

H I S T O R Y
OF
V E R P L A N C K

N. Y.

1609 - 1914

Giving an account of its Colonial History; its
Historical Importance during the American
Revolution, with a record of and comments upon
more recent happenings,

by

W. J. Kelleher

Containing also an account of the 70th Anniversary
of St. Patrick's Church

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W. T. Horton
City Historian

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"Boom your township. He is not a good citizen who knocks it by word, act or deed. A good word spoken in its behalf is an asset. It is equivalent to money in the bank. To the contrary he who speaks against it is unfair in his judgment, both to himself and his town and impresses the public mind that his town is of little or no consequence."

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Foreword

No Complete history of Verplanck, to my knowledge, has ever been written, nor has any more than a bare reference here and there been given when some special project has aroused, which might prove beneficial to the real estate broker or the merchant; then it is I say, that different persons have attempted to acquaint the public with its past history.

Important mention is made in all of the histories of Westchester County and in several other valuable writings, but the ordinary reader considers it too much of an effort to trace out the facts.

For the benefit of the citizens of Verplanck and those outside interested, I have herewith prepared in the following pages a detailed description of its history from 1609 to the present date, calling attention to its early settlement, its importance during the American Revolution, its prominent men, the brick-laying industry, and other local history of interest, etc.

For these facts which I have collected from various histories and writings, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to Stephan D. Horton, of Peekskill, who so kindly afforded me the use of his private library at his home, thereby giving me considerable assistance, and to all others who have assisted me in my work.

This article doubtless contains errors, but I trust not many. The reader will remember that it is the lot of man to be fallible.

W. J. Kelleher

It is astonishing how comparatively few of our local people realize the importance of the little town in which they live. Almost unheard of outside of Westchester County, still an undeniable fact, one of the most important posts during the American Revolution.

In going back over its history we find its first appearance in 1609, when Henry Hudson anchored his little craft, the "Half Moon," off its harbor.

Many places can boast of their historic importance, but few can connect its importance before the dawn of civilization. Here we have a town recorded by the historian before white man ever set foot on its ground.

If the reader were to allow himself to drift back to this early period, he would see the quaint little village of over three hundred years ago. He would find the beautiful woodland, the fields, etc., sprinkled here and there with the wigwam of the Indian. On its streams would be visible the canoe with its silent passenger quietly gliding over the calm waters. As time progresses he will find the home of the white man (that of the Dutch origin) to take the place of his first acquaintance. Here and there a farm, a few dwellings, more inhabitants, until finally the dawn of the American Revolution with all its terror, comes to disturb this prosperous, beautiful and peaceful colony of God-fearing people.

Here it is, with the beautiful woodland acting as a scenic background, that one of the most important acts of this greatest of dramas is enacted. Here it is where Washington, Rochambeau, Lafayette, and many other noted generals encamped and fought desperately for the freedom of their country, the blood of many of these brave men saturating the very ground on which we stand today.

It is here that the famous and historic King's Ferry is located, the ferry by which the British spy Andre crossed with the would-be fatal treason papers of Arnold. Here some three thousand British soldiers under Sir Henry Clinton encamped, and after a short stay, finding it a waste of time staying there, evacuated it, whereinafter it was re-occupied by the Americans and the fort "Lafayette" constructed to act as a protection combined with the fortification of Stony Point to the important posts of the Highlands.

Again the French and American army passed over the ferry and marched through the town, and so on to the siege of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Va., where they joined Lafayette and thus affected his surrender.

After the surrender they returned to Verplanck. Before the final disbursement of the armies, a formal reception was given to the French army by Washington on the famous hill which today bears his name.

At last the war is at an end. Peace returns and again resumes itself among the inhabitants. The property, after many years the private estate of an individual, is finally sold to a syndicate, and a city is laid out. Streets and avenues take the place of open field and woods. Plots and parks were made so that others might purchase and be privileged to live in this beautiful location. But, however, the project fails and once again the property becomes the possession of a few individuals.

Then comes the fact which places the town in a different condition.

Always admired for its beautiful scenery and dense forests overlooking the banks of the beautiful Hudson, It is less than forty miles from New York City and directly opposite historic Stony Point.

According to the last census it has a population of some 1500 inhabitants. It has wide streets, well laid out, two schools (district and St. Patrick's Parochial School), three churches (St. Patrick's Roman Catholic, St. Barnabas Episcopal, and the Dutch Reformed), a full quota of business places, a beautiful lake, stone quarry, large brick manufactures, and an ice plant. It is also connected with Peekskill by a splendid trolley service, running on schedule time every 30 minutes.

Owing to the beautiful location its nearness to the railroad, combined with its deep water-front (which cannot be surpassed between New York and Albany) it is considered a most excellent location for manufactures, and there is no question in my mind that many would only be too glad to take advantage of the opportunities afforded one here, if they were only acquainted with these facts.

Genealogy of the Verplanck Family

The Verplancks are not only one of the oldest families of New York State, but also one of the most interesting of historic note. It is noteworthy to state that most of the male descendants have lived outside the limits of New York State with the exception of two or three families. A very rare occurrence. Below I will attempt to trace the family from Abraham Isaac (first in America) to Philip Verplanck,

of present date at Yonkers.

Abraham Isaac, the founder of the family, came to New Amsterdam about 1633. He married in 1635 Marie Vigne or Vingo. In 1649 he purchased a house in New Amsterdam, now New York City, at a place which is now Bowling Green. He owned various other properties. His occupation was a trader in beavers. He died about 1690. He had nine children.

His oldest son was Gulian Verplanck, born January 1, 1637; married June 20, 1668, Hendrika Wessells. He was a prominent merchant of the time and a leading man in local affairs. He purchased with Francis Rombout from the Indians in 1683 some 85,000 acres of land in Dutchess County, known as the "Rombout Patent", comprising the towns of Fishkill, LaGrange, Wappingers and Poughkeepsie. He died April 24, 1684. He had eight children.

His second son was Jacobus Verplanck, born December 1, 1671; married September 8, 1691, Margaretta Schuyler, of Rensselaerwyck, who lived in New York, where he died, October 30, 1699. He had two children (sons).

The second Philip Verplanck of Cortlandt Manor, born June 28, 1695; married April 10, 1718, Gertrude, only child of Johannes Van Cortlandt. He lived in his early days in Albany. His wife inherited from her father's estate the part of Verplanck's Point. The original deed of this property is now in the possession of Philip Verplanck, of Yonkers, and in a state of good preservation. When Philip inherited this tract he built a manor house near the dock, which was destroyed by shot and shell from the British Sloop of war, "Vulture." He was a civil engineer by occupation. He had nine children.

The youngest son was Philip Verplanck, of Rombout Precinct, born August 30, 1736; married April 6, 1764, Eve or Effie Beekman. He lived at his father's estate near Fishkill, pursuing the occupation of a farmer and a miller. He built a commodious mansion there, which is still standing in good preservation. He fell heir to his father's estate at Verplanck's Point. He died June 20, 1777. He had six children.

His eldest son was Philip Verplanck, of Verplanck's Point, born July 18, 1768; married September 27, 1796, Sally Arden, of New York, inherited the land at Verplanck's Point and rebuilt the old homestead, which had previously been destroyed as procedingly explained. He improved the property (which had been destroyed by the contending armies in the Revolutionary War), and it was the admiration of all who

saw it. He had the choicest fruit, best horses, sheep and cattle, and the finest building of that day on the Hudson. He died April 12, 1828. He had five children.

The oldest son was Philip Verplanck, of New York, born November 16, 1797; married first on March 22, 1824, Augusta Maria Deveau, and second Euphemia Hoffman. He also lived many years at Verplanck's Point, improving the property (which consisted of some 2,000 acres) by many additional features. In 1826 he sold his part of the estate to a syndicate of ten New York gentlemen, who proceeded to lay it out into a city. He then removed to New Windsor, Orange County, N. Y. He had six children, all by his first wife.

The eldest, Philip Verplanck, of Yonkers, was born in New York City January 13, 1825; married first in San Francisco, Cal., in 1851, Sarah Ann Johnson, and second of the same place, June 9, 1857, Ephelia Merle Durbow. There is only one child by the first marriage, now living in St. Paul, Minn. By second marriage he had four children. He was a man of many experiences. He was one of the first to ascend the Sacramento River in California, with a heavy vessel fitted and provided with the necessities for a gold mining exploit. He studied law several years but due to ill health was compelled to go abroad. He returned to Yonkers, where his descendants still live.

Philip Verplanck, the only child by his first marriage, married Louisa Bruno Beaupre, and has a son, Philip B. Verplanck, the youngest and last of the Verplanck family, to my present knowledge.

In the foregoing sketch of the paternal ancestry of the Verplancks, I have made no attempt to go into detail on any particular branch of the family, but I feel it fitting to the occasion of the publication of this article to give the reader some idea of the Verplancks of Verplanck Point.

The second son of Philip Verplanck, of Verplanck's Point, was William Beekman Verplanck, born October 11, 1806. (Let it be understood that he was a brother of Philip Verplanck, who occupied the Verplanck Manor near the river.) He (William B.) built a fine residence on the upper part of the Point property, which is still standing today. (This is the old Verplanck House on Broadway, just above St. Mary's Cemetery) and was occupied last summer by Frederick Buchner, of Verplanck, and family, and is now owned by the Verplanck Manor Realty Company of Peekskill. He died in 1839, at the age of 33 years, leaving but one child, William Beekman, born Janu-

ary 26, 1835. This son lived at the Point part of his life and married Ellen Irving, grandniece of Washington Irving, and had one son by her, Lewis, born November 7, 1863. While this child was still a minor his father sold the property to a Mr. Knox, an attorney of New York City. Thus was the last link broken connecting the history of the Verplanck family with Verplanck's Point.

First Appearance in History.

"On a beautiful morning in September, 1609, the little craft, 'The Half Moon', broad of beam and high of stern bearing the dauntless explorer, Henry Hudson, the morning being fair, the wind southeast, sailed up the river twelve leagues, until it came to a straight between two points and it trended north by northeast one league." This quotation is taken from the logbook of the "Half Moon" and it is by this evidence we are convinced of the first appearance of Verplanck in history. The following co-incident will acquaint the reader with its further connection with Henry Hudson and the "Half Moon". When the "Half Moon" weighed anchor off Verplanck she laid, as near as can be ascertained, about midway between Croton Point and the dock of the Knickerbocker Ice Company. While she laid here at anchor the native Indians were attracted and much alarmed. They supposed the vessel to be some white winged bird, or that it had come from the moon. They flocked in their canoes to investigate the meaning of its appearance to disturb their peacefulness. Hudson and his crew after trading with them, gave them mere trifles for their valuable skins, furs, etc. They were then anxious to carry some part of this wonderful bird to their fellow Indians. One of the canoes with one man in it, lurked about the vessel and was not over anxious to leave it, in spite of the severe warning of the sailors. Watching an opportunity at length, he clambered up the rudder into the cabin window, and stole a pillow and some articles of wearing apparel. The mate seeing the man, raised his gun, fired and killed him. The rest became frightened, some of them fearing the same fate for themselves, leaped into the water without stopping for their canoes. The ship's boat was manned and sent to recover the stolen articles. One of those that had escaped into the water, thinking the boat the same as their canoes, attempted to turn it over, and put his hand on the boat, but immediately the cook raised his sword and with one blow cut off his hand and he was drowned.

Thus, with mighty revenge for their slight injury, the sailors returned to their ship and weighed anchor off Teller Point (Croton Point). This was the first Indian blood shed during the voyage.

Early History

In order that the reader may become fully acquainted with the facts connected with the early history of Verplanck, the writer finds it necessary to refer to that tract of land known as "Van Cortlandt Manor," of which Verplanck was a part.

In 1677 Stephanus Van Cortlandt, then a member of the Governor's Council (Governor Andres, then governor) applied to him for a license to purchase lands from the Indian proprietors. On November 16 of the same year it was granted. The license was general and permitted Van Cortlandt to purchase whenever it might be conveniently accomplished. No time was mentioned and it operated as an indefinite permission to extinguish the Indian title in the region named.

It was not, however, until six years later, when he made the last of his purchases, purchasing from the Siecham Indians, the tract along the Hudson River called by the Indian name Meanagh. (This word is very often incorrectly written Mehaugh. The word in the original deeds and wills in which it occurs is spelled Meanagh, not Mehaugh. It is the Indian expression, meaning "small island", which rather confirms previous writings claiming it to be at one time an island.) He made his purchase on August 24, 1683, from Siecham and six other Indians, the tract described as follows: Bounded on the east by the lands of the Appamapogh and the creek Meanagh; on the south by the same creek; on the west by the Hudson River, and on the north by the creek Tammoeses. Van Cortlandt paid to the Indians twelve pounds in Wampum and other merchandise.

The following are the names of the Indians and their marks as signers:

Pewomince (C)	Siecham (B)	Oskewcus (D)
Isighers (E)		Prackeses (F)
Turham (G)		Querewighut (H)

The following is a list of goods paid by Stephanus (Stephen) Van Cortlandt in the deed expressed:

8 guns	14 kettles
9 blankets	2 ankors of rum
5 coats	5 half kegs of strong beer
14 fathoms of duffels (a	6 earthen jugs
kind of coarse woolen cloth	12 shirts
having a thick nap - frieze)	50 lbs. gun powder
40 fathoms black wampum	30 bars lead
80 fathoms white wampum (beads	18 hatchets
made of shells, used for	18 hoes
money or for ornamental belts)	

14 knives
 1 small coat
 6 fathom of stroad water cloth

6 pairs stockings
 6 tobacco boxes

A copy of the deed of this property may be found in Bolton's History of 1848.

This tract, consisting of about 1,000 acres, is described by Shonnard's County History as follows:

"This beautiful manor so remarkable for its more than great number of deer, beaver, wild turkeys, geese, swans, ducks and other feathered game and the great Hudson offering its salmon, shad, herring and stripped bass, to say nothing of the trout, black bass, and pickerel; of its beautiful fresh water streams and lakes, which gemmed in their brilliance; the vales and glades of the manor amid its broad meadows; its cold lofty hills, and dark magnificent woods." (Of this immense variety of game of years gone by we may boast to-day but few of the duck, bass, and few geese remain to confirm the statement of the early historian).

Form of Government

The method of settlement adopted by Van Cortlandt was the same as that adopted by the early Dutch colonists, and subsequently continued by the English. What it was we learn from "Information Relative to Taking up Land in New Netherland in the form of Colonists, or private Bonoweries," written by Secretary Tienhoven in 1650 for the information of "States General" at Holland.

Like all other manor grants of that date the finding of gold and silver mines was expected wherein it was understood they must be reserved to the Crown. Some years later a Crown Grant was made of a silver mine just by Sing-Sing (Ossining) village, but space and time will permit only this mention of the fact.

The peculiar franchises of the manor of Cortlandt were only two, namely: The Rangership of the manor, and the right to be represented by its own member in the General Assembly after the expiration of twenty years ensuing the date of the manor grant, June 17, 1697

The former were sworn officers of the Crown, to whom were given the "Royal Rights", or franchises, to regulate fishing, hunting, mine forfeitures, and the like, etc. They were appointed either by a special district (which was the more usual) or else in the case of this particular manor the franchise was named among others in the grant of the manor.

The latter, a franchise of such an extraordinary note that but two more of the many New York manors received it. That of Renselaerswyck in 1705 and Livingston in 1715. The former eight years and the latter eighteen years after the grant to Cortlandt. As preceedingly explained in the case of this manor, it was not to be granted until twenty years had elapsed, the reason being to allow sufficient time for the coming of a population numerous enough to require a representation.

The heirs of Stephanus Van Cortlandt did not avail themselves of this privilege until 1734, when Philip Verplanck was appointed to represent them in the General Assembly. Elected and admitted to this seat, he was constantly re-elected to subsequent assemblies and sat for the Manor of Cortlandt continuously up to 1768, the long period of thirty years. A continued period of service which was not equaled in the Province of New York, or has it existed under the State of New York.

The rent service on which the manor was held was "Forty shilling current money" (five dollars), payable "at our city of New York on the feast day of our Blessed Virgin Mary".

We may well imagine the obligation Van Cortlandt took upon himself when he attempted to settle this tract. In a colony each farmer was to be provided by his landlord with at least one yoke of oxen, or two mares in their stead, two cows, or two sows for the purpose of increase, for the use of the farmer and the support of his family.

Experience found that it was with much difficulty they obtained from the soil enough to provide themselves with the necessaries for sustenance and support. Those preparing to plant colonies must supply their farmer and families with the necessary food for at least two or three years, if not altogether, it must be done at least in part.

Then the proprietor had to furnish mechanics of all kinds, carpenters, smiths, wheelwrights, millers, and boat builders, and if possible a doctor and clergyman, or a school master.

To give the reader some idea of the severity of the laws of that date, I will mention the following. These laws of which this is only an instance, were strictly enforced, and I would suggest that some of these same laws would not be out of place in our present day.

Law on Keeping the Sabbath.

Any person traveling innecessarily on the day, shooting, horse hunting, horse racing, horse riding, fishing, or entering taverns, or drinking houses, hereby was guilty of breaking the law and was compelled to pay for every such offense, six

shillings and eight pence, and upon refusal to pay the same were put into the stocks for two hours.

Law Against Profanity.

Any person using profane or improper language was fined the sum of one shilling for each offense, and upon refusal to pay was confined to the stocks for three hours for each offense, and any child under twelve years of age was whipped either by the constable or the parent himself in the presence of the constable (I fear that if such were the case to-day some of us would never be out of the stocks.)

Law for Real Estate

Free holders holding improved real estate with a clear title worth forty pounds, agreeable to act of May 8, 1699, could vote in Colonial Westchester, but on the other hand the free holders of Courtlandt Manor possessed the right to vote twice, which power they undoubtedly exercised. For representatives to the General Assembly, that for the representative of the Manor under the Manorial charter, and for two representatives for the county under the statute already mentioned.

From the time of Van Cortlandt's purchases to the date of the Manor Grant considerable difficulty had been experienced in securing unobstructed titles from the Indian proprietors. However, after the completion of this work on June 17, 1697, this tract received its title as "Manor of Cortlandt". The Manor of Cortlandt stretched from what is commonly called "Jimmie's Cove", near the Fleischmann Mfg. Co. plant to Croton Point along the Hudson, and extending as far back along these lines as the Connecticut state line.

At this period, with the exception of a few families of white people at Verplanck, and at the mouth of the Croton River, the entire tract was inhabited by the Indians.

The first and only Lordship of the Manor was hereby granted to Stephanus Van Cortlandt, whereby this entire tract became his own personal property under letters patent from Governor Benjamin Fletcher (then governor). He died on November 25, 1700, after a short period of three years and five months in office.

Had he lived to be seventy-five or eighty years old as did his descendants in every generation, instead of dying at the age of 57, in all probability he would have left his manor in comparatively as flourishing a condition as that of Rensselaerwyck of the same date.

At his death the property was devised among his eleven children in equal shares, except that of the oldest child,

Johannes, who received in addition the whole of the tract of Meanagh. The property was kept intact and undivided by the heirs until 1730, when Philip Verplanck was appointed to survey and lay the manor out into thirty lots. This was done and the properties were conveyed under an appraisal was made by Daniel Samuel Purdy.

The following are the names of the owners, the number of acres and their value in sterling.

