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Summer, 1977

EDUCATION IN THE NORTHERN CATSKILLS

—Ashland's Two Institutes

History keeps returning to Ashland's Institutions of Higher Learning. The brief existence of the Hedding Literary Institute and its successor, the Ashland Collegiate Institute, have been the subject of earlier articles in regional publications. The facts relating to its construction and fiery demise are generally well-known. This JOURNAL article seeks to examine these institutions in more detail, utilizing primary and secondary source material not heretofore available and now at the Vedder Memorial Library at the Bronck Museum. The Van Gelder, Borthwick, Rennie, and Vedder Collections, both in printed and handwritten form, provide new insights.

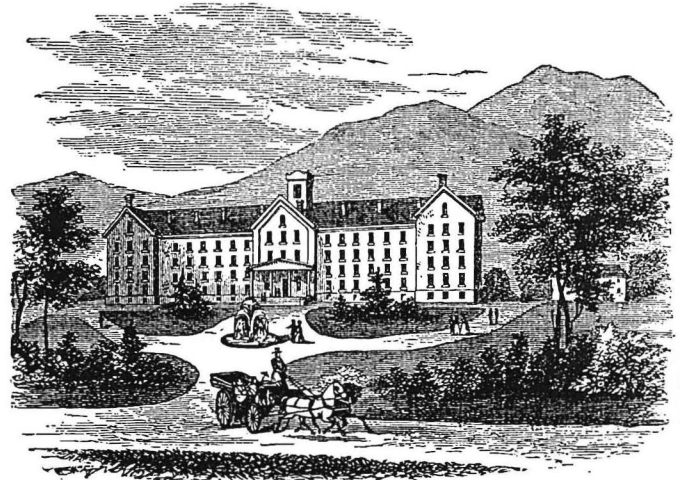
The Reverend William Phinney, Mr. Sheldon Peck, Historian Flora Tompkins, County Historian Mabel Smith, Mrs. Winifred Fiero and Mr. Calvin S. Borthwick have all assisted in either supplying or interpreting the operational aspects of the Institutes.

—The Editor

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From its first day of opening on May 6, 1854, "when circumstances beyond control prevented the completion of the entire building before the time specified for the opening" until its destruction by fire on January 15, 1861, Ashland's successive Institutes drew a student body from surrounding villages, towns, metropolitan areas, and even from without the United States. Known as the Hedding Literary Institute until a financial debacle brought about its reorganization as the Ashland Collegiate Institute and Musical Academy, it was one of a number of similar boarding schools described by the Reverend William Phinney as "spread like a belt extending from Amenia Seminary in Dutchess County to Cazenovia, including Claverack, Fergusonville, Ashland, Charlottesvile, Richmondville, Warnerville and Cooperstown."

These institutes were part of the story of the rapid growth of Methodism in New York prior to the Civil War. Although never officially under the direct control of the Methodist Church, these schools, including Ashland's, were closely affiliated with that religious



The Ashland Institute

denomination. Visiting committees from the New York and the New York East Conferences made periodic inspections. Their favorable reports were frequently included in the school catalogues to serve as a student recruitment device.

The Hedding Literary Institute at Ashland was named for the New York Methodist Church's Bishop Elijah Hedding whose career, prior to his death in 1852, was one of impressive accomplishment. In selecting that name, promoters Albert Tuttle, Seymour Van Deusen and others not only honored an important figure in the Methodist Church, but were undoubtedly aware of the value of that name for the raising of funds and the enrollment of a student body. The Methodist connection was further strengthened by the employment of ministers as principals—the Reverend T. B. Pearson was the first of three. Faculty members were also recruited from the same source, two examples being Edward Stratton and Charles Holloway.

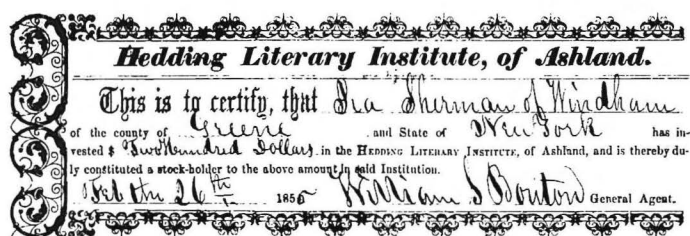
Even in a time of low construction costs, the Hedding Literary Institute was a major undertaking. More than \$40,000 was needed to secure the site and its two farms, to finance the construction of the five-story building with its large classroom wing, to provide a separate gymnasium, and to suitably equip the structures.

