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# OLD<sup>E</sup> VLSTER



An Historical and Genealogical Magazine



KINGSTON, N. Y.

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**W**E have a few copies of the Dutch Church Records of Kingston (baptisms and marriages from 1660 through 1810) elegantly printed on 807 royal quarto pages, with exhaustive index containing references to 44,388 names, edited by Chaplain R. R. Hoes, U. S. N., and printed by the De Vinne Press, N. Y. But few Knickerbocker families can trace their ancestry without reference to this volume.

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# OLD<sup>E</sup> VLSTER

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VOL. VI

JUNE, 1910

No. 6

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## *The Earliest Settlers at Saugerties Village*

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IMPENETRABLE darkness hides the name of "the old sawyer" from whom both the town and village of Saugerties take the name. Captain Martin Cregier's "Journal of the Second Esopus War" speaks of "Sager's Kill" as early as July 12, 1663. The Andros Indian Treaty was made April 27, 1677 and the Indians reserved therein the lands (some 15,000 acres) they had conveyed to "the old sawyer." It must have been early enough before 1663 to have given the name to the locality, for when the first survey of lands about the mouth of the Esopus creek was made in 1687 it was spoken of as "The Sagier's." Who he was, whence he came, what his history, all is buried in impenetrable darkness.

In the spring of 1685 the colonial governor of New York, Thomas Dongan, directed a survey of what is now the great part of the village corporation of Saug-

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*Olde Ulster*

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erties to be made by Philip Wells, the official surveyor. The record in the office of the Secretary of State of New York is as follows :

“By vertue of a warrant bearing date the 15 April, '85, from the Right Honble Thomas Dongan, Govern'r Generall of His Majesties Plantationes and Colonie of New Yorke, Have Surveyed and Layed out for George Meales, Richard Hayes, a tract of land being situate and lying in the Countie of Ulster at the mouth of Esopus Kill or River, being a pice of the tract called the Sagiers, beginning at a forked tree marked, by the Bank of Hudson's River, Southward from the mouth of the Esopus River, from thence running West five degrees Northerly thirty-two chains to a tree marked on the top of hill, from thence running West Northwest two degrees therty minutes Northerly fifty-eight chains to the Esopus Creek, thence North ten degrees Easterly to a marked tree on the sid of ane hill 18 chaines, thence East and by North one degree fourty-five minutes Northerly to a marked tree on the bank of Hudson's River one hundred and four chaines, thence down along the sid of Hudson's River to the first marked tree, Containing in all four hundred forty-one akers and three quarters ; Performed the Seaventh of May, 1686.”

The patent of this grant was not issued until May 31, 1687. Three other large parcels of land in the town of Saugerties were granted to the same parties. On the 22nd of November, 1687 “George Meales and Sarah, his wife of ye County of Albany,” released his interest in the above land to his partner, “Richard Hayes, of Kingstown, in ye County of Ulster.” The consideration was the interest of Hayes in the tract both owned along the Old Kings

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*The Earliest Settlers at Saugerties Village*

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Road "about a mile Northwest from ye mouth of ye Esopus Creek."

Securing the sole possession of the tract Richard Hayes and Goodwith, his wife, the same day (November 22, 1687) conveyed to John Wood of Kingston

"Tenn acors of meadow land upon uppier ye North sid of ye Groot meadow or floy and also all my right and titill of my land yt lies of ye South sid of ye Esopus Kill as by pattin from his Excelence ye Govern : Tho. Dongan whoos dait is ye 31 day of May, 1687 . . . and also one third part of ye conveniancey yt theire leys for a saw mill to stand : . . . to have and to hold ye said land and housings belongings . . . orchards gardings & ffencing thereto belongin."

The consideration was "eight hundred twenty five skepels of wheat." It was payable "at ye new dwelling house of Richd Hayes at ye Sagears." This is the first mention of a house within the bounds of the present village of Saugerties. As Richard Hayes had not been the sole owner until the day of this sale to Wood the dwelling must have been in prospect.

On the 2nd of April, 1695 John Wood and Hanna, his wife, sold the land to David Du Bois of Kingston, a son of Louis Du Bois, one of the Patentees of New Paltz. The consideration now was two thousand three hundred "schipples of wheat." Du Bois could not have complied with the terms of sale as we find that on the twenty-ninth of March, 1697 Du Bois conveyed the premises back to Wood. John Wood conveyed them to his son Edward in 1722 and Edward Wood to Tjerck Schoonmaker about the year 1733.

The lands on the north side of the Esopus were

then conveyed by Richard Hayes to John Hayes, and on August 16, 1712 John Hayes conveyed the same to John Persen. John Persen had married Anna Catryn Post. By his will, in 1748, he bequeathed his property to his wife, and the land on the Hudson to his daughter Annitje, the wife of Myndert Mynderse who built the old stone house on the bank of the Hudson still in the possession of a descendant, the wife of Frederick T. Russell. John Persen developed his property. He built a grist mill and established a ferry across the Esopus. Having to make a trip to Canada in 1711 he made a will in which he left all he possessed to his wife, except the gun he left at home and the one he would get in Albany.

