren was captain, a little less

<sup>1</sup>The history of this regiment, written by Rev. D. H. Homborough, was published in 1864.

than half; and Co. I, of which Robert F. Wilkinson was captain, Fred Wilkinson, 1st lieutenant, and John P. Wilkinson, 2nd lieutenant, was wholly enlisted here, while a few Poughkeepsie names are found in other companies. The ladies of Poughkeepsie and Fishkill presented the regiment with a handsome flag August 30th at Hudson, and the regiment left for the seat of war on the steamer Oregon, September 5th. At their first important battle, the assault upon Port Hudson, on the Mississippi in May, 1863, Col. David S. Cowles (of Hudson) was killed, and Lieut.-Col. James Smith,<sup>1</sup> of Poughkeepsie, took command. The losses of the regiment as reported July 6th, 1863, were 24 killed, most of them at Port Hudson, 62 died of disease, 2 died of wounds, 77 discharged for disability, 6 missing and 62 deserted. The 128th was in many hard fights and returned with only 500 men.

## THE 150TH REGIMENT.

Under the call of August 4 a draft was threatened unless quotas were filled, and on August 22nd the Board of Supervisors, at the suggestion of the war committee, authorized the County Treasurer to borrow enough money to pay a bounty of \$50 to every volunteer who had enlisted since July 2nd, or who should thereafter enlist, provided he had not already received any bounty from the county. They also resolved that the war committee be requested to take immediate steps for the organization of a Dutchess County Regiment, so that the county's full quota of troops could be raised without a draft, and that night Alfred B. Smith went to Albany and obtained the required permission from the Governor. The committee, August 20th, selected Hon. John H. Ketcham for colonel, Alfred B. Smith, major, George R. Gaylord, quartermaster and William Thompson, adjutant. This regiment, which became the 150th, was therefore well started before the 128th was complete. Joseph H. Cogswell, Robert McConnell, Henry A. Gildersleeve, Edward A. Wickes, Edward Crummev, Benjamin S. Broas, William R. Woodlin, Andrus Brant and John L. Green, were given permission to open recruiting offices, and all except Mr. Crummev, whose place was taken by Platt M. Thorne, became captains in the regiment. The first six mentioned were from Poughkeepsie, Captain Woodlin at that time being a resident of Pine Plains, Brant was from Dover Plains, and Green from Red Hook.

Great efforts were made to secure enlistments for this regiment as rapidly as possible. September 3rd

<sup>1</sup>This was the same James Smith who had gone out as a captain in the 80th. He had been a law student in Judge Nelson's office.

Mayor Bowne recommended that all places of business be closed each afternoon of that week at 4 o'clock, "and that the people use all efforts to promote enlistments, and also to meet the exigencies of the times." War meetings were held every night at the City Hall, and on the 17th General Corcoran addressed a great open air meeting from a platform erected on the east side of the Court House. September 8th the ladies met and appointed the following committee to raise a fund to provide the regiment with a stand of colors: Mrs. Seward Barculo, Mrs. James Emott, Mrs. William Schram, Mrs. W. S. Morgan, Mrs. W. H. Crosby, Mrs. J. Winslow, Mrs. B. J. Lossing, Mrs. T.



*James Bowne, Fourth Mayor of Poughkeepsie.*

L. Davies, Mrs. John Thompson, Mrs. Charles H. Ruggles and Miss Sarah M. Carpenter. By the 20th of September 780 men had been collected at Camp Dutchess, which was established on the old county house grounds, now the grounds of the City Home. As the regiment began to assume some proficiency in drilling under the charge of Lieut.-Colonel Bartlett, who was from West Point, the town people assembled at the camp in considerable numbers every afternoon to witness battalion drill and dress parade. During the last few days before the departure for the front most of the local commissioned officers were presented with swords by various groups of citizens. Major A. B. Smith's sword was presented at the High School, in Church Street, by Mr. George W. McLellan, in be-

half of the children of the public school. Captain Cogswell's sword was presented at the Congregational Church on Sunday evening, October 31st; Captain E. A. Wickes received a similar gift from the young ladies of Mr. Rice's school, and on the 10th Rev. D. G. Wright, in behalf of the pupils of the Poughkeepsie Female Academy, presented Captain Henry A. Galdersleeve with "a most splendid sword, sash, belt and pistol." A Bible agent visited the camp just before the departure of the regiment and it is related that New Testaments were accepted by every man not otherwise supplied except two. The regiment left on the 11th of October on the steamer Oregon. Thomas E. Vassar went out as the first chaplain of this regiment, and was succeeded the next year by Rev. Edward O. Bartlett, whose diary of the daily events has been published in the *Eagle*. The regiment was at Gettysburg, where seven of its men were killed and twenty-two wounded.<sup>1</sup> In the fall of 1863 it was sent to Tennessee, but did not take part in any of the great battles there. In the campaign against Atlanta the 150th held important positions at Resaca and at Kennesaw Mountain against superior forces, and it was with Sherman on the famous march to the sea, but was rarely in a desperate assault or exposed to the terrible ordeals that cut some regiments to pieces, and lost comparatively few of its officers or men. Much of its immunity is ascribed by the survivors to the care of Colonel Ketchum in providing protection whenever it was to be found.

Of its original officers Cyrus S. Roberts, sergeant major; Henry C. Smith, quartermaster sergeant, Lieutenants Albert Johnson, Robert C. Tripp, DeWitt C. Underwood, Charles J. Gaylord, besides those already mentioned, were from Poughkeepsie.

#### THE 150TH AND THE FIRST DRAFTS.

In the effort to avoid a draft, as soon as the 150th Regiment was a certainty, and before the 128th had reached the seat of war, steps were taken to form a second district regiment. Judge Homer A. Nelson was appointed its colonel, with Arthur Wilkinson, who had resigned his commission in the 74th, as military instructor, and Mark D. Wilber quartermaster. By the middle of October, 1862, some 500 men had been collected at Hudson from Columbia County alone, and more than 100 had been enlisted in Dutchess, though the 150th had pretty well drained the county. While the regiment was forming Judge Nelson accepted the Democratic nomination for Congress, and on his election resigned his commission as colonel.

<sup>1</sup>Letter of Thomas E. Vassar in *Daily Eagle*, July 10, 1863.



HON. HOMER A. NELSON,



The regiment failed to complete its organization, but most of the men enlisted became members of the 150th Regiment, mustered in November 1st, under command of Colonel Edward S. Molinex, of Brooklyn. John W. Shields raised about half of Company I in Poughkeepsie, and went as its First Lieutenant. This regiment was at Fort Hudson with the 128th.

By the enlistments in the 150th and through payment of increasing bounties the draft was postponed until Monday, September 7th, 1863. Isaac Platt had been appointed Provost Marshal, and William Pinckney enrolling officer for the First and Third Wards of Poughkeepsie, with John Winslow for the Second and Fourth. The enrollment in the city, the quota of the wards and the number drafted was as follows:

|                              | Enrollment. | Quota. | Drafted. |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------|----------|
| First and Second Wards.....  | 847         | 157    | 235      |
| Second and Fourth Wards..... | 607         | 116    | 175      |

The difference between the quotas and the number drafted is explained by the fact that 50 per cent. was added for probable exemptions. The draft took place at No. 7 Union Street, now part of the Post Office property, and the sheriffs of Columbia and Dutchess, the Mayors of Poughkeepsie and Hudson, and a committee of prominent members of both political parties, were present to see that fairness was done. Nine companies of the Second Vermont Regiment, which had been on duty at the Draft Riots in New York City, had arrived in Poughkeepsie that morning, and were assembled on Market Street, though their presence is said not to have been due so much to apprehension of trouble here, as to a desire to quarter them for a time near New York. They occupied the barracks erected for the 150th, and remained until the 12th, when they were relieved by the 5th Wisconsin Regiment. They were certainly not needed, for the draft passed off without a sign of disturbance.

Patrick Whalen, a blind man, drew the numbers from a big tin wheel, and Peter Shuster, of Mill Street, was the first man drawn for Poughkeepsie. There was a great crowd in Union Street, which received the names good-naturedly and with much banter, especially when two clerks from the Provost Marshal's office were drawn. The draft took men from each of the printing offices, and in the Shurter family four brothers were drawn, although one of them had but recently returned from two years' service with the 30th. Of the total number drafted a very large proportion were exempted under the law, and most of the rest furnished substitutes or paid commutation. Only one actually entered the army from this city. The draft nevertheless was very un-

popular and aroused much criticism. The chief local evils connected with it were the same as those of the bounty system. A gang of toughs appeared, to offer their services as substitutes with the intention of taking the money and then escaping, to play the same game elsewhere. On September 16th a man who gave his name as William Duffy was arrested at the "Soldiers' Rest,"<sup>1</sup> for offering \$70 and then \$200 to the guard to let him escape. He was found to have a large roll of raised and counterfeit greenbacks in his possession in addition to the money he had received from a well known resident of Poughkeepsie to enlist as a substitute. Men enrolled at this time and afterwards had to be closely guarded and even then "bounty jumpers" sometimes got away in squads.

In order to avoid a draft under the next call for troops the Supervisors resolved to tax the county \$250,000 for bounty money, and in December, 1863, the united National, State and County bounties amounted to \$600 for each new recruit and \$805 for each veteran. The colored men of Poughkeepsie had organized a company during the summer and a number of them enlisted at this time. The city in 1864 also offered large bounties and enlistments were so general that Poughkeepsie escaped the drafts of May 31st, which, however, affected twelve of the towns of Dutchess County, and was followed by two or three supplemental drafts to supply deficiencies caused by exemptions. In 1864 William S. Johnston was Provost Marshal, with his office in the Armory building on Main Street. He held several drafts for small deficiencies in various towns, but none affecting Poughkeepsie until March 20th, 1865, when the city's deficiency was 175. The men who enlisted during the last part of the war were scattered in many regiments to fill vacancies. The nearest approach to a company raised here after the 150th went out was just about the time of the draft in September, 1863, when a large part of Company E of the 102nd Regiment enlisted under Stephen H. Bogardus as captain. During the war the city sold bonds amounting to \$284,100 to pay bounties, and also \$10,000 for the relief of soldiers' families.

#### ECHOES OF THE DRAFT RIOTS—HOME EVENTS.

Early in June, 1863, Company E of the 30th, the first company raised in Poughkeepsie, came home, with its remaining 55 men, under command of Joseph D. Williams, who went out as Second Sergeant. Captain Halliday had been killed at the second battle of Bull Run. The company fought at South Mountain, Antietam and other desperate battles, but a consider-

<sup>1</sup>Nos. 302 and 304 Main Street. Still standing.

able proportion of its members re-enlisted not long after their return home. Their presence in Poughkeepsie in July, during the draft riots in New York, added much to the security of the town, for on June 20th, when all the North was alarmed over Lee's invasion, the local militia regiment had been called into service and sent to Baltimore. There was much fear that disturbances might break out here in the absence of the 21st Regiment, and immediately after the receipt of the news of the riots in New York companies of Home Guards were formed under command of Captain Williams, and Mayor Innis sent an urgent request to Governor Seymour for artillery. After some delay he received a six-pounder brass field piece, with accommodations, including fourteen rounds of canister. By July 22nd there were eight companies of Home Guards, comprising several hundred men. They were described in the newspapers as Company A, Captain William Berry, Company B, Captain John P. Adriance, Company C, Captain Martin Bentel, Company D, Captain Laffingwell, the United Hose Companies (Phoenix and Boodin), Captain James W. Shurter, the Grant Cavalry, Captain Parish, and the artillery company, Captain J. S. Van Cleef. Their services were happily never required.

On July 13th the mob in New York cut the telegraph wires, and news of the exciting events in the metropolis could only be obtained by mail or from the reports of passengers on the railroad trains. The next day the trains were stopped and steamboats formed the sole means of communication. The wildest and most exaggerated reports were current of the doings of the mob, while the city was in its control, and suspense and anxiety were intense. The whole country wanted the news, and about all that could be obtained was furnished from Poughkeepsie. George W. Davids, whose long service as reporter and city editor of the *Eagle* had begun on the day of the first attack on Fort Sumter, collected the reports brought by people on the trains and boats, rushed the news to the office where it was bulletined and telegraphed to the West. The *Eagle* office was then the only Associated Press station between New York and Albany.

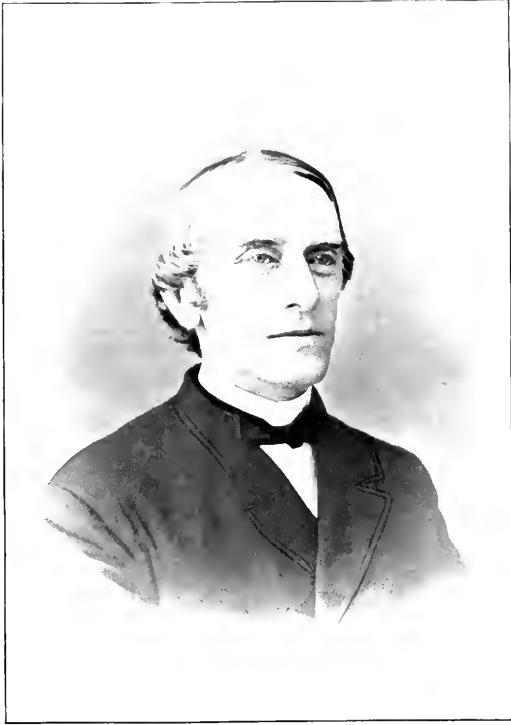
The situation was not without its amusing side, however, for on the 14th a milk train of three cars destined for New York was halted at Poughkeepsie and the milk was sold at one cent a quart. "Old men with grey hairs, staid elderly dames, the young and sprightly lasses, big boys and little boys, big girls and little girls, with pitchers, pails, mugs, pans, water pails, jugs, dippers, wash bowls, small tubs, etc.," all rushed to the cars to buy milk, which was just on the point of turning sour. The milk spree was so pro-

nounced that the next day the doctors had a large number of sick children on their hands.

Apprehension that there might be trouble at home from opposition to the draft was not entirely unwarranted. There were a few aggressive Copperheads in town, and the early enthusiasm of all parties in support of the government had given place to an attitude of criticism on the part of many that amounted to opposition to every movement towards raising troops and greatly exasperated those who were straining every nerve to uphold the administration and strengthen the army. Occasional evidence of outbreaks of Copperheadism is to be found in the newspapers. At the time the news of the repulse of Banks's first assault upon Fort Hudson, in May, 1863, "one flag was raised early in the morning and kept flying all day, a thing it has rarely done before." One night, during the same month, the editor in charge of the *Press* was visited by a young man with a rawhide, apparently because of severe criticism of the Elsworth Greys. Sharp personalities were not infrequent in the newspapers of the time, but were generally to be found in communications signed by initials rather than in the editorial columns.

On the first of July, 1863, a third daily paper, *The Poughkeepsian*, made its appearance, published by J. Henry Hager and J. G. P. Holden, in the old Morris building, next to the Poughkeepsie Bank. It was announced as an "independent journal, warranted not to run in the well worn rut of party" and clothed "in habiliments of a lofty patriotism." At the end of the same month the *Press* ceased publication<sup>1</sup> and was purchased by Edward B. Osborne, of the *Telegraph*, who started it again on the 22nd of August at 283 Main Street. In his opening editorial Mr. Osborne said that "the Democratic and conservative portion of this community have no daily representative of their views. \* \* \* The Republican party, on the other hand have two ready and watchful daily journals, strongly partisan," etc. *The Poughkeepsian* resented this charge of Republicanism, and indeed not long afterwards became chiefly devoted to abuse of the *Eagle* and its editor. It did not last long, Mr. Hager going to New York to publish the *Tobacco Leaf*, and Mr. Holden to Youkers to publish the *Gazette*. Mr. Pease, former owner of the *Press*, having resigned his commission in the 80th Regiment, went to Saratoga where he became editor of the *Saratogian*.

<sup>1</sup>Old printers who worked for the *Press* have assured me that Mr. Osborne purchased the *Press* before its suspension, but his opening editorial reads exactly as if he were starting an entirely new publication, and most of them fail to remember that the paper ever was suspended.



GEORGE INNIS.  
*Mayor of Poughkeepsie, 1863-1868.*

On the evening of July 7th, 1863, there was a celebration over the surrender of Vicksburg. "All the bells were rung and cannon fired in honor of the event. . . . After the firing was over the crowd resolved to give some of the Copperheads (as they thought) a turn," and visited several stores on Main Street, which they bombarded with fire crackers, scaring the proprietors badly. An event of quite a different character was the big festival at Pine Hall on the 10th, at which \$787.27 was raised for the Soldiers' Relief Association, according to the report of Mrs. Winthrop Atwill, president, and Sarah Smith secretary.

There were many letters in the newspapers about this time from the 150th Regiment, from Captain Wm. R. Woodin<sup>1</sup> and others, telling of experiences at Gettysburg. Just after the battle a committee of citizens from Poughkeepsie, including Dr. Pine, Dr. Ludwig Elstein, Dr. Alfred Hasbrouck, Aaron Innis and O. H. Booth went down to visit the battlefield and see if anything could be done to make the Dutchess County boys more comfortable.

July 28th the 21st Regiment came home on the government transport Commodore, and was warmly welcomed by the Home Guards and hundreds of people. The regiment had done no fighting, but had been within sound of the guns at Gettysburg and was of considerable service guarding prisoners, and relieving other troops who were in the big battle. Only five companies, A, D, G, K and R went, and they numbered less than 400 men. Company K was enlisted in Fishkill, but the rest were Poughkeepsie companies, officered as follows:

Company A (Elsworth Greys)—Captain, R. R. Hayman; Lieutenants, Alfred F. Lindley, S. K. Darrow and Thomas Parker.

Company D—Captain, Reuben Tanner; Lieutenants, Edward Quigley, William Haubennestel and G. L. Dennis.

Company G—Captain, Frank Muller; Lieutenants, George Schlude and Korner.

Company R—Captain Frank Hengstebeck; Lieutenant Michaels.

The seriousness of the war and the moral nature of the cause were greatly stimulating to religious and charitable activity at home and it was natural that this should be the time of the permanent organization of the Young Men's Christian Association. The local association was organized at a meeting in the First Methodist Church, August 21st, 1863, with Professor

<sup>1</sup> Captain Woodin was the Eagle's correspondent during a large part of the service of the 150th Regiment

William H. Crosby chairman. Addresses were made by S. W. Stellbins, president of the association in New York, Charles C. Whitehead, Rev. Howard Crosby and Cephas Brainerd. The officers elected were:

President—John H. Mathews.

Vice-President—James S. Case.

Cor. Secretary—Frank L. Stevens.

Recording Secretary—John I. Platt.

Treasurer—Wm. B. Fox.

Directors—George Berry, Alfred Atkins, Jacob B. Jewett, Lithgow T. Perkins, George R. Brown, William C. Dobbs, Walter I. Husted, J. S. Van Cleef and Thomas H. Leggett.

The members included most of the young men who had been in the older Young Men's Christian Union. Meetings were held at first in a room over the City Bank on the corner of Market and Main Streets, and continued there until the association felt itself strong enough to purchase Pine Hall in 1872.

One new church was built during the war, the Friends' Meeting House on Montgomery Street, in 1863. The old Orthodox Meeting House on Mill Street was sold, and a few years later was moved to Conklin Street and converted into a dwelling. It stood where the Theodore Johnston houses were built about 1870.

#### POLITICS—THE CAMPAIGN OF 1864.

In politics the Republicans did not always have everything their own way during the war. The Democrats carried the State in the fall of 1862, but Horatio Seymour, who was elected Governor, did not quite carry Poughkeepsie, James S. Wadsworth obtaining a majority of 117. Judge Nelson, as already noted, was elected to Congress at this time, obtaining a majority in the city of 4 votes, and Charles Wheaton, also a Democrat, was elected County Judge. The next spring, at the charter election, the Republicans won with George Innis<sup>1</sup> as a candidate for mayor against James H. Seaman, but the majority was only 71. In 1865, however, when the city had been divided into six wards, Mayor Innis was re-elected without opposition. This was repeated in 1867, an honor shown to no other mayor of Poughkeepsie.

The election of November, 1863, brought Joseph F. Barnard into the Supreme Court, to succeed James Emmott. He was twice re-elected, and was one of the

<sup>1</sup> Mr Innis not long before the war purchased and rebuilt the Davies house, opposite the railroad station on Main Street. The original house was built by William Davies (see p. 82) probably before 1800. William A. Davies is said to have been born there in 1807.



JUDGE BARNARD.

most notable of the many Supreme Court justices that have lived in Poughkeepsie.

During the war a feeling of antagonism between the city and the county resulted in a proposition before the Board of Supervisors to remove the county poor house to the interior of the county. The Common Council on January 19th, 1863, appointed the Mayor and Alderman Coffin a committee to confer with the Supervisors about this, and it was decided to separate the city from the rest of the county in the matter of support of the poor. Accordingly April 29th the Legislature passed an act providing for the change and naming James Emott, James H. Dudley, James Bowne, Joseph F. Barnard, Matthew Vassar, Jr., and Jacob B. Jewett "Commissioners of the Alms House of the City of Poughkeepsie," with all requisite authority. All excise moneys and all fines from the Recorder's court were to be appropriated for the support of the city poor under control of this board. In the division of property with the county the city purchased the old county house grounds and in 1868-69 the present main Alms House building was erected.

The old county alms house, it may be added, was in its early days a noteworthy institution. Dorothea Lynde Dix, in the report published in 1844, of her famous visits to the alms houses of the State, said: "The Dutchess County House at Poughkeepsie is a model of neatness, order and good discipline. The household arrangements are excellent; the kitchens and cellars complete in every part. I have seen nothing in the State so good as these. Every apartment in the almshouse was exceptionally clean, well furnished and neatly arranged. Such of the insane as were highly excited were in clean, decent rooms." This was high praise, doubtless merited at the time, but probably the condition of affairs was very different when the buildings had become old. It was so with the various Poughkeepsie jails. Each one was pronounced a model of excellence when new, but condemned as unfit for human beings at the end of its career. The county house must have been pretty seriously crowded at times, for an item in the *Eagle* in 1851 says there were between four and five hundred inmates. These included of course the pauper insane, but it is hardly possible that there were proper accommodations for so large a number.

The Presidential campaign of 1864, while not so lively as that of 1860, was more notable for intensity of party feeling. The Republicans had plenty of ammunition for their stump speakers in the victories of the Union armies in the field, and bitterly denounced all who opposed the re-election of President Lincoln as Copperheads and enemies of the Union. The Dem-

ocrats strongly resented this charge. Their general policy is well shown in the appeals to voters published in the *Daily Press*, where headings like the following were repeated from day to day: "A vote for Lincoln is a vote for more drafts," "A vote for Lincoln is a vote in favor of continuing the abolition war," "The abandonment of slavery is Lincoln's condition of peace," "Elect Lincoln and you endorse emancipation." Colonel Ketchum, for the first time a candidate for Congress, was vigorously denounced, chiefly for certain alleged acts while a Member of Assembly before the war, and Captain Woodin was accused of forging soldier votes. The Democrats had an organization of "Little Mac" Guards, captained by C. A. Dimond, with Daniel Clifford first lieutenant, and Frank Hengstebeck second lieutenant. There was also a McClellan Guard, captained by James Daly. They raised a McClellan and Pendleton banner "between Pine's Hall and the Democratic Club opposite," October 8th, with Gilbert Deane and Owen T. Coffin as principal speakers, and party feeling ran so high that some one cut the banner rope during the day. Among their chief speakers at the county meetings were C. J. Gaylord, Jerome Williams, Hon. Gilbert Dean, John Moore, Esq., A. M. Carl, G. G. Titus, C. B. Brundage and Edgar Thorne.

The Democrats held no large out-door meetings, but on the afternoon of October 25th the Republicans had a grand rally at the corner of Mill and Washington Streets, the speakers, Governor Morton and Judge T. J. Barnett, of Indiana, Hon. James Emott, the chairman, and Captain William R. Woodin, of the 150th Regiment, occupying "a spacious stand erected in front of Platt's Hotel." The Northern Hotel was at this time conducted by Isaac I. Platt, son-in-law of Isaac I. Balding. An imposing parade under the marshaling of Thomas Parish preceded the speaking and "the glorious Stars and Stripes were flung to the breeze from almost every available point in the city." While passing Hengstebeck's store some one in the ranks fired a pistol, and the *Press* charged that this was an effort to shoot a prominent Democrat. The incident was the subject of many bitter newspaper articles. The *Press* also charged that Judge Barnett was drunk when he spoke at the meeting, and occupied a good many columns in support of the statement. This gives a fair idea of the nature of the campaign.

The Republican speakers at the smaller meetings throughout the county included Colonel O. T. Beard, then a newspaper editor at Detroit, Mich., but some twenty-five years later a resident of Poughkeepsie, Chamcey M. Depew, then Secretary of State (New York State), William I. Thorn, John Thompson,

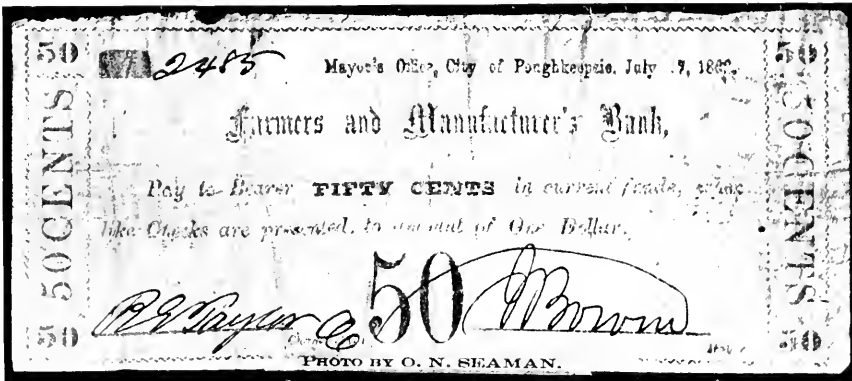
Rev. J. L. Corning, John I. Platt, Allard Anthony and Mark D. Wilber, of Poughkeepsie. The Eastman College Band, then recently organized, was a leading feature at many political meetings.

At the election in November Lincoln and Johnson received a majority of 240 in the city. General George B. McClellan carrying only one of the four wards, the Third. Reuben E. Fenton, for Governor, had 247 majority over Horatio Seymour, while Colonel John H. Ketcham, for Congress, led Judge Nelson by 305. The largest majority in the city was obtained by Allard Anthony, 406, over Ambrose Wager, for County Judge. The Republicans of course carried the county and Congressional district by substantial majorities.

It was customary at this time to celebrate victories, and on November 23d there was "a grand Union parade" under the marshalship of John P. Adriance.

EASTMAN COLLEGE—BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

At this time Eastman College was experiencing a tremendous boom, as the result of Mr. Eastman's liberal advertising among the soldiers whose terms were expiring. With tables all laid at the big Buckeye building, he did not miss the chance of holding a banquet there, larger than that of the Loyal Legion, two days later. The anniversary of the College, always a rather moveable feast, was celebrated at Pine Hall on the evening of December 21st, when Horace Greeley gave his famous lecture on "The Self-Made Man." On the next evening came the banquet, with "tables spread for 2,500 students and guests." It is hard to see how even Smith Brothers could have served such a crowd as that. The "Brigade of the College" numbered 1,500, according to the newspapers. The *Eagle's* description of the event begins: "It is now



One of the First Shinplasters of the City of Poughkeepsie (Originally printed in red.)

Main Street was fairly ablaze with fireworks and tar barrels. A further and more notable celebration was the banquet of the Loyal Legion "in the New Buckeye Mower and Reaper Building of Adriance, Platt & Co., South Water Street," on Tuesday evening, December 20th. There were over one thousand men at the tables, spread through the lower floor of the main building, 211 feet long. The members of the Loyal League, six hundred strong, marched in headed by the Eastman College Band. Hon. George W. Sterling presided, and speeches were made by Rev. J. L. Corning, Hon. John Stanton Gould, Mark D. Wilber, Rev. DeLos Lull, William I. Thorn, Allard Anthony, Rev. B. M. Adams and Pierre Girard, U. S. N. Smith Brothers were the caterers, and received a generous puff in the newspapers for their service.

an established fact that no College or Educational Institution on this terrestrial globe has met with success equal to that of Eastman National Business College," and this statement is probably not much exaggerated. Rev. Samuel D. Burchard—the same man whose "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion" alliteration created such a sensation in the Blaine campaign of 1884—Joseph H. Jackson, Allard Anthony and Rev. J. L. Corning were among the speakers.

This great increase of students naturally added materially to the business of the city, which, in spite of the fact that the war had ruined several local industries, was generally sound and prosperous. A considerable number of men were employed during much of the war on new building enterprises, including the Buckeye Works of Adriance, Platt & Co., Vassar Col-

lege, and several new business buildings on Main and Market Streets. The Morgan Block, on the district east of Catharine Street, burned in 1860, was built just at the beginning of the war, and the Collingwood building on Market Street, in 1863. This did not include the Opera House, which was not completed until about six years later. The new dry goods store of George Van Kleeck & Co., described as "the finest structure of its kind between New York and Albany," was built in 1864. Up to this time the George Van

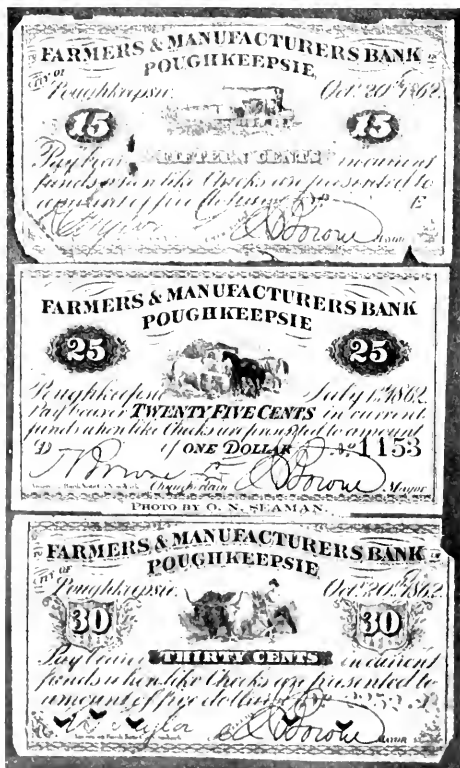
some of the checks then issued have never yet been presented for redemption. The City of Poughkeepsie issued two sets of shimplasters, the second handsomely engraved by the American Bank Note Company. The United States government at length put a stop to all this private currency by issuing its own shimplasters. Much of the apparent prosperity of the latter part of the war was due to the constantly rising prices incident to the depreciation of the paper currency, but there are plenty of local instances of the serious hardships caused by the high prices and by the constant efforts at readjustment as the price of gold fluctuated with the varying fortunes of the Union armies.

On the 25th of April, 1864, a sixth bank was organized in Poughkeepsie. This was the First National, the first bank to be organized under the National Banking Act, then recently passed. The organizing directors were Cornelius DuBois, Levi M. Arnold, George B. Lent and Daniel H. Tweedy. At the first annual election Robert Sloc, David Harris, George B. Lent, H. G. Eastman, Jacob B. Carpenter, Hudson Taylor and James A. Seward were added. Mr. Eastman remained a director of this bank until 1870, when he was succeeded by John P. Adriance. The present cashier, F. E. Whipple, has been employed in the bank since its organization, having served as teller until the resignation of Zebulon Rudd in 1880. The older state banks of the city were all reorganized as National Banks, not long after the opening of the First National.

Poughkeepsie was holding its own also as a place of residence. John O. Whitehouse, a prosperous shoe manufacturer of Brooklyn, came here in 1800, and in 1803 purchased of George Wilkinson the handsome place on Southeast (now Hooker) Avenue, still known as the Whitehouse Place. This place had been owned before the war by Benjamin W. North, who in order to make access to the settled portion of the town a little easier constructed a tan bark sidewalk all the way to the corner of Hamilton Street. He sold the place to Mr. Wilkinson, who was a New York merchant not related to the Wilkinson family of Poughkeepsie, in October, 1859, and Mr. Wilkinson built the present house. A few years after Mr. Whitehouse's purchase of the place "Springside" was added to it by purchase from Matthew Vassar.

Hudson Taylor,<sup>1</sup> who had spent most of his boy-

<sup>1</sup>Concerning Hudson Taylor's residence in Washington, the following from the Autobiography and Reminiscences of Moncure D. Conway (vol. 1, p. 249) is interesting and characteristic. Conway had just been dismissed (1856) from the pastorate of the Unitarian Church in Washington because of pronounced anti-slavery sermons: "In the afternoon of



*Poughkeepsie City Shimplasters, second series.  
(From collection of W. F. Booth.)*

Kleeck store had been on the west corner of Liberty Street.

At an earlier period in the war all industries and all business had been seriously affected, and the phenomenon of the disappearance of all small change, already noted as having taken place during the War of 1812, and during the panic of 1837, again occurred. As on the earlier occasions business firms printed shimplasters in large numbers. The *Eagle* was among them, and



hood in Poughkeepsie, returned here in 1863, after many years of successful business in Washington, D. C., and purchased "the magnificent residence of William Barnes, Esq., on Academy Street," for \$20,000. He was an uncle of Robert E. Taylor, the Recorder.

James Winslow had purchased property a short distance south of the city—now the Taft place—before the war, but his brother, John F. Winslow, was at this time associated with Erastus Corning in the iron business at Troy, and did not purchase the Crosby place on the Hyde Park road until 1867. John F. Winslow was one of the owners of the first patents upon the Bessemer steel process, and was one of the chief financial backers of Ericson when the first Monitor was built.

#### THE SANITARY FAIR.

Just at the close of the war the Sanitary Fair, a memorable event which set the whole city at work, was held March 15th to 16th, at 178-180 Main Street. This building was described as "a large unoccupied coach factory," owned by Matthew Vassar. It had been Frederick's carriage factory, but was transformed by the decorators into a most wonderful fairy land. Weeks before the great fair opened the newspapers were filled with notices of committee meetings, descriptions of proposed attractions, etc. It is impossible to read them to-day without catching some of the enthusiasm of the times. Everybody was vitally interested and everybody was at work. The officers of the Fair, as given in the pamphlet published soon afterwards, were:

President—Mrs. James Winslow.

Vice-Presidents—Mrs. Thomas L. Davies, Mrs. G. C. Burnap, Mrs. George Innis, Mrs. Benson J. Lossing, Mrs. William S. Morgan, Mrs. John Thompson and Mrs. Dr. Beadle.

Secretary—Mrs. Charles H. Ruggles.

Treasurer—Miss Sarah M. Carpenter.

These, with Mrs. Charles H. Swift, Mrs. Van Valkenburgh, Mrs. Le Grand Dodge, Mrs. C. W. Tooker, and Mrs. Haydock, made up the executive committee. There were also twenty-two managers, and forty-five

that Sunday on which I had spoken my farewell words, a number of my friends called, and Hudson Taylor—who, with his lovely wife, had given me such a beautiful home—could not repress some reproach that I had by a few discourses shattered such happy relationships. His niece, Charlotte Taylor (now Mrs. Robley Evans) said that I had to obey my conscience. But Hudson cried "Damn conscience!" The tear in his eye did not blot out the oath, but embalmed it in my memory as the loving farewell of as faithful and generous a friend as I ever had."

committees to look after the attractions, booths, etc. The whole county was represented, and gifts of articles to sell came in from all sides. A special Buckeye mowing machine was made by the men of the factory and contributed. Before the fair began there was a series of auxiliary entertainments in the schools and churches and in Pine Hall, including a lecture by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and these netted a considerable sum. It was reported that 4,000 people visited the fair on one of the nights. "The crush of crimoline and the smash of hats was terrible," said the *Eagle*, but "everybody was happy." \* \* \* "You could hardly turn about without meeting the glance of a pair of eyes that would make any person hand out any amount for anything offered for sale." Nine hundred and seventeen quarts of ice cream, 50 gallons of lemonade and 46,000 oysters were consumed. In the midst of it all the *Eagle* was ungracious enough to object to the raffle, which was a leading feature, and was defended by Mrs. Benson J. Lossing. Rev. Mr. Lull, of the Washington Street Church, preached a sermon on the subject, but then the fair was over and it had taken in \$18,640.87, with expenses of only \$2,358.15, leaving net proceeds of \$16,282.72 for the Sanitary Commission, truly a good showing for a small city in war time.

#### THE CLOSE OF THE WAR.

A few weeks later, on Monday, April 3rd, came the news of the capture of Richmond, which was received with great rejoicing. Says the *Eagle*: "Men threw up their hats, boys shouted and women joined the general jollification. In the afternoon the splendid band attached to the Eastman College, followed by a large concourse of citizens paraded the streets, and serenaded all public places, including this office and the residence of our reporter. Not a few highly doted individuals purchased masks, and dressing themselves up fantastically paraded the streets with the utmost unconcern, blowing on tin horns, ringing bells, etc. Shortly after 1 o'clock, in accordance with an order from the city authorities, a salute of 100 guns was fired and the church, Court House and City Hall bells were rung. It is impossible to describe the enthusiasm that existed."

Events followed each other in rapid succession then. Less than a week later, on Sunday evening, April 6th, came the news of Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

"At ten o'clock on Sunday night," says the *Eagle*, when the first dispatch was received at this office announcing the surrender of General Lee, our sanctum was crowded with prominent citizens, who greeted the news with deafening cheers, and immediately or-

ganized themselves into squads to awake the slumbering inhabitants and inaugurate a grand rejoicing. Bonfires were started, bells rung, etc. Prof. Eastman got out his drum corps and very soon arranged a procession. The jubilant crowd called on Judge Emmott, Hudson Taylor, Esq., and other prominent citizens, and although the night was far advanced, were received by each of the above named gentlemen in the most enthusiastic manner. A delegation also proceeded to Provost Marshal Johnson's residence below town and imparted the good news to him. "Fire companies paraded the streets and immense crowds congregated in front of the *Eagle* to get the dispatches as fast as they were received."

A great celebration was planned in honor of the close of the war, but arrangements were cut short on the following Saturday by the announcement of the assassination of President Lincoln, which created the greatest consternation. Many people thought the war was to be prolonged in a sort of reign of terror, assassins taking the place of armies in the open. "Poughkeepsie on Saturday was draped in mourning. Men pale with anxiety walked the streets with horror depicted on their countenances. Many shed tears. The female portion of the community, especially those who have sacrificed fathers, brothers, husbands, or friends on the altar of their country, received the awful news with emotion pitiful in the extreme. All the flags of the city were placed at half mast, and public and private buildings were draped in mourning." There were not wanting, however, a few individuals who took occasion to express their satisfaction at the terrible deed, and they were naturally roughly handled by the crowd. One woman was arrested in order to protect her, and several stores had to be closed for a time until the excitement wore off.

On Sunday all the churches were draped in mourning and were crowded with people, and the sermons were all, we are told, appropriate to the occasion.

President Lincoln's funeral also, on Wednesday, April 15th, was observed by services in the churches, and by a procession and public out-door meeting in front of the Court House. The procession, marshalled by John P. Adriance, was made up as follows:

Mayor and Marshal, and Provost Marshal.  
 Provost Guards.  
 Officers 21st Regiment.  
 Drum Corps.  
 Common Council.  
 Military and Military Schools.  
 Fire Department.  
 Eastman Business College.  
 Eastman Band.  
 Clergy.  
 Citizens.  
 Sons of Temperance.  
 Singing Society, Germania.  
 German Turners' Association.  
 Free Masons.  
 Odd Fellows.

A great stand had been erected on the Main Street side of the Court House, and in front of it the crowd filled the street. The services were opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Hageman, of the Second Reformed Church, and closed by prayer from Rev. G. M. Me-Eckron, of the First Reformed Church. Hon. Allard Anthony made the funeral oration, which was pronounced a very eloquent effort.

On the 25th the train bearing the remains of the martyred President passed through Poughkeepsie, on its way to Illinois. All business was suspended and practically the whole population assembled along the tracks to see it pass. Draped in black, and with the wheels so muffled that it ran almost noiselessly, except for the tolling of the engine's bell, it was a most impressive sight, and was long remembered as "The ghost train."



HON. JOHN H. KETCHAM.



## CHAPTER X.

FROM THE CLOSE OF THE WAR TO THE PANIC OF 1873—RETURN OF THE SOLDIERS—WONDERFUL SUCCESS OF EASTMAN COLLEGE—EASTMAN PARK—OPENING AND ORGANIZATION OF VASSAR COLLEGE—CHANGES AMONG CITY SCHOOLS—POLITICS—CHURCHES, CHARITABLE AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS—THE HUDSON RIVER STATE HOSPITAL—MANUFACTURING AND OTHER INDUSTRIES—GROWTH AND MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT, THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS—THE POUGHKEEPSIE & EASTERN AND THE CITY RAILROADS—THE POUGHKEEPSIE BRIDGE—SOCIAL LIFE, SPORTS AND CLUBS.

At the close of the war Poughkeepsie, like other Northern cities, began to settle down to the ordinary affairs of life, and started upon a half decade of the most rapid growth in its history. The soldiers came home, were warmly welcomed, and found that returning business prosperity had opened opportunities for most of them to find immediate employment. The 150th Regiment arrived in Poughkeepsie about midnight of Saturday, June 10th, 1865, and "although the hour was late, nevertheless thousands of men and women and children assembled to greet the veterans.

\* \* \* The news of the arrival spread like wildfire and in almost an instant Main Street was in a glare of flame from burning tar barrels and fireworks." The great reception came on Monday, when people poured into the city from all the surrounding counties, until one estimate says there were "nearly if not quite 50,000." "Having witnessed all the great occasions here from the visit of Lafayette in 1824 up to this time," wrote Isaac Platt, "we can safely assert that no day or occasion like it has before appeared in our annals." There was, of course, a great parade, and Main Street, "from Water Street to the Red Mills was one vast sea of handkerchiefs fluttering wildly in the breeze." Banners and even arches of flowers were stretched across some of the streets. The public school children were all assembled on the wall of Mayor Innis's residence, in lower Main Street, and the regiment halted while the children sang and presented each veteran with a bouquet of flowers. Groups of ladies from many towns in the county came in costumes of National colors, and one of the special features was "a wagon load of young ladies from Salt Point representing every state in the Union." The procession ended at Mansion Square Park, where Judge Emott made the address of welcome, and Colonel A. B. Smith, who was in command of the regi-

ment, the reply, followed by General Ketcham. "The grand winding up of the affair took place in front of the residence of Prof. Eastman, in Washington Street, in the evening."

This regiment was one of the few allowed to muster out at home. The 128th, less favored, returned in detachments somewhat later, and no general welcome could be extended to it, though a few companies were given special receptions here and there. A number of Poughkeepsie boys, who had enlisted in other regiments remained in the service considerably longer. Nathaniel Palmer, for instance, was with the 20th Regiment in the occupation of Richmond, and was contributing letters to the *Telegraph* as late as September. Captain William Platto, who was with the 128th Regiment, organized a company of veterans soon after his return that was called "The Independent Veteran Volunteers," and they often paraded in Zouave uniform. They remained in existence until a few years ago.

The opening of Adriaance, Platt & Co.'s large new factory, and the great popularity of Eastman College were leading factors in producing excellent local business conditions. The opening of Vassar College contributed its share, though it was by no means so important, even relatively, as now. Several small manufacturing enterprises were started and some large ones were planned, and labor was in good demand in building, though the building boom had not yet begun. One of the improvements of the year 1865 which deserves notice was the reconstruction of the lower floor of the City Hall for the Post Office. Its use as a market had ceased several years before, and partitions had been erected dividing it into a Recorder's court room, an office for the Superintendent of the Poor and a meeting room for Protection No. 1 Engine Company. These partitions were now taken



*Market Street in 1865. The old Forbus House veranda can be seen at the left.*

out and the work of refitting was finished in the fall or early winter, when Albert Van Kleeck,<sup>1</sup> the postmaster and local Republican leader, moved the office from the old Baker or Brush house, on the corner of Union and Market Streets, where it had been since 1851. The Common Council at this time met in the second floor room on the northwest corner—afterwards the City Chamberlain's office, and now the Mayor's office—until the present council room was fitted up in 1869, when the old public hall was divided by partitions.

Referring to the changes in the City Hall the *Telegraph* of October 7th, 1865, says: "The upper hall which has so often resounded to the clamor and plaudits of excited public assemblages, where caucuses full of momentous interest to aspiring candidates for public favor, have met to 'deliberate,' where the voices of political orators have swayed multitudes for and against public measures, and where the people's weapon of revolution, the ballot, has so often been

cast—has for months formed one of the Eastman College rooms of instruction."

Eastman College was then at the top notch of its popularity, the number of students being "more than 1,700," if reports are trustworthy. The Eastman College Band, already mentioned in connection with the events of the campaign of 1864, was one of Mr. Eastman's most successful advertising features. It had taken prominent part in the procession at President Lincoln's second inauguration, where it immediately preceded his carriage down Pennsylvania Avenue, and a few weeks later, when his body was carried, amid the tears of the nation, from Washington to its last resting place in Illinois, this band formed the escort in the parade up Broadway through New York, journeyed to Albany on the funeral train, and again played solemn dirges as the body was borne to and from the State Capitol. The concert tours of the band in the West attracted favorable notice, and students by hundreds followed it to Poughkeepsie to enroll themselves in Mr. Eastman's wonderful institution.

<sup>1</sup>See of Tomis Van Kleeck. See pp. 86 and 87.



ALBERT VAN KLEECK.

*Born December 27, 1806. Died November 7, 1866.*

Many of these young men expressed surprise and disappointment on their arrival to find that the college had no magnificent buildings—in fact had no college buildings at all—but was scattered throughout the town in all sorts of rented rooms. The rooms in which the college began in the so-called Library Building were not long retained, but besides the upper floor of the City Hall a floor of the McLean building, opposite the Court House, and three churches were rented—the old Methodist Church, finally incorporated in the permanent college building, the old Universalist Church, originally Presbyterian, on Cannon Street, and the old Congregational Church (now the Jewish Synagogue) on Vassar Street. For a while Bryant and Stratton tried to run an opposition school, but Mr. Eastman bought them out, and then for some time leased their rooms in the Wright Building, above Catharine Street, where the Y. W. C. A. is located. The resources of the city were taxed to their utmost to find boarding places for all these young men, rents advanced and building received considerable encouragement.



*Eastman Park, showing Skating Park flooded, about 1875.*

It was in 1865 that Mr. Eastman purchased what was generally called the Robert Forrest property on the corner of Market and Montgomery Streets, most of it from the widow of Herman Jewett. He added several other lots to it and laid out the beautiful grounds, so long known as Eastman Park. Much of the land was swampy, bordering the brook that wound through it from beyond Montgomery Street (see map page 71), and an elaborate system of underdrains was put in carrying the brook underground to a circular pond, constructed with an island in the centre, upon which a band stand was erected. This brook was also made to flood the large athletic field bordering Jefferson Street, which was used as a skating park in the winter. A small fortune was spent in grading,

constructing the drives and in planting trees and shrubbery.

The grounds were thrown open to the public to be used as a park, I believe, in September, 1867. That at any rate appears to have been the first year of a public anniversary celebration there for the college. The grounds were decorated with Chinese lanterns and there was a fine display of fireworks in the evening with six thousand people present, according to the reports. Horace Greeley was the chief speaker at this anniversary, his subject being Temperance. Earlier in the same year the movement had been started which resulted in the erection of the Soldiers'



*The Soldiers' Fountain, as photographed in 1875.*

Fountain, though the original plan was for a monument.

A "Great Monument Celebration" took place on the Fourth of July with "the largest parade in the history of the city or of any city outside of New York, in the state." General Ketcham was the grand marshal. Two militia regiments, the 21st and 22nd, firemen from nearly all the river towns, and many fraternal organizations, including three labor unions (bricklayers and masons) took part. Meetings had been held throughout the county in the interest of the monument and the crowd in the city was very large. All proceeded according to programme until afternoon, when the chief feature was to have been a grand open-air dinner on Mansion Square, with an oration by General Stewart L. Woodford, then Lieutenant Governor, but "Proceedings at the dinner table on Mansion Square were brought to a close by a succession of the severest thunder storms ever witnessed in this section of the country." There was no oration, no balloon ascension, no fireworks. "The thousands in the city were driven by the pitiless storm to every conceivable place of





HARVEY G. EASTMAN.

shelter, until every store and private hall on Main Street was filled with males and females." Among the distinguished persons present were Lieut. Worden, who had commanded the Monitor at the memorable defeat of the Merrimac, and Surgeon Parsons, a survivor of the War of 1812, who had served on Perry's flagship Lawrence on Lake Erie.

Though the elements interfered sadly with the celebration the monument fund continued to grow, helped by the proceeds of many small entertainments including scrub boat races on the river. Mr. Eastman's enterprise was recognized in the location and also in the change of plan to a fountain. At the dedication in 1870 there was another notable Fourth of July celebration, with Major General McMahon, of Brooklyn, as orator. The crowd assembled at Eastman Park and the weather did not prevent the balloon ascension or the fireworks.

#### OPENING AND ORGANIZATION OF VASSAR COLLEGE.

Without so much advertising, but with a great deal of notice and comment from the press of the whole country, Vassar College opened in September, 1865, with 353 students, eight of whom were from Poughkeepsie, Catharine Rogers Boardman, Maria Louisa Booth, Elizabeth Anderson Cramer, Catharine Rogers Jones, Mary Carrington Raymond, Emma Corning Sweetser, Carrie Elizabeth Vassar and Mary Elizabeth Wright. Others from Dutchess county were Evelyn Angell, Salt Point; Elizabeth Reynolds Beckwith, Stamford; Jane Maria Cookingham, Rhinebeck; Sarah Jane Herrick, Salt Point; and Lily Swift, Amenia Union. Students were arranged in the first catalogue alphabetically, and as they were in all stages of advancement, no attempt could at once be made to sort them into classes. When the second catalogue was issued, 1866-67, four girls had been picked out as seniors, Maria Lorraine Dickinson, Detroit, Mich.; Elizabeth Louise Geiger, Marion, O.; Harriette Anna Warner, Detroit, Mich.; and Helen Douglas Woodward, Plattsburgh. The summary of students was as follows:

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Seniors .....                   | 4   |
| Juniors, full standing.....     | 18  |
| Juniors, conditioned .....      | 9   |
| Second year, full standing..... | 29  |
| Second year, conditioned.....   | 13  |
| First year .....                | 40  |
| Unclassified .....              | 78  |
| Specials .....                  | 180 |
|                                 | 380 |

Before the third catalogue was issued the preparatory department had been organized with 75 students,

and there were 25 seniors, 36 juniors, 43 second year girls, 37 first year and 123 specials. The first use of the words "sophomore" and "freshmen," instead of "second year" and "first year," occurs in the catalogue for 1872-73, in which also three Poughkeepsie girls are included among the seniors: Grace Bayley Jewett, Mary Carrington Raymond and Elma Doremus Swift. The difficulties of classification of the students of the first few years show very plainly the general conditions of woman's education at the time the college was opened. There was no such thing as a preparatory school for girls and it was very difficult to get the various female seminaries and collegiate institutes to conform to the requirements, as each was bending its energies towards a complete course of its own. The college was forced to establish a preparatory department in order to furnish a model for



*Vassar College, photographed about 1870.*

other preparatory schools, as well as to take care of students already entered who were not found sufficiently advanced for the first year, or freshman class in a regular college course. It was nevertheless a step which aroused the opposition of the schools, many of whose principals began to cry down the college, instead of conforming their courses of study to its requirements. Some other institutions for the higher education of women had called themselves colleges before Vassar was opened, and one or two were conducting courses that bore some resemblance to those of the colleges for men, but Vassar nevertheless was the pioneer, had all the problems to solve, and had to live down all the opposition and ridicule that assail every new institution as soon as it begins to get well enough started to show that it will interfere with older institutions.

In the selection of a scheme of educational courses for Vassar College the contrast between President Jewett's plans, which were rejected, and those finally adopted under President Raymond, is interesting. After his visit to Europe Dr. Jewett made a report in which he said:

"A careful examination shows that in our colleges one-third of the whole time is consumed on the Dead Languages alone. Another third of the course is devoted to Mathematics; while only one-fiftieth is given to the whole circle of Natural Sciences, and only 13-120ths to the study of English Language and Literature. \* \* \* We would therefore abridge the college course in Mathematics and Metaphysical and Political Philosophy, and thus secure more time to be devoted to our own and other modern languages; to Natural History, Domestic Economy, Music, Drawing and Painting."

Dr. Jewett recommended a University System of arrangement, "all the branches to be taught under nine different schools, as follows:

1. The School of Religion and Morals.
2. The School of Natural History.
3. The School of Physical Sciences.
4. The School of History and Political Economy.
5. The School of Language and Literature.
6. The School of Psychology, including Mental Philosophy and Aesthetics.
7. The School of Mathematics.
8. The School of Art and Philosophy of Education.
9. The School of Art, including Music, Drawing, Painting, etc.

The order of numbering represented Dr. Jewett's idea of the importance of the subjects. Four testimonials from each of the schools were to entitle a student to the final degree of M. A. "Mistress of Arts." This interesting scheme was doubtless suggested by the German Universities, but much of it was original, and in many points Dr. Jewett was clearly some twenty-five years ahead of the times. His plans were doubtless too radical for their day, and the trustees felt that Vassar must first make known the ability of women to compete with men on substantially the lines of the older American colleges, but the final reason for the rejection of Dr. Jewett was a personal disagreement with the founder, quite apart from academic matters. Some traces of his plans are found in the "School of Vocal and Instrumental Music," the "School of Design," and the "School of Physical Training," the two former of which were maintained until 1802. They were designated "Extra Collegiate Departments," besides which there were eight regular collegiate departments, each with a professor at its head, though the department of History and Political

Economy was not at once organized. The officers of government and instruction are given in the first catalogue as follows:

JOHN H. RAYMOND, LL. D., President, and Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy.

HANNAH W. LYMAN, Lady Principal.

WILLIAM I. KNAPP, A. M., Professor of Ancient and Modern Languages.

CHARLES S. FARRAR, A. M., Professor of Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.

SANBORN TENNEY, A. M., Professor of Natural History, including Geology and Mineralogy, Botany, Zoology and Physical Geography.

MARIA MITCHELL, Professor of Astronomy and director of the Observatory.

ALIDA C. AVERY, M. D., Professor of Physiology and Hygiene and resident Physician.

HENRY B. BUCKHAM, A. M., Professor of Rhetoric, Belles-lettres, and the English Language.

EDWARD WIEBÉ, Professor of Vocal and Instrumental Music.

HENRY VAN INGEN, Professor of Drawing and Painting.

LOUIS F. RONDEL, Instructor in the French Language.

DELLA F. WOODS, Instructor in the Department of Physical Training.

JESSE USHER, Teacher of the Latin Language.

LUCIA M. GILBERT, Teacher of the Greek Language.

PRISCILLA H. BRAISLIN, Teacher of Mathematics.

ELIZA M. WILEY, Teacher of Music.

EMMA SAYLES, Teacher of Chemistry, Mathematics and the English Language.

SARAH L. WYMAN, Teacher of the Latin Language.

CAROLINE H. METCALF, Teacher of the French and English Languages.

BARBARA GRANT, Teacher of Mathematics and Chemistry.

KATE FESSENDEN, Teacher of the French Language.

SARAH E. SCOTT, Teacher of Rhetoric and Mathematics.

EMILY A. BRADDOCK, Teacher of the Latin Language.

MARY DASCOMB, Teacher of Mathematics.

JULIA WIEBÉ, Teacher of Music.

EMMA L. HOPKINS, Teacher of Music.

CAROLINE S. C. WIEBÉ, Teacher of Music.

SOPHIA L. CURTIS, Teacher of Music.

A. AMELIA JUDG, Teacher of Music.

FANNY J. SMALL, Teacher of Music.

Of these the most notable was Maria Mitchell, the astronomer, whose discoveries and writings brought the college much prominence.

In the second catalogue appears Leopold Von Sel-deneck, master of horsemanship, Truman J. Backus, in place of Henry B. Buckham at the head of the English department, Elizabeth M. Powell, physical training, and Fanny A. Wood, teacher of music.

Miss Wood, now the college librarian, is the only one of the original teachers remaining in service. LeRoy C. Cooley, now the senior professor, came to Vassar College in 1874.

Matthew Vassar's death occurred dramatically as he was reading his annual address to the trustees of the college in June, 1868. His birthday, April 29th, was first celebrated by the students in 1866, and has been observed as Founder's Day ever since. If he could return to visit the institution he would find it grown far beyond his greatest expectation; but the development of the new Vassar College belongs to the next chapter.

The first bequest to the college was from the will of Jacob P. Girard, who left \$30,000 in 1870, to found a Museum of Natural History. With this fund James Orton, who had become Professor of Natural History and Geology in 1868, created the Museum and made the collection of South American birds, which is still one of its leading features. Charles J. Hinkle, about whose memory many stories have clustered, became Professor of Ancient and Modern Languages in 1868. The office of Master of Horsemanship appears last in the catalogue for 1872-1873, and not long after the close of the Riding School the building was altered to accommodate the Museum, first established in the main building.

#### CHANGES AMONG THE CITY SCHOOLS.

The period beginning with the close of the Civil War was marked by many changes in the schools of Poughkeepsie. The public schools, though the amount of money appropriated for them seems now ridiculously small, were gradually gaining, and the private schools were beginning to lose ground. It was a time of transition from Academies to High Schools throughout the State, and the Dutchess County Academy felt the force of the movement, which was strengthened locally by the passing away or retirement of some of the most notable teachers of the previous period.

William McGeorge was succeeded by his son-in-law Stewart Pelham in 1864, and though Mr. Pelham was an excellent teacher of the old pattern, and long successful afterwards as proprietor of a private school, the Academy lost ground, probably mainly because of the establishment of the Free Academy or High School in Church Street. The High School was discontinued for one year, 1865, after the war, apparently as a measure of economy, but the demand for its re-establishment was strong. The Academy trustees appreciated the situation and realizing that both institutions could not continue, did what they could to fa-

cilitate their union. In 1866 the Academy building was rented to the city and the High School was reopened there.

Thus the famous old Academy, after three-quarters of a century of honorable existence, was finally given up, and a few years later the building ceased to be used as a school. A demand soon arose for a new building in a more central location, and the trustees, in response to a petition from the citizens, decided to sell the Academy and donate the proceeds to the Board of Education to be used towards the construction of a High School and Public Library. The opportunity came in 1870 through the generosity of Jonathan Warner, who purchased the building and founded there the Old Ladies' Home. The Board of Education purchased the property on the corner of Washington Street and Lafayette Place in March, 1870, for \$13,000, and the High School was opened in its present home in April, 1872, having in the meantime found temporary lodgment in the second floor of the Mulrein Building, then recently finished on Market Street. The city library was removed also in 1872 to the lower floor of the High School.

An equally notable change in the school situation was the abandonment of College Hill, another relic of the days of the Improvement Party. This did not come about from any idea that the location was too remote from the city, but simply because the property had to be sold to settle the estate of Charles Bartlett. Mr. Otis Bisbee, who was Mr. Bartlett's successor, was one of the bidders at the auction, which was conducted by Henry W. Shaw (Josh Billings), November 24th, 1865, but had decided not to go above \$30,000, at which figure the property was struck off to George Morgan. The school was continued on the hill until the spring of 1867, when the new Riverview Academy, in the southwestern section of the city was finished. In June of that year Mr. Morgan opened the College Hill Hotel, which was not successful, in spite of its commanding location. Following Dr. Warring, whose school on Smith Street was a strong competitor, Mr. Bisbee had introduced military drill several years before leaving College Hill.

Stewart Pelham, the last principal of the Dutchess County Academy, purchased a boys' school that had been started in Montgomery Street not long before by Egbert Carey, and conducted it successfully for about twenty years. He took a few boarders, but it was chiefly a day school. Riverview at this time made no effort to obtain pupils from Poughkeepsie, and Mr. Pelham's chief rival was John R. Leslie's school, founded just before the war, and afterwards long conducted by S. H. Bishop in the little building (now

Public School No. 7) on Academy Street. Leslie's was regarded as rather a select day school.

All of these, together with Dr. Warring's Military Institute, flourished until long after 1873, and the girls' schools also prospered. Rev. George T. Rider succeeded Milo P. Jewett at Cottage Hill, and the Female Collegiate Institute was sold in January, 1870, by Rev. Mr. Rice to Prof. G. W. Cook. A rather notable girls' school was started not long after the opening of Vassar College by Mr. and Mrs. Edward White, who erected a building in the southeastern section of the city which Mrs. White named Brooks Seminary. The competition of the Vassar Preparatory Department is said to have caused the failure of this school, but the building after an interval of use as a hotel and a Vassar dormitory, is again a girls' boarding school under the name of Putnam Hall. Many other smaller schools, some of which took boarding as well as day pupils, flourished for a few years. Dr. Bockee's school for girls, next to Pelham Institute on Montgomery Street, and the Home Institute conducted by the Misses Butler, being among the most important. If the public schools were generally poorly housed and with poor equipment the same was true of many of the private schools. A good many children whose parents thought it not wise to send them to the public schools received the rudiments of their education from Mrs. Mary Herrick, whose school was conducted in the basement of one of the little houses (No. 28) still standing on the east side of South Hamilton Street, between Church and Cannon. Miss Powers conducted another primary school in the little building on the east side of Academy Street, said to have been once the old village market. The little building on the east side of Garden Street, north of Mill, next to what is generally called the Lossing House, was a school for a number of years, but is said to have been built for a law office.

#### POLITICS.

Like the County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie has nearly always been Republican in politics. The city has never been carried by a Democratic presidential candidate, though Horace Greeley came within eleven votes of it in 1872. Greeley's vote was in part due to the so-called Liberal movement, of which there were some devotees here, but much more to the notorious campaign of John O. Whitehouse for Congress against General Ketcham, when money was more freely spent than at any previous or subsequent election. Whitehouse carried the city by 370 majority, and the county by 802. The price of votes is said to have reached as high as \$50. Four years earlier, in

1868, General Grant had received a majority in the city of 307. Some of the elections of the "off years" deserve mention, especially that of 1867, when Judge Homer A. Nelson headed the Democratic State ticket and was elected Secretary of State, though he could not quite overcome the natural Republican majority of his own city. The result in Dutchess County was somewhat mixed. Mark D. Wilber, then a Republican, who had represented the Second District in the Assembly in 1865 and 1866, was defeated by A. T. Ackert (Dem.), but Abiah W. Palmer, of Amenia, was elected Senator, and Poughkeepsie Republicans were elected to leading county offices—Richard Kenworthy, Sheriff; William I. Thorn, District Attorney (against D. W. Gnerusey); Allard Anthony, County Judge, and Milton A. Fowler, Surrogate. Mr. Fowler was a resident of Fishkill when elected, but thereafter made Poughkeepsie his home. As Surrogate he followed, and was succeeded by Peter Dorland, of Fishkill, father of Cyrenus P. Dorland, who also has served two terms in the same office. In the spring of 1867, as already stated, George Innis had been re-elected mayor for a third term, without opposition, and at the special election for delegates to the Constitutional Convention of that year B. Platt Carpenter had been chosen. Robert E. Taylor, who had been City Chamberlain throughout the war, was at this time serving a series of terms as Recorder, and headed the city ticket of the Republicans in off years. He was succeeded as Chamberlain in 1865 by Joseph G. Frost, among whose duties was the destruction of the shimplasters issued by the city during the war. These he took to the top of Paltz Point (Sky Top), near Lake Mohonk, then just beginning to attract attention as a place of resort, and there burned them.

The *Daily News* was established as an independent morning paper May 4th, 1868, by Thomas G. Nichols, mentioned in Chapter VII as the founder of the *Daily Press*. The *News* was first published in the old Morris Building, where the *Poughkeepsian* had been printed, next to the Poughkeepsie Bank, and the building was partially destroyed by fire in April, 1869. In July, 1871, Mr. Nichols sold the paper to Wallace W. Hegeman and Edwin J. Wilber, who conducted it as a Republican paper until the fall of 1872, when Mr. Whitehouse bought it to boom his campaign for Congress, putting in Cyrus Maey as editor. Mr. Nichols, the same year, December 15th, 1872, started a third paper, *The Sunday Courier*, which he continued to manage up to within a short time of his death. This paper has remained independent in politics, and under its present editor, A. G. Toley, has been greatly increased in size and in circulation.

Before the *Nexes* had become a Democratic paper the political pendulum had been swinging away from the Republicans, and in 1860 the city elected its first Democratic Mayor, George Morgan, who defeated Robert Slee by 104 votes. He had purchased the Gregory House from Theodoras Gregory in 1865, and renamed it the Morgan House, and was one of the leaders of the enterprises of the day. In the fall of 1860 he was elected State Senator, and held both offices to the expiration of their terms.

In 1871 the city returned to Republican rule and H. G. Eastman was elected Mayor with a majority of 608 votes over Abraham Wright. At the same election Robert H. Hunter defeated James L. Williams for Justice of the Peace by a majority of 1,074, and this was almost the first appearance of these two well-known leaders in politics. Captain William Haubennestel was elected Assessor at the same time.

This was the year of the New Hamburg disaster, the investigation of which, conducted by Tristram Coffin as District Attorney before Coroner Charles H. Andrus, absorbed public attention for many weeks. The accident happened on February 6th. The axle of a car on a south bound oil train broke and the car fell over on the New Hamburg draw-bridge. The Pacific Express, north bound, ran into the oil car, scattering the oil in all directions, and setting fire to the passenger coaches. Nineteen persons were killed, and many injured. The coroner's jury was John N. Canlee, William W. Smith, Paul Flagler, Henry A. Sutherland, Eli Sutcliff and Benjamin Van Loan.

Mr. Whitehouse made strenuous efforts to defeat Mayor Eastman in 1873, nominating Leonard B. Sackett against him, but Eastman had a majority of 303. This was the last spring election, and beginning with 1874 city elections were held the first Tuesday in December.

#### CHURCHES, CHARITABLE AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

The winter and spring of 1860 was marked by a notable religious revival, which began with a series of meetings in the Young Men's Christian Association rooms, corner of Market and Main Streets, and spread to most of the churches. An article in the *Eagle* early in April stated that 153 persons had been admitted to full membership in the Washington Street Methodist Church, with as many more on probation, that there had been fifty or sixty conversions in the Presbyterian Church, that forty had joined the First Reformed Church on the Sunday preceding, that about twenty-four additions had been made to the Central Baptist church, and twenty to the Cannon Street Methodist Church, with more than usual addi-

tions to all other churches. The Young Men's Christian Association was so much strengthened that in January of the next year it made application for incorporation, and soon afterwards began to look about for larger quarters. The trustees named were Abraham Wiltzie, S. M. Buckingham, John P. Adriance, J. G. Boyd, D. R. Thompson and Leonard C. Winslow. When the completion and opening of the Opera House in 1860 deprived Pine Hall of its prestige as a place of entertainment the members of the Association began to consider the question of its purchase and alteration, and though their resources were comparatively small and they had few wealthy backers, they at length determined upon the venture. Possession was given in 1871 and in January, 1872, the galleries, stage etc., of the old hall were removed, a third floor was laid, dividing it into two stories, in which rooms were formed substantially as they are at the present time.

The first church erected after the war was the German Lutheran in Grand Street, dedicated October 14th, 1866, and marking the building up of the section near it with the homes of German settlers. The east side of Grand Street up to this time and some of it much later was nearly all owned by the Emott and Hooker estates, both these fine old places extending through with elaborate gardens in the rear.

The second and only other church built during this period was the new St. Paul's, and it is a noteworthy coincidence that this church, started as a part of the real estate boom of the Improvement Party in the 30's, should have been rebuilt during a time of real estate activity very much like the first. The present church was finished and opened in May, 1872, during the rectorship of Rev. S. H. Synnot (now rector of a church at Ithaca, N. Y.). Mrs. Winthrop Atwill, of Mansion Square, made the erection of the new building possible by a donation of \$10,000, and afterwards added considerably to this amount. The architect was Emlen T. Littell, of New York, and the cost \$30,000.

The prosperity of the city and the abundance of work greatly increased the Roman Catholic population of the city, and although St. Peter's Church was enlarged, another congregation became necessary, and in 1873 St. Mary's Church was organized by Rev. Edward McSweeney, and purchased the old church in Cannon Street, so often mentioned in these pages. Eastman College had by this time contracted enough to be accommodated in the old Methodist Church on Washington Street.

The year 1867 was marked by the union of the two Baptist congregations, who worshipped thereafter in the Lafayette Place Church until the building of the new Mill Street church in 1870. In 1867 also the



DR. EDWARD H. PARKER.  
(See Appendix for biographical sketch.)

two present Poughkeepsie ministers who have been longest in service here were installed, Rev. A. P. Van Gieson at the First Reformed (Dutch) Church and Rev. Robert Fulton Crary at the Church of the Holy Comforter. Both of them soon became and remained important forces in the life of the city.