<u>Names</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Sterling Pound</u>
Philip Van Cortlandt (Grandson of Johannes Van Cortlandt)	6,831	973
Harriet Bayard (Granddaughter of Johannes Van Cortlandt; wife of Samuel Bayard)	7,398	948
Stephan De Kay (Husband of Ann Van Cortlandt)	7,377	999
Philip Van Cortlandt	6,648	975
Stephen Van Cortlandt	6,894	972
John Miln (Second Husband of Marie Van Cortlandt)	7,714	988
James Beekman (Husband of Gertrude Van Cortlandt)	8,062	912
William Skinner (Husband of Elizabeth Van Cortlandt)	8,163	951
Andrew Johnston (Husband of Catherine Van Cortlandt)	9,023	889
John Schuyler, Jr.	7,364	1,018

On April 10, 1718, Philip Verplanck, son of Jacobus Verplanck married the only daughter of Johannes Van Cortlandt (the eldest son of Stephanus Van Cortlandt) and thereby inherited the property of Meanagh. At his inheritance of the same he changed the name from that of Meanagh to Verplanck's Point

We are now fully acquainted with the facts explaining the when, where, and how the name Verplanck originated, and will no longer consider it necessary to refer to the Manor of Cortlandt.

Shortly after he inherited the property he took possession of it, and sometime between 1719 and 1720 he built a handsome residence on the property now owned by Clarence L. Bleakley, near the present old "Bleakley Homestead", overlooking the

Hudson, and situated among the most beautiful woodland.

The entire tract as described in the foregoing pages was enclosed by stone walls, the entrance being situated where the Hotel of John Lynch at Buchanan now stands. Here, where Westchester Avenue meets the Albany Post Road, a gigantic iron gate and a "Porter's Lodge" was located. When visitors coming to visit the Verplanck family came the porter occupying the lodge unlocked the gate and admitted them. They passed by way of Westchester Avenue to the residence near the dock.

Mr. Verplanck had the choicest horses, sheep and cattle and the finest buildings of that date on the Hudson, which were the admiration of all who saw them.

He was a noted surveyor and a prominent public man. Previous to his coming to Verplanck he was county sheriff at Albany. He had nine children. The Verplanck family lived continuously at Verplanck until during the Revolution, when the beautiful home was burned by shot and shell from the British sloop of war, the "Vulture". Nothing of any particular importance is noted from Mr. Verplanck's coming until the dawn of the Revolution. We will now acquaint the reader with the importance of Verplanck during the great struggle.

Information During the American Revolution - Historic Places - Fort Lafayette.

This was located as near as can be ascertained on the property of the Hudson River Brick Mfg. Co., just above the present steam boat dock on the bluff. A stone blockhouse was erected and was used in combination with the fortification of Stony Point to protect the Highlands.

The Battery.

Located at the foot of Broadway on the river front, was a high wall constructed of rough stone with openings made through in a sort of "V" shape that a gun might be aimed at any angle, and was to prevent the enemy from landing on the shore. Part of the fortification is still standing today.

Washington Hill.

Beautifully situated on the upper part of Verplanck, overlooking the village and the river, was the spot where Washington entertained the French and American armies after their return to Verplanck at the surrender of Cornwallis.

The King's Ferry.

One of the most important spots during the Revolution, and yet few people are familiar with its existence. It is

located on the south side of Verplanck, lying just south of the floodgate of Lake Mehaugh on sixth street, in a cove which is surrounded by tall willow trees. The landing on the opposite shore was where the present bathing beach of Stony Point is located. At the head of the lane on the Verplanck side, or what is now the King's Ferry Road, leading to the ferry, was placed an old sign post bearing the following direction: "Dishe His di Roade toe de Kshings Ferry". This ferry was practically the only connection between the east and west shores of the Hudson and was of vital importance upon the breaking out of the war. It was here that the junction of the French and American armies took place and here they crossed the river to march to the siege of Cornwallis.

The following taken from Bolton's History will prove of interest to the reader. On an evening of September 22, 1780, Major John Andre, the British spy, crossed the King's Ferry in company with Smith and the negro boy. William Van Wert, the ferry-master, on this occasion afterward testified at Andre's trial, "that Mr. Smith crossed the King's Ferry from Stony Point to Verplanck's Point on the evening of a day in the week before last, in company with another man and a negro boy was with him; each of them had a horse. The day of the month I do not recollect. I have not seen the person since to know him. He had a black, blue or brown greatcoat on, a round hat and a pair of boots. I did not hear any conversation pass between Mr. Smith and the person in the boat, neither did I hear Mr. Smith say which way he was going. Mr. Smith seemed to hurry us a great deal. Cornelius Lambert, Henry Lambert and Lambert Lambert were boat men along with me."

On the morning of October 4 an expedition consisting of two ships-of-war, three tenders and a large number of flat boats. and a second division comprising one large man-of-war, five top-sail vessels, and numerous small craft, was under way up the Hudson. A stop was made at Tarrytown, where the troops were landed and marched several miles into the country as a blind to distract the attention of the enemy. When darkness came the men were re-embarked and early the next morning, October 5, more than 3,000 soldiers under Sir Henry Clinton were landed at Verplanck's Point.

General Putnam then commanding our forces at Peekskill being in such a weakened position, that he was unable to attack such a large body, who had so brazenly landed before his very eyes in broad day light. He fell back to the passes and stationed himself there, while he sent to General Clinton, then at Fort Montgomery, for all the soldiers he could spare. There was no attack that night or day and our army waited the dawn of the morrow with the hopeful expectancy of a battle. In the meantime the British seemed to show a rather leisurely disposition. Before daybreak, however, Sir Henry Clinton transferred

2,000 of his men to the opposite shore, which was then unprotected, leaving the other one thousand to protect Verplanck. Then with the main body, he marched without the least difficulty to the rear of the Dunderberg Mountain and on to Forts Clinton and Montgomery storming both with the bayonet, and although the Americans offered a strong resistance until twilight the British carried the day. The Americans, killed, wounded and missing were about 250.

This is the first appearance in history of Verplanck connected with the Revolution. Nothing of importance had taken place from that date until near the closing of 1779. Sir Henry Clinton was stationed on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. At the same time Washington had his headquarters at Middlebrook. He was not disturbed by the movements of Clinton at Chesapeake Bay, but felt confident that he would soon turn his attention northward to the Highlands.

At this period the position at West Point had been completed to his satisfaction, but he was not so content concerning that of Haverstraw Bay, and the more so important King's Ferry at Verplanck's Point. He therefore began the erection of two forts, one at Verplanck's Point, called Ft. Lafayette, and that of Stony Point opposite. By the end of May the works at Verplanck's were completed and a garrison of seventy men stationed to protect it. That of Stony Point was not yet completed and had not received artillery. The American army at this time was located on the west side of the Hudson in the Highlands.

On May 30 Sir Henry Clinton sailed up the Hudson with about 5,000 of his men aboard the fleet then under the command of Admiral Sir George Collier. It consisted of about seventy vessels large and small, and 150 flat boats.

Arriving about seven or eight miles below Verplanck, it was decided they should land, the principal division landing on the Westchester County side (in all probability on the lower side of Croton Point) under General Vaughan, and the other division led by Sir Henry Clinton himself, landed on the south side of Haverstraw Bay. Nothing was done by Vaughan except to prepare himself for an attack on Fort Lafayette. But on the other hand Stony Point with its handful of thirty men and not yet completed works, were forced to withdraw from the Point during the night of the 31st. The British dragged their artillery to the top of Stony Point Hill and opened fire on Fort Lafayette. At the same time the ships in the river opened fire and Vaughan prepared to move to attack from the rear.

Against this overpowering resistance the Americans decided it useless to contend, so they surrendered on conditions guaranteeing safety to the men and their property.

After the capture of the two points by the British, Clinton fortified and garrisoned them in a powerful manner. Washington realizing his position, made no attempt to be offensive but returned to West Point. He then ordered all heavy cannon at Boston and Providence to be sent him, and called General Heath from Boston. Upon this movement of Washington, Clinton showed himself less anxious to engage in any attempt upon the Highlands and withdrew his forces with the exception of a sufficient number to protect the forts, and returned to New York.

While stationed here he sent out an expedition under Tyron, which did much destruction to the State of Connecticut. With the satisfactory results obtained he determined to extend them, and with this purpose in view he planned an attack at New London. where, in preparation for the same, he moved to Throgg's Neck, intending to forward from there to New London by transports. While congratulating himself upon his good fortune and awaiting the time to carry his purpose into effect, the accomplishment by Anthony Wayne of the storming of Stony Point caused him to change his mind.

Although the storming of Stony Point is not directly connected with the writing of this article, the writer considers it worthy of note. The entire arrangement of the storming of this point was due to the planning of Washington himself. He entrusted the responsibility of it to Wayne (Mad Anthony Wayne). Sending for him, Washington made known his plans and asked the question, if he could take the fort. The reply was, "I can storm hell for you, General." He was instructed to make the assault by midnight, as the usual time selected was near dawn, when the enemy was more likely to be on guard. Washington taking all precautionary measures so as not to arouse the enemy, ordered all the dogs of the neighborhood to be shot.

On the afternoon of the 15th of July Wayne with 1,400 men marched down through the Highlands and arrived near Tompkins Cove about eight o'clock in the evening. He halted here and waited until about half-past eleven, when he sent two men disguised as farmers in company of a negro, who knew the countersign, he having several times sold strawberries to the soldiers at the fort. The three men approached the fort, the negro giving the countersign to the sentinel immediately engaged himself in conversation with him, whereupon the other two bound and gagged him. By this means the Americans were enabled to approach the outer works of the fort before being discovered. Heedless of the shot and shell, they made the assault in two columns, both coming to the center at the same instant. The British realizing their powerlessness, surrendered without further resistance. The heroic Wayne while leading one of the columns received a shot in the head and, thinking he was dying, said, "Carry me into the fort and let me die at the head of my

column". The enemies killed were 63.

When the Americans took possession of the fort they found that the guns bore only on the land side and to the northward, as the British could not attack the Americans from any other point they did not deem it necessary to fortify other parts. Owing to this it was impossible for the American to reduce Fort Lafayette. Washington considered it unprofitable to further protect the place, as it was so open to attack by land and water, or even to hold it. After transferring the cannon and stores, to West Point he demolished the fort.

Clinton upon learning of the capture of Stony Point was much alarmed and immediately gave up his design to attack New London, and made preparations to move toward Fort Lafayette, and strengthen it with all the forces at his command. At the same time Washington had devised a plan by which Fort Lafayette would be reduced. He ordered Major General Howe, with two brigades, to march down from the Highlands by way of Peekskill, and besiege the fort. By this time, July 17, Clinton had reached the north side of the Croton River, and it was feared he would throw himself between Verplanck and Peekskill, and thus cut off Howe. But to our great relief General Heath, who was just returning from Connecticut, learning of Clinton's approach posted troops to prevent his advance. Howe returned from Verplanck and all of the American forces fell back to Peekskill. The British retained Fort Lafayette and again re-occupied Stony Point, fortifying it even stronger than before. Washington was not inclined to come down from the Highlands and Clinton did not dare approach him, and after experiencing two demonstrations already with a loss of 600 men, he found it simply a waste of time to remain, so in the fall and on the morning of Oct. 21 he evacuated both the points.

The British occupied Fort Lafayette from June 1 to October 21, a period of nearly five months. Their number consisted of about 1,500. From the 20th of July until the evacuation in October they were wholly inactive. General Heath in his memoirs refers to many desertions from the Point, which will be noted later.

It seems to have been the British general's plan for 1779 to force Washington down from the Highlands, whereby he might take possession of the "King's Ferry" while Washington was to avoid all conflict with the enemy and force them to come up in the Highlands if they really desired a test in strength. As this was disagreeable to Clinton his whole plan for 1779 was unsuccessful.

On July 16, 1776, the British vessels Phoenix and Rose sailed up the river to Verplanck's Point. That night two of

our five vessels attempted to burn the two ships of war; one of these boarded the Phoenix, of 44 guns, and grappled with her for some minutes, but fortunately, cleared herself. The only damage the enemy sustained was the destruction of one tender. This alarmed the enemy, for the next morning, taking advantage of the properous gale and forceable tide, they proceeded back to their place of starting.

In July of 1782, acting under the advice of our commander-in-chief, Rochambeau (who was then in Virginia) marched to the Hudson to effect a junction with the American army. General Casleton, who had succeeded to the command of the British army at the withdrawal of Clinton to England, had planned to attack the French Islands in the West Indies. It was the intention of Washington to prevent this, thus his reason for bringing Rochambeau to the Hudson. On the 14th day of December he (Rochambeau) crossed with his army the King's Ferry to Verplanck's Point. On September 31, those troops still remaining in the Highlands, as many as could be carried in boats embarked at their respective brigade landings, and proceeded down the river to Verplanck's Point, where they disembarked and encamped. They made a most beautiful appearance with their boats in motion. Those remaining marched down by land. The French army made their camp for two weeks at Peekskill and then removed to Crompond, while the Americans still retained the Point. On the arrival of the American troops they were paraded before Rochambeau for reviewal, that he might note their improvement in appearance since his last reviewal. They marched by in two columns before him and Washington.

The reader must remember that when the war first began our soldiers were not trained soldiers like those of the British, and they were not equipped with uniforms. Now, at the time of Rochambeau's reviewal they were in full uniform and made a most beautiful appearance. Count Rochambeau congratulated General Washington on their splendid appearance and expressed his astonishment at their rapid acquirement of soldiery discipline.

The treason of Arnold and the capture of Major Andre which took place about this time, and which is most importantly connected with Verplanck, will be noted here. In order that the reader may become fully acquainted with this most important event, I will herewith relate the circumstances connected with it.

Revolutionary Importance

The following is a brief sketch of Arnold's treason and Major Andre's capture. The reader may herewith realize its importance in connection with Verplanck.

The holding of the post of West Point was of much importance to the Americans. Sir Henry Clinton knew that he could not

conquer the post with any force at his command, so he bargained to have it delivered into his hands for the consideration of a Brigadier Generalship in the British army and fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars in gold. The king and the ministry approved of the conspiracy and refugee loyalists in England promoted it. We must here state that previous to this a secret correspondence had been steadily carried on between our officer Arnold and the British officer, Andre, early in 1779. This notorious villain, whose wrath had been kindled by disgrace brought upon himself by his own bad conduct, had determined to have revenge on General Washington. In June of 1778 he had been appointed a military governor of Philadelphia. In this office he lived in an extravagant and ostentatious manner. However, he soon involved himself in debts and to extricate himself he became guilty of malefeasance in office.

Official complaints were made to Congress and he was tried and found guilty and was sentenced to be reprimanded by the commander-in-chief, General Washington. This our general did as delicately as possible early in 1779, whereupon the bad-hearted Arnold swore vengeance and determined to betray his country to the hands of the enemy. He immediately opened a correspondence with Major Andre under the assumed name of "Gustavus" and Andre assumed "John Anderson". For more than a year and one-half he kept the enemy fully acquainted with all our secrets and it was finally agreed he should endeavor to obtain the command of the most important post of West Point and betray it into the hands of Sir Henry Clinton. Through his persistent efforts he succeeded on August 3, 1780 to secure the command of this post. He received his appointment at Peekskill and immediately made his headquarters at the Beverly Robinson House. (This house was preserved until a few years ago and was located near Garrison.) As precedingly explained, Sir Henry Clinton, to make certain of his plot, bribed Arnold. It became necessary for the contracting parties with whom the transaction was to take place, to have an interview in order to achieve their grand object. Hereupon Arnold demanded the same by a well disguised letter to John Anderson (Andre). He had intended to make the place of meeting at West Point, but through a misunderstanding in Andre's reply this project failed and Arnold started himself to Dobb's Ferry to meet Andre on the 10th. He went down to the King's Ferry in his barge and passed the night with "Joshua Hett Smith" near Haverstraw. The next morning he proceeded to Dobbs Ferry. He had no flag and as he approached the British guards he was fired upon and compelled to flee across the river to a place of concealment. As he had proceeded unnecessarily close to the enemy he felt that he should write an explanatory letter to Washington. This he did, falsely stating that his object was to place signals as near as possible to the enemy's lines.

Washington was now about to make a journey to Connecticut with Lafayette, Colonel Hamilton and other officers, to hold a

conference with Rochambeau. When he (Washington) arrived at the King's Ferry, Arnold was there with his barge to convey them across to Verplanck's Point, where they proceeded by way of Peekskill to their destination in Connecticut. While crossing the river the British sloop, the "Vulture", lay in open sight and Washington viewed her with his glasses. (Little did he dream of the meaning of her presence here.")

Arnold had received a letter from Colonel Robinson concerning the lands in the highlands and also one to General Putnam pertaining to the same. Arnold laid the letters before General Washington, with the expectation that he would receive permission to act authoritatively in the matter and thus enable him to carry out his accursed plot, but Washington after receiving it, replied that only the civil authorities could act upon such matters. By this reply he did not dare to meet Robinson, so he forwarded the letter stating that he would send a man on the night of the 20th with a flag and a boat so as to disarm the suspicion of the enemy and informed him as to when Washington should return from Hartford. The letter read, "I expect General Washington to lodge here on Saturday next and I will lay before him any matter you wish to communicate". Arnold was here referring to the letter concerning the lands in the highlands to General Putnam and himself. The reader will observe here the code of communication used between the two men. This letter read by the ordinary observer would find it pertaining to these lands, while with Andre it was a plain answer as to when Washington would be on his way to Hartford. Thus it was that these letters were a code between the two men which was endangering our country to the fate of treason.

Sir Henry Clinton dispatched Andre to the "Vulture", then lying off Teller's (Croton) Point. Robinson expected no other than Arnold to come to the "Vulture". Andre had received orders not to change his clothes, to go near the American lines, or to assume in any way the character of a spy. He, too, expected Arnold to come to the "Vulture", but Arnold not wishing to place himself in too dangerous a position, came again to the house of Smith, passed the night and made arrangements for Smith to go to the "Vulture" and bring Andre ashore. He did not accomplish this errand on the 20th, but on the night of the 21st, with muffled oar locks he proceeded to the "Vulture" and brought Andre ashore. It was not intended that Andre should leave the boat at all, but owing to Arnold's arrangements it was necessary. He brought with him a letter to Colonel Robinson, then on the "Vulture", containing information as to the strength of our army at West Point. Andre had been advised not to go on shore, but eager to carry out his plot, he went. He concealed his uniform with a long coat. Smith bore with him two passes, one for Andre and one for himself, in case he was captured by the American water patrols.

They landed near Haverstraw Bay at the foot of Long Cove Mountain where Arnold awaited them concealed in the thicket. Smith lead Andre to Arnold and then withdrew at Arnold's request and let the conspirators alone. It was a serene starlight night and a little frostiness was in the air. The conference lasted long and was not ended when Smith came and warned them that dawn was about to break. They then retreated to Smith's house (this house is still standing today and the spot is known as Treason Hill) to complete their plans which was some five miles distant. They rode through Haverstraw to Smith's which they reached just at dawn. At the same time this treacherous part of the tragedy was being enacted a most important service was being rendered to our country by two men, Peterson, a negro, and Sherwood, a white man, both employed on a farm near Teller's Point. (This farm is known of recent date as the Eugene Frost farm, near Croton.) The farm was located on a hill and at a point from which Teller's Point was visible. The "Vulture" having weighed anchor at this place and seeing these two men, started a boat to the shore to capture them. They having shot guns, fired at the boat and drove its occupants back. The firing of these men was heard by Colonel Livingston, then stationed at Verplanck's Point. He immediately sent some men to Teller's Point and they so severely canonaded her that she was compelled to weigh anchor to escape destruction and move further down the river. These men may be as closely connected with the capture of Andre as the three men who eventually did capture him. It had been pre-arranged that Andre would return to the "Vulture" when he had completed his mission, but was now compelled to go by the King's Ferry. During the early morning the plot was arranged. Andre was to return to New York. When all was ready Arnold handed him the fatal papers, the reports which explained the military conditions of West Point and its dependencies. He requested that he place them in his stocking next to his feet. At noon Arnold left and returned to West Point to await the time when he should betray his country to the hands of the enemy. He was to weaken the army here by dispersing them and when the British should come in sight he was to send troops down along the river to fight them off, thus weakening the position at West Point. The boom and chain which had been stretched across the river at West Point to prevent the enemy from passing were to be weakened. To accomplish this he pretended to repair the chain and, going to the middle of the river he raised the chain and removed one of the links, each of which weighed over two hundred (200) pounds, supposedly temporarily and replaced it with rope so that the enemy's ships could easily break it and thus pass through. Andre spent the balance of the day at Smith's in a very uneasy state of mind. Toward evening he asked Smith to take him back to the "Vulture". Smith had become quite alarmed at the firing on that vessel and refused to take him back, but offered to accompany him half the distance on horseback if he would take a land route. With Arnold's pass allowing him to pass the guards at White Plains or below and nothing else to do under the circumstances, Andre

agreed to go. He was persuaded to change his uniform, which he did.

