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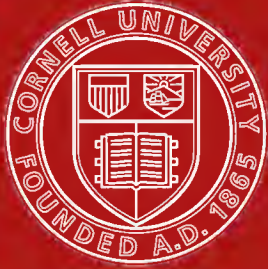
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Second House of Worship

Erected on the Bloomingdale Road at 68th Street, 1814



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A Descriptive Narrative of

## Old Bloomingdale

**Its** topographical features,  
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**Its** French invasion,  
and  
**Its** war experiences  
considered in their relation to  
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**The Bloomingdale Reformed Church**  
Organized 1805. Incorporated 1806 as  
The Church at Harsenville,

By

**Hopper Striker Mott**

Member of the N. Y. Historical Society, Trustee of the N. Y. Genealogical  
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*With 78 Illustrations, Diagrams, and Maps*

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G. P. Putnam's Sons  
New York and London  
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1908

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DEDICATED  
to the Memory of the  
Early Knickerbocker Settlers of  
BLOEMENDAEL  
the Former and Present Members of the  
CHURCH AT HARSENVILLE  
and to  
JACOB HARSEN  
and  
BARBARA ASTEN  
its Benefactors





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## Guide=Posts along the Century's Pathway

- 1805 Sept. Organization in the Harsen Mansion and election of First Consistory.
- 1806 Sept. 6. Incorporation.
- 1806 Nov. 3. Site and FIRST HOUSE OF WORSHIP, erected at 69-70th Sts. and Bloomingdale Road, conveyed to Consistory by Jacob Harsen.
- 1808 May 21. FIRST MINISTER, Rev. Alexander Gunn, called.
- 1809 Sept. 16. "Parsonage Acre" conveyed by Jacob Harsen.
- 1810 June Construction of parsonage finished.
- 1814 Sept. 26. New site at 68th Street and Bloomingdale Road purchased.
- 1815 Nov. 24. Gift of realty from Mrs. Barbara Asten.
- 1816 Aug. 4. SECOND HOUSE OF WORSHIP opened.
- 1817 Feb. Corporate seal adopted.
- 1821 May Bequest from Mrs. Johannah Beekman.
- 1829 Oct. 1. Rev. Dr. Gunn died.
- 1830 July 8. SECOND MINISTER, Rev. Francis M. Kip, called.
- 1831 Oct. 1. Rev. William Labagh, minister pro-tem.
- 1832 May 21. THIRD MINISTER, Rev. John AlBurtis, called.
- 1835 May 26. FOURTH MINISTER, Rev. Enoch van Aken, called.
- 1869 March (1st Sabbath), Final services held in the Second House of Worship.
- 1869 Aug. THIRD HOUSE OF WORSHIP opened on the "Parsonage Acre."
- 1870 Aug. 18. Bequest from General Striker.
- 1881 Dec. 28. Domine van Aken declared *emeritus*.
- 1883 Jan. 1. FIFTH MINISTER, Rev. Carlos Martyn, called.
- 1885 Jan. 2. Domine van Aken died.
- 1885 Oct. 22. FOURTH HOUSE OF WORSHIP, at Broadway and 68th St., dedicated.
- 1885 Nov. 1 First regular service held.
- 1889 Sept. 1. SIXTH MINISTER, Rev. Madison C. Peters, called.
- 1900 May 3. SEVENTH MINISTER, Rev. William C. Stinson, D.D., called.
- 1905 May 28. Last services held in Fourth House of Worship.
- 1905 Nov. 12. Corner-stone of FIFTH HOUSE OF WORSHIP laid at Bloomingdale Square.
- 1906 Dec. 16. Service of Dedication.
- 1906 Dec. 23. Centennial Celebration of Incorporation.
- 1906 Dec. 30. Unveiling of Pyatt and Gilbert memorial windows.



## Introduction

The life of any community largely centres around its first, and for a space, its only church. This natural tendency makes it apt, in narrating the history of the Church at Harsenville, to fuse it in the amalgam of its surroundings. As its locus was settled by Hollanders, their descendants, in conformity with their antecedents, selected the ecclesiastical pattern of their fatherland. Situated in a portion of the territory to which the generic name of Bloomingdale attached, it yet had a local significance and at the same time drew for support on a much larger section than that known as Harsenville. In the century of its existence in that location its power for good cannot be estimated, and now that it has been deemed wise to remove the congregation to pastures new—still within the confines of Bloomingdale—may the influence which has heretofore radiated from it increase and multiply mightily! The new site on the field of the Battle of Harlem Heights is alone an incentive to aggressive work.

This section of the island has had only desultory and disconnected mention in the history of the city. The distinction of its name—so beautiful in its meaning—has even been denied it, while every one is familiar with such local appellations as Chelsea, Greenwich, Yorkville, Harlem, and Manhattanville, no one of

which for an instant compares with the charm associated with the designation applied to this West Side territory by the early Dutch inhabitants. Bloomingdale—a vale of flowers—remains a title of singular descriptive beauty and as such deserves to live. It has been with reason described as the watering-place of the *élite* of New York, the resort of all distinguished strangers from abroad, and the Newport of that part of the city's history extending from the period of Dutch farms to its metamorphosis into metropolitan grandeur. And then the Hudson! Never was there a more beautiful shore. For the most part bold and rocky, here and there a sandy beach in some little cove was encountered, shaded by branching chestnuts and maples, upon the shelving sands of which the ripples made music most inviting to the bather on a midsummer day. Harriet Martineau has said that of all the water craft she had ever seen none were so graceful as the sloops that sailed its waters. The march of modern improvement, in the guise of the railroad, swept away at one blow the rural beauty of this part of the island.

As a family connection of each of the four founders of the Church, and a scion in the fifth and fourth generations respectively of its first elders, the author wishes to express pleasure at his selection by the present Consistory to write this history of the organization. He feels that he is especially equipped for the occasion. For some fifteen years he has been engaged in an effort to preserve the history, tradition, and local color of old Bloomingdale. This volume is launched in commemoration of the centenary of the incorporation of the Society, with the hope that, as the text more than sufficiently covers the subject of the title, it may induce old residents to send him additional data that

an exhaustive history of the District, now in preparation, may be published soon, the accuracy of which will crown the result. Portraits of many of the residents and pictures of most of the buildings, many of them dating from the 18th century, have been gathered, together with maps of farms, old lanes, and watercourses. Beginning at Union Square the intention is to follow the line of the Bloomingdale Road to 147th Street, where it merged in the road to Kingsbridge. Those of us who have been familiar with and loved Bloomingdale since birth, trust that the contemplated work will revive interest in the restoration of a name which is unique, euphonic, and historic.

Where so many have lent assistance in the preparation of this publication it is invidious to draw distinction, yet it is hard to refrain from thanking Mrs. Florence E. Youngs, Assistant Librarian of the N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Society, Robert H. Kelby, Librarian of the N. Y. Historical Society, Bingman Versteeg, Librarian of the Holland Society, George R. Schieffelin, John Jasper, former President of the Board of Education, George Wilson, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and the four survivors of Domine van Aken's pastorate, Mrs. Emily Hanaway Stryker, widow of Rev. Dr. Peter Stryker, Mrs. Ann Agnes Dana, Mrs. Jane Cozine Dorland, and Mrs. Marion Bissland Carss. Especially are acknowledgments made to David Thomson of Foster & Thomson, for repeated acts of kindness. Thanks are also due to Dr. Stinson, pastor, and to members of the present Consistory.

The Dutch colors—blue, white, and orange—embellish the cover.

It should be added that this work frankly amounts to more than a history of the Bloomingdale Reformed

## Introduction

Church. The broadest kind of an historical and genealogical background has been taken, extending over the entire region of the Bloomingdale of old.

H. S. M.

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN,  
June, 1906,

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After being arrayed in battle panoply for five years in an effort to have the name affixed to some location within its confines, it is with unfeigned pleasure that the announcement is made that the Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance which was approved by Mayor McClellan and became a law on the 9th day of January, 1907, designating the triangular plot at the junction of Broadway, West End Avenue, 106th and 107th Streets, "Bloomingdale Square."

# The New York of Yesterday

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## I

### Bloomingtondale

In the good old days, sometime after the settlement of this island by our Holland ancestors, the middle west section thereof received from the place of that name near Haarlem, in Holland, the name "Bloemen-dael." Its earliest history is lost in tradition. Indian trails led over and across it. Where the tepees were located, how the wild creatures which prowled through its woods disappeared, and how and when the territory, densely covered with the denizens of the forest, became denuded, we are left to conjecture. At a later date its pastoral scenes were apostrophized by Irving, whose magic pen has immortalized the "River of the Mountains," as "a sweet and rural valley, beautiful with many a bright wild flower, refreshed by many a pure streamlet, and enlivened here and there by a delectable little Dutch cottage, sheltered under some sloping hill and almost buried in embowering trees." The derivation of the name is in itself descriptive of the territory to which it was

applied. Even in our day it was "a vale of flowers," the equivalent in the vernacular of the Dutch designation. The extent of territory covered by the appellation has ever been a mooted question; such authorities as mention the subject at all differ essentially. We know to a certainty that the road which gave access much later to the locality ran its length through "the Bloomingdale District" from present 23d Street and Broadway and was known as the Bloomingdale Road. It wound o'er hill and dale, over a picturesque country, passing beautiful country-seats and farmhouses, making an ensemble which vied with the splendors of the lordly Hudson lapping its shores. Let us trace the name by successive stages as applied to territory below 59th Street, at which point many authorities limit it. An old resident and occupant of a homestead which stood until 1897 at 54th Street and the river, the author can testify that letters to his family as early as the end of the 18th century were addressed to Bloomingdale. The blocks between 55th and 57th Streets and Eighth and Ninth Avenues constituted the original Bloomingdale Square and contained somewhat over eighteen acres. It was closed on the establishment of Central Park, by Chapter 73, Laws of 1857. The abstract of title of the Wm. L. Rose tract, on the east side of the road between 46th and 47th Streets, denominates it as lying in Bloomingdale. Rose's name appears attached to the articles of incorporation of the Church as the witness. He had other plots in the *locus in quo* and was the husband of Charlotte, the sister of Mrs. Jacob Coles Mott. A part of Wolfert Webber's farm, hereinafter described, which John Jacob Astor and William Cutting acquired under foreclosure in 1803, the southern boundary of which



was south of 43d Street on the Road and extended to the river at a point north of 48th Street, was platted thereafter. On the map it is entitled "The farm at Bloomingtondale," belonging to those individuals. Portions of it fronting on Verdant Lane became the property of Colonel Anthony Post and Francis Feitner, mentioned hereafter. In the *Mercantile Advertiser* of Dec. 10, 1814, appeared this advertisement:

TO LET for one or more years

The Farm at Bloomingtondale, near the four mile stone, known by the name of Eden's Farm, consisting of about 22 acres of Land, on which are two Dwelling Houses and 2 barns, and to which may be added 2 pieces of pasture land of about ten acres each. Apply to

JOHN JACOB ASTOR, corner Pine  
& Pearl-Street.

This farm was owned by Medcef Eden, an Englishman, and extended as far south as 41st Street. It was acquired by Astor under foreclosure in 1803, for \$25,000. The prevalent notion that this new centre of the city's hotel and theatre district was ever known as the Long Acre Farm is fallacious. The mural painting over the bar in the Hotel Astor labelled with this name tends to foster false history. The name Long Acre grew into usage after Brewster & Company removed from Broome Street to 47th Street, in 1872. Other firms in the same line of business followed them to the new location, whereupon one of the trade publications compared New York's carriage building community to Long Acre Street in London, where the leading firms of the business are centred, and termed the locality, which at that time was without name, "New York's Long Acre."

This designation seemed apt and was finally adopted by the authorities.

The high eminence at present Greeley and Herald Squares gave the name of Strawberry Hill to territory thereabouts. When the Institution for the Blind was removed in October, 1833, to the entire block between 33d and 34th Streets, Eighth and Ninth Avenues, it was to Strawberry Hill that it came. This advertisement from the *Columbian* of January 6, 1815, brings the Bloomingdale name to a point farther south and as low as we have yet been able to prove:

#### A STRAY STEER

was found on the premises of the subscriber on the 5th of August last. The owner may have the said steer by proving property and paying all reasonable charges.

ISAAC VARIAN JUN.

Bloomingdale—3 mile stone.

This stone was located on the Old Post Road just north of its junction with the Bloomingdale Road at a spot about opposite 24th Street, and measured the third mile from Federal Hall in Wall Street.

“The Road to Bloomingdale,” the continuation of Bowery or New York Lane, began at 14th Street and Fourth Avenue, crossed diagonally Union Square, and proceeded northerly to its junction with the Old Post Road, which swerved northeasterly across present Madison Square, and followed much of the bed of Third Avenue to Harlem. The Bloomingdale Road was opened under the Act of June 19, 1703, as stated in the preamble of the Act of November 25, 1751, which provided for keeping said road in repair. Therein it is mentioned that the road had been laid out of the

breadth of four rods from the house of John Horn (23d Street and Fifth Avenue), through the "Bloomingdale District" to the house of Adrian Hooglandt (115th Street and Riverside Drive), terminating at the "barn of Nicholas de Peyster" (about 116th Street). Prior to the opening of this road, which meant so much to the district it traversed, the only means of access from the city seems to have been by water, the great natural highway to the region. There were a number of lanes which deflected from the Post Road to distinctive sections of the West Side, some of the more important being Hopper's Lane in the fifties, Harsenville Road in the seventies, and the Cross Road to Harlem, afterwards Apthorp Lane, in the nineties. All of those named were opened many years after the Bloomingdale Road.

In the process of evolution by which New York has reached its proud position as the second city of the world, it has come about that the farm on which "the house of John Horn" was situated and its vicinage has become the retail centre and the best known and most conspicuous locality of the metropolis. Its situation in the heart of the city, its fabulous wealth in hotels, amusement and business structures, the beautiful Madison Square Park which lies opposite, the width of the plaza between them, and the crossing of two of the main arteries of travel, all have served to call attention to this section. The national and local characters to be met on that swirling centre of trade and traffic—the junction of 23d Street and Fifth Avenue—accentuates this feature, and the political meetings held in the neighboring hotels, with the conduct and contest of parties fought out thereabouts, have focussed the thought of the nation for many years on this territory. The vast assemblages which concentrate here

on occasions have become a part of metropolitan existence.

Horn acquired title to the tract in 1716 in conjunction with his brother-in-law Cornelius Webber, the latter's sister Rachel having married the former three years previously. The house, which became the starting point of the Bloomingdale Road, was located between 22d and 23d Streets, in the present centre of Fifth Avenue, on the exact spot where the "Isle of Safety" has been placed, and immediately west of the Flatiron Building. It became later the residence of Christopher Mildeberger, a merchant in the Swamp, who had married Margaret Horn in 1808 and removed to this dwelling in 1820 from Vandewater Street. Venerable and stately sycamore trees lined the then country road, and also divided the farm from the house plot. Fifth Avenue was ordered opened in 1837, and the same year the park called Madison was declared a public square. In 1839 Mildeberger petitioned that his house should be allowed to remain on its site until the actual necessity arose for its removal, and by resolution of the Common Council, it was permitted to stay until November 1st. The homestead was removed to the northwest corner of the avenue and street where the Fifth Avenue Hotel stands, and was used as a tavern known as Madison Cottage under lease to Corporal Thompson. It became a noted resort and half-way house for turfmen and other sporting characters under the management of this boniface and remained on this corner for thirteen years (1839-1852), when it was superseded by Franconi's Hippodrome.

The farms which collectively came to be known as Bloomingdale were settled by Hollanders. They stretched some four miles along both sides of the road,





which in 1795 was extended from 115th to 147th Streets, where it merged in the Kingsbridge Road. In this territory were a number of hamlets, one at the Great Kill, the longest and deepest stream which indented the west shore of the island, the outlet of which was at 42d Street. The settlement at this spot extended into the fifties. Harsenville was located in the seventies, Striker's Bay in the nineties, and Bloomingdale centred at 100th Street. Here was the nucleus of a village which received this name for want of a better one, and in which the Bloomingdale Asylum was the main *raison d'être*. Each of these was a distinct locality. Up to the opening of the Civil War there was yet a semblance of village life therein.

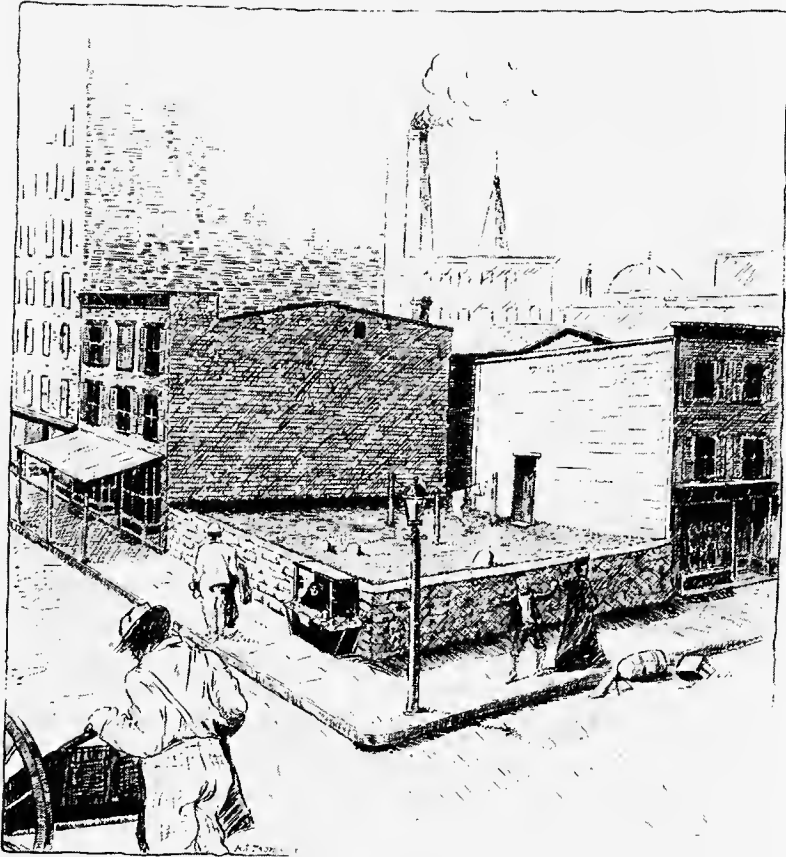
#### **The Great Kill**

Branches of the Great Kill rose as far north as 58th Street and the road, as far east as 48th Street and Sixth Avenue, where there was a lake, and as far south as 39th Street east of Seventh Avenue. Two larger ponds were on this branch between 36th and 38th Streets near this avenue. The dominating feature in this neighborhood was the "Great Kill Farm," located near the creek's mouth and on the north side thereof. It was owned in 1714 by Matthÿs Adolphus Hoppe, the ancestor of Andrew Hopper, an original deacon of the Church at Harsenville. There was located the house of Matthew Hopper. His sons advertised it for sale in 1786 and John Leake, the founder of Leake and Watts Orphan Home, a distinctive Bloomingdale institution, purchased it that year for £1000. He dwelt on an adjoining farm which he called "The Hermitage," and both these properties were inherited by his grand-nephews, the Norton brothers. Most of the property

in the hamlet contiguous to this stream was owned by the Hopper family and its connections. Matthÿs Adolphus, the settler, was the youngest of the four children of Andries Hoppe, the pioneer, and Gertje Hendricks, his wife, who reached this country from Holland in 1652. He lived but six years after his arrival and yet his name is conspicuous in the records of the time. He owned a number of lots in the lower city and lived on the east side of Broadway, north of Beaver Street. Just before his death in December, 1658, he entered into a contract to purchase Bronck's Land (Morrissania), from which agreement his widow sought relief on the ground that the owner, one Stoll, could not deliver it free from Indian claims. The grave and learned seigneurs, the Court of Burgomasters and Schepens, one of the members of which was Jacobus Strijcker, the ancestor of another of the original elders of the Harsenville Church, declared the title merchantable. So Mrs. Hoppe or Hoppen (in both of which ways the good dame spelled her name) owned the whole of Bronck's Land, five hundred acres in extent, by deed of record dated 1662. This property was eventually patented by Governor Andros to Colonel Lewis Morris, second Proprietor of Morrissania, in 1676.

The "Hopper Farm," which has become famous in legal annals, as confined within city streets, stretched from 48th to 55th Streets, both east and west of the Bloomingdale Road, lying diagonally across the city and along the river from 50th to 55th Streets. The homestead of Matthÿs Adolphus Hoppe was located on the north side of Hopper's Lane, the only way through the farm to the river, just west of the Albany apartment house at 51st Street and Broadway. His son Johannes, known in the records as John Hopper





REMNANT OF THE HOPPER BURIAL GROUND, 1884  
Southwest corner of Ninth Avenue and 50th Street



the Elder, inherited this property. He was a member of Captain Gerard Stuyvesant's company, of N. Y. Militia, and served as Lieutenant in General Harmer's campaign against the Indians. He married, in 1728, Maria van Orden, and their seven children were born in the homestead. A remnant of the family burial-ground was to be seen until 1885 at the southwest corner of Ninth Avenue and 50th Street, in which interments took place until 1840, the last being that of an old negro slave by whom the members of the last generation had been nursed.

John Hopper the Elder, besides the house he built for his son Matthew heretofore mentioned, constructed one at 50th Street and Broadway for his son Andrew, and another at the terminus of the Lane (53d Street and the river) for his son John the Younger, who was born in 1734, and whose first wife was Wyntie Dyckman. Their only child, Maria, became the first wife of James Striker of Striker's Bay. Hopper's second wife was Sarah Cozine, and he as well as Sarah and her mother Catharine, widow of Balaam Johnson Cozine, were buried in the Hopper plot. He devised his farm to his grandchildren for life, viz.: Ann Striker, Winifred, wife of Jordan Mott, and General Garrit Hopper Striker.

Another residence, "Mott's Point," the Homestead, which John Hopper the Younger put up, was situated at the river's edge, and built in 1796 for his granddaughter, whose marriage was then in contemplation. The rocky promontory on which it was located had previously been the site of the family fishing, bathing, and boating houses. For this was a celebrated spot for bass and crabs and the rocks were encrusted with oysters which grew to perfection. The Mott family used the place as a country-seat until 1829, when they

removed there permanently. Seven sons were born to them, the youngest being baptized in the Bloomingdale Church. Here, also, lived their grandmother, Anne Coles, the wife of Isaac Mott, a Quaker merchant, whose privilege it was to bear a part in the contest for American independence. There is preserved in her family a tablecloth which some officers gave her as a grateful memento of her charitable course in ministering to the wants of the cruelly treated captives who fell into the British clutches. (*Vide* sketch in *N. Y. G. and B. Record* of January and July, 1905.) The family attended service at the Church and a number of the sons sang in the choir.

The house of John Horn, Jr., whose mother was Jacomyntie (Jemima) Hopper, is still standing on the edge of the Lane at 51st Street and Broadway. It is now occupied as a saloon and was known until lately as the "Old Homestead," so-called from its proximity to the original homestead. The Cozine and Hege-man families (who intermarried) had houses in the present bed of Eighth Avenue, between 54th and 55th Streets. No pictures of these houses are extant. Sarah Swanser, the daughter of Sarah Cozine, married, as a second husband, John Stake, and his house was located within the lines of old Bloomingdale Square. Among the individuals connected with the Church who lived in this section should be mentioned the Webbers, Posts, and Hardmans.

There were a number of isolated homes located between the Great Kill section and Harsenville, notably the Havemeyer place on the west side of present Columbus Circle, and the Cargill, Ward, Nash, and Low houses, all of which were surrounded by more or less extensive grounds. These were all on the great Somer-

indyck farm, and were acquired from heirs of John Somerindyck, who bid it in at the sale held by the Commissioners of Forfeiture after the Revolution. The Havemeyer mansion later served as a hospital and home for disabled Union soldiers. The Cargill seat occupied the block between 60th and 61st Streets and Ninth and Tenth Avenues, which was bought by David Cargill in 1819, for \$3500. He was a member of the firm of Cargill & Sonntag, No. 11 Maiden Lane, importers of musical instruments. The house stood relatively nearer to Tenth Avenue. In 1860, title to the property became vested in Algernon S. Jarvis; consideration, \$135,000.

Lebbeus B. Ward, the mechanician, lived in a handsome Gothic cottage, at the northwest corner of 59th Street and Tenth Avenue, the trap rock of which it was constructed having been brought from his native State of New Jersey. He carried on business at the foot of the street at the river's edge, where he founded the "Hamersley Forge," the first establishment in this country fitted with furnaces and steam hammers of sufficient size to manufacture shafts and cranks for steamer and steamboat use. Here was forged the "Peacemaker," the famous gun which was invented by Ericsson and which was mounted on the U. S. S. *Princeton*. At its trial on the Potomac River in 1844, it was very successful, but later at a final discharge it exploded, killing two secretaries of Tyler's Cabinet. The President himself narrowly escaped. It is proper to add that Ward disapproved of the method of construction of this gun, which was much larger than had theretofore been used in the navy.

The Nash house now forms a portion of the New York Infant Asylum located at the northeast corner

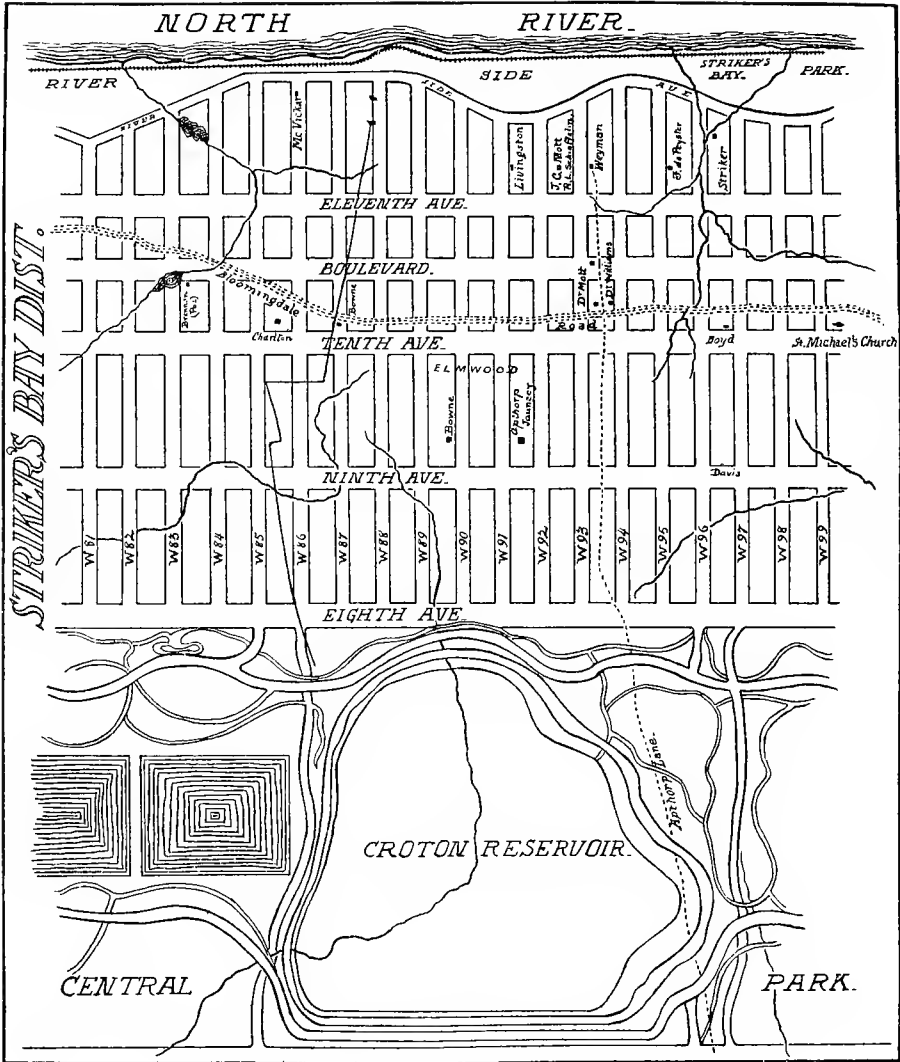
## The New York of Yesterday

of 61st Street and Tenth Avenue. It was built by Daniel D. Nash, the auctioneer, who bought the site in 1848. John Low purchased land on the west side of Tenth Avenue, between 59th and 64th Streets, in 1819, at which time he was cashier of the Union Bank at 17 Wall Street. "Locust Grove," which name dignified the mansion he built near the latter street, was a substantial stone structure of two stories and attic. It was surrounded by a dense forest and Low's woods were famous picnic-grounds even after they were cut off from the water by the advent of the railroad. Great quantities of wild pigeons consorted there, and hunting was superb until one day the birds disappeared. The Low house and some of the contiguous land was purchased in 1851 by John Tirburce Gregoire de Milhau, a San Domingan refugee, who occupied it till 1858. It became a beer and dance hall later, a fate which befell so many of the fine country-seats of Bloomingdale.

The hamlet which grew up around the Harsen homestead, to which the name "Harsenville" attached, will be treated extensively in another chapter. The territory covered by this appellation was composed of the Somerindyke and Dyckman farms and a portion of the Apthorp tract. Generally speaking it stretched from 59th to 80th Streets, an extensive part of which property was taken for Central Park.

### Striker's Bay

The section of Bloomingdale which received the distinctive name of Striker's Bay extended to 99th Street. Gerrit Striker, the grandson of Jacobus Strijcker, one of the magistrates of the original Court of New Amsterdam, assumed the method of spelling his name which







has been retained by the Manhattan branch of the family, and differentiates it from the rest of the clan. He settled at the head of a "certain cove," located at the foot of present 96th Street, in 1764, and named the mansion he built there "Striker's Bay." This property descended to his only child, James, who lived the life of a country gentleman on his ancestral estate. During the Revolution it was in the occupation of the enemy. After his death the house became a tavern. "Jogging down a steep lane," says Dayton's *Knickerbocker Life in New York*, "we alight at a secluded little snuggerly called Striker's Bay, one of the most unpretending yet attractive houses on the drive. It was in a nook sheltered from all points, save from the west, where the fine view of the Hudson amply repaid many a visitor." In 1841 Francis was the landlord. During his proprietorship he perfected his celebrated life-boat—the precursor of later designs—which invention made him both famous and rich. The years of his tenancy were memorable for the number of noted personages who assembled there. Poe and his child-wife, Virginia, spent the summers of 1843 and 1844 in a cottage near by which stood at 84th Street. While he resided in Bloomingdale he wrote that notable poem, *The Raven*, and it was his habit to wander down the declivity to the shores of the bay. Often did he occupy a seat on Francis's piazza to enjoy the prospect and commune with his friends and familiars, of whom the names of Woodward, Morris, Willis, English, the author of *Ben Bolt*, and the lawyer-poet, William Ross Wallace, are recalled. Trees of tremendous girth and height were on the ground, one of which, "a grand old elm," inspired Morris to compose that noble lyric, *Woodman, Spare that Tree*. In 1837, wrote the poet, he caught

a tenant of the property in the act of cutting it down for firewood. "The old gentleman" with whom he was walking asked the iconoclast what it was worth when felled, and ascertaining that ten dollars would prevent its destruction, paid the price and exacted an agreement in writing that it should be saved. We have Morris's testimony that in 1862 it was still standing.

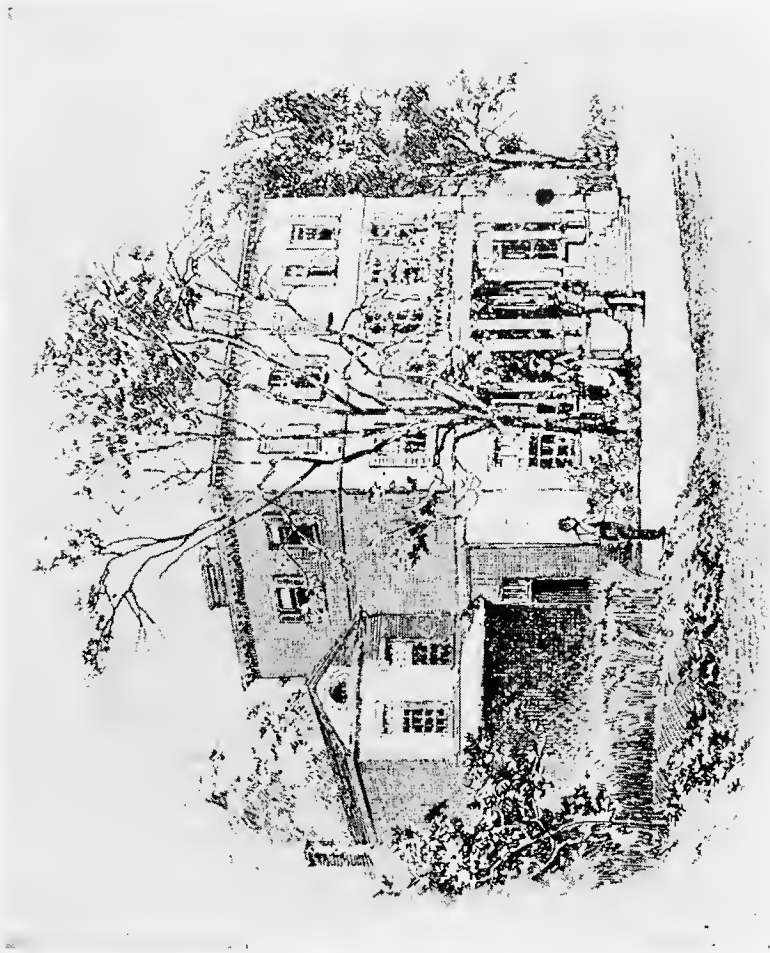
Under the tavern's successive bonifaces it became a noted resort for excursions, target-shootings, etc. There was a dock and small station of the Hudson River Railroad on the grounds. The lawn fronting the river made a fine dancing floor, and at the rear of the house were found the targets. A well-known clergyman is authority for the statement that here was a scene of sylvan beauty unsurpassed, and that he had never in his long life been in so entrancing a spot. The property was sold in June, 1856, and the house was destroyed by fire in the early sixties, when Robert Pennoyer was its landlord.

Situated in the neighborhood of which this house was a nucleus, were many country-seats. The Apthorp mansion is certainly the most noted—as it is of Revolutionary renown. The *N. Y. Mercury* of Monday, May 21, 1764, gives an account of a quarrel among the workmen engaged in the construction of the house, during which one of the participants was killed. Charles Ward Apthorp was one of his Majesty's Council under Governor Tryon, a leading lawyer of the city, and a man of social distinction in colonial times. He called the Bloomingdale property "Elmwood," and here he dispensed lavish hospitality. He died in the mansion in 1797, and his remains were laid in the family vault in Trinity churchyard. Ten children survived

him. The building was beautiful in its architecture. Its recessed portico with Corinthian columns and pilasters and high-arched doorway commanded the admiration of architects even to the time of its destruction. The massive solid door led into a spacious hall, which, in the days of its builder, was used as a ball-room. On both sides of the hall, which extended through the house, were large rooms, and up the broad staircase chambers were found fit for the distinguished guests who visited there. The plot containing the mansion was sold to William Jauncey, an Englishman and rich merchant, in 1799, with a right of way in Apthorp Lane leading from the Road to the river. The Elmwood estate was bequeathed in 1828 to Herman Jauncey Thorne, the son of Jane Mary Jauncey, niece and adopted child of William Jauncey, who had intermarried with Herman Thorne in 1810. Their son, who had dropped the surname Thorne, died before coming of age, by being thrown from his horse in Paris. Colonel Thorne, a man of very marked personality, with a strikingly handsome face, began his career in the navy. He spent many years in Paris, where a chronicler in 1836 described that he lived in a style of princely splendor that eclipsed all rivalry, to the great astonishment of the French, who failed to comprehend where an American had acquired such tastes. Old-timers recall how he drove out of Apthorp Lane in his splendid English coach and four, the admiration of the neighborhood. The property was maintained by Colonel Thorne as his country-seat until his death in 1859, when the lots were platted and sold in 1860 at the Merchants' Exchange. In its degenerate days the property was known as Elm Park, a beer and dance resort. The Board of Street Openings sealed its doom when 91st Street was ordered

opened and it was torn down in 1888. St. Agnes's Chapel now occupies the site.

After passing Burnham's famous resort in the van den Heuvel mansion at 79th Street, of which more anon, the Bloomingdale Road passed down a gentle declivity with occasionally a superb river view. To the right, at about 84th Street, there was a pond, fabled in the vicinity to be of unfathomable depth and known to be well stocked with goldfish. This was a favorite skating ground of the Bloomingdale youth in the winter season, while the capture of the fish with a pin-hook furnished an endless source of amusement to the boys in summer. Nearly opposite to this pond was the entrance to what had been in its day one of the finest country-seats on this side of the Atlantic. A large slice of the farm on which it stood, belonging at one time to Etienne de Lancey, was acquired in 1800 by John McVickar, a merchant prince of the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century. Built originally by him, the mansion had afterwards become the residence of the John H. Howland family. The grounds extended from the Road to the river and covered above sixty acres of land, beautifully wooded and with a high rocky shore. The house, which was approached by a winding drive some half a mile in length, was a large square mansion, standing close to the river's bank. Unfortunately the line of 86th Street passed through it and when that street was opened, at what the event proved to have been an unnecessarily early date, the building had to be moved from its original position. This was a death-blow to the grandeur of the place. It stood until the fall of 1906 at the northeast corner of 86th Street and Riverside Drive, having successively been used as a boys' school kept by the Rev. Mr. Douglass, then a



THE VAN DEN HEUVEL MANSION, LATER "BURNHAM'S"



summer boarding-house, afterward, with some additional structures, the House of Mercy, a well-known and most beneficent charity, and up to the time of its demolition a portion of the Misses Ely's school for young ladies.

Opposite to the entrance of Elm Park, Apthorp Lane led to the residences of Horace Waldo and Richard L. Schieffelin adjoining each other on the river, and to the Weyman place. The house occupied by the Waldos and located between 90th and 91st Streets was known as "Oak Villa" and was built as a country-seat by Judge Brockholst Livingston. In a letter addressed to his wife in 1806, from Geneva, N. Y., while "on circuit" he mentions the residence by name and adds he missed "the thousand attractions of Bloomingdale." The name he bestowed upon it was appropriate for even now several large oaks are to be seen on its site within the boundaries of Riverside Park. Mrs. Horace Waldo bought the place in 1837, and she in turn sold it to William H. Paine, he who introduced Italian opera to New York in 1850. Cyrus Clark acquired the mansion in 1866. Judge Livingston was the son of William Livingston, Governor of New Jersey, and grandson of Philip Livingston, second Lord of the Manor in Columbia County. He was a Colonel in the Revolutionary Army, an incorporator in 1819 of the Bank for Savings, the first institution of its kind in the State, an officer of the "Old First" Presbyterian Church, a Judge of the Supreme Court, and finally a member of the Federal Supreme Bench.

In 1803, William Weyman and Jacob Coles Mott bid in, at sheriff's sale, the land on which they both built houses. Having divided the purchase, Mott built the residence near the river's bank which was subsequently

owned by Schieffelin, and in which at later dates General Daniel E. Sickles and William H. Howland lived. The Weyman house stood between 93d and 94th Streets. It was called "Mount Aubrey," because of a beautiful mound situated to the south of the residence, on which grew tall trees. Weyman came from England. The house burned down about 1877. Just beyond these houses, and separated from Striker's Bay by a rivulet running through a ravine and which divided the places, stood a large house with lofty columns, which was built and occupied by "that aristocrat of the period," Dr. Valentine Mott. He became *the* eminent surgeon of his day and earned from the renowned Sir Astley Cooper this eulogium: "He has performed more of the *great* operations than any man living, or that ever did live." His services were eagerly sought, and his name attached to any institution contributed in large measure to place its reputation on a high plane. His trip around the world, during which he was received with acclaim, was undertaken in 1837. On his return he published a volume of travels dealing largely with the progress of surgery in foreign parts. He bought eleven acres on the west side of the Road in 1833, lying between 93d and 96th Streets, which had belonged to Frederick de Peyster. He lived here for some three months during the summer, driving to his office daily. "The well-known gig of this world-renowned surgeon," writes a contemporary, "whose neat Quaker garb, highly polished white top-boots, and low-crowned, broad-brimmed, well-brushed beaver, were as familiar to all classes as the commonest necessity of daily life; for all, rich and poor, young and old, felt respect and love for Valentine Mott." He died in 1865. In 1868 the mansion, which stood in the way of the



NORTH RIVER.

RIVER SIDE PARK.

RIVER SIDE PARK.

Beekman.

(Claremont)

ELEVENTH AVE.

BOULEVARD

BLOOMINGDALE  
ASYLUM.  
(Columbia University)

TENTH AVE.

MORNINGSIDE  
AVE.

NINTH AVE.

MORNINGSIDE  
PARK.

MANHATTAN AVE.

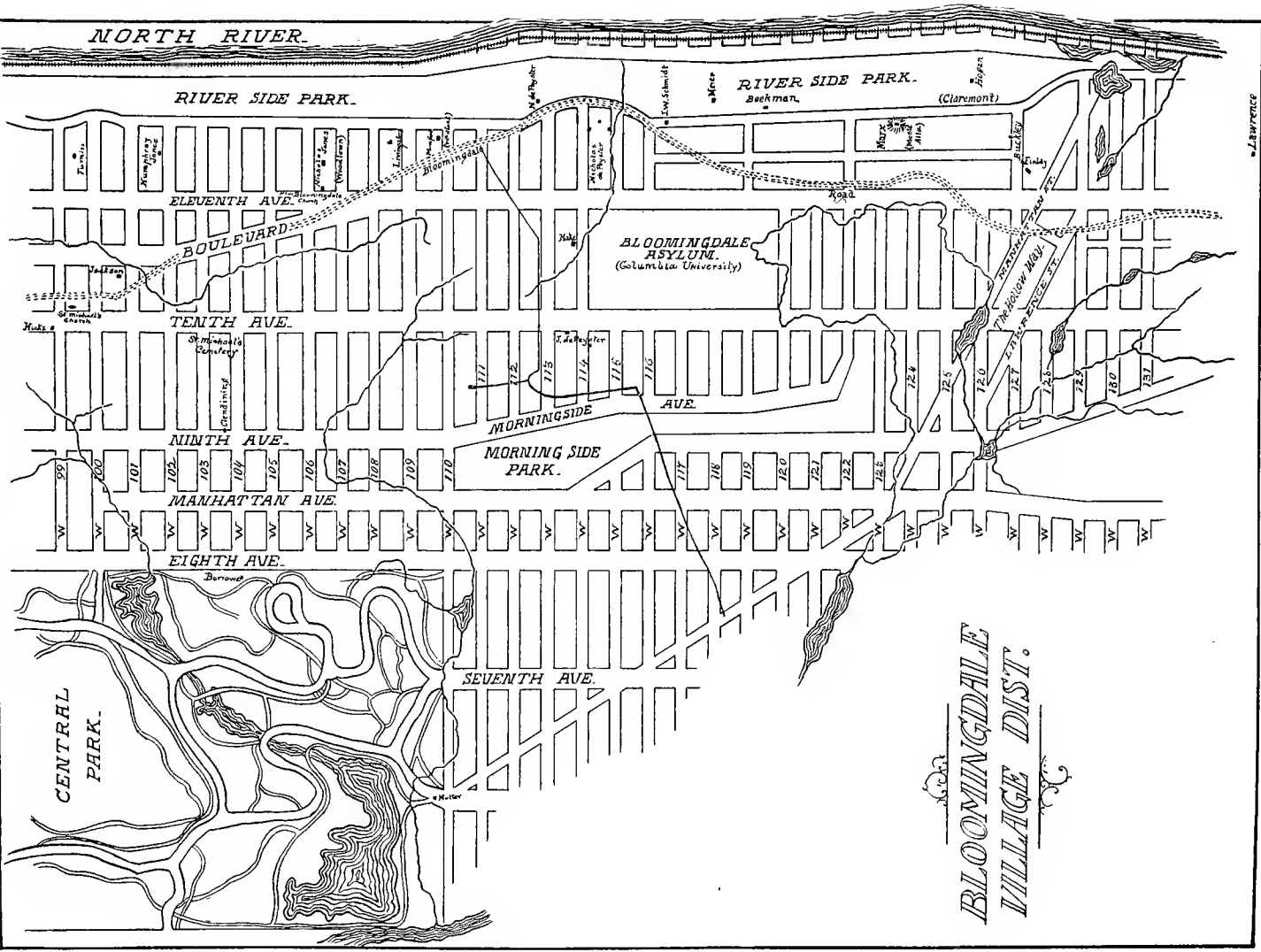
EIGHTH AVE.

SEVENTH AVE.

CENTRAL  
PARK.

BLOOMINGDALE  
VILLAGE DIST.

Lawrence





contemplated Boulevard, was removed to a site nearer the river, and in 1887 the Children's Fold of St. Michael's Parish occupied it.

Passing the Clarkson house for the nonce, we next come to the former residence of Dr. Abraham Valentine Williams, the resident Bloomingtondale physician and oracle of the neighborhood. He was at once a guide, philosopher, and friend to all who needed his assistance. Fully capable of administering spiritual as well as physical consolation, he even rendered legal assistance to his patients when necessary. A well-known lawyer, a former resident of the district, vouches for the latter fact from having had occasion to examine professionally a will drawn by him at the bedside of a dying patient, long after the Doctor had passed away beloved and respected by all. "It is but justice to add," he says, "that the document would, in legal parlance, hold water."

That portion of the territory yclept

#### **Bloomingtondale Village**

comprised a collection of some twenty houses or thereabouts along the Road at 100th Street. Among them were to be found the grocer, the shoemaker, the village smithy, and such other local occupations as the residents required at so great a distance from the city. As the built up portion thereof reached and absorbed the farms, the limits of Bloomingtondale gradually receded northward until the district surrounding Bloomingtondale village alone kept alive the name. Its application to Bloomingtondale Square bids fair to fix it to this locality in perpetuity. Here were located, also, a number of fine places. Contiguous to the Striker tract on the north was the property of Humphrey Jones, containing

## The New York of Yesterday

over 109 acres. The house stood between 101st and 102d Streets near the river. When he died, he left his realty and "The Homestead" in which he lived to his son and heir, Nicholas Jones, whose residence was just north of 106th Street, west of Eleventh Avenue. The entire property was sold by the sheriff in 1786 to John Jones for £2300. Twelve years later, 1798, Robert T. Kemble purchased it for \$25,000 and resided in the mansion for some years. He was obliged in 1811 to deed the premises to Charles Wilkes and Thomas Cooper, who, as trustees, were to pay his debts from the proceeds of its sale. These conveyed it and the "Mansion house" the same year to William Rogers for \$29,900, reserving therefrom the lane leading from the Bloomingdale Road which paralleled present 102d Street and lay just south of it. Rogers died in 1818, devising his property to his wife, Ann, and it was known for years as the "Ann Rogers House." She survived her husband fifteen years (1833) and left her real estate to her grandchildren, the issue of her only child, Sarah, who married William Heywood, one of whom, Ann M., was the wife of Francis B. Cutting. He and said Heywood, as executors, had the lands surveyed and mapped in 1834, and certain parts thereof were sold thereafter, the proceeds of which to November 1, 1835, amounted to over \$716,000. William P. Furniss acquired a plot along the southern boundary of the tract and thereon he constructed the mansion with Corinthian columns, surrounded by acacias, now standing on the block between 99th and 100th Streets, West End Avenue and Riverside Drive. One of its most characteristic features is an oval dining-room, covering most of the ground floor, which was in former years the scene of many banquets. At Furniss's death in 1871, the plot was devised to his

wife and six children, share and share alike, and the house with the land surrounding it still remains in the family. It is now occupied by a colony of artists. In 1842, Cutting and his wife, in a suit against the other heirs, prayed for consent to sell "several pieces or parcels of property of the said testatrix situated in different quarters and of no great value" yet remaining to the estate. Sale thereof was effected September 4, 1843, when Furniss bought additional property north of his holding.

The second and only other church in the Bloomingdale of old was formed in 1806 (incorporated 1807) at a meeting of families professing the Episcopal faith. At that time there was no church of that persuasion between "St. Mark's in the Bouwerie" and St. John's at Yonkers. The first edifice of St. Michael's was a comely neat structure of wood with a spire and belfry and stood on a plot equal to eight city lots, on the east side of the Road at 99th Street. The Rev. John Henry Hobart, afterwards Bishop of this diocese, was the first Rector, with Robert T. Kemble and William Rogers, wardens, and among the vestry such local names as Michael Hogan, Jacob Schieffelin, and Isaac Jones. The small churchyard was early filled, whereupon a piece of ground was set apart for interment purposes on 103d Street, between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, wherein the last authorized burial was made in 1854. As the congregation was assembling on Sunday morning, October 16, 1853, they were dismayed at seeing the building on fire, which with its contents was totally destroyed.

The next edifice was erected on lots immediately adjoining, situated at the corner of Amsterdam Avenue and 99th Street, and was consecrated on November

25, 1854, by Bishop Horatio Potter. Fifty feet front by seventy deep, and constructed of wood with a spire eighty feet in height, it held seventy-three pews which furnished about four hundred sittings. These pews were of the old-fashioned high straight-backed pattern, and some of them were curtained. The Rev. William Richmond was elected Rector in 1820 and filled the rectorship of St. James's, Hamilton Square, at the same time. He resided in a house belonging to the Clarkson family, which stood just north of the residence of Dr. Mott, across one of the many lanes that conducted from the highway to the retired country-seats along the river. Mr. Richmond was a prominent man in the Episcopal Church, and exercised a great deal of influence in the councils of the moderate low church branch. After his death, his widow originated, and by her indefatigable energy, raised sufficient funds to organize the House of Mercy, of which we have before spoken. There were very few merchants of the period who could not remember Mrs. Richmond's personal appeal for aid to the charity, the welfare of which she had so much at heart. On one occasion she visited Albany and remained there until by her unaided efforts she succeeded in obtaining a large appropriation for this object. Whatever of merit attaches to the founder of a beneficent charitable institution belongs to her.

The Rev. Thomas McClure Peters, D.D., the founder and mainstay of The Sheltering Arms, succeeded Mr. Richmond as Rector. There was, perhaps, no man in the State who carried so much persistent energy and earnest application into works of charity with so little ostentation as did Dr. Peters. The Sheltering Arms, the Mission to the Public Institutions of the city, and St. Barnabas's House in Mulberry Street, all are monu-

ments of his devotion to the cause in which he was enlisted. Not that others were not also entitled to credit for the success of all these charities, but that the labors of Dr. Peters were of such great advantage to them all, and his efforts in the promotion of their welfare so beneficial to their interests, that any notice of any one of them would be incomplete without mention of him who was at least one of its chief supporters.

Just above this church on the opposite side of the Road at 101st Street, stood until February, 1907, the large square white house built and formerly occupied by David S. Jackson, a leading man in the Twelfth Ward, which he represented several terms in the Common Council as Alderman or Assistant Alderman. His son and namesake occupied the position of Alderman later. This house subsequently became the residence of Dr. Peters and was appropriated to the use of The Sheltering Arms until the completion in 1870 of its extensive new plant at Manhattanville.

The fashionable French boarding-school for young ladies of the time was kept by Mme. Petit in a house belonging to the Clarkson estate near the reservoir. Many prominent New York ladies, such as Mrs. Benjamin Field, Mrs. Holly, the daughter of Alexander Hamilton, and Mrs. Richmond, received some part of their education there. The school was removed to Dr. Mott's residence at a later period.

Mrs. Trollope, in *Domestic Manners of the Americans* (1832), gives some particulars of "Woodlawn," a beautiful place at 105th Street, in this quotation:

The luxury of the New York Aristocracy is not confined to the city; hardly an acre of Manhattan Island but shows some pretty villa or stately mansion. The most chosen of them are on the North and East rivers, to whose margins

their lawns descend. Among them, perhaps the loveliest is one situated in the beautiful village of Bloomingdale; here, within the space of sixteen acres, almost every variety of garden scenery may be found. To describe all its diversity of hill and dale, of wood and lawn, of rock and river, would be in vain; nor can I convey an idea of it by comparison, for I never saw anything like it. How far the elegant hospitality which reigns there may influence my impressions, I know not; but, assuredly, no spot I have ever seen dwells more freshly in my memory, nor did I ever find myself in a circle more calculated to give delight in meeting and regret at parting, than that of Woodlawn.

The Beekman, Whitlock, and Finlay mansions, the first at 120th Street and the river, the second at 118th Street, were other old timers, as was the Buckley house, which stood under the shadow of Claremont Hill in the line of 127th Street, and just west of the Finlay residence. "Edge Hill," the Mali place, where lived the Belgian Consul, "Willow Bank," the seat of Caspar Meier, the residence of John W. Schmidt, the Prussian Consul, the "Abbey," a private place but later a tavern, were other noted homes in this section. As this work does not pretend to be a history of Bloomingdale, it is sufficient in this connection simply to refer to them.

In 1815, the Governors of the New York Hospital at Broadway and Duane Street determined to build a country annex for the insane, and such a branch was incorporated three years later. Their pecuniary means not enabling them to undertake the enterprise on a sufficient scale, application was made to the Legislature for aid, which was generously granted in 1816 with an annuity of \$10,000 until the year 1857. Three plots of land were purchased before the site finally selected was agreed upon, and on twenty-six acres bounded on





BLOOMINGDALE ASYLUM, 1821  
On the present grounds of Columbia University



the west by the Road, was laid on May 7, 1818, the corner-stone of the original building, which was constructed of reddish brown freestone, smoothly rubbed. This was completed in 1820 and, under the name of the Bloomingdale Asylum, was opened for patients the following year. Matthew Clarkson was the first President and Dr. John Neilson the local physician. The land is now occupied by Columbia University, the Asylum having been removed to White Plains.

On one of the plots bought by the Asylum, the Leake and Watts Orphan Home was established. Founded in 1831, the corner-stone was laid in 1838. The building, which still stands in the Cathedral grounds at 110th Street, was not completed till 1843. The Home has removed to Yonkers. The Mayor and Recorder of the city are trustees, *ex officio*, together with the Rector and Wardens of Trinity Church, the senior minister of the Collegiate Dutch Church (now Dr. Coe), and the minister of the First Presbyterian Church (now Dr. Harlan).

On Adrian Hooglandt's farm, a portion of which he sold in 1784 to Nicholas de Peyster, the latter placed his residence at 114th Street and the river. It having burned down in 1835, the premises were sold to Andrew Carrigan, President of the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank. There is no picture in existence of the de Peyster mansion; that constructed by Carrigan on the same site is still standing on Riverside Drive. Another portion of his property de Peyster sold, in 1796-8, to George Pollock, a merchant at 91 Water Street. He and Catharine Yates were married at Trinity Church in 1787. The complete identity of the child whose tomb, "erected to the memory of an amiable child," stands in Riverside Park is established by the recent

discovery of this entry in the records of that church: "Mr. George Pollock's son St. Clair bap<sup>d</sup> Nov. 11, 1792, by the Rev. Benjamin Moore. Sponsors: Mr. Richard Yates, Mrs. Adolph Yates and Mr. Dyckman." This monument has been the subject of unceasing comment since the construction of General Grant's mausoleum near by drew the national attention to the spot. The land, on which was a house, was transferred in 1803 to John B. Provoost, late Recorder of the city, who in turn conveyed it to Joseph Alston the same year. He was the husband of Theodosia, the only and beautiful daughter of Aaron Burr, whose tragic fate at sea is well remembered. From Alston the property passed in 1806 to John M. Pintard, subject to a purchase money mortgage, and on sale under foreclosure was bid in by Michael Hogan for \$13,000. He was a wealthy and important citizen in his day, owned the entire parcel of land west of the Road from 121st to 127th Streets, and built the mansion known as "Claremont," which was so named after the royal residence at Surrey of Prince William, Duke of Clarence, afterwards King William IV., with whom he had served as a fellow-midshipman in the Royal Navy, and who visited him at his town house in Greenwich Street in 1782. At the time that Hogan was British Consul at Havana, the mansion was occupied by Lord Viscount Courtenay, afterwards Earl of Devon. He was greatly disturbed by the events preceding the war of 1812, but continued to reside there at least as late as February 6, 1814, on which date he stood sponsor at a baptism according to the records of St. Michael's Church. It is asserted that shortly thereafter he sailed for England. Joseph Bonaparte, ex-King of Spain and brother of Napoleon, resided there in 1815.



TREES AND STONE-WALL MARKING THE WEST SIDE OF OLD BLOOMINGDALE ROAD, 1906  
Looking southwest from Broadway at 124th Street. Grant's Tomb in distance



Hogan eventually deeded his property, for the benefit of creditors, to trustees, who in 1821 conveyed "Claremont" to Joel Post, who attended worship at the Bloomingdale Church. He died in 1835 and at the sale in partition the property was bid in by his sons, Alfred C. (M.D.) and Edward Post. This bluff was one of the sites suggested by Washington for the capital of the nation and, as is well known, it now forms a feature of the most beautiful river park in the world. The superb view from the knoll on which the mansion stands is surpassingly lovely. The line of territory along the majestic Hudson is destined to be yet more resplendent than at present. The grand pageants which have heretofore taken place in this neighborhood only foreshadow what is in store for this wonderful portion of our island. More than all, the locality is sacred ground, for here heroes and patriots have battled for their country's cause. Part of the field on which was fought the battle of Harlem Heights yet lies about as it looked at the time. In the view, the original bed of the Road dominates the foreground.

In concluding this sketch, let this sad valediction be pronounced. Old Bloomingdale has disappeared. Vanished are its homesteads and stately mansions. The Road itself, once the drive of fashion, is no more. Trucks and cars crowd the streets which cover its once rural windings and the comely wooded hills and green pastures are gone forever—save in the memory of those who have been spared to dream.

## II

### Bloomington Militant

As far back as 1613 numerous wars occurred between England and France, covering a century and a half and terminating in the Treaty of Paris, 1763. There can be no question but that Canada, the bone of contention on this continent, belonged to the French if prior occupancy gave right. They also claimed by prior discovery. England's claims were identical, but reached no farther north than 45° of north latitude. By the year above mentioned the French had extended their settlements from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the mouth of the Penobscot. These settlements were declared to be encroachments, and in this year one Captain Argall was sent from Virginia to dispossess them, which he accomplished in the ruthless manner of the times. This was the commencement of hostilities between the subjects of the two Crowns in any part of North America. No permanent settlements by Englishmen had been made there. What was called (I.) The English Revolution in favor of William III., Prince of Orange, broke out in 1688, and this directly affected the Province of New York, as did the following encounters. (II.) The War between England and France, 1689. France determined upon a policy of



invasion of both New York and New England, with the ultimate intention of acquiring such territory as she might capture. In January of this year Chevalier de Callières Bonnevüe, Governor of Montreal, conceived a project for the invasion and conquest of New York. He intended to make Albany his objective and with a force of two thousand men he proposed to take the route via the Richelieu River to Lake Champlain, thence by the "carrying place" to the Hudson, thence to Albany, then called Orange in honor of the Prince who ruled England. Albany had a population as large as Montreal. The Chevalier was convinced that he would have but little difficulty in obtaining possession of Albany. That city in his possession, he proposed to seize all the boats, barks, and canoes available and proceed down the river to attack the capital of the province. Success to him meant the governorship of New York. Although this plan was approved by the French King, and was put into execution, the expedition which Frontenac engineered proceeded no farther than Schenectady, which was burned and its inhabitants massacred on February 8-9, 1690. During these two years the unsuccessful (III.) Expedition against Canada took place. The minutes of the proceedings of the United Colonies show the quota of men raised in New York to have been 400, in Massachusetts 160, in Connecticut 135, Plymouth 60, and Maryland 100; in all 885. Francis Nicholson was Governor of New York. The volunteers in this county left the city on April 2, 1689, under Capt. Jacob Milborne. Those from Flatbush were commanded by Peter Stryker, Captain of Foot, commissioned for the expedition December 27th, and on December 16th Jacobus van der Spiegle became Ensign in Capt. Robert Walter's Company of N. Y. Militia.

The latter and Johannes Hardman and Johannes Provoost, Jr., went to the front in 1690. On March 4th, Johannes de Bruyn and said Provoost and Milborne were deputed to proceed to Albany to take command of all the forces raised in New York and adjacent counties, and to control the fort and affairs generally. (IV.) Queen Anne's War and the Second Expedition against Canada covered the years 1709 to 1711, during the administrations of Richard Ingoldesby, Lieutenant-Governor, and Robert Hunter, Governor. Nicholson was appointed commander-in-chief of all the forces raised by the provinces of New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Col. Peter Schuyler commanded all the Indians engaged in behalf of the colonists. Jacob de Kay, Lieutenant, and Johannes Hardenbrook, Lieutenant of the 4th Company of the militia regiment, appointed June 26, 1710, were Bloomingdale representatives, as was Gerrit Cosine. The troops of this expedition were disbanded in April, 1712.

Those who composed the first distinctive company of the Outward are recorded in vol. 1, page 582, of *Hastings's Reports*. This designation comprised both Bloomingdale and Harlem. The company was mustered into his Majesty George II.'s service in 1738, when George Clarke was Lieutenant-Governor of the province. As a matter of historical interest so much of the roll of this organization as fits the occasion is appended, modern spelling being substituted where obviously required:

*Capt.*, Gerard Stuyvesant

*Left.*, Jacobus Kip

*Ensign*, Philip Minthorne

*Sergeants*

John Horn

Marten van Evera

Derick Benson

William Waldron

# Bloomingdale Militant

31

## *Men*

Christian Hardman	Adolf Myer, Jun'r
William Low	John Myer, Jun'r
John Minthorne	Samuel Waldron, Jun'r
Frederick Webbers	John Waldron van Hogt
John Harsen	John Dyckman
Jacob Horn	Lawrence Low
Arnout Horn	Resolvert Waldron
John Kip	John van Oblines
Isaac de Lamontanye	Jacob Dyckman
David de Voor, Sen'r	Jacob Dyckman, Jun'r
David de Voor, Jun'r	John Nagel, Jun'r
Jonathan Hardman	Harman van de Water
John Bas, Sen'r	Adrian Hooglandt
John Bas, Jun'r	Edde van Evera
Abraham de Lamater	John Dyckman
Burger van Evera	Nicholas Dyckman
John Sprong	John Webbers
John de Voor	Jacob van Orden
John Waldron van Horn's Hoek	Isaac Webbers
Benjamin Waldron	Cornelius Webbers
John Waldron	John Hopper
Aaron Kortright	Andrew Hopper
John Benson	John Couwenhoven
Isaac Mier	Folkert Somerindick
John Sickels	Isaac de Lamater
Abraham Myer, Jun'r	John Mandeville
Aaron Myer	Yellis Mandeville
David de Voor	Cornelius Webbers
Peter Waldron	Cornelius Dyckman
Adolf Benson	

The company was composed of 86 men.

Other worthies living in the Outward who served in the militia this year were :

Corneles Cozeijn appears on the list of Capt. Joseph Robinson's company of foot, January 21, 1737-8.

Gert Harsen, Sergeant of Gerard Beekman's Co. Stanley Holmes, Cornelius Quackenbosh, Johan France Waldron, and William Hopper were members of Capt. Charles Laroexs's company.

Of Capt. Abraham Boelen's company, Henry Beekman was Second Lieutenant and William de Peyster, Ensign. Others who served therein were Cornelius van den Berg, Sampson Benson, John Couzyn, Harman Benson, Garret Cozyn, and Adriaen Hogeland.

Henry Benson was sergeant of Capt. Cornelius van Horne's company, of which these individuals were members, viz.: Samson Benson, Sam's son, Samson Benson, Thewe's son, Samuel Maghee, Alexander Maghee, Samuel Couwenhoven, Henry van de Water, Isaac Varian, and Richard Waldron.

In Capt. Henry Cuyler's company served Humphrey Jones and Richard Ray.

Isaac de Peyster was Lieutenant in foot company, commanded by Joseph Robinson. Others serving therein were Benjamin Quackenbos, Richard Hopper, John Oblines, Albertus van de Water, Hendrick van de Water, Adam van de Bergh, Cornelius Cozeijn, Isaac Bussing, Aaron Bussing, John van Orden, John Post, and John and Jacob Montagne.

1738.	Isaac de Peyster,	commissioned Captain,	Aug. 18.
	Henry Beekman,	" First Lieut.	" 19.
	Abel Hardenbrook	" " "	" 24.
	Philip Minthorne,	" Second Lieut.	" 28.
	William de Peyster,	" " "	" 31.
	Humphrey Jones,	" Ensign	Sept. 12.
	Robert Benson,	" "	" 15.
	John Barberie,	" }	" 16.
	John Benson,	" "	" 20.

(V.) The war of the "Austrian Succession," between the old enemies England and France, opened in 1744, and was concluded by the Peace of 1748. An expedition against Canada during the administration of George Clinton was undertaken. So far as we know only two bearing Bloomingdale names volunteered: John and Thomas Stillwell were mustered in Sept. 25, 1746.

(VI.) In the French and Indian War of 1754, during which the battle of Lake George was fought, Sept. 8, 1755, and in the expedition against Crown Point the following year, no local enlistments are found.

The roll of men in Capt. George Brewerton, Jr.'s company, taken April 26, 1759, contains these names and particulars:

Cornelius van de Water, enlisted March 18th, age 19, 5 feet 3½ inches tall, with a round face, brown hair, gray eyes, and light complexion; and

Volkert Somerindyck, enlisted March 26th, age 38, 5 feet 1¼ inches tall, long face, brown hair, gray eyes, and ruddy complexion.

May 10, 1762, John Dyckman, aged 38, of New York, enlisted for expedition against Canada in Capt. John Grant's company. Stature, 5 feet 11½ inches, blue eyes, brown hair, and fair complexion.

December 28, 1763, John Horn enlisted at New York for Captain Grant's company.

In these early days wars and rumors thereof did not much ruffle the serenity of village life. Bloomingdale's baptism of blood was now to be evolved.

### **The Revolution**

On the list of those who issued calls for the Provincial Congress appear these later Bloomingdale names:

John Broome, Robert Benson, John de Lancey, and William W. Ludlow. The Congress made three calls on the people of New York for assistance, the first in 1775, the second early in 1776, and the third during the summer of that year.

The militia of New York County in 1775 comprised a number of independent foot companies. These were amalgamated into regiments of volunteers, the first being commanded by Col. John Lasher. It was composed of the Grenadier Company, of which Lasher had been Captain, the Fusileers, the German Fusileers, the Union Company, the Sportsman Company, the Corsicans, the Bold Foresters, the Light Infantry, the Oswago Rangers, and a company of Rangers—ten companies in all—to which should be added two companies of artillery. Vol. ii., p. 143, of Hastings's *Reports* alters these names. Instead of the Union, Corsicans, and Bold Foresters are mentioned the Prussian Blues, Hearts Oak, and Light Horse. Each company appears to have been uniformed differently. Among the officers were the "most respectable" citizens, many being members of the "Sons of Liberty." The Fusileer Company was captained by Rudolphus Ritzema—he of the fine Dutch patronymic—of which Henry G. Livingston and James van Zant were Lieutenants. Its uniform was blue with red facings, topped with a bear-skin cap. On the latter and on the pouch were brass plates bearing the word "Fuzileers," and encircling the last, the motto: "*Salus populi suprema lex est.*" George Harsen of the Grenadiers and Oliver Mildeberger of the German Fusileers served as Lieutenants of Militia in 1775 and 1777, either in this or the Second Regiment. Harsen entered himself as willing to serve his country on January 31, 1776 (*Archives State N. Y. in Rev.*, p. 51), and was ap-

pointed Adjutant of Levies July 1, 1780. Garish (Garret?) Harsen wrote to his cousin, William Radcliff, at Rhyn Beck (Rhinebeck) on February 13, 1776, telling of the terror and confusion caused in the city by the coming of the British regulars.

Governor Tryon wrote the Earl of Dartmouth on February 8th, that one half the inhabitants had withdrawn their effects and that hundreds were without means to support their families. Many refugees sought temporary asylum in Bloomingdale and the country north. Capt.-Lieut. Henry Livingston of the Fusileers, who also entered himself for service in January, 1776, is the Judge who later lived in Bloomingdale, at which time he had discarded his Christian name and assumed the middle cognomen Brockholst.

The Second Regiment of the city, of which John Broome was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel November 3, 1775, sent three of its officers to offer its services as a regiment, provided it was taken into "constant pay" as Minute-men. They appeared before the Committee of Safety on March 19, 1776. The independent companies composing it were accepted for two months and were to consist of at least seven, each to contain eighty-six men, including sergeants, corporals, and drum and fife corps, besides a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel, a major, an adjutant, and a quartermaster. John Webbers and Garret Beekman, of Capt. Benjamin Egbert's company, served with the command on fatigue at the fortifications, commencing on the 17th of this month.

Colonel Lasher's regiment "founded a Breastwork around the Hospital" site at Duane Street, in April (the building itself being nearly destroyed by the fire of Feb. 28, 1775, while yet unfinished), composed of sod and dirt, ten feet thick and seven feet high, with a ditch

twelve feet wide and seven feet deep surrounding the whole, which would afford a safe retreat from musketry fire. It is stated that they gained great honor by erecting the circular battery nominated after them, and received the thanks of General Stirling "in a most public manner." This was the beginning of the institution, the country annex of which cut such a large figure in the Bloomingdale of the next century. In this month, also, a guard from this regiment relieved one of citizens which had been watching the colonial records, removed by order of the Provincial Congress (Feb. 11th) to the house of Alderman Nicholas Bayard of the Outward. Others who served in this troop were Garret Kip and Yellis Mandeville, Jr.

A renowned Bloomingdale personage was John Morin Scott, who resided in November, 1775, at the seat since known as "The Hermitage" and the "Temple of Health," which remained until a recent date in West 43d Street, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues. He was one of the earliest, most able, and most determined of "The Sons of Liberty." Born, 1730, in this city, he entered Yale, where he graduated, 1746. Having adopted the profession of law, he soon became a leading member of the provincial bar, where many of the ablest minds of America were then practising. An early opponent of the Government, he was a member of the Provincial Congress in 1775; on June 9, 1776, he was appointed Brigadier-General of Provincial troops, with whom he was engaged in the battle of Long Island. He left the service in March, 1777, to become Secretary of State of New York, and in 1782 and 1783 served in the Continental Congress. He died in this city, Sept. 14, 1784.

One of the scarcest articles for the equipment of the



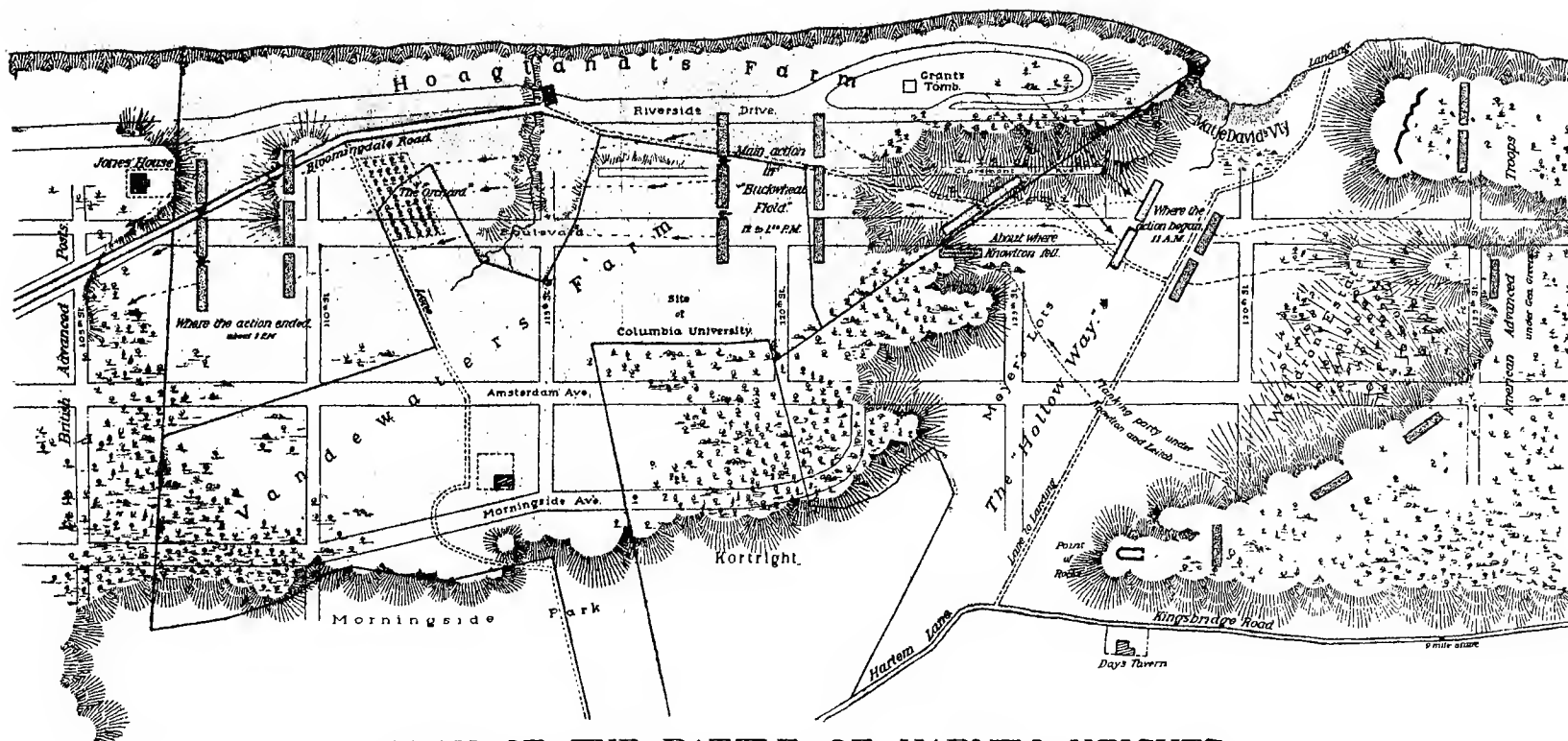
soldiery was lead. On June 8, 1776, Samuel Prince and two assistants took the window weights from the City Hall and the Exchange, and the following month began the taking of leads from the windows of private residences. Among those in Bloomingdale whose houses were thus despoiled were the families of Beekman, Clarkson, de Lancey, de Peyster, Harsen, Hopper, Jauncey, Jones, Kortright, Lawrence, Leake, Livingston, McEvers, and Quackenbos. The one hundred tons of lead secured in this manner from New York City proved invaluable. The fate of the American cause, says *N. Y. in the Revolution* (Supplement), printed by the State, might have been much more doubtful had it not been for this supply. From July to December about twenty tons had been delivered to the army. This lead was paid for by the State Treasurer at nine pence per pound, on the termination of hostilities.

The fleet under Sir William Howe arrived off Sandy Hook, June 29, 1776, and the troops were debarked July 2d and 3d. The advent of these forces foreshadowed the coming storm, and was the forerunner of the event of greatest renown in Bloomingdale history, viz.; the battle of Harlem Heights.

After the catastrophe on Long Island, August 28, 1776, and the affair at Kip's Bay, the Americans withdrew up the island, time for which retreat being gained, so it is claimed, through the instrumentality of Mary Lindley Murray (the wife of Robert Murray, the father of Lindley, the grammarian), who entertained General Howe and his officers at luncheon on Sept. 15, 1776, at her house, at present Park Avenue and 36th Street. During the two hours thus engaged, Putnam and his command, in their straggling and disorderly retreat along the Bloomingdale Road, had passed in safety to

within a mile of the Morris house where Washington's headquarters were maintained. When the British realized the fact that the patriots had joined the main army, they encamped that night along Apthorp Lane, Sir Henry Clinton taking possession of the mansion, and threw up fortifications just north of that lane, extending across the island from Hoorn's Hoek on the East River to Striker's Bay on the Hudson. Earl Cornwallis was in command of the Reserve, while different generals led the English, Scotch, and Hessians. The first line of works thrown up by the Americans was located about 147th Street, near the Kortright house, and the hill as far south as "The Hollow Way," the valley through which Manhattan Street now passes, was occupied by them. Generally these were the positions of the two forces on September 16th. On that morning, Col. Thomas Knowlton, who had seen service at Lexington, Bunker Hill, and Long Island, was directed by Washington to make a reconnoissance of the enemy's position. Moving southward with his Connecticut Rangers along the westerly side near the Hudson, they were screened from view by the woods covering Hooglandt's farm. It was not until they reached Nicholas Jones's farmhouse, about sunrise, that the British pickets, light infantrymen, were encountered. Evidently stationed on the Bloomingdale Road at about 104th Street, their regiments were encamped a short distance to the south. During the brisk skirmish which now took place, the woods along the dividing line between the Jones and Hooglandt farms echoed the sharp firing from both sides. The forces were so disproportioned as to numbers, and the object of the movement having been attained, Knowlton ordered a retreat which was effected without confusion or loss. He had

# H U D S O N R I V E R



## PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF HARLEM HEIGHTS.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1776

Reproduced from Prof. Johnston's "Battle of Harlem Heights" by permission of Columbia University Press.



ten, however, killed in action. They fell back along the line of the Road, closely pursued. The enemy halted at the elevation known as "Claremont," from which point they could catch glimpses of General Greene's troops on the opposite slopes. This was the third time within a month that the British had scattered or driven Washington's men with ease, and it only remained on this occasion for their bugler to sound the contemptuous notes of the hunting field, across the Hollow into the American lines. To quote one of the latter's officers: "The enemy appeared in open view and in the most insulting manner sounded their bugle horns as is usual after a Fox-chase; I never felt such a sensation before—it seemed to crown our disgrace."

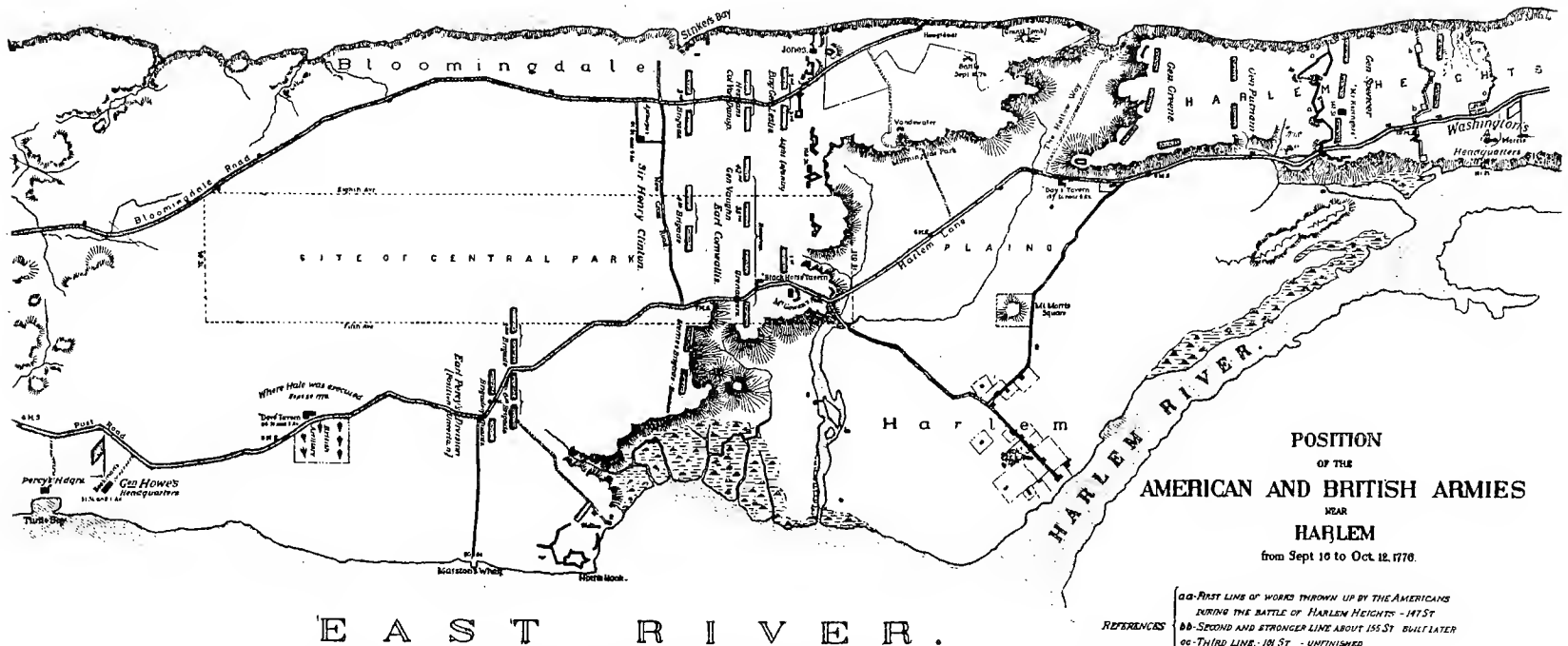
Washington had gone down to the advanced position held by these patriots and heard the firing. He was urged to reinforce the Rangers, but was not immediately persuaded of the advisability of forcing the fighting. Eventually he determined on a strategical plan, viz.: to make a feint in front of the hill and induce the enemy to advance into the Hollow, and second, should this prove effective, to send a strong detachment circuitously around their right flank to their rear and hem them in. This plan succeeded in so far that the enemy, seeing the advance on our part, promptly accepted battle, "ran down the hill and took possession of some fences and bushes," from which vantage a smart fire was begun, but at too great a distance to do much execution. The flanking party, composed of Knowlton's Rangers, now back at the lines, was reinforced with three companies of riflemen from the Third Virginia Regiment under Major Andrew Leitch of Stafford County, that colony. In some unlucky manner the attack was premature "as it was rather in flank than

in rear." Both the brave leaders fell in this engagement, Knowlton living but an hour. Leitch survived until October 2d, when he died at a little blacksmith's shop in the neighborhood of (now) 129th Street. Nothing daunted, the Rangers and Riflemen pressed on. The British who had been inveigled into the Hollow Way had in the meantime been put to flight by the use of artillery, and were pursued back towards their camp along the line of the Road to a buckwheat field on top of a high hill. Heretofore the manoeuvring had taken place largely on the Hooglandt farm; now the main action is transferred to Van de Water's Heights.

The general limits of this "hot contest" were the high ground extending from Columbia University around westwardly and northerly to Grant's Tomb and Claremont. The fighting grew into a pitched battle, lasting from noon until about two o'clock. Nearly 1800 men were engaged on our side, composed of commands representing New England, Maryland, and Virginia, with volunteers from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The enemy finally retreated, followed in close pursuit, and the day was won. The route crossed an orchard just north of 111th Street and terminated in the vicinity of Jones's house, where Knowlton first found them in the early morning. It was considered prudent to withdraw and late in the afternoon the troops returned to camp, rejoicing in a success they had not anticipated. It is estimated that about thirty men were killed, and not over a hundred wounded and missing. A total British loss of one hundred and seventy-one was reported. This action put new courage into the patriots and exerted a wide influence over subsequent events.

The above account of the battle of Harlem Heights

# H U D S O N R I V E R



POSITION  
OF THE  
AMERICAN AND BRITISH ARMIES  
NEAR  
HARLEM  
from Sept 16 to Oct. 12, 1776.

REFERENCES

- aa-First line of works thrown up by the Americans during the battle of Harlem Heights - 181 St
- bb-Second and stronger line about 155 St built later
- cc-Third line - 101 St - unfinished

Reproduced from Prof. Johnston's "Battle of Harlem Heights" by permission of Columbia University Press.



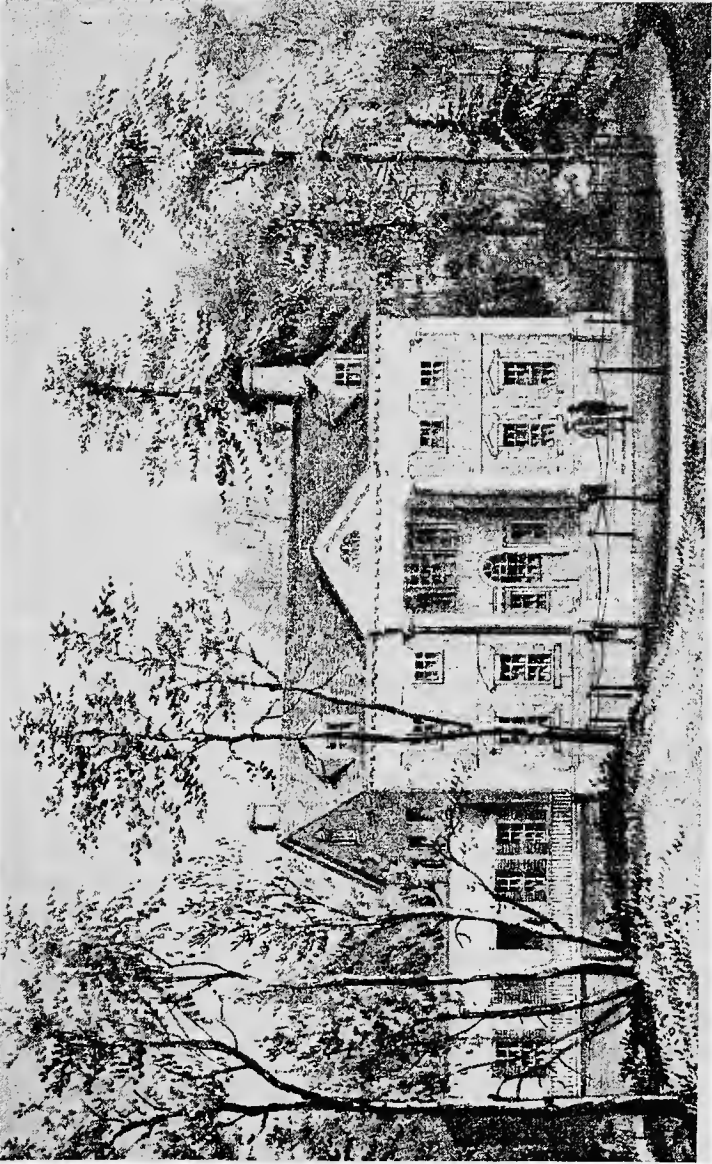


follows the narrative as related by Henry P. Johnston, Esq., who had access to documents which were inaccessible to other writers on the subject. One of Major Leitch's descendants has undertaken to criticise many of Professor Johnston's conclusions, and his strictures thereon are entertaining if of no other value. Washington fittingly referred to "the gallant and brave Colonel Knowlton, who would have been an honor to any country," and the same day (Sept. 17th) most heartily thanked "the troops commanded yesterday by Major Leitch." The commander-in-chief's method of showing his commendation of the performance of these two participants should be conclusive, and any family traditions current in Virginia cannot alter the facts of history. At one time it was thought that the contest was fought on Washington Heights, and accordingly the Sons of the Revolution erected a bronze tablet to Colonel Knowlton and Major Leitch, which was imbedded in the wall surrounding Trinity Cemetery at 153d Street and Amsterdam Avenue. The inscription thereon has been altered to fit the facts as hereinabove related.

And now as to some of the landmarks on the field of action, and first the Apthorp mansion. It was here that Washington waited until his little army of 3500 men, none of whom had had any breakfast or sleep, had passed in retreat from the oncoming enemy, following them to the Roger Morris house (Jumel mansion) at 162d Street, where he made his headquarters until after the battle. Standing between 91st and 92d Streets, just west of Columbus Avenue, as at present laid out, the house became the headquarters of Generals Howe, Clinton, Cornwallis, and Carlton, at successive stages of the British occupation. The land

on which it was built was a part of the original farm of Theunis Eydese van Huyse, who in his old age laid it out into eight lots of fifty-seven and one half acres each. Of these, the first five numbers were subsequently owned by Apthorp. When Howe took possession, it was whispered about that he was made welcome there, and when the war was over the lawyer was included in the list of persons suspected of being Tory sympathizers. Although indicted for treason, he was never tried for his alleged crime. Property which he owned in Massachusetts in connection with his brother was confiscated, but the New York realty was left untouched. His name is generally spelled incorrectly in local history. We have in possession a deed dated 1764, executed by him, in which he spelt the name, *Apthorp*, without the finale *e*, and we are assured by a number of his descendants that this is the proper orthography. Access to the mansion was gained via "The new Bloomingdale cross-road" or the "cross-road to Harlem," which left the Bloomingdale Road in the block between 93d and 94th Streets, and joined the old Post Road at a point near the line of 96th Street, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues within the present confines of Central Park. Colonel Smallwood's regiment of Marylanders were posted at this latter spot before the battle and on the arrival of Clinton's column from the south had retired to join the main army. Clinton did not follow the Post Road on through McGown's Pass, but turned into this cross-road and reached the Bloomingdale end just as Silliman's troops, abandoning the extremity of the island, had passed north. A few minutes earlier and the patriots would have been intercepted.

Van de Water Heights, mentioned in the records of the battle, and owned by Harman van de Water,



THE APTHORP MANSION, 1855

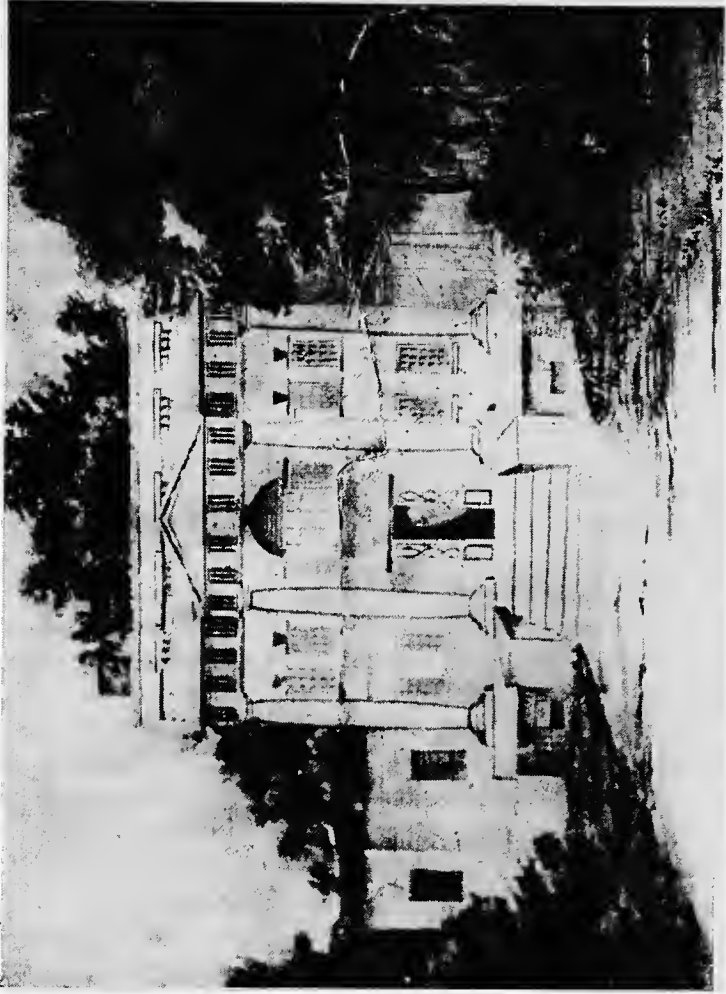


stretched between 106th and 124th Streets, and included a part of present Morningside Park. These Heights were a portion of the De Key tract, which was conveyed by the Mayor, etc., to Jacob de Key for £237, July 21, 1701, containing 235 A., 3 R., and 18 P. (*Vide Grants*, N. Y. City Comptroller's Office, vol. 11., 28), and were bounded south by the land of Theunis Eideyse van Huysse, and east by Harlem Commons. Van de Water and Adriaen Hooglandt purchased one half of the tract from de Key in 1738. The executors of Johannes Hooglandt, the father of Adriaen, viz., Benjamin and William Hooglandt, sold the deceased's lands to Nicholas de Peyster, Dec. 7, 1785, and Benjamin van de Water, who succeeded to the ownership of Harman's interest in the de Key tract, conveyed it to James W. de Peyster, together with other land on Harlem Lane (present St. Nicholas Avenue), Oct. 16, 1785. The Hooglandts of Bloomingdale Heights descend from Cornelis Dircksen Hooglandt, b. 1599, who was living at Breuckelin (Brooklyn) in 1638. His sons Johannes and Adriaen removed to New York, where the latter, a merchant, was murdered by his slave, Robin, in the negro outbreak of April, 1712. Johannes m. 1686, Anna Duyckinck, widow of Peter van de Water of Amsterdam; Peter being the grandfather, it is thought, of said Harman through his son Benjamin. The farm of these two families was surveyed in 1786 by Casimer T. Goerck.

The Kortright property adjoined on the east and lies partly in Central Park. Laurens C., second son of Cornelis Jansen Kortright, the pioneer, succeeded to the homestead on Harlem Lane (later the Valentine Nutter farm). His son Lawrence, who d. s. p. 1761, alienated his inheritance. It was his great-grand-

daughter, Elizabeth, who m., 1786, Hon. James Monroe, afterwards the President.

The house and property of Humphrey Jones, successively owned by the Jones, Kemble, and Rogers families, was a female academy just prior to its purchase by Frederick Weber. Francis B. Cutting and Nicholas C. Heyward, executors of Ann Rogers, widow, sold the estate at auction in 1835. Sixty-four lots thereof, numbered from 281-344 on a map of the estate, were bid in by him for \$27,520, and the conveyance, dated July 3d, to Frederick Weber, Gentleman, is of record in L. 339, p. 330. Included therein was the "Mansion House," and other buildings on land bounded northwesterly by the Hudson River, northeasterly by 102d Street, as laid out by the Commissioners of Streets and Roads, southeasterly by the Eleventh Avenue, as so laid out, and southwestly by 101st Street. Approach to the mansion was gained via Cherry Lane, which left the Bloomingdale Road near present 101st Street, and was a raised causeway supported by stone walls. Because of its peculiar construction it was a noted landmark, bordered along its length with trees which in season produced an abundant crop. About 1843 Weber rented the whole property, "some 65 lots," as recited in the recorded lease next below mentioned, to Killaen H. van Rensselaer, who opened the house as a driving resort under the name of the "Abbey Hotel." In September of that year van Rensselaer and his wife Matilda stood sponsors at the baptism of two of Weber's children who were christened at St. Michael's Church. On Nov. 1, 1845, said Weber executed a lease "of the property in the Twelfth Ward known as the Abbey Hotel now in the occupation" of said van Rensselaer at the yearly rental of \$900 (L. 469, 474), to



THE HOUSE OF HUMPHREY JONES, LATER "THE ABBEY,"





Abram W. Jackson for five years from December 1st. This lease, however, was mutually abrogated June 1, 1846 (L. 478, 576).

Mr. Weber moved into the mansion after the purchase with his English housekeeper, Mrs. Hayes, and a man servant who cared for the horses and drove him to the city and return. His marriage took place in 1838 to Caroline C. Fawsitt, a woman very much younger than himself, and here two of his children, Frederick and Matilda, were born. For a time the Webers continued to reside there, but when Edward Jones became lessee, he who afterwards kept Claremont, they removed to "the cottage" on the grounds, and here two other children were born. Jones is said to have been altogether too straight-laced a man for a successful boniface and was dispossessed. Captain Tilton, an officer on an Albany boat, succeeded. Afterwards Ling and Jewell, sporting men, were proprietors.

The Webers left "the cottage" when the children were very young, and removed to East Broadway near Henry and Scammel Streets, and in 1850 the father died aged about seventy-nine years. His remains were buried in Trinity Cemetery on February 3d of that year (St. Michael's Church Records), his wife, it is stated, having become the first lot holder there. The widow married Daniel Staniford in Rockport, Mass., about 1852.

The Abbey was a large stone edifice of stately appearance and contained thirty rooms. The view reproduced is from a picture taken from nature when the Webers resided there. It shows the rear on the Bloomington Road, but the river front was exactly like it in style. The water color, forwarded from California, through the courtesy of a daughter, is considerably damaged, but makes a more conclusive picture than a

pencilled sketch at our command by Charles W. Staniford, Chief Engineer of the Dock Department, a son of his mother's second union. It certainly presents an entirely different house from that made familiar by the illustration in Valentine's *Manual*. In 1847, the date mentioned thereon, Mr. Weber owned it and the surviving members of the family are satisfied that the place never looked like the representation in the *Manual*. That the mansion was Humphrey Jones's is evident from its identical location on old maps and the continuity of description in the conveyances. In that to Nicholas Jones it is denominated "the homestead." Under the name of the "mansion house" it was acquired from John Jones by William Rogers, and by this title it was conveyed to Weber. The house was struck by lightning and burned to the ground *circa* 1859, and on Tuesday, December 20th, of that year the executors sold the entire property as bought by the testator, at the Merchants' Exchange, through Franklin Bros., auctioneers.

Nicholas Jones's stone house was located on the west side of the Road at 106th Street, just about six blocks north of the residence of Humphrey Jones, his father. It stood near the edge of a wood and became the southerly boundary of the battle-field. Professor Johnston inserts this advertisement from *The Royal Gazette*, N. Y., October 28, 1780:

To be sold, a Farm at Bloomingdale, about 200 acres more or less, seven miles from the city; on said farm is a large strong stone built house, pleasantly situated near the North River; conditions for the sale will be made easy to a purchaser. For particulars apply to Nicholas Jones on the premises, by whom an indisputable title will be given.



HOUSE OF NICHOLAS JONES, 1856, LATER "WOODLAWN"



The present house of worship of the Church at Harsenville (The Bloomingtondale Reformed Church) is located on that part of the Jones farm, 17 acres, 3 roods, 9 perches (at the time of the battle owned by Nicholas Jones), which was conveyed by William Rogers and Ann, his wife, to her daughter Sarah, wife of William Heywood, Oct. 31, 1816, and here they lived in a house which stood on the block between 106th and 107th Streets, Eleventh Avenue (West End Avenue), and the river, and which was named "Woodlawn." William B. Moffat, he of pill notoriety, bought the property of said Sarah when she was a widow, April 10, 1847. Consideration, \$20,000 (L. 486, Conv. 424). He died in 1862 and the land, composing about two hundred lots, between 104th and 108th Streets, was appraised that year at \$42,900 by the executor's report. Prior to that time it was opened as a hotel under lease from Moffat by William L. Wiley, who retained the place for five years. The title of the establishment was "Woodlawn Hotel." That of "Strawberry Hill Hotel," by which Valentine dubs it, was never used, although it might easily arise as a local designation because the enormous quantities of wild berries along the river caused the locality to be known as Strawberry Hill, and as such it is called in some deeds of property thereabouts. After being vacant for some time Courtlandt P. Dixon purchased it for use as a country residence. It was the first home of the New York Infant Asylum. The church stands immediately east of the site of "Woodlawn." The house was there when Apthorp sold the property to Jones, Oct. 12, 1764 (L. 43, Conv. 413), and has become famous in war annals as that of Nicholas Jones.

Humphrey Jones's testimony as to the location of

the battle-field is given in a letter which the late Erastus C. Benedict, Esq., of New York City, formerly Chancellor of the Regents of the State University, cited in a paper he read in February, 1878, on the battle before the N. Y. Historical Society. Said Jones: "My father at one time lived at Manhattanville and he has shown me the battle-ground. It commenced on the hill near the [Bloomingdale] Asylum, and the Americans drove the British up the Road and down the hill often called by the name of Break Neck Hill," meaning the hill of that name near Claremont. Jones's father, Thomas, "the fighting Quaker of Lafayette's army," is quoted by Mrs. Lamb as saying "we drove the British up the road and down Break Neck Hill, which was the reason they called it Break Neck Hill."

At the termination of the Road as then opened, was Adriaen Hooglandt's house (115th Street and Riverside Drive). In 1784 the *New York Packet* advertised for sale this "noted farm" having on it "a valuable orchard of grafted fruit," the identical orchard of the battle. It is further mentioned in the conveyance of this property to Nicholas de Peyster the boundary of which is described as running from a certain point "to the orchard, thence southwesterly across the said orchard as by a petition [*sic*] fence, now divided to the southwest fence of the said orchard" (L. 41, Conv. 434).

As soon as the enemy was established in the possession of the island, Howe appointed Oliver de Lancey a Brigadier-General, with orders to raise five regiments to hold the territory acquired. The Second Regiment was composed principally of the independent companies heretofore mentioned. The Rangers, the German independent company, and ten others, representing

the six wards, were taken over under Col. George Brewerton. He had been an alderman of the city and had a part in the Provincial service. Though quite a young man, he commanded a Provincial regiment at the siege of Havana, and for his spirited conduct received the thanks of Lord Albemarle upon several occasions. William Waddell was Lieutenant-Colonel of this regiment, and John Watts, Jr., Major. The companies of the Outward were officered as follows (*N. Y. Gen. and Bio. Record*, vol. 11., 156):

Captain, Edward Hardenbrook	Captain, John Dikeman
1st Lt., John Fowler	1st Lt., _____
2d " John Hopper	2d " David Henry Mallor
Ensign, James Striker	Ensign, _____

The commissions were dated Oct. 23, 1776. We have followed the fortunes of but two of those here named. They had belonged to the city militia prior to the breaking out of hostilities, and continued in the King's service with their comrades. This was done generally. Many felt that it was the only way to preserve property rights and save their families from indignity. Hopper remained in this service but a few months, abandoning rank by leaving, and enlisted for three years on Jan. 1, 1777, in the 4th Company, 2d Regiment of the Line, under Washington. He is entered as having deserted December, 1779 (*Archives S. of N. Y.*, vol. 1, p. 219), but as Comptroller James A. Roberts states in the preface of *N. Y. in the Rev.*, second edition, p. 14, such a designation must not be taken too seriously. Hopper was doubtless absent at roll-call. At any rate he re-enlisted July 5, 1780, in the Lieutenant-Colonel's company, 4th Regiment. He took his discharge December 15th (*ibid.*), that he might be promoted Ensign of the 2d Regiment of Con-

tinental Troops (Jersey Line). A committee of Congress, says Stryker's *Officers and Men of N. J. in the Rev.*, was appointed during this summer to make the "arrangement" of the officers of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Regiments, which arrangement was confirmed by a joint meeting of the Legislature on Sept. 26, 1780. It was under this assignment that Hopper received his commission. It is family history that he rose to the rank of General. This cannot, however, be proved at this day, so many of the records of the service having been lost, but that he was called by that title is in evidence. He was in receipt of a pension in this State (*N. Y. in the Rev.*, p. 272). His father, John Hopper the Elder, died in 1779. One of the items in closing the estate was £482, received from the Barrack Master for trees cut down on the farm in 1780 "by authority of Government," and an additional amount for the sale of tops and branches. The sum of £813 11 0 was divided by the executors among the heirs on August 12th in the proportion bequeathed in the will. The author is in possession of the executors' statement and the heirs' receipts.

Striker was just of age when he was commissioned in 1776. He also joined the American army, going to New Jersey, as did his future father-in-law, where he became a member of the Light Horse Troop, 2d Battalion, of Somerset Militia, of which his relative in the same generation, John Stryker, was Captain. This troop formed a part of Washington's forces and was present at the battles of Trenton in December, 1776, Princeton in January, 1777, Germantown in October of that year, and Monmouth in June, 1778.

New York was called on to furnish four regiments for the Continental army and this was raised to five



upon the State's application. These composed "The Line" and were under Washington. There were also regiments of artillery and an organization of so-called "Green Mountain Boys," which served in the Line. "The Levies" were composed of drafts from different militia regiments, and from the people as well, and these could be called upon to serve outside the State during their entire term. The militia could only be called for outside service for three months at a time. Fifteen organizations of the Line were enlisted during the war. Altogether, New York furnished 51,972 men to the defence of the country (*N. Y. in the Rev.*, p. 15), taking her place immediately behind Massachusetts. It should be called to mind in this connection that fully one tenth of its population was locked up because of the possession by the enemy of the chief city during the entire war, thus preventing recruiting there. The colony was the battle-ground of the contest from the capture of Ticonderoga and Crown Point in May, 1775, to Carlton's raid on the upper Hudson in 1780. The surrender of Cornwallis in 1781 was the practical end of the conflict.

The names of Bloomingdale families here transcribed are from the rosters of the regiments of the Line:

First Regt.	<i>Capt.</i>	Richard Varick
	<i>Lieut.</i>	Gerard Beekman
	<i>Ensign.</i>	William W. de Peyster
	"	Gilbert R. Livingston
	"	John Waldron

*Men*

Joseph Dyckman.  
Isaac Lawrence  
Matthew Lawrence

Joseph Edes  
Jacob Lawrence  
John Varian

## The New York of Yesterday

### *Men (Continued)*

James Webbers

John Wells

Andrew Westerfield

Second Regt. *Major.* Nicholas Fish

### *Men.*

John Alport

Henry Arkenburgh

Thomas Benson

William Benson

Isaac Cargil

George S. Lawrence

Benjamin Lawrence

Jacob Lawrence

<sup>1</sup>Isaac Mott

Henry Post

Jacob Quackenbos

Jacobus Remsen

Moses Ritter

Third Regt. *Lieut.* Andrew Lawrence

### *Men*

John Beekman

Thomas Benson

Matthew Kip

Moses Kip

Silvester Kortright

Henry Mott

Jacob Mott

Joseph Mott

Samuel Mott

Thomas Mott

Cornelius Post

Richard Post

William Ray

Charles van Orden

John Wells

Peter Wells

Fourth Regt. *Colonel.* Henry B. Livingston*Lieut.* John Lawrence

" Abraham Riker

<sup>1</sup> Isaac Mott, the great-grandfather of the writer, b. May 6, 1743, became the husband of Anne Coles, heretofore mentioned, on Dec. 29, 1765. At the age of 23, he entered into business, and, although he was of Quaker ancestry, enlisted in the 2d Regiment of the Line for nine months on May 5, 1778. He was exchanged Jan. 22d, and discharged Feb. 15, 1779. It was during his absence that his wife aided the captives in the Sugar House. Reduced by exposure in service, he died at the early age of 37 (1780), while his widow survived, unmarried, until 1840.