The charitable institutions established at this time were the House of Industry, the St. Barnabas Hospital and the Old Ladies' Home. The first of these was an outgrowth of the woman's association formed during the war for the relief of the wives and widows of soldiers. It was organized in the fall of 1865 with Mary Ferris, president, Julia M. Crosby, secretary, and Sarah Bowne, treasurer. In 1873 it was able to purchase a house in Liberty Street, which it still occupies, conducting a modest little store for the sale of the handiwork of its beneficiaries. Its aim has been to promote independence and self-support as well as to furnish relief, and every winter it provides remunerative labor, mostly plain sewing, to

many applicants. From time to time it has conducted sewing classes for the children of the poor, and has in many ways endeavored to help its beneficiaries to learn to depend upon themselves.

St. Barnabas Hospital, incorporated March 10th, 1871, was started by Dr. Edward H. Parker, one of the leading physicians of his day and noted also as the author of the widely-quoted poem "Life's Race Well Won." The first trustees were Rev. P. K. Cady, rector of Christ Church, Rev. R. F. Crary, of the Church of the Holy Comforter, Rev. S. H. Symmott, of St. Paul's Church, Wm. A. Davies, S. M. Buckingham, R. Sanford, Dr. E. H. Parker, Benjamin Van Loan, and Winthrop Atwill. The hospital was first opened in Garden Street, then in 1873 was transferred to 108 North Clinton Street, which was purchased for \$5,200. Although St. Barnabas Hospital was abandoned when Vassar Hospital was opened, the organization is still in existence as the custodian of funds used for the relief of the needy sick at their homes.

The Old Ladies' Home has already been mentioned in connection with the passing of the Dutchess County Academy. The building was purchased by Jonathan Warner for \$14,000, and he also started the endowment fund with a contribution of \$10,000. Mr. Warner was a member of the old Poughkeepsie Warner family,<sup>1</sup> and had returned here to live after making a modest fortune elsewhere. The Home was incorporated December 1, 1870, with the following trustees: Jonathan Warner, George Van Kleeck, and Charles W. Swift, of the Reformed Church; James H. Dudley and Abraham Wiltsie, of the Congregational Church; Matthew Vassar, Jr., and John F. Hull, of the Baptist Church; Stephen M. Buckingham and Edgar M. Van Kleeck, of the Episcopal Church; William W. Reynolds and Albert B. Harvey, of the Methodist Church; Joseph Flagler and George Corlies of the Friends Society.

The building was of course considerably altered for its new use, but the only change in its external appearance was the veranda in front of the second floor.

#### THE HUDSON RIVER STATE HOSPITAL.

The erection of a State Hospital for the Insane somewhere along the Hudson River was authorized by the Legislature in 1860, but its location was left to a commission with power to obtain the most advantageous terms from the rival counties. It was brought to Poughkeepsie only after a considerable struggle on the part of the enterprising men of the day. When the Dutchess County Supervisors met in November the contest had narrowed down to Poughkeepsie and Newburgh. The site most favorably considered comprised two hundred acres belonging to James Roosevelt, about a mile north of the city. The city and county were asked to pay \$30,000 towards its purchase and on November 10th a paper, signed by Mayor Innis, the aldermen and a committee of citizens who pledged themselves to raise this amount, was submitted to the Supervisors, who were asked to issue county bonds for two-fifths of the amount. The aldermen who signed this paper were S. B. Wheeler, Sidney Fowler, Daniel Clifford, Robert Slec, Oscar A. Fowler, William Shields, Joseph H. Marshall, E. P. Bogardus, P. C. Benaway and Samuel Tuthill, and the citizens Cornelius DuBois, B. J. Lossing, George Corlies, E. L. Beadle, J. P. H. Tallman and George Innis.

The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution De-

<sup>1</sup>See page 67. One of Jonathan Warner's sisters married Hon. Swift, the well known attorney mentioned several times in Chapters VI and VII.

ember 4th, to issue \$12,000 of county bonds, but Orange County raised its offer, and after overcoming considerable opposition from Fishkill and other towns whose Supervisors did not see how their sections could be benefited, the board reconsidered its action and voted to issue bonds for two-fifths of the amount needed, "said two-fifths not to exceed \$34,000." The expenses of the site were stated to be \$80,000. By the time it had been definitely ascertained that the required amount would be raised it was too late on Saturday afternoon, December 20th, to catch a train for Newburgh, where the commission was in session, and about to decide the question of location. Nothing daunted, a telegram was sent asking the commission to wait for the arrival of a committee from Poughkeepsie. George Morgan brought out two of his "quick steppers," and a two-seated sleigh, and with John P. H. Tallman, Alderman Slec and George W. Davids, began at 6 p. m. a memorable drive to Newburgh. Mr. Davids, describing it a day or two later, wrote: "The night was a terrible one, the wind blowing a perfect hurricane and the snow drifting heavily. Twice we got off the road, the snow blinding us in such a manner, and the track blown so full, that it was utterly impossible in some places to find the way."

Reaching Fishkill Landing after 9 o'clock they found that the ferry had ceased its regular trips and was only running occasionally to keep the ice from blocking it. The captain was at length found and informed the party that he would probably start in about an hour. "He was persuaded to go at once." Mr. Davids does not mention the persuasive force, but the story afterwards told placed it at \$50. The commission had about given up the Poughkeepsie committee when they finally arrived, and after a conference lasting until 1 a. m. at the Orange Hotel, Poughkeepsie secured the prize.

Work began at the hospital site the following summer, and in 1871 a part of the main building was opened. In June, 1872, sixty patients were reported and a large amount of work was still in progress. The State Hospital has been constantly increased in size until now it has a population of something over 2,000 patients. The money disbursed to laboring men in its construction has been a factor of importance in local business, and its large force of physicians, nurses and attendants add much to the life of the city. Dr. Joseph M. Cleveland was made the superintendent at the opening and remained until about ten years ago, when he was succeeded by Dr. Charles W. Pilgrim. The first board of managers, in 1867, was



Dr. Charles R. Agnew and Dr. A. Cook Hull, of New York, State Treasurer William A. Howland, of Matteawan, Mayor George Clark, of Newburgh, Hon. A. W. Palmer, of Amenia, Dr. Bedell and Cornelius DuBois, of Poughkeepsie. The architects were Vaux, Withers & Co., of New York.

#### MANUFACTURING AND OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Naturally during this period all local manufacturing industries that survived the war were prosperous and many new ones were started, some of which survived the panic of 1873, and have continued to increase in importance. The sash, blind and door manufacture and the wheelbarrow industries are among these. There were sash and blind manufactories before the war, William Beardsley being one of the pioneers. Swart & Lumb began the sash and blind business in 1866 on North Water Street, where it is still carried on by George W. Lumb<sup>1</sup> & Son. The Levi Lumb factory, opposite the railroad station on Main Street, is a later offshoot from the same business. William



THOMAS McWHINNIE.

Harloe began making wheelbarrows in South Water Street in 1865 and in 1866 the factory came into possession of the present proprietor, Thomas McWhinnie.<sup>2</sup> The Barratt paper factory started in 1866 in the Red Mills and afterwards moved to Rose Street.

One of the new industries from which great things were expected but in which many Poughkeepsie people lost money was the Eureka Mowing Machine Com-

pany, also located in the Red Mills buildings. John D. Wilber was the inventor of the Eureka and its chief promoter was his brother, Mark D. Wilber. Its capital was \$300,000, and the officers in March, 1870, when the company started business, were: Isaac W. White, president; M. D. Wilber, vice-president; W. W. Hegeman, secretary; F. K. Stevens, treasurer; John D. Wilber, superintendent. Directors: Isaac W. White, C. S. Van Wyck, W. W. Hegeman, Milton A. Fowler, Francis K. Stevens, Nathaniel Lamoree, John D. Wilber, Elias S. DeGarmo, Christopher Hughes, Robert Sanford, Thomas Doty, Paul Flagler and M. D. Wilber. The Eureka Mower was built upon a new principle, cutting by direct draft behind the horses, which were driven wide apart, one of them walking in the standing grass. The cut grass was left untouched, and the claim was made that it would cure more quickly and evenly than grass cut by other machines.

Another important enterprise that failed was The Hudson River Iron Company, incorporated in 1872 with a capital of \$400,000. Its officers at the permanent organization in August of that year were: Richard P. Bruff, president; Thomas S. Lloyd, vice-president, and George Parker, secretary. The first named was described as "of the firm of Russell & Erwin, manufacturers," and the last two of Poughkeepsie. The company projected a large plant to include rolling mills and blast furnaces, and purchased the old Livingston place south of the city, the last of Colonel Henry A. Livingston's daughters having died a few years before. The rolling mill and puddling furnaces were erected and in operation before the panic, but the company was not able to carry out all its plans.

A much greater factor in the prosperity of Poughkeepsie for many years was the Whitehouse Shoe Factory, the contract for the erection of which was given in December, 1870, to J. I. Vail. Mr. Whitehouse, as already stated, was the owner of shoe factories elsewhere and with an established reputation his Poughkeepsie factory was soon employing a large number of hands. The original buildings were struck by lightning and burned in 1879, but were rebuilt, and are now in the possession of the American Cigar Company, the shoe business having declined after the death of Mr. Whitehouse, as explained in the next chapter.

Minor establishments of this period were the Albertson Edge Tool Works, started in 1868 opposite the gas works in Bayeaux Street, by B. Albertson, and the plow factory incorporated in 1870 by C. W. Swift, William A. Davies, George Innis, John F. Winslow

<sup>1</sup>For biographical sketch see Appendix.

<sup>2</sup>See Appendix.

J. O. Whitehouse, M. Vassar, Jr., E. L. Beadle, F. W. Pugsley, S. M. Buckingham, Isaac Platt Smith, John Brill and John T. Hooper. This company manufactured the L. Green patent plow at the old Coffin foundry, corner of Mill and Delafield Streets, near where No. 4 Engine House now stands, but in spite of the array of prominent men among its incorporators was never a very conspicuous success.

Some local industries that have been curtailed by the competition of the West, or by that of greater and more favorably located establishments were apparently at the height of their prosperity before 1873. The wagon and chair making, and cooperage industries were among these. The Chichester Chair Factory, on South Front Street, was one of the chief establishments of the kind in Poughkeepsie, and the building of a railroad from Kingston into the Catskill Mountains brought new sources of supply of suitable materials, and also caused the establishment of a plant at Chichester, where a number of Poughkeepsie men found employment, and from which they occasionally contributed accounts of their adventures with bears and wildcats to the Poughkeepsie newspapers. The Chichester factory was once or twice burned and rebuilt.

Along the river front the era of railroad building, which reached its climax between 1870 and 1873, was beginning to make changes. The Hudson River Railroad was double-tracked from Poughkeepsie to Albany soon after the war and freight rates from the West began to fall. W. W. Reynolds & Son gave up running a steamboat to Albany and in 1871 built their brick warehouse and elevator opposite the railroad station, abandoning the river as a means of obtaining western grain and flour. William T. Reynolds,<sup>1</sup> now the senior member of the firm, had been a partner in the business since 1860. The three competing firms running freight boats to New York had begun to show signs of approaching consolidation about 1867, when the Upper and Main Street Landing firms bought the Lower Landing. The steamboats Hasbrouck and Miller had been built in 1862 and 1864, to take the places of the boats sold to the government during the war. The former was running from the Upper Landing and the latter from Main Street. The steamer Transit had been running from the Lower Landing under the management of John H. Mathews, and when the attempt was made to close this landing a new firm was organized, with Isaac G. Sands, Joel Winans, James Collingwood and Patrick McIntyre as partners, in May, 1867, to take the

boat and run it from the old Southwick dock, next north of the former landing place. This competition was apparently not very successful, and in 1871 Doughty, Cornell & Co., of the Upper Landing, and Gaylord, Doy & Co., of Main Street, were in combination to serve the Lower Landing by leaving the Hasbrouck or Miller there a part of each day for freight. In 1872 the Lower Landing was abandoned entirely. In 1873 Joseph C. Doughty, of the Upper Landing firm, died and his interest was purchased by Homer Ramsdell, of Newburgh, who formed the Poughkeepsie Transportation Company, putting both boats in service from Main Street the next year.

#### GROWTH AND MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT—THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS.

FROM 1865 to 1870 the population of Poughkeepsie increased twenty-five per cent, a rate more rapid than for any previous half decade. The census figures for 1865 were 16,973 and for 1870, 20,688. Some doubt has been thrown upon the accuracy of the figures for 1870, because of the difficulty of increasing them in subsequent census years. It has been said that the census of 1870 was padded in order to obtain free postal delivery, and the figures were certainly rather surprisingly large. Said the *Eagle* in September, 1870: "Few, however, of our citizens supposed we could reach 20,000, and the result is all the more gratifying because unexpected." Possibly some portion of the large transient population of students may have been counted—the real population was at that time 1,200 or 1,500 more than the legal population, and the number of people actually living in Poughkeepsie since the war has always been considerably greater than the census figures have shown.

It seems strange that the city could have got along without a water supply suitable for household use up to this time. The matter had several times been considered, but events had conspired to postpone action. In 1855 James Emott, Henry D. Varick and William H. Tallmadge, appointed by the Common Council, employed an engineer to examine all available sources of supply, and published an interesting report in which they favored "Morgan's Pond," which was not Morgan Lake, but the old mill pond referred to in earlier chapters and now called Vassar College Lake. Basing their calculations on an average daily per capita consumption of 35 gallons, and allowing for an increase of population of 15 per cent every five years, the committee estimated that this body of "pure spring water" would supply the city's needs until 1880 at least. It was perhaps fortunate that the panic of

<sup>1</sup>For biographical sketch see Appendix.



WILLIAM T. REYNOLDS.

1857 and the war prevented the carrying out of these plans.

Soon after the war the matter came up again, and an act providing for a board of water commissioners, with power to borrow \$200,000, was passed in 1867. Again financial stringency caused delay and in 1869 another act was passed by the Legislature, naming Dr. Edward L. Beadle, Stephen M. Buckingham, Edward Storm, Abraham Wright, Edgar M. Van Kleeck and James H. Weeks as commissioners, with authority to borrow money, if a taxpayers' vote, to be held July 13th, should be favorable. Then began a series of public meetings, two of which were held in the Opera House, at which Mr. Eastman, Assemblyman W. W. Hegeman, Judge Allard Anthony and Mayor Clark, of Newburgh, were among the chief speakers. One gathers from some of the speeches that Poughkeepsie had a rather unpleasant reputation for fevers at that time. Mr. Hegeman said, "He did not believe there was a natural well in Poughkeepsie that was fit for use for family purposes," and Mr. Eastman said that when he was expatiating upon the advantages of Poughkeepsie in New York he was frequently met with the statement that Poughkeepsie had fine schools, churches, etc., "but, oh, how sickly!" The taxpayers were all but unanimous at the special election, voting 544 for water, and only 43 against. Mayor Morgan was given a good deal of credit for the result, and when the votes had been counted he was serenaded at his home at College Hill Hotel. It was somewhere about this time that he constructed Morgan Lake, on the east side of College Hill, for the purpose, it is said, of selling it to the city as a part of its water supply.

The board organized by electing Dr. Beadle president, and employed J. B. G. Rand as engineer, associating Theodore W. Davis, son of Frederick Davis, cashier of the Farmers' and Manufacturers' Bank, and James P. Kirkwood, of New York, with him. Kirkwood was a well-known engineer and a specialist in the installation of water supplies. He had visited and studied the water supply systems abroad, and was particularly familiar with the systems of slow filtration through sand employed by some of the water companies at London, England. It was on his advice that the Hudson River was selected as the source of supply, after a careful examination of the Fall Kill and Wappingers, with the installation of a system of slow sand filtration.

The two filters constructed by John Sutcliffe<sup>1</sup> at that time at the pumping station, on land previously

belonging to the Swain estate, a mile north of the city, were the first of their kind in the country, and are about the only filters which have survived all changes of expert opinion from that day to this. They have been continuously in service until the close of the year 1904, and during 1905 will be reconstructed and covered. Originally expected only to clarify the water,



*The Filter Beds, photographed about 1875.*

they have been found equally serviceable in the removal of harmful bacteria. The choice of James P. Kirkwood as a consulting engineer in 1870 was, therefore, an exceedingly fortunate one. The pumps were started for trial July 4th, 1872, but it was not until several months later that the first water tap was put in to serve the house of the president of the water board, Mr. Edward Storm, in South Liberty Street. Physicians, like Robert K. Tutthill, who remember the conditions preceding the introduction of the water supply testify that the health of the city was considerably improved by it, though the prejudice against the river water was so strong that wells and cisterns were abandoned by very slow degrees. Theodore W. Davis remained in charge of the water and sewer systems until 1884, when he was succeeded by the present City Engineer, Charles E. Fowler.

The installation of the water and sewerage systems was the most notable public improvement of the period, but the Fall Kill improvement was also a great and very expensive change, and destroyed almost entirely the old-time usefulness of the stream for water power. Pelton's Pond, earlier Booth's, was the only one left, and even its area was greatly restricted. Its waters once extended across what is now Duane Street, and on the early maps it is called "The Great Reservoir." The size of this pond was cut down again in 1884, and it was finally filled in, when the dam was taken down in 1890. Not far above it was "Swift's Pond," which furnished power for the old factory at the end of Charles Street. This pond was some-

<sup>1</sup>For biographical sketch see Appendix.



JOHN SUTCLIFFE.

times called by the boys "The Baptiser" from some former use as a place of immersion by the Baptists. Above Washington Street and extending to Garden was Parker's Mill Pond. Garden Street had been given its eastward bend from the corner of High Street to get around this pond, the upper end of which was most of the time a swamp and the stream emptied into the pond a hundred feet or more north of the present bridge. The Parker Mill had been burned a short time before the pond was filled up and the new mill was built not long afterwards, on the east side of Garden Street, where part of its ruins are incorporated into the building of the Hyge'ia Ice Company. Next to Pelton's the most important of the storage ponds was Lent's, or the Winnikee (originally Cramell's), which furnished power for the Red Mills. By 1870 all of these water powers had decreased considerably in value and steam had come to be regarded as the only reliable force for driving machinery, but the owners of the ponds nevertheless received big damages from the city. In the report of the City Treasurer for the year 1871 the cost of walling and filling in the ponds was given as follows:

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Lent's Pond.....   | \$21,415 00 |
| Parker's Pond..... | 20,597 39   |
| Swift's Pond.....  | 8,817 61    |
| Pelton's Pond..... | 21,776 68   |

The cost of the water works up to the beginning of the year 1873 was \$427,668.45, of the Fall Kill improvement and draining the mill ponds, \$114,923.49, and of the sewers \$293,359.76. The Fall Kill improvement was a public health measure, but it was a mistake to undertake it along with the water works, when all prices were high, and with interest at seven per cent. The rate of interest does not seem to have been considered at all, and probably few people had any idea the time would come when the city could borrow at less than half the rate then prevailing. Nor were these two works of municipal necessity the only causes of the great debt under which the city so long staggered. At about the same time \$600,000 in city bonds was pledged for the building of the Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad.

#### THE POUGHKEEPSIE AND EASTERN AND CITY RAILROADS.

Various attempts to revive the project of 1832 for a railroad eastward from Poughkeepsie have already been mentioned. It came up with every period of good times, was urged in the newspapers and at meetings both in the city and county. During and after

(See pp. 30 and 31.)

the war the iron mines in northeastern Dutchess and in western Connecticut were worked at a good profit, as were also the blast furnaces at Poughkeepsie. Most of the Harlem valley ore was smelted in charcoal furnaces in the neighborhood and shipped to New York by the Harlem Railroad, but as wood began to grow more scarce an outlet to the Hudson River was sought, and in 1895 the mine owners built a piece of track about five miles long from the neighborhood of Boston Corners and announced that they would extend it to Pine Plains, there to await the decision of the rival schemes for a river terminus. "Will Poughkeepsie sleep and lose this grand prize?" asked the *Eagle* of November 18th. "Will you co-operate with the country and regain the trade of all that section of country which wishes to again come here, or will you disregard the opportunity?" Mark D. Wilber, then just elected Member of Assembly, was a strenuous advocate of the Poughkeepsie terminus, and so were Mayor Imis and H. G. Eastman, but the opportunity was nevertheless disregarded at the critical time. Poughkeepsie capitalists were not at all sure they wanted to build to Pine Plains. It was a time of great prosperity among the farmers of Dutchess, and the enlistment of their capital seemed the principal thing to be considered. The question of the eastern terminus was almost as complicated, viewed from Poughkeepsie, as the western terminus was when viewed from the interior. Farmers from all the southern section, and from Hart's Village eastward, seemed to favor a railroad to Fishkill, and many Poughkeepsie people thought that they could be won over by building through the neighborhood of the Dutchess Turnpike to Amenia and Sharon, a section generally much better known here than that from Pine Plains to Boston Corners. Wassaic was also frequently mentioned, though the several preliminary surveys always carried the road northward to the neighborhood of Copake or Boston Corners. As a result of a few enthusiastic meetings at Washington Hollow and elsewhere, P. P. Dickinson made a survey and his report, published in February, 1866, contains some interesting items. The total cost was estimated as \$1,002,200.00, the chief items of which were:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Graduation of road.....  | \$338,190 00 |
| Track superstructure.....  | 339,076 80   |
| Right of way and fencing.....  | 55,010 00    |
| Salaries, office rents, etc., during construction.....                   | 20,000 00    |
| For purchase of 1½ miles of railroad of Columbia Co. Iron Mining Co..... | 95,000 00    |
| Locomotives, cars, tools, etc.....                                       | 157,000 00   |

Among the estimated annual receipts were:

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Transportation of milk.....     | 58,400 00 |
| Transportation of hay.....      | 32,000 00 |
| Transportation of iron ore..... | 87,000 00 |
| Passengers' fares.....          | 41,558 40 |

The name "Poughkeepsie and Eastern" seems to have originated with the *Eagle*, which said on January 20th, 1866, "We have heretofore, in speaking of the railroad from this city to Copake and Boston Corners, called it 'The Poughkeepsie and Copake Railroad.'" Continuing, the article mentions the probability of the extension of the railroad to Salisbury and Falls Village, in Connecticut, or to Great Barrington, in Massachusetts, and concludes with the statement that the *Eagle* would hereafter name the road The Poughkeepsie and Eastern "unless the company when finally incorporated shall decide to give it another."

The incorporation was completed in April with the following directors: George Innis, Isaac Platt, James G. Wood, George Morgan, Harvey G. Eastman, and Robert F. Wilkinson, of Poughkeepsie; Pomeroy P. Dickinson, Birdsall Cornell and William Corwin, of New York; William Eno, Pine Plains; Platt G. Van Vliet and Stephen T. Angell, Pleasant Valley; James M. Welling, Washington; Elihu Griffin, Clinton; Isaac Carpenter, Stanford; George Peasley and Conrad Niver, Aneram. At a meeting on April 28th, George Innis was elected President; George Morgan, Vice-President; Isaac G. Sands, Treasurer; Robert F. Wilkinson, Secretary; Mark D. Wilber, Attorney, and P. P. Dickinson, Chief Engineer.

The campaign of meetings continued and the chief efforts seem to have been still directed towards the farmers. Mayor Innis, Mark D. Wilber, H. G. Eastman and Isaac Platt were nearly always among the speakers at these meetings and occasionally others, including James Bowne, A. L. Allen, Theodorus Gregory, Odis Bisbee, Jeremiah Eighmie, Lewis F. Streit and James Mabbett were heard. The plan included a branch from Salt Point to Wassaic, to pass through or near Washington Hollow and Hart's Village, but the promoters were never able to satisfy the people of those neighborhoods that this branch would be built. As a bait to secure their support it was not successful, though a railroad to Hart's Village continued to be agitated up to the time of the beginning of the construction. In the meantime George H. Brown and other promoters of the Fishkill railroad obtained substantial support, and managed to get their railroad well started before the panic of '67 came as a check to both enterprises.

The Poughkeepsie and Eastern directors reported subscriptions of \$220,000 in August, 1867, "leaving but \$80,000 wanting to enable the directors to commence work." Had they started their efforts for subscriptions a little sooner, and a little more vigorously and with less division of counsel, they might have headed off the Dutchess and Columbia, but then it was too late. When the project was again pushed, a year or two later, the effort to obtain the amounts needed by subscription was given up for the favorite scheme of bonding towns and the city. Construction was begun in the spring of 1869 on the first section, from Poughkeepsie to Salt Point. In July the work met a serious interruption in the defealcation of Walter Welsh, one of the sub-contractors, near Pleasant Valley. According to the newspapers, he managed to swindle the men in his employ, and various persons with whom he had dealings in the city and county, out of sums aggregating more than \$20,000, and then disappeared. The workmen at the Valley were in a riotous mood and one of them, Jack McDonald, seized a horse and wagon belonging to Welsh, and refused to give it up when it was demanded by Sheriff Kenworthy. Company D, of the 21st Regiment, commanded by Captain William Haubemestel, was finally called upon to restore order, and by its aid the property was recovered and McDonald and some others were arrested.

Work was resumed, but the directors had not decided just what direction the road should take from Salt Point until January, 1870, when the contract was



*Poughkeepsie & Eastern Station.*

given out for the section from Salt Point to Stissing. "Large and Enthusiastic" meetings were still held in favor of a proposed branch to Amenia and Sharon.

The first locomotive for the new railroad arrived in Poughkeepsie in September, 1870, and was hauled by horses on a timber track to its destination. It was landed from a boat at the Lower Landing and George Polk, the ship builder, had the rather strenuous

contract of hauling it up the hill, via Pine Street and Montgomery to Hamilton, and thence across to the station. The railroad was completed to Stanfordville not long after this, the first cars were hauled up on the tracks of the Poughkeepsie City Railroad, and regular trains began running. On January 17th, 1871, regular trains, three in each direction, began running to Stissing, and on the 24th there was a grand celebration of the opening of the first division of the road. This included an excursion and a banquet at the Opera House, at which George P. Pelton presided. Hon. Charles Wheaton, John F. Winslow, Hon. Homer A. Nelson, Hon. John Thompson, Hon. B. Platt Carpenter, Hon. W. W. Hegeman, Col. George Parker, Rev. F. B. Wheeler, Rev. A. P. Van Gieson, Isaac Platt, M. D. Wilber, H. G. Eastman and Dr. E. H. Parker were the local speakers, and George H. Brown, president of the Dutchess and Columbia Railroad, Grinnell Burt, vice-president of the Walkill Valley Railroad, Daniel Thompson, president of the Middletown and Crawford Railroad, Joel Benton, representing Eastern Dutchess, and P. P. Dickinson, representing the proposed bridge across the Hudson River, also spoke. After this outburst of enthusiasm and oratory there was a long halt before the railroad was continued to Boston Corners, and it was not until October, 1872, that trains began running to State Line, making direct connections through to Hartford.

The years '60 to '73, when the P. and E. was finally constructed, form an era of railroad building all over the country. Poughkeepsie people were not confining their investments to local enterprises by any means, and long advertisements of Union Pacific and other western railroad bonds appeared in all the local papers. The bank cashiers usually acted as agents for these bonds and made a good deal of money from commissions. Besides the P. and E., the Dutchess and Columbia and the Boston, Hartford and Erie, other neighboring manifestations of the craze were the Walkill Valley Railroad, the Rondout and Oswego (now Ulster and Delaware) and the Rhinebeck and Connecticut.

The new railroads made many changes in the country and in the towns. Poughkeepsie streets were no longer lined with farmers' teams, and the steamboat lines gradually went out of the commission business. New settlements were created, including Millbrook, which was laid out in the summer of 1870 by Isaac Merritt, who owned the land and had succeeded in obtaining the location of the Dutchess and Columbia station midway between the older hamlets of Hart's Village and Mechanic. As soon as the Dutchess and Columbia and Boston, Hartford and Erie were ac-

complished facts Hopewell Junction made a beginning and old Fishkill began to lose standing. A railroad from Poughkeepsie to Hopewell was then frequently urged in the *Eagle*, and also a railroad to New Paltz to recover the lost trade of the Walkill Valley.

A street railroad in Poughkeepsie was projected as soon as it became reasonably certain that the Poughkeepsie and Eastern would be built, and was first chartered in 1866. Like other enterprises it was postponed by the panic of 1867 and finally organized under a charter granted May 6th, 1869. Its first directors were Harvey G. Eastman, Aaron Innis, Oliver H. Booth, Alfred B. Smith, Homer A. Nelson, Isaac W. White, Pomeroy P. Dickinson, Robert W. Frost, John I. Platt, Edward Storm, Mark D. Wilber, John P. H. Tallman and George H. Beattys. Efforts were made to prevent any one person or combination from obtaining control of the road, and in February, 1870, the directors announced that no subscription for more than \$5,000 would be accepted. Evidently there was no very great difficulty about raising the money, for in April a contract was made with Leach & Co., of Philadelphia, to build the entire line from the Hudson River Railroad depot to the Poughkeepsie and Eastern depot, and on May 14th it was stated that the work was progressing finely and the entire track would be laid in nine days. As already indicated it was finished in time to furnish an easy means of hauling up the first cars used upon the Poughkeepsie and Eastern railroad.

The extension to Vassar College was made two years later and was rather a result of the real estate boom in the section east of Cherry Street than an effort to obtain fares from the College. March 2nd, 1872, at a meeting of real estate owners interested John Grubb, Andrew King, M. H. Hitchcock, John Wing, Caleb Ballard, J. Hevenor, J. L. Pultz, J. Barnett and U. L. Ferguson were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions. Other meetings were held and by September the work of building the tracks "to Bull's Head and Vassar College" was nearly finished. Then it was decided that "Bull's Head" was not a sufficiently dignified name for a suburb of such a thriving city as Poughkeepsie, and the name was changed to East Poughkeepsie, now officially Arlington.

#### THE REAL ESTATE BOOM.

During the period between 1868 and 1873, with new enterprises constantly coming to the front, with important municipal improvements in progress, and with real estate advancing, comparison was often made with the days of the unfortunate Improvement Party



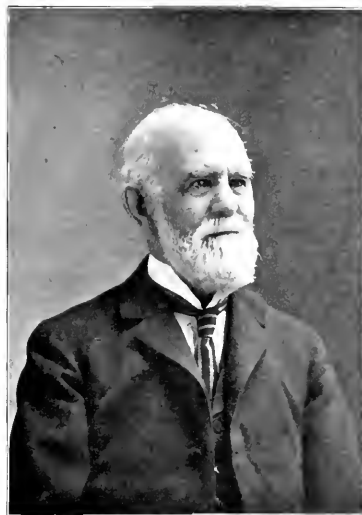
of the 30's. The parallel was in many respects a good one. In H. G. Eastman, George Innis, Mark D. Wilber and others were to be found leaders quite as aggressive and sanguine as Oakley, Cunningham and Tallmadge, and if the later period produced no men of as much national prominence as Tallmadge, that was largely because Poughkeepsie was of far more relative importance in the State in 1830 than in 1870, though four times as large at the later date. Mr. Eastman had abundant faith in the future of the city. He expected to live to see Poughkeepsie a city of 80,000, and perhaps even 100,000, and indeed if the place could gain twenty-five per cent. in population between 1865 and 1870, it seemed not unreasonable to suppose that with all the improvements made, with the new factories in full operation, the new railroad to the eastward and the great bridge giving it westward connections, the rate of growth after 1870 might be even more rapid.

A Board of Trade was formed in April, 1872, and leased rooms in the Young Men's Christian Association building. By the 27th 160 members were reported, each of whom paid an initiation fee of \$5. Matthew Vassar, Jr., was elected president, and the other directors were Otis Bisbee, Joseph C. Doughty, James H. Dudley, Charles Heath, E. H. Sedgwick, De Witt Webb, Edward Elsworth, George P. Pelton, M. J. Myers, James B. Platt, George Innis, H. G. Eastman, J. Parker Heath, John P. Adriance, W. A. Fanning, Isaac W. White, Edward Storm, George Parker, R. W. Frost, James Marshall, George D. Hull and Richard Kenworthy. This board has continued until the present time, but the social feature has been abandoned.

Real estate was in good demand before 1867, and in 1860 the demand began to assume something of the proportions of a boom. A number of streets that had been forgotten since they were mapped in 1835-37 were graded, and provided with houses, and new sections of farm lands were divided into lots and sold at auction. This was the period of the opening of the eastern section of the city, as already implied in the account of the extension of the City Railroad. The *Eagle* of April 17th, 1860, under the head of "City Improvements," says, "The spirit of improvement seems recently to have taken possession of the holders of property in that section of the city lying east of Clinton Street," and adds "Virginia Avenue has been handsomely graded and a number of elegant houses erected thereon. \* \* \* A gang of men is busily at work grading Church Street from Clinton Street east to its junction with Main Street." Old Cherry Street is described as "bracing up" and "a spacious

avenue has been opened from Cherry Street to Vassar College." This was, of course, "College Avenue," the east end of which was not ready for use until June. Robert N. Palmer and Cornelius DuBois were among the leading property owners on the new avenue. Jewett Avenue was put through, from Main Street to the Alms House, about the same time, and on May 12, 1860, a part of the Alms House property (the old County House land) bordering on Main Street was sold at auction in lots. Mark H. Hitchcock bought the old "overseer's residence" on Main Street for \$3,315. J. H. Horsfall purchased about \$3,000 worth of these lots and in 1872 sold them at auction for \$7,524.50.

The chief impetus to the opening of this section of the city was given by the division of the estate of William Worrall, who had lived in the house which



JACOB CORLIES.

(See Appendix for biographical sketch.)

was originally built for the "Glebe House," or residence of the first minister of Christ Church (see p. 24). The sale of that part of the Worrall property lying south of Main Street, June 24th, 1860, was described as "the largest sale of real estate at auction that has ever taken place in this city." One hundred and ten acres were sold, including thirty-six lots on Worrall Avenue, sixteen on the south side of Main Street, and a number on College Avenue. George Innis, Walter Corlies, Henry D. Myers, A. J. Hanscom and F. Ulrich, were the largest purchasers for

speculation. The sale realized \$72,011.75, and the highest prices paid were \$13.55 a foot on College Avenue, and \$11.75 on Worrall Avenue. Messrs. Andrew King and Jacob Corlies purchased 42 acres of land on the north side of Main Street, and George Innis bought a similar tract adjoining. Innis and Corlies Avenues, Maple Street and King Street were laid out and planted with trees not long afterwards. Hammersley Avenue was an example of a street surveyed, and planted with maples, but not opened until some fifteen years later. Thomas Clegg and Robert N. Palmer were the executors of the Worrall estate, but John Grubb, Mr. Worrall's son-in-law, was the leading promoter of the neighborhood.

Main Street beyond Clinton had been until this time in the control of the Dutchess Turnpike Company, which was described in the article of April 10th, 1860, as "standing in the way of all improvements," but was now "pushed beyond the city limits." In 1872 the street was curbed and guttered and flagged (on the north side) to the city line at a cost of \$7,638.15, for the north side, and \$3,814.15 for the south side. Blue stone or flag walks were characteristic improvements of this period, and several of the streets upon which lots had been sold were provided with them well out into the country. North Hamilton and North Clinton Streets, for example, were flagged on both sides through to North Street, though a large part of the property fronting the northern section of each has remained unimproved, and the sidewalks there have often been called "relics of the Eastman boom." An ordinance was passed at this time forbidding the repair of the brick walks in the older streets and providing for their replacement by stone when worn out. Only a very few patches of irregular bricks remain to-day, as reminders of the past.

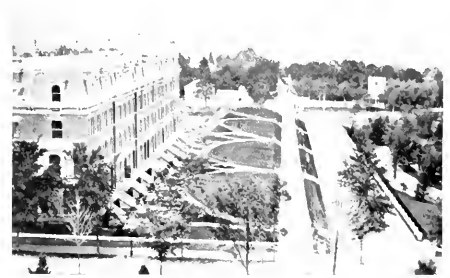
In 1872 an attempt was made to enlarge the boundaries of the city—the only serious attempt, I think, since the incorporation of the village in 1709. On January 27th James Marshall, John E. Platt and C. S. Van Wyck, who had been appointed a committee to consider the subject, reported in favor of the following lines:

"Commencing at the center and west side of the culvert crossing the Hudson River Railroad at the southwest corner of the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, thence easterly in a direct line to the junction of the New Hackensack and Vassar College roads, thence northeast in a direct line to the elm tree on the Manchester road near the Dutchess Turnpike, thence northerly in a direct line to the junction of the Salt Point road and a cross road near the Roman Catholic Cemetery, thence northwest in a direct line to the centre and east side of a culvert crossing the Hyde

Park road over Ware's Creek, north of the Hudson River State Hospital, and following the said creek to the river."

This report was accepted by the Common Council, but the effort to pass it in the Legislature was defeated by the opposition of some of the leading residents in the section it was proposed to annex.

In architecture this was the period of the Mansard or French roof, just as the fashion of the 30's demanded Grecian pillars and porticos. Many an old gable-roofed building was given an additional story by aid of the Mansard and most of the new houses were so built, three stories high, generally, with basements. It became the highest enterprise to build rows of brick basement houses. John Gager was one of the leading promoters of such buildings, and the row of houses on the southeast corner of Mill and Garden Streets are still sometimes called the Gager houses,



*Eastman Terrace in 1875.*

as are also some of the houses on the north side of Mill Street near Conklin. Gager was in financial straits as early as November, 1872, when he sold "the Gager Club House," in Garden Street, which is said to have cost \$14,000, to Joseph N. Corliss for \$10,000.

The most notable folly of the day was Mr. Eastman's splendid block known as Eastman Terrace. Facing his beautiful park he planned an imposing block of twenty-three four-story-and-basement houses, to cost in the neighborhood of \$400,000. Ground was graded and excavations made for all, but only ten were started. These had been finished in the spring of 1873, at a cost of about \$150,000. Mr. Eastman expected to be able to sell them to New York people at about \$18,000 each, and failing in this he undertook to sell them at auction early in July. Henry W. Morris was the auctioneer of the period, and did his best, aided by the Eastman College Band, and an elaborate luncheon, served in one of the houses. There was a large crowd present, but the prices offered were

so far short of Mr. Eastman's expectations that he stopped the sale. Ten thousand dollars was offered for No. 1, and Mr. Eastman declared that he had refused \$12,000 for it at private sale. The houses were not finally disposed of until 1874, and represented a loss of at least \$60,000. Probably by the time of the auction real estate had already begun to decline, though earlier in the year many sales were reported in the newspapers. The *Eagle* of February 15th said: "We do not remember when there has been more activity in real estate than this spring." Among the sales of business property at that time were the following: Hon. James Emott to James Collingwood, old Emott place on Market Street, "now occupied by W. R. Woodin," opposite the end of Cannon Street; "Mansion House," corner of Main and Clover Streets, to James Mulrein at auction for \$11,000; store of Deyo Smith, Main Street, to P. M. Howard, \$18,000; building corner of North Hamilton and Main Streets to N. Hoffman, \$20,000.

The new buildings erected on Main and Market Streets during this period gave those streets nearly their present appearance in some sections. A notable change was occasioned by the burning of the old

located in Liberty Street, having erected the building now occupied by the A. V. Haight Printing Company in 1868. Morgan L. Farnum reopened his drug store in the Morgan House block. He was one of the leading characters of the day and some of "Morg" Farnum's stories are still current. Among other losers at the fire were M. Shwartz, already located where he has since remained, *The Poughkeepsie Advertiser*, R. Dann, John S. Myers, J. D. Melrose, R. Spring, E. R. Pease, Miss E. Bates, P. Lamper, H. Kimball, H. Zimmer and Thomas Wyatt. Mrs. Enoch Pardee owned the corner buildings and her loss was given as \$15,000. This fire was fought with the old water supply and had its influence in hastening the construction of the new system. Judge Nelson was re-



*Old Buildings on the site of Kirchner Hall.*

ported as having worked long and faithfully on the brakes of old Protection No. 1 Engine.

The building of the present Pardee Block of handsome stores added considerably to the activity of the times. James S. Post had the contract for the corner building, which was finished in April, 1872, when Reed & Van Vliet opened a bookstore where Peter B. Hayt is now established. The Kirchner building was finished at the end of the same year, and the 21st Regiment, which had been quartered at the old carriage factory, where the Sanitary Fair had been held, took possession of the upper floors. After the war Mr. Burnap had for a time revived the carriage industry in the old "armory," but in 1870 he sold his handsome place opposite "Springside" to Dr. John P. Atwater, of New Haven, Ct., and moved away from Poughkeepsie. In Market Street the Mulrein building was built in 1869 and 1870, and the Savings Bank in 1870-71. (See article in Appendix about the Savings Bank).

#### THE POUGHKEEPSIE BRIDGE.

The crowning enterprise of the period was the beginning of the great bridge across the Hudson,



*Corner of Main and Garden Streets, after the Fire of December 26, 1870.*

wooden stores on the north side of Main Street, east of Garden, on Monday evening, December 26th, 1870. The fire started in the saloon of George W. Cannon, and "in about two hours \* \* \* all the buildings from Frost & Parish's building to the corner of Garden Street were gutted." Archibald Wilson's bookstore, founded by Paraclete Potter, Morgan L. Farnum's drug store and Liberty Hyde's shoe store were among the leading places of business burned out. Mr. Wilson reopened in Liberty Street, at the site of the present *Eagle* building. The *Eagle* was already lo-

suggested<sup>1</sup> as soon as the Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad became a certainty, and from 1868 on discussed from time to time in the newspapers. It seemed evident that a bridge would be constructed across the river somewhere in or north of the Highlands, and enterprising residents of Poughkeepsie immediately went to work to show the advantages of the location here. P. P. Dickinson took it up as an engineer early in 1871, and then Harvey G. Eastman went into the project with all his tremendous energy. On the 15th of February he wrote a letter, published in the *Eagle*, in which he said, "I am satisfied that this project can be accomplished and secured to our city if we are awake to our own interests." On the 7th of March Mr. Eastman was elected Mayor, following George Morgan, then State Senator, and, assisted by P. P. Dickinson and John I. Platt, at once went to work to draft a charter for the proposed bridge company. It was pushed rapidly through the Legislature and became a law on May 11th, 1871. The incorporators were Harvey G. Eastman, George Innis, John F. Winslow, John O. Whitehouse, Homer A. Nelson, John I. Platt, Isaac W. White, George R. Gaylord, Oliver H. Booth, William A. Davies, John M. Toney, John P. Adriance, Alfred B. Smith, Charles Wheaton, Henry D. Varick, Abraham Wright, Charles Kirchner, Charles W. Swift, George Corlies, James Mulrein, Robert Slee, Allard Anthony, Edward Storm, George P. Pelton, P. P. Dickinson, James G. Wood, Aaron Innis, Hudson Taylor, Mark D. Wilber, George Parker, James Collingwood, Matthew Vassar, Walter Van Kleeck, Charles H. Roberts, Lawrence C. Rapelje, Anning Smith, Abraham Hasbrouck and George Cornell. The first officers of the company, elected on May 31st, were John F. Winslow, president; Harvey G. Eastman, vice-president; Robert F. Wilkinson, secretary; and George Innis, treasurer. The executive committee, John F. Winslow, H. G. Eastman, J. M. Toney, George P. Pelton, Homer A. Nelson, Isaac W. White and Charles Wheaton, went ahead with preliminary surveys, appointing Horatio Allen chief engineer. Up to this time nothing but a suspension bridge had been thought of, and an amendment had been incorporated in the charter, through the influence of the boatmen, prohibiting piers in the river, but as no bridge of that kind had ever been built with a span of more than 1,000 feet, capable of sustaining railway trains, Mr. Allen declined at the outset to sanction a single span bridge. His plans called for two piers in

<sup>1</sup>The first suggestion that attracted notice was an article written by John I. Platt, in the *Eagle* of January 22, 1868. This started a discussion. For full history of the Bridge enterprise see *Souvenir Eagle* issued October, 1886.

the river, with a span of 1,200 feet between them, the shore anchorages to be 700 to 725 feet from the river piers. The estimated cost for a single track bridge was \$2,300,000. Further legislation was necessary in order to sanction any piers in the river, and Captain James B. Eads, whose great St. Louis Bridge over the Mississippi was then nearing completion, strongly advised a truss, instead of a suspension bridge, and urged that an effort be made to get the Legislature to authorize the placing of four piers in the river. The opposition of all the river steamboat and towing interests was sure to be strong and determined, and Mayor Eastman was nominated and elected Member of Assembly in the fall of 1871, in order to place him in a position to exert his utmost influence for the amendment. The story of the great legislative battle which followed has been fully told in the *Souvenir Eagle*, and it is sufficient to say that after many hearings the opposition was overcome and the amendment was signed by Governor John T. Hoffman on May 25th, 1872. The frontispiece in Philip H. Smith's History of Dutchess County, a view of Poughkeepsie from College Hill, shows the suspension bridge first planned, as well as other things planned but never built.

Then came efforts to raise money, and the rail roads west of the Hudson showed a friendly spirit in strong contrast with their attitude after the bridge had been built. The Erie, however, was then laid with a six-foot gauge, and the Midland, later the Ontario & Western, was in financial difficulties, but the Pennsylvania, the most important of all, was looking for a New England connection and had already appointed a committee to find one. A. L. Dennis, of Newark, N. J., was chairman, and Andrew Carnegie one of the members of this committee. John I. Platt was authorized to negotiate with them and as a result they made a careful investigation, and recommended that the Pennsylvania should subscribe to the bridge stock. Books were opened June 30th, 1873, by H. G. Eastman, George P. Pelton and Hudson Taylor, commissioners. A. L. Dennis and J. Edgar Thompson, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, headed the subscription list with 5,500 shares each, aggregating \$1,100,000, and as the total capitalization then was but \$2,000,000, this gave them control and apparently assured the success of the enterprise. September 5th a new board of directors was chosen: J. Edgar Thompson, Thomas A. Scott, Andrew J. Cassatt and Strickland Knass, of Philadelphia; A. L. Dennis, of Newark; Andrew Carnegie, of Pittsburgh; Charles G. Francklyn, David Solomon and Gardner F. McCandless, of New York; H. G. Eastman, George P. Pel-



Cartoon by Walter Adriance, published after the Failure of the First Bridge Company.

ton, George Innis and P. P. Dickinson, of Poughkeepsie.

Mr. Dennis was elected president, and the cornerstone on Reynolds Hill was laid with Masonic ceremony December 17th by Grand Master James W. Husted, in the presence of a great concourse of people. The celebration was one of the greatest that has ever taken place in Poughkeepsie. Besides officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad and other prominent men from Philadelphia, there were present Mayor L. P. Butler, of Boston, Mayor H. C. Robinson, of Hartford, Governor A. H. Holley, of Connecticut, and many men scarcely less prominent. The closing event was a great banquet at the Opera House, with many enthusiastic speeches, and a large audience in the galleries.

By this time, however, that administration of the Bridge company was already doomed. The panic of 1873 had begun on September 18th with the failure of Jay Cooke & Co., in New York, and values everywhere had begun to shrink seriously. The Pennsylvania Railroad might yet have held to its contract had it not been for the death of its president, J. Edgar Thompson, before arrangements could be made to transfer the individual subscriptions to the company,

but then the increasing financial difficulties caused the stockholders, at a meeting held, to refuse to assume any new obligations.

#### SOCIAL LIFE, SPORTS AND CLUBS.

It was natural during the time of so much enterprise and money making that expenditure in entertainments and pleasures should be liberal. The city is said to have been much more lively then than it is now. Entertainments were given on a larger scale, and the cost was not so closely counted. Mayor Eastman gave free band concerts every Saturday evening in the park, and usually also a reception at his house to the students at the college. On New Year's day he kept open house and so did other public men, while the custom of making New Year's calls was general. Drinking and gambling were more common, and considered better form than now, though not so much so as before the war.

Out-of-door sports of all sorts flourished, and had a larger following apparently than to-day, especially the winter sports. Skating, coasting and ice yachting were at their height. The Eastman Skating Park was not always financially successful, but it often attracted

crowds, and many of the best figure skaters in the country were brought here to give exhibitions. As to coasting several thousands of people were often reported on the hills during moonlight nights, and "hob-sleds" were frequently built expensively with nickel-plated tillers, polished wood work and luxurious cushions. The old Volunteer Base Ball Club flourished at this time and was distinctly a Poughkeepsie organization, though semi-professional. After a few years it imported Michael Welsh and trained him to be one of the best base ball players in the country. Professionalism of the modern kind had then begun. The club played its matches on the Eastman grounds, now the Riverview athletic field.

The first amateur rowing association of which we have any record was the "Shatemic Boat Club," started in June, 1867, with Rev. James L. Corning president. Its members included most of the leading young sportsmen of the day and, according to the list published with its constitution in 1868, were:

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Henry N. Avery,    | William C. Hill,      |
| Richard Bailey,    | Charles L. Houghton,  |
| Oliver H. Booth,   | Aaron Innis,          |
| James Boyne, Jr.,  | Floy M. Johnston,     |
| Samuel H. Braman,  | Theodore V. Johnston, |
| Tristram Coffin,   | Edgar M. Meeks,       |
| W. A. Collingwood, | James Parish,         |
| James L. Corning,  | Thomas Parish,        |
| George W. Davids,  | George L. Rives,      |
| Thomas Davies,     | John A. Roosevelt,    |
| Jerome V. Deyo,    | Hudson Taylor,        |
| Augustus Doughty,  | J. J. Van Allen,      |
| Sterling Doughty,  | J. Spencer Van Cleef, |
| Harvey G. Eastman, | Theodore Van Kleeck,  |
| Charles Eastmead,  | George Van Vliet,     |
| Thomas Foster,     | Remson Varick,        |
| Robert W. Frost,   | Frank E. Whipple,     |
| Irving Grinnell,   | Edward Winslow,       |
|                    | Jerry V. Wright.      |

George Polk procured for the club an old canal boat, the Ben Rey, which was fitted up as a club house, and served well enough until one night she sank at her moorings and ruined all the racing shells inside. The club then, in 1870, built the present club house at the Upper Landing.

Horse racing had two rival centres at this time, the half-mile track at Bull's Head or East Poughkeepsie, called the Doty Union Park, and the Poughkeepsie Driving Park, at the present location, then described as "a short distance from this city on the plank road." The Doty track was east of Raymond Avenue, and not far from the Turnpike, a district now almost completely covered with houses. It had been laid out

before the older race course grounds were purchased by Matthew Vassar as a site for his college. The driving park on "the plank road" was partly developed with a half-mile track, soon after the war, and was conducted by A. Vanderburgh. In April, 1872, during the boom, a movement was started to organize a "Hudson River Agricultural and Mechanical Association" for the purpose of laying out elaborate fair grounds and racing track to serve as a rallying place for all the central river counties. A considerable sum of money was subscribed and the following directors were chosen, George Ayrault, LaGrange—then famous as a raiser of big cattle—J. O. Whitehouse, Thomas Doty, W. W. Hegeman, John I. Platt, E. B. Osborne, H. G. Eastman, James Smith, H. N. Avery, James Collingwood, Poughkeepsie; Henry Myers, Pine Plains; Samuel Johnson, Wappingers Falls; Thomas Morton, Newburgh; Nathaniel Hallock, Milton; Peter N. Berry, Stormville. In December, along with the announcement of the election of George Ayrault, president, H. N. Avery, secretary, and James H. Weeks, treasurer, it was stated that "the grounds of Mr. John A. Van Wagner, at the junction of the Salt Point Road with Innis Avenue have been chosen." These grounds were surveyed but were finally rejected, it is said, at the instance of the horsemen, as they did not afford a good location for a perfect mile track. The association, however, was never incorporated, and a new organization was afterwards formed, including some of the same men, to purchase and further develop the present driving park.

There were certainly social clubs before the war, but none that survived, and apparently none that had what could be called a club house. The Amrita Club seems to have been the first club of any importance. It was organized in March, 1873, with Henry V. Pelton, Edward Burgess, Frank B. Lown, Jerome V. Deyo, Cornelius Du Bois, Jr., John W. Pelton, John E. Hull, Jr., Howard B. Putnam, Frank Hasbrouck, William I. Ferris, Jr., C. Pierre Abell and Leonard C. Miller as charter members. The club hired two rooms in the Collingwood building until 1875, when it removed to the third floor of the Emott building, opposite Cannon Street. In 1878 it removed a few doors north to the old Swift house, which was occupied until 1887, when the present building was leased from Mrs. James H. Weeks. In 1864 the building was purchased, and in 1904 was enlarged by raising the roof and constructing a model billiard room in the third floor.

## CHAPTER XI.

FROM THE PANIC OF 1873 TO THE PRESENT (1905)—REDUCING EXPENSES, THE CHARTER OF 1874 AND POLITICAL CHANGES—REORGANIZATION AND READJUSTMENT—BUILDING THE POUGHKEEPSIE BRIDGE—THE OLD AND THE NEW, THE RIVER FRONT—THE OLD AND THE NEW, UPTOWN INDUSTRIES—THE CHARTER OF 1883 AND RECENT POLITICS—THE NEW VASSAR COLLEGE—THE BENEFACTIONS OF JOHN GUY VASSAR AND MATTHEW VASSAR, JR.—OTHER CHARITABLE AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS—NEW CHURCHES—RECENT PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, SCHOOLS—NEW BUILDINGS AND REAL ESTATE EXTENSION—THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS—SOCIAL LIFE, CLUBS, FRATERNITIES, ETC.—CONCLUSION.

From the panic of 1873 the events of the history of Poughkeepsie are within the memory of the great majority of the people, and too close to be viewed in historical perspective, but they are nevertheless worth recording. The city has not grown as the leaders of the enterprises of the last period hoped, but has slowly developed, and has not been behind other eastern cities of its size in the working out of progressive ideas, though considerably hampered for a long time by its heavy debt.

The panic was not so severe in its effect upon local business as that of 1837, with which it is often compared. The city debt, however, in 1873 was a much more serious matter than was the village debt of 1837, and led at once to charges of extravagance against Mayor Eastman's administration, and to a demand for a revision of the charter that should check the rapid extension of water mains, sewers and other expensive improvements. An investigating committee was appointed by the Common Council, October 10th, 1873, consisting of Aldermen Michael Plunkett, First Ward; Egbert Reynolds, Second Ward; George Parker, Third Ward; John P. Adriance, Fourth Ward; John J. Brooks, Fifth Ward, and Dr. DeWitt Webb, Sixth Ward, to act with six citizens, David C. Foster, Otis Bisbee, George B. Adriance, William Van Anden, George B. Lent and Henry A. Sleight. On November 6th they published a report that fills five or six columns of the newspapers.

In the meantime the Board of Trade called a mass meeting at the Opera House, October 20th, at which Matthew Vassar, Jr., was chairman. Mayor Eastman defended the expenditures of his administration and showed by comparisons that the per capita taxation was not so high as in many other cities. The necessity of amendments to the charter limiting the powers

of expenditure of the various city boards, each of which was at this time virtually independent, was debated and the meeting adopted resolutions asking Judge Joseph F. Barnard and Judge Henry M. Taylor to name a committee of two from each ward to investigate city affairs and prepare charter amendments. The two judges accepted the responsibility and reported, November 12th, the following committee: First Ward, Stephen M. Buckingham, Leonard B. Sackett; Second, George Innis, Otis Bisbee; Third, Charles W. Swift, Robert E. Taylor; Fourth, George H. Tompkins, Richard C. Meeks; Fifth, Jacob B. Jewett, Jacob B. Carpenter; Sixth, John I. Platt, J. O. Whitehouse. They organized by the election of C. W. Swift chairman and John I. Platt secretary. Subcommittees for investigation were appointed, and made a number of reports, and at length early in 1874, an entire new charter had been prepared, in large part by John I. Platt, and was debated by the Common Council, and also by a citizens' meeting on March 5th. This charter contained the first local recognition of the principle that the Common Council should have supervisory power over all expenditures, through submission to it of the estimates of all the boards. The boards were also deprived of the power of issuing bonds on their own authority alone, and there were restrictions upon the extension of water mains, sewers, flagged sidewalks, etc. The Water Board was made practically a Board of Public Works, and was given the care of the streets as well as the appointment of the city engineer. To these last provisions the Council strenuously objected, and they were at length stricken out. Allard Anthony, as Corporation Counsel, submitted an outline of another charter, and the Council appointed two conference committees to confer with Charles W. Swift, Jacob B. Carpenter and John

L. Platt, of the citizens' committee, before matters were straightened out. The charter was finally debated at a citizens' mass meeting at the Y. M. C. A. building March 24th, in which Professor W. H. Crosby, Robert West, Edward Elsworth, C. H. S. Williams, Henry D. Myers, Jacob B. Jewett, John McLean, Rev. A. P. Van Gieson, O. D. M. Baker, Leonard B. Sackett, Robert F. Wilkinson and others took part. Some modifications were adopted, and it was then sent to the Legislature, where it was speedily enacted into law. It was the only city charter of recent times thoroughly discussed, and many of the principles established still remain, though the mass meeting method resulted in some imperfections that were likened to patchwork.

The public improvements undertaken could not be entirely stopped at once, and as payments for work done fell due the city debt continued to increase. The tabular view printed with the City Chamberlain's report of 1874 shows it at \$1,932,867.70, which included \$600,000 Poughkeepsie and Eastern bonds, \$550,000 "water stock," \$60,000 Fallkill Improvement bonds, and \$320,000 sewerage bonds. Soon after this report was made \$85,000 more sewerage bonds were sold, bringing the total above \$2,000,000. When the next tabular view was published, with the report of 1876, the debt had fallen to \$1,970,997.70, and thereafter continued to decrease. The charter of 1874 introduced a period of economy and for a long time little more than mere maintenance could be attempted until population and taxable property had considerably increased. The census of 1875 was not encouraging, as it showed an actual, though slight, decrease in population; and the assessed valuation of property in the city had been decreasing since 1866.

The assessment rolls of this period are interesting enough to warrant a little study. In 1866 real estate had been assessed at \$2,803,600, and personal property at \$2,781,321, a total of \$5,584,921. War taxes had hardly yet come down much, and people were accustomed to paying on all sorts of personal property. Real estate continued to rise with the increased development, but personal property began to decrease more in proportion. In 1873, when assessments might naturally have been expected to be at the highest, they stood: Real estate \$3,262,345, personal \$2,100,075. The total did not approach the figures of 1866 until 1878, when it reached \$5,572,145, including real estate \$3,680,670, personal \$1,885,475. Real estate was assessed only at about one-third of its estimated value, a policy which did not prevent the Board of Supervisors from raising the city almost every year in making up its equalization tables. At this time the *Eagle*

and others strongly advocated a radical change in the method of assessments, and in the fall of 1878 Charles M. Colwell and Andrew King were elected assessors, for the purpose of inaugurating a new system. In 1879 the assessments jumped to \$11,518,865, made up of \$8,934,105 real, and \$2,584,760 personal. The highest city tax of this period was \$232,844.21 in 1876.

The charter of 1874 changed the time of holding city elections from March to December, so as to make the terms of office correspond with the fiscal and calendar years. Consequently in 1874 there were two city elections. Only minor offices were to be filled in the spring, and the election is noteworthy merely because the politicians decided not to spend any money in the purchase of votes. Says the *Eagle* of Wednesday, March 4th, "The election in this city yesterday was a very remarkable affair. On election days heretofore by at least four o'clock in the afternoon each polling place had been the scene of drunkenness and disorder to some extent." This time there were no such scenes, but the "strikers" stood gloomily around waiting for some one to buy them, and many of them did not vote at all. Robert E. Taylor, Republican, was re-elected Recorder, but F. W. George, Democrat, was chosen City Treasurer, defeating Col. James Smith. Mr. George served a number of terms as City Treasurer, and was several times elected in strong Republican years. One of the candidates against him was Courtland S. Howland, the present City Chamberlain. The office of City Treasurer was created by the charter of 1860, the previous corresponding official having been called the Collector. W. Morgan Lee, the present City Attorney, was City Chamberlain in 1874.

As was natural during a period of growing financial stringency, and high taxes, the political drift was away from the party in control of the National administration, and in November Samuel J. Tilden was elected Governor of the State, leading General Dix in Poughkeepsie by 648 votes, an extraordinary Democratic majority, partly accounted for by Mr. Whitehouse's 717 majority for Congress over Charles L. Beale. The Democrats elected their whole ticket, and Mr. Eastman declined to be a candidate either for Member of Assembly or for Mayor. The former office went to Benjamin S. Broas, of Poughkeepsie, and at the December election Jacob B. Carpenter, who had been Member of Assembly between Mr. Eastman's

Members of Assembly from the Second District, from 1875 to the present, were as follows: 1876 and 1877, Dr. De Witt Webb; 1878, Peter Hulme; 1879 and 1880, Cornelius Pitcher, who had previously been sheriff; 1881, James E. Dutcher, also previously Sheriff; 1882, John O'Brien, D., of



two terms, was chosen Mayor without opposition. O. D. M. Baker, at the same time became the first City Attorney, this office having been created by the new charter. Before this time there had been a "corporation counsel" appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen, and each of the city boards had employed its own attorney, often at considerable expense.

An incident of the fall of 1874 was the opening of the Driving Park in October, with a grand review by Governor John A. Dix, of the regiments comprising the 5th Division, New York State National Guard, commanded by General James W. Husted. This was followed by "the first annual fair of the Hudson River Agricultural and Driving Park Association," which brought a great crowd to the city. The Driving Park Association was nevertheless destined to failure, and the property passed through a number of hands before it came into the possession of the present owner, Jacob Rupert. Several noted horsemen, including Edwin Thorne, were among its owners.

By 1875 things were looking better for the Republicans, and B. Platt Carpenter was elected to the State Senate, and Dr. DeWitt Webb to the Assembly. In 1876 Hayes received a majority of 507 over Tilden in Poughkeepsie, and at the December election Eastman was again elected Mayor, defeating William Harloe by 530. Mayor Eastman had not fully recovered from his financial losses, and his health was failing. He died in Denver, Col., July 13th, 1878, and Dr. John R. Cooper was appointed to serve the remainder of his term. In December Dr. Cooper was defeated by Mr. Harloe, though at the same election the Republicans elected Robert F. Wilkinson Recorder over Frank Hashrouck, then entering politics for the first time.

In November, 1880, Garfield received a majority of 811 votes, and the next month Ezra White, who had succeeded Mr. Eastman, his brother-in-law, as president of Eastman College, was elected Mayor for the first time, defeating Dr. Guy C. Bayley by 585. Seneca V. Holloway, teller of the Poughkeepsie Bank, was County Treasurer at this time, and in 1881 was re-elected, but in December was found short in his ac-

Rhinebeck; 1883, Edgar A. Briggs; 1884 and 1885, Edward B. Osborne, D.; 1886, '87 and '88, John I. Platt; 1889 and 1890, Johnston L. dePeyster, of Red Hook; 1891, Edward B. Osborne, D.; 1892 and 1893, John A. Vandewater, D.; 1894, '95, '96 and '97, Augustus B. Gray; 1898, 1899 and 1900, William A. Tripp, of Rhinebeck; 1901, '02 and '03, Francis G. Landon, of Staatsburgh; 1904, Robert Windrop Chanler, D., of Red Hook; 1905, Augustus B. Gray. All except those marked D. were Republicans, and all except those otherwise designated lived in the city or town of Poughkeepsie when elected.

counts. His defalcation was one of the chief sensations of the period.

The last December elections were held in 1882, when Mayor White was re-elected with a lead of 395 votes over Dr. W. G. Stevenson, though Recorder Wilkinson was defeated by Frank B. Lown. This was the year of Grover Cleveland's enormous majority for Governor in the State, and Cleveland had carried Poughkeepsie by 128, in spite of the fact that B. Platt Carpenter, the local Republican leader, was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor and received 15 more votes than his Democratic opponent, David B. Hill. Mr. Carpenter's disappointment over this election was so keen that he obtained an appointment as Governor of the Territory of Montana, and removed from Poughkeepsie. He was succeeded in the local leadership of his party by Robert H. Hunter, who had been appointed postmaster in 1880. James L. Williams<sup>1</sup> was at this time one of the local Democratic leaders, and was appointed by Governor Cleveland State Assessor. The Legislature elected in 1882 was naturally Democratic, though Edgar A. Briggs had defeated John O'Brien, of Rhinebeck, chairman of the Democratic State Committee, for Member of Assembly in the Second District of Dutchess, and the Democrats, evidently thinking that they had nothing to lose from a consolidation of city, State and National elections, passed a new charter in 1883 abolishing the December elections. During the winter and spring of 1883 a number of suits were brought by the city against former office holders, including William L. Thorn, who had been City Attorney, and Abraham Wiltzie, who had been City Treasurer. They disclosed considerable irregularity in the keeping of accounts, but no criminality, and had no practical results, except greater carefulness.

#### REORGANIZATION AND READJUSTMENT.

Although many local business men lost heavily as a result of the panic, there were few failures, and the statement is not true that most of the losses were made from local investments. More Poughkeepsie money had been invested in western railroad stocks and bonds, and farm mortgages than in the new local enterprises. Many of the former proved worthless and left nothing behind, while most of the latter left something in the nature of fixed capital at home to provide a basis for future profit. The Hudson River Iron Works, for example, soon went through a reorganization that wiped out investments in the stock, but the plant was there, and the puddling furnaces and rolling mill con-

<sup>1</sup>For biographical sketch see Appendix.



FRANK B. LOWN.

*(For biographical sketch see Appendix.)*

timed to turn out wrought iron bars and bolts until 1878. After a period of idleness the plant passed into the hands of the Phoenix Horse Shoe Company, was doubled in size and became a greater contributor to the business of the city than its original promoters expected.

The City Railroad failed to pay fixed charges and was sold December 11th, 1876, for \$40,000, to the bondholders, but the little old "bob-tailed" cars were a great convenience and did their part, even with ten cent fares, or "six tickets for a quarter," towards restoring prosperity. The company reported net earnings of \$2,008.00 in the year ending September 30th, 1873, but soon after that abandoned its old stables near the Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad, and built the new brick stables in Main Street. In the winter of 1875 the expenses of removing snow absorbed a large



1875 Snow Scene—Main Street, near Tassar.

part of the earnings of the road. There was a succession of big storms, the worst of them on March 4th and 8th. On the 8th the City Railroad tracks had only been dug out as far as the Morgan House by night. The accompanying picture, probably taken on the 9th, shows that the depth of snow was not much less than in the memorable blizzard of March 12th, 1888. The City Railroad was reorganized in October, 1877, with Aaron Innis president, and thereafter by strict economy of management kept out of financial difficulty. Though returning nothing to the stockholders for a long period, those who held on ultimately got most of their original investment back when the road was sold for equipment with electricity.

The Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad doubtless absorbed more local capital than any of the other enterprises of the day, but with two railroads leading

to Fishkill, it had to be built if the city was to retain the trade of the county. Its failure is more to be attributed to the postponement of construction until after the Dutchess and Columbia was built than to anything else. *The Eagle* of May 17th, 1873, said: "If the Poughkeepsie and Eastern had been built when we and others strove to have it done, there never would have been any Dutchess and Columbia, the Delaware and Hudson Company would have established a great coal depot here, as it agreed to, and there never would have been any Rhinebeck and Connecticut. The whole business between Western Connecticut and Eastern Dutchess and the Hudson River would have passed over our line." "Never" is doubtless too comprehensive a word as applied to the construction of competing lines, but the statement is substantially true. The railroad was first sold under foreclosure April 14th, 1875, to George P. Pelton, as trustee for the bondholders, for \$50,000, and was reorganized in May as the Poughkeepsie, Hartford and Boston Railroad.<sup>1</sup> It managed to pay bare running expenses, but could make no improvements without borrowing. In 1884 there was another foreclosure, and the section from Boston Corners to State Line was sold to the Hartford and Connecticut Western, and was made use of by the latter for consolidation, not with the railroad to Poughkeepsie, but with that to Rhinebeck. This was a serious blow to P. and E. interests, for closer connection with Hartford and New England was one of the motives in the construction of the railroad. A fatal mismanagement at critical moments characterized the P. and E. from the outset, and resulted ultimately in its hopeless isolation.

#### BUILDING THE POUGHKEEPSIE BRIDGE.

Efforts to make the Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad pay, by giving it a through traffic, constituted a leading motive for the revival of the great bridge enterprise which had been so near to success. Reorganization of course followed the death of President Thompson, and the withdrawal of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and the bridge promoters, particularly Mr. Eastman, Mr. George P. Pelton and Mr. Platt, turned to New England for help. They succeeded in arousing the interest of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, and in January, 1875, a committee of nineteen from that body, accompanied by leading men from other sections of New England, visited Poughkeepsie, went over the ground thoroughly and reported in favor of the bridge. The proposition then began to attract the attention

<sup>1</sup>The story of the several reorganizations is told in the petition of William P. Rockwell, 14th February, 1888, and in George P. Pelton's answer.

of bridge construction companies, and at length an offer was accepted from "The American Bridge Company," of Chicago, to build the bridge and help raise the money. Work began November 14th, 1870, on the first of the timber cribs upon which the piers were to be built "on the ways of Mr. George W. Polk, almost at the exact site that was used by the ship builders employed by the Continental Congress in the Revolution."

