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Excursion
for the City History Club
of New York.

By Frank Bergen Kelley.
No. 7. New York City, South of Wall St.





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EXCURSION
PLANNED FOR THE
CITY HISTORY CLUB
OF
NEW YORK

BY

FRANK BERGEN KELLEY, A. M., Ph. D.

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No. VII—NEW YORK CITY, SOUTH OF WALL STREET.



PRICE, 5 CENTS.

Mailed on receipt of price by Secretary, City History Club,
19 W. 44th Street.

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THIS Excursion might be called a "Walk through New Amsterdam," but for the fact that there are to be found many points of English and Revolutionary interest, as well as traces merely of the Dutch town. To complete a survey of Dutch remains, however, one should continue his journey to the region of Peter Stuyvesant's Bowery, his tomb at old St. Mark's and the site of his Pear Tree marked by a tablet at 13th Street and Third Avenue (see City History Excursion III.).

The writer in preparing this pamphlet has consulted many works, and is chiefly indebted to the following, which have a special bearing on the subject:

Valentine's "Manual," Janvier's "In Old New York," Gerard's "Old Streets of New York Under The Dutch," "Felix Oldboy's Tour Around New York," and histories of the city by Wilson, Frank Moss, Valentine and Todd, besides the interesting articles in "Historic New York" (Half Moon Series).

As any work of this kind is particularly liable to error, he asked for and secured the criticism of officers of the following patriotic societies:

Daughters of the Revolution, Daughters of the Cincinnati, Daughters of the Holland Dames, Holland Dames of the New Netherlands, United States Daughters of 1812, Order of Founders and Patriots of America, and of the following writers on Old New York: The Rev. Daniel Van Pelt, Maud Wilder Goodwin, Ruth Putnam, Dr. Morgan Dix, Mr. Albert Ulmann and Henry Dunreath Tyler, who kindly allowed the use of his valuable map on page 11.

To all these are due the thanks of the City History Club of New York.

F. B. KELLEY.

P.
AUTHOR.
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EXCURSION No. 7.

New York City South of Wall Street.

Take Sixth or Ninth Avenue Elevated Railroad to Rector Street.

[Greenwich Street was the old shore line along which a stockade, protected by a blockhouse and half-moon battery, connected the Land Gate at Wall Street and Broadway with the Fort at the Battery *via* Battery Place (see Map of 1695, Janvier's "In Old New York," p. 24). Later a road was constructed along the shore to Greenwich Village, hence the name.

Washington and West Streets were ordered laid out in 1729, but the land was not reclaimed from the North River until after 1755.

Church Street (here called Trinity Place) was a much later growth, the lower section of it, known as Lumber or Lombard Street, running from just below Rector to Liberty Street.

The orchard of Hendrick Van Dyck (where, in Stuyvesant's time, he shot an Indian, thus leading to a massacre), lay west of Broadway and south of Rector Street

Broadway, "Heere Straat". or "Breedeweg," follows the line of an old Indian path. It was the beginning of the chief highway northward, running to City Hall Park, then following the line of Chatham Street (Park Row) to Duane Street, thence *via* the Bowery and known as the "Post Road."]

(A) **Trinity Church** was incorporated in 1697. The first building was burned in 1776 and rebuilt in 1788. The present building was erected in 1848. The churchyard is the site of the West Indian Company's Garden, where were "the Locust Trees," a famous Dutch picnic resort. This property, together with Farm No. 1, above Wall Street, and the Annetje Jans, or Bogardus Farm, were granted to Trinity by Queen Anne about 1705, forming the source of the great wealth of this corporation.

