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An Historical and Genealogical Magazine



KINGSTON, N. Y.

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VOL. VI

SEPTEMBER, 1910

No. 9

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## *Slavery in ❁ ❁*

### *Ulster County*

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PANIARDS had no sooner formed settlements on the islands of the West Indies after the discoveries of Columbus than they enslaved the inhabitants and set them at work in the mines. When the native tribes had been swept away the question of laborers became more and more pressing, and the west coast of Africa was drawn upon to supply the demand for slaves. Thus came about the curse of African slavery in America. We propose to inquire how great a factor it was in Old Ulster.

A Dutch man-of-war brought to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619 the first African slaves carried to the North American colonies. The number was twenty. This vessel had captured a Spanish slave ship and thus disposed of part of its cargo. Seven years thereafter, in 1626, African slaves were introduced into the Dutch

colony of New Amsterdam. During the next two hundred years slavery existed here under Dutch and English domination until the Revolution. After the formation of the State government in 1777 slavery continued for fifty years and was finally abolished in 1827, except that a few slaves remained in bondage for a few years until they had reached a certain age.

It is not known how early in the settlement of Old Ulster the institution of slavery took root within its bounds. But it is known that negroes were here from the earliest recorded years. They are mentioned almost as early as the Indian troubles begin in statements as to the number of men who could be found to defend the settlement aside from the negroes. Among the killed at the Indian attack upon the settlement at the Esopus June 7th, 1663, was a slave of Thomas Chambers. The records of the local court of Wildwyck contain many references to the holding, the ownership, the sale and the conduct of the slaves of the Esopus.

There is nothing upon record to show that Indians were held as slaves in the Esopus. This magazine (Vol. I., page 199) has spoken of the sale by Stuyvesant of the Indian captives, May 25th, 1660, at the close of the First Esopus Indian War, to strike terror into the hearts of the red men. These were sent to the West Indies to be sold. There is nothing on record to show that Indians were thus enslaved in the colony of New Netherland. After the English domination the Council Minutes for 1679 contain this resolution :

“All Indians within the colony are free—nor can they be forced to be servants or slaves—and if they are brought

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## *Slavery in Ulster County*

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hither as slaves, a residence of 6 months shall entitle them to freedom."

This rule was violated frequently in after years. The census often speaks of "Indian and Negro Slaves." Yet there seems to have been no sale of Indian slaves unless Indian and Negro blood was amalgamated. It is on record that negroes ran away and were secreted by the Minisinks and intermarried, especially the negro women with the Indian braves. When the children of such were found they were claimed by the masters of such women. There is evidence that Indian women voluntarily bound themselves to become servants to white men. But there seems none that Indians were thus sold by their owners. It is highly improbable that any men or women of the proud and belligerent Iroquois were ever held in slavery.

It has just been said that the Dutch brought the first slaves to New Amsterdam in 1626. It is not known how great the number was. There were at least eleven men, aside from the women. In 1644 one of these, Paul de Angola, with ten others named, petitioned the West India Company to be liberated. The Director and Council granted their request, requiring each of the negroes to be freed to pay the company each year as long as he lived thirty "skepels" (22½ bushels) of grain and "one fat hog." Their children were to continue to serve the company as slaves.

When the West India Company began to colonize New Netherland the question of labor became a pressing one. Inducements held out to families in the Netherlands to go out to New Netherland as farm

laborers brought few responses. The fertility of the virgin soil was not disputed, but the Netherlands, at peace after the long war, was too thriving a hive of industry and offered too great a return to labor to have it enticed away to a distant land that had to be subdued and cleared before it would yield a return to the farmer.

So, in 1644, it was reported that the request of the Patroons for the introduction from Brazil

“Of as many Negroes as they would be disposed to pay for at a fair price; which Negroes would accomplish more work for their masters, and at a less expense, than farm servants, who must be bribed to go thither by a great deal of money and promises.”

It was difficult to get the farmers to buy the slaves that were imported. These slaves were owned by the West India Company and hired out to the farmers. Individuals disliked to become the owners of the slaves. On May 27th, 1647 the Chamber of Accounts of the West India Company reported :

“Nevertheless, if slaves are to be properly treated, they must have their particular owners each of whom undertakes colonies, plantations and farms according to his circumstances and means, and endeavors by slave labor to derive therefrom, either for immediate support or for exportation, whatever can be a source of profit.”

In 1649 the “Deputies from New Netherland” remonstrated to the States-General of the United Netherlands that the children of the manumitted slaves, spoken of above, were still in bondage



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## *Slavery in Ulster County*

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“Contrary to all public law, that any one born of a free Christian mother should, notwithstanding, be a slave, and obliged so to remain.”

In the reply to the remonstrance the West India Company says :

“Not more than three are in service viz., one, which Stuyvesant has with him on the Companie’s bouwerie; one at the house, the Hope; one wench with Martin Krigier, who hath reared her from a little child, at his own expense.”

In 1664 the English seized the province. The mild type of slavery which existed under the Dutch gave way to a much more onerous servitude. There was in England a corporation named “The Royal African Company” engaged in the African slave trade. The president of this company was the Duke of York who had been granted the province of New York by the King, Charles II. So James was directly engaged in the slave trade. Williams’ “History of the Negro Race” thus speaks of the change for the worse which followed :

“Most of the slaves in the province of New York, from the time when they were first introduced, down to 1664 had been the property of the West India Company. As such they had small plots of land to work for their own benefit, and were not without hope of emancipation some day. But under the English government the condition of the slave was clearly defined by law and one of great hardships.”