Three cribs or caissons were successfully launched and two of them were placed in position and weighted down with concrete, when an unfortunate accident caused suspension of the work and another long wait. It was then deemed necessary, in order to lay masonry upon the cribs, to build coffer dams upon them to be pumped out.<sup>1</sup> When the first caisson, nearest the west shore, had reached this stage the pumping out of the coffer dams caused so great an upward pressure that it broke the caisson apart, and lifted the



*Bridge Caisson, Ready to float to Position, 1877.*

whole mass on the north end above the bottom line of caulking. The damage was successfully repaired, and the masonry was carried up to the required height before winter, but the accident proved so expensive that, combined with misfortune elsewhere, it ruined the American Bridge Company. There stood the pier for another ten years before work was resumed, and it was often referred to as H. G. Eastman's monument, as he died July 15th, 1878.

A few persons never lost faith in the enterprise, and continued their efforts to interest capital. The time limit in the charter was extended by legislative action from January 1st, 1870 to 1883, and then to 1888 against some opposition. At length J. C. Stanton, of New York, a well known contractor and promoter, was enlisted in the work, and induced W. W. Gibbs, of Philadelphia, to undertake its completion. He and other capitalists organized the Manhattan

<sup>1</sup>For details of construction see paper read by John F. O'Rourke before the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Bridge Building Company, at the head of which was John W. Brock, of Philadelphia, to finance the bridge — provide funds, market securities, etc. Charlemagne Tower, U. S. Senator Simon Cameron, H. C. Frick and William B. Scott were among the prominent Pennsylvanians interested, and J. H. Appleton, of Springfield, the most prominent of the New Englanders. The actual work of construction was sublet to the Union Bridge Company, of New York, comprising the eminent engineers Charles F. McDermald, Thomas C. Clark, George S. Field, Edmund Hayes and Charles S. Maurice. The success of the cantilever bridge at Niagara, built by the same company, suggested another change of plans, and the final adoption of the combined cantilever and truss system.

Work was begun for the third time October 8th, 1886. The charter now required the completion of the bridge January 1st, 1888, leaving but little more than a year, and a further extension of time was necessary. Against this the most determined opposition sprang up on the part of the boatmen, rival cities and the Storm King Bridge promoters. All the newspapers of Albany and Troy and most of those in New York joined this movement, and the New York Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade and Transportation, the Produce Exchange and other bodies, sent representatives to Albany to lobby in favor of a bill introduced by Mr. Devereaux, one of the Albany Members of Assembly, to repeal the act of 1872 and compel the removal of the piers already partly finished. John I. Platt had been Member of Assembly since 1886, and the contest this time was quite as bitter and obstinate as that in 1872, when Mr. Eastman represented Poughkeepsie. Mr. Platt had taken a prominent part in the earlier contest, had been a leading force in every movement to bring the great enterprise to completion, was familiar with every point the opposition could make, as well as with everything in favor of the bridge, and eventually defeated the Devereaux bill and carried through the bill granting an extension of time, which was signed by Governor Hill June 25th, 1888.

By this time the work was in full progress. Messrs. Dawson, Symmes and Usher had charge of the foundations and masonry, and Ross, Sanford & Baird, of the superstructure. John F. O'Rourke, now widely known as the contractor for the great Pennsylvania Railroad tunnel under the North River at New York, was the chief engineer in charge of construction, while Arthur B. Paine had general supervision for the Manhattan Bridge Building Company, and P. P. Dickinson for the Poughkeepsie Bridge Company proper.

There were, of course, many changes in the directorate of the Bridge Company itself during the reor-



*The Poughkeepsie Bridge from West Shore.*

ganizations. A. B. Stone, of New York, succeeded John F. Winslow as president when the American Bridge Company had charge, and continued in office until January, 1886, when J. H. Appleton, of Springfield, Mass., became president. August 27th, 1886, Mr. Appleton was succeeded by Watson Van Benthusen, of New Orleans, who in turn gave place to W. W. Gibbs, of Philadelphia, in 1887. Then, as the bridge approached completion, it became necessary to look up a practical railroad man of large experience to take charge, and John S. Wilson, of Philadelphia, general traffic manager of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was selected. The other officers elected in 1888 were: John I. Platt, vice-president; W. R. Carlisle, secretary and treasurer; P. P. Dickinson, chief engineer.

On the 20th of August, 1888, the last pin was driven in the cantilever span between pier No. 5 and the east shore, making the connection from shore to shore complete, though the viaducts or approaches were not finished until well into December. The first train crossed December 20th.

When the bridge became a certainty those who were furnishing the capital tried to acquire the Poughkeepsie and Eastern,<sup>1</sup> but Mr. H. D. Cone, a paper manufacturer of Chicopee, Mass., who had purchased it before the reorganization of 1887, refused to sell, though offered double what he had paid for it. Rather than submit to his traffic proposition a new railroad was built to parallel the P. and E. from Poughkeepsie to Silvermails, on the Hartford and Connecticut Western, which had been purchased as the eastern connection. The western line to Campbell Hall and Maybrook, where it meets the Erie, Ontario & Western and Lehigh Railroads, was built, and then the east and west lines were consolidated as the Central New England and Western. Partly perhaps by bad management the Springfield connection was delayed beyond the limit of its charter and the railroad was "bottled up" at Hartford until 1903, when the Springfield line was pushed through after several notable legislative and legal battles at Hartford. In the meantime the Dutchess County Railroad to Hopewell Junction, to connect with the New York and New England (now Highland Division N. Y., N. H. & H.) was constructed, thus carrying out another favorite project of earlier days.

The bridge and connecting railroads have been of considerable benefit to Poughkeepsie, but have so far

<sup>1</sup>Under Mr. Cone's management this railroad was named the "New York and Massachusetts Railroad." Mr. Cone borrowed money of Russell Sage, and at length Mr. Sage had to take the railroad, which he still owns. He restored the original name.

fallen very far short of expectations. Of course all early subscribers to the stock lost their money, as the whole system has been twice reorganized, but the bonds, though not paying, have generally been worth upwards of 60. In 1862, when Archibald A. McLeod, president of the Reading Railroad, undertook to carry out a bold scheme of consolidating the Reading, Jersey Central, Central New England and Boston & Maine railways, the future of the bridge seemed assured, but Mr. McLeod's gigantic plans created consternation among the managers of other older systems, other capitalists combined against him and the plans failed.

Now, in 1904, the Central New England has fallen into the control of the New York, New Haven and Hartford, greatest of New England railroad combinations, and the bridge has become the "connecting link" its promoters so long predicted between the Pennsylvania coal fields and New England. The change has brought increased passenger and freight facilities to Poughkeepsie, and the great bridge across the Hudson River may yet prove of as much advantage to the city as had been expected.

#### THE OLD AND THE NEW—THE RIVER FRONT.

The building of the Poughkeepsie Bridge marks the triumph of the railroads over the river, and by the time it was finished many changes had taken place or were in progress along the river front. More than half of the prosperous establishments once there have now gone out of existence, and others are slowly taking their places. Locations fronting both river and railroad are valuable, but locations accessible only by river are not frequently sought. The consolidation of all the river freighting at Main Street was noted in the last chapter. It is said to have been originally the intention of Homer Ramsdell and his friends to make the Upper Landing the terminus of the boats, which were to connect there with the Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad, but it is difficult to see how the railroad could have been brought there, even if its funds had been ample. It remains to be noted that Captain John H. Brinckerhoff,<sup>1</sup> who purchased control of the Transportation Company in 1878, completed the downfall of the Upper Landing in 1876, when he abandoned the old ferry landing, and brought the ferry also to Main Street. One of the old Upper Landing storerooms was torn down about the time of the building of the bridge, but the largest was burned in July, 1891, and on its site was erected in 1894 the new power house of the electric lighting company. Main Street Landing, too, has been the scene of a number of recent changes.

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix for biographical sketch.



CAPT. JOHN H. BRINCKERHOFF.



*Looking South from Bridge, 1889.*



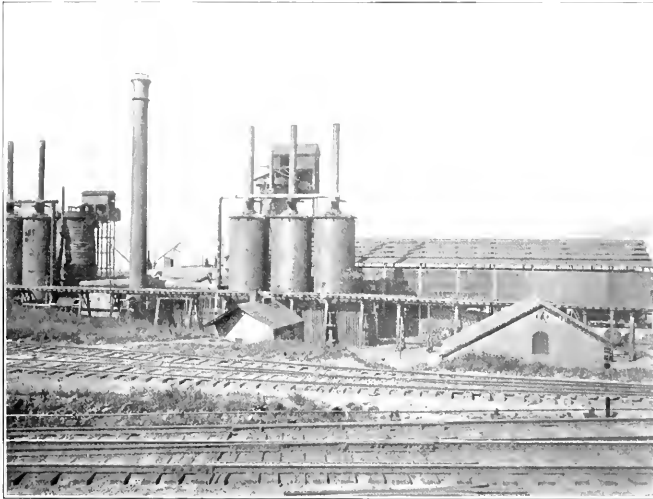
When the Poughkeepsie Transportation Company had been merged into the Central Hudson Steamboat Company the old Exchange House was purchased and torn down, and the present waiting room was erected in 1900. The last proprietor of the Exchange House was Isaac H. Wood.

The dye wood mills of Gifford, Sherman & Jmis kept the upper neighborhood busy with frequent ship-loads of log wood arriving from the West Indies for some time after the removal of the freight boats and the ferry, but in 1884 this firm, whose business had been one of the most profitable in Poughkeepsie, failed, and though reorganized and continued for some fifteen years, lack of capital and the increasing competi-

tion was again contracted in 1884 and was finally filled and drained in 1899.

The great Vassar brewery after the death of Matthew Vassar, Jr., and John Guy Vassar, gradually lost its trade, partly owing to complications of ownership, and partly to Mr. Oliver H. Booth's interest in boat-building and other outside matters. About ten years ago it ceased operations, and the buildings have remained idle, except for temporary occupation of the Water Street front as a county jail in 1902. Their purchase was contemplated a few years ago by a cold storage company which failed to obtain enough capital to carry out its plans.

The ship-building industry has almost ceased since



*The Poughkeepsie Iron Works. (See Appendix.)*

tion of chemical dyes caused its downfall, and in 1902 the mills were dismantled. The oldest of the buildings, north of the Fall Kill, passed into the hands of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company recently, and was torn down in 1905. Three of the buildings are still in use by other manufacturing concerns, but of the old Upper Landing industries only the chair factory and the Arnold lumber yard remain, and the chair factory is the only establishment in the city still using water power from the Fall Kill. A little farther up stream the manufacture of carpets by the Peltons was abandoned in 1801, though the main building is occupied by smaller manufacturing establishments. The old Pelton Mill pond, much reduced in size when the other ponds were destroyed,

the failure of the second bridge company, which made use of George Polk's shipyard and never paid him for it. He had been established there since 1807. Dr. C. D. Miller has built a number of yachts and George Buekhout occasionally builds boats, though mainly occupied as an ice yacht builder, at which no one in the country excels him.

Iron smelting still flourishes intermittently at the Poughkeepsie Iron Works, though much of its glory has departed. The old Lower Furnace (See page 143) has disappeared completely, and its once busy wharves, piled high with ores, coal and limestone, are slowly rotting. The last iron was made there in July, 1885, and the buildings were pulled down a few years later. Mr. Frank B. Lown, who purchased the property, has

improved the houses, which were formerly the homes of furnace operatives, and they are still occupied. In the old days, before the competition of western and southern iron became so keen, the Poughkeepsie furnaces were operated almost continuously, and when the iron market was low thousands of tons of pig iron were piled along the river front, awaiting a rise in price. A small fleet of barges, canal boats and sloops was often moored at the furnace wharves loading iron, or discharging ore, coal or limestone. One of the stacks at the Upper (now the only) Furnace has been rebuilt and is alone capable of producing more iron than the four stacks of both establishments formerly turned out. Since the death of Albert E. Tower, in

lingwood property, south of the Lower Landing. This factory makes machines for separating cream from milk, machines for which there is a steadily increasing demand, and hence the factory has been rapidly growing until it now occupies twice the territory originally given it, including the old Polk shipyard, and employs three or four times more men than when first opened. Its power is transmitted by electricity from a dynamo driven by the only turbine engine so far installed in the city.<sup>1</sup>

In the same neighborhood is Lane Brothers' manufactory of hardware specialties, brought to Poughkeepsie from Millbrook in 1882, by John G. and William J. Lane. This business, like the cutting of dye



*De Laval Separator Company's Plant.*

1891, the property has been owned by his son, A. Edward Tower.

Two large new industries on the river front go far towards making up for the loss of the older establishments. The Poughkeepsie Glass Works<sup>1</sup> (See illustration p. 118) were started on the site of the old whale dock buildings in March, 1886, and have grown to considerable proportions. The original plant was nearly all burned in 1897 and was rebuilt soon afterwards, with much enlargement and improvement.

The De Laval Separator Company, of Stockholm, Sweden, built a branch factory here in 1892, the Board of Trade raising by subscription from citizens \$10,000 for the purchase of the site, a part of the Col-

<sup>1</sup>For further particulars see Appendix.

woods in Poughkeepsie, (see p. 117) was an outgrowth of Beriah Swift's inventions, and the Swift coffee, spice and drug mills were long a leading feature. The Lane door hangers are perhaps the most widely known of the productions of this factory. The manufacture of the Lane steam automobile is now an important branch.

Adriance, Platt and Company's business has continued to expand steadily, and large buildings have recently been added to the plant. Until 1892 the general offices of this company had been located in New York, but in that year an office building was erected in connection with the factory, and the office force was brought here. The importance of this neighborhood

<sup>1</sup>For further particulars see Appendix.

was considerably increased by the removal of the railroad freight house and office from Main Street to Tulip Street, near Pine, in 1885.

The tanning industry continued on a small scale at the old Southwick yard until 1880, long outlasting the up-town tanneries conducted by the Boyd family. Passing along the river front one finds most of the lumber business still centred there, but only two firms continue the coal business there, one of which also has an up-town yard connected with the bridge system of railroads, where all the others are located.



*N. Y. C. & H. R. R. R. Station at Main Street, before the Freight House was moved.*

#### THE OLD AND THE NEW—UP-TOWN INDUSTRIES.

Many changes have taken place among the smaller manufacturing industries of the city, away from the water front. Adam Caire died in 1806, and the making of pottery was abandoned a few years later. Wagons and carriages are still made by a number of firms, and Horace Sague has recently built a new shop on Church Street, but the competition of the machine-made wagons of the great western factories has caused a great decline in the business. Most of the buildings on upper Main Street, east of Hamilton, once devoted to wagon making, have now been converted into stores, and nearly all the down-town factories long since ceased operations. Others have been converted into selling agencies and repair shops. The Edward Storm Spring Company, which in the early part of the period under consideration was doing a large business on the north side of Main Street, 437-441, above Hamilton, has passed away. Streit and Lockwood, one of the oldest wagon-making firms, sold out in April, 1885, and Lewis F. Streit died in March, 1891. The selling and repairing of bicycles and automobiles has grown to considerable proportions, but is hardly likely ever to occupy so important a position as the old wagon and carriage factories once held.

The old Main Street foundries that used to produce a wide variety of cast iron ware, have gone, but

the Poughkeepsie Foundry and Machine Company only abandoned its Main Street plant in 1904, and continues on a larger scale than ever at its new north side plant erected on grounds that had been used for several years as a baseball field. The erection of another new north side factory has just been started (May, 1905) on Parker Avenue, by the Chapinville Wheel Company, which had been located in the old Red Mills buildings since 1804, when it was removed to Poughkeepsie from Chapinville, N. Y. A. J. Glass is the president.

A rather inconspicuous but very important industry is the manufacture of Smith Brothers' cough drops in Church Street, east of the Armory. This business has grown up since 1873, and has long been very profitable. A considerable part of the profits have been contributed every year to the various charitable institutions of the city, as stated elsewhere.

The Whitehouse shoe factory is one of the largest of the establishments which have passed away. Mr. Whitehouse died in August, 1881, but the factory continued in apparently prosperous condition under the management of his son-in-law, Eugene N. Howell, until 1891, when it failed. The plant was purchased by Wallace, Eliot & Co., and shoe manufacturing was continued there until about 1900. After standing idle for a short time the buildings passed into the hands of the American Cigar Company, and are now devoted to cigar manufacturing. A valuable off-shoot of the Whitehouse business was the prosperous shoe factory at Main and Water Streets, started by George M. Hine (the present Mayor) and C. E. Lynch, both of whom had been associated with Mr. Whitehouse and Mr. Howell. This factory occupies what was formerly the Beardsley sash and blind factory.

Cigar making has been and still is an important industry carried on by many persons. The most extensive manufacturer of hand made cigars has been John Schwartz, and next to him Court B. Cunley.

Some very important industries were started soon after the panic. This seems, in fact, to have been the time of the beginning of the manufacture of clothing in Poughkeepsie on any considerable scale, and also the beginning of the extensive employment of women and girls in local factories. Lasher, Haight & Kelley, who were in the dry goods business at 332 Main Street, formed the Dutchess Manufacturing Company, leased a brick building on Cherry Street, opposite the Whitehouse factory, and began the manufacture of skirts in 1875. The building had been erected a few years before for the tanning and dressing of French kid, by a patented process, which was not successful. In 1878 George D. Eighmie erected a good-sized building on Crannell Street and began the manufacture of



*Factory of the Polkhepse Underwear Company.*

shirts on a large scale. In 1888 the Dutchess Manufacturing Company purchased this building, and has since been located there. Lasher and Kelley had sold their interest to William Forby, and at his death in 1879, J. Frank Hull, the present head of the company, purchased an interest. The manufacture of skirts and other articles was gradually abandoned and the factory, though much enlarged, now makes only trousers.

The old Cherry Street factory building stood idle for a long time, but in 1902 was purchased by the Poughkeepsie Underwear Company, which had been organized in 1900 with Robert Stuart, previously of New Hamburg, as president. In the meantime Donald, Converse and Maynard had started the manufacture of overalls, under the name of the Fallkill Manufacturing Company, in a brick building erected in Mechanic Street for a shoe factory. This business passed into the hands of Messrs. Eastmead and Osborne, who were joined by Mr. Lasher in 1887. Eventually this factory failed and the building is now used in the manufacture of linen mesh underwear.

To take up an entirely different line of industries, those operating under public franchises—competition in gas lighting began with the organization of the Citizens' Gas Company, of which Augustus L. Allen and Horatio Allen were the chief local promoters. This company purchased eight acres of land on Laurel Street, and erected a plant for the manufacture of what was generally called "water gas," in 1875. This plant is still in use, though much enlarged. The inevitable consolidation of the two companies came in 1887, after which the older Bayeaux Street establishment was abandoned.

The first electric lights in Poughkeepsie were put up by Dorsey Neville, who erected a dynamo at Bullard's foundry on Main Street, in 1884. His interests were purchased by the Poughkeepsie Electric Light and Power Company, which filed its certificate of incorporation April 2nd, 1885, with John H. Brinckerhoff, C. A. Fowler, James H. Ward, F. J. Allen, Edward H. Goff, Martin V. Brady, William Kaess, John R. Lent and General Alfred B. Smith named as directors. All were residents of Poughkeepsie except Messrs. Goff, Brady and Fowler, who in 1886 sold their interests to Mr. A. M. Young and a party of gentlemen from Waterbury, Ct., including D. S. Plume, B. G. Bryan and E. T. Turner. Capt. Brinckerhoff, who had been the first president, was succeeded by James H. Ward, and the plant on Winnikee Avenue erected by Mr. Goff was doubled in size. Says the *Souvenir Eagle*: "The company is chiefly indebted to Gen. A. B. Smith, James H. Ward, Peter L. Van Wagenen, Willard H. Crosby, Peter B. Hayt and

John R. Lent, of Poughkeepsie, and Mr. A. M. Young, of Waterbury, Ct., for the success of the enterprise." In April, 1886, the company secured the contract for lighting the streets at \$18,000 per annum, and since June 1st of that year they have been continuously lighted by electric arcs. John X. Candee became manager of the company at its organization and remained until the consolidation with the gas company in 1901.

Telephones were introduced into this city by the Automatic Signal Telegraph Company in June, 1878. The company had been organized in October, 1877, by John L. Platt, Henry S. Frost and Samuel K. Rupley to handle the patents of William B. Watkins "for improvements in fire and burglar alarms, telegraphs and other inventions." An automatic fire alarm was the leading feature, but had not been sufficiently perfected to be commercially successful when the telephone began to attract attention. John L. Platt was the first



Main Street in 1880.

president, and under his leadership the stock held by the promoters of the Watkins patents was purchased, their interests extinguished and telephones introduced instead. The idea of a central system connecting the people of a town was, so far as is known, suggested by Mr. Platt, and the "exchange" constructed here was the third in existence, having been preceded by New Haven and Albany. The first telephones connected with it were the *Eagle* board, Mr. Platt's house, the office of the city water board and the pumping station. A few private telephones had been put in, chiefly as experiments before this. The telephone company was successful from the start, and by May, 1880, there were 100 subscribers in the exchange. The name "Hudson River Telephone Company" came into existence not long after this to designate the joint ownership of a



JOHN I. PLATT



ALLISON BUTTS.

cable laid across the river at New Hamburg, by the Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and Fishkill telephone companies, each of which built lines to connect with it. The consolidation of the various river companies under this name was effected later by Mr. H. L. Storke, representing the parent Bell Telephone Company.

A rival telephone company, the Dutchess County, was incorporated in 1900, and obtained a franchise from the Common Council on condition that its wires in the main streets should be placed underground. Since that time both companies have laid conduits in Main and Market Streets, and it is expected that within the next few years all telephone and telegraph wires will be put underground.

Much of the best enterprise of Poughkeepsie has always been devoted to retail trade, which has attained a development greater than in many cities of even larger size, in spite of the competition of the metropolis. I have seen no record of an organization of merchants earlier than about 1883, when the Butchers and Grocers' Association was formed, with J. DuBois Carpenter president, and James H. Ward treasurer, but it is probable that something of the sort had ex-

isted before. This association was reorganized as the Retail Merchants' Association in February, 1886, and soon obtained a much enlarged membership. It frequently takes action on public questions, not political in their nature, and joins in all efforts to improve the city. In 1887 and again in September, 1888, the association brought itself before the public by parades that attracted a great deal of attention.

#### THE CHARTER OF 1883—RECENT POLITICS.

The Charter of 1883, already referred to, was passed through the influence of Judge Nelson in the Senate, and made some important changes besides the consolidation of elections. It increased the power of the Mayor, making the water board appointive, and contained among other things a provision for a Board of Police Commissioners to take the control of the police force out of the hands of the Common Council. The new board organized in July with the following members: Allison Butts, Theodore V. Johnston, John F. Hull and Dr. Edward F. Parker. The first new patrolman appointed was Charles McCabe, the present chief of police. The election in November of that



1108. MARTIN HEERMANCE.

year was somewhat notable as one in which the *Eagle* supported a Democratic candidate—Thomas Newbold—for State Senator against Lewis F. Payn. Newbold was elected by a large majority. The first city election in November was in 1884. It was a Democratic year—the Blaine-Cleveland campaign—but Blaine carried Poughkeepsie by 235, and Ezra White was elected for a third term as Mayor, defeating O. D. M. Baker, the author of the new charter.

Mr. White was nominated for a fourth time in 1886, but was defeated by Edward Elsworth<sup>1</sup> by 458, though at the same time John I. Platt, nominated for his second term in the Assembly, carried the city by 462 over his Democratic opponent, Martin W. Collins, and Cyrenus P. Dorland defeated Mr. Lown for Recorder by 234. Mr. Collins, it should be said, had no expectation of being elected and had in fact been a supporter of Mr. Platt. In the first Harrison Cleveland campaign, 1888, Mayor Elsworth was defeated by Charles M. Rowley, but in 1890 he was again elected Mayor, receiving 447 more votes than Hudson Taylor. Charles Morsehauser was chosen Recorder at this time. The campaign of 1888 was characterized by one old-time out-of-door meeting, the E. N. Howell barbecue, held not far from the Driving Park out-

side of the city limits. Chauncey M. Depew was the chief speaker. Martin Heermance,<sup>1</sup> then of Rhinebeck, was elected District Attorney in 1888, and thereafter for the greater portion of each year became a resident of Poughkeepsie.

This was the period of James W. Hinkley's control of the local Democratic organization, in Gov. Hill's administration. Mr. Hinkley purchased the *Poughkeepsie News* in 1883 and also the *Weekly Telegraph* and the *Daily Press*, so long published by Edward B. Osborne. He consolidated these newspapers, which still retain the double title *News-Press* and *News-Telegraph*, and created a strong personal organ just at the time when the Democratic party was largely in the ascendancy. The *News* had been published, after Mr. Whitehouse's death in 1881, by a company organized among its employees, including Samuel P. Flagler, who remained at the head of the job printing department for a long time after Mr. Hinkley's purchase, and William F. Leary, who continued to serve as foreman until his death in 1905.

The discontinuance of *The Press* as an afternoon newspaper left the field open for a new paper, and August 6th, 1883, the first number of the *Evening En-*

He was appointed State assessor, or tax commissioner, in 1890 and became chairman of the board. See Appendix.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 249, also Appendix.





JAMES W. HINKLEY.

*terprise* was published by W. C. Lansing, Edward Van Keuren and Derrick Brown. Messrs. Lansing and Van Keuren had the year before purchased *The Dutchess Farmer*, an agricultural weekly, started April 6th, 1869, by Egbert B. Killey, Jr., and Mr. Brown, who had been the editor of *The News*, joined them when it was decided to start a new daily. *The Enterprise* has always been, under Mr. Brown's editorship, an independent Democratic paper, and has continued in the same building on Main Street where the *Telegraph* was published in the time of Edward B. Killey, Sr., and where the *Dutchess Farmer* was published by his son. This building is said to have been a newspaper office for more than 75 years, but in 1904 was completely changed in appearance and rebuilt with an additional story and a new front.



*Old Telegraph (later Enterprise) Building.*

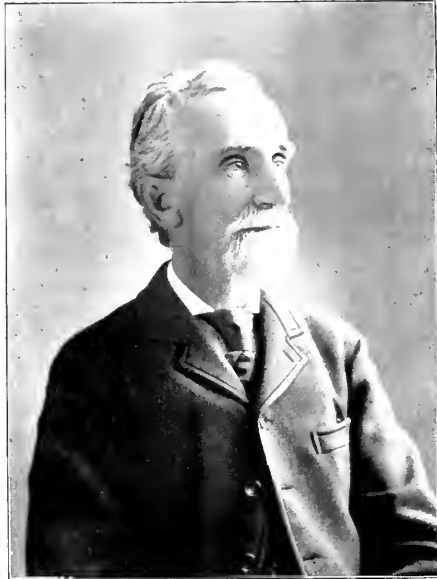
Returning to politics, the Democrats in 1800-01 were concentrating their efforts upon the capture of the State Legislature. At the election of 1801 they obtained a majority in the Assembly, gaining one member in Dutchess, where John A. Vandewater defeated Archibald Rogers, but on the face of the returns they lacked one or two of a majority in the Senate. Then occurred the celebrated case of the "quad-marked" ballots, or the "Dutchess County Case." The majority of Gilbert A. Deane for Senator, in the Senatorial district comprising the counties of Dutchess, Putnam and Columbia, was small enough, only 78, to

invite attack, and looking the ground over the Democrats discovered that a number of the ballots, printed under county authority, had a black ink mark on them, made by a high "quad," or space in the printing. These, they claimed, were "marked for identification," and the Board of Supervisors, sitting as canvassers, and strongly Democratic, was induced to throw out 31 such ballots, cast for the Republican ticket in the Town of Red Hook, and to make enough other changes in the original return to give Edward B. Osborne, the veteran Poughkeepsie editor, a majority. The Republican County Clerk, Theodore A. Hoffman, refused to sign the certificate of the board, and John J. Mylod<sup>1</sup> was appointed secretary pro tem. Thus came into existence the celebrated Mylod certificate, about which a legal battle immediately began, the details of which are too voluminous for repetition<sup>2</sup> here. It is sufficient to say that the Republicans obtained a mandamus compelling the Board of County Canvassers to reconvene and grant a certificate of election to Gilbert A. Deane, and obtained an order from the Court of Appeals, which was unanimously Democratic, forbidding the State Board to canvass the Mylod return. Meanwhile Governor Hill removed County Clerk Hoffman and appointed Storm Emans in his place. Mr. Emans, after having mailed the corrected returns to Albany, went there by a night train and took the copies from the mail of the State officers to which they were directed and brought them back to Poughkeepsie. Finally the State board, in defiance of all the court orders, granted the certificate of election to Mr. Osborne, and the Democrats obtained the coveted control of the Senate. Roswell P. Flower, who was elected Governor at the same election, rewarded the leading Poughkeepsie participants in the affair, making William H. Wood, who had been attorney for the Board of Supervisors, chairman of the State Board of Assessors, but each of the members of the State Board of Canvassers was afterwards fined for contempt of court. James W. Hinkley became chairman of the Democratic State Committee during Governor Flower's term.

The independent press of the State and many of the Democratic newspapers, including the *Enterprise*, joined the Republicans in denunciation of Governor Hill and his associates in this capture of the Senate, and public opinion began to set against the Democratic party. In the spring of 1802 a Republican Board

<sup>1</sup>Public opinion generally exonerates Mr. Mylod of any intentional wrongdoing in the matter, for the Court of Appeals afterwards decided that the clerk of the Board of Canvassers was not responsible for its action, and was bound to affix his signature to the returns adopted by it.

<sup>2</sup>For full story of the legal battle see "The Dutchess County Case," a pamphlet published by John L. Platt in 1802.



HON. CHARLES N. ARNOLD.  
*(For biographical sketch see Appendix.)*

The first part of the paper discusses the general principles of the proposed system. It is based on the assumption that the system should be able to handle a wide range of input data and produce a consistent output. The system is designed to be flexible and adaptable to different environments and requirements.

The second part of the paper describes the implementation of the system. It details the various components and their interactions, as well as the algorithms used for data processing and analysis. The system is implemented in a modular fashion, allowing for easy integration and maintenance.

The third part of the paper presents the results of the experiments conducted to evaluate the performance of the system. The results show that the system is able to handle the input data efficiently and produce accurate results. The system is also able to adapt to different environments and requirements, making it a versatile tool for data analysis.

The fourth part of the paper discusses the conclusions and future work. The system is a promising tool for data analysis and is worth further investigation. Future work should focus on improving the system's performance and expanding its capabilities.

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SAMUEL H. BROWN.  
*(For biographical sketch see Appendix.)*



JUDGE JOSEPH MORSCHAUSER.  
*(For biographical sketch see Appendix.)*

had succeeded Theodore W. Davis in 1881, was given the title of City Engineer. A new filtering basin was added to the city's water plant in 1896, doubling the filtration capacity. This was covered with concrete arches in 1904 and during 1905 the old filter beds were also reconstructed and covered, bringing them fully up to the latest requirements, and effecting a great saving in operation in winter, when the removal of ice has always been difficult and expensive.

In 1902 the time-honored offices of Recorder and justice of the peace were abolished, and the Mayor was given power to appoint a city judge, with jurisdiction over certain civil cases. Joseph Morschauer,

more of management. Dr. O. M. Shedd owned and conducted it for several years, and then sold to William R. Maloney, who after a few years sold to a corporation represented by C. W. H. Arnold, and it then became a Republican paper.

#### THE NEW VASSAR COLLEGE.

The development of the new Vassar College has been a most important influence in making Poughkeepsie what it is to-day. This has been accomplished under the presidency of James M. Taylor since 1886, and received its first financial support from the large sums left by the founder's nephews, Matthew Vassar,



*The Frederick F. Thompson Memorial Library at Vassar College.*

then Recorder, was made the first city judge. The charter of 1896 created the office of Alderman-at-Large, to preside over the Common Council. Thomas Jillard was the first elected and was succeeded by Dr. Charles E. Lane,<sup>1</sup> still in office. The charter of 1901 provided for salaries, \$500 for the mayor, and \$100 for the president of each board.

A fourth daily newspaper was started in Poughkeepsie April 24th, 1886, by William N. Sanford, John J. Bagnall, Jr., and Joseph Schepmoes. It was at first called *Poughkeepsie*, but before the end of the year the name was changed to the *Evening Star*. It has passed through several changes of ownership and

Jr., who died in August, 1881, and John Guy Vassar, who died in October, 1888. They had built in 1879 what may be described as the first new building—the Vassar Brothers' Laboratory, but the first gift of a building from anyone outside of the Vassars was finished after Dr. Taylor took charge,—the Eleanor Conservatory, built by W. R. Farrington in 1886. Matthew Vassar, Jr., was treasurer of the college until his death, and left it a fund of \$50,000 for scholarships, and \$80,000 to endow two professorships—Greek and Latin, Physics and Chemistry—"provided that each of the said professors shall be of my own sex, and that if this provision shall be violated by the appointment to either one of such chairs of a person

<sup>1</sup>See page 257, also Appendix.

of the other sex than the fund hereby given I declare shall be withdrawn and be deposited with the treasurer of the City of Poughkeepsie towards the extinguishment of the debt of said city."

President Taylor found affairs at rather a low ebb, and the college much dependent upon the income from the students. He had the courage to recommend the abolition of the preparatory department, which involved a reduction of numbers and of income, and with some trepidation the trustees made the recommendation effective in 1887. The next year John Guy Vassar died, leaving \$80,000 to endow professorships, and \$60,000 to endow the laboratory and the music and art departments, and making the college one of his three residuary legatees. From the last provision came a large increase of endowment, which was not obtained, however, until 1891, after much litigation. The college began to grow rapidly about this time, and when enlarged equipment was needed other benefactors came forward, chief among whom has been John D. Rockefeller and Frederick F. Thompson. Strong Hall, the first of four new dormitories, was built in 1893, and at once filled with students. In 1895 Windsor Hall, originally the Brooks Seminary school building in Poughkeepsie, a mile away, was rented. In 1897 another residence building named from the first president, Dr. Raymond, was erected, and also Rockefeller Hall for recitations, named from its donor. Mr. Thompson built the present library at the entrance of the main building in 1892, and the magnificent library now nearly finished is the gift of his widow. Two dormitories, one named for Rev. Edward Lathrop, president of the board of trustees for twenty-five years, and the other for Mr. Rockefeller's mother, Eliza Davison, were built in 1901 and 1902.

Before this time Vassar alumne were beginning to be in a position to show their loyalty. The gymnasium, built in 1889, was their first large gift. In 1900 Mrs. Edward S. Atwater, of Poughkeepsie, built the Swift Infirmary, in memory of her father, Charles W. Swift; the New England alumne built the New England Building, devoted to biology and natural science, in 1901, and the beautiful new chapel, opened in June, 1904, is the gift of two graduates, Mrs. Mary Thaw Thompson, '77, and Mrs. Mary Morris Pratt, '80. The new equipment made new endowment necessary, and about \$175,000 was raised in 1904, largely through the efforts of the alumne. Mr. Rockefeller doubled this sum, about \$15,000 of which was contributed by citizens of Poughkeepsie. Important events in the recent history of Vassar College were the celebration of the 25th anniversary, in June, 1899, and the production of the Greek play, *Antigone*, May 26, 1893.

#### THE BENEFACTIONS OF MATTHEW VASSAR, JR., AND JOHN GUY VASSAR.

The John Guy Vassar will case deserves more than passing notice, as several of the benefactions of the Vassar brothers were involved, and nearly all the prominent lawyers of Poughkeepsie were retained. One of Mr. Vassar's chief projects was the founding of an orphan asylum on College Hill, which he had purchased. This proposed asylum, and the Vassar Brothers' Hospital, which had been founded by Matthew Vassar, Jr., were made residuary legatees with Vassar College. As the asylum was not yet incorporated the legal question of indefinite suspension of ownership arose, and the executors, Benjamin M. Fowler, Oliver H. Booth and Edward Van Kleeck sought a judicial construction, making the next-of-kin parties to the action. Various other questions, one of them as to the right of Vassar College to receive more money than its charter authorized, were raised. The college had an income from invested funds, at this time, of about \$25,000 a year, and its holdings were limited to an amount sufficient to yield \$40,000 a year. Judge Homer A. Nelson went very fully into this part of the case, consulting Joseph H. Choate, now U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain, and at length in March, 1891, the college settled with the next-of-kin by paying them \$146,000, which is to be deducted from its share of the residuary estate given below.

At this time, when the case was about to be argued before the Court of Appeals at Albany, appearances were noted as follows:

For the executors—Frank B. Lown<sup>1</sup> and H. A. Nelson  
For Vassar College—Cyrus Swan and Robert E. Taylor  
For Vassar Brothers' Hospital—Alison Butts  
For Vassar Orphan Asylum—Frank Hasbrouck  
For Vassar Brothers' Old Men's Home—John P. H. Tallman  
For the Baptist Church—Walter Farrington,  
For Vassar Brothers' Institute—Herrick & Losey.

Henry M. Taylor (County Judge 1871-1877), Frederick W. Pugsley, Cyrenus P. Dorland (Surrogate), William R. Woodin, Hackett & Williams, J. H. Millard, Leonard B. Sackett, and two or three New York lawyers represented the next-of-kin. In April the court handed down its decision declaring the orphan asylum clauses invalid and also a bequest of \$10,000 to the Baptist Church, thus greatly increasing the residuary estate. In the final accounting Vassar College and the Vassar Hospital each received about \$503,000, in addition to the special bequests.

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Lown's two partners, John Thompson and James H. Weeks, both died after the date of the will. Mr. Weeks, one of the original executors, in 1888, and Mr. Thompson in June, 1890.





HON. EDWARD ELSWORTH.

*Treasurer of Cassar College and twice Mayor of Daghkeepsic.*

The Vassar Brothers' Hospital had been the residuary legatee of the will of Matthew Vassar, Jr., and thus became one of the best endowed hospitals in the country. The main building was erected in 1884 on what had been once Livingston property, in a commanding location overlooking the river. Additions nearly doubling its capacity have since been built, and its grounds and gardens are celebrated for their beauty. Dr. Guy C. Bayley has been the superintendent since the opening. The library and laboratory building was erected in 1899.

The Vassar Brothers' Home for Aged Men was finished in August, 1880, on the site of the residence of Matthew Vassar, Sr., corner of Main and Vassar Streets, at a cost of about \$45,000. The building will accommodate fifty men, but its endowment did not provide income sufficient to support the full number, until the death of Mrs. Matthew Vassar, Jr., in 1903.

Vassar Brothers' Institute was planned before the death of Matthew Vassar, Jr., but carried out by John Guy Vassar. The building was erected on the site of the old Vassar Street brewery in 1882, at a cost of \$30,000, to provide a home for two local societies, *The Poughkeepsie Literary Club* and *The Poughkeepsie Society of Natural Science*. The first of these had been organized October 18, 1869, with Dr. E. W. Avery as president, and its discussions had been attracting such large audiences that meetings were held in Y. M. C. A. hall, then in the Congregational Church, or in the Lafayette Street Baptist Church for a time. The second was organized October 27, 1874, with Cornelius Van Brunt president, Dr. W. G. Stevenson vice-president, W. R. Gerard secretary, and Charles N. Arnold treasurer. Each society met every two weeks to discuss papers prepared by their members, and a few men like Dr. Stevenson were prominent in both. Professor Truman J. Backus,<sup>1</sup> of Vassar College, the last president of the Literary Club, became the first president of the Institute in November, 1882, and the other officers were Rev. J. Elmendorf vice-president, Dr. W. G. Stevenson secretary, Edward Elsworth treasurer, Professor William B. Dwight curator of the museum, Professor Henry Van Ingen art director, Edward Burgess librarian. The first officers of the sections were: Scientific Section—Professor Le Roy C. Cooley chairman, C. N. Arnold secretary; Literary Section—Rev. E. A. Lawrence chairman, Henry V. Pelton secretary; Art Section—Professor Henry Van Ingen chairman, George E. Bissell secretary.

The Institute has been and still is an important

<sup>1</sup>Truman J. Backus resigned his professorship at Vassar College in 1883, and became president of Packer Institute Brooklyn.

educational force, though the decline of interest in public lectures has decreased its audiences. Its discussions of such questions as good roads, the water supply, etc., have helped on several occasions to arouse public opinion, and through its collections of local insects, birds, minerals, etc., it aims to be of service to fruit growers and farmers, as well as to students. Mechanical drawing classes have been conducted by the Art Department. The Literary Section meetings were abandoned for a time, but were revived some ten years ago under the chairmanship of John C. Sickley, and have since been maintained. The rooms are often in use for school exercises, and sometimes for the meetings of literary, musical or other societies not affiliated with the Institute. The most notable of these is the Tuesday Club, comprising a membership of about fifty women, many of them Vassar graduates. This club was started in 1899, chiefly through the efforts of Miss Elizabeth Schermerhorn and Mrs. Henry V. Pelton, the latter of whom became the first president. The Choral Club, a chorus of about fifty women, gives a private concert in the Institute every spring under the leadership of Professor George C. Gow, of Vassar College, and the Symphony Society, led by William Lyon Dobbs, holds its rehearsals and gives an annual concert there also.

#### OTHER BENEFACTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

Nearly every institution in Poughkeepsie received aid at some time or other from the Vassars, but the city has had and still has other men of wealth who have given large amounts. Chief among them is William W. Smith, who came forward, when John Guy Vassar's plan for an orphan asylum on College Hill had been overthrown by the courts, bought the property in October, 1862, for \$11,600, and turned it over to the city with plans for its improvement as a public park formed and the work started. The movement for a College Hill Park was instigated largely by Rev. Frank Heartfield, then pastor of St. Paul's Church, and the property was at first held by a committee of citizens backed by Mr. Smith.

The Young Men's Christian Association has been one of Mr. Smith's chief beneficiaries, and the many recent alterations and improvements have completely transformed the old Pine Hall. The gymnasium was for a number of years on the top floor, the same room being used for an auditorium. A new gymnasium was installed on the first floor and basement after a time, and in 1905 a handsome swimming pool was added. A billiard room was added to the attractions of the building in 1904, and many other changes have been made within the past year or two. Presidents of the

Young Men's Christian Association have been John H. Mathews 1863-1869, Leonard C. Winslow 1869-1870, John I. Platt 1870-1872, Mitchell Downing 1872-1875, Edmund P. Platt 1875-1879, Benson Van Vliet 1879-1882, William W. Smith 1882-1888, Charles P. Angell 1888-1892, William W. Smith 1892-1893, Gilford Dudley 1893-1896, James B. Platt 1896-1899, D. Crosby Foster 1899-1900, D. C. Matthews 1900—

The Young Women's Christian Association has also benefited greatly from Mr. Smith's help, and is now erecting a building in Cannon Street on the site of the historic old church (see p. 121) erected by the Presbyterians and used by so many different denominations of Christians. The Association was organized in 1881 and incorporated in 1884. Its incorporators were Helen J. Nelson, Harriet R. Howard, Mattie F. Johnston, Victoria L. Johns, Roberta S. Ackert, Jennie Bushnell, Winnifred F. Bisbee, Mary Beattys, Anna C. Howland, Kate Smith, Sarah Bowne, Mary E. Platt, Emma B. Platt, Emma Flagler, May Gurney, Lavinia Dudley, Annie Brewer, Mary Underhill and Angelica Griffin. Miss Harriet R. Howard, Mrs. Edwin D. Baright, Mrs. Homer A. Nelson, Mrs. Egbert D. Clapp, Mrs. J. Frank Hull, Mrs. Edmund P. Platt and Dr. Grace N. Kimball have been presidents of the association. Its rooms have been since the start at No. 361 Main Street, in the Wright Building.

Mr. Smith has always been much interested in Temperance work, and long ago became a leader in the Prohibition party. He has been its candidate for Governor and other high offices. The Women's Christian Temperance Union has been one of his beneficiaries and largely through his aid was enabled to purchase the Poughkeepsie Female Academy in 1889. The Union was organized as a simple prayer circle in 1873, in aid of the Women's Crusade then in progress in Ohio, and has accomplished much towards the spread of temperance sentiment. Mrs. Homer A. Nelson was one of its recent presidents.

A Charity Organization Society, started in June, 1879, deserves mention, though no longer in existence, because it was an effective agency in the breaking up of house-to-house begging, at that time very common. The first officers were: President, S. M. Buckingham; vice-presidents, Dr. E. H. Parker, Rev. J. Nilan; secretary, John H. Mathews; treasurer, Alson Ward. This society was organized by Rev. Edward A. Lawrence, who succeeded Rev. James C. Beecher, brother of Henry Ward Beecher, as pastor of the Congregational Church, in 1875, and served until 1883. The purposes of the Charity Organization Society were to centralize the charity of the city, investigate the claims of applicants and stop indiscriminate giving. It en-

countered considerable opposition and after Mr. Lawrence left Poughkeepsie ceased active work, but was revived by Rev. William Bancroft Hill, who became pastor of the Second Reformed Church in 1889, and finally succeeded in the accomplishment of considerable good.

The Union Rescue Mission was organized, in 1891, as a result of meetings started at the Friends Meeting House in Montgomery Street, under the following committee: Sylvester Pier, Christ Church, president; Per Lee A. Lee, Trinity Methodist Church, vice-president; Alfred L. Cartland, Friends Church, treasurer; Charles R. Dickinson, First Reformed Church, secretary; Mrs. Horace Sague, Christ Church, Mrs. Mary H. Bedell, Friends Church. It was at first called "The Peoples' Union Mission," and rented an old saloon at 42 North Clover Street, where Superintendent Charles H. Malison held the first meeting November 9th, 1894. The corner-stone of the new building was laid in October, 1896.

New institutions which contribute something to the life and business of Poughkeepsie are the Gallaudet Home for Deaf Mutes, established about six miles below Poughkeepsie in 1885, and the Novitiate of St. Andrew, about three miles north in 1902. The latter is a Roman Catholic Jesuit institution brought here from Maryland, and occupying a large building, on what was formerly the Stuyvesant place. The Gallaudet Home was burned in February, 1900, and rebuilt on a larger scale in 1903. Mrs. C. M. Nelson has long been president of the board of lady managers.

#### NEW CHURCHES.

The principal change in the religious situation since 1873 has been the increase in the number and strength of the Roman Catholics, brought about largely by the settlement of immigrants from Italy and Poland. Many of the older Catholic families have grown in prosperity and have moved from the First to the Fifth Sixth and Seventh Wards.

St. Mary's Church soon outgrew the old Cannon Street building and October 22d, 1893, the present church, corner of Hamilton and Church Streets, was dedicated in the pastorate of Rev. Terence J. Earley. This church cost a great deal more money than was expected and has struggled under a very heavy debt, now reduced to about \$50,000. The Church of the Nativity in Union Street has been rebuilt, and in 1903 a Polish Catholic Church was organized and took possession of the old Baptist Church in Lafayette Place.

The only other new congregation in the city with sufficient strength to own a building is the Christian Scientist, organized April 27, 1898. This church, or

chapel, on Market Street, was erected in 1902. Miss Julia Frost and Charles H. Barnes were among the first persons interested, and J. Edward Smith and Mrs. Brewster were the first readers of the church.

Several other important additions have been made to the church buildings of the city, the first of which was the new Baptist Church, erected in 1879, in the pastorate of Rev. J. Ryland Kendrick, when the old Lafayette Street Church was abandoned. John Guy and Matthew Nassar, Jr., were leading contributors to the new building, which is one of the largest and best built churches in the city. Mill Street was then and for a number of years afterwards considered the most fashionable residence street.

The building of the new Christ Church, eight years later, marks the drift of well-to-do residents to the South Side. The old burying ground, bounded by Montgomery, Carroll, Barclay and Academy Streets, and surrounded by a high picket fence, had been practically abandoned since 1871, when the Common Council forbade further interments there, and had grown up into a dense forest. When the rectory was built on the corner of Hamilton and Barclay Streets, it was intended that a new church should some day be erected adjoining it on Barclay Street, and maps are on file showing the lots there so marked. This property, however, remained unimproved until about 1880, and was often made use of by the boys as a baseball lot. A few years later the lots were sold and the church authorities resolved to build upon the cemetery ground. The corner-stone of the new church was laid September 25th, 1887, and it was consecrated May 15th, 1888, by Bishop Scarborough, who had been the first rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter. More than half its total cost of \$120,000 was contributed by Mr. Albert Tower, whose son in 1903 built the new rectory adjoining. The creation of this beautiful church and park has produced the greatest of recent changes in Poughkeepsie, and the tearing down of the old church in 1880, removed a memorable landmark. Rev. Henry L. Ziegenfuss was the rector, having served from 1874 until his death in February, 1894, greatly beloved by his parishioners.

Another new church in the same neighborhood, and marking also the growth of the southeastern section of the city, was the Trinity Methodist Church, corner of Hamilton Street and Hooker Avenue, built from plans made by Corydon Wheeler, and dedicated April 24th, 1892, in the pastorate of Rev. G. H. Gregory. In September, 1904, the Methodists celebrated the centennial of their establishment in Poughkeepsie by services in this church in charge of Rev. John J. Reed, and also by a banquet at which Mr. Reed read a poem com-

memorating the growth of the town and the church.

The Friends, or Quakers, have probably changed more in the past thirty years than any other denomination. In spite of a loss of membership the Hicksite branch erected a new Meeting House in Lafayette Place in 1894, and the orthodox, or Montgomery Street Church, has been modernized. Elmer D. Gildersleeve, of this church, is recognized as the second in length of service among the ministers of the city.

The latest new church, now in progress of construction, is the Presbyterian, expected to be the handsomest church in the city. This building is to cost \$115,000, and is largely due to the energy of the pas-



WILLIAM W. SMITH.

tor, Rev. William P. Swartz, Ph. D., and to the generosity of William W. Smith, though Mrs. John F. Winslow and others have been large contributors. Percival M. Lloyd is the architect. The commodious manse adjoining is also the gift of Mr. Smith.

Chapels were built by St. Paul's Church, at Evergreen Park and Arlington in 1891 and 1892, but the former has been abandoned and added to the latter, which may in time become a separate church. The Second Reformed Church has established a chapel at Freertown, and additions have been made to several churches.

#### RECENT PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS—SCHOOLS.

The beginning of the period of smooth pavements has already been noted. One street, Academy, has

been macadamized at the expense of adjoining property, from Montgomery Street to Livingston, and nearly all others have been top-dressed with stone and rolled. The purchase of a heavy steam road roller by the Board of Public Works marks about the beginning of this improvement. The demand for better public schools and school buildings and for new fire company houses began at about the same time as the demand for better streets.



*The First Dutchess County Academy. (See page 95)*

*(Reproduction, enlarged, of the original seal of the Academy. The existence of this interesting relic was not known to the writer until all references to the Academy had been printed.)*

The City Library occupied the whole lower floor of the High School building until October, 1868, when the present beautiful Adriance Memorial Library was completed and presented to the city by the children of John P. Adriance<sup>1</sup> (died January 18th, 1861) as a memorial to their father and mother. Up to this time the library had been in charge of the Board of Education, but the charter was amended to provide for a Board of Library Trustees, and Mayor Isaac W. Sherrill in 1860 appointed as the first members I. Reynolds Adriance, who had long been chairman of the library committee of the Board of Education, Frank Van Kleeck, Edmund Platt, John P. Ambler and William H. Frank. In 1872 the library contained less than 5,000 volumes and the number of books loaned was less than 20,000, but at the time of the death of Hon. James Emott in 1884 it had grown so that there was not sufficient accommodation for the 5,000 volumes he bequeathed to it, and rather than spend \$5,000 to provide additional room the taxpayers foolishly rejected the gift. In 1867, the last complete year in the High School, the number of books was 21,488 and the circulation 49,797. In 1904 the books numbered 40,109 and the circulation had risen to 88,276, exclusive of

9,305 volumes loaned in the public schools. John C. Sicklely has been the librarian since September, 1882.

The High School obtained a much needed increase of room from the removal of the library, and this at a time when public attention was directed to the schools by a controversy which had divided the Board of Education for several years. At the January meeting in 1868 Edward Burgess, who had been superintendent of schools since the establishment of the office in 1858, was removed by a vote of eight to four, and Edwin S. Harris, of Schuylerville, N. Y., was appointed in his place. This action was strongly opposed by many leading citizens, and "The Eight" were vigorously denounced. Religious and political questions became mixed in the controversy. Since 1873 what was widely known as "The Poughkeepsie Plan" had prevailed in connection with two schools, Numbers 11 and 12, which had been built and conducted as parochial schools by St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church. The buildings were taken by the city at a nominal rental of \$1 a year and were conducted as public schools, though out of school hours they could be used by the church for religious services, and this was understood to permit opening exercises before school time in the morning. The teachers appointed in them were all members of the Catholic Church, and some of them members of orders wearing a uniform or garb. Objection had been made to the plan from time to time by Catholics as well as by Protestants, but it had generally worked smoothly, and during the long and able pastorate of Rev. James Nilan at St. Peter's religious animosities had been greatly softened. Now, however, the questions came up again, and the Board of Education passed a resolution prohibiting the wearing of a garb of a religious order by any teacher in the public schools. This resulted in the withdrawal of "the Sisters," as they were called, from the teaching force, in the leasing of School No. 12 at an annual rental of \$1,000, and in the abandonment of No. 11, which was then reopened as a parochial school.

Political complications were caused by the factional contest in progress for control of the local Republican organization between the supporters of Lewis H. Vail's leadership and the friends of Robert H. Hunter. The Republican members of "the Eight" or majority of the Board of Education, Dr. Horace R. Powell, Helms W. Barratt and William A. Lawrence, were classed as Hunter men, while George E. Cramer, J. Spencer Van Cleef<sup>1</sup> and I. Reynolds Adriance were Vail men. As the Hunter men were gaining and in 1868

<sup>1</sup> I. Reynolds Adriance, John E. Adriance, Marion, wife of Silas Wodell, Esq., William A. Adriance, Rev. Harris E. Adriance, and Francis H. Adriance.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Van Cleef had long been a most active member of the board. George Krieger was the only Democratic member of the minority.

obtained complete control, the Republican members of "The Eight" were able to maintain themselves, while the Democratic members were in a like position through the influence of William H. Wood, a leading force in the local organization of his party. Independent school tickets were run in 1868 and 1869 and polled a large number of votes, but were not able to overcome the combination of the two party organizations. The controversy continued to rage around the



MARTIN W. COLLINS.  
(For biographical sketch see Appendix.)

personality and policy of Edwin S. Harris, until his removal in 1902 and the appointment of the present superintendent, William A. Smith, but in the meantime the charter was amended in 1900, reducing the Board of Education to seven members, appointed by the mayor. Hon. James L. Williams became the first president of the new board, which was organized in May of that year. The others were Martin W. Collins, Willett Hoysradt, Frank B. Lowm, Helms W. Barratt, William H. Wood and Albert O. Cheney.

Opinions naturally still differ as to the merits of the original dispute, but the resultant focusing of public scrutiny upon the schools disclosed the necessity of spending more money on them. During the years immediately following the panic of 1873 strict economy had been the rule. The schools had not advanced as in some other places, and the buildings especially

were generally old and ill-suited to their purpose. In 1899 a start towards something better was made in the construction of the Central Grammar School adjoining the High School, while some of the older buildings were re-fitted, including the Warring School, purchased in 1902. In 1901 a new building was erected on Lincoln Avenue, and another in 1904 on Delafield Street. All these improvements were paid for outright by taxation, the city having no power to borrow money. Meanwhile the increased efficiency is particularly to be noted in the increased attendance at the High School, which during the past few years has been preparing students for college. All the schools have recently been given names.

Something of the history of each of the leading private schools has been given in former chapters. Eastman College has apparently done better than its founder anticipated. If Mr. Eastman had an abiding faith in the permanency of his institution, it is singular that in the time of his prosperity he did not invest some of the earnings of the college in permanent and suitable buildings for its accommodation. The present building was erected in 1883, in the presidency of Ezra White, who was succeeded a few years later by Clement C. Gaines, who had married Mr. Eastman's widow. Under Mr. Gaines's management the college has broadened its curriculum and has been kept fully abreast of the times. It has now the loyal support of a large body of graduates, who have been successful in business, and Mr. Gaines keeps in close touch not only with them, but with the requirements of the leading commercial institutions in the country. He has also brought the college under the supervision of the Regents of the State University.

In 1885 occurred a notable change in the school situation when Rev. D. G. Wright (see p. 165) gave up the old Poughkeepsie Female Academy. The purchase of the building by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union has already been mentioned. Dr. Wright served one year as principal of the High School. Meanwhile Samuel Wells Buck, who had been principal of the High School for several years, had purchased what was originally the Poughkeepsie Female Collegiate Institute, then known as Cook's Collegiate Institute, and changed its name to Lyndon Hall, which it still retains. Miss Mary C. Alliger, who had been one of Dr. Wright's teachers, purchased the Quincy School, which had been started in 1882 by Miss Caroline Silloway, and these two remain.

The Warring School building, before its purchase by the city, had not been in use for several years. Dr. Warring sold the Poughkeepsie Military Institute about 1871 to Henry Jewett, who conducted



CLEMENT CARRINGTON GAINES.

*President of Eastman College.*

*(For biographical sketch see Appendix.)*

it for several years and then transferred it back to Dr. Warring, who continued it until his retirement. Efforts were made by others to conduct a school there without success. All the smaller schools for boys had already disappeared under the competition of River-



JOSEPH B. BISBEE.

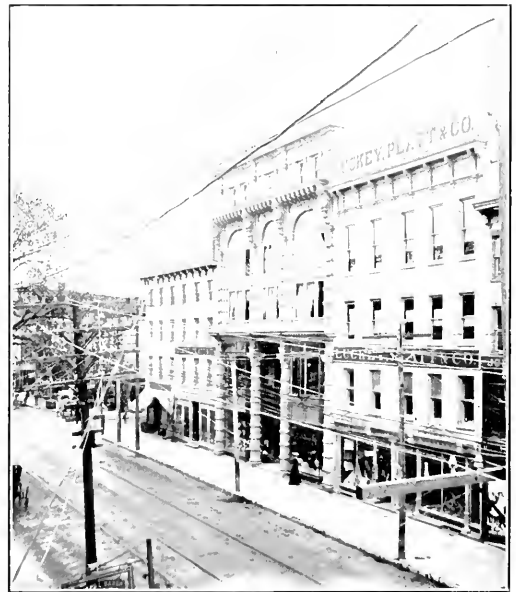
view, and of the improving public schools. River-view, with its splendid equipment, and corps of teachers, continues as prosperous as ever. Otis Bisbee died in February, 1885, leaving the school to the management of his son, Joseph Bartlett Bisbee and Harlan Page Amen, who kept it fully up-to-date. Mr. Amen made a specialty of preparation for college, but in 1895 became principal of the famous Phillips Academy at Exeter, New Hampshire, leaving Riverview to the sole management of Mr. Bisbee, who has continued and improved its high standard.

#### NEW BUILDINGS AND REAL ESTATE EXTENSIONS.

Great improvements have been made in the business streets. Although many buildings remain on Main and Market Streets that were built before Poughkeepsie became a city, so many more have been erected or rebuilt since the war, even since 1873, that the appearance of the streets has been entirely changed. A glance at some of the photographs of street scenes taken not more than twenty five years ago shows this plainly. Since the fire of December 20th, 1870, very

few buildings have been burned on Main Street, and changes have come slowly, but year by year the old gives place to the new. The Johnston building, west of the Morgan House, was finished in 1875, and the first store in it was opened in April of that year by Donald, Converse & Maynard, three young men who had come from Hartford. Peter M. Howard's marble front building at 205 Main Street was finished in the same year. This building was designed for a corner lot, and Mr. Howard intended to put a street through from Main Street to Mansion, to be continuous with Balding Avenue, then recently opened. It would have been a notable improvement, but Mr. Howard's money and health did not hold out.

The Elting building on the corner of Liberty Street replaced in 1892 one of the old landmarks of early days, long the store of George Van Kleeck.



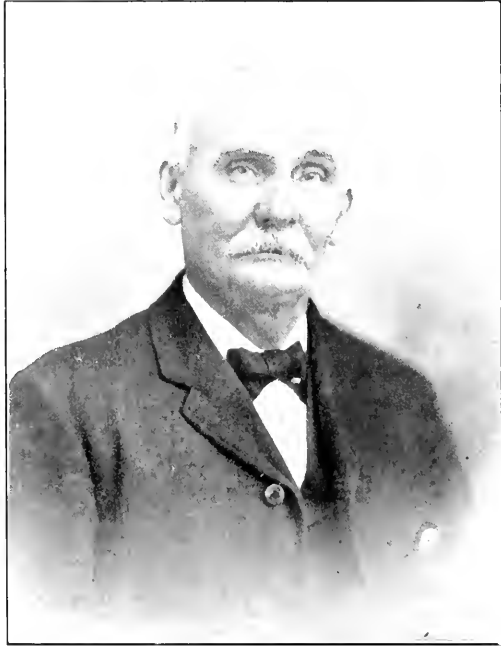
*The Building of Luckey, Platt & Co.*

Finally, Luckey, Platt & Co. made the greatest change and improvement of recent years when in 1901 they tore down the old stores that had been 330, 338 and 340 Main Street and erected a complete department store building, designed for sales-rooms on all four floors. These, connected with 332 and 334, which had been partially rebuilt in 1890, and with 342, formerly the Herrick furniture store, now form one great establishment.





DR. CHARLES E. LANE,  
*President of the Common Council.*



GEORGE W. LUMB.  
*President of the Board of Public Works.*

Market Street's business block has changed much more than Main Street; in fact nearly all the west side is new. The old Forbus House was sold in November, 1874, to Judge Nelson, who purchased it for his sister, Mrs. E. P. Taylor. It was torn down the next year, except the three-story brick addition which was built several years earlier, and forms the southern part of the present house. The new hotel, The Nelson House, was formally opened May 10th, 1876, with a banquet at which Mayor Carpenter presided. Its first proprietor was Peter Foland, who came here from Albany, and was succeeded after a short time by Capt. A. F. Black. In 1885 the whole row of old buildings between the Nelson House and Union Street, including the old Baker or Brush house, dating back to the days of the Revolution, was destroyed to make way for the new United States Government Building. These buildings had been given a mansard roof after 1876, and so did not appear when torn down as shown in the picture on page 70. The new government building was ready for occupancy by November, 1886, when Postmaster Robert H. Hunter moved the Post Office there from the City Hall. As already shown, this was a return of the office to the same location occupied from 1851 to 1865. The lower floor of the City Hall, then vacated, was rented by J. W. Hinkley, who published his newspapers there until he finally settled on the corner of Cannon and Market Streets, and erected a new building there.

In the same year that the "Lawyers' Row" was destroyed, 1885, occurred another important change in the appearance of the neighborhood of Market and Main Streets. The Poughkeepsie Hotel verandas (see page 108), from which Henry Clay had spoken, were torn away, the first floor lowered to sidewalk level, and the building was partially rebuilt, and consolidated with the Nelson House in management. The old hotel had been several times damaged by fire. After John H. Rutzer's death in 1867, Richard P. Morgan, who represented Mrs. Rutzer's interest, became the proprietor. He altered the building by taking off the lower veranda about 1878. Then it was leased to Milton Bain, with whom was associated his son, H. N. Bain, for a term of six years. In the meantime Judge Nelson bought the hotel, and made the final alterations. Mr. Bain removed to the Nelson House in 1884, and before the consolidation Isaac N. Seaman ran the Poughkeepsie for a time, and was its last actual proprietor. The Nelson House has since

that time been greatly increased in size and improved in many ways.

The climax of change in the neighborhood was the building of the new Court House in 1902. Many people regretted the destruction of the old building, and thought that it should have been postponed until the city and county could join in the erection of a combined Court House and City Hall, to take the place of all the buildings bounded by Market, Main, Washington and Union Streets. A new Court House, however, was one of the necessities of the near future, and the jail had been condemned as unfit for use. The architect of the new Court House was William J. Beardsley, and the building committee from the Board of Supervisors was Miles K. Lewis, John W. Delamater, James H. Kipp, Reginald W. Rives and Elsworth L. Winans.

Lower Main Street has been considerably changed during the past twenty years. The Lamb factory building, below Water Street, displaced an old house, once the residence of Thomas Vassar, and said to have been once the home of James Vassar, and the Levi Lamb building, east of the railroad station is partly on the site of an old stone house that dated back to early days. In the other older streets there have been less changes, but Mill Street and Washington Street are not as they were. The side of the Northern Hotel to Henry Webendorfer in 1880 was followed by a widening of Washington Street from Mill Street a short distance north, cutting off a part of the building, which was then dismantled of its verandas and left an unsightly shell. In 1903 the Congregationalists tore down the old Pine house and built the present parsonage, and a few years earlier the Baptists rebuilt their parsonage. Washington Street near Main is greatly changed in appearance by the erection, just completed, of Columbus Institute for the Knights of Columbus. This building was formally opened May 22d, 1905.

Though the holding of lots for speculation has been unprofitable since 1873, with few exceptions, the settled area has continued to increase. The most notable change has been the opening of the old Livingston's Woods to settlement. Rev. Henry A. Loomis and some other people thought this delightful piece of woodland, partly in the city limits, should be preserved as a public park, but the necessary funds were not forthcoming. The property was purchased July 1st, 1891, for \$11,000, from William S. Johnston, trustee for the bondholders of the defunct Hudson River Iron Company, by Ferdinand R. Bain, who formed a syndicate which included William H. Young, H. N. Bain and Robert McCafferty. Gradually the old time at-

<sup>1</sup>Rutzer came here from Kingston in 1841 and was for a short time proprietor of the Forbus House. He was probably the most famous of old-time hotel men in Poughkeepsie.

tractiveness of the neighborhood was destroyed, first by the digging out of the moulding sand which formed a large part of the soil, and finally by cutting down the trees. Streets were opened through it, and though not very many dwellings have yet been built there the ground has been so completely altered as to leave little indication of its former appearance.

The property east of Clinton Street, opened between 1860 and 1873, as described in the last chapter, has been steadily built upon and though considerable sections of fields remain to be divided, it seems only a question of a few years when the city will extend to the grounds of Vassar College. The finest residence in this neighborhood is that of Frank B. Lown, erected on College Avenue in 1901. On the north side of the city Balding Avenue and Marshall Street (named from James Marshall, but originally called West High Street) have been almost entirely built up since 1873, and several new streets, such as Bain Avenue and Taylor Avenue, have been opened and settled beyond the Bridge Railroad. In the northeastern section of the city a large tract, north of the Fall Kill and east of Smith Street has been opened to settlement by John R. Lent since 1873, and is now mostly covered with buildings. Winnikee Avenue is on made land, once a part of the old Mill pond.

Between 1880 and 1890 the movement for the removal of fences gathered headway and produced so great a change in the appearance of many residence streets that photographs taken before 1880 are almost unrecognizable now, even where the buildings remain almost as they were. Every house, not actually on the sidewalk line, formerly had its fence in front. Now very few fences remain except as dividing lines at the rear of lots.

The most notable extension and improvement of the past ten years has been the opening of the Whitehouse property to settlement. Mr. Whitehouse's son-in-law, Eugene N. Howell, planned there an extensive suburban park settlement, to resemble some of the suburbs of Philadelphia, and began the construction of the Dwight Street houses in the winter of 1895-96. He employed Horace Trumbauer, of Philadelphia, as architect, and the houses erected were on lines different from anything yet built in Poughkeepsie. Like many other enterprising Poughkeepsie boomers, Mr. Howell lost by his venture, though his collapse was caused more by unfortunate outside speculation than by this. The remaining lots were finally sold at auction, and much of the property came into possession of Smith L. DeGarmo, who has continued the development. Outside of the Whitehouse property almost all the houses on Hooker Avenue, Forbus Street, Virginia

Avenue, Hammersley Avenue and many of those on Academy, Hamilton and other neighboring streets have been built since 1880. The houses of W. A. Adriance and I. R. Adriance on Academy Street were built in 1893 and 1894.

#### THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE MILITARY.

After the installation of the new water supply with its high pressure, the necessity for fire engines was much diminished. The purchase of steamers for No. 4 and No. 2 had caused No. 5 Engine Company to disband in 1863 and reorganize as Lady Washington Hose Company No. 3. Old Protection No. 1 was disbanded in 1871, and in 1881 Young America No. 6 Engine Co. was reorganized as Young America Hose Co. No. 6. This company owes its name to the fact that originally its membership was limited to native Americans. Within the past ten years new houses have been built for all the companies except Lady Washington, though the houses of Niagara Steamer Company and of Booth Hose are only partially new. Cataract's new house was built in 1897-8, Davy Crockett's in 1898-9, Young America's in 1900-01, and Phoenix Hose Company's in 1901. The last mentioned superseded the venerable old building at Union and Washington Streets, where the City Library and the hook and ladder company were once located. (See p. 150). No. 4's new house is the only one in an entirely new location. The old house at 100 Main Street was sold and the new house was built on a part of the lot corner of Mill and Delafield Streets, occupied in old times by the Coffin foundry, and later by a plow factory already mentioned. The new location, however, is within a stone's throw of the place where the company was first organized in 1836.

