

The Quarterly JOURNAL

A Publication of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc.

U. S. Route 9-W

Coxsackie, N. Y. 12051

Vol 1, Issue 4

Winter, 1977

SUPER-CHALLENGE

(Letter from the President)

As 1977 draws to a close, the Historical Society can look back on the challenges it has met during the year.

Our membership has increased; the Library and Museum collections have been further expanded and catalogued; the Quarterly Journal has been a resounding success; the Trading Post has had excellent sales; the Old Homes Tour in June netted a substantial profit; the grounds and gardens have been further landscaped; the opera "La Boheme" was performed by Priscilla Gordon and Alberto Figols on the lawn in front of the Bronck House; a detachment of the Brigade of the American Revolution held a re-enactment of early military maneuvers; The Society has published (Hope Farm Press) Curator Ray Beecher's new book, *Out to Greenville and Beyond*.

It has been a busy year and a productive one. Certainly, a vote of appreciation is forthcoming to all the many devoted volunteers who made these activities possible.

One thorny problem remains to be resolved, however. The urgent repair and necessary preservation work on the Bronck House, itself, has been frustratingly but unavoidably delayed. The historic architect's renderings and Historic Structures Report are virtually completed and some preparatory work has begun. But the serious business of stabilizing the structure will have to wait until spring of 1978.

This first phase of the preservation project is budgeted at \$50,000, of which the Society has already earmarked \$25,000 from its past savings. The Federal Government, through the New York Parks and Recreation, is matching our \$25,000 to make up the \$50,000 needed for this phase.

The second phase of restoration is budgeted at \$63,000. The Society has requested \$31,500 from the Federal Government, but, as before, we will have to match their \$31,500. So, to raise \$31,500 within the coming year is our number one priority. Needless to say, the Board of Directors of the Society is hard at work trying to meet this super-challenge. And meet it we will! The very life and fabric of the Bronck House, to which we are all so committed, depends on it. We will keep you posted as to our progress and will undoubtedly contact you for some help in the near future.

Sincerely,
J. Rubén García

WOODSTOCK BRIDGE RATES OF TOLL SIGN ACQUIRED

A remarkable piece of Greene County history, in an excellent state of preservation, has come to the Bronck Museum—it is the large wooden tollboard sign from the Woodstock covered bridge constructed in the year 1840. Featured in the Dutch Barn, it is a memorial to Fritz and Emilie Lauterjung, aunt and uncle of the donors, Mr. and Mrs. Max Henkels of Boiceville.

RATES OF TOLL.	
For Every Score of Sheep	0 cts
Every Score of Cattle, Horses, Mules	12 dts
Horse and Rider	4 dts
Every additional Led Horse	2 dts
Every Sulkey, Chair, Chaise drawn by one Horse	6 dts
Every Chariot, Coach, Coach or Phaeton	12 dts
Every Stage-Waggon or other four-wheel Carriage drawn by two Horses, Mules or Oxen	6 dts
Every Additional Horse, Mule or Ox	2 dts
Every Cart or Waggon drawn by one Horse	4 dts
Every Cart drawn by two Oxen	6 dts
and for every additional Horse or Ox	1 dts
Every Sleigh or Sled drawn by two Horses, Mules or Oxen	6 dts
And every additional Horse, Mule or Ox	2 dts
Every Saw-Log or Stick of Timber drawn with a chain by two Oxen, Horses or Mules	6 dts
For every additional Ox, Horse or Mule	2 dts

Toll Sign from Woodstock Bridge

-Val Kriele Photo

The hamlet of Woodstock, situated just to the north of the village of Cairo, borders on the Catskill Creek. The name derives from Woodstock, England, the ancestral home of the patroon, James Barker, the early settler of this region. Beer's *History of Greene County* details the difficulties of the Canton (Cairo) Bridge Company in constructing and maintaining this Catskill Creek crossing. The first bridge, built in 1800, accommodated travelers, their vehicles and livestock on the

(continued on page 2)