The English government professed to attempt to mitigate the conditions of the negroes in bondage and civilize and Christianize them. As early as 1660 they

had instructed the colonial authorities to teach them the Christian faith and baptize them. One result of this was the prevalence of an idea among the slaves that baptism would liberate them. It required positive legislation to remove this belief.

There does not seem to have been any sentiment that slavery, in itself, was wrong. There were a number of manumissions. This magazine has published accounts of such frequently (Vol. I., page 11; Vol. VI., pages 116-117). The growth of slavery is shown by the successive census reports. By the census of 1698 there was reported to be in the Province of New York a population of 18,067. Of these 2,170 were negroes. Ulster and Dutchess counties were reported in a summary as having a total of 1,384 inhabitants of whom 156 were blacks. In 1703 the province had 20,665 people. Ulster then had 1,649, of whom 145 were negroes. In 1714 Ulster reported 2,120 of whom 333 were "slaves." In 1723 Ulster county had 2,923 and 566 were slaves. In 1731 the population of this county was 3,728. The slaves were 732. These figures were increased to 4,870 in 1737, of these 872 were slaves. By 1756 the county contained 8,105 inhabitants and 1,500 were in slavery. In 1771 there were 13,950 and of these 1,954 in bondage. After the Revolution there were 22,143 people in the county in 1786. The slaves were then 2,662. In 1790 the first census was taken under federal authority. It reported 26,390 inhabitants. 2,906 were slaves. It will be noted that, so far, more than one-tenth of the population was in slavery to the remaining nine-tenths. The county was engaged in agricultural pursuits almost exclusively.

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## *Slavery in Ulster County*

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Hardly a farmer but had at least one slave. Most had but one. We will speak later of the large farms that had a number of them.

In 1776 the Declaration of Independence was written and signed. Thomas Jefferson hated slavery. It was not without knowing the exact meaning of the language he used that he wrote :

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal ; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

In the first draft of the great declaration Jefferson wrote these words among the charges against the rights of man of which the King of Great Britain was guilty :

“He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, capturing and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur a miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the *Christian* king of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where men should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain this execrable commerce.”

But this paragraph was stricken out in committee. Nevertheless it voiced the sentiment of the day. If a southerner held such views one can readily understand how far the rights of man were underlying sentiment in the north. Manumission became more and more

common and the employment of slaves as soldiers, with a resultant emancipation, more and more frequent. No sooner was the war over and liberty secured than a different view of slavery manifested itself, than had obtained a generation before.

Further importations of Africans was forbidden in 1788. Those so imported since June 1st, 1785 must not be sold as slaves. Removal of such from the State for the purpose of such sale would cause a forfeit of one hundred pounds and the slave would be free.

Public sentiment in favor of emancipation grew. In possession of their liberties, won at such a price, the patriots determined that the century that had seen the birth of freedom should not close without a step towards emancipation in the State of New York. So on March 29, 1799 the Legislature of New York passed an act which provided that

“Any child born of a slave within this state after the fourth day of July next, shall be deemed and adjudged to be born free; Provided nevertheless that such child shall be the servant of the legal proprietor of his or her mother, until such servant if a male shall arrive at the age of twenty-eight years, and if a female at the age of twenty-five years.”

It was provided that masters should file certificates of birth, and encouragement was given to manumission. From this date various laws were enacted regulating slavery; regulating the status of the blacks both slaves and freedmen; forbidding the bringing of slaves into the State for sale; and compelling masters to support aged and decrepit slaves. Finally, on the 28th of January, 1817, Governor Daniel D. Tompkins sent a special message to the Legislature requesting

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## *Slavery in Ulster County*

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the passage of a law abolishing slavery within ten years. Upon his request an act was passed declaring that

“ Every negro, mulatto or mestee within this state, born before the fourth day of July, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, shall, after the fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, be free.”

With the enactment of the law of 1799 the number of slaves in the State of New York began to decrease. The first federal census, taken in 1790, showed the slave population of the county to be 2,906. But the census of 1800 reported but 2,257. In 1810 but 1,437 slaves were in the county. In 1814 1,192 slaves were reported. The census of 1820 found 1,523. By the time for the census of 1830 the act of 1817 had taken effect and slavery in the State of New York was a thing of the past, excepting that seventy-five persons were found still having compulsory service to render. These were slaves brought into the State after 1817. The law provided that when such reached the age of twenty-eight, if men and twenty-five, if women they would come under the operation of the act of 1799. In 1828 various laws relating to slavery, manumission and freedmen were re-enacted in a statute. This statute provided that every person born within the State should be free and be free if brought within its borders, except that non-residents, traveling, might bring slaves with them.