Accompanied by Smith and a negro servant, which had also been secured by Arnold, he crossed the King's Ferry to Verplanck's Point, following that road to the Albany Post road, to Pine's Bridge. Here he was intercepted by Captain Boyd in command there, but upon producing Arnold's pass he received recognition and was persuaded to stop for the night. He passed a sleepless night and arose very early, about 4 A.M. and continued his journey. About 7 A.M. he stopped in the house of Mrs. Underhill, at Yorktown, and received his breakfast. (The chair in which Major Andre sat for his breakfast on that morning was preserved by Mrs. Underhill, and is now in the possession of Stephen D. Horton, of Peekskill. It is a handmade rocking chair and bears the date of its making, 1725, carved on the back, and an affidavit from Warren Underhill, to prove its correctness. I, myself, have had the honor to set in this chair.) He then proceeded on his way and after leaving here a short distance, Smith assuring him that he was on neutral ground and out of the danger zone, took his leave.

Andre therefore much overjoyed at his success, preceeded in quite a happy state of mind.

This part of the country had been infested by some cowboys who plundered and stole from the people of the neighborhood. At the time when Andre was approaching Tarrytown, seven young men who were banded together for the purpose of wrestling the spoils from the plunderers, were watching for their game in the thicket. They knew their business was unlawful and feared arrest, so four of them watched from the top of the hill, while the other three, Williams, Paulding and Van Wart, laid in wait along the road.

At 9 o'clock in the morning as they were playing cards they heard the approach of a horseman. Upon observation they decided to stop him, one rumored, "He looks like a trader from New York," another, "He is a stranger and you had better stop him." This was to Paulding, who seemed to be the leader of the gang. As Andre drew close, Paulding stopped forward and presented his musket and demanded him to halt! "Gentlemen," Andre said, "I hope you belong to our party." "Which party?" asked Paulding. He said, "The lower party," meaning the British. They told him they did, whereupon he told them he was a British officer out in the country on important business and he hoped they would not detain him a minute, and to prove this he pulled out his gold watch. Paulding ordered him to dismount. At this he realized his unpleasant position and he immediately exclaimed, "Mt God, I must do anything to get along." He showed Arnold's pass and explaining that he was on particular business for the

General and they better not detain him unless they themselves get into trouble. Paulding assured him that they did not intend to rob him, but that he must be searched. They took him into the bushes and searched him but could find nothing. They were about to let him go when it was suggested that something might be in his boot. He was ordered to take them off. At first he refused, but finally he took them off and the papers were found. At their discovery, Paulding with an oath exclaimed, "He is a spy."

Andre's captors asked him how much he would give them if they allowed him to pass. He offered large sums of money and goods, but Paulding declared that he would not let him go for ten thousand (10,000) guineas. They immediately conducted him to the military post, which was that of Lieutenant-Colonel Jameson. (Let it be explained here that Paulding wore at the time of the capture a British uniform. That is what misled Andre to think them of his party. The reason for the uniform is explained by the fact that Paulding had been held a prisoner by the British and used it to make his escape. He escaped only the night before and had no opportunity to change. When Jameson received the man in camp he not doubting the fidelity of Arnold, started Andre with an escort and explanatory letter to Arnold. When Major Tallmadge arrived very soon after he immediately demanded that the man be returned. He had known Arnold and was mistrustful of him and suspected he might have something to do with it. When Andre was returned Tallmadge was convinced by his manner and gait that he was a military man and immediately informed Washington. Jameson meantime trusting Arnold, sent him a letter telling of Andre's capture; thus it was that Arnold escaped.

In the meantime Washinton was returning from Hartford and came by a shorter route than that planned for and thereby missed the message bearing the news of Arnold's treason. Upon arriving at Fishkill, Washington sent his baggage to Arnold's headquarters. The next morning early he preceeded and, arriving at Arnold's house where he was awaited by him and his wife for breakfast. They were soon at the breakfast table, and while they were eating a letter was handed by a messenger to Arnold. He expected to read that the British ships were already on route up the Hudson, but to his great astonishment he reads the letter of Jameson's telling of the capture of the spy. He sat with almost perfect composure, finishing the letter and then begging to be excused on immediate important business, he ordered his horse, and, rushing to his wife's chanber and telling her the awful news and that they must part, perhaps forever, kissing his sleeping baby in the cradle, he rushed out to the horse, rode down to the river and was rowed by his own men under the pretense that he had important business with the enemy. Raising the flag of truce he commanded them to row as fast as they could and he was landed at the "Vulture".

When Washington heard the news he said, "Whom can we trust now?" and as soon as he had solved the terrible mystery and the whole extent of the plot was made manifest, Hamilton was immediately ordered to mount a horse and ride to Verplanck's Point that preparation might be made for stopping Arnold, should he not already have passed that post. But Colonel Hamilton's mission proved too late. It could hardly have been otherwise, for Arnold had passed that spot fully six hours before. He left this house at 10 o'clock in the morning and his treachery was not known until nearly four in the afternoon. When Hamilton arrived at Verplanck, a flag of truce had already come from the "Vulture" with a letter from Arnold to Washington.

It is noteworthy that Colonel Livingston, then commanding at Verplanck's had received a letter from the Commander-in-Chief to come to him immediately. Livingston was much alarmed, as the proximity of his post to the enemy and the surrounding circumstances might be fairly presumed to have been directly or indirectly connected with the escape of Arnold. To his happy surprise Washington made inquiries into the past, but told him that he had sent for him that he might communicate to him some special orders which could be accomplished only by a personal interview. As a conclusion to their interview, Washington told Livingston that it was a gratification to him that the post was in the hands of an officer whose courage and devotedness to his country afforded a pledge of a faithful and honorable discharge of duty. We can well imagine the feeling of Colonel Livingston as he returned to his station of high trust and danger.

The captors of Andre were honored and rewarded and grateful generations celebrate their deed and do honor to their memory to-day. General Washington wrote to Congress. It acted immediately on the matter. It thanked them by resolution, granted to each an annuity of two hundred (\$200) dollars for life and twelve hundred fifty (\$1250) dollars in cash or the same amount of property in Westchester County in confiscated lands and directed a silver medal bearing on one side "Fidelity" and on the other "Vincit Amor Patriae". Shortly afterward General Washington gave a grand dinner party at Verplanck's Point and at his table were his staff and the former general of the army as his invited guests, the three young men, namely, Van Wart, Williams and Paulding. With solemn and impressive speech Washington presented the medals to these men.

Paulding died in Yorktown in 1818 north of Lake Mohegan. His grandchildren are James, of New York, Miss Louise, of Mt. Vernon, John and Euphemia Paulding (now Mrs. W. F. Wessells), of Peekskill, also H. C. Purdy, the last two mentioned with whom I am personally acquainted and have conversed with on this particular topic. His funeral was held from Yorktown to Hillside Cemetery at Van Cortlandville, where his remains are interred. It was accompanied by the military band and cadets of West Point.

The corporation of the City of New York erected to his honor a monument which contains the following inscription:

"Here reposes the mortal remains of John Paulding, who died on the 18th day of February, 1818, in the 60th year of his age.

On the morning of the 23rd of September, 1780, accompanied by two young farmers of the County of Westchester (whose names have been recorded on their deserved monuments), he intercepted the British spy, Andre. Poor himself, he disdained to acquire wealth by sacrificing his country, rejecting the temptation of great rewards, he conveyed his prisoner to the American camp, and by this act of noble self-denial the treason of Arnold was detected, the designs of the enemy baffled, West Point and the American army saved and the United States, now by the grace of God free and independent, rescued from imminent peril."

On the opposite side of the monument is inscribed:

"The corporation of the city of New York erected this tomb as a memorial raised to public gratitude."

The following, taken from Major Gen. Wm. Heath's Memoirs of the American War, will add to further acquaint the reader with the Revolutionary importance of Verplanck.

At about 10 o'clock A. M. our general, while out reconnoitring, received by express from General Washington, orders to move as expeditiously as possible to Peekskill, where he would find General Howe with two brigades. Our general was to take the command of the whole, and carry into effect the orders which had been given to General Howe. Our general returned immediately to the troops, and at 12 o'clock began his march towards Peekskill - marched until dusk, 15 miles, when the troops halted and laid down to rest on the side of the road, the dragoons not unsaddling their horses. At 3 o'clock the next morning the troop resumed their march, and in that afternoon our general received information from General Howe, by express, that General Clinton was on full march with his whole army towards Verplanck's Point. An answer was returned at what point the troops then were, and that they were marching as fast as the men could endure, and would continue so until they reached him. When the troops had advanced a little to the westward of Drake's farm, Colonel Moyland came up from General Howe with information that a part of Clinton's army were then above the new bridge on Croton River, pushing for the point, and that he was retreating from General Huntington, with his brigade and two field pieces to push forward as fast as the troops could march and keep in breath, and take a position on the high ground to the south of Peekskill, which commands the road to the Point, and also that to the new bridge on Croton River, and ordered a regiment to

file off to the right and secure the pass over the hill between Drake's and Peekskill, and also ordered the flankguard on the left to be reinforced, and to send out small flankguards still further from its flank, and troops moving on with the utmost expedition to the ground which General Huntington had been ordered forward to secure. Every moment that passed was expected to announce the commencement of an action between the advanced or flanking parties of the two armies. At this moment General Washington having learned how matters stood, and that possibly General Clinton might attempt to push into the Highlands immediately, which was done just after dark, the troops passing the night on Bald Hill. It was generally the opinion that if our general had not been at hand to advance in the manner he did, that General Clinton by a forced march of his light troops, backed by his army, would have got in the rear of General Howe before he could have possibly gained the road at Peekskill, and between his army and a sally from the garrison of Verplanck's Point inevitably cut off the whole. Our troops at Stony Point cannonaded and bombarded the enemy's works at Verplanck's during the whole day and until near midnight. The post was then evacuated and the Washington galley was blown up.

July 22: Two deserters came in from Verplanck's Point; they reported that the garrison consisted of about 1,000 men. On the same date he reports that a deserter came from Verplanck's Point and reported that the British had again taken possession of Stony Point and were repairing the works, their forces on both sides of the river being about 1,500; and that they got up the guns of our galley, which had been blown up (By galley is meant a low, flat, one-decked vessel propelled by oars and sometimes with sails, was an open boat used by man of-war. The reason for a flat bottom being to allow the boat to land on the beach when required. W.J.K.)

July 26: Four deserters came in from the Point.

July 28: Four deserters came in from the Point.

July 29: Two deserters came in from the Point.

July 30: Three deserters came in from the Point.

July 31: Three deserters came in from the Point.

Aug. 1: Three deserters came in from the Point.

Aug. 2: Six deserters came in from the Point.

Aug 5: Three deserters came in from the Point. They reported that the garrison, except 400 men, were to remove to New York.

Aug. 9: Four deserters came in from the Point.

Aug. 23: The enemy burned two houses belonging to the Lents, near Verplanck's Point. Three deserters came in from Verplanck's Point, and a prisoner belonging to the Thirty-third Regiment, taken by one of our patrolling parties, was sent up. About fifteen sail of square-rigged vessels lay at anchor near King's Ferry.

Sept. 15: A deserter came in from Verplanck's Point.

Sept. 19: Some appearance indicated an evacuation of Verplanck's Point.

Sept. 30: The engineers, covered by a detachment of 300 men, reconnoitered the enemy's works at Verplanck's; the enemy appeared to be much alarmed, and fired a number of cannon and small arms at our party, and a reinforcement came over from Stony Point. At evening another deserter came in.

Oct. 2: The army at Verplanck's Point opened a number of pits about five feet deep and four feet over, with a sharp stake in the middle, around the outside of the abattis. (An abattis was a barricade composed of felled trees with the branches pointing outward, for the purpose of repelling cavalry - W.J.K.)

Oct. 7: One deserter from Verplanck's Point.

Oct. 15: Seven deserters came in from Verplanck's Point and reported that the enemy were putting their baggage, sick, the women, etc., on board transports.

Oct. 19: One deserter came in from Verplanck's Point.

Oct. 21: Three deserters came in from Verplanck's Point, and reported that the enemy were on the point of evacuating their works. The officers commanding the advance pickets soon after sent information that the works appeared to be on fire, and the shipping standing down the river. Major Waldbridge, who commanded the advance picket, immediately sent a detachment to take possession of the works. Several loaded shell left by the enemy, in places where fire would come at them, burst, but did no harm. The enemy left one horse, a few old intrenching tools, and some other trifles at the Point.

Oct. 24: Colonel Bradley's detachment returned to camp. The Colonel reported that he observed large quantities of forage and fruit in the fields between Verplanck's Point and Croton River. To secure the forage, and cover the communication by King's Ferry, General Washington ordered our general to move down and encamp at Peekskill.

Oct. 29: Strong fatigue parties were daily employed on the works evacuated by the enemy at Verplanck's and Stony

Dec. 30: Early in the morning General Washington crosses the Hudson at King's Ferry into the Jerseys.

1780. Jan, 1: Early in the morning about 100 soldiers belonging to the Massachusetts regiments, who had enlisted at different periods subsequent to January, 1777, for three years, pretending that their time of service now expired (although many of them had months to serve before their three years' service was completed), marched off with intent to go home. They were pursued and brought back. Some of them were punished; the greater part of them pardoned. Some others, at other posts conducted in the same manner, and were treated as the first mentioned. Those whose time of service was expired were all discharged with honor.

Dec. 3: The snow had got to be about four deep on a level, and the troops were driven to great difficulties in keeping open the communication to the posts - obtaining provisions, fuel, forage, etc., and so intense and steady was the weather that for more than twenty days there could not be discovered the least sign of the remission of the snow in any places the most open to the influences of the sun. The Hudson soon becoming passable on the ice, the troops were comfortably supplied with provisions; but many were in extreme want of clothing.

Dec. 17: The Hudson was so frozen that travelers safely crossed the river on the ice at King's Ferry.

From this date on nothing of importance is noted in "General Heath's Memoirs" in connection with Verplanck. These memoirs were made by that illustrious general in a diary in which he made note of the particular happenings of each day. During the period here mentioned he was stationed in and around the vicinity of Verplanck.

As a conclusion to our "Revolutionary Importance" I shall relate the interview of the French army by Washington, after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Va.

While searching the many writings for information for this article, I had been convinced that General Washington in person had encamped at Verplanck, but to determine where or when I found it impossible. After many unsuccessful attempts, I finally obtained the information from Mr. Frederick W. Seward, of Montrose Point, which adjoins Verplanck. I made a personal visit to this venerable old gentleman, and upon my visit was very sorry to learn that the gentleman was just recovering from a serious illness and that visitors were not permitted to see him. Upon learning the object of my mission he, nevertheless, commanded that I be brought to see him. Upon entering the room I found him resting upon a divan which had been placed near a window and which directly overlooked the location of

the old "King's Ferry". (Mr. Seward's residence being located just below that point on the Hudson). He welcomed me most heartily. I took a seat near him, and I questioned him, and I questioned him as to his own personal career. During our course of conversation he informed me of the facts I quote below.

(The memory, the excellent state of preservation, and the wonderful mind of this venerable old gentleman in his advanced years, he being now in his 85th year, can only be realized by those who come in personal contact with him). Mr Seward's own quotation is:

. . . . "As a conclusion during the year of '80, officers of French royalty had landed their army in New England, Washington arranged the plan of campaign. General Lafayette was then besieging Yorktown. Washington arranged with Rochambeau to follow the armies across the Hudson River at Verplanck's Point in order to march to the help of Lafayette to the siege of Yorktown. They came over and crossed. First the French, and then the Americans. They had nothing but the old scow or flat boats. It took them three days to carry the baggage and artillery. While they were crossing, Washington took Rochambeau to West Point to show him that fortification. Then, coming back, they started on the long march with both armies, through New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to Yorktown, Va., passing right by Sir Henry Clinton with the British army in New York City, who knew nothing of it. The most extraordinary occurrence. Sir Henry Clinton could have got his troops to Yorktown by water, if he had known Washington's movements, but the first he knew was the distressing news that both armies were before Yorktown and that Cornwallis would have to surrender, as he did.

After the surrender both armies marched back. They returned to Verplanck, the Americans first, and Washington pitched his tent on the celebrated hill called by his name to this day. He and his army were in camp here. The French came afterwards and Washington gave them a formal reception and review. General Rochambeau had his troops cross by the King's Ferry and found that the American soldiers had cut down the cedar trees and planted them all the way up from the ferry to Washington Hill, making a triumphant avenue (which is at present Broadway). Up this avenue General Rochambeau with drums beating and flags flying, went to exchange greetings with Washington at Washington Hill. After the reception both armies proceeded to Newburgh, where they were dispersed."

Verplanck a City

Shortly after the close of the Revolution, Philip Verplanck of Verplanck's Point, eldest son of Philip Verplanck, of the Rombout Precint, inheriting the property from his father, rebuilt a family mansion (the original home being burned as previously stated) and after the ruin and destruction caused by

the contending armies, by his hard efforts brought the property to a state of perfection, and it was the admiration of those who saw it and the most beautiful residence on the banks of the Hudson. This second house was erected on the same spot where the original one stood. No description of the former has been possible. The home which he erected was destroyed shortly afterwards by fire. The following story is credited to its burning: The young son of Mr. Verplanck, like many of our boys today, had acquired the habit of smoking. He was cautious less his parents detected him. To avoid this he retired to a room in the attic, where he concealed himself for the purpose. The room contained an old-fashioned fireplace, wherein some scraps of paper had been thrown. When the young man finished his cigar (there being no cigarettes at that time), he threw it carelessly into the fireplace and went off to school. The paper ignited and while the rest of the family were downstairs the house took fire and burned. The fire continued to burn for three days and a night, it being necessary to have a bucket brigade to remain that length of time.

At his death (Nov. 16, 1797) he left five children who inherited the property. His two eldest sons were Philip and William Beekman, respectively. The oldest, Philip, fell heir to the home near the dock and its respective property. He continued to live at Verplanck, developing the property by many additional features. In 1836 he sold this entire portion to a syndicate of ten New York gentlemen for the sum of \$450,000.

. . . The second son, William Beekman, inheriting property on the northern part of Verplanck, erected a beautiful residence overlooking the river, which is still standing today. He died in 1839, at the early age of 33 years, leaving but one child, also named William Beekman, born Jan. 26, 1835. This son lived at Verplanck the greater part of his life, occupying the residence of his father. He married Ellen Irving, grandniece of Washington Irving, and had by her one son, Lewis Irving Verplanck. (Many of the old residents will remember the last named.) While he was still a minor, his father sold the property to a Mr. Knox, an attorney of New York city. A few years later our esteemed citizen and a very prominent real estate broker, B. J. McGuire, sold the same property to Mr. Clark, of New York city, for the purpose of a summer resort. After an unsuccessful attempt the property became again that of Mr. Knox and later was deeded by that gentleman to the "Verplanck Manor Realty Co.," who still possesses it today.

