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A VAN BERGEN LEGACY

—Raymond Beecher

The wedding festivities lasted nigh onto three days, there being much to celebrate and the two families having the financial wherewithal to do it. On the Houghtaling side Captain Thomas and his wife, Elizabeth Witbeck, were giving their blessing to the marriage of their only daughter while on the Van Bergen side Colonel Anthony and his wife, Maria Salisbury, were witnessing the nuptial ceremony celebration of their oldest son, Peter Anthony (1763-1804). In a letter dated February 20, 1786, written by John Vandenberg to Leonard Bronk who was in attendance at a session of the State Legislature, Vandenberg in his own manner of spelling describes the celebration:

On Monday the 14th inst. I was invited by Peter A. Van Bergen and Ester [Hester] Houghtaling on their wading [wedding] the wine & Other Liguers was near as planty [plenty] as water - Victuals of every kind not only at Hoghtaling but likewise at Van Bergens began on Monday at one O'Clock which continued with force till Wednesday morning We had two Fiddlers the young Gentlemen and Ladies in one Room & the Old Folks in another & They acted with force and really they out-tired the young ones your wife [Tyne Vandenberg Bronk] was Included but many wishes was given for your appearing

While Captain Thomas Houghtaling's homestead, the scene of one day's festivities, has long since disappeared from the flats west of Route 9-W near the Thruway, the Colonel Anthony Van Bergen stone house survives partly hidden down a tree-lined lane on the north side of Coxsackie Creek in West Coxsackie.

This marriage of Peter Anthony and Hester brought into being a part of what has become one of Greene County's important historic structures - the Van Bergen - Warren stone house at the crossover of Route 9-W with the New York State Thruway. Built circa 1786 on what is believed to be Houghtaling land patented to Mathias Houghtaling in 1697, a major portion of the cost of the stone house undoubtedly came from the dowry Hester brought into the marriage settlement. It was the practice of Captain Thomas Houghtaling to assist each of his offspring with a residence as they entered into the state of matrimony. Of several such stone houses constructed, three remain: (1) the Peter Houghtaling house of 1794 (Lime Kiln Farm now owned by Lee Adler and listed on the National Register of Historic Places), (2) the Houghtaling-Zini rubblestone house on the west side of Route 9-W above Schoolhouse Lane (this house said to have been completed in 1792), and (3) The Van Bergen-Warren residence, or at least a portion of it. Rough survey notations for one plot of

(Continued on page 32)



The Van Bergen-Warren Old Stone House
Residence of Peter A. and son Judge Anthony



Judge Anthony's Later Residence
Present Whitbeck-Adams House

Van Bergen Legacy (Continued from page 31)

Peter A. Van Bergen's land containing a house drawing are in Leonard Bronk's handwriting, undated but early.

In after years the bride and groom could delineate to their son the activities of their prestigious forebears. Peter Anthony was a fourth-generation descendent of Marte Garretson Van Bergen who, according to Beers' *History of Greene County*, came to New Netherlands about 1640 under the patronage of his relative, Amsterdam diamond merchant Killiaan Van Rensselaer. Marte Gerretsen rose rapidly in positions of importance and influence in the colony: Commissary of Fort Orange, a member of the Governor's Council, a justice of the peace in a time when this was a major judicial position, and military captain. Taking advantage of a lenient land grant policy, Marte Gerretsen by the year of his death had acquired valuable land rights: an undivided one-half interest in the Catskill Patent, the Cocksackie Patent, the Corlearskill Patent; city lots in Albany and a bowery of several hundred acres just below that city on the west side of the Hudson. It is said he was fatally wounded by an arrow in an Indian raid on his residence at Cocksackie a few rods westerly of the present Peter Van Bergen stone house. Taken to his bowery near Albany, he expired shortly thereafter. Others state this manner of death is a piece of fiction.

In the settlement of Marte Gerretsen's estate son Pieter took title to the Cocksackie acreage. His stone house and that of his wife Christiana Coster still is utilized as a dwelling house on Mansion Street, West Cocksackie. The wrought-iron tie-rods form the initials P V B and the date of its building. The fireplace tiles, rescued by William Van Bergen Van Dyck when the house was being modernized, are in the Bronck Museum's collection.

The Cocksackie Van Bergens of the third generation, namely Colonel Anthony (1729-1792?) and his brother, Captain Henry (1731-1817), were both prominent military leaders in the Revolutionary War. When the Albany Committee of Safety, Protection and Correspondence, chaired by Abraham Yates, authorized the formation of the Albany County militia, Cocksackie and the Great Imbought were ordered to form the Eleventh Regiment. Anthony Van Bergen became its commanding officer, being designated Colonel. His brother, Henry, was a company commander for the Cocksackie men. Both brothers were among the first to sign the Cocksackie Association, a 1775 protest to the King of Great Britain against the arbitrary and capricious acts of the English parliament. The Van Bergens, their officers and men would see active service protecting the state's frontiers and participating in the defeat of General Burgoyne at Stillwater (Battle of Saratoga). In after years these military titles clung to the two Van Bergen men as it did to Captain Thomas Houghtaling.