*Men*

John Boggs	William Burnham
Henry Cortright	Nathan Holmes
John Lawrence	Uriah Lawrence
Richard Lawrence	Richard Livingston

Samuel Post

Fifth Regt.	<i>Lieut.</i>	Abraham Leggett
	"	Ebenezer Mott

*Men*

William Lawrence, Jr.	John Mott
Zebulon Post	Henry Remsen
Cornelius Vanderbarak	Augustine van de Water
Albert van Orden	Ichabod Webber
Robert Wells	Thomas Wells

In other portions of the Line served:

Theodorus Bailey as Adjutant, and George Harsen as Lieut. in the Levies.

Anthony Post as Capt. 4th Regt. of Cavalry, Light Dragoons.

Jeronimus Hooglandt as Capt., and John Stakes, Lieut. of Cavalry.

Aris Remsen and John Stakes, privates in Capt. Alexander Hamilton's Train of Provincial Artillery.

Richard Dyckman, Peter Kip, Oliver Lozier, and Benjamin Quackenbos, privates in Lieut.-Col. Ebenezer Steven's Regt. of Artillery.

Benjamin and Samson Benson served in the war. Those interested in this line of research are referred to *Archives of the State of N. Y.*, vol. 1, 1887; *N. Y. in the Rev.*, published by the State in 1898.

Among the pensioners noted in the U. S. Census of 1840 were:

Dennis Striker, aged 80. 15th Ward.  
 Seba Brinckerhoff " 82. " "  
 Abraham Leggett " 87. 17th "

Those mentioned on the N. Y. Pension Roll are:

Garret Oblenis, of N. Y. Co., private in Johnson's N. Y. Rangers. Pension commenced March 4, 1793; placed on Roll Feb. 2, 1798, under law of that date.

John Samler, of N. Y. Co., private 13th Regt. Inf., d. Oct.—1812. Heirs: John, George, Catharine, Andrew, Henry, and Maria Samler. Placed on Roll Sept. 23, 1819.

Richard Dyckman, private N. Y. Line, placed on Roll Sept. 29, 1818. Pension commenced April 2, 1818, d. May 23, 1818.  
 Abraham Leggett, Lieut. N. Y. Line, aged 67.

Some other Bloomingdale enlistments are:

Lawrence Kortright	Lawrence Kortright, Jr.
Isaac Leggett	<u>Jacob Leroy</u>
	Harman van de Water

the latter serving in the 2d Regiment of Dutchess County Militia.

One of the most exciting incidents of the war in this neighborhood happened in Bloomingdale Village. A party of "rebels," says the Tory account of the occurrence, landed on the shore during the night of Nov. 25, 1777, near by the de Lancey mansion, where they surprised and made prisoners of a guard at the landing.

After breaking into and plundering the house and insulting the family, they set it afire. The de Lanceys and their guests sought refuge at the Apthorp mansion, after spending the night in their night clothes in the woods and swamps, now a part of Central Park. The location of the de Lancey house is not known with exactitude. We are told that it was "about seven miles from the City Hall."

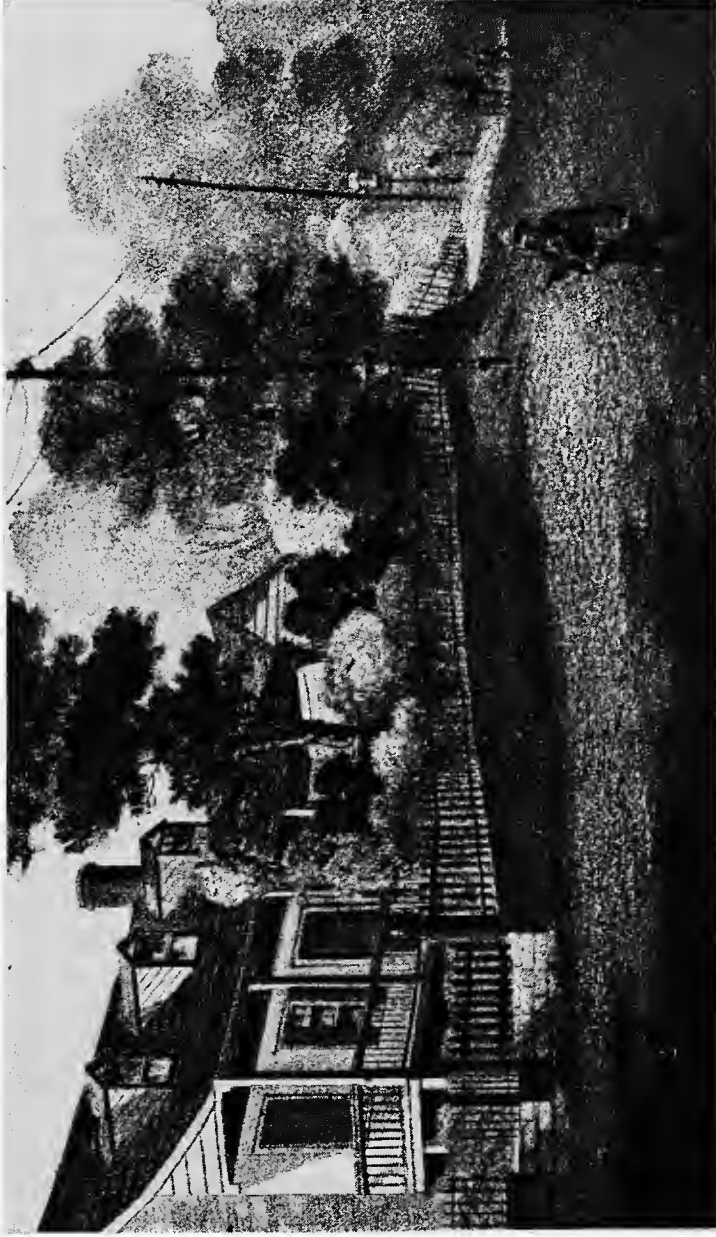
We have seen that the mansion at Striker's Bay was on the edge of the line of British defence. This locality was for long periods a hotbed of discord. For many years, the scattered residents of the district lived in daily fear and expectation of incursions and indignities. Mrs. Gerrit Striker, whose husband had lately died, opposed the enlistment of her son for these reasons, feeling with just cause that his assistance at this juncture would be needed. It is known that during the battle of Harlem Heights he used the family wagon to convey the wounded from the field, and that the house was turned into a temporary hospital. Many a soldier of either side was cared for here with the aid of his mother. Twice the house was pillaged and finally all the live stock was driven off, Mrs. Striker begging, without success, that one cow at least be left them. Several skirmishes between the picket lines occurred on the immediate premises, in one of which a patriot and two Tories were killed in the lane. These were buried near where they fell. Early in the struggle, some officers were quartered in the house, and at least one party of captives was billeted on the inmates, pending their removal to improvised prisons at the lower end of the island, James Striker, one of the organizers of the Church at Harsenville, being absent at the war. His wife was lately a bride, and at the age of twenty-one,

when the place was again invaded by the enemy in 1781. The slaves and servant men were driven off and the women compelled for days to cook and attend to the wants of their captors.

The only instance of British aggression in Harsenville that has come to our notice took place at the Somerindyke house, that one in which Louis Philippe lived at a later and happier date. On one occasion, it was occupied for a fortnight by Hessians, at which time the family—self-made prisoners—were shut off in the garret. On the departure of the military, the building was found in a disgraceful and mutilated state; filth was everywhere and almost every particle of wood had been chopped out and used to replenish the fires.

The power of the British forces having been broken by the defeat and capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown, negotiations were set on foot for bringing about a peace. After the delay of nearly two years, a definitive treaty was signed at Paris, by commissioners appointed for that purpose, and preparations were made for vacating the city, the last of the British strongholds within the original thirteen States. At the request of Sir Guy Carleton, the British commander-in-chief, three commissioners, viz., Egbert Benson, William S. Smith, and Daniel Parker, were appointed by Congress to superintend the embarkation from this port, that no negroes or other property of American inhabitants might be carried away.

The record of the enemy's occupation of the city is one continued season of looting and debauchery. The very first thing they did was to break into the City Hall and plunder it of the College library, its mathematical instruments, valuable pictures, and scientific apparatus, all of which had been removed thither from King's (now



THE TEUNIS SOMERINDYKE HOUSE, 1863  
Where Louis Philippe taught school





Columbia) College. The municipal government was overthrown, martial law prevailed, and the business of the city degenerated almost into the narrow operations of suttlng. Many of the residents left the city and their deserted houses were taken possession of by the officers of the army and the refugee loyalists. Five thousand American prisoners were confined in the jails, sugar houses, and dissenting churches, and for seven years the city remained a prey to the licentiousness of strong and idle detachments of a well-provided army. Small wonder that "the rebels," so hated and feared in '76, were welcomed in '83. On November 3d the Continental army was disbanded by order of Congress and on the 21st Washington arrived at Day's Tavern, 126th Street, 200 feet west of Eighth Avenue. It was not until the 25th that the British and their supporters took their leave. At 8 o'clock on the evening of that day, with General Knox at their head, the Continentals returned to take possession of the city. They marched from McGown's Pass (in present Central Park) down the old Post Road to its beginning at 23d Street, and continued on over "the Road to Bloomingdale" and through Bowery Lane. Thereafter Knox and a large concourse of citizens on horseback repaired to the site of the Bull's Head Tavern (where the old Bowery Theatre now stands) to receive the Commander-in-Chief and Governor Clinton. Accompanied by their suites and the Lieutenant-Governor and Senators, the officers of the army and the mounted citizens, eight abreast, and citizens on foot, four abreast, they entered the city, via the Bowery, Chatham and Pearl Streets to the Battery. Headquarters were taken up at Fraunces' Tavern, where at noon of December 4th, Washington bade farewell to his officers. (See James

Peters's *Evacuation Day, 1783*, at the New York Historical Society.)

During his residence here as President, his favorite drive was "The Fourteen Miles Around," which started at the Franklin House, northwest corner of Franklin Square and Cherry Street, proceeded up the Lane to the Post Road until it connected with Apthorp Lane, crossed that way to the Bloomingdale Road and south by that thoroughfare to the place of departure. In 1789, some of the rates for coach hire from the stand at the Coffee House, Coffee House Slip, opposite Wall Street, were: For Horn's Tour, 8s.; Apthorp's Tour, 16s.; Harlem, 1 day, 38s.;  $\frac{1}{2}$  day, 30s.; King's Bridge, 1 day, 40s. In 1794 to go around the tour by Horn's, cost 10s.; by Belleview, 16s.; to Oakley's Tavern or Somerindyck's, £1.4.; to Hardenbrook's, £1.4.; around Apthorp's Tour, £1.8.; to Harlem, 1 day, £1.12.;  $\frac{1}{2}$  day, £1.8.; to King's Bridge, £2.8. This was in pounds currency, worth just half as much as pounds sterling.

After the war, the militia companies were officered by the Council of Appointment, instituted by the State, the life of which began in 1784 and terminated 1821. Names and dates of appointment of Bloomingdale individuals follow:

- Oct. 4, 1786. Nicholas de Peyster, Paymaster 4th Regt.;  
1797. Capt.-Lieut. of Lieut. Col. Bauman's  
Regt. of Artillery; 1798, Senior Paymaster  
3d Regiment.
- May 11, 1789. Ensigns: Henry Post, Lemuel Wells, Jacob  
Harsen, and James Striker. Later appoint-  
ments of Elder Striker and Deacons Harsen  
and Post will be found in their biographies.
- Mar. 12, 1790. Lieut. Lemuel Wells, in Lieut. Col. James  
Alner's Regiment. He lived just north

of the Harsen tract. (*Vide* map, page 166). He descended from Samuel Wells of Wethersfield, Conn., who removed in 1639 to Milford, Conn. He owned at his death the Manor House of the Philipse family, which is at present the Yonkers City Hall. In the churchyard of St. John's at Yonkers, this memorial is found:

“Lemuel Wells, Esq.,  
born in the City of Hartford,  
d. Feb. 11, 1842,  
aged 82.”

- 1793.           Lieut. Jasper Hopper in 5th N. Y. Regt (Hughes's); 1795, promoted Captain; resigned 1802.
- 1797.           Ensign: John R. Cozine in 3d Regt., N. Y. Co.; promoted Lieut.; 1800, Capt.; 1804, resigned, having “moved away.”
- 1797.           Ensign: Oliver L. Cozine, in 1st Regt.; 1798, promoted Lieut.; 1800, “transferred.”
- 1798.           Ensign: Samuel A. Lawrence, in 2d Regt.; March 8, 1800, Lieut 13th Co. 6th Regt.; Feb. 16, 1802, Capt. 6th Regiment.

### The War of 1812

War's alarms once again sounded o'er the peaceful vales of Bloomingdale. The second war with England was very unpopular in this city. Many veterans of the previous war were living here whose opinions were divided. Others of the populace disapproved of it. Jacob Barker was probably the most influential man, in his way, at that time and although he did not acquire property in Bloomingdale until May, 1815, he cut such a figure in its history that his actions at this conjuncture;

are interesting. Then, and for several years prior thereto, he was the largest ship-owner in the United States with the exception of William Gray of Salem, Massachusetts, says Guernsey's *History of the War*. He was prominent in Tammany, and was exploited through the columns of the press, in which his eccentricities were paraded, being liberal in the printing and distribution of matter that advocated his political ideas. He opposed the renewal of the Charter of the U. S. Bank and did much to defeat that project in 1811. His political opponents, in their scramble for office and power, attempted to break down his influence, which was great, not only among the wealthy but with those in humble life. The Federalists and their newspapers denounced and misrepresented him in every way that would impair his power, politically and otherwise. This only spurred him on to activity, zeal, and perseverance.

When the question of the war was thought to be the immediate course of Congress, after the embargo law of April, 1812, Mr. Barker, looking to his own personal interest to choose between war and peace, and believing that the British Orders in Council would soon be rescinded and leave American ocean commerce free, drew a petition asking Congress to continue the embargo and defer a declaration of war for a short period. He obtained the signatures of the most influential men in the city, of both parties, to this petition, which was presented to the Senate by Senator Smith, the only Democratic Senator from New York, on June 15, 1812. On motion of Col. Taylor of South Carolina, it was ordered printed.

This did not stem the tide. When, however, Congress, on February 18, 1813, passed an act authorizing the borrowing of \$16,000,000, and in answer to advertised



Portrait and signature of the Hon. Thomas R. Mercein, Comptroller of the City of New York and Treasurer of the Committee of Defence. Reproduced from the portrait in possession of his great-grandson, Daniel Stanbury Mercein, Esq.



proposals only \$4,000,000 were offered, Barker and a few associate merchants opened a subscription which he led with \$100,000. Other Bloomingdale individuals whose names appeared on this list were:

Harman Hendricks	\$40,000
Gabriel Havens	10,000
Brockholst Livingston	20,000
John Howland	50,000
John S. Roulet	10,000
Gurdon S. Mumford	20,000
Ichabod Prall	10,000
John Clendening	20,000
Garrit Storm	10,000
Isaac Jones	4,000
Samuel Stilwell	10,000
Bradhurst & Field	
Wholesale Druggists	5,000
John Shute	10,000
Frederick de Peyster	25,000

The *National Advocate* of August 24, 1814, published an appeal issued by the Committee of Defence, asking for donations to supply the immediate wants of the thousands of volunteers who flocked into the city from the interior of the State and elsewhere to serve in the military. Hon. Thomas R. Mercein, who had been named by the Council of Appointment, 1807, to organize a third regiment of artillery, became a Captain therein in 1810, Brigade Major 1813, 11th Regiment of Artillery, was serving at this time as 1st Major of the same regiment and in 1815 succeeded Colonel Harsen as Lieutenant-Colonel thereof. Comptroller of the city, he was also treasurer of the committee and into his hands came the funds which were subscribed as a result of this appeal. On August 29th, the committee

made a report to the Common Council which contained the statement that "the expenses of whatever additional defences may be necessary for the city, both as to the erection of the works and the paying, provisioning, and accommodating men for our defence, must be derived from our resources or not obtained at all. If this city is to be defended from hostile attacks, the Corporation must provide the funds in the first place and look to the General Government for an indemnification." A loan was thereupon authorized and subscription lists opened at all the banks, under the direction of the Finance Committee, of which Augustine H. Lawrence was chairman. In this way \$1,000,000 was obtained and put in charge of Mr. Mercein, the treasurer. Four hundred thousand dollars thereof was loaned to the United States on Treasury notes, personally guaranteed by Governor Tompkins.

Fractional currency became so scarce because of the suspension of specie payments that on September 2, 1814, the Common Council passed an ordinance authorizing its Finance Committee to issue small notes not to exceed twelve and a half cents each to the amount of five thousand dollars. On September 12th, twenty-five and fifty-cent bills, not to exceed twenty thousand dollars more, and on November 21st, fifty thousand dollars additional, were authorized. They were printed by F. & W. Mercein, 93 Gold Street. The proposition of the Comptroller on December 26, 1814, that a fund be created looking to their redemption was adopted.

This extract from the minutes of the Committee of Defence has not been heretofore published.

COMMITTEE OF DEFENCE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Extract from Minutes, March 4, 1815.

Resolved unanimously that the thanks of this Committee



be presented to Thomas R. Mercein, Esq., for his assiduity and faithful discharge of the important duties of Treasurer of this Committee, for the regularity of his accounts and vouchers, for encountering the fatigue and expense of going to Washington at an inclement season, and particularly for his correct, prompt, and satisfactory settlement of accounts with the

General Government.

Resolved that Five hundred dollars be appropriated to the purchase of Plate which he be requested to accept for his services above expressed.

[Signed] NICH<sup>S</sup> FISH,

*Chairman of Committee.*

An engrossed copy of the above tribute and the service of plate, inscribed, "Presented to Col. Thomas R. Mercein by the Committee of Defence of the City of New York, 4th March, 1815," are in possession of the Comptroller's grandchildren, the Heiser family, themselves later residents of Bloomingdale.

The news of the declaration of war was received by mail from Washington at about 9 o'clock on the morning of June 20th, and was proclaimed to the troops by Gen. Joseph Bloomfield from his headquarters in the Fort (former Castle Garden). He was a Revolutionary officer and by commission, dated March 27, 1812, became Brigadier-General in command of all the fortifications in New York City and harbor. Announcement of hostilities aroused the officers of the militia and volunteers from tranquillity. On the 24th, ninety pieces of field artillery, some of brass, others of iron, had arrived from Washington, which were distributed among some of the infantry regiments drilled as artillery. The uniformed corps of militia in April were composed, in all, of 3000 men. The first body of citizens to volunteer

labor and contribute services towards defence was Capt. Andrew Bremner's company of artillery, of Col. Cornelius Harsen's 11th Regiment, which work was done at Fort Greene in Brooklyn. On Sept. 12th, the officers of this command met and resolved to appropriate a portion of their pay to the support of the families of privates in the regiment; and donations were asked from other persons for the same purpose, the pay of a private in the volunteers being only \$6.66 a month. This regiment was a new one, being almost entirely recruited within the three months previous, and was composed of a battalion of artillery and one of infantry, having some 300 men. Harsen received his commission as Lieutenant-Colonel May 26, 1812. On July 29th, it paraded for drill, when he proposed in an eloquent and patriotic speech that it volunteer its services. The suggestion was received with enthusiasm, and on Aug. 1st the Colonel officially tendered the regiment to Governor Tompkins, who accepted by letter dated Aug. 8th addressed to Colonel Harsen. In September it was detailed to Bedloe's and Ellis's Islands, whither it was conveyed in schooners on the 12th, which position it held with distinction. In all that concerned the defence of New York during the war, says Col. Emmons Clark, in the *History of the Seventh Regiment*, Colonel Harsen was an active and popular leader and the proud position occupied by his regiment was due in no small degree to his energy, ability, and patriotism. At the close of the war (1815) he resigned his commission and continued a prominent and distinguished citizen of the city until his death, which occurred in 1838, three years after the decease of his honored father. The monotony of routine military life in New York in 1813 was relieved by the famous "Harsen-Gedney duel"—a duel which



*Cornelius Harsen*

Portrait of Col. Cornelius Harsen

From the collection of the late John Harsen Rhoades, Esq.





was much talked of but never fought. Colonel Clark relates the incident in these words:

Col. Harsen of the 11th Regiment of Artillery, had, for good and sufficient reasons, relieved certain members of the Corps from fines imposed by Capt. Gedney of the 1st Battery, acting as president of the regimental court-martial. Capt. Gedney was exceedingly offended at this action and at a meeting of the board of officers held in Feb., the irate Captain publicly used the most violent and insulting language towards Col. Harsen. At this period duelling was still a favorite method among military men of settling disputes and a hostile meeting of the belligerents was anticipated; but Col. Harsen having been brought before a magistrate and placed under bonds to keep the peace, and the officers of the regiment having interposed to prevent a collision, the affair was settled for the time by an apology from Capt. Gedney, who soon afterward retired from the regiment. In September, at a meeting of the board of officers, a letter from Capt. Gedney was handed to Col. Harsen which he publicly refused to receive and returned unopened. This letter was supposed to have been a formal challenge, for a few days afterwards the streets and public places were placarded with the following notice:

“TO THE PUBLIC.

“*Whereas*, Lieut. Col. Harsen of the 11th Regt. of Artillery has behaved in a very unbecoming manner and has refused to give that satisfaction which one gentleman has a right to expect from another, I hereby publish him to the world as an unprincipled coward and poltroon.”

Immediately upon the appearance of this placard, Col. Harsen was again arrested and held to bail to keep the peace. In a long card which was published in the daily newspapers, Col. Harsen stated the facts in the case and

proved that Gedney had instigated his repeated arrests for the purpose of protecting himself from deserved chastisement; too clearly did Col. Harsen vindicate himself, and in so ridiculous a position was his assailant placed, that the quarrel, which had been so long a subject of public gossip, degenerated into a farce. The officers of the 11th Regiment also published a card confirming Col. Harsen's statement of the facts and testifying to his brave and honorable conduct on all occasions. The *finale* of the affair was a suit by Col. Harsen against Gedney for libel, which resulted in a compromise by which Gedney apologized and consented to a verdict of one thousand dollars damages.

The *Evening Post* of Dec. 10, 1814, states that:

On Saturday last the 11th Regiment under command of Lieut. Col. Harsen paraded for muster and inspection preparatory to a discharge from further duty in the service of the United States. Previous to the regiment being dismissed, Lieut. Col. Harsen delivered an address appropriate to the occasion. Subsequent to the parade, the officers assembled at the quarters of the North Battery, when a committee was appointed to wait upon Lieut. Col. Harsen to request a copy of the address for publication, which, with diffidence, was granted.

The address thereupon follows *in extenso*.

For two years it was thought the enemy would attack by water; consequently land fortifications were neglected. Induced thereto by the bombardment of Stonington, Conn., Aug. 10, 1814, earnest preparations were undertaken to defend the northern approaches to the city. Following the suggestion of Gen. Joseph G. Swift, Chief of Engineers and Superintendent of Land Fortifications, who had made an examination of the topography with Gov. Daniel D.



Tompkins, Commander of the Third U. S. Military District, and Mayor De Witt Clinton, the Committee of Defence, on which body served Alderman Nicholas Fish, Chairman, and Peter Hawes, met at the City Hall and called for volunteers. So great was the answer that by the 13th, 3000 men had been entered on the list. The Common Council thereupon authorized the construction of a fort at McGown's Pass and the work was started on the morning of the 18th. This was named in honor of the Mayor. The *N. Y. Columbian* of that evening contained this announcement:

Harlaem Heights. This morning the new works (at the gap or pass at McGown's, on the old Kingsbridge Road) on Harlaem Heights were commenced by the regiment of Col. van Beuren's militia (comprising all the companies from Spring Street to Kingsbridge); and Capt. Messeroc attended with a piece of his flying artillery to fire a salute on the occasion.

On Friday, Aug. 19th, sixty men employed by Robert Macomb, Esq., in the construction of his mill-dam, turned out for work on the Heights. [N. B. This stone dam was finished and opened to the public Dec. 23.] On behalf of the Washington Benevolent Society, William A. Hardenbrook, Valentine Nutter, Jonathan Hardman, and Dirck Ten Brook were appointed to receive the signatures of volunteers in the Ninth Ward and at a meeting of the citizens thereof Gerard de Peyster, Jacobus Dyckman, Isaac Jones, Henry Post, and Joseph Mott, among others, were empowered to call on their fellow-citizens to aid by labor or subscriptions. They forwarded, as a result of their efforts, over seven hundred dollars to the Committee of Defence on

Aug. 22d. Jordan Mott was a member of a committee representing the importers of the lower city, appointed at a meeting held at Martin's Hotel on the same date to offer the services of such citizens as enrolled. Ichabod Prall and Henry Post were delegated on the 23d by Tammany to receive contributions in the Ninth Ward. The inhabitants of the ward worked for the first time at Harlem on Monday the 22d, and 450 more assembled at the works on the 25th. On the following day an acknowledgment of the brigade of militia, dated at the "Cantonment at Harlaem Heights," of a donation of 350 bushels of potatoes from Messrs. Bradhurst & Field was published. It is noted that Anthony Post subscribed five dollars to the fund on the 27th, and on the 31st the *Columbian* prints:

We passed through the camp on Harlaem Commons. The soldiers paraded and were a body of sturdy yeomanry and will receive their arms to-day.

The journals of Sept. 2d tell of the mustering in of the militia the previous day "under the military law of the United States." The artillery, horse, and foot (including the Governor's Guards and some new corps raising), amounting to about 1200 men, with 14 pieces of ordnance and equipage complete, and the small arms in perfect order, paraded on the Battery. The articles of war were read to them in detachments and received with cheers of approbation, when the line was taken up and the whole proceeded to join the brigade of infantry in Broadway, which formed a solid column extending from the Park (City Hall) to the Battery.

On this Friday (Sept. 2d) Lemuel Wells appeared at



*Peter Hawes*

Portrait and signature of Peter Hawes, Esq., of the Committee of  
Defence, from the oil painting in possession of his grandson,  
Gilbert Ray Hawes, Esq.



Harlem with twenty men and five yoke of oxen for work on the fortifications. The *Evening Post* printed this advertisement on the previous day:

CAMP AT HARLAEM HEIGHTS, Aug. 27, 1814.

The Brigade under the command of Brig. Gen. Hermance expresses its acknowledgment to Messrs. Valentine Nutter, James Beekman, Abraham Brazier, Henry Post, Mr. McGown, and the inhabitants of Harlaem for their friendly attentions to the officers and men by franking the use of their dwellings and barns during the unsettled state of the camp.

David Wagstaff was thanked for the reception of the sick and for 10 bushels of potatoes and 10 of corn; Mr. Bogart for a quantity of carrots and cabbages and a gentleman of the Ninth Ward at Bloomingdale [James Striker] for 62 cabbages. Bradhurst & Field have contributed 130 additional bushels of potatoes.

*Signed, WILLIAM MACOMB,  
Brigade Quartermaster.*

The inability of obtaining meals caused Cato Alexander to announce in the *Mercantile Advertiser* on the 3d the opening of a branch establishment in this wise:

HARLAEM HEIGHTS.

Gentlemen who may be engaged to work on Harlaem Heights will please to take notice that on and after Monday next 5th of Sept., an ordinary will be opened and dinner on the table every day from half past 12 o'clock till 2 P.M.

Cato was a colored man who kept a famous place on a lane known as Cato's Road, which began on the east side of Third Avenue not far from 42d Street and

again reached that avenue just below Jones's Wood. It was located between 53d and 54th Streets at present Second Avenue, and was the terminus of the Drive from town. Here the horsemen of the day convened. He catered to an element contact with which, to quote another,

had imparted to his gentle, modest nature an unpretending dignity of manner, which won the esteem of all who approached him and secured for his humble house of entertainment such a wide-spread reputation, that for years it was one of the prominent resorts of our citizens and attracted many of the prominent sightseers who made pilgrimages to the Island of Manhattan.

On the 8th, the first delegation of Columbia students, 100 in number, lent assistance, their slogan being the paraphrase from Horace:

Let those dig now who never dug before  
And those who often dig, now dig the more!

Subscription lists had been opened by the Committee of Defence to pay for 500 days' work, and on the 10th the results were published. For the Third Ward these individuals subscribed:

J. C. van den Heuvel	\$5.00	Stephen Jumel	\$25.00
Alexander Hosack	2.00	Jotham Post, Jr.	10.00
Jacob Schieffelin	10.00	John W. Weyman	10.00

In the Fourth Ward:

Daniel Gassner	\$5.00	Christopher Milde- berger	\$10.00
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The Bloomingdale Ward (the Ninth) made a brave showing. Some of the contributors were:

Frederick de Peyster	\$30.00	J. C. van den Heuvel	\$20.00
John Beekman	10.00	Nicholas de Peyster	20.00
Samson Benson	20.00	Benjamin D. Benson	10.00
Andrew McGown	10.00	John Hopper	10.00
David M. Clarkson	10.00	James Beekman	10.00
Valentine Nutter	5.00	Samuel A. Lawrence	10.00
Caspar Meier	5.00	Abraham Dyckman	2.00
Widow Dyckman	2.50	William L. Rose	5.00
Peter Meyer	5.00	Jacobus Dyckman	10.00
William Holmes	2.50	Widow Cozine	1.00
Andrew Hopper	2.50	Philip Webbers	1.00
Abraham K. Beekman	5.00	<u>Jacob Le Roy</u>	<u>5.00</u>
Widow Hardenbrook	2.00	Jacob Harsen	20.00
Wm. A. Hardenbrook	10.00	Henry Post	5.00
Effingham Schieffelin	5.00	Wm. Weyman	10.00
John Asten	10.00	Stephen N. Bayard	20.00

The inhabitants of this ward to the number of 200, with forty teams, turned out for work at the Heights on Wednesday the 21st, together with a detachment of 400 militia.

In the meantime the Brooklyn fortifications were progressing. On the 29th, 500 individuals belonging to the churches under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Drs. Kuypers and Milledoler and the Rev. Messrs. Burk, Mathews, and Rowan labored there, and on Oct. 4th the pupils of Mr. Bansel's school, forty-three in number, and on the 8th thirty of the Orphan Asylum boys also aided. These two were later Bloomingdale institutions. John Randall, Jr., advertised on the 5th that he had withdrawn his map from the hands of the engraver, the impropriety of furnishing the enemy with such accurate information of the topography of the country having been suggested.

Much excitement was caused this month by the announcement that the enemy's fleet were in the

Sound and construction was renewed with unabated vigor. The Committee of Defence issued another call,

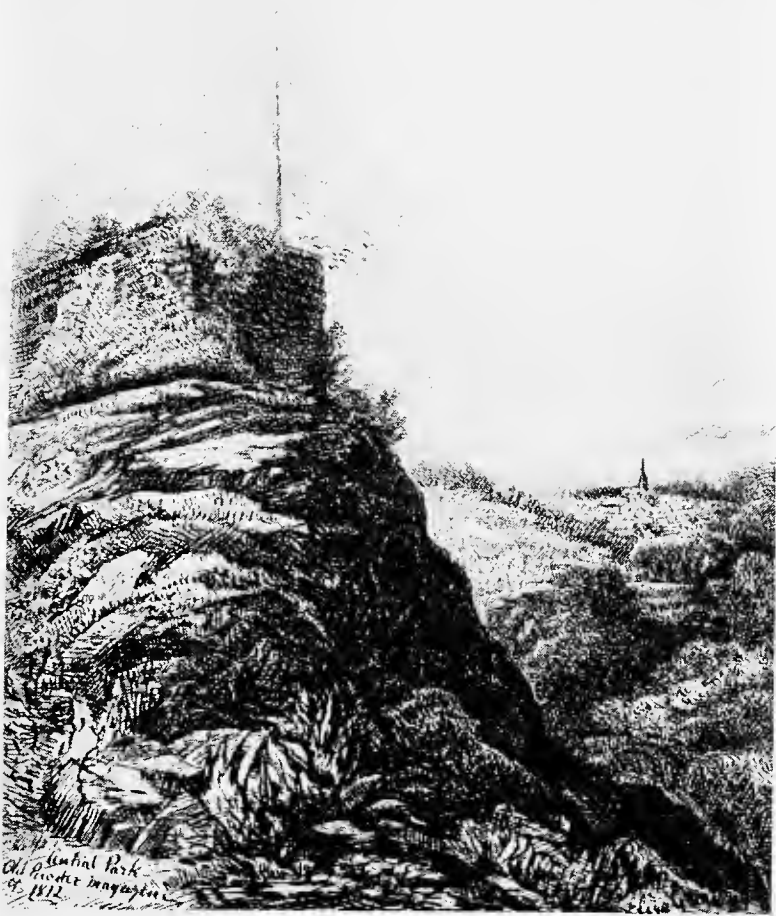
having reason to believe that the city is in great danger of an attack and that it may be reasonably expected to take place within a few weeks. They deem it proper thus publicly to make it known and to call on their fellow citizens for a renewal of their patriotic labours without delay for a completion of the defenses at Harlaem.

Six hundred men of Gen. Steddiford's Brigade (Col. Ward's regiment) worked at Harlem on the 13th, 14th, 17th, and 18th, and 500 under Col. Laight on the 15th. The *Columbian* of the 18th stated that

on Friday morning Oct. 14th, the Regiment of City Infantry commanded by Col. Edward W. Laight broke ground in the height above their encampment and in true military style, under a salute of small arms, named the post after their respected Colonel, "Fort Laight." Some officers in the meantime by strategem detained him in the encampment, unadvised of the compliment until completed. The Regiment was relieved on Saturday by a detachment of Col. Ward's Regiment.

This command labored on the 19th, 21st, and 22d. Sunday no delegation was appointed but on Monday the 24th Col. Dodge's regiment of Gen. Mapes's brigade, 750 men, took up the work and continued at it during the week ending the 29th. Work was stopped at Brooklyn on the 27th and all efforts were concentrated at Harlem. On Oct. 31st Col. Isaac A. van Hook's regiment of the same brigade began work, at first numbering 450 and finishing the week's labor with 650 men. This was the last regiment so employed. The chain of fortifications thus completed commenced with a redoubt at Benson's Point (Third





BLOCK TOWER, NO. 1, IN CENTRAL PARK, 1864



Avenue and 106th Street), ran west to the works at the Pass where there was a Barrier Gate, on to the Battery near the house of Valentine Nutter, and continued south and east by means of a breastwork to Fort Fish, named for the chairman of the Committee, which lay opposite Fort Clinton. Another defence in the chain was the Blockhouse (No. 1) now existing in Central Park just south of where 109th Street and Seventh Avenue would cross. Other distinctive works in Bloomingdale were the stone tower between 113th and 114th Streets, Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues, another on the south side of 121st Street about 110 yards east of the latter avenue, a similar tower on the south side of 123d Street about 54 yards east of said avenue, and Fort Laight about twenty yards north of 124th Street and 120 yards east of Eleventh Avenue. (*Vide Public Papers of Gov. Tompkins*, vol. i., 76-7; *McGown's Pass and Vicinity*, by Edward Hagaman Hall; Ulman's *Landmark History*.) The Committee of Defence acknowledged in the press Nov. 9, 1814, the donation of flagstaffs for the works at Harlem from William A. Hardenbrook, Esq., Assistant Alderman of the Ninth Ward, who had just been re-elected with Nicholas Fish as Alderman. Five hundred and seventy pieces of cannon and mortars were mounted for the defence of the city, a number of Columbiads of 50 pounds calibre at Fort Greene being among them. The "handsome and formidable park of field artillery and battalion guns" belonging to the brigades of militia are not included in this enumeration.

Gen. Swift's Report on Fortifications of December, 1814, is made a part of the final report of the Common Council. In describing the defences which covered

a portion of the site of the battle of Harlem Heights, it states:

At a battery marked on the plan [Fort Laight] commences a line of entrenchments with faces and flanks, crossing the Bloomingdale Road to a commanding height on Mark's [*sic*] grounds and running along its summit to the banks of the North River which falls abruptly and nearly perpendicularly to the water's edge.

This property was that of Asher Marx, who m. Mary, niece of Johannah Beekman, a benefactress of the Church at Harsenville. She resided with her husband, Abraham K. Beekman, at present 120th Street near the river, and Marx's house was situated between 123d and 124th Streets on the same bluff. It was known as "Monte Alta." "The works comprehended in the foregoing description," continues the Report,

have been chiefly constructed by the labour of the citizens of the city of New York, Long Island, and neighboring towns along the North River and in New Jersey. All classes volunteered, supplying daily working parties of from 500 to 1500. The fortifications are testimonials of patriotic zeal.

The works at McGown's Pass were erected under the immediate direction of Major Joseph Horn, a descendant of John Horn "of the Bloomingdale Road" as Riker's *History of Harlem* has it. James Horn of the same family served as Ensign in the 51st Regiment, 3d brigade of infantry, by appointment April 2, 1813. He was Lieutenant in Col. van Hook's regiment in 1815 and resigned June 21st of that year. James de Peyster was Ensign in the 3d Regiment, 1811, promoted to Lieutenant in 1812, and resigned the same

year to enlist in the U. S. Army. James F. de Peyster served as Ensign in the 97th Regiment, appointed thereto in 1813. Another well-known resident of Bloomingdale did his part in defence of his native city. The troops by orders dated Sept. 1st, were provisionally consolidated into two regiments. Garrit Hopper Striker served as Captain of the 4th Company, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel van Hook (*Vide Guernsey*, vol. 11., 557). His services will hereafter be mentioned. On Feb. 22, 1900, the United States Daughters of 1812 caused to be erected one of a series of bronze tablets intended to mark points which gained historic interest during that war. It had been decided to place it on Blockhouse No. 1, but owing to the isolated position of this tower and the likelihood of the memorial being hidden from view by foliage, the plan was changed. The Board of Trustees of Columbia University then sanctioned its being affixed to the wall of Fayerweather Hall, on Amsterdam Avenue facing 117th Street, which it now adorns.

To commemorate  
 NEW YORK CITY DEFENCES  
 during the War of 1812,  
 Barrier Gate, McGown's Pass,  
 Barrier Gate, Manhattanville,  
 Forts Clinton, Fish, and Haight,  
 and three stone towers.

Also in honor of  
 MAJ.-GEN. GARRIT HOPPER STRIKER,  
 (then captain).  
 5th Regiment, 2d Brigade.

Erected by U. S. D. 1812.

Empire State  
 Society.

February 22,  
 1900.

The tablet is incorrect in commemorating Fort Haight. It should be Laight. The ruins of the tower at 123d Street and Amsterdam Avenue (within Morningside Park) were marked by a memorial erected by the Women's Auxiliary to the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, on Saturday, June 4, 1904. These are the remnants of Fort Horn, named in honor of the Major who supervised the general construction of the defences. On Feb. 23, 1898, on the occasion of a flag-raising there, this name was used. It should be preserved. A bronze tablet on the site of Fort Clinton was put up by the children of the City History Club, Nov. 24, 1906. The works at Harlem Heights were pronounced by the press at the date of their construction as being "numerous, compact, and judiciously placed and form a romantic and picturesque view, as well as an impassable barrier to an enemy's march." They were never tested, the Treaty of Ghent being signed on Dec. 24, 1814. Intelligence thereof was received at 8 o'clock on the Saturday evening of Feb. 11th, by the British sloop-of-war *Favorite*, 42 days from Plymouth, and by 10 o'clock the city was voluntarily illuminated. As Edward Hagan Hall's monograph entitled, *McGown's Pass and Vicinity*, a learned historical review to which attention is called, states, "the first months of 1815 saw McGown's Pass deserted." Thus the second chapter in the military chronicles of Bloomingdale Heights is brought to a close.

The land on which "the Pass" was located was a part of twenty acres lying within the Harlem line which was purchased by George Dyckman of the Bloomingdale family in 1729. He had married, 1712, a daughter of Teunis Idese van Huyse, who, in dividing



HUDSON TOWER AND LORD COURTNEY'S, 1814

From a water color accompanying General Swift's Report

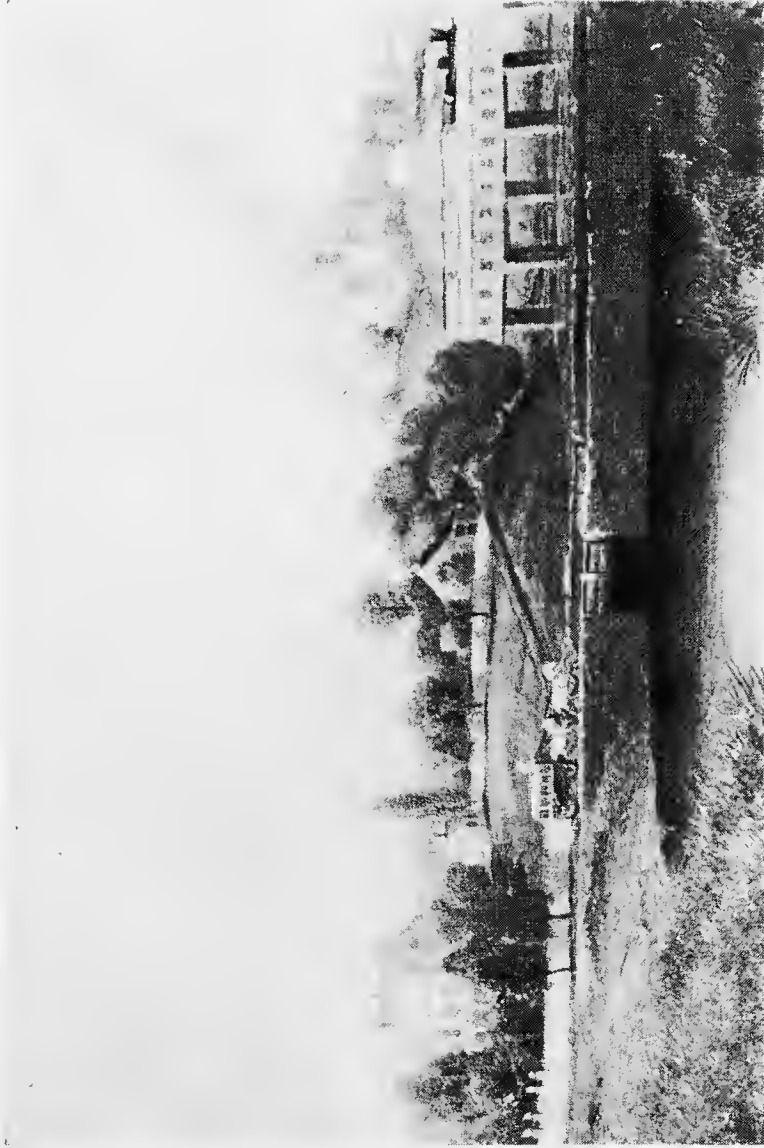
"Hudson Tower was commenced July 16, 1814, and was located at Monte Alta, on the river near 123d Street"  
GUERNSEY





his farm, gave (1720) one section thereof to Dyckman. From another son-in-law (Abram Montanye), Dyckman purchased an adjoining section at the same time that he acquired the land at the Pass. These twenty acres he sold with other lands in 1748 to Adolph Benson and Jacob Dyckman, Jr. The latter was of the Kingsbridge family, which, so far as can be ascertained, is not related to that of Bloomingdale. He had married *circa* 1742, Catalina, daughter of Samson Benson, the sister of said Adolph. On his ten acres he constructed a stone house on the hill on the east side of the Post Road, where he kept a tavern. The Colonial Assembly met there from October 24 to November 11, 1752, during which time Governor George Clinton and Council, while in attendance, stopped at the neighboring house of Benjamin Benson. After Captain Daniel McGown, a seafaring man of Scotch nativity, who had married Catharine Benson, was lost at sea, his widow bought the Dyckman property and, with the assistance of her son Andrew, continued the business. This pass in the Post Road thereupon took the name of the new proprietor, having theretofore been known in succession by the name of Dyckman and Benson, former owners. The son Andrew likewise connected himself with the Bensons by marrying Margaret Benson in 1784. The date of the painting is indefinite and shows the locality from an easterly point of view. Mount St. Vincent in Central Park, seen in the distance, occupied the site of the original Jacob Dyckman house and was built on its foundation. The viaduct, where the train is noticed, is present Fourth Avenue, and Third Avenue dominates the foreground. The smaller house with the gable end in sight is the McGown house. The first house on the

site was burned by the Indians and during the Revolution only the cellar walls were standing. It was later rebuilt of stone. It faced on 106th Street when that thoroughfare was laid out. The large stone house shown on Third Avenue was constructed by Samson Benson McGown, son of the Andrew above mentioned, born 1797, Assistant Alderman of the Twelfth Ward, 1852 and 1853. It was built prior to 1850 and this circumstance fixes, in a measure, the date of the picture. The culvert carries Third Avenue over Harlem Creek ("the Canal," in the local parlance of later Dutch residents), an estuary of the East River, the mouth of which lay between present 106th to 110th Streets and overflowed considerable territory generally lying between 105th and 108th Streets as far east as Fourth Avenue, where a swamp spread from 103d to 108th Streets. The source of the stream which ran through it was at 135th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, and another branch at 121st Street and Tenth Avenue. Harlem Mere in Central Park is the only present-day reminder of this creek. This waterway was known in early Dutch history as Montagne's Kill, after Dr. Johannes de la Montagne, the Huguenot pioneer settler of Harlem who arrived from Holland in 1636 and obtained a grant of 200 acres hereabouts, from Governor Kieft. To this plantation he gave the sentimental name of Vreden-dal—peace, or quiet dale—a retreat which did not prove entirely peaceful, as the red man lurked too near at hand. The Benson stone house stood until 1865 in 109th Street between Second and Third Avenues, and there Hannah, the daughter of John Horn and widow of Peter Benson, was joined in marriage in 1804 to the Rev. John Frelinghuysen Jackson, the minister of the church



THE MCGOWN FARM AND HOUSES  
From an oil painting in possession of Mrs. Henry P. McGown



at Harlem and later of that at Sleepy Hollow made memorable by Washington Irving.

This letter from a Bloomingdale boy should be added. The writer was the son of the Rev. George Strebeck, founder and first rector of St. Stephen's Church, and was at the date thereof seventeen years of age, having run away to seek glory on the sea, from his uncle Jordan Mott's residence, where he was stopping during his father's absence in the South seeking health. His mother had died two years previously.

ON BOARD THE UNITED STATES BRIG NIAGARA  
ON LAKE ERIE, NOV. 9, 1813.

DEAR UNCLE:—

After a variety of misfortunes you will at length find me on Lake Erie. The limits of this small sheet of paper and my time will not allow me to recount the various scenes I have gone through since last I saw you. Suffice it to say that three times I have been made prisoner, twice by the British; once carried to Jamaica (W. I.), once to Halifax; and once by the Algerians and carried to Tunis.

Both times that I was taken by the English I was regularly exchanged and sent once to Boston, from which place I wrote a letter to you but never received the scratch of a pen in answer, and once to New Orleans where I wrote another and being destitute of money and clothes was obliged to enter in the States' service on board the Brig Syren. I sailed from New Orleans to New York but was obliged by stress of weather to put into Boston when I was drafted to go on Lake Ontario and was ordered on board the General Pike. As soon as she was ready for sailing, I was again drafted for the upper Lake where I went on board the Lawrence, but was shortly transferred from her to the Niagara, on board of which vessel I was during the action the event of which decided the fate of Canada and in which action I was severely wounded in the head but

by good attendance have recovered. The account of the action no doubt you have seen in the papers and as I have not time, I will not describe it. It is uncertain whether we shall remain here this winter or not. If we do not, in all probability we shall come to New York when I shall have the satisfaction of seeing you and the rest of my friends. . . .

Your affectionate nephew,  
JORDAN MOTT STREBECK.

The *London Gazette* of Nov. 19, 1814, contained an account of the capture, after a chase of eleven hours, by H. M. S. *Medway*, Captain Brine, on July 12th, of the U. S. brig-of-war *Syren* of 16 guns and 137 men. It adds that during the chase, the prize threw overboard all her guns, boats, anchors, cables, and spars.



THE GREAT SOMERINDYKE FARM, 1862  
Looking north from Columbus Circle





### III

## Harsenville

The limits of this hamlet are no more definitely defined than those of other settlements in the Bloomingdale District. It was a local appellation and took its name from the Harsen family which came to live therein in 1763. For the purposes of this compilation its confines are limited to the Somerindyck and Dyckman farms and part of the de Lancey, afterwards the Apthorp, tract. The farm first mentioned stretched from 57th to 70th Streets, and from the Commons to the river. The southwest corner of Central Park absorbed a strip of it lying generally between 59th and 68th Street, as far east as Sixth Avenue. The entire territory to and beyond the Bloomingdale Church, the belfry of which is seen in the distance in the view reproduced, was included in this great farm. Prior to 1735, it was acquired by Etienne de Lancey, the Huguenot, who settled in New York in 1686, becoming one of his Majesty's Council. He devised it to his children, five sons and two daughters. The will of Stephen, one of the former, was proved in 1746, leaving his share to his brothers and sisters. Of the latter, Susannah had married Sir Peter Warren of British naval fame, then living in the city, and Anne, the Hon. John Watts, who also served as a member of the

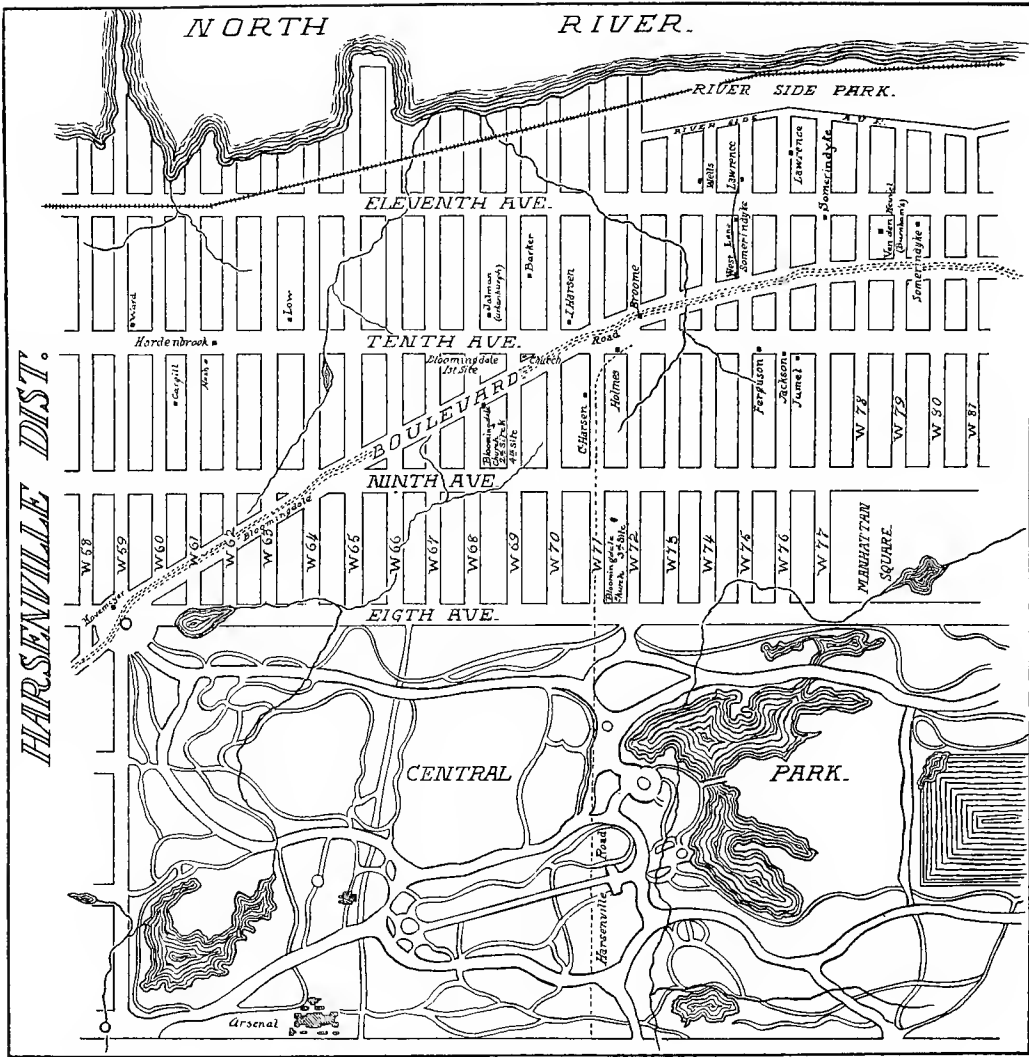
Council. Peter and Oliver, other sons, and these sisters executed a partition deed in 1747 to their elder brother James, who was Lieutenant-Governor of this province. He died in 1760, when his eldest son and namesake inherited the property by right of primogeniture. By act of the Legislature passed Oct. 22, 1779, he was attainted of treason, and these premises, containing 200 acres, were sold by the two Commissioners of Forfeiture and bought in by John Somerindyck, Oct. 19, 1784. When the new owner died six years later, he was survived by two sons and three daughters. The Ward, Cargill, Nash, and Low properties, already described, occupied the southerly part of the tract.

Sarah Somerindyck became the wife of John H. Talman, a vestryman of St. James's Church in Hamilton Square, heretofore mentioned. Their home lay between 67th and 69th Streets on the west side of Tenth Avenue. The house was frame, three stories high, and the extensive grounds sloped to the river. A handsome grove of oaks and chestnuts fronted the avenue, flanked by a fine elm at one end of the house and a large button-ball at the other. A fish pond, covering half an acre, whereon was a private ice-house, were features of the place. Water therefor was supplied by springs from a stream which started in a swamp at 75th Street and crossed the Bloomingdale Road under a culvert just north of 73d Street, and ran its course to the Hudson River between 68th and 69th Streets. In 1852 this property was rented by Robert H. Arkenburgh, the tobacco merchant, whose family lived there for seventeen years. Mrs. Talman died April 30, 1867, and the property was partitioned and sold the following April.

On a portion of the farm which fell to Abigail Somerindyck, the widow of Leonard Thorn, a triangle between 69th and 70th Streets west of Tenth Avenue, was located a one story and attic house with Dutch gables, flat and rambling in architecture with wings on either end. Piazzas surrounded it on three sides, and the main front faced the south. Its situation in a dense forest made it hardly visible from the Road, and the stream above mentioned, which crossed the grounds, lent a picturesque diversion. This plot was purchased in 1815 for \$3000, by Jacob Barker, the famous Quaker banker, broker, and speculator in general, whose eccentricities were the talk of the day. It was his custom to drive his four-in-hand to and from business in the Wall Street section, via the Bloomingdale Road. Fitz-Greene Halleck entered his counting-room in the warehouse yet standing on South Street, near Burling Slip, in June 1811, where the poet-clerk remained for twenty years. For seventeen years thereafter he was employed in the office of John Jacob Astor. Charles F. Park lived in the Barker house at a later period, whose daughter Anna was considered the belle of Harsenville with Miss Annie Cargill a close second. Mr. Park was a wholesale tea and coffee merchant on West Street, near Liberty. The family, which left Bloomingdale in 1849, were not identified with the local church, which they attended on occasions, as they belonged to the Duane Street Church. He died in 1865, aged 49. The property was known as the Reynolds place when torn down about a dozen years ago.

The Dyckman farm, containing 188 acres, adjoined the Somerindyck farm on the north. It was acquired from Rebecca, the widow of Adrian van Schaick, in

1701 for £450. Cornelius Dyckman, to whom the deed ran, was the son of Johannes, who was born at Leeuwarden, in Friesland, in 1647, and came out to Fort Orange where he filled the office of Chief Clerk and Vice-Director of the colony. The son married Jannetje, daughter of Dirck Claessen Potter, an original patentee of Harlem, and settled in Albany County at Niskayuna on lands which he was compelled to abandon in 1690 at the French and Indian invasion. He found a temporary home in Bergen County, New Jersey, but removed to Harlem where he was constable in 1698. While living in Bloomingdale in 1719 he disposed of a part of his Niskayuna lands to Evert van Ness. Dyckman was a farmer but tilled only small sections of the large, heavily wooded farm. He died prior to 1722 at his homestead, which stood facing the Road in the block north of the northwest corner of present Tenth Avenue (Amsterdam) and 70th Street. When the avenue was opened the house was left in a diagonal position to that thoroughfare. Of his children Wyntie married Johannes Kortright, Cornelia, Jacob Harsen, and Elizabeth, John Sprong. The will devised the farm to the sons George and Cornelius. The latter sold his share to his brother in 1736 for £225, who directed his executors, John Harsen (married his daughter Rachel in 1749) Garret Cozine (married his daughter Jannetje four months later), and Jacob Leroy, to sell his realty. By indenture dated 1763 they deeded 94 acres to Jacob Harsen (the brother of John), who conveyed one half thereof to Garret Cozine and the balance to Johannes Harsen. Cozine, dying in 1773, divided his interest into thirds, subject to a life estate in the widow, and through the death of Cornelius and Hannah, the other heirs,





Catharine Cozine became vested with the whole southerly half of the tract in question. She intermarried with Jacob Harsen in 1773, who was a nephew of the Jacob Harsen first above mentioned, and this half, with the easterly portion of the northerly half, formed the well-known Harsen farm.

After the marriage the Harsens lived in the family homestead where the bride had resided with her parents, and it was in the parlor of this house, then occupied by them, that a number of the neighbors met one dark and stormy night in September of 1805 and organized a Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, under the name of *The Church at Harsenville*, as the hamlet which had grown up thereabouts was denominated. At this foregathering the organization was duly cemented by the election as members of the first Consistory of

Andrew Hopper  
Jacob Harsen

James Striker  
Philip Webbers

all descendants of Holland progenitors and of one family connection, at the mention of whose names arise memories redolent of old Bloomingdale.

That important thoroughfare, the Harsenville Road, began at the east line of the Bloomingdale Road, between 71st and 72d Streets, and ran diagonally across the territory now composing Central Park to the Old Post Road (Third Avenue). In 1803 Harsen and another landowner had petitioned the Common Council respecting the opening of a cross road between the Middle (Sixth Avenue) and the Post roads and on June 27th the then Street Commissioner, Joseph Brown, to whom it had been referred on the 20th, reported that, although the making of cross roads had

not been a condition of the alternate sale and leasing of lots by the city on the Commons, yet it was generally understood to be an implied one and should, in his opinion, "be immediately attended to as benefiting the lots sold, increasing public convenience, and promoting the interest of the Corporation in giving additional value to their property." So he recommended that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, that the Road Master be directed to cause the said cross road to be worked and opened forthwith, and that the same be done either by contract or otherwise as said Road Master may deem best for the public interest. The report was thereupon confirmed and the Street Commissioner was directed to receive and submit contracts for the work.

Prior to this application there had been a farm road in use at this location, *i. e.*, from the Bloomingdale to the Middle roads, and the above contemplated work was intended to extend it to the Post Road,—as is evidenced by this entry in the minutes of the Board, 1804 (vol. xiv., 521):

The Committee to whom was referred the matter of widening and improving the road near Alderman Harsen's in Bloomingdale to the Middle Road, reported that they had advertised for proposals and that from the several received that of Abel Thayer and others was the lowest. The contract was confirmed to them accordingly.

Some sixteen acres of the northernmost portion of the farm which was chosen by George Dyckman under the terms of the will, lying between the Road and the river, and 72d and 73d Streets, came into possession of John Broome in 1801. He became Lieutenant-Governor of the State three years later and was a prominent member of many commercial and char-



itable organizations. Bullock Street was changed to Broome Street, in his honor on April 7, 1806. Broome County likewise preserves his name. The house thereon was located in the centre of the plot on the west side of the Road, between the streets above stated, and was called "Chevilly." This was built by Mme. d'Auliffe, *dame d'honneur* to Marie Antoinette. The tragedies of the Reign of Terror caused a large exodus of *émigrés* to America and this member of the court circle came with the first refugees, many of whom gravitated toward Bloomingdale. With her came her three little daughters. In this pretty house, erected in the French style, she set up an establishment that was much admired for its elegance and good taste. It became the centre to which was attracted many who found an asylum on these shores, among whom some of the old New York families were welcome guests. Among its constant visitors was the Marquis de Cubières, a gallant of the vanished court, who was a fine type of the gentleman of the ancient *régime*, though, perhaps, never quite reconciling himself to the institutions of republican America. He named his horse "Monarque," and, mounted thereon, he might have been seen making frequent pilgrimages out into the country from his home in Broad Street, to visit his friends at Chevilly. Another welcome guest was Col. August de Singeron who had commanded the Cuirassiers of the Guard at the Tuileries on the fatal Tenth of August. After having seen the last of his hapless sovereign, whose refuge in the Assembly was but the antechamber to the prison and the scaffold, the Colonel fled by way of L'Orient to this country. When the young Duc d'Orleans and his brothers, the Duc de Montpensier and the Prince

de Beaujolais, came to New York, they soon found their way to Chevilly, where Madame and her little circle made the fugitives feel less poignantly the loss of country, rank, home, and kindred, surrounding them with an atmosphere that reminded them of Versailles. In after years, when King of the French, Louis Philippe used to speak with gratitude of the hospitality extended to him in that time of adversity.

The great Talleyrand was always a welcome arrival. Another Frenchman who at this time made New York his home was the famous General Moreau, the rival of Napoleon in popular favor and the victim of that eminent man's jealousy. The Moreaus lived at 119 Pearl Street, a handsome building which was destroyed in the fire of 1835. We can well imagine he was also a guest at Chevilly, for he had property interests near by. In April, 1810, he had loaned some money to Abigail Somerindyck, then the wife of William T. Cock, taking a mortgage as security, on some of the lands of the farm she inherited. An act of the Legislature, passed March 29, 1809, had authorized the General and his wife to hold realty within this State, and when, in 1815, decree of foreclosure was entered and sale thereunder effected, the property was bid in for his estate by John S. Roulet who conveyed it to Moreau's widow in 1817. On her death, the Vicomtesse de Courval, her daughter, as sole heir, through her attorney, Henry C. de Rahm, conveyed it in 1819 to John Low. Subsequently an act was passed April 21, 1828, which enabled her to inherit said land and removed the cloud on the title. This is the property which has been described in the first chapter.

The Somerindyck house, which stood at the north-west corner of the Road and 75th Street, until it was

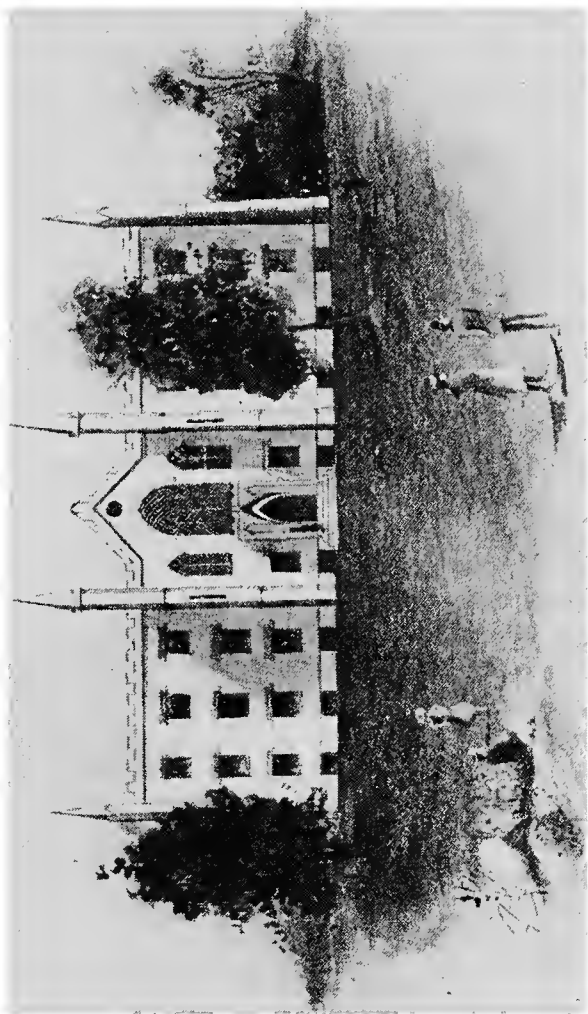
torn down to make way for the Boulevard in 1868, was the second oldest in Harsenville, the priority being held by the Dyckman-Harsen mansion. Of essentially Dutch architecture, fifty by eighty feet in dimensions, it had a steep shingle roof and the usual *stoep* flanked by the customary lateral seats. Here Louis Philippe lived. He was often actually in need, as were the young princes who accompanied him, and to gain a livelihood taught school during his stay in Bloomingdale. The room in which his classes met was maintained in the same condition as during his occupancy until the building was razed. The fireplace was finished with rows of blue and white Antwerp tiles, ornamented with Bible chapter and verse to which the decoration referred, indicated in large characters thereunder. This house was one of the sights of Bloomingdale in the old days. The French invasion added greatly to the gayety and brilliance of society, and left its impress on the locality. Other well-known families were the L'Estranges, de Neuville, and de Rivières. M. Jumel, although not to the manor born, was well received because of his kindness and the popularity of his famous wife. He owned land in Bloomingdale, on which they lived, the house being located between 77th and 78th Streets on the east side of present Amsterdam Avenue, and Madame was a contributor to the funds of the Orphan Asylum and a benefactress by legacy to the tune of \$5000.

The Broome property, under his widow's will, fell to her brother James and her sisters Sarah and Julia Boggs, the latter of whom intermarried with John W. Livingston, and these conveyed it to Joseph Simpson in 1821, who the same year transferred it to James Boggs for \$8000. In 1867, the latter's heirs-

at-law sold it to Gustavus A. Sacchi for \$400,000. At one time the house was occupied by John Lozier, Alderman of the Sixth Ward, and later certain well-known bachelors and men about town used it as a club house and driving resort. Among them were August Belmont, Appleton the publisher, and Frederick S. Talcott, the broker.

A portion of the southern part of the Teunis Somerindyck Farm, which lay between the Dyckman and van den Heuvel properties, was purchased by the Orphan Asylum Society, a Presbyterian institution, in 1834. The first of its kind in the city, it was organized in the spring of 1806 at a meeting of ladies held at the City Hotel, then on the site of the Boreel Building. Mrs. Sarah Hoffman and Mrs. Alexander Hamilton were chosen First and Second Directresses and Mrs. Bethune Treasurer. It was located originally in Greenwich village, and Asylum Street, since changed to West Fourth, and Bethune Street are reminders of its existence there. A fine portrait of Eliza, second daughter of Philip Schuyler, who married Gen. Hamilton in 1780, is preserved on the walls of the present institution at Hastings-on-the-Hudson. While closely connected with prominent men and events during her lengthened days, a woman of mark and a leader of society, she always had time and thought to devote to its welfare, which she served for forty-three years. She died at Washington, D. C., in 1854. Lying just north of the monument erected to her illustrious husband by the Corporation of Trinity Church is a slab, on a level with the ground, which covers her remains in old Trinity Churchyard.

Joanna Bethune was the daughter of Nicholas and Sarah (Ogden) Hoffman and married Divie Bethune,



THE NEW YORK ORPHAN ASYLUM, 1840



the well-known Scotch philanthropist. She became the mother of that noted pulpit-orator the Rev. Dr. George W. Bethune and died at the age of '92 in 1860.

The corner-stone of the Bloomingdale structure was laid June 9, 1836. After prayer by the Rev. Dr. Knox of the Reformed Dutch Church he addressed the orphans, and the stone was dedicated by Mr. Richmond, rector of St. Michael's. The contract price was \$35,000. The report of the Trustees of 1840 comments on the change of location, and recites that the grounds afforded ample room for exercise and recreation, the garden supplied the inmates with fruit and vegetables, and there being pasture for several cows wholesome milk had been added to their simple breakfast; "while the abounding river invigorated the frame by a saline bath and by casting a net into it furnished an occasional dinner of fresh fish." The inmates attended the Church for many years, having pews at one time in the gallery but generally on the main floor. Two spacious wings and a new story were added to the building shown in the illustration in 1856. The growth of the city impelled thoughts of removal and in 1870, land was purchased near Yonkers for a new site. It was not, however, until 1902 that work was undertaken, and in July the institution removed from the site it filled for fifty-two years. It is interesting to recall that on its property are now located the Ansonia Apartments and the residence of Charles M. Schwab—two of the largest and finest improvements in the upper city.

Richard R. Lawrence, a Quaker merchant at 246 Pearl Street, bought the property adjoining the Asylum on the north, in 1799, and lived in the residence he constructed thereon in the bed of present 75th Street,

west of West End Avenue, until his death there in 1822. Fourteen years later, Pelatiah Perit, one of the pillars of the Church, acquired it and, during his occupation of the house, granted the Asylum children the privilege of his grounds for picnics. The Fourth of July was yearly made memorable for their enjoyment. He was a member of the advisory board of the institution and had the Sunday-school in his charge for years.

Samuel Adams Lawrence, quondam deacon of the Church, owned, in 1805, a tract just north of the above, also a portion of the Somerindyck farm. The representation of his mansion depicts its idyllic situation and sylvan surroundings long prior to the alteration of the river's front made necessary by the coming of the railroad. Some of us recall those days, and cherish the memory with the wish that the so-called improvements might have been relegated to a later date.

The other Somerindyck house stood just north of 77th Street, also on the west side of the Road. Fernando Wood having bought it with adjoining land, added a structure on its south end and here he lived while Mayor. One of the noted events of Bloomingdale history occurred there in 1860. On Friday, October 12th, Baron Renfrew (at present King Edward VII.), as the then Prince of Wales preferred to be known on his American tour, accompanied by Lord Lyon, the Duke of Newcastle, Earl St. German, General Bruce, and other members of the royal suite, reached the house, after visits to the New York University, the Astor Library, and the Central Park where he planted an American elm and a British oak. A large company of notables had assembled at the Wood residence and a bountiful and unexceptionable colla-



tion prepared. On the lawn at the rear of the dining-room had been stationed Dodworth's famous band of 25 pieces. The Baron was received at the main entrance of the edifice by the Mayor and conducted within. Miss Wood, then a young lady of sixteen summers, followed on the arm of the Duke, after whom the suite joined the procession. The Baron was formally presented to the guests in the front parlor, while the rest of the royal party, numbering some hundred individuals, were partaking of the repast on the lawn. During the return trip to the Baron's hotel—the Fifth Avenue—a visit was made to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum. A grand ball at the Academy of Music ended the day's excursion.

The earliest school in the district that has come to our attention was the Bloomingdale Academy, which became celebrated under the care of the Rev. Hezekiah G. Ufford, who was succeeded in March, 1815, by John Moir of Edinburgh, distinguished as a classical teacher, when the name became the Bloomingdale Union Academy. This was in its heyday in 1820, but was soon thereafter discontinued. It is not known where it was located. Bansel's Military Academy stood opposite the Somerindyck house at 75th Street and Bloomingdale Road and was burned down *circa* 1829. At a later date the Rev. R. Townsend Huddart, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, a man of liberal attainments and great ambition, removed his school (1836) from 7 Beaver Street to a building at 77th Street and the Road.

During its life in Bloomingdale, this school added considerably to its reputation. Huddart aimed first at turning out young gentlemen in the strictest sense of the word, and personal inspection was as severe and

critical as at West Point. At the same time a thoroughly liberal training was given, for, although most exacting as to a proficiency in the classics, the acquisition of modern languages was insisted upon, French being the language of the school, an unusual essential in those days. Situated quite three miles from any paved street, it was surrounded by the country-seats of the wealthiest citizens, and the sons of the old Knickerbocker families received their education there. Those scholars who lived downtown used to assemble at Broadway and Bond Street, mornings, to meet the school "carryall." Among them were many of the teachers, for Huddart's greatest extravagance consisted in his large staff of assistants and the enormous salaries he paid some of the more celebrated. In 1841, the institution was moved to Bleecker Street, corner of Sullivan, and in 1844 to 14th Street, between University Place and Fifth Avenue, in both of which locations it added to its fame. In 1849, it was in 23d Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues and here we must bid it farewell. The best known seminary for young ladies, of still a later period, was that carried on by Mme. Petit in a house belonging to the Clarkson estate, and then in one of the houses on the Valentine Mott property. Many of the noted grand dames of the last generation attended this school.

The village tavern, to which entrance was gained by way of an ellipse, fronted on the Road near 70th Street. The date of its opening has been lost in obscurity. About 1808 its landlord bore the name of Oakley and is said to have been its builder and first boniface. His successor was a big burly Englishman—Tom Rodgers—and he knew well how to make his

inn a place of ease and comfort. The great sleighs, with their four horses and many toned bells, whose gay occupants generally had a pleasant greeting for Landlord Tom, made this their rendezvous. Mine host Rodgers spent many years here and was buried in the lane—the Harsenville Road—which bounded the tavern on the north. The next master was William Burnham, who about 1839 removed, at a rental of \$600 per annum, to the home of the van den Heuvels, which he called the Mansion House. His sons George, James C., and William were three as delightful hosts as ever were met. The old tavern was then taken by another under the name of the Pelican Inn and later “Pop” Griffen, another Englishman who kept a tavern on Hudson Street, opened this place in Bloomingdale. In 1840 the elections were held there and excitement in the village was at fever heat. The stages which made this a stopping place largely found their occupation gone when the cars were started on Eighth Avenue, and gradually the business of the tavern died away. It was still standing in 1868, but in how forlorn and neglected a condition! The fences were down, the path hidden by weeds, the windows broken, and the doors hanging lockless. No trace of the gay times of old was to be noticed, and desertion, silence, and decay reigned instead of the ringing laughter, the cheery good fellowship, and the hearty enjoyment of former days in the old Bloomingdale Tavern.

Baron John Cornelius van den Heuvel, Governor of Demerara, came to New York about 1792, a refugee from the ravages of yellow fever in that island. His intention was to remain here but a brief spell, but being charmed with the location, he built his seat,

which stood on the present block between 78th and 79th Streets, Broadway and West End Avenue, until the summer of 1905. Later, he married a daughter of Apthorp, his near neighbor, and remained in the city. The land on which this mansion was constructed was a part of the great farm, stretching from 77th to 90th Streets, which belonged at an early date to Etienne de Lancey, one of his Majesty's Council. It was purchased by Brigadier-General Oliver de Lancey, his son, from the heirs, executors, and devisees of the emigrant. The General commanded the New York Provincials upon the expedition against Canada in 1758 and was at the attempt made to storm Fort Ticonderoga. Thereafter, and at the commencement of the Revolutionary War, he was a member of the Council and on raising a brigade to join General Howe in 1776 was commissioned Brigadier. Just prior to the evacuation of the city he left for England and died at Beverly in Yorkshire, Oct. 27, 1785. The General's wife was Phila Franks, daughter of an opulent merchant of Philadelphia, and she joined in the conveyance of part of their Bloomingdale property to Charles Ward Apthorp in 1763. This land was bounded on the south by the farm of Teunis Somerindyck and was the portion which became the country seat of the van den Heuvels. The site of the mansion was bought by the Astors in 1879 and on it is now being constructed one of the largest apartment houses in the city.

During the Burnham *régime*, the Mansion House became one of the noted resorts of the Bloomingdale drive. From the rear piazza there was a beautiful view of the Hudson and a pathway through a garden conducted to a charming little summer house perched





on the bank just overhanging the stream. As the headquarters of the admirers of the trotting horse, Burnham's was the successor of Cato's place on the Old Post Road. Many a stepper of national reputation in his day has dashed into the semi-circle by which the hotel was approached from the Road. But it had little in common with the roadside suburban tavern of the present time. There was nothing of the rowdy element visible there. Quiet and respectable citizens were accustomed to drive their families out to Burnham's in the afternoon for a scent of country air and a view of the river, and there was no reason why they should not. There was not such a long stretch of outlying municipal undigested territory as there is even now in spots, and the country extended its arms in welcome almost as soon as you were off of the cobblestones.

Before the smooth roads of Central Park were laid out, or even the Park itself was thought of, [says Mrs. Despard in the text which accompanies her sister Mrs. Greatorex's drawings], this Bloomingdale Road afforded an ever fresh pleasure to all who owned horses and carriages. The country on either side of it was so fresh and rural, the houses so charming, whether they were the villas of millionaires or quiet two story cottages of dwellers with small revenues, and the glimpses of the Hudson!—sometimes at the foot of a narrow lane, where the water was but a point of lightness closing the vista, sometimes a broad expanse showing a large and noble view of the grand river. There were hills and valleys on that road; heights whence one could look back to the city and forward to Manhattanville; and after going as far out as to Washington Heights or even to Spuyten Duyvel or Kingsbridge, returning in the soft dusk of evening, past Trinity Cemetery and Carmansville, one felt that with the great change from

the city to such entirely country scenes and the great variety of the drive, the two or three hours' ride had been a journey in itself; and when one saw at the Hopper house on 50th Street the old poplar trees and the glimmering lights of the city, it was like the return from a long absence. As beautiful as the Central Park is, it cannot compensate for the charms of the Bloomingdale Road—now forever lost.

And when snow covered the landscape—these were the days when all the world was on runners—high carnival reigned on the Road, and Burnham's, Striker's Bay, and the Abbey were thronged with gay crowds. An old resident informs us that during the winter of 1847, his family, while sitting on their piazza, had counted eleven hundred and sixty sleighs which passed along the Road in one hour.

Adam van den Bergh started the first stage-route to Albany. Just when the local stages began to run on the Road is indefinite. Haswell's *Reminiscences of an Octogenarian* states that on May 25, 1819, a line from the lower part of the city was established. In 1845 Benjamin Moore ran five two-horse 'buses from Tryon Row to Manhattanville, and in 1849 John O'Keefe began a line which started at Chambers Street and Broadway, went up to Canal Street, through to Hudson, and continued up Eighth Avenue and the Road to Burnham's. This also consisted of five two-horse vehicles.

We would like to tell of the village life at a later period; of the grocery on the east side of the Road between 75th and 76th Streets which boasted itself by a wooden sign to be the "Harsenville Post Office," the first in the district; of the mild excitement in the settlement on the day (Oct. 19, 1847) of the laying of the corner-stone of the Washington Monument in



Hamilton Square, largely caused by the emulation engendered among the participants in the contemplated games; how the boys of the local fire company—No. 50—turned out and reached the site, via the hamlet's only cross road, which led nearly to it; and of the enlistment of the young fellows of the neighborhood for the war with Mexico. How much more of interest could be added—but we forbear and close this marshalling of the days of yore with the refrain:—Farewell, a long farewell to Harsenville.

## IV

### The First Consistory

The Synod to which the Church at Harsenville owes fealty represents the oldest Protestant ecclesiastical organization in America. Its succession of ministers has been unbroken since 1628, when Domine Jonas Michaelius arrived and in the summer formally organized a church which has had continuous existence to this day. When the colony surrendered to the British in 1664, and New Amsterdam became New York, the rights of the church were not affected, all its former privileges being retained under the new government. It was chartered under the seal of William and Mary, King and Queen of England, in 1696. The portraits in oil of its ministers since 1699 are hanging in the Lecture Room of the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas (this Saint's name having been that of the "Church in the Fort"), Fifth Avenue, at 48th Street. The bell which hangs in the steeple of this church was cast in Amsterdam in 1728. It was bequeathed by Abraham de Peyster, a son of Johannes the founder of the American family, to the Middle Dutch Church, which then stood on Nassau Street, between Cedar and Liberty. When this church building was occupied as the City Post-office, the bell was removed to the church on 9th

Street near Broadway, thence to the church on Lafayette Place, and last of all to its present location, where its voice is still regularly heard. De Peyster's life was marked by many honors, he having held successively the offices of Alderman, Mayor, Judge of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of the province, member and chairman of the King's Council, acting Governor and Colonel-Commander of the Militia of New York, President of the Council, Treasurer of the provinces of New York and New Jersey, and Deputy Auditor-General.

A vivid pen-picture of the early days is presented in an article which was published in *The Christian Intelligencer* of Aug. 22, 1906. Besides its historic value, it mentions the names of families which later became prominent in Bloomingdale. The editor prefaces the narrative with the statement that it appeared recently in *De Kerkboden* (*The Church Messenger*), one of the oldest religious periodicals in the Netherlands. The facts were taken from some old papers in the form of letters written by Domine Joannes Megapolensis to a Wilhelmus van Mierop in Amsterdam, who married Jacobina Bogardus, a sister of the Domine's predecessor. Recently there died in Alkmaar (Holland), Doctor Franz van Mierop and in an old Bible of his these letters were found. It is truly said in the above preface that the compiler is in error as to the date (1647) at which he places the event described. Domine Megapolensis did not become pastor of the church until 1649, and Domine Samuel Drisius, whose presence is noted in the text, did not reach New Amsterdam before 1652. The article is evidently based on a paper read by the late James W. Gerard before the New York Historical Society, in June, 1874, which was an imaginative portraiture of the times, and not an accurate

historical sketch. The term "Consistory" designates those individuals who, with the minister, compose the governing body of the church.

**Andrew Hopper,**

an original Elder of the Church at Harsenville, was the grandson of Andries Hoppe, mentioned heretofore in the first chapter as having arrived in New Amsterdam in 1652. He came from a rich, prominent, powerful, and much respected family of Old Amsterdam, whose history harks back to ancient times in Holland where the name was spelled both Hoppe and Hoppen, a custom the pioneer in this country continued. Away back in the 15th century members of the tribe had served the city as Schepens, Burgomasters, Councillors, and Orphan Masters. A few instances will suffice. One of the windows of the Old Church in that metropolis was placed therein by a member of the family as a penance for having been baptized a Protestant. This pane represents the Salutation of Maria and contains the Hoppe coat of arms. The recanter himself lies buried in front thereof, in the Chancel of the Holy Virgin, as evidenced by the tombstone on which the same coat can be deciphered. This individual, as a part of his infliction, donated a fund to be used in distributing "a clear white loaf of bread and a pint of wine" to each patient in the Hospital on the Day of the Visitation of Our Lady, and on the 13th of each September, a meal consisting of boiled meat and wine, or fish "on fish day, served as is proper." He became Regent of the institution in 1511. His grandson was Burgomaster and Councillor of the city in 1549, continuing in office for years and remained Orphan Master as late as 1573. Joachem Hopper, a noted Doctor of Laws, with which

degree he was invested in 1553, forsook the profession of teaching the following year on his appointment as a member of the Grand Conseil de Malines. When the Spanish government undertook the creation of a university at Douay, he was charged with its formation. Called to Madrid in 1566, he became Privy Councillor to Philip II. and Chancellor of Affairs of the Low Countries. He was more moderate than the other ministers of that monarch and was the author of numerous famous books and MSS. Christiaan Hoppe, b. 1621 at Amsterdam, studied at Helmstadt and in 1647 became Lutheran preacher at Enkhuizen. In 1656 he removed to Haarlem and four years later was called to his native city where he died 1670. After 1652 he devoted himself to educating young men for the ministry. A sermon written by him, though only of six pages, 4to, was published for the fourth time in the year 1710, forty years after his death.

In this country several distinct lines of Hoppers appear in numerous localities among the records and families of Colonial times. These were of English or Irish descent. The New York and New Jersey family originated in Holland and it is with this line we have to deal. The pioneer settled in New Amsterdam, where he was enrolled in 1653 in the burgher corps, and during the six years he lived in the colony he was a typical merchant of the period and, though not nearly so wealthy as many of his cotemporaries, was the peer of any in enterprise, probity, and business sagacity. Dying in 1658 he left him surviving his widow, whom he married in the old country, and one daughter who was born there, and three sons. All four of the children removed to Hackensack, New Jersey, and this accounts for the large number of the name yet residing in that State.

The youngest son, Matthys Adolphus, was baptized at New Amsterdam, March 3, 1658, and married there, May 2, 1683, Anna, daughter of Júrck Paúlús, of New Albany. He is designated in the records as being yet of New York, and on removal to New Jersey, they both joined the church there in 1687. He bought a farm adjoining his brother Hendrick's at Saddle River, and the eight children of the marriage were born there. Returning to New York City he acquired the farm at Bloomingdale with which his name is identified, Aug. 13, 1714, and built his homestead on the west side of the Road, but fronting on the farm lane which led to the burial-ground and the river. His son Johannes, known as John Hopper the Elder, married Maria van Orden of the well-known van Orden family, and their seven children were born in the homestead. Under the terms of the will, dated Oct. 12, 1779, the farm was to be divided into six equal parts among the survivors, viz., Matthew, John, Andrew, Yallis, and Jemima, the wife of John Horn, "of the Bloomingdale Road," as Riker's *Harlem* has it. The remaining portion went to his grandchildren, the issue of his deceased son Wessell. A map was to be drawn showing such division and six tickets prepared and numbered with the numbers of said six lots, whereupon the said six devisees, their heirs and assigns or guardians for them, were each to draw one ticket and the number thereon designated the number of the lot he or she should inherit by the devise. The farm road above mentioned from the Commons to the river was to run through each one of said lots, "to always be and remain free to any or either of said devisees to pass and repass without any hindrance" to and from his or her portion of the farm. Articles of agreement were entered into by the heirs carrying

out the above directions on Feb. 4, 1782. On lot No. 2 on said map was the family burial-ground and this was exempted from sale, to be reserved forever for that purpose. The courts some fifteen years ago decided that the terms of this agreement were not explicit enough to exempt this ground from other uses and the site is now covered by an apartment house. Hopper's Lane was widened to the uniform breadth of twenty-eight feet throughout its length.

Andrew Hopper was baptized in the Dutch Church at New Amsterdam—the State or Established church of the colony—on Feb. 27, 1736, and married (1) Catharina Stijmets Jan. 28, 1758. On the property he inherited under the above arrangement his father had put up for him the residence which became such a conspicuous object on the Road, at later 50th Street, on the site of the present American Horse Exchange. This was completed at the date of the marriage and became the home of the couple where three of their four children first saw the light. Issue:

Johannes, bap. Mch. 12, 1760; died young.

Jasper, b. June 10, 1770, in the city residence.

Mary, b. \_\_\_\_\_; married Barzillai Dusenbury, and died in July, 1846, a widow.

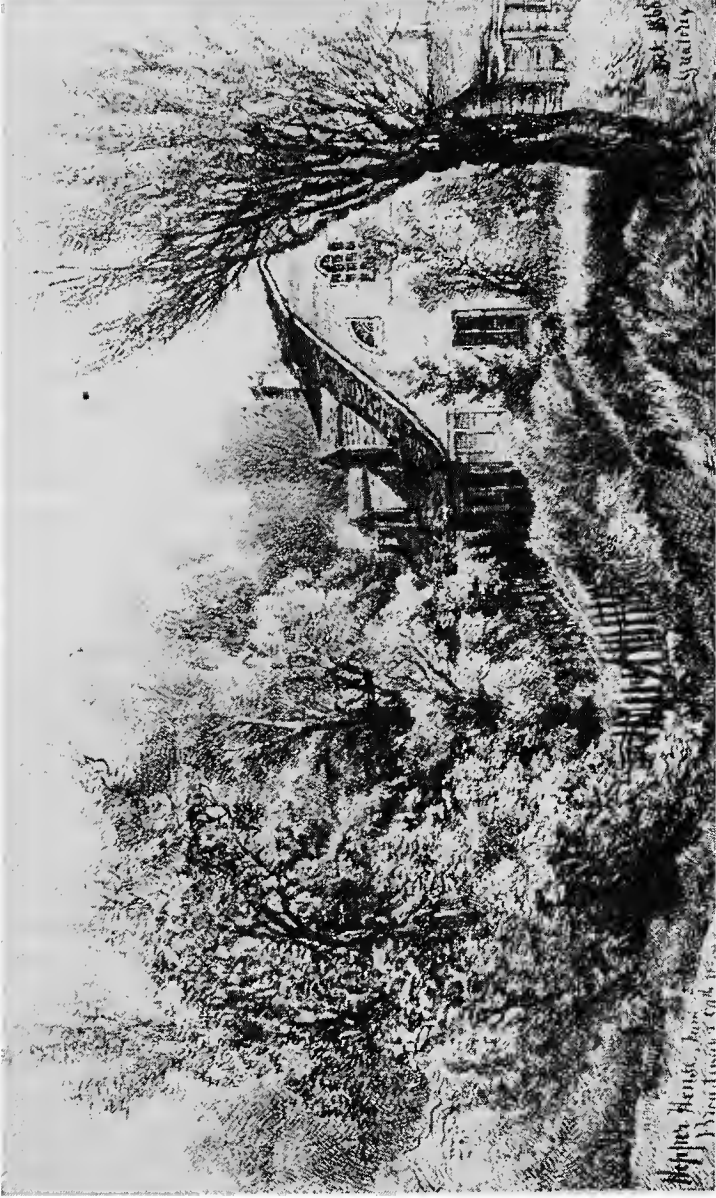
Rachel, b. Sept. 15, 1766; m. Thomas Newcomb, the brother of Charlotte, May 15, 1794. She d. April 27, 1812.

At the age of eighteen he left home and entered the office of the Secretary of State at Albany as a clerk, serving for two sessions as Clerk of the Assembly. On Nov. 3, 1791, when twenty-one years old, he was appointed Deputy Secretary of State under Governor Jay, and continued to hold that office until 1802, when he removed to Onondaga County, where he became County Clerk, which office he filled to 1818. Having

in 1799 been admitted an honorary member of the Albany Law Society, he was made Supreme Court Commissioner in 1803. In 1810 he was U. S. Marshal during the taking of the census and in the War of 1812 was Quartermaster in charge of military stores at the Arsenal in his home county and U. S. Commissary. He was besides postmaster of Onondaga Hollow for nineteen years, and died there July 29, 1848. Among his other activities was the establishment in 1811 of *The Lynx*, the first newspaper of the county, and the founding of the Onondaga Academy in 1813, one of the famous institutions of learning in the early history of the State, of which he was a trustee from its establishment to his decease. A member of the Democratic-Republican party he was a leader in the county organization. Clark's *Onondaga* says he was "a man of remarkable kindness and docility of disposition, very amiable, courteous, social, and obliging. Few men who have been so much in public life escape with so little censure or expose themselves to fewer assaults from political opponents." He married, Oct. 14, 1800, Charlotte, daughter of Zaccheus Newcomb of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, and had six children.

So much has been written about this country seat and the land where Andrew Hopper carried on farming that we forbear to enter much into detail. The house was of stone with a brick and wooden annex added at the time of his second marriage. The steep sloping roof and rounded gables, wide *stoep*, fan lights, and dormer windows were essentially Dutch. Even in its latter days the dignity of age became it well. The quaint carved mantles, the great yawning fire-places, and wide-arched hall retained the traditions of its better days. One can well understand how cozy the winter meetings





THE ANDREW HOPPER HOMESTEAD, 1868



of the Consistory could be made as the members circled around the fire. No doubt the well-known hospitality, which distinguished the Dutch,—a famed characteristic of the strain,—was exemplified in bumpers of “hot toddy,” after the evening’s business was finished and the pipes lighted. Great melancholy willows almost hid the house from view and the row of Lombardy poplars Andrew’s father planted became pitiful skeletons under the burden of their years. The farmer’s house, whose broad eaves stretched over a pathway floored with brick and shaded the wooden bench ensconced along the wall, stood behind these trees. The ground between them was almost a continuous piece of rock; grass and weeds covered it and rows of tall lilacs fenced it from the street.

Andrew Hopper’s city residence was on the corner of Broadway and Ann Street, a noted spot, where Barnum’s Museum—that large gloomy structure made bizarre by the numerous colored banners and oval signs arrayed across its front—was afterwards located and which became on its destruction by fire in 1865 the site of the *Herald* Building. He had lived here prior to 1770 for there his son was born. The corner of this plot was purchased in 1762 by Capt. Thomas White, “a wealthy Englishman,” says Valentine’s *Manual*, “lately become a resident of this city.” With his second wife, Ann, he joined in selling it to Hopper, April 20, 1773 (L. 40, 359), and on August 10, 1784, Ann, the widow, conveyed to the same grantee (L. 42, 167) land adjoining “on the southerly side of a certain street lately laid out and intended to be opened by the said Ann White leading from the Commons to Nassau Street, and intended to be called and known by the name of White Street. Various have been the sur-

mises made to account for the origin of the name of Ann Street. Let us hazard the assertion that as Ann opened it, very naturally it assumed her name after her husband's death. As early as 1761 a public house stood on this corner. John Elkin, the proprietor, advertised at that date that he served "breakfast from 7 to 9; tea in the afternoon from 3 to 6; the best of green tea and hot French rolls, pies and tarts drawn, from 7 to 9; mead and cakes." Just prior to the Revolution the "Sons of Liberty" acquired the property for their headquarters and changed its name to Hampden Hall. Many of the riots and public disputes of the war period occurred within its walls. After the peace it was occupied as a private house until its conversion in 1830 into Scudder's Museum.

Prior to 1686, when Governor Dongan granted his charter to the city by which all the "waste, vacant, and unpatented lands" on the island were vested in the Corporation, he appropriated this piece to himself, built a cottage upon it, and laid out the ground in a handsome manner as a garden, which was subsequently for many years called the "Governor's Garden." It embraced about two acres of land. After Dongan's departure to his native Ireland (where he afterwards became the Earl of Limerick) his garden was a pleasure resort commonly called the Vineyard. His kinsman, Thomas Dongan of London, later exercised control over this property and it was from this source that White acquired it.

The directory of 1786 makes Hopper a merchant at 71 Chatham Row. In 1789, says *The History of the School of the Collegiate Dutch Church*, p. 100, he was one of the officers by whom the school was supervised. This institution had its origin in the appointment of the

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first schoolmaster in 1633 sent out by the West India Company and is the oldest seat of learning in the country of which there is any record. The names of its officers from that date are extant and those of its pupils from 1791. Its home is now at 76th Street and West End Avenue.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In a cursory examination of *The History of the School of the Collegiate Dutch Church*, 1883, some early Bloomingdale names are found which are scheduled here. Matthew Hopper joined the school in 1791, "having been delivered to Stanton Latham" with twenty-nine others on May 4th, says the entry made by Peter van Steenburg. Latham had been clerk of the North Church and had superseded van Steenburg in charge by appointment of the Consistory of the Collegiate Church.

NAMES		AGES	ADMITTED	PARENTS
Hardenbrook	William			
Low	Jane			
Hopper	Martha		Nov. 3, 1792	
Holloway	Isabella		Feb. 2, 1795	
Post	Jacob	7	Apr. 25, 1796; grad. May 25, 1802	
Beekman	Henry	10	June 15, 1796	George
"	Catherine	11	Oct. 4, "	"
Vandewater	John	9	Jan. 22, 1800	Mary
Post	Alexander	8	July 11, "	Benjamin
"	Henry	11	June 11, 1802	Abraham
Whitlock	James	12	Feb. 8, 1803	Samuel
Quackenbush	Lawrence	10	" " "	John
Kortright	Nicholas	9	Dec. 9, 1803	Daniel Warner
Beekman	Eliza		Feb. 4, 1804	George
Bogert	Peter	10	" "	Albert
Quackenbush	Samuel	12	Apr. 26, 1804	Abraham
Beekman	Ann	11	Jan. 31, 1805	Richard
Bogert	Eliza	10	May 27, "	Peter
Quackenbush	John	12	April 4, 1806	Abraham
"	James	9	" " "	"
Whitlock	Samuel	8	Sept. 4, "	Samuel
Kortright	Daniel	7	Oct. 30, "	Abraham Bancker
"	Ellen	10	March 19, 1807	Margaret Warner
Jones	Ann	9	" " "	Mary
Cozine	Mary	10	July 9, 1807	Garrit
"	Garrit	10	" " "	"
Bogert	Margaret	8	" " "	Andrew
Van Orden	John	10	March 17, 1808	
Whitlock	Daniel	9	" " "	Thomas B.
"	James	8	May 12, "	"
Holloway	John	10	June 9, "	John
Bogert	Peter	9	Aug. 29, "	James
Van Norden	Alice	8	Dec. 27, "	
"	John M.	12	Jan <sup>1</sup> 31, 1809	Matthew

## The New York of Yesterday

In 1805 Hopper became one of the two elders of the Church at Harsenville and held that position until his death. He was moderator at the organization, was the first delegate to Classis, and the first treasurer. The Consistory met at his house for the first time October 3, 1808. On December 9, 1813, he was married by Dr. Gunn to Elizabeth Guest, the widow of Peter Arell. The church records which make it Earl are in error. He died intestate April 4, 1824, and it is rather unusual that such scant notice in the proceedings of the Consistory should have been taken of the event. At the succeeding meeting at Striker's Bay on August 2d, Ichabod Prall was elected an elder "in the place of Andrew Hopper deceased"—just this and nothing more—after a service of nineteen years. So state the minutes. The "Elder's book," in which

NAMES		AGES ADMITTED		PARENTS
Bogert	Margaret	10	June 26, "	Andrew
Cozine	George	8	July 29, "	Garrit
Van Orden	Samuel	13	April 29, 1811	Matthew
Hopper	Andrew	11	June 24, "	Garret
Post	Albert	10	Sept. 30, "	Mary
Bogert	Jane	10	Feb. 6, 1812	Wert
"	Jacob	9	May 25, "	John Betham
Post	John	7	June 22, "	Rachel
Bayard	Ann	9	June 29, "	Elizabeth
Bogert	Sally	8	Oct. 5, "	Andrew
Bayard	Peter	13	Sept. 28, 1813	Elizabeth
Van Derbeck	Stephen	11	Feb. 28, 1814	James
Vanderbeck	Mimyan	11	Mar. 31, 1817; grad. April 26, 1819	
Duryee	Henry B.	9	March 31, 1817	John L.
Post	Sarah Ann	8	March 26, 1832	Margaret Lawrence
"	John	11	Oct. 29, "	Abraham
Dyckman	Peter B.	9	June 27, 1836	John
Byard	Mary	4	Sept. 28, 1840	David
Post	Ann B.	12	" " "	David Byard
"	Elizabeth	9	Oct. 25, 1841	John A.
"	Adrian	12	Nov. 29, "	"
Clendenin	William	6	Sept. 6, 1842	George
Somerindyke	William	13	Sept. 25, 1843	"
Clendenin	George	7	June 29, 1846	Charlotte
Hoagland	William H.	9	Jan. 25, 1847	Henry V.
Talman	Dowah D.	11	May 31, "	Peter
"	John H.	7	" " "	"
Hoagland	Catherine W.	8	July 24, 1848	Henry V.

obituary notices were written, seems to have been lost. It was resolved on March 13, 1826, that the treasurer pay the estate the balance of the money due it for advances, after deducting the amount due the Church and the Female Cent Society. Mrs. Elizabeth Hopper continued to live in the Broadway home and spared no expense to keep it in order and to cultivate the garden and grounds which surrounded it. In June 1824 an action in partition had been begun, and the commissioners conveyed the house plot to the widow (L. 190, 330), for a consideration of \$3050. On her death, on December 25, 1825, her heirs-at-law, two brothers and a sister, inherited it. The property was alienated by the family, by deed recorded in L. 1539, 111, which conveyed it to William K. Vanderbilt. The same commissioners sold the Ann Street corner to the Ætna Fire Insurance Company (L. 193,103), for \$21,700. There were two dwelling houses situated thereon known as Nos. 220 and 222 Broadway.

Hopper was buried in the family plot which was at present 50th Street and Ninth Avenue until 1885, when the remains were removed to Woodlawn. "He never dreamed," says Felix Oldboy, "that the little city at the lower end of the island would ever come knocking at his doors, and bidding him move on, and had gone comfortably to sleep in the belief that his worn out body would rest undisturbed in the sight of the fields he had tilled and the river in which he had sported in his boyhood." Here also his wives were interred in the fond hope that there they might repose till time should be no more. Allowance was not made for the restless spirit of this iconoclastic age. In 1846, portions of the cemetery were cut off for the opening of the streets on the east and north side thereof, when

many<sup>7</sup> bodies had to be removed to another part of the ground. Then a stone retaining wall some six feet high was constructed around the open sides, frame houses hemming it in on the south and west. Hopper's headstone was left nearest to the line of 50th Street, and this inscription was plainly legible from the sidewalk:

In memory of  
ANDREW HOPPER  
who departed this life on the  
4th day of April, 1824  
aged 88 years.  
"The sweet remembrance of the just  
Shall flourish when they sleep in dust."

**James Striker**

History in repeating itself presents curious vistas. Here is a descendant in the fifth generation walking in the footprints of a kinsman whose lot it was to plant the first church on Long Island. Jan Strijcker reached New Amsterdam in 1652, with a wife, two sons, and four daughters. Two years later he took the lead in founding a Dutch colony at Midwout (Flatbush), whither he went, with the appointment April 8th of that year of "Serjeant." The same year he was selected as Schout (Chief Magistrate) of the settlement, an office he held for almost the entire succeeding twenty years. He was one of the Embassy selected to be sent to the Lord Mayors in Holland to make complaint and crave assistance on account of the colonists' annoyance from the English and Indians. (*Col. Hist.*, vol. ii., p. 374). He represented his town at the great Landtdag called by the Burgomasters which met on April 10, 1664 at the Stadt Huys in the capital



to take into consideration the precarious condition of the country. (*Mrs. Lamb's History*, vol. i., 205-7; *New Netherland Register*, 147). He was a representative in the Hempstead Convention the following year when the celebrated "Duke's Laws" were promulgated and appears as a patentee on the Nicoll's grant October 11, 1667 and again on the Dongan patent, November 12, 1685. Prior to this period he had been elected Captain of the Midwout Militia Company, October 25, 1673 and on March 26, 1674 was named a deputy to confer with Governor Colve at New Orange when the Dutch came back to their own. To turn from the civil and military man, we find him in the first years of his residence at Midwout, one of the two commissioners appointed (December 17, 1654) by the Governor to build the Dutch Church and parsonage there. In a letter addressed to the "Noble Rigorous and Honourable Gentlemen and Honourable Director-General of the Council in Nieuw Nederlandt," December 20, 1659, he wrote that the church, "now, with God's help, nearly completed, requires a coat of colour and oil, being covered on the outside mostly with boards. These materials must necessarily be brought from the Fatherland and we request it to be done upon your Honour's order to the Honourable Company." The edifice cost Fl. 4057.9 (*Docs. Relating to Hist. Early Col. Settlements*, Fernow, vol. xiv. 482). Jan Strijcker's remains yet lie in the graveyard of this church, wherewith his descendants in the eighth generation are still connected, the present site of which is at Flatbush Avenue and Church Lane. He was an active supporter for many years of Domine Johannes Theodorus Polhemus, the pastor, and lived to see his family of eight children married and settled on valuable bouweries and occupying positions of influence

in the community. He died *circa* 1697 at the ripe age of over eighty years, full of the honors which such a new settlement could bestow and with his duties as a civil officer and a free citizen of his adopted country well performed.

Not many families in Holland, outside the ranks of royalty, were more highly positioned than the Strijckers, who are of remote antiquity. Certain members thereof have been seated near The Hague for over eight centuries and another line near Rotterdam. Those of the name bearing titles are numerous. Descendants here will be interested in searching for the tomb in the High Choir, No. 37, in the great Kirk at Haarlem, St. Bavon's, in which the remains of Dirck Strijcker, Knight, were interred in 1677. Motley's *History of the Dutch Republic* tells of Herman Strijcker, a monk who had abjured Romanism, who created in 1562 a widespread revival of religion among the masses. Mrs. Charles, in her *Deliverers of Holland*, gives considerable account of his labors. His eloquence drew thousands to listen to him and he is said to have preached to fifteen thousand men in arms during the Regency of Alva.

To return to this country. In the middle of the seventeenth century, Jan and Jacobus Strijcker received from the States-General of the Netherlands a grant of land in the colony of New Amsterdam upon condition that they took out with them to America twelve other families at their own expense. Their grant was dated in January, 1643. It does not appear that the offer was finally acted upon until eight years thereafter and then the younger brother Jacobus emigrated from the village of Ruinen, in the province of Drenthe, one year before Jan and founded the old

Knickerbocker family of this name in and near New Amsterdam. He was the ancestor of the Manhattan family. Usually signing his name Jacob, he on occasions added Gerritsen before his surname, indicating that he was the son of Gerrit Strijcker. With him came his wife, Ytie (Ida) Huybrechts, and two children Gerrit and Altje. A man of ability and education he soon rose to the magistracy at New Amsterdam (February 2, 1655) and served in that capacity during 1656, 1658, and 1660. He was early singled out as a person worthy of trust, and confidence in his integrity was shown in many instances by his selection by the Court as referee and guardian. He was the owner of a number of pieces of realty in the city and lived in 1656 on Pearl Street south of Fort Amsterdam, says the *Year Book*, 1900, Holland Society. On his complaint that the chimney of Jacob Stevensen's house had been neither repaired nor pulled down, although he had frequently notified the Fire Inspectors, the latter were ordered by the Worshipful Court of Burgomasters and Schepens to forbid within twenty-four hours the said Stevensen and his wife from "making any more fire there; or to pull down the chimney if they deemed it necessary." Strijcker stated he was the next neighbor and "nothing else is to be expected, not only by him but by the whole street, but a sudden destruction by fire" (*Court Minutes, New Amsterdam*, vol. ii., p. 230).

The Burgher right was introduced into the city in 1657, one that had been established in old Amsterdam five years previously. The position of Great Burgher was conferred on Strijcker, who took "the proper oath" on April 13th, whereby he became eligible to the holding of high municipal office. "The twenty names on this list," says Stone's *Hist. of N. Y.*, 33,

“composed the aristocracy of the period.” The small Burghers had only the privilege of trade.