Many people are misled to believe that the Mr. Verplanck selling the property to the syndicate resided at the Verplanck house standing today. This is incorrect. The property was sold by Philip Verplanck, residing at the home near the river. The property, now the possession of the Verplanck Manor Realty Co., continued in the Verplanck family until the sale by William Beekman, Jr. to Mr. Knox, of New York city. This was the last

link connecting the old and historic family with the place, which still bears that name.

In 1837 one Allen W. Hardie, of New York, realizing from the beautiful situation combined with the extraordinary deep water front, the advantages offered one here, organized a syndicate of ten gentlemen, of which it has been possible to mention only the following: Philip Verplanck, John Stenson, Wm. Bleakley, Wm. Lyell, John Henry and Allen W. Hardie. They purchased the entire tract, over 500 acres, for \$450,000, and proceeded to lay the same out into a city. It was the intention of those concerned to erect summer resorts for the purpose of hire or sale. To this accomplishment the property was laid out into streets, avenues and parks, as follows:

Stretching from the water front on the south side to Lent's (Jimmie's) Cove on the north, thirty-seven streets were marked out and named respectively, from First to Thirty-seventh street, while from the water front on the east to that of Meaghagh Creek (now Meaghagh Lake) the following avenues, were mapped out and cut through as same: Water Street, Hudson Avenue, Highland Avenue, Broadway, Westchester Avenue and Union Avenue. Of the thirty-seven streets named but eleven were cut through.

Beautiful parks were laid out. That portion of land now the battery was known as Battery Park, and Washington Hill was known as Washington Square. The streets were surveyed and laid out by Count Stanick, at one time an official in the Russian army, hence his title. How well this gentleman performed his duty remains to be seen by us today. What is now Lake Meaghagh was then Union Avenue. This tract of land, covering about 97 acres, was of a marshy foundation and considerable money was expended to bring it to a state of permanence. When success seemed achieved the unstability of the foundation failed to support the immense weight placed upon it, and it eventually returned to its original state. Building lots were laid out and homes erected. The largest steamers of the Hudson at that time made dockage there. A stage route was in connection with Peekskill. The future was bright and prospective and offered every opportunity to the speculator. Many flocked to the place from the larger cities to make themselves prospective speculators. However, after two years, owing to the financial condition generally, home seekers failed to appear and the project failed, and the idea abandoned. The other members of the company, wishing to discontinue their interests, John Henry, who had amassed considerable wealth in the rope industry in Long Island, assumed the responsibility by purchasing the entire tract for \$350,000.

For eleven years after this the town had resorted back to its former state of quiet and peacefulness. At the end of this time Mr. Henry introduced the first brickyard, and continued to do so until he had added five yards to his credit.

He also sold property to Wm. Bleakley and others who also entered the same capacity, and behold this once Quakerified community becomes the most thriving along the Hudson Valley. From a handful of settlers the town continues to increase until statistics tell us we have 1,500 people. At the time mentioned here over 168,000,000 brick were manufactured in a season. Over \$135,000 was spent annually for wood consumed in the industry. Over \$9,000 weekly was paid for labor. The following extracted from an old scrap book at one time in the possession of John Henry, will give the reader some idea as to the great expectations assumed by the people of that time as to the future of Verplanck:

"As a branch of our town, and in terms plain and frank,
We will now introduce the new city Verplanck;
Its tempting location and picturesque view,
Is the theme of the traveler and citizen too --
With its parks, public grounds, and its avenues wide,
Well suited for business, for air, or for ride.
With the streets intersecting, lots, squares and all that,
Which now are laid out on this beautiful map.

Designed, it is said, in its various parts,
To embrace all the business in science and arts;
Agriculture and commerce will there also find,
A mart for their produce of every kind,
As well as a packet with compass and charts,
To convey then in safety to all foreign parts.
And in order to have the facilities, too,
A branch from old Wall street will make up the loo.

Having thus far progressed one one would think it the best,
To leave to the future to make up the rest,
But the towering ambitions of some people's mind,
Will never consent to leave one thing behind;
So the next thing proposed, as escaped from their lips,
Was a dry dock for mending old national ships,
Which in time would be followed and pressed very hard,
A plan to locate Uncle Sam's navy yard.
And we further are told -- whether serious or jest --
And Congress may hear of the subject at least.
And resolve, if they will -- Good people don't stare!
That, that body should carry the marble house there.

But avast says the sailor, come haul in the slack --
We have sailed long enough on this weather-bound tack;
Let's be serious and sober, and talk with some sense,
Verplanck is a place that in time coming hence.
Will emerge from its forest and grass covered plain
And yield to improvement in city-like train;
And assume 'midst a throng where morals pervade
A claim on the arts -- of commerce and trade.

If you doubt what I say, though so candid and frank,
 Then ride, walk or fly to the Point of Verplanck,
 Where you'll meet with friend Hardie whose courteous smile
 Will arrest in the onset your doubts in the while,
 After which he will demonstrate plain to your sight
 What is done, and is doing; and also what might
 Be expected in course of the winter months in,
 Or be finished in all of the ensuing spring.

The First Jail.

The first jail of Verplanck was located on the corner of Fifth street and Westchester avenue. It was a brick structure about 10 feet by 12 feet. It was composed of two cells and a hall. Sheriff Murphy, who was several years its jailer, in speaking of it, says, "The prisoners very often made their escape by breaking through the roof. To prevent this the prisoners were handcuffed and a chain placed about their wrists and chained again the the ceiling."

1829 - Justices of the Peace - 1914.

The first justice on record was Dan. Lent, who held the office from 1829 - 1857. Whether he was a native or lived at Verplanck is not positive, but there is no question as to his authority over that territory. Following him James A. Whiteteck became justice. He was the first of permanent nature. He held the first court in his place of business (a grocery store on the corner of Sixth street and Westchester avenue).

Stephen Billings, 1869 - 1887.

Henry Tate, 1887 - 1890.

Stephen Billings, 1890 - 1892. He died before his term expired and B. J. McQuire was elected to fill the vacancy.

James E. Lynch, 1893 - 95.

Lewis H. Bleakley, Sr. 1895 - 1901. He died before expiration of the term and his son, Lewis H. Bleakley, Jr., was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Lewis H. Bleakley, 1901 - 1910.

Wm. E. King, 1910 - 1914.

1773 - Constables - 1914.

Previous to the vision of Cortlandt Manor into township constables were elected for the "Manor of Cortlandt," and therefore had authority in Verplanck. The reader will note several omissions in the list, the explanation being that the constables were elected for the town of Cortlandt and could live anywhere in the town, thus, the names given below are only the names of constables elected living at Verplanck, the vacancies having been filled by those living outside of Verplanck.

The first constable of any record appointed to Cortlandt Manor was Isaac Forman, 1773 - 74. The following succeeded him:

Nathaniel Bennett, 1781 - 83
 Daniel Purdy, 1783 - 84
 Wm. Dean, 1784 - 85
 Henry Strang, 1785 - 86

In 1778, the Manor of Cortlandt came under the jurisdiction of the State of New York. The first constable elected was

David Ferris, 1788 - 90
 Elisha Hammond, 1790 - 93
 John Jones, 1793 - 94
 Samuel Land, 1797 - 1813
 Daniel Guild, 1813 - 1814
 Pierce Briggs, 1814 - 1815
 Isaac Denike, 1815 - 1821

After this period four constables were elected to the town.

Pierre Briggs, 1822 - 23
 Andrew Hanford, 1824 - 25
 Benjamin Leverich, 1825 - 26
 Benjamin Ward, 1826 - 27
 James McCord, 1827 - 28
 Josiah Ferris, 1841 - 42
 Henry Reid, 1848 - 49
 Stephen Billings, 1840 - 50
 Wm. G. Quick, 1856 - 57
 Wm. G. Quick, 1859 - 60
 Nicholas Brennan, March 25, 1861, to March, 1862
 John Hickey, March 30, 1862, to March, 1867
 Abram Tice, March 30, 1867, to March, 1868
 John Hickey, March 28, 1876 to March, 1877
 Chas. E. Orne, March 29, 1877, to March, 1882
 Henry Murphy, March 28, 1882, to March, 1888
 (Jas. Hickey, Spec. from June 6, 1885, tyo Oct. 1, 1885)
 Chas. E. Orne, March 29, 1888, to June 28, 1889
 John Reynolds, March 28, 1889, to March 27, 1890
 James W. Hickey, March 27, 1890, to March 31, 1890
 Bernard J. Vaughey, March 31, 1891, to March 31, 1893
 James Brennan, March 30, 1893, to March 29, 1894
 Geo. W. Waugh, March 29, 1894, to March 28, 1895
 Frank A. McGuire, March 28, 1895, to March 31, 1896
 Thomas J. Keon, March 31, 1896, to March 30, 1898
 Jas. Hickey, Buchanan, March 30, 1898, to March 30, 1899
 Chas. H. Tice, March 30, 1899, to Jan. 1, 1902
 Andrew Hoosfelt, Jan. 1, 1902, to Jan. 1, 1904
 Otto W. Henry, Jan. 1, 1904, to Jan. 1, 1912
 Bernard T. Vaughey, Jan. 1912 to 1915

The following notes taken from the "Record Books of Town Meetings" of the town of Cortlandt will prove of interest to the reader:

"Please take notice that Enoch Orne, an assessor of this town, has tendered to us his resignation of such office of assessor, and that for sufficient cause shown, we have accepted the same. Dated at Cortlandt Town, this 3rd day of May, 1852."

It was resolved that whereas a vacancy has occurred in the office of Inspection Electors in the 3rd Election District, in said town and also in the 4th Election District in said town, now and therefore Lewis H. Bleakley be and is hereby appointed Inspector of Election to fill the vacancy (Rice Eugene Garden, resigned) in the third Election District in said town.

March, 1865, there was a resolution proposed as to plans of holding the Annual Town Meeting for Election of Town Officers for the next year (1886) and the names of Croton, Verplanck's Point and Peekskill presented. The proposition of holding said meeting at Croton was voted down. Upon the question as to whether the election was to be held at the Mansion House in Verplanck being presented, an amendment was proposed that the election should be held in Peekskill, which amendment appeared to be voted down. The original question not being put, it was left undecided.

1882, Peekskill, March 2nd, Charles E. Orne appointed constable in place of M. J. Hennessey, resigned.

Peekskill, March 31, 1885. James Hickey by resolution of the Town Board was appointed Special Constable at Verplancks to act from June 4, 1886, to Oct. 1, 1886.

B. J. McGuire was appointed Justice of the Peace to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Stephen Billings, said appointment being made in writing on the 6th day of May, 1892.

On January 19, 1899, John H. Wagner of Montrose, N. Y. was duly appointed constable in and for this town to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of James Hickey.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, 1901, Justice Louis H. Bleakley died at his residence at Verplanck, N.Y.

March 19, 1902, Louis H. Bleakley, Jr., was duly appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his father.

March, 1873, Annual Meeting. On motion it was resolved that the next annual town meeting in and for the town of Cortlandt be held at the Mansion House kept by John Carol of Verplanck's Point in said town. It was adopted.

The following incident, which is somewhat connected with the above, has been related to me by a venerable old gentleman who was present on the occasion of its happening: Over fifty years ago the town of Cortlandt held their town election, all

voting from one place, that is, for instance, if Peekskill was the place appointed to vote all other voters in the town must come to Peekskill to vote. At the election a verbal vote was taken to decide at what place the next election should be held. The inspectors of election were the four Justices of the Peace. One of these elections held at "Brommie Hilecker's at Center-ville" (now the Geo. E. Craft farm at Buchanan), it was found when the time arrived for the opening of the polls that there was no ballot box to hold the ballots. The inspectors did not know what to do until Brommie Hileker came in with his butter churn and offered it to be used as a ballot box. It was gladly accepted and served the purpose for the day. It was always customary to hold a ball game on election. There were three different factions in the town, the Annsvilleites, the furnacewooders, and the Dutchstreeters. They were always on hand election time and many of them often went home with black eyes and broken noses.

The First Post Office

The first post office was opened February 1, 1838, and was located in the old Mansion House, on the corner of Sixth St. and Broadway (which has since been torn down) and was kept by Allen W. Hardie. The following are the postmasters from February, 1838, to the present:

Names of Postmasters of Verplanck.

Name of Postmaster	Date of Apptmnt.
Allen W. Hardie	Feb. 1. 1838
Wm. Bleakley	May 18, 1841
Wm. Bleakley, Jr.	Jan. 29, 1844
James A. Whitbeck	Dec. 1, 1853
Nicholas Brennen	Sept. 18, 1856
J.A. Whitbeck	July 16, 1861
R. M. Wandle	April 21, 1868
C. L. Bleakley	April 10, 1871
F. O. Skull	July 1, 1872
I. D. Smith	March 29, 1875
Henry Tate	June 26, 1876
J. W. Vaughey	Jan. 21, 1886
Albert Bleakley	Aug. 21, 1891
Mary F. McQuire	Dec. 9, 1895
Margaret G. Fisher	Nov. 20, 1899
Margaret G. Douglass	Dec. 3, 1908
Nellie A. King	Aug. 27, 1910

The following of interest is taken from the Westchester and Putnam Republican, dated Peekskill, Tuesday, February 4, 1840

"Verplanck's Point, Feb. 1,
1840.

Mr. Editor: --

Our neighborhood was thrown into a state of most

thrilling excitement on Tuesday last by the falling in of the wall of a well which was in progress of construction upon the premises of S. H. Mills, Esq.

The ground being very sandy, it was found necessary to use a wooden curb in sinking the shaft; the curb you are aware is forced down by being loaded with stones, and the work of excavation is carried on continually beneath the constantly accumulating mass of wall above. When at a depth of about forty feet the bottom of the wall, which is kept by fixtures about three feet above the place of excavating, broke loose, and a mass of about twelve feet slid to the ground, retaining, however, its form. All was now consternation above, as there was still nearly twenty feet of wall, standing as it were, upon nothing, being supported only by the pressure of the surrounding earth against the curb, and this it was seen in an instant began to move. Seize the rope! Seize the rope! was now the cry. I can't! I can't! Oh! God I am caught by the fallen wall, and in another moment the remaining wall fell in one chaotic mass, covering, as no one doubted from the nature of the ground, and his great depth, a fellow creature forever. That instant death was the fate of the miserable man below, not a doubt remained; still it was determined to call aloud, and it will seem incredible, that through all this wreck of matter, a noise was heard in answer; but lest it might be fancy, it was repeated with the same result. Night was now rapidly closing in, and it began to rain; the news, however, soon spread, and from every direction came panting to the spot strong men with throbbing hearts. What's to be done? was the anxious inquiry; and each one looked to the other for an answer. The ghastly pit was approached with a shudder, as the shattered curb was all that now held back the pressing quicksand, which had already in some places broken through. The rain had drenched all present when most suddenly, at an early hour in the evening, the wind changed and the cold became intense.

Such occasions bring out daring spirits and they were here, and many undertook the task of rescuing with "take care of my wife - take care of my children" as they were lowered into the yawning pit. Now, if houses were to have been levelled to the dust, trees torn up by the roots, or vast rocks to be removed, the work would have been speedily accomplished, but there was one only course to be pursued. Nothing but omnipotence could rescue the wretched being in any other way; no time was to be lost, not a moment; few would act at all, even if they possessed the fortitude, and not one in fifty, to speak within bounds, could bring themselves to enter and act, so imminent was the danger. It is horrifying to reflect upon being swallowed up alive many fathoms deep in the bowels of the earth. No one can realize it but he who is about to enter upon the risk. Many attempted, but finding themselves in the very jaws of death, retreated. Those who remained about were freezing with the bitter cold of a long winter night, while those below were

freezing with horror and leaving the scene, without answering an inquiry as to the prospect, while another led his friend cautiously to a distance and whispered in his ear.

It was now midnight, and the top of the lower wall was reached. Several hours had now elapsed since any answer had been made by the buried man to the oft repeated calls, and it was supposed that the quicksand pouring in had cut off respiration, and that he must now be dead. Not an instant, however, was suffered to pass idly; unceasing were still the efforts made. All knew the man, that he was poor and humble, but he was honestly pursuing a hazardous and absolutely necessary occupation; this was enough; had he been an emperor no more could have been done; and the prayers of the good as they labored in the holy cause were heard to ascend from below: Oh God, give this poor man another opportunity to make his peace with Thee. But new dangers and difficulties now appeared; the lower wall was found to be so shattered by the sudden shock, dropping down en masse, that for a while no one could be found hardly enough to enter and clear it. The braces of the curb had all been carried away and the stones could not be removed, as this alone held back the surrounding quicksand. A pause now ensued for a moment, when the object of all our anxiety was heard to call. Many had done all they could do and had yielded to despair. Who will go down again? But, all were silent. Now a noble fellow stepped forward, and laying aside his coat, said nothing but - let me down. In this situation after many hours' exertion he reached the object of his search, just as the dawn of day, completely in the mass, in fact, himself forming a part of it, and yet so alive, but his legs so strangely, so inexplicably fastened in the solid wall, that with unceasing efforts he was not liberated until past 2 o'clock in the afternoon, having been in this situation within ten minutes of four and twenty hours; and we almost fear to add, lest it should not be credited, that not a bone is broken.

The news had reached our Peekskill neighbors during the night, but notwithstanding inclemency, mocking all danger, to their great praise, they instantly departed for the scene of distress, and before daylight many were upon the spot, vieing with each other who should be foremost; and they continued to pour in from all quarters to our assistance, until the whole region about were on their way hither, ere the glad tidings of relief had reached their ears.

To our Peekskill friends we return our most sincere thanks; their arrival was most opportune; we were worn out and must have yielded soon; while many hours of patient and hazardous trial was still necessary, and which they performed in the most ingenious manner; and to them belongs the credit of completing the mercy.

To mention names and draw comparisons would be manifestly

invidious; those who have been foremost in this melancholy affair must look for their reward within their own bosoms, glowing as they must do, with the consciousness of having acted nobly. Who will deny a protecting Providence or fail to render unto Him due homage.

Respectfully,
Your Obed't Servants,
The Citizens of the Point.

It will be observed that the writer of the above article through his conscientiousness has made it impossible to determine who it was that so unfortunately met with the accident and the time now is so long past, that no person remains that might enlighten us. The following explanation has been made possible by a prominent citizen who relates that which was told him by his parents.

On the west side of Broadway, near the corner of Water Street, a well was being excavated for F. H. Mills, Esq. The man who met with the accident was a Mr. Baker. He remained in the well for the number of hours stated above and was taken from it without experiencing the least disfigurement. (A most extraordinary occurrence.) At the time in question, Broadway was of much higher grade than our Broadway of present date, which made it very difficult for pedestrians, as well as vehicles. To overcome this difficulty the brick manufacturers lowered the grade, taking away the sand and using it for their respective yards, bringing Broadway to its present grade. When the grade was lowered (which was about 25 feet) the well projected that number of feet over ground. It remained there until about twenty years ago, when it was sold to two different brick masons for the sum of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) for the brick. Both men attempted to remove the brick but, finding that the mortar would not give way under the hammer and chisel, they abandoned the work. Sometime afterward John W. Vaughey in repairing the highways had the dirt removed from around the outside of the well and, placing a team of oxen on a heavy chain placed around the well, succeeded in removing the well. When the well toppled over it broke in two pieces. Mr. Vaughey had both parts placed at the corner of Broadway and Water Street, where they act as a drainage for the water coming down Broadway.