A volume could be written about the old days of the fire department, and many interesting events would fall within the present period. There were tournaments in 1873, 1875 and 1890, with trials of engines, foot races and great parades, and many minor events, such as excursions, receptions to visiting firemen and celebrations. The 50th anniversaries of the organization of Phoenix Hose Company, 1864, and of Booth Hose Company, 1903, were duly observed, and among the excursions probably the most notable was that of Davy Crockett Hook and Ladder Company to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1891. Parades are still frequent and form an important feature in the life of the city, but they are no longer considered important enough to require special apparatus, and are not quite what they used to be before the advent of horses. The first horse permanently established in the fire department was presented to Phoenix Hose Company by William H.



GEORGE NAGENGAST.  
*Chief Engineer of the Fire Department.*  
*(For biographical sketch see Appendix.)*



DR. H. F. CLARK.

(For biographical sketch see Appendix.)

Frank in 1861, when a duty carriage of the present type was purchased. Since then the old hose reels and the parade carriages have disappeared, and modern apparatus drawn by horses have been installed in all the fire houses. The handsome parade carriage of Phoenix Hose Company was put in a glass case, as an interesting relic of the past, in 1901.

The fire companies no longer fear the "corporation lock," which in old times so often brought an abrupt end to rowdiness and caused reorganization. With their handsomely furnished houses they are in reality very pleasant clubs and an important feature in the social life of the city, but each has its nucleus of enthusiastic fire fighters and keeps in touch with the most approved methods. The present organization and discipline are largely credited to Frederick Bieber and his successor, the present chief engineer, George Nagen-gast. Mr. Bieber had been a member of the New York department, and brought the home companies to an efficiency, which, measured by results, certainly compares favorably with the paid departments of many cities. Here only the drivers are paid. The city has long enjoyed immunity from serious fires. The burning of the Whitehouse factory in 1879, caused by lightning, the glass works fire in 1867, the James Reynolds Elevator fire and the Gas Works explosion and fire in December, 1868, were the most notable.

The Veteran Fireman's Association was organized Nov. 10th, 1886, with Oliver H. Booth as its first president. The association owns the old "Goose-Neck" engine, formerly used by No. 4 and No. 6, a valued possession, presented by Wm. F. Booth after the death of his father in 1866.

Greater changes have been made in the local military organizations than in the fire department of the city. In the days of general training at least two regiments seem to have met here, and a 22nd Regiment is mentioned occasionally even after the war, though apparently only a skeleton organization. The 21st Regiment had no regimental armory until it took possession in 1865 of the old carriage factory, so often referred to in Chapter IX as "the armory building." Before that was taken the companies were scattered. Some of them had quarters in the Wright Building, where the present Young Women's Christian Association rooms are located, and others were in the lower Kirelmer building. After the war Colonel James Smith, brother of Messrs. W. W. and Andrew Smith, was in command, with Dr. H. F. Clark as Lieutenant Colonel, to 1878. Then Colonel Alfred E. Lindley took command. When the new Kirelmer building was built the upper floors became the armory and so remained until the regiment was disbanded, April 6th, 1882. Two companies, D and A, were retained as the

10th and 15th Separate Companies. The 10th, commanded by Captain William Haubemestel, traced its history back to one of the early village militia companies once commanded by Matthew Vassar. The 15th, commanded by Capt. B. F. Meyer, was originally the Elsworth Grays of war times. In 1861 a new armory was built by the State with ample accommodations for both companies, but in 1897, in accordance with a policy of still further reducing the National Guard, the 10th was disbanded, and the 15th alone remains.

One of the notable celebrations in which the military companies of Poughkeepsie and of neighboring cities took part was the Centennial of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States, July 20, 1888.

In the spring of 1868 the 15th, then commanded by Captain John K. Sague, volunteered for the Spanish War, and became Company K of the First New York Volunteers. It was sent to the Hawaiian Islands, and returned to Poughkeepsie December 27th, 1899. During its absence a temporary company, known as the 115th, was organized under command of Captain F. B. Warring. The 10th Separate Company still keeps its organization as an independent association, and the 10th Separate Company Drum Corps is an important feature of all parades.

#### SOCIAL LIFE, CLUBS, FRATERNITIES, ETC.

This has been a period of organization, and the number of fraternities and societies has increased greatly. In 1870 a second Masonic Lodge, Trimé, was organized with William Morgan Lee as the first Master. The other charter members were Oliver S. Atkins, William Atkinson, Frank E. Basley, Henry Hasbrouck, William B. Hull, Charles D. Johnson, Charles C. More, Casper L. Odell, Samuel K. Rupley, Peter L. Van Wagenen, Jere D. Wright and Henry L. Ziegenfuss. The first two candidates raised in the lodge were John G. Collingwood and J. Arthur Lockwood.

In 1864 the two Masonic lodges united in the purchase of the old Canon Street Methodist Church (See p. 146) which they rebuilt with an extension in front to make the present Masonic Temple. Besides the large temple above, the old Sunday School room, on the ground floor, was converted into a hall which has become the favorite place for small dancing assemblies and other social gatherings too large for private houses. Masonic Hall was dedicated on Washington's Birthday, in 1895.

Poughkeepsie Lodge No. 21, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which had been meeting over the *Eagle* office in Liberty Street, since the building was finished

in 1868, was incorporated by act of the Legislature in 1866, with P. S. Rowland, A. G. Rothery and F. J. Nesbitt as trustees empowered to hold property for it. In 1885 it bought the building 201 and 203 Main Street, and moved into it in 1898. Falkall Lodge, No. 201, was organized December 1st, 1871, with Stephen Schofield, Lawrence W. Dutcher, Augustus Van Sicken, John H. Caldwell and George W. Bayer as its first officers. A third lodge of Odd Fellows, known as Adler Lodge No. 388, has since been organized. The Knights of Pythias also have three lodges—Poughkeepsie No. 43, Armour 107, and Triumph 105.

The Knights of Columbus, one of the newest fraternities in Poughkeepsie, and one of the strongest, has just erected a handsome building on Washington Street on the site of the old Lewis (afterwards McCurdy) stables, next to the Young Men's Christian Association. The order was instituted February 6th, 1868, with the following officers: Grand Knight, John J. Mylod; Deputy Grand Knight, John F. Ringwood; Financial Secretary, John H. Cusack; Recording Secretary, John T. Nevins; Chancellor, P. C. Doherty; Advocate, Joseph A. Daughlin; Lecturer, James A. Kerr; Warden, Thomas J. Ward; Inside Guard, Thomas A. Powers; Outside Guard, R. J. McGee; Trustees, Dr. John A. Cotter, William R. Maloney, R. J. McGee, Jr., Charles T. Hughes.

All the present out-of-door clubs were organized since 1873, though some were reorganizations from older clubs. The Shattennic Boat Club was primarily a racing organization, rather exclusive in membership and in time most of the members lost interest. Finally in 1870 Tristram Coffin, Aaron Innis, Floy M. Johnston and William C. Hill alone remained. They took the property and turned it over to James Reynolds (3d), who represented a set of younger men, who were organizing the "Apokeepsing Boat Club," the first of ficers of which, elected in September, were Frank Hasbrouck, president; J. E. Adriance, vice-president; J. Reynolds, secretary; Thomas H. Ransom, treasurer; Norman Wright, captain; C. W. Swift, Jr., lieutenant. This club was not fully organized until the next spring, when in addition to the officers already mentioned Peter Hulme, Frank W. Halstead, Emmet A. Wilber, John G. Slee, Alonzo H. Vail, John G. Collingwood and William R. Innis were elected to the board of directors. This club has had but two presidents, Charles F. Cossun succeeding Mr. Hasbrouck in 1866. Messrs. Wright and Reynolds were its leading oarsmen, and frequently entered and won races on the Harlem and elsewhere as single scullers. At present interest in racing is not strong, but the club owns many pleasure boats and has a large membership.

The Poughkeepsie Yacht Club was organized in September, 1892, at a meeting held on board the yacht *Beatrice*. It has a club house, and storage place for sail boats, launches, etc., on the site of the old Revolutionary Ship Yard on the South Side, and in the coves near-by are anchored most of the sail boats, yachts, steam and motor launches owned in Poughkeepsie. Messrs. W. H. and Valentine Frank have been among its leading supporters. The first officers were Powell Hobert, commodore; William Hartman, vice-commodore; R. W. Haupt, recording secretary; Edward Lauferweiler, financial secretary; William Furman, treasurer; John Haubennestel, measurer.

The interest in rowing fostered by these organizations led to the negotiations which secured the first race of the university eights, representing Columbia, Cornell and Pennsylvania, June 24th, 1895, on the Poughkeepsie course. Sufficient money to build boat houses, make necessary arrangements for crew quarters, for surveying and marking the course, etc., was raised by subscription through the efforts of the following finance committee: William Schiekle, representing the Board of Trade; A. O. Cheney, Retail Merchants' Association; James Reynolds, Apokeepsing Boat Club; Grant Van Etten, Poughkeepsie Yacht Club. There was also an executive committee, of which William F. Booth was chairman, Harris S. Reynolds secretary, and William H. Frank treasurer. Since 1895, with the exception of 1898, the college regatta has been a most important event of early summer, bringing great crowds of visitors to Poughkeepsie. Harvard joined in the regatta for two years, in 1896 and 1897, and Yale in 1897. In 1899 the University of Wisconsin first entered a crew, and in 1900 Georgetown University was added. Syracuse sent her first crew in 1901.

Recently sports of all kinds have formed organizations. The first lawn tennis playing in Poughkeepsie was in Eastman Park, when an organization known as the Out-Door Club was started, somewhere about 1870 or 1880. This club introduced archery also among its pastimes. The Poughkeepsie Tennis Club was organized in April, 1890, by consolidating two smaller clubs, one of which had its courts on the corner of Market and Montgomery Streets, where the Jones block stands. John C. Sickley was the first president. The club's courts were at first in the rear of Eastman Terrace, and were moved to South Hamilton Street, corner of Dwight, on the invitation of E. N. Howell. The first club house stood on a knoll surrounded by cedar trees on the corner of Dwight Street. It was burned in 1893, and the hill was afterwards entirely cut away. The club then purchased its present prop-

erty on the opposite side of Hamilton Street, and erected the present club house, largely through the efforts of Robert M. Ferris.

The Dutchess County Golf Club was organized in April, 1897, and the first board of directors was William A. Adriance, John E. Adriance, Robert M. Ferris, Hiram S. Wiltzie, William H. Young and Dr. W. G. Dobson. In 1901 it was incorporated as The Dutchess County Golf and Country Club, when George Collingwood, Fred R. Newbold, John W. Pelton, George Seaman and Alonzo H. Vail came on the board. John E. Adriance has been president of the club since its organization. The club house was built in 1902.

Several social clubs important enough to maintain club houses have been organized in recent times. The Amrita Club has generally been conceded to be the leading club, but it conducts no restaurant, and in 1888 it was found that there was room for a club managed more on the lines of clubs of other cities, and the Dutchess Club was formed, at first as a Democratic Club. Its first president was Judge Homer A. Nelson, who served until his death, when he was succeeded by James L. Williams, still in office. This club numbers among its members most of the leading politicians and public men of both parties, and occasionally entertains prominent men from abroad. The name "Dutchess Club" had been used as early as 1828 by a social organization, of which Alexander Forbus was secretary.

During the rise of the bicycle into popularity two or three bicycle clubs were formed, the first of which was called the Ariel Wheel Club. The Poughkeepsie Bicycle Club occupied the handsome Thomas L. Davies or B. Platt Carpenter house on Mansion Square for a few years, and then became chiefly a social club. It is the only one that survives and is now the Poughkeepsie Club. In 1903 its present club house on Market Street was leased and fitted up.

The Century Cycle Club occupied a large house on Washington Street for a few years, but did not long survive the decline of the bicycle craze.

The Dutchess County Horticultural Society is practically a Poughkeepsie institution, though containing many members from adjoining sections of the county, interested in the profitable industry of growing violets and other flowers for the New York market. It conducts every year late in the fall a notable flower show, largely devoted to chrysanthemums, and also holds an annual banquet, the first of which was at the Morgan House, January 8th, 1866. There was a Poughkeepsie Horticultural Society as long ago as 1800, of which the present organization is perhaps an outgrowth. The New England Society, organized by Rev. William Herman Hopkins, recently pastor of the Congrega-





FRANCIS G. LANDON.  
*Member of Assembly, 1901—1905.*  
*(See Appendix.)*

ional Church, also holds an annual banquet, with much oratory on Forefathers' Day in December.

The leading patriotic organization in Poughkeepsie is the Mahwenawasig Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, chartered in April, 1894, with twelve members, Mrs. Edward S. Atwater, Mrs. Frank Hasbrouck, Mrs. Martin Heermance, Miss Myra Avery, Mrs. D. Crosby Foster, Mrs. Horace D. Hufcut, Mrs. Milton A. Fowler, Mrs. William A. Miles, Miss Helen W. Reynolds, Mrs. Robert Sanford, Mrs. J. Spencer Van Cleef, Miss Mary Varick. In 1867 the Everitt house (see page 47) was purchased from Charles Kirchmer, for the chapter, by Mrs. Atwater, who was the first regent, Mr. Tristram Coffin and Mr. Frank Van Kleeck. Finding considerable difficulty in raising the necessary money, an auxiliary committee of citizens was organized in 1869 to hold the property, and in 1900 the State appropriated \$5,000 for its purchase, largely through the influence of Miss Avery, their regent, and placed it in the care of the society, thus preserving the only remaining building of Revolutionary associations in Poughkeepsie. The use of the house in the Revolution has been fully discussed in Chapter III. In 1904 the D. A. R. rendered a still further service to local history by the erection of a tablet on the east side of the new court house commemorating the constitutional convention of 1788.

The musical organizations of Poughkeepsie deserve notice, for despite the occasional failure of high class musical ventures, the city has always been ready to welcome good music. Choral societies were organized here as early as 1838. Oratorios were sung by some of them certainly before 1860. A considerable impetus was given to musical appreciation by the coming of the Germans, and the Germania Singing Society was organized in 1850, with A. Kilm, L. Bantle, P. Meinecke, P. Kiessler, Charles Peters, L. Schlosser, C. Rauch, L. Hasselberg, A. Ulrich, P. Zimmer, F. Grimling, Otto Rohr and Joseph Bauer as charter members. March 20, 1851, a concert was given at the Presbyterian Church by "The Poughkeepsie Union Musical Association," assisted by "an orchestra of the best instrumental talent of the village, under the direction of the Messrs. Grube." This orchestra is said to have been called at one time "The Concordia." Charles Grube, who celebrated his 91st birthday, April 12th, 1905, was the leader of Germania in 1851.

The Mendelssohn Society was perhaps the greatest singing society ever organized in Poughkeepsie, and was supported with a great deal of enthusiasm by all the leading music lovers for more than ten years. It was started in 1866 with Charles Martin as its leader, and gave concerts every year in the Opera House.

Walter D. Gilbert and M. S. Downs were its later leaders. In May, 1876, this society sang the oratorio of Elijah under Mr. Downs's leadership, with Theodore Thomas's Orchestra accompanying. The soloists were Fannie S. Myers, Poughkeepsie, soprano; Adelaide Phillips, New York, contralto; John D. Abreot, Poughkeepsie, tenor; Myron Whitney, New York, bass. Somewhere about 1880 the Mendelssohn Society disbanded and in 1881 The Poughkeepsie Vocal Union was organized on the same lines, with Professor Frederick Louis Ritter of the then Vassar School of Music, as leader. This society sang Haydn's Creation at its first concert, November 5th, 1881. Its officers then were Willard H. Crosby, president; Edward W. Valentine, vice-president; Byron M. Marble, secretary; Charles A. Brooks, treasurer.

The Vocal Union disbanded after the season of 1883-84, and in 1885 some of the young men who had been among its members organized The Enterpe Glee Club, with Charles H. Hickok leader and Robert E. Taylor president. This society gave a concert in the Opera House in 1887, but generally gave its early concerts in Vassar Brothers Institute. In 1890 T. J. Macpherson was the leader, but during an interval of absence from the city Edward W. Valentine led the club. Clarence J. Reynolds has been one of the club's leading supporters from its organization.

Since the organization of the Enterpe Club no large mixed choral society has been maintained except for a season or two, and in 1891 the women organized The Rubinstein Club, with W. R. Chapman, of New York, as leader. The society was reorganized as The Choral Club in the fall of 1899, and came under the leadership of Professor George C. Gow, of Vassar College.

#### CONCLUSION.

In the preceding pages an effort has been made to show the progress and development of Poughkeepsie from its earliest settlement to the present; to give some account of the part its citizens have taken in all of the great National political movements, as well as in the solution of various local problems; and to show the beginnings and something of the progress of all important local enterprises and institutions. The results of all these things make up the Poughkeepsie of to-day, with its equipment of streets and buildings and population. We have seen something of the little colonial county seat, slowly emerging from the woods, and of the busy town of Revolutionary days springing into sudden notoriety as the capital of the State. We have learned something of the great men who met here to debate and decide the question of the ratification of

the Constitution, and something of the beginnings of local development preceding the incorporation of the village.

About one hundred years ago we found the little village on the hill growing more compact, becoming an important market town and developing a thriving river trade. The central streets were then all in existence and named as at present. Following not long after the War of 1812 we found a period of rapid growth, culminating in a few years of extraordinary enterprise, when great men made and carried out most important plans for the upbuilding of the city. With a population of little more than 6,000 these men mapped out the Poughkeepsie of to-day, and determined in large measure the direction of its development. Many of the industries founded by them with so much hopefulness failed, but others have continued to add to the prosperity of the place, and the schools of that period long made Poughkeepsie famous, and gave it a reputation which had much to do with bringing more schools, even Vassar College itself.

After the panic of 1837 and the downfall of the Improvement Party, we saw citizens of Poughkeepsie taking the initial steps which led to the building of the Hudson River Railroad, and the steady progress of the town until it sought incorporation as a city. We have traced the beginnings of city government, and the development of many institutions that have remained. Then we have read something of the

excitements of the great war for the preservation of the Union; then something of the second boom period, culminating in the panic of 1873, a period which started the great Poughkeepsie Bridge, and finally something of recent changes and of the period of slow but fairly steady progress to the present time.

Poughkeepsie is not so very different from many other Eastern cities, but nevertheless has its characteristics. It has been a town of slow growth, and retains many of its early buildings, though the improvements of the 30's destroyed most of those of colonial origin. It has never enlarged its boundaries, which remain the same as those given at its incorporation as a village in 1799, but the four square miles are pretty closely built up, and the area of improvement is gradually spreading beyond. Its people in the past have been by turns over-conservative and then over-enterprising, but the periods of conservatism and of enterprise have coincided with National conditions. As a result of the forces of the past Poughkeepsie is partly a manufacturing town, partly a trading town drawing upon a productive territory, partly a college town, partly a residence town—the home of many persons in comfortable retirement from the cares of business—partly a railroad town, and partly a river town. Within easy reach of the metropolis, it stands apart with an independence of its own. Its loyal citizens think it the best place in the United States in which to live.



# APPENDIX.

# BIOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER SKETCHES.

ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

## WILLIAM SAMUEL ACKERT, M. D.

William Samuel Ackert, M. D., who in December, 1000, succeeded to the practice of Dr. F. T. Lape, and has since then materially increased and added thereto, was born at Rhinebeck, N. Y., December 18, 1805. After a primary education in the public schools he took the full course at the DeGarmo Institute in Rhinebeck, graduating therefrom in 1838. He then attended the Albany Medical College, and after graduating from that institution in April, 1801, served as interne on the staff of the Albany City Hospital for eighteen months. In December, 1802, he located at Rensselaer, N. Y., and practiced medicine there until late in the fall of 1000, when, desiring a larger field in which to prosecute his life work, he purchased the practice of Dr. Lape, and now ranks among the most successful and best reputed physicians and surgeons in Poughkeepsie. Politically Dr. Ackert is classed as a Democrat, but he has ever held himself independent to act and vote as seemed to himself to conduce toward better government regardless of political party ties. He has never held and never sought office, devoting his time and energies to the practice of his profession. In social life he is more active, being a member of Greenbush Lodge, No. 337, F. and A. M.; Poughkeepsie Chapter, No. 172, R. A. M.; the First Presbyterian Church, and the Dutchess County Medical Society. Dr. Ackert married, November 30, 1802, Miss Margaret, daughter of Edwin Parker, of Albany, N. Y. They have two children living, Ruth S., born in October, 1806, and Edwin A., born in April, 1003. Ethel, the first child born in 1803, being deceased.

## CHARLES N. ARNOLD.

(See portrait, page 213.)

David and Benjamin Arnold, Rhode Island Quakers, came to Poughkeepsie about the year 1810, to establish the business of cotton manufacturing on the Hudson River. They were pioneers in that business in this region, for it was not until 1806 that Samuel Slater, in connection with Messrs. Amy and Brown, of Providence, R. I., had made possible for the first time in America the manufacture of cotton cloth by the connection of the power loom with the spinningenny. The brothers built a stone factory on Bayview Street, in the then small village of Poughkeepsie, near the Fallkill, a building which is still standing in good preservation, and has been used as a chair factory until

within a few years, but is now converted into a barn and stable, and is no longer recognized as an historic relic of our early industries. The machinery for cotton manufacture was brought overland from Hartford, Conn., and the War of 1812 having put an embargo on all American coasting trade, the raw cotton had to be brought on wagons overland from Georgia, making it cost 60c. per pound delivered in Poughkeepsie. Importation of foreign goods was also prevented by the war, and there was such a demand for goods of domestic manufacture that the business was very prosperous, but in 1814 the war ended, and the treaty of peace in 1815 opened our ports to such a flood of foreign made goods that an end came suddenly to American prosperity, and the infant industry went down in disastrous failure. David, the elder brother, embarked, about the year 1822, in the lumber business at the Upper Landing, and during the more than eighty years that have elapsed since that time the business has been continued by members of his family without interruption. The firm has consisted besides the founder, David Arnold, of his eldest son, Nathan Arnold, who died in 1830, his son William C. Arnold, who died in 1806, Sylvester Andrus, who was with the firm either as clerk or partner from 1840 to about 1808, and Charles N. Arnold, the grandson of David, and present proprietor and owner of the business.

Great changes have taken place in the forest resources of America during these eighty years, vast areas of our country have been denuded of the magnificent pines, spruces, oaks, walnuts and other valuable woods with which the land was blessed before the wants of an industrious and rapidly increasing population caused their rapid deforestation. The first stock of lumber for the modest little business was procured from the Catskill regions, and later from the country between Albany and Lake George, and up to 1850 the lower tier of counties of New York State and the northern tier of Pennsylvania furnished the finest white pine lumber in the world, for the world has never seen a finer wood for all commercial purposes than white pine, but the days of this valuable wood are numbered, the virgin forests have nearly disappeared from the United States, and the other great forests of Southern pine, spruce, hemlock, cypress, red and white cedar, poplar and the invaluable hardwoods are being rapidly converted into lumber or paper for commercial purposes.

Charles N. Arnold was born in Poughkeepsie June

8th, 1838. He attended the Dutchess County Academy until his sixteenth year, when he became a bookkeeper in the office of his grandfather and uncle, and has been identified with the business about fifty years. Long familiarity with the freshly-sawn lumber has made the perfume of the pine and cedar and oak as delightful to him as that of the flowers in his garden, and his attachment to his business has grown with his years. It has been his fortune to witness the growth of this beautiful city from a country village, and to have been somewhat identified with a part of its history and of the material out of which it has grown; and to have had familiar and agreeable acquaintance with the architects and artisans who have been instrumental in constructing the houses and public buildings which make the city. He served as Supervisor and School Commissioner for years and in the fall of 1864 was elected Mayor.

Mr. Arnold was married October 12, 1860, to Miss Caroline Sherman, and they have two children, Frederick Sherman and Katherine Innis Arnold.

#### HON. SEWARD BARCULO.

(See portrait p. 132.)

Hon. Seward Barculo, eminent jurist and horticulturist of this county, was born at Hopewell, September 22, 1808, and died in New York city while on his return trip home from Europe, June 20, 1854. Although less than fifty years of age, Judge Barculo left an imperishable impression on both legal and social life. Educated first by his uncle Jacobus Swartwout, then at the Academy at Fishkill, he prepared for college at Cornwall, Conn., spent two years at Yale and graduated from Rutgers College. He then studied law with Stephen Cleveland, was admitted to the bar in 1834, became a partner of Mr. Cleveland and then practiced alone. He was appointed County Judge by Governor White, April, 1845, at the unanimous request of the Dutchess County bar. In 1846 he was raised to Circuit Judge, and in 1847 was elected one of the judges of the Supreme Court for the long term—the youngest man ever on this bench, but still looked back to and quoted as one of its greatest judicial minds. The inscription on his tomb, in the cemetery he had founded, and in which he became one of its first occupants, aptly and forcibly expresses the true record of his life:

"In society an ornament;

In the State a judge fearless, dignified and incorruptible;  
In habit simple and pure.

He died young but mature in usefulness and fame.

Adorning jurisprudence by the clearness of his decisions.

And illustrating religion by the strength of his faith."

Judge Barculo was an ardent horticulturist, his strawberries, peaches, pears and grapes becoming widely celebrated. He was also an eminent writer on fruit culture. Passionately fond of the water, he went to Europe several times, and sailed his own pleasure boat on the local waters. He was married May 12, 1834, to Miss Cornelia, daughter of John H. and Sarah (Somerville) Talman, of New York City. Mrs. Caroline T. Wheaton, who married Judge Charles Wheaton, of Poughkeepsie, is the only one of Judge Barculo's children now living.

#### HON. JOSEPH F. BARNARD.

(See portrait, page 180.)

Hon. Joseph Folger Barnard, for thirty-six years Justice of the Supreme Court of New York, was born in Poughkeepsie on September 18th, 1823. He was the son of Captain Frederic and Margaret (Allen) Barnard, who came here from Nantucket in 1818, and descendant of Thomas Barnard, who came from England with the King's Patent in 1650 and settled in Nantucket. Judge Barnard was educated in the public schools, private academy in Poughkeepsie and Yale College, graduating from the latter institution in 1841 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him in 1864 as a reward for his eminent services to the legal profession. Admitted to the bar in 1844 after private course of study with Stephen Cleveland and Henry Swift, of Poughkeepsie, he built up a large practice during twenty eventful years, and on January 1st, 1864, he took his seat as Judge of the Supreme Court for the Second Judicial District, State of New York. He served the eight years term and was re-elected for a period of fourteen years. As his twenty-second year as a judge was drawing to a close (in 1885) he was again re-elected for another fourteen years. On December 31st, 1893, having reached the age limit of seventy years the law retired him from the bench when half through his third term, and he resumed the practice of law, but for a very brief period, as the new constitution permitting justices of the Supreme Court whose term had been limited by age, to be appointed by the Governor for the unexpired part thereof, went into effect, and Governor Morton promptly re-appointed Judge Barnard to his former position; Governors Black and Roosevelt also re-appointed him, and he therefore rounded out thirty-six years of service on the Supreme Court Bench—the longest period ever recorded in this State. He was the presiding Justice of the general term in 1870, by special appointment of the Governor. He rendered over a hundred thousand decisions, and these have been looked upon as sound in law, and always tempered with justice and humanity, and go down as authorities and are more frequently quoted than those of any other Supreme Court judge. The members of the bar, when having very important cases before him, many times dispensed with the jury, preferring to trust to the just arbitrament of Judge Barnard. Always a tireless worker, and his legal abilities and judicial mind still unimpaired, he was called upon to act as referee in important causes up to the time of his death, January 6th, 1904. In politics he was consistently Democratic, in law absolutely just and impartial, in social life a lover of domesticity, fond of anecdote, epigrammatic with a keen sense of wit and humor and absolutely honest in his dealings with all. He was married January 7, 1862, to Miss Emily B., daughter of Abraham B. Hasbrouck, of Kingston, New York, and who for ten years was president of Rutgers College, and also a member of Congress from Ulster County. Frederic, son of Judge Barnard, is a well-known lawyer of Poughkeepsie, and a daughter is the wife of James Lenox Banks, of New York city.

## DR. H. W. BARNUM.

Henry Weston Barnum, M. D., was born in Bridgeville, Sullivan County, N. Y., January 10, 1850. He was educated at the Monticello Academy and the Albany Normal School, after leaving which he took the full course at the Jefferson Medical College and the New York School of Physical Therapeutics, and served on the staff of the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital three years. He established his practice here in 1880, and has gained an enviable reputation for his general ability as a physician and his eminent skill as a specialist in treating all diseases of the eye—a branch



DR. H. W. BARNUM.

of his profession to which he has devoted special study and care.

Dr. Barnum is an active spirit in the Prohibition cause, and a fervent worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He established the now widely known Barnum Bible class in 1897, and has seen it grow from a small beginning to a membership of 150. He is a member of the Dutchess County Medical Society, but of no other association outside of church and Prohibition circles.

Dr. Barnum was married in 1884 to Miss Margaret H. Cunningham, daughter of John F. Cunningham, of New York city, and has two children now living, Lewis Ashton and Margaret Ruth Barnum.

## OLIVER H. BOOTH.

(See portrait, page 170.)

Oliver H. Booth, financier, fireman, brewer and ship-owner, was born in Poughkeepsie in 1823, and died March 13th, 1869, after a few weeks of the first

illness he ever suffered. He was the son of George Booth, the pioneer woolen manufacturer here, and nephew of Matthew Vassar, Sr. He was educated here, spent four years at sea, and was clerk in a bank at Detroit, but returned to Poughkeepsie when twenty-one years old and became the bookkeeper at the Vassar Brewery. He became partner and afterwards succeeded Matthew Vassar, Sr., when the latter retired to attend solely to the welfare of his great educational institute. He was executor of the wills of Matthew Jr., and John Guy Vassar, and treasurer of Vassar Brothers Hospital, was director in several banks and vice-president of the City Bank. He was fond of the water, and built many vessels, among them the steamer "Joseph F. Barnard," which was lost somewhere during the Cuban troubles in 1867, the "Herald" news yacht, afterward known as "The Commodore," the yacht "Idlewild," and a number of sloops and schooners. He was Commodore of the old Poughkeepsie Yacht Club, and owner of the ice yacht "Restless."

Mr. Booth was clerk of the village from 1843 until Poughkeepsie became a city in 1854. He was a very active worker in the fire department, organized the "Phoenix Hose" June 18th, 1844, was chief engineer 1851 to 1854, during which time the "O. H. Booth Hose" was established and named for him, was president of the Veteran Firemen's Association for several years after its formation in 1886, and at the time of his death owned the old "goose neck" engine No. 7. He was also a member of Poughkeepsie Lodge, F. and A. M., and a citizen whose demise was universally mourned. His wife was a daughter of John Ferris, of Milan, this county. She died in March, 1893, leaving one son, Mr. William F. Booth, secretary of the Dutchess County Agricultural Association.

## CAPT. JOHN H. BRINCKERHOFF.

(See portrait, page 230.)

Captain John H. Brinckerhoff was born at Fishkill, Dutchess County, N. Y., November 24th, 1827, a son of Henry I. Brinckerhoff, who followed agricultural pursuits and was eminently respected. Mr. Brinckerhoff, when eleven years of age, moved to Ulster County, and attended the common schools in Esopus. On account of the infirm health of his father, he took upon himself the management of the farm, and remained there until he was twenty-four years old. He married Miss Angeline Terpenning, who died in 1880, leaving no issue. After his marriage, he bought property, including mills and factories in Orange County. In 1883 he purchased from Thomas Cornell the steamer Mary Powell, one of the fleetest boats on the Hudson River in those days. He also purchased large interests in the Poughkeepsie Transportation Company, and subsequently became its president. He accomplished a great deal for the transportation facilities of Poughkeepsie, and was a very large owner of the dockage on the river and other valuable property in various places. Captain Brinckerhoff took much interest in the Poughkeepsie Electric Light and Power Company, and was its largest stockholder. He was also a stockholder and treasurer of the Delamater Car-





*Residence of the late Captain John H. Brinckerhoff.*

riage Company. He met with a deplorable carriage accident on November 27, 1901, and died almost immediately afterwards, and left a precious memory to many sorrowing friends.

He had a beautiful home on Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsic, large, capacious and elegant, and left a large estate. He was a member of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, and was one of the most prominent citizens of Dutchess County.

#### SAMUEL H. BROWN.

(See portrait, page 245.)

Samuel Holmes Brown, was born in the Town of North East, near Millerton, Dutchess County, N. Y., and spent his boyhood days at his birthplace on a farm owned by his father, Milton Brown. Records fully justify the claim that on the father's side he is a descendant of Peter Brown, who was one of the members of the party who came to this country in the "Mayflower." His mother was Phebe Holmes, a daughter of Reuben Holmes, a descendant of Francis Holmes, who came from Beverly, York, England, and who was in Stamford, Connecticut, as early as 1648, and who died leaving a will dated at Stamford, September 6th, 1671. Samuel Holmes Brown attended the local schools in and near his home, and also attended Amenia Seminary, Cazenovia Seminary, Troy Business College and the Albany State Normal School.

After leaving the farm he spent a short time as clerk in a store in his native village, and afterwards was a book-keeper for J. B. Enos & Co., who conducted a wholesale flouring mill at Waterford, N. Y. He also spent a year and a half in teaching in a business college in Newark, N. J. It was while teaching in New Jersey that he perfected himself in stenography, and did some court work not only there, but afterwards at Poughkeepsic. Immediately after the death of his father, which occurred in 1881, he took up the study of law in the office of Hon. Milton A. Fowler, at Poughkeepsic, N. Y., and on September 14th, 1883, was duly admitted as an attorney and counsellor at law. He then opened a law office in the City of Poughkeepsic, and also a branch office in his native village, Millerton. His practice of law has been somewhat varied, including both civil and criminal. On the death of his father he came into possession of the homestead farm, which he conducted for several years, besides conducting other farms on which he was quite extensively engaged in the production of milk and the raising of horses, cattle and sheep. Later on he disposed of his farm interests, and has devoted his entire attention to his profession. He was among the first to agitate and assist in the organization of the Millerton National Bank, and became a member of its first Board of Directors. He afterwards became a director of the Farmers and Manufacturers National Bank of Poughkeepsic, in which capacity he served for some years. In politics he is a Republican. In 1893 he was made the president of the Republican Lincoln League Club, of Poughkeepsic, N. Y. He has also been in the Board of Supervisors several years, and later on was chosen by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Poughkeepsic as Recorder to fill out the term made

vacant by the resignation of Casper L. Odell, Esq. He is a member of the Amrita Club, Triune Lodge No. 782, F. and A. M., of Poughkeepsic, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 275, having been the presiding officer of said latter named lodge for two years, 1901-1903. Up to 1886 his home was at Millerton, N. Y., at which time his family, consisting of his mother, who is still living, and his wife, came to Poughkeepsic, where they have lived ever since. His wife is Clara Lefferts Duryee, daughter of John Wyckoff Duryee and Elizabeth Taylor Duryee, of Mattituck, Long Island.

#### DR. EDWARD M. BURNS.

Edward M. Burns, M. D., one of the younger physicians of Poughkeepsic, yet one who has established a wide practice and who is surely destined to become one of the leading and successful experts, was born at Bull's Head, just beyond the city limits, May 19th, 1871. After a careful preparatory course of education he graduated from Cornell University in 1891, and graduated from the medical department of Columbia College in 1894. He took the full medical course, but in addition thereto made an exhaustive study of brain and nervous troubles. Since leaving college he has pursued investigation and professional research in these special lines with ambitious zeal. He began general practice in Poughkeepsic in 1895, and is an honored member of the Dutchess County Medical Society, and very popular in the Catholic Church circles. He is an ardent member of the Scientific Section of Vassar Brothers Institute, the University Society and the Benevolent Order of Elks.

#### ALLISON BUTTS.

(See portrait, page 239).

Allison Butts, a prominent lawyer of Poughkeepsic, was born at Stamford, Dutchess County, N. Y., October 2nd, 1852, son of the late George F. Butts and grandson of Moses Butts, both of whom were also natives of Stamford. He is a descendant from one of the original settlers in New England, Thomas Butts, who came from Norfolk, England, in 1660 and located with the Plymouth Colony.

Mr. Butts was educated in the public schools and academies of Dutchess County, and began teaching at the age of twenty years. He came to Poughkeepsic January 1st, 1874, as clerk for County Clerk A. C. Warren, and was soon promoted to the station of deputy, which office he held through both Republican and Democratic administrations until January 1st, 1881, when, having studied law and been admitted to the bar, he commenced practice as attorney and counsellor, devoting his attention principally to the care and settlement of estates, real property and investments. He has continued as he began and long ago became a recognized authority on the law relating to trusts, real estate and corporation law. He has often been appointed by the court to administer trusts, and has served as executor and attorney for large estates.

Politically, Mr. Butts is a Democrat, and he has been one of the most influential workers of his party.

He served two terms as police commissioner and three years on the Board of Education. In July, 1890, he was appointed by the Board of Managers of the Hudson River State Hospital, the Treasurer of that institution, and continued to act as such until a change in the law in 1902.

Mr. Butts was married December 14th, 1870, to Miss Phebe D. Mosher, of Stamford, N. Y. She died December 15th, 1882, leaving one son, Ralph F. Butts, now one of the rising young lawyers of Poughkeepsie. Mr. Butts married the second time, Miss Arrie E. Mosher, September 16th, 1885. By this marriage he has four sons, Norman C., Allison, Jr., Wilbur K., and Alfred M. Mr. Butts has a handsome residence on Academy Street.

#### COL. HENRY F. CLARK.

(See portrait, page 202.)

Col. Henry F. Clark, widely famous for his many inventions, for his expert marksmanship with the rifle and for his long and useful career as a National Guardsman, was born in the town of Hyde Park, in 1830. He began the study of dentistry in Poughkeepsie in 1859, and in 1863 opened an office for the practice of his chosen profession. He may truly be called one of the most potent factors in the development of modern dentistry, having invented many improvements which have attained a world-wide endorsement and adoption. More medals and diplomas have been awarded to him by competent judges at various international exhibitions than probably to any other dentist in the world, and yet to-day he still takes the same pride in pursuing his private practice in this city as he ever did, and is still foremost in devising further improvement and development. Early in 1862 he became a member of Company A in the Twenty-first Regiment, was soon elected a lieutenant and steadily rose through the intermediate grades to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1870. He resigned in 1878 in order that he might have more time for long range rifle practice. He became an expert and an authority on the rifle, and was selected by the National Rifle Association of America in 1880 to represent it at Dollymount, Ireland, in the great International Rifle Match, in which his success made him famous as a rifle shot throughout the world. In 1886 he was appointed assistant quartermaster general of the State, with the rank of colonel, by Governor Hill, and during the same year he went to Europe to represent a company which had been formed to exploit his inventions. Returning to Poughkeepsie in 1896, he has again given his attention to the practice of scientific dentistry, first at his old office in Liberty Street, and since 1904 at 52 Market Street.

#### MARTIN W. COLLINS.

(See portrait, page 254.)

Martin W. Collins, manufacturer, was born at Pleasant Valley, N. Y., October 14th, 1847, the great grandson of Joshua Collins, who came from Providence, R. I., and settled at Rhinebeck in the latter part of the eighteenth century; the grandson of Martin W. Col-

lins, who was a lieutenant in the War of 1812, and the son of Isaac Collins, the noted engineer and surveyor who was the superintendent of the public schools of Dutchess County from 1868 to 1872. Mr. Collins was educated at the district school in Washington, the Dutchess County Academy, and the Seminary at Amenia, after which he taught school in Rhinebeck for five years. In 1881 he formed a partnership with Benjamin W. Van Wyck under the firm name of Van Wyck & Collins, and purchased the old established steam marble and granite works which they still continue to operate. In politics the Collins family have been consistently Democratic, and have never been backward in doing their duty as citizens or in exhibiting their fealty to party principles. Mr. Collins has, however, never accepted any public office except in connection with the public schools, being imbued, as was his father, with an earnest desire to promote the cause of education and assist in advancing the welfare of the rising generations. He was elected School Commissioner in 1875 for two years, and re-elected for three more consecutive terms, serving a period of eight years as such. He became a member of the first appointed Board of Education in 1900, and served until 1904. He is a member of the I. O. O. F.; the K. of P., and of the Second Reformed Church. Mr. Collins was married September 19th, 1870, to Miss Mary Kirby, who died in 1873, leaving a daughter who is now the wife of William R. Brown, of Poughkeepsie. He was married the second time December 20, 1877, to Miss Emily M., daughter of William F. Foster, of Pleasant Valley. Their children are Martha Foster Collins and Ruth M. Collins.

#### GEORGE CORLIES.

(See page 100.)

George Corlies, who had a very large part in the development of what is now the leading residence section of Poughkeepsie, was born in New York City in 1804, the son of Benjamin and Phebe Corlies. When a boy he was sent to the Nine Partners Boarding School, near Millbrook, and became so fond of the neighborhood that he resolved to come to Dutchess County to live as soon as he was able to do so. In pursuance of this resolve, in 1834 he bought a farm on the Post Road, about three miles south of Poughkeepsie, a part of which was afterwards known as the Forby Place, and more recently as the Haynes Place. While there Mr. Corlies took an active interest in the development of the neighboring village of Poughkeepsie, then growing rapidly, and in 1835 he and others, as related in Chapter VI, page 109, of this history, purchased what was then known as the French farm, south of Montgomery Street, extending from Hamilton to Market Street, surveyed streets through it and sold the lots at auction. Mr. Corlies, like others interested in real estate at that time, lost heavily from the panic of 1837, and returning to New York again engaged in business. He was successful, and was able to retain his Poughkeepsie holdings, to buy out his partners and take back many of the lots previously sold at auction. In 1852 he came back to Poughkeepsie.

sie to live, and devoted most of his time to improving and developing his property. He built the first house on South Liberty Street, now Garfield Place, graded the ground, laid out and cultivated a famous garden, planted the streets with shade trees, and did everything to make the neighborhood attractive. In 1861 he sold the South Liberty Street house to John Sherman (afterwards president of the stock yards at Chicago), and built a house on South Hamilton Street—the house now known as the Brinkerhoff house. Soon after this the lots in which he was interested began to sell more rapidly. He was active in favor of many public improvements, and was a leading member of the Society of Friends. He was one of the first aldermen of the city, 1856-1858, and was a director in the Merchants' Bank. He died in May, 1892.

#### JACOB CORLIES.

(See page 217.)

Jacob Corlies, only son of George Corlies, was born in New York, April 4th, 1830, and was sent by his father in 1842 to the Friends' Boarding School kept by Samuel Smith, on Mansion Square, his sister at the same time being a pupil at Mr. Gibbons's school near by. After the completion of his course of study he returned to New York and entered the hosiery business. In 1854 he came to Poughkeepsie to live, and in 1866 built for his home the house on the east side of South Hamilton Street, next north of Henry L. Young's. At that time there was an orchard on the adjoining part of the Young place running through to Hooker Avenue.

Mr. Corlies has many interesting recollections of the old times. He went to Chicago in 1848, going to Troy by boat, from there to Utica by railroad, from Utica to Buffalo on the Erie Canal, and from Buffalo to Chicago by coasting steamer on the lakes. Chicago was then a small village of the type of buildings now called "shacks." Opportunities did not seem to be greatly better than at home on the Hudson. Mr. Corlies was associated with his father in the development and management of his large real estate interests, and also became one of the leading real estate owners in the city himself. At the sale of the Worrall property in 1860 he and Andrew King purchased a tract of 42 acres on the north side of Main Street, and George Innis purchased a similar tract adjoining to the eastward. Innis Avenue was laid out between the two holdings and Corlies Avenue, Maple Street and King Street on the tract first mentioned. This property is in large part still owned by Mr. Corlies, and is now beginning to build up. A new street, to be known as Roosevelt Avenue, is about to be opened between Corlies and Innis Avenues, from Main Street to King.

Mr. Corlies became a director in the First National Bank in January, 1867, and succeeded Robert Slee as president in January, 1894. He has been a trustee of the Savings Bank since February, 1887, when he succeeded Henry D. Myers, and is also a trustee of The Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery Association. Besides these many activities he has served the city well in a number of public offices, including those of alderman,

member of the Alms House Board, and member of the Board of Education.

Mr. Corlies was married, September 6th, 1855, to Edith W. Haines, of New York, and they have had four children, Franklin H., Eliza (married J. Arthur Lockwood, October 23, 1884), George and Walter. All are living except Franklin. George (married Minnie Osborn, of Poughkeepsie, in 1901), is in business in New York; Walter (married Ella Hitchcock, of Sing Sing in 1887), and Mrs. Lockwood live in Poughkeepsie.

#### DR. JOHN H. COTTER.

John Henry Cotter, M. D., was born at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, N. Y., April 6th, 1851. He was practically thrown upon his own resources at the age of twelve years, when he went to work at East Park, but studied at night and attended school in the winter months. In 1866 he was admitted to the Dutchess County Academy, but was forced to leave one month before graduation in 1869 and return to work as a farm hand. In 1874 he began the study of medicine with Dr. Denny and afterwards with Dr. Hoyt. He then attended the Albany Medical College and graduated with high honors therefrom as M. D., February 3d, 1878. He began practice at once at Mt. Ross, but removed to Jackson Corners in 1880, where he established a lucrative practice, which he turned over to his nephew in May, 1894, and came to Poughkeepsie, where he now enjoys a large and increasing patronage. He is now the physician of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company. Dr. Cotter is a firm believer in the principles of Democracy, but is not a politician. He was health officer at Milan, and also at Gallatin for several years, and was postmaster at Jackson Corners, but his ability as a physician and recognized integrity as a man had much more to do with his incumbency of those offices than political influences. He is a member of the Dutchess County Medical Society, New York State Medical Society, Alumni Association of Albany Medical College, the Medical Philosophical Society of Northern Dutchess and Southern Columbia, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, of the Catholic Benevolent Legion, the Knights of St. George, the Benevolent Order of Elks, and the Knights of Columbus, of which latter he has been one of the trustees since the organization here. He is also an active member of Young America No. 6 Engine Company. Dr. Cotter has been twice married; first in August, 1880, to Miss Mary Smith, of Gallatin, N. Y., who died in July, 1885, and in February, 1888, to Miss Mary Frances Calvey, also of Gallatin.

#### THE DELAVAL SEPARATOR COMPANY.

(See page 234.)

The Aktiebolaget Separator, of Stockholm, Sweden, having been introduced to American farmers, a plant for its manufacture in this country was established in 1891, at Bloomfield, N. J., but soon removed to Poughkeepsie, where the works were started in June, 1892, with a force of fifty employees. The separator is a mechanical device constructed for the purpose of

separating the cream from the milk when still warm and as it leaves the cow, thereby doing away with the old system of cooling with ice or setting in pans. It practically takes care of all the fatty substances in the milk, and the consequent increase in yield of butter, gained by its use, represents an average of ten dollars per cow annually, which in an average dairy will pay for the first cost of the machine in one year. It is the invention of Dr. DeLaVal, of Stockholm—the same master genius who has produced the steam turbine, which is destined to revolutionize the steam engine as completely and successfully as his separator has changed and developed the old dairying methods.

In establishing works here, the American Company was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey, as "The DeLaVal Separator Company." Their business has increased very rapidly, especially in the past five years, so much so that they are now employing about five hundred men and producing about fifty thousand separators annually. The original works here have been constantly enlarged by the erection of additional buildings and machinery, a new power plant on the very best improved methods being built in 1903.

For the past ten years the company has been under the management of Mr. Oscar Bernstrom, who, ably assisted by Mr. T. H. Miller, the present superintendent, and an efficient office staff, has proven himself to be the right man in the right place in every respect.

The sales department and general offices of the company are in New York City and branch offices and repair shops in Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg, and agents in all parts of the country. Our illustration shows the company's street, with their various buildings on both sides thereof.

#### JOHN DE PEYSTER DOUW.

John de Peyster Douw (1812-1901) was the son of John de Peyster Douw (1735-1836) and Catharine Douw Gansvoort (1782-1848), and grandson of Volkert Pieter Douw (1720-1801) and Anna de Peyster (1723-1794). His grandfather was Mayor of Albany, as was also his great-grandfather, Johannes de Peyster (1694-1779), and his great-great-grandfather, Myndert Schuyler (1672-1755). His grandfather was Vice-President of the First Provincial Congress, which met in New York City May, 1775, and his grandfather, Leonard Gansvoort, Jr., (1754-1834) was a member of the Congress that assembled at Kingston, 1777, and assisted in the formation of a State government for New York. He was born at 82 State Street (now Volkert Building), Albany, New York, and educated at the Albany Academy, Flushing, L. I. Military Academy (kept by Lindley Murray Moore), and Chittenango Polytechnic Institute, Madison County, N. Y., kept by Rev. Andrew Yates, D. D. Mr. Douw engineered one year on the Albany and Schenectady Railroad. In 1835 he went to Europe, and the next year studied law and was in the office of the Master of Chancery, was appointed Judge Advocate of the Third Brigade Light Artillery, with the rank of Major in 1835, taking the oath April 30th—William L.

Marcy, Governor. He was appointed inspector with rank of Colonel in the First Division of Cavalry May 23d, 1842, and took oath August 4th—William H. Seward, Governor, on whose staff he was. His resignation was granted by John Taylor Cooper, Major General, July 20th, 1844.

Colonel Douw was in Europe 1847-8, and then settled at Millburn or Hudson Bush, eight miles southeast of Hudson, N. Y., the former home of Colonel Henry J. Van Rensselaer (1742-1814), nephew of his great-grandmother, Anna Van Rensselaer (1696-1756). In 1854 he came to Poughkeepsic, and rented from George B. Lent the property now owned by Robert Sanford, Esq., on North Hamilton Street. He took title of the property on North Avenue—west side—in May, 1855, where he lived until his death in January, 1901. He married Marianna Chandler Lanman (1826-1884) in 1854, and had five children: Mary Lanman, Margaret Livingston, Charles G., Helen Louise and Henry Chandler. Was warden of Christ Church in 1878.

#### THE DUTCHESS INSURANCE COMPANY.

(See page 162.)

On May 20th, 1836, was held the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Dutchess County Mutual Insurance Company. The members present were James Emott, Alex. Forbus, John M. Ketcham, John Schryver, James Mabbett, Thomas Taber, Silas Germond and Homer Wheaton. The first officers elected were as follows:

President—James Emott, father of the first Mayor of Poughkeepsic.

Vice-President—James Mabbett, of Mabbettsville.

Secretary—James E. Slater, M. D.

General Agent—Elijah Haight.

Attorney—Alex. Forbus, owner of the old Forbus House property.

The first year's cash premiums amounted to \$2,556.72. Expenses and losses, \$249.29. The net premiums received in 1846 amounted to \$4,908.17; in 1856 to \$14,828.74; in 1866, to \$38,558.29; in 1876, to \$66,622.85; in 1877, to \$71,371.70; in 1878, to \$95,391.13; in 1879, to \$58,857.57; in 1880, to \$55,105.51.

It will be seen that the 41st year of the company's business under the old management reached the top notch, and from 1877 to 1880, inclusive, fell off about one-third.

In 1881 a new Board of Directors was elected, who made a change in the officers of the company. In 1886, after five years under the new management, which was the 50th year of the company's business, the premiums amounted to \$187,850.27. The past year (1904) was the largest of the company's business, the premiums amounting to \$695,838.30.

Ten of the directors, who were elected in 1881, have passed away, namely: Peter R. Sleight, Jacob Hagadorn, David Bryan, John J. Vanderburgh, George T. Doughty, Oliver J. Tillson, L. C. Rapelye, John G. Schultz, Jacob G. Van Wyck, and Jacob Lefever.

In the year 1892, after a series of very bad years,

the reinsurance reserve became impaired to a small extent. There were some members of the Board of Directors, whose names have been placed on the Honor Roll, who came to the front and said the "Old Dutchess" must not go to the wall, but must be continued; and these gentlemen paid out their money, with nothing to show for it, bridging the company over this critical time. Their names are as follows: Milton A. Fowler, Hon. Jacob Lefever, O. J. Tillson, Eugene Ham, William S. Ketchum, Willard H. Mase, Jacob B. Carpenter, John N. Lewis, L. H. Vail and David Bryan.

Five of these gentlemen have since gone to the "Long Home," Messrs. Tillson, Mase, Carpenter, Lefever and Bryan. There were some hard struggles for existence during the past twenty years, but it weathered the storm, and to-day is recognized as one of the Insurance Companies of the country, even though not as large as some. It does not have to beg for patronage and take almost anything that is offered, but the business comes of its own volition, and the company is able to choose the desirable and reject the undesirable risks. One of the greatest helps to the success of the company has been the manner in which the Board of Directors has stood behind the president and upheld his hands in his efforts for the success of the company. In the twenty-two years that President L. H. Vail has been connected with the company as one of its officers he has never asked anything of the Board in the interest of the company that has not been granted, and one of the bright spots in his memory is the manner in which the Hon. Jacob Lefever came to the front with a rattling speech and braced the backs of some of the weaker members at the time it was necessary to put up some money, for had this not been done at that time the "Dutchess" would have been one of the companies of the past would have gone down in the great raid made by the large stock companies against the "Mutuals."

Mr. William S. Ketchum is the oldest director, and was elected in 1851. Mr. John N. Lewis comes next, elected in 1875. Mr. L. H. Vail was elected president in 1888, and Mr. J. J. Graham secretary in 1888.

The Insurance Building, recently enlarged and otherwise modernized, has been occupied since 1855.

#### THE EAGLE.

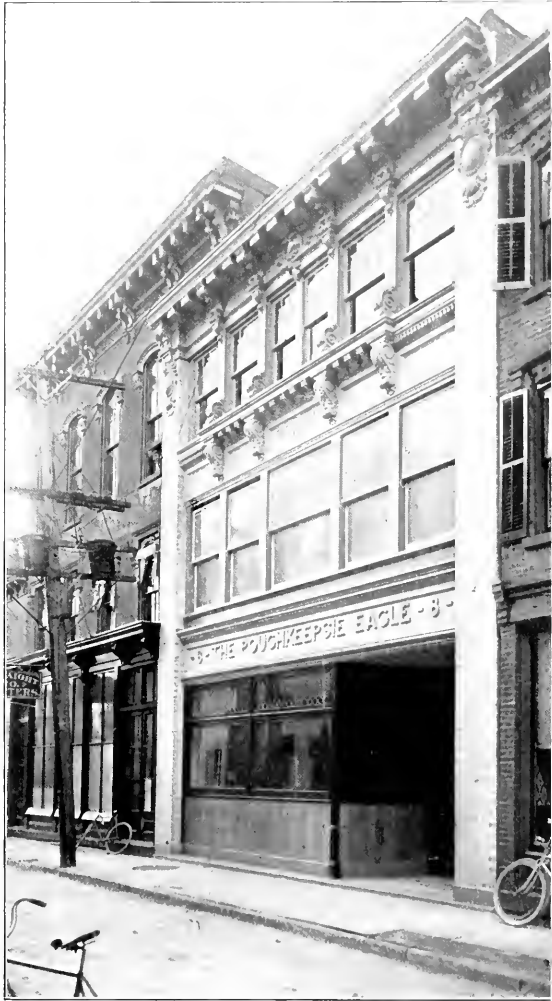
The career of the *Eagle* is so interwoven with the general history of Poughkeepsie and has therefore been mentioned so often that little remains to be said about the paper. The story would not be complete, however, without giving some details which pertain especially to it. Its distinct and separate existence has always been considered by its present publishers as dating from the year 1828, when Isaac Platt founded the *Dutchess Intelligencer*, but that paper was afterwards consolidated with two others, the *Dutchess Republican* and the *Poughkeepsie Journal* and through its absorption of the latter, which dated from 1783, it is undoubtedly by far the oldest newspaper published in Poughkeepsie, and has some claim upon succession to the earlier journal published by John Holt in New York and removed to Poughkeepsie

when the British took that city in the Revolutionary war. John Holt's journal was the direct successor, in unbroken line, from the *Gazette*, established in New York by William Bradford, in 1725, which was the first newspaper printed in that city and the third in America, the first having been printed in Boston and the second in Philadelphia. Both of those earlier papers long ago ceased to exist, and the *Journal*, which was removed back to New York after the evacuation of that city by the British, also ceased to exist many years ago, while the *Poughkeepsie Journal* was started here after a short interval by Nicholas Power to take its place. It was always an important factor in the promotion of every important interest in Poughkeepsie, and the *Eagle* has never failed to retain the same characteristic down to the present time.

Isaac Platt continued actively engaged in writing editorials for the *Eagle* and in control of its policy almost up to the time of his death, June 17th, 1872, and the influence of his long continued labor is still felt in Poughkeepsie and in Dutchess County.

William Schram was one of the owners of the *Journal* at the time of the consolidation with the *Eagle*, in 1844, and remained a partner with Mr. Platt until April 1, 1865, when he was succeeded by Mr. Platt's eldest son, John I. Platt, and removed to Newburgh. James B. Platt, second son of Isaac Platt, became a member of the firm April 1st, 1866, and Edmund Platt, eldest son of John I. Platt, July 1st, 1862. Since 1872 the style of the firm has been Platt & Platt. The paper was for many years published at 310-12 Main Street. In November 1862, that building was partially burned, and until it could be repaired the *Eagle* was temporarily published in the City Hall. In 1868 the building at 10 and 12 Liberty Street was completed and the plant removed there. In 1878 the job printing business connected with the paper was sold to Andreas V. Haight, previously of Rondout, and in 1883 the building was enlarged so as to extend from Liberty to Mechanic Streets, covering an area of 10,100 feet. In 1903 the present *Eagle* building at 8 Liberty Street was erected, and the older one leased for a term of years to the A. V. Haight Company.

The first number of the *Daily Eagle* was printed December 4th, 1860, and was the first newspaper in Poughkeepsie, and for a long time the only one, which received news by telegraph. The beginning of the war for the Union in the spring of 1861, made this news of so great importance that it brought the paper at once to the front and gave it a leadership which it has ever since retained. The *Weekly Eagle* was continued until 1880, when it was changed to a Semi-Weekly. Both editions have been repeatedly enlarged. In July, 1883, the Weekly was made an eight page paper, and in 1888 the Daily made the same change. In December, 1891, the *Eagle* installed the first linotype machine in Poughkeepsie, and in 1895 introduced a second machine and enlarged both editions to the present size. A characteristic of the business management of the *Eagle* has been the long continued personal relations which have been maintained by its publishers with its employees. During the seventy-seven years since the foundation of the *Dutchess Intelligencer* the *Eagle* has had but two editors, Isaac Platt having oc-



*The Eagle Building.*

cupied that position for forty-four years, and John J. Platt for forty years, the first seven of which were in association with his father. With the exception of two persons, every man in the establishment began his newspaper career on the *Eagle*, and has continued in its employ ever since. The senior of them all is the night foreman, Mr. Samuel C. Chase, who began in 1857, and has therefore been continuously employed for forty-eight years. When the war began in April, 1861, George W. Davids was employed as local reporter, afterwards city editor, and continued in that position till he died, February 1st, 1864. His son, George W. Davids, took his place and in 1904 succeeded John H. Swertfager, who had been for eighteen years night editor. Of those who assisted in getting out the first number of the *Eagle*, three, Mr. Chase, and the two senior proprietors, are still members of the force, while two others, Edward W. Shurter and John Maher, continued in the same service during the remainder of their lives, Mr. Maher having been stricken with paralysis while at his case in 1903.

In policy the *Eagle* has always been independent, dominated first of all by loyalty to what its editors have considered the best interests of Poughkeepsie and its vicinity. During the years when the Whig party was a power in the country it was a supporter of that party, but when the irrepressible conflict between freedom and slavery began it was uncompromising in its advocacy of all measures for the restriction and ultimate extinction of slavery, and when the Republican party was born the *Eagle* enthusiastically adopted its principles and has steadily supported them. Locally, every public improvement has received its best help, and in advocacy of many of them it has been the leader. Its field has necessarily been limited by the proximity of the metropolis of America, but notwithstanding this, few papers have been able to make themselves more influential, and none have received more hearty and appreciative support.

#### HON. EDWARD ELSWORTH.

(See page 249.)

Hon. Edward Elsworth, ex-Mayor and leading financier of Poughkeepsie, was born in New York City January 6th, 1810, being the son of John and Martha (Van Varick) Elsworth, and lineal descendant of Christoffel Elswaert, a New York City freeholder in 1655. Mr. Elsworth was educated at Rutgers' Grammar School, and at the Dutchess County Academy. He then attended the State and National Law School, from which he was graduated in 1858, and continued the study of law in the offices of Thompson & Weeks, and Homer A. Nelson. He was admitted to the bar in 1861, and became managing clerk in the office of Bernard Roelker, in New York City. Returning to Poughkeepsie he practiced law for several years in Dutchess and Rockland Counties, and then entered into partnership with Guilford Dudley in the hardware and iron business, continuing in this connection for many years. He was chosen a trustee of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank in 1876, and president of the Fallkill National Bank in 1891, resigning the latter in January, 1903, to assume the presidency of the Poughkeepsie

Savings Bank, which position he now holds. Mr. Elsworth's parents having settled in Poughkeepsie in 1848, he has practically been identified here for over fifty years. As a staunch Democrat and influential leader in his party councils he has made a lasting impression upon the political life and municipal progress of Poughkeepsie. He served in 1874 as Supervisor of the Third Ward; from 1880 to 1887 he was an active School Commissioner, and in 1886 was elected Mayor for two years. Charles M. Rowley succeeded him to that office, but in 1890 Mr. Elsworth was re-elected for the second term. He was judge advocate of the 8th Brigade, N. G. S. N. Y., for several years, and in 1902 he was elected chairman, Group 6, of the New York State Bankers' Association. Mr. Elsworth is a member of the Sons of the Revolution, the Holland Society, the Reform Club of New York City, the New York State Bankers' Association, and the Reformed Dutch Church. He has for several years been vice-president of the Holland Society for Dutchess County, is trustee of Vassar Brothers Institute and has been its treasurer since its organization. He has been trustee of Vassar College since 1892, the year he received the degree of A. M. from Rutgers, and succeeded Willard L. Dean as treasurer. He was married November 26th, 1867, to Miss Mary, daughter of Samuel B. Johnston, who for many years was vice-president of the Fallkill Bank. He was a cousin of General Albert Sidney Johnston, a descendant of Archibald Johnston, of Revolutionary memory.

#### HON. JAMES EMOTT.

(See page 152.)

Judge James Emott was the son of James Emott who was also formerly a Justice of the Supreme Court of this State, and a resident of the City of Poughkeepsie, when James Emott, his son, was born on the 23rd of April, 1823, in the homestead, now known as No. 46 Market Street.

Judge Emott, after a successful career at the bar and on the bench, died at his residence on Academy Street, in Poughkeepsie, on September 12th, 1884. He married Mary Croke, daughter of Charles Croke, at one time a leading business man of the city, engaged in freighting at the old Lower Landing. Judge Emott left surviving at the time of his decease, his widow and two children, a daughter, Laura, and his son, Charles C., all of whom are still living. Judge Emott was graduated from Columbia College, and immediately entered upon the study of the law, and after his admission to the bar, commenced practice in the City of Poughkeepsie. He soon acquired a leading position at the bar of the county, besides being largely engaged in business affairs outside of his profession. He was made president of the Merchants Bank in the city in July, 1852, and retained that position until his decease.

He was the first Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie, chosen under its newly acquired charter, as elsewhere stated in this history. To the discharge of all the duties of his professional and business life he devoted a clear and comprehensive mind, great diligence and unswerving integrity. In politics he was always a Republican. This Judicial District, including as it



did the City of Brooklyn, the Counties on Long Island, and those south of Dutchess, was strongly Democratic, and partisan nominations were made. There was no hope for the election of a Republican judge in the district in an ordinary election. But in 1856 the Democrats were divided, and put two judicial candidates in nomination, when Judge Emott was nominated by the Republican party, and was elected, and held the position of Justice of the Supreme Court for eight years, to 1864. Under the law as it then was, two Justices of the Supreme Court having the shortest time to serve, acted as Judges of the Court of Appeals, and under that provision Judge Emott served the later years of his term in the Court of Appeals. He went to the bench well equipped for its duties. To his large experience as a practicing lawyer, he added ripe scholarship, not only in the learning of the law, but a more than ordinary degree of general and literary culture. He early acquired, and always maintained, a high rank as a judge. His opinions are reported chiefly in the volumes of Barbour's Supreme Court Reports, and are notable for their legal learning, their grasp and ready application of legal principles, and for ease and lucidity of style.

On leaving the bench at the expiration of his term Judge Emott entered into partnership with ex-Judge Henry M. Taylor, and resumed the practice of law under the firm of Emott & Taylor, in the City of Poughkeepsie. But he was soon attracted to the wider professional field in New York City. He entered into practice there, and soon acquired a place among the foremost leaders of the bar in the city. There he continued to practice with increasing reputation and success, until stricken with the sickness which terminated fatally, in 1884, in the sixty-first year of his age. He made his residence in New York City during the latter years of his life, becoming identified with several of the leading organizations in that city, particularly the Union League and Central Clubs and the New York Bar Association.

#### EVERTSON ANCESTRY.

(See page 80.)

Evert Heindricxssen, Stamvader der Evertsen, Scheepsbevelhebber, (commander of ship), died 1601; married 1st Lentje Leynse, and had:

Johan Evertsen, de Kapitein, took the name of Evertsen, son of Evert; died in battle at sea, 1617; married Maayken Jans, who died in 1647, and had:

Johan Evertsen, 1600-1666, Knight of the Order of St. Michael, Lieutenant-Admiral van Zeeland; died August 5, 1666, in battle with the English fleet. His brother Cornelis Evertsen de Onde, Lieutenant-Admiral van Zeeland, was slain in the same battle. The brothers were buried in one grave, and a splendid marble monument in the Cathedral of Middelburg, Holland, records in simple language the virtues and heroism of these great men. (Cornelis Evertsen de Onde was the father of Cornelis Evertsen de Jongste, 1642-1706, Lieutenant-Admiral van Zeeland, 1684, who took New York from the English, July 30, 1673, "nimmer getronwd," and of Geleyn Evertsen, 1655-1721, Lieutenant-Admiral van Zeeland, 1707.) Johan Evertsen

married, 1622, Maayken Cornelissen Goreoms, daughter of Cornelis Jansen Goreoms, Scheepsbevelhebber, and had:

Cornelis Evertsen de Jonge, 1628-1679, Vice Admiral van Zeeland, and

Evert Evertson, born 1630. He went to the West Indies (probably in the expedition of his cousin Cornelis Evertsen de Jongste, 1673), and acquired property in the Island of Tobago, inherited by his great-grandson Jacob. His wife's name is not known. His son,

Nicholas Evertsen, born in Weesp, Holland, December 27, 1659, will proved October 24, 1723 (Register's Office, N. Y. Liber G, p. 575), married 1st, December 25, 1679, Marie Jan Huyge, born 1664. Their daughter, Willemijntje, born 1686, at Almonichendam, Holland. He was captain of New York troops in an expedition against a French privateer, 1704. (Report of N. Y. State Historian, Vol. II, p. 483, N. Y. Gen. and Biog. Rec., Vol. IX, 1878, October, p. 155.) He married secondly in Albany, N. Y., June 9, 1668, Margaret Van Baal, born October 1, 1672, daughter of Jan Hendrickse Van Baal, 1636-1682, Commissaris, (Judge of Court of Admiralty), and Helena, widow of Cornelis Bogardus, and daughter of William Teller, and had:

Nicholas Evertson, born in New York City, May 24, 1660, baptized in Old Dutch Church. He moved to South Amboy, N. J., where he acquired a fine property on Raritan Bay, consisting of valuable clay banks. His grave is on this property, and his tombstone records his death March 17, 1783. He was Judge of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the Peace, Middlesex County, 1746. His will is in the Secretary of State's office, Trenton, N. J. He married Susanna, daughter of Jacob Roeters, who outlived him. (His brother, John Evertson, 1704-1772, married first, her sister Sophia Roeters, and second, Elsie Ray, no issue), and had:

1. George Evertson, Quartermaster in Colonel Elias Dayton's expedition to take the ship "Blue Mountain Valley," January 22, 1776, Elizabethtown, N. J. Captain and Deputy Commissary of Military Stores, 18th January, 1777.

2. Margaret, who married Captain James Morgan and had Major-General James Morgan, of the Revolution.

3. Mary, who married Rev. Wheeler Case, and had Walter Case, who married Sarah Hasbrouck.

4. Susannah, who married Joseph Ellason.

5. Elizabeth, who married William Buckalew.

6. John, who married ——— and had issue, and

Jacob Evertson, born at South Amboy, New Jersey, January 3, 1734; died May 1, 1807; married October 20, 1761, Margaret Bloom, born August 20, 1744, died November 18, 1807, daughter of George Bloom. He moved to Amenia, N. Y., in 1762, where he came into possession of about 1,700 acres "laying in the Nine Partner Patent, Dutchess County, N. Y.," and in 1763 built a large brick house in a superior manner, which is well preserved. He removed about 1795 to Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, N. Y., where he died, and was buried in the graveyard of the Presby-

terian Church. He was elected a Deputy from Dutchess County to the second Provincial Congress of New York, 1775, 1776. [Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, Albany, N. Y. Revolutionary papers, 1886, Vol. 1, p. 190], and had:

I. John; married Julia Matthews, and had: 1. Margaret, married John Nitchie, who had Sophia Lewis, married Sanford Cobb; 2. Sarah, married Wm. Phillips, who had John Evertson, married Elizabeth T. Wisner; 3. Julia Ann, married Rev. Abram D. Wilson, who had Henry M. B.; 4. Jacob Reuters, married Eliza Phillips, who had John Reuters, married Louisa Weir; 5. Nicholas, married Clarissa Hasbrouck, who had Elizabeth, married — Eager, and Julia, married H. A. Field.