About the close of 1660, Strijcker removed to New Amersfort (Flatlands), as we ascertain from the church records of the capital where after the names of himself and wife as members of the church it is indited that they had removed to the former place. They became members of the church there in 1667. It is to be noted that, although not living there till now, he early became associated with Long Island where he owned land, some of which he sold in 1653. He must have returned for a time to New Amsterdam, for in 1662 he again became a Schepen there and the following year acted as President of the Court. He was a member of the Convention, representing the Capitol, which met July 6th of that year, to engage the several Dutch towns to keep up an armed force for public protection. Having failed of election to the Burgomastership (nominated February 1664, *Court Minutes*, etc., vol. v., p. 16) he was appointed Orphan Master (Judge of the Orphan's Court) March 18th (*New Netherland Register*, p. 67). In the patent for Midwout issued in 1667 his name appears as a patentee, and when three years later the Sachem of Rockaway and his two brothers laid claim to this land so granted by Governor Nicolls, he joined the inhabitants in deciding to purchase the Indian rights. In consideration of ten fathoms of black seawant, ten fathoms of white seawant, five match coats, four blankets, two guns, two pistols, five double handfulls of powder, five bars of lead, ten knives, two aprons of Duffels, one half fat of strong beer, two cans of brandy and six shirts, a deed was executed which ran to Adrian Hegeman, Jacob Strijcker, Hendrick Jorise and Jan Hanson for and

on behalf of themselves and the rest of the inhabitants and which bore date April 20, 1670. Business having required Strijcker's attention up the river he lived for a time at Wildwyck (Kingston) where he rented "the village house" in 1671 (*Year Book*, 1896, Holland Society).

No sooner had the Dutch Commanders Evertse and Benckes established themselves in New Amsterdam, August 12, 1673, superseding the English control, than the nearest six towns, Midwout, Amersfoort, Breuckelin, New Utrecht, Bushwick and Gravesend, together with Staten Island, submitted to their authority. These towns were chiefly settled by rejoicing Hollanders and upon their nomination, August 18th, Strijcker was appointed Schout. On December 5th he, with his friend Secretary van Ruyven, was commissioned to examine and settle the boundary between the town of New Utrecht and Velyn's land and in 1674 was, with his brother Jan, a delegate to confer with Governor Colve on the state of the colony.

He was somewhat of an artist, probably an amateur portrait painter. He is called a "limner" in the records, and one of his productions, a portrait of himself on a wooden panel, has descended in direct line to the present generation as has likewise a chair brought by him from Holland. (For reproductions of the portrait and chair *Vide* the *N. Y. Gen. and Biog. Record* for January, 1907.) This portrait was painted in 1655 and represents Strijcker in a velvet suit with the magisterial collar. The profession of art he did not follow, but devoted the time not occupied by his judicial and public duties to farming and trading with the Indians, a highly lucrative business in those days. He seems to have been a gentleman of considerable means, of much official influence, and of decided culture

We find from the records kept by Domine Casparus van Zuuren, that he died in October, 1687. His eldest child, Gerret, married Wyntje Cornelise Boomgaert (Bogert) in December, 1673, and died in 1694. She died in 1700. They lived in Flatlands and were both members of the Church there in 1677. Governor Dongan appointed him Sheriff of King's County in 1688. In 1692, he bought a house and farm of one hundred eight and three quarters acres in Gravesend for £ 297.10. Of his nine children, we are concerned with the third, Jacobus, who was baptized in Flatbush August 27, 1682. He lived at Gravesend with his wife Martha until 1722, when he removed to Oyster Bay. His will dated September 27, 1748, when he was "very sick, and weak in body," is recorded at Jamaica in L. G. 256. Therein testator bequeaths to his daughter Mercy "a full Sorting out of Hou<sup>s</sup> Hold Goods and other Mouvables Equal to what my Daughter Woanche [Wyntje] Lane Has Already Had" and to each £ 25. paid from the movable estate. To daughter Mercy "my young black mair." All the remaining part of the estate was devised to his sons Garret and John, who were named executors, in equal shares, subject to the payment by them of £150. to each of their sisters.

Garret, or as he spelled his name Gerrit Striker, the great grandson of the old magistrate, was born May 20, 1726 when his father was fifty-three years of age. He lived at Oyster Bay and was in business at Glen Cove in 1756 with Obadiah Lawrence. In 1764, he removed to New York and purchased (August 8th) for £550. from Charles Ward Apthorp, a farm of fifty acres "beginning at the head of a certain cove on the easterly side of the North River" and bounded north-erly by the land of Humphrey Jones, with the lane



STRIKER'S BAY MANSION, 1852  
From the painting in possession of the author





leading to the Bloomingdale Road subject to right of way in the grantor. Here he built his home and named it "Striker's Bay." An indentation from the river formed the cove which recessed the shore to a considerable distance to the east, into which emptied a marshy stream which rose at 104th Street, near Tenth Avenue. A smaller branch of this brook from the neighborhood of the Avenue and 59th Street joined it at Eleventh Avenue. By his wife Ann, born July 30, 1734, daughter of Derick II. and Rebecca (de Grove, born 1720) Albertson, he had an only child James, born September 18, 1755. James's father died September 17, 1775, and his mother's death occurred October 10, 1785. The son inherited the property as heir-at-law. On the capture of the city, he became an ensign in the Second Regiment of "De Lancey's Loyalists," under commission dated October 23, 1776, but at the first opportunity went to New Jersey where he enlisted in the Light Horse Troop at Somerset as heretofore related (*Vide* page 50). This troop made quite a record in the war. *The Story of an Old Farm*, gives this tale which is vouched for by General Stryker in his *The Battles of Trenton and Princeton*. This gallant deed occurred January 3, 1777, and is narrated in both these authorities as follows:

Another interesting incident connected with the stay of the army at this time was the arrival in camp of the gallant Captain John Stryker's troop of Somerset horse laden with spoils from the enemy. Cornwallis in his hurried march toward New Brunswick was so unfortunate as to disable a number of his baggage wagons. He left them at the side of the road in charge of a quartermaster with a guard of two hundred men. Captain Stryker, though having with him but twenty troopers, resolved

upon the capture of these stores. In the darkness of night, he distributed his small force in a circle completely surrounding the camp. The guards were suddenly astonished by a volley of musket-shots and the whistling of bullets, while from under the black arches of the bordering trees came loud and repeated shouts as if from a countless host. Demoralized by recent defeats, the men incontinently fled, thinking that they had been attacked by a large force of the Americans. Their flight was not so much caused by the roar of musketry as by the unearthly yells of the lusty troopers which so suddenly broke the stillness of the night. Captain Stryker was not long in so repairing the wagons that they could be hauled to a place of safety; he lost no time in making his way to Washington's camp with his treasures. The joy of the troops was unbounded when it was discovered that the wagons contained woolen clothing of which the men stood in sore need.

“The captors, with their prize,” says *The Hist. of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties* p. 57, “moved up as rapidly as possible on through Somerset County, crossed the Millstone at Somerset Court House, and overtook the main body a day or two later,” at Pluckamin. This troop was at the battles of Trenton and Princeton. After the battle of Germantown (October 4, 1777), the New Jersey Militia were sent back to their own State, where their presence was thought to be necessary on account of the threatening attitude of Sir Henry Clinton, the British commander in New York, who early in September had invaded the State with 3000 men in two columns, one moving by way of Elizabethtown Point and the other by Fort Lee and uniting at New Bridge, above Hackensack. He remained in the State but a few days, but his presence and his threatening attitude after his withdrawal created a general alarm which continued through the

fall and succeeding winter. About the 18th of October, the welcome intelligence was received of the surrender to General Gates at Saratoga. The Jersey militia, of which the Horse Troop was a part, behaved most gallantly at Monmouth under General Philemon Dickenson in June 1778. After the burning of the church of Raritan (October 18, 1778) and the Court House at Millstone (October 27, 1779) the tide of war drifted away almost entirely from Somerset County.

Yet a boy, when his enlistment expired, a longing for home caused Striker in the summer of 1780 to set out towards that goal. On reaching the ancestral habitation of his captain at Millstone he was fitted out as a yeoman and in this disguise proceeded on his way. At Tilly Tudlum, just north of Fort Lee, he succeeded in getting a boat wherewith he reached the shores of his mother's property "in the enemy's country." Soon after arrival he took out a license from the Secretary of the Province on September 23d, to marry Mary, daughter of Johannes and Wyntje (Dyckman) Hopper and niece of Andrew Hopper, with whom he served as elder of the Church. She lived only six years, dying at the age of twenty-six, on September 20, 1786. It was during her occupancy of the Bay that the British aggressions occurred. Her remains were deposited in the Hopper plot. Three children resulted from this union:

Ann, born, Feb. 23; bap. June 25, 1781; d. unmarried April 12, 1860.

Lavinia (Winifred), b. May 27, 1782; m. Jordan Mott at Striker's Bay, Sept. 24, 1801; d. at, "Mott's Point," Mar. 16, 1862. Issue:

John Hopper, b. April 20, 1803; d. Mar. 20, 1821.

James Striker, b. Aug. 29, 1804; m. Oct. 8, 1833,

## The New York of Yesterday

Amelia, dau. of Jacob B. Taylor and sister of Moses Taylor the railroad magnate; d. Dec. 20, 1867.

Samuel Coles, b. Aug. 7, 1806, member firm of Revo C. Hance & Co., dealers in wholesale dry goods at 174 Pearl Street, d. May 8, 1855.

Jordan, b. Oct. 24, 1808; d. unmarried Feb. 20, 1874.

Jacob Hopper, b. Feb. 20, 1810; married Aug. 18, 1853, Julia M., daughter of W. W. Soule; d. May 14, 1861.

Garrit Striker, b. Dec. 7, 1812; d. unmarried, April 19, 1869.

M. Hopper, b. Sept. 23, 1815; married June 27, 1850, Ruth Ann, daughter of John J. Schuyler; d. Jan. 9, 1864.

Garrit Hopper, b. March 29, 1784; m. June 25, 1818, Eliza Bella, daughter of Capt. Alexander McDougal of the British Service; d. at "Rosevale," April 15, 1868. (*Vide*, p. 389.)

On December 26, 1790, James Striker married his first wife's cousin, Mary (Polly), daughter of Johannes and Jacomijntje (Hopper) Horn, whose house was on the family tract as herein before described and where she was born November 23, 1771. Her mother (in English, Jemima) was the only sister of Andrew and John Hopper the younger. As a result of this marriage, eight children were born, all in the mansion, as were those of the first wife, viz.:

Maria, b. Oct. 12, 1791; m. Joseph Cornell of Jamaica, L. I.; d. Aug. 9, 1868.

James, b. July 14, 1793; d. Aug. 1, 1806.

John Horn, b. Sept. 29, 1795; m. June 27, 1838, Sarah Maria Harris; d. Sept. 7, 1861.

Richard Albertson, b. Nov. 5, 1797; d. unmarried, Nov. 30, 1835.

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Helen, b. Dec. 3, 1799; m. (1) John S. Watkins by whom she had two children:

Mary S. Watkins, m. Mch. 20, 1840, George H. Swords.

Harriet E. Watkins, d. Nov. 11, 1836; funeral held at "the Bay" on Sunday, Nov. 13.

Married (2) Gerard B. Aycrigg. Issue:  
Charles.

George Washington, b. Nov. 23, 1802; m. June 26, 1831, Mary H. Smith; d. Aug. 22, 1867.

Gabriel Furman, b. Aug. 1, 1805; attended Bloomingdale Academy; d. unmarried, Aug. 5, 1832.

Jemima, b. April 15, 1809; m. Oct. —, 1833, Edward Jenner Swords; d. Feb. 6, 1891.

Their father led the life of a country gentleman, farmed sufficiently to meet the family wants, held slaves as was the custom of the period and twice accepted office, being Assessor of the Bowery Division of the Outward, beginning in 1796 and Assistant Alderman, in 1803, during the Mayoralty of DeWitt Clinton, to represent his home Ward, then the Ninth. He was appointed July 25, 1803 to list those residing in the North Ward qualified to act as jurors in the courts of record. His petition, dated June 25, 1804, for a grant of the riparian rights in front of his property was acceded to on July 2d, and it was the dock he constructed thereon which enabled the delegations, excursions, target companies, etc., to land at the mansion when it became a tavern. He was a founder of the Church and was elected a member of the original Consistory at its organization in September 1805, and remained in office for twenty-five years until incapacitated by illness. This body met at his residence very often during this long period. The first call to the pastorate, that to the Rev. David Schuyler Bogert

was decided on there. On August 12, 1816, this resolution, according to the minutes of the Consistory, was passed: "that Mr. Striker's request be granted, viz.: that he hold the pew that he purchased as a leased pew but that this privilege be not given to another person." It was moved and carried unanimously, on December 9th of the same year, at a meeting held at his house, "that Mr. Striker be presented with the ground which he occupies for a vault, as a small expression of the gratitude and respect of the Consistory." He had theretofore mentioned his desire to purchase a plot therefor (November 13, 1815) and had built a burial place on the spot selected. It was in the rear of the second church to be constructed, was above the ground in the shape of a house, and was the second earliest in date of any of the number of vaults added in the process of time. His remains were placed therein as were those of the following members of his family:

Albert Russel, son of Joseph and Maria (Striker) Cornell.

James Thomas, another child of the same and an infant of the same parents.

Gabriel Furman Striker.

Helen Striker Aycrigg.

Garrit Hopper Striker, Jr., b. April 25, 1821; d. Sept. 13, 1863.

George Henry Striker, b. Aug. 18, 1824; d. Jan. 29, 1865: both sons of Gen'l. Striker.

Jordan Mott, b. Feb. 6, 1786; d. Jan. 8, 1840.

Winifred (Striker) Mott, b. May 27, 1782; d. March 16, 1862.

John Hopper Mott, b. April 20, 1803; d. March 20, 1821.

Samuel Coles Mott, b. Aug. 7, 1806; d. May 8, 1855.

The Striker remains now lie in Plot No. 40, E. D. of Trinity Cemetery, Carmansville, and those of the Motts were removed to Greenwood, Oct. 30, 1868.

He served as first clerk of the Consistory and began to represent it at Classis July 5, 1809, his uncle Andrew Hopper having been the premier delegate to that assembly. His final service in this position was rendered in October, 1826, and he was re-elected elder for the last time October 7, 1828. He suffered from a throat affection which incapacitated him for some two years prior to his decease. This occurred December 6, 1831. He left him surviving his widow, eight children, and three grandchildren. The will, dated February 12, 1823, bequeathed to the widow all interest in his estate for life with reversion to her children, "my other children by my first wife having been fully provided for under the will of their grandfather John Hopper, deceased." His estate was valued at \$400,000 by the compiler of the pamphlet published by the *New York Sun* entitled *Wealth and Pedigree of the Wealthy Citizens of New York*. The third edition thereof was issued in 1842, and a tenth publication in 1846. Therein space was found for the following comment:

Mr. Striker died in the year 1831 at an advanced age. His is one of the oldest Knickerbocker families of our city. His estate has been handed down in regular succession from the year 1640 [*sic*] when his family emigrated to this country from Holland. Mr. Striker has held several civil offices of responsibility,—he was also proprietor of the splendid estate known as Striker's Bay, now leased by his widow, in whose possession the estate now is, as a public house. Mr. James Striker was the father of General Striker, a gentleman well known in this city as one of wealth and standing who also has held many exalted stations in our city and State.

Action was begun in the Supreme Court in 1855 to partition the estate, and order was entered April 25,

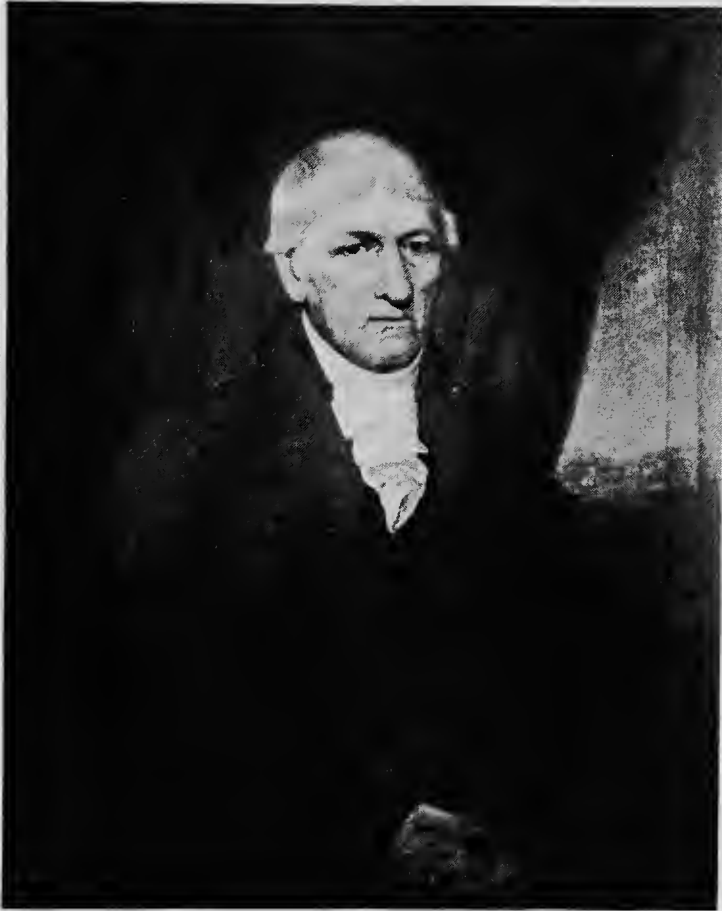
1856, adjudicating the interests of the parties and directing sale, which took place June 11th, at the Merchants' Exchange. Mrs. Striker had removed shortly after her husband's decease to Tribes Hill, N. Y., accompanied by her children. She died at Amsterdam, N. Y., October 6, 1860. The house of John H. Striker was burned down later, when important treasures were lost in the shape of old relics, among which were the Dutch Bible and family portraits, including one of James Striker.

#### Jacob Harsen

The Harsen family in America, which name, by the way, is extinct in Jacob Harsen's branch, descends from Bernardús Hassens or Haszingh, who came from Breúckelen (which lent its name to Brooklyn) in the province of Uijtrecht, in Holland, and married in New York, July 7, 1669, Aeltje, a young woman of the same place, whose father was Jacob Wolfertse (van Kouwenhoven) and who emigrated with his father Wolfert Gerretse, the common ancestor, in 1630, from Amersfoort, in the same province in Holland. They removed to Flatbush on Long Island where they became members of the church which Jan Strijcker had founded, and where they are entered in 1677 on its records. They united with the Dutch Church at the capital, February 28, 1683 and in 1686 lived *Langs de Wal* (in Wall Street). His sister Gertrúijdt married Wolfert Webber, the ancestor of Philip Webbers, another officer of the Church at Harsenville. Bernardús the pioneer had issue:

Warnardús, bap. Aug. 27, 1670; mar. (1) July 7, 1689, Aaltje van Couwenhoven and (2) April 5, 1735, Sara Mýer. *Albany Coll.*, vol. iv., 131, states he mar.





*Jacob Harsen*

Portrait and signature of Jacob Harsen, Esq., from the painting in possession  
of J. Harsen Purdy, Esq.



(3) Feb. 12, 1737, Catharyna Pruyn. His widow was buried Feb. 18, 1760 (*Year Book*, 1899, Holland Soc.).

Jacob, bap. Sept. 22, 1672; wits: Wolfert Webber and Neeltje Couwenhoven; mar. (1) Oct. 31, 1700, Emmerentia, daughter of Johannes van Gelder. Issue: Bernardús, bap. Feb. 8, 1702; Aaltje, bap. Sept. 16, 1705; Elisabeth, bap. July 27, 1707; Johannes, bap. Dec. 11, 1709; d. young.

He mar. (2) June 16, 1711, Cornelia, daughter of Cornelius Dyckman, a young woman of Albany. Issue: Cornelús, bap. April 21, 1712; Johannes, b. Feb. 18, bap. Feb. 21, 1714, d. Mar. 4, 1774, mar. (1) May 10, 1743, Margaret, daughter of Jacob and Ann Couwenhoven of Greenwich (New York City). He was the eldest son of Johannes van Couwenhoven, Secretary between the Bowery and Harlem in 1689; she died Dec. 18, 1743. Issue: Margaret, b. Dec. 8, 1743, d. unm. 1762. Jacob, bap. Mar. 9, 1716; Gerrit, bap. Nov. 10, 1717, was sergeant of a militia company under Gerard Stuyvesant, 1738, and d. Sept. 20, 1798, mar. Nov. 28, 1757, Sara, daughter of Abraham Kip (*N. Y. G. & B. Record*, vol. viii., p. 131). Jacob, mar. (3) Oct. 21, 1721, Jaquémyntje, daughter of Abraham Bocké and widow of Hendrick Brevoort. Issue: Tanneke, bap. Aug. 19, 1722.

Hester, bap. Dec. 19, 1674, wits: Cornelis Plúvier, Catarina Roelofs.

Heijltje (Helena) bap. Feb. 7, 1677, wits: Johannes van Brug, Sara van Couwenhoven, mar. Davidt Aartse.

Johannes, bap. Nov. 14, 1678, wits: Hendrick van de Water, Marritje Loockermans, mar. (1) July 5, 1712 Maria Marschalk.

Pieter, bap. Dec. 3, 1679, wits: Adolf Pieterzen, Grietie van Meúlen.

Lijsbeth, bap. Jan. 17, 1685, wits: Isaack van Vleck, Aechtie Dirckx.

Gerret, of Vlaktebosch (Flatbush), mar. June 6, 1707,  
Engeltie Bürger of New York.

Johannes, son of Jacob and Cornelia (Dyckman) Harsen, mar. (2) March 10, 1749, Rachel, daughter Nicholas and Anneke Dyckman, b. Feb. 23, 1720, d. July 18, 1772. Anneke was the daughter of Jean Sevenhoven, a Huguenot from La Rochelle, who mar. Marie L'Escuier in the Dutch Church at New York, Sept. 22, 1693 (*The Huguenot Emigration to America*, vol. ii., pp. 69-70). This Johannes (John) became an executor of the will of Nicholas Dyckman in 1758. In this capacity he conveyed to his brother Jacob, a certain portion of the Dyckman farm in 1763. Said Jacob accordingly became the owner of lands in this section and was the individual from whom Harsenville took its name.

Issue of said John Harsen:

Jacobus, b. March 5, 1750; d. July 24, 1835.

Nicholas, b. Oct. 12, 1751; d. Aug. 14, 1758.

Cornelia, b. March 5, 1753.

Cornelius, b. Aug. 16, 1755; d. 1830; mar. (1) Anne, daughter of Wessell Hopper, a brother of Andrew Hopper, lic. dated Jan. 25, 1782. His (2) marriage is recorded in Bailey's *History of Danbury, Conn.*, p. 40, to Mary Skelding. They were "married in Bloomingdale," Sept. 27, 1819.

Johannes, b. Oct. 26, 1757; d. Aug. 20, 1758.

Mary, b. July 19, 1759; d. 1772.

Ann, b. Dec. 2, 1761.

Jacobus, son of Johannes and Rachel (Dyckman) Harsen, m. Jan. 20, 1773, his first cousin Catherine Cozine. They were rocked in the same cradle. Her mother, Jannetje Dyckman, wife of Garret Cozine, when she visited her sister Rachel, wife of Johannes

Harsen, was accustomed to put the children to sleep together. This cradle of solid mahogany with heavy brass handles and steady, easy-going rockers, became an heirloom. At stated times, and with ceremonious care, it was polished to the last possible pitch of brightness, and, as was the custom in all well-ordered Dutch households, was kept in a place of honor. Catherine was born Oct. 8, 1749 and d. May 8, 1835. Her husband was appointed Ensign, ranking from Feb. 28, 1789, Lieutenant in Col. James Miles Hughes's Regiment in 1790, and Captain in the same command April 12, 1792 "in the sixteenth year of our Independence," which office he resigned in 1795. Issue:

Rachel, b. Jan. 6, 1774; d. July 1, 1800.

Garret, b. Dec. 4, 1775; d. March 20, 1780.

John, b. Nov. 30, 1779; d. April 7, 1800.

Cornelius, b. Nov. 7, 1783; d. Oct. 27, 1838.

Jacob, b. April 28, 1788; d. Dec. 12, 1799.

This Cornelius, mar. Nov. 13, 1805, Joanna Henrietta, daughter of John Peter Ritter, b. Oct. 19, 1788, d. July 10, 1843. Her grandfather Johann Pieter Ritter, b. Oct. 9, 1698, m. June 9, 1722 Maria Elizabeth Fox, and her father, bearing the same name, b. Jan. 5, 1747, d. Aug. 22, 1813. Issue of Cornelius and Joanna (Ritter) Harsen are detailed in another chapter.

The benefactor of the Church was born, as heretofore noticed, March 5, 1750. He was a man of influence, of strong will, and decided character. His future father-in-law, Garret Cozine, became executor by the terms of the will of Nicholas Dyckman who had purchased the homestead in which his father Cornelius had lived and died in 1722, from the widow and his brothers Cornelius and George, the co-heirs, for £225 on May 14, 1736. These executors were empowered

to sell all the estate at public vendue or private sale, and through them the title to the southerly forty-seven acres of the farm became vested in said Cozine in 1763. At his death ten years later, this portion was divided into thirds. When, however, two of the beneficiaries, Cornelius and Hannah, died, their sister Catherine fell heir to the whole estate and this with the eastern part of the northern half of the Dyckman tract formed the well known Harsen farm. She intermarried with Jacob Harsen in 1773. It is not to be doubted that the ceremony was performed in the homestead where the bride lived with the above named brother and sisters and where the newly wedded pair continued to reside. Broad were the acres surrounding their home from the rear piazza of which the river view, terminating in the heights beyond, dazzled the beholder. Oh, those days of yore! How they do return in memory to disparage the present! Harsen lived a serene life of comfort and content and although four of his five children died in early life the surviving son, Cornelius, a Colonel in the War of 1812 (*Vide*, p. 64), proved an honor to the name. In 1794, Jacob Harsen became one of the Board of Deacons of the Collegiate Church and as such, an officer of the School founded in 1633, the oldest educational institution in continuous existence in New York. He served as Alderman of the Ninth—his home—Ward in 1803, at a time when it was somewhat more of an honor than later and “when honest principles were a recommendation for office.”

In the mansion the Church at Harsenville was organized. A founder thereof, Harsen was elected deacon at its organization in September, 1805. He erected the first edifice of the church on land just

south of his residence, and with the site conveyed it to the congregation, at that time in embryo. His benefactions are detailed in the next chapter. When Hopper resigned as treasurer, Harsen was appointed (October 2, 1809) in his stead, which position he filled but a year because of ill health. He became an Elder (Aug. 11, 1814) when it was resolved to increase the number by one, and represented the Consistory in Classis for the first time on Oct. 18. After 1817 he appeared before that body in this capacity with singular regularity for the following decade. The Board assembled at his house—the last session there—May 12, 1835, at which time the call was indited to the Rev. Enoch van Aken, one which fixed that pastor's tenure for half a century to come. On August 11th, the minutes state that John Parks was elected Elder "in place of Jacob Harsen who had died since our last meeting." He passed from his sphere of usefulness July 24, 1835, somewhat over two months after his wife had departed this life. He had built the first vault in the churchyard of the second House of Worship, space for which having been granted him by resolution passed June 21, 1814, "in consideration of what Mr. Harsen has done and is still doing for the Church . . . without any expense for the ground," and therein his remains were deposited. Mrs. Greatorex asserts that

the family vault having been found unsuitable for burial purposes owing to the dampness of the soil was abandoned and Dr. Harsen, the grandson of its builder, purchased ground in Trinity Cemetery at 155th Street, Carmansville. The remains of three generations of his ancestors were removed under his own supervision. The monument which stood in the rear of the Church surrounded by an

iron railing was re-erected in Trinity and is to be seen there to-day.

The Harsen remains now lie in vaults Nos. 886 and 915, Westerly Division, of that cemetery. The Chief Clerk of Trinity Corporation, writing under date of March 26, 1907, says,

we have caused a long and careful search to be made of all our Cemetery records and they do not give any account of the interment of Jacob Harsen or James Striker, nor do they show that any remains were removed from the old Bloomingdale Church to our Cemetery.

A record was kept among the papers of the family of those whose remains were removed from the church, but it has failed to materialize in time to be incorporated here. The list which the Corporation enclosed of those lying in the above vaults contains only the names of those who died since the removal.

Jacob Harsen died seized of the farm. His will, dated March 26th, and proved Sept. 15, 1835 (L. 74, Wills, 215), after certain legacies to his wife and others, devised

unto my wife Catherine my mansion house, buildings and lands thereunto belonging (whereon I now live) situate at Harsenville, in the Twelfth Ward of the City of New York, on the westerly side of Tenth Avenue . . . containing about fifteen acres of land, to have and to hold during the term of her natural life.

As she had died before him by a brief space, Jacob Harsen, M.D., his grandson, son of testator's son Cornelius, entered into possession of the homestead under the terms of the will. Specific portions of his lands were bequeathed also to him in fee and another section to his executors, John A. Mildeberger, broker,



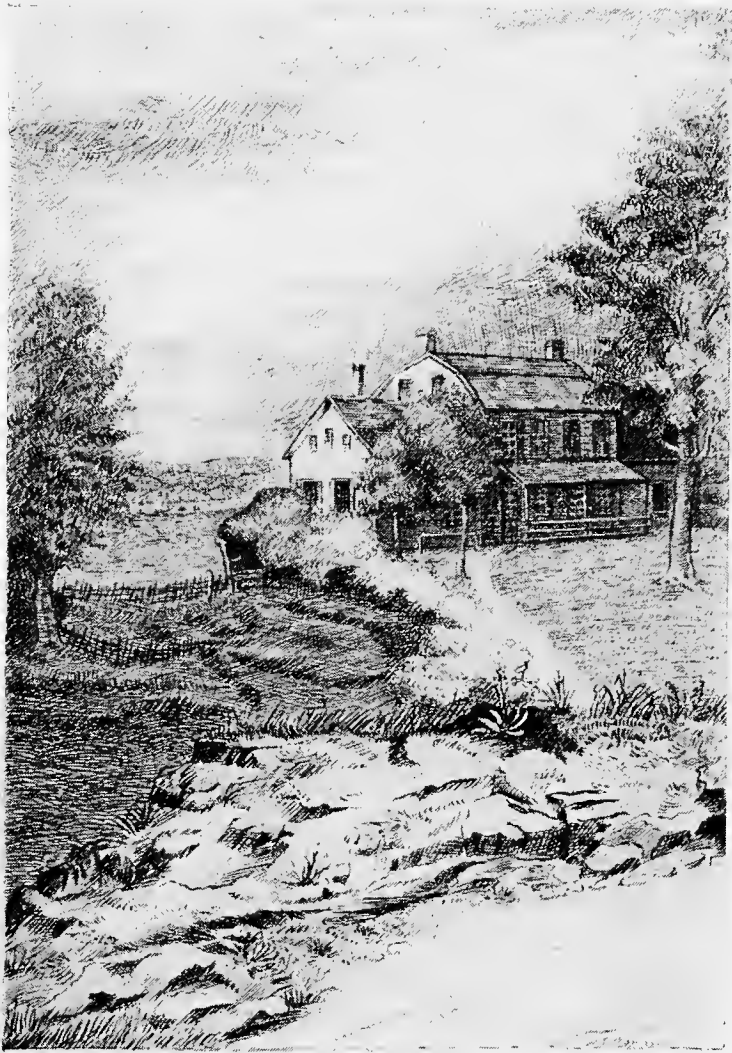
James Cockcroft, physician and the said grandson, in trust for John Peter Ritter Harsen, another grandson. As he died in 1842 unmarried and intestate provision for his issue was rendered void and his brothers and sisters took his interest, it being claimed that under the decision in *Moore vs. Lyons*, 25 Wendell, 118, all the grandchildren (*i. e.*, the children of Colonel Harsen) who were living at the death of testator took vested remainders in the land devised in trust for said John Peter Ritter Harsen. The testator left other lands in Bloomingdale, derived through his wife from her father Garret Cozine and which were a part of the Cozine farm situated in the fifties.

Jacob Harsen, M.D., who inherited so much of his grandfather's property under the will, was of unmixed Knickerbocker descent. His early years were spent in Harsenville and at the age of eight years he became a scholar at Bloomingdale Academy—a celebrated school in those days. Dr. John G. Adams read a memoir of Dr. Harsen on June 1, 1864, before the New York Academy of Medicine, and it is to that paper that we are indebted for the accompanying data. He says:

It was at this period, in 1815, that our acquaintance with Dr. Harsen commenced. We were members of the same class and were more intimately acquainted in consequence of the summer residences of our parents being in the same neighbourhood. We well remember him as a rosy-cheeked boy, full of fun and frolic, amiable in his disposition, always neat and tidy in his person and with as much love for study as is usually found in boys of that age. The school having been discontinued in 1818 [the date is incorrect for one of the author's uncles attended it in 1820, and his school books are still extant marked with the scholar's name,] it was decided to place Jacob under the charge of Mr. John

Walsh, at that time in high repute as a teacher, with a view to his preparation for college. He continued with Walsh until the fall of 1821 and in October of that year was admitted to the Freshman Class in Columbia College, taking a respectable mark for scholarship. After passing through the usual terms of his collegiate course he graduated in July 1825. Having selected medicine as a profession, he in October entered, as pupil, the office of Alexander H. Stevens, who, at that time, was in the zenith of his professional career, both as a general practitioner, as one of the surgeons of the New York Hospital and subsequently, in 1862, as Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. During the last years of his preparatory course, our friend was most assiduously devoted to his studies and in his attendance upon the office examinations, so much so, that the late Dr. Dwight Harris, then in charge of this department, had frequent occasion to compliment the candidate on his excellent preparation for the approaching ordeal. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in March 1829. His venerable preceptor, Dr. Stevens, writes: "My memories of Dr. Harsen, during his pupilage, are quite fresh. I honored his frank and truthful character, the clearness and distinctness of his mental faculties, the cautiousness with which he drew his conclusions and the outspoken fearlessness with which he supported them."

After graduation he continued to live at home and opened an office in his father's residence in Greenwich, near Charlton Street. He gradually retired from general practice but devoted himself to the relief of the suffering poor of the neighbourhood. During the prevalence of the first cholera epidemic in 1832 he rendered incalculable service to the community as one of the five physicians appointed by the Medical Council, in which position the records of the Council show that he performed the largest amount of labor and for the



THE HARSEN MANSION  
From a pen and ink drawing by Thomason



longest period. On the death of his grandfather in 1835 he was enabled to carry out a long-cherished design of visiting the Old World, making an extensive tour through Great Britain and the Continent, where he visited Russia and later Algeria. In January 1842, he was elected one of the Managers of the Northern Dispensary of which he was President at the time of his death. He was a member of the St. Nicholas Society from its organization in 1835, was one of its attending physicians in 1843, '44, and '45; and in 1859, '60, and '62 he was honored with the office of Vice-President. He held the same office in the New York Eye Infirmary, the Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, and a Trustee and a member of the Council of the Academy of Medicine.

Let us quote further:

On the 30th of April, 1859, Dr. Harsen addressed a communication to the Trustees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons announcing his intention to found an annual prize of a gold medal, of the value of fifty dollars, together with the sum of one hundred dollars in money, to be awarded for the best written report of Clinical Instruction, at the New York Hospital, and, at the same time, engaging to defray the expense of a die for the medal. On the 20th of May 1860 he again wrote to the Board of Trustees that "believing that an enlargement of the fund established by me to promote the study of medical and surgical practise in the New York Hospital would more completely fulfill the objects sought to be attained, I have increased the amount of said fund, to enable the Committee to award two additional Prizes, consisting of a silver medal, with fifty dollars in money, and a bronze medal with twenty-five dollars in money." This most liberal offer met with the most cordial co-operation of the Board of Trustees

and their hearty thanks were tendered to the donor. The services of an artist of great merit, Mr. Müller, were secured and under the auspices and good taste of the Committee, (Drs. Buck and Delafield), a die was designed and completed which is an honor to American art. The medal bears on its obverse a head of the donor; on its reverse is represented a clinical group, at the New York Hospital; both after photographs from life. Dr. Harsen, at the suggestion of the Faculty, adopted the plan of a bronze medal for each prize and the respective sums of one hundred and fifty, of seventy-five, and of twenty-five dollars, in money, to designate the order of merit. He had the satisfaction of witnessing the successful carrying out of his purpose and was present at the first distribution of the prizes of the Harsen Fund.

He had by his will bequeathed to the College of Physicians and Surgeons sixteen lots of ground at Seventieth Street and Eighth Avenue and a legacy of \$400,000 for the establishment of a hospital, in connection with the College. After the capture of Fort Sumter and the full inauguration of the war, his mind became depressed at the gloomy prospect of disunion, with all its concomitant evils. This led him to fear lest, in consequence of the anticipated depreciation of real estate, and all other property, he might not be able to make that provision for his family which he desired, whereupon he changed his purpose and revoked these munificent bequests. As Dr. Adams says, who can fail to honor the intention, even though from the force of circumstances, it was not possible to put it in execution? During the War he was an active member of the "Soldiers' Lint and Bandage Society" and the "Surgical Aid Society," to which he contributed largely of his time and money.

In August, 1862, the Doctor's condition changed

from that of robust health, dyspeptic symptoms set in, his mental depression increased, and some difficulty of articulation and an unsteadiness of gait were noticed. His strength rapidly declined until at the end of December he gently breathed his last. "Thus passed away from earth" says the Memoir, "at the age of 55 years a man of generous impulse, of high social position, favored by fortune, esteemed by his fellow-men; truly, a man of honor and of noble aspirations." Funeral services were held at St. Bartholomew's Church. His will bequeathed sixty thousand dollars to different societies and institutions; among them ten thousand dollars to the New York Eye Infirmary, ten thousand dollars to the Northern Dispensary, and a like sum to the New York Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men. A marble bust of the donor by Müller has been placed in the building of the former institution, while the Northern Dispensary has erected a marble tablet, with his profile, by Launitz, in medallion, to evince their appreciation of the Doctor's thoughtfulness. Resolutions of respect and condolence were passed by the above Societies and in addition by the Academy of Medicine, the New York Historical Society, the St. Nicholas Society, the United States Trust Company, in which deceased had been a member of the Board of Trustees from its organisation, the Greenwich Savings Bank, of which he was First Vice-President and the Firemen's Insurance Company of which he was a director.

Doctor Harsen was born in the homestead. Although his brother and some of his sisters were baptized in the Church his name does not appear on the records. An appropriate ending to this sketch is found in the chapter entitled "Bloomingdale—

Last View of Harsenville," in *From the Battery to Bloomingdale*:

September, 1873.—Five years ago, I [Mrs. Greatorex] made my first picture of this old home of the Harsen family. The lane leading to it from the Bloomingdale Road (now the Boulevard) is rougher and has a larger growth of weeds than it then had; but the place is kept neatly and its tenant for forty-five years, Madame Canaux [should be Canal] comes to the door with the same kind welcome. We beg to sit with her in her kitchen, so cool and *bien propre*, where we find shade from the intolerable heat and glare and from its windows we look at the Hudson and the opposite shore of Guttenberg. The sloops and steamboats pass up and down the river, over which the soft golden haze (first indication of the coming autumn) is hanging. We can forget the hard pavements and the weary rows of new houses on the other side and think, as we see around us the fields, the trees and the broad peaceful river, that we are still in unaltered Bloomingdale. . . . Madame's husband rented this house and the farm belonging to it and they began their life of honorable and lowly toil. She had brought with her from Havre her skill in fine laundry and the making-up of delicate laces. The husband tilled the ground, making it a productive and profitable market-garden. She worked for the ladies in the neighborhood as well as for some families in the city and her remembrances of and comments upon some of the *grandes-dames* of the time were both clear and sharp. . . . We must leave Madame Canaux now, having much to say of the Harsen house and its owners. The hall is the most interesting part of the dwelling, with a wooden arch and low ceiling. It is roomy and substantial and with furniture to correspond with its age, it might yet be made a comfortable dwelling; and as we have said, the view from the west side, where the picture shows the distant trees and a bit of the river, is very lovely,



and still almost unobstructed. . . . The Harsen family had borne earnest share in the work of the early colony and of the settlement and progress of the City of New York. Their old home, behind its foreground of ruder houses, rocks and trees, still rises tranquil and sheltered; but its history as the home of the Harsens is forever closed and past.

### Philip Webbers

This family came from Amsterdam. Wolfert Webber or Webbers, the pioneer, a putative scion of royalty, reached New Amsterdam early in its history with his wife Anna, daughter of Jan Walles deceased. His father bore the same name and his mother Annetje Selijns, the daughter of Neisgen Selijns the widow of Hendrik Coek or Koeck, mentioned the daughter in her will of May 25, 1610. On April 2, 1650, he was granted by Stuyvesant a piece of land lying "beyond the Fresh Water," between the land of Cornelis Jacobsen Stille and the valley or meadow ground. This farm was located between present Chatham (Park Row) and Madison Streets and ran from Pearl to James Streets. This district took its name from the beautiful pond long known as the Kolch, corrupted by the English into Collect, and which the Dutch usually spoke of as the "Versche water," or fresh water. The outlet into the East River flowed through a considerable expanse of swamp and meadow land, the latter being designated as Wolfert's meadows and the low land as Wolfert's valley. In 1657 he complained that his neighbor Stille had torn down the partition fence repeatedly. Both brought charges at the trial, involving the breaking of another fence in the valley, the stealing of the "hammer of the plough" and the wheel of a wheelbarrow. The Worshipful Schepens Jan Vinje and Willem Beekman were directed to inspect

the premises and to issue such orders as the occasion required. Numerous entries in the Court Minutes are found in which Wolfert was a party. For instance: this curious complaint was entered against Judith Verleth<sup>1</sup> in 1655: Wolfert stated that she had for a long time pestered him. She came with her sister Sara over to his house last week and beat him and afterwards threw stones at him. He pleaded that said Judith be warned to let him live quietly in his own house. On May 8, 1657, we find that Nicholas Verleth complained of Webber about a pile of stone, saying, "If anybody removes what belongs to another without his knowledge it is thieving. My father deposited some stone by the Fresh Water Pond before his own door and Webber removed it, whereupon we had words and Webber promised to deliver other stone instead; we want him ordered to bring back to this same place *the same stone*." The Court directed said stone to be returned within eight days. Again, Webber undertook in the same year to prevent Albert Albertsen, the employer of his son, from sending him on business to Pavonia (Jersey City), inasmuch as the agreement was that he should be employed only in the capital. Because of the danger to be expected "both by water as from the Indians, of which he has had a sample" he demanded that the defendant be ordered to employ the son in the city or else to send him back home. Should any misfortune happen him, either in passing over the river or from the savages or otherwise, he, as his father, had done his duty in giving this notification and would avenge himself on

<sup>1</sup> Judith was the daughter of Casper and Judith Verleth, and in 1666 married Nicholas Bayard. Nicholas, her brother, married Anne Stuyvesant.

defendant. The latter stated that he had hired the boy to reside with and serve him, unconditionally, which statement the plaintiff controverted and was ordered to produce proof at the next Court day. This ends the case as far as the records define.

In 1655 his "little daughter," Sara, was captured by the Indians, but was released with those first set free. Two old Bibles which she had received from her captors and which had been claimed and taken from her after her return home became the subject of a controversy. Her mother averred at the investigation in November that they had been wrongly taken by defendant's wife. The latter's husband testified that certain handwriting therein proved them to have been his books "before the late trouble with the Indians." The Court ordered restitution but required defendant to pay the girl 5 guilders for "the carrying of, and incurred trouble with, the said Books." On January 12, 1656, said money was deposited and on the next day Webber accepted and received it for his daughter. She married (1) April 1, 1661, Laurens van der Spiegel, a young man from Vlissingen, a man of considerable property, says Valentine's *History of the City of New York*, who on the reconquest by the Dutch, became a Schepen Aug. 17, 1673. The ceremony took place at the house of the bridegroom's aunt, Christina Capoens, widow of Capt. Jacob Heÿ, who had become the wife of David Jochemsen from Amsterdam, August 5, 1659. Her will, dated June 17, 1687, names her "cousin," Hon. Rip van Dam, Merchant, as an executor. He married Sara van der Spiegel, born Dec. 16, 1663, daughter of Laurens and Sara Webbers, on Sept. 24, 1684. The latter married (2) Johannes Provoost, widower of Sara Staets, June 25, 1685. He

had been the first Comptroller of the Windmill, near the North River shore and Assistant Commissary of Stores at New Amsterdam. On his removal to Fort Orange (Albany) in 1656, he had served as Town Clerk, dating from Sept. 28th of that year, to which office he had been reappointed Oct. 6, 1673. At the date of his marriage he returned to the capital and there he married (2) Anna Mauritz, widow of Domine Wilhelmus van Nieuwenhuysen.

In Sara's will 1685 she designated "her cousin, the honorable and well-learned Domine Henricus Selijns" as tutor and guardian of her minor children. He was the father of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church having secured its charter—the first issued in the colony—and at his death in 1701 was the minister at New York. His second wife was Juffrou Margaret de Riemer, widow of the Hon. Cornelis Steenwyck. He sustained a high character as an able and faithful minister and was distinguished for his literary acquirements. Steenwyck served as Schepen, Burgomaster, Mayor, Orphan Master, and Councillor of New Netherland. Margareta Selijns, the Domine's widow, in her will bearing date Jan. 25, 1711 (*Vide N. Y. His. Soc. Abstracts*, 1893, page 115) makes this provision:

To the children of Wolfert and Arnout Webber, the pictures of the father and mother of my late husband, Domine Selijns and the pictures of my said husband and his brother and his when they were children. And the picture of the father and mother of my said husband's first wife. All of which pictures are to be sold at auction and the highest bidder among the said grantees and the money to be divided among them.

The famous Anneke Jans has been claimed in some quarters to have been an aunt of the above devisees.

It is asserted that she and Wolfert Webber, Sr., had the same father, viz., Jan Webber. Her mother and the mother of Marritje Jans [married (1) Thijmes Jansen, (2) Dirck Corneliszten, Aug. 28, 1646] was then Trijn Jansen (or Jonas) the first mid-wife at New Amsterdam. This Holland custom was transferred to New Netherland about 1630. The daughter, Marritje, by the first wife, married Govert Loockermans, July 11, 1649 and this would seem to account for the Webber-Loockermans relationship. Marritje Jans was sent to the Colony at the expense of the West India Company and arrived with the first emigrants. The connection between her and the Webbers is explained in yet another way in *The Goede Vrouw of Mana-ha-ta*, which states that she was accompanied to New Amsterdam by her son who was called Wolfert Webbers and two young daughters, with the additional information that these young people were said to be the grandchildren of William IX., Prince of Orange. With the peculiar fashion of the day the last name of the family is spelled and rendered capriciously, sometimes being written Jans, at other times Jonas, while the son of Marritje Jans is called by the name of Webber. Notwithstanding the confusion it is a well authenticated fact that Annetje Webber (Jans) was the daughter of Marritje Jonas.

On May 3, 1660, an order was issued in council permitting the houses of said Wolfert and of Thomas Hall to remain and a village or hamlet to be formed near the bouwery of Augustyn Heerman or that of the Director-General on Manhattan Island (*Calendar of Dutch MSS.*, p. 196). Wolfert and Hall owned a tract of land there in common. The latter entered complaint that the former put more stock on it than he

was entitled to, and on Mar. 23, 1662 judgment was granted plaintiff and defendant was ordered to fence his share (*vide, Ibid.*, p; 87). Webbers had considerable realty east of the Bowery besides the homestead plot above mentioned (*vide* map in Hoffman's *Estates and Rights*, opp. p. 226). The latter property was confirmed by Governor Nicolls to Annette, his widow, June 18, 1670. It is known as No. 17 on the map in Valentine's *History*, etc., opp. p. 379, and became the Roosevelt Farm.

Beside the daughter Sara, Wolfert had two sons, Wolfert and Arnoult and two daughters, Anne and Hester. On Feb. 28, 1664 he and his wife, together with Sara and her husband, representing Hester and Arnout joined in conferring powers of attorney upon Anne, all of whom were co-heirs of Sara Depier, widow of Jan Walles, deceased at Monfoort for the purpose of receiving their inheritance (*vide Hol. Soc. Year Book*, 1900, p. 157). Hester Webbers of Amsterdam married Oct. 10, 1666, Pieter Abramszen van Deüren, and Anne of New York married Jacques Fonteijs of Boswijck, May 20, 1689. The eldest son Wolfert married Geertje Hassingh (Harsen) or, as she was also called, Grietje Warnardus. No record of the marriage has been found. Their children are noted in the Church Records, as follows:

Warnard,<sup>3</sup> bap. Nov. 13, 1666. Wits.: Bernardus Hassing and Anna Wallis.

Anna, bap. July 4, 1671. Wits.: Laurens van der Spiegel and Aeltje van Couwenhoven. She m. Jacques Fonteijs of Boswijck (Bushwick) as above stated. Both were living near the Fresh Water.

Hillegond, bap. March 25, 1674. Wits. Aernout Webbers and Hillegond Megapolensis. This sponsor was the



WOLFERT WEBBER'S BIBLE

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daughter of Johannes Megapolensis, the Domine, who at the age of 39 was sent from Holland by the patroon in 1642 to officiate as minister at Rensselaerwyck. His wife and four children, one of them Hille-gond, accompanied him. Her namesake became the wife of Philip Menthaer (Minthorne) of Vlissingen July 19, 1696.

Johannes, bap. Dec. 12, 1677. Wits.: Pieter Abrahamszen van Duürsen and Saertie Webbers.

Bernardús, bap. Nov. 25, 1680. Wits.: Hendrik Corneliszen and Rebecca Idens.

Either this Wolfert or his father was at the colony on the Delaware in 1662 (*vide Doc. His., N. Y.*, vol. xii., p. 381). Wolfert, Jr., served as Magistrate of Haerlem<sup>1</sup> in 1674, appointed Aug. 16th, under the Dutch and after the English conquest was Assistant Alderman in 1685, was named as such in the Dongan Charter the following year, and represented the Outward in 1688, 1689, and again in 1706 and 1707. He and his wife joined the Church in 1689 (*Holland Soc. Year Book*, 1896). A survey of "35 acres lying upon ye Island Manhattan at ye sand hills near the Bouwery laid out for Wolfert Webbers, Henrick Cornelius, and Bastiaen Elson" was made Oct. 26, 1677 by Ro: Ryder, Surveyor (*Calendar Land Papers*, p. 137).

That the founder selected a habitation better than he knew is evident from a survey of Washington Irving's well-known and appreciated narrative of the Golden Dreams of Wolfert Webber. The tale proceeds in this wise:

The Webber dynasty continued in uninterrupted

<sup>1</sup> The Court of Haerlem was erected Aug. 16, 1660. The Treaty of Westminster signed Feb. 9/19, 1674, terminated the Dutch control.

succession, and never did a line give more unquestionable proofs of legitimacy. The eldest son succeeded to the looks as well as to the territory of his sire; and had the portraits of this line of tranquil potentates been taken, they would have presented a row of heads marvellously resembling in shape and magnitude the vegetables over which they reigned. The seat of government continued unchanged in the family mansion:—a Dutch-built house, with a front, or rather gable end of yellow brick, tapering to a point, with the customary iron weather-cock at the top. Everything about the building bore the air of long-settled ease and security. Flights of martins peopled the little coops nailed against its walls, and swallows built their nests under the eaves; and every one knows that these house-loving birds bring good luck to the dwelling where they take up their abode. In a bright sunny morning in early summer it was delectable to hear their cheerful notes, as they sported about in the pure sweet air, chirping forth, as it were, the greatness and prosperity of the Webbers.

The apocryphal tale goes on to relate that Wolfert Webber did not continue to remain satisfied with his lot. The stories told at the tavern of the treasure buried by Capt. Kidd and other pirates got on his nerves. He began of nights to dig up his garden to the loss of the crops and soon he began to feel the pinch of poverty. With the consequent fall in material resources grew the fever of finding this hidden wealth. In this endeavor he and “a little dark mouldy man of medicine” whom he took into his confidence, went in a cockleshell of a skiff one inky night to the shores of the island lying opposite Hell-gate to a spot where rumor asserted golden stores were

concealed. Their adventures should be read to receive full appreciation. Suffice it to say that disappointment with a large D perched on their banners and the expedition returned home with no compensation for their trouble. But gradually the city spread its suburbs around the Webber domain. Houses sprang up to intercept their prospects. The rural lanes in the vicinity began to grow into the bustle and populousness of streets; in short, with all the habits of rustic life, the family began to find themselves the inhabitants of a city. Before many months had elapsed, a great bustling street passed through the very centre of the Webber garden, just where Wolfert had dreamed of finding treasure. His golden dream was accomplished; he did indeed find an unlooked-for source of wealth; for when his paternal lands were distributed into building lots and rented out to safe tenants, instead of producing a paltry crop of cabbages, they returned him an abundant crop of rents; inso-much that on quarter-day, it was a goodly sight to see his tenants knocking at his door, from morning to night, each with a little round-bellied bag of money, a golden produce of the soil. The ancient mansion, instead of being a little yellow-fronted Dutch house in a garden, now stood boldly in the midst of a street, the grand house of the neighborhood, for Wolfert enlarged it with a wing on each side and a cupola or tea-room on top, where he might climb up and smoke his pipe in warm weather. So he waxed old and rich and corpulent and Wolfert's dream was at last realized.

Arnoúlt<sup>2</sup> Webber of Amsterdam, married (1), Aug. 25, 1669, Ariaentje (Jannetje) Ariaens or Adriaens, a young woman from Brabant. They lived in 1686 near the Arme Bouwery (Poor Farm) and were members of

the church that year. He owned and conveyed the Great Kill Farm in 1713, before it became the property of Matthew Hopper, in which family it remained for over seventy-two years. Issue:

Wolfert,<sup>3</sup> bap. Nov. 14, 1670. Wits.: Wolfert Webbers and Anna Wallis.

Marritie, bap. Oct. 19, 1672. Wits.: Pieter Abrahamsz van Duürsen and Sara Webbers.

Adriaen, bap. Nov. 18, 1674. Wits.: Laurens van der Spiegel and Anna Wallis.

Wolfert<sup>3</sup> married Grietje (Margaret) Jacobs (Stille) Oct. 29, 1697. He was a large landholder in lower Bloomingdale. It is indeed possible that some of the wealth acquired as related in Irving's tale enabled the family to purchase these lands. His wife joined him in 1748 in conveying a plot near the Great Kill which became part of the Norton inheritance. He owned, besides, an immense tract on the east side of the Bloomingdale Road from 41st Street nearly to 49th Street, bounded north by the Hopper farm and east to Sixth Avenue and again on the west side of the Road from 43d Street to beyond 45th Street meeting the river at 51st Street. His heirs, viz.: Arnout Webbers and Sarah, his wife, Jacob Webbers and Margaret, his wife, Frederick Webbers and Lena, his wife, Cornelius Webbers and Jannetje his wife, Arie van Arden (late Ariante Webbers), Altie Somerindicke (late Altie Webbers) and Margaret Webbers, daughter and heir of his deceased son John, conveyed this entire property, Oct. 6, 1759, for £1500 (L. 42, Conv. 27). It does not add to the joy of mundane affairs to dwell on what the fates have in store nor what might have been, but had this territory been retained, the Webbers would have outclassed many

present day landed proprietors. Wolfert's golden dreams, in this instance miscarried. In 1740, his sons, Arnout, Frederick, Cornelus, and Isaac were admitted as Freeman. Issue:

Aernout,<sup>4</sup> bap. May 22, 1698. Wits.: Wolfert Webbers, Sr., and Classje Jacobs, m. Sarah Romein, Oct. 7, 1733, who was the widow of Samuel Minthorn whom she m. Sept. 30, 1727. Arnout's will dated Aug. 3, 1776, was proved in 1784 (L. 37, Wills, 187). All the children detailed below are mentioned therein with the exception of the first named. He had a granddaughter, Grace Stilwell, also. Issue:

Margrietje,<sup>5</sup> bap. April 21, 1734. Wits.: Wolphert Webbers and Ariaantje Webbers, wife Johannes van Norden; m. William Laffra, Mar. 10, 1761 and d. before 1776; no issue.

Hillegonda, bap. Nov. 28, 1736. Wits.: Philip Minthorne and Annatje Ral his wife; m. Nov. 9, 1760, David Banta.

Sara, bap. Oct. 3, 1739. Wits.: Jacob Webbers and Margriete de Riemer his wife; m. Jonathan Hardman, May 4, 1794. Their children were baptized by Doctor Gunn and will be mentioned hereafter.

Alida, bap. April 28, 1742. Wits.: Egbert Somerindyk and Alida Webbers who had been lately married (April 21, 1739).

Annatje, bap. Dec. 12, 1744. Wits.: John Man, Jr., and Annatje Minthorn his wife.

Olfred, bap. Aug. 2, 1747. Wits.: John Minthorn and Jannetje Elswood, his wife.

Philip, the deacon.

Johannis, bap. April 23, 1755. Wits.: Philip Minthorn and Tanneke Harsse (Harsen) his wife.

Jacob,<sup>4</sup> bap. Dec. 8, 1700. Wits.: Jacob Corneliszte Stille

and Marretje Hendricx, his wife; m. Margarete (de Riemer) Shute, widow, June 18, 1739. Issue:

Olivardus,<sup>5</sup> bap. April 27, 1740. Wits.: Aernout Webbers and Maria Goderius, widow of William Cunningham.

Alida, bap. Oct. 4, 1741. Wits.: Isaac de Riemer and Elizabeth de Kaÿ, j. d. (young woman).

Elizabeth, bap. Oct. 17, 1742. Wits.: the same parties.

Petrus, bap. Feb. 6, 1745. Wits.: Elbert Somer-indijck and Alida Webbers, his wife.

No marriages of any of these children are of record in the Dutch Church. *N. Y. Marriages* states that Petrus, m. May 9, 1770, Catherine Ward and had William<sup>6</sup> b. May 2, 1783, bap. Aug. 23, 1784. Wits.: John and Sara Webbers, and Elizabeth, b. Feb. 26, bap. Mar. 13, 1785, before same sponsors. Their father had land in Bloomingdale on the east side of the Road between 47th and 49th Streets, part of that conveyed by the heirs of his grandfather Wolfert as above narrated. How he became possessed thereof is not shown by the title, no conveyance being of record. At any rate, he and his wife Catherine deeded seven acres and 62 rods of it to Ebenezer Turell in 1782<sup>4</sup> (L. 42, Conv. 284. Consideration, £250).

Ariaentie,<sup>4</sup> bap. July 4, 1703. Wits.: Aernhout Webber and Claesje Webber; m. Johannes van Norden, both from the "Groote Kil" (the Great Kill) April 8, 1721.

Frederik, bap. Sept. 23, 1705. Wits.: Frederik Stille and Saratje Webbers; m. Helena Banta (no date). Issue:

Wolfert,<sup>5</sup> bap. July 31, 1737. Wits.: Arnout Webbers and Sara Minthorn, his wife. He m. Elizabeth—and had Ann,<sup>6</sup> bap. Sept. 17, 1780. Wits.: Hendrik and Hanna Banta.

- Trijntje, bap. Feb. 25, 1739. Wits.: Wierd Banta and Trijntje Loots, wife of Hendrik Banta.
- Margrietje, bap. Jan. 10, 1742. Wits.: Joh<sup>s</sup> van Norden and Adriana Webbers his wife.
- Margarita, bap. March 30, 1746. Wits.: Cornelis Webbers and Jacomijntje van Norden, j. d.
- Johannes, bap. Dec. 6, 1707. Wits.: Cornelis Stille and Jannetje Stille, his young daughter; m. Anna van Norden April 2, 1731. Issue:
- Olfert<sup>5</sup> (Oliver), bap. Aug. 8, 1731. Wits.: Wolfert Webbers and Grietje his wife. He m. Ann Borrens (Burns) Oct. 30, 1762 and had Olfert,<sup>6</sup> bap. June 24, 1764. Wits.: Michael Keets and Trijntje Webbers his wife.
- Jacomijntje bap. Apr. 29, 1733. Wits.: Aarnoúdt Webbers and Hester van Orden.
- Jacomijntje II, bap. Dec. 29, 1734. Wits.: Johannes Hoppe and Maria van Orden, his wife.
- Margriete, bap. May 1, 1737. Wits.: Jacob Webbers, j. m. (young man) and Aeltje Webbers, j. d. She was unnm. in 1759, at which date her brother and sisters were dead as were her parents.
- Cornelus, bap. Apr. 10, 1710. Wits.: Cornelus Webbers and Rachel Webber, m. (1) March 17, 1732 Cornelia Waldron of Nieu Haerlem, widow of Rijk Lent of Westchester, whom she m. Nov. 12, 1722 and had Samuel,<sup>5</sup> bap. June 2, 1734. Wits.: Samuel Waldron, Junior and Cornelia La Maetere, j. d. He m. (2) Anna Sighels (Sickels) both from the Bouwery but living here (the city) Jan. 11, 1747. No issue of record. His will dated Apr. 17, 1794, proved same year, (L. 41, 308) mentions sons Isaac<sup>5</sup> and Casparus.
- Aaltje, bap. Dec. 10, 1712. Wits.: Jacob Coning and Dievertje Kwakenbos; m. Elbert Somerindijck.
- Isaac, bap. July 24, 1715. Wits.: Hendrik Ellesse and Janneke Pears; m. Grietje Woertendijck.

Lea, bap. March 23, 1718. Wits.: Benjamin Quackenbos and Claasje Webber his wife.

Arnoult<sup>2</sup> Webber, m. (2) March 14, 1675, Jannetje Cornelis, j. d. of N. Y. Issue:

Cornelis,<sup>3</sup> bap. March 18, 1676. Wits.: Laurens van der Spiegel and Hester Webber; d. young.

Johannes, bap. June 26, 1678. Wits.: Jacob Corneliszen and Willemtie Elberts.

Claesje, bap. Nov. 17, 1680. Wits.: Theunis Corneliszen and Hester Webbers.

Cornelis II., bap. Aug. 28, 1683. Wits.: Ariaen Corneliszen and Lijsbeth van der Spiegel; d. young.

Sara, bap. Aug. 9, 1685. Wits.: Coenraedt ten Eijck and Geertie Hassing; m. May 12, 1706 Seijbrand Brouwer.

Rachel and Helena, twins, bap. Feb. 12, 1688. Wits.: Johannes van der Spiegel and Sara van der Spiegel, Jacob Corneliszen and Leentie Cornelis. Rachel m. (1) Aug. 18, 1709 William Swansten, m. (2) Apr. 11, 1713, John Hoörn of Kingstown. She of the "Grotekil."

Cornelis III., bap. Feb. 19, 1693. Wits.: Hendrick Corneliszen and Anna Claes; m. June 5, 1719, Rachel Pears, j. d. of N. Y. Issue:

Aarnoút,<sup>4</sup> bap. March 16, 1720. Wits.: Wolphert Webber and Jannetje his wife.

Willem, bap. Jan. 27, 1723. Wits.: Elias Ellis and Sara Ellis his wife; m. Oct. 1, 1764, Dorothy Fennaly.

Aernoút II., bap. Oct. 11, 1724. Wits.: Benjamin Quackenbos and Claasje Quackenbos his wife.

Philip, the quondam deacon, was the seventh child of his parents. His baptism is not recorded



in the Dutch Church Records which end at 1800. A small part of the land alienated by his grandfather in 1759 returned to the family name in 1792 when the deacon purchased a strip on the west side of Bloomingdale Road lying between 47th and 49th Streets and extending nearly to Tenth Avenue. On the block between 48th and 49th Streets west of Seventh Avenue he constructed his home and reared his family. No view of this house has been found. It was here, however, that he lived during part of the time of his diaconate, and here the Consistory met on occasion. His first appearance in the Directory was in 1828-9 when his business was at 13 Washington Street and his residence 175 Elizabeth Street. In 1830-1 he was at 266 Mott Street.

By his wife, Elizabeth Reis, he had, according to the records of the original Dutch Church:

Magdalena,<sup>6</sup> b. Jan. 19, bap. Feb. 13, 1785. Wits.: Thomas Warner and Magdalane Warner. She m. (1) — Mildeberger, and was joined (2) to William Waite by Doctor Gunn, Feb. 23, 1809, in presence of her brother-in-law Jonathan Hardman and General Striker. These children were baptised by Doctor Gunn:

William,<sup>7</sup> b. May 22, bap. Aug. 18, 1811.

George, b. June 23, bap. Aug. 22, 1813.

John, b. Oct. 31, 1814, bap. Oct. 10, 1815.

Aletta (Letitia), b. Feb. 11, bap. Mar. 11, 1787. Wit.:

Aletta Webbers.

She was married at the Church to Samuel A. Savage, Oct. 23, 1811 having joined the communion Mar. 29, 1810. They had one child baptized by Doctor Gunn:

Joseph Windham, b. Aug. 5, and bap. Dec.

7, 1812, whose father was baptized April 30, 1825.

## The New York of Yesterday

Elizabeth, b. Aug. 30, bap. Oct. 27, 1789, m. Francis Sowery, May 10, 1810, by Doctor Gunn.

Hannah, b. Mar. 12, bap. April 1, 1792. She married Henry Hughes and had two children baptized by Doctor Gunn: Letitia, b. June 12, 1808, bap. Sept. 24, 1809, and Mary, bap. June 30, 1811.

Susannah, b. July 25, bap. Aug. 14, 1796. Wits.: Henry and Susannah Sigonier. She joined the Church, Mar. 29, 1810, and d. in April, 1823.

William, b. Feb. 16, bap. Mar. 16, 1800.

Besides the above children Philip had the following, the birth and baptism of which are not recorded in the above authorities, viz.:

Sarah, became a member Nov. 30, 1809, on confession. She married Jonathan Hardman and these of their children were baptized by Doctor Gunn:

Lawrence H., b. Nov. 7, 1806, bap. Jan. 18, 1807.

Aaron, b. Mar. 11, bap. April 6, 1809.

Henry, b. Nov. 23, 1811, bap. Mar. 1, 1812.

Jonathan, b. May —, 1814, bap. Oct. 10, 1815.

Elizabeth, b. Nov. 31, 1816, bap. Aug. 21, 1817.

Catharine. By her husband William Stratton, she had, baptized by Doctor Gunn:

Catharine, b. July 30, bap. Aug. 31, 1806.

Sarah, b. Aug. 3, bap. Aug. 28, 1808.

William Waite, b. Mar. 15, bap. May 7, 1810.

John, m. Margaret Ford. Their son Philip was b. May 22, 1807, and bap. by Doctor Gunn Sept. 3, 1808. He died in 1825.

Frances, m. John Vidal.

Maria, m. Chas. Whitmore Smith after 1825, and appears as a witness to a marriage May 12, 1831. She d. Nov. 29, 1834, leaving an infant child.

Philip Webbers and his wife conveyed small portions of the above-mentioned land to various parties. In 1801 a plot was deeded to Esther Gomez, which she conveyed to Isaac Leggett three years later. In 1807 he gave a plot on the west side of the Bloomingdale Road at the northwest corner of 47th Street to Jonathan Hardman. In 1819 another portion was conveyed to Stratton, in 1820 one to Savage, and the next year one to Waite. After deeding a lot to his daughter Catharine Stratton in 1825, he, his wife being dead, conveyed the residue of the tract to his heirs, Apr. 12, 1825 (L. 191 of Conv., p. 1) to wit: Sarah Hardman, Letty Savage, Catharine Stratton, Margaret Waite, Elizabeth Sowery, Frances Vidal, Maria Webbers, Margaret widow of John Webbers, and Letty Hughes a granddaughter, on condition that if the latter "shall be intermarried and have a husband now living, then all the estate to her hereby granted shall cease, determine, and be utterly null and void." The "message" on which the grantor resided and then dwelt was included. He reserved a life estate for himself and wife should he remarry, and provided that at his death the premises be divided into nine equal parts which shall be drawn for by the respective parties. The deacon died March 25, 1830, says the abstract of title and, Oct. 30, 1832, according to Do. van Aken, without having married again, and the grantees divided the property thus vested by deeds to each, which are duly recorded.

Webbers became a deacon at the founding of the

Church. The Consistory met at his residence for the first time Oct. 12, 1808. After a service of nearly three years he tendered his resignation, which, "after much serious consideration" was not accepted. For another three years he held office, but at the session of Oct. 17, 1814, which assembled at Deacon Harsen's, it was whispered that he had connected himself with a church of another denomination. The proceedings taken by the Board because of this action will be detailed elsewhere. Suffice it to say here that he died in the faith of his ancestors.



*your friend and servant*  
*J. H. Livingston*

Portrait and signature of Rev. John H. Livingston, D.D., LL.D., from the *Memoirs of Dr. Livingston*, 1829, by the Rev. Alexander Gunn, D.D.



V

**The Church at Barsenville**

1805-1855

On the September evening hereinbefore mentioned, certain members of the Dutch Reformed Church sat around the hearth in Jacob Harsen's quaint old Dutch mansion and piled up the logs. That noted Domine of the Collegiate Church, the Rev. John H. Livingston, D.D., was present as were also Mr. Harsen, Andrew Hopper, Philip Webbers, and John Asten. After prayer, the minister called the little company to order and was elected Moderator. The Doctor was in his sixtieth year at the time and his praise was in all the churches, but particularly in that branch thereof known as the Reformed Dutch. He was first in her councils, first in her honors, and first in her affections. It came to be considered the Doctor's prerogative to be present on such occasions as this and at the laying of the corner-stone of a new edifice or the opening of a new church for public worship. For a series of years when either of these functions was to be done in any part of the city, or in any place at a moderate distance therefrom, he was requested, in deference to his prominence and seniority in the ministry, to perform the service. It may be questioned whether any contemporary clergyman in the United States, except

a diocesan, had the honor of laying more corner-stones and opening a greater number of ecclesiastical buildings than he. Born in Poughkeepsie May 30, 1746, and educated for the ministry at the University of Utrecht in Holland, he was called to the pastoral office of the Reformed Church in New York in 1770 and elected to the presidency of Queens College, New Jersey, 1810. After his decease Jan. 20, 1825, in the fifty-fifth year of his ministry and the forty-first of his professional labors, the General Synod of the Church at New Brunswick erected a monumental stone "in token of their gratitude for his services and veneration for his memory" (*N. J. Archives*, vol. xxi., p. 318). It will be recognized that the infant organization at Harsenville could not have been started under better auspices.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Rev. Dr. Livingston was in the fullest sense a man of the Old School, not only in doctrine, but in manners, in mode of life, and even in dress. He walked the streets erect as a grenadier on parade, his gold-headed cane carried upright before him like the mace of a magistrate, his spacious and broad-brimmed hat surmounting the white wig which spread its curls upon his shoulders, the ample square skirts of his coat falling below his knees and his shoe-buckles glittering on his feet as though the dust did not dare to soil them. Such a figure was not to be passed by without attention and reverence. In politeness of manners he had no superior; indeed he carried its forms to the extreme limit. He would always have the last bow to his acquaintances, whether parting from them at his own house or theirs. In a playful humor, some of his clerical brethren occasionally tried how far the good Doctor would carry this habit, but they invariably had to give up the struggle; for, let them follow the polite old gentleman far as they would and bowing at every step, he would still have the last bow. He was as much unlike others in the pulpit as in the street or drawing-room. While the essential doctrines of the Gospel that know no change form the great staple of his discourses, he enunciated them in a manner that constantly reminded you of generations gone by; of the fathers whose works you had read but whose faces you had never seen. He seemed in no way inclined to belong to the present generation. But whatever may have been his error in this respect he was eminently a good man, a sound, impressive



At this first meeting of the neighbors, the religious needs of the community were discussed and the Church formally gathered. Andrew Hopper and James Striker became the first elders and Jacob Harsen and Philip Webbers the deacons. So stood the first Consistory. The minutes of the Board are intact. A reminiscence of old-time methods is presented while handling them. The sand with which the wet ink was sprinkled still adheres in places to the writing. Under date of Oct. 20, 1805, it is noted that Dr. Livingston had preached a sermon appropriate to the occasion from Rom. iii., 31, and had ordained the persons before elected to fill the above offices, whereupon business was proceeded with. Hopper was chosen Moderator and it was decided that regular meetings be held the first day of every month "until a minister be settled among them." On Apr. 1, 1806, Hopper was delegated to represent the Church in the Classis, and on July 1 was appointed Treasurer. It is not stated where the Consistory met for these early sessions; doubtless at the Harsen mansion. On September 6th a formal agreement was executed by these four individuals and a name,

### THE CHURCH AT HARSENVILLE,

was given to the embryo congregation (L. 1 *Incorp. Religious Denoms.*, p. 46; *vide* Appendix B). On the 16th the Board assembled at Striker's Bay and here a definite call was made to the Rev. David Schuyler Bogart. After graduating at Columbia College in 1790, he studied theology under Livingston, to whom

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minister of the Gospel. He retained to the last much of the costume and many of the habits which belong to the clergy of his early days." —*Recollections of Persons and Events*, J. M. Matthews, D.D., 1865.

the call was perhaps due. He was a zealous student and an uncompromising advocate of the truth. His facility of diction and graceful and impressive oratory were well known, as was his cheerful, kind, generous, bland, and affable disposition. To these qualities of heart and intellect he united a memory of surprising vigor and tenacity, from whose rich stores his friends derived instruction and gratification ever new and interesting. Corwin's *Manual* says he was pastor at Bloomingdale 1806-7. Possibly he preached there during that period, but no mention thereof in the minutes is to be found. He seems to have been just the man to start the Church on its pilgrimage. Unfortunately he refused the call and remained under the Southampton, L. I., Presbytery, where he had been since 1796.

Harsen having in the interim constructed a church edifice, which had been consecrated by Dr. Livingston the last Sabbath in June, 1805, conveyed it Nov. 3, 1806, together with the premises described below, to Striker, Hopper, and Webbers, or "the congregation at the place or neighborhood in the Ninth Ward by the name of Harsenville," to wit:

all that certain church or building and piece of ground on the westerly side of the Bloomingdale Road beginning 40 feet from the line which divides the land of the said Jacob Harsen and the heirs of John Somerindyke and running from thence 55 feet along the said Bloomingdale Road and from thence towards the land of the heirs of the said John Somerindyke 35 feet till it comes exactly 35 feet from the line which divides the land of the said Jacob Harsen from that of the heirs of the said John Somerindyke, and from thence on a direct line 80 feet to the place of beginning, leaving a piece of ground between the land of the said

heirs and that hereby granted 40 feet in front on the said Road and 30 feet in the rear, according to a plan or draft which is hereby annexed.

This plan, however, was not included (L. 74 Conv., 178) when the deed was recorded March 13, 1807, "at the request of Mr. Andrew Hopper." We should have doubtless known the size and exact spot where the original church stood.

This resolution was passed Oct. 12, 1808, at the house of Webbers:

That the thanks of this Consistory be presented to Mr. Jacob Harsen for his pious and benevolent gift of the church and the ground belonging to it—with fervent prayer that he may have the satisfaction to see the Church prosper while he lives and be at last rewarded with "well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

No view has been preserved of this *First House of Worship*.

Another call, equally abortive, proceeded from the Harsen house, June 16, 1807. Rev. Stephen N. Rowan, a graduate of Union College, had lately been licensed (1806). His commanding intellect and sound common sense, united to his very religious inclinations from the age of six years, would have been of material assistance at this stage. He preferred, however, to stay with the Church at Greenwich Village. In 1819 he founded the Eighth Presbyterian Church in Christopher Street.

### The First Minister

Two years, eight months, and twelve days were passed before the congregation succeeded in settling a pastor. Ministers were shy in those days, says Dr.

Martyn, in his *History of Eighty Years*, to which we are indebted, but pulpits in and around New York do not go a-begging any more. At the Harsen mansion on May 21, 1808, a call was made out upon the Rev. Alexander Gunn, and ratified in the presence of the Rev. Peter Low, Moderator. An annual compensation of £320 was offered. Mr. Gunn was also a college man (Columbia) and had just been licensed by the Presbytery. Brought up in the Presbyterian faith he was led to join the Dutch Church and accept this call in order to be settled near his widowed mother. From the early age of thirteen, when he conducted family prayers, his inclinations had a religious trend. This led him to undertake the preparation for the ministry, for which he studied under Dr. Kolloch of Princeton and Dr. Rodgers of this city. He proved to be just the man for the place and was worth waiting for. Then in his twenty-third year, he passed his life of twenty-one years in the ministry with this Church. His highly cultivated mind and lively imagination placed him among the best and most popular preachers in New York. He was a powerful theological controversialist, to which were added ease and dignity of manner. His gentlemanly deportment was such that the term Chesterfieldian attached itself to him. The College of New Jersey (Princeton) conferred upon him the degree of A.M. in 1805, to which was added in 1817 that of S.T.D. by Allegheny College. With it all it is related that from the start he nested low among his people, made himself one of them, and was easily their leader in good words and works. During his ministry he wrote under the pseudonym of "Clericus" and was selected by the General Synod to compose *The Memoirs of Dr. Livingston*, a formidable volume



*Alexander Gunn*

Portrait and signature of Rev. Alexander Gunn, D.D., by courtesy of  
Thomas J. Burton, Esq.

“The actual originator of the present ‘University of the City of New York’  
was, undoubtedly, the late Rev. Dr. Alexander Gunn, of  
Bloomingdale.”—George W. Bethune, D.D. (1855).



of 540 pp., which was published in 1829. Such data concerning the latter personage as appear above are culled therefrom and the accompanying portrait adorned its pages.

The edifice erected by Harsen stood on the west side of the Road between present 69th and 70th Streets, now the site of the Nevada apartment house. It was a small frame building painted white, and had a cupola shaped like an umbrella. The sounding-board over the pulpit rested at such an angle as to impress some of the attendants with the notion that it was in danger of falling and crushing the preacher. Occasional services had been held there prior to the coming of Mr. Gunn, and Lawrence Lawrence had been selected July 1, 1806, to lead the singing, which he pitched with a tuning-fork, any mechanical instrument being thought an invention of the devil. Heating was accomplished by means of a stove which the Consistory on Dec. 1, 1808, ordered to be purchased. What primitive days were these! Wood for fuel, candles and stands for light, and a table on which to place them, served the purpose, for other means were not at hand. The building was so small that Harsen and Striker, who had been appointed therefor, reported at this session that they had waited on Mr. Barnewell and obtained a room of him in which to hold societies and social meetings during the winter. Mrs. Sarah Gunn, the wife of the pastor, tendered her certificate of dismissal from the Presbyterian Church and was received into this communion. The Westminster shorter catechism was introduced for use among the smaller children. The state of religion in the congregation at this time (Jan., 1809) was of so favorable a nature as to be highly gratifying.

At the meeting on the first day of the next month, Striker was appointed to accompany the pastor on his ministerial visits during the ensuing year, and subscriptions towards the building of a parsonage were undertaken. The regular meeting in March was held at the house of Webbers, when Striker reported that \$255 had been collected for the enterprise. A day—the first Sabbath in April—was set for the administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. John Barlow and Hannah his wife presented certificates from the Rev. Sol. Fraligh, Pastor of the Church at Hackensack. Mrs. Martha Hoffman made confession of faith, as did Miss Ann Striker, at a session at Harsen's later in the month. Robert Wade, a member of Christ's Church, New York, was present and proceeded to make confession, whereupon he also was received. These names are the first mentioned as having joined the fellowship.

The initial meeting at the minister's residence took place on April 3d. Striker announced that he and Harsen had obtained \$1280 in subscriptions. Webbers observed that John Hopper the Younger would present half an acre on the Bloomingdale Road and that John Horn had indirectly offered land in Hopper's Lane, on which to build the parsonage. Hopper was an elder brother of Andrew, and the father-in-law of Striker. He had married Wyntje, daughter of Nicholas Dyckman who lived in the Dyckman-Harsen mansion at Harsenville, and she removed to the homestead on Hopper's Lane at her marriage, April 21, 1759. At his death, in 1819, the family plot at 50th Street and Ninth Avenue claimed his remains. The Hopper brothers and their sister Jacomijntje Horn drew specific portions of their father's farm (*vide* "Hopper Farm,"



page 8) under the will, and it was a portion thereof which they wished to alienate in favor of the Church. It was thought expedient to accept one of these offers, whereupon Harsen arose and proposed the acceptance of a gift from him of an acre on the Harsenville road, with the liberty of the choice of any one of ten acres thought the most eligible. "After considerable debate," continue the minutes, "this offer was accepted and the Consistory agreed to meet at Mr. Harsen's house on Wednesday afternoon for the purpose of looking at the ground and choosing a suitable spot." Thereupon Hopper, Striker, and Harsen were appointed a committee invested with full power to contract for the construction of the building upon such plan as to them should seem most economical and advantageous. By the meeting in May, the subscriptions therefor had increased to \$1400, and it was there stated that the site had been selected, certain material had been purchased, and cellar stone had been hauled to the location. Garret H. Striker, the Elder's oldest son, was appointed collector, and two services in the church to continue through the summer season were determined on.

In June it was announced that a stable had been erected on the parsonage property. Harsen stated that the ground was being surveyed and the deed drawn. It was agreed that the children should be catechised every Wednesday afternoon in the church. How interdependent the community and the congregation were is shown by the resolution passed to request the schoolmasters to omit school on that afternoon. At the September meeting, the stated sessions of the body were slated for the first Monday in each month thereafter at 4 o'clock, and on the

18th of that month the unoccupied pews were to be rented, due notice of which event was to be announced from the pulpit. Harsen was authorized to provide a place in which to hold religious and social meetings during the coming winter. The back room at Barnewell's was again taken for this purpose, with the proviso that no carriages enter the yard.

After the admission to membership of Jane Cozine (widow Ackerman), Rachel Cozine, and Sarah Webbers, wife of Jonathan Hardman, in November, it was entered that the Consistory "bless the Lord for what He has already done for His little flock in this place and pray for greater out-pourings of His Spirit upon the congregation." The question as to what the charter of the Church required to be done to preserve its legality had been referred to Isaac L. Kip, Stated Clerk. It was reported at this meeting that it was necessary to make a return of the state of its finances to the Legislature every second year. The first sexton, Isaac Dey, was engaged in December at £3 per annum. On account of the shortness of the days and the coldness of the weather it was agreed to postpone further work on the parsonage.

The new year (1810) opened with a regular meeting at Hopper's residence. Nothing of moment transpired. In March, work on the parsonage was resumed. It was announced that \$1900 had been expended thereon to date and that \$250 additional was needed. The work would be completed by the middle of June. The Consistory met at the "Society Room." Preparations for a garden on the grounds were ordered. Mr. Gunn stated on April 5th that he had received an appointment to proceed to Canada in the interest of the Committee on Missions and requested the opinion of





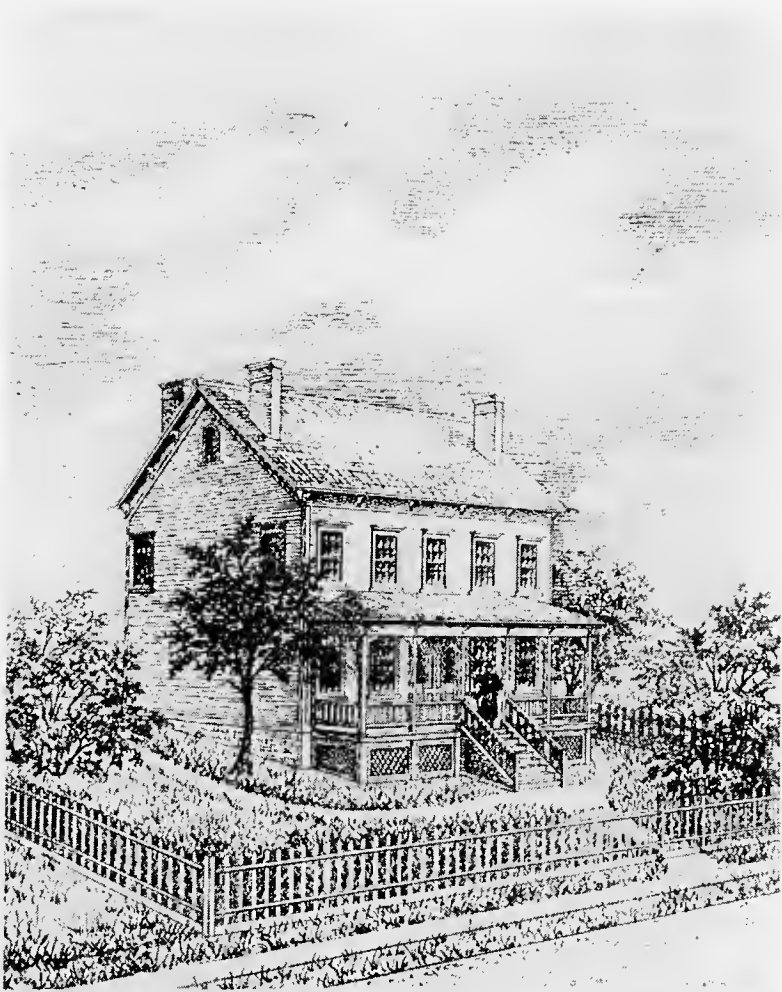
the body thereon. A vacation of three months was granted and part of a collection for the benefit of the Church was donated toward his expenses. A horse for the accommodation of the ministers who should supply the pulpit during his absence would be provided. It was agreed that the Lord's Supper should be administered quarterly thereafter instead of three times as theretofore. On December 4th, Harsen announced that during the spring he had deposited with Striker, the Clerk of Consistory, the deed of the parsonage ground duly recorded. This instrument bore date of Sept. 16, 1809, the parties thereto being Jacob Harsen of the Ninth Ward, Gentleman, and the Trustees of the Reformed Dutch Church at Harsenville respectively and conveyed realty by this description, viz.:

Bounded on land of Lemuel Wells, on land of the said Harsen and on Harsen Street, containing in breadth 100 feet and in length on the northerly side 531.4 feet and on the southerly side 523.9 feet, reserving and excepting out of this present grant the ground set apart for streets and as appears noted or dotted upon the said annexed map, upon condition that said tract of land nor any part thereof shall at no time nor in any way nor at any time hereafter be sold nor in any wise be disposed of by any ways or means or under any pretence whatsoever, but that the same shall always and forever be and remain for the use, benefit, and income of the said Reformed Dutch Church at Harsenville, and also upon condition that said Church enclose the land in fence (L. 85 Conv., 521).

In March, 1811, Holmes declined leading the singing for a longer term and Wade was appointed to that office. As he was found unable to give punctual

attendance, another was engaged three months later to officiate as chorister. Striker was selected in April to attend at the pastor's residence on the Thursday preceding the administration of the Lord's Supper to hear the confessions of such as may apply for admission into the communion. A commission from Brunswick came to the pastor in June necessitating his absence for a few weeks in order to discharge the duties imposed thereby, and in August Webbers submitted his resignation as deacon, which, after serious consideration, was not accepted. In October it was ordered that the afternoon service be dropped on the first Sabbath in November and that in its stead an evening meeting be held alternately in the Church "and the lower part of the congregation." It should be recalled that the streets were not lighted at this time and the above resolution was passed in order to enable members to attend service with less inconvenience. On these occasions the congregation met at the residences of communicants in the fifties, sometimes at Hopper's, again at Webbers's, at Horn's at 51st Street and the Road, or at the Cozine house at present Eighth Avenue near 54th Street. Hopper and Harsen were to make provision for these meetings. In November the place of evening meetings "in the upper part of the congregation" was changed from the Church to "Mr. Harsen's room above Tyson's shop."

Some little debt having remained after the building of the stable and the parsonage, Striker and Harsen in February, 1812, were deputed to accompany the pastor in soliciting donations to liquidate the burden. In April it was resolved to offer Mr. Ufford, the principal of the Bloomingdale Academy, a pew for the use



THE OLD PARSONAGE

THE ORIGINAL PARSONAGE

73d Street, near Columbus Avenue; from *The History of Eighty Years*





of his family if he would lead the singing. "The abuses of the Sabbath day" in the neighborhood became so open that it was suggested some exertion be made to ameliorate the conditions. On second thought, however, it seemed imprudent to interfere. A request was made to the Moderator to "exhort" at funerals. He preferred to act at his own discretion on such occasions, according to the circumstances which might exist at any particular time. An additional sum, subscribed by Messrs. Harsen, Striker, Lemuel Wells, James Boggs, Gerard W. Livingston, and Dr. John G. Adams, was added to the pastor's salary in June. Wm. B. Holmes was appointed collector. Under the article of the constitution requiring an inquiry to be made into the walk and conversation of members, a number of cases were investigated during the year 1813. These arose because of non-attendance at Church, of irregular attendance at communion, and of intoxication. Some of these individuals were suspended. A generous donation was received from the Collegiate Consistory and a letter of thanks was prepared and forwarded by the pastor and Harsen. In February, 1814, Striker and Harsen were appointed to ascertain what alteration could be made for the better accommodation of communicants on sacramental occasions, and to make such changes as they deemed advisable. In April it was announced that the alteration undertaken in front of the pulpit had been made. Samuel Adams Lawrence became a member in February and had tendered his assistance in collecting subscriptions for a *new* House of Worship. The following resolutions in this connection were passed on April 29th:

*Whereas*, it is the earnest wish of this Consistory to

promote, as far as may be in their power, the precious interests of the Gospel in this place, and whereas they believe that a new and larger building than the one in which Public Worship is at present performed, would contribute to that object,

*Resolved* that the Rev. Alex. Gunn, our Pastor, and Mr. Samuel Lawrence be and they hereby are appointed a committee, in our name, to solicit subscriptions of the members of our own congregation and the friends of the Redeemer of all denominations to whom they may think proper to apply for the purpose of building a new church to belong to this Consistory and our successors.

*Resolved further* that the Committee be and they hereby are authorized to proceed to the building and enclosing of the church when they shall have obtained subscriptions to the amount of \$3000. They are also authorized to select a situation for the Church provided it be not far one way or the other from the present church, and provided also that the building and premises belong to the Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church of Bloomingdale and their successors.

At the meeting in May it was announced that the amount above specified had been obtained, and it was recommended that an address be sent to the Consistory in town soliciting a donation. Striker and Harsen, having already conversed with members of that body, were appointed to draft and forward the address. A building committee was thereupon appointed. Harsen of that committee stated on July 19th that he had contracted with James Westerfield for the mason work for \$5300, and with King and Hoogland for the carpentering for \$4500, making \$9800. The plan of the Church was then presented. From Hardie's *Description of New York*, 1827, we learn that its size was 57 x 72, containing 4104 square

feet. The Collegiate Consistory resolved on June 16th, in consideration of the application of the Church for aid in building the new edifice, to donate therefor \$2500. On August 1st a copy of this resolution was presented and the Board voted to "most gratefully accept of the donation which their Brethren have been pleased to make them, on the conditions mentioned in said resolutions, and that Mr. Gunn and Mr. Harsen be a committee to prepare and deliver to the Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church of New York, a letter of thanks for their generous donation." Although the Constitution provided for the election of officers every two years, it was not until August 11th—a matter of nine years and nine months—that action was taken, at which time it was decided to add two more to the number of the Consistory. When the ballots were counted Harsen was found elected Elder, and Henry Post and Samuel A. Lawrence, Deacons. The Consistory was consequently composed of

Andrew Hopper,	} Elders.
James Striker,	
Jacob Harsen,	
Philip Webbers,	} Deacons.
Samuel A. Lawrence,	
Henry Post,	

A report to the Legislature was ordered to be prepared and Post appointed Treasurer, vice Striker.

The pastor and Lawrence, in carrying out the directions of the Board, selected property fronting on the Bloomingdale Road at present 68th Street, a part of the Somerindyke Farm which fell to the daughter Margaret, wife of Wm. A. Hardenbrook. The deed (L. 107, Conv. 632) thereof, bearing date Sept. 26, described the property as follows:

Beginning at a point in the easterly side of the Bloomingdale Road, so called, where the same is intersected by the middle of Sixty-eighth Street, which point is distant westerly from the westerly side of the Ninth Avenue 469 feet and running thence along the middle of the said street easterly 163.65 feet, thence at right angles to the same northerly 130 feet, thence at right angles to the same westerly 236.35 feet to the easterly side of the Bloomingdale Road aforesaid and thence along the same southerly to the place of beginning.

The consideration expressed was \$596.00, with full covenants. This deed was received by the Consistory October 17th, and put in the Treasurer's hands for record.

And now came a defection which cast a damper over the joy caused by the inauguration of the new enterprise. It came to the knowledge of the Consistory this month that their brother Webbers, since the last meeting, had attached himself to the Baptist Church in Gold Street, and had been baptised. This fact was deeply lamented and it was felt to be a duty, in a spirit of Christian love, to notice it. Accordingly their delegates to Classis were instructed to lay the case before that Reverend Body with the request that the seat of the brother as a deacon be vacated and that advice be given as to the proper course to pursue. The matter was not brought to their attention by the pastor and Harsen, the representatives to Classis, when they assembled the following morning in the Consistory Chamber in Garden Street (Exchange Place), because the Committee of Overtures were of the opinion that the local Board had power to act. On this announcement the delinquent's seat was vacated and he was suspended from the communion

“until he shall manifest due repentance and renounce the error he has embraced.” A long period of time elapsed—fourteen years—before this hope was realized. Finally on March 18, 1828, notification was made that he “wished to return” and this minute was adopted:

Philip Webbers, who in the year 1814 embraced the error of the Baptists and left this Church and his seat as an officer therein to connect himself with a Baptist Church in the city, having solicited to be received again into the fellowship of this church,

*Resolved* that the suspension voted in the case of Mr. Webbers at the time he left us, be and is hereby removed and that he be restored to the enjoyment of his privileges as a member of this Church in good standing.

*Resolved* that Mr. Webbers be asked at the next preparatory service, or sooner if he wishes it, if he freely and sincerely renounces the error he had embraced and, upon his answering in the affirmative, that his restoration be publickly announced and that it be recommended to the members of the Church to receive and treat him as a brother who deeply laments his error and is now sincerely desirous to live and die in the faith of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church.

*Resolved* that the Pastor and Mr. Harsen be a committee to inform Mr. Webbers of the proceedings of Consistory.

As a matter of historic interest it should be stated that the “Gold Street Meeting House” was constituted June 19, 1762, and was the first Baptist Church in New York City. Elder John Gano of Huguenot descent was the first pastor. The edifice was turned into a stable for British cavalry during the Revolutionary struggle. In 1802 a new building was erected on the same site. The Rev. William Parkinson, A.M., from Fredericktown, Maryland, became minister Feb. 8,

1805, and held that position for thirty-five years. He resigned in 1840.

Caspar Meier was elected deacon in the place of Webbers, which office, by the way, he declined to accept at this time.

The *Mercantile Advertiser* of July 23, 1814 announced that "The corner stone of a Reformed Dutch Church was laid at Bloomingdale on [Thursday] the 21st inst., by the Rev. Alexander Gunn."

Through a misunderstanding or otherwise the new site of the Church did not prove an immediate blessing—instead it became the cause of manifold vexations. The committee appointed to examine the records—and why it was not done before payment was made surpasses comprehension—reported in November that a mortgage of \$2400.00 had been found thereon. Lawrence and Post were thereupon deputed to wait on the grantor primed with the queries: Had it been cancelled and if not, What arrangement could be effected to extricate the property from the incumbrance? In January, 1815, it is noted that this interview was far from satisfactory. Hardenbrook's property was ascertained to be weighted with an incubus of \$5300.00. A staggering blow indeed. What was worse no arrangement could be made. In this situation it was finally agreed that a joint bond of Harsen, Striker, Hopper, Post, and Lawrence should be executed secured by a consistorial bond, pledging all the property of the Church, on which to raise sufficient money to purchase the mortgage, which covered twelve and one half acres of land and included the new site, the title to which latter plot should revert to the Consistory. The net proceeds of the sale of the mortgaged land should be appropriated to the payment of the

joint bond and claim. The following day, two of the members were selected to wait on Mr. Dey, attorney for the mortgagee, Miss Eleanor Ellison, for further inquiry, and in February the questions asked and the answers thereto were read and proved satisfactory. The mortgaged lands other than the Church lot, were sold at auction—a quick turn showing a demand for village property—and on June 24th, statement thereof was rendered. Hardenbrook returned the three hundred dollars which had been paid down on the signing of the contract of purchase—a partial compensation for the annoyance he had caused. It appears from the above account that an actual deficiency of \$528.00 existed for which the Church must provide in order to indemnify the individual members and be released from their several claims upon it. So it turned out that eventually the new site cost \$1124.00.

The above mentioned members of the Consistory did, on the eleventh of September, release said Hardenbrook from all personal liability and from all actions or causes of action for or on account of said deficiency “because there appeared to us but little prospect of recovering the sum without distressing his family, and for this reason we had agreed to hold the premises as our security for the whole amount due to us on said Bond and Indenture of Mortgage.” He relinquished his right to a pew in the new church.

On January 5, 1815, the building committee reported that the contractors had not completed the work according to the terms specified. This was viewed as a favorable circumstance inasmuch as adequate funds had not as yet been provided. The pastor stated that he and Striker had examined and received into the communion Ichabod Prall and Hannah

Thompson his wife. He was elected to fill Webbers' place on April 11th. As a number of the members of the Haerlem congregation had frequently expressed a wish to be connected with the Church so far as to have a part of Mr. Gunn's services there, it was moved that a committee be appointed to endeavor to effect such an arrangement by conferring with that Consistory. Striker and Lawrence were selected. The Haerlem people proposed to give \$500 for one half of the pastor's services and would consider whether they would not pay \$600. From their conversation it appeared that they very favorably entertained the arrangement. Nothing seems to have come of this. At any rate no further reference is made to the subject.

In the view (Frontispiece) of the new church edifice it will be noticed that a marble tablet is inserted over the main entrance. The pastor and Lawrence were appointed to carry into effect a resolution passed on May 1st, which provided that the names of the present Consistory be inscribed thereon. The stone accordingly read:

#### THE CHURCH AT HARSENVILLE

Founded in 1805

Rev. ALEXANDER GUNN, Minister

Andrew Hopper, } James Striker, } Jacob Harsen, }	Elders.	Samuel A. Lawrence, } Henry Post, } Ichabod Prall, }	Deacons.
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In July it was announced that the pastor had drawn the inscription and Lawrence had had it prepared. The Consistory met at Prall's residence in Greenwich Street, for the first time on June 14th. John Somerindyck, the original owner of the farm, having died Oct. 11, 1790 left him surviving his widow Sarah, who





*I Prall*

Portrait and signature of Ichabod Prall, Esq., by courtesy of Miss Ida Benjamin



released her dower in the plot on which the Church was being built. This conveyance was delivered to the Treasurer this date to be recorded. She did not die until July 2, 1830. Alderman Harsen was requested to ask Col. Harsen his son, the Treasurer of the School Fund, to advance \$250 for the uses of the Consistory. Prall was added to the building committee. The pastor, with Harsen and Lawrence, was appointed to draw up resolutions respecting the future sale of the pews and after retiring submitted the following:

As it is but reasonable and right that this Church should pay for itself in the sales of the pews as other churches in the city have done, your committee beg leave to propose that this Consistory in the first place resolve, that when the Church is completed, the pews shall be so valued according to their situation and size as that they shall, whenever they are all sold, bring, in the aggregate, as much as the Church shall have cost or thereabouts. In the second place that all pews which do not bring their valuation at the first auction, shall then or afterwards, as the Consistory may at the time determine, be sold for a term of years, not exceeding ten, at a certain price which they shall fix upon or at auction.

Subscription papers were thereafter circulated bearing this caption: "When the Church is built, the pews will be valued and sold at auction and every person's subscription will be credited as purchase money." The names of such subscribers as have been preserved follow:

John Goodwin	\$25	William Jauncey	\$25
Daniel Mack	25	Samson Benson	25
Frederick Beinhauer	25	Wm. Rhinelander	25
Dr. Gamage	25	N. Prime	25

William Paldwin (?)	\$25	David Cargill	\$25
Rich. Harison	10	Hannah Lee	5
Corn <sup>s</sup> . Ray	20	A. Forman	10
J. J. Diedericks	10	Peter R. Post	5
T. A. Emmet	10	George McKay	10
C. McEvers	10	Samuel Van Verden,	
Henry S. Dodge	30	Bloomingtondale	15
Nathan Sanford	20	Catherine Teller, Kip's	
D. S. Jones	10	Bay	15
Alexander Hamilton	10	Benjamin Benson	20
John G. Brevoort	20	R. Riker	30
John G. Coster	10	Joel Bridge	30
Daniel D. Tompkins,		Mrs. McAdams	15
Albany	25	William Ogden	15
P. G. Hildreth	10	John Taylor	20
Nicholas Fish	10	James Boggs	15
Joseph Houston	10	Henry McFarlan	15
Jno. H. Talman	10	Benjamin Desobry	15
Henry Cheriot, Jr.	5	Clement C. Moore	10
Abrm. Brinckerhoff	20	Henry S. Williams	15
Mary McCrea	10	Jacob Horn	10
Joshua Barker	5	Jno. Hegeman	8
B. Livingston	25	Nicholas Fish	10
Saml. Borrowe	10	William Edgar	10
John Thompson,		Naphtali Judah	10
203 Pearl Street	10	George Janeway	20
W. R. Stewart	10		

The signatures of the above individuals are attached to the two lists now in existence.

At different times during the year (1815) some kind of an arrangement had been sought with the contractors whereby progress could be made on the church building. In September the minister and Lawrence undertook to see King in the hope of finishing the contract this season. On his expressing a willingness to complete the interior for the original estimate of

\$2700 provided the portico and stoop were omitted, the Consistory agreed and such contract was entered into. The same committee was then authorized to deal with the master mason. It was reported in October that a front gallery and stairs could be added for an additional \$400 and this was ordered. As to the mason work Westerfield suggested the matter be submitted to arbitration. The building committee agreed to meet them both at the site. Satisfactory settlement of the dispute was effected. An order for \$61 against the Consistory, which Westerfield had delivered to Hardenbrook, was by him given to the Church, as an off-set in some measure to what had been lost through him.

On Nov. 24th an extra session was called at Hopper's whereat Post presented a deed which he and the pastor had received from Mrs. Barbara Asten of two lots of ground fronting both on Broadway and Mercer Street as a gift, the proceeds of which to be appropriated to the support of the Gospel in this place. This letter was thereupon drawn up and signed by the whole Consistory, and the pastor, accompanied by Post, requested to deliver it to Mr. and Mrs. Asten.

BLOOMINGDALE, NOV. 24th, 1815.

DEAR MADAM,

We the Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church at Bloomingdale, sensible of the benefit you have conferred on this infant Church, beg you to accept our most sincere thanks. The donation you have been pleased to bestow is a liberal one and will greatly aid us, we hope, in supporting the preaching of the Gospel among us, to which object we shall feel a pleasure in applying it according to your request. As the Lord has enabled and inclined you to devote a portion of your earthly substance for the promotion of the interests of this little Zion, He will, we trust,

abundantly reward you,—reward you with His blessing which maketh rich. You doubtless derive great satisfaction from the belief that you have done good, but this is but a small part of the reward of such noble benevolence. All who shall reap the benefit of your liberality as long as the Gospel shall be preached in this house of God will remember you with gratitude, and in a better world you will, we trust, receive an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading.

Madam, we sincerely bless you for this seasonable and liberal benefaction, and we hope it will be the means of inducing others to whom God has given the ability, to follow your laudable example. We earnestly pray that the Lord will be pleased to restore you to health and lengthen out your days that you may yet see for yourself the happy result of your charity. We deeply lament the unfavorable state of your health; but the great Physician of soul and body, we hope, will arrest your disorder, or if this should not be consistent with His righteous will, will give you that faith and love—those rich supports and substantial consolations of his grace which will enable you to bear its progress with resignation and patience, and finally, to meet death with joy and triumph. As a small token of our gratitude, we hereby present you with as much ground in the rear of our church as will be necessary for a vault if it is your wish to build one—and when you shall have finished your course, we will perpetuate the remembrance of your liberality to this church by inserting a stone with a suitable inscription upon it on the right side of the pulpit of the New Church. We commend you to Jesus, the hope and salvation of every penitent sinner.

Dear Madam, with great respect,

Your friends and Brethren in the Lord,

ALEXANDER GUNN, *Pastor.*

The property was ordered surveyed and a committee appointed to lease it.

Stephen Jumel, the French merchant, had given a bell for the first church and this was still in use. In December, 1815, the sexton was directed to omit ringing it during the winter. Captain Newson made an offer of one for the new edifice in June of that year for which he was thanked, and Harsen and Lawrence were appointed to wait on him that he should be informed of the circumstances (what they were is not disclosed), under which the Jumel bell was held. At the interview the Captain stated that he was very glad to have the opportunity of making the gift and it was accepted. In May, 1816, now that the building was approaching completion, the above mentioned officers "tried" both bells and were of the opinion that either a selection should be made or the material run into a new and larger one. Thereupon it was decided to hang the Jumel bell and get the consent of the Captain to dispose of his present for the benefit of the Church. The building committee was requested to confer with King and arrange to have it hung in the cupola. It was reported in June that the Captain was perfectly willing his bell should be made use of in any way the Consistory thought proper. Hopper and Daniel Mack, who had been elected to the diaconate in August, 1816, were authorized April 7, 1817, to make such disposition. The highest offer was 15 cents a pound. It would be interesting to know what became of the Jumel bell. Captain Newson was doubtless Charles Newson, mariner, who appears in the City Directory of that period at 57 Pike St.