(From the New York Daily Tribune, Dated Wednesday morning
Dec. 21, 1842)

"Morning Boat -- From Peekskill, Verplanck, Grassy Point, Sing Sing, Tarrytown, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings and Yonkers. Breakfast and dinner on board. The new and splendid steamer COLUMBUS, Capt. F. W. Stone, will leave New York from the foot of Chambers street, every morning (Friday excepted) at 8 o'clock, and returning leaving Peekskill same day at 1½ o'clock p.m. Landing at the foot of Hammond street each way. Notice: -- All goods, freight, baggage, bank bills, specie or any other kind of property, taken, shipped, or put on board this boat must be at the risk

of the owner of such goods, freight, baggage, etc."

When the steam boats ceased to run for the winter months, stage coaches were in operation from New York to Albany, leaving New York about eight or nine o'clock, arriving at the King's Ferry road for passengers about three or four o'clock in the afternoon. (W.J.K.)

(From the Westchester & Putnam Republican, Peekskill,
Tuesday, June 23, 1840)

"Verplancks Mansion House -- The mansion house at Verplanck West. Co., is offered to be let, or leased for one or more years and the furniture, horses, carriages, etc., for sale. Its situation is well and favorably known to all who travel on the Hudson. Distance from New York City about 40 miles, and about 3 from the flourishing village of Peekskill. The buildings are calculated to accommodate a large company, and such may always be expected to this place, during the summer season, to enjoy the invigorating atmosphere of its location; and in fact, a good business may be done here the year round. The house is 46 X 50 feet on the ground, four stories high; store, postoffice and hotel under the same roof. There is about two acres of land attached to the house calculated for garden and land, etc. The rent will be moderate, and the first year boarded out by the present proprietor and family, which will secure his and their aid, and influence to the establishment. Verplanck, notwithstanding a new place, can boast of most of the village conveniences, such as stores, postoffice, schools, mechanics generally, and steamboats touch there daily to and from the city; besides we breathe the pure air from the Highlands. Soil, good, water first grade, and a plentiful supply of ice during the season. Should the property not be let by the 25th of April next, it will be continued by the present proprietors, who intend keeping a summer boarding house for single gentlemen. Old batchelors are particularly invited.

"Military Companies, Target and Incampment excursions, Boat Clubs, Fishing and Shooting Parties. Steamboat excursions, etc. by giving a few days notice, will be well accommodated and at low rates. No mistake. For further particulars apply to A. W. Hardie, on the premises, or to Capt. Stone of the Steamboat COLUMBUS."

From the same paper, dated June 25th, 1839, is found the following:

A. W. Hardie
Land Agent, Verplanck

Persons desirous of buying, selling or exchanging property are respectfully invited to call at his Hotel and Real Estate Office, corner of Broadway and Sixth street, Verplanck Pt.

(From the Westchester and Putnam Republican, Peekskill, Tuesday,
May 19, 1840)

"Verplanck Academy. -- The association of Verplancks, in the town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co., have established an academy, under the superintendence of Rev. Dr. Westbrook, who has engaged to act as the Principal of the Institution, and to have an assistant teacher to aid him, and to remain with the students at their boarding house. Mr. William Bleakley has been selected and engaged to board the students on moderate terms at the late residence of Philip Verplanck, Esq.

"The Academy will be opened on Monday, the 18th inst., at 9 o'clock a.m."

(The above Dr. Westbrook mentioned was rector of old Dutch Reformed Church on Main Street, Peekskill, and which is now part of the foundry in operation by the Southard-Robertson Company,-
W.J.K.)

Brick Industry.

Let the blinded horse go round,
Till the yellow clay be ground,
And no weary arm be folded
Till the mass of brick be moulded;
Till the heavy walls be risen
and the fire within his prison.
But when break the wall asunder
And the fire is freed from under
Say again what stately thing
From the ruin shall upspring.

-- Read.

The manufacturing of brick at Verplanck at the present time is not so extensive, but rather gradually diminishing, owing to the fast consumption of the material and as the manufacturing of brick generally has become in a great degree reduced by the use of steel and concrete. In the early history of Verplanck this was the leading industry and was of such a nature that it was not only beneficial financially but it brought many desirable people whose sole object was for the building up and betterment of the town.

Eleven years after John Henry purchased over 500 acres from the syndicate of New York gentlemen for \$300,000, he himself started the first brick-yard in a little cove just north of the steamboat dock on the north side of Verplancks, and is known of recent date as the "Adam Fisher Yard". At this time brick was made by throwing the clay into the mould by hand. Instead of the truck as used today, the brick was carried to the yard, where by hand they were placed, or dumped as is commonly known, to dry. Also at this time the use of coal dust was eliminated, as this method was protected by a patent and a roy-

alty had to be paid for the privilege of using it. The output of this yard was about 9,000 brick a day. The wages paid at this time were from twelve to fourteen dollars a month and board. (We complain to-day about hard times, but I wonder if we could exist on these wages.)

The brick industry, like all other industries, was not slow to improve its methods of manufacturing with time. The next yard of any knowledge was built near the original yard, and Mr. Henry had therewith installed three Hall brick machines, the machine universally used at that time. These were the first brick machines at Verplanck. The out put with these machines was from 14,000 to 16,000 brick a day, somewhat improved from the hand method. Mr. Henry continued to build yards at the rate of one every year for about five years.

In the meantime William Bleakley had decided to enter the same capacity and he began to construct yards on property purchased from Mr. Henry, at \$3.25 a thousand, somewhat less than our present prices, but still at that time it was considered a most profitable investment.

The next step of improvement was the conversion of the horse-power plants into steam by B. J. McGuire, equipping the two yards facing the river in front of Clarnece Bleakley's residence. At that time it was considered the greatest achievement of its kind in the town. At the time mentioned here Verplanck was one of the most thriving and progressive towns of the Hudson. Statistically I will quote the names of the brick makers and their output of their respective yards for one day at the time in question:

Francis Timoney	(middle yard)	40,000
"	" (lower ")	40,000
"	" (Dyckman ")	45,000
Adam Fisher		40,000
"	" (B'way ")	23,000
Thos. Vaughey		44,000
Hudson Brick Mfg. Co.	(not leased)	40,000
John Morton	(Common yard)	21,000
"	" (Front brick)	24,000
Cyrus Travis		45,000
O'Brien ' McConnon		45,000
James D. Avery		42,000
Orrin J. Frost	(Common yard)	25,000
"	" (Front brick)	44,000
Edward Bellefeiulle		42,000
King & Lynch		40,000
		<u>600,000</u>

The total of this column shows the output on one day, and as the number of days constituting the brick making season is considered about 160 days, we will multiply one by the other to ascertain the number of bricks manufactured in a season - 96,000,000 The price of brick varied in different years, but as front brick

was manufactured it will be safe to place the price at six dollars a thousand, judging from the price at the time and we will ascertain the handsome sum of \$576,000 dollars for the season. At one time over 1,200 men (not counting the men employed on the boats carrying brick) were employed at Verplanck. There were over 250 horses, several steam engines, over 24,000 cords of wood was used to burn the brick, expending for same in one year \$136,000. Thousands of dollars were paid out in salaries, and when pay day came merchants reaped their harvest from the hard-earned dollar of the laborers.

The present condition of the brick business is not so extensive, there being now only two yards in operation.

Hudson River Brick Mfg. Co.

James A. Whitbeck having accumulated wealth in the brick industry and already experienced in that business, desirous to advance his opportunities, organized in 1867 the "Hudson River Brick Mfg. Co." The officers of the company included the following: D. J. Haight, President; John Canda, vice-president; W. J. Haight, (son of the president) treasurer; James A. Whitbeck, Secretary. They immediately purchased from John Henry, Esq., over one hundred acres of land for the purpose of manufacturing. The purchase included all those brick yards already in operation on that property. (The yard facing the river on the south side of Verplanck's and commonly known as the Spout yard, was operated at this time by Mr. Butler, who held a lease which would not expire for three years.)

The first out-put of brick by this company was from the yards facing the river on the south side of Verplanck, known as the front yard. All yards of the company in operation at this time were that of horse-power. Later, about 1872, the company purchased on the west side of Verplanck, from S. M. Dyckman, the yards known as the Steam yard, and the Stenson yard, adding two more yards to their already acquired number. Shortly after this purchase Mr. Whitbeck discontinued his active interest in the company, but still continued as a stockholder. Shortly after this period the company ceased to be manufacturers and leased the property to individuals for operation. The following are some of the manufacturers leasing from the company: James A. Whitbeck, Stephen Billings, Haight & Southard, Adam Fisher, King & Lynch, John Morton, John Pierce, Thomas Vaughey, Thomas N. Avery, McGuire & Wandell, Frances Timoney, O'Brien & Vaughey, B. J. McGuire & Co., W. H. Mackey, M. E. Mackey & Co. During this period our much respected citizen, John W. Vaughey, has acted as superintendent of the property on behalf of the company. The present officers of the company are Stephen Lent, president (Peekskill); John Morton, vice-president (Brooklyn); Geo. H. Shulz, Secretary (New York); Albert Morton, treasurer (brother of John, also of Brooklyn); John W. Vaughey, superintendent.

Verplanck's Railroad Station.

Previous to 1862 a station of the Hudson River Railroad was located near the present railroad bridge which crosses the Albany Post Road at Buchanan and it was called Verplancks. Stephen Hunt, who owned large tracts of land at what is now Montrose, conceived the idea that if he could locate a railroad station on his own property it would enable him to dispose of the property. To accomplish this he gave the land to the railroad company and finally resulted in the building of the present station of Montrose. This place was first named New Haverstraw, but the name proving unpopular it was afterwards changed to Montrose.

First Trolley Car to Verplanck.

The first official trolley car to Verplanck left the corner of South and Division Streets, Peekskill on Friday, Dec. 20, 1901, at 2:33 p.m. and arrived at the corner of Sixth street and Broadway, Verplanck, at 3:05 p.m.

The car was appropriately decorated with the Irish and American flags and bunting. In the interior of the car were many prominent gentlemen of Peekskill: Messrs. Hitchcock and LeClair and Superintendent Seeyle representing the railroad company; President Lane, Trustees I. H. Smith, S. I. Puglsey, Roe, Taber; Corporation Counsel Couch, Treasurer F. I. Puglsey, Acting Police Justice Bushenell, Superintendent of Water Board Charlton, the village. The town was represented by Supervisor Hiaght, Town Clerk S. Allen Mead, Assessors Allen and Covert, Highway Commissioner Smith, Lent, and Hunt, Justice Oldfield and ex-Judge Clifford Couch; the press by Messrs. Russell, MacKellar, Gardner, Brown, Foshay and Briggs. Congressman Puglsey and Assemblyman Apgar were the guests of honor.

It was through the persistent efforts of James K. Apgar that a bill was passed at Albany exempting the town of Cortlandt from the law which prevented the building of a trolley track on the Albany post road, and to him was rightfully awarded the honor as motorman of the first car over the line. Assemblyman Apgar, although not eligible to run a car, soon learned to feed and put one notch, two notch, or all the way around as necessary, while Wm. E. Bordon, Jr., was at the brake and E. R. Fink was conductor.

The trip was made without break and a stop of half an hour was made at Verplanck, where Assemblyman Apgar and Congressman Puglsey made speeches to the large gathering who thronged to welcome the first trolley car. All along the line handkerchiefs were waved and the car received a warm welcome. The return trip was made without any special interest, Assemblyman Apgar again at the motor. Beginning the next day the cars were running on regular schedule, the fare to Mungers Corners, five cents; to Verplanck, ten cents.

Verplanck and the Hudson-Fulton Celebration.

The name of Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton will be borne in large type on the pages of history so long as the river which was the scene of their great achievement finds its way to the sea.

As early as 1905 preparation was made for the celebration or the tercentennial of Hudson's discovery and the centennial of Fulton's successful operation of boats by steam power, when Robert Roosevelt, uncle of ex-President Theodore Roosevelt invited a number of gentlemen to meet with him and discuss the subject. Those attending were representatives of most of the patriotic and historical societies of the city of New York. It was determined at this meeting to secure a creation of a commission under act of Legislature to carry out the object of the conference. This was done and on December 5, 1905, the Hudson Tercentenary joint committee was duly organized at the New York City hall. The new York Board of Trade and Transportation and others had determined that some celebration should mark these two events. Among those plans laid out was the proposition of establishing a Hudson-Fulton Memorial Park at Verplanck, but saddening to say, was never accomplished. The following is found in David Lear Buckman's "Steamboat Days on the Hudson River:"

"A third proposition taking the tangible shape and form is the establishment of a Hudson-Fulton Memorial Park at Verplanck's Point, forty miles up the river and directly opposite historic Stony Point, which has already been secured for a memorial park. It is proposed to locate on Verplanck's Point some form of museum and exhibition that will foster a lively appreciation of all the points of interest that are associated with the history and achievements of the river. The State of New York has already been asked to pass a law appropriating \$125,000 for this purpose.

"The proposed park is to include many historical points and will do much to preserve the scenic beauties of the river. The site of Fort Lafayette and the remains of a short battery that did service in the Revolution, the old King's Ferry landing leading to the Stony Point battlefield on the opposite shore, the site of Washington's headquarters and the camp and ground of the allied American and French troops, under Washington and Rochambeau in 1772, are all included in the area which it is sought to secure. Hudson anchored the "Half Moon" on his trip up the river in 1609 off the shore of Verplanck's Point, so there will be added interest to the Memorial Park on that account."

Prominent Men of Verplanck.

John Henry, born April 16, 1789, in Philadelphia, Pa. He received his first scholastic training here and later came to Brooklyn. At Brooklyn (on present site of the Brooklyn Navy Yard) Mr. Henry was a very prominent and successful rope manufacturer, thereby amassing considerable wealth. Upon the forming of the

company to purchase Verplanck he became one of the company. After two years, when the company failed to bring about the desired result, he purchased the interest of the other nine gentlemen and thereby became the sole owner of Verplanck. He began the first brick yard and leased and sold property to others for the same purpose. He built a handsome residence, where he lived until his death, and which is now the home of the present Justice Wm. H. King. Mr. Henry was an earnest worker for Verplanck. Not only did he expend money for improving the place, but it is said that when men could not find work, he unnecessarily gave them employment that they might not be idle. At his death he left considerable property to the people of Verplanck for the purpose of making the same into parks. The village not being incorporated and with no one to see that the desire of Mr. Henry was carried out the properties have been sold for brick-making purposes. He died at Verplanck and his body is interred in Cedar at Montrose.

Enoch Orne, born 1801, in the State of Maine. He lived his early life there and was employed as a carpenter. He left Maine and went to Boston, Mass., and entered business there as a carpenter and builder. After successfully establishing himself as a carpenter and builder, he in 1834 came to New York city in the same capacity, where his success still followed him. His last contract in New York was the completion of the Universlist Church on the corner of Bleeker and Downing streets. He then came to Verplanck in 1836, also as a builder. He built the "Ferry House" at the dock, now the residence of Patrick Campbell, the building now the property of Clarence Bleakley on the dock, and the residence of John Henry, now the "King home-stead" on Broadway. He died at his home, corner Sixth street and Broadway (now the residence of Wm. Burns), in 1882.

Charles A. Orne (son of Enoch Orne), born at Verplanck, received his schooling in the old Fisher schoolhouse on Broadway. Leaving school he became employed under his father to learn the carpenter trade. He was employed on the Henry, Seward, Bleakley and several other buildings. When the Civil War broke out, Mr. Orne was among those to volunteer to the front. He joined on August 8, 1862, 135th Regiment (afterward the Sixth Heavy Artillery of New York) as Second sergeant in Company A. In 1863 he was discharged for disability. He resumed his work as a carpenter at Verplanck. In 1892 he went to Albany and was employed on the Capitol building. In 1894 he accepted a position in Sing Sing state prison at Ossining as a keeper, where he is still employed and active. He still resides at Verplanck, on the corner of Seventh street and Westchester avenue.

William Bleakley, born in the third ward, New York city, May 12, 1808. His father was a well known book-seller in the city, and at his death the business was continued by his son. Previous to permanently locating himself at Verplanck he had made several visits during the summer months, whereby he might breathe the excellent air of the Hudson and enjoy the beautiful

surroundings. Already acquainted with the place and appreciating its splendid location and the opportunities that might be gained here, he was only too anxious when he learned of the formation of a company to purchase it to become one of its members. He at once moved to Verplanck and occupied the old Verplanck mansion near the dock (the Verplanck family having moved to New Windsor) where he lived a number of years. At his arrival he purchased the building at the dock and entered business as a merchant. Later purchasing real estate from John Henry, he began the manufacture of brick and lime, conducting the same until the time of his death. At the death of Sylvester H. Mills, Mr. Bleakley purchased that homestead and moved there, living there at the time of his death, and it is still known as the Bleakley homestead.

He was a man of more than ordinary intelligence. He was well informed on all subjects, both at home and abroad. He possessed a large and beautiful library, containing many rare and valuable books. In politics at first Whig, and later at the formation of the Republican party he joined its ranks and was a strong defender of it during his life. He was twice supervisor of the town of Cortlandt, and in 1858 was elected first Republican sheriff of Westchester County.

He was a strong defender of the Union and a firm opponent to human slavery. Few men have rendered more willing support to the government in its time of need than Mr. Bleakley. He fitted out at his own expense, Company A of the Twenty-Seventh Regiment, New York State Volunteers, and all of his sons that were of sufficient age took active part in the war. He was the last survivor of the company purchasing Verplanck and was a sharer in its successes and losses.

He married Rosalie A., daughter of Lewis H. Lautant. His son, William M., was captain of Company A, Twenty-Seventh New York Volunteers of which General Slocum was the former Colonel. Lewis H. was second lieutenant of Companies L and M. Sixth Regiment, New York Artillery. Albert was first sergeant of Company A, Twenty-Seventh Regiment, and Frank (only fifteen years old when enlisted) was a private soldier in the same regiment, died at Harper's Ferry of fever. Mr. Bleakley died at his home in Verplanck, November 18, 1869, and Verplanck mourned the loss of a much loved and respected citizen.

James A. Whitbeck came from Coeymans, New York, to Verplanck about 1850. He came in the capacity of a school teacher. After four years as a teacher he resigned and entered the dry goods business, on the corner of Seventh St. and Broadway. He later removed to the corner of Sixth Street and Westchester Avenue. It was while here he began the manufacture of brick. His first yard was located at the foot of Westchester Avenue, known as the Front yard.

He was a public spirited man a highly respected citizen. He was the organizer of the Hudson River Brick Mfg. Co. He conceived the idea of converting Meanagh Creek into Lake Mehaugh. He purchased the Henry property on the King's Ferry road and built the handsome residence standing today and the home of David Tate.

Louis H. Bleakley, born June 1894, in the house on the dock in which his grandfather first resided when he came to Verplanck. The old house was burned in July, 1886, but was rebuilt with the same brick and on the same lines as the original. He is the fourth child of the late Louis H. Bleakley and Blanche Walker. He was educated at the public schools of Verplanck. At the age of 13 he passed the Regent's examinations at Peekskill, Drum Hill High School. He afterwards took a special course with Miss Currie, then principal of the Verplanck school

Completing his course here, he became employed for six years by Thos. Hart, a wholesale grocer of 217 Jay Street, New York city, in a clerical capacity and later as a traveling salesman. Hart failing due to financial difficulties, he became superintendent of the tea department of Potter, Parlin & Co. He afterwards went to Boston to study law, but deciding to give up this profession, he returned to Verplanck to assist his father in the management of Empire Grove, then a very popular and flourishing excursion park. During the long illness of his father he became faithful nurse, not leaving the bedside for weeks, until his death in December, 1901. At his father's death he succeeded him as Justice of the Peace of Verplanck, which position he held for nine years. He later held political appointments at Albany. At present Mr. Bleakley is located at Detroit, Michigan, where he is in business.