AUTHORESS ANN S. STEPHENS —
HER USE OF THE CATSKILL LOCALE

An August gift of a nineteenth century novel, *The Old Homestead*, from James P. Murray of LeRoy, New York, has led to research into the life and the literary output of Mrs. Ann S. Stephens. *The Old Homestead*, dedicated to Mary Pratt, second wife of Zadock Pratt, was published in 1856 by Bunce and Brother, New York. The second half of the volume draws heavily on the village of Prattsville for the setting of the chapters beginning on page 223 as Mrs. Stephens describes “the travelling carriage, drawn by four grey horses, toiling up an ascent of the mountain some twenty miles back of Catskill” until the dramatic conclusion on page 435. The reader is treated to romantic descriptions of the Catskill scenery, the scarcely disguised Zadock Pratt residence, Zadock himself, as well as other country personages and activities.

Not only was this novel to gain wide circulation after its publication in 1856, but it was also adapted to the stage within four years. It played to “live” audiences at Barnum’s Museum with George L. Aiken in the leading role. Subsequently, the play lost the public’s interest until its revival in the 1880’s when Denman Thompson acted in the major role. This dramatized version of *The Old Homestead* then had a successful run of forty years on the American stage.

Mrs. Ann S. Stephens is probably better known for *Malaeska*, the first dime novel. Published in 1860, it was one of the “Beadle’s Dime Novel Series”. It gained a vast circulation and was republished by the John Day Company in 1929 as a period piece of fiction. *Malaeska*, the sad story of an Indian wife and her husband, a white hunter, depicts the conflicting cultures of the Dutch settlers of New York with the Indian way of life. Once again the Catskill region provided the setting.

This authoress, Ann S. Stephens, began to write for publication at an early age. In 1835 she became the editoress of her husband’s new publication, the *Portland Magazine*. Later she accepted the editorship of the New York *Ladies’ Companion*. From this date she rose rapidly to positions of responsibility in such popular magazines as *Graham’s Magazine* and *Petersons*. She founded the *Ladies’ World* and the *Illustrated New Monthly* and also edited the weekly journal *Brother Jonathan*, published by her husband. Her first major novel, *Fashion and Famine*, published in 1854, was enormously successful — even to a French edition.

During the early years of the 1850’s this successful editoress and authoress made the European tour, mingled with European nobility and with such famous writers as Thackeray, Dickens, and Humboldt.

(continued on page 6)

WOODSTOCK TOLL SIGN

(from page 1)

Woodstock and Durham Turnpike. It lasted only a decade when, due to the weight of a drove of cattle, the bridge collapsed. A second and a third effort by the bridge company was required when freshets weakened the foundation supports. In 1840 the fourth one, a covered bridge with a height of 30 feet and a span of 170 feet, was constructed in such a manner as to last for several generations until it was condemned in 1899.

Mrs. Dora Goodfellow of East Durham, writing to Mr. Henkels in 1950, recalls as a young child accompanying her mother for visits to the family of the last bridge tender, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Betts and their four children (Emma, George, Jennie and Howard). She also commented at her childish enjoyment walking across the planks and hearing the echo of the trotting horses on the bridge. The Historical Society has an obituary clipping of Aaron C. Betts who died at Woodstock on March 5, 1928, and is buried in Cairo Cemetery. He was a Civil War veteran who saw service from 1861 to 1865 in both the 20th Regiment, NYS Militia and in Company E, 91st NY Volunteer Infantry.

When the iron bridge replaced the covered plank one, toll collector Aaron Betts salvaged the *Rates of Toll* signboard, later giving it to Mr. Lauterjung who lived just north of the bridge in the second house on the left side of the roadway.

Accompanying the *Rates of Toll* board are photographs which document the rebuilding of Route 145 as well as of the Lauterjung residence and family. The donors, while admitting they had substantial offers to purchase the toll sign, felt the preservation of this piece of Cairo-Woodstock history was a small “thank you” to the Catskill region they have come to regard with deep affection.



Lauterjung Barn at Woodstock where “Rates of Toll” Sign was Stored; Donor, Max Henkels, in 1931.