Lawrence had made a contract with Westerfield and Berwick in January of \$1700 for finishing the edifice. Collections for considerable amounts came to hand now. Hardly a session passed without such an an-

nouncement. And they were needed. Notwithstanding urgent endeavors sufficient funds were not forthcoming. The Consistory had become involved to a considerable extent "in building the new church in this place" and endeavors had been made to arrange with the creditors that the necessity to sell the Asten property be avoided. It was the original design of this benevolent woman that the proceeds of her gift should be appropriated to extinguish the debt, and she had recently expressed a desire that the lots be disposed of for that laudable purpose. Accordingly Post was authorized in June to apply to a Master in Chancery for liberty to sell. In July such leave was granted. Harsen and Prall were appointed in August to effect the sale at an upset price of \$3750. It was stated later in the month that a verbal sale had been made at this valuation. At the October session the would-be purchaser declined and an offer at a lower price was made to him. Advertisement was suggested at private sale and a mortgage on the two lots adjoining, which had been bequeathed to the Church by Mrs. Asten's will, proposed. In November Striker and Post were deputized to sell two lots at auction. Eventually the property was sold to John Sharp, merchant, for \$3000, by this description: all those two certain lots of ground situate in the Eighth Ward and designated in a certain map made by Adolphus Loss, Surveyor, of part of the estate of Barbara Asten by No. 6 and No. 21, fronting on Broadway and Mercer Street, being 74 feet, 10 inches north from Hester Street, containing in front and rear each 25 feet and in depth together from street to street 200 feet. Deed dated Feb. 21, 1817, signed by Alexander Gunn, President, and James Striker, Clerk (L. 122, Conv. 377).



The first impression of the seal of the Corporation which was adopted this month was attached to this instrument. It was presented by Hopper and Harsen and was made of silver with these initials "R. D. C. H." engraved thereon.



The disposal of the pews in the new edifice now engaged attention. In July Col. Anthony Post and G. B. Vroom were selected to put a valuation on the pews, according to their situation and size, so as to bring \$16,500. Deacons Lawrence and Post were appointed to fix the rents at the pro rata of 13 per cent. of the valuation for the first three years, and to preside at the sale, which was set for the Tuesday afternoon after the formal opening of the church.

The *Evening Post* of July 31, 1816 contained this advertisement:

SALE OF PEWS AT BLOOMINGDALE

On Tuesday next, the 6th inst. the pews in the Reformed Dutch Church, lately erected at Bloomingdale, will be sold at Auction, the sale to commence precisely at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at the Church.

Harsen and Striker were chosen to notify the subscribers whose names have been heretofore indited. Rentals to commence Aug. 1. In case of default in the payment of the rent for six months such pews should revert to the corporation. It was reported in August that 28 pews had been sold and leased, the latter for a term of five years. Some of the pewholders of this date whose names have been gleaned from the

records were Isaac L. Varian, who later became Mayor of the City, Rev. H. G. Ufford, Mr. Smedes, John Hopper, Ichabod Prall, S. N. Bayard, the widow Beekman, Andrew Hopper, Gurdon S. Mumford, Andrew van Buskirk, Cornelius Harsen, and Archibald Gracie. It was resolved in October, 1818, that the pews occupied by the Elders and Deacons be altered and Striker, Harsen, and Post be a committee to engineer the matter. Because of a disagreement as to the plan to be pursued Prall was added. Finally the matter was shelved.

#### DEDICATION

The Reformed Dutch Church at Bloomingdale will be opened and dedicated to Almighty God next Lord's Day, when a collection will be made up for the benefit of the Church; the service to commence precisely at 10 o'clock in the morning. The church is a neat stone building situated near the five mile stone, and lately erected by the congregation under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Alexander Gunn.

*Evening Post*, July 31, 1816.

August 4, 1816. This was a great day in the village. The Church was dedicated with *éclat*. The pulpit was decorated with the damask cloth which Andrew Hopper had presented, and lying thereon was noted the large Bible, the gift of William King, the builder of the edifice, the exterior of which had been constructed of stone. The long communion table graced the space just below the pulpit. The building was filled to the doors. Representatives of such Bloomingdale families as Beekman, Bayard, Van den Heuvel, Schieffelin, Post, Gracie, Livingston, Adams, Benson,

Bogert, Bowne, Brower, Cargill, Cornell, Dana, Deas, Doremus, Dorland, Dusenberry, Felix, Fleet, Hegeman, Hardenbrook, Havemeyer, Howland, Jasper, Lawrence, Leggett, Low, Lozier, Magee, Mildeberger, Morris, Nash, van Orden, Quackenbush, Riker, Ritter, Schuyler, Sidell, Somerindyke, van Zant, von Post, Waldron, Arkenburgh, Carss, Clendining, de Peyster, Hanaway, Hardman, Hoffman, Meier, Mott, Sanford, Varick, Findley, Fish, and Remsen, without reciting many of those heretofore mentioned in the text, were present. A handsome lawn sloped to the Bloomingdale Road, along which a picket fence had been erected. From the gateway a path led to stone steps which provided entrance, iron scrapers having been inserted on an end of the upper step that the mud of the Road be not carried into the sanctuary. To one side hung the rope attached to the Jumel bell. Through the portals trooped the assemblage. We can well imagine the pride with which the pastor presided. The precentor stood in the gallery and led with a tuning fork the old-fashioned hymns and the psalms from the new books. Altogether a revival of religious interest was awakened which scattered seeds of activity throughout the district. An expense of fully sixteen thousands of dollars had been incurred, a portion of which was yet to be provided—a large sum for those days and this suburban locality. It was reported on Dec. 9th that the total amount obtained through the subscription papers had aggregated \$1146.31, and some ninety dollars were yet to be collected. A larger amount was subsequently donated as shown by the list which follows. It is prefaced by an extract from the Minutes passed April 29, 1814, as hereinbefore given (p. 169), supplemented with this further obli-

gation somewhat altering the caption of the list as detailed on page 177:

N. B. When the Church is built, the pews will be valued and sold at auction subject to an annual rent; and the amount of every purchaser's subscription will be credited as purchase-money either in part or in whole as the case may be.

Names	Places of Residence	Dlls.
Jacob Harsen	Bloomingtondale	500
Saml. A. Lawrence	"	250
Cornelius Harsen	"	250
Jno. Beekman	"	100
I. Prall	"	125
Caspar Meier	"	100
St. N. Bayard	"	100
John Asten	"	100
Abrm. K. Beekman	"	100
Gerard Beekman	"	100
John Horn	"	100
Andrew Hopper	"	100
William Jas. Stewart	"	100
Jn. S. Roulet	"	100
N. DePeyster	"	100
Lemuel Wells	"	250
Magdalen Ritter	New York	100
Jno. Clendining	"	50
Wm. A. Hardenbrook	"	296
John Adams	"	100
John Hopper	"	100
Stephen van Rensselaer	Albany	100
Henry Rutgers	New York	100
Gerard de Peyster	"	100
J. C. van den Heuvel	"	100
Arch. Gracie	"	100
John Jacob Astor	"	50

## The Church at Harsenville

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Names	Places of Residence	Dils.
Peter Hegeman	New York	50
Henry Post	"	50
Thomas Gardner	"	50

At the session at Hopper's on the 16th a letter was received from Lawrence declining to serve longer as deacon. During his service of two years much had been accomplished, very largely due to his initiative, and it was with regret that his resignation was accepted. Mack succeeded to the vacancy. The next meeting was called at his residence. It was customary to land the wood for the heating of the Church at Harsen's dock.

Mrs. Asten was a daughter of Caspar Samler who in 1780 acquired 37 acres of land near the junction of the Bloomingdale and the Post Roads and later 15 acres additional. Three distinct Samler houses are located on the Commissioners' map of 1807. Samler died in 1810 and left his farm to his grandchildren. Some five acres of portion No. IV. thereof, that part which formed the angle between these two roads, he devised to the children of his daughter "Barbary should she have any." Effingham Schieffelin, William Coulthard, and James W. Anderson married her sisters.

Mrs. Asten died July 24, 1816, without issue leaving a will dated June 29th of that year (L. 53, Wills 290), wherein she bequeathed lots numbered 22 and 7 on the Loss map, extending from Broadway to Mercer Street, to the Church and Nos. 8, 9, 23, and 24 to "my particular friend, Rev. Alexander Gunn" and to his heirs forever. To him also was devised "my mahogany book case." To her sister Mary, the wife of Effingham Schieffelin Nos. 13, 14, 17, and 18 and a house and lot "adjoining Nassau Street" were be-

queathed. Should she have no heirs the fee descended to the Church. The testatrix set apart lots designated as Nos. 12, 28, and 27 from the proceeds of which Thomas Rose was to get \$500, Henry Post \$500, Judith Paul \$250, Richard Harrison \$1000, and a faithful servant \$500. By codicil dated July 8th the above provisions for her sister and for Rose were revoked and the executors directed to sell Nos. 13 and 17 and to invest the proceeds and pay the interest to said Rose during his lifetime and to his present wife after his decease. On her death the principal reverted to the Church to which also were bequeathed Nos. 14 and 18, immediately after the testatrix's death. Jacob Harsen, Alexander Gunn, and Ichabod Prall were nominated executors.

It was intimated that the heirs were inclined to take possession of this property, and in March, 1817, Harsen and Post were appointed to confer with them, with power to commence suits if necessary. They were advised that they should file a bill in chancery which was accordingly undertaken, and at the same time the lots were fenced on the Broadway front. Thereupon the attorneys for the heirs, Schieffelin, Coulthard, and Anderson, made an offer of \$2500 each for the four lots bequeathed outright to the Church. (Nos. 7, 22, 14, and 18). In June the offer was raised to \$2600. The Chancery bill was completed and filed and subpoenas served in July. The rear of the lots along Mercer St. was then fenced in order to take full possession. In August it was stated that the attorneys had purchased a pretended right to the property which had involved them in some difficulty, in consequence of which they had renewed the offer in writing and agreed to pay half the costs. It was thought advisable

to let the suit proceed. In September a further proposition being received it was resolved to sell to Effingham Schieffelin, William Coulthard, and James W. Anderson, representatives of the heirs-at-law contesting the validity of the will, for \$2700, each, under certain conditions which the lawyers later agreed to. Petition to the Chancellor for permission to sell was granted at a Court of Chancery held at Albany on December 1st. By the report for 1818 we find that settlement of the difference with the firm was effected Dec. 24, 1817. Most of the Consistory were present and the President (the pastor) and the Clerk (Striker) had executed the church deed as directed (L. 124, Conv. 429). The sum of \$5633.29 was received and deposited in the City Bank. Harsen announced that he had received a donation of \$100 from Schieffelin for his trouble, which was turned in as a gift with thanks.

In August, 1817, application was made to the Consistory in town requesting aid. A loan of \$4000 was granted on the personal bonds of Hopper, Striker, Harsen, and Post. It was decided that \$3000 was sufficient and three bonds of \$1000 each were prepared in September and signed by the above gentlemen with the exception of Post whose place was taken by Prall. Two of these bonds were redeemed in December from the proceeds of the Asten lots. Jacob Naugle was appointed singing leader at \$20 per year and held that position from Jan., 1818 to Oct., 1819.

The yearly report of 1818 tells in detail the payments made from the purchase-money received from the above sale and proceeds: "The President and Treasurer cannot but congratulate the Consistory upon the liquidation of so many heavy debts which

have given all so much concern and trouble." It appears that the present debt was only \$91.77 more than when the new edifice was begun.

The sum is so small that it may be said that the New Church is entirely paid for; that they are exactly in the situation in which they were before the corner-stone of that building was laid. . . . We have gained in fact the church and the extinction of our old debt. Few churches in our land can congratulate themselves upon being in better circumstances. Have we not great cause, Brethren, for gratitude to that God who has been with us and helped us? The whole expense of our church, exclusive of the burial ground, is \$16000. Three thousand was collected by the congregation. The rest Providence has furnished us from different sources.

From the Consistory in town	\$2500
“ Mrs. Asten	8400
“ individuals in small sums	3100
	<hr/>
	\$14000

Yes, the sum of \$14000 has been given us from the good hand of our God! This sum added to the \$3000 raised in the congregation makes \$17000. Surely we must say the Lord has done marvellous things. Let us rejoice and praise His Holy Name. Such being the happy result of our labours there is not one who has had a share in them and been ready at times to sink under their weight but on a review of the past will rejoice to the last moment, that God has honoured him in the work and made him the happy instrument of so much service to the interests of this Zion. We cannot find language to express our wonder and gratitude.

Signed by Alexander Gunn and Henry Post. Business was thereupon suspended and thanks were returned to God for His great goodness. It was resolved to



erect a suitable monument to the memory of "our distinguished Benefactress," who had in fact built the Church. This had been erected prior to Feb. 2d and gave general satisfaction. It was decided that a lecture be delivered every other Sabbath evening in the old church which was to be put in condition to render it convenient and comfortable for the purpose. In April the President stated that the walk and conversation of the members generally, so far as he knew, were according to the Gospel. The Lord's Supper had not been dispensed heretofore after the manner of the Dutch Church. On solicitation that this order be followed the Pastor readily agreed to adopt that form, as it was a non-essential and to gratify the wishes of the Consistory. The order as written by Dr. Kuyper would be followed. The method is different from that at present observed, as will be noticed:

1. After sermon, the form is read and an extemporaneous prayer delivered.
2. Another portion is read, and during the singing of a psalm or hymn the pastor descends from the pulpit and prepares the elements.
3. An address is made, concluding with an invitation first to the officers and then the other communicants.
4. When seated at table the elements are dispensed; then those who have partaken are dismissed.
5. While they retire and others approach the Clerk sings a verse of a Psalm or hymn; this to be repeated "at every succeeding table."
6. When the last table is served the minister ascends the pulpit, reads the concluding

part of the form, makes an extemporaneous prayer, and gives out two or three verses to be sung.

7. Collection and benediction.

In June Harsen and Striker were appointed to wait on Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rose, who were to receive the income of lots Nos. 13 and 17 under Mrs. Asten's will, to ascertain if the life estate could be bought. No conclusion could be arrived at with the beneficiaries. Harsen and Post were requested to negotiate a sale of the Consistory's interest with the Life Insurance office. This was found impossible unless the executors would assign the bond and mortgage now thereon. Coulthard had offered \$1100 payable in 60 days, whereupon Harsen proposed that the lots be granted to him for that amount at 30 days, and this was agreed upon. Conveyance dated Oct. 5, 1818 (L. 131, Conv. 433). With this money the other \$1000 bond given for the loan of August, 1817, was paid and the final debt on the Church extinguished. In August of 1818 the manner of election of officers was changed. Hereafter an Elder and Deacon would be chosen one year and the rest of the members, two Elders and two Deacons, the following year: Thereupon Striker was re-elected and Samuel A. Lawrence chosen as Deacon. On receiving his declination John Asten was unanimously elected to the vacancy on condition that he join the Church. In September a certificate was presented from "the Church in town" and Asten's name was accordingly entered on the books. It was stated that steps leading from the Road had been put in position by Post, who had also seen to the regulation of the property in front thereof. His "seasonable benefaction" was appreciated. A

number of the attendants had removed from the village, among them former Deacon Mack. Those who had done so or died were erased from the records. Prall "moved up" in October. Robert Oliver was appointed sexton in place of Isaac Dey. A pump and cistern were provided for the parsonage and a well was sunk there the next month. A horse was obtained for the use of the minister.

In January, 1819, an endeavor was made to put a stop to the selling of liquors and other profanations of the Sabbath "in this place." Twenty shillings had been collected for the contingent fund of Classis. Wood 19s. per load. This method of computation was a relic of the English occupation. When the Federal government recast its financial arrangements upon the decimal system of the dollar, the shilling remained as a designation for several sums which were fixed for the several States by the last general quotations of the paper of the precedent colonies.<sup>1</sup> The cheapest shilling of all was the York shilling, in use in New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Michigan, computed at 12½ cents, or eight to the dollar, the colonial bill of credit being worth only \$2.50 to the pound sterling.

Lock was engaged in October to sing. Consistory met at Asten's for the first time on December 7th. Application had been made to the summer residents

<sup>1</sup> The Pennsylvania shilling was 13½ cents, and such was the reckoning in New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. The New England shilling ran six to the dollar, or 16⅔ cents, and this value held in Virginia, Kansas, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, Florida, and Alabama. In Georgia and South Carolina the shilling was computed at 21⅔ cents, or 4 shillings 8 pence to the dollar. The shilling remained the customary unit of domestic marketing in New York until long after the Civil War, and is still met with.

during the past season for contributions and in April, 1820, subscription papers were circulated among the land-owners in the neighborhood for the support of the Gospel. The hamlet was sparsely settled, and largely by persons whose income, while ample for a careful living, did not allow of much extra expense. This state of affairs necessitated the solicitation of contributions at frequent intervals. Harsen, Striker, Post, and Prall were appointed a committee in this instance. This method was obligatory, as collections were taken up at divine service only on stated occasions. Each of these officers selected distinct districts to canvass. Donations were made by Mrs. Beekman and by Messrs. Weyman, Geo. Wilson, present Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Burnham, Low, Cargill, Bansel, Bayard, Buck, Meyers, Carrick, Jauncey, and Ogilvie, who lived near by. The afternoon services began the first Sabbath in April.

Now and again a case deserving of discipline presented itself. A flagrant one occurred in March, 1821. Not being a member the culprit was suspended for six months. Another who was addicted to intoxication fared in like manner. Committees were appointed in each instance to converse with the guilty ones. The individual first mentioned repented of her sin, professed sorrow, and requested that the suspension be raised. This was done after careful examination in February, 1823. Another who was reported in August, 1824, was so humble and sorry for the sin committed that repressive measures were not considered requisite. A tavern-keeper was advised in 1826 to abstain from the Communion Table as long as he kept his house open and transacted his business on the Lord's Day.

In May, 1821, it was announced that the late Johannah Beekman had bequeathed four lots in trust, which were to be sold and one half the net proceeds be given to the Consistory. The portion of the will (L. 56, Wills, 384) relating thereto is as follows:


To my respected friend, Rev. Alexander Gunn, Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church and Congregation at Bloomingdale in the Ninth Ward, all those four lots of ground situate in the Tenth Ward of the City of New York, heretofore part of the Estate of Pierre van Cortlandt, to wit: lots Nos. 62 63 64 and 65, all fronting on the easterly side of Forsyth (late Second) Street, as the said lots are bounded and described in and by a map of the ground heretofore of Pierre van Cortlandt, deceased. To have and to hold the said four lots in trust, nevertheless, and to and for the following uses and no other, to wit, the said Alexander Gunn, his heirs and assigns and he or they are authorized to sell and convey them at public vendue or otherwise whenever he shall judge it most advantageous and good and sufficient deeds in fee simple to execute and deliver therefor and the proceeds of such sale, after deducting all necessary charges, taxes etc., he shall dispose of in the following manner, viz: One quarter of the net proceeds thereof he shall pay to the Treasurer of the American Bible Society, one half to the Trustees of the Church at Bloomingdale of which he is now Pastor, for the sole benefit of said Church, and the remaining one quarter he shall keep for his sole use and benefit and that of his family. (Will dated March 5, 1821).

On the 29th of May it was reported that the lots had been sold at auction and brought \$440. Harsen bid in three of them, which he said the Consistory could have if they pleased. Two of them were accepted in June, viz. Nos. 63 and 64, and Prall offered to advance the money necessary to fill them to the

proper level. The Pastor and Harsen were appointed to make such a contract. These offers were noticed as being liberal ones—creditable to these gentlemen as friends of the Church and deserving of grateful remembrance. Alexander Gunn as Trustee conveyed to Henry Post Nos. 62, 63, and 64, each 25 x 100 feet, by deed dated June 14th, consideration \$300; bounded west in front by Forsyth Street, north by the Dutch Church burial ground, east in rear by other ground of van Cortlandt, and south by lot No. 65, sold to Joseph Concklin. A lower price had to be accepted because the "removal of the Church ground fence" had reduced the size somewhat. Post sold Nos. 63 and 64 to Caleb Concklin later for \$400.

The new singer, Humphrey, was engaged to lead in June, 1821. The winter evening lectures would begin in the old church in October. The afternoon services were resumed the third Sabbath in April, 1822. Friday previous to Communion Sabbath was set apart to be observed as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer. In July, it was arranged that thereafter monthly collections be taken up from May to November and quarterly for the rest of the year. The usual summer subscription was ordered. Striker and Prall were to cover the territory from Manhattanville to the van den Heuvel mansion and Harsen and Post the rest of the congregation. Post declined to stand again for election in August, and Richard A. Striker was chosen deacon. By invitation, Post sat and acted with the Consistory in November, when it met at his house after the summer vacation. Striker became Treasurer in the place of Post resigned. Thanks were voted to him for his faithful attention as Treasurer. A committee was appointed to inquire what alter-



*Rich<sup>d</sup> A Striker*  


Portrait and signature of Richard A. Striker, Esq., from the original painting in possession of Mrs. J. H. Maples





ation could be made in the place "where the Clerk stands."

The cupola was repaired in January, 1823, and John H. Striker made collector. The afternoon service began the first Sabbath in May at 4 o'clock. Post was appointed Church master. The Church and parsonage were ordered to be put in a complete state of repair. On August 12th, the terms of Hopper, Harsen, and Prall having expired, they were re-elected. The regular fall collection was ordered. Striker undertook to collect donations in the neighborhood of his home, and Prall near by the Church. Among the contributors were Messrs. Boggs, Duryea, van Antwerp, Watkins (who married a daughter of James Striker), Joel Post, Gideon Lee, and Mrs. Bingham. Trees were planted in and about the grounds under the supervision of R. A. Striker in November and the chimneys were ordered cleaned. It was found impracticable to have the work done "by the patent sweeps," and "another method" was used. Consistory met at Quackenbush's residence for the first time. Thomas J. Emmons was engaged as sexton in June, 1824. Among his prescribed duties were to care for the property that it might not be injured in any way by boys or cattle, to prevent children from being disorderly, in the summer season to have the windows open so as to give air without rattling the blinds, to attend to the sawing of the wood, keep the stoves in order in both the old and new churches, to open and light with candles the former edifice on lecture evenings, and to direct the work of opening vaults and digging graves in the churchyard. Isaac Dey, former occupant of this office, was discharged. Asten presented some damask for a new cushion for the pulpit. The

study at the parsonage was put in better condition. In August Striker, was re-elected Elder and Prall chosen in place of Hopper deceased. Asten, Richard A. Striker and James Quackenbush were elected Deacons, the latter in place of Prall. They were ordained in September. The afternoon service was suspended in November.

In January, 1825, it became known that the establishment of a Dutch church was in contemplation in the vicinity of the Arsenal (the present building near Fifth Avenue within the limits of Central Park). A wish had been expressed that this Consistory take it in charge as a branch of the local church. John Williams, a communicant, offered to donate two or three lots as a site provided an edifice like unto Mr. Baldwin's or Doctor Rowan's would be built. Some opposition to this undertaking was evinced and the matter was postponed for further enlightenment. Later in the month it was decided to be inexpedient "under present circumstances." The election of church officers was changed from August 12th to the first Monday in October annually. It was found that members of the body were often absent in the country at the former date. Harsen, Prall, and Quackenbush were re-elected to their respective offices in October accordingly. A new cistern was constructed at the parsonage in March, 1826. Naugle re-engaged to lead the singing. Striker, Asten, and Richard A. Striker were re-elected the following October.

A list of donations to the Female Cent Society made by the ladies of the congregation this year supplies these names: Anna Maria Jackson, a granddaughter of Jacob Harsen, Mary Striker, the Elder's wife, Mrs. Post, wife of the Deacon, Mrs. Horn, Mrs. Clendining,

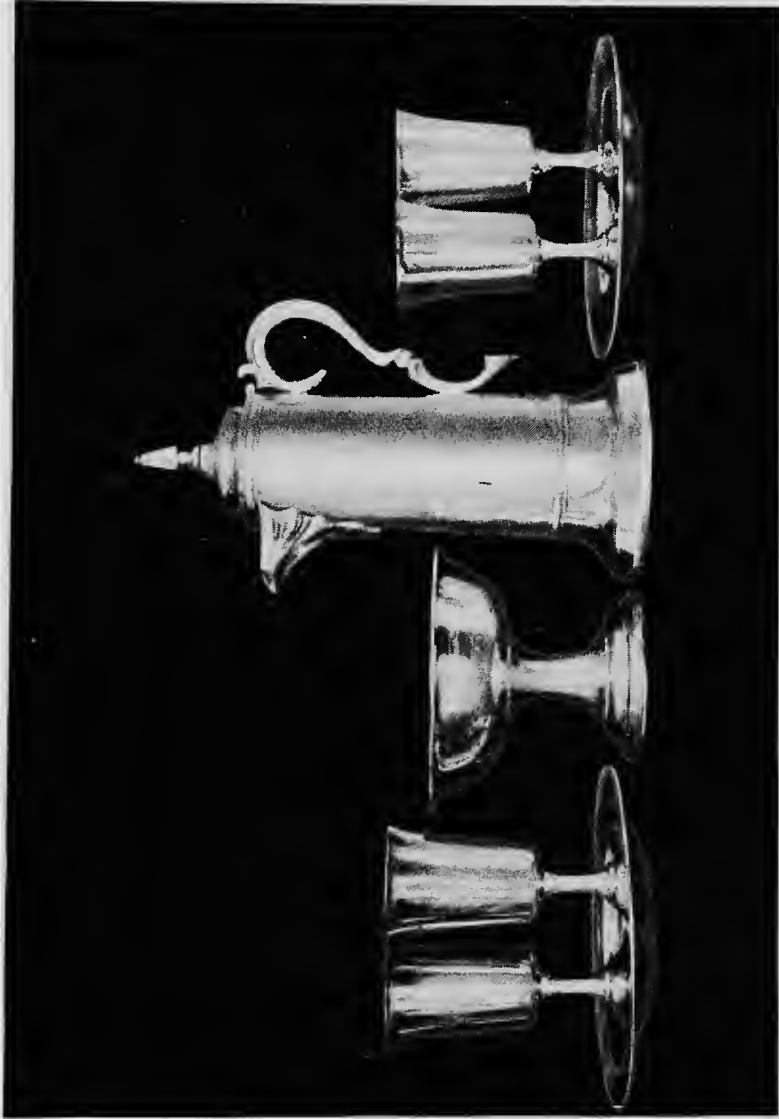
Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Meier, Mrs. Kunze, Mrs. Ichabod Prall, Mrs. John Williams, Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Martin, Catherine Cosine, Rachel Cosine, Sarah Kent, Mrs. Cargill, Mrs. Westerfield, Mrs. Powis, Mrs. T. J. Stevens, Miss Lavinia Mott, daughter of the Rev. George Strebeck and adopted daughter of Jordan Mott, Mrs. Garret H. Striker, Mrs. Isabella Hamilton, Mrs. Quackenbush, Mrs. Feitner, Mrs. John Miller, Mrs. Amory, and Mrs. Bayard.

The location of the parsonage was found thus early to be unhealthful and the Pastor applied for consent to his removal therefrom. This desire was concurred in with the hope that a change of residence would prove beneficial to the health of his family, and his children be more conveniently educated. Board met at the old Church June 5, 1827, for the first time since the new edifice was occupied.

In 1828, a horse shed was put up adjoining the barn on the parsonage plot. Harsen, Prall, and Quackenbush re-elected. Communion articles were purchased. Each was initialled with the usual style: "R. D. C. H." Those heretofore in use had been loaned by a friend. The new set consisted of one flagon, four cups, one bowl, and two plates. Subscriptions were received therefor and also for larger stoves, some complaint having been made that the building was not sufficiently warmed in winter with the present ones. Those who made donations here indited aid us in fixing the names of some attendants on the services. Mr. Gunn, Jacob Harsen, John Horn, Jr., Richard A. Striker, James Striker, Ann Striker, Caspar Meier, David Cargill, J. Prall, John Clendining, John Asten, Henry Post, John Williams, Joel Post, Augustus A. Prall, Richard Powis, Samuel A. Savage, Thomas Stevens, John Beek-

man, S. N. Bayard, Samuel van Orden, Martha Amory, C. and R. Cozine, Mr. Park, Mrs. Leggett, Mr. Westfield, Mrs. Martin, Miss A. M. Jackson, Mr. Quackenbush, and Mr. Ackerman. Isaac Dey appointed sexton in May. Striker, Asten, and R. A. Striker were re-elected.

Shortly after the new church was contemplated, a cemetery in the rear thereof was arranged for. This was very necessary, for beyond a few private grounds there were no burial places in the vicinage. Mr. Gunn's duties occupied his time to such an extent that he requested to be relieved of membership on the building committee, and when Harsen expressed a willingness to assume the responsibility in the pastor's stead, the Consistory in June, 1814, donated to him sufficient ground on which to have constructed a family vault. This was the beginning of the local God's acre which was destined to hold the remains of so many old Bloomingdale residents. For over fifty years, this plot, lying in the shadow of the sanctuary, was used for the purpose designated and became a landmark on the line of the Road. In November of the following year, the Church walls having delimited the location and size of ground which could be so used, resolutions were passed that the ends of vaults should be built against the rear wall of the building, and Post and Prall were appointed a committee to ascertain the usual size of such places of deposit. Fifty dollars was fixed as the price for the site of each vault. The disposition of the ground was put in the hands of Harsen and Post, whereupon Striker stated that he desired to buy sufficient space for his family sepulchre. This vault was the second to be constructed. A deed of the land, however, was not executed until December,



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## The Church at Barseville

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1816, when it was moved and carried unanimously that he be presented with the ground occupied. In the meantime, as a mark of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Asten, ground was also granted them (Nov., 1815) should they wish to use it. Rules for the regulation of the cemetery proper were fixed upon in December. The sexton was allowed to charge for his services as follows:

For attending and inviting	\$4.00
For opening a vault, infant under 2 years	2.00
“ “ “ “ “ “ 5 “	3.00
“ “ “ “ “ “ 10 “	4.00
“ “ “ “	1.50
“ use of horse, in addition	2.00

These church fees were also agreed to:

For use of pall	1.50
“ privilege of interment in church vault	8.00
“ for grave for infant under one year	2.00
“ “ “ child to age of 5	3.00
“ “ “ all above that age	4.00

The digging of graves should commence at the northeast corner of the ground and continue regularly to the southeast corner of the stone wall, and no one but the sexton should do this work. The first interment was that of Elizabeth Board, the wife of Henry Post. At the session at Striker's Bay on January 8, 1816, space was granted therefor free of expense. There is no means of ascertaining just who were buried there. In the records, the names of a few are mentioned. The next found is in June, 1817, when a Mr. Moore paid for the interment of his children. A pall was not obtained until October, 1818. The price for its use was raised to \$2.00. Other families who

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had burial space in 1819 were Brown, Hoffman, Holmes, and Drake. In August, 1820, it is stated that James Buchanan, the British Consul, Mr. Drake, Mr. van Orden, Mr. Field, and Mr. Cozine had had children buried in the churchyard. Mrs. Waldron's remains were also interred, as were children of Mr. Brown and Mr. Holmes. The first use of the pall to be noticed was at Andrew Hopper's funeral, who was interred in the family plot at Ninth Avenue and 50th Street. In February, 1823, Mr. Cornell paid for the burial of his mother-in-law.

On the appointment of a new sexton in 1824, the pall was placed in his charge, and also the collection of funeral charges. Strangers or persons not pew-holders must pay in advance. The fee for digging a grave was fixed at one dollar. The question of enlarging the cemetery arose in January, 1825, and Harsen and Quackenbush were appointed to inquire where an acre of ground could be bought therefor. Diligent search failed to find a suitable spot and the committee was discharged in April. Mr. Freeman and Mr. Kinkade were interred in January of this year. Mr. Clendinging's man was buried in October. Caspar Meier made application for ground for a family vault in March, 1826, which was granted. James Westersfield made a similar request in May. Deeds were approved in both instances that month. The plan of building a church vault was then entertained. Striker was designated to ascertain the cost and estimates were requested. The matter was not of such urgency as to require haste and fell asleep, in which state it remained for the next fifteen years. In June, 1827, Dr. Joseph Bayley made application for a vault space for his father-in-law, Col. Anthony



Post, which was granted, and in May, 1828, Elder Prall submitted a like request with the same result. But seven vaults, occupying the entire space along the rear wall, were constructed in all.

From the records of St. Michael's Church the following additional interments in the Harsenville ground are noted:

Mrs. van Buskirk, widow of Lawrence van Buskirk and daughter of Wm. Burnham. Her remains were removed to the new vault at St. Michael's May 19, 1835.

William Bowen, son of John Crump and Hannah his wife, aged 20 months, March 19, 1843.

Mary Elizabeth Ferguson, an inmate of the New York Orphan Asylum, aged 4 years, April 9, 1844.

Margaret Walker, aged 42, August 30, 1849.

Herman, son of James Punnett and Mary Meier his wife, aged 1 year 7 mos.; in family vault January 24, 1850.

Catharine Elizabeth Purcell, died July 5th, aged 8 years, 2 mos. 6 days; in church vault, July 6, 1850.

Philip Knowel, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Kellow, both deceased, died August 28th, aged 1 year, 4 months, 3 days; in church vault August 29, 1850.

Robert Farmer, son of Abraham V. Barberie and Loretta Cadez his wife, died August 30th, aged 2 years, 14 days; in church vault August 31, 1850.

Walter, son of James Punnett and Marie K. his wife, aged 4 mos. 16 days; in family vault of his grandfather Caspar Meier August 1, 1853.

The Revised Ordinances of 1866, Chap. XLIX., Sections 1 and 2, prohibited the opening of graves south of 86th Street, and at a meeting of the Board of Health held June 19, 1872, this ordinance was amended so as to apply to all that part of the city south of 130th Street.

Among the holders of pews in 1826 were the fol-

lowing individuals: Caspar Meier, Rev. Mr. Bansel, James Boggs, Catharine and Rachel Cozine, Theodore Mayer, Mrs. Andrew Hopper, Isaac L. Varian, John Cozine, Henry Post, Joel Post, John Clendining, James Burnham, Andrew Watt, John Parks, James Quackenbush, John Moore, William Holmes, Ichabod Prall, Thomas J. Stephens, Henry H. Schieffelin, John Beekman, Baron John C. van den Heuvel, John Williams, Aaron B. Jackson, Richard H. Striker, John Asten, David Cargill, Stephen N. Bayard, Jacob Harsen, James Striker, J. G. Russell, Jordan Mott, John Adams, Philo Mills, and Messrs. Martin, Savage, Leggett, Westerfield, Darke, Henderson, Tappan, Weed, Powis, and Horn. In 1831, Frederick C. Havemeyer and William Holden took pews, and in 1837 Messrs. Nolton and Riker.

The Church life had peacefully and fruitfully proceeded after the financial troubles had been weathered through the instrumentality of the bounty of the devoted and benevolent woman Mrs. Asten. Let us quote for a space the words of Dr. Martyn:

Children were born, baptized and instructed in godliness at home and in God's house. Marriages were solemnized and the dead buried in the blessed hope of the resurrection. The little graveyard "was filled with all the nameless pathos of the here and the hereafter." Pastor and people walked hand in hand. The scene was like a vision of Acadia. But alas and alack! Where is the earthly Eden that is free from care and grief? In the land of nowhere! It was the year 1829. Without warning, like a bolt from the blue, the beloved pastor of this church fell dead, lisping "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Bloomingdale was aghast.

Notice of the passing was published in the *Evening*

*Post* and the *Gazette*, and in the *N. Y. Spectator* of October 2d appeared an obituary which speaks of the heavy loss which had been sustained, and of the truly evangelical character of the deceased, who was much beloved in private life. An estimate of his worth could be gleaned from his selection as biographer of Dr. Livingston. He was in his forty-fourth year, with much usefulness yet before him. Dr. Gunn's five children were born in Bloomingdale. One of them was the first to be baptized in the new House of Worship, 1816. The last child was named in honor of John Asten, 1818. At the first meeting of the Consistory held thereafter (Oct. 15) at the Harsen Mansion, the following action was taken:

It having pleased Almighty God to remove by death, on the first day of this month, the Reverend Alexander Gunn, D.D., the beloved Pastor of Our Church,

Resolved that, whilst this Consistory desire to bow submissively and reverentially to the will of a holy and wise God, they feel their hearts penetrated with sorrow by the sore bereavement which they, in common with the Church over which they preside, have experienced in the removal of their late Pastor in the midst of his usefulness and in the 44th year of his age. A man greatly endeared to them by a course of more than twenty-one years' labor in their midst, by his consistent and exemplary piety and his prudence, zeal, and faithfulness as their spiritual guide and comforter, they do hereby record their deep sense of his worth and their loss, and are only comforted by the persuasion they feel that he has already met the welcome and thrilling salutation "Well done, good and faithful servant" and that they in their desolation will be mercifully regarded by the "Chief Shepherd" to whom they desire to look for succour.

The minute concludes as follows:

## The New York of Yesterday

The Elder Mr. Prall presented the request of Sarah Gunn, the widow of our late Pastor, for a deed and right of a lot of ground in conjunction or moiety with Ichabod Prall in the yard of the Church for a vault of the same dimensions as the other vaults, Mr. Prall relinquishing a grant for a vault formerly made to him. Resolved that the above requests be granted and that a deed be made to the persons above named when requested.

In remembrance of his long and useful pastorate, a tablet to the Doctor's memory was erected by the Consistory on the south side of the lower vestibule in the fourth church edifice, about on the site of his tomb.

This memorial reads as follows:

ERECTED BY THE CONSISTORY  
to the memory of the  
REV<sup>d</sup>. ALEXANDER GUNN, D.D.  
Pastor of this Church from 1808 to 1829;  
When, on the 1st of October, and in the 44th year of his age,  
While "toiling still with a busy hand," he fell asleep  
and awoke in HEAVEN.  
For more than 21 years, he PREACHED and  
PRACTISED the Gospel in this PARISH.

—————  
"The memory of the just is blessed."

*Prov. x. 7.*

For a time the life of the Church seemed to lie with him in the coffin. The exigency was met by supplies, the first, Rev. Isaac S. Ketchum, preaching in the new church on October 25th. Richard A. Striker was appointed to provide a preacher for the ensuing Sabbath and application was made to the Classis, which supplied these clergymen: Drs. DeWitt, Brownlee, Knox, Kuypers, and Marcellus officiated during November; Rev. Messrs. Smith, John Frelinghuysen



Bloomington  
January 8th 1830  
Francis M. Kip  
Pastor

Portrait and signature of Rev. Francis M. Kip, D.D., by courtesy of J. B. Vandervoort, Esq.



Jackson, van Pelt, and Dubois in December; Dr. Broadhead and Messrs. Baldwin, van Hook, and DeWitt in January, 1830, and Drs. Brownlee and Kuypers and Messrs. van Hook and Vermeule in February. At the request of Mrs. Gunn, the grates, etc., in the parsonage were purchased of her and the cloth around the pulpit, over which her husband had so long ministered, was made a gift. In April, 1830, she applied for a certificate of dismissal, which was granted. During this sad period, the officers met at the Harsen Mansion at each session, a home feeling having engendered a desire to return to the birthplace of the organization. In June, Quackenbush and R. A. Striker were chosen to wait on the families of the congregation holding pews, to obtain their sentiments towards calling some one of the candidates heard, and to ascertain if Post and David Cargill would serve if elected.

Another evidence of Harsen's liberality presented itself in July. The Consistory was in his debt to the amount of some \$400 with interest from September 1, 1823, and a bond had been approved and authorized to be given him therefor in 1825, but had never been delivered. He now presented the claim and interest to the Consistory, with the gratitude of that body.

#### **The Second Minister**

The consensus of opinion in the congregation having been found to favor Rev. Francis Marschalk Kip, a call was prepared "taken from the printed form adopted by the Dutch Church." It provided for the payment of a salary of \$500, and that he should live in the parsonage or in the vicinity. This call issued from Prall's residence in town on July 8, 1830. The par-

sonage, which had not been used since Doctor Gunn removed therefrom, was now put in thorough repair in the event that the new pastor should elect to reside there. Donations therefor were received from John Beekman, John Clendining, and Alderman Harsen among others. The church was given a complete cleaning and a new singing leader engaged. The call was accepted and the new minister was present for the first time at a meeting of August 16th, at Prall's. Born in New York city, Aug. 7, 1807, he was graduated from Columbia College in 1826, from the New Brunswick Seminary in 1830, and was licensed by the Classis of New York. This was his first charge. Harsen, Quackenbush, and R. A. Striker were chosen Elders and John Parks, John A. Striker, and David Patterson Deacons on December 1st. This completed the Board, James Striker having been too ill to attend for some two years. Committee appointed to call on new residents met with good results and was made permanent for the summer in March, 1831. R. A. Striker selected to attend Classis for the first time. The Domine at a special meeting held at Harsen's September 27th resigned his call, after a service of only thirteen months. In accepting the resignation this expression of the Consistory's sentiments was spread on the minutes:

Resolved that, while in the providence of God we have been called upon to consent that the tie between us and our Pastor, the Rev. Francis M. Kip, be dissolved, it is with feelings of love and good will as well as with those of regret. And it is our fervent prayer and sincere desire that wherever God may cast his future lot, a blessing may attend upon him and his future labors in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Immediately on leaving here Domine Kip became pastor of the Ninth Street Church, which he served five years. His Alma Mater conferred the degree of S.T.D. upon him in 1857 and he became a Trustee of the Denomination in 1860. He is said to have been unassuming in manner, kind of heart, and devoted to his calling. An excellent historian and theologian, he was well versed in ancient languages and a great antiquarian.

### The Third Minister

R. A. Striker and Patterson were appointed a committee to wait upon the Rev. William Labagh with power to engage him for six months from October 1st. He was the son of John J. Labagh who had been Assistant Alderman of the First Ward from 1831-3, was at this time Alderman of the same ward, and again represented it in 1840. At the meeting which assembled at Harsen's in January, 1832, the minister was present and accepted. R. A. Striker resigned as Clerk and Treasurer and his brother John H. Striker was elected to fill both offices. Mr. Labagh gave much satisfaction, but on the expiration of his term it was deemed wise to settle a permanent pastor, and a committee was nominated to find the proper individual. In May, Rev. John AlBurtis was decided on. A Columbia graduate, he was educated for the ministry at the Seminary in New Brunswick and licensed by the Classis in that place in 1817. Called for three years at the same compensation, he moved with his family into the parsonage. In January, 1833, the spire of the old church was struck by lightning and burned. Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby was then a lad at the boarding school presided over by Rev. Mr. Huddart. From his

## The New York of Yesterday

bedroom window he saw the fire. Because of this loss, afternoon services in the new edifice were substituted for the usual evening service at the old one. Mr. AlBurtis did not remain his full term with the Church. He expressed his desire to retire in October, 1834, and on November 28th he was released from all connection therewith. A hiatus of six months intervened before a permanent pastor was selected.

### The Fourth Minister

At a session held at the Harsen Mansion on May 26, 1835, the Rev. Francis M. Kip, being present by invitation, was requested to draft a call to the Rev. Enoch van Aken, at a salary of \$800 and the free use of the parsonage. He had been for a short space connected with the church at Kinderhook, Columbia Co., N. Y. He came to Bloomingdale at the age of twenty-six, full of courage and evangelical spirit, and was destined to make this pastorate his life work. For fifty years he went in and out among his people, bearing the burdens of an uphill fight for the right and the preservation of The Church of the Village. Until now it had been the religious and social centre of a homogeneous community numbering some two thousand souls. Parishioners gathered here from all surrounding quarters—some from a distance of ten miles north, says *The History of Eighty Years*. But with the upward growth of the city and the consequent removal of downtown churches in the wake of population, together with the religious accommodations provided in the outlying districts, the more remote churchgoers dropped away into local houses of worship. An important element of strength was thus lost to Bloomingdale. Worse still, the character of the community



*E. Van Aken*

Portrait and signature of Rev. Enoch Van Aken



was disastrously changing. Death, removal, the vicissitudes of time were busy. The old families were thinning out. Their farms were beginning to be cut up into imaginary city lots. Assessors and Street Commissioners, like an invading army, quartered themselves on the land. Following in their track came a swarm of squatter sovereigns in the shape of newly arrived immigrants. These were utterly unsympathetic with the old church life of the hamlet. This was the condition which confronted the new pastor. When the church records were rectified, there were just twenty-eight members in full standing. The meeting at which Domine van Aken was called was the last which assembled at the Harsen Mansion. The Elder had died full of years—all of honor—prior to the next session, and thus passed away the last of the original officers of the Church. His valuable advice and assistance were missed at this juncture. This item from his will closes the long series of contributions which he delighted to shower upon his beloved Church:

I order and direct my said executors as soon as conveniently may be after my decease to invest out of my personal estate a sum of money sufficient to produce the yearly income of one hundred dollars and that they pay the said sum yearly and every year for the period of twelve years from the time of such investment to the Corporation styled "The Church at Harsenville according to the doctrine and discipline of the Synod of Dort," such sum to be applied by said incorporation towards the repairs of their church edifice, parsonage and the fences enclosing the same and I do order and direct that after the expiration of the said period of twelve years the said principal sum so invested shall form part of my residuary personal estate to be applied and go as by me hereafter directed.

## The New York of Yesterday

The donations made by this devoted Christian aggregated \$217,913.50, made up as follows:

1806.	Conveyance of original site, sold 1860 for	\$ 6000
1809.	“ “ parsonage acre, $\frac{1}{4}$ thereof	
	between 72d & 73d Sts., sold 1860 for	80,000
	balance between 71st & 72d Sts., sold	
	1886 for	130,000
1830.	Donation of claims against Consistory	513.50
1835.	Bequest	1200

To this should be added two lots of the Beekman bequest which were sold in 1821, for \$200, the proceeds of which were presented to the Consistory.

New hands were raised up to aid the pastor. In August, Quackenbush was re-elected and Parks elected Elders, the latter in place of Harsen, and Patterson and J. H. Striker were chosen Deacons. Church work was taken up with a vim. The administration of the sacrament was fixed for next Sabbath week, prayer meetings were scheduled for Wednesday evenings and a Bible class on Sunday evening opened. The sexton had resigned and another was to be sought. Parks and Striker were appointed to view the old church ground, and the latter to obtain a quitclaim thereof from Harsen's heirs. The first meeting at John Parks' residence took place on September 2d. Striker was appointed to apply to the Board of Domestic Missions for aid; the application resulted in an allowance of \$200 for the coming year. It was decided to let the old ground and Secretary Striker was delegated to do so. Patterson and Striker were elected Elders, and David Law and Ackerly Fitch Deacons on April 1st, 1837. Parks was absent from the meeting in October, and died shortly thereafter. Law was

appointed Treasurer. It was not until June of the following year that all the vacancies in the Consistory were filled. Then Caspar Meier was elected Elder to fill Striker's place, who had removed from the city, and Cornelius Westerfield and Thomas J. Emmons, Deacons. The date of the election thereafter was set for the third Monday in July of each year. Meier became Secretary in October and the Board met at his residence on the 23d. Jordan Mott, David Cargill, Gerard Willam Livingston, Caspar Meier, and the Pastor were appointed to draw a petition to the Church in town, asking assistance, and Meier, Cargill, and Westerfield to apply to the heirs of Harsen for a release of the parsonage property. In February, 1839, Pelatiah Perit was added to the committee, with Livingston, Cargill, and Mott, to appear before the Collegiate Church officers, the result of which was an appropriation of \$500. Emmons was designated in April to arrange the letting of the church lot in the village. In July, for the second time, this matter was deferred. An examination was to be made to see if any of the church land lay in the street. It being found that it did, the sexton was directed not to dig graves thereon. An addition to the burying ground was again suggested in January, 1840. Perit, Charles Darke, and Emmons were to see to repairs to cupola and roof in April. Westerfield and Livingston were elected Elders in July, and Emmons and John Waite Deacons. Livingston declined at this time. Waite became Treasurer. Inquiry was to be made concerning a strip of ground adjacent to the church in the rear, for burial purposes.

Consistory met at Waite's residence the first time in November, 1841. Livingston and John N. Boyd

were elected Elders in April 1842. Henry Quick was chosen Deacon. The long-contemplated expediency of a Public vault became pressing this year. Westerfield and Waite were appointed to make inquiries concerning it. In September, Livingston and Emmons, a building committee appointed for the purpose, executed a contract for its construction at a cost of \$325. So much dampness was found in the present vault that it was necessary to blast out a drain therefrom to carry off the water to the Road. The above officers were accordingly empowered in April, 1843, to proceed with the work. They were also required to draft new by-laws for the Consistory. These are entered in full on the records, having been adopted in May. Regular meetings were set for the second Monday in January, April, July, and October "at such place as shall be mutually agreed upon." The duties of the Treasurer and Secretary were detailed. Officers of the Consistory were to be chosen at the July meeting. In that month, William Holmes was elected Elder and Peter Rennie, Deacon, who was installed on November 12th. An extra session was held the same month at Boyd's whereat he was made Secretary, Westerfield having resigned. Emmons was appointed Treasurer in place of Waite. Livingston to attend Classis.

Emmons and Rennie, by appointment in July, 1845, announced that they had rented the old site in the village adjoining John Jasper's property to him at \$7.50 a year during the pleasure of the Board. Land was certainly a drug in those days. This property commenced at a point in the line of the lot occupied by said Jasper on the Bloomingdale Road, ran westerly eighty feet, thence northeasterly thirty-five feet, thence easterly sixty-six feet to the Road and thence



southerly along said Road fifty-five feet to the place of beginning, unless the western boundary be changed by the opening of Tenth Avenue. In November, John Read made an offer therefor for the purpose of building thereon, and on December 2d a lease to him for seven years at \$20 per annum was signed, to begin May 1, 1846, which provided that no spirituous liquors be made or sold on the premises.

At this time there was no drainage in the village and fever and ague prevailed to a very great extent. A few blocks to the south of the parsonage there was a large pond near present Central Park West. Those who lived near by remember how often two or more members of a family were seen shaking at the same time. Mr. van Aken finally refused to live in the parsonage, for his health's sake, and removed therefrom. The Directory of 1843 gives his address as 203 West 20th Street. He went to Florida in 1844 because of failing health, where he spent a year. At such times he rented the parsonage. During his absence the pulpit was supplied by the Rev. Mr. Robinson and Dr. Vermeule. The kind, genial bearing of the latter is recalled. He had a fund of humor, in which, however, he never indulged at the sacred desk. With always a kind word for the young people, he won the hearts of all during the short time he was there. The land-owners in the neighborhood were averse to the circulation of the unfavorable report respecting the healthfulness of the village and the removal of so conspicuous a man as the minister caused some dissatisfaction among them.

It got to be neighborhood talk largely because of an infliction of illness which occurred a few years previously, by which whole families, in every direction,

were prostrated. Domine van Aken used it to point a moral in his discourses, and these, instead of allaying, added fuel. We are in possession of a letter from the pastor to one of our relatives, dated September, 1845, in which he defends his course by asserting that God would have held him guilty had he suffered that most severe dispensation of Providence to pass without warning the people to whom He had commissioned him to preach, to take heed thereto and profit thereby. It got to be common report that the pastor had removed because of this sickly condition, and many would-be comers to the village were frightened away because of this rumor and the lasting impression it made. It is asserted that it was never proclaimed from the pulpit that such illness was caused by the surroundings. At the same time sickness was prevalent, let the cause be what it might. The Domine, however, did not remove for the alleged reason; the state of his lungs required he should locate where the congested districts would prevent the cold river air from penetrating, and his Consistory approved his course. He wrote at this time that he hoped his health would warrant his return to Blomington within two years. So much for this, which caused somewhat of a tempest in a thimble at the time and proved in a manner how large an influence the Church really wielded. While on the subject of the pastor it seems appropriate to add here some expressions in one of his letters which give a glimpse of his inner consciousness and character. He says:

I conceive it to be my duty to preach the word of God with all plainness and to proclaim the whole counsel of God and to withhold nothing. This is the express command of Jesus, and I have no inclination to disobey it lest

the blood of souls be found upon my skirts, and especially since my recent affliction, have I felt the more the weight of my responsibility and most earnestly prayed that I might be enabled to preach with increased faithfulness and force His whole truth. In the old time there were those who did not wish to hear the whole word of God, and some false prophets, to please them, prophesied only smooth things. You will recollect how awful were the judgments in which God denounced these prophets. I have therefore endeavored to rouse all who heard me to a sense of their whole duty to God and men, and have endeavored to sweep away every false hope upon which any might rest. In the particular discourse you mention I drew as plainly as I was able the line of distinction between that true ground of hope which is connected with a right zeal for God and those false grounds which are connected with the various kinds of spurious zeal which men profess. God might overrule these things for good to His church, but as far as the individuals themselves are concerned the latter motives cannot be approved in the sight of God. They must have better ones than these if they would hope to be saved. It was for the truth's sake that Paul was scourged and stoned and cast into prison. It was for this very reason that he was finally put to death, for this very reason all the apostles suffered; and so of our Lord and Saviour—men hated and crucified Him because he preached the truth. My life work is the endeavor to preach faithfully His message.

More quotations from Domine van Aken's letters could be given. This is sufficient to show his zeal in going about his Master's business.

A regular meeting of the Consistory was held on April 9, 1846, at the Cozine Mansion, which stood at Eighth Avenue between 53d and 54th Streets. Mrs. Cozine was an own cousin of Jacob Harsen and the pastor came to regard this as his home. With his

wife and their son Gulick, he, for many years, passed the winters in this abode. During the summer the parsonage house, the barn, and fences were put in repair, and a brick cistern was authorized to be built. After these improvements, the minister spent his winters there. In 1847, the Collegiate Church again rendered assistance to the extent of \$1600 and in October General Striker, Emmons, and Rennie took in charge the solicitation of the usual fall contributions to the funds. Bloomingdale Road was widened in 1849 and an award was granted to the Church, of \$265.

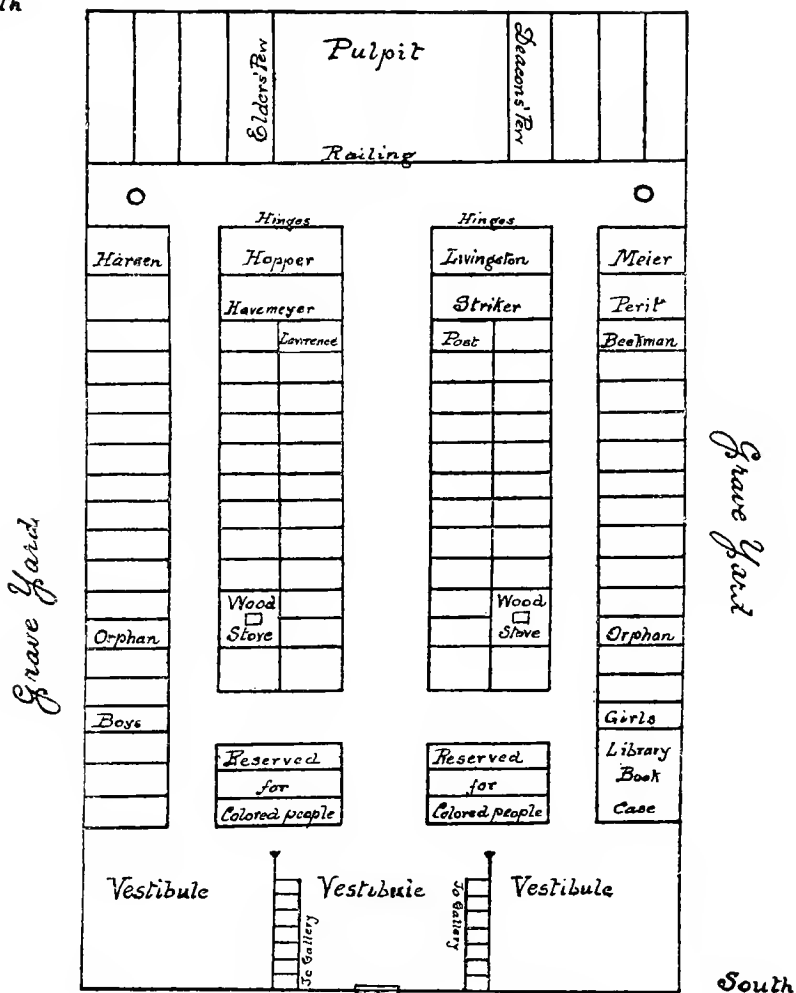
Perhaps the church was more strict in those days than later in the matter of watching the walk and conversation of members. Anyway there seemed to be an avalanche of cases thought to require discipline running through the years from 1838 to 1850. The unchristian and criminal conduct of two individuals was the cause of an investigation in the first year mentioned. This case was the topic of a number of sessions, and resulted in a suspension of the backsliders. Another was found guilty of profaning the Sabbath by being found on a number of occasions frequenting "the Public House." A committee was appointed in 1842, to endeavor to reconcile two parties. A married couple were the subject of a report, circulating about the neighborhood, of "inconsistent walk" and were cited before the Consistory, where they were admonished. Two male members sinned by indulging in "offensive, opprobrious, brawling and boisterous conduct" after service, in the hearing of a portion of the congregation, to the great scandal of religion, and of repeating such gross misconduct in the afternoon of Communion Sabbath. They had been twice notified to appear before the Board, the one to answer charges

# Grave Yard. East

Harsen  
  
 Monument

North

Vaults



Bloomington Road.

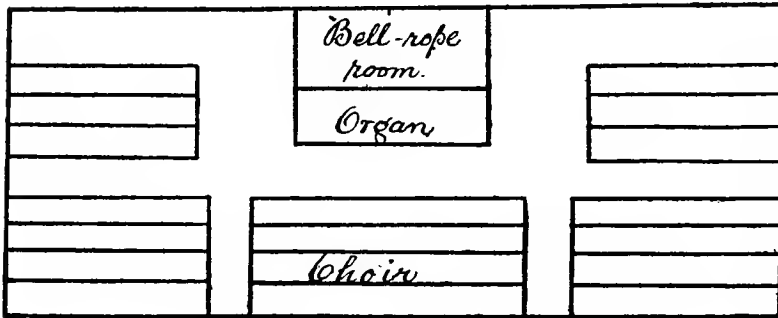
Interior of the Church prior to the Alterations

made in 1854.

## The New York of Yesterday

of drunkenness, profanity, and unbecoming deportment; and the other, of profanity, brawling, abusive, and unchristian conduct. They were accordingly suspended. To a committee who undertook in a kind and becoming manner to notify them of this action, they added insult to injury. The Consistory thereupon asked authority of Classis to excommunicate them. Finally, a member, charged with immoral conduct, confessed

### *Bloomingtondale Road.*



### *Diagram of Gallery, 1854.*

sorrow for his sin, with the hope through grace to obtain pardon and forgiveness from his God. After a solemn admonition, he was advised to abstain from the communion table until he should by his walk and conversation give evidence of reformation.

The parsonage was painted in December, 1852.

Emmons was elected Elder and Duncan Macfarlan Deacon in January, 1854. The Church had for so long been known as the Bloomingdale Church, both locally and in the minutes, its corporate name notwithstanding, that the question of changing the name in order to fit the popular parlance was raised. It was voted down on April 10th. It was reported to Classis on the 18th that the congregation was composed of sixty families with an attendance of three hundred, that the population dependent for ministerial attention numbered nearly two thousand and that there were seventy children in the Sabbath-school.

In December, 1854, a store was rented at Broadway and Amity Street (now Third) and here a fair was held, which proved successful. With the money thus acquired, the church was renovated. The straight-back pews were lowered and made more comfortable, the pulpit also lowered, the church carpeted, and an organ—the first musical instrument to be introduced—was installed in the gallery. From a number of plans submitted by old communicants the diagram reproduced has been prepared, showing the interior prior to the alterations, with some of the changes made this year. It was generally the custom in the Reformed Church to reserve free pews for the colored people. Those shown on the plan had to be removed, in order that place be made for the erection of stoves.

## VI

### The Church at Barseville

1855-1906

**F**ifty years had now passed into history since the organization. During this protracted period three ministers had labored successfully in the vineyard and Domine van Aken had been pastor for twenty years. His ministry had been a source of blessing to a community largely changed from its original condition. With the opening of the second half century new elements had to be catered to and new associations met, occasioned by the absorption of the locality into the city and the change caused by altered surroundings. The Church continued to be the only one of any denomination in this part of Bloomingdale if we except the embryo society known at its inception as "Pelatiah Perit's church," and much was expected of it as a centre of godly influence and righteousness. For a number of years at this stage it enjoyed the blessing of having no history worthy of record.

Robert Carss was elected deacon in 1858. Macfarlan resigned in April and William Kelly was selected to fill his place in January, 1859. To the preparatory service held in the Church February 3, 1860, was united the Classical Visitation. A sermon was preached

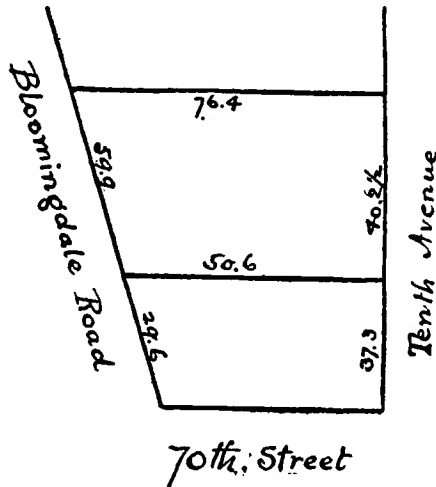


## The Church at Ibarsenville

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by Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Vermilye and an address delivered by the Rev. Abraham R. van Nest. A number of members were then inducted.

The plot on which the first edifice was erected had been leased, as we have seen, to John Read. The term of seven years was about to expire when a proposition was made to said lessee and his sisters, the Misses Read, that a renewal of one year would be granted at \$50, provided possession would be given on the



receipt<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> of three months' written notice. Should a sale be made during the year, no rent would be demanded. Although this proposition was accepted, the Consistory decided in 1854 to make a straight lease at \$75 per annum. On July 18, 1860, it was resolved to sell a part of the Church's realty. This was found necessary because of the large indebtedness for assessments. Streets and avenues were being cut through at an extravagant rate. Heavy assessments fell on the

abutting property accordingly. Domine van Aken and Secretary Boyd were authorized to apply to the Supreme Court for permission to sell. Tenth Avenue had been opened and the boundaries changed from those described in 1846 when first leased to Read. The land was now bounded as shown by plan on page 223.

This petition recited that the Church was situated in the suburbs in the midst of a poor, fluctuating, and mostly foreign population, to a great extent the objects of charity rather than contributors to the maintenance of said church or of the worship therein; that the petitioners were indebted in the sum of \$3000 and upwards for taxes and assessments and for debts incurred for the preservation of their property; that the land belonging to them was unimproved and unproductive and that they had been offered for the real estate shown on the above diagram \$6000, its full value, and prayed that an order be issued permitting such sale. The petition was granted by Justice Daniel P. Ingraham at a special term held July 14th. Deed was executed and delivered to the purchaser, Newbold Lawrence (L. 821, Conv. 332). This land now forms a portion of the site of the Nevada apartment house. From the proceeds of the sale the outstanding obligations were met and \$1400 invested on bond and mortgage by the Pastor and Elder Emmons under instruction, as directed by the order.

In anticipation of this sale, and in order to clear the title of all the church land derived from Jacob Harsen, the Consistory had a conveyance drawn dated Feb. 1st, 1860, which was executed by the heirs of said Harsen, whereby and wherein they quitclaimed the above land and also the parsonage plot, the latter by this description: Beginning at a point in the northerly

## The Church at Harsenville

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line of 71st Street distant 38.4 feet easterly from the intersection of said northerly line of 71st Street with the easterly line of Ninth Avenue, thence running easterly on the northerly line of 71st Street 100 feet, thence northerly 204.4 feet to a point in the southerly line of 72d Street, distant 143.5 feet easterly from the intersection of the said southerly line of 72d Street and the easterly line of Ninth Avenue, thence westerly on said southerly line of 72d Street 100 feet, thence southerly 204.4 feet to the point in the northerly line of 71st Street, the place of beginning. Also all that other lot beginning at a point in the northerly line of 72d Street at a point distant 46 feet easterly from the intersection of the said northerly line of 72d Street with the easterly line of Ninth Avenue, thence running easterly on said northerly line of 72d Street 100 feet, thence northerly 204.4 feet to a point in the southerly line of 73d Street, distant 151.2 feet easterly from the intersection of said southerly line of 73d Street and said easterly line of Ninth Avenue, thence westerly on said southerly line of 73d Street 100 feet, thence southerly 204.4 feet to the point in the said northerly line of 72d Street, the place of beginning (L. 851. Conv. 5). The same premises as were conveyed to the Church by deed, dated September, 16, 1809, by Jacob Harsen.

The Domine had now served the Church for a quarter of a century. His salary had remained at the same figure. As time passed he had expended sums at various times for matters which were too small in themselves to bring to the attention of the Consistory. These now aggregated a considerable sum. It was recalled at the meeting held at the Church on August 4th that the pastor had performed a vast amount of extra labor which had contributed materially to

his expenditure, and which became necessary by the constant liabilities of the large church estate to taxes and assessments and by the peculiar character of the population of Bloomingdale. The whole district north of 59th Street to and beyond the Church had at this period become a shanty town. That this may be realized to better advantage, a view has been presented of this territory, showing the Church in the distance. This entire strip of land originally formed a portion of the Somerindyck farm. Great advantage had been reaped through the pastor's exertions, and property which, at the beginning of his ministry, was worth, irrespective of the buildings, possibly two thousand dollars had been thereby preserved. Its present value was thought to approximate fifty thousand dollars. It was estimated that five hundred dollars had been so spent, and this amount was handed him in payment of "a just debt." In consideration of the increased cost of living and of the fact that other employments had been remunerated by large additions to former compensations, together with the generally acknowledged principle of justice applied by the Saviour himself to the ministry, that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," with the additional behest of the Apostle Paul, to wit, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they who preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel," an increase of salary was taken under advisement. After due consideration and conversation with members of the congregation, it was fixed at \$2500 and the use of the parsonage, on February 1, 1861.

The grading of Broadway cut the original bed of the Road so deep that the Church was left standing high above the curb. The greensward disappeared and

steps were required for proper access. A new fence, stone walk, and wooden steps were constructed in January, 1861, at a cost of \$400. In 1865, these wooden steps, having decayed, were replaced by stone ones. Robert Carss was elected Elder and George Robertson Deacon. So-called improvements, long in advance of need, kept on apace. Central Park was being laid out. Assessments, hill-high already, continued to pile up toward the sky. Fortunate indeed was it that taxes on the church edifice itself could not be levied. By Subdivision 3 of Section 4, Title 1, Chapter 13 of Part 1st of the Revised Statutes every building for public worship and every schoolhouse or other seminary of learning were exempted from taxation. An amendment was passed April 14, 1852, limiting its provisions in the city of New York to buildings used exclusively for such purposes and exclusively the property of a religious society or of the New York Public School Society. In June of 1861 notice was received from the Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment of a lien for the opening of 68th Street. The Consistory passed a formal protest to be forwarded to said Commissioners against the urgency of such an extravagant and unreasonable enterprise in the present time of depression and embarrassment caused by the coming war. It was asserted that the land for the street had been ceded to the city by Jacob Harsen and that the residue of the property-owners between Broadway and Eighth Avenue were willing to deed property for the extension thereof, thereby rendering these proceedings unnecessary; that the plot assessed was used as a cemetery and was not susceptible to benefit, on which basis assessments can only be laid; that by State law it cannot be sold and by prohibitory

ordinance of the Common Council cannot be used for burial purposes, and is therefor held in trust by the Church as a repository for the dead; that an assessment of this cemetery while it can derive no benefit would be manifestly unjust and would involve a liability to sale of the bones and dust solemnly deposited there, which would be revolting to the sensitive or Christian mind. Domine van Aken and Elder Emmons were authorized and directed to take all necessary steps to oppose and stop the assessment for opening said street and to execute all necessary papers under the seal of the Church. This protest is given in detail because it serves as an example of the methods pursued in other cases in endeavors to avoid impending liens. The Common Council was induced after much labor to remit the taxes of 1860, '61, and '62 which the Mayor had ratified in January, 1863. The interest, however, had to be met. George H. Pimley and Jonas Hanaway were elected deacons at this session, the former in place of George Robertson. The Church was insured against fire in May, for \$5000, and the parsonage for \$1000—the first mention of such action in the minutes. Assessment for the grading of 71st Street from Broadway to Eighth Avenue was confirmed October 9, 1864, and for grading Broadway from 59th to 70th Streets, January 23, 1865. These dates are preserved as a matter of historic interest to the locality. Early in 1867, the construction of the Boulevard was undertaken. The straightening and widening of Broadway swung the bed of the new street much further to the east and made it necessary to demolish the church edifice. The pastor's talent now again came to the fore. He conferred with the authorities having the improvement in charge, gave a descrip-



THE CHURCH AT HARSEVILLE, SECOND HOUSE OF WORSHIP, 1868  
Showing the encroaching "shanty-town"





tion of the property to be affected by it, and urged a fair and equitable consideration therefor, estimating the damages at \$40,000 for the ground and \$60,000 for the building.

Jonas Hanaway declined to serve longer as Deacon and on August 3, 1867, Charles Wood was elected. John K. Curtis became Elder. Emmons and Mitchell were re-elected. One of the mortgages was paid in January, 1868. The proceeds were invested in government bonds. Notice was received this month from the Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment, that an award of \$23,000, for the realty required, was contemplated. Objection to the amount was speedily made. The Pastor and Emmons were deputed to present the communication. This they did to such advantage that Domine van Aken, Emmons, and Curtis were empowered in August to collect from the city the amount of \$57,615 "made to the Church at Harsenville for the land taken for the opening of a Public Drive from 59th to 155th Streets, known on the Map of the Commissioners as Award No. 36." The money was received in September. After paying the arrears of taxes and assessments and the outstanding obligations, nearly \$41,000 remained. Thirty thousand dollars was invested in mortgages on real estate and the balance put at interest in different savings banks. The handling of this one transaction with the city exhibited to a nicety the Domine's shrewdness of management. Some dissatisfaction was evinced by the Consistory of the Collegiate Church at the reception of the award without consultation with them and their consent. Two loans, made respectively in 1839 and 1847, were still owing them, and, although the terms under which the collateral was held provided that the

debt fell due only in the event of the property being alienated from the denomination and was consequently not collectible at this time, the Church made a proposition to pay the principal. The Consistory in town did not care to take the money and the other alternative arose of reviving one of the obligations. Accordingly permission was obtained from the Supreme Court to mortgage the land remaining after the widening of the Road. This instrument was to contain provisions that the amount shall be payable whenever the Church should cease to be subordinate to the General Synod and other intermediate judicatories of the Reformed Dutch Church in America, or whenever the said ground should be disposed of by the mortgagor. Before the new document was delivered, the pastor again endeavored to have the principal accepted in full satisfaction, which method was much preferred in order that future trouble be avoided. This plan was definitely declined and a bond and mortgage executed, bearing date June 24, 1870, was substituted for the original instrument. Thus this unhappy controversy was allayed for the present.

What was intended to be the last service was held on November 8, 1868. Mrs. Despard's account of this pathetic occasion begins with these words "To-day I went to hear the last sermon which would be preached in the Bloomingdale Church," and continues :

The city is about to take the ground on which it stands for the new Boulevard and Pastor van Aken closes the labors begun here in 1835. . . . In his discourse Mr. van Aken spoke most reverently of the first pastor, the Rev. Alexander Gunn, "an able preacher, faithful shepherd, and true historian. The author of the life of Dr. Livingston, with which was interwoven the history of the Reformed

Dutch Church in America, he was a man of careful research and an unbiased narrator of facts, who understood well to blend and combine in such a manner as to impart pleasure to the reader, while he did full justice to his subject and imparted useful information." . . . People came to worship here from below the old House of Refuge to Manhattanville and from the North to the East river. One of the earliest Sunday-schools was established here. "The present Sabbath-school of this church had its origin half a century back. It commenced about the beginning of Sabbath-schools in this city and had been perpetuated in unbroken succession. The church then was the centre of attraction and of influence in a large region." It was very touching to hear the aged minister describe the beauty of the natural surroundings of his beloved house of worship, "romantically situated, in its newness and freshness, on one of the most beautiful roads of the land, winding its way among stately trees interspersed with smaller growth and with flowers in their native charms in such great profusion as to suggest appropriately the name of Bloomingdale for the region which they graced. Then the verdant lawns, the pastures, the cultured grounds about the mansions of proprietors residing here, increased the charm and enhanced the pleasure. The sweet tones of the bell resounded over many a soft green hill and pleasant homestead; and now," continued the white-haired preacher, "we part with all—the sacred house, the seats, the aisles, the desk—my own dear home, your doom is sealed. Here shall I speak no more to warn, entreat, intercede and console. Farewell, dear walls, so well founded and so strong the storms of centuries might have left you unmoved. In this land of change and action there is no resting-place for the aged among humanity, for the venerable among their institutions, and only in looking upward to the everlasting hills can the spirit find its rest." The small congregation were very grave and still as we turned to leave the building and I pondered, sitting under the shadow of the great button-

wood tree in the churchyard, on the contrast between the paradise of bloom and verdure amidst which the church was built and the forlorn state of transition upon which its last days were looking. In the railed square of this small burying ground we notice the tomb of James Striker, 1816; the family vault of the Rev. Alexander Gunn and Ichabod Prall—the remains of the deceased are removed, but the marble slabs remain. There are a few locust-trees, an apple-tree and a button-ball. The new Boulevard is being opened and much disturbance of rocks and trees ensues thereupon.

In the far-off past we too see again the gatherings of the quiet orderly congregation; we hear the voice of the good old father who ministered in holy things; we sit by the open window and look out upon the green graves thickly strewn round the old meeting-house; the warbling of the feathered songsters in the grove falls softly on memory's ear. The voice of prayer is hushed and the voice of praise ascends. Alas! these voices once attuned on earth are with scarce an exception now attuned to more celestial music.

It was found, however, that the edifice could remain intact a few months longer, and services continued to be held there until the first Sabbath in March, 1869, when the final one occurred. The furniture of the Church was removed in part to the parsonage and partly to "Rosevale," the residence of General Striker. The walls of the old edifice were so solid that dynamite was required to blast them asunder. Particles flew in all directions to the sorrow of the parishioners who stood about with no inclination to restrain their tears. With its quaint tower, surmounted by a cupola, once shaded by great trees and surrounded by green mounds and white head-stones of its quiet little churchyard,

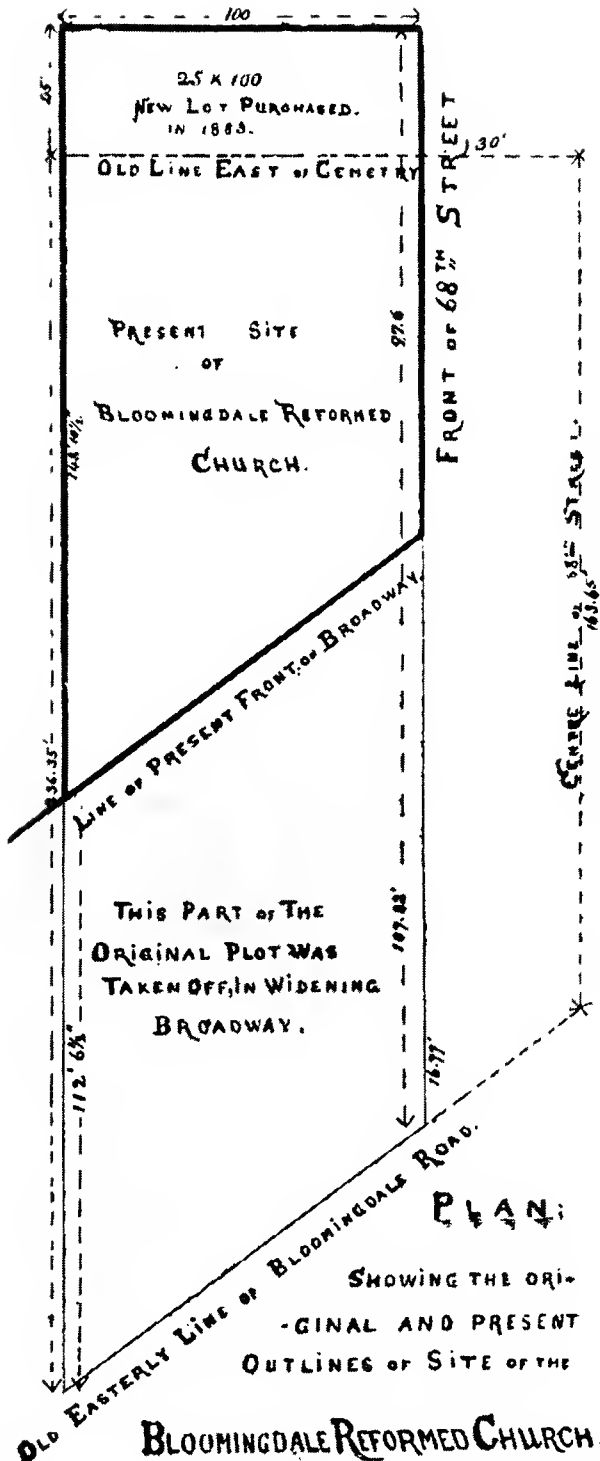


Diagram of site of Second House of Worship, from *The History of Eighty Years*



the building, once a picturesque feature in the rural scene of what had been in its day a fertile farming district, was brought low. The tablet over its portal, even, was destroyed in the crash which resulted. The east wall was left standing and the burial plot remained. The *New York Times* of May 18, 1878, gave this description of it, ten years after its abandonment:

The deserted cemetery is high above the present grade of the street, its enclosing wall is gone, and it has become a pasture for the goats that infest the vicinity. Its vaults, once receptacles for the dead of the families of Striker, Mott, Harsen, Meier, Gunn, and Westerfield are now empty, yawning chasms and most of the marble head-stones of the graves are scattered about the place in broken fragments. The shanties of squatters surround it and their children dispute its supremacy with the goats. Under the shade of an old sycamore and a few locust-trees half a dozen of the tomb-stones are still standing, and of these one of the most perfect is that of Mrs. Barbara Asten, a large contributor to the church's erection, who was buried here in 1816.

Immediate steps were taken to provide an ecclesiastical home, which was the *Third House of Worship*. At the session of April 16, 1869, the pastor reported that already rocks had been blasted and stones gathered in preparation for the construction of a temporary chapel on the parsonage grounds, entrance to which would lead from 71st Street. Plans and specifications were approved and directed to be placed in the hands of builders for estimates. These were opened on May 20th and Contractor Furber was found to be the lowest bidder at \$3475. It was reported in February, 1870, that expenses incurred in removing part of the old church, in repairing the parsonage, and building the chapel had so far amounted to \$7985.65.

For some two years the Consistory had met at Emmons's house, 245 West 20th Street. At the meeting held there June 2d, the pastor reported that "our petition to the Common Council for donation to enable us to pay taxes and assessments on the property of the Church had, after long and severe toil for years and repeated defeats, become finally successful, and that the Legislature had authorized the payment of the same and that the Deputy Comptroller had promised soon to adjust the matter." On the 20th, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz.:

Whereas our Pastor, Rev. Enoch van Aken, has for a long series of years discharged the duties of the Ministry in this Church for which he has never received adequate compensation; and whereas in addition to his appropriate ministerial labors our said Pastor has had charge of the real estate of said church and has with great difficulty, much anxiety and toil carried it through all its tax and assessment troubles and other liabilities and but for his exertions, sacrifices and labors it would have been lost and the Church ceased to be; and whereas the Church property which at the beginning of his ministry was probably not worth over \$2000, exclusive of the old building thereon, is now estimated to be worth more than \$200,000,

Therefore resolved that we pay out of the money now in hand to our said Pastor, in consideration of said services and as a just return for benefits which this Church has derived from his labors and management of our estate, the sum of \$15,000.

The new Church was completed by August, 1870, whereupon the Consistory met there on the 6th. By the will of Garret H. Striker a bequest was left to the Church. The extract therefrom reads as follows:

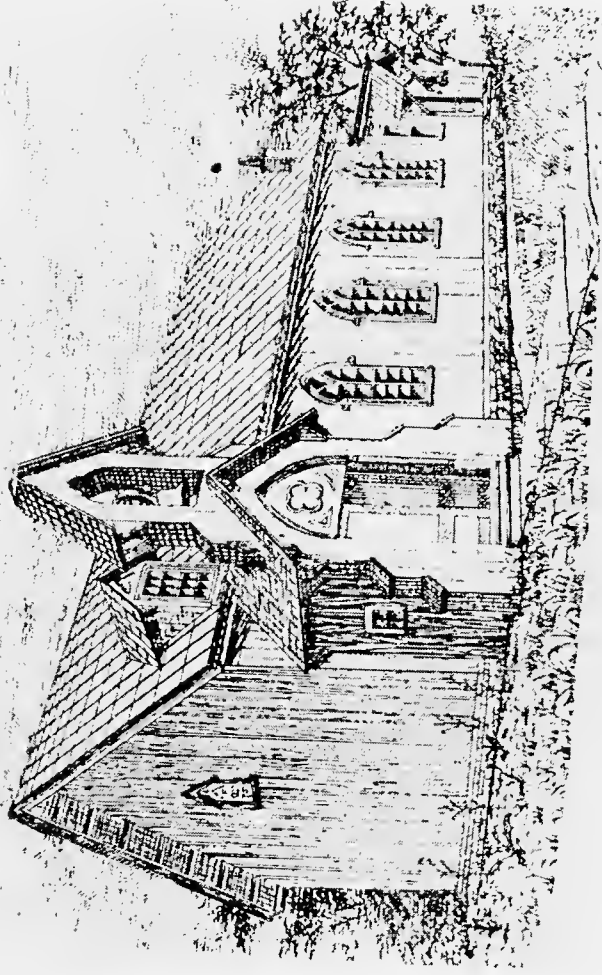
"I give and bequeath three thousand dollars to the



incorporated religious society known as the Ministers, Deacons and Elders of the Reformed Dutch Church at Bloomingdale in the City of New York of which the Rev. Enoch van Aken D.D. is now the Pastor, by whatever name it may be incorporated, and to the said Mr. van Aken I give three thousand dollars." Dated 17 Jan. 1868 (L. 180, Wills, III.) On August 18, 1870, it was announced that the executors were desirous of making payment thereof. A special meeting was called at Emmons's on the 25th, at which Ambrose K. Striker delivered over the legacy to the pastor. This was deposited in the Union Trust Company. Domine van Aken was requested to thank the family in writing for the devise. The Church had at this date over \$23,000 of funds at interest. In February, 1872, the pastor, following his practice, reported that he had bid in the old church plot for 1000 years which had been sold for unpaid Croton, and that he had succeeded in having cancelled "an enormous tax" on the parsonage for the same commodity. He further announced the following cancellations accomplished by his earnest efforts, viz.: taxes for 1871-1872; assessment for opening 71st Street, confirmed November 9, 1865; for park at junction of Broadway and Ninth Avenue at 63d Street, confirmed December 22, 1870; for same purpose on parsonage; for opening 73d Street, confirmed June 27, 1870; for opening 72d Street, confirmed February 4, 1867; for sewer in same street, confirmed 1870; for sewer in Tenth Avenue at 70th Street, confirmed February 1, 1869; for sewer in 71st Street, confirmed March 28, 1870; and taxes from 1864 to 1868. This last item alone aggregated \$3687.-15. He had also sent a petition to the Commissioners for Riverside Park claiming exemption of church

property and had had several interviews with them, the result of which was as yet unknown. And still the debts increased as the city grew and improvements progressed, and the pastor relaxed not his watchfulness. Next he succeeded in having remitted the assessment for Riverside Park on the burial ground and the taxes of 1873 thereon, on which the city placed a valuation of \$30,000. He reported in January, 1873, nearly \$6000 of liens yet unpaid and a number in which the assessments had not been laid. The new city charter was pending in the Legislature. He had circulars printed containing reasons for the exemption of burial grounds from taxation of any kind and saw that they were distributed among the members, and also to others prominent in securing the passage of the measure, and to the Governor.

In April the ground surrounding the Church had to be regulated because of the grading of 72d Street, and a fence and a sewer constructed, the insurance renewed, and repairs to the parsonage made. On June 21st Mrs. Thomas, the first woman mentioned as singer, was paid. The boxes required for human remains disturbed and reburied at the time of the removal of the old edifice were also paid for. Great damage had been done to the parsonage by blasting in opening 73d Street, which the contractor had been repeatedly urged to repair. No success attended these efforts and the work was done. Jacob Flick was elected deacon in January, 1874. Services were discontinued from the first Sabbath in August to the corresponding Sabbath in September. The party occupying the parsonage was willing to have it painted provided the paint was furnished. This was authorized in February, 1875.

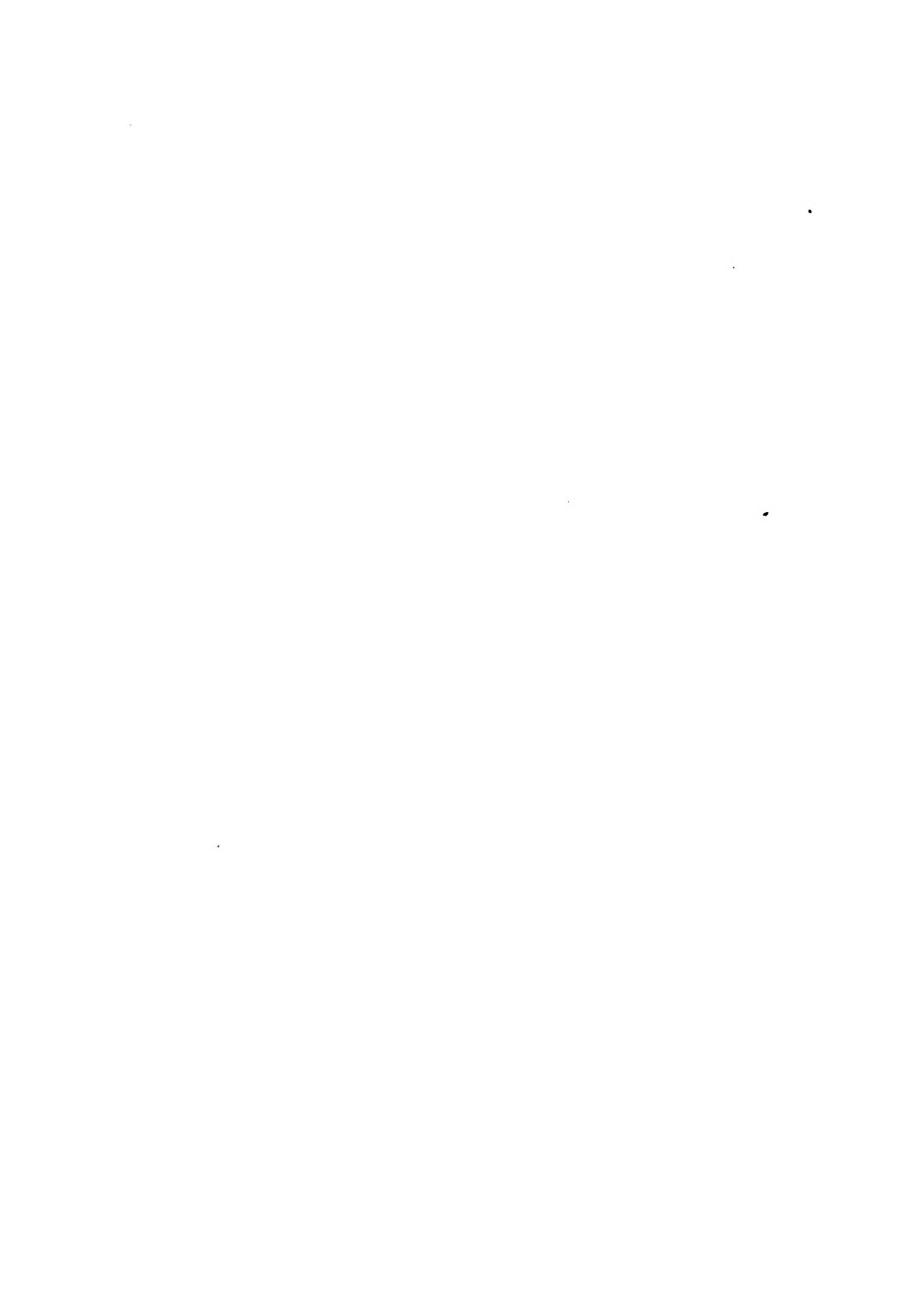


THE OLD CHURCH.

THE BLOOMINGDALE REFORMED CHURCH

The Third House of Worship

71st Street, east of Columbus Avenue. From *The History of Eighty Years*



Some day it will be of interest to recall when the street improvements in this part of the city were undertaken. To this end dates have been heretofore carefully preserved in the text. For analogous reason the following liens on the cemetery yet outstanding are detailed here: Opening 68th Street from Eighth Avenue to the river, confirmed September 3, 1869; Public Place at Boulevard and Ninth Avenue at 66th Street, June 8, 1872; outlet sewer Broadway through 66th Street June 30, 1871; sewer in 67th Street, Ninth to Tenth Avenues, August 31, 1874; regulating and grading 68th Street, Eighth Avenue to river, September 25, 1874. The grading of the Boulevard from 59th to 155th Streets was completed and the sewer in process in 1874. Liens on property between 71st and 73d Streets: Riverside Park, confirmed August 2, 1872; grading 72d Street, Eighth Avenue to river, March 6, 1873; paving 71st, 72d, and 73d Streets was completed in 1874, and sewer in Ninth Avenue in process. New assessments were reported in November, viz.: grading 73d Street, confirmed April 22, 1875; paving 71st Street July 3, 1875. It was announced that the assessment for constructing the Boulevard was yet in the hands of the Assessor and that objections thereto had been presented and urged. A lawyer was now engaged to institute proceedings to vacate or reduce these and previous liens. Many of them had heretofore been remitted because of informalities in the method of assessment, others because of the growing popular disposition that property used for religious and charitable purposes should be exempt. A recent decision of the Court of Appeals exempting certain church property raised hopes of final success. Notwithstanding earnest effort the Boulevard assessment

was placed on the burial plot in 1877, amounting to \$3240.40. It was announced that over \$19,000 of arrears were remaining on the property, with uncomputed interest thereon. Samuel Hanaway was elected deacon in January, 1878. Amount of insurance increased on Chapel from \$3500 to \$5000.

The pastor gave notice on April 11, 1879, that in consequence of increasing infirmities the time might not be very distant when he should need an assistant in the services of the sanctuary. The employment of such an assistant was authorized. Although unable to minister at the services, the Domine continued to care for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Church. At the session held at his residence on February 21, 1881, he made a statement in which he reported that he had endeavored to promote the spiritual interests of the parish by private intercourse and correspondence and had supplied an assistant who regularly preached and performed the usual duties. He had sedulously cared for the secular affairs and watched with ceaseless vigilance against the approaches of burdensome assessments and taxes upon its valuable but unproductive and trammelled real estate, averting them when possible before being laid or laboring for their removal after being imposed. No other church was so peculiarly situated as this, with an unproductive estate to maintain, in the midst of a fluctuating population, in the transition stage of a rough and rocky soil where costly improvements were made in the most costly manner, multiplying onerous assessments.

In the successive years after the assumption of my pastoral charge [he continued] there have come into my hands and received my attention in behalf of the Church 42 separate and distinct cases of assessments for local

improvements and 38 cases of taxes, making in all 80 cases, constituting a liability of \$51,025.44, with interest and costs, say about half as much again—total \$86,000, of which a large amount, with accrued interest, has been averted, remitted or paid, leaving \$16,000 with interest and costs yet to be adjusted. Of the items composing said amount a schedule has been prepared, embodied in a petition for relief to be presented to the Assessment Commissioners appointed by the Legislature of 1880 for the adjustment of such matters. Beyond this sum the church has no debt but the two small contingent mortgages held by the Collegiate Church upon a section of the old Church plot, not payable at present and it is to be hoped the contingency never will arise which will make them fall due.

The above statement enables one to understand how the misfortunes of the Church came about. Had it not been for the invaluable services above enumerated it could not have lived. It may be safely asserted that the pastor had saved the corporation upwards of \$50,000 in the above class of liens, by his vigilant and energetic labors. To summarize, in the words of *The History of Eighty Years*, he became a ubiquitous real estate agent. He had been kept busy enough in fencing off taxes and assessments, levied or purposed to be levied, upon the church grounds and belongings. One day he was at the City Hall protesting against some obnoxious action of Assessors or Street Commissioners. The next day he was in Albany pelting the Legislature with arguments against pending bills laying a tax upon churches and cemeteries. He was singularly successful, too—had a genius for such work.<sup>1</sup>

The Rev. Alexander G. van Aken, the pastor's

<sup>1</sup> Cemeteries were specifically exempted from taxation by Chap. 498, p. 1077, Laws of 1893, approved by Governor Roswell P. Flower, April 29.

nephew, was called as associate on April 28th, with a compensation of \$1000. The call was, however, never perfected and was consequently invalid. Samuel Hanaway was installed Deacon on September 25th, and Samuel B. Reed was elected to the same office on the 27th. At the session of that date a tentative plan of reorganizing the church was considered. The Church Extension Committee of Classis had made a proposition to that end. Discussion thereof was postponed. Otis D. Stewart was chosen Deacon in October. A special meeting was called which met December 5th at the house of Elder Curtis, 28 West 60th Street. The matter was again postponed to meet the convenience of Classis. A communication from Classis was received and read on the 16th stating that the necessity of having the pastor declared *emeritus*, because of his disability and his residence in New Jersey far from his people, had been thought advisable and passed on the 6th instant, as both Mr. van Aken's interest and that of the Church imperatively demanded that this course be taken. The Rev. A. G. Vermilye, Rev. Carlos Martyn, and Horatio P. Allen were appointed to undertake this arrangement. A very friendly presentation of the subject was made to Domine van Aken, in which views he concurred. The local Consistory thereupon resolved "that, with regret and continued respect and affection for him after his long and faithful services among us, this Consistory recognize the Providential necessity for this step and join with him in his application to the Classis." A salary of \$500 was agreed on. Worn out by years of labor, he had for some time been palsied and was residing in New Brunswick. The assistant pastor was also a non-resident. The Domine was accordingly



declared *emeritus* on December 20, 1881, and a committee consisting of Dr. Vermilye, the Revs. Carlos Martyn and E. A. Reed, and Elders D. P. Hoffman and H. P. Allen was appointed for the purpose of aiding the local Consistory. By their advice the pulpit was to be supplied for the time and Reed was selected to arrange it. He was likewise to get the books and business papers from Domine van Aken and to collect the rent of the parsonage.

Beginning with 1882 services began at 3 P.M. and the Sunday-school at 2, under the superintendence of Hanaway. Wood, who had declined to serve because of ill health, now returned to the Board. Emmons resigned on the 1st of December "in consequence of impaired health and the infirmities of age." A communication from the pastor *emeritus* was received. Therein he detailed the situation as related to his work *in re* assessments and stated that the liens could be materially reduced by the act of the Legislature exempting cemeteries which he helped to procure. The question of the number required to be present to form a quorum and the official relation of the pastor with reference thereto was submitted to Classis, which in answer quoted the 13th article of the Synod of Dort (1618), the original of all others on the subject, as stating that

"If a minister become incapable of performing the duties of his office, either through age, sickness or otherwise, such minister shall, notwithstanding, retain the honor and style of his office and be provided with an honorable support." Similarly in the first American Constitution (1792) (explanatory of Article 16) he is declared "excused from all further service in the church" but retains "the title, rank, and character," with an adequate support. Indeed at that

date so entirely was his position regarded as titular and honorary, so completely was he set aside from duty and even prerogative, that by Article 17 he was not allowed to administer the communion or celebrate a marriage without express permission of Classis. This article is left out of the Constitution of 1833, but Article 16 remains substantially the same. He is "excused from all further services in the Church," retaining only "the title, rank, and character"; the outward dignity and reputable shadow of the connection. It only remains to say that the Constitution of 1874 makes no change in the relation thus designated. Not dismissed, but honorably "excused from all further services in the Church"—services in the Consistory as well as out of it—and on the sufficient ground of physical (or mental) incapacity, he is not expected to be present or take any further part in the active working of the Church. That devolves upon the Consistory, without him, and he is not to be counted as in service or in reference to a quorum. His position, even if present, is honorary, his general position in and towards the Church being that of honorable retirement, with only such influence and power as may result from long service and the affection and respect of the people.

Domine van Aken continued to send regular communications to the Consistory reciting the condition of the liens he had for so long a period in hand. At a meeting at Wood's residence February 21, 1882, Elder Reed was elected President until a pastor was provided, and Treasurer, and Hanaway, Clerk. The latter wishing to be relieved as Superintendent of the Sabbath-school in order to serve as organist, Deacon Stewart was chosen. The Secretary was directed to obtain from the late Pastor the corporate seal of the organization and all title deeds, instruments in writing, and documents belonging to the Church, and to convey to him the continued confidence of the Consistory.

After due consideration of an offer of \$80,000 which had been received for the lots on which the parsonage stood the matter was referred to a committee with power. Just as the bargain was being closed, to quote *The History of Eighty Years*, a new and unexpected difficulty arose. Two or three of the heirs of Jacob Harsen objected to the sale on the ground that the land was restricted by the deed of gift to use as a parsonage plot; and they claimed that, if sold for other uses, the land would revert to the heirs. This question went to the courts, where it remained for nearly a year—the life of the Church hanging on the decision. During the interval, the Advisory Committee, through its clerical members and through other clergymen whose services they from time to time secured, supplied the pulpit as a freewill offering. Among the brethren so co-operating were the Rev. Drs. A. G. Vermilye, Wm. Ormiston, E. B. Reed, and J. H. Gardner and the Revs. Carlos Martyn, W. C. Handy, and A. J. Park. Thanks were voted in October to the reverend members for their services in most acceptably supplying the pulpit for nearly a year past, except for the few weeks in the summer when the Church was closed, it being deemed a duty to relieve them from further labor and responsibility in the matter. Pending the calling of a pastor, the Elders undertook to obtain a weekly supply.

Application to the Supreme Court had been made and permission to sell entered on April 8th, so, when towards the end of that year the right to sell was confirmed, the sale was consummated on December 1st. To a recital of the above-detailed troubles were added by the Treasurer in his report of the transaction these words: "I refer to them as a part of the most memora-

ble period in the history of this church and that it may become a part of its records." The deed for the 8 lots between 72d and 73d Streets ran to J. Augustus Page, and simultaneously therewith a deed from said Page and wife to Alfred C. Clark was delivered. From the proceeds, over \$10,000 of taxes and assessments in arrears were paid and \$6000 was reserved to await the result of the litigations commenced by Domine van Aken. Deducting other expenses, over \$61,000 was deposited to the credit of the Church. Many needed improvements and repairs to the Chapel, which would add much to its appearance and the comfort of the worshippers, were announced as being in progress at a cost of \$1500.

#### **The Fifth Minister**

On December 7, 1882, at a meeting at which the members of the Advisory Committee were present, the question of calling a pastor became uppermost. There appeared a distinct feeling in the Consistory favoring Rev. Carlos Martyn, of which the committee approved, whereupon the Clerk was directed to prepare the form of call prescribed, to begin January 1, 1883, at a salary of \$3000. Mr. Martyn was born in this city, December 15, 1841, and had had large experience in church work. Fresh from graduation in 1869 at Union Theological Seminary he became pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church at St. Louis; took charge of the North Church of the same denomination at Portsmouth, N. H., in 1871, whence he returned (1876) to New York to fill the pastorate of the Thirty-fourth Street Reformed Church. He was there when, in obedience to the direction of Classis, he succeeded Domine van Aken. He was in the vigor of manhood



*C. Martyn*

Portrait and signature of Rev. Carlos Martyn, D.D.



and brought to Bloomingdale an established reputation as a preacher and writer. This call was accepted and the pastor presided at the session on January 13th, when standing committees were appointed. Services were fixed for Sabbath mornings at 11, Sunday-school at 3, evening service at 7.30, and prayer meeting at 8 Wednesday evenings. Samuel Hanaway was confirmed as organist. A Committee on Installation was appointed. Meetings were to be held thereafter in the Lecture Room.

On Sunday afternoon, February 25th, the Chapel was reopened for public worship, the services being in the nature of a fraternal congratulation, participated in by the Rev. Drs. E. B. Coe, senior minister of the denomination, C. De Witt Brigham, Baptist, Howard Crosby, Presbyterian, G. H. Mandeville, Reformed, Wilbur F. Watkins, Episcopalian, S. H. Virgin, Congregationalist, and Charles F. Deems, Independent. The Rev. Dr. J. L. See was also present and offered prayer. The occasion, in the words of *The History of Eighty Years*, written by the pastor, which must be largely relied on for the history of this period, was a kind of love-feast and was enjoyed by a large congregation. The installation service occurred on Tuesday evening the 27th inst. The Chapel was filled and the exercises followed in this order: The new quartette, of which Edward Berge was organist and Samuel Hanaway bass, rendered an anthem; the Scripture lesson was read by the Rev. E. S. Fairchild; the Rev. Dr. T. W. Chambers delivered the prayer; the sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Ormiston; the charge to the pastor was made of Dr. Edward A. Reed, to the people by Dr. Vermilye, and prayer by Dr. Roderick Terry. It was reported on March 7th that

the organ had been thoroughly repaired and removed to the gallery.

Mr. Martyn says that the field here at first look was not reassuring. There was little at the commencement of his ministry but a legal organization. Everything else needed to be created.

But I knew that God was not dead! I felt that I had in Messrs. Reed, Hanaway, and Dunlap [George E. Dunlap was elected deacon on April 4] able and devoted assistants, and we all saw the promise of the future. For the condition of Bloomingdale had amazingly changed since the period of Mr. van Aken's active experience. It had become a part of the metropolis. Buildings were going up in all directions, intelligent and well-to-do residents were rapidly pre-empting the ground. No better location for a church was to be found on Manhattan Island. Cheered by these good omens the new pastorate opened. Soon the various constituent elements of active and aggressive church life were gathered and set in motion. The prayer meeting, the Sunday-school, which had reopened March 11th, with half a dozen teachers, the congregation, grew apace; and we foresaw and commenced to provide against the time when the Chapel would fail to accommodate the parish. *Where shall we put the new Church?* This was the question which now confronted the Consistory. Which would be wisest, to build on 72d Street, or to go back to the old site on the corner of Broadway and 68th Street? This matter of location was anxiously, prayerfully debated. Eventually the latter spot was decided on. There is only one Broadway. A church on that corner would be easily accessible from below and from above, and on either side. It was an admirable location for an imposing structure on account of the peculiar shape of the corner. These considerations controlled our action—these and the fact that the parsonage lots were marketable, while the Broadway plot was not, and we needed to sell our real



estate, either here or there, in order to pay for the new edifice.

Accordingly on the 4th of April, 1883, the Consistory passed a resolution appointing Elders Reed and Hanaway a committee to blast out and prepare the cemetery plot for a new House of Worship—the *fourth* of the series the congregation had constructed. On top of the mountain of rock that occupied the space rested some ten or twelve feet of soil, wherein reposed the dead forefathers of the hamlet, buried between 1815 and about 1866, when a municipal ordinance forbade further interments. Memory recalls the scene; the old line of ruins made by the east wall of the demolished church, the dilapidated vaults, the broken headstones that marked the trampled graves, the goats that found sacrilegious pasturage above the dead, the little ragamuffins that made a noisy and profane playground of what should have been a hallowed precinct—a scene barbarous as war or rapine could have made it and utterly scandalous and disgraceful.

The actual work of removing the earth and debris of the Church and laying bare the rock was commenced on Tuesday, June 19th.

The Consistory on the same day directed that the bodies resting in this deserted and neglected cemetery should be disinterred and placed in a temporary vault on the ground. This reading notice, from the *New York Herald* of June 13th, fixes the date:

Permission was granted yesterday by the Health authorities to the Consistory of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church, Sixty-eighth Street and Boulevard, to transfer from an old to a new vault in the graveyard surrounding the Church, the bodies of thirty [*sic*] persons interred there over thirty years ago.

This work was carefully and piously performed, Elder

Hanaway, a child of this Church, giving it his constant personal attention. Several men were specially employed in removing the remains found in vaults and graves, and such interest was displayed by all concerned that it was believed that not a bone was lost. The bodies were all carefully put into new boxes prepared for the purpose, and where silver plates were found that were legible they were fastened on the boxes containing the remains of those whose names they bore. It was estimated that upwards of 120 bodies were taken up. Only a few of these could be identified, as the plates had disintegrated in most instances to such an extent as not to be decipherable. The inscriptions on such as were legible follow:

John Asten,	Born Ap. 2, 1753; Died Aug. 3, 1830, in his 78th year.
Samuel Wiser,	Obt. 4th March 1819, aged 34 yrs. 14 days.
Mary Dupont,	Died July 31st, 1842, aged     yrs. 7 mos. 8 days.
Mary Winnans,	Died Feb. 17th, 1842, aged 8 yrs.
Hannah Knight,	Died March 23rd, 1822, aged 79 yrs.
Mary H. Churchill,	Died July 24th, 1849, aged 1 yr. 9 mos. 21 days.
George T. Purth,	Died Nov. 8th, 1849.
John Cozine,	Died 10th Dec. 1831, aged 69 yrs. 11 mos. 9 days.
Amos Freeman,	Died 1st June, 1825, aged 73 yrs.
John Ackerman,	Died April 1st, 1824, aged 84 years.
B. Asten,	Died 24th July 1816, aged 42 years.
Haram Betts,	Died Sept, 29, 1830, aged in his 40th year.
James Russell Knight,	Died May 23rd, 1824, aged 44 yrs. & 5 mos.

Leo Graham,           No plate, tombstone standing. Remains could be identified and name placed on box.

The report of the committee in charge, Messrs. Reed and Hanaway, continues: "These boxes will be placed alongside of each other in the new vault with none others on top, so that when the boxes decay the plates will fall in on the remains to indicate correctly the identity of each body." By the end of July all the bodies were removed.

On Feb. 6, 1883, Senior Elder Reed, an architect of repute, submitted plans for the new church, parsonage, lecture and Sunday-school room which met with the hearty approbation of Consistory and were adopted with enthusiasm. The work of excavation occupied the remainder of the year and was not completed until the spring of 1884. In May of that year the masons commenced to lay the foundations of the new structure and on the 30th of the next month the corner-stone was laid with imposing ceremonies and in the presence of a numerous and deeply interested gathering.