Tjerck Schoonmaker became a permanent resident of the village. His daughter Hillitje married Wilhelmus Burhans whose daughter married John Brink, Jr. This brought into town two families which have always remained. Sarah Persen, sister of John Persen, married Myndert Schutt. Schutt was the possessor of a large tract of land at Malden. His daughter Maria married Abraham Post, a nephew of the wife of John Persen. This brought to town another family largely concerned in its development and still strongly represented here. This is the Post family. Peter, the son of Abraham, married Deborah Schoonmaker. Hiskia DuBois was another of the early settlers. He had married Anna Persen, a niece of John. Hiskia was a son of Matthew DuBois, and a grandson of Louis, the patentee. These include all the families, practically, living within the bounds of the village of Saugerties and on the north side of the Esopus creek in 1750.



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*The Earliest Settlers at Saugerties Village*

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Petrus Myer, son of Christian Myer, the Palatine, came to Saugerties in 1759 and built the two-story stone house still standing at the head of Livingston street and still owned by the Myer family.

On the south side were living the Legg family and the VanLeuvens. William and Samuel Legg were sons of William Legg and Maria Burhans, daughter of Barent Burhans, the father of the above Wilhelmus. The VanLeuvens were related to the Wood family and, probably, came to Saugerties through this connection.

Enough has been stated to show that the earliest settlers of Saugerties were drawn to the locality through ties of kinship. There were but a very few families. What is now a village of four thousand population was before the Revolution a country neighborhood of scattered farmers. All were closely related and through that relation followed each other. It was John Persen who had led the advance. It was the same John Persen who obtained the site for the old church at Katsbaan and became its first elder.

All of the above settlers were of Dutch families, excepting the DuBois. These were Huguenots but now speaking the Dutch tongue. To the north about West Camp were many Palatines, and a larger settlement of them northwest in Katsbaan. These were gradually intermingling with the Dutch and slowly became residents of what became the village of Saugerties long afterwards. Those about West Camp were Lutherans and retained the German of the Palatinate longer than those who were of the Reformed faith and united with the Dutch Reformed in the church at Katsbaan.

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*Olde Ulster*

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All were farmers. In fact, there was no manufacturing except by blacksmiths, carpenters and the like who made and built for the farmers. It has been shown that all the original families had so intermarried that a community of relatives was living about the mouth of the Esopus creek. For a mile from the Hudson this is a tide-water stream and navigable. But in those pre-Revolutionary days it was filled with sand bars. The construction of the great dam to develop the magnificent water power at the lower falls of the Esopus in 1825 changed not only the character of the town, but brought in a new element to labor in the new factories. It also led to the dredging and dyking of the navigable creek. The commerce developed led the federal government to erect a light house at the mouth of the Esopus.

The families that made their homes on the north side have to this day many descendants in Saugerties. From the first the Mynderse, Burhans, Brink, Post and Schoonmaker families have been strongly identified with the interests of the town. There are yet those bearing the names of VanLeuven, Legg and DuBois. But these families are relatively few. Of the Palatine families the Myer became residents of the village the earliest. Then the Snyder and the Wolven. All these are still largely represented. In 1773 Dr. Christopher Kiersted came to Saugerties as the first physician. He purchased the farm of David DuBois on the north side of Main street. This was known as the Hiskia DuBois farm. From this time members of the Kiersted family were active in town affairs.

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## The Settlement at the Peenpack

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THE early history of Ulster county, the story of the frontier troubles during the old French and Indian War of the middle of the eighteenth century, and the raids and massacres of the Revolution once caused the Peenpack to be widely known throughout the State of New York, at least. The south limits of the patrol along the frontier established by Governor George Clinton was at Peenpack and there he finally erected the south one of the three forts for the protection of that frontier.

The word is applied to the long, narrow flats of the Neversink river in Orange (formerly Ulster) county. The word seems formed from the Dutch words *peen* and *pacht*, the former meaning carrot and the latter a lease. It was applied to low land suitable for gardening and held under a lease.

It was at Peenpack that the earliest settlers of "the Minisink," as the region about Port Jervis was called, made their homes. Here was the first settlement of the present Orange county, and it was in a then almost inaccessible part of Ulster county. The first comers proceeded up the valley of the Esopus and the Rondout, and thence into the valley of the Neversink. These pioneers searched for suitable lands on

which to make their homes and fertile lowlands were the objects of their search. To whom these lands had been granted by patent was a secondary consideration. In truth such patented lands were so indefinitely described that it was safe to settle anywhere and abide consequences. Patentees were too glad to secure colonists to object greatly to terms.

In 1697 a patent was granted to Jacob Codebeck, Thomas Swartwout, Anthony Swartwout, Bernardus Swartwout, Jan Tys, Peter Germar and David Jamison. It was very indefinite in its boundaries, but it covered the Peenpack. The settlers thereon were never disturbed and their descendants, in many instances, are living on the lands about Peenpack to this day. Germar and Codebeck were Huguenots, the others Dutchmen. They came from the Hudson river and country of the Esopus. First of all they paid the Indians for the lands they obtained of them and for generations white men and red men lived here at peace. It was, veritably, the home of the red men. The streams abounded in fish, the forests were full of game, the valleys gave them abundance of fields for corn and beans and in the beech woods every spring innumerable flocks of wild pigeons supplied a bountiful larder. Yet the Indians and the Dutchmen were close neighbors and friendly ones. Not until the troubles with the French arose and caused the French and Indian War, to be succeeded by that of the Revolution, was the peace broken.

From the days of the earliest settlement the pioneers profited by the lesson learned from the First and Second Esopus Indian Wars. The settlers built their

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*The Settlement at the Peenpack*

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houses close to each other, usually on some knoll which could be fortified, if need were.