INTERVIEW WITH A GHOST —

Roberta M. Everett

John Peter's ghost had been familiar to me since childhood. Whenever we were startled by a strange noise around the house such as the sound of a branch tapping on the window, someone would say, "Oh, that's John Peter's ghost." Then we would smile and relax.

I knew who he was — my great, great, great, great grandfather who had come to the Hudson Valley with the Germans from the Palatinate. He had bought our home farm just south of Catskill in 1728. On the fieldstone slab in the cemetery in our south meadow, crude letters spell out: September 14, 1734 JPOB. Those initials stand for Johann Pieter Ober Bach, or, in today's English, John Peter Overbagh.



The Seven-Generation Overbagh Family Cemetery South of Catskill in the Kykuit Area.

So perhaps it was natural that when I started to delve into family history recently I came up with the idea of interviewing John Peter's ghost. I frequently heard him around and one day I invited him in.

He entered very ill at ease, looking askance at my short hair and dungarees (his womenfolk didn't look like that!) Where was my fireplace, the indispensable center of his home? I have no fireplace. He saw only strange metal boxes: one grew hot, another was cold, one made music, another seemed to have people moving inside of it. Everything looked so completely unfamiliar to him that he grew very nervous and I took him outside.

His first question there was, "Let me see your sheep."

"I don't keep any sheep."

"Then what animal is it that keeps your grass so short all around the house?"

I tried to explain my power mower, but the idea of a lawn irritated him. "Grass should be used for forage; you're wasting it! What animals *do* you keep? Oxen? A milch cow? Geese?"

"Only a pet cat."

Astonishment sounded in his voice. "Do you mean there are enough wild animals still around to keep you in meat?"

"Oh no! There is quite a bit of wildlife here and I'm trying to keep the place as a wildlife refuge, but I don't eat any of them."

"What *do* you eat? I don't see much of a garden."

"I get food from the stores in town."

"Stores?"

"Large indoor food markets."

"What do you use for bartering?"

"I don't barter. I pay money for it."

"How do you get money? You're not producing much of anything here."

"Well, I taught school for forty years so, now they pay me for not teaching. (How could I explain a retirement pension to him?)

He was horrified. It sounded as if one of his descendants might be a burden on the community! To distract him, I called his attention to where I am reforesting the hayfield, but this, too, proved to be a mistake.

"What! After all the hard work my boys and I put in clearing these fields, months and years of struggle, here you are deliberately planting trees on the land again! Have you no sense?"

This interview seemed to be getting out of hand. Then I remembered that he would have been familiar with the bridges across the Rhine, so I pointed out the Rip Van Winkle Bridge, about two miles distant. It did not look like the ones he had known, but at least he understood the concept and was interested.

"It seems high above the river. Aren't horses afraid to go over it?"

"Oh, we don't usually take horses across it. Our wagons don't need horses; they have a little fire inside them that makes them go." (How to explain an engine?)

He looked dubious but accepted my statement that the Amtrak train we could see speeding up the other side of the river also ran because of a fire inside it. A big freighter came in sight. He was amazed at its size and looked for its sails. "Does that also move because of a fire inside it?" When I assured him it did, he just shook his head incredulously.

About then he spotted Olana, Frederic Church's Persian castle on our eastern horizon. It reminded him of the castles along the Rhine and he turned to me with another question.

"Do the warlords cross your fields with their armies and destroy crops?"

"No, they don't. As a matter of fact, there hasn't been a war fought in this spot since you settled here. Once the enemy came within a few miles, but then turned back."

"You know, Grandfather, when you searched for a home place for your children and your children's children, you chose very wisely. Not only have wars not been fought here, but we have not had any serious

THE ASHLAND COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE —
ITS LAST TEN WEEKS

Elizaville
January 17, 1861

Dear Friend,

Your letter was duly rec'd. and read with interest. I write these lines this early to inform you that the Ashland Seminary is no more. On Tuesday, January 15th, 1861, at 1 o'clock P.M. that noble edifice was crumbling to the earth under the effect of that terrible element FIRE. At 3 o'clock it was a heap of ruins. The way the fire originated—no one exactly knows. It is conjectured however that it started from the chimney. It was first seen on the fifth story right at the belfry. We were at dinner at the time the alarm was given.