See the tombs of Captain Lawrence, Alexander Hamilton, William Bradford, Robert Fulton (Livingston vault), Robert Livingston, Morgan Lewis, Albert Gallatin, Earl of Sterling (S. W. corner of yard, marked "James Alexander 1783"), Mayors John Cruger and Marinus Willett, Govs. Sir H. Moore, Osborne, Delancey, and the wives of Clarke and Cornbury (near Bradford), Gens. Phil. Kearney (Watts tomb), John Morin Scott, (N. side near fence) and Lamb, Michael Cresap (who fought Logan). Sidney Breese (ancestor of S. F. B. Morse), Philip Livingston and Francis Lewis (signers of the Declaration of Independence), and a stone to the memory of Charlotte Temple (north side). The oldest stone is that of Richard

Churcher, 1681. See also the monument to the patriots who died in the sugar houses and prison ships during the Revolution (built originally to keep a street from being cut through from Broadway).

In the interior of the Church in an alcove behind the altar is an effigy of Bishop Onderdonck, also memorial windows to other bishops, and the corner stone of the former church.

No. 56 Broadway (Astor Court); note the statues of Clinton, Wolfe, Stuyvesant and Hudson. A portion of the old wooden city water pipe was dug out recently from this vicinity. Exchange Alley, opposite No. 56 and a sort of western continuation of Exchange Place, was formerly called "Tin Pot Alley," this old name appearing on the southwest corner of the alley. The Dutch called this "Vlettenberg (flat hill), it being a path leading to the battery on Greenwich Street. The English corrupted it to "Flatten-Barrack," "Barrack Street," and latter it was called "Oyster Pasty Alley" (Moss, II, 141). On the sidewalk at 55 Broadway is an old Revolutionary cannon.

(B) **No. 39 Broadway**; tablet (erected by the Holland Society), site of the first white men's houses on Manhattan. These houses were constructed in 1613 by Adrian Block, who, when his ship, the *Tiger*, was burned, built the *Unrest* near this spot. This was also the site of the McComb Mansion where Washington lived in 1790 (Mrs. Booth's History of N. Y.).

Note irregular frontage of buildings on lower Broadway, authorized by the City Government of the time of their erection.

The Dutch Churchyard was west of Broadway, above Morris Street.

No. 19 Broadway (stone lions), Daniel Webster's home.

Nos. 9-11 Broadway, site of **Martin Cregier's Tavern** (now Bowling Green Offices). Some authorities say that this was also the site of Burns' Coffee House, the scene of the signing of the Non-Importation Agreement and the headquarters of the Sons of Liberty (but see tablet of the Holland Society at No. 113 Broadway).

No. 7 Broadway, site of Stevens' house (founder of Stevens' Institute).

No. 5 Broadway, site of R. R. Livingston's house (N. Y. Directory of 1786 says No. 3).

No. 3 Broadway, site of Watts' house (Arnold's headquarters in 1781).

(D) **No. 1 Broadway, site of Kennedy house.** Tablet here on the Washington Building (erected by the Sons of the Revolution) states that this was Washington's headquarters in 1776. It was also the headquarters of many prominent British officers, and was visited by Talleyrand and Prince William. Robert Fulton died in a house in the rear of this site (a).

(E) **Bowling Green**, the Dutch "Plein" or Common, was the heart of New Amsterdam, and is now the geographical centre of Greater New York (for its history see Half Moon Series, Vol. I, No. 8, and Vol. II, No. 5). East and west of the Green was the Dutch "Marketfield" on Broadway

and on Whitehall. Here was a farmers' well, the water from which ran off through Beaver Street (Blommaert's Valley). The iron fence around the Green came from England and dates back to 1771. The iron balls which were formerly on the posts were broken off for ammunition in 1776. Near the centre of the Green the leaden **statue of George III.** was set up in 1770, and pulled down and moulded into bullets in 1776. Later, the present fountain was placed on this spot. Notice the statue of De Peyster (Mayor, 1691-96) facing south. The Green was the scene of the riots of 1765, 1776 and 1794 (Jay Treaty).