The Houghtalings had equally impressive connections enhanced by Captain Thomas Houghtaling's economic successes. He also signed the Cocksackie Association and was elected a captain of a company of foot soldiers in the Eleventh Regiment of the Albany County militia. By descent, and also through marriage to Elizabeth Witbeck, his family had a close relationship with several prominent Albany County families: Vandenberg, Beckers, Coeymans, Marselis, et. al. Over his lengthy lifetime Captain Thomas accumulated a substantial competence, much of it in land. Some of the acreage had been granted to his ancestor, Mathias Houghtaling in 1696 by Queen Anne's New York Governor, Benjamin Fletcher. That patent was issued to Mathias through the influence of Marte Gerretsen Van Bergen.

Although a portion of their family's livelihood came from the cleared and wooded acreage surrounding their stone residence, Peter Anthony Van Bergen was also active in politics, filling several salaried offices. For a number of years he served as a Justice of the Peace, an important judicial position for those years. Together with town supervisor Leonard Bronk and fellow Justice Philip Conine, this triumvirate managed much of the township's business. In 1788 we find Van Bergen entrusted with the task of tax collector and the handling of those revenues. When Greene County was set off from Albany in 1800, he was designated an Assistant Judge for the Court of Common Pleas.

Manuscripts surviving from this early period reveal parties to disputes had little trouble agreeing on the selection of Van Bergen to serve on arbitration panels, two examples being Pazzi Lapham vs. Robert Goes (1795) and Dirck Collier vs. James C. Kennedy (1802).

Both Leonard Bronk and Peter Anthony Van Bergen rose rapidly in the officer ranks of the state militia; in 1794 they both were serving as majors. A 1794 letter from Brigadier General David McCarthy requests both men to meet with other field officers to plan the strategy for a military review of the brigade. That meeting was to be held at the inn of Samuel Loadman, Coeymans.

When an opening came to represent the Middle District in the State Legislature, Van Bergen was selected for that senatorial position, dying in office in the year 1804. His unexpected death terminated an active political career on town, county and state levels of government. Wife Hester decided to bury her husband next to the gravesite of her father in the Houghtaling cemetery, later removed to Riverside Cemetery when the Thruway was constructed.

The marriage of Peter and Hester produced one child - Anthony A. (1786-1859). After local schooling he was enrolled at Williams College, Class of 1807. The Williams College Archives reveal he remained at that institution of higher learning for two years (1803-1805). His drop-out may have been influenced

(Continued on page 33)

Van Bergen Legacy *(Continued from page 32)*

by the death of his father and the need to help manage the family estate. At the age of 21 years, in 1807, he took control of his inheritance. Following the pattern set by his father, he both operated the farmstead and ran for political office. His mother was eventually to remarry on May 5, 1810, and remove to Marbletown, Ulster County, where her new husband, Dr. James Oliver, resided. She died there on December 19, 1824 and is buried at that place.

In the year 1899 when Anthony A.'s two sons, Anthony and John revisited the scenes of their youth, they made a special effort to call upon Samuel "Cop" Egberts. The latter's father and grandfather were once slaves of Albert Houghtaling and had come to work on the Peter A. Van Bergen farm after the manumission legislation of 1820. Thus "Cop" was brought up with the Van Bergen lads and was a part and parcel of all childhood activities about the place.

Marriage to Clarine Peck came on April 19, 1806, the wedding being held at Troy, New York, with the Reverend Jonas Cole officiating. Just how Anthony A. came to meet Clarine Peck is unknown; her father was "of Lyme, Conn." In contrast to his being the only child of his parents' marriage, Judge Anthony and Clarine Peck were to have ten children, not all living to adulthood. It is believed that the space needs of such a large family dictated the almost exact doubling in size of the Van Bergen stone residence.

The smaller tract of land inherited by Judge Anthony A. Van Bergen, 150 acres, grew rapidly in size and by the year 1813 included 769 acres, 3 houses and 5 outbuildings. That year's assessment roll also lists one male and one female slave between the ages of 12 and 50 years. The assessed valuation of 1813 was one of the largest in the town of New Baltimore - \$15, 200. A study of the 1837 assessment record for that township indicates Judge Anthony speculated in farm land, both buying and selling. For example, in 1831 he sold off forty-five acres in the west bounds of the Houghtaling Patent to Joshua T. Smith for \$400. In 1837 he was down to 500 acres with an assessment set at \$5000. Throughout his lifetime, regardless of the number of acres owned, this Van Bergen was intensely interested in agriculture - Scientific Farming.

The early settlers of the United States had to contend with many agricultural obstacles among which were tradition and related prejudices against innovations. Little serious effort was given to the improvement of farming until after the American Revolution. With the arrival of peace and the increase in population, educated citizens began to pay closer attention to the promotion of scientific farming. The South Carolina Agricultural Society was organized in 1784 as was the Philadelphia Society for the Improvement of Agriculture. New York followed with a similar organization to benefit farmers in 1791 (incorporated 1798), and Massachusetts in 1792.