Soon after the above-named patentees secured title other settlers came up the valley from the Esopus. These were all Dutch families. Among them were Peter Cuykendall, John Decker, William Cole and Solomon Davis, the Van Akens, Brinks, De Witts, Van Ettens and others. They were a sturdy people. It was not an easy task to subdue and bring into cultivation a primeval wilderness, however fertile the land might be. It was not an easy task to market the produce of their acres sixty miles over a wilderness road to tide water on the Hudson at the Esopus. A market for Indian corn was not found then. Wheat could find ready purchasers; corn could not. It must be transformed into pork and pork products. Thus it came to pass that the producers of the great crops of corn upon the valley lands were large consumers of corn meal, *suppaan*, samp and the like.

When the French and Indian War broke out the settlements along the Neversink extended for a distance of eight to ten miles. In some way the Indians were led to take sides with the French. The Minisinks were of the same great aboriginal family with the Delawares. Thus they were of Algonquin stock. The Iroquois were their immemorial enemies. Because these last were allies of the English the former were susceptible to French influences. The red men who had lived in amity along the Delaware and Neversink with their white neighbors became at enmity. They were soon bitterly hostile. So the Peenpack settlers sent their women and children down the valleys

towards the Esopus. Rochester, Napanoch, Wawarsing, Marbletown, Hurley, Kingston and New Paltz became their refuge. Even there, except at New Paltz, they were not entirely secure from alarms.

The fathers, husbands, brothers and sons at home were diligently preparing for the enemy. In the upper neighborhood three small forts were built within three or four miles, and the same number within the same distance in the lower neighborhood. They were erected to accomplish two ends—a place of refuge and a defense. In the upper neighborhood one was on the Neversink at the northwest end of the settlement; one at the house of Peter Gumaer in the central and the other at the southwest end. Twelve families could obtain security in each. In the forts in the lower neighborhood eighteen families might be secure. Where these forts were located is not known to-day.

Into the various alarms, attacks, massacres and the like we will not go. During the years succeeding until Canada was ceded to Great Britain the frontier was never quiet. The seven long years of the Revolution were just as full of wars, murders, scalpings, burnings and Indian massacres. Between the two wars peace reigned and the Indians returned to their haunts and hunting grounds. Trade with the whites was brisk in the interval and amity was re-established. John Westbrook opened a store for the trade with the Indians which became a great depot for furs, skins and products of the forest. It was the resort of the red men from all along the frontier.

The Revolution broke this all up. This part of the frontier was in close touch with the influence of the Mohawks, and Brant held that tribe of the Six Nations

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## *The Settlement at the Peenpack*

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in the hollow of his hand. Yet it was not until 1777, and until after the battle of Oriskany, that even Brant could obtain the consent of the red men to attack the frontier and their old friends and neighbors of the Minisink and the Neversink.

Trouble began immediately after the British forced the forts of the Highlands in October, 1777. Once more three forts were built at Peenpack. One was at the house of Jacob Rutsen DeWitt; one at the house of Benjamin DePuy and the third at the house of Ezekiel Gumaer. At that time the Peenpack neighborhood extended from the present line between Ulster and Orange counties to what is now Cuddebackville, about four miles. There were then some fifty families living in the region. The culmination was the battle of Minisink told in this magazine for November, 1906 (Vol. II., pages 325-338).

The close of the Revolution found the valley swept of its buildings and improvements. Many of its inhabitants were gone. Farms and orchards were destroyed. Many of its young men had been with General Sullivan on his memorable expedition to destroy the power of the Iroquois and had found the rich lands of western New York and sought homes there. It took more than a generation to restore the valley.

About 1820 Maurice Wurts traversed the region to locate a canal to tide water. He sought an outlet to Newburgh. One day he met Abraham Cuddeback and told him of his project. Cuddeback immediately said that he must follow the course of The Old Mine Road to Kingston. The result was the building of the great Delaware & Hudson Canal from Honesdale, Pennsylvania, to the Hudson at Kingston, down which uncounted millions of tons of coal have been transported.

*MANUEL GONZALES, THE SPANIARD*

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This magazine has frequently spoken of the admixture of white races among the earliest settlers of Ulster county. There was not a nation of northern, western or southwestern Europe that had none of its sons among the people of this county before the year 1700 closed the sixteenth century. Among them was a Spaniard of whom too little is known. He figures so much, so often and so prominently in some of its local history and his name, or that of some one of his descendants, is perpetuated so often as a local name, or a geographical designation that those who would be well informed in the history of the region desire to know much more of this early Spanish settler. Tradition has been active with his story, but tradition is so utterly unreliable that one longs for what can be verified concerning him.

His name first appears upon the records of the old First Dutch Church of Kingston, New York, as a witness to the baptism of Marritje, child of Isaac Davis, November 13, 1692. The other witness was Marritje Davids, who appears two years later as the wife of Gonzales. On the 16th of November, 1694 they had a child baptized in Kingston and named Manuel, after his father. The marriage of this son Manuel to Reymerig Kwik (Quick) is recorded as taking place September 25th, 1719. Manuel, the elder, next appears as the husband of Rebecca Westfalen. May 7th, 1710 they presented their son Johannes for baptism. October 25th, 1713 they appeared with a daughter Helena and July 1st, 1722 with a daughter Catrina.





*Sam's Point*

The younger Manuel and Remerig Kwik, his wife, presented for baptism a son Daniel February 3rd, 1723 and another son, Benjamin, October 25th, 1724.

