



A HISTORY OF OLD KINDERHOOK

FROM ABORIGINAL DAYS TO THE PRESENT TIME; INCLUDING
THE STORY OF THE EARLY SETTLERS, THEIR HOME-
STEADS, THEIR TRADITIONS, AND THEIR
DESCENDANTS; WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR
CIVIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL, EDUCATIONAL,
AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

BY

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WITH 100 ILLUSTRATIONS AND 3 MAPS

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PREFACE

THE suggestion of this history came from Mr. William Wait, as we met in our cemetery one Sunday afternoon nearly seven years ago. An immediate reference of the plan to the same quiet resting-place might possibly have proved to be the wiser course. Certainly if a tithe of the magnitude and difficulty of the work had been realized, it would never have been undertaken. And yet a task that ought to have been completed before so many of our elder citizens had passed away, should be undertaken. Kinderhook, one of the oldest towns in the State, and one whose contribution of eminent men to public life cannot readily be paralleled, should have its story told more fully and accurately than is possible in a county history. Nearly fifty years ago, indeed, a small beginning was made in the gathering of material for a proposed history; but the exactions of service which had a prior and superior claim, and the announcement that two other writers, natives of the town, had a similar work in hand, led to the now regretted abandonment of the project. Seven years ago, however, relief from an active pastorate, continued for forty-three years, a realization of the unwisdom of having those "idle hands" of which Watts wrote warningly, a degree of familiarity with place and people as great perhaps as that of any who had time for the work, and the expressed wish of many, led to the undertaking of what must be largely a labor of love.

The work is designed to be chiefly a history of *old* Kinder-

hook; first the original District, then the Town, and finally the Village proper. Valatie and the parts of the original territory of which we were despoiled for the formation of adjoining towns are by no means neglected, but necessary limitations have precluded their receiving equally full consideration.

The labor involved has been enormous. A short paragraph sometimes represents long and laborious research. No known available source of information has been neglected. Land-papers in the Secretary of State's and other public offices, State and County; deeds, mortgages, and wills innumerable recorded in Albany, Hudson, Kingston, and New York, together with many unrecorded papers loaned by friends; the treasures of the great libraries, including priceless manuscripts (now largely perished) in the custody of our courteous State Archivist, Mr. Van Laer, to say nothing of histories, alleged histories, gazetteers, and newspaper files, have been searched with the utmost care in reading and copying. Many Dutch records have been translated or their substance furnished, in some cases by Mr. Van Laer himself. The records of the old Kinderhook church, covering nearly two hundred years, have been of incalculable value; and possibly fifty years of very frequent scrutiny of them may justify the hope of the approximate accuracy of data derived therefrom. In every quotation there has been strict adherence to the original text, and all responsibility for inconsistencies in the spelling of names is expressly disclaimed. Three variations in such spelling in one document, and as many as fourteen spellings of the same name, have been noted. Descendants of the old families may find in their records ample authority for any spelling they prefer.

The genealogical and biographical notes are numerous and relate to nearly all the old families, but are given of necessity merely in outline. They are, however, reasonably complete and accurate. As long as descendants of the same original ancestor are not agreed as to the accuracy of the

published genealogical records, even those of Pearson and Munsell not excepted, it is not to be assumed that I have threaded my way through the inextricable maze with unerring step. Authorities supposedly correct have been followed, and if I have erred it is in excellent and even illustrious company. Personal research in behalf of many seeking to establish impossible family relationships corroborates the statement of Professor Pearson in his *Genealogies of the First Settlers of Albany* that "it is to be feared that, through tradition or something worse, a large element of fiction has been introduced into many genealogies."

Footnotes are few, notwithstanding the suggestion that "they look well." Inasmuch as the indices of the many volumes of the *Documentary History of the State*, the *Documents Relating to the Colonial History*, Munsell's *Annals* and the like, volumes familiar and accessible to the novice in historic research, reveal the authority for a multitude of unimportant details mentioned, the pedantic display of footnotes concerning an Indian foray or the building of a bridge seemed unnecessary and even undesirable. For all really important land-papers, records, and narratives, the source of authority will be found incorporated in the text.

While the gazetteers furnish many dry-as-dust industrial and other details, said to be loved by posterity, the newspaper files give informing and entertaining glimpses of the every-day life of the fathers; of their exciting political campaigns when the stability of American institutions was imperilled by the candidacy of a Kinderhook justice; of their notable celebrations, barbecues, and gorgeous training days; of their churches and schools; of their sloops and stage-coaches; and of the occasional sad aberration of local editors and bards in the by-ways of frivolity and sentiment. The story of the old homesteads, inns, and the people in them is told with considerable fullness. Many biographical sketches reveal Kinderhook's exceptionally large contribution of notable men to every department of public life. In reminis-

cences of old times Kinderhookers may see the village and their forebears as others saw them, and the gossip of the author concerning men and things fifty years ago may be an appropriate finale.

Obligations to helpers cannot be fully acknowledged, but many are named in the text. The first place belongs to Mr. William Wait, an enthusiastic antiquarian and Indian archæologist. His suggestions and the treasures of his fine library, as well as his artistic taste and skill in the matter of illustrations, have been of great value. Next in order are the voluminous notes of the late Mr. Pierre Van Buren Hoes who passed away when his sketches of Kinderhook and its people were but begun. Through the kindness of his widow, Mrs. Anna Miller Hoes, and of his son, P. Ernest Hoes, all that material has been made available and helpful. The Rev. Roswell Randall Hoes, Chaplain U. S. N., has also rendered valuable assistance. So, likewise, have Mr. Philip Van Alstine and Dr. Wm. B. Van Alstyne, both of New York and both deeply interested in Kinderhook's early history. Our accomplished State Archivist, Mr. Arnold J. F. Van Laer, and Miss Van Peyma of the genealogical room of the former State library, are to be thankfully named. To Mr. Peyton F. Miller of Hudson I am indebted for permission to use his *A Group of Great Lawyers* as if written by myself. Very great also was my obligation to my lamented friend, the late Colonel Silas W. Burt, for the loan of the charming manuscript volume containing his recollections of his early life in Kinderhook. From the late Mrs. Aaron J. Vanderpoel, Mrs. W. G. Hibbard of Chicago, and Mr. Robert C. Van Schaack of the same city, daughters and grandson of the late H. C. Van Schaack, of Manlius, N. Y., came the privilege of examining and culling from his three large folio volumes of *Revolutionary Autographs*, containing many autograph letters and other documents pertaining to those times. Then a host of good people have not only loaned valuable documents but have had their lives made miserable

in part by ceaseless questions. Their unmentioned names would make a partial census of the town. I must, however, name Mr. Calvin Ackley of phenomenal memory of persons and events long passed; and also Mr. Chas. M. Bray, who made many searches of titles in Albany and Hudson. All these at least will rejoice at the completion of this work. Many, with no faintest conception of the labor involved, have been impatient at the long delay in writing finis. Thankful that with spared life and reason I can now write it, I dedicate the book to all the sons and daughters of dear old Kinderhook.

My long-time friend, the Rev. Dr. W. E. Griffis, bade me God-speed as this new voyage out upon the dark and stormy sea of authorship was begun. He also, most kindly, warned me against being "swamped in a sea of archæological details." Perilously near it have I been many a time, but now my battered bark is at last safely within a haven of rest, which is sweet, even though it be not in all respects the "desired haven." LAUS DEO!

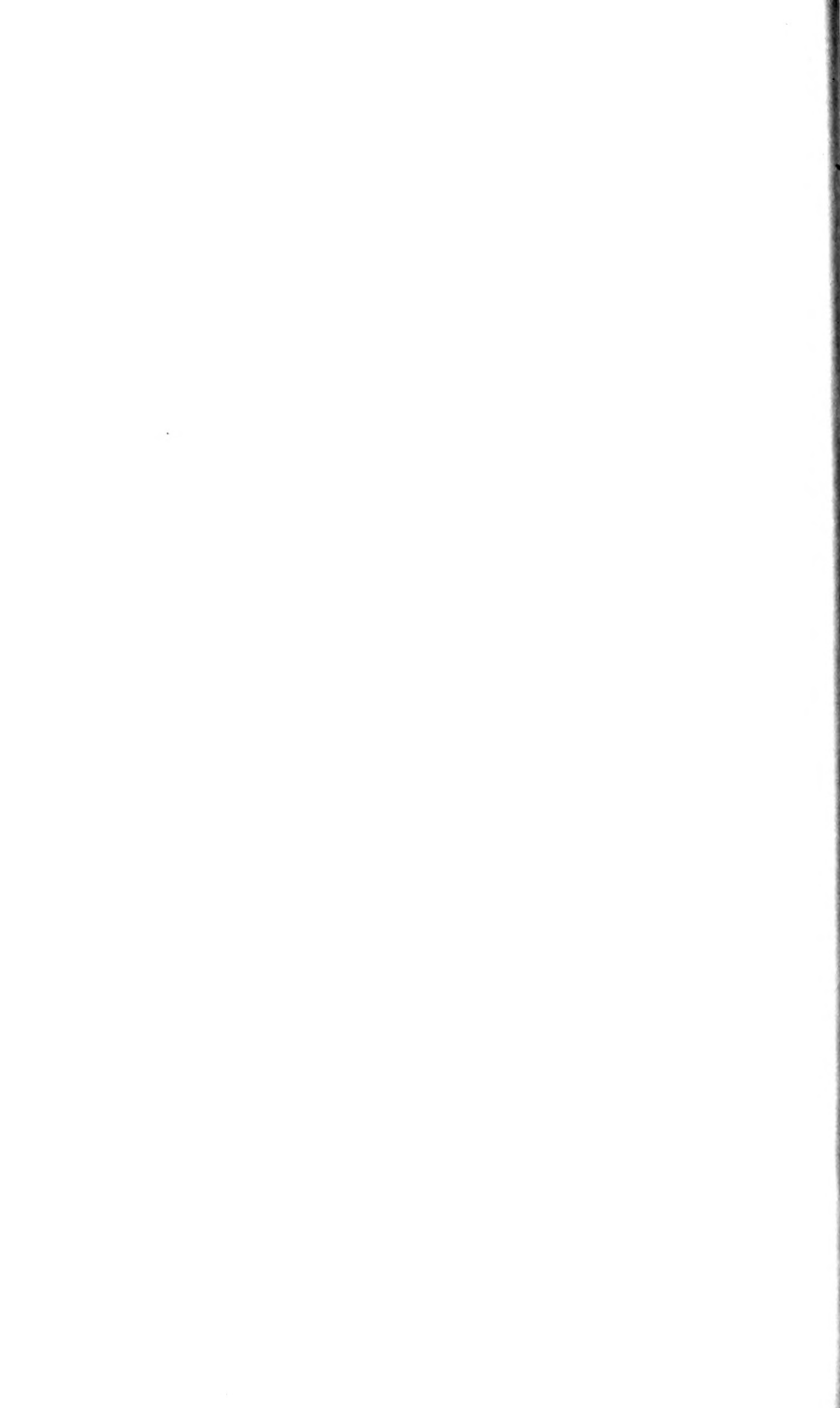
E. A. C.

Kinderhook, N. Y., July 1, 1914.



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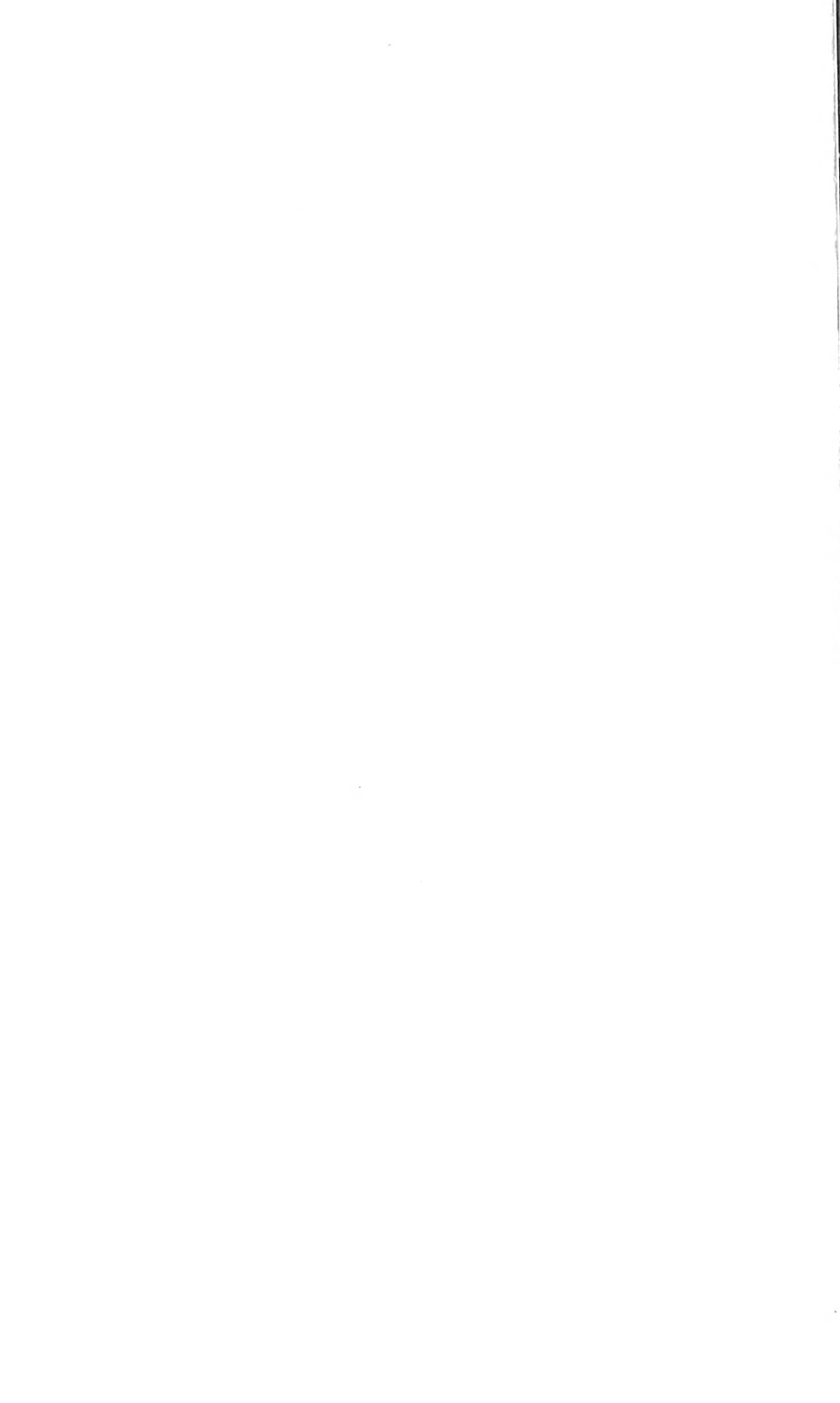
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A HISTORY OF OLD KINDERHOOK



History of Old Kinderhook

CHAPTER I

KINDERHOOK AND ITS INDIANS

Name—Territorial Extent—Discovery—Hudson's Visit—Indian Occupancy
—Indian Names—The Last of the Mahicans.

KINDERHOOK (*Kinder-hoeck*) means Children's Corner. The prosaic prefer Point. Referring to this meaning Ruttenber says, "There is a fragrance in the fact which makes the name more palatable than most Dutch geographical terms." Another breath of fragrance, we add, comes to us from Claverack—Clover Reach.

The original location of the name was on the river-bank near Light House Creek. This explains the constantly recurring phrase in early land papers—"behind Kinderhook."

The first known appearance of the name is remarkable and of great significance. It is on what is called Adriaen Block's (possibly Cornelis Hendrick's) "Carte Figurative," dated 1614-1616. No present-day place-name in the State is of earlier record. On that chart Albany is Nassau, and New York, Manhattes. The chart is, as Bacon states, "shockingly mendacious" in its mislocation of some names; Esopus, for example, on the east side of the river; but it is accurate as regards the location of Kinderhook.

Old Kinderhook

This early appearance of the name instantly disposes of all the alleged and variant traditions as to its origin except the most pleasing, namely, that it was given by Hudson or his crew because of the Indian children gathered to see the strange monster on the river. Inasmuch as the telegraph and telephone had not as yet been installed in the wigwams of the Indians, it seems probable that it was an anchored, somewhere abiding, and not a mere passing ship which called the children together in sufficient number to occasion the giving of the name. Returning home the explorers reported the incident, and down the name Kinderhook went on that very early chart.

To Henry Hudson belongs the honor of the discovery of Kinderhook when the *Half Moon* anchored in latitude $42^{\circ} 18'$, September 18, 1609.

Our authority for this and other statements to follow is De Laet's *Nieuw Werreld*, 1625. John De Laet, a member of the West Indian Company and an eminent geographer, claimed that he wrote with original documents, inferentially Hudson's Journal and Juet's Log Book, before him. Robert Juet, Hudson's clerk, kept a daily log book with evident care. Director Jameson, of Carnegie Institute, Washington, in his *Narratives of New Netherland*, assures us that "De Laet's work is composed with system, precision and accuracy." Both Hudson and Juet were English, and their leagues and miles English and not Dutch. Interpreters of these records have come to different conclusions. After Yates and Moulton, Brodhead and others, it would ill become us to assume that we can settle the disputed question in favor of Kinderhook waters as the most northerly anchorage of the *Half Moon*. It is certainly, however, *not* settled adversely; and while we do not claim a proved case, we do claim a greater degree of plausibility and probability for this view than for any other. All conditions considered, the *Half Moon* of our picture puzzle fits more perfectly in Kinderhook waters as the final anchorage than any-

where else. We present the argument for what it may be worth.

The first important presentation of the view for which we contend was by Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller in his address before the N. Y. Hist. Society in 1809, published in their first volume.

In Capt. Simms's *Frontiersmen of New York*, we read: "Captain Hudson ascended the stream above the present city of Hudson, and from thence sent his mate with four hands in a boat to prosecute the survey, who, it is believed, ascended the river to the present site of Albany."

From *Historical Collections of the State of New York* we quote the statement of Barber and Howe, 1841:

Hudson appears to have sailed up the river a little above where the city of Hudson now stands; and beyond that point he himself never ascended. Not considering it safe to proceed further with his ship he sent a boat with five hands to explore and sound the river higher up. The boat proceeded eight or nine leagues beyond where the ship lay at anchor; but finding the soundings extremely irregular and the depth in some places not more than seven feet, it was judged inadvisable to attempt any further progress.

Finally, in this partial citation of authorities, in Randall's *History* (1870, p. 12) we read: "On the 19th, he (Hudson) reached the present site of Kinderhook, from whence, having sent a small boat to a point a little above Albany, he commenced, on the 23rd, his return voyage."

Much importance is given to the statement of Emanuel Van Meteren, Dutch consul at London for twenty-five years until his death in 1612, which is that the ship ascended the river to latitude $42^{\circ} 40'$, approximately that of the present Lumber district, Albany.

We also have Lambrechtsen's statement that the river was sailed up to latitude 43° ; that is more than twenty miles above Albany. Recalling the rapids then existing beyond

Troy, and having a fall of about twenty feet, the statement is absurdly inaccurate, if strictly interpreted.

Yates and Moulton cite from *A Record of West India Voyages* that the highest latitude reached was $42^{\circ} 40'$; but whether by the *Half Moon* or its boat is not stated. We submit also that the writer, thirty-eight years after Hudson, quoted by Brodhead is not a prime or conclusive authority.

Morse (*American Geography*, 1789) gives the latitude of Hudson as $42^{\circ} 23'$, Albany, $42^{\circ} 36'$. It is quite conceivable that Van Meteren also erred. Concerning his and all like statements we remark:

I. They are inconsistent with the original narrative of Hudson and Juet. This explicitly declares that the small boat went "*eight or nine leagues*" beyond the most northerly anchorage of the *Half Moon*. It was gone all day, not returning until ten o'clock at night; presumably a twelve- or fourteen-hour trip to say the least. But it is certain that the boat could have gone only about two leagues above $42^{\circ} 40'$. We must anchor the *Half Moon* in Kinderhook waters to make that eight or nine league twelve-hour trip possible.

II. De Laet, with Hudson's narrative professedly before him, expressly states that it was in latitude $42^{\circ} 18'$, approximately that of the mouth of Stockport Creek, that Hudson made his memorable visit ashore. Beyond this point the *Half Moon* sailed only about two leagues, that is, to Kinderhook waters, and there for about four days remained at anchor and thence returned after the trip of the small boat "*eight or nine leagues*" beyond; that is, to the vicinity of Albany. It is alleged that De Laet's latitudes and Juet's leagues and miles were probably inaccurate. The precision of our U. S. Coast Survey is not to be expected; but we may not assume errors to fit our theories. The latitude of Sandy Hook bar, which the *Half Moon* hesitated to cross because "*there was no more than ten feet of water,*" is given with approximate accuracy, and there is no warrant

for the assumption that $42^{\circ} 18'$, as the latitude of Hudson's visit ashore, is incorrect. The miles and leagues of Juet's log are, it is alleged, too many for the actual distance sailed. Quite true for a modern steamboat trip, but possibly not for the *Half Moon* tacking hither and yon as compelled by adverse winds.

III. The details of the original narratives as regards the vicinity of the final anchorage of the *Half Moon* point to the same conclusion. A friend, very familiar with this part of the river, and a practical navigator, assures us that the details—"shoals in the middle of the river with deep water on either side and in the proximity of three small islands"—are met in this locality and in no other.

IV. We have this narrative of the first stage of the return trip:

At tweule of the clocks wee weighed, and went downe two leagues to a Shoald that had two channels, one on the one side, and another on the other, and had little wind, whereby the tide layed vs upon it. So, there wee sate on ground the space of an houre, till the floud came.

The narrative in all its details agrees perfectly with the theory of Kinderhook waters as the starting-point, and the well-known flat near the four-mile lighthouse as the place where the *Half Moon* grounded.

The editor of Juet's Journal (*New York Historical Collections, New Series, Vol. I.*) added this note:

"Ship navigation in the river extends five or six miles above the city of Hudson, to about the latitude $42^{\circ} 18'$; beyond this point vessels drawing more than six feet of water are generally unable to ascend." Moulton supposes the *Half-Moon* to have been of the small class of vessels of less burthen than sloops plying between Troy and New York. But it will be remembered that on making Sandy Hook, Hudson at first declined entering what appeared to be the mouth of a large river, because *it had a very*

shoal bar before it, where they had but ten feet of water. Is it probable, then, that he ventured or was able to pursue his course beyond the point indicated as the head of ship navigation on the river, when he would encounter shoals of only six or seven feet at high water?

De Laet, after describing "Kleverack" (Clover Reach) and other "Reaches" as "dotted with sands and shallow both on the east side and in the middle of the river," writes:

Finally the Hart's Reach succeeds as far as the Kinderhoeck: at this place and beyond, the river at its greatest depth has but five fathoms of water and generally only two or three. Beyond the Kinderhoeck there are several small islands in the river, one of which is called Beeren Island.

We confess to a profound admiration for the skill of the theoretic pilots two hundred and forty years after Hudson who, under these conditions of unknown tortuous channels and innumerable shoals, navigate a ship of eighty tons, which drew too much water for the bars of the Delaware and hesitated and grounded at Sandy Hook with its ten feet of water, to the vicinity of Albany, and thence send a small boat twenty-four miles or more up the rapids.

All are agreed that through the day and night of September 16th, the *Half Moon* was at anchor within near view of the Catskill Mountains, possibly near Catskill, possibly Tivoli. There, Juet narrates, "*We found very loving people and very old men and were well used.*" The natives supplied them with Indian corn, pumpkins, and tobacco. The next day tortuous channels and many shoals, with which all navigators of the Hudson are familiar, made progress difficult and slow. They ran only "*six leagues higher.*" The *Half Moon* grounded twice but was "heaved off" and finally safely anchored, where it remained about a day and a half. The latitude, according to De Laet, was $42^{\circ} 18'$, approximately, as we have already said, that of the mouth of Stock-



The "Half Moon" in Kinderhook Waters

From a photograph



Major Abram's Creek, Looking West
Near here Henry Hudson Landed

From a photograph

port creek. There, De Laet states, "*Hudson landed.*" Then and there he discovered Kinderhook and trod its soil. Beyond this the *Half Moon* went about six miles and anchored, where it remained about four days. It was the cynosure of all eyes, especially of those of the gathering children, and the place was therefore named Kinderhook. And the name continues while Albany was successively known as Nassau, De Fuyck, Fort Orange, Beverwyck, Albany, Willemstadt, and Albany; not to say Aurania ("ffort Aurania"), which was doubtless the English phonetic spelling of the Dutch Oranje (Orange). Most respectfully do we remind Albanians, who insist on docking the *Half Moon* where we beheld her replica in 1909, of what Governor Nicolls with reason wrote to Jeremias Van Rensselaer: "You should not grasp too much."

We have presented our argument and deem it plausible if not conclusive. Certainly no other conclusion is indisputably established.

That this was the view of Martin Van Buren we do not positively affirm; but among the pleasing memorabilia of him is his alleged reply when at a royal reception Queen Adelaide asked how far back he could trace his ancestry. Bowing with all courtly grace he answered, "As far back as Kinderhook, Your Majesty."

Of course we who know Kinderhook best are not surprised that Hudson should have regarded it as the *Ultima Thule* of his personal explorations and the *Ne Plus Ultra* of his desires.

Hudson's visit to Kinderhook was on Friday, September 18, 1609. The narrative from his own journal is as follows:

I sailed to the shore in one of their canoes with an old man, who was the chief of a tribe consisting of forty men and seventeen women; these I saw there in a house well constructed of oak-bark and circular in shape, so that it had the appearance of being built with an arched roof. It contained a great quantity of

maize or Indian corn and beans of the last year's growth, and there lay near the house for the purpose of drying enough to load three ships, besides what was growing in the fields. On our coming into the house two mats were spread out to sit upon, and immediately some food was served in well made red wooden bowls; two men were also despatched at once with bows and arrows in quest of game, who soon after brought in a pair of pigeons which they had shot. They likewise killed a fat dog, and skinned it with great haste with shells which they had got out of the water. They supposed that I would remain with them for the night, but I returned after a short time to the ship. The land is the finest for cultivation that I ever in my life set foot upon, and it also abounds in trees of every description. The natives are a very good people, for when they saw that I would not remain, they supposed that I was afraid of their bows, and taking their arrows, they broke them in pieces and threw them into the fire.

Hospitality and goodness abide in Kinderhook still.

The Indians who so kindly welcomed Hudson were the Mahicans, sometimes mistakenly identified with their cousins the Mohegans, whom Cooper immortalized. Their domain included the whole eastern shore of the upper Hudson as far as the falls of the Mohawk and thence eastward indefinitely. They were a tribe of the Lenni-Lenapes, which means Original People. The domain of the Lenapes extended along the Atlantic seaboard from the St. Lawrence to Florida, and as far inland as the valley of the Mississippi, and even to some tribes beyond. But of this region a small portion near the Great Lakes, and that extending across New York and through the valley of the Mohawk and to the headwaters of the Delaware and Susquehanna, was occupied by the Mengwe, otherwise called Iroquois or Six Nations; and a small portion along the Gulf at the south was inhabited by the Creeks and Cherokees. The Lenni-Lenapes, it is stated, had been reduced in numbers by 1660, to 90,000; about one half of the total number of Indians east of the Mississippi.

The tradition of the Mahicans concerning their early history, which is essentially that of the Lenni-Lenapes, is given by Heckewelder in substance as follows: Their ancestral home was in the far West beside great waters that ebbed and flowed. Moved by the Great Spirit to seek new hunting grounds in the East, they started upon their journey. It was long and perilous and involved many bloody conflicts with hostile tribes through whose territory they must needs go. Years of privation and suffering came and went without their finding a place of rest. They came to many great waters but to none that ebbed and flowed until they reached the Hudson. These waters were like those of their ancestral river. They named them Mahicanituck, the river of the Mahicans. Here the Great Spirit would have them "*kindle a fire and hang a kettle whereof they and their children might dip out their daily refreshment.*"

Their Council fire and palisaded village or castle were in Schodack, meaning Fire Place or Place of Council. The site was Castle hill within the present village of Castleton. Another place of rendezvous was in Valatie, the Indian name of which (Pachaquak) signifies Meeting Place. Beeren Island was long known as the island of the Mahicans, and Smack's as Aepjen's Island.

Eskuvius, *alias* Aepjen (Little Ape), was the Mahican head Sachem and Peace Chief. The name Aepjen was probably the Dutch phonetic spelling of an Indian name of much more dignified meaning. Kesieway (Kesse Waye) was another Peace Chief who was in later years a mail-carrier between Albany and New York. The function of a Peace Chief was to maintain tribal covenants and also to negotiate treaties of peace for his own people and for others when invited thus to serve. We find Aepjen thus serving with the sachems of five other tribes in New Amsterdam, in 1645, to terminate a desolating war of five years' continuance. Their signatures, with those of William Kieft and other Dutch officials, were affixed to the treaty. Aepjen's

mark is charmingly like a child's picture of a giraffe with a long neck but very short legs and a straight tail of the same length. It was meant doubtless for a wolf, the emblem of his tribe. Again in 1660 he was one of three Mahican chiefs who went to Fort Amsterdam in the interests of peace with the Esopus Indians. Laying down, we read, four belts of wampum before Governor Stuyvesant, "These," he said, "are a guarantee that the Kalebackers (possessors of guns) desire peace, and that we are authorized to treat in their behalf."

Traditionally, Emikee, whose name occurs on an Indian deed and on the subsequent Baker and Flodder land-patent, was the owner of the present site of the village of Kinderhook and of a portion of the flats toward Valatie; and one Pompoen (whence Pompoenick) was the swarthy proprietor of Valatie or land to the east of it. As late as 1812, when attorney Martin Van Buren was arguing one of the almost interminable land cases, he rather ungraciously referred to Emikee as "only an Indian." The retort was that the attorney was born on Emikee's land.

In our iconoclastic age some are disposed to regard Emikee as a myth, partly because Chancellor Kent, in one of our most important land cases, of which we shall have more to say, used the words, "the Emiquees land," suggesting possibly a tribe or family of the Mahicans. That the word was a corruption of Maquas (Mohawks) is not credible. The Mohawks, sometimes victors and at other times the vanquished even in their own fastnesses, in the frequent conflicts between the two tribes, never owned any of our territory. That Emikee and Wattawit, our chief Indian landholder (for himself or his family), were one and the same is possible. But for ourselves we have a profound respect for Emikee as a veritable person, and shall drop a quiet tear over his grave when we find it. He should have a monument in our village park, and we will receive subscriptions therefor.

The principal trails of the Indians through the wilderness, unbroken save by patches here and there under crude tillage, were two: one near the river; and the other, following the lines of least resistance, nearly identical with the road-bed of the Boston and Albany Railroad and long known as the "New England Path."

The friendliness of the Mahicans who welcomed Hudson was continued for many years. With scarcely an exception their lands were bought, not stolen. The price was often trifling indeed, but satisfactory to the owners. Under the Dutch in 1629, and the English in 1664, the extinguishment of the Indian claim by purchase was a prerequisite to the granting of a land-patent. The Indian owner or the Sachem of the tribe was required to appear in person before the Albany authorities and attest the satisfactory sale.

On Manhattan, not here, occurred the alleged repetition of Queen Dido's exploit at Carthage. A bit of land, only what a bullock's hide would cover, that they might "raise a few greens for their soup," was asked for and freely given. But when the thrifty suppliants, laying aside their Virgil, proceeded to cut the hide into small strings which enclosed a considerable plot, the Indians said nothing, for they had several acres left, but they did considerable thinking, to the effect possibly that the verdants in the bouillon were already in evidence.

In 1623 Mahican chiefs brought to commander Jorise at Fort Orange, large presents of beaver and other peltry, and asked for covenants of friendship and privileges of traffic. They are reported as saying at that time that they made a wide distinction between the Dutch at Fort Orange and those at New Amsterdam. We blushinglly accept the tribute as undoubtedly merited. And yet we will say that there was a decided distinction between the fierce warlike Delawares of Manhattan and our peaceful loving Mahicans. Moreover, when we read in the narrative of the Swedish naturalist, Peter Kalm, of his visit to Albany, in 1749,—

Old Kinderhook

"Nobody comes to this place without the most pressing necessity," and read his description of the inhabitants as a people whose "avarice and selfishness are known through all North America," we are humbled. But Albany was not Kinderhook.

The "merrie making" which followed Hudson's visit to the Mahicans was the beginning of a sorrowful story. In later years their love for the white man's "fire-water" became an insatiable appetite most destructive as always in its results. No wonder that some called it "devils' blood." The record is painful and humiliating to the last degree, but the long story of impoverishment, demoralization, disease, and death requires no recital here. Two hundred years later, Heckewelder writes of the traditions of that fateful merrymaking as still current among the Indians. He gives the derivation of the name Manhattan from a long Indian word meaning "the island where we all became intoxicated." Inasmuch as the earliest authorities refer to the locality as "Mana-hatta" we respectfully put an interrogation mark after Mr. Heckewelder's derivation, and are assured of a more pleasing pedigree for the name.

The Indians were not wholly uncared for by the Colonial authorities: among the "Lawes establish't by the Authority of His Majestees Letters patent granted to his Royall Highnes James Duke of Yorke and Albany," we find the law regarding the purchase of lands from Indians already referred to; other laws for their protection from injuries; forbidding the sale of weapons, ammunition, intoxicating liquors without license, etc.; and then this for the safeguarding of the morals of settlers: "No Indian whatsoever shall at any time be suffered to Powaw or perform outward worship to the Devil in any Towne within this Government." There was also this charming protection of the sanctity of marriage: "Any person proven guilty of perjury, who has thereby attained a Double Marriage . . . shall bee boared through the tongue with a read hot iron."

The devil-worship referred to was thus explained in Robert Livingston's letter to Bellomont in 1770: "God, they say, is good and lives above. Him they love because He never do's them any harm. The devil they fear and are forced to bribe by offerings, etc., that he do them no harme."

How tenderly solicitous the Dutch fathers were for the health of the Indians we learn from Jed's *Historical Fragments* which tell us of the ordinance of 1653 against the selling of white bread or cake to the natives; and we are pleased to note that in 1655, Jochim, the baker, was tried for selling them sugar cakes and also for baking bread under weight. This last was such a heinous offense that notice was affixed to the church door (1681) that the price of white bread was to be seven stivers (14 cents) wampum, for a loaf weighing one Dutch pound.

Our Mahicans seem to have been numerous and strong at the time of Hudson's visit and for twenty years thereafter.

In apparent confirmation of this, which is not the commonly accepted view, we find in what is known as Van Curler's but was probably (Mr. Van Laer thinks) Surgeon Vanden Bogaert's Journal of his expedition among the Iroquois (1634-35), a reference to an abandoned fortress of the Mohawks, from which (his Indian guide informed him) they had been driven not many years before by the Mahicans. Indeed, so independent were they that the first settlers at Fort Orange found them entirely unwilling to part with any of their territory. Even the West India Company was unable as late as 1625 to purchase from them the site of Fort Orange. It was not until after their disastrous defeat by the Mohawks on Roger's Island, in 1629, that the Mahicans consented to sell any part of their ancestral domain. Then, through the steady encroachment of the white man, as well as the triumph of their ancient foe, they soon became a comparatively small and feeble folk.

Their treatment by the Dutch and English authorities,

while not especially oppressive, tended to make and keep them "women," as the Indian phrase was. The conciliation of the Mohawks, and the other nations of the famous Iroquois League, seemed and probably was essential to the progress and even the continued existence of Fort Orange and its dependencies. The Mohawks, hoping to obtain arms with which they might more successfully than of late contend with the Indian allies of the French in Canada, were quite disposed to be conciliated. Hence the summons to all to the notable conference at Norman's Kill in 1618. In the treaty there concluded the Iroquois held one end of the Peace Belt and the Dutch the other, while the middle of it rested on the shoulders of the Lenni-Lenapes and the Mahicans. All the white man's power was pledged against the people who should first unbury the hatchet.

The Mahicans appear to have remained true to the covenant of 1619 to the last. We may be sure they were not of the marauding band of Indians who in 1664 burned the Staats house at Stockport and devastated to some extent the interior. Nor were they of those allies of the French who in 1748 and 1755 made their sudden attacks with torch, tomahawk, and muskets. On the contrary, they were ready to serve our people with their lives if need be. When in 1691 Fort Orange was threatened with an attack by the French and their savage allies, the Mahicans were "the River Indians" who obeyed the summons to defend the imperilled fort. And when in 1696, Captain Dubeau and his band from Montreal were marching from the vicinity of Fort Orange to attack Kinderhook, our faithful Mahicans surprised and defeated them. Doubtless there were occasional lapses from virtue on the part of individuals, as there have been, it is reported, among the sachems and braves of the Great Wigwam of Manhattan. But on the whole the Mahicans were faithful to their early covenant of friendship. The characterization of the River Indians by Smith's *History* as "dastardly tribes to whom governors gave pres-

ents for promises never meant to be performed," is inaccurate and unjust. They sealed their covenant of friendship with the English, as well as with the Dutch, with their own blood.

In evidence of this we quote a portion of the address of the Mahicans to Governor Fletcher, when he came to Albany in 1693 to confer with them and other Indians. It should be noted that the Mahicans had received considerable accessions after King Philip's war (1676), by the coming of their cousins from New England.

We cite a fragment of the address: "Wee return you also our hearty thank's for renewing and makeing bright that covenant chain, wee will alway's Oyle and greeze it that it should never Rust. Thereupon they presented half a belt of Wampum." They did lubricate the covenant chain; for, when the same Governor visited Albany in 1696, passing through Kinderhook on his way, one of the very first things he did was to send for our Indians "who had knocked a party of seaven Frenchmen on the head," and "for their better encouragement" gave them six pounds for each one they had killed.

Although involving a break in the continuity of our narrative, the frequent and manifold use of wampum (seawant), in Indian traffic treaties and common life, justifies a paragraph of explanation. Wampum was made of bits of shell rounded, perforated, and usually strung on a sinew of an animal. The strings varied in length according to circumstances and were sometimes measured by the fathom. Several strings interwoven to about the width of a hand constituted a belt. The beads, so-called, were usually like small pieces of broken pipestem, white, black, red, or purple in color, and were more valuable if polished. Those of cylindrical shape, made from the red pipestone of the West, were more valuable still. The beads were used for money, for personal adornment, and as symbolic tokens and pledges. Their color, number, and arrangement were significant of

ideas, intelligible to the Indian if not to the white man. At conferences and councils and in the making of treaties, the Indian orator was wont to punctuate the paragraphs of his oration by laying down strings, belts, or fathoms of wampum varying in length, value, and symbolic meaning according to the importance of the subject-matter of his address.

These belts were also in a degree their historic annals and the records of the mutual obligations of giver and receiver. We read of an Indian who in time of need claimed from a white man the fulfillment of a promise he had received forty years before, and of which he had a memorial belt. A sachem or other dignitary was the official keeper of these memorial belts. From time to time he would gather the younger members of the tribe about him and solemnly explain the significance of each belt, thus handing it down from father to son and from generation to generation. The explanation was listened to with reverent silence until completed. Then, only, some aged warrior might speak of any detail which the keeper of the belts had possibly forgotten.

As money, wampum was an unstable currency, with a constant tendency to depreciation. A well-polished black bead was worth two white ones. In 1641, at the famous Seawant-Wampum Exchange, which stood (we assume) on Aepjen's Island, six unpolished, or four well-polished beads were worth one stiver (about two cents). In 1658, eight white and four black beads were valued at one stiver, and four years later twenty-four white beads and twelve black were worth one stiver. A fathom of wampum was valued at \$1.66½. These market quotations are correct, whatever the unimaginative may allege concerning the precise location of the Seawant-Wampum Exchange.

Resuming our proof of the fidelity and serviceableness of our Indians, we cite the testimony of Robert Livingston (1700) in a letter to Governor Bellomont, in which he says,

“The River Indians have done signal service for this government in the late war.”

For yet another interesting item of evidence, we have the notable address of the River Indians to Lieutenant-Governor Nanfan (1701) in the presence of Peter Schuyler of “His Majesties Councill,” the mayor, aldermen, and other dignitaries. The Mahican sachem Sacquans was the speaker whom we quote in part:

Father. Wee became like a people in darkness soe soon as wee heard of the death of our father the late Earle of Bellomont our Govenour and soe continued till the sun shined again upon us by your coming . . . wee esteem ourselves happy that there is such a person pitch'd upon to be our father and Governour who wee hope will take care of us—Doe give two beavers.

Father. Itt is by Gods permission wee meet here together and wee are heartily glad to see you, and since itt is requisite you should know our strength wee have made an exact calculation and wee are now two hundred fighting men . . . and hope to increase in a years time to three hundred. doe give a belt of Wampum.

Father. Itt is now ninety years agoe since the christians came first here, when there was a covenant chain made between them and the Mahikanders the first inhabitants of this River, and the chain has been kept inviolable ever since and we have observed that neither Bears grease nor the fatt of dear or Elks are soe proper to keep that chain bright, the only forraign (sovrain) remedy that wee have found by experience in all that time to keep the chain bright is Beavers grease. doe give two Beavers.

The fifth paragraph of Lanfan's reply is as follows:

The great King of England my Master being made sencible of your stedly adherence to the Crown of England sufficiently demonstrated by your forward and frequent venturing your lives against the French in the late warr has been graciously pleased to command me to assure you of his Royall protection and has sent you a present.

This was the present, besides what was given to particular sachems privately: "30 Gunns. 5 kettles. 4 dozen knives. 5 looking glasses. 1 ps red 1 ps blew strouds, 1 ps blanketts, 8 kegg of Rum, 200 barrs lead, 40 Bags powder, 3 Rolls tobacco, 10 Hatchets, 10 shirts, 24 pair stockings, gross of pipes, 2 vatts beer, 50 loaves."

In Barber's *Historical American Scenes* it is narrated, in substance, that a delegation from Massachusetts being in Albany to confer, in common with our authorities, with the Six Nations, it became necessary for Colonel Schuyler to send a letter to Niagara. It was intrusted to an Indian who was to bring back the reply. During his absence Colonel Schuyler was taken quite ill. The messenger, on his return, went to the council chamber but finding Colonel Schuyler absent would give the letter to none other, notwithstanding all assurances and solicitations. He was then offered fifty pounds for the letter and his service but scornfully refused the offer. The perplexed commissioners then threatened to take the letter by force, whereupon, with his drawn knife in his right hand and the letter in the left, he said with indignation that he would plunge the knife into his own heart before he would be guilty of a breach of trust. And he was "only an Indian."

The Indian names of familiar localities are not without interest. They are to be found on old maps, deeds, surveys, land-patents, and in the colonial records so voluminously on file among the archives of the State. In many cases, however, their orthography is so variant in different documents, and even in the same document, that authorities are unable to decide as to the correct form and the precise significance. Rутtenber makes note of forty-nine variations of one name.

Like the early Hebrew Bible names they were all significant. They were vivid word-pictures; and yet, eyes skilled in discerning them do not always see the same pictures. For example, "Skenectadea," some have said, was the Indian

name for the present site of Albany, and Ruttenber assembles this picture gallery of varying interpretations: "Beyond the opening" (Morgan); "Beyond (or on the other side of) the door" (O'Callaghan), and "Beyond the Pines" (Horatio Allen). Mr. Ruttenber deems Mr. Allen's interpretation exhaustive and correct from the standpoint of a Mohawk, but himself prefers a Dutch origin for the name and the meaning—"beautiful portion."

Premising that where authorities differ we give but one orthography without claiming exactitude, we present the following details, nearly all of them from the older land-patents:

The Hudson River, named by the Dutch Mauritius, was called by some Indians Shatemuc (Eel-fishing Place), and by others, as before stated, Mahicanituck, the river of the Mahicans. The vicinity of Chittenden's Falls was termed Cicklekawick, a wild, dashing stream. Two tracts, farther up the creek, were called Najokassick and Wachcanossoonsick. One of the falls still beyond was named Casesiawack. A portion of the site of Kinderhook village was Machackoosk and that of Valatie, Packaquak, the cleared or meeting-place. In parenthesis, we respectfully suggest to our neighbor a return, as in the case of Sing-Sing, to the sonorous Indian name, rather than the perpetuation of the unmeaning nasality, Va-láy-she, for the good old Dutch pronunciation Vól-a-che, meaning Little Falls as distinguished from the greater falls below. It is related of the late Hon. William H. Tobey that, hearing a lawyer in Court say Va-láy-she, he wrathfully exclaimed: "What does the fellow mean? There is no such place." Ruttenber to the contrary notwithstanding, French's *Gazetteer* is correct as to the meaning of Valatie, Little Falls.

The hills to the east of Valatie toward Chatham Center were named Pennekoes. The Kleine Kill was Kenagtiquak, a small stream or beginning place. Kinderhook Lake (Great Fish) was Wogasheuachook, while the smaller Knicker-

bocker Lake had appropriately the less imposing name Heithoock (Tree). The Eykebush (Oak Woods) Creek was called Pettanock. Pompoenick may have meant playground. The Indians had their places of sport.

Our Mahicans, few in number compared with what they had been, rapidly faded away. The official enumeration of 1689 revealed but 250, including women and children, in the entire county of Albany, of which Kinderhook was a district. Seven years later they had dwindled to ninety. Strong drink, "one of the fatal first gifts," says O'Callaghan, of the civilized Christian to the untutored heathen, was their greatest enemy. Their wisest men at least understood this. At their conference with Lord Cornbury in 1702 a sachem stood up and prayed that, "y^e Rum (100 gallons) given in y^e present might be lodged somewhere till their Conference was over since they are now just begunn and if their people should fall a drinking they should be unfitt for businesse; upon which it was ordered to be lodged in M^r. Livingstones seller." It was not long until all were gone; most of them to unknown graves; a few to their kinfolk beyond the Taghkanics and in Stockbridge, a remnant of them serving on the side of the Americans in the Revolutionary War, as their ancient foe, the Mohawks, served the British. Later on, the very few survivors of the once powerful race of the Mahicans were removed, first to Madison County, N. Y., in 1785, and then to the Ohio country and to Canada.

We are indebted to Mr. Heckewelder for the pathetic story the Lenni-Lenapes and Mahicans were wont to tell:

We and our kindred tribes lived in peace and harmony with each other before the white man came into this country. Our council-house extended far to the south and far to the north. In the middle of it we would meet from all parts to smoke the pipe of peace together. When the white men arrived in the south we received them as friends; we did the same when they arrived in

the east. It was we, it was our forefathers, who made them welcome and let them sit down by our side. The land they settled on was ours. We knew not but the Great Spirit had sent them to us for some good purpose, and therefore we thought they must be a good people. We were mistaken; for no sooner had they obtained a footing on our lands than they began to pull our council-house down, first at one end and then at the other, and at last meeting each other at the centre, where the council-fire was yet burning bright, they put it out and extinguished it with our own blood, with the blood of those who had received them, who had welcomed them to our land. The blood ran in streams into our fire and extinguished it so entirely that not one spark was left us whereby to kindle a new fire. . . . The whites will not rest contented until they shall have destroyed the last of us, and made us disappear entirely from the face of the earth.

CHAPTER II

PHYSICAL FEATURES, BOUNDARIES, POPULATION

Contour—Extent—Elevation—Soil—Waters—Fruitage—Warden's *Natural History*. BOUNDARIES: Albany County—Kinderhook District—Its Spoliation—Chatham Boundary—Ghent Boundary—Stuyvesant Boundary—Village Boundaries—Valatie Boundaries. Notable Field Books—Population, 1790-1910.

THE present town of Kinderhook is in contour an irregular parallelogram about eight miles long and four wide, containing approximately 20,800 acres; not a third of the original area. The northerly part, about two thirds of the whole, is table-land to which there is a gradual ascent from the Hudson River.

According to the Kinderhook Quadrangle, U. S. Coast Survey, the village, at the Albany Southern station, is 259 feet above sea-level; Valatie, near the cemetery, 243; Niverville, 328; Sunnyside, 245; the Post Road, about three miles above the village, 320; Kinderhook Lake, 288; Prospect Hill, with its superb outlook whence in 1777 the light of burning Kingston was seen, 557, the highest elevation in the present town; Old Chatham, is 539 feet and near it is a hill marked 1080 feet elevation.

Near the river much of the soil is clay, furnishing excellent material for numerous brickyards. Early in the eighteenth century there was a brickyard on the old Schermerhorn-Pruyn homestead now owned by the Misses Beekman; another on the Van Alstyne farm; still another on the

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farm on the Eykebush road where the late Rear-Admiral Philip was born; and yet another on the Bidwell-Platner-Bray place. Undoubtedly most of the "*bricks brought from Holland*" were made here. In the interior the soil is a sandy loam, much of it originally very fertile and still bountifully productive when intelligently cultivated. The sandy soils are rich in phosphorus, as evidenced by the large yield of grain per acre. The clay soils are relatively richer in potash.

The original timber was mostly pine. Until within a few years there stood in the cemetery one tree at least which beheld Burgoyne's captive army passing by, and which in its youth may have heard of, if it did not see the *Half Moon* anchored in our waters.

Kinderhook District was and is well watered. About a mile south of the Rensselaer County line is Kinderhook (Great Fish) Lake; of irregular shape, about nine miles in circumference, and with a maximum depth of about forty feet. On the western side is the grandly pine-clad "Point," an attractive and famous resort for many generations. On the opposite variously-wooded shore, for a time connected with the Point by a bridge, is Electric Park, which the Albany Southern Railway Co. and their predecessors have improved and beautified, adding the accessories wont to be found where summer-day pleasure seekers most do congregate, but excluding all disorderly persons, and that which above all else makes people disorderly and otherwise offensive. Pleasant afternoons and evenings during the summer season the spacious and attractive grounds and open-air theater are thronged by visitors from near and far.

In 1818, the legislature having passed an Act prohibiting fishing for three years in this and other lakes in the county, General Whiting initiated and carried through the stocking of these lakes with pickerel. Fifty-six persons, subscribing from a shilling to \$5 given by Whiting and Clark, gave \$48, for which forty-eight pickerel were bought of Enos Smith of Stockbridge. Twenty-three of them were placed

Old Kinderhook

in Kinderhook Lake and were the progenitors of the many thousands which since that time have delighted (or disappointed) the thronging disciples of Isaac Walton.

While the several minor lakes or ponds cannot all be even named, we were very remiss if we failed to mention Merwin's, nestled among the hills beyond the Ichabod Crane schoolhouse. Not only is it a notable and pleasing feature of one of our finest drives, but it is also especially memorable as a frequent fishing-resort of Irving with his boon companion, Jesse Merwin. As we pass we seem to see these worthies and cronies drowning worms if not catching fish; and, in their absence, we see Irving's old fisherman, whom, with his multitudinous poles and lines outstretched from his boat, Irving charmingly likened to a big spider at the center of his web.

A short distance north of Kinderhook Lake is little Round Lake; and about a mile to the northwest is Knickerbocker Lake, also small. Old deeds call it Snyder's Lake. Through this ran the division line between the De Bruyn and Gardenier patents. The present boundary between the towns of Kinderhook and Chatham runs through Round and Kinderhook lakes. Both of these connected lakes are supplied partly by their own springs, and partly by small streams which have their sources in Rensselaer County.

The outlet of Kinderhook Lake is at the southern end and was known to the fathers as the Vollitje's Kill. This takes a winding southwest course of nearly three miles to the village of Valatie and there empties into the much larger Kinderhook Creek. The numerous fountains of this latter notable creek are widely scattered and many of them far away; some in Rensselaer County, others among the hills of New Lebanon and near the Massachusetts border. The most considerable feeder in New Lebanon is the Wyamnock Creek. Our creek, flowing with many windings in a generally southwest course through the town of Chatham, welcomes, near the Kinderhook line, the waters of the Kleine



Kinderhook Lake



Merwin's Lake, Irving's Fishing Resort



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Kill which has received tribute from a multitude of brooks and from Queechy Lake in Canaan. The general course, not without many vagaries responsible for much litigation in years gone by, is southwest, through Valatie, along the eastern border of Kinderhook village, near which it receives a little stream on which the old "Mud Mill" formerly stood; and then on toward Stuyvesant Falls, singing perhaps as it goes of auld lang syne when on one side or the other the Silvesters, Van Schaacks, Wynkoops, Pruyns, Van Alens, Dingmans, Van Burens, Van Nesses, and Van Alstynes rejoiced in its rare beauty. At Stuyvesant Falls its two considerable cataracts and the rapids between win the admiration of every beholder. Before the dam was built the upper fall was the Horseshoe Fall of Niagara in miniature. Lesser but still beautiful falls are at Rossmans and Columbiaville; the last-named the famous Major Abraham Staats's falls of the days of old. After leaving Stuyvesant Falls, in compliment to the advancing Claverack Creek, our creek turns southward, runs through Rossmans, and thence to Columbiaville where it welcomes the Claverack from the south, and the two flow amicably together to the Hudson at Stockport. Neither creek, however, will surrender its historic and beautiful name to the other, and so they leave both names at Columbiaville and agree to be called Stockport Creek. This, known in early times as Major Abram's creek, was once navigable for small vessels.

The waterfalls along the course of our creek are numerous and still very beautiful, notwithstanding their fearful marring at the hand of man. Few streams in the State in its earlier history at least, furnished so many and such excellent sources of water-power as this, until many thousand acres of its water-shed were denuded of their trees, and tens of thousands of contributory springs and rills exposed to consuming suns. It was called "*another Brandywine*." The power was largely utilized. As revealed by the oldest maps, deeds, and wills, sawmills and grist-

mills were abundant; and then later in rapidly increasing number came the numerous factories and other industries of which we read in the successive *Gazetteers*. The water-power is still utilized to a considerable extent, but in dry seasons must be supplemented by that of steam. Not infrequently the rocky channel, where torrents are wont to rage and roar in times of freshet, can be traversed from shore to shore dry-shod. The Claverack Creek gathers its waters from a multitude of tributaries in the eastern and southern parts of the county, Lake Copake being one of them. Three fourths, probably, of Columbia County are drained by these two creeks.

At one time enormous quantities of wheat were here raised and shipped to New York from Stuyvesant, as will be noted hereafter. Changed conditions long ago compelled its abandonment as a staple crop; and now rye, hay, and mixed crops with fruit-culture and dairying are the reliance of the successful agriculturist. Approved modern methods mixed with brains are winning notable results, and are making our town and county one of the choice garden spots of the State. The State Department of Agriculture, and the National as well, together with the mutually helpful granges, pomological, and kindred associations are important factors in securing better results than were dreamed of by the harder working fathers.

In the first volume of *The Balance and Columbia Repository* (Hudson, 1802), there appeared an article entitled "The Natural History of Kinderhook." It was written by the Rev. Daniel B. Warden, then principal of our Academy. Although the somewhat pretentious title is scarcely justified by the subject-matter, it is pleasant reading, but much too long and unimportant to be quoted in full. The location of the village is given with reasonable accuracy. The fine view of the "Blue" (Catskill) Mountains, including the "*reverberating reflection*" of sunlight by the snow, and the value of their changing appearance in weather prognostica-



The Binnekill



A View from the Creek





Kinderhook Lake



Stuyvesant Falls

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tions; the origin, course, and beauty of our creek with especial note of its greater falls, and of the "awe and terror" occasioned by the breaking up and passing out of the ice at the end of the winter, are all felicitously described. The closing paragraph we quote:

The good state of health which the people of Kinderhook enjoy, with the many instances of individuals arriving to a great age evinces that the air is very pure and salubrious. It has never been subject to any generally fatal sickness, and, compared to the population of other towns there are fewer deaths than in any other settlement in the State. Many die from mere old age free from the oppressions of disease. Isaac Vosburgh of this place was 105 years old when he died. Eliza Vosburgh was 93. Another woman of the same name was 95, with three brothers each above 90. Mrs. Pruyn is 84 and quite healthy. A slave of Mr. Van Alen's, called Kate, is 100, and a black man of Mr. Vosburgh's is of the same age, both active and performing manual labor.

In comment upon this, the late H. C. Van Schaack wrote (*Historical Magazine*, 1873): "The number of present residents who have passed the age of three score and ten is very large. Many of them have attained the age of eighty, and there are several nonogenarians. Longevity is in families has not been uncommon here."

BOUNDARIES

Albany County was one of twelve into which the Province of New York was divided by the Colonial Assembly of 1683, and was thus described:

"To conteyne the towne of Albany, the colony of Rensselaerswyck, Schonectade, and all the villages, neighborhoods, and Christian habitacons on the east of Hudson's river from Roeliffe Jansen's creeke, and on the west from Sawyer's (Saugerties) creeke to the Saraaghtoga."

The Assembly of 1691, under William and Mary, declared all the acts of the previous Assembly "null and void," but made no change in the bounds of Albany County.

On the 24th of March, 1772, what is now Columbia County (organized as such April 4, 1786) was divided into four districts of Albany County. The Kinderhook District was thus delimited:

All that part of the said county of Albany which lies to the northward of Claverack District, to the southward of an east line from Bearen island in the Hudson River to the eastward of Hudson's River, and to the west of a straight line drawn from a point in the said East line from Bearen Island ten miles distant from Hudson's River, and continued due south till it strikes the north bounds of the District of Claverack, shall be one separate and distinct District, to be called and known by the name of the District of Kinderhook.

The north boundary of Claverack is described thus: "a line beginning at the mouth of Major Abraham's Creek, and running thence up to the first falls, and thence east as far as this Colony extends." The territory east of Kinderhook was known as Kings District.

The error of a few writers and some maps that have represented any part of our territory as belonging to Rensselaerswyck has been due to their inadvertent changing of grants of land to the Patroon from the west to the east side of the river. And from fair Claverack too, though Jefferson's map stretches her name in capitals over all our domain up to Rensselaerswyck and writes us down small, we must decidedly withhold any title to even one inch of our territory as above delimited, however much we may love her. The map referred to represents, we think, the disallowed claim of John Van Rensselaer, the occasion of prolonged and vexatious litigation, as will hereafter appear. It was certainly wrong, as witness the explicit language of the foregoing boundary descriptions and of the first patents, and also the

protest signed by more than two hundred residents of our District. The protest which we found among the state library archives probably perished in the recent fire; but happily it is still on file (Saintsbury's Catalogue informs us) with a colored map, among the archives of the Privy Council, London.

The land along the Stockport creek granted to Major Staats in 1667 was distinctly "*north of Claverack.*" By the Act of 1772 the northern boundary of Claverack was stated with precision to begin at the mouth of the Stockport creek, thence to the first Fall, and thence "*due east*" indefinitely. The U. S. Topographical Map (Kinderhook Quadrangle) indicates that "*due east*" line as running a little south of the present West Ghent church and north of the John C. Hogeboom house, Ghent. All the territory north of that line to Rensselaerswyck, about eleven miles, and ten miles east from the river, was in the District of Kinderhook. It thus appears, and from later legislation as well, that Kinderhook has generously contributed of her original wide domain to the formation of five townships. Considerable portions of Chatham (1795), part of Ghent (1818), all of Stuyvesant (1823), and a large section of Stockport (1833) were originally parts of old Kinderhook; as were also Schutters, Willow, and Little Islands in the Hudson, transferred to New Baltimore in 1823. Schutters Island is now Hotaling; Willow is south of Hotaling and at low water almost a part of it. Little Island, west of Hotaling, originally large enough to be used for pasturage, is now but a cluster of rocks over which a signal light is placed. Such at least is the statement of an aged resident of New Baltimore.

By an Act of the Legislature, dated March 7, 1788, the Town of Kinderhook was thus defined:

All that part of the County of Columbia bounded westerly and northerly by the County of Albany, southerly by the north bounds of the city of Hudson, as far as to the first falls of Major

Abraham's creek and from thence running east; and (bounded) easterly by a line running from a place in the north line of the County of Columbia ten miles distant from the river, due south until it strikes the said east line from the said falls, shall be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Kinderhook.

The original town was thus approximately ten miles square.

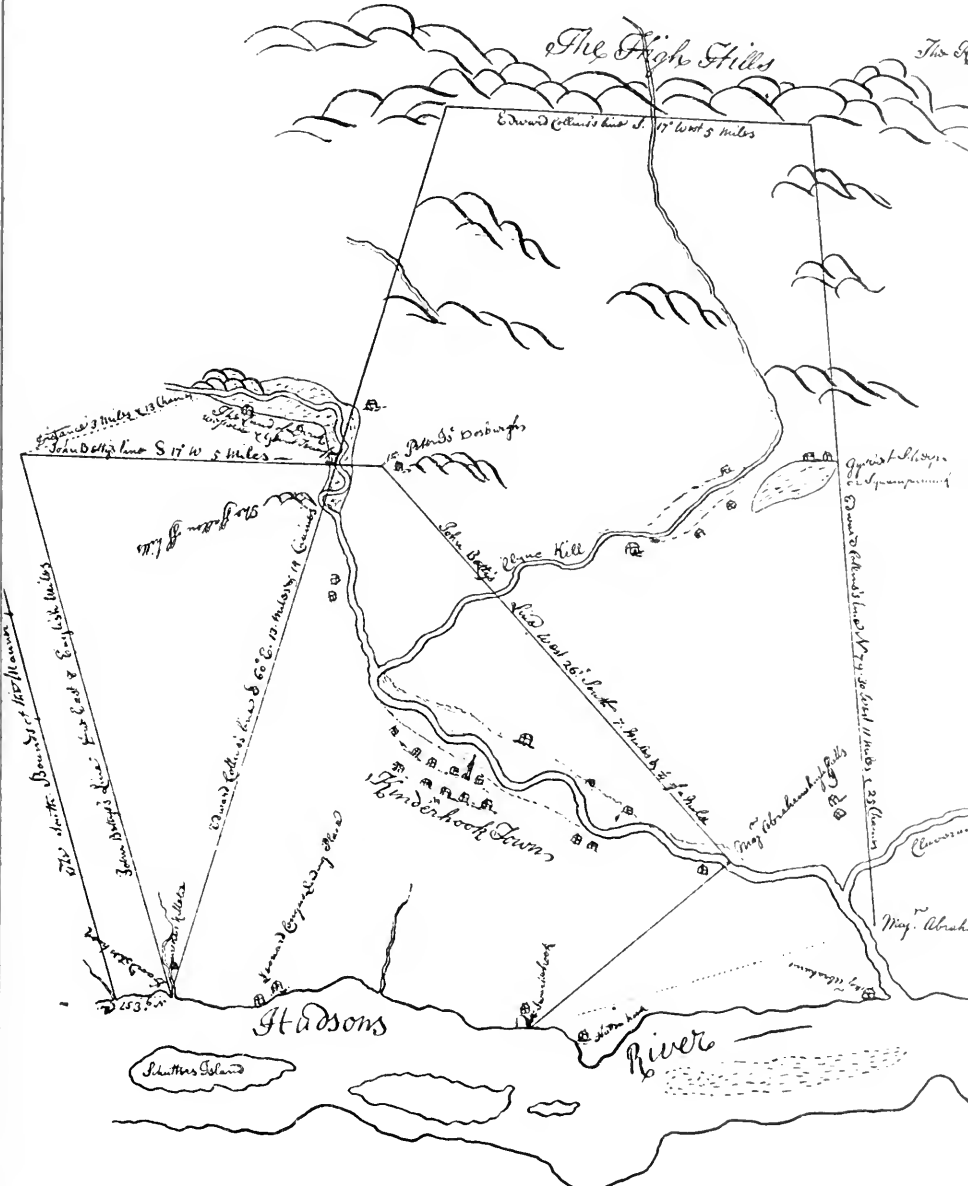
March 17, 1795, all our territory east of the lakes down to the Claverack line, a tract two or more miles in breadth, was detached to form in part the Town of Chatham. In 1841 there was a controversy with Chatham officials as to portions of our eastern boundary. The dispute was referred to Surveyor-General Holly who appointed Evert Van Alen of Greenbush to survey the line. On his report the boundary was finally determined and declared as follows:

. . . from the middle of the Latches Vlackie Creek where it enters the little lake, southerly and in a direct line through the Great Fish Lake to the Gardenier Point at the south end of said lake and then southerly in a direct line to the bridge over the Kline Kill Creek a little east of the house [now Mr. P. H. Bain's] formerly owned by Cornelius Van Schaack deceased.

Van Alen's survey was twenty-three years after the formation of Ghent, as noted below. It therefore did not include the southern part of our original eastern boundary. This is described in the Act of 1813 as continuing from the afore-said bridge "southerly along the said creek to the southernmost point of the great bend opposite the house formerly belonging to Myndert Vosburgh, deceased, thence southerly in a direct line toward the house of Martin H. Hoffman until it intersects the northern boundary line of the town of Claverack."

April 3, 1818, a section along our south border was taken to form in part the Town of Ghent. Our new south boundary was delimited as "beginning 28 chains above Major Abraham's Falls and running thence easterly to the Kleine Kill creek near the house of William Wagoner."

This is laid down by a scale of 100 to one inch. The difference between the scale is laid down by a mine on my two foot scale is 5 to a Ch that is every ch in this Map: must be right on my scale.





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By the Act of April 21, 1823, the Legislature completed its spoliation of old Kinderhook by taking from us the whole of the present Town of Stuyvesant which included the upper part of the later town of Stockport; also the three islands already named which were given to New Baltimore. The Act reads as follows:

All that part of the town of Kinderhook in the County of Columbia, beginning at or near the store of Abel S. Peters at Kinderhook Landing at high water mark, and running from thence east three miles and twenty chains; thence south five degrees west to the north line of the town of Ghent, and north five degrees east to the south line of the town of Schodack; thence along the same westerly to the main channel of the Hudson's river; thence down the same to where Major Abraham's creek empties into the said river; thence up the said creek as it winds and bends to the north line of the town of Ghent; thence eastward along the same until the line running north and south five degrees east shall intersect the same—shall be and is hereby erected into a new Town by the name of Stuyvesant, and the first Town Meeting for the purpose of electing Town officers in the said Town of Stuyvesant shall be held at the house of Walter Butler . . . on the first Tuesday of May next.

Money on hand and "the poor" were to be "equitably divided" at the hotel of John Lewis, Kinderhook.

All these new Towns were to assume a just proportion of the debts of old Kinderhook and were to continue to pay for the maintenance of bridges in which they had a common interest. Subsequently, Stuyvesant, on its petition, was relieved from its obligation to pay one half the cost of our village bridges. The lot and dwelling (now the transformed Whitbeck home) belonging to Kinderhook and used as a Poor House, within the limits of the new town of Stuyvesant, were to be paid for or the matter otherwise settled as might be agreed. The boundaries we have given are those of modern Kinderhook.

Lest our History be much too voluminous we must "bid

our wayward sisters (or children) depart in peace." We will not wholly neglect them, but cannot give them the same consideration that we give to those abiding in the home.

On the 18th of April, 1838, the Legislature passed "An Act to incorporate the Village of Kinderhook, in the County of Columbia." Sec. I. thus describes:

BOUNDARY LINES. . . . Beginning at and on the northerly side of Kinderhook creek, at a point where the division line between the town of Kinderhook and the town of Stuyvesant crosses the said creek near the dwelling house of Adam Van Alstyne, running thence north-easterly along the said northerly side of said creek and up the same to a post in the division between the land of Moses W. Leach and land lately owned by Samuel Crandell; thence northerly to a small bridge commonly called Howland's Bridge, which crosses the road leading from the village of Kinderhook to the Village of Valatie; thence westerly to and including the dwelling house of John N. Harder to the road commonly called the Eikebush road, to the westerly side of last mentioned road; thence along the westerly side of last mentioned road to the Stuyvesant line; thence along said line to the place of beginning.

A few years ago the westerly boundary line of the Corporation was changed so as to run a short distance west of the present Wm. Hotaling place.

A petition for the incorporation of the village of Valatie was presented to the Court of Sessions, Hudson, in November, 1853. The petitioners were: Jacob P. Miller, James Patton, Ansel Canoll, Robt. Trimper, C. I. Tremain, J. W. Stickles, J. Billis, C. A. Osborn, Wm. P. Rathbone, Wm. Bradley, Robert Martsh, Moses England, Alfred Wild, Edwin Hoes, and Henry M. Penoyer.

From the Field Book of the survey by Mr. Ackley we quote the following general description of the boundaries of the 648 square acres included in the Corporation, omitting minor details of courses and distances.

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Beginning at a point marked on a plank in the middle of a bridge over a small creek crossing the former road between the villages of Kinderhook and Valatie, [the road east of our two bridges]. Said road is noted as a monument in the boundaries of the corporation of the village of Kinderhook, being now the lands of John Isbister, . . . and runs from thence S. $53^{\circ} 50' E.$, 2C 51L, crossing the present road to the westerly bank of the Kinderhook creek. Then through the land of said Isbister on west side of said creek. Then . . . crossing said creek to the hard land on the easterly side. . . . Then to the westerly side of a road leading from Valatie to Chatham 4 Corners, and nearly opposite dwelling house on the farm of Dr. A. P. Cook. Then . . . to the top of a hill east of said road. . . . Then to the southerly side of a road leading from Valatie to Chatham Centre, and opposite the dwelling house of Col. Shufelt. Then along the southerly side of said road. . . . Then crossing said road and along the westerly side of Kirk Lane . . . to a mark on the fence. Then leaving said lane . . . to the top of a knoll. Then . . . to the westerly side of the Lake road running through John G. Schism's farm. Then along the westerly side of said road . . . (with varying courses) to the lands of N. Wild . . . crossing the water of N. Wild's mill pond to a white oak tree on the east side of a road opposite the premises of B. Conant. Said road leading out of Valatie and intersecting the post road at Guide Board near the dwelling house of Stephen Miller. Then S. $72^{\circ} 45' W$, 31C. 97L. to the northerly side of a black oak tree standing on the lands of J. Carpenter. Then . . . to a cluster of three ash trees standing on lands of John Isbister. Then . . . to the place of beginning.

Within the proposed Corporation there were, it was stated, 1557 inhabitants. For reasons now unknown the petition was not granted at the time; but three years later, March 25, 1856, Valatie became incorporated. The question had been submitted to voters and was carried; 135 votes for and 78 against incorporation.

At the first election of village officers, held April 23, at Captain E. Spaulding's hotel (burned about forty years

ago), W. P. Rathbone, Sylvester Becker, J. H. Cornin, John Rogers, and G. W. Bulkley were chosen Trustees; J. Mesick, B. Mesick, and H. L. Miller, Assessors; B. Conant, Treasurer; James Miller, Clerk; James Mesick, Poundmaster, and Abram Brewer, Collector.

Not inappropriately we may conclude this chapter with an interesting record of certain minor boundaries, and old-time land marks. It is from the Field Books of our most noted surveyor prior to 1800, Mr. John E. Van Alen. We found them in a cabinet in the Albany County Clerk's office, among the treasured volumes there, both in Dutch and English, whose fading pages we have closely scanned and from which we have constantly drawn.

In this instance much personal labor has been saved us by "Jed's" (Mr. A. S. Hollenbeck, of Albany) account of these books as printed in the Rough Notes several years since; and which we quote, adding here and there an explanatory note. The narrative seems to us of sufficient interest to descendants of old-time residents at least to justify its reproduction.

One of these field books has written on its cover, in quaint characters, the words, *Kinderhook, 1791—Bruyn Reght & Hoff Town*, while the other is called *Field Book of Pompoonick*.

The former contains the original notes of the survey of the De Bruyn patent, written in good English, though occasional Dutch words show that the original language of the Holland settlers had not entirely died out at that time. In this survey Van Alen's chainmen were, to use his own language, "Matthew McKeg at the hind end; Peter Van Valkenburgh (son of Lambert) at the fore end; Dirck Van Alen, flagman."

"On Wednesday, 7th June, 1791, I began at the N. side of Frans Pieterse (Clauw, or Clow) saw kil, said to be the old mouth of the said kil, to run the south line of De Bruyn's Patent. This spot is directly opposite a gully or ditch on the south side and is also at the west part of the bushes or woods."

In the course of his survey Van Alen passes "Van Alstyn's

barrack," enters field of H. H. Van Valkenburgh, arrives at a "white ash tree noted in the survey of Poolsborough in March 1789, for the S. E. corner of Batten Landt," and finally reaches the "road from Eike Bosch (oak woods) to Peter Van Valkenburgh's." "Here I end my day's work and lodge at Mr. John Van Alen's" [father of Lucas I.].

The next day the surveyor entered the "field of Lamb. V. Valkenburgh," south of the "fence between him and Tobias Van Buren," crossed "F. Pieterse's saw kill to S. side," and after reaching Tobias Van Buren's "clear field, I find myself some considerable distance S. of where the old line is said to have gone. I therefore from this spot run . . . to the stump of a pitch pine tree shewn by Lourens Van Alen for an old mark." Then he crossed a "small run tending NWly," and a little later finds himself "in the pine woods," soon after which he reaches "Robert Van Deusen's clear field," and next "put a pitch pine stake at the E. side of the road from Van Dyke's to Kinderhook. Here I stopt & went to Mr. Van Dyke to Dine." (Arent Van Dyck.)

After dinner he continued his line and reached a "pitch pine tree with old marks," which marks, he decides, are "about 35 or 40 years old." Next he was "at the E. side of the Post Road; here I put up a black oak stake, and ran along the Post Road." His line passed the "S. W. corner of Elias Larrabee's house" and the "S. E. corner of William Kers dwelling house." He also passed the houses of Widow Kerr and Nathan Deyo (hotel keeper on the Post Road). Later he was on the "W. side of the road to Van Deusen's," and "from here Anthony Pool's old cellar bears due west." He then reached "Denslow's house. End day's work here; lodge at V. Dyckes."

"Friday, 9 June, 1791.—In the morning began at the White Oak tree set up by Deyo for the Schillipot boom, and ran . . . to the N. E. corner of Mr. Van Dyckes Tan House," and from thence to the "stake at the E. side of the road at which I left off yesterday to go to dinner; then went again to the S. E. corner of Denslow's house, . . . from where I find the Duyle Gat possessed by Anthony Van Derpoel, dec'd, bears N. E." From Denslow's house he continued the line, after passing through Van Deusen's old field, to the southwest corner of Sebring's saw

mill. "From here I go with Arent Huyck and Caleb White to do some business at Pompoonick."

In another book marked *Field Book of Pompoonick* Van Alen has recorded the "business at Pompoonick" mentioned above, as follows:

"On Friday, 9th June, 1791, after having finished a survey for the Proprietors of De Bruyn Patent, I went with Aaron Huyck to his house, where I dine, and in the afternoon I began at the N. E. corner of the house of Andries I. Huyck, now in the possession of Frederick Tobias, and ran in order to ascertain the course and distance from this spot to the house of John Bullis." His first course ends "on top of the hill," the second, "in the rye field"; the third, "in field;" "from here" (he says), "the chimney of Abraham Johnson's house bears N. E.; the fourth, "ends in a road" (from here "Johnson's chimney bears N. W."); the fifth, "ends in road"; the sixth, "ends in wheat field," and the seventh finished the course at the house of John Bullis.

Returning to the Kinderhook Field Book, Van Alen says: "On Monday the 20th June, 1791, in the afternoon, I left home and went down to Kinderhook to perform a survey on the trail between Van Alstyne and Capt. Philip, and lodge that evening at Peter Van Schaack's. Tuesday, 21 June, I attended the *view*, and in the afternoon began at the north side of Col. Van Ness's farm, at the East side of the Kinderhook Creek, to traverse the Kinderhook Creek." The surveyor's sixth course brought him "to the place on the East Bank of the Kinderhook Creek shewn me by Hendrick Moor for the place which the jury were yesterday shewn for the South Bounds of Evert Luycas' land." Other points spoken of in the survey, and which may or may not be recognized by the generation of to-day were "Dingman's burned house," "Gerret Dingman's or Hendrick Moore's stoop," "Casparus Dingman's house," "L. Van Alstyne's old house," "division fence between Dingman and Van Ness," "the Sounding Ground" (whatever that may have been), "Van Ness's painted fence," "Dennis Davis's fence," "the river of water coming out of Vly," "the brow of the hill where the old road used to go down the hill to Van Alstyne's mill," "the field of Coenrad Ham," "John Cole's house," "the field of Felter Lant," "corner of Louren Rysdorp's," "north point of Grimmelde

Vly," "fence of David Shulter," "the Groote Lake Vly," "the brook coming out of the Groote (great) Lake," "where Peter Elkenburgh shews his possession to be," "lot of Hendrick Hoff," "southeast corner of John Haver," "farm of Michael Wolf," "south end of the Race Ground," "north line of lots I laid out in Nutenhook Patent," "abreast of Taylor's," "southeast corner of Moorehouse's dwelling," "Peter Lyke's house," "Tun. T. Crandel's house," "abreast of Samuel Rice's," "abreast of R. Campbell's," "Joseph Eldridge's," "N. Kittle's," "abreast of Hanneke Mayer's," "sign post of V. Valkenburgh," "abreast of Peter L. Vosburgh's," "Hendrick Miesick's house."

Van Alen dined at Mesick's, and "from here went to Capt. Shethar's at Kinderhook, with an intent to take passage home (Albany) with Stephen Wynes; he not coming this afternoon I lodge at Mr. Peter Wynkoop's, and on Friday, 24 June, in the morning early, Mr. Wynes came to Mr. Shethar's. I took passage with him and arrived at home about noon."

"Sunday, 26th June, in the afternoon, sat out for Claverack to attend the Circuit Court on the above business. Reach Kinderhook and lodge at Van Schaack's.

"Monday, 27th June, 1791—In the morning went with Mr. Van Schaack to Claverack, where I remained on the business of Capt. Philip till Sunday, the 3d July, when the jury brought in a verdict in his favor; we then went home.

"Monday, 4th July, 1791—This morning Caleb White and others of the Pompoonick people came down to Claverack to attend their trial with Deyo. I now begin my services for them—that is, I from this time begin my attendance on their trial.

"Tuesday, 5th July—This day also I attend on the Pompoonick trial. At evening Capt. Philip informed me it was necessary to perform a survey at Coenrad Hoffman's, for which purpose I sat out with him in the evening; arrive at John Kittle's in the night, where I lodge."

The next day Van Alen surveyed the farm of Dirck Smith, a rough map of which is included in the field book. His statement continues: "Then dine at Hoffmans—in the afternoon return to Claverack. On my way there met John Miller and Matthew McKeg, who came in great haste to fetch me to attend the tryal between Deyo and Bullis. When I got to the Court House found

Deyo nonsuited. I lodge this night at Mr. Carshore's" (the school teacher).

"Thursday, 7th July—This day I attend the court to see whether the tryal between the Van Alstynes and Hoffman is to be brought on. Near noon I find it is put off. I now prepare to go home; set out in the afternoon; reach John I. Muller's (Miller's) on the Post Road, where I lodge.

"Friday, 8th July, 1791—This morning about 9 o'clock I reach home."

The Skillipot Boom (or tree) was evidently an ancient surveyor's mark, and had some bearing on the surveys of the lands thereabout, its location being in dispute. In a memorandum note in the Pompoonick field book Van Alen says:

"The general course of Valleties Kill is N. 24 deg., 56 min. E. The course from the mouth of Valleties Kill to Pennekoos is S. 83 deg., 51 min. E, which is inclined to the general course of Valleties Kill with an angle of 71 deg., 13 min.

"The course from the Valleties Kill to the Skillipot Boom is said to form an angle with the course of Valleties Kill equal to that of the Pennekoos, which, if so, the tree must bear N. 46 deg., 17 min. W."

Many changes have occurred in the 120 years that have passed since these old books were written, and it is doubtful if many of the present generation have ever even heard of the "Sounding Ground," the "old road that used to go down the hill to Van Alstyne's mill," the "Grimmelde Vly," the "Race Ground," or the "Pennekoos bergh."

CENSUS

Year.	Town.	Kinderhook village. Incorporated, 1838.	Valatie village. Incorporated, 1856.	
1790	4461			638 slaves
1800	4348			Part of Chatham detached, 1795
1810	3709			
1820	3963			Part of Ghent detached, 1818
1830	2706			All of Stuyvesant and part of Stockport detached, 1823
1840	3512	1400		
1850	3970			
1855	3864	1078		State Census
1865	4008	1160	1634	" "
1870	4055			
1880	4200		1775	
1890	3709	963	1437	
1900	3333	913	1300	
1910	2947	¹ 698	1219	

¹Incomplete; many names omitted.

CHAPTER III

SETTLEMENT, LAND-GRANTS, DEVOLUTION OF TITLE AND LAND-LITIGATION

SETTLEMENT: Hindrances—Inducements—Time and Place—The Staats House—Claver's Mill—Wadsworth's Visit. PATENTS: Powell—Wattawit and Westenhook Indians—Staats—Baker and Flodder; Nuttenhook—De Bruyn—The Groot Stuk—Schuyler—Great Kinderhook—Harmense—Gardenier—Van Schaack and Van Alen—Kinderhook Trustees—Beatty's Surveys—Williams's and Others' Petition—J. Vosburgh's and Others' Caveat—Huyck—Peter Vosburgh—Geertruyd Coeyman's Deed—Surveys at Nuttenhook—De Witt's—John Van Ness—Indefinite Boundaries. DEVOLUTION OF TITLE: Bleecker's Survey—Division of John Tysse Goes' (Hoes) Estate—Division of Kinderhook Patent. LAND-LITIGATION: The Livingston Claims—The Conflicting De Bruyn and Baker and Flodder Patents—Resulting Great Law Suit.

THE Dutch, whom the irreverent charge with moving “majestically slow,” were not alert in entering upon their newly discovered possessions. The return to Holland of a trading vessel in 1610 with a rich cargo of furs bought of the Indians for baubles occasioned considerable excitement; but beyond the establishment, about the year 1613, of a trading post with a fort so called and a few huts about it on the southerly end of Manhattan, and a similar post on Castle Island near Albany a little later, nothing in the way of colonization was attempted until later explorers (Block and his followers) had reported in the early autumn of 1614 their observations and experiences. And then, the exclusive “*Freedoms and Exemptions*” granted to the United New Netherland Co. in 1614, as regards the navigation of these

waters and traffic with the Indians, and the still more monopolistic charter of the West India Co. in 1621, were not conducive to rapid colonization. Those companies were purely commercial, with no interest in promoting immigration beyond the demands of their own exclusive and lucrative traffic.

The charter of the first-named company assumed to grant commercial control of all the coast line "*between New France and Virginia*," latitude 40°-45°. In 1621 this company became the much enlarged and more powerful West India Co. which, Motley tells us, "received a roving commission to trade and fight and govern for twenty-four years, and incidentally establish Dutch settlements." Then in 1629 this great company inaugurated the feudalistic system of the Patroons (Latin, *patronus*, protector). By this act any member of the company who within four years after giving notice, should establish colonies of fifty persons over fifteen years of age, was to receive a tract sixteen miles long on a navigable stream (eight miles if on opposite shores) and extending as far into the interior as the "situation of the occupiers will permit." To these patroons almost unrestricted and irresponsible power was given. They were empowered to establish their own civil and criminal courts; appoint their own local officers and magistrates; and, a few specified cases excepted, punish offenders. Whatever the abuse of power and breach of contract on the part of the Patroon, "*no man or woman, son or daughter, man servant or maid servant*," might leave his service before the expiration of the contract time without the written consent of the Patroon.

However justly these feudal barons are said to have been "men of exalted patriotism, inflexible integrity, and cultivated intelligence"; however wisely and beneficently they ruled their vassals, and however liberal the terms of the contracts, it was not to be expected that many of independent spirit and means would be willing to call any of those men

lord and master. Most of the families that came both to Esopus and Kinderhook would have none of it. They were freemen, not serfs. For more than twenty years the guns of the Patroon Van Rensselaer, on Bearen Island, made Kinderhook the head of free navigation of the Hudson; and for a much longer time it was the territory nearest to Fort Orange free from domination by any patroon. It was "between two manors."

In 1638 wiser counsels prevailed and New Netherland was thrown open to free immigration and unrestricted trade. Then the tide hitherward flowed strongly and rapidly. That beaver-pelts were bought for forty cents and sold for three dollars or more may have stimulated immigration. One ship sailing from the River Mauritius (the Hudson) in 1626 had a cargo of 9250 pelts mostly beaver, besides samples of wheat, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, canary seed, hemp, flax, with considerable oak and hickory timber. In Fort Orange, one reports, there were "as many traders as persons." And it is possible, as alleged, that the farmers became traffickers, and sent their runners into the forests to intercept the fur-laden Indians on their way to Fort Orange; a most heinous offence. We prefer however to assume less mercenary motives for the rapidly increasing immigration. We give much influence to Evert Nieuwenhof, the poet-publisher of Vander Donck's book (1665) who prefaces it with three original stanzas, the last of which will suffice to give the reader a taste of their rare quality.

Then, reader, if you will, go freely there to live;
We name it Netherland, though it excels it far:
If you dislike the voyage, pray due attention give
To Vander Donck, his book, which as a leading star
Directs toward the land where many people are,
Where lowland Love and Laws all may freely share.

We cannot forbear adding that nearly two hundred years later (1842) one of Kinderhook's brilliant galaxy of poets,

a lineal descendant we assume of Nieuenhof, after importunately invoking Apollo, Melpomene, and all the immortal Nine, thus sang in worthy emulation of Nieuenhof himself:

Then come, ye anxious suitors from afar,
Come hasten here, all other climes o'erlook;
Come, where the fairest buds of beauty are,
And take a wife—a Girl of Kinderhook.

That Kinderhook District was the only territory along the Hudson near Fort Orange where lands free from the control of the Patroons could be obtained drew hither settlers of independent spirit and of some means. Colonists of the Patroon also, if industrious and provident, prospered under the liberal terms of their three years' contract. On its termination they were able to become independent land-owners and sought lands and homes of their own as near as might be to Fort Orange. Our first settlers were of both these classes; some fairly well-to-do and coming hither direct from Holland and New Amsterdam; others, as the Van Rensselaer MSS. reveal, men of character and thrift who had profited by their contract with the Patroon.

Our Holland settlers loved the riverside and the banks of the Kinderhook, and Claverack creeks as building sites. The oldest existing homesteads and the remembered sites of others now gone are to be found uniformly thus located. The flowing waters were a sweet reminder of Fatherland.

Our territory was owned largely in the first instance by non-residents. The subsequent purchasers of smaller tracts came not, as in many localities, in colonies, but as families or small groups of families. It is therefore difficult if not impossible to state with precision who the first settlers were or where they located or when they came.

Neither the occurrence of the name Kinderhook on the chart of 1614-1616 nor its mention by De Laet in 1625 of necessity indicates actual settlement at the time. The only significance of either is as the name of a point or cove given,

remembered, and recorded for some such reason as that hitherto stated. Martin Van Buren is quoted as saying that the first settlements were about the year 1640. They could not have been much later, for Joost Hartgers in 1651 and Van der Donck in 1656 allude to Kinderhook as one of the principal settlements on the river.

The region first occupied was a little north of Stuyvesant Landing. Claver's (Clow's) sawmill was on Light House creek at a very early date. A few years earlier or later the Staats dwelling was built near the mouth of Stockport creek. Then the river bank and the lands along the Kinderhook and Claverack creeks began to be occupied here and there. Long before 1700 the Groote Stuk (Great Piece), extending from the creek at Valatie, and on both sides of it, to the vicinity of Lindenwald, was taken up as noted later. Additional details concerning our first settlers will appear in our account of the Land Grants and in the next chapter. These and other families to be named were Hollanders with the exception of a few Swedes; notably the Scherp (Sharp) family, after whom the vicinity of Mr. Dudley Van Alstyne's present shop was at one time known as Sharptown. Dirck Hendrikse (Bey. Best?) was also a Swede.

It is of record that at a very early period there was built, probably by the Patroon, a stone fort south of Stockport creek; and that north of it and near its mouth stood the house of Abraham Staats. This, burned by marauding Indians in 1664, was soon thereafter rebuilt and is possibly the old house near Stockport Station. Whether only the roof and interior of the first dwelling were burned, and the present massive stone walls, three feet in thickness, were parts of the original house is unknown. That in digging in the cellar a few years since a massive grain jar was unearthed gives a degree of plausibility to the latter view.

In 1654 Major Staats purchased of the Indians two hundred acres along the Stockport Creek and received from



The Staats House, the Oldest House in the County

From a photograph



A Grain (or Wine) Jar, Unearthed in the Cellar of the Staats House

From a photograph



the Dutch authorities a Ground-brief, as it was termed. The land is spoken of as "north of Claverack."

It is also of record that in March, 1664, he leased his "bouwery, house, barn and rick" to Jan Anderissen (John the Irishman).

It is however probable that the Claver's mill and house on Light House creek were erected somewhat earlier. The name Kinderhook was evidently given in the first instance to a locality about "sixteen miles" below Albany, as stated in the journal of the Labadist fathers hereafter noted.

By a law of 1660 it was required that for their mutual protection the settlers of new districts should group their dwellings in villages, under the penalty of forfeiture of their holdings. It thus came to pass that the larger part of the land which a settler owned and cultivated might be at a considerable distance from the smaller tract about his village homestead. The Rev. Benjamin Wadsworth, whose visit in 1694 will be narrated later, wrote of Kinderhook as consisting of three groups of houses. The old maps enable us to locate one group in the eastern part of our present village, and a second group at Valatie; but the location of the third is conjectural, probably Poelsburg.

The Powell patent, so called, of July, 1664, was not apparently a formal patent like those subsequently issued, but simply a permission to purchase, granted by the Commissaries at Fort Orange and confirmed by Governor Stuyvesant and his Council at Fort Amsterdam; with the proviso that the title should be transferred to them as representing the West India Company. Payments by the grantees to the Indians were to be refunded by the Company or balanced against the tithes. The surrender of the Province to the English in September of that year made a confirmation of this and other land grants necessary. Governor Nicolls's confirmation of this grant reads as follows:

Whereas the late Governour and Councill of the new Netherlands, did on the 10th day of July, 1664, Grant unto Thomas Paule, Hendrick Abells and others a Certaine Parcell of Land, lying and being betwixt the Nutten and Kinder Hoeck near ffort Albany, as by their Peticon and the Grant doth Appeare, I do hereby Allow of the said Grant unto the aforementioned Persons, if they or some of them have or shall Purchase the Propriety of the Natives, and Posesse and Plant the same, of which they shall bring unto mee a due Certificate. They shall have a Pattent for the said Lands by Authority from his Royall Highnesse the Duke of Yorke for their farther Confirmation therein. Given under my hand at ffort James in New Yorke on Manhatans Island the 29th day of March, 1665.

Following that we have the record of the small beginning of the ultimately large Powell patent. (Deeds, vol. i., p. 11., Sec. of State Office.) It was of 200 acres of "meadow, called Nehuseke or Nenewoskeek, along the Seepus (River), Kinderhook." The deed was given by the Indian Tauka-makeheke, and dated June 27, 1666.

The formal Patent, if issued, does not seem to have been recorded, and we are without any description of its boundaries. The earliest maps reveal it as being a large tract including the whole of Stuyvesant Landing, with a river-front of about one mile and extending thence with the same width a little south of east for about three miles, near to and inclusive of portions of the present Van Alstyne neighborhood. The original petition for the grant bears these names: Thomas Powell, Teunis Abrahamsen, Claes Van den Bergh, Hendrick Cay, Jochem Ketel, Evert Luycassen, Bert Bagge, Jan Dicksen. They ask permission to purchase "*a fine piece of land between Kinderhook and Nuttenhook.*" They say they *can no longer make their living in this village (Beverwyck, Albany) and are obliged to settle with their families in the country to gain their bread with God's help and honorably.*" Powell *et al.*, who have seemed mythical personages hitherto, have become real and respected since we read their petition.

Gov. Nicolls's Confirmation changes Powell to Paule and adds the name Hendrick Abells (Abelseon) a precentor of the Kinderhook church.

After Powell's death, as appears from the Albany Court Records, Robert Ortier (Orchard) proved to the satisfaction of the court that he was an equal owner with Powell of certain lands which Powell had sold without Ortier's consent, and the sales and deeds were declared void. Powell's widow seems to have thought that the best way to end her troubles was to marry Robert. At all events, she did so; and thenceforth, as the Index of Grantors and Grantees in Albany reveals, there were many sales by Orchard and his wife, some of them to their neighbors, the Van Alstynes.

We find a charming illustration of the common indefiniteness of boundaries, and an otherwise interesting document, among Mr. Hosford's treasured papers of his wife's branch of the Van Alstyne family. It is a certified translation of the Dutch deed (1671) of Robert Ortier and Jannetje Van Donk to Jan Martense (Van Alstyne), for "*70 good and whole and merchantable beaver skins,*" of "*land behind Kinderhook south of Dirk the Swede, west of Jacob Martense and the creek, and to the east of a very small creek parting the land of Andries Hausen; . . . without any charge issuing thereon saving the Lord's Right.*" The number of acres is not stated, but they were doubtless many, for fifteen years later Powell's widow deeds to Jan Martense "*70 or 80 acres of the Vly or Mash*" (the well-known marshy tract) for *five* beavers. Both of these tracts were in the original Powell patent and are owned by the Van Alstyne family to-day, many of whom have conscientiously recognized "*the Lord's Right.*"

Before this, however, while Jannetje Powell was yet a widow, she conveyed several sections of her very considerable estate to various purchasers. The Index of Grantors in the Albany County Clerk's office and the books of Deeds to which it refers reveal the sale to Andries Hanse Scherp (Sharp) and Jurrian Collier, in 1683, of a tract of 300 acres.

In 1684 she conveyed to Stephen Janse Cooningh (Conyne), land "*received by ground-brief in 1667/8.*" In 1686, for five beavers, she sold to Jan Martense (Van Alstyne) "*all y' Vly or mash . . . on y^e north side of y^e said Martense's bouwery, containing 70 or 80 acres.*" Four months later Jan and Dirkje his wife sold to Gerrit Teunisse, of Catskill, for six pounds, *the half or moyety off that Vley or mash Scituate Lyeing and Being att Kinderhook on the north of ye said Jan Martense's Bowery or Farm, the whole mash containing by Estimation Seventy or Eighty acres be itt more or Lesse.*"

The records show that in 1671 and later considerable sections of the Powell patent were sold to Hendrick Coenradts (Van Bon.), Laurens Van Alen, Jacob Martense, Dirck Hendrickse de Swede (Bye, Bey), Andries Hanse (Sharp), and Jan Martense (Van Alstyne).

In Col. MSS. xiii., pp. 399, 545, we have the two following records. In 1665 the Mahican chief Wattawit, the proprietor of a certain parcel of land back of Kinderhook, appears before the Albany authorities and declares that he sold to Evert Luycassen a tract that "*lies east of the Kill and is half of the middle piece. He has given the other half to Volckert Jansen as a present and token of his friendship to satisfy an old debt for corn.*"

Wattawit does not seem to have been greatly enriched by his sale, or must have squandered his wealth, for in 1680 we meet him again as a mail carrier "*in need of a shirt.*"

The second record is the deed of five Westenhook Indians to Dirck Wessels and Gerrit Teunisse of a tract consisting of "*four flats on both sides of Kinderhook Kill about one Dutch mile (three English miles) from Jan Van Tyssen's place; the two largest flats are on the east side of the Kill and the one towards the north contains about 27 Morgens (54 acres) and the southerly about 14 morgens. The two other flats, on the west side of the Kill, contain about 25 and 6 morgens. The four flats with the woodland to the high hills are bounded on the south by land bought by Jan Bruyn of Pampoen and at the*

north by *Matitminimaws land.*" The deed is dated Oct. 1, 1679.

In March, 1667, Major Staats, who had hitherto only a ground-brief for his land, had his title confirmed by Governor Nicolls and received a formal patent. The description part reads as follows:

. . . a Neck of land commonly called by the Indyan name Chickhakwick lying and being on the East side of the River Striking along the great Kill to the first Great fall of water and from thence to the ffishing Place where there is a Tree mark't with the letter A . . . containing two hundred acres.

To this tract four hundred acres were added by a Patent granted by Governor Dongan in 1685; the whole six hundred acres lying together in one body. At that time and for a hundred years thereafter, the Stockport creek, formed by the confluence of the Kinderhook and Claverack creeks, was known as Major Abraham's Kill.

Charles Clinton's survey of these tracts in 1752 gives this more detailed description:

The first tract is bounded westerly by the Hudson River; southerly and easterly by the Kinderhook Kill and northerly by a line running from the first great fall in the said Kill, south 89 degrees west 113 chains to the Fish Place on the Hudson river where a tree formerly stood marked with the letter (A). The second tract joins the north side of the former and begins at the Fish Place where the said marked tree stood and runs thence along the line of the said first tract, north 89 degrees east, 72 chains and fifty links; thence north 58 chains and 50 links; then south 89 degrees west 69 chains to the river and thence along the bank of the river to the place of beginning; containing 400 acres.

The map of the survey reveals the house of Samuel Staats near the mouth of Stockport creek; about one and a half miles north, near the Fish place, the home of John Staats with that of Isaac Staats about one half-mile beyond. About

a mile and a half east of Samuel Staats's house appears that of John Carroll.

The third important Patent, especially important because of the long-continued litigation to which it gave rise, was the Baker and Flodder Patent. The names have been mistakenly reversed hitherto, and nothing known, it was said, of the patentees. We are happy to make them known. As was always required, the tract had previously been purchased of the Indian owners. The consideration was "*one blanket, one axe, three hoes, two bars of lead, three handful of powder, one knife and one kettle.*" Shortly after this purchase Governor Nicolls issued a Patent for the tract to Captain John Baker and Jacob Jansen Flodder.

Because of its importance in connection with subsequent land-litigation we give its descriptive part in full (Land Patents, vol. ii., p. 244), date, April 15, 1667:

A Confirmacon Graunted unto Capt. John Baker and Jacob Jansen Flodder for a certain parcell of Bushland neare ffort Albany. . . .

Richard Nicolls Esq. . . . Whereas Capt. John Baker and Jacob Jansen Flodder have with my Lycense made Purchase of ye Indian proprietors of a Certaine parcell of Bushland near ffort Albany together with a Creek or Kill with the fall of waters running North and South lying and being on ye north syde of Eunick's Land at Kinder Hooke and on ye West side of the great Kill conteyning by estimacon — Acres of Land ye Deed of Purchase from ye said Indians bearing date at ffort Albany March 18, 1666. Now for a Confirmacon, etc.

We call attention to the original spelling of "Emikee," of later renown.

The grantees, it would seem, were permitted to make their own "*estimacon*" of the number of acres. We can identify "*the fall of waters running north and south*" as that of the Valatie kill. We are able also to state, following the alleged example of certain learned commissioners after months of pro-

found thought concerning a disputed boundary, that Baker and Flodder's land was bounded on the south by Emikee's. And if the over inquisitive and exacting ask for precision as regards Emikee's tract, the rejoinder is, that it was bounded on the north by Baker and Flodder's. What could be simpler or more satisfying! It is not surprising that later years were filled with litigation, when it was discovered how largely the fourth Patent covered the same territory. Two years later Baker's interest in this Patent was assigned to Flodder. Singularly, a deed recorded in Hudson (Deed Book, ZZ., p. 461), in 1854, given by Esther Bird and others, of Newark, N. J., to Shepard C. Keith of the same place, gives additional details concerning this Patent. After describing the property in the terms of the original Grant of 1667, as recorded in the Secretary of State's office (Patents, 2d series, Liber 2, p. 65), it goes on to say: "being the same premises described in the conveyance made by one Walthansett to John Baker and Jacob Jansen Flodder bearing date the 18th. day of March, 1666, and being the same premises described in the conveyance made by Johannes Gardenier to John Cooper, Obadiah Cooper, Jacob Cooper, bearing date the 6th. day of June, 1774."

Long anterior to the litigation concerning this Patent, as noted later, there was the petition of John Cooper to "Hon^{ble} the Convention of the State of New York," setting forth that he "has the sole right and property in said lands vested in him and his heirs by virtue of a conveyance and power of attorney which he has honestly obtained from the heir at law"; that he "can now prove the bounds of said lands by several ancient persons whose decease might hereafter cause him to Loose his right thereto." He therefore prayed for the appointment of "some proper person or persons to examine the said ancient evidences, that the same may be recorded and your petitioner freed from the great risque of losing the benefit arising therefrom in any future Court of Justice, Either of Law or Equity." The

petition is dated March 4, 1777. Had it been granted, much vexatious litigation might have been prevented; but the Convention had so many other and more important matters demanding attention that this petition seems to have been in vain.

But a trifle less indefinite than the Baker and Flodder Patent, and laying a good foundation for subsequent controversy and litigation, is the Hans Hendricksen or Nuttenhook Patent. Omitting unessential legal phraseology only, we quote (Pat., vol. ii., p. 174):

A Confirmation Graunted to Hans Hendricksen for a Parcell of Land neare Albany.

Richard Nicolls Esq. . . . Whereas there is a certain Parcell of Land neare Albany lying & being on y^e East Waal beginning Northwards at ye first point of Nutten Hooke & stretching alone ye side of little Nutten Hooke till ye come to Marinelutts Creek or Kill so runs into ye Woods about the depth of a Dutch Myle (three English miles) which said Parcell of Land was upon the first day of February 1666 with the Approbacon & consent of ye Commissaryes Purchased for a valuable Consideracon from the Native Indian Proprietors of that place by Arent Van den Bergh together with ye Meadow Ground or Valley lying within the said Lymitts belonging thereunto And whereas the said Arent Van den Bergh did upon ye 17th day of this Instant Month of ffebruary make Sale of all his Interest in the Premises to Hans Hendricksen whereby the right & Title therein is devolved upon him Now for a Confirmacon. . . . The Patent is dated the "24th day of ffebruary 1667."

Years ago, much more frequently than now, we were wont to hear of Brown (Bruyn) Right as denoting the northerly part of our town. The origin of the designation appears in the most notable of all the earlier patents, that issued by Governor Dongan in 1668 to J. Hendrix De Bruyn. The earlier Indian deed bears the names, Pompoenick, Taeppehismen, and Attawanoe. Their "marks" are much more artistic and picturesque than those of the illiterate

of our time. That of Attawanoe for instance looks like a small bug with sixteen legs. The tract, beginning about a mile south of the Rensselaerswyck border, had a river-front of about three miles, and extended thence eastward about six miles. The descriptive part of the Patent is as follows:

. . . from Davidson's Creek which Creek lies against bear island called in the Indian tongue Pahpapaenpemock and from the said Creek stretching southerly along the river to the saw kill of Frans Peiters Claver the Creek in the Indian tongue called Pittannock stretching to the East and in the woods to the first two lakes or inwaters which are called by the Indians Hithoock and Wogashawachook.

The Patent gives no other boundaries nor is the number of acres stated, but they were about 19,000. While there is indefiniteness as to boundaries, there is a precision and comprehensiveness as regards "appurtenances and hereditaments" worthy of emulation by modern conveyancers. We quote, *verbatim, literatim et punctuatim*:

. . . Houses Barnes Buildings fencis Gardens Orchards Soyles Pastures ffeedings Inclosures Woods Underwoods timber Trees Swamps Marshes Waters Rivers Rivoletts Runs Brooks Lakes Streams Ponds Quarrys Mines Mineralls fishing fowling hunting Hawking Silver and Gold Mines excepted.

The consideration was "five Bushells of good Winter Merchantable Wheate att New Yorke," payable annually. Evidently De Bruyn, who owned several houses in Albany and considerable tracts in Bethlehem and Catskill, was one of the great land speculators of his time. His title to the first great tract passed in 1707 to Laurence Van Alen and by his will of 1712 was devized to his nine children.

To J. H. De Bruyn, Evert Luycas, Dirck Wessels, and Peter Van Alen, in 1671 and later, several successive patents were issued covering tracts on both sides of the creek and

extending from Major Staats's "bouerie" to or beyond Valatie. It, or a considerable part of it, came to be known as "The Groote Stuk."

In very many of the earliest land-papers this Groote Stuk (Great Piece) is named. The phrase appears on our earliest map and might be regarded as indicating the older part of Kinderhook village. It was for long a puzzle to us as regards its precise location. It is only from information derived piece by piece from a multitude of sources that we are able to state with approximate accuracy, that while the older part of the village was *in* the Groote Stuk, the term included much more. It was a tract beginning at the creek at Valatie and extending thence southerly along both sides of the creek through the old village of Kinderhook and as far probably as Lindenwald, or the easterly line of the Nuttenhook patent. Prior to 1668 it had been purchased of the Indians; the renowned Wattawit being the owner, personally, or as representing a tribe or clan of the Mahicans.

In vol. iii., p. 60, of Patents, we find this Confirmation of title:

. . . . a tract "not farre from Nuttenhook and ye Kinder Hoeck known by ye Indian name of Machackoeske, stretching on both sides of ye Kill and going up Northerly next to ye land formerly (in 1665. See p. 59.) bought of ye Indians by Evert Luykassen and so to Pachaquack (Valatie), which said piece or Parcell of land hath been . . . purchased from the Indian native owners by Evert Luykassen, J. H. Bruyn and Dirk Wessels, May 1666, of which they sold a fourth part to Pieter Van Alen."

The confirmation is dated June 26, 1668.

June 31, 1695, Pieter Van Alen deeded his share in the Groote Stuk to Pieter Vosburgh, eldest son of the litigious Geertruy Vosburgh. Dirck Wesselsen sold his share without recorded deed to Marte Cornelisse (Van Buren), the great-great-grandfather of President Van Buren. The sale

was confirmed Feb. 17, 1707-8. Marte willed this property to his son Peter whose wife was a sister of Peter Vosburgh's wife, and the sisters "lived," we read, "on adjoining farms." Evert Lucassen's only child, Elbertje, married Lawrence Van Alen, the purchaser in 1707 of the great De Bruyn patent. Elbertje was her father's only heir, and through her his share in the Groote Stuk, excepting a few portions previously sold, became vested in Lawrence Van Alen, already an enormous landholder. March 4, 1712, Van Alen gave deeds of land in and near Kinderhook to six of his nine children; and on the same day these children conveyed to Johannes Van Deusen (their brother-in-law) and his wife Christina Van Alen "the half of that land called the Stroak." Sept. 30, 1707, De Bruyn gave one half of his share in the Groote Stuk to the children of Lawrence Van Alen. All these statements may be verified by consulting the Deed books and the Index of Grantors in the Albany County Clerk's office. What became of De Bruyn's remaining half-interest in the Groote Stuk we have been unable to ascertain. We conjecture, however, that at an earlier unrecorded date it had been sold to Lawrence Van Alen and was the portion which in 1679-80 and '82 Van Alen sold to Jan Tysse (Goes). In later years the last-named appears in possession of the northerly section of our famous Groote Stuk; and Lambert Janse (Van Alstyne) as owning the most southerly.

In the Fort Orange Court records, the important parts of which relating to Kinderhook were kindly translated for us by our State Archivist, Mr. Van Laer, we find that in March, 1678, Lawrence Van Alen, attorney for (and son-in-law of) Evert Luycassen, applied for an order for the division of the Groote Stuk among its four owners, Evert Lucassen (Backer), John Tysse (Goes), Marten Cornelise (Van Buren), and Peter Vosburgh.

Lawrence Van Alen's application was granted and an order for division by lot was issued; actual possession in

severalty, however, not to take place until Fall, after the grain had been gathered. No attention seems to have been given to the order, for in 1681 complaint was made by inhabitants of Kinderhook (not named) that some of the owners would not consent to the division, whereupon it was ordered that it be made within eight days without further delay. A year later the Commissioners, Melgert, Abrahams, and Claes Petten, report that they have made the division by measuring the fences and marking upon trees the portion assigned to each, namely, 600 paces. In the interim Luycassen had transferred his title to his son-in-law, Lawrence Van Alen, and Cornelise disposed of his portion, so that now Van Alen, John Tysse, and Isaac and Jacob Vosburgh are the owners. "The gate through which John Tysse drives alone and all the other gates must be kept in good repair."

The same records show that in 1678 land-litigation which continued more than a hundred and fifty years had already begun. In its inception and its continuance it was largely due to the indefiniteness of boundary lines and to the fact that in some cases the patents were conflicting.

In 1680 Lawrence Van Alen sues Jan Tysse concerning the division and the survey of land south of the latter's house, formerly belonging to De Bruyn and Luycassen; also to compel Tysse to keep the division fence in repair and to compensate Van Alen for his charges and labor.

The same year Gerrit Teunisse asks the Court to compel Peter Vosburgh to fulfill a contract which the former has made in the presence of witnesses to sell him (Vosburgh) land for 120 beavers in six years or sixty beavers cash.

In 1682 the four owners of the Groote Stuk last named sue Andries Gardenier for trespass, claiming that his house stood on their land "*which runs to the creek, while he is entitled to the creek only.*" Gardenier in defense produces an earlier title than theirs and nonsuits them.

These items from the Court record may seem too trivial to be noted, but they furnish us here and there missing

pieces of the Groote Stuk picture puzzle. The fenced portion, if not the whole of that mysterious tract, consisted of four parts, each 600 paces long. Assuming that the pace of that time was five feet (as Munsell states), we have altogether a tract of more than two and a quarter miles long. The east and west lines we cannot locate with precision, but we know that they included the creek and a somewhat narrow and irregular strip of land on each side. But the heart of the tract, portions of which were "*sometimes overflowed*," we can definitely locate as beginning at or near Valatie and extending thence along the creek for about two and a quarter miles and including the eastern part of our village, and south as far as the Van Alen farm or possibly Lindenwald. Several deeds of known lots on William Street confirm this view. We have a decided impression that Emieke (*alias* Wattawit?) would tell us that a large part at least of the Groote Stuk was his land. We are satisfied also that we can identify this tract with that originally granted to De Bruyn, Luycassen, Dirk Wessels, and Peter Van Alen, in 1661, as hitherto noted.

From a deed in the possession of Henry (grandson of the late Henry) Snyder we are able to trace the present Datus C. Smith place back to its original Indian owner, Wattawit; and we find to a certainty that a portion at least of the old Schermerhorn-Pruyn estate, including the site of the present Beekman residence, belonged to the same Wattawit, personally, or as the representative of his folk.

In 1685 a Patent was granted to Philip Schuyler for 800 acres lying for 2000 paces along the Great New England Path, substantially the present roadbed of the Boston and Albany Railway.

The most important in some respects of all the patents was that issued by Governor Dongan in 1686 and known as the Great Kinderhook Patent. It included, as will be seen, several of the patents already noted.

Hitherto large sections of Kinderhook District had been

owned by non-residents. By invitation or permission settlers had occupied and improved portions of the land without acquiring any recorded title so far as appears. These settlers and patentees, numbering thirty-one in all, having doubtless made satisfactory arrangements among themselves of which there is no record, in 1686 applied for and received the "Kinderhook Patent." Owing to its importance we transcribe it from the original record, omitting two repetitions of the thirty-one names and a clause now and then of the customary redundant legal phraseology unessential to its meaning. (*See Appendix.*)

In the early years of the eighteenth century several additional and important land-patents were granted.

In 1703 Tierck Harmense (Visscher) received a patent for land between Swartahook and Great Nuttenhook; also in 1740 for land purchased of Essie Hendryksen, as noted below, together with three hundred acres vacant land lying south and west of the Kinderhook Patent of 1686.

In Land Papers, iii., pp. 90 and 129, appears the petition of Andries Gardenier (1702) for a patent for a tract of land "*between the colony of Renselaerswyke and Chinder hooke.*" He obtained permission to purchase 1000 acres, and in 1702-3 records the deed of "*Aquake, impowered by his mother Manenagkeha and his two younger bretheren, Aarpamit and Menonanpa, all native Mahikan Indians.*" The consideration was "*30 pounds Currant Money and one fathom of Duffels together with four half — (?) of good beer.*"

Six years later Rip Van Dam and others reported recommending that the petition be granted, (Vol. iv., p. 155.) Three days thereafter a warrant for a patent was issued. The descriptive part reads: "*A tract of woodland lying on the east side of Hudson's river north of De Bruyn, beginning by Davidties hook thence running up said river 1300 pases more or less to the bounds of Renslaerswick, being over against the south end of Barren Island, thence with the same breadth into the woods eastward six English miles or thereabouts to a small*

lake which empties into the Great Fish Lake, being bounded between the patent of Kinderhook and Renslaerswick."

For this he was to pay, "*Yearly and every year . . . att New Yorke . . . att or upon the ffeast Day of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary Commonly called Lady Day the Rent or Summe of Six Shillings."*

To him also patents were issued in 1708 for several tracts, the north boundary of which began at Nutten Hook, and amounting to nearly 5000 acres, for which he was to pay a yearly rent of four shillings "*att New Yorke att or upon the ffeast day of the Birth of our Lord God."*

Without date, but endorsed as read in Council in 1703, we have in Land Papers, iii., p. 124, addressed to Lord Cornbury, etc., the "*Petition of Lawrence Van Schayke and Lawrence Van Aela, planters, praying Lybertie and Lycense to purchase from the Indians in order to obtaining her Majesty's Grant to a parcel of land to the Eastward of Maj. Staats, stretching eight English miles into the woods, for the purpose of settling and improving."* With the petition is a rude map of lands along the river from Major Staats's to David's Hook. Stuyvesant is "*the land of the Swede*" and there is an unkind hint that Essie Hanse at Nutten Hook has no title for land on which she had lived for thirty years.

In Land Papers, vol. iii., p. 157, there is the record of a deed (1703) given by Essie Hendrickse, widow of Hans Hendrickse, to Tierck Harmense, of lands north of Abram Staats's two tracts. The deed refers to two patents for the land issued to her husband in 1667 and 1695. In an earlier record of the petition for the patents the tract is spoken of as "*long in his possession and improved."* These constituted the Little Nuttenhook patent. The whole tract with the exception of a portion theretofore released to their son was sold for 156 pounds and is thus described:

"A certain parcel of land near Albany, lying and being at ye east wall, beginning northward of the first point of Nutten Hook and stretching along the side of ye Little Nutten Hook

till you come to Marmehead creek or Kill, and soe runs into the woods about a Dutch mile, (three English miles)."

The records seem to show that Tierck wanted Essie's lands at Great Nutten Hook as well, for, in 1704 (Land Papers, iii., p. 185), Essie Hanse petitions Lord Cornbury:

That her late husband thirty years since with great charges and labor made improvements upon land which she had peaceably enjoyed since his death. That Tirck Harmise unjustly coveting the widdow's right and improvement had by Petition and false alegations therein endeavored to obtain a patent. She prays that her livelyhood may not be given to another and that no advantage may be taken of her ignorance in neglecting to apply for a confirmation of her possessions.

She now prays for a patent for land "*from Great Nuttenhook running along the river to Swartahook and so carrying the same breadth eastward four miles into the woods.*"

In Land Papers, iv., p. 17, we find, dated Sept., 1704, an order of Lord Cornbury for the issue of letters patent to Tirk Harmense for three tracts; the first for 466 acres beginning at the north end of Nutten Hook, thence east into the woods 322 chains, thence southeast 120 chains; the second a tract of 300 acres north of the above and along the river; and a third tract of forty acres adjoining the preceding and completing the compactness of the whole. The second tract had been previously purchased of Essie Hanse. Her appeal seems to have been, in part at least, successful.

A large portion of the easterly part of this Nutten Hook Patent was subsequently owned by Gerrit Van Schaack and his heirs and later became the property of Matthew and Lourens M. Goes. Van Schaack's (later Timothy Closson's) mill and dwelling were at Stuyvesant Falls. The map of John E. Van Alen's survey in 1785 shows also the surveys of Bleecker in 1743 and 1749. Van Alen's survey was for Matthew, Lourens M., John D., and Peter D. Goes,

among whom he divided a large tract, the south boundary of which ran 138 chains east from Martin Van Alstyne's mills at Chittenden's Falls.

On p. 155 of the same volume is Cornbury's order for the patent to Andries Gardenier for the tract north of the great De Bruyn Patent, already described. It is dated Oct. 1708 and notes the yearly quit rent of six shillings. In the book of Deeds, vol. v., p. 213, we find the grant of confirmation by the Trustees of Kinderhook, elsewhere named, to Jan Goes, son and heir of Jan Tyssen Goes, deceased, and to the eight children of Lawrence Van Alen, heirs of Evert Luykassen, deceased, "*as by deed of sale from the native Indians and Patent,*" a large tract, the instructive description of which we quote:

beginning and stretching on both sides of a certain Kill or creek Called and known by the Indian name Najokasink and by the Christians the Beowers Binne Kill thence westerly into the woods . . . to greate Spring or groote fontyn . . . along the waggon road to great piece or groot stuk by a valley along the brink of the hill to a certain place called water Kuyl, and from thence easterly to the Klay Kuyls Kill and from thence southerly to the lands of Lawrence Van Alen, along the said bounds westerly to the first mentioned bounds.

The grant is dated 1711, and the tract evidently included much of the land on both sides of the creek near, possibly in part in, the easterly section of the present village. The record of the subsequent transfers by these heirs would require a volume of its own. The records may be found in the Albany County Clerk's office.

In Land Papers, vol. vi., p. 173 (*see* p. 159 for petition), we have a description of John Beatty's survey of "two tracts of woodland containing together about 4000 acres . . . laid out for Conrat Borghart and Elias Van Schaack."

The descriptive part of the first reads:

Beginning on the east side of Kinderhook creek or kill by the high fall commonly called Major Abram Staats' fall . . . thence

east 148 chains, then south by west 316 chains, then northwest 5 degrees north 184 chains, then down the Claverack kill to its intersection with Kinderhook creek, then up Kinderhook creek including all ye turnings and windings thereof to ye first station. The whole being bounded on the west by ye Claverack and Kinderhook creek and on the other sides by ye King's woods, containing 3590 acres.

The measurements stated in miles and decimals were 1.85, 3.95, and 2.3 respectively.

The second tract was in the northern part of the district between Rensselaerswyck and the "General Patent" and east of the Gardenier tract.

It is thus described:

Beginning on the east side of a small run of water on the bounds of Kinderhook patent, neare where the said run watereth out of a small lake or pond (Knickerbocker lake?) which . . . lyeth to ye northward of ye great pond or lake, east 103 chains, north 41 chains, west 97 chains, to the small run above named on the border of Andries Gardenier, thence down to the point of beginning; containing 410 acres; both tracts together 4000 acres. The survey is dated Oct. 25, 1717.

The smaller tract subsequently became the property of "Burger Huyck and Co.," and was the "land in their possession" adjoining which was the much larger tract for which they obtained their patent.

A map of the two tracts surveyed for Borghart and Van Schaack in Land Papers, vi., p. 174, shows that a considerable portion of the first tract was in Claverack. It was evidently Borghart's portion, for in 1767, in reply to Henry Van Rensselaer's caveat of protest, we have (L. P., xxiv., p. 16), the petition of the sons of Coenradt (John, Coenradt, Garret, Peter, and Jacob), and two sons-in-law, Isaac Van Duersen and Peter Sharpe, reciting the "Licence and Purchase" in 1729. The issue of the controversy belongs to the history of the Claverack Manor.

In 1729-30 (Land Papers, x., 105) we find the petition of Thomas Williams, Cornelis Jacobse Schermerhorn, and Leendert Conyne for a "licence to purchase a tract of 1000 acres lying on both sides of Kinderhook creek between the north line of Kinderhook patent and the manor of Ranslaerswick."

A month later Jacob Vosburgh, Jacob Isaackse Vosburgh, Jr., Johan Vosburgh, J. Abse Van Alstyne, and Johan Ten Broeck enter their caveat against the encroaching petition of Williams and others, and this leads to a warrant for the survey of the north bounds of the Kinderhook Patent; this being the more necessary because it had been found that distances stated in the patent and actually measured distances did not always agree. Williams and others seem to have been thrown out of Court for, in 1731 (Land Papers, x., pp. 152, 170, and xi., p. 6), we have the petition for and survey of a grant of 6000 acres to Burger Huyck and others, adjoining to lands of which they were possessed, to the northward of lands formerly belonging to Dirck Wessels and Gerrit Teunisse. The survey was made in 1731 and a patent given. These "*others*" were in some cases merely nominal owners; named, because of the law that no patent for more than 1000 acres to one person was to be granted. The full list of patentees was Burger Huyck, Lambert Huyck, Peter Van Alen, Johannes Vosburgh, Joachim Kallier, Isaac Vosburgh, John Van Alstyne, Johannis Ten Broeck, and Casper Rouse.

This tract, together with a grant to Peter Vosburgh of 1900 acres (an approximate parallelogram in shape), included the whole northern part of the district south of Rensselaerswyck and east of the De Bruyn patent, the two lakes and the Gardinier grant. The extreme northeast point of the tract is indicated on the map of the survey as being eleven miles from the Hudson, far within the present boundary of Chatham. The Field Book and map of the survey are in the Surveyor-General's office. The tract is thus described:

A Certain Tract of Land Scituate Lying and being in the County of Albany on both sides of the Kinderhook Creek or River, Beginning at a small black oak tree marked with three notches standing on the brow of the falling off hills, near the south end of land granted to Derick Wessels and Geritt Teunisse, and on the west side of the Kinderhook Creek or River and the south side of a small Run of water running down the said Hills, which tract runs from the said Black Oak tree, north 60 degrees west 95 chains; then north 5 degrees east 40 chains, to the easterly boundary of a tract of land granted to J. H. De Bruyn; then along his bounds, north 27 degrees east, 93 chains to a large fish pond; then north easterly along the south and east sides of the said pond to the mouth of a Run of water called the Bouren Kill and running into the said Pond. Then along the said Bouren Kill to the mouth of another small Run which runs out of a small Pond there into the said Bouren Kil; then along the said Run of water to the said small Pond; then northerly along the east side of the said small pond, and along a Run of water which runs into the said Pond, which Run of water is called Lischer's Killickie (Muitzes Kill), being the easterly Bounds of a tract of land granted to Andrew Gardineer, to the south bounds of the Manor of Rensselaerswyck. Then along the said Bounds east 70 chains; then south 79 degrees east, 190 chains. Then south 15 degrees west, 135 chains. Then south 45 degrees west 135 chains. Then south 45 degrees west 286 chains; then north 60 degrees west 84 chains to the said Black Oak tree where this tract began; containing in the whole 6921 acres of land and the usual allowance for Highways.

The house of John Van Ness is located near the southeast corner of the Huyck tract. On the northerly section of the Peter Vosburgh tract, 1908 acres in all, five undesignated dwellings appear. But the surveyor goes on to say:

There are five persons settled on the tract, viz. John Frint who has about 30 acres under improvement, Henry Salisbury 20 acres, Gisbert DeWitt 15, Cornelius Ostrom 20 and Jacob Fry 15 acres, all under some degree of improvement, as none have been settled above two years except Jacob Fry who has been

there near five years, and all settled without any pretension of title.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Frank Palmer of Kinderhook, and of his wife's brother, Mr. Edgar B. Thomas of Great Barrington, the present owner of the document, we have had before us an interesting old deed, written on a piece of parchment thirty-three inches wide. It is dated 1743, and was given by Geertruyd Coyemans as one of the executors of her husband's (Andries Coyemans) will, to Alexander Van Alstyne, blacksmith, of Kinderhook. It refers to an earlier deed of the same property from Coenradt Borghardt in 1720. It is termed the "*Defeeresses land*" and was evidently what fifty years ago was the Edward A. Thomas farm. He was the father of the present holder of this old document. The consideration was three hundred pounds of current money of the Province of New York.

In Land Papers, xxvi., pp. 106, 146, may be found the return of surveys (1768), with a map, of two tracts of land. They are triangular pieces whose common apex is at Swarta Hook, with a base line of about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile along the north boundary of Harmanse's tract "of 300 acres" at Nutten Hook. The tract along the river contained 122 acres and was surveyed for Hugh Munro. The second tract of 125 acres was surveyed for Joseph Smeeton. The division line between the two, from Swarta Hook to the Harmanse tract, was about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles long. The accompanying map reveals these dwellings at intervals along the river-front south of Swarta Hook: I. Sharp, Gisbert Claw, Abr. Wingood, and Jacob Falkinburgh.

In 1790 Surveyor-General De Witt surveyed a tract of 897 acres for these parties: for Dirck Woodcocks (198), William Steves (200), Joel Champion (192), Job Champion (173), and George White (134). The tract was bought for two shillings an acre and is described (Land Papers, xlix., p. 143) as "Beginning at a marked white oak tree standing

on the south bound of the Manor of Rensselaer at a distance of 12 chains and 75 links from the south-west corner of the stoop or shed of the dwelling house of Henry Goes."

In Land Papers, xl., pp. 7, 8, are the returns of two surveys (1791) for John Van Ness: the first for a tract of 427 acres adjoining the north bounds of the patent granted to Burger Huyck and others. The second is for a tract of 200 acres adjoining a tract laid out for Dirck Woodcock.

The larger tract was Mr. Van Ness's bounty land; received in accordance with the acts of the Legislature of 1781 and 1782, whereby, bounties of unappropriated lands were granted to those who had raised troops for the defense of the State or to complete the Line of the State in the service of the United States. The Surveyor-General, Simeon Dewitt, thus reports his survey to Governor Clinton:

All that certain Tract . . . beginning at the north east corner of the patent heretofore granted to Burger Huyck and others and running thence along the north bounds thereof, s. $86^{\circ} 45'$ West, 22 chains and 80 links to a tract of 200 acres laid out for the said John VanNess; then along the same, North 75 chains, to a tract laid out for Dirck Woodcock; then along the same, North $40^{\circ} 30'$ East, 2 chains and 30 links to the south bound of the manor of Rensselaer; then along the same easterly 52 chains and 80 links to the west bounds of the Kings' District; then along the same, South $45'$ East, to the Kinderhook creek; then down along the same as it winds and turns to the aforesaid tract granted to Burger Huyck and others, and then along the same to the place of beginning, containing 427 acres of land, the same being laid out as nearly in the form of a square as conditions permitted.

We have now given what we deem to be a sufficiently full account of the original titles to nearly all the territory comprised in Old Kinderhook. It is to be remembered that there were some who occupied land by private agreement with the natives without any other title. Others, if Isaac Goes's statement to Abraham Lott in 1774 was accurate,

seized upon unappropriated lands wherever they could find them and added them to their own holdings. But we suspect that Isaac was grouchy that morning, for there could not have been so very much in his time to be thus seized. With the exception of a narrow irregular tract along the creek (the Grootte Stuk), which included parts of both Kinderhook and Valatie, we have covered our entire territory with land patents, in several places apparently two deep.

The tracts thus granted cannot all be located with precision on any map that has been or can be made. At first and for many years the territory was wholly unsurveyed and largely unknown. One undefined tract was designated as adjoining another equally ill-defined. The first surveys when made were of the crudest sort. Distances were measured by uncertain pacing, poles, ropes, harness-reins, and even by this phrase: "about a quarter of an hour's walk, according to my walking." Marked trees subject to decay, tree-trunks, one white oak readily mistaken for another which would include a greater number of acres, heaps of stones easily removed, and variable water-courses were designated as stations in the surveys. "*Variable water-courses,*" we say, for our streams had a perverse way of refusing to flow discreetly as the grantors and grantees of patents said they did and must. Occasionally also, in sheer caprice if not with malice prepense, they would abandon an old channel for a new one, as our staid old Kinderhook creek has done more than once. This was most reprehensible conduct on the part of our streams, for in connection with conditions before stated it tended to promote long and most vexatious litigation. Lawyers, Courts (the Supreme and the Court of Errors), Commissioners and Chancellors, all tried to settle what would not stay settled until the Legislature of 1812 and 1813 appointed Commissioners whose decisions were to be final even if they cut the knots they could not untie. The Commissioners were given two years for their investigation, and later the time was extended.

Under these conditions it is evident that the Devolution of Titles is a subject of extreme difficulty. It is only by laborious study of many maps, surveys, wills, and deeds (many unrecorded) that even approximate accuracy can be secured. Obviously also general outlines only can be given. The whole story as regards any one of a dozen of the old families would require many pages of dry-as-dust details. "Posterity delights in details," John Quincy Adams tells us, but we cannot make a volume of this chapter. Omitted details are accessible in the Land Papers of the Secretary of State's office, supplemented by the Index of Grantors and Grantees, and the books of Deeds in the Albany County Clerk's office, and later that of Columbia County. The Index leads us to suspect that when any of the nine children of Lawrence Van Alen had a family party title deeds were passed instead of cake.

Doubts arising as to the validity of their numerous exchanges and divisions of their inheritance, they obtained from the Legislature a special Act of Validation, passed in February, 1793. It recited that in 1751-52 the said (De Bruyn) tract was vested in the legal representatives of Lawrence Van Alen in nine shares or proprietary rights: that a part of the said land was laid out into lots and the remainder exchanged; that is to say, land on the west side of Pine Ridge and Kallekobenbergh (Turkey Hill) for land on the east side, of which a map had been made and deposited in the Columbia County Clerk's office. Unfortunately this map has disappeared. Doubts arising as to the validity of such division and exchange, it was ratified and confirmed, and the land vested in fee simple in proprietors residing thereon. The remaining undivided land, east of Pine Ridge and Kallekobenbergh, was to be divided according to the provisions of the Act for the Partition of Lands.

In several successive volumes of the "Collections" of the N. Y. Historical Society may be found abstracts of the wills of many residents of Old Kinderhook which were filed in

the New York Surrogate's office. These and all other known and available sources of information have been studiously scrutinized and many helpful items thence derived.