National leaders such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson sought to operate model plantations, frequently experimenting with new crops and new means of tillage. Private libraries contained important scientific works on Modern Husbandry. But many years would elapse before the average small-scale farmers would take to "book agriculture." Their livestock was small in size and suffered from lack of care. Manure for enrichment of the soil was little regarded; the value of crop rotation was almost unknown. Mechanical farm machinery with its labor-saving advantages was resented. The horse rake and the horse-powered threshing machine were suspect by agricultural laborers and in England were even vandalized when the opportunity arose.

Slowly but effectively the tide of opinion changed as the more educated farmers adopted the principles of Scientific Farming. Journals devoted to the spread of agricultural knowledge increased in number and were more widely distributed. The farmers of New York State were especially vulnerable to the wheat crop competition from the newly opened agricultural lands in the mid-west; that situation was compounded by the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825; they had to adjust to changing conditions.

Anthony A. Van Bergen saw Scientific Farming as the salvation of New Yorkers engaged in that occupation; he became one of its earliest and most vehement supporters. With connections made while serving in the State Legislature, he proposed the incorporation of a state agricultural school financed by the sale of stock shares. Together with such close friends as Jesse Buel (editor of *The Cultivator*), ex-president Martin Van Buren of Kinderhook, and James E. Wadsworth of Central New York, efforts were made to enhance the effectiveness of the New York State Agricultural Society. Generous with his time, Anthony Van Bergen served on numerous committees to promote the well-being of farmers. Both as vice president, and in 1840 as president, he helped direct the affairs of the New York State Agriculture Society and continued to preach the message of Scientific Farming. He always found time to effectively work on executive and judging committees such as at the Cattle Show and Fair at Syracuse in September of 1847. At times he entered his own livestock and earned prizes.

The surviving Minute Book of the Greene County Agricultural Society reveals Van Bergen's successful efforts to organize farmers on the local level. At a meeting held on August 17, 1841, Judge Anthony was designated chairman of the organizational committee. His group moved promptly to formulate a constitution which, eleven days later, was adopted at a public meeting held at the house of Amasa Keith in the village of Cairo. In that day's election, Anthony A. Van Bergen assumed the president's office. After serving his term and being succeeded by

(Continued on page 34)

Van Bergen Legacy (Continued from page 33)

Elisha Blackmarr, Van Bergen gave of his time and talent to the Society's Executive Committee.

Anthony Van Bergen practiced what he preached. The Van Bergen farm had grown almost fivefold since the year of his inheritance. Specializing in hay and livestock, he sought out the more profitable markets for his farm products. Robert Henry Van Bergen in *Ye Olden Time* identifies Judge Anthony Van Bergen as being a pioneer in the use of the hay press for the shipment of hay to the metropolitan New York market via Hudson River sloops and barges. Not only did he raise a good quality hay on his fields but he also purchased locally from his farmer friends and neighbors. His credit rating at New York was one of the best, being rated top-grade.

By the spring of 1842 Anthony Van Bergen conceived the idea of contracting out the harvesting of his hay crop, a novel idea for this pre-Civil War period. Because of its importance in the history of local agriculture, the contract drawn up by attorney Peter H. Silvester and signed by Van Bergen and the Roberts is quoted in its entirety:

FIRST: The said Storm [T.] and Peter [Roberts] hereby covenant & agree to & with the said Anthony to cut, cure, carry into barns & store away the grass now growing on the farm of the said Anthony estimated at two hundred forty acres, for the sum of three hundred dollars - if the quantity of land upon a survey of the same to be made by the said Anthony at his own expense is found to be two hundred & forty acres & if less a proportional reduction is to be made for every acre it is less than the above number of acres - the said Peter & Storm also agree to commence mowing one piece on Monday next - the Timothy [hay] upon four days notice being given to them by the said Anthony and on the first day of August next they further agree to commence again with six mowers & to continue cutting until all the grass on the said land is cut - They also agree to mow the said hay well & close to cure the said hay properly to bring it in first rate order to do all the work in a husbandmanlike manner & to find all the teams, waggons & tools that are necessary to be used in cutting, carrying in & storing away the said hay except as herein-after excepted -

SECOND: The said Anthony Van Bergen hereby covenants & agrees with the said Storm & Peter in consideration of their doing the said work in a workmanlike manner, when the said work is completed to pay them the sum of three hundred dollars - if the number of acres is two hundred & forty, if it is less a proportional deduction is to be made. To furnish for them while they are engaged in cutting, curing, carrying in and storing away the said hay, one horse, horse rake, one hand to mow away the hay, a house for them to live in, pasture for one cow, & not to interfere with the said Storm and Peter when they are cutting the grass & if the weather is rainy - & if the number of acres exceeds two hundred & forty acres the said Anthony agrees to pay an addition to the said three hundred dollars a proportional sum for every acre it exceeds that amount.