II. Margaret, married Gov. John Cotton Smith, of Connecticut, and had William Mather Smith, married Helen Livingston, who had Rev. Gilbert L., Dr. Robert, married Gertrude Bolden, and Hon. John Cotton Smith.

III. Nicholas, married Eliza Howe, and had: 1. Margaret, married Henry Richards, who had James and Henry; 2. Edgar, married Adeline Dickinson, who had Eliza, married Francis H. Saltus; 3. Mary Ann, married John Givan, who had Mary, married first, Henry Richards, 2nd, Dr. George H. Moore, and Margaret, married Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby.

IV. Catharine, died young.

V. George Bloom, died young.

VI. George Bloom Evertson, born near Amenia, Dutchess County, N. Y., February 20, 1773; died at Ithaca, Tompkins County, N. Y., August 12, 1820. He inherited a handsome property from his father, and resided in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in the fine old gambrel-roofed mansion on the south side of Cannon Street, nearly opposite Liberty Street. The lot was 75 feet wide and extended through to Church Street. He owned "Springside," afterwards sold to the late Matthew Vassar, founder of the college, and several farms in the vicinity, on which he raised sheep. As early as 1806 he was proprietor of a ship-yard at the foot of Union Street, where he built sailing vessels and traded with New York, Boston and Passamaquaddy. He was president of the branch bank in Poughkeepsie of the Manhattan Bank, New York City, and his correspondence with Henry Remsen, Esq., President, extended from 1809 to 1825. About 1820 he was appointed Judge of the Quarter Sessions of the Peace. Having become involved by endorsing for a friend he sold out his property in 1827, and in May, 1828, moved with his family to Ithaca, N. Y., where he died the next year. He married first, November 18, 1794, Cornelia, daughter of Dr. Peter Tappan, born March 11, 1774, died January 20, 1808. Children: 1. John, died young; 2. Elizabeth; 3. Peter Tappan, died young; 4. John Reuters, married and had John, Clinton and Evert; 5. Cornelia, married Dr. Benjamin S. Halsey, who had Mary Elizabeth, George Timothy, Clinton Smith, married Eliza S. Ayres; Helen Maria, married — Grainger; George Evertson, married Alphonsine Hungerford; Tappan, married Mary King, and Wm. Davies, married Louise Seymour.

He married secondly, April 3, 1809, Francis Mary, daughter of Dr. Samuel Nicoll, born December 17, 1785, died March 24, 1861. Children: 1. Anne, died young; 2. Frances Mary, married Wm. Amos Woodward, who had George Evertson, married E. B. Deodata Mortimer; Francis William, married Anne Jay Delaplaine; Mary Nicoll, married Erastus Gaylord Putnam, and Harriet Bowen, married John Wylie Barrow; 3. Margaret Maria Bloom, married Hart G. Lee, who had James Wright, married Rhoda Carlton, and Georgiana Frances, married James M. Douglass; 4. Adelaide Elizabeth, married Samuel M. McKay, who had Robert Riddell, married Eliza Hun Cox; Margaret Greenwood, married Harmanus Barkulo Hubbard; Adelaide Elizabeth, married William L. Hubbard; Mary Woodward, married Franklin Quimby; 5. Catharine Lewis, married John D. Dix, who had Adelaide Frances, Wm. Woodward, Mary Evertson, George Woodward (married Elise Woodruff) John James, Lena Augusta and Ellen Elizabeth; 6. Helen Smith, died young; 7. Walter Davies, and 8. Eliza Ann, twins; Walter married Ann Mary Fatheree, who had Alice Nicoll, married J. R. Gwynn, David Barrow, married M. McLaren; George James, married Susie Davis; Mary Eliza, married J. R. Oldham; Walter Lee, Annie Elizabeth and Adelaide McKay; 9. William Nicoll, died young; 10. George, died young; 11. George, died young.

VII. Catharine, married Rev. Isaac Lewis, and had: 1. Margaret Maria, married Dr. Harvey P. Peet, principal of N. Y. Institution for Deaf and Dumb, who had Dr. Isaac Lewis Peet, principal ditto, married Mary Toles; 2. William Evertson, married Adeline Donaldson, who had Catharine Louisa, married Edward H. Mann, and William Mount, married Ann Eliza Phelps; 3. Louisa C., died young; 4. Mary Elizabeth, married Wm. M. Smith, who had Walter Evertson, married Mary Clarkson; Catherine Lewis, married Edward P. Buffet; Mary Mason, married Wm. H. Sampson, and Sarah Mather, married Cornelius H. Clark; 5. Eliza Sophia, married David Van Nostrand; 6. Isaac, married Cornelia Donaldson.

VIII. Jacob Reuters, died of yellow fever in the Island of Tobago, W. I., at the age of 25.

IX. Mary or Maria, married first, Justin Foote, of Newburgh, N. Y.; 2nd, William Davies of Poughkeepsie; one child, Walter Evertson Davies, died young.

X. Walter, married Eliza Roosevelt, and had: 1. Henry Holland; 2. Maria Elizabeth, married Dr. John C. Brigham, who had John Clark, Eliza Roosevelt, Walter Evertson, married Fannie B. Arunstead; Mary Douglass, married John H. Cooke; Amariah Ward, married Emma J. Wilde, and Antoinette Gibson, married James B. Hopper.

#### CLEMENT CARRINGTON GAINES.

(See page 255.)

Clement Carrington Gaines, President of Eastman Business College, is a native of Charlotte County, Virginia, of English ancestry, and a descendant of several of the earliest Virginia families. One of his

ancestors was one of the first governors of the Colony; two others were members of the House of Burgesses in Colonial times, representing Charlotte County, Virginia, and were among the supporters of Patrick Henry in his heroic efforts in the cause of independence. The family still own extensive plantations, and are prominent in their locality; but, like the majority of the Southern people, they suffered financially from the Civil War.

Mr. Gaines enjoyed exceptional educational advantages, and had a wide experience as a teacher and business man before coming to Poughkeepsie. He graduated from Hampden Sidney College at the age of eighteen, with the degree of A. B. The next five years he devoted to teaching, beginning as instructor in Latin and mathematics at the Fincastle (Virginia) High School, and afterward becoming principal of a public grammar school near Walton, Boone County, Kentucky, of the Oakland Institute near Pembroke, Christian County, Kentucky, and of the Charlotte County High School at Charlotte Court House, Virginia. When he had saved the amount of money needed in this way, he entered the University of Virginia in 1880, and graduated in 1882 with the degree of B. L. In the same year he completed the business course at Eastman College, Poughkeepsie, New York.

With this excellent business and professional training, Mr. Gaines began the practice of law in Chicago, associating himself for that purpose first with Thomas Cratty and afterwards with Colonel George L. Paddock and Owen F. Aldis, of the firm of Paddock & Aldis. Little more than a year had passed however, when he was offered a position as teacher in the Banking Department of Eastman Business College; and this he decided to accept, feeling that the work there would be peculiarly congenial. After acting as an instructor for a year, he became, in November, 1884, the president of the college. It speaks well for his ability and energy that the reputation of this school has been fully maintained under his leadership. So successful was he, indeed, in the management of the older school, that he established, in 1892, the New York Business Institute in the City of New York, and has since continued to conduct both institutions. The new school, which was opened December 12, 1892, at 81 East 125th Street, (now removed to 119 West 125th Street) grew so rapidly that increased accommodations soon became necessary; and more than 350 pupils are now in daily attendance, with an enrollment of about 600 a year. The Poughkeepsie school recently had on its membership roll pupils from thirty-eight different states and territories and seventeen foreign countries.

In addition to the care of his two schools, Mr. Gaines is actively and effectively interested in "everything that has any good in it," to borrow his own phrase. Church work, the Young Men's Christian Association, social problems, politics (in a broad sense)—in short, all the live, practical questions of the day, receive a share of his attention. He organized and was first president of the New York State Association of registered business schools, the first Building and Loan Association in Poughkeepsie, and has been for

many years a member of the executive committee of the Board of Trade here. He is also a member of the Harlem Board of Commerce, and was for years in the Poughkeepsie Board of Education. He is also a member of the Syllabus Committee and Chairman of the Commercial Education Committee of the State Association of Academic Principals. He delivers frequent addresses and essays on special occasions. He has edited a book entitled "Simplified Phonetic Shorthand," founded on the Pitman system, and is the author of the works on accounts and arithmetic used as a text-book in his own and other schools. He has been elected to membership in many organizations, among which may be mentioned the University, Amrita, Dutchess, Golf and Country Clubs, of Poughkeepsie, the Reform Club and Southern Society of New York, the Sons of the American Revolution, the American Society of Christian Philosophy, and the American Institute of Civics.

*Who's Who in America*, (1904-5) contains the following synopsis of Mr. Gaines' career:

President of Eastman Business College; born March 15, 1857; was graduated from Hampden-Sidney College, 1875, and University of Virginia, 1882; taught school in Fincastle, Virginia, in 1875-6, and near Walton, Kentucky, in 1876-7; at Pembroke, Kentucky, in 1877-8; at Charlotte C. H., Virginia, in 1879-80; practiced law in Chicago, 1882-83; married October 20th, 1884, Mrs. M. M. Eastman; president of Eastman Business College since 1884; established the New York Business Institute in 1892, and has carried on the same since. (A list of organizations, same as those above follows.)

#### STEPHEN G. GUERNSEY.

Stephen Gano Guernsey, lawyer and president of the Poughkeepsie Trust Company, was born in Stamford, Dutchess County, April 22, 1848, son of Stephen Gano Guernsey and Elenor (Rogers) Guernsey, of that place. He was educated in the common schools and at Fort Edward Institute. In 1870 he came to Poughkeepsie and read law in the offices of Judge Charles Wheaton, and also with his brother, Judge Daniel W. Guernsey, being admitted to the bar in 1872. In 1876 he commenced the practice of law here, and has so continued up the present time. In politics he is a Democrat, but has never held public office except as School Commissioner from 1890 to 1894, and as U. S. Loan Commissioner for a number of years. He was elected president of the Poughkeepsie National Bank in 1892, and of the Poughkeepsie Trust Company in 1901, which position he now holds.

Mr. Guernsey was married April 18, 1877, to Miss Marianna Hicks, of Poughkeepsie, and has four children, Raymond G., Homer W., Louis G. and Emeline.

#### MARTIN HEERMANCE.

(See page 240.)

Martin Heermance, lawyer, was born in St. Joseph County, Michigan, December 17, 1852, but can justly claim an ancestry in Dutchess County dating back to

almost the first settlement. The first of his family to come from Holland to America was Jan Heermance, who arrived in New York in 1650, and his descendants settled in Dutchess County, Hendriens Heermance being married to a daughter of Gerrit Artsen, who was one of the men who made the first purchase of land from the Indians at Rhinebeck in 1686, and who in 1710 purchased from his father-in-law what is now known as Ellerslie, the property of Levi P. Morton, former vice-president of the United States.

Martin Heermance's great-grandfather, Jacob Heermance, a grandson of Jan, married a daughter of Jan Vosburgh, and one of his eight children, Martin Heermance, married a daughter of Dr. Hans Kiersted, a direct descendant of the Dr. Hans Kiersted, who, in 1642, married Sarah Roeloffe Jans, daughter of Aneke Jans, from whom Trinity Church, New York City, received its now enormously wealthy endowment. Martin was a leading citizen of the county and a Brigadier-General in the War of 1812. His son, the father of our subject, was the Rev. Harrison Heermance, of the Dutch Reformed Church. He was settled in Lenawee County, Michigan, but resigned his pulpit and served as chaplain of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry and then of the 128th N. Y. Volunteers. At the close of the war he settled in Rhinebeck, his native town, and died there in 1883. Martin Heermance was, therefore, reared in this county, and was educated at the DeGarmo Classical Institute. In 1880 he was elected Supervisor of Rhinebeck, and re-elected in 1882. In 1883 he was admitted to the bar and began practice in Poughkeepsie. He was elected District Attorney in 1888, and in 1890 was appointed one of the three State Assessors of New York by Governor Morton. By his colleagues he was elected chairman of the board. He recently served two terms as President of Vassar Brothers Institute, and for a number of years has been regarded as one of the leading lawyers of the Dutchess County bar. He is a member of the Holland Society, and was Master of Rhinebeck Lodge, F. and A. M., for two consecutive terms. For two years he was president of the Social Reading Club, of Poughkeepsie.

Mr. Heermance was married in 1881 to Miss Nina Radcliffe, daughter of the late David Van Ness Radcliffe, of Albany, and has one son, Radcliffe Heermance, who was recently graduated from Williams College. Mrs. Heermance died in March, 1905.

#### DR. JAMES HOYT.

Daniel James Hoyt, M. D., the youngest physician now practicing in Poughkeepsie, and yet one of the most successful, his ability both as a physician and surgeon having well satisfied and retained the large clientele established by the late Dr. Walter R. Case, whom he succeeded in 1902, was born at Galway, Saratoga County, N. Y., January 20, 1872. He was educated at the Rochester high school, and at Prof. Edick's private academy of the same place. Thence he went to Princeton University for one year, and Union University for three years, graduating as A. B. from the latter in the class of 1899. After a course

at the Albany Medical College, during which time Dr. A. Vander Veer was his preceptor, he attended the medical department of the University of Vermont for one year, and graduated therefrom as M. D. in 1902. He also took four years' reading in the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle of Chautauqua, N. Y. After the death of Dr. Case in 1902, Dr. Hoyt took up his practice in the office thus made vacant, and practically succeeded him. Dr. Hoyt is a member of the Phi Chi Medical Society of Burlington, Vt., the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, Alumni Association of Schenectady, and the Dutchess County Medical Society, the Presbyterian Church, and Fallkill Lodge, I. O. O. F. On June 17, 1903, he was united in marriage with Miss Ida S. Mitchell, daughter of S. S. Mitchell, of Albany, N. Y., and resided first at the corner of Mill and Washington Streets, but afterwards moved to Cannon Street.

#### GEORGE INNIS.

(For portrait, see page 187.)

George Innis, man of affairs of Poughkeepsie and thrice mayor, was born in this city June 7, 1822, and died November 25, 1903. He was the son of Aaron and Martha (Smith) Innis, who came here from Orange and Ulster Counties, N. Y. Mr. Innis was educated and prepared for Columbia College at the Poughkeepsie Collegiate Institute, on College Hill, but his father dying in October, 1838, he abandoned the idea of entering college and took charge of the dye woods business his father had established, and which under his management flourished until 1868, when the dye woods industry was forced to give way to aniline dyes. Mr. Innis was president of the Fallkill Bank for sixteen years; a trustee of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank and a member of its executive committee for many years; a director in the Farmers and Manufacturers Bank for several years; a director of the National Park Bank, of New York City, for a long period. He was a trustee and a member of the executive committee of Vassar College for sixteen years, and was one of the first ten men to subscribe capital to start the First National Bank of New York City. Politically, and as a public-spirited citizen, Mr. Innis was exceedingly active and popular.

Every public improvement has depended upon him to take a leading part in advocating and in pushing it to success. He was the first president of the Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad, one of the executive committee of the Poughkeepsie Bridge Company, and an officer or director in nearly every organization which had for its object the benefit of Poughkeepsie and its people. Very few men in the whole history of the city have done more for its welfare or contributed more for its prosperity.

A staunch Republican, he was chosen president of the village in the middle fifties and elected mayor of the city in 1863. To this office he was re-elected in 1864 and again in 1866. He is known as the patriotic mayor of the Civil War period. When the first recruits were ready to move, he furnished \$30,000 of his own money to equip them, trusting for re-imbursment

which came in time. When \$50,000 had to be raised to buy the ground and other necessities for the Hudson River Hospital for the Insane (in order to secure that State Institution for Dutchess County), he personally borrowed it from John Jacob Astor, the 2d, and became responsible for the loan until the amount had been fully subscribed. Many other notable and patriotic acts distinguish Mr. Innis as one of the best mayors Poughkeepsie ever had. In 1868 he was one of the Republican presidential electors in the first candidacy of General Grant.

Mr. Innis married, in 1855, Miss Anne Bexier Hasbrouck, of New Paltz, Ulster County, N. Y. Their daughter Martha is now the wife of William H. Young, a prominent New York city lawyer; and their son, Hasbrouck Innis, is one of the popular young men of Poughkeepsie. Mr. Innis, with his family, have resided in the old mansion which occupies the high ground on the south side of Main above Water Street, since he purchased the property in 1857. It is probably the oldest residence now occupied in the city. Mr. Innis was the oldest ex-mayor of Poughkeepsie for some time before his death, and the only ex-president of the village living.

#### HON. JOHN H. KETCHAM.

(See page 195.)

Hon. John H. Ketcham, many times already mentioned in this history, a native of the County of Dutchess, N. Y., was born December 21st, 1832, in Dover. He is a scion of one of the oldest and most distinguished families in Eastern New York, being the second son and child of John M. and Eliza A. Ketcham, of Dover. His education was received in part at Suffield, Conn., and in part at Worcester, Mass., from whence he graduated in 1851. At the conclusion of his studies, he returned to his native town and formed a partnership with his elder brother, William S., in farming and conducting an extensive marble business, which they successfully continued several years. During this period, he was called upon to represent his township on the Board of Supervisors, and was elected to the Assembly of the State for two years, and afterwards went to the State Senate, where he most worthily represented his constituents. In 1861 Mr. Ketcham was appointed by Governor Morgan, of New York, a member of the War Committee of Dutchess and Columbia Counties, and was commissioned to raise a regiment, which he did with alacrity and which was composed of picked men representing for the most part the best and most intelligent families of Dutchess County. His regiment, the 150th New York, proceeded first to Baltimore, Md., and afterward participated in the battle of Gettysburg, where it suffered severely. After recruiting its depleted ranks, Colonel Ketcham moved his command southwest, joining General Sherman, and was with him on his memorable march to the sea. At Atlanta, Ga., for meritorious conduct, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General by brevet, afterward to Brigadier-General, and subsequently to Major-General by brevet. While with his command, he was nominated for Member of Congress from his

district and elected. He served eleven consecutive terms in that office, being nominated by acclamation on each occasion, and was elected, receiving the support of the people of his district, irrespective of party, his majorities being large and unprecedented. On the termination of his twelfth term, he was tendered a unanimous renomination, but, owing to impaired health, was compelled to decline. He is at the present time in Congress and a member of the Committee on Military Affairs, Post Offices and Post Roads, and has always served on the most important committees, gaining great eminence in the faithful discharge of his duties, having the respect and love of his fellow Congressmen.

On February 14th, 1858, General John H. Ketcham was married to Miss Augusta A. Belden, daughter of William H. and Sarah Belden, of Amenia, Dutchess County, who are among the earliest and best families of the county. Four children were born of this marriage, of whom three are living. General Ketcham is a gentleman of generous impulses and warm heart, and always ready to do a kind act, and is known and recognized as the poor man's friend. He has been greatly distinguished for ability, integrity and public spirit and possesses all those admirable qualities of character which go to make good citizenship. His State has always honored him as one of her best products, a manly, noble man in all the relations of life, and in his remarkable public career he has maintained himself with great dignity and propriety, and will leave to posterity the memory of a rich inheritance.

#### HON. FRANCIS G. LONDON.

(See page 205.)

Hon. Francis G. London, who so ably represented this district in the State Legislature for three years, 1901-1903, was born in New York city August 20, 1850. He was the son of Charles Griswold and Susan H. London and lineal descendant of Captain David London, of the Continental Army, and Sir John Leverett, Governor of the Colony of Massachusetts from 1673 to 1679. He was educated in the public schools and graduated from Princeton University in the class of 1881.

Mr. London is a farmer by occupation and preference, but has always given much time to National Guard matters. Early in life he became a member of the famous Seventh Regiment, of New York, was its adjutant for four years, and became Captain of Company I in 1895. In 1889, in company with an associate officer, he went to England to represent the Seventh and the National Guards of the State, and remained active in his regiment until his resignation in 1902, at which date he received full and honorable discharge from the service.

He came to Dutchess County, to his farm at Staatsburg, in 1893, and was nominated by the Republican party in 1900 as Member of the Assembly. Being elected, he commenced his legislative career in January, 1901, and that year served on the Public Education, Military and State Prison committees. Re-elected in 1901, he served on the Taxation and Re-

trenchment, Public Institutions and Villages committees in 1902. Again elected in 1902 he was chairman of the Committee on Public Education and member of the Ways and Means and Canal committees in 1903. In 1904 he was appointed third secretary of legation at Berlin, Germany, and soon after reaching his post was transferred to Vienna, Austria as second secretary.

Mr. Landon, however, was not the first of his family to serve the true interests of this county. His great-grand uncle, Jonathan Landon, represented Dutchess in the first Provincial Congress of the State of New York, which convened in New York City in 1775, and was also its representative in the Third and Fourth Congresses. During the Revolutionary War he was a major in the Sixth Regiment, Dutchess County Militia.

Mr. Landon is a member of the American Geographical Society, the Metropolitan, Princeton, New York Athletic, New York Yacht and Racquet Clubs, and the Episcopal Church. He was married May 20, 1807, to Miss Mary Hornor Toel, and has two daughters, Adelaide and Eleanor.

#### DR. CHARLES EDWARD LANE.

(See page 257.)

Charles Edward Lane, M. D., president of the Board of Aldermen, and prominent physician and surgeon of Poughkeepsie, was born at Clove, Dutchess County, August 16, 1855, son of Edward Lane a whale fisherman, and who was afterwards a well-known pilot, captain and boat owner on the Hudson River, running at one time a very large schooner to Troy, N. Y., and Jane A. (Hall) Lane, daughter of Gilbert and Mary Hall, of Dutch descent. The Lanes are one of the oldest families in Dutchess County, the doctor's great-grandfather, Jacob Lane, having resided here prior to the breaking out of the Revolutionary War. His grandfather, John G. Lane, was born in Beckman, now Union Vale, May 22, 1776, where his father, Edward, was also born.

In 1863 Edward Lane sold his schooner and bought a farm in Seneca County, N. Y., but Dr. Lane was brought up at Clove, making his home with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Cutler, the latter being his mother's sister. He continued attending the district schools until sixteen years of age, when he entered Wesleyan Academy, at Wilbraham, Mass. He did not graduate, however, his uncle's serious illness calling him home, and upon his uncle's death in 1876, he became the owner of the old homestead, sacred to the memory of his mother and grandparents.

After taking a course at Eastman Business College in this city, he married Miss Hattie A. Yoemans, of Clove, March 28, 1877, and in 1880 entered the New York Homeopathic Medical College. He graduated therefrom in 1883, and practiced medicine at Clove for five years, removing in 1888 to Poughkeepsie, where he has attained a wide, influential and lucrative practice. He was secretary of the board of examining surgeons of the U. S. Pension Bureau from 1880 to 1804, is a member of the Dutchess County Medical Society, the New York State Homeopathic

Medical Society, the American Institute of Homeopathy, Triune Lodge, F. and A. M., Poughkeepsie Chapter, R. A. M., Poughkeepsie Commandery, K. T., Mecca Temple of the Mystic Shrine, Poughkeepsie Council, R. A., Fallkill Lodge, I. O. O. F., the Supreme Lodge, I. O. G. T., and other social societies. He was formerly a member of the Christian Church at Clove, but is now a member of the Second Reformed Church of this city. Dr. Lane was elected president of the Board of Aldermen in 1897, and has ably served as such ever since then.

#### FRANK B. LOWN.

(See page 226.)

Frank B. Lown was born at the village of Red Hook, in Dutchess County, N. Y., on the first day of January, 1849. He is the son of David and Jane M. Lown, and with his parents removed to the City of Poughkeepsie in 1857, where he has since resided. Mr. Lown was educated in the public schools of Poughkeepsie, and in 1871 entered the law office of Nelson & Baker as a law student. After being admitted to the bar, he became a clerk in the office of Thompson & Weeks, then the oldest firm of practitioners in the county. In 1878 the firm of Thompson, Weeks & Lown was formed, and upon the death of James H. Weeks in 1887 and of John Thompson in 1891, he became the sole survivor. He is still engaged in the practice of his profession in the City of Poughkeepsie.

#### THE STORE OF LUCKEY, PLATT & CO.,

(See page 256.)

The business now conducted by Luckey, Platt & Co., was established in 1835 by Crandle & Smith, then in a small store at 254 Main Street. They were succeeded by Dibble & Slee, then by R. Slee & Co., who moved in 1860 to 328 Main Street, and in 1866 the firm name was changed to Luckey, Vail & Mandeville. In 1869 the firm of Luckey & Platt was first announced. Three years later Mr. S. L. DeGarmo was admitted to the firm and the name of Luckey, Platt & Co., has been a familiar one to the people ever since. The growth of this store has been one of the most notable features of successful business enterprise in Poughkeepsie. In 1874 the business was confined to one small single store of one floor only. From that time on the history of this store shows constant growth and development until at the present time in their new, luxurious quarters the Luckey, Platt & Co. establishment occupies seven full stores, four stories high. From 1874 to 1903 there was a change from a floor area of 1,280 feet to a magnificently equipped modern store with twenty-three departments, over a mile and three-quarters of counters and shelves and about 60,000 square feet of floor space.

Here may be found very large and varied lines of Dry Goods, and all accessories, the largest carpet department in this part of the State, a fully equipped furniture store, complete in itself, drapery and upholstery department, millinery and boys' clothing departments, waiting rooms, three elevators and all modern

conveniencies. One of the secrets of the healthy growth of this store may be found in the underlying current of honest dealing and right business principles running all through the house. It is by far the largest and most modern store in the city, as well as in this part of the State, and offers the people of Poughkeepsie and surrounding country exceptional opportunities for satisfactory trading every business day in the year.

#### GEORGE W. LUMB.

(See page 258.)

George W. Lumb, leading manufacturer and president of the Board of Public Works, was born in Yorkshire, England, September 16th, 1837, and when about two years of age was brought to Poughkeepsie by his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth (Beaumont) Lumb. The father in 1830 was employed in the carpet factory of C. M. and G. P. Pelton, but later opened a grocery store which he conducted until about two years before his death. He was a member of the Congregational Church, and in politics was first a Whig, later a Republican.

Our subject, after attending the grammar schools, was employed in the carpet factory for a while, and then learned the sash and blind trade with William C. Beardsley, afterwards being foreman for John C. Price. In 1863 he entered the United States Navy, making three trips to Aspinwall on the "Grand Gulf," and was in the blockading squadron at Galveston. The vessel later acted as flagship at New Orleans, in which city Mr. Lumb received an honorable discharge. On his return to Poughkeepsie, he and his brother, Levi Lumb, started a sash and blind factory at the corner of Dutchess Avenue and Water Street, which for two years was operated by horse power. They then removed to the present factory and admitted William T. Swart, the firm being known as Swart, Lumb and Brother. This partnership continued until 1885, when Mr. Lumb bought out his brother's interest, and his son Charles L. became a member of the firm, which assumed the name of Swart, Lumb and Son. Two years later, however, Mr. Swart sold out and the name was changed to George W. Lumb and Son. They do an extensive business and well deserve the liberal patronage which is accorded them. In 1862 Mr. Lumb purchased the old Vassar House property and erected another four-story brick building which has been occupied by various industries.

Mr. Lumb is connected with several of the leading industries, and is also one of the largest real estate owners in the city.

Mr. Lumb married Sarah W. Dean, a native of Taunton, Mass. Mrs. Lumb is a descendant, on the maternal side, of Governor Bradford, second Governor of Massachusetts Colony. Four children have been born to them, Charles Levi, Jessie Bradford, George Julian and Maud Dean.

In his political principles Mr. Lumb is an unwavering Republican, devoted to the best interests of his party. He was Commissioner of Public Works and

for a number of years has been president of the Board of Public Works.

Socially he is a member of the F. and A. M. Lodge No. 266, and in religious faith is a Congregationalist.

Charles L. Lumb, the eldest son, is a native of Poughkeepsie, where he secured his education, being a graduate of the High School and Eastman Business College, receiving his diploma from the latter in 1880. On October 2nd, 1880, in Poughkeepsie, he was united in marriage with Minnie Elizabeth Lovejoy, daughter of J. Fred and Mary E. Lovejoy, the former being a descendant of Barent Waldron, one of the original patentees of New Harlem. They have a daughter, Ethel Dean, born July 11th, 1893, and son, Charles Lovejoy, born November 30th, 1898.

Charles Lumb is also a real estate owner, is an Episcopalian, holding membership with the Holy Comforter Church. Socially he affiliates with the F. and A. M. Triune Lodge, No. 782, Poughkeepsie Chapter, Poughkeepsie Commandery, Poughkeepsie Council, Knights of Malta, Mystic Shrine, and Royal Arcanum, is a prominent member of the Amrita Club and New England Society. In politics he is a staunch Republican. In 1895 and 1896 he held the position of president of the last Board of Water Commissioners.

George J. Lumb, the second son, is a graduate of both the High School and Eastman Business College, and is bookkeeper of the firm of George W. Lumb and Son. Is also a real estate owner, a member of several clubs of the city and treasurer of Poughkeepsie Club. During the late Spanish-American war, he enlisted in the Third Volunteer Signal Corps, of Brooklyn, and served as Sergeant seven months in Cuba. In politics he is a Republican, and in religion an Episcopalian, member of Holy Comforter Church.

#### JOHN E. MACK.

John E. Mack, lawyer and justice of the peace, was born at Poughkeepsie June 10, 1874. He was educated in the town schools, St. Mary's parochial school and the Poughkeepsie High School. He then read law in the offices of Hackett & Williams and Allison Butts. He was admitted to the bar in January, 1896. In politics he is a staunch Democrat. He was elected a justice of the peace of the Town of Poughkeepsie in November, 1896, a position he ably fills. So impartially did he administer the duties of his office during his first term, that in the fall of 1903 the Republicans unanimously endorsed his nomination for re-election for the ensuing four years' term. Mr. Mack has an original way of dealing with intoxicated offenders which has worked very successfully. He requests them to sign a pledge promising to abstain from the use of liquor. The pledge contains a clause in which the offender petitions the justice to commit him to jail for six months as an habitual drunkard if he is again convicted of intoxication. Upon his discharge he is admonished by Justice Mack that the petition will be granted if the offender is again convicted before him. Judge Mack's pledge has become

famous, as well as having resulted in a wholesome reform among that class of law breakers. Mr. Mack has succeeded in building up a lucrative law practice



JOHN E. MACK.

and is a popular member of the bar. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. Mary's Catholic Church. He was united in marriage on October 25, 1860, to Miss Wilhelmina B., daughter of Theodore and Mary Immekus, of Poughkeepsie. They have two children, Margaret M. and John.

#### DR. J. MARILL.

Joaquin Marill, M. D., one of the most popular physicians of Poughkeepsie, was born in Havana, Cuba, December 21, 1841; the son of Spanish parents engaged in the sugar industry in that island. He graduated from the University of Havana in 1860 and went to Paris, France, to study medicine. In July, 1861, he went to Philadelphia, and in October of that year joined the 137th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers as surgeon. He was taken prisoner at the Second Battle of Bull Run and confined in Libby Prison until he was exchanged in September, 1864. Returning to duty he was assigned to Sicklesboro Hospital at Alexandria, Va., and remained there until his discharge in July, 1865. He then went back to Cuba, and prior to the rebellion joined the Spanish Army as surgeon, and remained in active duty as such from 1866 to 1870. In that year he returned to the United States and began the practice of medicine and surgery at Highland, Ulster County, N. Y. He removed to Poughkeepsie in 1874, where he has been in continual practice ever

since, excepting a period of eight months when commodore-surgeon of the Alexandria fleet during the yellow fever epidemic in Vera Cruz in 1886. Dr. Marill was united in marriage in 1874 to Miss Amanda, daughter of Louis Caire, of Poughkeepsie. He is an active member of the Knights of Pythias and other fraternities, and is a staunch Republican, though by no means a politician.

#### THOMAS McWHINNIE.

(See page 209.)

Thomas McWhinnie, the proprietor of the important Poughkeepsie industry known all over the world as the McWhinnie Wheelbarrow Works, enjoys the distinction of having conducted one business under one name without any change or partners for a longer period than any other man in Poughkeepsie, being now in the thirty-seventh year of his career as a manufacturer of wheelbarrows for all purposes—canal or railroad, garden, coal, stone, ore, brick and other wheelbarrows, both wood and steel. He has an established trade in all parts of the world. He is a self-made man in the broadest sense, and a native of Poughkeepsie, born here, March 20, 1842, the son of James and Euphemia (Hall) McWhinnie. His father worked at his trade as a weaver in this city for thirty-three years. He was a sturdy Scotchman from Glasgow; his father, Thomas, was also a weaver, but a native of Edinburgh. The latter's brother John was keeper of Edinburgh Castle where the Scottish Regalia are kept. Mr. McWhinnie attended the Poughkeepsie schools until between twelve and thirteen years of age, and then started to work in the cotton mills at Wappingers Falls for two dollars a week. There he remained less than a year, when he returned to this city and worked in a bakery for his board and twenty-five dollars a year, receiving an advance of five dollars the second year and five dollars additional the third year. In the spring of 1858 he began to learn the timer's trade, but gave that up in 1859, and started in the Chichester Chair factory, a part of which plant adjoins his present works in South Water Street. He afterwards worked four years, and was a partner for one year, in a chair manufacturing concern in New York City. In 1860 he started the McWhinnie Wheelbarrow Works in North Water Street, and in 1883 erected his present extensive plant in South Water Street. His progressive energy and natural ability is shown by his production of the celebrated wheelbarrows known as the "Dutchess Bolted Canal" and "Dutchess Bolted Garden Wheelbarrows," and his business qualities by the continuous prosperity of the industry he has established with no other aid than his own intelligent, honest work and Scottish pluck. In politics Mr. McWhinnie is a Republican, and very popular with the people. He has been elected to public office several times in his life, serving three years as Alderman of the Second Ward and six years as a Supervisor of the Third Ward. He is a member and trustee of the Congregational Church, and has been a Free Mason since 1864. Mr. McWhinnie was united in marriage June 1, 1871, to Miss Fannie Whitwell, daughter of Thomas and Mary Whitwell, who came



here from Peterborough, England, settled down in Poughkeepsie for a number of years, and then moved on a farm at East Park, N. Y. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McWhinnie, of whom two are living, Mary E., wife of Frank Brooks, and Fannie J. One son, Roy A., died in his thirteenth year.

#### HON. JOSEPH MORSCHAUSER.

(See page 246.)

Hon. Joseph Morschauer, City Judge of Poughkeepsie, was born at Hyde Park, N. Y., March 30, 1803. He attended the district school of his native place and finished his education under the private tutorage of Miss Helen W. Everett, of Poughkeepsie. He then studied law in the office of Judges D. W. Guernsey and Charles Wheaton, and was admitted to the bar in September, 1884. Although one of a family of sixteen children, he rejoices in being the only Republican among them, and is a stalwart of that party. He was elected justice of the peace in 1886, and re-elected in 1890, serving eight years as such, was civil service commissioner under Mayor Rowley, and in 1868 was elected Recorder of Poughkeepsie. In March, 1903, the new law was adopted by which the office of recorder and justice of the peace were merged into one functionary known as city judge, and Recorder Morschauer was appointed to the position by Mayor Hine. The new court has given much satisfaction to the bar and the general public. Judge Morschauer is devoted to his profession, and as a lawyer as well as a judge he is one of the most popular members of the bar. In his private practice he has specially earned the esteem of the laboring classes by the able service rendered to the several trade unions who have employed him as their attorney. As a judge he is quick to distinguish an honest worker in search of employment from the professional tramp, and no unfortunate but honest laborer has ever been harshly dealt with by him. His decisions are prompt and terse, but singularly correct and just. Judge Morschauer is a member of several societies, but takes his best enjoyment in domestic life. He was married January 27, 1880, to Miss Katherine W., daughter of the late Joseph Bauer, of Poughkeepsie. They have one son, Joseph C. H. Morschauer.

#### GEORGE NAGENGAST.

(See page 261.)

George Nagengast, the efficient and popular chief of the Poughkeepsie Fire Department, was born in this city June 10, 1852, the son of Charles Nagengast, who came from Bavaria in 1840 and who for many years was foreman for the blasting furnaces here.

Mr. Nagengast learned the cigar making trade and remained in that calling until early in 1881, when he embarked in the meat business for a short time. He then returned to his trade, but in October of the same year he began life as a hotel keeper in what is now known as the Hudson River House. He conducted this place nearly seven years, when he purchased Mrs. Kunkel's store at 435 Main Street, where

he remained over five years, and then purchased his present place, 403 Main Street. He has been very successful in business and in real estate investments, and is now the owner of a number of valuable properties in Poughkeepsie. He is a public spirited citizen, and one ever ready and foremost to promote the real welfare and prosperity of his native city. Republican in politics and at times a hard worker in the ranks of his party, he has never sought nor accepted office, but has always devoted all his spare time to the interests of the fire department. He joined the Niagara Company when only eighteen years of age, and the O. H. Booth Hose four years later. He returned to his old company in 1882, and has been its treasurer for many years. He has been the chief of the department since 1901, and is now rounding out his thirty-third year of continuous active service as a fire-fighter—a record for both work and achievement not equalled by any other citizen of Poughkeepsie, nor probably of any other city in the country.

Mr. Nagengast was married November 2, 1878, to Miss Caroline L. Swartout, daughter of William and Adeline (Martin) Swartout.

#### HON. WILLIAM NELSON.

(See page 93.)

Hon. William Nelson (born June 20th, 1784, died October 2, 1860), was one of the thirteen children of Thomas Nelson and Sarah (Wright) Nelson, all of whom were born in what is now the town of Hyde Park. The first member of this branch of the Nelson family to settle in Dutchess County was Francis, son of John and Hendrickje (Van der Vliet) Nelson, about 1740, and grandfather of Thomas Nelson, who served in the Revolution, and became probably before the Revolution a resident of Poughkeepsie. Thomas Nelson is several times mentioned in Chapter V of this history as a village trustee and as the editor of the *Political Barometer*. He was president of the village in 1804. His son, William Nelson, the subject of this sketch, was educated at the Dutchess County Academy, studied law in the office of Theron Rudi, who was afterwards clerk of the District Court of the United States. He formed the acquaintance of all of the distinguished group of lawyers then practicing their profession in Poughkeepsie, including Smith Thompson, General James Tallmadge, Jr., Thomas J. Oakley, Gilbert Livingston, James Emott, Sr., Nathaniel P. Tallmadge, James Hooker and Alexander Forbus. He was admitted to the bar in 1807, his diploma being signed by William Kent.

After completing his studies Mr. Nelson went to Buffalo on horse back and intended to settle at that place, but chance led him afterwards to Peekskill, where he remained, and soon became known as "the honest Dutch lawyer." He readily acquired a large practice and a wide reputation. In 1815 he was appointed district attorney for the district then composed of the counties of Westchester, Putnam and Rockland, which office he held for thirty-two years, the longest record for continuous service, though after 1818 the district comprised only the county of Westchester. In

1810 he was elected to the Assembly, and in 1823 to the State Senate, where he served for three terms. In 1848 he was elected to Congress, and continued to represent his district until 1851, after which he was one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals. He was an old time Whig, a personal friend of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and Abraham Lincoln. He was one of the first Masons in Peekskill, and was universally esteemed in that organization.

Mr. Nelson married Cornelia Mandeville Hardman, daughter of John Hardman, of New York City. She died in Peekskill in 1860. Their sons now (1903) living are Joseph, a lawyer of Milwaukee, Wis., George P. and Thomas, both lawyers in New York; daughters, Sarah A., widow of J. Henry Ferris, a lawyer of Peekskill, Elizabeth, widow of Rev. John Johnson, of Upper Red Hook, and Cornelia Mandeville, widow of John Peter Nelson, of Poughkeepsie. The last mentioned is the active president of the Board of Lady Managers of the Gallaudet Home for Deaf Mutes. She resides at the old Nelson mansion, at Camon and Liberty Streets, in which her late husband was born, and which has been in the family since before the Revolution.

#### DR. STEPHEN PALMER.

Stephen Palmer, D. D. S., was born in Coxsackie, N. Y., August 25, 1807. He was educated at the



DR. STEPHEN PALMER.

Union Free School of that place, and graduated from the Ft. Edward Collegiate Institute in 1828. He then took his full course at the New York College of Den-

tristry, from which he received his degree in 1830. Coming to Poughkeepsie he at once commenced the practice of his profession and has gained a large clientele among discriminating people who recognize talent and appreciate scientific work. In politics Dr. Palmer is a Republican, but he is not a politician in the general sense of the term, although he has served the Third Ward as Alderman. The time not required by the demands of his profession is spent almost entirely in religious and philanthropic work, the doctor being a member of the Congregational Church and of the Young Men's Christian Association. He is a director of the Rescue Mission. He holds honored membership in the New York State Dental Society, and also in the Second District Dental Society, of which he is the Dutchess County representative of the Law Committee. Dr. Palmer was married November 14, 1804, to Miss Addie E., daughter of the late George H. Stanton, of Madison county, N. Y., and has two children, Alletta Beatrice and Waldo Emerson Palmer.

#### DR. E. H. PARKER.

(See page 207.)

Edward Hazen Parker, M. D., born in Boston, Mass., in 1823, and died in Poughkeepsie November 10, 1896, was a very prominent physician and surgeon in this city for thirty-eight years, having been trustee and visiting surgeon of St. Barnabas Hospital from 1870 to its close in 1887, surgeon of Vassar Brothers Hospital from its opening in 1887 to his death in 1896, president of the latter's medical board for eight years, and noted for his skillful practice among a large private clientele. Dr. Parker graduated from Dartmouth College in 1846, and from the Jefferson Medical College in 1848. He was lecturer on anatomy and physiology at Bowdoin Medical College in 1849, received the degree of A. M. from Trinity College in 1854, was editor *New Hampshire Medical Journal* 1848 to 1857, was called to the chair of Physiology and Pathology of the New York Medical College in 1853, established the *New York Medical Journal* in 1854, and edited it many years, was in private practice in New York City with Dr. Fordyce Baker from 1853 to 1858, was president of the New York Medical Society in 1862, was volunteer surgeon in the field in 1862 and 1863, leaving a fine practice he had established here in 1858 to give his eminent services to the Union army, and was a leading physician, surgeon and pathologist in Poughkeepsie from 1864 to 1896. His first wife was Miss Sarah Heydock, who died in 1880, leaving three daughters and one son, Dr. Harry Parker. In 1883 he was married to Miss Jeannie C. Wright, of Poughkeepsie, by whom he has had one son.

He was refined, cultivated, suave, very liberal and sympathetic, and is remembered as a poet as well as a physician and medical writer. A verse of one of his poems reads:

"Life's race well run;  
Life's work all done;  
Life's victory won;  
Now cometh rest."

This verse was translated by a friend into Latin because of its euphonious rhythm in that language. The translation was picked up by an English editor, translated back into English and published anonymously. It now appears engraven on President Garfield's tomb erroneously credited to "an unknown English author." The poem was written by Dr. Parker in the early part of 1879.

#### DR. A. H. PECKHAM.

Alva Lawrence Peckham M. D., secretary and treasurer of the Dutchess County Homeopathic Medical Society and a leading physician and surgeon of that school of medicine in Poughkeepsie, was born at Schenectady, N. Y., November 25, 1874. He graduated as B. S. from Union College in 1896, and received the degree of A. M. therefrom in 1899. He took the full course at Hahnemann College, of Philadelphia, and graduated therefrom in 1899. He then served three months at the Philadelphia Lying-in Charity Hospital and received a diploma from that institution. In his collegiate career he took special honors in biology at Union, was chief executive officer Chi Psi fraternity in United States in 1897; was editor-in-chief of the *Centennial Garnet* at Union, and a member of the Alpha Zeta fraternity in the Union Classical Institute. He has built up a lucrative practice since making Poughkeepsie his home. He has been visiting physician to the City Home since April, 1902; is chairman of the scientific section of Vassar Brothers Institute; an officer in Triune Lodge, F. and A. M., and Poughkeepsie Chapter, R. A. M.; a member and trustee of the First Congregational Church; member of the University Club; member of the New England Society of Dutchess County; member of the Homeopathic Medical Society of New York State, and secretary and treasurer of the Dutchess County Homeopathic Medical Society. Dr. Peckham was united in marriage June 15th, 1899, to Miss Mary, daughter of Prof. Charles S. Halsey, who for twenty-two years was the principal of the Union Classical Institute at Schenectady, N. Y. They have one child, a daughter, whom they have named Elizabeth.

#### DR. J. WILSON POUCHER.

J. Wilson Poucher, M. D., widely known in this section of the State as an eminently successful surgeon and gynecologist of Poughkeepsie, was born at Claverack, Columbia County, N. Y., July 24, 1859, a descendant of a Huguenot family that came to America in 1658 and settled near Albany. Melancthon Smith, one of the most active spirits in the Constitutional Convention that met at Poughkeepsie in 1788 (described in Chapter IV), was a brother of one of Dr. Poucher's great-great-grandfathers. He perpetuates their memory by holding membership in the Society of the Cincinnati, the Holland Society, the Society of Colonial Wars and the Sons of the Revolution.

Dr. Poucher received his early education in the public schools of his native place, and graduated from Claverack College in 1879. He taught school for one

year and then entered the medical department of Union University, from which he graduated in 1883. He practiced medicine for two years at Modena, Ulster County, and then went to Europe to prosecute the studies of surgery and gynecology in Berlin, Vienna and Paris. Returning in 1887 he commenced practice in Poughkeepsie, and has established a reputation and a lucrative patronage second to none other in this section of the State.

At the breaking out of the Spanish War in 1898 Dr. Poucher offered his services to the government and was commissioned lieutenant and assistant surgeon of the 201st Regiment, New York Volunteers, in June, 1898. He was detached from the regiment in July and given charge of the division hospital at Camp Black, Long Island, when an outbreak of typhoid fever was imminent. In addition to his medical duties he was obliged to act as property officer, commissary of subsistence, and in fact assume responsibility for every department. Unsuccessful in getting a transfer to his regiment, he resigned his commission in October.

Dr. Poucher is a consulting surgeon on the staff of Vassar Brothers Hospital, and an active spirit in both the State and County Medical Societies. He is a fellow of the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He is an enthusiastic athlete and a popular member of the Dutchess County Golf and Country Club, also of the University Club of Poughkeepsie, the Amrita Club, and the Dutchess Club. In politics he is a Republican—has been alderman of the Fifth Ward, and for the past eight years a member of the Board of Public Works of the city. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a prominent member of Triune Lodge, Poughkeepsie Chapter, and a Past Commander of Poughkeepsie Commandery, the Mystic Shrine, and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of New York. He married in 1892 Miss Catharine D. LeFevre, daughter of the former member of Congress, the late Jacob LeFevre, a descendant of Andreas LeFevre, one of the Patentees of New Paltz.

#### POUGHKEEPSIE GLASS WORKS.

(See illustration page 114.)

The Poughkeepsie Glass Works, located at the foot of Dutchess Avenue, in the City of Poughkeepsie, was started for the purpose of utilizing iron slag in the manufacture of glass. Bashley Britten, an Englishman, had obtained Letters Patent in England and in the United States which were controlled by Sir Samuel Canning, who had been knighted for his great services as an engineer in connection with the laying of the first successful Atlantic cable, and Dr. Edward Bishop, of London, England.

Several gentlemen from Clyde and Rochester, New York, purchased a controlling interest in the American Patent, organized a corporation, called the Anglo-American Glass Company, and in July, 1879, purchased from the Farmers and Manufacturers National Bank, that part of the Whale Dock property lying at the foot of Hoffman Street, which had been used for a cooperage and various other purposes, but which was

then unoccupied. Utilizing some brick buildings on the property, a factory was constructed for manufacturing hollow glass ware, intending to use the molten scoria or slag from the adjacent blast furnace. The use of this slag as an ingredient in the manufacture of glass not proving a success it was abandoned.

The first successful continuous tank for the manufacture of glass ever constructed in the United States was erected and the making of glass commenced in March, 1880. December 1, 1881, the factory was nearly destroyed by fire, and a large quantity of ware was lost. The tank, however, was not materially injured, and in one month the buildings were rebuilt and work was resumed. Later another tank was added and the works enlarged. In April, 1897, the factories and most of the storage buildings were destroyed by fire and a large amount of ware was ruined.

The company then bought the lot lying between the original purchase on Dutchess Avenue, also a large vacant lot on the south side of Dutchess Avenue, and constructed the present iron and brick buildings, which are regarded as models for glass works. There are three tanks which can run continuously day and night, and the output has increased from about 30,000 gross to about 130,000 gross per annum.

The product consists of prescription and druggists' ware, beers, sodas, minerals, wines, brandies, flasks, proprietary medicine goods, milk jars, packers and preservers' ware. During the busy part of the year, which is generally from September 1 to July 1, about 350 hands are employed, many of them skilled workmen who receive very large wages.

The corporation, the Poughkeepsie Glass Works, was organized November, 1880. Before that time the business had been conducted as a partnership, but under the same name. Mr. Charles W. Reed had active charge of the construction and early operation of the works until his health failed. The first Board of Trustees consisted of William C. Ely, Charles W. Reed, Charles D. Ely, George O. Baker and George H. Hoyt, of Clyde, Henry C. Wisner, of Rochester, and Evan R. Williams, of Poughkeepsie. The officers were William C. Ely, President; Henry C. Wisner, Vice-President; George O. Baker, Secretary, and Evan R. Williams, Treasurer and Superintendent. William C. Ely was President until his death in September, 1886, and was succeeded by Charles D. Ely, who held the office until he died May, 1903. The 1903 directors are Henry C. Wisner, George O. Baker, Charles P. Buckley, Robert Good, George H. Hoyt, William G. Baker and George K. Diller. H. C. Wisner is President; Charles P. Buckley, Vice-President; George O. Baker, Secretary and Attorney; William G. Baker, Treasurer and Superintendent. Mr. Robert Good is General Factory Manager.

#### THE POUGHKEEPSIE SAVINGS BANK.

The Poughkeepsie Savings Bank was organized in 1831, the charter members being William Davies, Matthew Vassar, Jr., Griffin Williamson, James Emott, Thomas W. Tallmadge, Stephen Armstrong, Nehen-

miah Conklin, Frederick Barnard, Tennis Van Kleeck, James Hooker, Henry A. Livingston.

The bank was not opened for business until May 4th, 1833, when it commenced in the office of Mr. Raymond, its treasurer, in what was known as the "Burritt House," No. 273 Main Street.

In 1853 it removed to Market Street, where it has ever since been located. In 1871, the present commodious building was erected at a cost of about one hundred thousand dollars.

Colonel Henry A. Livingston, of Revolutionary fame, was the first president. He was succeeded by Thomas W. Tallmadge, who retained the position until his death August 11th, 1850. His successors have been John B. Forbus, 1850 to 1865, Henry D. Varick, 1866 to 1877, David C. Foster, 1877 to 1903. In January, 1903, Mr. Foster was succeeded by Edward Elsworth.

In 1860, thirty-six years after the bank opened for business, its deposits amounted to \$1,791,256, and its total resources were \$1,930,445. In 1890, thirty years later, its deposits had increased to \$8,602,920.28, and its total resources, based on the par value of its securities, were \$9,304,416.84. On the first day of January, 1905, its deposits were \$10,595,044.95, and its total resources, based on the par value of its securities, were \$11,428,268.42.

#### THE POUGHKEEPSIE TRUST COMPANY.

(See page 106.)

The Poughkeepsie Trust Company, one of the leading financial institutions of the City of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., was organized September 10th, 1901.

The City National Bank and the Poughkeepsie National Bank were consolidated prior to the organization of the Poughkeepsie Trust Company. The business of said banks was acquired by and merged in said Trust Company, which conducts its business in the old banking building formerly occupied by the Poughkeepsie National Bank, which is shown on page 106.

The Poughkeepsie and City National Banks were both old and strong financial institutions. The Bank of Poughkeepsie was organized in 1830. Thomas L. Davies was its first president. After the passing of the National Bank Law in 1865, it became the Poughkeepsie National Bank.

The City Bank was organized in 1860, Judge Joseph F. Barnard being its first president. In 1865, the City Bank was merged into the City National Bank. In 1870 Hudson Taylor was elected its president, and continued in office until its consolidation with the Poughkeepsie National Bank.

The following are the present officers and trustees of the Poughkeepsie Trust Company: President, Stephen G. Guernsey; Vice-Presidents, Hudson Taylor, Charles W. Pilgrim; Treasurer, Thomas W. Barrett; Secretary and Counsel, C. W. H. Arnold. Trustees, Hudson Taylor, Samuel K. Rupley, J. W. Hinkley, Jr., Frank J. Lefevre, R. H. Hunter, Benjamin P. Wavie, Joseph Morschauer, A. G. Tobey, George M. Hine, Isaac W. Sherrill, T. W. Barrett, C. W. H. Arnold, Adna F. Heaton, J. Wilson Poucher,

J. L. Williams, E. T. Hulst, S. G. Guernsey, Andrew C. Zabriskie, Cecil E. Parker, William H. Frank, P. H. Troy, Charles W. Pilgrim, Hudson L. Taylor.

The Poughkeepsie Trust Company is authorized to transact a general banking business and to act as executor or administrator of estates, and as guardian, receiver, registrar, transfer and financial agent for States, cities, towns, railroads and other corporations, and to accept any other trusts in conformity with the laws of any State or of the United States. It is a legal depository for State, city and court funds. It also has a savings department. The company is under the supervision of the Banking Department of the State of New York. The success of the company has demonstrated the need and usefulness of such an institution in this city.

#### POUGHKEEPSIE UNDERWEAR CO.

(See page 236.)

The Poughkeepsie Underwear Company was incorporated under the laws of New York in September, 1899, with authorized capital of \$80,000; and commenced business January 1, 1900. Mr. Robert J. Stuart is president, Mr. F. A. Conklin vice-president, and Mr. Frank Manser secretary and treasurer. Messrs. Samuel G. Rowles, Arthur Manser and Henry T. Lamb, together with the officers, comprise the board of directors.

This company manufactures ladies' and children's undergarments, known to the trade as "Queen Under-mushins," and their goods are now sold all over the United States, and shipments have been made as far away as Australia. Fine quality of material and workmanship, combined with progressive and up-to-date management have each year fully doubled the trade, this year's business (1903) exceeding \$250,000. Since their start, the company have never shut down except about ten days each August for renovating and repairs, and now employ one hundred and fifty hands, with a pay-roll of about \$1,000 per week. The beginning was in the Edward Storm building on Mill Street, but in 1902 the company purchased the Taylor property on North Cherry Street, and after rebuilding and equipping the same started their new plant in December of that year. Their building covers 50 by 150 feet of ground, is substantially constructed of brick, three stories in height, well lighted, ventilated and heated. The machinery is operated by electric power furnished by the Poughkeepsie Light, Heat and Power Company.

#### WILLIAM THACHER REYNOLDS.

(See page 211.)

William Thacher Reynolds, senior member of the firm of W. T. Reynolds & Company, was born in Poughkeepsie December 20, 1838; he was educated here, and began his business career in the employ of his father, familiarizing himself, step by step, with each phase of the wholesale flour and grain trade. In 1860 he became a member of the firm of Reynolds & Company, in partnership with his father, William W. Reynolds, and his uncle, James Reynolds, Jr.

James Reynolds, grandfather of William Thacher Reynolds, born in Rhode Island April 7, 1777, in the fourth generation of descent from James Reynolds, the first of the name and one of the earliest citizens of the Narragansett country, was the son of William Reynolds, ensign in a Rhode Island Regiment in the Revolutionary war. Through one of his grandmothers, Elizabeth Greene, wife of Francis Reynolds, he was cousin to General Nathaniel Greene. The surname "Reynolds," meaning "son of Reginahl" or "Reynold," originated with the introduction into England by the Normans of the font name "Reynauld" or "Renand."

James Reynolds came to Poughkeepsie about 1800 and soon entered into partnership with Aaron Innis in the operation of a line of packet sloops, running from what was known as the "Upper Landing" to New York. In 1811 two sloops, the "Mary" and the "Driver," left for New York on alternate weeks, carrying freight and passengers; they were replaced in 1816 by the "Huntress" and "Counsellor," and they still later, by the barges "Clinton" and "Republic." Reynolds and Innis, in 1818, gave notice in the columns of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* "to the Farmers and Merchants of Dutchess County that the subscribers have taken the mill lately occupied by Martin Hoffman and Co., and tender their services to the customers of that firm in the milling business." About 1820, James Reynolds added a general store which, with the mill, were natural outgrowths and feeders of the transportation line.

The location of the Upper Landing, at the point where the Fall Kill empties into the Hudson, was a particularly desirable one under the business conditions of that day; before 1800 Robert L. Livingston had a store and mill there, and the hill since known as Reynolds' Hill, on which the east end of the Poughkeepsie bridge rests, was called "Slange Klip"; the mouth of the Fall Kill, on a map dated 1799, was marked "Pondakrien," presumably in reference to the cascade which turned the mill and which an old deed calls "Pendanieck Reen."

James Reynolds was a Friend, and never interested himself in public affairs, but one of the historians of Dutchess County wrote: "Messrs. Reynolds and Innis were the most prominent and reliable business men of their period, not only in the city, but in the entire county. They were men of strict integrity, and their character and standing as business men have not been surpassed here to the present day."

The two sons of James Reynolds, William W. and James Reynolds, Jr., succeeded their father about 1840, as W. W. and J. Reynolds, and later developed the wholesale flour and grain branch of the business. The Erie Canal was then of much more importance than the railroads as a carrier of western produce, and Albany was the great distributing point for this part of the country; W. W. & J. Reynolds had special agents in Albany who bought western produce for them and shipped it by their own line of sloops to Poughkeepsie. For several years there were three sloops in this line; but the business continued to increase until sailing vessels became too slow, and in

1854 the firm had the steam propeller "Reliance" built by Henry Finch at his ship-yard at the Whale Dock; she was run between Poughkeepsie and Albany twice a week for freight and passengers, until 1861, when she was sold to the United States to be used as a transport.

In 1840 the warehouse at the Upper Landing was built, and the business conducted there until 1871. Increased railroad facilities and through freight lines had then changed the methods of transacting business, and a location where freight could be received by rail was necessary, which led to the erection of the present warehouse opposite the passenger station of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, in 1872.

At the death of James Reynolds, Jr., in 1865, the firm became Reynolds & Son; in 1869, when John R. Reynolds, son of James Reynolds, Jr., entered it, W. W. Reynolds & Co.; in 1874, at the addition of George E. Cramer, Reynolds & Co.; in 1889, at the death of John R. Reynolds, Reynolds & Cramer; and in 1899, when George E. Cramer died, W. T. Reynolds & Co.

William W. Reynolds married a daughter of the Rev. William Thacher, a descendant of Hon. John Thacher, of Yarmouth, Mass. The latter served with distinction in King Philip's war, 1675, and was for many years a member of the Governor's Council. Their son, William Thacher Reynolds, the subject of this sketch, is President of the Board of Trustees of the Washington Street Methodist Church; President of the Vassar Brothers Home for Aged Men; trustee of the Old Ladies' Home, of Vassar Brothers Hospital, of the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, and director of the Fallkill National Bank, and of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank. He married July 6, 1864, Miss Louise Smith, and has two children, Harris Smith Reynolds, a graduate of Yale, and a member of the firm of W. T. Reynolds & Co., and May Louise Reynolds.

#### RIVERVIEW MILITARY ACADEMY.

(See page 256.)

Riverview Military Academy, under the name of the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School, was organized and established in 1836, on College Hill, by Charles Bartlett. In 1857 Mr. Bartlett was succeeded by Otis Bisbee, who introduced, in 1862, military instruction and erected, in 1866, new buildings at Riverview. In 1867 the entire school marched in a body from College Hill to these new buildings, delightfully situated on high ground overlooking the Hudson River, and yet only a short walk from the centre of the town. The school provides every modern improvement and convenience. It thoroughly prepares its pupils about 175 for college or business life amidst pleasant and healthful surroundings. There are ten resident instructors and an army officer, specially detailed by the Secretary of War. The school is a family school. The principal and his family reside in the main building, and each student comes into daily contact with them.

Otis Bisbee, to whom the school owes its present character, was born at Chesterfield, Mass., February 14, 1822. He was a descendant of the "Besbidge" family who settled in Plymouth, Mass., in 1734. He

left Union College in 1849 to become a teacher in the Collegiate School, but was elected a member of the Phi Beta Kappa society in 1851. Upon Mr. Bartlett's death Mr. Bisbee, in partnership with Mr. Charles B. Warring, took the direction of the school. The change in the character and location of the school has been already noted. In 1850 Mr. Bisbee married Frances C., daughter of Joseph Bartlett, and had two daughters and one son, Major Joseph B. Bisbee, the present head of the school. Mr. Otis Bisbee died at Poughkeepsie February 12th, 1885.

Joseph Bartlett Bisbee, A. M., principal and proprietor of Riverview Military Academy, was born in Poughkeepsie December 15, 1853. He was prepared for college under his father's own instruction, and entered Amherst College in 1876. In 1879 he returned to assist his father. In 1884, however, Amherst College, recognizing his work and ability, conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts. Since his father's death he has conducted the school in accordance with the principles that first, under his father, gave it eminence, so that to-day it ranks among the foremost preparatory schools of the country.

Major Bisbee was married in 1880 to Miss Sarah M. Pangborn, of Albany, N. Y. She died in March, 1884. Mr. Bisbee married in December, 1885, Miss Winifred Dana Wheeler, daughter of the late Francis B. Wheeler, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Poughkeepsie for thirty-seven years. Mr. Bisbee is a member of the Masonic fraternity and an elder in the First Presbyterian Church.

#### DR. J. E. SADLIER.

James Edgar Sadlier, M. D., President of the Dutchess County Medical Society, and one of the most prominent physicians and surgeons of Poughkeepsie at this time, was born at Walden, Orange County, N. Y., March 18, 1865, the son of the late James Sadlier, for many years a leading merchant of New York City, and highly esteemed citizen of Walden. Dr. Sadlier received a thorough education in the public schools of his native village, and in the academies of Montgomery and New Paltz, N. Y.

His uncle, Dr. William Woodruff, an eminent physician of Pine Bush, then became his preceptor and gave him practical, as well as theoretical training in the medical profession until 1884, when he entered the Medical Department of Union College at Albany. He graduated therefrom in 1887, and was immediately appointed to the staff of the Albany City Hospital, in which he served with marked ability until April 1, 1889, when he left to establish a residence and private practice for himself at Poughkeepsie. Although only twenty-four years of age, at that time, his acquired knowledge, thorough training and experience gave him at once a high standing in the profession, and he was appointed on the staff of Vassar Brothers Hospital in 1891. He enjoys to-day a large and lucrative practice. In the medical profession he is recognized as a physician and surgeon of the highest ability, and he has been popular with his associates ever since taking up his residence in Poughkeepsie. He was chosen Secretary to the Dutchess County Medical Society in

January, 1891, and served as such continuously until 1897, when he resigned because he was elected State delegate to the New York State Medical Society for the ensuing three years, after which he was duly elected member of the New York State Medical Society. He was elected President of the Dutchess County Medical Society in 1901. Dr. Sadlier is also a member of the American Association of Gynecologists and Obstetricians. During 1899 he spent a portion of the year doing post graduate work at the Medical Department of the Johns Hopkins University, at Baltimore, Md., and during 1902 he went abroad for the sake of studying surgery at the Clinics in Europe. For the last several years he has devoted himself more especially to that department of work pertaining to surgery, and gynaecology. The most of his work of that character being performed at his own private hospital in this city.

Dr. Sadlier was married on June 18, 1891, to Miss Hattie C. Millspaugh, daughter of Theron L. Millspaugh, of Walden, N. Y.

#### ROBERT SANFORD.

(See page 163.)

Robert Sanford, retired lawyer of Poughkeepsie, was born in Albany, December 10, 1831, the son of Nathan and Mary (Buchanan) Sanford, of Albany; the grandson of Dr. Thomas Sanford, who settled at Bridgehampton, Long Island, and the great-grandson of Thomas McKean, Chief Justice and Governor of Pennsylvania three terms and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Miss Mary Buchanan, the granddaughter of Justice McKean, and mother of Robert Sanford, was married to Nathan Sanford in the White House at Washington, President John Quincy Adams being her nearest living relative, giving away the bride. Nathan Sanford was a prominent lawyer, United States District Attorney, State Assemblyman, State Senator, twice United States Senator, commissioner for framing the new Constitution and candidate for Vice-President with Henry Clay. He was appointed Chancellor to succeed James Kent, and he was the last speaker of the Assembly who wore a cocked hat. He died at Flushing, Long Island, in 1838. When nine years old, Robert Sanford commenced attending school in Hartford, Conn., and remained five years. He then spent four years under the tutorship of Dr. Muhlenberg, the celebrated instructor at College Point, Long Island, and two years under Dr. George H. Houghton, the rector of the famous "Little Church Around the Corner," an astute Greek tutor, who one day said to his pupil, "Bob, you are the most stupid jackass I ever saw." Robert respected him very much, and in years afterward, when he thought he was somewhat proficient in the ancient language, he wrote the doctor a letter in Greek, but the worthy tutor characterized it "as still possessing assinine qualities." Mr. Sanford, however, pursued his education, becoming a student at Kingsley Military Institute at West Point, and spending two years at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y. He then traveled extensively with his mother throughout Europe, and located in Poughkeepsie in 1857. Graduating from the New York

State and National Law School in 1858, he spent two years in the law office of Joseph H. Jackson, then started on another extended European trip, during which he attended a course of lectures at the Sorbonne in Paris, and was formally presented to Napoleon III. He practiced law in Poughkeepsie from 1862 to 1866, and then made his third trip to Europe, and was presented to the Queen of England by his cousin, Charles Francis Adams, then U. S. Minister to the Court of St. James. He returned to Poughkeepsie in 1867, and retired in 1894 after an active legal career of twenty-seven years. Though seventy-two years of age he possesses a stalwart frame, is of medium height and much resembles John Quincy Adams. He is an active athlete, fond of fresh air, walker and rider. Sanitary matters and pure air are his hobbies. His residence in the heart of Poughkeepsie, No. 29 North Hamilton Street, is surrounded by nearly six acres of lawn and beautiful shade trees, with winding walks and the bubbling water of the Fallkill flowing through the grounds. He abandoned court practice mainly because he regarded the court rooms in the old building as unhealthy. As school commissioner, 1862 to 1866, he made a record for sanitary improvements which was most serviceable and important. He was interested with Henry Bergh in the work of prevention of cruelty to animals and was once vice-president of the society. He has been a delegate to the convention of the Diocese of New York for thirty years; is a member of the Sigma Phi Fraternity; the Aztec Society (a Mexican war association); the Amrita Club, of Poughkeepsie; the Dutchess Hunt Club; Union League Club, of New York; American Geographical Society; Church Club of New York; trustee of the Church of the Holy Comforter of Poughkeepsie, and is connected with several social associations. In politics he is a Republican, but always declined elective office. Mr. Sanford was married May 23, 1867, to Miss Mary Helen Hooker Stuyvesant, daughter of John R. Stuyvesant, of Hyde Park, and great-granddaughter of Peter Stuyvesant, Colonial Governor of New York. They have had five children, four of whom are now living; Mary Buchanan, Henry Gansevoort, Helen Stuyvesant and Desirée. Their son, Stuyvesant, died in 1890, at the age of seventeen years.

#### JACOB SCHRAUTH AND HIS SONS, EDWARD L. AND WILLIAM H. SCHRAUTH.

Jacob Schrauth, the founder of an extensive ice cream and confectionery industry of Poughkeepsie, was born at Kreuznach, in the Rhine Province, April, 1834. He learned the trade of a cooper and came to America in 1854, learning the baker's trade in New York City. He came to Poughkeepsie in 1857, and for nine years worked as a baker. In 1866 he established business for himself at 153 Main Street, first as a baker, but soon adding the manufacture of ice cream and confectionery. On May 1, 1897, his sons, Edward L. and William H., purchased the business and have since conducted it under the firm style of J. Schrauth's Sons.

Mr. Schrauth is Republican in politics, and for two years was a member of the Board of Water Commis-



WILLIAM H. SCHRAUTH



JACOB SCHRAUTH.



EDWARD L. SCHRAUTH.

sioners. He was for twelve years president of the Germania Singing Society, is a member of the Odd Fellows and of the German Lutheran Church. He was married in 1860 to Miss Kate Schneider, a native of Bavaria, and has had seven children.

Edward L. Schrauth was born in this city in 1860, and was married September 30, 1903, to Miss Georgia Van Wyck, of Poughkeepsie. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Siloam Encampment, the Phoenix Hose Company and Royal Arcanum.