The principal De Bruyn Patent, of apparently about 19,000 acres as finally delimited, was sold in 1707 to Lourens Van Alen for four hundred pounds. (*See Appendix.*) This Lourens was a son of Lourens Lourensen who is reported as being in Beverwyck in 1630. About 1673 his son Lourens became a resident and landholder here. In 1690 he was commissioned as a Justice of the Peace and in 1703 was elected one of the first trustees of the District. He and his brother Pieter were the progenitors of the once very numerous families of Van Alen and Van Allen of this whole region. Before 1686 he married Elbertje Evertse, daughter of Evert Luyckassen (Backer), one of the early patentees of several large tracts. Through his wife (and there were many like instances) Lourens received considerable additions to his own large holdings, notably his share in the famous Groote Stuk. Lourens and Elbertje had nine children; six sons and three daughters. The sons were Lucas, Lourens, Jacobus, Johannes, Stephanus, and Pieter. Their daughters were Emmetje (Jannetje), Catharina, and Christina, who married respectively, Leendert Conyn, Melgert Vanderpoel, and Johannis Van Deusen. The will of their father, who died in 1713-14, provided that his estate should be divided among them share and share alike. For more than fifty years much of the estate was held in common by amicable agreement; Conyn and Vanderpoel occupying the portion along the river and as far east as the "Pine Ridge" (the present Ridge road) and Kalkoen-berg (Turkey Hill), where, "beautiful for situation," stands the house of the late P. Eaton, now owned by Cornelius Van Alen. Johannis Van Deusen and his wife were in possession of a large tract near and including part of the present village of Valatie. His house stood near the existing bridge at Valatie. Lands on both sides of the creek, including the south side of Main

Street and the island, were parts of his estate. We note in passing, although it was not a part of the De Bruyn patent, that "het Ilantje" (Island No. 10) was sold in 1735 to Mattheus Goes for forty pounds. The deed describes it as "bounded on the south and west by a pond of water called Binnegat and on the north by land of the heirs of Dirck Goes, then in possession of the said Johannis Van Deusen."

The remainder of the De Bruyn patent between these outlying portions was in the possession of Lourens's six sons.

For facts stated as regards the devolution of title of the western section we are indebted to Mr. Philip Van Alstine, of New York.

The name Poelsburg, long applied to a portion of that region, is of obvious derivation. The original Conyn and Vanderpoel houses, built of brick and in the best style of the time, stood on the river-bank. The Melgert Vanderpoel house was built in 1719. Later, Melgert's son, Barent, built a stone house (burned in 1825) on what is now known as the Radley farm. Jacobus Vanderpoel, son of Barent, built on the river road about one half mile south of his father's house, on the present Gifford place. Leendert Conyn's daughter, Weintje, married Abraham Van Alstine. On the death of her father she received the northern part of his estate including Schutter's (Hotaling) Island. Conyn's daughter, Catharine Ten Broeck (wife of Dirck Wessels), his son Leonard, and his granddaughter Henderecke Beckman (whose mother, Angetie Conyn married Jan Van Buren and died before her father), received lands at Roeleff Jansen's Kill and at Kleine Kill. The son of Abraham Van Alstine and Weintje (Lavina) Conyn was Lieutenant-Colonel (later Colonel) Philip Van Alstine, of distinguished service during the Revolution.

The Melgert Vanderpoel mansion passed to his son Johannis and to the latter's son Isaac who continued to occupy it until it was declared forfeited to the State. It then came into the possession of Philip Van Alstine who

died in 1814, leaving two sons, John P. and Abraham P. A third son, Isaac P., had been killed by Indians at a landing-place on Lake Erie in 1784. The house built in 1719 was burned in 1872.

John P. Van Alstine married Elizabeth Bork, daughter of Dominie Bork. In 1822 he sold the old Conyn place and about 255 acres of land to William Johnson and built what is now known as the Whannel house about one half mile north of the former. He died in 1831, and in 1839 his three sons sold their father's estate and moved West. Abraham P., the other son of Colonel Philip Van Alstine, married Catalyntie Gardenier, and had three children: Maria, who married Jesse Van Ness, the father of Philip and the grandfather of Jesse P. of East Greenbush who married Ella Milham of Stuyvesant; Cornelia, who married Peter L. Van Dyck; and Philip, the grandfather of Philip who furnishes these items. At the death of Abraham P. his property became vested in his son Philip and in his sons-in-law, the Van Nesses and the Van Dycks. The original Jesse Van Ness house of stone is still standing on a crossroad near the Schodack line. His son Philip's home on the Ridge, north of the district schoolhouse, is well remembered. That of Peter L. Van Dyck was on the Ridge road. Later, Arent Van Dyck, who married Hilletje, daughter of Stephen Van Alen, came into possession of a tract which included the farm now belonging to Lewis J., son of Frank Bion Van Alstyne.

The fullest and clearest statement we have found of the ultimate disposition of the remainder of the De Bruyn patent, east of the Pine Ridge, is in the agreement between Lourens L. and Johannis L. Van Alen, sons of Lucas and grandsons of Laurens. The original document, loaned by Mr. J. S. Hosford, is before us as we write. It is dated February 4, 1801. It recites:

That their grandfather among other real estate was seized of a tract of land called the De Bruyn patent; that by his last

will and testament, excepting sundry parcels previously disposed of, the patent was devized to his nine children, share and share alike: that his son Evert transferred his ninth to his brother Lucas: that in 1730 Johannis Van Deusen and his wife Christina Van Alen made over her ninth to her brothers Lucas, Stephanus, Jacobus, and Leonard Conine, her sister's husband: that in 1743/4 Lucas devized his several shares in the patent and other real estate to his two sons Lourens L. and Johannis L., share and share alike, to be divided when Johannis came of age: that in 1769 this partition was made in part: that at the time of making this partition a great part of the De Bruyn patent was undivided and held in common by themselves and the other proprietors so that a full, perfect and absolute division was impossible; that a partition of these remaining undivided lands was made in part in 1793 and in part in 1799, by Commissioners appointed by the Columbia County Court of Common Pleas, in accordance with the general Act of the Legislature for the Partition of Lands: that under this partition the undivided lands of the patent were laid out into eight Allotments and each Allotment into seven lots representing the proprietary shares of Stephanus, Jacobus, Lucas, Evert and Peter Van Alen and also of Peter Martese Van Buren and Johannis Van Deusen, in accordance with an agreement made in 1792: that those to whose names lots were drawn became entitled to and seized of the same as by the report of the Commissioners on file in the County Clerk's office.

Then follow minute details of allotments among these several proprietors and also the releases of Lourens and Johannis to each other and to other proprietors of right, title, and interest in lands as allotted. These details are too numerous and extended for record here. They may be found in the Columbia County Clerk's office; but Surveyor Bleeker's map said to accompany the report is missing. Without it it is impossible to locate the several allotments to individuals. Old residents, however, remember well what large sections of the great patent were in the possession of the descendants of the original Lourens down to a comparatively recent period; as indeed portions are to this day. But a

few years since the Van Alen homesteads were to be found on every road threading the De Bruyn patent, and there was probably not one of the old families with whom the Van Alens had not intermarried. The farm of the aged Peter Harder who died in 1864 (the grandfather of the late Edson Harder of Valatie) was the old-time homestead of Cornelius Van Alen whose family burial plot may still be seen near his house. Owned of late by Mr. Wheeler is the homestead of all the eight children of Lucas I. Van Alen, son of John L., as the initial I (interchangeable with J) signifies, and a grandson of Lourens. It retains traces of its ancient dignity and elegance, but is of peculiar attractiveness to us as the birthplace of John, Elizabeth, and Lydia, whom we "*have loved long since and lost awhile.*" What we have known as the Walker place was originally a part of the Lucas I. estate. Of the remote descendants of Lourens there are some still here, but very many more are widely scattered. The name, once borne by a multitude, has now but few representatives in Kinderhook, and, like several other once notable names here, is not unlikely to become extinct.

In the Albany County Clerk's office may be seen the map of Bleecker's survey (1769) of "part of the land granted to Lawrence Scherp, Casparus Conyn, Jr. and others." The tract is largely if not wholly identical with the Powell patent of a hundred years earlier. It lies on both sides of the present Landing Road from the river to and including a large lot of "corn land" numbered 47, and lying northwest of Marte Van Alstyne's house and barn. Along the river are fourteen lots, twenty chains in depth and of varying width. We give the names of the owners in order from south to north and the width of their lots in chains and links. Peter Van Buren, 5.35; Peter Vosburgh, 5.30: Lewis Hoes, 4.2: Dirk Hoes, 5.22: Dirk Hoes, 3.12: Casparus Conyn, Jr., 3.12: Lewis Hoes, 3.12: Alida Scherp, 5.12: Peter Vosburgh, 2.56: Peter Van Buren, 2.56: heirs and representatives of Lawrence Scherp, 10.25: Casparus Conyn, Jr., 6.53: Lewis

Hoes, 6.53: Dirk Hoes, 6.53. The entire tract is approximately 68.70 in width and 271 chains in depth. Excluding the fenced farm of Francis Clauw, in the vicinity of the present Half-way House so-called, the remainder of the tract is divided into thirty-three large plots, making forty-seven in all, which were distributed, probably by lot, among the owners already named, except that plot 47, the "*corn land*," considerably larger than the others, was held in common, each owner having an undivided interest.

We have already noted the transfer of other portions of the Powell Patent to the Van Alstynes; lands still in the possession of their descendants. Several other transfers were made by Jannetje, Powell's widow, and later jointly by her second husband Robert Orchard and herself. In Deeds, iii., p. 242, for example, we learn of her transfer in 1684 of land to Maes Cornelisen which a month later he sold to Adam Dingman. It is described as bounded on the west by lands of Peter Moree, on the east by those of Lawrence Van Alen, on the south by the Kinderhook Creek, and on the north by the hill. How charming the precision of that northern boundary, "the hill." A valued friend assures us that the old-time folk were honest, simple-minded people whose word was as good as their bond, and who had little care for legal documents, promissory notes, and the like. Possibly, some of them: but the voluminous records of the almost unceasing litigation of later years leads us to think they were not all so simple-minded and honest that notes, bonds, and precision as regards boundary lines would not have saved them from many vexatious law suits, to the loss however of the legal luminaries of the day.

In the Albany County Clerk's office (Deeds, E, pp. 156-7), we find recorded the agreement of the children of John Tysse Goes (1711) as to the division of his estate in accordance with the terms of his will, dated 1708.

As this agreement, even more than the original will, is instructive in several respects, we quote its substance.

Premising that the will made ample provision for the support and comfort of his wife, Styntie, and that his eldest son, Matthias (Tyse), was to have one cow and forty shillings for his birthright, also "*the small Creeck*," and the testator's interest in a mill owned in partnership with Peter Schuyler and Sybrant Van Schaack, the substance, and in part the precise language of the agreement, is as follows:

To his two sons, John and Dirk, all his real and personal estate. To John, "the half of two pieces of land stretching along the Kill nearly upon a north east line and striking off from Abram Staats' Bowery the first piece goes on both sides of the creek and is called Najakasick, abutting on the land of Evert Luykasse. The other part goes further up and is known as Wachanosoonick, excepting however the land heretofore conveyed to Jochem Lamersen (Van Valkenburgh) and Peter Moree. Together with the house, barne, barracks and orchard; together with part or shear ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the Land called the Groote Stuk at Kinderhook aforesaid, lying on both sides of Kinderhook Kill, being not far from Nutten hook known by the Indian name Machackoes, stretching on both sides of the Kill and going up northerly next to the land formerly bought of the Indians by Evert Luykasse and so to Pachaquack (Valatic). Except what part or shear is reserved to Derick Goes."

The agreement, too long to quote in full, goes on to state that Matthias Goes, eldest son of John Tysse,

agrees with his brothers John and Dirk for himself and for his sisters Anna, wife of Isaac Vosburgh; Teuntie, wife of Jacob Turk; Judick, wife of Isaac Huldriks and Majaka, wife of Burger Huyck, to the choice of Hendrick Hansen of Albany, Lawrence Van Schaack, Bartholomew Van Valkenburgh and Coenraet Burgaert of Kinderhook as arbitrators, they to choose a fifth if necessary, to appraise and award the lands devized by John Tysse as before stated, all parties to abide by their findings.

Two days later the decision was rendered to the effect that John was to pay 135 pounds and Dirk thirty-five pounds to the other heirs.

In Book E, pp. 186, 218, and F, p. 501, we note transfers by Jacob Martense to Louisa Van Schaack; Michael Calier to Elias Van Schaack; and Joachim Staats to Sybrant G. Van Schaack. The last-named land was a part of the Staats's patents.

The Devolution of Title, as regards the great Kinderhook Patent, is happily clearer than in many other cases. We give that patent essentially in full in the Appendix. It was granted, it will be remembered, in 1686, and included within its limits most of the patents previously granted, except the greater De Bruyn, the Gardenier north of it, the Powell, Nuttenhook, Staats Patents, and the Grootte Stuk. Until 1762-63 the thirty-one patentees seem to have been tenants or owners in common with no recognized ownership in severalty beyond that of occupancy and improvement. It was the appearance of new claimants to portions of the territory that led to the legalized division.

In 1762, Margaret Livingston, Geertruy Coeymans, and James Livingston preferred a claim as part owners of lands in the actual possession of H. De Bruyn and thirty freeholders who were occupants of the tract in dispute. All the parties having petitioned for a Commission to survey the lands, define boundaries, and allot the territory among the freeholders in accordance with the Act for the Partition of Lands, it was appointed. The Commissioners were Gerit Van Den Bergh and Volkert Dow of Rensselaerswyck, with Harmanis Wendell of Albany. Their surveyor was Isaac Vrooman, the Deputy Surveyor-General. After twelve weeks' publication of their meeting in three New York weeklies, they met in Quackenboss's tavern on the Post Road north of the village and continued in session sixty-eight days. At the end of that time the whole Kinderhook Patent of 1686 had been carefully surveyed, divided into six large Allotments, and each of these in turn subdivided into thirty-one parts; that is, as many parts as there were rightful claimants. The claims of the instigators of the

survey were evidently disallowed. We are indebted to the labors of this Commission for the valuable "Map of the Division of the Kinderhook Patent" to which we have frequently referred.

The Field Book of the survey reveals that the smallest of the six Allotments contained in round numbers about 1060, and the largest about 8500 acres. The thirty-one lots into which each Allotment was subdivided varied from about 34 to 300 acres. These are rude estimates based on the scale of the map and only approximately correct.

The next service required of the Commission was the assignment of the land thus divided and subdivided to the thirty-one freeholders entitled to its possession. The law required that this should be by lot. The meeting therefor was held at the tavern of Walter Block in New York. As many tickets as there were freeholders and Allotments were placed in a box and were drawn out by William Thomas, a boy of twelve, in the presence of Daniel Horsmanden, Judge of the Supreme Court. As the tickets were drawn the subdivisions of the large Allotments were assigned, each freeholder being entitled to six of the smaller plots. In some instances they were contiguous and in others widely separated. They were all minutely recorded in the final report of the Commission. With that record and the map before us we can locate the tracts falling to each person named with precision. Each one was supposed to take what came to him, occasioning no doubt some disappointments which might be removed by private arrangement among themselves.

To meet the expenses of the Commission a tract of 1721 acres was reserved. The homesteads of Gerrit Van Schaack and Marte Van Alstynne were its eastern boundary; the Powell patent its northern, and a line from Swarta Hook on the river to Abram Staats's falls its western. In December this tract was put up at auction at Quackenboss's tavern. After several lower bids, that of Robert Livingston of about

1750 pounds was accepted. The itemized bill of the Commission for services and expenses was somewhat over 906 pounds. After its payment from the proceeds of the sale the surplus was divided among the freeholders.

This surplus, amounting to twenty-seven pounds for each freeholder, was distributed to most of them in 1764 and to others three years later. From the report of the distribution it appears that most of the freeholders had either parted with their right therein or sold their allotments. We have this possibly instructive record of payments, twenty-seven pounds each unless otherwise noted.

Gerrit Teunisse's share to John Van Rensselaer.

Marten Cornelissen's to Barent and Abraham Van Buren.

Jan Tysse's (Hoes) to Johannis L. Van Alen.

Isaac Forsburgh's to Barent Van Buren and Myndert Vosburgh, Albany.

Gerrit Jacobsen's (two shares) to Jacob H. Ten Eyck.

Omeda (Ami) Legrange's to Jacobus Legrange.

Andries Hansen's to Luykas Goes.

Robert Sielksen's (Sickles) to Andries Kittle.

Andries Gardenier's to Petrus and Andries Gardineer.

Hendrick's Coenradt's (two shares) to Jacob H. Ten Eyck.

Adam Dingman's to Albartus Dingman.

Lambert Janssen's to William Van Alstyne.

Claas Beaver's (Beevert) to Gerrit Van Schaack.

Albert Gardenier's to Peter Van Alstyne and Johannes L. Van Alen.

Jan Martensen's (Van Alstyne) to Isaac and Maritie Van Alstyne.

Yeanrich Kalljer's (Jurie Collier) four shares to Marten Jacobsen and Andries Hansen.

Jacob Forsburgh's to Dyreck and Pieter M. Vosburgh.

Francis Pieteron's to Cornelius Van Schaack.

Tom Craven's to Cornelius Van Schaack.

Jan Jacobse Gardenier's to Volkert J. Witbeck.

Peter Forsburgh's to Myndert Vosburgh.

Let it not be deemed ungracious that as faithful chroniclers we note in the itemized bill of the Commissioners the charge of more than forty-eight pounds for liquid refreshments for two of them.

At that time, and for many years thereafter, an ample supply of such refreshments seems to have been an essential to the proper conduct of most public functions and to most public functionaries. An extract from a "Reckoning of the Committee of Safety," in 1776, reveals fifty-three pounds due Yates & Co., for nine days' entertainment of several persons at meals, *etc.*, more than eighteen pounds of which was for the *etc.*, namely "*wine, toddy and cyder.*" From the same authority (Robert's *New York in the Revolution*) we glean that a major-general was allowed four gallons of rum monthly; a brigadier-general three; subordinate officers two and one-half, but the poor chaplains only two. At about that time Robert Livingston reported that he had ordered "*six barrels of beer to encourage the people to enlist.*" And when at the end of the war a grand dinner was given to the French ambassador, General Washington, and many other celebrities, while the bill for 120 dinners was forty-eight pounds, that for liquors was more than eighty-five pounds, which included the significant item of three pounds for sixty wine-glasses broken. Eight only of the guests took coffee. In olden times rum was a *sine qua non*, not only at house and barn raisings and in the harvest fields, but also at funerals, and for the building of churches as well, as a cash book of 1814 which we have before us attests on every page. As regards this and much besides the delver into the records of the past finds the halos of glory about many heads not as bright as he had thought them to be, and sees not a little of the enchantment, which distance lends to the view, dispelled. The golden age is not behind us. But—*Revenons à nos moutons.*

The claim of Margaret Livingston *et al.* to the heart of the

Kinderhook District had scarcely been disallowed by the Commissioners of 1762, when a claimant to large sections of the southern and eastern border lands of our District became more and more insistent and clamorous. The lands in question had been held by those who were in possession or by their ancestors as far back as 1686 at least, but were now claimed by this already large landholder. The Sir William Johnson MSS. of 1769 contain several communications from Kinderhook's most eminent and representative citizens of the time concerning "the hardships and oppressions a certain Person was inflicting upon worthy and industrious people." One letter declares that "if it were true as he alleged that he had the commissions in ten companies of the militia at his disposal for the furtherance of personal ends, this township had everything to dread from a Person with whom nine-tenths of the community were perpetually at variance." The oppressions of this claimant became at last so unendurable that an appeal was made for the protection of the Governor and Council in New York. The petition from Kinderhook is in H. Van Schaak's handwriting and bears the marks of his cultivated, scholarly style. We quote from Land Papers, vol. xviii., p. 155:

To his Excellency, the Right Honorable John, Earl of Dunmore, etc. . . .

The Petition of some of the principal Proprietors of Kinderhook in behalf of themselves and others,

Most humbly Sheweth:

That your petitioners are some of the principal Proprietors of the Patent of Kinderhook granted to their ancestors and others in 1686.

That their claims under the said Patent greatly interfere with the claims lately set up by John Van Rensselaer Esq., Tenant Proprietor of Claverack.

That therefore any act of Government in favor of that claim may prove hurtful to the interest of your petitioners and others who stand in the same predicament.

That under these circumstances your petitioners are alarmed at a report which prevails here that the said John Van Rensselaer has lately applied to your Lordship to be restored to the command of a Regiment of Militia-foot for that part of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck which lies at Claverack, thereby intending, as your petitioners have reason to fear from his former conduct in the distribution of military commissions, to deliver the commissions of inferior officers to persons living on lands which are by no means admitted to be within Claverack: a measure which cannot fail to give color to another extension of Claverack injurious to the claims of your petitioners.

That your petitioners however would not presume to trouble your Lordship upon the subject of Mr. Van Rensselaer's application if it were not for a petition which is privately handed about for signing and addressed to your Lordship.

That as the promoters of this petition are persons who have very little interest in the claims with which your petitioners contend against Mr. Van Rensselaer and the avowed promoters of his interests—they cannot help being uneasy at the manner in which this petition obtains signatures, more especially as your Petitioners are informed that it contains something injurious to the eastern claims of this Township.

That the Petitioners of the before mentioned Petition are inconsiderable in number and interest when compared to the whole number of freeholders and inhabitants living within this District.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the said petition may not be considered as containing the sense of the majority of the Inhabitants nor be suffered to militate against the Township before the collective sense of the Inhabitants can be fairly obtained as is customary here at their Town meetings, or such other relief as your Lordship shall think proper.

This Petition is dated April 24, 1771, and bears these signatures: Johannes Goes, Cornelius Van Schaack, Jacob Gardinier, Johannes T. Vosburgh, Barent Van Buren, Myn-dert Vosburgh, Jan Tys Goes, Cornelius Van Schaack, Jr., Peter Van Slyck, Peter Van Slyck, Jr., Dirck Goes, Luykas Goes, — Goes, Peter S. Van Alstine, Lawrence L. Van

Alen, David Van Schaack, Dirck Gardinier, Johannis D. Vosburgh, Cornelis Van Schaack, Franz Pruyn, Andries Kittle, and Peter Vosburgh. The second petition of like purport was signed by 230 persons living beyond our limits in Spencertown and Nobletown. Special representations were also made to the Privy Council in London, both by petition and by messenger. The petitions and a colored map of the region are on file in the office of the Privy Council to this day. Although Mr. Van Rensselaer failed in the end to establish his claim it occasioned much anxiety and distress. We may in charity believe that there possibly was some technical foundation in law if not in equity for his amazing pretensions, arising from the well-known obscurity of the land patents in some cases and from their actual conflict in others. For example. The Kinderhook correspondent of Sir William, who wrote most strongly and bitterly against the pretensions and conduct of "a certain Person," had this to say of the Westenhook patent, "no evidence can be procured to establish the boundaries of it, it being the most obscure and unintelligible description perhaps ever known." Not all the patents were as lacking in precision as that one, but enough of them were so indefinite, as heretofore stated, as to give rise to protracted and disastrous litigation. Obviously the growth and prosperity of the district must have been seriously affected thereby. Possible purchasers of lands for settlement would not buy, and those in possession would hesitate to do much in the way of improvement while titles were subject to challenge, and costly litigation of uncertain issue was necessary for the defense of their proprietorship.

Preferring to complete so far as seems desirable the subject of land-litigation in this connection rather than recur to it again, we anticipate the events of a few years and give an account as brief and clear as we have been able to make it of those notable lawsuits occasioned by the conflict between the Baker and Flodder and the De Bruyn patents.

Martin Van Buren, Abraham Van Vechten, and Elisha Williams were among the brilliant counsel, and no less a jurist than the Chancellor among the presiding Justices. Two lawyers were asked to furnish us an abstract of these intricate cases but politely declined the privilege, leaving us to find our way through the dismal swamp as best we might.

The litigation in the early years of the nineteenth century was between parties who each claimed title to a tract of land in the vicinity of and including the Valatie Kill, on which a gristmill and a sawmill had been built. It was a tract claimed to be within the boundaries, vague as they were, of the Baker and Flodder Patent (1667) of which we have written.

The great De Bruyn Patent, issued in 1668, was based on an earlier Indian deed, and those deriving title therefrom claimed that it covered no inconsiderable part of the alleged Baker and Flodder tract.

While the whole region was but sparsely settled, and indeed until long after the De Bruyn Patent, bought by Lawrence Van Alen in 1707, was divided among his nine children in accordance with his will, no attention seems to have been paid to the claimants under the Baker and Flodder Patent, who settled upon the disputed tract, erected their mills, and remained in undisturbed possession for thirty-two years. Increase of population and of land values as well, taken in connection with many divisions and subdivisions of the ancestral estate, and numerous transfers of title by deeds and wills,—the minute details of which would be useless and tedious,—at last brought the rival claimants face to face in the courts by the beginning of actions of ejectment. The Columbia County Circuit Court records of July, 1806, and Johnson's Reports (vol. 8, p. 498) of Cases in the Court for the Correction of Errors (Feb. and March, 1811), in the Case of Daniel Frier and Peter Cooper against James Jackson, *ex. dem.*, Johannis L. Van Alen and John J. Van Alen, reveal

that the last-named parties brought an action of ejectment against the former. Sudam and Williams appeared for the plaintiffs and Van Buren and Van Vechten for the defendants. In the Circuit Court, Daniel D. Tompkins presiding Justice, a verdict was found sustaining the claims of the Van Alens; a verdict stated to be in conformity with the opinions of the Judge as expressed in his charge to the jury. The charge was to the effect: I. That the construction of boundaries was a question of law, not to be submitted to the jury. II. That the De Bruyn Patent was to be understood as stretching throughout its whole length from the river to the two lakes with the same breadth as that of its western border along the river, and thus of necessity include the tract in dispute. III. That the Baker and Flodder Patent was void because impossible of definite location, and: IV. That the adverse possession of thirty-two years was insufficient *to toll the right of entry* (establish title). Subsequently a Bill of Exceptions was filed to the charge of Justice Tompkins and in 1811 the case came up for review by the Court of Errors, Judge, later Chancellor, Kent presiding. By a vote of 14 to 6 the judgment of the court below was reversed, the Chancellor delivering the opinion. The substance of it was: I. That the De Bruyn Patent was *not* to be understood as stretching with the same breadth throughout from the river to the two lakes, but that its north and south lines were to be drawn from the north and south extremities of the lakes to the corresponding north and south stations on the river, thus entirely *excluding* the disputed tract. II. That the Baker and Flodder Patent was *not* void because of uncertainty. There was one dissenting opinion given by H. Yates, Jr., Senator, but by a vote of 14 to 6 the judgment of the court below was reversed, the record remitted, and a *venire facias de novo* (new trial) awarded.

Disputes and controversies concerning this and other tracts claimed as parts of the De Bruyn Patent still con-

tinuing, with no hope of final determination without a number of lawsuits attended with great delay and expense, all parties finally agreed to apply to the Legislature for relief. The parties were the Van Alens, claiming title under the De Bruyn Patent, and Peter Cooper, Daniel Frier, Andrew Sergaman, John Niver, Jr., Thomas Watson, Thomas F. Tobias, Reuben Bullock, John Goedemoet, Cornelius Watson, Marcus Niver, Michael Niver, Jacob Goedemoet, the heirs of Henry Ham, deceased, and others not named, in possession and claimants under the Baker and Flodder Patent.

The relief requested was an act of the Legislature appointing Jacob Radcliffe and David B. Ogden of the city of New York, and Thomas Rudd of the town of Poughkeepsie, as Commissioners to determine finally the rights and titles of all the parties, and all disputes and controversies relative thereto. The Act was passed June 8, 1812, as was also an Amendment in 1813, extending the time for final report. The Commissioners were

to hear and examine all disputes and controversies between the said parties respecting the title to the said land or to any part thereof, by any or either of them, and, finally, to determine such disputes, controversies and claims; which determination shall be absolutely binding and conclusive, and shall, to all intents, construction and purposes whatsoever, absolutely vest the right title and interest of every part of the said lands in such person or persons, and for such estate or estates, and in such way and manner, as shall be named and specified in such determination.

On the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 20th of September, 1813, the Commissioners "heard and examined the disputes and controversies between the parties, respecting their title, rights and remedies, and after the hearing, made and published their final order, award and determination upon the premises."

The material items of their award were: I. The reversal of the decision of the Court of Errors as to the south boundary of the De Bruyn patent, thus restoring the line to its earlier location as run by Surveyor John E. Van Alen. II. The extension of the eastern boundary line of the patent to the point of intersection with the restored south line. III. All lands east of this eastern boundary to remain in the possession of the parties in occupancy. IV. The title to a part of the farm known as the Ambler farm, John Niver in possession, was vested in those claiming title under the De Bruyn patent; but Niver, on the payment of \$30 per acre, to Peter Van Schaack as their representative, to receive title and hold and enjoy the same forever.

It was this last finding that was thereupon especially attacked. In an action of ejectment, Oct., 1814, the plaintiff recovered judgment. From this judgment an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court and was argued in January, 1817. (Johnson's Reports, vol. 14, p. 96), Jackson, *ex dem.*, Van Alen and Van Alen against Ambler. Attorney-General Van Buren and Van Vechten appeared for the plaintiffs and Emmet and Williams for the defendant. The final opinion of the Court, delivered by Judge Spencer, sustained the decisions and confirmed the acts of the Commissioners, and gave judgment for the defendant, except as to land east of the De Bruyn patent and therefore beyond their jurisdiction.

Not even by this decision, however, were vexatious litigations ended on the part of those claiming title adverse to that of those in possession. It was not until April 23, 1817, that the *coup de grâce* was given to all these litigants by this enactment of the Legislature: "That the said award . . . shall be and is hereby ratified and confirmed to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever, notwithstanding the infancy, coverture or other legal disabilities of any of the parties claiming title to the said land or any part thereof." Thus ended at last these prolonged and most disastrous

litigations, to which, thankful for preserved reason, we give a final and glad farewell.¹

¹ After the foregoing account was written it was reviewed by Mr. P. Ernest Hoes who studied the cases and suggested a few explanatory words here and there, which we have gladly added to our narrative.

CHAPTER IV

WHO WAS WHO, 1664-1809

Notes Anent the First Patentees and Freeholders—Resident Subscribers to Oath of Allegiance, 1699—Church Records, 1716, 1734—Town Tax List, 1744—Names on the Map (1756) of the Division of the Great Kinderhook Patent, (1686)—Assessment Roll, 1809.

THE story of the land-grants has revealed the names of many patentees and freeholders. As hitherto noted, the patentees of several of the larger tracts were non-resident land speculators. Concerning the actual settlers, what has already been stated need not be repeated in further narration of Who was Who in those early years and later. Professor Pearson's *First Settlers of the Ancient County of Albany*, Munsell's *Annals* (10 volumes), Fernow's *Albany Records*, Hollenbeck's *Historical Fragments*, many volumes in our State Genealogical Library, and wills and deeds of record in Albany, New York, and Hudson are the authorities upon which we have freely drawn. Abstracts of the wills of many of the early residents of Kinderhook may be found in the New York Historical Society Collections.

Major Abram Staats, the original patentee of land along the river and the Stockport creek long called by his name, was a non-resident.

He was evidently a man of versatility and thrift. We read of him as a surgeon of Amsterdam who came to Fort Orange in 1642 with the Reverend John Megapolensis, the first pastor of the Albany Church. He practiced his profession

for six years; was Councilor one year and President of the Council four years, receiving some emolument therefrom. He was also the owner of the sloop *Claverack*, plying between Fort Orange and New Amsterdam. After obtaining a license to traffic with the Indians he shipped more than four thousand beaver pelts in one year.

In 1664 his "house, barn, rick, and bouwery" were leased to John Andriassen (John the Irishman?), but his lands, to which additions were made as noted, were later occupied by his sons and grandsons, Samuel, Isaac, Johan, and Joachim, as revealed by maps and early deeds. Another son was "Abram of Claverack."

Frans Pieterse Claver (Clauw, Klaw, Clow), one of the very earliest settlers, was a carpenter in Fort Orange in 1656. Not long thereafter he built a sawmill on what was for many years known as his Kill, the present Light House creek. His mill was doubtless the first of its kind in this entire region. As his name will recur in connection with the visit of Danker and Sluyter in 1680 we will add only this here, that Frans had two sons, Hendrick and Jurrian, who were the fathers of large families and the progenitors of the many Clows (and other variations of the original name) in this and adjoining counties.

Baker (of the Baker and Flodder patent), the Albany records reveal, was at one time Deputy Governor of Albany, and in 1669 he sold his house there to Wynant Gerritse Vanderpoel, an ancestor of our Vanderpoel families. We regret to find that that same year Baker was tried on the complaint of Sheriff Swart of Albany for an assault on William Patterson. William, it appears, was relentless, notwithstanding this *amende honorable*: "(I) doe Confesse what I did to you was rashly and unadvisedly don, and I am Willing to be friends with you, and desire yo'r Excuse for my Passion, and so do I drink to you." We regret to say, that suit was not withdrawn and the decision was, that Baker was to pay Patterson "a summe of two hundred gild'rs Zewant

and the charges of the Committee to be equally paid by them." We cheerfully acknowledge our indebtedness to the discernment of our late honored State Historian, Mr. Hugh Hastings, for the hint—that this item furnishes a final answer to a frequently repeated and very perplexing query concerning William Patterson. The caption to Mr. Hastings's official record is: "*The original William Patterson and his historical brick.*" It may be permissible for a *State Historian* thus to lapse occasionally from dulness, but far from us be all such reprehensible levity.

It was to this Baker that the following instructions were issued by Governor Nicolls (Colonial Records, p. 10):

Let not your eares be abused with private storyes of the Dutch being disaffected to the English, for generally, we cannot expect they love us, but when you have sufficient testimony against any Dutchman of words or actions tending to ye breach of peace, or scandalous defamation, deliver over ye testimonies to the Commissaryes, from whom I expect justice shall bee done.

Flodder also has been unknown in former sketches of our history. From the records of Albany County we learn that he was a carpenter who came from Campen in 1637, and incurred the displeasure of the Patroon by demanding higher wages than he thought proper. From the same records, and also from Professor Pearson's *First Settlers of the Ancient County of Albany*, we glean the information that Flodder was an *alias* for Gardenier. Happily no discredit is implied to the "*alihs*," for it was not uncommon for a man to have two or even three names, either one of which he would use with charming inconsistency as his mood might be. This Flodder then was no other than Jacob Janse Gardenier, one of the ancestors of many families of that name long and honorably known in Kinderhook and Schodack. Tradition alleges that he was a famous gardener; whence possibly his later surname.

The descendants of Jacob Jansen Flodder will forgive

him we trust for prematurely selling his real estate in New York City as narrated in early records. In 1656 he bought a tract of land on Wall Street, between William and Pearl, having a frontage of 290 feet, but soon subdivided and re-sold all except a strip in the rear washed by the waters of the bay. In 1665 complaint was made to the "*Hon^{ble} Prudent and Very Discreet Gentlemen, the Commissaries & Schout of Albania,*" that Flodder had allowed fences and sheet piling to fall in decay to the injury of his neighbors. He was ordered "to build up and line the bank situate before his lot on the East river." No attention seems to have been paid thereto for a year, for he was then ordered to make the repairs within six weeks, in default of which the land was to be sold by execution.

Of the co-patentees with Powell, Jochem Ketel is suggestive, to say the least, of relationship to if not identity with Joachim Ketelhuyn (Kettel, Kittle, Kittell) who was in Rensselaerswick in 1642, and whose two sons were David and Daniel, both having large families, as was the prevailing rule in those times. There is ample early authority for the preferred modern spelling, Kittell.

A very notable co-patentee with Powell was Evert Luycassen (Backer, Baker). Professor Pearson suggests the surname Wyngaard, and that Evert was a son of Lucas Gerritse Wyngaard who was in Beverwyck in 1657. Evert sold his interest in the Powell patent to Jacob Janse Gardenier, and in 1671, together with De Bruyn, Dirck Wessels, and Pieter Van Alen received a joint patent to a considerable tract along both sides of the creek, a tract later known as the "Groote Stuk." Evert's wife, Jannetje, and their daughter, Elbertje, were among the passengers arriving in 1658 by the *Brownfish*. (Bowier Van Renss. MSS.) The daughter, Elbertje, subsequently became the wife of Lourens Van Alen, the purchaser of the great De Bruyn patent, and was thus one of the progenitors of the innumerable Van Alens, Van Alstynes, Vanderpoels, Van Deusens, and a host besides.

In 1677 Adam Dingman appears here as the purchaser of a tract of land from his father-in-law, Jacob Janse Gardenier. He was the head of a large family connected by marriage with the Salisburys, Mullers (Miller), Swartouts, Hogebooms, Van Nesses, and many more. He was born in Haerlem, Holland, and was living in Greenbush in 1663. He was one of the first road-masters of the District, an office of much importance in those days. His estate included the property now belonging to Mr. Elmer Wagoner and that of his deceased uncle, Erastus Wagoner. *Woordenboek van Nederland*, p. 51, reveals "Dingeman" as being in the province of Overysel.

Many descendants of Adam Dingman abide in our town and county and many more are widely scattered abroad, but the surname, like many others once common and prominent here, has now well-nigh disappeared. At present writing we recall only Mr. Charles Dingman, living at Pretty Town as the charming locality was formerly called. That cluster of attractive homes is about three miles southwest of the village on the crossroad running from the Post Road (near Mr. Moore's) to what is now known as Brookside, on the Albany Southern Electric. Cornelius, son of Martin C. Van Alstyne, represents another F. F. K. at Pretty Town, still not unworthy its old-time name.

The list of freeholders of the Kinderhook Patent of 1686 well illustrates the frequent omission of surnames. In many cases they had none, but assumed them in later years. Then the locality from which a man came, or his occupation, or some personal peculiarity, or even such an incident as his birth during a storm at sea (Storm Van Der Zee) suggested the assumed name. While many had no surnames, others, like Flodder, had two or more. Frequently a father's Christian name was given to a son, and then to grandsons in every branch of the family and thus perpetuated from generation to generation. Evidently the student of Dutch pedigrees has a difficult subject. Identity of surname is not of necessity

any evidence of kinship. Especially is this true as regards the innumerable Vans. Van means "from." That your name, dear reader, is Van Buren, is in itself no evidence of any relationship to the eighth president of the United States. As well conclude that all New York hotel guests registered "*from Chicago*" are blood-relations. The student of Dutch genealogies will be helped, however, by remembering that the suffix "se" or "sen" means "son" or "child of"; and that frequently a man's father and also his grandfather were thus indicated. The middle initial of a man's name commonly stood for that of his father, I and J, and C and K being interchangeable. Thus Lucas I. Van Alen was a son of John; and the latter by his middle initial L, was thereby indicated as a son of Lucas.

Supplying from many later documents the omitted (or subsequently assumed) surnames of the freeholders of the Kinderhook patent of 1686, we have the following more intelligible list of those who had "seated and settled" here before that date. Gerrit Teunissen's surname was Van Vechten. He married Grietje Volkertse Douw. His will (1700) mentions his wife and two sons, Johannes and Volkert.

Martin Cornelissen's surname was Van Buren. He was a son of Cornelis Maas Van Buren and Catalyntje Martense, sister of Jan Martense (de wever) Van Alstynne. Martin's will (1703) mentions his wife Maritje, his children, Cornelius, Peter, Martin, Maria, Catalina, Magdalena, and grandchildren. He was the great-grandfather of President Van Buren.

Jan Hendrickse De Bruyn, the patentee (1668) of the enormous tract long known as his "Right," and the patentee of other smaller tracts as well, was, as already stated, a non-resident speculator in land here and elsewhere. In 1678, in response to an order of the Albany sheriff forbidding him to traffic with the Indians, on the ground that he was a resident of New York, he stated that for more than twenty years he

had been a burgher of Albany. The Court, however, rejected his claim as invalid, for the reason that he had not kept fire or light in Albany for an entire year. He was the owner of a lot in Albany on the south side of State Street between Broadway and Green Street, and of another on the corner of State and Quay Streets.

De Bruyn had evidently prospered financially since 1655, when he agreed to serve as a soldier in the place of Hendrick Loest for "seventy guilders and a pair of shoes." After his disposal of his holdings here he disappeared from view and we know nothing of him or his descendants.

Peter Schuyler, the patentee of eight hundred acres bordering on the Kleine Kill, was also a non-resident. He was Albany's first mayor and one of the ancestors of the notable Schuyler families.

In 1671, as joint-patentees with De Bruyn and Lucassen, the name of Dirck Wessels (Ten Broeck) and Pieter Van Alen appear. The latter was a son of Lourens Lourense Van Alen of Albany and a brother of Lourens, the purchaser of the De Bruyn patent. That same year, by request of the inhabitants of Kinderhook, he and Adam Dingman were appointed road-masters. He had two sons, William and Johannes, and was the ancestor of a very large branch of the Van Alen families of the county. Dirk Wessels Ten Broeck was also a non-resident.

The freeholder Jan Martense Van Alstyne was the founder of the family in New Netherland and the ancestor of all of that name resident here for 250 years. From Hol. Doc., vol. ii., p. 154, we learn that in 1646 he was a resident of New Amsterdam, and joint purchaser with Hendrick Jansen of a yacht. In 1657 he appears in Beverwyck (Albany) as the owner of a lot on Broadway. Soon thereafter he became the patentee of two tracts of land in the present Ulster County, and somewhat later was the purchaser of an undesignated tract "behind Kinderhook."

The name is so variously spelled in the early records,

both church and civil, that its original form and derivation are matters on which opinions differ. In later years some branches of the family dropped the Van. Mr. Lawrence Van Alstyne, of Sharon, Conn., states that "records in Holland show the family to be of early origin, being traced under different names to the crowning of Otho, A.D. 936."

Mr. Dingman Versteeg, the courteous Librarian of the Holland Society (who has not yet forgiven the English for the capture of New Amsterdam), with Heringa's *Woorden-boeck* in hand, led us through a careful study of "Aalstein" and "Aalsteyn," both of which are of authority. His conclusions were that: Stein (or Steyn) means castle, barony, or Manor house; and that Aalstein (or Steyn) means: The Castle of the Eels—probably a castle in the province of Drenthe which was destroyed in the wars of the Netherlands prior to 1600. As to the local origin of the name we have this confirmatory item from the Marriage Records of the Dutch Church, New York, that Marte, a son of Jan Martense, the founder of the family in New Netherland, was from Meppel, a town in the province of Drenthe.

Jan Martense's wife was Dirckje Harmense, daughter of the patentee of a large tract from Nutten Hook eastward. Through her in part as well as by purchase from Powell's widow as before noted, and the later division of the Kinderhook patent, and his much earlier purchase of land "behind Kinderhook" as stated above, Jan Martense came to be the owner of large tracts, portions of which are to this day in possession of the eighth generation. Hugh, James, Edward, Barent, and Jane were of the generation gone. Hugh of Old Chatham, Edward P., and Edward are with us still. Maria, the daughter of James, married Mr. J. Spencer Hosford who, with his daughter Laura, resides on his wife's ancestral estate. Jane, daughter of Hugh (Sen.), married Mr. L. L. Morrell, who, with his daughter Alice, abides with us. Maria's daughter, Ella V. A. Hosford, is the wife of one of our village physicians, Nathan D. Garnsey, M.D.

The freeholder Lambert Jansen Van Alstyne was a son of Jan Martense. He married, about 1682, Jannetje, daughter of Thomas Janse Mingael and Marritje Abramamse Vosburgh. Their eight children were: Catharine, who married Bartholomeus, son of Jochem Van Valkenburgh and Eva Hendricks Vrooman; Marritje; Thomas, who married Maria, daughter of William Van Alen and Marritje Van Patten; Johannes, bp. 1691; Dirckje, bp. 1695, m. Peter Vosburgh; Antje, bp. 1698; Annatje, bp. 1700; and Pieter, bp. 1702.

Lambert's tract of 698 acres was on the east side of the creek and adjoining the estate of his father on the west. It included the present Lindenwald estate. His wife was his first cousin once removed and was evidently much younger than himself, for in 1713 she married Lambertse Van Valkenburgh as her second husband and became the mother of five additional children. Lambert's son, Thomas, came into possession of the lands across the creek, and was an ancestor of the late Judge and Mayor Van Alstyne of Albany; also of Thomas Van Alstyne, M.D., who passed his later years, and died, in Kinderhook, whose son Franklin B. is a present resident. Lawrence Van Alstyne, a descendant of Lambert, has published a volume of 141 pages which is only a partial account of that branch of the Van Alstyne family.

Dirck Hendricksen (de swedt, The Swede) was surnamed Bey, a name well-known in later years in the southern part of the county. A deed of his, dated March 7, 1675-6, conveys land "behind Kinderhook" to Peter Dumoree. He died before 1716. His wife's name was Sarah Verhael. Of his children it is known that Engeltie married Michael Collier and that Helena became the wife of Samuel Gardener.

The freeholder Jan Tysse Goes (Hoes) was a son of Matthys Jansse who is reported as being in Beverwyck in 1661. In addition to his widely scattered allotments of land, under the division of the Kinderhook Patent of 1686,

he was the owner of a fourth part of the Groote Stuk. His first wife was Brechje Maryna, widow of Claes Cornelise Van Voorhout. He married secondly, Styntje Janse Van Hoesen and died in 1705. He was the ancestor of all the several families named Goes (Hoes) in the town and county; families which have included many of eminent name and valued service in every walk of life. His sons, named in the foregoing chapter, were holders of large estates and engaged in manifold activities. His daughters married, as heretofore stated, men of eminent character and standing and thus connected the Hoes family with nearly every other of notable name. Martin Van Buren's mother and wife were both descendants of Jan Tysse. Such also were Peter S. Hoes, Rev. Dr. John C. F. Hoes, and Pierre Van Buren Hoes, deceased. Among the living we name William M. Hoes of New York, Chaplain Roswell Randall Hoes of the United States Navy, Mr. J. Howard Van Buren, of Nyack, and Mr. P. Ernest Hoes (lawyer) now of New York City and Yonkers.

Omeda Legrange (Omie-de-la-Grange) was a son of Johannes, a Huguenot, who came from La Rochelle, France, about 1654, and settled in New Amsterdam. In 1656 he was a trader in Fort Orange. His wife was Annatje De Fries. Their children were Omey, Johannes, Christian, and Isaac.

Andries Hanse (Sharp) was in Beverwyck in 1660. In 1671 Ortier and his wife (the widow Powell) sold him land "behind Kinderhook, separated from that of Jan Martense Van Alstyne by a little brook." His wife Gerritje was a daughter of Teunis Teunisse de Metselaer (the mason), and their children were Johannes, Gysbert, and Lawrence.

Peter Bosse is supposed to have been a son of Cornelis Bos who was in Beverwyck in 1631. In 1688 Peter married Barentse (Coeymans? Bratt?).

Robert Silksen was a son of Zacharias Sickels of Weenen. He was a corporal in the West India Company's service and served as such at Fort Orange in 1659. Zacharias subsequently moved to Rockland Co., N. Y., and settled at a

place now, and for a long time, known as Sickeltown, where years later the Rev. Dr. Jacob Sickles, for many years pastor of the Kinderhook church, was born. Robert married Geertruy Ridderhaus.

Andries Gardenier, the patentee of a considerable tract north of the De Bruyn patent, was a son of the famous Jacob Janse Flodder-Gardenier. In 1642 he was a carpenter in Beverwyck. He married Eytje Aries, widow of Hendrick Gerritse Van Weenen. His will, dated 1704, mentions his wife and their children—Andries, Jacob, and Arie, all young.

Henricke Coenrade Ten Eyck (from the oaks) was a son of Conradt Ten Eyck. He was born in 1656 and married Marya, daughter of Jan Frans Van Hoesen. In 1671, when Ortier and his wife sold so much of the Powell patent, they conveyed to Hendrick "land west of the Kill behind Kinderhook and bounded south by that of Lourens Van Alen."

Albert Gardenier, another son of Jacob Janse, was a carpenter in Beverwyck in 1667. He was later a resident of Kinderhook but moved to New York about the year 1693.

The freeholders Isaac and Jacob Vosburge (Vosburgh) were brothers. Their father was Abraham Pietersen Vosburgh, son of Pieter Jacobse who was in Beverwyck about the year 1630. Abraham, spoken of as a cooper and a carpenter, was in 1654 a successful fur-trader. Jacob Vosburgh's wife was Dorothy Janse, a daughter of Jan Martense Van Alstyne. The descendants of Isaac, Jacob, and Peter Vosburgh also a freeholder here, became very numerous, and the name a prominent one in public and private life. Isaac Vosburgh, a carpenter and trader, married Anna Jane Goes.

The freeholder Yeaukim Lammersen was Jochem Lambertse Van Valkenburgh, son of Lambert, also a freeholder, who was in Beverwyck as early as 1644. Jochem's second wife was, as already stated, Jannetje Mingael, the widow of Lambert Van Alstyne. This family also became very large, with many branches and not a few distinguished names.

Only within recent years have the ancestral estates of the Van Valkenburghs passed into other hands and many honored bearers of the name passed away.

The freeholder Michael Kalier (Collier) was a son of Jochem who came to New Amsterdam prior to 1644. Michael's first wife was Engeltje, daughter of Dirck, the Swede, and his second, Fietje, daughter of Jurrian Van Hoesen. Yeaurick (Yurryan, Jurrian) Collier, also a freeholder, was a son of Michael. The latter soon moved to Coxsackie and was the ancestor of the Greene County families of his name. Of his many well-known descendants we name the lawyers Isaac and Casper of Hudson, and Gerrit Sager of Kinderhook; also Reverends Isaac and Isaac H. Collier, and the latter's distinguished son William.

Of other freeholders named in the Dongan Charter our information is scanty and of somewhat doubtful authority. We give what items we have been able to gather from all available sources.

Jacob Martense (yeoman) had a farm adjoining Jan Martense Van Alstyne, "behind Kinderhook," and later sold half thereof to Gerritt Teunisse Van Vechten. He bought his land of Robert Ortier and Powell's widow in 1671. He subsequently moved to Schenectady. Children: Johannes, Maria, and Ytje.

Gerrit Jacobsen is supposed to have been a son of Pieter Jacobsen, of Rendsburgh, and his wife Gysje Peters. They came to Fort Orange in 1639.

Andries Hause Huyck married Catharine Lammerse Van Valkenburgh. He was the chief patentee of the great tract east of the lakes and was the ancestor of many prominent families, including one branch of the Bains, once so numerous and honored, now with few resident representatives. Andries's will mentions his wife Catharine and these children: Johannes, Lambert, Burger, Cate, Jochem, Cornelius, Anna, Andries, Maria, and Margaret.

Of the freeholder Tom Craven we find no record except

of his sale to Robert Livingston of land previously bought of Jan Martense.

Andreas Hause (Barheit?) was at Kinderhook in 1675. He had previously lived at Coxsackie. His wife was Geertje Teunis, daughter of Teunis Teunisse, before mentioned.

Francis Petersen named in the charter was Frans Peter Claver of whom we have already given some account.

We have noted hitherto the land-grant of 3590 acres east of the creek, and partly in Claverack, to Coenradt Borghardt and Elias Van Schaack. Coenradt we knew; but who was Elias? His name occurs in several English records, but we find no trace of him elsewhere. After a long time it occurred to us that English writers and speakers who made Aurania from the Dutch Oranje might easily turn Claas into Elias. If that was the case then all is clear. Later, the lands granted to the mythical Elias were certainly owned by the known descendants of Claas, Lourens, and Gerrit. Moreover, of the six land-papers relating to the grant, Elias personally signed but one (L. P., viii., p. 34). There his signature is exceedingly indistinct, but the first two letters appear to be Cl. While we cannot be certain, we think that Elias and Claas were one and the same. Elias we know not; but Claas has been as a bosom friend for years. If mistaken in this we venture an alternative conjecture that Elias was a bachelor brother of Claas whose son Lourens inherited his uncle's estate. The sons of Claas were: Dominicus, b. 1667; Arent, b. 1676; Lourens, and Emanuel. Dominicus and Arent went to Catskill or Coxsackie in 1720. In 1753, according to the Albany records, Dominicus, then over eighty years old, made three affidavits for Samuel, Joachim, and Isaac Staats (sons of Abram) as to the location of the "*ffishing Place, Little Nuttenhook and Marmalhts kill,*" stations and boundaries of Major Abram's original patents. He told how in his youth he had often floated boards down the kill from his father's sawmill.

About all we know of Emanuel Van Schaack is that he,

was the father of Cornelis who was the owner of a sloop, a fur-trader, and the possessor of large and scattered tracts of land here and elsewhere.

This Cornelis was the father of the eminent Peter, Henry, and others of the name who filled a very large place in the history of the town, and several of whose descendants are still happily with us. We have said "*this* Cornelis" (son of Emanuel) for the reason that, to say nothing of Cornelis, Jr., his son, there were at least two others whose names were the same. Presumably they were all related, but how nearly we have been unable to ascertain.

Coenradt Borghardt, for almost every possible spelling of whose name there is ample authority, was long and prominently identified with the civil and religious life of the town. His home was not far from the brick schoolhouse on the Landing Road. Of him also we shall have occasion to write again.

We were greatly grieved to read in the Albany Court records that these great landowners, Elias and Coenradt, were in 1671 haled before the Court for "stealing potatoes." We were pleased, however, to find that at the trial of the case, after the examination of four witnesses, they were honorably acquitted. But to moderate their joy they were charged the costs of trial. Their accuser was presumably impecunious and irresponsible.

In the northwestern part of the District, near the river, lived Leendert (Leonard) Conyne and Melgert Vanderpoel. Leendert was presumably a son of Lendert Phillipse who was in Beverwyck in 1665, and a brother of Philip Leendertse of Cocksackie and of Casper Leendertse of Claverack. Leendert married Emmetje, daughter of Lourens Van Alen, the purchaser of the great De Bruyn patent. Their children were: Elbertie, 1714; Agnietie, 1717; Philip, 1720; Lourens, 1722. He had a dock where an ice-house now stands.

Melgert Vanderpoel, son of Melgert Wynantse and grandson of Wynant Gerritse in Beverwyck prior to 1674,

lived about a mile south of Conyne. In 1696 he married Catharina, a sister of Conyne's wife. They were the Kinderhook ancestors of many families of the name, of which the Hon. James Vanderpoel, Dr. John Vanderpoel, and his sons Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel and the eminent jurist, Aaron J. Vanderpoel, LL.D., were distinguished resident representatives. Melgert's children were: Elbertje, 1697; Ariaantje, 1699; Lourens, 1701; Maria, 1703; Johannes, 1705; Abraham, 1707; Jacobus, 1709; Isaac, 1711, and Catryna, 1716.

Not far from the northeast boundary of the District lived John Van Ness. The lower part of his substantial stone and brick house, originally having the customary loopholes for defense against marauding Indians from Canada, is still standing near the Kinderhook creek in what is now the town of Chatham. He was the Kinderhook ancestor of many families of the name once living here or in other parts of the county. Among his descendants were Peter Van Ness, the builder of Lindenwald, and his distinguished sons; and also the late Dr. Sherman Van Ness.

"Who were Who" as the principal male residents here in 1699 we may learn to a large degree from the following list of names: for it was surely with alacrity and enthusiasm that men over sixteen years old, whose fathers had fought in the Thirty Years' War, obeyed the summons in 1699 to take the oath of allegiance to King William of Orange. From a much larger list of the inhabitants of "*places adjacent to ye southward of Albany*" we select those who were presumably residents of Kinderhook. Later civil records and those of the Kinderhook Dutch Church, which begin in 1716, have been of help in making the selection. A few names belonging to other localities may be in our list and a few others omitted that should be here; but it is approximately correct. Being earlier and much more complete than any hitherto given it seems to us such an illuminating record as to be worthy the space it requires. The names are spelled as originally

written. The additions within brackets are suggestions only of the probable surnames subsequently assumed, so far as later records and other sources of information enable us to supply them.

Hend. van Ness	
Pieter Van Alen	Gysbert Scherp (Sharp)
Bartholomeus Van Volkenburgh	Johannes Huyck
Koenradt Bogart	Dirck Van der Kar
Adam Dinghman	Lambert Janse (Van Alstynce)
Burger Huyck	Hendrick Beekman
Andries Gardinier	Edward Wieler (Wheeler)
Johannes Van Alen	Andries Scherp (Sharp)
Jan Van Ness	Johannes Van Hoesen
Lawrense Van Alen	Isach Vosburgh
Domminicus Van Schaick	Pieter Vosburgh
Manewel Van Schaick	Casper Conyn
Evert Van Alen	Cornelis Martense (Van Buren)
Cornelis Van Schaick	
Luykas Van Alen	Melgert Abrahamse (Van Deusen)
Pieter Martense (Van Buren)	Isaac Janse Van Alstynce
Frans Pietersen (Klauw or Clow)	Jacob Van Hoesse (Van Hoesen)
Gerrit Teunise (Van Vechten)	Jan Van Hoessen
Luycas Janse (Van Salsbergen or Salisbury)	Cornelis Maasen (Van Buren)
Teunis Van Sleyck	Jan Tyse Goes (Hoes)
Jonatan Janse (Witbeck)	Cornelis Teunissen (Van Vechten)
Joh. Van Vechten	Arent Van Schaick
Stefannis Van Alen	Marte Cornelise (Van Buren)
Hendricus Jansen (Witbeck)	Harmen Janse (Van Salsberger)
Hend. Solsberger	Jan Van Hoesen Jun.
Cornelis Stevessen (Mulder or Miller)	Robert Tewissen (Van Deusen)
Abr. Dirckse V. Veghten	Matys Janse Goes (Hoes)
Pieter Hogeboom	Jerimias Milder
Andries Huyck	Dirck Teunisse (Van Vechten)
Johannes Dirkse (Van Vechten)	Andries Janse (Witbeck)

Rissert Jansen van den Borke

(Richard Janse Van Den

Bergh)

Jacob Janse Gardinier

Beginning with 1716 the records of the Dutch church enable us to discern more clearly and completely "Who was Who" from that year onward. The records of baptisms and marriages, with the exception of those of a few years which are missing or possibly not made when there was no resident pastor, are complete down to the present time. In those days an infant was usually baptized within a few weeks of birth and an unbaptized child was a very rare exception. Two large volumes containing thousands of names, and many other records, are in Dutch. A written copy of the names, through the thoughtfulness of the late Aaron J. Vanderpoel, LL.D., is in the Library of the Holland Society of New York.

Faithful to copy in every particular, and here as elsewhere disclaiming all responsibility for orthography, we append the following list of communicants from 1716 to 1730; a list which earlier missing pages would somewhat enlarge. We give it as indicating residents of a very large extent of country in which for many years this church stood alone.

Leendert Counyn, Aendries Brosie, Thenis Van Slyck, Thomas Wiler, Catrina Verrin, Elsie Vallakenburgh, Ariaentie Mulder, Ariaentie Van Derpoel, Breggie Wieler, Eva Valekenburgh, Maria Wieler, Catriena Van Slyck, Arent Van Dyck, Johannes Huyck, Gerret Dingman, Cornelia Dingman, Cornelis huyck, Gertruy huyck, Jochem Van Valkenburgh, Jun., Elsie Valkenburgh, Maria Van Aelstyn, Jannetie V. D. kar, Rachel Gardenier, Anna Onderherk, Chath. Wyler, Gertruy Vosburgh, Louwerons Van Allen, Aendries Klauw, Maria L. Cawv, Johan Spoor, Sara Spoor, Gerrit Van D. Poel, Marten van Deusen, Lena van Alen, Jannetie van Schayk, Sara Gardeiner, Marten Vosburgh,

Marg: Gardenier, jann: Vosburg, Maria V. D. Poel, Anna Tippens, Maria Sister immatie moor, Elyz: Lischer, Lambt. Valkenburg, heyltie V. Dyck, Cathrien vosburgh, pieter V. Dyck, Johanna Sluiter, Elizabeth Gardenier, Alida V. Alen, Eva V. Valkenburgh, Jacob Dingmanse, John Fitzgerald, Sara Gardinier, Isaac Van Aarnem, Jannetje Van Aarnem, Annatie V. Buren, Lena Huyck, Engeltie Gardinier, Catharina Huyck, Rachel Huyck, Christyna Huyck, Cathalina Huyck, Peter V. Slyck, Engeltie V. Slyck, Barentie V. Slyck, Harmen V. Salsbergen, Cornelis Van Buren, Abraham Vosburgh, Barend Vosburgh, Johannes Goes, Marten Van Buyren, Cornelis Van Schaack, James Rous, Debora Springer, Anna Wurmer.

The "Trouw-Boeck" of the Dutch church, the first and for many years the only Marriage Record in the town, begins in 1717. Before that time and for eleven years thereafter, until the first pastor came, baptisms and marriages here, with only a few exceptions, were recorded in the register of the Albany church, whose pastors rendered occasional service in this place. The baptismal and marriage records of the Kinderhook church fully transcribed would in themselves make a large volume. We have counted as many as 114 baptisms in one year. Their transcription in full is obviously impossible in this volume; but it may be of interest to descendants of the early settlers to have a few pages from the first Trouw-Boeck transcribed.

TROUW-BOECK

BY PETRUS VAN DRIESSEN

1717	28 Jochum Van Valkenburgh	and Elsie Klauw
1720 Jan.	30 Pieter Vosburgh	and Helena Goes
1724 Feb.	8 Caspar Conyn	and Hendrikie Van Schayk
1726 Sept.	18 Lucas Van Alen	and Elizabeth —————(?)

BY JOHANNES VAN DRIESSEN

1727 July	9 Johan Pierterze	and Catharina Haver
1727	Johannes Van Valckenburgh	and Antie Van Sardam

Old Kinderhook

1727	Caspar Springsteen	and Maghdalena Schermerhoorn
1728	James Livingston	and Catharian Coens
1728	Jacob Gardenier	and Cathalyntie Scherp
1728	Jacob Van Valkenburgh	and Catharina Turck
1728	Pieter Van Valckenburgh	and Mareytie Vosburgh
1728	Johan Mattheus Louer	and Anna Margaretha Rouws
1728	Cornelis Van Salsbergen	and Catharina Van Der Kar
1728 Oct. 6	Cornelis Van Schayck	and Lydia Van Dyck
1728 Oct. 9	Theunis Oosterhoud	and Eva Conyn
1728 Oct. 26	Hendrikus Spoor	and Rebecka Van Valckenburgh
1729 April 8	Dirck Vosburgh	and Alida Van Alen
1729 May 11	Arend Van Der Kar	and Scharlottha Van Der Werken
1729 Aug. 2	Pieter Klauw	and Hanna Wurmer
1729 April 16	Pieter Wenne	and Jannetie Van Vechten
1729 Sept. 11	Frans Van Valckenburgh	and Maria Van Dyck
1729 Nov. 7	Marten Van Buyren	and Dirckie Van Buyren
1729 Nov. 16	Johannes Dingman	and Geesie Janzen
1730 Jan. 2	Thomas Turck	and Eva Van Valckenburgh
1730 Jan. 11	Yzaack Van Deuzen	and Seytie Burger
1730 Mar. 3	Hendrik Van Valkenburgh	and Mareytie Klauw
1730 Mar. 28	Johannes Hogeboom	and Elbertie Van Alen
1730 Sept. 19	Bartholomeus Van Aalsteyn Jr.	and Angnetha Goes
1730 Dec. 18	Tammes Brand	and Debora Springer
1731 Jan.	Edward Brown	and Susanna Matre
1731 Jan. 31	Jacob Schermerhorn	and Maratie Schermerhorn
1731	Sammuel Halenbeck	and Lysbeth Conyn
1731	Adam Van Alen	and Catharina V. Aalsteyne
1731	James Rouws	and Angnetha Gardenier
1731	Jozua Broeks	and Geezie Bond
1732 Jan. 3	Nicolas Rouws	and Marghriet Brendell
1732	James Springer	and Abigaal Adams
1732	Yzaack Woodkock	and Dina Janzen
1732	Pieter Van Dyck	and Catharina Wederwax
1732	Casper Rouws	and Christina Wyles

OFFICIATING CLERGYMAN UNKNOWN

1733 July 29	John Van Valckenburgh	and Elizabeth Halenbeck
1733 Sept. 21	Steven Barend	and Wyntie Van Valckenburgh
Oct. 2	Sander Van Aalsteyne	and Elbertie Van Alen
1733 Nov. 9	Abraham Fonda	and Elberthie Van Alen
1733 Dec. 7	Jeronymus Van Valckenburgh	and Mareytie Van Buyren
1733 Dec. 21	Hendrik Clauw	and Rebecka Goewey
1733 Dec. 28	Hendrick Burghaard Jun.	and Catharina Huyck
1734 May 13	Pieter Cool	and Alida Dingman
1734 July 3	Seaborn Heart	and Ellenor Dillin

1734 Aug. 9	Mattheus Goes	and Catharina Vosburgh
1734 Aug. 23	Andries Huyck	and Maghdalena Van Buyren, widow
1734 Aug. 30	Gysberth Clauw	and Neeltie Scherp
1734 Nov. 29	Abraham Van Aalsteyne	and Wyntie Conyn
1734	John Cooper	and Elizabeth Gardenier

The sequence of dates in several instances suggests the weekly visit of a dominie to supply the pastorless church, and, to suit his convenience, the choice of Saturday or Monday as the wedding day.

In the records of 1729 we find a list of the contributors to the salary of the Rev. J. Van Driessen, the first pastor. For the information it gives of the families then residing here we give the list in full. Here as elsewhere (we say again) we transcribe decipherable names with exactitude and are not responsible for the orthography.

Abraha Van Aalsteyn	Joh. Van Alen	Lauwrens Van Schaack
Stephan Van Alen	Melgert Vander Poel	Leendert Conyn
Burger Huyk	Pieter Van Alen	Yzaak Vosburgh
Cornelis Schermerhorn	Lambert Huyk	Dirk Gardenier
Pieter Vosburgh	Pieter Vosburgh Junior	Lucas Van Alen
Hendrik Klauw	Tobias Van Buyren	Abraha Vosburgh
Barent Vosburgh	Barent Van Buyren	Marten Vosburgh
Hendrik Gardenier	Andries Gardenier	Jacob Turk
Gysbert Scherp	Jacob Dingman	Bartholomeus Van Valkenburgh
Dirk Goes	Johanns Van Aalsteyn	Marten Van Buyren
Margariet Goes	Joh Goes	Cornelis Van Schaak
Gerrit Dingman	Cornels Van Buyren	Theunis Van Slyk
Joh Van Deusen	Jan Burgaart	Abraham Staats
Jan Tyse Goes	Joghgum Van Valken- burgh	Hendrik Burgaart
Adam V Alen	Sander V Aalsteyn	Pieter V Slyk Junr.
Hendrick Klauw	Coenraat Borghaart	Thomas V. Aalsteyn
Pieter V Dyck	Pieter Lodewyck	Frans V Valkenburgh
Jogchem Kalger (Collier)	Basteyaan Litzjer	Edward Whieler
Everd Whieler	Mattheus Goes	Johanns Vosburgh
Hendrick V Valkenburgh	Areje Gardenier	Adam Dingman
Johaana Boom	Matths Culver	Louwrens Van der Poel
Gerrit Van Schaack	Louwerens Scharp	Jan Robbertze
Jan Wotkock	Cornelis Sluyter	Jan Wotcock, junr.
Eytie Gardenier	Johanns Huyck	Jacob Gardenier, junr.

Old Kinderhook

Pieter V Valkenburg	Joachim V Valkenburg	Lammart V Valkenburg
Cornelis Huyck	Jacob Gardenier	Johannes Pieterze
Gysbert Scharp	Frans Klouw	Coenraat Ryssier
Pieter Yzack Vosburgh	Casper Rouwe	Klass V der Kar
Salomon V der Kar	Klaas Becker	Jeems Livingston
Jan Zeel	John Clement	Kasper Planck
Pieter Van Slyck	Dirck Vosburgh	Johs Hogeboom
Yzaak V. Aalsteyn	Luycas Witbeck	Jonas Witbeck
Yzaak van Aarnhem	Volkert Witbeck	Andries Witbeck

Claas Gardenier	Johannes Beekman	Abram V. Valkenburgh
Nicolaas Kittel	Jacob V. Valkenburgh	Hendrik Schermerhorn
	Jacob Schermerhorn	

The last seven, reading across the page, have the caption—
 “*En die van Schoodack.*”

There were other families in the southern part of the Kinderhook District, but as they were much nearer the Claverack church their names are to be looked for there rather than here.

It is noticeable that the soon familiar names Bain, Best, Pruyn, Van Ness, Van Vleck, and others do not yet appear. They came later.

Great was our joy when our State Archivist placed in our hands the now perished Kinderhook Tax List for the years 1744-5. We have thought it of sufficient interest to copy in full. It is illuminating, not only in its revelation of resident landowners and the relative amount of their holdings, but also to some extent of the relative location of their homes. At many points we can see the Assessors, Cornelius Van Schaack and Jacobus Van Alen with their attendant scribe, going from house to house in regular order. It is to be remembered that the New York pound was about one-half the value of the English pound.

TAX LIST, 1744

£		£	£
	Marten Van Deusen	4	Arent Van Dyck
	Bata Van Deusen	12	Arent Pruyn
	Mattheus Van Deusen	2	Maria V. Alen
	Daniel Lotts	1	Corn. V. Alen
	Johan. V. Aelstyn	20	Sander V. Aelstyn
	Abr. V. Aelstyn	26	Jan. Borghardt
	Johan. Vosburgh	10	Gerrit Borghardt Jr.
	Peter Van Alen	25	Isaac V. Aelstyn
	Lammert Huyck	16	Marten V. Aelstyn
	Andries Huyck Jr.	1	Gerrit V. Schaak
	Johannis Huyck	4	Matt. Goes Jr.
	Burger Huyck	32	Johan. Staats
	Johannis Huyck	2	Samuel Staats
	Johannis Goes	22	Jochem Staats
	Willem Clauw	6	Isaac Staats
	Samuel Wheeler	3	P. Cornelisen
	John Roberson	2	Johan Backus
	Evert Wheeler	1	Jacob Miller
	Johan Van Deusen	24	Volkert Witbeck
	Luykas Goes	7	Luykas Witbeck
	Jan. Tyssen Goes	2	Andries Witbeck
	Jac. Martense Vosburgh	2	Jonas Witbeck
	James Denton	1	Gerrit V. Hoesen
	Peter Goes	2	Abr. Wyngard
	Tobias V. Beuren	11	Geysbert Clauw
	Cornelius V. Schaack	14	Lourens Scherp
	John Cooper	6	Andries Scherp Jr.
	Corn. V. Beuren	3	Hendrick Clauw
	Barent Vosburgh	12	Solomon Scherp
	Abr. Vosburgh	11	Peter Clauw
	Elizabeth V. Dyck	1	Adam Van Alen
	Margareta Goes	15	Jacobus V. Alen Jr.
	Marten V. Beuren	15	Francis Clauw Jr.
	Jacobus V. Alen	31	Johan (?)
	Johannis Scherp	4	John Van Salsberg
	Lawrence Decker, the land he lives on	7	Benjamin Thomas
			Bartholomew V. Valken- burgh
	Andries Scherp	3	Peter V. Valkenburgh Jr.
	Peter Van Dyck	2	Abraham V. Valkenburgh Jr.
	Matthew Goes	9	Dirckse Vosburgh
	Luykas V. Alen	36	Jochem B. V. Valkenburgh
	Sara V. Alen	6	
	Evert V. Alen Jr.	12	Thomas Doran
	Abraham V. Alen	12	Jur. Van Hoesen
	Gerrit Dingman	11	Willem V. Aelstyn
	Thomas V. Aelstyn	38	House he lives in
			2 Lambert Van Valkenburgh
			6 Frans Van Valkenburgh
			5 Jothem Van Valkenburgh
			25 Peter Van Valkenburgh
			13 Ryckart Van Valkenburgh
			25 Frans Clauw
			2 Bartholomous V. Aelstyn
			22 Hendrick V. Valkenburgh
			16 Elizabeth Van Der Poel
			30 Johannis Van Der Poel
			6 Melgert Van Der Poel
			6 Jacobus Van Der Poel
			16 Leendert Conyn
			10 John Van Beuren
			7 Laurens Van Der Poel
			1 Jacobus Vosburgh
			2 Adam Van Alen Jr.
			2 Tunis Van Slyck Jr.
			6 Peter Van Slyck
			6 Peter Vosburgh
			6 Dirck Van Slyck
			6 Jacob Gardenier
			1 Arie Gardenier
			1 William Clark
			3 Dirk Goes
			9 Dirk Gardenier
			2 Jacobus Gardenier
			1 Samuel Gardenier
			1 Hendrick Gardenier
			1 Dirck Vosburgh
			18 Barent Van Beuren
			3 Roeleff Clerck and the lands he lives on
			10 John Wheeler
			3 Peter G. Van Beuren
			(?) John Ten Eyck
			Joseph Cornick
			6 Cornelis Scherp
			Peter Bartholomew Vos- burgh
			2 John Scott
			6 Anthony Quackenbush
			3 Lowrens V. Alen
			3 Anthony Lewis
			1 Paterick Mc. Arthur
			2 Jacob Jan. Gardenier
			2 Jan. Gardenier

Total £1100: @ \$2750

The original loose paper perished in the lamentable Library fire.

With the map (1756) of the Division of the great Kinderhook Patent (1686) before us we can make many additions to foregoing lists of freeholders and early settlers: and, assuming the accuracy of the survey and the correctness of the scale, can locate the homes of many with considerable precision.

The whole territory, known in later years as the Kinderhook District of Albany County, had a river-front of about eleven miles, from Stockport creek on the south to Rensselaerswyck. Thence the line ran east ten miles,—that is, two miles or more beyond Knickerbocker lake. Striking a little west of south it reached a point eight miles east of the starting-point, to which it returned. An accurate map of the County will show that Kinderhook thus included, as before stated, North Chatham and Chatham Centre in the east, land south of Ghent village, the northern part of Stockport, the whole of Stuyvesant, and three islands in the river.

Starting from Stockport creek and following the river near its bank, we find about two miles from the creek the home of Isaac Staats. About a mile beyond lived Andries Witbeck. Houses without name were on both Great and Little Nutten Hook. At intervals of about one-half mile were the homes of Jacob Valkenburgh, Gerrit Van Hoesen, and Abraham Wyngart. Yet nearer together were the houses of Gysbert Claw,—Sharpe, Peter Van Buren, Peter Vosburgh, and Lawrence Goes. Two and one-half miles from the last-named (Poelsburg) and with intervals of about a half-mile between, were the dwellings of Jacobus Vanderpoel, Barent Vanderpoel, John Vanderpoel, and Leonard Conyn, the last-named about one mile south of Rensselaerswyck. This Conyn had a private dock.

Returning to Stockport and following the course of Kinderhook creek, we find near Rossmans the home of a free negro: one-half mile north of this the house of Tom Dun; at Stuyvesant Falls the mill of Gerrit Van Schaack with his dwelling nearly a mile north. The homes of Marte and Isaac Van Alstyne were near the present dwellings of Edward Van Alstyne and J. S. Hosford, and about a half-mile beyond was that of Jan Burgart. Thence to and including the village the map shows sixteen houses without name and the first church. Broad Street and Albany Avenue were not yet laid out. The old road, clinging closely to the creek in its

whole course, swept from near W. B. Van Alstyne's present residence quite to the east of Broad Street, to the old village, thence through William Street, and thence about as now to Paghauak (Valatie). This side of the present bridge at Valatie we find the residence of Lucas Goes, Hans Goes, and—Robert Van Dusen. Beyond the bridge, and along the course of the creek, we note the home of Samuel Wheeler, near Mr. Chas. Wild's late residence, and then in succession the dwelling of William Claw, and the mill and residence of D. Goes. Next came the homes of Andries Huyck, Richard Huyck, and Stephen Van Alen, near the hill Penekoes. Beyond and toward Chatham Centre were the homes of Peter Vosburgh, Abraham Van Alstyne, and Jan. Van Alstyne. A little to the south and west of the junction of the Kinderhook creek and the Kleine Kill we note the name Tobias Van Slyck, and then along the Kill, at varying intervals of from one-half a mile to two miles, we observe the homes of Jacob Gardenier, Arie Gardenier, Peter Van Slyck, Dirk Gardenier, Dirk Vosburgh, Barent Van Buren, and, near the Claverack boundary, the dwelling of Widow Livingston. Returning and fording the Kinderhook creek a little below the present bridges and following substantially the existing road toward Stuyvesant Falls, we find the homes of Isaac Goes, John Goes, Lawrence Van Alen, Evert Van Alen, Gerrit Dingman, and Thomas Van Alstine; the last-named about one-half mile southeast of the home of Marte Van Alstyne on the other side of the creek. The map strikingly illustrates how closely the Hollanders clung to the water-courses.

ASSESSMENT ROLL OF THE REAL AND PERSONAL ESTATES
IN THE TOWN OF KINDERHOOK MADE THE 27TH DAY OF
MAY IN THE YEAR 1809 AGREEABLE TO AN ACT FOR THE
ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF TAXES, ETC.

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
	£	£	£
Acker, Peter.....	300		300
Acker, Peter, Jr.....		50	50
Angel, Joshua.....	1900		1900
Adams, John.....	50		50
Austin, Caleb.....	50	20	70
Burgert, Lambert.....	2625	400	3025
Burgert, Elizabeth.....		250	250
Bennet, Increase.....	200		200
Barthrop, William.....	1000	2000	3000
Bidwell, John.....	750		750
Balis, Luther.....	113		113
Briggs, Nathaniel.....	150	30	180
Bullick, Ruben.....	825		825
Butler, Medad.....	1000		1000
Beaumont, Oliver.....		25	25
Baker, Edmond.....	700	200	900
Bullick, Ellis.....	450	25	475
Bullick, Ellis, Jr.....	300	75	375
Bain, Hugh.....	1300	400	1700
Butler, Joseph.....		20	20
Beaumont, John.....		20	20
Barton, James.....	300		300
Baim, William.....	300	100	400
Butler, John.....	150		150
Burns, James.....	50	10	60
Bain, Peter.....	100	50	150
Bullick, David.....	100		100
Buice, Samuel.....	60		60
Bidwell, Alexander.....	75	20	95
Bidwell, David.....		50	50
Barton, Joseph.....	250	200	450
Botchford, Thomas G.....	150		150
Bennet, Lyman.....		20	20
Barrit, Thomas.....		50	50
Bain, William.....		50	50
Beekman, John P.....		150	150
Bird, John.....	50	10	60
Baghman, Jacob.....	800		800
Beckwith, Abner (Non-Resident).....	200		200
Clary, Samuel.....	45		45
Carr, William.....	200		200

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
	£	£	£
Cole, Peter.....	300	75	375
Crandle, Samuel.....	375	75	450
Crandle, William Pitt.....	225		225
Cole, John.....	37		37
Claw, Lambert.....	900	225	1125
Claw, Jacob.....	600	150	750
Claw, Caty.....	300	75	375
Claw, Garrit.....		25	25
Claw, Polly.....	50		50
Cook, Zacheus.....	50	30	80
Clapper, John.....	600		600
Claw, Andrew.....	525	300	825
Clapper, Jacob.....	100		100
Claw, William.....	400	50	450
Cole, Adam.....	285		285
Clapp, Gilbert.....	1600	200	1800
Clapp, Edy.....	200	50	250
Crocker, Luther.....	1050	200	1250
Crocker, Sarah.....	225	1000	1225
Claw, John M.....	900	100	1000
Claw, Henry M.....	50	50	100
Claw, Andrew F.....		20	20
Chesley, John.....		15	15
Chittenden, George.....	500	200	700
Cochran, John.....	200	50	250
Claw, John G.....	150		150
Cornel, Alexander.....	225		225
Crandle, Thomas.....		30	30
Claw, Christopher.....		100	100
Cooper, Peter P.....		20	20
Conelison, John.....		20	20
Castle, Elijah.....	40	40	80
Calkins, Eliphalet.....		20	20
Crapser, David.....	300		300
Crandle, Joseph.....		50	50
Chamberlain, Asa.....		50	50
Clark, James.....		250	250
Claw, Ephraim.....		20	20
Claw, Henry G.....	750		750
Cashore, Robert M.....		50	50
Cammel, John.....		25	25
Coon, Myndert.....	100	50	150
Cnute, Garrit.....	200		200
Cnute, Nicholas.....		20	20
Church, Doctor.....	80		80
Curren, James.....	80		80
Duel, Jeremiah.....		20	20
Dobbs, Daniel.....		50	50
Dobbs, Esper.....	150		150
Deyo, Nathan.....	750		750

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
	£	£	£
Dingman, Casparus.....	600	100	700
Dingman, Garrit.....	600		600
Deming, Clirasa.....	900		900
Dingman, Rodulfus.....	350	100	450
Dederick, Philip.....	600	100	700
Dickie, William.....	900	100	1000
Dederick, Christian.....	100		100
Dederick, Philip P.....	100		100
Dederick, Philip W.....	900	100	1000
Drum, John.....	25		25
Dingman, John.....	675		675
Dopp, James.....		10	10
Darling, William.....		50	50
David, Jonathan.....	50		50
Devoe, John.....	100		100
Devoe, John Jr.....		25	25
Drum, Frederick.....	150		150
Edwards, Thomas and Elijah.....	1200		1200
Eyler, Johannes.....		20	20
Edy, Thomas.....	100		100
Edy, Thomas F.....		25	25
Eyler, Cornelia.....	20		20
Easterly, Martin.....		50	50
Fowler, John.....	400		400
Folandt, George.....	488	40	528
Fitch, Abel.....	1200		1200
Fosmire, John Jr.....		50	50
Fosmire, John.....	400	350	750
Fowler, Delaware.....	300	50	350
Franklin, John.....		50	50
Fowler, Samuel.....	300	50	350
Finch, Andrew.....		75	75
Gardinier, William.....		100	100
Gardinier, Aaron S.....		50	50
Gardinier, Dirck.....	2650		2650
Gardinier, David.....	825	100	925
Gardinier, Aaron.....	825		825
Gardinier, Samuel H.....	2525	300	2825
Gardinier, Peter I.....	500		500
Gardinier, Cornelia.....	525	25	550
Gillet, Moses Jr.....	188	50	238
Gardinier, John.....		25	25
Goes, Dirck D.....	150		150
Goodemote, Jacob.....	225	50	275
Goes, John B.....	75		75
Goodemote, John.....	500	50	550
Goes, Barent I.....		25	25
Goes, Robert.....	75		75

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
Goes, Barent I. Jr.....	250	200	450
Goes, Ephraim.....	75	25	100
Goes, John L.....		50	50
Goes, Laurence.....	675	150	825
Goes, Lucas.....	975	200	1175
Groat, Henry.....	650	75	725
Goes, Laurence.....	900	100	1000
Goes, Richard I.....	1600		1600
Goes, Albert.....	200	50	250
Goes, William.....	100	20	120
Gillet, Joel.....	150		150
Gardinier, Laurence.....	75		75
Gardinier, Andrew.....		100	100
Groat, John.....	225	50	275
Griffin, Timothy.....	50	100	150
Gillet, Gilbert.....	100	50	150
Geeres, Peter.....	20		20
Garfield, Elijah.....	55	25	80
Goes, Richard.....		30	30
Goes, Nicholas.....		25	25
Groat, Henry Jr.....	50		50
Groat, John W.....	50		50
Haver, Christian.....		50	50
Harder, Philip.....	900	100	1000
Harder, Nicholas.....	2250	400	2650
Harder, William.....	2400	400	2800
Holmes, Palmer.....	1600	100	1700
Head, Michael.....		25	25
Henderson, Henderick.....		100	100
Head, Henry.....		30	30
Ham, Conradt.....	1300		1300
Hauze, Zacheriah.....	300		300
Harder, Wilhelmus.....	100	100	200
Harder, Martin.....	150	150	300
Huyck, Christina.....	375		375
Huyck, Burger I.....	1450	150	1600
Head, Jonathan.....	500	50	550
Haight, Abraham.....		40	40
Hilton, John.....	300	300	600
Hilton, Benjamin.....	200		200
Huyck, Burger.....	50		50
Ham, John.....	75		75
Ham, Netty (Widow).....	400		400
Hogan, John.....	50		50
Hauze, Simon.....	20	20	40
Hogeboom, John.....	30		30
Haight, Jesse.....	75		75
Howard, Joseph.....	375	50	425
Hurd, Truman.....	35		35
Herrick, Henry.....	400		400

Old Kinderhook

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
Herrick, Nathan	400		400
Hallenbake, John	30		30
Holland, Jane	100		100
Houghtailing	10	10	20
Haver, John C.		20	20
Haver, Peter C.		10	10
Hogeboom, Dirck		500	500
Hare, Thomas	25		25
Holkim		50	50
Jones, Daniel	1500	100	1600
Jones, Daniel Jr.		100	100
Jones, Cornelius		50	50
Jenkins, Robert (none Resident)	400		400
Kittle, John Jr.	100		100
Kooper, Martin	862		862
Kooper, John M.	862		862
Kerner, Martin	675		675
Kerner, Christopher	675		675
Krum, Martin	550	100	650
Knights, John			1500
Kittle, Henry John	1500		1500
Kittle, Andrew	100		100
Kain, Cornelius		50	50
Kittle, Margaret	800	100	900
Kittle, Nicholas	1275		1275
Keyzer, Jacob		50	50
Kooper, Peter C.		30	30
Like, Peter	50	10	60
Ludlow, Daniel	1200	600	1800
Lovejoy, Andrew		200	200
Landt, Falta		10	10
Lapham, Eliakim	75	100	175
Link, Philip	750		750
Lusk, Nathan	75		75
Lape, John		80	80
Locy, David	1200		1200
Loman, Peter		25	25
Lovejoy, Benjamin		50	50
Link, John		50	50
Matrot, Peter		50	50
Mower, John	1000	150	1250
Mower, John Jr.	100	25	125
Moore, John I.	525	50	575
Moore, Jacob Jr.	525		525
Mandevill, Jeremiah	600	50	650
McMechan, Alexander	3000	300	3300
McAllister, William	10	10	20

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
	£	£	£
McEntire, William.....		250	25
McEntire, George.....		15	150
Moore, Jacob.....	350		350
Moore, John A.....	300		300
✓ Mead, Gilbert.....	340		340
✓ Mead, Nathaniel.....	340	50	390
Mead, Daniel.....		10	10
Melious, William.....	1200	200	1400
McNiel, James.....	1200	50	1250
McNiel, Thomas.....	75		75
McKeg, Cornelius.....	25	25	50
Manton, William.....	900	100	1000
Manton, John.....	1200	200	1400
McNiel, David.....	50		50
Miller, Peter.....	300		300
Mower, John Jr.....	300	25	325
Moore, John.....	50		50
Noney, Zebulon.....		50	50
Nevil, John.....	10	10	20
Niver, Marcus.....	600	100	700
Niver, John Jr.....	975		975
Norton, Lemuel.....	600		600
Niver, Michael.....	600		600
Noyes, Samuel G.....		20	20
Pruyn, Francis.....	900		900
Pomeroy, Anna.....	450	50	500
Paddock, Peter.....	100		100
Pruyn, Arent.....	1115		1115
Person, Eliphaz.....	50		50
Philips, Abraham.....	450	100	550
Pulver, Wilhelmus.....	200	50	250
Pulver, John.....	1000	200	1200
Philip, Peter, Jr.....	375		375
Pultz, Daniel.....	675	100	775
Philip, Henry.....	450		450
Pultz, Bastian.....	600	50	650
Philip, John.....	975		975
Pomeroy, Zacheus.....		50	50
Philip, Jacob I.....			
Pruyn, John.....	2400	600	3000
Pruyn, John, Jr.....	75		75
Philip, Eva (Widow).....	50		50
Penoyar, John.....	225	100	325
Philip, Jacob.....	300	50	350
Patterson, Robert.....	150		150
Patterson, Alexander.....	150	50	200
Pulver, William.....	2000	200	2200
Pultz, John.....	250	50	300
Potter, William.....	1000		1000

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
	£	£	£
Potter, John G.....		50	50
Potter, William, Jr.....		50	50
Philip, John, Jr.....	100		100
Phineas, Prentice.....	250		250
Pomerooy, Josiah.....	100		100
Pruyn, Francis, Jr.....		50	50
Quilott, James.....	525		525
Risedorp, Laurence.....		20	20
Row, John.....	500		500
Race, Benjamin.....		25	25
Race, Benjamin, Jr.....	400	40	440
Race, William.....	450	100	550
Rogers, John.....	2800	4000	6800
Reynolds, Nathaniel.....	75		75
Reynolds, Ezra.....	550	200	750
Reynolds, Peter.....	400		400
Remsey, Jane (Widow).....	50		50
Rivenburgh, John.....	250		250
Reed, Ira.....	200		200
Reghter, Zachariah.....	225		225
Risedorp, John.....		10	10
Ray, Alpheus.....		50	50
Sweney, Edward.....		50	50
Stalker, Gilbert.....	100		100
Staats, Samuel.....		50	50
Smith, Jacob T.....	450		450
Staats, Isaac A.....		50	50
Schoomaker, John A.....	400		400
Sipperly, John.....	575	50	625
Sheldon, George.....	1300	200	1500
Sheldon, Seneca.....	75	50	125
Snyder, George T.....	1500	300	1800
Smith, George P.....	450	50	500
Silvester, Jane (Widow).....	1150	150	1300
Silvester, Peter, Jr.....	75		75
Slingerlandt, Abraham.....	825	100	925
Staats, Daniel.....	700		700
Sharp, Henry.....	75		75
Scism, John.....	20	20	40
Scott, Joseph.....	600		600
Shaver, Lucas.....	300		300
Shaver, Jacob.....	225	25	250
Simons, Catherine (Widow).....	900	200	1100
Simons, Jacob.....	75		75
Snyder, Tunis G.....	75	50	125
Smith, William.....	200	50	250
Smith, Henry W.....	200		200

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
	£	£	£
Spickerman, Andrew.....	975		975
Southerland, Elijah.....	75		75
Shulters, Martinus.....	200		200
Shulters, George.....	75		75
Staats, Isaac.....	350		350
Sickles, Zacheriah.....	200		200
Southerland, George.....	150	20	170
Sickles, Garrit.....	250		250
Stevens, David.....	500		500
Sharp, John I.....	675		675
Sharp, Laurence P.....	300		300
Sharp, Peter P.....	300		300
Schermerhorn, Cornelius.....	1300	400	1700
Shaver, John L.....	175		175
Staats, John A.....	125	50	175
Staats, Abraham.....	1500	100	1600
Staats, Jacob.....	750	800	1550
Staats, John.....	750	300	1050
Staats, Abraham I.....	975		975
Staats, Jacob A.....	75		75
Shufalt, John, Jr.....	900	100	1000
Shufalt, John I.....		20	20
Shufalt, John.....		50	50
Sharp, Andrew I.....	250		250
Sickles, James.....	75	80	155
Salmons, Gershorn.....	300		300
Salmons, Ruben.....		50	50
Stevens, Elijah.....	200		200
Smith, Tunis P.....	450	50	500
Shaver, John F.....	525	50	575
Sickles, Gilbert.....	75		75
Salisbury, Abraham.....	600		600
Shaver, George.....	150	40	190
Sharp, Solomon.....	250		250
Stephenson, William.....	1200	200	1400
Snyder, Mary (Widow).....	1400		1400
Stephenson, John.....		50	50
Sitzer, Jacob.....		20	20
Sitzer, Frederick.....		50	50
Sitzer, John.....		20	20
Silvester, Francis.....	100	1200	1300
Snyder (Widow) Pine Wood.....	75		75
Schermerhorn, William, Jr.....	200	100	300
Schermerhorn, Peter C.....	75	20	95
Stephenson, Thomas.....		25	25
Sharp, Peter L.....		50	50
Sharp, John L.....		20	20
Stratton, William.....		50	50
Smith, Jacob.....	50	25	75
Spencer, John S.....	50		50
Shufelt, Frederick.....	200		200

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
	£	£	£
Smith, William I.		20	20
Slingerlandt, Catherine.	100		100
Scism, Jacob.		25	25
Taylor, Haimen.		50	50
Taylor, Baltus.		50	50
Townsend, John.			
Teal, William.	100		100
Traver, Jonathan.	600	100	700
Tipple, Jacob.	900	50	950
Thorn, Michael.		50	50
Traver, Benjamin.	300		300
Tobias, Thomas F.	475		475
Teal, William L.	450		450
Teal, Annanias.	450		450
Turk, Jacobus.		20	20
Turk, John.		20	20
Thomas, David.		50	50
Taylor, William.	50		50
Upton, Edward.	300		300
Van Alstyne, John P.	200	300	500
Vosburgh, Jacob B.		20	20
Van Alen, Abraham.	800	50	850
Van Buren, Abraham.	300		300
Van Alen, James I.	1125	200	1325
Vosburgh, John A.	300		300
Vosburgh, Abraham, Jr.	600		600
Van Alstyne, Nap.	75		75
Van Hoesen, Dirck.		25	25
Van Hoosen, George A.	75	20	95
Vosburgh, Cornelius B.	150		150
Van Schaack, Maria.	150		150
Vallet, Stephen.		70	70
Van Hovenburgh (Widow).	450		450
Van Hovenburgh, John.		30	30
Van Vleck, Abraham I.	1500	3000	4500
Van Vleck, Abraham.	575	300	875
Van Vleck, Isaac A.	575	300	875
Van Vleck, Henry.	375	100	475
Van Vleck, Aaron.	375	100	475
Vosburgh, Barent E.	200	50	250
Vosburgh, Herman.	300		300
Van Schaack, Peter.	1900	1200	3100
Van Alen, John L., Jr.	300		300
Van Valkenburgh, Conradt.		50	50
Van Slyck, James.	75	100	175
Van Alen, Jacobus L.	750		750
Van Ness, John.	600	2500	3100
Van Alstyne, John.	4000	1200	5200

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
	£	£	£
Van Alstyne, Isaac	300	400	700
Van Alstyne, Abraham	2250	600	2850
Van Valkenburgh, Cornelius	50		50
Van Alen, Cornelius S.	1700	100	1800
Van Dyck, Henry L.	600		600
Van Alen, Stephen	800	50	850
Van Vleck, Isaac A & Abraham for store they occupy	300		300
Van Valkenburgh, Daniel	75		75
Van Buren, Maria	300		300
Van Dusen, Stephen	300		300
Van Deusen, Laurence	300		300
Van Slyck, Peter F.	375	150	525
Vosburgh, Myndert P.	900	1200	2100
Van Buren, Martin P.	150	100	250
Van Buren, Abraham P.	75		75
Van Buren, Gosea P.	75		75
Van Dyke, Mathew		50	50
Van Valkenburgh, William		50	50
Van Valkenburgh, Henry H.		20	20
Vosburgh, Samuel	1100		1100
Van Alen, John	1725		1725
Van Alen, Abraham	1500		1500
Vosburgh, Peter	100		100
Van Dyck, John	500		500
Van Deusen, James	800	100	900
Van Slyck, Samuel	1200	300	1500
Van Buren, Daniel & Dowe (Non Residents)	150		150
Van Alen, Laurence I.	75		75
Vredenburgh, John	1125	200	1325
Van Alstyne, Thomas	1050		1050
Vosburgh, Hannah	600	400	1000
Van Alen, Peter	150		150
Van Valkenburgh, Peter R.	50		50
Vosburgh, Joshua		25	25
Vosburgh, William	50		50
Van Hoesen, Abraham G.	975	100	1075
Van Hoesen, George	975	200	1175
Van Hoesen, Mathew	975	100	1075
Van Hoesen, Abraham	1050	100	1150
Vosburgh, Jehoiakim	600		600
Van Alstyne, Martin	1500		1500
Van Alstyne, Cornelius	1425	100	1525
Vosburgh, John L.	900	200	1100
Vosburgh, Abraham L.	1200		1200
Vosburgh, Bertholomew	150		150
Van Hoesen, William	150	50	200
Van Hoesen, Isaac	75	25	100
Van Derpoel, Andrew	1050	50	1100
Van Alen, Isaac	1300		1300
Van Alen, Cornelius	1300		1300

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
	£	£	£
Van Alen, Lucas I.	1650		1650
Vredenburg, Benjamin.	450	200	650
Van Buren, Anthony.		25	25
Vredenburg, David.		25	25
Van Valkenburgh, Henry I.	75	25	100
Van Buren, Tobias D.	1800		1800
Van Alen, Henry.	500		500
Van Hagen, John I.	150	25	175
Van Derpoel, Barent.	1800		1800
Van Dyck, Laurence.	1500		1500
Van Dyck, Henry.		400	400
Van Alstyne, Philip.	8000	1100	9100
Van Dyck, Stephen.		50	50
Vosburgh, Gilbert.		20	20
Van Kewren, Cornelius.	1050	600	1650
Van Alen, Tunis.		20	20
Vosburgh, John G.	200	50	250
Van Hagen, John.	1400		1400
Van Valkenburgh, Jehoikim.	750		750
Van Bramer (Widow).	265		265
Van Dyck, John C.	20		20
Van Hoesen, Elizabeth.	200		200
Van Valkenburgh, William H.		50	50
Van Alen, Laurence L.	2100		2100
Van Alen, Rhoda.	300		300
Vredenburg, John Jr.	400	100	500
Van Dyck, Peter C.	1800	300	2100
Van Dyck, Laurence C.	75	40	115
Van Valkenburgh, John.	200	40	240
Van Alen, Maria.	75		75
Van Alen, Laurence L., Jr.	150		150
Van Alen, David.	150		150
Vosburgh, Abraham.		10	10
Van Valkenburgh, Bartholomew J.	600		600
Van Alen, Lucus.	600		600
Van Alen, Jacobus.	2000	500	2500
Vosburgh, Peter J.	2300	2500	4800
Vosburgh, Aaron.	900		900
Vosburgh, Garrit.	225	500	725
Van Alen, Adam.	600		600
Van Buren, Maria (Widow of T. P. V Buren).	300		300
Van Valkenburgh, John H.	225		225
Vosburgh, Peter L.	800		800
Van Schaack, Cornelius.	800	300	1100
Van Bramer, Thomas.	50		50
Van Bramer, Jacob.	75		75
Van Alen, Dirck.		10	10
Vosburgh, Mathew.	500		500
Vosburgh, Jacob M.	100		100
Van Buren, Barent P.	1400	100	1500
Van Dyck, Isaac.	350	100	450

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
Van Buren, Richard T.....	150		150
Van Buren, Martin T.....	75		75
Vosburgh, John E.....	450	75	525
Van Hagen, Jehoiakim.....	150	25	175
Vosburgh, Samuel J.....	675	50	725
Vosburgh, Henry M.....		50	50
Van Hoesen, John.....	1200	150	1350
Van Ness, David Jr.....	225		225
Van Ness, Abraham.....	20	20	40
Van Ness, William P.....	6000	2300	8300
Van Ness, John P. (Non Resident).....	1500		1500
Van Ness, Jesse.....	500	50	550
Van Looven, Isaac.....	500	50	550
Van Buren, Laurence.....	100		100
Van Buren, Ephraim T.....	75		75
Van Alstyne, Adam.....	1600	100	1700
Van Valkenburgh, Andrew.....	400	100	500
Van Alen, Evert J.....	200		200
Van Valkenburgh, Andrew A.....	250	50	300
Van Valkenburgh, Nicholas A.....	100		100
Van Valkenburgh, Lambert A.....	50		50
Van Dyke, Arent.....	150		150
Van Dyke, George.....	50	10	60
Vosburgh, William.....	50		50
Van Kuren, Cornelius, Jr.....	75	25	100
Van Valkenburgh, Martin.....	75		75
Van Alen, Lydia.....	200	50	250
Van Schaaek, Henry.....	800	2725	3525
Van Slyck, Barent.....	250	50	300
Van Derpoel, James J.....	300	50	350
Van Hoesen, John J.....	200		200
Van Bramer, Peter.....	50		50
Van Buren, Ephraim.....	50		50
Van Alen, Lucus P.....	75		75
The Estate of Peter L. Van Alen Deceased.....	800		800
Williams, Jeremiah.....		20	20
Wendover, Stephen.....	2000		2000
Waderwax, John.....		20	20
Witbeck, Volkert.....	2000		2000
Waterman, Darius.....	100		100
Wynngort, James.....		20	20
Witbeck, Andrew A.....	1000	100	1100
Witbeck, Isaac.....	1000	100	1100
Winn, William.....	500	50	550
Welles, Noah.....		50	50
Waderwax, Thomas.....	30		30
Witbeck, Andrew.....	1225	100	1325
Webber, Alpheus.....	150	50	200
Watson, Cornelius.....	600	100	700
Watson, Thomas.....		50	50

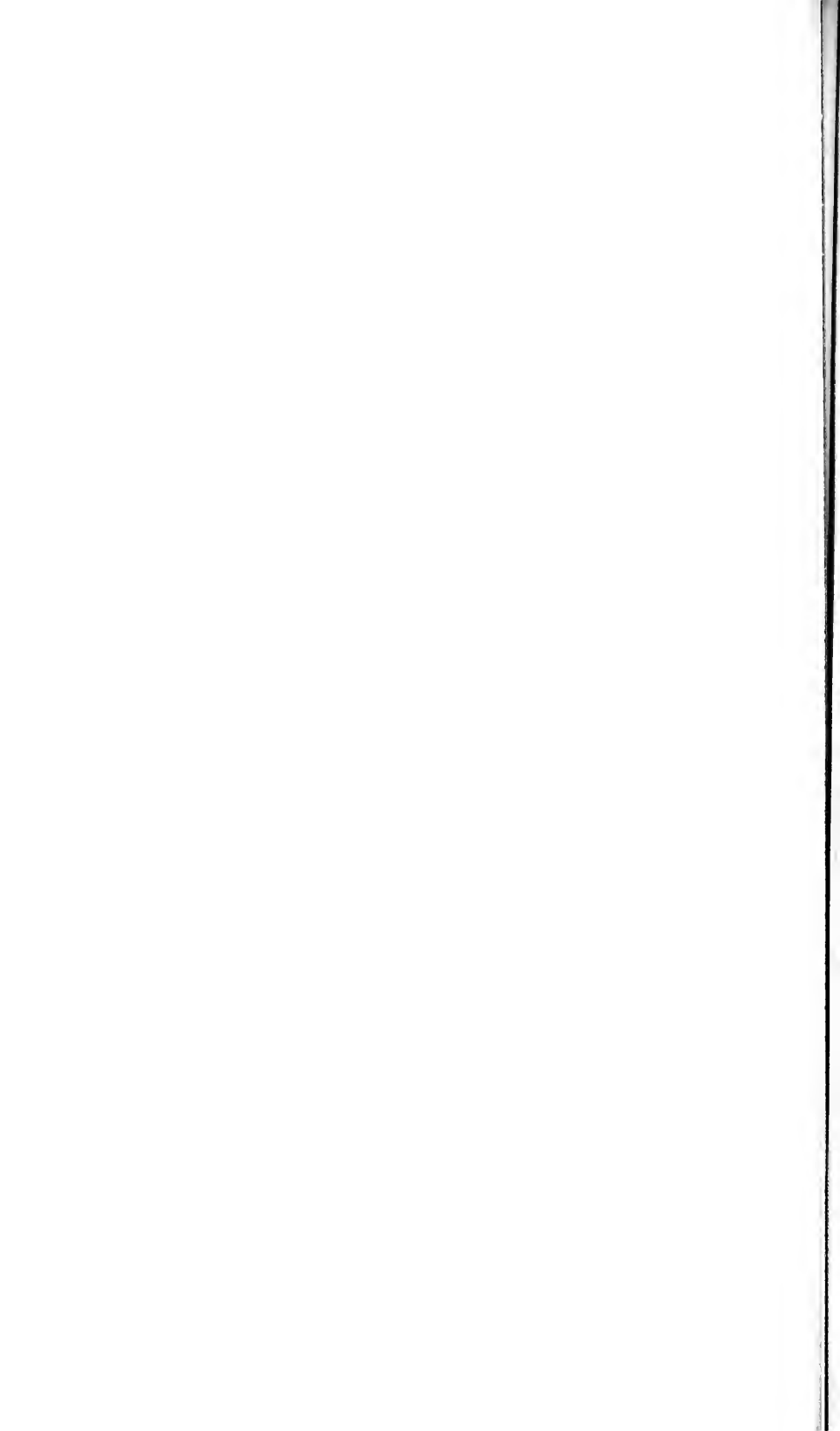
Old Kinderhook

Names of Possessors or Reputed Owners	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total
Willey, Joshua.....	75		75
Willey, Bishop.....	50		50
Willey, Gersham.....	100	50	150
Witbeck, Albert.....	75		75
Whiting, Charles.....		100	100
Welch, John.....		25	25
Whipple, Elisha.....	75		75
Wynkoop, Silvester Peter.....	50		50
Webster, Daniel.....		50	50
Yeralomin, John.....	600	50	650
Yeralomin, Peter.....		20	20
Yale, James.....	600		600
Yale, Noah.....		20	20

We the Assessors for the Town of Kinderhook do hereby Certify that the foregoing list of Names are duly assessed according to the best of our Judgment in Witness whereof we have hereunto Set our hands:

JNO. L. V. ALLEN
 CORNELIUS SCHERMERHORN
 GEORGE VAN HOESEN
 CORNELIUS WATSON





CHAPTER V

WHAT WAS WHAT

“Kinderhook Formation”—Quiet Times—Fort Good Hope—English Atrocities—Geertruy’s Troubles—Hatfield Captives—Visit of the Labadists—The Comet—Jacob Leisler’s Invitation—Captain Bull Comes to Town—Ensign Abraham Janse—Fast Day—Paulus Van Vleg—Reverend Benjamin Wadsworth’s Visit—Scandalous Doings—Albany’s Requisitions—Graham’s Memorial—Peace Disturbed—First Census—Slavery—Return of a Fugitive—Indian Forays—King Hendrick and the Great Conference—Other Indian Forays—Women Hold the Fort—Abraham Lott’s Visit—First Militia Companies—Their Equipment and Training.

IN our search for information concerning What was What in the long ago, we were highly elated when we read in the card-catalogue of the Astor Library—*Kinderhook Formation*. We called for and examined the book until we met the statement—“the Kinderhook epoch ushered in a long period of quiet”; a remark which the envious will say is not inapt, but which led us to reject the book as an authority concerning What was What in our early history. We are not surprised, however, that our good name has been given to one of earth’s strata, and also to a Pullman sleeper. Professor John C. Smock of Hudson kindly instructs us, that “*the Kinderhook Formation*” in the valley of the Mississippi was so named because of its similarity to the formation at Kinderhook in Illinois.

Although ancestors of ex-President Roosevelt were living here, yet with no railroads, steamboats, newspapers, telegraphs, telephones, sputtering motor-cycles, automobiles,

aeroplanes, and most happily no brazen-voiced graphophones, the days and years were passed in tranquillity unknown to our strenuous times. And yet there be those who say—better one of our years “than a cycle of Cathay.”

Francis Parkman, in his *Montcalm and Wolfe* accurately describes prevailing conditions here, except when disturbed by occasional Indian forays, when he says: “In the well-stocked dwellings of the Dutch farmers along the Hudson there reigned a tranquil and prosperous routine; and the Dutch border town of Albany had not its like in America for unruffled conservatism and quaint picturesqueness.”

It was apparently with entire equanimity that in 1664 the burghers of Kinderhook heard of the surrender of New Amsterdam, and twelve days later of Fort Orange to the British, and of the new names, New York and Albany. Happily no vandal hand touched our name. It was too beautiful to be changed.

None were disturbed in person, property, or private occupation. All existing rights and privileges were confirmed and protection promised. Religious toleration was proclaimed “*even unto Quakers and Anna-Baptists,*” as the horrified Dutch Director-General wrote to the West India Company. Changes of names and officials and the transfer of public property were almost the sole evidences of changed sovereignty.

The demand for the surrender of New Amsterdam, which could not be resisted by Governor Stuyvesant, was, according to the Dutch view, but the culmination of a long series of English encroachments. It is, however, only fair to state that in 1622 the English ambassador to their High Mightinesses entered a protest against the encroachments of the Dutch. With chastened spirit also we have read the title of a pamphlet—“Printed by Thomas Matthyys in St. Paul’s church-yard, at the sign of the Cock,” which purports to be “a Faithful Account of a Bloody, Treacherous and Cruel Plot of the Dutch in America purporting the total Ruin and

Murder of All English Colonists in New England. . . . To succeed in this their Devilish project they supplied the Wigmams with arms and ammunition which they received from Holland—that Fountain of Treacheries." Very meekly do we present our contention.

By right of discovery the Dutch claimed not only New Netherland in its commonly restricted sense, but also Long Island, both sides of Fresh (Connecticut) River, and the whole coast line from Cape Cod to the Delaware.

As regards the valley of the Connecticut it is of record that in 1633 the land "called Connittecock" (long before the English came there) was purchased from the Pequatoos, with the consent of the Sequeen whom the Pequatoos had recently conquered. Soon thereafter, and near the present city of Hartford, a Block House was built by the Dutch and called Fort Good Hope. Under its protection, which seems to have been slight, tillage of the soil was begun. But the few settlers had short-lived peace. "The encroaching English," says the Remonstrance of Vander Donck and ten others (1649) to the West India Company, "readily admit that the country is justly ours, but their pretence (is) the richness of the land and that it lies waste; also that the Company will do nothing but protest." The farmers were beaten with sticks and stones; their farming implements were broken and thrown into the river; their horses and cattle were empounded and all manner of indignities heaped upon the people. We had not fully appreciated the enormity of these offenses until we read in Graham's History the itemized record, a few selections from which will suffice:

April 25, 1640, "Those of Hartford . . . struck Evert Deukings a hole in his head with a stick, so that the blood ran very strongly down his body." June 24, 1641, "Some of Hartford have taken a hog out of the common and shut it up out of mere hate or other prejudices, causing it to starve for hunger in the Sty." May 20, 1642, "The English of Hartford have violently

cut loose a horse of the honored Company that stood bound upon the common."

The worst, however, remains to be told; for we read that "the Arms of their High Mightinesses affixed to a tree by a hook," in token of Dutch sovereignty, was torn down and the face of a fool substituted. But, crowning outrage of all and grossest *lèse majesté*, the protests of Director-General Kieft, in Latin and divers other languages, were treated with contempt: a contempt, however, of which many think his administration, if not his personal character, was eminently worthy. And yet it was this Kieft who in 1645 appointed a day of public thanksgiving for restored peace with the Indians and ordered, as we have sometimes wished our authorities would, that text and sermon should be appropriate to a day of THANKSGIVING.

From the Remonstrance of Vander Donck we learn also that eight or nine years before, the English had "made repeated efforts to purchase from the Indians a large tract of land on the east side (of the Hudson) . . . not more than three or four leagues from the Colonie of Rensselaerswyck." How deplorable the consequences to Kinderhook had they effected the purchase, and how great our debt to our faithful Mahicans words cannot express. Even as late as 1756 Governor Hardy reported to the Lords of Trade the prevalence of the appalling rumor that Massachusetts people were presuming to lay out a township within the Kinderhook Patent, which rumor he would at once investigate. From the late Tunis Harder we received years ago the tradition that there was no smut in the wheat here until after the Yankees came. He did not know that our father was the first superintendent of the first Sunday school organized in Plymouth, and that our ancestral graves are on the summit of Burial Hill there.

The contention at Fresh River was likened by an English writer of the time to that of two dogs snarling over a bone.

Doubtless the Dutch were content that an Englishman should liken his own people to a snarling dog, and they had a word—"Janker" (snarler, yelper, howler), which exactly fitted the case. We respectfully commend to philologists this possible derivation of the word Yankee; a suggestion for which we are indebted to Mr. William Wait.

The culmination of all these encroachments in the capitulation of New Amsterdam has been noted. In the war with England in 1673 the Dutch retook the city, changing its name to New Orange and that of Albany to Willemstadt. Many hailed the restoration of Dutch sovereignty with unbounded joy: but in less than a year the treaty of Westminster restored the whole Province to English rule which continued a century. In the main that rule was for many years wise and beneficent. While no important rights were invaded, the sometimes oppressive monopoly of trading companies and the intolerable feudalism of the Patroon experiment were restrained.

We regret to note that life here was not altogether tranquil; for, as the Fort Orange Court records amply reveal, there were occasional disturbances of the general placidity. In addition to the petty lawsuits hitherto noted, our litigious Geertruy was plaintiff or defendant in many others. She had been left a widow with four or five young children. Her second marriage, ten years later, was unhappy and was followed after a year or two by separation, she resuming the name of her first husband, Abraham Pieterse Vosburgh. She was compelled to fight her own way and care for her fatherless children. Evidently she could and did. As early probably as 1676 she came here to live; for in that year as already noted she sued Jan Tyssen Goes for trespass on her land on the "Half Moon at Kinderhook." Later in the Court records, which fairly bristle with her name, we find the following cases. As Royden W. Vosburgh, one of the thousands of her descendants, some of them notable, remarks—they are trivial but "still throw an

interesting light on everyday occurrences in the lives of the early settlers of Kinderhook."

July 5, 1681. Pr. Borsie, from Kinderhook, plaintiff, vs. Geertruy Vosburgh, defendant. Plaintiff says that defendant has accused his wife of theft of her chickens and that she has proofs of it (the accusation). Defendant says that some of her chickens remain with the plaintiff (that is to say, Geertruy's chickens are in the plaintiff's yard) but she denies having accused her of theft. The Hon. Court, having heard the case, threw it out of court, as being too unimportant to be dealt with, and condemns both parties to pay the costs.

September 5, 1682. Andries Jacobse Gardenier, plaintiff, vs. Geertruy Vosburgh, defendant. Plaintiff complains that one of his pigs has been bitten to death, on the land of Geertruy Vosburgh and that her land lies open (unfenced). Plaintiff asks for damages. Defendant denies that she has caused his pig to be bitten to death and says that her land is not open. The Court orders that the plaintiff's demand be dismissed, as there is no proof. Plaintiff to pay the costs.

Both these cases [Mr. Vosburgh adds] show that Geertruy was a woman of sharp wits and well able to look out for herself, when appearing in Court. She had evidently profited by her long experience in other cases, and had learned most of the legal tricks.

There was surely also no little excitement on the last Monday of May, 1678, when a very noteworthy company passed through Kinderhook. On the 19th of the preceding September, fifty Canadian Indians suddenly attacked the little hamlet of Hatfield, Mass. Nearly all the men were in the cornfields and too far away to render timely help to their defenseless wives and children. Three houses and four well-filled barns were burned. Fourteen homes were invaded and from one to four inmates of each killed or made captive. There were seventeen of the latter, mostly women and young children, who were carried away to the vicinity of Quebec. Benjamin Waite and Stephen Jennings, husbands of two of

the women, overcoming great difficulties and braving many perils, reached Quebec in January, found the captives, and ransomed the living for two hundred pounds. Three had been tortured and killed, but two little ones had come who were named Canada Waite and Captivity Jennings. It was not until April 19th that the homeward journey could be begun. With untold hardship and suffering they reached Albany the 22d of May. From there Mr. Waite wrote to Hatfield asking assistance, and this is in part his letter:

. . . I pray you hasten the matter for it requireth haste. Stay not for the Sabbath; no shoeing of horses. We shall endeavor to meet you at Canterhook (Kinderhook). We must come very softly because of our wives and children. I pray you hasten them; stay not night or day, for the matter requireth haste.

They rested in Albany from Wednesday until Monday and then walked from there to Kinderhook where horses from Hatfield met them. Their progress thenceforth was everywhere triumphal. The women of Kinderhook gave them tearful welcome, tender and bountiful hospitality, and a heart-felt God-speed.

In 1680 the devoted Labadists, Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter, of Friesland, made their memorable visit to Kinderhook. The narrative may be found in full in the *Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society*, vol. i. Captain Franklin Ellis (later Major and now deceased) gave a portion of it in his *History of Columbia County*, and added the comment of the Rev. J. Edson Rockwell—that “*no one familiar with the scenery around Stuyvesant Falls can fail to recognize the description.*” Possibly so; but those falls seem much too far inland and too far south to meet the conditions of the narrative. We are disposed to think rather of the mill-stream of Claver, four miles north, as the locality, where in later years Leonard Conyne had a sloop-landing near the mouth of the stream. Inasmuch as the voyagers

write of Kinderhook as "about sixteen miles below Albany," we think Conyne's was their landing-place and Claver's the mill-stream.

Long after coming to this conclusion from independent study of the narrative, we were pleased to find this confirmatory statement in *Historical Fragments* by "Jed" (Mr. C. S. Hollenbeck) published in the Albany *Argus* several years since:—"Claver was nicknamed 'de kint van weelde' (the child of luxury)."

That the explorers speak of the falls as "sixty feet" high need not perplex us. Such estimates by unscientific enthusiastic travelers are often wide of the mark. These same writers speak of the Cohoes Falls as about 100 feet high, whereas their actual perpendicular fall is forty feet. The character of the Labadist visitors warrants confidence in the general accuracy of their narrative. We transcribe from their journal:

We came to anchor at Kinderhook, in order to take in some grain which the female trader before mentioned had there to be carried down the river.

May 1st, Wednesday. We began early to load, but as it had to come from some distance in the country and we had to wait, we stepped ashore to amuse ourselves. We came to a creek where near the river lives the man whom they usually call *The Child of Luxury*, because he had formerly been such an one, but who now was not far from being the Child of Poverty, for he was situated poorly enough. He had a saw-mill on the creek, on a water fall, which is a singular one, for it is true that all falls have something special, and so had this one, which was not less rare and pleasant than others. The water fell quite steep in one body, but it came down in steps, with a broad rest sometimes between them. These steps were sixty feet or more high, and were formed out of a single rock, which is unusual. I reached this spot alone through the woods, and while I was sitting on the mill my comrade came up with the Child of Luxury, who, after he had shown us the mill and falls, took us down a little to the right of

the mill, under a rock on the margin of the creek, where we could behold how wonderful God is even in the most hidden parts of the earth; for we saw crystal lying in layers between the rocks, and when we rolled away a piece of the rock, there was, at least, on two sides of it, a crust or bark, about as thick as the breadth of a straw, of a sparkling glassy substance, which looked like alabaster, and this crust was full of points or gems, which were truly gems of crystal, or like substance. They sparkled brightly, and were as clear as water, and so close together that you could obtain hundreds of them from one piece of the crust. We broke off some pieces and brought them away as curiosities. It is justly to be supposed that other precious stones rest in the crevices of the rocks and mines as these do."

And now, alas!

On returning to the boat, we saw that the woman-trader had sent a quantity of bluish wheat on board, which the skipper would not receive, or rather mix with the other wheat; but when she came *she had it done* [italics ours], in which her dishonesty appeared; for when we arrived at New York he could not deliver the wheat which was under hers.

Who this woman-trader was who thus cowed the skipper, because he was a mere man, we cannot affirm. It may have been our litigious friend Geertruy. It looks like her. Whoever it was, she ought not to have "*had it done*," for the law of 1669 was "*that noe Wheat or other graine be transported or mingled with other without the Corne be very well cleansed.*" But to this day Kinderhook women generally have things done; better things and in better ways.

The prevailing tranquillity of Kinderhook was broken also, we may be sure, by that notable disturber of the peace, the great comet of 1680. While we have no account of the views and feelings of our people anent the awe-inspiring stranger in their heavens, we may assume they were the same as those of the authorities and people of Albany. Concerning the latter we have definite information in the

following letter of the "Comissaries" of Albany to Captain Brockholles, then in New York.

1st Jany, 1681.

Hon^d Sir . . . wee doubt not but you have seen ye Dreadfull Comett Starr wh appeared in y^e southwest, on ye 9th of December Last, about 2 a clock in y^e afternoon, fair sunnshyne wether, a litle above y^e Sonn, wch takes its course more Northerly, and was seen the Sunday night after, about twy-Light with a very fyry Tail or Streemer in y^e West To ye great astonishment of all Spectators, & it is now seen every Night w^t Clear weather, undoubtedly God Threatens us wh Dreadfull Punishments if wee doe not Repent, wee should have caused y^e Domine Proclaim a Day of fasting and humiliation tomorrow to be kept on Weddensday y^e 12 Jan in y^e Town of Albany & Dependencies—if wee thought our Power & authority did extend so farr, and would have been well Resented by Yourself, for all persons ought to humble Themselves in such a Time, and Pray to God to Withold his Righteous Jugements from us, as he did to Nineve Therefore if you would be pleased to graunt your approbation wee would willingly cause a day of fasting & humiliation to be kept, if it were monthly; whose answer wee shall Expect with y^e Bearer. . . . The Indian Wattawitt must have a Blankett & shirt att York. [This Wattawitt, now a mail-carrier, was our quondam owner of much of our territory.]

To this it was replied:

NEW YORKE, Jany 13th 1680.

Gentlemen, Yor's of the first Instant by the Indian post recevd . . . wee haue seen the Comett not att the time you mention only in the Evening The Streame being very large but know not its predicts or Events, and as they Certainly threatens Gods Vengence and Judgments and are premonitors to us Soe I Doubt not of yor and each of yor performance of yr Duty by prayer &c, as becomes good Christians Especially at this time,
 . . .

Yor affectionate ffriend

A. BROCKHOLLES.

In 1690 the news of the massacre at Schenectady, sent by special messenger from Albany to Kinderhook and Claverack, occasioned no little alarm; and the report (unfounded it turned out to be) in 1699 that a thousand French and Indians were approaching caused a general flight of the people to the protection of the Albany forts and forces.

Undoubtedly also there was a great stir in 1689 when the people were summoned to Albany by Jacob Milborne, the son-in-law of Jacob Leisler, the Governor *de facto* if not *de jure*. Leisler's Rebellion, as it has been called, was a Colonial sequel of the English revolution which deposed James II. and gave his crown to his daughter Mary, whose husband was William of Orange. The intense excitement caused thereby in New York, the division of the people into two bitterly hostile parties, the appearance of Leisler as the champion of the people and virtually their accepted ruler, the flight of the "aristocrats," as they were termed, to Albany, their organization and claim to be the only legitimate government until the will of the new sovereign should be made known, the dispatch of Milborne to overthrow this rival government, and the sad and even shameful sequel require no fuller notice from us. It was, doubtless, when Milborne was nearing Albany that he issued his summons to "the inhabitants of Kinderhook and adjacent places that they do forthwith repair themselves to the City of Albany to receive their rights Privileges and Liberties in such a manner as if James ye second had never bene." Inasmuch as Milborne failed in his mission, it seems probable that the perturbed people of Kinderhook lived and died without knowing precisely what the proffered rights, privileges, and liberties were. And yet they doubtless knew that James II., on his ascension to the throne in 1683, had refused to confirm the rights and privileges which he had granted as the Duke of York and Albany; had forbidden the establishment of any printing-press in the Colony, and had filled the important official positions with intense partisans of his own religious belief.

However that may have been, that Milborne's summons occasioned no little excitement appears in the report of Mr. Van Rensselaer and Captain Teunisse. They had been sent to Hartford by the Albany authorities with a message of thanks for proffered aid against the French and Indians. Passing on their return through Kinderhook they reported that they "found y^e People Very much Inclined to mutiny who were Preparing themselves to come hither . . . So y^t we had much adoe to stop them however some Came."

Subsequently a force was sent from Hartford and was met here by an escort from Albany. Remembering well how a usually staid and most attentive congregation was thrown into a flutter a few years since by the passing during service of a troop of U. S. Cavalry, we may be assured that Captain Bull and his eighty-seven soldiers from Connecticut made no small stir, among the small boys at least. And it was the same when, in December, 1696, Governor Fletcher passed with his troopers on the way to Albany.

After the impressive scene in Albany when Captain Bull "Drew up his men in y^e midle of ye Broad Street gave three volleys & was answered by 3 guns from ye fort," one of our young but valorous ensigns was honored with a commission and credentials which we reproduce:

Whereas Ensign abraham Janse (Van Alstyne) is ordered to convey three men with thirty horses to woodberry who came here with ye Souldiers sent hither for there Majes Service. These are in there Majes name King Wm and Queen Mary to will and Require all there Majes Subjects of this County of albany and to Desyre all there Majes Subjects in ye neighboring Counties and Collony to be aideing and assisting to ye sd Ensign and three men in ye Prosecution of there journey and to furnish them with such necessaries as they and there horses shall have occasion upon sd Journey being for there Majes Service given att ye Citty hall of albany ye 26th day of november in ye first year of there Majes Reign Ad. 1689.

PR. SCHUYLER, *Justice of ye Peace.*

The next day the justice, who was also mayor, affixed his name to the following proclamation of a Day of Fasting and Prayer.

By the Mayor aldermen and Commonality and Military officers of ye Citty of Albany and Justices of ye Peace and Military officers of ye sd County.

Wee having taken into Consideration ye Lamentable Condition of this Citty and County, occasioned by a dreadfull warr threatened from without, of which our neighbors and allyes have already felt ye smart, as also ye manifold Divisions and factions which are amongst ye Inhabitants within, which are fatal Tokens for Land & Church, It is therefore thought Convenient to keep a Day Extraordinary for fasting & prayer upon Weddensday ye 4th of Decembr 1689 to Pray to almighty God (whose wrath and anger for our manifold Sinns and transgressions is Righteously kindled against us) for Pardon and Remission of our Sinns and to free us from ye bloody sworde of our Enemies without and especially from ye Inhuman Barbarity of ye heathen, and on ye oyr syde to bynde ye hearts and mindes of ye People within with Love and unity to ye Praise of mighty God and ye welfare of ye Church and Country, Prohibiting therefore upon sd day all manner of servile worke all Rideing Playing or oyr sorts of Recreation which may hinder or obstruct ye worship of God that day Chargeing and Commanding Expressly all ye Inhabitants of this Citty and County to keep ye sd fast day most Solemnly, Thus given at ye Citty hall of albany at a meeting of ye Convention ye 27th day of november 1689 in ye first year of there Majes Reign. God Save King William and Queen Mary.

In 1645 the Assembly of the West India Company passed a resolution of instruction for their representatives at Albany that "the smaller places shall be served by precentors, comforters of the sick, and schoolmasters who shall offer up public prayers, read aloud from the Old and New Testament, and from printed sermons, and tune the Psalms."

Kinderhook, as we elsewhere note, had some one to "tune the psalms" and render other important if less me-

ludious religious service long before the end of the seventeenth century. So far as we have been able to ascertain the third precentor here was Paulus Van Vleg (Vleck).

In November, 1702, Colonel Schuyler of Albany received the following impressive document from His Excellency Lord Cornbury and his Council.

His Excellency in Council being informed that one Paulus van Vleck hath lately wandered about the country preaching notwithstanding he hath been formerly forbid by his Excellency to do the same and is lately called by some of the Inhabitants of Kinderhook to be their Clark without any license from his Excellency for so doing It is hereby ordered that the high sheriff of the county of Albany do take care to send the s^d Van Vleck down by the first opportunity to answer before this board.

Hearing of this, four officials of the church (Nov. 30):

Declare that Paulus Van Vleg during the whole time that he hath resided here and since he was accepted as Precentor and schoolmaster of our Church hath truly comported himself to the Great content of our congregation, and that, in all the time that he was forbid to preach he hath never preached in house or barn or in any place in Kinderhook, but that he performed the office of Precentor as one Hendrick Abelsen, before his death, hath done at Kinderhook; We have received said Paulus van Vleg because one Joghem Lamersen (who was our Precentor here) hath resigned the precentorship and frequently complained that he could not perform its Duties any longer. We further declare that the above named Paulus Van Vleg never took away the key of our church, but that we brought it to him in his house.

Yohannes van Alen Coenraet Borghghrdt Abram van Alstyne
Lammert van Yansen (Van Valkenburgh).

But the wrath of Cornbury and his Council was not thus easily to be appeased, for we find this letter of the Albany sheriff to Secretary Cozens, dated January, 1702/3:

Sr Yours of the 10th December came safe to my hands with an inclosed Order of Council for the speedy summoning of

Johannis Van Alen Coenradt Borghghrdt, Abraham van Alstyn and Herman van Jansen, the three former I have discharged my Duty by sending them to my Lord & Councill, as dyrected, but the latter Herman van Jansen, is not to be found within my Liberty, no man Knowing such a person in this County, . . .

Sr Your Humb Ser^t

JACOB FIESCH SAERF.

It was joy to Lammert that the warrant was for Herman. The others did not at once obey the summons to New York in the dead of winter, and one of them sought to avoid it altogether by this pathetic appeal, dated January 28, 1702/3:

The humble petition of Conraet Burgert, humbly sheweth That whereas your Lordship's Petitioner is summoned by the Sheriff of the City and County of Albany by a summons from Your Lordship and Councill to appear before your Excellency & Councill In New Yorke And whereas I demanded a Copy of the Sumonce from the Sheriff & would give him all Due Satisfaction therefore which he Denied to give me, soe that as yett I know not what is aleadged against me; therefore Your Excellency & Councils petitioner humbly Begs Your Excellency Favour to Refer the Case till the Spring of the year by Reason of the Cold Winter and Ilconveniencys to my great Damage of my family or if Your Excellency Would be Pleased to Referr the Case to be Decided by any Justice or Justices of the Peace, In Our County whom your Lordship shall Please to apoint which favour the Knowledge of yr Excellencys honour and Justice gives me no Reason to Doubt of and your Petitioner as in Duty bound shall always Pray.

COENRAET BORGHGHRDT.

But neither the softening of the belligerent Borghghrdt into beguiling Burgert in the first sentence, nor the delicate flattery of the last availed. Hearts were obdurate. The letter was "Read in Councill and Rejected." Indeed, before it was written fresh instructions, with the error corrected, had been issued to the sheriff who, March 2d, thus replied:

Sr Yors of y^e 26th Jany came safe to my hands and was Surprised to find that the three men I summoned by order of Councell have not made their appearance; for they gave me faithful assurance of their faithfull performance I have according to order sumond Lammert van Jansen and allso spook to the other three, so that all four designe to be at the Councell before next week expires. . . .