We have just stated that the greatest number of slaves ever held in the county of Ulster was shown by the census of 1790 to have been at that time. From

that date the number grew smaller with rapidity. It is interesting to examine that census more closely. The whole number of slaves then in Ulster county was 2,906. Of these 475 were owned by forty-one families. We give the list of the slaveholders in 1790 who possessed ten or more slaves. In the town of Kingston (which then included Saugerties) Jacob Burhans was reported as the possessor of 10; Philip Houghteling 10; Jacob Ten Broeck 13; Wessels Ten Broeck 11; Jacobus Van Gaasbeek 10; Henry Jansen 12; Andries De Witt, Junr. 16; Coonrad G. Elmen-dorph 10; Jonathan Elmendorph 11; Arientje Elmen-dorph 10; Johannis Wynkoop 11; Peter Van Gaas-beek 12. In Hurley Coonradt Newkirk was on record with 11; Matthew Ten Eyck 12; Cornelis Wynkoop 15; Cornelius Cool 11. In Marbletown Andries I. De Witt had 12; Solomon Van Waggenen 10; Anna Brinck 12; Frederick Wood 10. In Montgomery Cadwallader Colden was credited with 15. In New Paltz John Du Mont had 10; Isaac Frere 10; Abra-ham Van Der Mark 11; Dirck D. Wynkoop 14; Cor-nelius Du Bois 12; Mathuselah Du Bois 12; Joseph Hasbrouck 13. In New Windsor William Ellison 13; James Clinton 13. In the town of Rochester John De Puy 10; Philip D. Bevier 10; Jahcum Schoonmaker 13; Jonas Hasbrook 10; Henry De Witt 12; Johan-nis G. Hardenbergh 11. In Shawangunk Justus Banks 10; Cornelius C. Schoonmaker 12; Cornelius Decker 10; Thomas Jansen 15. In the town of Wallkill Moses Phillips 10. Besides these there were seven slaveholders in the county who had nine slaves each; twenty-two had eight each; forty-one had seven each;

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## *Slavery in Ulster County*

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thirty-six had six each; fifty-eight had five slaves each. Thus two hundred and five holders of slaves in Ulster county held 1,507 slaves, more than half of the number reported in the census of 1790.

What were the prices of these slaves when they were bought and sold? In the records of the local court at Kingston is recorded the sale by Louis DuBois, one of the patentees of New Paltz, of three slaves. This was on the 11th of August, 1679. The first was the sale to Severyn Ten Houdt and Thomas Harmensen of a negro named Mingo for one thousand guilders (\$400.00). On the same day he sold to Matthue Blansjan a runaway negro named Anthony and a negress named Susanna for four hundred guilders each (\$320.00). The relative prices of males and females varied according to the law of supply and demand.

The employment of the slaves was almost entirely in agricultural or household work. There were a few who had learned trades as that of blacksmith. These claimed and were recognized as occupying a higher social status than others. So with the slaves on the large farms who had charge of the horses.

The slave quarters were the big kitchens with the wide fireplaces and brick ovens. Here some negress reigned supreme. Some Nancy or Jennie, whose word was law, is remembered to this day as famous either in cooking or serving.

During all the years since the great Declaration of Independence in 1776, while the successive steps which resulted in the final emancipation of slavery in this State were being taken, encouragement was given to

manumission. Members of the Society of Friends often became the owners of slaves. Usually these were soon manumitted by the owner, if not, his will gave them their freedom. From the close of the War of the Revolution every encouragement was given to this end. The laws of 1785 provided that slaves under fifty years of age, if able to support and maintain themselves, might be manumitted by their owner and their master would be free from further liability on their account ; any other slave, whatever his condition, age or ability might be manumitted upon the giving of a bond for his support in case he was unable to support himself ; and that any person who, by will or otherwise, manumitted a slave for whose support no bond was given would free the slave, and his heirs, executors or he, himself, be liable for such support if the freedman was not able to support himself. This provision was added because there were inhuman masters who manumitted their old, decrepit and worn-out slaves and turned them out to be supported by charity, or in the poor houses, when no longer able to work. These inhuman men and women were few. It is a shame there were any.

On the 22nd day of April, 1865 the Legislature of New York ratified the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolishing slavery. Finally, on the 20th of February, 1883 the Legislature passed an act repealing " Title seven, chapter twenty, part one, Volume one of the Revised Statutes of the State of New York," which treated of slavery and thereby cleared the statute books of the State from the last vestige of slavery legislation.



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## *The Mill* ❁ ❁ ❁

### *of the Esopus*

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NOT only during the Dutch domination but for one hundred years of the succeeding English rule, the three principal places in the province of New York were the city of New York, Albany and "the Esopus." The first was devoted to commerce and its associate industries, Albany to trade with the Indians originally, and later with the great inland region tributary to that centre, while the Esopus, from the beginning, gave to its great agricultural interests the first place. So far back as 1683 Governor Thomas Dongan reported to the authorities in England concerning the great trade with the West Indies in agricultural products, most of which came from the Esopus. He wrote :

"New York and Albany live wholly upon trade with the Indians, England and the West Indies."

The trade with the Esopus was so great that vessels loaded with wheat here for exportation (OLDE ULSTER, Vol. V., pages 274-275). The fertile lowlands with their freedom from trees, seemed to invite the tilling of the productive soil and the Stuyvesants, the Schuylers and others prominent in the colony availed themselves of the opportunity of acquiring

farms here from the first. Chambers bought in 1652 and others in the immediately succeeding years. The settlers were gathered into a stockaded village in 1658, and the settlement entered upon a steady growth. On the 12th of May, 1660 Ensign Dirk Smitt, commanding the troops stationed at the Esopus, reported to Director-General Stuyvesant concerning the crop prospects in these words :

“I have to inform your Honor in regard to the spring corn, which we sowed, that Thomas Siambers [Chambers] has 100 schepels of barley and peas in the ground and Jurryaen Westphalen, your Honor’s farmer, has in the ground 100 schepels of spring-wheat and barley, as well as peas and oats, and Cornelis Barentsen Schlegt 50 schepels of spring-wheat, nine of peas and a few of barley and the Widow Stol 45 schepels of spring-wheat, 12 schepels of barley and four of peas, so that altogether 320 schepels of spring-grain have been sowed; Thomas Schambers has also sowed 75 schepels of winter-wheat and Cornelis Barentsen Schlegt 20 schepels of winter-wheat and it has come up nicely in the fields and we shall not be hindered in the ploughing and continue with it every day, as your Honor’s orders direct.”