THIRD: It is mutually covenanted & agreed by & between the parties to this instrument that in case any differences of opinion or disagreement takes place between the parties as to the manner in which their work is done the final decision is to be left to Jacob Lisk & James P. Hawley of the town of New Baltimore & William Pierce of Coxsackie & the parties against whom the said individuals last mentioned decided against or found in default is to pay the expense of their decision & whatever the amount of their award may be as to damages or any other question connected with this agreement.

The reader is reminded the growing of hay for the New York market was a principal crop for Judge Anthony. Even with experienced mowers using scythes, the task was a formidable one.

The July 5, 1842 contract between Storm T. and Peter Roberts on the one part and Anthony A. Van Bergen on the other must have been mutually satisfactory as both parties renewed the contract arrangement for 1843, with modifications as experience dictated. The work involved was extended to include using the Van Bergen hay presses in the barn and then delivering the pressed hay to Coxsackie (Reeds) Landing before the river closed. The acreage was set at 251 acres "more or less." The pay was stipulated as at \$3.50 per ton and payable \$100 the month & the balance when the Roberts finished. Instead of an entire house they were given the use of the kitchen in the cook house to live in; pasturage for one cow was continued but also for a span of horses. The Roberts had the privilege of using the Van Bergen hay rake. Special mention was made of using hoop poles either out of the Van Bergen woods or from the stock on hand, with the Roberts men paying Anthony Van Bergen one dollar fifty cents per hundred. Since Storm and Peter lacked enough horses to both harvest and to haul hay to the Landing, Van Bergen agreed to furnish a team for four shillings the ton. The hay was to be weighed at the Van Bergen hay presses. This second contract was signed June 5, 1843.

In the early 1840's, the Greene County Agricultural Society's visitation committee consisting of Messers. James Van Deusen of South Cairo, Theodore L. Prevost of Greenville, and George Griffin Jr. toured several prosperous Greene County farms, Judge Van Bergen's being one. Their detailed report is to be found in the New York State Agricultural Society's *Yearbook* (Vol. III, 1843). It reads:

The committee next visited the farm of Anthony Van Bergen, Esq. situated in the town of New Baltimore, and containing 700 acres of land, 200 being in wood. Judge Van Bergen commenced on this farm 36 years since, with 150 acres of land, and has added to it from year to year, 550 acres. The soil on one-half the farm, and that the part most cultivated, is fine clay, the rest is gravelly. The farm is divided into 13 lots, and fenced chiefly with stone wall. Our attention was particularly directed to 400 acres of land, all of which can be seen from the dwelling house, and upon which the most labor has been expended. The greater part of this land is in meadow; in a high state of cultivation, and covered with

(Continued on page 35)

Van Bergen Legacy *(Continued from page 34)*

a luxuriant after growth of grass. In the opinion of this committee, Judge Van Bergen has had to encounter and overcome great obstacles in bringing this land up to its present condition. The soil itself, a raw clay, is far inferior to most of the soils which we had examined, and needs to be managed with great care. Added to this, it is always liable to great injury from excess of water, and hence it has been necessary to intersect the farm with ditches, chiefly stone drains beneath the surface. The subsoil plough has also been used here with advantage to draw off the water through the dead furrows.

The principal produce of the farm, though by no means all, is hay, and the quantity yielded this year is about 500 tons. We also saw a large herd of improved Durham cattle in high condition, and were told the amount of stock kept on the farm, varied from 25 to 60 head.

Judge Van Bergen applies annually from 5 to 20 tons of plaster [lime], generally upon his meadows immediately after mowing, and with good effect. He has latterly sown his grass seed with buckwheat, and has been uniformly successful. He also applies about 1000 loads of compost as a top dressing to his meadows yearly. Our attention was called to the method of preparing this compost, which is as follows: First a foundation of top soil 16 feet wide and 50 feet long; next a layer of barn-yard manure; next a layer of tan bark; next a layer of weeds; next a layer of muck; another layer of barn-yard manure; another layer of topsoil; a layer of marl [clay]; another layer of tan bark; and another layer of topsoil. These materials were in equal proportions, and remained in the heap through the months of July and August. They were then overhauled, beginning at one end and incorporating the mass more thoroughly. While in this state they underwent the process of fermentation so as to smoke. This heap contained 700 loads, and was drawn out during the winter, and spread as top-dressing upon the meadows in April.

Judge Van Bergen's buildings are large, in good order, and admirably planned for convenience. They will contain 500 tons of hay, and accommodate in stalls 50 head of cattle. As a whole, the Judge's mode of farming is, in the opinion of this committee, judicious, and exhibits a great degree of enterprise and system.

The Judge Van Bergen farm was awarded the Class 50 "first premium" in the county, that recognition being given to the owner at the Greene County Agricultural Society's annual fair held at Cairo on October 18, 1843.