And now the sequel:

In Council 11th March 1702/3: John Van Alen Coenraedt Borghhrdt Abraham van Alstyne and Lammert Jansen appeared before this Board this day in obedience to an order of Councill, and they acknowledging their error & submitting themselves thereon were discharged with a caution to be more carefull for the future.

They were. The descendants of three of them at least were not Tories seventy-five years later.

After this episode we lose sight of Paulus for a few years, but in 1709 meet him in New York applying for appointment as chaplain for a Dutch regiment about to march to Canada. The Governor and Council order Dominies Du Bois and Antonides to ordain him, but they conscientiously refuse. Paulus, however, obtains quasi ordination from Freeman, himself an irregularly ordained Westphalian tailor, and marches away in fine feather. His service, however, is short, for in 1710 we find him in Bucks County, Pa., where he organizes several churches and others in New Jersey. About a year later he marries a daughter of an elder of the Shameny church, but about a year thereafter rumor reports a wife living in Holland. The rumor is at last proven true, and in 1715 it is reported that "he has run out of the country." At all events we see him no more. It appears that had the laws of the Duke of York already reverted to been in force, it would have been proper that Van Vleg should "*bee boared through the tongue with a read hot iron,*" so that he could no longer "*tune the psalms.*"

Let us hope that his heart at least learned to pitch the 51st Psalm in its true key, that of "a broken and contrite spirit."

A family Bible in the Van Alstyne family contains a record worthy of reproduction. It is an extract from the journal of the Rev. Benjamin Wadsworth of his journey from Boston to Albany to treat with the Five Nations.

Ye next morning [Aug. 11, 1694] we set forward about sunrise and came ye foremost to Kinderhook about three ye clock. Ye rest which were hindered by reason of ye Col. Allen's being not well came about 2 or 3 hours later. Here we took up our quarters at ye house of ye John Tysen, where we kept ye Sabbath, and ye having no minister we had ye libertie of using ye meeting house.

The John Tyssen house was near if not identical with that still standing with its gable toward the creek, near the former Albany Southern Station in Valatie. Mr. Wadsworth adds:

In this place there is very rich land. A curious river runs through the town on ye banks of which ye is some interval land. Ye are not many inhabitants I think ye say but twenty families or thereabouts at most. Ye houses are in three parcels in ye town and ye are two forts one whereof I saw.

The present homes of Mrs. Schnapper, and of Mr. John Nink, and the old Wynkoop house were at one time forts or fortified dwellings.

An extract from the Court Minutes of 1689 reads in part:

Resolved that Capt. Gerrit Teunisse and ye Commission officers of his company doe order a fort to be made att ye Groot Stuk [Kinderhook village], and one at Pompoenik where it shall be thought most convenient since ye fort about the barn of Lawrence Van Ale [near the present Van Alen homestead beyond the bridges] is judged Dangerous . . . all which is for ye people's most security & what ye sd Capt and officers shall doe herein ye inhabitants there are to submit too upon your Perills.

It was in the first church edifice, or its successor, that a notable scandal received merited rebuke. An Albany pastor it undoubtedly was who one Sunday beheld with amazement three strange fashionably dressed women enter the little church. Whence they came we know not, but minister and people were scandalized beyond expression. The women had low-necked dresses, profusely powdered hair, and fashionable patches of black court-plaster on their cheeks. They thought no doubt to overwhelm the common country-folk with their grandeur; but their triumph over their modest, awe-stricken sisters did not last long. Such folly and sin were not to pass unrebuked, and the Dominie was equal to the occasion. And this, according to tradition handed down from generation to generation, was the way he did it. Looking straight at them he said: "There are three things that are an abomination in the sight of the Lord:—nakedness without poverty, grey hairs without age and scars without wounds." The women left with feathers drooping.

With mortification, however, have we read that in 1667 Jochim Lambertsen (Van Valkenburgh) was appointed an under-sheriff "to prevent the profanation of the Sabbath by the hard driving of Kinderhook people." It is with regret also that we give the following sad record:

ATT A MAYOR'S COURT, Feb. 6, 1693-4.?

Johannes Appell sheriffe esqr: vs. David Ketelyn, Daniel Bratt defts. The Sheriffe demands of ye defendants ye somme of tenn pounds of a fine for selling drink to ye Indians at Kinderhook on a sabbath day, about a month agoe. Pr. Martense constable, being sworn says yt a month agoe on a sabbath day, he was sent by ye justices of ye peace and found ye 2 defts in an Indian house at Kinderhook selling drink to ye Indians and yt ye Indians were drunk-found a kegg of rom by ye skinns, and ye defts took away the skinns and the kegg.

The defts deny the fact and putts them upon the country. The case deffered till next court day for ye evidences.

Other items from the same Annals (Munsell's) reveal the requisitions of the Albany authorities upon the service and means of our people. In 1693 Kinderhook was required to furnish 85 "stockadoes" toward the completion of a fort at Albany, and also fire-wood and candles. In 1694, of an assessment of forty-six pounds for the removal of three houses in Albany, Kinderhook was to pay sixteen pounds and fifteen shillings; and for the Block houses south of the city, to furnish two hundred loads of "good oak, ippere, bill, stell or dry pine and ashy." In the three succeeding years there were demands for "good fyre wood, none excepted but best linde and y^e sparegrene wood, amounting to 390 loads; and money demands of twenty pounds for y^e ajancy" (Indian?), fifteen shillings toward a gift to James Parker, the Public Printer, and forty-one pounds "for y^e Cittys ar-rearages."

Why Kinderhook should be assessed for the removal of Albany houses was a mystery until we later and elsewhere found the record that the houses were within the range of certain guns newly placed for the defense of the city, and that they obstructed the view of an approaching foe. For those reasons the removal was decreed and the cost made a county charge. Doubtless Kinderhook paid its assessment, for Governor Fletcher had impressively warned the people that the French Governor of Canada was "spilling forth his brags that he would be Master of Albany that winter," and that would have been bad for Children's Corner.

We have a glimpse of the condition of affairs in the closing years of the century in the Memorial of James Graham to the Earl of Bellomont, the Governor, concerning the negligence of former Governor Fletcher. The Memorial is without date, it was evidently subsequent to 1697. It reads in part as follows:

And notwithstanding y^e yearely damages did befall y^e inhabitants in y^e said frontieers, yett y^e said Coll. Fletcher was

so negligent that he never sent out any scout, or left orders for ye doeing thereof, that at last y^e Assembly, w^{ch} did not profess to be soldiers did raise mony & appointed Com^{rs} to send out scouts to watch y^e motion of y^e enemy, by w^{ch} meanes the enemy w^{ch} was designed to cut off Kinderhook were discovered and all cut off, and this was in y^e yeare 1696. In y^e yeare 1697 the Assembly tooke the like care by w^{ch} there was no mischiefe done by y^e enemy as formerly altho y^e garrison was weaker than ever, but Coll. Fletcher not having raised one man altho large sums raised by the Assembly for that purpose (were) perverted by him.

Mr. Graham was the Attorney-General at the time. He was subsequently a member of the Assembly and its Speaker.

The assessed valuation of Kinderhook in 1701 was 889 pounds on which a tax was laid of three stivers wampum (six cents) on the pound, for repairs of the Albany court house and jail.

The Minutes of the Council in New York in 1703 record a petition from several inhabitants of Kinderhook which reveals the fact that the peace of the village had been greatly disturbed by recent elections of local officials. The substance of the petition is this:

We the inhabitants of the Village of Kinderhook . . . pursuant of our antient Custom and usage to Chuse our Commissioners as alsoe overseers of highways viewers of ffences and Constables have this year . . . made Choice by order of the Justices And by the majority of voices Lawrence Van Ale Dirck Vander Carr and Peter Van Slyck were Chosen Commissioners with which Choice the whole village was then Content. But after that to witt upon the eighth day of June last Some of our village opposing the same Contrary to our said antient Custom and usage made Choice of new Commissioners against which we doe protest and desire to maintain the first Choice . . . and humbly pray that his excellency the Governor and his Council would be pleased to protect us in the same. (Signed by) Luke Van Ale, Evert Van Ale, Cornelius Van Schaack, Steph. Van Ale, Lambert Huyck, Elias Van Schaack, Lawrence Van Schaack, Peter Van Ale, Evert Wieler, Samuel S. Gardner, Andrew Huygh,

Johannes Andries Huygh, Andries Gardner, Johannes Van Ale, Manuel Van Schaack, Adam Dinghman, Jacob Gardner.

Following this was a second petition from the same parties giving the more definite information that "*a particular body*" without warning and against protest "*did by a Newstarted Invention of their own*" choose Peter Phosberg, Lambert Janse Van Alstead, and Peter Van Slyck to be Trustees. We regret that we are left in the dark as to the issue. The usual course was to refer such petitions to the Assembly.

The first known census of Kinderhook was in 1714. It revealed a population of 293, of whom thirty-two were slaves. In 1769 it was reported to Sir William Johnson that in this District, and that to the east as far as the woods, there were at least a thousand men able to bear arms.

According to the census of 1790 the total population was 4461, including 638 slaves. Claverack had 340 slaves and Hudson 193. Slaves were held here at a very early period and in increasing numbers, and thus continued to be until slavery ceased, July 4, 1827.

The U. S. Census of 1790 (the first) we deem of sufficient interest to be given in full. It reveals 730 resident families, their size, and to a degree their relative wealth (or poverty) in slaves. (*See Appendix.*) Not a family had the "regiment of slaves" of which traditions of ancestral grandeur and some writers tell us.

There were exceptions doubtless as regards the character and conduct of both masters and slaves, here as well as in the South, but as a rule the slaves received kind treatment and were loyally and lovingly devoted to the families of their masters. There are those yet living who remember the stories their grandparents were wont to tell of the frequent gathering of the slaves of a neighborhood in the kitchen of the old homestead for an evening of merrymaking, and how not only the children but master and mistress, and visitors

as well, would be amused spectators of their mirth and charmed listeners to their music.

Mrs. Grant, in her fascinating *Memoirs of an American Lady* (London, 1808), certain descriptive parts of which Southey characterized as "Homeric," in writing of slavery as she beheld it in Albany accurately pictured it as it existed in many households in Kinderhook. She wrote:

In the society I am describing, even the dark aspect of slavery was softened into a smile. . . . Let me not be detested as an advocate for slavery, when I say, that I have never seen people so happy in servitude as the domestics of the Albanians. . . . They would remind one of Abraham's servants, who were all born in the house, which was exactly their case. They were baptized too, and shared the same religious instruction with the children of the family; and for the first years, there was little or no difference with regard to food or clothing, between their children and those of their masters. . . . I have no where met with instances of friendship more tender and generous, than that which here subsisted between the slaves and their masters and mistresses. Extraordinary proofs have often been given in the course of hunting or Indian trading, when a young man and his slave have gone to the trackless woods together. The slave has been known, at the imminent risk of his life, to carry his disabled master through trackless woods with labor and fidelity scarce credible; and the master has been equally tender on similar occasions of the humble friend who stuck closer than a brother; who was baptized with the same baptism, nurtured under the same roof and often rocked in the same cradle with himself. Affectionate and faithful as these home-bred servants were in general, there were some instances (but very few) of those who . . . betrayed their trust, or habitually neglected their duty. In these cases, after every means had been used to reform them, no severe punishment was inflicted at home. But the terrible sentence, which they dreaded worse than death, was passed—they were sold to Jamaica. The necessity of doing this was bewailed by the whole family, as a most dreadful calamity, and the culprit was carefully watched on his way to New York lest he should evade the sentence by self-destruction.

“Aunt Jane” Van Alstyne, of precious memory, told us that her grandfather, having whipped a slave boy who, he afterwards found, did not deserve that particular punishment, went to him and told him he was sorry. “Never mind, Master,” said the boy, “there have been so many times I deserved it when I didn’t get it, it’s all right.”

When they were baptized, as many were in later years, they were recorded as Pomp, Nan, and the like, slaves of this or that master. Selecting an entry at random, we quote this baptismal record:

Abigail	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">Jack</td> <td style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">Eliezabet</td> <td style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td> </tr> </table>	}	Jack	}	}	Eliezabet	}	Nigeren van Jacobus Van Aalen
}	Jack	}						
}	Eliezabet	}						

When the slaves became free they assumed surnames, frequently those of their former masters. The descendants of those slaves are with us still, and the names Vanderpoel, Van Ness, Barthrop, Burgett, Harder, and many others are memorials of the bondage of their ancestors. Many yet living remember well and with respect old Tony Harder, Harry Barthrop, and Peter Burgett who were born in slavery. Harry was given to Mrs. Dr. Barthrop by her father John Pruyn at the time of her marriage. Harry’s tall, gaunt figure was a very familiar one on our streets and in the old Dutch church, which he would not forsake for that of his own race. He was polite and kindly to everybody. None could pass him on the street on the darkest night without hearing his voice of recognition and respectful greeting. His knowledge of the occult medicinal virtues of all manner of roots and herbs, and of the secret habitat of each in meadow, forest, and swamp, was profound. Many the times that we have seen him returning from a long tramp, bearing on his shoulder a large sack filled with these mystic elements of rare elixirs and cordials.

Peter Burgett, the slave of Abraham Burgett, was another who received and was worthy of the respect of the entire community. He was an unordained lay preacher

among his people. In familiarity with the Bible, in spirituality, general intelligence, ability, character, and good common sense he was by far the superior of most of their ordained preachers here, in our time at least.

In 1830 there was a very painful illustration here of the saying of Sterne: "Disguise thyself as thou wilt, still, Slavery, still thou art a bitter draught."

In May of that year Mr. Richard Dorsey of Baltimore suddenly appeared in Kinderhook in quest of a fugitive slave. The poor fellow had learned to read and write, and through a letter to some incautious or treacherous friend in Baltimore his hiding-place became known. Mr. Dorsey found his slave in the employ of General Whiting, and, as the law then was, having proved his claim before Judge Vanderpoel, obtained a writ of ownership and extradition; armed with which he manacled the fugitive and took him to Baltimore. We note with pleasure that in the lot of the late William Wall, in our village cemetery, there stands in a place of honor near the family monument a stone in memory of "*faithful Eliza*," once their slave. It honors them as well.

All the people here past middle life remembered well the dreadful massacre at Schenectady. Major Peter Schuyler's report to Governor Fletcher in 1693, that he had sent out men to range the woods, fearing that some skulking parties might straggle down as far as Kinderhook, while in a degree reassuring, was still disquieting. The tidings in 1696 that Captain Dubeau from Montreal, not strong enough to attack Albany, had started for Kinderhook, and would have reached here had not the watchful Mahicans surprised and defeated him, was not conducive to a feeling of security on the part of an almost defenseless people. Their peril was not unknown to the Albany authorities. Among the Colonial Documents of the State we find a Memorial of Robert Livingston, Secretary for Indian Affairs, dated 1701-3, to the Lords of Trade, recommending the building of several forts, among them a stockado fort here, to be

garrisoned with soldiers and a troop of dragoons, and a company of bushlopers or woodrunners to be raised of the youth at Albany in the summer time to go through the woods daily from garrison to garrison which with scouts continually out to range the woods from the several smaller garrisons will be a means to secure our families. Moreover if these garrisons be not secured the inhabitants will desert their farms. . . . It was found by experience in the last war that while these (the forts) were garrisoned the country was secure, but no sooner were they deserted but the enemy gained ground and scalped our people near the very gates of the city.

Evidently the stockado or fort was built and then neglected, for in 1704 Mr. Congreve reported to the Lords of Trade that it was "out of repair and needed a garrison of thirty men." Probably, however, its defensive value was equal at least to that "newly erected" work in New Amsterdam, of which Peter Stuyvesant so pathetically complained in 1651 as being "rooted up, trampled down and destroyed by the community's hogs, cows and horses, as may be seen daily to our shame and reproach."

The French and Indian wars of 1744-1748 and of 1756-1763 were sources of much alarm and of occasional peril. Even in times of nominal peace, the aggressions of the French were so constant, and their courtship of the Six Nations so assiduous that we quite sympathize with the testy Dongan in his irate letter (Sept., 1687) to De Nonville. After adverting to the orders De Nonville had received "from his Master to live well with the King of England's subjects," he added: "But I find the air of Canada has strange effects on all the Govenors boddys." And again a month later he wrote: "A man of an ordinary cappassitie might see what your intentions weer."

About two years later, the Albany Records inform us, Mr. Wessels and Regnier "Were Desyned to Communicate to the farmers of Kinderhook and Claverack—nothing can be Expected but y' ye french will doe all ye mischieffe they

can to this govermt & every one to be upon there garde & take care they be not surprized."

Francis Parkman is our authority for the statement that, within three months of the year 1746, thirty-five bands of French and Indians, numbering from six to thirty, left Canada to harry the frontier of the New York and New England colonies.

As indications of coming war with France increased, the fears of our almost unprotected people became more intense. Petition after petition from individuals of prominence and a most pathetic one, Sir William Johnson states, from the inhabitants as a whole, for a garrison and for rangers to patrol the forests eastward and northward, at last moved the Assembly to direct the employment of fifty such rangers. In 1745 came the tidings that a party of four hundred French and 220 Indians had captured and destroyed Saratoga, the old town made famous by Burgoyne's surrender thirty-five years later. Following closely upon that was the sacking of Hoosic. A little later it became known that Stockbridge was in peril from an investing force of six hundred French and Indians. Consternation and terror were not unknown to Albany itself. How much greater the alarm here, with the whole territory practically open to the merciless foe! Under these conditions they petitioned the Governor and his Council in New York for "thirty men to garrison the two Block houses to the north and east of the village at the expense of the Province, or of the inhabitants if a law were passed making it a common charge on all the people." The petition was referred to the Assembly.

Later in the same month, as the sense of peril increased, a second petition was sent to New York praying that "100 men might be posted for defense against the skulking parties of the enemy's Indians." After due deliberation this tranquillizing answer was returned:

His Excellency and the Council are of the opinion it would be

advisable for his Excellency to wait till the Albany River is entirely Open, and if nothing should happen in the mean time so as to make it necessary to employ the Virginia Company (now in the Fort in this City) on any other service, to send that Company to Kinderhook.

The Company never came; but April 29, 1747, the Colonial Assembly voted "unto Cornelius Van Schaack the sum of 585 pounds to be by him employed in payment of 50 effective men . . . who are to Range and Scour the woods in the country for 90 days." The captain was to receive six shillings *per diem*, the lieutenant, four, and 48 privates, 2s. 6d. each. "For his care and trouble," Mr. Van Schaack was to be paid 2 pounds 10 shillings for every 100 pounds expended. His bill for the service of the rangers until November, '47, was 348 pounds, 17 shillings, and 6 pence. We are pleased to note that 6 pence.

Remembering Schenectady (where snow-images were the only sentinels at the gate), Saratoga, Hoosic, and the condition of affairs which made it possible for skulking savages to fill even Albany with alarm, it would seem that, with notable and honorable exceptions, there was somewhere official inefficiency and negligence, if not selfish greed and graft which fully justified King Hendrick's contemptuous though magnificent oratory.

King Hendrick, though the greatest of all the Mohawk chiefs, was, strange to say, a Mohawk only by adoption. He himself and his family were Mohegans, the kinfolk of our Mahicans.

In June, 1754, war being again apprehended, twenty-five Commissioners, representing seven of the colonies, met in Albany to treat with the Six Nations concerning unity of action against the common foe.

This Commission, Francis Parkman writes, was composed of "a body of men who for character and ability had never had an equal on the Continent." Benjamin Franklin was

one of them. There were about 150 Indian representatives in attendance.

Lieutenant-Governor De Lancey in his opening address told the Indians that the Commissioners had come to strengthen and brighten the chain of friendship. After adverting to their apparent disaffection of late, and the long scattered condition of the confederated tribes, he wanted to know if the encroachments of the French were with their consent or approbation, and then concluded with the words: "Open your hearts to us and deal with us as bretheren."

Omitting much, we quote the story of the sequel from Stone's *Life of Sir William Johnson*.

Three days afterward, the Lieutenant-Governor attended by all the Commissioners, in behalf of his majesty and the several colonies, met the Indians in the courthouse to hear their reply. As soon as they were seated, the sachems of the Six Nations, glittering with ornaments and clothed in their richest robes and feathers, came in and seated themselves with all the pomp of an Indian ceremonial. Then, amid a deep silence, Abraham, a sachem of the upper castle of the Mohawks and a brother of King Hendrick, rose and said: "Bretheren, you the governor of New York, and the commissioners of the other governments, are you ready to hear us?" The Governor having replied in the affirmative, King Hendrick, venerable in years, rose, and with all the dignity which his white hairs and majestic mien gave him, holding up the chain belt to the gaze of all, advanced a few steps and said:

"Brethren: We return you all our grateful acknowledgements for renewing and brightening the covenant chain. This chain belt is of very great importance to our united nations, and to all our allies. . . . As we have already added two links to it, so we will use our endeavors to add as many more links to it as lies in our power.

"Brethren: As to the accounts you have heard of our living dispersed from each other, 'tis very true." Then, burning with

indignation, as he recalled the long neglect with which his services had been rewarded by the English, with eyes flashing, and his whole frame quivering with the honest anger which had so long been pent up within him, he exclaimed—"You have asked us the reason of our living in this dispersed manner. The reason is, your neglecting us for three years past." Then taking a stick and throwing it behind him—"you have thus thrown us behind your backs and disregarded us; whereas the French are a subtle and vigilant people, ever using their utmost endeavors to seduce and bring our people over to them. . . . 'Tis your fault, brethren, that we are not strengthened by conquest, for we would have gone and taken Crown Point, but you hindered us. . . . Instead of this you burnt your own fort at Saratoga and ran away from it, which was a shame and a scandal to you.

"Look about your country and see, you have no fortifications about you; no, not even to this city! Look at the French; they are *men*; they are fortifying everywhere! But, we are ashamed to say it, you are like *women*, bare and open without any fortifications!"

Thus closed one of the most eloquent Indian speeches ever uttered. A speech, which for its truth, vigor and biting sarcasm has never been equaled by any Indian orator; scarcely excelled by one of any other race—and which, containing strains of eloquence which might have done honor to Tully or Demosthenes, will ever stand among the finest passages of rhetoric in either ancient or modern history.

Less than a year after this notable conference the presiding officer of the Assembly, Lieutenant-Governor De Lancey, reported to the Lords of Trade that "the Assembly had passed an Act to raise 1000 pounds for the purpose of securing Kinderhook, a Principal frontier on that side of the river." The Act was passed February 19, 1755 (Colonial Laws, iii., p. 1038), and reads: "Unto Cornelius Van Schaack and Abraham Van Aelstyn the sum of one thousand pounds for fortifying and securing the town of Kinderhook." How much of this munificent sum was raised and expended we know not. Something however was done, for we find that

for scouting on the frontiers of Kinderhook during April and May, 1757, Francis Claw and his detachment of militia received an appropriation by the Assembly of fifty-one pounds and seven shillings.

Evidently there should be a monument to King Hendrick in our village park, as there is at Lake George. There was a wax figure of this noted chieftain in Philadelphia, soon after his death in battle against the French Indians. A white man who had known him well as a most faithful friend, coming unexpectedly upon it and forgetful for the moment of his death, impulsively rushed forward and threw his arms about the cold image of the hero.

While the disastrous lack of prompt, energetic action, on the part of the Governors and their Councils on the one hand and the Assemblies at Albany on the other, may surprise us, we should remember the steadily increasing and very significant jealousy of the Assemblies for the rights of the people, and their growing restlessness under every attempted dictation. Suggestions, however wise, were not received kindly if made with an air of authority. They charged Governor Clinton with seeking to restrain the liberty of the press. They virtually told him to his face that he and all the governors were beggars, sent over to enrich themselves at the expense of the colonists. Clinton, by the way, did acquire a very considerable fortune for those times while here. His reply, however, was, "you have no regard for decency," and he reported to the Duke of Newcastle that he could not meet the Assembly without exposing the King's authority and himself to contempt. Again and again we find him complaining to the Duke of the backwardness of the Assembly in its deliberations, of the difficulty of bringing them to any tolerable resolution for the service of the public, and that the dispatch of business was greatly neglected. "They are selfish," he said, "and jealous of the power of the Crown; and of such levelling principles that they are constantly attacking its prerogative." Governor Clinton was discern-

ing. There was a cloud arising out of the sea "as small as a man's hand." Or, using the figure of the Supreme Teacher,—in 1746 we may see the "blade," prophetic of 1776 with its "full corn in the ear." The great Indian conference at Albany was a notable portent of coming colonial and federal union.

While the inhabitants of Kinderhook had no such experiences as those of Schenectady, Hoosic, and Palatine villages, there were occasional acts of violence as narrated in former sketches of our history. The "devastation" of the region at the time of the burning of Major Staats's house was doubtless much exaggerated. There was not much to devastate then in the interior. The few deeds of violence during the times of the French and Indian wars of which we have record are these:

April 10, 1748. "The same party [French and their Indian allies] next appeared at Kinderhook where they surprised eleven men at work, killed two of them and made the other nine captives. Then they burned the house and barn of Mr. John Van Alstyne." It was because of this, it may be, that Captain James Church and his Company are reported as having been posted here from August 17 to September 30, 1748; for which service 179 pounds were appropriated by the Assembly in 1750.

In the New York *Mercury* of July 14, 1755, this item appeared:

We hear from Kinderhook that on Wednesday the 2d, inst. as four men, two boys and a negro were hoeing corn in a field near that place, they were surprised and fired upon by six Indians and a Frenchman, which wounded one of the men and a negro fellow, when they with two others took to their heels. The seventh, John Gardinier, ran for his arms that were nigh at hand and having dispatched two of the Indians, a third closed in upon him, and, in the scuffle, the Frenchman came up, and seeing Gardinier get the better of the Indians, he knocked him down with his piece and afterwards scalped him, when the Indians

made off and carried their dead with them. A short time after Gardinier came to himself, and with some difficulty reached the fort. He was so stunned by the blow he received from the Frenchman, that he was insensible of his being scalped until he was informed by the people who discovered the blood, but he remembered the whole of their proceedings before, and said he could have killed three of the Indians had not the second gun he took up missed fire.

On the receipt of the above news the sum of twelve pounds was immediately raised by a few gentlemen in this city, and sent to John Gardinier for his gallant behavior, to support his wife and family during his illness, and it is to be hoped that those gentlemen who would willingly infuse a martial spirit in the armies now going against our enemies, will follow an example so truly worthy of their imitation.

Two weeks later the same paper contained this notice of a second foray:

We hear that on Monday last another party of French and Indians, consisting of between thirty and forty, appeared at Kinderhook and carried off a young boy and wounded a negro, and that Robert Livingston Jr., Esq., with about forty men, were gone in pursuit.

We read again, date not given but doubtless about the same:

Three members of the family of Joachim Van Valkenburgh were captured by the French Indians and two of them murdered. His wife also fell into their hands, but while they were conducting her away, Van Valkenburgh shot the Indian in the back and recovered his wife.

The late Mr. Henry C. Van Schaack, in his Memoirs of his uncle Henry, narrates the following:

There was a small stockade, dignified with name of Fort, at Kinderhook, to which the neighboring inhabitants were accustomed to resort for refuge in case of approaching danger. [The

present Schnapper house, at one time the parsonage of the Dutch church, was within the stockade.] On one occasion of alarm given in consequence of the approach of a party of Indians, mothers with their children and all the females in the neighborhood, repaired to the fort for safety. It so happened that all the men in the vicinity were absent at the time. To disguise their weakness, under the lead of Mrs. Hoos, a brave Dutch vrouw who volunteered to command on the occasion, the women, occupying a position where only the covering of their heads could be seen by their invaders, put on men's hats and made great noises. The Indians, deceived by these indications of strength, did not venture to attack the feminine garrison.

Military service was evidently rendered by residents of Kinderhook during the French and Indian wars, but the records of it are few and fragmentary. There was an Order of Council in May, 1746, that the company of Kinderhook Rangers, "as soon as raised," should be sent to Saratoga because of the disaffection and desertion of its garrison. But we are not informed whether they actually went, nor indeed whether the company was raised. We may presume, however, that it was.

As revealing one source of considerable loss and some peril to the early settlers for a hundred years, the many enactments of the Colonial Assembly to secure the destruction of wolves and panthers are not without interest.

The wolves infesting the forests were so numerous and became so bold in their slaughter of sheep and cattle that in 1726 a bounty was offered here, as had long been done in other parts of the Colony, for their destruction. The bounty for the killing of a full-grown wolf was in the first instance six shillings, and less for one under one year of age. Within a few years this was increased to ten and then to twelve shillings. For some unknown reason unless it was the superior adeptness of the Indians their bounty was but half that allowed a white man. The head of the wolf and the entire skin were to be taken before a Justice and the ears cut

off in his presence, as a protection against fraud. In later years the bounty was increased until in 1775 it amounted to three pounds.

In the *American Historical Magazine* (1870) we find Abraham Lott's journal of his voyage up the Hudson and of his visit to Kinderhook in 1774. He was one of the patentees of a tract of more than 10,000 acres between Claverack and Livingston Manor; a grant which occasioned the very notable suit of John Van Rensselaer which he ultimately won. Portions of the journal are not without present interest. We quote in part:

1774, June 22. Went on board Joachim Staats' sloop . . .
Friday, June 24. Beat up against the tide to a little above the Kinderhook creek, where the tide came against us and obliged us to come too. Here the captain went ashore to the house of Joh^s Staats within the bounds of Kinderhook and brought on Board some Bread Eggs and Milk.

Two or three days later the sloop reached Albany. After a visit of about two weeks Mr. Lott drove down to "Coxhackie" where he paid 3/- to be ferried over to Nutten Hook. Thence he came to the house of Isaac (later Major) Goes, now Mrs. F. Risedorph's, opposite the then existing church. After resting he called on Mr. Fryenmoet (the Dominie) and supped and spent the evening, being made exceeding welcome. In the morning he talked with Mr. Goes about the recent division of the Kinderhook Patent and learned "that it was totally disregarded, everybody taking in lands where they can find them whether they have a right to them or not."

We think, however, that we can read between the lines of Abraham's narrative that Isaac was considerably disgruntled over something and that his statements are to be taken with several grains of salt. Evidently no love was lost on his part toward a family whose prosperity he deemed a menace to the welfare of the community.

Mr. Lott records that "Mr. David Van Schaack has built him a house like a Castle near the town. It is built of brick, two stories high, four rooms on a floor, and a large hall through the middle of it, and is built in a very elegant Taste." Mr. Lott was very apprehensive as regards the future of Kinderhook because of such expensive tastes. After breakfasting with Mr. Goes and paying 5/6 for his entertainment he called again on Mr. Fryenmoet who gave him some "Green Pease for Messrs White and McDougall." Thence he went by way of Mr. Van Alstyne's (Chatham Center) and Captain Van Der Poel's to the house of one Mr. Demming, at a place in the Westinghook Patent called New Canaan. "Here I overtook one Vosburgh from Kinderhook with whom I dined," paying 3/- for dinner and feed of the horses. Proceeding thence he came to "the Bath" (Lebanon Springs), where he remained a few days, taking the baths for his health. He was evidently pleased, for he gave 8/- for repairing leaks and 8/- more toward a new bath house. While he was there a party of five rheumatics came from Kinderhook "to be cured," and another party came from Albany.

More than one hundred years before the Revolution military companies were organized here. We are without definite information of service rendered, but have here and there a glimpse, as hitherto noted, of the participation of our brave soldiers in successive French and Indian wars and of the recognition and reward of that service by the Colonial authorities. We know also of one or more of these companies being called to "range the woods," as the expression was, to discover and beat back the irresponsible bands of Canadian Indians so frequently threatening all frontier settlements and even the city of Albany.

From Albany County Military Records, State Historian Hastings's *Annual Report*, vol. i., and other sources, we compile the following record concerning Kinderhook men:

In 1673, in what was called the third platoon, Abraham

Old Kinderhook

Janse (Van Alstyne) was Sergeant and Arent Leendertse (Conine) Ensign.

In 1689, our Abraham Janse was ordered to convey three men and thirty horses to Woodbury, Conn., and all persons were directed to furnish him and his horses with such necessities as might be required.

In 1700, a militia regiment for the city and County of Albany was organized, with Peter Schuyler as Colonel. Jochem Lamerse (Van Valkenburgh), Lieutenant, and Volkert Van Hoesen and Abraham Janse, Ensigns.

For the year 1714 we read:

One Comp'ye at Kinderhook.

Abraham Jansen (Van Alstyne), Cap'n, Pieter Van Buren, Lieut., Stephanus Van Ale, Ensigne.

A year later in the list of about seventy privates we note these names: Van Schaack (1); Borghart (3); Huyck (3); Van Slyck (2); Van Alstine (3); Van Alen (3); Vosburgh (5); Van Valkenburgh (3); Goes (6); Sluyter (2); Gardinier (5); Wheeler (3); Van Buren (2); Van Deusen (1); Dingman (2); Scherp (2); Becker (4); Van Hoesen (1); Salsberge (1); Hooteling (1); Moore (1); Hardick (1); Cornelius (1); Haes (1); Rous (1); Jange (1); and Turk, one.

In 1733 there were two Kinderhook companies of which we read:

Capt. Lindert Conyn. Livt. Sander Van Alstyn, in ye room of Burger Huyck. Livt. Tobias Van Buren. Ensign Johannis Van Der Pool.

Capt. Johs. Van Dussen. Livt. Gerrit Van Schack.
Livr. Cornelis Van Schack. Ensign, Lowerens Van Alle, Jun'r.

In 1755 there was a company of which Philip Schuyler was Captain and Sir William Johnson Commander-in-Chief. It was encamped for a time at German Flats and was later a

part of the expedition against Crown Point. In this Company Henry Van Schaack was a Lieutenant and was reported as distinguishing himself in the skirmishes near Lake George. He also served at Niagara. Among the enlisted men we notice Isaac Van Alstyne, Isaac B. Van Alstyne, Lambert H. Van Valkenburgh, Edward Wheeler, Dirck Woodcock, and Frans P. and Johannes Klaw. There were possibly other enlisted men from Kinderhook whose names we fail to recognize.

The same year we have these Kinderhook companies reported:

Capt. Jacobus Van Alen	Capt. Frans Klauw
1 Lieut. Andries And'rse Witbeck	1 Lieut. Johannes Staats
2 Do. Pieter B. Vosburgh	2 Lieut. Antony Quackenbus
Ensign Abraham Van Alen	Ensign Pieter Ab. Vosburgh

In 1767 (with commissions dated 1757) there was a company of which Jacobus Van Alen was Captain. Andries Witbeck, Jun., and Anthony Quackenboss, Lieutenants; Myndert Goes, Folkert Witbeck, John Van Hoesen, and Abraham Staats, Sergeants; Johannes Bakhis and Andries Scherp, Corporals; and Johannes E. Van Alen, Clerk. In the roll of enlisted men we find the names: Van Dyke (3); Van Valkenburgh (24); Van Alstyne (11); Goes (7); Van Buren (2); Pruyn (3); Van Schaack (2); Van Howsen (3); Staats (4); Vanderpoel (5); Scherp (7); Woodcock (4), and Claw (9). These with a few omitted names make a total rank and file of 151 men.

In the same year (1767) we find "Eenn Leyst van het Bovenste Compney," (The Uppermost Company). The roster is of interest for its ingenious spelling as well as the information it gives. It is in part:

Cepten—Fraens Claevw; Leuytenant—Deyrck Goes; Ynsen—Cornelys Van Scaeck Jun.; Seryaents—Pieter Vose-

beurgh, Saemmel Wyeler, Pieterys Gaerdenyer, and Stepanys Van Aelen; Corpereals—Pieterys Yalarman, Isaeck Van Sleyck and Pieter Vosebeurgh; Pieter Van Beuren, Clerk. The rank and file numbered 131 and among them we find: Vosburgh (14); Van Vleck (2); Van Buren (5); Van Ness (1); Van Alstyne (3); Van Alen (3); Huyck (8); Goes (6); Van Deusen (2); Gardenier (7); Claw (5); Van Slyck (5); Sharp (6) and Wheeler (7). A few of these names are apparently the same as those before given and were probably transferred from the lower to the "bovenste" company.

In 1770 a long list of men recommended for commissions in the militia was sent from here to Sir William Johnson, the Commander-in-Chief. In his voluminous MSS. in the State Library may be found (if not now perished) many letters and petitions, some of the latter numerously signed, relating to appointments of commissioned officers; protesting against certain appointments sought by the ambitious who were deemed unqualified or undesirable, and suggesting substitutes for those who had declined proffered commissions. Inasmuch as the many names of those recommended for commissions appear on the roster of the Seventh Regiment, Kinderhook District, as organized October 20, 1775, and reorganized in 1778, we omit them here. More than a year, however, before the commissions of the Seventh Regiment were issued there was a militia regiment "comprehending the inhabitants of Kinderhook and the King's District." We find no roster of the regiment, but from an admirably written letter of condolence to the son of Sir William after the latter's death (1774), we quote the names of "field officers, captains and subalterns," as they style themselves. A few were residents of King's District, east of this District, but the majority by far were of Kinderhook. The superscription and names are as follows:

Kinderhook July 23d, 1774. Cornelius Van Schaack, H. V. Schaack, Andrus Witbeck, Mathews Harlow, Herbert Baldwin,

Daniel Breck, Aaron Kellogg, Asa Douglass, David Wright, Abraham Vanderpoel, Melgert Vanderpoel, Elisha Pratt Jr., John Beebe Jr., Philip Loisler, John Davis, Martin Beebe, Samuel Waterman, Lambert Bungat, John D. Goes, Peter Vosburgh, Johannis L. Van Alen, Abr'm J. Van Vleck, Ephraim Van Buren, Dirck Gardinier, Peter Van Slyck Jun., John D. Vosburgh, John T. Vosburgh, Stephen Van Alen, William Powers, James Skinner, Lucas T. Goes, Myndert Vosburgh, Cruger Huyk Jun., Isaac Vanderpoel, Peter Van Alstyne, John W. Van Alstyne, John Pruyne, Elijah Skinner, Lucas Van Alen Jr., Lawrence Goes, Barent Vanderpoel.

Evidently Kinderhook was well represented by the militia on the frontier, and doubtless rendered much service of which there is now no record. We have some evidence thereof that in December, 1717, an Act was passed for paying and discharging several debts due from the Colony to persons therein named (many in number) for services, supplies, wagons broken, horses injured or killed, etc., in expeditions against the French in 1692 and later. Bills of credit were issued representing different amounts of "Plate," *i. e.*, "*Spanish Coynes of Sevil, Mexico or Pillar Plate.*" Depreciation of face value was prohibited. It was true "*fiat money.*" ✓ Abraham Staats, Coenradt Borgaert, Matthew, Jan., and Jan. Tysse Goes, and several others from Kinderhook, were named as entitled to this or that number of ounces and pennyweights of Plate for services or supplies in 1692 and 1709.

That they were to a degree equipped and trained for service, which was possibly rendered though unrecorded, we may be assured. The laws of the Duke of York (1664) had these enactments concerning Military Affairs, which seem interesting enough to quote in part.

First, that every Male Person above the age of sixteen years, Except . . . shall duely attend all Military Exercises and Services as Trayning watching and warding, . . . under the penalty of five shillings for every Dayes default. Every Male

within this Government from Sixteen to Sixty years of age . . . shall be furnished from time to time and so Continue well furnished with Armes and other Suitable provition hereafter mentioned; under the penalty of five shillings for the least default therein Namely a good Serviceable Gun . . . to be kept in Constant fitness for present Service, with a good sword bande-leers or horn a worm a Scowerer a priming wire Shott Badge and Charger one pound of good powder, four pounds of Pistol bullets or twenty four bullets fitted to the gunne, four fathom of Serviceable Match for match lock gunne four good flints fitted for a fire lock gunn. . . .

Every town within this Government shall have every year four days of Trayning amongst themselves and there shall be also in each Ryding once in the yeare a General Trayning of all the Townes within that Jurisdiction. . . .

There shall be likewise once in two years a General Trayning for all souldiers within this Government. . . .

In the Sevrall Traynings All Males above sixteen Years of age who are not freed from that Service, are to be taught and Instructed in the Comely handling and ready use of their Arms in all postures of Warre to understand and attend all words of Command, And further To fitt all Such as are or shall be in Some measure instructed for all Military Service, against there be occasion under the penalty of forty Shillings.

This law, as regards the "Trayning Dayes" at least, was faithfully observed until comparatively recent times. An account of these famous Training Days in their prime may be found in our chapter on Celebrations.

CHAPTER VI

WAR TIMES

The Revolution and the Loyalists—The War of 1812—The Civil War—The War with Spain.

IN preceding chapters we have noted the occasional Indian forays and the perils and service of our people in the more serious French and Indian wars. The Revolution and the Loyalists of Kinderhook may therefore be our first sub-topic.

The voluminous *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York* abound with complaints of many successive English governors concerning the disloyal spirit of the Legislative Assemblies. They were charged with assuming to regard themselves as on a level with the House of Commons and claiming an equal authority. Their utterances, acts, and failures to act as the governors desired, and their ever increasing jealousy for the rights of the people, were regarded as encroaching upon the prerogatives of the Crown and as not far from treasonable.

The unyielding spirit of his Majesty's advisors and their unwise insistence upon, and attempted enforcement of, exaggerated royal pretensions could have but one result. Peter Van Schaack was one of many not in favor of Colonial independence and during the struggle was an expatriated Loyalist, but he had the discernment to foresee that result. As early as 1769 he wrote to the Rev. John Vardill:

“The benefits arising from our commerce is all that Great Britain ought to expect. By grasping at more they will lose all.” There was almost entire unanimity as regards the principles involved and the rights of the colonies. It was the method of asserting and maintaining those rights on which men differed.

From the original manuscript displayed in a glass case in a room of the New York Historical Society we copied this record:

At a Meeting at the Exchange, 16th May, 1774, ISAAC LOW chosen CHAIRMAN. 1st Question put, Whether it is necessary for the present, to appoint a Committee to correspond with the Colonies, on the present important crisis? Carried in the AFFIRMATIVE by a great MAJORITY.

2d. Whether a Committee be nominated this Evening for the Approbation of the Public? Carried in the AFFIRMATIVE by a great MAJORITY.

3d. Whether a Committee of 50 be appointed or 25? Carried for 50 by a great majority.

Peter Van Schaack of Kinderhook, then twenty-four years old, was one of that important Committee, and subsequently of the committee of 100, known as the Committee of Resistance or Provisional War Committee.

Later in the same month the New York Committee of Safety:

Ordered—That Messrs. Peter Van Schaack, Francis Lewis, John Jay (and others) be a committee to write a circular letter to the Supervisors of the different Counties acquainting them of the appointment of a Committee of Safety and submitting to the consideration of the Inhabitants of the Counties, whether it would not be expedient for them to appoint persons to correspond with this Committee upon matters relative to the purposes for which they are appointed.

Mr. Van Schaack accepted the appointment and rendered the service; for we have in the late Mr. Henry C. Van

Schaack's collection this autograph letter of Mr. Walter Butler of Kinderhook in reply :

. . . I am of opinion our Country never will agree to any measures except declaring their dissatisfaction to the Late Several Laws passed by the British Parliament against the Colonies, until the people of Boston have made full Satisfaction for the Teas they have destroyed, the property of private persons—and whenever that is done will be very desirous of any measures being adopted tending to obtain the Rights due the americans as British Subjects.

The writer was not an enthusiast, it would seem, for the American cause.

When the "alarming news from England" of the passage of the Boston Port Bill reached New York, the Committee of Correspondence there issued a circular letter of information and counsel to all the towns of the Colony. In accordance therewith, on the 21st of June, 1774, the freeholders and inhabitants of Kinderhook District gathered in council, and after due deliberation adopted the following resolutions, written by no "prentice hand," which we recognize, we think.

Resolved—That in the present critical situation of the colonies in relation to the mother country, the appointment of committees of correspondence in the different colonies appears to us to be a measure highly expedient, as best adapted mutually to communicate to each other the earliest intelligence of such matters as may affect their common interest; to concert such a plan of conduct as—being the result of the united wisdom of all the colonies—will best promote their common benefit, most effectually secure their constitutional rights and liberties, and prevent rash, crude, and inconsiderate measures.

Resolved—That as we have the fullest confidence in the wisdom, prudence, and moderation of the committee of correspondence appointed for the city of New York, it is our opinion

that the inhabitants of the whole Province may, with great safety, rely on their adopting only such measures as shall have our common welfare for their object; but, although we think, for these reasons, that the appointment of district committees for the counties may at present be dispensed with, yet, if the sense of the other districts of this county should be in favor of a committee, we shall readily acquiesce in that measure.

Resolved—That Henry Van Schaack and Matthew Goes (Hoes) junior, be appointed by this district to consult with the representatives of the other districts upon the expediency of appointing a committee for this county, and to nominate on our behalf the persons of whom such committee shall consist.

On the 13th of August, 1774, a county committee met in Albany and nominated as county delegates to the Continental Congress, Robert Yates, Henry Van Schaack, and Peter Silvester, subject to approval of the districts. These subsequently indicated their preference for but one delegate, and chose Colonel Philip Schuyler. The people of the city and County of New York having passed certain resolves, it was directed that they should be read to the people in the several districts by their committee-men, who were to take the sense of their districts regarding them. A meeting for that purpose was held here August 29th. In the meantime, Colonel Schuyler had expressed his disapproval of some of the resolves of the New York meeting, taking especial exception to these words, "That it is our greatest happiness and glory to have been born British subjects." The meeting here, in view of Colonel Schuyler's attitude, took the following action:

Resolved—That as we acknowledge ourselves British subjects, it would be altogether improper to instruct Col. Schuyler with resolves which hold up principles that tend (as he thinks) to enslave us.

Resolved—That if instructions for a delegate or delegates, or another set of resolves, are offered to the consideration of the committee of correspondence at their next meeting, such instruc-

tions or resolves ought to be laid before the several districts within this county before any delegate or delegates attend the Congress from the body of the city and county of Albany.

Resolved—That Matthew Goes, junior, and Henry Van Schaack have acted right in giving their votes against paying delegates to go from the body of the county of Albany, as this district could with great safety have confided its trust in the delegates that are appointed for the city of New York.

The decidedly conservative sentiment which was then evidently dominant here, as well as among the Loyalists of New York, was rudely shocked by the outcome of the first meeting of the Congress. One of its first acts was the approval of the Massachusetts "Suffolk Resolves." Those historic resolves in their preamble refer to "the power but not the justice, the vengeance but not the wisdom of Great Britain, which of old persecuted, scourged and exiled our fugitive parents from their native shores, and now pursues us, their guiltless children, with unrelenting severity."

The hopes of the conservatives here were obviously doomed to disappointment. For about a year there was no important action on the part of our people. But, when "the melancholy news" arrived announcing the shedding of blood at Lexington, they were again roused to action by an urgent invitation from the county committee, and they again assembled and chose delegates to represent them in the district and county committees. That these delegates were not extravagant in their enthusiasm for the cause of American liberty may be inferred from the fact, that in 1778 three of them at least received the not always gentle or even just attentions of the Commissioners for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies.

The Rev. Thomas Allen, the first minister of the Pittsfield church, was an ardent patriot, exerting his utmost influence in advocacy of the American cause, not only at home but throughout western Massachusetts and beyond the

border. He was the chairman of their local committee. There was a call for missionary work, he thought, in this vicinity, from which he had heard unpleasant reports. Smith, in his *History of Pittsfield*, in writing of the disaffected there and of their flight from the wrath of their townsmen after the battle of Lexington, says of Woodbridge Little, Esq., one of the most prominent of their loyalists—"he fled to Kinderhook, the place of Tories." In March, 1775, Mr. Allen came and spoke in Kinderhook, as he also did in Claverack and Canaan, "to the delight of the patriots and the vehement displeasure of their opponents." In a letter to General Seth Pomeroy, dated March 9th, Mr. Allen wrote:

Our militia this way are vigorously preparing for actual readiness. Adjacent towns and this town are buying arms and ammunition. . . . The spirit of Liberty runs high in Albany. . . . I have exerted myself to spread the same spirit . . . which has of late taken surprising effect. The poor Tories at Kinderhook are mortified and grieved and are wheeling about and beginning to take the quickstep.

This ardent patriot of the Church Militant was at Bennington where he prayed the God of Battles to teach their "hands to war and their fingers to fight." It is related that some time after the battle, being asked if he actually killed any man, his reply was that he did not know, but that observing a flash repeated from a certain bush and that it was generally followed by the fall of one of Stark's men, he fired that way and put the flash out.

Within a month after the battle of Lexington there was a meeting of the several Committees of Correspondence and Safety in Albany at which the following manifesto was agreed to and subscribed:

Persuaded that the Salvation of the rights of America depends, under God, on the firm Union of its Inhabitants in a vigorous prosecution of the Measures necessary for its Safety;

and convinced of the necessity of preventing Anarchy and Confusion which attends a dissolution of the Powers of Government—We, the Freemen and Freeholders and Inhabitants of the City and County of Albany being greatly alarmed at the avowed design of the Ministry to raise a Revenue in America, and shocked by the bloody scene now acting in Massachusetts Bay, Do in the most Solemn Manner resolve never to become slaves; and do associate under all the ties of Religion, Honor and Love to our Country, to adopt and endeavor to carry into Execution, whatever Measures may be recommended by our Provincial Congress or resolved upon by our Provincial Convention for the purpose of preserving our Constitution, and opposing the Execution of the several Arbitrary and oppressive Acts of the British Parliament until a reconciliation between Great Britain and America on Constitutional Principles (which we most ardently desire) can be obtained: And that we will in all things follow the Advice of our General Committee respecting the purposes aforesaid, the preservation of Peace and good Order and the safety of individuals and private Property.

This was subscribed by Barent Vanderpoel and Andries Witbeck of Kinderhook. Other signatures were doubtless of delegates residing here, but uncertain orthography leads us to omit them.

Evidently, reconciliation, with the conservation of American rights, not independence, was the prevailing idea. Conscientious adherence to this view compelled many of sincere conviction and eminent character to become Loyalists. That there were others devoid of both character and principle, none will deny.

Throughout Albany County, as well as in New York, on Long Island, and in the very considerable region along the Mohawk dominated by the Johnson influence, there were many Loyalists. In 1777, justly or otherwise, it was reported to the authorities in Albany that "most of the inhabitants of Kinderhook and of districts adjacent are disaffected." Certain officers even of the regiment here were charged with disaffection and petitions signed by many asked for their

removal and the appointment in their place of others of known attachment to the liberties of the country. Two at least were thus removed. In Livingston Manor more than three fourths of the inhabitants were reported to be Loyalists. A nightly patrol was established and long maintained there for the protection of those who espoused the American cause. Even the officers of the first local regiment were reported to the Provincial Congress as riding about from place to place huzzaing for the King. We have before us as we write the original manuscript letter of Dirck Jansen, Chairman of the Committee of the Manor of Livingston, to John Barclay, Chairman of the Committee of Albany, dated May 5, 1777. After stating that the district had been thrown into the utmost confusion by the scenes of disorder and violence which he narrates, he says: "We are, Gentlemen, in a most deplorable condition, not having in our whole regiment fifty men to depend on, and our friends way-laid every night and their houses burned repeatedly."

Nor were conditions at Claverack much if any better. In the published volume of the *Correspondence of the Provincial Congress* we find a petition, signed by a Claverack committee and the Field officers of the Kinderhook regiment (May, 1777), asking for the raising of a company of thirty rangers for the protection of the lives and property of the well-affected residents of Claverack, "in hourly eminent peril," it was said, from the violence of the disaffected. Stephen Hogeboom of Claverack, in transmitting the petition with his endorsement, suggested that sixty men were needed, and with the petition he forwarded papers that had been intercepted, disclosing the efforts of the Loyalists to secure recruits for the British army. He also stated that the committee of Claverack had arrested eleven men who were being sent in chains to Albany to be tried, and, he added—"some of whom will be executed if they receive their due reward."

That there were base, evil-minded men among the

Loyalists, and on the other side as well, was inevitable. The time was opportune for all the jealous, malicious, and lawless to vent their spite and venom in dastardly ways. These were guilty of every manner of cruel outrage and violence, not excepting robbery, arson, and assassination. On the other hand some of the "Sons of Liberty," so called, resorted to retaliatory violence not only, but were chargeable with unprovoked outrages upon the unoffending and defenseless. After an exciting and protested election in our village in October, 1777, complaint was made that bodies of armed men from Claverack, Kings District, and Massachusetts Bay had invaded Kinderhook and without authority had disarmed, dragooned, and maltreated the inhabitants. We do not know, but suspect that the armed men "from Massachusetts Bay" may have been Captain James Strong and Lieutenant Hubbard with thirty privates who in May, as we learn from Smith's History, were sent hither from Pittsfield "*after inimical persons.*" We have no account of their service here, but have, we think, the Loyalists' view of it. That some Loyalists, because of "*the prejudice of their neighbors,*" were compelled to flee to the woods and hide in hollow trees and caves we know from their own appeals to the British Claim Commissioners in Montreal years later. The hollow trees are gone, but there is still pointed out the cave where Peter S. Van Alstine, Gysbert Sharpe, and others hid at times from their wrathful neighbors.

There are those who think that some of the men who made the unhappy choice were influenced thereto by their wives. On the other hand, it is certain that the wives of the Loyalists were not in all instances in sympathy with their disaffected husbands. Andries Kittle, living near Little Nutten Hook, had such a wife. We have on record the petition of Catharine to the Council of Safety for the release of her husband and his estate. He had been taken and his estate confiscated on account of alleged disloyalty to the American cause. Accompanying her petition were these affidavits:

Jacobus McNeal of the District of Kinderhook, and County of Albany, weaver, being duly sworn deposed and saith: in the two years last past he has often worked in the house of Andries Kittle, whom this Deponent understands has lately gone over to the enemy. That he has frequently heard the said Andries Kittle in discourse with Catharine, his wife, upon public matters and found that said Kittle was unfriendly to the Americans in defense of their liberties, but that the said Catharine on the contrary always has evinced the most steady attachment to this country. That their difference in sentiments upon this head was often the occasion of dispute between them and further saith not. (Signed) Jacobus McNeal.

Sworn this 4th day of December, 1777,

Before me JOHN VAN DEUSEN, *Chairman*, P. T.

Jacob Van Hoesen ("Taylor") also made affidavit as follows:

That the latter End of last summer or the beginning of the fall, he has worked at his Trade near his House at a Time when the said Andries Kittle had absconded from home and secreted himself in the woods. That the said Catharine informed this deponent that she was much against her Husband's conduct and had repeatedly asked him to return and surrender himself, but that he would not. She at the same time expressed great resentment against the behaviour of her Husband. That She appeared to this deponent well attached to the liberties of America.

Catharine deserved that capital "S." That such was the opinion of the Legislature of 1789 appears from the following enactment:

. . . All the estate, right, title, interest, claim and demand of the people of this State in and to the real estate of the said Andries Kittle, which became forfeited to the State . . . be and are hereby vested in the said Catharine Kittle, except such parts thereof as may have been sold by the Commissioners of Forfeitures.

As one illustration of many records we note that in '88 these Commissioners sold to John I. Van Alstyne, 665 acres formerly belonging to Peter S. Van Alstine and declared forfeited. John was a brother of Colonel Abraham I., and a son of Isaac, as the middle initial indicates.

The traditions of the deeds of violence by the Tories here and elsewhere throughout the country are many. The most distressing of these within the bounds of Old Kinderhook was the murder of Abraham Van Ness, then living between the present villages of Malden and Chatham Center. From the account written by Mr. Jesse Van Ness of Wisconsin, nephew of the murdered man, for Major Ellis's *History of Columbia County*, we condense the following narrative: Abraham, son of John Van Ness and Jane Van Alen of Kinderhook, was a commissioned officer in the Militia. In August, 1777, after an absence on duty he returned home on a furlough. As the Tories which infested the region had not been seen for several days, it was supposed that they had gone to join Burgoyne's army. But the day after Abraham's return they suddenly appeared, attacked the house, and broke down the doors, which the family barely had time to close against them. The house was robbed and Abraham made a prisoner. After consultation as to the best disposition to be made of him he was deliberately shot. William I. Van Ness of Virginia, a brother of Jesse, gives a somewhat variant narrative of the occurrence and adds traditional accounts of the swift vengeance meted out to the murderers. It furthermore states that two brothers of Abraham, David and John, were also commissioned officers in the same company and were present at the surrender of Burgoyne in October of that year.

In the military *Journal* of Dr. James Thacher, a surgeon of the Revolutionary Army, and then connected with the hospital at Albany, we find this entry:

May 16th. 1778.—In various parts of this state the inhabitants are constantly infested with a banditti of tories and other villains.

following the practice of robbing and plundering, stealing horses and cattle, and often committing murder on those who oppose them, and even on innocent persons. A number of these vile wretches have been apprehended and condemned; two of them were executed yesterday. They had been convicted of robbing the house of Mr. Van Ness, whose son, being a captain in our militia, was taken by them and cruelly murdered. The criminals were conducted to the gallows by a guard of soldiers, and were attended by a prodigious number of spectators. They manifested at the gallows the most agonizing horrors. One of them held in his hand a Bible till the halter deprived him of the power of holding it. Had this sacred volume been his companion in early life it might have been the means of averting this awful and untimely death.

In our own village, the house of John C. Wynkoop, an ardent patriot, which stood about 150 feet northwest of what we first knew as the Guion place, on Albany avenue, was confidently believed to have been set on fire in the night by certain bitter Tories living near who were seen prowling around the premises in the evening. The house with nearly all it contained was destroyed. Mrs. Wynkoop (Lydia Silvester), sitting on a chest of valuables which had with difficulty been saved, beheld without hysterics or loud weeping her loved home and many treasures therein melting away, and calmly repeated Thomas Greene's well-known hymn: "It is the Lord, enthroned in light!"

Hardly need it be said that none of the educated, high-minded men among the Loyalists, of whom there were many, were capable of sympathizing with or giving the least encouragement to wrongdoing of any sort. They conscientiously believed there were wiser and better ways of securing what all desired than by separation from the Mother Country. They felt assured also that the struggle for independence was a hopeless one. Events proved that they were mistaken. Then, even expatriated Loyalists said they were glad at the issue, and thenceforth rendered loyal and notable service

to the independent state and nation. We are not to be severe in our judgment of men who were conscientiously faithful to their convictions of right and obligation. We hold no brief for the Loyalists of Kinderhook, but suggest that before we judge them harshly we should be sure that as regards intelligence, character, and distinguished service to the community, state, and nation, we have as valid a claim as theirs to the respect and gratitude of posterity. Most of the Loyalists here declared their willingness to take, and did take, an oath that neither directly nor indirectly would they do or say anything inimical to the American cause; but the oath of allegiance to the Free and Independent State of New York they would not take. They were therefore classed among the neutrals and disaffected whose influence was inimical to the public welfare. The list of Kinderhook "suspects" was a long one and contained many honored names. These were subject to the unjust accusations of the envious and malicious, as well as to the distrust of those favoring the cause of American independence, among whom were many of their own kindred and most valued friends. That they and the families from which many of them were separated suffered greatly is well known.

Before the appointment of the state "Commissioners for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies," John L. Van Alen and John S. Van Alstyne were sent to the Fleet prison at Kingston for the sole offense of refusing to give evidence against their fellow-townsmen. In July, 1777, the Albany Council of Safety wrote to the Kingston Council, expressing their consent and desire for the liberation of these men upon their entering into a bond to appear within six days before the Council, to give evidence "touching and concerning such persons at or about Kinderhook suspected to be guilty of inimical practices against the State."

Matthew Vosburgh, Jr., was among those sent to Goshen. Subsequently, an exchange having been effected, he went within the British lines at New York, utterly broken in

health, and died there attended only by his daughter Bata. Very pathetic was the appeal of the widow here to Governor Clinton to permit the return of Bata to her mother. Permission was given, it need hardly be said. Thus it was also in December, 1779, as regards the petition of Alida Van Alstine to Governor Clinton for permission to join her husband Peter (of whom more anon) in New York. She represented that before he left the state he had been compelled, for personal safety for a considerable time, to seek concealment in the woods; that seeing no prospect of reconciliation with his prejudiced neighbors he was constrained to proceed to Canada and thence to New York: and that by reason of the sequestration of her husband's estate she was unable to support herself. Permission was given her to go, taking with her her three children, a negro boy, and also Annatie, wife of Marte Van Buren.

The state "Commissioners for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies" (1778-1781) were given almost absolute power. Conditions considered, it may have been necessary that their proceedings should have had something of a star-chamber character and be at times arbitrary and tyrannical. It was not long after their appointment that information was lodged against the Loyalists here. Seventeen of them were arrested, imprisoned seventeen days, and then discharged for lack of evidence against them. The privilege was given them of paying the expenses of the major and his fifty men sent to arrest those ready to obey any summons. Loyalists of eminence were called before the Commissioners and tendered the oath of allegiance, which they refused. Some of these were imprisoned at Albany, Hartford, Goshen, and in the Kingston Fleet prison. That prison was a sloop (sometimes more than one) anchored in Esopus creek for the detention of the disaffected whose liberty was deemed a menace. Others were ordered to be deported within the British lines. The haste of the Albany Commissioners in sending a company of these from Kinderhook to Fishkill,

without waiting for the Governor's reply to their letter of information, was rebuked by him, to whom they afterward apologized. Through his intervention other neutral Kinderhook Loyalists who had been ordered deported were reserved for exchange. While awaiting exchange they were paroled to remain within the limits appointed them in Schodack. Some of the paroled men were kept there thirteen months. However urgently needed at home, because of illness or for any other reason, none might leave the limits without the permission of the Commissioners. Peter Van Schaack, who subsequently expatriated himself, was not permitted to take his dying wife to New York nor have a physician whom she wanted to come from there. Governor Clinton, disposed to be lenient and kindly to all of known integrity of character, regretted that he felt compelled to deny these requests for reasons of State which he regarded as imperative. In these and in many other ways the Loyalists suffered for their fidelity to their convictions. Mistaken though they were, we can respect their fidelity to the right as they saw it.

Professor A. C. Flick, in his monograph, *Loyalism in New York*, thus writes:

As the war drew to a close and it became apparent that the colonies would gain their independence, many a loyalist, whose natural conservatism, principles of loyalism, religion, material interests or hope of reward had led to champion the royal side, was converted to the American cause. No doubt many of these were sincere, but others were prompted solely by base and selfish motives.

Later, he says concerning the returning exiles:

Peter Van Schaack and loyalists of his integrity and character, who both denounced the arbitrary program of Great Britain and feared the results of independence; who wished to remain neutral, and who, when forced to decide between two evils, went to England under the stress of double allegiance to await the end

of the war, these persons were welcomed back by all but the extremists.

That there were extremists, incapable of magnanimity, appears from the account in the *Royal Gazette*, New York, June 18, 1783, reprinted from Loudon's *Packet*, of what is termed, "a meeting of a number of respectable inhabitants of the district of Kinderhook, in Albany County, on Tuesday, May the 27th, 1783, Captain Isaac Van Valkenburgh in the Chair." The long preamble and six resolutions of bitter denunciation of all who had been sent or voluntarily gone within the lines of the enemy, while pardonable under the then existing conditions, were not so creditable or important as to be worthy of full reproduction here. They were in substance: that "the wretched men, the miscreants, the atrocious villains," were not to return to the District, and all who had returned were to leave by the 10th of June, or "be dealt with in the severest manner." None were to "harbour them, and no man was to be admitted into the district to carry on any trade or traffic, or sell any merchandise of any kind whatever, or gain any settlement, without proving he had taken an active part in the cause of America since the commencement of the war."

The spirit of this action, excusable possibly as regards those who had joined the British army, did not long prevail against neutral inoffensive Loyalists for whose character and conscientious convictions of duty such exalted patriots as Jay and Benson had only the utmost respect. Peter Van Schaack, second to none in the respect of such men, returned in 1784 and, by legislative Act of May 12th, was restored to full citizenship. By the supplemental Act of 1786 he and thirty-one inoffensive Loyalists were

restored to all their rights, privileges and immunities as citizens of this State, from and after such time as the said persons respectively shall in any court of record in this State, take the oath of abjuration and allegiance prescribed by law.

The list of names included those of Henry Van Dyck, John Van Alen, Henry Van Schaack, David Van Schaack, and Harman Pruyn.

There were many thousands of Loyalists, including some from Kinderhook, who joined the British army and were the most bitter of all enemies of the American cause. As was to be expected, their property was confiscated by the state. At the conclusion of the war they found themselves homeless and impoverished. Some went to England, but more, with their families, estimated at from 28,000 to 40,000 in number, fled to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Upper Canada which owe much to these settlers, quite superior to ordinary immigrants.

That conditions in their new home were not altogether what had been expected appears in this extract from a letter written by one of the exiles:

all our golden promises are vanished in smoke. We were taught to believe this place was not barren and foggy as had been represented, but we find it ten times worse. We have nothing but His Majesty's rotten pork and unbaked flour to subsist on. . . . It is the most inhospitable clime that ever mortal set foot on.

Quite in contrast that with Hudson's record after his visit to Old Kinderhook, latitude $42^{\circ}18'$: "The land is the finest for cultivation that I ever in my life set foot upon."

The League of the United-Empire Loyalists exists in Canada to this day; and if we would learn how mistaken and wrong the fathers of the Revolution were, and, in some cases at least, how base and despicable their character, we have but to read the amazing addresses at the three-fold "Centennial Celebration of the Settlement of Upper Canada in 1884" (Toronto, 1885).

The *Report of the Bureau of Archives of the Province of Ontario*, 1901, adds somewhat to our information concerning

the Loyalists of Kinderhook who joined the British army. John W. Claw, Abraham Loucks, Peter Van Alstine, Gysbert Sharpe, and William Crowder were among those who applied to the Claim Commissioners at Montreal for reimbursement of their losses because of service to the Crown. In 1776 Peter Van Alstine (son of Alexander, brother of John) was a Justice of the Peace here and complained in that year to the Provincial Congress that the people were unwilling to have any Process issued in the name of the King. The other Justices, Peter Vosburgh, Henry Van Schaack, and Andries Witbeck concurred in the complaint, although without any grievance of their own to recite. Peter Van Alstine's narrative to the Canadian Commissioners states that he had from the earliest period (through his wife's influence, some allege) determined to support the British Government; had been imprisoned seventeen days; had been compelled to leave his home and hide from his neighbors; had lost everything, including a farm of six hundred acres and his brick house and had joined Burgoyne's army, taking thirty men with him. Claw had lost about 220 acres with a good house and blacksmith shop and had also joined Burgoyne. Sharpe, living near Van Alstine, had also been obliged to hide; had lost two hundred acres and his weaving loom and was also with Burgoyne. Loucks was in the British army two years; was with Burgoyne and lost everything. Crowder had essentially the same story to tell. Van Alstine and Sharpe had certificates from Mr. Peter Van Schaack as to their early and uniform loyalty to the King. It was only a fraction of their losses that was ever made good to these and others who had staked their all and lost.

The Loyalists of Kinderhook who actively aided the British, were, however, few compared with the inhabitants who entirely sympathized with the American cause. Gaines's *Mercury* of October 2, 1775, narrates how the patriotic girls of Kinderhook at a quilting bee, having no tar and feathers, poured molasses and scattered the down of weeds over an

intrusive young loyalist who exasperated them beyond endurance by his sneers at Congress.

Among the "Resolves" of the Continental Congress, May 25, 1775, was this: "That the Militia of New York be armed and trained and in Constant readiness to act at a moment's warning." Five days later the Provincial Congress of New York, of which our Peter Silvester was a member, considered the action of the Continental Congress,

And thereupon resolved, that it be recommended to the Inhabitants of this Colony in general, immediately to furnish themselves with necessary Arms and Ammunition, to use all Diligence to perfect themselves in the Military Art, and if necessary to form themselves into Companies for that purpose, until the further Order of this Congress.

The recommendations of the Continental and the Provincial Congress had been anticipated by the Albany County Committee. On the 3d of May, 1775, they resolved to raise troops for the defense of the Colony. Those raised in the Kinderhook District constituted the Seventh Regiment. The original commissioned officers were these:

Col., Andries Witbeck
Lt. Col., Barent Vanderpoel
1st Major, Lawrence Goes

1st Company

Capt., Lambert Borghardt
1st Lt., Isaac P. Van Valkenburgh
2d Lt., John J. Van Alstyne
Ens., Nicholas Kittle, Jun.

3d Company

Capt., Philipp Van Alstyne
1st Lt., John J. Goes
2d Lt., Peter Hugunine
Ens., Andries Vanderpoel

2d Major, Cornelius Van Schaack
Adjt., Isaac Vanderpoel
Q. Master, John D. Goes

2d Company

Capt., Gysbert L. Sherpe
1st Lt., John Philipp
2d Lt., Peter J. Van Valkenburgh
Ens., Gose Quackenboss

4th Company

Capt., Dirck Gardinier
1st Lt., Evert Vosburgh
2d Lt., John Klaws
Ens., Jacobus McNiel

5th Company

Capt., Abraham I. Van Alstyne
 1st Lt., Burger Klawns
 2d Lt., David Van Ness
 Ens., John Van Ness

6th Company

Capt., Joshua Hall
 1st Lt., Samuel Rowland
 2d Lt., Henry Bush
 Ens., Thomas Beebe

The Provincial Convention appointed Harman Van Buren, Major of this regiment, September 5, 1776, and he was again commissioned Major, October 30, 1778. Peter J. Vosburgh also was one of our Revolutionary patriots who has not received hitherto the recognition due his memory. He entered the regular army in 1776, was made Lieutenant of the 1st New York Regiment, and continued in service until he retired as a supernumerary. Thereafter, as the records of the Council of Appointment reveal, he was in 1786, a Captain in the company of Light Infantry in the militia of Columbia County, and was steadily promoted until 1819 when he was commissioned as Major-General of the Eighth Division of Infantry. He died January 29, 1830, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. The corps in which he served under Washington was armed and equipped by Lafayette, and the sword and uniform which General Vosburgh thus received were sacredly cherished treasures. His certificate of membership in the Society of the Cincinnati was signed by George Washington. In the war of 1812 he served on the northern frontier.

The changes among commissioned officers, made necessary by disaffection, resignation, and other causes, were numerous. The final revised Roster, the Awards of Bounty Rights, and a note on the subsequent history of the Seventh Regiment may be found in the Appendix.

That some of the people here as elsewhere were willing to earn a presumably honest penny in and through those troublous times was to be expected. Freight rates seem to have been high. We have before us a specimen certificate of accounts due individuals here for public service. Moses Hopkins, for example, in October, 1777, and February, 1778,

was credited with forty pounds, ten shillings for transporting twenty-three barrels of flour from Kinderhook to Great Barrington, thirty miles, at the lawful rate of one shilling per mile for each barrel. At about the same time Lambert Borghardt, Albert Witbeck, Andries Witbeck, John C. Holland, John Van Buren, Cornelis Vosburgh, and Francis Claw were credited with 120 pounds for transporting "each a slea load of Cloathing from Springfield to Albany, 100 miles." All these amounts were increased one third because of the depreciation of New York currency. As illustrative of the military supplies furnished, and also of the thrift of our people, we have this letter of Colonel Morgan Lewis to Major Isaac Goes of our Seventh Regiment, dated Albany, January 15, 1779:

I am now able to give you a determinate answer respecting the oars, poles, paddles &c. The prices the people ask are very extravagant. I would have you try and get them made for less. But if you cannot you must give it. You may therefore contract for twelve thousand oars, as many setting poles and two thousand paddles. . . . I must request you will use your utmost exertion in getting ready at least one-half by the first of April. You will deliver over all the flower and wheat in your possession to Mr. Van Ness, taking his receipt therefor. This must be done immediately as tis wanted for this Department. The snow we may hourly expect I hope will be a means of furnishing us with the grain you have bought. Send up Vosburgh the carpenter.

The records of service rendered by the state militia, as distinguished from the regular army, are few and fragmentary. Our Seventh Regiment, like others of its kind, was largely, we suppose, a home guard, called upon in times of need to render important but temporary service wherever sent, but not permanently a part of the regular army. Descendants of the officers and enlisted men may have documentary evidence and more that is traditional and not wholly reliable of important service rendered, but the public records are few.

In the papers of George Clinton, the first Governor of New York, we find scattered items of information which are suggestive of much unwritten history. We glean from them and from other records a few only of the more interesting and important details.

From July 1-23, and from September 20-October 6, 1777, Major Van Buren was in command of a detachment in active service, and Major Goes in command of another detachment from July 10-20. September 18, 1777, before the battle of Saratoga, Colonels Van Ness and Van Alstyne were ordered to join General Gates at once.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Aaron J. Vanderpoel, we have been favored in having before us the late Henry C. Van Schaack's unpublished "Revolutionary Autographs" containing many letters, the originals. Not without interest is this letter from Jacob Cuyler, of the Commissary Department, U. S. Army, to Major Isaac Goes of the Kinderhook regiment. The prisoners referred to were of Burgoyne's army.

ALBANY, 18 Oct., 1777.

DEAR SIR.

This moment I have received direction from Genl. Gates to supply the prisoners and those who will guard them, to the amount of six thousand. They will be at Kinderhook by Monday night. You will immediately order a man to remain on the road and order fifty head of cattle to come to you out of the first drove he meets to supply them. Capt. Spenir will bring fifty more by Monday night. They will want about 400 barrels of flour to be issued and to support them on the road. What quantity have you got at the Landing and at the Mills? Let me know before I go to bed so as that I may regulate myself accordingly. I will this evening send a man to assist you and will apply to the Q. M. G. to send some person to procure carriages. This is a matter of the greatest consequence, therefore please exert yourself.

Yours in haste,

JACOB CUYLER.





Dishes Used when Burgoyne was Entertained at Kinderhook

From a photograph by William Wait

Mr. Albert Decker, of Stuyvesant Falls, now (1912) in his 94th year, informs us that his grandfather, Nicholas Robinson, a major in a Dutchess and Columbia County militia regiment, pointed out to him the camping-ground of Burgoyne's captured army here. It was in the fields, then woods, to the north of the David Van Schaack (the late Mrs. A. J. Vanderpoel's) house. A mysterious cannon ball, brought to light many years later by a plow, was thought to be a memorial of that encampment. Two soldiers of the American guard, Mr. Decker was told, dying here, were buried in the Van Schaack burial plot, now the site of the Dutch Reformed church.

Kinderhook was never quite so populous as on the night of Wednesday, October 22, 1777, when a portion of Burgoyne's captive army was encamped in the woods then covering the fields in the vicinity of our present new cemetery.

Burgoyne himself and his American escort, General Phillips, were entertained at the elegant home of Mr. David Van Schaack. In the family was an adopted daughter, Lydia Van Vleck Van Schaack, a charming young girl, who became the wife of Francis Silvester whose daughter, Margaret, told us the following incident: After the dinner given Generals Phillips and Burgoyne, several toasts to hosts, guests, and others were offered in kindly spirit, with careful avoidance of names and subjects forbidden by courtesy. At last, however, one turned laughing to Lydia and asked her for a toast, whereupon she replied, "To the King and Queen and all the Royal family." That there was a moment of embarrassment if not of consternation we may well believe, but General Phillips was so charmed by the grace and artlessness of the girl that he smiled and laughed the embarrassment away.

The next day, tradition alleges, the two Generals mounted their horses and rode over the Kleine Kill road, at one point of which an interested woman called out to them, "Which

of you gentlemen is Mr. General Burgoyne?" Whereupon Burgoyne gallantly raised his hat and bowed. That this woman was a certain Mrs. Gardenier of Kleine Kill, whose prowess has been reported to us by an aged friend and neighbor, we cannot affirm. The husband of this Mrs. Gardenier was the champion wrestler and boxer of this whole region. A passing British soldier hearing of him, and having a good opinion of his own accomplishments, was eager to try conclusions with him. With blood and fire in his eye he sought his antagonist. He was not at home, but his wife was very much at home. Hearing what the man wanted, she gently or otherwise took him up and threw him over a fence into the hog pen. A sadder but a wiser man, with regimentals even less cleanly and more odoriferous than they were before, he rose up and walked off and is reported as saying that—if that is Gardenier's *wife*, he was not as anxious as he had been to meet Gardenier himself.

Several of Burgoyne's German soldiers, we read, won by the attractiveness of Children's Corner, deserted and made their homes here. The worthy descendants of some of them are among us still.

Among the *Letters of Brunswick and Hessian Soldiers*, translated by W. L. Stone, is one, dated December 15, 1777, from which we make the following extract, of some interest if not altogether flattering:

On the 22d, (Oct.) our march was almost entirely through woods in which we came across every little while miserable dwellings. Finally after going twelve miles we came to a plain lying between several hills where the borough of Kinderhook (consisting of about seventy stragglng houses) is situated. The most prominent house in the village belonged to a man named Van Schaaken [the old Wynkoop house]. It was built of stone and three stories high. This man showed us many little attentions and was a kind friend to us. The rest of the people, who were also Dutch by birth, were also kind. They had but one fault—that is they were selfish, and were as fond of money as a

Jew. Every article they sold us was terribly dear. Most of the houses were very well built and nicely furnished inside. The inhabitants in general lived well. Their breakfast consisted of milk, tea, roast meat, baked apples and all kinds of rich butter cakes. We could have made ourselves comfortable enough with tea if we had only had enough of it. Those people who were in comparatively easy circumstances had gilt frames around their mirrors and very good pendulum clocks. Similar household furniture can be found only along the road to Boston. As all the barns of the farmers were full of grain we had to camp out in a neighboring wood.

It is a local tradition that some at least of these "selfish" purveyors of supplies were paid with counterfeit money.

In another of these "Letters" (p. 129), the writer reveals his excellent judgment and fine discrimination when after writing of the stature and beauty of American men, he adds, "I will give you some details of the women also when I arrive at Kinderhook." After his arrival he wrote:

I am at last in Kinderhook whence I promised to write you a chapter about pretty girls. Before however reading my narrative to a lady, examine it carefully so as to see if there is any danger of its causing future trouble between me and my dear countrywomen. Should you decide against it have mercy on me and upset the inkstand on the entire chapter. The ladies in this vicinity . . . are slender, of erect carriage, and, without being very strong, are plump. They have small and pretty feet, good hands and arms, a very white skin and a healthy color in the face which requires no other embellishment. . . . They have also exceedingly white teeth, pretty lips, and laughing sparkling eyes. They are great admirers of cleanliness and keep themselves well shod. . . . At all the places through which we passed, dozens of girls were met with on the road, who either laughed at us mockingly, or now and then roguishly offered us an apple, accompanied by a little curtesy. . . . The fair sex were the cause of our losing some of our comrades on the morning of the 23d, of October.

That was the morning they left Kinderhook and proceeded to Claverack, Nobletown, Great Barrington, etc., on the way to Boston, and one of those Kinderhook deserters was Andrew Mayfield Cashore who opened a school here, subsequently removing to Claverack. Another was Christian Bork, who opened a school on the Post Road, north of the village, and later became the first pastor of the Schodack church.

In August, 1778, Colonel Van Alstyne was at Cherry Valley with fifty-one men, Lieutenant-Colonel Barent Staats having chief command. In September, Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Van Alstine was at Schoharie in command of 225 men drawn from eight regiments. This was the time of Sir John Johnson's raids with Indian allies at German Flats and Canajoharie, and that fact may explain to a degree the somewhat humiliating letter of Colonel Van Alstyne to the Governor, in which he narrates that he had been ordered to send a fourth part of his regiment to Fort Arnold in the Highlands, but had been "unable to persuade more than six or seven men to go. These he was sending under the command of Capt. Truesdel." To this the Governor replied three days later that he had "ordered the return of Capt. Truesdel; that the delinquents were to be arrested and court martialed, and that, unless ordered to the frontier, he was to bring his quota to Fort Arnold if it took the whole regiment to compel them to go." That many were apprehensive as regards their own homes and families seems quite possible.

In March, 1779, the "Return" of Colonel Van Alstyne's regiment was 293 men. In 1780 the Colonel reported the sending of thirty-one men from his Classes to reinforce the Continental Army. All did not go when sent, for in July of that year there were ten delinquents reported, and Lieutenant Ten Broeck was ordered to collect these and other delinquents and march them to Fishkill. From August 15th to September 7, 1779, a small detachment from here was at

Fort Herkimer. Mr. Philip Van Alstine is our authority for the statement that Colonel Abraham's regiment was in active service in 1780, October 15-26, and November 12-22; also October 13-23 and October 27-November 24, 1781.

Here as elsewhere it was difficult at times for the Classes to furnish the men required for enlistment in the regular army, nor was it always easy to collect the fines of the delinquent Classes. In December, 1781, Captain Andrew Moodie, then at West Point, wrote to Governor Clinton as follows:

. . . Lt. Coll. Vanalstain from Kinderhook was here a few days ago & informs me that the Regiment where he resides have all their Classes Delinquent & he believes if that your Excellency was to writt to the Colln. on the subject, that the Regiment would hire all the above men, (nine men enlisted by Capt Moodie and whose term of service would soon expire). He said that thier is a great many disaffected amongst every Class & that the Colln. can do nothing with them, without your Excellencys Emediate directions.

On receipt of this, Robert Benson at Poughkeepsie wrote in behalf of the Governor this letter, dated December 15th:

Sir, His Excellency the Gov'r is informed that there are great Delinquencies in your Regt. in raising the proportion of Men for compleating the Cont'l. Battalions of this State, that they have neither furnished the men nor the money. Capt. Moody has lately enlisted in his Company of Artillery, a number of very good soldiers on Condition that he pay them the Bounty before the first of Jany. and as the public Service absolutely requires that money should be immediately procured for this Purpose, His Excellency directs me to write to you on the subject & to require that you will forthwith on rec't of this proceed to the Business & cause the money from all the Delinquent Classes in yr. Regt. to be collected & paid according to the directions of the Law in that case made and provided. Capt Moody is willing to assign to each of the Classes of your Regt. who shall

furnish him with money to pay the Bounty of one of the above men by him enlisted. I am, &c. &c.,

ROBT. BENSON.

Colo. Van Alstyne, Kinderhook.

On the 21st of December, 1781, we find Colonel Van Alstyne at a meeting in Albany which Generals Rensselaer and Gansevoort had asked to have called and at which the following action was taken:

The question whether it was necessary to raise any Number of Men for the Defence of the Western Frontier of this County before the opening of the Spring was put and passed in the Affirmative by a great Majority. It was moved that it is the opinion of this meeting that 200 Men are necessary for immediate Defence . . . & upon the Question being put it passed in the Affirmative by a great Majority.

Five days later Colonel Van Alstyne addressed this explanatory letter to the Governor:

KINDERHOOK, 26 Decr., 1781.

Sir, Yesterday I received your Excellencys two letters of the 15th & 19th Instant, with Capt. Moodies inclosed, by the Men therein mentioned. Immediately on the Receipt of them I went with the Men to the Heads of the Classes, who warned the rest to meet this day for the Purpose of agreeing with the Men, and from the encouragement given in Capt. Moodie's Letter of their being willing to take part of the Pay in Produce &c I had great hopes they would have been hired; but when the Classes met they (the men) would not agree to serve for less than Forty-five Pounds hard money, to be paid to them in hand; this the People declared themselves unable to do and I readily believe it, for I do not think there is one-fourth part of the money it would require in the District; so that all hopes of agreeing with them was at an end and the Men resolved to Return.

I am sorry they would not agree to take Part in Produce Security &c. for I believe some of the Classes would otherwise have hired. Early last summer I furnished the Assessors of this District with the Names of the People who compose the De-

linquent Classes, and directed them to proceed to assess them according to Law, but nothing has been done therein to my knowledge.

Pursuant to your Excellency's Command I will again direct them immediately to proceed against the Delinquent Classes, and probably the new Emission may be procured, which is the best I have reason to expect the People will do.

In explanation of all this it may be well to say that one important service of the state militia was to furnish short-term men to the Continental Army for special emergencies. For this purpose our Seventh Regiment was divided into thirty-one Classes of about fifteen men each, and these Classes were required, when called upon, to furnish each one able-bodied, trained, and well-equipped soldier for three months' service in the Regular Army or pay a considerable fine.

In Governor Clinton's papers, and other records of the time, may be found many items essentially the same as those we have quoted. They report the strength of the regiments at different times. They record their occasional summons here and there, in whole or in part, for temporary active service. They note their supply from time to time of their quota of men for the Continental Army for three and sometimes nine months' service, and the occasional payment of fines for delinquent Classes. For example: In 1781 the 7th Regiment, then in the 2d battalion of Brigadier-General Robert Rensselaer's brigade, is returned as having a total of 317 men, and that same year Colonel Abraham Van Alstyne is credited with the payment of 210 pounds on account of his delinquent Classes.

Omitting nothing we think, of any present interest or importance, we have given the substance of the whole story of Revolutionary service as revealed in existing known records. They show that in the Seventh and in other regiments in the vicinity, many sons of Kinderhook rendered honorable service to their state and country in their times

of dire extremity. At Fort Rensselaer (Canajoharie), November 2, 1781, Colonel Willett, in complimenting the troops under his command, stated that "the patience and fortitude of the LEVIES throughout the whole of this fatigue did them great honor." In this connection it is worthy of note that Martin Van Alstine, who removed from Kinderhook to that vicinity in 1713, built a fine stone house there in 1730 which during the Revolution was barricaded and called Fort Rensselaer.

As in the exigencies of the war the need of men increased, larger and yet larger bounties for enlistment were offered by the Continental Congress and supplemented by the State. Among these were what came to be known as Land Bounty Rights. These Rights varied at different times, but in 1781 a Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Major were entitled to four Rights each; a Captain and Surgeon to three; a Lieutenant, Ensign, and Surgeon's Mate to two, and privates to one. At that time five hundred acres constituted a Right. The ultimate allotments of land may be found in the *Balloting Book*, as it is called, in our State Library. The lands allotted were chiefly in Montgomery (much larger than now), Onondaga, and Tioga counties. About two hundred of our Seventh Regiment are recorded as entitled to Bounty Rights (*see Appendix*) which they could transfer to a purchaser, if they did not wish to retain the allotted lands themselves.

With the exception of those who had fought against the independence of the colonies, all our people were gladdened indeed by the tidings of triumph and peace in the autumn of 1782. For years weary-hearted and sorrowing women of Kinderhook had been writing to their beloved from whom they were separated—"When will this dreadful war have an end?"—"May the Lord soon restore peace to our land, and may the present distress be the means of humbling us all." "I am tired out of living in this cruel suspense and separated from the only object that can make me happy." But at last

their sorrow was turned to joy and with no irreverent spirit they sang, we may think, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace."

From the original manuscript of a letter of Peter Van Schaack to his brothers Henry and David, dated London, February 19, 1783, we make the following extract:

An American Ambassador is soon to make his Entry (it is said a public one) into London. Believe me that however unpalatable this may be to many, yet the great Bulk of the Nation will hail the Event with real Joy. The people at large love the Americans tho the tender ties are dissolved. One or two vessels with the 13 stripes flying are now in the River Thames and the crews are caressed.

Those who had cast their lot against their country, of necessity lost their all. Neutral exiles, recognizing frankly their error of judgment, conscientious but fallible, rejoiced in the issue and said "*esto perpetua*"; and thereto gave their hearts and service most loyally. Returning with measureless joy to home, kindred, and friends, they were received with glad welcome by all save a few extremists who had not the grace of magnanimity.

THE WAR OF 1812

The service of our people in the War of 1812 is for the most part not to be distinguished from that of the several military organizations of the county. Years ago, it is stated, many of the State Records of the war were sent to Washington and are practically inaccessible. From Governor Tompkins's published "Military Papers," the "Proceedings of the Council of Appointment," and the "Index of Awards" to sundry claimants for services and supplies, we glean a few details.

In those days, on the farm now belonging to Mr. John Bray, on the Eikebush road, lived John Bidwell and his son

David, both of whom are buried in our cemetery. Mr. Frederick David Bidwell, of the State Tax Commission, Albany, gives these details of David's military service: 1805, appointed Ensign in the 56th Regiment, infantry, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Vosburgh; 1809, Lieutenant; 1815, Captain; 1818, Major; 1819, Lieutenant-Colonel; 1822, resigned, and was succeeded by Charles Whiting.

In December, 1807, evidently with some expectation of the coming war, the Governor issued an order for the organization of the Columbia County Cavalry, Reuben Ranney being Captain, and Robert H. Van Rensselaer and John P. Mesick, Lieutenants. Subsequently this was made the first squad of the 3d Regiment, Columbia and Rensselaer Cavalry.

In 1808, we read of the formation of General S. Ten Broeck's Brigade of Infantry to which Columbia County contributed 419 men. His brigade is frequently spoken of in connection with the movements for the defense of the State. In 1809 a Battalion of Artillery was organized in the County, with William Wigton as Captain and David West, Lieutenant. In June, 1812, Peter I. Vosburgh of Kinderhook was assigned to the command of the 9th Regiment of the 3d brigade. A month later he appears as commander of the 56th Regiment of the 12th brigade. He reports a vacancy in the company commanded by Andries Whitbeck occasioned by the death of Ensign Thomas Eddy. Lucas Goes was made Ensign. David Van Schaack, also, had Governor Tompkins's commission as Ensign, which we have seen. In August of the same year Colonel Vosburgh's regiment was ordered into the service of the United States and was to rendezvous September 8th, every man completely armed and equipped, evidently at his own expense. By a second order of the Governor "all companies of Light Infantry, Grenadiers, Infantry and Riflemen in the County were to assemble at Kinderhook Sept. 9th., at 10 o'clock, and thence proceed

to Waterford without a moment's delay." Then, a week later, the alarm becoming acute, "all the militia in the State were ordered to be prepared for instant service and ready to march at a moment's notice to any part of the State that might be attacked."

September 15, 1812, the following order was issued to Colonel Vosburgh by Governor Tompkins:

You are strictly charged to proceed immediately to Whitehall on Lake Champlain; your Quarter Master or his agent will procure a conveyance for your regiment by Water from thence to Plattsburgh. On your arrival at Plattsburgh you will report yourself and the Corps under your command to Brig. Gen. Bloomfield, whose orders and directions are to be implicitly obeyed. It will be well for your Quarter Master or his agent to arrive at Whitehall before the Detachment, and prepare the Steamboat or other Vessel or Vessels for your transportation through the Lake.

That there may not be an undue proportion of officers for the number of men under your Command, you are hereby authorized to give furloughs to or to discharge all or any of the supernumerary officers. You are also required to be particularly attentive to the accommodation and health of your Regiment, and to their improvement in discipline, for which purpose, you will enjoin upon your Staff Officers a strict attention to all the duties which appertain to their respective stations.

The Governor's earlier and somewhat severe criticism of the discipline of this regiment may have been due to its apparent excess of disciplinarians. There were privates, however, and we have no doubt that our soldiers acquitted themselves well at Niagara, Plattsburgh, New York, and wherever else they were sent. We regret that the story of their valor and exploits is as yet unknown. That there is a doubtless thrilling narrative yet to be told we were convinced when we read the following names of residents of Kinderhook in the "Index of Awards" authorized by the Legislature's Acts of 1818-19 in "payment of claims for services

rendered and supplies furnished by the militia and volunteers of this State called into service during the late war." William Angus, \$80; Henry Van Valkenburgh, \$80; Andrew Wells, \$56; Lawrence Van Allen, \$56; Derrick Race, \$85; Jeremiah Mead, \$13.50; Jacob A. Hawver, \$55; John J. Clow, \$38; Abraham Brouwer, \$55; David Van Schaack, \$60; James Van Valkenburgh, \$61.50; Jonathan N. White, \$57; John I. Stevens, \$55; William Pulver, \$55; Charles M. Kemper, \$57; Asahel Fuller, \$61; Eleazer Castle, \$115; Jabez Pierce, \$55. What the services were is hidden in the archives at Washington, but we will assume that they were valuable and valorous. We have known some now passed away who were quite proud of their commission papers and experiences.

THE CIVIL WAR

The political campaign of 1860 was characterized by great excitement here as elsewhere. Party demonstrations were numerous, oratory perfervid, and feeling intense. Both here and in Valatie there were large "Wide Awake," and "Little Giant" clubs, as there were everywhere throughout the Northern States. These clubs had their frequent rival meetings and torch-light parades, in which at times visiting clubs from near and far would take part, greatly increasing the spectacular display as well as the excitement already at fever heat. The most notable of these as regards numbers and enthusiasm was that which followed the "Great Republican Mass Meeting" on the afternoon and evening of October 26th. For two hours about a thousand people listened to the address of Senator Wade who was introduced by Mr. Tobey, president of the meeting, who also made a short but stirring speech. In the evening 2500 people took part in or witnessed the parade. Thirteen visiting clubs were present, making 843 men in line, with flaming torches and gleaming transparencies and martial music and shout-

ings no pen may describe. Never before, unless at the great Van Buren barbecue, had Kinderhook beheld its equal. Along the line of march many houses were illuminated. P. E. Van Alstyne was the Marshal with B. Pruyn and E. Salisbury assisting. A New York Glee Club helped to enliven the afternoon meeting.

Per contra. One week later the "Union Mass Meeting" was held. It was addressed by Fernando Wood of New York and L. D. Tremain of Albany. Mayor Wood it was who, six months later, seriously proposed that New York City should secede from the Union and become an independent free city. Only 436 men were in this procession, but more of the houses were illuminated. The birthplace of Van Buren must hold fast, it was supposed, to its ancient traditions.

Ten days after the surrender of Fort Sumter—

Pursuant to public notice . . . the citizens of Kinderhook met in Bray and Herrick's Hall at 7.30 o'clock, on Tuesday, April 24th, 1861. . . .

Mr. Thomas M. Burt having stated that the meeting was called to take some patriotic action in view of the recent attack upon the Government at Charleston, S. C., named David Van Schaack Esq. as President of the meeting, which motion was unanimously carried. Mr. Van Schaack took the chair and Mr. Burt moved that Mr. James Laing and Mr. Ephraim Best be the Vice Presidents of the meeting, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. John Wilcoxson and Mr. Silas W. Burt were appointed Secretaries. The following letter from the Honorable John P. Beekman was then read and its sentiments warmly applauded:

"Fellow Citizens, and I wish I could say Fellow Soldiers:

"I have been requested to preside at your meeting to be held in this village this evening, but my health is too feeble to permit it. The fatigue and the excitement would injure me. In better health I would be with you. My whole heart is bound up in the movement which, I am told, you are about to make to volunteer in the service of our country. From what I have heard from

different sources, there is now no alternative left us, but steadily, firmly and unitedly to support the government of our Country. Let no man who is able falter in the discharge of this great duty, for if he does, he will be disgraced in the eyes of the American people.

“Were I a young man I should be proud to have the honor promptly to enlist as a volunteer, as one blow struck now may save ten blows at some future time. I counsel then—To arms! To arms! and suffer not your Country to be disgraced and her flag insulted by not striking a vigorous blow in defence of our rights and our honor.”

After the band had played the air of Hail Columbia, Mr. William H. Tobey made an eloquent address and appealed to the patriotism of those present that Kinderhook should not be laggard in this moment of the Nation’s peril. He was frequently interrupted by applause, and at the close of his remarks the band played Yankee Doodle, and after vociferous cheers twice repeated that air.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were then unanimously adopted:

“*Whereas*, an unprovoked war has been commenced by rebels and traitors with the avowed purpose of subverting the government and substituting anarchy and terrorism in place of the benign and just principles bequeathed us by Washington and his fellow patriots; and

“*Whereas*, active hostilities have begun and the emergency requires decided and prompt action;

“*Resolved*: That forgetful of all past political differences, we pledge ourselves heartily to the support of the Government and the Constitution, and will devote ourselves with unanimity and patriotic zeal to the suppression of rebellion and treason, the maintenance of the laws, and the supremacy of the Union at all hazards.

“*Resolved*: That while deploring the advent of civil war which the madness of secession has precipitated upon us, we believe that policy and humanity alike demand the most vigorous and energetic measures to crush out treason now and forever, and

that we will sustain the Government in such policy and action.

“Resolved: That immediate measures be taken to enroll and drill a military company in this place and all patriotic persons are earnestly requested to offer their services.

“Resolved: That a committee be appointed to raise and hold in trust subscriptions for the benefit of the families of volunteers from this place entering upon active service, and to disburse the same as required in an economical manner and as in their judgment may best subserve the spirit of this resolution.”

Upon motion the President was authorized to appoint a committee of five to enroll volunteers and a committee of three on finance. The President then appointed as a committee on enrollment, Messrs Silas W. Burt, John Wilcoxson, Peter S. Hoes, James Lathrop, and Henry M. Graves; and as a committee on finance, Messrs William H. Rainey, Lawrence Van Buren and Frank G. Guion.

Mr. Peter E. Van Alstyne moved that the committee on finance do begin this evening to receive subscriptions, which being seconded was debated on the affirmative by Messrs. Van Alstyne, Wilcoxson and Graves, and negatively by Messrs. Tobey, Thomas M. Burt and P. S. Hoes. The president also in a few words expressed his opinion that it would be safer to defer subscriptions. The motion of Mr. Van Alstyne being put was declared carried.

After votes of thanks to the President and the band for their services, and to Messrs. Bray and Herrick for the use of the hall, and after an announcement by the committee on finance that one thousand dollars had been subscribed, the meeting adjourned.

SILAS W. BURT, *Secretary.*

The whole account of this meeting we have quoted from the original Minutes now in the possession of Mr. James A. Reynolds.

Enlistments began immediately and proceeded rapidly. Captain (later Colonel) Charles A. Burt was the recruiting officer of Kinderhook for General Cowles's regiment. His company, mustered in the 91st at Albany, left there Decem-

ber 20th, and was mustered into the United States service ten days later at Governor's Island. It was sent to Key West, Pensacola, Baton Rouge, Port Hudson, and, later in the war, to Petersburg, and was at Appomattox. Other Kinderhook men were in the 44th, 48th, 93d, 128th, and 150th of infantry, and in the 1st, 2d, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 12th, of cavalry. The city of Hudson excepted, the town of Kinderhook far exceeded every other town in the county in the number of men furnished and in the total of bounties and expenses paid. The official records show 407 enlisted men, 32 substitutes, and \$123,161 expended. In Major Ellis's History of the County there is a partial list of enlistments here, with a minimum perhaps of errors, but many omissions, for the total there given is but 333. Stones in our village cemetery give these additions: Robert Rosboro, Quarter-Sergeant, 6th N. Y. Cavalry; John S. Caulfield, Zouave Greys, 7th Illinois; Rufus Wagoner, 9th N. Y., and our everywhere faithful and beloved personal friend, Andrew Hagadorn, 5th N. Y., Duryea's Zouaves.

As elsewhere stated Thomas M. Burt (senior) was Governor Morgan's trusted Paymaster; Silas W. Burt, Assistant Inspector-General with the rank of Colonel, a rank won by Charles A. Burt on the field of battle. General Morgan H. Chrysler and his son, Gifford W., residents here after the close of the war, rendered very notable service in the Union army.

The following Rosters of two companies, copied from the Rough Notes of July 25, 1861, reveal our earliest volunteers only.

The Roster of Company K, 30th, N. Y. V., in the Rough Notes of July 25, 1861, is as follows, 16 out-of-town names omitted:

B. Pruyn, Capt.—G. W. Becker, 1st Lieut.—Adam Lampman, 2d Lieut.—R. V. D. Salmon, Ord. Sergt.—Jas. Makely, 2d Sergt.—Abram Palmatier, 3d Sergt.—Charles Nichols, Musician.

—Andrew Abrams, 1st Corp.—B. D. Butler, 2d Corp.—James Tanner, 3d Corp.—John H. Abrams, 4th Corp.—Privates: John Adams, Theo. Buckman, Wm. Binns, F. G. Bulkley, Freeman Clapper, John Cooney, Thomas Coupee, Daniel Connor, James H. Davis, Charles Fairchild, Wm. Fairchild, Samuel Fosmire, Thomas Grainey, Allen Hinchliffe, Henry Hodson, John Hart, James Johnson, Harvey L. Jones, Henry Lowe, Charles Moore, John McAllister, James Smith, Joseph Schofield, Henry J. Stickles, Dennis Sullivan, Martin Skinkle, E. H. Stevens, H. Schermerhorn, Ira Shattuck, George Tanner, George Trainor, John Tynan, Aug. Van Der Bogart, Hiram G. Whitney, Wm. Weisemer, John L. White, John Jerolewine, George Coons.

In the 4th Company, 128th Regiment (Colonel David S. Cowles) were the following from the town of Kinderhook:

Capt. Geo. W. Van Slyck.—1st Lieut. J. W. Van Volkenburgh.—2d Lieut. Peter Lathrop.—Ord. Sergt. Chas. L. Van Slyck.—Privates: W. H. Hunt, Austin Fairchild, E. R. Hinman, Jacob S. Trimper, James Clark, Wm. H. Sharp, David R. Dennis, Ralph Denn, Wm. Lafferty, Martin T. Filkins, Chas. E. Reynolds, John S. Hardick, Elijah Kinnicut, Elijah Kinnicut, Jr., James Cooper, G. A. Tipple, George Marquart, Wm. Sitzler, Jonas Miller, John Decker, Philo Smith, Isaac Van Dyck, Barent Bennett, E. G. Garner, Theo. Nevens, P. H. McIntyre, Wm. H. Chase, Robert S. Horross, Cornelius Garvey, Napoleon Marborn, Wm. N. Thompson, George H. Woodin, David A. Skinkle, Chas. E. Becker, Wm. H. Pulver, James Kelly, Leonard Kline, James Murphy, Chas. Dearborn, John Laferty, Wm. Smith, Thomas Mixed.

THE WAR WITH SPAIN

The services of sons of Kinderhook in that war were, notably and brilliantly, those of Captain (later Rear Admiral) John W. Philip, of the *Texas*; and of at least two volunteers of whom we know. Ernest Keeler, lately deceased, served in the 31st U. S. Infantry, in Porto Rico, attaining the rank of 1st Sergeant. His father, Charles

Keeler, sought to enlist for the Civil War, but was rejected on account of his youth. A grandfather was a soldier in the War of 1812, and a great-grandfather was with Washington when he crossed the Delaware. Herbert, son of Adam Miller, served in the Engineer Corps in Cuba. Then in Colonel Burt's personal reminiscences we will read of one of our old Academy boys, Francisco De Quirones, who used his eminent position and judicial influence in favor of our acquisition of Porto Rico.

CHAPTER VII

GLEANINGS

The Gazetteers: American, 1804—Spafford's, 1813, 1824—Gordon's, 1836—New York, 1842—French's, 1860. Town and Village Records—The Newspapers: Hudson *Gazette*—Kinderhook *Herald*, *Sentinel*, and *Rough Notes*. Miscellanea—The Park—In Lighter Vein—Our Poets—Sundry Communications.

THE compilers of the Gazetteers, which appeared at irregular intervals, depended on local correspondents for their information. That the statements of different writers years apart now and then appear discrepant is not surprising. The records are undoubtedly nearly accurate and are of sufficient interest and value to justify their reproduction in substance.

In the American *Gazetteer* of 1804 (Morse, Boston) we read that Kinderhook village has 50 dwelling houses and a Dutch church and that the town contains 4248 inhabitants of whom 438 are slaves. Of Kinderhook Landing it says that it has 15 or 20 houses and nearly as many stores and other buildings, "surrounded with an uncleared and barren country." We have some doubt as to the accuracy of the last statement, but joyfully accept this: that Albany has ". . . 6021 inhabitants. Many of them are in the Gothic style with the gable end to the street."

Spafford (1813) gives the town a population of 3709. The Kinderhook creek, including that of Stockport, is spoken of as one of the best in the United States for the abundance

of fine sites for mills, "*another Brandywine.*" The cotton factory at Columbiaville is noted as employing 1500 spindles and as having manufactured 55,000 pounds of cotton wool in 1812. Along the creek were two paper-mills which made 3583 reams of paper and 127 gross of press-paper. There were also two fulling-mills and four carding machines, ten gristmills besides sawmills and a plaster-mill. There were twelve schools, one at Kinderhook and another at the Landing, both very large. Of the village of Kinderhook it says: "Here are twenty or thirty dwellings, several of which, in the style of country seats are very elegant, several stores, shops &c., a church and an academy."

Spafford's *Gazetteer* of 1824 adds substantially nothing to the foregoing account of Kinderhook village, but gives the population of the town as 3963 of whom 911 were engaged in agriculture and 342 in manufacture and trade. It records the presence of 282 free blacks and 178 slaves. The taxable property is said to amount to \$798,304. In the town there were 21,965 acres of improved land on which were 3490 cattle, 997 horses, and 5741 sheep. There were six grist- and saw-mills, two fulling, and one carding machine, three cotton and woolen factories and one distillery.

Gordon's *Gazetteer* of 1836 reports the existence of a Baptist as well as the old Dutch church; characterizes the Academy as of much repute; tells of the presence of four lawyers and four physicians, three dry-goods stores, two groceries, and one stove and hardware store. There are also a wool warehouse, a hat factory and store, a furnace for castings (Mr. Keegan's present barn), a millwright shop, two carriage makers, three smiths, two tailors, three shoemakers, one saddle and harness shop, a plough maker, a painter and glazier, a watch and jewelry store, a printing-office and bookstore, three public houses, and eighty-six dwellings distributed on seven streets; "some of the houses are large and remarkably neat, and surrounded with pleasant lawns adorned with shrubs." The Academy is reported as

having seventy-five students. Evidently the village had made rapid strides since the *Gazetteer* of 1824.

Valatie, unnoticed hitherto, now looms up largely, and as regards its industries has far outstripped its aristocratic neighbor. It had a Presbyterian and a Lutheran church, one select and two district schools, three taverns and four stores, three groceries, many mechanic shops, and about 125 dwellings with a population of 1200. On the Kinderhook creek was the Beaver cotton factory with 5600 spindles and 100 power looms, making a million yards of sheeting per annum; the cotton mill of Mr. Baldwin with 2500 spindles and forty looms making 180,000 yards of sheeting per annum. On the Valatie kill the cotton mill of Mr. Nathan Wild with 2688 spindles and fifty-eight looms was making 7500 yards of printing cloth weekly. There were two grist-mills, also saw, carding and cloth-dressing mills, and an extensive machine shop. Land in the vicinity was valued at from \$45-\$75 per acre. Stockport is reported as having two churches, two stores, two taverns, and about forty dwellings. The two cotton mills of Mr. Wild had 5208 spindles and 180 power looms, producing more than 600,000 yards of cloth per annum and paying about \$500 wages weekly. Favorably located near the river stood the new Hudson River Seminary with accommodations for three hundred students of agriculture and literary culture combined. The classical tuition was not to exceed \$75 and much if not all of this might be earned by labor on the farm. The raising of sugar-beets was a prospective industry from which large returns were expected. This enterprise began well with about two hundred students, but the financial stress of 1837 cut off expected funds and compelled the abandonment of the scheme after a year. The building was subsequently demolished.

In the same *Gazetteer* (Gordon's, 1836) we first meet the pleasing name Glencadia, now Stuyvesant Falls. There were two cotton mills there, that of Butler & Van Alen having 1500 spindles and forty looms, and that of J. & J. W.

Wardle with 2000 spindles and fifty looms. Glencadia had also two sawmills, one satinette factory with five looms, one paper, plaster, and grist mill and forty-nine dwellings.

Stuyvesant had one church (the Dutch Reformed), fifty dwellings, three lumberyards, five stores, two taverns, three warehouses, with one steamboat and two barges making weekly trips to New York.

The New York *Gazetteer* of 1842 represents Kinderhook village as having 1400 inhabitants, two hundred dwelling houses, a Dutch and a Baptist church, an academy, two public houses, fourteen stores, two extensive coach manufactories, two hat factories, one morocco factory, one printing-office, and a number of other mechanic shops. The Kinderhook Academy has 115 students, that of Hudson sixty-four, and Claverack fifty-one. Of our village it is said: "No place in the vicinity of the Hudson exceeds this for the beauty of its situation and the salubrity of its climate."

Stuyvesant Falls is reported as having two cotton mills and one woolen factory, two sawmills, one grist and one paper mill, two taverns, three stores, and about forty dwellings. Niverville is credited with one cotton mill, one sawmill, one store, and twelve or fifteen dwellings. Columbiaville is reported as having sixty dwellings and six hundred inhabitants, also two taverns, two stores, and two large cotton factories with about 5000 spindles and giving employment to about one hundred hands. The town of Stuyvesant is credited with 1779 inhabitants in 1840 and the village with fifty dwellings. One church, one tavern, ten or twelve stores and storehouses; a steamboat and several freight barges and sloops owned there and doing an extensive freighting business are also reported. Valatie, *facile princeps* as regards business, is represented as having two hundred dwellings, 1600 inhabitants, three churches, three taverns, twelve stores, several mechanic workshops of different kinds, four extensive cotton factories employing about four

hundred hands, two iron foundries, one machine shop, and grist, saw, fulling, and plaster mills.

The *Gazetteer* of J. H. French (1860) adds but little to the foregoing. It indicates rather the industrial decline of Kinderhook village in having only a steam cotton factory (standing it will be remembered about on the site of the present railway station), one sawmill, two hat factories, and a candle factory (near the bridge). Valatie is credited with five cotton factories with four hundred looms, employing between four hundred and five hundred hands; also a paper mill, furnace, machine shop, plaster mill, and sawmill. The estimated population was 1500. Niverville is spoken of as having a wadding factory, batting factory, gristmill, and twenty-one houses. Stuyvesant Landing has one church, a flour mill, a foundry, two coalyards, a lumberyard, and thirty-four houses. Two propellers were owned by parties there. Stuyvesant Falls is represented as having one church, three cotton factories, gristmill, sawmill, machine shop, an agricultural implement factory, and thirty-five houses. Chittenden Falls has one church, two paper mills, and fourteen dwellings. Columbiaville, of considerable manufacturing importance in 1813, has apparently lost all its industries.

On the whole it appears that the steady decline of Old Kinderhook in industries and in population had already begun and made considerable progress. Regrettable as it is, yet under the changed conditions this decline was unavoidable, and was only partially and temporarily checked by sporadic and brief seasons of prosperity.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RECORDS

The official records of both town and village are far from complete. Many have been lost or burned, notably in the fire of 1880. Fortunately, however, we have the Town Records from 1788 to 1845 in a volume of about six hundred pages in reasonably good condition, as is also the volume of

the village Trustees' Records from their first meeting, May 4, 1838, to April 1, 1862.

The Town Records are generally well written. The penmanship of Abraham Van Buren, the first clerk, is especially neat and legible, and that of Augustus Whiting, 1835-1837, quite artistic. Much the greater part of the book is filled with the reports of numerous Commissioners of Highways concerning the laying out and altering of roads. The first Commissioners were, Evert Vosburgh, Lucas I. Goes, Dirck Gardenier, Noadiah Moore, and Isaac P. Van Valkenburgh. There are over forty such reports, many of them relating to more than one road. Without a map of the time, showing the location of houses named and their owners, it is now impossible to locate all of these roads with precision except in a general way. Many of them, however, are easily recognized as will be noted hereafter in selected instances. The whole story would be almost interminable. In 1787 we find the names of these Commissioners: Harmon Van Buren, Lowrens L. Van Alen, Frans Van Buren, Lambert Burgart, Abraham I. Van Vleck, Philip Van Alstyne, Isaac Goes, John Goes, Jr., Abraham Hogeboom, John Van Alstine, and Abraham Van Alstine. In later years the number was largely increased and the Town divided into twenty-eight Districts or Beats.

Beginning with 1793 there are numerous records of the manumission of slaves in accordance with the Act of the Legislature for the gradual abolition of slavery. Jeremiah Siemon (Simmons?), John Pruyn, Bartholomew J. Van Valkenburgh, and John L. Goes were the first to go on record as "manumitting, giving freedom to and setting at liberty" some of their slaves. Later, the birth of a child of a slave mother was required to be recorded. And still later a faithless, incorrigible slave, instead of being punished, was reported to the Justices and by them set at liberty and the former owner relieved of responsibility. We note the Rev. Dr. Sickles as among those who thus threw

off their own yoke as well as that of the unprofitable servant.

In 1797, sixty-two pounds, five shillings were ordered to be "raised for the encouragement of schools." In 1798 the amount was \$309.50 for the same purpose.

In 1798 there begin many records of stray animals coming into the inclosures of those reporting them. As illustrative, not necessarily of illiteracy, but of the difficulties of the Dutch Fathers in their attempts to write in English, we copy these curiosities from the early records of a certain town (not our own) in 1782:

Resolved Unanimous that no Hogs being or zoked If to be found in Mischife without being Zokt or Ringe be forfeitted to Parson in whose Incloser they are fond.

Resolved that all fanses be four feet and ten Inses to be reconed lawful.

Resolved that the District hev agred to Rese the some of Twenty pounds for the Relefe of the Pore for the ensuing zare and when necessety Require to be collected by orde Pore Masters of said Destrict the above resolves is Recorded by me.

Tacon up by _____ a large Brown hors marked on his left Botick with a X Coros Sad hos was tacon up the 16 of August. Recorded by _____ *Tone Clrk.*

In 1798 appears the first record of the election of Town Officers as returned to the Clerk, James I. Van Alen, by the presiding Justices, Isaac P. Van Valkenburgh and Nicholas Kittle. The list is as follows: Supervisor: Dirck Gardenier; Town Clerk: James I. Van Alen; Assessors: John A Vosburgh, Moses Brick, John L. Goes, Jacobus I. Vosburgh, John Kittle, Samuel Van Slyck, and Abraham I. Staats; Commissioners of Highways: Elihu Gridley, Barent Vanderpoel, and John Philip; Overseers of the Poor: Daniel Tobias and Daniel Ludlow; Commissioners of Schools: Peter Van Schaack, Myndert P. Vosburgh, and Benjamin Wells; Collector: Stephen Van Dyck; Constables: Dennis Davis, Hassel

Brewer, John Vosmer, Jr., and Amos Castle; Poundmasters: Samuel Taft and Zaccheus Cook. There were, in addition, eight Fence Viewers and sixteen Overseers of Highways, officials of considerable responsibility and power. The voluminous records of their proceedings give ample proof that their office was by no means a sinecure. Their names are not without interest. Fence Viewers: John I. Van Alen, Jacobus L. Van Alen, Aaron Vosburgh, Cornelius Schermerhorn, Isaac P. Van Valkenburgh, Joghem Van Valkenburgh, Burger Huyck, and James Van Deusen. Overseers of Highways: Isaac P. Van Valkenburgh, Isaac I. Van Vleck, Dirck I. Goes, John B. Goes, Alexander McMechan, David Van Alen, Isaac Averill, Edmund Baker, Andrew Abrahams, Henry Van Alen, Nathan Deyo, David Hugonar, Abraham Salisbury, Godfrey Kerner, Jacob Van Bramer, and Martin Kooper. The Fence Viewers and Overseers of Highways were much increased in number in later years. Town elections lasted two and State elections three days.

In 1799 the Overseers of the Poor and the Justices were authorized to join with one or more towns of the County in caring for the poor, and the Poundmaster was authorized to build a good and sufficient Pound in the village of Kinderhook. It was in William Street nearly opposite the present residence of G. H. Reynolds. In it the "Lock-up" was subsequently built. At the same Town Meeting the following resolutions were adopted with this impressive caption—"Prudential Rules and Regulations."

Resolved that no Hog above the age of Two months shall have a Right to run at large unless Ringed and properly Yoked, between the Tenth day of April and the Tenth day of November in every year, that the owner of such Hog or Hogs shall forfeit fifty cents for each hog so running at large.

Resolved that every Ram found running at large between the Tenth day of September and the first day of November such owner (*sic*) shall forfeit Two dollars for every such Ram so running at large.

These "Prudential Rules and Regulations" were re-adopted year after year with great solemnity.

While James I. Van Alen was Town Clerk we have the first registrations of ownership marks of cattle, sheep, and hogs. Later, these registrations became very numerous. Joseph Dewell's mark was "a crop of the left ear and half crop of the under side of the right ear." Dr. Isaac Averill's more artistic mark was "a swallow fork in each ear." To the late Mr. William Max Reid we are indebted for the privilege of beholding how the Town Clerk of Amsterdam illuminated his records with wonderful pen-pictures of cows' heads with prodigious ears extended horizontally and notched in manifold picturesque ways. The pages were a joy to behold. Doubtless our James could have given us much finer illustrations, but he modestly hid his artistic genius.

In January, 1825, thirty-one subscribers agreed to pay James Clark, Arent Van Vleck, and John S. Vosburgh, \$100, "for the purpose of defraying all the expenses of building a public well in the centre of this village, the spot to be located by a committee to be appointed from and by the Subscribers." Charles Whiting & Co., Peter Van Buren, I. Vanderpoel, and Henry Van Vleck & Co. subscribed \$10 each. The other subscriptions ranged from five dollars to one, a few of the latter payable in work. This well is that of our famous town pump.

In December, 1825, the highway commissioners, Arent Van Vleck and Charles H. Coleman, gave permission to Jonathan N. White "to dig a well . . . at the place called Mill Ville or Vallitje."

In 1826 the former method of supporting the town poor by contract was abandoned. The old poorhouse, within the limits of the new town of Stuyvesant, had evidently been sold and the joint-occupancy thereof ceased, for the Overseers were now authorized to provide a suitable tenement and engage a proper family to occupy the same who would, for a

certain stipulated sum weekly or otherwise, engage to support all permanent or temporary poor in the discretion of the Overseers and under their immediate inspection and direction. Bids for this service were to be received at the house of Mr. John Lewis, and at the same time any physician in or out of the town might submit proposals for all surgical and medical aid and attendance.

In the same year our Justices, Lucas Hoes, John I. Van Buren, and John L. Van Alen, Jr., certified to the adoption of the following impressive preamble and resolution:

Whereas the inhabitants of this town are greatly injured in their property while attending church and also while attending the market for their produce by having the provender for their teams eat up and their bags of grain torn open and wasted and in some cases their wagons by cows and other neat cattle which are permitted to run at large in the highways of the town and especially in the village of Kinderhook. Now therefore to remedy these evils, Resolved—that no cow or any other neat cattle shall be permitted to run at large in the highways or the town between the 1st. day of December and the 1st. day of April in each year.

The penalty for each offense was fifty cents. Eight months a year, it doth appear, although it seem amazing, the cows might meet with cattle-neat and roam our streets a-grazing.

We have given the first record of the election (1798) of town officials, and now subjoin the last, in 1844. Supervisor, Lucas Hoes; Justice for four years, John Trimper; Town Clerk, Peter Huyck; Superintendent of Schools, Amos Ackley; Collector, Edward Dennis; Assessors, John I. Pruyn, Hugh Bain, and John I. Shoemaker; Commissioners of Highways, Henry Snyder, Michael I. Niver, and Aaron Huyck; Overseers of the Poor, Daniel Reynolds and Benjamin Hilton; Inspectors of Election, Laurence Van Buren, Jesse Merwin, George W. Bulkley, and Daniel E. Merwin; Constables, Peter Sickles, Hiram Reynolds, and William H. Thompson; Sealer of Weights and Measures, Henry S.

King; Poundmasters, Leander P. Rivenburgh and John H. Groat. For the twenty-eight road districts the following Overseers were chosen: Henry Snyder, John Van Beuren, Seth Turpin, John A. Spickerman, William Champlain, Frederick Shoefelt, Cornelius P. Van Alen, Peter Harder, Isaac P. Van Alen, Michael I. Pultz, John Dedrick, Isaac Van Dyck, Andrew I. Van Valkenburgh, Isaac M. Smith, Hugh Bain, Jacob I. Simmons, John Vosburgh, John Roraback, Delaware Fowler, Robert Patterson, Samuel Hanna, George Snoock, Henry M. Niver, Reuben Miller, William Kingman, John Van Slyck, William H. Link, and James Britton. It need not be said that all these officials long since passed away, but many of them are well remembered by some and all of them by a few. The penmanship of the Town Clerk, Peter Huyck, is beautiful. He merited reelection.

NEWSPAPERS

April 7, 1785, Webster and Stoddard issued the first number of the first newspaper of the County, *The Hudson Weekly Gazette*. It was of four pages; subscription price, \$1.50. Among its laudable intents we note that it was to be a "Centinel of its (Hudson's) Liberties" and to "bring Chaps to the Merchant."

In marked contrast with the County weeklies of to-day its items of local and vicinity news were very few, and there was apparently no care for any historical reminiscences. Nor was there space for such trifles after the weekly epitome of the news of the whole country and world had been given. None the less, however, its files for many years have been studiously scrutinized for what little we might glean relating to Kinderhook. Much that has been found has been or will be noted topically. In this place a glimpse at the delightful amenities of political campaigns may be of interest. It will reveal that in lurid rhetoric and in the richness of their

vocabulary of objurgatory adjectives scarcely have our modern hurlers of epithets surpassed them. As a sample of many others take the County campaign of 1788. We quote from the *Gazette*, omitting portions of the record:

At a meeting of a number of very respectable citizens and some of the first character in the County . . . at Claverack, Peter Van Schaack of Kinderhook was nominated Delegate to the Convention, Peter Silvester of Kinderhook for State Senator and Wm. H. Ludlow for the Assembly. It is Recommended—To the Laborer if he wishes to be employed and to receive pay for his labor—To the Tradesman if he desires to be supported in his industrious calling—To the Farmer, if he is willing to receive a good price for his produce—To the Merchant if he is willing to have a sure commercial treaty—and to every HONEST MAN who has a regard for GOOD GOVERNMENT and bears a true respect and love for his country to support these men with their votes and interests.

So much for the Federalists. But now for the Anti-Federalists, a week later:

At a meeting of very respectable citizens . . . though perhaps not the *first characters* in point of property, yet as such in point of attachment to the liberties, independence and happiness of America, Peter Van Ness of Kinderhook was nominated as both Delegate and Senator.

He was elected, and that notwithstanding this fearsome blast:

To the Anti-Federalists of Columbia County: When we consider the alarming strides you are daily making to establish a system of despotism, we cannot but feel for the depravity of mankind, and urge every honest man to join and repel you, lest your schemes should succeed, and with their concomitant train of vices, poured in like a torrent, deluge and destroy the commonwealth.

Our still living and cherished friends, "Verity," "Veritas," "Old Subscriber," "Junius," "Cato," "Fabius," and a host besides, filled column after column with their stirring appeals. "A Citizen of Kinderhook" had a letter three columns long, from which we take this choice characterization of a certain candidate: "A disposition envious and malicious, puddling in dirtiness, exerting itself at the instigation of evil; and a hellish ambition scarcely equalled by that of Cataline . . . a composition of blackest infamy."

In 1789 David Van Schaack heads a list of twenty-eight "prominent citizens of Kinderhook" who solicit Israel Spencer to accept the office of Justice of the Peace. But soon thereafter Abram Van Alstyne heads a list of fifty-five who write thus graciously: "With our most ardent wishes for your immediately declining the ensigns of office and for all the felicity which private life can afford you, we are, with due regard, etc." They neglect to state how much regard was due. In 1792, anent nominations for Assemblyman, we have this from "a farmer and elector of Kinderhook:"

If you like to have your pockets picked of the little pittance you can earn from the sweat of your brow by ploughing and tilling, vote for a lawyer.

If you want laws made that are full of intricacy, perplexity, uncertainty and a multiplicity of cost, vote for a lawyer. . . .

If you want wholesome laws that have the interest and good of your country as their basis, then vote for a farmer.

"Mechanic" responded for the lawyer and another "Mechanick and Plain Man" wrote for the farmer, Peter Van Ness; but the lawyer won. We wonder how seriously those men and the political writers and orators of Van Buren's time took themselves.

One more glimpse of those "halcyon and vociferous" days may suffice. At that same election George Clinton and John Jay were candidates for governor. For alleged or real irregularities the votes of Clinton, Otsego, and Tioga counties

were rejected, thereby giving the election to Clinton, which made the friends of Jay very wrathful. Hence this record:

The inhabitants of this town on receiving notice of the approach of the honorable JOHN JAY, Chief Justice of the U. S., proceeded this day to meet him on the road to Albany as far as the county line. A numerous and respectable escort of dragoons in uniform with citizens from Albany and the adjacent towns consigned their charge to the cavalcade from Kinderhook, to which place they accompanied him, and at the home of Capt. John Shethar participated in an elegant repast. After dinner, with the true spirit of freemen, they drank sixteen toasts. The eighth was: "Confusion to the cause of Despots, who, in defiance of the first principles of Political Liberty tender to Freemen the envenomed cup of USURPATION."

The last toast was: "JOHN JAY, by the voice of the people our Supreme Magistrate and RIGHTFUL Governor." Mr. Jay's only response was: "The free and independent electors of Kinderhook."

February 26, 1795, Kinderhook and Catskill were made Ports of Entry. The distinction ceased May 27, 1796.

KINDERHOOK "HERALD," "SENTINEL," AND "ROUGH NOTES"

In 1825 Peter Van Schaack (son of Peter the Jurist) commenced the publication of *The Kinderhook Herald*, the third of still existing County papers. The proprietor and editor was a well-educated scholarly man of excellent literary ability and refinement. Through the courtesy of his son, Manton, we have had the files of the *Herald* for examination and have found them replete with matters of much interest. But, as was the case with all such weeklies then, as already said, after the affairs of the state, nation, and world had been presented there was little room in a four-page paper for local matters, much less for any reminiscences by "veteran readers" and their ilk.

In 1832 the paper was sold to Elias Pitts who changed its

name to *The Columbia Sentinel*. In 1834 he sold the *Sentinel* to John V. A. Hoes who two years later resold it to Peter Van Schaack. He continued its publication until 1854 when Peter H. Van Vleck became proprietor and began the brilliant career of the old *Kinderhook Rough Notes*. Mr. Van Vleck learned the printing business with Mr. Lawrence Van Dyck in 1834, in the office of the Greene Co., *Advertiser*, Cossackie. Four years later Mr. Van Dyck purchased the *Columbia Republican*, Hudson, and had Mr. Van Vleck as his assistant for a short time, until the latter came to Kinderhook in the employ of Mr. Van Schaack, publisher of the *Sentinel*. In '48 or '49 he went to California and was absent gold hunting about two years. Returning, without becoming a multi-millionaire, he accepted a position in the *Atlas* office, Albany, and remained about eighteen months, when he bought the *Kinderhook Sentinel* and changed its name to *Rough Notes*. Through the kindness of his daughter Katharine (Mrs. John K. Pierce) the files of the *Rough Notes* until the year 1864 have been studiously read by us with much appreciation of the scintillating genius of the editor. After his death his then famous *Rough Notes* had a checkered career. Mr. James R. Arrowsmith, its publisher until 1867, then sold it to Mr. Willard Pond who named it the *Columbia County Advertiser*. He was succeeded by James H. Woolhiser, and he in 1871 by Mr. William B. Howland, later of *The Outlook* and now of *The Independent*. He called his paper *The Advertiser*. His editorial sanctum, composing-room and printing office all in one, in the little Van Schaack building, now occupied by G. H. Brown & Bro., was a frequent lounging place for us; and we well remember that Mr. Howland, Mr. M. Van Schaack, and ourselves were interested spectators when the new quarto form first came from the press. In May, 1875 Mr. Howland sold the plant to Mr. Charles W. Davis of Valatie. He restored the original folio form, and, better still, resumed the former title, the *Kinderhook Rough Notes*. When a few years later the printing-

office was removed to Valatie the word Kinderhook was dropped. He conducted the paper with signal ability notwithstanding its strongly partisan character. Later, it became the property of the Hon. Charles D. Haines, and was returned to Kinderhook; the present Grange building being expensively equipped with all manner of modern appliances for the issue of a weekly which, with varying local headings, was to supply the needs of all adjoining towns in Columbia and Rensselaer counties. The scheme soon came to grief, however, and our tempest-tossed *Rough Notes* returned to Valatie where it still abides. The present proprietors are: The Rough Notes Co., Thomas Garrigan, President, Fred Barford, Secretary and Treasurer, with Mr. Frank Purcell as editor.

In 1853 *The Valatie Weekly Times* was started by Mr. Henry N. Hopkins, but two years later was merged in the *Hudson Gazette*.

The first number of *The Kinderhook Herald*, our pioneer village paper, appeared June 3, 1825. It was a non-partisan journal of four pages. The subscription price was two dollars. It may be of interest to note that the initial number gives three columns to a report of a meeting in New York to consider the remedy for Delays of Justice; copies from the New York *Evening Post* an article on a ship-canal through Central America and tells of the recent discovery of the most feasible route, essentially that now adopted; reports the nation's imports as amounting to \$75,986,557, and its exports to \$80,549,007. It speaks of the recently acquired independence of Mexico and South America; tells of the wreck of the *Mechanic*, on which General Lafayette was journeying from Nashville to Louisville, and regretfully records the death in New York of Ann Maria, wife of Augustus Wynkoop and daughter of the late Peter Silvester, Esq., of this village.