From thence you may easily expect there was a rush, however, not much confusion. The students saved nearly all their things. Prof. Henry J. (Fox) lost considerable many things, as did also Otto (Fox). The Pianos were saved except one. As was the library and the Philosophical apparatus. The beds in all the student rooms, the stoves, tables, chairs were nearly all burned. Prof J. Fox expects to rent a house in the village until spring, then go into some other business. He feels very bad. But my time is precious so I will simply tell you I am enjoying good health and expect to go to Claverack (Hudson River Institute) to school ere long.

/s/ A. Coons

This eye-witness account of the destruction of the Institute detailed in Mr. Coons's letter to James Van Gelder at Yale, agrees substantially with the diary entries made by Calvin Borthwick, then a student during the last term. Although Calvin S. Borthwick of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, has already had this section of his grandfather's diary published in the Windham Journal, it is felt there is significant historical value in its republication; it vividly depicts the final days of the Institute.

—The Editor

November 1860

Wednes. 7. Rilla (sister) and I went to Ashland to school.

Thurs. 8. Safely domiciled in Room No. 40, on 2nd Hall. Had for my bedfellow last night David Stevens of Strykersville, Sch. Co. Rilla and Kate (Richtmyer) have No. 100 or 3rd Hall. My studies come as follows: Algebra 2nd hour and Arithmetic 4th hour in the morning. Bookkeeping 3rd. and Grammar 4th hour in the P.M. Changed my room to night, have No. 44, Also have a Chum by the name of Coons from Columbia Co.

Fri. 9. Very pleasant this day. Get along with my classes very well but it comes very hard to keep my mind on my studies and commit anything to memory.

Sat. 10. No lesson to day. Visited the gymnasium and have enjoyed myself well up to the time of this writing.

Sun. 11. Rainy and very unpleasant. Went to the Methodist Church in the forenoon and heard Rev. Mr. Ruland preach, and in the P.M. heard Rev. Prof. Howard preach in the Institute Chapel. Also attended a prayer meeting in the Reception Room in the evening.

Friday 16. Beautiful weather. Getting along well with my studies. Attended the Delt (Delta) Phi Literary Society. I did not like it as well as I expected to. The exercises were as follows: Singing, Debate, Essay and Oration.

Sun. 18. Attended meeting at the Methodist Church. Preaching by Rev. Hall. Preaching in the Institute Chapel by Rev. Henry J. Fox.

Mon. 19. One new Scholar to day. We had a good entertainment this evening. Viz: A splendid piece of instrumental music performed on the piano by Prof. Howard entitled "an axe to grind", after which Prof. H. J. Fox gave us some extracts from a poem entitled "The Two Millions", and lastly another piece of instrumental music by Prof. Otto Fox.

Friday 23rd to Monday 26th. Went home.

Wednesday 28. Had another reading from Dickens Works entitled The Pickwick Papers. It was mainly confined to the Breach of Promise case of "Bardell vs. Pickwick". It was read and performed very well by Rev. H. J. Fox.

Thurs. 29. Thanksgiving Day. Quite pleasant. Had no recitations to day but a Holiday and at 3 o'clock P.M. had a chicken pie for dinner that tasted good after a fast from this morning at 7½ o'clock. This evening had a sociable in the Chapel that went off good considering the proportion of Ladies to the Gentlemen.

Friday 30. Rainy here and snowy on the mountains. A Mr. Moore was expelled this morning on account of several things I hardly know what. Other-wise things progress about as usual with some things sad and some things funny.

Saturday Dec. 1. Last night I joined the Philomathic League and made my first speech in a debate. The question was, Resolved: That women ought to have the right of suffrage. I was on the Affirmative and was beaten.