William H. Schrauth was born in 1876, and married in 1895 to Miss Matilda Secholtzer, daughter of Berthold Secholtzer, of Poughkeepsie. He is a member of Fallkill Lodge, I. O. O. F., Siloam Encampment, Royal Arcanum and Poughkeepsie Lodge No. 200, F. and A. M.

Since assuming charge of the business here they

have continually enlarged and have now built up the most extensive ice cream industry in this section, their trade reaching far beyond the limits of this city. In December, 1902, they opened their present retail sales-room and ice cream parlors at 149 and 151 Main Street, adjoining the old store. It is the handsomest establishment of the kind on the Hudson River, and in some respects exceeds any other in the country. Our illustration shows the front of the store, the two sides being devoted to a display of fine confectionery and fancy cakes, the long circular counter in the centre being used for the dispensing of soda and other waters from modern as well as beautiful fountains. The ice cream parlors are in the rear, the manufactory of confections, ice cream bricks and an endless variety of fine cakes being in the basement and also in the rear of the parlors.



*Interior View of Jacob Schrauth's Sons' Ice Cream Parlors and Salesroom.*



## OSCAR NELSON SEAMAN.

Oscar Nelson Seaman, from whose excellent photographs many of the illustrations in this book were made, was born in Poughkeepsie March 25th, 1871, and is the son of Henry H. and Sarah A. (Colwell) Seaman, who have lived in this city since their marriage at Verbank in 1857. Henry H. Seaman is the last survivor of a family of six, of whom Isaac, James Harvey and Nelson were the other sons, all well-known residents of Poughkeepsie. Their father, Samuel Seaman, came here from Staten Island in 1833, his two brothers, Hicks and Stephen, going to the neighborhood of Saratoga at about the same time. The family is of English descent, and was settled on Long Island before the Revolution.

Oscar N. Seaman was educated at the Poughkeepsie Military Institute under Dr. Charles B. Warring, and at the Housatonic Valley Institute at Cornwall, Ct. After a thorough apprenticeship of twelve years at photography, he began business for himself at 327 Main Street, and has met with gratifying success.

In politics Mr. Seaman is a Republican, but has never sought public office. He is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, of Fallkill Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Harvey G. Eastman Council, No. 97, (incorporated) Junior Order of United American Mechanics, and of Young America Hose Company No. 6. He was married October 12th, 1892, to Emma C. Cramer, daughter of Jerome B. Cramer, of this city, and they have one daughter, Ivah Cramer Seaman.

## JOHN SUTCLIFFE.

(See page 213.)

John Sutcliffe, consulting, civil and mining engineer, and mechanical expert in iron works and sewerage, was born at Stainland, near Halifax, England, July 29, 1837, the son of Eli Sutcliffe, who settled in Poughkeepsie in 1840, and was well known as a grocer and soap manufacturer. Mr. Sutcliffe was educated in the local schools of Poughkeepsie, and at the Dutchess County Academy. In 1861 he became assistant manager of the Peekskill, N. Y., blast furnace. He made plans for a new and improved furnace in Cold Spring, N. Y., then erected and started it as the Phillips Iron Works. He left this concern and went to England to perfect himself in the details of iron manufacture, and in 1864 began building new iron works at Verplanck's Point, N. Y., but owing to the financial panic they were never finished. In 1865 he erected the building at Clover and Union Streets for his father and started in the woolen business with his uncle. In 1866 he took charge of the Eagle Slate Company's Iron Works at Hydeville, Vt. In 1868 he went to Wales to make a study of slate, and returning worked up refuse slate into billiard table tops, enlarging the Eagle works for that purpose. In 1870 he remodeled the slate mill at Chapman, Pa. In 1870 and 1871 he constructed the filter beds for the Poughkeepsie Water Works. In 1872, after a trip through iron works in the south and west, he built the Hudson River Iron Works at Poughkeepsie, now known as the Phoenix Horse Shoe Works. In 1873

he took contracts to build sewers and lay water pipes in Poughkeepsie, and successfully managed the Franklin Iron Works, near Utica, which had two blast furnaces, with iron mines, etc., at the same time building the Bellevue Terrace block of brick buildings in Poughkeepsie. In 1874 he was called upon to settle up the business of the Pond Eddy Blue Stone Company, in Pike County, Pa., in which he displayed much ability and arranged all matters satisfactorily.

He then operated successfully for ten years the mines of the Vallecillo Silver Mining Company in Mexico. Returning to Poughkeepsie in 1884, he was soon appointed general manager of the Steel Company of Canada, organized a new company as the Londerdery Iron Company, and as general manager made it a great success in four years' time. He resigned and again returned to Poughkeepsie, where he has since remained as consulting engineer and constructor of sewers, etc. He has had many contracts here, including the wall about the grounds of Vassar Brothers Hospital and the dam at the State Hospital, and has been a potent factor in the modern upbuilding of the city, while he is also frequently called in as an expert by the various iron works in this section. In politics he is a strong Republican and served two terms as Police Commissioner. He is a member of the E. and A. M., the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Mining Engineers, Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, and the Engineers' Club of New York City. He is universally esteemed for his personal integrity, good judgment and keen business and mechanical ability. He was married July 29, 1876, to Miss Sarah E., daughter of William Beckman Swart, of Poughkeepsie. They have three sons, Paul, Allen and John W.

## ALBERT TOWER.

(See page 159.)

Mr. Albert Tower, one of the best known iron men in the United States, was born in Paris, Oneida County, New York, November 8, 1817, but commenced his career in the iron business in Ohio, where he accumulated quite a fortune by the time he was little more than thirty years of age. He came to Poughkeepsie in 1850, to become superintendent and part owner of the Poughkeepsie Iron Works at the foot of Union Street, which had been organized by Joseph Tuckerman and others in 1848. The present plant at the Old Whale Dock, foot of Hoffman Street, illustrated on page 233, was built in 1890, and operated under the name of the Fallkill Iron Works, with Hon. James Emott as president, although the capital of both works was very nearly wholly controlled by the same parties. The present Poughkeepsie Iron Company was a reorganization March 26, 1875, "for the manufacturing of pig iron and products thereof." Mr. Albert Tower being its president and manager, and the two plants becoming actually one property. The lower furnace, however, was abandoned and the new plant enlarged in the early eighties. For several years prior to his death, Mr. Tower, owing to ill health, had largely given up the management of the works and the

mines to his two sons, Albert Edward and Joseph T. Tower, the first named being now the head of this important industry, which not only manufactures pig iron, etc., but owns and operates iron mines at Port Henry, N. Y., and a hematite mine in Union Vale, N. Y.

Mr. Tower was an unassuming but a thoroughly upright and Christian gentleman. He was a member of the vestry of Christ Church, and to him the congregation of that church and the City of Poughkeepsie are chiefly indebted for its beautiful building, his gifts to the church amounting to nearly \$80,000. Mr. Tower was married in 1860 to Miss Anna M. Underhill, daughter of Josiah Underhill, of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank. He was the vice-president of the Merchants' Bank, and a citizen whose loss was sincerely mourned by the entire community. He died in this city December 24, 1861, after his return from Denmark, whither he had gone in the previous fall in the hope of benefiting his health.

#### ROBERT K. TUTHILL, M. D.

(See page 186.)

Robert K. Tuthill, M. D., son of Samuel Tuthill, M. D., who came to Poughkeepsie in 1848, and was a leading physician here for many years, was born in Newburgh, N. Y. He was trained to follow in the footsteps of his father by thorough classical and preliminary courses, and graduated from the New York Medical College in the class of 1859. He commenced practice here that year, but responding to the call of his country early in 1861, was appointed Assistant Surgeon of the 80th N. Y. Vols. In April, 1863, he was promoted to the post of Regimental Surgeon of the 145th N. Y. Infantry, and in June of the same year was advanced to Brigade Surgeon of the First Brigade (six regiments), First Division, Twelfth Army Corps. Early in 1864 he was made Surgeon in Chief of the First Division (fourteen regiments) of the Twelfth Army Corps. He was in all the principal battles of the Army of the Potomac, and also did duty in the Army of the Cumberland. By his devotion to sanitary regulations, and his general ability as a surgeon he made and kept his regiment and brigade in such a healthy and efficient condition that he received special commendation from the War Department therefor. Resuming private practice in Poughkeepsie in 1864, Dr. Tuthill soon attained the highest eminence in his profession by the same watchful and faithful care which won him distinction in the field.

Dr. Tuthill's hospital service has been extensive and notably successful. He had charge of the Fredericksburgh Hospital in 1862, was member of the surgical staff of St. Barnabas Hospital in Poughkeepsie from its organization in 1876 until its close in 1887; was one of the surgeons selected by the founders of Vassar Brothers' Hospital, on its opening in 1887, and served until 1898, and has since been a member of its consulting staff. He has visited many hospitals and attended many clinics in Europe, viz: in London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna, seeking to gain new methods and experience for home work.

In politics Dr. Tuthill is a staunch Republican, but never sought or desired public office, and accepted none except the position of Health Officer of the city, which post he filled for four terms. He was president of the Dutchess County Medical Society for two terms, has been a member of the New York State Medical Society since 1880, is also a member of the New York Commandery, Loyal Legion of America, and is a charter member of Hamilton Post, No. 20, G. A. R. He also affiliates with Masonry, and is a Knight Templar. Dr. Tuthill has many friends who believe in him, because he has proved himself a true and sincere man and a conscientious, faithful and vigilant physician and surgeon.

#### DR. DAVID B. WARD.

David B. Ward, M. D., prominent physician and leading microscopist of Poughkeepsie, was born at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, N. Y., March 13, 1853. He prepared for college at the Riverview Military Academy, spent three years at Dartmouth College, and graduated as A. B. from Hamilton College in the class of 1873. He commenced the study of medicine under the advice and tutorship of the eminent Dr. Parker, of Poughkeepsie, and then took the course at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York City, graduating therefrom in the class of 1876. After practicing at Wheeling, West Virginia, for three years he came to Poughkeepsie, and has acquired a very extensive general practice and a wide reputation for scientific and microscopic investigation and research. He is a Republican, but by no means a politician. He was city physician from 1886 to 1888, and has always interested himself in furthering every improvement designed for the benefit and preservation of the general health, and has been a member of the Board of Health since 1895. He is a member of the Amrita Club and Falkhill Lodge, I. O. O. F. He is noted for his genial spirit, and has a veritable host of personal friends, but up to the present time has remained a bachelor.

#### HON. CHARLES WHEATON.

(See page 177.)

Hon. Charles Wheaton, distinguished lawyer and County Judge, of Poughkeepsie, was born in Lithgow, Dutchess County, May 21, 1834, and died after a brief illness May 11, 1886. His grandfather, Augustus Wheaton, came here from Connecticut in 1802, and his father, Rev. Homer Wheaton, was rector of Christ Church until his death in 1864. His maternal grandfather, Isaac Smith, was County Judge of this county and also Member of Assembly.

Judge Wheaton graduated from the College of St. James, at Hagerstown, Md., and was then a tutor there for two years. He came back to Poughkeepsie and studied law with Thompson & Weeks, and on his admission to the bar began the practice of law in this city. He was Assistant District Attorney under Silas Wodell, and was elected County Judge in 1863 to succeed Judge Homer A. Nelson, who had been elected to Congress. He was a consistent Democrat, and one of the idols of his party; was doomed to political

defeat at the polls on several occasions. He was the Democratic candidate for Congress in 1866, was the Democratic opponent for U. S. Senator against Roscoe Conkling in 1873, and candidate for State Senator in 1877. He was urged to become candidate for Governor in 1879 and had he done so would doubtless have been elected, as his candidature would have healed all the differences at that time. He had previously promised, however, to support a Dutchess County man for State Treasurer and as the county could not have two persons on the ticket, he remained immovable in his fealty to his word.

Judge Wheaton was married October 26, 1859, to Miss Caroline T. Barculo, daughter of the late Supreme Court Justice Seward Barculo, who now resides at the Wheaton home in North Hamilton Street, and possesses the very large and excellent library of standard works her literary husband had accumulated, and in which he took so much pride and comfort.

#### HON. JAMES L. WILLIAMS.

James L. Williams, a prominent lawyer and president of the Poughkeepsie Board of Education, was born in Poughkeepsie, December 12th, 1846. He attended the Dutchess County Academy, and on the completion of his studies and after reading law was admitted to the bar in 1867. He began practice in connection with the Hon. Peter Dorland, ex-Surrogate of this county; the firm of Dorland and Williams continuing until 1873, when he formed a partnership with Hon. John Hackett, afterwards twice District Attorney of the county, which partnership still exists and is known under the firm title of Hackett & Williams. A native of Poughkeepsie, and always a public-spirited citizen, Mr. Williams has been more than usually prominent in political and social, as well as legal circles. He was very active in the Democratic party for many years, and was the organizer and first president of the Poughkeepsie News Company, publisher of the *News-Press* and *News-Telegraph*, both staunch ad-

vocates of Democracy in this section. He was elected District Attorney in 1872, being the first Democrat elected to that office for a period of over twenty-five years. He declined a re-nomination. In 1883, without any solicitation or knowledge on his part, Governor Cleveland appointed him State Assessor, now called State Tax Commissioner, an office which he filled with ability until 1893, when he resigned. In 1887 he was named with the late ex-Governor R. P. Flower, General George S. Field, of Buffalo, and Judge Charles F. McLean, of New York, as a member of the Executive Committee of the Democratic State Committee, and was made chairman of the State Executive Committee. He was a member of the Democratic State Committee in 1888 and 1889. In 1893 he was strongly urged as a candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court to succeed Judge Barnard, having the support of Dutchess and other counties. He continued to be active in the councils of his party up to the Chicago convention of 1896, but then declined to endorse the national platform or its candidate, and since that time has been as aggressive and has become fully as popular as a worker and advisor in the Republican party as he was in the party of his first choice. He was appointed City Attorney of Poughkeepsie in 1897, serving under Mayor Hull in 1897 and 1898. In 1900 he was nominated by President McKinley for Supervisor of the Census for the Third District of New York. He has been President of the Board of Education since 1900, since which time the schools have made great advancement. In fraternal circles he has also been a leader, holding membership in the F. and A. M., the I. O. O. F., and K. of P., the Order of Elks, and other societies and organizations. He organized and placed firmly upon its feet the Odd Fellows' Mutual Benefit Association of Dutchess County, now numbering more than a thousand members. He is president of the Dutchess Club, the leading social organization in Dutchess County, having succeeded the Hon. Homer A. Nelson in 1891. Mr. Williams is also a member of several New York City clubs.





John Wills.  
John Reade.  
Peter Van Den Burgh.

Under Act of 20th March, 1799, "for the gradual abolition of slavery."

Thomas Casey, 6 slaves.  
Francis Pells.  
Jacob K. Duyver.  
Hens of Myndert Van Kleock.  
Theoborus Bailey.  
John Reade, (set free child born, the mother to be free at expiration of five years.)  
Benjamin Jaycocks.

Under Act of 8th April, 1801, entitled, "An Act concerning slaves and servants."

John N. Bailey.  
Samuel Luckey.  
James Dearn.  
Tom Fox, a black man.  
Thomas W. Jaycox.  
Henry Dodge, 1800.  
James Dearn, 1807.  
James Emott, 1807.  
Stephen Hendrickson, 1808.  
Henry Dodge, 1808.  
Robert L. Reade, (administrator of John Reade), 1809.  
John B. Frear, executor Colonel John Frear, 1809.  
Francis Pells, 1810.  
Peter Low, 1810.  
James Westervelt, 1810.  
Samuel Milford, 1811.  
Peter Pells, 1811.  
Zephannah Pells, 1811.  
Theon Rudd, 1811.  
Wm. Davis, as executor of Solomon Sutherland, 1813.  
Ezra Thompson, Junr, 1813.  
John Brush, 1813.  
Hendrick Willsie, 1814.  
Nazareth Brewer, 1814.  
John Barnes, 1814.  
Executors of Jane Van Ness, 1815.  
Abraham Adriaance, 1815.  
John Nagel.  
Stephen Booth, (of town of Reading, State of Connecticut).  
John Drake, 1816.  
Samuel Pinkney.  
James Emott, Elizabeth Baker, administrators estate of Valentine Baker, 1817.  
James Tallmadge, 1817.  
John B. Van Wyck, 1817.  
Benjamin Herrick, 1818.  
George P. Oakley, 1818.  
Executors of William Williams, deceased.  
James Dearn, 1818.  
John Parkinson, 1818.  
Peter Low, 1818.  
Executors of Peter Dermus, 1818.  
Catharine Livingston, widow of Robert Livingston, 1819.  
Henry Dodge, 1819.  
Catherine Woodell, (seamstress), 1819.  
Jacob Bush, 1819.  
Stephen Mitchell, executor of Thomas Mitchell, 1820.  
Richard James, 1820.  
Henry Dodge, 1820.  
Dr. Stephen Hasbrouck, 1821.  
Joseph Barnabee, 1821.  
George Bloom, 1821.  
Luke L. Stoutenburgh, 1822.  
John Barnes, 1823.  
Mabel Bailey and Samuel W. Kelley, 1823.  
John B. Van Wyck, 1824.  
Amos Thorn, 1824.  
Leonard Davis, 1824.  
James Fort, 1824.  
John B. Van Wyck, 1824.  
John B. Van Wyck, 1825.  
James Hooker, 1829.

Before 1800 nearly all slaves are mentioned by one name only; after 1800 some were given family names.

PERSONS WHO REGISTERED SLAVE BIRTHS  
UNDER ACT OF MARCH 20, 1799.

Smith Thompson, 1800.  
Carl Hoffman, 1800.  
Gilbert Livingston, 1800.  
James Westervelt, 1800.  
Henry Dodge, 1800.  
Richard Davis, 1800.  
James Bramble, 1801.  
Robert Noxon, 1801.  
Thomas Mitchel, 1801.  
Gideon Boyce, 1802.  
John Reade, 1802.  
William Morey, 1802.  
John Wilsey, 1802.  
Smith Thompson, 1802.  
Samuel Pinkney, 1803.  
William Morey, 1803.  
Richard Davis, 1803.  
James Westervelt, 1803.  
Thomas Mitchel, 1803.  
John Cooke, 1804.  
James Dearn, 1804.  
John Reade, 1804.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Rogers, 1805.  
Robert Gill, 1805.  
Henry Dodge, 1806.  
John Reade, 1806.  
Peter De Remer, 1806.  
Simon J. Frear, 1807.  
Derick Westervelt, 1807.  
Wm. Manny, 1808.  
Henry Dodge, 1808.  
William Morey, 1809.  
William Morey, 1810.  
George W. Clinton, 1810, born 1809.  
George W. Clinton, 1811.  
Ann Clinton, 1813.  
Samuel Milford, 1815, born 1800.

ONE OF THE FORMS FOR REGISTERING THE  
BIRTH OF A SLAVE UNDER ACT OF 1799.

I Smith Thompson, of Poughkeepsie, in Dutchess County, Attorney-at-Law, being the legal proprietor of a negro wench slave, do pursuant to an Act of the Legislature of the State of New York, entitled, an "Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery," passed 20th March, 1799, hereby certify that the negro wench has been delivered of a male child whose name is Bill, that he is now about eight months old, to the best of my knowledge and belief. Dated this 20th day of May, in the year 1800.

SMITH THOMPSON.

Recorded 5th day of June, 1800.

RICH'D EVERITT, Town Clerk.

MILITIA OFFICERS 1780-1799.

(Original roll in possession of William T. Ward.)

A roll of the oaths and subscriptions of the Militia Officers, taken and made before Gilbert Livingston, Esquire, by virtue of a writ of *dedimus potestatem* to him and others for that purpose issued under the great seal of the State of New York. Dated October 2d, 1780.

I, A. B., do solemnly swear and declare, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will bear true faith and allegiance, to the State of New York, as a free and Independent State, and that I will in all things, to the best of my knowledge and ability, do my duty, as a good subject of the said State ought to do. So help me God.

- 1786
- November 6th, Consider Cashman, Lieutenant
- " Nathan Lane, Ensign
- November 7th, Jesse Smith, Captain
- " Ebenezer Boyd, Junior, Ensign
- " Isaac Pennoyer, Captain
- " John Drake, Junior, Captain
- " Caleb Hagen, Captain
- " John Berry, Lieutenant
- " Daniel Wilson, Ensign
- " Ezra Gregory, Lieutenant
- " Henry Garrison, Adjutant
- " Thomas Sears, Captain
- " Solomon Hopkins, Captain
- " Elijah Townsend, Captain
- " Elijah Bebee, Captain
- " James Townsend, Lieutenant
- November 20th, Wm Wilkinson, Lieutenant
- October 7th, Alm Lent, Major Brigade
- October 15th, Alm B. Rapalje
- October 16, Alm. Brinckerhoff, Colonel
- 1790.
- October 10, James Burton, Major
- October 23, John Patterson, Captain.
- July 10, Samuel Augustus Barker, Lt. Colonel Com.
- 1792.
- July 10, Collier Chamberlain, Lt. Colonel, Com.
- 1790
- August 20, John B. Van Wyck, Captain.
- " Jan Duffinger, Lieutenant
- " Peter Waldron.
- September 6th, David Morehouse, Captain.
- September 10th, Isaac Swartwout, Lieutenant.
- " Tunis Hanson.
- October 8th, Taber Bentley, Captain.
- 1791.
- May 10th, Cornelius Van Wyck, Lieutenant
- " Isaac Vanl, Captain.
- " Philip Van Der Bilt, Ensign.
- " Elisha Brown, Lieutenant.
- " Archabill Swinton, Paymaster.
- " James Cook, Captain
- " Benajah Beardley, Lieutenant
- " Samuel Berry, Ensign.
- " Josiah Baker, Quartermaster
- " William Webl, Ensign
- " John Drake, Lieut. Colonel Command
- " Eleazer Hazen, Ensign.
- " Gilbert Drake, Ensign.
- " William Pearce, Lieut. Colonel Commandant.
- " Samuel Augustus Barker, Major
- " Benjamin Elliot, Major
- " Zacheus Marshal, Captain
- " Jethro Sherman, Lieutenant
- " Caleb Hanes, Jr., Ensign
- " Benjamin Tunis, Captain
- " Stephen Raley, Lieutenant
- " David Baldwin, Ensign.
- " Jonathan Crane, Captain.
- " Ezra Richards, Ensign.
- " Nathan Paddock, Captain
- " Samuel Crosby, Lieutenant
- " John Pemeey, Ensign
- " Thomas Stevens, Captain.
- " James Stark, Lieutenant.
- " Elisha Sheldon, Ensign.
- " Ephraim Mann, Captain.
- " Solomon Crosby, Lieutenant.
- " Matthew Beale, Ensign.

- May 10th, Daniel Davis, Captain
- " Stephen Mitchell, Lieutenant
- " Abel Sherman, Ensign
- " James Burton, Captain
- " Peter Crosby, Lieutenant
- " John Herrick, Ensign
- " Stephen Barnum, Captain
- " John Patterson, Lieutenant
- " Ira Crane, Ensign
- " Lemuel Crosby, Quartermaster
- " Joseph C. Field, Paymaster
- " Joseph Chandler, Captain.
- " Elisha Sill, Lieutenant
- " Peter Talmun, Adjutant
- " William C Mills, Ensign
- " Henry Lindington, Jr., Ensign
- 1787
- May 17th, James Cook, Major.
- " Brinton Paine, Lieut. Colonel Commandant
- May 30th, Theodorius Bailey, Major
- " Stephen Hendrickson, Captain.
- " Gilbert I. Livingston, Captain
- " Jacobus Slegt, Captain.
- " Daniel Smith, Captain
- " Elias Frost, Captain.
- " Henry Humphrey, Captain.
- " Jared Rundle, Lieutenant
- " Stephen Marshall, Ensign
- " William Bailey, Lieutenant
- " John M. Thurston, Lieutenant
- " William Terry, Lieutenant
- " Scudler Platt, Ensign.
- " Jesse Bell, Captain.
- " James J. Stoutenbergh, Ensign.
- " Peter I. Van Kleec, Ensign.
- " James Cooper, Lieutenant.
- " James Kent, Paymaster.
- July 5th, Isaac Bloom, Lieut. Colonel Commandant
- 1788
- July 21st, Benjamin Noxon, Infantry Captain.

The following persons qualified by Gilbert Livingston, by virtue of decessus to him and others. Dated, March 12th, 1788.

- 1788
- May 3rd, James Coopen, Captain
- " Wm F. M. Platt, Ensign.
- May 21st, James V. D. Burgh, Lieut. Colonel Commandant
- June 3rd, Barthw. Vanderburgh, Major
- " William Edmund, Infantry Captain
- " Peter V. D. Burgh, Adjutant.
- 1789.
- June 10th, Cornelius Adrance, Captain
- " Theodorius Adrance, Captain.
- " John Adrance, Captain
- " John Forbes, Captain.
- " Benjamin Hasbrook, Lieutenant
- " George Brinckerhoff, Ensign
- " Theodorius R. Van Wyck, Ensign
- " Selah Brush, Lieutenant
- " Ram I. Adrance, Lieutenant
- " James V. D. Burgh, Jr., Ensign
- " Cornelius R. Vanwyck, Lt. Infantry Captain
- " John S. Brinckerhoff, Lieutenant
- " John Storm, Ensign.
- June 17th, Nehemiah Oakley, Captain.
- June 10th, Zachariah Vanvorhees, Captain.
- " John Myer, Jr., Lieutenant
- " Benjamin Roe, Ensign.
- July 31st, William Swartwout, Captain.
- " Cornelius Swartwout, Lieutenant.
- " John Lloyd, Captain.
- August 7th, Wm. B. Alger, Inspector.
- August 12th, Robert H. Livingston, Captain.
- August 14th, Aaron Stockholm, Captain.
- August 10th, Joseph Jackson, Adjutant.
- August 28th, Elbert Willett, Junior, Captain.

TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF POUGH-  
KEEPSIE.

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1799  | 1813  | 1824  | 1836  |
| James S. Smith, Pres.<br>Valentine Baker,<br>Andrew Billings,<br>Ebenezer Badger,<br>Thomas Nelson    | George Bloom, Pres.,<br>John B. Swartwout,<br>Thomas Carman,<br>Benjamin Arnold,<br>Samuel Sloc       | Solomon V. Frost, Pres.,<br>Stephen Pardee,<br>Matthew Vassar,<br>John S. Myers,<br>Henry Conklin,                  | Jacob Van Benthuyssen, Pres.,<br>Matthew Vassar,<br>Isaac I. Ballding,<br>Gideon P. Hewitt,<br>Edward C. Southwick, |
| 1801  | 1814  | 1825  | 1837  |
| Gilbert Livingston, Pres.   | Reuben B. Rudd, Pres.,<br>Samuel Sloc,  | Olyver Holden, Pres.,<br>Stephen Pardee,<br>Henry Conklin,<br>Matthew Vassar,<br>John S. Myers                      | Jacob Van Benthuyssen, Pres.,<br>Isaac I. Ballding,<br>Gideon P. Hewitt,<br>Edward C. Southwick,<br>David Arnold.   |
| 1802  | 1815  | 1826  | 1838  |
| Garrett B. Van Ness, Pres.  | John B. Swartwout,<br>Benjamin Howland,<br>John E. Pells  | John S. Myers, Pres.,<br>Stephen Cleveland,<br>Stephen Pardee,<br>Matthew Vassar,<br>David B. Leut                  | Jacob Van Benthuyssen, Pres.,<br>Isaac I. Ballding,<br>David Arnold,<br>Edward C. Southwick,<br>Gideon P. Hewitt.   |
| 1803  | 1816  | 1827  | 1839  |
| Andrew Billings, Pres.,<br>Ebenezer Badger,<br>Robert Noxon,<br>Jesse Oakley,<br>Robert H. Livingston | Gilbert Ketcham, Pres.,<br>Bronson French,<br>Thomas Sweet,<br>Benjamin Forbus,<br>Thomas L. Davies   | X. P. Tallmadge, Pres.,<br>Matthew Vassar,<br>David Boyd,<br>Isaac Tice,<br>Josiah Burritt                          | Jacob Van Benthuyssen, Pres.,<br>Isaac I. Ballding,<br>David Arnold,<br>Edward C. Southwick,<br>Gideon P. Hewitt.   |
| 1804  | 1817  | 1828  | 1840  |
| Thomas Nelson, Pres.,<br>Richard Everitt,<br>John Sayres,<br>John Forbus,<br>Peter R. Manson          | Clapp Raymond, Pres.,<br>Martin Hoffman,<br>Peter R. Manson,<br>John B. Swartwout,<br>Salm Lewis.     | Stephen Cleveland, Pres.,<br>Henry Conklin,<br>Josiah Burritt,<br>James Hooker,<br>John Giles.                      | Jacob Van Benthuyssen, Pres.,<br>Isaac I. Ballding,<br>David Arnold,<br>Nathaniel Hill,<br>John Adrance.            |
| 1805  | 1818  | 1829  | 1841  |
| William Emott, Pres.,<br>Robert Williams,<br>Richard Everitt,<br>John Sayres,<br>George P. Oakley     | Thomas Brownjohn, Pres.,<br>Benjamin Forbus,<br>Thomas Barritt,<br>John Barnes,<br>Major Bailey.      | Stephen Cleveland, Pres.,<br>John B. Forbus,<br>Elias Trivett,<br>John L. Fonda,<br>Isaac H. Ver Valm               | Gideon P. Hewitt, Pres.,<br>David Arnold,<br>Nathaniel Hill,<br>Uriah Gregory,<br>John Adrance                      |
| 1806  | 1819  | 1830  | 1842  |
| William Emott, Pres.,<br>David Carpenter,<br>Richard Everitt,<br>David Brooks,<br>George P. Oakley.   | Benjamin Forbus, Pres.,<br>George Merkel,<br>Edmond Morris,<br>Peter Everitt,<br>Samuel W. Kelly      | Walter Cunningham, Pres.,<br>Robert Wilkenson,<br>Griffin Williamson,<br>Josiah Burritt,<br>David Boyd              | Gilbert Wilkenson, Pres.,<br>Gilbert Vincent,<br>William W. White,<br>Howland R. Sherman,<br>George M. Perry.       |
| 1807  | 1820  | 1831  | 1843  |
| James Tallmadge, Jr., Pres.,<br>Robert Noxon,<br>Peter B. Morgan,<br>Leonard B. Lewis,<br>John Wynans | Samuel Pine, Pres.,<br>John Cooper,<br>John Green,<br>William Plummer,<br>Matthew Vassar              | Henry Conklin, Pres.,<br>James B. Frear,<br>Alexander J. Coffin,<br>Nehemiah Sweet,<br>Jacob Van Benthuyssen        | Hubert Van Wageningen, Pres.,<br>William W. Reynolds,<br>Barnet Hawkins,<br>Jacob De Groff,<br>James Bowne          |
| 1808  | 1821  | 1832  | 1844  |
| James Tallmadge, Jr., Pres.,<br>Robert Noxon,<br>Peter B. Morgan,<br>John Davis,<br>Richard Everitt   | William Plummer, Pres.,<br>John Caller,<br>Thomas Barritt,<br>James B. Frear,<br>John Green           | Henry Conklin, Pres.,<br>James B. Frear,<br>John B. Forbus,<br>Jacob Van Benthuyssen<br>Alexander J. Coffin.        | Hubert Van Wageningen, Pres.,<br>James Bowne,<br>William W. Reynolds,<br>Barnet Hawkins,<br>Jacob DeGroff           |
| 1809  | 1822  | 1833  | 1845  |
| John Brush, Pres.,<br>John Everitt,<br>Nathan Myers,<br>James Wilson,<br>Gaywood H. Cunningham        | Richard Draper, Pres.,<br>Major Bailey,<br>John Giles,<br>Nicholas Powers,<br>Benjamin Howland        | George P. Oakley, Pres.,<br>William H. Calkins,<br>Henry Conklin,<br>Peter P. Hayes,<br>Jacob De Groff.             | John M. Cable, Pres.,<br>William Hunt,<br>Chandler Holbrook,<br>George R. Gaylord,<br>Joseph H. Jackson.            |
| 1810  | 1823  | 1834  | 1846  |
| David Carpenter, Pres.,<br>Richard Everitt,<br>Philo Ruggles  | Thomas L. Davies, Pres.,<br>Henry A. Livingston,<br>John Brush,<br>John S. Myers,<br>Solomon V. Frost | Alexander Forbus, Pres.,<br>Josiah Burritt,<br>Isaac I. Ballding,<br>Richard Podney,<br>James Mills.                | Matthew J. Myers, Pres.,<br>William W. Reynolds,<br>James Bowne,<br>William A. Fanning,<br>Charles Carman.          |
| 1811  | 1824  | 1835  | 1847  |
| William Emott, Pres.,<br>William Cromwell,<br>Thomas J. Oakley,<br>Abraham G. Strom                   | Thomas L. Davies, Pres.,<br>Henry A. Livingston,<br>John Brush,<br>John S. Myers,<br>Solomon V. Frost | Matthew Vassar, Pres.,<br>Edward C. Southwick,<br>Isaac I. Ballding,<br>Jacob Van Benthuyssen,<br>Gideon P. Hewitt. | Adam Henderson, Pres.,<br>Nathan Gifford,<br>Harvey Palmer,<br>William I. Street,<br>Benjamin C. Van Vliet.         |



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1848<br/>Adam Henderson, Pres.,<br/>Nathan Gifford,<br/>Harvey Palmer,<br/>William I. Street,<br/>Benjamin C. Van Alst.<br/>1849<br/>Samuel B. Johnston, Pres.,<br/>James Reynolds, Jr.,<br/>Henry Coffin,<br/>George B. Adriance,<br/>William C. Sterling.<br/>1850<br/>George B. Adriance, Pres.,<br/>Henry Coffin,<br/>John M. Cable,<br/>James F. Marble,<br/>Henry Angevine<br/>1851<br/>John M. Cable, Pres.,<br/>William P. Gibbons,<br/>Matthew Vassar, Jr.,<br/>James H. Fonda,<br/>George Innis.</p> | <p>1852.<br/>George Innis, Pres., (to May<br/>24th, resigned.)<br/>E. Q. Eldridge, (from May<br/>24th appointed).<br/>Samuel Chester, (to Septem-<br/>ber 27th, resigned).<br/>James Blanchard, (from Sep-<br/>tember 27th, appointed)<br/>William F. Cramer,<br/>Milton Cramer,<br/>Abraham Wilsie.<br/>1853.<br/>Jacob DeGroof, Pres.,<br/>Oliver H. Booth,<br/>William H. Tallmadge,<br/>Charles Cable,<br/>George Wilkinson.<br/>1854<br/>Jacob De Grooff,<br/>George Wilkinson,<br/>William H. Tallmadge,<br/>Oliver H. Booth,<br/>Benjamin B. Reynolds</p> |
|---|--|

In 1810 there were only three trustees during the year. The village minutes for May 10th state that "Three other Candidates for Trustees that had the next greatest number of votes were tied and of course not elected." In 1811 there were but four trustees—"John Forbus and Rufus Potter had an equal number of Votes, being 13 each." There appears to be no means of ascertaining the names of the trustees of 1800, 1801 and 1802.

#### FIRST ORDINANCES NAMING STREETS.

(Page 77.)

Passed 6th November, 1801.

Be it ordained, That the following streets in this village shall be known and distinguished by the names annexed to them respectively, to wit:

1. The street beginning between the northwest corner of the old Dutch cemetery and the northeast corner of the court-house lot, and running thence southerly to the extent of the village bounds, to be distinguished by the name of Market Street.

2. The street beginning at Hudson's river, at the landing of William Davies & Co., and leading thence to the nine partners as far as the eastern extremity of said village, be distinguished by the name of Main Street.

3. The street beginning at Main Street between the lot of Mrs. Broom and the tan-yard of Ebenezer Badger, and leading thence northerly to the extent of the corporation limits, to be known by the name of Washington Street.

4. The street commencing on the south side of Main Street between the lots of Andrew Billings and Leonard Davis, and running thence southerly till it meets the road leading from Oswego to Market Street, to be known by the name of Academy Street.

5. The street commencing at Academy Street in front of the Academy, and terminating at Market Street, to be distinguished by the name of Cannon Street.

6. The street commencing on the eastern side of Market Street at the southwest corner of the Episco-

pal Church lot, and leading thence to Academy Street, to be distinguished by the name of Church Street.

7. The street commencing at Hudson's river at Hoffman's landing, and running easterly till it unites with Main Street, to be known by the name of Mill Street.

8. The street commencing on the west side of Market Street at the southeast corner of the court house lot, and terminating at the union store of George B. Eyertson, at the Hudson's river, to be known by the name of Union Street.

9. The street leading from the west side of Market Street at the lot of John Tappan, and terminating at the landing of Richard Davis, on Hudson's River, to be distinguished by the name of Pine Street.

10. The street commencing in the northeast corner of a lot assigned to Helen Platt on the west side of Market Street, and leading thence to Hudson's River near John Read's landing, to be distinguished by the name of Livingston Street.

11. The street beginning at the south side of Union Street opposite the lot of John Arden, leading thence in a southerly direction to Livingston Street, to be known by the name of Jefferson Street.

12. The street commencing at the landing of John Read and running thence northeasterly to Jefferson Street, to be called by the name of Columbia Street.

13. The street leading from Mill Street at Joseph Bowman's lot, southerly across Main Street to Union, to be known by the name of Clover Street.

14. The street commencing at the north side of Mill Street opposite the lot of Nathan Myers, and leading northeasterly to Washington Street, to be known by the name of Bridge Street.

15. The street commencing opposite the south-easterly junction of Pine and Jefferson Streets, and terminating at the village bounds, to be distinguished by the name of Montgomery Street.

Passed September 16th, 1800.

16. That the street commencing at Pine Street near the house of Francis F. Leroy, and terminating at Union Street, shall be named Laurel Street.

17. The street commencing at Pine Street at the house of Josiah Broas, and terminating in Union Street, shall be named Tulip Street.

18. The street commencing at Montgomery Street and running across Main Street by William Emott's, and terminating at Mill Street, is named Hamilton Street.

19. The street commencing at Main Street opposite Jedediah Benjamin's and running northeasterly to the village bounds, near Minard Van de Bogart's, is named Smith Street.

20. The street commencing at Mill Street by the mills of Martin Hoffman & Co., and running parallel with Hudson's River across Main and Union Streets till it terminates at Pine Street, is named Water Street.

21. The street commencing at Union Street near its junction with Laurel Street, and terminating at Water Street, is named John Street.

22. The street commencing at Montgomery Street and running across Main Street near the house of John Boerum, and across the Fall-kill, till it terminates at Smith Street, is named Cherry Street.



The following purchased one share each:

George Crawford, Thomas Nelson, John Armstrong, Patrick Collins, Aaron Stockholm, Isaac Mitchell, Ephraim Paine, Abraham G. Storm, Abraham Adriance, Samuel Myers, Benjamin Herrick, Frederick Knox, Jonathan Gazly, Joshua Ward, William W. Bogardus, Edmund Per Lee, Ira Winans, James L. Winans, Joseph C. Field, James De Long, James Norrson, Elias Beers, Peter Garusey, Ezra Thompson, Robert Wilson, Caleb Thompson, Peter Fish, Jordan Norris, William Vradenburgh, Cyrenus Crosby, Lemuel Conklin, Simon S. Frare, John Hobson, Casper Hillequist, Josiah Smith, Bronson French, Cornelius Wiltsie, James Gazley, Joseph Powell, George Booth, Abraham B. Rapalje, James Slater, Garrit Adriance, Joseph Broas, John E. Peis, Ebenezer Haight, Thomas Barlow, Devaux Bailey, Stephen Bailey, Sheldon Mungler, Joseph Harris, Theodorus R. Van Wyck, James Collin, John Patterson, John Richmond, John Cox, Jr., John Thompson, Isaac Hunting, Rudolphus Hasbrook, Allard Anthony, John Bedford, Ezra Thompson, Jr., John Myre, Christian Dubois, Jacobus Swartout, Adrian Munford, Theodorus W. Van Wyck, Abraham Husley, William Van Wyck, Adam Montross, Theodorus Adriance, Thomas G. Storm, Rem Adriance, William Thorn, George Bloom, Elnathan Tyler, Daniel Burton and Jonathan Sanford.

After the above shares were sold a regularly appointed committee set apart Tuesday, the fourth of September, 1804, for a meeting of the stockholders at Baldwin's Hotel, at 2 p. m., to vote for Trustees to manage the concerns of the stockholders. The meeting was presided over by Peter R. Maison, as Chairman, and John Brush as Secretary. The Trustees elected were Gilbert Livingston, Nathan Myers and John Brush. They were invested with full power to purchase and build, or purchase suitable lots and buildings to be occupied as a stand for a Public Inn, to provide for the safety thereof, to make necessary alterations and repairs, to lease and make leases of the same, to collect the subscription for the stock and to govern the Association.

These Trustees purchased of Robert Williams "the House, Lott and premises known by the name of the Poughkeepsie Hotel," and also took an assignment of a lease held by him "from the consistory of the Dutch Church in Poughkeepsie," for all of which the Trustees paid \$9,000.

NAMES OF VOTERS FOR PAVING ON MAIN STREET.

(Page 81.)

August 11th, 1812.

|  | Ft. frontage. |
|--|---------------|
| Storm and Wilson, .....                              | 38            |
| Abraham G. Storm, for the Middle District Bank,..... | 34 3          |
| Jesse Oakley .....                                   | 45            |
| William Cromwell .....                               | 23            |
| David and Benjamin Arnold,.....                      | 21 0          |
| Benjamin Arnold, as attorney for Sarah Van Ness,.... | 55            |
| Timis Van Kleeck, by his attorney, B. Arnold,.....   | 35            |
| William Plummer .....                                | 30            |
| Leonard Davis, by B. Arnold, attorney,.....          | 178           |
| William Green, by B. Arnold, attorney,.....          | 50            |
| Gertrude Hoffman, by B. Arnold, attorney,.....       | 108           |

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Elijah Morgan, Jr. ....                             | 18 0 |
| William Smith, by N. Conklin, Jr., attorney,.....   | 30 4 |
| Benjamin Herrick .....                              | 52   |
| James Talmadge, Junior, .....                       | 60   |
| Joseph C. Dean, .....                               | 23 0 |
| John Thomas, by B. Arnold, attorney,.....           | 70   |
| John Giles, by B. Arnold, attorney,.....            | 24 2 |
| Peter B. Morgan, .....                              | 33   |
| Samuel Slee, by his attorney, Gilbert Ketchum,..... | 42 0 |
|   | 972  |

Owners of lots who did not vote for paving and improving:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Dutch Church .....                                    | 238  |
| Moses Hobson .....                                    | 25   |
| Jabish Bosworth .....                                 | 30   |
| Mrs. Mary Hillequist, .....                           | 30 0 |
| Mrs. Johanna Holdhuysen, .....                        | 39   |
| E. Rivington .....                                    | 80   |
| Peter DeRemer .....                                   | 50   |
| Peter R. Maison, .....                                | 110  |
| Frederick Alerke .....                                | 37   |
| Smith Thompson .....                                  | 44   |
| Paul Schenk's assignees, .....                        | 57   |
| Heirs of Anthony Hoffman, property in possession of   |      |
| James Slater and Joshua Y. Racket .....               | 83   |
| Baltus and Thomas Carman .....                        | 50   |
|   | 907  |
| Garden Street, 17 feet; Mechame Street, 0 feet, ..... | 26   |

VOTE ON CANNON STREET PAVING.

20th day April, 1814.

Those who voted for paving and improving:

|   | Ft. frontage |
|---|--------------|
| Benjamin Herrick .....                    | 125 5        |
| John B. Swartout .....                    | 35           |
| John E. Canfield, .....                   | 44 10        |
| George Bloom, home lot, .....             | 40 0         |
| Samuel Slee .....                         | 50 5         |
| Daniel Coolidge, for man tan office ..... | 210 0        |
| Daniel Coolidge and George Bloom .....    | 120 7        |
| Thomas W. Talmadge, .....                 | 37 7         |
| George B. Everson,.....                   | 101          |
| John Davis .....                          | 94 3         |
| George Bloom's lot next Academy, .....    | 66           |
| .....                                     | ---          |
|   | 922 0        |

Names of owners of lots who did not vote for paving and improving:

|                                   | Ft. frontage |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Joseph Farrington .....           | 30           |
| Peter De Remer lot shown, .....   | 42 3         |
| Peter De Remer, vacant lot, ..... | 55 2         |
| Hannah Nelson .....               | 62 8         |
| John Peter DeWint, .....          | 244 2        |
| Dutchess Academy lot, .....       | 132          |
| Thomas Warner .....               | 66           |
| Jabez Wadsworth .....             | 47 0         |
| Jeremiah Martin .....             | 50 2         |
| Hannah Boernin .....              | 50 0         |
| Adriana Mott .....                | 57 4         |
|                                   | 887 0        |

GARDEN STREET PAVING VOTE.

(Page 108.)

Main to Mill, April 30, 1833, the resolution providing also for brick sidewalks:

|                        | Frontage |
|------------------------|----------|
| Peter P. Hayes,.....   | 172      |
| Stephen Scofield ..... | 32       |

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Solomon V. Frost       | 150 |
| James Mills            | 30  |
| George Mead            | 50  |
| Israel B. Hall         | 32  |
| David B. Lent          | 100 |
| A majority of 440 feet |     |

4th STREET PAVING VOTE.

"From Crandell Street to Washington Street," 10th April, 1833.

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| A. J. Coffin               | 42  |
| David B. Lent              | 55  |
| Elias Trivet               | 42  |
| A. G. Storm                | 75  |
| Isaac M. Newcomb           | 50  |
| Samuel Pine                | 90  |
| Aaron Frost                | 50  |
| Charles Wood               | 33  |
| Gertrude Hoffman           | 42  |
| Adam Henderson             | 44  |
| Stephen Frost              | 50  |
| Richard Pughet             | 44  |
| James Mills                | 38½ |
| Theodore Bailey            | 25  |
| John R. Bailey             | 25  |
| James Grant, Jun           | 48  |
| Solomon V. Frost           | 102 |
| John Depew                 | 150 |
| G. Williamson              | 50  |
| William Frost              | 45  |
| William G. Odell           | 42  |
| Edmund B. Bailey           | 42  |
| Wills Haviland             | 40½ |
| Paradele Potter            | 31½ |
| Philip S. Crooke           | 25  |
| James Tallmadge            | 218 |
| Majority given at 128 feet |     |

MARKET STREET PAVING VOTE.

"From Main Street to the English Church," September 14th, 1831.

|   |     |       |    |
|---|-----|-------|----|
| Henry Swift   | No. | Feet  | In |
| John Barnes   |     | 32    | 0  |
| Gilbert Brewster  |     | 90    |    |
| Gilbert Brewster  |     | 297   |    |
| John B. Forbus, A. Forbus, J. D. Robinson, M. Forbus, Estate of John Forbus |     | 77    |    |
| John P. Dewant  |     | 87    | 6  |
| Edward Hopkins  |     | 21    |    |
| William Brons   |     | 39    |    |
| Stephen Cleveland   |     | 49    | 0  |
| Teremiah Banks  |     | 20    |    |
| Henry Alex. Field   |     | 13    |    |
| James Hooker  |     | 122   |    |
| John Bush   |     | 138   |    |
| Robert Forrest  |     | 45    |    |
| Not voting  |     |       |    |
|   |     | 1,092 | 0  |
|   |     | 303   | 3  |
| Majority  |     |       |    |
|   |     | 699   | 0  |

LOWER MAIN STREET PAVEMENT VOTE.

Meeting at the house of Thomas Swift, in Market Street, September 14th, 1831.

|                                 |     |       |    |
|---------------------------------|-----|-------|----|
| Gilbert Brewster                | No. | Feet  | In |
| Paradele Potter                 |     | 150   | 0  |
| John G. Sturges                 |     | 115   |    |
| Stephen Cornell, per M. Cornell |     | 49    |    |
| William Davies                  |     | 30    |    |
| Majority                        |     |       |    |
|                                 |     | 1,545 |    |

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| William Turner   | 40    |
| Elias Trivet     | 150   |
| A. Gou, Junr.    | 40    |
| Matthew Vassar   | 320   |
| Zebulon Reynolds | 42    |
| Peter Everitt    | 50    |
| A. Blakeslee     | 130   |
| J. M. Nelson     | 40    |
| Marmus Pierce    | 72    |
| Henry Conklin    | 658   |
| Not voting       |       |
|                  | 3,449 |
| Majority         |       |
|                  | 2,557 |
|                  | 883   |

CLINTON CATECHISM.

(From the *Political Barometer*, April 24, 1811.)  
 (Reference to "Manhattan Bank at Poughkeepsie," 16th question, from page 80.)

The second edition of a new catechism, founded on modern practice, calculated to show the faculty of providing for a family in an elective government, by the discovery of a drop of Clintonian blood; and how it qualifies a man for office, or for any number of offices, to the exclusion of their fellow citizens, whatever be their talents or merits.

*Question.* Why is DeWitt Clinton Mayor of the City of New York, Commissioner of Fortifications, and of the Western Lock Navigation Company, director of the Manhattan Bank, and Regent of the University?

*Answer.* Because he is the political head of the Clintonian family.

*Q.* How did he become so?

*A.* By deserting his political father, George Clinton, to whom he owes his political existence, and by all the acts of a demagogue and an intriguing politician.

*Q.* Why is George Tappen Clerk of Ulster county and Notary Public?

*A.* Because his father's sister married George Clinton, who is the brother of James Clinton, who is the father of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Pierre C. Van Wyck Recorder of the City of New York, Commissioner of Bankruptcy, and why is his brother Notary Public?

*A.* Because his mother was sister of Pierre Van Cortlandt, who married the daughter of George Clinton, who is the brother of James Clinton, who is the father of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Samuel Van Wyck a justice of the peace of the City of New York?

*A.* Because he is cousin of Pierre C. Van Wyck, whose mother was sister of Pierre Van Cortlandt, who married the daughter of George Clinton, who is the brother of James Clinton, who is the father of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Matthias B. Tallmadge Judge of the District Court of the United States, for the New York District, a manager of the Lottery, &c.?

*A.* Because he married a daughter of George Clinton, who is the brother of James Clinton, who is the father of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Theodorius Bailey Postmaster of the City of New York?

*A.* Because he married a sister of Matthias B. Tallmadge, who married a daughter of George Clinton, who is the brother of James Clinton, who is the father of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Simon DeWitt Surveyor-General of the State of New York, and Commissioner of the Western Lock Navigation?

*A.* Because he is the cousin of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is William Stewart one of the District Attorneys of the State?

*A.* Because he married the sister of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Charles Clinton Clerk of the District Court of the United States, for the New York District?

*A.* Because he is the brother of DeWitt Clinton, and because Matthias B. Tallmadge, who married his cousin, turned out an old Revolutionary officer to make room for him.

*Q.* Why is Ambrose Spencer Judge of the Supreme Court?

*A.* Because he married the sister of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Philip Spencer, Jr., Clerk of the county of Dutchess?

*A.* Because he is the brother of Ambrose Spencer, who married the sister of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Joseph C. Field Sheriff of Dutchess county and his son deputy?

*A.* Because he is the brother-in-law of Philip Spencer, who is the brother of Ambrose Spencer, who married the sister of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why was John C. Spencer private secretary to Governor Tompkins, and Master in Chancery?

*A.* Because he is the son of Ambrose Spencer, who married the sister of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is James Tallmadge, the elder, commissioner for building the court-house and deputy marshal for taking the census of the Sixth Congressional district?

*A.* Because he is the father of Matthias B. Tallmadge, who married the daughter of George Clinton, who is the uncle of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is James Tallmadge, Jr., old and new loan-officer of the county of Dutchess, and President of the Manhattan Bank at Poughkeepsie.

*A.* Because he is the brother of Matthias B. Tallmadge, who married the daughter of George Clinton, who is the uncle of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is George Bloom a notary public, attorney to the Manhattan Bank at Poughkeepsie, and Surrogate of Dutchess?

*A.* Because he shares the profits of the attorneyship with James Tallmadge, Jr., who is the brother of Matthias B. Tallmadge, who married the daughter of George Clinton, who is the uncle of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Obadiah German a Senator of the United States, and a Judge of Shenango county?

*A.* Because he is a cousin of Matthias B. Tallmadge, who married the daughter of George Clinton, who is the uncle of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Philip S. Parker Recorder of the City of Hudson, and a Commissioner of Bankruptcy?

*A.* Because he is the nephew of Ambrose Spencer, who married the sister of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is John Taylor commissioner for the building of the state-house in Albany, commissioner for Indian Affairs, President of the State Bank, &c.?

*A.* Because he is the cousin of George Clinton, who is the uncle of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Francis Bloodgood Clerk of the Supreme Court, and Clerk of the Board of Regents?

*A.* Because he is the nephew of John Taylor, who is the cousin of George Clinton, who is the uncle of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Abraham Bloodgood Clerk of the county of Oneida, and director of the Manhattan Bank at Utica?

*A.* Because he is the brother of Francis Bloodgood, and the nephew of John Taylor, who is the cousin of George Clinton, who is the uncle of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Charles D. Cooper Clerk of the county of Albany?

*A.* Because he married the adopted daughter of John Taylor, who is cousin of George Clinton, who is uncle of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Samuel Osgood naval officer of the port of New York?

*A.* Because his step-daughter is the wife of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is John Townsend promoted from a subaltern to a Brigade-Quartermaster, to rank with Major?

*A.* Because he married the daughter of Ambrose Spencer, who married the two sisters of DeWitt Clinton.

*Q.* Why is Henry A. Townsend Clerk of Steuben county?

*A.* Because he is the brother of John, who married the daughter of Ambrose Spencer.

*Q.* Why are Benjamin DeWitt and Isaac Dennison Lottery Agents, who by their speculative mode of selling tickets, may make more than any salary officers in the government?

*A.* Because they are the relations of John Taylor, who is the uncle of DeWitt Clinton, and cousin to George Clinton.

*Q.* Why is DeWitt Clinton the leader of the Clintonian party in the State of New York, and why is he to be Lieut.-Governor and candidate for the chief magistracy of the state and nation?

*A.* Because it enables him to trace out all the connexions of his family, and provide every one of them with offices.

*Q.* How many offices and places of profit are in the possession of DeWitt Clinton and his family connexions?

*A.* Without counting any office which is held by the immediate voice of the people, I find the Clintonian family and its connexions in the possession of above forty offices or places of profit, many of them the most lucrative in our country, and that this aggregate amount of emoluments of these offices will be as great as the emoluments of all the rest of the offices of the State put together.

CATECHUMEN.

APPEAL OF THE CONSERVATIVES OF 1821  
AGAINST REVISION OF THE STATE  
CONSTITUTION.

(Page 68.)

Signers of the call for a meeting at the house of Luther Gay, in the Town of Washington, on Monday, the 14th of June, for the purpose of agreeing upon candidates to the constitutional convention:

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Morgan Lewis,           | Vin Judd,                 |
| James Finott,           | John Brush,               |
| William Taber,          | Walter Per Lee,           |
| Stephen Hasbrook,       | James Ketcham,            |
| Benjamin Burr,          | Thomas J. Oakley,         |
| Thomas Sweet,           | Stephen Sweet,            |
| Henry F. Tallmadge,     | Timms Van Kleeck,         |
| John W. Richter,        | Joel Denton, Jr.,         |
| Aaron E. Winchell,      | Philo Ruggles,            |
| Stephen Enos,           | Robert Wilson,            |
| E. N. Swift,            | Josiah Barrett,           |
| Gilbert Thorne,         | Abraham Boeckee,          |
| Amos D. Knapp,          | Richard Thorne,           |
| Henry Conklin,          | William Thomas,           |
| David Tomlinson,        | John S. Livingston,       |
| John T. Schryver,       | Randall S. Street,        |
| James Grant,            | John W. Wheeler,          |
| Paralete Potter,        | Eli Angvine,              |
| Thomas Taber, 2nd,      | Isaac C. Ebiendorf,       |
| Benjamin Sherman,       | Timms Hasbrook,           |
| Gilbert Ketcham,        | Joseph Thorne,            |
| Douglas Clark,          | Abraham D. Van Wyck,      |
| Caleb K. Hobby,         | Daniel Norrump,           |
| Bronson French,         | William Smith,            |
| Joel Benton,            | Alfred Tredway,           |
| William I. Stewart,     | Gideon Woolley,           |
| John I. Traver,         | John Beadle,              |
| George B. Evertson,     | Elijah Haight,            |
| James Hooker,           | William Bard,             |
| John Debois,            | William Thorne,           |
| Matthew Mesier,         | Tobias L. Stoughtenburgh, |
| Philip N. Baunsteel,    | John Wilkinson,           |
| Cornelius C. Van Wyck,  | Alfred S. Bell,           |
| Silas Germond,          | Jonathan Lockwood,        |
| James Downes,           | Henry Davis,              |
| William I. Thorne,      | James S. Cooke,           |
| Abraham D. Brinkerhoff, | Emmanuel Overocker,       |
| John Titus,             | Evert N. Van Waggoner,    |
| Isaac Smith,            | Peter Exmitt,             |
| Richard C. Van Wyck,    | Obediah Tims,             |
| John Armstrong,         | Simpson Sleght,           |
| John Johnston,          | James Duane Livingston,   |
| Martin Heermanee,       | Daniel Ostron,            |
| Joseph Arnold,          | Christopher Hughes,       |
| Robert Grant,           | Wright Lattin,            |
| John F. Van Wyck,       | Silas Pettit,             |
| John Cooper,            | David Barnes,             |
| Henry A. Livingston,    | John Delaveigne,          |
| Nicholas Thorne,        | Walter Cunningham,        |
| Philip Conkrite,        | Platt Vail,               |
| Jonathan Haight,        | John Barnes,              |
| Frederick Barnard,      | Robert A. Hoffman,        |
| Brush Sotherland,       | David B. Lent,            |
| Jehiel Sackett,         | Isaac Hoffman             |

CHARTER MEMBERS ENGINE COMPANY,  
No. 4.

(Village Minutes, November 3, 1836.)

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Lyman Parmelee,       | Will A. Potter,    |
| Jas. Reynolds, Junr., | James F. Marble,   |
| H. R. Sherman,        | David W. Peters,   |
| Benjamin Gile,        | Addison P. Rowley, |
| William H. Smith,     | John T. Howard,    |

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Charles B. Caller, | James Grant,       |
| John G. Parker,    | Edwin Thompson,    |
| Elisha Clark,      | Lewis R. Vaughn,   |
| Henry Tarball,     | William D. Sealey, |
| Thos. Cotton,      | A. W. Bruce,       |
| William Green,     | Abm. Mace,         |
| Henry D. Langdon,  | Peter Mulholland,  |

BUILDING IN PONGHIKEEPSIE IN 1841.

(Telegraph, January 6, 1841.)

(Page 138.)

According to our annual custom, we have collected the following statistics of our village:

Ponghkeepsie has 70 streets which are opened, on which there are 1,055 dwelling houses, exclusive of other buildings, viz: On Academy 44, Albany 7, Bayeux 3, Bridge 6, Cannon 43, Clover 21, Crannel 6, Cottage 11, Clinton 11, Catharine 14, Conklin 4, Cherry 6, Columbia 1, Church 21, Delafield 6, Dutchess Avenue 6, Davis 3, Garden 24, Hamilton 15, Jefferson 34, Jay 11, Keimbee 2, Laurel 3, Lafayette Place 7, Liberty 5, Main 262, Market 48, Montgomery 26, Mill 85, Mechanic 7, Noxon 11, Pine 26, Perry 15, Prospect 7, Smith and vicinity 23, Spruce 4, Tulip 2, Union 56, Water 56, Washington 46, Freertown 18, and 10 scattering.

Of these buildings 30 have been erected within the last year.

There are in the village 25 dry goods stores, 50 groceries, 4 drug stores, 2 crockery stores, 14 shoe stores and shops, 6 hat stores, 10 hotels and taverns, 10 milliners, 3 hardware stores, 5 stove and tin stores, 12 tailoring establishments, 2 glove stores, 2 chair warerooms, 6 cabinet warerooms, 5 watch and jewelry stores, 2 confectioneries, 2 book stores, 1 book bindery, 5 saddle and harness establishments, 6 markets (two of them public), 6 carriage and wagon making establishments, 10 blacksmith shops, 3 paint shops, 3 furnaces, 2 brass foundries, 3 machine shops, 2 turning shops, 2 glue factories, 4 grist mills, 2 saw mills, 1 dye wood mill, 3 plough factories, 12 victualing rooms, 2 leather stores, 2 tanneries, 2 toy shops, 5 barber shops, 3 tobacco and cigar factories, 3 livery stables, 2 breweries, 3 malt houses, 4 coal yards, 6 lumber yards, 2 marble yards, 2 ship yards, 3 freighting companies, 3 printing offices, issuing five papers, *Telegraph, Eagle, Journal, Casket and Thompsonian*, 5 bakeries.

MANUFACTORIES—Two carpet factories, 2 lock factories, 1 jeweler, 1 ropewalk, 2 wood ware, 4 cooper's shops, 3 pump factories, 2 brick-yards, 2 soap and candle factories, 1 sperm candle and oil do., 3 sash and Venetian blind factories, 2 frame making establishments, 1 Morocco establishment, 1 paper hanging establishment, 2 stone and earthenware do., 1 comb factory, 1 pin manufactory, 1 paste blacking do., 1 umbrella do., 1 handbox do.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS—Court House and Jail, County Poor House, Dutchess Academy, Collegiate School, Village Markets, Lancaster School House, Powder House, 4 Engine Houses and Hooks and Ladder Houses.

INCORPORATED COMPANIES—Dutchess County Bank, capital \$650,000; Farmers and Manufacturers Bank, \$300,000; Poughkeepsie Bank, \$100,000; Poughkeepsie Savings Bank, Poughkeepsie Silk Company, Locomotive Company, Dutchess Whaling Company, Dutchess Mutual Insurance Company, Dutchess Guards.

PLACES OF WORSHIP—Baptist 1, Congregational 1, Episcopal 2, Friends 2, Methodist Episcopal 2, Presbyterian 1, Reformed Dutch 1, Roman Catholic 1, Zion Methodist (colored) 1, total 12.

PROFESSIONAL—32 lawyers, 10 physicians (3 Thompsonian), 3 dentists.

SCHOOLS—Collegiate School, Dutchess Academy, Lancaster School, Poughkeepsie High School and 18 other schools.

MISCELLANEOUS—A Lyceum with reading room, cabinet and stated lectures, 3 other reading rooms, 1 circulating library.

Population of the village, 7,710.

POSTMASTERS OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

(Page 130.)

- Nicholas Power, July 31, 1792.
- Levi McKeen, April 1, 1802.
- Jacob Van Ness, March 31, 1810.
- Nathaniel P. Tallmadge, March 23, 1821.
- Lawrence I. Van Kleeck, January 4, 1835.
- Jacob Van Benthuyzen, July 6, 1829.
- Egbert B. Kiley, August 6, 1840.
- Isaac Platt, May 5, 1849.
- Albert S. Pease, May 4, 1853.
- George P. Pelton, June 23, 1857.
- Albert Van Kleeck, March 28, 1861.
- H. C. Smith, November 10, 1860.
- Alfred B. Smith, February 25, 1867.
- George Parker, February 8, 1875.
- Robert H. Hunter, January 31, 1879.
- William M. Ketcham, February 22, 1887.
- John I. Platt, February 24, 1891.
- Frank Hasbrouck, February 22, 1895.
- Frank W. Halstead, January 31, 1899.
- Isaac W. Sherrill, December 10, 1900.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

|                    |          |                      |     |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------|-----|
| James Hooker       | \$10,000 | George B. Adrance    | 500 |
| James Rooscyelt    | 5,000    | W. H. Bradley        | 500 |
| William Davies     | 10,000   | G. W. Farrington     | 500 |
| Thomas L. Davies   | 5,000    | Benjamin Gale        | 500 |
| William A. Davies  | 5,000    | Storm & Uhl          | 500 |
| Matthew Vassar     | 10,000   | Wm W. White          | 500 |
| George Van Kleeck  | 1,000    | Caleb Morgan         | 500 |
| Robert Wilkinson   | 1,000    | John Simpson         | 500 |
| George C. Marshall | 500      | Charles Pearl        | 500 |
| Gilbert Wilkinson  | 1,000    | Jeremiah Platt       | 500 |
| James Ingham       | 1,000    | G. A. Sherwood       | 500 |
| David B. Lent      | 2,500    | David Boyd           | 500 |
| George Pomeroy     | 1,000    | Robert Millard       | 500 |
| William J. Street  | 500      | George B. Lent       | 500 |
| Gifford & Sherman  | 2,500    | E. P. Benjamin       | 500 |
| V. D. Benestech    | 1,000    | Hervy Palmer         | 500 |
| M. J. Myers        | 2,500    | Chas. H. Woodruff    | 500 |
| John H. Ritzer     | 2,000    | E. F. Grant          | 500 |
| Richard A. Varick  | 1,000    | Chandler Holbrook    | 500 |
| Charles Bartlett   | 2,500    | Philip Pollock       | 500 |
| Isaac Platt        | 1,000    | John G. Parker       | 500 |
| Adrance & Goller   | 1,000    | John P. Nelson       | 500 |
| H. Van Wagenen     | 3,000    | Isaac Tice           | 500 |
| T. W. Tallmadge    | 1,000    | Edward C. Southwick  | 500 |
| James Mills        | 1,000    | John P. Hull         | 500 |
| E. B. Kiley        | 1,000    | H. J. Jewett         | 500 |
| Wales A. Cander    | 1,000    | C. B. Harrison       | 500 |
| S. B. Trowbridge   | 2,500    | William A. Palmer    | 500 |
| James Bowne        | 1,500    | Joel Dyne            | 500 |
| William Broas      | 1,500    | Henry Pine           | 500 |
| Jostah Williams    | 1,000    | Wm. H. Tallmadge     | 500 |
| Edward Girard      | 1,000    | Isaac J. Balding     | 500 |
| Cole & Jewett      | 2,000    | LeGrand Dodge        | 500 |
| James Emott, Jr.   | 1,000    | William Cornwell     | 500 |
| John Thompson      | 1,000    | Isaac Griffin        | 500 |
| M. & J. G. Vassar  | 3,000    | Wm S. Morgan         | 500 |
| Isaac Merritt      | 1,000    | James O. Van Anden   | 500 |
| Abraham Fonda      | 1,000    | C. B. Caldwell       | 500 |
| Abraham Varick     | 1,000    | L. F. Street         | 500 |
| William Bushnell   | 1,000    | Degroff & Cable      | 500 |
| James H. Mills     | 1,000    | Simon Wood           | 500 |
| Alles Phinney      | 500      | Richard C. Southwick | 500 |
| Henry Coffin       | 200      | B. C. Van Alst       | 500 |
| James H. Fonda     | 500      | Jacob Boeker         | 500 |
| C. D. Smith        | 500      | Michael Phillips     | 500 |
| Caleb Barker       | 500      | Gray & Jennings      | 500 |
| Fmlay & Barnes     | 500      | J. Hervy Dudley      | 500 |
| E. Trivett & Son   | 500      | S. W. Hester         | 500 |
| William Wilkinson  | 500      | S. C. D. Raymond     | 500 |
| John Barnes        | 500      | H. W. McCloyghtry    | 500 |
| Charles Anthes     | 500      | G. P. Pelton         | 500 |
| Renben North       | 500      | Richard Adrance      | 500 |
| William Coffin     | 500      | Walter Adrance       | 500 |
| Henry D. Varick    | 1,000    | John Giles           | 500 |
| Charles W. Swift   | 1,000    | S. H. Bogardus       | 500 |
| David Arnold       | 1,000    | Samuel Chichester    | 500 |

SUBSCRIBERS TO HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD STOCK.

(Page 141.)

January 23, 1847.

At a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Poughkeepsie, in favor of the speedy construction of the Hudson River Railroad, held at the Village Hall on Saturday evening, January 23rd, (1847), Matthew Vassar, Esq., was chosen President; E. B. Kiley and James Bowne, Vice-Presidents, and LeGrand Dodge and H. R. Sherman, Secretaries.

R. Wilkinson, Esq., Jacob B. Jewett, Isaac Platt and C. Bartlett among the speakers.

NAMES OF PLOT HOLDERS IN REFORMED DUTCH CEMETERY ON HYDE PARK ROAD, JUST NORTH OF CITY LIMITS.

(From map, containing the date of purchase of the property, 22 March, 1810.)

(See page 148.)

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Samuel Pine,              | Benjamin Rowland, |
| James Tallmadge, Jr.,     | Benjamin Howland, |
| Harry Vanderhilt, (black) | Theron Rudd,      |
| Thomas North,             | Benjamin Herrick, |
| Benjamin Buckingham,      | Jonathan Myrick,  |
| James Reynolds,           | Daniel Helbard,   |
| Abm. G. Storm,            | John Gary,        |
| John Brush,               | Robert Forrest,   |

Ebenezer Nye,  
 Batus Carnion,  
 Thomas Carnion,  
 James Miles,  
 William R. Barns,  
 Thomas Whitman,  
 Joseph Harris,  
 Munster in Being,  
 Cornelius C. Snyder,  
 Joseph C. Fields,  
 Isaac Mitchell,  
 Joseph Nelson,  
 John Nelson,  
 Thomas Nelson,  
 John Armstrong,  
 William Smith,  
 Dr. John Ward,  
 Rufus Potter,  
 Jacob Seabury,  
 Thomas W. Tallmadge,  
 William Davies,  
 Martin Hoffman,  
 Abraham Bockee,  
 George P. Oakley,  
 Jesse Oakley,  
 George Merkle.