In the records the name Gonzales does not often appear thus. It is usually "Gonsalis-dolf," "Gonsalus-duk" or "Gons Zalus-duk." Why is this appellation? Romance, which seems to be entwining without ceasing its additions to Ulster county history, will have it that Gonzales was a Spanish Puritan nobleman who was compelled to flee to America from religious persecution in his homeland. In proof it shows that in the above records he has his children baptized in a Protestant church and is called "Gonzales the duke." Those who thus build an argument forget that the records upon which they draw for their proof were kept in the language of the Dutch. The Dutch word for duke is not the same word used in English, but "*hertog*." Besides, in one of these entries he is called "dolf." While the etymology of the word is uncertain it seems that the suffix relates to some personal characteristic of the man to whom it was applied rather than to any rank or privilege to which he may have been entitled.

In the record of the marriage of Manuel Gonzales, the younger, it is stated that he was born in Marbletown. His mother was of the Davis family who were among the earliest settlers of that town. Manuel is usually spoken of as the first white settler of the present county of Sullivan. At least his grave is known and two miles from Wurtsboro, in that county, is a plain bluestone with this inscription "*Manuel Gonsalus is Gerstorven De 18 April Anno 1758* (Manuel Gonsalus died 18 April 1758)."

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*Manuel Gonzales, the Spaniard*

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One of the notable spots in the Shawangunk mountains is named Sam's Point after Samuel Gonsalus, a celebrated character of the Revolution. Sam was a son of Manuel, the younger. The old mine near Ellenville is called "The Spanish Mine" to this day and is said to be named after Manuel Gonzales.

As to the affix to the name of Manuel Gonsalis, Senior, it is, in all probability, the word "dolf," the preterit of the word for delving or digging. This brings us back to the story "The Spanish Mine." In the article in *OLDE ULSTER* for February, 1907 (Vol. III., pages 33-41) the story of "The Old Mine Road" to the Delaware Water Gap was told. A suggestion was thrown out that the Spanish mine might have been so called from Gonsalis. The writer, while searching in the records in the office of the clerk of Ulster county came across that of a deed of a part of Hussey's Hill, in the present town of Esopus, given March 9th, 1723 to Manuel Gonsalis, Junior, by Manuel Gonsalis, Senior, which is described to be part of the land conveyed to Gonsalis, Senior, by Frederick Hussey. This mountain, known as Hussey's Hill, has been a favorite from early days with prospectors for precious metals and it may have been exploited by Gonsalis in the earliest days of the settlement.

Searching farther it was found that Colonel Jacob Rutsen conveyed to Manuel Gonsalis, Junior, "of Hussey's Hill," for a consideration of sixty pounds, one hundred and twenty acres of land on the 25th of July, 1727, which land lay one hundred chains west of "the Indian Tatapagh's wigwam" It was far up the valley of the Rondout and must have been in the

vicinity of the spot near Wurtsboro spoken of above. The special feature that demands notice in the deed is the right to the minerals on the tract conveyed. One seems to be driven to the conclusion that both of these members of the family were prospectors and miners. If so, the suggestion that the affix to the name of Gonsalis is "dolf" explains the matter.

This magazine has spoken of the attempts to mine lead during the Revolution in the Shawangunks (OLDE ULSTER, Vol. VI., pages 79-81). Samuel Gonsalis seems to have been one of the men always confident that mineral treasures could be found in this range of mountains. He acquired many acres of this mountain land, among which was the massive boulder lying on the eastern brow of the mountain, known to this day as "Sam's Point," which is our illustration for this issue. A majestic view is stretched out to the visitor over the valley of the Wallkill and over the Hudson. Tradition has much to say of the Indian fights and feats of strength of him for whom the rock is named. With these this magazine has nothing to do.

"Tatapagh's wigwam" was one of the features of "The Old Mine Road" from the Esopus to the Delaware in olden days. In the deed to Colonel Jacob Rutsen of 1713 he is called "Tautapagh, a medicine man." It was a great stopping place for those who had occasion to journey between Kingston and the Delaware Water Gap. It was near Mamakating (Wurtsboro), Sullivan county, and upon the property thus acquired by Manuel Gonsalis, the second, that he built a tavern which became the noted hostelry along the road.

*A CARRIER'S ADDRESS ONE HUNDRED  
YEARS AGO*

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Through the courtesy of Mrs. Theodore de Laporte of Rhinebeck, New York, OLDE ULSTER is permitted to lay before its readers a carrier's address of one hundred years ago last New Year's Day. It was issued by the *Plebeian*, a weekly newspaper then published in Kingston and still published here, though now called *The Kingston Argus*. The address is surrounded by an arched border representing the dome of the sky and bears, above the stars, the notice :

“Thirty-fourth year of American Independence.”

“THE  
**Carrier's Address**  
TO THE  
NEW YEAR,  
**DEDICATED**  
TO THE PATRONS OF THE  
**PLEBEIAN.**

JANUARY 1, 1810

“By a hand Immortal driven,  
Rapid rolls the car of Time;  
Through the circling paths of Heaven,  
Changing still from clime to clime.

“Now the monarch of the scythe  
Listens to the vernal song,  
Now the breath of summer blythe,  
Seems to waft the car along.