The gathered crops were abundant almost every year. But neither of the two streams which bordered the town, the Esopus nor the Rondout creeks, furnished an available water power for grinding the grain. Two diminutive streams uniting on the west side of the stockade to form a brook, were harnessed for this service. The dam was the present North Front street and the road to the Nieuw Dorp or Hurley ran across the dam. The gate in the stockade at the northwest angle was known as the “Mill gate,” and here was

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*The Mill of the Esopus*

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built the grist mill for the settlement, and here was the brewery. Cornelis Barentsen Slegt was the brewer and Pieter Jacobsen, the miller. In the "Journal of the Esopus War, by Captain Martin Cregier." it is stated that in September, 1663, when the troops returned from the rescue of the captives at "New Fort," in the present town of Shawangunk, and quarters for the troops were hard to secure :

"The W. Court having looked around at the request of the Capt. Lieutenant and Council of War for proper lodgings for the coming forces, have induced Pieter Jacobsen to give his mill for 40 to 50 Soldiers, and the W. Court will do its best to find out quarters for the savages."

There is much in the old court records relating to this mill of great interest. It was almost exactly opposite the present store of the Everett and Treadwell Company at Higginville. Its dam extended over the flat in the rear and covered not only the land up to the present Lucas avenue, but for a considerable distance beyond. The grade of the land leading down to the stream was such that quite a fall was secured and the mill dam was deep in places. The old court records have an account at considerable length of an inquest upon the body of a girl found drowned in this dam. They also speak of a complaint of the unhealthfulness of the water there impounded.

What its condition was during the one hundred and more years succeeding is not a matter of record. But about the beginning of the last century malarial fever was prevalent about this part of the village of Kingston. Typhoid was very frequent. Year after

year it returned with increasing virulence. Benjamin Bogardus was the miller. It was a busy place. It was no longer the only mill. That of Colonel Charles De Witt at Green kill was the centre of a great business. There were others in localities not many miles distant. Still the old mill had retained its own, and many customers resorted here with their wheat and rye, their corn and their oats as their ancestors had done for generations. It was when seasons were dry and water very low that the deposits which had been carried down by freshets in the more than a century of the existence of the dam became sources for typhoid and malaria.

Kingston became an incorporated village on the 6th of April, 1805. During the autumn of the following year typhoid raged with virulence. Its origin was traced to the mill pond. On the 8th day of November, 1806 the village directors determined to remove the cause. They passed an ordinance on that day setting forth that

“The Mill Pond lying in the west part of the village of Kingston, in the possession of Benjamin Bogardus, is a nuisance, and also the brook leading to the same through the lands of Jonathan Hasbrouck Lucas Elmendorf John C. Masten and others, up to the south bounds of the tannery of Joshua DuBois.”

The trustees directed “that the said Pond be drained within thirteen days.” They also directed that the channel of the stream across the entire extent of the tan yard of DuBois “be cleared out to allow free passage of the water” to the Esopus creek within the

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## *A Few Kingston Death Notices*

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same time under a penalty of \$25 for every forty-eight hours it was left undone. Bogardus received \$500 as a compensation. The action of the directors resulted in stamping out the fever and the disease disappeared.

Upon this spot a tannery was afterwards conducted by the late Augustus H. Bruyn, who finally disposed of the same to Near and Teller. For more than forty years this firm did a large and flourishing business in tanning and dressing leather at this place. Within the memory of most of the older people of the town the manufacture of leather here was a leading industry. At last the clearing of the hemlock forests in the Catskills ended tanning and dressing leather in Ulster county and the little stream, so efficient in furnishing a motive power for the village for almost two hundred years, was left to find its way to the Esopus without being harnessed to render necessary service to the subsistence of man. It had made a record in the quality of the beer brewed, the flour ground and the leather manufactured, to which many old documents attest.



### *A FEW KINGSTON DEATH NOTICES*

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*Contributed by Chaplain Roswell Randall Hoes, U. S. N.*

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“In this town, on Thursday last, Joseph Gasherie, Esq. Surrogate of the county of Ulster, aged 72 years—a worthy and respected citizen, and an undeviating friend to the liberties of man.”—(From the “Plebeian” of Kingston, 17th of January 1806).