(F) **No. 4 Bowling Green:** tablet on Cunard office (erected by the Holland Society) marks the site of the northwest bastion of **Fort Amsterdam.** The site of the Fort (300 feet by 250 feet) was bounded by Bowling Green, Whitehall, Bridge and State Streets. It contained barracks, the Governor's house, church, windmill, jail and garrison well. Governor Bellomont was buried here, but his remains were afterward removed to St. Paul's. The name was changed to Fort James in 1664. Later it was in succession called William Hendrick, James, William, William Henry and Fort George (Old Streets, 31-32). The walls were finally leveled in 1790, and a "Government House" was here constructed for President Washington, but was used by Governor Clinton. Enter the interior of the old fort by an alley (formerly called "Whitney Lane"), in rear from Bridge Street.

The Battery. In early times a stockade extended along the line of Battery Place, State and Whitehall Streets. The old shore line followed the present line of the Elevated Railroad from Greenwich Street to Whitehall Street. **Fort Clinton,** built in 1806 (*b*), afterward called "Castle Garden," and now the **Aquarium** (tablet within), was on Kapske Rock, in the Bay, and was joined to Manhattan by a drawbridge (see picture of fort in 1815 on handsome old blue platter, presented by the Misses Earle, and now in the office). Battery Park, formerly a shoal, was filled in between 1800 and 1825. See **flagstaff** where Van Arsdale raised the American flag in 1783, near the **Barge Office** (Immigration Bureau). Nearby is a statue of Ericsson erected in honor of his inventions. See also the Dock Department offices and the City Fireboat. From South Ferry Vanderbilt ran his market boat to Staten Island. From the shore see Governor's Island (Castle Williams and Fort Columbus), Bedloe's or Liberty Island (Statue and Fort Wood), Ellis Island (Immigrant's landing), Narrows, Staten Island, Jersey City (Paulus Hook) and Brooklyn.

(G) Site of the **Dutch West India Company Bakery.** On the building opposite, the "Holland Dames of the New Netherlands" have erected a bronze tablet with the following inscription: "This tablet is placed here in loving memory of the first Dutch settlers." **Pearl Street,** also called "De Perel Straat," "Road to Ferry," the "Strand," "Dock Street," "Queen

Street" and "Sheet Pile Street," was formerly the shore road to Brooklyn Ferry. The lower end, laid out in 1633, is the oldest street in New York. See original curve between State and Whitehall Streets.

(H) **No. 19 Pearl Street**, old house built of Holland brick. The deed of the present owner was acquired from Governor Lovelace.

(I) Site of **Governor Stuyvesant's White Hall**, or city house, on the south side of Whitehall Street ("Beurs Straat" or Purse Street, also called "Marckvelt" or the market field), between Pearl and Front Streets. De Kay, Cornelis Steenwyck and, later, Leisler lived on this street. Dominie Bogardus lived between Stone and Bridge Streets, while directly across were the five stone warehouses of the West India Company. At the foot of Whitehall a "handboard" advised vessels where to anchor. In a groggery near this point began the fire of 1776, which extended to Beaver Street and thence to Broadway, destroying Trinity Church and four hundred and ninety-three houses.

(J) **United States Army Building** on Whitehall Street, corner of Pearl.

In Dutch days four streets ran east from Whitehall to Broad Street. (1) T'Marckvelt Steegie ("Marketfield Path" or "Petticoat Lane," now **Marketfield Street**, and still to be seen, partly covered by the Produce Exchange). (See O.) Here was built the first French Church in 1688. (2) **Stone** ("Brouwer" or "Brewer's Street," later called "Duke Street"). This was the site of O. S. Van Cortlandt's brewery. Beyond Broad Street it was called "Hoogh" or "High Street," because higher than the canal. Above Hanover Square it followed the line of Pearl Street. It was called Stone Street because it was the first street paved (1657). On this street lived Adam Roelantsen, the first schoolmaster, and here for a time was published Leisler's *Weekly Journal* (Historic N. Y., II, 133). (3) **Bridge Street** ("Brugh Straat") was the site of the bridge over the canal at Broad Street on which was held the first Dutch Exchange. Washington Irving once lived at No. 3. (4) **Pearl Street** (in Dutch days only called by this name west of Whitehall Street).