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*Olde Ulster*

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- “ See it guide through shady bowers;  
Soon the shady bowers are gone;  
Leaves of Autumn drop in showers  
Now around the wheeling throne.
- “ Hurrying onwards, ne'er it lingers,  
Autumn's borders soon are past;  
And old Time, with frosty fingers.  
Drives across the wintry waste.
- “ We, like captives at his wheels,  
Let's be social on our way;  
And tho' Winter's breath congeals,  
Snatch a pleasure while we may.
- “ Genial Joy, with harmless Mirth,  
Come with your convivial train;  
Hail the light of New-Year's birth,  
Banish sorrow, care and pain.
- “ Melancholy, seek thy shade,  
There thy gloomy face conceal,  
Malice hide thy hideous head,  
Revenge, let fall thy lifted steel.
- “ Plenty, all thy stores supply,  
Quick the festive board prepare,  
Bacchus fill the goblet high,  
Drink the brave, and toast the fair.
- “ Music, pour the enliv'ning lay,  
Love and friendship be the theme;  
Graces twine your garlands gay,  
Beauty, dart your brightest beam.
- “ Charity, now dress thy shrine,  
Soon the incense shall be given,

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*A Carrier's Address One Hundred Years Ago*

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Benevolence ! that gift is thine,  
Sweet the fragrance smells to heaven.

“ Misery's children cease to languish,  
When thy cheering voice they hear,  
Sorrow hushes half her anguish;  
Lifts her sinking head, Despair.

“ When shall Commerce, ship unmooring,  
Spread again her airy sail ?  
When shall Peace, our rights securing,  
Give us free the Ocean gale ?

“ War yet rolls his deadly thunder  
Over Europe's groaning plain ;  
Rapine, bent on deeds of plunder,  
Lords it o'er the billowy main.

“ Must Columbia see the treasure,  
Which her fruitful land supplies,  
Seized by Ruffians at their pleasure,  
And not feel her spirit rise ?

“ Ah ! when threatens lawless power,  
Shall her sons inactive lie ?  
And while gathering war-clouds lower,  
Wait until the thunders fly ?

“ 'Tis our glory Peace to cherish,  
But when Despots tribute claim,  
Better in the battle perish,  
Than survive our country's fame.

“ Lust of conquest, how it rages,  
Spurning Justice, thy pure way !  
Usurpation, see it wages  
War on those it can't betray.

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*Olde Ulster*

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“ Injur’d Denmark knows the story,  
Deep ’tis written on her walls;  
Spain, now braving death for glory,  
Loud with voice of warning calls.

“ Listen to that warning call,  
Ye that dwell in Freedom’s Land,  
And tho’ royal castles fall,  
Freedom’s Temple long shall stand.

“ Tyrants never there shall enter,  
If firm Union guard the door,  
But if Faction sap the centre,  
Ah! ’twill fall to rise no more!

“ Yes—if Freedom must expire,  
Faction drags her to her doom,  
Luxury builds the funeral pyre,  
And Corruption digs the tomb.

“ Such a doom, forbid the Fates!  
’Tis the humble News-boy’s prayer,  
Who now with fond expectance waits,  
Your bounty, patrons kind, to share.

“ For twelve long months, with nimble feet,  
He’s brought the paper to your door;  
And now he hopes a New-Year’s treat  
Will help him round a twelve month more.

“ ’Twill help him purchase, what I vow  
Is partly for yourself, dear master;  
A hat to make a smarter bow,  
And shoes to help him run the faster.

“ And now may Heaven its gifts impart,  
Long life, and health, and friends sincere,



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*Death Notices from Old Papers*

---

May Sorrow never rend your heart,  
Nor Want within your walls appear."

It needs not the telling to show that the above lines were written a century ago. The stilted terms, the personification of qualities, the attempts to tread a stately measure, all exhibit the age of literary effort that was even then passing and had gone before another generation came. The address is worth preserving as a curiosity of that early day, if for nothing more.



*DEATH NOTICES FROM OLD PAPERS*

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From *Plebeian* of September 13, 1814 :

Died at Schawangunk Johannes C. Decker, aged about 50 years. He was a worthy member of society, and has left a very numerous family to lament his loss.

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From *Plebeian* of September 20, 1814 :

Yesterday Mathias Van Keuren, an old and respectable inhabitant of this village.

---

From *Plebeian* of September 27, 1814 :

On Sunday evening last, very suddenly, Nicholas Bogardus of this village, aged 81 years.

---

From *The Craftsman* of March 29, 1820 :

In this village Benjamin I. Moore, Esq., formerly a respectable merchant of the City of New York, March 29, 1820.

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From *The Craftsman* of June 26, 1820 :

In Marbletown on Wednesday Mr. David Bever, aged 73.