Sun. 9. Went to the Presbyterian Church and heard a good sermon from the minister. Attended Chapel in the afternoon and prayer meeting in the evening.

Friday 14. Society to night. Question for debate—Resolved; That the Indians of North America have a right to the soil. Decided in favor of the Affirmative.

Wednes. 19. Donation party to night at the Presbyterian Parsonage. Quite a number of students went down, myself included.

Friday 21. Pleasant weather. We had a little different exercises this afternoon than usual Viz: In the Chapel for the purpose of spelling. Mr. Fox gave out sentences with two or more words of the same pronunciation for the students to write and see whether they spelled them right or not. Society meeting to night. The question was—Resolved: That the South is not justified in seceding from the Union. Decided in favor of the Affirmative.

December 22 - 26. Home for the Holidays.

Friday 28. Comfortable weather, but most of the time cloudy. There is a very little snow, but not enough to make sleighing. The mountains and higher hills are covered with frost that makes them look beautiful indeed. Society meeting to night. Had a pretty good time. The regular election of officers was to night. Mr. E. Coons was elected for President; Mr. M. Boughton Vice President; C. B. (Calvin Borthwick) Secretary; and Miss Hendy Treasurer for the following four weeks.

Sunday 30. Went to the Presbyterian Church and heard Rev. Mr. Hallway preach a sermon on predetermination, foreknowledge and so on. Mr. Howard preached in the Chapel this afternoon. He gave a good sermon on "The Providence of God".

Tuesday Jan. 1, 1861—Sociable to night in the dining hall. Quite a pleasant time, nearly all the students were there.

Friday 4. A declamation class was organized a short time ago, and the first exercises were held in the Chapel. Messrs. Stevens and Randolph were the declaimers. Society to night and things passed off pretty good. Rilla (sister) was Editress. The question was, Resolved: That the Missouri Compromise ought to be restored. It was decided in favor of the negative.

Wednes. 9. Donation visit at Rev. Hall's in the village, the Methodist Minister's. Quite a number of the students went down. Had as much cake as I wanted to eat and a good time generally.

Sat. 12. Spent the day reading and visiting. Went to Rilla's room awhile this P.M. Studying this evening.

Mon. 14. Quite a number of the Students are about leaving for their respective homes and a few new ones are coming in occasionally.

Tues. 15. Very cloudy, but comfortable, good sleighing. While the Professors and Students were at dinner one of the domestics came in the dining hall and told Prof. Fox that the Sem. was on fire. The Prof. went to look for himself and saw that it was too true and came down in the hall and said "The Seminary is on fire! Go to your rooms as orderly as you can, and pack your trunks as quick as you can," or something to that effect. We all rushed to our rooms and

snatched our clothing, books, and so on, and carried them out of doors. Some threw their things out of the windows. Articles of nearly every description were flying in every direction. Nearly every one saved what they could, but all lost something, some a great deal and others a very little. The fire was just bursting out of the cupola when we began to carry out the things but the roof was all one body of black smoke, and in an hour and twenty minutes it was all in ruins. What a sight was that, the work of months consumed in a few minutes. I hope that I may never see the like again and be in like circumstances. The cause of the fire was supposed to be a defect in one of the chimnies. What a scattering of stock; parting of friends; crushing of hopes and anticipation of future enjoyment of each other's company and example, without a moment's warning. What a disappointment to all who were intending to stay another quarter. Truly a great calamity has befallen us but if we do not see anything but disappointment and discouragement, the time may come when we can see that there is an overruling hand of Providence in all things, and that does all things for our good. It seems as though there never could be a better time if it had to happen at all, it being in the middle of the day and the students were all together, and it was very still and no wind at all. For a misfortune it was fortunate, if it had been in the night, or in a windy cold day, it would have been a great deal worse, and probably some would have lost their lives, to say nothing about the loss of property and the suffering of the inmates.

Wednes. 16. We came home last night. Orlando (younger brother) came after us. What a sad parting was that, without a day's warning some go home; others go to school at other places. That class of students will never all meet again here on earth, and in all probability I shall never see one half of the faces that I saw there every day. It is a mournful thought to think of.