Like his father Peter Anthony, son Judge Anthony served in the capacity of a Justice of the Peace but for the township of New Baltimore, that entity being set off from Cocksackie in 1811. There is also a parallel to his father's career in that he was active in the New York State militia and by the year 1819 was designated Deputy Quartermaster of the 8th Division of Infantry.

By the 1840's it was obvious to Judge Anthony and his wife, Clarine, that there would be no third generation Van Bergen interested in carrying on the family tradition of earning at least a partial income from the New Baltimore land. All the surviving sons

were married and living away from Greene County. The decision to sell the Van Bergen farmstead and move into Cocksackie village was a difficult but realistic one. Fortunately, the handsome Peter Hubbell Greek Revival style house at 24 Ely Street was on the market and its purchase from Martin H. Truesdell was finalized on May 22, 1848. The sale of the Van Bergen stone house and a portion of the land soon followed, Comfort of Baltimore, Maryland being the buyer.

The Contract to Sell and Purchase, signed by Anthony A. Van Bergen and Comfort Tiffany, is dated September 2, 1847. It reveals the selling price of the Georgian stone residence, outbuildings and 100 acres of land "more or less" was agreed upon at \$12,250. Title was to pass on April 1, 1848 by which date the Van Bergens were to have vacated the premises. Provision was made for a four-month extension of time should Comfort Tiffany desire it. Should either side fail to complete the contract, liquidated damages were set at \$500. Judge Anthony was also to leave several items of farm equipment, garden tools and a flock of 50 chickens not needed on Ely Street in Cocksackie village.

Shortly before the sale, in June of that same year, Anthony Van Bergen either renewed or took out a new policy for fire insurance protection with the Saratoga Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The face of the policy was for only \$3000, seemingly indicating there must have been other policies on the property. From the wording of the insurance policy we learn there was, in addition to the stone house, a detached kitchen, wood shed, barn, cider house and an adjoining granary. The policy also covered hay and grain to the value of \$500.

Existing documents indicate Judge Anthony continued to sell off timber and other land after the sale to Comfort Tiffany. In the fall of 1850 Ambrose Baker, engaged in building materials at the Upper Cocksackie Landing and residing in the present Brady Funeral Home, agreed to pay Van Bergen \$1000 for the privilege of cutting and hauling off timber growing on a lot of land in the northeast corner of the Van Bergen acreage in New Baltimore. Baker was to leave the brush and wood chips so that Anthony Van Bergen could do some land burning the following summer, possibly in clearing the land for agricultural purposes.

The so-called 14-acre "old barn lot" and the 48-acre "meadow" were sold off by Van Bergen on March 22, 1851. In this sale Henry T. Houghtaling paid \$3600, the cash down payment being \$1000 and Van Bergen agreeing to a mortgage for the balance of \$2600.

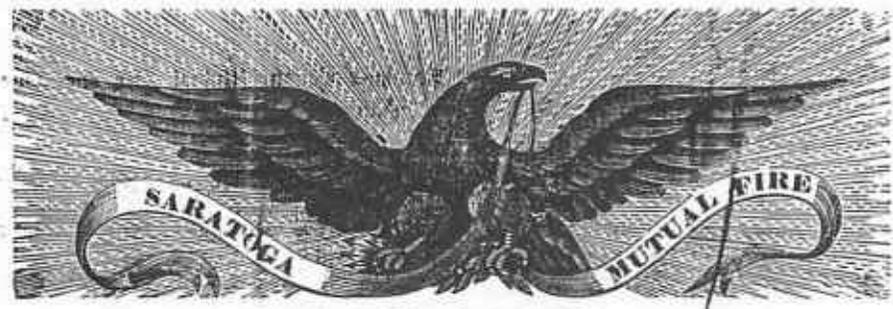
By 1890 the Van Bergen homestead had come into the possession of the Luman Miller family. Thereafter this Georgian stone house with a framed two-story west wing served as a private residence. Most of the farmland was sold off as farming ceased

(Continued on page 36)

County of Albany }
 These are to certify that Isaac Halenbush
 of the Town of Coxsack & County aforesaid
 is hereby admitted to sell by retail all sorts of
 spirituous liquors and keep a common Tavern
 from this date hereof to the first day of March
 next he the said Isaac. is of good moral Charac-
 ter and it appears necessary to us that a Tavern
 be kept at such place Given under our hands
 and seals this 2^d day of March 1795

License issued March 2,
 1795, containing signa-
 ture of Peter A. Van
 Bergen, Justice of the
 Peace

John D. Beaman } Supervisor
 Philip Comyns } Justices
 Peter Van Bergen } of
 Peace



Fire Insurance Policy
 issued to Judge An-
 thony Van Bergen for
 his New Baltimore
 homestead

INSURANCE COMPANY.
 Coxsack P. Co.