While we were agitating the question of building [says *The History of Eighty Years*] a singular event occurred. It was found that the plot we owned on this corner was too shallow for our purpose, on the 68th Street line only seventy feet six inches deep. Inquiries were made concerning the ownership of the adjoining lot in the rear, fronting upon 68th Street, where the chapel and Sunday-school are placed. It was found that it belonged to an estate. One cold spring day in 1883, as the pastor and Mr. Reed sat chatting in the latter's office, a friend burst in and told us that lot was to be sold at auction in the Real Estate Exchange at 12 o'clock that day. We looked

at the clock. It was eight minutes of twelve. We threw on our overcoats and rushed forth. The Exchange was half a mile away. We reached it panting for breath. Just as we entered the room the auctioneer was crying, "Going, going, at \$4500; first call, second call, third and last"— It was the very lot we wanted! Mr. Reed instantly said, "I offer \$4600." The bids ran up to \$7000, when it was knocked down to us. The parties bidding when we came in, not knowing us, supposed we were bidding against them in the interest of the estate which owned the lot. So they went up as high as they dared, and then unloaded, as they supposed on the estate, and turned away with a chuckle. When they learned the truth we were informed that they were very sad! Had it been known how essential that lot was to us, we would probably have had to pay dearly for it. We owe the chapel, and indeed the whole building in its present form, to our opportune arrival.

While the work of construction was going on, we were all busy in a dozen different directions—poring over plans, superintending the construction, making contracts, carrying forward public worship, calling upon and endeavoring to interest new friends, caring for the sick, burying the dead; in short administering the parish. The Consistory, which had long been in an unsatisfactory state, and which, in the Reformed Church, is the source of spiritual and secular influence, the legislative, executive and judicial power,—in so far as the individual church is concerned, is White House, Congress, and Supreme Court combined—was at last composed of gentlemen of standing and ability, in the prime of life. At the session of the Consistory held January 3d, 1885, the number was raised to the requirement of the resolution passed in 1814, by the election of an elder and a deacon to fill the long-existing vacancies: Messrs. Wm. M. Stout and Wm. J. Lyon being installed, the first in the eldership, and the second in the deaconry. These brethren have proved a mighty addition, "workmen



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The Fourth House of Worship. Northeast corner of Broadway and 68th Street



needing not to be ashamed." The Consistory was at that time constituted as follows, viz., Elders, S. B. Reed, Samuel Hanaway, Wm. M. Stout; Deacons, George E. Dunlap, J. P. Deyo, Wm. J. Lyon.

An offer was reported in March, 1884, of \$85,000 for the eight lots on which the Chapel stood, and when a few days later it was raised to \$110,000 the Consistory fixed a price of \$20,000 apiece for the 72d Street lots and of \$15,000 for those on 71st Street. The pastor's salary was increased to \$3500. In an effort to place a mortgage on the new church site the old trouble which was temporarily allayed some years previously confronted the Consistory. The loans of \$600 and \$3093, secured by mortgage held by the Collegiate Church, had to be first removed. The principal of these liens was duly paid on August 7th, and satisfaction recorded. The building committee announced that month that the walls were ready for the roof. The total cost of the series of buildings which were completed within the next two months, and including the organ and furniture, the amount paid for the chapel lot in the rear, and the cost of excavation, was \$151,198.71. The organ was built by the long-established and celebrated firm of George Jardine & Son. It was scheduled at \$5000, and was said by the builders and by acknowledged experts to be an instrument of grand tone and range.

The moneys used in the work of construction had been obtained from the balance on hand of the \$80,000 received from the sale of the parsonage lots and from two loans negotiated with the Mutual Life Insurance Co.—one, for \$55,000, secured by a mortgage resting upon the eight lots between 71st and 72d Streets, where the old Chapel yet stood and forming the southern

half of the parsonage acre; the other, of \$70,000, secured by a mortgage on the edifice. Some unusual problems had to be solved, such as fitting the structure to the triangular shape of the plot and at the same time avoiding objectionable exhibitions of these angles in the interior; harmonizing within graceful lines so many buildings containing ample accommodations for their prospective requirement, each distinct and separated from the others and yet capable of being used, should occasion require, at the same time without conflict or interference one with the other; extending through them all the systems of heating, lighting, and ventilation, each arranged to be easily controlled and directed, and adopting and introducing a plan of acoustics having none of the defects common to most large churches. The task devolved entirely on the architect without the usual building committee to share the responsibilities of the work. Five hundred and twenty sittings were allowed for in the body of the auditorium. The finished product made as complete and perfectly equipped an institution as the city held, and by common acknowledgment one of the most original and beautiful. By almost unheard-of good fortune this large enterprise was finished without a single accident involving injury or death to any person.

It may be said that, under God, this parish is pre-eminently indebted to two persons: the first, Barbara Asten, whose pious benefaction paid for the old Church; the other, Jacob Harsen, whose gift of the parsonage acre away back in 1809 enabled this magnificent structure to be built. Following the close of the service on the morning of December 14th, the Consistory met in the lecture room with the especial object of planning, for the new edifice, a memorial to express their respect



and gratitude to Mr. Harsen. The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

*Whereas* Jacob Harsen, Senior, late of Harsenville as the locality of his residence and of this Church was then called, was one of the founders and most liberal supporters of this Church; and

*Whereas* the said Jacob Harsen in the year 1809, by his deed of gift of certain lands in near proximity to this Church (and which have become valuable), did thus, by his liberality and forethought, provide the means, to a large extent, which have enabled this Church to erect and furnish their new and commodious edifice for the public worship of Almighty God; and

*Whereas* this Consistory deem it proper that the name and memory of the said Jacob Harsen, as one of the founders, and principal benefactor of this Church, should be preserved therein, therefore it is

*Resolved* that a suitable Memorial to the said Jacob Harsen be set in a conspicuous place within our said new Church edifice, situated at the corner of Broadway and West Sixty-eighth Street.

*Resolved* that Elders Reed and Hanaway be a committee, with the power to put the above into execution.

*Resolved* that engrossed copies of the foregoing preamble and resolutions, with the corporate seal of this Church affixed thereto, be signed by the President and Clerk of Consistory and presented to a representative of each of the four families constituting the descendants of the said Jacob Harsen, namely: Mrs. Catharine Purdy and Mrs. Cornelia Rachel Rhoades who are grand-daughters, Jacob Halsted Esq., whose deceased wife was a grand-daughter, and to one of the descendants of Mrs. Joanna R. Prall deceased, who also was a grand-daughter of the said Jacob Harsen, Senior.

An engrossed copy thereof was framed and hung

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in the vestibule opposite the tablet in memory of Mrs. Asten, which reads as follows:

As a TOKEN of gratitude for distinguished LIBERALITY  
Bestowed upon THIS HOUSE

And to perpetuate the Remembrance of her pious

BENEFACTION

This monumental Stone

is Erected by the CONSISTORY of the CHURCH

To the Memory

of

MRS. BARBARA ASTEN

The wife of MR. JOHN ASTEN, who fell asleep in Jesus  
July the 24th, 1816, aged 42 years.

And thou Shalt be blessed, for they cannot recompense thee;  
For thou Shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the  
just. *Luke 14, 14.*

The righteous Shall be in Everlasting remembrance.  
*Ps. 112, 6.*

Domine van Aken passed away in January. On February 4th, a committee, composed of the pastor and Elders Reed and Hanaway, was appointed to prepare a memorial. This was spread on the minutes on March 6th, as follows:

It having pleased Almighty God to remove by death on the third [should be second] day of January, 1885, the Rev. Enoch van Aken, D.D., the Pastor *Emeritus* of this Church,

*Resolved* that this Consistory desires to express its grateful sense of appreciation of his long and laborious life, nearly fifty years of which were passed in the service of this people. His was one of the longest pastorates in the annals of the Metropolitan pulpit and one of the most checkered. By his prudence in temporal matters and by his wisdom in spiritual interests, he stamped his individuality ineffaceably upon this church and neighborhood. Those who knew him in his prime think of him as an

earnest and sound exponent of the Gospel and love to dwell upon his faithful and pastoral oversight. Those who met him later on, when resting under broken health, were impressed by his uncomplaining spirit and steadfast hope.

We lay a garland on his coffin; and while we thank God for what He enabled him to do, we congratulate him upon his emancipation from the heart-ache and weariness of this mortal life and his advancement into the largeness and blessedness of Heaven. As he passes from our sight, but not from our memory, we exclaim: "All hail and farewell!"

*Resolved*, that this minute be recorded in our book of proceedings, and that a copy be forwarded to Dr. van Aken's widow, with the assurance of our tender sympathy.

The Kingston, N. Y., *Freeman* contained this notice:

Died.

van Aken at New Brunswick, N. J., January 2, 1885, the REV. ENOCH VAN AKEN in his 77th year.

The many Kingston friends of Rev. Enoch van Aken will be pained to learn of his death, which occurred at New Brunswick, N. J., Jan. 2d. The deceased was a brother of William van Aken of this city and was the father of the late Rev. Gulick van Aken who was also well known here and who was once called as the pastor of the Presbyterian Church but died before commencing active work. Rev. Enoch van Aken was born at Esopus and spent the earlier part of his life in the neighborhood of Saugerties. He was educated at Kingston Academy and commenced the study of law in the village of Kingston; afterwards he gave up the pursuit of law for that of the ministry. He entered Rutgers College,

New Brunswick, and Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey, and after completing his studies commenced his life work as pastor of the Dutch Church at Kinderhook, New York. Two years afterwards he was called to the Bloomingdale Church, New York City. This was just half a century ago, but he continued in active service as pastor of that church until within a few years of his death. Then he relinquished his labors because of a stroke of paralysis. While physically disabled his mind continued active and useful until he was called home to receive the reward, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of thy Lord," and to realize the promise, "where I am ye may be also."

His remains were interred in the cemetery at Sleepy Hollow.

A marble tablet was thereafter erected to his memory bearing this inscription, composed by his life-long friend, Rev. A. R. Thompson, D.D.

TO THE BLESSED MEMORY OF  
THE REV<sup>d</sup>. ENOCH VAN AKEN

Born July 21st, 1808,

August 9th, 1835, Installed Minister of this Church,

Died January 2nd, 1885.

Gentle in spirit, wise in counsel, constant in labor,

A faithful preacher of Christ crucified.

By his fidelity, sagacity and devotion

This Church was brought safely through the critical period  
When the village of Bloomingdale was becoming a part  
of this great Metropolis.

"He was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost and of  
faith."—*Acts xi.*, 24.

“Their works do follow them.”—*Revelations* xiv., 13.

Erected by the Consistory.

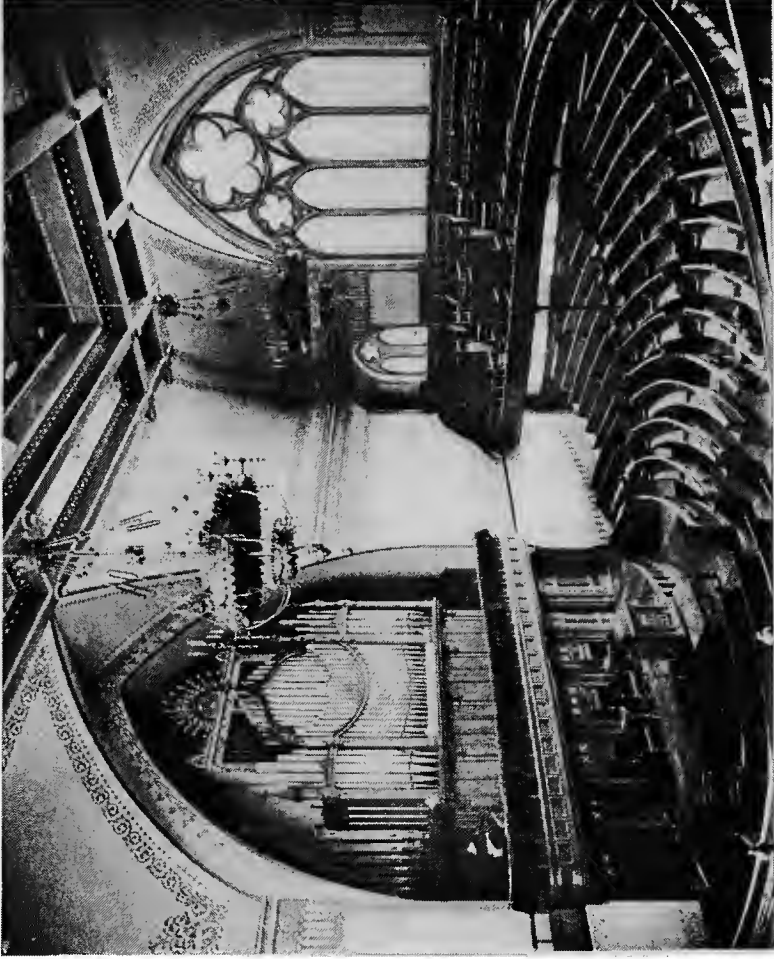
With the passing of Domine van Aken expired the last pastor of Holland descent. While Dr. Gunn was not of the Dutch faith, Domines Kip and van Aken were born in the fold. Their pastorates ended what might be called the Dutch period in the life of the Church. Mr. van Aken was born July 21, 1808, graduated at Rutgers College in 1830, at the New Brunswick and Princeton Seminaries in 1833, was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick and ordained by the Classis of Rensselaer in 1834. He was at the Kinderhook church the following year and came to his life charge in 1835. Corwin's *Manual* says it was his faithful preaching which led the Rev. Alexander R. Thompson to a new life, and credits him with having carried his church through a great and severe trial and saved it. He had remarkable ability, heroic simplicity, and earnest perseverance, and was a constant and never wearying visitor among the transient population of Bloomingdale. He was the author of many publications, mostly sermons and biographical articles, among the latter being “The Life and Character of Miss Ann Striker,” *Christian Intelligencer*, 1860, and “Article on General Garret H. Striker,” in the same publication April, 1868.

In March the new parsonage was so far finished that the pastor was requested to take possession. The meeting of the Consistory on April 2d was held there. A communication, dated the 30th inst., was received from the Department of Public Works complaining of the carelessness of the contractor. He had destroyed some of the elms lining the sidewalk in his blasting operations. In May, Deacon Lyon reported

that he had made a satisfactory adjustment of this matter with the Department, and had taken steps to secure two lamps to be placed in front of the edifice on the Boulevard.

The following account of the dedication service held on Thursday evening, October 22d, at 7.30 o'clock, is copied from the report published in *The Christian Intelligencer*, of the 28th:

The dedication on Thursday evening last of the Bloomingdale Church at Broadway and Sixty-eighth Street was an event of more than usual importance to our denomination. It is the first church edifice erected by us in this city for fifteen years; and when the long continued struggle of the organization for existence is considered, the present society may be looked upon as a complete gain to our communion. For years after the farmers in the vicinity had sold their land to speculators, or had turned it into imaginary city lots, the congregation consisted of little more than the pastor's family and the sexton. Again and again the Classis threatened to abandon the work, but was restrained by the remonstrance of the pastor, the Rev. Enoch van Aken, of whose foresight and pertinacity of purpose the present building is largely the result. The church has a frontage of 112 feet on Broadway, and a depth of about 100 feet on Sixty-eighth Street. It is built in the 13th century Gothic style, of Kentucky oolitic limestone, with the tower at the corner, and a pointed arch upon each street. The tower is extended to its full height, but the spire which is to be of the same stone will not be added until a year hence, as it is necessary always to allow the walls to settle before imposing so great weight upon them. The interior arrangement is unique, admirably adapted to church purposes, and admitting of perfect acoustic properties. The main auditorium is finished entirely in oak, is oblong, with a gallery elliptical in form. The gallery is a peculiar feature in the design, being divided



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Interior of the Fourth House of Worship





into "boxes" after the manner of the old Holland churches, and contributes materially to the general artistic effect. The floor slopes from all directions toward the pulpit, which is below the organ and the choir gallery, and stands in the centre of the longest diameter of the room. Light is obtained not only through the numerous stained glass windows, but through colored glass panels in the ceiling, which also act as ventilators, and produce an effect in ornamentation which can be produced in no other way. With thirteen exits from the room, one could scarcely lose enough presence of mind to secure his retention in the building in case of fire. In the rear of the body of the church are the lecture room and parlor on the ground floor, and the Sunday-school room above, furnished with infant and Bible class rooms opening out of it, and a wide gallery which runs around it on three sides. In going through the building, one is impressed with its solidity, spaciousness, and convenience. The architect, Mr. S. B. Reed, of 245 Broadway, is the senior elder of the church.

Long before the hour of service, a crowd waited for admission, and when the doors were open the building was soon filled to its utmost capacity. Words of commendation were heard on every hand, and when the gas was turned up there was a general murmur of approval. A pleasant feature of the occasion was the presence of the wife of the Rev. Enoch van Aken, who was pastor of the Church for fifty years.

After an organ voluntary by Mr. Edward G. Jardine, builder of the instrument, the Rev. G. H. Smyth offered the invocation and pronounced the salutation. Rev. A. J. Hutton, of Brooklyn, read the Commandments, and Dr. E. A. Reed led in the responsive reading of the 102d Psalm. The choir then sang the anthem, "O Come Let us Sing." The Old Testament lesson, Ex. xl : 17-38, was read by Dr. T. W. Chambers, and the lesson from the New Testament, Rev. xxi : 10-27, by Rev. S. S. Martyn. The hymn, "God in His earthly Temples lays foundations for

His heavenly praise," was read by Rev. O. H. Walser, and the congregation joined heartily in singing.

The pastor, Rev. Carlos Martyn, then spoke as follows:

"It is the pleasure of a lifetime, dear friends, to welcome you to-night to the dedication services of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church. Only those who have some acquaintance with building can understand or appreciate the multitude of details involved in the progress of any work of construction. We had hoped to welcome you to-night to a completed building, but we are a little disappointed in that. There are some of the details of finish in the wood-work and decoration which await the final touch of the workers in wood, and the cunning fingers of the decorator. Anyhow, we are glad to be here, for we here find transformed into solid stone, the hopes and dreams of many anxious and weary months.

"Standing now upon the threshold of those purposes to which we intend to devote this building, we desire most reverently to thank the Great Head of the Church, the 'Giver of every good and perfect gift,' for His constant presence and continuous benediction. One of our elders said to me to-day: 'The history of our church is a history of divine providence.' That has never been more markedly realized than in the past year or two of our experience. The dear God has never left us nor forsaken us.

"Standing on this platform this evening, there seems to start up before the eyes of my mind, a plain old farmer, a man prominent here six or seven decades ago. He was a leader in the then hamlet of Bloomingdale. I am, of course, referring to Jacob Harsen. I speak of this good man for a purpose. He has won the everlasting gratitude of every clergyman. Clergymen are a much-abused class of men. There are two views which prevail in the community with regard to them. One is that a clergyman is a dray-horse, always serviceable, and at all times fit to be harnessed between the thills, and made to drag any cause out of the slough. Another view of him is, that

he is a big bass drum, and everybody, as he passes along, feels at liberty to give him a thump. Jacob Harsen had a better idea of a minister. He said: 'The best thing to do with a domine is to put him in a pleasant home.' And, accordingly, he had constructed for the domine in his day a lovely and commodious parsonage, and gave him an ample parsonage plot. In the lapse of time that parsonage property, with the upward growth of our city, has become valuable; and instead of representing hundreds of dollars in value, as it did years ago, it now represents many thousands. And because of that increased value, we are here to-night. This building, in some sense, is the result of old Jacob Harsen's thoughtful kindness to his minister. It is a good example to follow, and I hope some of you will take it earnestly to heart.

"Then I recall standing here that dear old man, the Rev. Enoch van Aken, who labored for fifty years in this portion of God's vineyard, and who withstood misrepresentation and misunderstanding decades long, and rowed against the stream for dreary years. I think his spirit, resting yonder in glory, is bending over us to-night, and joining with us as we bow in gratitude before the Great White Throne.

"I bear a loving testimony also to the continual and patient labor and the practical skill of our senior Elder, the architect of this building, Mr. S. B. Reed. To my personal knowledge, all the details of this work have gone forward under his immediate eye and hand. For the beauty of this temple, with its brightness and commodiousness, you are indebted to him. Upon the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren, England's great architect, there is a striking epitaph. As you enter Saint Paul's Cathedral, you find staring you in the face these words: 'If you would behold the genius of Sir Christopher Wren, look around you.' We borrow to-night the epitaph of the English architect, and apply the legend to our honored friend and brother Mr. Reed. It is also due to our Consistory to say that they have stayed

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up his hands grandly. His plans and suggestions have sometimes been earnestly debated, but he has almost always carried the day.

“The church and congregation, too, have given us their continued interest and sympathetic co-operation in every stage of the work.

“I claim two things for this church. It is a thoroughly constructed building. If there be any spot beneath heaven where truth should prevail, it is in the house of God. We have put truth into our rafters, into our walls, into our floors, and, please God, we mean to put truth into ourselves—the hardest task of all. We have got an honest house—good, sound oak in the interior, and solid stone on the outside. It is also an economical building. I claim unhesitatingly that it has cost less than any other church on Manhattan Island which is equally well equipped for the service of God. We have paid less than \$150,000 for it. The land we count worth \$125,000, so that the lowest actual value represented here is \$275,000. We believe \$300,000 would be nearer the present value.

“There are one or two features of our church of which I wish to speak. It is not so much one building as a succession of buildings. Remembering what Jacob Harsen gave that acre for, seventy years ago, our Consistory has seen to it that the Domine is well housed. In addition to the new parsonage, we have behind this auditorium, a lecture room, a church parlor, and a Sunday-school room capable of accomodating seven hundred scholars. Cobbett, the English economist, said that the secret of English civilization lay in the stomachs of the nation. I do not know how that is, but I am sure that every housewife is aware that she can reach the heart of her husband through his stomach more quickly than in any other way. We have borrowed a thought from this fact. We have put under our church parlor, a kitchen with a range in it, and every appliance usually found in this important part of a well-appointed house. We propose to feed the hungry

literally, and I do not know but that by and by we will go a step further, and clothe the naked. I hope so.

“Whether a man likes a building such as this is, or not, depends on his taste. Some people adore what is called ecclesiastical architecture—the cathedral style. They delight to sing with Milton:

‘I love the high embowèd roof,  
With antique pillars massy proof,  
And storied windows, richly dight,  
Casting a dim religious light.’

But we do not believe in ‘dim religious light.’ That is magnificent poetry, but it is wretched church architecture, because it puts people to sleep. If you would get the grace of God into a man’s heart, you must get the sleep rubbed out of his eyes. We have made our church as cheerful as the sunlight by day, and the gaslight by night, can make it.

“One of the most interesting features in connection with the entrance into our new church is the home-coming of the inmates of the Orphan Asylum at the foot of Seventy-third Street. Hereafter we are to be privileged to welcome the dear little lambs of that lovely flock to our services.

“Dear brethren and sisters, friends and hearers, our church will have been built in vain unless there shall come into it the spirit of the Living God. Vain the beauty of these walls, the luxuries we have lavished here, all those features of our church architecture in which we take such pride, unless operating through them all shall be the Holy Ghost. All else without that is but as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

“You remember the story of the old Greek who undertook to make a corpse stand on its feet. He lifted it. He poised it. He relaxed his grasp. It fell. Again he lifted it. Again it fell in a dismal huddle to the earth. Beholding it steadfastly, he said, ‘It lacks something within.’ And so a church lacks something within unless God shall be found operating in and through its affairs.

May we therefore be animated by the blessed spirit which was in Christ Jesus!"

At the close of this address, Mrs. Geo. W. DeLano sang an alto solo, "This night I lift my heart," and then followed the dedicatory prayer, offered by Dr. A. G. Vermilye, and the reading of the form of dedication by the pastor, while the people stood. The hymn "How charming is the place" was read by Rev. W. W. Clark.

Dr. E. B. Coe was to have preached, but owing to the lateness of the hour he gave a brief synopsis of the sermon. His text was Psalm xcvi., 6: "Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary." The theme was the importance of the church to personal character and to our civilization. He touched briefly upon its intellectual, social, and charitable influence, and upon its value as a protest against indifference to spiritual things, and closed with an appeal to his hearers to unite in extending the church in the country, and to cherish the new religious home which they had just consecrated to the worship of God. After a prayer by Rev. Dr. J. M. Dickson and the singing of the hymn "Arise, O King of Grace, Arise," the service closed with the doxology and the benediction, pronounced by Rev. Paul D. van Cleef, D.D.

The cheerful gaslight spoken of by Mr. Martyn in his address is produced by the reflectors of Mr. I. P. Frink. The light is soft and pleasant to the eye, while brilliant and equally diffused throughout the large audience room.

Exercises at the Service of Fellowship took place on Sunday afternoon October 25th. The day was a lovely one. At 3 o'clock the members and friends of the Bloomingdale Church again assembled in the new and charming house and crowded every nook and corner. A feast of good things had been provided for the vast congregation which sat in rapt attention for nearly three hours. The singing on this occasion, as at the dedication, was of a high order of merit and was led by the efficient quartette. The organist, Mr. G. Balies, Jr., presided at the organ. A number

of familiar hymns were interspersed, and the whole congregation became the choir. The Scriptures were read by the Rev. A. P. Atterbury, of the Eighty-sixth Street Presbyterian Church. Prayer was then offered by the Rev. Wendell Prime, D. D., editor of the *New York Observer*. The opening address was delivered by the pastor who was succeeded in turn by these representative brethren who joined to make the occasion memorable: Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby, pastor of the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Dr. O. H. Tiffany, pastor of the Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church; the Rev. Dr. Wilbur F. Watkins, rector of Holy Trinity, at Madison Avenue and 42d Street; the Rev. Sanford S. Martyn, pastor of the Congregational Church at Peacham, Vermont; the Rev. Dr. Robert S. Mac Arthur, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, West 57th Street; the Rev. Dr. Charles F. Deems, pastor of the Church of the Strangers, Mercer Street; the Rev. Samuel H. Virgin, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Harlem, and the Rev. Dr. D. N. Vanderveer, pastor of the First Reformed Church of Brooklyn. The Rev. Dr. C. S. Harrower of St. Andrew's M. E. Church, in West 71st Street, led in a concluding prayer and the exercises ended with the long metre doxology.

Regular services were begun on Sunday morning November 1st. An historical discourse was delivered by Mr. Martyn, which ended with these words:

"A church exists for a two-fold purpose: to build up the believers in its membership into the image of Jesus; and to evangelize the unconverted within the circle of its reach and influence. The church that best subserves this two-fold purpose is the best church. The church that resolves itself into a mutual admiration society; that values elegant surroundings in themselves, and not as means to the grand end of the church life, and as the appropriate accessories of worship; that finds æsthetic pleasure in fine music and poetical preaching, and is disturbed by a call to work,—lives but in name, and is dead. It ought to be

buried before it becomes a stench in the nostrils of the community. The world delights in earnestness. It reserves all its rewards for the earnest. Worldly people respect a church precisely in proportion to its enthusiastic devotion to its work. And in this God and the world are agreed.

“As we seat ourselves to-day beneath these stately arches, and gather for our first regular service of worship, it is good for us to recall these truths; indeed, they inevitably flower out of this history of eighty years. The voices that speak to us from the past, and those other tones that address us out of the future, unite to bid us plant deep in our hearts the love of right, and grow from this the firm purpose of duty. When we are full of Christ, our church will be full of Christians.

“Then Pentecostal influence will radiate from beneath these gables, and the Holy Spirit will be domesticated in Bloomingdale.”

This address with an account of the dedication and fellowship services was published in 1886, under the title of *The History of Eighty Years* and has preserved much data which otherwise would have been lost. The Consistory expressed in September of that year the appreciation of the labor of the President and Clerk in preparing that work. Acknowledgment is made to it especially for the history of this edifice. The Church remained open for inspection during the winter. The hope was expressed in the Consistory which had been a movable body heretofore, assembling where it was agreed it should, that it might now have a permanent home. Recently it had met at Mr. Emmons's, at Mr. Wood's, at Mr. Reed's office, and in the lecture room of the 71st Street Chapel. The Church Masters reported on the 5th, that this building had been entirely dismantled. The organ had been



removed to the chapel of the new church, the chairs, settees, carpets, etc., had been made use of, the chandeliers put up in the new Sabbath-school room where also had been removed the desk and the organ of the lecture room. Elder Reed was authorized to dispose of the building for \$1500 cash, provided the purchaser remove it and that the bell be retained. In December, the President announced the receipt of a letter from Rev. S. H. Virgin "accepting the offer of the old church to his congregation for \$1500." This was later withdrawn. The Committee on Sunday-school Visitation stated that the school was elegantly housed and thoroughly equipped for active work. Brother Dunlap had been elected Superintendent. The new room was formally opened on November 1st, the pastor presiding. Appropriate addresses were made, and the children of the New York Orphan Asylum welcomed. The first regular session of the school on the 8th found 269 scholars present and 30 teachers. It was thought to be the largest and best school north of 59th Street. The sincere thanks of the Consistory were tendered to Elder Reed, not only as architect, but also for his untiring efforts on behalf of the church.

Contract for the sale of the eight lots between 71st and 72d Streets, Eighth and Ninth Avenues, on which the chapel stood, was executed with David L. Phillips on December 8, 1886. Consideration: \$130,000. Deacon William J. Lyon presented a letter on January 6, 1887, stating his reasons for declining another term in office, whereupon it was resolved that the thanks of Consistory be tendered him for his services in the Board, rendered in the hour of need, and assuring him at his retirement of its respect and appreciation.

Attendance at the Sunday-school for the year 1886 aggregated 9951 pupils. On the roll, 337. The pastor's stipend was raised to \$4000, beginning January 1, 1887. On October 6th of this year, Elders Reed and Stout were appointed a committee to prepare and put in position, one on either side of the pulpit in the auditorium, two tablets, one of which shall commemorate the gift of Jacob Harsen of an acre of land, and the other shall perpetuate the memory of the dead exhumed from the cemetery, the remains of Dr. Gunn among them, which were placed at rest in a solid crypt of masonry prepared for them beneath the floor of the audience room. These tablets were put in place prior to the first Sabbath in November, which date marked the second anniversary of the opening services in the church. The pastor delivered an appropriate address at the unveiling. Instead of the spot selected as designated above, it seemed more desirable to locate them elsewhere. The monumental tablet to the honor of Domine van Aken was inaugurated on the north wall of the lower vestibule.

This epitaph is inscribed on that to Mr. Harsen:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY  
OF

JACOB HARSEN.

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS AND FATHERS OF THIS CHURCH.

BORN MARCH 5, 1750. ——— DIED JULY 24, 1835.

His generous gift of land in the year 1809 furnished,  
under Divine Providence, the means with which  
this edifice was erected.

And by it, "he being dead, yet speaketh."

Heb. xi., 4.

That to the sacred dead of the parish reads:

BENEATH THIS TABLET

IN A CRYPT PREPARED FOR THEM

LIE THE REMAINS OF ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY ONE  
PERSONS EXHUMED FROM THE PARISH  
CEMETERY WHICH OCCUPIED THE SPACE  
NOW COVERED BY THIS AUDITORIUM.

---

THE DEAD SHALL BE RAISED INCORRUPTIBLE.

1 Cor. xv., 52.

The Treasurer's report to January 1, 1888 disclosed the fact that \$57,914.49 had been paid in taxes and assessments. Put this amount with those paid during Domine van Aken's administration together with the \$50,000 or more saved to the congregation through his advantageous management and it will be realized how vast a burden had been levied on the Church estate and what a staggering load had to be carried and liquidated. It is not a cause of wonder that the encumbrances seemed too grievous to be borne and that pessimism, at seasons, ran its course through the Consistory.

On the 8th instant it was moved and carried that thereafter the election of members of the Consistory be made by the Church itself and announcement of the change was directed to be made to the congregation. Permission to alter the method was granted by Classis on April 28th, by which, instead of electing in Consistory, "a double number may be nominated by that Body, out of which the members of the Church in full communion may choose three who shall serve." Both methods were recognized by the Constitution. The latter way was a survival—a return to the plan used in Dutch times when a double number of candidates was submitted to the Governor General of the

Province, from whom he selected the officers to serve under him. The annual election was fixed for January at the close of the first weekly chapel service. Candidates were then put in nomination.

After a service of fourteen months Deacon Gildersleeve tendered his resignation on April 6th. He regretted the emergency that had arisen which compelled the termination of the very pleasant and harmonious relations. Dr. E. H. Porter was elected to fill the vacancy. On the evening of Jan. 2d, 1889, the election under the new by-law resulted in the continuation in office of Elder Reed and Deacon Halsey and the selection of E. H. Schuyler as deacons.

At the regular monthly meeting held in the pastor's study on March 7th the chair was resigned to the Rev. Joseph Duryee of Grace Reformed Church at 54th Street and Seventh Avenue. Thereupon Mr. Martyn presented this letter:

*To the Consistory of the  
Bloomingdale Reformed Church.*

DEAR BRETHREN:

It is with a heavy heart that I find myself constrained to ask you, and through you, the dear Church which I have begotten in the Gospel, to relieve me of my pastorate—just now, too, when the burden and heat of the day have been borne and the future looks so bright.

I am, as you individually know, on the verge of nervous prostration caused by the intense strain of my more than six years' work among you—work which speaks for itself. If the Church were two years further on I would ask for a vacation of six months. As things are this would not be wise. The Church requires constant and active pastoral supervision; and I need immediate rest. Therefore I place in your hands my resignation as your pastor to take

effect September first next, and I would ask you to join me in an application to Classis, at the approaching regular meeting in April, to dissolve our delightful relation.

I need not add, beloved brethren, that the Bloomingdale Church will ever hold a vital place in my heart and prayers, nor assure you that I cherish for you, individually and collectively, the most devoted and personal affection.

May God bless us every one! Above and beyond all, God bless the Church!

Your loving pastor,

CARLOS MARTYN.

BLOOMINGDALE PARSONAGE, NEW YORK,

March 6, 1889.

In response to this communication Elder Reed offered the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

*Whereas*, the Rev. Carlos Martyn has thought proper to tender his resignation as pastor of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that it is with unfeigned sorrow and regret that we accept the resignation of our beloved pastor to take effect September next. Coming as it does as the result of overwork in connection with our Church it is doubly painful. We recognize and testify to his faithful labors through the past six years and more in bringing our Church to its present position of usefulness and prominence. We also put on record our affection for him as a man.

*Resolved*, in view of Mr. Martyn's state of health, that after the first of April next he be relieved from the duties of the pastorate and that the Treasurer be and hereby is directed to pay him the sum of two thousand dollars, being the amount of his salary to September 1 1889, and that the free use of the parsonage be continued to him so long as he may desire until the period when his resignation takes effect.

*Resolved* that we heartily commend Mr. Martyn as an

able and instructive preacher, faithful pastor, and earnest and incessant worker.

*Resolved* that the Clerk be and hereby is instructed to present our pastor with a certified copy of these resolutions with the assurance of our continued love and sympathy.

Elder Reed was then appointed to co-operate with the pastor before Classis.

On Mr. Martyn's retirement he assumed the pastorate of the First Reformed Church (1890) Newark, N. J. In 1892 he was called to the Sixth Presbyterian Church, Chicago. Returning to the East he became connected with a publishing house in New York which failed disastrously (1902) and involved him in financial loss and great tribulation. In 1905 Mr. Martyn received a call to the Presbyterian Church at Noroton, Conn., a suburban residence for New Yorkers, where he is now laboring with much acceptance and success. Many of his literary works have had wide vogue—his *Life of Wendell Phillips*, for instance, and his *Sour Saints and Sweet Sinners*. Among his other works are the following: *Martin Luther*, *The Pilgrim Fathers*, *The Dutch Reformation*, *The Puritans*, *The Huguenots*,—all historical. In biography he edited the series of "Illustrious Americans" published by Funk and Wagnalls Co., to which he contributed the lives of Phillips above mentioned, of John B. Gough, and of William E. Dodge, Sr. He is also the author of a volume entitled *Christian Citizenship* and of many magazine and newspaper articles and has been the recipient of honorary titles and degrees.

On the completion of the new building the architect advised that the contemplated spire be deferred until the walls had thoroughly settled and danger from rock blasting on nearby property be past. On March 1,



*Madison C. Peters*

Portrait and signature of Rev. Madison C. Peters, D.D.





1888 the Church Masters were deputed to examine the plans that had been filed for the building of the 22d Regiment Armory on the block just to the south, in order to ascertain what effect the excavation for the foundation would have. It was not until March 28th of the following year that arrangement to erect the spire according to the original plans was made. Contract was entered into with Fordyce & Himpler in November for the sum of \$10,000 and work was commenced on June 6th and finished on August 8, 1890.

At a meeting held on June 17th the Committee on Pulpit Supply recommended calling the Rev. Madison C. Peters of Philadelphia as

### The Sixth Minister

to take effect from and after the first of September next at the salary of \$4000 per annum and free use of the parsonage. From April 1st the pulpit had been occupied by different clergymen. This letter was received under date of the 22d from the pastor-elect, viz:

MY DEAR BRETHEN: Your favor of the 20th inst., informing me of my election to the pastorate of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church has been received and prayerfully considered. I sincerely love my people here and parting would be one of the sorest experiences in my life. I have been with them five years and have almost grown up with them. I have decided, however, to accept your call for one reason only, because of your larger field of usefulness. If my resignation will be accepted here and Presbytery dissolves my present relations I will be yours in service from September 1st.

I thank you for the unanimous call and all that it implies,

I will try to prove myself worthy of your confidence and I ask your prayers for God's blessing and guidance.

Yours in Christian Bonds,

MADISON C. PETERS.

A native of Lehigh County, Penn., where he was born Nov. 6, 1859, of German ancestry, the new pastor at the early age of fourteen had been obliged to leave the public school in order to take up the battle of life. He became a teacher and at fifteen entered Muhlenburg College, at Allentown and later Franklin and Marshall College, at Lancaster. He graduated at twenty-one from the Theological Department of Heidelberg University at Tiffin, Ohio, having worked his way through these institutions by teaching and lecturing, a circumstance which reflects the more credit on his manhood and courage. His public ministry began at Mulberry, Indiana, in the Reformed Church where he preached both in English and German. He removed to Terre Haute thereafter as stated supply but in a short time accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church at Ottawa, Ill. It is stated that here he was so successful that the edifice was inadequate to accommodate the number of people who came to hear him and that during the summer he was obliged to preach out of doors. At the age of twenty-four, Mr. Peters became pastor of the old First Presbyterian Church on Buttonwood Street, Philadelphia, one of the historic churches of the Quaker City where he remained for five years. His reputation for earnestness and eloquence had preceded him, and the call to Bloomingdale was perfected on October 10th. His choice was not only that of the Consistory but of the whole congregation. Seldom does a pastor commence his work under brighter prospects; no

strifes nor bickerings to heal, but all, with one accord, gave him a hearty welcome. Elder Stout resigned his office on October 3d. It was laid on the table. The parsonage had been put in thorough order at an expense of over \$800. At the beginning of the new pastorate the Sunday-school was divided into two sessions. That in the afternoon was attended exclusively by the inmates of the Orphan Asylum. Both schools were reported to be in flourishing condition. Daniel Howell was elected to succeed Elder Stout on January 8, 1890, and J. H. Lant, Elder Dunlap. An amendment to the by-laws was carried in April providing for an increase of the Consistory to eight members. An assessment for paving 68th Street, confirmed May, 1888, was paid in June. A new feature was introduced in October by adding to the musical exercises at the morning service singing by the orphan children. The innovation was well received and apparently highly appreciated.

Agreeably to the rules a double number of names were nominated in January, 1891, to fill vacancies. From those submitted Charles Wessell was elected Elder and Runyon Pyatt and Dr. Richard J. Secor Deacons. Deacon Mastin was chosen to fill the place of Elder Reed, whose term would expire February 1st, and Dr. Secor that of Dr. Halsey. Thus the Consistory was completed according to the requirements of the by-laws passed in April. The new members were ordained January 25th.

Many applications for admission to the Sunday-school by the children of poor families in the neighborhood, many of whom were devoid of religious instruction, had been rejected because of the overcrowded condition of the rooms. It was thought that

the first duty of the Church was to these children. In order to gain the necessary space a committee was delegated in January to request the Orphan Asylum to withdraw their children, they being the recipients of excellent religious training and having a chapel wherein a Sunday-school could be held. They were invited to continue in attendance on the church services. This, however, was discontinued in February, when the management of the Asylum transferred them to the Rutgers Presbyterian Church at Broadway and 73d Street (Rev. Dr. Robert Russell Booth, pastor). The number of scholars in the school continued to show a marked increase at each monthly report. In December the attendance was 250, and 75 at the Mission. The Consistory met in the Pastor's study regularly.

On January 13, 1892, at the annual meeting for the selection of officers, Dr. Howell was re-elected Elder and Edward P. Cone to fill the place of Elder Lant. They were ordained the 31st. Wessell resigned in April. In December, a resolution providing for the appointment of an Advisory Board of nine pewholders was carried, whose duties should be to co-operate with the Consistory in the management of the temporal affairs of the church, to be selected at the regular meeting in January of each year. They should attend the regular meetings of the Consistory and be subject to the rules and regulations of the same. The by-laws were amended in accordance therewith. Section 2 of Article 3 provided that the joint Board shall be known as the Board of Officers of the Church and that the term "The Consistory" shall designate the legal representatives of the corporation, *per se*, as heretofore. Thereupon such Advisory Board was duly elected from

the names put in nomination, and was composed of the following gentlemen, viz.:

B. Frank Hooper	130 W. 74th St.
Louis Bauer	143 W. 69th "
Parker R. Whitcomb	161 W. 72d "
Richard W. Akin	127 W. 69th "
D. W. Comstock	122 W. 90th "
Wm. James Goulding	Hotel San Remo.
J. Castree Williams	60 W. 82nd St.
James G. Portrous	180 W. 74th "
Henry Daily, Jr.	131 W. 72d "

William A. Moore was selected as Elder to fill the vacancy, and installed Jan. 29, 1893. A series of lectures and entertainments was given during this year under the supervision of the Entertainment Committee, and was attended with gratifying success. The spring session of the Particular Synod was held in May in the church edifice.

James Graham Portrous, a member of the church and of the Advisory Board, departed this life Nov. 5, 1893 and on December 7th it was resolved that "the Board of Officers loses a valued and respected member, one whose sympathies and efforts were continuously and conscientiously exercised on behalf of the Church and its work. Resolved that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes and a copy be sent to the family of our deceased brother, together with an expression of our deep sympathy with them in their sore bereavement." The pastor, Mr. Peters, had now served as minister for four years, and to signalize this event a letter from him of date February 1, 1894, was received reviewing the work accomplished and predicting greater usefulness in the future to the members and the neighborhood. Over two hundred persons had accepted Christ, the roll of the Sabbath-school had

increased to some five hundred and fifty children, and the attendance on divine service had crowded the auditorium. The steady increase in freewill offerings was noticeable, the poor had been ministered to in the kindest and most unobtrusive manner, and the church activities had progressed in a satisfactory manner. He returned thanks to the Consistory and the members of the Advisory Board for their kindly counsel and constant co-operation.

The Rev. Samuel H. Seem was engaged in November, 1894, to assist in Sunday-school and general pastoral work. Individual communion cups were introduced in April, 1895. The President and Clerk executed a document on November 8th granting permission to the Metropolitan R. R. Co. to build their railway in front of the church edifice. In April, 1897, a stand was erected for the enjoyment of the members from which to review the parade in honor of the dedication of the mausoleum of General Grant in Riverside Park. Another member of the Advisory Board, Mr. R. W. Akin, died, and on November 8th a letter of sympathy was addressed to his daughter, Miss Catherine Akin. A resolution was passed February 3, 1898, in opposition to the construction of an elevated railroad on the Boulevard. An echo of the impending war with Spain and the possible calling out of the National Guard was heard at the session of the Board in April, 1898. The pastor, who was Chaplain of the 9th Regiment, and did service with that command, was granted on the 24th a leave of absence of four months, with pay, on the understanding that he should furnish a pulpit supply.

On November 3, 1898, at a regular business meeting of the Officers held in the parsonage, Dr. Peters ten-

dered his resignation in an informal manner, and on November 29th it was laid on the table and a committee, consisting of J. Edward Mastin, Chairman, and Elder Daily and Deacon Pyatt, appointed to confer with him, that the severance of the relation of pastor and people be prevented if possible. As a result of this method of procedure, the pastor withdrew his resignation and the committee was discharged. The church life proceeded along the usual lines for another year, when Dr. Peters again submitted his resignation. This communication was enclosed:

TO MY DEAR PEOPLE:

I have sent to the Consistory my resignation as Pastor of the Bloomingdale Church and have requested them to unite with me in asking the New York Classis to dissolve our pleasant relationship as Pastor and People. My sole reason for resigning this position of power and influence is that, after many years of honest and prayerful investigation, I have come to the deliberate conclusion that the Bible—the Protestant's only rule of faith—teaches baptism for believers only.

I am a minister of the Reformed Church, and while I am thus connected I shall not give my reasons for this change of conviction. I love the Reformed Church. It is the Church of my Fathers. I admire its breadth and depth. Those who have attended my ministry through all these years will bear me witness that I have always been a loyal son and I had fondly hoped that I could serve my denomination in this Church with my riper years, as I gave it the ardor of my youth. But I must be true to myself; practise only what I believe and preach what I can practise. To you, my dear people, whose kindly counsel, unwavering loyalty, and generous support in every good work have made my labors both pleasant and successful, I give my heartiest thanks.

My congregation is composed of not less than eleven different denominations of Protestants, while in addition to these hundreds of Jews and Catholics have constantly attended my ministry. I thank God to-day that He has permitted me to bring His Message to such various minds and hearts as have usually gathered within these walls. All except eleven persons came into this Church during my ministry of nearly eleven years. I have, therefore, and always shall have, a peculiar love for and an undying interest in the Bloomingdale Church.

For your love, I give you my love, and for your prayers, my prayers.

Your pastor and friend,  
MADISON C. PETERS.

January 27, 1900.

This letter was presented at the meeting held February 1st, and the following resolution was thereupon offered by Elder Mastin and seconded by General Mindil and Mr. Dillenbeck, and was carried, viz.:

The present relations between Dr. Peters and every member of this Board have been of such a cordial character that our duty to-night is neither enviable nor pleasant. In presenting his resignation on doctrinal grounds the Doctor leaves us no alternative but to accept it. Yet we cannot do so except with reluctance when we remember our many pleasant associations, his many agreeable and instructive discourses and the familiar relations established between Pastor and People. The Doctor has expressed a wish that he should be relieved immediately. I therefore move that his resignation be accepted, to take effect on the first day of March, 1900, as suggested in his letter of resignation.

Dr. Peters was sincere in his conscientious convictions, and on leaving his charge entered the Baptist



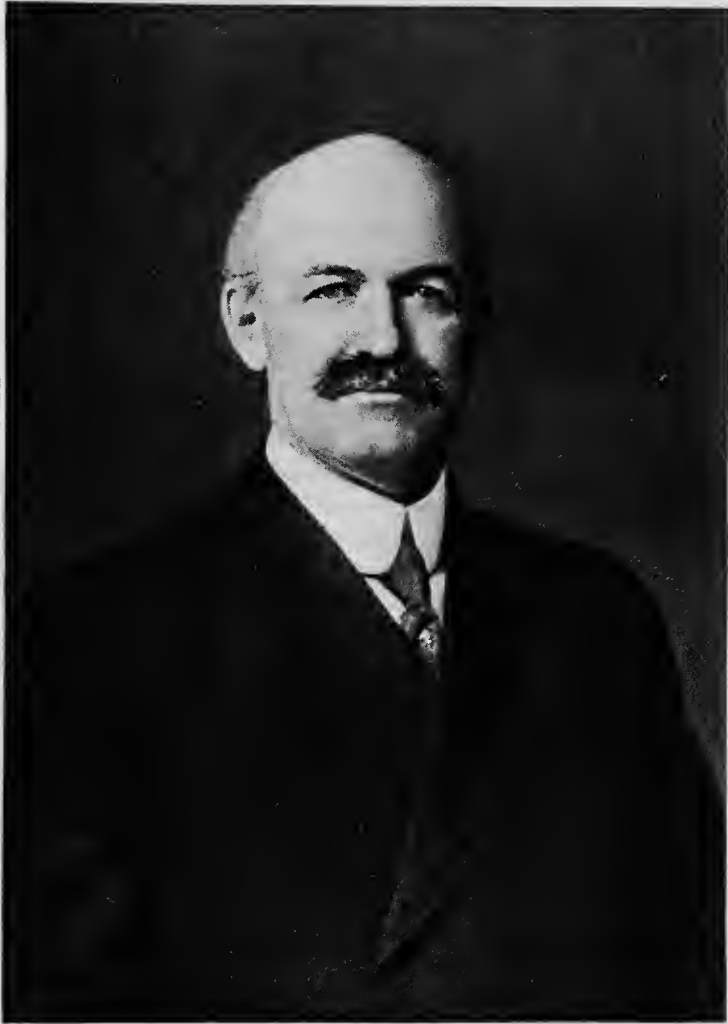
fold. As a minister of this denomination he preached in Brooklyn, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Large audiences were attracted at these services, especially in Philadelphia, where every Sunday evening the Park Theatre was filled to hear his discourses. In 1905 he accepted a call to the Church of the Epiphany at Madison Avenue and 64th Street, N. Y. City. Here he continued for but a space, when his desire for a larger freedom of speech and a greater opportunity towards the betterment of the masses led him to resign in December, 1906, to inaugurate a non-sectarian movement in the Majestic Theatre in an effort to reach the vast army of the unchurched. In this sphere of public usefulness, he has met with unqualified success and, as his sermons are widely syndicated, he reaches a much wider circle than if he had maintained his connection with any single church congregation. His reputation as a writer is world-wide. He is the author of forty books. Perhaps the best known is *Justice to the Jews*, which has run through many editions and been translated into many European tongues. *The Jews in America* and *The Jew as a Patriot* have also come from his facile pen. Other works of Dr. Peters are entitled *The Great Hereafter*, *Sanctified Spice*, *Empty Pews*, *Will the Coming Man Marry?* *The Man Who Wins*, and *The Panacea for Poverty*.

As a writer, Dr. Peters is terse, brilliant, and epigrammatic. He hits at sin and hits it hard, but yet he loves the sinner. When he sees a public wrong, he tackles it with ungloved hands; he has given crime in this city some telling blows. Personally, he is one of the most lovable and kindly of men; he has a magnetism about him that attracts, and he meets you with the

genial smile and warm grasp of friendship: his great, big heart goes out to the poor and the suffering and the downtrodden of every class and creed, and the cry of the orphan and the sigh of the widow never appeal to him in vain. In a word, Dr. Peters spends his life doing all the good he can to the greatest number he can, in all the ways he can, and he is succeeding in his mission.

The Rev. William Walton Clark presided at a special meeting on February 18th, at which proceedings were taken to dissolve the pastoral relation. The Clerk was directed to inform the Classis of the passage of a resolution to that effect. The Manhattan Congregational Church had been lately inaugurated, and some movement looking to a consolidation of the two churches agitated. For this reason, a committee, on which served Messrs Mastin, Pyatt, Dillenbeck, and Goulding, was appointed to confer with the Trustees of the former body. The Rev. Dr. Elmendorf of the Collegiate Church supplied the pulpit on March 4th and arrangements were made with other ministers for further needs. The advisability of union was referred to Classis and a meeting thereof was held at the Marble Collegiate Church on the morning of April 30th. The entire committee was present. Dr. A. G. Vermilye submitted the report, which decided against consolidation, and it was unanimously accepted as the sentiment of Classis. The following day this decision was forwarded to the Manhattan Church, in a communication which ended in these words:

While the negotiations for a merger, begun under such pleasant auspices, must under the circumstances be discontinued, we cannot dismiss the subject without a thought of the pleasant and fraternal feelings which have been



*Wm. C. Stinson.*

Portrait and signature of Rev. William C. Stinson, D.D.



developed among the members of both churches and which we trust may be continued, notwithstanding a more intimate relationship be not established.

#### **The Seventh Minister**

The list of clergymen who supplied the pulpit during April included the Rev. Dr. William Charles Stinson of Chillicothe, Ohio, who preached on the 22d, and as a result the Consistory unanimously decided on May 3d to extend a call to him. Graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1889, he was ordained by the Presbytery of Monmouth, the same year. After filling several small pastorates with credit and ability, he was called in 1895 to the First Presbyterian Church of Chillicothe, Ohio, where he met with eminent and signal success. He left his work there for the broader fields and greater responsibilities of the metropolis, feeling that God had distinctly indicated to him that it was His will that he should do so; and, while not unmindful of the great opportunities here to be met, he realized that patient effort and thorough devotion to the cause of Christ and the needs of mankind could alone crown his ministry with success. He came to Bloomingdale with strong and abundant testimonials, not only of his record as a sincere, earnest, and able minister of the Gospel, but with many tributes to his scholarly abilities and his kind and sympathetic character as a Christian gentleman.

The Rev. Henry Evertson Cobb presided at a special meeting of the Board of Officers which convened on Sunday morning, May 20th, immediately after service, at which time it was resolved that a formal call to Dr. Stinson be made. This was done the following day. The letter of acceptance of the call was as follows:

CHILlicothe, OHIO, June 1st, 1900.

*To J. Edward Mastin, President of the  
Consistory of the Bloomingdale Reformed  
Church, New York City.*

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

I have in hand a formal call from the Bloomingdale Reformed Church, to become its pastor. Since the receipt of the call, my mind and heart have been in a condition of exceeding unrest, owing to the conflicting thoughts and motives produced by this invitation. The idea of leaving the delightful and prosperous pastorate with which God has honored me in this city brings so severe a wrench of the heart that I have been tempted to answer the call in the negative. The thought of entering upon a new and untried field in a city where many influences hinder the progress of Christ's Kingdom has placed a severe test upon me as to my fitness for a Metropolitan pastorate. I feel honored to think that you deem me qualified to take the place of leader and shepherd of the Bloomingdale Church. The most prayerful seriousness has characterized my reflections upon all the issues involved.

Allow me to be frank enough to say that I have inquired of many brethren of the New York ministry as to the future prospects of the Bloomingdale Church and in every instance I have been assured that the environment is most favorable for the building up of a strong, flourishing church of Jesus Christ. I am aware of the present weakened condition of the church, but from what I have both seen and heard of the church's possibilities, I am persuaded to believe that with sublime faith in the great Head of the Church, with prayerful, heroic, strenuous co-operation of pastor and people, a great work for God and humanity may yet be done by the Bloomingdale Church. Depending more upon the judgment and opinion of what judicious, far-seeing clergymen in New York tell me than my own observations, I see no reason why this church may not

become one of the most influential and potent factors for righteousness in the Metropolis.

In view of these considerations I heartily accept the call tendered me. There are only two things that I ask of the Bloomingdale Church in this acceptance, viz. confidence and co-operation. Let me be assured of these relations, and with Christ to charge our hearts and lives with His divine spirit and energy, success shall crown our efforts in the salvation and sanctification of hundreds of human souls.

The work will be hard, but God has given me a passion for hard work, both in and out of the pulpit. As a minister of the Gospel, I know only two things, preaching and pastoral visitations, and if I were asked which of these two functions is the more important, I would answer, each is more important than the other.

A sense of profound gratitude and joy possesses me, as I think how God has opened a door of opportunity and service before me in the city of my birth.

My earnest prayer is that when in the early autumn, by God's providence, we, as pastor and people, standing side by side, with our faces turned toward a future so full of promise, prayer, purpose, and persistence, may hear and obey the message of old : "Speak now unto thy people that they go forward." Let that be our watchword.

In the meanwhile permit me to urge upon every member and friend the heartiest loyalty to Bloomingdale Church. One evidence of friendship between members and friends is unfaltering devotion to the church in all its diversified interests and various activities. May the dear Lord graciously bless and keep you, your families, your loved ones, and in His appointed time bring us together in the fellowship of His love and in the joy of His service,

With "grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord," I am,

Sincerely yours in the bonds of the gospel,

WILLIAM C. STINSON.

The letter was read to the people by Elder Mastin on June 10th, and it was resolved to close the edifice until September 16th. During the interim, electric lighting was introduced, heating apparatus installed, organ repaired and electric motor added, and the auditorium and parsonage redecorated and recarpeted. Dr. Stinson was duly ordained at the opening service in the autumn and entered upon his labors with every indication of earnest endeavor for a successful ministry. Resolutions of regret were passed on November 1st at the death of Elder Daily, which occurred on October 25th. He had acted as attorney for the Church Corporation for many years. On November 5th the following tribute from the Session of the church with which Dr. Stinson was formerly connected was presented and read:

TO THE ELDERS AND DEACONS OF  
BLOOMINGDALE CHURCH, NEW YORK—GREETING.

DEAR BRETHREN:

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Chillicothe, Ohio, wishing to express their great appreciation of their late pastor, the Rev. Dr. William C. Stinson, and to congratulate you upon the possession of such a man for your pastor, adopted the following:

*Whereas* our pastor, William C. Stinson D.D. felt it his duty to ask for the dissolution of the pastoral relation existing between himself and the First Presbyterian Church, of Chillicothe, Ohio, and the Session and Congregation, with regret, joined in his request to the Presbytery, wanting to keep him, but unwilling to stand between him and what he regarded as a call of God; therefore,

*Resolved*: that Dr. Stinson did a great work for this church. By his devotion to the work committed to him and his excellent ability, through the favor of our Lord,



he largely increased the number of our communicants, and this by constantly, with great industry and wisdom, looking after the wants of the church and faithfully preaching the gospel of the Kingdom.

2nd. His work was not confined to the church, but he interested himself in every good work in the community. He was a man of great public spirit and had boundless compassion for all the poor and unfortunate, added to his earnest desire for the advancement of the cause of God and the uplifting of his Church.

3rd. We do most heartily commend him to you, the Elders and Deacons of the Bloomingdale Church, and to all the members of your congregation, as a faithful pastor, an earnest preacher, a true friend and a manly and upright man, in whom you can put your trust, who will work for you and with you in every good word and work.

That the blessing of Almighty God may be upon him and you, building you up in faith and righteousness, adding to you all temporal and multiplying to you all spiritual gifts, is our prayer.

Session of the First Presbyterian  
Church, Chillicothe, Ohio.

{ ALBERT E. CUTLER  
A. L. FULLERTON  
E. P. VAN METER  
THEODORE SPETNAGEL  
M. C. HOPEWELL

This letter was appropriately answered on the 7th.

From a sketch written by the Rev. W. H. Fishburn, D.D., Dr. Stinson's predecessor in the pastorate at Chillicothe, these additional data are taken:

Born in New York city in 1860 of Scotch-Irish parentage, Dr. Stinson is a type of the self-made man. He has laboriously worked his own way up to the commanding position he now holds. His childhood was a childhood of much self-denial and hardship.

His father was a soldier in the Civil War and was disabled,

so that the boy was compelled to get up in the world by struggling up. He accepted his destiny and faced the conditions. By persistent effort he worked his own way through University and Seminary, winning prizes in the classical tongues and in oratory from both Bucknell University and Princeton Theological Seminary, from which institutions he graduated respectively in 1886 and 1889. The University of Wooster conferred on him the Doctor's degree.

Dr. Stinson has made for himself in the ministry a record which any clergyman might envy. Whatever he has undertaken has been a conspicuous success. Endowed by nature with a strong body, an inflexible will, a keen intellect, a sympathetic heart, and rare administrative talent, he has been able to command the attention of thinking and progressive men.

Before going to Chillicothe he was pastor of a large and flourishing church in Providence, R. I. During his ministry of five years as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Chillicothe, Ohio, he added above four hundred members to that church, paid off a church debt which went into five figures, and vitalized every department of ecclesiastical work. His church was thronged with worshippers and the whole city felt his influence for good. He preached and practised civic righteousness, and was able to correct evils and remedy abuses which had existed there for many years.

Dr. Stinson possesses a mind fully equipped by scholastic training to grapple with the burning problems of the day; his reading enables him to bring before his hearers the great truths and to deliver them with startling emphasis. He is a preacher who believes in growth and ongoing and he thrills and interests all listeners, and leads them to a higher plane of thinking and living.

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The following officers were the first elected (Jan. 9, 1901) under the new régime Messrs. Mastin, Pyatt, and

Genl. Mindil, Elders, and Mersereau and Dillenbeck, Deacons. Deacon Wagner continued in office. In December, a committee was appointed to ascertain the value of the church property should it be deemed advisable to sell. Another year passed before action was taken looking to a change of location. Dr. Stinson, Elders Mastin and Pyatt were deputed to take it into consideration and on October 29, 1902, the West End Avenue site was suggested; and at a special meeting held November 6th the congregation unanimously voted to sell and the Consistory was authorized to reinvest the net proceeds at such time, on such terms, and in such way as their judgment might dictate. The financing of the operation was placed by vote in Treasurer Mastin's hands. The Sabbath-school continued in a very flourishing condition. A memorial service in commemoration of the late Charles Summer Lester was held on the 15th of November, 1903, and a testimonial to his memory was passed. Mr. Lester had served the Sabbath-school as Superintendent for several years and had faithfully fulfilled the duties with marked ability and discretion and always with a high regard for the responsibilities of the position. A memorial tablet was authorized to be placed in the school chapel as a visible expression of the greater invisible work which he wrought in the lives of many who will rise up to call him blessed. This was dedicated at a service held by the school on March 26, 1904, and during the exercises a handsome brass lectern was presented to it by Mr. Lester's family, a legacy requested of them during his last moments on earth.

Elder Pyatt offered a resolution on February 15, 1905, to sell the ecclesiastical property and to purchase

a new site on West End Avenue at 106th Street, which was passed. Thus was closed a question which had been a bone of contention for some years and was the result of a conclusion that the neighborhood was "overchurched." Within a half mile there were three Episcopal, two Presbyterian, two Lutheran, one Reformed, one Congregational, one Methodist, and one Christian Science church. The congregation had moved further up the island and in the irresistible upward movement of population, the church must follow. This decision was not reached without some opposition, and in deference to that sentiment it was determined to take down the edifice stone by stone and put it together again at the new location. It was with sincere regret and sorrow that the old site, and the edifice which was endeared by so many sacred associations, were abandoned.

Deacon Hawes announced at a special meeting of the Board April 24th that the negotiations for the sale had been completed at \$260,000 and the committee had agreed to purchase lots at the above location for \$160,000. Thereupon the Trustees authorized that application to the Supreme Court be made for permission to carry out the agreement. A letter from Senior Elder Mastin was read May 4th, in which he tendered his resignation, giving as a reason his opposition to the contemplated removal. Spread on the minutes is to be found a statement of the deep pain experienced at the receipt of this letter and the regret that it was caused by a difference of opinion, and that the Elder's private and public insistence upon the acceptance of this resignation forced the alternative of conceding to his wishes. Resolutions were passed expressive of the sincere and hearty appreciation of

his long, faithful, and efficient services in numerous capacities, and his deep solicitude in guarding and fostering the spiritual life of the church. It is recorded that "it is doubtful if ever any church has had so dutiful, so careful, so trustworthy a treasurer as this church has had in the person of Mr. Mastin." A copy of this unusual tribute was ordered to be forwarded to him and doubtless will prove a proud and lasting treasure to be left to his posterity. After the last prayer-meeting, which took place Wednesday evening May 3d, the minister and several members of the Consistory explained to the assemblage the reasons which had impelled the move. The last Sabbath service was held in the auditorium on May 28th, and the final function in the old building was a strawberry festival and entertainment in the Chapel by the Christian Endeavor Society on June 1st.

The title was finally passed at the office of the Title Guarantee & Trust Co., on May 19th, to the purchaser, Franklin Pettit. The beautiful marble structure with its graceful spire, which had dominated the region for over twenty years and was recognized as a centre of religious work and Christian influence, had been so far removed by October that on the fourth of that month permission was granted by the Health Department to remove the remains of the Bloomingdale members of the second House of Worship from the crypt. Quite a crowd was attracted to the spot by the mistaken rumor that relics, buried in the graves or vaults, might be found, and some arrests followed. During the months of June, August, and part of September the congregation worshipped with that of the West End Collegiate Church at West End Avenue and 77th Street. Thereafter, services were held in

Leslie Hall, southwest corner of Broadway and 83d Street, until the

**Fifth House of Worship**

was completed.

Plans for the new edifice were filed during July with the Building Superintendent. The firm of Ludlow & Valentine were the architects intrusted with the work, which progressed so slowly that it was not until Sunday, November 12th, that the corner-stone was laid. From the *Christian Intelligencer* we learn that the service was impressive in its orderly dignity and inspiring through the hearty participation of a large audience. The singing of hymns and anthems was led by a choir of men. Dr. Stinson presided with a reverent enthusiasm that was an inspiration to the assisting clergymen. The Scripture lesson was read by the Rev. Edgar Tilton, Jr., D.D., of the Second Collegiate Church of Harlem; the Rev. Edward B. Coe, D.D., LL.D., Senior Minister of the Collegiate Church, led in prayer, and addresses were made by the Rev. Henry Evertson Cobb, D.D., of the West End Collegiate, the Rev. Joseph R. Duryee, D.D., of Grace Reformed, at Seventh Avenue and 54th Street, and the Rev. Abbott E. Kittredge, D.D., of the Madison Avenue Reformed, at 57th Street. Deacon Hawes read an historical statement that briefly and clearly set forth the story of one hundred years of corporate life. This paper, together with copies of the Bible, Church Liturgy, and journals of the day, was placed in the massive corner-stone. With solemn words of faith this was truly set in place by the pastor. The writer's mind reverts to old associations in these well chosen words:

To one, at least, it seemed as though Dr. Livingston,



THE BLOOMINGDALE REFORMED CHURCH  
Fifth House of Worship. Bloomingdale Square





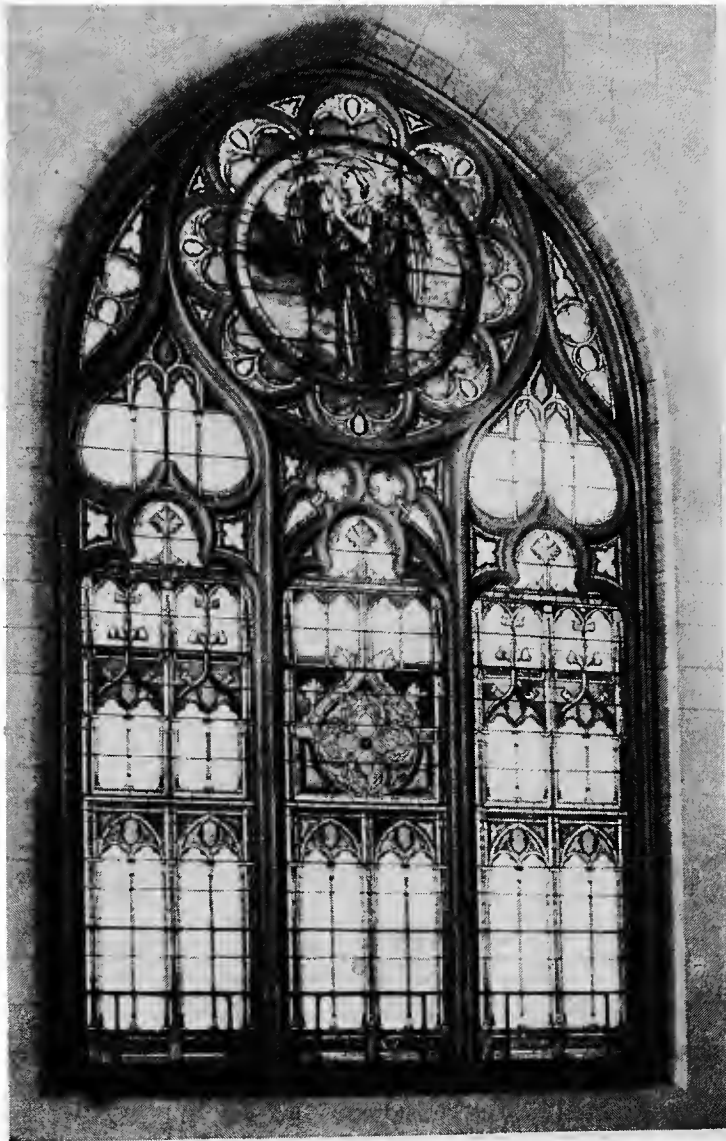
who presided at the first organization, offered his benediction. He seemed to see the form of Dr. Gunn, its first pastor. It was his only charge and for a score of years he labored with an earnestness and hopefulness that made his name a power in the old city. Then God took him to the higher service. Dr. Kip appeared, not as an old bent man, but in the fresh beauty of his early ministry; and then he saw again dear old Dr. van Aken, who for fifty years, mostly full of trials and sorrows, kept alive the light of the Church.

While awaiting the completion of the edifice let us now revert to another feature of the work of construction. Mrs. George Henry Gilbert, the charming artist and Christian woman, who had been a member of the church for many years and who was always in her pew when the exigencies of her profession allowed of her being in the city, had passed from earth. A memorial in her honor was suggested and a committee from among her associates<sup>1</sup> was formed, which met on Saturday, May 2d, in furtherance of the project. A commemorative window, to be erected in her church home, was agreed on and a performance to benefit the fund arranged for. This took place at the Knickerbocker Theatre, under the management of Daniel Frohman, on Tuesday afternoon, April 17th, at 1.30, when a large audience assembled to be entertained by a number of noted actors and actresses, among whom Clara Morris, Hattie Williams, and Lawrence D'Orsay were conspicuous. A number of others generously volunteered their services and an uncommonly

<sup>1</sup> This committee was composed of Dr. Stinson, Charles Frohman, Daniel Frohman, Mrs. George J. Gould, who as Edith Kingdon had played with Mrs. Gilbert, Miss Maude Adams, Miss Annie Russell, Mrs. Charles F. Terhune, Mrs. Albert Warren Kelsey, Runyon Pyatt, and John Drew.

attractive program was presented. A substantial amount was added thereby towards the testimonial.

At last, the building was so far finished that the Sabbath-school began its sessions there the first Sunday in October, 1906. The formal opening of the auditorium was set for December 16th, and on that day, before a large congregation, dedicatory services were held in the morning. The sermon was preached by the minister, fine musical selections by the choir under the direction of Signor P. F. del Campiglio rendered, and Treasurer Pyatt read a statement showing that the ground and building represented an outlay of \$250,000. Fifty per cent. of the material from the former church edifice had been used in the construction of the new. This, the first opportunity for an examination of the structure, confirmed previous impressions that the Building Committee, composed of Dr. Stinson and Elders Pyatt and Hawes, with the experienced assistance of the architects, had produced a result gratifying in all respects, and had shown commendable taste in the interior furnishings of golden oak and green. The building is in Gothic style, with a façade of limestone, and flying buttresses springing from the further sides. A large central main entrance and two smaller side entrances allow of access and the entire façade makes an imposing appearance. Taken as a whole, it forms one of the most beautiful of the many fine churches which adorn the west side. The interior is finished in stone, presenting the aspect of a cathedral, and contains a gallery and a three-story annex with Sunday-school rooms, chapel, and pastor's study. An avenue frontage of seventy-five feet and a depth of one hundred feet on a site redolent of Revolutionary memories give ample space for the present



THE PYATT MEMORIAL  
Designed by John La Farge, Esq.



activities of the congregation; and the location at the junction of two thoroughfares, one the main artery of the city, and Bloomingdale Square, a breathing spot which is even now an oasis between the great Central and Riverside Parks, was a felicitous selection which will be more and more appreciated as the trees attain larger growth. The contracting builders were John B. Roberts & Co., the same firm which constructed the fourth House of Worship, and the large organ is the result of the combined experience of the houses of Jardine and Kimball. The dead of the parish, removed from Harsenville, lie in a receptacle built in the wall, and the memorial tablet to their memory has been re-erected above their remains.

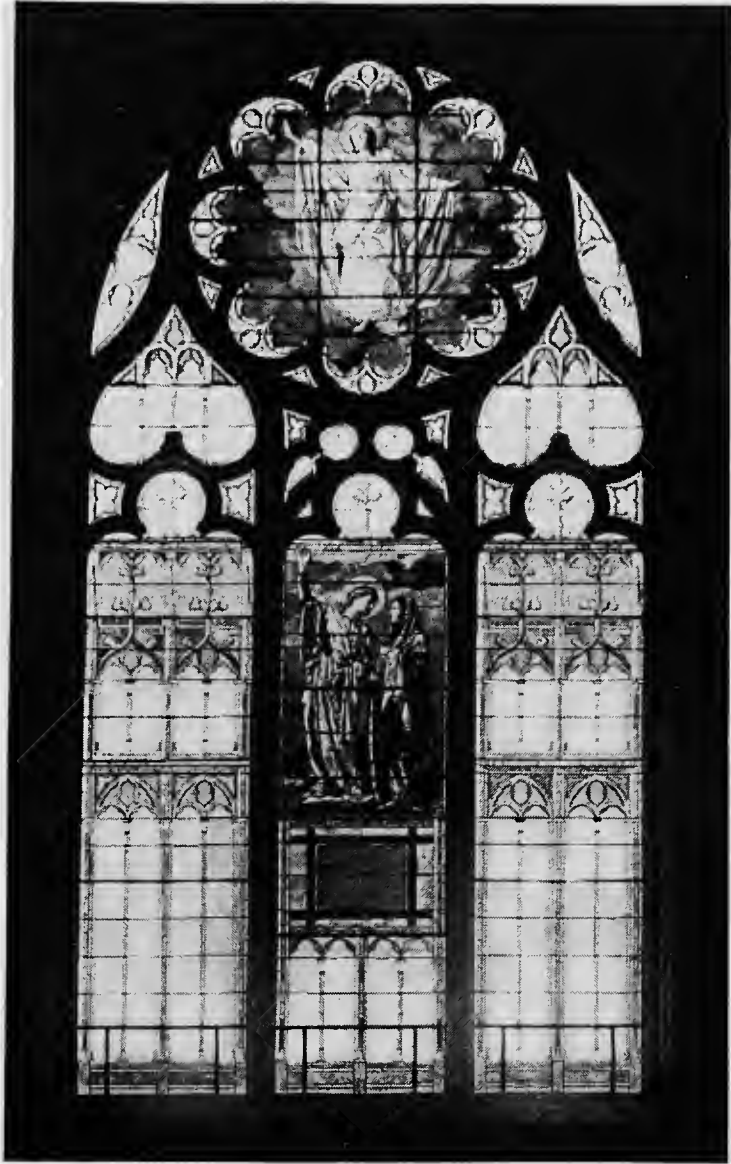
The centenary of the incorporation was celebrated at 11 o'clock on the morning of Sunday, December 23d, at which a brief review of the past was pronounced by Dr. Stinson and the sermon was delivered by Dr. Coe. At the vesper service at 4 o'clock, words of greeting were spoken by the Rev. Drs. Cobb, Robert Mackenzie of Rutgers Presbyterian Church, and Tilton. The following Sunday, December 30th, witnessed the final exercises connected with the inauguration of the new enterprise, when at the morning service the Pyatt window, a beautiful memorial erected to the memory of the parents of Elder and Mrs. Runyon Pyatt, was unveiled.

Runyon Pyatt I was the sixth child of John and Elizabeth, born 1771 (Runyon) Pyatt. He m. Cornelia Lawrence, daughter of John Green and Mlle. Marie Blanchard of New Brunswick, N. J. Their sixth child, Runyon m. Emma Virginia Duryee. The progenitor of the Runyon family in America was Vincent Runyon, a Huguenot, fourth in descent from Edward Fuller, the

21st signer of the Mayflower compact, who m., July 17, 1668, Ann Boutcher. They had nine children, the seventh of whom, Peter, b. 1680, m. Providence Blackford. Their ninth child, Benjamin, b. 1729, m. Ann van Court 1749, whose twelfth child was Elizabeth, the wife of John Pyatt.

The Duryee family come from Jost Duryee, a French Huguenot who was b. 1729, settled in Blawenburg, N. J., 1753, and became the ancestor of the clan in the United States. Of his eight children, William, b. 1765, m. Anna Berrien, whose one son, Henry, b. 1786, a colonel in the war of 1812, m. Sarah Williamson. She descended from John Williamson of Holland, who reached America in 1661 and m. Catherine Ten Broeck, whose ancestor Wessel Wesselsen Ten Broeck came here from Westphalia on the ship *Faith*, circa 1649-50. The sixth child of Henry and Sarah Duryee was Henry, b. 1821, who m. Mary Q. Baker, fourth in descent from Matthew Baker, an Englishman who settled in New Jersey 1700. Their sixth child, Emma Virginia Duryee, m. Runyon Pyatt.

Before a number of theatrical folk, the Gilbert testimonial was unveiled at the afternoon service at 2.30 o'clock. The stage friends of the late actress were greatly outnumbered by those of the congregation that knew her apart from her profession. Dr. Stinson delivered an address on the virtues of Mrs. Gilbert, which had reflected honor both upon the church and stage, in the course of which he referred to her as the sweetest and saintliest old lady of the theatrical profession. He adverted to the odd circumstance that in her seventy years on the stage she had never become a star until the closing year of her life, when a play entitled *Granny* was especially written for her by



THE GILBERT MEMORIAL  
Designed by John La Farge, Esq.





Clyde Fitch, and ended by saying that "it so happened that on her way to be an angel Mrs. Gilbert had stopped to be a star." The window, an artistic example of the work of John La Farge, to whom are credited the Pyatt memorial and all the other windows of the church, occupies the space directly over the main doorway facing the east, and its beauty is greatly emphasized when illuminated by the morning sun. The lower section shows Mary and the angel at the tomb, with the ascending Christ above.

These two memorials form a conspicuously handsome and permanent feature of the new House of Worship. We are assured that here, under the ministrations of Dr. Stinson, who has endeared himself to all the people of his charge, by his sincerity, zeal, and untiring work, his genial sympathy, no less than his magnetic eloquence, the traditions of the century-old organization will be preserved in historic sequence and the new House of Worship become a permanent monument to the glory of God and the spread of His kingdom on earth.

## VII

### Among Old-time Families

**Few** churches in the city have a more distinguished ecclesiastical lineage. Many individuals of note, as well of national as of local and State celebrity, have been connected with it. In chronological succession some of these worthies are herein sketched, and, as a member of societies whose object is the furtherance of historical, biographical, and genealogical research, the author has carefully collected and preserved data of that description, in this chapter.

The names of the founders appear naturally at the head of the list of members of the Church. Jacob Harsen joined on certificate dated October 29, 1808, and Hopper and Webbers in the same manner, their letters bearing date, however, eight days earlier. We infer that Striker joined on confession. His second wife, Mary (Polly), was the daughter of John and Jemima (Hopper) Horn, and became the first member accepted after the names of the founders. She was much beloved by the poor, was a regular visitor to the N. Y. Orphan Asylum, the nearest eleemosynary institution to her home, and to the Blind Asylum, and Second Directress of the N. Y. Infant School Society founded in May, 1827, "under the patronage of the late Governor Clinton." Its mission was to open schools where

teachers were trained and qualified to open other schools. She remained connected with the church to the end of her days, although for many years prior thereto she had resided at Tribes Hill, Montgomery Co., N. Y. She died at the residence of one of her daughters, at Amsterdam, on October 6, 1860, aged ninety years. From an obituary printed in the *New York Tribune* these additional facts are gleaned:

When but a youth, not out of her 'teens, she publicly dedicated herself to God, and from that time to the close of her earthly career her well-trimmed lamp beamed with undiminished brightness—yea, her path was a shining light which shineth more and more till the perfect day. She was a woman of unassuming and modest mien, but great was the force of her religious character, and decided and positive her influence. In the domestic circle, the immediate sphere for a woman's pure and best exertions, she was happily successful. First, she led her husband to the Saviour, who soon became one of the pillars in the church of Christ; then they mutually dedicated their children to God, two of whom she had the pleasure of seeing in succession occupying their father's place in elder-ship in the same church. Never was one more regular and faithful in attendance upon the ordinances of grace. To reverence the sanctuary was a command she loved to obey. That God's way is there she knew in sweet experience. In her another fact was most strikingly illustrated, that those who love the church love the ministers whom the Master has commissioned to perform her solemn rites. To cheer and encourage them she took particular pains. In her house they felt ever at home; and when affliction visited them in their abodes, like an angel of mercy on swift wing she was there, nor did she forget to bear with her whatever she thought might regale, refresh, and invigorate. In late years, age had diminished both her physical and mental vigor, but so early rooted, so firmly

seated, so unswervingly constant had been her religious habits, and so sufficient was the grace of Him who said, "I will never leave nor forsake you," that her devotional spirit never flagged nor wavered. Daily she continued to read the Scriptures, and, whatever might betide or whosoever the visitors in the household, her accustomed devotions were never omitted. Truly luminous her Christian life and worthy imitation her consistent example! Not long since, the family and the church were called to mourn the departure of Ann Striker, her step-daughter, her early companion in the Christian life—a woman of kindred spirit, doctrinal views, and practical piety, and liberal in the Saviour's cause. Blessed reunion in fellowship of the twain, now like stars to shine in realms of glory without end.

The two sons above mentioned were Richard Albertson and John Horn Striker. The former joined the communion February 5, 1819, when twenty-two years of age and became Deacon August 11, 1822. He served as Secretary on his election in April 1830, and was chosen Elder December 1st of that year, which office he held for five years. His brother John became a member February 1, 1827. He was raised to the diaconate at the same session with his brother and was elected Elder April 25, 1837. In June, 1838, it is recorded that he had "moved away" from Bloomingdale. He accompanied many of his family to Tribes Hill about this time, but did not apply for letters of dismission until 1843. Their sisters Maria and Helen both joined August 1st, 1823. Maria was married, by Dr. Gunn, to Joseph Cornell, September 6, 1815, and these children were baptized by him:

James Thomas, b. Aug. 10, bap. Sept. 23, 1821.

Albert Russell, b. Aug. 2, bap. Dec. 9, 1828.

James Thomas II, b. Feb. 19, bap. Sept. 5, 1831.

The two former died young and their remains were deposited in the Striker vault. The third, their only surviving child, met with a melancholy accident at the Reid mine, fourteen miles southwest of Concord, N. C., on August 25, 1858. In the act of picking up his gun for the purpose of shooting partridges, the trigger caught in such a manner that the gun was discharged into his left eye, blowing away a large piece of the skull and killing him instantly. It is a curious circumstance that his remains were the first to be interred in the Green Hill Cemetery at Amsterdam, N. Y., the ground for which had been purchased from his father a few months before and which had been dedicated on September 1st. From a tribute in the *Christian Intelligencer* this extract is taken:

He was a Christian. Favored with an abundance of means, connected with fashionable society, he had in earlier days led a life of splendid gaiety. But during the last winter he was induced to attend the daily prayer-meeting in Fulton Street. . . . In the month of June he became a member of the Twenty-first Street Reformed Dutch Church (*vide N. Y. G. & B. Record* for April, 1906, for an account of its founding), and stated as a reason for joining at that time that he was to reside for a season in a part of the country destitute of religious privileges.

Dr. Gunn likewise joined in matrimony Helen Striker to John S. Watkins, July 6, 1819, and baptized two of their children, viz. Mary Striker and Harriet. The youngest child of Elder and Mary Striker, Jemima, was baptized by the minister May 28, 1809. The Caesar Striker who was present as witness at the marriage of a colored couple in 1823 was a slave in the family, as had been the lately manumitted contracting parties.

The Hegeman family originated with Adriaen and his wife Katherij Margits, who arrived at New Amsterdam in 1650. He removed to Midwout (Flatbush, L. I.), where he died, April, 1672, and his widow 1689 or 1690. He was a magistrate there from 1654 to 1660 and in 1663: schout-fiscaal in 1661 of the Five Dutch Towns. In 1655, he and Thomas Swartwout petitioned the Director-General to have the limits of Midwout defined, and Commissary Stryker and he were authorized to make the demarkation requested. From 1659 to 1671, he was schoolmaster of his town, and obtained a patent, in 1661, for one hundred acres of land there and settled upon it. In February, 1664, he procured the making of depositions in relation to the misconduct of an English troop, and in the same month headed a delegation to a convention at Flatbush, which was called for the purpose of selecting delegates to lay before the States-General the distressed condition of the country. Peter Hegeman, one of his descendants, m., May 2, 1781, Lettice, daughter of Nicholas and Margaret (Cozine) Fletcher. She was the daughter of Cornelus Cozine who bought the farm in Bloomingdale. The Hegeman homestead stood just north of the Cozine house in the bed of present Eighth Avenue, in the centre of 55th Street. Peter Hegeman's widow died August 26, 1851. She and her daughter Cynthia joined the church March 29, 1807. Children were:

Peter Adrian, m. Laura N.——

Cynthia, m. Aaron B. Jackson. Their children were all baptized in the church, viz.:

Mary Jane, joined the communion Oct. 30, 1828.  
Letitia

Peter Adrian Hegeman  
Cynthia  
Margaret.

The mother died on Thursday, October 11, 1860, aged 77, her husband having preceded her. These lines are copied from the notice in the *Christian Intelligencer* of October 18th:

“Pray for us mother—if a spirit’s lips  
May breathe a prayer in heaven—that we, from whom  
Thou’st parted for a season, may so tread  
This vale of sorrow, that when life has passed  
We may go up to thee and claim thy hand  
To lead us where the living waters flow.”

Margaret, m. Matthew Horn.

Frances Bassett, d. unmarried.

Letitia, m. John Wood Palmer, May 25, 1811, in the church, where these children also were baptized:

John Edmond and John Wood.

Jane Frances, m. John E. Ross, Aug. 9, 1810, also there, and these children were baptized:

Letitia Jane.

John Edward

Peter Adrian

William Stymets

Sarah Frances

Emeline

Peter Adrian Hegeman

Martha, m. John Hegeman, April 11, 1815, at the church. Their child John Adrian was baptized there. The father m. (2) there Rosena Moore, widow Fairbanks, May 12, 1841.

Early in its history, many of the colored people held by landed proprietors in the neighborhood became members, the first to be recorded being William Ray and Mary Dey his wife, who joined, April 8, 1808, upon confession, and Isaac Dey and Elizabeth Cisco his wife

the same day upon certificate. As they took their owners' surnames, as a rule, many well-known cognomens occur among them. Isaac was the first sexton. It is related that to an inquirer, who asked him how business was, this old darkey replied, "Mighty pore, Massa, mighty pore, but old Mistus Cozine am berry low." This was Jane, who married Ackerman, and died in 1837. He never had an opportunity to augment his fortune in this instance, for he was discharged in 1832 for some infraction. Quite a large contingent of Ritters appear. Many were slaves in the Harsen family and its connections. Cambridge Ritter belonged to the Hoppers. By the will of John Hopper the Younger, dated Sept. 13, 1815, it was directed that he be sold for ten years. He could choose his master, and on the expiration of the term was to be free. He chose the Cozine family, with which he was associated through Hopper's second wife, and remained with them thereafter, being especially attached to Miss Rachel. He was married by the family's consent to Eliza Day, by Dr. Gunn, May 7, 1828, and joined the church, May 1, 1840, which he served as sexton for some years. Hopper freed two other slaves, Sam and William, but directed that the former should be kept and maintained if he so elected. Ichabod Prall's slaves were married by Dr. Gunn in July, 1815, and Mr. Cheeseborough's wench Jane in October, 1816. Robert, belonging to the Dyckmans, was united to a free colored woman the following year, and the children of many of these couples were baptized by the early ministers.

The act for the gradual abolition of slavery in the State was passed March 29, 1779 (*Laws 22d Session* p. 721), which provided that any child born of a slave





*Ann Striker*

Portrait and signature of Miss Ann Striker, from the original painting in possession  
of Mrs. J. H. Maples



after July 4th of that year should be deemed to be born free, but that such child if a male should continue a servant to the age of 28, and if a female until 25 years of age. It was, however, made lawful for the owner of any slave to manumit such slave by a certificate for that purpose under hand and seal. On March 31, 1817 (*Statutes*, p. 136), marriages between slaves were declared valid. The children thereof must be taught to read the Holy Scriptures and must be given, between the ages of ten and eighteen, four quarters' schooling. It was prohibited to import slaves into the State, and to prevent it, any so brought were *ipso facto* free. The final provision of this act declared that every negro, mulatto or mustee born before July 4th, 1779, should from and after July 4th, 1827, be free.

Ann Striker, the Elder's daughter by his first marriage, became a member March 30, 1809. Always of a religious nature, she had joined with her step-mother, who came into the family when she was nine years of age, in a serious effort to make the world better because she had lived. They made a practice of visiting poor families throughout Bloomingdale, armed with a panoply of charity which ministered to their well-being and comfort. Their custom was to distribute tracts at the same time, that an appeal to their better nature might be joined with a full stomach. Miss Striker was especially interested in ameliorating the condition of the Jews both here and abroad and the children of the New York Orphan Asylum were her constant care. Born at Striker's Bay, she remained at home until her father's death in 1831, when, at the age of fifty, she went to live with her sister at Mott's Point. She became an inmate of her brother

Gen. Striker's house later and finally removed to the residence of her half-sister Jemima, the wife of Edward Jenner Swords, at Port Chester. She never married. Feeling that the family burial ground, set apart to her in the partition of the Hopper farm in 1823, should be dedicated to the Hoppers, she inaugurated a movement, through Judge Samuel C. Foote, to locate a church on the site. This, however, proved impracticable, it being found impossible to extinguish the Matthew Hopper interest therein and to overcome the reservation, in the will, of the plot for burial purposes exclusively. She endeavored to carry out her purpose of having a Dutch Church built on the farm, by bequeathing lots on the northwest corner of Ninth Avenue and 50th Street, directly opposite the cemetery, for a site. This provision was, however, rendered of no effect by the opinion in *Striker vs. Mott*, which held that the testatrix had but a life-estate in the property. She died at "Deermont," the Swords country-seat, at Port Chester, on April 12, 1860, aged eighty years. The funeral took place at the Middle Reformed Dutch Church, corner Lafayette Place and 4th Street, on the 16th.

The sisters Jane and Rachel Cozine both joined Nov. 30, 1809. The progenitor in this country was Gerrit Cosijnszen, i. e. Gerrit the son of Cosijn. His marriage notice calls him of New Netherland, where he was baptized Sept. 24, 1673, in the Dutch Church, and joined in matrimony October 25th of that year to Balitje Jacobs, a young woman from Fort Orange (Albany), both living at Stuyvesant's bouwery. The tradition is that he was of French origin and came here via Holland. Their son Cornelis settled in Bloomingdale and died Jan. 4, 1765, leaving a widow who was

Deborah Sperry. Balaam Johnson Cozine, of the third generation, married Catherina, daughter of Nicholas Dyckman, April 26, 1760. He was buried in the underground vault in St. Paul's churchyard, which the Cozines attended prior to the founding of the Church at Harsenville. His widow, however, was interred in the Hopper plot, her daughter Sarah having become allied to that family through marriage with John Hopper the Younger. Jane and Rachel were sisters of Sarah. Jane married, Oct. 25, 1795, Isaac Ackerman, and had a daughter Rachel, who married Cornelius Westerfield the quondam Deacon and Elder, and died May 29, 1837. Rachel died unmarried Nov. 1, 1854, and neither was yet born in 1774, when Cornelis drew his will in which the seven children of his brother were remembered by name. John Cozine, their brother with whom they lived, married Sarah, daughter of James and Catharine (Parliament) Kent, born in Hackensack. They came to live with the groom's father, who built a house for them—a frame building painted yellow—at Eighth Avenue, near 54th Street. She became a member Nov. 4, 1842, and died April 22, 1862.

Their children were:

Catharine, b. Dec. 12, 1811, m., Dec. 6, 1832, Samuel Fleet. No issue. He was for years the editor of the *New York Farmer* and an agriculturist of note. He built two Gothic houses in the block between Eighth Avenue and the Bloomingdale Road, 54th and 55th Streets, in one of which he lived. The Rev. Dr. Patton, afterwards of Princeton, occupied the other at one time. A class for young ladies was opened in October, 1859, by Miss S. Eva Hughes, under Mr. Fleet's supervision, for which purpose both houses were used. Mrs. Fleet was received into communion May 2, 1863.

Nicholas Dyckman, d. at the age of seven.

Sarah Stakes, b. Oct. 15, 1816, bap. by Dr. Gunn, m. Dec. 1, 1835, by him to Peter Adrian Horn (d. Dec. 4, 1849), and had Sarah Jane, bap. by the minister, who m. (1) Albert Sutton of Peekskill and (2) Dr. George R. Wells. Sarah (Stakes) Horn d. Dec. 16, 1836, and was buried from the Cozine homestead on Sunday the 18th.

Jane Ackerman, b. Nov. 7, 1818, m. at the church, April 1, 1845, James Hegeman Dorland of Fishkill Plain, Dutchess Co., N. Y. Issue: Cozine, b. Jan. 9, and bap. Mar. 11, 1846, and Jane Cozine, b. May 7, and bap. June 20, 1847, m. Benjamin Franklin, M.D. She joined Feb. 6, 1875, and d. April 2, 1880. Mrs. Dorland is the oldest living member. She united in 1838, and lives at Cedarville, N. Y., where she is a "shut-in," not having left her house since 1860. She loves her church and means to remain loyal to the end.

Catherine Cozine, another sister of John, became a member August 1, 1817, and d. unm. April 4, 1835. The Cozine name is extinct in this branch.

Cornelius Harsen, the surviving son of the Deacon, although he never joined the Church, had four children baptized therein. He had m., Nov. 13, 1805, Joanna Henrietta, dau. of John Peter Ritter, and had

Joanna Ritter, b. Oct. 12, 1806, m. July 13, 1825, by Dr. Gunn, Abraham Augustus Prall, d. Dec. 8, 1838.

Jacob (M.D.), b. Feb. 16, 1808, d. Dec. 31, 1862, unm. Catharine, bap. by Dr. Gunn, m. Sept 24, 1840, Elijah Purdy, d. Nov. 5, 1896.

Magdalen Ritter, bap. by Dr. Gunn, d. May 6, 1819.

John Peter Ritter, bap. by Dr. Gunn, d. June 10, 1842, unm.

Cornelia Rachel, bap. by Dr. Gunn, m. Dec. 16, 1835, Lyman Rhoades, d. Mar. 17, 1900.

Magdalen Ritter II, b. Aug. 13, 1819, m. April 21, 1841, William M. Halsted, Jr., d. Nov. 8, 1851.

Maria Elizabeth, b. April 3, 1822, m. Mar. 21, 1848,  
Jacob Halsted, d. Nov. 18, 1876.

The only one of these couples whose children were baptized by the minister were the Pralls, viz.: Magdalen Ritter and Hannah Maria.

At the age of twenty Cornelius Harsen became (1804) Ensign in the 5th Regt. of Infantry. The date of his commission as Captain is not of record. Capt. Harsen was one of a committee of officers appointed to organize a third regiment in the city of New York, under Chap. 61 of the Laws of the 30th Session, passed March 27, 1807. He was soon transferred to the artillery in which he became Major of the regiment he assisted in forming. Thereafter his talents, wealth, and social position secured his rapid promotion. At the breaking out of the War of 1812 he was commissioned Lieut.-Colonel of the 11th Regt., 1st Brigade of Artillery, and later in the same year became commander thereof. His services in the war have been heretofore set forth. He lived on the Harsenville Road in a house which stood just south of present 71st Street, midway of the block between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, and had a city residence in Greenwich Street, near Charlton. In early life he was a hardware merchant in Cherry Street, but in 1814 retired from business. In 1817, he was in the dry-goods line, and after 1825 the directories simply mention his house address. He was an incorporator of the Erie Railroad in 1832. His sons left no descendants and the name in this branch is extinct.

Catharine Remsen, the wife of Samuel Adams Lawrence, joined August 1, 1812. They had come to Bloomingdale seven years previously and had been attendants since the Church's foundation. Mr. Lawrence became a member February 4, 1814; both on confession.

On August 11th instant, he was elected Deacon. Following the custom, the Consistory met at his house for the first time, at the April meeting of 1815. The Hardenbrook controversy caused it to assemble at Mr. Lawrence's office, June 24th of that year. Although business required him to decline to serve after a term of two years, yet he and his wife continued their membership until their removal to the city permanently, the Bloomingdale seat being a summer residence only. Letters of dismissal were granted July 6, 1830. He was the third son of David Lawrence who was the seventh son of John, who was the second son of Joseph, the son of the first William and Elizabeth Smith, afterwards Lady Carteret, an intimate friend of Benjamin Franklin and Samuel Adams, for whom the subject of this sketch was named, and a patriot in the Revolution. Having amassed a fortune in commerce David Lawrence removed from Providence, R. I., to Hudson, N.Y., of which town he was one of the thirty proprietors. Here he was Judge, Recorder, and Mayor and in his leisure hours contributed to the literature of the period. He married Sybil Sterry and had four sons and five daughters. Samuel Adams Lawrence was born January 19, 1775. Commencing in early life the study of medicine, he soon relinquished it for commerce, a more congenial pursuit, and for which, by his remarkably clear vision, financial abilities, and systematic habits, he was eminently qualified. He became an extensive importing and commission merchant, widely known and highly respected at home and abroad. He was a partner in the firm of Augustine H. Lawrence & Co., at 120 Washington Street, and resided at 96 Greenwich Street. Ever ready with his means and efforts to ameliorate the condition of the





*S. A. Laurence*



*Katherine Remsen*

Portraits and signatures of Samuel Adams Laurence, Esq., and his wife Katherine Remsen, from the original paintings in possession of Mrs. Katherine L. Neumann



poor, he was also a strong advocate of the cause of education as well as a munificent patron of the arts and sciences, and initiated many plans in concert with and while entertaining at Bloomingdale and elsewhere his friend and adviser De Witt Clinton, by whom he was referred to as "my Benjamin." He served as Ensign of the 2d Regt. in 1798, was appointed Lieut. of the 13th Company, 6th Regt., on March 8, 1800, and Captain in the same command on February 16, 1802. He became a director and president of many corporations and institutions, but his crowning merit is that through life and in his last hour he was a conscientious and sincere Christian. He died August 5, 1851, at his city residence.

By his wife Catharine, daughter of John and Dorothea Remsen, whom he married Nov. 26, 1803, Mr. Lawrence had eleven children. The names of the six baptized by Dr. Gunn were

Julia, m. July 27, 1835, Garret Decker, son of Louis Hasbrouck, M.D., of Ulster Co.

Henry, was educated for the ministry. He never married.

Horace, d. at Key West, Fla., Sept. 29, 1851. He m. Feb. 12, 1839, Laura, dau. of Michael Kelley, of Charleston, S. C.

Charles David, d. at Palestine, Anderson Co., Texas, July 29, 1852, unm.

Maria Varick, b. Aug. 10, 1819, d. unm.

Eugene.

Samuel Sterry, a son, born Aug. 21, 1804, was a medical practitioner of great popularity and generosity. From his father he inherited a fortune which enabled him to gratify his scientific and literary tastes as well as to contribute largely to the charities of the time. He married

Dec. 31, 1833, Christina (died June 18, 1854), only daughter of Peter Knell, and had Samuel Remsen, born Dec. 31, 1834, and Edgar Varick, born Nov. 17, 1836. Ferdinand, another son, born at Bloomingdale Dec. 28, 1807, was a wealthy merchant and married Jan. 13, 1835, Isabella Eliza, eldest daughter of William Burgoyne of this city, formerly of Charleston, S. C. Eugene, a son of the Church, was educated at Princeton and at New York University. He studied law at Harvard and was a member of the New York bar. This profession he soon relinquished and took up literature as a calling, for which task he prosecuted special studies at London and Paris. His literary work was extensive, varied, and of high character. Besides contributing to encyclopedias and other works of reference, he published many monographs and magazine articles of interest and value. His best known work is *The Lives of the British Historians*, supplemented by historical studies, literary primers, and a history of Rome. He never married. The other children were Catherine Remsen, born Aug. 11, 1805, died unmarried; John Remsen, born Aug. 24, 1807, died Sept., 1807, and John Remsen II, born Nov. 9, 1811, died Mar. 31, 1834, at the U. S. Navy Yard, Brooklyn, unmarried.

Matthew Horn and Margaret Hegeman became members August 1, 1814. He was the son of John and Jemima (Hopper) Horn, whose farm covered the present site of the Fifth Avenue Hotel and its environs and whose ancestor John Hoörn of Kingstown married Rachel Webbers of the "Grotekel" (Great Kill), April 11, 1713, in the New Amsterdam Dutch church. She was a kinswoman of Deacon Webbers. The Horns first appear in the records of the colony in 1656. Matthew was born Feb. 11, baptized Mar. 11, 1787, and died in 1833. His house was located on lot No. 6, of the Horn tract as subdivided. His widow died Feb. 22, 1870. These children were baptized by Dr. Gunn:

John, d. April 21, 1839, unm. and intestate.

Peter Adrian Hegeman.

Jemima.

Letire Frances, m. William Young of St. Louis.

Matthew, d. Mar. 13, 1859, m. Jan. 5, 1843, Elizabeth,  
dau. of Chevalier White and Elizabeth (Chandler)  
Williams.

Margaret Horn, the sister of Matthew, Sr., was born Feb. 15, and baptized Mar. 21, 1784. She married June 30, 1808, Christopher Mildeberger, born 1785, the son of Oliver and Mary (Marcellus) Mildeberger. Oliver was the son of a Captain in the Royal Guards of the King of Bavaria, who came to America on a visit in 1735 and married and settled in New York. His other child was Elizabeth, who married Robert Banta, an English officer stationed at Quebec, and afterward a General. Oliver was a large leather merchant in the Swamp with stores and offices at 19 Vandewater Street. His son Christopher was known as the gentleman of the Woolsack because of his courtly manners. He retired with a fortune for those days, after the death of his father in 1801. He died in 1856 and his wife in 1859 and both were buried in the yard of St. Mark's Church in the Bowery. Their first child, John Horn, was baptized by Dr. Gunn in 1809. Other children were: Margaret A., married (1) Robert Stuyvesant and (2) Walton H. Peckham; she lies at Greenwood. Emeline, born Jan. 1, 1814, married May 29, 1832, John Alfred Bell, born July 8, 1810, at St. Mark's; she died Feb. 19, 1872 and was buried at Mt. Kensico, and he died Mar. 18, 1901. Charlotte A., married Marshall Pepoon, died Nov. 25, 1880, no issue, buried at Greenwood. Oliver H., married Vashti Miller.

Henry Post, who served the church long and faith-

fully as Deacon, "gentleman" as the conveyance reads, received a deed from the Corporation, of a certain plot in the Seventh Ward, part of the Common Lands, May 1, 1801, described in the Survey or map of said lands filed in the office of the Clerk of the County by the number 134, bounded west by a certain road laid out on said map called the Middle Road, on the east by another road called on said map the East Road, on the north by a street 60 feet wide between the lot hereby granted and released and lot No. 136, and on the south by another street of like breadth of 60 feet between the said lot hereby granted, and lot No. 131, containing in breadth at each end 3 chains and 3 links and in length on each side 13 chains and 94 links, at the rent of four bushels of wheat or the value thereof in gold or silver on the first day of May in each year forever thereafter.

The grant is not recorded, but a counterpart thereof is to be found in the Comptroller's Office in Book of Grants of the Common Lands at p. 12. The quit-rent reserved was commuted June 20, 1835, by William Wagstaff. Post built a residence on this property where he resided during his diaconate, and it was this house he opened to the military during the War of 1812, as heretofore narrated. He was born in Pompton, N. J., and served as a drummer in the Revolution. He married Elizabeth, the fifth of the eight children of James Board and Jane, daughter of Capt. Philip Schuyler (son of Arent Schuyler) and Hester Kingsland (daughter of Isaac Kingsland of New Barbadoes Neck, Bergen Co., N.J.), license dated June 20, 1780. Jane Schuyler was born Oct. 6, 1728. James Board came from England in 1730 with his father Cornelius and settled at Ringwood, Passaic Co., N. J. Cornelius and his

brothers David and Joseph who accompanied him managed the iron-works at that place. James was commissioned to sell confiscated property in Bergen County, and died in 1803. His wife died Mar. 31, 1816.

Post was elected Deacon a few days after he and his wife had presented themselves as applicants for admission to the communion. They were received August 1, 1814, at the same session as Matthew Horn and wife. He and Lawrence became Deacons the same day, Aug. 11th, and the former was chosen Treasurer of the Board in October. These positions he resigned on Aug. 19, 1822, with the thanks of the Consistory, and Richard A. Striker succeeded. In April, 1823, Mr. Post was appointed Church Master. He had been an officer of militia in New York City, having been commissioned Ensign May 11, 1789, promoted Lieut., in Lieut.-Col. James Alner's Regiment, March 12, 1790, in which command many of his Bloomingdale neighbors served, among them Lemuel Wells, Jacob Harsen, and James Striker, Captain in the 4th Regt., Dec. 7, 1795, and 2d Major, Feb. 16, 1802. In Mrs. Johannah Beekman's will he is called Judge Post. On August 3, 1812, precautions were taken by the Common Council against riot and one hundred citizens in each of the wards volunteered and were organized, under the city authorities, to aid the Magistrates and Committee of Defence in keeping the peace. John S. Dusenberry of Bloomingdale was a peace officer connected with the Police Department. Special justices were appointed, whose duty was to attend at the City Hall throughout each night to quell riots. Post represented the Ninth Ward. These officials were appointed by the State Council of Appointment at Albany and were familiarly known as

Assistant Justices. Their powers were such as justices of the peace possessed.