Just how far afield from Ashland agents sought to enlist financial support for this new educational endeavor is uncertain. While some financial backing

(continued on page 2)

certainly came from the developers in the village of Ashland, there is evidence that General Agent William S. Bouton solicited financial pledges for the purchase of stock from individuals who had children to educate and who were affiliated with the Methodist Church.

Bela Smith of Cornwallville was one such individual who signed a promissory note for \$100 on November 4, 1853, "for the purpose of erecting buildings for the contemplated Seminary, to be located in the village of Ashland, Greene Co., N. Y." A receipt signed by William S. Bouton on February 26, 1855, acknowledges that Ira Sherman of Windham "has invested Two Hundred Dollars in the Hedding Literary Institute of Ashland and is thereby duly constituted a stockholder to the above amount in said Institution."



Stockholder's Receipt

Inadequately financed and operating at a deficit, the trustees of the Hedding Literary Institute, represented by Principal Pearson, were slow to pay contracted debts. The editor of the (Coxsackie) *Union* in its issue of November 28, 1855, had caustic comments on the matter.

The financial situation continued to deteriorate to such an extent that the Institute was advertised for sale (*N. Y. Tribune*, May 13, 1856). This effort was finally successful; the purchasers promptly abandoned the Hedding Literary Institute name and reorganized as the Ashland Collegiate Institute and Musical Academy.

In contrast to the more traditional four-year liberal arts colleges, these institutes were willing to enroll students for short terms. Admission standards were flexible. Few remained to complete the two-year recommended course of study. Letters from and to the Van Gelder brothers, students at the Ashland facility, clearly reveal the limited financial resources of most students. Several managed to convince their fathers to meet one semester's tuition in order to prepare for teaching in one-room rural schools. Some sold magazines to augment incomes. Others taught for a semester and then returned for additional schooling. John Bur-

roughs, the naturalist from Roxbury, was one such student from a family of poor financial resources.

The Hedding Literary Institute Board of Trustees, under the presidency of Seymour Van Deusen, sought to recruit students by printed literature and by word of mouth. Printed catalogues such as were forthcoming from its successor, the Ashland Collegiate Institute, are unknown. The single sheet printed flyer was an effective substitute. Under the direction of the Reverend T. B. Pearson, Master of Arts, the school's faculty of eleven professors and teachers were prepared to offer a limited program in the English common branches, Higher English, classical and modern languages, vocal and instrumental music, painting and drawing, craft work, and penmanship.

The basic tuition fee for boarding students was \$23.25 the quarter term. This covered instruction in the English common branches, room, board, washing, fuel and incidentals. Advanced subjects ranged in tuition cost from \$1.50 for vocal music to \$10 for oil painting. Rooms were furnished with bed and bedding, table, wash-stand, pail and stove. During the colder months, the female students were charged one dollar extra for the preparation of their firewood and its delivery to their residence hall.

The printed recruitment flyer described the advantages of Ashland as an educational site. "The LOCATION of this INSTITUTE is most desirable. The village of Ashland is retired and healthful; its inhabitants are temperate and intelligent; while the surrounding scenery is most beautiful and picturesque."

To overcome the problem of distance from the more populated areas of the Hudson Valley, the Institute provided free transportation by stagecoach from and to Catskill, except for food consumed enroute, at the commencement and close of each term. The accessibility of Catskill via Hudson River steamboats, and during the winter suspension of navigation, by the Hudson River Railroad, was stressed.

Faculty members were available for parental and student consultations on the Tuesday prior to the opening of each term at the Dey Street House in New York and at the Delavan House, Albany.

Brief glimpses of student academic and social life at the Hedding Literary Institute can be gleaned from letters written by and to James Harvey and William Myer Van Gelder of Catskill and from Lewis Vedder's composition book. The Van Gelders had a close association with both the first and second institutes at Ashland. Both enrolled as students for irregular periods of time and William was later employed as Professor of Drawing and Painting.

(continued on page 7)

"SUMMERING IN PALENVILLE"

Susan and David Erdmann, in this issue of THE JOURNAL, continue to describe the growth of Palenville's summer resort industry. Their painstaking research, coupled with an effective writing style, serves to provide the reading public with a most informative article on this hamlet astride the entrance to the scenic Kaaterskill Clove.