1795, THIS POLICY WITNESSETH,
 That whereas Anthony Van Bergen
 of New Baltimore in the County of Saratoga State of New York is a member of the SARATOGA
 COUNTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, and bound and obliged himself of his heirs, Executors
 and Administrators, to pay all such sums or parts of any sum as may be assessed by the Directors thereof, pursuant to the act incorporating and continuing, passed May 5, 1834, and
 also agreed to said Company the sum of Five hundred & Fifty Dollars and Cents, being the amount of the Deposit
 or Premium for insuring the sum of Five hundred & Fifty Dollars over the said Anthony Van Bergen

On his Dwelling House, Kitchen & Wood Shed
 in the Town of New Baltimore \$1500. On his Household Furniture
 therein \$500. On his Barn, side House & framing adjoining \$500
 On his Hay & grain in said Barn \$500.

(Continued from page 36)



North View



Smoke house



West View



Carriage house



Front Porch View

Van Bergen Legacy (Continued from page 37)

to be profitable. At one time it carried the name Graystone Manor and may have been used as a summer boarding house. Change came upon change but with the 1962 purchase by James A. and Marcia Warren, the house and surrounding lawns received noteworthy conservation under the advisement of museum director and historian Robert Wheeler. The carriage house was more lately acquired as was acreage east of Route 9-W. That latter effort preserves the open fields view as in the Van Bergen years.

The Van Bergens and their unmarried daughter, Maria, became an active family in the social life of the village of Coxsackie after their removal from the farmstead. In 1849 they were dismissed as communicants of the First Reformed Church at West Coxsackie in order to join the Second Reformed congregation then in the brick building on Ely Street.

Judge Van Bergen died at 24 Ely Street, Coxsackie, on December 29, 1859 at the age of 73 years. Of the several obituaries, none is more complimentary than the one which appeared in the metropolitan *New York Courier and Enquirer*:

Our obituary record announced the decease of Hon. Anthony Van Bergen of Coxsackie, Greene Co., at the age of 73 years. Judge Van Bergen has long occupied a prominent position and has always been esteemed for his propriety and highly honorable character. For a long period he was one of the most active promoters of agricultural improvements, and in consequence, and in connection with the late Jesse Buel, of Albany, and others, took a prominent part in the organization of the NYS Agricultural Society, of which he was one of the early presidents.

Judge Van Bergen belonged to one of the old Dutch families on the Hudson and has ever occupied a high position in social as well as in public life. He was an intimate friend of ex-president Martin Van Buren, and of Dr. Beekman of Kinderhook, both of whom survive him at an advanced age. He had many warm friends in this city, where we believe, some of his family reside.

The widow, Clarine Peck Van Bergen and daughter, Maria Van Bergen, continued to reside in the Hubbell house on Ely Street, the mother dying there on October 30, 1872. Upon the death of Maria by her own hand while in a depressed condition, 24 Ely Street under the terms of her will dated September 19, 1866, went to her brothers John P. Van Bergen of Brooklyn and Anthony Van Bergen of Paris, France. The two brothers soon sold the property to William A. Edwards who added the late Victorian rooms.

Research by one of the present owners, Frances Adams (Mrs. Reed Adams) indicates the Edwards lost the house lived in by the Hubbells and the Van Bergens by mortgage foreclosure in 1902 with Miriam A. Sax being the purchaser. From Miriam A. Sax, within a few weeks, the property went to Charlotte Fitch. In 1925 it was purchased by Kenneth S. Doherty and finally, in 1948, by the present owners and sisters, Ellen Whitbeck and Frances Adams.

The Van Bergen-Warren stone house and the Hubbell-Van Bergen Greek Revival residence have been featured on several Greene County Historical Society home tours, receiving numerous compliments both for their architectural features and for their furnishings. Both houses have fortunately come into the hands of appreciative owners and are prime examples of the historic preservation effort underway both nationally and locally.

KNOWN DESCENDANTS OF ANTHONY A. VAN BERGEN (1786-1859) and CLARINE PECK (1785-1872)

1. Elizabeth Van Bergen, born July 13, 1807, died unmarried, of yellow fever, August 19, 1822.
2. Lucy Ann Peck Van Bergen, born September 27, 1809, married the Reverend Leonard Bronk Van Dyck (1806-1877) (son of Attorney Abraham Van Dyck and Catherine Bronk, grandson of Judge Leonard Bronk and Tyne Vandenberg); wedding performed by the Reverend Jeremiah Searles of the First Reformed Church, Coxsackie, at the Van Bergen homestead on December 31, 1835. Children of this marriage are believed to be Kitty Van Bergen who died unmarried and Mrs. Hastings. The Society's benefactor, William Van Bergen Van Dyck is descended from this branch.
3. Peter A. Van Bergen, born January 12, 1812; married Lucy A. Smart, daughter of William Smart and Elizabeth Franklin of Flushing, New York, at Friends (Quaker) ceremony, June 20, 1847. He died from a runaway horse accident on June 25, 1881. Lucy Smart died December 8, 1901. No known offspring.
4. Esther (Hester) Van Bergen, born January 26, 1814; married Stephen J. Matson September 2, 1835 at the Van Bergen homestead in New Baltimore by the Reverend Jeremiah Searles; she died at Schodack Landing on August 7, 1875. Offspring, if any, unknown.
5. Rebecca Smith Van Bergen, born March 22, 1816; married Roswell Reed Jr. September 4, 1838 at the Van Bergen homestead in New Baltimore by the Reverend Jeremiah Searles; she died at Morristown, New Jersey, on December 11, 1888. Children were Rebecca, Roswell (1), Roswell (2), Emma, Sarah, Margaret, Clara, Maria. (Roswell Reed Jr. had his residence on what later came to be called Meadow Ridge Farm, Route 385, Coxsackie-Adams and Grosbeck estate.)
6. Maria Van Bergen, born April 5, 1818; died unmarried at 24 Ely Street, Coxsackie, July 31, 1879; possibly suicide.
7. John Peck Van Bergen, born February 8, 1821; married Margaret C. Baker, daughter of Judge Joshua Baker of New Orleans and Fairfax Plantation. This couple were married by the Reverend S. G. Litton on March 4, 1847. Children known are Fanny, Kate, John, Louise, William, Thomas and Anthony. Date of his death unknown.