Beginning with June, 1825, we have these miscellanea: Bain & Birge, at the corner store (now Mr. Avery's) have a new assortment of Dry Goods, Hardware, Crockery,

“Liquors and other Groceries.” They are agents also, and continue to be for years, for the Lottery of the New York State Literature Fund. William Kip is the Watch Maker, Silversmith and Jeweller. Charles Whiting & Co. in addition to their Hardware Store have erected a new Hay Press. Mr. Whiting is Colonel of the 56th Regiment and through his Adjutant, John I. Van Buren, gives notice that Major Barent Van Alen, Capt. Abram Burgart and Ensign David Van Schaack are constituted a court-martial to meet at Isaac Frink’s hotel. We note in passing that Mrs. Kip, Mrs. Hobart, Mrs. Winston, and Mrs. Elisha Dodge were daughters of Isaac Frink and notably worthy women of their time. The Kinderhook Union Library Society is to meet at the hotel of John Lewis (which stood on the site of the present Kinderhook Hotel), to elect five trustees. Abel S. Peters gives notice that the sloop “Chatham, with fine accommodations for passengers and freight, C. Croke, Master, sails from the Landing every alternate Thursday; and the Troy steamboats touch at his wharf.” John Claw, Edward W. Bayley & J. P. Beekman, executors of the late Jacob Claw, offer for sale a grist-mill, saw-mill and 27 acres of land. Henry Van Vleck & Co., in their new store on the corner of Grand (Broad) street and Albany avenue, deal in groceries, dry-goods, hardware, stone-ware, etc. They also offer for sale a saw-mill, grist-mill, and several pieces of property, including the store, dock, dwelling, etc., at the Landing, known as the middle dock and formerly owned by Arent Pruyn. Drs. H. L. and A. Van Dyck have a general assortment of drugs and medicines. A. Sandford is the village tailor with his shop adjoining the store of Bain & Birge. H. W. Peckham sells boots and shoes two doors east of Lewis’s hotel. Next door to the Mansion House is the law office of J. & A. Vanderpoel. Wilcoxson and Van Schaack are also attorneys in partnership, with their office in the building now owned by C. M. Bray. The first-named is Master in Chancery; the latter attends to fire insurance as

well as law. Willard Bradley, third door north of Peter Van Buren's store, sells paints and does painting. Van Dyck & Hawley keep a general store; Mrs. Bill (Deming) has a millinery and dressmaking shop three doors from the Printing office, and E. H. Burchardt is the Cabinet and Chair Maker, to be found two doors south of H. Van Vleck & Co. Peter Van Schaack, Jr., has a Book & Stationery store in connection with his Printing office. Milton Gardner, and soon thereafter R. Graves & Co., are dealers in hats, and the latter manufacturer as well. Lawrence Van Dyck, Jr., was the postmaster for many years. His letter-boxes long adorned the store of the late John C. Sweet. In addition to the good sloop *Chatham* noted above we have a little later, as announced by Bidwell & Vosburgh, the *Sultan*, Alexander Bidwell, Master, sailing alternate Fridays from the dock and storehouse of H. Van Vleck & Co., next above the store of S. Wendover & Son. At Millville (Valatie), not yet the place it afterward became, E. Hull keeps a General Store opposite Coleman's grist mill and James & Micajah Hawkins are Wagon Makers and Blacksmiths. Kinderhook was not without at least one inventor, for John G. Philip (grandfather of Admiral Philip) advertises his famous "Rocking Machine" which will wash ten shirts in five minutes. The purchasing value of one dollar in 1825 may be seen from these extracts from N. Y. Prices Current on May 29th. Flour, bl., \$5.37; Wheat, bushel, \$1.13; Corn, .50; Oats, .27; Oak boards per M. feet, .20; Pine, .15; Prime Beef, \$6.00 bl.; Hams, lb., .07; Butter, .07; Cheese, .05. Scholars in the Academy could have "good board" for \$1.50 per week.

In 1826, March 6th, we have the first reported annual meeting of our famous Conscript Society, the story of which we tell in another chapter.

The same month we read of a "numerous and respectable" meeting of citizens at Frink's Mansion House to consider the multiplication of Groceries, in other words saloons. Strong resolutions were adopted with reference to the in-

temperance thereby encouraged and a committee appointed to secure enforcement of the excise laws. Like meetings were held in subsequent years and several temperance organizations effected, whose frequent meetings are reported. One organization of men had eighty members; another of young men and women had seventy, and a large society was formed among the Academy students which the *New York Chronicle* hailed as "the pioneer organization of its kind and a model for other institutions of learning."

In 1828 R. Graves & Co. open their Hat store; Chas. Whiting, Lucas Hoes, and Samuel Hanna establish the Kinderhook Furnace and Iron Works; and in 1829 Chambers & Albertson have a Silk, Cotton & Woolen Dyeing establishment.

April, 1830, P. I. Lewis of Kinderhook and E. G. Wright commence running a line of stages to connect with the river boats.

In the issue of May 19, 1831, appears this charming notice:

Slices of wedding cake have so often accompanied marriage notices of late, that we shall for the future omit to notice the receipt of these delicious morceaux. Candidates for matrimony will please to take notice that the following distinction will be made between those who remember the printer, and those who remember to forget him on these delightful occasions. The names of the former will be recorded in CAPITALS, while the latter must be contented with Small Caps.

In 1897 Mr. Henry C. Van Schaack, of Manlius, contributed to the *Rough Notes* an article entitled—"An Old Newspaper File. Kinderhook in 1832." The paper referred to was the *Columbia Sentinel*, the forerunner of the *Rough Notes*. The editor was Elias Pitts, an enterprising news-gatherer and a fearless censor. Overwhelmed by undesirable contributions, Mr. Pitts informs contributors that he considered "the scissors mightier than the pen"; and that

unsolicited contributions will be consigned to the wastebasket. He makes an exception, however, as regards one contributor who writes thusly:

I am one among a number of inhabitants of this goodly village who are annoyed by a nuisance which is suffered to exist from year to year without any serious effort to abate it. I allude to the running at large of hogs through the streets. The Spring having opened, and it being a season when these grunting squadrons are most troublesome, I at this time broach the subject in the hope that something effectual will be done to remedy this serious evil. . . . Should it continue to progress in the same ratio for a few years to come, we may expect hogs to enter our houses as unceremoniously as they enter our door yards.

On the 12th of March, a great freshet over the ice raised the river above the mole, four feet high, which surrounded the upper Light House at the Landing, and then suddenly lifting the ice swept it with irresistible force against the stone building. Of ten occupants four were buried in the ruins.

The *New York Evening Post* having reprinted one of Pitts's fiery articles, and credited it to the hated rival, the *Troy Budget*, is thus gently reprov'd:

The *New York Evening Post* of Monday last contains one of our editorials of last week, accredited to that fudge pudge grab bag of news the *Troy Budget*. We are always glad to enliven the columns of our pilfering and moribund contemporaries.

Editor Pitts was a strong political writer. He tells us that: "Martin Van Buren, having been rejected by the United States Senate, as unfit to represent our Country at the Court of St. James, the citizens of Kinderhook and adjacent towns, met at the Mansion House, on the village square (February 11, 1832), to express their disapprobation of the action of the upper House. The meeting was addressed by Judge Aaron Vanderpoel and Julius Wilcoxson who completely vindicated Mr. Van Buren from the 'foul aspersions

with which his political opponents had attempted to sully his fair fame.' ” The sentiments of the speakers were responded to with tumultuous applause. Van Buren having been turned down by the casting vote of Vice-President Calhoun, through the machinations of Clay and Webster—a most unholy alliance—Mr. Pitts consigned this triumvirate to perpetual infamy.

The editor of the *Sentinel* was evidently a discriminating critic of unsolicited poetry, for, in declining the “gush” entitled *An Exile's Dying Prayer*. he says:

We doubt not that you will improve by a proper cultivation of your talents, and eventually become a writer of no inconsiderable merit. But your “*Dying Prayer*” makes one long to live over a misspent life; Your “*Ode to Spring*” is out of season; and while your description of “*An Old Maid*” is tolerable, we dare not for the life that is within us publish it, for fear of losing a considerable number of our subscribers.

About this time the Kinderhook Literary Association was organized. The *Sentinel* had this account of its purpose and organization:

At a meeting of many citizens of this village . . . Dr. J. M. Pruyn was called to the chair and Mr. Theodore B. Myers appointed Secretary. Mr. Lucian I. Bisbee, Recording Secretary of the National Society of Literature and Science being present, was requested to explain the design of the same, which he did. Thereupon the following Constitution was adopted:—

“Art. I. The undersigned, inhabitants of Kinderhook and vicinity, in view of the great advantages to be derived from a village Literary Society founded on a Library of Periodicals, do hereby associate ourselves together for this purpose and obligate ourselves, respectively, to pay two dollars for one year, provided as many as ten or more members can be obtained.

“Art. II. This Society shall be known as the Kinderhook Literary Association. Its supervision shall be under a President,

one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian, who shall be chosen annually.

“Art. III. The Magazines and Books are to be selected and deposited at such a place as a majority of the Society shall designate, and its members shall be allowed to draw on Number or Volume and to retain it one week if it be a monthly or two weeks if it be a quarterly.

“Art. IV. At the close of each year periodicals to be sold at auction, etc.

“Art. V. Members and their families to have free admission to Lectures.

“Art. VI. This Society to be auxiliary to the National Society of Literature and Science and its President to be ex-officio member thereof.

Messrs. Laing, Van Dyck and Myers, a committee to select officers reported the following, who were elected: Dr. John M. Pruyn, President; W. V. S. Woodworth, Vice-President; John H. Reynolds, Secretary; A. P. Van Deusen, Librarian.

It was unanimously resolved That a Course of Lectures be delivered before the Association by suitable persons during the winter, and the President, at the earnest solicitation of the association consented to deliver the Introductory Lecture.

It was further Resolved That a Debating Club in connection with the association be speedily formed.

In 1839 the Kinderhook Lyceum, as it came to be called, was evidently at the height of its glory.

From *Whims, Scraps and Oddities*, compiled by the late Honorable John H. Reynolds, we copy the scheme of a public debate, E. F. Carter, President, March 29, 1839.

Question 1st. “Would the present generation under similar circumstances, act with as much patriotism and virtue as did our Ancestors of the Revolution?” Affirmative—W. Herrick, E. Peck. Negative—P. I. Philip, H. T. Woodworth.

Question 2d. “Ought the American Government to have assisted Greece in her late struggle for Liberty?” Affirma-

tive—J. H. Reynolds, C. P. Collier. Negative—W. Smith, Theodore B. Myers.

Address by George Van Santvoord. A reasonably full evening.

The report of a "Disinterested Spectator" was as follows:

We had the pleasure of listening to the eloquent debate upon the two questions selected for public discussion by the talented members of this Association; and we must express not only our gratification, but our admiration of the manner in which the respective subjects were handled. As friends to merit and to honorable aspirants for literary fame, we consider it a duty to eulogize where eulogy is deserved, and to foster rising genius rather than attack it with the poisoned weapon of malicious and illiberal criticism. To those who deem it proper to criticize the productions of young men severely, we must be permitted to say, that in a majority of instances jealousy and envy prompt the critic to be unjust and censorious; and as, according to the immortal Peter McGrawler, "there are three departments in criticism, slashing, plastering and tickling," it requires the genius of a Jeffries to unite the whole in the unexceptional composition: and therefore modern critics tread on dangerous ground.

The virtue of our revolutionary ancestors was portrayed in glowing colors by Mr. Philip, while the enterprise and patriotism of the present generation was ably shown by Messrs. Peck and Herrick. The Grecian question was most hotly contested. Messrs. Reynolds and Collier almost made us see the victims of despotic oppression fall before the sabre of the turbaned Turk battering with their blood the ancient monuments of their ancient glory and skill. Messrs. Myers and Smith made happy allusions to the Quixotic spirit abroad in the land which impelled every adventurer to raise some tattered ensign and march to the field of glory. The unconstitutionality and inexpediency of interfering with foreign nations, were also shown in a clear light.

As to the address of Mr. Van Santvoord, we speak the sentiments of all present, when we say it was "*sans peur, et sans reproche*"—worthy the reputation of the orator, and that it did

honor both to his head and to his heart. To the members of the Association we cordially extend the right hand of amity, and pledge ourselves to break a lance in their behalf, whenever malicious criticism shall throw down the gauntlet of defiance.

Many items gleaned from the files of the *Rough Notes* are elsewhere given, but a few miscellaneous notes concerning men, things, and events will not come amiss to our older readers.

Mr. Van Vleck prefaces his Salutory with a paragraph of "last Words of the Sentinel" (Mr. P. Van Schaack), graciously commending the *Rough Notes* to the generous and liberal support of the whole community. Mr. Van Vleck announces his intention to make the paper "worthy of circulation in every family and an agreeable companion at every fireside," an intention which he notably fulfilled with much originality and occasional brilliancy. Looking over the advertising columns ('54-'56) we notice that John C. Sweet's Book Store is near the bank, and that of Peter Van Schaack (now used as a show-room by Brown Brothers) opposite the bank. Not only books, papers, stationery, wall-paper and seeds, but cure-alls, pain-killers, pills, plasters, liniments, ointments, hair-dyes and the like in profusion and of wonderful efficiency were to be had at one or the other of these well-remembered emporiums. The Duke of Marlborough, passing through our village on a coaching trip, confessed there was nothing on his side of the water to match one of our famous News Rooms, which many remember well.

Mr. C. Whiting, Jr., invites public attention to his stock of Hardware, and Mr. Peter Van Schaack to his Insurance Agency and also to Mustang Liniment. John Wilcoxson, in the store formerly occupied by George Wells and before him by Blanchard & Whitbeck, had a very handsome assortment of Spring and Summer Dry Goods, also Groceries and Crockery. His store stood on the site of the Kinderhook Bank's brick building, now owned by Augustus Bauer.

C. M. Van Valkenburgh, Saddle and Harness Maker, late from Troy, has taken the shop formerly occupied by Daniel Crowley, a few doors west of Wilder's hotel. Sylvester Becker is his competitor at Valatie. Mr. Lillibridge has moved his Boot and Shoe store to the Peckham building nearly opposite the Union bank, and John Bray, Jr. has also removed his Shoe Store and Shop to the new and commodious building recently erected on the site of his former place of business. John J. Van Volkenburgh, Referee, announces a Partition sale of land belonging to the estate of Doctor John Vanderpoel, deceased; and Dr. A. P. Cook of Hudson wants to sell his farm of 212 acres near Kinderhook. Marcus Reid is ready to do all kinds of House, Carriage and Sign painting, but has a rival; for John Van Buren and William Caulfield announce the dissolution of their partnership and that the latter will continue the business of House, Sign and Carriage painting. George Ray has sold his Grocery and Provision business to George W. Hoxsie. Peter B. Van Slyck and John McAleese, blacksmiths, have dissolved partnership, but the latter will continue business at the old stand. Later, he adds thereto the Carriage and Sleigh making business purchased of John H. Melius. H. M. Graves, successor to John R. Beale, has received all the latest styles of Hats, Caps, Ladies Furs, etc. Richard Graves has a similar stock with Robes and Ready Made Clothing added, and his niece, Miss Pamela, is prepared to teach Music, both vocal and instrumental. A. Sandford, the village tailor, is ready to do all needed Cutting and Repairing, and Charles Palmer, Copper and Tin-Smith, has his stand one door from the Union Bank.

At Stuyvesant, Philip L. Schermerhorn & Co. have lately opened a new and extensive Lumber Yard. There, also, A. Davis & Co. announce that the New Barge, *Meteor*, Captain V. B. Budd, fitted up with Saloons, State-Rooms and every convenience for passengers, affording a pleasant, cheap and safe conveyance, will be towed weekly between Stuyvesant and New York by the steamer *Washington*. Later, the same

year, they announce the new Propeller *Davis* as making the trip weekly in eleven hours. Wm. Niver, proprietor of the Niverville stage, advertises that passengers can go to New York by the Harlem R. R. in six hours. J. J. Mandeville, successor to Barent Van Slyck, makes four regular trips to meet trains and the boat *P. G. Coffin* at Stuyvesant. Through tickets to New York, \$2.62½; to Albany, 60 cents; saving 25 cents. Lawrence Van Buren, Postmaster, announces the southern mail as arriving at 9 A.M. and leaving at 12 M. Other mails arrive at 8 A.M. and leave at 3 P.M. New York daily papers are due at Sweet's at 1 P.M. W. F. Van Volkenburgh, Coach, Carriage and Sleigh Painter has his Shop opposite the Grove. James E. Nearing opens his law-office one door south of Witbeck's hotel. The Dentists, Van Vleck and Reynolds, have each a "Chamber of Horrors" (not so designated however) at Valatie, where Robert Martsh offers for sale his block of dwellings and stores which should yield the purchaser fourteen per cent. The quarterly statement of the Kinderhook bank, sworn to by cashier Franklin G. Guion (May, 1854) before Justice Sweet, shows—Capital, \$125,000: Profits, \$5,150: Notes in Circulation—\$75,363: Due Depositors—\$66,641. This bank also advertises 10,000 pennies on sale at a discount of 4 per cent. The quarterly statement of the Union bank, sworn to by William H. Tobey, President, and William H. Rainey, Cashier, before Justice F. W. Bradley, is—Capital \$150,000: Profits, \$7,368: Notes in Circulation—\$111,741: Due depositors, \$47,055.

At our Village Charter election (1854) the following were chosen without opposition: President, David Van Schaack: Trustees—Amos Ackley, Lucas Pruyn, Calvin L. Herrick, John Mickel, Lawrence Van Buren, and James P. Chrysler. Clerk and Collector, G. W. Hoxsie: Treasurer, John Wilcoxson. These "City Fathers" having voted to enclose our Park with an iron fence, Editor Van Vleck suggests a circular railing fifteen or twenty feet in diameter around the famous

Elm tree, which will be remembered as destroyed in 1880 by fire. He recommends an improvement on the present "octagon, quadrangular, horizontal-parallel, ill-shaped apology whereat strangers irreverently laughed." "Now," he adds, "while opportunity offers, get the thing up in ship-shape and Bristol fashion, and the question will not again be asked us if we take our Park in at night for fear of it being stolen." The "Fathers," however, disregarding this counsel, proceeded to appoint Trustees Ackley, Herrick, and Pruyn a committee to contract for the building of the fence for \$500 or less, the space to be enclosed being left to their discretion. Although over-ruled, our editor assented and graciously said: "We congratulate our citizens upon the prospect of having a neat little park to which they can point with Pride." The "prospect" however, was very slow in materializing, and the pointing with pride considerably delayed. It was only after several months of controversy, many changes of plans, and considerable difficulty with the contractors that the work was finally completed for about \$415. Only to strangers need we say that that was the park which the late Mrs. Peter Bain, in 1882 so notably and generously improved and beautified, with its granite coping, its substantial and elegant light standards, and its massive stone watering-trough, with its memorial inscription.

Mr. Charles Whiting, August 3, 1854, advertises thus informingly:

FOR SALE: The Corner Lot fronting the Park, in the most central part of the village, on which stands the Hardware Store now in possession of C. Whiting, Jr., (part of which is also occupied as a Banking House by the Union Bank) a Tin Shop and Meat Market. The Hardware Store is the oldest and best stand for business in the country.

Also the Corner Lot near the Brick Church, on which stands a large Steam Flouring Mill, with three run of stone, together with a Saw Mill which saws annually from 1000 to 1500 logs, a Store House for grain and a Brick Blacksmith and Cooper's Shop.

Old Kinderhook

The flour manufactured at this Steam Mill bears the reputation of being equal in quality to that produced by the most celebrated Western Mills, and sells at the highest price in the New York market.

At the same time Charles Whiting, Jr., offers his stock of Hardware and Iron for sale.

In 1855, John H. Melius is the village Carriage and Sleigh maker. He later sells his business to Mr. McAleese. R. Graves has Clothing, Hats, Caps, Furs and Robes to sell. The Kinderhook and Stuyvesant Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co. is formed. Henry Snyder, President, and P. E. Van Alstyne, Secretary. A portion of the present W. B. Van Alstyne farm is said to be peculiarly rich in arrowheads and other Indian relics. Homer Blanchard and T. M. Burt, in the Wool business, dissolve partnership and Mr. Blanchard removes the business to Hartford. The building, which stood about where the church sheds now are, is a part of the large barn near the bridges. It was purchased and moved by Henry Snyder, and was first a broom factory, and later a steam paper mill. Five hundred dollars is appropriated for a new fire engine, the old one being unfit for use when the Academy boarding-house was burned in 1854. Justice Hinman, a leading supporter of the Baptist church, dies. In September, Washington Irving visits ex-President Van Buren at Lindenwald, where more than fifty years before he had been a tutor in the family of Judge William P. Van Ness and commenced his literary career. The census of 1855 reveals the village as containing 173 dwellings, 212 families, and a population of 1060; Town, 3550.

In February, 1856, G. W. Hoxie advertises "Peaches and Melons fresh every Wednesday morning." He also presents a 12 lb. bell to Engine Co. No. 2. James Lathrop takes the store long occupied by Charles Whiting, Jr., and Lawrence Van Dyck opens a new Book and Stationery Store in the building adjoining John Wilcoxson's store, on the old bank corner. Early in 1856 Valatie votes for Incorporation by a

majority of 56. At an indignation meeting, held in the Baptist church, after the attack on Charles Sumner, Charles L. Beale delivered a stirring address and strong denunciatory resolutions were adopted.

In addition to those already noted, we observe these as among the active business men of the time: Edward Rise-dorph, Carriages and Blacksmithing; Van Bramer and De Myer, Groceries, etc., in the store formerly kept by S. A. Fowler (now D. C. Hull); William Kip, Watches, Clocks, etc., in the building that lately went voyaging through our streets and was twice sold while on its way; John Wilcoxson, Dry Goods, etc.; Marcus Reid, Paints, in the shop recently purchased of F. W. Bradley, Esq.; Bray and Griffen, Shoes; C. Palmer, Stoves; J. C. Sweet, Books and Stationery; Peter Van Schaack, Garden Seeds, and a pleasing variety of Cure-alls for man and beast. B. Van Slyck, Jr., was running stages to the Landing to meet trains and boats, and William Niver was rendering like service to Niverville. Personal memories afford ground for the belief that the very same vehicles, horses, and harness were in use twenty years later.

In the *Rough Notes* of August 23, 1860, we find "Reminiscences of Kinderhook" of much interest, of which we give the substance:

Last week while workmen were digging a trench from the Union Bank to the store belonging to the estate of the late John Bain, when in about the center of the street, four feet below the surface, they struck a coffin which contained the remains of a human being. The spot where these remains were found is in the center of the village and near the southern end of the public burial ground, laid out at the settlement of the village, long before the Revolutionary war.

At that time the village proper was located on Hudson Street, and what is now known as William Street was the principal road leading into it from Valatie, which place then contained only a gristmill or two, and as many dwellings.

During the year 1814, the population of our village having increased, the congregation of the Reformed Dutch church (then the only religious denomination in this section) concluded to tear down their old church under the hill, and commenced the erection of the Brick Church where it now stands. The business of the place soon followed, and stores and dwellings clustered around it and formed what now is the central part of the village. Mr. Abraham I. Van Vleck (father of H. and A. Van Vleck) moved up street and built what has been known as the "old yellow store," where he carried on the mercantile business till about the year 1816, when he retired and established his sons.

In the *Rough Notes* of November 28, 1861, under the caption "An Old Landmark Removed," we have this illuminating record:

The old building, owned by Gen. Charles Whiting, standing on the corner opposite the Brick Church is now being torn down and removed. . . . It was built in 1817 by the late Dr. H. L. Van Dyck and rented to Ebenezer Crocker and Lawrence Van Dyck who occupied it for two years as a Dry Goods and Grocery store. When the firm dissolved Mr. Van Dyck continued the business there until he removed to the building now occupied by B. De Myer as a hotel, but then called "the Old Academy" and purchased by Mr. V. D. of the trustees by building for them the building now owned by B. Van Slyke. The post office was at one time here, Mr. Van Dyck being the postmaster. . . . After the removal of Mr. Van Dyck the old store remained vacant for a number of years when it was again occupied as a store and dwelling by Isaac McCagg, and a Mr. Ainsworth. It has passed through many vicissitudes. It has been store, dwelling, wagon-maker's shop, wool house and a grain store, and now it is to be converted into a hay-press and barn. Great reason have we to cherish its memory. It stood directly in our route to school, and in fair weather the boys used to play ball against its side and chase each other around it in foul. In the spring of the year, when the cellar was flooded with water, many is the sail we have enjoyed in an old cask, which sometimes did overturn and wet

our pantaloons; and when we entered school, upon the benches our mark we made long before we had learned to write. Good by, old fellow. Though like an old tooth thou hast long exhibited a decayed appearance, yet like it when removed, you leave a large vacuum in the aspect of things.

The barn and hay-press referred to by our vivacious editor were built by General Whiting on his own premises, now belonging to Mrs. James A. Reynolds.

On Church Street, near the present residence of Mr. John Hagadorn, was the Wool Warehouse already noted as being now the barn on the Davie place. The large workshop of G. H. Brown and Bro. was built by General Whiting for Carriage and Wagon making and was long thus used, especially to supply a Southern market. Thereafter it was at different times a Steam Saw Mill, Flour Mill, and within our recollection a Hoop Skirt Factory. In this building the ladies of the Dutch church held their notable Fair on the Fourth of July after the burning of the Church. In the older building on the corner the organizers of the Methodist church held Sunday services for a time before their church edifice was built.

In December, 1861, Kinderhook and Valatie were first connected by telegraph. On the 14th, Sylvester Becker, President of Valatie village, sent this first message, addressed to President W. H. Tobey: "Our two villages are connected together by telegraph wires. May we ever live in friendship and brotherly love, ever assisting each other as opportunity offers." To which Mr. Tobey replied: "Kinderhook reciprocates the greeting of Valatie, and while she follows in the track of her improvement acknowledges with motherly pride the daughter's progress and prosperity."

IN LIGHTER VEIN

In our researches we have found many a poetic "gem of purest ray serene" in "the hidden depths" of the Kinder-

hook *Sentinel*. Regretting that we have not space for these classics entire, we refer the reader to the issues of July 29th, August 5th and 19th, 1852, for the omitted stanzas. Of the first, of six stanzas, we quote the first and the fifth:

TO A LADY'S HAND AT KINDERHOOK

Lady, though sculpture has the power
 To charm me with its mimic art,
 There is a hand, of Nature's mould,
 Can thrill the pulses of the heart.

So lily-white; and is the heart
 That feeds with life each purple vein,
 As pure as that white palm appears,
 As free as that white hand from stain?

MELVILL. Willow Grove.

Of the second, of eight stanzas, the first and the last must suffice:

TO THE THUMB OF A LADY'S WHITE HAND AT KINDERHOOK

Lady! thy Thumb's bewitching charms
 Which Melvill passed neglected by,
 Inspire my muse to take up arms
 For beauties scorned, for chivalry.

Pure thumb! thy beauties I adore,
 Thou art a proud, high, noble thing,
 Never like Saxon slave hast worn
 Man's feudal, soul-oppressing Ring.

SWAMP ROBIN. Birch Swamp. (Charles L. Beale?)

The third lyric is of four double-stanzas of which we give the first and the last:

TO THE FOOT OF A LADY AT KINDERHOOK

While Melvill sings in praises warm
 The beauties of a lady's palm,

And Swamp, from out a grove of birch,
 Seated upon his lofty perch,
 Pipes forth, till all the birds are dumb,
 The praises of a lady's thumb—
 With my hot brain all in a whirl,
 Thy foot I worship, lovely girl.

Oh! lady, I a boon would crave—
 'Tis all I ask this side the grave—
 Have pity on your lover true;
 Make me a present of a shoe
 That once has pressed that snowy foot,
 Or e'en a worn-out gaiter boot.
 I'll then from earth in peace withdraw,
 And sing thy praise with my last Caw.
 JIM CROW. Written from the top of an old pine tree.

For the poet laureate, however, some may think we must look to Schodack, as thus evidenced in the *Kinderhook Herald* of July 19, 1827:

“These loins were composed while sitting on the banks of the River at Schodack, by a pias Lady.”

As I sat on the banks of the Schodackin Isle
 My thoughts ran how Mosis was hid on the Nile
 And while I am calling on the musis to help my mind sore
 The Steamboats and vessails are passing close by this shore.

There are five more stanzas equally fine.

And yet our pardonable partiality prefers to place the poetic crown on this one of Kinderhook's brilliant galaxy who then wrote:

Maria this i truly know
 Thyne eyes are fond cupid bo
 At every glanc they send a dart
 Which pearces threw my aking hart

Maria lend those eyes to me
 That i may have a chance to sea
 And i may hit that hart of thine
 And make it once to throb like mine.

Commending this to the thoughtful study of our Shakespeare Club, we leave them to decide whether the laurel is to be awarded, to the Pias Lady of Schodackin Isle or our anonymous Kinderhook bard.

In the *Sentinel* of August 12th, a week before Jim Crow's "Sapphic Ode" appeared, this letter to a lady in Rochester was published:

MY DEAR KATE:

"Do give me a description of that wonderful village of yours." This you will recognize as a sentence from your last highly valued epistle, and you will doubtless agree with me that the request has an irresistible air of command about it, to which I yield. . . . The village is now the resort of many strangers, who find its retirement preferable to the noise and bustle of the fashionable watering places: but it is a query whether their presence is a benefit to us, as one young lady (the beauty *par excellence*) has already driven some poor youth to maniacal rhymes by merely raising a lily white hand which he apostrophizes with a desperation "devoutly to be" shunned. No doubt that hand has done more mischief still; for I hear it whispered that more than one desponding swain has cooled his fevered brain by plunging at the midnight hour into the tumultuous waves of our village stream; but who these unfortunates are I cannot say, as their bodies have not yet been recovered.

The poetical taste of our village is certainly becoming perfectly dazzling. As displayed in the *Sentinel* for the past several weeks Mr. V. has in connection with his office of publication an Aviary containing some of the rarest birds. . . . Who cares a straw for your Rochester Knockings with their Quaker "yes" and "no," when we have birds right from heaven's own blue to translate for us the mysteries of creation? But the greatest wonder of the Aviary is the "Swamp Robin," who sings of Venus, Diana and Pallas as though these goddesses had held him

to their breast and smoothed his rumpled feathers with their magic hand. Preposterous assumption for a Robin, and that a grovelling swamp-bird too! Some say that have had a peep at him that he is a perfect Adonis in his way. Altogether it seems as if Pegasus roamed at large here: the only fear is that he will be metamorphosed into a hobby horse.

Kinderhook, like every village of its pretensions, has its lions. Of course you will guess that Lindenwald is one, as being the residence of an ex-President. Then too, we have hereabouts the veritable "Ichabod Crane" of whom Washington Irving, very innocently no doubt, has made a great man. Another lion is "Lovers' Leap" which is beyond the fine gardens of Mr. S. at a convenient distance from the village, and a favorite ramble. It is resorted to almost daily by the lads and lassies, and who can tell how many mutual vows have been uttered there during the long summer! Taking into consideration the beauty of the scenery, the charm of the season and the proprieties of the time and place, it must be exceedingly difficult for any sensitive maiden to say "no." . . . Then there is "Lovers' Grove" too, equally fascinating. But do not think that all parties to these hallowed spots are or must necessarily become sentimental. No indeed! I have heard, and that recently, of their sanctity being profaned by a regular pitched-battle, wherein apples served for cannon balls and merry laughter, loud and musical, in lieu of trumpets. Yet after all, as Mischief and Love go hand in hand, there is no telling how many of these apples enclose the darts of Cupid. Among the pretty places is the "Avalanche," a land-slide, "Prospect Hill," etc., around each of which "hangs a tale" which would certainly rival Old Mortality. But as good Dominic—— says invariably at the end of a sixty minutes' sermon, just before he dashes into the conclusion which occupies ten minutes more—I forbear. So, *au revoir*.

Very sincerely,

MARIE.

In Van Vleck's initial number we note the following gems, not wholly original it may be, but put in his own charming way:

"A woman is a good deal like a piece of ivy. The more

you are ruined the closer she clings to you. A wife's love don't begin to show itself until the sheriff is after you."

The poultry mania is defined as 'a morbid tendency to brood over chickens.'"

In a later issue, referring to the State Fair, our kindly editor gives this appreciative and doubtless gratuitous notice of a new Yankee notion—

which when wound up and set in motion will chase a hog over a ten-acre lot, catch him, yoke and ring him; or by a slight change of gearing chop him into sausages, work his bristles into shoe-brushes and manufacture his tail into cork-screws, all in the twinkling of a bed-post.

This also we must add:

An old acquaintance of ours whom we had not seen for some time, called upon us one day last week, and after the usual salutations were over remarked—that we were the homeliest man he had ever seen. The richness of the compliment consists in the fact that the person who gave it is so ill-looking that he himself acknowledged that his food wouldn't digest well, and he was restless nights.

Most pathetic, as we recall the sequel, was the editor's offer to "exchange a two years cough for a seven years itch, with a pain in the side thrown in."

In the *Rough Notes* of August 30, 1860, a correspondent, after writing humorously, thus closes an interesting letter and becomes a little mixed in his Scripture quotation:

But all joking aside, friend *Notes*, it rejoiced my heart once more to gaze on Kinderhook and its surroundings. The mansions with their shady courtyards become every year more baronial; the cottages, with comfort accessible to the many, are brighter than ever; even the majestic Catskills seem more blue and tower higher than ever before; the drives over the gravelled roads in the vicinity never approached nearer perfection, and the dust never was more nearly washed off from house and tree, and agglutinated

to its proper place beneath the feet than it is at the present time.

Whoever can sustain himself in the vicinity of Kinderhook, and by an honorable and upright course of conduct secure the favorable opinion of the inhabitants has every reason to exclaim with the Psalmist—"The lines are fallen to me in pleasant places, beside still waters."

CHAPTER VIII

CELEBRATIONS AND SUNDRY NOTABLE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Fourth of July, 1825, '27, '28—Memorial of Adams and Jefferson—The Greeks—Van Buren's Inauguration—Fourth of July Barbecue, 1840—The Whigs' Great Rally—Reception of the Ex-President—Democratic Successes and Van Buren's Letter, 1842—Training Days as Remembered by Colonel Silas W. Burt—A July Festival.

IN these days of agitation for a sane celebration of the Fourth of July it may be interesting, and will awaken pleasant memories in the minds of the honored remnant of an almost vanished generation, to recall the old-time observances of the day. For a series of years there was a union celebration by the three villages of Kinderhook, Stuyvesant, and Valatie. From the files of our village paper we select and present the substance of the narrative of three, typical of all: the first at Stuyvesant in 1825, the second at Valatie in 1827, and a third at Kinderhook in 1828.

June 23, 1825, our village paper thus heralded the notable event:

The ensuing anniversary of American Independence will be celebrated at the house of Walter Butler on the banks of the Hudson in the town of Stuyvesant. Gentlemen from other towns in the vicinity are respectfully invited to attend.

In the issue of July 7th this narrative appeared:

Forty ninth Anniversary. A large number of citizens assembled at the house of Mr. Walter Butler and formed a procession

at 11 o'clock under the direction of Julius Wilcoxson, assisted by the Committee of Arrangements. The procession paraded with martial music into the spacious Summer house situated on the hill. Here the Declaration was read by Horatio Gates, after which an oration was delivered by Nicholas Sickles, Esq., couched in chaste and elegant language and breathing the most ardent patriotism. The exercises being closed the procession was again formed and reconducted to the house of Mr. Butler. About 130 gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner prepared by him under an extensive awning erected at the water-side. Gen. P. I. Vosburgh officiated as President of the Day. Toasts were offered by David Van Schaack, N. Wild, P. Vosburgh Jr. Lucas Hoes and others. Judge Medad Butler offered this: "The Citizens of the United States! Should there be any who from apathy or prejudice object to the annual observance of this jubilee, let them remove to some other clime and try despotism until their polluted heresy is corrected."

Judge Butler was the father of Benjamin Franklin Butler, the eminent jurist, whom Jackson made the Attorney-General of his cabinet. He was the grandfather of William Allen Butler. Dates considered, none will confound the Kinderhook B. F. B. with another B. F. B. whom we joyfully place to the credit of Deerfield, N. H.

The 4th of July, 1827, was especially notable as the day of freedom to all slaves in the State. At the banquet after the celebration at Millville (Valatie), James Vanderpoel offered this toast: "Valatie! In 1815 a bleak uncultivated barren; in 1827 an extensive Manufacturing village, containing wealth and intelligence, industry and virtue; a practical comment on the American system."

In Kinderhook, in 1828, Judge Medad Butler was made chairman of the celebration and Peter I. Hoes, of Kinderhook, vice-chairman. The procession formed at Lewis's hotel at 11 A.M. in the following order:

Marshal with two Assistants
Music with Standards

Old Kinderhook

Citizens, two abreast
 Judicial and Executive Officers
 Soldiers of the Revolution
 Principal of Kinderhook Academy, Teachers and Students
 Clergymen
 Orator and Reader
 President and V. President of the Village
 Committee of Arrangements

The procession moved around the square to the church, where it opened and entered in reverse order. In the church the exercises were:

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Burger
 Reading of the Declaration by James Johnson
 Oration by Peter H. Silvester
 Benediction

The procession then re-formed and moved to Lewis's hotel where dinner was served. Early in the evening the village was thronged by visitors who had come to witness the fireworks. These did not rival Pain's, it may be, but were none the less impressive to those who beheld them. At the firing of a signal gun at nine o'clock a rocket took its flight toward the heavens and was followed by one at Millville. Alternate discharge of rockets during the evening closed the festivities of the day. "We were pleased," says the narrator, "with these exhibitions, evincing as they did the cordiality and good feeling which exists between the two villages, united by the ties of interest and moving with rapid pace in the road to prosperity."

On Saturday, July 15, 1826, in accordance with arrangements made by a committee appointed at a meeting called to adopt measures to evince in a public manner their respect for John Adams and Thomas Jefferson who had died on the 4th of July, there were the following ceremonies in honor of

these Fathers of our Independence. We quote from the *Kinderhook Herald*.

At 3 o'clock, P.M., a procession was formed and proceeded round the square to the church in the following order:

Brigadier-General Charles Whiting;
Regimental colors in mourning, carried by an ensign;
Musicians playing an appropriate dirge.
Officers of the 56th regiment wearing crape on the left arm;
Orator and Clergy;
Ladies;
Teachers of the Academy and Common School with their scholars;
Citizens.

The procession having entered the church, the following ceremonies were there observed:

A fervent and appropriate prayer by Rev. Mr. Sickles;
Anthem, sung by the choir;
Eulogy, by N. Sickles, Esq.;
Anthem and Benediction.

The interior of the church exhibited the emblems of mourning, and the proceedings were of a nature to infuse into the minds of all a sense of awe and veneration. The eulogy did equal credit to the head and heart of the speaker. . . . The procession was the largest that has even been witnessed on any occasion in this village, and moved with slow and solemn step to the beat of the muffled drum. Business was suspended and every store and shop closed on the occasion.

With the achievement of their own independence but forty-four years away, the people of the United States, including many in our town, were keen in their sympathy for the Greeks in their struggle for freedom. After the overwhelming victory of the allied maritime forces of England, France, and Russia over the Turko-Egyptian fleet in the bay of Navarino, a notable celebration was held at Lewis's hotel

in our village on the evening of December 20, 1827. The Honorable J. Vanderpoel presided with Lucas Hoes as vice-president and Aaron Vanderpoel as the speaker. Among those present from this and adjoining towns we find the names: John Jenkins of Columbiaville, J. P. Beekman, B. Baldwin, D. Van Schaack, Dr. J. Vanderpoel, C. Birge, A. Vanderpoel, B. Hilton, N. Wild, General Whiting, Major Wilcoxson, Captain Snyder, S. Metcalf, J. Clark, A. A. Hoysradt, P. H. Silvester, Dr. Skinner of Ghent, Captain Bain, J. Wild of Columbiaville, B. Kingman, and N. Sickles. One of the toasts after the banquet was this:

The Ionian Sea—A splendid mirror, reflecting to the eye of enraptured Greece and to that of every friend of humanity, the happy and glorious co-operation of Russian, French and English valor and magnanimity.

That sympathy for the Greeks was not limited to resolutions, speech-making, and banqueting appears in the account about two months later of the "Ladies Greek Meeting at the Brick Church." Colonel Henry Van Vleck was made Chairman and David Van Schaack, Secretary. Julius Wilcoxson presented two resolutions. The first was for the appointment of a committee of seven to purchase materials, distribute work, collect clothing, etc., and have general supervision. This committee consisted of Mrs. Jacob Sickles, Miss Maria Van Vleck, Francis Silvester, William Barthrop, James Vanderpoel, John P. Beekman, and Henry Van Vleck. The second resolution called for the appointment of a committee of twenty-five to solicit money, goods, and articles of wearing apparel. This committee consisted of: Mrs. H. L. Van Dyck, Mrs. John Vanderpoel, Mrs. G. Gardenier, Mrs. Peter T. Van Slyck, Mrs. David Best, Mrs. Ephraim Best, Miss Margaret Van Alen, Miss Catharine Ray, Aaron Vanderpoel, Isaac Van Alstyne, L. Van Dyck, Jr., Julius Wilcoxson, Henry Winans, John Manton, Benjamin Baldwin, Nathan Wild, John Van Slyck, Peter H. Bain,

Aaron Gardenier, Lucas I. Van Alen, Isaac Van Dyck, Tunis Harder, John Penoyer, Henry Shoemaker, and A. Spickerman. The report of the Executive Committee less than two months later was that \$110 in cash and two boxes of wearing apparel in variety valued at over \$395 had been contributed. An "oratorio," yielding \$99, had previously been given. In April, 1828, the philanthropist Dr. Howe, accompanied by W. L. Stone of New York, and a number of Greek boys, visited Kinderhook and held a meeting in the church which was again thronged with an enthusiastic multitude who were addressed by both visitors.

VAN BUREN'S INAUGURATION

That the people of Kinderhook would celebrate the inauguration, March 4, 1837, of their fellow townsman, Martin Van Buren, as President of the United States, was to be expected. The wonder is that it was only two days before the event that the following public notice appeared in the *Sentinel*.

Inauguration—The citizens of Kinderhook are requested to meet at Stranahan's hotel this evening at half past six to adopt measures for the celebration of the 4th of March, on which day Kinderhook gives a President to the United States.

In the issue of the 9th, we have an account of the public meeting and also of the Inaugural Festival two days later.

At a highly respectable meeting of the citizens of Kinderhook, held at Mr. Stranahan's Hotel on the 2nd. inst, to make arrangements for the appropriate celebration of the Inauguration of Martin Van Buren, Dr. John P. Beekman was called to the Chair and William B. Shaw appointed Secretary. The object of the meeting having been stated by Major M. Myers in a short address, it was resolved; that Lucas Hoes, Charles Whiting and Daniel E. Dunscomb be a committee to draft resolutions. That Charles Whiting, James Shaw and William Bradley be a com-

mittee of Arrangements and that M. Myers, J. Wilcoxson, J. P. Beekman, J. Vanderpoel, E. A. Dunscomb and W. B. Shaw be a committee of Publication.

INAUGURATION FESTIVAL

The election of Mr. Van Buren to the Presidency was celebrated in Kinderhook by his townsmen on Saturday the 4th. of March with great eclat. At sunrise the National Standard, that flag under whose ample folds our countrymen have so often been victorious, was raised aloft and floated proudly in the breeze. At 12 M. a salute of 26 guns (one for each State) was fired, accompanied with the ringing of all bells in the village. At sunset a salute of 13 guns was fired, the bells ringing a merry peal. Early in the evening a large number of friends of Mr. Van Buren pressed into the village, anxious to testify to his eminent public services, his exalted character and great worth. The principal hotel in the village, as well as the humble cottage in which Mr. Van Buren was born, and several private dwellings were brilliantly illuminated. A transparency of Mr. Van Buren was displayed from the piazza of the hotel and many hundred lights threw a vivid blaze upon the surrounding country. At precisely eight o'clock the numerous company assembled sat down to a supper prepared in Mr. Stranahan's best style. Major M. Myers presided at the table, assisted by Dr. J. Vanderpoel of Valatie and Capt. Alexander Bidwell of Stuyvesant as Vice-presidents. After the cloth was removed, the following resolutions, prepared for the occasion and presented by the chairman appointed for the purpose were adopted: Resolved—That the election of Martin Van Buren, our fellow townsman, to the first office in the gift of the people is an additional evidence that the principles of Democracy are proof against the power of aristocracy and intrigue. He is emphatically the founder of his own pre-eminence. We see much in him to admire and nothing to condemn. In his hands the country is safe. Resolved—That Jackson, our late venerable President, in his retirement from the arduous duties which for eight years he has discharged to the entire satisfaction of those who elected him, carries with him to the shades of the Hermitage our best wishes and heart-felt gratification for having with

firmness and dignity maintained the high character of the Nation at home and abroad. May the remainder of his valuable life be passed in ease and quiet.

Resolved—That we highly approve the action by a majority of the Senate in electing Richard M. Johnson Vice-President, thereby carrying into effect the will of a majority of the people. Resolved—That Governor Marey has fully expressed our sentiments on the Abolition question; and that taking the Constitution for our guide, we are opposed to all interference on that subject, leaving our fellow citizens of the South to manage their inherited estate in their own way as fully and freely as we claim the right of managing our own. Resolved—That our late representative in Congress, the Hon. Aaron Vanderpoel, has expressed our opinions on the many important questions in the discussion of which he has taken part during the past session, and that we highly approve of his whole legislative course.

REGULAR TOASTS

1st. Andrew Jackson. 2d. Martin Van Buren—President of the United States, our townsman and friend. We know his integrity and talents. Born and nurtured among us, we have carefully scanned his conduct through every change from boyhood to manhood; from the humble walks of a private citizen to the proudest and most exalted station in the world. With Jefferson and Jackson as his models the Republic is safe. 3d. Richard M. Johnson. 4th. Our Country. 5th. Thomas Jefferson. 6th. The Signers of the Declaration of Independence. 7th. Nullification and Abolition—Twin brothers! may they both be frowned out of existence. 8th. Our Governor and Lieut.-Governor. 9th. Our townsman, Hon. Aaron Vanderpoel, an able and talented Representative in Congress, worthy to be elected to a higher and more conspicuous station. 10th. The Democratic Party. 11th. The Empire State. 12th. Our Army and Navy. 13th. The Union, may it never be dissolved.

Before the volunteer toasts were given a number of songs were sung and loudly encored. From the more than thirty volunteer toasts we select these:

By General Charles Whiting—The small cottage of our President's nativity—illuminated this night—a fit emblem that it only requires honesty, patriotism and talents in any citizen to rise to the most exalted station that freemen can bestow. By Barent Hoes—The former and present Representatives in Congress from the town of Kinderhook, Peter Silvester, John P. Van Ness, James I. Van Alen, Barent Gardenier, Thomas Beekman, Aaron Vanderpoel, Nicholas Sickles. Peace to the dead and may a virtuous ambition guide the living. By Honorable Julius Wilcoxson—Kinderhook, most favored of all her sister towns, having given the first President of the United States from the State of New York. By Peter Van Schaack—Benjamin F. Butler, the profound jurist, the indefatigable Secretary, the champion of Temperance, the humble Christian. By Dr. John M. Pruyn—Peter Van Schaack, Peter Silvester, Cornelius P. Van Ness, William P. Van Ness, James Vanderpoel, Myndert Vosburgh, Abraham Van Dyck, Francis Silvester, ornaments to the Bar and the Bench who have reflected honor on their birthplace—Kinderhook. By Isaac Pruyn—Michigan, a new star in our firmament, may she add new lustre to Mr. Van Buren's administration.

Edward A. Dunscomb, after an extended panegyric, and with allusion to the Senate's refusal to confirm the nomination of Mr. Van Buren as minister to England, offered this: "Martin Van Buren, the President of the Republic; although cast from the court of St. James by the unhallowed influence of an unhallowed triumvirate (Calhoun, Clay, Webster), the people have given their casting vote in his favor."

We had expected to dismiss the subject of Kinderhook Fourth of July celebrations with the foregoing narratives, when we found that of 1840 with its great Barbecue which must on no account be omitted. That celebration was of such dazzling splendor that it seems desirable to approach it gradually, letting certain preliminary notices so quicken our imagination and exalt our anticipations as to prepare us measurably for the magnificent reality.

In May, 1840, Martin Van Buren was nominated for a

second term. His native village and County could not do less than make the national holiday the occasion of a mighty demonstration in honor of their son whose brow had been crowned with so many laurels. Thus evidently the editor of (or contributor to) the *Sentinel* thought, for we read:

The Anniversary of our National Independence is rapidly approaching, and let us forewarn our friends to be prepared to meet with each other in the birth-place of the President, upon its return. The Whigs were never more persevering in their efforts, or more confident of success than now. The hosts of Federalism are marshalled and in the field, prepared for a vigorous and final struggle. The friends of aristocratic principles and strong governments are aroused and have put their shoulders to the wheel, bared and earnest for the contest. Shall the Democrats be unprepared to meet them? Shall the principles of Jefferson be overcome, by a senseless hurra, and none stand forward to guard the legacy he has left us from ruin, and his memory from reproach? Rather let every Democrat be nerved for prompt and persevering action, and vow to meet the foe in a fair field. Let him remember that "thrice armed is he that hath his quarrel just," and rest his cause upon the intelligence of the people. With this issue Democracy has nothing to fear, though menaced by all the parades, and jubilees and schemes yet to be produced by the fertile genius of Whigism. Let our friends be vigilant and active in making preparations for the ever glorious Fourth. Each town should organize and be certain of being represented by a full delegation. Every Democrat must be made to feel that on him alone depends much, and that no trifling circumstance should deter him from meeting with his political friends. Great masses are composed of minute particles, and one vote often decides great questions. We feel confident that the right spirit is abroad, and that the call upon the Democracy of the County will not be dishonored. The brainless shouts of the "Ciderists" will avail nothing with the freemen of Martin Van Buren's County, who, we are assured, will rally to the support of New York's favorite Son. Democracy must either stand or fall in the approaching conflict, and if the gallant bark is to be foundered let her go down

with her colors flying and every rag of canvas floating in the breeze.

A Whig paper was so audacious as to protest against making the observance of the Fourth a partisan affair, but was silenced by this crushing rejoinder:

CONSISTENCY!—The Editor of the *Columbia Republican* last week groaned “more in sorrow than in anger,” that the shameless Democrats had appointed a Convention to be held at Kinderhook on the FOURTH OF JULY, and was aghast with holy horror that such a day should be celebrated by any Party. This week he sees things in a different light, and publishes a call to the Whigs and Conservatives of the county to unite in a Whig celebration at Hudson; at the same time ascribing to the unholy project of a Loco Foco Convention at Kinderhook the necessity for this movement. The Whigs are never inconsistent, oh no—certainly not—by no means—not at all.

The clarion call to the Convention was thus re-echoed a week later:

The call of the Young Men’s Central Corresponding Committee of the County, for a Convention to be held at Kinderhook on the Fourth of July next we doubt not will be received with cordial approbation and generous enthusiasm. The day and the place for the meeting of the Convention could not have been more happily chosen, and we confidently expect that there will be such an assemblage of the Junior Democracy of the County in the Birth-Place of MARTIN VAN BUREN on the coming Anniversary of our National Independence as has never been witnessed on any former occasion.

It behooves every man who loves his Country and her institutions to prepare himself for a violent struggle with an old desperate enemy who, muffled in a thousand varied garbs, has been stabbing at the vitals of a simple Republican Government since its first establishment by our patriot fathers, and, maddened by continual defeat, is resorting to the basest and most wily stratagems to obtain political power. It belongs to the sturdy and intelligent Democracy of our country to say, whether the

self-styled Whig party, who, without daring to avow their principles, are continually insulting the people with parades and jubilees and shouts of "hard cider" shall be permitted to seat in the Presidential chair a man so notoriously imbecile that he has to be guarded by a WHIG TRIUMVIRATE! Every means that an unprincipled party can command are being brought into action to secure the election of Gen. Harrison, and it is time that the Democracy of this and every other county in the Empire State should gird on their political armor and stand ready to defend the liberties of the people from the furious assaults of ancient Federalism. On the return of the *birth-day* of American Liberty, and in the *birth-place* of New York's Favorite Son, let every Young Democrat renew his oath of fidelity to the principles of Jefferson, and while he remembers that these principles are menaced by an ever vigilant and uncompromising foe, let him unite with all his political associates in concerting measures not only to avert defeat, but to ensure a glorious triumph.

After all that, we are surely ready for the sequel. A few graceless unconscionable Whigs may have sulked in their tents, but for the nonce about all the people seem to have been Democrats, for 5000 at least, it was said, were in joyful attendance at the Convention although Van Buren's vote in the entire County was only 4478.

The *Sentinel* of July 9th gave a charming, adjective-exhausting account of the wonderful day. After alluding to the ringing of the bells which greeted the early dawn, the splendor of the day, the profuse and beautiful decorations with flags and banners suitably inscribed, the martial music of twenty-six democratic guns, the passing through the village of the amazing number of thirty-five sorry looking Whigs with a rustic pigpen for their Log Cabin, exciting the pity and moving the risibles of every beholder, the veracious chronicler proceeds to tell of the arrival amid resounding cheers and the thunder of cannon of delegations from every town in the County, until the crowd was so dense that it was difficult to move. "A more inspiring scene had never been witnessed."

Omitting parts of a narrative too long to be given in full we quote:

At eleven o'clock the convention was temporarily organized in the public square by the appointment of Silas Camp, Esq. of Claverack, as President, and P. Dean Carrique, Esq. of Hudson, as Secretary.

On motion a committee of one from each town was appointed to report officers for the Convention, and while they were absent the Declaration of Independence was read by Dr. J. Vanderpoel of Valatie.

The convention then adjourned for dinner, excellent preparations for which were made by Mr. Stranahan of the Kinderhook Hotel, and Mr. Van Slyck of the Farmer's Hotel. The tables set by Mr. Stranahan were capable of accommodating six hundred at a time, and were placed in an open field, shaded by immense sheets of canvas. Here the Democracy to the number of one thousand were feasted upon good substantial fare, prepared to suit the most fastidious palate. There was no parade of "hard cider" or "cider barrels" made, but it was a Democratic Republican feast, and the partakers thereof arose refreshed, not stupefied with the effects of any Whig liquids. About three hundred dined at the Farmer's Hotel and about as many more were furnished with dinner by Messrs. Wilder and Ackley. Dinner being concluded, the procession was formed under the conduct of Col. Groat and . . . moved through Bridge, Silvester, Church and Broad Streets to Albany Avenue, and thence to the Grove. . . . When the head of the procession reached the Grove, the whole line halted, and having opened to the right and left, entered that charming retreat in reversed order. . . . There the immense multitude seated themselves on the green velvet carpet, surrounding the stage . . . and occupying the gently rising acclivity in front.

The Convention being called to order, Charles B. Dutcher Esq., of Austerlitz, announced the selection of the following officers: President, Edward A. Dunscomb, of Kinderhook; Vice-Presidents—Andrew Pierce, Clermont; Jonas R. Delamater, Greenport; Clermont Livingston, Clermont; Fred I. Curtis, Ancram; John Rogers, Chatham; John I. Waldorph, Taghkanic;

Fyler D. Sweet, Copake; Moses Y. Tilden, New Lebanon; Peter S. Burger, Hudson, and John C. Warner, Canaan. Secretaries: George Decker, Hudson, Daniel Bidwell, Stuyvesant; George M. Soule, Austerlitz; Wilson Torrey, Ghent; Peter I. Bachman, Livingston; Henry L. Miller, Germantown; Peter P. Rossman, Gallatin; H. W. Reynolds, Stockport; Herod Palmer, Hillsdale; Henry Snyder, Kinderhook. . . . The president having been conducted to the chair, acknowledged the honor conferred upon him in an appropriate and eloquent address which drew forth a burst of applause that resounded through the vast amphitheater. The President then announced the following committees:—On Addresses:—Theodore Miller, of Hudson; Silas Camp, of Claverack; Fred J. Curtis, of Ancram; John Waldorph, of Taghkanic; Abram P. Van Alstyne, of Kinderhook. On Resolutions:—Robert McClellan, of Hudson; John E. Warner, of Canaan; Wm. H. DeWitt, of Germantown; Moses Y. Tilden, of New Lebanon; Walter Butler, of Stuyvesant.

Henry W. Strong, Esq. of Troy and John W. Emmons of New York, being severally invited, addressed the Convention. The speeches of these talented men were replete with eloquence, argument and patriotism, and it is unnecessary to say that they were frequently interrupted by long cheers. The whole vast multitude seemed imbued with the same patriotic spirit which animated the speakers, and they were all held enraptured for two hours by their manly eloquence. . . . Robert McClellan, Esq., from the committee on resolutions, reported a number of spirited and pointed Resolutions which were unanimously and enthusiastically adopted. Theodore Miller gave an able and patriotic address which was received with the same enthusiasm.

At intervals during the proceedings salutes were fired in the Grove by the Democratic Young Artillery Company of Hudson, the effect of which was rendered grand beyond description by the reverberation produced by the surrounding hills, the giant oaks seeming to applaud to the very echo.

The business of the convention having been concluded, a simultaneous movement was made toward the Democratic Ox, which, well roasted and basted, and decorated with roses and emblematic devices, quietly awaited the keen encounter. Two barrels of bread and crackers, and a cool spring of pure water

were near, and ample justice was speedily done to the well fatted and well cooked Democratic Beef. . . . We congratulate the Democracy of Columbia County, upon the result of this glorious day; a day replete with the most cheering assurances of the firmness and stability of the great mass of the people, and of their competency for self government. A meeting so enthusiastic and spirited, cannot fail to have a gratifying influence upon the disciples of Democratic liberty everywhere, and those who have asserted that the friends and supporters of Mr. Van Buren are deserting him, will find their falsehoods contradicted by the enthusiastic rally in his native village on the ever memorable Fourth. The friends of equal rights will never desert Martin Van Buren, the man who has ever stood by and defended the interests of the people from the base attacks of their inveterate enemies. We repeat, that this tremendous meeting at the birth-place of New York's favorite son, will confirm the wavering and incite the firm to vigorous and united action. The lion-hearted Democracy have taken the field, and have enlisted under the banner of Van Buren, to serve during the war, resolved to conquer gloriously or to fall with every flag hoisted, their backs to the field and their feet to the foe. With such determination the result is not doubtful, and the scattering of the enemy when they are met will show that the campaign opened in Kinderhook on the Fourth has been productive of most glorious results to the freemen of the United States and to the friends of true liberty throughout the world.

The evening of the Fourth passed off with unusual brilliancy.

. . . For two hours the heavens were illuminated with all manner of lights shooting athwart the sky, and it almost seemed as if the spheres themselves had come down to frolic for the amusement and delight of our citizens. The whole concluded with the discharge of a huge Palm Leaf, equalling in magnificence anything we have ever seen. Upon the whole our Nation's Birth-day was celebrated in a manner never to be forgotten. The Convention was the largest ever held in this State and as enthusiastic as can possibly be conceived. It was a feast of

reason and patriotism—an overflow of spirit and good feeling. The fire-works were unequalled, and the Day was pregnant with a fore-taste of the most glorious results to the Democracy of the Empire State.

How could it have been, after all that, that Van Buren ran behind the State ticket in his own County, lost the State, and had but sixty electoral votes out of two hundred and ninety-four? It was his misfortune to be President during the disastrous panics of 1837 and 1839. As was to be expected, the hard times were charged up against the Administration. And we who thus explain its defeats are among the few, not five years old then, who have never forgotten the campaign songs we were taught to sing: "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," and, "Van, Van, is a used up man"; as turned out to be the case. To the music of Yankee Doodle, others sang this from the Jackson Almanac:

Our 'Lecton is a coming on—
 Our Van is in the field, sir,
 And JOHNSON he's a Yankee son,
 That ne'er was known to yield, sir.
 Then rally-rally round the POLLS,
 (Delay) there's no endurin'—
 The tarnal tribe, *odd rot their souls*,
 Must knuckle to VAN BUREN.

Curfew did not ring from the Dutch church belfry that night. It had been discontinued a few years before, owing, some alleged, to Jackson's withdrawal of the United States' deposits from the banks.

The "democratic ox" for the barbecue, we are informed, was a choice, selected steer from Kleine Kill. Decorated with flowers and with ribbons hanging nearly to the ground, it was led through the village, tradition alleges, by the late Charles W. Trimper, and elicited much applause and merriment.

The Whigs of Kinderhook and vicinity had their "LAST

GREAT RALLY" that notable year in Hudson. A correspondent of the *Sentinel* wrote this soul-stirring account of it:

The morning of the ever memorable 23d. of October, 1840, was ushered in by the rising of the sun, and the dispersion of darkness, and although there was nothing in the circumstance calculated to impress an ordinary mortal with any peculiar or novel sensations, yet to Federal vision the whole canopy of heaven was pregnant with political meteors, and big with mighty matters, whose development was about to entrance the universe. It is handed down by tradition, that at a certain hour in the morning, very many *gentlemanly-ladies* and some lady-like gentleman were blocking every avenue in the several counties of Columbia, Greene and Schoharie, in their tumultuous efforts to arrive at *the city* at an early hour. Eye hath seldom seen such a vast assemblage as arrived there in safety (?) and mortal pen is impotent to depict in sufficiently vivid colors the august, the tremendous, the terrible appearance of no less than FIVE HUNDRED souls, one half of whom were *women and children*, drawn up in martial array to do honor to music, to cider barrels, to coon skins, and to other things in general.

It would be a pleasure to give the truthful, vivacious narrative in its entirety, but this glimpse of the spirit of those days must suffice. We were permitted to cull the two foregoing narratives from the gathered *Whims, Scraps and Oddities* of the late Honorable John H. Reynolds, and are pleased to note his appreciation of the world's best literature.

On the 8th of May, 1841, there was yet another notable celebration in Kinderhook. The occasion of it was the return of the ex-President to his native village. At this remove from those days of intense political feeling it seems that it would have been a gracious thing on such an occasion to have kept the dead fly of partisanship out of the pot of otherwise sweet ointment; but the thought did not occur to the stalwarts of the time, and, under then existing conditions, we may well excuse perfervid oratory. Again we are indebted to the Kinderhook *Sentinel* and doubtless to the

facile pen of the accomplished editor, Peter Van Schaack, for the narrative which we slightly abbreviate:

RECEPTION OF EX-PRESIDENT VAN BUREN, ON HIS ARRIVAL AT
KINDERHOOK

Ex-President Van Buren returned to the place of his nativity on Saturday last. It was due to the brilliant talents of this distinguished Statesman, as well as to the high office which he has so honorably filled, that he should be cordially greeted on his return to his native Village. Years had gone by since he left his birthplace to strive for that high honor, that chaplet of fame, which can only be obtained by those whose virtues and principles commend them to the confidence of the American People. By untiring energy, and devotion to the public welfare, he obtained the glittering prize, and amid the shouts of a free people rode in the triumphal car of public applause, and reached the most exalted station in the world. His highest aspirations gratified, and the object of his ambition attained—after the lapse of a long series of years spent in the service of his country, he has returned to the home of his youth, probably to spend the evening of his days among those who have long appreciated the splendor of his genius and admired his virtues.

Early in the afternoon, a numerous and respectable portion of the citizens of Kinderhook, Stuyvesant and the adjoining towns assembled on the steam-boat wharf, to await the arrival of the Ex-President. When the Albany, in which boat he had taken passage, came in sight, she was saluted by a heavy piece of artillery which continued firing until the boat reached the wharf. Several popular airs were also played by the Spencertown Brass Band the members of which, without distinction of party, volunteered for the occasion.

Mr. Van Buren was accompanied by the Hon. B. F. Butler, and as these two distinguished sons of Columbia pressed the soil of their native county they were loudly cheered. After exchanging salutations with his friends and fellow citizens, who had assembled to greet him, Mr. Van Buren entered his private carriage, seated by the side of Mr. Butler, and the procession commenced its line of march for Kinderhook. The procession was composed of a long line of citizens in carriages and on horse-back

and its approach to our village was announced by the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells. Thus did MARTIN VAN BUREN, late the Chief Magistrate of this glorious Confederacy, enter his native village, surrounded, not by the trappings of power, or the pomp of royalty, but welcomed in a plain Republican style by honest hearts and sincere friends.

The procession having arrived in front of Stranahan's hotel, Mr. Van Buren was conducted by the Committee of Arrangements to the piazza of the spacious building, which was already graced by a goodly number of ladies. Here in full view and in distinct hearing of the large assemblage of citizens in the public square, Major Mordecai Myers, on behalf of his townsmen gave a fitting address of welcome, the closing paragraph of which we quote:

"It is a source of great satisfaction to your fellow citizens of the County of Columbia to find, that the pleasures and allurements of city life and associations with the most refined society, have failed to alienate you from the society of old and tried friends, on whose affections you have a strong hold,—from the scenes of your youth or the tombs of your ancestors—but that you retire to spend your late days in your native Town. Here, surrounded by friends and connections, may you, under the protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, pass many and happy years under the shade of "your own vine and fig tree," unless again called by the voice of the people into public life, a mandate which you ever have and doubtless will obey.

"Permit me, sir, in behalf of your fellow citizens here assembled, to bid you thrice welcome home."

To which Mr. Van Buren replied:

"I need not say, sir, how highly I appreciate this cordial, I may add this affectionate welcome which you have tendered to me in behalf of so respectable a portion of the Democracy of my native county.

"The unwavering support which I have received at their hands for so many of the highest offices of Government, including those of STATE SENATOR, GOVERNOR, VICE-PRESIDENT and PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES, and the constancy with which they have sustained me in the performance of the difficult duties of

other intermediate and highly responsible public stations, constitute claims upon my gratitude, the remembrance and recognition of which will be as abiding as life itself.

“The frequent and full expositions which I have from time to time laid before the people, of the principles by which I have been guided in my administration of the Federal Government, and the obliging manner in which you have been pleased to speak of my official acts and motives, make it unnecessary that I should enter into any thing like an elaborate explanation in regard to them. It is also to me a most gratifying circumstance that a large and highly important portion of my official duties—that too for which, more than for any other, the Federal Executive is held to be peculiarly responsible—has received the sanction, and in its most important particulars, the support of all parties in the Republic. The management of our Foreign affairs, always heretofore the most fruitful source of political contention, has for the last four years, and those two years of serious embarrassment in the condition of our exterior relations, ceased to be known as an element of party discord—an occurrence without a parallel in the history of the country.

“The financial policy of the administration to which you have particularly adverted, and which, passing over matters of mere party vituperation, has constituted the chief subject of assault, was entered upon after the fullest consideration of the matter in all its bearings. Neither its liability to excite unfounded apprehensions on the part of particular, partial and powerful interests, nor the inveterate opposition it might have to encounter, nor the certain consequences to myself of the possible success of that opposition, were overlooked. Regarding the measures I recommended as of vital necessity to the public welfare—as those by which alone, in the then condition of the country, security and efficiency could be given to the public service—I could not hesitate as to the course I ought to pursue. My convictions of duty in this respect, were greatly strengthened by the confident persuasion, that they were also eminently calculated to arrest the progress of that unsound and destructive system of credits, and that spirit of reckless adventure then so unhappily prevalent, and which were every where unsettling the value of property—subverting those principles of honesty and justice upon which

contracts should ever be founded, and by which their execution should always be regulated—and rapidly paving the way for oppressive taxation on the labor and future earnings of the country. In deciding between the policy which was adopted, and the encouragement of a different course of measures, which, however satisfactory for the moment to the trading community, would, as I firmly believe, end in aggravating the evils under which the Government and people were then laboring, I did not feel myself at liberty, nor was I disposed to calculate consequences personal to myself. I therefore persevered in the recommendation and support of the important fiscal measures which ultimately received the sanction of the Representatives of the people. Upon a calm review of all the circumstances, with their consequences, I do not now, nor have I for a single moment since the result of the election was known, regretted that I did so; and all I desire is, that my future political standing with the people of the United States shall be graduated by the opinion which they may ultimately form of the soundness of the principles and measures referred to.

“I would, indeed, prove myself to have been unworthy of such generous and long continued confidence and attachment, as that which has been shown in my case by yourselves, and by the Democracy of the Union, if I were to suffer a single defeat to weaken in the slightest degree, my thankfulness for a succession of political triumphs so numerous and important as those which it has been my good fortune to enjoy. I beg you, sir, to believe me incapable of so much weakness and ingratitude. My personal feelings are, on the contrary, wholly unscathed by the result of the election. The demonstrations of respect and affection with which I have been every where greeted, by the honest yeomanry of the country, since my retirement from office, have afforded me more real satisfaction, than its continued possession could possibly confer; and I come to take up my final residence with you, not, I assure you, in the character of a repining, but in that of a satisfied and contented man. Of this even my opponents, if they are not already, will soon, I trust, be entirely satisfied.

“You have, sir, done but justice to the motives which have induced me to return to my native County and Town, and I

promise myself much of enjoyment and advantage from renewing the ancient ties by which I am connected with them.

“Accept, sir, my sincere thanks for the friendly spirit in which you have discharged the duty assigned to you, and be assured of my high respect and warm personal regard.”

At the conclusion of Mr. Van Buren's reply Mr. B. F. Butler, was called upon by the people to address them, which he did with his usual ability. In the course of his remarks, he gave a rapid but graphic and truly eloquent sketch of the circumstances under which Mr. Van Buren entered public life, the early difficulties he had to overcome, and the unceasing opposition with which he had to contend during his whole career; the inflexibility and unchangeableness with which he had, in prosperity and adversity, adhered to the principles upon which he had first started; the embarrassments under which he took the helm of government, and the manner in which they were increased soon after his coming into office; the firmness with which he adhered to measures he believed to be right, while so many quailed before the assaults of the enemy and fled from their posts; the extent of popularity and elevation of position which he had periled upon the issue; the calmness and serenity with which he sustained himself in the hour of trial, and the equanimity with which he had borne defeat—were all portrayed in lively and impressive colors, and were received by the audience with marked attention and deep feeling. His remarks in conclusion, upon the nature of our institutions, their superiority over all others, as illustrated by the scene before them, were very striking, and were cordially responded to.

The day was fine, the order of arrangements excellent, and all things conspired to add interest to the scene. It was a spectacle which made the hearts of all present, of every party, throb with proud exultation. One who had held the office of President of the greatest Republic on earth, was returning quietly as a private citizen to his native place—surrounded not by the minions of despotism, but by a simple procession of American citizens, who thus gave a token of their admiration of his many virtues.

We are among those who sincerely believe, that when the “Second sober thought of the People” shall have calmed the

angry waves of political warfare, ample justice will be accorded to Martin Van Buren. The sunlight of truth will ere long dispel the mists of prejudice—the fiat of the American People will bind around his brow, honored by long service in the councils of the nation, a civic wreath, brilliant and imperishable; and linked with the invincible Hero of New Orleans, his glorious and honorable career will be inscribed on the tablet of immortality.

“A CARD”

“The Committee of the Reception beg leave to tender to the gentlemen of the ‘Spencertown Brass Band’ their cordial thanks for their kindness in furnishing them with music on the reception of Mr. Van Buren at this place 8th inst., and by so doing greatly adding to the interest of the proceedings. Their enterprising and patriotic conduct in turning out in a body, without distinction of party, and travelling a distance of thirty-four miles, for the purpose of greeting their fellow citizen returning from faithful performance of the duties of the highest office in the people’s gift is beyond all praise; and the committee have only to desire that the Band may meet with that success in all its undertakings which the spirit and enterprise of its members so richly deserve.

Kinderhook, May 12, 1841.

“By order of the Committee,

“JOHN VANDERPOEL, *Ch’n.*”

“T. B. MYERS, *Sec’y.*”

Democratic successes in 1842 were duly celebrated in our village by the customary eating, drinking, and speech-making, in which Mr. Van Buren was invited to participate. Through the courtesy of Mr. James A. Reynolds, son of the Hon. John H. Reynolds, chairman of the committee of invitation, we copy this autograph letter of reply:

LINDENWALD,

Nov. 15, 1842.

MY DEAR SIR:

The signal triumphs we have obtained richly deserve the notice which our friends propose to take of it, & I regret exceed-

ingly that a severe cold renders me wholly unfit for the festivities of the Evening. Have the goodness to make my sincere acknowledgments to the Committee for their kind invitation & to assure the company that though unavoidably absent, my feelings will be cordially with them. I shall always be unfeignedly grateful for the honor and confidence which have been so often & so zealously bestowed upon me by the patriotic Democracy of Kinderhook.

Accept my thanks, Sir, for the obliging terms in which you have communicated the wishes of the Committee & believe me to be

Very sincerely
Your friend

M. VAN BUREN.

Mr. JNO. H. REYNOLDS.

TRAINING DAYS

In Chapter V. we have noted the law of 1664 concerning the appointment of these notable days. That law, modified from time to time, was continued in force for about one hundred and seventy-five years and was held in reverence here. There are those still living who remember well those notable days; the majestic mien of our mighty men of war; the wonderful evolutions of the Blues and the Grays; the pride of fond mothers, wives, and sweethearts as they gazed upon the pomp and circumstance of war; the staring, open-mouthed admiration of all the boys and girls for miles around; and the multitudinous vendors of zoetekoek, pastey, kandy-suiker and other toothsome delicacies.

The following announcements in the *Kinderhook Sentinel* of September 15, 1836, written presumably by the editor, Peter Van Schaack, may be regarded as virtually a description also by an eye-witness of the spectacular display.

"ARMA VIRUMQUE CANO"

Lest our readers might be oblivious of the fact, we will remind them that tomorrow there will be one of those grand

Military displays which occur only once in the course of the long year. To be more explicit, it will be general Training Day. Let those who delight in the pomp and circumstance of war, the clangor of trumpets and the din of arms prepare to feast their eyes on the gorgeous spectacle. The glorious 56th will honor us with a display of solid columns, hollow squares, escutcheons and maneuvers innumerable. The battalion will appear armed cap-a-pie as the law directs and we doubt not will more than sustain its high character for Military discipline and (should it become necessary to screw their courage up to the sticking point) valor also. We would especially enjoin upon the fair (none but the brave deserve the fair) to gather fresh flowers wherewith to strew the paths of the conquering heroes, and to have in readiness the white kerchiefs with which to salute them from the windows and balconies, as with stately steppings and measured tread they pass along our crowded streets. There will be the doubly epauletted officers with nodding plumes and in shining regimentals, booted and spurred,

“Mounted upon hot and fiery steeds,
Which their aspiring riders seem to know;”

together with others of inferior grade, down to those whose post of honor is a private station. Each in his separate sphere will have his duties to perform. Streaming banners, rolling drums and piercing fifes will add not a little to the zest of the scene; and should perchance an enemy appear “rattling muskets will crash along the line.” We would fain devote a whole column to a description in anticipation of the displays which will be made by the long columns of citizen soldiers, but the cry for “Copy, Copy” from our hungry printers constrains us to desist.

Through the kindness of the late Colonel Silas W. Burt, an Academy boy at the time of which he writes, we have in his manuscript “*Personal Reminiscences*” this vivid word-picture of what he himself beheld. Regretting the necessary omission of much that is interesting and most entertaining, we quote:

Every autumn we had the excitement of the "General Training" of the militia. At first there were the days given to company drill, both infantry and cavalry; but these were unimportant preliminaries to the day when the whole brigade was to be inspected. This generally came on one of those clear, delightful days in October, when the driving farm work was all accomplished and the military sacrifice was least onerous to patriotic citizens. . . . The early hours found peddlers and venders securing favorable stands for trade along the margin of the streets, until, as the day advanced, they lined the side-walks throughout the village center. Cheap wares of all kinds were on sale; new cider and ginger-bread in great cards were the regular *menu*, but the variety of eatables was large. The peddlers mounted their wagons and pushed their wares with a "patter" peculiar, and probably now obsolete. The rustics were convulsed by the wit of these loud-voiced salesmen, and preposterous purchases were made under the excitement of the extravagant laudation of the wares. A continuous stream of wagons brought in the prospective warriors and the crowds of sight-seers. The military evolutions were performed in a large field south of the village, and thither some repaired to take part in or observe the first and preparatory movements, while others awaited about the hotel to see the reviewing officers arrive. Two or three knaves usually had about the little triangle in the village center their gambling apparatus in the form of a "sweat-board." . . . Cider foamed at every corner and gingerbread was consumed by the square rod. . . . At length the general and staff arrived and after refreshments at the tavern repaired to the field. How gorgeous they looked in their uniforms, with bright insignia and resplendent equipments! As we followed them we noted the caracoling of the steeds as if they smelt the battle afar off, and the clashing of scabbards, and the agitation of the fur-covered holsters containing mysterious pistols—and as we gazed upon all this glittering paraphernalia, suggestive of military glory, we were ourselves puffed up with warlike conceits and imitated the curvetting of the chargers. I have not the comic power to portray that review. Our militia laws . . . set forth that every sound male between the ages of 18 and 45 should appear for inspection each year, "armed and equipped as the law provides." This

appearance had in most instances become perfunctory, in order to escape court-martial and fine. [We interpolate—that we have read with becoming awe of the court-martialing of our late beloved and most genial friend, Jacob Cook. He was found guilty and fined the cost of refreshments for all concerned.] As a consequence the great mass of those liable did appear, most of them without uniform and in motley attire; or when in a military garb, it was not uniform but representing every fashion since 1812: and they were “armed and equipped” in the most heterogeneous manner, with muskets (some of Revolutionary date), rifles, shot-guns and often with broom-sticks and other makeshifts. This Falstaffian army, without any previous drill of moment went through certain evolutions in the presence of the inspecting officers, which were as ludicrous as possible. . . . Even now I can call up ridiculous pictures of that grotesque brigade headed by a pompous drum-major with his band of sonorous drums and ear-piercing fifes as they marched about the field. There was relief in the contingent of companies that were regularly uniformed, equipped and armed. These were from the villages and were fairly drilled. When the military array was dismissed the crowd of *soi-disant* soldiers and spectators returned to the village center, where the peddlers, venders and gamblers renewed their vociferous solicitations. The consumption of gingerbread and cider increased, and the general hubbub and uproar became indescribable. . . . As night approached the results of the deep potations were evinced by fights in which both whites and blacks indiscriminately indulged. These contests were often brutally severe, while there was no police force to quell disturbances or arrest offenders. It was a great relief to tired villagers when the last wagon-load of roisterers departed and the accustomed quiet and repose returned to our streets.

It is not surprising that “General Training” fell into disrepute and “innocuous desuetude.”

A JULY FESTIVAL

We conclude our already over-long chapter with “Ethelwolf’s” pleasing narrative in the *Rough Notes* of July 6, 1854:

The July Festival.—I had the pleasure of witnessing on Saturday afternoon of last week, as gay and happy a scene as ever passed before me: therefore I deem it my duty to tender for myself and others, to Miss Bruce, the intelligent and beautiful authoress, the graceful Queen and "Lady Bountiful" of the occasion, most heartfelt thanks.

"The Festival," for such in truth it was, was held in the Grove,—that beautiful spot which adorns and adds romantic charm to our village. The pleasures of the day commenced with dancing on the soft green carpet of the woods; after which, the clear melodious voice of Miss Siehof drew around her all the lovers of pure, rolling, echo-answering songs. The bright-eyed singer "touched her guitar" with all the graceful ease and bold truthfulness of Spain's famed lover knights. Immediately upon the conclusion of the singing, Francis Silvester, a young gentleman of high poetic temperament, a student of law, and I believe a native of our village, delivered an exquisite address to the ladies and gentlemen assembled. He spoke of the sun and the flowers, the moon and the stars—the nymphs in white robes and blue muslin aprons—the graces, the fauns, the zephyrs, and all other sylvan deities of whatever age, name or progression mythology has placed them;—he also talked right eloquent of a certain nosegay of white flowers to which ever and anon he gave his nose, pronouncing it to be an emblem of the purity which surrounded him. The speech was well adapted to the occasion, well committed to memory; and the sentences falling trippingly from his tongue in Horatian measure, gave a heartiness to the sentiments, reflecting great credit upon the talented author.

Soon after the ending of the Esquire's "effort" and while the effect of it yet lingered in the breasts of the fauns &c., bird-like calls announced that the feast was ready—it was a feast indeed; one so tastefully spread and bountifully served I never saw excelled—there was almost everything to regale the senses and mind. Music and dancing concluded the "feast of Flora" and I returned home happy in the thought that I had for a few hours been forgetful of the world and its crude edges.

CHAPTER IX

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

CHURCHES: Reformed Protestant Dutch—St. Luke's Lutheran—Presbyterian—Baptist—M. E. Church, Valatie—M. E. Church, Kinderhook—St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal—Bethel, A. M. E.—St. John the Baptist, R. C.—Niverville M. E. SCHOOLS: Earliest Schools and Teachers—Columbia Academy—The 2d Building—The Crandell Incident—The 3d Building—Boarding House—Decline and Extinction—An Appreciation—Colonel Burt's Recollections—District Schools—Union Free School—Valatie High School.

THE REFORMED PROTESTANT DUTCH CHURCH, 1677 (*circa*)

THIS church, which from about 1677 had been a mission of the mother church at Albany, became an independent organization in 1712, and for more than a century was the only church in Old Kinderhook. The only older churches between Albany and New York are, in chronological order, Kingston, New Paltz, Tappan, Tarrytown, and Rochester, Ulster county.

Petrus Van Driessen, who made the first entries in the church records here, styled himself "regular minister at Albany, occasional at Kinderhook." Theretofore communicants living here were enrolled at Albany and were wont to attend service there occasionally. Until the ringing of the second bell Albany barbers were permitted to shave non-residents who had come to attend church services. In Albany were recorded all baptisms and marriages here until 1716, when the local records begin. The records of 1716

speak of the existing church edifice as "very old and much too small." In 1704 the Albany records tell of the sending of wine here for sacramental use. In 1702 we have the precentor Van Vleck episode already narrated; and he was the third who had thus served the church; the first-named being Hendrick Abelsen, one of the patentees of the Powell grant in 1664. In Miller's *New York Considered and Improved* the Kinderhook church is spoken of as having in 1695 sent (doubtless to Holland) for a minister, evidently without avail. In 1686 the Albany records reveal the purchase of nails for the repair of the Kinderhook church; and in 1684 Jochem Lammerse (Van Valkenburgh) is credited with 114 guilders collected here for the mother church. The Church and the School were deemed by the Holland fathers essential adjuncts, or rather prime necessities of their smallest settlements. Comforters of the sick, voorleezers (readers), and "tuners of Psalms," who should also be schoolmasters, were indispensable everywhere. The Fort Orange Court Records reveal the appointment (January 2, 1677) of Dominie Schaats, Cornelis Van Dyck, and Jan Jansen Bleycker as a committee to choose a voorleezer for Kinderhook. Evidently the beginnings of the church here are to be placed much nearer 1670 than 1712.

The history of this venerable church and mother of churches is worthy of and should have a volume of its own. The two volumes of Dutch records (1716-1800) should be translated and printed before the fading ink and the sometimes hen-track chirography become totally illegible. An historical discourse by the late Benjamin Van Zandt, D.D., and three by the present pastor-emeritus tell the story with some degree of fullness but are of necessity inadequate. A brief abstract of these with a few added items of interest is all we can properly give. The few minor details of this record which may differ from any hitherto printed narrative are due to fuller and more accurate information.

The first small plain wooden edifice, of 1677 or earlier,

stood nearly opposite the present Methodist church. A presumably fairly accurate representation of it, copied from a sampler in the possession of Mrs. John K. Pierce, we have reproduced, with lines straightened and perspective somewhat improved.

The second building (after 1717) was erected not far from the southeast corner of Mrs. J. A. Reynolds's present lawn. It has often been described to us by aged persons now gone, and we judge that it was modeled after the old Albany church. The familiar cut of the latter, reduced in size, would suffice for the former as well. It is said to have been of brick which was used in the building of the third edifice on the present site in 1814. It was square in shape, with a peaked roof and belfry in the center. The stove, when introduced after much opposition, was on an elevated platform in the center, reached by a ladder. On one side of the high, wine-glass shaped pulpit were seats for the Consistory, and on the other for "magistrates, captains and colonels." There were at first two and finally four galleries, making a total seating capacity of three hundred. At a desk in front of the pulpit sat the voorleezer, an office long filled by Arent and Henry Van Dyck. Parts of the service fell to him; but to the small boys, his most impressive function was to adjust notices in the split end of a slender rod and hand them to the dominie to read. Offerings were received in bags at the end of poles long enough to reach the end of the pew and excellent for prodding those wont to be absent-minded at such times. In some instances little bells covered by a tassel were attached to these bags. Their sweet tinkling was better, we think, than the floods of noise from organs (supposed to be music), which we have sometimes heard; and the somnolent may well have preferred the chiming of the bell to the prodding of a stick. Dr. Sickles was wont to preface this part of worship with the words: "Let us now consider the wants of the poor and the exigencies of this Society."

The third edifice, begun in 1813, was completed and

dedicated the next year. Its cost was nearly \$12,000, and that of the imposing fence surrounding it more than \$800. The site was given by the Van Schaack, Silvester, and Wynkoop families whose burial plot in part it was, and which was enclosed by the foundation walls nearest Broad Street. Available material from the second building was used; and during the summer of 1814 Sunday services were held in the then new barn of John I. Pruyn, which was burned a few years since while owned by the late Edward Van Buren.

During the pastorate of the Reverend B. Van Zandt the building was lengthened about one third in the rear, and the main edifice made substantially the same size as the present one. The large box pew in the southeast corner was that habitually and reverently occupied by the ex-President. We well remember the grease spot on the wall against which he was wont to lean his head, sometimes with a glove on the top of it as a protection against drafts. Receipted bills and the cash book of expenditures in the erection of this church are before us, and we note, as illustrating old-time habits, that from beginning to end every page has numerous charges for rum.

This "holy and beautiful house" (renovated and re-decorated many times) was burned December 14, 1867. For more than a year the long-abandoned Baptist church (now the Guion tenement) was used for worship.

The fourth and present edifice in which portions of the old walls were used was dedicated May 19, 1869. July 14, 1870, a narrowly sweeping tornado prostrated the spire, much higher and more graceful than the present one. There were those who said pride did it. We said the debt of \$10,000 did it. At all events the debt and \$6000 more for repairs to the almost wrecked chapel and injured church were speedily raised, and "no debt" has been a sacred watchword ever since.

The first known parsonage was possibly the present Scully-Clapp house. The third pastor, Johannes Ritzema,

certainly lived and was first buried there; but it may have been and in fact at one time was his private property. The very old Heermance-Farrar-Schnapper house was certainly the parsonage for very many years; and the church owned all the land from Maiden Lane up to and including the present Bank corner and the old cemetery in the present road way beyond. The present parsonage was built in 1836 on land bought of Captain John I. Pruyn.

There were much earlier church officials, but the first of record (1716-1718) were these:

Onderlingen

Burger Huyck
Ghert (Melgert) Vanderpoel
Dirk Goes
Pieter Van Alen

Diakonen

Abram Jansen (Van Alstyne)
Bart. Van Valkenburgh
Stephanus Van Alen
Pieter Van Buren

The earliest records are dated May 27, 1716, and are in the handwriting of Rev. Dr. Petrus Van Driessen of Albany. Many resident communicants were still enrolled in Albany, for he records only these twelve church members: Leender Connyn, Andries Prosie, Thenis Van Slyck, Thomas Wiler, Catrina Verrin, Elsie Valkenburgh, Ariaentie Mulder, Ariaentie Vanderpoel, Breggie Wieler, Eva Valkenburgh, Maria Wieler, Catrena Van Slyck. Later are added, the familiar names, Van Dyck, Huyck, Dingman, Van Alstyne, Vandecar, Vosburgh, Van Alen, and Gardenier. Quite possibly, however, these were but his additions to a previously existing roll long since lost.

The first marriage he records, reciting the previous publication of the banns three times, is that of Jochem Van Valkenburgh, Jr., and Elsie Klauw, June 6, 1717.

The first two recorded baptisms, without date but doubtless not later than 1718, we reproduce as nearly as may be:

*Parents**Sponsors*

evert wielaer		pieter van bueren
jessyna wielaer	jackemyntie	ariaentie van bueren
jan tysse goes		pieter vosburgh
eytie goes	pieter	bregie goes

We cannot identify the recorder. The name "Evert" is our conjecture verified by later records.

Although organized in 1712 the Church continued to be dependent largely upon the ministrations of the Albany pastors for about fifteen years. During a portion of this interval the Reverend John J. Oehl (Ehle) rendered considerable service here.

PASTORS

1. Johannes Van Driessen	1727-1735	8. John C. Vandervoort	1837-1842
2. Johannes Casparus		9. Benjamin Van Zandt	1842-1852
	Fryenmoet 1756-1777	10. Oliver Bronson	1854-1857
3. Johannes Ritzema	1779-1789	11. J. Romeyn Berry	1857-1863
4. Isaac Labagh	1789-1801	12. Edward A. Collier	1864-1907
5. Jacob Sickles	1801-1835		and since '07 Pastor-emeritus
6. Enoch Van Aken	1834-1835	13. Charles W. Burrowes	1908-1914
7. Henry Heermance	1835-1836		

Christmas day, 1788 (Columbia County Records, Book A, p. 49) the Consistory became an incorporated body in accordance with a previous Act of the Legislature. The title, the legal one to-day, is—"The Ministers, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Kinderhook, in the County of Columbia." The incorporators were—Johannis Ritzema, Minister *pro tem*; Martin Van Alstyne, Laurens Van Dyck, Herman Pruyn, and Peter Van Buren, elders; John Pruyn, John E. Van Alen, Hendrick Duyker, and Hendrick H. Claw, deacons. The certificate of incorporation, prepared by Peter Silvester, and recorded January 2, 1789, is still in the possession of the Consistory as is also the Church Seal (a mother surrounded by children) adopted at the same time.

Considering the thousands of infants brought to her baptismal font (in the year 1782, selected at random, III) and remembering the churches—Schodack, Stuyvesant, Marshalltown (extinct), Valatie (Presbyterian), Ghent, 2d. Ghent, Chatham, and Stuyvesant Falls, organized wholly or in part from her membership, the appropriateness of her representation as a mother of children in Children's Corner is obvious.

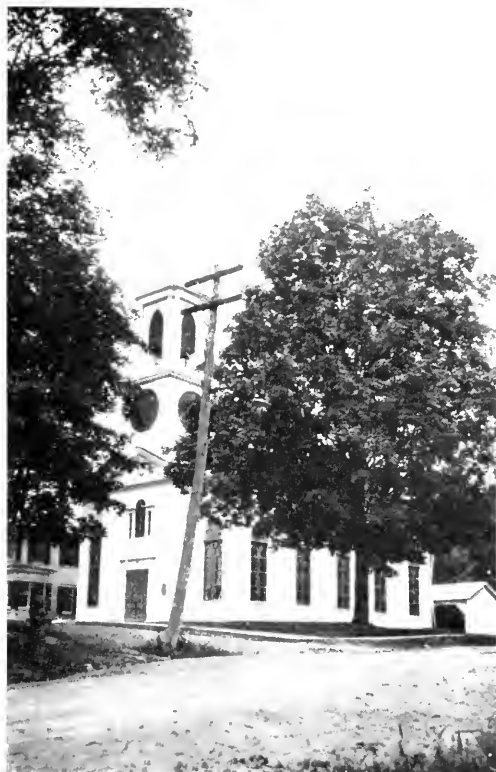
ST. LUKE'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH. VALATIE,
1826

This church was organized October 7, 1826, by the Rev. Jacob Burger. The edifice, the corner stone of which was laid May 6, 1828, was dedicated on the 16th of the following November. Previously thereto the congregation had worshiped in what was termed "the Church room." The same building, several times renovated, is in present use. The first Trustees were: Peter T. Van Slyck, John I. Van Buren, Esq., and John M. Pultz. The first Elders were: Jacob Goodemoet, Adam Trimper, Tunis Sour. The first Deacons were: George Tator, John P. Marquot, and George M. Pultz. The first public celebration of the Lord's Supper by the Church was November 5, 1826, at which time the following charter members received the Holy Communion: Adam Trimper and wife, John M. Pultz and wife, George M. Pultz and wife, George Tator and wife, Jacob P. Miller and wife, Peter Van Slyck and wife, Tunis Sour, Anna Wetherwax, Margaret Pultz, Sallyetta Pultz, Jacob Goodemoet, John Cushing, and Thomas Watson. The first infant baptized was Mary Eleanor, daughter of John and Maria Marquot. The first confirmed were Peter T. Van Slyck and Christina his wife. The first marriage was October 1, 1827; the contracting parties being John Groat and Anna Mickel. The first death was Melissa, wife of Peter J. Pultz, October 30, 1826.

The following pastors have served St. Luke's:



The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church



St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Valatie

From a photograph



1826- '38, Jacob Berger	1872- '76 J. S. Harkey
1839- '42, Reuben Dederick	1876- '78, Jeremiah Zimmerman, D.D.
1843- '44, J. Fiero Smith	1878- '81, P. F. Sutphen
1844- '51, W. D. Strobel	1881- '86, Laurent D. Wells
1851- '52, C. Remensnyder	1886- '87, E. M. Hubler
1853- '57, M. Sheeleigh, D.D.	1887- '91, John Kling
1857- '59, W. W. Gulick	1891- '94, C. L. Barringer
1860- '65, Irving Magee, D.D.	1895-1903, W. H. Graves
1866- '68, F. M. Bird, D.D.	1903- '11, George G. Whitbeck
1869- '72, J. S. C. Weills	1911- . . . , G. D. Strail

Reverend Mr. Whitbeck, who kindly furnished these details, justly adds: "St. Luke's Lutheran Church is one of the oldest and most progressive in this vicinity. Her members have been from the beginning an intelligent people of aggressive Christian spirit."

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, VALATIE. 1833

This was organized, September 6, 1833, by the Classis of Rensselaer as the Second Reformed Dutch Church of Kinderhook, the mother Church of Kinderhook contributing fifty-two charter members. The first officials were—Pastor, Reverend David Cushing. Elders—George Brown, George P. Horton, and John G. Shoemaker. Deacons—Jacob D. Hoffman, Anthony J. Pulver, and Henry G. Scism. About a year later the congregation voted to become Presbyterian and was transferred from the Classis of Rensselaer to the Presbytery of Columbia.

The first church edifice was a frame structure (now the Opera House) built in 1834 and costing \$3216. The second and present beautiful building of brick with blue-limestone trimmings, and costing about \$13,000, was dedicated June 11, 1878. Charles H. Houseman, David Strain, and H. S. Miller were the efficient building committee.

The pastors or Stated Supplies have been: 1833-'35, David Cushing. '35-'37, Washington Roosevelt. '41-'47, J. E. Rockwell. '47-'48, J. Slocum. '48-'55, H. E. Niles. '56-'59, S. R. Dimmock. '60-'63, William Whittaker.

Old Kinderhook

'64-'69, C. T. Berry. '69-'71, G. O. Phelps. '74-'77, J. C. Boyd. '78-'82, S. Carlisle. '85-'87, H. K. Walker. '88-'90, T. E. Davis. '90-'92, H. P. Bake (S. S.). '92-1900, Edward Stratton. 1900-'06, A. C. Wyckoff. '07-'11, J. H. Hollister. '11- T. J. Kirkwood.

The present (1913) officials are: Pastor, Reverend Thomas J. Kirkwood. Elders: Charles Wild, John Busby, R. R. Richmond, J. C. Kittell, Frank Eighmey, George S. Gardenier.

BAPTIST CHURCH OF KINDERHOOK. 1834

This Church was incorporated in 1834, with Horace Bidwell, Z. E. Reynolds, and F. D. Tucker as Trustees. H. W. Peckham, A. I. Loomis, and T. M. Burt were also among its more notable supporters. It flourished for a few years, using the Creek near the bridges for its Baptistry, but its life was short. Losses by removal and otherwise made the burden of maintenance too great for the few faithful who remained, and the organization was soon disbanded. The church edifice, built in 1827, was thereafter devoted to secular uses and ultimately became the property of the Guion family.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, VALATIE. 1835

This was organized in 1835. The first Trustees were John Penoyer, Stephen Moorehouse, David Lant, Francis Schermerhorn, John B. Steeves, Joseph Lawrence, and William M. Wilcox. The church edifice built in 1844, remodeled and many times improved, together with the adjoining parsonage are valued at \$6000.

Of the service of the first eight pastors we have been unable to obtain any details beyond their names. They were: Elijah Crawford, J. N. Schaffer, P. R. Stover, R. T. Wade, C. C. Bedell, A. A. Farr, J. W. Belknap, and William Clark. The present pastor, the Reverend W. C. Heisler,



The Presbyterian Church, Valatie



The Methodist Episcopal Church, Valatie

From a photograph



kindly furnished the following names and dates: M. D. Jump, 1871. J. C. Fenton, '74. C. A. S. Heath, '76. Joseph Zweifel, '79. S. W. Clemens, '82. J. H. Robinson, '83. W. L. Smith, '86. George C. Morehouse, '91. J. W. Quinlan, '92. W. T. Lewis, '97. W. H. Flouton, '99. F. O. Winans, 1901. C. E. Green, '03. J. H. Robinson, '05. G. H. Dow, '08. J. A. Thomas, '11. Walter C. Heisler, 1912.

The present officials (1913) are: Thomas Mesick, J. W. Mesick, M. H. Gregg, J. D. Tompkins, J. I. Miller, H. C. North, J. E. Snyder and James Lawrence.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN KINDERHOOK 1843

This was organized in 1843. Previous to that time, however, a Class had been formed and services held under Methodist pastors both from the New York and Troy Conferences. As the records of the different charges in the several circuits were not carefully inscribed nor faithfully preserved, the early history of the Society is somewhat obscure. From 1836-'38 the Kinderhook Society was included in the circuit under the name of the Kinderhook and Schodack Mission, of which the Rev. Joshua Poor was the pastor. In 1838 it was probably part of the Chatham Circuit, under the pastorate of the Rev. Cicero Barber. Both of these circuits were in the Troy Conference. In 1839, Kinderhook was transferred to the New York Conference under the jurisdiction of which it remained until 1848, when it was re-transferred to Troy where it has since continued.

An interesting sidelight upon the work of Methodism in the early part of the last century is given by the fact that during the summer season services were frequently held in the covered bridges south of the village.

The regular meeting of the organization and the election

of Trustees was held July 24, 1843. The Rev. Elijah Crawford, of New York Conference, pastor in charge, was Chairman, and Joseph B. Jenkins, Secretary. Joseph B. Jenkins, John W. Stickles, Jesse Merwin, Francis W. Bradley, Henry Snyder, Andrew H. Kittle, and William Thomas were elected Trustees. A building committee was appointed consisting of F. W. Bradley, J. W. Stickles, and J. B. Jenkins. The first church building was erected later the same year by Chrysler & Hoes; the specifications calling for a frame building thirty-five by fifty feet. In 1871, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. W. Quinlan, a new church was built upon the same site. In 1906, the Rev. G. W. Sisum being pastor, the basement was fitted up as a prayer-room, parlor, etc. In '94 the house south of the church was purchased of S. N. Brown as a parsonage.

Since 1848, when the church was transferred to the Troy Conference, the pastors have been as follows:

1848-	, Hiram Chase	1871-	, J. W. Quinlan
1849-	, S. Gardiner	1872-	, William Ryan
1850-	, J. Leonard	1873-	'75, Elam Marsh
1851-	'52, P. R. Stover	1876-	'78, J. P. Haller
1853-	'54, Oren Gregg and Thomas A. Griffin	1879-	'80, Webster Ingersoll
1855-	, Seymour Colcman	1881-	'83, U. D. Hitchcock
1856-	, Gilbert Ward	1884-	'85, J. B. Sylvester
1857-	'58, Richard T. Wade	1886-	'89, Jacob M. Appleman
1859-	, J. G. Phillips	1890-	, Nelson C. Parker
1860-	'61, A. C. Rose	1893-	'95, J. H. C. Cooper
1862-	'63, Hiram Chase	1896-1900,	Eugene S. Morey
1864-	, J. W. Belknap	1901-	'06, G. W. Sisum
1865-	'67, W. Clark	1907-	'11, Arthur H. Robinson
1868-	, J. W. Quinlan	1911-....,	William E. Slocum
1869-	'70, S. S. Ford		

ST. PAUL'S P. E. CHURCH, KINDERHOOK. 1850

Among those most prominently identified with the organization of this church were—Mr. and Mrs. Covington Guion, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Guion, Mr. David Van Schaack, General Charles Whiting, Major Lawrence Van



St. Paul's Episcopal Church



The Methodist Episcopal Church



Buren, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Wynkoop. Services were first held in the unused Baptist church, now the Guion tenement house.

The church edifice originally stood opposite the present schoolhouse, on ground given by Mr. David Van Schaack, being part of the lot on which now stands the residence of the late Mrs. John Jay Van Schaack. In 1868 the building was removed piece by piece to its present site, bought of Mr. Thomas Beekman.

The consecration service was held June 22, 1852. Bishop Carleton Chase, of New Hampshire, presiding, entered the church accompanied by Frederick T. Tiffany, the Rector, followed by the Wardens and Vestrymen and these visiting clergymen: Revs. Drs. Kip of Albany and Van Kleek of Troy; Revs. Waters of Kingston, Adams of Rhinebeck, and Hollingsworth of Stockport.

The Instrument of Donation was read by the Rector. Drs. Kip and Van Kleek conducted the services, Rev. Mr. Hollingsworth reading the Lessons, and the Bishop preaching the sermon from Genesis 28:17.

The first officials were: Wardens—Franklin G. Guion and William Tetherly; Vestrymen—Augustus Wynkoop, Henry Snyder, Lawrence Van Buren, David Van Schaack, Smith T. Van Buren, Charles L. Beale, Samuel P. Lee, and Sanford Salpaugh.

The beautiful marble altar was subsequently given by the late Mrs. Peter Bain in memory of her sister, Mrs. Mary Esther Bain; the altar-cross is a memorial of Mrs. Covington Guion; the font was purchased with money left the church by Miss Katherine Johnson; the spire-cross was erected in memory of Rev. Edward Hale, by his widow; and the exquisite chancel window is a memorial to the late Mrs. Aaron J. Vanderpoel, of precious memory.

Old Kinderhook

RECTORS AND OFFICIATING MINISTERS

1850- '56, Frederick T. Tiffany	1875- '75, George Waters, D.D., O.M.
1856- '58, Rolla O. Page	1875- '76, Robert B. Van Kleeck, Jr.
1859- '62, Porter Thomas	1876- '78, Newton Dexter, O.M.
1862- '65, George Z. Gray	1878- '88, S. Hanson Coxé, D.D.
1865- '66, Foster Ely, O.M.	1888- '92, Isaac Peck
1866- '67, John R. Matthews	1893-1903, James W. Smith
1870- '71, Edward Hale, O.M.	1903- '09, Philip G. Snow
1871- '72, William H. Capers	1910- '12, John A. Bevington
	1912-, John C. Jagger

We are indebted for most of the foregoing details to those devoted friends of their church, Miss Elizabeth and Mr. Henry S. Wynkoop.

The present officials are: Wardens: Edward P. Van Alstyne and Frederick W. Howard.

Vestrymen: Franklin B. Van Alstyne, William B. Van Alstyne, William Heeney, Richard M. Nelson, and Adrian Wheeler.

BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH. 1851

This church, organized in '51, was without a house of worship until '58, when its site (100 x 200) costing \$125 was purchased. In the first instance the church was served occasionally by itinerants, and at intervals by our highly esteemed personal friend and most devoted lay preacher Peter Burgett. We have vainly sought a complete consecutive list of the ministers but the following is nearly correct: Revs. Henry Parker, Doremus, Thomas, John Peterson, William Jenkins, Charles Mowbray, W. H. Ross, Charles Gibbons, James Moore, J. E. Shepherd, J. O. Vick, J. Cuff, and T. H. Schermerhorn who now serves the church in connection with one in Chatham. Mr. Ross was the first located here.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH VALATIE. 1871

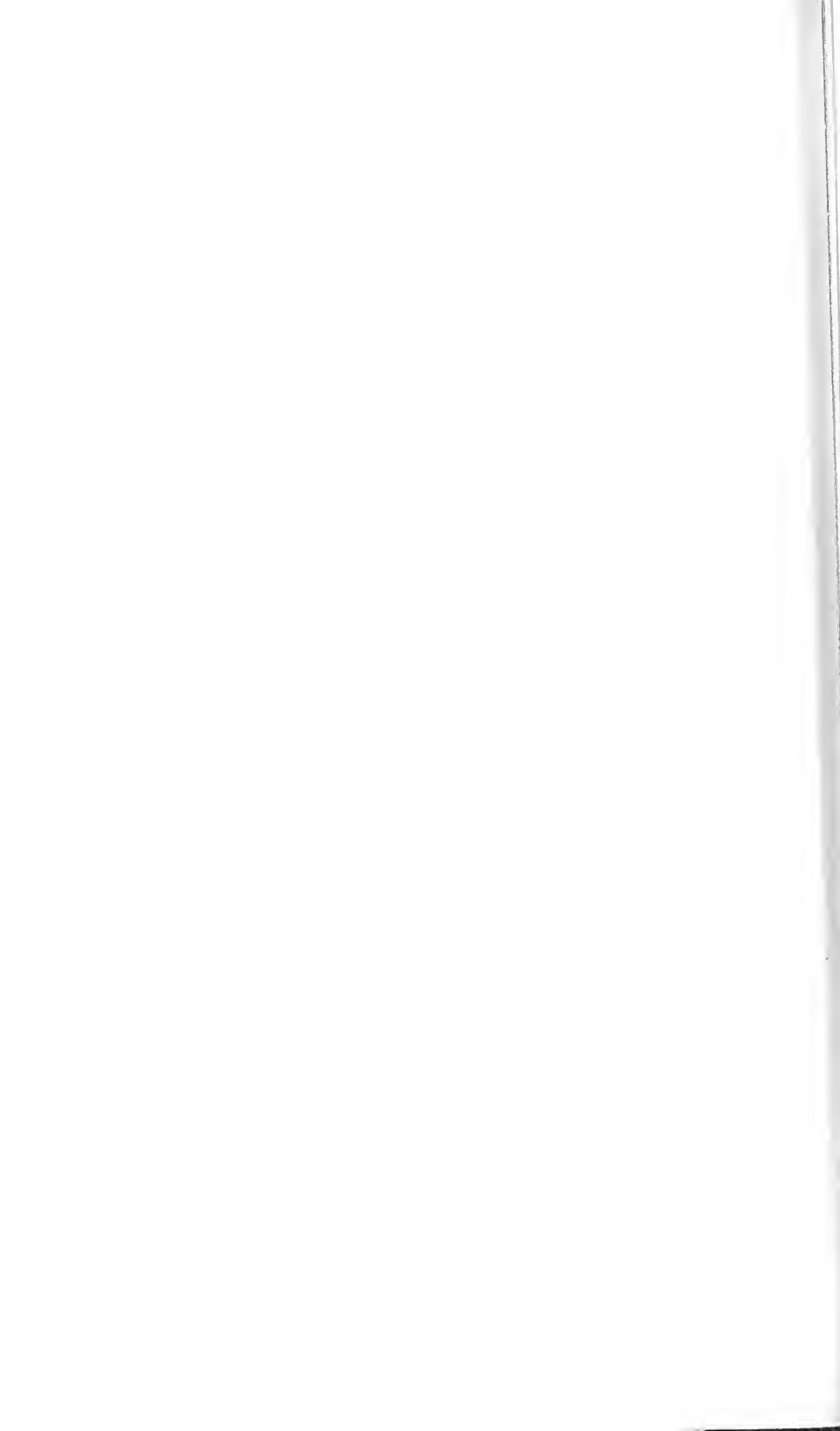
This originated in the Mission work of Fathers Roach and Finnegan of the Cocksackie Parish. Through the



Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church



St. John the Baptist, Roman Catholic Church, Valatie



energetic labors of the latter the first Sanctuary was erected near Prospect Hill cemetery with a Parish House adjoining. In 1871 or about that time the Mission became a Parish under the care of the Rev. John J. Brennan. He was succeeded in 1874 by the Rev. M. J. Griffith who rendered notable service until 1895. The Rev. M. J. Horan followed him and remained pastor until May, 1904, when he was succeeded by the present pastor, the Rev. M. A. Sheridan. Under him the present beautiful Sanctuary of blue stone was built in 1906, at a cost of about \$20,000. The Parish is a very large one and draws many of its members from Kinderhook village and all the surrounding country.

THE NIVERVILLE M. E. CHURCH

This is an outgrowth of schoolhouse services under the care of the North Chatham and Valatie Methodist churches. The church edifice, costing about \$2250, was dedicated November 29, 1877. The church has been served by successive North Chatham pastors.

THE SCHOOLS

Next to the Church in the esteem of our early settlers was the School. In the first instance and for many years the secular as well as religious instruction of the youth was a part of the work of the Church. The *voorleezers*, comforters of the sick, and precentors were also schoolmasters. The first of whom we have any knowledge was Hendrick Abelsen, one of the Powell patentees of 1664. He was succeeded by Jochem Lammerse (Van Valkenburgh) and he by the famous Paulus Van Vleg, the occasion of much inconvenience to the church officials, as noted hitherto. One of the deserters from Burgoyne's army, when passing through Kinderhook as prisoners of war, was Andrew Mayfield Carshore, an impressed soldier, who established here an English school,

removing in 1780 to Claverack and attaining distinction as a teacher.

The deed of the Schermerhorn-Pruyn estate, 1736, describes the southerly boundary of the tract as running "*through the skool house,*" the site of which we conjecture to have been on the old road which ran near the creek, not far from the home of the late Mrs. Beekman. In Martin Van Buren's early boyhood, as his brother Lawrence well remembered, the village schoolhouse (District No. 8 then, now No. 1.) stood near the present home of Mr. E. L. Hover. It burrowed in the hill, graded since then, and was so dark winter mornings that candles were often used.

The Church Records reveal that in 1792 the present site of the Central House was sold by the Consistory to the District as a site for a new schoolhouse. The building erected was much more pretentious than any before possessed. The higher department of the school there established was called "the Academy"; but the formal organization and official recognition of it as such did not occur until 1824. It was, however, the incipient Academy which soon became one of the most notable institutions of its kind in the State. Within the memory of some still living, the wheel of that old Academy bell was in the garret of the Central House, which is in part the old building itself.

But little is known concerning the early teachers of what was called for a time the Columbia Academy. In the Albany "*Centinel*" (1800) was a notice of a quarterly exhibition of the Academy, revealing that its curriculum included the Classics; that there were more than sixty students, and that the Principal was the Rev. D. B. Warden. Subsequently he moved to Kingston and in 1804 became private secretary to General John Armstrong, U. S. Minister to France. In March, 1805, the Trustees announced the employment of Mr. Jared Curtis as Principal, and that he had been recommended by President Fitch of Williams College. Elijah Garfield and Joseph Montague are other traditional

names of early principals of our so-called Academy, the latter in 1813.

In 1822 the school Trustees were authorized to sell this schoolhouse and build another on a different site. They sold the property for \$900 to Laurence Van Dyck, Jr., and bought the lot on which Mr. George H. Brown's dwelling now stands. His house, in fact, is the very building which they erected. From the original documents, which have been before us, we learn that the lot, fifty feet wide and extending back to the land of Peter Van Schaack, was purchased of Judge Francis Silvester for \$175. The deed, dated August 6, 1822, reveals that the corner lot belonged at that time to Henry L. Van Dyck, and that John Manton, Lucas Goes, and William Barthrop were trustees of District No. 8 to whom the lot was deeded. While work on the new building was in progress (1823) certain public spirited inhabitants of the village formed "The Kinderhook Association for the Promotion of Literature." It was composed of the subscribers to two funds; the first of \$430 (subsequently increased) for the enlargement of the building; and the second of \$1050 for the salary of Levi Glezen, then a noted teacher at Lenox, Mass., as the Principal of both School and Academy; he to pay his assistant, who was to be a college graduate. Henry L. Van Dyck was President of this Association; Peter I. Hoes, Vice-President, and Peter Van Schaack, Jr., Secretary and Treasurer. There were twenty-four other members of the Association. Their project was carried to a speedy and successful issue, and June 19, 1823, the new Academy was opened with considerable ceremony. A procession was formed in front of the old Academy and proceeded to the new building which was fitly dedicated. The procession then re-formed, and after a march around the square entered the church, where appropriate additional exercises were held, including an address by Francis Silvester, Esq. The Academy was incorporated April 3, 1824. Its success from the start was remarkable. Its list of enrolled students for the year

1823-'24, is of peculiar, and in many cases of very tender interest. Many whom, when aged men and women, we knew and revered, were rollicking boys and girls then. That first year there were students from every adjacent town, not only including many from Hudson, Claverack, and Chatham, but from New York, Albany, Troy, Waterford, Schoharie, Middleburgh, Palatine, Utica, Lockport, and Coxsackie; and also from Massachusetts, Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, South Carolina, and Georgia. For some years this Academy was one of the three or four only in the State that could prepare boys for college. As to the relative importance of the educational institutions of the County we find in the record of the distribution of the Literature Fund of the State by the Regents, that in 1841 the Hudson Academy received \$93; Claverack, \$170, and Kinderhook \$318. In 1851 the sums appropriated were respectively—\$13, \$40, and \$303.

In the first instance students from abroad were provided with board in private families at \$1.50 per week, washing included. Later, principals received a few students into their own homes, and boarding-houses for students became numerous. What we now know as the Chrysler house was at one time a notable boarding-house. Much of the woodwork of the upper part was scribbled over with names of students, and also with the names of other lodgers; for it was at one time an inn. We deplore the taste which obliterated them with sandpaper and paint.

The Act of Incorporation (1824) requiring the election of twelve Trustees by ballot (subscribers of \$5.00 or more being the electors) the following first Board of Trustees was duly elected: Henry L. Van Dyck, Francis Silvester, James Vanderpoel, James Clark, Samuel Hawley, John G. Philip, John P. Beekman, John I. Pruyn, Peter I. Hoes, Julius Wilcoxson, Arent Van Vleck, and Peter Van Schaack, Jr., Mr. Silvester declining to serve, John Manton was chosen to fill the vacancy.

October 19, 1825, our villagers were horrified to hear that an Academy student, Eber L. Crandell, in an altercation with another student, Charles Taylor, had been killed. The latter was at once arrested and soon thereafter indicted for murder in the first degree. The trial was in April, 1826, before Judges Duer, J. Miller, Burton, and Butler. District-attorney Wilcoxson was assisted by Mr. Jordan, while Messrs. Williams, Oakley, Vanderpoel, and Butler appeared for the prisoner. The trial lasted from Friday morning until early Sunday morning when the jury brought in their verdict of guilty, but with a recommendation to mercy because of the previous good character of the prisoner as sworn to by Mr. and Mrs. Barent Hoes ("aunt Dericke") with whom he boarded. The recommendation was heeded, but the young man was required to leave the State.

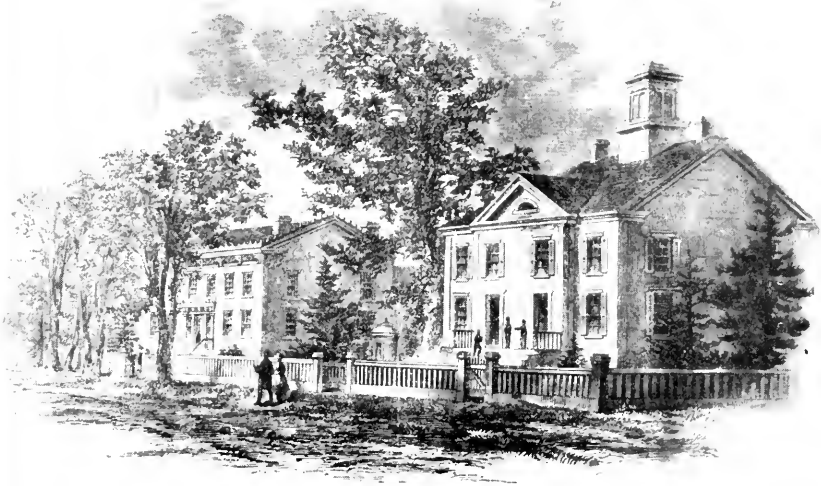
Mr. Glezen's assistant was Mr. Silas Metcalf. After two years of service Mr. Metcalf resigned; not wholly, apparently, because of "*impaired health*," for, on Mr. Glezen's resignation in 1827, Mr. Metcalf accepted appointment as Principal. In the meantime Mr. Henry Winans had been appointed to Mr. Metcalf's former position. It was a son of Mr. Winans who wrote sundry reminiscences for our village paper from which we elsewhere quote. In 1828 the Academy was placed "under the visitation and control of the Regents of the State" and received that year an appropriation from the Literature Fund of \$411. In 1835 it was selected by the Regents to have a department for the instruction of common school teachers. Deeming that this would require an enlargement of the Academy building, the question of a new building was debated and finally decided in the affirmative. The present site of Dr. Kellogg's house was purchased from Dr. Beekman, but the sale by mutual consent was set aside. John I. Pruyn offered the lot on which Mr. F. Bion Van Alstyne's house now stands; but the final decision was to buy of John L. Van Alen the familiar site on Albany Avenue for \$360; the lot having a frontage of 120 feet, and an average

depth of 210, to the land of Mr. Myers, later Mr. Thomas M. Burt's. The building was erected by Henry Harrington and cost \$3700. Having acquired full title to the old Academy lot and building by paying \$227 to the Trustees of District No. 1, the Academy Trustees sold the property for \$800 to James Shaw who transferred it to Andrew K. Morehouse.

The money needed for the erection of the new building was subscribed by thirty-eight persons; fourteen subscribing \$100 each, and others lesser amounts down to five dollars. This was to be repaid to subscribers as the excess of income over expenses might permit. For a few years seven per cent. was paid; one year, twelve per cent. But these "*bloated bondholders*" soon came to grief. When we first knew the Academy, in 1864, the bonds, if bonds there were, were worth something less than their value at the paper mill.

November 10, 1836, the new Academy was formally opened with elaborate ceremonial, the long procession passing "*through the principal streets of the village*" from the old Academy to the new, where appropriate exercises were held. General John A. Dix, then Secretary of State, had been invited to deliver an address; but he and two others (Rev. Drs. Kirk and Waterbury) failed to appear, and it fell to Judge Wilcoxson to give a historical sketch of this then famous institution.

In the Pittsfield Library we found a catalogue of the Academy for the year 1843. It gives the names of sixteen Trustees, all of whom were men of note. Dr. Beekman of course was the President and David Van Schaack Secretary and Treasurer. The others were: W. H. Tobey, General Charles Whiting, Lawrence Van Buren, Teunis Harder, Hon. Julius Wilcoxson, Lucas Hoes, Peter Van Schaack, John Bain, Peter I. Hoes, John I. Pruyn, James Shaw, Homer Blanchard, and Dr. J. M. Pruyn. The teachers were: Silas Metcalf, George Van Santvoord, E. P. Carter, Louisa M. G. Weld, Caroline M. Vandervoort, and Edward Miller.



The Academy and Boarding Home, 1855

From an engraving by Howland



High School, Valatie



In the four departments 257 pupils were enrolled. Among them we recognize many known to us as aged men and women years ago. A few, then in the elementary department, are still living. Mr. Metcalf rendered excellent and highly appreciated service until 1847 when he resigned and was succeeded by Alexander Watson, a graduate of St. Andrews' University, and a very brilliant scholar and teacher. He had been a teacher in the Albany Female Academy. In that year the boarding-house, built by a number of public spirited gentlemen on the lot adjoining the Academy, was ready for the new Principal. That building was burned a few years later, but a new one was immediately erected on the old foundations. This in 1867 or a little later became the property of Mr. P. S. Hoes. He divided it and transformed the parts into the three dwellings now standing south of the present Grange Hall. The first and second were the front of the boarding-house, and the third, now owned by Mrs. P. V. B. Hoes, was the rear extension.

Both Mr. Metcalf and Mr. Watson on their resignation (the latter in 1853) received glowing resolutions of appreciation from the Trustees. These resolutions were more than a customary kindly formality, for, as other entries reveal, the Trustees could, on occasion, maintain a severe but eloquent silence. Mr. Watson was evidently the most scholarly and brilliant of all the many principals; but for exalted character, executive ability, and manifold usefulness, Mr. Metcalf was excelled by none, and his fragrant memory abides to this day. Anticipating somewhat of our story, we here note—that George H. Taylor, son of Samuel H., the distinguished principal of Phillips Andover Academy, was an accomplished educator: and Manton, grandson of the eminent Peter Van Schaack, although leading a forlorn hope, rendered very notable service. The boys he prepared for college were always exceptionally well prepared. Although honored here, yet in some other than "his own country" this prophet would have received more honor.

Throughout Mr. Metcalf's time and for a considerable part of Mr. Watson's, the Academy grew apace. From the annual reports to the Regents we gather that in 1851 there were 216 students enrolled, with a regular attendance of 172. This included, however, the primary department, organized in 1847, of which Miss Harriet Stillwell and the Misses Magdalena and Judith A. Groat were teachers of longest service. We find seven teachers reported one year; a library that steadily grew to number 720 volumes; and philosophical apparatus costing more than \$600. We note the Revs. Drs. Sprague, Kennedy, and Bullions of Albany and Troy as the examining committee for one of the semiannual examinations. The students from near and far who became men and women of distinction were numerous. During Mr. Watson's term of service, however, the tide of success reached its flood and began a slow but steady recession, with only occasional and diminishing refluent waves of prosperity. Conditions were rapidly changing. The common schools were becoming better equipped and their curriculum constantly improving, thus making the old Academies less and less necessary.

In 1860 we have the following Board of Trustees:

William H. Tobey	Charles Whiting	John M. Pruyn
John Bain	Teunis Harder	Peter Van Schaack
Augustus Wynkoop	Lawrence Van Buren	John P. Beekman
Henry Snyder	John Frisbee	David Van Schaack

This remarkably able Board and their successors were intensely loyal to the Academy and its traditions. They labored long and zealously for its preservation and the return of its old-time prosperity and dignity. Their efforts, however, were but partially and temporarily successful, and the story of decline and extinction may be briefly told.

In 1853, Mr. Watson having resigned, he was succeeded by Henry H. Poucher, then Principal of the Hudson Academy, and he by Mr. Watson again in 1855. His successors were:

Rev. Edgar H. Perkins, '57; Alfred C. Post, '62; J. S. Fancher, '63; D. H. Calkins, '65; W. Scott, '66; J. B. Steele, Jr., '67; M. Van Schaack, '70; G. F. and R. H. Cole, '75; George H. Taylor, '77; William A. Reed, '80; J. B. Alexander and C. F. Stephenson, '81; — Hoysradt, '82; M. Van Schaack, '83; Mrs. Sarah A. Geer, '90; and Frank Bond, 1894.

In 1872 the Trustees were: William H. Tobey, David Van Schaack, Christopher H. Wendover, Thomas M. Burt, Francis W. Bradley, William H. Rainey, John Bray, William R. Mesick, Hiram P. Hoysradt, Francis Silvester, Charles Palmer, and Eugene L. Hover.

The last Board, 1896, consisted of W. H. Rainey, G. S. Collier, J. S. Hosford, F. B. Van Alstyne, J. Bray, L. L. Morrell, Frank Palmer, Harold Van Santvoord, and James A. Reynolds. In 1886, Mr. Reynolds (who came into the Board in '79), by means of a circular letter to former students, succeeded in raising \$400 for the benefit of the Academy. It is gratifying to read such a response to the appeal as that of the late Edward Bain, of Kenosha, who wrote of his vast indebtedness to "*Glorious old Kinderhook and its Academy,*" and sent a much larger gift than had been asked. In 1896 the Trustees adopted a new official seal. Its chief use seems to have been to seal the death warrant of the Academy once so famous but now so fallen. In that year a suit for damages for injuries through the falling of the front stoop was successful, and the property passed into the hands of Mrs. Geer. It was subsequently owned by Hon. Charles D. Haines, and used for a time as a finely equipped printing-house for the *Rough Notes* and several alleged local editions thereof which he also owned. The enterprise was short-lived and the building next became a knitting mill, owned by Imond Vener & Co. A few years later, happily, the property was bought by the Lindenwald Grange. It was greatly improved and is now their commodious and useful Hall; of undoubted and great advantage to our community, agriculturally, socially, and, to a mild degree, literary. *Esto perpetua!*

The presidents of the Board of Trustees—Dr. Henry L. Van Dyck, Dr. John P. Beekman, Hon. William H. Tobey, Dr. Peter V. S. Pruyn, and Mr. W. H. Rainey were all notable men, and served with unwearied fidelity and energy. Mr. David Van Schaack was for many years the Secretary and Treasurer of the Board. No one could have been more faithful and painstaking. He was succeeded by his son, John J. Van Schaack, Augustus W. Wynkoop, and James A. Reynolds. Mr. W. H. Rainey also was Treasurer for a few years.

In the Kinderhook *Sentinel* of October 10, 1844, appeared this entirely just appreciation of one of the best educational institutions of its time:

The friends and patrons of our justly celebrated and much cherished Academy have reason to exult in the high standing which it maintains among the numerous literary institutions of our State. The sphere of its usefulness is rapidly enlarging and a goodly number of well educated youth annually pass from its walls, fitted to engage in the business pursuits of life, to enter upon the study of the learned professions or to commence a Collegiate course. During the past year nearly a dozen young gentlemen have been prepared at our Academy for admission into the first colleges of the land; several of whom have entered at an advanced stage; a certain indication that the course of instruction is thorough, systematic and complete. Of the large number of those who in the years that are passed have stored their minds with useful knowledge at this seat of learning some are now filling prominent stations in society, proving themselves worthy sons of their Alma Mater. Generations of these we trust are destined to rise up and call her blessed.

Of the October examinations and Young Ladies' Exhibition, Colonel Silas W. Burt gives us the following pleasing personal reminiscences:

It was certainly an evidence of the light resources of diversion in our village that so many people found interest in listening

to our "cut and dried" answers, or in beholding us accomplish on the black-board such feats of mathematical complexity. Some admiring mother would complacently see her son cover the board with algebraic signs as incomprehensible to her as a tablet of Egyptian hieroglyphics; or a sturdy farmer would hear his boy thunder forth the Attic rhythm of the Iliad or the grand eloquent phrases of Cicero. These examinations continued a day and a half and in the "Ladies' Department" were varied by the display on the walls of pencil and crayon drawings and flower-pieces in water-colors—the presumptively unaided work of the pupils. On Tuesday afternoon there was held in the "Chapel" the Ladies' Exhibition, consisting of original compositions read by the young authors and interspersed with piano-playing and singing. The audience was always large and of course included all the boys, each of whom was naturally interested in some fair exhibitor. How charming those damsels were, as arrayed in spotless white, they blushing faced the audience and in low inaudible tones read their little essays—now and then one of them with more *aplomb* gave loud utterance to her views of mundane affairs—but usually we heard only a timid murmur mingled with the rustle of the paper, bound with white satin ribbon, in the nervous hands of the "sweet girl graduate." And those songs and music are echoed from the far past. . . . At length the program is concluded and congratulatory and complimentary expressions are received by our fair companions with complacency and relief, now that their long dreaded tasks are accomplished. Wednesday forenoon brings its trials for us boys, and the villagers and visitors repair to the Academy chapel, where on the platform the trustees are gravely seated and in the back ground the four musicians (whose services are requited by subscriptions by the young orators). The grandees on the stage whisper in a dignified way with each other; the musicians tune their instruments and the younger boys distribute the "Schemes" or programs, while the older ones cluster about the doors; those whose names appear first nervously repeating in a low tone their respective speeches, while the others whose turns come later have an air of repressed eloquence that will soon dissipate. . . . The room has filled and the murmuring conversation ceases as our "dominic" rises to "invoke the Divine blessing"; and then the

Latin Salutatory is delivered. This was my task in October 1845 and I addressed in sonorous classic phrases in turn the trustees, the audience and my associates, not a soul of whom probably knew whether I were complimentary or objugatory in my expression. Then followed two or three declamations, music, an original oration and so a dozen times repeated until the audience greeted the final orator, the valedictorian, and hung admiringly upon his sentences because they were the last. And how well satisfied were we—the heroes or martyrs of the occasion as each temperament wrought—when the “dominie’s benediction closed the exercises. . . . In April 1847 I delivered the valedictory address and with it finished my school career.”

KINDERHOOK VILLAGE DISTRICT SCHOOL

This school (District No. 1, formerly No. 8) had its beginnings as already narrated in our story of the Academy. Avoiding repetitions we go on to say:

On the removal of the Academy to its last site, the fifth District schoolhouse was erected on land leased from and in rear of the church, and to revert to the church when abandoned for school purposes. In 1851 this building was enlarged, as became especially necessary when the separate school for colored children (established in 1843 in the Ackley tenement house) was given up. We have rejoiced to be “*abel*” to glean from the “*minits*” of the *School clerk* that “*mutch*” interest was “*tacon*” in the education of the “*col-lard children*”: in spelling, let us hope. This fifth schoolhouse was abandoned and moved away, when, in 1877, the front part of the present brick building was erected by George W. Wilkins, at a cost of about \$6000. To this, in 1903, the considerable rear extension was added, costing about \$2700.

Through the courtesy of Lawyer Hyman we have before us the (6 x 4) receipt book of the School Commissioners who distributed the school money from 1814-'29. The first was E. Garfield, who was succeeded by John Manton in '15; he



The Village Hall



The Union Free School



by Henry Van Vleck in '16; and he in '21 by Lawrence Van Dyck, Jr., who served until '29 at least when the book ends. The receipts have the signatures of the trustees of the several Districts. In 1814, \$624.97 was apportioned. The District, name of Trustee, and amounts apportioned were as follows:

1. John P. Van Alstine	\$ 23.14	8. H. L. Van Dyck & H. Van Vleck,	\$103.89
2. David Best (1815)	26.95	9. Martin Garner	25.43
3. Jacob Miller	27.49	10. Daniel Pultz	20.56
4. Medad Butler	93.07	11. M. Cooper & L. Gilbert	30.30
5. Richard I. Goes	106.60	12. Palmer Holmes	25.90
6. John Niver	29.76	13. Abram Vosburgh	28.14
7. Benjamin Baldwin	44.37	14. J. H. Kittle	30.00
	15. Thos. Van Alstyne	\$16.23	

Other receipting Trustees and their Districts in two succeeding years were: Tunis G. Snyder, 9; George Chittenden, 5; John Van Hovenberg, 3; George Sheldon, 12; Samuel Townsend, 7; Alexander McMechan, 4; L. M. Goes, 13; Ab. P. Van Alstine, 1; Jonathan Traver, 10; Zach. Haus, 11; Andrew Kittle, 14; Russell Potter, 16; John Shoemaker, 17; Lucas I. Van Alen, 1; John M. Pultz, 3; John I. Shaver, 10; Henry Herrick, 2; Barent Van Slyck, 7; Rufus Clark, 5; David Bidwell, 12; Peter Haws, 11; Stephen I. Miller, 16; James J. Morrison, 13; Barent Van Buren, 18; J. Goodemoet, 6.