*BUILDING THE STATE'S STRONG BOX*

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When it was determined to remove the Convention of the new State of New York to Kingston, preliminary to forming a constitution and organizing a state government, it was decided that a strong box should be built for the Treasurer of the State of New York, Peter Van Brugh Livingston, in which to keep money and valuable papers. The bill for the same is worthy of printing in OLDE ULSTER. It is as follows :

“ 1777

“ February 27th

“ THE STATE OF NEW YORK

to JOHN CHIPP of

Kingston Dr.

|                                                                              |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| To work, nails & stuff repairing a writing desk....                          | £ 0.8.0  |
| To stuff & nails for a large writing table.....                              | 8.0      |
| To making said table.....                                                    | 8.0      |
| To a Cupboard Lock, Hinges & Screws,....                                     | 0.6.0    |
| To Glew and Nails.....                                                       | 1.0      |
| To stuff for the Box.....                                                    | 5.0      |
| To making said Box.....                                                      | 12.0     |
|                                                                              | —————    |
|                                                                              | 1.4.0    |
| To a Packing Box 8/— a pair of Snibles for do 1/                             | 9.0      |
| To repairing a small packing Box with a Bottom &<br>a Board to cover it..... | 3.0      |
| To 2 chests more with Hinges &c.....                                         | 2.10.0   |
|                                                                              | —————    |
|                                                                              | £ 5.10.0 |

[Audited Apr. 8, and paid May 20, 1777] ”

*THE PRECINCTS OF OLD ULSTER*

The county of Ulster had a noteworthy feature in its days under British rule that is worthy of mention here. It was the division of the sparsely settled portion into precincts. These might be defined as towns in the making, as territories under the federal government might be said to be states in the making. These precincts were attached to adjoining towns for the administration of their affairs until such time as they could stand alone. Then they were empowered to elect supervisors and other officials. When of sufficient population to administer their own affairs they were erected into towns.

"The Esopus" was the first part of the county to be settled. Readers of this magazine need not be told that the region about Kingston was meant. The act of November 1st, 1683 divided the province of New York into counties of which Ulster was made one. Its description is: "The *County of Ulster* to contain the towns of Kingston, Hurley and Marbletown, and all the villages, neighborhoods and Christian habitations on the west side of Hudson's river, from the Murderer's creeke, near the Highlands, to Sawyer's creeke." Here are but three towns mentioned. New Paltz had been patented but was governed by the twelve patentees. Rochester had instituted a town of Mumbakkus. This was made the town of Rochester in its patent, granted in 1703.

By the act of December 17th, 1743 three full precincts were established. They were granted most of the offices of a town. They were to be known as *Wallkill Precinct, Shawangunk Precinct and Highland*

*Precinct.* There is a clause in the act by which it seems that Shawangunk, Highlands and Maghaghkemek "have been formerly deemed and esteemed three precincts, and have been assessed by their own assessors, etc." This had been from the time of the Palatine settlement at Newburgh in 1708-9. The Highlands precinct thus lay on the Hudson; that of Wallkill to its west; Shawangunk north of Wallkill and by this act of 1743, the *Precinct of Mamekating* was legalized. This extended south from the town of Rochester to the line of Orange county, as it then existed.

The south part of Ulster county remained thus constituted until 1762, when the precinct of the Highlands was divided into *New Windsor Precinct* and *Newburgh Precinct*. For ten years this continued. In 1772 Newburgh precinct was once more divided and its north half was erected into *New Marlborough Precinct*. By the same act the precinct of Wallkill was cut in two and the *Precinct, of Hanover* was formed from part of it.

Thus the southern section of Ulster county continued until after the close of the long war. In 1788 an act was passed by the Legislature of the State of New York organizing these precincts as towns. The new towns were to take the names they had as precincts, except Hanover. It was too near the close of the war with Great Britain, and the people of this state had too bitter memories of George III., and the House of Hanover, to desire to perpetuate that name. Hanover precinct thus became the town of Montgomery, after General Richard Montgomery, the commander of the American forces at Quebec, where he fell.

THE VAN AAKEN AND ALLIED FAMILIES

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*Continued from Vol. VI., page 158*

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(DCLI.) JONAS VAN AKEN<sup>7</sup> (Jonas<sup>6</sup>, Jonas<sup>5</sup>, Peter<sup>4</sup>, Jan<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Marinus<sup>1</sup>) was born in Esopus August 25, 1818 and married JANE VAN AKEN; born in Esopus. Children:

(898) Elizabeth A.<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; died.

(899) Jesse<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; died.

(900) Joseph<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; died.

(901) Chauncey A.<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; died.

(902) Jonas<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; died.

(DCLII.) JOHN V. S. VAN AKEN<sup>7</sup> (Jonas<sup>6</sup>, Jonas<sup>5</sup>, Peter<sup>4</sup>, Jan<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Marinus<sup>1</sup>) was born in Esopus January 12, 1821 and married SARAH CATHERINE DEVO. Children:

(903) Justis<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married.

(904) D. Alva<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married.

(905) Carrie G.<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married.

(906) William<sup>8</sup>: Born — .

(DCLIII.) SAMUEL ELMORE VAN AKEN<sup>7</sup> (Jonas<sup>6</sup>, Jonas<sup>5</sup>, Peter<sup>4</sup>, Jan<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Marinus<sup>1</sup>) was born in Esopus January 12, 1824 and married ELLEN ROE. Children:

(907) Howard H.<sup>8</sup>: Born in Esopus — ; married Martha Post.

(908) Cynthia<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married Lorenzo Terpening.

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*Olde Ulster*

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- (909) John<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; died.  
(910) John<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married.  
(911) Emma<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married Oscar Freer.  
(912) Ellen Jane<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married — Schoon-  
maker.  
(913) Viola<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married William Roosa.  
(914) Samuel<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married.