Lafayette Henry -- Born in city of Williamsburg, New York, August 29, 1894, the youngest of four sons and four daughters of William Henry and Margaret Vanderwart. He attended school at the public school, Verplanck. At seventeen he went to Stuyvesant in a clerical capacity for his brother-in-law. From there he became employed in Wilcox Sash and Blind Co. in Peekskill (now Brotherton factory), remaining there until the burning of that place. He then learned to make cigars under G. S. Adams, Peekskill. A short time afterwards he opened a cigar store where the present jewelry store of Mr. Weeks is located. After one year he abandoned the store and entered the employ of James F. Martin, where he was employed for more than thirty years. He was a member of Columbian Hose Company of Peekskill. He was a member of Harmony Lodge, K. of P., Cortlandt Lodge No. 6, I.O.O.F., Mt Ararat Encampment No 9, I.O.O.F. He was for several years chief usher at the Colonel Theater, Peekskill. He married Amelia Lent, daughter of Walter Lent of Peekskill. At present Mr. Henry is chief usher at the

Hippodrome Amusement House in New York city, and he resides in Jersey City, N. J.

Joseph W. Waugh. -- Born March 14, 1845. He was the son of William Waugh, noted boatman in the days when all of the trading between the villages of the Hudson and New York was done by sailing vessels. His mother was Letitia Taylor. He attended the public school for nine years. Like most of the boys at that time in Verplanck, he left school at the age of fifteen and went to work on the brick yards and later as a clerk for James A. Whitbeck. He afterwards took to sailing vessels carrying the brick and was popular in this capacity for twelve years sailing the Anne M., Napoleon, and other vessels. He again returned to the brick yard, where he remained until his retirement from that business. A few years after his retirement he moved to Peekskill, where he lived until his death a few years ago. He was very popular in fraternal circles, being a member of Cortlandt Lodge No. 6, I.O.O.F., and in 1844 he became a member of the higher order of Odd Fellows, Mt. Ararat Encampment.

Henry Tate was born at Mt. Airy, Cortlandtown, and was one of nine children of David and Catherine Henry Tate. Of the nine but three survive him: David Tate, of Verplanck; Samuel Tate of Peekskill, and Mrs. John Smith of Peekskill. Mr Tate's immediate family consists of his widow and one daughter, Emily, now Mrs. Charles Phyfe, now residing with Mrs. Tate, at 360 Washington Street, Peekskill.

His scholastic training was obtained first at Buchanan public schools, continuing to Drum Hill and completing his studies at the Peekskill Military Academy, under Principal Albert Wells. Leaving the Academy he became a clerk in the Peekskill post office under Postmaster McCutchen. Remaining there a short time (and succeeded by the present C. A. Puglsey of Peekskill) he ventured as a clerk with Haight, Haines & Co. he entered a partnership with James B. Gregory (after his father-in-law) under the firm name Gregory & Tate. At the end of three years in this capacity he returned and opened a business of his own at Verplanck. For fifteen years Mr. Tate compounded prescriptions and supplied drugs, stationery etc., to the people of Verplanck. No one was any better known here than Mr. Tate.

Leaving Verplanck he opened a very handsome and well equipped pharmaceutical establishment in the old Depew Opera House, corner of Depew and South Streets, Peekskill. After seven years the business not proving successful as anticipated, he then again became associated with Mr. Gregory. After a short time here Mr. Tate took up the real estate and insurance business. A few years here and he again returned to his old love, the drug business at Verplanck, which he conducted up until the time of his death.

Mr. Tate was postmaster of Verplanck for over two terms and while in this office was always alive to the interest of the people of Verplanck. He succeeded in having the office made a money order office and secured four mails daily instead of two.

In the spring of 1887 he was nominated by the Republicans and elected to the office of Justice of the Peace. During this office he proved himself efficient and worthy of the office. Previous to the expiration of his term he moved to Peekskill and was not renominated for the office.

Mr. Tate may well be considered a literary man. He wrote a number of books, his first book, "Bicycle Yarns", dealing a great deal with his own personal career as a wheelman, and of his most popular published was "Aaron Crane".

He represented a New York newspaper at the New York State Military Camp of Instructions for many seasons. He was the authorized writer of Verplanck for the New York dailies and the Highland Democrat of Peekskill. Many readers of the Democrat will well remember some of Mr. Tate's most interesting articles. He was elder of the Dutch Reformed Church at Montrose, and a member of the Presbyterian Church when living in Peekskill. He was a stockholder and director of the first telegram and telephone connections to Verplanck. He was treasurer of School District No. 15 at Verplanck, and three years treasurer of District No. 7 (Drum Hill) Peekskill. He was a member of Cortlandt Lodge, No. 6, I.O.O.F., and of Dunderberg Lodge No. 156, A.O.U.W. He was a member of Company A, Sixteenth Battalion. He was regimental quartermaster of the battalion.

John J. Kelly, a noted boatman, born in New York city September 16, 1841, on Third Avenue, near Twenty-eight street. From his youngest years he possessed a great inclination to become a sailor.

One morning, when he was about the age of ten, he started out for school as usual, and when part of the way met some of his companions, who were also on their way to school. The day was that of summer and very warm, so the boys decided they would rather go down to the old "Black Fish Rock" and have a swim instead of going to school. John was no exception, so he joined the boys and off they went for a swim. "Black Fish Rock" (at present Thirtieth street and First Avenue) was then a dockage where the various boats landed with their cargoes. This morning the schooner Anna M., with our renowned Richard T. Wandell, or better known "Capt. Dick", (the father of our present George Wandell) as captain, lay at the dock. As the boys were swimming near by one of the dock hands called John on board. He only too anxious, immediately responded to the request and went on board. The deck hand showed John all around the boat, and asked him to come along. Seeing his opportunity

to satisfy his great desire he decided to make the trip. Without returning to bid his family farewell he made the trip and came to Verplanck.

Upon his arrival at Verplanck he accepted a position with "Capt. Dick", as cabin boy or cook. He remained on the Anna M. for eight years, during which time he showed himself anxious to climb to the top of the ladder and thereby acquired the position of mate.

Leaving the Anna M. he went to the Henry Hill, of Greens Cove, under the employment of John Carey, for one year. From there to the Signal, under John Carrol, of Verplanck; from here he returned to New York and entered the New York police force, remaining there for several years. His first position here was a patrolman, and at his retirement he had gained that of lieutenant. Thus, through his sturdy ambition he again distinguished himself. While in this last position he was employed on Police Boat No. 1, and again distinguished himself at a fire on Hunters Island, where an oil works had caught on fire, and for his bravery was awarded by General Schayler, then fire commissioner of New York city, the sum of two hundred dollars. He was an intimate friend of ex-sheriff Brennan, of New York city.

Returning to Verplanck he resumed his former position as a boatman. Shortly after his return he married, on January 6, 1869, Bridget M. Vaughey daughter of James and Margaret Vaughey of Verplanck. He had eight children, five sons and three daughters: Anna, Theresa, James, Henry, John, Mary, Joseph, and Charles. Anna married George Boyle of Verplanck. Theresa married James Morran, residing at Verplanck. James married Frances Catherine Norman, of New York City. Henry, unmarried, a brick mason, residing at Verplanck. John, deceased, was a cigar maker in the employ of James F. Martin, of Peekskill. Mary, deceased, died in infancy. Joseph married Mary Kerrigan, residing at Middletown, N.Y. Charles, unmarried, just returned from the service of the U.S. Army, now on the border line at Sam Houston, Texas, during the present existing condition at Mexico. He was a cavalryman in Troop D. of the Third U.S. Cavalry.

During these years Mr. Kelly owned and sailed the following boats:

In 1876 he purchased from Wadell & Co., of New York City the schooner Thomas J. Owens, built at Nyack by Peter Voris, about seventeen years previous to Mr. Kelly's purchase. He brought the boat to Verplanck, where he used her in what was called the coast trade in the shipment of Brick, etc., usually docking at the yard of Haight & Southard.

After five years he sold it to Sayers & Fisher. In South

River, N.J. This concern rebuilt her and after twenty years in their service, took fire and was burned, one man perishing with her. Mr. Kelly has the top mast of Owens today, and it is acting as a pillar supporting one end of the porch on the rear of his home. also he has the bowsprit, which he uses for a chopping block.

His first boat was the Robert Knapp. He owned this vessel in partnership with Patrick Gallagher, who manufactured brick at Georges Island a few years ago, and has since died. They sold it to Francis Timmony and William Dunphy, who, after a few years resold it, where it was taken to Chesapeake Bay and used in oyster fishing.. Lastly, he purchased the Edmund Cosgrove sloop from George Morton, of Croton (the father of the present Odell Morton of the Morton freight line, Peekskill). During the five years he owned this boat he rebuilt and rërigged it into a schooner. He changed the name to John Kelly, after his infant son, just born. Some were of the opinion that Mr. Kelly named the boat after John Kelly, of New York city, then the popular leader of Tammany Hall. He sold the boat to Patrick Morrissey, of Grassy Point. Through the marriage of John King, of Verplanck, and Mr. Morrissey's daughter, the boat became the possession of Mr. King. He rebuilt and changed the name to that of Mary Ann King, after his wife. She was purchased by a Mr. Broadie, of Peekskill, and sold again to Jacob Carpenter, of Sea Cliff, L.I. and was used as a sand boat on the Sound. At the death of Mr. Carpenter the boat became the property of his wife and was sailed by his son, Thomas G. Carpenter, now residing in Verplanck. She was sunk at the Seacliff dock on August 27, 1912.

After selling the John Kelly, Mr. Kelly employed himself in various positions at Verplanck, until his absolute retirement a few years ago. He resides at Sixth street, Verplanck, and is enjoying good health and is a well preserved gentleman for his years.

(The above has been narrated to me by himself.)

Bernard J. McGuire - Was born December 18, 1865. He attended the old school house on the corner of Sixth street and Broadway. At the age of nine he entered the employ of Haight & Southard Brick Mfg. driving horses on the sweep for the enormous salary of 37½¢ a day. He continued working for this company during the brick season, returning to school in the winter, until he reached the age of sixteen. At the age of sixteen, through his ambitious desire to advance himself, he rose to the position of bookkeeper for the same firm. Like all other boys of his age, (particularly at Verplanck) he became intensely interested in politics. While in this position he formed the acquaintance of Matthew Clune, of Peekskill, a very prominent politician at that time.

Although a boy in years, he was a man in stature, and thereby attracted the attention of General Husted, of Peekskill, who sent for him and asked him to go to Albany, where he went, and for thirteen years was closely identified there in many capacities. Here again he proves himself anxious to climb to the top of the ladder. His first position being that of messenger, then clerical, and later was employed under Charles B. Andres, (then Member of Assembly). The session at Albany lasted only 100 days, and Mr. McGuire, during the remainder of the time employed himself under the Superintendent of Public Buildings. While there he formed the Acquaintance of many prominent men and politicians, among them some of the following: - Governor Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, Hamilton, Howe, and many others. William Loeb Jr., who afterwards became Mr. Roosevelt's private secretary at Washington, was a great chum of Mr. McGuire's. During this time he attended the Albany Law School. Early in 1893 the World's Fair was held at Chicago. It was mentioned at first that this fair should be held at New York city. The government has promised that all buildings erected to be used for the fair should be permanent Exposition buildings.

Mr. McGuire then organized a brick company, known as B. J. McGuire & Company. Returning home to Verplanck, he leased two yards from the Hudson River Brick Mfg. Co. and one from the Bleakley estate.

The two yards of the Hudson River Brick Mfg. Co. previous to Mr. McGuire's lease were that of horsepower. He converted the same into that of steampower, spending considerable money in doing so. His output for the year was about fifteen million (15,000,000) brick. His concern was considered one of the largest of its kind on the Hudson River. He sold much brick to the government, and the output of several years is now located at West Point.

While in the brick business the office of Justice of the Peace, through the death of Judge Billings, became vacant, and Mr. McGuire was appointed to fill the vacancy as Republican, the town at that time over whelmingly Democratic. At the end of his term, through the heavy strain placed upon him through business cares, his health failed him and he was compelled to travel through the South and West Indies for the greater part of three years. Regaining his health, he became interested in a place called Guma, 40 miles south of the city of Havana, Cuba, and again entered the brick business there.

The war between the Cubans and Spain breaking out, forced him to abandon his business, and he again returned to Verplanck. Here he went back to his first love, that of politics, and supported James Husted, Jr. one of the ablest politicians at that time in this county. He was nominated and elected Member

of Assembly. Mr. McGuire went to Albany in a clerical capacity, and here he remained for three years, then returned to Verplanck again. Interesting himself in the real estate and insurance business in the Savings Bank building, Peekskill, being identified with the firm of Strang & Wood, where he is still engaged, now of the Flatiron building, the village of Peekskill taking the entrance of the bank building for sidewalk purposes. During the number of years in this business he has accumulated much property. He owns a farm of some 169 acres in the town of Greenville, Va., of the same county, he is a stockholders of the Peekskill National Bank, he owns property in Montrose, Peekskill, Buchanan, and Verplanck. He owns one-third of Riverside Park and two-thirds of Bleloch Park.

He has given much time and attention to the development of this territory bringing the property to its present state of perfection. It is considered one of the greatest undertakings of its kind in the town of Cortlandt. Mr. McGuire is a man of many experiences, and would time and space permit, much might be said concerning his political career at Albany.

Henry Murphy, born at Crugers. He received his schooling in the old school house at Boscobel. When about the age of nine, moving from Crugers to Verplanck, attending the old Fisher school house on Broadway. At the age of twelve he went to work for Stephen Billings driving a sweep on the brick yard at the foot of Westchester avenue at 1 shilling a day. He continued to work in this manner, changing from one brick yard to the other until the year 1880, when he was elected constable. He remained constable for nine years. In 1889 he was appointed deputy sheriff under Sheriff Schirmer and remaining sheriff until the present date. In 1892 he opened a confectionery store, still maintaining his office as sheriff on Sixth street, where he still continues in business. He has rendered many a service to the people of Verplanck as sheriff, which position he still holds. He married Mary Wolff, daughter of John Wolff of Verplanck, and sister to Frank Wolff, once a prominent Democratic leader in the town of Cortlandt.

Mr. Murphy possesses several relics of the Verplanck family. Among them a mahogany rocking chair that had been in the Verplanck family for many years. He purchased the same at the auction of the furnishings of the Verplanck Manor, also a foot rest and a match safe bearing the date 1753.

Frank J. McGuire. - Born at Verplanck, and was educated at the public school. Not being privileged the advantage of a higher elementary training so essential to man, it is with much admiration that we look upon his present success.

He was compelled to leave school at the early age of eleven, and seek employment in the brickyards. He remained in the brickyards, employing himself under the various manufacturers of that date until he reached the age of twenty. Leaving the

brickyards he became an electrician, employed by the American District Telegraph Company of New York city. After six years in the employ of this company he made a visit to the western part of our country and while there found employment in the same capacity under the Postal Telegraph Company of Portland, Oregon. During a period of more than three years with this concern, he traveled much through the States of Oregon and Washington.

Returning from the West, he came again to New York city in the employment of the Thermostatic Fire-Alarm Company and was sent by that company to the Washington Heights Insane Institution at Washington, D.C. to install therein the electric wiring, whose buildings covered property to the extent of forty acres.

At the completion of this work he returned to New York and continued as an electrician under various electric concerns until 1907, when he received an appointment under State Engineer and Surveyor Frederick Skene, as supervisor of highways.

In this position his duties have been, in the summer season, in assisting in the advising of town officials as to the construction, methods and practices of road building; in the winter season, chiefly to the holding of public meetings throughout the state, whose object is to educate and explain all problems pertaining to or entering into the construction of highways.

Mr. McGuire's efficiency in this respect is of such a nature as to have obtained for him the distinction as one of the ablest lecturers on the subject in the State of New York. In more than one case where he has lectured, requests have been made for his return. He has been employed under five administrations, that of Skene, Williams, Hooker, C. Gordon Reel, and the present John N. Carlisle, giving perfect satisfaction under both political parties.

On February 13, 1913, Mr. McGuire received from Governor Sulzer a commission appointing him a delegate to the second annual "Federal Aid-Good Roads" convention, to be held in Washington, D.C. on March 6 and 7 of that year. The delegation was headed by Senators Root and O'Gorman, and also included the Representatives-elect of New York state. In a personal letter to Mr. McGuire, Governor Sulzer remarks, "I can not think of another body of men who could be more representative of the voters of New York State at the convention than that named in the list enclosed."

In politics Mr. McGuire has been a staunch Democrat for more than twenty-five years and has always showed great interest in home elections. He is one of the officials of the

"Verplanck Improvement Society". He resides on Broadway and still maintains his enthusiastic disposition to his home town.

Patrick King. - There is no person in the history on Verplanck more deserving of space than Mr. King. He was what is often termed a self-made man. Possessed of pluck that was invincible he succeeded in elevating himself to the position of one of the largest brick manufacturers along the Hudson River.

He was born in the County of Meath, Ireland, in 1835, and came to Verplanck in 1853. His position at first was that of a common laborer on the brick yards. After a short time on this laborious work the qualities already mentioned began to develop themselves and Mr. King's next stop was to enter the business as a manufacturer.

His first yard, located on the waterfront along Water St. was leased from the Hudson River Brick Mfg. Co.

He began manufacturing in 1871. After two or three years he took as a partner Geo. H. Shulz and added another yard adjoining the one already mentioned. Three or four years later Mr. Shulz discontinuing his interest and Mr. King took as a partner Francis Lynch (his brother-in-law). He continued as such until his death. At this time the business had grown to the extent of seven yards - two more leased from the Bleakley estate on Water street and three from William Bellefeuille at George's Island.

During his business career he was only connected with the building associations of New York city. At the time of his death he was president of the brick builders association of New York city and also president of the Peekskill Improvement Association. Nor was Mr. King's interest altogether of a business nature. He was for several years trustee of School District No. 16., and of St Patrick's Church.

He was of the jovial type, kind and philanthropic. At his demise the Highland Democrat in speaking of Mr. King, said: "The loss of Mr. King to Verplanck will be sadly felt as he was the largest brick manufacturer at that place, and was held in high esteem for his generous and kindly disposition to those he employed." He was a strong solitor to St. Patrick's Church and the donor of its present bell.

Stephen D. Horton tells of his following experience with Mr. King while he was president of the village of Peekskill. At that time mentioned a negro in Peekskill was seized with an attack of smallpox. A few years previous a law to the effect that no contagious diseases be allowed to go outside of the village limits had been passed. It was customary for the president of the village to look after such matters and see

to the enforcement of the law. Mr. King then owned considerable property in Peekskill, known as the "Boland Farm", part of which is now the location of the Peekskill Hat Factory and Piermont Avenue. Mr. Horton consulted the Board of Health doctor and then went to Dr. Tilden, then in charge of the Peekskill Military Academy. It being in summer time, he purchased a tent and sending a man nurse with the patient they squatted upon Mr. King's property.

Mr. King, learning of Mr. Horton's liberties, consulted his counsel, Clarence Frost, of Peekskill, and Mr. Horton was notified to have the property vacated. Mr. Horton's reply was there was not a policeman in Peekskill who could be induced to approach the place, (and he was correct in his statement). Mr. King then came to Mr. Horton, who told him that there was not a person in Peekskill who would submit to have the patient on his property, and therefore he squatted upon his property, which was a safe distance from everyone. He further stated that he would burn the tent, etc., and would pay for the use of the property. Mr. King agreed to the proposition, but he refused to accept pay for it.