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While there were many other boarding houses in Palenville, one other ambitious project, conceived after the Civil War, deserves particular mention. The history of the Dodd House is still shrouded by an air of mystery. Once located on what is today known as Palenville Overlook and what was called then Grand View Rocks, the Dodd House was the project of Mrs. Elizabeth Adkins, widow of a wealthy Savannah, Georgia man and was supposed to rival Beach's Mountain House. The road to the house alone cost upwards of \$3,000 and the house itself over \$10,000. But perched precariously near one of the windiest spots in the Catskills, the Dodd House was moored to the ground like a ship lashed to a dock in a hurricane. It never did attract many summer visitors and by 1876 was no more than a domicile for William Dodd, his son and an old black horse. It is said that the same day William Dodd died, the old black horse slipped off the rocks and was killed. What became of the house no one knows for certain. Some say it was blown off the rocks by the same winds that prevented it from ever creating a serious rival to the Catskill Mountain House.

While the Dodd House never rivaled the Catskill Mountain House, many of Palenville's summer resorts did enjoy successful summers, so much so that in 1900 George Dykeman, editor of *The Zephyr*, was predicting that proprietors would soon have to "put up cots in their cellars" to accommodate the overflow of summer visitors. Obviously a summer in Palenville offered to those visitors both a relief from city life and the opportunity to enjoy the entertainment which the hamlet had to offer.

Though nature had endowed Palenville with some of her most enjoyable assets, the entrepreneurs of the hamlet were not without means of improving on nature's generosity. In 1880 the *Catskill Morning Mail* noted that A. W. Marks had 190,000 speckled trout at the Palenville hatchery, all of which were to be released into the streams that spring. In 1900 George Dykeman stocked 10,000 trout into local streams, and he was pleading for the formation of a fish and game club. In August, 1900, *The Zephyr* announced a prize of an ice cream soda to the angler who cast the biggest yarn for the last issue of the summer. (continued on page 4)



The Palenville Hotel



The New Palenville Hotel



The Cycle Path

Photographs from the Erdmann Collection

"SUMMERING IN PALENVILLE" —

(continued from page 3)

While fishing may not have been the favorite pastime of all visitors to Palenville, hiking certainly must have been. With few exceptions the advertisements for the boarding houses called attention to the proximity of some of the most beautiful areas of the Catskills. Van Loan's *Guide* of 1878 noted that Palenville was "a good starting point for any expedition to the mountains, being only three miles from the Kaaterskill Falls and Haines Falls." For pedestrians to whom three miles seemed too great a distance, there were LaBelle Falls, Drummond Falls, the Artist's Grotto and Fawn's Leap, all easily within an hour's journey. In August, 1915, three hikers set out from the Pine Grove House on a hike to the Hotel Kaaterskill. Losing their way in the dark while returning along the Creek, they found themselves marooned on an island in the middle of the stream. Singing to buoy their spirits, they attracted the attention of a traveler on the road above, who alerted Louis Dubois, proprietor of the Pine Grove House. A rescue party was formed to pull the weary hikers up a 65 foot cliff with ropes. It was fortunate, the *Catskill Daily Mail* noted, that the hikers had not stumbled off the edge of Fawn's Leap into the pool below.

By the turn of the century the area of the Kaaterskill Creek near Fawn's Leap was attracting more than lost hikers. Not far above the pool and falls had been the location of the tannery of Jonathan Kiersted and one of the first settlements in the Clove. By 1900 the tannery site consisted of little more than stone foundations partially covered by ground vines. But the flat near the Creek almost immediately opposite Buttermilk Falls was a favorite spot of campers, and a group from Catskill annually pitched four large wall tents and a storeroom tent there. So infatuated was this group with the solitude of the location that in 1901 they contracted to have a club house erected and took out a five-year lease.

The pages of *The Zephyr* reveal, however, that hiking, fishing and camping were by no means the only attractions which Palenville offered its summer visitors. Fashionable dances and receptions were held at the Pleasant View and Mountain View Houses. The Pine Grove House often organized hayrides, donkey parties, peanut walks and progressive euchre parties, and prizes were awarded to the winners.

Bowling alleys were plentiful and some of the long-time residents can still remember setting up pins for 2¢ a game at Boart's or Barton's. These alleys had bells which were rung when a pinboy was needed, and it is not hard to imagine the rush which must have taken place when 2¢ could easily have been had. There

must have been some wealthy youngsters by September, 1901, for *The Zephyr* reported that the bowling alleys had never had a better run than during that summer, they all being filled morning, noon and night.