"T'Water" was the beginning of the present Water Street, but it ran only one block before the "filling in" began. (c) At No. 5 was located London's press from 1776 to 1783. Along this street were the British barracks during the Revolution.

(L-L) **Whitehall Battery**; nearby, at 17 and 19 Front Street, have been excavated old coins and army buttons. Hunt's shipyard was at the junction of Whitehall and Pearl Streets (New York *Sun*; see also Janvier's maps of 1695, 1729 and 1767).

(K) **No. 33 Pearl Street** is the site of the first Dutch Church, built in 1633. Later the building became the Weigh or Custom House, and then the old Produce Exchange. Moore Street (the first

"moor" or dock, built in 1658-62) was the point at which the "Wet Docks" began, running north to Coenties Slip. South, Front and Water Streets beyond Moore Street were under water until the "Schoeyinge" or sheathing was begun (1654) to protect the shores from high tides.

Broad Street (called the "Common Ditch" and the "Heere Gracht") is the site of the ditch which drained the swamp between Beaver Street and Exchange Place. The Dutch converted it into a canal about 1657-59. The street on each side of the canal was paved in 1660, the owners of the abutting property dividing the cost with the city, according to the Dutch custom. The canal was filled in about 1676. Valentine (Manual, 1853) tells us that some fifty years ago poles with ropes attached were dug up here. They had probably been used for mooring boats.

(M) **Fraunce's Tavern**, northeast corner of Pearl and Broad (52 Pearl), built in 1730. Here was organized (April 8, 1768) the New York Chamber of Commerce. Tablet (erected by the Sons of the Revolution). The upper "Long Room," where Washington said farewell to his officers in 1783, may still be seen (see City History Club Excursion, No. vi).

Go up Broad Street "along the canal," the waters of which still flow down the sewers from hidden swamps. The bridge on which was held the **Exchange** of 1670 was between Bridge and Stone Streets. Zenger's New York *Weekly Journal* was published near the end of this bridge.

(N) Site of the "**Horse Mill**" on South William ("Mill Street") in the upper story of which were held the first religious services on the Island of Manhattan (1626). Nearby on South William Street was the first synagogue, built about 1729.

(O) **Marketfield Street** (see (1) above).

(P) **Marinus Willett tablet** (erected by the Sons of the Revolution) marking the site of the seizure of arms from British soldiers. A ditch ran through Beaver Street ("Bever" "Gracht" west and Prinzen "Gracht" east of Broad Street, connecting with the Broad Street canal.

Return down Broad to Pearl Street.

(R) **No. 73 Pearl**; (erected by the Holland Society), site of Kieft's, "Harberg" or Tavern (1642) which became the **Stadt Huys** (1653-99). Pearl Street here was known as "Lang de Wall," referring to the sheathing.

(Q) **Coenties Slip** was the farm of Conraet ("Coenties") Ten Eyck. Part of the Erie Canal fleet lies in this slip during the winter. Jeannette Park was named in honor of the *Herald* Arctic exploration ship.

81 Pearl; tablet (erected by the New York Historical Society) marks the site of Bradford's first press (1693). **90 Pearl**; tablet marks the great fire of 1835 which destroyed \$20,000,000 worth of property and led to the building of the Croton Aqueduct (1832-45).