Mr. King died July 12th, 1903. He was survived by six sons and four daughters, Charles F., John J., William E., George W., and the Misses Margaret E., Agnes, Susie and Rosalie King. Of those mentioned six remain. John J. a successful coal and lumber dealer, also interested in the selling of brick in New York city; Thomas H., in business in New York city; William E. present Justice of the Peace at Verplanck, and George W. still living at Verplanck. The Misses Margaret E. and Susie, of the religious life at the Franciscan Convent, at Peekskill, the former Sister M. Fidelia and the latter Sister M. Lillian. The name of Mr. King will cling long in the memory of the public and good people of Verplanck, and his many good deeds stand out to his memory.

Rev. Claus Olandt. - This revered gentleman so familiar to Verplanck was born October 31, 1858, at Greenpoint, the seventh ward, Brooklyn. His parents, Claus Olandt and Jane Elizabeth Straus, having settled there in 1851. They were born in what was then known as the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, and were married in New York city.

Mr. Olandt secured his education at the public schools of Brooklyn and later attended a gymnasium in Germany for several years, until 1881, until he was admitted to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the medical department of Columbia University. It was during the time spent in the study of medicine that Mr. Olandt became intensely absorbed in the Young Men's Christian Association, then in its infancy. In 1882 he was appointed one of the secretaries of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations, with its headquarters in New York city. While in this capacity he traversed

over 300,000 miles, meeting men of all walks of life, both in this country and abroad. After several years spent in this edifying work he resigned his position as secretary and became superintendent of the Madison Square church, New York city. In 1900 Mr. Olandt having business interests in Joplin, Mo., removed to that place with his family.

Less than a year after his arrival in Joplin, overcome by his zeal for those matters pertaining to Christianity, he abandoned his business and assumed the responsibility of a Presbyterian mission which was about to be abandoned. At the beginning of this work Mr. Olandt was confronted with much difficulty owing to depletion of funds. However, through his earnest efforts he succeeded in organizing a church with a membership of fifty, and two hundred and forty members in the Sunday School. Less than a year after entering upon the work as a result of a most satisfactory examination by the Ozark Presbytery on April 29, 1903, Mr. Olandt was ordained and installed pastor of this church, the Bethany Presbyterian Church of Joplin. In 1905 he resigned his pastorate and came to New York city.

In 1905 Mr. Olandt was appointed pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church at Montrose. It has always been customary that the pastor of the church at Montrose attend to the church of Verplanck, which is a branch of the Montrose church.

Previous to Mr. Olandt coming to Montrose, these two churches for nearly two years had been without a pastor, and therefore it cannot be expected that a very flourishing condition existed, but now after nearly nine years under the most careful guidance of this reverend gentleman the most satisfactory results show themselves.

Many remarkable instances mark the life of this worthy gentleman, which would take too long a time to narrate here.

Verplanck as it is To-day.

Verplanck to-day has an approximate population of about 1,000 inhabitants. It has wide and well laid out streets, a full quota of business houses, three places of worship, two schools, a town hall, a beautiful lake, a stone quarry, large brick industries, and an ice plant. It may well boast of its historical importance, many places remaining to-day which awakens our memories afresh to the days of ~~seventy-six~~. A splendid trolley service in operation with Peekskill (a full account of which has been given), a distance of four miles. Telephone connections by the New York Telephone Co. is splendidly operated.

The brick industry, which for sixty years was the leading industry of the day, and has been referred to heretofore, so

will not be repeated

The stone quarry operated by the Upper Hudson Stone Co., is an industry of considerable importance. T. J. Kelleher of Verplanck, represents the said company as superintendent. More than 125 men are employed. Crushed stone and trap-rock is shipped by boat to New York. Over three thousand yards of stone is crushed daily. Over five thousand dollars monthly is paid for labor.

The ice plant is now operated by John Alexander. The supply now is limited to home consumption, but previous years its supply was of an extent to employ in the neighborhood of 200 men, shipping ice to New York city and other places and paying to those employed about \$9,000 monthly.

The first telephone connection with Verplanck was in 1880, when Clarence L. Bleakley, Henry Tate and George W. Richmond, the latter two now deceased, formed a company known as the Verplancks and Peekskill Telephone Co. They constructed a line between both places. After one year the use of the telegraph was substituted for that of the telephone, which proved a profitable investment.

The town hall, a solidly built building of brick on Seventh street, contains a jail, and a spacious room used on election day for voting purposes. The second floor is the court room in which Justice William E. King dispenses justice.

The dwelling now occupied by William H. Mackey, situated on the Kings Ferry Road and known at different periods as the Corne, Brotherton, Tate and Henry homestead, but now the property of the Hudson River Brick Company, is first mentioned in history as the property of Peter Corne, the grandfather of the present Philip Cruger of Montrose. It is the belief that his purchase was from the Indians. From Corne the property passed respectively to the parties mentioned above. The residence is, or at least part of it, the oldest dwelling on Verplanck. It dates back previous to the Revolution and is the most interesting house in Verplanck. The brick in the front wall are of Holland make and the cellar is divided into several small compartments, the tradition of which is that the slaves employed by Corne and Brotherton were cared for there. At different times it has been altered and added to, so that it has little resemblance to-day of the house of yore. Another tradition says that Jerome Bonaparte slept in the house when he came to Verplanck in anticipation of planting a French colony here. General Putnam and General Washington also have visited the same house.

The Verplanck homestead or the home of William Beekman Verplanck is somewhat secluded from the busy world. Upon high ground, surrounded by the most beautiful woodland and overlook-

ing the village and the Hudson River. From its porch the observer is not only aroused by the grandeur of the surrounding country, but he also finds himself surrounded by those places of most historic interest during the days of the Revolution. Looking to the West he sights the great Dunderberg and the Forts Clinton and Montgomery. A little more toward the North is found Anthony's Nose, the promontory of which Washington Irving speaks in his "Knickerbocker History of New York". Turning toward the south may be seen the famous Washington Hill, where that famous general encamped and received the French army after the surrender of Cornwallis. The building itself is suggestive of comfort. It is a plain, commodious building with wide verandas on either side. The rooms are spacious and of Colonial type. It is situated a considerable distance from the main thoroughfare. A beautiful lawn accompanied by a drive stretches from the building to the gate on Broadway.

The property contains much fruit. At present it is occupied by John V. Alexander, a real estate broker of Peekskill.

The three places of worship are St. Patrick's Church (Roman Catholic), Reformed Dutch Church and St. Barnabas (Episcopal).

The Reformed Church, situated on the corner of Fourth street and Broadway, was built in 1898, upon the ground bequeathed to John Henry for the purpose, the deed of the property reading "To build thereon a Free Union Protestant Church.

Mr. Henry also bequeathed \$9,000 with which to build the church. Everitt Orne, Richard T. Wendell and William Bleakley were named as trustees to carry out the desires of Mr. Henry. It has been said that no incorporated body was named in the will to whom the property should be turned over to when the building was completed. For this reason the trustees did not build the church. The lot was deeded by the trustees to the Reformed organization and the money reverted to the heirs as the will said it should do.

The church which is standing today is credited to the labors of Joseph Harper, then rector of the Montrose Reformed Dutch Church. After considerable time spent in hard work he finally, in 1878, succeeded in building his church. It is a neat frame building of a capacity to accommodate about two hundred persons.

The First Reformed Church (Dutch) stood on Montrose Point on the property of Frederick A. Seward. This building was erected, it is thought, about 1729-30, and was standing in 1793, but was destroyed by fire soon afterwards. The

rectory which was built a short distance from the church is still standing and used for rental purposes. The next church to take the place of the first named is the church at Montrose, situated on the Albany Post road, and of which the Rev. Claus Olandt is pastor. This church was built between 1795-1799. The church property consisted of sixteen acres of land, part of which is laid out into Cedar Hill Cemetery. The parsonage adjoining the church was erected in 1854. The lot on which the church stands is something over an acre, was given by James Cockcroft of New York city for the sum of five shillings. The church was incorporated December 30, 1794. William Lent, Peter Goetschius, Hercules Lent, elders; Abraham Lent, Benjamin Dyckman, Jacobus Kronkhite, deacons. The following ministers since Rev. William Manly in 1800 have served this flock. March 27, 1810, Rev. Abraham Hoffman; October 21, 1831, Rev. Robert Kirkwood; October 31, 1863, Rev. Cornelius Depew Westbrook, D.D. Superintendent; 1850, Rev. Samuel Lockwood; August, 1853, Rev. John B. Steele; 1859, Rev. John St. John; 1869, Rev. Polhemius Van Wyck; 1870, Rev. John R. Thompson; May 25, 1875, Joseph Alexander Harper. Rev. C. Olandt present minister. The Verplanck church is a branch of the Montrose and the pastor of that church is also the pastor at Verplanck, the church being erected for the accommodation of the Reformed worshippers of Verplanck.

The Episcopal chapel, St. Barnabas on Fourth street, is a very compact building of brick; in summer is almost hidden from view by the foliage. From its position a beautiful view of the Hudson and the Historic Stony Point, as well as Haverstraw Bay and the surrounding beauty of the mountains can be had. This church is under the jurisdiction of the Church of "Free Divine Love", at Montrose Point, the present pastor, Rev. Gouveneur Cruger, of Montrose, officiating at both churches. It was built in 1879 through the efforts of the above named reverend gentleman. The corner stone of the Church of "Free Divine Love" was laid by the Rev. T. G. Johnson, D.D., June 11 1869. The present officials of the church are: Pastor, Rev. G. Cruger, Frederick R. Manser, Peekskill, lay reader; Frank Simpkins, secretary; Everett Finch, treasurer. The services are supported by subscription, the envelope system, and by voluntary offerings, all seats being free to all. The present number of communicants, 165, and number of souls under pastoral care, 525. Services are held three Sundays of the month at the "Free Church of Divine Love", and one Sunday (the first) at St. Barnabas.

The building owned by Adam Fisher on Broadway which contains the post office in which Mrs. King satisfactorily attends to the handling of the U.S. mail, was built at first for a select school building, but was used instead as a Methodist Church. After a few years it was discontinued as such, the South Street Methodist Church of Peekskill selling the property and discontinuing the church. It was afterward purchased by Adam Fisher,

the present owner. Adjoining the post office will be found a small brick edifice used as a political club by the Democratic organization. This building is the old Fisher school house referred to so often in this article. At one time when considerable boat building was carried on the Swedish workmen employed at the shipyard used this building as a place of worship.

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, situated on the corner of Highland avenue and Eleventh street, commanding an extended view of the Hudson, was built in 1842. The property where the church and cemetery now stands had been given by John Henry, "in consideration for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) on condition that a place of worship for Roman Catholics be erected within the space of one year." The site donated was near the banks of the river, for in those days the clusters of houses were lined along the river banks and in placing the church where they did, they were mindful of those who lived on the opposite bank of the river who in the summer time rowed over in small boats and in the winter walked over on the ice.

Previous to 1842 various pioneer missionary priests, Father Farmer, and others, from time to time attended those Catholics at Verplanck. Their flock was scattered here and there in the lower regions of the Hudson, of Pennsylvania and to the Connecticut State line.

It is uncertain just who began the building of the church but as it was started in 1842 and as the Rev. Felix Vilanis was the first permanent pastor, he must have been the one who began the building. It was started in the fall of 1842, but apparently the work was stopped during the winter, for it was not until 1843 that we have evidence of the work being resumed. While the church was in course of construction Father Vilanis lived in the house where the present Franciscan Sister's Convent now stands, and said mass there.

The records of Enoch Orne (deceased, and who helped build the church) show where the work was done on the church in 1842-43-44. In all probability the church was completed in the fall of that year.

This church may rightfully be called the mother church of all the churches that are now in the territory mentioned above. It was through the efforts of Rev. P. S. Madden while pastor at Verplanck that he founded the Church of the Assumption at Peekskill and the parishioners at Verplanck contributed two hundred dollars for that purpose. John Carey of Verplanck, donated brick of a number sufficient to build the Church of the Assumption. In fact, it might be added with much credit to the brick manufacturers of Verplanck that there are few churches along the Hudson that have not been recipients of donations of brick for the construction of their edifices. Mr. Carey also donated

over two hundred thousand brick to St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York city.

From the founding of the church to the present time its interior has undergone many changes, but the exterior retains its original appearance. Recently the interior has been very handsomely decorated by the present pastor, the Rev. Thomas J. Doyle. Adjoining the church property is the church graveyard which contains many of Verplancks prominent dead. It is no longer in use, the cemetery of St. Mary's on Broadway now being used.

The rectory and sacristy also adjoin the church. The entire property is enclosed by a fence well designed for the purpose. Two large brick gates which swing from large brick piers adding much to the appearance, have been placed by the Rev. Father Doyle. The seating capacity of the church is about five hundred (500).

The pastors at Verplanck have been as follows:

Rev. Felix Vilanis,	1842-1844
" John Hackett,	1844-1853
" Michael Monaghan,	1853-1856
" Patrick Egan,	1856-1857
" Edw. McGean,	1857-1858
" Nicholas O'Donnell,	1858-1863
" P. S. Madden,	1863-1866
" James Hassan,	1866-1868
" Henry Coyle	1868-1882
" Patrick Mee,	1882-1897
" Dennis O'Donovan,	1897-1908
" Thomas J. Doyle,	1908-1914

The bodies of the Fathers Hackett and O'Donnell are interred near the entrance of the church.

A more detailed account has already been given the readers of the Highland Democrat on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of this church, October, 1913, hence the brevity of the sketch.

The two Schools.

The public or district school located on Fifth Street was erected upon ground donated by John Henry. The edifice is of brick of a capacity to accommodate about a hundred children. At present the scholars are about seventy in number and are efficiently taught by Miss Frances King of Peekskill, (formerly of Verplanck) as principal, and Mrs. M. Tierney, assistant teacher.

St. Patrick's school came to Verplanck through the hard efforts of the Rev. Patrick Mee. On November 15, 1890, he purchased buildings on Seventh street from Philip O'Brien for the purpose of starting therein a school. Previous to the purchase of a building, now the school, was a store and the present convent was the residence of Mr. O'Brien. After considerable money expended to renovate the buildings to meet the requirements the school was opened by the Franciscan Sisters of Peekskill, placing Sister M. Laurenza as Superior, and the pastor, Rev. Father Mee, as principal. Since that time the school has been a continued success. At first three teachers were employed. A few years ago a fourth was found necessary and to-day five Franciscan Sisters teach over two hundred scholars.

Much should be credited to the Rev. Father Doyle, the present pastor. At his becoming principal of the school he immediately succeeded in having it placed under the "State Regents" examination, thereby placing the school on a par with any school in the State. His interest has not been altogether educationally but socially as well. The result of his hard efforts are told by the increasing number of graduates as each year rolls on, many of them going to the high schools at Peekskill, others taking college courses at New York and other places.

The convent, which the Sisters occupy, adjoins the school, and here a class is taught music.

Politically speaking, Verplanck boasts of two political clubs, the Republicans recognizing the present Justice Wm. E. King as leader, and the Democrats, John Reel. The town itself is overwhelmingly Democratic, but as the justice of the peace and constables are elected from the town of Cortlandt, and as the Republicans are in the majority there for several terms Republicans have held both of these offices.

Situated on the corner of Fifth street and Westchester avenue was located an old graveyard, the burial place of the Old Verplanck family. The bodies of the deceased of the Verplanck family had occupied an underground vault. The bodies being removed to New Windsor, the vault eventually became delapidated and today no trace of its original location can be had. Outside of the vault several graves were visible which contained the bodies of the negro slaves owned by the Verplanck family. Henry Tate (deceased), who is well remembered for his many articles on Verplanck in mention of this fact, displaying his humor says, "This burial place has disappeared, the material having been made into bricks and whoever these people were, to-day, similar to "imperial Ceasar, dead, and turned to clay," their dust in the shape of bricks are stopping holes to keep the wind away in walls of buildings in New York city, the place that is necessary to visit if one wishes to see all of Verplanck".

Verplancks at present offers a promising future. Important steps have been taken by the citizens toward incorporation. An association, "The Verplanck Improvement Association", with a motto which reads, "Formed for the Betterment and Improvement of the Village of Verplanck," has been formed, appointing Geo. W. Wandell, president; Henry Murphy, vice-president, and Gustavus Henry, treasurer and secretary, and a charter membership of twenty taxpayers. The charter is not yet closed and it is expected the number will be greatly increased as the large majority of the taxpayers approve of the measure. The association have proved themselves wide awake and ready for business. A petition requesting that the extension to the river of Ninth street be rushed to completion was made to Town Supervisor Fletcher Allen, and the work has already begun. Attention has also been called C. W. Morse Jr. (who at the present contemplated the running of steam boats the year round on the Hudson) as to the more than mile and a half of excellent water front at Verplanck.

With these important steps taken by so meaning an organization combined with the excellent opportunities offered manufacturers, that of the water front and plenty of property, its nearness to the railroad, and the village of Peekskill, there is no prophecy to make other than that of success and prosperity.

* THE END *

1843 - SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY - 1913

Church of St. Patrick, Verplanck.

* * *

The seventieth anniversary of the founding of St. Patrick Church, Verplanck, was commemorated last Sunday with all the magnificence due so solemn an occasion. The solemn pontifical mass of thanksgiving was celebrated by the Right Rev. Monsignor Edwards, Vicar General and pastor of St. Joseph's Church, New York City. The assisting ministers were the Rev. Daniel De Nono, of Peekskill, as deacon, The Rev. Father Alexis of the Hoboken Monastery, was sub-deacon, and the pastor, Rev. Father Doyle was master of ceremonies. In the sanctuary were the Very Rev. Father Lemy Lafort, D.D., and the Rev. Father Heafy of Croton.

The mass was sung by the church choir and school children under the direction of Miss McConologue and Mrs. King. Miss Helen Donovan accompanied the choirs on the violin.

The church, inside and outside, had been beautifully decorated with palms and adorned with American flags and the papal colors.

The sermon was preached by the Rt. Rev. Mons. Lavelle, V.G., the rector of the New York cathedral, and the Vicar General of the Arch Diocese. Mons. Lavelle portrayed the early days of the parish, outlining how in the olden days its pastors tended the spiritual needs of those early emigrants who came here from the old countries and settled in and around Verplanck. In those days there were few Catholic churches in the entire Hudson River Valley - the old church at Cold Spring, now no longer used, and the former church at Saugerties, which was afterwards partly destroyed and then rebuilt and enlarged. Various pioneer missionary priests, Father Farmer, and others, from time to time before that had attended those of their faith. But not until 1842 was a permanent church built in which the Catholics of this surrounding country could gather for worship. Their flock was scattered here and there in the lower Hudson Region and from the Pennsylvanian to the Connecticut State line the old records show that their missionary zeal embraced all that wide region. Mons. Lavelle pointed out the early difficulties and disadvantages that the early settlers encountered until at last they determined that they would have a place of their own for religious service, where God could be worshipped. The Monsignor vividly and eloquently brought back to the minds of those who were present at last Sunday's service the stories that they had heard told by their fathers and forefathers of the early founding of the church, and he told them that the message which came from those old, faithful parishioners was, that they, and that their children, should be as loyal to the

church in their lives as they themselves had been in the past.

Notwithstanding the unpropitious day, when the time for the mass arrived the church was crowded. Many of the older parishioners, some of whom had been born and brought up in Verplanck, came long distances to be present and revisit the scenes of their early youth. Peekskill, Ossining, Haverstraw, Croton, Tarrytown were all represented for St. Patrick's, Verplanck, is the mother church of all the Catholic churches in these towns, where they now have churches of their own.