(DCLIV.) RACHEL MARIA VAN AKEN<sup>7</sup> (Jonas<sup>6</sup>,  
Jonas<sup>5</sup>, Peter<sup>4</sup>, Jan<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Marinus<sup>1</sup>) was born in  
Esopus December 31, 1830 and married June 29, 1849  
MATTHEW DE GRAFF of Ulster County, New York.  
Children :

- (915) Jesse V. De Graff<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married Linda  
Hooper.  
(916) Ella J. De Graff<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married (1st)  
William Fowler ; (2nd) Thomas Nolan.  
(917) Lizzie De Graff<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married Ennist  
Freer.  
(918) Kate R. De Graff<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married Abra-  
ham Le Fevre.  
(919) William De Graff<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married Addie  
Schroeder.  
(920) Lewis R. De Graff<sup>8</sup>: Born — ; married Emma  
Roosa.

(DCCCXV.) SARAH VAN AKEN<sup>8</sup> (Alfred<sup>7</sup>, Wil-  
liam<sup>6</sup>, John E.<sup>5</sup>, Eliphas, Jr.<sup>4</sup>, Marinus<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Mari-  
nus<sup>1</sup>) was born — and married JOHN B. KELLY.  
Children :

- (921) Mabel Kelly<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

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*The VanAaken and Allied Families*

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(922) Mary Kelly<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

(923) Alfred Kelly<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

(DCCCXVII.) ABIGAIL VAN AKEN<sup>8</sup> (Eliphas<sup>7</sup>, Barent G.<sup>6</sup>, John E.<sup>5</sup>, Eliphas<sup>4</sup>, Marinus<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Marinus<sup>1</sup>) was born —, and married HENRY DWIGHT HARVEY. Children:

(924) Van Dwight Harvey<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

(925) Ethel Harvey<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

(DCCCL.) PETER M. VAN AKEN<sup>8</sup> (Ezra<sup>7</sup>, Peter M.<sup>6</sup>, Ephraim<sup>5</sup>, Abraham<sup>4</sup>, Gideon<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Marinus<sup>1</sup>) was born—, and married LYDIA SEXTON. Children:

(926) Gertrude Elizabeth<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

(927) Earl Marion<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

(DCCCLXV.) LIZZIE VAN AKEN<sup>8</sup> (Abraham<sup>7</sup>, Marinus<sup>6</sup>, Ephraim<sup>5</sup>, Abraham<sup>4</sup>, Gideon<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Marinus<sup>1</sup>) was born — and married WILLIAM F. FREER. Child:

(928) Abner Van Aken Freer<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

(DCCCLXXVII.) ELIZABETH VAN AKEN<sup>8</sup> (James E.<sup>7</sup>, Ephraim<sup>6</sup>, Ephraim<sup>5</sup>, Abraham G.<sup>4</sup>, Gideon<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Marinus<sup>1</sup>) was born — and married MILLARD F. ELLSWORTH, son of Abraham Ellsworth and Margaret Burger, daughter of Benjamin Winfield Burger, son of Zachariah Burger and Elizabeth Winfield<sup>5</sup> (Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Richard Winfield<sup>1</sup>). Children:

(929) Cleon Ellsworth<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

(930) Roswell Van Aken Ellsworth<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

(DCCCLXXX.) JESSE A. VAN AKEN<sup>8</sup> (Ephraim

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*Olde Ulster*

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L.<sup>7</sup>, Levi<sup>6</sup>, Ephraim<sup>5</sup>, Abraham G.<sup>4</sup>, Gideon<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Marinus<sup>1</sup>) was born — and married CARRIE B. KISI.  
Child :

(931) Florence Grace<sup>9</sup>: Born — .

(DCCCLXXXI.) ETTIE JANE VAN AKEN<sup>8</sup> (Ephraim L.<sup>7</sup>, Levi<sup>6</sup>, Ephraim<sup>5</sup>, Abraham G.<sup>4</sup>, Gideon<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, Marinus<sup>1</sup>) was born — and married JOHN W. CORBETT. Child :

(932) Beatrice Elvina Corbett<sup>9</sup>; Born — .

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The following baptisms are of children which cannot be identified and placed in the Van Aken family lines, where they belong :

Maria Course, child of Jannetje Van Aken and Benjamin Course was baptized June 1, 1777. Witnesses Joseph Dock and Gerty Van Aken.

At Minisink, Oct. 29, 1780 Elizabeth Middagh; Aug. 18, 1782 Cathrina Middagh and April 20, 1788 Abraham Van Aken Middagh, children of Sarah Van Aken and Elias Middagh, Jr. Witnesses Cornelius Van Aken and Catharina Van Aken.

At Minisink Oct. 29, 1780 Marya Quick, child of Cathrina Van Aken and Johannis Quick.

At Minisink Oct. 29, 1780 Cathrina Middagh; Oct. 29, 1780 Garetje Middagh and Aug. 18, 1782 Wilhelmus Middagh, children of Jannetje Van Aken and Hendrick C. Middagh. Witnesses Helmus Van Aken and Cathrina Van Aken, his wife; Jacobus Van Aken and Jannetje Van Aken, his wife.

At Minisink June 22, 1783 Caty Vrelingburgh;



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*The VanAaken and Allied Families*

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Sept. 18, 1785 Maria Vrelingburgh, children of Jane Van Aken and Arie Vrelingburgh. Witnesses Abraham Van Aken and Maria De Witt.

At Minisink, Jesaiah Rosekrans, born May 6, 1784; Petrus Rosekrans, born Oct. 14, 1798, children of Elisabeth Van Aken and Harme Rosekranz.

At Minisink, May 5, 1785 Joseph Quick, child of Margaret Van Aken and John Quick.