Joseph Gasherie was a son of Jan Gasherie and

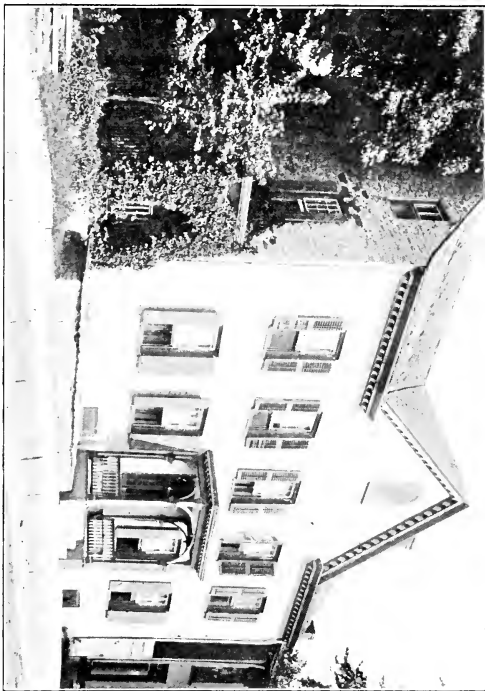
Maria Hasbrouck, (who were married in New Paltz on the 14th of October 1734), and was baptized in New York on the 4th of April 1736. His mother was a sister of Abraham Hasbrouck (grandfather of the late Hon. Abram Bruyn Hasbrouck), and of Col. Jonathan Hasbrouck whose homestead was the present "Washington's Headquarters" in Newburgh, and who died there on the 31st of July 1780. Joseph Gasherie was married in New York on the 16th of October 1767 to Catharine Wynkoop, and passed most of his adult life in Kingston. His will is dated the 24th of May 1805, and was proved on the 28th of March 1806. He succeeded Gen. George Clinton as surrogate of Ulster county on the 25th of June 1766 and continued as such until he became a senator in the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Legislatures of the State of New York, which were in session from the 21st of January 1784 to the 21st of April 1787. During a portion of this time, (19th of October-19th of January 1786), he was a member of the "Council of Appointment" of the State. After the expiration of his several terms as senator, he was at once elected surrogate of the county and remained such until his death. He resided in one of the old stone houses, still standing, on the north side of North-Front street, between Crown and Green streets. His grandfather was Jean (in Dutch Jan) Gasherie whose wife was Judith Dale. They had at least five children, three of whom were baptized in Kingston and two in the French church in New York. Stephanus Gasherie, the brother of this Jean (both of whom were naturalized in England on the 15th of April 1687), was born in Marennnes, twenty-four miles south

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*The House of Joseph Gasherie*

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*The House of Joseph Gasherie North Front Street*



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*Olde Ulster*

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of La Rochelle, in France, and married in Kingston, in 1699, Engeltje (daughter of Hendrik Jochemse Schoonmaker), who was baptized in Kingston on the 18th of March 1663 and whose first husband, Nicholas Anthony, was high sheriff of Ulster county from October 1693 to the 28th of April 1696. Stephen Gasherie held the same office from October 1699 to October 1700, having succeeded Thomas Noxon. On the 10th of August 1704 he was "impowered and licensed" by Lord Cornbury, the colonial governor of New York, and the embittered enemy and persecutor of the Dutch church of Kingston, "to read the service of the Low Dutch Church at Kingstowne in the county of Ulster from time to time until you receive further orders from me; and you are likewise hereby impowered and licensed to keep a reading and writing school at Kingstowne aforesaid, until you receive orders from me to the contrary." This was during the interval between the departure from Kingston of Domine Johannes Petrus Nucella for London and the arrival there of his successor, Domine Henricus Beys, during which occurred Cornbury's abortive attempt to foist the Rev. Samuel Eburne, a priest of the Anglican church, and the Episcopal liturgy upon the unwilling Dutchmen of "Old 'Sopus."

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—D I E D—

"On Sunday the 31st ult. at his farm in Shawangunk, Sveryn T. Bruyn, Esq. Major of the regiment of militia of that place, member of the state Legislature, and president of one of the Democratic societies in Ulster county.



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*A Few Kingston Death Notices*

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“ In his life he was eminently possessed of those sympathetic, social and public virtues, which gained him universal confidence and esteem, and formed the basis for those flattering distinctions of his fellow-citizens, which are the best testimonials of disinterested worth.

“ ‘ Plus potuit fama virtutis apud alienos,  
“ ‘ Quam sanguinis proximitas apud suos.’ ”

(From the “ *Rising Sun* ” of the 5th of September 1794).”

Severyn T. Bruyn was a member of the State Assembly of the 13th session of the State Legislature, 1789-1790; the 16th, (1792-1793); and of the 18th (1795).

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(Died) “ Last Monday morning, after a painful illness of three months, Mrs. Catherine Copp, wife of William Copp, one of the printers of this paper, and on Tuesday afternoon her remains were decently committed to the silent grave.

“ Domestic peace ! she woo'd thy tranquil joys !  
“ And kindred friendship ! all her heart was thine ;  
“ Untroubled with a wish to court those scenes,  
“ Where female vanity delights to shine.

“ Maternal tenderness!—connubial love,  
“ Ye made your purest fires in her combine ;  
“ And bright religion ! 'twas thy holy flame,  
“ Inspir'd her breast with energies divine,  
“ Taught her with grace to live—with fortitude resign.”

(From the “ *Rising Sun* ” of the 23d of September 1797).

Her husband, William Copp and Samuel Freer, were editors and proprietors of the “ *Rising Sun*.”

“ In this village, on Friday last, Abraham B. Bancker, Esq. one of the Judges of our Court of Common Pleas, and for several years Clerk of the Senate of this State.”—(From the “ Plebeian ” 14th of Feb. 1806).

Abraham B. Bancker was born in New York and married, on the 20th of September 1778, Ariantje Mancius, daughter of Domine Georgius Wilhelmus Mancius, one of the ministers of the old Dutch Church of Kingston. He was clerk of a portion of the Seventh Session of the Senate of the State of New York in 1784 and of each succeeding one through a portion of the Twenty-Fifth, which ended in 1802. He was appointed a trustee of Kingston Academy on the 23d of November 1801 and was secretary of its board. He died intestate and George W. Bancker and Evert A. Bancker were appointed on the 9th of April 1806, to administer upon his estate. He is buried in the graveyard surrounding the old Dutch Church in Kingston, and a stone bearing the following inscription surmounts his grave:—

“ Sacred to the Memory of Abraham B. Bancker who  
“ departed this life the 7th of February 1806, aged 51 years  
“ 4 months and 17 days.