The little town was very prettily decorated and the inscription "Welcome to our 70th Anniversary," could be seen on many verandas.

It is uncertain just who first began the building of the church, but as it was undoubtedly started in 1842, and as the Rev. Felix Vilanis was the first permanent pastor, he must have been the one who first began the building. It was started in the fall of 1842, but apparently the work stopped during that winter, for it was not until 1843 that we have evidence of work being resumed. While the church was in progress of building, Father Vilanis lived in the house where the present Sisters' convent now stands, and celebrated mass there. Father Vilanis died in 1844, and was succeeded by Rev. John Hackett. Mr. Enoch Orne, a former resident of Verplanck and a carpenter, has entries in his books which show that work was done on the church in the years 1843 and 1844. Undoubtedly, therefore, the building was begun by Father Vilanis in 1842, continued in 1843 and completed in the fall of that year.

The property where the church and cemetery now stand had been given to the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of New York city by Mr. John Henry in consideration for the sum of \$1.00, on condition that a place of worship for the Roman Catholics be erected within the space of one year. The site donated was on the banks of the river, for in those days the clusters of houses were lined along the river bank, and in placing the church where they did they were mindful of those who lived on the opposite bank, who in summertime rowed over in boats and in winter time walked over on the ice. Some of the older parishioners well remember when they had to walk or drive or row over the river to attend mass in the only church in this whole territory.

An elderly gentleman who attended our celebration on Sunday last, tells the story of his being brought as an infant in 1852 from Ossining to Verplanck to be baptized.

Father Hackett went from Verplanck to the parish of St. Theresa's Tarrytown, where he died June 11, 1863, aged 52 years. His remains are interred in the grounds at St. Patrick's Churchyard.

The Rev. M. Monaghan succeeded Father Hackett, September, 1853, and continued pastor until the end of September, 1856. Rev. Patrick Egan, March, 1856, to June, 1857. Edward McGean, June, 1857, to January, 1858. Rev. Nicholas O'Donnell, who had been pastor in Brooklyn, came in December, 1858, to June, 1863. He died July 1, 1863, and was buried beside Father Hackett.

Rev. P.S. Madden, July, 1863, to May, 1866, who afterwards built the Church of the Assumption in Peekskill in the year 1865, and the people of Verplanck contributed \$200 for the purpose. The gallery of the church was erected by Father Madden in 1864.

Rev. James Hassan, July, 1866, to August, 1868, enlarged the church by adding the chancel and erecting the tower. William Bleakley donated the bell for the new tower, which lasted from 1857 to 1900. Rev. Henry Coyle, 1868 to June, 1882. The organ, which is still in use, was purchased by Father Coyle in 1869 for \$500. Father Coyle died in New York, June 4, 1894, and was buried in the new cemetery.

Rev. Patrick Mee, June, 1882, to November, 1897, was longer pastor than any of his predecessors and made many needed improvements. The white walk was a path constructed from the village proper to the church for the use of pedestrians only. Wooden ceilings were put in the church and sacristy, the new, stations at a cost of \$40. each, a gasoline lighting plant, and most important of all was the purchase of property and building for a parish school November 15, 1890, which has since been conducted by the Franciscan Sisters. During his time in 1888 Patrick and Mrs. King donated the side altar and statue of St. Patrick. The members of the A.O.H. donated the statue of St. Bridget. Father Mee afterwards went as chaplain to St. Vincent's Retreat, Harrison, N. Y., where he died in 1909. Rev. Dennis O'Donovan, November, 1897, to November, 1908. This reverend Father when he arrived, as he has declared himself, found the parish in a very flourishing condition. Owing to this fact, he was soon enabled to clear the school indebtedness of \$2,000.

Beautiful statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Anthony were received from Mr. and Mrs. Philip O'Brien, and the Holy Name Society. The large, new bell, to take the place of the one given by Mr. Bleakley, was donated by the late Patrick King in memory of this wife, and was blessed by the Rev. Dr. Curran, of Peekskill, May 13, 1900. After eleven years of faithful service to a people who he loved, he left them in obedience to his ecclesiastic superiors and went to the Bronx, New York city, where he built a new parish. He had about completed his work when he was overtaken by death in 1910. He was mourned by his old parishioners as well as by his new, and many of them attended his funeral in New York city.

Rev. Thomas J. Doyle, November, 1908, to the present time. Words fail to express our praise that this worthy father is deserving of. He has proved himself a most zealous pastor among his parishioners. Through his hardworking efforts he has placed the school under the Regents of the State of New York. By this advantage the school has been placed on a basis equal to any school in the state. Its graduates are enabled to take the state examinations and enter any State high school. This has been proved by the fact that only at the last graduation one of the children, 11 years old, was awarded the State Certificate of the Regents and is to-day attending the Drum Hill School at Peekskill. Well may Father Doyle be proud of his school and his parish, as he said in his address to the people at the 1913 graduation: "Surpass my children if you can," and I doubt if they can be surpassed.

He has re-decorated the Sisters Convent, rectory, church and sanctuary, made many improvements about the grounds of both church and school. He has the old cemetery on the church property, which was in deplorable condition, repaired and generally renovated. Through his untiring efforts with the children he has turned out entertainments which have been appreciated by many people outside of Verplancks as well. He has replaced the wooden piers of the fence in front of the church by brick ones. He has had new iron gates and crosses put at the entrance. It was through his efforts that our celebration of last Sunday was accomplished. The parish of Verplancks has many societies attached to it - the Holy Name Society, of over 75 men; the St. Aloysius Society, over 59 members; the Children of Mary, over 100; the Apostleship of Prayer, over 150; the Rosary Sodality, over 100. There are also members of the K. of C. and a branch of the A.O.H. all striving for the uplifting of their members and of their church. The parish school has on its roll over 200 children, who are educated by the good Sisters, who thus save the taxpayers over \$6,000 annually.

We will conclude by sincerely wishing Father Doyle every success in his good work and trust that he may be spared long to continue his work among his devoted people.

The celebration in the morning was a most impressive event and at the evening service the Rev. Father Alexis, O.P., preached the sermon, which was followed by solemn benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, thus making a fitting close to events which will be long remembered by those who were privileged to be present at this 70th anniversary.

PEEKSKILL

Peekskill was originally called by the Mohegan Indians--Sachoes. It derived its present name from the Dutch who first called it Peekskill, from Jans Peek, one of their early navigators, who, mistaking Annsville Creek for the proper passage through the channel, ran his ship ashore.

The earliest settlement in the neighborhood commenced one mile north east of Peekskill on the property of Capt. John McCoy.

In 1764, Daniel Birdsall, Nathaniel Brown, Joseph Travis and Cap't. Isaac Conklin commenced the settlement of the present village.

During the Revolutionary War, Peekskill suffered considerably. On March 25, 1777, Colonel Bird, with 500 men, landed here and the few Americans who had been left as a guard, fired the principal storehouses and retired. In September 1777, the enemy came up on both sides of the Hudson in considerable force and the American barricades and storehouses were destroyed. the whole village sacked and burned and the neighboring country pilleged.

THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT

The Town of Cortlandt is in the extreme north western part of Westchester County. Putnam County is at its north, Yorktown on the east; the Croton River and town of New Castle on the south and Hudson River on its west. It is twelve and a fourth miles long north and south, by nine miles in width. Approximately its area is forty square miles. The topography of this portion of the county is very hilly. The altitude in its highest point is twelve hundred twenty-eight feet above the Hudson River. The natural scenery is beautiful, it being a part of that famous Hudson Valley known the world over to lovers of landscape scenery. The name of this town is derived from Van Cortlandt, of whose manor it once formed a part. Subdivisions of the Indian tribe of Mohegans once occupied this section of the county.

Hendrick Hudson and his crew were the first white men to ever behold this part of the country. They came as explorers in 1609. Off Verplanck's Point on October 1 of that year, his vessel, the Half-Moon, was anchored. Here he was visited by some of the Highland Indians who were struck with wonder at the white men.

When Hendrick Hudson passed Verplanck's Point and saw the high hills to the north apparently blocking his way, he considered his voyage ended. On searching for a passage however, he discovered the continuation of the river.

On August 24, 1683, the Honorable Stephenus Van Cortlandt obtained from the Indians, a deed to the territory of Meahagh (Verplanck's Point) and the lands lying east. The larger of these two tracts of land constituted a portion of the land on which the village of Peekskill is built.

On the right bank of Croton River, not far distant from Croton Point, stands the ancient manor house of the Van Cortlandts. It nestles in a sheltered spot, faces the south and commands an excellent view of the river. At one side of the main entrance to the place is the date of its erection, 1687, and it must, therefore, have been built by Colonel Stephanus Cortlandt, first lord of the famous manor.

During the Revolutionary War, the Town of Cortlandt came into prominence because Verplanck's Point was the eastern terminus of King's Ferry. At no point farther south could the river be safely crossed.

The Town of Cortlandt formerly belonged to the great Cortlandt Manor which also included the present towns of North Salem, Somers and Yorktown.

The name itself is derived from the ancient family of the Van Cortlandts. Under the Mohegan Indians, Cortlandt Town appears to have been divided between two chiefs, one of whom exercised authority over the district south of Verplanck including Croton Point and Oscawana inland and the other over the district north of Verplanck.

Stephanus Van Cortlandt, first lord of the manor of Cortlandt was directly descended from one of the most noble families of Holland.

Oloff Stevens Van Cortlandt, the founder of the family in this country, was first attached to the Dutch West Indian Company but he afterwards emigrated to New Amsterdam where he became wealthy.

Stephanus Van Cortlandt, (1643-1700)? first lord of the manor was the son of Oloff. He was a merchant in New York City and in (16--)? served as mayor. At his death in 1709, he left his entire estate to his children, specifying that the district now known as Verplanck's Point, then called Meahagh, should belong to his oldest son, Johannes.

The daughter of Johannes married Philip Verplanck and through him it passed into the possession of the Verplanck family, and became known as Verplanck's Point.

The Cortlandt family became very prominent in the history of the Revolution in New York. Major-General Philip Van Cortlandt was made Colonel of the second New York Regiment by General Washington. In this capacity he took part in the battles of Stillwater and Saratoga. He was afterwards selected to command a regiment under General Lafayette and took part in the battle of Yorktown. For his conduct on this occasion he was made Brigadier General.

Peekskill, the largest place in the Town of Cortlandt, is situated on the Hudson on an expanse of the stream which forms a bay. Across the river to the north west is the Bear Mountain, otherwise known as the Bread Tray from the resemblance of its summit to an inverted vessel of that description. The name of the village is due to Jans Peek, an early Dutch sailor, who followed the track of Hendrick Hudson. Jans Peek built a house and remained all winter. To the creek was given the name of Jans Peeks' Creek or Peek's Hill and from the name of the creek the village got its name.

The iron industry began in Peekskill a hundred years ago. The working of iron into various products has been a source of the growth of this village. Many of these industries have been shifted to other sections of the country in recent years, leaving Peekskill with little of it. The Union Stone Works was incorporated in 1867 by Uriah Hill and others.

The greatest producing plant in Peekskill today is the Fleischman Yeast manufacturing establishment which also produces high-priced liquors and gelatin. The main general plant of these works was on Long Island. Every freight train going out of Peekskill carried a goodly tonnage of their products. The Fleischman's general offices are situated in New York City, but the goods are produced in Peekskill.

FURNACE WOODS

The district comprised in Furnace Woods originally contained 1,500 acres and took its name from an old blast furnace. Iron ore was melted in this vicinity but when there was not enough iron ore to render it of any importance, the enterprise was abandoned. Attempts have since been made to use the iron ore but it has been found to be so largely mixed with sulphur as to be practically useless.

On the banks of the Furnace Brook were located the Van Cortlandt flour mills. The mill that now stands close to the old furnace was probably built about the close of the Revolutionary War. It is an exceedingly solid structure, the timbers being logs of white oak and are still in good condition.

The house at present occupied by Mr. Robert MacKellar, is perhaps the oldest in the neighborhood. The brick used in it were imported from Holland.

Keg Mountain in this place is said to be the highest point in Westchester County. It is supposed to have received its name from being used as a signal station during the Revolutionary War, the people of the district signalling from its summit by means of a keg. At present its highest point is surmounted by a tower built a few years ago by Mr. Eugene Travis.

VERPLANCK'S POINT

In 1683 the Hon. Stephanus Van Cortlandt purchased the territory of Meahagh (Verplanck's Point) and the lands east thereof called Appamachpogh from the Native Indian proprietors.

Verplanck Point possesses considerable interest to the student of the history of the Hudson River. Here the adventurous Henry Hudson brought the Half Moon to anchor on the 1st of October, 1609, and was visited by the Wickaby Indians.

Events of considerable importance were here enacted in connection with the war of the Revolution. For a long time, it was a station of the British troops but after the capture of Stony Point by General Wayne, July 13, 1779, attempts were repeatedly made to dislodge them. But these attempts were unsuccessful because of the advance of General Clinton with large reinforcements. The British finally evacuated in October 1779.

One of the most interesting associations connected with this spot is the recollection that here was located the headquarters of General Washington. The following is a description of the American camp given by a visitor to General Washington.

The American camp here presented a most beautiful and picturesque appearance. It extended along the plain on the neck of land formed by the rounding of the Hudson and had a view of this river to the south. Behind it the lofty mountains formed the most sublime background painting could express. In front of the tents was a regular continued portico formed of the boughs of the trees in full verdure and decorated with much taste and fancy. Opposite the camp and on the hills stood the tents of some of the general officers over which towered predominant that of General Washington.

HOW THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN GREW

The family of Dyckmans lived in the vicinity of Buchanan almost since the time of the Kitchewonke Indians who had a village and a blazed trail leading from it to other villages where are now situated Peekskill on the north, and Croton on the South. Then Stephanus Van Cortlandt obtained a deed from the Indians of 86,000 acres, almost all of Cortlandt town. Some Van Cortlandt married some Dyckman and thus Dyckmans have been about and around the vicinity.

The half Way House was an Inn which was erected just before the Civil War. At the time of its erection, there were about twenty homes about the square belonging to Conklin, Tuttle, Foster, Dyckman, Reynolds, Cole (Mrs. Dyckman was a Cole). throughout the history of Buchanan, the above named families have been the prominent families of Buchanan. It was called Centerville then - just halfway between Peekskill and Verplanck on the west and between Peekskill and Croton on the south. Fishing and farming were the leading industries.

Fish were very plentiful in the Hudson at that time; fishermen coming in with great boat loads of shad, herring, bass, sturgeon and perch were caught.

The railroad was started in 1848. Wood was burnt and as woodland and wood were plentiful, long rows of wood sheds extended along the way of the railroad.

The principal cause of the growth of Buchanan and vicinity is the Standard Textile Product Company's factories. This factory was started in 1860 when Strang and White opened a sheep skins works in a two story stone building, employing ten or twelve men. They made patent leather skins for shoes and patent leather tips for wagons and carriage shafts. Then in 1875, Alex Buchanan, who had been burnt out in Newark, N.J., purchased these works and started to make table oil cloth. At first eight or ten men were employed, making about 35 pieces a week. A new building of 12 rooms was soon built. The men worked from 6 o'clock in the morning to 5:30 at night and received a wage of \$7.50 to \$9 a week. Piece workers made better money. Boys of twelve or over received \$1.50 a week. The oil cloth was of excellent quality and wouldn't wear out. It was often used to cover kitchen floors and would wear until the print wore off; throw it out over a chicken coop and it would last ten years.

Mr. Buchanan was an inventor as well as an executive and the men would say when they saw him seated at his desk, "Now there's a new machine in the making."

In 1901, this factory was making the cheapest and best oil cloth in the country. It was sought by other plants for a merger. So the Standard Products Company originated through the consolidation of seven oil cloth manufacturers. For our cotton mills in the South--three other converting plants are located in Clifton, N. J., Youngstown, Ohio and Rock Island, Illinois, at the time of the merger, the plant was owned and run by the sons of Alex Buchanan.

The Buchanan plant is now the largest, belonging to the company and the most modern of its kind, employing from 400 to 500 men and women. It manufactures oil cloth and Sanitus wall covering. Highly specialized machinery and skilled workmanship are necessary. The company produces 72 million square yards of oil cloth a year. For this is used 38,000 bales of cotton, 6,000 tons of clay and 1,500,000 gallons of linseed. The men employed there are from Peekskill, Montrose, Verplanck, and outlying communities as well as from Buchanan, whose local population is 1,200.

In 1880, men worked for \$6.00 to \$10.00 a week. After the merger in 1901, the hours were reduced to nine hours and wages were gradually increased until now the pay is from \$25.00 to \$60.00 for employees. Officers and foreman have a much larger salary. A social club called the "The Athletic Club" has been formed among the men.

Many men and women of Buchanan find their employment in the foundries, factories, stores and offices of Peekskill, in the Harmon Railroad, shops and yards, the Chevrolet works in Tarrytown and the Fleishman Yeast Plant of Peekskill, one of the largest in this country.

There are two churches in Buchanan, the Methodist Church and a Catholic Church. The First Methodist Church was built in 1850. A new site was secured and a new church and social hall were built in 1888. This church burned in January 1924. The fire was discovered by the pastor. He rushed to the nearest house crying, "Water, water, the church is on fire." The mistress had finished washing her supper dishes and had the dish pan in her hands ready to empty it. Seizing the pan, the pastor ran and threw its contents on the flame but it was of no avail, the church burned to the ground--only a piano and the Bible were saved. Mr. Cates, the pastor, mounted this piano and began to raise money for the erection of a new church. A year from that time the present beautiful church had been built and dedicated. Soon after was added the Community Hall in which are held the social affairs.

The Catholic Church bought a large house with about six acres of land. This house was converted into a church. Later a church was built and the house now is the priest's residence.

In 1926, Buchanan established a lighting district. Later this was extended to all the streets. The water supply comes from the New York City supply, tapped at Locust Avenue, near Peekskill.

CRUGERS

The Cruger family have held a very important place in the history of the town of Cortlandt. It is an exceedingly old family, having connections in many European countries.

The first John Cruger came to this country in 1700 and became prominent in the affairs of New York City. The Cruger family in this vicinity are descended from Henry, the second son of John Cruger. He was sent by his father to Bristol, England and there engaged successfully in business. In 1770 he returned to New York and in 1792 was elected state senator. His first wife was Miss Peach, who was the daughter of a prominent banker in Bristol, England.

KING'S FERRY ROAD

During the Revolutionary War, this road was much in use, leading as it did from the Post Road to the King's Ferry at Verplancks. During the time the British occupied Stony Point, the troops and supplies came from New York by the Post Road, along King's Ferry Road to Verplanck's Point and thence by the King's Ferry to Stony Point.

BOSCOBEL

The Boscobel House came into the possession of the Cruger family on the marriage of Colonel John P. Cruger to Elizabeth, granddaughter of States Morris Dyckman who built it.

States Morris Dyckman was private secretary for many years to Sir William Erskins, a commissary-general of the British army. When Sir William died in 1795, he left a large and valuable estate to his secretary and Mr. Dyckman returned to this country, purchased the Boscobel estate and erected the present mansion. Mr. Dyckman was the owner of an exceedingly valuable library. there are many curious relics of Mr. Dyckman still in the possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. John P. Cruger. Among them is a flute originally owned by Major Andre.

The connection between this house and the English Boscobel is this: While in England, Mr. Dyckman frequently visited Boscobel House and when he built his mansion in this country, the many beautiful oaks then on the grounds reminded him of the English house.