At Minisink, May 5, 1785 Sarah Opdegrof; Abraham Opdegrof and Margaret Opdegrop, children of Catharine VanAken and Isaac Opdegrof.

At Minisink, Lodewyck, born Oct. 11, 1786 and Elizabeth, born Feb. 5, 1789, children of Anthony VanAken and Rebecca Wells.

At Minisink, John Wells, born Feb. 5, 1788 and Polly Wells, born Aug. 8, 1789, children of Cathrina VanAken and James Wells.

At Minisink, Maria Westbrook, born Feb. 13 and baptized April 25, 1790; Catrina Westbrook, born Oct. 13 and baptized Dec. 7, 1794; Sarah Westbrook, born June 14, 1798 and Solomon Westbrook, born Dec. 28, 1800, children of Jannitie VanAken and Abraham Westbrook. Witnesses Aaron Vredenburg and Sarah VanAken, his wife.

At Walpack, Hannah Cusaw, born Nov. 27, and baptized Dec. 25, 1785; Jane Cusaw, born April 3, 1790 and Isaac Cusaw, born July 3, 1793, children of Leona VanAken and Peter Cusaw or Corso.

At Minisink, Sept. 25, 1790 Maria Quick and June 9, 1792 Rachel Quick, born April 12, children of Ger-tie VanAken and John Quick. Witnesses Isaac Van Aken and Rachel VanAken.

At Minisink, Elizabeth Vredenburgh, born May 3, 1790; Benjamin Vredenburgh, born Oct. 25 and baptized Nov. 17, 1793, and Jane Vredenburgh, born Dec. 29, 1802, children of Sarah VanAken and Aaron Vredenburgh.

At Minisink, Henry, born Oct. 5, 1797, child of James VanAken and Ann Wells.

At Minisink, Sarah, born May 28, 1802, child of Margaret VanAken and Joseph Hornbeek.

At Minisink, Caty Marvin, born Aug. 12, 1803, child of Anne VanAken and Henry Marvin.

At Minisink, Caty Jane Biddis, born Oct. 22, 1809, baptized Dec. 31, 1809, child of Lea VanAken and John Biddis.

At Walpack, Richard Westbrook, born Oct. 18, 1810, baptized Feb. 3, 1811; Henry Barnhart Wintermute, born Jan. 10, 1812; Aaron, or Aram, born Dec. 12, 1815; Ensly Roy, born Dec. 4, 1817, baptized Jan. 1, 1818; Lidia Mariah, born Dec. 4, 1819, baptized Aug. 30, 1820; Hannah Jane, born June 8, 1821, baptized March 31, 1822; Persilla Margaret, born July 18, baptized Aug. 26, 1823 and Everson Wheat, born Aug. 22, 1828, baptized June 14, 1829, children of John W. VanAken and Rachel Rosenkrans.

At Walpack, Lea, born May 31, 1813, child of Solomon VanAken and Margaret, his wife.

At Walpack, Lea Naomy Jane, baptized Oct. 27, 1815, child of Nathaniel VanAken and Mary, his wife.

At Walpack, Mary Smith, born March 25, baptized Aug. 10, 1817 and Hannah Smith, born Nov. 4, 1820 and baptized May 27, 1821, children of Sarah VanAken and Rodolvus Smith.

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*The Hudson*

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At Walpack, Elizabeth Middagh, born May 8, baptized July 15, 1818, child of Margaret VanAken and Levy Middagh.

At Walpack, Mary Decker, born January 9, 1818; Belinda Decker, born Feb. 3, 1820 and Jane Decker, born October 28, 1822, children of Margaret VanAken and John Decker, Jr.

At Walpack, Elijah, born April 27, 1825, child of John VanAken and Anna DePue.

This concludes the lineage of the VanAaken and allied families as contributed to OLDE ULSTER by Miss Annie R. Winfield.



*THE HUDSON*

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Hail noble River, born of fairy lake,  
Nurtured in Adirondacks' bosom wild,  
Where spirits o'er thy bright face charmed wands shake,  
And christen the fair cradle of their child  
"Tear of the Cloud." Your guardian mountain, high  
Tahawas, smiles to see his truant boy  
Go dashing down his sides, and tired lie  
His head on meadow green in restful joy.

Then childhood's merry brook with stones at play  
Gives way to manhood's strong impetuous tide,  
And love-lorn eddies by the bright falls stray  
To win the winsome Mohawk for your bride.  
Arm locked in arm, life's golden goal achieved,  
You sweep in stately grandeur to the sea.  
To be but one of myriad wave-souls heaved  
On the white sand bar of eternity.

KENNETH BRUCE

# OLD<sup>E</sup> ULSTER

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AN HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE

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IN SOME OF ITS EARLY ISSUES this magazine called for folk songs, ballads and the like, brought from the countries of Europe by the early settlers. From time to time some of those which came from the Netherlands have been re-produced in these pages. None have been received of those which must have come with the Huguenots from France, nor of those of the Palatines from the Rhineland in Germany. There was a French Song recited by the late General George H. Sharpe at the reception given in Kingston to the then newly organized Holland Society about twenty-five years ago. The editor of OLDE ULSTER has been at some pains to ascertain whether this song was brought to America, or even known, by the Huguenots who came during the seventeenth century to Ulster county. He has not succeeded. To those who have helped the magazine find and preserve the old Dutch songs and rhymes thanks are due, and are hereby extended. It is hoped that this notice may yet unearth others in the three tongues.

---

FORD HUMMEL  
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