The formation of the Town of Stuyvesant in 1823 made necessary among other things a division of the Common School money. In accordance therewith we have a tabular statement concerning ten districts and five "parts of districts" which is of interest. The total amount divided was \$462.32. We give the number of the district and of scholars and the name of Trustee.

1. 104. Lucas I. Van Alen	6. 49. Peter Niver
2. 60. John Melius & Wm. Kingman	7. 145. Nathan Wild
3. 67. John Van Dyck & Isaac McCagg	8. 250. Lucas Hoes & John Manton
4. 132. Peter I. Vosburgh	10. 74. B. Hilton & J. P. Marquot
5. 63. William Sturges	16. 123. James Wild

PARTS OF DISTRICTS

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----|--------------------|
| I. | 22. Jesse Van Ness | 7. | 6. Peter Harder |
| II. | 36. Simeon P. Hawes | 12. | 52. Luther Crocker |
| | 13. | 53. | Martin Van Alstyne |

The total of children is 1236.

Our older residents can readily locate most of the schools both in this and the previous table through the name and known residence of the Trustee. Thus, No. 1 was the present Ridge school; No. 4 was at the Landing; No. 7, in Valatie, and No. 8, in Kinderhook village.

This table of the division of school money is dated June, 1823. In September of the same year our Commissioners of Schools, Lucas Hoes and Lawrence Van Dyck, Jr., reported to the State Superintendent,—“That the number of entire School Districts in our town, organized according to law is eight, and that the number of parts of School Districts is one.” They report the number of children taught as 535; and that there were 722 children in the town between the age of five and fifteen.

The earliest existing records of the Trustees begin with the year 1841. They are reasonably complete to the present time, although very chary of information as regards teachers. The Trustees of 1841 were—Homer Blanchard, Ephraim Best, and Abraham Van Alstyne. They record the names of the parents of 269 children of school age (5-16) in the District. The number of Trustees was frequently changed; now six and now one. Their qualifications too have been singularly and sometimes ludicrously variable.

As regards teachers, we have no record prior to 1841. Some at least of those named in connection with the early history of the Academy were teachers of the District school. Certainly before 1841, David G. Woodin was for many years the District school-teacher; and he had been preceded by a Mr. Searles. Later in life, as we well remember, Mr. Woodin rendered long-continued service as one of our most faithful

and respected School Commissioners. After 1840, as the Treasurer's accounts reveal, the successive Principals were: N. B. Basset, '41; James Carver, '43; Andrew I. Kittell, '49; L. W. Reid, '59; W. S. Hallenbeck, '67; Hugh Kelso, '83; Oscar E. Coburn, '93; Reuben A. Mabie, '95; Scott Youmans, 1901; Earl B. Slack, '03; Clayton F. Sherman, '07; John B. Bronson, '08; Orville C. Cone, '09; Earl D. Hewes, 1911; A. C. Hamilton, 1912; Giles D. Clark, 1913.

In Mr. Mabie's time, and largely through his effort, the Common School became the Union Free School.

The present Trustees on the Board of Education, are: W. J. Magee, Nathan D. Garnsey, and A. T. Ogden. The teachers are (1913) Giles D. Clark, Principal; Anna M. Thebo, assistant; Gertrude Connor; Mrs. George H. Brown; Jane McHenry. One hundred and five pupils are enrolled. The school has a good library of over five hundred volumes, and a laboratory well-equipped for all the scientific work usual in a High School. For years William A. Roraback has been the efficient clerk of the school board.

In February, 1911, Misses Mabel Duff and Laura Hosford organized among the pupils—"The Penny Provident Society." It has been a great success. This year (1913) they report eighty-two depositors of more than \$345 most of which is on deposit in Savings banks. It is justly claimed that the value of this encouragement of habits of thrift and economy, and of a feeling of self-respect as well, is incalculable.

For three years, Mrs. Duff, with some help from young ladies of the village, has held a sewing class Friday afternoons, at the close of the school. This class has been well-attended, and is proving highly profitable to the pupils who have availed themselves of the privilege of the instruction.

The Kindergarten is a private institution, supported in part by fees from the parents of the little children in attendance, but largely by the generosity of a few who are deeply interested in it. The teachers this year (1913), are, Miss

Partridge and Miss Helen Pitcher. The Kindergarten is proving attractive to the little pupils and its work is appreciated by their parents.

THE VALATIE HIGH SCHOOL

In the Kinderhook *Rough Notes* of March 6, 1902, Principal Winthrop L. Millais published a historic and descriptive article on this school, which he has kindly furnished us, and from which we condense the following narrative.

Prior to 1866 there were two District schools in Valatie; one near the Opera House, and the other a little west of the Lutheran church.

That year, by order of School Commissioner D. W. Woodin, Districts Nos. 9 and 2 were consolidated and thenceforth known as District No. 2.

The successive Principals have been: G. U. Norton, 1867; Peter Stickles, '68; Samuel Greenwood, '69; Hattie L. Hughston, '71; Peter Silvernail, '73; Enos S. Wood, '82; Walter H. Phyfe, '84; Charles A. Coons, '88; Olin B. Sylvester, '91; Winthrop L. Millais, '96; O. P. Collins, 1906; F. E. Sleight, '08.

The new schoolhouse was built in 1876. It is situated on Church Street, one of the finest of the village, and with its trees and well-kept lawn is not unworthy its location.

In 1889 the District was organized into a Union Free School District, and, after securing suitable apparatus and a library, was accepted by the Regents and admitted into the University of the State of New York. In 1899 the Regents suggested that such changes be made in the curriculum as would entitle it to full rank as a High School. These suggestions were complied with and in 1900 four students earned Regents' and High School diplomas. The library contains more than 1500 volumes thoroughly readable and up-to-date.

In 1904 the building was remodeled, increased in size by one half, refurnished, and otherwise greatly improved.

The story of the other District schools is much the same as that of ten thousand throughout the State. There were eight of them within the present township. In the Hemlock schoolhouse, and others as well, Dr. Sickles and other pastors of the Kinderhook church were wont to hold frequent services. That on the road to Lindenwald is on the same site as that where Jesse Merwin, the prototype of Ichabod Crane, taught. With the organization of Union Free schools many of the old District schoolhouses have one by one been closed; and now but a few remain.

CHAPTER X

FINANCIAL, FRATERNAL, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Banks—Conscript Society—Masonic and Other Fraternal Organizations—G. A. R.—Lindenwald Grange—Fire Companies—Notable Fires—The Blizzard.

BANKS

THE KINDERHOOK NATIONAL

AS early as 1826, and several times thereafter, attempts were made to establish a bank at Kinderhook, but without success until October 9, 1838, when subscribers to a capital of \$113,525 met at Stranahan's hotel, adopted articles of association, and elected the first Board of Directors of the Kinderhook bank. They were: John P. Beekman, John Bain, Uriah Edwards, Teunis Harder, Adam H. Hoysradt, Peter I. Hoes, Lucas Hoes, Mordecai Myers, Edward B. Pugsley, John I. Pruyn, Adam Van Alstyne, Lawrence Van Buren, David Van Schaack, William H. Tobey, John J. Van Volkenburgh, Charles Whiting, and Julius Wilcoxson.

In those days only Dr. Beekman was thought of as president for any organization or public meeting. Mordecai Myers was elected Vice-President, Lucas Hoes, Cashier, and Covington Guion, Teller. The bank began business January 6, 1839. The building used was one owned by Dr. Beekman and which stood near the easterly corner of his lawn. It was

subsequently moved to the westerly corner, and later by Mr. Vanderpoel to its present position. In 1862 the brick building now owned by Augustus Bauer was erected. The famous corner store which had stood for many years on the site was moved up Albany Avenue and is what we have known as the Ritz house, south of the new cemetery. In '63 the bank became the National Bank of Kinderhook. The original capital was increased from time to time until '57, when it was \$250,000 and continued at that figure until '79 when it was reduced one half. For many years the bank did a large and profitable business, but steadily changing conditions and heavy losses led to an almost unanimous vote of the stockholders, September 25, '89, to go into voluntary liquidation, and the bank was finally closed January 1, 1897.

The successive presidents have been: John P. Beekman, '38-'61; C. H. Wendover to '62; William R. Mesick to '80; Hugh Van Alstyne to '84; Francis Van Ness and J. Spencer Hosford. The Vice-Presidents were: Mordecai Myers, David Van Schaack, Lawrence Van Buren, John J. Van Volkenburgh, Hugh Van Alstyne, A. H. Farrar. The Cashiers were: Lucas Hoes to '42; Covington Guion to '49; F. G. Guion to '69; John J. Van Schaack to '77; A. W. Wynkoop to '85; and Calvin Ackley. The Tellers and Clerks were: Covington Guion, F. G. Guion, Lawrence Van Dyck, George Wilcoxson, Myndert Van Buren, A. W. Wynkoop, Pruyn Wilcoxson, G. H. Howard, Harold Van Santvoord, Andrew Harder, and S. L. Chamberlain.

In addition to those named as the first Board of Directors we find that the following were subsequently elected: William R. Mesick, Abraham Van Buren, Hugh Van Alstyne, Martin Van Buren, Jr., John M. Best, Barent Vosburgh, Peter F. Mesick, John T. Wendover, Jacob Miller, Thomas Beekman, Ephraim P. Best, Solomon Crandell, John Mynderse, Lucas Pruyn, Abraham I. Van Alstyne, Smith T. Van Buren, Samuel Wilbor, Peter S. Hoes, Joseph T. Hamm, James Kingman, John D. Shufelt, C. H. Wendover, John

Old Kinderhook

P. Acker, Barent I. Van Hoesen, John Frisbee, Alexander Davis, A. B. Pugsley, Orson W. Smith, A. V. D. Witbeck, C. L. Herrick, A. De Myer, Henry Dennis, W. J. Penoyer, H. P. Van Hoesen, Abram Harder, James G. Van Valkenburgh, Abram H. Van Alstyne, A. H. Farrar, J. Spencer Hosford, William H. Goold, Francis Van Ness, John J. Wilbor, F. B. Van Alstyne, Edward P. Van Alstyne, Peter H. Bain, George Tobias, Lafayette Winn, and P. V. B. Hoes. The last Directors were: James Kingman, Abraham Van Alstyne, J. Spencer Hosford, W. H. Goold, Edward P. Van Alstyne, F. B. Van Alstyne, P. H. Bain, John J. Wilbor, George Tobias, Lafayette Winn, and Pierre V. B. Hoes.

NATIONAL UNION BANK

From a sketch of this bank, prepared for the fiftieth anniversary of its organization, we condense the following narrative: This bank, with a capital of \$125,000, commenced business October 1, 1853, in a small building leased of General Whiting, which stood on the southwest corner of Broad and Hudson streets. The capital was that day raised to \$150,000. The nearest banks outside of the village were those of Albany, Coxsackie, Hudson, and Pittsfield. This wide extent of country furnished a sufficient demand for all existing banking facilities.

The first Directors were: John Rogers, Nathan Wild, Orrin Carpenter, David Van Schaack, Hugh Bain, William H. Tobey, John Bain, Charles Whiting, John I. Kittle, James B. Laing, Daniel S. Curtis, Adam H. Hoysradt, John T. Wendover, Isaac Esselstyn, Daniel D. Warner, Charles L. Beale, Richard Graves, Francis W. Bradley, Peter A. Gardenier, Henry J. Whiting, and Henry Snyder. The capital was twice increased, until in '57 it amounted to \$200,000.

The first President of the bank was William H. Tobey, the first Vice-President John Bain, and the Cashier William H. Rainey.

In the fall of '58 the unguarded building was entered at night, the safe forced open, and about \$9500 in cash and some unavailable checks stolen. Immediately thereafter the brick building now occupied was purchased and fitted up for the bank's use with all the best safeguards of the time for the security of its treasures; and also as a dwelling for the Cashier, which Mr. Rainey occupied until his lamented death. The rear extension was subsequently added, providing a pleasant Directors' room below and needed chambers above. The bank moved thereto in the spring of '59. In '65 the bank became National, under the United States law. The number of stockholders in October, '53, was fifty-three. They now (1912) number about one hundred and ten. With one exception, after the panic of '57, semiannual dividends have been paid, averaging more than $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum.

The presidents have been—William H. Tobey, 1853-'78, of whom we write elsewhere. In '62 the Directors presented him with an elegant silver service in recognition of his fidelity and devotion, which were continued until his death. Stephen H. Wendover, elected in '79, continued in office until his decease, in '89. He was a man of extensive experience in business affairs, of wide acquaintance, clear-headed and sagacious. He was a member both of the Assembly and Senate. James Bain, elected in '89, continued in office until his decease in '92. He was a farmer, universally respected for his high character and standing. Gerrit S. Collier was elected in February, '92, and has been continued in office to the present time. The Vice-Presidents have been: John Bain, the first Vice-President, was continued in office until failing health constrained him to decline a re-election in '59. He served as a Director until his decease, in June, '60. David Van Schaack, elected in '59, continued in office until his decease, in '72. Barent Van Alstyne, elected in '73, served in that office, with the exception of one year, until his decease, in '86. Gerrit S.

Collier was elected in May, '86, and continued in that office until he was chosen President, in February, '92. Peter V. S. Pruyn was elected second Vice-President in March, '88, and served as such until January, '90, when that office was discontinued. David Strain, elected Vice-President in '92, continued in that office until his decease in 1903. Henry Strain was elected Vice-President in 1904. The Cashiers have been: William H. Rainey, 1853-1906; James A. Reynolds, 1906- The Tellers and Bookkeepers have been: Jacob Williams, Hiram P. Hoysradt, John J. Van Schaack, Frank Van Santvoord, James A. Reynolds, Harold Birckmayer, Bertram A. Hull.

On the first of October, 1903, there was a notable celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the Bank and of Mr. Rainey's half-century of service as Cashier. In the evening the Directors gave a reception in the village hall which was attended by a large number of invited guests—stockholders, depositors, and friends, both ladies and gentlemen—including Mr. McGarrah, President of the Leather Manufacturers' National Bank, New York; Mr. Nash, Cashier of New York State National Bank, Mr. Tremper, Cashier of First National Bank, Albany; Mr. Haviland and Mr. Hallenbeck, Cashier and Teller of the Farmers' National Bank, and Mr. Macy and Mr. Benson, President and Cashier of First National Bank, Hudson; Mr. Humphrey, Cashier, and Dr. Wheeler, Mr. Boright, Mr. Pierson, and Mr. Thomas, Directors of the State Bank, Chatham. The New York State National Bank of Albany and the National Hudson River Bank of Hudson each contributed beautiful floral pieces for the occasion. The hall was profusely decorated with palms, flowers, and autumn leaves, and the evening's entertainment was enlivened with music by Doring's orchestra and singing by the Empire Quartette of Troy. Ample refreshments were provided by Mc Elveny of Albany, and the evening was enjoyed by all who were present.

The Directors of the Bank considered the occasion a

fitting one to show their appreciation and make some substantial recognition of the services of those actively engaged in the management and business of the Bank, and in the course of the evening presented Mr. Rainey with a beautiful service of silver and Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Van Santvoord each with a purse of gold. Mr. Reynolds had served as Teller for more than thirty-five, and Mr. Van Santvoord, as General Bookkeeper, more than sixteen years. Appropriate and excellent presentation addresses were made by the President of the Bank, Mr. Gerrit S. Collier, Esq. The responses by the recipients were of great interest and not without touches of pathos. The largest piece of the silver service bears the following inscription: "1853-1903. Presented October 1, 1903. By the Board of Directors of The National Union Bank of Kinderhook, N. Y. To William H. Rainey, the cashier of said institution from the date of its organization Oct. 1, 1853, to the present time, in commemoration of an official service and relation notable, if not unique, and in recognition of his ability and fidelity as such officer and in appreciation of his exalted character as a citizen and worth as a friend."

The present Board of Directors consists of the following gentlemen: Gerrit S. Collier, Isaac E. Bain, William J. Gardenier, Robert P. Richmond, Henry Strain, Charles Frisbee, and James A. Reynolds.

KINDERHOOK CONSCRIPT SOCIETY

This is the oldest of existing town organizations other than religious. It was organized October 1, 1808. From a historical sketch prepared by the late Mr. P. Edward Van Alstyne we draw the following details: At the organization in 1808, Abram I. Van Vleck was elected Treasurer, and John Manton, Isaac A. Van Vleck, and Andries Whitbeck were appointed "a committee to liquidate the accounts of the riders." Later, this committee came to be known as Auditors. The Constitution adopted in '63 provides for

the election of twelve riders. An amendment in '76 gave the appointment of riders to the Treasurer and authorized the use of the telegraph and mails.

The riders of 1808 were: William Potter, Albert Whitbeck, Teunis G. Snyder, Peter Bain, Peter T. Van Slyck, George Van Hoesen, Daniel Jones, Jr., Martin Harder, Samuel I. Vosburgh, Isaac Van Dyck, Lemuel Morton, and Arent Van Dyck. We confess to a shock to our spirit of reverence when we think of Teunis G. Snyder, whom forty years ago we knew as a patriarch of ninety or more, cavorting about the country in pursuit of horse-thieves.

The minutes of the Society from 1808 to 1863 have disappeared. Beginning with 1863 the Treasurers of the Society have been as follows: P. Edward Van Alstyne, from 1863 until his death in '76; Augustus W. Wynkoop, '77 to '86; John Wilcoxson, '86-'89; George W. Wilkins, from '89 until his death in 1913. The Vice-Presidents have been: Benajah Conant, '63 to '65; James Patton, '65 to '72; Henry A. Hoysradt, '72 to '86; J. Spencer Hosford, '86 to 1913. The Auditors have been: William R. Mesick, '63 to '85; Hugh Bain, '63-'66; Peter S. Hoes, '63-'65; E. G. Howard, '65 to '67; Francis W. Bradley, '66 to '72; Henry Iler, '67 to '73; John Rogers, '68 to '90; Lewis E. Fellows, '72 to '88; William H. Rainey, '66; Calvin Ackley, 1888, and Lewis L. Morrell, '90; the two latter to the present time. William R. Mesick and John Rogers served faithfully for twenty-three years.

The records show that every horse, save one, stolen from a member of the Society has been recovered, and that at the annual meeting in 1875 a dividend of four dollars was ordered to be paid out of the funds on hand, to each member of the Society in good standing. The report of the Treasurer for that year shows a balance of \$934.96 in his hands. The reports of the Treasurer and the Auditors made in 1876 show that the dividends were paid to 146 members. Afterwards three more members were paid.

October 1, 1908, the centennial of the Society was duly celebrated. There was a banquet at Kinderhook Lake Point, at which, after due and very satisfactory enjoyment of the good things provided by sixty-three of the ninety-nine members enrolled, there were appropriate addresses by George W. Wilkins and Edward Van Alstyne. The meeting was then adjourned to October 1, 2008.

There are now over one hundred enrolled members, with a fund of \$1200 on hand from which a dividend has recently been distributed.

The present (1914) officials are: Frank Bion Van Alstyne, Treasurer; E. P. Van Alstyne, Vice-Treasurer; Eugene Merwin, Secretary; Calvin Ackley, L. L. Morrell, and Charles M. Palmer, Auditors.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS, KINDERHOOK CHAPTER, NO. 264

Through the courtesy of the late Mr. George W. Wilkins we are able to give the following details. The Chapter was organized March 7, 1872, with these members:

William S. Hallenbeck	George L. Van Hoesen	Lewis G. Lant
John A. Van Bramer	William G. Mandeville	Augustus W. Wynkoop
Charles Palmer	George Reynolds	Edward Sulley
James Green	Bartholomew C. Vosburgh	

Not one of these is known to be living now. Dispensation was granted by Rees G. Williams, Grand High Priest, at Utica, February 22, A. L. 5872 or A. I. 2402. The first council was chosen at that time: W. S. Hallenbeck, High Priest; James Green, King; Charles Palmer, Scribe. The Chapter continued working under Dispensation until February 7, 1873, when Most Excellent Grand High Priest Thomas C. Cassidy with his staff, constituted it a Royal Arch Chapter and installed the above named officers. The following year A. W. Wynkoop was H. P.; Calvin Ackley, K., and Jacob Cook, Scribe.

A Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is composed of at least

nine regular Royal Arch Masons whose titles are: Excellent High Priest (the presiding officer); Companions, King and Scribe; Captain of the Host; Principal Sojourner; Royal Arch Captain and three Masters of the Veils. The successive High Priests and their years of service have been: W. S. Hallenbeck, three years; A. W. Wynkoop, ten; Jacob Cook, three; George W. Wilkins, ten; F. B. Van Alstyne, eight; T. F. Woodworth, one; Edward Risedorph, five. Subordinate officials with varying and sometimes separated terms of service have been: Kings: James Green, A. W. Wynkoop, J. A. Van Bramer, C. Ackley, J. Cook, S. H. Talmadge, F. B. Van Alstyne, T. Devoe, Arthur T. Bennet, J. A. Trimper, George B. Wilkins, and E. Risedorph. Scribes: C. Palmer, J. Cook, W. S. Hallenbeck, J. Green, R. E. Lasher, E. Risedorph, W. Heeney, T. F. Woodworth, and Edwin Langford. George B. Wilkins is the present (1912) High Priest.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Eda Chapter, No. 459, was organized at Grange Hall, August 17, 1909. The semi-monthly meetings are held in the Kinderhook Masonic rooms. The Chapter has a membership of sixty-seven and is in a flourishing condition.

Of the Valatie organizations we give the somewhat abbreviated account by Mr. Albert E. Davis:

The Valatie Lodge No. 115, I. O. O. F., was instituted in 1847, with 20 charter members. It now has 80, officered by Fred Oudt, N. G.; Richard Hughes, V. G.; B. Rowe, Secretary.

The Valatie Lodge No. 362, F. and A. M., received its charter June 22, 1855, and elected for its first officers, Jesse O. Vanderpoel, W. M.; Jacob M. Whitbeck, S. W.; Jacob L. Miller, J. W. The lodge at present has 80 members who are all Master Masons, and its officers are Herman L. Alter, W. M.; Harold Birckmayer, S. W.; J. W. Merwin, J. W.; and George G. Scott, Secretary.

The Valatie Camp No. 13,328, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized by State Deputy William Sherwood, October, 1908, with 60 members. It is to-day one of the largest organizations in Columbia County, having nearly 1000 members. In May, 1909, the Camp purchased from Messrs. Purcell, Barford, and Garrigan their property on the corner of Main and New streets, for \$2800, and had the rooms made into a lodge room. The Camp is officered by Albert S. Callan, Consul; Herbert Fern, Worthy Advisor; William Avery, Clerk, and Fred Berlin, Banker.

The T. M. Burt Post, No. 171, G. A. R., was organized and named after the late Thomas M. Burt of Kinderhook, a deceased comrade in arms, by the late General Morgan H. Chrysler of Kinderhook, on July 19, 1880. The charter members were: Morgan H. Chrysler, William Atwood, Dominick Richelieu, Gifford Chrysler, John Seccombe, Charles Sitcer, Thomas Seery, John Dahm, A. J. Wilcox, Joseph Healey, Dr. James H. Green, and Joseph Dahm. The last-named is the sole surviving charter member. The charter was signed by Department Commander L. Coe Young and Assistant Adjutant-General William Blaisle. The post has now 13 members, most of whom attended the recent re-union at Gettysburg.

LINDENWALD GRANGE, NO. 985

Through the courtesy of the late Mr. George W. Wilkins we have before us his historical paper read before the Grange, January 24, 1913. From it we compile the following details: The Grange was organized in Village Hall, June 29, 1903. Until October 9th, its meetings were held in the parlors of the M. E. church. Then the rooms over the corner store (now Mr. Avery's) were occupied; the building having been previously purchased by the Grange for \$2500, wholly on credit. The dedication of the Hall took place December 4, 1903; the services being conducted by Mr. E. B. Norris, Worthy Master of the State Grange. Notable and well-

remembered Anniversary banquets were held in Village Hall June 24, 1904, and June 23, 1906. At the latter the second mortgage on their property of \$900 was burned with joyful ceremonial. Two years later Mr. Wilkins reported that \$1550 more of the debt had been paid, leaving only \$950 outstanding. January 24, 1909, the Hall with all its furniture and equipments went up in flames. For a second time and until June 15, 1909, the Grange meetings were held in the parlors of the M. E. church. On that date the present Hall, the historic Academy building, was dedicated by the Worthy Master of the State Grange. The cost, furniture, and equipment included, was about \$3000. It is now free from debt. The horse sheds cost about \$800. The Grange, starting with 105 members, now numbers 260. From the beginning it has been very successful in promoting good fellowship, providing pleasing social entertainments, and presumably successful as regards the more serious intents of its organization. It has a fine property and when certain desired improvements are made it will "have a first class building in every respect." We cannot forbear giving this quotation from the Address: "As a matrimonial center our Grange has been a great success, for no less than forty-two of its members have embarked upon its sea; and it has been reported that others are to follow in the near future. Of this number nineteen were ladies of the Grange and twenty-three were gentlemen." We congratulate the twenty-three; but as for the nineteen, well, time will tell.

FIRE COMPANIES

In 1825 the citizens of Kinderhook, Millville, and vicinity were called to meet at Frink's Hotel for the purpose of choosing the "most eligible means of organizing against the calamities of Fire." Apparently a bucket-brigade was chosen, for the following year it was that alone which saved the house of Barent Hoes (now Dr. Garnsey's) from destruc-

tion. Not much more was available in '33 when Flagler's Dry Goods Store and a Millinery shop (standing on Mrs. Traphagen's present property) were burned. During that fire women assisted in removing goods from Graves & Blanchard's corner store. The excitement was intense and there was to be "no more delay in securing better protection." Nothing, however, of consequence was done. Four years passed and then came the burning of Birge & Smith's Harness shop, endangering Mordecai Myers's barn, and W. Bradley & Sons Paint and Oil shop, and "roasting the apples on John Bain's trees opposite." This was the last straw. The following year, when Kinderhook Village was incorporated, a fire company was formed and an appropriation voted for the purchase of a fire engine. In November, '38, we have the report to the Trustees that a fire engine and hose had been purchased at a cost of \$230. At the same meeting former action of the Trustees as regards a Fire company was rescinded, and Engine Co. No. 1 thus constituted: Homer Blanchard, P. P. Van Alstyne, Andrew Van Dyck, B. L. P. Lillibridge, George Doak, W. B. Shaw, G. W. Beale, William Kip, S. W. Van Valkenburgh, J. L. Whiting, W. G. Heermance, W. W. Curtis, E. Dodge, E. A. Dunscombe, J. V. Salmon, and C. V. A. Van Dyck. It is a joy to think of these dignitaries, especially the last-named (the great missionary and Arabic scholar) as running with old No. 1 to fires. Homer Blanchard was Foreman and P. P. Van Alstyne second Foreman.

The burning of the Academy Boarding-house in '54 called attention to the fact that Fire Engine No. 1 was "unfit for service." In '55 a tax of \$500 was voted for a new one, and in '56 it appeared and was placed in the care of C. M. Van Valkenburgh, Foreman; Charles Palmer, Assistant; G. H. Hoxsie, Secretary; George Ray, Treasurer, and these other officials, each with his special function—M. H. Purcell, Martin C. Dederick, John Bray, Ira Mickel, and W. H. Bull. The company, organized January 14, '56, had about

forty members. The engine house was, first, in a small building on Albany Avenue belonging to Chester Birge; then on Church Street, later in the building now occupied by Becker & Hyman, and finally in the present quarters in Village Hall. The old engine rendered excellent service in many small fires; and even now at the beginning of a fire its "perspiration power" is sometimes of great value before its proud successor is ready for action.

After the destructive conflagration of 1880, elsewhere noted, the Legislature was asked to empower the Corporation to raise money for a steam fire engine. Authority was granted and in December, '81, the present engine was purchased. It is what was then called a fifth grade engine and cost \$2250. Its first trial at the burning of Handy's Cotton mill in 1882 was not a conspicuous success; probably because of inexperience. Since then it has on many occasions justified its purchase.

THE KINDERHOOK HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY

August 13, 1864, the Trustees of the Village in response to a petition, organized this Company and issued certificates of membership to: Barent Van Alstyne, Isaac V. A. Snyder, Eugene L. Hover, George C. Patterson, Samuel C. Hulburt, Lorenzo Humphrey, Thomas J. Wiley, William H. Rainey, Peter V. S. Pruyn, James V. A. Hover, John A. Van Bramer, Franklin Risedorph, E. Ten Broeck, and Calvin Ackley. At the first meeting of the Company, September 9th, Mr. Rainey was elected Foreman; Messrs. Snyder and Hulburt, Assistant Foremen; J. A. Van Bramer, Treasurer and C. Ackley, Secretary. In addition to the charter members named we find the following signers of the Constitution adopted in December, '64: John Van Alen, David H. Oakes, George Reynolds, W. B. Howland, James H. Hover, Lewis Ritz, Augustus Wynkoop, P. S. Hoes, J. A. Reynolds, W. G. Hallenbeck, G. Murrell, Theodore Stickles, W. B.

Mix, and Frank Bray. These were subsequent additions to the first fourteen names. A little later we note the names: Frank Van Santvoord, Edward A. Thomas, Loren H. Gould, Edward M. Knapp, Manton Van Schaack, A. H. Farrar, F. L. Mix, D. C. Covert, W. B. Mix, Tunis Devoe, Charles W. Rainey, F. Decker, C. F. Cook, G. Mandeville, Pruyt Wilcoxson. Company meetings were regularly held once a month and their Minutes down to 1882, with those of occasional meetings thereafter are before us. A system of fines, ranging from ten cents for absence from a meeting to one dollar for failure to be present at a fire, proved very successful. The fines were numerous and by slow accumulation, wise administration, and added interest have amounted to a considerable fund. We note the statement January 1, 1910, that \$948.45 were on deposit in a Savings Bank. It need not be said that the Hook and Ladder Company was always prompt in responding to occasional calls for service and has rendered much effective aid. We have been especially pleased to note this record under date of July 5, 1874, written by the "Colonel" himself, that at the burning of C. L. Herrick's barn on the Valatie road, between one and two A.M., "the H. & L. Co. repaired to the scene and by their aid the hog pen was saved while all the other buildings burned entirely down." Death and removal have now reduced the Company to but four honored veterans. Recently these survivors presented the village with a chemical engine.

THE PALMER ENGINE AND HOSE COMPANY

This was organized February 9, 1883, and named in honor of Charles Palmer, for many years the efficient head of our Fire Department. The charter members and first officials were: Richard Hallenbeck, Foreman; Edward Thomas, 1st Assistant; Robert Connor, 2d Assistant; Charles F. Richelieu, Secretary; George H. Brown, Treasurer.

August W. Bauer, Ellsworth S. Brown, William Birckmayer, George Trimper, Thomas L. Griffin, Wintworth Ball, Frank S. Hoag, Edward Sharp, Henry Beer, John Reed, Frank Ball, and Charles F. Richelieu. During the thirty years since its organization its service to the community has been exceptionally valuable on many occasions. The present officers are (March, 1913): President, Robert F. Avery; Vice-President, Clarence Coons; Secretary, William A. Rora-back; Treasurer, Bertram A. Hull. The Trustees are: Harold Birckmayer, Charles A. Sickles, James E. Van Alstyne, Edward Risedorph, and Robert F. Avery. Foreman, Frank Heeney; 1st Assistant, John T. Hickey; 2d Assistant, Clarence Sharp; Engineer, George B. Wilkins; Fireman, Clinton Fowler, Jr.; Fire Chief, William C. Hover; 1st Assistant, James E. Van Alstyne; 2d Assistant, Clarence Coons. The parlors of this Company, fitted up in excellent style in Village Hall, and provided with current literature, a billiard table, a pianola piano (since exchanged for a grafonola), and other means of diversion, are much frequented, and are measurably, at least, a counter attraction to that of perilous resorts.

VALATIE FIRE COMPANIES

In 1837 the legislature passed an Act incorporating the Valatie Fire Company. The village not being incorporated as yet, funds for the purchase of engine, engine-house, and equipments were raised by voluntary subscription. Seven years later the Trustees of the Company divided their property, valued at \$1400, into 280 shares of \$5.00 each. The subscribers were: George W. Bulkley, Edwin O. Carpenter, W. Van Buren, John Van Slyck, J. P. Van Alen, James Henderson, John Trimper, John Rogers, Peter Pulver, George W. Benson, Richard W. Kirke, Barent Mesick, Charles Osborn, H. M. Penoyer, Henry Van Buren, William A. Thomas, James Williams, George F. Wood, Henry

Diamond, George Pease, James Patton, D. E. Van Valkenburgh, O. Carpenter, James Van Slyck, M. Callahan, Rensselaer Reynolds, Philip Traver, James Traver, J. P. Miller, Peter S. Prussen, Jonathan Clow, John C. Ostrander, A. Abbott, and Mrs. Shipman each gave \$5; Alfred Wild, J. Carpenter, Samuel Hanna, each \$25; William P. Rathbone, William Bain, each \$20; Robert Marsh and R. S. Penoyer, \$10. Eight years after the incorporation of the Village, March, 1856, this property was transferred to the Village Trustees and the Company disbanded.

The James Purcell Hose Company was organized with twenty members and incorporated under the laws of the State, January 15, 1895. The building on Main Street, belonging to the Company was built by contractor G. W. Wilkins & Son of Kinderhook, the previous year, costing nearly \$3000. James Purcell of Valatie was the largest contributor and the company was named after him. It has a membership of about thirty and is a member of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association of the State. It is now officered by President P. J. Cunningham; Secretary, Albert E. Davis; Trustees, Jasper T. Dennis, Remus E. Lasher, and W. B. Rowe.

NOTABLE FIRES

Of the notable fires the first was that of December 14, 1867, when the Reformed Dutch church built in 1814 was burned. The day (Saturday) was bitterly cold. At eleven o'clock there was a funeral service in the church for Silas Metcalfe, for many years an honored Principal of the Academy and prominent in the social and church life of the village. Through over-heating possibly, or because of an unknown defective flue, fire started beneath the floor and was well under way before noticed at about one o'clock. Within two hours little was left except the bare walls. The pulpit Bible, communion table, sofa, chairs, strips of carpet, and a few hymn books were saved, but beyond these

nothing. An oaken chest behind the organ, filled with old letters and other valuable papers, might have been carried out, but in the excitement was forgotten, for which we have not ceased to reproach ourselves. The bell was largely melted before its remnants fell. What of the molten metal could be gathered up was recast into small table bells which were sold for one dollar each at the remarkably successful fair, July 4, 1868.

The much greater fire of May 9, 1880, originated in a saloon kept by John Tracey, where, for some never explained reason, a light was left burning after the closing of the saloon near midnight. Soon thereafter two men who were passing, noticing indications of fire, burst in the door and found the interior all ablaze and the flames uncontrollable by any available means. The fire spread both ways and the entire block, from Bradley's Hotel to and including the late David Van Schaack's law office, then occupied by Mr. W. H. Atwood, was soon a mass of smoldering ruins. It was with difficulty that the building east of the hotel and now owned by Mr. Charles M. Bray, and the home of Mrs. Van Schaack on Broad Street were saved. The roof of Mr. C. Herrick's building (now Lindenwald Hotel) was several times ablaze. As noted in the record of the Trustees of the village the buildings destroyed were: The Hotel of William Bradley; Store of Jacob Cook, used as a Hat Store and Post Office; Saloon of J. Tracey; Barber Shop of G. Post; Saloon of Hugh Gardner, building owned by Daniel Herrick; Harness Shop of C. E. Covey; Tin Shop of C. Palmer; Barber Shop of A. Bauer; Law Office of W. H. Atwood; Barns, etc. As all know, nearly the whole of the burned district has been rebuilt with a much better class of brick buildings now occupied by the Kinderhook Knitting Co., John Trimper, and the Gage Brothers. The Van Schaack Law Office which adjoined A. Bauer's Barber Shop, after which came Palmer's Tin Shop, was not rebuilt. The corner lot awaits the Library to be given by ———?





Before the Fire

From a photograph by McDonald & Sterry



Before the Fire

From a photograph by McDonald & Sterry

Through the courtesy of Mr. James A. Reynolds we are able to present pictures of most of the buildings burned, as they were before the fire. They are copies of two views taken several years before by a peripatetic photographer. The second picture completes the first to the corner and gives a glimpse of the burned buildings on Broad Street. It should be noted, however, that the scale of the two pictures is not the same, and that the buildings of the second picture as compared with those of the first were larger relatively than they appear. The last building on the right of the first picture is the same as the first building on the second view. Some at least will be interested in the following explanatory notes: On the hotel veranda may be seen Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Shaw and their son Robert; Mrs. Mary E. Bain and her daughter Mary L., now Mrs. J. A. Reynolds, in white; and Adger, son of Robert Clark, of Charleston, and a nephew of Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Bain. Among those standing below are William Bradley; James Van Loan, leaning against the post; Martin De Myer, son of Benjamin who kept the hotel opposite, and Perry Bradley. Jacob Cook may be seen in his doorway and C. M. Van Valkenburgh on the stoop of the Harness Shop. In the second view Peter H. Bain is inspecting a cultivator in front of Lathrop and Reynolds's Hardware store. On the stoop are Calvin Ackley and his dog, Harold Van Santvoord, George Reynolds, and Charles Sitzer. The "Old Man," Frank Schermerhorn, is also in evidence. Franklin Risedorph and George Patterson are on the next stoop, Holcomb in the wagon, and the boys Isaac Bradley and Ed. Conner awaiting developments other than those of the photographer.

The next serious fire was the burning of the cotton mill, May 5, '82. It was then owned by Russell Handy and stood about on the site of the present Albany Southern station house. Its destruction was a great loss to our village and especially to the many who had been employed therein.

Our most spectacular fire as regards scenic effects was

the burning of the Canoe (Beaver) mill, Valatie. It was during the memorable blizzard, March 11, 12, 1888, and when that storm was at its height at night. The sky was filled with snowflakes as thickly, and driving as fast and furiously as could be. Only near the doomed building could the fire be definitely located through the blinding snow which so diffused the light of the flames that (with apologies to Shakespeare) it did,

The multitudinous flakes incarnadine,
Making the heavens one red.

The separate flakes were of a glowing pink as they fell about our homes two miles away. So vivid was the fiery glow that some, fearing the roofs of their own homes were aflame, rushed out into the storm to see. And there were those who thought that the end of the world was at hand. The burning of that large mill was a greater loss to Valatie than was the burning of our own to us.

Of the blizzard we need say but briefly, that while much less severe here than to the south of us, none then living had ever seen its like before. We remember seeing the snowdrifts concealing the top of the doorframe of the house opposite. We recall crawling as best we could along the top of the fence east of us, and wading far afield when obliged to venture out. We recollect the tunnel over the sidewalk near Jacob Cook's house, through which men passed for several days. How all travel was suspended and we without mails and every other communication with the outside world for three or four days; how the supplies of milk and food began to grow scanty and would have failed except for the resource of canned goods, none who passed through those scenes will ever forget. We do not recall, however, that there was much if any actual suffering here. In due time the storm abated and by slow degrees paths and roads were opened up and mails and travel facilities restored. And when, Thursday

afternoon, we had papers to read we found that, compared with many other places, Kinderhook had fared very well through an experience not wholly unwelcome once in a lifetime for its impressiveness not without high moral teaching.

CHAPTER XI

HIGHWAYS, PUBLIC UTILITIES, INDUSTRIES, CEMETERIES

Indian Trails—Beginnings of Roads—The Post Road—Village Streets—Bridges—Sloops—Steamboats—Stage Coaches—Ferries—Steam and Electric Railways—Water Works—Kinderhook and Valatie Industries—Private Burial Plots—The Old Burying Ground—Chancellor Kent's Decree—Present Cemeteries.

IN 1609, with the exception of small clearings crudely cultivated by the aborigines, there was an unbroken wilderness from Manhattan to the St. Lawrence. Through it, however, here and there were numerous trails, discernible by the Indians, which were their highways of travel. In primitive Kinderhook there was, as heretofore noted, one such trail near the river leading to their "castle" at "Schotack" behind the present Castleton. There was another which followed in a general way what is now the road-bed of the Boston and Albany Railway, and which came to be known a century later as the "Great New England Path." This led to another Indian "castle," near Chatham Center or Chatham, and of which we have a mere glimpse now and then in the earliest land-papers. It was the Indian travel-route to the East. Evidently also there were trails near the principal streams. The abundance in former years of Indian relics on the present William B. Van Alstyne farm seems to indicate that locality as a place of frequent meeting if not of an Indian village.

For many years the means of communication with Fort Orange, and much more with New Amsterdam, were few and primitive; the river, and mere bridle paths through the forest being the only highways. The voyage between New Amsterdam and Kinderhook by sloop took from three days when winds were favorable to a week or more when conditions were adverse. Arnout C. Viele, the Indian interpreter, writing in 1699 of his journey from New York to Albany, speaks of it as taking a week and says—"we came to Kinderhook by boat and there took a canoa." As early doubtless as the very first settlements on the river-front and along the Kinderhook and Claverack creeks there were roads of some sort for land inter-communication. They were in the first instance mere bridle paths or cow lanes, as our present William Street was originally called, and were but slight improvements upon the Indian trails. One such led up from Nuttenhook (oh the pity of the recent unmeaning name "*Newton Hook!*") and another near the mouth of the Stockport Creek to and beyond the site of our present village. And still earlier, along the river, was the rude beginning of what was later known as the Farmer's Turnpike, essentially our present river-road to Albany.

The Fort Orange Minutes, April 25, 1671, give the first definite information concerning our highways. Therein we read: "At the request of inhabitants and property owners behind the Kinderhoeck, Pieter Van Alen, and Adam Dinghman are elected road-masters, and Jacob Martense messenger to deliver summons, etc." They probably began the Post Road from our village north; for in 1676 the Court directed "Dirk, the Swede, and Adam Dingman, road masters, to have the road from Kinderhook to Greenbush finished." Six years later the same Court directed the inhabitants of Kinderhook to "repair the road leading past Greenbush, and to fence their burial places," that is, the private burial plots hereinafter noted.

As early as 1684 there must have been a bridle path at

least between Albany and New York, on each side of the river, for we read of the semi-weekly post-rider as then going one way and returning the other. In that year it was officially decreed "that the rate for riding post be 3d. for every single letter not above 100 miles; if more, proportionately." In 1685 Samuel Bensingh and Cornelis Stevensen were appointed to care for the road from Claverack to Kinderhook, while Jacob Vosburgh and Jochim Lambertsen (Van Valkenburgh) had charge of that from Kinderhook to Albany. This was substantially the present and old-time Post Road, our most famous highway.

Not earlier than 1690 were there much more than Indian trails and bridle paths eastward, for in that year it required Governor Fitz-John Winthrop's troops from July 14th to September 21st to reach Kinderhook from Hartford, passing, he said, "through the wilderness." In 1723 Captain Abraham Halstyn (Van Alstyne), Coenraat Borghart, and Leendert Conyn were appointed commissioners to lay out—"a road through the woods to Greenbush." This was substantially the present river-road. Six years later Stephanus Van Alen, Burger Huyck, and Leendert Conyn were appointed road-masters, and by the same Act the inhabitants were explicitly required to "clear and maintain (the road) by cutting and stubing up the brush and loping of the limbs of trees that hang over the said Road the breadth of two Rods and pulling up the stones that can be moved and to carry them out of the Road at least the breadth of one Rod." In 1729 we find the appointment of Road Commissioners for the care of the Post Road. They were Stephanus Van Alen, Burger Huyck, and Leendert Conyn. The road was designated as "For Kinderhook in said County (Albany) from the bounds thereof through the woods to Greenbush." For the road "along the river side" the appointees were—Johannes Beekman, Maes Van Beuren, and Johannes Van Beuren. The former Commissioners doubtless did what they could, as did also their successors, too numerous to be

named, but it was not before 1760, when Cornelius Van Schaack, Tobias and Barent Van Beuren, and Isaac Mueller were the Commissioners that the present Post road was fully completed; running, as already stated, through William Street and over the Bain-Snyder property to the vicinity of the present Albany Southern station, and thence as now to Greenbush.

That some of the road-masters were not unduly zealous in the performance of their duties may be inferred from the reprimand and order issued by Justice Henry Van Schaack concerning delayed and indifferent work. With his stern sense of duty he felt compelled to call attention also to what he terms "scandalous abuses of the Sabbath which have been and are too prevalent among us." Henceforth, he orders, "offenders (are) to be fined six shillings, or set publicly in the stocks for three hours; but if an Indian, slave, or servant, to have thirteen lashes on the bared back for each offence."

Far into the eighteenth century the few letters written were entrusted to Indian carriers. As late as 1770 we find Mr. Henry Van Schaack writing to Sir William Johnson that he sends his letter by "Indian post." Not until 1772 was there a regular weekly mail established between New York and Albany, coming up on one side of the river and returning on the other. Nor for many years was there any regular postal service west of Schenectady or south of Philadelphia.

The Commissioners of Highways (1774-'75) were Peter Vosburgh, Peter Van Alstyne, Cornelius Van Schaack, Jr., Barent Vanderpoel, and Lucas I. Goes. From their reports, on file in the County Clerk's office, Albany, we quote these items which reveal the beginnings of streets and roads familiar to residents:

Sept. 17, 1774. At the request of Mr. Nicholas Shaver, we have this day laid out a road from said Shaver's till it comes to

the road from Capt. Myndert Vosburgh's to the Kinderhook church; on the south corner of Mr. Barent Van Buren's fence. Oct. 14, '74. At the request of Mr. Johannes Moet we have laid out a road from his house till it comes to the road that leads from Capt. Myndert Vosburgh's to the Kinderhook church; it comes on the said road where the old road struck off to Cornelius Sharp's. Oct. 24, '74. We have this day viewed a road and found it of public service from the house of Johannis Moet as the road now goes and such alterations as are marked until it comes to the dwelling house of Martin Van Alstyne and from thence to the Landing road. Feb. 1st., '75. We have laid out a public highway (Hudson Street) from the church to the burial ground, thence to the dwelling house of Dr. John Quilhot (Broad Street), keeping the breadth to the fences as they now are, and from thence to the dwelling of Herman Pruyn as the road now is except where the road interferes with inclosed and improved lands, keeping the breadth of two rods, and thence (the Landing road) to the southward of said dwelling house to low water mark as this road is laid out by John Bleeker Esq. to Thomas Powell. Feb. 1, '75. We have laid out a public highway from the District of Claverack, beginning near the widow Van Alen's, from thence to Kinderhook and from thence to the line of the Manor proper, keeping the breadth of two rods except where it interferes with closed lands.

The "burial ground" referred to above was in the center of the present village, as will be hereafter described.

THE POST ROAD

Among the treasures of our State Library is, or was, a copy of the Auckland MSS. (1777), the originals of which are in the library of Kings College, Cambridge. They are descriptive letters written to further the speedy subjection of the colonies. In the first volume, we found our Post Road described as a part of "The great Western and Wagon Road from Boston to Albany." After leaving Springfield and Westfield that road ran through Colebrooke, Sheffield, Roeloff, Jansen's Ferry, Claverack, Kinderhook, and Greenbush.

We have before us as we write one of the very few documents belonging to the late Mr. David Van Schaack which escaped the fire of 1880 whereby his office, filled with records which would have been a mine of information, was destroyed. It is Lucas Goes's original chart of his survey (1808) of about twenty-three and a quarter miles of the old post road, from near the house of John I. Miller on the Columbia and Rensselaer turnpike. In Kinderhook village only thirty buildings are indicated, all without names. The Dutch church (second edifice) stands as hitherto stated on what is now the lawn of Mrs. James A. Reynolds. South of it we note the birthplace of Martin Van Buren. Between the church and Broad Street, on the west side only two houses are indicated, one of them the principal hotel of the time. On the east side seven buildings are represented. One large one, marked by a cross, is the first Academy building, now part of the Central House. Leaving the village and going north we come first to the residence of R. Webber on land now owned by Mr. L. L. Morrell. Then follow at varying distances the homes in order of T. McNeil; S. Vosburgh; G. Gillett; I. Pultz; H. Caldren; — Carr; Deyo; B. Wildey; Jacob Smith; — Van Hoevenburgh; William Teal; Peter Runalds (opposite a bog); Jesse Hait; schoolhouse; — Noney; Gilbert Mead; Thomas Crandle; — Snider; J. Smith; J. and C. Schermerhorn (southwest of a second bog); — Van Volkenburgh; Peter Van Volkenburgh; schoolhouse; Henry Shaver; Ch. Hearmans; D. Smith; John Smith, and others doubtless in Schodack.

Returning to the village and crossing the bridge we observe these places noted: A. Van Alen (near the recent Whiting-Howard place); Deming, (now owned by Datus C. Smith); E. Van Alen; Widow Van Alen; schoolhouse; C. Ham; G. Dingman; William P. Van Ness (Lindenwald); A. Hait; J. H. Shaver; E. (?) Shaver; G. Shaver; — Jones; schoolhouse; H. Van Hoesen; Widow Van Bramer; N. Briggs; D. Dingman; J. Van Volkenburgh; T. Van Alstyne;

C. Cain; — Van Hagen; — Van Volkenburgh; D. Dobbs; — Tipple; Jacob Philip; C. M. Donald; H. Skinkle; J. Leggett; schoolhouse; Jer. Pulver; V. Volenmier; — Witbeck and — Philip. A few of these places may have been within the town of Claverack, now Ghent, and a few at the north within Schodack.

Concerning the old Turnpike road, of which our present and prospective State roads are supposed to be the last consummate flower, we note: The Rensselaer and Columbia, chartered in 1799 "to run from the State of Massachusetts, where the road from Pittsfield and Hancock leads by the springs in Canaan, by the house of Elisha Gilbert and others, to the ferry near the house, of John I. Van Rensselaer." Next in our town, in 1804, the Chatham Turnpike (Stuyvesant to Chatham) was incorporated, with these Kinderhook men among the incorporators: Peter I. Vosburgh, Bartholomew J. Van Valkenburgh, John Goes, Jr., Medad Butler, John Rogers, Abraham I. Van Vleck, and John A. Van Buren. The Farmers' Turnpike (the present River Road), concerning which we find the Van Alstines of Poelsburg making stipulations as to its course, was chartered in 1813.

VILLAGE STREETS

Soon after the abandonment of the old burial ground in 1817, Chatham Street was laid out as now, although there had long been a narrow lane along the southerly side.

In 1821 Broad Street received substantially its present form, for in that year six women of the Holland family consented to the appropriation of a strip of their land for the straightening of the street, making the north line coincide with the front of the corner stores of John Bain and Peter Van Buren. The accommodating women also agreed to move back to that line their own "red store," which stood in front of the present Lindenwald Hotel. The Holland family



The Village Bridges

From a photograph



The Creek near the Bridge

From a photograph

were owners of the whole corner and of a considerable tract on the west side of Albany Avenue. In December, '37, Maiden Lane was made a village street, running from "the old road to Cow street," now William. In 1839, Congress Street, Valatie, was laid out over the land of Nathan Wild, and in 1840 it was ordered that "the street or highway from the bridge near the cotton factory of Nathan Wild, running easterly, . . . is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known by the name of Main street." The reports of the laying out and altering of many minor roads are much too numerous to be given in detail.

OLD BRIDGES

In 1719 (Colonial Laws, i., p. 1030) the Justices of the Peace and inhabitants of Kinderhook, Claverack, and the "Mannor of Livingston" were authorized to expend not to exceed eighty ounces¹ of plate for a bridge over Kinderhook Creek. This Act was passed in answer to a petition which represented that the fording of the stream was at times dangerous. Those who have seen our creek on a rampage can easily believe it. The choice of the present site involved a change in the road; and accordingly we read: "The King's highway or Road shall go by the house of Cornelius Martense and so straight through the Woods along by Derick Meese and so along to the bridge aforesaid . . . and from the Bridge to the King's old road which goes from Kinderhook to the green Bush over against Albany." Costs were to be assessed on the three sections named. By the same Act all vehicles were required to have axles of such a length that the wheels would make a track of four feet ten inches wide, outside measurement. In October, 1792, a bridge 252 feet long over "Major Abram's creek" was completed. The mayor and councilmen of Hudson and other distinguished visitors from there and from Kinder-

¹ One ounce was about \$1.66.

hook attended the opening ceremonies. It was declared to be "superior to any other bridge in this part of the State, and to save three or four miles between New York and Albany." It was named the Staats bridge. In 1816 Hugh Bain contracted to build a bridge over both branches of the Kinderhook Creek at the island below Van Alen's mills for \$1000. Two years later Phineas Prentice and Charles Whiting contracted to build a bridge over the Valatie Kill, near the mills of Charles H. Coleman, for \$500.

Concerning our oldest bridge, we regret to be compelled to report the reprehensible action of the town of Stuyvesant. In December, 1827, it appealed to the legislature for the passage of a law to equalize the public bridges in the towns of Stuyvesant and Kinderhook, or to exonerate the town of Stuyvesant from the expenses of repairs on the long bridge (our village bridge) in the town of Kinderhook. With a view to the defeat of this nefarious scheme a special town meeting was called at which it was resolved:

First. That a committee of four persons be appointed to resist the application intended to be made in behalf of the town of Stuyvesant respecting the long bridge in Kinderhook.

Second. That Julius Wilcoxson, John P. Beekman, Peter I. Hoes and Peter Van Vleck be said committee and that they are hereby authorized to take such measures as they may deem proper to defeat said application by attending the Legislature, or otherwise.

Other resolutions provided for the payment of expenses and for such remuneration as the annual town meeting might allow. The April record shows that no less than five dollars were paid to the chairman of the committee. What uses he made of this lavish sum it is not for us to hint. The town put no restriction on the methods to be employed. They were all in vain, however, and ungrateful Stuyvesant was relieved of all tax for our village bridge.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

It was in 1785 that a marked advance was made in facilities of travel. Theretofore, the only methods of communication with New York were by private conveyance, by saddle-horse, or walking in winter, and by sloop when the river was open. As already stated, the journey by sloop required from two to seven days or more according to circumstances. The passengers were required to furnish their own provisions and in part their own bedding. The lowest fare for passage of which we have found record, was two dollars. The trip was at times most uncomfortable and even perilous. Many were the thrilling narratives of the safely returned voyagers about their fearful experiences on the broad expanse of the Tappan Zee and while beating around Anthony's Nose and the Dunderberg. As population increased the number of these passenger sloops and freighters steadily multiplied. An observer reports forty as passing Kinderhook in one direction in one day.

The docks were, first, the old Conine dock, the "Upper Landing," north of Stuyvesant and now the site of an ice-house; second, the "Lower Landing," and then the present central docks.

The freighting business began at an early period. Very many were the sloops that called in passing at one or another of the several docks, and they soon came to be owned in increasing numbers by residents. Traffic rapidly increased and in later years became enormous and lucrative. Not only from this entire region to the Massachusetts line, but from as far east as Pittsfield came freight and passengers for the earlier sloops and the later steamboats. Smith's *History of Pittsfield* informs us that, forsaking Hartford and the Connecticut, "the tide of traffic flowed through the West Stockbridge gates to Hudson, Kinderhook and Albany." Material for the building of the new Congregational church in Pittsfield in 1790 came by sloop to Kinderhook. It is of

record that in February, 1831, during a drive of five miles from the Landing to the Village eighty-two sleighs loaded with produce were passed. The receipt of 4000 bushels of wheat in one day and an accumulation in storage of 200,000 bushels were not uncommon occurrences.

The first printed notice of the freighting business we have seen is this from the Hudson *Northern Whig* of May 23, 1820:

For New York.

Sloop *Alexander*.

T. Griffing, Jun-Master.

The above substantial and fast sailing Sloop is employed as a regular packet to ply between Kinderhook and New York. Her days of sailing from either place will be Friday, and in the following order. [It left Kinderhook every twelve or fourteen days]. THE FREIGHTING BUSINESS will be conducted by the subscribers at their Store at the Upper Dock; and every exertion will be made to facilitate business, as well as to accommodate passengers. They beg leave to take this opportunity to acknowledge the favours they have received from their friends, and hope by attention to business, to continue to receive a share of their custom. MCMEECHAN & WYNKOOP.

In 1848 the firm of John P. Beekman and Alexander Davis ran a sloop and a barge to New York alternate weeks. The same year Wendover & Sargent advertised the propeller *Wyoming* (Captain Sargent) to leave every Tuesday, and the steamboat *Buffalo* (Captain Bidwell) every Thursday. Fare fifty cents, berths free.

For a time the steamboats plying between Albany and New York were available for Kinderhook passengers who were taken aboard and landed by row boats. Probably the pioneer boat, the *Clermont*, was thus available in the autumn of 1807. The New York *Evening Post* of October 2, that year, told of the *Clermont* as "carrying ninety passengers and making six miles an hour against head winds." In

rapid succession appeared the *Car of Neptune*, the *Paragon*, and (omitting others), in 1820, and built under Fulton's supervision, the *Chancellor Livingston* (175 x 50), "with beds for 150 and settees for forty more. Fare \$8.00." In 1828 appeared the *North River*, which Dr. Charles Stuart described as being "the most beautiful and swift of the floating palaces on the Hudson, or, as I believe I may say in truth, in the world." In '35 appeared the *Champion*, followed by the *Diamond*, the *Swallow* (a portion of the wreckage of which was used in building a house still standing near the Valatie cemetery), the *Reindeer*, the *Henry Clay*, and others. After '50 came the *Alida*, the *New World*, the *Francis Skiddy*, etc.; not forgetting the *Armenia* with its famous steam calliope, to the music of which distance lent enchantment. On the boat itself the musical rests were especially sweet. The later, ever increasing marvels of steam navigation need not be detailed. Some of these passing boats were available for our local travel in the manner stated, but all of them and their sometimes fierce rivalries interested our people.

As an interesting memorial of travel in 1808 we copy in part an advertisement in the *Hudson Bee* of June 7th:

The Steamboat will leave New York every Saturday afternoon exactly at 6 o'clock and will pass . . . Poughkeepsie at 11, Sunday morning . . . Hudson at 9, Sunday evening. She will leave Albany Wednesday morning at 8; pass Hudson about 3, . . . Poughkeepsie at 12 at night. As the time at which the boat may arrive at the places named may vary an hour more or less according to the advantage or disadvantage 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. Persons wishing to come on board from any other landing than here specified can calculate the time the boat will pass and be ready on her arrival. Inn keepers or boatmen who bring passengers on board or take them ashore from any part of the river will be allowed one shilling

for each person. Fares—N. Y. to Hudson \$5.00, Albany \$7.00. Way passengers 5 cents a mile. Meals 50 cents each.

THE STAGECOACHES

In 1785 the first stage company in this vicinity was chartered to run a line of weekly coaches over the Post Road, passing through Kinderhook, from Albany to New York. The charter was for ten years and all opposition was prohibited under a penalty of two hundred pounds. It was stipulated that the coaches must be comfortable, enclosed vehicles, drawn by four horses, and making a trip to New York in two days in summer and three in winter, with a maximum fare of eight cents a mile. April 20, 1786, Isaac Van Wyck & Co., announced that "the stages are to commence running, leaving New York Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at five o'clock, and running through to Albany in two days." The fare was not to exceed 3d. per mile, and the regular passenger rate was charged for 150 pounds of baggage. The proprietors say:

They have supplied the roads with fresh relieves of horses, placed a number of new wagons at proper distances to prevent accidents and also regulated the stage houses on the roads so as to prevent unusual and unnecessary expense. They flatter themselves that the easy, cheap and expeditious method of travelling will undoubtedly engage the attention and approbation of the public.

The through fare was ten dollars, subsequently reduced to eight: local fares were six cents a mile in summer and eight in winter. The company limited the number of passengers in one coach to ten unless the passengers themselves consented to more. Inns for rest and refreshment for man and beast and for changing horses were numerous.

The arrival and departure of these coaches amid the

resounding of horns, the swish and snap of the long and dexterously wielded whiplash, and the prancing of steeds, conscious of their dignity and superiority to common horses, were very notable occasions. To the small boy, at least, the man who held the reins and wielded the lash with such wonderful skill was a personage far superior to any dignitary of the land who was nothing but a passenger. Nor was he a man of small consequence to older folk, because of the news he brought and the oracular wisdom with which he dispensed the gossip he had gathered up at the inns along the way. In those days the village blacksmith shop was almost as important a factor in stagecoach travel as the wayside inn. Until within a few years there stood on Albany Avenue, with its gable end to the street and nearer thereto than the present one, a typical shop, remembered by many, which often served the passing stagecoaches. It was one of many picturesque memorials of the days of old which the flames have swept away. But some of the old milestones, and a few of the once famous inns still abide, although the latter have been mostly transformed into private dwellings. Withered be the hand that would remove or mar the milestones. There are sermons in these stones, and poems.

The first stage company was not long without competition, notwithstanding its apparent monopoly and the penalty against rivals; for, only seven months later Kinderhook parties (names not given) advertised the starting of the Northerly line of Stages from Albany to Poughkeepsie, connecting there with the Southerly line to New York, and making the through trip in two and a quarter days. Fare, 3d. per mile; 14 pounds, baggage free; 150 pounds, one passenger fare. Their technical avoidance of the penalty of competition was doubtless that their stages ran only to Poughkeepsie. Such fearsome speed of travel seems to have been unendurable by the effeminate children of the sturdy fathers, for it was soon abandoned for a slower, more majestic rate.

The Hudson *Gazette* of October 25, 1793, contained this notice:

The public are informed that a line of stages will commence running from New York to Albany and from Albany to New York on Monday the 4th of November. The carriages will leave the aforesaid cities every Monday and Thursday morning and deliver the passengers every Monday and Saturday evening. The line will be well supplied with horses, harness and carriages. Only ten persons can be admitted unless with the consent of the other passengers. The proprietors do not hold themselves responsible for the loss of baggage. Each passenger will be allowed to carry fourteen pounds gratis. Any weight between 14 and 50 pounds to be paid for at the rate of 150 pounds as a passenger. Any weight above 50 lbs. the proprietors do not hold themselves bound to carry, but if carried must be paid for in proportion to size and convenience. Extra conveyances may be had on application to Mr. Shay, Cortlandt St., New York or to Mr. Ashbel Ely, Albany or Kinderhook.

In 1794 a similar line of weekly stages was established from Albany to Kinderhook and thence over the Kleine Kill road to Stockbridge and Springfield. In the *Commercial Advertiser* (New York) of May 1, 1799, we found this notice:

The Albany stage will leave New York every day at 10 o'clock in the morning and run the first day to Tarrytown, the second to Poughkeepsie, the third to Kinderhook and into Albany early the fourth morning. Fare of each passenger thro (*sic*) \$10; way passengers 5d. per mile. J. DOUGLASS, WM. VANDERVOORT & Co.

In June, '26, Lewis and Peters established a tri-weekly line of stagecoaches leaving the Landing and passing through Kinderhook, Millville, Chatham, and Canaan, to Lebanon Springs. Then also the new steamboat *Richmond* began, touching at Stuyvesant. The fare to New York was \$2.75. Reporting a new railroad opened in England, the *Herald* tells its perhaps incredulous readers of an "immense train

(90 tons) which travelled at the rate of eight miles an hour."

In the Kinderhook *Sentinel* of August 10, 1826, this notice appeared:

A new Post Office has been recently established at Stuyvesant Landing, of which Abel S. Peters is appointed Postmaster, for the reception of a daily steamboat mail from New York and Albany. To the citizens of this place and vicinity this intelligence will be highly gratifying, as by this arrangement they will be enabled to receive their letters and newspapers at least twenty four hours in advance of the laced mail which arrives only three times a week. The old post-office at the Landing of which Medad Butler is post master is not affected by this new order, but will continue as heretofore for the reception of the mail which is conveyed by land along the river. Capt. Sherman of the Steamboat *Chief Justice Marshall* and Commodore Wiswall of the *Richmond* have generously undertaken to transport the mail bag and deposit it in the new office. This is one among repeated evidences of their willingness and desire to accommodate the public and increase their claim to a liberal patronage from the community.

Abiding recollections of a stagecoach journey in very early childhood from Troy to Middlebury, Vermont, with an all-night ride and the diversion of an upset, make us think we can remember the passing of the stagecoaches through Kinderhook in the days of old. We do recollect right well the wonderful vehicles and the very meek steeds of Van Slyck, Devoe, Membert, and Michael, and how, in '64, it sometimes took two hours or more to go through five miles of hub-deep mud from Stuyvesant to Kinderhook. The wonderful Noah's ark too that plied between Kinderhook and Niverville, who that saw it and rode in it can ever forget it! And now we are anticipating the time when, instead of horses and carriages in the sheds, and automobiles on the side street, we shall see aeroplanes tethered to our church spire during the hours of Sunday services.

FERRIES

In 1820 the legislature passed an Act granting to Andrew Witbeck and John L. Sharp of Kinderhook and William Judson of Coxsackie, the exclusive right to establish and maintain for twelve years a ferry from the south point of Nuttenhook to Coxsackie. They were to erect good and sufficient docks or wharves, keep a ferryboat or scow, propelled by the power of horses or other team. The boat was to be capable of carrying two loaded wagons and six horses; was to cross at all reasonable times between sunrise and sunset, with an allowed wait of twenty minutes on either side and an hour for dinner. The charges were to be fixed by the Courts of Common Pleas of the two counties. In 1829 an additional twelve years' lease was granted. By the same Act Medad Butler of Kinderhook and Jabez Weaver of New Baltimore were authorized to maintain their ferry already in operation between the two places, with the same rights and privileges.

STEAM AND ELECTRIC RAILWAYS

In the *Boston Courier* of June 27, 1827, the visionary people who were projecting the Boston and Albany railroad were told with authority that:

the project of a railroad from Boston to Albany is impracticable, as every one knows who knows the simplest rule of arithmetic, and the expenses would be little less than the market value of the whole territory of Massachusetts: and which, if practicable, every one of common sense knows would be as useless as a railroad from Boston to the moon.

Nevertheless, the route was surveyed, over which, we read, Captain Basil Hall rode in a stagecoach in 1829, and, having described the hills, rivers, and ravines, said: "Those Yankees talk of constructing a railroad over this route: as a practical engineer I pronounce it simply impossible."

"Uncle Barent," whom many remember so pleasantly, was wont to regret that his foresight was not as good as his hind-sight.

These opinions, however, are not quite as amusing as they appear when we bear in mind that in the first instance the use of locomotives was not contemplated, but only horse, oxen, or water-power. Prophets of failure to the contrary, notwithstanding, the Boston and Albany road was built, and the section between Albany and Chatham formally opened December 21, 1841.

The Kinderhook *Sentinel* of September 13, 1827, is our authority for the statement that the preliminary survey crossed the flats between this village and Millville (Valatie), and ran thence northwesterly to Castleton. The strong opposition of a few influential citizens to that rude invasion of our classic shades and quietude secured a change of route which all now regret. What a different story we might have had to tell of our two villages, had that survey been adopted, we leave to the imagination of our readers.

The story of the Hudson River railroad has often been told and needs no repetition here. The section from Albany to Hudson was opened on the 16th of June, 1851; and the whole line on the eighth of October of the same year. In a preceding chapter the late Colonel Silas W. Burt has told us of his service as civil engineer in the building of this road.

We parted as composedly as we could with the old stages, when the Kinderhook and Hudson steam railway was opened, September 18, 1890, from Hudson to Niverville. Its construction was due to the enterprise and eloquence of the Hon. Charles D. Haines, who later had his home in our village for a few years. We well remember the meeting in the Village Hall at which he and an associate persuasively set forth the need and advantages of the road which he proposed to build for us if suitably encouraged. We remember also seeing, a year or more later, the first locomotive of a construction train wrestle pantingly with the

steep grade near the station. Heartened by our presence and encouragement it conquered at last and went on its triumphant way southward. We see now Robert Wild standing on a gravel car and waving his hand in gracious condescension to us, permitted to look wonderingly on one who seemed to own the whole concern. The first stockholders, as often happens, did not grow rich on their dividends, nor did the bondholders become seriously "bloated"; but the dividends in facilities, comfort, and cheapness of travel have been great; especially to the many of us who invested nothing but time in superintending the work through the village. While it was a steam railroad we had but four trains a day each way. In 1900 the Albany and Hudson Railroad and Power Company, which then owned the property, electrified the road with the third-rail system and extended the road-bed through to Albany. From that time on we have usually had hourly cars each way. The old stages could not accommodate a tithe of the present travel.

Of the Albany and Southern Railway Co., now owning and operating the road, we have the following account, kindly furnished us, by the late general passenger agent, Mr. Fred Burger:

The Albany & Hudson Railway & Power Company was organized in Aug., 1899, the Company being a combination of the following: The Kinderhook & Hudson Ry. Co., The Hudson Street Railway, The Greenbush & Nassau Electric Ry., The Hudson Light and Power Co., The Citizens Lighting Co. of Hudson, The Jansenkil Power Co., The Kinderhook Power & Light Co. In March, 1903, the Albany & Hudson Railway & Power Company was succeeded by the Albany & Hudson Railroad Company; and in September, 1909, the last named was succeeded by the Albany Southern Railroad Company. This Company furnishes gas and electricity in Rensselaer and Hudson, and electricity in all the intermediate towns and villages. It also operates a local railway system in the City of Hudson and owns and oper-

ates a pleasure resort known as Electric Park, on Kinderhook Lake, about midway between Albany and Hudson. The power house, a combination hydraulic and steam plant, is one of the most elaborate of its kind and is located at Stuyvesant Falls. The Company has also recently acquired the toll bridge between Albany and Rensselaer which is the only vehicular bridge between New York and Troy.

WATER WORKS

The Valatie water system is one of the best in any village of its size. It was installed when William H. Wild was president of the village. Its cost was about \$40,000; and the pumping station on Wild's Pond cost about \$4000 more. The water is introduced into many homes, and the protection against fire is of the best. Not a building has burned to the ground since the installation. The stand-pipe reservoir on Rathbone Hill is one hundred feet high.

INDUSTRIES

The industries of old Kinderhook District and Town have been revealed to a large degree in foregoing chapters. The story of their growth, number, and importance for many years, and then, owing to changing conditions, of their gradual decline need not be repeated. In her industries Valatie early took the lead of her more aristocratic neighbor, and maintains it to the present day. The many industries of that village led to the adoption of the prosaic name Millville, which continued in use many years. But in 1832, when a post office was established there (Dr. John Vanderpoel, postmaster), the older name, Valatie, was restored. Concerning the industries of Valatie, our own researches have been aided by those of Mr. Albert E. Davis, of the results of which, printed in the *Kinderhook Courier* recently, we have by permission largely availed ourselves, quoting substantially his narrative.

Old Kinderhook

In 1712, it is stated, Johannes Van Deusen built a stone sawmill near the site of the present Harder mill. About 1846 it was torn down to make room for the Wild mills, built by Nathan, the father of the late Charles and Robert Wild. He was the pioneer of all the cotton industries here. He came to Valatie in about the year 1813. Later, with his partners, Benjamin Baldwin and James Wardle, he organized what was long known as the Kinderhook Manufacturing Company. He began the weaving of cotton shirting by hand-loom in the Centennial mills now owned by Robert P. Richmond. At present they are making wrapping paper. This mill brought most of the early settlers to the village. Adjoining the old mill, William P. Rathbone & Co. erected a brick mill, in which were placed 2200 spindles and 57 looms, and which were successfully operated for many years. This became in time the property of A. Abbott and was destroyed by fire about 30 years ago. On the next rapids below, John Van Alen had a small frame cotton mill. Some years after, the Kinderhook Manufacturing Company erected its mill, which was also destroyed by fire. A brick building was erected in its place by Van Alen and Co. which was known as the "Beaver Mill." In 1851 Jeremiah Carpenter became the proprietor of this property and by him it was enlarged. It was 290 feet long, 44 feet wide, and four stories high. The motive power was furnished by a dam, yielding two hundred horse power. The establishment was known for several years as the "Canoe Mill" and supplied with 6000 mules, 3500 Danforth's spindles and 24 looms. These were run on the famous "Canoe shirtings," with a total capacity of 10,000 yards. Jeremiah Carpenter suffered financial reverses and sold the mill to C. H. Wendover. It was continued under Mr. Carpenter's management as superintendent. In 1888, during the famous blizzard of that year, the Beaver mill burned down. The fire started in a hot box on the fourth floor.

Opposite the Beaver mill are the R. and V. mills, now operated in conjunction with the mill on the Valatie Kill known as the Harder mill, in the production of knit goods. This mill was formerly known as the Baldwin or Hanna mill. It was operated for a time by A. Abbott & Son in the manufacture of satinet warps. Sheetings were manufactured here at one time with a productive capacity of 10,000 yards per week. The mill, idle

from 1870 till 1898, reopened to manufacture knit goods. After a few years it again suspended operations. It is now running as a part of the R. & V. mills in the production of yarn.

Adjoining the Hanna mills were extensive machine shops which have been abandoned for 40 years. The Crystal Spring Knitting mill lies to the east of the Hanna mills. This mill has had a checkered career since 1875 when it suspended operations. It has been run on knit goods intermittently for the past few years. At present it is running 60 hours per week, manufacturing sweaters, by the Standard Manufacturing Company. They employ about 75 hands. They are prosperous and add a fine new industry to the village.

Near the mouth of the Valatie Kill, Rensselaer Reynolds operated a factory for the manufacture of weaving machinery. He discontinued operations in 1852 and moved to Stockport. On the hill west of the first Wild mill, William P. Rathbone built a wadding factory in 1866. This mill was of stone. The production capacity was three thousand pounds of wadding per week. It stood on what we call Rathbone Street and was torn down a few years ago.

The more important existing industries are: The Rensselaer and Valatie mills (1 and 2) manufacturing yarn and fleece-lined knit underwear. The Centennial Paper mills making straw wrapping-paper. The Standard Manufacturing Co. making sweater coats, medium grade. The Adhesive Gimp Co., manufacturing silk gimp and upholstery cord, and The Pachaquack Knitting Co., making high grade sweater coats.

There are also about forty stores and shops in variety; and there the Kinderhook *Rough Notes* has its printing-office.

The many varied industries of Kinderhook Village in the old stagecoach days have been noted hitherto with sufficient fullness; as also the story of their gradual decline. Among the more important manufacturing industries of the early quarter of the last century we note: The Furnace and Pattern shop with which Mr. Samuel Hanna, later of Valatie, was connected; the Carriage factory of Truxton

Birge; the Currying establishment of Smith and Van Alstyne; the Stove and Tinware factory of General Whiting and the Cabinet-ware of Mr. Burchardt. There was also Mr. Ladue's Tannery, abandoned about 1824. Mr. Hanna and Robert Rosboro came together to Kinderhook as pattern makers. The former became a partner in the furnace works, the old barn near the station, lately removed by Mr. Keegan. Mr. Hanna subsequently started the cotton-factory, machine shop, furnace, etc., on the south side of the creek, opposite the old Beaver mill in Valatie, and Mr. Rosboro opened a hotel in the same village.

As late as 1860, the *Rough Notes* reports the hatting business as never greater; Graves and Son employing twenty-two men and turning out sixty dozen hats per week. We cannot forbear adding the statement of editor Van Vleck that on the fumes of the spirits used in the process of manufacture "a person of weak constitution and big ol-factories could get a little tight," and that he himself, reduced to emaciation and faintness by the delinquencies of subscribers, had been revived by a visit to the factory.

The principal existing industries are three: The bottling works of the Risedorph Bottling Co. had their humble beginning in an outbuilding of George Lathrop's home where Mr. Milham now lives. Thence the growing plant was removed to the premises on Broad Street now belonging to Mr. Duck, and thence by Mr. Lathrop to the present site. After his death the constantly increasing business came into the hands of Richard Alexander, his long-time and valued assistant, whose mother, it was stated, was a pure-blooded Indian. When he died, the still enlarging enterprise was efficiently carried on by his widow until sold to Mr. Edward Risedorph, the head of the present firm, by whom the plant was greatly enlarged in many ways. He conducted the business alone for about fifteen years, when the company was formed. Ultimately, after several minor changes in the firm, Mr. C. Milner became associated with Mr. Risedorph,

as at the present time. Their wagons, heavily laden with all manner of mysterious but delectable concoctions, daily scour the country for many miles around and in hot weather can scarcely supply the demands of the thirsty.

The Kinderhook Knitting Co. had its origin in one small machine in the parental home of Mr. Curtis F. Hoag on the Eykebush Road. Immediate success occasioned the gradual multiplication of machines demanding more and more room as the business increased, and resulting in the leasing and ultimate purchase of the brick row on Hudson Street. In 1882 the business was taken over by the Kinderhook Knitting Co., consisting of C. F. Hoag, Frank S. Hoag, Franklin B. Van Alstyne, and James A. Reynolds. In '84 Mr. C. F. Hoag sold his interest to his partners who continued the business until 1912, when they sold out to H. J. Newman and Henry Schnapper. After a few months Mr. Schnapper withdrew, and, later established the Van Buren Knitting mill. After C. F. Hoag's withdrawal from the former firm he established a knitting mill on Silvester Street, but having an advantageous offer from Poughkeepsie, removed the mill thereto; a venture which has been highly successful.

In addition to these industries there are fifteen or more stores or shops in variety which sufficiently meet the simpler needs of our people, while hourly cars make the stores of Albany and Hudson easily available for the more exacting shopper. In 1910 the Brown Brothers added their commodious Garage to their Carriage and Sleigh shops and have been well patronized from the start.

CEMETERIES

Scoffers may scoff at the classification of cemeteries which gives them a place in this chapter on highways, public utilities, and industries. With stern rebuke of their unseemly mirth over a subject so grave, we remark, that we find no more convenient place for our record. Moreover, we must

solemnly remind such scoffers that cemeteries are eminent public utilities, whither lead all highways, whereunto we will all have our final transportation, and where all industries cease.

It may be that the Fathers would have had burial places without the mandate of colonial law, but there was no option after this Act of 1684 (Colonial Laws, i., p. 152):

Within every Parish within this Government there shall be one or more places apoynted for the Burial of the dead, and before the Corps be Interred there shall be three or four Neighbors Called who may in case of Suspicion View the Corps and according to the desent custom of Christendom Accompany It to the Grave, and that noe person Shall be Buried in any other place than those so apoynted unless Such as by their own apoyntment in their Life time have Signified their desire of being Interred in the Burial Place of Some other Parish.

In the first instance the principal landowners at least had family burial plots of their own. The neglected and disappearing remnants of these are still numerous throughout the town. The Pruyn plot is to be seen near the present home of the late Mrs. W. V. S. Beekman. The site of the Reformed church was the burial ground of the Van Schaacks and others. Many graves were brought to view when the church was burned in 1867. In the rear of what we have known as the Burt place may be seen the Pomeroy plot, that family owning the place and living there before James Vanderpoel built the once elegant and still stately brick mansion.

The first public cemetery was in what is now the heart of the village. It was of very early but unknown origin, certainly long antedating the Revolution. It was about one acre in extent and had a log fence. It was owned by the Consistory of the Dutch Church as was all the land on the east side of Hudson Street down to the corner of Maiden Lane where the first church edifice stood. The burying

ground, beginning not far from the present village pump, occupied the whole of Chatham Street as far as the residence of Miss Dibble. With its narrow lane, on the southerly side, it must have extended over a part at least of the Union Bank lot and probably over a portion of Mr. Risedorph's property on the north. In later years we find H. and A. Van Vleck, who purchased the old burying ground, to be owners of both these properties and the builders and occupants of the two brick houses thereon. In 1860, in digging a ditch between the two bank buildings a decayed coffin and human bones were found, and in 1911 yet another bone was unearthed and occasioned much wondering interest.

Miss Dibble's present home was built by Abraham I. Van Vleck in the early years of 1800, and was in part a store. Subsequently his sons, H. and A. Van Vleck, occupied the premises. Needing a horse-shed, they built it in the middle of the present street, on land claimed by the Consistory as belonging to the cemetery. The disputed title was happily settled by a peace-loving horse which, being tied in the shed, considerably broke through into a grave. Then and there the controversy ended.

March 31, 1817, a meeting was held at Lewis's Hotel of inhabitants of Kinderhook interested in the old burying ground. Lawrence M. Hoes was chairman and David Van Schaack, secretary. James I. Van Alen, James Vanderpoel, and Peter Van Schaack were appointed a committee to confer with the Consistory and agree, if possible, on conditions of sale of the ground, on conditions specified in the subsequent order of Chancellor Kent. Their petition, the original of which we found among the archives of the Court of Appeals, was presented to the Court of Chancery by Martin Van Buren, then State Senator. From the records of that Court, Vol. ii., p. 473, we quote:

On reading and filing the petition of the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Kinder-

hook, in the County of Columbia, and the assent of a portion of the inhabitants of the said town, and on the motion of Mr. Van Buren in their behalf it is Ordered and Decreed, and his honor the Chancellor by the authority of this Court doth Order and Decree that the said Minister, Elders and Deacons shall have authority to sell and dispose of all and singular the premises situated, lying and being in the village of Kinderhook, near the store of Henry and Aaron Van Vleck and in the fork of the roads leading from the said village, the one Northerly to the City of Albany and the other Easterly to the town of Chatham, heretofore used by the congregation of the said Church and a portion of the inhabitants of the said town as a burial place and known and distinguished as the Old Burying Ground—that the said sale shall be at public auction to the highest bidder, and upon a credit of one or two years at the election of the said Minister, Elders and Deacons after Public Notice shall have been given of the said sale by affixing three advertisements thereof, one on the outer door of the Church in the said village and the others in two of the most public places therein, specifying the time, place and conditions of the sale at least four weeks before the same shall take place; and one condition of the said sale shall be that the purchaser or purchasers shall not take possession of or otherwise use the said premises, until the relics of those who have been interred therein shall have been removed to the place to be purchased for a burying place as hereinafter directed; and it is further Ordered and Decreed that the said Minister, Elders and Deacons upon sale being made shall execute and deliver under their corporate seal a good and sufficient conveyance for the said burying ground, as the same has been used and enjoyed as such, to the purchaser or purchasers thereof upon the payment or security of the purchase money according to the conditions of the said sale. And it is further Ordered and Decreed that the said Minister, Elders and Deacons shall with the avails of the said sale purchase such other lot for a burying place of suitable extent and eligible situation as shall be designated by the Rev. Jacob Sickles, or, in case of his death or refusal, by Peter Van Schaack, James I. Van Alen and James Vanderpoel or any two of them and shall receive a conveyance therefor in their corporate name but as Trustees for all and singular, the inhabitants of Kinderhook who are now inter-

ested in the old burying ground and their descendants to be used forever hereafter as a burial place for the use and accommodation of the persons aforesaid according to their respective rights in the old burying ground hereby directed to be sold. And it is further Ordered and Decreed that it shall be the duty of the said Minister, Elders and Deacons with the avails of the said sale, if the same shall be adequate thereto, to cause the relics of those who have been interred in the old burying ground to be removed to the premises which they may purchase for the purpose aforesaid, which said removal shall take place within forty days after the sale of the said burying ground, and if required, shall be made under the directions of the relatives of the deceased. And it is further Ordered and Decreed that the residue of the avails of the said sale, after paying for the fencing and improving of the new burying place and the purchase of a hearse shall be distributed among the poor of the said Church.

At a Court of Chancery for the State of

New York at the Chancellor's Dwelling

House in the City of Albany the 25th day of April, 1817.

Soon after the issue of this order it was carried into effect. Mr. Sickles declining to serve, James Vanderpoel was substituted and he with Peter Van Schaack and James I. Van Alen proceeded to act as directed by the Court. The plot was sold at auction to H. and A. Van Vleck for \$1200.50, and a new cemetery of about two acres in extent purchased for \$400 from Dr. Beekman. It is the northerly part of the present cemetery. In the removal of all remains so far as they could be found, the ground was ploughed over and then scraped to the depth of three feet, after which spades were used. If relatives of the dead objected to the scraper, spades only were employed. Not long after this the Highway Commissioners laid out a road four rods wide through the abandoned burial ground, thus obliterating all traces of its locality.

In 1845 the middle section of the cemetery was purchased of the late Dr. Beekman for \$330, and in 1858 the narrow southern part was bought of the same owner for \$100.

For several years after the last lot was sold, nothing was done towards enlargement, because of the mistaken judgment of some that there would be no sufficient demand for lots to justify the expenditure. In 1889, however, it was decided to make the venture, and, no contiguous land being available, the plot opposite, of ten acres or more, was purchased of the late Norton Pockman for \$1025. That the purchase was justifiable is apparent. There is a slowly accumulating fund on hand for the care of the cemetery, to which are added occasional gifts or bequests for perpetual special care of separate lots. There is also a bequest of the late Peter C. Van Schaack of \$5000, for special care of his own lot and the general care of the whole. Mr. James A. Reynolds and Mr. Manton Van Schaack are the present Trustees of the last-named fund. It may be proper to add that the Consistory of the Church, who are the owners of the whole, receive no direct financial benefit whatsoever. The only return for much care on their part is that the sexton of the church is the care-taker of the cemetery, which makes the former position desirable.

As some writers have printed the error in their accounts of visits to Martin Van Buren's grave, and as we find even residents are occasionally misled, we add the almost superfluous statement that the inscription on Mrs. Van Buren's stone—"The first person interred in this cemetery"—refers to the Albany cemetery from which her remains were removed, and not to this which dates back to 1817.

Of the three Valatie cemeteries, that north of the village on the Niverville Road, is the oldest. It is under the care of the Valatie Cemetery Association, formed in 1851. The first Trustees were: James Miller, P. Kingman, P. Hoes, S. J. Milham, M. J. Niver, and R. Dederick.

The plot purchased (now substantially filled) was soon seen to be too small for the prospective needs of the village. Accordingly, in 1852, The Prospect Hill Cemetery Association was formed. W. P. Rathbone, O. Carpenter, P. W. Pulver,

J. Carpenter, S. Hanna, B. Conant, B. C. Osborne, and John Rogers were the first Trustees. Their cemetery, of about twenty-eight acres of undulating well-wooded land, has superior natural advantages which have been improved in part, but admit of fine development in years to come.

The cemetery of the Catholic church adjoins the foregoing on the south.

While the Vanderpoel place was owned by the somewhat erratic John Rogers, he set apart a portion of his land for the free burial of our colored people. It was thus used until every available inch was taken up; in some cases, it is stated, with coffin placed upon coffin. It was then, as it now long has been, closed against additional burials.

CHAPTER XII

THE OLDER HOMESTEADS, INNS, AND PEOPLE IN THEM

First Homes—"Bricks from Holland"—Oldest Village Houses—Sunnyside and Orchard Home—Stephen Van Alen's and Bye-low—Adam Van Alen—Evert Van Alen—The Pruyns—The Van Schaacks—Benedict Arnold (?) Inn—"An Old Kinderhook Mansion"—P. Van Schaack and P. S. Hoes Houses—Lindenwald—James Vanderpoel (Burt) House—Elmhurst—Crow Hill—Henry Snyder (Smith) House—Vosburgh Homesteads—Old Houses at Chatham Center—Taverns.

FATHER JOGUES, the devoted French Jesuit missionary who visited Albany in 1646, after writing contemptuously of "the miserable little fort called Fort Orange," described the houses of the people as "merely plain boards and thatched roofs, with no mason work except chimneys." Somewhat better probably though still plain were the first homes of the settlers here, some of whom at least were fairly well-to-do when they came, and brought with them all essential equipments of their dwellings and for the stocking and tillage of the land. The mill of Claver, and later those of Gerrit Van Schaack at Stuyvesant Falls and of Dirk Goes at Valatie, supplied what lumber was needed for building.

After a few years the proverbial industry and thrift of our settlers enabled them to replace these temporary structures with more substantial and, for their time, even elegant homesteads, always clinging closely to the river or to the Kinderhook and Claverack creeks. A few of these are still

to be seen; three of them at least in our village, as noted later. Their massive walls, long steep roofs, immense oaken beams left unceiled but painted and varnished and now almost as impenetrable to a nail as iron, their spacious tiled fireplaces, and heavy outer doors divided horizontally in the middle and having imposing iron, brass, or silver knockers, have often been described and are familiar to every reader. Of those homesteads, elegant and even luxurious in their time, we have excellent types in that of the Van Alens on the Lindenwald Road, and the still older W. B. Van Alstyne home. As to the impeccable neatness of these homesteads we have this tribute of Alexander Scammell (1776) to the Dutch vrouws—"one drop of ink will breed a Riot till it is eraz'd by soap and sand and Dishclouts."

The bricks of our first houses were possibly "brought from Holland." There is a record of their importation as late as 1661 when they were sold for \$4.18 per thousand, payable in beaver skins. The claim, however, for every old house that the bricks were imported, is not to be accepted too credulously. We are not ruthless iconoclasts. We love poetry and have a bit of imagination of our own, but as faithful chroniclers we are compelled to say that there was an ample supply of excellent material for bricks and tiles at our very door; that brickmakers came to Fort Orange before 1630; and that there were at least two brickyards here in Kinderhook when most of our older homesteads were built. The Fort Orange records of 1630 report the sale of land for the manufacture of bricks and tiles. In the Bowier Van Rensselaer MSS. (1643) there is a letter from the patroon to Governor Kieft, which says: "I would like to contract for some hundreds of thousands (of bricks) as there is fine clay in the colony for that purpose." He had heard that the English were about to establish a brick-kiln on Fresh River (the Connecticut) and he sought to forestall them. Obviously, brickmakers from Holland would make bricks precisely as they had been wont at home, and therefore neither

size nor shape is any evidence of Holland origin. And, considering how massive the walls uniformly were, it is doubtful if the whole Dutch marine could have brought over the millions of alleged "bricks from Holland." Still less are we to believe, as some allege, that the great unceiled beams, always a joy to behold, were imported. There was no better timber anywhere than was to be had here for the cutting. As early as 1626 considerable quantities of oak and hickory were being exported to Holland, and later even to Portugal.

Of our oldest homesteads of the better class we have already noticed with sufficient fullness what was probably the first, the Staats house near Stockport station, and also the several dwellings of Conine and the Vanderpoels along the river bank near Poelsburg. The oldest of similar dwellings in Kinderhook Village are those now occupied by John Nink, W. H. Clapp, and the widow of Henry Schnapper. In repairing a chimney of the first-named house several years ago a brick bearing date 1623 was found. Mrs. Jarvis had it inserted in the side wall where it may now be seen. It cannot be, however, that the house was built at that time. Possibly the date indicates when the brick was made. In size and shape it differs from the other bricks of which the older part of the house was built. The southern wooden portion was added by Mrs. Jarvis. All we can say of the origin of this house is that it goes back to the time of the Indian wars. Some of the huge beams bear traditional traces of Indian warfare; and near the peak of the roof are the old-time portholes changed, with regrettable taste, from their original narrow oblong form to circles. Miss Jane Van Alstyne, who died in 1905 in her ninety-ninth year, was wont to say that in her childhood the house was much dilapidated and was occupied by colored people. Later, it was fully repaired and made a charming home. It was at one time the property of James I. Van Alen who married the widow of John C. Wynkoop (Lydia Silvester). Of later owners we note: 1837, Peter Niver; 1848, Benjamin Race; 1851, Eliza



The Silvester House

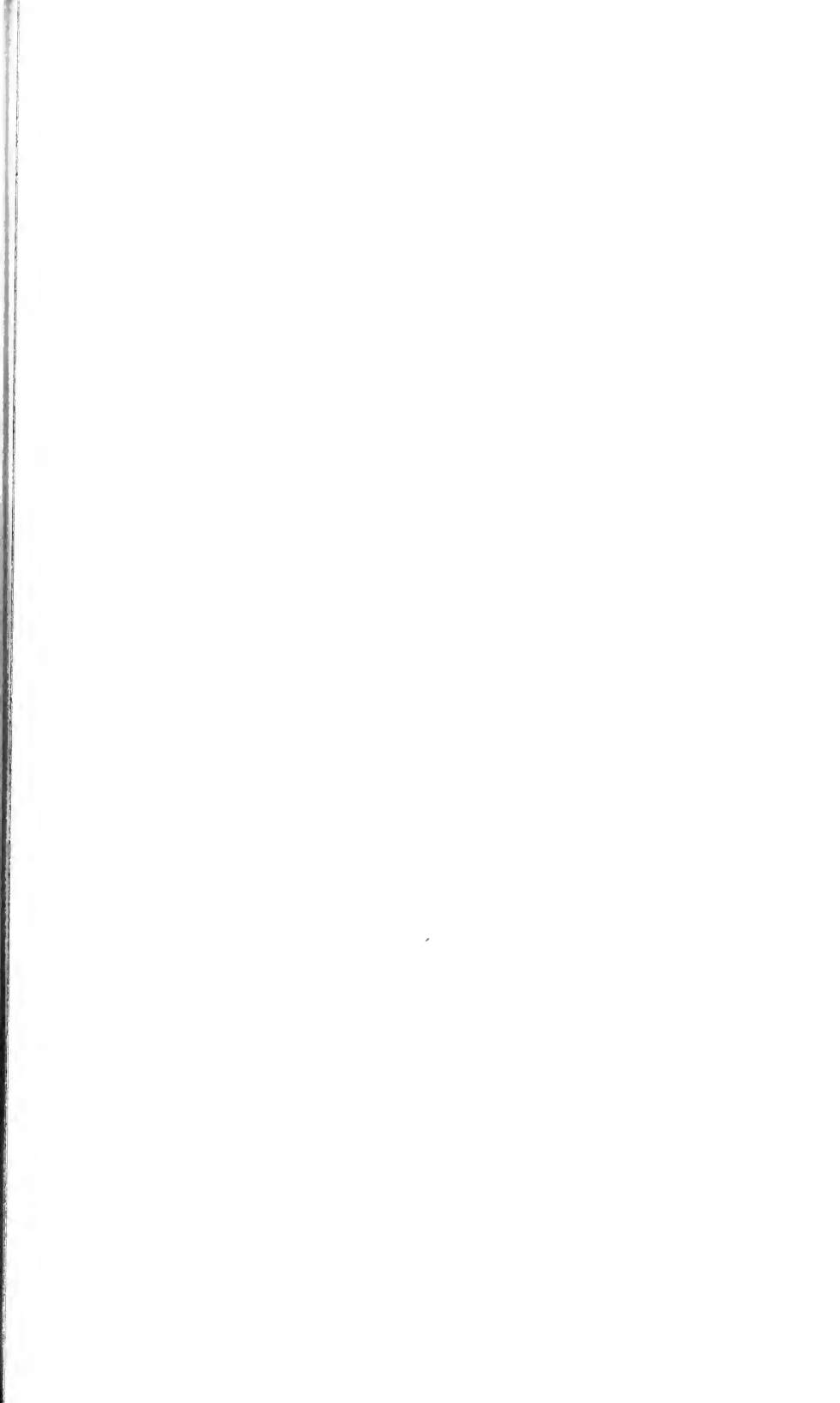
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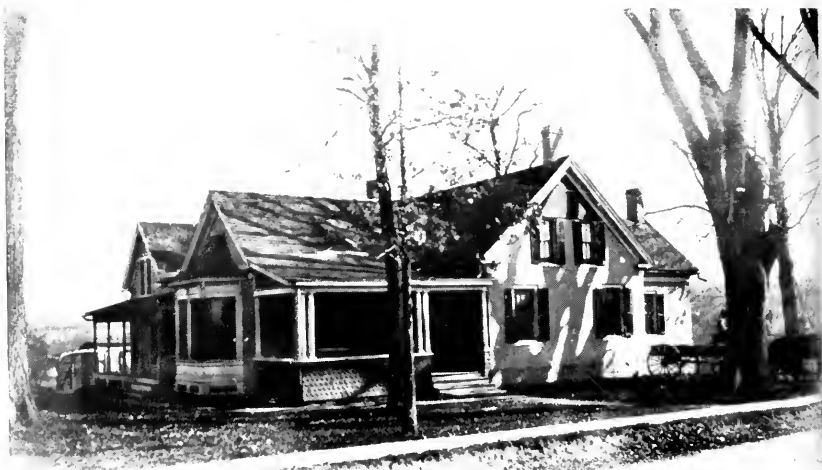


The Jarvis-Nink Home

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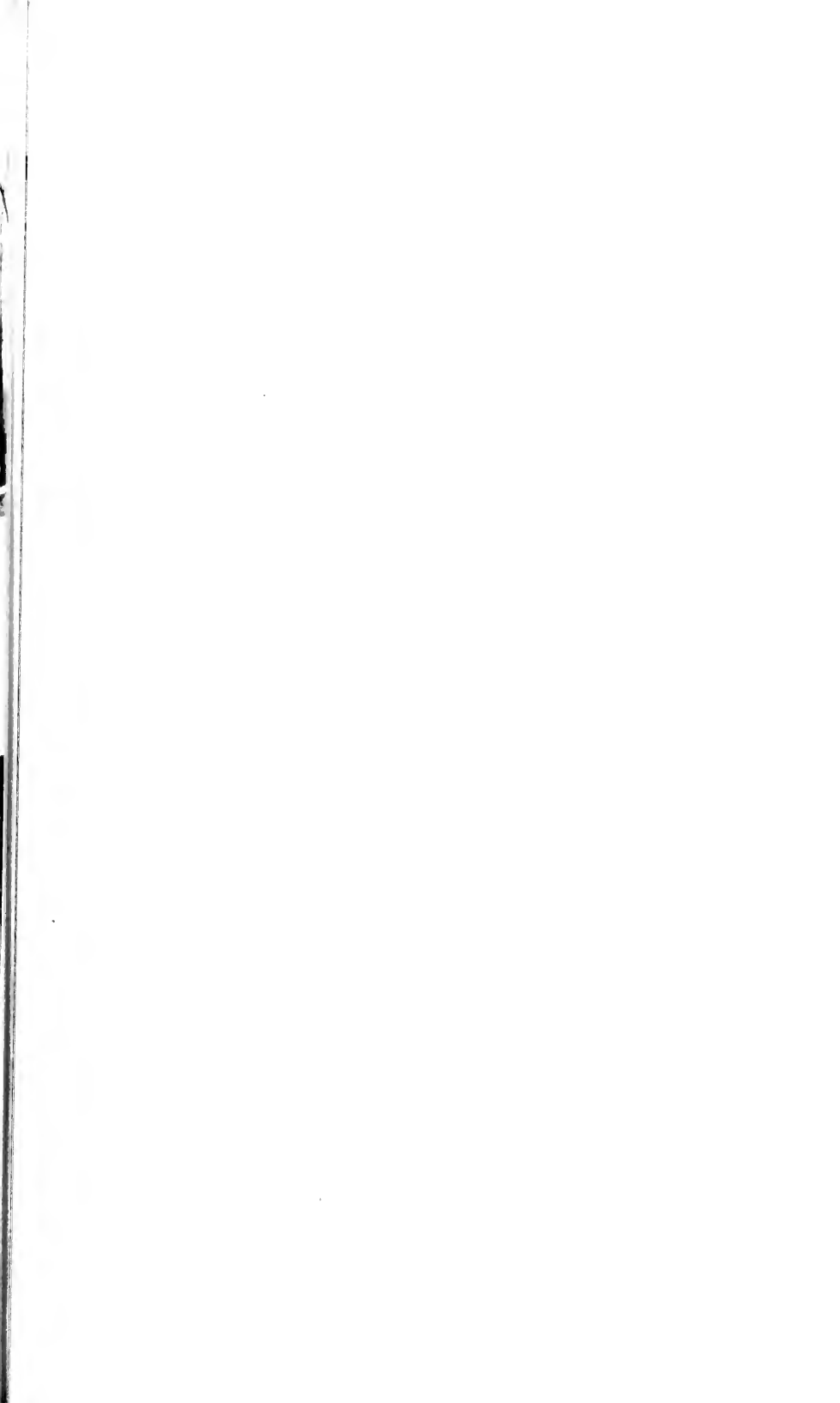




The Ritzema-Dennis-Clapp House



The Old House on William Street





Orchard Home



Sunnyside

Bramhall; 1857, Ann B. Jarvis, and Eleanor R. Fuller; 1893, John Nink.

The present W. H. Clapp house is another of unknown age and builder; but it, as well as the house opposite, which bears the date 1766, are known to be of pre-Revolutionary origin. It stands upon what we have found to be the Martin Cornelise (Van Buren) portion of the famous "Groote Stuk" of 1666, and we have traces of its ownership by the Van Burens for many years. During the Revolution it was owned by the Rev. Johannes Ritzema, pastor of the church. In this case, as in many others, records of deeds are lacking, but we have other evidence that the property was owned later by Dr. J. P. Beekman, after whom we note: 1825, James Vanderpoel; 1834, Julius Wilcoxson and James Shaw; 1848, Nathaniel Burns; 1852, R. Tattershall and George Wyatt; 1853, Henry Dennis; 1894, Jer. Scully; 1911, W. H. Clapp. The tenant house of 1766, doubtless the property of the original owners of the Clapp house, we find belonging, prior to 1835, to John I. Pruyn, then to Christina Van Buren, and in 1860 to Henry Dennis.

The late H. C. Van Schaack is our authority for the statement that in Indian war-times the present widow Schnapper place was a stockaded fort to which in times of alarm the women were wont to flee, the men being at work in the fields far away. Beyond this we know nothing of its early story. It was for many years the first known parsonage of the church. It was thus occupied by the Rev. Jacob Sickles when he retired in 1835. The principal subsequent owners have been: 1836, J. P. Beekman; 1840, Edgar Laing; and later, Catharine E. Heermance; Mrs. Dollie Farrar; Mrs. (Bohannan) Farrar; 1911, H. Schnapper.

VAN ALSTYNE HOMESTEADS. (ORCHARD HOME AND SUNNYSIDE)

We recall no other homesteads and lands in old Kinderhook which have been quite so long owned and occupied by descendants of the original settlers as these.

The following narrative is based on a paper prepared by Mr. Edward Van Alstyne, who represents the sixth generation of the name. We omit therefrom, however, certain details already given and add a few comments of our own.

Jan Martense (Van Alstyne) De Weever, the original settler here about 1670, acquired large portions of his estate by purchase from the owners of the Nuttenhook and Powell patents as hitherto noted. Other portions came to him through his wife, Dirckie Harmense, a daughter of an early patentee. The estate included lands now owned by Edward, son of Peter Edward; J. Spencer Hosford, son-in-law of James Van Alstyne; and Edward Payson, son of Hugh. Hugh, James, and Peter E. were sons of Adam Van Alstyne. Adjacent lands now owned by Messrs. Kilmer, and by the heirs of Silas Dick, also belonged to the estate. Jan Martense's homestead stood on Mr. Hosford's lowlands, a little southwest of his large hay barn. Mr. E. Van Alstyne remembers the depression where its cellar was.

The brick portion of the present quaint, much improved, and very attractive home of Mr. Hosford (Orchard Home) was built nearly two hundred years ago. Doubtless, its bricks were burned in the kiln known to have been on the farm.

This farm descended to Adam's cousin Isaac (son of John, son of Isaac). At his death it became the property of his son whom so many were wont to call "Uncle Barent." His sister was the beloved "Aunt Jane," and another sister was the wife of Hugh, and of most gracious memory. In 1864 Barent sold the place to his cousin James, then of Ghent, who added thereto sixty acres known as the "John Van Dyck Vly," and also about 160 acres to the west of the road to Stuyvesant Falls, purchased of Abram A. Van Alen and called in old times "The Clay." Both these plots had formerly been a part of the Jan Martense estate. James kept many cattle which, when fatted for market, were re-

nowned, in New York as well as in the vicinity for their superior excellence. The soil became exceedingly productive. His son, Isaac, one of our choicest young men, was drowned, July 4, 1871. When James died, in '84, his only living child, Maria, was his heir. She became the wife of J. Spencer, son of F. J. Hosford of Brooklyn. Their daughter Ella is the wife of Dr. N. D. Garnsey of Kinderhook, and their second daughter, Laura, abides with her father in the ancestral homestead. Mr. Hosford, turning his attention chiefly to dairying, has built up a particularly fine herd of pure-blood Jerseys. His dairy and its products are of the best.

In 1840 Adam Van Alstyn made over the northwest portion of his estate to his son, Hugh, and added thereto fifty acres purchased of Gilbert Clapp, making three hundred acres in all. In '41 Hugh built the substantial brick house now owned by his son Edward P. and greatly improved by him in '82. Hugh's first wife was his cousin Catharine, well remembered for her cheerful open-handed beneficences. Their sons were—Abraham who bought a farm near Old Chatham. He married Alice Philip, daughter of Peter Philip of Ghent and has two children—Hugh and Catharine. Hugh (senior) was the father also of Edward P. who married Catharine B. Fish of Scarsdale, N. Y. Their son William B. owns the old Van Alen place of which we elsewhere write. Hugh's daughter Jane married Mr. L. L. Morrell, our well-known expert orchardist. Their children were Anna, who passed away in childhood, and Alice who still graces the home of her father. Hugh's second wife was Miss Kate M. Pruyn, daughter of John I.; and his third was Miss Mary Hickox who survived him a few years. Both he and his sons were exceptionally good farmers; the father excelling in stalwart strength and executive ability. He was an influential citizen, holding several elective offices, and prominently identified with Kinderhook's first bank of which he was president at the time of his death.

In '54 Adams deeded the farm, now occupied by Edward, to the latter's father, Peter Edward. It consists of 220 acres of very fertile land, practically every acre tillable. Peter Edward was a man of vision. Fully a generation ahead of his time agriculturally, he laid drains, and set orchards of the best varieties of apples and pears which in some cases he himself budded. Men told him he would never eat of the fruit, and that when his trees came into bearing there would be no market for their yield. He died at the age of forty-six, but he saw his trees yielding "fruit after their kind" in abundance. His pears sold for ten, and his apples for five dollars a barrel. He was one of the first along the Hudson to export apples to England. He kept pure-bred stock; Herford and short-horn cattle, with merino and Southdown sheep. Both he and his brothers Hugh and James practiced what is now called "scientific farming" in the treatment of their lands, and in the feeding and breeding of stock. He was a life member of the New York State Agricultural Society and an active participant in its work. He appreciated that there was more to be won from the soil than mere dollars. The well laid out grounds with shrubs and flowers, and the rows of stately elms and maples which line the drive from the highway to the door, are living monuments to his memory. He was also a popular leader in civic and social life. He was a member of the State Assembly in 1860, and a U. S. Revenue Collector, and held other offices of trust and responsibility with credit. His first wife, Elizabeth Mesick, lived but a few years. He then married Harriet V. V. Mynderse, granddaughter of the Rev. Dr. Herman Vedder of notable service. Their surviving children are Edward and Mary. Later, he married Margaret V. S., youngest daughter of the late Dr. John M. Pruyn. Their daughter Harriet became the wife of Mr. Charles Frisbie of Stuyvesant Falls.

When Peter Edward died in 1876 the farm came to his only son, Edward. He has extended the orchard plantings,

enlarged the flocks and herds, and has well exemplified Dean Bailey's definition of a good farmer: "One who demonstrates his ability to live from his land; who maintains and increases its fertility and productiveness; takes the burden of citizenship in all that pertains to the moral and civic welfare of the community and leaves behind him children to carry on his work." Edward has for years been one of the leading State lecturers on agriculture, visiting all parts of the State and often going far beyond it. He is now director of State institutes. Heard by multitudes, his voice has always rung true to the highest civic and moral ideals. He married Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of Captain Bartholomew V. V. Pruyn. Of their seven children, James E., Elizabeth Pruyn, and Annie Mynderse are now in homes of their own. James E. married Mary Darragh, only daughter of the late John J. Van Schaack. Their children are, on both sides, of the eighth generation from the first Van Alstyne and Van Schaack settlers. Edward's daughter, Elizabeth, married Mr. Harold Wilson of Clermont, and Annie married Mr. Lawrence Howard the present owner of the Van Valkenburgh farm. The original homestead on the E. Van Alstyne farm was razed to the ground about ninety years ago. The present house was built by Adam early in the last century, and was then only about half its present size. About the year 1840 it was substantially enlarged by Adam to accommodate his son James, who for a time worked the farm. The bricks of the old house were burned on the place. The great-grandparents of the present owner had their burial here. No monument marks their graves, but the plot of ground is kept religiously sacred against the despoiling plow.

Abundant and luscious have been the various fruits which have filled the orchards and graced the tables of many generations abiding in these old-time homesteads. As contributing to this result, and even to the taste and successes of the fruit culturists of the present generation, we ascribe

much influence to the fact that for so many years this old-time song¹ was sung to and by the children:

Sint Nikolaus, goed helig man!
Doen gij beste tabbard an,
Rijd er mee naar Amsterdam,
Van Amsterdam naar Spanje,
Van Spanje naar Oranje;
En brengt die kindjes wat;
Noten van Muskaat;
Appeltjes Van Oranje;
Pruimpjes Van Spanje;
Peertjens van die hoogeboom—
Sint Nikolaus zal kom.

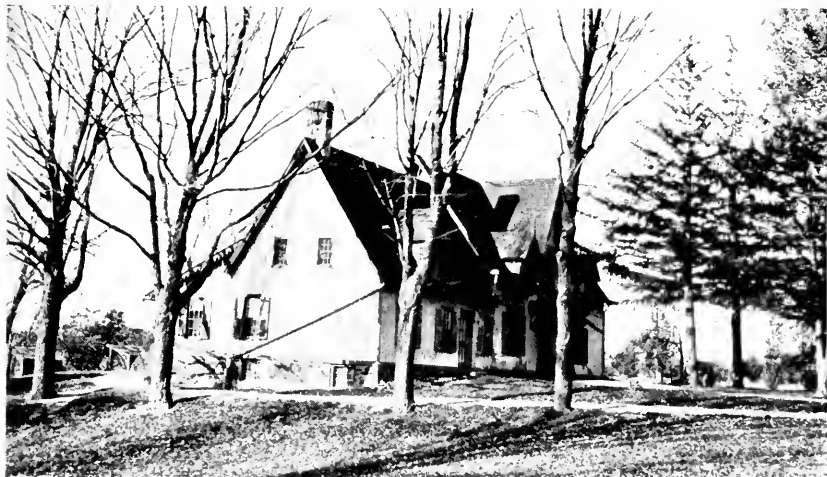
Santa Klaas, good holy man!
Put your handsomest mantle on,
Likewise ride to Amsterdam,
From Amsterdam to Spain,
From Spain to Orange;
And bring the children something;
Nuts from Muscat;
Apples from Orange;
Plums from Spain;
Pears from the high tree—
Santa Klaas will come.

THE STEPHEN VAN ALLEN HOMESTEAD. 1721

The present home of W. B. Van Alstyne was the earliest Van Alen homestead of which we have definite information. There were many others. That of Lourens, the father of Stephen, was on the De Bruyn patent (Brown Right) which he owned, and was probably near, possibly in part identical with, the fine old mansion long occupied by his grandson Lucas I., and now owned by the heirs of the late William A. Wheeler.

Concerning this notable homestead permit the digression: Lucas I. Van Alen, of eminent character and service, b. Oct. 1, 1776, d. Sept. 28, 1854, was a son of John L. Van Alen and Christina Van Dyck. John L., s. of Lucas; s. of Lourens, the purchaser of the De Bruyn patent. Lucas I. m. (1) Maria Pruyn, (2) Elisabeth Vanderpoel. The children of Maria were—Christina, b. '05, m. Isaac K. Oakley whose granddaughters, Christina and Mary Oakley, live at Newburgh. John, b. '12, d. '76, unmarried. The children of Elisabeth Vanderpoel were—Issac, b. '16, d. '39; Maria, b. '17, m. David Bigelow; Elisabeth, b. '23, d. '76; Lydia A., b. '25, d. '76; Helen, b. '26, m. George Wells; and Aaron, who in '61 m. Ann Eliza, dau. of John A. Van Dyck. Aaron

¹ For this and other Dutch nursery songs we are indebted to Mr. Brink's *Olde Ulster*.



The Stephen Van Alen-W. B. Van Alstyne Homestead

From a photograph



Bye-low

From a photograph



owned and occupied for a time his ancestral estate. His dau. Maria lives in New York.

Near the Post Road, and about two and a half miles north of the village, is a quaint old house which was another Van Alen homestead, built probably by Isaac P. or his father, Peter L. Van Alen. The last named was a s. of Lucas P. and Annatje Van Deusen; s. of Peter and Josina Dingman; s. of Lourens, the purchaser of the De Bruyn patent. Peter L., m. (1) Elizabeth Dixon, (2) Rose McKegg. Their s., Isaac P., m. Jabetha Van Valkenburgh, and Isaac P.'s dau. Caroline, m. William Wait, an eminent lawyer and the writer of well-known and important law books. To their s., William Wait, who m. Mary Rainey, are due the initiative of this volume and invaluable assistance in many ways.

Another of the older Van Alen homesteads was where the late Peter Harder (senior) lived and died in 1864. Still another, and in some respects the most interesting of them all, was the Adam Van Alen homestead as we call it, built in 1736. Fifteen years earlier Stephen, son of Lourens, built the present W. B. Van Alstyne house, which was owned by Stephen and his descendants for a century and a quarter. The land was the easterly section of the Powell patent and was sold by Powell's widow to Lourens. On the death of the latter in 1714 it became a part of Stephen's share in his father's immense holdings. Not later than 1721 Stephen built this fine old homestead, somewhat, and regrettably, altered in later years, notably in the removal of the enormous fireplace, but still retaining many of the well-known characteristics of the early Dutch homesteads.

After Stephanus, Cornelius, Stephen, and Cornelius S. Van Alen (1721-1848), the successive owners have been: 1848, Thomas Beekman; '59, John Taylor; '66, Morgan H. Chrysler; '75, Catharine Cannady; '87, Thomas H. Brush; '93, George Cannady; 1900, Charles Frisbie; 1902, William B. Van Alstyne.

Old Kinderhook

The first wedding in the house was that of Stephen's daughter Hiletjie to Arent Van Dyck in 1722.

Not long after completing the house the builder became dissatisfied with its location. He wanted to live among the hills, and leaving this home to a son went over and built a new one in the hilly region toward Chatham Center.

Stephen's original estate here was much larger than the present W. B. Van Alstyne farm. It included much land north of the present roadway. What we knew fifty years ago as the John A. Van Dyck place was a part of the original Van Alen farm. He and his wife were second cousins, and were great-great-grandchildren of the first Stephen. She was an inmate of this ancestral home for some years, and her daughter Kate tells with what terror as a little child she fled past the staring eyes of ancestral portraits on the walls.

BYE-LOW. 1848

The present charming home of Mrs. Harriet A. Duff and her daughters, Edna and Mabel, which she has so greatly improved and beautified, was also a part of the first Stephen Van Alen estate. The house was built probably by Cornelius S. Van Alen prior to 1848; but how much earlier no records reveal. We note these successive transfers: Executors of Cornelius S. Van Alen to Thomas Beekman, 1848; to Leonard Gillet, 1854; to Freeman Wagoner, 1872; to Margaret A. Woodward, 1901; to E. K. Herrick, 1904; and to Harriet A. Duff, 1905.

THE ADAM VAN ALLEN HOMESTEAD. 1736

This is so designated because first identified with the Adam Van Alen (b. 1703, d. 1784) who in 1731 m. Catryna Van Alstyne. He or his father Johannes was the probable builder of this, one of the most interesting of our Colonial homesteads because retaining to an unusual degree the quaint characteristics of the old Dutch mansions of the better



The Van Alen Homestead, where Katrina Van Tassel Lived

From a photograph



The Merwin Farm House, where Ichabod Crane Lived

From a photograph



class. We say "*the Adam*" because there were many Adams in those days. The same surname was so frequently repeated, and that in several branches of a family, and the maiden name of the mother of a baptized child was so commonly omitted in the earlier church records, that it is next to impossible to be assured of absolute accuracy. This old relic stands back from the road to Lindenwald and about halfway thereto. It was built, according to the figures in the side wall, in 1736. Persistent tradition alleges that the bricks were brought from Holland. Far be it from us to deny it. We will only state that bricks had been made in or near Albany for a hundred years before its date, and that there were at least two brick kilns within a rifleshot of its site. Nearly opposite this, on the other side of the road, stood the much older house of one Lourens Van Alen, whom, among so many of the same name, it is now impossible to identify. But it is safe to say that he or his father was the Lourens near whose barn was the dilapidated fort of the times of the Indian incursions, of which we read in the *Documentary History* and *Colonial Manuscripts*. Old maps and church records are our authority for statements that seem to be correct.

Concerning Sarah Dingman Van Alen, wife of Johannes, and living in one of these Van Alen homesteads, from Mrs. Clarence C. Dickinson, of New York, a descendant of the Dingmans, Van Alens, and Hogebooms, we have an item showing that there were militants, if not suffragettes, in old times. Sarah was renowned for her beauty, as of course were all Kinderhook women of those days. The overseer of roads was about to lay out a road through a piece of land the title to which was in dispute. Sarah was determined the road should not run as intended, and so, taking her spinning wheel, she sat herself down in the middle of the proposed roadway and began spinning, in defiance of the advancing workmen. The angry overseer shouted to his men to "run right over her," but they dared not disturb "so much of

beauty as could live"—as Captain John Van Alen wrote of his first wife, and the road remained unchanged, veracious tradition alleges.

Although questioned by some, it has been proved conclusively, notably by the late Harold Van Santvoord by his production of Irving's autographic endorsement on a private letter, that the prototypes of several characters in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* were found by Irving in this locality. Ichabod Crane, Brom Bones, and Dirk Schuyler were well-known local celebrities. And in this Van Alen homestead, the prevailing tradition is, lived the charming Katrina Van Tassell. Confirmatory evidence seems unnecessary, but we will add that Dr. Bond, editor of the *Christian Advocate and Journal*, in the issue of December 19, 1844, in an account of a visit to Kinderhook and Lindenwald and of his interview with the ex-President, says:

But we have learned of him a still more important fact. In his neighborhood there is an ancient schoolhouse . . . built by the late Judge Van Ness . . . though it belongs to the town. The Judge had the felicity to entertain as his guest during a certain summer Mr. Washington Irving, and at that time the school was taught by Mr. Merwin. In the vicinity of his schoolhouse Irving laid the scene of one of the most inimitable tales in his *Sketch Book*, and our friend Merwin sat for the picture of Ichabod Crane.

The land has remained in the Van Alen family ever since its original purchase from Wattawit, the Indian owner. Descending from father to son through eight or more generations, it is now owned and occupied by Maria, daughter of John D. Van Alen, and wife of Mr. William Herrick. In 1864, when we first knew this homestead, it was occupied by six descendants of the original builder, children of David, all unmarried, and advanced in years: Jane, Maria, Elizabeth, Celia, Helen, and Peter D. Van Alen.



Jesse Merwin
(Ichabod Crane)

From an old photograph



Jesse Merwin's Monument

From a photograph



The Site of Ichabod Crane's Schoolhouse

EVERT VAN ALEN HOMESTEAD

This has been mistakenly identified by newspaper and other writers with the foregoing. The chart of the Post Road hitherto described reveals it on the same side of the road as the latter but nearer the village. Like that of Lourens it long since disappeared. Evert's children were Abraham E., Lourens E., Jacobus, Dirck, and John E., of whom the last-named became much the most notable. Born in 1749, he married in 1777 Anne Fryenmoet, a sister of his brother Abraham's wife, Mary, both daughters of Dominie Fryenmoet, pastor of the Kinderhook church. He became a very eminent surveyor. Many of his field notes and maps of singular excellence abide to this day in the Albany records. His signature has become as familiar to us as that of a personal friend. Shortly before his marriage he removed to Rensselaer County, and purchased a tract of four hundred acres in the vicinity of De Freestville where he erected the Van Alen homestead there. In 1791 he was an assistant justice of the new County of Rensselaer, the boundaries of which he had surveyed. Beginning with 1792, he was elected to Congress thrice; the second time, defeating Henry Van Rensselaer, the patroon. From a paper by Mrs. J. H. Sutliff, read before the Gansevoort Chapter, D. A. R., and reported in the *Albany Argus*, February 22, 1903, we quote:

Evidence of his close and intimate friendship with President Washington is shown in invitations and gifts made by the President to both him and his wife. One of the gifts was a pair of sugar bowls, carved from cocoanut shells silver mounted, which had been presented to Martha Washington by an Indian Sachem in 1774. Twenty years later Mrs. Washington presented it to Mrs. John E. Van Alen. She bequeathed it to Dericke, wife of her nephew, Evert Van Alen, whose daughter, Anna Maria, shortly before her death presented it to her nephew Herman Van Alen, in whose possession it was when the paper was read.

Lourens E. married Margaret, sister of the distinguished jurist, Peter Van Schaack, LL.D. Their children were: Cornelius, Margaret, Peter L., Alida, and Maria. Concerning Peter L., the late Henry C. Van Schaack wrote:

Peter L. was a young man of great promise. In 1792 he went to Georgia as an officer in the regular army and won distinction. Abandoning the army he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1795. He was appointed solicitor General for the northern district of Georgia and was holding that position when killed in a duel with William C. Crawford who subsequently became Secretary of the Treasury under President Monroe.

THE PRUYN HOMESTEAD. 1736 (or earlier)

This, the late residence of Mrs. William V. S. Beekman, was built in part before 1736. In that year, Arent Pruyn, the youngest son of Frans Janse Pruyn, of Albany, and about forty-eight years of age, came hither and bought the property of Cornelius Schermerhorn. It was a large tract, extending on both sides of the present Eykebush Road from a "brook crossed by a bridge" down to the Kinderhook Creek, north of the land of Stephen Van Alen referred to above. The lots on which now stand twelve or more of the nearest buildings on Broad Street were within its bounds, as were also the lowlands down to and including the present residence of Mr. Davie. The Misses Catharine and Maria Pruyn, Miss Anna H. Wilcoxson, and the heirs of the late Captain Bartholomew Pruyn are owners to this day of portions of their great-great-grandfather's original estate. Cornelius Schermerhorn is spoken of as a blacksmith. As Arent Pruyn who succeeded him also had a blacksmith shop, it seems probable that both dwelling and shop had been built by Schermerhorn before 1736. Arent Pruyn's wife, Catryna Gansevoort, was closely related to the Conyns, already residing in the vicinity, and that is supposed to have influenced the coming here of the first of the Pruyns. They were both communicant members of the Dutch church here in 1736, and later he was



The Pruyn-Bray-Beekman Homestead

From a photograph



Major Goes's Inn

From a photograph

first a deacon and then an elder. The same is true of many of their descendants. Of their six children, Alida married Cornelis Van Alen; Lydia married Peter Van Buren; Frans married Christina Goes, and Harman married Jannetje Goes. Frans succeeded to his father's estate and left one son, John, who in 1767 married Catharine Vanderpoel, daughter of John Vanderpoel and Annatjie Staats. Frans and his wife were buried in the family plot to the east of the house. John was a man of considerable wealth for the time and a very highly respected and valuable member of the community, as well as of the church, which he repeatedly served in places of trust and honor. He had nine children, all of whom married. Five of them married Van Vlecks, resulting in intricacies of relationship in these days most perplexing to strangers.

Francis (son of John), who married Maria Van Vleck in 1779, lived in and probably built the old brick house now owned by Mr. Davie. He was a lawyer of distinction and served in many positions of trust and honor. Of his five children the most distinguished was John M. Pruyne, "*the beloved physician*," and the father of P. V. S. Pruyne, M.D., of both of whom more anon.

John I. Pruyne (son of John) married Jane Van Vleck in 1805 and Elizabeth Van Valkenburgh in 1825. He lived on the old homestead. The children of the first marriage were John M., who married Maria Snyder; Abraham Van Vleck, married Clara L. M. Fairfield; Francis, who died unmarried in 1844; Lucas (another beloved physician), who married Cynthia Willsey; Jane, married John Chester Sweet; Isaac, married Mary Jane Wilcoxson and, later, Sarah Ann Wilcoxson, and was one of Catskill's most eminent citizens; Catharine Maria became the second wife of Hugh Van Alstyne, and Anna married John, a son of Judge Wilcoxson. The children of the second marriage were Bartholomew, a captain in the Civil War, who married Sarah Caroline Thomas and, later, Judith A. Groat; Catalina and Sarah Elizabeth, both of whom died unmarried in '56 and '67 respectively.

The blacksmith shop of Arent Pruyn stood a little below the brow of the hill to the south of and near the present dwelling. The road, it is to be remembered, was then considerably nearer the creek than it is now. The shop continued its important and much more varied service than in our time for many years. Traces of its existence are still revealed by the plow, as also are traces of the brickyard.

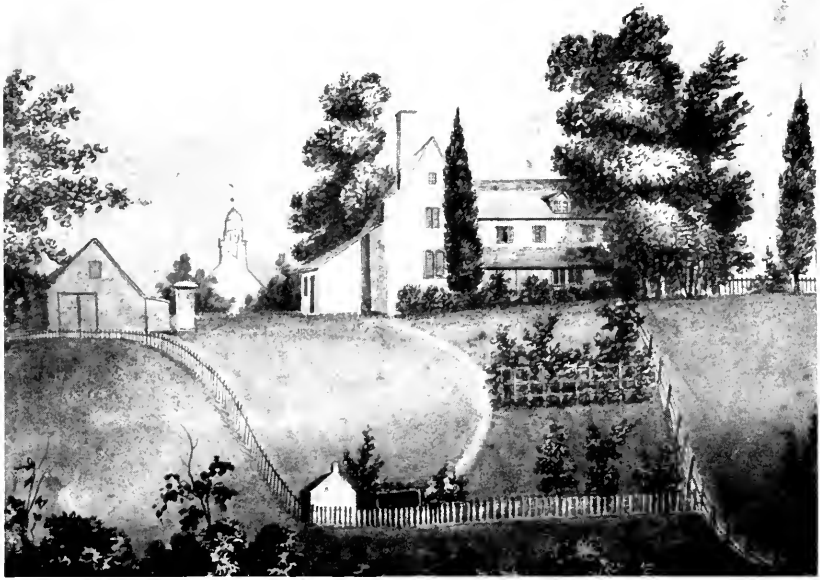
John Pruyn, and probably his father and grandfather, were slave-owners. We have the church record of the baptism of eight children of John's slave, Pomp; and from John's will we learn of Mink, who was to be permitted to choose his own master among John's children. With Mink went the tools of the blacksmith shop. He was evidently the smithy.

After John I.'s death in 1856 his sons Lucas and Isaac had charge of the estate. Portions of it were sold to several purchasers, and a plot adjoining and in the rear of the parsonage site, now owned by Mr. John Bray, became the exclusive and cherished possession of "Dr. Luke." Mr. John Wilcoxson owned the remnant of the property for about a year and then sold it to Mr. John Bray in 1862, who in turn conveyed it in 1878 to Mr. William V. S. Beekman, whose daughters are now in possession. This is the only house here in which an old-time *bed-zink* may still be seen.

It was said by Southey, we think, that no house is perfectly furnished in which there is not "a child rising three years and a kitten rising three weeks." As regards the first item, at least, the Pruyn homestead was so often perfectly furnished that we deem it not inappropriate to end our sketch of it with the charming jingle sung there to such a host of children, and which many still living remember.

Trip a trop a troontjes,
De varkens in de boontjes,
De koentjes in de klaver,
De paarden in de haver,
De eenjes in de water-plas,
De kalf in de lang gras;—
So groot mijn kleine poppetje was.

Trip a trop a troontjes,
The pigs are in the bean-vines,
The cows are in the clover blooms,
The horses in the oat fields,
The ducks in the water-pond,
The calf is in the long grass;—
So tall my little baby was.



C. Van Schaack and Wynkoop House

From a drawing



The Heermance-Schnapper House

From a photograph

THE VAN SCHAACK HOMESTEAD

To the north and east of the Pruyn estate was that of Cornelius Van Schaack, son of Emanuel, son of Claes. Cornelius was a merchant of much enterprise and thrift. He was a successful fur-trader, the owner of a sloop, a large land proprietor here and elsewhere, and a personage of much consequence and wealth for his time.

The tract on which the homestead stood extended from the creek, on both sides of our present Church Street, to and inclusive of the land now belonging to the widow of Peter Best. It included the present Wynkoop property, the site of the Reformed Dutch church, and all the intervening land from the William A. Harder house on the east to and including that of Dr. Kellogg on the west. The original homestead stood a few rods to the east of the present Wynkoop villa ("The Château") and near the brow of the bluff and its descent to what was then the main channel of the creek. It was the "Van Shaaken" house of the Hessian soldier's letter elsewhere quoted. It was a large stone and brick house built at a very early period and fortified against marauding Canadian Indians. Early in 1700 the property was bought by Cornelius Van Schaack and much improved. His wife, Lydia, was a daughter of Hendrick Van Dyck, M. D., and a granddaughter of the Albany Schuylers. Here seven children were born, two of whom were among Kinderhook's most eminent sons. The children were: Margaretha, bp. September 21, 1728; Maria, bp. May 27, 1731; Henry, bp. February 18, 1733; Cornelis, bp. August 15, 1734; David, bp., 1736; Jannetje, bp., 1739, and Pieter, bp. 1747. Of Henry and Peter we shall have more to say. Cornelis became the owner of the present P. H. Bain property, Kleine Kill. David built the "Old Kinderhook Mansion" noticed later; and Peter, after his return from England, built the adjoining William A. Harder house. There his years of blindness were spent and there he died.