His will, dated Sept. 6, 1833 (L. 71, Wills, 12), named Jonathan Ferris, Isaac Adriance, and Andrew McGown, executors. To them was devised testator's house and two five-acre lots, situated on the east side of Fifth Avenue, "and which are now in my occupation," upon trust to sell at public auction within a period of five years after his decease and from the proceeds to pay \$400.00 to his daughter Sarah Ann and half the balance to his granddaughter Eliza McGown. The residue to be invested and the income paid to his grandson Henry P. Ferris. On March 13, 1834, Isaac Adriance, Counsellor-at-law, and Jonathan Ferris conveyed these premises and lot No. 139 of the Common Lands to Andrew McGown; consideration \$10,000.00 (L. 311, Conv. 592); and on April 1st of the same year, the latter and his wife Eliza Ann S. sold them for the same amount of money to William Wagstaff (L. 314, Conv. 245). This land later vested in Robert Lenox. He left a will, dated May 23, 1829, with codicils dated June 23, 1832, and Dec. 4, 1839, which was proved Jan. 15, 1840. This property became so famous in local history that it is interesting to add that he died Dec. 13, 1839, leaving a widow, Rachel, and these children, viz.: James Lenox, the later well-known philanthropist, Eliza L. Maitland, Isabella H. Banks, Rachel C. Kennedy, Jenet Lenox, Mary L. Sheafe, Henrietta A. Lenox, and Aletha L. Donaldson. Rachel Lenox died Feb. 9, 1843.

Deacon Post had but one child, Sarah Ann, who married Benjamin Ferris and their daughter Eliza A. L. Ferris married Andrew McGown who acted as a guide to mislead the British while Washington's army





*Joel Post*

Portrait and signature of Joel Post, Esq.



made good their escape without loss to Fort Washington in the War for Independence. He resided in New York City and had Henry Post, married Mary A. Dailey, lawyer and City Judge, 1892. Issue: Marianna and Rev. William Knight McGown; and Elizabeth Ann Post, married James H. Wright.

Another Post line, originally of German ancestry, came from Holland, where they were known as van den Poest, with a party of Pilgrims to Massachusetts. Jotham Post, fourth in descent from Lieut. Richard Post, who went to Southampton, L. I., about 1640, was born 1740 at Westbury, L. I., and came to New York City. He married Winifred Wright and had four sons: Wright E. (died at Newport, Sept 1, 1907), Jotham, Joel, and Alison. The eldest son was a celebrated physician whose portrait appears in the famous group representing the Court of Washington. The third son, Joel, who owned a pew in the church, purchased Claremont in 1821, where he resided throughout his life. Later he acquired the adjoining property, "Monte Alta." The mansion and site of Gen. Grant's Tomb were acquired (1873) by the city from his descendants when Riverside Park was created. He was married (1) to Elizabeth Brown by the Rev. Uzal Ogden, Rector of Trinity P. E. Church, Newark, May 21, 1796 (N.J. Archives, 1st Series, Vol. XXII, Marriages), and (2) to Alma Floyd. Their son John Alexander was baptized in 1824 by Dr. Gunn. He was in the wholesale drug business. Nancy, the daughter of Jotham, Sr., married May 11, 1797, Peter Hawes, who, as a member of the Committee of Defence in the second war with England, had much to do in providing funds and volunteers for the building of the works on Bloomingdale Heights. Born June 6, 1768, he entered in 1787

Rhode Island College, now known as Brown University. At that time it was necessary upon matriculation to give a bond to the Steward of the College. This curious document, as well as the Diploma from his Alma Mater, are in possession of his grandson, Gilbert Ray Hawes, a present Elder of the Church. Mr. Hawes determined to enter the profession of law and left the old Massachusetts home for New York City. The Directory for 1795 prints his name as follows: "Peter Hawes, Student of Laws. 91 Beekman Street." In the same year he was admitted to the bar. The license signed by Richard Varick, Mayor of the city, on Sept. 16, 1795, is a quaint old indenture and was exhibited at the World's Fair in Chicago upon the walls of the New York State Building. He rapidly rose to prominence and soon acquired a large clientage. He organized the Washington Insurance Co., one of the first in the United States, and remained its Secretary to the date of his death in 1829. For many years he served as Elder in the Brick Church (Dr. Spring's) which stood on the corner of Nassau and Beekman Streets, was a member of the New England Society and its Secretary from 1807 to 1809. A member also of the Common Council (1809 to 1812), he held that office at a time when the name "City Father" was not inaptly bestowed. Mr. Hawes resided on the southeast corner of John and William Streets, and his gardens extended to the East River. The old house is yet standing metamorphosed to business purposes, on historic ground made memorable by the battle of Golden Hill. With other young fellows of the Knickerbocker period, Mr. Hawes founded the Cappiopean Society, which flourished from October 1, 1793, to February 3, 1799. The minutes of their meetings, at which poems and

essays were read and then turned over to a committee for criticism, are in existence.

At this early period, Cherry Street was the Court end of the town and filled with elegant and fashionable residences. Conspicuous among these was the house built by Jotham Post, a respected and wealthy citizen. This quotation will bear repetition while we are on a subject so nearly related to Bloomingdale:

His daughter Nancy was acknowledged to be the handsomest girl on Manhattan Island and the belle of New York. Many were the suitors that thronged the father's house and sought to carry off the prize. But, sad to say, she was inclined to be coquettish, as maidens sometimes are, even to this day. Scores of broken hearts were laid at her feet, but still she did not relent. Serenades were sung before her windows and sonnets composed to her beauty and charms but without avail. At last, Mr. Hawes, who was a man persistent and quite set in his ways, like his Puritan ancestors, determined that he must win her. He wrote a number of verses which did not have the desired effect of securing his lady's affections. She only laughed him to scorn. Finally he prepared a *chef d'œuvre* entitled "The Belles of Cherry Street," wherein she is apostrophized under the pseudonym of "Eliza," the name by which she was known in all these effusions. All the other belles of Cherry Street are mentioned in turn, only to be rejected. The final verse sets forth the pre-eminent attractions of "Eliza." There are many personal allusions which cannot be appreciated at this distant day. But the poem is sprightly and clever and in its present state of preservation we can hardly realize that it was written in the XVIII century. Whether it was this poem which caused her to smile upon him with favor, deponent sayeth not. But certain it is that, after a long and arduous courtship, Peter Hawes was able to lead Nancy Post, a fair and blushing bride, to the altar and the twain were made one.

She died July 4, 1806, and on June 16, 1808, Peter Hawes married (2) Margarett Ray.

Col. Anthony Post, who married Petronella or Peternelletje Brouwer, Feb. 4, 1768, came of the Post family of Yonkers as detailed in Bolton's *History of Westchester Co.* He was the son of Jacob Post, who held lands in Phillipsburgh under the Phillipses and married Anne Heddy. Anthony obtained his title in the militia, having been commissioned Captain, Oct. 4, 1786, Major, Feb. 28, 1789, and Lieut.-Col., Commandant of the 2d Regt., in 1793. His resignation was accepted by the Council of Appointment in 1796. He was one of the earliest attendants on the services and built a vault in the churchyard. He was chairman of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen and a Sachem of Tammany Hall. He lived in a house located on the Commissioner's Map on property which—part of the Medcef Eden farm—he purchased of Astor, fronting north on Verdant Lane. Their children were: Anthony, married Elizabeth Polhemus; Nelly, married Odell Valentine; Betsy, married James R. Manley, M.D.; and Ann, married Joseph Bayley, M.D. There were four other daughters who d.s.p. Post's will was proved June 21, 1832 (L. 69 Wills, 110), devising the above estate. He had married a second time, for his widow Magdalena died in Mar., 1844. Dr. Bayley died in Dec., 1836, and his wife Ann, Dec. 21, 1829. She left her surviving seven children and three grandchildren. The son Anthony Post is not mentioned in his father's will.

Martha Brandon and Juliana Osgood, the former of whom was married by Dr. Gunn to Edmond Charles Genet, the French Minister, and the latter to her cousin

Samuel W. Osgood, both on July 30, 1814, in the presence of Dr. David Hosack, the celebrated physician and botanist who was present at the Hamilton-Burr duel and attended professionally the lamented victim, were the daughters of Samuel Osgood of Massachusetts, who founded the New York family. Samuel, born 1748, graduated at Harvard 1770 and took up the study of theology. His health breaking down he forsook the pulpit for public life. In 1774 he was elected to the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts. He organized a company of minute-men and fought with them at Lexington and Concord. In 1775 he was made Major and in the fall aid-de-camp to Gen. Ward with the rank of Colonel. In the Congress he served for four years as a member of the Board of War. Thereafter he became a Senator and later a member of the Continental Congress, where he remained till 1784. The following year he was appointed a judge and in a few months First Commissioner of the United States Treasury, which post he held till 1789. Until 1791 he was Postmaster-General. He resigned rather than leave New York City at the time Congress removed to Philadelphia. He was elected a member of the State Legislature, 1800-1801-1802, and during the first two years served as Speaker of the Assembly. From 1801 to 1803 he was State Supervisor and from then to 1813, the date of his death, he served as Naval Officer of the Port of New York. Besides the above he was an incorporator of the Public School Society, a trustee of the N. Y. City Dispensary, and an author of numerous books. His first wife was Martha Brandon by whom he had no issue. By his second, Maria Bowne Franklin, widow of Walter Franklin for whom Franklin Square was named, he had three daughters,

the two above mentioned and Susan Maria who married Moses Field.

Samuel, the son of Walter Franklin Osgood and Ellen Moncrief, born 1812, was baptized by the minister, 1814. He graduated from Harvard (1832) and Harvard Divinity School (1835). After a brief career as an editor he took a pulpit in Nashua, N.H., and in 1849 accepted the pastorate of the Church of the Messiah in New York City, in which place he died in 1880. His life may be divided into two epochs, twenty years in active clerical labor and eleven in literary work. His contributions to American literature were numerous and valuable. Among his chief productions were *Studies in Christian Biography*, *God with Men*, *The Hearthstone*, *Milestones in Our Life's Journey*, *Student Life*, *American Leaves*, and *An Address before the N. Y. Historical Society upon Thomas Crawford on Art in America*. He translated from the German Herman Olshausen's *History of the Passion* and De Wette's *Human Life*. For four years he was editor of *The Christian Inquirer*, while his magazine articles, college addresses, and critical studies were more than two hundred in number.

Daniel Mack, who was elected Deacon in 1816, was in the fourth generation from John Mack, who came from Scotland *circa* 1680, was at Salisbury, Conn., in 1681, and settled at Lyme, Conn., in 1697. He descended through Orlando in the second and Orlando in the third. His father was born 1724 at Hebron, Conn., and married in 1744, Abigail Adams of that place. He was an Ensign and removed about 1763 to New Marlborough, Mass. The son, born Oct. 22, 1752, married Elizabeth Torot and removed to New York City where they joined the Bloomingdale



Church, Aug. 28, 1814. Their daughter Caroline was baptized by Dr. Gunn three days earlier. Issue: Susan, m. Feb. 7, 1827, Dr. Lewis Hallock, a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1826. She d. Aug. 11, 1832. After practising allopathy for fifteen years, he joined the American Homeopathic Institute in 1846, of which he was Censor many years and from which he received the degree of M.D. in 1876; Daniel, b. Nov. 8, 1787, graduated at Columbia College in 1807; Charlotte, m. John McChain, a New York provision merchant; Caroline, b. Feb. 11, 1811, m. — Belcher; Sarah, m. May 21, 1808, George Woodruff of this city; Robert, who in 1851 resided at Newtown, L. I.; and Lucinda, m. April 23, 1812, John Steen and d. leaving two sons.

The Varicks were a noted family. Valentine's *Manual*, 1861, makes the common ancestor to be the Rev. Rudolphus van Varick. The Domine, whose will, dated Oct. 20, 1686, was proven Nov. 9, 1694, came from Holland *circa* 1685. Corwin's *Manual*, p. 871, gives Nov. 12th as the date when he offered his services to Classis in Amsterdam to minister to the church in New Netherland and the glad acceptance of the same. He sailed from Holland in March, 1686, and arrived early in July, succeeding Domine Casparus van Zuuren the same year as minister of the Long Island churches, his residence being at Flatbush; he also occasionally preached on Sundays in the churches of Bergen and Hackensack, N. J. During the Leislerian troubles he felt compelled to denounce the pseudo Governor, in which opposition he was supported by all the Reformed ministers of the province. He found it necessary to flee to Newcastle, Del., and upon his return was charged with being privy to a design to

rescue the fort from Leisler, and was dragged from his house in the fall of 1690 by an armed force, taken to the fort, and imprisoned for six months. Domine Selyns offered himself and property as bail for him but was refused and threatened with imprisonment himself. He was finally released without the imposed fine, though he ultimately died in 1694 of his ill treatment. He was buried "in the church of Midwout," where his widow, who was Margarita Visboom, directed in her will, 1695, that her body be interred.

Dr. Edwin R. Purple asserts that Jan Varick of New York, 1687-1702-3, and Hackensack, 1720, probably his brother, was the ancestor of the largest branch bearing the name in both these States. His wife was Sara Visboom. The most noted of the name was the Hon. Richard Varick, a Colonel in the Revolution; Recorder of the city, 1783-9; Mayor 1789-1801; Attorney-General of the State 1788-9; Speaker of the Assembly 1787-8; State Commissioner to appraise the property of the Western Inland Lock Navigation Co., 1817, which property was used for the Erie Canal; President of the Society of the Cincinnati over thirty years; President of the American Bible Society at the time of his death, and one of the three founders of Jersey City, where he died July 30, 1831. In the Church records we find that two of the children of Jane Dey Varick, the wife of Henry S. Dodge, viz., John Varick and Henry Augustus, were baptized by Dr. Gunn in 1816. She was the only daughter of John Varick, M.D., and Margaret van Wyck. Her father studied medicine with Dr. Peter Middleton in New York City, 1776. Her brothers were Theodore van Wyck Varick, b. May 15, 1790, graduated at Columbia College 1807 with degree of A.M., and John Varick, graduated at

the same institution in 1813. Her grandfather, John Varick, brother of the Mayor, bap. 1723, m. in 1748 Jane Dey, dau. of Dirck Theunis Dey and Jane Blanchard. The Deys descend from Dirck Jansen Dey who m. in New Amsterdam, Dec. 2, 1641, Jannetje Theunis of Amsterdam. In 1677, he leased from Governor Andros for thirty years the Duke's Bouwery, now belonging to Trinity Church, on which property he lived and acquired other lands later, for his will, dated Dec. 5, 1683, leaves to Geertie Jansen (alias Langendyck) his (2) wife, whom he m. Oct. 18, 1659, "all that land which at present lyeth to the south side of the house where the testator is dwelling." He established a mill and ferry at the foot of present Dey Street, which was named for the family, and resided on Broadway at the head of that street. Henry S. Dodge subscribed for a pew in the Second House of Worship.

So far we have considered only a few of the individuals who were identified with the infant organization which assembled in the First House of Worship. In 1814, proceedings were inaugurated towards the building of the stone edifice which stood on the site purchased that year on the Bloomingdale Road, at what became later known as 68th Street. Stephen Jumel, the French merchant and the husband of the famous Madame, donated a bell for the original structure and this gift was hung in the cupola of the Second House of Worship when completed. The Jumels, even after they had removed from Bloomingdale, attended and contributed to the support of the Church. He landed in America a poor man, and by singular foresight in business matters, made an immense fortune in the wine-trade. He became noted for his wealth, liberality, and kind-hearted benevolence. The property on which

stands the Roger Morris mansion (162d Street) and which is now a city park, was purchased by him April 28, 1810. The land, containing 57 acres, had been conveyed by the town officers of Harlem to Jan Kiersen on March 7, 1700, and came into the possession of Col. Morris shortly before the Revolution. Selecting a site which commanded what has been described as the "most extensive prospect on this Island" he built thereon the mansion which was Washington's headquarters during the battle of Harlem Heights. His estates were confiscated and sold by the Commissioners of Forfeiture. When Jumel acquired it, he made great improvements and in advertising the "Mansion House" in 1814, to let for two or three years, "as he intended shortly to embark for Europe," stated that the grounds covered thirty-six acres with two stables, and concluded:

It may well be said that there are but few places which excel the many advantages that this handsome spot affords; fruits of every kind are in abundance; also a vineyard of French grapes now in perfection which will supply any reasonable family with wine through the year; also oysters, clams, and good fishing within 100 rods of the Mansion and as to the ornamental part that environs this edifice, there have been no pains and expenses omitted.

Jumel died intestate, May 22, 1832, in his seventieth year, of an accidental fall, leaving his widow, whom he married about 1801, and no issue, and François Jumel, his brother, and Madelaine Lazardere, his sister, both residing in France, his only heirs-at-law. His wife was Eliza Bowen, the widow of Col. Peter Croix, a British officer. Soon after Jumel's death she sought the legal advice of Aaron Burr with whom she had been

acquainted in her youth. It is doubtless true, as has been asserted, that they first met during attendance at the Church, where both were early communicants. The association as lawyer and client led to an intimacy which ended in marriage on July 1, 1833, at a time when the groom was in his seventy-eighth year. A few days after the wedding she placed in his hands for investment a large sum of money and this being lost in Texas speculation caused her to file complaint against him. A separation ensued although no divorce was obtained. Burr, the son of the Rev. Dr. Aaron Burr, was born in the old parsonage of the First Church of Newark, Feb. 6, 1756.<sup>1</sup> In the autumn of that year, the college buildings at Princeton were completed and his father removed there as President of the institution. Mme. Jumel, as she continued to be known, lived in retirement until her death, July 16, 1865. An obituary which appeared in the *New York Times* on the 18th has been republished in pamphlet form. Her property was the subject of a controversy in the courts which was compromised in 1880, when deeds were exchanged (*Vide* L. 1545, pp. 431, 435; L. 1559, pp. 223, 409).

The widow of the far-famed Alexander Hamilton was a communicant as distinguished from a member. She became connected with Bloomingdale in two ways. Her son, John C. Hamilton, married a daughter of Governor van den Heuvel, and her connection with the Orphan Asylum often brought her to its new location on the Teunis Somerindyck farm. Among those who subscribed to the building fund of the new House of

<sup>1</sup> It was the Rev. Dr. David Schuyler Bogart, the pastor first called by the Church, who performed the marriage ceremony between Aaron Burr and Theodosia Provoost at Paramus, N. J., July 2, 1782. She died in New York City, 1794.

Worship, Col. Nicholas Fish was conspicuous. He also owned a pew therein. The son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Sackett) Fish, he was one of the foremost representatives of the patriotism which the leaders of social New York exhibited in the trying times of the Revolution. Born in 1758, he had just left Princeton College to take up the study of law, when the war began. As an aid-de-camp to Brigadier-General George Morin Scott, he served in the battle of Long Island and in the operations around New York, and afterwards participated in the battle of Saratoga and commanded a corps of light infantry at Monmouth. At the siege of Yorktown, he was a Lieutenant-Colonel commanding a portion of the New York Line. After the war, he was equally distinguished in civil life both in society and business pursuits. Washington appointed him Supervisor of the Revenue, which at that time was a high position in the Treasury Department, and he also became Adjutant-General of the State of New York. In 1797, he was Treasurer of the New York Society of the Cincinnati. His connection with Bloomingdale history has been narrated elsewhere. He m. Elizabeth Stuyvesant, the great-great-granddaughter of the old Governor.

Another subscriber and pew-owner was the War Governor of New York during the second war with England. Daniel D. Tompkins was a native of Scarsdale, where he was born in 1774. He served as Governor from 1807 to 1817 and during the war was in command of the 3d U. S. Military District, in which capacity he was untiring in his exertions for the public good. On May 2, 1814, the first stone in the construction of Fort Tompkins at the Narrows was laid and another fort bearing his name was located at Sackett's



*Daniel D. Tompkins*

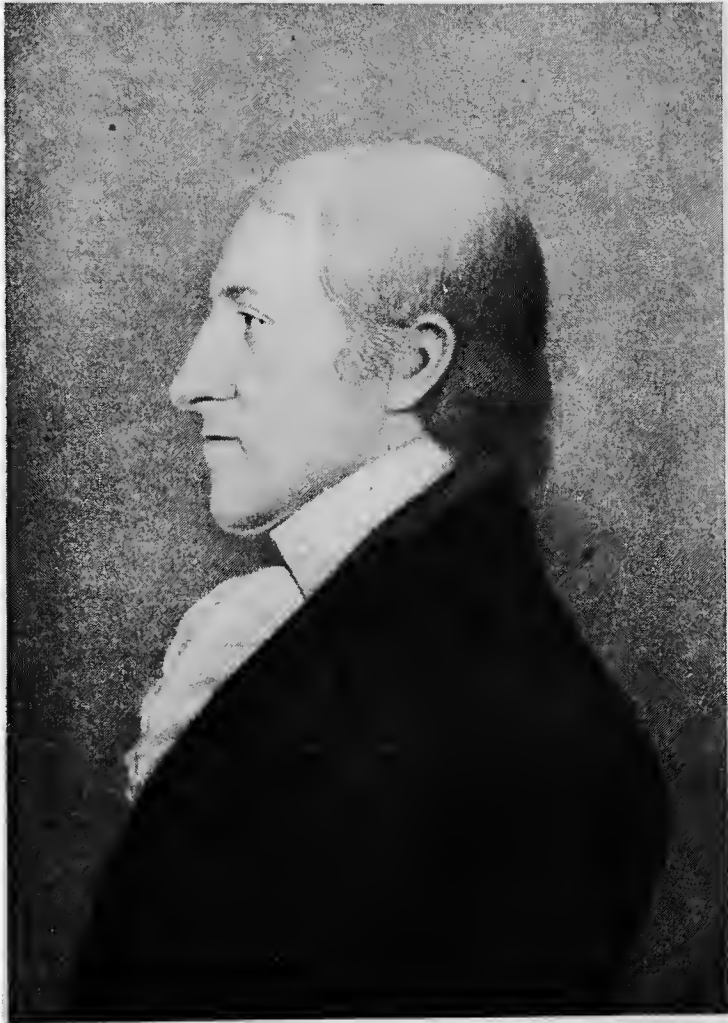
Portrait and signature of Hon. Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of New York State and Vice-President of the United States, from the painting in the collection of the New York Historical Society





Harbor. His name is further commemorated and handed down to posterity by Tompkins County in this State, Tompkinsville on Staten Island, Tompkins Square and Market (erected in 1830) in Manhattan, and Tompkins Park and Avenue in Brooklyn. His public papers have been published and are of great value, especially in connection with the war. While yet serving as Governor he was elected the 6th Vice-President of the United States, and filled that position during the two successive terms of President Monroe (1817 to 1825). He was present at the dedication of the new House of Worship. Soon after his time of office expired he retired to Tompkinsville, S. I. and d. June 11, 1825, at the early age of fifty-one years. Gov. Tompkins's father was Jonathan G. Tompkins, a Revolutionary soldier. The young man was educated at Columbia College and graduated 1795. Within two years thereafter he was admitted to the bar. He early took an interest in politics and in 1801 was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. The same year he was elected to the Assembly and became a recognized leader. In 1804 he was elected to Congress but never served, resigning before the session began to fill the post of Associate Justice on the State Supreme Court Bench made vacant by the election of James Kent as Chief Justice. On June 9, 1807, he resigned from the Bench to run for Governor against Morgan Lewis. He was elected and made such a creditable record as chief executive that he was re-elected in 1809 and again in 1811. It was in the trying days of the War of 1812 that Gov. Tompkins shone the brightest. He got the militia in the field early and even went to the extent of purchasing weapons from private citizens. He had these arms delivered at the arsenal in this city and in a

short time he had armed 40,000 militiamen for the defence of New York, Buffalo, Plattsburg, and Sackett's Harbor. When the New York banks refused to lend money on U. S. Treasury notes without the government's indorsement he, as Commander of the U. S. Military District, unhesitatingly gave it. Pledging his personal and official credit he advanced the money which kept up the Military Academy at West Point, paid for the manufacturing of arms at Springfield, and continued the recruiting service. It was while the Governor was in the midst of his activities connected with the war that he was invited by President Madison to become Secretary of State to fill the place vacated by James Monroe, who had become Secretary of War. The offer was refused, however, and in 1815 Gov. Tompkins was again re-elected Governor. In April, 1816, he was nominated and later elected Vice-President. Before resigning the Governorship he sent a message to the Legislature recommending that a day be fixed for the abolition of slavery in the State. In accordance with this recommendation the Legislature named July 4, 1827, as Emancipation Day. In 1820 Gov. Tompkins was re-elected Vice-President. He was fully as prominent in Masonic circles as he was in politics. He was Secretary of the Grand Lodge from 1802 to 1804 and Grand Master from 1820 to 1821. One of the founders of the New York Historical Society, he was an incorporator of the Public School Society and a Regent of the State University. General Lafayette stayed at his residence on Staten Island on his arrival on the *Cadmus* on Sunday, August 15, 1822. The following day the city was honored by the General's presence. Governor Tompkins's remains lie buried in the churchyard of St. Mark's, in the vault of his father-in-law Mangle Min-



*B. Livingston*

Portrait and signature of the Hon. Brockholst Livingston, Asso. Justice of  
the U. S. Supreme Court. By courtesy of Miss Ann L. Livingston



thorne. There is a movement on foot under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity to erect his memorial statue in City Hall Park. A monument now marks his birthplace.

Judge Henry Brockholst Livingston was another supporter of the Church. He dropped the Christian name to distinguish him from his kinsman Henry Beekman Livingston of Clermont, whose initials were the same. His services to the nation have been detailed elsewhere. His descent follows:

1. Robert Livingston, 1st Lord of the Manor, m. Alida, dau. of Philip Pieterse and Margarita (van Slechtenhorst) Schuyler, the widow of Domine Nicholas van Rensselaer.
2. Philip Livingston, 2d Lord of the Manor, m. Catharine, only dau. of Peter and Sara (Cuyler) van Brugh.
3. William Livingston, 1st Governor of New Jersey (1776-1790), Signer Federal Constitution, 1787; m. Susanna, dau. of Philip and Susanna (Brockholst) French.
4. Henry Brockholst Livingston, m. (1) Catharine Keteltas. Their eldest dau. m. her cousin Jasper Hall Livingston of Jamaica, W. I., a grandson of Philip Livingston the Signer.
  - m. (2) Ann M., dau. of Gabriel and Ann (Williams) Ludlow. Issue: Carroll Livingston, m. Cornelia, dau. of Henry Walter Livingston, of the Manor; Anson Livingston, m. Ann, eldest sister of Cornelia.
  - m. (3) Catharine, dau. of Edmund Seaman and widow of Capt. John Kortright.

Jeremiah John Drake appeared as a witness in 1820 to the marriage of John Augustus Sidell and Marilla Adeline Noxon. The bride lived with her sister Clarinda Noxon, Mr. Drake's wife, in a house which stood on the site of the Orphan Asylum. The Noxons

came from Poughkeepsie. Mrs. Drake sold the Bloomingdale property *circa* 1827. Mr. Sidell was an old-time lawyer of note. Jeremiah John Drake was born in the town of Cortlandt, Westchester County, April 26, 1782, and died at Bloomingdale Jan. 8, 1827. He was a lawyer in New York and a master in chancery. His father John died at Lansingburgh, N. Y.

The mansion of Baron John Cornelius van den Heuvel became the line of demarkation between the upper and lower sections of the congregation. The former Dutch Governor gave liberally to the organization. He had m. Justine Henrietta van Baerle, who d. in 1793 leaving children, some of whom resided in Holland, and it was she who purchased the Bloomingdale lands. In 1821, the Governor obtained releases from the heirs-at-law. He d. in 1826 seized of the property and devised it, in nine parts, among his children, share and share alike. Those by his second wife, Charlotte Apthorp, who d. before him, were: Maria, wife of John C. Hamilton; Charles Apthorp van den Heuvel; Justine, wife of Gouverneur S. Bibby; and Susan Annette, wife of Thomas S. Gibbes.

Among others who were either communicants, attendants, or contributors to the support of the Church and about whom a slight framework of the leading events which shaped their lives is hereinafter given, were:

John Broome, the quondam Lieut.-Governor, whose name has been preserved in Broome Street, this city, and Broome County in the State. The proximity of his country-seat has been noted.

Richard Riker, whose affectionate soubriquet "Dickey" has survived. The son of Samuel Riker, a patriot and a prisoner during the war, he was born in



*J. C. Van den Heuvel.*  
1823

Portrait and signature of Baron John C. Van den Heuvel, former Governor of Demarara, from the original painting in possession of William Henry Bibby, Esq.





1773 and educated under the tuition of the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, the famous head of Nassau Hall of the College of New Jersey (Princeton). He was admitted to the bar in 1795 and shortly thereafter became District Attorney for New York City. In 1815, he was made Recorder, an office which was legislated out of existence in 1907, and with occasional short intermissions retained his seat on the bench until 1838. He left a record as one of the most learned and upright judges that the city ever possessed.

James Buchanan, the British Consul, who had children buried in its churchyard. He was of the firm of Buchanan & Thompson, 243 Queen (Pearl) Street. A director of the only bank in the city, the Bank of New York, "he was a great man in our city in his day," says a chronicler.

Gideon Lee, Mayor 1833-4, had a house in Bloomingdale on lands which he purchased in 1822 and which were part of those of Charles Ward Apthorp. These were bounded southeasterly by Eighth Avenue, northeasterly by a public road, southwesterly by land formerly of the same estate and late of Robert L. Bowne, now of William Edgar, northwesterly by land also formerly of the same estate and now of William Jauncey, and comprised part of lot No. 8 which fell to the share of Ann Apthorp and part of lot No. 7 which fell to the share of Grizzel Shaw, both children of said Apthorp. On this property stood a "mansion house" according to an agreement on record, 1836, in L. 34, Conv. 594. The term of Mayor Lee was signalized by a number of happenings, the most important of which were the appearance of the *Knickerbocker Magazine*, the extension of the route of the New York and Harlem Railroad to Murray Hill, the laying of the

first block or Belgian pavement in a street in this city or country, the death of Col. Nicholas Fish, the visit to the city of President Jackson, the marriage of Aaron Burr as above detailed, and the opening of Sailors' Snug Harbor on Staten Island. Other noted happenings were these: The *New York Sun* began publication, lotteries in the State were abolished, the United States Hotel on Fulton Street was opened, James Fenimore Cooper arrived in the city after a long residence abroad, the fish-market at Washington Market was opened, and University Place extended from Eighth Street to Fourteenth Street. In April, 1834, occurred the first election of Mayor by popular vote, Cornelius R. Lawrence being chosen.

James Boggs, for many years President of the Phoenix Bank. His seat in Bloomingdale has been adverted to. He maintained a pew and his family and later his son-in-law were attendants. John W. Livingston, who m. his daughter Julia, was in the army in early life (Capt. of Artillery and Engineers, appointed June 4, 1798, resigned Dec. 1, 1804) and served in the War of 1812. He became Marshal of the Northern District of New York and took up his residence at Skaneateles, where he resided for twenty-one years. On removing to this city he retired to private life.

William Jauncey, the eminent English merchant, who lived in the Apthorp mansion, was an early subscriber. It would seem that he made an offer for a pew at the sale; we find, however, no direct authority for the statement that he took advantage of his bid.

Thomas Addis Emmet, son of the famous Irish patriot. He came to America in 1804 and soon rose to a position of prominence as a leader of the New York bar. He owned a tract on the east side of the Bloom-

ingdale Road in the Great Kill district which he acquired in 1807 and 1824 and which in the XVIII century belonged to the Webbers family. In 1812 he became Attorney-General of the State and died suddenly (Nov. 11, 1827) while conducting a case in the U. S. Circuit Court. His remains lie in the Marble Cemetery in Second Street, near Second Avenue, and a monument to his memory stands in St. Paul's churchyard in Broadway. He left him surviving a widow, Jane, who d. Nov. 20, 1846, and these children, viz.: Robert, 1792-1873, a lawyer and a leader in the contemplated Irish insurrection of 1848; Margaret; Elizabeth, wife of William H. Le Roy; John Patten, M.D., 1797-1842 (Aug. 13th); Jane E., wife of Bache McEvers; Mary Ann, wife of Edward A. B. Graves; and William C. Emmet.

William Rhineland, another early adherent, was the second of the name in this country and was descended from Philip Jacob Rhineland, a Huguenot, who sought refuge in America after the Revocation. Born in New York in 1753, he lived until 1825. He was trustee of the family estate, and, like his ancestors and descendants, was an extensive landowner. In 1785 he m. Mary Robert (1755-1837), a sister of Col. Robert, a line officer in the army of the Revolution and a descendant of Daniel Robert, a Huguenot, who arrived in this country in 1686. She was the aunt of Christopher Rhineland Robert who founded Robert College in Constantinople.

Samuel Borrowe was a subscriber whose country-seat was within the confines of Central Park, overlooking Central Park West at 105th Street and which was demolished in Dec., 1897. He had purchased a plot of four acres in 1796 and to the house led what was

long known as Clendining Lane, which extended from the Bloomingdale Road at 103d Street and ended at the Borrowe residence. The Clendining mansion stood on the lane at present Columbus Avenue and 104th Street. The owner, John Clendining, made a donation to the building fund and long maintained a pew. Both he and his first wife Margaret became members in 1823 by certificate from the Presbyterian church. His son William was baptized by Dr. Gunn, in 1810. Later he attended St. Michael's Church, nearer his home. His widow Letitia, aged seventy-four years, was interred in the family vault at the Brick Meeting House (Dr. Spring's), March 18, 1843.

Clement C. Moore, the acknowledged Hebrew authority who made all children his debtors by writing *The Night before Christmas*, contributed to the early funds, as did John V. Brevoort, John G. Coster, William Ogden, William James Stewart, John S. Roulet, and Stephen van Rensselaer of Albany. Henry Rutgers was another subscriber. His daughter Elizabeth was the wife of Gerard de Peyster, another friend of the Church, and died before her father (1775). Mary Rutgers, another daughter, m. Stephen McCrea and she was likewise a contributor. Gerard de Peyster was the only child of James William de Peyster who lived in Bloomingdale and d. 1817. He m. (1) Margaret de Peyster, dau. of his uncle John, and d. in September, 1824, leaving James, b. 1796, whose mansion was on the present site of St. Luke's Hospital, Morningside Heights, Cornelia, who m. Gerard William Livingston, a later officer of the Church, and Anna H., the wife of Peter W. Livingston.

John G. Coster was born in Haarlem, Holland, and came to New York about the date of the Revolution.



THE GLENDENING MANSION, 1863



He was educated for a physician. He and his elder brother, Henry A., who reached here a few years before him, formed a partnership with a place of business at No. 20 Dock (now Pearl) Street. In 1821, when Henry A. died, they lived and had their store at 26 William Street, where they had been since 1799. John G. continued the business until 1825. He removed his residence to 110 Broadway in 1805. The firm dealt in all sorts of Holland goods—one article in particular, called "Krollenvogel," a species of tape made of flax. They imported every variety of oil-cloths. Not only did they import but they were constantly buying and shipping to Europe all kinds of produce. They had strong connections in the old Dutch cities for they had heavy orders and they traded also in their own ships, sending out supercargoes. John G. was elected director of the Manhattan Bank in 1813 and in 1826, President, in place of Henry Remsen. He was also a director of the Phoenix Insurance Co. When John Jacob Astor wished to build the Astor House, he bought Coster's house and lot at 227 Broadway. Coster had built a splendid granite double residence in 1833 up at 539 Broadway, which was a palace in its day, and here he removed. He died *circa* 1846.

Cornelius Ray had property in lower Bloomingdale and although it is not known that he owned a pew, yet he had the Church's welfare at heart. A number of the slaves bearing the family name were married and had children baptized there. Mr. Ray was the son of Richard and Sarah (Bogert) Ray, entered mercantile life at an early age, was elected a member of the Chamber of Commerce and served as its President from May 6, 1806, until May 4, 1819, when he declined a re-election.

William Edgar. He m. Eliza L., dau. of Frederick William, the fourth son of William Rhineland, and her sister Louisa was the first wife of Gardner Greene Howland of the Bloomingdale family.

Archibald Gracie was a subscriber and pew-holder. A Scotchman, he founded the great East Indian firm known as Archibald Gracie & Sons. As a merchant, he was among the foremost of this or any other country—his ships visiting every port of the world. His daughter, Sarah Rogers Gracie, m., 1813, James Gore King, the famous banker of Prime, Ward, & King. Mr. Gracie d. in 1829. Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchell, in his *Picture of New York*, 1807, says that "the superb house and grounds of Archibald Gracie stood upon the very spot called Hoorn's Hoek, upon which a fort erected by the Americans in 1776 stood till about the year 1794, when the present proprietor caused the remains of the military works to be levelled at great expense and erected on their rocky base, his elegant mansion and appurtenances."

The Bownes were Quakers who settled in Flushing and suffered for conscience' sake in early New Amsterdam. The Friends and the Baptists were the only people who were persecuted in the colony because of their religious opinions. One of the Bownes was arrested and after being tied to a cart-tail and dragged through the streets was imprisoned. Stuyvesant's methods of eliminating these to him objectionable elements of the population were brought to the attention of his masters, the Holland directors of the West India Company, and their feelings in the matter were expressed in a letter which can be found in the Documentary History of the State, wherein such persecution was expressly prohibited and the toleration of all forms



of religious sentiment sanctioned. Thus freedom of religion was established in the colony. The Bownes of Bloomingdale descend from Robert L. Bowne who acquired the Stilwell property lying between 85th and 89th Streets from the east side of the Bloomingdale Road to the Commons, by these conveyances:

- 1795, Nov. 30, Samuel Stilwell and Elizabeth his wife; 12 A. 3 R. 15½ P. Consideration £835, N. Y. currency.
- 1798, Mch. 5, Samuel S. Bowne; 13 A. 3 R. 22½ P.; land which he had purchased of said Stilwell Dec. 31, 1795. Consideration £2100.
- 1799, Jan. 2, Samuel Stilwell and Elizabeth; 4 A. 2 R. Consideration \$1000.
- 1799, Aug. 10, Samuel Stilwell and Elizabeth; 6 A. 2 R. by estimation. Consideration \$1625.
- 1801, June 12, John McVickar and Anna his wife; 7 A. 1 R. 30 P. Consideration \$2789.06.
- On Jan. 2, 1809, Bowne mortgaged the entire property of 45 A. 2 P. to William Edgar to secure \$20,000. On Aug. 20, 1819, Edgar took possession of the property under foreclosure.

When Robert L. Bowne d. June 21, 1821, he left him surviving these children, viz.: Rowland R., George, Eliza, afterwards wife of Jacob C. Skillman, Amy, Abigail S., Amelia, Matilda, Hannah, and Gulielma Bowne.

William Edgar was a merchant whose "white marble palace" at 7 Greenwich Street was still standing as late as 1860. In 1797 he lived at 7 Wall Street. Treasurer of the first insurance company, the Mutual, started in 1793, he was also a director of the Bank of New York and a prominent member of St. Patrick's

Society. He d. Nov. 1, 1820, leaving a son William who d. Aug. 27, 1823. The latter's issue were William, Herman Le Roy, Newbold, Daniel M., Robert, and Hannah, later the wife of Robert R. Morris of Pelham. In 1849 these heirs conveyed the mortgaged premises to Peter Augustus Jay (L. 576, 331), who on Oct. 11, 1852, sold the same to Martin Zabriskie for \$52,000. Rachel, one of the freed slaves of the Edgar family, and her husband joined the communion April 29, 1831, while Domine Kip was in charge.

Lewis Bowne was m. by Domine van Aken to Maria Stickles in 1844 and to this family also belonged Walter Bowne the quondam Mayor.

George McKay lived in the house at 92d Street and the North River built by Jacob Coles Mott as heretofore mentioned. He had purchased four and a half acres of the Mott and Weyman tract of nineteen acres, in 1820, and here he resided up to the time of his death, Nov. 16, 1836. He was an original subscriber for a pew and attended the services. His widow d. Nov. 26th of the same year. He had one child, Capt. George Knox McKay, who m. Sarah, dau. of David Frothingham, originally of Charlestown, Mass., but who at the time of the marriage was the editor of the *Long Island Gazette*, at Sag Harbor, the first newspaper published on Long Island. This obituary of the Captain is from the *Evening Post* of Sept. 27, 1814:

This morning, at 10 o'clock, in the 24th year of his age, of a consumption brought on by a severe cold, incurred on military duty in the service of his country, George K. McKay.

His friends and acquaintances, those of his father George McKay, and his late brother officers and men attached to his command in the 3d Regiment Volunteers, are respect-

fully invited to attend his funeral to-morrow at 4 o'clock P.M. from his late residence No. 91 Nassau St.

His only child, Margaret Helen McKay, m., in 1833, Richard Lawrence Schieffelin, b. in 1801, graduate of Columbia College, law student with his brother-in-law Benjamin Ferris. He practised his profession until 1843, and thereafter devoted himself to the care of his real estate, part of which was the land above described, and corporate interests. At his death in 1889, he was senior warden of St. Mary's Church at Manhattanville, founded by his father Jacob, whose country-seat was at about 144th Street and ran from the Hudson River to what is now St. Nicholas Avenue. About the year 1800, Jacob sold that portion of this land lying to the eastward of the Kingsbridge Road, to Alexander Hamilton, upon which the latter built "The Grange" where he resided at the time of his lamented death.

Nathaniel Prime, another whose donations to the Church were liberal, the head of one of the great banking houses of the period and a merchant prince, settled in New York, before the close of the XVIII century, had a town house at No. 1 Broadway and a country-seat at present 89th Street and the East River. It is now one of the buildings of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum. Some of its old fire-places and mantels are preserved, and from its upper balcony may be obtained a fine view of Hell-Gate. He died there suddenly in 1840. His wife, Cornelia, was the dau. of Comfort Sands, first President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Ichabod Prall joined the Church Feb. 2, 1815, was elected Deacon on April 11th, in place of Deacon Webbers, and added to the building committee of the second House of Worship. When Elder Hopper died, Deacon

Prall was selected to fill the vacancy in the Eldership, Aug. 2, 1824, and then began to represent the Consistory at Classis, which he did many times thereafter. He became Clerk of the Board in 1829 after Dr. Gunn's decease. On Dec. 1, 1830, he resigned these offices and took letters of dismissal to the Collegiate Church, Mar. 21, 1831. He was a descendant of the Huguenot family of de Prael, of which Arent de Prael, b. 1646, came to America. His (1) wife was Maria, dau. of Peter Billeu. He settled at a place called Morning Star on Staten Island with his (2) wife Trintje (Catherine). Because he had abjured Roman Catholicism, he was obliged, according to French records, to slightly change the family coat-of-arms and this modification he had painted on his barn door at his new abode. His will, dated 1725, is of record in Richmond County. His children were, among others, Peter, Arent, Abraham, Antje, and Isaac. Peter, said to be one of seven sons, b. 1672 (?) at Staten Island, d. Oct. 27, 1748, m. Mary —. His son Abraham of Staten Island, b. Oct. 15, 1706, d. Sept. 28, 1775, m., May 9, 1731, Alida Hegeman, b. Oct. 16, 1700, d. Sept. 15, 1781. They had Abraham, Benjamin, Peter, Catherine, and Mary. Abraham of Staten Island, b. Jan. 11, 1741, d. May 16, 1820, m., May 22, 1768, Mary, dau. of Daniel Stillwell, b. May 28, 1749, d. April 25, 1811. Issue: Abraham, b. 1770, d. Oct. 22, 1807; Daniel, b. 1775, d. Oct. 10, 1817, and Ichabod. Samuel Stillwell, b. at Jamaica, L. I., Oct. 22, 1763, was later a Bloomingdale resident and Stillwell Lane was a landmark for many years.

Ichabod Prall of New York City was b. June 2, 1776, d. in Sept., 1849. He m., Aug. 24, 1801, Hannah, dau. of John Thompson, b. Sept. 26, 1782. She joined the communion the same day as her husband. He was

2d Major from June 8, 1808, in the Light Infantry Regiment commanded by Lieut.-Col. Edward W. Haight, promoted 1st Major, 4th Regiment, in 1810, serving through the War of 1812. He became Lieut.-Col. of the 106th Regiment of Infantry in 1815 and resigned 1817. On Oct. 12, 1818, Elder Harsen reported to the Consistory the absence of Deacon Prall who was "particularly engaged in moving up." In what house he lived at Bloomingdale, is not definitely known except that it was located "just across the road" from the Harsen homestead. At first, the family occupied it during the summer, moving from the city residence at No. 168 Water Street, next door to the store of his brother Abraham at No. 167. The water, then, came up to the door. The latter was one of the wealthiest merchants in the city prior to 1798. "Who does not remember Ichabod?" asks Walter Barrett, clerk. "He was a fine venerable looking man in the time of General Jackson, who, I think, gave him an office in the Custom House, for he had been unfortunate in business." Abraham was thrown from his carriage and killed. Ichabod served in the State Assembly. Some of his children were John T., Hannah Maria, Helen S., Ichabod, and Henry Rutgers. His son Abraham Augustus, b. Jan. 13, 1804, d. Sept. 10, 1857, was m. by Dr. Gunn, July 13, 1825, to Joanna Henrietta Harsen, b. Oct. 12, 1806, d. Dec. 8, 1838, and their dau. Cornelia Augusta, m. Dec. 26, 1861, the Rev. Eastburn Benjamin, b. Feb. 5, 1837, son of Col. Meigs de Lucena Benjamin of Bridgeport, Conn., grandson of Asa Benjamin of Stratford, and great-grandson of Col. John Benjamin, wounded at the battle of Redding, Conn. Rev. Mr. Benjamin was a lawyer, but later a clergyman. Being proficient in the deaf-mute language

he became assistant to Dr. Gallaudet. He started the Home for the Blind at Amsterdam Avenue and 104th Street, and d. at the early age of 36, Sept. 18, 1874. Two of Abraham A. Prall's children were baptized by Dr. Gunn.

Johannah, the widow of Abraham Keteltas Beekman, was received into membership on certificate from the Church at Haerlem, Aug. 1, 1817. She died in 1821, bequeathing some lots to the Consistory which had been a part of the estate of Nicholas Bayard, deceased, and later of Pierre van Cortlandt. Some of this land she devised to her nieces Mary Marx, Amaryllis Laura de Labigarre, and Maria Louise Stewart, daughters of her deceased sister Margaret de Labigarre. Amaryllis joined the Church May 3, 1815. Maria Louise was married to William Robert Stewart by Dr. Gunn on Sept. 26, 1816, in presence of Mr. Beekman. Both became members Oct. 31st, and he died in the fall of 1818. Abraham K. Beekman died Nov. 27, 1816, and they left no lineal descendants. Besides the bequests mentioned in a previous chapter, Mrs. Beekman left other land to Peter W. Livingston and to Cornelia, wife of Isaac B. Cox, her sister-in-law. Said Cox died July 4, 1846, and his widow Jan. 26, 1847. They had two children, viz., Catharine M. and Abraham B. Cox. Others to receive bequests were her cousins Johannah V. B. Ursin, Margaret Thomas, now of the island of St. Croix, W. I., daughters of her aunt Mary Robinson, deceased, and nephew William Livingston and niece Eliza Livingston. Witnesses to the will were Edward H. Livingston, William H. Livingston, and Francis R. Tillou and to the codicil Samuel Borrowe, Samuel Borrowe, Jr., and Abraham K. Fish. John Beekman who served as executor with

Dr. Gunn was testatrix's brother-in-law and owned land between that of Caspar Meier and Claremont. His residence was on the bluff at present 120th Street. He owned a pew at the Church and both he and his brother Gerard were original subscribers to the building fund. The former's son James was baptized by Dr. Gunn in 1814. When he died, Dec. 8, 1843, his widow, Mary Elizabeth Goad, survived together with these children, viz.: William F., Mary A., wife of William de Peyster; John C., Catharine B. Fish, a widow; Jane, wife of Jacob Hallet Borrowe; and Lydia, wife of Joseph Foulke.

Abraham K. Beekman had these brothers and sisters: William, died Aug. 15, 1808, unmarried; John; James; Gerard; Samuel; Jane, wife of Stephen van Cortlandt; Catharine, wife of Elisha Boudinot; Mary N., wife of Stephen N. Bayard; and Cornelia, wife of Isaac B. Cox. William Beekman's will, dated Oct. 6, 1807, proved Sept. 19, 1808 (L. 47 Wills, 416), left to his brother Abraham K. a suit of mourning and a mourning ring. He had previously received the greater part of the estate on the east side of their uncle Abraham Beekman. His brother Samuel died March 7, 1816, unmarried. Gerard Beekman, a building fund subscriber, died July 15, 1833, leaving his widow, Catharine and one child, James William Beekman. His will, dated March 6, 1832, was proved Aug. 21, 1833 (L. 70 Wills, 422). The widow died Oct. 15, 1835. Elisha Boudinot died prior to December 1836, and left, no issue. James Beekman died April 8, 1837, unmarried. His will, dated June 12, 1834, proved May 13, 1837 (L. 76 Wills, 268), bequeathed his estate to his nephew James William Beekman. Catharine Boudinot's will was dated Nov. 4, 1836, and proved May

17, 1839 (L. 80 Wills, 22). Jane van Cortlandt died intestate and childless prior to Dec., 1841, her husband Stephen being also dead. William de Peyster and Mary A., his wife, had children, viz. Jane van Cortlandt, Catharine Augusta, Cornelia Beekman, Elizabeth van Rensselaer, and Gerard Beekman de Peyster. The above data were obtained from an old abstract.

Abraham K. Beekman was the son of James and Jane (Keteltas) Beekman and his wife Johannah, the daughter of Gerard William Beekman. Holgate (1851) says the latter's residence was at the corner of Sloat Lane and Hanover Square and became during the Revolution the abode of many of the British officers, and among others of Admiral Digby, who had as a protégé Prince William Henry, late King of England. Many of the oldest residents of New York still remember that King, while still a youth, skating on the Kolch Pond, surrounded by a crowd of city boys. Gerard William Beekman was born at Jamaica, L. I., Dec. 13, 1718, and was an importing merchant in New York city. He married Mary Duyckinck, who died June 4, 1791, aged 63; he had died at Philadelphia Oct. 6, 1781.

Following the order of the records we now reach Lavinia Striker. She was the second of the three children of the Elder by his first marriage, and was married to Jordan Mott in 1801 at Striker's Bay by his brother-in-law, the Rev. George Strebeck, then a Lutheran minister, who later founded St. Stephen's P. E. Church at Chrystie and Broome Streets, of which he became the first rector. As a girl she was familiarly called by the Dutch diminutive Wyntje and as Winifred Mott she became known in the legal annals of the city. Her husband was the great-great-grandson of Adam Mott, whose arrival in New Amsterdam from Essex





*Jordan Mott Esq.*  
*1796*

Portrait of Jordan Mott, Esq., from a wax miniature, 1796, in possession of the author



County, England, tradition fixes at 1642, and where he is known to have been living two years later. He became a Dutch citizen and was granted by the government in 1646 twenty-five morgens (50 acres) of land "lying on the west side of the Kill of Mespachtes" (Newtown Creek L. I.), and was married in the church at the Capital July 23, 1647, to Jane Hulet of Buckingham, England, neither having been previously married. They became residents of Hempstead, on the north shore, about 1655. In Book A, the oldest extant annals of the town, he appears as one of the five Townsmen, chosen March 17, 1657. His descendants have been living on Cow (Great) Neck ever since. He became an important individual in the new settlement and as a "proprietor" was a large land-owner at Cow Neck, Rockaway, Merrock Neck, and Hungry Harbor, among other places. An instance of the confidence placed in him by the town was his selection for the post of deputy to meet a committee from the Dutch towns to determine the manner of future intercourse between the nationalities. This meeting took place at Hempstead. The Dutch delegates were Oloff Stevensen (van Cortlandt), Jacobus Backer, and John Lawrence; and those representing the English, Daniel Denton, John Underhill, and Adam Mott. A conditional agreement was signed Feb. 24, 1663-4 whereby it was determined that neither nationality should exercise jurisdiction for twelve months while the King and the States-General endeavored to effect a settlement of the "whole of the difficulty about the island and places adjacent." It was because of the uncertain conclusion of this meeting that the great "Landtdag," referred to on page 112, was called. It assembled April 10, 1664, deputies from all the Dutch towns being

present. Nothing of import was accomplished and it dissolved without doing anything to avert the impending fate of the colony. In 1683, Governor Dongan required the town to take out a new patent. Ten individuals, of whom one was Mott, were chosen October 9th of the following year "to go to York, the 20th inst. and endeavor the purchasing of a patent." The trip proved successful and the patent was issued April 17, 1685. Mott was Lieutenant of the Town Militia and lived somewhere on the line of fence which partitioned off the Neck for common pasturage, between the present villages of Manhasset and Roslyn. All through the records he is frequently mentioned either in actions at law, in conveyances, in town matters, or in an official capacity. He m. (2) Elizabeth, dau. of Ann Parsons, wife of John Richbell, original patentee of Mamaroneck in Westchester County, probably by a previous husband whose name was Redman. By these unions he had a large family. He was not a Friend, as so many of his descendants became, but seems to have been a Presbyterian, although his son Joseph was a vestryman of St. George's, Hempstead, from 1708 to 1711 and was a petitioner for its charter June 27, 1735. Adam Mott d. *circa* April 5, 1690. His will, of record in New York County, devises much land and arranges for the division of his "four proprietorships" in the undivided lands of Hempstead, half to each family of children.

Jordan Mott was b. at Hempstead Harbor (Roslyn), Feb. 6, 1768. At the age of twenty-one, he became an importer on Pearl Street, whereon at this date (1789) and for many years thereafter was located the finest trade in the city. On the founding of St. Stephen's Church he was the first Treasurer, and was an original

stockholder of the Mechanics' Bank. In 1829, he retired from business and removed permanently to Bloomingdale, where he became largely interested in the charities and the upbuilding of the locality. He had a number of slaves, as was usual at this period, who were employed around the farm. Of his seven sons only two, James Striker and Samuel Coles, both of whom sang in the church choir, were born at "Mott's Point," which was at first used as a country-seat only. From a boy the latter's interest was much centred on horticulture and silviculture, and although he was for some years a member of the wholesale drygoods house of Revo C. Hance & Co., at 174 Pearl Street, and later travelled in Europe and Central America, he found time to assist his mother in planting the broad acres around their home and in interesting his neighbors in his hobby. The few remaining trees yet standing on the Hopper farm are examples of the many placed along the sidewalks and in the grounds of cottages by his exertions. In laying out the grounds surrounding the homestead, Mrs. Mott was greatly assisted by the thick growth of forest trees which towered above the landscape in all their natural beauty. Lilacs formed a hedge on the water front along the retaining wall, and steps led down to the rocky shore and the bathing house. Advantage was taken of the supply of remarkable plants, shrubs, and trees which Lewis Morris, Minister to France, had imported from Holland, France, and Germany *circa* 1792, and distributed between Montessor's (Ward's) and Randall's Islands and Morrisania. From the former island Mrs. Mott selected the vegetation which in later years so charmingly embellished her home. The garden was further adorned with the magnolia and the fig and among other

trees should be mentioned the persimmon, Madeiranut, and splendid specimens of the Canton mulberry, the latter relics of Samuel's experiments in silk culture. The house was situated on the river's bank and was approached by Mott's Lane, once a shaded and gravelled way leading from Eleventh Avenue, a portion of old Hopper's Lane which debouched therefrom and turned northwesterly just south of what came to be known as 54th Street. Here Domines Kip and van Aken were ever welcome.

Mr. Mott retired as Treasurer of St. Stephen's when Mr. Strebeck resigned the charge in 1809 because of ill-health (*vide History of St. Stephen's Parish*, by Rev. J. Newton Perkins, 1906) and thereafter attended his wife's church. The portrait reproduced is from a wax miniature made in 1796 and placed in a locket which he presented to Lavinia Striker before marriage. The new Dutch church in Market St. was organized in 1810 and on October 30th he bought a pew there. His wife became a member of the Church at Harsenville, August 1, 1817, and a pew was acquired there. Mrs. Mott took her dismissal from Domine Kip January 3, 1830, to the Reformed Church in Broome Street, and in 1829 they occupied pew No. 121 in that edifice. Jordan Mott d. Jan. 8, 1840, in his seventy-second year, at Mott's Point. His obituary recites that his generosity to his fellow-creatures, mildness of temper, and forbearance associated about him friends with more than ordinary ties. As a citizen he was just, as a husband ever kind and affectionate, and as a parent exemplary and indulgent. He enjoyed retirement to his late residence at Bloomingdale, blessed with earth's best gifts, in the society of his family and surrounded by friends to whom his house was ever open. His ob-



"MOTT'S POINT ON THE HUDSON," 1884  
From an oil painting by W. L. Sonntag, N. A., in possession of the author





sequies were attended on the 12th by a large concourse. The widow, familiarly called Wyntje, the Dutch diminutive of Winifred, continued to live at the homestead with her children and grandchildren. Although she kept up on occasion her attendance at the Church, in later years she became a regular communicant of Dr. Hutton's church in Washington Square. She gave much time to charitable endeavor, being especially interested in the Orphan Asylum, the Colored Orphan Asylum, and that instituted for the care of the blind, exuding good cheer and bounty on her rounds. As a life-tenant of one third of the Hopper Farm, and after her sister Ann's death in 1860 of one half, she was immersed in business to a considerable degree and, though her sons attended to the details, she was thoroughly posted in all matters of consequence relating thereto. Idolized by her children her home life was ideal, and she was fortunately compelled to suffer but two breaks in the direct family circle—the passing of her sons Samuel and Jacob. Rounding out a good old age, it may be stated that her life lines were cast in pleasant places. She d. at the age of eighty, at "Mott's Point," March 16, 1862, attended by Dr. Alexander E. Hosack. Services were held there on the 18th and her remains were deposited in the family vault in the churchyard at Harsenville, where those of her husband had preceeded her. The *Christian Intelligencer* of April 3d commented thus of her character:

Mrs. Mott was one of the few who, in passing away, leave a void not easily filled. Exemplary as a wife, devoted as a mother, true as a Christian, she left behind the memory of the just. To her the veil that hides the future from all mortal eyes was softly lifted. She has passed the inevitable Gates leaning upon the protecting arm of the

God who was her stay all her days and her support in the hour of her death. It remains to us to imitate her virtue and emulate her example.

The only one of her children baptized at Bloomingdale was Matavus Hopper Mott, which function Dr. Gunn performed on May 3, 1816, it being the last baptism in the original church edifice. He was b. Sept. 23, 1815, at "Rosevale" the residence of General Striker, during a temporary visit. Early in life he abbreviated his christian name to "M" and in this way was known throughout life. He accompanied two of his elder brothers to the Mechanics' Society School and in 1830 attended a private school carried on by Adams & Parker at 41 Barclay Street. On Dec. 10th of that year the principals wrote to his father that they took pleasure in informing him that Matavus had of late met with admirable success in his studies, which they thought was owing to his foundation of a proper habit of mind. "He has," they continued, "we now believe, learnt *how* to study and we trust that his future success will be equal to his past perseverance." In 1836 he was with Samuel Hicks & Sons, merchants at 80 South Street, and in 1840 at 23 Maiden Lane. During his cousin Dr. Valentine Mott's absence in Europe he had charge of his property interests, beginning in 1837. At the age of 21 he was Lieutenant of the 2d Company, 82d Regiment, 58th Brigade, in which command he was promoted to Captain Aug. 4, 1838. The book of military ritual of that day was entitled, "Tactics and Regulations for the Militia by Brevet Capt. S. Cooper, aid-de-camp to and supervised by Maj. Gen. Alexander Macomb, commanding the army of the United States; Phila. 1836." After serving his time he resigned, and was honorably dis-



*M. Hopper Mott*

Portrait and signature of M. Hopper Mott, Esq., from a water color in possession of the author



charged Sept. 13, 1843. Early imbued with politics of the Whig order he entered eagerly into the struggles of his ward and was delegated to city, State, and national conventions on numerous occasions. A personal friend of Henry Clay he worked for his election night and day, and in an effort to prevent fraudulent voting was assaulted at the polls, which action was denounced by *The American* of Dec. 17, 1844, as a "case of brutality inflicted upon one of our most esteemed citizens." The assailant was both fined and put under bonds. In his 29th year Mr. Mott began to serve on the grand jury, then composed of seventeen members, becoming foreman soon thereafter. He was an organizer of the Broadway Savings Bank in 1851 and served it as director and secretary, a trustee of the Public School Society, and a member of the American Institute. He ran for Congress on the People's ticket but failed of election. In 1853 he was a founder and first president of the St. Nicholas Insurance Co. at 65 Wall St., and director of the Knickerbocker Bank. One of the notable lyrics, *Washington's Birthday*, by the well-known lawyer-poet William Ross Wallace, was dedicated to Mr. Mott. In these days the songs of the composer of the *Sword of Bunker Hill*, *Keep Step to the Music of the Union*, and of the author of the line which was not born to die, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world," have been resurrected and their beauty and patriotism again recognized. Mr. Mott was married to Miss Ruth A., youngest daughter of John J. Schuyler of Amsterdam, N. Y. The family with which he thus became allied descended from the Hon. David Pieterse Schuyler of Holland, who was at New Amsterdam Oct. 13, 1657. He was Justice of the Peace at Albany

1683, Schepen 1686, Member of Convention 1689, and Magistrate 1693. He m. Catalina, dau. of Abram Isaac Verplanck, one of the "Twelve Men." The line descends as follows:

Pieter Davidse, b. at Albany April 18, 1659, Judge of Oyer and Terminer there 1685, lived at Claverack 1694, m. Alida van Slechtenhorst in Beverwyck, widow of Gerrit, son of Goosen Gerritse van Schayck, d. March 7, 1696. Her father, Brandt Arent van Slechtenhorst, first Director of Rensselaerwyck, was from Nieu kirke in Guilderland. He was also President of the Court of Justice and superintendent of all the bouweries, farms, and other property belonging to the Patroon. He sailed from Holland with his family and servants for Virginia Sept. 26, 1647, proceeding thence for the Mannhattans Dec. 12, where he arrived Feb. 7. He reached Rensselaerwyck March 22. His son Gerrit became Officier or Schout-Fiscaal. The father refused to recognize the superior authority of Stuyvesant within the patroonship and the controversy waged between them for four years, during which he manfully defended the rights of his "orphan patroon." This was Johannes, a minor at the time of his father's death, a son of Killaen by his first wife Hellegonda van Bylet. Van Slechtenhorst was intrusted with the management of the estate by the minor's uncle Johannes van Wely and Wouter van Twiller, executors of Killaen's will. Eventually his house was burst open and he was placed under civil arrest and taken to Fort Orange to be later conveyed to Fort Amsterdam. Some of his time was passed on Staten Island, some at Breuckelen. He returned to Nieu kirke and d. there in 1668.

Davidt Pieterse, b. Dec. 26, 1688, at Albany, m. (1)

July 17, 1720, Anna Bratt; was of Canojoharie 1764. His will mentions his "second wife" and son Jacob.

Jacob Davidse, b. March 24, 1734, of Albany, later of Florida, Montgomery Co. N. Y., m. Eve Swackhamer of German Valley, N. J. They had thirteen children, six sons and seven daughters.

Jacob Jr., sixth child of the above, b. Feb. 2, 1764. His farm was situated two miles back on Schooley's Mountain from Stanhope, N. J., 40 miles from Morristown, at a place called Springtown. He m. Martha Fancher and had fifteen children, six sons and nine daughters. He moved to Florida, N. Y., where he died.

John Jacobse, their third son, b. May 26, 1791, at Florida, m., March 25, 1813, Susan Shaw. He died at Amsterdam Jan. 22, 1865, where he was a merchant and Vice-President and director of the Farmers' Bank. They became the parents of Mrs. M. Hopper Mott, the mother of Alexander Hosack Mott and of the author.

Personally Mr. Mott was a man of fine mind and engaging presence, standing fully six feet in height and of large physique; he was of sandy complexion, with blue eyes. All his life a resident of Bloomingdale, with the exception of three years (1853-5) when he lived at 31 West 22d St., where both his children were born, he made his mark in the District. He served his party well, never seeking office, and when prevailed upon to run for Alderman and for Congress he ascertained what so many have before and since, that this is a Democratic town. His voice was not far-reaching and this failing caused him to act more largely as adviser, while others did the orating. An organizer and financier of ability, he was endowed with a gracious and

prepossessing manner—a public-spirited man in the true sense. In his home he was of even disposition, sanguine in temperament, and a devoted son, husband, and father. Unfortunately some years prior to his decease he contracted an illness which seriously interfered with his usefulness and compelled his retirement from the activities of life in 1856. In his weakened condition his system found it impossible to withstand an attack of typhoid fever, from which he passed away at the homestead on Jan. 9, 1864. Funeral services were held there on the 12th. Rev. Drs. Hutton and van Aken officiated. The Striker vault at the Church being fully occupied his remains were deposited in the receptacle at the Marble Cemetery. On the demolition of the Church in 1868 all the Mott remains were removed to Greenwood.

Barbara Asten, one of the principal benefactors of the Church, was never a member. The daughter of Caspar Samler, whose farm near present Madison Square has been mentioned, she was born in the homestead thereon. Her husband joined the communion Sept. 13, 1818, his wife having died two years previously, at a time when he was solicited to assume office. The minutes of the 21st state that his certificate was regular and satisfactory and that his name had been accordingly entered on the church books. He had been elected Deacon on August 26th *vice* Lawrence resigned, subject to the obtaining of this certificate from the "Church in town." He served in this capacity until Dec. 1, 1830, when a new Consistory was elected. The city Directory gives his address in 1819 as 9 Cheapside. The Astens were not blessed with children, and their work in the Lord's vineyard was unhampered by ties of blood. Mrs. Asten's gift is still bringing forth



fruit and her memory will remain as long as an edifice stands to bear on its walls her memorial.

The Varians are represented to a considerable extent. The origin of the family is uncertain. It has been suggested that they were Huguenots who emigrated to Holland at the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. This expatriation is the more likely because of the Dutch affiliations formed in New York by the immigrant and his descendants. The first of the name found in this city was Isaac, who figures in the Directory of 1720 and who was admitted a freeman January 23, 1733. In 1737-8, he was a member of the military company commanded by Capt. Cornelius van Horne. A negro named Worcester belonging to him was implicated in the "Great Negro Plot" in 1741 and was transported for that crime. Varian m. in the Dutch church, Aug. 12, 1733, Elizabeth, dau. of Daniel de Vouw, and had five children. The youngest, Isaac, b. Sept. 8, 1740, purchased two extensive farms fronting on the Bloomingdale Road, one extending from 17th to 21st Street, adjoining the Horn Tract on the south, which composed the ten-acre gift of the city to Sir Peter Warren, and another bounded south by the northerly line of the Horn property, with present 26th Street for a southerly delimitation, all of which he cultivated as farming land. On this latter plot, just north of this street, on the westerly side of the road, he built the family homestead which remained such a conspicuous landmark for many years. He m. (1) Hannah van den Berg, (2) Aletta Harsen, and (3) Jane Betts, who became the respective mothers of sixteen children. Isaac, the eldest son of the first alliance, m., June 20, 1791, Tamar Leggett of West Farms. Of the nine children born of this union three

were baptized by Dr. Gunn, viz. Gilbert Coutant, George Washington, and Emeline Coutant. The first was named in honor of the husband of his great-aunt Mary Varian, who became the wife of Gilbert Coutant April 26, 1789. He came of the well-known Huguenot family of which the histories of Westchester County speak at length. George Washington lived and died on the paternal farm. He was a Councilman in 1854, Alderman in 1855, and member of Assembly 1860. He is described about this latter date as being an old-school Democrat and a genuine Knickerbocker in appearance. He was stout of form, with bushy gray hair and whiskers, and exceedingly vigorous. Born to a competence, he never had other occupation than aiding in the care of the family realty, that rapidly developed in value as the city extended. In private life he was just, courteous, full of good humor, and greatly attached to home and family. Emeline joined the church Nov. 5, 1830, and m. Laurence Pell Jordan, Jan. 4, 1837.

Isaac Leggett Varian, another son of Isaac, acquired fame in politics. Among the various offices he held were member of Assembly 1831-4, Alderman 1833-5 and 1836, President of the Board 1835-6, Mayor 1839 to 1840, State Senator 1842, and School Commissioner 1842-3. His portrait adorns the walls of the Governor's Room in the City Hall. He was a rugged and popular man of sterling honesty and integrity. He had a pew in the church and was married by Dr. Gunn to Catherine Hopper Dusenberry, granddaughter of Andrew Hopper, July 25, 1811. They had issue baptized there, to wit:

Andrew Hopper. He was bap. at the homestead of his gt.-grandfather and namesake, where he d. May 4, 1826. Buried in the Hopper plot.



*Isaac L. Varian*

Portrait and signature of the Hon. Isaac L. Varian, Mayor of New York City. From the original by Inman in the New York City Hall



Tamar Letitia.

Isaac.

Matilda Campbell.

Mary Elizabeth.

Isaac II.

In 1845, Mayor Varian removed to Peekskill and there he died Aug. 10, 1864, in his seventy-fifth year. His brother William was married by Dr. Gunn to Susan Cornell, Dec. 22, 1819, and resided for many years in the building yet standing on the portion of the farm he inherited on Sixth Avenue just south of 28th Street, formerly known as the Knickerbocker Cottage and now occupied by Mouquin. Their children were baptized by the minister, viz. Mary Ward, Letitia Stevens, and William Henry. He removed to Westchester, where he bought land one mile from the village on the road to Fordham, and died Dec. 3, 1863, having had fourteen children. Another brother, Richard, b. in 1804, lived in the homestead, which he inherited, until its demolition, 1850-1, when he removed to 27 West 26th Street, in which house he d. Dec. 18, 1864. He was also married by Dr. Gunn, Feb. 1, 1829, to Maria Fulmer. A daughter of Isaac and Tamar Varian, Letitia, joined the membership on confession in Feb., 1821, at which time she was the wife of Thomas J. Stevens, who became in 1842 an executor of his father-in-law's will. These children were baptized by Dr. Gunn, viz. Isaac Varian, Thomas George, John Jacob, and Charles Bunner. Both she and her sister Emeline were granted letters to Brother Kip's church in 9th Street, they having followed the Domine from Bloomingdale to his new charge.

The first marriage entered on the records was that of William B. Holmes of Haerlem and Hannah Stanton,

who were joined Oct. 22, 1808, in presence of Jacob Harsen and Thomas Ash. She became a member May 2, 1822, and he Aug. 5, 1842. Removing to Bloomingdale they lived in a house which stood on the east side of the Road between 71st and 72nd Streets, just north of the Harsenville road, and is located by name on the Commissioner's map. All the children were born there and all but one, Eldridge, baptized by the minister. Their names follow:

Nathaniel William, d. young.

George Washington, m. Martha, dau. of Martha Wilson Beard.

Augusta Maria, m. by Domine van Aken, Jan. 8, 1833, to Eldridge H. Brooks; he also baptized William Holmes and James, their children. She joined the church Aug. 5, 1842; he d. 1857.

Ann Agnes, m. by the Domine, Oct. 1, 1837, to William Fiske Dana of Watertown (near Boston), Mass. In 1856 they removed to New York. She became a member May 5, 1848.

Mary Eliza.

Hannah Stanton, m. Kindred Howard, Oct. 25, 1847, at the church and these children were baptized by the Domine: Ellen Augusta, Charles Henry, and Elizabeth Tippell, all on May 19, 1856. The mother joined Aug. 2d of that year.

Charles Darke, m. to Mary Smith by the Domine Feb. 9, 1852.

Nathaniel, m. to Rebecca Beard, dau. of Martha Wilson Beard and sister of Martha, by the Domine Jan. 25, 1847. Their children Rebecca and Sarah Martha were baptized by him. Their married life extended over fifty-eight years. He died at No. 831 De Kalb Avenue, Brooklyn.

Eldridge. All of the above but Mrs. Dana and Eldridge are dead.

Mr. Holmes had two brothers. The wife of George, Deborah, joined the communion Feb. 4, 1842, and William Holmes was m. by the minister May 6, 1831, to Eliza Ann Morgan. Their daughter Kate m. William Kelly June 13, 1854, and joined April 30, 1858, at the same time Jane, another daughter, was baptized. Elizabeth, a sister of William B. Holmes, became a member Aug. 5, 1853. She was the widow of Richard Darke, whom she married June 9, 1818. William B. Holmes, Sr., died 1845.

The Kellys did not settle in Bloomingdale until 1857, when the father of said William bought ten lots at present 75th Street, just west of the Road. In front of it stood the old Dutch habitation of the Somerindycks, which was destroyed in 1868, its site being required for the opening of the Boulevard. A wedge shaped strip fronting 14 feet on the street and 65 feet on the new thoroughfare, which remained after the land needed had been taken, was purchased by him, thereby placing his property on the corner of the two streets. The homestead which he built was a large white square house, with green blinds and old-fashioned porches. It was quite a noted spot in the village, and when the Somerindyck mansion was torn down, the view of it from down-town was unobstructed. The *N. Y. Herald* of May 1, 1900, says that the family were very hospitable and adds that:

Every Fourth of July there was a lawn party, when tea was served out of doors, and dancing under lanterns was indulged in, to wind up with an eleven-o'clock supper. In winter there were many parties in the mansion. Many gray-haired

New Yorkers will recall with pleasure the drives out the Bloomingdale Road and the dances at the Kelly home. There is a touch of the ghostly about the old place, too. The site was part of one of the old burghers' farms in colonial days. During the Revolution part of it was made a burying ground for the Hessians killed in the battle of Harlem Heights. When Mr. Kelly built his barn in 1859 he dug up a whole box of Hessian bones and buried them again. Then there was the strange apple-tree back of the house. It was standing there in 1857. It bloomed out of season one fall—a single branch of it—and a few days later Kelly's youngest son was suddenly taken ill and died. It did this again early in the winter of 1879-80 and in January Kelly himself died. A few weeks later there was a heavy snow-storm and the tree toppled over and died.

The old home is only a memory now. Workmen began to tear it down in the spring of 1889—about the last of the Bloomingdale mansions. John Jacob Astor bought the place in 1884, but Mrs. Kelly remained there until the last. A modern fourteen-story apartment-house now occupies the site. The widow of Henry Kelly became a member of the Church in August, 1866. William Kelly was approached in 1859 and again in 1862 to ascertain if he would serve as Deacon, but both times declined.

John Parks came to Bloomingdale in 1821. We do not know where he resided there. He joined the membership, Aug. 2, 1822, was elected Deacon Dec. 1, 1830, and became an Elder Aug. 11, 1835, to fill the place made vacant by Elder Harsen's death. The Consistory met at his house for the first time September 2d. He was the delegate to Classis in March, 1837. In October it was announced that he was ill, and at the next session that he had died. Isabella Hamilton,



who had a child baptized by Dr. Gunn in 1822, united Feb. 2, 1838, and d. Feb. 19, 1868, is thought to have been his sister. Deborah Ann Parks, his daughter, was m. by Domine van Aken to George Findley in 1856. She became a member April 30, 1858, and d. Jan. 26, 1867.

It is interesting to sift the derivation of names. For instance the name Quackenbush. Translated it means "shaking wood," in the sense of a forest, originally Kwakkenbosch. The word beginning with Q is the Latin form. The name went through numerous spellings until in New York Quackenbos and Quackenbush became the accepted methods. Pieter Quakkenbos, the common ancestor, came from Oestgeest, Holland, to New Amsterdam and removed to Beverwijk (Albany). He had twelve children. The eldest, Rynier, b. in Holland, m. (1), March 2, 1674, Lysbet Jans Masten of Flushing, L. I., bap. June 3, 1657, N. Y., dau. of Jan Mast or Masten; m. (2) Sept. 13, 1692, Claasje Jacobs Stille, bap. Feb. 11, 1672, dau. of Jacob Cornelis Stille and Aaltje Fredericks from Brasiel (Brazil). Rynier removed from Albany to New York *circa* 1691 and became the ancestor of the Manhattan family. To this branch belonged James Quackenbush who, with his wife, Margaret Fake (widow Romeyn), connected himself with the Church on Oct. 30, 1823. He was elected Deacon Aug. 2, 1824, in place of Ichabod Prall. The Consistory, in customary rotation, met at his residence on Nov. 8, and thereafter on many occasions. He was chosen Elder Dec. 1, 1830. In 1837, his health, because of advancing years, began to break and at the session of July 16, 1840, held at his house, he resigned, thus terminating a period of sixteen years as an officer. He d. Jan. 17, 1842, aged eighty-three

years and four months. Margaret Fake, and others of this name in the records, were doubtless descendants of three brothers Robert, Henry, and Tobias, the sons of James Feake of London, b. 1622, who were early emigrants to New England. Tobias of Flushing L. I., was Schout-Fiscaal under the Dutch government. Robert also came to New Amsterdam, and had children baptized in the Dutch Church, 1642-7. Margaret Fake (Romeyn) Quackenbush d. Sept. 2, 1851, aged about eighty-one.

Maria Quackenbush was m. by Dr. Gunn in 1813 to Samuel van Orden. He was the grandson of Peter van Orden and Antje Willemse (Williams), whom he m. Sept. 24, 1726, and was baptized in the original Dutch Church, Oct. 15, 1746. Said Peter owned a farm of 31 acres extending from 31st to 34th Streets from about 350 feet east of Broadway to about 500 feet west of Sixth Avenue. This he devised at his death, 1769, to his four sons Wessell, John, William, and Samuel. The entire property was owned eventually by the latter, who d. in 1797 leaving a will whereby three acres of the farm were bequeathed to his son Samuel, he who was married in 1813. In 1827, when he sold it for \$6000, he signed his name van Norden, and in the conveyance calls attention to the fact that it came to him under the former spelling.

William Burnham, the jovial proprietor of the village tavern, and his wife Eliza Beck became members on confession Jan. 30, 1823. Dr. Gunn baptized these of their children: James Carlton, Mary Louise, Charles, Julia Maria, Harriet Newell, and Cordelia Matilda. Because of inhibition from the communion table, in that he persisted in keeping the tavern "open" on the Sabbath, he transferred his allegiance, and when he

died, March 3, 1850, in his seventy-first year his remains were deposited on the 5th in the public vault in St. Michael's churchyard. His wife died Aug. 22, aged 67, and was placed beside him two days later. Of the sons James C. ("Col. Jim," as he was familiarly known) was the last survivor. He was commissioned Lieut. Col. Sept. 27, 1847, and after an honorable career as commander of the N. Y. Volunteers in the Mexican War he was taken off while yet a young man by disease contracted in the service. He never married. His sister Harriet m. in 1842 Frederick Lyman Talcott, who after an experience in mercantile business with his father, Noah Talcott, established in 1858 the banking house of Talcott & Sons, the junior partners being Frederick L., Jr., and August Belmont Talcott. William Burnham's sister Ann m. Lawrence van Buskirk. Three of their children were baptized Sept. 30, 1831, by Dr. Gunn; viz. Caroline, Sylvester Swift, and William Lawrence. Sylvester S. m. Sarah Josephine Gassner and had a child Virginia Talcott, who was baptized by Domine van Aken. Daniel Gassner, her father, came to Bloomingdale in 1828, when he bought the Samuel A. Lawrence property. Somerindyck Lane, which led to it, took the names of Lawrence and Gassner successively after the different owners. He was a witness at the marriage of his daughter Jane Elizabeth to William G. Tompkins July 2, 1847, at which the minister officiated and baptized their children on Dec. 20, 1854, to wit, Emily Louise and Charlotte Pride Tompkins. Daniel Gassner d. in 1854, leaving his realty to his eight children.

Domine van Aken m. his son John A. to Helen, daughter of Matthew Kyle, a Scotchman, and baptized two of their children, viz. John Weyman and Susan

Cornelia, 1854. Kyle had sons William and Matthew. Another son of Daniel Gassner was Matthew. Peter Gassner was a brother of Daniel. He was a grocer. His daughter Elizabeth C. Gassner d. at Lake Mohegan, Westchester Co., N. Y. July 31, 1907. Isabella B. Gassner m. John Weyman and had a child baptized at St. Michael's 1853.

Rachel Westerfield joined on confession Feb. 1, 1827, and her husband Cornelius Feb. 2, 1828. They had been m. by Dr. Gunn Dec. 7, 1822, who also baptized these children, viz.: Catherine Jane, m. Apr. 26, 1843, John Waite, d. Sept. 16, 1859; William Edwin; Rachel; Mary Elizabeth, d. Oct. 14, 1841, intestate and unm.; Emma Delia. By the will of Jane Cozine Ackerman, dated March 2, 1837, said Rachel Westerfield, her daughter, was bequeathed all testatrix's lands in Bloomingdale, a portion of the Cozine Farm, for and during her life. Immediately after her death said property was to vest in the above grandchildren, share and share alike. To the eldest, Catherine Jane, was bequeathed the place on which her grandmother resided, fronting on the Bloomingdale Road, to her and her heirs forever. Certain portions of said life estate Rachel Westerfield conveyed to her two infant children, Emma D. and Rachel Westerfield, in 1842, which property was partitioned and sold at their petition three years later. The mother d. Sept. 11, 1842, aged 45 years and 2 mos., leaving her husband Cornelius and all the above-named children, at which time only the elder had married. She had George W. and Anna Frances Waite. The daughter Rachel m. William M. Day in 1855. Cornelius Westerfield was elected Deacon June 21, 1838, was appointed Treasurer Oct. 23, and Clerk of Consistory Feb. 14, 1839. He became Elder

July 16, 1840. At the same session John Waite, a child of the Church, who was to become his son-in-law, was elected Deacon and Treasurer in his stead. The August meeting was held at Waite's house. Both were re-elected to their respective offices on July 25, 1842. Mr. Westerfield resigned both as Elder and Clerk and Waite as Treasurer Nov. 29, 1843. The latter served for a month or so thereafter as Deacon. He was the son of William Waite and Margaret, the dau. of Deacon Webbers, who were m. by Dr. Gunn Feb. 23, 1809.

Robert Carss joined the communion in April, 1829. He was m. by Domine van Aken Feb. 15, 1852, to Joanna Gordon and was elected Deacon Jan. 13, 1858, which position he filled until chosen Elder Feb. 1, 1861. He d. in office July 13, 1869. His brother John m. (1) Catherine dau. of Thomas J. Emmons the Elder and (2) Marion Bissland, a teacher in the Orphan Asylum, in 1857, she having been baptized May 5, 1850. Two of their children, John Bissland and Mary Catherine Carss, were baptized by the minister.

Domine Francis Marschalk Kip was called as a successor to the lamented Dr. Gunn, July 8, 1830. He came from one of the oldest families of New Amsterdam and his descent was as follows:

1. Isaac, m. (1) Catalina Hendricks de Suyers, Feb. 8, 1653.
2. Jacobus, b. Aug. 25, 1666, d. Feb. 28, 1753; m. (2) Rachel Swarthout, 1695.
3. Isaac, d. July 2, 1762; m. Jan. 7, 1720, Cornelia, dau. Leonard Lewis, Alderman, New York city.
4. Leonard, b. 1725, d. 1804; m., 1763, Elizabeth, dau. Francis Marschalk of New York city.
5. Isaac Lewis, b. 1767, d. 1837; m. Sarah Smith of

Elizabethtown, N. J., who were the parents of the Domine.

From the *N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Record* of Jan., 1889, p. 12, these additional facts are gleaned: Dr. Kip was the youngest son of Isaac L. Kip, a law partner of the Hon. Brockholst Livingston, Assistant Register of the Court of Chancery and from 1817 to the day of his death (Jan. 20, 1837) Treasurer of the Corporation of the Collegiate Church, of which he became President in 1830. The son's educational advantages were of the highest order. After graduation at Columbia College he entered his father's office, where he pursued the study of law for two years, when impelled by religious motives he entered the Theological Seminary, was licensed by the Classis of New York April 21, 1830, and ordained Aug. 8, in the Church at Harsenville. The following year he was transferred by the Classis to the mission in East 9th Street, on the present site of the Wanamaker store. His success was so great that from this mission grew the organization which erected the House of Worship at the corner of 4th Street and Lafayette Place. Mr. Kip now received several calls and decided in favor of the old historic stone church at Fishkill, where he was installed Nov. 8, 1836. This was the church of his love. A ministry of 35 years followed, almost romantic in its faithfulness, usefulness, and beauty. His long pastorate included the most eventful period of our national history and on all questions involving virtue or vice, patriotism or disloyalty, right or wrong, this pulpit was never silent; its trumpet blew no uncertain sound, yet its utterances were so fortified and tempered by so wise an admixture of sterling integrity and affection that prejudice was disarmed and all strife prevented. His sermons were

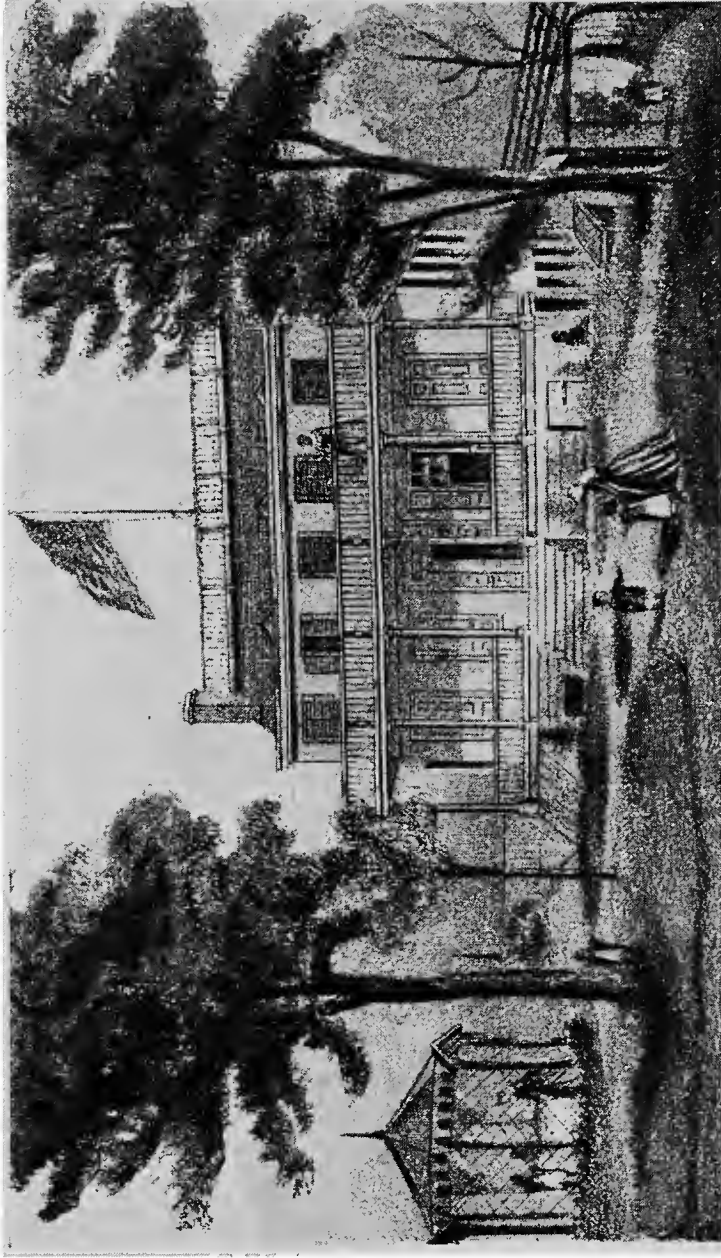
always the result of deep thought and careful study. His Sabbath ministrations were full of the Cross. He loved the ministry with an intensity of devotion and he was beloved by his people with a fervency rarely accorded to any one individual. His memory will ever be regarded as a benediction to both the church and the place. In 1854 Dr. Kip visited Europe, where his letters of introduction enabled him to be entertained by men of eminence. This journey was ever a source of pleasure during the remainder of his life. In 1857 he was President of the General Synod at Utica and the same year received the degree of D.D. from Columbia. In 1860 he was elected trustee of Rutgers College. Early in the decade of the seventies Dr. Kip resigned at Fishkill and soon accepted the pastorate of the united Churches of Richmond and Huguenot, Staten Island, and was appointed chaplain of the Seaman's Retreat, then under charge of the State Legislature. He resigned his Staten Island charge in 1881 to officiate as chaplain of the city institutions on Ward's and Randall's Islands. Early in 1883 the American Seaman's Friend Society appointed Dr. Kip their chaplain and this was the closing work of his long life. Here he was diligent and faithful in his service and exceedingly popular in the institutions with officers, physicians, nurses, and patients. He was taken ill while on duty, resigned May 1, and died the 28th of that month.

Dr Kip was a man of many attainments, well versed in the ancient languages—Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. In his seventieth year he was appointed examiner in the latter tongue by the Classis of New York because of superior accomplishments. A theologian and historian of parts, he delighted in antiquarian research.

His reminiscences of his native city were exceedingly entertaining and amusing. He m. Mary Rogers, daughter of James Ashton Bayard and granddaughter of Col. Bayard, all of the historic Delaware family. She was also a granddaughter of the Rev. John Rodgers, D.D., first pastor of the Wall Street Presbyterian Church. She was the first accession to membership during her husband's tenure at Bloomingdale, bearing a letter from the 8th Presbyterian Church.

The Bayards are descended from Samuel Bayard and Anne, the stately sister of Gov. Stuyvesant. The latter, a widow, accompanied her brother to New Amsterdam in 1647, bringing with her her three sons. The Delaware family came from Petrus Bayard, sometime Deacon of the Dutch Church at New Amsterdam, who removed to Bombay Hoeck, an island of 600 acres in the South River which Gov. Andros granted him in 1675. The Rev. Dr. Rodgers, then pastor of St. George's Presbyterian Church in Delaware and an intimate friend and confidential adviser of Gen. Washington, m. Elizabeth, the daughter of Col. Peter Bayard, son of Samuel and grandson of Petrus, and it was his daughter Eliza who m. James A. Bayard, the son of Col. John, of the Penn. Committee of Safety, a great grandson of Petrus. He was the father of Mrs. Kip and of James A. Bayard, the distinguished statesman who was U. S. Commissioner to Ghent. For this service he was appointed to succeed John Quincy Adams at St. Petersburg, but was seized with an alarming illness and hastened home to die. Col. John Bayard removed from Philadelphia to New Brunswick after the war, where he became a presiding judge, trustee of Rutgers College, and in 1790 Mayor of that city. He d. Jan. 7, 1807, in his 69th year, and his





THE HAVEMEYER MANSION AT COLUMBUS CIRCLE  
As it appeared when used as a home and school for soldiers' children, 1864



remains were interred in the churchyard of the first Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Kip d. before the Dominine and two sons and three daughters survived them.

Stephen N. Bayard was a subscriber and a pewholder in the second House of Worship. He m. Mary, sister of Abraham K. Beekman, who survived her husband and d. Dec. 2, 1831, intestate and without issue. Bayard was much interested in the introduction of canals in New York, and one of his early trips into the interior of the State took place in 1791, when he was accompanied by Jeremiah van Rensselaer, Gen. Philip van Cortlandt, and Elkanah Watson, with the object of scrutinizing opinions on the subject of inland navigation. Watson was a projector of the canal system and of agricultural societies. In 1814 Bayard had an office at 69 Pearl Street and a residence on the Bowery at the Two-Mile Stone.

Frederick Christian Havemeyer had previously attended divine service, but it is not known that he owned a pew before 1831. He lived at present Columbus Circle, having acquired in 1817 for \$2100 blocks Nos. 23 and 24, which had been set off to Hyder Somerindyck in partition. This land lay between 57th and 59th Streets from Broadway to Ninth Ave. and thereon he built his mansion. He and his brother William came from Germany in 1799 and were the ancestors of the two branches of the family in New York. They founded the firm of Wm. and F. C. Havemeyer, which engaged in sugar-refining there in 1807, in Vandam St., in which year the son of the junior partner, bearing his father's name, was born, and became the father of Henry Osborne Havemeyer. F. C. Havemeyer, Sr., d. intestate Sept. 20, 1841, leaving him sur-

viving his widow Catherine and these children who were communicants, viz.:

Frederick C. Havemeyer, Jr., who after spending two years at Columbia College entered the paternal establishment as an apprentice. In 1828 he became associated with his cousin William in the firm under the original style, and after the death of his father undertook the management of the latter's large estate. For some years he travelled thereafter, when he again entered business and in 1855 organized the firm of Havemeyer, Townsend & Co., which later became Havemeyer & Elder. In 1831 he m. Sarah Osborne, daughter of Christopher Townsend, one of his business associates.

Charlotte, wife of William I. Eyer.

Catherine E., wife of Warren Harriot. The name Harriot appears in the church records.

Susanna W., wife of Henry Senft.

Mary R., who intermarried with John I. Northrop in Feb., 1850.

Charles H., had a wife Mary.

Diederich M., had a wife Mary.

George L., had a wife Eliza.

Edward A., had a wife Sophia S. and d. s. p. April 2, 1853.

Certain lots of their father's realty purchase were sold as the result of a partition suit commenced in the Supreme Court Dec. 13, 1852. The Mansion was used as a home for soldiers' children during the Civil War.

Thomas J. Emmons had been m. by Dr. Gunn May 15, 1824, to Maria Shurtliff, and holds the palm for service, which extended over a period of forty-three years. His name appears first as a member in Oct., 1832, when he and his second wife, Emily Lindeman,

joined the communion on confession. He was elected Deacon Jan. 21, 1838, and became Treasurer Nov. 29, 1843. In 1854 (Jan. 25) he was raised to the eldership; represented Consistory at Classis April 18, for the first time, and was appointed Clerk July 23, 1860. As Treasurer he was deputized to invest the proceeds of the sale of the original church lot the following month. The Board had met at his house desultorily, but beginning in 1868 it assembled there (No. 245 West 20th St.) regularly for fully two years, during which time the second House of Worship had been removed and the new Chapel opened for service. By his first wife, Maria, Mr. Emmons became the father of six children, viz:

William Thomas,

Mary Catherine,

Horatio, were baptized by Dr. Gunn.

Maria; as she was ill the baptism was privately performed by Domine Kip in 1830.

Edward Augustus, bap. by Domine van Aken in 1836.

Mary, bap. by Domine van Aken in 1838, the mother having died March 2d of that year.

The wife of Domine van Aken, Eliza W. Gulick, was taken into the fold Aug. 21, 1835, by certificate. On April 22, 1840, their son Gulick was born, and was baptized in September by John Knox, D.D. At the age of twenty-three he was m. by his father to Elizabeth Jennett, daughter of Capt. James and Jennett (Bogert) Kearny, in the presence of Archibald K. Kearny, Hamilton B. Holmes, and John Mc. Bogert. She was a descendant of John W. Kearny, who m. Anne daughter of Robert and Lady Mary (Alexander) Watts and d. in New York city Friday, May 24, 1907. Funeral services were held at Grace Dutch Reformed

Church, 7th Ave, and 54th St., on the 27th at 11 A.M. Her husband joined the communion Feb. 6, 1856, served as assistant minister to his father for a time, was dismissed to the 23d St. Presbyterian Church in 1864, and d. Oct. 20, 1872. They had no issue. The Domine's brother John had two children baptized, according to the records: Alexander Gulick and Enoch. The former, when his uncle became incapacitated, was called in 1881 as associate pastor. Enoch m. Mary Farr Nov. 27, 1877, and his children, Enoch Chester and Harold, were baptized by the Domine.

The original owners of the territory which so largely composed Harsenville began to figure in the church history at an early period. James C. Somerindyke was m. by Dr. Gunn in 1817 and Mary Bates, his wife, became a member Aug. 4, 1837. On the same date a number of their children were baptized by Do. van Aken, viz.: Martha Elizabeth, Caroline, William Henry, Charles Lallemand and Whitfield Skellorn. Their first child, George, had been baptized in 1818 by Dr. Gunn. Domine van Aken married Caroline Somerindyke in 1850 to Thomas Shepherd and baptized her son Thomas Franklin in 1854. Cornelia Somerindyke of Haerlem, the wife of Arthur McCarter, joined the communion Nov. 14, 1835, and her husband followed her example Feb. 3, 1837. George W. Somerindyck, son of John Somerindike (in all of which ways the family name was spelled), the settler at Bloomingdale, joined May 1, 1840. He was the only one of his father's line who became connected with the church. Theophilus Hardenbrook, whose brother William A. was the husband of George W.'s sister Margaret, was m. by Dr. Gunn. Another family who had large landed interests in the neighborhood, the Dyckmans, had

removed from Bloomingdale prior to the founding of the Church.

The Leggetts were a branch of the noted Westchester family. Isaac Leggett of Bloomingdale m. Barbara, a daughter of Charles and Catherine Kelly, whose farm adjoined the Webbers tract on the south. This was a part of Wolfert Webbers's land mentioned in the chapter "The First Consistory," which Deacon Webbers sold to said Kelly in 1792. Catherine Kelly, the wife, d. July 3, 1800, leaving her husband and these children: Catherine Feitner, Barbara Leggett, and Mary, wife of Francis Child, Jr. Charles Kelly divided the tract vested in him into six lots, three fronting on the Bloomingdale Road and three on Verdant Lane, later Leggett or Feitner Lane. Two of these lots he conveyed to each of his three daughters above named. That to Barbara Leggett was dated 1798. John H. Dusenberry purchased a portion of it in 1825 (he had been m. to Sarah Leggett in 1818 by Dr. Gunn) and the balance was sold to David S. Brown in 1833. Mrs. Leggett joined the organization in 1840 and d. March 29, 1841, a widow, her husband having passed from earth during the previous year. Their children had been baptized by Dr. Gunn, to wit: John William, Kelly, Mary Ann, Jane, William Varian, Barbary Ann, Henrietta, and Tamar Varian. The Varian connection will be noted, Mayor Varian's mother being a Leggett of West Farms. Do. van Aken m. the above-mentioned Tamar Varian Leggett to Charles Wilmott, both of Bloomingdale, in 1841.

Catharine Feitner received a deed of her portion in November, 1802. Her husband Francis Feitner, d. Jan. 4, 1833, and she Oct. 19, 1834. She left her sons Peter and Charles executors. Besides these elder children

there were Elizabeth, wife of Balaam Ackerman, Francis, Jr., George, Hannah wife of John Cornish, Daniel, and Catherine Ann. Domine van Aken m. Daniel, 1838, to Mahala Clinn and their daughter Mary Catherine to Lawrence Deyo of Shawangunk, N. Y., 1864. The Feitners were of German ancestry. Of the sons John had a wife Hannah, and George Elsey, in 1835.

There were two Wilson families in Harsenville. The one of which we ken is that of Jotham who came from New London,, Conn. in his "teens." He m., 1827, Sarah, the daughter of Richard Darke, who was baptized by Dr. Gunn in 1815. In the Governor's room at City Hall hangs a copy of the Declaration of Independence in Mr. Wilson's handwriting, dedicated to the N. Y. Public School Society. His wife was born on the present triangle lying between 72nd and 74th Streets, Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue, before the streets were opened. Wilson lived at 64th St. and the Bloomingdale Road and here all his children but one were born. It took two pews to accommodate his numerous progeny. Being a Baptist, none of the family were baptized by the minister and none became members. The names of the twelve children were Jotham, Jr., Richard, Monmouth, John b. in N. J., Maria, George, Emma, Charles, Elizabeth, Jacob, William, and Kate. Maria was m. by Do. van Aken in 1862 to Isaac D. Blake, a native of Boston, Mass., resident in New York. Her brother George has been for many years the genial Secretary of the N. Y. Chamber of Commerce. Monmouth Wilson was at one time a Fire Commissioner.

The Darkes were English and were never naturalized. Besides Sarah Wilson, who was the eldest of the family, Richard Darke and Maria his wife had Henry and Maria,





Very truly yours  
P. Perit.

Portrait and signature of Pelatiah Perit, Esq., 20th President of the Chamber of Commerce; reproduced by courtesy of Mrs. W. S. Gilman



who were baptized by Dr. Gunn in 1815. Maria, the mother, died March 28, 1818, aged 37, and was buried in St. Michael's churchyard. Richard Darke, Jr., joined the communion Feb. 5, 1819, and a number of his children were baptized at St. Michael's in 1834. He d. that year and his widow, Elizabeth Holmes, entered the fold at Harsenville in 1853, and d. Apr. 16, 1859. John Darke and Margery Moore had John Moore, bapt. 1831 by Domine Kip; Mary Thompson, bapt. 1832 by Rev. John AlBurtis; and Helen Maria, bapt. 1833 by Rev. Wm. Labagh. Domine van Aken bapt. five children of Charles Darke, Sr. and Temperance Rebecca Hayden, his wife, in 1840 and another in 1841. He married George Darke and Mary Isabella Martin in 1841 in presence of Charles Darke and William B. Holmes. His wife was the daughter of George Martin who d. in 1831. Hannah Smith, his widow, joined Aug. 5, 1831, and was afterward the wife of James Riker. Besides the daughter Mary Isabella he left a son Jonathan C. Martin. George Martin in 1819 acquired a portion of the John Horn piece of the Hopper Farm which was partitioned in 1845, one of the commissioners appointed for that purpose being Thomas Addis Emmet.

The first mention the records make of Pelatiah Perit is in 1836, when he served on a special committee. He had that year purchased the Samuel Adams Lawrence property and moved into the Mansion with his second wife, Maria, the daughter of Daniel L. Coit of Norwich, who, for a short time, in the early part of the last century, was a merchant in New York of the firm of Howland & Coit. A Presbyterian by faith he took a pew at once and immediately entered into church work with enthusiasm. Then, at the age of fifty-one

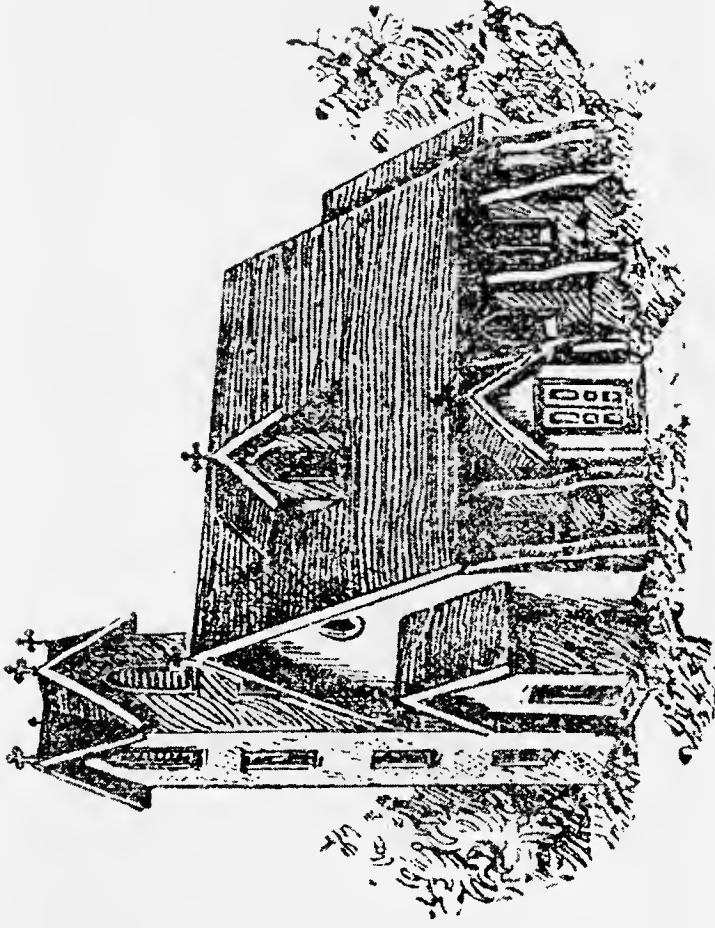
and childless, his interest in the orphans, who attended services there, grew during his residence contiguous to the Asylum and led him to teach Sabbath-school both at the institution and the Church. He was a power both by inclination and in a financial way. The son of John Perit, a merchant and a descendant of one of the earlier ministers of the French Huguenot Church of New York city, he was born at Norwich, Conn., his mother being a daughter of Pelatiah Webster, a Yale graduate of 1746 and a merchant in Philadelphia during the latter part of the XVIII century. Young Perit entered Yale at the age of thirteen (1798) and graduated four years later. He came under strong religious influences while a student and at the close of his course expected to study for the ministry. This purpose had to be abandoned because of the partial failure of his health. In his nineteenth year he became a clerk in an importing house in Philadelphia, in the interest of which he made several voyages to the West Indies and South America. He used to describe the pleasure he experienced while escorting Alexander von Humboldt about the city on the explorer's arrival from Mexico, who came with introductions to the house where he was employed. In 1809 he removed to New York city and formed with a kinsman the firm of Perit & Lathrop. This partnership did not long survive, and Mr. Perit entered the house of Goodhue & Co., with which he remained connected until his retirement from business. This famous Quaker firm had an unsurpassed reputation in the shipping and commercial trade with merchants in widely distant countries, and had confidential relations with houses of distinction throughout the world. Mr. Goodhue had a country-seat in Bloomingdale Village as early as 1824. Its

exact location has not yet been fixed. Mr. Perit's name never appeared in the title of the firm, but his connection with it was well known. The part he had in conducting its wide correspondence kept him interested in the commercial progress of every country and led to the maintenance of a wide acquaintance in different parts of the globe. His business life developed another element of his character—an earnest interest in religious and philanthropic enterprises and particularly in everything which pertained to the advancement of Christian missions and the welfare of seamen. A mere enumeration of the unpaid positions to which he was called and to which he devoted a great deal of time would show how varied and how consistent were his labors for the good of his fellow-men. At different times he was President of the American Seaman's Friend Society, a trustee of the Sailors' Snug Harbor, and President of the Seamen's Bank for Savings. He was director, likewise, of many of the missionary and benevolent societies to which the Presbyterian Church gave its support. For forty years he was an officer of the American Bible Society, either as manager or vice-president. His one political office was in 1857, when the peace of the city was seriously endangered by a contest between the "Municipal" and the "Metropolitan" police. Appointed a member of the Board of Police Commissioners his fairness and good sense were serviceable in the restoration of order.