“ Short was his summons to eternity,  
The morning sun shone unclouded on his  
Prospects, and health animated each feature ;  
Evening came, but the animating spirit had fled.  
While fond affection shed the tear in vain,  
With aim unerring, still death's dart is hurled ;  
One hope consoling, man, those tears refrain,  
There is another and a better world.”

*FEUDAL SERVICE TO FOX HALL MANOR*

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“Appeared before me, W. Montagne, secretary for the hon. court, the hon. justice of the peace, Jacob Elberts and Johannes Juriaensen, who admits having leased of the before-mentioned Justice Schambers [a parcel of land] named ‘the Brabanter’s thicket,’ for the period of five consecutive years, for the purpose of tilling the same, commencing in October, 1675 and terminating 1680. The lessees shall, for one year, be exempt from paying rent, but the next four years shall pay every year 30 sch. of maize. And they shall fence in their land, or in case of neglect shall have no claim against the lessor.

“And if need be the lessees shall be obliged, as it is their duty, to assist in defending Foxhall.

“Entered into without suspicion or craft, and subscribed to with their own hand in the presence of the below named witnesses at Foxhall this November 23, 1675.

“Signed THOMAS CHAMBERS  
JACOB ELBERTSE  
JOHANNES JURIAENSEN WESTVAELLIN

“Signed JACOB JANSEN  
ARIAEN FRANSEN

“To which testifies (signed)

“W. MONTAGNE, Secretary”

*(From Court Records)*



*HIGHWAY DISTRICTS IN EARLY DAYS*

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It is interesting to read in the old town records the names of the overseers of highways and ascertain the extent of the districts of which they had charge. Thus

in 1737 of the then town of Kingston (including Saugerties): For the Old Kings Road,—Dirck Van Vliet “to the rift from town (that is, the ford at the mouth of the Sawkill);” Jan Petrus Oosterhoudt “from the rift to the Platte Kill (from the mouth of the Sawkill to the Plattekill);” Frederick Row “from the Plattekill to Albany bounds (from the Plattekill to the present Greene county line);” Gysbert Vandenberg “from the Straud (Rondout) to the Greenkill or Hurley bounds;” Gilbert Livingston, Esq., “from the Strand to Hurley bounds through the town and over the mill-dam (on North Front street).”

In 1747 the list is as follows: “Jan Persen, Jr., from Kingston to Hurley and the common landing (Strand), Cornelius Van Buren, to the Green Kill; Hendrick Jansen to the rift and through the kill; Jan Pieter Oosterhoudt from there to the Platte kill; Pieter Turck from there to the bounds of Albany; Johannes Gonsales, over the Rondout creek; Col. James Ten Broeck to the Flatbush.”

After the Revolution the number of highways is much larger. In 1788 the following list is valuable in showing the location of the roads of the time; “From Kingston to Hurley, Tjereck DeWitt; from Kingston to the Green kill, Tobias Van Buren; from Kingston to the landing (Columbus Point, Kingston Point), Peter Van Gaasbeek; from Kingston to De Myer’s fording place, Abraham Ten Broeck; from Kingston to the Flatbush, Jacob Ten Broeck and William Schepmoes; from De Myer’s fording place to the Platte Kill, Benjamin De Myer; from the north side of the Platte Kill to Arie’s bridge (a little north of the present

cut on the West Shore R. R. on the estate of the late Wells Myer near Saugerties) Hendrick Meyer; from thence to the bounds of Albany, Christian Fiero, Jr.; from Jan Persen's (village of Saugerties) to Katsbaan, Christian Fiero; from Widow Tremper's to the Camp, Lodewyck Russell; from Christian Fiero's to the Blue Hills, Christian Snyder; from Dr. Kiersted's to the West Camp, Petrus Eygenor; from Johannis Myer's Jr., to the landing (Saugerties) Johannis Myer, Jr.; from Benjamin Snyder's to Waghkonk, Johannis Wolven; from Sign Post to Binnewater Bridge, James Whitaker; from thence to Saugerties, Hendrick Schoonmaker; from the Dray Bergh to Flatbush, Benjamin Swart; from the Manor (Fox Hall) to Cantine's Ferry (Kingston Point), Jacob Ten Broeck; from the south side of the Rondout to the third milestone, Samuel Swart; from thence to the bounds of the New Paltz, Stephanas Eckert; from Major Houghtaling's to Woodstock, Abraham Houghtaling." (*From the minutes of the Kingston Trustees.*)



*LINEAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN MEYER FAMILY*

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*Continued from Vol. VI., page 254*

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(CXLIV.) WILLIAM MYER<sup>4</sup> (Johannes<sup>3</sup>, John Wilhelm<sup>2</sup>, Christian<sup>1</sup>) was born 20 September, 1775, at Saugerties, New York. He was a farmer by occupation and married in Kingston, New York, 13 January, 1805 SARAH MYER<sup>4</sup> (154), born 4 Feb. 1781, daughter of Hendricus Myer and Neeltje Heermans. They

removed in 1816 from Blue Mountain to the Major Daniel Wolven place on the banks of the Hudson at Saugerties. In recent years this has been known as *Stroomzijde* (Riverside) and was the beautiful country seat of the late John G. Myers, the merchant prince of Albany, New York. William died 5 Sept., 1850. Sarah died 28 Feb. 1865. Children :

a (423) Neeltje<sup>5</sup>: Born 30 Oct. 1805.

b (424) John Henry<sup>5</sup>: Born 19 May, 1808 ; married 24 Nov. 1862 Maria Myer<sup>5</sup> (250), widow of Cornelius P. Elmendorf, born 29 Nov. 1807, daughter of Benjamin Myer and Sarah Snyder. No children. John Henry died 25 July 1877. Maria died 16 Sept. 1884.

a (425) Edwin<sup>5</sup>: Born 10 Jan. 1813.