Cornelius's daughter Margaret married Lourens L. Van Alen, son of Lourens (Lawrence) who bought the De Bruyn patent and several other tracts: Maria married Jacobus (James) I. Roosevelt, an ancestor of our ex-President. Lydia married Isaac Van Vleck. Jannetje became the wife of Peter Silvester, the distinguished jurist of Albany and Kinderhook. When Cornelius died his estate was divided; his son David receiving the former Beekman-Vanderpoel property, and Peter a portion adjoining; while Peter Silvester (or his wife) inherited the homestead, including what we have known as the Silvester place, where lived Francis Silvester (Peter's son), an eminent lawyer and the father of Peter H. and Margaret. Peter Silvester, Cornelius Van Schaack's son-in-law, lived and died in the latter's homestead. There his daughter Anna Maria was married to Augustus Wynkoop, a successful merchant of New York, who later came into possession of the place. For several years he and his family were here during the summer only, boarding with Henry L. Van Dyck, M.D., and his wife Catharine Van Alen, to whom the place was rented. Here, to Dr. Van Dyck, several if not all of his children were born. Maria, b. 1797, married John A. Van Dyck, her cousin. They moved to Canada but returned after Henry L.'s death and occupied what was recently known as the Popham house, which Henry had lately built. Stephen, born June 8, 1799, died March 15, 1803. Andrew H., born January 27, 1801, married September, 1823, Catharine Staats of Valatie. He was an eminent physician, as noted elsewhere; Elizabeth, born May 14, '03, married '29, Rev. Peter Jackson, an Englishman. Stephen, born February 7, '05; died '28. There also were born Lawrence H. and Henry H. Van Dyck (*see* Biographical Sketches), Engeltie (Ann), born October 5, '12; married June 9, '36, Newton Reed, of South Amenia, a most estimable farmer of much culture and of great influence in the church and community. The most notable of all the children, Cornelius V. A. Van Dyck, born August

13, '18, did a work the story of which in part is told in a succeeding chapter. It was with moistened eyes that this son of Kinderhook, second to none in true greatness of character and achievement, when revisiting his native village, gazed upon the few vestiges of his birthplace, and of the happy home of his childhood.

The main channel of the creek, originally ran near the foot of the bluff on which the old homestead stood. Not content with that, it more and more encroached upon the bluff itself, gradually undermining it, especially in the times of freshet, when, as often seen now, the lowlands become a great lake, dotted with many islands. This process continued until one dark stormy night there was a crash which startled many from sleep, and in the morning it was found that a large section of the bluff, including several great linden trees had been swept away. The locality, an object of interest to many visitors, became known as the Avalanche. It was of serious interest to Augustus Wynkoop, the owner of the house, as a warning of peril to the foundations. The only resource was thought to be the removal of the house, and in 1850 or soon thereafter it was entirely taken down. Available portions of its material were used in the building of the present attractive villa which came to be known as the Château. There all the Wynkoop children were born, of whom only Henry and Elizabeth survive. We have a pleasing account of the sad visit of several members and friends of the family to the homestead shortly before its destruction; a visit which inspired one of the number to write a pathetic poetic farewell to the old Van Schaack-Silvester-Van Dyck-Wynkoop home.

The distinguished visitors to this homestead were numerous. Sir William Johnson was a frequent guest, and many were the discussions of Colonial affairs with Colonel Cornelius Van Schaack, senior, and with his eldest son, Henry, who served under Sir William in the French and Indian wars. The Johnson manuscripts (if now in existence)

in the State Library, reveal portions of the family's correspondence with him. Among other visitors to the "hospitable house on the hill," as Jay termed it, we find such noted names as Colden, Robertson, Cruger, Delancey, Watts, Laight, Walton, Jay, Benson, Bard, Murray, Van Rensselaer, Yates, Livingston, Gansevoort, and Schuyler. During its occupancy by Judge Silvester (Mr. H. C. Van Schaack narrates) Aaron Burr, then in the height of his fame, was also one of its visitors; but after he had slain Hamilton he ceased to enter its doors, well knowing that his presence would be unwelcome to those who had always been ardent friends and admirers of Hamilton. In visiting Kinderhook after the famous duel, Colonel Burr uniformly stopped at the village hotel, and was wont to send for Judge Silvester's son, Francis, who had studied law with him, to meet him at the public house.

But none of these distinguished visitors made this homestead so memorable as did the multitude of children born there, several of whom became notable men and women. To them in their cradle or in their mother's arms was often sung this old-time lullaby:

Slaap, kindje, slaap!
 Daar buiten loopt een schapt,
 Een schapt met witte voetjes;
 Dat drinkt zijn melk zoo zoetjes;
 Slaap, kindje, slaap.

Sleep, little one, sleep!
 Out of doors there runs a sheep!
 A sheep with four white feet;
 That drinks its milk so sweet;
 Sleep, little one, sleep.

Slaap, kindje, slaap!
 Daar buiten loopt een schaaap;
 Daar buiten loopt een bontekoe;
 Het kindje doet zijn oogjes toe;
 Slaap, kindje, slaap.

Sleep, little one, sleep!
 Out of doors there runs a sheep;
 Out of doors runs a spotted cow,
 Its calf has shut its eyelids so.
 Sleep, little one, sleep.

THE BENEDICT ARNOLD (?) INN. 1770

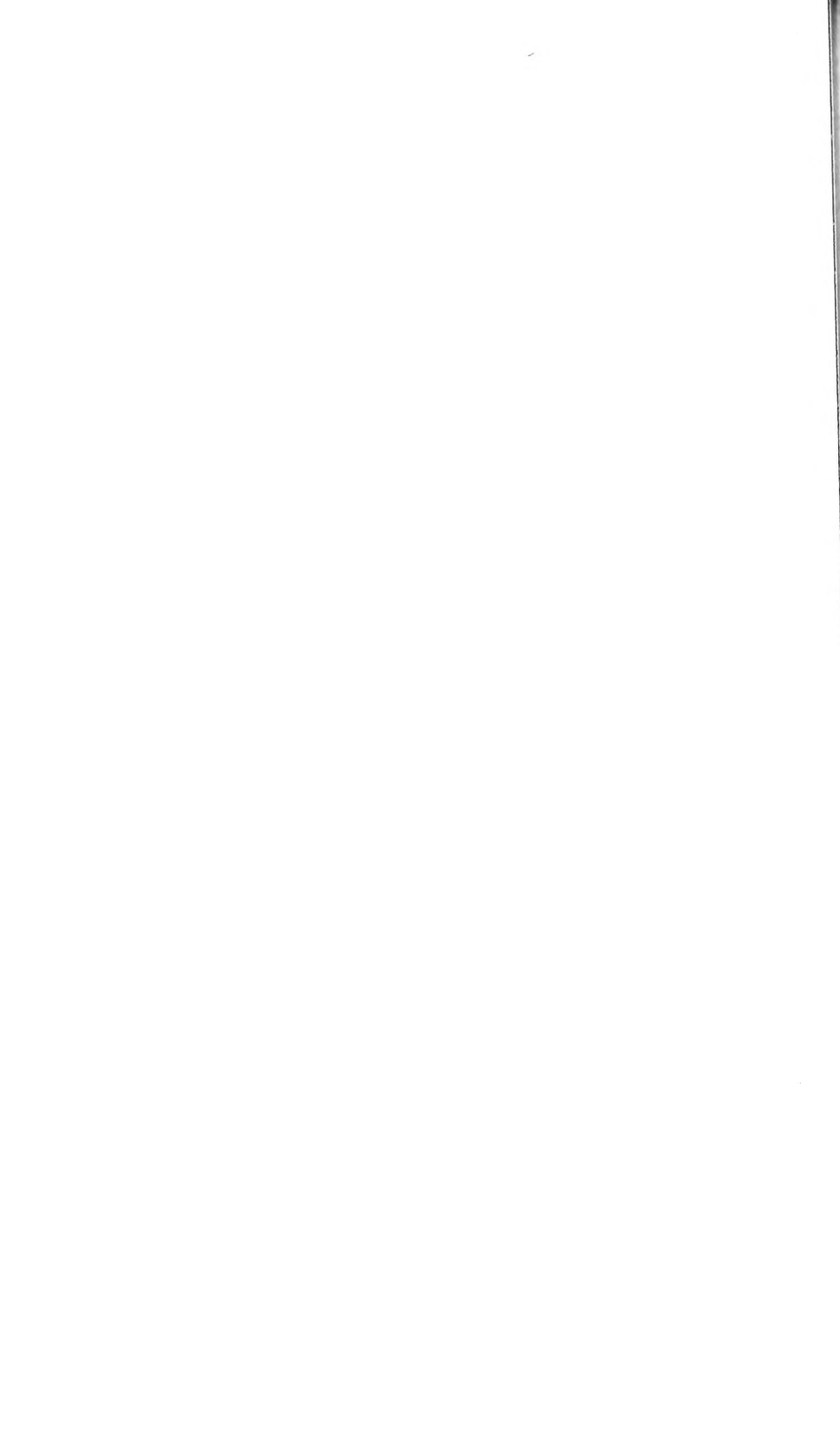
This, the original Dr. Quilhot homestead, later an inn, then a boarding-house, but now for many years past a private residence, is a very interesting relic of the days of old. Its massive walls, deep window-benches, and unceiled



A pre-Revolutionary (later Everts—Palmatier-Monthie) House



The Benedict Arnold (?) Inn, now Chrysler House



beams are pleasing memorials of a century and a half ago.

It is with an interrogation point of decided doubt that it is here named the Benedict Arnold Inn. The only justification is the tradition repeated to us by the late Thomas Beekman. It was to the effect that Arnold, some months after he was wounded in the battle of Bemis Heights which he did much to win, was borne through Kinderhook on a stretcher and passed a night at this inn; and that the doorway being too narrow to admit the stretcher, one of the jambs was temporarily cut away.

The house was built, according to the date on the south end, in 1770, and the site was a part of the original Pruyn estate. By whom was it built? Tradition says by a French physician. From an old map, and from other sources as well, we know of the presence here at that time of a French physician named John Quilhot. From the records of the laying out of roads and streets, we learn of the laying out of a road from the old burying ground (in the present center of the village) to the house of John Quilhot, and thence southerly until it met the road to the Landing which then ran to the east of the W. B. Van Alstyne house. This new road was our present Broad Street, and these scattered bits of our picture puzzle fit together so well that we say it was Dr. Quilhot who built this house. This had long been written when Mr. Adam Wagoner told us of meeting in the Albany hospital, a Mr. Quilhot of Chicago who inquired about the old brick house built by Dr. Quilhot. After a few years it was an inn, and eighty years later a much frequented boarding-house for Academy students. Numbers on the room doors could still be faintly traced as late as 1864 beneath the paint that almost hid them, as it did, greatly to our regret, the scribbled names of guests and students which once adorned the woodwork of the upper story.

In old times many deeds given were not recorded, and it is often impossible in such cases to trace successive ownership. We know, however, from advertisements in the Hud-

son *Gazette* that after the Revolution this house was owned by James Brebner, one of our village merchants, who married Catharine, "the accomplished and charming daughter" of Judge William P. Van Ness. Ashbel Ely, our first postmaster, lived in the house for a time. Of subsequent owners we find the names, Peter Van Vleck; Christina Van Vleck, wife of John O. Flaegler; John M. Pruyn; John Wilcoxson; John Van Alen, and his sisters Elizabeth and Lydia, the great-great-grandchildren of the original Lourens; and finally General M. H. Chrysler and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. G. W. Chrysler, daughter of German Sutherland. Our personal memory of this house goes back to May, 1864, when and for six months thereafter, the hospitable home of the elect ladies, Elizabeth and Lydia and their older half-brother John, was our home. They were children of Lucas I. Van Alen who lived in the fine old mansion now owned by the heirs of William A. Wheeler. The three died in 1876, all within about two weeks, from typhoid-pneumonia. Exalted character, refined taste, gracious manners, intelligence and culture of a high order, together with exceptionally energetic and manifold activities, made their loss an overwhelming one in social life and in the church of their affection and measureless service. Recalling them and the happy hours we and ours knew as inmates of their beautiful home, the first to give us shelter in Kinderhook, we say of this memory-filled mansion of olden times—Peace be within thee.

EVERTS-PALMATIER-MONTHIE HOUSE

Of even earlier erection probably than the foregoing, was this interesting relic of pre-revolutionary times. Many hints here and there in the records of those days seem to indicate it as a notable resort of those who not only sympathized with the British cause but were active in rendering such aid in men and supplies as they could and dared. Here, it is supposed, were the headquarters of a "conspiracy to burn Albany," of which, in May, 1778, Col. Beekman was forewarned in an anonymous "Mysterious Document." Suffice it to say

that more than thirty recruits were gathered and sent to Burgoyne before the battle of Saratoga, and large supplies were accumulated against the time of his expected capture of Albany. The owner of the house at that time need not be named.

The customary neglect in those days as to the recording of deeds, prevents complete details of subsequent ownership, but it can be stated, in outline, that many years after the Revolution it was owned by Abraham I. Van Alstyne; and then in succession, possibly incomplete, by Jacob C. Everts, William Palmatier, and Herman Monthie the present owner.

Mr. Everts, who died in 1869, aged sixty-eight, came hither from Claverack in 1846, and lived for a few years on what we have known as the Dunsbaugh place, near Lindewald. He served the Reformed Dutch Church well and often as an elder. Of his four daughters, Sarah Ann married Jacob W. Ten Broek, of Greenport, in 1847; Frances married Wm. H. Harder, in '49; Gertrude married Alexander M. Hoes of Stockport, in '66, and subsequently moved to Lansing, Mich., and Christina remained unmarried. His son Charles moved to Binghamton.

Mr. William Palmatier became owner of the place about the year 1896, and remained a few years. With him were his wife and two of their children, Albert and Josephine. After a short tarry here they moved to Rochester, with the exception of Albert who resides near Boston.

THE SICKLES-WITBECK-KELLOGG HOUSE

This, not one of our older homesteads, is pleasantly remembered as being, for about ten years after his retirement from the pastorate of the Reformed Dutch Church, the home of the Rev. Jacob Sickles, D.D., and then later of his daughters, Mrs. A. V. D. Witbeck, and of the widow of the Rev. Daniel E. Manton. During his active pastorate of about thirty-five years, the longest save that of the present pastor emeritus in the history of this historic church, Dr. Sickles had lived in what we first knew as the Heermance house, of unknown age, but dating back to the times

of Indian forays, as elsewhere noted. Shortly before his retirement in 1835 he built this pleasant home; the site being a part of the original Cornelius Van Schaack-Silvester-Wynkoop estate. Here he lived until his death in 1845. He was the fifth regular pastor of the Kinderhook Church; called hither from his pastorate of the united churches of Coxsackie and Coeymans, which had been preceded by a service of about three years as an assistant to the eminent Dirck Romeyn of Schenectady. He was to have a salary of 195 pounds, 80 loads of firewood, and the use of parsonage and land. One-half of the services were to be in English. Dr. Sickles's field of labor was extensive. There are now twelve or more Protestant churches within the territory within which this church stood alone during twenty-five years of his pastorate. At least six of these churches drew their original membership wholly, or in part, from this church. Dr. Sickles had the joy, at intervals, of receiving large accessions to the church membership. The years 1821 and 1822 especially were times of remarkable spiritual awakening here, as they were elsewhere, nearly seven hundred persons being received on confession within that short time. Although there are now no living communicants representing his pastorate, Dr. Sickles is well remembered by many who know his worthiness of the gracious tribute to his memory in Dr. Van Zandt's sermon at his funeral. During the last two or three years of his pastorate, Dr. Sickles had first an assistant and then a colleague. The assistant was the Rev. David Cushing. Dr. Sickles's colleague for about one year was the Rev. Enoch Van Aken. In 1835 Dr. Sickles's resignation as pastor was accepted. Honored and beloved by many, he continued his residence here until his sorely lamented death in 1845. His grave is in our cemetery and is marked by a monument erected by the Consistory of the Church he had served so long and so well.

September 4, 1844, Dr. Sickles's daughter, Elisabeth S., married Mr. A. V. D. Witbeck, and lived in this home until her sudden death in March, 1874, aged sixty-one. He died



The P. Van Schaack-Mix-Harder House

From a photograph



The P. S. Hoes—G. S. Collier House

From a photograph

a year later, aged sixty-three. They were survived by one son, J. Sickles Witbeck, who, May 21, 1872, married Sarah F., daughter of Jacob F. Sudam. She died a few years later leaving one son, Barent V. A. Witbeck, born in 1879. In '87, J. S. Witbeck married Ella, daughter of C. L. Herrick. Their son, George, died in early childhood. Dr. Sickles's elder daughter Elsie's married life was short. She died in '79, aged sixty-eight. Both she and her sister were bright, active, gracious women, interested and serviceable in all good ways, and their memory is treasured.

The present owner of this house, wherein abide so many pleasant personal recollections, Dr. Kellogg and his family, receive notice in a later chapter.

PETER VAN SCHAACK—AND PETER S. HOES HOUSES

Concerning these two fine mansions on our beautiful Broad Street, let it suffice to say, that the first named was built by Mr. Van Schaack soon after his return from exile in 1785. It was here he had what has been called his "law school" of which some account is given in the following chapter. This site also was a part of his father's large estate. It was to this home he brought his second wife, Elizabeth Van Alen. Here many children were born and here he died. It has subsequently been known, as the Frisbie-Mix-Haines, and now William A. Harder place. Mr. Frisbie's son, Samuel, became an eminent Jesuit priest. Mr. James Mix, Albany's most noted jeweler, gave the house its present mansard roof. Mr. Charles D. Haines was its occupant when elected to Congress. The night of his election, the crowd that gathered to congratulate him, the red fire that illuminated the grounds, the speech of Mr. Haines and its glowing promises as brilliant as his fire-works, are well remembered. Mr. Harder is the well-known manufacturer and sometime Mayor of Hudson.

Although not one of the older homesteads, the beautiful home of Mr. G. S. Collier should receive notice. The prop-

erty on which stood originally Frink's Mansion House, of which we write elsewhere, was in the first instance a Vosburgh homestead. In '38 it was sold to Samuel F. Andrews; in '42, under foreclosure, to Julius Wilcoxson, whose heirs, in '54 sold it to Peter S. Hoes who soon thereafter removed the famous inn and built the present house. In '60 the place was owned by Benjamin H. Streeter; in '62 by James Mitchell; in '71 by Peter Bain who died there in '76; in '77 by Lydia M. Collier, daughter of Hugh Bain, and after her death in 1883 it became the property of G. S. Collier.

LINDENWALD, 1797

The quaint knocker on the old front door of this famous mansion bears the date—1797. This refers to the building of the small and much less imposing beginning of things by Peter Van Ness. There was a still earlier house on the place when he bought it in 1780, and the date 1797 indicates the second and better dwelling. The modest beginnings of that date were considerably improved by Judge Van Ness, a son of Peter, and, later, still more improved and enlarged by Mr. Van Buren who purchased the place after his return from Washington, named it Lindenwald, and gave it its chief distinction.

The biographical sketches of the Van Nesses and of Mr. Van Buren give some details concerning this mansion which need not be repeated. Suffice it to say that many of the most distinguished men of their time were visitors here. As but a partial list we name: John L. Stephens, Thomas H. Benton, David Wilmot, Charles Sumner, Silas Wright, Commodore Nicholson, Frank Blair, W. L. Marcy, William Allen Butler, A. C. Flagg, General Winfield Scott, the Earl of Carlisle, Henry Clay, Washington Irving, Samuel J. Tilden, and John Bigelow.

In the *New York Sun*, May 24, 1891, there appeared a pleasing account by Mr. George Alfred Townsend of his



Martin Van Buren's Birth-Place

From an old print



Lindenwald

From a photograph



The Van Buren Monument

From a photograph

visit to Lindenwald. We quote selected paragraphs, and presume to shorten a few sentences and change a word here and there.

Lindenwald, about two miles south of Kinderhook, is on the old Post Road from New York to Albany. The house stands about four or five hundred feet back from the road, and on the lawn are many very old fir or pine trees, a nearly circular cluster of which masks the residence in part from passers-by. . . . Drives from the two widely separated gates meet at the house, which is of brick, painted yellow, and seven windows wide. The main building has two stories and a large garret. Three chimneys rise above this main or front part of the house—two to the north, a wide one to the south. The middle of the front is pedimented, and a dormer slides forward on each side of this gable, which in the bedroom story below has a large triple central window, with a curved pedimental top and two windows on each side. The two on the south show where Van Buren died. Before the center of the main story is a small covered portico, with an easy flight of steps and balusters. To the left was the ex-President's living room or double parlor; to the right the sitting room and dining room. The oblong house is four windows deep on the north side, and at a guess 70 x 45 feet ground plan. A colonnade or arched porch separates it from a domestic building, mainly kitchen and laundry, which further deepens the house across its whole back. This doubtless was Peter Van Ness's original home. The library Mr. Van Buren added in the rear of the south side and built next to it a tower, like a donjon keep, with an Italian summit, the openings few and slitted; the object, stateliness and the view.

. . . On the little porch the door knocker affected me with its date—"1797"—a small blue or black brass object in which is a head in relief. . . . Beyond the door appeared a fine straight hall which was paced as being about fifty-five by fifteen feet and appeared to be eleven or twelve feet high. Its four doors were in the early carpentry of this century with manipulation around their tops. At the rear, nearly concealed in the side of the hall, under a sort of alcove, was the stairway, pretty wide and low and long-stepped. The feature of this hall, I had almost said its beauty, is the foreign wall paper, in large landscapes, representing

hunters on horseback, and with guns and dogs breaking into Rhenish vales, where milkmaids are surprised and invite flirtation. The human figures are nearly a foot high; the mountains and woods, rocks and streams, panoramic; the colors dark and loud. I liked it because it was Dutchy and took Van Buren, who put it here, into the atmosphere of Jordaens and Van Der Helst. About three panels were on each side of the landscape five or six feet high with sky above that to the ceiling. Here no doubt, sat old Martin many a warm afternoon, taking the breezes from the Berkshire hills to the Catskills. Here John Van Buren played the penitent. It was in the neighboring town of Hudson that he and Ambrose Jordan clinched and fought in the court room like a pair of newly introduced dogs, and the Judge fined and sent them to jail. Much did old Martin have to think about in the twenty-two years of retirement passed mainly here on his 200 acres; looking upon wayward, brilliant, or brain-wrought sons, hearing the wind moan and the locusts drone.

"He thinks it is their mother's voice
Singing in Paradise;
And with his hard, rough hand he wipes
A tear from out his eyes."

Nothing of much interest remains to be said concerning Lindenwald's later history. After Mr. Van Buren's death it passed for a brief season into the hands of several successive owners, such as Lawrence Jerome, James Van Alstyne and John Van Buren conjointly, and George Wilder. It was on one occasion, it is stated, made the stake at a gaming table. Since 1874 it has been owned by one of our thrifty farmers, Adam E. Wagoner.

Lindenwald is only an interesting relic now of glories long departed.

THE BURT HOUSE

What for many years was known as the Burt house was built by James Vanderpoel prior to 1825, and has undergone but little change from that day to this. The land had pre-





The J. Vanderpoel-Myers-Burt House

From a photograph



The Village Square

From a photograph

viously belonged to the Pomeroy family, of whose private burial plot thereon traces may still be seen.

The people who lived in it give it its chief interest. James Vanderpoel, the builder, was the brother of Dr. John and Aaron Vanderpoel. The latter, twelve years his senior, was known as the "Kinderhook Roarer," because of his stentorian voice. James studied law with Francis Silvester here, and subsequently in Kingston. In 1808 he was admitted to the bar, and began practice in a building which stood near the southeast corner of his lawn, and which was used later by Tobey and Silvester. He served three terms as Assemblyman; succeeded Martin Van Buren as County Surrogate in 1812, removing the office to this village; was Judge of the County Court of Common Pleas in '25, and was appointed Circuit Judge of the Supreme Court of the State in '31, by Governor Throop; whereupon he removed to Albany. He was recognized as a lawyer and judge of marked ability. One of his daughters married John Van Buren, son of the President; and another was Mrs. Joseph Paige of Albany. In '21 there was a notable Fourth of July celebration in this then elegant home, at which Chancellor Kent and his intimate friend, Peter Van Schaack, were among the distinguished guests.

About the year '36 the place was purchased by Major Mordecai Myers, for many years thereafter a prominent and highly honored citizen of our village. He had won his military title in the War of 1812. On the conclusion of peace he entered business in New York City and accumulated what was for the time a large fortune. He was several times elected a member of the legislature from the city until he declined re-election. Retiring from public life and from business, he chose our village as the home of his declining years and bought the then exceedingly attractive James Vanderpoel place. In a large circle of middle-aged worthies he at once took an honored place which he filled with dignified grace. Soon after his coming he was chosen president

of the village, succeeding Dr. Beekman, and was the second to fill that office. On Mr. Van Buren's return to his native village, after his retirement from the presidency, Major Myers made the address of welcome. He was the first vice-president of the old Kinderhook bank and retained his position until declining re-election.

Profoundly interested and zealously active in every movement for the welfare of the village, of blameless life, exalted character, and winsome ways, he was held in highest honor and esteem. All deplored the financial reverses through the signing of papers, the purport of which was not fully understood, which compelled him to sell his beautiful home and re-engage in business in New York. There, in five years' time he partially retrieved his fortune and once more retired; this time to Schenectady. There also he became one of a brilliant social circle and won new public honors. He died there in 1871, being nearly ninety-five years of age. From an obituary notice in the Schenectady *Times* we quote:

His physical appearance was striking. No stranger ever met or passed him without noticing his appearance. He was of very large proportions and had a clear keen black eye, giving strong evidence of his intellectual power. As mayor of the city he added dignity to the office and brought all the power of his common sense and an indomitable will to war against wrong and in favor of right and justice.

Our friend, the first Socialist mayor of Schenectady, seems to have had at least one worthy predecessor.

In his Kinderhook home, Major Myers's eldest daughter, Henrietta, was married to Peter S. Hoes, a descendant of one of the first settlers here, John Tysse Goes (Hoes). The father of Peter S. was a brother of Martin Van Buren's wife. Mr. Peter S. Hoes was for many years one of our most active and respected citizens. He seems to have had a remarkable penchant for moving houses, as elsewhere noted. His sons



Crow Hill
Whiting-Howard House
From a photograph



Elmhurst
From a photograph

were the late lamented Pierre Van Buren Hoes and Mr. William M. Hoes of New York City, of whom we write later.

ELMHURST

The original dwelling on this rarely beautiful place was a portion only of the present rear part. Its massive walls, heavy unceiled beams, and steep roof are evidences of its antiquity. The first owner and occupant of whom we have definite information was Judge Julius Wilcoxson. It had formerly belonged to one of the multitudinous Van Alens whom we are unable to identify, owing to the neglect, characteristic of those times, as to the recording of deeds. Judge Wilcoxson sold the property to Mr. James Adger, and he to General Charles Whiting who added the wings of the original homestead. Subsequently, the General conveyed the property to his daughter, Margaret A., the wife of John H. Reynolds, the eminent jurist, who built the imposing front part of the present mansion. For many years this was the summer home of Judge Reynolds and his notable family, of whom we write in another chapter. The next owner of the place was Mrs. Sarah J., the widow of Peter Bain. By her also the dwelling, especially its interior, was much improved and beautified. Her charities were countless and bountiful; and the beauty of our little park is an abiding memorial of her beneficence. Her niece, Mrs. Mary Bain Reynolds (daughter of Augustus Bain, and formerly Mrs. George D. Earll) the present owner, has still more adorned her home and lawns and made the place one of the most attractive in our whole village. May we add that her recent marriage to Mr. James Adger Reynolds seems to a multitude of friends a most fit and beautiful consummation of life-long friendship. It brought him back to the home of his childhood and the scene of innumerable hallowed and precious associations.

SNYDER-SMITH HOMESTEAD. 1835

The present Datus C. Smith house, greatly improved by him, was built by the late Henry Snyder. His wife was Elizabeth Van Alstyne, a daughter of Isaac. The original tract was one of 176 acres purchased in 1855 of Benjamin Hilton. It had formerly belonged to the Webber family. Mr. Snyder occupied the place for about thirty years and had a large nursery, of which some noble trees in great variety are still existing memorials. "Lovers' Leap" on this place was formerly much more attractive and frequented than now. The scheme of ownership is as follows: 1835-'65, Henry Snyder; '65-'74, widow and Theodore Snyder; '74-'88, Barent Van Alstyne; '88-'98, Henry Snyder; '98-1902, Isaac V. A. Snyder; 1902-1910, Kate and Anna H. Snyder; 1910- , Datus C. Smith.

CROW HILL. 1839

This attractive mansion, with its long, sloping terraced lawn, many flower-beds, shrubs, and magnificent trees, was first known to us as the Howard place. It was named Crow Hill because of the flocks of crows wont to make its stately pines their evening trysting-place. The house was built in 1839 by General Charles Whiting on land purchased that year from Teunis Harder. Earlier owners of the land were Merrit H. Leach and James Vanderpoel, with Wattawit as the original Indian proprietor. Subsequent owners have been: Welcome R. Beebe, '52; James Mitchell, '53; William H. Wall, '58; the Howard family, '62, and Datus C. Smith, 1911.

General Whiting, son of Ebenezer, born in Norwich, Conn., March 23, 1786, came to Kinderhook in 1800, and, August 11, 1811, married Margaret, daughter of John Rogers. The General's father served in the French and Indian war, at Crown Point, and also in the Revolution. General Whit-



The H. Snyder—D. C. Smith House

From a photograph



The Francis Pruyn-Davie Homestead

From a photograph

ing won his military honors in local service in the militia. His children were: Charles, who died unmarried, and Margaret Anna, who, May 31, 1843, married the subsequently distinguished John H. Reynolds.

The General was of imposing personal appearance and notably active in the whole life of Kinderhook for many years, as elsewhere narrated. Near the easterly corner of his lawn he had a small but cherished fish pond until one summer afternoon when, tradition alleges, a bolt of lightning killed all his trout: whereupon the pond was abandoned, filled up and made a part of the lawn. In '52, he sold this place and bought what is now known as Elmhurst. Of Mr. Wall we know but little. The Howard family was longest in possession of this attractive home. From data furnished by Mr. Fred W. Howard we learn that his father Elbridge Gerry, son of Benjamin A. Howard and Deliverance Caswell, of Tolland, Connecticut, was born March 28, 1813; married September 18, '37, Abigail Householder of Hartford, Connecticut; was for several years publisher of the *Sunday Times*, New York; retired and came to Kinderhook in '62 and purchased Crow Hill of William Wall and lived there until his death, March 16, 1904. His widow also died there March 29, '10, aged ninety-one. Their still surviving children are—Jarvis C. of New Rochelle, married Brenda Reeve of Brooklyn; Frederick W. of Kinderhook, married Anna Guion of New Rochelle; Emma F. Howard of Kinderhook, and George F. of Valparaiso, Chile, who married Anna Horsfeldt of Meiningen, Germany.

VOSBURGH HOMESTEADS

The name Vosburgh, once representing many prominent families here, has now, like many of the old names, almost vanished. Three of their original homesteads can be identified. That of Myndert P., prior to 1825, was what later became Frink's Mansion House then standing in front of Mr.

G. S. Collier's present residence. He married Lucretia Vanderpoel. Of their daughters, Maria married Teunis Harder; Harriet married Lawrence Van Buren, and Catharine married Theodore Spencer. Myndert P. was a son of Peter Vosburgh and Maria Van Dyck.

The Lambert Vosburgh homestead, long since gone, was on the farm now belonging to Mrs. John MacPherson. He married Cynthia Van Slyck. Their daughter, Sarah Jane, married James P. Van Alstyne, son of Philip Van A. and Alida Vanderpoel; and Margaret Ann married Joseph P., brother of James. Their daughters Christina and Rachel remained unmarried.

A third Vosburgh homestead was the in-every-way-transformed relic on the corner of Chatham and William streets. It subsequently became the property of Captain John Schuyler Van Alen whose aged daughter Jane was the owner and sole occupant when the quaint old place was first known to us in '64. The triangular lot, which then included a considerable section of the present highway, was closely fenced in. The gate was at the easterly end, the apex of the triangle. Trees and shrubs were in profusion, and on both sides of the long walk to the house were all manner of old-fashioned flowers dear to our grandmothers. We confess to our own secret liking for them. Marigolds and bachelor's-buttons are a joy to us still. It is to this or a similar old-time garden that an accomplished daughter of Kinderhook, Miss Alice M. Rathbone, alludes in her book—*How to Make a Flower Garden* (Doubleday, Page & Co., 1903). Writing charmingly of chrysanthemums she says:

There is one seemingly more precious, perhaps because elusive, that used to grow along a fence on an old village street, and was the object of a yearly autumn drive. The lovely flower was a loose white ball just tinged with purplish pink. It vanished several years ago from that Kinderhook garden. Doubtless it flourished elsewhere. May its shadow never grow less until it reveals itself again to us in its beautiful old-time splendor.



Old Fort, Chatham Center

From a photograph



The Old Bridge and the Colonel P. Van Alstyne House, Chatham Center

From a photograph

That particular splendor has indeed vanished from that locality, with its odors far other than those of flowers, but a thousand other splendors abide in our gardens, set the trees along the streets aflame with gorgeous autumnal tints, and emblazon the common roadside.

CHATHAM CENTER HOMESTEADS

Concerning the older homesteads in the vicinity of Chatham Center, Dr. William B. Van Alstyne, of New York, kindly furnished notes from which the following narrative is compiled.

The foundation of the James G. Van Volkenburgh house contains a stone bearing the date of 1761, but the present superstructure was built in 1843. The original old stone house was the home of Gilbert Van Allen and his wife Annie Moore. Later it was owned by Isaac L. Van Alstyne, and later still by James G. Van Volkenburgh. Peter Van Alstyne and his brother William (father of Dr. William B.) were born there.

Colonel Abraham I. Van Alstyne's substantial brick house is of unknown date, but prior to 1767. He was born in 1738, rendered notable service during the Revolution as already told, and died in 1808. He was the father of Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Van Alstyne and the great-grandfather of Philip Van Alstine of New York. Abraham I. and his wife Maria Van Alen were buried in the Chatham Center cemetery. Their daughter Annatje married Colonel Philip Staats.

The homestead of John J. Van Volkenburgh (father of James G.) was built in 1816, and is now owned by his grandson, John J. Wilbur. Mr. Van Volkenburgh was born in 1783, and is well remembered by many for his remarkable activity to the end of his days.

It is a tradition that the very old stone house near the station was in 1812 a roofless fort. A stone near the peak

bears the date 1801, apparently, but the figures are somewhat obscure. At one time this house was the home of Abram Van Alstyne who married Catalina Van Ness. Near it in old times was a cemetery now obliterated. On the hill back of the cemetery is yet another old stone house where lived Dr. Russell Dorr (born 1771, died 1824) and, later, the Rev. N. G. Spaulding who married Dr. Dorr's daughter Harriet. This also is reported to have been a fort. Above the bridge there was once a sawmill and milldam.

INNS

Of the taverns of Kinderhook Village, the most interesting historically, was the unpretentious inn kept by Abraham Van Buren, the father of Martin, and where the latter was born. It stood nearly opposite the blind alley now leading to the house of Mr. John Nink. It was a one and a half story building with a steep roof and a front considerably more extended than the familiar picture of it suggests, and having two front doors. The little house to the right of the inn was that of John A. Groat, on the site of the house built by George Reynolds and now belonging to the Misses Milham. The inn itself was long since destroyed and it is by a pleasing fiction that the present building is now regarded by strangers as the birthplace of Martin Van Buren. This inn received no little patronage from the stagecoach travelers. The English engineer, James Montessor, writes in his Journal of leaving New York May 2, 1759, and of breakfasting at Kinderhook May 5th. He also records that in December, 1759, he left Albany at noon with four sleighs, and stopped at Van Buren's at Kinderhook. Mr. Van Buren was not dependent solely upon his inn for a livelihood, for he had in connection therewith a small farm.

Of somewhat later origin, probably, was the tavern on the southerly corner of Hudson and William streets and kept in Revolutionary days and earlier by Major Isaac Goes. The Major was very active as one of the Commissioners of Se-



The Kinderhook Hotel

From a photograph



The Old Farmers' Hotel (Central House)

From a photograph

questration and confiscated much family plate of Loyalists.

On Broad Street, the present dwelling of Mrs. Gifford W. Chrysler, built in 1770, was at one time a tavern. Later, in front of Mr. G. S. Collier's residence, was Frink's famous Mansion House, which Mr. P. S. Hoes removed, and transformed it into the pleasant home of Mr. F. Bion Van Alstyne, and built the fine mansion now owned by Mr. G. S. Collier. The old buildings which have sailed up and down our streets would make a charming moving picture show.

A few miles north of the village was the noted Quackenboss (originally "*bosch*") Tavern where for more than two months sat the Commissioners of 1753, making their division of the great Kinderhook Patent of 1686. It is now the dwelling of Theo. Dunspaugh. A little north of that point began the "Kinderhook Plains" which we note in the schedules of the stagecoaches of the time. Quackenboss's Inn was later known as Deyo's, where Alexander Hamilton was wont occasionally to tarry for a night. Later still it was known as Miller's Tavern, where Van Buren, the young attorney, made one of his first legal arguments in opposition to Elisha Williams. Being short of stature he stood on a table. Very many other inns there were along the Post Road through our Town and Village, which we cannot now locate with precision, but the present Sharp house was one of them.

Especially do we regret our inability to locate the inn of Elijah Hudson, concerning whom we are indebted to the fine discernment of Chaplain R. R. Hoes, U. S. N., for this delightful *morceau*—that while a Tarrytown innkeeper in 1798, advertised in the Albany *Register* "lodging and clean sheets 3 shillings, dirty sheets, one shilling," our noble Elijah offered "lodging and clean sheets for one shilling." This was not the "Ebenezer Hudson" of Kinderhook, against whom, as "abusive and extortionate," an irate newspaper correspondent of the time cautioned fellow-travelers. Perish the thought!

In the village the Kinderhook Inn is the most important

survivor of those of historic interest. Among the earlier landlords we read of Peter I. Lewis, David Skinner, Robert Rosboro, Daniel B. Stranahan, Tryon & Granger, and Asaph Wilder. Many were the notables, especially in Van Buren's time, who frequented it. From the piazza of the hotel, as it was before the fire, Henry Clay, on his visit to Van Buren in 1844, addressed a crowd of assembled villagers; and here it was, at a reception which followed, that the master of ceremonies forgetting for the moment the name of the beautiful young woman he was about to introduce, Mr. Clay hastened to relieve his embarrassment by saying: "No matter what her name now is, she will soon change it."

The landlords following Mr. Wilder (omitting a few transient bonifaces) were Isaac Hoes, William Bradley, William Childs, J. A. Freeland, William Hickey, Isaac Bradley whose widow fully maintained the reputation of this old-time inn for several years; in 1912 Dr. Dominick, and now Mr. Frank A. Myers.

The Central House (formerly the Farmers' Hotel) had the beginning of its much enlarged building in the first somewhat pretentious schoolhouse and Academy erected in 1792. Among the landlords have been—Andrew Van Slyck, Benjamin De Myer, Henry Holcomb, Gideon Mandeville, and Daniel Herrick. The tree near the northwest corner of the present building is said to have been planted for Dr. Lucas Pruyn by Cornelius McCagg, who also set out many of the elms and maples that now adorn our streets. Shaded by the Central House elm stood the office where for many years Dr. Lucas Pruyn prescribed his patients' pills, potions, powders, poultices, and plasters.

Lindenwald Hotel was originally Bray & Herrick's shoe store, dwelling, and Hall where the Masons now have their Lodge room. Many a public meeting has been held there in years long gone. There, after the church was burned, in '67, the congregation assembled in large numbers and resolved to arise and build. There, arrayed in impressive

toggery, we helped the Sons of Temperance to solemnly initiate several saintly young women whom the Order had rescued from—we know not what. Gideon Mandeville for many years kept this house which became renowned for its excellent table and for his gracious household. He was succeeded by Mr. J. H. Staatt for a short time; and he by William Hickey, who has long and politely welcomed the coming and speeded the parting guest. Other alleged hotels there have been in plenty, that, for example, in the old Vosburgh-Van Alen home for which this notice will suffice.

CHAPTER XIII

LAWYERS, PHYSICIANS, THE MINISTRY, MISCELLANEOUS

LAWYERS *et al.*—Tabular List—The Van Nesses—The Silvesters—The Van Schaacks—J. C. Wynkoop—Martin Van Buren—Lawrence Van Buren—The Butlers—W. H. Tobey—The Van Santvoords—J. H. Reynolds—A. J. Vanderpoel—C. L. Beale—L. Van Alen—P. Van Alstine—M. H. Glynn—G. S. Collier—C. M. Bray—F. S. Becker—M. S. Hyman—E. D. Howe—C. S. Beckwith—W. M. Hoes—E. P. Hoes—J. B. Pruyn.

PHYSICIANS *et al.*—A. Van Dyck—J. Quilhot—Dr. Averill—J. Pomeroy—J. A. Van Alen—J. H. Philip—O. H. Smith—D. Sargent—U. G. Hitchcock—J. I. Beekman—W. Barthrop—J. P. Beekman—J. Vanderpoel—S. O. Vanderpoel—A. V. V. Pruyn—County Medical Society—G. E. Benson—H. L. Van Dyck—A. H. Van Dyck—L. Van Schaack—J. M. Pruyn—L. Pruyn—S. G. Talmage—P. V. S. Pruyn—M. M. Kittell—N. D. Garnsey—R. J. Waterbury—H. J. Noerling—A. V. Dimock—W. W. Wendover—E. J. Collier.

THE MINISTRY—Fifteen Contributions to the Ministry—L. H. Van Dyck—C. V. A. Van Dyck—E. L. Heermance.

MISCELLANEOUS—Foster Rhodes—T. M. Burt—S. W. Burt—H. Van Dyck—Major-General M. H. Chrysler—Colonel W. L. Heermance—Rear-Admiral J. W. Philip.

MANY brief biographical notes may be found in other chapters. Generally the following sketches are classified as stated, but not strictly. In the first and second sections members of the same family are grouped in chronological order and others than professional men are included. Peter Van Ness, for example, although Kinderhook's first Judge, was not a lawyer but the father of a remarkable family of lawyers.

TABULAR LIST

Of native and resident lawyers, we give the following list beginning with 1765. Doubtless a few omissions and inaccuracies will be discerned, but the list is approximately complete and correct. The most recent County History is in part our authority, together with Mr. G. S. Collier's notes on the last forty years. The prefixed date denotes the year of admission to the Bar or of the beginning of practice in the town. 1765, Peter Silvester; 1786, John C. Wynkoop, Myndert P. Vosburgh, Peter Van Schaack (re-admitted); 1788, Isaac Goes; 1789, Francis Silvester; 1790, Peter L. Van Alen; 1791, H. C. Van Schaack, J. P. Van Ness; 1792, Barent Goes, Barent Van Buren; 1794, James I. Van Alen; 1798, Francis Silvester, Jr.; 1799, W. P. Van Ness; 1803, Francis Pruyn, C. P. Van Ness, Martin Van Buren; 1808, James Vanderpoel; 1811, Abraham A. Van Buren; 1813, Thomas Beckman, B. F. Butler; 1816, David Van Schaack; 1817, Julius Wilcoxson; 1820, W. H. Tobey, Aaron Vanderpoel; 1830, P. H. Silvester, John Snyder, Peter Van Schaack, Jr.; 1831, James Burt; 1833, George W. Bulkley; 1840, Gershom Bulkley; 1842, John H. Reynolds, E. A. Dunscombe; 1845, E. R. Peck; 1846, George Van Santvoord; 1847, Aaron J. Vanderpoel; 1850, W. C. Benton; 1851, C. L. Beale; 1852, James Sutherland, Jr.; 1854, James E. Nearing; 1856, F. Silvester; 1858, Theodore Snyder, Lucas L. Van Alen; 1864, Jacob P. Miller; 1866, W. H. Atwood; 1868, George K. Daley; 1872, Alonzo H. Farrar, W. H. Silvernail. Gerrit S. Collier; 1873, A. B. Gardinier; 1877, George D. Earll; 1883, Chas. M. Bray; 1885, Edson R. Harder; 1889, Sanford W. Smith, Edwin D. Howe; 1890, Frank S. Becker; 1910, Claude S. Beckwith; 1912, Max S. Hyman.

Peter Van Ness. 1734-1804

“Erected by their oldest son, John, in behalf of himself and other children and grand children,” there stands amid

a clump of trees within a small enclosure behind Lindenwald mansion, a pleasing marble monument to Peter Van Ness and his wife, Elbertie. The inscription, as legible as though recently graven, is as follows:

Here lie the remains of The Honorable Peter Van Ness, who died December 21, 1804, aged 70 years and 21 days. He was a high minded, honorable, sensible man, fearing none but God, and a distinguished and influential patriot in the most trying times: having served his country with great credit in numerous public stations, both civil and military: among which were the command of a company at the age of nineteen years by the unanimous choice of his men in the invasion and conquest of Canada by the British; the command of a regiment at the capture of Burgoyne in 1777; that of a member of the State Convention which adopted the Federal Constitution; and service as a State Senator, Member of the Council of Appointment, and chief judge of this county.

Peter Van Ness was born in that part of old Claverack which is now in the town of Ghent. He was the third son of William and Gertrude (Hogeboom) Van Ness, and an uncle of the distinguished jurist William W. Van Ness. Peter's younger brother, John, was the proprietor of a large tract of land in the northeastern part of old Kinderhook, as noted elsewhere. According to tradition, which we can neither prove nor disprove, Peter Van Ness moved to Kinderhook in 1780, and purchased the estate to which Martin Van Buren gave the name—Lindenwald. At a banquet in Kinderhook sixty years later, Dr. John M. Pruyn, in a toast, alluded to William as well as Cornelius, as born here. Unless he was in error Peter's coming must be placed two or more years earlier. In 1797, as the still existing iron door-knocker reveals, he built the doubtless modest beginnings of the present stately mansion.

Worthily held in honored remembrance for his varied and manifold services, Peter Van Ness had the rare distinction of being the father of three sons each of whom achieved

high renown. If he came to Kinderhook in 1780 as generally supposed, he brought with him two boys, John P., about ten years old and William P., about two. Two years later Cornelius P. was born. There were also two daughters. Catharine married James Brebner, a Kinderhook merchant and of some distinction in public life, who lived for a time in the present Chrysler house. After his death his widow married Abram Van Alen. Gertrude P. Van Ness married Martin Hoffman.

We are indebted to Mr. E. C. Getty, of Hudson, for the original of this pleasing letter written one hundred and twenty years ago at the first Van Ness homestead by Gertrude P. to her friend Cornelia T., daughter of Governor George Clinton. "Johnny and Billy" were the writer's brothers of whose brilliant future she little dreamed.

KINDERHOOK, May 11th., '93.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

I have long impatiently waited for an opportunity to write a line to my friend. I received a few lines last winter by brother Johnny. Although the letter was very short yet the idea of being remembered by you imparted satisfaction to my heart. How have you spent your winter, very lively I suppose. Is New York very gay? The country is now beautiful. I wish you were here to view with me the delightful fields and meadows with which we are surrounded, fruit trees all decorated with blossoms of variegated colors. My lilacs look elegant. Let me know whether your family intends spending the summer in the country. I wish you could make it convenient to pay me a visit this summer. We could make a very agreeable party to the Springs. Bring your sweetheart with you if you cannot separate yourself from him for a few weeks. I shall be exceeding happy to see you.

I suppose my friend you attended the ball which was given by the gentlemen of the Belvidere club last winter. Was it a very elegant one? What were you dressed in, and how did the ladies all look? What hats do the ladies wear now? You must, I believe, give a description of the fashions of the gentlemen, you can do it so well. I read part of your letter last fall to Johnny and

Billy. They laughed very hearty indeed. If you can spare so much time, Cornelia, write a line and send it to our friend Nancy. . . . My love to your Papa & Mama, sister Caty & the family. I shall write again very soon. GERTRUDE P. VAN NESS.

John P. Van Ness. 1770-1846

Was born in the town of Ghent; was graduated at Columbia College; studied law in the office of Brockholst Livingston in New York; began the practice of law in Claverack in 1799, but soon retired on account of ill health. In 1801 he was elected a member of Congress. About a year later he married Marcia Burn, a very wealthy woman and of exceptional charm of person and character. Washington was thenceforth his home. President Jefferson appointed him Brigadier-General of the District Militia, and Madison made him Major-General. He was many times elected mayor of the city, until he declined re-election. Largely through his efforts the Bank of the Metropolis was established, in the presidency of which he continued until his death. His wife, by her manifold charms, charities, and devotion, won the highest respect of all who knew her. She established the Protestant Orphan Asylum, gave the land for two churches, and was abundant in her beneficences. Years ago when the interior of St. John's Episcopal church was re-modeled all pews were re-arranged except that wont to be occupied by General and Mrs. Van Ness. That was left unchanged. On her death both Houses of Congress adjourned out of respect to her memory; an honor given to no other woman. The mausoleum in which repose the remains of both was modeled after the temple of Vesta at Rome, and cost \$34,000.

William P. Van Ness. 1788-1826

The second son of Peter Van Ness, William P., was born in Ghent (Dr. Pruyn said Kinderhook) in 1778. He was a graduate of Columbia College, 1797; studied law in the office

of Edward Livingston, New York, and began practice there in 1800. In his office in 1802 Martin Van Buren completed his preparatory legal studies. In the Jefferson and Burr presidential campaign (1800) Mr. Van Ness labored with enthusiasm for the election of the latter (his intimate friend) as President. In one of the Hudson papers of the time appeared a series of articles bitterly attacking the Livingstons and Clintons, and signed "Aristides." Their vigor and brilliancy were widely recognized, and when Mr. Van Ness came to be known as the writer he was hailed and honored as a second but discovered Junius. His intimacy with Burr led him to consent to act as Burr's second in his fateful duel with Alexander Hamilton, July 11, 1804. In 1812 President Madison appointed Mr. Van Ness Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York; a position which he continued to hold with much honor until his sudden death in 1826. While Judge he resumed his residence at Lindenwald, much enlarging and otherwise improving the house. Washington Irving was a frequent visitor there, and acted for a time as private tutor of the children. Portions of his immortal works were written there. The published writings of Mr. Van Ness were (jointly with John Woodworth): *Laws of New York, with Notes*, 2 vols., Albany, 1813; *Reports of Two Cases in the Prize Court of New York District*, 1814; and *Concise Narrative of General Jackson's First Invasion of Florida*, 1826.

Cornelius P. Van Ness. 1782-1852

Cornelius P., the third son of Peter Van Ness, was born in Kinderhook, January 26, 1782. Although prepared for college, he decided in the first instance not to study for a profession, but when about eighteen he changed his mind and entered his brother William's law office in New York City. He was admitted to the bar in 1804 and two years later moved to St. Albans, Vt., and began practice, but three years

thereafter moved to Burlington and was made postmaster there. In 1809, President Madison appointed him U. S. District-Attorney for Vermont. In 1813 he was collector of the port of Burlington; in 1816 one of the Commissioners to settle the northeastern boundary; in 1818-'21 a member of the Vermont General Assembly; in 1821, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; 1823-'29, three times re-elected Governor of Vermont; 1829-'37, U. S. Minister to Spain, and in 1844 Collector of the port of New York. In 1823 the University of Vermont awarded him the degree of LL.D. In 1848 (Washington, D. C.), he published a "Letter to the Public on Political Parties, Caucuses, and Conventions." One of the daughters married Judge James Roosevelt, of the New York Supreme Court, a granduncle of ex-President Roosevelt.

Not easily, we think, can we find a parallel to the record of a father and three sons.

Peter Silvester. 1734-1808

We can neither verify nor disprove the tradition that Peter Silvester was born in Shelter Island and was a member of the family of Nathaniel Sylvester, who was, as indicated on his tombstone, "First Resident Proprietor of the Manor of Shelter Island, under Grant from Charles II., 1666." That in that Shelter Island family we have found the names—Peter, Francis, and Margaret Sylvester, names familiar in our Kinderhook family, seems to us more than a remarkable coincidence, and to give strong verisimilitude to the tradition. The more common statement is that he was born on Long Island.

In 1763 Mr. Silvester appears in Albany as a lawyer of sufficient eminence to be employed as Sir William Johnson's attorney. In the Johnson MSS. in the State Library are (or were) many professional letters of the former. In one he writes Sir William that Witham Marsh has had a

conference with him concerning the wrongs of Indians, whose notable friend Sir William was. In 1764 he writes that Mr. Marsh, one of the executors of whose will Mr. Silvester subsequently became, had appointed him deputy town clerk and "clerk of the peace." He asks Sir William's favor in his present incumbency and expresses his hope of appointment as principal, should there be a vacancy. In 1771 he advises that certain matters be intrusted to Peter Van Schaack of New York.

Dr. O'Callaghan's *New York Marriages*, p. 381, has the record of Peter Silvester's marriage, August 16, 1764, to Jane Van Schaick. This was Jannetje, a daughter of Cornelius Van Schaack of Kinderhook, and an elder sister of Peter Van Schaack, then a student in Kings (Columbia) college. Two years later Mr. Silvester is a lawyer of repute in Albany. In his office his brother-in-law, Peter Van Schaack, becomes a student in 1766 and remains eighteen months. The following year the Rev. William Hanna, who had been pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Albany for five years, also became a student in Mr. Silvester's office. At about this time he moved to Kinderhook, and lived thenceforth in the Van Schaack homestead where his wife was born and of which he through her came into possession. There in 1767 his son Francis was born; and there in 1808, aged about seventy-four, Peter Silvester died. Presumably both he and his wife were buried in the old Van Schaack cemetery, around and over which the Reformed Dutch church was built in 1814.

Although residing here, he retained his church affiliations with Albany. In the Charter of Incorporation of St. Peter's church there, granted by George III. in 1769, Mr. Silvester's name appears as vestryman, and four years later he was one of the wardens.

After his removal to Kinderhook he evidently had some commercial as well as professional interests, for in Munsell's *Annals* (vol. 1., p. 258) we read of his shipment from New

York to the West Indies, by the sloop *Olive Branch*, in 1770, of a ton of flour, for which he received somewhat over \$32.00.

Mr. Silvester was appointed and elected to many positions of trust and honor. He was one of the eleven (later twelve) Deputies from old Albany County to the first and second Provincial (State) Congress, 1775-1776. The Journal, however, reveals that he personally attended only the short summer session of the first. The Act of appointment gave to any four or more of the County Deputies who might be present the full powers of the whole delegation. That Mr. Silvester felt he was needed at home in those very troublous times in Kinderhook, and had confidence in the wisdom and patriotism of his colleagues, is the presumable explanation of his non-attendance. In '86 he was the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Columbia County. In '87 he was appointed a Regent of the University of the State. He was a member of the first and second United States Congress, 1789-'91; State Senator, 1788, 1803, '04, and '06.

From what we have been able to read of this (chronologically) "first lawyer of Kinderhook," and what we have heard from his honored granddaughter Margaret and others, he seems to have been an eminent jurist, a devoted patriot, and a pure-hearted and high-minded citizen and gentleman, worthy the tribute to Nathaniel of Shelter Island: "Loyal to duty. Faithful to friendship. The soul of integrity and honor. Hospitable to Worth and Culture," and, we add, a sincere Christian.

FRANCIS SILVESTER, son of Peter, was born in Kinderhook, July 22, 1767, and died here, January 31, 1845. On his graduation from Columbia College he became a student in his father's office in this village and in due time began practice here where he continued his office and residence until his death. His wife was his cousin, Lydia Van Vleck Van Schaack, foster daughter of David Van Schaack.

Very often in years gone has her daughter Margaret

spoken of her mother in the most exalted terms. But Margaret herself, with her cultivated mind, refined tastes, charming grace, of manner, and all lovable womanly excellences, including a most sunny saintliness, was her mother's most noble monument. It is not strange that ex-President Van Buren was a frequent though finally disappointed visitor at her beautiful home. She died January 21, 1903, aged ninety-one. Her father, Francis Silvester, built what was long known as the Silvester house, later owned and occupied by Mr. Sheldon Norton, now occupied by Mrs. Heath. Mr. Silvester had a very extensive law practice and was the law preceptor of Martin Van Buren; but his only public position was as member of the State Constitutional Convention of 1821.

PETER HENRY SILVESTER, only son of Francis, was born in 1807, graduated at Union College in 1827, and became a lawyer of distinction in Coxsackie. He was a member of the 30th and 31st Congress. His two sons were Francis and John L. B. Silvester.

FRANCIS SILVESTER, 2d, 1833-1903. He was born in Coxsackie, November 15, 1833. His father was the Hon. Peter H. Silvester (son of Francis, of Kinderhook) and his mother, Catharine S. Bronk, of Coxsackie. Francis, after graduation from the Kinderhook Academy, studied law and in 1856 was admitted to the Columbia County Bar. He began practice in the office of W. H. Tobey, Kinderhook, while the latter was State Senator. Soon thereafter Mr. Tobey received him into partnership and the firm continued to be Tobey and Silvester for many years. In 1858 Mr. Silvester was elected District Attorney and served three years, and was also a member of the State Constitutional Convention of 1867. He was an able lawyer, a pleasing speaker and a graceful writer, as witnessed by orations and addresses which appeared in the local press, and by many obituary notices that came from his facile pen. He died suddenly in New York City, December 6, 1903, survived by

his brother, John L. B. Silvester, now of Albany. During the latter part of his life he withdrew from the general practice of his profession and devoted himself to the management of some large estates. His trusts were judiciously and faithfully fulfilled.

Peter Van Schaack. 1747-1832

Peter Van Schaack was the fourth son and the youngest of the seven children of Cornelius Van Schaack and Lydia Van Dyck. Born March, 1747, he was baptized on the 24th of the following April in the old Dutch church, John Livingston and Catrina Van Dyck appearing as sponsors. Intended by his father from the first for one of the liberal professions, though he himself inclined to the army, he was sent at an early age to the village school, where, notwithstanding certain alleged infelicities of temper and method on the part of his teacher, "I persevered," he wrote, "and soon found myself advanced in my learning beyond my own most flattering expectations." The two years preceding his college course were spent under the instruction of the Rev. Richard Charlton of Staten Island, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, and an accomplished scholar and successful teacher. In 1762 he entered the freshman class of Kings (Columbia) College. He was the first of our Kinderhook young men to have a collegiate education. John Jay, Egbert Benson, Richard Harrison, Gouverneur Morris, and others of subsequently illustrious name, were among his classmates or associates; and between himself and the four named a special friendship was formed which continued through life, notwithstanding radical differences of opinion and action in the coming "times that tried men's souls." In 1765, while still an undergraduate, he privately married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Cruger, a prominent merchant of the city. Her father's displeasure on hearing of the marriage was intense. We read that he not only made the usual vow

that she should never again darken his door, but also that he took off his wig and threw it into the fire. Reconciliation, however, came at last and the young couple received the parental and family blessing in full measure. Ultimately Mr. Van Schaack was one of Mr. Cruger's executors. In college he won several prizes for scholarship and was graduated with the highest honors. Beginning with the spring of 1766 he spent eighteen months in the Albany law office of Peter Silvester, who had married his sister Jane. Leaving Albany he entered the office of William Smith, the historian and jurist, in New York. In 1769, he and his friends Benson and Harrison were licensed as attorneys of the Supreme Court. It was considered quite remarkable that three young men should be admitted to the Bar at one time. Opening an office in Cedar Street, Mr. Van Schaack's ability, character, and advantageous family connections enabled him to win a rapidly increasing clientage. In 1773 to him alone was given the responsible work of collating and revising the Colonial Statute Laws, from 1691-1773. His work, published in 1774, was most creditable to his judgment and industry, and was for many years regarded as an essential volume in every lawyer's library. To the intense application given to this work he attributed the beginning of the trouble which finally made him totally blind.

But troublous times were now at hand. We need not repeat what we have written relative to the loyalists of whom Mr. Van Schaack was one of the most eminent. He was mistaken in his judgment, but he was utterly honest and conscientious. None the less his mistake was of lasting injury to himself. Had he been able to act and think differently there was almost no position of judicial eminence in the State or Nation which he might not have attained. He was mistaken and suffered in consequence thereof; but the most ardent patriots, like Jay and Benson, while entirely out of sympathy with his views, and grieved by them, nevertheless respected and loved him.

The account of his treatment by the irresponsible and sometimes arbitrary and unjust Commissioners for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies may be found in Mr. H. C. Van Schaack's Life of his father, and also in Mr. Paltsits' recently published *Minutes of the Commissioners*. Moreover, before his departure for England, his wife had died. He had also buried six of her nine young children. It is no wonder that the broken-hearted man wrote of the final decree of banishment, regretfully signed by John Jay, as his "*death warrant*." But such was not the fact. Apart from the pity and pain of it, his exile, partly voluntary, partly enforced, inured greatly to his benefit in manifold ways; broadening his mind, enlarging his experience, and bringing him into close association with the best scholarship and finest culture of England. His brother-in-law, Mr. Cruger, was a member of Parliament. Through him Mr. Van Schaack was enabled to hear all the great orators of the time and to know many of England's most notable men and women. Nor was he professionally idle. "While in England," Benjamin F. Butler wrote, "he was consulted in many cases involving intricate and important legal questions, and on one occasion in particular he was associated with Lord Chancellor Eldon, whose reputation, it is believed, was much enhanced by pursuing the advice and adopting the views of Mr. Van Schaack."

As the struggle went on and he came to have a clearer insight into the spirit and intents of the dominant party in Parliament, he had less and less respect for the British view of the controversy and more and more sympathy with the American. He hailed the triumph of the colonies with unmingled delight. In October, 1783, he received this welcome note from John Jay in London: "I am this moment arrived and shall not probably be called upon this evening. If you are as much at leisure it will give me pleasure to see you." We have no copy of his note in reply, but we have this entry in Mr. Jay's diary: "We met with all the cordial-

ity of old friends who had long been absent, without the least retrospect to the cause of that absence." Subsequently Jay wrote to Benson: "Having been very well assured that the conduct of Peter Van Schaack (and others) had been perfectly unexceptional and that they had not associated with the abominable Tory club of London, I received and returned their visits."

It was with great joy that in 1785 he returned to his native land and village. Of his reception in New York he wrote: "Mr. Jay has behaved like a true friend. He came on board the ship immediately, brought me on shore, took me to the Governor's, Chief Justice's, etc., and seems determined to do everything for me he can. All descriptions of people show me every attention and kindness." It is not surprising that John Jay has been a favorite name in our Van Schaack family. A grandson, John Jay Van Schaack, was a soldier in our Civil War, a cashier of the old Kinderhook Bank, and a highly respected citizen. There is another of the same name, living in Hartford, Conn., and a John Jay Van Alstyne in our village; both of them great-great-grandsons of the subject of our sketch.

By special Acts of legislature applicable to his and similar cases Mr. Van Schaack was restored to all rights and privileges of citizenship and also re-admitted to the Bar. He resumed the practice of law and was very active in private but influential ways in promoting the welfare of the State, in furthering the adoption of the Federal Constitution and in upbuilding the new Republic. His home for a time was with his brother David in the former Vanderpoel mansion, but he soon built the house to the east of it, known to us as the Mix-Haines-Harder dwelling.

April 27, 1789, he married Elizabeth, daughter of John L., and sister of Lucas I. Van Alen, of another notable family. She also became the mother of nine children, the first two of whom were named John, as two of Elizabeth Cruger's had been. The other children were: David, b.

Dec. 9, 1793, m. Catharine Sickles; Peter, b. Oct. 19, 1795, m. Dorcas Manton; Lydia, b. July 4, 1798, m. Thomas Beekman; Christina, b. July 2, 1800, unmarried and remembered as a sweet gentle presence in her brother David's home; Henry Cruger, b. April 3, 1802,—later of Manlius, m. Adaline Ives; Lucas, b. Nov. 7, 1804—in 1827 a physician in Oswego, m. Sarah Hawley; Margaret, b. June 9, 1807, m. John M. Pruyn, M.D.

July 14, 1804, we find him chairman of the meeting of the Columbia County Bar called at Claverack to take action concerning the death of Hamilton. Among the resolutions was one to wear crape on the arm for one month. That same year Kinderhook had given Burr for Governor a majority of ninety-four.

As the dimness of vision of his one remaining eye increased, he was obliged more and more to relinquish the practice of the law and devote himself to teaching the students whom in small groups he received for personal instruction, to the number, it is said, of nearly one hundred in all. Among them was Henry I. Frey, only son of Major John Frey of Palatine. Henry married his preceptor's daughter Elizabeth. Other students were the sons of Chancellor Kent, Theodore Sedgwick, Rufus King, William Van Ness, and Ambrose Spencer. Cornelius, the father of Judge Theodore Miller, was also his pupil, as were many others who subsequently became distinguished. Teaching was continued even when total blindness made him dependent on readers for the news of the day and the contents of new books.

In his retirement he was much and frequently cheered by the visits of his old-time friend Judge Egbert Benson. A room in the house was known as Judge Benson's room. In the spring of 1818, his son tells us, his father and Judge Benson drove from Kinderhook to Bedford in the latter's one-horse wagon (the Judge being driver) to visit their mutual friend, John Jay. In 1826, his *alma mater*, Columbia

College, gave him the degree of Doctor of Laws. For the Alumni dinner at the time he had prepared by request the five regular toasts with appropriate Latin quotations. A sixth, written by Colonel Troup, was this: "Peter Van Schaack—Admired for his knowledge of the law and classical attainments, and beloved for the virtues which adorn our nature. *Quis jure peritior quis virtute praestantior!*"

Beneath a somewhat awesome exterior there was a kind, sympathetic heart. Writing from London concerning his anxiety as regards his children's education, he is even more anxious he tells them, that they should "*keep their hearts soft.*" Of this as a characteristic of himself we have a pleasing trace in this extract from a letter of Gouverneur Morris:

You say that it gives you pleasure to remember early friendships. This I am not surprised at, for in truth we meet with little else of friendships to remember. The after connections of life generally have some other basis. My own heart, worn by the succession of objects which have invaded it, looks back with more than female fondness toward the connections of earlier days.

Writing to Mr. Silvester, shortly before returning home, concerning one who had been especially active and bitter against the Loyalists here he said:

As to what you say of Major . . . , let me beg you will present my compliments to him. I bear enmity to no man existing; and however it may sound in the ears of some of my friends, yet to *you*, who know me to be incapable of *time-serving* conduct, I will say, that all he *has* done *against* me, is far overbalanced by what he might have done, but did *not*; and that I am ready to shake him by the hand with cordiality and perfect oblivion of the past. No part of my conduct shall have retrospect to the transactions of the war. What is there in this life of consequence enough to call forth the malignant passions of envy, hatred, revenge and malice!

In the earlier part of the letter he wrote concerning some misunderstanding as regards the financial obligation of a kinswoman of this same Major:

As to Mrs. . . . , she is too good a woman to speak an untruth. Relinquish the interest; and give up the principal too, if you think her an object . . . I would never receive a shilling that should be bathed with tears, or draw forth a sigh.

Mr. Van Schaack died September 17, 1832. His grave and very modest stone are in our cemetery. In the Kinderhook *Sentinel* of September 20th, there was an excellent obituary notice, written by the Hon. B. F. Butler.

To his address before the N. Y. Historical Society in 1828, Chancellor Kent appended this note:

It is worthy of notice that the only two regiments of infantry from this State in the line of the army of the United States at the close of the war were commanded by Dutchmen. . . . And I hope I may be permitted to add, without meaning any invidious comparison, that we have now living in this State, in advanced years, three lawyers of Dutch descent, who are not surpassed anywhere in acuteness of mind, in sound law-learning and in moral worth. The reader will readily perceive that I have in my eye Egbert Benson, Peter Van Schaack and Abraham Van Vechten.

Henry Van Schaack. 1733-1823

The substance of this sketch is drawn from "Memoirs" of his uncle written by the late Henry C. Van Schaack, of Manlius, N. Y., and published in 1892, A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago.

Henry Van Schaack was the oldest son of Cornelius, and and was born in Kinderhook, in February, 1733. His early opportunities of acquiring an education were limited and he was largely self-taught; but having a love for reading and study and a keen strong mind he became before middle life a

man of superior attainments and culture. At the age of fourteen he was employed in a merchant's counting house in New York city. In 1755, he was a lieutenant in a company, of which Philip Schuyler was Captain, in the expedition against Crown Point. The MSS. of Major-General (later Sir) William Johnson, in the State Library (if not destroyed by the late fire) reveal Mr. Van Schaack's frequent correspondence and consultation with his quondam commanding officer concerning various colonial affairs. He was especially active in resisting the attempted encroachments upon the lands of Kinderhook's freeholders. From 1756-'69 Mr. Van Schaack's residence was in Albany. For several years he was paymaster of the New York regiment and "Commissary of the Musters," a position requiring the visitation of frontier posts. He was also engaged in mercantile pursuits, especially the fur trade, in the interest of which he established trading posts at Niagara and later at Detroit and beyond. On one of his visits to Detroit he gave the Indians a silver tankard for the liberation of a white boy whom he educated and established in business and who went by the name of Tankard. In 1760 Mr. Van Schaack married Jane, daughter of Hitchen Holland, Captain of one of his majesty's independent companies at Oswego, then Fort Ontario. As Major he served in the movement against the Indians of the North-West in 1764, and formed intimacies with Richard Montgomery and Thomas Morris (both Captains then) which continued through life. The former was a not infrequent visitor at Kinderhook. During much of this period, in addition to all other activities, Mr. Van Schaack was an alderman and the postmaster of Albany. After the passage of the odious Stamp Act, on the mere suspicion that he would be appointed stamp distributor, he was subjected to many threatening manifestations of popular ill will. His brother-in-law, Peter Silvester, was an intermediary and the tumult was finally allayed. In 1769 he changed his residence to his native village. He was for

several successive terms chosen Justice of the Peace, was a member of the "Quorum" and was elected Supervisor six times.

Mr. Van Schaack's part in events preceding the Revolution has been noted hitherto. He was a Loyalist, conscientious in his convictions of right and duty, and seeking to maintain a neutral position. He, especially, was unable to see how he could violate his several times repeated official oath of loyalty to the king. He suffered much for his convictions. The details, heretofore narrated in part, may be found in the "Memoirs" of his life. Many additional particulars are in the lately published *Minutes of the Commission for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies*. Twice arrested and confined he was finally sent to Hartford and later permitted to go to Massachusetts. At the conclusion of peace he moved to Berkshire, then to Richmond, and later to Pittsfield where he remained nearly twenty-three years. His home was what is now the very attractive Country Club House, and was frequently visited by the notables of his time. Admitted to citizenship at Berkshire he at once was actively interested in all public affairs. He was an ardent advocate of the adoption of the Federal Constitution and later a Federalist in politics; was energetic in opposition to Shay's rebellion; was chosen a representative in the General Court (the legislature); was appointed Magistrate by Governor Hancock and reappointed by Governor Strong, and was one of the first Trustees of Williams College. With the exception of one child who died in infancy he had no offspring, but adopted a sister's daughter, and when she married adopted another. In 1807 he returned to Kinderhook and built a delightful home overlooking the Hudson and adjoining that of his married adopted daughter. There he lived in dignified and honored retirement, but not without interest in all public affairs. As late as 1811 when he was seventy-nine years of age he made the wearisome journey to Williamstown to fulfill his duties as a Trustee of the College. Without

the early advantages of his younger brother Peter, he was not as scholarly nor as great; but he was a remarkable man in many respects. His acquaintance and association with the notable men of his time was very extensive; his abilities of a high order; his character unimpeachable, and his whole bearing that of one of the most courtly gentlemen of the old school. He died July 18, 1823, and was buried in the Kinderhook cemetery beside his wife who had passed away eight years before him.

David Van Schaack. 1793-1872

David, the third son of Peter Van Schaack and Elizabeth Van Alen, was born in Kinderhook, December 9, 1793. He was educated in his native village. His accomplished father was qualified to be both College and Law School. He was the junior partner for some years of Judge Julius Wilcoxson. Later in life he took Charles L. Beale into partnership. This brilliant, silver-tongued orator was well equipped for court trials and forensic service from which Mr. Van Schaack's very retiring disposition caused him to shrink.

October 5, 1830, he married Catharine daughter of the Rev. Dr. Jacob Sickles. Their children were: Elsie E., who died April 6, 1846; Anna, who still lives in the house her father built in 1857, and John Jay. The last-named, born June 12, 1840, was Paymaster in the army during the Civil War; served as teller in the National Union Bank of Kinderhook and also the First National, of Hudson, and at the time of his death was cashier of the "old bank" of Kinderhook. He married Emma Darragh, of Wheeling, W. Va. Their children were David Van Schaack now of Hartford, Conn., and Mary Darragh, wife of James E. Van Alstyne of Kinderhook. John J. Van Schaack died, greatly lamented, September 8, 1877.

David Van Schaack, Sr., was an enlisted soldier of the war of 1812, but was not called upon to render active service.

He, none the less, however, took pleasure in his old age in speaking of that warlike episode in a most peaceful life. For many years he was the painstaking secretary of the Academy Trustees, and was from the organization of the Union Bank a Director and for the last years of his life the Vice-President. In 1868 he was honored by having his name placed on the Seymour electoral ticket. He shrank from, rather than sought publicity of any kind. His work was largely that of his office. Like Arent Van Dyck of a much earlier generation, he was the writer of almost innumerable deeds, mortgages, and wills and often an executor of the latter. He managed many estates and was trustee for a host of widows and orphans; always fulfilling his trust with the utmost fidelity and integrity not unmingled with kindness. For years after we first knew him, the first of April each year was wont to see his office thronged from early morning to late evening. Personal observation of his life and character enables us to attest the eminent appropriateness of the action of the Circuit Court of the County from which we quote:

Resolved, That as members of the Bar of the County of Columbia, we, in common with his relatives and friends, would express our personal sorrow for his death and bear our united testimony to his talents, attainments and worth. Descended from an honored and distinguished ancestry he has adorned the profession of which he was an honored member by his unassuming and unobtrusive deportment, by his sound judgment and spotless integrity, by the industry and unswerving fidelity with which he ever discharged the duties devolving upon him, and by the genial friendship which he ever inspired and maintained with all with whom he was brought in contact in the course of his professional practice.

Resolved, That in the delicate and responsible positions in which he was from time to time placed in the management of estates and in the performance of various trusts, public and private, he has always commended himself to the personal

regard and confidence of those who were to be affected by his position and judgment, and he will be missed by the widow, the orphan, and all others who looked to him as their counsellor and friend, and the safe depository of their inheritance.

He died March 23, 1872.

Henry Cruger Van Schaack

Henry C., the fourth son of Peter Van Schaack and Elizabeth Van Alen, was born in Kinderhook, April 2, 1802. After his academic and legal education at home he began practice at Black Rock, N. Y. In 1827 he married Miss Adaline Ives, of Lansingburgh, and soon thereafter moved to Manlius, N. Y., where he continued to reside until his death in 1887. He was a gentleman of the old school of the best type, most excellently equipped for his profession, and respected and beloved by his associates and all who knew him for his exalted character and his singular purity of life. Example and precept were always on the side of right. While of general literary culture in an eminent degree, he was a recognized authority in early American history. His published articles and public addresses on historical subjects were received with much favor. His more notable publications were: *The Life of Peter Van Schaack*, Appleton, 1842; *Henry Cruger*—the colleague of Edmund Burke and the first American in the British Parliament; *Captain Morris, of the Illinois Country*; *A History of Manlius*, and, printed after his death, *Memoirs of Henry Van Schaack*, an uncle. Exceedingly interesting and valuable also is his unpublished *Autographic History of the Revolution*. It is in three large volumes, made up, not of mere signatures but of original letters, nearly all of which relate to Revolutionary incidents. Some of them inherited, some purchased, and others obtained by exchange are now among the precious heirlooms of his children. As an honorary member of the New York,

Illinois, Canadian, and other Historical Societies, he enriched their libraries by abundant contributions. Having no desire for public life he declined all opportunities therefor and would accept no favor from his intimate friend, President Fillmore, except the appointment of a son to West Point, Mr. Van Schaack was the father of fourteen children of whom eight were living at the time of his death. Some have since passed away, but they were at that time: H. C. Van Schaack of Manlius; Mrs. A. J. Vanderpoel of New York and Kinderhook; Peter Van Schaack, Mrs. W. G. Hibbard, and Mrs. O. V. S. Ward of Chicago; C. P. Van Schaack of Tulare, Cal.; Mrs. W. F. Hubbard of Fort B., Dakota, and Mrs. F. P. Langtry of Manlius. Twenty-five years ago there were forty surviving descendants. There are now many more.

John C. Wynkoop. 1761-1796

John C. Wynkoop, admitted to the Bar in 1786, was a son of Cornelius C. Wynkoop and Maria C. Roel. In Revolutionary times he was ardently devoted to the American cause, and as ardently hated by Tories of the baser sort because active in discovering and thwarting their secret plans to aid the British. His house which stood opposite the old furnace on Albany Avenue, and near the present home of Henry Krelberg, was burned with nearly all its contents, as hitherto narrated. Mr. Wynkoop had six children, viz., the Rev. P. S. Wynkoop, Adrian who became a lawyer, Henry V. S., Mrs. Hanley, Mrs. Van Dyck, and Mrs. Winans.

In the N. Y. Historical Society library may be seen Mr. Wynkoop's cash book. It contains many items of interest concerning the numerous lawsuits in which he was engaged; the pay he received, often in produce of the farms, hencoops, and dairy; his charges for the board and schooling of a niece, including her slate pencils; and the payment for "a pound of snuff lost by him in bets with Abraham Van Vleck during his life time."



Martin Van Buren



Washington Irving

Mr. Wynkoop died comparatively young. His widow subsequently became the wife of Jacobus (James) Van Alen and lived in what is now the Nink house. She lived to an advanced age and was long known and loved as "Aunt Lydia." Mr. Wynkoop was an uncle of Mr. Augustus Wynkoop. In the latter part of his life he lived at Kingston, continuing his practice of law and also serving for a time as postmaster, as witnessed by an advertisement of letters a month before his death, shortly before which he had become blind.

Martin Van Buren. 1782-1862

In Archivist Van Laer's translation of the Van Rensselaer (Bowier) MSS. (p. 190), is a letter of the first patroon, Killian Van Rensselaer, dated 1634, which states that in 1631 Lourens Lourense and Cornelis Maessen Van Buermalsen sailed in the ship *d'Eendracht* (*The Unity*) from Amsterdam to the New Netherland. This Cornelis was the pioneer Van Buren, at least in this vicinity. On the completion of his stipulated three years' residence as a lessee of the patroon, in 1634, he went back to Holland, but two years later returned hither with his wife, Catalyntje Martensen (daughter of Marten). Their second son was named Marten. Thus early then in Rensselaerswyck, or Fort Orange, there was a Marten Van Buren, in the fifth generation from whom was born that Martin whose name with that of C. V. A. Van Dyck has made our village most widely known. We note in passing that Cornelis Maessen's third son, Maes Cornelise, for some unknown reason, assumed the surname Bloemindael and was the ancestor of the Bloomingdale families of later times.

It is stated that more biographies and sketches of Martin Van Buren have been published than of any other President with the exception of Washington and Lincoln. A former State Historian is our authority for the statement that no man in the history of our country held so many public offices

as he. We are excusable if we limit our sketch of his public life to a mere outline and dwell more at length upon his associations with Kinderhook.

He was born in our village December 5, 1782. Ten days later, according to the custom of the time, he was baptized by the Rev. Johannes Ritzema. The sponsors were his uncle and aunt, Peter Van Buren and Catarina Quackenbos. His birthplace was a humble dwelling and inn long since removed. It stood in front of the house owned by the heirs of the late Henry Smith of Chatham, the second house south of Mrs. James A. Reynolds's present lawn. In tearing it down the initials M. V. B. were observed cut into one of the cellar beams, doubtless by his own youthful hand. The house, small though it was, was for many years one of the numerous wayside inns. Martin (6) was the son of Abraham (5); son of Marten Piertse (4) and Dirckje Van Alstynne, who were married November 7, 1729; son of Pieter Martense (3) and Ariaantje Barentse who in 1695 were recorded as members of the Albany church "*living in Kinderhook*"; son of Marten Cornelise (2) 1686; son of Cornelis Maesse (1). Martin Van Buren's mother was Maria Goes (Hoes). At the time of her marriage to his father she was the widow of Johannes Van Alen and the mother of three children. She was the granddaughter of Jan Tysse Goes, one of the freeholders of the Kinderhook Patent of 1686, the owner of a fourth part of the "Groote Stuk" and of other tracts as well. One of her sons was James I. Van Alen. He became distinguished as a lawyer; was a member of the State Constitutional Convention; Surrogate of Columbia County for two terms; Judge of the County Court, and in 1808 a member of Congress. He had both the ability and the disposition to assist his half-brother Martin in obtaining his education, and did so creditably. He was a Federalist in politics and therefore in later years opposed to Martin, who by birth and presumably by intelligent choice was a Democrat.

Attached to the inn in which Martin was born was a small farm on which were raised supplies for the family and public table and somewhat more for the market. An editorial in the *New York Herald* of May 3, 1837 (which we will explain later), referred to Martin Van Buren as "a common country lawyer who began life trundling cabbages to market in Kinderhook." There was at least a modicum of truth in the latter part of the statement. We have before us a personal letter from Hubert P. Main, the music writer and publisher, which tells us how pleasantly his aged mother recalled the time when she as seamstress often helped Martin's careful mother in making and repairing his clothes. Needed at home to help his father during much of the year, Martin's schooling was largely confined to the winter months. Like Lincoln, however, he had a thirst for learning and a resoluteness of purpose which led him to make the best use of such advantages as he had, and to devote many of his summer as well as winter evenings to reading and study. His education, beginning in the miserable half-lighted school-house burrowing in the hill on Chatham Street, was completed in the Kinderhook Academy, then of high standing and wide renown. When fourteen years old he entered the office of Judge Francis Silvester of our village and began the seven years' course of study and office-training then required for admission to the Bar. During that novitiate he was given frequent opportunities for service in the petty cases coming before Justices of the Peace, which afforded him much practical training and won for him considerable local renown. His last year of study was spent in New York, in the office of the distinguished William P. Van Ness. After his admission to the Bar he returned to Kinderhook and entered into partnership with his half-brother James I. Van Alen. He was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the State in 1807, and soon thereafter married Hannah (Harriet) Hoes, a granddaughter of his mother's brother Derick. She died in 1819, leaving four sons. Mr. Van Buren never married

again; and we have the affecting record of him that—"he remained loyal to the memory of his departed wife to the day of his death." But some of us know of one of Kinderhook's estimable and cultivated women who declined to marry the ex-President. And there is an abiding tradition concerning the grave of yet another, in a private burial plot three miles from the village, which he was wont to visit occasionally and stand reverently beside it with hat in hand.

From 1808-1813 he was the County Surrogate and made his home in Hudson, entering into partnership with Cornelius Miller, the father of the late Hon. and Judge Theodore Miller. Benjamin F. Butler, born in Kinderhook, was a student in their office and was a member of Mr. Van Buren's household. The intimacy then begun continued through life. Mr. Van Buren's career was remarkably successful. He was usually one of the leading counsel in the many cases of land litigation of which we have sufficiently written. It is interesting to observe how skillfully in successive suits he could argue now one side and now the other of the same questions. Not infrequently his opponent was the gifted Elisha Williams, another very bright star in Columbia County's brilliant constellation of lawyers. Comparing the two, Benjamin F. Butler wrote:

Never were two men more dissimilar. Both were eloquent; but the eloquence of Williams was declamatory and exciting; that of Van Buren insinuating and delightful. Williams had the livelier imagination. Van Buren the sounder judgment. The former presented the strong points of his case in bolder relief, invested them with a more brilliant coloring, indulged a more unlicensed and magnificent invective, and gave more life and variety to his arguments by his peculiar humor; but Van Buren was his superior in analyzing, arranging and combining the insulated materials, in comparing and weighing testimony, in unravelling the web of intricate affairs . . . and in working into the judgment of his hearers the conclusions of his own perspicuous and persuasive reasoning.

This is to Certify that I have known Jellendon long
of Kinderhook for a Cent^y of a Cent^y of his time
know him to be a man of Honor & Integrity, ^{and that} he is the same
person celebrated in the writings of the Old West
— now living under the name of Schobed Crane
in his famous Legion of Sleepy Hollow

Kinderhook May 16th 1846.

M Van Buren

of out (S)

The Van Buren Certificate



Indian Village



Of his subsequent public career let it suffice to say: Elected State Senator in 1812, he speedily attained a position of commanding influence both in the Senate and Assembly, and in all the councils of his party; a position which he continued to hold for more than thirty years. Beginning with 1815 he was the Attorney-General of the State for about five years, and from 1816 until his removal to Washington his home was in Albany. He was State Senator again for four years; also a Regent of the University. On the death of his law partner, Cornelius Miller, he took his friend Benjamin F. Butler into a partnership which continued until 1828. In 1821 Mr. Van Buren was a member of the State Constitutional Convention. In February of that year he was elected to the United States Senate and re-elected in 1827. His astuteness, and more creditable ability as well, received early recognition at Washington as at Albany, where he was one of the founders and one of the most influential members of the Albany Regency; perhaps the most powerful political machine in the history of our State.

On the death of Governor De Witt Clinton, in 1828, Mr. Van Buren was elected his successor, but served as such less than three months, resigning his governorship that he might accept President Jackson's invitation to a place in his Cabinet as Secretary of State. Creditably fulfilling the duties of his office from March, 1829, to June, 1831, he then resigned, owing to some Cabinet dissensions, but was urged by the President to accept the mission to the Court of St. James, and finally did so, going to London in September. There he was received with much favor in social and diplomatic circles. Washington Irving was then our Consul at London and was the companion of Van Buren in many drives through those interesting portions of England which the former has so charmingly described.

In January, 1832, the Senate refused to confirm Van Buren's appointment; Vice-President Calhoun of his own party giving the decisive casting vote against him. That

vote, which aroused the indignation of Van Buren's many friends, gave him, rather than Calhoun, the nomination as Vice-President when Jackson was nominated for his second term. It was while he was Vice-President that the editorial to which we have referred appeared in the New York *Herald*. Perhaps we can account for it. It was a virulent attack on Van Buren and "his atrocious associates" as "the original causes of the terrible moral, political and commercial desolation which had spread over the country." From Mackenzie's screed on the "*Lives and Opinions of Benjamin F. Butler and Jesse Hoyt*," with its many not gentle allusions to Van Buren, worthy of Crockett's alleged Life of the latter, we have gleaned the following facts. In 1833 James Gordon Bennett was the proprietor of *The Pennsylvanian*, published in Philadelphia. In August of that year he wrote to Jesse Hoyt concerning his need of the financial aid of the Vice-President for the support of his paper. He had indeed received \$200, which "he would put into his big gun (*The Pennsylvanian*) and give the U. S. Bank a broadside." Now, however, he needs \$2500; but "after working day and night for nearly ten years in Mr. Van Buren's behalf, the treatment received from him and his friends is superlatively heartless." Mr. Van Buren read this letter or learned of its purport, as was evidently intended, and thereupon wrote to Mr. Hoyt thus:

I would always have been happy to have done him (Mr. Bennett) good, but I cannot directly or indirectly afford pecuniary aid to his press, more particularly so as I am situated at the present moment. If he cannot continue friendly to me on public grounds and with perfect independence, I can only regret it but I desire no other support. Whatever course he may pursue, as long as it is an honest one, I shall wish him well.

Well written, Mr. Van Buren! The vitriolic editorial in the New York *Herald* of May 3, 1837, is not as inexplicable as it was. But a few days before his death Jackson gave to a

visitor an appreciation of the "trundler of cabbages and the common country lawyer" from which we quote:

I have enjoyed a long and happy acquaintance with Mr. Van Buren and have ever found him perfectly honest; as a statesman, quick and penetrating, possessing a powerful mind governed by strict integrity; ever ready to sacrifice personal feelings for the good of his country and totally regardless of individual popularity when his duty called him to defend the rights of the people. . . . There is no man in the country that has ever been in public life, to my knowledge, who has passed a life with more purity in all his public and private duties.

In 1836 Mr. Van Buren was elected President. In 1840 he was renominated, but defeated by General Harrison. Concerning that time we have had before us the original letter of Mr. William Allen Butler to the late Mr. Pierre V. B. Hoes, a grandnephew of Mr. Van Buren. We quote:

He was with us when General Harrison died and John Tyler succeeded to the Presidency. During his stay my father gave a large reception for him and included in the guests, not only the Democrats in the city who were socially prominent but also a considerable number of the rank and file of the members of the party. It was rather a departure from the conventional gatherings of the kind, but I recollect that at the close it was pronounced by Charles Eames, a sententious lecturer of the time, to have been "an originality, a success and a benefaction." Mr. Van Buren was greatly pleased with the entertainment. I remember well that he was as serene and good humored during his visit to us as if he had not been defeated in his second contest for the Presidency.

In 1844 he received a majority but not a two thirds vote in the Democratic convention and was finally defeated for the nomination by Polk, because, it was alleged, of Van Buren's opposition to the annexation of Texas and the extension of slavery. In fact, a privately issued circular

letter, signed by Theodore Sedgwick, W. C. Bryant, David Dudley Field, and others expressly states that the Convention "rejected Van Buren and nominated Polk for reasons connected with the immediate annexation of Texas."

In 1848, Van Buren, refused a nomination by the convention which nominated Cass, after declining in advance he ultimately accepted the nomination of the Barn Burner faction in convention at Utica, and also that of the Free Soilers at Buffalo. The Kinderhook *Sentinel* in the support of the regular ticket printed some regrettable denunciations of Van Buren's alleged "duplicity." The divided Democracy was defeated by General Taylor. This was the end of Mr. Van Buren's aspirations for civic honors. He had reason to be satisfied with the remarkable record.

In 1841, soon after his first defeat, he bought the fine old mansion built by Peter Van Ness, of which we have written, and much enlarged and improved it. With the exception of two years spent in foreign travel he here lived in peace and contentment until his death in 1862. It was while abroad that he wrote the following presumably hitherto unpublished letter. We write with the original before us. It is dated Rome, February 2, 1854, and addressed to Augustus Wynkoop of Kinderhook.

Written with pale ink on paper now yellow with age it is somewhat difficult to read. Omitting a few personal items, and the usual formalities of polite correspondence, we quote:

. . . Between parties and religious ceremonies and sight seeing we are constantly on the wing. There is scarcely a day on which some proceedings or ceremonies are not enacted calculated to interest those who have not witnessed them before. We attended a few days since the annual exhibition of the Propaganda, and heard forty four speeches from the students in forty four different languages. . . . They (the speakers) were of every color, from pure white to pitch black, and at least three

from the United States. I was strongly impressed by the scene. . . . If a letter from here which I saw in a Dublin paper, expressing hopes of my conversion, founded on my social intercourse with some of the High Church Dignitaries, should find its way into the American papers, I must beg you to say to my friend, Mrs. Silvester, that there is no danger of any such thing. Thank her and Miss Silvester at the same time for their kind messages which I appreciate very highly. I could not forget them here if I would, for the name is as familiar here as in Kinderhook. About forty (25) miles from Rome stands Soracte, so beautifully described by Byron, Horace and almost every other author of celebrity on the history of Italy. Like the dome of St. Peter's, it is seen from everywhere and stands in that regard as its rival. On the highest point is the convent of St. Silvestro, built by the Uncle of Charlemagne, on the site of a church built by St. Silvester before he became pope. His garden where he planted turnips in the afternoon for his next day dinner is still shown by the monks. Although I can hardly believe the turnip story, I have no doubt he was a good man. His name has without doubt been used for many centuries as a cover for a great fraud, consisting of a statement that he had obtained a conveyance from Constantine for the Estates of the Church in consideration of curing him of some disease by the Healing Waters of a spring which he possessed; which conveyance it is now universally admitted never existed. But if any doubt could ever have obtained in regard to his innocence it should have been removed by the recorded fact that upon opening his coffin in the 16th. century, at the St. John Lateran where he was buried in the 10th. century, the good man's body was still entire . . . and was changed into dust on the admission of the air. By the bye do we not find in the turnip story the secret of the old Lady's healing of us all in gardening? . . . I must plead guilty to going into the ball of St. Peter's last week. The ball is large enough to contain sixteen people and is sometimes filled with people as foolish as I am. In squeezing through the opening I had not half an inch to spare. . . .

With kind regards . . .

Very truly yours

M. VAN BUREN.

In his native village Mr. Van Buren was respected, admired, and loved by all for his exceptional abilities and brilliant career in part; but more for his incorruptible integrity, his unimpeachable purity of life, and his unfailing courtesy and kindness to all, however humble their station. He seemed never to forget a name or a face, and whatever the occasion, whether a casual meeting by the roadside, or a visit to the homes of the poor, or a legislative or social or even courtly assemblage, he uniformly spoke just the right word at the right time and in the right way. Mounted on his valued Duroc, a gift of John Randolph of Roanoke, his was a frequent and familiar presence along our country roads and in our village streets, with a bow and a smile and a word of kindly greeting for all whom he met. *Political* foes were usually *personal* friends. The great elm, about a half-mile beyond the bridges, within whose ample shade he was wont to pause for a brief rest, still stands. Lindenwald, to which he gave name and fame, has lost many of its trees; especially the lindens, and the thick cluster designed as a screen from the road, are gone; but some that he planted still remain and are giants now.

Mr. John Bigelow, in his *Retrospections of an Active Life*, gives us a pleasing glimpse of Mr. Van Buren at home. The context indicates that the date of Mr. Bigelow's call was January, 1844. He writes:

A day or two after this visit to Governor Wright, Mr. Tilden invited me to accompany him to a visit to Kinderhook to see Ex-President Van Buren for whose election to the Presidency I had cast my first vote. William Allen Butler and Theodore Bailey Myers composed the rest of the party. We dined with Mr. Van Buren. After our repast, which was not elaborate, the rest of my companions went off to see the farm and its stock. I remained with the President alone during the remainder of our stay. He was a very engaging and prepossessing man. He talked mostly of public men and affairs and he teemed with anecdotes which it shames me to have forgotten. I only remember in the course of

some talk about the Speaker, Seymour, he said Seymour's father became insane the latter part of his life; and intimated that some peculiarities of the Speaker might be the least desirable part of his heritage. I observed that Mr. Van Buren drank only one small glass of Madeira at dinner and took no dessert but an apple. In reply to some remark of mine he said that he never took any dessert but a little fruit; neither puddings nor pastry.

Mr. Van Buren died July 24, 1862, aged a little more than seventy-nine and a half years. The funeral services, attended by a great concourse of people, were held first at Lindenwald, where the Rev. J. Romeyn Berry offered prayer, and then in the village church of his ancestors and kindred and of his own habitual and reverent attendance. The church (said the *Rough Notes* in substance) was filled to overflowing, while thousands (*sic*) unable to enter stood without. The edifice and especially the unoccupied Van Buren pew, the large box-pew in the southeast corner, were heavily draped with black. The pallbearers were his townsmen—Nathan Wild, Henry Snyder, William H. Tobey, David Van Schaack, Cornelius Wiltsie, Hugh Van Alstyne, A. A. Van Alen, Albert Hocs, Ephraim Best, C. H. Wendover, John Frisbee, Chester Jarvis, William R. Mesick, and Charles Whiting. Mr. Berry's discourse, nearly an hour long, was an appropriate tribute and an urgent appeal to patriotism as well. Bishop Potter of Pennsylvania, and the Rev. Benjamin Van Zandt, a former pastor, were in the pulpit, and the latter offered the closing prayer. After a thronging multitude had passed the casket of the peaceful sleeper it was reverently borne away. Engine Co. No. 2 led the procession, followed by the hearse and eighty-one carriages and a very long line of citizens and visitors on foot. Governor Morgan and many other distinguished men were present from Albany, New York, and more distant parts of the country, as well as from every section of the County. Among those from New York was a deputation from Tammany Hall. In the cemetery the Episcopal Burial Office was read by Bishop Potter.

Old Kinderhook

A deep solemnity enshrouded the village and everything around betokened the heart felt grief that pervaded the community at the loss of an old neighbor, a kind friend, and a highly honored and universally esteemed citizen. Though military display and music, the usual appendages attending State funerals, were absent, the silent tread of the procession to the solemn tones of the tolling bell appealed more forcibly to the feelings of the heart than all the paraphernalia of a gorgeous pageantry, and were more in unison with the last words of the deceased to his pastor—"There is but one reliance, and that is upon Christ, the free Mediator of us all."

His grave is marked by a plain granite shaft bearing this inscription:

Martin Van Buren,
VIII President
of the United States.
Born Dec. 5, 1782.
Died July 24, 1862.

Hannah Van Buren,
His Wife,
Born Aug. 8, 1783.
Died at Albany, N. Y., 1819.

On the other side of the shaft is the inscription:

Martin, son of Martin
And Hannah Van Buren.
Born Dec. 30, 1812.
Died in Paris, France,
Mar. 19, 1855.

Near the shaft are the modest stones to the memory of Captain Abraham and Mary Van Buren, the parents of Martin, who died in 1817 and 1818, respectively.

From the Resolutions of the Trustees of the village at the time of Mr. Van Buren's death, we quote:

. . . That in Mr. Van Buren we recognize the profound jurist and statesman, who without the aid of adventitious circumstances, by the force of native talent, severe study and untiring industry attained successively and by quick gradation distinguished posts of honor and trust in the State and Nation.

. . . That in common with our fellow citizens of the town of Kinderhook, the place of his birth, of his residence since his withdrawal from public life and of his death and sepulture, we will cherish the remembrance of his high qualities of mind and heart, his devotion to the National good, and his unabated loyalty to the Union.

Two notable tributes to Mr. Van Buren may be added. The first is from Henry Clay, who in 1849 visited Lindenwald, and at our principal hotel met the thronging people of our village in his own charming way.

In an exciting debate in Congress Mr. Clay said:

I have always found him (Mr. Van Buren) in his manners and deportment civil, courteous and gentlemanly, and he dispenses in the noble mansion which he now occupies, one worthy the residence of the chief magistrate of a great people, a generous and liberal hospitality. An acquaintance with him of more than twenty years has inspired me with respect for the man.

The second tribute is that of William Allen Butler, son of Benjamin F. Butler, the almost lifelong friend of Van Buren. He wrote:

In his personal traits he was marked by a rare individuality. He was a gentleman and he cultivated the society of gentlemen. He never had any associates who were either vulgar or vicious. . . . As you saw him once, you saw him always—always punctilious, always polite, always cheerful, always self possessed. It seemed to any one who studied this phase of his character as if in some early moment of his destiny, his whole nature had been bathed in a cool, clear and unruffled depth, from which it drew this life-long serenity and self control. If any vulnerable point was left I never discovered it.

Even more creditable, it seems to us, are these words from his will written two years before his death:

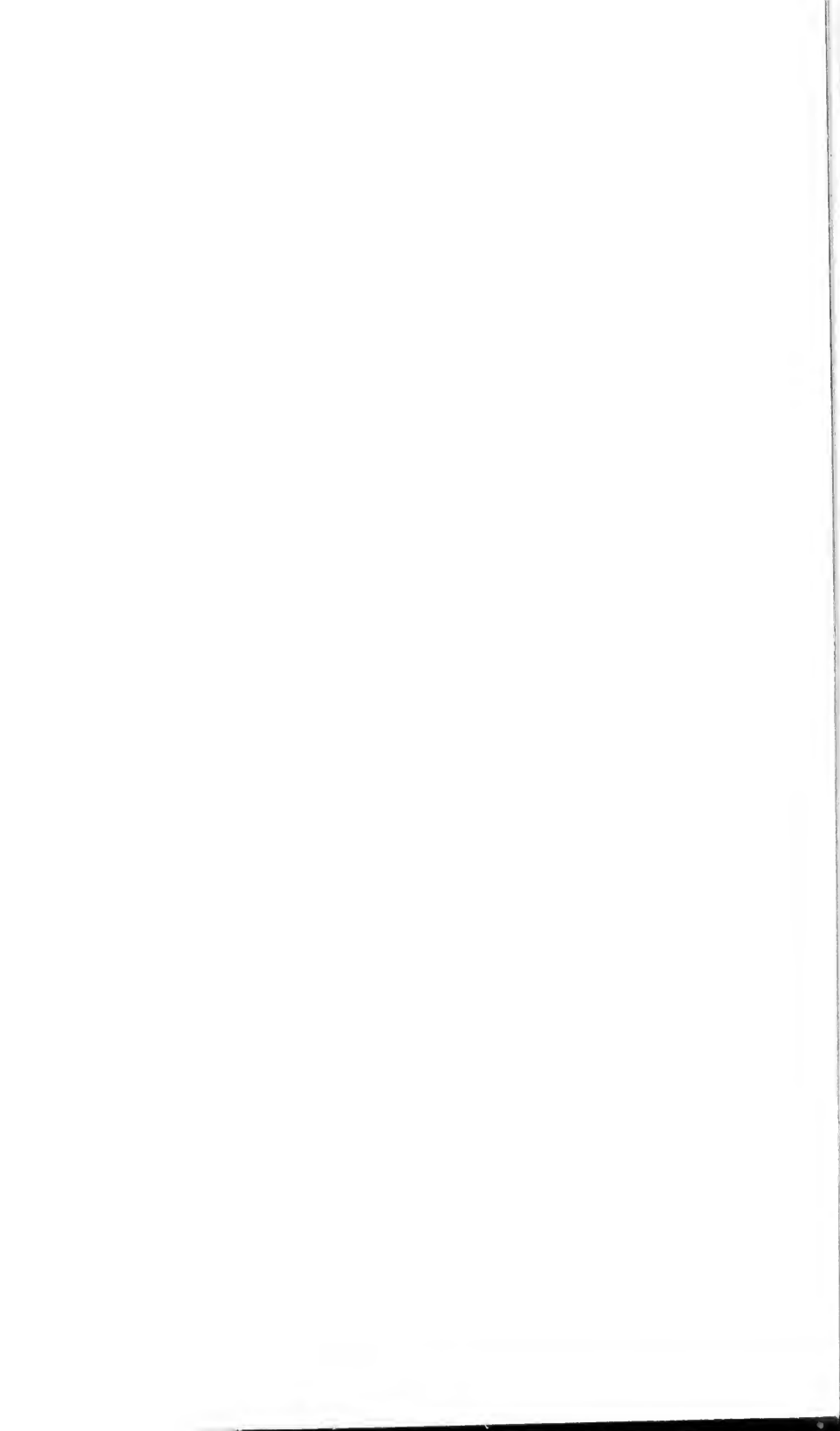
I, Martin Van Buren, of the town of Kinderhook, County of Columbia and State of New York, heretofore Governor of the State, and more recently President of the United States, but for the last and happiest years of my life a Farmer in my native town, . . .

Additional details of Mr. Van Buren's association with Kinderhook may be found in the preceding chapters, and also in Colonel Silas W. Burt's pleasing personal recollections from which we have hitherto quoted.

With the exception of official papers, the "sage of Kinderhook" wrote nothing of importance. His *Inquiry into the Origin and Course of Political Parties in the United States*, published in New York in 1867, was incomplete.

In 1904-5, Mrs. Smith T. Van Buren and Dr. Stuyvesant Fish Morris gave to the Library of Congress several thousand manuscripts left by the ex-President. Among them was an unfinished autobiography in six folio volumes, some 250 or 300 letters of his correspondence with General Jackson; many semi-personal, semi-political papers including a few from eminent journalists and other men of letters such as Irving, Bryant, etc. There is also one note from Lord Palmerston. In 1910 the Government published a calendar of these papers, numbering over four thousand, in a volume of about 650 pages, prepared by Miss Eliza H. West. The earliest paper is a copy of Martin Cornelisse's (Van Buren) will, dated 1703. The last is dated 1862.

Every general Cyclopeda and Biographical Dictionary has its sketch of Mr. Van Buren; that in Appleton's *Cyclopedia of American Biography* is among the best. There was also a flood of pamphlets, both laudatory and abusive, many of which may be found in our public libraries. The more important biographies and alleged biographies are these:



William Emmons, Washington, 1835; F. T. Grund (in German), Boston, 1835; William M. Holland, Hartford, 1836; David Crockett, *The Heir-apparent to the Government and the appointed Successor of General Andrew Jackson*, Philadelphia, 1836; Mackenzie, Boston, 1846; A. H. Joline, 1850; Thomas M 'Elhiny, Pittsburg, 1853; William Allen Butler, New York, 1862; Samuel P. Orth, 1873; E. M. Shepherd, Boston, 1889, and George Bancroft, New York, 1889.

From Frank J. Conkling's "Sketch of the Van Buren Family" (*N. Y. Gen. and Biog. Record*, 1897) we glean the following details.

The President's children were:

I. Abraham, born in Kinderhook, November 27, 1807; died in New York City, March 15, 1873. He was graduated at West Point; rose to the position of captain in the First Dragoons; in 1837 resigned to become his father's private secretary; was major and paymaster in the war with Mexico; was with General Taylor and later General Scott and was brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel for bravery in battle. In November 1838, he married Angelica, daughter of Richard Singleton, a wealthy planter of South Carolina. After her marriage she was mistress of the White House during the remainder of Van Buren's term and died in New York City, December 29, 1878.

II. John, born at Hudson, February 10, 1810. Died at sea, October 13, 1866. He was familiarly called "Prince John." He was graduated at Yale in 1828: became a lawyer of considerable note: and was elected Attorney-General of the State in 1845. In 1841 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Judge James Vanderpoel of Kinderhook. She died November 19, 1844, leaving one daughter. Other sons were Smith Thompson, and Martin.

LAWRENCE VAN BUREN, brother of Martin, was born in Kinderhook, in 1785. As an enlisted soldier in the War of 1812 he won the rank of Major. He was for several years the village postmaster; was Town Supervisor '37-'40, '45-'46, '50-'51, and in '53; President of the village,

'44-'49; Presidential Elector in '52, and a Director of the first bank. He was for many years a prominent figure on our streets and was considered finer looking than his distinguished brother. Indeed, at a Bohemian glass exhibition in '61, a committee of ladies awarded him as the handsomest man present a Bird of Paradise in a glass globe. Many will remember that he retained his fine appearance to a remarkable degree until he died in '68. He married Harriet Vosburgh and was survived by four children—Mary, Lucretia, Myndert who married Elsie De Myer, and Lawrence, Jr.

Benjamin F. Butler. 1795-1858

Benjamin F., son of Colonel Medad Butler, was born at Kinderhook Landing, December 14, 1795. His father, a soldier of the Revolution, had come to the Landing from Connecticut in 1787, and was long prominent in the business and social life of the town. His wife was a lineal descendant of Oliver Cromwell. Colonel Butler was active also in promoting educational interests of the town, himself securing and for a time paying an eminent teacher from Massachusetts. Both father and son were strong advocates of temperance. Fourth of July celebrations at the one-time beautiful Butler home have been noted in an earlier chapter.

Benjamin, after receiving his early education at home, entered the law office of Van Buren and Miller at Hudson and made his home with the former, thus beginning an intimacy which lasted through life. Accompanying Mr. Van Buren on his removal to Albany, Mr. Butler, soon after his admission to the Bar in 1817, became a partner of his preceptor; a relation which continued until 1828. In 1818 he married Miss Harriet Allen of Hudson, a member of a distinguished family after whom Allen Street was named. His life in Albany was a busy one; his practice large, lucrative, and in many cases involving much responsibility. He was

appointed District-Attorney in '21 and served six years. In '28 he was chosen member of the Assembly. But what he regarded as his principal honor was his appointment by the legislature in 1825 as one of three Revisors of the statutes. He was evidently the one upon whom the chief burden of the exceedingly difficult work rested. Kinderhook seems to have had an especial lien upon this office, held by Peter Van Schaack in 1773, by W. P. Van Ness in 1813, and in 1824 by B. F. Butler. By his own direction his monument in Woodlawn cemetery, after mentioning his service in the Cabinets of Presidents Jackson and Van Buren, bears this inscription: "A Commissioner to Revise the Statute Laws of the State of New York." He was a Regent of the University, 1829-'33, when he resigned.—He was also one of the Commissioners to determine the boundary between the States of New York and New Jersey. On his removal to New York city in '33, eighty-nine of the leading citizens of Albany signed a letter expressive of their high esteem and their regret at his departure. He was solicited to accept a seat in the Senate at Washington and later an appointment as Judge of the Supreme Court, but felt compelled to decline both honors. On the urgent solicitation of Mr. Van Buren, however, he finally accepted the appointment of Attorney-General in Jackson's Cabinet where he served with great ability from 1833 to '37. The last year, in addition to his other duties, he took the position of Secretary of War, General Cass having resigned. In 1838 he was appointed U. S. District Attorney for the Southern District of New York and served until March 4, 1841. He was reappointed by President Polk, having declined to be his Secretary of War, and served until 1848, when he resumed his law practice in New York city. He was the principal founder of the New York University Law School in 1835, and was for years its head and its chief lecturer. He was the father of the eminent lawyer and author, William Allen Butler. He died in Paris, November 8, 1858.

Appleton's *Cyclopedia of American Biography* says of him:

During the greater part of his life he was an influential member of the Democratic party, but on passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill he joined the Republicans and voted in 1856 for Fremont. Mr. Butler was a thorough scholar and a great admirer of the Greek and Latin writers. William Cullen Bryant, in 1825, wrote of "his purity of character and singleness; how much he was admired on his first visit to New York, then a young man of finely chiselled features made a little pale by study and animated by an expression both of the greatest intelligence and ingenuousness."

Charles Butler. 1802—

Charles, a son of Medad Butler and Hannah Tyler, and a brother of Benjamin F., was born at Kinderhook Landing, February 15, 1802. After studying law in the office of his brother Benjamin, then in partnership with Martin Van Buren, he was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of New York State and soon thereafter moved to Geneva, N. Y. There he became interested in securing loans from Eastern capitalists (Geneva was then considered in the West) for the development of that whole region. He is reported as saying that it was the first time in this, or any other country, that loans were made to any considerable extent on farm mortgages. John Jacob Astor and Isaac Bronson were among his clients, and many thousands of dollars passed through his hands, never soiled by any wrongdoing. In 1834 he removed to New York city, where his reputation for ability and probity caused so many important trusts to be given him that he gradually withdrew from general law practice. He speedily won a fortune as well as the respect and confidence of a large and influential clientage. He was eminently active in the religious and philanthropic as well as social life of the city. He was one of the founders of the Union Theological Seminary and for many years President of its Corporation.

William H. Tobey. 1799-1878

This sketch is drawn in part from an obituary written by the late Francis Silvester, and which appeared in our village paper.

Mr. Tobey was born in Hudson, January 1, 1799. After receiving a liberal general education he studied law, and being admitted to the Bar began practice in Rochester and New Lebanon, but soon came hither where he continued to practice, and rendered manifold and valuable service outside of his profession for nearly fifty years. During those years the Bar of Columbia County had many distinguished names enrolled, but it is not extravagant to say that Mr. Tobey was surpassed by none and equaled by few in all the various qualifications and essentials of a trustworthy, honored counsellor. He was first associated with Aaron Vanderpoel whose home he subsequently purchased. From '43-'51 he was in partnership with John H. Reynolds; and from '56 until his death, June 16, '78, the firm was Tobey and Silvester.

Simple and unpretending in manner and retiring in disposition he was yet exceedingly dignified, of highly cultivated mind, refined literary taste, and of unfaltering integrity. He was in every way a man of uncommon strength and nobility of character. In 1841 Governor Seward appointed him County Surrogate, and he filled the office with great acceptance for four years. In '37 he was elected a member of the State Assembly; and in '61, after an exciting contest, was chosen State Senator from the Columbia-Dutchess district by a majority of nine hundred votes. That he was able, faithful, and upright in public as well as in private life none who knew him need be told. As the President of the National Union Bank from its organization until his death, he rendered conspicuous service which was fittingly recognized in 1862 by the stockholders, in their gift of an elegant silver service, as elsewhere narrated. He was profoundly interested in the educational advancement of the community. At the

time of his death, as for many years previous thereto, he was President of the Academy Board of Trustees. The records give ample evidence of his devotion to its welfare, and of his unceasing labors and frequent benefactions. July 23, 1831, Mr. Tobey married Miss Louisa Platt, of New Lebanon. About seventeen months later she died, leaving a daughter, Anna, who became the wife of William Heyward of Charleston, S. C. Their daughter Mary married the late Rev. Isaac Peck. Mrs. Heyward subsequently married Mr. James Rogers of Kansas. December 16, 1847, Mr. Tobey married his second wife, a Miss Caroline Wild of Stockport. Their two children were William H., Jr., and Mary Barnard who became the wife of P. V. S. Pruyn, M.D., as noted elsewhere.

George Van Santvoord. 1819-1863

The *Memorial of George Van Santvoord* (Albany; Munsell, 1863), kindly loaned us by his son, our accomplished friend, the late Mr. Harold Van Santvoord, is our authority for facts stated, and that largely in the words of the Memorial itself. The appreciative Memoir by his friend, Alfred B. Street, is followed by a detailed account of the proceedings of the Bar of Rensselaer County; a loving tribute by the Rev. Cornelius Van Santvoord, D.D., a brother; the valedictory poem delivered upon his graduation at Union College (1841), and a brief account of his funeral and burial at Kinderhook. We quote freely from this Memorial which is yet not to be held responsible for omissions or precise verbiage.

Mr. George Van Santvoord was born in Belleville, N. J., December 8, 1819. His father was the Rev. Staats Van Santvoord, Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church there, who in 1829 removed to Schodack, Rensselaer Co.

George was an apt and precocious student, with a memory of uncommon retentiveness, a decided predilection for

literary pursuits, and an especial fondness for historical studies, in which he became exceptionally proficient. He was regarded as a boy of unusual promise. His attainments were so superior that while still a youth of only twelve or thirteen years, he was urged to teach and did so for one winter, having a school of twenty pupils, some of whom were several years his senior. When about fifteen, he became a clerk in a dry-goods store in Albany, and later in New York. Uncongenial mercantile life was abandoned after two years. In '36 he entered Kinderhook Academy, then a notable institution, and applied himself so assiduously that a year later he was prepared to enter Union College. He was graduated with high honor in '41. Entering at once the law office of Vanderpoel & Tobey, Kinderhook, he remained three years, during most of this time having charge of the English department of the Academy as well. After being admitted to the Bar in 1844, he married Elizabeth, second daughter of Peter Van Schaack. He then removed to Lafayette, Indiana, where his ability received immediate recognition. Positions of highest eminence undoubtedly awaited him had he remained. The ill health of his family compelling his removal, in the autumn of '46 he returned to Kinderhook, where he practiced law for five years. Thence he removed to New York City, remaining but one year when he accepted an invitation to become a law partner of the Hon. David L. Seymour of Troy. Seven years later (1859) he entered into co-partnership with Benjamin H. Hall, also of Troy, in which connection he remained until his death.

March 6, '63, while on his way from his home in Schodack to Albany, he left the car at East Albany and was crushed by an unexpectedly backing train. Cruelly mangled though he was, he lived about an hour and was conscious enough to send a loving message to his wife.

Mr. Van Santvoord was twice a member of the State Assembly; in '52 from Columbia County and in '56 from

Rensselaer. As a legislator he took a high rank. He was assiduous and reliable in the discharge of duty; an impressive speaker, emphatic and dignified in manner, apt and fluent in language, and clear and logical in thought. His speeches received high commendation.

As a lawyer, he achieved conspicuous honor. Cases of great importance in the highest courts of the State and in the Supreme Court of the United States were entrusted to his care. In '60 he was elected District Attorney for Rensselaer County. He, as a writer also in his profession, fully redeemed the "debt" which Bacon remarked every man owed to it. His principal publications were these: *The Indiana Justice*, 1845; *Principles of Pleading in Civil Actions under the New York Code*, 1852, 1855; *Precedents of Pleading*, 1858; *Treatise on Practice in the Supreme Court of the State of New York* (2 vols.), 1860, 1862.

In the field of general literature also, his writings were many and well received. In addition to monographs on the leaders of the French Revolution, and on John C. Calhoun and Sir Henry Vane, published in the *Democratic Review*, 1849-'52, in '51 his *Life of Algernon Sydney* appeared, and in 1854 his *Lives of the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States*.

In addition to the foregoing Mr. Van Santvoord's lectures, addresses, orations, reviews were exceedingly numerous. With his more serious work they manifest a quite remarkable versatility of mind and fertility of resources. Of his address on Historic Truth before the Senate of Union College in '56, the eminent professor, Tayler Lewis, wrote:

The discourse of Mr. Van Santvoord on this occasion was of a very high order. In truth, among the many addresses to which I have listened on our literary anniversaries, I hardly know any one that I could regard as surpassing it.

His disposition was genial and kindly. He loved his

friends and they loved him. He was the idol of his family every member of which he cherished with the tenderest solicitude.

He had a strong love for the country, for natural scenery, for rural pastimes and exercises. His farm at Schodack was his loved retreat from the cares and calls of business; and every object on his farm, whether tree or shrub, or vine, or domestic animal had its distinct interest in his eyes.

He saw God in all the beautiful and interesting things His hand had scattered around him. In these objects, too, he found ground for gratitude and love to Him and paid Him the homage of a true and upright heart.

His widow and daughter Margaret were for several years residents of Italy, where the former recently died. His eldest son, Frank, died in the prime of his youth. After serving for several years as teller of the Union Bank, Kinderhook, he entered the wholesale hardware house of Hibbard and Spencer, Chicago, and was fatally stricken with typhoid fever about a year later. Few young men have left a more precious memory. The second son was the distinguished and versatile *littérateur*, poet, and artist as well, Harold Van Santvoord, of Kinderhook; of whom more anon. The third son, Bancroft, is a musical *virtuoso* of Boston and New York; and the fourth son is the eminent and honored lawyer, Seymour Van Santvoord, of Troy, N. Y.

HAROLD VAN SANTVOORD. The substance of this sketch is quoted from an appreciative notice by a personal friend of its subject, whose name escapes us.

Harold, second son of George Van Santvoord and Elizabeth Van Schaack, was born in Troy, N. Y., March 24, 1854.

When only fifteen years old, he began to write for a New York comic weekly and continued his literary labors until his death.

His published contributions to many periodicals would make several large volumes and include much excellent verse. When *Life* was founded in 1883 he became a frequent and valued contributor to its columns. In '88 he published a volume of essays entitled *Half-Holidays: Elysian Dreams and Sober Realities*, which was well received. A large proportion of his writings, however, have been anonymous; including editorials (especially for the *Times-Union*, Albany), pithy paragraphs, humorous sketches, character-studies, pictures of foreign travel and book reviews. . . . A man of fastidious tastes, his natural resources were supplemented by hard study and with classic models ever in view. His productive capacity was stimulated by a sympathetic insight into human nature, a love of books, a passion for music in its higher forms and a keen appreciation of the beauties of art.

He himself was an artist, facile in the use of his pencil. In the morning of January 8, 1913, he was found dead, sitting in his chair and with paper and pipe in hand.

SEYMOUR VAN SANTVOORD, much of whose childhood and youth were spent in Kinderhook, the fourth son of George Van Santvoord, was born in Troy, December 17, 1858. He was of the class of '78, Union College, and '80 of the Albany Law School. As lawyer, manufacturer, banker, and author he has been alike successful. From 1896-1907 he was President and Treasurer of the Walter A. Wood Mowing and Reaping Machine Co., he was an organizer and the President of three Trust and Deposit Companies; a Director of the Troy Library, Orphan Asylum, and Samaritan Hospital; a Trustee of the Emma Willard Seminary and of Union College, and Vice-President of the Albany Law School. He was the law adviser of Governor Dix and is now a member and chairman of the Public Service Commission. He is the author of the *House of Caesar and the Imperial Disease*, *The Excavation of Herculaneum*, and several pamphlets on archaeological subjects. He is a member of the Holland, and St.

Nicholas Societies and of the University Club. In '88 he married Caroline Hart Seely of Virginia, daughter of Captain Hamilton Leroy Seely, U. S. A. Many remember well the brightness and sprightliness of all the Van Santvoord boys and how they could people the old Whiting Steam Mill with

Many ghosts and forms of fright.

John H. Reynolds. 1819-1875

Through the courtesy of Mr. James Adger Reynolds we have before us a printed *Memorial of John H. Reynolds*. (Albany: Joel Munsell, 1876) from which, quoted freely at times, we cull the following narrative.

The Memorial contains a Memoir, written presumably by the Hon. Hamilton Harris, of Albany; Extracts from the Press, after Mr. Reynolds's death; The Funeral Proceedings, including the address of Dr. McC. Blayney; The Proceedings of the Albany Bar and of the Court of Appeals; and also of the Commerce Insurance Company and the National Savings Bank. Among the contributors to the Press we recognize the facile pens of the Hons. Charles L. Beale and Francis Silvester.

John H. Reynolds was born at Moreau, N. Y., June 21, 1819. He was the fourth child of George Reynolds, a farmer and lumberman; a man of great force of character, of much influence in the affairs of the County, and a member of the State Assembly in 1833. His ancestral home was in Rhode Island. The subject of this sketch first attended school in Sandy Hill (now Hudson Falls) and later at Bennington, Vt. Leaving school for a time, he served as civil engineer in running the original line of the Saratoga and Whitehall railroad and was subsequently employed in the same capacity on the Boston and Albany road. He then entered the Kinderhook Academy, and, after finishing its course, became (1840) a law student in the office of the Hon. W. H.

Tobey of Kinderhook. As a student, he was even then distinguished for his close and persistent application, abstaining during the whole three years of his student life from meat, thinking its use clouded his mind. In 1843 he was admitted to the Bar. Entering immediately into partnership with Mr. Tobey, he continued the practice of his profession for eight years in Kinderhook. He "showed himself an untiring student, and industrious practitioner; possessed of legal tact and acumen, great clearness of professional vision, and subtlety of investigation."

May 31, 1843, Mr. Reynolds was united in marriage to Margaret Ann Whiting, daughter of General Chas. Whiting, one of the most distinguished citizens of the former generation. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. John C. Vandervoort at the family residence, more recently known as the Howard mansion.

In 1851 Mr. Reynolds removed to Albany and became a partner of the Hon. John V. L. Pruyn. In '54 he formed a co-partnership with the Hons. Clark B. Cochran and Hamilton Harris. This partnership continued until the death of Mr. Cochran in '67, after which the surviving partners continued together until the demise of Mr. Reynolds in '75.

In this broader field, his fame soon extended to the utmost limits of the State, and subsequently far beyond it; as shown by his frequent practice in the United States Courts. "This fame, kindled so early, was never darkened throughout his career, but continued to shine steady as a star, until that career, in the fulness of its lustre, was overtaken by the 'shadow of death.' "

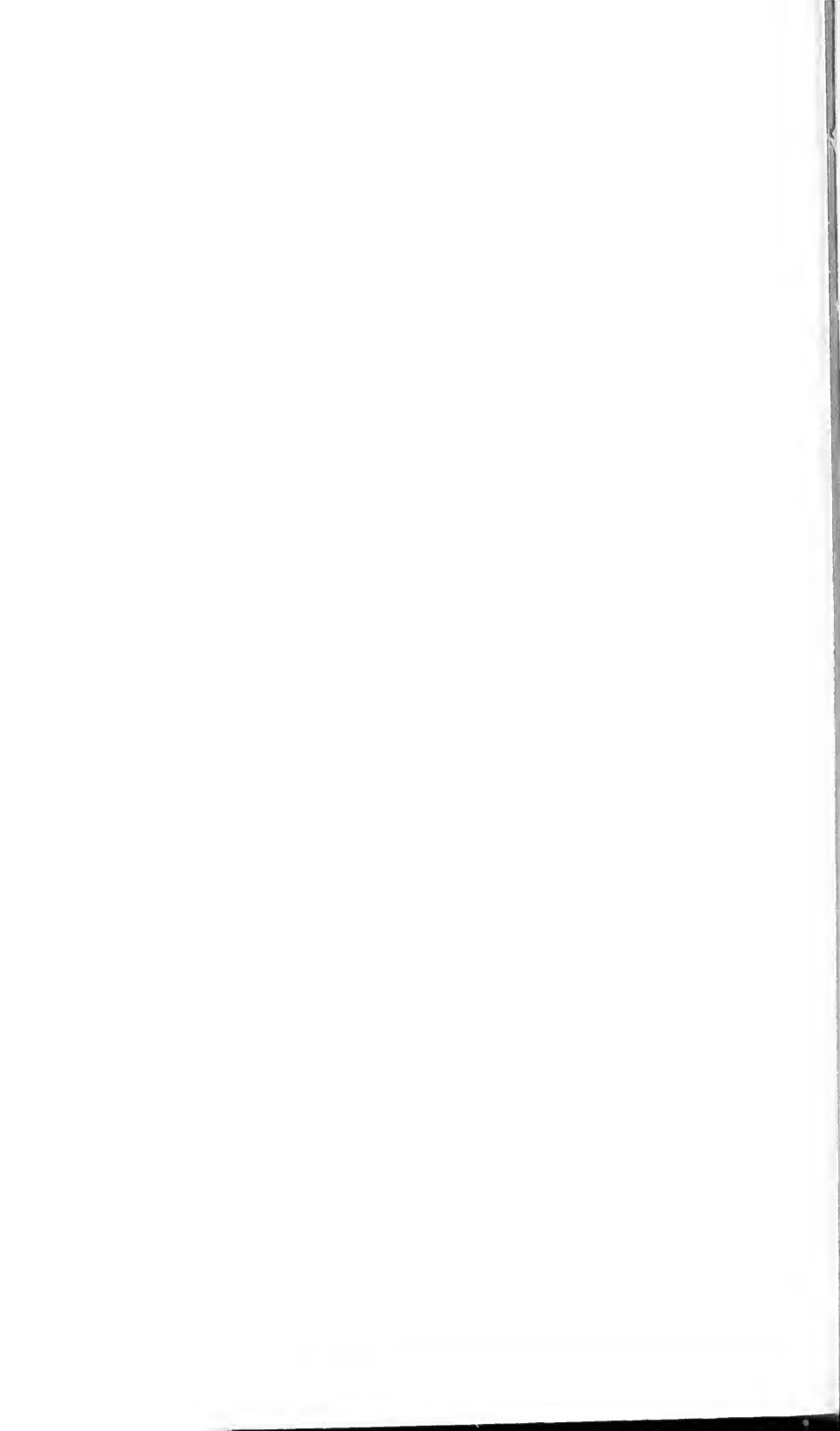
In '53 President Pierce appointed him postmaster of Albany; but, in a little more than a year, he was removed,—his opinions not being in accord with the policy of the Administration respecting the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. In '58, after an exciting canvass, he was elected, as an independent anti-Lecompton Democrat, a Representa-



General Whiting



Hon. John H. Reynolds



tive in the thirty-sixth Congress by twelve hundred majority over so formidable and worthy a competitor as Erastus Corning. Placed upon the Judiciary committee, one of the most important and honorable in the House, he brought all the energy of his powerful and pure mind upon honest and constitutional legislation. Although he did not often trouble the House in debate, yet he impressed his compeers with a sense of his abilities as a statesman and his sterling qualities as a man.

At the end of his Congressional term he voluntarily and permanently withdrew from political life. Thenceforth he was devoted to the career which he best loved and to the profession of which he was so brilliant an ornament; and from that time the splendor of his success was such as to more than meet the highest hopes of his many friends and admirers. Untiring in the investigation of his cases, indefatigable and eloquent in their advocacy, never at fault in legal warfare, thorough in his briefs and explorations of authorities, his mind glancing like sunshine through his subject, his opponents, no matter how learned or skilled, found him always "worthy of their steel," the Bar a member compelling their highest admiration, and the Bench an advocate whose opinions won their respect and compelled their attention.

He was a marked man also in his literary tastes; marked in his wit and humor. He rejoiced in poetry and found recreation and delight in reading favorite poems and repeating verse after verse which had charm of sentiment or felicity of description. Rare indeed was his nature, tender and true, soft to all emotion, and moved by all good impulses.

In 1873 Governor Dix appointed Mr. Reynolds one of the Commissioners of the Court of Appeals. The appointment was regarded by all as of eminent fitness. From the first he took honorable rank among his learned compeers of the Bench, they listening to his opinions with respect and often deferring to them because of their weight. He sat in

the Commission for two years and a half, and the Reports of the cases decided during that period bear ample testimony to the great learning, sagacity, and fidelity which he brought to the discharge of his duties as Judge.

He left the Bench July 1, 1875. On the last day of the same month he left the city never to return. Attacked by a fever which he was unable to withstand, while still in the prime of life and plenitude of his powers, September 24th he died. The funeral services were held on the 28th of September. Seldom in our village has a more distinguished assemblage been seen than that which gathered in and around the house of mourning that day. To a multitude of resident friends were added large numbers, representing the Albany Bar and Bench not only, but remote parts of the State as well. The Rev. J. McC. Blayney of Albany officiated, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Halley, also of Albany. The four sons were the pallbearers who tenderly bore their father's form from his dearly loved and beautiful home, and in the midst of an immense, silent, grieving throng, lowered it to its rest "till the day break and the shadows flee away."

He left a widow, the daughter of General Charles Whiting, as already stated. She died in 1886. Besides his widow there were four sons: William H. T., George, John H., and James Adger Reynolds. Charles W. had died in 1874. There was also one daughter, Margaret W., who in 1877 became the wife of the distinguished and lamented Franklin Townsend, M.D., of Albany.