Mr. Perit served as twentieth President of the Chamber of Commerce, the influence of which was very marked during his term and especially in the early years of the Civil War. Two events which occurred at this time were very noteworthy and gave him an opportunity to display his social abilities in a marked

way, namely the reception of the Prince of Wales and that of the Japanese Embassy. His manners were reserved and dignified and his stature of nearly six feet and well-proportioned figure gave him a commanding presence when called on to preside at public meetings. He was a constant reader of reviews and historical and theological writings, but his chief title to fame is as a man of affairs, whose mind was inspired by an intelligent and systematic interest in the progress of mankind. He was a patriot who did much in leading the name and influence of his country to the support of the best ideas in religious, moral, political, diplomatic and financial lines. The Calvinism of his Huguenot ancestry and the financial bent of his grandfather were apparent in his long career. A few years before his death he began gradually to withdraw from business cares, and in 1859-60 sold his Bloomingdale property and built a house in New Haven, Conn. He died there March 8, 1864, but his widow survived for many years. In Hunt's *Merchant's Magazine* for April, 1864, can be found a commemorative discourse by Dr. Leonard Bacon.

The original Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale was organized in 1853 through the instrumentality of Mr. Perit. Some members of the Church at Harsenville and others who had been affiliated with the Presbyterian Church or whose early training and inclination leaned toward that denomination met together for the purpose, and the society then and there formed maintained at first religious meetings in the houses of members. The only communicant of the Dutch Church who withdrew with Mr. Perit, as far as we know, was Jane Somerville. She had a pew there and joined Oct. 30, 1840, during the tenure of Domine van



ORIGINAL EDIFICE OF THE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1854

N. B.—The location of the present church as stated on page 381 should read 86th St. and Amsterdam Avenue





Aken. Her children were at this time connected with the newer church. A modest frame edifice was built a few years after the organization "in the fields" near 84th St. and Eleventh (West End) Avenue. The approach was by way of present 85th Street, "across lots and around a little hill." The site was open on all sides and a view of the church was easily obtained from a distance. James Lenox assisted financially and otherwise in the enterprise, as did Dr. Patton, afterward of Princeton. The first pastor was I. S. Davison, D.D. Lewis C. Bayles was called March 12, 1862, and installed April 23. His parents lived in a Gothic cottage which stood on the northwest corner of 79th Street and West End Avenue until very recent times. Mr. Bayles was obliged to seek health in California and died, a young man, at San Francisco of consumption, Aug. 15, 1864. The Rev. Anson P. Atterbury, D.D., who had been connected with the society for a year previously, succeeded to the pastorate April 20, 1880. It was largely through his efforts that the present beautiful building of the Park Presbyterian Church, at 84th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, was erected. It may appropriately be called a child of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church.

The records, in Domine van Aken's hand, say that Caspar Meier had "communed here for many years, but never fully united with us till now," Aug. 3, 1838. He had been elected Elder, June 21st, and served until his decease. The Consistory, following the custom, met at his house on occasion, and he officiated for a time as Clerk. He came of families well known and distinguished. The eldest son of Diedrick Meier, Senator and afterwards Burgomaster of the city of Bremen, and his wife, the daughter of Diedrick Smidt, Burgomaster,

he was born there Sept. 20, 1774. In his twenty-second year he took passage on the *Olive*, J. Hovey, Jr., master, bound for New York, where he arrived Sept. 7, 1796. In October, he obtained a situation with the house of Peppin & Satterthwait, merchants, at 87 Water Street, which he left nine months thereafter to enter upon mercantile life on his own account. He now returned to Germany to seek connections with business houses there. In his diary he notes the day of his return, Oct. 12, 1798, as the date of his establishment as a merchant, with a store in Gouverneur Lane, near Water Street. In 1801, he married Eliza Catherine, daughter of the Rev. John Christopher Kunze, D.D., Pastor of the Lutheran Church, and granddaughter of the Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, D.D., the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America, and on Feb. 12, 1803, became a citizen. The following year he hired from the Fisher family their abode (the Somerindyck house at the Road and present 75th Street), where his eldest daughter was born. This experience with Bloomingdale was so agreeable that in 1807 he bought five acres on the river located between what came to be designated as 118th and 119th Streets, and built a summer residence which in 1812 became his permanent home. In 1823 he enlarged it to nearly twice the original size and later added a front gable in order to provide rooms for his two grandsons while on vacation. The arrangement of the grounds was formal according to the taste of the times; a lane led from the Bloomingdale Road gate in a straight line toward the front door, bordered by cherry trees and curved around a circle flanked by a hedge and flower garden. On either side of this lane were fenced pasture lots with borders of apple and pear trees, and a stable



*Caspar Meier*

Portrait and signature of Caspar Meier, Esq., founder of Oelrichs & Co.,  
from the original painting in the Chamber of Commerce



to the north. Fine large weeping willows stood around the house; hence the name "Willow Bank." A dense growth of forest trees extended down the steep slope to the river's edge, through which an opening allowed of a superb water view. The property remained thus with little change until condemned for Riverside Park. Mr. Meier died there Feb. 2, 1839.

He was a director of the N. Y. Mutual Insurance Co. and a vice-president of the German Society, in the founding of which his father-in-law, Dr. Kunze, had been prominent. A member of the Chamber of Commerce, his portrait painted in 1824 adorns its gallery. He also held the post of Bremen consul at this port from June 12, 1827, until 1837. The business which he founded became in 1800 C. & H. H. Meier, the junior partner being his younger brother, who reached New York in 1799. The firm's name was changed in 1826 to Caspar Meier & Company, Laurence Henry von Post, whom he found in Bremen on one of his visits, having become a partner. In 1836, Herman Oelrichs was admitted. The surviving partners would have retained the style of the old house had the law of New York at that time permitted such use after the owner had ceased to be a member, so on Feb. 14, 1839, the title was changed to L. H. von Post & Oelrichs. The senior partner having died the following December, George Wm. Kruger was taken into partnership and the firm became Oelrichs & Kruger. On the latter's retirement in 1850, the name was again altered, to Oelrichs & Co. (composed of Herman and Edwin A. Oelrichs), which it has since retained. The business is now in the hands of Caspar Meier's grandson, Herman Caspar von Post, who has been its senior since

1861, and his great-grandson Gustav Henry Schwab. Mr. Meier's issue were:

Henrietta Margaret, b. 1804, m. by Dr. Gunn to Laurenz Henry von Post, May 24, 1827. Their son, Herman Caspar was baptized by the same minister May 24, 1828, the anniversary of the union. The father was the son of Simon Hermann von Post of Bremen, where he was born Feb. 3, 1800. He died at Havana, Cuba, Dec. 19, 1839, while on a trip for his health. His wife had died in 1836. Mr. von Post succeeded to the office of Bremen consul in 1837, which position was held by a member of the firm as long as the consulate existed at this port. After his death, Herman Oelrichs held it, after whom came Edwin A. Oelrichs and then Gustav Schwab. H. C. von Post married, in 1853, Jane Scott, daughter of William Whitlock, Jr.

Emily Maria, b. 1806, m. by Dr. Gunn to Albert Smith, M.D., who was born in 1798 and d. 1884. She had died in 1872.

John Diedrick, b. Dec. 22, 1807. He accompanied his brother-in-law, Mr. von Post, to Bremen in 1826 and there entered the office of H. H. Meier & Co., his uncle's firm. He received his education at Dr. Eigenbrodt's school at Jamaica, L. I., and afterwards at Columbia College. His father decided to send him abroad, so he remained at the latter institution but two years. Returning home toward the end of 1830, he entered the family office, where he became a partner in 1832. He died, unmarried, May 21, 1834.

Eliza Catherine, bap. by Dr. Gunn, 1814.

Mary Kunigundi, bap. by Dr. Gunn, 1816. She m., 1841, James Punnett (1813-1870), President of the Bank of America. She d. 1902. She lived at "Wil-



Portrait of his wife Cornelia de Peyster  
Livingston  
By courtesy of the late Mrs. Charles  
Havens Hunt



*G W Livingston*

Portrait and signature of Gerard William  
Livingston, Esq.





low Bank" with her mother until her death in 1863, when the place was sold.

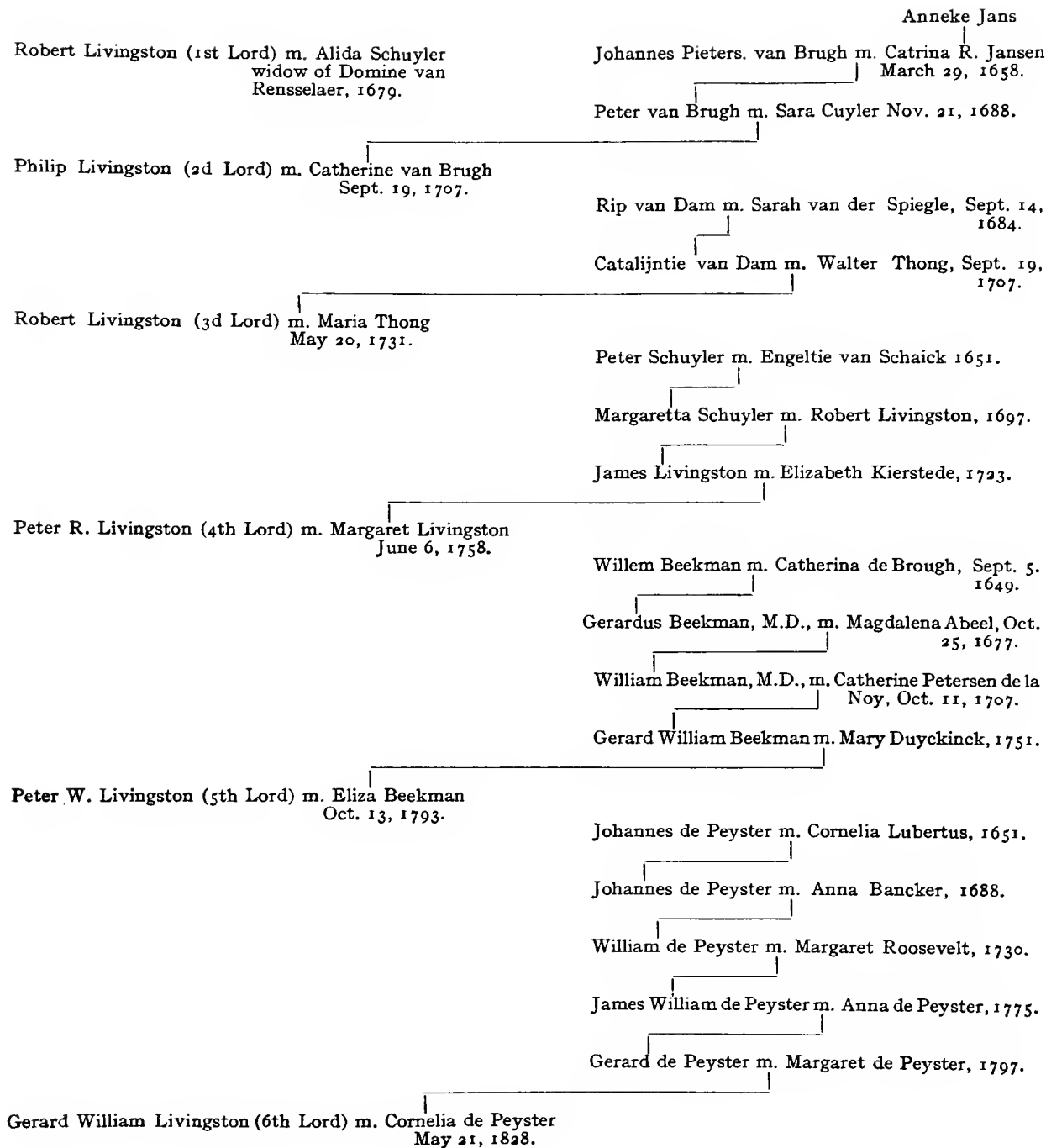
John Jasper of Londonderry, Ireland, settled in Harsenville in the early thirties. He lived on the west side of the Bloomingdale Road on the southwest corner of present 69th Street. He later bought land of Jacob Harsen on the Nevada Apartment site, and afterward the Isaac Caryl plot, which adjoined it on the south; and in 1847 built a two-story store which was the first brick building in the village and stood until the construction of the Nevada, which covered the block. Eventually he owned the entire triangle between 69th and 70th Streets, the Road and Tenth Avenue, with the exception of the north corner, and sold his possession for \$23,000 in 1874-5 to Rudolph Whitman. Domine van Aken officiated at his marriage to Catharine Thompson in 1837. Their first three children, viz., John, b. 1837, Maria, b. 1840, and George Washington, b. 1842, were baptized at St. Michael's Church; but the others, to wit, Robert Thompson, Harriet Ann, William Henry, Theodore Adee, Joseph Robinson, and Emma Angeline were baptized by Domine van Aken. John, the eldest son, served in the Board of Education for forty-five years, during part of which time he was Superintendent.

Gerard William Livingston, the sixth Lord of the Manor in direct line, lived in a large double frame house on the west side of the Bloomingdale Road, between present 108th and 109th Streets. He was a merchant at 3 South Street, having in 1825 a city residence at 323 Greenwich Street and in 1831 at 101 Prince Street. He and his wife Cornelia de Peyster joined the communion August 4, 1838. Elected Elder, July 25, 1842, the Consistory met at his Bloomingdale

seat in the usual rotation. He acted as Secretary *pro tem.* and represented the congregation at Classis. Having removed to Hackensack, where he remained four years, he resigned in 1844. On his return to town, he became an Elder in the Brick Church, corner of Fifth Avenue and 37th Street, and here his funeral services were held, thence to Woodlawn. He d. May 21, 1868. His descent includes so many interesting lines that it is indited in the accompanying table.

Their issue were Edward Mortimer, b. 1837, bap. by Domine van Aken, d. in infancy; William Howard, d. in infancy; Anna de Peyster; Cornelia Margareta and Emily Maria, b. 1842 and bap. by Domine van Aken. Anna de Peyster m. Charles Havens Hunt, 1855, lawyer and Assistant U. S. District Attorney under Theodore Sedgwick, and author of the *Life of Edward Livingston* 1864. She d. May 2, 1907, and left issue. Cornelia Margareta, m. Jules Petit of Parsons & Petit, commission merchants. He was the son of Edward Petit of Bordeaux, who came to New York to retrieve his fortunes. After his death, his widow opened the school in Bloomingdale in the Richmond house heretofore mentioned. Later, she removed to Waverly Place, and there she died. Emily Maria Livingston m. Edward C. Lord of the firm of Lord, Day & Lord, and left issue. The eldest son, William Howard, was b. at Bloomingdale and all the children lived there. The youngest was about the age of six when the removal to New Jersey took place.

The estate of Jonathan Lawrence, who was at one time in the navy and was known accordingly among his friends as the Commodore, was located on the east side in the seventies and was bounded northwardly





by the Delafield estate. His widow Patience, the sister of Recorder Riker, lived on the property until her death Feb. 22, 1851. She joined the Church Oct. 31, 1840, and used to drive across present Central Park via the Harsenville road in order to attend service.

Jonas Hanaway, b. in England Aug. 23, 1788, was twice married there. He settled in Bloomingdale in 1826 with Martha Wilson (widow Beard) his (2) wife, whom he married in 1832. They lived in the parsonage on the Harsen gift. She was b. in Hertfordshire in 1791 and d. in 1890; became a church member, May 5, 1842, and her husband followed Nov. 4th. He d. 1871. George Hanaway, his son by the first wife, married Martha Moore, who united May 1, 1845, and their children were baptized by Domine van Aken, viz. Maria, James, Sarah, and Samuel. Two of them were married by him, namely: Maria (united May 5, 1866) to Samuel Bawden, and Sarah (united Feb. 5, 1870) to Daniel Bremer. Samuel joined at the same time as Sarah and served as Deacon and Superintendent of the Sabbath-school. He was elected Elder Feb. 4, 1882, and was installed by the Rev. A. J. Park on the 21st. He presided at the organ for a time and later became Clerk of the Consistory. He is a professor at the City College. James is dead. James, the brother of George, also by the first wife, m. Margaret Kelly in the Church, 1854. She brought a certificate from the Church of Blairs, Scotland, and both were admitted Feb. 3, 1855. She is dead, but he still lives, very infirm. Four children, Elizabeth, Margaret, Jane, and Joseph, were bap. by the Domine, as also were the Bawden and Bremer children. The Rev. James C. Richmond married Sarah Hanaway, their sister, to George Branch Magrath, April 26, 1841, "at the parsonage of the

Dutch Reformed Church, Harsenville" reads the record. Their first child was baptized by Domine van Aken, in 1842.

Amelia Hanaway, a daughter by the second wife, united with the Episcopal Church and was the first teacher in the House of Mercy when it was located in an old frame building at 88th Street and Eighth Avenue, and was associated with Mrs. Richmond in founding the institution. She taught in the public schools for a few years. She died in 1862, at the age of twenty-nine.

Emily Hanaway, her sister, came to live in the parsonage at the age of one year (1836), resided there for eight years, when the family removed to a house on an elevation at 75th Street and Ninth Avenue, and here she stayed for seventeen years. She continued to reside in the ward until 1896, when she settled in New Jersey. She learned to read in the same public school in 82nd Street in which she taught later, and was Principal for twelve years of the school in West 40th Street. She united with the Church May 3, 1850, and taught in the Sunday-school for seventeen years. She m., in 1891, the Rev. Peter Stryker, pastor of the Reformed Church in 34th Street. He had been pastor prior to its removal from Broome Street. We are indebted very largely to a journal kept by Mrs. Stryker for the contents of the chapter which follows.

Mary Ann Hanaway, another sister, m. James Mackay Tyler, May 5, 1845. She died in England in 1897.

William James Beard, grandson of Martha Wilson Beard and son of William Edward Beard, who remained in England, came to America, and joined the communion Aug. 5, 1865. He served in the Civil War.

Dealing with a list of members and attendants of a century's length, the data here preserved are far from complete. The selection of names is fragrant of old times, and as the date limit has been reached, so has our patience. What more appropriate than that, as the chapter began with the father, it should close with the son. General Garrit Hopper Striker was born twenty-one years prior to the organization of the church society and grew up in attendance on its services from its birth. He was at once selected as collector of pew rents and of subscriptions towards the building of the parsonage, and continued in the former capacity for years, at which time and thereafter he taught in the Sabbath-school. Although usually constant in attendance in the family pew during life, he did not join the membership until March 29, 1867, the anniversary of his eighty-third birthday.

He exhibited a marked aptitude for a military career. An early biographical sketch of him asserts that he had before his 22nd year proved himself a good soldier and thereafter an efficient officer, panting for service and eager for the attainment of those laurels which can be earned alone in such employ. At the age of 26 he was commissioned Lieutenant in the 5th N. Y. Regt, 2d Brigade of Infantry, under Col. J. W. Mulligan, with rank from March 25, 1809. On the breaking out of the war he was assigned as Captain of the 4th Company in the 5th Regt. of Volunteers, Isaac A. van Hook having succeeded Mulligan in command. During the excited period of fortification of Bloomingdale Heights, while he was living at Striker's Bay, he attended the different calls of his ward and was active in obtaining subscriptions and laborers. Meetings were often held at Rodgers's Tavern, at 70th Street and the

Road, and were attended by the neighbors in a united effort to hasten the erection of defences for the safety of their homes, that ward in which the work was carried on being the centre of active preparation. When not engaged in a military capacity Capt. Striker lent the enthusiasm of his youthful endeavors to stimulating others, to seeing that the family horses did their proper share at the works, and to collecting vegetables from the farm and attending to their distribution. His home was so near the line of defences that he passed much time during their construction on the ground and, with the assistance of his father's slaves, aided and abetted the progress of the work. The regiment to which he belonged was the last to be regularly designated by the Committee of Defence and it practically completed the works on the Heights. This regiment of detached militia and that under Lt.-Col. Dodge formed the Brigade commanded by General Mapes, who, on Oct. 22, 1814, tendered the officers and men thereof "his unfeigned thanks" for their soldierly appearance, stating that he did not believe the United States could "produce a corps, regular or militia, that could surpass, in exercise of the field, this brigade of militia infantry, transferred as it was in the short space of six weeks into a corps qualified to enter the lists and sustain a contest with veterans." These troops were reviewed by Governor Tompkins, Nov. 11th, and the *Columbian* said that their appearance did their officers honor and that their movements were so correct and regular in drill and science, that regular troops need not be ashamed thereof. "They contributed their full share," it adds "to inspire the citizens with the just confidence in their efficiency in any emergency." The Evacuation Day parade took place on Nov. 25th and, with military





*G. H. Striker*

Captain 5th Regiment, U. S. Volunteers, War of 1812  
Portrait and signature of General Garrit Hopper Striker, from the original  
painting in possession of the family



ardor undiminished, proved to be the greatest event of this kind since the Revolution. About ten thousand men were in line, which extended from Sugar Loaf (now Franklin) Street up Broadway to 23d Street. On December 1, 1814, Gen. Mapes issued formal orders to the 3d Brigade of detached militia, being about to be discharged from the service of the United States, in which he expressed to the officers, non-com's, and privates the high satisfaction he had constantly derived from their uniform and strict attention to discipline and their able and faithful performance of the duties the Government required and their fellow-citizens expected at their hands, and continued, "The brigade has given a character, a name, and a confidence to the militia which it never before possessed."

On March 22, 1816, Striker was promoted to the rank of Major in the 82nd Regt., 3d Brigade, commanded by Lieut. Col. Joseph D. Fay, and in regimental orders issued at this time, his former Colonel (van Hook) expressed himself in the warmest terms of Capt. Striker's "soldierly conduct and gentlemanly demeanor" while under his command. Promotion to the Lieut.-colonelcy of the same regiment followed, April 24, 1818. He reached the grade of Brigadier in 1828 and rose to the rank of Maj.-General in Feb., 1837. A "grand military ball" was tendered to him at the Apollo Rooms in 1846, at which he was presented with a service of plate, a gold medal, and a pair of "Revolutionary boots." The *Sun* of April 4th reported that the beauty and fashion of the city graced the occasion. *London Punch* printed a facetious diatribe anent the boots, with a picture thereof, which filled a page of that noted periodical.

Col. Striker, after his marriage to the daughter of

Capt. McDougal in 1818, continued to live at the Bay. The following year, his grandfather, John Hopper, died and then he removed to the latter's residence, "Rosevale," on the Hudson at the foot of what later became 53d Street. It was approached by the lane which his great-grandfather laid out from his homestead at the Bloomingdale Road and which ended at the mansion. It took the name Striker's Lane thereafter. Entrance was obtained to the grounds through two stone posterns leading to a road which divided around a circle lying immediately before the house and led to the family barns and stables. The old place was set in the forest with the gardens to the east, and on the west, massive trees to the water's edge. Trees such as were not deemed to be found within miles of the city towered overhead. Majestic peacocks guarded the portal and strutted about in august grandeur. Looking from the broad veranda, a superb river view met the gaze and in the immediate foreground one saw a goldfish pond, surrounded by a railing on which sat plump Muscovy drakes, which flew at one's approach and struck the water with a resounding splash. Descending the steps to and beyond the pond, winding walks, under the trees and by rocks and wild flowers and bushes, finally brought one to the billiard house, where an old-fashioned table, so large as to leave barely space to promenade around it, occupied the lower story. Upstairs were garnered the fruits and nuts for winter consumption. Continuing the walk, still under grand natural trees and along narrow meandering paths, the bath-house was reached, situated in a cove over the sandy floor of which flowed a stream whose sources were the springs in the pond above. The old soldier was a man of taste and culture and the con-

servatories were his great pleasure. The name "Rose-vale" was doubly appropriate, as a large share of the enclosed grounds were given to rose culture, the remainder being a valley sloping precipitously in places but generally gradually towards the river, the mansion itself being the line of demarkation.

Here the General maintained an unbounded hospitality and dwelt some fifty years, constantly adding to the charms of his garden, his particular hobby. His numerous friends and admirers flocked around him and the abode was the centre of hospitality for leading men of the nation. On one of the window panes in the parlor appeared the names of Lafayette, Kossuth, and Clay, scratched thereon with a diamond during their respective visits. "Old Bullion" Benton, Webster, Greeley, General Scott and other military celebrities, with a host of lesser lights, were welcome here. At the funerals of two of his distinguished friends during 1852 he acted first as aide in the procession in honor of the obsequies of Clay, July 20th and as pall-bearer for Webster he represented one of the then 31 States of the Union, Nov. 16th. The General was a conspicuous figure in the New York of his day, strikingly like his old friend Winfield Scott. It has been said of him that he united in his person the gentleman and the soldier, the high-spirited convivialist, the good husband, the tender father, the kind friend—in short all the qualities that were centred in the gentleman of the olden time. He departed this life at his home on April 15, 1868. The Rev. Dr. Hutton and Domine van Aken officiated at the ceremonies held there, when a vast concourse thronged the spacious mansion and lined the lane and the street as the procession passed and his remains were interred in Trinity Cemetery, where a plot had

been prepared owing to the contemplated demolition of his ancestral church and the consequent abandonment of the family vault. At one of the last services held there, his funeral discourse was preached by Domine van Aken, which was published in full in the *Christian Intelligencer*. In recognition of his active participation in the construction of the defences on Bloomingdale Heights, the descendants of those who aided therein, as represented by the Daughters of 1812, inscribed his name on the tablet placed on one of the buildings at Columbia University. He did not simply stand and wait, but served, and on Milton's theory, merits the honor. His son, James Alexander, who died July 19, 1900 the last of his generation, retained the family connection with the church of his grandfather, and was married by its minister.

Here follow the communicants not heretofore mentioned, to whose names are affixed some genealogical data. The date first given is that of membership.

1807, Mar.	29	Lawrence Lawrence	On confession.
"	Nov.	George Williams and Jane Ward, his wife	" "
1809, Mar.	30	John Barlow and Hannah, his wife	Upon certificate dated Dec. 4, 1808.
"	"	" Martha Cox, wife of Lawrence Hoffman	On confession.
1812, May	11	Mary Shurtliff, wife of Amasa G. Emmons	Upon certificate from church at Harlem; died March, 1839.
"	Nov.	2 Thomas G. Searls	Upon certificate from Rev. Dr. Elijah Parish, Byfield, Mass.
"	"	5 Hannah, wife of Wil- liam Stuart	Died March 3, 1815.



"ROSEVALE", THE MANSION OF GENERAL STRIKER, 1864





## Among Old-time Families

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1815, Apr.	9	John Moir	On certificate from Ass. Reformed Ch.
"	"	" Isabel Moir	On certificate from Ass. Reformed Ch.
1817, May	1	Sarah Hopkins, wife of John T. Stewart	On confession; dis- missed Nov. 10, 1820.
"	"	" Rachel van Braakel, wife of Nic. T. Hege- man	On certificate from Rev. Mr. Burk.
"	Aug.	1 Margaret Dobbs	On certificate from Kinderhook.
"	"	" Eliza Bayard Ritson	On confession.
1818, Feb.	1	John Wilson and Catherine Hutchi- son, his wife	On certificate from church in Greenwich.
"	Aug.	James Eddie and Elspet Fraser, his wife	On confession. On certificate.
1822, Aug.	2	Isaac D. Cole and Ann Maria Shatzel, his wife	" "
1823, Jan.	30	James G. Russel and Anne Risk, his wife	On confession " "
"	"	" Martha Burtis, wife of James Amory	Died Dec. 31, 1853, aged nearly 70.
1824, Aug.	1	Henrietta, wife of Theodore Mayer	Died 1826.
"	Nov.	1 Susan Kniffen, wife of John Williams	Both deceased 1830.
1825, Feb.	1	Margaret Scott, wife of Robert Kinkade	On confession.
"	Apr.	29 Sophia Brass, wife of Mr. J. Powis	Dismissed to Dr. Broadhead's church.
1827, Feb.	1	Martha Watt wife of Andrew Watt	
1828, Oct.	30	Mary Ann Jackson	On confession.

1829, Feb.		David Patterson	Died Oct. or Nov., 1838.
1831, Apr.	29	Lucy B. Allerton	On confession.
"	Nov.	5 Lewis Oakley and Mary B., his wife	On certificate from Presbyterian church.
1832, June	7	William Miller	Died 1849.
"	"	" Samuel Oakley and Abigail, his wife	On certificate from the Brick Church.
1835, Nov.	14	Mary Halden	Died June 6, 1838.
"	"	" Mary Patterson, wife of Capt. Hugh Gra- ham	Died 1845.
1836, Feb.	7	David Law	On certificate.
"	Apr.	4 Harriet, wife of Jo- siah Hoyt	" "
"	Nov.	4 Echley Fitch	" "
"	"	" Mrs. Margaret Waite	" "
1837, Aug.	4	Keziah, wife of Da- vid Law	" " Dismissed Dec. 31, 1856.
"	"	" Elizabeth Law	On certificate. Dis- missed, Decem. 31, 1856.
"	"	" Mrs. Patterson, wife of David Patterson	Reported dead Apr., 1838.
"	"	" Mary Church	On certificate.
"	"	" Hannah Kerr, wife Frederick Odell	" " Dismissed 1878.
1838, Feb.	2	John Halden	Died Dec., 1849.
"	May	4 Grace Law	On confession. Dis- missed Dec. 31, 1856.
"	Nov.	2 Agnes, wife of Fran- cis Willson	Died Aug., 1854.
"	"	" Jane Willson	On confession.
"	"	" Isabella Halden, wife of James Nish	" "

1839, Feb.	1	James Foster Bradley and Elizabeth Liscum (widow Post), his wife	On confession.
"	"	" William E. Haskins	" " Dismissed Feb., 1856.
"	"	1 Susan Auchmuty	On confession, from Cold Springs.
1840, May	1	Frances Willson	Died May, 1848.
"	"	" John Waite	" Aug., 1882.
"	"	" William Ilsley	" Apr. 6, 1873.
"	"	" Letitia Major (maiden name Falken)	" 1867.
"	"	" Mary Beckley, now wife of William Ilsley	" Apr., 1858.
"	July 31	Emily Steele	On confession.
"	"	" Rachel Campbell	" certificate.
"	"	" Eliza Jane Garret	" "
"	Oct. 31	Julia Lawrence, wife of John P. Smith	Dismissed Jan. 8, 1876; d. Apr. 23, 1878.
"	"	" Ann Wright, wife of Robert Cameron	On certificate.
1841, Feb.	5	George Watson and Isabella Slorach, his wife	On confession.
"	"	" James Bremner, and Ann Leiper, his wife	" certificate. " confession.
"	"	" Margaret Fake van Orden	Died May 10, 1849.
"	"	" Mary Crozier	On certificate.

1841, July		Mary Harriot, wife of John Freeman	On certificate from R. D. Church of Broome St., N. Y. Dismissed July, 1848.
"	"	Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson	On cert. from Pres. Ch. of Hopewell; d. Sept. 28 or 29, 1851.
"	Aug. 1	George McCartney	On cert. from 9th Pres. Ch. N. Y. Dismissed Mch., 1849.
"	Nov. 5	John N. Boyd and Susan, his wife	On cert. from N. R. D. Ch. cor. Greene and Houston Sts. N. Y. Dismissed Nov. 1863. She d. Sept., 1856.
"	"	" Peter Rennie and Agnes Robertson, his wife	On cert. from Aqua- chonok, N. J.; he d. Mar. 4, 1870.
"	"	" Mary Ann Corkey, wife of George Mc- Cartney	Dismissed Dec. 8, 1848, to 42d St. Pres. Ch.
"	"	" Nancy McCord	On cert. from Brigh (Ireland); lives with Mr. Ward.
1842, Feb.	4	James D. Yates	On confession.
"	"	" Mary Ann Yates	" "
"	Apr. 28	Ellen Brigham, wife James Bowley	Died Oct. 29, 1857.
"	Aug. 5	Martha Ridgeway, wife James D. Yates	
"	"	" Henry Quick and Catherine van Os- trand, his wife	On cert. from Laight St. Pres. Ch.; both dismissed June 6, 1849.

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1842, Nov.	4	Letitia Jane Ross, wife of William H. Moore	Dismissed Jan. 27, 1852.
"	"	" Ann Reid, wife of William Clark	
1843,		John Wood and Car- oline Parker, his wife	Dismissed June 13, 1853.
1845, Aug.	1	Experience Heath, wid. of Joseph Lyon	On cert. from Dr. Taylor, Bergen, N. J.
"	"	" John Smith	On cert. from Free Ch. of Scotland.
1846, May	1	Janet Allen	On cert. from Relief Ch., Glasgow, Scot- land.
"	"	" Fanny Finlay	On cert. from Church of Scotland.
"	July 31	James Robinson	On confession.
"	"	" Nancy Maria Wright	" cert. from Pres. Ch. of Genoa, N. Y.
"	"	" Eliza Ann Wright	On cert. from Pres. Ch. of Genoa, N. Y.
1848, Feb.	6	Sarah Ashby	Died Feb., 1851.
1849, Aug.	3	Mrs. Ann Rhodes (maiden name Jones; sister to Mrs Ashby)	On confession.
"	Nov. 3	Mary Catharine Em- mons'	Died 1855.
1850, Feb.	1	Wid. Elizabeth Reid (maiden name Mat- thews)	On certificate.
"	"	" Mary Ann Stark (maiden name Low)	" "
"	"	" Eliza T. Laycock, wife of Rev. Thom- as A. Amerman	" confession.

1850, May	3	Ann Eliza Purdy	Died May 10, 1862.
"	"	" Jane Halden	On confession.
"	"	" Jane Kelly	" " Died Oct. 16, 1851.
"	Aug.	4 Leonard Beckley	On confession.
1851, Aug.	2	Emily Read	" " Dis- missed Dec. 9, 1862.
"	"	" Mary Ann Read	On confession; died Nov. 20, 1862.
1852, July	30	George Robertson, and Ann Fraser, his wife	On cert. from Free Church of Scotland. He d. 1864.
1854, Feb.	12	Sarah Fleet	On cert. from Bleeker St. Pres. Ch.; d. May 14, 1878.
"	Aug.	5 Miriam Boyd	On confession; dis- missed Oct. 30, 1860.
1855, Aug.		Sarah, wife of Alex- ander Smith	On certificate from 42d St. Pres. Ch.
1856, Feb.	3	Ann Maria Brigs, wife of William Love	On certificate.
"	May	2 Catharine Duryea, widow of — Quick	On cert. from Green- wich Ch., city; d. Dec. 5, 1860.
"	Aug.	2 Mrs. Rebecca Brock	On cert. from 42d St. Church; d. June 16, 1882.
"	"	" Mrs. Mary Ann Cur- tis	On cert. from 42d St. Pres. Ch.
1857, Oct.	31	Harriet Ann Rogers, wife of Samuel Ellis	On confession
1858, Feb.	5	Matilda Lewis, wife of John Wendelken	Died 1870.
"	Apr.	30 Annie Kelly	" April 2, 1864.
"	Nov.	4 Amelia Stokely	" Nov., 1858.
"	"	5 Sarah Lewis	" about 1859.

## Among Old-time Families

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- |            |      |   |   |  |
|------------|------|---|---|--|
| 1860, Feb. | 5    | Nicholas Hays and<br>Caroline Schricy,<br>his wife    | and                                     | On confession. Unit-<br>ed with the Baptist<br>Ch.   |
| “          | “    | “ Mrs. Eliza Schricy,<br>mother of Mrs.<br>Hays       |   | Died 1871.   |
| “          | May  | 4   | Andrew Anderson.                        | “ 1860.  |
| “          | Aug. | 4   | Jane Bogert, wife of<br>Andrew Anderson | “ 1865.  |
| 1861, Feb. | 1    | Elizabeth Frazer<br>Robinson (Mrs.<br>Thomas Stanley) |   | “ 1875.  |
| “          | Nov. | 3   | Henry S. Mitchell                       | “ Jan. 22, 1879.                                     |
| 1862, Jan. | 31   | Theresa, wife of<br>James Bliss                       |   | Dismissed to 1st<br>Ref'd Ch., Tarry-<br>town, 1878. |
| “          | “    | “ Phœbe, wife of<br>“ Henry Hole                      |   |  |
| “          | Aug. | 2   | Alexander Ray Skin-<br>ner              | Died 1883.   |
| “          | “    | “ Frances, wife of A.<br>Stoddard                     |   |  |
| 1863, Jan. | 30   | Eliza Brunish, wife<br>of Alexander Bennet            |   |  |
| “          | May  | 2   | Eliza Ann, wife of<br>Wm. D. Silva      |  |
| “          | “    | “ Ann Maria Albout,<br>wife of William<br>Walters     |   |  |
| 1864, Feb. | 6    | John Kell Curtis and<br>Mary F. Gibson, his<br>wife   |   |  |
| “          | Apr. | 30  | Sarah, widow of<br>William Waring       |  |

- 1864, Apr. 30 Margaret Muggie, Died 1881.  
                   wife of William  
                   Fleetner                   " 1881.
- 1865, Feb. 4 Thomas W. Black  
                   and Jane Dalrym-  
                   ple, his wife
- “       “       “ Maria Deretta Fest-  
                   gen, wife of Augus-  
                   tus C. Graser
- “       May 6 Robert Watts
- “       Aug. 5 Wm. J. Beard           Dismissed to 34th St.  
   Ref'd Ch., Apr. 27,  
   1866.
- 1866, Feb. 3 Magdalena Roeder,  
                   wife of Paul Bauer
- “       May 5 Alonzo Blanck       Died May, 1866.
- 1867, May 4 Jane Smith, wife of  
                   Anthony V. Wy-  
                   nans
- “       Aug. 3 Mary Louise Clark,  
                   widow of Hamilton Dis'd to California  
                   Morgan                   May 27, 1871.
- 1868, Jan. 26 Robert McKensie. Died 1880.
- “       Feb. 1 Caroline Northwood,  
                   wife of William  
                   Blick                   Died July, 1877.
- “       “       “ Catharine Quick, On cert. from 42d  
                   widow of William St. Pres. Ch.  
                   Frederick
- “       “       “ Henrietta Q. Freder-  
                   ick, wife of John P. On cert. from 42d  
                   Reynolds               St. Pres. Ch.
- “       Apr. 5 Sarah J. McCon- On cert.; dismissed  
                   aughey, wife of Mar., 1882.  
                   John Harding



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1868, Apr.	5	Frederick Kreider & Caroline Blatner, his wife	
"	May 2	Harriet N. Moore, mother of Mrs. Thomas Mitchell.	
"	Dec. 27	Elizabeth Post, wife of Albert van De- beck	Dismissed March, 1882.
1870, June	13	Daniel Murray	Died 1871.
"	Oct. 16	Hester Dale	Dismissed to Califor- nia.
"	" 23	Caroline Bauer	On confession.
"	" "	Dora Bauer	" "
1871, May	28	Margaret Divene, widow of David Monteith	Died 1878.
"	Aug. 6	Alexander William McDonald	Died Aug. 3, 1872.
"	" "	Charlotte Williams, wife of Alex. Wm. McDonald.	On confession.
"	" "	Alex. Wm McDon- ald Jr.	" "
1872, Jan.	7	Jacob Flick	" "
"	" "	Anna Flick	" "
"	" 27	Samuel Halden	Died Jan. 27, 1872.
"	Feb. 4	Sarah Louisa Rapp, widow of Samuel Halden	On confession.
1873, Mar.	16	Henry Gilbertson	Died May 10, 1873.
1874, Feb.	1	George Frederick Armstrong	On confession.
"	" "	Fannie Christina Armstrong	" "

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1874, Feb.	1	Lelia King Arm- strong	On confession.
"	Mar. 6	Catherine Ehmer, widow of Frederick Pfening	" "
1875, Apr.	18	Catharine Ann Kirschbaum, wife of Joseph Robinson	On cert. from Luth'n Ch. Walker St.; d. Oct., 1880.
"	"	" Louisa Pfening	On confession.
"	" 25	Marion Swan Halden wife of Charles A. Winch	" "
"	June 20	Mrs. A. M. F. Com- stock	On cert. from Clin- ton, N. J., Pres. Ch.: d. Jan. 16, 1876.
"	July 25	Julia Tinellie, widow of Thomas Royal Lush	On confession.
"	Oct. 24	William Fruitright	Dismissed Feb., 1880.
"	Nov. 6	Lizzie M. Armstrong	" " "
1876, Apr.	30	Chas. Francis Adams Mitchell	On confession.
1877, May	6	Barbary Geier, wife of Jacob Flick	" "
"	Oct. 28	Louis Overmeyer and Charlotta Cipp, his wife	" "
1878, Apr.	7	Pauline Pfening	" "
1881, Oct.	6	Samuel B. Reed.	
"	" 22	Otis D. Stewart	On cert. from 1st Ref'd Dutch Ch. New Brunswick, N.J.

## VIII

### Reminiscences

In the many years during which we have been collecting material relating to Bloomingdale and its worthies, much has been ascertained of interest which is worth preserving here. Much more would be out of place in this connection, as it does not concern this story. The data transcribed in this chapter have been gleaned from diaries, letters, and notes, taken from the spoken words of the few surviving old residents. Mrs. Jane Cozine Dorland, Mrs. Ann Agnes Dana,<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Marion Bissland Carse, and Mrs. Emily Hanaway Stryker are the oldest living communicants. Letters from all of these have proved a mine of information, as has also personal application to many of the descendants of families heretofore mentioned, but the palm must be given to the journal kept by Mrs. Stryker, as well as a number of articles contributed by her to the press.

Few, among the many dwellers in old Manhattan, can recall the appearance of Bloomingdale sixty-odd years ago. We intend to limit ourselves largely in this work to the Harsenville section thereof, the confines of which

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Dana died at Brooklyn, November 25, 1907, and was buried in the Oakland Cemetery at Yonkers, N. Y.

have been sufficiently described in previous chapters. The name was not merely appropriate, but necessary, for the different hamlets were situated at such distances apart that the local appellations were required and became mandatory for convenience sake. An owner of property near present Central Park West and the Harsenville road, many years ago, gave to his possessions the title of Treaceyville. This is said not to have been quite agreeable to one of the descendants of old Jacob Harsen, who inquired of the owner by what authority he had used the name. Tapping him on the shoulder, this conclusive rejoinder was made: "Misther Harsen, Misther Harsen, tell me by what authority your father gave it the name of Harsenville?" We do not hear that the question was answered, but the former name has been relegated to oblivion, while the other is being fast blotted from memory.

The Harsenville road, open in early days only from the Commons to the Harsen mansion, was a lonely country way. Strangers were seldom seen in the neighborhood. Soon after sunset one evening, such an unusual apparition presented itself to some of the village youngsters with the request, "My dear children, can you tell me who lives—?" The "dear children" did not wait to hear the rest but ran screaming to the house, crying "Father, Mother, there is a crazy woman who asks 'Can you tell me who lives—?'" Chimney sweeps, with sooty faces, and bundles of brushwood on the back, calling the slogan "Sweep, oh, sweep," were expected, but even they caused the little ones to keep at the distance of the extreme side of the road.

Domine van Aken, whose use of the parsonage was sometimes interrupted by his state of health, was ac-



*Emily Hanaway Stryker.*

Portrait and signature of Mrs. Emily Hanaway Stryker



customed at such times to rent it. Standing far back from the Harsenville road, east of present Columbus Avenue, it was surrounded by the grounds of the acre plot which Harsen donated to the Church. In 1836, the Hanaways occupied it. How the children of the family did ransack the low-studded garret, and frolic in the broad hallway! The reverence of the old house has stamped itself upon the memories of them that survive. Access to it was gained by the local lane, along which were a number of houses. Starting at the Bloomingdale Road was the Holmes residence; next lived the Steeles, also attendants at the services, and adjoining the parsonage lands resided a French family. The head of this house once introduced himself to a neighbor, who did not recognize him, as follows: "I am Meester Vering, put I hev mine tirty clothes on!" The Laws lived on the south side of the lane in a house which faced the Bloomingdale Road, ever to be associated in mind with hollyhocks, altheas, lady-slippers, bleeding hearts, and such old-fashioned flowers. Near by lived the Lambs. In his infantile days little Robert exercised his talent for painting, which served him so well in after life. It is recalled that in this habitation, at the age of five, his artistic instinct caused him to crush a brick and with a stone grind it to powder. Moistening it, he undertook, with a feather, to paint the house and gate posts. The firm of J. & R. Lamb, makers of church ornaments, pulpit decorations, and stained glass windows, now occupies a place apart in the business world. Joseph died recently. Their father passed away when they were very young.

The diary begins its retrospect at the Cozine mansion at Eighth Avenue and 54th Street. Here dwelt Mrs.

John Cozine and her daughters Catherine (Mrs. Fleet) and Jane, born Nov. 7, 1818 (Mrs. Dorland). Their sister, Sarah Stakes, wife of Peter Adrian Horn, had died in her twentieth year (1836) and left a little child, Sarah Jane. It had been the charge of Mrs. Dorland since it was three days old. The latter's little daughter Jennie was likewise an inmate. The old yellow homestead is long since gone—removed to make way for the opening of the avenue, in the way of which improvement it stood. The property passed into other hands before the widow's decease. She had spent all her married life within its walls. Although not indigenous to the soil, having been born in New Jersey, she was a cousin by marriage of the Harsens and of an array of Bloomingdale families of almost limitless length. Following the old-time custom, when to marry an outsider was seldom heard of, and intermarriages among cousins usual, the old residents were so connected that from present Union Square to Bloomingdale village (100th St.) the Dutch settlers were joined by ties of consanguinity little understood in these days. It may be well to mention some of those with which the Cozines were allied, the names of whom will stir memories of the New York of yesterday among the old-timers. From down town proceeding northward, we get the Mandevilles, then come the Horns, van Ordens, Varians, Webbers, Hoppers, Somerindycks, Dyckmans, Strikers, and others whose farms covered most of the territory above spoken of.

In this house, one afternoon, we met Mrs. Plumley, the mother of the Rev. Gardiner Spring Plumley. Interesting stories of Dr. Gunn's ministry had often been told by others, and now we had the privilege of talking with an intimate friend in his family thirty-



three years before. While her kindly face looked down into ours, she narrated tales of her pleasant life in Bloomingdale, of her connection with the old Brick Church when it stood on Nassau Street, opposite City Hall Park, and of her removal to another part of the country. We were afterwards informed of her devotion to the pastor, Rev. Dr. Gardiner Spring, after whom she had named her boy. On the north side of 50th Street, between Eighth Avenue and Broadway, a temporary church edifice had been erected. It was here that the young man was installed as pastor. Some after changes closed these doors and it was then that his mother's early friends, the Cozines, called his congregation to their parlors and every Sabbath day found the rooms filled. On the Fourth of July, 1855, the Sabbath-school of the Church at Harsenville held its anniversary exercises on the grounds behind the old farmhouse. The Rev. Mr. Plumley, his wife, his parents, and his sister were there. The young minister, happy and enthusiastic, arose to address us. He related that when he was a little boy, his mother had told him of a country village, many miles away, where the people were afraid to walk out of evenings, because of robbers. In this place she at one time taught in the Sunday-school—this at a time when even good people had their doubts about such schools. Dr. Gunn even refused to send his children for fear of the consequences. He told also of the old colored slave of the family, of whom we have heard. So godly was he that Dr. Gunn once remarked, "I shall be happy to get into heaven and take a seat at the feet of Hannibal Ritter."

Continuing his reminiscences, Mr. Plumley stated that this good man came to Jacob Harsen on an occasion

and asked to be excommunicated, saying that he had had a serious quarrel with a neighbor and that there had been much cursing and swearing. "What!" exclaimed Deacon Harsen, "did you swear, Hannibal?" "No, sir," was the reply, "Mr. ——— swore terribly, but I never said a single word." It seems that Hannibal had sold him a horse for five dollars and that the purchaser came to the old colored man declaring that he had been cheated, as the horse was not sound. As Mr. Plumley ended his address, Domine van Aken arose. He gave an account of the last hours of Mr. ——— and added, "No doubt he and Hannibal have been clasped in each other's arms in heaven!" After the exercises, wood was gathered on the grounds and Mrs. Plumley, who appeared to be a general favorite, prepared the coffee and tea, and, assisted by the ladies, set a dainty table. It was a pleasant, happy party that returned to the city at sunset.

We frequently heard Mr. Plumley preach in the little building and his sermons were full of Gospel truths. This congregation afterwards united with that of the Rev. James B. Dunn when his church removed from Spring Street, and it is now the flourishing Central Presbyterian Church in West 57th Street between Broadway and Seventh Avenue. The edifice on this site was formerly that presided over by the Rev. Dr. John Hall at Fifth Avenue and 19th Street, and was removed stone by stone and reconstructed here. Mr. Plumley in after years became a pastor in the Reformed Church in Fulton Street. He died in 1894 and was buried from the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, when Dr. Hall officiated.

A walk through the village sixty-odd years ago! A pretty village it was. There was no "shanty town" to

mar the beautiful expanse of green, and the rural simplicity. The foreigners came later on. The rocks were there, but the goats came with the new arrivals. There was even no Central Park, just acres of waste land around. As we left the Cozine homestead, we crossed Eighth Avenue and continued on in the shadow of a great rock before we reached 58th Street. We will walk on the west side of the Bloomingdale Road and return on the east side.

Look among the trees, near 59th Street. That is the residence of the Havemeyers. Now look forward over the green fields. There are a few scattered dwellings before we enter Harsenville. At 64th Street stood a modest little frame cottage. A godly man lived there who was well known and respected. He was the keeper of cows and supplied the village with milk. Although a Baptist, as were others near by, he attended the weekly prayer-meetings at the local church. At 66th Street once stood an old frame building, the abode of Mr. Norton. "J. B. D. Galliard & Son," French florists, hung out their sign later.

"I have come to see you. I want to make some pies." These words came from the lips of a little old woman who dwelt close by. She was queer, but what of that? We are all more or less queer. Our queerest neighbor often lives next door to us, and he looks out of his window and wonders why we are so queer. The fact is we all wear colored spectacles. Some of us have on blue, some green, some yellow, some red. We all wonder why our neighbor with the green glasses persists in saying everything is green, and we storm and fret and wonder why his parents and teachers did not make him see everything with the same colored glasses we wear. Well, well! what a monotonous

world this would be if we all saw things alike. The old ball would keep turning around year after year and it would be so little changed that if Adam and Eve should return they would see the Garden of Eden as they left it. So let us remember the apostolic injunction, "Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not."

Every one knew the little woman and laughed at her eccentricities, while she in turn wondered why they laughed. But she was respected nevertheless, and when on Sunday, come rain or come sunshine, Granny H——was seen, with reticule on one arm and prayer-book in hand, wending her way to St. Michael's, she became a walking sermon to all. Would to God that the people of the present age, who have their names written on the church books, would be as faithful as the dear old *peculiar* saint, who long years ago went to her reward. We do not remember that she ever rode. She preferred to walk from 68th Street to 99th Street on the country road. In summer this thoroughfare was thick with dust, in winter and spring with snow and mud. The latter splashed over the shoe-tops or sadly spoiled the young girls' pantalets, both girls and pantalets being the pride of the mothers.

It has been an easy thing to find an excuse for staying away from the house of God.

As butterflies with gaudy wings  
 Display themselves on summer days,  
 So Sunday saints, more gaudy things,  
 Will seek God's house, to pray and praise.  
 But if a mist o'erspread the ground,  
 Or e'en a cloud obscure the skies,  
 These Sunday saints are weather-bound  
 And stay at home like butterflies.

It became a very plausible excuse for persons to remain at home from the afternoon service because the driving up the Bloomingdale Road, on a Sunday afternoon, rendered it positively unsafe to venture out. There were no sidewalks, and the dust, scattered by the passing vehicles, pretty well peppered the white muslin dresses of the young girls. In winter, the quantity of sleighs and the jingling of their bells confused the pedestrian and made it dangerous to life. The Sabbath-breakers were on their way to McComb's Dam, the favorite resort. As a consequence, many people eased their consciences and sat down to a quiet afternoon, while a few, more conscientious ones, took risks and attended the service at the village church at 3 o'clock.

Granny H—— left her home early on Sunday morning and, as the driving did not begin until afternoon, she was on the safe side. During the week she taught a private school for very small children. Not being the owner of a clock, she commenced the morning exercises, and dismissed the children, when the sun cast its shadow upon certain marks on the floor. Cats were her delight, and boys her abomination. Her income was very small, so the neighbors often sent her presents and smiled when, in her independent way, she found fault. She would enter a neighbor's house and inform them she was about to make some pies. As the dish in her hand was empty her friends would ask good-naturedly, "What are you going to make them with, Granny?" "Oh!" she would reply, "I thought you would give me a little flour and a few apples." As this was never refused, the pies were made and the old lady, after a little chat, would take her leave. It is related that the village doctor, on one

occasion, sent her a load of wood and placed himself in a position where he might be able to hear her expressions of gratitude. "It's no use for Dr. Williams to send me a load of wood, unless he sends some one to cut it," was the grateful thought that burst upon the listening ear. So far as we know she was alone in the world, although some have said that she came of a family of wealth. Notwithstanding all her peculiarities she was looked after by her kind neighbors and when she died, although there were none to weep, she had a kindly burial.

Next we come to the residence of the Caryl family. Isaac was the head of the house. He owned property on the Nevada site and was one of those who sold to Jasper. Sarah, the wife, joined the communion Nov. 1, 1856, and died in 1859. Emily Caryl was married by the minister to William Halden in 1842. About the year 1850 a widow with her two little boys lived there. She was in feeble health, and for some reason was obliged to leave her house for a while. She sailed across the sea to her native land, England. It may have been for the purpose of settling business matters, or it may have been on account of her health, for it was evident to all that she was soon to pass away. She returned just ready to go to the land "from whence no traveller returns." Dear little Mrs. Ashby! All through her sickness she gathered many friends among the young people and it was they who watched by her dying bed. When at last the close of life was near she took upon her lips the hymn so precious to God's saints at that time. It is quaint, compared with modern hymns—

Vital spark of heavenly flame,  
Quit, oh quit this mortal frame!

Trembling, hoping, lingering, sighing,  
Oh, the pain, the *bliss* of dying.

She sang on until she came to the words

Cease, fond mortals, cease your strife!  
And let me languish into life.

She then became exhausted and sank sweetly to her rest. We gathered around her coffin in her home and our pastor called our attention to her peaceful expression. It was an impressive hour. Her two little boys were placed in the Orphan Asylum. The same day and at an hour so near that set for the young mother's funeral, Domine van Aken had to shorten the service a trifle in order that he might officiate at another. An aged servant of God was resting from her labors and was now to be committed to the dust to await the resurrection of the just. This was the widow of Samuel A. Lawrence, an Elder during Dr. Gunn's pastorate.

We now reach the Jasper grocery. A few years later, Mr. John Reid, who had kept the hotel on the opposite side of the street, left it to the care of "Pop" Griffen and built a small house on land hired from the Church, where he opened a variety store. One of his sisters, Ann Clark, had children baptized by the minister and both united with the society. This the centre of Harsenville, in 1845, boasted of only some ten houses along the Bloomingdale Road. What was called "River Lane," a continuation of the Harsenville Road which ran westerly from the Mansion nearly on the line of present 70th St., ended at Sanger's soap works. This was during the thirties. He was succeeded by Peter Rennie, an Elder, who opened in the forties a calico print factory on the river's banks. This gave em-

ployment to many young people, most of whom came from a distance to their labor. Sanger's wife was a sister of the Brooks who married William Holmes's daughter Augusta.

At the head of the street was the engine-house of No. 50, Mohegan, on the ground where the original church edifice stood. Tenth Avenue ended here and was not extended farther until 1850. The place to which it was opened formed at the time, as it does to-day, a triangle. There a stream of water flowed through it to lose itself in the river at the foot of present 69th Street. When fire broke out, excitement grew intense in the small hamlet. How the shouts of "Fire! Fire!" echoed and "ding, dong, ding, dong" reverberated as the engine was hauled out! The volunteers pulled and tugged, shouted and swore as it rattled up the Bloomingdale Road. It passed the Harsenville Road this time and stopped somewhere in the vicinity of 79th Street. We were wrapped in blankets and carried to the north window of our house to watch the progress of the flames. It was our first experience of a fire. Oh! pour on water, brave volunteers! Extinguish the flames if you can! They leap to the heavens and menacingly roar as they rise. Crash come the walls until only a heap of ashes is left. Thus was destroyed Huddard's school building.

The second story of the brick building which Jasper put up was rented to the city, which used it for the local police station. Entrance thereto was obtained in the rear. Capt. Robert Thompson and five men had charge of that part of the island east, west, and north of 42nd Street. An officer's salary was \$500 a year.

Murphy was the village blacksmith. His shop was

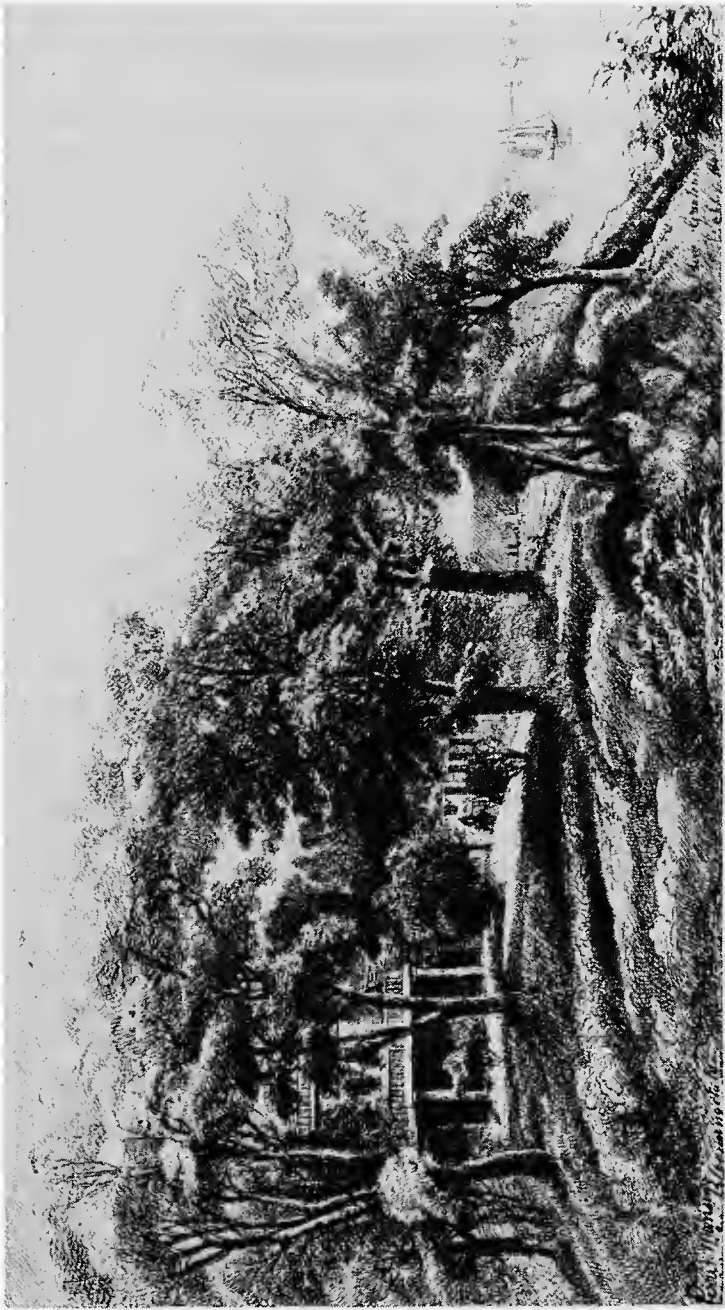


at the now southeast corner of 69th St. and Amsterdam Avenue. Ned, the oldest son, was the proud owner of a new rifle. Standing in the shop one day, he made a target of the vane which was plainly visible on the church belfry, with such success that two holes therein showed the true aim displayed. Quite a touse over it among the members resulted. Another son was Joe Murphy, the actor.

Between 68th and 69th Streets lived the Chaudlets in a house which had been constructed as a refuge for the French *émigrés* of the reign of Louis XVI., on land which ran to the river. Most of the furniture was massive and built in the house, which remained on its site until the laying-out of the Boulevard cut it in half. It had a sloping roof stretched over a sort of gallery like unto Swiss houses in mountain regions. With the mother lived Mme. Chaudlet's son by a former marriage, Francis Joseph Felix. His father, a sailor, had been drowned in a wild storm off Finisterre. The widow, having some relatives in New York, came hither with her baby son at the dawn of the XIX. century. A few years later, she met and married Joseph Chaudlet. He was an important character in the old village and a man of many talents and resources. Born in Marseilles, he met in Paris with Gen. Lafayette who found that Joseph was an excellent cook and gave him, on leaving France, letters to Fulton and Major Colden, which procured him the position of *chef* to Lord Courtenay, who kept an almost princely household at "Claremont." Chaudlet exhibited such skill in treating the Viscount's horses that he was promoted to the post of veterinary surgeon. Afterwards he built and managed the Harsenville smithy. His step-son, Felix, worked with him, learning also under his in-

struction the surgical care of horses. He became the oracle of the neighborhood. In 1868, Mrs. Greatorex, who stopped at the house during her sketching tour through Bloomingdale, states that he was a veterinary surgeon with an office at 53d Street, near Eighth Avenue. He accompanied her on many of her jaunts. She describes him as "not tall, but broad and strongly built; his eyes are very keen and bright, his complexion, 'browned by the generous sun' is clear and fresh and his grey hair thick and curly." His memory harked back sixty years and he related stories of the olden times when the dread of yellow fever brought people here for the summer; and, from hearsay, of the period when the cry of "The British are coming" sent frightened women and children from Long Island, Brooklyn, and the southern end of the city to this section for succor from the soldiery. In speaking of the occupants of the surrounding country-seats in Colonial times he remembered hearing that "these rich gentlemen wore the old style of dress—powdered queues and knee-breeches, ruffled shirts and silver buckles; and the ladies affected powdered hair and beautiful dresses of flowered silk and quilted satin petticoats." As of course they did, as some of the portraits reproduced testify. Felix became a member of the church, April 27, 1873 and died in 1877. Harriet Baker, the widow Purdy, his wife, united May 6, 1853, and died March 19, 1873, aged 64 years 11 days. They had been married by the Rev. Mr. Richmond, July 1, 1837, and a number of their children were baptized by him. The last child, Josephine, was christened in 1859 by Domine van Aken.

A neat white picket fence between 72nd and 73d Streets enclosed a pretty dwelling—that built by Mme. d'Auliffe—modestly hidden among the shrubbery.



THE PERIT MANSION, 1868



This was at one time the residence of the Tallcots and afterwards of the Loziers. This family came to Harsenville in the late forties. The Alderman left an impression as a fine old gentleman. He occupied a beautiful place, as we have seen, which was open to all the inhabitants on holidays. The Fourth of July was the great day for enjoyment there. His daughter Emma was married in 1838 by the Domine.

We are approaching a stone wall. It extends from 73d to 74th Street, and terminates in a large wooden arched entrance with a small gate on either side, painted to represent stone. There was a broad carriageway overshadowed by a row of horse-chestnuts from the Bloomingdale Road to the lodge. A narrow walk followed the way on its southern side and both led to the N. Y. Orphan Asylum buildings. Persimmon trees lined the boundary dividing it from the Gov. Broome mansion. Walk in,—one was always welcome. The grounds extended from the Road to the river, with a gradual slope to the water, where stately trees enhanced the view. The location was a charming one and the grounds attractively laid out. The Boulevard front was sold *circa* 1853, and private residences cover the green lawn where the orphan children of other days sent out shouts of laughter or where the new-comer walked with a sad heart, feeling that he was alone in the big world.

How many changes have come to that Home since we first remember it. Among the directresses were Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, Mrs. Divie Bethune, Mrs. Pelatiah Perit. Our memory goes back to the time when Mr. Wood was superintendent. He was succeeded by Messrs. Stout, Winter, Angel, Stark, Pell, and Demorest. Among the teachers were the Misses Hall

and Ralph and also Miss Marion Dempster, who spent nearly all the years of her life inside the walls. And when her eyesight failed and, fearing that she might be an incumbrance, she begged the lady managers to send her to an old ladies' home, the request was met by a decided refusal. She was given all the comfort and privileges that could be granted, was cared for in her last illness and laid at rest in the orphans' plot at Trinity Cemetery. When Dr. Winter was superintendent the Hudson River Railroad was not built. Then the institution's bath-house was on the banks of the river. It was only necessary for the neighbors to call and request that the key might be given to us for our use in the early evenings. The request was promptly granted. We remember how indignant many of us were when Mr. Angel, his successor, in reply to our request, uttered the words, "You came with the expectation of seeing Dr. Winter." One of our party declared that "Winter, stern Winter, was better than an Angel."

On the north side of the Asylum grounds once stood a pretty white dwelling with Corinthian columns. In summer there was the richest perfume from flowers, rare and beautiful. The trees cast their shadows over the green lawn, where West End Avenue now passes, and the lawn in rear of the house gradually sloped to the Hudson. This was the residence of Pelatiah Perit, a man well known and much beloved. Much has heretofore been said of him. His carriage was seen every morning going to the city, and his coachman Michael evidently felt that he was as important a personage as his master. He retired from business in 1861 and thereafter led a life of seclusion and repose. About ten days prior to his death, he was taken sud-

denly ill in the street and carried into the residence of Prof. Silliman, where he remained unconscious until morning, when he was conveyed to his own residence. This attack culminated in dropsy on the chest. In the report of the Trustees of the Asylum for 1864, the death of "the excellent and universally respected Mr. Perit" is adverted to, "who was so well known in the business world as a successful merchant, in the religious world as an earnest Christian and in the social circle as a kind friend, and who for many years was the nearest neighbor of this Institution." He bequeathed one thousand dollars to it. Mrs. Perit, on his removal to New Haven, dissolved her connection of 25 years with the Asylum. The report of 1860 states that during this time, being a next-door neighbor, she had always been ready to aid and cheer the superintendents and to guide and encourage the children. At the meetings she was a gentle, generous friend and counselor. The pleasant strawberry festivals that the inmates enjoyed with each returning year on Mr. Perit's grounds, and which formed the chief era in their annual anticipations, were recalled. In one especial case, he showed a liberal interest in a girl inmate who had a promising voice and a great love of music, and furnished the means for the improvement of her natural gift. The tribute winds up, "We shall long miss the loss of Mr. Perit's kind presence and efforts." The shipping in the harbor displayed their flags at half-mast in honor of his memory, and measures were taken by the merchants of the city to properly mark the loss which his death had entailed upon the community. The foreign missionary received a warm welcome in Mr. Perit's home and many a devoted servant of God has found shelter under that roof, among them the Rev. John

Scudder, D.D., Rev. Myron Winslow, Rev. Dr. Spaulding, and Rev. John Dulles.

We will leave the Perit residence and return by way of the Asylum grounds, for there was a gateway between the two. Again we are on the broad roadway and pass the cottage of John Wood, who resided within the grounds. He was the leader of the church choir and had business relations with the Asylum. Although his name was the same as that of the superintendent, they were not related. Beyond it, on our left, is something that appears like a large black tombstone. One might ask, "Who lies buried here?" "*Five Miles from New York*" is the only reply. It marked the distance from the present City Hall, and stood silently resting in the wall. We who lived in the neighborhood became so accustomed to it that we scarcely gave it a glance as we drew near to the residence of the Kellys. Here lived a large family at one time, but consumption came into the home, and one after another was carried off, until it seemed as if the survivors were always dressed in mourning. It was very sad to see the young people reach manhood and womanhood only to meet the grim destroyer. But it matters little now to the mourners, for they are sweetly sleeping side by side, in Trinity Cemetery.

Between 75th and 76th Streets there stood an old red brick building. This was the Somerindyck house of Colonial history. It was known now as "Fisher's house." The Fisher family lived there many years and their garden became their cemetery. Joseph Henry Fisher and his wife, who had previously lived on the "Middle Road," became residents there in 1826-7. With them lived Mary Johnston, the wife's sister, whom Domine van Aken married to Joseph Henry Adams in



1838. They removed from Bloomingdale to Brooklyn, where her husband was Supervisor from the Thirteenth Ward of the old city and died in 1887. Mrs. Adams was one of the oldest residents at the date of her death, February 22, 1906, aged 75 years. She left surviving her a daughter, Mrs. Josephine A. Coombs, and a son, Austin Adams, besides eighteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. During her girlhood in Bloomingdale the house was surrounded by an acre and a half of ground; large locusts shaded the front and elms grew in the rear, with English cherry-trees in the garden. At the end of the lane on the Gassner place were summer-houses overlooking the river, which were a resort for the young people on summer evenings. A break in the fence line in the picture of this house shown on page 56 indicates the entrance to the lane. In after years, when the old building was crumbling and vacant, reports were circulated that it was haunted, but no one ever met the ghosts, and the story died out. It was a quaint old building. The hall-door was divided in half and either the upper or lower part might be opened or closed at pleasure. A great black knocker gave notice of a caller. The hall was very broad and the parlors were on each side. The mantels were high and broad and curiously carved with historical pictures. The windows were small, and the panes were tiny squares of glass, such as were very much used in old times. Some of the "oldest inhabitants" aver that before No. 9 schoolhouse was built (1827) in 82d St. this was the village school. In the latter part of the forties, Barak C. Wright and Margaret Fake, his wife, lived there. They had been married by Domine van Aken in 1838. Miss Eliza Wright was one of the choir, with

John Wood, in the village church. Leaving the Fisher house we cross Perit's lane and midway between 75th and 76th Streets pass the Cudlipp residence. They were Episopalian. Henry Reuben, son of Reuben Henry Cudlipp and Mary Esther McMann, his wife, born June, 1851, was baptized Dec. 26, 1852, at St. Michael's. The father was interred in Trinity Cemetery, June 17, 1858, aged 63. His daughter Hannah Elizabeth, born in Philadelphia, aged 27, was married to Duncan Macfarlan, aged 35, by the Rev. Thomas McClure Peters, on Oct. 1, 1857, at her father's residence. Macfarlan was a Scotchman. His silk mills were on the site of All Angels' church, West End Avenue and 81st Street. It is claimed that he made the first silk ribbons in this country. Both he and his first wife joined the Church at Harsenville, Feb. 4, 1853. He became Deacon Feb., 1854, and served as Clerk *pro tem.* on occasions. The Consistory met as usual at his house in its rotation among the members. Martha and Duncan, their children, were baptized by Domine van Aken in 1853, and John in 1854. Their mother died in May, 1857. On his second marriage he resigned his office and removed his business and residence to Hawthorne, N. J. (near Paterson), where he died Oct. 11, 1886, aged 64 years. His daughter Martha became, July 23, 1873, the wife of Robert William, son of Adam Thompson, who was born Oct. 31, and baptized at St. Michael's, Nov. 30, 1837. She joined the communion May 5, 1866, and took letter of dismission to the Park Presbyterian Church. Malcolm Macfarlan, the eldest child, became a member Aug. 1, 1857. He is a physician practising his profession in Philadelphia and is an active member of the Swedenborgian Church, which he joined in 1868. He married Hannah Dick



*Duncan Macfarlan*

Portrait and signature of Duncan Macfarlan, Esq., reproduced by courtesy  
of his daughter Mrs. Robert W. Thompson



the following year and was head surgeon in the Philadelphia Hospital for many years. Mary Macfarlan, another daughter, became a member May 2, 1863, and took letter of dismissal to the Park Presbyterian Church. She never married. The other sons were Duncan and John, who were both physicians. The latter died Feb. 9, 1885, aged 30.

A few steps north of the Cudlipps', we enter the little store kept by Aleck White. We recall the old-fashioned candies to be found there. Candies change their fashion as well as does dress. We take out a cent, a great copper piece, somewhat larger than our present quarter dollar, and look over the supply—"bullseyes," chocolate balls, "hundreds and thousands," cylindrical papers with a gold band of paper twisted around, containing tiny globules, each having an aromatic seed inside. We would hesitate for a moment, then seize a chocolate ball in haste, because we heard the school bell and we feared the consequence if it ceased before we reached the door. Running over an elevation, dignified by the title of "hill," we saw a small cottage where lived the widow McCarthy and then reached the next store, kept by Jacob Tripp. When Fernando Wood became Mayor, he took possession of the ground where these three last-named houses stood, and turned it into an immense lawn and drive. He had his residence on the site of the widow McCarthy's house.

Next came Burnham's. It stood some distance from the road and the pleasure-seeker turned off into the circle that led to the hotel. There could be no mistake about it, for the sign swinging prominently in the air caught the eye of the passing traveller and the picture of the house thereon with the large letters "Burnham's Mansion House" left no doubt on his mind. We

well remember the old homestead and the pump that we often drank from on our return from school, and also the pitchers that were emptied there which had contained the half-lemons. What a scampering there was among the school children when they saw the man coming down holding that pitcher. We fear the lemons sometimes contained something stronger than lemon-juice. But the temperance people were not so strong in the middle of the last century. Governor van den Heuvel imported from Holland the necessary brick and timber to build the old mansion. As Gen. Washington had some connection with every old landmark, so, of course, he is stated to have occupied this house. Another legend is that a British officer, wounded in the contest on Bloomingdale Heights, died therein. The large Dutch weather-vane which once ornamented the barn now indicates the direction of the wind upon the stables of William Waldorf Astor's English estate.

Leaving Burnham's, we pass a few cottages. The first is a variety store where Mrs. Kervan tempts the children with molasses candy. Another cottage was occupied by Reuben Cudlipp and family. Poor man! His eyes were closed to earthly sights; we hope they have long since gazed upon the King in His beauty. Several cottages were seen back from the roadside and at the corner of present 81st Street a large brick building for the times, stood, in which lived Tom Kerr. This ended the confines of Harsenville and we will retrace our steps. The east side of the Bloomingdale Road was but sparsely settled. At 75th Street Charles Darke's family resided. This house was afterward occupied by William Leggett and still later by a Mr. Bonesteel, who kept a grocery at the corner of 74th Street. Then came a triangular field extending to 71st Street. About

1849, the Tenth Avenue, which heretofore had ended at the Road and formed a junction, was now extended to 86th Street and cut through this field. A large open space from 71st to 73d Streets was also divided when 72d Street was opened. A stream of water, which afforded much pleasure to the boys and men when frozen over in winter, ran across this field and thence through and under a bridge to the Road.

Seventy-fourth Street was only a lane leading in an easterly direction. It commenced opposite the Asylum. On the left and facing the fields (for Tenth Avenue had not appeared) was the residence of the Weir family. Next lived Mrs. Elizabeth Darke, and next William Holmes, Jr. On the right was a large old-fashioned house at that time (1839) having no occupant. Afterwards Captain Harvey moved into it and resided there several years. Entering a gateway, we are at the Hanaway home. This is where they lived for seventeen years after leaving the parsonage. Where the Elevated road passes between 73d and 74th Streets, was the back garden. It was here, in the springtime, after school hours were over, we searched for the early violet, the wild convolvulus, the frail anemone, the brilliant wild pink, and the wild strawberry. Later, we gathered the luscious blackberry or raspberry that grew on yonder hills. Dear old home! How sacred are its memories! What happy hours were spent under that roof!

From the chamber, clothed in white,  
The bride went forth on her wedding night,

but never during the long years the family resided there did death break the circle. The house stood on an

elevation and from the front windows a full view of the surroundings was had.

At the corner of 71st Street (Harsenville Road) stood the pretty dwelling of William Holmes, Sr. He and his wife lived there many years and all his children, five sons and three daughters, were born there. His oldest son, William, lived on 74th Street. He brought his bride to this house soon after marriage and all their children were also born there. This family for more than seventy years have been identified with the Bloomingdale Church. The grandparents, William B. Holmes and Hannah Stanton, his wife, were married there during the ministry of Dr. Gunn. The husband died in 1843, and had been an Elder during the early tenure of Domine van Aken. His children and grandchildren continued to attend the services until death or removal prohibited. A few have until lately been connected therewith, but the greater number are asleep in Trinity Cemetery, where nearly all Harsenville lies. Nathaniel Holmes, a son, and his wife Rebecca celebrated the 50th anniversary of their married life on Jan. 25, 1897, and on the same occasion took place the 25th anniversary of the marriage of their eldest daughter, Rebecca, and her husband Davis Conkling. Nathaniel Holmes and his wife began their life together in the homestead. After their second daughter was born, they removed to Harlem, and afterwards to Long Island.

At 68th Street stood the old stone church, hallowed with endearing associations.

So let my living be, so be my dying,

So let my name be, unblazoned, unknown,

Unpraised and unmissed, I shall still be remembered,

Yes, but remembered by what I have done.

So wrote Horatius Bonar and so speaks the life of



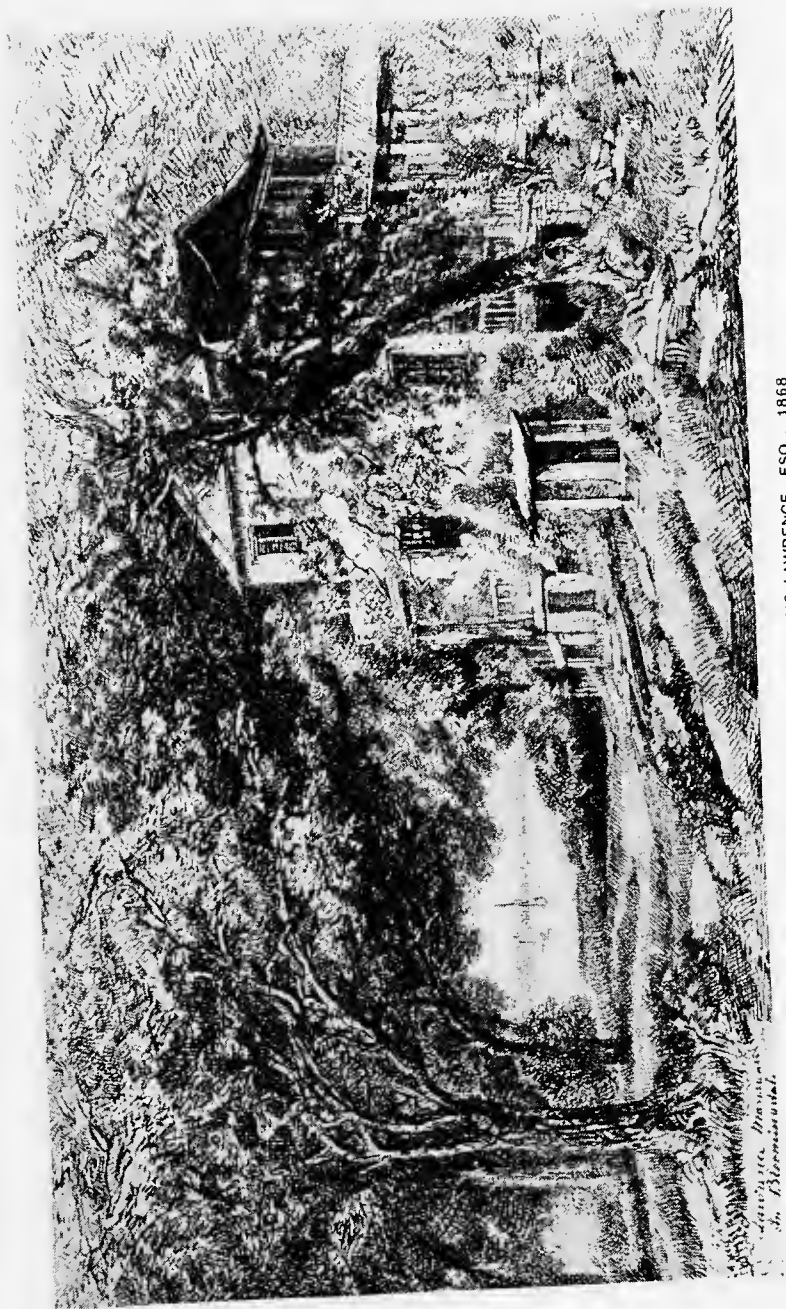
many a humble Christian. As you walk up the aisle of one of our beautiful churches and take your seat in yonder comfortable pew, as you listen to the thrilling notes of the organ or to the words falling from the lips of some elegant divine, does the question ever arise, "Who was the founder of this edifice?" The Bloomingdale Reformed Church owes its life to Jacob Harsen. Looking to the west, some distance back from Tenth Avenue, between 70th and 71st Streets, there was located not very long ago an old house with the gable end to the street. Here Jacob Harsen lived and died. He it was who gave the ground for the church and parsonage. Does he look down to-day and see the result of his beneficence? What if he could see the neighborhood that was so stagnant for many years that a deacon of the Church once remarked that he believed there was a curse on Bloomingdale? The old home has been crumbling for a generation and so has his dust. But when the Day of Reckoning comes, we believe Jacob Harsen will find many jewels in his crown of rejoicing, brought through the means he used, and they with him will sing Redeeming Love forever.

The parish covered much territory with few habitations. Dr. Gunn was known to have stated that it reached from Kip's Bay to the Hudson and from 9th to 125th Street. Its size was not much reduced during Domine van Aken's ministry. His long term was broken about 1845 for a year or more. Stricken with hemorrhage of the lungs—the "affliction" he mentions in his quoted letter—he went to Florida. During his absence, the pulpit was supplied by the Rev. Mr. Robinson and the Rev. Cornelius Vermeule. To quote the diary:

I was a very little girl and great was my reverence for

this venerable man [Dr. Vermeule] as he walked through our grounds. This he frequently did, as he boarded with Mrs. Elizabeth Darke, only two houses distant. Our family was very large, and the congregation small. This led the Doctor to remark that we were the largest part of the congregation, as we sometimes occupied two pews. Father and I often started off together, as I was the youngest of the family. Great was my feeling of importance when Dr. Vermeule would overtake us and remark, "Well, sister, are you leading papa to church?" There was often a merry twinkle of the eye and much humor, notwithstanding the dignity of his office. Clergymen, as well as others, wore stocks in those days, which had a tendency to elevate the head, and the white neckerchief gave the Domine a very dignified appearance. He officiated at the wedding of my sister, May 5, 1845. After the ceremony was over and we were all seated—many of our intimate friends being present—there was quiet for a few moments. The bride was young, only eighteen years of age, and there was a sadness in leaving the old home. I think Dr. Vermeule realized this. He looked solemnly over the circle and then soberly remarked, "If there are any other persons waiting I am ready to do the same for them." This broke up the sober company and laughter took the place of tears.

The Domine once visited a member of the congregation who was regarded as a very parsimonious woman. As he looked at her well-loaded grape vine, he congratulated her upon her future prospects. "Well, Domine," she said, "if you will come down when they are ripe, I will give you some." At the appointed season, the good Doctor visited her, with basket in hand. "She brought *one* bunch and placed it in my hand and that was the end of the chapter," said he in relating the experience. It was told with the same merry twinkle of the eye, accompanied with the same dignity of



COUNTRY-SEAT OF SAMUEL ADAMS LAWRENCE, ESQ., 1868

*Samuel Adams Lawrence, Esq.*



bearing. He was a warm-hearted Christian gentleman. We never remember hearing one unkind word spoken of him. It is said that just as he was about to enter Heaven he exclaimed, "My kindred!"

Because of the prevalence of fever-and-ague, Domine van Aken refused to live in the parsonage. After the place had been somewhat improved, he spent the winter there. Standing on our back piazza on an evening when the moon was hidden, very frequently we saw a tall figure in a long cloak which reached to the feet, a large white comforter wrapped around the throat and mouth, a lantern in hand, wending his way through the thick brushwood, where the Elevated road now stands. It was our pastor on his way to a prayer meeting at the residence of one of his congregation. Some of these meetings continued to be held in the Harsen Mansion while John Freeman and Mary, his wife, lived there in the late thirties. Their daughter Emma was baptized by the Domine in 1841. Another daughter, Alice, became the wife of Richard Stout. With no sidewalks, no graded roads, and no lights to shine on the pathway, we were delighted when gas was lit for the first time from 59th to 86th Street, April 1, 1857.

There were several large square pews in the centre and side aisles. One on the south side was occupied by the Hon. Pelatiah Perit and family. In the middle aisle sat Mrs. Samuel A. Lawrence with her widowed daughter and granddaughters. The daughter was married by the Domine in 1846 to Wilson G. Hunt and a granddaughter became the wife of the Rev. Mr. Atwater. One on the other side of the middle aisle was owned by Maj.-Gen. Striker, and here his family of sons sat when they did not belong to the choir. On

either side of the church were the children of the Orphan Asylum, the boys on the right of the pulpit and the girls on the south. At this time there was no organ or other musical instrument and the singing was led by Mr. and Mrs. John Wood and the Misses Wright. Wood stoves were in use, and these the sexton sometimes neglected to feed. Mrs. van Aken was accustomed to bring a warming-pan. The stovepipes ran along the wall to the pulpit, where elbows branched to the north and south sides. Hinges were fastened to the partition along the centre aisle of pews in front of the platform to which the long table was affixed on communion Sundays. In this way the method inaugurated by the Master was literally followed. The ceiling had nine large circles to indicate where chandeliers should hang. They were, however, never introduced. The auditorium was very large. Two pairs of stairs led to the high pulpit fitted with doors that buttoned-in the officiating minister. The Elders and Deacons sat on either side below the platform. In early times, the scholars at Huddard's, Bansel's, and Ufford's schools attended, just as at this time the orphans did. The grounds, enclosed by a picket fence, with two gates, one for carriages and one for pedestrians, were surrounded by the cemetery, and the edifice was fronted by a pretty lawn prior to 1856, at which time the Bloomingdale Road was graded, the lawn disappearing in the process. There was no clock in the steeple, as has been erroneously stated. Instead, windows filled the circular openings on its four sides. No lights of any kind were ever used with the exception of a few special occasions, when candles and lamps were loaned by neighbors. All evening meetings were held either at the Asylum or in the houses of members.

Among the teachers in the Sabbath-school was Miss Harriet Lothrop Winslow, a descendant of one of the *Mayflower* families. An interesting account of her mother, and her trials and perseverance in that kind of work, is given in Dr. H. Clay Trumbull's *Yale Lectures on the Sabbath-school*, p. 127. Her father was the Rev. Myron Winslow, a well-known missionary in Ceylon, India. Their daughter Harriet was born in Oodooville, Ceylon, April 19, 1829. Her mother died when she was four years old and she was brought to America by her father and adopted by Mr. Perit. During the summer of 1848, she announced to her class of about twenty young girls, varying in age from fourteen to sixteen years, that she was to be married. Tears fell from the scholars' eyes, while the teacher retired to a distant pew, to hide her emotion. Her heart, though full of joy for the future, was conscious that many sacred ties must be severed, and not the least among them was that which bound her to her beloved class. This event took place Sept. 21, 1848. Her husband, Rev. John Welsh Dulles of Philadelphia, was a graduate of Yale and of Union Theological Seminary. On Oct. 10th of that year they started for their new field of labor at Madras, India. They went out under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. "You are taking a short road to Heaven," was the prediction of a gentleman friend before she started, and so it proved.

We remember well her kind, genial face. Sometimes the class would enjoy a social gathering on the lawn at the beautiful residence on the banks of the Hudson, or a quiet walk in the garden, when the young teacher would call attention to some foreign plant. Then came the summons to the parlor to partake of re-

freshments. Again, it was our happiness to receive a call from her at our home, when she would relate some pleasing incidents of her visits among the members of her class, or to an aged saint who was "only waiting." Little wonder that there was great regret in the village when her departure for India was announced. She returned with her husband and three sons to the residence of her foster father, March 14, 1853, much broken in health. We called to see her in her childhood's home. Two little boys were playing near her chair; a third was in the arms of the nurse. These children were John Welsh, Charles Winslow, and Perit. Soon after, the family left for Philadelphia. Her husband became Secretary of the American Sunday-school Union from 1853-7, when he accepted the position of Editorial-Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Publication. In the month of May, after their return, a fourth son, Joseph Heatly, was born. He is a minister of the Gospel and librarian of Princeton Seminary. A fifth son, Allen Macy, is also a clergyman; a sixth, Winslow, died in infancy; a seventh, William, is now Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, and a daughter, Anna Stille, was born later, making eight children in all. In 1873, Mr. Dulles wrote: "I am happy to say that the six sons of my wife, Harriet L. Winslow, are all members in full of the Presbyterian Church and, to some degree, honoring their ancestry by their lives." Their mother took the "short road to Heaven" as predicted, Sept. 1, 1861, at the early age of 32 years.

Miss Harriet Gilman, a niece of Mr. Perit's, was another teacher. Her class met in the southeast corner of the Church. She lived at her uncle's house and began teaching when fifteen years of age. Other



nephews and nieces who often visited there were Prof. Daniel Gilman, former president of Johns Hopkins, the Rev. Edward Gilman of Flushing, L.I., William Gilman, Miss Emily Serena Gilman and the wife of Dr. J. P. Thompson, at one time pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle. Harriet Gilman married George W. Lane. Lovely and pleasant in girlhood, she developed into a ripened Christian character. She passed from earth in 1881 and sleeps in Woodlawn. Although none of these united, they were often present in the sanctuary. Mr. Lane later married his wife's youngest sister. From letters received from the sisters, we make some quotations. Mrs. Lane writes:

My recollections of the church are merely the childish pictures gained during my occasional visits, and are closely blended with the delightful home life in Mr. Perit's hospitable house; the Sunday morning walk under the shady avenue of the Asylum grounds and the less agreeable dusty road, which on a Sunday afternoon seemed really perilous because of the fast horses recklessly driven up to Burnham's tavern; the procession of orphans in uniform dress, the girls with winter coats of gray followed in summer by white capes, their straw bonnets and blue ribbons. I do not remember so much about the boys. They sat on the other side of the church. It was always interesting to see the girls file in under the direction of a teacher or monitor, and I used to wonder how it was determined who should sit in each pew. I suppose I did not listen very attentively to the sermon, but it was entertaining when Domine van Aken announced an evening meeting to be held at the house of "Mistress Cozine," and when he gave notice of his intention to make pastoral calls during the following week, particularly requesting that he might see the children, I felt much alarmed and took pains to hide in a remote place when he came to my aunt's house,

lest he should ask me personal questions of an uncomfortable nature! All this is very trivial, but I cannot give you anything of importance.

Miss Gilman says:

We were never especially encouraged to linger among the old gravestones. There was a marble tablet on the wall of the vestibule (perhaps more than one), the first such memorial I had ever seen. I recall the square pews where the Perit family sat, and where the Sunday-school classes of my sister and cousin met. I think there were green curtains in front of the singers' gallery and that Mr. Reed's two daughters were in the choir. My aunt and uncle were never members of the church, but retained their connection with the Mercer Street Church, occasionally driving into town to attend the services. I remember one communion Sunday when Mr. Perit and Miss Winslow took their seats at the table. I had never seen any one but the clergyman seated at the communion table. Mr. Perit often found a supply for the pulpit, inviting the preacher to be his guest—sometimes the teachers from the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Fiftieth Street, sometimes the venerable Dr. Philip Milledoller. Dr. Vermeule also supplied the pulpit—perhaps for a stated period—and I always heard him mentioned as “good old Dr. Vermeule.” Miss Winslow and other faithful workers were “tract-distributors” and did what they could to encourage churchgoing and to gather in children for the Sunday-school. Occasionally people came to church from a distance in their carriages and were treated with much consideration—an old lady, Mrs. Meier, and some of the Striker family. I remember the lane with the sign “Striker's Bay.” Madam Striker was spoken of emphatically as a very good woman. My impressions were partly from the conversation of my elders, and partly from what was told me by a child of my own age, my cousin Miss Joanna Perry.



"WILLOW BANK"

Country-seat of Caspar Meier, Esq., from a drawing by his grandson H. C. von Post, Esq. The Beekman (Clibborn) house in middle distance



At the time of which we speak missionary work was carried on in a different manner to what it is now. The city was divided into wards and the wards into districts. Every ward had a city missionary. It was his duty to district his ward, find a tract-distributor for each district, and every month carry a package of tracts to the visitor, who, in turn, was expected to visit every house, none excepted, and leave a tract. He or she was to ascertain if the resident attended any church, without regard to denomination, and to invite the children to Sabbath-school and open religious conversation.

In March, 1854, a meeting was held at Mrs. Kelly's to organize an association to conduct a fair. The young people had been working hard for a year past for the purpose of renovating the Church. Mrs. van Aken was chosen president, Mrs. Fleet vice-president, Miss Mary Kelly secretary, and Miss Emily S. Hanaway treasurer. An empty store and the back rooms of two new white marble buildings, the entrance known as No. 679 Broadway, second door below Amity Street, were hired and the bazaar held there on Dec. 20th, 21st, and 22d. Mrs. Dana, Mrs. Daniel D. Nash, and Mrs. William Holmes were in charge, with Miss Hanaway as treasurer. Mrs. Dana's little daughter presided over the grab-bag. At the close of the fair, the goods left over were auctioned off. The auctioneer, hearing that Mr. Striker had made a bid on a certain object, asked Mrs. Dana, "Which Mr. Striker?" and received the reply "Mr. Ambrose Striker," at which the auctioneer remarked naively, "Ah, you mean the one with his eyebrows under his nose"—meaning a moustache, which then was practically unknown, and considered, at the best, decidedly *outré*. The enterprise was a grand

success, and with the proceeds the pulpit was lowered, the box pews removed, and the seats made comfortable. A large room back of the gallery and over the vestibule was thrown open and an organ, situated directly opposite the pulpit, installed. The bell-rope descended through this room, and Domine van Aken kept his delivered sermons there. When the building, in its new dress, was opened for divine service, Jan. 6, 1856, such a deep snow was on the ground that Dr. De Witt, who was expected, was unable to be present and the afternoon service was abandoned. A change in the administration of the communion was made at this time. Theretofore, members sat around the long table and partook of the elements. This was now abolished, and communicants retained their places in the pews.

We have in distinct remembrance the old burial ground, with its large public vault on the southeast side and the plot of ground set apart for the friendless orphans of the Asylum. The visitor to Trinity Cemetery will see a monument with the name of Jacob Harsen inscribed on it. This stone was removed when the Church was cut in two for the grading of the Boulevard. This thoroughfare, by the way, received its name under the Act of 1870. The memorial stood in the rear of the edifice and had an iron railing around it. We well remember the little grave with a white railing, where Josiah Hoyt, the son of the principal of 82d Street School, was buried. How reverently his associates walked around the resting-place of their little school-fellow! There Mrs. Lamb, the mother of the brothers herein above mentioned, was interred. We recall her mild and gentle ways, and how sad we were when, after a long illness, she passed away.

The anniversaries of the Sabbath-school were held

at different places. One year, it would take place in the Church, to be followed the next time at other churches. On one such occasion in the home Church, we have a digest of Domine van Aken's brief concluding address in which he expressed his gratitude for the assemblage present, the praise due the school, the teachers, and the children, and for the addresses and music; and added that, although the toils and sacrifices and self-denials in maintaining the Church through the trying years of the past, arising from the transition and absorption of the suburb by the city, had been great, he was so attached to the field of his labor, had so great a work to perform and such bright prospects arising before him that he would not exchange the sphere of his operations for any within the range of the denomination. So large a company of children as were gathered was rarely witnessed in a single church. They ranged through all ranks, from the highest in the community to the most humble. The Rev. Drs. Ferris and De Witt were present, as they often were at these celebrations, and spoke.

During the second week of May, 1850 (Anniversary Week), the children took stages and rode to Dr. Cheever's church for the exercises. On May 9, 1854, they marched in procession to 49th Street and Eighth Avenue. Here cars were taken to the Broadway Tabernacle, which stood on that thoroughfare between Leonard and Worth Streets. The building was well filled and the children of the Five Points Mission were present. Messrs. Collin and Pease addressed them. The anniversary of 1857 was held in the home Church, when upwards of three hundred children assembled. Their sweet singing, coupled with the happy remarks of the Rev. E. R. Atwater, the Rev. Theodore L.

Cuyler, Hon. Thomas Jeremiah, and George Conover, Esq, carried the occasion through with credit. The annual picnic of this year took place on the grounds of Robert H. Arkenburgh, who generously tendered their use and provided the music. The teachers and scholars met at the Church at 12 noon on a beautiful June day and, preceded by the band, marched to the grove at the foot of 68th Street. A newspaper clipping before us states that

a more beautiful spot for a picnic cannot, we venture to say, be found within fifty miles of New York. The children enjoyed themselves to their fullest capacity. The teachers, parents, and friends of the school present also entered fully into the spirit of the occasion. A table groaning with the weight of "good things" was spread under the trees, and of these all partook with a hearty relish. At 3 P.M., the school was assembled, and, after prayer, and singing by the children, addresses were delivered by Mr. Pardie of the Sunday-school Union, the Rev. M. B. Matchett, and the pastor. The speeches were happy and appropriate and were listened to with the most fixed attention. Everything passed off pleasantly and all went home highly gratified.

Up to 1853 no more charming spot than Bloomingdale could be found. Then suddenly there came a change. Squatters came, and from 59th to 68th Street, west of the Road, there were miniature farms. The shanty had its pig, its cows, its chickens, its ducks, its geese, and it was "a quack here and a quack-quack there and here a quack and there a quack and here and there a quack" as one walked along. Sometimes an infuriated old gander would follow and pounce upon one, or a yelping dog. These dogs were kept as beasts of burden. In the early winter mornings, a small cart with two



dogs or more—and frequently a woman took the place of the dog and pulled the cart—was to be seen going from house to house collecting cinders. These were taken to their shanties, well sifted and dampened and carried around to be sold at twenty-five cents a barrel.

These quotations from Mrs. Stryker's journal will fix dates:

Feb. 20, 1854. A bitter cold day. Wind high. Snow commenced and continued all night. One of the drivers of the Bloomingdale stage line was killed by losing the road and the stage was overturned at about 66th Street.

May 26, 1854. During a meeting of the Sewing Society an eclipse of the sun was witnessed.

Nov. 3, 1854. Mother and I have been to the funeral of Miss Rachel Cozine, held in the church. Domine van Aken and Dr. Winter of the Asylum, a Baptist minister, officiated. For forty-five years she has been a member and had just passed her 80th year. She united when there were but twenty in the membership (1809). She was buried at Trinity Cemetery. Early candle light services were often held at her home.

July 2, 1855. Fair and Festival held at Knickerbocker Hall, 22d St. and Eighth Avenue. Very successful.

July 22, 1855. A choir of young people formed. Mr. Bunting led the singing. Thirteen members in the morning and fifteen in the afternoon. We were in the habit of meeting at the Asylum the first Sunday in each month for monthly concert for missions.

Aug. 5, 1856. The death of George Parks at Stamford, Conn., was announced from the pulpit. Funeral Monday the 6th.

A number of former inmates of the Asylum enlisted in the Civil War. The Trustees' report of 1863 gives thanks that not one of the five in the 12th N. Y. Volunteers and of the many scattered in other regiments

had been killed or seriously wounded, although they had been in some of the most fearful battles. This immunity did not continue. Two members of the Church of whom we know were killed in action. One Joseph Turkington, an orphan brought up in the institution, was fatally shot. He had united only a short space prior to the firing on Fort Sumter, viz. Aug. 4, 1860. The other was George H. Pimley, who, with his wife Ann Humphrey, joined the communion Jan. 31, 1862. He had served as Deacon.

Miss Emily Hanaway's Bible class was broken up by the war. Their country called the members and they must leave home. One went in the navy, never to return. He was drowned soon after his departure. Another was not heard from until after the war clouds dispersed. Then he came suddenly to his former teacher's door, like one who had risen from the dead, to tell of the agonies in Andersonville prison. This was John Miller, whose two brothers Joseph and Frank went west, one to die in California. The other still survives and resides in Kansas. Another member died of typhoid fever, while still another is an instructor in the army. Others have gone, we know not where. Perhaps at some future day they may suddenly call on their teacher, as have John Miller and John Ray. Each boy as he started off, saying "Farewell," received from her hands a little Testament. Letters came frequently and told of their success, but the class was discontinued, never again to meet as before.

The war had ended. The terrible conflict between the sections was over and the nation was rejoicing. The old Church must show its enthusiasm and therefore must have a flag. Mr. James Tyler agreed to give the

material if the ladies would put it together. We were invited to meet at the residence of Mrs. Nash, at 61st Street and Tenth Avenue for the purpose. How well we remember that home. It was a lovely spot, surrounded by beautiful grounds, where summer-houses, rustic seats and shade trees invited you to come in and rest awhile. Busy fingers had almost completed the flag when the question arose as to the proper persons to raise it. At last, it was decided that two young girls should be selected, one to represent the Goddess of Liberty and the other America. Miss Rebecca Nash was selected for the former and Miss Mary Amelia Tyler, the daughter of the donor of the flag, for the latter.

On the appointed day, we all assembled on the Bloomingdale Road, directly opposite the Church. At a given signal the young girls appeared, very prettily arrayed, and took the ends of the cords in their hands. Higher and higher it rose and, as the colors of "Old Glory" fluttered in the air, the people watched it with breathless silence. At last it settled near the steeple, and one loud burst of enthusiasm rent the air. We remember one old bronzed and weather-beaten soldier who shouted so long and heartily, almost turning somersaults in his delight, that the people turned to look at him and almost forgot the flag.

Years passed away; time brought many changes. Mr. Nash failed in business and removed from the neighborhood and we lost all trace of the family. Mr. Tyler and his daughter are sleeping in Trinity Cemetery, the wife and mother in Hastings, England. Occasionally we met a lady, apparently a stranger, who had become unsettled in her church relationship and who was introduced as Mrs. Deas. She would

sometimes come quietly into the Thirty-fourth St. Reformed Church, and, not being acquainted, would speak to few and then pass on. At one time one of the ladies spoke of her as her cousin and then began to describe her former home. She told us of the loss of property and the husband's death; how she had married again, etc. We then found that the stranger was our friend of former days. Time had changed us both. We had other names and our appearance was not the same as in our young lives and neither had recognized the other. When next we met, we sat down beside her and asked, "Do you remember the names of the young ladies who raised the flag on the Bloomingdale Church?" She looked up in surprise. Old times came back; old scenes were recalled. The daughter Rebecca had married and was living in the far West. Very few are left who were present on that eventful day.

Some have felt that Domine van Aken was to be blamed for his pertinacity in holding on to the church property; others, that he should be commended for his foresight, having in the end brought about the present results as evidenced by the elegant edifice now in use. However this may have been, great credit is due somewhere and the Lord will pardon what may have been wrong. The Domine inspired a profound feeling of love and respect. He was indeed a dear friend to his parishioners and neighbors. He was a *good* man and it has been said that no higher praise can be given. His wife, Miss Eliza W. Gulick, became a member Aug. 21, 1835. She died before him. Retiring in her usual state of health, she was found in the morning in a dying condition.

Many amusing incidents of the Domine's tenure are



PORTRAIT OF ELIZA GULICK, WIFE OF DOMINE VAN AKEN, 1862



told. One which especially pleased him, because of its application, is worth the telling. There was a person in the neighborhood who was seldom, if ever, seen in church. He called on her one day after she had been indulging a little too freely in wine. They had conversed a while, when he inquired where she attended church service. She languidly closed her eyes and replied, "I am fed by Dr. van Nest," referring to the Rev. A. R. van Nest, who preached in the Twenty-first Street Church. As Domine van Aken was a strong temperance man, he no doubt had a standing joke on the good Doctor who fed her so sumptuously.

## IX

**Vital Statistics**

Indices to Marriages and Baptisms will be found on  
page 521.

**REGISTER OF MARRIAGES, BLOOMING-  
DALE, NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER, 1808.**

By REV. ALEXANDER GUNN.