A. Coons — Elizaville Student

Both enrolled at the Hudson River Institute after the Ashland fire.

C. E. Hollenbeck —

Rensselaerville Student



THE PREVOST GORE AT GREENVILLE — THE DISPUTED LANDS

Early land grants, in the absence of natural boundaries, were so vague in their descriptions as to cause title problems when the acreage was subsequently divided into much smaller plots for sale to the early settlers. Surveyors of the original patents managed to include the widest claims of their employers; the result was overlapping land claims for which there was no easy solution. It was either a case of resorting to the courts or arriving at a compromise without legal involvement.

Such was the situation with Augustine Prevost when he settled on his Greenville lands. The Commissioners appointed to divide the Coeymans Patent had ordered a survey run in the year 1786; it established their westernmost boundary well into the Prevost Patent. This disputed section of land, called Prevost's Gore, was a long triangular parcel, widest on its northern border adjacent to the south boundary of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, and running to the south boundary of the Prevost Patent. It included much of the hill land east of Greenville Village.

Surveyors William and James Cockburn were employed to resurvey the disputed lands in the year 1803. As a result of this remapping of Prevost's Gore, an agreement was reached between Augustine Prevost and the then owners of the Coeymans Patent, to divide the overlapping claims "down the middle". In addition to releasing the eastern half of his claim to the Coeymans group, Augustine deeded a plot of 63 acres in his western section of the gore to Abraham Ten Eyck and Levi Blaisdell, probably to meet his costs of the resurvey of 1803.

The original map, now in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Birmann of *Hush Hush* Manor, Greenville, clearly identifies many of the early owners and

the settlers in this section of Greenville. Their names and their acreage claims are as follows:

Name	Acres
Sutherland Smith	90
Jonas Scofield	33¾
(Elijah?) Henman (Hinman?)	27¼
Abraham Ten Eyck	63
Levi Blaisdell	
N. O. D. Baldwin	13
Truman Sanford	25¾
Widow Lake	35½
Isreal Blakely	36½
G. (George?) Dudley	37¼
S. Woodford	38½
Timothy Lake	17

On the eastern half of the gore, toward East Greenville, which went to the Coeymans claimants, we find the names of Levi Blaisdell, Abraham Ten Eyck, Thomas B. Bridgen, Conrad Ten Eyck, Catharine B. Bridgen, Gerret Falconer and a Mr. Burrel.

The resurvey and its resultant compromise saved Augustine Prevost the expense of a lengthy court battle, one he could ill afford to finance. It established a better title for those New Englanders who had purchased from the patentees; it closed one chapter in the early history of the settlement of the township of Greenville.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

AUTHORESS ANN S. STEPHENS

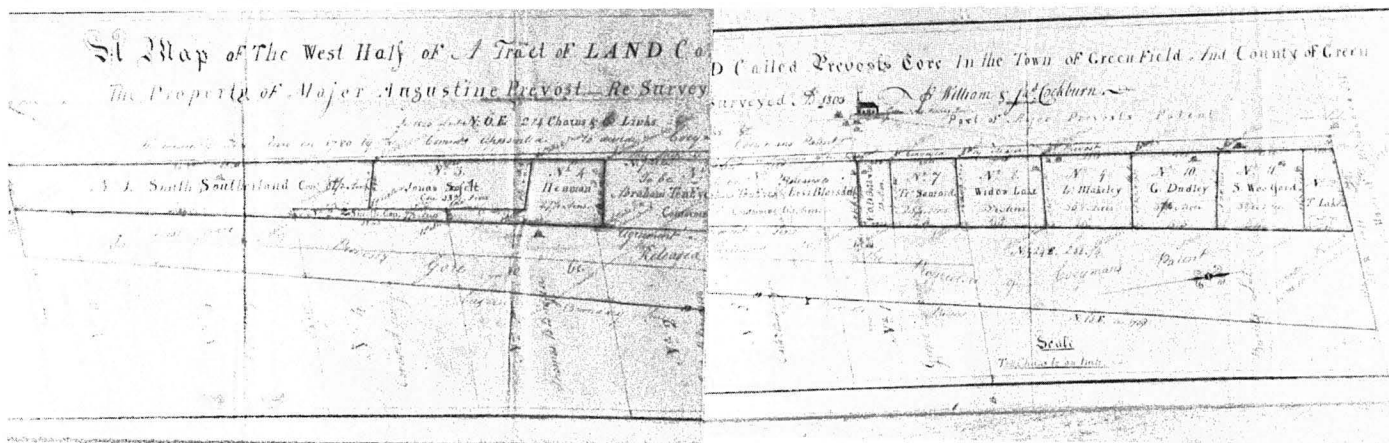
(continued from page 2)