VEDDER LIBRARY NOTES

□◇ Printed for private circulation (Windham 1973), Gordon Byron Wooley's *Descendents of Richard Woolley of Lincoln, Georgia - A Short History* comes to the VML's genealogical collection as the gift of Carolyn Bennett of Lexington, New York.

□◇ The Fall Journal mentioned the Uriah Stevens - Jane M. Vedder manuscript material but omitted the donor's name - it was Kenneth Van Vechten Parks.

□◇ Recent photographs taken by Valentine Kriele III of the Sherman Homestead at New Baltimore have been preserved in a new file folder labeled: New Baltimore - Sherman Memorial Collection.

□◇ A very useful volume is *Genealogical Contributions Reprinted from The Albany Protocol*, John P. Dern, compiler., (Hope Farm Press 1981). A copy comes to the VML from Jevne A. Rhenisch of Hannacroix, New York.

□◇ Few authors have a better sense of humor in writing about their forebears than Robert E. Hotaling of Haslett, Michigan. In his recent publication available in the VML, courtesy of the author, one finds considerable folklore relating to the Hotalings of eastern and central New York as well as genealogical information.

□◇ School books, and papers relating to the Froebel League's Kindergarten Committee reached the Vedder Library with a history of use by H. May Ford and Katherine Osterhoudt in the Catskill school system.

□◇ *Smith's Landing - Cementon* is an invaluable source of information compiled by Joseph M. Pavlak and others for the Town of Catskill Bicentennial. Seldom is such a local history publication better illustrated. The major impact of the cement industry is well detailed. The VML is appreciative of a gift copy from Joseph M. Pavlak and his committee workers.

An assortment of local history material has come from the daughters of the late June Rose Bedell Vincent; more items will be donated. June was a fount of information relating to this Greene County area and was always willing to share her knowledge with others. It is a very appropriate memorial.

□◇ From Leonard and Ruth Palmer, South Westerlo, comes a scrapbook of bills and invoices relating to the Laurel House, township of Hunter, for the years 1879 to 1887; a Cash Book for the Rip Van Winkle House for 1892-1893; Peter Mesicks's Catskill store journal dating from the late 1840's; as well as the ancient Schermerhorn Bible with genealogical information.

□◇ The library budget has been stretched to acquire *The Art of Thomas Cole* authored by Ellwood C. Parry III. The \$90 purchase is being made through Hope Farm Bookshop.

□◇ With the help of the several volunteers the backlog of work at the Vedder Memorial Library has been substantially reduced and the deck cleared for 1989 operation. A special "thank you" to a dedicated staff!

□◇ Correspondence from Calvin S. Borthwick, formerly of Cornwallville and now of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, always contains several nuggets of local history not generally known. In his September 3 letter he tells of his checking the wire fence on their rural acreage when he and his father discovered surveyor's stakes running along with and beside the fence. The stakes were painted a light green and were part of the effort to survey a route for the electric trolley line from East Windham to Durham. The story of this trolley effort has been published in earlier issues of *The Journal*. Mr. Borthwick also included a large illustration of the Bronck 13-sided barn appearing in the Sunday edition of the *Newark Star-Ledger* of August 28, 1988.

□◇ At various times this year, Miss Shirley M. Overbagh, Catskill, has contributed paper material of interest to historians. Included are photographs and certificates relating to Catskill schools (Ella Palmer and Walter H. Overbagh), various Catskill newspapers, copies of *Olde Ulster*, Exposition and World's Fair programs, *Hostetter's Almanac* (1900), Grandview School items including "The House That Jack Built" with Libretto by Alice Riley; F. A. Gallt's *Picturesque Catskills*; Dykeman's "Choice Bits of Scenery in the Catskills"; and a small flyer advertising L. H. Garrison's Mountain View Farm House, R. D. Cairo.