Walter Iverson.

Oliver Holden,  
 George Booth,  
 Paul Schenck,  
 Samuel Matthews,  
 Henry Barnes,  
 John Pells,  
 Cornelius Swartwout,  
 David Carpenter,  
 Philip Spencer, Jr.,  
 Naham Myers,  
 John Van Derburgh,  
 Wines Manny, Jr.,  
 William Kibbey,  
 John Ryan,  
 John Thomas,  
 John Everett,  
 John Van Valkenburgh,  
 Abraham Pells,  
 George Bloom,  
 Thomas Feuner,  
 Samuel Mulford,  
 John S. Frear,  
 Mary Smith,  
 Sally Van Ness,  
 Elizabeth Tappen,  
 George B. Iverson.

#### NAMES OF PLOT OWNERS OF BAPTIST BURYING GROUND.

(From map made by J. Wilson, dated 1812.)

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| W. Plummer,      | B. Bunker,       |
| J. Tallmadge,    | M. Vassar,       |
| S. Slee,         | J. Vassar,       |
| D. H. Barnes,    | L. Van Kleeck,   |
| D. Coobidge,     | G. Parker,       |
| E. W. A. Bailey, | J. Forbuss,      |
| T. Hopkins,      | E. Dodge,        |
| J. Rhodes,       | N. Power,        |
| H. Dodge,        | A. Raymond,      |
| G. Parker,       | C. Raymond,      |
| J. Norris,       | M. Bailey,       |
| F. Fanning,      | E. Morris,       |
| C. Hillequist,   | B. L. Briggs,    |
| J. Mills,        | Wm. Germond,     |
| J. Wilson,       | J. Moore,        |
| J. Everett,      | A. Henderson,    |
| R. Everett,      | J. Cable,        |
| P. Everett,      | L. Leonard,      |
| Z. Pells,        | O. Holden,       |
| J. Slater,       | D. Williams,     |
| D. Burton,       | J. H. Beardsley, |
| Harvey,          | Charles Smith,   |
| R. S. Street,    | Pierpont,        |
| T. Rodd,         | J. G. Sturgiss,  |
| Sau. Butler,     | Charles Vassar,  |
| N. Conklin,      | J. B. Gay,       |
| J. Holmes,       | J. Moore,        |
| G. Daniels,      | Erish,           |
| S. Cary,         | Al George,       |
| L. Smith,        | A. Smith         |

#### FIRST LAMP DISTRICT.

(Village Minutes September 1, 1850).

Main Street, from the River to Clinton Street.  
 Mill Street, from Vassar to Hamilton Street.  
 Cannon Street, from Market to the Reservoir.  
 Market Street, from Main to Noxon Street.  
 Academy Street, from Main to Noxon Street.  
 Washington Street, from Main to Mill Street.  
 Union Street, from Market Street to the west corner of Market Place.

Church Street, from Market to Hamilton Street.  
 Noxon Street, from Market to Academy Street.  
 Hamilton Street, from Church to Mansion Street.  
 Mansion Street, from Conklin to Clinton Street,  
 including the streets on all sides of Mansion Square.  
 Catharine Street, Crannell Street, Conklin Street.  
 Liberty Street, from Main to Cannon Street.  
 Garden Street, from Main to Mill Street.  
 Lafayette Street, Vassar Street, together with all sections of streets within two hundred and fifty feet of any lamp post, or of a line therefrom across the street, at right angles thereto, as follows, viz.: Water, Clover, Perry, Bayeux, Bridge, Union, Washington, Mansion, Garden, Hamilton, Clinton, Smith, Main, Church, Academy, Catherine, Market and Thompson Streets.

#### LIST OF POUGHKEEPSIANS WHO SERVED ON THE RELIANCE AND THE DUTCHESS.

The following is a list of men who went off on the "Reliance" (Vidette) and the "Dutchess" (Lancer) from Poughkeepsie, in the Civil War:

##### RELIANCE (Vidette).

Abram B. Crapsier, Chief Engineer.  
 Levi Crapsier, Assistant Engineer.  
 W. H. Crapsier, Assistant Engineer.  
 Jacob Koebel (Cable), Fireman.  
 Arthur Sherwood, Fireman.  
 Charles Polhamus, Fireman.  
 George Strathern.  
 Henry Buycce.  
 John Seats.  
 James Ball.  
 Nathan L. Smuly.  
 Walter Scott.

Four of the above were members of Cataract Engine Co., No. 4.

##### DUTCHESS (Lancer).

George Purdy, Chief Engineer.  
 Thomas Quinton, Assistant Engineer.  
 Allen Purdy, Assistant Engineer.  
 William Christy.  
 Cornelius Albotton.  
 George W. Lewis.  
 Alexander Ross.  
 Samuel Whalen.

The above were all members of Cataract Engine Company, No. 4, or other fire companies.

Both the "Reliance" (Vidette) and "Dutchess" (Lancer) went out in the Burnside expedition, and took part in the capture of Roanoke Island, Plymouth, N. C., and Newberne, N. C.

#### CITY OFFICERS.

##### MAJORS.

(Elected for terms of one year until 1850, then for two years.)

1854-1855 James Emott (resigned Jan. 7, 1855).  
 Henry D. Varick (App'd. to finish term).  
 1856-1857 George Wilkinson.  
 1858-1860 Charles W. Swift.  
 1861-1862 James Bowne.



1863-1868 George Innis.  
 1869-1870 George Morgan.  
 1871-1874 Harvey G. Eastman.  
 1875-1876 Jacob B. Carpenter.  
 1877-1878 Harvey G. Eastman (died in office).  
 Dr. John R. Cooper (Apptd. to fill vacancy).  
 1879-1880 William Harloe.  
 1881-1886 Ezra White.  
 1887-1888 Edward Elsworth.  
 1889-1890 Charles M. Rowley.  
 1891-1892 Edward Elsworth.  
 1893-1894 William M. Ketcham.  
 1895-1896 Charles N. Arnold.  
 1897-1898 J. Frank Hull.  
 1899-1900 Isaac W. Sherrill.  
 1901- George M. Hine.

## RECORDERS.

(Elected for terms of four years.)

1854 Dr. William Thomas.  
 1858 Frederick A. Eighmie.  
 1862 Charles Robinson.  
 1866 Robert E. Taylor.  
 1870 Robert E. Taylor.  
 1874 Robert E. Taylor.  
 1878 Robert F. Wilkinson.  
 1882 Frank B. Low.  
 1886 Cyrenus P. Dorland (resigned 1886 to become  
 Surrogate.)  
 Casper L. Odell (One year to fill vacancy).  
 1890 Charles Morschauer.  
 1894 Casper L. Odell (resigned).  
 Samuel H. Brown (Apptd. to fill vacancy).  
 1898 Joseph Morschauer.  
 Became City Judge 1903.

## CITY CHAMBERLAINS.

(Appointed first by Council, afterwards by Mayor.)

1854-1858 Robert N. Palmer.  
 1859-1864 Robert E. Taylor.  
 1865-1866 Joseph G. Frost.  
 1867-1868 Fred W. Pugsley.  
 1869-1873 Wm. Morgan Lee.  
 1874 Joseph G. Frost.  
 1875-1876 George H. Williams.  
 1877-1886 Lewis Baker.  
 1881-1882 Sherman H. LeRoy.  
 1883-1886 Isaac W. Sherrill.  
 1887-1888 Kiernan J. Lawlor.  
 1889-1890 Peter Hulme.  
 1891-1892 Kiernan J. Lawlor.  
 1893-1894 John J. Rudly.  
 1895-1896 E. P. Bogardus.  
 1897-1898 Alonzo H. Vail.  
 1899- Courtland S. Howland.

## CITY TREASURERS.

The office of City Treasurer was created by the Charter of 1869. The corresponding officer before that time was called the City Collector. Frederick Woodruff was Collector from 1854 to 1867, followed for one year by Joseph G. Frost. The first City Treasurer was Daniel B. Marsh, who resigned December 20th, 1869, when Richard E. Lansing was ap-

pointed for the remainder of the term. Subsequent City Treasurers were:

1870 Elias G. Hopkins.  
 1871-1872 Solomon B. Wheeler.  
 1873-1878 Frank W. George (died in office).  
 1879-1880 Byron L. Heath (Apptd. to fill vacancy).  
 1881-1884 Abraham Wilsie.  
 1885-1886 Owen Ward.  
 1887-1888 Frank Hashronck.  
 1889-1890 Ezra White.  
 1891-1892 Henry V. Pelton.  
 1893-1894 Edward S. Haught.  
 1895-1896 Charles R. Dickinson.  
 1897-1898 D. Crosby Foster.  
 1899-1900 Charles E. Schon (resigned).  
 1901- Clinton D. Parkhill.

## CITY ATTORNEYS.

(Office created by the Charter of 1874.)

Allard Anthony had been Corporation Counsel from 1869-1874.  
 1875 O. D. M. Baker.  
 1876-77 William I. Thom.  
 1878-86 Wm. Morgan Lee.  
 1887-88 Charles B. Herrick.  
 1889-90 William R. Woodin.  
 1891-94 Charles B. Herrick.  
 1895-96 P. Edgar Aekert.  
 1897-98 James L. Williams.  
 1899- Wm. Morgan Lee.

CHIEF ENGINEERS OF THE TOUGHKEEPSIE  
FIRE DEPARTMENT.

## VILLAGE.

John Brush.  
 John Cole.  
 Peter P. Hayes.  
 Alfred G. Wainwright.  
 Joseph Wright.  
 C. W. Adriaance.  
 Oliver H. Booth.  
 William Berry.

## CITY.

1854 William Berry.  
 1855-59 Edward P. Taylor.  
 1860 George H. McLean.  
 1861 Stephen Armstrong.  
 1862 George H. McLean.  
 1863 William C. Arnold.  
 1864 John J. Keech, *Res.*  
 1864-65 Robert W. Frost.  
 1866-67 William T. Swart.  
 1868 Edward W. Shurter.  
 1869-72 Isaac H. Wood.  
 1873-75 Charles H. Shurter.  
 1876-77 Edward W. Shurter.  
 1878-79 William Howard.  
 1880-87 William Kaess (died in office).  
 1887-88 Charles D. Fitchett.  
 1889-92 John Bright.  
 1893-96 Lewis Thompson.  
 1897-99 Frederick Bieher.  
 1901-05 George Nagengast.

## ADDENDA AND ERRATA.

On page 20, seven lines from the beginning, 1815 should read 1715.

On the same page the statement as to the connection between the Van den Bogart and Heermance families is unwarranted, at least it does not apply to any present Heermance families so far as known. The name Van den Bogart was used by Myndert Harms's father and probably dates back of the arrival of the family in this country. There seems to be no certain evidence that any of his descendants took the name Heermance.

On page 62 should have been added a statement that Isaac Mitchell purchased the *Republican Herald* September 16th, 1812, and changed the name to "*The Northern Politician*." Mitchell died in November and the next owners of the paper doubtless restored the former name.

On page 154, near the end of the first column, the word "brother," in reference to Mayor George Wilkin-son, should read "nephew."

On page 156 there should be mention of the building of the present Washington Street Church in 1858.

On page 205 there should be mention of the last school conducted on Cottage Hill by John Miley. The old school buildings were torn down by Mr. Mark Shwartz, who purchased the property in May, 1800, and built the present block of brick buildings on the street front.

On page 200, second line, William A. Howland should be Joseph Howland.

On page 244 George Card, near the bottom of the first column, should read Silas Card.

On page 251 there should be mention of the organization of an English Lutheran Church in October, 1901, by Rev. Charles S. Rahn, the present pastor, in co-operation with Rev. H. D. Kraeling, then pastor of the German Lutheran Church. The new congregation is known as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, and purchased its property at 176 Church Street, in 1903. It is a growing church with a present (1905) membership of about 100.

# INDEX.

THE NAMES OCCURRING ONLY IN THE LISTS OF CIVIL WAR ENLISTMENTS, PAGES 175-182; IN THE LIST OF THE FIRST PROFESSORS AND INSTRUCTORS AT VASSAR COLLEGE, PAGE 203; AND IN THE LISTS OF THE GENERAL APPENDIX, PAGES 300-313, ARE NOT INDIVIDUALLY INDEXED.

## A

- Abbott, Robert—77  
 Abel, C. Pierre—222  
 Academy—See Schools  
 Academy Street—32, 64, 65, 77, 108  
 Ackert, A. T.—205  
 Ackert, P. Edgar—244  
 Ackert, Roberta S.—251  
 Ackert, William Samuel, M. D.—270  
 Adams, Rev. B. M.—101  
 Adams, Charles C. (editor 1811)—91  
 Adams, John—50  
 Adriaene, Abraham—63, 92  
 Adriaene, Charles P.—123, 147  
 Adriaene, Cornelius—30, 303  
 Adriaene, Francis H.—253  
 Adriaene, George B.—151, 223  
 Adriaene, Rev. Harris E.—253  
 Adriaene, I. Reynolds—253, 260  
 Adriaene, John (father of John P.)—117, 120, 138, 158  
 Adriaene, John E.—253, 263, 264  
 Adriaene, John P.—158, 180, 191, 192, 194, 200, 217, 220, 223, 253  
 Adriaene, Platt & Co.—191, 197, 234  
 Adriaene, R. E. & Co.—101  
 Adriaene, William A.—253, 260, 264  
 Agnew, Dr. Charles (N. Y.)—200  
 Agricultural Association, Hudson River—222  
 Ahret, John D.—266  
 Aikin, Albro—107  
 Aikin, James C.—171  
 Aikin, Daniel D.—115  
 Aikins, Jonathan, Constitutional Convention, 1788—61  
 Albertson, B.—200  
 Albertson Edge Tool Works—200  
 Aldrich, Richard—133  
 Allen, Augustus L.—107, 172, 215, 237  
 Allen, Flavianus J.—237  
 Allen, Horatio—220, 237  
 Allen, Joseph, 1820—121  
 Allen, Joseph E.—161  
 Allen, Peter K.—103  
 Allen, William, marriage 1744—30  
 Alliger, Mary C.—254  
 Alms House, city—100, 181 board—100  
 Ambler, John P.—253  
 Amen, Harlan Page—250  
 Amnesia—69, 130, 139, 214  
 Ames, Charles E.—103  
 Anderson, Barrett (of S. C.)—135  
 Anderson, Martin B.—167  
 Andrus, Charles H.—206  
 Andrus & Dudley—150, 161  
 Andrus, E. C.—161  
 Andrus, Sylvester—270  
 Angell, Charles P.—251  
 Angell, Evelyn—202  
 Angell, Stephen T.—215  
 Angevine, Elmore & Jaycocks—101  
 Angevine, Henry—145  
 Annabury & Seaman—101  
 Anthes, Charles—101  
 Anthony, Judge Alford—178, 191, 194, 205, 212, 220, 223  
 Anthony, Theophilus—49, 43, 67, 69  
 Anti Reut War—27  
 Apokeepsing—9-15  
 Arlington (Bull's Head)—51, 174, 210  
 Appleton, Christopher—145  
 Appleton, J. H. (Springfield, Mass.)—228, 230  
 Arden, John—73, 88  
 Argus (Albany newspaper)—91  
 Armstrong, Ira—145  
 Armstrong, John—74  
 Armstrong, John, Jr.—68  
 Armstrong, Stephen—107, 108, 153  
 Arnold, Benjamin—84, 90, 270  
 Arnold, Charles N.—243, 250, 270  
 Arnold, C. W. H.—127, 247  
 Arnold David—84, 90, 124, 138, 144, 270  
 Arnold, Levi M.—138, 139, 161, 172, 192  
 Arnold, Nathan—270  
 Arnold, William—78  
 Arnold, William C.—83, 101, 170, 173, 270  
 Assembly, Representatives in, Colonial—20, 33; State—57, 61, 92, 97, 108, 172, 224, 225  
 Assessments, early lists—21, 32; 1831-1830—127; 1800-1878—224  
 Associates (Revolution)—30; list of signers—300, 301  
 Asylum, or "Alonzo and Melissa" (novel)—91  
 Atkins, Alfred—170, 188  
 Atkins, Benjamin—173  
 Atkins, J. S. (1800)—161  
 Atkins, Oliver S.—203  
 Atkinson, William—203  
 Atwater, Edward S.—241  
 Atwater, Mrs. Edward S.—248, 260  
 Atwater, Dr. John P.—219  
 Atwill, Winthrop—207  
 Atwill, Mrs. Winthrop—206  
 Austin, Thomas—145  
 Avery, Dr. E. W.—250  
 Avery, Henry N.—222  
 Avery, Miss Myra L.—50, 266  
 Aweng, Adolphus (French teacher)—123  
 Ayault, George—222  
 Babcock, J. C.—171  
 Babcock, Rev. Rufus—90, 140, 167  
 Backus, Truman J.—203, 250  
 Badger, Ebenezer—30, 72, 85  
 Bagnall, John J.—247  
 Bahret, Jacob—146  
 Bailey, Edmund B.—146  
 Bailey, Elizabeth, marries James Keut—54  
 Bailey, John, Jr.—32, 54, 62  
 Bailey, John N., fire warden 1803—72  
 Bailey, M. & E.—80  
 Bailey, Richard—222  
 Bailey, Theodorius—54, 55, 61, 67, 92  
 Bailey, William (1792)—66  
 Bain, Ferdinand R.—250  
 Bain, Horatio N.—250  
 Bain, Milton—250  
 Baker, Elijah—129  
 Baker, O. D. M.—224, 240  
 Baker, Stephen—172, 174  
 Baker, Valentine—50, 69, 72, 74, 82, 90, 101  
 Balding, Joseph, Pawling 1802—77  
 Balding (Baldwin) Isaac—32, 38  
 Balding, Isaac L.—90, 108, 108, 120, 120, 161, 160  
 Balding, Richard S.—80  
 Baldwin's Hotel, 1803—72, 88  
 Ballard, Caleb—210  
 Banker, John T.—162, 173  
 Banks—  
   City—192, 292  
   Dutchess County—104, 107, 137  
   Exchange, (Henry Davis's)—104  
   Fallkill—138  
   Farmers' and Manufacturers'—107  
   First National—102  
   Manhattan Branch—89  
   Merchants'—137, 138  
   Middle District—89, 101, 107  
   Pongkeepsie—107, 202  
   Pongkeepsie Trust Co.—202  
   Savings—107, 202  
 Bantle, I.—266  
 Barculo, Judge Seward—120, 132, 145, 148, 271  
 Barculo, Mrs. Seward—183  
 Barculo & Swift—131  
 Bard, Dr. Samuel—90  
 Baright, Mrs. Edwin D.—251  
 Barker, Caleb—104, 109, 112, 122, 127, 138, 145  
 Barlow, Elisha (1821)—68  
 Barnard, Capt. Frederick—107, 112, 271  
 Barnard, Judge Joseph F.—162, 170, 182, 188, 190, 223, 271  
 Barnard, Robert A.—151  
 Barneget—82, 92, 143  
 Barnes, Charles H.—252  
 Barnes, David H.—145  
 Barnes, Dr. John—109  
 Barnes, William—103  
 Barnes, William R. (1804)—74

- Barnes & Willoughby (1813) 86  
 Barnett, J. 210  
 Barnese, Balthazar (Van Kleecck) 48  
 Barnum, Charles P. 92, 103  
 Barnum, Dr. H. W. 272  
 Barratt, Helms W. 253, 254  
 Barratt, Nathan 145  
 Bartey, William H. 161  
 Bartey, Charles 123, 137, 145, 148, 105, 204  
 Bartlett, David E. 105  
 Bartlett, Dudley 161  
 Bartlett, Rev. Edward O. 183  
 Bartlett, Joseph O. 161, 162  
 Base Ball 171  
 Basley, E. F. 153  
 Basley, Frank E. 293  
 Bates, Miss E. 210  
 Bayeux, Henry 20  
 Bayeux, Thomas 78  
 Bayer, George W. 203  
 Bauer, Joseph 200  
 Bayley, Dr. Guy C. 225, 250  
 Beadles, in Highlands 52  
 Beadle, D. W. 138  
 Beadle, Dr. Edward L. 208, 210, 212  
 Beadle, Mrs. Edward L. 103  
 Beadle, John, surveyor of turnpike 77  
 Beadle, Timothy 77  
 Bear Baiting 88  
 Beard, Col. O. T. 160  
 Beardsley, Rev. John, First English (Episcopal) minister 23, 30, 31, 37, 38  
 Beardsley, William 200  
 Beardsley, William J. 250  
 Beatty, George H. 191, 171, 173, 210  
 Beattys, Mary 251  
 Beck, Edward 143, 158  
 Beckwith, Elizabeth Reynolds 202  
 Beckwith, John 97, 121  
 Bedell, Dr. 200  
 Bedell, Mrs. Mary H. 251  
 Beecher, Rev. Henry Ward 193  
 Beecher, Rev. James C. 251  
 Beckman, Cornelia (wife of Henry Livingston) 20  
 Beckman, Henry, Justice 1735 25  
 Beckman, Maria, daughter George Clinton 67  
 Beckman, town of 60  
 Benjamin, E. P. 137  
 Beneway, Ezekiel 170  
 Beneway, P. G. 208  
 Benton, Joel 30, 182, 210  
 Berry, George 188  
 Berry, Peter N. (Stormville) 222  
 Berry, William 173, 186  
 Benson, Egbert 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 57, 63  
 Best, John 170, 171  
 Beutel, Martin 186  
 Bible and Tract Society 147  
 Bidder, Frederick 202  
 Biglin, Bernard, James, John (carpenter) 170, 171  
 Billings, Cornelia 78  
 Billings, Major Andrew 30, 49, 55, 65, 72, 78  
 Bishop, George 174  
 Bishop, Joseph Bartlett 250, 294  
 Bishop, Ouis 162, 165, 204, 215, 217, 223, 294  
 Bishop, Wm. Fred. F. (Mrs. Joseph B.) 251  
 Bishop, Caleb 67  
 Bishop, Lypheth 141  
 Bishop, Nathan (Vassar trustee) 167  
 Bishop, S. H. 204  
 Bissell, George E. 250  
 Black, Capt. A. F. 250  
 Blakesleeville 174  
 Blakesley, Amariah 75, 88, 168  
 Blanchard, James (1860) 161  
 Blyden, Mrs. H. W. 105  
 Bloom, George 90, 92  
 Bloom, John 138  
 Board of Public Works 244  
 Board of Trade 217, 223, 234  
 Boardman, Catharine Rogers 202  
 Boeke, Abraham (1775) 30  
 Boeke, Abraham, 1830 and later 115, 144, 157  
 Boeke, Dr. Jacob 205  
 Bogardus, E. P. 208  
 Bogardus, James W. 145, 147, 153  
 Bogardus, Stephen H. 161, 175, 176, 185  
 Bolding, John M., fugitive slave 135  
 Bonker, Benjamin (1867) 60  
 Bonker, Ruth (1867) 60  
 Boorman, James 141  
 Booth, George 74, 78, 83, 84, 85  
 Booth, Henry 94  
 Booth, Judge Henry (Chicago) 105  
 Booth, Miss Lydia 123, 167  
 Booth, Maria Louise 202  
 Booth, Oliver H. 84, 140, 150, 158, 168, 170, 188, 210, 220, 222, 233, 248, 292, 272  
 Booth, Richard 81  
 Booth, William F. 292, 294, 272  
 Boshart, Capt. William F. 170  
 Botwick, William H. (Anemia) 115, 145  
 Bosworth, Miss Arabella 123  
 Bottolph, Edward A. 153  
 Bounties, civil war 182, 185  
 Bouton, R. M. 137  
 Bowman, Joseph 67, 83  
 Bowne, Sarah 207, 251  
 Bowne, James (Mayor) 80, 100, 123, 148, 154, 172, 176, 183, 190, 215  
 Bowne, James, Jr. 157, 222  
 Bowne, J. & Co. 161  
 Bowne, Charles E. 172  
 Boyd, David 85, 108, 116  
 Boyd, John G. 85, 116, 206  
 Boyd, Nathan Trowbridge 86  
 Boyd & Wiltse (1860) 161  
 Brady, Martin V. 237  
 Bramerd, Cephas (N. Y.) 188  
 Braman, Samuel H. 222  
 Brant, Andrus 182  
 Bread Inspector 74  
 Brett, Francis 25  
 Brett, Albert 147  
 Brewer, Amie, Y. W. C. A. 251  
 Brewer, Cornelius 33, 67  
 Brewer, Nazareth 67  
 Brewer, Thomas M. 146  
 Brewster, Gilbert 112, 119, 122, 127  
 Brickyards 130, 143  
 Briggs, Edgar A. 225  
 Brill, John 162, 210  
 Brinkerhoff, Durek 33, 36  
 Brinkerhoff, John H. 230, 237, 272  
 Brinkerhoff, Timis (1840) 145, 147  
 Brinkerhoff, Abraham 25, 38, 55  
 Broas, Benjamin S. 171, 182  
 Broas Brothers 161  
 Broas, Isaac 135  
 Broas, John 133  
 Broas, William 129  
 Brock, John W. 228  
 Brooks, Charles A. 260  
 Brooks, David 61  
 Brooks, John J. 223  
 Brooks & Marshall 158  
 Brower, Rev. Cornelius 78  
 Brower, James 153  
 Brown, Derrick 242  
 Brown, Rev. F. D. 170  
 Brown, George H. (D. & C. R. R.) 215, 216  
 Brown, George R. 188  
 Brown, George S. 171  
 Brown, George T. 161  
 Brown, Samuel H. 244, 274  
 Brown, Thomas S. 158  
 Bruce, Wallace 244  
 Bruff, Richard P. 200  
 Brundage, C. B. 160  
 Brush, Henry 127, 135  
 Brush, John 81, 60, 62, 68, 104, 116  
 Brush, Philo C. (1824) 68  
 Bryant & Stratton 200  
 Buck, Samuel Wells 254  
 Buckhout, George 233  
 Buckhout, Jacob E. 168, 170  
 Buckingham, Stephen H. 167, 200, 207, 208, 210, 212, 223, 251  
 Palmer & Budd 161  
 Budd, Samuel 153  
 Bucl, Jesse 91  
 Bucl, Judge, of Troy (1845) 131  
 Bucl, Rev. Samuel 148, 157, 170  
 Buildings in 1841 310  
 Bulkeley, Rev. Benjamin 78  
 Bullard, Henry W. 244  
 Bull's Head—See Arlington  
 Burchard, Rev. Jedediah 121  
 Burchard, Rev. Samuel D. 161  
 Burgan, Peter 67  
 Burgess, Edward 222, 250, 253  
 Burgoyne, Gen. 41, 42, 43  
 Buring, Lancaster 49  
 Birnap, G. C. 158, 176  
 Birnap, Mrs. G. C. 163  
 Burns, Dr. Edward M. 274  
 Birrit, Josiah 69, 129  
 Burr, Grinnell (W. V. Ry.) 216  
 Burton, Naomi (1807) 60  
 Bushnell, Jennie 251  
 Bushnell, William 143  
 Butler, Charles (1824) 68  
 Butler, George H. 141  
 Butler, L. P. (Mayor of Boston) 221  
 Butts, Allison 230, 248, 274  
 Butts, Ralph F. 274  
 Buys, Hendrick 21
- C**
- Cable, John M. 129  
 Cady, Rev. P. K. 207  
 Carnes, N. G. 120  
 Carre, Adam 235  
 Caldwell, Matthew, fire warden 1833 72, 74  
 Caldwell, John H. 263  
 Call Rock, also Call Rock See Kaal Rock  
 Cameron, Simon (Pa.) 228  
 Canal to Pine Plains 130  
 Candee, W. A. 161  
 Candee, John N. 206, 237  
 Cantine, Peter, Jr. (Revolution) 41  
 Canach, Hannah 105  
 Campbell Hall 230  
 Canajoharie 148  
 Canfield, N. H. (1860) 161  
 Cannon, Amos 182  
 Cannon, George W. 210  
 Cannon Street First mention and name 64; houses on 65, 66, 67; extended 78, 135; paving vote (1814) 307

- Card, A. M. 160.  
 Card, George—244  
 Carey, Egbert—204  
 Carey, William 119  
 Carlisle, W. R. 230  
 Carman, Charles C. 153.  
 Carmell, town of—69  
 Carman, Charles—145.  
 Carnegie, Andrew 220  
 Carpenter & Brother (1860) 101  
 Carpenter, Hon. B. Platt 195, 171, 173, 174, 205, 219, 225.  
 Carpenter, Isaac—215.  
 Carpenter, Jacob B. 172, 182, 192, 223, 259.  
 Carpenter, J. DuBois 160, 230  
 Carpenter, Leonard, Sr. 138, 101  
 Carpenter, Morgan 139, 173  
 Carpenter, Miss Sarah M. 183, 163  
 Carr, Col. Clark E. (III) 105  
 Carland, Alfred L. 251.  
 Cary, Ebenezer 159  
 Cary, James R. 117  
 Cassatt, Andrew J.—230  
 Case, James S.—188  
 Case, Dr. Walter R.—244  
 Casper Kill—Indian names and early settlement—10, 12, 16; Gov. Clinton's place—48; other references—68, 84  
 Celebrations—4th of July—50, 131, 200, 202; Civil War—191, 193, 197; Pok. Centennial—203  
 Cemeteries—See graveyards.  
 Chadwick, Thomas—24.  
 Chain, to obstruct river navigation, Fort Montgomery 40, 41; West Point—49  
 Chamberlam, William—182.  
 Champlin, Albert H.—149, 171  
 Chanler, Robert Winthrop 225.  
 Chapman, W. R. (N. Y.)—260.  
 Chapinville Wheel Co.—235.  
 Charities—Charity Organization Society—251.  
     Home for the Friendless—157.  
     Home of Industry—207.  
     Home for Aged Men (Vassar)—250  
     Old Ladies' Home—204, 208  
 Charlotte precinct—23, 35  
 Charter—First village—70; first city—150-151; 1874—223, 224; 1883—239; recent amendments—244, 247  
 Chase, Hon. Salmon P.—173  
 Cleaveland, Dr. Joseph M. 208  
 Cleveland, Stephen 104, 101.  
 Cheney, Albert O.—176, 254, 264  
 Chichester Chair Factory—210  
 Chichester, N. O.—171.  
 Chichester, P.—182.  
 Chichester, Samuel—133  
 Childs, John—33, 38, 39  
 Choral Club—250, 266.  
 Christy, Thomas (1838)—130  
 Churches—  
     Baptist, Mill Street 60, 200, 252.  
     Lafayette Place—146, 200, 252.  
     Catholic, St. Peter's—122, 147; German—147; St. Mary's—209, 251; Polish—251.  
     Christian Science—251  
     Congregational—122, 159, 166, 251  
     Dutch (Reformed)—22, 23, 53, 65, 68, 73, 122, 200; fire 154-159; Second Reformed—251.  
     English (Episcopal) 23-24.  
     Episcopal, Christ Church—23, 24, 38, 51, 64, 68, 99, 119, 121, 252;  
         St. Paul's—123, 200; Holy Comforter—159, 207.  
     Friends—69, 122; Lafayette Place—122, 252; Montgomery Street—188, 251, 2.  
     Lutheran—146, 200, 314  
     Methodist, 181—69, 122, 314; Cannon St.—146, 252; Hedding—147; Trinity—252; Zion—147; German—149.  
     Presbyterian—23, 121, 147  
     Universalist—149  
     Church Street—94, 77, 135, 217  
     Citizens' Gas Co.—237  
     City Court, created—247  
     City Hall—119, 107, 168  
     City Officers, list of—312, 313  
     Clapp, Mrs. Egbert D.—251  
     Clark, George (Newburgh) 201, 212  
     Clark, Dr. H. F.—262; biog. sketch—275  
     Clark, James B. (N. Y. attorney 1791)—64  
     Clark, Thomas C.—228  
     Clay, Henry—visit to Pok.—129, 130; steamboat disaster—148  
     Clegg, James—139  
     Clegg, Thomas—161, 178, 218  
     Clifford, Daniel—199, 268.  
     Clinton Catechism (1811)—368, 309  
     Clinton, DeWitt—103.  
     Clinton, George W., son of Gov. George—67  
     Clinton, Gov. George, Revolution—39, 41, 42, 43, 44; residence in Pok.—45, 48, 65; letters written in Pok.—46, 48, 53; Constitutional convention—57, 61; daughter marries Citizen Genet—61; buys house on Cannon Street—66, 67; buys Casper Kill farm—67; head com. to buy hotel—88.  
     Clinton, Mrs. George—42, 43, 53  
     Clinton House (Clinton Museum) 32, 47, 48, 64, 110, 266  
     Clinton, Sir Henry—41, 42, 43.  
     Clinton, Gen. James—39, 41  
     Clopper, Mrs. Catherine—38  
     Clubs—  
         Amrita—222.  
         Apokeepsing Boat—263  
         Bicycle clubs—264.  
         Dutchess—264  
         Golf and Country—264  
         Ice Yacht—170  
         Pongkeepsie—264.  
         Shattennie Boat—222.  
         Tennis—264  
     Cockburn, Will, surveyor—31, 32.  
     Coetus and Conferetic dispute—23  
     Coffin, Alexander J.—68, 104, 107, 119, 138, 145, 161, 172.  
     Coffin, Owen T.—160  
     Coffin, Tristram—47, 206, 222, 263  
     Cogswell, Joseph H.—161, 171, 182, 183  
     Golden, Cadwallader D.—55, 66, 67.  
     Coller, H.—161.  
     Coller, John—135  
     College Hill—111, 123, 125, 129, 131, 145, 165, 204, 212, 248, 250.  
     College Rowing Races—264  
     Collingwood, George—264  
     Collingwood, James—158, 161, 192, 210, 219, 220, 222.  
     Collingwood, John G.—263.  
     Collingwood, William—171.  
     Collingwood, Wm. A.—222.  
     Collins, Martin W.—249, 254, 275.  
     Collwell, Charles M.—224  
     Commercial Paint Works—156.  
     Committed of Safety (Revolution)—39  
     Commons—39, 31, 32, 33, 60.  
     Common Council—153, 168, 210, 244  
     Come, H. D.—230  
     Concordia (musical socy) 260  
     Conventions in Revolution—391.  
     Conklin, & Bowne—89, 101, 117  
     Conklin, Henry—164, 168, 115, 117, 123, 127, 129, 138, 139  
     Conklin, Jacob—30  
     Conklin, John—23, 29, 29, 32, 39  
     Conklin, J. M.—86  
     Conklin, Matthew (1775) 39  
     Conklin, Nathan—89, 104, 107, 112, 117, 127  
     Conklin, Nathaniel (1775) 39  
     Conklin, Nehemiah—107, 121  
     Conklin, Richard D.—66  
     Conklin, Storm H.—171  
     Conklin, Susan (wife of Henry Livingston) 29  
     Conkling, Roscoe—165.  
     Constant, S. S. (Vassar trustee) 167.  
     Constitution, protest vs. change 1821—97-98; list of signers—310  
     Continental troops in Pok.—53  
     Contraband business (Revolution)—49  
     Cook, Albert—104  
     Cook, Temperance (1804) 78.  
     Cooke, John (1798) 69  
     Cooly, LeRoy C.—204, 250.  
     Coolidge, Daniel F.—89  
     Cookingham, Jane Maria—202.  
     Cooper, Ananias (1775) 36.  
     Cooper, Ezekiel—39  
     Cooper, Dr. John K.—170, 175, 225.  
     Copaké—214  
     Copeman, John (1804) 78.  
     Copperheads—189, 188  
     Cordwainers Society—161  
     Corlies, George—109, 138, 208, 220, 275  
     Corlies, Jacob—138, 217, 218, 276  
     Corlies, Walter—217  
     Corliss, Joseph N.—218.  
     Cornell, R. D.—174  
     Corning, Erastus—141.  
     Corning, Rev. J. L.—161, 222.  
     Cornish, John (1824)—68  
     Correspondence, committees in Revolution—34, 35, 40; first Pongkeepsie committee—39, 49  
     Cornwallis, surrender celebrated—53  
     Cortwell, George—157, 220.  
     Corwin, Wm. (N. Y.)—215.  
     Cossum, Charles F.—263  
     Cottage Hill—123, 124, 165, 167, 176, 205, 314  
     Cotter, Dr. John H.—263, 276  
     Counties comparison of, in Revolution—48, 49.  
     County House—160  
     Court House, first—19, 20; second—20, 28; in Revolution—37, 49, 51; burned—59; Const. Convention—56, 57; burned, 1806—75, 79; last—250  
     Courts, General Sessions established—20; suspended during 1777—44; conducted by John Jay—49; by James Kent—55.  
     Courts Martial—51  
     Cowles, Col. David S.—182.  
     Cowles, John—68, 129  
     Cowman, Augustus T.—133  
     Cove, Robert E.—157  
     Coxhead, John F.—156  
     Cramer, Elizabeth Anderson—202.  
     Cramer, George E.—253.  
     Crate, Joseph, Jr.—60  
     Crandler and Crawler, Peter—25.

- Craghall, Bartholomew 24, 30, 31, 30, 37, 38.  
 Crannel House, evidence as to its occupation by Gov. Clinton 47, 48, 65.  
 Cray, Rev. Robert Filton 157, 207.  
 Crawford, George (1813) 82.  
 Crego, Josias (1718) 24.  
 Crook, Smith 172.  
 Crooke, Dr. Charles 65.  
 Crooke, Charles 145, 158, 280.  
 Crooke, John 29.  
 Crooke, Philip S. 135.  
 Crosby, Rev. Howard 188.  
 Crosby, Julia M. 207.  
 Crosby, Willard H. 237, 206.  
 Crosby, W. S. & W. H. 160.  
 Crosby, Prof. William H. —188, 224.  
 Crosby, Mrs. William H. —183.  
 Cruger, John C. —182.  
 Crommey, Edward 182.  
 Cunley, Court B. 235.  
 Cunningham, Garwood 88.  
 Cunningham, J. H. 80.  
 Cunningham, Walter 82, 80, 88, 68, 101, 102, 104, 108, 112, 123, 127, 137, 139.  
 Curraney, State, printed in Park 50.  
 Continental 52, scarcity after 1815—95; 1837, 128; Civil War 102.  
 Curtis, Hon. George William 108.  
 Cusack, John H. 203.  
 Cuyler, Rev. Cornelius C. 81, 90, 121, 122.
- D**
- Daly, James 160.  
 Daniels, Briggs & DuBois (1860) 161.  
 Damm, R. 210.  
 Danskaammer, deeds to land opposite—11.  
 Darrow, Samuel K. 188.  
 Daughton, Joseph A. 263.  
 Davids, George W. 180, 208, 222, 280.  
 Davids, Washington 123.  
 Davies, Thomas I. 80, 104, 107, 112, 124, 127, 140, 148, 157, 160, 162, 173.  
 Davies, Mrs. Thomas L. 183, 193.  
 Davies, Thomas 222.  
 Davies, William A. 82, 107, 150, 158, 162, 188, 207, 209, 220.  
 Davies, William (see also Davis) 82, 108.  
 Davis, Andrew Jackson, "seer of Poughkeepsie" 138, 139.  
 Davis, Fred W. 162, 212.  
 Davis, Prof. George Fred 166.  
 Davis, Gerret 26.  
 Davis, Henry, son of Richard 82, 90, 104.  
 Davis, John 34, 74.  
 Davis, John H. 104.  
 Davis, Leonard, son of Richard —65, 82, 86, 108.  
 Davis, Richard 28, 31, 32, 36, 44, 62, 67, 60; children of 82.  
 Davis, Richard D. 119, 135, 138.  
 Davis, Theodore W. 212.  
 Davis (Davies?) William 67, 82, 90, 130, 130.  
 Dawson, Symmes & Usher 228.  
 Deau, Hon. Gilbert 172, 182, 190.  
 Dean, John W. & Son (1860) 161.  
 Deane, Gilbert A. 242.  
 Deba, city 1873-1876 224.  
 de Dinsor, Rollei, marriage 1738, 30.  
 De Graef, Jan 21.  
 De Graef, Abraham, marriage 1741, 30.  
 De Graef, Hester, marriage 1735, 30.  
 De Graef, Joseph (1804) 74.  
 De Graff, John (probably son of Jan) 20, 28, 31, 30.  
 De Graff, Moses 20.  
 De Graff, Amos T. (1830) —122.  
 De Graff, Jacob 120, 145.  
 De Garmo, Elias S. 209.  
 De Garmo, Smith L. 200.  
 Dehafield, John 122, 123, 124, 127, 130.  
 de Langhe (de) Louwerens, marriage, 1738—39.  
 De Laval Separator Co. 234; sketch—270.  
 De Laverigne, Benjamin 60.  
 Delemater, John W. 259.  
 De Long, Elias—67.  
 Dennis, A. L. (Newark, N. J.) —220.  
 Dennis, G. L. —188.  
 Depew, Chauncey M. 190, 240.  
 de Peyster, Johnston I. —225.  
 de Reimer, Marthe (wife of Robert G. Livingston) 20.  
 Deremer, Peter, 1804 78.  
 De Witt, Jacob, lieutenant, 1734—25.  
 De Witt, John, Const. Convention, 1788—91.  
 Dewey, William 130.  
 Deyo, Jerome V. 222.  
 Dickson, Charles R. 250.  
 Dickinson, Pomeroy P. 214, 210, 220, 230.  
 Diamond, C. A. 190.  
 Dix, John A. (Governor)—225.  
 Dobbs, Ely R.—181.  
 Dobbs, J. H. 161.  
 Dobbs, William C. 188.  
 Dobbs, William Lyon—250.  
 Dobson, Dr. W. G.—204.  
 Dodge, Mrs. LeGrand—103.  
 Doherty, P. C.—203.  
 Donald, Converse & Maynard 237, 250.  
 Dorland, Cyrenus P.—205, 240.  
 Dorland, Peter 205.  
 Doty, Isaac, Jr. 80.  
 Doty, Spencer C.—160, 182.  
 Doty, Thomas 200, 222.  
 Doughty, Augustus 222.  
 Doughty, Cornell & Co.—210.  
 Doughty, Isaac T.—102.  
 Doughty, Joseph C.—138, 167, 210, 217.  
 Doughty, Sterling 222.  
 Doughty, William —162.  
 Douglas, Nathan, of Danbury, Ct. 62.  
 Dow, John de Peyster 162, 277.  
 Downing, A. J., landscape architect 148.  
 Downing, James 122.  
 Downing, Mitchell—251.  
 Downing, Silas 122.  
 Downs, M. S.—206.  
 Draft Riots 180.  
 Drafts in Civil War 183, 185.  
 Driving Park, Doty's Union 222.  
 Driving Park, Poughkeepsie 222, 225.  
 Du Bois Brothers 80.  
 Du Bois, Cornelius 167, 168, 172, 192, 208, 209, 217, 222.  
 Du Bois, Elias 67.  
 Du Bois (DuBoys), Gideon 26.  
 Du Bois, Joel (1824) 33, 68.  
 Du Bois, Lewis 20, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32, 36, 38, 64.  
 Du Bois, Metthis 25.  
 Du Bois, Pieter, elder Dutch Church—22, 24.  
 Dudley, Guilford 251.  
 Dudley, James H. 153, 190, 208, 217.  
 Dudley, Layma (Mrs. Guilford) 251.  
 Dudley & Thompson (1860) —191.  
 Duetsen, Rev. Daniel 149.  
 Du Lang, Frans, capt. 1720 24.  
 Dunbar, Elan 135.  
 Duncomb, Charles H. 90.  
 Dungan, Charles B. —148.  
 Durando, Stephen 74, 77.  
 Durbin, John (Revolution)—40.  
 Dutch, compared with English, first assessment 21; language in church service 23, 68.  
 Dutcher, James E. 224, 244.  
 Dutcher, John B. 167, 182.  
 Dutcher, Lawrence W. 203.  
 Dutchess County, organization—19, 20, 21.  
 Divisions into Wards and Precincts—21, 25.  
 Early politics 57, 61.  
 Division after Revolution 64.  
 Division of school money 68.  
 Dutchess County case (1801)—242.  
 Dutchess County Telephone Co.—239.  
 Dutchess Hotel, Cannon St. 88.  
 Dutchess Manufacturing Co. 235.  
 Dutchess Ins. Co. 90, 115, 162, 277.  
 Dutton, Samuel 123.  
 Dutton, Samuel B. 168, 120, 162.  
 Dwyght, William B.—250.  
 Dyckink, Gerardus 77.
- E**
- Eagan, Madison 170.  
 Earley, Rev. Terence J.—251.  
 Eastman College 190, 191, 198, 200, 225, 254.  
 Eastman Park—200.  
 Eastman, Harvey G. 160, 170, 191, 192, 194, 197, 201, 209, 212, 214, 215, 219, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 225, 228.  
 Eastmead, Charles 222.  
 Eastmead & Osborne 237.  
 Elstein, Ludwig 157, 188.  
 Eckert, Jacob I. 127.  
 Eden Hills 110, 148.  
 Education (see schools).  
 Education, Board of, first elected 145; first appointed 254.  
 Egerton, John 21.  
 Eighmie, George D. 235.  
 Eighmie, Jeremiah 215.  
 Eisel, John E.—133.  
 Elmendorf, Rev. Joachim—250.  
 Elmendorf, Lucas (of Ulster)—95.  
 Eldridge, Jodge Egbert Q. 133.  
 Electric Light 230, 237.  
 Elections (see politics).  
 Ellison, Thomas 64.  
 Ellsworth, Edward 165, 217, 224, 240, 249, 250; biog. sketch—280.  
 Ellsworth Greys 178, 181, 189, 188, 203.  
 Elting, Abraham & Son 131.  
 Elting, Henry D. 95.  
 Elting, Irving 18.  
 Elting, Capt. Luther 127.  
 Elting, Noah—60.  
 Ely, Andrew 130.  
 Emans, Albert 182.  
 Emans, Storm 242.  
 Emerson, Ralph Waldo—116.  
 Emott, Judge James, Sr. 55, 74, 90, 91, 98, 107, 115, 135.  
 Emott, Judge James, Jr. —138, 152, 153, 162, 170, 178, 182, 188, 190, 197, 210, 210; biographical sketch 280.  
 Emott, Mrs. James 183.  
 Emott, (Squire) William—36, 38, 40, 61, 63, 95, 72, 73, 74, 77, 90.  
 Engrem (Ingraham?) Duncan 67.  
 Enlistments, Civil War —175, 183.

- Eno, William (Pine Plains)—215.  
 Ernest, Anthony (1798)—69.  
 Erskine, Robert, letter to Geo. Clinton, 1770—30.  
 Esopus Island (Cline Sopas Island)—25.  
 Euzebia mower—200.  
 Enterprise Glee Club—206.  
 Everitt, Clear—20, 29, 30, 32, 36, 48, 65.  
 Everstson ancestry—281.  
 Everstson, George B.—67, 75, 80, 81, 82, 89, 90, 121.  
 Everitt House (see Clinton House).  
 Everitt, John—73.  
 Everitt, Peter—80, 89, 101, 107, 117, 139.  
 Everitt, Richard—32, 36, 69, 72.
- F**
- Fall Kill (Relation to name Poughkeepsie)—Chap. I.  
 Fall Kill Improvement—212, 214.  
 Fallkill Manufacturing Co.—237.  
 Family Magazine—137.  
 Fanning, Robert—131, 304.  
 Fanning, William A.—153, 170, 217.  
 Farnum, Morgan A.—160, 171, 210.  
 Farnum, Samuel J.—167, 170.  
 Farrington & Co.—161.  
 Farrington, George W.—145.  
 Farrington, Walter—248.  
 Farrington, W. R.—247.  
 Fay, Eliphaz—124, 165.  
 Federalists—In Const. Convention—57, 61.  
     Political campaigns—61, 61, 96, 102.  
     Downfall of party—103.  
 Fenner, Thomas—123.  
 Ferdon, Jacob—37.  
 Ferdon, Johannes—24.  
 Ferguson, Uriah L.—177, 210.  
 Ferris, Mary—207.  
 Ferris, Nathaniel—104.  
 Ferris, Robert M.—264.  
 Ferris, William L. Jr.—222.  
 Ferry—Established—60.  
     Incorporated (horseboat)—95, 96.  
     Moved to Main Street—230.  
 Field, George S.—228.  
 Field, John—38, 74, 86.  
 Fifteenth Sep. Co.—263.  
 Filkin, Elizabeth, marriage—30.  
 Filkins, Frans, judge, etc.—25, 30.  
 Filkins, Henry (Sheriff)—26.  
 Filkintown Road—24, 26, 32, 55, 70, 78.  
 Finch, Henry—143, 158.  
 Fires—Court House (1785)—50; (1800)—75.  
     Vassar Brewery, 1811—85.  
     Big fire of 1830—120.  
     In 1849-1852—149.  
     Dutch Church—154, 156.  
     Len's (Red) Mills—156.  
     Morgan-Wright block, 1860—156.  
     Pardee block, 1870—219.  
     Whitehouse factory—262.  
     Glass Works—262.  
     Reynolds Elevator—262.  
     Gas Works—262.  
 Fire Companies, first mention—70; apparatus in 1805—74.  
 Bag Men—74.  
 Engine Co. No. 1 (1804)—74; name "Protection"—150; disbanded—154, 260.  
 Engine Co. No. 2 (Niagara)—74, 150, 156, 260.  
 Engine Co. No. 3 (Washington)—74, 150, 154.  
 Engine Co. No. 4 (Cataract)—120, 149, 150, 154, 156, 260; charter members—310.  
 Engine Co. No. 5 (Neptune)—120, 149, 154, 156, 260.  
 Engine Co. No. 6 (Young America)—154; reorganized as Hose Co.—260.  
 Hook and Ladder Men—74; Davy Crockett—120, 149, 150, 260.  
 Hose Co. No. 1 (Red Rover)—120; reorganized as Phoenix—149, 260.  
 Hose Co. No. 2 (Howard)—120; reorganized as Booth Hose—150, 260.  
 Hose Co. No. 3 (Lady Washington)—260.  
 Fire Department—74, 119, 120, 149, 159, 260; list of chief engineers—313.  
 Fire Engines—72, 73, 74, 149, 154; steamers—156, 260.  
 Fishkill—In Revolution—43, 51, 52; after Revolution—69, 130, 149, 268, 215.  
 Fishkill Landing—123.  
 Fishkill and Poughkeepsie churches united—22, 23.  
 Flagler, E. O.—161.  
 Flagler, Emma (Mrs. E. O.)—251.  
 Flagler, Henry—120.  
 Flagler, John P.—147.  
 Flagler, Joseph—268.  
 Flagler, Paul—206, 209.  
 Flagler, Samuel P.—240.  
 Flezclar, Zacharias—26.  
 Flezclar, Getrin, marriage 1738—30.  
 Foland, Peter—259.  
 Fonda, A. (1860)—161.  
 Fonda, James H.—137, 138.  
 Fonda, Walter Cunningham—137.  
 Forbes, Alexander—99, 116, 115, 135, 138, 264.  
 Forbes Hill—172-174.  
 Forbes, John—75, 90.  
 Forbes, John B.—119, 122, 124, 162.  
 Forby, William—237.  
 Foruan, William—36.  
 Forrest, Robert—122, 200.  
 Forster, R. S.—161.  
 Fort, Major Abraham—40, 68.  
 Fort Constitution—40, 42.  
 Fort Montgomery—40, 41, 42.  
 Foster, David C.—162, 223.  
 Foster, D. Crosby—251.  
 Foster & Gale—149.  
 Foster, Thomas—222.  
 Fowler, Benjamin M.—248.  
 Fowler, C. A.—237.  
 Fowler, Charles E.—212.  
 Fowler, George P. (1860)—161.  
 Fowler, John W.—162, 165.  
 Fowler, Milton A.—205, 209.  
 Fowler, Oscar A.—171, 268.  
 Fowler, Sidney—268.  
 Fox, Wm. B.—188.  
 Francis, John (1824)—68.  
 Franklyn, Charles G.—220.  
 Frank, Valentine—160; Jr.—264.  
 Frank, William H.—253, 262, 264.  
 Franklin, Town of—60.  
 Frear, James B.—110, 122.  
 Frear, Simeon I. (1864)—74.  
 Freartown—174.  
 Friederick, Town of—60.  
 Freer (Frere), Abraham—26, 31, 33.  
 Freer, Baltus (1798)—67.  
 Freer, Jacobus—33, 41.  
 Freer, John—32, 38, 39, 63, 68.  
 Freer, T.—67.  
 Free Masons, Solomon's Lodge—50; see also Masons.  
 French, Colonial wars with—26, 27.
- French, Bronson—66, 161.  
 Frick, H. C. (Pa.)—228.  
 Frost, Aaron—172.  
 Frost, Henry S.—170, 237.  
 Frost, John (1771)—32.  
 Frost, Joseph G.—265.  
 Frost, Miss Julia—252.  
 Frost & Parish—219.  
 Frost, Robert W.—216, 217, 222.  
 Frost, Solomon V.—68, 104, 110, 138, 161.  
 Frost, Stephen—122.  
 Frost, William (1830)—120.  
 Frost, William & Son, 1860—161.  
 Fuller, Benjamin (1867)—90.  
 Furman, William—264.
- G**
- Gager, John—208.  
 Games, Clement C.—254, 255; Biographical sketch—282.  
 Gallandet Home—251.  
 Gary, John—85.  
 Gas lighting 148, 237; first lamp district—312.  
 Gansman, George—133.  
 Gay, Bartholomew—97.  
 Gaylord, Charles J.—183, 190.  
 Gaylord, Doty & Co.—210.  
 Gaylord, George R.—182, 220.  
 Gay, Luther (Town Washington)—98.  
 Gedrans, Lowrens, marriage 1737—30.  
 Genet, "Citizen," French minister, marriage's daughter of George Clinton—61; children of—97.  
 Gentner, Andrew—133.  
 Gerard, W. R.—14, 250.  
 Germania Singing Society—104, 260.  
 Germond, Isaac—161.  
 Germond, Silas—115.  
 Gerow, Joseph W. & Co.—161.  
 Gibbons, William P.—145.  
 Gibbs, W. W.—228, 230.  
 Gidley, Townsend F.—122.  
 Gilbert, Walter D.—260.  
 Gildersleeve, Elmer D.—252.  
 Gildersleeve, Henry A.—182, 183.  
 Gile, Benjamin—145.  
 Giles, John—127.  
 Gifford, Nathan—117, 145.  
 Gifford, Sherman & Innis—149, 157, 233.  
 Gill Place, below Pok—43.  
 Giraud, Jacob P.—264.  
 Giraud, Pierre—161.  
 Glass, A. J.—235.  
 Glass Works, Poughkeepsie—114, 234; sketch—201.  
 Glebe House (Eng. Church)—24.  
 Goetschius, Rev. John H.—23.  
 Goff, Edward H.—237.  
 Goshen—27, 51.  
 Goss, Sarah (1867)—90.  
 Goss, William (1867)—90.  
 Gow, Prof. George C.—250, 266.  
 Graham, Charles (Revolution)—39.  
 Graham, Col. Morris (Revolution)—35, 38, 40, 42.  
 Graham, William—153.  
 Granger, Francis—103.  
 Grant, E. F.—138.  
 Grant, James—68, 104, 167, 123.  
 Gray, Augustus B.—225.  
 Graves, Orson—173.  
 Graveyard—23, 73, 76, 90, 169, 121; Rural Cemetery—148; Inscriptions in Dutch Burial Ground, Main St.—300; Original plot holders Dutch Reformed Burial Ground, Hyde Park Road—311; Baptist Burial Ground, Garden St.—312.

- Great Barrington (Mass.) 215.  
 Greeley, Horace 200, 205.  
 Green, Jacob 104.  
 Green, John—95, 112, 117, 122.  
 Green, John L. 182.  
 Green, William H.—153.  
 Gregory, Rev. G. H.—252.  
 Gregory, Theodorius 118, 127, 135, 101, 174, 215.  
 Gregory, Mrs. Theodorius—148, 157.  
 Gregory, Uriah 117, 127, 143.  
 Griffin, Angelica (Y. W. C. A.) 251.  
 Griffin, Edwin (Clinton)—215.  
 Grinnell, T. 206.  
 Grinnell, Irving 222.  
 Grinnell, Moses H. 141.  
 Grube, Charles—266.  
 Grubb, John 146, 216, 218.  
 Guernsey, Daniel W. 205.  
 Guernsey, Stephen Gano—244; biographical sketch—283.  
 Gunn, Abel J. 127.  
 Gurney, May 251.
- H**
- Haber, Fragarhys 25.  
 Hackett & Williams 248.  
 Haff, William, Revolutionary story—37.  
 Haggerty, James 171.  
 Haggie, William (Vassar trustee) 107.  
 Hageman, Rev. Charles S. 194.  
 Hager, Mrs. Eliza 148.  
 Hager, J. Henry—157, 186.  
 Haight, A. V. 219, 244, 278.  
 Haight, Hiram (1860) 161.  
 Haight, Zebulon—122.  
 Hale, Matthew 165.  
 Hallowell, Nathaniel (Milton) 222.  
 Halloway, Seneca V. 225.  
 Halloway, Harrison 175, 177, 185.  
 Halliwell, George (1860) 386.  
 Halliwell, George W. (1860)—161.  
 Hall, Edwin 172.  
 Hall, Israel P. (1835) 120.  
 Hall, Tallmadge—56.  
 Halpin, William 157.  
 Halstead, Benjamin 162.  
 Halstead, Frank W. 293.  
 Halstead, John G. 173.  
 Ham, Milton (1860) 162.  
 Hamilton, Alexander, visits Pok 50; in Const. Convention, 1788, 57, 61.  
 Hammond, Lewis C. (1860)—161.  
 Hanchette, Hon. B. F. (Wis.) 195.  
 Hannah, B. L. 159.  
 Hannah & Storm 158.  
 Hanscom, A. J. 217.  
 Harbottle, John (1867) 99.  
 Harboe, Matthew 178, 181.  
 Harboe, William 168, 201, 225.  
 Harper, James (N. Y.) 167.  
 Harris, David 192.  
 Harris, Edwin S. 253.  
 Harris, Ira 167.  
 Harris, Joseph 82, 119, 127, 129.  
 Harris, Joseph C. 162.  
 Harris, Peter 24, 32, 33.  
 Harris, Richard (1894) 74.  
 Harris, Stephen (1861) 78.  
 Hartford, Ct. 216, 227, 230.  
 Hartman, William 264.  
 Hart's Village 215, 216.  
 Harvey, Albert B. 268.  
 Harvey, John C. 153.  
 Harvey, Gen. Thomas W. 136, 137.  
 Hasbrouck, Morahan 220.  
 Hasbrouck, Dr. Alfred 188.  
 Hasbrouck, Frank 222, 225, 248.  
 Hasbrouck, Mrs. Frank 266.  
 Hasbrouck, Henry 263.  
 Hasselberg, L. 266.  
 Hatch, A. S. 123, 126.  
 Hatch, Rev. Frederick W. 123.  
 Hatch, Mrs. Frederick W. 147.  
 Hatton, Robert (Revolution)—49.  
 Haubennestel, John 264.  
 Haubennestel, William—188, 206, 215, 244, 263.  
 Hawkins, Barnet 145.  
 Haupt, R. W. 204.  
 Haydock, Mrs. 193.  
 Hayes, Peter P.—112, 117, 123, 129, 131.  
 Hayes & Adams 102.  
 Hayes, Edmund—228.  
 Hayman, Capt. R. R. 188.  
 Haynes, E. M. 158.  
 Hay scales—83.  
 Hay, Peter B.—219, 237.  
 Heartfield, Rev. Frank—250.  
 Heath, J. Parker 217.  
 Heath, Charles 217.  
 Heermance and Van den Bogart tradition—20, 314.  
 Heermance, Martin—240; biographical sketch—283.  
 Heermance, Mrs. Martin 266.  
 Hegeman, Henry—68.  
 Hegeman, Isaac, marriage 1740 39.  
 Hegeman, Sara, marriage 1744 30.  
 Hegeman, Wallace W.—205, 209, 212, 216, 222.  
 Helms & Peters (1860)—161.  
 Henderson, Adam 104, 101.  
 Henderson, George R.—145.  
 Henderson, Oliver S.—153.  
 Henderson, Samuel (1824)—98.  
 Hendrickson, Stephen—49, 65, 88, 123.  
 Hengstebeck, Frank 188, 190.  
 Hermans, Hendricks, Capt. (1720)—24.  
 Herrick, Benjamin 81, 86, 88, 92, 104.  
 Herrick & Loeck 248.  
 Herrick, Mrs. Mary—205.  
 Herrick, P. 181.  
 Herrick, Rufus (Revolution) 39.  
 Herrick, Sarah Jane—202.  
 Heywood, J. 216.  
 Hewitt, Gideon P.—167, 168, 116, 117, 123, 124, 135, 138.  
 Hibbard, David (1826)—121.  
 Hickok, Charles H. 266.  
 Hight, William 171.  
 Highlands, defense of up to fall of Fort Montgomery 49, 11, 42; new defenses 46, 48, 52.  
 Hill, David B. (Governor) 228, 249.  
 Hill, James T. (1860) 153, 161, 170.  
 Hill, Nathaniel 156.  
 Hill, N. & Son 156.  
 Hill, Rev. William Bancroft—251.  
 Hill, William C. 222, 263.  
 Hillebrust, Casper (1864) 74.  
 Hills, named about town 174.  
 Hinkley, Voice—83.  
 Hinkle, Charles J. 204.  
 Hinkley, James W. 249, 242, 244, 259.  
 Hinc, George M. 235, 244.  
 Hitchcock, Mark H. 216, 217.  
 Hohart, John Sloss 49.  
 Hohart, Powell 294.  
 Holson, John (1861, 1814) 74, 86.  
 Hoff, C. C. 179, 173.  
 Hoffman, Abraham 83.  
 Hoffman, Anthony 36, 67, 69.  
 Hoffman, Rev. P. 149.  
 Hoffman, Isaac 67, 83.  
 Hoffman, Martin (1755) 29, 83.  
 Hoffman, Martin, Jr.—95, 101.  
 Hoffman, Martin & Co. 77, 82, 83.  
 Hoffman, Robert 32, 81, 83.  
 Hoffman, Theodore A.—242.  
 Holden, John G. P. 148, 186.  
 Holden, Oliver—81, 86.  
 Holley, A. H. (Gov., Ct.)—221.  
 Holmes, Obadiah (Holmes St. named from)—116.  
 Holt, Miss Isabella 123.  
 Holt, John, printer in Rev. 50, 51.  
 Home for the Friendless—157.  
 Home Guards (Civil War)—186.  
 Hoogboom, Bartholomew—21.  
 Hooker, James—92, 102, 104, 107, 110, 127, 141.  
 Hook Landing—Old name of New Hamburg—33.  
 Hooper, John T.—216.  
 Hopewell Junction—219.  
 Hopkins, Benjamin 162.  
 Hopkins, Elias G.—133, 153.  
 Hopkins, John M.—141.  
 Hopkins, Lemuel J. (1860)—161.  
 Hopkins, Col. Roswell—36, 38.  
 Hopkins, Rev. William Herman—204.  
 Horse racing—168, 222.  
 Horsfall, J. H. 217.  
 Horticultural Society—264.  
 Hospitals—Hudson River State—208.  
 St. Barnabas—267.  
 Vassar—267, 248, 249.  
 Hotels—Early—88, 107.  
 Eastern House—118, 161.  
 Exchange House—118, 233.  
 Forbes House—68, 161, 174, 259.  
 Franklin (Fowler) House—88, 161.  
 Gregory House—172, 266.  
 Mansion House—123.  
 Morgan House—172, 266.  
 Northern Hotel—118, 126, 161, 190, 259.  
 Nelson House—251.  
 Poughkeepsie Hotel—78, 86, 88, 98, 126, 129, 131, 149, 161; list of purchasers in 1864 for political headquarters—306.  
 Houghton, Charles L.—222.  
 Houston, Andrew 166.  
 Howard, Harriet R.—251.  
 Howard, Seth, 1814—84.  
 Howard, Peter M.—219, 256.  
 Howell, Eugene N.—235, 249, 260, 264.  
 Howland, Dr. Anna C.—251.  
 Howland, Gardner R.—141.  
 Howland, Joseph—122.  
 Howland, Joseph (State Treas.)—314.  
 Howland, Peleg—122.  
 Howland, Seneca 162.  
 Hoy-radt, Willet 254.  
 Hoyt, Dr. James, Biog. sketch—284.  
 Hoyt, Stephen (1861)—74.  
 Huddleston, the spy, hanged 52.  
 Hudson—182, 183.  
 Hudson River—Efforts to obstruct in Revolution—49.  
 Hudson River Iron Co. 201, 225.  
 Hudson River Railroad—See Railroads.  
 Hudson River State Hospital—208, 209.  
 Hudson River Telephone Co.—237.  
 Hufcutt, Mrs. Horace D.—266.  
 Hughes, Charles T.—263.  
 Hughes, Christopher (1785) 39.  
 Hughes, Christopher—162, 260.  
 Hughes, Col. (Revolution)—43.  
 Hull, Dr. A. Crook 209.  
 Hull, George D.—137.  
 Hull, John E.—138, 162, 268, 239.  
 Hull, J. Frank (John E. Jr.)—222, 237, 241.  
 Hull, Mrs. J. Frank—251.  
 Hull, William B.—263.  
 Hulme, Peter—221, 263.  
 Humphrey, Cornelius (1775)—36.



Humphrey, Col. William—38, 41, 42.  
 Hunt, Freeman, quoted—118.  
 Hunting, Edward—172.  
 Hunting, Isaac (1821)—98.  
 Hunter, Robert H.—209, 225, 244, 253, 259.  
 Hussey, James (Capt. 1729)—24.  
 Husted, Gen. James W.—221, 225.  
 Husted, Walter L.—188.  
 Hustis, H. H.—182.  
 Hyde, Guy—89.  
 Hyde, Liberty—101, 219.  
 Hyde Park—43, 84, 117, 170.

## I

Ibbotson, Henry—137.  
 Ice Yachting—168-170, 221.  
 Improvement Party—108, 115, 123, 126, 135, 138.  
 Indian names, Chapter I.  
 Indians—21, 26.  
 Innis, Aaron, Sr.—83, 101, 107, 112, 117.  
 Innis, Aaron, Jr.—179, 171, 188, 216, 220, 222, 227, 263.  
 Innis, George—117, 182, 186, 187, 188, 208, 209, 215, 217, 220, 223; biog. sketch—284.  
 Innis, Mrs. George—103.  
 Innis, William R.—203.  
 Insurance Companies—90, 115, 162.  
 Iron Foundries—119, 139, 161.  
 Iron Furnaces—143, 157, 233.

## J

Jackson, Charles—178, 181.  
 Jackson campaign, 1828—103.  
 Jackson, Joseph H.—120, 131, 145, 147, 151.  
 Jarmon, John—30.  
 Jay, John—Sent to Pok. 1770—40; holds court in Pok—49; Constitutional Convention—58, 59; vote of County for Governor—61.  
 Jennings, Edgar S.—177.  
 Jennings, Eli—120, 127.  
 Jenny, William—124.  
 Jervis, John B.—141.  
 Jewett, Grace Bayley—202.  
 Jewett, Henry—256.  
 Jewett, Herman—200.  
 Jewett, Jacob B.—141, 148, 151, 188, 190, 223, 224.  
 Jewett, Milo P.—105, 107, 168, 203, 205.  
 Jewett, Nathan H.—145.  
 Jewish Synagogue—156.  
 Jillard, Thomas—217.  
 Jillson, Augustus—138.  
 Jillson, J. A.—161, 171.  
 Johns, Victoria L.—251.  
 Johnson, Albert—178, 181, 183.  
 Johnson, Charles D.—203.  
 Johnson, Samuel (Wap. Falls)—222.  
 Johnston, Mattie F. (Mrs. Floy M.)—251.  
 Johnston, Floy M.—142, 222, 263.  
 Johnston, F. R.—173.  
 Johnston, Theodore V.—142, 170, 222, 239.  
 Johnston, Samuel B.—145, 148.  
 Johnston, William S.—142, 182, 185, 194, 250.  
 Jones, Catharine Rogers—202.  
 Jones, Edward—141.  
 Jones, Daniel—160.  
 Jones, Samuel (1788)—50.  
 Joy, P. A.—161.  
 Joyner, Nathaniel—91.  
 Juffrow's Hook—18.