(CXLVI.) LEAH MYER<sup>4</sup> (Johannes<sup>3</sup>, John Wilhelm<sup>2</sup>, Christian<sup>1</sup>) was born at Saugerties, New York, 10 February, 1773; married at Saugerties, New York 10 February, 1803, GERRIT MYNDERSE, born 10 November 1776, son of Johannes Mynderse and Neeltje Heermans. Leah died 19 January, 1849. Gerrit died 22 May, 1874. They resided on the bank of the Hudson at Saugerties and their old stone house, built in 1743, is still the family residence. The place has been in the family about two hundred years. Children :

b. (426) Elizabeth<sup>5</sup>: Born 20 Nov. 1803; married (1st) 17 Oct. 1827, Edmund Schoonmaker, born 21 Jan. 1800, son of Peter Schoonmaker and Jane De Witt. Edmund died

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*Lineage of the Christian Meyer Family*

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9 January, 1839. Elizabeth married (2nd) 23 Sept. 1842, Henry P. Heermans, born —, 1794, son of Philip Heermans and Antje Swart. Henry died 11 Jan. 1870. Elizabeth died 8 Apr. 1886.

- a (427) John G.<sup>5</sup>: Born 22 May, 1806; married 14 June, 1831 Anna Myer<sup>5</sup> (386), born 6 Sept., 1802.

(CXLVIII.) TOBIAS MYER<sup>4</sup> (Johannes<sup>3</sup>, John Wilhelm<sup>2</sup>, Christian<sup>1</sup>) was born at Saugerties 28 November, 1781 and married 26 November, 1808 HANNAH POST, born 6 September, 1789, daughter of Isaac Post and Catrina Snyder. The residence of Tobias Myer was in the town of Catskill, Greene county, N. Y., about seven miles southwest of the village of Catskill where he operated a saw mill and grist mill. Hannah died 9 June 1853. Tobias died 28 June, 1861. Children:

- b (428) Emeline<sup>5</sup>: Born 29 Aug. 1813; married 15 Oct. 1842, Isaac Saxe, born 29 Oct. 1816, son of Frederick Saxe and Maria Dederick. No issue. Isaac died 17 Nov. 1889. Emeline died 4 August, 1900.
- b (429) Christina<sup>5</sup>: Born 14 Oct. 1816; married 7 November, 1844 Barzillai Ransom, born 17 Sept. 1813, son of Joseph Ransom and Elizabeth Snyder. No issue. Barzillai died 4 June, 1884. Christina died 1 March 1905.

(CL.) PETER I. MYER<sup>4</sup> (Johannes<sup>3</sup>, John Wilhelm<sup>2</sup>, Christian<sup>1</sup>) was born at Saugerties 24 January,

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*Olde Ulster*

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1786; married—October, 1809 WYNTJE MYER<sup>5</sup> (380), born in Kiskatom, Greene county, New York, 30 January, 1788. She was a daughter of Cornelius Myer and Maria Britt. Peter I. Myer served as a soldier in the War of 1812. He died 10 July, 1821 and is buried in the cemetery at Katsbaan. Wyntje died 6 October, 1866. Children:

- b (430) Henry Ostrander<sup>5</sup>: Born 8 Oct. 1810; died 3 Sept. 1857. Never married.
- b (431) Eleanor<sup>5</sup>: Born 9 Sept. 1812; married 19 Oct. 1842 Ephraim I. Myer<sup>5</sup> (236), born 8 Dec. 1811; died 30 Apr. 1901; son of John Snyder Myer and Maria Myer<sup>4</sup> (233). Eleanor died 23 July, 1895. No children.
- b (432) Mary Ann<sup>5</sup>: Born 24 Jan. 1818; died 24 Jan. 1890. Never married.

(CLI.) ABRAHAM MYER<sup>4</sup> (Johannes<sup>3</sup>, John Wilhelm<sup>2</sup>, Christian<sup>1</sup>) was born at Saugerties, New York 10 November, 1787; married at Delhi, Delaware county, New York 1 March, 1813 ELIZABETH WELLS, born 31 January, 1790, daughter of Noah Wells and Elizabeth Moore. Abraham Myer was a lawyer by profession and was surrogate of Ulster county 1813-15; president of the village of Kingston in 1816; district attorney of Ulster county in 1820-22. Abraham died 1 July, 1828. Elizabeth died 24 April, 1874. Their residence was on North Front street, Kingston. Next door to the east was the house of Christopher Tappen, the sterling patriot of the Revolution, and brother of the wife of Governor George Clinton. It was at the house of Tappen that the governor resided



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*Lineage of the Christian Meyer Family*

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while in Kingston when it was the capital of the State of New York. Children :

- b (433) Sarah Elizabeth<sup>5</sup>: Born 16 April, 1814 ; died 14 Aug. 1837. Never married.
- b (434) George<sup>5</sup>: Born 7 Jan. 1816 ; died 8 July 1816.
- b (435) Cecelia Anne<sup>5</sup>: Born 29 July 1817 ; married 20 Feb. 1850 George Southwick, son of Zadoc Southwick and ——. Cecelia Ann died 3 Oct. 1866. George died 19 Oct. 1864. No children.
- b (436) Frederick William<sup>5</sup>: Born 12 June, 1820 ; married at Katsbaan, New York 2 Jan. 1849 Jane Catherine Myer<sup>5</sup> (238) ; born 17 Sept. 1818, daughter of John Snyder Myer and Maria Myer<sup>4</sup> (233). Frederick William died 26 May, 1851. Jane Catherine died 31 Aug. 1858. No children.
- a (437) Charlotte Leah<sup>5</sup>: Born 28 July 1824.