(S) **Hanover Square**, named in honor of George I., of Hanover, was

the "Printing House Square" of English New York. Tablet on the Cotton Exchange (erected by the New York Historical Society) marks the site of the first newspaper office—Bradford's New York *Gazette* (1725). On this Square were the offices of Parker's New York *Weekly Post Boy* (1766), Weyman's New York *Gazette* (1767), Holt's New York *Journal* (1766), Gaines' New York *Mercury* (1752) printed at the "Sign of the Bible and the Crown," William Norton's *Post*, James Rivington's ("Only London Bookseller in America," formerly of Paternoster Row) New York *Gazetteer*, Rivington's New York *Loyal* (called by colonists "*Lying*") *Gazette* (1776-83), and the *Independent Journal*, in which the "Federalist" papers appeared. (See "Old New York Press and its Makers" Half Moon Series, vol. ii, No. 4.) Go down William one block to corner South William. See Pompeian columns on Delmonico's.

One may still see an old New York merchant's sign over the office of the Holland Coffee Co., corner of Old Slip and Front Street, reading, "John Bowie Dash, Ironmonger" (Moss II, 191).

119-121 Pearl; note old-fashioned upper windows. Here lived Victor Moreau, who tried to assassinate Napoleon. In the rear was the Bell Tavern, built by the father of William Niblo (Moss' History of New York).

140 Pearl; site of the house of Admiral Digby and Prince William.

156 Pearl; site of the house where James Rivington, the printer, died.

178 Pearl; is the site of Governor George Clinton's house (1783).

Wall Street. "De Cingel of te Stadt Waal" (or the walk by the City Wall), was the northern boundary of New Amsterdam, along which ran palisades (built in 1653 and removed in 1699) from the East to the North River. At Pearl Street was the **Water Gate** and a half-moon battery. Near by lived Jean de Vigne, the first white child born in New Netherland. John Theobald built a wharf here in 1694.

(U) "**Tontine Coffee House**," N. W. corner Wall and Water Streets, a favorite merchants' resort about 1692. Diagonally opposite stood the "Merchants' Coffee House," hence the name "Coffee House Slip" applied to the Slip at the foot of Wall Street. Near this was the "Meal Market," later a city slave market. 57 Wall Street is the site of Hamilton's home (Directory of 1786).

58 Wall Street was the scene of the riot of 1834 at the first Mayor's election, when the *Courier and Enquirer's* office was mobbed.

(V) **United States Custom House** on block bounded by Wall, Hanover, Exchange Place and William, built as Merchants' Exchange after fire of 1835, became Custom House in 1862.

From Wall Street south to Exchange place (called "Schaap Waytie," or sheep pasture, when the surrounding swamp was drained, and later known as Tuyen or Garden Street) lay (W) the property of the "**New Dutch Church**," built in 1691-93, on "Mother Drisius' Farm."

The corner of Wall and William Streets is the site of Governor Tryon's house and of the statue of William Pitt, set up by the colonists in honor of his defence of their interests in Parliament. The statue, mutilated by British soldiers, is now in the rooms of the New York Historical Society (*d*).

William Street was known in Dutch days as Borgher Joris' Path, including Old Slip; later it was called Smee, or Smith Street.

At 29 William Street was situated the first United States post office in a room 12 feet by 15 feet.

40-42 Wall Street is the site of Bayard's "Sugar House," the first New York refinery, built in 1729.

At 32 Wall Street is the Assay Office (formerly used as United States Bank, and as Treasury), the oldest Federal building (1823) now in New York.

(*X*) The Sub-Treasury (facing Broad Street) occupies the site of the **English City Hall** (1699), which became the State and Federal Capitol. The **statue of Washington** (erected by the Chamber of Commerce) marks the spot on which he delivered his inauguration address in 1789. The stone on which he stood is within the building, and bears an inscription referring to this fact.

Nassau Street (opened in 1693) was at first called the "Road by the Pye Woman's," later, "Kip Street."

(*Y*) Site of the **First Presbyterian Church** (erected 1719) where Jonathan Edwards and Whitfield preached. This church is now located at Fifth Avenue and 11th Street.

New Street ("Nieuw Straat") was so called because opened later than other streets in the vicinity (about 1675).