Some of the prizes awarded during the summer months for various games and contests were wooden souvenirs turned at a local mill. These souvenirs might have reminded the permanent Palenville residents of the days prior to the summer visitors and the artists—days when Palenville was a thriving manufacturing center. Those items may very well have been turned at the mill owned by Clayton Post. Clayton's father-in-law, Lewis Barton, had been operating the mill as early as 1865, when tanning and the woolen factory were the mainstays of the economy of the area. By 1900 the turning mills and a small broom and chair manufactory were all that remained of the manufacturing, and the economy of Palenville depended largely upon the annual influx of summer guests.

Probably the most valuable possession of the village during the summer months was the sprinkling cart, a horse-drawn vehicle which daily watered the local streets in order to keep down the dust. The "machine" was kept in order and its driver paid through contributions. There were, of course, the usual schemes proposed by various individuals. Cornelius DuBois, Fred Apkes, Philo Peck and George Dykeman, all leading citizens and local businessmen, planned to build a cable equipped with a carriage to haul people from the foot of the clove to Sunset Rock overlooking the village and stream. The construction of the Otis Elevating Railroad in 1892, as well as the obvious expense and engineering involved, were instrumental in causing the abandonment of the scheme. Another plan, one which did materialize and enjoyed some limited success was a cycle path financed by over \$600 in pledges in the spring of 1899. In July of that year, when sidepath commissioner Cornelius Droogan of Tannersville traveled the route on his "wheel," he reported that while the Catskill end of the path was in good riding condition, the Palenville end was uneven and rough, and was not packing well. Cornelius DuBois and George Dykeman were also responsible for the planning of the path, which Van Loan's 1900 *Guide* referred to as "a splendid cycle path, 6 feet wide."

Although the cable car never was built, and the cycle path may have drawn limited attention, there was one particular event in the history of Palenville which, all agree, was a booming success. In August, 1907, the Village Improvement Society sponsored the staging of the play, "Rip Van Winkle," presented in the pine grove on the property of Mrs. Hiland Hill.

(continued on page 7)

THE DUTCH-ENGLISH SETTLERS AND THEIR "KOCKS HACKY" CHURCH

Jan Bronck and Francis Salisbury are credited with the first efforts to establish a place of worship for the settlers of both Old Catskill (Leeds) and Coxsackie. These endeavors resulted in a formal joint organization on February 25, 1732, known as "The Reformed Low Dutch Church of Katskill and Kocks Hacky."

Land at Coxsackie, on the north side of the common way at the site of the Adams cemetery, was deeded by Petrus Van Bergen for the traditional sum of five shillings. Representing the congregation were Abraham Provost, Teunis Van Slyck, Pieter Bronck and Philip Conyn, Jr. The wording of the land deed restricted the use of the church property "to the public service and worship of God for the northern Dutch Christian Congregation and in the exersitative (*sic*) of the protestant Reformed Religion according to the profession, faith, use and practice of the Reformed Churches in Holland, grounded and conformable to the Holy Scriptures and agreeable with the articles of faith of the Synod of Dortrecht and to no other use, service worship, interest or purpose whatsoever."

George Michael Weiss, the first dominie, was a witness to the Petrus Van Bergen deed. The latter, a graduate of the University of Heidelberg, was called as pastor for a remuneration of fifty pounds a year, plus the "fringe benefits" of parsonage, firewood, horse and equipment. The fifty pounds per annum was pledged by 46 members of the Coxsackie and Catskill churches, a complete list of which survives. Among the names are Broncks, Van Bergens, Van Den Bergs, Brandows, Conyns, Houghtalings and Overbaghs.

During the three years Dominie Weiss was serving these two churches, he preached God's word twice on each Sabbath day and on other Holy Days in the Dutch language, in addition to "instructing and edifying" the congregation and youth. He was called upon to exercise churchly discipline and to "catechise in their own tongue the children of the German brethren" residing in the settlements.

From the year 1735 until 1753, the congregations were without a resident dominie. Finally they called Johannes Schuneman, requiring him first to be ordained in Holland at the expense of the two parishes. Dominie Schuneman, to whom many legends cling, served faithfully and well for 41 years. Shortly after his return from Holland, smallpox marks and all, he married Anna Maria Van Bergen; they lived in the stone parsonage near the Catskill Creek until their brick house was built at Jefferson Heights in later years.