□◇ Retiring Society president, Edward G. Grossman is a strong supporter of the Vedder Memorial Library. His latest gift, in addition to Polk's *Catskill Directories* of 1962 and 1970, include several philatelic items as follows:

First Day Cover, July 15, 1936; dedication of Catskill Post Office, including one with autograph of Postmaster B. G. Dewell

First Day Covers, town of Catskill Bicentennial Celebration, July 27, 1988 - Palenville, Leeds, and Catskill. He is still looking for the one issued at Cementon, the town of Catskill's fourth post office.

□◇ Some biographical material relating to the life and times of John K. Brown of New Baltimore and California is to be found in the Frank W. Crandell Memorial Collection. Now Polly Sherman (Mrs. Edward Ely Sherman) of New Baltimore and Florida has augmented that holding with an assortment of papers relating to the shipment of Brown personal property prior to the Civil War around the Horn on the clipper ships *Dreadnought*, *Intrepid* and *Webfoot*. Joseph Sherman handled the shipments from Greene County.

□◇ West Shore Railroad Waybills are the gift of Mr. Frank Evans, Rhinebeck, N. Y.

□◇ A copy of Audrey M. Klinkenberg's research relating to Gloria Dei Episcopal Church, Palenville, NY, including baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials has been provided by Mrs. Victor Manning, a member of that congregation and also a member of this Society.

Van Bergen Legacy (Continued from page 38)

8. James Oliver Van Bergen, born February 8, 1821; married Harriet Lay on the evening of January 20, 1858 by the Reverend Dr. Field; she died December 22, 1883; he died April 24, 1891 at Lyme, Connecticut. No offspring.
9. Abraham Henry Van Bergen, born January 9, 1826; died at the Van Bergen homestead, New Baltimore, January 30, 1826.
10. Anthony Thomas Van Bergen, born January 7, 1827; married Julia Augusta Pearson (Pierson), daughter of Mr. Arnold of the New York firm of Arnold Constable & Company. Anthony T. became the Paris, France, representative of that firm, living abroad. He was also the foreign representative for the Equitable Life Assurance Society. In 1899 he reported having crossed the Atlantic by boat at least 70 times. He died at Paris on February 18, 1912; his wife died there on November 21, 1897. Children of this marriage were Charles, Henry and Alice. (There is some confusion as to Mrs. Van Bergen's parentage. She is listed as a daughter of a Mr. Arnold of Arnold Constable & Company in one place and in an obituary as the daughter of Charles Pierson and Julia Pierson) (adopted?).

The author expresses appreciation to Louise Messinger for the discovery of the 1786 Van Bergen marriage letter in the Bronck Family Archives, to H. Milton Chadderdon for researching the Minute Book of the Greene County Agricultural Society, and to the present owners of the two houses so closely connected with the Van Bergens - Mr. and Mrs. James A. Warren, Mrs. Frances Adams and Mrs. Ellen Whitbeck. They have generously shared photographs and documentary information.

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13th Annual Tour of Homes
June 3, 1989

The Greene County Historical Society will sponsor the 13th Annual Tour of Homes on Saturday, June 3, 1989 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The tour will be located in the scenic area between Coxsackie and Athens along Route 385 and the roads leading into it. Included will be homes of several different architectural styles and periods. The Second Reformed Church, 16 Washington Avenue, Coxsackie will serve as the headquarters for the tour. More information about the Tour will be included in the Spring *Journal* and in the membership letter. Circle your calendar now and plan to attend.

GEORGE F. HOLDRIDGE GIFT ACKNOWLEDGED

Since the days of its founding, the Greene County Historical Society has sought to preserve the history of Greene County by accumulating and making available to researchers a wide range of paper material. Through the foresight of Charles E. Dornbusch, Cornwallville, New York, the Vedder Memorial Library was established as an adjunct of this Society. Over the years the holdings have expanded at a rapid rate by gift and occasional purchases. George F. Holdridge of Catskill is one of those special "Friends of the Vedder Library" in that he has recently transferred a substantial body of research material, a collection which is currently being catalogued.

Included in the Holdridge gift are 1819-1826 letters written by Orin Day to the Catskill Bank; Frederick Hill's Discharge Certificate from Fire Engine No. 2 of Catskill, dated 18 November 1854; correspondence to Samuel Noyes in Connecticut describing the speculation fever in Catskill as the building of the Canajoharie and Catskill railroad commenced; the Catskill Association's elaborate planned land development proposal of 1834; and papers relating to the organization of the Catskill Young Men's Association in 1835.

The gift is heavy in newspapers of the pre-Civil War and Civil War periods. Of the Greene County newspapers are issues of *The Examiner*, *The Recorder*, *The Recorder-Democrat*, the *Catskill Messenger*, the *Catskill Democratic Journal*, and the *Catskill Independent*. Several from outside the county range from the year 1793 to 1898 including one issue of the *Daily Citizen*, Vicksburg, Mississippi, dated 2 July 1863 and printed on wallpaper as the federal seige led to a scarcity of newsprint.

The Holdridge gift, among several others, is the reason 1988 will stand out as a banner acquisition year for the Vedder Memorial Library.

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Greene County Historical Society
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