Children of John H. and Margaret Whiting Reynolds:

CHARLES WHITING—born February 21, 1844, died September 13, 1874. Attended Kinderhook and U. S. Naval Academies, Williams College, Albany Law School. Lawyer in Albany.

W. H. TOBEY—born April 26, 1846, died December 9, 1893. Attended Kinderhook Academy, Union College, College of Physicians and Surgeons, N. Y. Was a physician in Albany.

GEORGE—born November 5, 1847, died September 23, 1886. Attended the Albany Academy and was in business in Kinderhook. He married Pauline A. Sudam.

JOHN H., JR.—born June 19, 1850. Attended the Albany and Kinderhook Academies. Was in business in Albany and is now Deputy Clerk, Court of Appeals.

JAMES ADGER—born February 4, 1852. Attended Albany and Kinderhook Academies; in 1868 entered the National Union Bank, Kinderhook, of which he is now Cashier. He married Kate Bradley and (2d) Mary Bain Earll.

MARGARET WHITING—born March 22, 1854, married Franklin Townsend, M.D., of Albany.

Hon. Charles L. Beale. 1824-1899

Charles Lewis, son of Chester and Clarissa (Wainwright) Beale—born in Canaan, N. Y., March 5, '24; graduate Union College, '44; studied law in office of Tobey and Reynolds, Kinderhook; admitted to the Bar in '49, and began practice in Canaan, but in '52 removed to Kinderhook and became associated with David Van Schaack, remaining here until '66, when he moved to Hudson where he was in partnership successively with W. C. Benton, M. Duntz, and his own son. He was one of the first directors of the Union Bank in '53; in '58 was elected Representative in the 36th Congress and served until '61; a Presidential Elector in '64 and a delegate to the National Union Convention in '66; was commissioned Colonel of the 93d regiment but resigned on account of ill health; was appointed Register in Bankruptcy in '67. August 16, '55 he married Mrs. Catharine (Sanborn) Baldwin, a daughter of Asaph Wilder. Mr. Beale was of fine personal appearance, of courtly bearing, an able lawyer, and a brilliant orator much in demand for public addresses. In the Ruloff murder case at Binghamton in '71, he was the senior counsel for the defense. Of his final appeal for his client a writer of the time said:

"Long will every soul in that court-room, crowded almost to suffocation, remember the closing appeal of Mr. Beale, when for four mortal hours he stood up there and held the court, jury, and the vast audience spell-bound by his magnetic eloquence. It was only equalled, never excelled, by Sergeant S. Prentiss."

Mr. Beale died in Hudson in 1899, and was buried in Kinderhook beside his departed wife. He left a son, Charles F. T. Beale, and two daughters: Eloise, now residing in Canaan, and Jessie, who married Hugh L. Bond of Baltimore.

CHARLES F. T. BEALE—born in Kinderhook, became one of Hudson's well-known lawyers. He married Margaret Dubois, and died in 1901. Their only child, DuBois Beale, is now a lawyer in New York City.

Aaron J. Vanderpoel, LL.D. 1830-1887

Aaron, a son of Dr. John Vanderpoel of Valatie, was born October, 1830. He was prepared for college at the Kinderhook Academy and was graduated from the University of New York. He studied law with his uncle Aaron in Kinderhook. On his admission to the Bar he began practice here but after about one year removed to New York, where he continued in active practice until his death. He was first associated with J. Bryce Smith, under the firm name Smith and Vanderpoel. In '53 his firm was Brown, Hall (Oakey) and Vanderpoel, and continued to be for about twenty years, when it became Vanderpoel, Green, Cuming and Goodwin. From a clipping from a New York newspaper announcing his death, at Paris, France, August 22, 1887, we quote:

During his long career, in which he displayed ability which stamped him as one of the strongest "all round" lawyers in the city, Mr. Vanderpoel was engaged, generally as leading counsel, in many of the most important cases which have been before the local courts. He was counsel for the Sheriffs for twenty years, for the Metropolitan Police Board during their long legal wrangle

and for many large Corporations. . . . He was remarkable as a lawyer for the prodigious amount of work which he put into his cases, making it a point to be master of all necessary facts before he entered the court room; for his wonderful memory and apt application of previous legal decisions; for brilliancy as a cross examiner, and for the convincing power of his arguments, in which facts and common sense were relied upon to win Judge or jury over to his view of the case. . . . He was a conceded authority on Corporation law and on the rights and duties of public officials. He was a member of the Manhattan and Century Clubs, and of the Harlem, St. Nicholas, Knickerbocker and Holland Societies. . . . He was President of the Law Department of the New York University from which in 1880 he received the degree of LL.D., and was also a member of the University Council.

In 1855 he married Adaline Van Schaack, daughter of the late Henry C. Van Shaack of Manlius, N. Y.

His beautiful Colonial mansion here and his farm of four hundred acres, two or three miles northwest of the village, were a joy to him. Their children were: Augustus H., a lawyer in his father's firm, who died a few years ago; Mary, married B. W. Franklin, a New York lawyer; Lydia, married the Rev. Dr. Sartelle Prentice, Jr., now of Nyack, N. Y.; and Margaret, married Mr. Waldo Newcomer of Baltimore, Maryland; A. Melgert, of the class of '90, Trinity College, died suddenly as the result of an accident, May 4, '94; and three other children died in infancy.

Lucas L. Van Alen. 1842-1902

Lucas L., son of Lawrence Van Alen and Rebecca Van Buren, was born in 1842 at the Van Alen homestead in the northeast part of the Town of Stuyvesant. He began the study of law with Warren C. Benton, Esq., at Valatie, finished it with Tobey and Silvester at Kinderhook, and was admitted to the Bar at a General Term of the Supreme Court

held at the City of Albany. Shortly thereafter, he removed to New York City and became identified with the law firm of Hatch and Hinsdale. He was a Republican in politics and had a prominent part in the activities of that party. In '82 he was elected to the Assembly from the 7th District of the County of New York and served as a member of the Assembly for seven terms. In '96 he was appointed assistant District Attorney in New York County. He was one of the originators of the Holland Society, March 14, 1885, and continued to be an active member of the society up to the time of his decease. Shortly before his death he married Miss Emma Foster. He died November 26, 1902, his wife surviving him. His remains were interred in the Kinderhook cemetery.

Philip Van Alstyne. 1845—

Philip, son of Abraham P. Van Alstyne and Anna Maria Beneway, was born April 12, 1845, at Poelsburg in the Town of Stuyvesant in the Johannes Vanderpoel house erected in 1719. He was educated at the Schodack Academy, Volkert Whitbeck's Classical school, and Bryant and Stratton's Commercial College at Albany, N. Y. In '66 he began the study of law at Hudson, N. Y., with Beale and Benton; was admitted to the Bar in New York County in May, '68, and in 1869 began the practice of his profession in New York City, and is still in active practice there. He is also admitted to practice in the United States Circuit and District Courts.

In 1874 he married Miss Amelia A. Haskell of Austerlitz, Columbia County, N. Y., daughter of Roger Haskell and Silence (Crowter) Haskell. He has been a member of the Holland Society since 1897. From '69 to '87 he was a resident of Jersey City, N. J.; thence he removed to Rockland County, N. Y., where he still resides.

In politics he has been identified with the Democratic party and has always occupied a prominent place in its

councils. He was twice its candidate for member of Assembly in New Jersey. He was one of the organizers of the "Anti-Snap" movement, and the delegate representing Rockland, Orange, and Sullivan counties at the National Democratic Convention held at Chicago in 1892, when Grover Cleveland was nominated. For several years he was counsel for the Town of Ramapo, Rockland County, N. Y., and was Corporation Counsel of Spring Valley, for the first three years of its incorporation.

Martin H. Glynn. 1871—

Martin H. Glynn was born in Kinderhook, September 17, 1871, on what is known as the Pruyn farm in Brown (De Bruyn) Right. After his preliminary education in our public schools he entered Fordham University whence he was graduated as the honor man of the class of 1894. After studying law and being admitted to the Bar, he turned his attention to journalism and in due time became editor and ultimately publisher and proprietor of the *Times-Union*, Albany. Becoming actively and honorably interested in politics, in 1898 he won the nomination and election to the 55th Congress and was its youngest member. His course at Washington received the official commendation of the National Association of Letter Carriers, of the National Encampment of the G. A. R., of the N. Y. State Patrons of Husbandry, and of sundry Labor organizations. In 1901 President McKinley appointed him one of the National Commissioners of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, of which body he received the honor of election to the vice-presidency. In 1906 he was elected Comptroller of the State of New York and served so well that in 1912 he was nominated and triumphantly elected Lieutenant-Governor. In 1913, through the removal of Governor Sulzer, Mr. Glynn became Kinderhook's second Governor of the State. His career thus far has been peculiarly brilliant and honorable.

January 2, 1900, he married Miss Mary C. E. Magrane of Lynn, Mass.

Of the lawyers now practicing in the town, we note: GERRIT SAGER COLLIER, son of Jonas and Hannah Sager Collier; born Coxsackie, July 15, 1843; prepared for College at Hudson River Institute; graduated Union College 1868; studied law with C. P. and I. N. Collier, Hudson; admitted to the Bar, 1870; began practice in Kinderhook in 1872. He was elected Director of the Union National Bank in 1883, Vice-President in 1886, President in 1892, in which office he has been continued until the present time. October 4, 1876, married Lydia M., daughter of Hugh Bain. Their children are: Guy Bain Collier, graduate Harvard, 1901, and now a private tutor there, and Maude W., graduate Wellesley, 1903. Mrs. Collier died August 31, 1883. October 14, 1886, Mr. Collier married Ella G., daughter of John C. Sweet. Their children are Chester W. and Charles, graduates Harvard University, 1911, the latter with signal honor.

CHARLES M. BRAY, son of John and Helen Bortle Bray; born in Kinderhook, 1867; received his preliminary education here and in Hudson; studied law with Mr. G. S. Collier; admitted to the Bar 1883, and has continued in practice here until the present time; adding to his law business that of the local agency of many Insurance Companies.

FRANK S. BECKER, son of Christopher H. Becker and Mahalia M. Cook, born Kinderhook, N. Y., November 10, 1865. Graduated from Kinderhook Academy, 1883, Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., 1887, degree of B.A., and 1890 received degree of A.M. Was admitted to the Bar, November, 1889. Was married October, 1895 to Margaret R. Galbraith. Is the author of *Civil and Criminal Practice before Justices of the Peace, Village Laws, Digest of Fees of Public Officers*, and other legal publications. Has served as Transfer Tax Attorney for Columbia County since 1910.

MAX S. HYMAN, son of Samuel N. Hyman and Rose Schreck, born in New York City, March 5, 1884. Admitted to the Bar, 1906. In 1907, married Anna Mae Liepshutz. They had one son.

EDWIN DEWEY HOWE, born in Albany, July 11, 1865; son of John Alonso Howe of East Poultney, Vt.; graduated Middlebury College, 1887, Albany Law School, 1889; studied law with the Hon. Chester Alden of Albany and was admitted to the Bar in 1889; came to Valatie that year and has continued in practice there. June 5, 1904, married Mary Helen, daughter of S. and Sarah J. Benson. Their children are: Joseph Warren, born July 9, 1896; Benson Rice, born March 25, 1901, and John Hanna, born October 15, 1902. He served for a time as village clerk and also as President of the village of Valatie. In collaboration with Frank S. Becker he wrote Becker and Howe's *Justice Court Practice*, and was the author of sundry other publications. From 1883-1913 he owned a coal and lumber business in Valatie.

CLAUDE S. BECKWITH, born in Paterson, N. J., son of Charles D. and Frances Jaqua Beckwith; graduated Columbia University and New York Law School; admitted to the Bar of New Jersey, 1898, and the New York Bar, 1901; practiced with the late E. R. Harder, Valatie, 1901-1905; connected with the law department of Title, Guarantee and Trust Company, Brooklyn, N. Y., 1905-1909; since, in practice in Valatie. He was candidate for Surrogate on the Progressive ticket in 1913.

Of the sons of Kinderhook now practicing in New York we note, in addition to Philip Van Alstine, before named: WILLIAM MYERS HOES, son of Peter Swart Hoes and Henrietta Myers; born Kinderhook, June 19, 1840; educated Kinderhook Academy; graduated Williams College, with honors, 1861; admitted to Bar, N. Y. City, from Columbia Law School, 1865; married Annie Nicoll, June, 1875; Public Administrator, N. Y. City and County since 1892; member

of Manhattan and University Clubs, Bar Association, Kappa Alpha Society, a Founder of the Holland Society, Senior Past Master of Kane Lodge, No. 454, F., and A. M., Member of Grand Lodge of Masons, 1914, representing Grand Lodge of Ohio.

PETER ERNEST HOES, son of Pierre Van Buren Hoes and Anna Miller; born November 26, 1876; Kinderhook and Albany Academy, 1894; New York Law School, 1900; now in general practice in New York City. October 22, 1907, he married Louise Nisbet. Their son, P. V. B. Hoes, was born December 6, 1912.

JOHN BAYARD PRUYN, son of P. V. S. Pruyne, M.D., and Mary Barnard Tobey; born at Kinderhook, October 14, 1882; educated Kinderhook Academy and Hoosac School; graduated Williams College, 1905; admitted to Bar from N. Y. University Law School, October, 1907; now of the law firm of Pruyne and Whittlesey, New York City. Member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and of the Columbia County Society.

PHYSICIANS

Who was Kinderhook's first physician is now unknown. The sturdy first settlers seldom needed one. "Dr. Brown of Spotless Town" would have thrived no better here. The first physician of whom we have definite information was Arent Van Dyck who in his will styles himself "Doctor." He was born in 1700, and was a son of Hendrick. In 1722 he married Heyltje, daughter of Stephanus Van Alen and lived on a portion of his wife's ancestral estate now owned by Lewis F. Van Alstyne. He was a tiller of the soil and also, by reason of his superior education and ability, a general scribe for the whole region. We know nothing of his probably not extensive service as a physician.

Another, of whom we have only a glimpse now and then,

was Dr. John Quilhot. We meet his name occasionally in early records; notably in the report of road commissioners concerning the laying out of what is now Broad Street. The tradition that the present Chrysler house was built by a French physician, taken in connection with that report, leads us to conjecture as elsewhere stated that Dr. Quilhot was the builder. Beyond his appearance as a surgeon of one of the Kinderhook militia companies in Revolutionary times and earlier we have no trace of him.

Dr. Averill (Everil). The name appears on surveyor Dirk Gardinier's map of 1798. He lived on the Kleine Kill Road. Opposite the house in a meadow was his private burial plot, some of the stones, until recently if not now, still standing. We have been able to ascertain nothing concerning the life and service of this doubtless reputable physician.

Another Kinderhook physician who gives us but a glimpse of himself was Dr. Josiah Pomeroy. In the State Library, before the fire, we found a collection of miscellanies entitled *Newspapers and Broadsides*. Therein was an affidavit of Dr. Pomeroy "of Kinderhook," in which he affirms that when a resident of Montreal in 1789 he learned of "an association formed by inhabitants of Canada and citizens of the State of New York (among whom was Governor George Clinton), to purchase and connect to the British territory unappropriated land of the State from 80 or 90 miles above Montreal westward to Lake Ontario." The affidavit was dated April 20, 1792, and sworn to before Israel Spencer, Justice of the Peace. He stated that the plan he revealed was "encouraged and set on foot by Lord Dorchester, Gov. of the Province of Quebec." We leave to others the explanation of the Doctor's story if there be one. We have quoted the original affidavit now gone. Possibly a monument should be erected by the State to our Dr. Pomeroy for valuable public service. The family was a notable one here years ago. They owned what we first knew as the Burt place, and remnants of their private burial plot

may still be seen. They intermarried with the Webbers, then living on the Datus C. Smith place and, later, on the site of L. L. Morrell's present home. Dr. Pomeroy was a grandfather of Mrs. Franklin B. Van Alstyne. The Pomeroy's also intermarried with the Van De Bogarts of Kinderhook. Mrs. Anna L. Shay of Dalton, Mass., informs us that her great-grandfather, John Van De Bogart, was color-bearer to Washington, and that her grandfather, John, was a soldier in the War of 1812.

Other physicians there were of whom we know but little. A Dr. John A. Van Alen was practicing here in 1844 and lived in the house now owned by Miss Mary Best. The father of the late Rear-Admiral Philip was in practice here several years. Dr. O. H. Smith from New York, owned for a short time the Vanderpoel mansion. Dr. Daniel Sargent, son-in-law of Tunis Harder, served the community professionally for a few years. Dr. U. G. Hitchcock, who came to the help of Dr. P. V. S. Pruyn in his disability, won many friends. Still other physicians of whom we can give no account there probably were. Concerning some perhaps noticeable omissions in the biographical sketches we will say that Dr. John I. Beekman, 1761-1791, died young. Dr. William Barthrop, 1765-1838, from England, married Dr. Beekman's widow and succeeded to his practice. He was an odd genius of whom many stories abide; such as his doctoring certain choice apples much in vogue with the Academy boys so that they repented with many inward qualms and let the tree alone; his deathly fear of contagious cases, when he was wont to put his head only through the door of the sick-room, tell the patient to stick out his tongue, and then withdraw saying—"I see, I see," to prepare his delectable concoctions in safety. Patients using remedies of their own were sometimes told with Delphic *double entente*—"Nothing better," so that whether they killed or cured he could triumphantly say, "I told you so."

Dr. Barthrop left what was for his time a large estate.

His will, after providing liberally for his widow and a sister in England, bequeathed \$19,000 in trust for aiding five different women's benevolent societies if deemed worthy by his executors. The residue of his estate, still quite large, was to be applied in such sums and at such times as the executors might deem proper to any one or more societies for the support of indigent, respectable persons, especially females and orphans, as might be deemed worthy. The executors declining to serve, administrators were appointed, one of whom was Dr. John P. Beekman, a stepson of the testator. The execution of the trusts was wholly discretionary. We have record of small allowances being made now and then, here and there; but after considerable litigation the will was set aside, because of indefiniteness and the unlimited discretion given the executors. Inasmuch as the original estate was largely that of Dr. Beekman's mother, no wrong seems to have been done by his ultimate ownership of a considerable portion of it.

Concerning the administration of Dr. Barthrop's peculiar will we have only this item of definite information copied from a New York paper of the time:

The Female Assistance Society gratefully acknowledge the receipt of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS from J. P. BEEKMAN, Esq. of Kinderhook, administrator of the estate of WILLIAM BARTHROP, deceased, accompanied with the following letter to one of the directresses:

“Kinderhook, Feb. 14th, 1840.

“Madam,—The late William Barthrop, of this place, left bequests to certain charitable societies in New York, of which the Female Assistance Society is one, upon condition that if his executors, after due inquiry, examination and deliberation, were of opinion that they were well managed, and merited the bequest, they were instructed to carry out his intentions; but if, on the contrary, they discovered mismanagement or negligence in conducting their affairs, or any other cause which they conceived would justify them to withhold the entire be-

quest, or any subsequent portion of it, they had the power to do so. To carry into effect the intentions of the testator, and after spending some time in New York in making the necessary examination into the claims of the Female Assistance Society to the bequest mentioned in the will, I am happy to inform you that after looking into your annual reports from the organization of your society until this time, a period of about twenty-six years, and examining your book of minutes, as well as after due 'inquiry and deliberation,' I have come to the conclusion that the Female Assistance Society, of which you act as President, is entitled to the first instalment of five hundred dollars, for which I enclose my check to your treasurer. Believe me, madam, I shall be most happy hereafter to pay the successive yearly instalments as they become due, if I see the officers of the society continue to conduct its affairs with the same industry, integrity and prudence of purpose which I think I have heretofore observed, and that the citizens of New York continue to contribute liberally of their funds to aid so excellent a charity. On the contrary, if they withdraw their aid, and thus remove their countenance, it will be a proof that the society is deemed worthless by those whose population will be most benefitted by it, and are best enabled to judge of its merits. I am, most respectfully,
"Yours, &c. J. P. BEEKMAN."

Dr. John P. Beekman (1788-1861) was the son of John I. He practiced medicine for about twenty years only. His manifold other activities and long-continued public service have been amply narrated.

Dr. John Vanderpoel (1796-1851) was one of our most eminent physicians and citizens. He lived in Valatie, in the house later occupied by Dr. Benson and now by Adrian Wheeler. In 1832 he was Valatie's first postmaster. He was held in high honor for his personal character and service and also as the father of sons even more eminent than himself.

His son, Samuel Oakley Vanderpoel, was the very successful physician and surgeon of Albany, where he was for many years a Professor in the Medical College, and from 1869-1873 Surgeon-General of the State. Later he moved to New

York where he was for eight years the efficient Health Officer. Of the other distinguished son, Aaron J. Vanderpoel, we have already written.

Dr. Abraham Van Vleck Pruyn, son of John I., began practice here but soon moved to Pictou, Canada, where he was successful and honored, but died in his forty-eighth year.

In 1806 our Dr. H. L. Van Dyck was one of the organizers of the Columbia County Medical Society. Among subsequent additions to the roll we find the following residents of Kinderhook or Valatie: 1807, W. Barthrop; 1810, J. P. Beekman; 1822, John Vanderpoel and Andrew Van Dyck; 1832, John M. Pruyn and John O. Flaegler; 1837, Daniel Sargent; 1838, Henry B. Salmon (Stuyvesant Falls); 1842, Stephen G. Tallmadge; 1843, Lucas Pruyn and S. O. Vanderpoel; 1863, P. V. S. Pruyn; 1868, George E. Benson; 1869, E. B. Boice and P. B. Collier; 1883, T. Floyd Woodworth; 1890, Frank S. Snow and I. H. Lent; 1891, N. D. Garnsey and M. M. Kittell; 1898, J. E. Cochrane. Drs. Betts, Brewster, and Sheldon were in Valatie for a short time.

Of homeopathic physicians we note: A. P. Cook, 1839-1841; James S. Philip, H. B. Horton, and James Greene.

Yet another of Valatie's most eminent physicians and surgeons was George E. Benson. He was born (1829) in Greenwich, Washington County. His father served in the War of 1812, and his grandfather and great-grandfather in the Revolution. After eighteen years' practice here he moved to Hudson where he served with signal success seventeen years more. He was one of the first Trustees and the first President of the Hudson Hospital. In 1863 he married Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of Ephraim P. Best of Kinderhook. Their children are Edward Ellsworth, born 1864, and Charles Best, born 1866. He died in 1906 and was buried in Hudson. His widow and two sons still survive.

Henry L. Van Dyck, M.D. 1773-1840

He was the fifth son of Lourens Van Dyck and Maria Vanderpoel and was born at the Van Dyck homestead November 11, 1773. He was held in high honor and esteem not only because of his ability and service as a physician, but also because of his exalted Christian character and most exemplary life. He was a valuable official of the Dutch church for many years, ever helpful to his pastor and frequently conducting evening services for him, as well as being active in all church work.

January 22, 1795, he married his second cousin Catrina, a daughter of Stephanus Van Alen and Angeltie Witbeck. They were both great-grandchildren of Stephanus Van Alen (1st) and Maria Cornelise Mulder. They had nine children, several of whom achieved distinction, as we elsewhere note. They were: (1) Maria, born January 27, 1797; married John A. Van Dyck, her cousin, July 9, 1817; died January 8, 1875. (2) Stephen, born 1799, died, 1803. (3) Andrew H. (*see sketch*). (4) Elizabeth, born May 14, 1803; married, 1829, Rev. Peter Jackson; died 1834, leaving two children. The daughter, Sarah Catharine, was adopted by her Uncle Henry H. Van Dyck and subsequently married Dr. W. H. Thompson, son of the Syrian missionary and author, the Rev. Dr. W. M. Thompson. (5) Stephen, born 1805; died, 1828. (6) Lawrence H. (*see sketch*). (7) Henry H. (*see sketch*). (8) Engeltie (Ann), born October 5, 1812; married June 9, 1836, Newton Reed of South Amenia, N. Y., of the highest type of Christian manhood. She was the mother of eight children. (9) Cornelius Van Alen Van Dyck (*see sketch*).

Worthy to be held in abiding honor for his character, his service, and his notable children, this "beloved physician" passed away, December 7, 1840.

Andrew H. Van Dyck, M.D. 1801-1871

He was born in Kinderhook, January 27, 1801, and became one of the distinguished sons of Dr. Henry L. Van Dyck. After being graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1822 he began the practice of his profession here, but in 1827 removed to Bath, Canada, and continued in successful practice there until 1838, when the border troubles led him to return and resume practice here. In 1843 at the urgent solicitation of Dr. Van Schaack, of Oswego, he removed to that place and continued to live and practice there until his death, August 31, 1871. The *Oswego Advertiser and Times* had this to say of him:

For nearly thirty years Dr. Van Dyck has been an active, prominent and at all times one of the most highly respected citizens of Oswego. . . . As a physician, as a citizen, as a Christian, no man in Oswego ever stood higher in public estimation than Dr. Van Dyck.

In 1864 he was made Collector of Customs of the port of Oswego by President Lincoln, the duties of which responsible position he discharged with fidelity and acceptance to the Government for five years. September 15, 1823, he married Catharine Staats of Valatie, and had eleven children, four of whom died in infancy.

Lucas Van Schaack, M.D. 1804-1844

Lucas, the youngest son of Peter Van Schaack and Elizabeth Van Alen, was born in this village, November 7, 1804, and died in Oswego, November 8, 1844. He removed thither in 1827, having completed his preparatory and professional studies here. The *Oswego County Whig* and the *Oswego Palladium* as well as the *Kinderhook Sentinel* had notices of him after his death from which we gather, as from other sources, that he was a most successful and beloved physician, noted for his kindness to the poor and held in the highest esteem by the entire community as well as by the

Second Presbyterian Church, of which he was an eminent and active member. Hedied, said the *Whig*—"very much lamented by all who knew him."

His first wife was Miss Sarah Hawley, of Oswego. They had two sons, Thomas and William. Their mother died soon after the birth of the latter. William was born in Oswego, N. Y., January 1, 1841. About four years later his father died, and William's stepmother, Mary Hoes, returned with the orphan children to Kinderhook. When he was about eighteen he was adopted by his uncle, Thomas Beekman, then living in what we have known as the Vanderpoel house, and received the added name Beekman. After completing his course in the Academy here he studied mechanical engineering at Union College. He entered upon his work as a mechanical engineer and was also a student of architecture in the office of Thomas R. Jackson, and had apparently a brilliant career before him when, in 1861, his country's peril appealed to him so strongly that he enlisted. He became a Captain and rendered valiant service in the conflict for the possession of the lower Mississippi, and also at Fredericksburg under McClellan, whom he greatly admired. There he was seriously wounded, and, being incapacitated for continued service, received an honorable discharge. Purchasing a beautiful home near Saugerties he remained there about six years, having in the meantime married Miss Sarah Ten Eyck of that village. In 1877, after a short tarry in Cleveland, Ohio, he returned to Kinderhook, where he continued to live, held in the very highest respect and esteem until his death, June 7, 1902. To the church he loved and served with signal ability and fidelity and to the whole community which honored him, his departure seemed an irreparable loss. His widow and four daughters survived him.

John Matthias Pruyn, M.D. 1806-1866

He was born October 25, 1806, in what was then the beautiful homestead of his father, Francis Pruyn, the brick

house near the bridges and known to us as the Edward Van Buren place, now belonging to Mr. Davie. The will of John Pruyn, his grandfather, names him John Tise; and thus he was familiarly called by many. When he was about three years old his father died and about seven years later his mother. The orphan boy found home and care at his grandfather's, the Pruyn-Bray-Beekman place. His school days were spent partly here and partly in Lenox, Mass. His study of medicine began with Dr. Beekman, in Kinderhook, was continued in Newark, N. J., under Dr. Clark, Dr. Beekman's father-in-law, and completed at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, 1829. He began practice at Salisbury Mills, Orange County, but after two or three years returned to Kinderhook and was in partnership for a time with his preceptor, Dr. Beekman. He continued in practice here until 1863 when failing health compelled retirement, although not wholly withholding, almost to the day of his sudden death, his kindly presence and skilled service from the homes of intimate friends and neighbors. May 24, 1837, he married Margaret, daughter of Peter Van Schaack and Elizabeth Van Alen, Their children were: Catharine; Francis, who died young; Peter Van Schaack (*see sketch*); Maria; Margaret, who was the third wife of Peter Edward Van Alstyne. Margaret's daughter, Harriet, married Charles Frisbee of Stuyvesant Falls.

Dr. Pruyn died February 12, 1866. As we wrote at the time,—He attained more than ordinary prominence in his profession. He was an honored member of both the County and State Medical societies. He followed his profession not for any gain it might bring him (for of that he was notoriously careless), but because he loved it and was glad to serve his fellow-men. He kept himself fully informed, not only upon the most recent results in the science and practice of medicine, but upon current topics of interest. His reading, which was continued until the very day of his death, was discriminating, extensive, and thorough. Diligent in study,

faithful and skillful in practice, unostentatious in manner, pure in spirit and kind of heart, he won the respect of all and endeared himself to very many. "*Children*" was his last articulate word. We were a multitude of stricken children who tenderly bore his honored remains to their rest.

Lucas Pruyn, M.D. 1812-1882

"Dr. Luke," son of John I. and cousin of Dr. John M. Pruyn, born June 14, 1812, began practice here in 1834, and continued in service for about forty-eight years. His practice became very extensive and his own patients at least thought that no other could ever quite equal "Luke, the beloved physician." He was of the old school of practitioners whose methods and remedies were often quite heroic; but in the sick-room and elsewhere, at times at least, he had a most winsome gentleness and tenderness of voice and manner due in part, we think, to the steady influence of the rarely sweet and gentle spirit of his wife, Cynthia, the daughter of Captain C. Wilsey of Schodack. His first office was on the lot adjoining the Central House, and the stately tree there standing was of his planting. Thence it was removed to the rear of the old Bank lot and later to his home now occupied by Dr. Waterbury. For many years he was identified with our first Bank, as elsewhere noted. The lot on which Mr. Bray's house now stands belonged then to Dr. Luke, and was a cherished part of his ancestral estate. He had a large fine orchard, free from modern pests, and a well-tended and productive garden in which he greatly delighted. We can see now his tall, gaunt, rugged form passing to and fro in loving watch-care over his heritage; and many were the fruits and vegetables which in their season were quietly and kindly placed on our side of the division fence.

Only about a week before his death he was cautioned, because of his feebleness, against undue exposure and over-exertion, but, in the spirit repeatedly seen among the nobler

members of his noble profession, replied: "I know of no better way of closing life than in the performance of duty, and I desire so to be found when my time shall come."

Late in life he became a communicant member of the Church of his fathers to whom he was gathered, April 18, 1882.

S. G. Talmadge, M.D. 1809-1868

Dr. Talmadge was born in Oswego County in 1809. In his early childhood his parents moved to Claverack, where his boyhood was spent and where his preliminary education was acquired. He was for a time under the private tutelage of the eminent practitioners Drs. Woodward and Tully, and completed his studies at the Medical College of Castleton, Vt. He began practice immediately thereafter at Valatie, and there remained, becoming one of the most successful and beloved of the physicians of the town. Gracious personal characteristics, as well as eminent medical skill, won the confidence, honor, and affection of a multitude who greatly deplored his sudden death, due to being violently thrown during his effort to hold his fractious horses alarmed by several passing trains near Chatham Center. He died in 1868, aged about fifty-nine. It was through his patriotic initiative and effort that at a public meeting in the Presbyterian church, Valatie, a beautiful sword and other fitting accoutrements were presented to the late Captain Bartholomew Pruyn, Co. K., 30th N. Y. S. V., prior to his departure for the seat of war.

Peter Van Schaack Pruyn, M.D.

Was born in Kinderhook, November 19, 1841. His home was a portion of his ancestral estate which we are able to trace back to its Indian owner, Wattawit. He was the only son of Dr. John Matthias Pruyn and Margaret, a daughter of Peter Van Schaack. He was educated at the District

School, the Kinderhook Academy, Union College (class of 1860), and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York city, class of 1863. He was the salutatorian of his college class, an Alpha Delta Phi, and Phi Beta Kappa. He served for a time during the war in the Ira Harris government hospital. In 1871 he was a student of medicine in Vienna, Austria. His practice here began immediately after his graduation, he succeeding more and more to his father's widely extended service from which advancing years and impaired health demanded relief. His success was instant; personal characteristics, as well as medical skill, winning and retaining the confidence and affection of a multitude who rise up to call him blessed. He was a consistent member of the Dutch Church, that of his fathers for many generations, and served it for a time as a deacon. In 1878 he was chosen a Trustee of the Academy and served with singular ability and devotion as President of the Board for several years. In 1877 he became a Director of the National Union Bank. He was Vice-President, for the County, of the New York Holland Society, and at one time its President. He was an honored member of the County and State Medical Societies. October 3, 1877, he married Mary Barnard, daughter of William H. Tobey of Kinderhook, and had two children—John Bayard Pruyn, a rising young lawyer of New York, and Julia Carville.

Dr. Pruyn sacrificed himself for his patients' sake. His ceaseless service, often involving wearisome drives and sometimes serious exposure, overtaxed his strength and doubtless hastened his death. For years he was aware of serious and progressive heart trouble, but bravely and unselfishly struggled on, until peril of speedy fatal result compelled him to heed the counsel of brother practitioners and relinquish his work. Seeking benefit from change of air and scene he spent the winter of 1890-91 at Lakewood, N. J., but in April, by the advice of Drs. Vanderpoel and Townsend, was painfully brought home and on May 2d he passed away.

Many just and beautiful tributes to his memory appeared in all our local and vicinity papers, and among them the Minutes adopted by the Trustees of the Academy and the Directors of the National Union Bank. From the latter Minutes we quote:

As a citizen, he was public spirited, progressive and actively interested in all measures for the highest welfare of the community and the prosperity of the village.

As a man, he was just in all the relations of life, high minded, of incorruptible integrity and the soul of honor. His was a noble type of manhood: his a busy well spent and useful life.

To him, truth, duty and honor were no mere abstractions, but embodied in all his daily life and intercourse with men.

He was liberally educated and of finely cultivated literary taste. His mind was enriched and broadened by foreign travel, and by an intimate and appreciative familiarity with the art and literature of ancient and modern times. He kept abreast with all that is best in modern thought, as well as with the latest discoveries in science, and especially in his chosen profession. At every hour of the day or night he was ready to answer the call of sickness and to give his best service. We shall often recall his urbanity, amiability, and kindness of heart.

Personal and close observation for more than twenty-five years enables us to give emphatic assent to every appreciative word of the late lamented Dr. J. T. Wheeler's paper read before the County Medical Society in October, 1893, and subsequently printed for private distribution. We give its final paragraph:

No poor child suddenly sick in the night, no suffering man or woman who needed his care, through storm or distance, ever sent a call for him, but he was ready to go. He went forth with his life in his hand, and calmly, knowingly, designedly, each day offered it up to save the life of others. At length he saw the end coming, but he did not falter. Some poor boy living at a distance had met with an accident and lay long in a critical and painful condition. It fell to his lot to care for him. He went to the boy

by night, and often several times a day for a long while. The boy got well but the doctor's labors had forever ended. And as truly as in his way the great Physician gave up his life, a willing sacrifice that all men might live forever, so truly did Peter Van Schaack Pruyn, in the same Christ-like way, give up his life that his fellow mortals might not suffer and might have life.

MARTIN M. KITTELL, M.D., born October 10, 1866, Ghent, N. Y.; son of George H. Kittell and Mary Jane Mesick; educated in Common District School and at a private institution in New Haven; entered New York Medical College in 1888; came to Kinderhook, May 1891; elected Coroner in 1891 and for three subsequent terms, resigning to go to the Assembly of 1900; member of the Board of Health; Treasurer of village, and twice President of the County Medical Society. Moved to Jamaica in December, 1906. Married (1st) Eleanor Southard of Mellenville, October 31, 1894, who died in 1898; their two boys, George Southard and Harold, died young; married (2d) Carrie O. Davenport of Austerlitz, October 25, 1899. Their children are Donald D., George H., and Elizabeth Carolyn.

In Jamaica he served a term in the deaconship of the Dutch Reformed Church. He belongs to the associated staff of the Jamaica Hospital, and is enjoying a good general practice. He is a member of the American Medical Association of Greater N. Y.; also of the Long Island Association of Physicians and Surgeons, and of the Queens-Nassau Medical Society.

The continuance of the old Kinderhook drug store, after Mr. Hawley, was an enterprise in which he took much pride and was successful. Although his interest in the business has ceased he still owns the old landmark.

Concerning the present physicians of the town we sub-join the following biographical notes, the data furnished by themselves.

NATHAN D. GARNSEY, M.D.; born in Saratoga County, February 23, 1864; son of Lewis R. Garnsey and Augusta C.

Groom; was a graduate of the University of Rochester, 1886, and of the Albany Medical College, 1891. In May of that year he came to Kinderhook, succeeding to a large degree to the practice of Dr. P. V. S. Pruyn. April 17, 1895, married Ella V. A., the elder daughter of J. Spencer Hosford and Maria, daughter of James Van Alstyne. Barent Hoes, whose wife, "Aunt Derike," was a sister of Martin Van Buren, long lived in Dr. Garnsey's home.

ROSCOE C. WATERBURY, M.D., born September 15, 1877; son of A. H. Waterbury and Josephine Richards; educated public schools and Mt. Hermon School for boys at Northfield, Mass.; M.D., Albany Medical College, 1905; was in practice in Averill Park, N. Y., one and a half years; came to Kinderhook, succeeding Dr. Kittell, 1906; married Ada Wild, August, 1907. He belongs to all the branches of Masons, is an Odd Fellow and a Modern Woodman.

HENRY J. NOERLING, M.D., born Brooklyn, N. Y., October 5, 1888; son of George F. Noerling and Julia H. Brady; preliminary education, High School, Catskill, N. Y.; Albany Medical College, 1911; interne, Albany Hospital, 1910-12; began practice at Valatie, February, 1912; married Sadie H., daughter of Wm. Slike and Jessie Shufelt, April 26, 1912; one son, Henry Joseph Noerling, Jr., born January 12, 1913; member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, Modern Woodmen, and entered apprentice of the Valatie Lodge of F. & A. M. Health officer of village and town.

A. REDMOND DIMOCK, M.D., born Waymart, Pa., November 11, 1869; son of Asa W. Dimock and Sarah J. Kent; educated at Waymart Normal Institute; graduated with highest honors at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, N. Y. City, 1892; served in the surgical division of Bellevue; later, attended clinics in Edinburgh, London, Paris, and Vienna; 1894-1904 connected with contagious diseases department of the N. Y. City Health Department; served as chief

ophthalmologist at the German Polyclinic, N. Y. City, and assistant at the Polhemus Clinic, Brooklyn; continued in practice in New York City until October, 1912, when he came to Valatie.

Of living non-resident physicians born in Kinderhook we note:

WILLIAM WIRT WENDOVER, M.D., son of C. H. Wendover and Lucretia Harder; born January 28, 1851; educated private school; Rutgers College, 1871; graduated College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, 1874; Alumnus Roosevelt Hospital, 1875; practiced two years in New York City, one in Kinderhook; since 1884 in Warwick, N. Y.; President of Warwick Board of Education since 1910; member of County, State, and American Medical Associations. In 1893 married Pauline Sanford whose mother was a Burt, related to our Burts. They have two children, Sandford Hutton, a junior in Pulitzer's School of Journalism, and Anna Burt, a student.

EDWARD J. COLLIER, M.D., born July 13, 1871; son of E. A. Collier and Isabella G. James; educated Kinderhook and Albany Academies; graduated Williams College, 1893; Albany Medical, 1896; after service in Jersey City and New York hospitals settled in Amsterdam, N. Y., where he is now in active practice. January 10, 1906, married Helen Gallagher, of Hammond, N. Y.

THE MINISTRY

Kinderhook's contributions to the Ministry number at least fifteen, all born here unless otherwise noted, and, with the exception of Mr. Wynkoop whose parents moved to Kingston, all communicant members of the Reformed Dutch church here. We note: Andrew N. Kittle, born 1785, pastor Red Hook, Linlithgo, and Stuyvesant, died 1864. Jacob E. Vosburgh, born 1787, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1814, but became a farmer in Illinois; died 1836.

Peter S. Wynkoop, born 1787. Pastor Catskill, Hyde Park, Pleasant Plains, Ghent and Hillsdale, Ghent and Claverack, Ghent, Blooming Grove, died 1848. Henry G. Ludlow, born 1797, preached New York, New Haven, Poughkeepsie, Oswego, died 1867.

Henry Mandeville, born 1804, pastor Shawangunk, Geneva, Utica, Professor of Moral Philosophy and Rhetoric, Hamilton College, pastor again at Mobile, Ala., where he died, 1858.

Cornelius L. Van Dyck, born 1804, pastor Marbletown, Port Ewen, died 1866.

John M. Van Buren, born 1811, pastor Fultonville and New Lots, died 1892. His wife was a sister of John C. F. and Peter S. Hoes. His son Howard Van Buren is an honored citizen of Nyack.

Lawrence H. Van Dyck, born 1807. *See Sketch.*

John C. F. Hoes, born at Middleburg, 1811, during the brief residence of his parents there, but early brought to his ancestral home and here receiving his early education; pastor Chittenango, Utica, and Kingston (22 years); died 1883. His only son, Roswell Randall Hoes, is a chaplain U. S. N., now on the retired list.

Daniel E. Manton, born 1811, pastor Chittenango, Redding, and Hillsdale; died 1841. His wife, Elsie, was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Sickles.

Cornelius Van Alen Van Dyck, born 1818. *See Sketch.*

Edgar Laing Heermance. *See Sketch.*

John B. Church, in business here when he began study for the ministry; pastor Taghkanic, Rochester, and Paterson, N. J.

Edward S. D. G. Tompkins entered Episcopal ministry. Assistant minister in Troy, Rector at Coxsackie, now retired.

REV. LAWRENCE H. VAN DYCK. 1807-1893

He was the fourth son of Dr. Henry L. Van Dyck and an older brother of Henry H. and C. V. A. Van Dyck. He was

born at Kinderhook, October 5, 1807, educated at the Academy; graduated at Amherst College, 1830; Auburn Seminary, 1833; licensed and ordained, Presbytery of Cayuga, 1833; agent in Kentucky for American Tract Society, 1833-1835; pastor, Cairo, N. Y., 1835-1839; Spencertown, 1839-1844; Gilboa, 1844-1852; Helderbergh, 1852-1856; Blooming Grove, 1856-1861; Stone Arabia, 1861-1867; teaching, 1869-1870; Unionville, 1870-1876; Rector of Hertzog Hall, New Brunswick, N. J., 1876-1881. He then retired from public service and died in Brooklyn, January 24, 1893. He was twice married, his first wife being Christina Hoes of Kinderhook, and his second, Mary D. Holdridge. Of the three children of the first wife, but one reached mature life, Jane Elizabeth, the wife of the Rev. Dr. Theo. W. Welles of the Reformed Church in America. The second wife had four children, two of whom reached maturity.

Mr. Van Dyck is characterized in Corwin's *Manual* as being a faithful conscientious minister, a modest unassuming man, lacking perhaps in self-assertion, but pure in heart, true and steadfast to duty and principle; and devoted to the work of the Master.

CORNELIUS VAN ALLEN VAN DYCK, M.D., D.D., L.H.D., LL.D.
1818-1895

Much of this sketch is drawn from our own contribution to Dr. E. T. Corwin's *Manual of the Reformed Church*.

Cornelius Van Alen Van Dyck, sixth son of Dr. Henry L. Van Dyck and Catharine Van Alen, was born at Kinderhook, August 13, 1818. He was educated at the Academy here and was graduated from the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1839; appointed by the A. B. C. F. M. medical missionary to Syria the same year; reached his field in April, 1840; founded Boys' Seminary at Abieh, Mt. Lebanon, 1843; in charge thereof until 1851; ordained by the Mission, January 14, 1846; Principal of Mission Seminary, 1848-1852;

in Sidon field, 1852-1857; (in U. S., 1853-1854); appointed to complete Dr. Eli Smith's Arabic translation of the Bible, and transferred to Beyrout, 1857; manager of Mission Press at Beyrout, 1857-1880; elected member of the "*Deutsche Morganlandsche Gesellschaft*," 1858; visited Europe in behalf of the Arabic translation of the Bible, 1860; translation completed, August 22, 1864; in New York, supervising the making of electrotype plates of the translation, 1865-1867; teacher of Hebrew in Union Theological Seminary, 1866-1867; Hebrew professorship offered but declined, 1867; returned to Syria, 1867; director of the Mission Press; editor of the first religious newspaper in Arabic; Professor of Chemistry and Pathology in Medical Department of Syrian Protestant College, and after about five years, Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Observatory. Much of this service was gratuitous, and a large part of the apparatus was purchased at his own expense and subsequently transferred to the College at about half-price.

About the year 1871 he became physician to the Hospital founded and maintained by the Knights of St. John of Prussia. In 1879 he received from Emperor William I., the gold decoration and "Order of the Royal Crown." In the summer of 1882 he visited Vienna for six weeks and in December of that year resigned his connection with the College. From 1883-1894 he was physician to St. George's Hospital of the Orthodox Greeks. April 2, 1890, there was an extraordinary jubilee in celebration of his landing in Syria, and November 13, 1895, he died.

His degree of D.D. was bestowed by Rutgers College in 1865; that of L.H.D., by the same institution in 1890, and that of LL.D. was conferred "*in absentia*," a very unusual honor, by the University of Edinburgh in 1892.

His miscellaneous publications in Arabic were voluminous. For a presumably complete list we refer the reader to that furnished us by his son, William Thompson Van Dyck, M.D., and printed in Corwin's Manual.

December 23, 1842, he married Julia Abbott, daughter of the British Consul, of whom two sons and two daughters were born.

A detailed account of the character, life, and manifold labors and achievements of this most remarkable man would fill many pages. His great work was that of translating the Bible into Arabic. With the exception of the Pentateuch (which he revised) it was essentially all his own work, done with a precision and elegance which have elicited the highest praise of the best Arabic scholars of the world. This alone considered, we may be permitted to wonder, without irreverence, we hope, if among them born of Kinderhook women there hath arisen a greater than Cornelius Van Alen Van Dyck. The late Dr. Jessup thought not.

Interested readers will find many additional details in the Manual of Dr. Corwin; in Rev. Dr. T. W. Welles's *Ancestral Tablets*, p. 238; in Anderson's *History of the Missions to Oriental Churches*, and in many obituary notices in the press immediately after his death. The two absorbingly interesting volumes of the late Dr. Jessup abound in references to the subject of this inadequate sketch. We are sorry, however, to be obliged to put an interrogation point after one story well fitted to "point a moral or adorn a tale." It is concerning the good woman of Kinderhook who deplored that, when Cornelius V. A. Van Dyck united with the church (a boy of thirteen he was), there was only one other, a negro woman. Dr. Jessup was misinformed. There were forty-one who united the same day. Somehow, in view of the many similar records of those days, it seems that the old doctrines were quite as effective as the new in developing pure, strong, and lovable Christian characters and in inspiring to noble, heroic living.

REV. EDGAR L. HEERMANCE. 1833-1888

Edgar Laing, a son of Rev. Henry Heermance and Catharine E. Laing, while not born in Kinderhook, as com-

monly stated, but in New York City, April 30, 1833, was so soon brought here (1835) and was so long identified with our village that he has been accounted a native. He was prepared for college at the Academy and was graduated from Yale in 1858, and from the Theological Seminary three years later. Before his collegiate course he was for a short time in mercantile life in New York City. Licensed by the Century Association, New Haven, in 1861, he was pastor of the Castleton, N. Y., Reformed church from 1861-1869. After foreign travel and miscellaneous service here and there as opportunity offered, in 1872 he became pastor of the Presbyterian church of White Plains, which position he continued to hold until April 29, 1888, when, but a few moments before the afternoon Sunday service, he was found dying in the pulpit where he had stood so long. While at Castleton he married Agnes, a daughter of President Woolsey of Yale. He was survived by his widow and three children. Theodore Woolsey Heermance was graduated at Yale in 1893; studied two years in Athens as the recipient of the Soldiers' Memorial Fellowship; became a tutor at Yale, in the meanwhile taking the degree of Ph.D.; became Director of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens in 1903, and died there in September, 1905. Laura Woolsey lives with her mother in New Haven. Edgar Laing Heermance was graduated at Yale, 1901; studied theology one year in Edinburgh and two at New Haven, and for more than ten years has been the pastor of the Congregational church of Mankato, Ill. In 1907 he married Miss Nora Livingston and has two children, Edith and Theodore. Edgar L., Jr., is the author of the published volume *Democracy in the Church*.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOSTER RHODES (*The Sire of the Turkish Navy*), 1794

From an article in the *N. Y. Sun*, in the autumn of 1911, we condense the following sketch of the career, hitherto unknown to most, of a Kinderhook boy.

Foster Rhodes, son of Captain Henry R. Rhodes and Hannah Cooper, was born in Kinderhook, July 17, 1794. The name Cooper appears in many of our records of that period and earlier. The family claimed ownership of the Baker and Flodder patent. After completing his studies in our schools, Foster was apprenticed to a silversmith in New York City, but becoming dissatisfied therewith soon decided to learn shipbuilding with the firm of Adam and Noah Brown. He was an apt scholar and, though yet a youth, was soon deemed by his employers as quite the equal of any of their men. Adam Brown took him to Erie, Pa., where they built a brig which helped Commodore Perry to win his victory on Lake Erie. Leaving the Brown firm he went to Nova Scotia and built the first steam passenger boat plying between Halifax and Dartmouth. Later, he returned to Brooklyn, and in association with Henry Eckford, built a ship which they named the *United States*; on which they both went on a trading voyage, with the intent of selling their ship. The end of the voyage was at Constantinople. There Henry Eckford died. The Sultan, knowing somehow of Rhodes's abilities, sought to employ him, but he and his ship were one, he said, and so the Sultan bought the ship and secured Mr. Rhodes's service. He built a yacht for the Sultan and ten ships for his navy. After launching a ship in a way that astounded the Sultan, with only seven or eight men instead of the two hundred which the Sultan deemed necessary and had offered him, he was summoned to an audience with the Sultan. He went in his shirt-sleeves, but was nevertheless told that if he would become a Mohammedan he might name his own title in the Turkish Navy. His answer was: "No, thanks. I prefer to remain an American citizen. It's good enough for me." He remained nine years and acquired considerable wealth. Before leaving he was decorated by the Sultan, the decoration conferring privileges seldom accorded to foreigners. It was a ship of gold with a circle of diamonds around an emblem, and a

diamond cluster pin with a chain of gold attached. With it went this certificate:

The American Citizen, Mr. Foster Rhodes, having been employed for many years in the Ottoman Arsenal as Naval Constructor, during which period, being found to be a person possessing perfect knowledge, abilities, activities and science in his department and did good service to the Turkish Empire by constructing and building several ships of the line and other vessels of war: having now expressed a desire to return to his native Country, we, to show our approval of the service which he has rendered, and our entire satisfaction, have given this certificate, sealed by our own seal, and delivered into his own hands.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 1, 1840.

On his return his abilities received recognition here also, President Polk making him Chief Constructor in the U. S. Navy.

It was thus a Kinderhook boy who rehabilitated the Turkish Navy after its virtual destruction in the Battle of Navarino: a victory celebrated here with great rejoicings.

THOMAS MONTANYE BURT. 1800-1873

From a sketch written for us by the late Colonel Silas W. Burt we cull the following:

Thomas M. Burt was of Puritan and Huguenot ancestry. The pioneer, Henry Burt, came from Devonshire, England, in 1638, and settled at Roxbury, Mass., but in 1640 joined William Pynchon in the settlement of Springfield. Henry's second son, David, was one of the original settlers of Northampton, and his marriage with Mary Holden was the first in that town. David's son, Benjamin, born November 17, 1680, married Sarah Belden and settled in Deerfield. They were among the captives taken to Canada by the Indians after their attack upon the settlement, February 29, 1704.

On the return voyage from Quebec, Mrs. Burt gave birth to her second son who was named Seaborn. After a stay of about two years in Norwalk, Conn., Benjamin became, in 1708, one of the seventeen first settlers of Ridgefield, Conn. Thence in 1760 his oldest son, Daniel, moved to Warwick, N. Y., where, October 25, 1760, James, the father of Thomas Montanye, was born. James married Abigail, daughter of Benjamin Coe, of distinguished military and other high official service, civil and judicial. James Burt took an active part in the Revolutionary War; was a member of the Assembly nine years; of the Senate eleven years; a Presidential Elector in 1800 when the twelve ballots were cast for Thomas Jefferson; and President of the Electoral College in 1840 when its forty-two ballots were given to General Harrison. He died at Warwick, March 17, 1852, in the ninety-second year of his age, one of the few survivors who actually served in the Revolutionary army.

James Burt's youngest son, Thomas Montanye, was born in Warwick, January 8, 1800. He was educated in the Warwick Common School and the Academy of the near town of Florida, an institution established by Judge Seward, the father of the Hon. William H. Seward. After diverse employments he became deputy clerk of the State Senate. May 22, 1829, he married Lydia, daughter of Sherebiah Butts of South Hadley, Mass. From 1831-1840 he was one of the proprietors of the Albany *Argus*. This was the organ of the "Albany Regency," one of the most influential political agencies in the State. Among the members were Martin Van Buren, Silas Wright, Judge Marcy, John A. Dix and other leaders of the Democratic party. We interject the bare outline of the story given us by Colonel Burt, how, in the rivalry as to the publication of the President's message, he outwitted and out-distanced Thurlow Weed by hiding beneath a buffalo robe, after leaving Sauger-ties, until his driver's apparently runaway horse was per-

mitted to pass Thurlow, who on his arrival at Albany found the people already reading the message as printed in the triumphant *Argus*. In 1839 Mr. Burt sold his interest in the *Argus* and established the *Rough Hewer*, a nine months' campaign paper advocating Mr. Van Buren's re-election. He was thus opposing his father who headed the Whig electoral ticket.

Desirous now of rest, and particularly of finding a country home where there were good facilities for the education of his children, after visiting many places he chose Kinderhook and the fine James Vanderpoel homestead. It was his thought to devote himself to the care of his beautiful place, but at the solicitation of Comptroller Flagg, his close friend, he accepted an appointment to take charge of the administration of the recently passed "Free Banking Law." During the five years of this task all the old "Safety Fund" banks were re-organized. This new law furnished the framework of the present banking system of the United States. During these five years he went to Albany on Monday mornings, returning on Saturdays. When Comptroller Fillmore was elected Vice-President, Mr. Burt resigned his position in Albany. Though a Democrat he had always been opposed to the extension of slavery and was a member of the Free Soil party that nominated Martin Van Buren in 1848, and was one of the founders of the Republican party in 1854. In 1861 the New York Legislature appropriated \$50,000 in aid of the Kansas settlers. At the request of Governor Morgan, Mr. Burt took charge of the disbursement of this fund. Returning from this task he was engaged by Governor Morgan as auditor of expenditures in raising and equipping volunteers. Three million dollars were appropriated for that purpose. In 1861 President Lincoln appointed him Paymaster in the volunteer armies, with the rank of Major. He served in Washington the armies of the Potomac and of the Atlantic coast, returning at the end of the war to Kinderhook.

There having been some serious scandals in the assessment and collection of Internal Revenue taxes on whiskey and other alcoholic derivatives, the Treasury Department in 1867 appointed him a special agent empowered to accept or reject bonds given by distillers and dealers in alcoholic spirits of all kinds. This ended his public services and he returned to his home in Kinderhook where he remained until his death, May 14, 1873.

Colonel Burt adds this note: Among the descendants of Henry Burt, the first settler, were Silas Wright, the statesman; Ethan Allen, the hero of Ticonderoga; President Grover Cleveland and many other eminent men.

His children were: Silas W., married Antoinette Farrel; James, married Euretta Guion; Thomas M., married Harriet S. Howell; Charles A., married Harriet E. Coventry; and Abbie T., died 1857.

COLONEL SILAS WRIGHT BURT

(Civil Service Reformer)

Colonel Burt, our long-time personal friend, the eldest son of the subject of the foregoing sketch, was born in Albany, April 25, 1830. When about twelve years old he came with his parents to Kinderhook which continued to be his home until after his graduation from college. After that time his visits to the home of his boyhood were frequent and sometimes long continued. His manuscript story of his life, from which we were permitted to draw freely, is of great interest and no little value. He received his early education in Albany and later at the Kinderhook Academy. He was graduated at Union College with the degree, A.B., and C.E., in 1849. For a short time only he practiced his chosen profession as civil engineer and did much preliminary work on the Hudson River R. R., then in process of construction. In 1860 he was at work in Colorado.

We have from his own pen this record of his military and civil career. From May, 1861, to January, 1869, Assistant-Inspector-General of the State with the rank of Colonel. Naval Officer of the Port of New York, 1878-1883, appointed by President Hayes, and again from 1885-1889, appointed by President Cleveland. He conducted the first competitive examination for places in the U. S. Civil Service in 1871; was one of the founders of the New York Civil Service Reform Association in 1883, and of the National Civil Service Reform League in 1884; was Chief Examiner of the New York Civil Service Commission, 1883-1885, and in 1900, after Mr. Schurz's death, was President of the N. Y. Civil Service Association, until his death in 1912. In 1855 he married Antoinette Farrell of Logansport, Indiana. Their son Marvin resides in New York. Their daughter Lilian recently married George N. Baylis of New York. Colonel Burt was the author of several pamphlets relating to the Civil Service and also the Civil War record of the State.

To inherited integrity and forcefulness of character were added a liberal education and a devotion to high ideals of public service much in advance of his time. In every official position he acquitted himself with such conspicuous ability and fidelity as to receive wide recognition and honor. In private life, his broad intelligence, refined tastes, courtly bearing, and most kindly spirit made him a friend whose departure was greatly mourned.

HENRY HERBERT VAN DYCK. 1809-1888

He was the fifth son of Dr. Henry L.; born September 3, 1809; married (1) Eliza A. Clark, (2) Frances A. Kelly; died January 22, 1888. Educated at the Academy here. After learning the trade of a printer in his native village he became editor of the Goshen *Independent Republican*, 1830; in 1834 was city editor of the Albany *Atlas*, and so continued for nearly twenty years, when that journal was consolidated

with the *Argus*; in 1850 was elected State Senator for the Albany district; appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1853; and of Banking in 1860; Assistant U. S. Treasurer at the Sub-Treasury, New York City, 1865; from 1869-1883, President of the New York and Boston R. R. and of the Erie Transportation Co.; and from 1883 until his death, President of the Safe Deposit Co. of New York City.

This brief outline of his honorable and brilliant career tells its own story of exalted character and signal ability. In Albany he identified himself with Dr. Pohlman's Lutheran church, and in Brooklyn with the Clinton Avenue Congregational church; in both attaining prominence as an official as well as a communicant member held in high esteem and honor.

BREVET MAJOR-GENERAL MORGAN H. CHRYSLER, U. S.
VOLUNTEERS. 1822-1890

Although not a native of Kinderhook, General Chrysler is well remembered as spending the latter years of his life here, and should surely be noted as one of our distinguished residents. From an obituary notice in our village paper we cull much of our narrative.

He was born in Ghent, September 30, 1822; lived for a time in Hudson; while there married Miss Amelia Groat, of Ghent; removed to New Haven; later, returned to Hudson and finally went to live on the Groat farm. A few years subsequently he removed to South Corinth, Saratoga County. On the breaking out of the Civil War he enlisted as a private, April 7, 1861. His military record was exceptionally brilliant; only three others who enlisted as privates having attained the rank of Major-General. That record is as follows:

By a vote of the men he was elected Captain of Company G., 30th N. Y. Regiment, and was commissioned as such by Governor Morgan, July 4, 1861. March 24, 1862, he was made Major. On the 20th of September following, he was commissioned as Lieutenant-Colonel. He remained with

this regiment until it was mustered out, and then re-enlisted in the 2d N. Y. Veteran Cavalry. He was commissioned as its Lieutenant-Colonel by Governor Seymour, December 14, 1863, and on the same day was made Colonel. March 22, 1865, President Lincoln brevetted him Brigadier-General with rank from January 23d. On the 11th of November, President Johnson commissioned him as Brigadier-General, and on the 25th of May made him Brevet Major-General. All these promotions were for meritorious service on the field of battle. He was in several of the great battles of the war and was wounded seven times. At the end of the war he was made military Governor and Commander of the Department of Northern Alabama. He held that position until November 8, 1865, and on the 15th of January, 1866, was mustered out of service. Returning to Saratoga County, he remained there about four months and then came to Kinderhook and bought a place belonging to the late Thomas Beekman, and now owned by Mr. Wm. B. Van Alstyne. We remember well his small but beautiful trout pond, and what a commotion there was in the water when he came striking the well-filled pan he carried to call the eager trout to supper. Well do we remember also the courtly mulatto, Alonzo, freed from slavery and brought North as the General's valet. In politeness, fidelity, and all-round serviceableness, as well as goodness of heart, he seemed to be a model.

In 1876 General Chrysler sold this old Colonial homestead to George Canaday and bought the Van Alen place, as it was then called, on Broad street. There, August 24, 1890, he died, leaving his widow and his son, Captain Gifford W. Chrysler, who also rendered notable service in the Civil War, to mourn his departure. He was buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Valatie. It may be added that after his retirement from the army he was for a time in the New York Custom House; and that during President Hayes's Administration he was a special examiner in the Pension Department, and held that position until his death.

COLONEL WILLIAM LAING HEERMANCE. 1837-1903

Colonel Heermance, a son of the Rev. Henry Heermance and Catharine Laing, was born at Kinderhook, February 23, 1837, and educated at the Academy.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he went to the front as a volunteer, joining the 9th Infantry. He formed a company in this regiment which, it was reported, was the first company to enlist for the entire war. Later, he joined the 6th New York Cavalry and at different times during the last two years of the war, was the commanding officer. It was only shortly before his death that he received a medal of honor for gallantry in action before Chancellorsville, where he was severely wounded and taken prisoner. He was a member of the Lafayette Post, G. A. R., of New York, of the Loyal Legion, the Holland, and St. Nicholas Societies, as well as of several historical and genealogical associations. In the latter part of his life he was in business in New York city, having his home in Yonkers where he died, February 25, 1903. Among those attending the imposing funeral was Captain Benjamin F. Modina of the Confederate army and opposed to Colonel Heermance at Chancellorsville, where both were wounded. Colonel Heermance married Susan E. Leeds, New York, May 15, 1855. Their children are: Susie L.; Georgiana, married Julius L. Adams, Brooklyn; Catharine L.; Jessie, married Ralph E. Prime, Jr., Yonkers; two died in infancy; Helen, married Chas. G. Rowe, Yonkers; William L., died 1910; Pauline and Edgar.

JOHN WOODWARD PHILIP

Rear-Admiral U. S. Navy. 1840-1900

He was born August 26, 1840, in the house on the Eykebush Road known to us in later years as the McPherson-Fowler place. His father was John Henry Philip, M.D., son of John G., son of George Philip, a Captain in the army of

the Revolution. Father, mother, grandfather, and uncle, Peter I. Philip, are all buried in our cemetery. The Admiral's mother was Lucena, daughter of Theodore Woodward, Professor of Surgery in the Vermont Medical College, where John H. studied, after attending the Kinderhook Academy and the Troy Polytechnic. His professional life began and continued here until his removal to Stockport in 1843; whence he returned to Kinderhook in 1851, living in the old Van Vleck (now Hotaling) homestead, where he died in 1859. His son, John Woodward, after his course in our then famous Academy, received through his uncle, Peter I., an appointment to the Naval Academy which he entered in 1856. He soon won the favor of all, instructors, classmates, and the young men of other classes. The Civil War clouds were gathering rapidly when he left Annapolis. His first active service was on the grand old *Constitution* until it was towed to New York. In the scarcity of trained men Philip's promotion was rapid and his changes many. From the *Constitution* he was transferred to the *Santee*; then, with the rank of acting-Master, to the *Marion* in the Gulf Squadron; then to the *Sonoma* of the James River Fleet; and then, as Executive Officer, to the *Chippewa*, *Pawnee*, and the Monitor *Montauk* in succession, engaged in the siege of Charleston. On the *Pawnee* he was painfully but not seriously wounded. At the end of the war he went as Executive Officer on a three years' cruise of the *Wachusett* around the Cape of Good Hope to the China seas to protect imperiled American citizens and punish sundry troublers of their peace. Returning in 1868, he was made Executive Officer of the *Richmond* of the European Squadron. From 1874 to '76, officers being more numerous than ships, he received leave of absence and served as Commander of a Pacific Mail Steamer. In 1876 we find him Commander of the *Adams*, then of the *Tuscarora* on a thirty months' surveying cruise along the west coast of Mexico and Central America; in 1886 on the *Ranger*; '87-'90 on the receiving

ship *Independence* at Mare's Island, Cal.; then inspecting the building of the *New York*, and her Commander after completion in a cruise in South American waters; and, 1894-97, in charge of the Boston Navy Yard until he was ordered to the *Texas*. On the breaking out of the war with Spain, after securing needed repairs to his ship, he joined Admiral Schley's Flying Squadron. His magnificent services, narrated a thousand times, are familiar to every reader. At his solicitation Admiral Sampson deferred his attack on Santiago from Sunday to Monday. Returning to New York he was overwhelmed with honors, as all remember. In 1898 he was promoted to the rank of Commander and in 1899 made Rear-Admiral. In charge of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, he was interested and active in securing the building for the Naval branch of the Y. M. C. A., through the generosity of Miss Helen Gould. June 30, 1900, he died, after a brief illness, of heart trouble, and amid tributes of highest honor from a grieving Nation, was borne to his final rest at Annapolis. The details of the foregoing sketch, as regards the Rear-Admiral's public career, have been gathered from the *Life and Adventures of Jack Philip*, by Mr. Edgar Stanton Maclay, A.M., American Tract Society, 1904. The author was a child of four years in a Mission family at Foo Chow when he first saw the future great Admiral. We quote the first paragraph of his "Explanatory Note":

There have been few officers in the United States navy whose careers have been so nearly ideal as that of John Woodward Philip. His life-long devotion to duty, his conscientious carrying on of routine in the many dreary years of peace, his entire innocence of newspaper press bureaus or politico-social influence, his superb conduct in battle, his modest, sailor-like acknowledgments of the plaudits of his countrymen, and, more than all, his beautiful Christian character have peculiarly endeared him to the American people. As a standard of naval excellence for the emulation of younger officers, the career of Philip is unsurpassed and cannot fail of beneficial results.

CHAPTER XIV

REMINISCENCES

W. H. Winans, 1822—T. B. Myers, 1842—E. S. Porter, D.D.—Colonel Silas W. Burt—Matilda C. Metcalf—The late Chief Justice Edgar M. Cullen, 1851—Personal, 1864.

IN 1886 there appeared in the *Rough Notes* a series of ten articles entitled "Kinderhook of The Long Ago," written by Mr. W. H. Winans, of Newark, whose father was a teacher in the Academy. His mother was a daughter of John C. Wynkoop and Lydia Silvester. We quote the letters in part, venturing to correct an occasional error and adding a few explanatory notes. Referring to one's interest in the home of his childhood, no matter how long or how far he may wander, he tells of the visit of Mr. Nathan Wild and his brother James to their old homestead in England.

We asked the lady occupying the house [said Mr. Wild with tears as he told the story] to remove the carpet, to see if the hole which we made to roll marbles in was still there. She complied, and we saw it just as we had scooped it out, and James and I both wept. We could not help it.

Mr. Winans's first experiences in Kinderhook were in what was termed "The Castle"—a very old building long since demolished, standing on the northerly corner of Hudson and William streets. It had been the home if not the birth-place of Henry, John, and Aaron Van Vleck and their sisters.

The mild suggestion by Mr. Winans (senior) that the house needed some repairs, was met by the unanswerable rejoinder "that a house good enough for the Van Vleck family ought to be good enough for a Yankee schoolmaster." On the opposite side of the street, at the brow of the hill toward the creek was a story-and-a-half dwelling which was the birthplace of Martin Van Buren. It stood opposite the lane leading to the home of Mrs. Lydia Van Alen. Opposite the north line of the "Castle" property there was then (1822) a partially filled cellar; all that remained of the inn kept by Mr. Van Buren's father. It had been burned several years before. Contrary to prevailing tradition Mr. Winans thus makes the Van Buren inn a building apart from and some two hundred feet north of the family dwelling where Martin Van Buren was born. Is he correct? The birthplace was certainly small for an inn. But probably it was the cellar of the old church, not of the inn.

In 1825 the leading general stores were those of the Messrs. Van Vleck (now Miss Dibble's house); Bain and Birge (Mr. Avery's); Peter Van Buren (on the old Bank corner); Whiting and Clark (where the knitting mill office now is) and Van Dyck and Hawley (opposite the Dutch church) and two or three groceries. Widow Van Alen ("Aunt Liddy") the widow of John C. Wynkoop and sister of Judge Francis Silvester, was living in the present Nink house; the Van Vlecks in the "Castle" on the corner where Mr. Hotaling now lives; Mr. Hoes in the old rear part of Mrs. J. A. Reynolds' mansion; Capt. John Van Alen in the house now owned by Mr. Pratt; Schuyler John Van Alen in the old house on the corner of William and Chatham Street; Peter Van Vleck in the present Bank building; the Van Schaacks and Wynkoops in their well known residences; and, omitting many known residences of the time, Cornelius Van Alen in the old house now belonging to Mrs. Duff, or possibly that of Mr. W. B. Van Alstyne. The name belongs to both.

After speaking of the church, the only one then between Schodack and Claverack, and the old foot stoves which gave such joy to the little fellows sometimes permitted to sit on them on a

cold Sunday morning, Mr. Winans goes on to say, in substance: "I fancy I can see good Dominic Sickles in his pulpit, high up, and on a range with the galleries, and the sturdy old burghers and town's people in their pews. And there was good old Toby Van Dyck, colored, who sat back of the choir, in quarters assigned to those of his color, as a sort of deacon; and woe to the young darkey who behaved unseemly if Toby espied him. Disciplinary powers were accorded to Toby, and he did not neglect the opportunity, if the situation of affairs under his immediate jurisdiction seemed in his opinion, to require it."

Mr. Winans recalls the prevailing perversion of names, "Dutchized," is his word: *e. g.*, "Stuffle Follock," for Christopher Van Volkenburgh; "Cobus" and "Aurnt" Pool for James and Aaron Vanderpoel; "Drees," for Andrew; "Honce" for Henry; "Lowis," for Lawrence, and "Tice" for Matthias. Then, among the women, "Aitchee" was Margaret; "Steinchy," Christina; "Helletchy," Helen; "Anne-Yan," Aunt Jane, etc.

General Training day was a great day, hardly second to the "Glorious Fourth." It was a day for which great preparations were made by the small boy of the period. It was in anticipation of this day that economy in expenditure was rigidly practised. A boy without money on that day was about as miserable as the law would allow. It was that day when he calculated upon filling his jacket, or that important part of his body which it partly covered, with at least a card of gingerbread and cider *ad libitum*. And then it was a sight to see the gay militia officers, proud as peacocks, shouting their orders to men as undisciplined as themselves, but who were summoned to appear for general review and parade as the law directed, and who were there to make a day of it. In 1825, Lawrence Van Dyck, who had learned something of military tactics while living in New York, organized a company in Kinderhook called "The Greys." The uniform was similar to that of the West Point cadets, a grey coat with white trousers. Besides Captain Van Dyck, the writer remembered but two, Josiah Webber and John, son of Peter Van Vleck and brother of Peter Henry, the publisher of the *Rough Notes*. The company had about fifty members and must have been dissolved prior to 1830.

We confess that it shocks us to think of our dear, old, saintly

"uncle Lawrence" leading the "Greys" in their wild charges against imaginary foes, almost as much as it does to think of the great missionary and Arabic scholar, Cornelius V. A. Van Dyck, running with our first fire engine.

In 1825 there were three hotels in the village; one was kept by Peter I. Lewis (on the site of the present Kinderhook Hotel); Frink's, which stood in front of Mr. G. S. Collier's present residence and which was moved and transformed into the Hoes-F. B. Van Alstyne house; and Mr. McAlpine's, now the home of Mrs. F. Risedorph.

Two lines of Albany-New York stages had daily trips each way through the village. Thorpe and Sprague's line stopped at Lewis's Hotel while that of Baker and Company patronized Frink's. At both, passengers could obtain meals and possibly other supposed refreshments for the three days' journey from Albany to New York. The passing of four stages relieved in a great degree the monotony of the village life, while the crack of the coachman's whip and the comparative merits of the steeds of the two lines afforded prolific themes for discussion by the juveniles. Each line had its particular friends who welcomed the coming and speeded the departing stage with loud cheers. The drivers were regarded by the small boys as truly wonderful and highly favored individuals, enjoying opportunities for seeing the world accorded to but few; and many a boy looked forward with delightful anticipation to the time when he perchance should come into the village with a "four-in-hand," the envy of all his fellows.

Great was the excitement among the boys when it was announced that Dr. Van Dyck's son, Henry H., was going to sea. Nearly all of them were at once filled with a desire to become sailors, although Captain John Van Alen, a retired sea-captain, advised them to wait until they heard how Henry liked it. Henry shipped on the packet *Charlemagne*, bound from New York to Havre, but was satisfied with one trip, and the story of his experience was not calculated

to wean the boys from their ambition to become stage drivers. The writer well remembers how strong was the lure of the sea among the boys of a school at Fairhaven, Mass., opposite the then great whaling-port of New Bedford. Though but a mite of a fellow there was a strong determination to be a sailor.

The principal industries of the village in 1820, noted by Mr. Winans were—the furnace and pattern shop with which Mr. Hanna, later of Valatie, was connected; the carriage factory of Truxton Birge; the currying establishment of Smith and Van Alstyne; the stove and tinware factory of General Whiting; the considerable cabinet manufactory of Mr. Burchardt, in which the late Major Peter D. Van Alen was employed, and a tannery conducted by a Mr. Ladue, which was abandoned a few years later.

In the Kinderhook *Rough Notes* of February 17, 1882, there appeared a communication from "Viator" (Theodore Bailey Myers, son of Major Mordecai Myers), giving these interesting reminiscences of Kinderhook as it was in the early forties, or late thirties.

To one who was familiar with Kinderhook forty years ago, [it must have been earlier] the impressions of a visit recall a state of society which is typical of the change of old civilizations to newer ones in a country of progress. Old towns like Kinderhook are the mills in which that progress has been ground out by destiny, and there is no portion of the continent in which men, often of distinguished position in life, may not be found who recognize Kinderhook as their *alma mater*, either of education in its old Academy, or in its law offices, or other channels of adaptation to the usefulness of life. While many have thus gone from Kinderhook to be of service elsewhere, as many have passed away, leaving no posterity in their old homes to fill their places.

At the period alluded to, such men as Rev. Dr. Sickles; Dr. Van Dyke; Dr. Barthrop, an eccentric Englishman; Dr. Abraham Clark, son of the signer of the Declaration of Independence, from New Jersey; Dr. John P. Beckman (Dr. Clark's son-in-law), the

first president of the corporation of the village, a Senator and President of the State Agricultural Society; General Charles Whiting, with his fine martial appearance; the genial Major Lawrence Van Buren, the brother of the President, and often that courtly gentleman himself; Aaron Vanderpoel, then prominent in Congress and in social life; William H. Tobey, distinguished in his profession and as a Senator and Surrogate; Major Myers, a veteran soldier of varied experience and social accomplishments, ever liberal and active in public affairs and second President of the corporation; Dr. John M. Pruyn and Dr. Lucas Pruyn; John Bain, the principal merchant; Lucas Hoes; Teunis Harder; Francis Silvester, representative and descendant of a well-known family; Augustus Wynkoop, prominent in mercantile enterprise; Peter I. Hoes; Julius Wilcoxson, an able lawyer and Judge of the County Court; Capt. John Van Alen; James B. Laing; James Shaw, ex-Sheriff of New York; David Van Schaack the careful lawyer, and Peter Van Schaack, the editor of the old Kinderhook *Sentinel*, sons of the great Peter Van Schaack, to whom the Bar of the State resorted to sit, as at the feet of Gamaliel, when through loss of sight, his voice and not his pen conveyed the results of his wide professional information; the Van Valkenburghs, Van Alstynes, Van Alens, Van Vlecks, Bests; Dr. John Vanderpoel and Nathan Wild of Valatie; James Wild of Stuyvesant Falls; Walter Butler and John S. Vosburgh of Stuyvesant Landing; Tobias Hogeboom and John J. Van Volkinburgh of Chatham Center; all men of note; these and many others were the residents or frequent visitors at Kinderhook.

The names of many other men equally well known at the time, and occupying prominent positions in the affairs of the Kinderhook of those days, could be added if space allowed.

Then there was the old sexton and teamster, Lathrop, who cracked his whip over his feeble but effective four-horse team, and died in harness from an accident; Benjamin Lillibridge, the disciple of Crispin, whose genial welcome made his shop the schoolboys' resort; Deputy-Sheriff Asaph Wilder, the terror of evil doers; Robert Rosboro and Mr. Hobart, the genial hosts of the inns; and "Old Coley" making the streets resound with his melody of "Indian flea, lit on my knee, up and down, up and down," followed at a respectful distance by his spouse; and

"Woodchuck Pete," the wonder of the junior population, as the successful representative of the chase; these three descendants of the old institution of slavery which had not then long ceased to exist.

These all are names associated in their various spheres with the early history of Kinderhook, and whose feet once passed over its thoroughfares, and have now passed away. Some of them have furnished material to Washington Irving when as a young man he selected his "Ichabod Crane" in the neighborhood, while writing at Lindenwald the works which have made his name and those of his subjects immortal.

The ex-President himself can be recalled in his early ride, mounted on a thorough-bred, the gift of John Randolph of Roanoke, with his accomplished horsemanship, his dignified sitting, and his single spur; stopping to salute each passer by, however humble, and to recall some pleasant recollection of himself or of his antecedents which his wonderful memory retained.

These men assembled on the Sabbath under the roof of the old Dutch Reformed church, with its red brick wall and white steeple, a landmark to the surrounding country, where elders and deacons sat in chairs in the front of the pulpit, with square pews on each side as spacious as a modern bedroom, and a reverent assemblage in other ample sittings, in which they met to return thanks for the bounties of Providence displayed in the rich harvest fields of this productive region, then with little competition for its fruits from the now bountiful West.

Near by, during the week days a large assemblage of youths, many from the Southern States, were instructed by the pedagogue, Gleason, who had come from an equally celebrated school still to be seen at Lenox, Mass., and by his successor Silas Metcalf, whose bones were afterwards brought and laid near the scenes of his former usefulness. The minds he and his predecessors formed are still active in many distinguished associations of life and testify to their labors.

The visitor to Kinderhook today finds many of these names almost forgotten and comparatively few of their places filled by their descendants.

We cannot better supplement the view of Kinderhook as it was remembered by "Viator" than by giving the pleasing "Recollections" of the late Elbert S. Porter, D.D., the first pastor (1843-1849) of the Chatham Reformed Church. They were published in the *Christian Intelligencer*, of which Dr. Porter was the editor for several years, and refer to a period a little subsequent to that of the preceding reminiscences.

'There groups of merry children played,
 There youths and maidens dreaming strayed;
 O precious hours! O golden prime
 And affluence of love and time.'

"Children's Corner," once wild with the unstudied music of bairns and birds and bears, while yet engirt with great solemn trees, broadened and widened with the "processes of the suns" into the beautiful, stately and aristocratic village of Kinderhook. When my acquaintance with it began, it had more wealth and worth, inherited and cultivated, than any other place in Columbia County. The best blood of the best people of the best race, had made its deposit there; families who could trace their pedigree back to the Belgi, the Fresii and the Batavi, whom Caesar tried in vain to conquer. There were homesteads which had been handed down from one generation to another and venerable dwellings, the parlors whereof were decorated with plates of porcelain covered with historic figures; while the cupboards thereof were in possession of that delftware, which held in symbolic purple the triumphs of Dutch art, and the closest association with the name of William the Silent. There were—many (we will say, omitting here a long list of notable names which we will not repeat lest we omit some of equal claim to honorable mention, as Dr. Porter did) who imparted to the social life of Kinderhook its unique, quiet and well-guarded excellence.

What Washington Irvington did for Tarrytown in his day and way, and what Mrs. Vanderbilt has lately done for Flatbush with her graceful pen, might be done worthily for Kinderhook. Its history, actual and traditional, would have the charm of

romance. There are stories, incidents, and anecdotes concerning persons of note still in circulation there which form indeed a part of the history of the State and the Nation. At one time I know that very much of this sort of material was in manuscripts stored up in chests and drawers. There were men of Dutch blood reared in Kinderhook, whose names shine brightly on their Country's page.

The village in one sense was like the New Jerusalem. It lay four square. The Post Road crossed the road leading from the Landing to Valatie, making four corners of as many blocks. The streets were well shaded, the court-yards ample, the sidewalks wide and smooth. It was the very perfection of a village in its realistic beauty and adornments. The plain on which it rested or spread was rich as a garden, and abounded in agricultural wealth, so that a Kinderhooker very properly felt some of the benefits of an environment in all respects admirable. In those days the place was a favorite resort in summer time for many who had the proper credentials admitting to its sacred and shady seclusions. Its Academy, with Silas Metcalf for its principal, stood well. Indeed it had no rival in the county. Many of its pupils, among whom was Parke Godwin, have made their mark in professional circles. It was the pet of social patronage and literary liberality for all the country round.

But the era of railroads came, and the roads left Kinderhook undisturbed—because untouched. And thus it was brought to pass that it had to hand over much of its business to villages just then lifting their heads into juvenile growth. I know however, that all old villages are averse to growth. The land in them is precious as an heirloom. Its owners don't like to part with it because it came by inheritance. A proposition to cut a new street seems well nigh like sacrilege. For this and other reasons nearly all the earlier formed villages along the line of the Post Road, from Fishkill up to Greenbush, have fallen backwards or remained stationary relics of the enterprise of their founders. Their young men are driven off to find fields of exertion or paths of usefulness open to them elsewhere, and so there is much lamentation over the very lamentable fact that rural regions most inviting are depopulated, and the large cities over crowded.

There is, however, a returning wave. A love of agriculture

or a preference for rural over urban homes, is inciting many to flee the vain pomps of the fashion-ruled cities for the more rational simplicities of the country towns.

I have devoted the larger portion of this sketch to Kinderhook, because my memories of it and of some of its good people have never faded. There I found pleasant friends, and that warm-hearted hospitality which imparts special flavor to a well-conditioned order of society. There, too, I received much sympathetic encouragement in my work as a pastor, and not a little of the feeling that true piety may be allied with the best style of culture. While the currents of recent years have drawn trade and enterprise into many new channels, still it is for the credit of the older inland towns on the Hudson River, that they have preserved for themselves, despite all change, that sturdy reputation for old-fashioned honesty and substantial, personal and social dignity which has come down to them through and from an honorable ancestry.

We are indebted to the late Colonel Silas W. Burt, eldest son of Thomas M. Burt and of whom we have elsewhere written, for his pleasing personal reminiscences of Kinderhook from 1842 when he came here, to 1849 when he was graduated at Union College. We give selections from his most interesting manuscript volume.

Kinderhook village was and is a beautiful place. When we moved there, no manufactures were carried on except that of felt and silk hats, in retired localities, and now for many years discontinued. A large share of the residents lived upon moderate incomes and there was a general aspect of thrift and comfort everywhere. The four general country stores did a good business with the farming people in the vicinity. These latter were generally "fore-handed"; the excellent soil, frugal Dutch habits and accessibility to the New York markets were all in their favor. For years sloops had plied between Stuyvesant and New York and about the time of our removal there was a weekly propeller put on the route. All kinds of farm products could thus be cheaply placed in the great mart and no competition could greatly affect the traffic. . . .

The village stands mostly on a gravelly plateau extending level a mile or so north and west until breaking into the valley of the Hudson; this plateau also breaking eastward within the village itself, into the valley of the Kinderhook Creek, beyond which the country becomes more and more rugged.

In my early days there the village was nearly as quiet as the surrounding country, except when the vociferous Academy boys congregated on the streets. The City of Albany was accounted a sleepy old burgh, but it was a scene of frantic uproar compared with our village. Soon this peaceful calm became accustomed and then pleasing. . . . As the term of the Academy had already begun I was sent to the English Department. . . . My teacher was Mr. George Van Santvoord, a recent graduate of Union College and engaged in the study of law. . . . The Academy in those days was quite a noted school and many students from abroad attended it, some of them boarding with the principal Silas Metcalf, and the rest at other houses in the village. There were scholars from the Southern States, the West Indies and New York city, as also from our neighboring counties, and the school was the leading feature of the place. . . . The Academy stood in a grove of maple trees with ample play-grounds back, and was a building well suited for its purpose. There was a primary department where both boys and girls attended; an English department separately for each and a Classical department for both; there was also a teacher of the piano and one of French and Drawing. . . .

Not far from the Academy was the "Vley," a Dutch name for swamp, pronounced "Fly." This swamp was half surrounded by an amphitheatric slope covered with heavy timber and shrubs to which the name "Fly" was also extended. It was indeed a beautiful place, now partly included in the Cemetery and partly cut away and destroyed to make room for the cotton factory, which was burned in 1882. In a lofty oak tree the boys had built among the branches, forty feet from the ground, a platform of boards six feet square, completely embowered in foliage so as not to be visible from below. And what was peculiarly and romantically delightful, access to this bower could only be had by climbing another tree, a large hemlock that loosened at its roots leaned against the great oak. Here we lived like a Swiss Family

Robinson, or invented other romances; while as a diversion or additional hiding place, a cave was dug in a bank near by, the mouth of which was concealed by spice-bushes and we gathered in this bandit-like retreat when our arboreal rest became tiresome.

Mr. Burt's continued narrative of winter sports, the sled-riding, the skating, the Eskimo snow houses with connecting galleries, the snow forts, the evening gatherings in the students' rooms, and the surreptitious suppers, most toothsome if not luxurious, is all delightful reading but must be omitted. Turning several pages of the manuscript we read:

In my first year I spent a part of my leisure time with one Henry Peckham, a boy of about my own age, whose uncle had a shoe store near us. This store was then the rendezvous of a coterie of venerable gentlemen, remarkable as the survivors of an early epoch—Hon. Francis Silvester, son of Peter, who represented the district in the first Congress, (1789-91) was one of these ancients, and was a fine specimen of the gentlemen of the old school—Dr. Clarke, father-in-law of Dr. Beekman, our village capitalist—Mr. Edgar Laing, a retired New York merchant—Mr. James Shaw once Sheriff of New York and Dr. John M. Pruyn, our family physician and the youngest of the group. Every afternoon these gentlemen met for gossip. They were all whigs in politics and their stately greeting as they rose from their chairs, doffed their hats and courteously bowed when the ex-President rode by, as he often did, was a fine exhibition of respect for an ex-official and a protest against his Democratic creed.

Mr. Van Buren, we will add, was not then nor at any other time outdone in courtesy.

As my acquaintance increased I shifted my lounging place to the shop of Benny Lillibridge, cordwainer and also nephew of the above named Peckham. Benny had an extraordinary tact in encouraging the confidence and attachment of boys, and we used

to make ourselves perfectly at home amid the leather and other paraphernalia of the cordwainer's benches. Very short in stature, with a swarthy complexion, a large good-natured mouth and long curly hair, Benny would mingle his chuckles over our boyish wit with rapid taps on his lap-stone. For our convenience as a store-house for apples and other refreshments we dug a cellar in the middle of his shop with a trap-door, and found it a convenient retreat whenever "Old Met." (as our good preceptor, Mr. Metcalf was familiarly dubbed) was searching for us.

In 1847, about the time Mr. Watson succeeded Mr. Metcalf as principal, there came to Kinderhook two young men from Porto Rico. They had received their general education in Paris and Bremen, but came to our Academy to obtain a more practical knowledge of the English language. Their mother was the owner of large sugar plantations and through her factor in New York, an acquaintance of Major M. Myers, her boys were sent here. The eldest, Juan Mariona De Quirones, was a remarkably handsome man of the Spanish type but haughty and so reserved that he sought no acquaintances. The younger, Francisco, was a sturdy fellow and much more sociable, but very passionate. In fact at one time, for some fancied insult, he suddenly assaulted his brother with a dagger, but fortunately had only slightly wounded him before they were separated. Francisco being about my age we contracted a very strong friendship. Juan remained in Kinderhook only about six months, but Francisco eighteen, and then both returned to Porto Rico. The latter visited us in 1853 but remained only two days, since which time I have not seen him, although we corresponded a few years. One of the first Porto Ricans who accepted without demur our annexation of Porto Rico was Francisco. He was a high judicial officer and was also active in such legislation as tended to the acceptance of his native island as an integral part of the United States. He died about two years ago and the Porto Rican papers and also those of our great cities published mortuary articles expressing the great loss of his agency in promoting the best interest of his country.

In 1842 there was in Kinderhook a seamstress, a Mrs. Hozier, who attended the Baptist Church of which my father was the chief supporter. She had a daughter Clarissa of about sixteen

and a son William about twelve. She was the wife of the only son of Sir William Hozier, an Irish Baronet, who had disowned him because he married the daughter of one of his tenants. This son eventually emigrated to America and after many vicissitudes became a seaman on a whaling vessel, sending his earnings to his wife, who at the time we first knew her had not heard from him for more than a year. A little later the English Consul at New York traced Mrs. Hozier to Kinderhook and informed her of the death of her father-in-law and that the estates which were all entailed had descended to her husband. After much searching by letters and in person my father went to New Bedford, Mass., where her husband had been last heard from, and there gathered evidence of his death at sea on a whaling vessel. Then the widow, her daughter and the youthful Baronet, about fourteen years old, sailed for Ireland. In due time a letter was received from Lady Hozier describing in glowing terms their reception. A crowd of tenants with their families lined both sides of the roadway leading to the mansion, the roadway being over-arched with evergreens and flowers and the tenants detaching the four horses from the carriage drew it up to the portal of the mansion. In later years the name of Sir William Hozier often appeared in connection with political and social matters, indicating the high place he filled.

In addition to the notables mentioned went to meet at Peckham's store, among early recollections are those of "Squire Lucas Hoes" our justice of the peace, a staid upright descendant of the original Hollanders; Flagler, the Druggist, our sole representative of the heroic and much abused Abolitionists, who was sorely persecuted by the Academy boys from Southern States; Peter Van Schaack, bookseller, editor and publisher of our village paper the *Sentinel*, who was lean and gaunt in person but fat with classical allusion in speech and paper; Old General Whiting, of militia renown, bluff and stately; Judge Wilcoxson, a noted lawyer; Captain Vosburgh, of pure Dutch extraction, noted for his Scriptural quotations mingled with some words not so scriptural; Amos Ackley; old Captain Pruyn; Mr. Manton; Dr. Luke Pruyn; David Van Schaack, of brisk movement and universal executor of the wills of all good Dutchmen; Dr. Beekman, our banker and capitalist, the president of all public meetings and of

our Academy trustees; Lawrence Van Buren, brother of the ex-President, and usually known as "the Major"; and an irrepressible dweller in the purely Dutch neighborhood of Kallakona Barragh (Kalkoen Berg, Turkey Hill), who after imbibing a few fiery potations became fiercely bellicose and so gesticulating with arms and legs as to be known solely as *Kangaroo*, while howling promiscuous challenges and threats breathing blood-shed and death until met by one who evidently meant business, when he became as mild as a lamb; Hoysratt, who drove the stage to and from the Station at Niverville, until at length his much-encrusted chariot with ragged drapery and torn cushions from which the frowsy stuffing extruded, and the lank lame horses with harness tied together with ropes and cords became a pitiable spectacle, and the stranger who found this disreputable equipage the only means of conveyance to our pretty village was warranted in drawing auguries unfavorable to our thrift and love of neatness; Wilder, in his little grocery where stewed oysters and nameless other things not so harmless were to be obtained; Hiram Fairchild, and Loomis, and a score more of original characters there were, who have now "gone over to the majority."

Yet another letter from the *Christian Intelligencer* (1854) is both interesting and informing. The initials of the author, M. C. M., are those of one of our own time whom all that know delight to honor, but the writer was doubtless Matilda C., daughter of Silas Metcalf who for many years was one of the most eminent and successful of the principals of our then famous Academy. She was born here in 1827.

"I saw each old familiar face, each old familiar thing;"
I felt once more upon my cheek, my native breeze of spring;
And gladsome murmurs reached mine ears of many an ancient strain;
And kindred voices welcomed me unto my home again."

DEAR L—, Can you willingly follow me, as I leave the more famous routes of travel, and gladly seek a quiet sequestered village "loveliest of the plain," which, although retired, is not altogether unknown to story?

The ride from the river to the village of Kinderhook may be monotonous for a stranger. To the "child of the soil" however, there is a dear familiar look about every object, which well supplies any lack of beauty. After an absence of years, I was once again retracing the well known road. The Catskills rose grandly in the distance, dim with the shadows of evening; the murmur of the Hudson gradually grew fainter; the long lines of poplars stretched here and there, like faithful sentinels now, as they stood years ago; over everything was the weird charm of by-gone days.

The village spire as is very proper, was the first object to mark our near approach to the town. The church had not grown grey and moss-covered, as romancers tell us old churches do; for the time honored edifice had recently been enlarged, painted, and otherwise improved. As we passed through the deep shadow of the steeple, the town clock rang forth the hour upon the Sabbath stillness of the evening air. I was startled! The village never boasted a town clock in my day. One of the magnates of the place, Dr. Beekman, had given a new impulse to his popularity by bestowing this munificent present upon the village. Not that any such selfish motive prompted him; but generosity ever brings its own reward.

I looked at the spire to see if that had also undergone a change. I would not for the world have found that queer old vane displaced by any modern invention. There it still swung in the air as of yore and was still the object of our speculations as to what it could have been intended to represent. Some witty visitor has left the saying in the village that it would be no sin to worship the old vane, for it is the likeness of nothing "in the heavens above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth." Another spire greeted my homeward gaze, rising modestly among its neighbors and like them pointing to the Christian's heaven. It belongs to the Episcopal Church, a neat, tasteful edifice, which is weekly filled by a respectful, devout congregation. In these two churches, the Reformed Dutch and the Episcopal, we heard singing that would shame half our city choirs. The voices were clear, melodious and harmonious, while the words, *mirabile dictu*, were so clearly enunciated that we could understand each sweetly breathed sentence. . . .

Kinderhook is a gem of a village, and has long been styled the "Athens of Columbia County," as Peter Van Schaack, seventy years before had termed it the "Athens of Albany County." It is called an aristocratic place and the people are said to be very Dutch in their prejudices. Perhaps this is true, yet, take it all in all, one seldom finds a village, which is so like what a village should be. There is every variety of comfortable residence, from the grand, antiquated mansion of the lord of millions (?) to the white cottage half hid in the clambering rose-vine. Poverty is a thing unknown in the village, unless it be in solitary instances, where wilful idleness and alcohol are its immediate causes; even the colored population is neat and well cared for. This, however, cannot perhaps be said of Guinea Hill, a settlement of negroes at a little distance from the village. The huts are of very rude construction, some of them partly underground; and here have lived men of considerable fame in town. "Old Mink" died some time since, but "Dandy Pete" and "Woodchuck Pete" still flourish, gaining their scanty subsistence from the forests' game and the finny inhabitants of the creek. . . .

The village is principally situated on table land, and from a little distance seems to be built in a natural forest. It extends however, down to the creek in one direction, and towards the manufacturing village on the opposite ridge in another, thus spreading itself into the valley. The neighboring hills are crowned by tasteful mansions: the blue Catskills on one side, and the village of Valatie on the other, and make a picturesque boundary to the horizon.

The house in which Martin Van Buren was born, a plain one story wooden structure, has recently been removed or torn down, and the village has thus lost one of its "lions." What is known as the "Avalanche" is among the curiosities of the place. This is the land-slide on the south side of the village, which has given much cause of uneasiness to the dwellers upon the street which borders it. We well remember one night our dreams being disturbed by a crashing sound; the windows rattled, the house shook, and the morning discovered to us the fall of some ancient giant sycamores, which, though they had braved successfully the tornado and the lightnings could not withstand the gradual

undermining of the treacherous earth beneath them. There stood here years ago, a "venerable pile," type of the old Fatherland, whose bricks were brought from Holland. (?) It too has passed away. . . .

Not long since there stood upon this cherished spot one whose eyes filled with moisture as he gazed upon the ruin Time has wrought. Here was passed his gleesome boyhood, here was his spirit touched by that torch divine which has illumined all his after life. (The Syrian missionary, Cornelius V. A. Van Dyke.) Here died his "venerated sire. . . ." But he lingered not long. Again the voice of duty called him from his native shores to "heal the maladies of Esau's darkened race." Near the old house rises now a graceful villa like a rose upon the borders of the tomb.

Lindenwald, the mansion of Ex-President Van Buren, is situated at a distance of two and a-half miles from the village. The house is substantial and commodious, and its appearance has been much improved within a few years by the erection of a tower. As you are aware it is quite deserted this summer, its honorable master being abroad, residing in the "imperial city" accompanied by his son Martin. The trees are many of them of magnificent growth, the shrubbery luxuriant, the avenues well kept, and the cabbages really superior.

I love this ancient village. The old house on the corner [now Mr. Scully's] has passed into strangers' hands; still it is my native village, the spot around which cluster earliest, fondest recollections; the place which my heart, weary of roaming, ever calls home. . . . Dear to us is the grove with its well remembered path, its sparkling spring, its chestnut-trees, and vines bearing bright red berries; the creek, with its shaded shores, the drooping willows, the charming coves, the moss-covered rock and the hills, whose summit we used to climb to watch the golden sunsets. . . .

. . . I must pause here. As the poet falters when Niagara is his theme; as the painter drops his pencil when he vainly seeks to portray a scene beyond the skill of man to imitate, so my pen hesitates as my heart reminds me how feeble it is to sketch faithfully one half the charm of dear, old Kinderhook.

Among the students of the Academy in 1851 and later we observe the name of the recent Chief Judge of the Court of

Appeals, Edgar M. Cullen. A program of an Academy exhibition, in the Dutch church, October 1, 1856, reveals him as one of the forty orators of the evening, after whom came an address. These discoveries emboldened us to write to him, not presuming to *ask* from so busy a Judge reminiscences of Academy days, but gently suggesting how acceptable they would be to many. The courteous and unexpectedly kind reply was as follows, a few irrelevant personal sentences omitted:

State of New York,
Court of Appeals,
Judges Chambers.

ALBANY, March 11th, 1912.

REV. EDWARD A. COLLIER,
KINDERHOOK, N. Y.

MY DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 24th. ult. has been received. The delay in answering it has occurred by reason of my official engagements and by the requirement of time to recall the memories of my boyhood. . . . My remembrances of the Academy and my life at Kinderhook as a student are very pleasant, though some of them are rather dimmed by the lapse of time. I commenced my studies at the Academy in the Spring of '51. At that time the Hudson River Railroad was not completed, so my route from my home in Brooklyn was by the night boat to Albany and the next morning by the Boston & Albany Railroad to Kinderhook station. At the conclusion of the half year's term in October of that year we boys from New York and Brooklyn, there were several of us, returned home by the Hudson River Railroad, taking the train at Stuyvesant. Even then the road was not completed and we left the cars at Tivoli, if I remember correctly, and went by boat from there to Poughkeepsie, where we took another train to New York. If I recall aright the road had been completed by the time our vacation had expired and we took a through train from New York to Stuyvesant. I was at school in Kinderhook from the Spring of '51 to the Fall of '53 and again from the Spring of '56 to the Fall of '57, when I entered Columbia

College. During all the time that I was there at school Mr. Alexander Watson, a Scotchman, was the Principal. He was a man of great learning, of marked ability and an instructor of the first order, . . . William H. Tobey of your village, a distinguished lawyer and a member of the State Senate, was the President of the Board of Trustees, and David Van Schaack, also a lawyer, the Secretary of the Board. Mr. Tobey was an intimate friend of my parents, and I am proud to claim him as my own friend. To him I am indebted for many kindnesses. These gentlemen passed away many years ago, but it may possibly be that you knew them both. My fellow students at school, so far as they came from Kinderhook or its neighborhood, that I now recall were, the late Dr. Peter V. S. Pruyn, the Burts, Charles and Thomas, and I think another brother, James (Colonel Silas Burt, had left the Academy before I went there); Samuel and Frank Frisbie, the former a distinguished Jesuit priest; John J. Van Schaack, afterwards cashier of the Kinderhook bank, and his cousin, William Van Schaack Beekman, and Augustus W. Wynkoop. Over half a century has elapsed since that time and whether any of my fellow students whom I have mentioned are now living I do not know; most of them I know to have passed away.

I think this is all I shall write to you, for if I were to enter into all the details of my student life in Kinderhook I certainly should tax your patience and my prolixity, I fear, would not entertain your readers.

Very truly yours,

EDGAR M. CULLEN.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES

1864

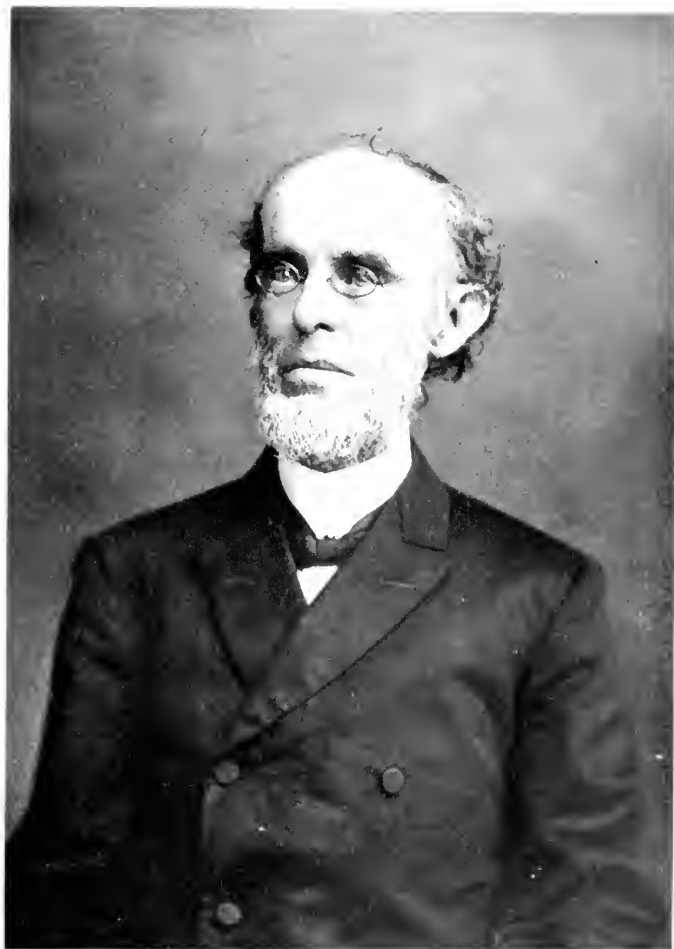
With great trepidation I first set foot in Kinderhook, April 9, 1864, having come from Amenia to Niverville and thence by "Noah's Ark" on wheels to the hospitable home of John, Elizabeth, and Lydia Van Alen, of precious memory. There was no expectation of ever seeing the place again. Much less was it dreamed that it would be home for more than fifty years, the birthplace of five children, the resting-place of the departed, and the one spot in all the world endeared by life's most sacred and tender associations.

Perhaps, dear reader, you will be interested in taking a reminiscent stroll with me through the principal streets of the village and out upon the country roads to some extent, observing things and people as they were fifty years ago. Your company is especially desired that we may talk together and that the use of the over-obtrusive "I" may be avoided.

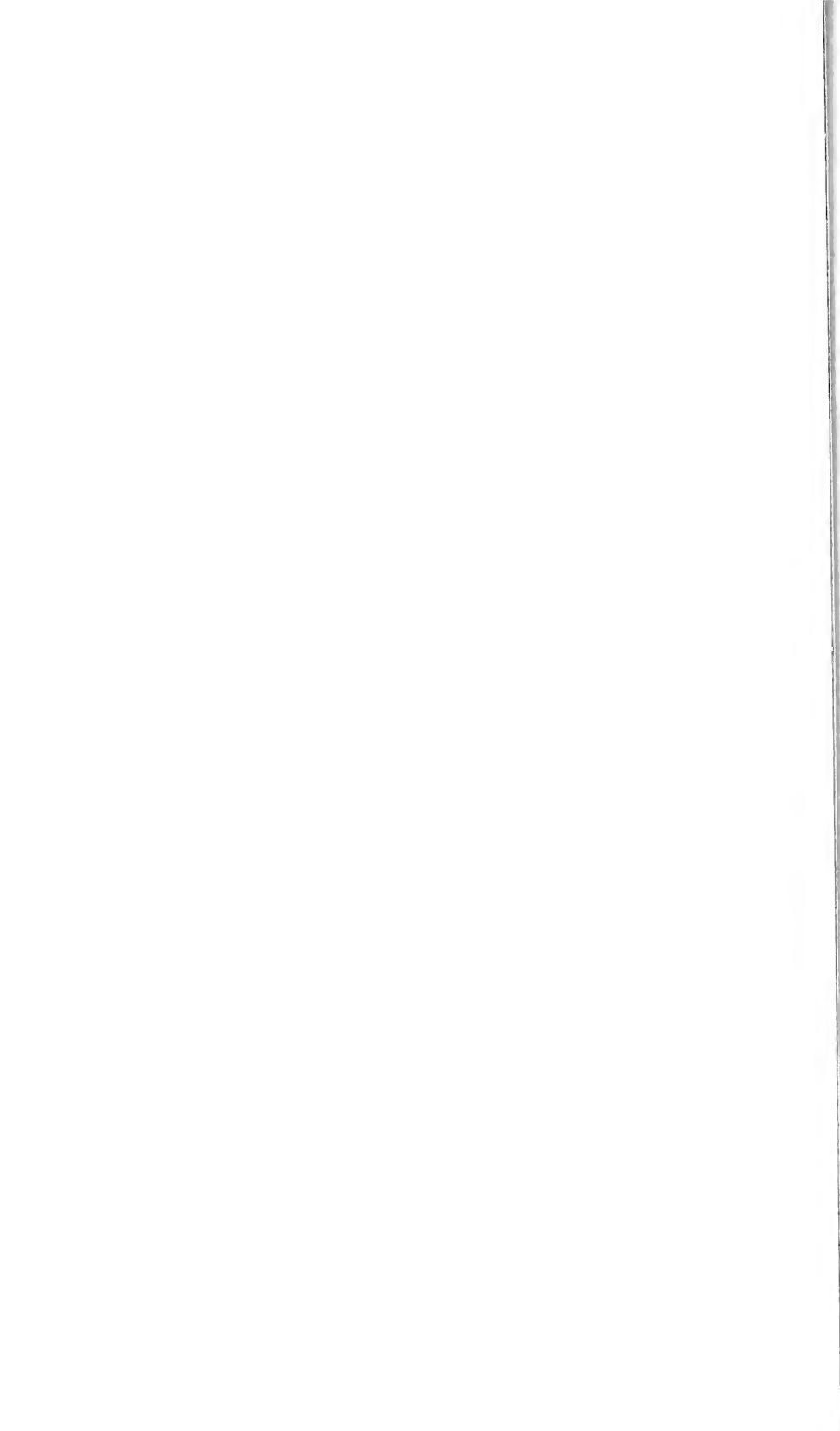
BROAD STREET

Beginning at the corner where the old Bank was then flourishing, we note in Mr. Nink's present shop the marvelous Stationery store and *omnium gatherum* of John C. Sweet. In its deep recesses reached by tortuous ways we were wont to be refreshed by ice-cream as pure and good as could be made. Next came the Drug, Paint and Grocery

store of F. W. Bradley, now that of Kittell & Co., and next the Bray and Herrick building, now the Lindenwald Hotel. The present office of the hotel was then the Boot and Shoe store of Michael Feigh which Lorenzo Griffin had but lately vacated for his own new shop on Chatham Street. In the dwelling part lived C. L. Herrick with his wife, his sons Silas and Daniel (the latter of whom married Margaret, daughter of P. H. Van Vleck), and the daughter Ella, who married J. S. Witbeck. Her retentive memory has been repeatedly taxed. In the upper story of this building was the long famous Bray and Herrick's Hall where all kinds of public meetings were held until the goat of the Masons excluded the uninitiated. Adjoining this building was the fire-engine house bought in '55 and now the law office of Becker and Hyman. Next was the "Peckham" house where lived "Benny" Lillibridge whose sunny face and kindly spirit won universal favor, and whose little shop, first on Hudson Street and then here, was the happy gathering place for the old Academy boys. In answer to questions as to his age "Benny" always replied—"over seventeen." In mysterious regions above lived Miss Ann E. Peckham (later Mrs. James Traphagen), also Charlotte Webber who became the second wife of Andrew Michael, and the venerable Austin Sandford about ninety years old. In the four stately mansions beyond, noted hitherto, were the Burt, Mitchell, Smith, and Beekman households. Near the westerly corner of the Burt lawn stood the law office of Tobey and Silvester, formerly Tobey and Reynolds; before that Vanderpoel and Tobey, and still earlier James Vanderpoel. On the easterly corner of the Beekman-Vanderpoel lawn was Dr. Beekman's former office, later used as the first bank building, subsequently as the U. S. Revenue office of P. E. Van Alstyne, and still later as Dr. P. V. S. Pruy'n's office. Mr. A. J. Vanderpoel removed the building to its present more retired location. After these came the home of A. V. D. Witbeck whose wife was Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Sickles



Edward A. Collier







The Pruyn-Wilcoxson House



The Château (Wynkoop Homestead)

who built the house in 1835. Another daughter, Elsie, widow of Rev. D. E. Manton, and J. Sickles Witbeck, son of the first named, were other inmates of a household remembered with tender affection. The place is now owned by Dr. Chas. M. Kellogg whose wife Elizabeth is a daughter of the late Alfred Ostrom (senior) of Stockport. Of their children, Harriet married Wm. B. Van Alstyne; Frances M. and Alfred O. abide at home. Not less cherished is the memory of the occupants of the old house built by Dr. Quilhot, and now the home of the widow of Captain Gifford W. Chrysler, Sarah, daughter of German Sutherland. Those occupants were,—John, Elizabeth, and Lydia A. Van Alen, and the orphan they had befriended, Mary Lawler.

Standing on a part of the ancestral Pruyn and Indian Wattawit estate, as do all the buildings in this part of the village, was the home of our beloved physician John M. Pruyn, his daughters Catharine and Maria, his son Dr. P. V. S. Pruyn then but recently entered upon his work, and their most faithful helper Alice Membert, since deceased. Next, and an ancestral possession like the former, came the attractive place now owned by Miss Anna H. Wilcoxson, a granddaughter of Julius Wilcoxson and of Captain John I. Pruyn. The widowed second wife of the latter was living there in '64. With her was her daughter Sarah E., her step-daughter Kate who became the second wife of Hugh Van Alstyne, and her niece Elisabeth, daughter of Captain B. Pruyn then in the army. Later, Elisabeth became the wife of Edward Van Alstyne. Near the corner was the home of Richard Graves and his second wife Almira Manton, his son Richard, and his daughter Alida M. Graves. The place is now owned and occupied by the widow of J. K. Martin, of the Albany Schuyler family. On the corner opposite, where Henry Swartz now lives, was the home of Jacob Sudam, his sprightly wife Sarah Decker, and his four daughters; Mary the queenly who married Barent Van Alstyne, the widowed Mrs. Mosier, Sarah who became the first wife of J. S. Wit-

beck, and the lithesome, graceful Paulina who married George Reynolds. Mrs. Sudam was an ardent Republican and her husband a strong Democrat, but she was able to uphold her end of every argument and still keep her home a happy one. In the long ago this place was the home of Dr. John I. Beekman and later of Dr. Barthrop. This eccentric Englishman looking for a place to locate was advised to come here and marry Dr. Beekman's widow which he did.

A few rods beyond, the house now owned by Mr. Jay Gage was the home of John H. Link and his loving *wrouw*. She was a veritable Mrs. Partington, whom the bumble bees were wont to warn of coming calamities. Distrusting, possibly, the judgment of her husband, her coffin and shroud were provided and adorned an upper room long before her death. It was her expressed wish that her funeral cortege should go around the retired three-mile square and avoid the vain pomp of passing through the village streets.

In the beautiful home now owned by Frank Wilson lived German H. Sutherland with his wife and two daughters one of whom, Sarah, became the wife of Captain Chrysler as already noted. Later, it was the home of Samuel Palmatier who moved to Pasadena. His lovely wife and her beautiful boy Jay died here. The daughter Ida, who is distinctly recalled as frequently sitting on the fence then in front of the parsonage, is now a married woman in California.

In the brick house beyond, lately owned by widow Alvina Weatherwax, lived John A. Van Dyck. His wife Maria was his second cousin and a sister of the eminent Dr. C. V. A. Van Dyck. Their daughter Kate, and two of their fatherless grandchildren, John and Arent Van Dyck, were cherished inmates of this happy home. The mother of these boys had married William Bradley.

The next house, now owned by Mr. Albert Duck, was occupied by George Lathrop. In his barn he was nourishing the transplanted little seedling of the present extensive Bottling works of the Risedorph Company. Richard Alex-

ander, whose mother was an Indian, was his efficient helper and the compounder of many new secret concoctions which obtained wide celebrity. He largely increased the business to which he succeeded and soon removed it to its present location.

In the much transformed and now charming home of Mrs. Harriet A. Duff and her two daughters, Edna and Mabel, lived Leonard Gillett and his wife, advancing in years and feebleness. Later, it became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Wagoner and their daughter Nellie. Back from the road on the left is the old Stephen Van Alen homestead of which we have written, then but recently vacated by John Taylor and for the time being unoccupied. In the house, since burned, on the site of that lately owned by George Gritman, now by Grant Leggett, lived Edward A. Thomas, his aged mother, his sister Mary who soon married Edward Allen, his daughter Caroline who married Frank Palmer, his son Edward now of Great Barrington; and later his niece Mary, daughter of Captain B. Pruyn, who became the wife of Henry Allen Best, Jr., of Stuyvesant. Beyond, on the right, the old brick house of Colonial days, now owned by Herman Monthie, was the property of Jacob C. Everts who with his wife, son Charles, and daughters Christina and Gertrude always gave cordial welcome. Later, it is pleasant to remember, it was the home of W. Palmatier now of Rochester, his wife, son Albert, and daughter Josephine. Still beyond, where the son Alfred, the grandson Earl and their families now live, was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. I. Kilmer.

While here we rest and ruminate, the Stuyvesant stage goes lumbering by driven by Barent Van Slyck to connect with the propeller *D. S. Martin* which leaves Davis's Dock every Monday and Thursday at half-past four. When the roads were very bad Van Slyck was wont to tell his passengers to "sit light." We also hear from afar the voice of "Roaring Hank" Smith expostulating with his horses. He

was wont to be heard long before he was seen, and was but one of many teamsters.

Returning, there were on the right only cultivated fields until we came to the home of John Bray, the very old Pruyn homestead hitherto noted. With Mr. Bray were his wife (Helen Bortle), his aged mother (Agnes Devoe), and his sons, Frank and Charles M.; Frank married Milla, daughter of Andrew Van Alstyne, and has two daughters, Helen and Mary. Charles M. Bray, one of our most trusted attorneys, has rendered us much service. Passing Dr. Luke's cherished orchard and garden we came next to the manse of the Reformed Dutch church where were two newcomers who shall be nameless. Adjoining was the transformed Frink tavern owned by P. S. Hoes who had moved it from its original location in front of G. S. Collier's mansion. For the time being it was tenanted by the district school teacher L. H. Reid. Later, Mr. Hoes occupied it for many years. It then became the property of Franklin B. Van Alstyne, son of Dr. Thomas Van Alstyne. He married Cornelia Dibble of Danbury, a granddaughter of Dr. Josiah Pomeroy of Kinderhook. Their son Franklin married Sarah V. S. Beekman, daughter of W. V. S. Beekman; and their daughter Blanche became the wife of Vincent Irick of New Jersey. The present owner of the place is Frank Bion Van Alstyne (son of James), one of our most thrifty and successful farmers. His wife is a daughter of the late Lewis E. Fellowes and their children are: Alice M., wife of Chas. Baker; Lewis F., married Imogene Wagoner; Bertha L.; Harold E.; Earl C. and George F.

On the corner beyond was the fine old Dutch church, burned in '67. Near the opposite corner was Eugene Hover's then flourishing Hoop Skirt Factory. The small building now to the west was originally two: the office was the shoe shop of M. Feigh on Chatham Street; and the harness room was the law office in days long gone of Squire Lucas Hoes, and standing on the Bradley lot on Albany

Avenue. The Hoop Skirt Factory is now the principal work shop of George H. Brown and Brother (Ellsworth). The carriage shop, unoccupied at the time, was built in 1830 for the bookstore of Mr. Peter Van Schaack, Jr., and the office of the Kinderhook *Herald*.

In the adjoining home Mr. Peter Van Schaack, Jr., had but recently died. His widow, Dorcas Manton, and his daughters Mary and Julia there lived and remained until their death. The son, Manton, at that time in business in New York, and the third daughter Elisabeth, the widow of George Van Santvoord then lately deceased, were frequent visitors. The house now owned by Mr. John H. Groat was then the home of Miss Harriet Spaulding, and later of Dr. Horton and Dr. James Green. Next thereto was the Hon. William H. Tobey's residence, now owned by his daughter, Mrs. P. V. S. Pruyn. Recalling with delight their long and beautiful rose garden through which many a charming walk was taken, we pass on to note that in Dr. Garnsey's present home lived "Aunt Derike," Martin Van Buren's aged sister, tenderly cared for by her daughters, Mrs. Mary Van Schaack (the widow of Dr. Lucas) and Miss Jane Ann Hoes. The widow of the artist James Johnson lived there later.

Lucas Pruyn, M.D., lived in the present home of Dr. Waterbury. With him were his wife and her aged parents, Captain and Mrs. C. Willsey. Mr. David Van Schaack's home came next. His wife, a daughter of Rev. Dr. Sickles, his sister Christina, and his daughter Anna, who now owns the house, were the inmates of this happy home. The son, John Jay, was in the army. Next was D. Van Schaack's law office; then C. Palmer's Stove, Hardware and Tin store; then the little house of Mrs. Alexander, the pure-blood Narraganset Indian, mother of Richard: and finally "Uncle Lawrence" Van Dyck's small Stationery shop, the place of daily communion with one of the most pure-minded and true-hearted of men, whose memory is cherished with reverence and affection.

On Broad Street within the Corporation are four persons who live where they did in 1864.

HUDSON STREET TO LINDENWALD

As we turn the corner into Hudson Street we give a passing glance to the village park, smaller than now, oval in shape, surrounded with an iron fence the building of which in days of old was a subject of much discussion by the village fathers and taxpayers. In the park was a grand old elm which perished in the village fire, and at the northerly end was the famous town pump. The present granite coping around the enlarged green, as well as the fine watering trough and the ornamental light standards, was the gift of the late Mrs. Peter Bain; the trough a memorial of her father, James Clark.

Where the Kinderhook Knitting Co.'s building now stands there was in 1864 a row of wooden buildings varying in size and of decidedly diverse architecture. Beginning at the corner of Broad Street there was that built by Mr. John Rogers and long occupied by Whiting and Clark. At the corner was the general store of George Ray and then the Hardware store and Post Office kept by James Lathrop and George Reynolds. Next to that was Albert De Myer's Grocery; then G. W. Post's Barber shop, wont to be visited by Martin Van Buren; then C. M. Van Valkenburgh's Harness shop; then Jacob Cook's Hat and Cap store, and finally William Bradley's Hotel. All these buildings and four on Broad Street were destroyed in the memorable fire of 1880. The building beyond, now owned by Mr. Charles M. Bray, wherein are his office and Mr. Steitz's Watch shop, was then the meat market of R. Bigelow. In old times it was the one-story law office of Judge Wilcoxson, Martin Van Buren, P. H. Silvester, etc. Next thereto was the home of Mrs. Amos Ackley, her daughter Lucy and her son Calvin, the Surveyor, Dep. Int. Rev. Collector, Cashier; but popularly the "Colonel." The adjoining house, owned by B. Lillibridge, was

rented to transient tenants. Originally it was of one story and much like the building nearly opposite. Where Mrs. Andrew Hagadorn now lives, the widow of Dr. George Cook, her son Halsey, and her daughters Anna and Ena made a beautiful household soon stricken. Next was the very old house in which lived Squire Wm. Kip, his wife, her sisters,— Mrs. Hobart, Mrs. Winston, Mrs. Dodge (wife of Elisha), and the daughter Virginia. Gertrude had married Judge Cook of Canajoharie, and Mary L. was the wife of D. Murrell of Palatine. The sons Augustus and Clarence were in New York. Mr. Dodge's daughter Isabella was the wife of J. Lathrop, our Hardware merchant and postmaster. On the corner of the lot was Mr. Kip's Watch and Jewelry shop; the building which lately went meandering uncertainly through our streets and had three purchasers before it found a resting-place up Sunset Lane.

In Jer. Scully's present home (for years occupied by the Academy Principal S. Metcalf) lived W. R. Mesick, wife, and daughter Anna who married lawyer A. H. Farrar. Subsequent occupants have been Curtis F. Hoag and Dr. F. T. Woodworth. Mr. Hull's present store was then kept by J. A. Van Bramer; later, by A. D. Van Epps whose son George and daughter Anna (Mrs. D. W. Mesick) now live in Brooklyn. In the house now owned by Chas. Fowler lived our veteran and honored School Commissioner, D. G. Woodin, wife, and daughter; and in the present residence of John Eaton were the widow Devoe and her sons and daughters. Beyond the Methodist Episcopal church, the present parsonage was the home of Samuel H. Brown. It was full of happy boys and girls, two of whom, George H. and Ellsworth, are now carrying on their father's business very greatly extended. One of the daughters, Ida, became the first wife of Mr. Frank S. Hoag; another, Minnie, married R. A. Van Sickler; Carrie married James E. Lamont; and Euretta married Dr. R. L. Raymond. Benson and Robert live in Detroit, and Frank in Hudson.

In the elegant mansion now owned by Mrs. James A. Reynolds, lived the stately gentleman of the old school, General Charles Whiting and his wife, Margaret Rogers, niece of John Rogers. In this, his father-in-law's home, Judge John H. Reynolds and family were wont to spend their summers. It was later their property until bought by Mrs. Peter Bain. The rear part was the plain original building of unknown antiquity. It was owned by Judge Julius Wilcoxson for a time and was the birthplace of the late John Wilcoxson.

On the site of the present home of the Misses Milham, which was built for the late George Reynolds, stood a smaller old house owned by Mr. John A. Groat. It appears in the familiar woodcut of Van Buren's birthplace. Squire Magee's present home, in front of which in old times was the modest inn where Van Buren was born, was in '64 the residence of John Smith, his son Henry and wife, and their interesting family of boys and girls. Among these was the Hon. Judge Sanford W. Smith. In the old Francis Pruyn homestead, then owned by Henry Snyder, more recently by Andrew and Edward Van Buren, then by Mr. Datus C. Smith, and now by Mr. Davie, lived Aaron Coons. The large barn was once the wool warehouse of Blanchard and Burt and stood on Church Street whence it was removed in sections. Traces of its ancient mercantile use are still visible. Below the hill was Herrick's Candle factory and R. Bigelow's slaughter house. The circumambient air was not always like new-mown hay.

As we cross the bridges the shallow water on the right reveals the old fording place. Beyond the bridges on the crest of the hill were the terraced grounds and attractive home of the late E. G. Howard. His sons George and Frederick and his daughter, Emma, were at home. The house was built and long occupied by General Whiting. It is now owned by Mr. Datus C. Smith. Also belonging to Mr. Smith, and greatly improved by him, is what was then



The Van Buren's Elm
Lindenwald Road

From a photograph



At the Turn of the Lindenwald road near the Schoolhouse

From a photograph

the fine home and nursery of Henry Snyder, the father of Theodore and Isaac V. A. Snyder. His also the charming walk to Lovers' Leap, from which how many lovers have despairingly cast themselves no record reveals.

Continuing along the Post Road we note the stately elm, in the shade of which Van Buren was wont to rest his saddle-horse; the 135th milestone from New York; the lawn sloping down to the quaint old Van Alen homestead; the cottage on the left where lived William Whiteman, one of whose daughters might have been Leigh Richmond's "Dairyman's Daughter," we thought; beyond the brook, the home of William C. Miller, known as "Kase why"; nearly opposite, the site of Jesse Merwin's (the Ichabod Crane) schoolhouse; then the Sanford Salpaugh place now belonging to Squire Magee; on the left the now vanished little house of the brothers Ham, the owners of horses too valuable to be used; still beyond, the very attractive homes of Erastus and Sylvester Wagoner on the old Dingman property. With Erastus were his wife and sons, Adam E. and Freeman. The former married Elisabeth Ostrom and is the present owner of Lindenwald. With Sylvester were his wife, daughter Adelaide who married John M. Pultz, and son Elmer, the present owner. He married Ella, daughter of George T. Snyder of Ghent. Their daughter Imogene married Lewis F. son of F. Bion Van Alstyne. The daughter Hazel, the wife of Jay Whitbeck, abides at home.

Next comes Lindenwald, the end of our present walk.

As we turn homeward, we give a passing glance to the Henry I. Dunsbaugh home (formerly Jacob Evert's) perched on the bluff to the left, and when we reach the schoolhouse again note the present home of Mr. J. B. Mairs, then occupied by Tunis, son of W. C. Miller, a house beautiful for situation. As we turn the corner at the then Howard place we note on the road to Chatham the present home of Mr. Williamson and before him of Williamson Tate. In '64, the widow Almira Yager, her son James, now lately deceased, and daughter

Mary who married David Risedorph, were living there. Later, it became the home of Peter Coon whose daughters married Jonas Phelps and the Rev. F. J. Grimes. Still later it was owned by Edwin Langford whose second wife was Kate Magee Miller, sister of John and James Magee and widow of Wm. Miller. Mr. Langford's daughter Elisabeth became the wife of H. D. Lamont, and Kate married Mr. P. Kinnear of Albany.

Recrossing the bridges and trudging up the hill, the first building was H. Sharp's wagon-making shop and beyond it his home, now occupied by his son. In stagecoach days it was one of our numerous inns. In the lane we note the rambling house of E. Risedorph, wagon-maker, etc. His sons were Franklin and George, the former the father of our present Edward, an energetic and successful business man and our variously honored village and town official. The Risedorph home of '64 was later occupied by the father of Wm. B. Howland, recently retired from the management of *The Outlook*. He was for a time the proprietor and editor of our village paper. Here his brilliant journalistic career began. The house is now occupied by Mrs. Tinney. W. Heeney's present house and the next one were then parts of Mr. Risedorph's workshops. Where Stephen Drumm now lives were the home and harness shop of John Finchett. The present home of Mrs. F. Risedorph, Mrs. Patterson, and Miss Van Loan was then occupied, we think, by a Mrs. Pultz whose daughter kept a private school there somewhat earlier. In old times it was one of our more important stagecoach inns, owned in Revolutionary days by Major Isaac Goes (Hoes). On the other corner of William Street (Cow Lane) in the house now occupied by Stephen Hotaling, lived Anthony Marquette. It is the transformed Van Vleck homestead; "Castle" it was at one time called. Here for a few years lived Dr. Philip, the father of Admiral Philip of the *Texas*. Next was the home of William James Clark, now owned by Miss Hover. Mr. Eugene Merwin's present

house belonged at that time to Tobias Van Slyck; and on the Maiden Lane corner, now the home of Tunis Miller and Robert Van Deusen, who married Anna Miller, was the overflowing home of Rhodolphus Graves, the Hatter, whose daughter Pamela recently passed away. On the northerly corner where the homes of lawyer Becker and the late Miss Lant now stand, was the old telescopic residence of Miss Mary Deming. Its site was substantially that of Kinderhook's first church, as early probably as 1677, perhaps earlier. Next to this, where Mr. Winne now lives, was the home of James S. Tobias whose daughters Mary, Carrie, and Anna married respectively, John Birckmayer, H. B. Finch, and C. B. Van Alstyne. In the brick house adjoining lived Rachel Link and later Jane Ann Weaver. The present owner is William Shufelt. Next was the home of C. M. Van Valkenburgh, now owned by Mr. Chas. Merwin. Mr. "Van's" daughter Fannie became the wife of W. A. Higham. Adjoining this was the Laing-Heermance place whereon were living James B. Laing, his widowed sister, Mrs. Catharine Heermance, and her daughters Mary and Ella, the latter of whom married George D. Earll. Mrs. Heermance's son Frank had died; Edgar L. was studying for the ministry, and William L. was rendering valiant service in the army. On a corner of this lot stood a small house in which Mrs. Heermance at one time lived. Mr. John Van Buren subsequently bought it and moved it away. It is now occupied by Mrs. Agnes Rudd and her son Walter. The brick house now owned by Mrs. Susan Holland was in '64 the home of Major Lawrence Van Buren. With him were his daughters Mary and Lucretia and his son Myndert, who married Elsie De Myer. The little building on the same lot is typical of many shops and offices of its time. Tobey and Silvester's office was much like it, and so was the original Lillibridge building, opposite. In the Major's time he used it as the post office for many years. Thereafter it was variously used for shop and dwelling. Next was the Ackley tenement, much more

fully occupied than now. Mr. E. L. Hover's present store was the home of Mr. George Thomas, whose daughter, Ella, became the wife of John Ham, and their daughter, Bertha, the wife of George H. Reynolds. What is now Daniel Herrick's Central House (in part before 1800, the first Academy building) was then kept by Benjamin De Myer.