In a time of tremendous social upheaval, Dominie Schuneman was a firm Whig patriot. His musket was his

constant companion on the numerous horseback trips between his Coxsackie and Catskill churches; his sermons promoted the revolutionary cause.

Dominie Ostrander later said of Schuneman: "He was deeply convinced that the interest of religion, as well as the civil interests of the country, were bound up in the success of the great struggle, therefore he gave himself up to it. He knew full well that he was looked upon by the enemy as a prize of more than ordinary value; but nothing daunted by this, he never withheld any good service in aid of his country's interests, which it was in his power to render. He was armed night and day with the implements of death, for the defense of his own person, but his main trust was in the living God."

"Notwithstanding the perils which certainly stared him in the face, he was accustomed on every Sabbath to denounce openly, and with the utmost severity, the enemies of his country, absent or present, while he always had words of consolation for those whose homes had been made desolate by the hand of violence. Nothing could deter him from performing his regular Sabbath service at Coxsackie, notwithstanding the distance from his residence was about a dozen miles, the greater part of it through a wilderness in which were lurking those who would gladly have taken his life."

In the 82nd year of his life, after serving the Coxsackie congregation for 41 years, he preached his final sermon in that church on May 4, 1794, from the text "It is Finished." His death came six days later on May 10.

Dominie Jacob Sickles, husband of Judge Leonard Bronck's daughter, Elsie, was called to the Coxsackie church in 1797 but only to minister to the congregation from Coxsackie and Coeymans, the separation with the Catskill group having taken place. Under the direction of the Reverend Jacob Sickles, the old church site was abandoned and the second church building erected nearby at West Coxsackie. It was a handsome structure with an impressive New England type belfry, railing and weathervane. The building records are in the Bronck Museum archives; they supply much detailed information. This building was eventually replaced in the year 1861 during the pastorate of the Reverend S. P. M. Hastings.

The change in the congregation to include non-Dutch families, is evident by the names of the list of subscribers which includes those of Jonathan Sherrill, Roswell Reed, John Jackson, Epenetus Reed and Eliakim Reed. It had now become the community church.

[From selected notes of the Reverend Eugene Hill, 1901]

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SOME LOYALIST DESCENDANTS OF MADAME DIES

There has always been more than a routine interest in the John and Jane Dies' family of Catskill whose stone mansion on the bank of Catskill Creek bore the labels of "Dies' Folly" and later of the "Old Stone Jug." Legends, partly fact and partly fiction, cling to John Dies.

It is known, however, that the revolutionary conflict between Great Britain and her American colonies separated Widow Jane Dies from her two sons. Jacob Goelet and Matthew had been listed by Coxsackie District Supervisor John L. Bronck on December 30, 1780, as "Deemed to have gone off to and joined the Enemy."

Matthew served as a quarter-master for the British army and drew a pension of \$73 yearly after the war. Jacob Goelet Dies is also alleged to have enrolled in the loyalist forces but details are lacking. After the war Matthew Dies returned and began the development of Dies land near Gilboa. Jacob Goelet, however, remained in Canada. His land holdings were in the area of Sorel, in Lower Canada.

Jane Dies, eldest daughter of Jacob Goelet and Catherine Souser Dies, who was born there on August 13, 1768, married William Nelson, a native of Yorkshire, England. Mr. Nelson had been a schoolmaster at Three Rivers, Quebec, and subsequent to his marriage in the year 1785, established a school of higher learning at Sorel.

From the Nelson-Dies marriage, came eight offspring, namely, Wilfred, Robert, Catherine, Jane Dies, Elizabeth, Henry, Mary Ann and Alpherey. The first daughter was named for Catherine Souser and the second for Madame Dies of Catskill, the great grandmother. Robert acquired a substantial competence from the practice of medicine; he was wealthy enough to maintain a country seat on Staten Island where he died in 1873. A son, Dr. Eugene Nelson of New York, was a known survivor.

The most colorful great grandson of John and Jane Dies was Wilfred Nelson, born in the year 1791 at Montreal. He also was trained for the practice of medicine but throughout his lifetime was also actively engaged in Canadian politics. In 1819 he married Charlotte Fleurimont of Vercheres, Quebec; the descendants from this marriage are numerous. Mr. H. Nelson of Montreal is one; he is responsible for the follow-up of the Canadian branch as it relates to his direct line.