## K

Kaal Rock (many spellings)—9, 20, 44, 69, 98.  
 Kaess, William—237.  
 Keep, Jan (widow of)—21.  
 Kelly, Henry—122.  
 Kelly, Hon. William (Rbk.)—167, 168, 176, 182.  
 Kemble, Gouverneur—141.  
 Kendrick, Rev. J. Ryland—252.  
 Kent, George—133.  
 Kent, James, in Pok—54, 55, 57; describes Const. Convention—59, 61.  
 Kenworthy, Richard—149, 172, 205, 215, 217.  
 Kerr, James A.—203.  
 Ketcham, James—173.  
 Ketcham, John N.—115.  
 Ketcham, Gen. John H.—107, 172, 173, 182, 190, 191, 195, 197, 200, 205, 244; biog. sketch—285.  
 Ketcham, William M.—244.  
 Kettlas, William—95.  
 Kettel, Rev. G. F.—178.  
 Kidney's Creek, northern boundary city—79.  
 Kidney, William (1804)—74.  
 Kieselner, P.—260.  
 Killes, Egbert B., Sr.—73, 104, 129, 130, 140, 141, 145, 149, 148.  
 Killely, Mrs. Egbert B. (Julia A.)—157.  
 Killely, Egbert B., Jr.—171, 172, 242.  
 Kimball, Dr. George N.—251.  
 Kimball, H.—219.  
 King, Andrew—216, 218, 224.  
 Kingston—Barring of—43, 44; Legislature there—49, 51; other references—27, 39, 89, 91, 107, 210.  
 Kinney, John—36.  
 Kip, Matewis—26.  
 Kip, Jacob, Jr., Capt. 1720—24, 25.  
 Kip, Rd., justice 1720—24.  
 Kipp, James H.—250.  
 Kirchner, Charles—220, 260.  
 Kirchner Hall—219, 262.  
 Kirkwood, James P.—212.  
 Knapp, Abraham P.—101.  
 Knapp, George H.—173.  
 Kneass, Strickland—220.  
 Knickerbocker, Lowerens, Capt. 1720—24.  
 Knights of Columbus—259, 263.  
 Knights of Pythias—263.  
 Knower & Hobson, hat manufacturers, 1798—69.  
 Korner, Lieut.—188.  
 Kosciuszko, visit to Clinton at Pok—49.  
 Kuhn, A.—266.

## L

Landing: Lower (R. Davis's, Pine St.)—28, 31, 82, 117, 174, 210; Main St. (Kaal Rock)—26, 69, 77, 82, 83, 117, 210, 230; Reade's Landing—77; Union—28, 91, 81, 82, 117, 143; Upper (Hoffman's, Mill St.)—82, 83, 95, 117, 174, 210, 230; others—82.  
 Landon, Francis G.—225, 295, 285.  
 Landon, Jonathan, 30, 286.  
 Lane, Dr. Charles E.—247, 257, 286.  
 Lane, John G.—234.  
 Lane, William J.—234.  
 Langdon, John (Revolution)—39.  
 Lansing, see also Lossing.  
 Lansing, Derrick vs. D. Russell—131.  
 Lansing, Gerrit, Indian mortgage—11, 17.  
 Lansing, Gerrit (1798)—67.  
 Lansing, Gerrit P. (1859)—171.  
 Lansing, W. C.—242.  
 Lansing, Pieter, Indian deed to 1683—107; petition for patent—12; "Peter the Brewer," ancestor of Lansing, Lawson and Lossing families—16.  
 Lapham, Thomas—133.  
 La Roy, Simon—20, 30.  
 Lasher, Haight & Kelley—235.  
 Lassing (Lassen), Abraham—20.  
 Lassing, Isaac—26, 30.  
 Lassing, Isaac, Jr. (1771)—33.  
 Lathrop, Edward (Vassar trustee)—107.  
 Lauferweiler, Edward—204.  
 Lawrence, August, shipbuilder, Revolution—39, 49.  
 Lawrence, Rev. Edward A.—250, 251.  
 Lawrence, Daniel—49.  
 Lawrence, William A.—253.  
 Lawson, Peter L.—67.  
 Leach & Co. (contractors)—216.  
 Leary, Dennis (Newburgh)—170.  
 Leary, William F.—219.  
 Lee, Ann, imprisoned in Pok—48.  
 Lee, Per Lee A.—251.  
 Lee, Samuel (1820)—121.  
 Lee, William—157.  
 Lee, William Morgan—224, 263.  
 Lefevre, Jacob—244.  
 Leggett, Thomas H.—188.  
 Legislature—Meetings at Pok. in Revolution and later—47, 49, 51, 56, 64; see also Assembly.  
 Lloyd, Percival M.—252.  
 Lloyd, Thomas S.—209.  
 Lent, David B.—86, 120, 121, 123, 127, 135, 141, 156.  
 Lent, George B.—162, 192, 223.  
 Lent, John R.—153, 159, 161, 237, 200.  
 Leonard, Moses G. (of N. Y.)—149.  
 Le Roy, Daniel—170.  
 Le Roy, Francis—33, 78.  
 Le Roy, Fransoy (Frans)—21, 24, 26.  
 Le Roy, Peter—67.  
 Lester, Catharine—82.  
 Leslie, Col. John R.—181, 204.  
 Lewis, Barent—25, 32.  
 Lewis, D.—173.  
 Lewis, James (1775)—36.  
 Lewis, J. F.—157.  
 Lewis, Jonathan (1775)—36.  
 Lewis, Leonard, judge, etc.—20, 21, 28, 30, 31, 78, 121.  
 Lewis, Leonard B., collector 1803—72.  
 Lewis, Miles K.—250.  
 Lewis, Gov. Morgan—68, 306.  
 Lewis, Thomas—21.  
 Liberty Poles (1775)—35, 54; Civil War—178.

- Library, Pok. 90, 145, 146; Adriance Memorial 253; Library Trustees 253
- Lindley, Alfred F. 171, 188, 202
- Littanore, Francis 26
- Littel, Emlen F. (N. Y. architect) 200
- Little Britain 43
- Little Giants 173
- Livingston, Beckham 53, 77
- Livingston, Catharine, widow of Gilbert 100
- Livingston, Cornelia, marries Andrew Billings 55
- Livingston, Gill, Major 1734-25
- Livingston, Gilbert (son of Henry) 29, 30; in Revolution—30, 48; partner of James Kent 54; Const. Convention 57, 60; later 65, 69, 74, 304
- Livingston, Henry (Colonial County Clerk) 25, 26, 30, 32, 148; children of 30; division of property, 1800 34, 77
- Livingston, Henry, Jr., surveyor 64, 65, 68, 70
- Livingston, H. A. (on map) 71
- Livingston, Henry A. 80, 90, 98, 107, 127, 129, 200
- Livingston, Col. Henry B. (Revolution) 38, 31
- Livingston, James 23, 31, 32, 33, 36
- Livingston, James G. (Sheriff 1791-99) 29, 29
- Livingston, Rev. John H. 53, 68, 107
- Livingston Mansion, built 29; struck by shot, Revolution 44
- Livingston, Peter R. (1801)—97, 98
- Livingston, Philip J. (last Colonial Sheriff) 29, 33, 35
- Livingston, Robert Henry 29, 72
- Livingston, Robert R., Jr. (Chancellor) 35; Const. Convention 58; candidate for Governor 61
- Livingston, Robert G. (son of Robert L.) 29
- Livingston, Robert L. (of Clermont and Pok.) 29, 64, 71, 83
- Livingston, Samuel, in British Navy. Letter from to Henry Livingston—27
- Livingston, Sidney M. (1830) 122
- Livingston, Walter (1791) 69
- Livingston, William T. 120
- Lockwood, J. Arthur 263, 270
- Lockwood, John 107, 122
- Locomotive Engine Factory 139, 157
- Loomis, Rev. Henry A. 250
- Lossing, Benson J. 104, 107, 178, 182, 208
- Lossing, Mrs. Benson J. 183, 193
- Lottery, The, in Pok.—91, 102
- Louis Philippe, in Poughkeepsie 124
- Low, Aaron, 101
- Low, Jacob 26
- Low, John 33
- Lowell, James Russell (quotation) 439
- Lowry, David 157, 286
- Lowry, Frank B. 222, 225, 226, 233, 240, 248, 251, 260; biog. sketch 286
- Loyalists (See also Tories) 35
- Lucas, C. S. 143
- Lucey, Charles P. 138, 160
- Lucey, James 26
- Lucey, Platt & Co. 160, 250, 286
- Lucey, Samuel 69
- Endlow, Gabriel H. 26
- Endlow, George 64
- Endlow, Rev. Henry G. 147, 148
- Lamb, George W. 209, 258, 287
- Lamb, Levi 209, 250
- Lall, Rev. De Los 101, 103
- Lycium 145, 149, 105
- Lynan, G. K. 133
- Lynch, C. E. 235
- Lyster, Peter 33

## M

- Mabbett, James 115, 215
- Macdonald, Charles F. 228
- MacGeorge, William 145, 165, 204
- Mack, John F., biog. sketch 287
- Macpherson, Thomas J.—266
- Madison, Charles H. 251
- Magoon, E. L. (Vassar trustee)—167
- Mason, Gen. Leonard 99, 102, 103, 120, 129, 131, 141
- Mason, Peter R.—86, 89, 90
- Mallory, David S. 101
- Maloney, William K.—247, 263
- Manchester 84
- Mann, Rev. Alexander M.—147, 148, 154
- Mann, Mrs. Alexander M. 148
- Manney, John, assessor 1803 72
- Mansion Square—123, 125, 200
- Manufacturing, before 1815 83, 84, 80; 1815-1837 95, 115-117; 1837-1854—130, 143; 1854-1891—157, 158, 164; 1895-1873—209, 210, recent—233-237
- Maps of Pok., 1798: 8; 1770: 31; 1790—65; 1790—71; 1837—111
- Marble, Byron M.—206
- Marble, James F.—112
- Marglea, Chris. (1804)—74
- Marrill, Dr. J., biog. sketch 288
- Market, village dispute over—73
- Market St. named—67, 77, 305; paved—168, 310
- Markle, George (1803) 73
- Marriages (Colonial)—30
- Martin, Silas (1775) 30
- Marshall, D. C.—172
- Marshall, Edwin—171
- Marshall, Elna (Revolution) 49
- Marshall, George C.—120, 145
- Marshall, James 217, 218, 260
- Marshall, Joseph H. 268
- Marshall, Robert—117
- Martin, Charles—260
- Martin, Henry S. 153
- Martin, Jeremiah (1814) 86
- Masons, Free 50, 103, 104, 194; Pok. Lodge 133; Trunc Lodge 263; Masonic Temple—263
- Mathews, John H. 688, 210
- Mathews, Samuel 162
- Mathews, DeWitt C. 251
- Mawenawasgh, Indian name of Wappingers Creek 12, 15, 200
- Maxfield, John 25
- Mayers, list of 312, 313
- Mason, Joseph, 1804 74
- Maurice, Charles S. 228
- McCabe, Charles 230
- McCafferty, Robert 259
- McCandless, Gardner F. (N. Y.)—220
- McCarthy, James 174
- McGregory, Enel, marriage 1738—30
- McJellan, Charles H. P. 145, 165
- McConnell, Robert 182
- McDonald, Jack 215
- McDonough, Gen. Alexander—51
- McDuffee, D. (editor 1811) 91
- McDuffie, Sharp & Procter 136
- McEckron, Rev. G. M. 104
- McEnery, Sen. L. B. (of La.)—105
- McEnen, Malcom 19
- McGee, R. J. 203
- McIntyre, Patrick—210
- McKeen, Levi 74, 76, 89, 90, 123
- McKesson, John (Revolution)—41
- McKinney, James—173
- McClellan, George W.—105, 183
- McLean, John—101, 224
- McLeod, Archibald A.—230
- McSweny, Rev. Edward 209
- McWhinnie, Thomas 209; biog. sketch 288
- Medical Society, Dutchess County—90
- Mellor, Aaron 33
- Meeks, Edgar M.—222
- Meeks, Richard C.—223
- Meetings (public), village—73, 119, 128, 148, 198; political 131, 172-173, 198; Civil War—176, 178, 183
- Meinecke, P. 260
- Melrose, J. D.—210
- Mendelssohn Society—260
- Merritt, Isaac 112, 138, 210
- Metzler, E.—86
- Meyer, Capt. B. F.—203
- Meynema, Rev. B., 2nd pastor Dutch Church 22
- Michaels, Laert 188
- Miles, Mrs. William A. 260
- Milita, Dutchess, Colonial officers 24, 25, 27; Revolution 38, 40, 41, 42, 51, 52; Officers, 1789-1790—302, 303; War of 1812—92; 21st Reg.—175, 188, 202; 10th and 15th Sep. Co's—292, 293
- Millard, J. H. 248
- Millbrook—210, 234
- Miller, Alex. Litch—49
- Miller, Dr. C. D.—233
- Miller, Henry 84
- Miller, Henry C.—161
- Miller, John W. (1860)—161
- Miller, Leonard C.—222
- Miller, Peter—68
- Mill Ponds—31, 83, 111, 212, 214
- Mills, first saw mill—10, 16, 18; early grist mills 28, 30; in Revolution—50, 52; after Revolution 60, 71; after 1800 77, 83, 84, 101, 150; see also Red Mills
- Mills, James 80, 99, 127
- Milton Ferry 60
- Mitchell, Isaac, editor and author—62, 91
- Mitchell, Maria 203
- Mitchell, Thomas—77
- Mitchell, Robert—120
- Mohonk (Lake)—205
- Montgomery, Gen. Richard 39, 39
- Moravian Mission to Indians—20, 27
- Moore, James (1803)—76
- Moore, J. Leverett—138
- Moore, John—100
- Moore, Charles C.—263
- Morehouse, Col. Andrew—38
- Morgan, Caleb 120, 145, 150, 210
- Morgan, Edwin D. 104, 141, 168
- Morgan, George—204, 209, 208, 215
- Morgan Lake 210, 212
- Morgan, Peter B., fire warden 1803—72
- Morgan, Richard D.—149
- Morgan, Richard P.—259
- Morgan, William S.—104, 145, 172
- Morgan, Mrs. William S.—183, 193
- Morris, Henry 149
- Morris, Henry W.—172, 208
- Morsechauser, Charles—240
- Morsechauser, Joseph—244, 247; biog. sketch—284
- Morse, Prof. S. F. P. 140, 147, 167
- Morton, Mrs. Levi P.—68, 78

Morton, Thana—69.  
 Morton, Thomas (Newburgh)—222.  
 Moss, Joshua—33.  
 Mott, Capt. of rufemen 1790—62.  
 Mott, Ebenezer—69.  
 Mott, John—77.  
 Mott, Thomas (1790)—60.  
 Müller, Frank—188.  
 Mullren, James—101, 210, 220.  
 Muntross, John, Capt. (1792)—24.  
 Murphy, Charles—158.  
 Murray, John—81.  
 Museum, Poughkeepsie—160.  
 Myer, Peter B.—68.  
 Myers, Fannie S.—260.  
 Myers, Henry (Pine Plains)—222.  
 Myers, Henry D.—110, 122, 137, 138, 217, 224.  
 Myers, John S.—102, 121, 219.  
 Myers, Matthew J.—138, 145.  
 Myers, Michael J.—217.  
 Myers, Nathan—90.  
 Mygatt, Ambrose—102.  
 Mylod, John J.—242, 293.

## N

Nagengast, George—201, 202, 280.  
 Nash, Isaac—129.  
 National Guard—See Militia.  
 Neilson, Samuel, dies in Pok. 1803—73.  
 Nelson, Mrs. C. M.—251, 289.  
 Nelson, Homer A.—170, 182, 183, 184, 191, 205, 210, 220, 248, 259, 294.  
 Nelson, Helen J. (Mrs. Homer A.)—251.  
 Nelson, J. M.—168.  
 Nelson, John P.—150.  
 Nelson, John—74.  
 Nelson, Capt. Joseph—61, 92.  
 Nelson, Richard—92.  
 Nelson, Thomas—67, 72, 78, 89, 91.  
 Nelson, Hon. William—93, 289.  
 Nesbitt, F. J.—263.  
 Neville, Dorsey—237.  
 Nevins, John T.—263.  
 Newbold, Fred R.—204.  
 Newbold, Thomas—249.  
 New Bedford, Mass.—112.  
 New Brunswick—Tories settle there—38.  
 Newburgh—27, 44, 50, 92, 117, 208, 210.  
 Newcomb, Zachens—77.  
 New England Society—204.  
 New Hamblough—33, 82; disaster—200.  
 New Hampshire, ratifies Constitution—58.  
 Newhouse, Jonathan (1807)—90.  
 New Paltz—17, 18, 69, 124, 143, 216.  
 Newspapers—Advertiser—219.  
   American (1845)—133.  
   American Farmer (1798)—62, 91.  
   Anti-Mason—104.  
   Bulletin (1st daily, 1849)—148.  
   Casket—50, 104.  
   Courier, Sunday—205.  
   Democrat—133, 172.  
   Dutless Farmer—242.  
   Eagle—104; united with Journal—131; location—101, 219; daily established—174; sketch—278.  
   Enterprise (Daily Evening)—242.  
   Farmer (1806)—91.  
   Fire of the Flint (Lossing)—131.  
   Gazette—150.  
   Guardian (1801)—91.  
   Herald, Republican (1811)—91.  
   Inquirer—104.  
   Intelligencer—103, 104.  
   Journal, Holt's (Revolution)—50, 51.

Journal, Poughkeepsie—55, 59, 62, 80; P. Potter—91; supporters—Jackson—103; Conservatives—129-131; united with Eagle—131.  
 Journal, Republican (1796)—62.  
 News—Daily—205; News-Press, News-Telegraph—249.  
 Observer—92, 103.  
 Political Barometer—91.  
 Poughkeepsian, Daily—186, 205.  
 Poughkeepsie—247.  
 Press, Daily—148, 186, 249.  
 Republican—104.  
 Star (Daily Evening)—247.  
 Telegraph—102, 103, 104, 172, 174; united with News—249.  
 Temperance Safeguard—133.  
 Thompsonian—133.  
 True American—103.  
 New Windsor—39, 49.  
 Nichols, Thomas J.—148, 205.  
 Nolan, Rev. James—251, 253.  
 Noyer, Conrad (Aneram)—215.  
 Nolly, Joseph—69.  
 Norman, D. R.—171.  
 Norris, David—146.  
 North East (Town of)—69.  
 North, Renben—102.  
 North, Robert, letter from Albany—48.  
 Norton, Thomas (1792)—60.  
 Novitate of St. Andrew—251.  
 Novson, Bartholomew—26, 32, 33, 39, 65.  
 Novson, Robert—97, 72, 99.  
 Nye, Ebenezer—102.

## O

Oakley, George P.—73, 74, 82, 83, 95, 99, 103, 107, 108, 112, 120, 123, 124, 129, 127, 137.  
 Oakley, Jesse—61, 69, 72, 74, 83, 86, 90, 101.  
 Oakley, John H.—89.  
 Oakley, Judge Thomas J.—55, 83, 92, 98.  
 O'Brien, John—225.  
 Odd Fellows—133, 104, 203.  
 Odell, Casper L.—293.  
 Office Holders (1817-20)—24, 25.  
 Ogden, J. & J. (1800)—161.  
 Osterhout, Lowerens (Capt. 1790)—24.  
 O'Rourke, John F.—228.  
 Orton, James—204.  
 Osborne, Edward B.—133, 171, 172, 176, 222, 225, 242.  
 Osterhout, Jan (Ensign 1734)—25.  
 Ostrander, Charles—31.  
 Ostrander, Gideon—24.  
 Ostrom, Jan (1718)—21.  
 Ostrom, Hendrick—18.  
 Oswego, N. Y.—100.  
 Otis, John H.—153, 154, 175, 182.  
 Overbaugh, Abraham (1830)—122.  
 Overbaugh, Helen—127.  
 Overbaugh & Stanton (1800)—104.  
 Owen, Joshua—32.

## P

Paine, Arthur B.—228.  
 Paine, Ephraim—39, 49.  
 Paine, George W.—172.  
 Palmatier, Jacobus—32.  
 Palmatier, John—67.  
 Palmatier, Magiel Sr., Jr., and Pieter—21.  
 Palmatier, Michael—22.  
 Palmatier, Peter—22.  
 Palmer, Abiah W. (Amenia)—205, 209.  
 Palmer, Enos H.—153.

Palmer, Nathaniel—171, 177, 197.  
 Palmer, Robert N.—153, 217, 218.  
 Palmer, Dr. Stephen, biog. sketch—209.  
 Palmater, Rebecca (1749)—39.  
 Pardee Block—219.  
 Pardee, Stephen—81, 82.  
 Pardee, Nelson J.—170.  
 Parish, Thomas—186, 199, 222.  
 Parish, James—222.  
 Parker, Amasa J.—172.  
 Parker, Dr. Edward H.—207, 210, 239, 251, 290.  
 Parker, George (1807)—78, 90.  
 Parker, George H.—171.  
 Parker, George—182, 203, 210, 217, 220, 223.  
 Parker, John G.—129.  
 Parker, Thomas—188.  
 Parsons, Frederick T.—103, 104.  
 Paym, cobblestones—81, 168; signers of petitions—307, 308; asphalt—244.  
 Pawling (Town of)—60.  
 Payn, Lewis F.—249.  
 Payne & Fowler—161.  
 Payne, John C.—171.  
 Payne, Thomas R.—138.  
 Pearce, John—82.  
 Pease, Albert S.—130, 148, 181, 186.  
 Pease, E. R.—219.  
 Peasley, George—215.  
 Peck, Elsie—141.  
 Peck, Richard—182.  
 Peck, Rufus—77.  
 Peckham, Dr. Alva L., biog. sketch—291.  
 Peck, George (Revolution)—49.  
 Pecks-kill—43, 59.  
 Pelham, Stewart—204.  
 Pells, Abraham (1798)—79, 67.  
 Pells, Evert—67.  
 Pells, Francis (1804)—78.  
 Pells, John E.—74, 78.  
 Pells, Zephaniah—86.  
 Pells, Zephaniah—21, 30.  
 Pells, Michael—33.  
 Pelton, Charles M.—115, 130, 151.  
 Pelton, George P.—105, 210, 217, 220, 227.  
 Pelton, Henry V.—222, 250.  
 Pelton, Mrs. Henry V.—250.  
 Pelton, John W.—222, 204.  
 Pendergast, William, trial—27.  
 Pendleton, Judge Edmund H.—104.  
 Pennoyer, Frederick—83.  
 Perkins, John S.—157.  
 Perkins, Lithgow T.—188.  
 Per Lee, Edmund—69.  
 Peters, Charles—260.  
 Peters, Charles C.—171.  
 Phillips, Adelaide—290.  
 Phillips, David—81, 84.  
 Phillips, Rev. John—90.  
 Phillips, Marquis de LaFayette (1826)—121.  
 Phillips (Town of)—69.  
 Phinney, F. S.—161.  
 Phoenix Horse Shoe Co.—227.  
 Pier, Sylvester—251.  
 Pierce, George T.—107, 170.  
 Pierce, Marimus—108, 117.  
 Pilgrim, Dr. Charles W.—208.  
 Pinckney, William—185.  
 Pine Hall—176, 182, 188, 193, 206.  
 Pine Plains—139, 143, 214.  
 Pine, Col. Henry—129, 131.  
 Pine, Dr. Per Lee—145, 150, 170, 188.  
 Pine, Samuel—117, 122.  
 Pine Street—28, 67, 77.  
 Pinsky, Samuel—67.  
 Pitcher, Cornelius—224.

- Pittsburg Church (Washington Hollow) — 23.  
 Pitts, Elias 133.  
 Place, Charles 171.  
 Plank Roads 143.  
 Platt, Dr. A. H. 133.  
 Platt, Edmund 253.  
 Platt, Edmund P. (160, 251); see also Luckey, Platt & Co.  
 Platt, Mrs. Edmund P. (Mary E. Bartlett) 251.  
 Platt families—61, (note) 62.  
 Platt, James B. 217, 244, 251.  
 Platt, Mrs. James B. (Emma Bartlett) 251.  
 Platt, Isaac 102, 103, 117, 129, 130, 133, 138, 140, 141, 145, 173, 182, 185, 215, 210.  
 Platt, Mrs. Isaac 157.  
 Platt, Isaac I. 190.  
 Platt, John I. 57, 157, 174, 188, 191, 210, 220, 222, 223, 227, 228, 230, 237, 240, 251.  
 Platt, Jonas (son of Zephaniah) — 55, 77, 102.  
 Platt (Platto ?), Thomas 168.  
 Platt, Zephaniah 32, 31, 35, 36, 39, 44; Judge, after Revolution 55, 93; Constitutional Convention 57, 59; Councils Plattsburgh—61, 62.  
 Platto, Thomas (1800)—161.  
 Platto, Capt. William 107.  
 Pleasant Valley 23, 43, 215.  
 Plough, Jacob 21.  
 Plunkett, Michael 223.  
 Polhemus, Rev. A. 145.  
 Political Parties—  
 Abolitionist—172.  
 Anti-Clintonian—97.  
 Anti-Federalist 50-62, 88.  
 Anti-Masonic 103, 104, 133.  
 Clintonian 61, 97, 98, 308.  
 Conservative (1821) 98, 309; (1838) 120.  
 Democratic 103, 129-133, 153; (in war) 179, 186, 188, 191; recent—205, 224, 230-244.  
 Federalist 50-62, 91, 92, 96-98, 102, 103.  
 Free-Soil (soft shell, Barnburners) 133, 172.  
 Liberal (Greely) — 205.  
 Loco-Foco 128-130.  
 Protectionist 172.  
 Republican (Jeffersonian 62, 88—91, 92, 102-104; (modern) 172, 174, 188, 191, 205, 206, 224, 225, 230-244.  
 Native American (Know Nothing) 133, 172.  
 Whig 104, 128, 133, 153, 172.  
 Politics, Early 61, 62, 68.  
 1860-1815 91, 92.  
 1815-1837 96-98, 102-104.  
 1837-1854 128, 135.  
 1854-1861 153, 154, 171, 174.  
 1861-1865 186, 188, 191.  
 1865-1873 205, 206.  
 Recent 223, 225, 230-247.  
 Police 150, 171, 239.  
 Police Commissioners 239.  
 Polk, George W. 158, 168, 170, 215, 222, 228, 233.  
 Pomroy, George 138.  
 Population statistics, 300; comparisons, etc. 19, 27, 54, 210.  
 Poppoosin, Paka-mag, etc., Indian names, discussion of derivation of Poughkeepsie 12, 15.  
 Porter, Rev. E. S. (Chatham) 145.  
 Post, Edward 170.  
 Post, N. Y. Evening, about Pok. (1838) — 135.  
 Post, James S. 172, 210.  
 Postmasters, list of 311.  
 Post Road, early location, etc.—18, 19, 20, 27; map (1770) — 31; map (1798) — 8, 68; Highland Turnpike—73, 78.  
 Post Office, location—56, 86, 130, 197; new—250.  
 Potter, Bishop Horatio 102, 157.  
 Potter, Paraclete 86, 90, 91, 98, 101-103, 112, 119, 123, 129, 135, 137, 138.  
 Potter, Rufus—119.  
 Poucher, Dr. J. W.—244; biog. sketch — 291.  
 Poughkeepsie Bridge, planned — 210-221; finished — 227-230.  
 Poughkeepsie Iron Company 143, 233, 234.  
 Poughkeepsie —  
 Meaning and derivation of word — 9-15.  
 Population 300.  
 Precinct formed 25.  
 Resolutions (1774)—34.  
 State capital 40.  
 Village incorporated—66, 71; village trustees—304.  
 City incorporated—151.  
 City government organized—153.  
 City officers, list of—312, 313.  
 Pommel Masters—26, 33, 73.  
 Powell, Caleb—122.  
 Powell, Henry 120, 122.  
 Powell, Dr. Horace R.—253.  
 Powell, Joseph (1804)—74.  
 Power, Henry R.—153.  
 Power, Nicholas (founder of Poughkeepsie Journal)— 55, 56, 60, 62, 86.  
 Powers, Thomas V. 203.  
 Pownall, Governor; reference to old print of "Pakepscy"—10.  
 Pratt, Mrs. Mary Morris 248.  
 Preston, Senator William C. 131.  
 Pritchard, James (Revolution)—40.  
 Pridle's Tavern—53.  
 Provincial Congress, Delegates 10—35.  
 Provincial Convention, Delegates to (1775)—36.  
 Pudney, Richard 99, 102, 107, 112.  
 Pugsley, Frederick W. 210, 248.  
 Pultz, J. L.—216.  
 Purser, Thomas (partner of M. Vassar) 85.  
 Putnam County (part of Dutchess) — 49, 54.  
 Putnam, Howard B. 222.  
 Putnam, Gen. Israel 40, 41; follows Vaughn's ships—43, 44.  
**Q**  
 Quidley, Edward 188.  
 Quintard, F. F. (1800) 161.  
**R**  
 Radcliff, Jacob 61.  
 Radcliffe, John 60.  
 Radcliff, William (Sheriff 1799) 60.  
 Railroads —  
 First planned 115, 137, 139.  
 Central New England 230.  
 Dutchess & Columbia 215, 216, 227.  
 Dutchess County 230.  
 City R. R. 216, 227, 244.  
 Harlem 149, 214.  
 Hudson River—130-143, 210, 235; Subscribers to stock in 1847—311.  
 N. Y., N. H. & H.—230.  
 City, electric 244.  
 P. & E.—214-216, 227, 230.  
 Rhinebeck & Ct.—210, 227.  
 Walkkill Valley—210.  
 Ramsdell, Homer—210, 230.  
 Rand, J. B. G.—212.  
 Ranney, Thomas S.—104, 144.  
 Ransom, J.—161.  
 Ransom, Thomas H.—203.  
 Ripelle, Lawrence C.—220.  
 Ritch, C.—260.  
 Raymond, John H. (Vassar College)—167, 203.  
 Raymond, Mary Carrington—202.  
 Reade, John (Landing)—77.  
 Real Estate sales—110, 120, 136, 138, 210—219, 280, 260.  
 Reckard, S. B. (1860)—161.  
 Records, early county deeds, etc.—20.  
 Records, early village—72.  
 Recordors, list of—313.  
 Red Hook (Vaughn's Raid)—43, 44.  
 Red Mills—84, 156, 158, 209, 214.  
 Reed, Henry A.—161, 219.  
 Reed, Rev. John—60.  
 Reed, Rev. John J.—252.  
 Refugees in 1778—51.  
 Regiments—See Militia; also for Civil War—181-188, 197.  
 Relay, Lewis—81.  
 Reliance (Steamer), names of persons serving on in Civil War—312.  
 Religious prejudices—24.  
 Renwick, James (architect)—168.  
 Republican Crisis (Albany newspaper) — 91.  
 Republican Herald (newspaper 1811)—91, 92, 97.  
 Resene Mission—251.  
 Retail Merchants' Association 239.  
 Revolution 31-54.  
 Reynolds, Benjamin B.—153.  
 Reynolds, Clarence J. 260.  
 Reynolds, Egbert—223.  
 Reynolds, Harris S.—264.  
 Reynolds, Miss Helen W. 23, 266.  
 Reynolds, James, 1st—78, 81, 83, 95, 96, 101, 117.  
 Reynolds, James, 2nd—145, 175.  
 Reynolds, James 3rd—203, 264.  
 Reynolds, William T.—160, 210; biog. sketch—293.  
 Reynolds, William Wiman—138, 148, 175, 268, 210.  
 Reynolds, William Wall—146.  
 Rhinebeck—17, 68, 227.  
 Rice, Rev. C. D.—205.  
 Rider, Rev. George T.—205.  
 Rider, William (Gimkeeper 1798)—67, 69.  
 Ridinger & Caire (1800)—161.  
 Riders, Trinitie and Helena married 1738, 1741—30.  
 Ringwood, John F.—263.  
 Riordan, Rev. Michael 147, 178.  
 Ritter, Frederick Louis 260.  
 River trade, colonial — 28; increase after Revolution—54, 81, 83; 1815-1850—117, 118, 142; recent — 210, 230-233.  
 Rives, George I.—222.  
 Rives, Reginald W. 250.  
 Roads, early highways 18, 26, 67; see also streets.  
 Roberts, Charles H. 161, 220.  
 Robinson, Beverly 33, 39, 38.  
 Robinson, Charles (1851)—167.

- Robinson, E. G. (Vassar trustee)—107.  
 Robinson H. C. (Mayor Hartford)—221.  
 Robinson, John D.—135.  
 Robinson, John Starks (1749)—66.  
 Robson, Abraham—101.  
 Rochester University—107.  
 Rockefeller, John D. (gifts to Vassar College)—248.  
 Rockwell, William P.—227 (note).  
 Rogers, Archibald—242.  
 Rohr, Otto—260.  
 Romme, Isaac—68.  
 Roomm (Romam?), David—30.  
 Roosevelt, Isaac, letters to Richard Varick (1788)—88, 90.  
 Roosevelt, Isaac (1830)—122.  
 Roosevelt, John A.—38, 60, 170, 222.  
 Ross, Sanford & Baird—248.  
 Rothery, A. G.—203.  
 Rowing—170, 171, 222, 203, 204.  
 Rowland, P. S.—101, 203.  
 Rowley, Charles M.—240.  
 Royce, W. A.—138.  
 Rubinstem Club—200.  
 Rudd, Theron—81, 92, 93.  
 Rudd, Zebulon—138, 192.  
 Ruggles, Judge Charles H.—123, 127, 126, 172, 173, 176.  
 Ruggles, Mrs. Charles H.—103.  
 Ruggles, Henry J., letter quoted—121.  
 Ruggles, Philo—92.  
 Ruple, Samuel K.—237, 203.  
 Ruppert, Jacob—225.  
 Russell, Isaac F.—133.  
 Rutgers, Anthony—82.  
 Rust Platz (name of stream)—18, 148.  
 Rutsen, Jacob (letter 1745 to Henry Livingston)—27.  
 Rutzler, John H.—141, 101, 250.  
 Rynders, Harmen ("Stebel" or bell ring— or 1722)—20, 21.  
 Rynders, John—26.  
 Rysdyck, Rev. Isaac—23.
- S**
- Sackett, Leonard B.—153, 206, 223, 224, 248.  
 Sackett, Nathaniel—30.  
 Sackett, Richard (First County Clerk)—20, 21.  
 Sage, Russell—230 (note).  
 Sallier, Dr. James E., biog. sketch—204.  
 Sagne, Mrs. Horace—251.  
 Sagne, John K.—203.  
 Salisbury Iron Works (Co.)—40, 44, 49.  
 Salt Point—143, 215.  
 Sanders, Elsie (widow of Robert)—19.  
 Sanders, Robert (first Patentee)—16, 18.  
 Sands, James—101.  
 Sands, Henry and George—32.  
 Sands, Isaac G.—210, 215.  
 Sands, Moses C.—162.  
 Sands, William—102.  
 Sanford, G. (1800)—101.  
 Sanford, Hon. Natham—102.  
 Sanford & Hull—150.  
 Sanford, Mrs. Peter P.—148.  
 Sanford, Robert—102, 105, 207, 209; biog. sketch—205.  
 Sanford, Mrs. Robert—200.  
 Sanford, William N.—247.  
 Sanitary Fair—103.  
 Saratoga—27, 30, 180.  
 Saunders, Thomas—21, 21.  
 Savres, John (1805)—73, 78.  
 Scarborough, Rev. John—137, 252.  
 Scheefer, Henrie—24.  
 Schell, William R.—162.  
 Schenck, Abraham (1821)—68.  
 Schenck, Gysbert—36.  
 Schenck, John (Revolution)—38, 41.  
 Schenck, Paul (Revolution)—39; store on Main St.—86.  
 Schepmeyer, Joseph—247.  
 Schirmerhorn, Elizabeth—250.  
 Schickle, William—138, 204.  
 Schlosser, L.—260.  
 Scholde, George—188.  
 Schofield, Stephen (1813)—82, 203.  
 Schools.  
 Gov. Clinton's message (1795)—68, early 84, 90.  
 Academy, Dutchess Co., first—64, 65, 233; new—124, 144, 105, 204.  
 Academy, Pok. Female—123, 145, 105, 254.  
 Academy, Free (High School)—105.  
 Bishop's High School—105.  
 Bishop's—204.  
 Boker's—205.  
 Brooks' Seminary—205.  
 Butler's Home Inst.—205.  
 Collegiate (College Hill)—123, 124, 144; abandoned—204.  
 Collegiate Inst. (Female)—145, 105; Cook's—205; Lyndon Hall—254.  
 Cottage Hill Seminary—105, 176.  
 Deaf Mutes—105.  
 Friends (Mansion Sq.)—120, 145.  
 Free Public Schools—144, 145, 151, 254.  
 Mrs. Herrick's—205.  
 High School—105, 204.  
 Jewett's. See Warring's, also Cottage Hill.  
 Law School—145, 102, 105.  
 Lancaster School—90, 144, 140.  
 Leslie's—204.  
 Lyndon Hall—145, 254.  
 Miley's—314.  
 Military Inst.—See Warring's.  
 Mansion Sq. Female—105.  
 Pelham Inst.—204, 205.  
 Putnam Hall—205.  
 Onney—254.  
 Riverview Military Academy—204, 254, 204.  
 Warring's—204, 205, 254.  
 See also Eastman College and Vassar College.  
 School Commissioners (first for Town of Pok.)—60; see also education.  
 Schoonmaker, Rev. Henriens—23.  
 Schram, William—131.  
 Schram, Mrs. William—183.  
 Schranth, Jacob and Sons, Edward and William H., biog. sketch—205, 206.  
 Schryver, John T.—104, 115, 138.  
 Schryver, Peter A. (1830)—122.  
 Schuster, Peter—185.  
 Schuyler, Col. Peter (sells land 1699)—18.  
 Schuyler, Philip (letter about, 1745)—27.  
 Schwartz, John—235.  
 Scoot, Jonas—21.  
 Scott, Thomas A. (Philadelphia)—220.  
 Scott, William—24.  
 Scott, D. & Co.—161.  
 Seaton, Symon—18.  
 Seabury, Rev. Samuel (founds English Church)—23, 28.  
 Seaman, George—204.  
 Seaman, Henry—137.  
 Seaman, Isaac X.—250.  
 Seaman, James Harvey—153, 175, 188.  
 Seaman, Nathaniel—28.  
 Seaman, Oscar Nelson, biog. sketch—297.  
 Seaman, Stephen (Revolution)—40.  
 Sedgwick, C. H. & William (1800)—101.  
 Sedgwick, E. H.—217.  
 Seeward, James A.—192.  
 Seaward, William H. (election 1838)—120.  
 Shatenue Boat Club—222.  
 Shaw, Daniel—40.  
 Shaw, Henry W. (Josh Billings)—153, 154, 170, 171, 204.  
 Shedd, Dr. O. M.—247.  
 Sheldon, Smith—107.  
 Shelton, Wilson B.—162.  
 Sherman, Alfred—177.  
 Sherman, David S.—112.  
 Sherman, George H.—244.  
 Sherman, Howland R.—117, 120, 145, 107.  
 Sherrill, Hunting—84.  
 Sherrill, Isaac W.—244, 253.  
 Shields, John W.—150, 185.  
 Shields, William—101, 208.  
 Shimplasters (1815)—95; (1837)—128; (Civil War)—192, 205.  
 Ship Building, in Revolution—30, 41, 40; in whaling days, 112; after 1837—143, 158, 233, for ship yards also—77.  
 Ship Yard Point (Fox's Point)—30, 71.  
 Shook, Jacob—104.  
 Shurter, James W.—180.  
 Shwartz, M.—210, 314.  
 Sickley, John C.—250, 253, 204.  
 Silk Company, Poughkeepsie (1835)—115, 116, 127.  
 Silloway, Caroline—254.  
 Simmons, Edward H.—173.  
 Simpson & Beesmer (1800)—101.  
 Simpson, Cornelius—81.  
 Simpson, Thomas—140.  
 Sinnerbox, H. H.—182.  
 Sisson, Isaac—172.  
 Sketchley, A. M. & F.—89.  
 Skinner, Warren—118, 153.  
 Slater, James—73, 80.  
 Slavery in Poughkeepsie 62-64; Gen. Tallmadge—96, 97; later politics—133, 172, 173; fugitive arrested—135, list of people who freed their slaves—301-302; slave births registered—302.  
 Slee, John G.—203.  
 Slee, Robert—100, 192, 206, 208, 220.  
 Slee, Samuel (1814)—84.  
 Sleight, Henry A.—223.  
 Sleight & Paulding—157.  
 Sloan, Jared (Gerard St.)—78, 86.  
 Smeart, George—49.  
 Smeedles, Jan (Indian deed, 1683)—10, 16, 17.  
 Smillie, William C.—157.  
 Smith, Gen. Alfred B.—157, 173, 175, 182, 183, 197, 210, 220, 237.  
 Smith, Andrew—202.  
 Smith, Aming—220.  
 Smith Brothers—101, 235.  
 Smith, Casper D.—138, 145, 147.  
 Smith, Deyo—219.  
 Smith, Henry C.—183.  
 Smith, Isaac (Amenia, 1802)—77.  
 Smith, Isaac Platt—210.  
 Smith, James (1775)—30, 37.  
 Smith, Col. James (of 128th Reg.)—182.  
 Smith, Col. James (of 21st Reg.)—222, 202.  
 Smith, James & Son—161.

- Smith, James Scott (1st Pres. Village) 69, 67, 72  
 Smith, John (1804) 74  
 Smith, J. Edward 252  
 Smith, Rev. J. M. 60.  
 Smith, Kate 251  
 Smith, Melancthon 30, 49, 57, 61  
 Smith, Morgan L. 167  
 Smith's Restaurant 161.  
 Smith, Samuel (1780) 67.  
 Smith, William (1804) 74  
 Smith, William A.—254  
 Smith, William C. (1848) 149  
 Smith, William W.—200, 250, 251, 252, 262  
 Suedeker, Richard 31, 32, 33, 39, 37, 41, 47, 65.  
 Social life 50, 69, 221, 222, 263.  
 Solomon, David (N. Y.) 220  
 Sons of Temperance 133, 194  
 Southwick, Edward 39, 122  
 Southwick, Robert B. 122.  
 Southwick, Solomon 104  
 Southwick, William C. 138, 153, 172  
 Southwick, Zadock 83, 90, 168.  
 Spaight, John W.—148  
 Spater, Johannes (Minister 1735) 25.  
 Sparks, James 153  
 Specken Kill 67, 84  
 Spiritualism—138, 139  
 Sports 88, 168-171, 221, 222, 263-264  
 Spring, R.—219  
 Squire, William (Sheriff 1734) 25.  
 Staats, Henry 182.  
 Staatburgh—43  
 Stage travel 50, 78, 108, 130, 141.  
 Stamford (Town of) 69  
 Stanton, J. C. 228  
 Stark, J. Wesley 173  
 Starr, John (1800) 83  
 Starr, David M. 145  
 State Govt. in Pok. 49, 47, 50, 54, 59, 68  
 Steamboats, first 82, 83; 4845-1837—117, 118; 1837-1851, 142-143; after 1851, 158, 175, 210, 230  
 Sterling, Francis N. 182  
 Sterling, George W. 151, 167, 172, 179, 191  
 Sterling, William C. 138, 148, 151, 162, 173  
 Stevens, Francis K.—209  
 Stevens, Frank L. 188  
 Stevens, Samuel (of Albany, 1845) 131  
 Stevens, William 170  
 Stevenson, Dr. W. G. 225, 250  
 Stewart, George 67  
 St. Louis, Mo. 166  
 Stockholm, Aaron 69  
 Stockholm & Brownjohn (printers) 62  
 Stone, A. B. (N. Y.) 230  
 Storke, H. L. (telephone promoter) 239  
 Storm, Abraham G. 86, 101, 102, 104, 107, 112, 127, 138, 139, 147  
 Storm, Edward 171, 212, 216, 217, 220  
 Storm King Bridge project 228  
 Storm & Wilson (1813) 89, 101  
 Stormville 143  
 "Stranger" Crew 174  
 Streets named 61, 67, 77, 101, 217; or dances 305, 306  
 Street, Gen. Randall S. 73, 78, 99, 92, 97  
 Street, William T. 78, 129, 131  
 Street, Albert Billings 78  
 Street, Lewis F. 153, 215.  
 Street & Lockwood 158  
 Struppel, Nicholas—162.  
 Stuart, Archibald 53, 69, 77.  
 Stuart, Robert 237.  
 Sturgis, John G.—119  
 Stuyvesant, John R. 170  
 Sufferin, Thomas—141.  
 Surrogate's office—130  
 Sutchife, Eh—260  
 Sutchife, John—212, 297.  
 Sutherland, Henry A. 200  
 Swan, Cyrus 167, 168, 171, 172, 248  
 Swart & Lamb 209, 288  
 Swartwout, Bernardus 25  
 Swartwout, Cornelius B.—86  
 Swartwout, Col. Jacob (Jacobus)—39, 38, 40, 61.  
 Swartwout, Jacobus—24  
 Swartwout, Johannes 20  
 Swartwout, John (1804) 74  
 Swartwout, John B.—121.  
 Swartwout, Martin H.—181  
 Swartwout, Rudolf (Sheriff 1721) 24  
 Swartz, Rev. William P. 252  
 Sweet, Abram N.—133  
 Sweet, Eleazer D.—138, 173  
 Sweet, Nehemiah—168, 145  
 Sweet, George 173  
 Sweet, Thomas—82, 119  
 Sweetser, Emma Corning—202  
 Swift, Bernah (Millbrook)—117, 234  
 Swift, Charles W.—131, 148, 153, 155, 167, 168, 182, 208, 209, 220, 223, 248  
 Swift, Mrs. Charles W.—103  
 Swift, Charles W., Jr.—203  
 Swift, Elma Doremus—202  
 Swift, E. M.—172  
 Swift, Henry—82, 119, 131  
 Swift, Lily (Amenia Union)—202  
 Symphony Society 250  
 Snydott, Rev. S. H.—209, 297
- T**
- Taber, Samuel T.—138  
 Taber, Thomas 107, 115  
 Taber, William 60, 86, 98  
 Talleyrand, Prince, in Pok. 124  
 Tallmadge, Charles B. 86  
 Tallmadge, Charles W. 122  
 Tallmadge, Elizabeth (daughter George Clinton) 67.  
 Tallmadge, Henry F. 137  
 Tallmadge, Gen. James Jr. 55, 95, 74, 89, 90, 92; the "Missouri Compromise" 90, 97; Lieut. Governor—103, 104  
 Tallmadge, Senator Nathaniel P. 82, 68, 107, 168, 112, 110, 123, 127, 137, 139; leader of Conservatives 128, 130; Governor of Wisconsin 138  
 Tallmadge, Thomas W. 107, 122  
 Tallmadge, William H. 145, 153, 190, 210  
 Tallman, John P. H. 139, 145, 148, 162, 208, 216, 248.  
 Tappen Elizabeth 109  
 Tappen, John 25.  
 Tappen, Maria 127  
 Tappen, Dr. Peter, 1st 30, 38, 39, 43, 49, 68, 49, 63, 64, 65, 68, 69, 109  
 Tappen, Dr. Peter, 2nd 109  
 Tappen, Timis 30, 93  
 Tanner, Reuben 188  
 Tanneries 83, 84, 116, 235  
 Tanzer, Rev. John 147  
 Taylor, Edward P. 149, 161  
 Taylor, Mrs. Edward P. 259  
 Taylor, Henry M. 223, 248  
 Taylor, Hudson 170, 192, 194, 220, 222, 240.  
 Taylor, James M. (Vassar)—247.  
 Taylor, Robert E. 173, 175, 193, 205, 223, 248, 260.  
 Tax List, first for Middle Ward—21.  
 Taxes, paid by Commies in Revolution—48  
 Tefft, Thomas A. (architect) 167.  
 Telegraph, first office in Pok.—149.  
 Telephones 237.  
 Teller, Wm. B. 167.  
 Temperance Movement 133, 172, 251  
 Tenbruck, John (Justice 1747) 20, 25.  
 Tenney, Benjamin R.—157.  
 Ter Bos, Jacobus 20, 25.  
 Ter Bos, Johannes (Judge 1734)—25  
 Terry, Capt. Job, whaler—115  
 Terry, William (1780)—63.  
 Thomas, Jacob (Revolution)—39  
 Thomas, Dr. John 60  
 Thomas, Dr. William—62, 68, 102, 168, 199, 121, 153  
 Thompson, Daniel (M. & C Ry.) 210  
 Thompson, Daniel R.—209.  
 Thompson, J. Edgar (P. R. R.) 220, 224.  
 Thompson, Ezra (Const. Convention) 61, 69  
 Thompson, Ezra, Jr.—89.  
 Thompson, Frederick F.—107, 248  
 Thompson, James 107  
 Thompson, Jesse (Revolution) 39  
 Thompson, John (father of Frederick F. Thompson)—107.  
 Thompson, John—122, 130, 138, 142, 148, 151, 167, 172-174, 179, 190, 216.  
 Thompson, Mrs. John—177, 183, 193  
 Thompson, Mrs. Mary Thaw—248.  
 Thompson, Judge Smith—55, 77, 78, 98, 102; candidate for Governor—103; other references—127, 129, 148  
 Thorn, Edgar 172, 190  
 Thorn, Gilbert 104  
 Thorn, Herriek—173, 182.  
 Thorn, Joseph (Sheriff 1800) 75.  
 Thorn, Stephen 115.  
 Thorn, William (1802) 77.  
 Thorn, William L. 190, 205, 225  
 Thorne, John S. 182  
 Thorne, Joseph, Jr. 122.  
 Thorne, Nicholas (1810) 95.  
 Thorne, Platt M.—182.  
 Tice, Isaac 172.  
 Tice, Capt. Joseph—117.  
 Tiomderoga 40  
 Tibbottson, Thomas (1821) 68  
 Tinsor, William 21, 22  
 Tinsort, Jacob 21  
 Titus, C. G. 100  
 Titus, Elias 138  
 Titus, Obadiah 102.  
 Titus, Platt 99  
 Titus, Richard 130  
 Tobey, A. G. 205  
 Tompkins, George H.—223  
 Tompkins, Isaac 133, 148, 171  
 Tomlinson, Abraham 145, 165  
 Tooker, Mrs. C. W.—193  
 Tooker, Jacob C. 145, 195  
 Tooker, William Wallace (authority as to Indian words)—11, 12, 13, 14, 15.  
 Topham, W. H. (whaling Capt. 1837)—135  
 Tories, in Dutchess County 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 47, 48, 51; position after Revolution—61  
 Toney, John M. 220  
 Tower, Albert 159, 234, 252, 297.  
 Tower, A. Edward—234, 252.  
 Tower, Charlemagne—228.

Fowle, Charles—171.  
 Towner, Samuel 69  
 Transportation Co., Poughkeepsie—210, 233.  
 Treasurers, City, list of—313.  
 Tripp, Robert C. 183  
 Tripp, William A. 225  
 Trivett, Elias—86, 117, 123, 127, 136, 148.  
 Trowbridge, John 171, 173  
 Trowbridge, Nathan Conklin 86  
 Trowbridge, Stephen B. 86, 123, 141.  
 Trowbridge & Wilkinson (1860) 101  
 Trumbauer, Horace 200  
 Trumbull, Gov. (of Conn.) 49  
 Trust Co. of Poughkeepsie—106, 102, 292.  
 Trustees, Village of Pok—72, 304  
 Tuckerman, Joseph 143  
 Tudor, Samuel 39, 49.  
 Tuesday Club 250  
 Turick, Augustus 26  
 Turner, Daniel H. 173  
 Turner, William 168  
 Turnpikes, Dutchess 76, 77, 88, 168;  
 Highland (Post Road) 73, 78;  
 Beckman and Pawling 78; Wawar-  
 sing—95; New Paltz 95  
 Tutill, Robert K.—153, 157, 159, 181,  
 212, 298.  
 Tutill, Samuel 208, 208  
 Tweedy, Daniel H. 102  
 Tyler, Rev. Moses, Cong.—178.

## U

Uhl, Stephen 161.  
 Ulrich, A.—266.  
 Ulrich, F.—217.  
 Ulster County, Dutchess attached to—10.  
 Underhill, J. A. 172.  
 Underhill, Josiah I. 115, 102  
 Underhill, Mary—251  
 Underwear Co., Poughkeepsie—236, 237;  
 sketch—213  
 Underwood, Capt. Abraham—118.  
 Underwood, Rev. Almon 122.  
 Underwood, Charles—153  
 Underwood, DeWitt C. 183  
 Underwood & Son (1860) 101  
 Union Bridge Co.—228.  
 Union Store (Union Landing)—67, 69,  
 71, 82.  
 Union Street 28, 68, 77

## V

Valentine, A. J.—177  
 Valentine, Richard 78  
 Valentine, Edward W. 266  
 Vail, Alonzo H. 263, 264.  
 Vail, Benjamin—116  
 Vail, Benjamin M. 160  
 Vail, Hiram 173  
 Vail, Joseph I.—209  
 Vail, Lewis H.—244, 253.  
 Vail, Thomas M.—117, 138  
 Van Ale (Indian Mortgage 1682)—11  
 Van Allen, Col. James H.—178.  
 Van Allen, J. J.—222.  
 Van Anden, Isaac (founder Brooklyn  
 Eagle)—133  
 Van Anden, John—67  
 Van Anden, William—223.  
 Van Benschoten, Elias (1716-1729)—21,  
 22, 23, 25.  
 Van Benschoten, Elias T. (1838)—120  
 Van Benschoten, Elias, Jr. (Revolution)  
 —30, 62, 64, 67, 69  
 Van Benthuyssen, Jan—24  
 Van Benthuyssen, Jacob—168, 112, 123,  
 130, 139.

Van Benthuyssen, Watson (New Or-  
 leans)—230  
 Van Blarcom, Hendrick 31  
 Van Bomell, Jacobus 26  
 Van Brunt, Cornelius 250  
 Van Bummel, Abraham—33  
 Van Bummel, Leonard 32  
 Van Buren, Martin (defeats Smith  
 Thompson for Gov.) 103, visits  
 Pok 129  
 Van Campen, Jacob (Capt 1731) 25  
 Van Cleet, J. Spencer 174, 175, 186,  
 188, 222, 253  
 Van Cleet, Mrs. J. Spencer 290  
 Vanderbil Grace (name of slave freed  
 1815) 63  
 Van Den Bogart and Harmse 20; see  
 also Errata at end of Appendix  
 Van Den Bogart, Isaac 20  
 Van Den Bogart, Jacobus 20, 21, 22  
 Van Den Bogart, Myndert 20, 21, 20  
 Van Den Bogart, Peter 31  
 Vanderburgh, A. 222  
 Van Derburgh, Anna (1735) 30  
 Van Derburgh, Magdalene (1745) 30  
 Van Derburgh, William 28  
 Van Derburgh, Henry (second County  
 Clerk) 21, 22, 25, 29, 37, 38  
 Vanderburgh, Col. John (Revolution)—  
 38  
 Van Derburgh, Richard (1775) 37  
 Van Derburgh, Richard (journalist  
 1766) 62, 80.  
 Vandewater, John A. 225  
 Van Dyke, Rev. Henry (Christ Church  
 1787)—68  
 Van Eeten, Grant 204  
 Van Geson, Rev. A. P. 22, 57, 66, 207,  
 210, 224  
 Van Hoeseu, Judge George (N. Y.)—  
 165  
 Van Ingen, Prof. Henry 263, 250  
 Van Keuren, Benjamin 25.  
 Van Keuren, Edward 242  
 Van Keuren, John A.—182  
 Van Keuren, Matthew (Revolution)  
 38, 43, 69  
 Van Kleeck, Albert, 172, 182, 198, 199  
 Van Kleeck & Knickerbocker (1860)  
 101.  
 Van Kleeck, Baltus, 1st, or Balhazar  
 (first of the Dutchess Co. Van  
 Kleecks) 13, 17, 68, 19, 20.  
 Van Kleeck, Baltus Jr. (1735)—30.  
 Van Kleeck, Barend—20, 21, 25  
 Van Kleeck, Cornelius—77  
 Van Kleeck, Davis—173  
 Van Kleeck, Edgar M.—176, 208, 212  
 Van Kleeck, Edward 248.  
 Van Kleeck, George—139, 148, 172, 192,  
 208.  
 Van Kleeck, George M.—161  
 Van Kleeck House—19, 34, 49, 48, 43,  
 81, 122; "White House"—64  
 Van Kleeck, Hugh—31, 32  
 Van Kleeck, Dr. James Livingston 61,  
 90  
 Van Kleeck, Johannes 21, 22, 25.  
 Van Kleeck, John—23, 33.  
 Van Kleeck, Lawrence I. (1830) 122  
 Van Kleeck, Leonard—23, 31, 32, 33, 39,  
 64.  
 Van Kleeck, Leonard B. (1833)—129  
 Van Kleeck, Lowrance (Lawrence)  
 21, 25, 30, 64.  
 Van Kleeck, Machiel—25.  
 Van Kleeck, Mindert—31, 33, 39, 64, 67,  
 68.  
 Van Kleeck, Peter—23, 25, 30.

Van Kleeck, Peter 2nd (unmarried 1740)  
 30  
 Van Kleeck, Theodore 176, 181, 222  
 Van Kleeck, Timb (unmarried Bartholo-  
 mew Crannell) 30  
 Van Kleeck, Tims 73, 86, 87, 107  
 Van Kleeck, Walter 176, 220  
 Van Kleeck, William V. 160  
 Van Loon, Benjamin 269, 297  
 Van Loon, Rev. Charles 133, 147  
 Van Ness, G. B. (1862) 72, 75  
 Van Ness, Jacob (1824) 102  
 Van Schaak, Frans De Lang and  
 Marytjen 22  
 Van Schie, Rev. Cornelius (first pastor  
 of Dutch Church) 22  
 Van Siedden, Augustus 293  
 Van Valkenburgh & Coffin 160  
 Van Valkenburgh, C. V. 162  
 Van Valkenburgh, John C. 117  
 Van Valkenburgh, J. I. 122.  
 Van Vliet, Aric (1771) 32  
 Van Vliet, Ben-on 251  
 Van Vliet, George 222  
 Van Vliet, Hiram H. 117  
 Van Vliet, Platt G. 215  
 Van Vliet, Tims 26  
 Van Wagener, Evert 21, 25  
 Van Wagener, Gerrit (Capt 1730) 25  
 Van Wagener, Hubert 119  
 Van Wagener, Nicholas (1735) 30  
 Van Wagener, Peter I. 287, 293  
 Van Wagner, John 157  
 Van Wagner, John A. 222  
 Van Wagner, William H. Jr., "Pough-  
 keepsie Blacksmith" 139  
 Van Wyck, Abraham—67  
 Van Wyck, Cornelius 25.  
 Van Wyck, C. S. 209, 218.  
 Van Wyck, Isaac 50  
 Van Zandt, Jacobus (Revolution) 49  
 Varick, Abraham 145  
 Varick, Ann (devisce of Geo. W. Clin-  
 ton)—67  
 Varick, Henry D. 148, 153, 210, 220  
 Varick, Mary 266  
 Varick, Remsen—222  
 Varick, Richard A. 109  
 Vas, Rev. Petrus (of Kingston)—22  
 Vassar, Ann (1867)—90  
 Vassar Brewery (Vassar St.) 85, 108;  
 (river)—118, 136, 142, 233  
 Vassar Bros. Home for Aged Men 248,  
 250  
 Vassar Bros. Hospital 297, 248, 250  
 Vassar Bros. Institute 149, 250  
 Vassar, Carrie Elizabeth 202.  
 Vassar, Charles 139.  
 Vassar College, founded 166-168; open-  
 ed, first faculty 202-204; recent de-  
 velopment—247, 248  
 Vassar, James (father of Matthew)—  
 81, 85.  
 Vassar John Guy, 1st 85  
 Vassar, John Guy, 2nd 81, 167, 247,  
 248, 252  
 Vassar, Margaret (mother of J. G. and  
 Matthew, Jr.) 81.  
 Vassar, Matthew 85, 98, 104, 107, 108,  
 112, 117, 119, 123, 139, 140, 141, 146,  
 148, 160-169, 192, 201, 203  
 Vassar, Matthew, Jr. 81, 129, 167, 168,  
 175, 182, 190, 208, 210, 217, 220, 223,  
 247, 252.  
 Vassar, Thomas—136.  
 Vassar, Thomas E.—157, 183  
 Vaughn's Raid (Revolution)—12-46.  
 Vaux & Withers (N. Y. architects)—  
 209.

- V. Cronin, (Hir.)—123, 139.  
 Venmont, Capt. (1799)—62.  
 Venmont, John P. (1798)—69.  
 Veron, Michael (1893)—73.  
 Ver Valin, David—117, 122.  
 Ver Valin, Isaac H.—108, 109, 117.  
 Volunteers (Civil War 1861—1875)—85.  
 Vrele, Amont Corchussen (first Indian deed Town of Poughkeepsie, 1680)—11, 16, 17.  
 Vrele (Friede) Pieter—21, 22, 29.  
 Village Hall, see City Hall.  
 Village of Pok incorporated 70; organized 72.  
 Vilen, Mindert, marriage 1749—30.  
 Vincent, David H.—102.  
 Vincent, Edward—171.  
 Vincent, Gilbert F.—117, 129, 145.  
 Vincent, James—115.  
 Vincent, J. W.—173.  
 Vocal Union—200.
- W**
- Waddell, Eleanor (1897)—90.  
 Waddell, Isaac (1807)—90.  
 Wager, Ambrose—182, 191.  
 Wakeley, Rev. M.—176.  
 Walker, S. L. (1800)—101.  
 Wallace, Eliot & Co.—235.  
 Wallace, Sir James—43.  
 Wappingers (early scheme of settlement)—17.  
 Wappingers, Falls—130.  
 War of 1812—91, 92, 95.  
 War rebel (Civil)—176, 177, 188, 193.  
 Ward, Abson—251.  
 Ward, Daniel O.—172.  
 Ward, Dr. David B. (biog. sketch)—298.  
 Ward, James H.—160, 237, 239.  
 Ward, "Josh"—170.  
 Ward, Thomas J.—293.  
 Wardwell, Allen (1806)—81.  
 Warner, A. C.—101.  
 Warner, Charles (1833)—139.  
 Warner, Jonathan—204, 208.  
 Warner, Richard—33, 39.  
 Warner, Thomas (1799)—66, 67.  
 Warring, Charles B.—105, 204, 205, 254, 256.  
 Washington, Gen. George. Orders fire rafts built at Pok—30, urges haste in building ships and chain 40; visits to Pok—50, 68.  
 Washington Hollow—214, 215.  
 Washington Town (1769, 98, 139).  
 Wassac—214.  
 Water Commissioners, 181—212.  
 Water supply—72, 74, 109, 108, 109, Cannon St. Reservoir (19, 129, 149, 154, 219, new—210, 211, 247).  
 Watkins, William B.—337.  
 Wayland, Rev. Francis—90.  
 Welch, Dr. DeWitt—247, 223, 225.  
 Welchendorfer, Henry—259.  
 Webster, Daniel (visit to Pok)—131.  
 Weed, Thurlow—103.  
 Weeds, James H.—153, 176, 182, 212, 222, 248.  
 Welling, James M.—215.  
 Wells, James—67.  
 Welsh, Walter—215.  
 Welch, Rev. Abner—121.  
 Wendover, J. V. (1836)—129.  
 West & Depew (1800)—101.  
 West Point in Revolutions—49, 50, 52.  
 West, Robert—224.  
 West, William B. (1800)—101.  
 Westerfelt, Casparus—26.  
 Westerfelt (Westervelt), Roché—26.  
 Westervelt, Benjamin—68.  
 Westervelt, Elias (1838)—129.  
 Westfall, Wouter—25.  
 Whale Dock—112, 114, 115, 143, 150, 151.  
 Whalen, Patrick—185.  
 Whaling Companies, Poughkeepsie—110, 112, 135; Dutchess—112, 115, 135, 136.  
 Wheeler, Corydon—252.  
 Wheeler, Rev. Francis B.—170, 216.  
 Wheeler, S. B.—268.  
 Wheaton, Caroline T. (Mrs. Charles)—271.  
 Wheaton, Judge Charles—176, 188, 216, 220; biog. sketch—298.  
 Wheaton, Homer—107, 115, 139.  
 White, C.—173.  
 White, Edward—205.  
 White, Ezra—225, 249, 254.  
 White (White), Isaac (1731)—30.  
 White, Isaac W.—182, 209, 216, 217, 220.  
 White, William—122.  
 Whitehead, Rev. Charles—145, 147.  
 Whitehead, Charles C.—188.  
 Whitehouse, John O.—192, 205, 206, 207, 210, 220, 222, 223, 235; property—200.  
 Whigs and Tories (Revolution)—35, 36.  
 Whitfield, Henry—123, 139, 139.  
 Whipple, Frank E.—100, 192, 222.  
 Whitney, Myron—266.  
 Wide Awakes—173.  
 Wicthan, Louis—158.  
 Wickes, Edward A.—182.  
 Wilber, Edwin J.—161, 205.  
 Wilber, Fimmet V.—263.  
 Wilber, John D.—209.  
 Wilber, Mark D.—105, 178, 183, 191, 205, 209, 214, 215, 216, 217, 220.  
 Wilcox, Roswell (Revolution)—30.  
 Wilkinson, Arthur—178, 181, 183.  
 Wilkinson, C. S.—181.  
 Wilkinson, Fred—182.  
 Wilkinson, George—147, 153, 154, 172, 192, 314.  
 Wilkinson, Gilbert—95, 100, 102, 107, 127, 129.  
 Wilkinson, John P.—182.  
 Wilkinson, Robert—101, 129.  
 Wilkinson, Mrs. Robert—147.  
 Wilkinson, Robert F.—157, 182, 215, 220, 224, 225.  
 Wilkinson, William—174, 178.  
 Williams, Capt. Abraham (Revolution)—52.  
 Williams, Charles H. S.—171, 174, 224.  
 Williams, Jerome—175, 199.  
 Williams, James L.—206, 225, 254, 264; biog. sketch—209.  
 Williams, Joseph—127.  
 Williams, Joseph D.—177, 185.  
 Williams, William (1826)—121.  
 Williamson, Griffin—107, 122.  
 Willis, Col. Samuel (Revolution)—43.  
 Wilson, Archibald—219.  
 Wilson, George S.—171.  
 Wilson, Senator Henry (Mass.)—173.  
 Wilson, James (Sheriff 1735)—25.  
 Wilson, James—81, 90.  
 Wilson, John (1798)—67.  
 Wilson, John S.—230.  
 Wilson, William—138.  
 Wiltste, Abraham—117, 127, 161, 209, 208, 225.  
 Wiltste, Cornelius—101.  
 Wiltste, Hiram S.—294, 299.  
 Winans, Elsworth L.—259.  
 Winans, James—28, 30, 36, 44, 67, 81.  
 Winans, Joel—210.  
 Wing, John—216.  
 Winslow, Edward—222.  
 Winslow, James—173.  
 Winslow, Mrs. James—193.  
 Winslow, John (1st City Marshal)—153, 185.  
 Winslow, John F.—193, 209, 210, 220.  
 Winslow, Mrs. John F.—252.  
 Winslow, Leonard C.—206, 251.  
 Wisconsin (Pok. people settle there)—138.  
 Wisconsin Regiment in Pok—185.  
 Wise, Hon. Henry A.—131.  
 Woodell, Silas—173.  
 Wolfe, John David—141.  
 Women's Christian Temperance Union—251.  
 Wood, Fannie A.—293.  
 Wood, Hiram W.—171.  
 Wood, Isaac H.—171, 233.  
 Wood, James G.—215, 229.  
 Wood, William H.—242, 254.  
 Wooden, Homer—170.  
 Woodin, Capt. William R.—182, 188, 190, 219.  
 Woods, John (printer 1798)—62.  
 Wood trade—117, 136.  
 Woolsey, Melancthon L.—67, 77.  
 Worden, Lieut. John L.—202.  
 Worrall, William—217, 218.  
 Wray, Harry—146.  
 Wright, Abraham—156, 206, 212, 220.  
 Wright & Irish (1800)—161.  
 Wright, Rev. D. G.—105, 183, 254.  
 Wright, Jere D.—263.  
 Wright, Jere V.—222.  
 Wright, Joseph—127.  
 Wright, Mary Elizabeth—202.  
 Wright, Norman—263.  
 Wyoming (story of massacre first published at Pok.)—50.  
 Wynackee (Winnakee), Indian name—11, 15.
- Y**
- Yacht Club—264.  
 Yelverton, Anthony—20, 29.  
 Yelverton, Gale—23.  
 Yelverton, John H. P.—153.  
 Yelverton, Moses (1804)—74, 78.  
 Young, A. M. (Waterbury, Ct.)—237.  
 Young, Henry L.—110, 162.  
 Young, Mrs. Henry L.—177.  
 Young, William (1807)—90.  
 Young, William H.—250, 264.  
 Young, W. C.—111.  
 Young Men's Christian Union—157.  
 Young Men's Christian Association—157, 188, 206, 250, 251.  
 Young Women's Christian Association—251.  
 Vonkers—148, 180.
- Z**
- Ziegenfuss, Rev. Henry L.—252, 263.  
 Zimmer, H.—219.  
 Zimmer, P.—260.

















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