(CLII.) HENRY I. MYER<sup>4</sup> (Johannes<sup>3</sup>, John Wilhelm<sup>2</sup>, Christian<sup>1</sup>) was born at Saugerties, New York, 21 November, 1791 ; married 28 October, 1819 SARAH WELLS<sup>5</sup> (414), born 27 December, 1799 ; daughter of Samuel Wells and Catherine Myer<sup>4</sup> (81). Sarah died 25 Dec. 1831. Henry I. died 17 July, 1862. They resided at Saugerties on the homestead of his father, Johannes Myer. Children :

- a (438) Mary<sup>5</sup>: Born 29 July 1821.
- b (439) Cornelia Ann<sup>5</sup>: Born 1 Nov. 1824 ; died 4 Apr. 1890. Never married.
- a (440) Celia<sup>5</sup>: Born 13 June 1827.

a (441) Wells<sup>5</sup>: Born 17 May 1830.

(LXX.) ISAAC MYER<sup>3</sup>(Stephanus<sup>2</sup>, Christian<sup>1</sup>), baptized at Katsbaan, New York 10 May, 1775: married at Katsbaan 21 November, 1793 CATHERINA WELLS, born —: daughter of Cornelis Wells and Annatje Brandow. Isaac emigrated to Herkimer, New York prior to February 1803; in 1833 to Carlisle, Loraine county, Ohio, and in 1835 to Elyria, Ohio. He died 26 December, 1854. Catharina died 22 February, 1859. Children:

a (442) Cornelis<sup>4</sup>: Bap. Katsbaan 1 July, 1795.

a (443) Andrew<sup>4</sup>: Bap. Katsbaan 23 Apr. 1798.

a (444) John<sup>4</sup>: Bap. Katsbaan 10 Dec. 1799.

a (445) Joshua<sup>4</sup>: Born 8 Feb. 1803.

a (446) Hezekiah Wynkoop<sup>4</sup>: Born 18 May 1805.

b (447) Joseph<sup>4</sup>: Born 16 Mar. 1807.

a (448) William<sup>4</sup>: Born —, 1812.

(LXXII.) SAMUEL MYER<sup>3</sup>(Stephanus<sup>2</sup>, Christian<sup>1</sup>) was baptized in Katsbaan, New York 27 January, 1780; married 29 April 1813, MARGARET POST, born 23 January, 1791, daughter of Isaac Post and Catherine Persen. Margaret died 19 March, 1844. Samuel died 20 August, 1844. They resided at Saugerties, New York. Children:

a (449) Eliza De Witt<sup>4</sup>: Born 14 August, 1815.

a (450) Silas<sup>4</sup>: Born 2 May, 1818.

a (451) Lysander<sup>4</sup>: Born 22 June, 1821.

a (452) Mary Catherine<sup>4</sup>: Born 7 March, 1831.

a (453) Margaret Anna<sup>4</sup>: Born 22 Jan. 1834.

*To be continued*

*CLOUDLAND IN THE CATSKILLS*

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Beyond the mountains' dusky mass  
The sun his warm descent delays ;  
The lowering cloud his loath last rays  
Suffuse with crimson veins, that pass  
To melt in yellow haze.

O'er the great hills a ruddy sea  
The cloud-rack lifts and underlies ;  
Above aerial headlines rise,  
Glowing with hues that change and flee  
To faint in orange skies.

Watch how the deeper fires die out ;  
The clouds that thicken down the west  
Dark on the sombre Catskills rest ;  
Gray grow the mountains round about  
And dim Taconic's crest.

From the broad valley comes no sound ;  
But in the thicket's close retreat  
The birds sing drowsily and sweet ;  
The twilight throbs with peace profound,  
Peace for the soul most meet.

Now draw the infinite heavens near ;  
And swiftly blending into white  
The last tints deepen into light  
Intense and tremulously clear,  
Day's message to the night.

DR. H. R. GOODALE

# OLD<sup>E</sup> ULSTER

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THE GIFT OF MRS. HARRIMAN, with the contributions of others, the subsequent legislation, the selection of another site for the proposed new state prison and the building of a state road through the Highlands on the west side of the Hudson will make the great state park of the Highlands as noted a resort as this country affords. Nature laid majestic foundations here. History has written great deeds here. Literature has created an imperishable world here. Travel has exhibited the wondrous beauty of the sublime region to those who have come under the spell of the scenes here. Commerce has selected the route for its greatest business. Art has painted its beauties with exquisite touch and legend has woven a spell of imagination over all. Now the people have claimed their own. Vandal hands will no longer mar the rocks nor disfigure the cliffs. To the two men, Hudson and Fulton, who first ploughed its waters by sail or steam the state park will be a lasting memorial. OLDE ULSTER has advocated the park and congratulates the State.

---

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