Wilfred Nelson was one of the leaders of the 1837 rebellion in Lower Canada and suffered exile to Bermuda for several months. Later he practiced medi-

cine at Plattsburg until his return to Canada in 1841. Three years later he was elected to the Provincial Parliament by the county of Richelieu. In 1854 he was elected mayor of Montreal, the first to be elected by popular vote. The Nelson family plot at Sorel, Quebec, contains the remains of many of the family but not Jacob Goelet's nor Catherine's.

[H. Nelson's Research (Montreal)]

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM CONTINUE TO ENHANCE COLLECTIONS

Even with display and storage space at a premium, the museum and library holdings at Bronck House continue to expand with gifts and legacies. From the estate of John O. Hamlin of Rhinebeck have come some important Catskill antiques once owned by Apollos and Ruth Atwater Cooke. These include an early sampler, a Windsor comb-back chair, a banjo clock, a candlestand and a lap desk.

Mrs. Warren Travis of Leeds has donated an important documentary large framed photograph of ice harvesting activity off Athens' shoreline as well as a framed Victorian lithograph.

Supplementing earlier gifts in memory of her husband's Spoor forebears, the will of Mrs. Eunice Van Woert of Fifth Avenue, NYC, directed the return of the Spoor mahogany Gothic-style steeple clock to Greene County to the Society's museum.

A major manuscript summarizing the real and personal property evaluations for Greene County in the year 1820, as well as the status of the wolf bounty claims, has come from Philip W. Coombe of Ridgewood, New Jersey.

Two printed catalogues from the Greenville Academy from Herman Story of Freehold supplement the Ellis collection relating to that early school.

The Van Valkenburg Family in America is a new publication of interest to genealogists. The donor is Dorothy Darling, Daytona Beach, Florida.

Two helpful pieces of local history have come from Mr. Henry Tryon of Route 385, Coxsackie. The first is an original receipt signed by Dominic Gilbert Livingston, Ralph Barker and John L. Bronck, as a committee handling the affairs of the New Cemetery on Mansion Street, Coxsackie. Dated August 11, 1826, it indicates that Lot 74 was purchased by Henry Smith for the sum of five dollars. The other gift is a printed short history of the First Reformed Church of Coxsackie written by the Reverend Eugene Hill, Pastor, in the year 1901. It was a copy belonging to the Reverend S. P. M. Hastings who was the dominie of that church at the time of the building of the present edifice.

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EDUCATION IN THE NORTHERN CATSKILLS

(continued from page 2)

During the winter term of 1854-1855, William Myer Van Gelder, David Person and Lewis Vedder recorded their impressions of seminary life. William was not impressed with the size of the rooms and indicated frustration with the routine. "We are penned up here in little rooms with no pleasures but study and physical inactivity except the pleasure of eating when we have a good dinner, or when we manage to get some pie up to our room. The declamation and reading of composition on Saturday morning are very interesting. Last Saturday a gentleman spoke a funny piece, at the conclusion he sung a verse of Yankee Doodle Dandy, which we followed by tremendous applause. There was a dog in the Chapel who jumped up and barked and then he went up on the stage and sat down under the table."

Hiking and sleighing were outdoor activities. One Van Gelder letter mentions a dozen students going to South Mountain only to find the view blocked by a snowstorm. Lewis Vedder and a group of friends had better luck climbing South Mountain "for a little healthful excitement . . . over fallen trees, through ravines and to the snow covered top for a splendid vantage point to survey the region."

At a loss for a composition topic, Lewis Vedder looked out of his window and was inspired to write "a poetical description of Ashland in prose." In a humorous vein he begins by mentioning the 30-mile trip from his Leeds home and then continues: "Ashland abounds in snowstorms. The temperature varies from cold to colder . . . 28 degrees below zero." He writes on to depict Ashland's pleasant situation—a village of two shoe stores, an Institution, several farms, two hat factories, and several farm buildings. The post office he regards as the principal place of business. He sees the village as pleasantly situated between Windham Centre and Prattsville at the boundary of the young ladies' walks. At the post office "students can get pies, newspapers, letters, candies, peanuts, magazines and valentines on the most reasonable terms and at the shortest notice." He continues with "the principal productions of Ashland are butter, students and hats. The inhabitants are engaged in talking politics, hauling wood, forming plans for the future, and trying to keep warm. Upon the high hill overlooking the village at the institution the young males learn how to shoot down the hill on the staves of flour barrels; the females acquire a decided disrelish for oxygen and exercise."