(*Z*) At Broadway and Wall Street was the **Land Gate** of the city (see "History of Wall Street," Half Moon Series, Vol. I, No. 4).

NOTES.

(*a*) John Austin Stevens, in a recent paper before the N. Y. Historical Society, states that Wm. Kelby, late Librarian of the Society, found proofs in colonial documents unearthed in the County Court, that Washington never had headquarters at No. 1 Broadway, being located instead at Richmond Hill. Putnam, however, and several British officers occupied this building.

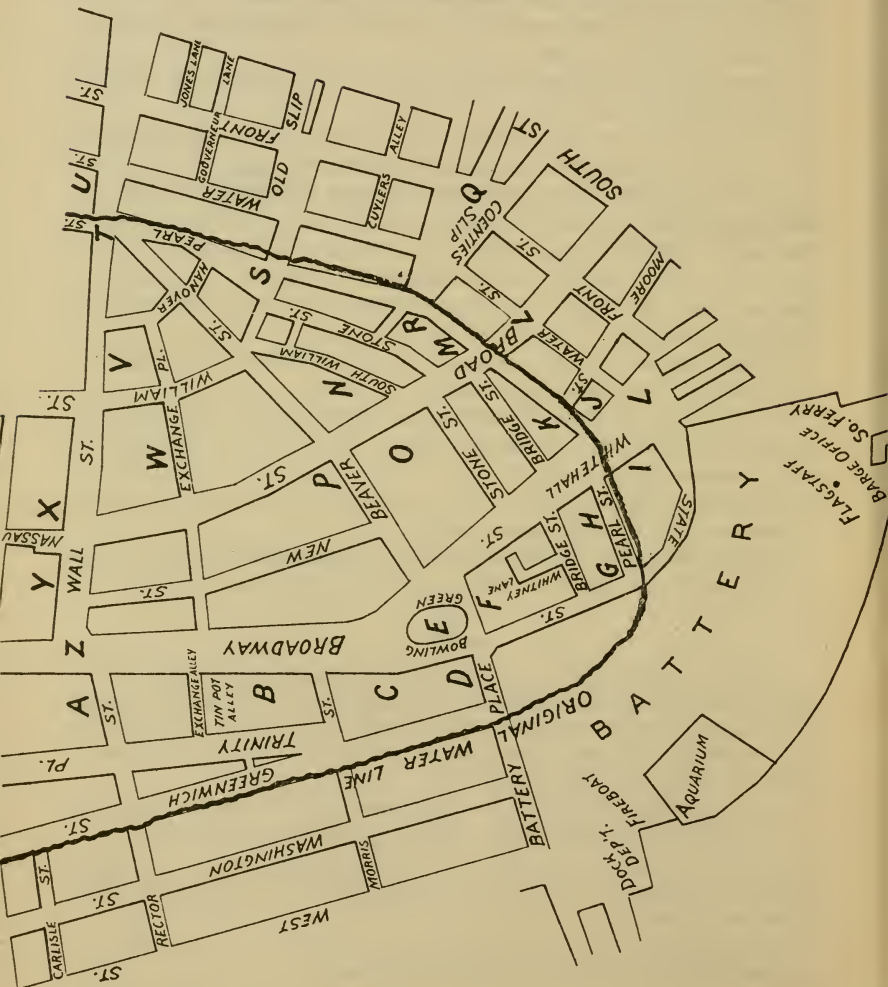
(*b*) So states Gherardi Davis in his paper before the N. Y. Historical Society on "The Establishment of Public Parks." Others say the date was 1811 or 1812.

(*c*) Some authorities say "Water" was applied to Pearl Street, east of Whitehall Street. Remains of a schooner and a former dock has been excavated at Front Street, near Whitehall.

(*d*) As a duplicate almost perfect exists in Charleston, S. C., it has lately been proposed to use this as a model in restoring the statue.

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