Prior to her death in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1886, from her pen came forth a series of highly popular novels with American settings.

As period pieces of Catskill Mountain fiction, both *The Old Homestead* and *Malaeska* belong in a regional research library collection. The Vedder Memorial facility is pleased to have both volumes catalogued for the public's use.

Map of Prevost's Gore

-A. J. Gambino Photo



PAINTINGS AND PRINTS AT BRONCK HOUSE

A canvas in brilliant autumnal colors *In The White Mountains, North Conway*, painted by Benjamin Stone in 1853, is the second of his large canvases to be conserved by St. Julian Fishburne of New Paltz for this Society. The genre scene depicts the crude log dwelling of a pioneer whose small farm nestles against the foothills of the mountain range. In the foreground are a stream, bridge, cattle and a youth about to try his luck fishing in the brook.

Through the kindness of Wayne Trimm, Art Director of *The Conservationist*, the Bronck Museum has acquired a fine set of color transparencies of Benjamin Stone's art work of the Catskill region. The Greene County Historical Society is the major repository of the art work of Benjamin Bellows Grant Stone, a memorial to Katharine M. Decker of Catskill, established by the kindness of her son, Irving M. King, of Cape Cod.

Two black and white prints of the Catskill Mountain scenery, printed by Coats and Cosine, have been added to the library reference collection. The first entitled *Catskill in the Clove*, was engraved by H. Beckwith from a painting by Asher B. Durand. The second, by the same engraver, is John F. Kensett's *Catskill Mountain Scenery* (Kaaterskill Falls).

Gerrit Collier of Round Top, R.D., has followed up the gift of earlier Pruyne portraits with the addition of two National Academicians' works—LeClear and Harding. Thomas LeClear (1818-1882), painted Sarah Louise Pruyne Phillip of Catskill in the year 1870. The earlier portrait, by John L. Harding (Albany), is of Cynthia Willsey Pruyne and was painted in the year 1825. It is a half-standing likeness with open-shouldered gown trimmed with ermine, her hair arranged in the then "sausage" curl style. Both paintings are signed and dated. The Gerrit Collier gift of the eight family portraits comprises a rare assemblage of Hudson Valley portraiture.

GENEALOGISTS "INFO" AND OTHER NEWS GLEANINGS

Claudius Ducolon, the "French Doctor" at Cox-sackie Landing is the object of research by Dr. George Scott of Kingston, Canada. The earliest entry we can find is in the Zion Lutheran Church record for February 27, 1740. Dr. Ducolon died in Columbia County in the year 1801.

Mrs. Edward Sherman and Mr. Frank Crandall of New Baltimore have been helpful in tracing the life of Henry Crandall of Westerlo, New Baltimore and later at Albany. Henry's brother was Lewis Crandall, grandfather of Frank Crandall.

INTERVIEW WITH A GHOST (continued from page 3)
earthquakes nor floods and only rarely do we have a really destructive storm. The mountains shelter us from deep snows and in this particular spot the hill you called the klippe protects us from the northwest winds. The fields have been fertile, the woods productive. And the river valley is beautiful all seasons of the year. You certainly selected well; that's why some of your family is still here after 250 years."