On December 6, 1854, William Myer, corresponding to James H. Van Gelder at Catskill, writes: "I thought I would write you a few lines about our great school.

The building is most as large as your school and it has got most as many scholars . . . The hills are so high around here that I suppose the sun has got a job to shine here . . . We have got a great mathematical teacher here—he has the whole arithmetic on the end of his tongue. David Person came after James last night to attend the funeral of his sister Mary. He said the snow has drifted so from Cairo that he had to leave his horse there and come afoot way upon the mt. to see two stages drifted in the snow coming up the mt. and then he hired a man to fetch him up here. They started away from here at 8 o'clock last night. They wasn't going farther than the top of the mt. last night. Thanksgiving we had a party in the evening. For dinner we had turkey and a first rate supper. Monday evening we had a musical concert. Professor Lievich played several pieces on the piano."

William Myer in a letter home dated February 9, 1855, describes his schedule of classes for the second quarter term. In addition to the basic instruction in reading, spelling, declamation and writing composition, his program of studies includes five specialized subjects. At 9 a.m. he attends a class in parsing Milton, at 10 a.m. algebra. Rhetoric and composition are taught at 3 p.m., arithmetic at 4 and phonography at 6 in the evening. The latter course was an elective shorthand subject which intrigued several students who used it to convey messages in their letters.

Several letters in the Van Gelder collection indicate students were either uncertain about initial enrollment at the Hedding Literary Institute or else were debating transferring to another institute. Advice and recommendations were sought. But in the end many stayed with the Hedding establishment. In one case the letter reads "You had better go back to Ashland—father don't want you to go to Claverack."

[To be continued in Fall Issue]

"SUMMERING IN PALENVILLE" *(contd. from page 4)*

Called "the biggest thing that ever happened to Palenville," the play's main actors were professionals while local residents played the parts of the villagers and children.

Palenville is no longer the summer watering-spot that it once was. While some of the boarding houses still take on summer guests, the festival atmosphere is only history now. Fortunately, however, for those who have the inclination, the Kaaterskill Clove still offers the same attractions as it once did. Fawn's Leap, Buttermilk Falls and the Artist's Grotto have the same appeal that they have always had, and the view from the Overlook, near the ruins of the Dodd House, is still well worth the strenuous climb.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

(continued from page 6)

Those individuals who save old printed programs of local events actually help to preserve history. Some significant ones have come from Mrs. Claire Woloson of Cairo and include Joseph Jefferson's performance in "Rip Van Winkle" at the Nelida Theatre in Catskill, the 1888 "Grand Oriental Costume and Masquerade Ball" given by Professor Danielle's Catskill Dancing Class, the Senior Class Ball program for 1892 at Catskill as well as other social events.

From Wilbur Van Schaack of Florida, formerly of Coxsackie, the museum and its research library have received an extensive accumulation of regional printed and photographic material as well as a collection of wooden butter molds. We were especially pleased to find in the gift another catalogue of the Greenville Academy.

A copy of the Dutch sermon preached at the funeral of Dominie Schuneman as well as other related material is the gift of Dean and Billie Schuneman of Wilmette, Illinois. We hope to secure a JOURNAL article telling the story of their effective research into the history and genealogy of the Schuneman family.

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Space limits the acknowledgment of all the letters and telephone calls commenting favorably on the

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first issue of THE JOURNAL. We will, however, quote from one letter from The Reverend Ida van Dyck Hordines of the Bronx. Both John and Ida Hordines maintain an active interest in the Society and its Bronck Museum. "Of course the first issue had articles of special interest to me—the one on Abraham Van Dyck and the one on Cousin Kitty Van Dyck's house. How often I visited the house across from the church where our cousins would be sitting in the bay-window area sewing. We received some of the furniture from that house and used it in Rockville Center where I spent my teen-age years."

"Last time I was in Coxsackie I looked hurriedly as we went by also for Cousin Libby's house. It used to sit back from the street surrounded by lilies of the valley. I especially remember the coolness in the parlor opened to welcome us; and that I was half scared to death lest I might not be considered as acting as the young lady I was supposed to be! I never did locate then the Elizabeth Van Dyck house. I recall Cousin Kitty's place was warmer and more "lived in", much more pleasant to a child"

The annual meeting of the Greene County Historical Society will be held at the Bronck Museum on Sunday, June 19, at 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be served to the members and their guests following the business meeting.

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