## BOOK I

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>	
1808			
Oct. 22	William B. Holmes Hannah Stanton	Jacob Harsen, Esq. Thomas Ash	Harlaem
Nov. 16	Isaac Tuckere Widow Lydia Lewis (maiden Lydia Franks), persons of color	George Gunn Mary Young	New York
1809			
Jan. 1	William C. Bal- lard Rebecca O. Wi- ley	Jemmy Olm- stead Silvanus Ward	Flatbush
Feb. 23	William Waite Widow Margaret Mildeberger (Maid. Marga- ret Webbers)	Jonathan Hard- man Garret H. Striker	



## Vital Statistics

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1810	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>	
Jan. 27	George Dinnin Widow Mary Wil- kinson (Maid. Mary Craft)	Jacob Harsen	New York
Apr. 18	William Ballard Sarah Oakley	John Oakley George Gunn	
May 10	Francis Lowrey Elizabeth Web- bers	Sarah Gunn Margaret Waite	
June 12	Andrew Her- mance Rachel Peterson	William Peter- son <u>Catharine Du- senberry</u>	
Aug. 9	John E. Ross Jane F. Hege- man	David M. Ross Cornelius Har- sen	
Dec. 18	John Harsen Catharine Bein- hauer	Jacob Harsen Garret H. Stri- ker	
Dec. 19	Hezekiah Flor- ance Hannah Heady	Jacob Harsen Elizabeth Low- rey	
1811			
Feb. 2	Lewis van Net Mary Perkins	Jacob Harsen George Dinnin	
May 25	John W. Palmer Letitia Hegeman	Sarah Gunn Harriet Bayard	
July 14	Wm. Howe Eliza Bashwod (Lord Courte- nay's servants)	Sarah Gunn Harriet Bayard	
July 25	Isaac L. Varian <u>Catharine Dusen- berry</u>	Garret H. Striker John Horn	
Aug. 15	John Strickland  Martha Clark of Goshen	Maria Clark, daughter Margaret Ste- phens	
Sept. 15	John Herinton Elizabeth Bean	Sarah Gunn	

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1811		
Oct. 5	Michael Cain Margaret Bartholf	Abraham Bartholf
Oct. 23	Sam'l A. Savage Letitia Webbers	Benjamin Havens Susan Webbers
Oct. 24	Henry Douglas Phebe Baker	James Striker Jacob Harsen Mr. Rogers
Dec. 10	Samuel Miers Mary Major	Mr. Major, father, Sarah Gunn
1812		
Jan. 30	Warren Bishop Harriet Olmstead	Jemmy Olmstead Mr. Sage
Apr. 19	Salyer Pettit Phebe Bloomer	Jacob Harsen George Dinnin
Aug. 25	Richard Van Ripper Mary Clark	John Strickland
Aug. 2	Christian Haneberg Jane Briggs	John Strickland
Oct. 25	Wilmot Oakley Widow Rebecca Tuttle	Sarah Gunn, widow
1813		
Jan. 15	James Gavatt Rebecca Martin	Cato—my black man
Mar. 24	Thomas Burling of Westchester Mary Shepherd	Ann Nichols
Apr. 29	Levi Rogers Lorenna Horsford	James Striker
Aug. 7	Henry Moynat Rachel Moore	Elizabeth Watson
Dec. 8	William Young Lavinia Merritt	John Stevens

## Vital Statistics

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	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1813 Dec. 9	Andrew Hopper Elizabeth Guest, widow Earl (Arell)	Doctor Huyler
Dec. 16	Samuel Van Or- den Maria Quacken- bush	Dr. David Quackenbush
1814		
Jan. 6	George Holber- ton Catharine Hard- man	Mrs. Stratton
July 30	Edmond Charles Genet Martha Brandon Osgood	Dr. Hosack
“ “	Samuel W. Os- good Juliana Osgood	“ “
Oct. 3	James Wells Hester Morris	Sarah Gunn B. LeRoy
Nov. 3	Jeremiah Grif- fiths Elsey Mott	Henry Post, Esq. R. Ryder
1815		
Mar. 22	David Ray Susan Dey colored people	Isaac Dey Sam'l Cisco
Mar. 23	William B. Ken- yon Letitia Ida Adri- ance	John Adriance Mr. Benson
Apr. 11	John Hegeman Martha Hegeman	Jacob Harsen Cath. Cozine
July 24	James Coursen Peggy Beagle	Black slaves of Mr. Ichabod Prall, with his consent.
Sept. 6	Joseph Cornell Maria Striker	Jordan Mott Garret H. Striker

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1815		
Oct. 12	John Mearon Sarah Chapman	Westly Watson
Dec. 9	Henry Gruenart Elizabeth Samler	Henry Post Mr. Amos
1816		
Jan. 22	Arunet Reed Ellen McVay	Andrew Middle- mus Sam'l Weiser
Jan. 23	Hamilton Brown Catharine Law- rence	Mary Shurtliff
Apr. 20	Matthias Warner Mary Frances Bogert	Jas. Bogert, Jun. Rev. Mr. Ver- meule
June 8	James Gallagher Anna Gallagher	Thos. — Sarah Gunn
June 29	John Gamage  Catherine Sea- man Weaver	Rev. Mr. Ve- meule Mrs. Ross
Aug. 6	John Carland Margaret Brown	Mrs. Lent Hamilton Brown
Sept. 26	William Robert Stewart Maria Louisa De Labigarre	Ab'm K. Beek- man
Oct. 3	Edward King Jane Berry (Mr. Cheesebor- ough's slave), persons of color	Sarah Gunn
Nov. 9	Tunis A. Wald- ron Julia St. John	John V. Wald- ron
1817		
Jan. 31	Jonathan Jarvis Sarah Seaman	Henry Seaman Hester Seaman

## Vital Statistics

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1817	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
Mar. 23	Rob't Church Susan Jackson	Colored people, the man belong- ing to Mr. Dyk- man, the wo- man free
May 28	Thomas Capp— mate of the <i>Royal Edward</i> —an English- man Elizabeth Ritches from Wales	Thomas Francis George Hodge
Aug. 28	Theophilus Har- denbrook Eliza Wheeler	Abel Harden- brook Rob't Gunn
Sept. 15	James C. Somer- indyke Mary Tates(Yates?)	Nathaniel Holmes — Burnham
Sept. 18	August Poerect Louisa Dorman	John Elwy William Lyon
Nov. 13	Frederick Evarts Mary Smith	David L. Bur- lock Jacob Harsen
Dec. 31	A n d r e w Van Buskirk Mary Hardman	George Holber- ton Francis Lowrey
1818		
Feb. 12	Henry Hoswel Sarah Freeman	Jacob Freeman Wm. Burtzell
May 31	William Doremus Eliza Lash Married at Green- wich	John Cowan
June 9	John H. Dusen- berry Sarah Leggett	Isaac L. Varian
June 9	Richard Darke Elizabeth Holmes	William Holmes
Sept. 20	John Bertalf Siny (or Liny) Degroodt	Abraham Van Schyler

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1819		
Feb. 19	John Doran Mary Franck	Calvin Higgins
June 29	Thos. Bennett Nancy Howland	Thos. Smith Loyd Howland
July 6	John S. Watkins Helen Striker	Rich'd Striker Joseph Cornell
Dec. 22	William Varian Susan Cornell	Isaac L. Varian Isaac Coutant
1820		
Mar. 18	Benjamin Wald- ron Sally Ann Malt- bie	Aaron Burr
May 16	John Augustus Sidell Marilla Adeline Noxon	Jeremiah John Drake
June 10	Joseph Valliere, born in Quebec Lydia Little, born in Prince- ton	Richard Jones Thomas Strong
June 11	Henry T. Boyle Martha H. Holmes	Rich'd Darke
July 23	Joseph Ball Bead- ford Eliza Mecklin	Rev. Mr. Shaw Margaret Miller
1821		
Apr. 18	William Torrey, Jun. Adeline Whitte- more	Timothy Whit- temore
May 13	Jacob Dickson Maria Dey, dau. of Peter Dey. colored persons	Isaac Dey
July 18	Rev. Chester Long Mary Gunn	Widow Hodgins Sarah Gunn

## Vital Statistics

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1821	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
Oct. 24	Timothy Colvin Sarah Ann Cornell	William Varian
Nov. 16	James Wildy Maria Ackerman	John Bertalf
1822		
May 19	William F. Higgins Maria Waldron	David Waldron
May 26	Jacob W. Brewster Harriet Bishop (Wid. Olmstead)	Michael Burnham Francis Olmstead
July 14	James Burt Sarah Ann Dupleix	Ann Nichols Harriet Bayard
July 29	William Holden Jane Brower	James Wildy Ann Nichols
Aug. 26	Peter Weatherby Hannah Woodward	Sarah Gunn
Oct. 15	John Yeatman Margaret Warrel	Nathaniel Dunlap John Low
Nov. 7	George S. Fake Ann Quackenbush	Dr. Quackenbush Andrew Quackenbush
Dec. 7	Cornelius Westerfield Rachel Ackerman	John Ackerman Catharine Cosine
1823		
Jan. 21	Xavier Gautro Ann Saxton	Jacob Harsen Cornelius McKoy
Feb. 3	James L. Cooper Lavina Naugle	Samuel Westervelt Jacob Naugle

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1823		
Mar. 8	Samuel Wormly Catharine Dey colored persons	Isaac Dey Jacob Dickson
Mar. 8	Daniel Fish, 19 Maria Westervelt under age 15	Ezra Miller, guardian for young man, whose parents are dead Susan Wester- velt—the sis- ter of bride and says the parents con- sent
May 9	Henry Alban Mary Anderson	Henry Terhune Widow Lent
May 20	Isaiah Wells Tut- tle Laetitia Hard- man	Philip Webbers Widow Sowrey
June 12	Philander Knapp Ann Maria Smith	Sarah Gunn
Sept. 24	Henry Moore Hannah Church Free colored persons	Caesar Striker
Dec. 24	Richard Pur- chase Widow Gautro or Ann Saxton	John Day Thos. Cornell
1824		
May 15	Thomas J. Em- mons Maria Shurtliff	Wm. Darke
July 25	James Cooper Jane Williams from New York	Sarah Gunn
Dec. 25	John Terhune Clarissa Ann Brown	



## Vital Statistics

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	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1825		
Mar. 26	John Freeland Phillis Ritter colored persons	
May 3	Albert Smith, M.D. Emily Maria Meier	
May 26	Janeway Van Zant Sarah Westervelt	Lavinia Westervelt
July 13	Benjamin Stephens, Jun. Hannah Maria Prall	
July 13	Abraham Augustus Prall Joanna Ritter Harsen	
Oct. 6	Andrew Fulton Jane Kerr	James Armstrong and wife
Oct. 26	Thomas McElrea Margaret Fleming	Jane Ritchie Alexander Smith
Dec. 14	Robert Thompson Mary Bacon	James Mecom
1826		
Dec. 5	Leonard B. Wells Susanna D. Frost	Benj'n Frost
Dec. 25	James George Elizabeth Dithridge	Edward Dithridge
1827		
May 24	Laurenz H. Von Post Henrietta Margaret Meier	
June 7	William H. Everett Susan Travis	A. H. Byer

**The New York of Yesterday**

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1828		
Jan. 31	Arden Hart Eliza White	Wm. Holmes Rich'd Darke
Mar. 10	Robert Webber Sarah Ann Lent	John Asten Ab'm Lent
Apr. 6	Samuel Smith Eliza Clary	John Seymour
Apr. 17	Allen McKinzie Maria Martling	Rob. Still
May 7	Cambridge Rit- ter Eliza Dey, colored persons	Isaac Dey
June 29	Edwin Bunnell Eliza Scofield	John L. Doo- little
Oct. 25	Samuel T. Moore Hannah Carling	William Carling Mary Ann Ber- talf
1829		
Feb. 1	Richard Varian Maria Fulmer	Thos. Stevens Isaac Varian
July 1	John Campbell Isabella Fisher	George Wilson Widow Eliza Mitchell
Sept. 6	William H. Whoople Deborah Kniffen	John Williams and wife

Solemnized by FRANCIS W. KIP,

Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church at Bloomingdale:

1830

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1830		
Nov. 12	Samuel McDon- ald and Cornelia Stuart	Henry Post, Esq. William Stuart Joseph Stoops

## Vital Statistics

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1831	Parties	Witnesses
Feb. 27	Samuel Johnson and Sarah A. F. Hunter, colored persons	M. R. Kip H. Bayard and I. Dubick
Apr. 7	Thomas H. Wells and Maria Fisher	M. R. Kip
May 12	Peter Smith and Sarah Foster	Alexander Smith Maria Smith Herman Hough- tailing
May 16	Wm Holmes and Eliza Ann Mor- gan	Wm. B. Holmes Richard Darke Wm. Burnham
Aug. 14	Isaac Dey and Clarissa Truax, colored persons	Elizabeth Dey Isabella Ritter!

By the Rev. JOHN ALBURTIS:

Married, 1832, Alexander Russell of Bloomingdale to  
——Dirk (?) of the same place. Witness, Benj.  
Russell.

Married, Aug., 1832, Alfred H. Underhill of New York  
to Susanna AlBurtis of the same place. Witnesses, Wm.  
AlBurtis and Chr'n (?) AlBurtis.

Married, Dec. 6, 1832, Samuel Fleet of New York to  
Catharine Cozine of the same place. Witnesses, Alden  
Spooner and Dr. Dixon.

Married, Jan. 8, 1833, Eldridge H. Brooks to Augusta  
M. Holmes of New York. Witnesses, John Darke and  
William Holmes.

Married, March 23, 1833, Francis Parker to Jane Dey  
of Bloomingdale. (Colored.) Witnesses, Cambridge Ritter  
and James Dey.

Married, July, 1833, Richard Brown to Isabella Ritter  
of Bloomingdale. Witness, Cambridge Ritter.

## The New York of Yesterday

Married, Oct. 24, 1833, Selleck B. Andrews to Maria Louisa Allport of New York. Witness, James Burnham.

Married, Nov. 24, 1833, William Dickerson to Mary Ann Bowley of Bloomingdale. Witnesses, ———Parkes and Mrs. Hamilton.

Solemnized by E. VAN AKEN:

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1835		
Dec. 1	Peter A. Horn of New York to Sarah Cozine of Bloomingdale	Samuel Fleet Jane Cozine &c.
1836		
Sept. 1	John Kelly to Mary Jane Morgan, both of Bloomingdale	Wm. B. Holmes Geo. W. Holmes
1837		
Feb. 24	John Jasper to Catharine Thompson, both of Bloomingdale	Eliza W. van Aken
June 11	Nathaniel Russell to Eliza Caryl	Rev. Fred'k B. Thompson
Aug. 2	William Galager to Mary Smith	Mary S. Gulick Jane Cozine
Aug. 5	Henry B. Earle Mrs. Sarah Meriott	———Thompson ———Lawer
Oct. 1	William F. Dana Ann Agnes Holmes	Nathaniel Wm. Holmes Geo. Washington Holmes
Dec. 25	Royal C. Perry M.D., to Mary Cargill of Bloomingdale, New York	David Cargill Edward Cargill Susan Havemeyer
1838		
Mar. 13	William Davison Elizabeth Boyles, both of Harlaem, New York	William F. Dana Geo. W. Holmes Nathaniel Wm. Holmes
Apr. 15	Daniel Feitner to Mahala Clinn both of New York	Mrs. Eliza van Aken

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1838		
Apr. 26	Joseph C. Adams of New York Mary Johnston of Bloomingdale	Joseph Henry Fisher Margaret Johnston
Sept. 27	Barak C. Wright to Margaret Fake of New York	James Quackenbush Margaret Quackenbush
Oct. 18	William Cisco Miss Ann Eliza Miles of Bloomingdale	Eliza W. van Aken Mary Freeman Gulick
Oct. 19	Charles Castendieck Catharine Alport, both of New York	Alexander Gulick Catharine Gulick Mary Freeman Gulick
Oct. 28	James Bradley to Mrs. Elizabeth Post, both of Bloomingdale	Alexander Gulick Pelatiah Perit Geo. Savage
Oct. 28	Elisha Wm. Hinman to Miss Ellen Maria Moore of New York	Wm H. Moore Letitia Jane Moore Eliza W. van Aken
1839		
July 28	Andrew Engle to Eliza Ann Atwater, both of English Neighborhood, New Jersey	Mrs. Engle Alexander Gulick Eliza W. van Aken
Oct. 20	Francis Woodruff to Amanda Cisco, both of New York	Daniel Feitner ———Wilmott Tamar Leggett
Oct. 29	At Rhoadhall, N. J. Francis Holmes of Cranbury, N. J., to Miss Mary Freeman Gulick of the former place	John T. McDowell Andrew McDowell Alexander Gulick
Nov. 25	Gessum Bowens Eliza Golden, both of Peekskill	Mrs. Hannah Riker Mary Martin
1840		
Apr. 28	Leonard H. Regur to Sarah Emeline Dusenberry, both of Bloomingdale, N. Y.	John H. Dusenberry Henrietta Leggett

## The New York of Yesterday

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1840		
May 1	William Paulson of Brooklyn to Jane Neaper of Bloom- ingdale, N. Y.	Thos. J. Emmons Robert Cameron
Oct. 8	Frederick A. Ridabock to Sarah Frances Ross, both of New York	John E. Ross Wm. H. Moore
Oct. 20	John Manuel Armanter to Sarah Davis, both of New York	John Moody Mary Ann Moody Jane G. Gulick
1841		
Jan. 17	Robert D. Thompson Jessie Anderson, both of New York	George Watson Isabella Watson
Jan. 24	Alexander Smith Deborah Randolph, both of New York (colored)	Daniel Smith Nancy S. Gulick
Feb. 9	George Darke Mary Isabella Martin, both of Bloomingdale, New York	Charles Darke Wm. B. Holmes
Feb. 28	Charles Wilmott Tamar Varian Leggett, both of Bloomingdale, New York	John Wm. Leggett James Boley Charles K. Dusenberry
May 12	John Hegeman Rosena Fairbanks (maiden name Rosena Moore), both of New York	John E. Ross ——— Odell Aaron B. Jackson
June 2	Leonard Beckley Emily Steele, both of Bloomingdale, N. Y.	Wm. Ensley Mary Ensley Hannah Holmes
July 4	William Ford Sarah Cath. Davis, both of New York	Wm. Cisco Ann Eliza Cisco Amanda Woodruff

## Vital Statistics

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	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1841		
Sept. 9	John C. Fisher Martha E. Garrett, both of New York	———Fisher ———Brooks
Nov. 27	Geo. E. S. Furniss to Ann B. Alexander, both of New York	Abel Alexander
Dec. 24	Richard Holmes Mrs. Sarah Clark (maid- en name S. Brown), both of New York	Abel Alexander
1842		
Mar. 2	Robert McRee Rosena Hanan, both of New York	Mrs. Cath. Roome wife of Chas. Roome ———Roome
Apr. 20	Peter Smith Sarah Ann Odell, both of New York	Mrs. E. van Aken
June 22	William Halden Miss Emily Caryl, both of New York	John Jasper Jane Halden Hannah Holmes
July 20	John Fisher Rose Hannah Reaves, both of New York	———Simpson
Nov. 2	John R. Newbury Christina Cath. Dooly, both of New York	Jacob Miller, M.D. Peter Prime Mary Prime
Nov. 30	Adam Thompson Miss Eliza Jane Garret, both of New York	———Garret
Dec. 4	James Madison Odell Miss Ann Maria Quin, both of New York	Mrs. Mary Cargill Eliza Cox
1843		
Jan. 15	Francis B. Guest Miss Sarah Ann Golding, both of Bloomingdale, N. Y.	Abraham Guest Henrietta Leggett

## The New York of Yesterday

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1843		
Feb. 19	Lewis Bowne Maria Stickles, both of New York	John Freeman Mrs. Mary Freeman Mary Ann Hanaway
1844		
Apr. 1	At Whitesville (E. F.) Harrison R. Blanchard, Esq., of Jacksonville (E. Florida) Miss Harriet C. Garey of Whitesville, E. Florida	Osias Buddington Solomon Morgan Susan Buddington
1845		
Apr. 1	James H. Dorland of Fishkill Plains, Dutch- ess County, N. Y., to Miss Jane A. Cozine of New York	Samuel Fleet John Waite C. C. Vermeule
1846		
Apr. 23	Wilson G. Hunt Mrs. Julia Smith (maid- den name Julia Law- rence), both of New York	Mrs. Patience Law- rence Rebecca Riker
1847		
Jan. 25	Nathaniel Holmes Rebecca Beard, both of New York	Wm. Holmes Geo. W. Holmes Geo. Hanaway
July 2	William G. Tompkins Jane E. Gassner, both of New York	Daniel Gassner Wm. W. Tompkins
Oct. 25	Kindread Howard Hannah S. Holmes, both of New York	Wm. Holmes Nathaniel Holmes John Freeman
1848		
Feb. 16	Bartholomew Kene Martha Magee, both of New York	Martha Thompson Catharine Thompson Mrs. Gambol
Mar. 26	Robert T. Vreeland Isabella Nish, both of New York	Wm. Halden Samuel Halden



## Vital Statistics

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	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1848		
Dec. 16	Peter Farnron Mary Ann Sinton, both of Bloomingdale, New York	Eliza W. van Aken Eliza C. Warren
1849		
May 11	Louis James Olmstead of Yonkers Mary Warner Campbell of New York	Samuel Fleet Sarah Cosine Jane A. Dorland
June 21	Peter Post Mrs. Mary Louisa White (maiden name Marshall), both of New York	John Marshall
1850		
July 18	Henry Kelly Elmira McCullough, both of New York	William Leggett Charles Wilmott
July 21	John Edward Taylor to Ann Morgan	Samuel Fleet Jane Dorland Sarah Cozine
Oct. 29	Thomas Shepherd Caroline Somerindyke, both of New York	Ab'm Labagh ———Stanton
1851		
July 16	Titus K. Adee, Sarah Lozier, both of New York	John Lozier John H. Lozier Eliza Lozier
1852		
Feb. 9	Charles Darke Holmes Mary Smith, both of New York	William Holmes William F. Dana Henry Steele
Feb. 15	Robert Carss Joanna Gordon	Eliza W. van Aken Gulick van Aken
Mar. 9	Francis Fowle Agnes Summersgill	C. G. Griffin ———Summersgill
Apr. 26	Alex'r Ray Skinner Ann Eliza Purdy	John H. Dally Robert Felix

## The New York of Yesterday

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1852		
Apr. 26	Josiah Martin Evaline M. Dally, all of New York	Emily Reid Mary Reid
1853		
Mar. 26	Joseph Weyer Mary Jane Day	Eliza W. van Aken Barney—— Gulick van Aken
June 27	Thomas Kervan, born July 9, 1831 Maria Cowdy, aged about 20, both of New York	Eliza Garretson Sarah Woodruff Eliza W. van Aken
July 3	John Collins, New York, born April 30, 1828 Miss Frances Merry (?), New York, born March 15, 1837	Miss Caroline Woodruff Sarah Woodruff Her widowed mother present consenting
1854		
Jan. 24	Samuel Whin Yates, aged 23 years, to Miss Margaret E. Smith, aged 18. He of New York, she of Smith- ville, L. I.	Joseph Darling Oliver Woodruff
May 8	James Hanaway, aged 28, born in England, March 1, 1826 Margaret Kelly, born in Ireland. Now both of New York	Oliver Woodruff Charles Backus
June 13	William Kelly Kate Holmes, both of New York	Wm. Holmes Wm. F. Dana George Kelly
May 15	John H. Edwards of Al- bany to Priscilla Felton of Sau- gerties	Barent G. van Aken David van Aken Zechariah Felten
Nov. 22	David H. Mason, born in New York, aged 26 Miss Mary Nish, born in Brooklyn, aged 22. Both of New York	Samuel Halden Robert Vreeland

## Vital Statistics

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	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1855		
Jan. 3	John Littell, born at Westfield, Essex Co. N. J., aged 26, of Westfield Miss Marion B. Shotwell, born Canaan, Conn., aged 24, of New York	Clayton M. Shotwell Caroline Shotwell
Oct. 20	David Emerick, born at Saugerties, Ulster Co., N. Y., aged 26 years Miss Elizabeth Catharine van Aken, born at Saugerties, Ulster Co., N. Y. aged 18 years. Married at Saugerties.	Barent G. van Aken John van Aken John H. Edwards Gulick van Aken
Nov. 1	Enoch van Aken, Jr. Angeline Plass, both born and married at Saugerties	David van Aken John Plass Barent G. van Aken
Nov. 20	Timothy Keese, born at Boston, aged 23 years Hannah Hawkins	Samuel Fleet Gulick van Aken
1856		
Jan. 3	Hiram Engle Ann Maria Terhune, both of New York	James D. Yates
May 7	Wm. G. Graham Mary Ann Read, both of New York	Wm. Read Miss Emily Read Mrs. Eliza W. van Aken
Dec. 29	George Findley, born at Utica, aged 28 Deborah Ann Parks, born at Hanover, N. J., aged 21, both of New York	John Parks Gulick van Aken
1857		
May 3	John Carss of New York, widower Miss Marion Bissland of New York	Thos. J. Emmons Emily Emmons Eliza W. van Aken

## The New York of Yesterday

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1857		
Sept. 25	Wm. H. Lacon, aged 24, of White Plains, West- chester Co., N. Y., born at Shrewsbury, England, to Miss Isabella Teresa Rooney, aged 15, of White Plains, West- chester Co., New York, born in New York City	Joseph Kelly Eliza Jane Baldwin
1858		
Jan. 2	Henry J. Gutman, born New York, aged 24, resides here now single Emma C. Lozier (single), born and resides in New York	Joseph Gutman John H. Lozier
Jan. 2	Joseph Gutman, Jr., aged 22 (single), born and resides in New York Lida C. Pitman, aged 19 5 months (single), born and resides in New York	John H. Lozier Henry W. Haywood Joseph Gutman
1859		
Jan. 17	Jerome W. Merritt, aged 25, born at Boston, Massachusetts, now residing 132 Ninth Ave., New York Miss Frances Heywood, aged 20, born in New York, residence 132 Ninth Ave., New York. Married 162 West 26th St., New York.	Mrs. Martha Heywood, the bride's mother.  Eliza W. van Aken
June 16	Geo. S. Miller, born in Scotland (Edinburgh), aged 21. Residence	John Jasper John K. Curtis

## Vital Statistics

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1859	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
	230 Third Ave., New York	
	Miss Maria R. Brock, born New York, aged 18. Residence 72nd St.	
Aug. 7	John Ely (single), born at Hackensack, N. J., aged 21 years, residence New York, to Miss Matilda Bogert, born New York, aged 18. Residence in N. Y.	Mrs. Jane A. Dorland Miss Sarah Fleet Mrs. Sarah Cosine
Oct. 1	Thomas Gilland, born in Ireland. Aged 21 Nov. 1st next. Residence 62nd St. Teressa McDonald, aged 18 next July 26th. Born in Ireland. She now resides 62nd St. near Broadway. Her father in Clinton Co., N. Y.	Michael Caryl
1860 Mar. 8	Mr. Ab'm De Voe, aged 26, born at Shawangunk. Lives at Shawangunk, Ulster Co., N. Y. Miss Miriam Boyd, aged 25, born at Shawangunk, now of Brooklyn, N. Y.	John N. Boyd James G. Derrickson
1861 Mar. 26	James Bolles Wallace of New York, born at Milford, New Hampshire, aged 23, to Louisa R. Lozier of New York, born in N. Y., aged 20: married in N. Y.	Henry J. Gutman Gulick van Aken

## The New York of Yesterday

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1861		
Oct. 29	John Smith of Albany,	Geo. Bainton
or 30	born at St. Johns, aged 24	Fred'k Herbert
	Elizabeth Boxall, of Harlem, born in Eng- land, aged 19	
1862		
May 6	William G. Purdy, aged 29, of New York. Born in England	Francis Felix Wm. F. Goodburn
	Rebecca Gardner of New York. Born in Ire- land. Aged 21 years	
May 12	Thomas Stanley of New York. Born in Ire- land. Aged 26 years	George Robertson ———Watts
	Elizabeth Frazer Robert- son, born in Scotland, 22 years	Mrs. Jane Anderson
May 22	Eldridge Holmes, aged 30, born in New York	Mrs. Eliza W. van Aken
	Miss Margaret Wright, born in New York, aged 24. Both now residing in N. Y. Mar- ried at 20 W. 28th St.	
Nov. 9	Isaac D. Blake, born in Boston, Mass., aged 32. Now lives in 85th St. near 11th Ave., New York	Jotham Wilson Lewis Wood
	Maria Wilson, born in New York, aged 26, resides 88th St., near Broadway, New York.	
1863		
Dec. 1	Gulick van Aken, born in New York, aged 23, residence New York	Archibald K. Kearny Hamilton B. Holmes John Mc. Bogart
	Elizabeth J a n n e t t Kearny, aged 20, born in Brooklyn, N. Y. and resides there.	

## Vital Statistics

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	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1864		
Feb. 14	Nathaniel T. Spear (widower), aged 37, of New York, residence and married at 242 W. 32d St. Born at Oakham, Mass.	Wm. Mallary James Clift
	Miss Christina C. Byron, born at Boston, aged 17, residence 242 W. 32d St., New York	
	Lawrence Deyo of New York, aged 30, born in Shawangunk, Ulster Co., N. Y.	Daniel Feitner Jas. W. Oliver
	Mary Catharine Feitner of New York, aged 19, born in N. Y. married 29 W. 34th St.	
July 17	Robert Watts, aged 28 years, resides in New York, born at Helper-ton Wiltshire, Eng-land	Eli Watts Henry Hole
	Mrs. Jane Anderson (maiden name Jane Bogert), born in Ber-gen Co., New Jersey, aged 32. Residence in New York; married 68th St., New York	
1865		
Feb. 20	Frederick Waldman, born in Germany, aged 32. Residence 126 West St.	Mrs. Julia Caroline Corson Charles Galuba
	Caroline Amelia Corson, born New York, aged 18. Residence and married at cor. 2d Ave. and 105th St.	
May 9	Andrew Peter Deyo of Shawangunk, Ulster,	Matthew F. Deyo Lawrence Deyo

## The New York of Yesterday

1865

*Parties**Witnesses*

Co., N. Y., born at Shawangunk, aged 40.  
 Mary Hardenbergh born and resides in same place, aged 20; married at 268 W. 33d St. N. Y.

Francis Felix, born in New York; aged 21. Residence 69th St. near Broadway

Ambrose Felix  
 Elizabeth Schmidt

Anna Maria Robison, aged 22, born New York, Residence 68th St. near Broadway. Married 207 West 27th St.

1866

June 20

George Eaton, aged 22, born in New York. Residence South Brunswick, Middlesex Co., N. J., (Roadhall)

John van Aken  
 James Spencer  
 Gulick van Aken

Margaret Jane McGinness, aged 20, born South Brunswick, Middlesex Co., N. J., married at Roadhall, town and county as above

July 24

Joseph Dains, aged 24 years, born in Chester, Orange Co., N. Y.

William Henry Dains  
 Newman Marshman  
 Jane A. Dorland

Eliza Jane Walker, aged 17, born Brooklyn; both reside in Brooklyn, N. Y., were married at 53d St., New York

Oct. 29

George A. McIntyre, aged 19, born in

William Halden  
 Jane Nish



## Vital Statistics

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	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
1866	Bergen, New Jersey. Residence New York Jane Emily Halden, aged 21, born in New York; residence and marriage 310 West 42d St., New York	Samuel Halden
Dec. 25	Alex'r Southerland, born at Wick, in the County of Caithness, Scot- land, aged 29 Ann Bruce, born same place; aged 26 years. Present residence and marriage 10th Ave., cor. 65th St., New York.	Geo. Gillie David S. Reid Fred'k Schmidt
1867		
Feb. 26	Eli Benedict, aged 23, born Bethel, Conn. Martha E. Mitchell, aged 20, born New York City. Residence of both New York City, marriage, Broad- way, near 67th St.	Henry S. Mitchell Wm. Mitchell Thomas Mitchell
Nov. 26	William Dowdell, aged 30, born in County of Kildare, Ireland, Resi- dence South Amboy, N. J. Ellen Clark, widow of James Little, born in Ireland; aged probably 35; residence Road- hall; married at Road- hall, South Bruns- wick, N. J.	Wm. McDougall David Gulick Geo. Eaton
Dec. 1	John Fistje of New York born in New York; aged 22	Charles Bowers Emma Fistje

## The New York of Yesterday

	<i>Parties</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
	Emma Hoffman, aged 20, born in Germany; residence of both, Broadway bet. 68 and 69th Sts.	
1868		
Mar. 4	Charles A. Winch, aged 21, residence 276 West 10th St., New York Marion Swan Halden, aged 17, born in New York; residence—; married at 341 West 27th St., New York	Samuel Halden William Halden Geo. A. McIntyre
Apr. 29	James Alexander Stri- ker, born in New York; aged 43 Mrs. Letitia M. Knight. Maiden name L. M. Moulton; aged 33; born in New York; married in Morrisania by Henry R. Blin assisted by E. van Aken	J. T. Moulton Chas. Wood Ambrose K. Striker
Nov. 17	Edgar V. Fowler, born Tarrytown, N. Y.; aged 27; residence Tarrytown Ella Park, born in New York; aged 25; resi- dence 418 West 34th St.	John Hamilton George Findley Isabella Park



## REGISTER OF MARRIAGES

### BOOK II

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Residence</i>
1869		
Aug. 10	George Findley	22 Mansfield Place, New York
	Agnes Gordon	22 Mansfield Place, New York
Oct. 6	Nathaniel M. Moger	White Plains, N. Y.
	Isabella H. Park	White Plains, N. Y.
1870		
Feb. 19	Samuel Bawden	62d St. and 9th Ave., New York
	Maria Hanaway	75th St., and 9th Ave. New York
June 1	Thomas J. Barnaby	Elizabeth, N. J.
	Alice Wood	54 West 23d St. N. Y.
Aug. 10	Benjamin Franklin	316 W. 52d St., N. Y.
	Jane Cozine Dorland	219 W. 53d. St, N. Y.
Aug. 18	Frederick Vass	312 E. 12th St., N. Y.
	Anne Robertson	Harlem
Oct. 8	Daniel Bremer	74th St., and Boule- vard, New York
	Sarah Hanaway	75th St. and 9th Ave., New York
Oct. 20	Wm. Holmes, Jr.	74th St. near 10th Ave., New York
	Sarah McFarland (maiden name Smith)	74th St., New York
1871		
Apr. 7	Ralph L. Ostrander	143 Perry St., N. Y.
	Hannah V. Richards	143 Perry St., N. Y.
Apr. 12	Jacob Frederick Schmidt	New York
	Sarah Ann Moore	New York
Apr. 20	Metcalf Everett	New York
	Elizabeth Schmidt	New York

<i>Age</i>	<i>Place of Birth</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
41	Utica, New York State	Frederick Schmidt
30	New York City	Metcalf Everett
35	New Castle	George Findley
28	New York City	Agnes Findley
25	England	George Hanaway
24	New York City	Samuel Hanaway
30	Harwich, Mass.	Lewis Wood
20	New York City	James O. Barnaby
24	“ “ “	Philip Vernon
25	“ “ “	George Rose Isaac Rose
30	Ireland	Thomas Stanley
25	Scotland	George Robertson
24	Germany	Samuel Bawden
19	New York City	Samuel Hanaway
29	“ “ “	William Holmes, Sr.
30	“ “ “	Henry Kelly William Kelly
38	“ “	Eliza W. van Aken
28	“ “	Sarah M. Horn
27	Brooklyn, N. Y.	Frederick Schmidt
27	England	Elizabeth Schmidt
23	Roxborough, Mass.	Frederick Schmidt
28	Yonkers, N. Y.	John Dwight

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Residence</i>
1872		
Mar. 4	Louis Hageman	New York City
	Annie May Barnaby	New York City
Oct. 5	Jacob Robert Terwilliger	Kingston, Ulster Co. N. Y.
	Elizabeth Catharine Em- erick (maiden name van Aken)	Throop, Cayuga Co., N. Y.
1873		
Mar. 2	Wm. Palister Brown	68th St. and Boule- vard, N. Y.
	Rachel Ellen Babington	75 North 4th St., Williamsburg, N. Y.
June 8	Charles Stacel	65th St., bet. 8th and 9th Ave., N. Y.
	Isabella Decker	65th St., bet. 8th and 9th Ave., N. Y.
Dec. 1	William Halden	343 W. 43d St., N. Y.
	Georgiana Blackman	446 W. 42d St., N. Y.
1873		
Dec. 3	Jacob Flick	67th St., near Boule- vard, N. Y.
	Barbara Geiar	456 W. 51st St., N. Y.
Dec. 10	Frank S. Thompson	Shokan, Ulster Co., N. Y.
	Eliza van Aken	Kingston, Ulster Co., N. Y.
1875		
Oct. 31	James N. Vreeland	New York City
	Rosena Mary Hartner	" " "
Dec. 22	Ashley William Cole	" " "
	Mamie Louisa Trimble	" " "
1876		
Mar. 16	Richard M. H. Deas.	Staten Island
	Catharine P. Nash	" "
1877		
Mar. 19	James Smock	Englishtown, N. J.
	Rachel McDowell Gulick	South Brunswick, N. J.
Oct. 9	Charles E. P. Neumann	New York City
	Emilie H. Koertge	" " "
Nov. 27	Enoch I. van Aken	South Brunswick, N. J.
	Mary Farr	" " "

## Vital Statistics

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<i>Age</i>	<i>Place of Birth</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
42	City of Oldenburgh, Ger.	Eliza W. van Aken
22	Taunton, Mass.	Sarah M. Horn
33	Greenbush, N. Y.	Eliza W. van Aken
35	Saugerties, Ulster Co., N.Y.	
28	New York	John Harding
19	Jersey City, N. J.	Henry S. Mitchell
21	New York	Martin Armstrong
19	Poughkeepsie, N. Y.	Nancy I. Decker
30	New York	John Halden
23	“ “	Jane Halden
22	New York	Peter Flick
22	Germany	Annie Flick
23	Rhinebeck, N. Y.	William van Aken
27	Kingston, Ulster Co.,N.Y.	Albert van Aken
25	New York City	Eliza W. van Aken
19	“ “ “	T. McElvany
35	England	Emott Wells
24	New York City	James W. Fooley
	“ “ “	Mrs. Emma Eagleton
	Brooklyn, N. Y.	H. Dio Lawson
	South Brunswick	John Smock
		Emeline Smock
34	Germany	Theodore Koertge
22	New York City	Albert F. Koertge
24	New Jersey	Alexander van Aken
19	“ “	Eliza W. van Aken





REGISTER OF BAPTISMS BY ALEX-  
ANDER GUNN, PASTOR OF THE  
CHURCH AT BLOOMINGDALE,  
NEW YORK.  
10th OCT., 1808.



REGISTER OF BAPTISMS—from a former record

<i>Dates</i> 1806	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Ministers</i>
July 13	William, born May 21, 1806	Henry Palmer Maria Rikeman	Mr. Smith
	Cornelius Eli, born July 27, 1806	Cornelius Pe- terson Eliza Tharp	Dr. J. H. Liv- ingston
	H e n r y, born July 9, 1806	Peter B. Dem- oress Hannah Volk	Dr. J. H. Liv- ingston
	William, born Oct. 28, 1805	William Ray Mary Dey	Dr. J. H. Liv- ingston
	Elenor, born Jan. 12, 1806	Benjamin New- house Ann Jones	Dr. J. H. Liv- ingston
Aug. 31	Catharine, born July 30, 1806	William Strat- ton Catharine Web- bers	Dr. J. H. Liv- ingston
1807			
Jan. 4	Sophia, born Oct. 11, 1805	George Gallo- way Mary Coffee	Mr. Henderson
Jan. 18	Lawrence H., Nov. 7, 1806	J o n a t h a n Hardman Sarah Webbers	Mr. Henderson
Apr. 19	Sarah J a n e, Feb. 13, 1807	Mr. Dalton	Mr. Henderson
June 14	Gilbert Cou- tant, Feb. 5, 1807	Isaac Varian Tamar Leggett	Mr. Henderson

## The New York of Yesterday

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Ministers</i>
Dec. 13 1808	John, Nov. 23, 1807	John Short Jane Tynan	Mr. Henderson
Oct. 16	Isaac, born Sept. 5, 1805	Andrew Mor- row Jane Adamson	Rev. W. Ro- meyne
Aug. 28	Sarah, born Au- gust 3, 1808	William Stratton Catharine Webbers	
Aug. 28	John William, born May 20, 1808	Isaac Leggett Barbary Kelly	
Sept. 3	Philip, born May 22, 1807	John Webbers Margaret Ford	
Oct. 23	MaryAnn, born Sept. 25, 1808	Aaron B. Jackson Cynthia Hegeman	
Nov. 20 1809	Samuel, born June 12, 1808	William Ray } Mary Dey }	people of color
Jan. 15	Caroline, born, April 15, 1808	George Galloway Mary Coffey	
Mar. 23	William, born Oct. 24, 1804 and Samuel, born Dec. 22, 1808	William Williamson } Esther Coss }	people of color
Mar. 31	Martha Cox, wife of Law- rence Hoff- man, born Oct. 4, 1783	Adult	
Apr. 6.	Aaron, born March 11, 1809	Jonathan Hardman Sarah Webbers	
Apr. 30	John, born March 23, 1809	Matthew Horn Margaret Hegeman	
May 14	George Wash- ington, born April 3, 1809	Isaac Varian Tamar Leggett	

## Vital Statistics

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<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Ministers</i>
May 28	Jemimah, born April 15, 1809	James Striker Mary Horn	
June 8	Julia, born Feb. 19, 1809	Catharine Remsen Samuel A. Lawrence	
June 11	Sarah Ballard, born May 7, 1809	Sarah Nichols } Alexander Gunn }	baptized by Rev. Mr. Rowan
Aug. 20	John Horn, born May 24, 1809	Christopher Mildeberger Margaret Horn	
Aug. 27	Mary Ann, born April 25, 1809	Lawrence Hoffman Martha Cox	
Sept. 24	Letitia, born June 12, 1808	Henry Hughes Hannah Webbers	
Dec. 17	Mary, born	Isaac Dey Elizabeth Cisco	
1810			
Jan. 9	Edward Preble, born Oct. 25, 1809	William Torrey Margaret Nichols	
Feb. 28	Ann, born Jan. 19, 1803	Robert Davidson Elizabeth Rodabaugh	
Feb. 28	Rebecca, born Dec. 8, 1804	Robert Davidson Elizabeth Rodabaugh	
Feb. 28	Alexander, born Jan. 29, 1810	Robert Davidson Elizabeth Rodabaugh	
Mar. 14	Lewis, born Feb. 17, 1810	Hannibal Ritter } Dina }	people of color
Apr. 18	Patience, born Apr. 2, 1809	John Oakley Glorianna Hendrickson	
Apr. 30	Kelly, born Mar. 21, 1810	Isaac Leggett Barbary Kelly	
Apr. 30	Henry, born Apr. 12, 1810	Samuel A. Lawrence Catharine Remsen	

## The New York of Yesterday

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Ministers</i>
May 7	Catharine, born Apr. 20, 1810	Cornelius Harsen Joanna Henrietta Ritter	
May 7	William Waite, born Mar. 15, 1810	William Stratton Catharine Webbers	
June 11	William, born about 7 weeks before	John Clendining Margaret Patterson	
Nov. 25	Letitia, born Oct. 15, 1810	Aaron B. Jackson Cynthia Hegeman	
1811			
Jan. 30	Mary, born	Henry Hughes Hannah Webbers	
Mar. 3	Peter Adrian Hegeman, born Jan. 24, 1811	Matthew Horn Margaretta Hegeman	
Mar. 3	Alexander Nichols, born Jan. 10, 1811	Alexander Gunn } Sarah Nichols } Mr. Rowan	baptized by
Apr. 1	Alexander, born Apr. 18, 1810	George Galloway Mary Coffey	
Apr.	Garret Peter- son, born Mar. 12, 1811	Andrew Hermance Rachel Peterson	
July 14	Letitia Jane, born June 19, 1811	John E. Ross Jane F. Hegeman	
Aug. 18	William, born May 22, 1811	William Waite Margaret Webbers	
1812			
Feb. 19	Gilbert, born Jan. 3, 1813	John Van Emburgh Jane Christie	
Feb. 27	Magdalen Rit- ter, born Jan. 31, 1812	Cornelius Harsen Joanna Henrietta Ritter	
Mar. 1	John, born July 28, 1811	Susan Hinckley (the father did not stand)	

## Vital Statistics

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<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>
Mar. 1	Henry, born Nov. 23, 1811	Sarah Webbers Jonathan Hardman (did not stand)
Apr. 1	Frederick, born Oct. 22, 1811	John Harsen Catharine Beinhour
June 28	Andrew Hopper, born	Isaac L. Varian Catharine Dusenberry
June 28	George Osgood, born	Alexander Gunn Sarah Nichols
Oct. 15	George Washington, born Apr. 13, 1812	Barzillai Dusenberry Mary Hopper
Dec. 7	Joseph Windham, born Aug. 5, 1812	Sam'l A. Savage Letitia Webbers
1813		
Feb. 12	Sarah Ann, born Dec. 2, 1812	Andrew Hermance Rachel Peterson—stood
Feb. 28	Jemima, born Jan. 5, 1813	Matthew Horn Margaretta Hegeman
Apr. 30	Peter A. Hegeman, born Feb. 20, 1813	Aaron B. Jackson Cynthia Hegeman
Aug. 22	George, born June 23, 1813	Wm. Waite Margaret Webbers
Sept. 9	Tamar Letitia, born Aug. 14, 1813	Isaac L. Varian Catharine Dusenberry
Sept. 9	Emiline, born Feb. 27, 1813	Isaac L. Varian Tamar Leggett
Nov. 5	Hannah Hopkins, wife of Wm. Stuart	Adult
Nov. 5	Julia, born	Wm. Stuart Hannah Hopkins
1814		
Feb. 4	Samuel Adams Lawrence	Adult

## The New York of Yesterday

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Ministers</i>
Mar. 3	John Peter Ritter, born Feb. 9, 1814	Cornelius Harsen Joanna Henrietta Ritter	
Mar. 13	Nathaniel Wm., born May 15, 1809 George Washington, born Apr. 23, 1811 Augusta Maria born Feb. 15, 1814	Wm. B. Holmes Hannah Stanton	
Mar. 27	Lewis Carstairs	Alexander Gunn Sarah Gunn	} by Mr. Rowan
Apr. 18	Harry, born Mar. 27, 1814	Hannibal Ritter Dina	} people of color
Apr. 25	Caroline, born Feb. 3, 1811	Daniel Mack Elizabeth Torot	
May 15	John Edmund, born Oct. 22, 1813	John W. Palmer Letitia Hegeman	
May 22	James, born Jan. 12, 1814	John Beekman Mary Elizabeth Goad Bedlow	
July 31	Samuel, born June 4, 1813	Walter Franklin Osgood Ellen Moncrief	
Aug. 5	Horace, born June 11, 1814	Samuel A. Lawrence Catharine Remsen	
Aug. 28	Eliza Catharine, born Aug. 4, 1814	Caspar Meier Elizabeth Catharine Kunze	
Nov. 6	Christian, Hugh	Hugh McLeod Mrs. McLeod	
1815			
Mar. 5	Letire Frances, born Dec. 28, 1814	Matthew Horn Margaret Hegeman	
Apr. 11	John Edward, born Mar. 18, 1815	John E. Ross Jane F. Hegeman	



## Vital Statistics

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<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Ministers</i>
May 5	Sam'l James, born Oct. 28, 1814	Sam'l van Orden Maria Quackenbush	
Aug. 4	Hannah Cath- arine, born Feb. 18, 1815	William Stuart Hannah Hopkins, deceased	
Oct. 8	Caroline Maria, born Oct. 3, 1815	Dr. John Gamage Mary Stanton (widow Wilkins)	
Oct. 10	Jonathan, born May, 1814	Sarah Webbers Jonathan Hardman (did not stand)	
Oct. 10	John, born Oct. 31, 1814	Margaret Webbers William Waite (did not stand)	
Oct. 20	Janet Duncan, born June 29, 1815	Robert Gosman, now deceased Phebe Muir	
Oct. 22	Cynthia, born Aug. 31, 1815	Aaron B. Jackson Cynthia Hegeman	
Nov. 3	Isaac, born Aug. 16, 1815	Isaac L. Varian Catharine Dusenberry	
Dec. 18	Sarah, born Sept. 17, 1809	Richard Darke	
Dec. 18	Henry, born Nov. 17, 1812	Maria ———	
Dec. 18	Maria, born Nov. 22, 1815		
1816			
Jan. 15	John Varick, born Oct. 14, 1814	Henry S. Dodge Jane Dey Varick	
Jan. 15	Henry Augus- tus, born Dec. 20, 1815	Henry S. Dodge Jane Dey Varick	
Jan. 22	Henry, born June 28, 1814	Henry Bearns Margaret George	
Feb.	John Wood, born Aug. 10, 1815	John W. Palmer Letitia Hegeman	

## The New York of Yesterday

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>
Mar. 10	John Adrian, born Jan. 19, 1816	John Hegeman Martha Hegeman
May 3	Matavus Hop- per, born Sept. 23, 1815	Jordan Mott Lavinia Striker
Aug. 9	Mary Antoi- nette, born July 12, 1816. First bap- tized in new church	Alexander Gunn Sarah Nichols
Aug. 11	Cornelia Ra- chel	Cornelius Harsen Joanna Henrietta Ritter
Aug. 25	James, Rachel	Isaac Dey Elizabeth Cisco
Nov. 17	Mary Kuni- gundi, born Oct. 7, 1816	Caspar Meier Elizabeth C. Kunze
Dec. 1 1817	Dina, born	Hannibal Ritter } people of Dina } color
Jan. 1	Sarah Scher- merhorn, born Nov. 9, 1816	John James Stewart —— Hopkins
Apr. 10	Mary Ann, born July 15, 1812 Jane, born Oct. 16, 1814 William Varian, Dec. 27, 1816	Isaac Leggett Barbary Kelly
May 11	Matthew	Matthew Horn Margaret Hegeman
May 11	Peter Adrian, born Jan. 24, 1817	John E. Ross Jane F. Hegeman
Aug. 12	Matilda Camp- bell, born July 16, 1817	Isaac L. Varian Catharine Dusenberry

## Vital Statistics

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<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>
Aug. 21	Elizabeth, born Nov. 31, 1816	Sarah Webbers Jonathan Hardman
Aug. 21	Catharine Ma- ria, born Feb. 10, 1817	Catharine Hardman George Holberton
Aug. 24	Mary Jane, born Aug. 2, 1817	John Carland Margaret Brown
Aug. 24	Thomas, born Jan. 2, 1817	Mr. Morrison
Dec. 19	James Sterling, born Aug. 28, 1816	Henry Bears Margaret George
1818		
Jan. 6	Charles David, born Oct. 27, 1817	Sam'l A. Lawrence Catharine Remsen
May 10	Robert, born Feb. 3, 1810 Elspeth, born Sept. 1, 1813 Catharine, born June 28, 1815	Andrew Middlemus Hannah Robinson
May 24	Margaret Hege- man, born Dec. 20, 1817	Aaron B. Jackson Cynthia Hegeman
May 24	Angeline, born Mar. 2, 1818	Jacob Naugel Eleanor Westervelt
July 1	John Asten, born May 25, 1818	Alexander Gunn Sarah Nichols
Aug. 23	Jane, born Oct. 19, 1817	Hamilton Brown Catharine Lawrence
Nov. 7	William Sty- mets, born Sept. 20, 1818	John E. Ross Jane F. Hegeman
Nov. 7	Ann Agnes, born June 3, 1816	William B. Holmes Hannah Stanton

## The New York of Yesterday

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>
Nov. 7	Mary Eliza born Oct. 10, 1818	William B. Holmes Hannah Stanton
Dec. 2	George, born Aug. 23, 1818	James C. Somerindyke Mary Tates (Yates?)
1819		
Jan. 3	Wm. Albert- son, about seven years old	Sponsor, Mr. John Asten
Jan. 31	George, born Dec. 20, 1818	James Shurtliff Sarah Morrow
Feb. 10	James Carlton, born May 15, 1814 Mary Louisa, born Jan. 5, 1817	William Burnham Eliza Beck
Apr. 25	Isaac Varian, born Dec. 19, 1818	Thomas J. Stevens Letitia Varian
Apr. 30	Elizabeth Oliver	a colored woman
June 27	Charles Kelly, born Mar. 23, 1819	John N. Dusenberry Sarah Leggett
June 30	Margaret, born May 15, 1811 Susanna, born Jan. 20, 1814 Elizabeth, born July 25, 1816 Thomas, born May 31, 1819	Nathan Cook Elizabeth Adamson
July 11	Barbary Ann, born Mar. 20, 1819	Isaac Leggett Barbary Kelly
Oct. 3	M a r y Eliza- beth, born—	Isaac L. Varian Catharine Dusenberry
Nov. 5	Maria Varick, born—	Sam'l A. Lawrence Catharine Remsen

## Vital Statistics

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<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>
1820		
Jan. 5	William, born July 15, 1818	Henry Bearns Margaret George
May 28	Jane	Hamilton Brown Catharine Lawrence
July 2	Mary Striker, born May 13, 1820	John S. Watkins Helen Striker
July 16	Three children	James Randell, colored man Cornelia
Nov. 20	Isaac Leggett, born Sept. 12, 1820	John N. Dusenberry Sarah Leggett
1821		
Mar. 11	Mary Ward, born Dec. 20, 1820	William Varian Susan Cornell
Apr. 22	James Amasa, born Sept. 14, 1820	James Shurtliff Sarah Morrow
Apr. 28	Sarah Ann, born Aug. 15, 1816 Hannah Maria, born Aug. 21, 1816 Benjamin Alex- ander, born July 3, 1820	Sam'l van Norden Maria Quackenbush
Aug. 19	Henrietta, born Mar. 14, 1821	Isaac Leggett Barbary Kelly
Sept. 23	James Thomas, born Aug. 10, 1821	Joseph Cornell Maria Striker
1822		
Jan. 2	Harriet, born Oct. 2, 1821	John S. Watkins Helen Striker
Apr. 7	John, born Dec. 2, 1821	John Wilson Catharine Hutchison

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>
June 8	Sarah Stakes, born Oct. 15, 1816	John Cosine Sarah Kent
June 30	Margaret Fake, born Apr. 26, 1822	Sam'l van Norden Maria Quackenbush
Aug. 18	Letitia Stevens born July 19, 1822	William Varian Susan Cornell
Aug. 18	David, born July 7, 1822	Timothy Colvin Sarah Ann Cornell
Dec. 18	John Park Hamilton, born Feb. 25, 1817	Mother, Isabella Hamilton
Dec. 30	Sarah Frances, born June 27, 1820 Emeline, born July 13, 1822	John E. Ross Jane F. Hageman
1823		
Feb. 16	Samuel Liscom about eight years old	Sponsor, Henry Post
May 7	Mary Eliza Mc- Night, born May 6, 1817	Mary Shurtliff, Sponsor
May 7	Charles Darke, born Jan. 29, 1823 Hannah, born July 8, 1820	William B. Holmes Hannah Stanton
Nov. 19	Thomas George born July 28, 1823	Thomas J. Stevens Letitia Varian
Dec. 3	Charles, born May 31, 1821	William Burnham Eliza Beck
Dec. 24	E l s p e t, born Nov. 12, 1823	John Wilson Catharine Hutchinson

## Vital Statistics

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<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>
1824		
Jan. 7	Tamar Varian, born June 5, 1823	Isaac Leggett Barbary Kelly
Jan. 7	Sarah Emeline, born July 3, 1823	John N. Dusenberry Sarah Leggett
Feb. 25	Catharine Jane, born Sept. 8, 1824, died Sept. 16, 1859	Cornelius Westerfield Rachel Ackerman
Aug. 17	John Kniffen Williams, born May 7, 1820	John Williams Susannah Kniffen
Aug. 23	Eugene, born Oct. 6, 1823	Sam'l A. Lawrence Catharine Remsen
Aug. 23	John James, born Jan. 20 1824	Sam'l van Orden Maria Quackenbush
Oct. 25	Isaac, born May 19, 1824	Isaac L. Varian Catharine Dusenberry
Oct. 25	William Henry, born Feb. 12, 1824	William Varian Susan Cornell
Oct. 10	Martha, born Mar. 7, 1824	Robert Kinkade Margaret Scott
1825		
Apr. 30	Samuel Aldrich Savage	Adult
Aug. 5	William Thom- as, born Feb. 25, 1825	Thomas J. Emmons Maria Shurtliff
Aug. 5	John Alexan- der, Dec. 14, 1824	Joel Post Alma Floyd
Sept. 15	William Ed- win, born Feb. 18, 1825	Cornelius Westerfield Rachel Ackerman

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>
Oct. 1	Mary Lansing, born Oct. 24, 1823 Arthur, born Sept. 1, 1825	Arthur Tappan Frances Antill
Dec. 28	William Henry, born Nov. 1, 1825	John Williams Susannah Kniffen
1826		
Mar. 22	Nathaniel, born Jan. 1, 1826	Wm. B. Holmes Hannah Stanton
" "	Leah Jane,	Sam'l van Orden Maria Quackenbush
Aug. 18	John Jacob, born Mar. 6, 1826	Tho. J. Stevens Letitia Varian
1827		
Jan. 3	Mary Catharine, born June 17, 1826	Tho. J. Emmons Maria Shurtliff
Sept. 27	Magdalen Ritter, born Aug. 19, 1826	Abr'm A. Prall Joanna H. Harsen
Oct. 1	Benjamin, born June 12, 1826	Benjamin Stephens, Jr. Hannah M. Prall
1828		
Jan. 21	Peter Adrian Hegeman, born Oct. 6, 1826	John E. Ross Jane F. Hageman
Feb. 13	Mary Isabella, born June 5, 1823 Jonathan Crawford, born Dec. 16, 1827	George Martin Hannah Smith



## Vital Statistics

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<i>Dates</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Parents</i>
Apr. 27	Horatio, born Feb. 1, 1828	Tho. J. Emmons Maria Shurtliff
May 2	Rachel, born Feb. 28, 1828	Cornelius Westerfield Rachel Ackerman
May 11	John Jacob, born Dec. 15, 1827	Jacob Naugle Eleanor Westervelt
May 18	Samuel George born	Sam'l van Orden Maria Quackenbush
May 24	Herman Cas- par, born March 22, 1828	Laurenz N. Von Post Henrietta M. Meier
June 2	John Peter born Feb. 26, 1828  George Thom- as, born Apr. 12, 1826	John Peter Dieterick Euphemia Blanch
June 2	Robert Augus- tus, born Dec. 4, 1827	Rob't Lane Effe Maria van Zandt
Aug. 3	First Day Thomas, born Jan. 14, 1828	John K. Jackson Jane R. Welsh
Dec. 9	Albert Russel, born Aug. 2, 1828	Joseph Cornell Maria Striker
1829		
Feb. 5	Hannah Maria, born July 10, 1828	Ab'm A. Prall Joanna H. Harsen
Apr. 27	Martin Smith, born Apr. 26, 1829	Henry Ulrich Elizabeth Smith

# The New York of Yesterday

## REGISTER OF BAPTISMS

BY FRANCIS M. KIP.

Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church at Bloomingdale,  
October, 1830.

1830

- |         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| Oct. 10 | Maria, born<br>Aug. 8, 1829<br>Child, sick,<br>private bap-<br>tism | Thomas J. Emmons<br>Maria Shurtliff            |
| Oct. 31 | Elizabeth Ade-<br>line, born<br>Sept. 11,<br>1830                   | Samuel van Orden (absent)<br>Maria Quackenbush |
| Nov. 7  | Maria Samler  | Adult  |

1831

- |         |   |                                |
|---------|---|--------------------------------|
| Mar. 1  | At Tompkins-<br>ville, S. I.,<br>Sarah Smith<br>Kip, born<br>Oct., 1830                                     | Rev. John E. Miller<br>Ann Kip |
| Mar. 23 | John Moore,<br>born Feb.,<br>1831<br>Child sick—<br>private bap-<br>tism—dead                               | John Darke<br>Margery Moore    |
| May     | Charles Ritter  | Adult, on confession           |
| May 20  | John, born May<br>19, 1831. Pri-<br>vate bap.<br>at funeral<br>of mother.<br>(Died in giv-<br>ing it birth) | John Windust<br>Mary ——        |
| June 30 | B e n j a m i n,<br>born Mar.,<br>1829  | Cambridge Ritter<br>Eliza Dey  |

## Vital Statistics

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June 30	Cambridge, born July, 1830. Pri- vate bap- tism. Last child sick— dead	Cambridge Ritter Eliza Dey
Sept. 5	James Thomas, born Feb. 19, 1831	Joseph Cornell Maria Striker
Sept. 25	Charles Bun- ner, born Apr. 6, 1831	Thomas J. Stevens Letitia Varian
Sept. 30	Julia Maria, born Apr. 1, 1819 Harriet New- ell, born Aug. 30, 1824 Cordelia Ma- tilda, born June 15, 1828	William Burnham Eliza Beck
Sept. 30	Caroline, born Feb. 8, 1826 Sylvester Swift, Oct. 6, 1828 Wm. Lawrence, Feb. 13, 1830	Lawrence van Buskirk Ann Burnham
Dec. 24	Mary Thomp- son, born Aug. 9, 1832. Baptized by Rev. J. AlBurtis	John Darke Margery Moore
1833		
Jan.	Child of	Cambridge Ritter and Eliza Dey
Mar.	Mary Eliz- abeth, dau. of	Cornelius and Rachel Westerfield

Mar. Helen Maria, John Darke  
born Sept. 23, Margery Moore  
1834. Bap-  
tized Feb. 15,  
1835, by Rev.  
Wm. Labagh,  
son of the Al-  
derman. Re-  
gistered by  
J. H. Striker  
(Deacon and  
Secretary)

## RECORD OF BAPTISMS

BY ENOCH VAN AKEN.

1835  
Aug. 21 Martha Eliza- Cambridge Ritter } colored  
beth, born Eliza Dey }  
Apr. 10, 1835

1836  
Apr. 30 Elizabeth Ann Samuel Armant  
Post, born Maria Noble  
Nov. 17, 1835

Apr. 29 Edward Au- Thomas J. Emmons  
gustus, born Maria Shurtliff  
July 20, 1835

Dec. 11 William Carey, Eckley Fitch  
born Oct. 21,  
1833  
Charles Henry,  
born Aug. 4,  
1835

Dec. 25 Sarah Jane, Peter A. Horn  
born Dec. 12, Sarah Cosine  
1836

Dec. 25 Susan (colored), Offered in baptism by widow  
born Aug. 6, Sarah Cozine

1837  
June 20 Edward Mortimer, born Gerard W. Livingston  
Feb. 8, 1837 Cornelia de Peyster

## Vital Statistics

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Aug. 4	Martha Elizabeth, born Oct. 4, 1824 Caroline, born Jan. 10, 1828 William Henry, born Dec. 17, 1831 Charles Lallemand, born Feb. 4, 1833 Whitfield Skelton, born Apr. 5, 1835	James C. Somerindyke Mary Tates (Yates?) The mother alone offered the children
Sept. 17	John, born—	Cambridge Ritter Eliza Dey
Oct. 1	James Elisha, born Dec. 31, 1836	Gurdon S. Coit Mary Ann Burbrige
Nov. 19	Ann Eliza, born July 22, 1837	Eckley Fitch
1838		
Feb. 4	Margaretta A. Peffers	Adult
Feb. 14	Hugh Roland, born Dec. 26, 1833	Hugh Graham Mary Patterson
Mar. 4	Mary, born Mar. 2, 1838  Margaret, born Apr. 26, 1829  James, born Aug. 25, 1831 William, born Sept. 17, 1833	Thomas J. Emmons Maria Shurtliff (the mother being dead, the father alone answered) — McGuinnis Mary Law (The mother alone answered)
July 22	Child, born July 12, 1838	John Fadden Charlotte Haden
July 29	Cornelia, born Nov. 28, 1837	Lewis Ritter } colored Lucretia Ritter }

- |         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| Aug. 3  | William Henry,<br>born June 5,<br>1836  | Wm. H. Moore<br>Letitia Jane Ross  |
| Aug. 5  | Kezia Hillis,<br>born Mar. 11,<br>1838<br>Charles, born<br>July 1, 1838   | ———— McGuinnis<br>Mary Law. (The mother alone<br>answered)<br>Charles Ritter<br>Salley Dey |
| Nov. 2  | Jane, born Jan.<br>26, 1825<br>Marion, born<br>Dec. 7, 1826<br>Isabella, born<br>Aug. 4, 1828<br>Mary, born<br>Dec. 26, 1831<br>Rachel, born<br>Dec. 18, 1836 | James Nish<br>Isabella Halden  |
| Nov. 11 | Jane, born—<br>William born—  | Jane Sanford (colored)   |
| Nov. 29 | Thomas An-<br>drew, born<br>Dec. 11, 1823   | George Dean<br>Eliza Buel  |
| 1839    |   |  |
| Jan. 27 | William Edgar,<br>born Sept. 8,<br>1836<br>David, born<br>Apr. 4, 1838  | Wm. E. Haskins<br>Elizabeth Waite  |
| Feb. 3  | James Foster<br>Bradley   | Adult  |
| Mar. 29 | George (col-<br>ored), born<br>Aug. 8, 1831   | Samuel Scroggins<br>Jane Ritter. (The mother alone<br>answered)                            |
| 1840    |   |  |
| Jan. 9  | Maria, born<br>Sept. 2, 1828<br>Richard, born<br>Sept. 11, 1830<br>Temperance<br>Rebecca,<br>born June<br>24, 1832  | Charles Darke, Sr.<br>Temperance Rebecca Hayden  |

## Vital Statistics

501

Jan. 9	C h a r l e s Holmes, born Oct. 12, 1836 Emma, born Aug. 1, 1838	Charles Darke, Sr. Temperance Rebecca Hayden
Feb. 19	Jane Frances, born Mar. 26, 1839	Wm. H. Moore Letitia Jane Ross
May 3	Ann, born Apr. 11, 1840	John Fadden Charlotte Haden
May 17	Grace Bethia, born Dec. 17, 1839	Robert Cameron Ann Right
June 28	M a r y, b o r n July 9, 1839	James Berwick Mary Laurie Berwick
July 6	Maria Louisa, born July 28, 1833 Rosa Patience, born Nov. 19, 1835	John W. Smith Julia Lawrence
Aug. 21	Peter Nichols, born July 24, 1838 John Hallam, born Apr. 7, 1840	Olof Peterson Ann Maria Gould
Sept. 13	Gulick, born Apr. 22, 1840	Enoch van Aken } Baptized by Eliza Gulick } John Knox, D.D.
Nov. 3	Emma Delia, born Apr. 23, 1840	Cornelius Westerfield Rachel Ackerman
Nov. 7	William, born Dec. 28, 1840	William Love Ann Maria Brigs
1841		
Jan. 12	Ann M a r i a, born Apr. 24, 1840	Charles Ritter Sally Dey

Jan. 17	Isabella, born June 10, 1840	George Watson Isabella Storach
Feb. 7	Emma, born July 29, 1841	John Freeman Mary Harriot
Feb. 28	Catherine, born Apr. 25, 1839 Alexander, born Feb. 27, 1841	William Clark Ann Reid
Aug. 8	Emma, born July 19, 1841	Charles Darke Temperance Rebecca Hayden
Oct. 13	Almira, born May 4, 1840	John Bush } colored Julia Ann }
Nov. 21	Nicholas Trum- per, born Sept. 22, 1838 Charles B., born Feb. 1, 1841	George McCartney Mary Ann Corkey
1842		
Apr. 28	Ellen Brigham wife of Jas. Bowley	Adult
July 10	Sarah Eliza- beth, born Mar. 30, 1842	George Magrath Sarah E. Hanaway
July 27	Henry, born August 7, 1842	David S. Jackson Sarah C. Williams
Aug. 5	William Holmes, Sr.	Adult
Aug. 26	Louisa, born Nov. 17, 1841	Abel Alexander Elizabeth Bailey. (She alone answered)
Oct. 4	John Henry, born Apr. 16, 1837 James Farring- ton, born Sept. 21, 1839	James Bowley Ellen Brigham



## Vital Statistics

503

1843

- |         |  |   |
|---------|--|---|
| Jan. 30 | Maria, widow<br>of Jas. Dooly.<br>Maiden name<br>Herril  | Adult   |
| Mar. 19 | William<br>Holmes, born<br>Oct. 20, 1833<br>James, born<br>Oct. 6, 1835  | Eldridge Brooks<br>Augusta Maria Holmes<br>(The mother alone the sponsor) |
| Apr. 20 | Emily Maria,<br>born Nov. 9,<br>1842   | Gerard Wm. Livingston<br>Cornelia de Peyster                              |
| May 10  | Walter James,<br>born Apr.<br>19, 1843   | Geo. Watson<br>Isabella Slorach   |
| Nov. 12 | Henrietta<br>Quick, aged<br>8½ months  | Wm. Frederick<br>Catharine Quick<br>Baptized by Rev. Mr. Meeker           |
| Nov. 26 | Georgiana Ma-<br>ria, born Apr.<br>18, 1841<br>Sarah Louisa<br>Ross, born<br>Aug. 30,<br>1843, bap-<br>tized by Geo.<br>Potts. D.D.,<br>during the<br>pastor's ab-<br>sence at the<br>South. | Wm. H. Moore<br>Letitia Jane Ross   |

1844

- |         |   |   |
|---------|---|---|
| Mar. 25 | Mary Eliza-<br>beth, born<br>Feb. 13, 1844    | Henrick Dagenhardt<br>Mary Magdalena Freuligh<br>at Black Creek, E. Florida |
| Oct. 27 | Eliza Jane Co-<br>zine, born<br>Dec. 23, 1843 | James Bowley<br>Ellen Brigham   |

1845

- |         |   |            |
|---------|---|------------|
| July 31 | Harriet Eliza,<br>born Sept. 4,<br>1842 | Wm. Ilsley |
|---------|---|------------|

## The New York of Yesterday

July 31	William Christopher, born Jan. 2, 1845	Mary Beckley	
	Leonard Frederick, born May 5, 1845	Leonard Beckley Emily Steele	
Oct. 26	Harriet, born Mar. 17, 1845	Wm. E. Haskins Elizabeth Waite	
Nov. 1846	Maria, born Aug. 29, 1845	George Hanaway Martha Moore	
Mar. 11	Cosine, born Jan. 9, 1846	James H. Dorland Jane A. Cosine. She alone answered	
	Jacob Henry, born May 1, 1843	Charles Ritter } Sally Dey }	colored
	Sarah Louisa, born Mar. 6, 1845		
1847			
Feb. 18	Catharine Jane, born Dec. 25, 1846	John Murphy Catharine Carrolton. She alone was sponsor	
Apr. 18	Catharine, born Apr. 4, 1847. Died	Archibald Gardner Ann Clark. He alone was sponsor, she having deceased	
Apr. 30	Minard Lefever, born June 11, 1846	James Bowley Ellen Brigham. She alone answered	
May 16	Robert Thompson, born Dec. 21, 1846	John Jasper Catharine Thompson	
June 20	Jane Cosine, born May 7, 1847	James H. Dorland Jane A. Cozine. She alone answered	
1848			
July 30	James, born Mar. 7, 1848	George Hanaway Martha Moore	
1849			
Apr. 29	Sarah Jane Ellen, born—	James Robinson	

## Vital Statistics

505

July 22	Harriet Ann, born Apr. 14, 1849	John Jasper Catharine Thompson	
Sept. 17	Rebecca, born Nov. 23, 1847 Sarah Martha, born July 14, 1849	Nathaniel Holmes Rebecca Beard	
1850			
Jan. 20	Robert, born Jan. 1, 1847 William, born Oct. 2, 1849	Robert Thorp Elizabeth McAlister	
May 5	Marion Biss- land	Adult	
May 12	Ellen Maria, born May 24, 1848	Charles Ritter } Sally Dey }	} colored
Sept. 1	John Henry, born Aug. 8, 1847 Elizabeth Ame- lia, born June 14, 1850	Henry Steele Elizabeth Darke	
1851			
July 13	Emma Eliza- beth, born July 22, 1847	Wm. E. Haskins Elizabeth Waite	
Oct. 26	John Leder, born Sept. 10, 1850	John Fadden Sarah Ann Cortjohn	
Nov. 9	Sarah, born Aug. 7, 1851	George Hanaway Martha Moore	
Nov. 27	Clementine, born Nov. 23, 1851	Clement Russ Emeline Jones	
Dec. 25	Josephine Em- ma Frances, born Mar. 17, 1847	Edmond A. Peffers Caroline Burr Jennings	

- Dec. 25 Sylvester Joseph Edmond A. Peffers  
Henry, born Caroline Burr Jennings  
Sept. 6, 1849
- 1852
- Jan. 12 Hester Jose- John Henry Runnells  
phine, born Hester Topping  
May 4, 1848  
John George,  
born Dec. 3,  
1850
- Mar. 23 George Alex- George Robertson  
ander, born Ann Fraser  
Aug. 5, 1851
- Aug. 22 WilliamHenry, John Jasper  
born Mar. 16, Catharine Thompson  
1852
- Sept. 29 Alexander Gu- John van Aken  
lick, born Jane G. Gulick  
Jan. 17, 1852
- Oct. 24 Marie Salome, John Frederick Schmidt  
born Jan. 14, Joanna Schmidt  
1850 (maiden name Joanna Sleezer)
- Oct. 24 John, born, John Whitehead  
Nov. 8, 1852 Mary Moore  
Harriet, born Alexander Ray Skinner  
Feb. 3, 1853 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Ann Eliza Purdy
- 1853
- Aug. 5 Elizabeth Adult  
Holmes,  
widow of Mr.  
Darke
- Aug. 14 John, born Joseph Conly } baptized by  
Nov. 28, Ann Jane Francey } Jas. Mat-  
1851 thews, D.D.
- Nov. 4 Martha, born Duncan Macfarlan  
July 16, 1848 Agnes Biggart  
Duncan, born  
Nov. 6, 1851
- Nov 6 David, born James Packhard  
Apr. 13, 1853 Harriet Head

## Vital Statistics

507

1854

- |         |   |   |
|---------|---|---|
| Feb. 5  | Martha Roff,<br>born Oct. 10,<br>1836       | Adult   |
| Feb. 13 | Thomas Frank-<br>lin, born Jan.<br>26, 1854 | Thomas Shepherd<br>Caroline Somerindyke             |
|         | Francis Smith,<br>born Oct. 1,<br>1850      | Father dead<br>Catharine Luginbehl                  |
| May 4   | Samuel, born<br>Dec. 1, 1853                | George Hanaway<br>Martha Moore                      |
| July 23 | John, born<br>June 11, 1853                 | Duncan Macfarlan<br>Agnes Biggart                   |
| July 30 | Alexander,<br>born Mar. 28,<br>1854         | Alexander Ray Skinner<br>Ann Eliza Purdy            |
| Sept. 7 | Enoch, born<br>April 19,<br>1854            | John van Aken<br>Jane G. Gulick                     |
| Dec. 20 | Emily Louise,<br>born Aug.<br>28, 1848      | Wm. G. Tompkins<br>Jane Elizabeth Gassner           |
|         | Charlotte<br>Pride, born<br>Jan. 22, 1851   |   |
|         | John Weyman,<br>born Jan. 11,<br>1851       | John A. Gassner<br>Ellen Kyle                       |
|         | Susan Cornelia,<br>born Apr. 11,<br>1853    |   |
|         | Virginia Tal-<br>cott, born<br>Nov. 2, 1850 | Sylvester S. van Buskirk<br>Sarah Josephine Gassner |

1855

- |         |   |                                  |
|---------|---|----------------------------------|
| Mar. 12 | Mary Isabella,<br>born Dec. 8,<br>1852      | Alex. R. Rider<br>Isabella Jones |
| May 5   | George Rat-<br>cliff, born<br>Dec. 24, 1854 | George Robertson<br>Ann Frazer   |

- |         |  |  |
|---------|--|--|
| June 24 | Adolphus, born<br>Mar. 15, 1852<br>Louisa, born<br>Oct. 29, 1854   | Robert Hoffman<br>Maria Stiller                |
| July 15 | Elizabeth,<br>born Apr.<br>18, 1855  | James Hanaway<br>Margaret Kelly                |
| July 22 | Theodore Adee,<br>born Oct. 10,<br>1854  | John Jasper<br>Catharine Thompson              |
| 1856    |  |  |
| May 19  | Ellen Augusta,<br>born Feb.<br>25, 1849<br>Charles Henry,<br>born Dec.<br>28, 1850<br>Elizabeth Tip-<br>pell, born<br>May 19, 1852 | Kindred Howard<br>Hannah S. Holmes             |
| Nov. 1  | Sarah, wife of<br>Isaac Caryl  | Adult  |
| Nov. 9  | William John,<br>born Dec. 31,<br>1854<br>Emma Matilda<br>born Mar. 13,<br>1856  | Elijah Watts<br>Eliza Watts (maiden, Edington) |
| Nov. 9  | Marian, born<br>Mar. 16, 1856  | Alexander Ray Skinner<br>Ann Eliza Purdy       |
| Dec. 25 | George Henry,<br>born June<br>19, 1856   | John Frederick Schmidt<br>Joanna Sleezer       |
| 1857    |  |  |
| May 24  | Joseph Robi-<br>son, born<br>Jan. 15, 1857.<br>Died 1862   | John Jasper<br>Catharine Thompson              |
| Oct. 4  | Margaret, born<br>Aug. 4, 1857   | James Hanaway<br>Margaret Kelly                |

## Vital Statistics

509

1858

Apr. 30	Deborah Parks wife of George Findley	Adult
	Kate Morgan Holmes, wife of Wm. Kelly	Adult
	Jane, born—	William Kelly Kate M. Holmes
May 23	Frederick Ed- ington, born Jan. 13, 1858	Elijah Watts Eliza Edington
	Evaline, born Feb. 19, 1858	Nicholas Hays Caroline Shricy
Aug. 15	John Kell, born May 15, 1858	John Kell Curtis Mary F. Gibson
Aug. 28	Caroline Lewis, born Sept. 1, 1855	John Wendelken Matilda Lewis
Sept. 26	Eliza, (died.) born July 30, 1858	Alexander R. Skinner Ann Eliza Purdy
Nov. 4	Amelia Stok- ley	Adult
1859		
Jan. 2	James William, born Apr. 16, 1845	Robert H. Arkenburgh Eliza Stokley
	Oliver Martin, born Apr. 29, 1848	
	Robert Hilton, born Feb. 9, 1853	
	William Henry born Dec. 26, 1855	
	Eliza Jane, born June 12, 1858	
Aug. 14	Mary Anna, born Mar. 27, 1850	William Ilsley Mary Beckley

## The New York of Yesterday

- |          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| Aug. 14  | Emma Jane,<br>born Oct. 27,<br>1852                    | William Ilsley<br>Mary Beckley                        |
|          | Mary Ilsley,<br>born May 11,<br>1858                   | Leonard Beckley<br>Emily Steele                       |
| Sept. 11 | Josephine,<br>born May 15,<br>1856                     | Francis J. Felix<br>Harriet Baker<br>widow of — Purdy |
| 1860     |  |   |
| Mar. 18  | Jane, born Oct.<br>28, 1859                            | James Hanaway<br>Margaret Kelly                       |
| May 27   | Edward Eli,<br>born Oct. 15,<br>1859                   | Elijah Watts<br>Eliza Edington                        |
| June 23  | Sarah Maria,<br>born March<br>12, 1850                 | Andrew Anderson<br>Jane Bogert                        |
|          | Jane Anna,<br>born Apr. 3,<br>1856                     |   |
| Aug. 5   | John Bissland,<br>born Dec. 10,<br>1859                | John Carss<br>Marion Bissland                         |
| Sept. 16 | Jessie (died<br>Apr. 1, 1863)<br>born June 25,<br>1860 | Alexander R. Skinne<br>Ann Eliza Purdy                |
| Oct. 7   | Esther, born<br>Sept. 7, 1860                          | Wm. McCloy<br>Elizabeth Houston (died Mar.<br>1861)   |
| Oct. 7   | John James,<br>born Aug.<br>19, 1860                   | John Taggert<br>Mary Ann Taggert                      |
| Oct. 28  | Henry S., born<br>Apr. 23, 1860                        | Thomas S. Mitchell<br>Emma P. Moore                   |
| 1861     |  |   |
| Feb. 21  | James William,<br>born Oct. 24,<br>1860                | John K. Curtis<br>Mary F. Gibson                      |
| May 25   | Richard, born,<br>Oct. 25, 1860                        | Wm. Murfitt<br>Sophia Broadwell                       |



## Vital Statistics

511

Oct. 20	Geo. Wash- ton, born Feb. 2, 1860	George W. Pimley Ann Humphrey
Nov. 3	Henry S. Mitch- ell	Adult
June 23	Louis Wilhelm Henry, born Dec. 29, 1860	Louis Kable Starke Theressa Blanck
1862		
Mar. 9	Robert Henry, born Oct. 19, 1855 Lily, born June 18, 1858 Sersely, born June 18, 1861	Rob't Henry Blanck Teressa Doyle
Mar. 12	Lydia, born Feb. 26, 1852 William Sav- age, born Sept. 22, 1854 Eliza, born Mar. 6, 1858	Alex'r Bennett Eliza Brunish
Apr. 23	Frederick Wil- liam, born Apr. 29, 1861	Wm. H. Mitchell Melinna Eldridge
Apr. 23	Francis Adams born June 25, 1861	Thomas S. Mitchell Emma P. Moore
Apr.	Rebecca born May 3, 1862	Alexander Ray Skinner Ann Eliza Purdy
Nov. 9	Nancy Jane Thompson, wife of Thom- as Butler (colored) Susan, born Oct. 25, 1862	Adult  Thomas Butler Nancy Jane Thompson
Dec. 7	Anna Theressa, born Aug. 22, 1862	Louis Kable Starke Theressa Blanck

## The New York of Yesterday

- Dec. 7 Amelia Mar- Ernest Charles Henry Starke  
getta, born Amelia Ann Blunt  
Nov. 27, 1858
- 1863  
Feb. 1 Rachel Ann, John Taggart  
born Sept. Mary Ann Taggart  
26, 1862  
Elizabeth, Wm. Murfitt  
born Dec. 25, Sophia Broadwell. She alone  
1852 responded  
Hannah, born  
Jan. 17, 1854  
John, born Sept.  
17, 1855  
Jane, born Nov.  
2, 1862
- May 24 Mary, born Michael Gerth  
Feb. 18, 1863 Elizabeth Geebel
- June 21 Albert Edwin, Thomas S. Mitchell  
born Dec. 14, Emma P. Moore  
1862
- July 19 Mary Catha- John Carss  
rine, born Marion Bisland  
Dec. 28, 1861
- Aug. 16 Harriet, born Wm. G. Purdy  
1863 Rebecca Gardner
- Aug. 16 Charles Wil- Philip Grazier  
liam, born Eliza Fetgre  
July 13, 1863
- Aug. 30 Joseph, born James Hanaway  
Apr. 14, 1862 Margaret Kelly
- Dec. 9 Maria Rebecca, Geo. S. Miller  
born Oct. 30, Maria Rebecca Brock  
1863
- 1864  
Feb. 29 Samuel Robert John K. Curtis  
Marley, born Mary F. Gibson  
July 6, 1863
- Aug. 28 Christian, born Wm. Kroninberger  
Nov. 2, 1863 Margaret Wagner  
Willie Town- Thos. S. Mitchell  
send, born Emma P. Moore  
Feb. 11, 1864

## Vital Statistics

513

Sept. 11	Margaret Ann Whitworth, born Mar. 25, 1862 Mary Betsy, born June 11, 1864	John Eaves Emma Whitworth
Oct. 23	George Anne, born Aug. 24, 1864 Frank Henry, May 4, 1864 Mary Eliza- beth, Sept. 27, 1859 David Ritchey, born May 30, 1862 Barbary Ritchey, July 24, 1864	Geo. W. Pimley Ann Humphrey Elijah Watts Eliza Edington John R. Brown Elizabeth Bryen
1865		
Feb. 4	Charles Wil- liam, born Apr. 28, 1855 Caroline, born Mar. 28, 1857	Henry C. Smyth Martha Sophia Fistgen
Feb. 20	Thomas Dan- iel, born Apr. 10, 1853	Cornelius Corson Julia Caroline Corson
Mar. 5	David Augus- tus, born Dec. 18, 1864	David Clark Woodruff Margaret Smith
May 21	Fanny Eliza- beth, born June 12, 1862 Samuel S., born Oct. 5, 1864	Morris W. Place Martha Danes
July 23	Charles, born Apr. 8, 1865 Regena, born Mar. 23, 1865	Peter Horn Margaret Hornberger

July 23	Paul Charles, born May 27, 1865	Paul Bauer Mary Magdalena Raeder
1866		
Jan. 7	Emma Ange- line, born Feb. 8, 1862	John Jasper Catharine Thompson
Apr. 22	Emma, aged 15 months	John O. Moore Isabella Paisley
May 5	Alonzo Blanck	Adult
May 6	George Wash- ington Au- gustus, born Feb. 22, 1866	Louis K. Starke Theressa Blanck
	Warner, born Dec. 12, 1865	James Leggett Mary Ann McCoy
Dec. 16	Emma Poole, born July 5, 1866	Wm. M. Doe Dorcas Blackwood
Dec. 30	William Henry, born Nov. 26, 1860	Wm. Henry Waldron Margaret Love
	Elizabeth Anna, born Mar. 9, 1864	
	Geo. Washing- ton, Ida May	} Born Oct. 15, 1866
1867		
Jan. 13	Ernest James, born Feb. 11, 1863	Ernest C. H. Starke Amelia Ann Blunt
	John Henry, born May 15, 1866	
May 12	Frances Jose- phine, born July 10, 1866	Ambrose Felix Almira Scofield
Oct. 20	John Frederick, born April 18, 1866	John F. Reynolds Henrietta Q. Frederick

## Vital Statistics

515

Oct. 20	Jane Louisa, born Sep. 23, 1866	Joseph J. Morgan Sarah L. Frederick
Oct. 27	Mary Louisa, born Apr. 2, 1864	Alexander R. Skinner Janet Skinner
Dec. 9	Mary Elizabeth, born Dec. 5, 1866	Geo. Eaton Margaret Jane McGinness
1868		
Feb. 26	William Henry, born Feb. 3, 1867	George W. Jasper Jennie Smith
Mar.	Edwin, born July 28, 1865	Frederick Kreider Caroline Blatner
May 17	Elizabeth, born Jan. 29, 1868	John Harding Sarah Jane McConaughy

## BOOK II

### REGISTER OF BAPTISMS

BY E. VAN AKEN, Pastor

June 7	Edwin Reeves, born Apr. 12, 1867	Morris W. Place Martha C. Danes
June 7	Elizabeth, born June 13, 1868	David Woodruff Margaret Smith
June 7	Clara Augusta, born Apr. 8, 1868	Robert McKenzie Catharine —
Oct. 11	Mary Magdale- na, born June 7, 1868	Paul Bauer Mary Magdalena Raeder
Nov. 8	Elizabeth, born Dec. 10, 1867	John Solway Elizabeth Fisher
Nov. 9	George Palmer, born Dec. 21, 1867	Frederick M. Baxter Charlotte van Pelt

Dec. 27	Henry Mathias Gustav, born Nov. 26, 1868	Gustav Puhle Sophia Hoffman
1869		
Apr. 9	Elizabeth, born Aug. 1, 1868	John Auld Mary White
1870		
Jan. 30	Catharine Ma- ria, born Dec. 8, 1869	David C. Woodruff Margarett Ann Smith
July 24	John Jacob, born July 4, 1869	John Jacob Festje Amelia Hoffman
" 31	Mary Emma, born Nov. 10, 1867	Charles Bower Henrietta Festje
" "	Charles Henry, born Jan. 30, 1870	
Sept. 11	William Henry, born July 1, 1870, died Jan. 9, 1878	John Harding Sarah Jane McConaughey
Oct. 2	Margaret, born Mar., 1870	Robert McKenzie Catharine —
Dec. 4	William, born June 10, 1869	— Flick
1871		
Mar. 19	Annie Maria, born Jan. 13, 1871	Samuel Bawden Maria Hanaway
Apr. 2	Louisa Julia, born Dec. 3, 1870	Paul Bauer Mary Magdalena Raeder
" "	Johanes Nich- olas, born May 24, 1871	Johanes Nicholas Eckert Christina Mullock
" "	Louis, born Apr. 16, 1871	Louis K. Starke Teresa Blanck
Aug. 6	Andrew, born Feb. 15, 1871	John Jacob Festje Amelia Hoffman

## Vital Statistics

517

1872

Feb. 11	Sarah Louisa Rapp, widow of Samuel Halden	Adult
Feb. 25	William Henry born Nov. 20, 1871	Daniel Bremer Sarah Hanaway
Mar. 6	George, born Feb. 7, 1872	George Michaels Kate Fitting
June 23	Bertha Cozine, born June 2, 1872	Benjamin Franklin Jane Cozine Dorland
July 21	Martha Lane, born Apr. 1, 1872	Samuel Bawden Maria Hanaway
Aug. 5	Anna Johanna, born July 22, 1872	Frederick Pfenning Catharine Ehmer
Nov. 17	H e n d e r s o n R a t h b o n e, born Aug. 5, 1872	Julius Palmer Loper Caroline Rebecca Blick

1873

Feb. 2	Francis White	Adult
Mar. 2	Margaret Eliz- abeth, born Jan. 8, 1873, died Feb. 27, 1874	John Harding Sarah Jane McConaughey
Dec. 21	Daniel, born Oct., 1873	Daniel Bremer Sarah Hanaway

1874

Jan. 18	Henry, born Dec. 6, 1873	Henry Forges Emma Festje
May 3	James, born Mar. 9, 1874, died	Samuel Bawden Maria Hanaway
June 14	Margaret Re- becca, born Jan. 30, 1874	Julius (or Jonathan) Palmer Loper Caroline Blick

## The New York of Yesterday

Oct. 4	Jacob, born Aug. 27, 1874	Michael Gerth Elizabeth Gibbins
1875		
Apr. 5	Henry, born Apr. 1, 1875	William Murfitt Sophia Broadwell
Apr. 5	John West, born Sept. 9 1871	George Guire Elizabeth Murfitt
	William Felt- well, born Apr. 30, 1874	
May 2	Ida May, born May 1, 1869	Charles A. Winch Marion Swan Halden
May 9	Frank Dana, born Dec. 13, 1874	William Holmes, Jr. Sarah Jane Coe
Oct. 3	Mary, born Apr. 27, 1875	John Harding Sarah Jane McConaughey
Dec. 5	Sarah, born Aug. 10, 1875	Samuel Bawden Maria Hanaway
Dec. 17	Mary Jane Par- sons, born July 26, 1875	John S. Halden Adelaide Lewis
1876		
	Charles Conrad born Oct. 15, 1875	Jacob Freund Caroline Bauer
May 7	Martha Maria, born Sept. 28, 1875	Daniel Bremer Sarah Hanaway
July 30	Augustus James, born June 16, 1876	John Walter Sokell Lizzie Gabbeman
1877		
Sept. 30	Frederick Ja- cob, born July 7, 1877	Jacob Freund Caroline Bauer
Oct. 28	Louisa, born May 3, 1867 Sophia, born June 12, 1869	Louis Overmayer Charlotta Overmayer



## Vital Statistics

519

1878		
June 2	Louis, born May, 1863	Louis Overmayer Charlotta Overmayer
June 2	Charlotta, born May 29, 1875	Adam Cassel Catharine Cassel
	Anne, born Mar. 31, 1877	
1879		
Mar. 2	Martha, born November 19, 1878	William McIntosh Sophia Blay
Apr. 27	Minnie, born Sept. 27, 1877	Samuel Bawden Maria Hanaway
May 25	John Arnold, born Mar. 19, 1879	Jacob Freund Caroline Bauer
June 1	Henrietta Eliz- abeth, born Apr. 4, 1879	Charles Bower Henrietta Festje
June 15	Louis Charles, born Sept. 13, 1875	Louis Armsheime Emeilie Mahlow
Nov. 9	Isabella Gil- more, born Aug. 21, 1879	Samuel Bawden Maria Hanaway
1880		
Apr. 2	Enoch Chester, born Feb. 1, 1878 Harold, born Dec. 18, 1879	Enoch van Aken Mary Farr
1881		
Mar. 17	Charles August Vanna, born Sept. 16, 1872	Robert McKenzie Catharine —
May 1	Philip Michael Lewis, born Mar. 31, 1881	Michael Gerhauser Charlotte Paulena Rosina Pfening



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Witnesses are designated by *w*

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## Appendices





### **A. Authorization**

At a regular meeting held on March 7th, 1907, the following preamble and resolution was adopted by the Consistory of the

#### **BLOOMINGDALE REFORMED CHURCH:**

*Whereas*, Mr. Hopper Striker Mott, a member and one of the officers of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church, has been engaged in the collection of data and preparation of a history of this Church, and the Bloomingdale region in which it is located,

*Resolved* that we hereby heartily endorse and approve the work of Mr. Mott, and offer him every assistance in our power to aid him in completing the same, and for this purpose to place at his disposal all of the original manuscripts and other books, papers and documents now in possession of the Consistory, covering the history of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church for One Hundred Years.

E. A. DILLENBECK,

*Clerk.*

### **B. Incorporation**

We, Andrew Hopper and James Striker, the Elders, and Philip Webbers and Jacob Harsen, the Deacons (there not being any Minister) of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church or Congregation at the place or neighborhood, in the Ninth Ward of the City of New York, known by the name of *Harsenville*, do hereby certify that the name or title by which we and our successors, the Minister, Elders,

## The New York of Yesterday

and Deacons of the said Church or Congregation for the time being, as a body corporate by virtue of the Statute in such case made and provided, shall be known and distinguished is THE CHURCH AT HARSENVILLE, according to the doctrine and discipline of the Synod of Dort. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals the Sixth day of September in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Six.

Witnesses:	(Signed)	ANDREW HOPPER
	"	JAMES STRIKER
	"	JACOB HARSEN
	"	PHILIP WEBBERS

State of New York, SS: On this 6th day of September, 1806, personally came and appeared before me Andrew Hopper, James Striker, Jacob Harsen, Philip Webbers, to me known, who severally acknowledged that they executed the within certificate. I do therefore, agreeably to the act in such cases made and provided, allow the same to be recorded.

(Signed) WM. S. ROSE,  
*Clerk.*

Recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the City and County of New York in Lib. 1 of the Record of Incorporation of Religious Denominations, page 46, this 16th day of September, 1806.

Exam. by T. WORTMAN.

### C. The Synod of Dort

At an early period of the Reformation the Protestants on the Continent were divided into two bodies, the Lutheran and the Reformed. The latter became dominant in the Netherlands, where they maintained their religious liberties only after a long, costly, and bloody struggle against the gigantic power of Philip II., during which they suffered all that men could suffer. So calamitous was their condition before the Eighty Years' War that they gave them-

selves the name of the Church under the Cross, and their symbol was "A Lily amidst Thorns."

In 1566, while war was raging, the deputies of the churches met in Antwerp and adopted the Belgic Confession, which continues to this day to be one of the doctrinal standards of the Reformed in Holland.

About the same time the *Heidelberg Catechism*, which had been issued (1563) in German by the Palatine Elector, Frederick III., was translated into Dutch and widely circulated in the Netherlands.

Doctrinal differences having arisen among the Reformed, a Synod was convened by the States-General at Dort (1618, 1619), to which all the Reformed Churches of Europe (save Anhalt) were invited to send delegates, and all did so; only the four selected by the French were forbidden to attend. The British deputies were George Carlton, Bishop of Llandaff; John Davenant, Professor of Theology at Cambridge; Samuel Ward, of Sidney College, Cambridge, and Joseph Hall, afterward Bishop of Norwich. Walter Balcanqual, a Scotch presbyter, was also deputed by King James to represent the Scottish Church. This body expressed its conclusions in Canons under five heads of doctrine; and these Canons were accepted by the National Synod. After the foreign delegates had withdrawn, the same National Synod revised the Belgic Confession and the Heidelberg Catechism and the Rules of Church Government, and also set forth liturgical forms for use in public worship.

The Church of Holland, thus fully organized, soon became distinguished for learning, soundness in the faith, and practical godliness. She not only maintained a close correspondence with sister churches, but often had the advantage of the presence of their distinguished men, since Holland was the common refuge of all the persecuted believers in Europe. Huguenots, Waldenses, Covenanters, and Puritans found a safe asylum on her hospitable shores.

—From *A Brief Account of an Historic Church*

The Reformed Faith was transferred to America in 1625 and during the Dutch occupation was the State or Established Church of New Netherland. Its sister denomination, the Lutheran, planted an outpost in New Amsterdam in 1653, the Hebrews in 1654, the Friends in 1657, and the Presbyterians in 1662. The Church of England did not establish itself in New York until 1692.

#### D. Notable Gifts and Memorials

- 1817. Silver seal presented by Andrew Hopper and Jacob Harsen.
- 1818. Tablet to Mrs. Barbara Asten.
- 1828. Silver Communion Service.
- 1829. Tablet to Rev. Dr. Gunn.
- 1885. Tablet to Jacob Harsen.
- 1885. Tablet to Domine van Aken.
- 1885. Tablet to the Dead of the Parish.
- 1893. Brass pulpit, to Susan M. Maurer, died April 30.
- 1893. Window. Tribute of the Church to Charles E. Hutchinson.
- 1894. Double window to Charles Bauer, born Oct. 24, 1850, died Dec. 24.
- 1894. Double window to C. B. Rowland, born Oct. 8, 1851, died Apr. 20.
- 1897. Easter. Four silver collection plates, to James B. D. MacNab.
- 1903. Tablet to Charles Sumner Lester, Superintendent Sunday-school from 1896 to 1903.
- 1903. Brass Lectern inscribed "To the Sunday-school of Bloomingdale Reformed Dutch Church in loving remembrance from their late Superintendent, Charles Sumner Lester."
- 1906. Window in the Fifth House of Worship, "In Loving Memory of the Parents of Mr. and Mrs. Runyon Pyatt."

1906. Window in the Fifth House of Worship, "In Loving Memory of Mrs. George Henry Gilbert, given by Her Friends."

**E. Officers from the Date of Organization**

**Pastors**

1. The Rev. Alexander Gunn, S.T.D., from 1808 to 1829
2. " " Francis M. Kip . . . . . " 1830 to 1831
3. " " John AlBurtis . . . . . " 1832 to 1834
4. " " Enoch van Aken . . . . . " 1835 to 1885
5. " " Carlos Martyn . . . . . " 1883 to 1889
6. " " Madison C. Peters . . . . . " 1889 to 1900
7. " " William C. Stinson, D.D. . . . . " 1900 to

**Treasurers**

- Andrew Hopper . . . . . from 1806 to 1809
- Jacob Harsen . . . . . " 1809 to 1810
- James Striker . . . . . " 1810 to 1814
- Henry Post . . . . . " 1814 to 1822
- Richard A. Striker . . . . . " 1822 to 1832
- John H. Striker . . . . . " 1832 to 1838
- David Law . . . . . " 1838 to 1839
- Cornelius Westerfield . . . . . " 1839 to 1840
- John Waite . . . . . " 1840 to 1843
- Thomas J. Emmons . . . . . " 1843 to 1881
- John K. Curtis . . . . . " 1881 to 1882
- Samuel B. Reed . . . . . " 1882 to 1890
- J. Edward Mastin . . . . . " 1890 to 1905
- Runyon Pyatt . . . . . " 1905 to

**Clerks or Secretaries**

- James Striker . . . . . from 1806 to 1828
- Ichabod Prall . . . . . " 1828 to 1830
- Richard A. Striker . . . . . " 1830 to 1832
- John H. Striker . . . . . " 1832 to 1838

Caspar Meier .....	from 1838 to 1839
Cornelius Westerfield.....	“ 1839 to 1842
Gerard William Livingston.....	“ 1842 to 1843
John N. Boyd.....	“ 1843 to 1860
Thomas J. Emmons.....	“ 1860 to 1881
Samuel Hanaway.....	“ 1881 to 1886
George E. Dunlap.....	“ 1886 to 1890
Daniel Howell.....	“ 1890 to 1891
Dr. Richard J. Secor.....	“ 1891 to 1897
Louis Bauer.....	“ 1897 to 1898
Nathaniel Tuttle.....	“ 1898 to 1899
George W. Mersereau.....	“ 1899 to 1903
Edward A. Dillenbeck.....	“ 1903 to

### Elders

With dates of election and service

Andrew Hopper.....	from 1805 to 1824
James Striker.....	“ 1805 to 1830
Jacob Harsen.....	“ 1814 to 1835
Ichabod Prall.....	“ 1824 to 1830
Richard A. Striker.....	“ 1830 to 1835
James Quackenbush.....	“ 1830 to 1840
John Parks.....	“ 1835 to 1838
David Patterson.....	“ 1837 to 1838
John H. Striker.....	“ 1837 to 1838
Casper Meier.....	“ 1838 to 1839
Cornelius Westerfield.....	“ 1840 to 1842
Gerard William Livingston.....	“ 1842 to 1844
John N. Boyd.....	“ 1842 to 1862
Henry Quick.....	“ 1843 to 1849
William Holmes.....	“ 1843 to 1854
Thomas J. Emmons.....	“ 1854 to 1881
Robert Carss.....	“ 1861 to 1869
Henry S. Mitchell.....	“ 1862 to 1879
John K. Curtis.....	“ 1867 to 1882
Samuel B. Reed.....	“ 1881 to 1891

## Appendices

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Samuel Hanaway .....	from 1882 to 1888
William M. Stout .....	“ 1885 to 1890
George E. Dunlap .....	“ 1888 to 1890
Daniel Howell .....	“ 1890 to 1892
Jeremiah H. Lant .....	“ 1890 to 1892
Charles Wessell .....	“ 1891 to 1892
J. Edward Mastin .....	“ 1891 to 1905
Edward P. Cone .....	“ 1892 to 1896
William A. Moore .....	“ 1893 to 1897
Louis Bauer .....	“ 1896 to 1901
Henry Daily, Jr. ....	“ 1897 to 1900
Runyon Pyatt .....	“ 1900 to
Gen. George W. Mindil .....	“ 1901 to 1902
Edward A. Dillenbeck .....	“ 1902 to
Gilbert Ray Hawes .....	“ 1907 to

### Deacons

With dates of election and service

Jacob Harsen .....	from 1805 to 1814
Philip Webbers .....	“ 1805 to 1814
Henry Post .....	“ 1814 to 1822
Samuel A. Lawrence .....	“ 1814 to 1816
Ichabod Prall .....	“ 1815 to 1824
Daniel Mack .....	“ 1816 to 1881
John Asten .....	“ 1818 to 1830
Richard A. Striker .....	“ 1822 to 1830
James Quackenbush .....	“ 1824 to 1830
John H. Striker .....	“ 1830 to 1837
John Parks .....	“ 1830 to 1835
David Patterson .....	“ 1830 to 1837
David Law .....	“ 1837 to 1839
Ackerly Fitch .....	“ 1837 to 1838
Cornelius Westerfield .....	“ 1838 to 1840
Thomas J. Emmons .....	“ 1838 to 1854
John Waite .....	“ 1840 to 1844
Henry Quick .....	“ 1842 to 1843

Peter Rennie.....	from 1843 to 1858
Duncan Macfarlan.....	“ 1854 to 1859
Robert Carss.....	“ 1858 to 1861
George Robertson.....	“ 1861 to 1863
George H. Pimley.....	“ 1863 to 1867
Jonas Hanaway.....	“ 1863 to 1867
Charles Wood.....	“ 1867 to 1883
Jacob Flick.....	“ 1874 to 1881
Samuel Hanaway.....	“ 1881 to 1882
Otis D. Stewart.....	“ 1881 to 1883
George E. Dunlap.....	“ 1883 to 1888
Joseph P. Deyo.....	“ 1883 to 1886
William J. Lyon.....	“ 1885 to 1887
Dr. F. Spencer Halsey.....	“ 1887 to 1891
Charles E. Gildersleeve.....	“ 1887 to 1888
J. Edward Mastin.....	“ 1888 to 1891
Dr. Eugene H. Porter.....	“ 1888 to 1889
Erwin H. Schuyler.....	“ 1889 to 1890
Charles F. Terhune.....	“ 1890 to 1900
Runyon Pyatt.....	“ 1891 to 1900
Dr. Richard J. Secor.....	“ 1891 to 1897
Henry M. McCord.....	“ 1891 to 1892
Nathaniel Tuttle.....	“ 1897 to 1899
George W. Mersereau.....	“ 1899 to 1907
Peter Wagner.....	“ 1900 to 1902
Edward A. Dillenbeck.....	“ 1901 to 1902
Dr. Charles M. Thompson.....	“ 1902 to 1904
William Henry Burr.....	“ 1903 to 1906
Gilbert Ray Hawes.....	“ 1904 to 1907
Hopper Striker Mott.....	“ 1907 to



F. Signatures of Individuals Connected with the Church

<sup>34</sup>  
 William La<sup>ff</sup> Stewart      Corn. Ray  
 N. DePeyster      William Baldwin  
    Rich: Harrison  
 Magdalen Ritter      J. J. Didricks  
 Mrs. A. Hardenbrook      G. H. Inmet  
 John Adams      G. M. Evers  
 John Stopper      Nathan Sanford  
 Stephen van Benschoten  
    Albany      Henry Dodge  
 Henry Rutgers      N. York  
 Gerard De Peyster      J. S. Jones  
 J. G. Van den Heuvel      John G. Foster  
 Arch. Gracie      Daniel D. Tompkins  
 John Jacob Astor      Albany  
 Peter. Negeman      P. G. Pinckney  
 Thomas Gardner      J. H. Tommen

J. Tall See

Rich<sup>d</sup>. A. Steiker

~~W. Steiker~~

Martha Smory

Sarah Gunn

Andrew Hopper

Isaac L. Kufi  
State Clerk

Pe<sup>re</sup>. Vanpelth

William Ogden

James Rogers

Benjamin Desobry

Clement C. Moore

Jacob Harsen

P. Piker

John Godwin..

J<sup>r</sup>. Gunn

Samson Benson

Will<sup>m</sup>. Jauncey

N<sup>o</sup>. Prime

Jacob Hoorn

J<sup>r</sup>. Hegeman

William Edger

Ann Steiker

Naphtali Judah

George Jamesway

W<sup>m</sup>. Rhein claim doc.

Mr. R. Beekman	A. Forman,
Gerard Beekman	Iselt Bridge.
John Horn	Benjamin Benson
Simuel Wells	Mary M. Crea
Jas. Poulet	James Strubey
Joshua Barker	Geo. S. Stett
W. Livingston	John V. Beswoort
Saml. Borrowe	Catharine Telle.
Peter R. Post	Kips Bay
George McKay	St. N. Bays.
Daniel Van Norden	Catharine Lawrence
Mr. Brinckerhoff	John Parke
W. Stewart	Cornelius Hanson
	John Asten

Sam<sup>l</sup>. A. Lawrence      The Trustees  
 Isaac L. Varian  
 Henry Post      Ab<sup>l</sup>. Vermilye. Pres<sup>t</sup> of Consistory  
 J. P. Remond  
 John Clendenning  
 Caspar Meier      Secretary  
 Daniel Mack  
 John Astor      Geo. C. Durckap  
 Clerk pro tem  
 Joel Post  
 David Cargill  
 John Williams  
 Thomas J. Emmons Clerk  
 Thomas Stevens  
 C. Westfield  
 A. A. Prall      Samuel Hanaway  
 Cle  
 C. W. Livingston      John Beckman  
 Seth Proctor      John Ross Esq.  
 John A. Boyd Esq.

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