I almost thought he was going to smile then, but we were interrupted by the noise of two helicopters passing over low. John Peter stared at them, speechless, then rushed toward the cemetery. I have not seen him since.

Interest in the Embought area south of Catskill Village comes naturally for Roberta M. Everett, seventh generation removed from John Peter Overbagh, the pioneer Palatine settler. Residing on a portion of the original Overbagh farm east of the Kykuit since her retirement as a school librarian, Miss Everett has already accumulated a substantial body of information pertaining to that section of the township of Catskill, a region in which John Peter played an important role.

—The Editor

NEWS GLEANINGS (continued)

The second volume of the Van Valkenburg genealogy is the gift of Mrs. Dorothy Darling and her brother, Raymond Van Valkenburg, of Florida. The volumes have special meaning to Greene County, it being regarded as the ancestral home of the Van Valkenburgs.

Genealogy of the Matthew Story family, much of it from the effort of the late Grace Story Webber, has been compiled by Herman Story; a copy delivered by Mrs. Marion Story Britt is now in our files. It is most encouraging to see such research preserved in an organized manner. There will always be corrections in any research as new information comes to light, but the important fact is that this much has been accomplished.

Reverend Warren Hathaway's *History of the Medway Christian Church*, on our wanted list, has been secured from a dealer in Portland, Oregon.

A promissory note, signed by John Dies, in favor of Johannis Brandow for 2 pounds, 10 shillings current money upon demand in New York, has been catalogued. It is dated September 24, 1767, and is witnessed by Stephen Van Dyck—a small but informative item relating to this elusive individual of Dies Folly, Catskill.

The Social and Architectural History of the Catskill Resorts will be featured in a traveling exhibit now being organized with Kevin N. Moss acting as Exhibition Director. Preliminary scouting for content has been arranged with this Society's museum and library staff.

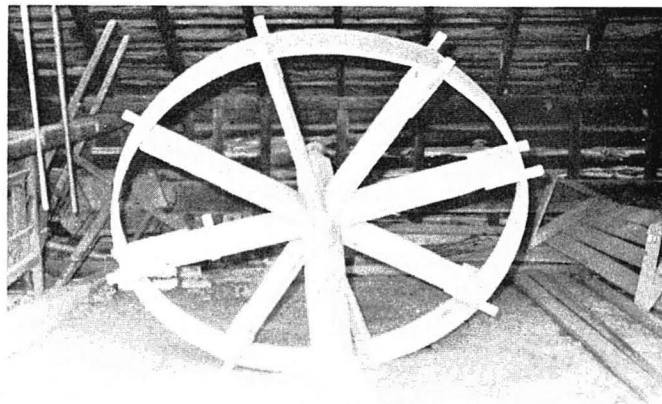
NEWS GLEANINGS (continued)

The caption for the 'La Boheme' performance photograph in the last issue was inadvertently omitted. Alberto Figols and Priscilla Gordon sang the leading roles.

The long-term project for the publication of the Papers of Martin Van Buren, sponsored by the Pennsylvania State University and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission will include copies of several Martin Van Buren manuscripts in possession of this Society. Included is his earlier correspondence as an attorney, the registration of his sons at Greenville Academy, and the invitations from President Van Buren sent to Member of Congress, John Ely, inviting him to Christmas Dinner at the White house.

The photography collection in the Vedder Library continues to expand, the latest gift being Catskill subjects from Mrs. Ruth Franklin.

Dutch Uncles and New England Cousins, authored by Professor Wilson O. Clough, was a spring publication. Our copy has been catalogued. In the words of the author, it is "part Americana, part history, part early families from around Athens and Coxsackie". Mr. Clough is a direct descendant of local families and has written other material relating to this region. The volume is priced at \$15 and can be secured locally.



A Belt-Driven Wheel from Wilson Slaughter House, Catskill - (1977 Bronck Museum Gift)

-Val Kriele Photo

Greene County Historical Society
Raymond Beecher, Editor
R. D.
COXSACKIE, NEW YORK 12051

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
CATSKILL, N. Y. 12414
PERMIT NO. 91