Our present walk ends with the National Union Bank building, built by Peter Van Vleck many years ago and now occupied by Henry Snyder, son of Theodore. In it cashier William H. Rainey had his home. His wife (Elizabeth Waterman), his son Charles W., who married Margaret See, and his daughter Mary, who married William Wait now of Peekskill, made a household which has a secure place in the loving memory of many.

In our long walk to Lindenwald and back we note four persons as now living where they did in 1864.

CHATHAM STREET TO VALATIE

As we turn into Chatham Street we recall that here until 1818 there was only a narrow lane along the old burying ground on our left. On the northeast corner of the bank lawn there stood in '64 the Grocery store of A. V. D. Witbeck, formerly G. W. Hoxie's. It is now the tenant house near the Bottling works. East of this was Mr. John Powell's Meat Market, now owned by his stepson, Wm. F. Streibeck. The site of the present Village Hall was then a vacant lot. Next thereto was Peter H. Van Vleck's Printing Office. The rear part of Mr. James E. Van Alstyne's present residence was Mr. Van Vleck's home. His wife was Magdalena Van Hoesen. Their daughters Margaret, Kate, and Anna married respectively, Daniel W. Herrick, John K. Pierce, and E. E. Tupper. On the present drive-way of this place stood the Episcopal church, removed in 1868 to Silvester Street.

East of the church a small building had been recently removed to make way for the present house built and then



A View of Valatie



Main Street, Valatie



The Hoes Homestead, Valatie





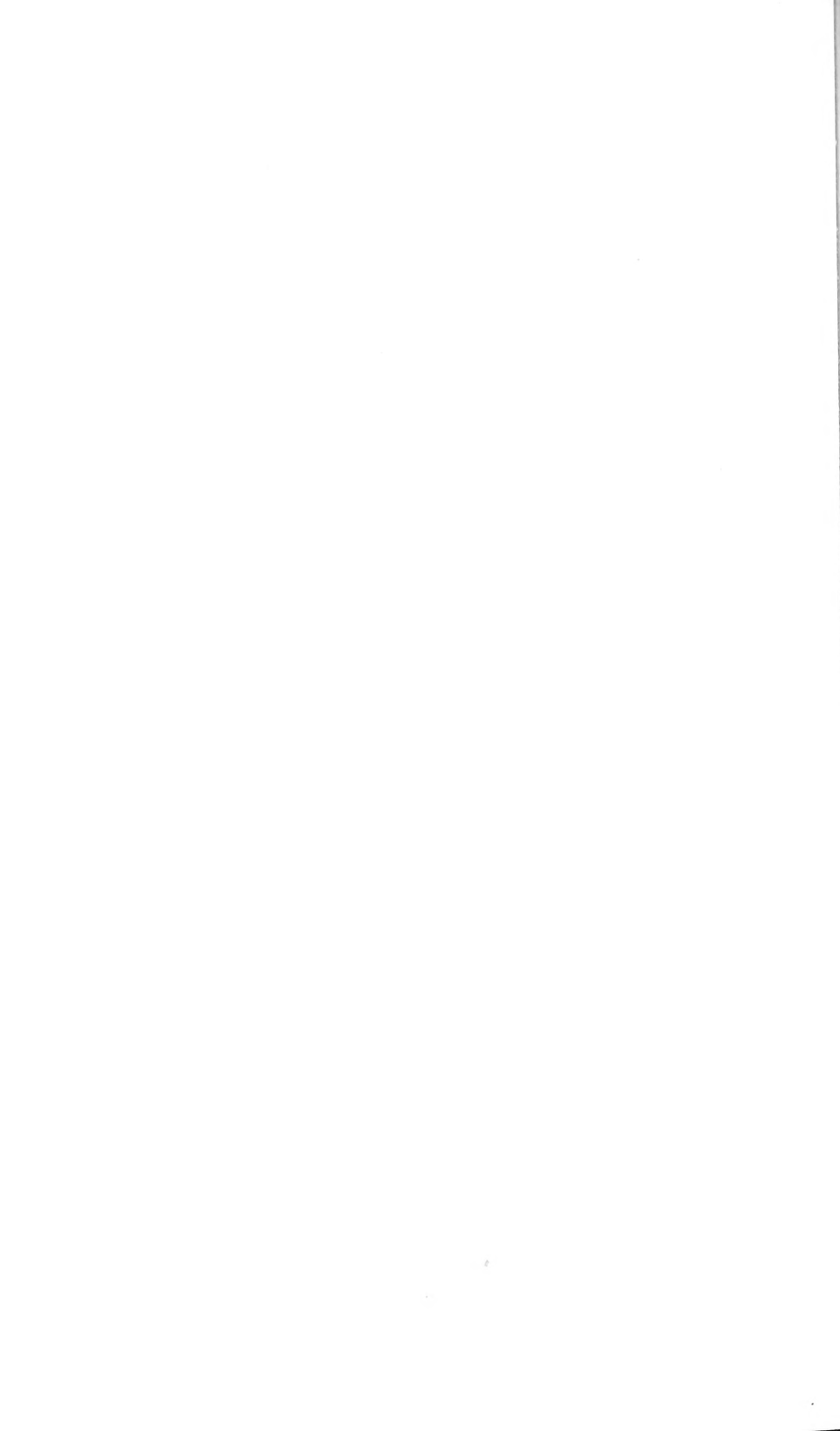
Broad Street

From a photograph



The National Union Bank, Chatham Street

From a photograph



occupied by Michael Feigh. It is now owned by Mrs. Ella Herrick Witbeck, but occupied by our Grocery store-keeper, Mr. E. L. Hover, the only son of Eugene Hover. Near here in old times stood what was probably Kinderhook's second village schoolhouse already described.

Where grandsons now live and continue the business, Mr. Lorenzo Griffen had his home and was serving the community in his own faithful way. His boots and shoes were renowned for excellent workmanship. His character and interest in all things good won universal confidence and respect. James Hover, we think, was then living in the house now belonging to our respected builder and friend Tunis Devoe. The latter married Mary C. McAllister of Stuyvesant. Their sons were Earl (deceased), Frank, and George. The last named married Lilian Krelberg, whose twin children, George and Lilian, are now a joy to behold. The daughter Mildred became the wife of Mr. H. V. Hitchcock of New York. In the next house, now occupied by Miss Ensign (the kindergartner) and her mother, lived Jacob Cook. He was one of the most upright, genial, and lovable of men, on whom for many years and by almost unanimous consent all manner of village civic and judicial honors were bestowed. His wife was Catharine Van Slyck. Their son, Charles, married Amanda Livingston, sister of Mrs. George Cannady.

The house now occupied by Fred. Couse was the home of John Hoes, the blacksmith, his wife, son Edgar, and daughter Caroline. His anvil in the shop directly opposite was usually pleasantly resonant except when the painfulness of his corns led him to declare, as he often did, that the world was coming to an end. The building now a saloon was then the quiet home of "Jennie" Van Alen. Her front garden extended well out into the present street and was filled with trees and shrubs and all kinds of old-fashioned flowers for which we have a liking still. In early times the house was a Vosburgh homestead.

As we cross William Street we recall that it was originally the old Post Road which turned up near the present Bain-Snyder house and came out near the Albany Southern Station. The house in which Mr. George Tracey now lives was in '64 the home of Reuben Head, his son Edwin, and daughter. Later, it became the property of Mr. Eugene Hover and the birthplace of Mr. E. L. Hover. Eugene was living in '64 in the present Chris. Becker's home on William Street. Mr. Tracey built the large blacksmith shop adjoining, and his son, George W., is our well-known poultry specialist, active politician, and honored citizen, and now our postmaster.

On the site of Joseph Dahm's present home stood the much smaller one of his father, Henry Joseph, and his good wife. His garden was with good reason his pride, and we remember with joy our frequent visits there. His son Joseph was in the army. Beyond this was the home of John Powell, wont to boast of his ability to "run out," as he usually did, all other butchers who invaded his territory.

On the right there was then no other building until the flats were crossed and the bluff beyond ascended, where stood Dr. Abbott's home. Manufacturing, in which he was then engaged, was yielding about the highest war-time returns, and he was greatly prospering. So also was his neighbor across the road, Mr. Jeremiah Carpenter. He and his gentle sweet-spirited wife were of one mind as regards all manner of gracious charities until sad reverses came, which the soon widowed wife bore with uncomplaining resignation. Their son Samuel W. had married a daughter of the Rev. Wm. Whittaker. Mr. J. Carpenter's daughter was the first wife of Mr. George D. Earll.

Returning, we note on the right and adjoining the Carpenter (now Wolverton) place the James Vosburgh house. Back from the road was the home and nursery of Mr. Lyon whose daughter married John D. Van Alen and, later, Mr. Curtis F. Hoag. Recrossing the flats we come to the Asa Gillett farm. His daughter married Wm. G. Russell. The

son James was also at home. The farm was owned later by Mr. A. H. Farrar and is now the property of Mr. Wm. I. Thomson. Next we note the home of Jonathan Head whose daughter married Chas. J. Gordon and whose granddaughter Ella became the wife of Lincoln Lasher. Widow Moyca Huyck Bain and her daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, were in the next very attractive home: Mr. Robert Wild and his wife, Julia Bain, were still in Rochester. Their daughter Florence married Mr. Barent Snyder, son of Theodore, and now of Rochester. Beyond this was John Hoes's blacksmith shop as already stated. It stood in front of the then unbuilt home of Mrs. Philip Birckmayer (Elizabeth Green), her son Harold, our efficient bank teller, and, until recently, her daughter Mabel who married George Pierce of Pittsfield. Beyond this lived the widowed mother of "Count" Fitch, the magnificent. We have not forgotten his effusive invitations to occupy his pew in Grace Church, New York, nor his observance of an old custom of having a feast for bearers and others after a funeral. One feast we remember was a huge watermelon. His house of supposedly lordly splendor in those days is now the home of Mrs. Barent Stolliker. Next to the Count's was the home of Cornelius ("Case") Hoes, a brother of John and his assistant, especially when the former's corns made toil seem superfluous. Mr. John Groat's present Feed store was the workshop of Anthony I. Loomis, the Marble cutter. His home was above. Honest old Philip Birckmayer was the undertaker and furniture dealer of the village and lived where his son John lives now and where he carries on his father's business. Another son, Philip, Jr., died a few years since. On the site of the village school stood a transformed barn, then a tenement, with its gable end to the street, and occupied by several families. Where our efficient deputy postmaster William A. Roraback now lives and serves the public, Mr. L. S. Rexford had his home and Watch and Jewelry store. Miss Harriet Dibble's present home was owned by William Weed, one

of our village tailors. The long sloping roof in the rear proclaims it one of our older houses. It was originally a store, built before 1828 by the Van Vleck brothers or their father.

The home of Mr. John Trimper, our obliging shoe dealer, where in wintry weather we always expect to see flowers which no one else has, was then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George Patterson and Elizabeth Hoes; and in Miss McDowell's present Notion shop John Van Loan had his tailoring establishment. Where Mr. Avery now dispenses panaceas for all ills, Humphrey and Wiley were selling dry goods in '64. The store is one of our old landmarks. Built and occupied in the first instance by the Van Vlecks it later became the property of Mr. John Bain. Bain and Birge, and J. and P. Bain were the business firms for several years, and among the many occupants within our recollection we think of Ten Broek and Niles, George Murrell, Eugene Hover, Amos W. Ball, now of Chatham, and others. In this walk to Valatie and back we find one person living where he did in 1864.

ALBANY AVENUE TO THE CEMETERY

As we turn from Chatham Street into Albany Avenue we are walking through the westerly portion of the old burying ground which extended over a part at least of the site of the corner store.

The fine old mansion on the right, belonging to Mr. Edward Risedorff, was built by Henry Van Vleck. In '64 it was the home of the widow of Mr. John Bain and of her son-in-law, Isaac V. A. Snyder, who had married her daughter Mary. The subsequent coming of Mrs. H. B. Doolittle (the widow of Dr. Doolittle of Herkimer and the sister of John and Hugh Bain), and the sunshine she brought with her added to Mrs. Snyder's own brightness, made this a radiant home. The recent brilliant wedding of Florence Risedorff

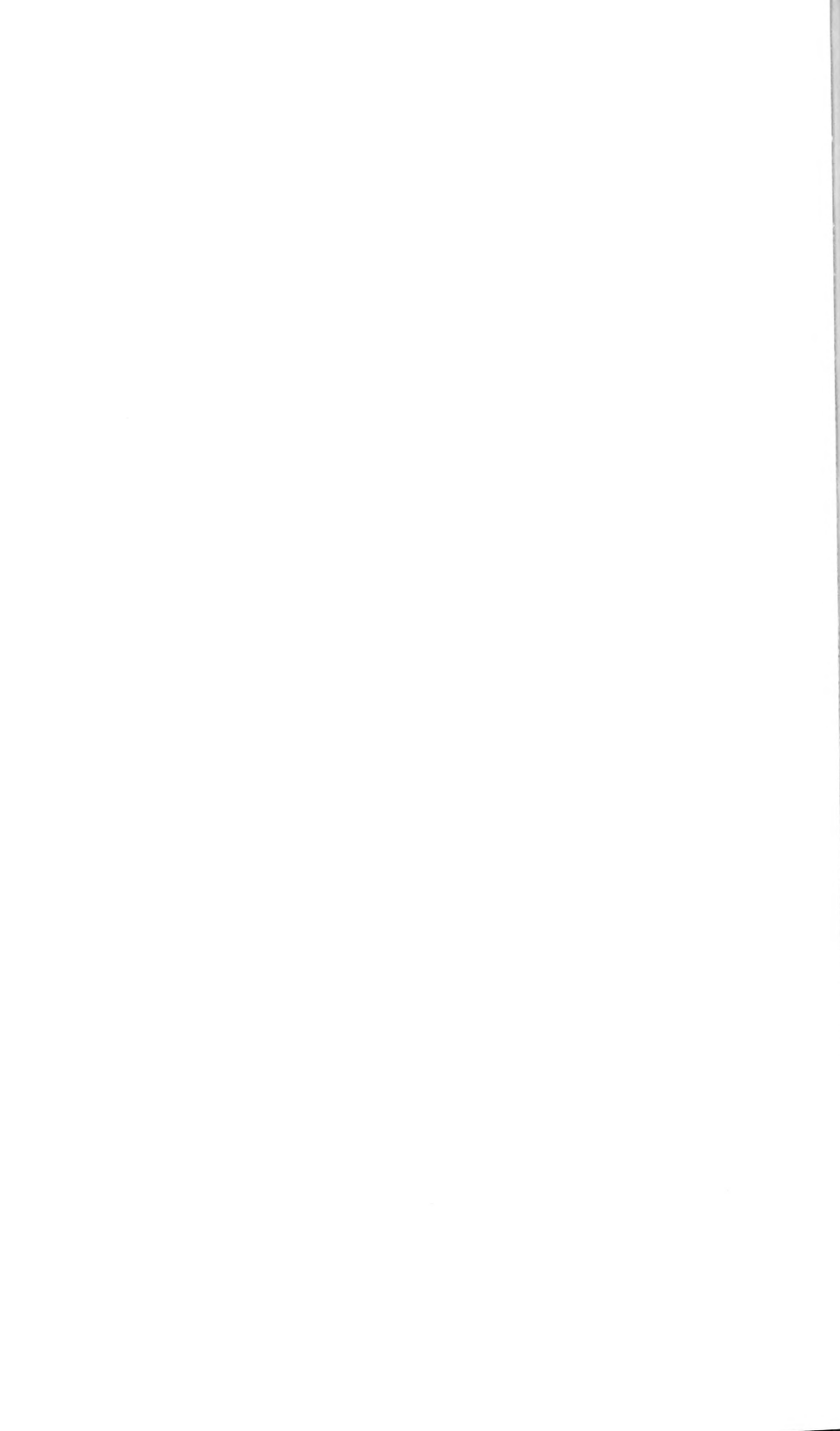


Broad Street in Winter

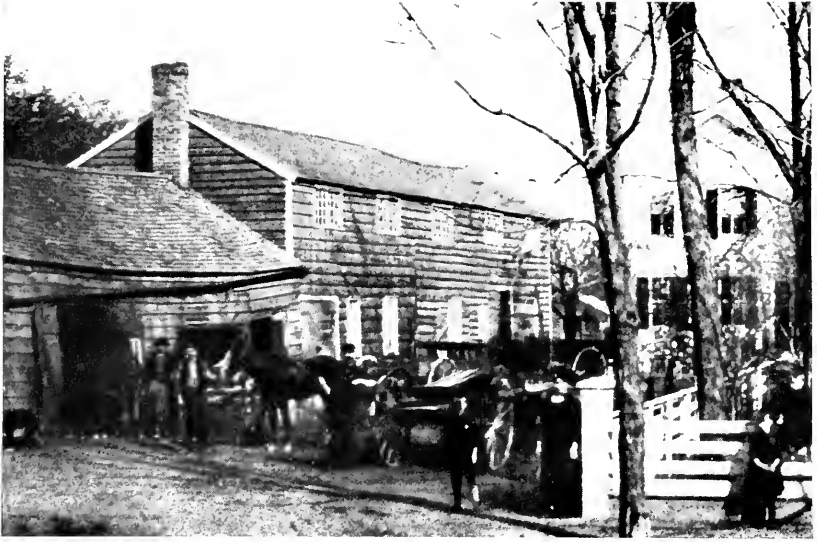


Albany Avenue

From a photo by W. Kline

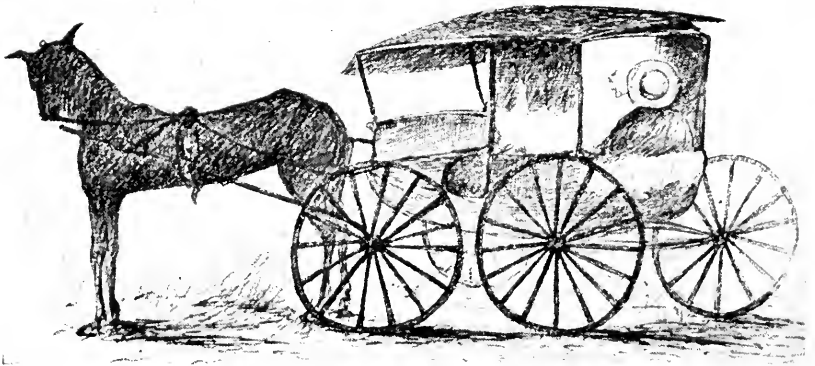






The Stagecoach Blacksmith Shop

From an old photograph



Mike Clancy and his Kinderhook-Hudson Mail Carrying Outfit, in the Seventies

From an old sketch by Harold Van Santvoord

and Dr. Charles Dayton of Brooklyn will be long remembered. On the adjoining lot, now owned by Mr. E. Milham, stood the house lately removed by Mr. Adam Wagoner and placed beyond the blacksmith shop of Mr. Carr. In it lived widow Bradley, the mother of Francis and William. Later, it was occupied by Mr. J. A. Van Bramer. In the next house lived the Hon. Charles L. Beale of whom we have elsewhere written. His wife, son Charles, and daughters, Jessie and Eloise, made a charming household. Later, the place became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan, the latter the daughter of William Bradley. It is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. E. Milham, the latter, Miss Ella M. Isbister of Ghent. Their son, Willis I., is an honored Professor of Astronomy in Williams College, and the author of several volumes of profound scholarship. Beyond this was the home of the widow Groat and her daughters, Judith, Sarah, and Harriet, all of them successful teachers in the Academy, in public schools, and in the wing of their own home where many of our boys and girls, now men and women, received their primary education. The daughter Judith Ann subsequently married Captain Bartholomew Pruyn who spent his latest years and died in this home. In the house beyond, where Mr. Keeler now lives, Peter Van Slyck then had his home, and in the blacksmith shop, burned some years since, which stood near and with its gable end toward the street, he plied his trade. The shop was a very important one in stagecoach days and the work of the "smithy" much more varied than now.

In the present home of Irving Sanford and Lewis Rose lived the venerable Teunis Harder, his son-in-law Dr. Daniel Sargent and wife (Catharine C. Harder), Tunis Sargent their son, and Lena their daughter who married William H. Atwood, for some years a resident lawyer who subsequently moved to Lincoln, Nebraska. In old times it was the home of and probably built by Aaron Van Vleck. The next house now occupied by Mr. Thomas M. Kittell,

was then the home of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher H. Wendover and their large and happy family. The mother was Lucretia, a daughter of Teunis Harder. The children were—Sargent, Edward, William, Hester, Maria A., and Anna K. who became the wife of the late B. T. Harris of Saugerties. It was a shock to the whole community when within a short time in the summer of '70, Sargent, Hester, and Maria were carried away by fever, two others being very ill. Sargent Wendover, Frank Van Santvoord, and Isaac Van Alstyne, all taken within a short period, were a group of choice young men and intimates. William is an honored physician in Warwick, Edward (lately deceased) married the widow of Mr. S. W. Carpenter. The father and son were interested in the Canoe cotton mill, Valatie, when the business reaction came with its disastrous results to so many. Christopher H. Wendover and his brother-in-law, Dr. Sargent, were for some years in the freighting and storehouse business at the Landing. In later years this home was that of Mr. James M. Hawley, our genial druggist and groceryman. Of his daughters—Julia B. married Isaac V. A. Snyder (son of Theodore) now of Rochester; Anna married A. P. Boller of East Orange; Katharine married George Waterman of Poughkeepsie. The present home of Mr. George Raughtmaker was, in '64, that of three maiden sisters of Mr. Abram A. Van Alen of Stuyvesant Falls; Christina, Helen, and Catharine. The house beyond, was then the home of a Tanner family, and the next one near the old church was that of the accomplished Misses Strong who soon moved away.

The long-abandoned Baptist church, now a tenement belonging to the Guion estate, has received due notice hitherto. The large barn near it and lately removed by Mr. Keegan was an old-time industrial building of varied uses. Examining the uncovered site we found the stone foundation of a forge and dug up bits of cinders. We think it was the "Foundry" of which we read in our earlier papers. Beyond this, the present Rural Life Office was the office of the brick



The Grove

From a photo by W. Kline



The Cemetery, Begun in 1817

From a photo by Miles Miller



cotton mill of Hoes and Chrysler, George D. Earll, and E. R. Handy. The mill stood near the present Station, and was burned, May 5, '82.

Passing the unoccupied land now belonging to Mr. Morrell we come to our attractive Grove purchased in 1862 of Dr. Beekman; and next thereto to the cemetery bought by the Consistory of the Dutch church of the same owner, but in successive sections. Going on among literally hundreds of monuments of those whom "we have loved and lost awhile," we come to the grave of Martin Van Buren. For a moment's rest and diversion of thought we read with interest what was presumably his own loving tribute to his father, Captain Abraham Van Buren, farmer and innkeeper of old, and also that to his mother. If not written by him, as we may assume, they were certainly approved, and they give us a glimpse of his heart which we have not had before. We quote the former:

SACRED

to the memory of Capt. Abraham Van Buren, who died on the eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord, 1817, in the eighty first year of his age. He was tender and indulgent to his family, benevolent and charitable to all around him; and moreover a good man whose upright heart, mild temper and conciliatory manners secured to him what he liked to reciprocate—the good will and friendship of all. He died in full reliance upon the grace of God through the mediatory sacrifice of Christ for his salvation.

Lands that beneath a burning sky
 Have long been desolate and dry,
 Th' effusions of his love shall share,
 And sudden greens and herbage wear.

The tribute to the mother is of like spirit.

Behind the Van Buren shaft we observe the graves of John I. (J) Van Alen and his two wives. In early life he was

Old Kinderhook

a sea-farer, and was known to us as Captain John. His home for some years was in what was the F. S. Hoag, now the widow Clark house on the Eykebush Road. He lived to be ninety-three years old and must have been about eighty-seven when we first knew him. He is remembered as a remarkably well-preserved old gentleman, courtly in his bearing, faultlessly, almost foppishly, dressed, and renowned for his admiration for fair women. Indeed he regarded the adjective "beautiful" as inapplicable to anything save women. The stone to his first wife bears this inscription:

Underneath this stone doth lie
As much virtue as could die,
Which when alive did vigor give
To as much beauty as could live.

Profoundly moved by this tribute, which his second wife fully appreciated no doubt, we recall an inscription to be seen on a stone in one of our old-time private burying grounds. Premising that the deceased was a young woman and not an auctioneer, we quote one impressive line:

I'm going, I'm going, I'm going, I'm gone.

And so are we.

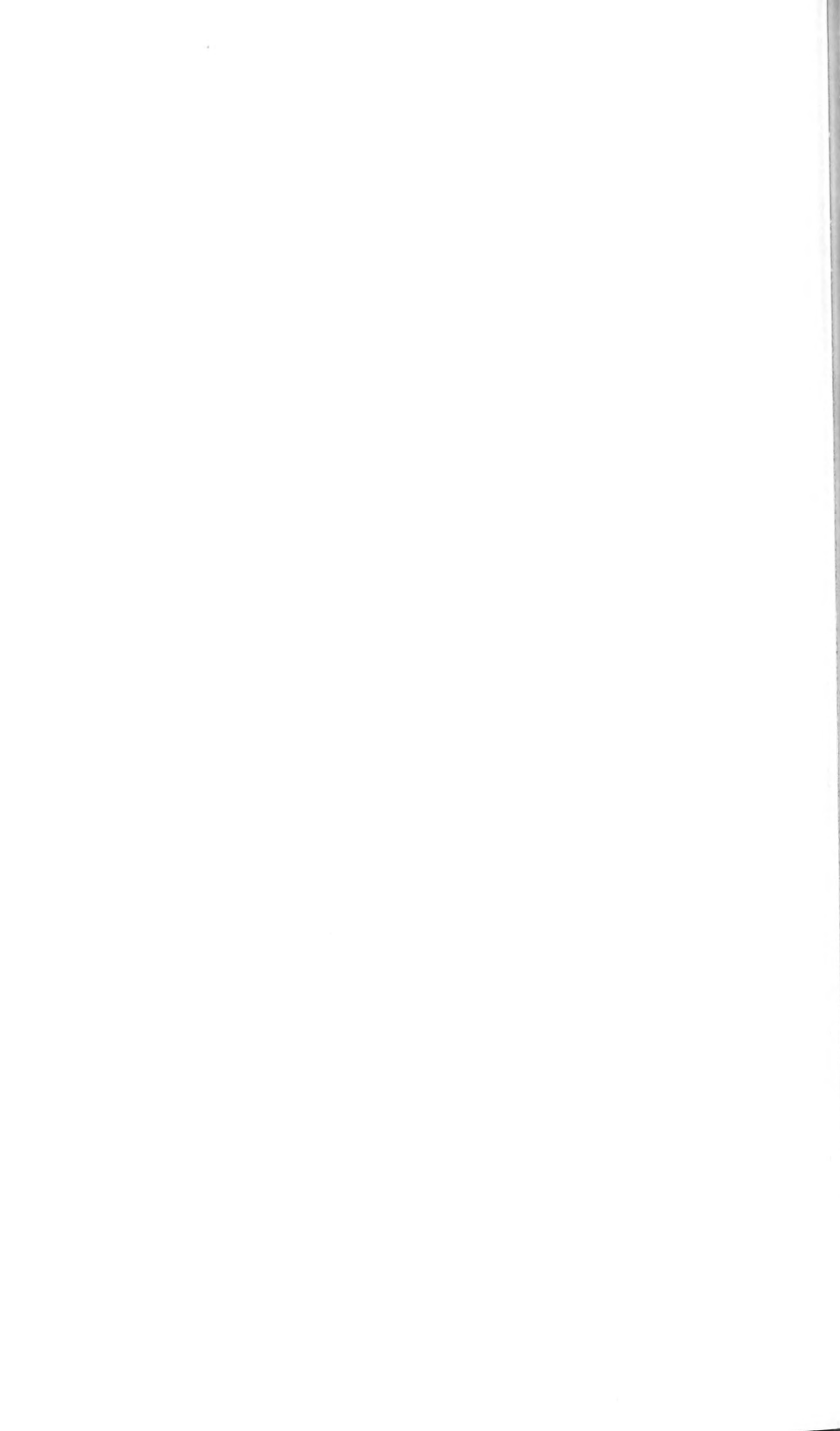
As we turn away we now note, although not then in existence, the substantial costly mausoleum erected by Mrs. Peter Bain and beyond it the fine Earll monument; the striking shafts in the Van Alstyne-Hosford plot; the unsurpassed Vanderpoel stone; the exquisite replica of Powers's "Angel at the Sepulchre" which marks the grave of John, son of Dr. John Vanderpoel; the shaft bearing the profile of the honored physician, and then pass out, observing on either hand many and many a beautiful memorial to those whose memory we tenderly cherish; not overlooking on the left the modest stone to Jesse Merwin, the prototype of Ichabod Crane, and the more imposing monuments to notable members of our old families.



L. L. Morrell's House



The Flats from the Grove



Crossing the avenue we note that the new cemetery so rapidly filling, was not then (1864), nor until many years thereafter, in existence; the purchase of the land being long opposed in Consistory because there would be insufficient demand for lots, it was supposed, to justify the purchase. We have stood with the sorrowing beside seven hundred and ninety graves within fifty years. Crossing Albany Avenue for our return walk we note, adjoining the present new cemetery, what was in '64 the well-filled home of the Steitz family, later that of John Ritz, and now of James Miller who married Mr. Ritz's daughter. We are interested in this house as being the transformed store which for many years stood on the old Bank corner and was kept by a long succession of merchants, notably Peter Van Buren, Peter I. Hoes, and John Wilcoxson. In the next house now occupied by Floyd Clapper, lived the overflowing Merritt family. It was later the home of George Welch and later still of Asa Gillett. In the home of the late John MacPherson, his wife Mary, and daughter Nellie, lived the aged Mrs. Tittimore. Later, the place was owned by Miss Sarah Van Buren. Mr. Garvey's present residence was that of the Kellerhouse family. Alexander Rapp's home was that of William Green. In the next house, that of Augustus Bauer who succeeded his veteran father as one of our barbers, William Van Valkenburgh, the painter, then lived. His adjoining two-story shop was subsequently torn down. On the roadside we note with interest the 137th milestone of stagecoaching days.

In the beautiful present residence of L. L. Morrell, our enterprising and successful fruit culturist, and his daughter Alice whose mother was Jane the daughter of Hugh Van Alstyne, J. P. Chrysler, builder and mill owner, then lived. His wife was Mary Hallenbeck. Their son, Frank, a well-known manufacturer of Albany, but recently died. Miss Elizabeth Van Loan was a member of the family. In later years the place was purchased by Hugh Van Alstyne.

Crossing Sunset Lane we came to the home of Mrs. Mary

Murphy, now owned by Mrs. William Van Hoesen. Where Stephen Kling and his son-in-law Miles Miller and their families now live, Dominick Richelieu's family had their home; but he was serving in the 91st Regiment, 5th Army Corps. In the house now occupied by another of our village barbers, Mr. William Hover, Harlan Ham was then living.

Crossing the electric railway, of the possible coming of which none dreamed, in Henry Krelberg's present home Mrs. Ann Hinman was then living. Near this house in Revolutionary days was the home of lawyer J. C. Wynkoop, an ardent patriot, which was burned at midnight, as elsewhere narrated.

Rose Cottage, the house now occupied by Mrs. Reilly, was in '64 the home of Mrs. Covington Guion and her beautiful daughters, one of whom married James Burt and another the Rev. Albert Z. Gray. There also was the son, Covington, who was sadly taken in early youth.

The home of our respected builder, the late Mr. George W. Wilkins who has worn so many civic, fraternal, and other honors, his wife (Mary Birckmayer), son George, and his daughters, Mabel, Kathryn, and Laura who married Allen J. Thomas, was in '64 the abode of Mr. Peter D. Philip, a notable lover of flowers. Walking with him along his carefully tended borders skirting his front path, we often communed with him concerning his flowers until (to quote favorite expressions of his) he completed his "meandering to the tomb," and his "brittle thread of life" was broken.

The house now occupied by Mrs. Anthony Raughtmaker and daughters was built in later years by the Rev. Wilson Ingalls and occupied by him until his death. Next thereto was the Academy, now Grange Hall, of which we have written. We have also stated that the three succeeding dwellings were at that time one large building, the Academy boarding-house, occupied by Principal Calkins; and that later the building was bought by Mr. P. S. Hoes and divided

into three houses; the two nearest Grange Hall being the front, and the third the rear extension of the original building. The present occupants we note as being Mrs. McLaughlin, Asa Gage, and Mrs. P. V. B. Hoes and her half-sister, Miss Mary C. Miller, both of countless gracious ministries.

The home of Mrs. Catharine McDowell and her daughters Margaret and Mary, was then the property of the late Mr. Thomas Beekman, but with a life occupancy by the Misses Maria, Catharine, and Elizabeth, daughters of Henry Van Vleck. Living with them from early childhood, until her marriage to Mr. P. E. Van Alstyne, was Margaret V. S. Pruyn, third daughter of Dr. John M. Pruyn. The house adjoining, curiously built of boards laid flat on top of one another, and now belonging to the Dutch Reformed Church, and until lately occupied by the Rev. C. W. Burrowes, was the home of our stationer, John C. Sweet. His wife (Jane Pruyn), his son John who soon died, and his daughter, Ella, who married Mr. G. S. Collier, made a memorable and beloved household. Next to this, the house now owned and occupied by Mr. F. B. Van Alstyne, was the home of Miss Jane Van Alstyne ("Aunt Jane") and her friend Miss Eliza Van Vleck. Later, it was the home of Mrs. Sarah A. (Van Vleck) Johnson, the widow of the artist, James E. Johnson, and then of Mrs. Tompkins and her son, now the Rev. E. D. G. Tompkins. Next thereto was an office building, in earlier years occupied by Lucas Hoes who owned the property at the time. It was later removed as stated hitherto. In the dwelling, built probably by Lucas Hoes, lived Francis W. Bradley, his wife Christina Harder (sister of N. W. and W. H.), and their children, Kate, Mary, and Frank. October 22, '74, Kate married James A. Reynolds, and died November, 20, '96. Their children were Charles W. who died July 9, 1911, and F. Bradley Reynolds who in '06 married Helen Cushing Perry of N. Y. They and their five-year old boy reside in Minetto, Oswego Co.

Frank Bradley lives in New York. The adjoining home

in which we find Miss Mary Best, was, in '64, the abode of the aged Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Best and their daughters, Sarah and Mary. Before them Dr. John A. Van Alen lived there. In the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palmer (Caroline Thomas) lived the father of the former, Mr. Charles Palmer, and his then invalid wife who soon departed. Mr. Palmer was long the keeper of the well-known Hardware, Stove and Tin shop on Broad Street. After his death the business was conducted by his son Frank until the sale of it to Gage and Merwin, now Gage Brothers. Mr. and Mrs. Monthie's present home was then that of Mrs. Shaver and daughter. The house where the Kennedy sisters live was occupied by our corner storekeeper, Mr. Humphrey. On the proposed site of a "Masonic Temple" stood a building now taken down, which in '64 was the home of Mr. Marcus Reid, beyond which was that of Mr. L. B. Flagler. The latter's store was full of all kinds of healing herbs and redolent with the odors of Araby the blest and sundry other regions. The house in which C. B. Van Alstyne, his wife (Anna Tobias), and daughter Harriet now live, had just been sold by Mr. P. Caulfield to Mr. John Van Buren. In a part of this building in later years Miss Kate Johnson kept a Grocery and was succeeded in the business by Rachel Vosburgh and Mr. Van Alstyne, the present owner. Adjoining this was Dr. Luke Pruyn's office in a small building which in '59 had been moved from its original site near the Central House, and was subsequently moved again and made the rear part of Lawrence Trimper's house on William Street. Reaching the old Bank corner again we recall three persons as now living where they did in 1864.

SILVESTER STREET, CHURCH STREET, AND THE EYKEBUSH ROAD

Wearied by our walk of about twelve miles we sit in our sanctum now and let memory bring before us a few homes other than those noted on the preceding pages.

On Silvester Street, the beautiful place which Mr. Sheldon Norton greatly improved and subsequently sold to Mrs. L. F. Payn, to be the home of her mother Mrs. John E. Heath and daughter, was in '64 the ancestral home of Miss Margaret Silvester and her nephew Francis, of both of whom we have written heretofore. In the Episcopal Rectory opposite, now occupied by Rev. Mr. Jager, lived the Rev. George Zabriskie Gray, later Dean of the Cambridge Divinity School, and our own valued friend from college days. A year or two later it was occupied by the widow of Mr. Wm. C. Miller of Albany, her daughter Anna, who married P. V. B. Hoes; her stepdaughter Mary C. Miller, and her sisters,—Ann, Mary, and Helen Hickox, the second of whom became the third wife of Mr. Hugh Van Alstyne. The house owned by the late Mrs. Barent Van Alstyne, now by Mr. Morrell, was then occupied by the builder Mr. Bigelow. In the corner house, now the property of the widow of the late Edwin A. Bedell, lived the widow Joanna Van Boskerck and her sisters, Phebe and Sarah Manton. There was no man in the house, but a man's silk hat was on the hat-rack as a terror to burglars.

The attractive house opposite, "The Château," was the happy home of the brothers and sisters, Henry, Augustus W., Mary, and Elizabeth Wynkoop. Henry married Agnes L. C. Albrecht. They have one daughter, Elwina von Lippe, and one son, R. S. Wynkoop. Augustus W. married Anna T. Talcott. Their children are: Augustus Talcott, who lives in New York City; Anna Strong, who married Dr. George H. Torney, of Brookline, Mass.; and Charles Barton Wynkoop, who lives in Utica. Mr. George H. Brown's present residence was the home of our Stuyvesant Stage proprietor, Barent Van Slyck, and originally the second Academy. Among his successors we recall—John E. Devoe James Membert and his son-in-law James Michael. The brick building, an old-time blacksmith shop, was H. D. Hinman's cooper shop. In the rear of the church was the

District schoolhouse, not remarkable for its attractiveness.

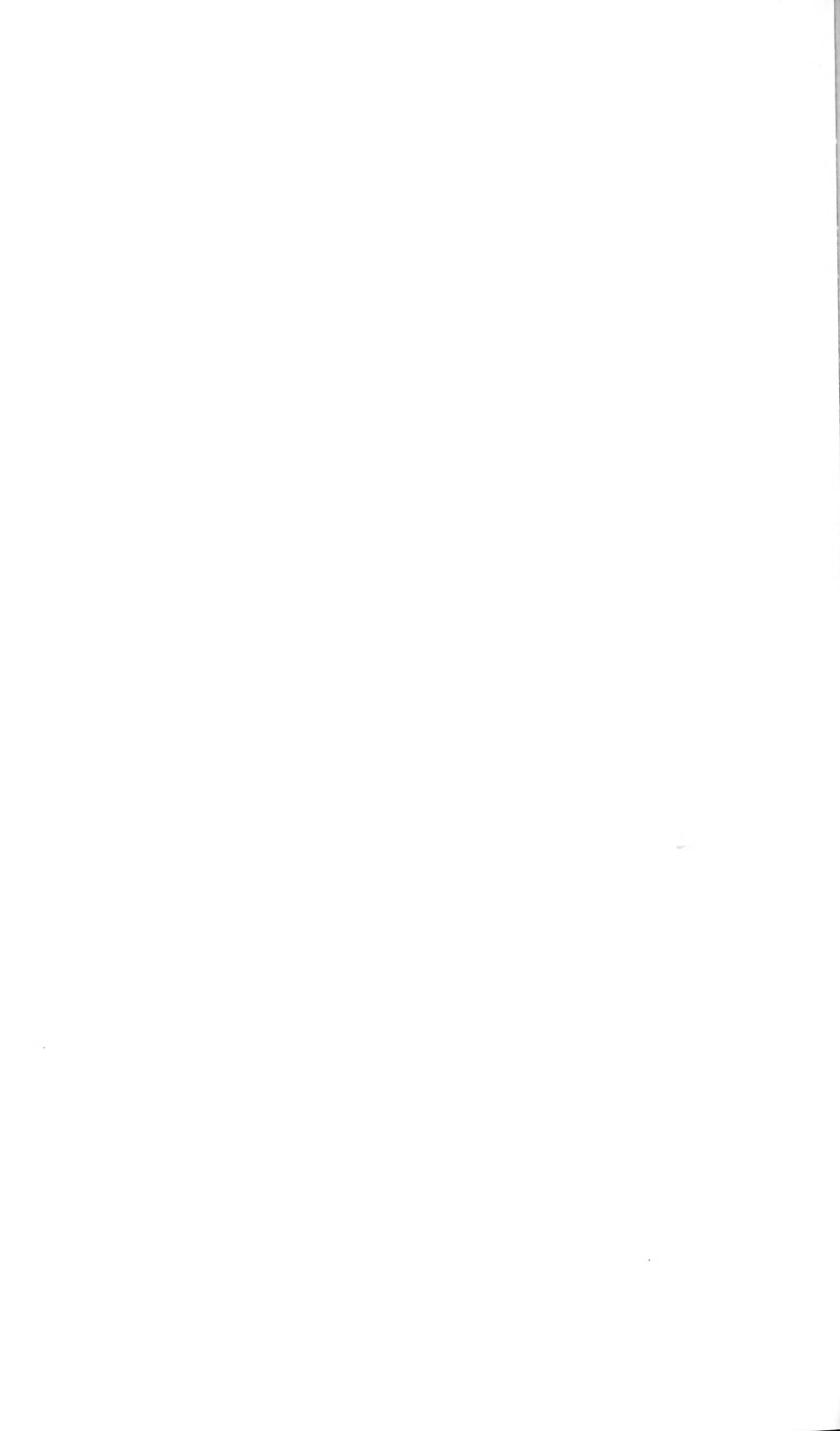
On the Eykebush Road, the place lately owned by F. S. Hoag, now by Mrs. Clark, was the residence of cashier Guion. It was purchased later by Mr. Asa Hoag, the father of Curtis W. and Frank S. The cottage now belonging to Mr. Morrell was occupied by the brothers Peter and Henry Van Alen. Soon thereafter it became the home of Mr. Alfred Rockefeller, Engineer, U. S. Navy. What we knew in later years as the Reeve place was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob F. Platner. It was originally a Manton homestead. The Platner-Bray farm, a mile or more beyond, was in Revolutionary times a part of the Bidwell estate. The house was built about that time or earlier. On our way thither, however, beyond the crossroad leading to the old-time homes of Mr. E. P. Best, the Van Valkenburghs, and Mr. Levi Shufelt's, we must enter the drive-way at the left and note the substantial brick house, its former cupola seen from afar in every direction, which Mr. Levi Milham built in '58 and occupied until his death. This thrifty farmer, his wife (Anna M. Wagoner), his sons Albert and Edmund, and his daughters Melinda, Ella who married Mr. Jesse P. Van Ness, Anna who became the wife of Mr. J. L. Smith, and Adelaide, were a memorable household. After the death of the parents and the removal of the unmarried sisters to the village, the house remained vacant for several years, Mr. Edmund Milham preferring to occupy the smaller home down the lane. Here in '64 lived Mr. and Mrs. John Hagedorn, now residing on Church Street. This house also was originally a Manton homestead. Mr. Alfred T. Ogden, the recent purchaser of the entire Milham estate, has very greatly improved and beautified it and has made the house and grounds among the most attractive in this whole region. He, his wife (Sophronia Wisner), and two children have a beautiful home. They are one of the several new families whom it is a joy to welcome after so many years of steady loss of population.



L. Milham—A. T. Ogden House



The Parsonage of the Reformed Dutch Church



To note all those living in regions beyond would require many pages, but we see from afar the home of the brothers William and John MacPherson (birthplace of Admiral Philip whose father and grandfather are buried in our cemetery), later owned by Samuel Fowler; the blacksmith shop and house of William Gardner; and successively the homes of—John C. MacPherson; Henry Hoes; Peter Eaton; William Gillett; back of J. MacPherson's present house the Lambert Vosburgh homestead now gone; the homes of James Magee, Samuel Van Ness, Tony Harder, Jeremiah Manton (the old Arent Van Dyck now Lewis F. Van Alstyne place), Aaron Gillett, L. H. Van Alen, A. L. Schermerhorn Aaron Van Alen (the fine old dwelling of his father, Lucas I.), Philip Van Ness; and then in succession, west of the schoolhouse, the homes of the brothers Joseph, James P., Andrew, and A. P. Van Alstyne, the last named being the Melgert Melgertse Vanderpoel house of 1717. To the east of this region we observe the homes of N. W. Harder (now owned by Mr. Waterman); Andrew Michael; George M. Harder; the widow of Frank Smith; Peter Harder, Sr.; the widow of John Pruyn, with whom were her children Jane and Frank and granddaughter Kate; Abraham Harder; I. P. Van Alen; Peter Harder, Jr.; the Pultz brothers; L. E. Fellowes (now owned by A. H. Snyder); the widow of Dr. Jos. W. Smith, Jr. (Mary M. Best), later Mrs. E. G. Miner, now Bishop Nelson's; and finally the home of Norton Pockman and that of widow Best, adjoining the cemetery. In this wide sweep we note but four as in the same home to-day. On the Kleine Kill Road we recall only P. H. Bain (son of Hugh), John K. Pierce, and Isaac, son of James Bain, as then in their present homes.

Here our long story must end although so incomplete and inadequate. The glory of Kinderhook is in the past. Few if any towns of its size in the State have made more numerous or more notable contributions to the learned professions and to every department of public life. "There

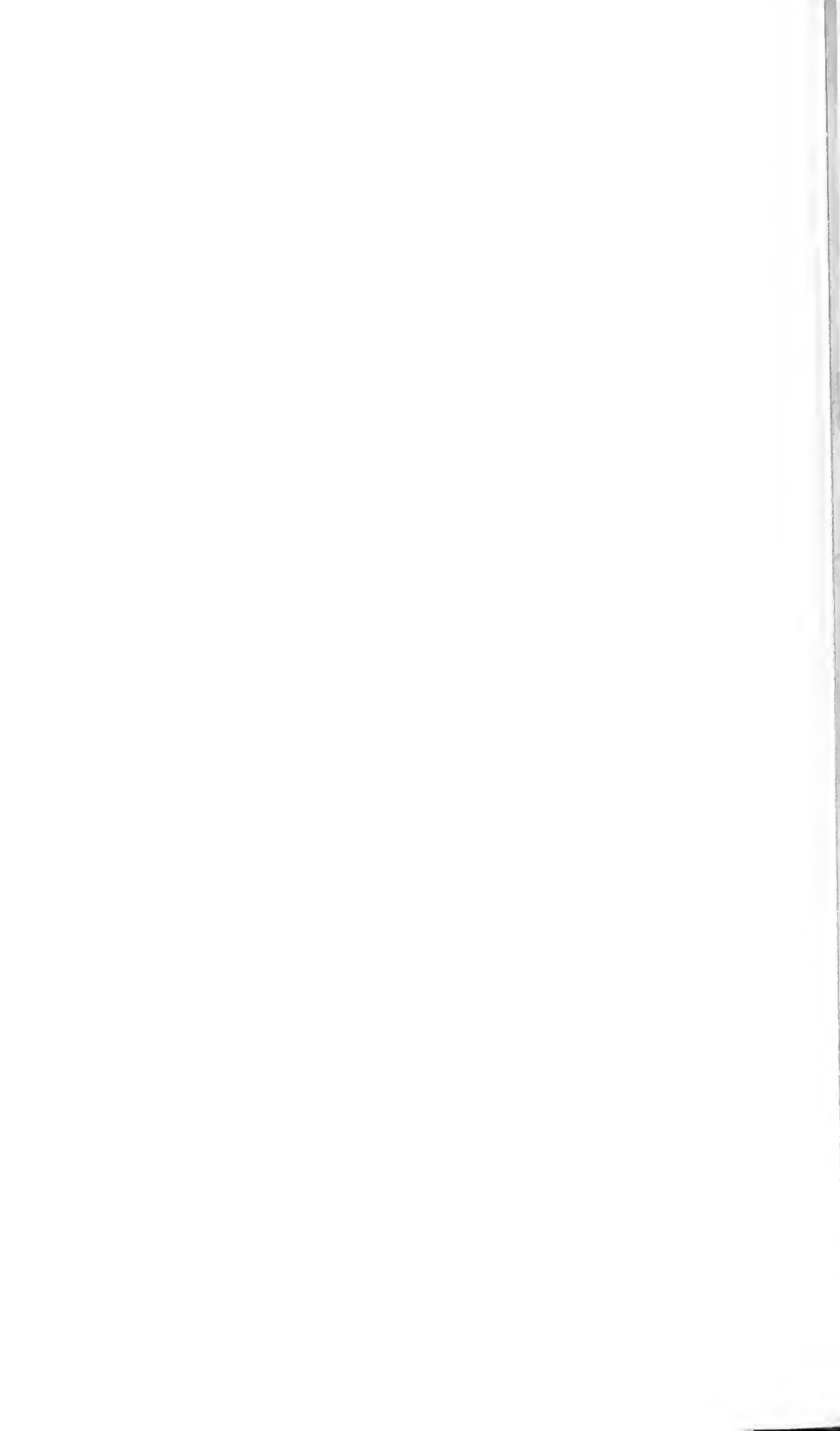
were giants in those days." But changing conditions, as in the case of all other towns similarly situated, have had their inevitable results. Not in population, nor business, nor wealth, is the town what it once was and probably never will be again. But the village is still of rare beauty, never in fact more attractive than now; and its people are to a large degree as intelligent, cultivated, and refined as ever they were.

Happily, in recent years, the new Lure of the Country has drawn a considerable number of most desirable families to our inviting farms. We hail their coming and hope that they and their children, together with the lingering remnants of the grand old families of Kinderhook, will behold an era of new prosperity and splendor for our beloved Children's Corner.



A Faithful Soldier, Sexton, and Friend, Andrew Hagadorn and his Helper at Work





APPENDIX

A Specimen Deed, 1683—Great Kinderhook Patent, 1686—Scheme of Drawing in the Division of the Patent—Oath of Allegiance, 1699—Specimen Will, 1705—De Bruyn's Deed to L. Van Alen—The Seventh Regiment—Commissioned Officers, 1786-1822—Civil and Judicial List—First U. S. Census, 1790, Kinderhook Township.

A DEED OF JANNETJE POWELL. 1683

As a specimen of many similar deeds of the time given by her and others, we give this, copied from the Albany County Records (Book C, p. 201), and translated for us by the Rev. John G. Meengs, of Schenectady. There is almost no punctuation but an abundance of erratic capitalization. We reproduce the original text as exactly as we can in English.

APPEARED before me Robert Livingston Secretary of Albany of the Colony of Renselaerswyk and Schenectady &c, in the presence of the Honorable gentlemen Mr. Marte Gerritse and Mr. Dirck Wesselse Commissioners of the same Judicial District Jannetje Powel widow of the late Tho. Powel Deceased. who Declared as Rightful Owner to Transfer Deliver and Transmit Property free of incumbrance to Andries hanse Scheys and Juriaen Callier for their use Said Property consists of a Certain parcel of Woodland Lying near Kinderhook Extending from the Kinderhook Kill westward toward the River on both sides of the Path having the full width of the farm Land and the Vley as Specified in the powel Groundbrief Being two hundred Acres the width of which extends to the River with the Restriction that the aforementioned andries Hanse and Juriaen Kallier shall Transfer to Stephen Coning his Third part of

Old Kinderhook

the Wood Land Lying on the North Side of the Path extending from the Speigel to the Vley according to the Groundbrief Likewise there is excluded from the Woodland a little piece of the woodland Which belongs to Frans Pieterse Claw which is about a quarter *of an hour's walk*¹ according to my walking from the aforementioned land of Stephen Janse Coningh and is also included in the aforesaid Groundbrief. Further all the Woodland specified in the Groundbrief Mentioned granted by the past Governor General Richard Nicolls to her husband (deceased) Tho. Powel of date April 13, 1667 the aforesaid widow Transfers to Andries hanse & Juriaen Kallier free and lawful without any present incumbrance or that referring back (Except the Right of the Lord) without his representatives having anything more to exact Therefor Pleenam Actionem Cessam & all Power to the aforementioned Andries hanse & Juriaen Kallier to Use and Dispose of the Woodland mentioned (Except the Two Parcels Excluded) as they would their patrimonial goods and effects Promising to Protect the Property against any Invasion and to Defend it from all Care Invasion or Danger as is Right and further nevermore to Do anything or Allow anything to be done contrawise according to the Contract and the Laws referring thereto. Done in Albany Nov. 15, 1683.

MARTEN GERRITSEN	Mark X JANNETJE POWEL
DIRCK WESSELSSEN	Made with her own hand
My presence	

ROBERT LIVINGSTON Secretary.

THE KINDERHOOK PATENT. March 14, 1686 (7)?

Thomas Dongan Capt. Generall . . . Sendeth Greeting Whereas the Right Honorable Richard Nicolls Governour General . . . did by a Certaine Pattent under his Hand and Seale bearing date the sixth and twentieth day of June Give Grant Ratifie and Confirmd unto Evert Luycas and John Hendrix Bruyne two Certaine Peeces or Parcells of Land on this side

¹ A method of measurement "*used in Holland to this day,*" Mr. Meengs informs us.

ffort Albany lyeing and being on the east shoare of the North River almost behind Kinderhook Stretching alongst the Kill neare upon a North East Line and strikes off from Captaine Abram Staets bowery The first parcell of Land Goes on both sides of the Creek and is called Najokassick abutting on the Land of Evert Luycas the other Parcell Goes further up and is known by the name Wacheanossoonsick together with all the Lands Soyles etc. . . . Whereas the said Richard Nicolls . . . did by another Pattent . . . bearing date with the Premisses Give Grant Rattifie and Confirme unto Evert Luycas John Hendrix Bryne and to Dirk Wessells and Pieter Van Aaler another Certaine Peece or Parcell of Land on this side ffort Albany not furr from Nutten and the Kinderhooke knowne by the Indian name of Machaekoesk Stretching on both sides of the Kill and going up northerly next to the Land formerly Bought from the Indians by Evert Luycas and so to Pachaquak together with all the Lands Soyles etc. . . . And Whereas Francis Lovelace Esq. . . . did by Pattent . . . bearing date the ninth day of January 1671 (2)? Grant . . . unto the said John Hendrix Bruyn a Certaine Peece of Land Beginning at the above said Land and Goeing to the bottom of the hill called Pennekees and that on both sides of the Creek or Kill with a small Creeke on each side of the Kill which is Called Nackawekasuck with the Woodlands belonging to it as by said Patent recorded in the Secretaryes office . . . And Whereas by a Certaine Pattent signed with my Hand Writing . . . bearing date the third day of November 1685, for the Consideracons therein Exprest I did Grant . . . unto Peter Schuyler of the Towne and County of Albany Gentl a Certaine Tract or Parcell of Land beginning from the Bounds of John Browne lyeing upon the small Creek to the South of Pomponick called by the Indians Kenaghtequak and runs to the Greate Kinderhook Creeke Containing in all about eight hundred acres of Land and about two thousand Paces over the New England Path the which two thousand Paces the said Peter Schuyler hath left for his Majestyes use as by said Pattent recorded in the Secretaryes office . . . And Whereas Severall Familyes by and with the Consent and approbacon of the said John Hendrix Bruyne Evert Luycas Derick Wessells Peter Van Alen and Peter Schuyler have Seated and settled themselves

upon the aforecited Tracts and Parcels of Land and Premissess and have made Considerable Improvements thereon and have also made applycacon unto me that I would Confirme by Pattent all the aforecited Tracts and Parcels of Land and Premissess and Likewise Give unto them all the Woodland adjacent to the Premissess not yett appropriated by any person for the Range and feed of their Cattle and also to Erect the Same into one Township within the Limitts and Bounds hereafter Express that is to say all that Tract or Parcell of Land that Lyeth on the East side of Hudson River beginning at a Place Called Swartehook and running North upon said River fouer English Miles to a Certaine Place Called David Hook and then Runs East into the Woods keeping the same breadth to the Land of Dirick Wessell and Gerrit Tunissen and the high Hills Eight English Miles and then South to the fall of Major Abram. Now know yee that for Divers Good and Lawfull Consideracons we thereunto moveing and for the quitt Rent hereinafter Reserved I the said Thomas Dongan . . . have Given Granted Ratified Released and Confirmed . . . Unto Jan Hendrix Debruyne Peter Schuyler Gerrit Teunissen Laurance Van Ala Martin Cornelissen Dirick Hendricksen Jan Tysse Isaac fforsburge Jacob fforsburge Yeaukin Lammersen Michael Colier Jacob Martinsen Gerritt Jacobsen Omeda Legrange Andries Hansen Peter Bosse Robt Silksen Andries Gardner Henrick Coenrade Adam Dingman Lambert Jansen Claes Beaver Albert Gardiner Jan Martinsen Andreus Hause Yeaurick Kallier ffancis Petersen Tom Craven Jan Jacobsen Gardiner Peter fforsberge the Present ffree-holders of Kinderhook their Heires Successors and Assigns all the before recited Tracts and Parcels of Land within the Limitts and Bounds aforesaid together all and singular the Messuages Buildings etc., etc. . . . to have and to hold . . . And as for and concerning all and every such Parcel Tract or Tracts of Land Meadow Remainder of the Premissess not yett taken up or appropriated to any Perticular Person or Persons before the Day of the Date hereof to the only use benefitt and behoofe of the said Present Inhabitants ffreeholders of Kinderhook their Heires Successors and Assigns forever to be Devided in proporcon to the above recited present Inhabitants and ffreeholders and their Respective Heires Successors and Assigns forever according to

the Concessions acts orders agreements of the said Inhabitants at their Towne meetings Concluded ordered and agreed and that it shall and may bee Lawfull at any time hereafter to Sett apart order and agree upon such a Tract Quantity or Parcell of Commonage for the Publick Benefitt and advantage as well for grazing of Sheep or feed of any other Cattle or otherwise as shall to the Major Parte of the freeholders and Commonalty of said Towne of Kinderhook Seeme most meet and advantagious and Convenient without any Manner of Lett Hindrance or Molestation to be had or Reserved upon pretence of Joint Tennancy or Survivorship anything contained herein to the Contrary in any wayes notwithstanding And moreover by virtue of the Power and authority in me residing as aforesaid and for the Reasons and consideracons above Recited I have and by these Presents Doe Erect Make and Constitute all the said Tracts and Parcells of Land within the Limitts and Bounds afore menconed together with all and every the above Granted Premissess with their and every of their appurtenancies into one Township to all intents and Purposes whatsoever and the same from henceforth shall be Called the Towne of Kinderhook and I the said Thomas Dongan have Given and Granted and by these Presents Doe Give and Grant unto Jan Hendrix Debruyne etc. (31 names as above) . . . the Present Inhabitants and freeholders of the said Towne of Kinderhook their Heirs Successors Assigns forever All the Priviledges Customs Practises Preheminecyes and Immunityes that are used Exercised Practiced or belonging unto any Towne upon Long Island within this Government to be used Exercised Nuitated Practised Executed by the said freeholders their Heires Successors Assigns forever to bee holden of his most sacred Majesty his Heirs and successors in free and Comon Soccage according to the Tenure of East Greenwich in the County of Kent within his Majestyes Realme of England Yielding Rendring and Paying therefore Yearly and every Yeare on every five and twentieth day of March forever in Lieu of all Services and Demands whatsoever as a Quitt Rent or acknowledgement to his said Majesty his Heirs and Successors and to such officer or officers as shall be appointed to receive the same twelve Bushells of Good Winter Marchantable Wheat at the City of Albany. In testimony whereof etc.

This Patent illustrates how the same name may be spelled in three different ways in one and the same document. The illustration would have been still more striking had the names of the freeholders been given three times as they are in the original.

From the presumably accurate language of this Dongan Charter of 1686 it appears that with the exception of the great De Bruyn patent it included all the patents theretofore issued to De Bruyn, Wessells, Luycassen, Schuyler, and Peter Van Alen. The map of the division of the patent in 1756 seems to add thereto the Elias Van Schaack and Boegardt and the Huyck patents. The freeholders subsequently named in the Dongan Charter were possibly in some cases purchasers of their holdings from the four patentees named. In others they were those who, without acquiring title, had with the consent of the patentees "SEATED AND SETTLED THEMSELVES UPON THE AFORESAID TRACTS . . . AND MADE CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON."

Scheme of the Drawing in the Division of the Kinderhook Patent. Explanation: The Roman numerals, I, II, III, etc., indicate the six large Allotments. The Arabic numerals, 1, 2, 3, etc., the thirty-one subdivisions. With the map and this scheme every man's drawings can be located with precision.

PATENTEES

- Jan Martensen—22 in I, II, III, & IV; 21 in V & VI.
 Jacob Vosburgh—24 in I, III, IV & VI; 25 in VII & 23 in V.
 Andries Gardinier—31 in I, III, IV & VI; 24 in II & 30 in V.
 Dirck Hendricksen—27 in I, III, IV & VI; 17 in II & 26 in V.
 Andries Hansen—30 in I, II, III & IV; 29 in V & 30 in VI.
 Adam Dingman—23 in I, III, IV & VI; 28 in II & 22 in V.
 Robert Sielhsen—26 in I, III, IV & VI; 3 in II & 25 in V.
 Michael Coljer—25 in I, III, IV & VI; 4 in II & 24 in V.
 Lambert Jansen—10 in I, III, IV & VI; 5 in II & 7 in V.
 Franz Pietersen—20 in I, III, IV & VI; 27 in II & 19 in V.
 Claes Beever—12 in I, III, IV & VI; 11 in II & 9 in V.
 Gerrit Teunissen—16 in I, II, IV & VI; 18 in III & 13 in V.
 Andriaes Hansen—21 in I, II, III & IV; 20 in V & 22 in VI.
 Gerrit Jacobsen—6 in I, III, IV & VI; 7 in II & 3 in V.

- Martin Cornelissen—28 in I, III, IV & VI; 31 in II & 27 in v.
 Jan Jacobsen Gardinier—29 in I, II, III, IV & VI & 28 in v.
 Jan H. De Bruyn—15 in I, II, III, IV & VI & 12 in v.
 Lowrens Van Alen—19 in I, IV & VI; 14 in II, 17 in III & 16 in v.
 Pieter Bossie—4 in I, III, IV & VI; 9 in II & 1 in v.
 Isaac Vosburgh—17 in I, IV & VI; 13 in II; 19 in III & 14 in v.
 Andries Hansen—18 in I, IV & VI; 12 in II; 16 in III; 18 in IV & 15
 in v.
 Jacob Martensen—9 in I, III, IV & VI; 1 in II & 6 in v.
 Thom Craven—11 in I, III, IV & VI; 19 in II & 8 in v.
 Ami de Lagrange—14 in I, III, IV & VI; 18 in II & 11 in v.
 Albert Gardinier—13 in I, III, IV & VI; 2 in II & 10 in v.
 Jurian Caljer—8 in I, III, IV & VI; 20 in II & 5 in v.
 Peter Vosburgh—5 in I, III, IV & VI; 8 in II & 2 in v.
 Jan Tyssen—7 in I, III, IV & VI; 6 in II & 4 in v.
 Peter Schuyler—1 in I, III, IV & VI; 10 in II & 18 in v.
 Hendrick Coenrads—3 in I, III, IV & VI; 23 in II & 17 in v.
 Yeanken Lammersen—2 in I, III, IV & VI; 26 in II & 30 in v.

The original text with its obvious omissions of surnames and its vagaries in spelling is strictly followed.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE. 1699

It was with great delight, we may be sure, that the sons of those who had fought in the Thirty Years' War hailed the accession of William of Orange and made haste to take and sign the oath of allegiance. Kinderhook had a notable representation in the list of about two hundred signers in Albany County. A few names probably belonged more strictly to Claverack, but the list of undoubted Kinderhookers is long. It reveals so many of the residents here in 1699 that we give it in full. The names are precisely as written, but the additions in brackets are our own as gathered from many sources, and serve to identify names otherwise obscure, with approximate accuracy. They are: Pieter Vosburgh, Casper Conyn, Cornelis Martense (Van Buren or Van Alstyne), Melgert Abrahamse (Van Deusen), Isaac Janse (Van Alstyne), Jacob Van Hoesse, Jan Van Hoessen, Hendricus Jansen (Witbeck), Arent Van Schaack, Cornelis Maasen (Van

Buren), Cornelis Teunissen (Van Vechten), Marte Cornelise (Van Buren), Jan Tysse Goes (Hoes), Jan Hendrickse (Van Salsbergen), Hend. Salsbergen, Jan Van Hoesen, Jun., Cornelis Stevessen (Mulder or Miller), Jeremias Milder, Robert Tewissen (Van Deusen), Abr. Dirckie V. Veghten, Matys Janse Goes (Hoes), Pieter Hoogeboom, Andries Huyck, Dirck Teunise (Van Vechten), Johannes Dirksee (Van Vechten), Rissert Janse van den Borke, Andries Janse (Witbeck), Jacob Janse Gardenier, Hend. Van Ness, Joh. Van Vechten, Pieter Van Alen, Steffanis Van Alen, Bartholomew Van Valkenburgh, Koenradt Bogardt, Gysbert Scherp (Sharp), Adam Dinghman, Burger Huyck, Johannes Huyck, Andries Gardenier, Dirck Van der Kar, Johannes Van Alen, Lambert Janse (Van Valkenburgh), Hendrick Beekman, Jan Van Ness, Edward Wieler, Lawrence Van Alen, Andries Scherp, Dominicus Van Schaick, Johannes Van Hoesen, Manuel Van Schaick, Evert Van Alen, Cornelis Van Schaick, Luykas Van Alen, Isaac Vosburgh, Pieter Martense (Van Buren), Frans Pietersen (Klauw or Clow), Gerrit Teunise (Van Vechten), Luycas Janse (Van Salsbergen), Teunis Van Sleyck, and JonatanJanse (Witbeck).

A SPECIMEN WILL. 1705

As already stated, many wills of people here were recorded in New York. Their substance has been published in successive volumes of the N. Y. Historical Society.

The following copy of the preamble of an original Dutch will ("Abraham Goueverneur, Interp' & Translat'"), on file in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, Albany, may interest the reader.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN By the Contents of this Publick Instrument be it known & manifest that in y^e yeare after y^e Nativity of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ One Thousand Seaven Hundred & five the ffourteenth of February before mee Paulus Van Vlecq Residing at y^e Kinderhoek under the Government of the Noble & Right Hon^{bl} the Lord Cornbury Gov' Gen^l for her Majesty Queen Anne Queen of Great Britain Scotland Ireland Defend' of the ffaith of all her territories in America and before the hereafter Named Witnesses Appeared and came

M^r John Tysse Goes Dwelling at the Kinderhoek in y^e County of New Albany well known to mee the s^r Paulus Van Vlecq being sick in body sometimes going & sometimes Lying Down but in the full Exercise of his Memory & senses as it Outrieadly manifestly did appear who Considering the Shortness of the Life of Man the Certainty of Death & y^e uncertain hour & time thereof being therefore willing to Dispose of his Temporall goods by him to be Left while he is able & that out of his full Will & Mind without advising inducing or being misled by any person he has Ordained & concluded this to be his last & uttermost Will in manner ffollowing ffirst Recommend—his Immortal Soule into the hands of his heavenly ffather & his body to a Christian like buriall Revoaking Annulling & making Void all former Testamentall Dispositions & bequests before the Date hereof made & passed or might have past Esteeming the Same Null & void and the Testator now declares for his Universall heires His Wife Styntie Jan^{se} and his sonns Tys John & Dirck Goes & his daughters Teuntie Anna Jan^{se} & Judith & Mayken Goes. And ffirst y^e Testator desires that his Eldest son Tys shall have a Cow & fourty shillings for his birthright . . .

Signed—Marke (x) of Jan Tysse Goes.

Witnesses—Peter Van Beuren, Dirck Van der Kar: both men of “Marke” as were many of those old-time worthies.

DEED OF J. H. DE BRUYN TO LAWRENCE VAN ALEN. 1707

THIS INDENTURE made this twenty third day of September in the Sixth year of the reign of Our Sovereigne Lady Anne by the grace of God Queen of England ffrance and Irland defender of the faith &c. Anno Domini 1707. BETWEEN John Hendrick de Bruyn of the City of New York Merchant of the one part. & Lawrens Van Alen of Kinderhook in the County of Albany Yeoman of the other part. WHEREAS the aforesaid John Hendrick d’Bruyn by virtue of a deed of gift from the native Indians proprietors Pompoeneck, Taeppehasunen and Attowanoe, became Seized of a certain piece or tract of land lying on the East syde of Hudsons River begining from Davidsons Creek over against bear Island called in the Indian language pahpapaenpe-mock, and from said Creeke stretching Southerly along the river

to the Saw Kill of ffians Peter Claver, the creeke in the Indian language called Pittannook. Stretching to the east & in the woods to the first two lakes or in waters which are called by the Indians Hiethoock and Wogaskewackook as by the said deed of gift bearing date some time in the month of August one thousand Six hundred Sixty eight may more fully appear AND WHEREAS, Col^o. Thomas Dungan some time and then Captain Generall Governour in Chief & vice admirall in & over the province of New York & terrytorys depending thereon by Patent under the Seal of the said Province bearing date the twenty third day of December Anno Domini One thousand six hundred & eighty six, Did give grant ratifye release and confirm unto the said John Hendrick de Bruyn by the name of John Hendrix de Druyn his heiress & assignes for ever ALL that the said above recited peice or tract of land within the limits and bounds aforesaid Together with all and singular the messuages, houses barnes buildings fencings gardens orchards, soiles, pastures, feedings inclosures woods underwoods timber trees swamps marshes, waters, rivers, riverlets, runs, brooks, lakes, streams, ponds, quarries, mines, minerals, fishing, fowling, hunting hawking (silver and gold mines excepted) Together with all the rights, libertyes, priviledges, hereditaments, profites, advantages, and appurtenances whatsoever to the same belonging or in any ways appertaining or accepted reputed taken furnished or occupied as part parcell or member thereof. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the afore recited peice or tract of land & premisses with the appurtenances unto the said John Hendrick de Bruyn to the sole and only proper use benefite & behoof of the said John Hendrick de Bruyn his heires and assignes for ever, as by the said patent recorded in the Secretaryes office of the province aforesaid lib 96^o2, (?) begun anno 1686 reference being thereunto had may more fully appear. NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that the said John Hendrick de Bruyn for and in consideration of the Sum of four hundred pounds currant money of New York to him in hand by the said Lawrens Van Alen at and before the ensealing and delivery of these presents well and truly paid & secured to be payd the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged & himself therewith to be fully satisfyed, Hath granted bargained sold aliened enfeoffed and confirmed & by these presents doth for him

and his heires grant bargain sell alien enfeoffe and confirm unto the said Lawrens Van Alen his heires and assignes for ever, All the said peice or tract of land & premisses with its hereditaments and appurtenances as its now circumstanced with regard to waste or the cutting down of timber, together with all that his estate right title Interest property claim and demand of into or out of the same or any part thereof and all deeds receipts muniments touching and concerning the same only or only any part thereof. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all that the said peice or tract of land and premisses with its hereditaments and appurtenances to the same belonging or any ways appertaining unto the said Lawrence Van Alen his heires & assignes forever to the sole and only proper use benefits and behoof of the said Lawrens Van Alen his heires & assignes for ever. AND the said John Hendrick de Bruyn doth for himself and his heires covenant promise and grant to and with the said Lawrens Van Alen his heires and assignes & every of them in manner following that is to say That he the said John Hendrick de Bruyn and his heires Executors and Administrators and every of them the said piece or tract of Land premisses with the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or appertaining unto the said Lawrens Van Alen his heires and assignes and every of them in his and their peaceable and quiet enjoyment to hold to him the said Lawrens Van Alen his heires and assignes to his and their proper use and behoof for ever, against him the said John Hendrick de Bruyn and his heires and against all person and persons whatsoever claiming or pretending to claim any estate right title dower or demand of in or to the same or any part thereof by from or under him shall and will warrant and for ever by these presents defend. IN TESTIMONY whereof the partys to this Indenture first above named have here unto interchangeably put their hands and scales the day and year first above written.

JAN HINDRYCK BRUYN

Sealed and Delivered
in the presence of us
Rob't Livingston Junior
William Vanalen
David Jamison

Old Kinderhook

(Endorsed on back) Albany the second of Octo 1707
 There appeared before me David Schuyler Esq one of her majes
 Justices of the Peace of ye City and of ye County of Albany
 William Van Ale and Robert Livingston Junior two witnesses to
 the within instrument and did declare upon ye holy evangelist
 that they saw John Hendrick de Bruyn Sign Seal and Deliver
 the said Instrument as his voluntary act and deed for ye use
 therein mentioned.

DAVID SCHUYLER.

Recorded the 2d day of October 1707 in the book of Records
 Transports Mortgages &c. had for the City & County of Albany
 Book Lib E fo 63 & 64 by me PHIL LIVINGSTON J P

ALBANY COUNTY MILITIA—SEVENTH REGIMENT

—REVOLUTIONARY TIMES AND LATER—

Colonel Abraham J. Van Alstine
 Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Van Alstine
 Major Harman Van Buren

Major Isaac Goes
 Surgeon Ezekiel Thomas

Capt. — Chapman	Lieut. Jonathan Chapman	Lieut. John J. Van Alstyne
“ Burger Claw	“ Peter Huegennin	“ Peter J. Vosburgh
“ Aaron Ostrander	“ Felter Landt	“ William Vosburgh
“ John Philip	“ Jacobus McNeal	“ Philip Wolfrom
“ John Smith	“ James McNeil	Ensign John Goes
“ Gershom Truesdel	“ Reuben Murray	“ Burger T. Huyck
“ Abraham Van Buren	“ Edward Painter	“ George Long
“ Isaac P. Van Valkenburgh	“ Matthias Taylor	“ Henry Stever
“ Evert Vosburgh	“ Abraham Van Allen	“ John Van Buren
“ Herman Vosburgh	“ John Van Alstyne	“ Jacobus Van Ness

ENLISTED MEN

Baches, John	Carn, John	Curtis, Ebenezer
Baily, Stephen	Cecil, Richard	Curtiss, David
Baily, Timothy	Chapman, Amos	Curtiss, Joseph
Bawney, John	Chapman, Asa	Davis, Dennis
Bell, John A. Lem	Chapman, David	Davis, George
Bensk, Rudolph	Chapman, Ezekiel	Delamattor, Benjamin
Berry, William	Chapman, Ezra	Delametter, Jacob
Berry, William, Jr.	Chapman, Noah	Deyor, Peter
Blanchard, Abiathar	Claw, Andrew	Dingman, Casper
Blanchard, Abraham	Coenraut, Nicholas	Dingman, Isaac
Bresee, Jellis	Cole, Gerard	Dingman, Jacob
Brewer, Abraham	Cook, John	Dobs, Daniel
Bullis, William	Cornelisan, John	Dorn, Abraham
Burnham, Mashall	Cornelus, John	Ealon, Elijah
Burton, Josiah	Cramphin, Balsan	Earl, Moses
Calder, Hendrick	Crippen, Reuben	Earl, William, Jr.
Canniff, William	Crocker, Amos	Eldridge, Joseph

- Elkdenbragh, John
 Elkinbrach, John
 Feeley, John
 Feely, John
 Ferguson, Jacob
 Folmer, Zemtus
 Fols, Conrat
 French, John
 Fuller, David
 Gardaneer, Peter H.
 Gardner, Godfrey
 Goes, Derick
 Goes, Ephraim
 Goes, John, Jr.
 Goes, Laurence
 Goes, Michael
 Goes, Tobias
 Gould, Jesse
 Graper, Ruben
 Graves, John
 Graves, Richard
 Green, Augustus
 Gwin, Oren
 Haak, Christopher
 Hall, Justice
 Hamblin, Seth
 Hamblin, Zaccheus
 Hancy, Fradrick
 Hare, Daniel
 Hark, Daniel
 Hawk, Christopher
 Herder, John
 Herrick, George
 Hoffman, George
 Hogan, William
 Hoyer, George
 Hrkiman, George
 Hubbard, David
 Huguenin, David
 Humphry, Ezra
 Huyck, Burger D.
 Huyck, Burger I.
 Huyck, John, Jr.
 Huyck, John A.
 Ittick, George L.
 Itting, Conrat
 Jenkins, Anthony
 Johnson, Isaac
 Johnson, John
 Johnson, Peter
 Joslin, Henry
 Kane, William
 Kelder, Hendrick
 Kinne, Jesse
 Kittle, John
 Kittle, Nicholas
 Knapp, Isaac
 Lister, Frederick
 Luny, William
 Lusk, Jacob
 Lusk, Michael
 Lusk, William
 McFail, Patrick
 McMichael, James
 McPhaile, Patrick
 Mans, John J.
 Marsail, John
 Marshall, Enos
 Miller, Casper
 Miller, John
 Miller, Jonathan
 Mitchel, James
 Mitchel, James, Jr.
 Moet, Coenradt
 Moet, Johannis
 Molony, John
 Montgomery, Alexander
 Moore, John A.
 Moot, Conrath
 Moot, Johannis
 Morey, Elisha
 Morey, Elisha, Jr.
 Morey, Samuel
 Moshier, Jonathan
 Mott, Henry
 Mott, Jeremiah
 Mudge, Michael
 Muller, John J.
 O'Briant, Cornelius
 Olthousen, Nicholas
 O'Neal, James
 O'Neil, John
 Paine, Daniel
 Painter, Thomas
 Pearsee, Isaac
 Peersye, Isaac
 Peterson, Benjamin
 Peterson, Philip
 Pew, John
 Philip, Pelnis
 Philip, Peter
 Proper, Frederick
 Quithot, Stephen
 Randal, Nathaniel
 Rees, Benjamin
 Richmon, George
 Richmond, Conrad
 Richmond, Simeon
 Robertson, George
 Robinson, George
 Robinson, Jeremiah
 Root, Asahel
 Root, David
 Rowland, Samuel
 Rowse, Coenradt
 Ryan, Edward
 Ryan, William
 Salisbury, Sylvester
 Sally, John
 Sally, Thomas
 Salsbury, John
 San, Moses
 Saunders, Isaac
 Scharaly, Peter
 Scharp, Jacob
 Scharp, John
 Scharp, Laurence P.
 Scott, John
 Scott, William
 Sebring, Lewis
 Seley, John
 Setler, Frederick
 Sharp, John
 Sharp, Lawrence
 Sharsa, Daniel
 Shutts, John
 Sisson, Richard
 Smith, Asa
 Smith, Christian
 Smith, John
 Smith, Joseph
 Smith, Samuel
 Snyder, Peter
 Snyder, Simon
 Staats, Abraham
 Staats, Abraham J.
 Staats, Abraham T.
 Staats, Jacob
 Staats, John
 Staats, John, Jr.
 Staats, Abraham
 Stever, Jacob
 Stoplebeen, Johannes
 Suthard, Thomas
 Thomas, Caleb
 Thomas, Jacob
 Trusdeil, Hiel
 Trusdell, Richard
 Trusduil, Iseel
 Utly, Jeremiah
 Van Aelstyn, Thomas
 Van Alen, Abraham
 Van Alen, Dirck
 Van Alen, Cornelius
 Van Alen, Gilbert
 Van Alen, Henry
 Van Alen, John E.
 Van Alen, Peter
 Van Alstine, Abraham
 Van Alstyne, Leonard
 Van Beuren, John
 Van Buren, Cornelius
 Van Buren, Ephraim I.
 Van Buren, Ephraim T.
 Van Buren, Francis
 Van Buren, Tobias
 Vanderpoel, Andrew

Van Derpoel, Andries	Van Valkenburgh, Lambert	Wilson, Dirick
Vanderpoel, Jacobus	Van Valkenburgh, Lawrance	Wilson, Richard
Van Deusen, Peter	Van Valkenburgh, Peter I.	Wiltse, Jacob
Van Dusen, John	Van Valkenburgh, Peter J.	Wingand, James
Van Hoesen, Jacob	Vosburgh, Matthew	Wingardt, Jacobus
Van Hoesen, Jacob J.	Vosburgh, William	Witbeck, Andrew
Van Hoesen, John	Vosburgh, Abraham	Witbeck, Andrew, Jr.
Van Nass, Adam	Vosburgh, David	Witbeck, Andris
Van Ness, David	Vosburgh, Joachim	Wolf, George
Van Slyck, Dirick	Vosburgh, Peter A.	Wolf, Peter
Van Slyck, Peter	Vratenburgh, John	Wolfrom, John Tice
Van Valkenburgh, Bartholomew	Vredenbergh, John	Wolfrem, Philip
Van Valkenburgh, Bartholomew T.	Wever, George	Wolfrom, Mathise
Van Valkenburgh, Claudius	Wheeler, Samuel	Wright, Arl
Van Valkenburgh, Jacob	White, Henry	Wright, Daniel
Van Valkenburgh, Jacobus	Whitwood, Charles	Wyngart, Jacobus
Van Valkenburgh, Jacobus	Whitwood, Cornelius	Wynkoop, Peter
Van Valkenburgh, Joachim	Whitwood, Samuel	Yeralewyn, John
Van Valkenburgh, Joachim J.	Wickham, Warren	Young, Frederic
Van Valkenburgh, John	Wilsey, Jacob	
	Wilson, Andrew	

ALBANY COUNTY MILITIA (LAND BOUNTY RIGHTS)—SEVENTH REGIMENT¹

ENLISTED MEN

Bane, John	Gardenier, Dirck	Joslen, Henry
Barker, Richard	Gardiner, Samuel H.	Juger, Jonathan
Becker, David	Goes, Isaac	Kittel, John
Berry, Guysbert	Goes, Jantys	Klow, Francis
Boyd, John	Goes, Johanniss	Klow, Hendrick
Bu—, Henry	Goes, John D.	Klow, Mathew
Bubes, John	Goes, John M.	Kronkhit, John
Bulles, William	Goes, Matthew	Land, Gelden
Bullis, Robert	Goes, Mathaws I.	Land, Georg P.
Burgert, Lambert	Goes, Peter	Larrabe, Richard
Buttolph, Isaac	Haff, Jacob	Lester, Jason
Chapman, Jonathan	Hambler, John	Lotor, Jacob
Claw, Birgar	Hare, Stephen	McNeill, James
Closson, Josiah	Hare, Thomas	Magg, Matthe
Closson, Timothy	Hoesen, John H.	Mead, Eli
Clow, Yury	Hogan, Daniel	Mils, Isaac
Coldar, Henry	Holladay, John	Mogeboom, Slocum
Cramphin, Batson	Holland, John C.	Moor, Marten
Cramphin, John	Hoog, Thomas Andrew	More, Peter
Crarkhita, Samal	Hosar, Simon	Mory, Samuel
Day, Henry	Huntington, Asa	Muller, John
Delamatter, Benjamin	Huyck, Andries	Ostrom, John
Delametter, John	Huyck, Burger	Painter, Edward
Dellemetter, Jacob	Huyck, Burger T.	Paterson, Josiah
Dickson, Walter	Huyck, John	Pattison, Daniel
Dingman, Garret	Hyres, Abraham	Payne, Stephen
Dingman, John	Jackson, Theo., Jr.	Payson, Isaac
Dobbs, Daniel	Johnson, Henry	Philips, John
Fort, Jacob	Jonson, Isaac	Platz, Willem
Fosmer, Hendrick	Jonson, John	Poll, Andries
Freund, Johannes	Jonson, Peter	Quithot, James

¹ New York (State) Comptroller. *New York in the Revolution*, 2d ed., 1898, pp. 109-110.

Quitthot, John	Van Alen, Jacobus	Van Schaack, C.
Relman, John	Van Alen, Jacobus L.	Van Slick, Peter, Jr.
Relman, Peter	Van Alen, Johannes L.	Van Valkenburgh, Cornelius
Renda, Nathel	Van Alen, Lourens	Van Valkenburgh, Bar J.
Renolds, William	Van Alen, Lourens L.	Van Valkenburgh, Hendrick
Runels, William	Van Alen, Lucke	Van Valkenburgh, Isaac
Salmann, Will	Van Alen, Peter L.	Van Valkenburgh, Peter
Sanders, Isaac	Van Allen, Lourence E.	Van Valkenburgh, William
Sandres, Nathan	Van Allen, Stephen	Van Valkenburgh, Yocum
Scharp, Gysbert	Van Alstine, Abraham A.	Van Vleck, Abrm I.
Schrom, Joh	Van Alstine, John I.	Van Vleck, Isaac
Sebring, Cornelius	Van Alstine, Philip	Visscher, Garret H.
Sharp, Andrew	Van Alstyn, Abraham	Vosburgh, Abraham I.
Sharp, Gilbert	Van Alstyn, John	Vosburgh, Cornelius
Sharp, Gysbard	Van Alstyne, John	Vosburgh, Evert
Sharp, Jacob	Van Alstyne, Thomas	Vosburgh, Frans
Sharp, John	Van Buran, Ephraim T.	Vosburgh, Guisbert
Sharp, Laurence J.	Van Buren, Tobias	Vosburgh, Isaac I.
Sharp, Peter	Van Buren, Frans	Vosburgh, Jacobus
Sickels, Gerrit	Van Buren, Harman	Vosburgh, John
Smith, Jacob	Van Buren, Peter M.	Vosburgh, John L.
Smith, Yurice J.	Vanburgh, Solomon	Vosburgh, Martin
Snider, William	Van Buren, Gosah	Vosburgh, Peter
Son, Guy	Van Burren, Cornelius	Vosburgh, William
Son, Thomas	Vanderpoel, Barent	Vredenburg, Johannes
Springsteen, John	Van Dusen, Cornelius	Wagoner, Johantis
Stanton, Thomas	Van Dusen, John R.	Walker, James
Steaver, Henry	Van Dusen, Robert	Witback, Albart
Stevens, Jacob	Van Dyck, Laurens	Witback, Andris, Jr.
Stevens, Peter	Van Hause, Garrat, Jr.	Wolf, Jury
Storm, James	Van Hosen, Garrat	Wolf, Michael
Stoutenburgh, Abram	Van Hozen, Abraham	Wynkoop, John, C.
Thomas, Ezekiel	Van Hozen, John T.	Wynkoop, Peter Jr.
Trusdail, Gershom	Van Keuren, Cornelius	Zusalt, Philip
Trusdeel, Daniel	Van Ness, Jacob	
Van Aelstyn, Lambaert	Van Orsen, John	

Of the subsequent history of the seventh regiment suffice it to say—that after the formation of Columbia County and the reorganization of the militia, the seventh was merged in the 56th Infantry. Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Van Alstine, commandant, resigning in 1797, Peter John Vosburgh was appointed in his place, with Chas. Whiting as Adjutant.

KINDERHOOK'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS. 1786-1822¹

From "The Military Minutes of the Council of Appointment" we glean the following items, regretting that we must limit our record to the historic and abiding families. There were a few residents of Kinderhook who had commissions in other regiments, but lack of definite information and the fact that

¹ New York (State) Comptroller. *New York in the Revolution*, 2d ed., 1898, p. 228.

there were often two or more persons of the same name precludes any attempt to include them. Probably there are some regrettable omissions, and there are doubtless a few named who were not residents of Kinderhook, but the list is approximately correct and complete.

Abbreviations: A, Adjutant; C, Captain; Col., Colonel; E, Ensign; L, Lieutenant; M, Major; P, Paymaster; Q, Quartermaster; S, Surgeon. The omitted century is obvious.

- Bain, Bastian—E. '18
 Beekman, John J.—S. '96
 Beekman, John P.—S. '14
 Burgerdt, George—E. '89; L. '90
 Butler, Walter—E. '22
 Deyo, Nathan—A. '04-'12
 Dingman, Peter—E. '21
 Goes, Barent—P. '86
 Goes, Dirck J.—E. '86; L. '89
 Goes, Elbert—C. '15
 Goes, Isaac—M. '86-'97
 Goes, John D.—L. '86-'89
 Goes, John J.—L. '86
 Goes, John L.—A. '93-'04
 Goes, Lucas—E. '12; L. '13; C. '18
 Goes, Robert—E. '90
 Head, Jonathan, Jr.—E. '02; L. '05; C. '09-'14
 Hogeboom, Abr.—Q. '86
 Hogeboom, Corn.—E. '17
 Hogeboom, John C.—E. '86; L. '90
 Kittle, Andrew—E. '11; L. '14; C. '16
 Kittle, Henry—E. '05
 Kittle, John—C. '02
 Kittle, John H.—L. '09; C. '14
- Van Alen, Abr., Jr.—E. '98
 Van Alen, Adam E.—E. '89
 Van Alen, Adam I.—E. '86; L. '89
 Van Alen, Adam T.—E. '87
 Van Alen, Barent—L. '21; C. '22
 Van Alen, Corn. C.—E. '21
 Van Alen, Evert J.—E. '09; C. '14
 Van Alen, Gilbert—E. '97; L. '02-'09
 Van Alen, Lucas I.—E. '02; L. '09; C. '15
 Van Alen, Peter L. (?)—A. '86; C. '87-'98
 Van Alen, Tunis—L. '86; C. '90
 Van Alstyne, Abraham—Q. '21
 Van Alstyne, Isaac—E. '90; C. '02-'09
 Van Alstyne, John I.—C. '86
 Van Alstyne, John P.—E. '87; L. '98; C. '02-'07
 Van Alstyne, Martin—E. '90; L. '04; C. '05-'05
 Van Alstyne, Peter A.—E. '86; C. '87; M. '09; Col. '18
- Vanderpoel, Arent—P. '21
 Vanderpoel, Barent—L. '86; C. '90-'02
 Vanderpoel, James—C. Artillery '12
 Van Dyck, Henry L.—S. Mate '96; S. '11
 Van Dyck, Isaac—E. '11; C. '15
 Van Dyck, John E.—L. '97
 Van Hoesen, Geo. A.—E. '87
 Van Hoesen, Isaac—E. '05
 Van Ness, Isaac—E. '93; L. '04; C. '08-'14
 Van Ness, Jacobus—L. '86
 Van Ness, John—E. '87
 Van Schaack, Camelius (Cornelius?) L. '02
 Van Schaack, Cornelius—L. '05; C. '09
 Van Schaack, David—E. '15
 Van Slyck, John I.—E. '89; C. '97-'02
 Van Slyck, Peter J.—E. '90; C. '97
 Van Slyck, Peter P.—L. '89; C. '90
 Van Slyck, Peter T.—E. '96; L. '05; C. '11
 Van Valkenburgh, Barth. J.—C. '86; M. '97
 Van Valkenburgh, Isaac P.—C. '86
 Van Valkenburgh, James—E. '21
 Van Valkenburgh, James B.—M. '22
 Van Valkenburgh, John I.—L. '12; A. '19
 Van Valkenburgh, Peter J.—E. '98
 Van Vleck, Abraham—E. '09
 Van Vleck, Arent—E. '11; L. '14; C. '18
 Van Vleck, Henry—E. '05; L. '14; C. '18; L.-Col. '18
 Van Vleck, Isaac A.—C. '05
 Van Vleck, Peter—Q. '87
 Vosburgh, Abraham J.—E. '86; L. '89; C. '90
 Vosburgh, Arent—Q. '98
 Miller, Corn.—L. '96; Q. '09-'14
 Ostrander, Philip—E. '86; L. '87; C. '90—
 Peterson, Wm.—E. '98; L. '00; C. '07-'15
 Philip, George—C. '86-'96
 Philip, John—C. '86-90
 Pruyne, Arent—L. '86; C. '97-'02
 Quilhot, John—S. '86
 Richmond, Simeon—E. '89; L. '93; C. '04-'08
 Sharp, Peter—C. '86-'98 and '01
 Sickles, Jacob—Chaplain, '11
 Silvester, Francis—E. '89; L. '90
 Snyder, Tunis, G.—E. '14

Van Alstyne, Philip—L.-Col. Commanding, '86-'97
 Vosburgh, Evert—C. '86
 Van Buren, Abraham—C. '86-'90; L. '18
 Vosburgh, John C.—E. '87; L. '90
 Van Buren, Barent F.—E. '86
 Vosburgh, John P.—Q. '14; P. '19
 Van Buren, Dirck—C. '07
 Vosburgh, William—C. '86; L. '87-'89
 Van Buren, Gosah—C. '86
 Vosburgh, Peter J.—L. '76; C. '86; M. '89;
 L.-Col. '97; Brig.-Gen. '17; M. Gen. '18
 Van Buren, Harman—M. '86-'89
 Wheeler, Edward—L. '86; C. '88-'91
 Van Buren, John—L. '21
 Whiting, Augustus—E. '02; L.?'-'91
 Van Buren, John A.—E. '90; C. '96
 Whiting, Charles—A. '12; C. '15; M. '19;
 Van Buren, John P.—L. '86
 L.-Col. '22
 Van Buren, Lawrence—Q. '11
 Witbeck, Andries A.—E. '93; L. '98; C.
 Van Buren, Peter H.—L. '86; C. '89
 '09-'15
 Vanderpoel, Andries—L. '87; C. '98-'02

CIVIL AND JUDICIAL LIST

NATIVES OR RESIDENTS OF OLD KINDERHOOK

THE UNITED STATES

President—Martin Van Buren, 1837.

Vice-President—Martin Van Buren, 1833.

CABINET OFFICERS

Secretary of State—Martin Van Buren, 1829.

Attorney-General—Benjamin F. Butler, 1833, and acting Secretary of War, 1837.

DIPLOMATS

Cornelius P. Van Ness, Minister to Spain, 1829.

Martin Van Buren, Minister to England, 1831; appointed but not confirmed.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

Peter Van Ness, 1800. Lucas Hoes, 1836. Lawrence Van Buren, 1852. Charles L. Beale, 1864. David Van Schaack, 1868.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Senator—Martin Van Buren, 1821; re-elected, '27; resigned, '28.

Representatives—Peter Silvester, 1789, 1791. J. P. Van Ness, 1801; James I. Van Alen, 1807. J. P. Van Ness, elected 1811 but declined. Aaron Vanderpoel, 1833, '35, '39. Nicholas Sickles,

1835. Charles L. Beale, 1859. John H. Reynolds (then of Oswego), 1859. Charles D. Haines, 1893. Martin H. Glynn, 1898.

APPOINTMENTS

Assistant United States Treasurer, Henry H. Van Dyck, 1865.
Collector of Customs, New York, C. P. Van Ness, 1844.
Collector of Customs, Oswego, Andrew Van Dyck, M.D.,
1864.

United States Revenue Collector, P. E. Van Alstyne, 1866-'70; C. Ackley, Deputy.

Naval Officer of Customs, New York, Silas W. Burt, 1878-'83, '85-'89.

STATE OFFICIALS

Provincial Congress—Peter Silvester, 1775, '76.

GOVERNORS

C. P. Van Ness, Governor of Vermont, '23-'29. Martin Van Buren, Governor of New York, 1828; resigned, '29. Martin H. Glynn, 1913, succeeding Governor Sulzer, removed.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

Martin H. Glynn, 1913.

State Comptroller—Martin H. Glynn, 1907.

COUNCIL OF APPOINTMENT

Peter Van Ness, 1789.

STATE SENATORS

Peter Van Ness, 1787-92. Peter Silvester, 1796-1800. Martin Van Buren, 1813-'20. Henry H. Van Dyck, '37-'40. J. P. Beekman, 1846. Wm. G. Mandeville, 1858. William H. Tobey, 1862. Stephen H. Wendover, 1878.

ASSEMBLYMEN

Peter Van Ness, 1782, 1784. Ab. J. Van Alstyne, 1786. Peter Silvester, 1788, 1803, 1805, 1806. Dirck Gardenier, 1794,

1801. James Brebner, 1794, 1796. P. I. Vosburgh, 1797, '98. Peter Van Alstyne, 1802. James I. Van Alen, 1804. James Vanderpoel, 1811, '16, '21. John L. Van Alen, Jr., 1814. Peter Van Vleck, 1818. Barent Van Buren, 1819. John I. Van Valkenburgh, 1820. Aaron Vanderpoel, 1826, 1830. Abel S. Peters, 1828. Medad Butler, 1832. Julius Wilcoxson, 1835. John S. Vosburgh, 1837. William H. Tobey, 1838. Wm. G. Mandeville, 1841. Abraham I. Van Alstyne, 1842. Lucas Hoes, 1843. Chas. B. Osborne, 1848. George Van Santvoord, 1852. Adam A. Hoysradt, 1856. James G. Van Valkenburgh, 1859. P. Edward Van Alstyne, 1860. Samuel W. Carpenter, 1865. Stephen H. Wendover, 1867, 1868. Alonzo H. Farrar, 1874, 1875. A. L. Schermerhorn, 1882, 1883. Aaron B. Gardenier, 1889, 1890, 1894. Martin M. Kittell, 1899. Sanford W. Smith, 1900. Albert S. Callan, 1908, '09.

STATE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Chief Examiner, Silas W. Burt, 1883-'85. He was President of the New York Civil Service Association from 1900 until his death in 1912.

MEMBERS OF STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS

Peter Van Ness, 1788. James I. Van Alen, 1801. Francis Silvester, 1821. Martin Van Buren (chosen by Otsego Co. as its delegate) 1821. Francis Silvester, 2d, 1857.

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Peter Silvester, 1787. Martin Van Buren, 1816-'29. Benjamin F. Butler, 1829-'32, resigned. Martin Van Buren, 1845, declined.

JUDICIARY

W. P. Van Ness, Judge U. S. District Court, New York, S. Dist., 1812-1826.

B. F. Butler, Judge U. S. District Court, New York, S. Dist., 1838-41, 1845-'48.

Old Kinderhook

STATE COURTS

Martin Van Buren, Attorney-General, 1815. James Vanderpoel, Justice Supreme Court, 1836. Aaron Vanderpoel, Associate Judge, 1843.

John Van Buren, Attorney-General, 1845. J. H. Reynolds, Court of Appeals Commission, 1873.

COUNTY COURTS

Judges were appointed by the Governor and Council of Appointment until 1821, then by Governor and Senate until 1846, and then elected by the people.

FIRST JUDGES

Peter Van Ness, appointed April 13, 1786. Julius Wilcoxson, appointed May 2, 1846.

JUDGES

Peter Silvester, 1786. Peter Van Ness, 1802. Wm. P. Van Ness, 1808. David Ludlow, 1813. Lawrence M. Goes, 1815. Richard I. Goes, 1817. James I. Van Alen, 1818. Medad Butler, 1823. James Vanderpoel, 1826. Julius Wilcoxson, 1836.

In 1846 the Court of Common Pleas was abolished and a County Court and Sessions with a single County Judge and two Justices for Sessions substituted therefor; the Justices elected annually.

JUSTICES FOR SESSIONS

As the earliest of these for Kinderhook we note:

John C. Sweet, 1858, 1864. William Kip, 1858, 1859, 1863, 1872. H. P. Van Hoesen, 1877.

SURROGATES

APPOINTED

James I. Van Alen, 1804. Martin Van Buren, 1808. James Vanderpoel, 1813. James I. Van Alen, 1815. Abraham A. Van Buren, 1822. William H. Tobey, 1840.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

APPOINTED BY COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

Julius Wilcoxson, 1821.

ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE

Francis Silvester, 1859. Gershom Bulkley, 1874. Aaron B. Gardenier, 1880, 1883.

SHERIFFS

Barent Vanderpoel, appointed 1802. Henry M. Hanor, 1876.

SUPERVISORS

Henry Van Schaack, 1760-66. Cornelius Van Schaack, 1787. Evert Vosburgh, 1788-1795. Dirck Gardenier, 1796-1798. Abm. I. Van Vleck, 1799-1801. John Van Alen, 1802-1808. Abm. Van Vleck, 1809-1813. Henry L. Van Dyck, 1814-1820. John P. Beekman, 1821-1827. Peter H. Bain, 1828-1830. Lucas Hoes, 1831-1836. Lawrence Van Buren, 1837-1840. John Vanderpoel 1841-1842. Peter I. Hoes, 1843. Lucas Hoes, 1844. Lawrence Van Buren, 1845-1846. Henry M. Niver, 1847. Henry Hoysradt, 1848. Benajah Conant, 1849. Lawrence Van Buren, 1850-1851. Aaron Huyck, 1852. L. Van Buren, 1853. Benajah Conant, 1854-1855. Henry M. Niver, 1856. Henry Snyder, 1857. Abm. I. Van Alen, 1858. James C. Vosburgh, 1860. Henry Dennis, 1861-1862. Allen Jacobia, 1863. James Miller, 1864-1865. William J. Penoyer, 1866. John A. Van Bramer, 1867. Charles W. Trimper, 1868-1872. Ransen Gardenier, 1873. John Snyder, 1874. Calvin Ackley, 1875. Charles W. Trimper, 1876-1879. J. B. Richmond, 1880-1881. John Snyder, 1882-1884. Charles F. Gildersleeve, 1885. John H. Van Valkenburgh, 1886. Martin L. Haner, 1887-1889. George W. Wilkins, 1900-1908. Ephraim Kline, 1909. Edward Risedorph, 1911, the present Supervisor.

TOWN CLERKS

These, each serving until his successor was elected, have been: 1787, Abraham Van Buren: 1797, James I. Van Alen: 1802,

Elihu Gridley: 1803, John A. Van Buren: 1804, Elihu Gridley: 1805, Francis Pruyn: 1807, Barent I. Goes, Jr.: 1809, Benjamin Hilton; 1811, John L. Van Alen: 1823, Samuel Hawley: 1825, Andrew Van Dyck: 1826, Samuel Hawley: 1828, David Van Schaack: 1829, John I. Pruyn: 1830, Barent Hoes: 1832, Henry Flagler: 1833, James Sutherland: 1835, Augustus Whiting: 1837, John Trimper: 1840, John Corning: 1841, L. P. Flagler: 1843, Peter Huyck: 1846, J. W. Stickles: 1848, John R. Beale: 1849, Jacob P. Miller: 1850, John W. Stickles: 1852, Edwin Hoes: 1854, Howland Van Slyck: 1855, Edwin Hoes: 1856, G. W. Hoxsie: 1857, James Miller: 1858, W. I. Merwin: 1859, J. A. Van Bramer: 1860, G. W. Hoxsie: 1861, P. H. Niver: 1863, A. V. D. Witbeck: 1866, Walter Miller: 1869, A. De Myer: 1872, Wilson Miller: 1873, George Reynolds: 1874, W. S. Hallenbeck: 1876, M. W. Lant: 1880, Franklin Risedorph: 1882, James Purcell: 1885, Geo. H. Brown: 1888, R. E. Lasher: 1889, Dennis Henchey: 1890, Theo. N. McDowell: 1891, W. S. Van Hoesen: 1893, Thomas Hughes: 1895, G. W. Tracey: 1899, Isaac Lamont: 1903, William Hickey: 1907, John J. Glynn: 1911, Adger W. Reynolds, resigned: 1912, Wm. Herrick, appointed: George B. Wilkins, 1913.

LIST OF FAMILIES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF KINDERHOOK WITH
NUMBER OF PERSONS IN EACH FAMILY AND NUMBER
OF SLAVES, ACCORDING TO THE FIRST U. S.
CENSUS

The first United States census (1790) records the names of 730 Heads of Families in the township of Kinderhook, the number of persons in each family, and the number of slaves. We copy the names as given, without correcting obvious errors. Here also as in the case of the Assessor in 1744, we can often see the enumerator going from house to house in order.

The total is 4661, including 638 slaves; a total exceeding that of every other township in the County.

	No. of Persons	No. of Slaves		No. of Persons	No. of Slaves
Vosburgh, Elisabeth	9	4	Goes, John, Jr.	11	2
Vosburgh, Cornelius	6	7	Schermerhorn, Cornel.	8	3
V: Vleck, Abraham J.	14	5	Wygert, Jacobus	3	1
V: Buren, Abraham	8	6	V: Buren, Tobias P.	2	1
V: Allen, Lawrence K.	5	7	Vosburgh, Myndert P.	2	1
Goes, Lewis J.	4	3	Butler, Nathl.	7	7
V: Valkenburgh, Abraham	11		V: Buren, Peter	5	1
Thompson, Alexander	4		V: Allen, Abraham	6	3
Butler, George	5		V: Buren, John	2	1
Ritzmah, Johannis	8	3	Ingenon, Jonathan	6	6
V: Buren, Lydia	2		Schermerhorn, John	6	6
Ludlow, Daniel	5		Van Dusen, Cath.	6	6
V: Buren, Ephraim	7		Van Dusen, Peter M.	7	7
Wynkoop, John	6	1	Van Dusen, John	6	5
Silvester, Peter	9	4	Phillips, Eve	5	5
V: Schaack, Peter	5	3	Wair, Thomas	4	
V: Schaack, David	5	7	Laraby, Elias	3	3
Pomeroy, Timothy	2		Kerr, Wm.	7	7
Pruyn, John	13	10	Dumlow, Saml.	3	3
Buckman, John	5	3	Deyo, Nathan	3	3
V: Allen, Engeltje	9	7	Gardineer, Saml. H.	5	5
Kittle, Nicholas	3	3	Sebring, Cornelius	3	3
Kittle, Catharine	2	1	Goes, Lucas J.	6	5
Veille, Molly	5		Kraght, John	5	5
V: Allen, John	5	2	Kerr, Sarah	6	6
V: Buren, Dirck	2	4	Kriff, Daniel	2	2
V: Allen, Dirck E.	4		Cornelise, John	6	6
Wynkoop, Peter, Jr.	8	6	Downes, Stephen	5	5
Lapach, Isaac	3	1	Johnson, Nancy	4	4
Shoulder, John	5		Fisk, Abel	6	6
McMechin, Alexander	1		Bailey, Arthur	1	1
Moore, Benjamin	2	1	Wood, Dudley	3	3
Gridley, Elihu	4	1	Bremen, Oliver	6	6
Young, Fred.	6		Dyley, Walter	6	6
Spencer, Elijah	5		Van Ness, David	6	1
Hilton, John	3	3	Hubbard, Gideon	4	2
Eli, Archibald	5		Dow, John	10	2
Wills, Benjamin	7		Platt, Daniel	2	1
Dunning, Stephen	4		Freeman, Israel	3	3
Goes, Ephraim	8		Keen, Benj.	7	7
Hils, Jonathan	7		Graham, Sheldon	10	10
Sedgwick, Samuel	3		Sherburn, Wm.	3	3
Waterman, Darius	6		McComber, Roger	4	4
Barret, Elisha	7		Pettit, Alladie	6	6
Mack, Stephen	5		Bickford, Henry	2	2
Jerols, Hunsdon	6		Pettis, David	3	3
Sowers, Abiel	5		McFarland, Samuel	3	3
Kellogg, Asahel	6		Haight, Thomas	6	6
Sherman, Josiah	1		Lovett, James	3	1
Fitch, Abel	5		Stoddard, Stephen	10	10
V: Alstine, Sarah	4	2	Crippin, Reuben	6	6
V: Alstine, John	2	11	Lovett, Wm.	6	6
V: Alstine, Martin	4	12	Van Allen, Lewis	4	6
V: Valkenburgh, Peter	7		Wood, Samuel	4	4
Goes, Helenah	4	4	V. Valkenburgh, Barth.	4	3
Barton, Josiah	7		Pruyn, Arent	1	1

Old Kinderhook

	No. of Persons	No. of Slaves		No. of Persons	No. of Slaves
Goes, Mary	4	3	Macag, Mathew	3	
Goes, John L.	3	1	V: Der Pool, Isaac	5	10
Bernard, Jethro	5		Whitmar, Daniel	8	
Klaw, Henry G.	5		Hegerman, Joseph	4	
Smith, Samuel	2		V: Alstine, Philip	8	16
Smith, Jacob	6		Wheeler, Henry	7	
Johnson, Dirck, Jr.	4		Moll, John	4	
Philips, Abraham	7		Gardineer, Hendrich	5	2
Johnson, Peter	8		Gardineer, Peter J.	3	3
Johnson, Dirck	8		Moll, Thomas	5	
Pool, Anthony	8		Holland, John C.	7	
Smith, Wm.	12		Becker, Coonradt	9	
Kelder, Henry	3		Becker, John	5	
Moor, Mathias	7		Van Dyke, Henry	10	7
Johnson, Dirck, 2d	5		Van Buren, Tobias	9	4
Sison, Jorom	5		V: Valkenburgh, Andreas	9	
Johnson, John	9		V: Valkenburgh, Henry	6	
Alembergh, John	7		V: Valkenburgh, Jacobus	7	
Davis, George	3		V: Valkenburgh, Lambert	1	
Moore, John	8		Dean, Jabez	5	
Osborn, Eli	8		Spencer, Israel	11	
Dickison, Wm.	8		V: Valkenburgh, Peter P.	6	1
Wicks, Charles	2		V: Valkenburgh, Hendrich	8	
Garrison, Wm.	8		Brown, Hosea	5	
Ball, James	6		Van Alstine, John	2	11
Like, Mary	7		Van Alstine, Martha	5	12
Smith, Nicholas	9		Peitels, Jacob	5	
Beeman, John	1		Ramsery, Henry	6	
Bush, John	3		Forman, Henry	8	
Earl, Wm., Jr.	5		Witback, Albert	10	7
Earl, Moses	6		V: Hoesen, John	6	5
Earl, Wm.	3		Bogert, Lambert	6	3
Lister, Thomas	6		Staats, Jacob	5	4
Johnson, Cornelius	6		Staats, Abraham J.	10	6
Campbell, Robert	8		Moor, Jacob	6	
Woodcock, Peter	8		Williams, Joseph	3	
Brown, Jedediah	2		V: Hosen, Gerrit	5	2
Brown, Samuel	5		Sharp, John J.	5	1
Sherman, John	6		Beckas, John	5	
Vergan, Abijah	5		Faith, George	4	
Dingman, Isaac	8		Finck, Silvanus	3	
Herrick, Turrian	7		Bennett, Elisha	6	
Stafford, John	11		Witback, Anatier	3	3
Luyck, Andreas	4		Seckles, Gerrit	7	
Ferguson, Hezekiah	4		Pain, Stephen	2	
Hoser, Jacob	4		V: Valkenburgh, Thomas	10	
Vermise, John	5	1	Goes, Nicholas	5	
V: Allen, Peter	10	2	Tony, David	5	
V: Allen, Henry	4	1	Gutheridge, Daniel	6	
Vosburgh, Mathewis	5		V: Hosen, Tuny M.	2	
Klaw, Samuel	3		V: Hosen, Abraham	6	1
V: Allen, Lucas	5	5	Salisbury, Silvester	12	7
V: Allen, John	8	9	Van Ness, Wm.	3	4
V: Valkenburgh, Lambert	11	1	Staats, Alice	6	3
Pool, Andreas	8	4	Staats, Catharine	1	4
V: Der Pool, Barent	7	5	Scott, John	10	

	No. of Persons	No. of Slaves		No. of Persons	No. of Slaves
Hogiboom, Dirck	5	4	Son, John	4	
V: Allen, Jacobus	9	11	Shees, Stephen	6	
Schram, Johannis	7		Perry, Freeman	6	
V: Valkenburgh, John	8		Deling, Hannah	2	
Delamus, Cardus	3		Buskirk, Samuel	8	
Klaw, Hindrech	4	2	Sheeter, John	6	
Klaw, Mathias	9		Raymond, Abraham	6	
Hollida, John	5		Hair, Wm.	8	
Hollida, Mathewis	5		Frost, Abijah	6	
Klaw, Francis	8		Macey, Simeon	2	
Dean, Jeremiah	5		Hunt, Samuel	10	
Spencer, Nehemiah	4		Badgley, Stephen	8	
Rogers, Stephen	7		Dolph, Jonathan	9	
Waterman, Darius	4		Sluyter, Dirck	7	
Kamer, Stephen	4		Johnson, John, Jr.	2	
Klaw, Hendrick, 2d	5		Thrasher, Samuel	4	
Tizzols, Charles	6		Briggs, John	5	
Pruyn, Harma	6	6	White, Caleb	12	
Vosburgh, Arent	5	5	Johnson, John T.	7	
V: Valkenburgh, Wm.	4		Vosburgh, Martin	7	1
Van Slyk, Joachim	3		Vosburgh, Hendrich M.	5	
Staats, Abraham	10	1	Son, Moses	7	
Witbeck, Andreas	4	10	V: Slyk, John T.	5	5
Cooke, Jacheus	6		V: Der Kan, Derik	4	3
Hubbart, Thomas	4		Van Hosen, Anatic	5	
Sharp, Lawrence	6		Hoghtesling, Isaac	9	
Sharp, Peter	10	2	Cremer, Martin	9	5
Sharp, Andreas	4		Plunt, Henry	7	
Klaw, Henry G.	2	2	Blanchard, Abiathar	12	
Klaw, John G.	5	1	Wheeler, Samuel	5	
Sharp, Lawrence, 2d	5		Ripley, Joseph	5	
Sharp, Solomon	4	1	De Le Mater, John	4	1
Lovett, John	2		Herder, John M.	11	
Tompkins, Stephen	12		Son, Guy	3	
Mott, Jeremiah	7		Hamblin, Zacheus	4	
Holmes, Shubael	9		Lord, Joseph	5	
Palmatus, Wm.	3		Chapman, Jonathan	12	
Hitchcock, Joseph	3		Lay, Samuel	10	
Johnson, John	2		Waterman, Glading	9	
Wheeler, Jacob	2		Palmer, James	8	
Smith, Ephraim	2		Cotterel, Nicholas	7	
Guile, Daniel	5		Williams, David	5	
Scisel, Richard	8		Decker, Joris	5	
Cremer, Lawrence	7		Geer, Benijah	6	
Bullis, Silas	5		Waterman, Wm.	3	
Son, Thomas	5	1	Hudson, John H.	4	
Aisle, Adam	4		V: Allen, Peter	8	1
Smith, Custian	6		Brebner, James	6	4
Smith, Joseph	5		V: Allen, Adam T.	7	3
Smith, Allen	3		Smith, Rulif	9	
Gold, John	2		Vredonbagh, Abraham	5	
Wheeler, Edward	5		Holcomb, James	3	
Geary, Cornelius	5		Walker, James, Jr.	7	
Miller, Casper	3		Denniston, Wm.	3	
Clerk, Abraham	11		V: Allen, Gysbert	7	5
Fellows, John	7		Newman, Joshue	8	

	No. of Persons	No. of Slaves		No. of Persons	No. of Slaves
Bush, Henry	4	3	Woodcock, Guysbert	5	
Rowland, Wm.	3		Woodcock, Dirck	5	
Alger, Nathl.	7		Stevens, William	8	
Hoskins, Jeremiah	4		Stevens, Richard	6	
Watkins, Wm.	9		Parker, Jesse	6	
Fairchild, Jonathan	11		Champlin, Joel	8	
Lister, Jason	6		Champlin, Joshue	9	
De Groot, John	9	1	Saunders, Nathan	4	
Meed, Eli	6		White, George	9	1
Huntley, Abner	8		Hide, John	3	
Mills, Isaac	10		Rouse, Coonradt	8	
Sharp, Guyspert	9		Blackman, Samuel	4	
Valkenburgh, Jacobus	8		Muller, John J.	4	5
Valkenburgh, Solomon	6		Garvey, Thomas	6	
Valkenburgh, Lambert	7		Smith, Jacob	5	
Lister, Ichabod	6		Lister, Mordecai	7	
Haight, Solomon	4		Ferguson, Stephn	10	
Richardson, John	6		Beckwith, Abner	5	
Trusdale, Daniel	9		Moor, Eunice M.	2	
Bullis, Joseph T.	3		V: Valkenburgh, Barth. L.	7	1
York, Thomas	6		Dolph, Moses	9	
Van Ness, John	3	3	Becker, Lawrence	7	
Van Ness, Isaac	3		Spier, Nathan	9	
Austin, Isaac	4		Bullis, John R.	5	
Le Ramey, Paul	6		Johnson, Abraham	7	
Van Allen, John J.	1	1	Dingman, John	8	
Gifford, Benj.	7		Dingman, Rudolphus	3	
V: Allen, Jacobus L.	6	5	V. De Bogert, John	4	
De Le Mater, Hendrich	3		Whilam, John	2	
Bullis, Robert	6		Crandle, Joseph	4	
Bullis, Joseph R.	4	1	Klaw, William	11	
Simmons, Ezekiel	4		Londonderry, Awl	4	
V: Alstin, Abraham A.	7	4	Westover, Noah	5	
Berry, William, Jr.	6		Sluyter, William	10	
Berry, Wm.	1		Bloom, Albert	3	
Pangmen, James, Jr.	3		Frair, Daniel, Jr.	7	1
Pangmen, James	4		Jansen, Dirck	3	
Berry, Elijah	4	1	Cornelieson, Hans	4	
Reynolds, Silas	4		Walker, Abraham	4	
Richmond, George	2		Smith, Samuel	7	
Decker, Isaac	8	2	Van Valkenburgh, Jno Jost	9	
Richmond, Simon	6		Klaw, Burges	7	
Benn, Peter	4		Huyk, Andrus	6	3
Frint, John, Jr.	4		Bond, William	8	1
Dunkin, Michael	3		Van Leon, Benj.	2	6
Matratt, Francis	6		V: Dusen, Jacobus	3	1
Althiser, Nicholas	6		Gillett, Moses	12	
Thomas, Asel	3		Van Slyk, Samuel	7	4
Bullis, Jesse	5		Haganer, David	4	4
Bullis, James	5		Thomas, John	10	
Bishop, Isaac	5		Douglass, John	7	
Bishop, Mary	3		Goes, Mary	6	1
Townsend, John	7		Gramman, David	6	
Boorman, Timothy	6		Gramman, Joseph	7	
Skinkle, John	6		Gardineer, Peter H.	9	
Herder, Thumis	2		Stevens, Hugh	5	

	No. of Persons	No. of Slaves		No. of Persons	No. of Slaves
Huyck, Arent	8	9	Van Ness, Peter	5	10
V: Allen, Rachel	8	10	Davis, Dennis	9	
Hogan, Daniel	10	1	Proper, Frederick	8	
Van Alstin, Leonard	5	7	Fredenburgh, John	5	
V: Alstine, Abraham J.	7	18	Moet, John, Jr.	3	
Smith, Coonradt	7		Moet, John	6	
Vosburgh, Petro J.	4	1	Moet, Frederick	4	
Wooden, Amos	8		Mc. Donald, Ranald	7	
Vosburgh, Evert	12	7	Goes, Margaret	8	
Gardineer, Dirck	7	6	Stover, George	10	
V ⁿ Allen, Cornelius	5		Fowler, Delawar	7	
Westterwon, Henry	8		Dodge, Peregrine	3	
V: Sleyk, William	6	3	Folandt, Henry	4	
Gardineer, Peter A.	9		Head, Michael	4	
Bingham, Catharin	1	1	Frost, John	9	
Norcross, Eytie	1	1	Shaver, Lucas	7	
Van Eps, Evert	5	1	Shufelt, John, Jr.	7	
Rowley, Jabez	5		Shufelt, John	3	1
Morry, Ebenezzer	11		Head, Jonathan	5	
Wadsworth, Gad	6		Goodemott, Baltus	9	
Shafer, John	3		V: Dyck, Cornelius	4	
Ostrum, Rulif.	3		V: Dyck, Peter C.	4	
Simmons, Jeremiah	4	1	Williams, John	5	
Bernard, John	3		V: Allen, Lawrence A.	8	2
V: Slyk, John	9	3	Haus, Simeon	4	1
Fisher, Henry	4		Haus, Peter	5	
Patterson, Alexander	8		Goes, John B.	5	
Dcedrick, Philip	11		Farrel, Joseph	7	
Chapin, Daniel	7		Laross, Joseph	5	
V: Dusen, Claudius	1	2	Morey, Elisha	5	
Frisbe, Elisha	7		Hans, Zachariah	4	
V: Scaack, Cornelius	4	10	Ableman, Cristian	4	
Tobias, Daniel	9		Rysdorph, Lawrence	3	1
Goodfellow, John	9		Landt, Felta	8	
V: Buren, Herman	7	6	Gifford, Gideon	3	
Minkler, Harmanes	6		Moul, Frederick	5	
Jacobie, William	3		Curtis, Jeremiah, Jr.	4	
Fisher, Isaac	7		Salisbury, Ezekiel	3	
Moor, Elias	5		Hogiboom, Abraham	9	5
White, Henry	7		Storm, Thomas	11	6
Rholman, John	9	4	Lusk, Jacob	3	
Peck, Daniel	3		Philips, Peter	6	
Vosburgh, Mattewis	6	2	Ostranda, Philip	10	
Roff, Philip	9		Tygart, William	3	
Miller, Cornelius	8		Peterson, James	4	1
V: Allen, Lawrence L.	5	8	Peterson, William	5	
V: Allen, Adam E.	7	4	Peterson, Philip	6	
V: Allen, Abraham E.	5	1	Coffin, Zephaniah	11	
Weatherman, Daniel	8		Cornilicson, John	3	
White, John	7		Berney, Nathaniel	8	
Goes, Lawrence	4	4	Robison, Jeremiah	6	
V: Dyke, Aaron	9		Rogers, Herman	4	
Shoemaker, Hezekiah	4		Bernard, Ruben	10	
Hans, Coonradt	3	1	Able, Andrew	3	
Dingman, Gerrit	4	2	V: Alstin, Lambert	4	2
Dingman, Casparus	5	1	Curtis, Samuel	7	

Old Kinderhook

	No. of Persons	No. of Slaves		No. of Persons	No. of Slaves
Curtis, Ebenezer	4		Clerk, Henry	8	
Curtise, Joseph	8		Gould, James	10	
Smith, Samuel	9		Slack, Benijah	8	
Bunker, David	9		Fall, Henry	7	
Aims, Benjamin	6		Irish, Susannah	3	
Johnson, Peter	10		Slack, Benj.	4	
V: Valkenburgh, John R.	5		Winter, Moses	6	
Crandle, Joseph	12		Searls, Abraham	6	
Eldridge, Joseph	10		Stevens, Peter	7	
Johnson, John	6		Smith, Nicholas T.	7	1
Crandell, Timothy	7		V: Buren, Peter B.	7	9
Briggs, Nathaniel	1		Frientnott, Magdalena	2	4
Smith, Dirck	7		Sharp, Cornelius	2	
Morhouse, James	6	1	Ostrum, John	10	
Taylor, David	8		Haight, Oliver	6	
Shriter, Abraham	7		Bullock, Shubael	10	
Goes, Henry	6		Haver, John	11	
Hunter, Benjamin	3		Haver, Cristein	4	
Peterson, Alexander	8		Pool, John	7	
Snyder, Peter	6		Clinsman, Cristopher	4	
Race, Benj.	5		Sitzer, Frederick	5	
Race, William	3		Wright, Isaac	8	
Carl, Adam	3		Loman, Peter	6	
Ailer, John	6		Coil, Minerd	2	
Mihell, John	2		Sharp, John	4	
Cooper, Martin	10	1	Decker, Henry	3	
Lawrence, Peter	1		Snyder, Peter	7	
Shufelt, Michael	8		Goes, Martin	5	2
Rose, Gilbert	3		Goes, Gertruy	7	3
Roosbach, John	4		V: Buren, Ephraim T.	2	2
Roosbach, George	5	1	Mc Neil, James	8	
Philips, John	11		Goes, Isaac	6	4
Rathbon, Thomas	4		Rundle, Levi	2	
Jones, Richard	10		Johnson, Isaac	9	
Kittle, John	6	3	Elsworth, Samuel	2	
Shults, David	10		Mace, Abraham	13	
Shults, Philip	6		Murry, Joseph	7	
Campbell, John	7		Hoff, Jacob	8	
Folandt, George	7		Hogiboorn, Peter C.	4	1
Woolfrom, Philip	6		Morey, Joseph	3	
Woolfrom, Mathias	7		Gardiner, Godfrey	9	
Moor, Jacob	5		V: Valkenburgh, Lambert	9	
Moor, Peter	6		T.		
Moor, John	3		V: Valkenburgh, John	4	
Hoffman, Adam	4		Reis, Samuel	5	
Hoffman, Coonradt	10		Campbell, Steward	3	
Birdsall, John	4		Long, George	8	
Birdsall, Timothy	3		Duel, Joseph	8	
Buel, Eli	7		Nevy, John	5	
V: Dyk, Henry	3	1	Bross, Eleanor	7	
Snyder, Simeon	3		Van Allen, James E.	6	1
Lockwood, Theophilus	6		V: Valkenburgh, Barth.	10	
Delesdornier, Moses F.	6		Vosburgh, Jocham	6	
Freeman, Elisha	4		Vosburgh, Peter	7	
Freeman, Elisha, Jr.	8		V: Valkenburgh, Jacob	3	
Reynolds, Nathl.	3		Dobs, Daniel	7	

	No. of Persons	No. of Slaves		No. of Persons	No. of Slaves
V: Valkenburgh, Isaac	9		Stevens, James	10	
Vosburgh, John	4	1	Du Colwan, Claudius	5	
V: Valkenburgh, Claudius	10	3	Hasting, William	3	
Vosburgh, William	4		Rundell, Rachel	4	
V: Alstin, Thomas	7		Trowman, Henry	8	
Van Slyck, Peter T.	4		Humphries, Thomas	6	
Dingman, Andrew	8		Humphries, Nicholas	5	
V: Valkenburgh, Jocham T.	6	2	Tygart, William	3	
Moir, Nicholus	6		Coal, Cornelius	1	
Luke, Margaret	4		Gilbert, Luke	1	
Kittle, Nicholas D.	7		V: Dyke, Mindert	4	
Vosburgh, John P.	8	8	Bruyer, Francis	6	
V: Valkenburgh, Isaac P.	10	7	Wynant, Henry	5	



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Abbreviations: K., Kinderhook; V., Valatie.

Note. Many names and incidental recurrences of the same name are not cited in this Index; nor are many hundreds of names in the census of 1790, the assessment rolls of 1744 and 1809, military rosters and other lists. These should be consulted by those seeking fuller information. See Names, Lists of.

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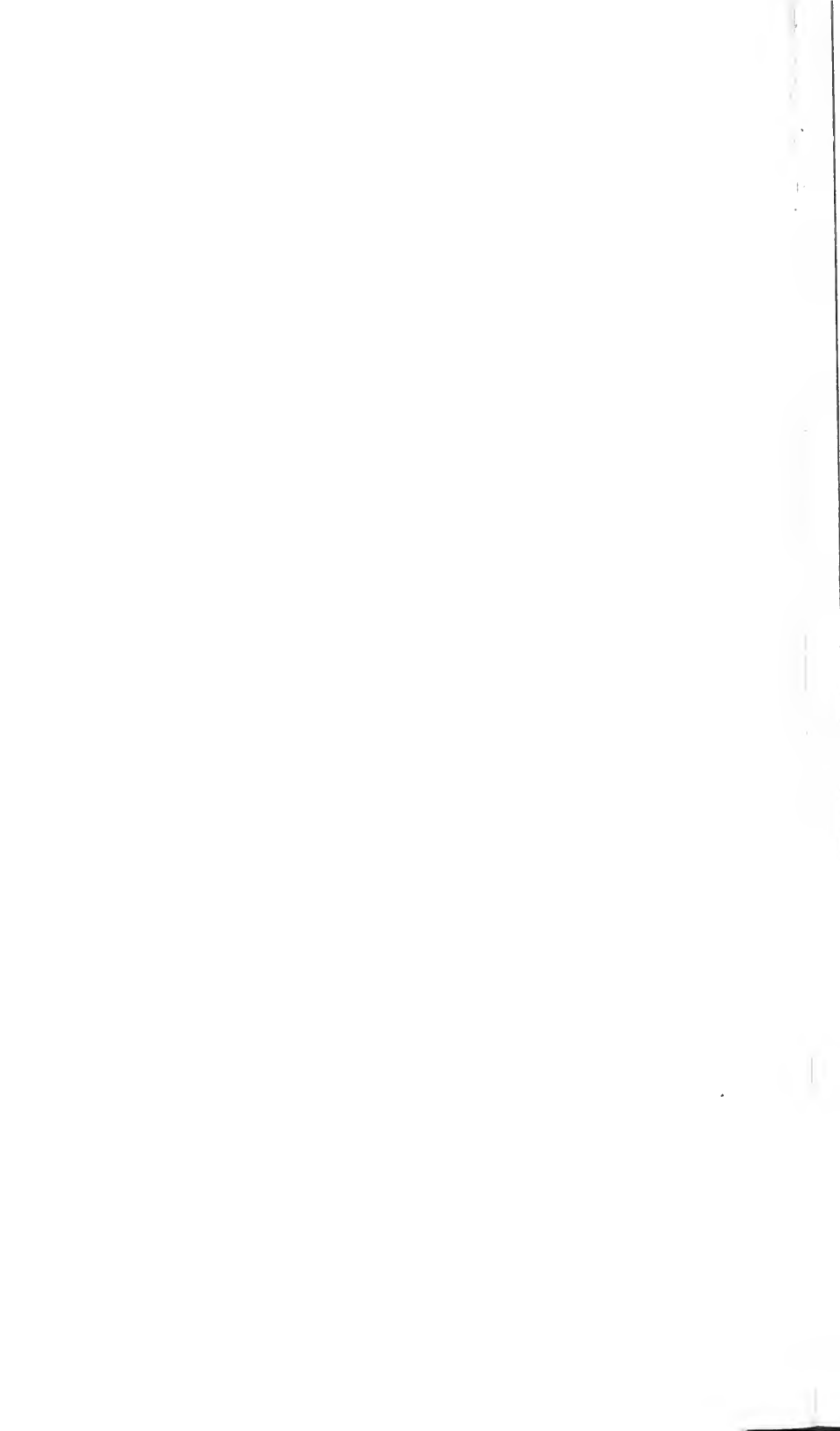
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