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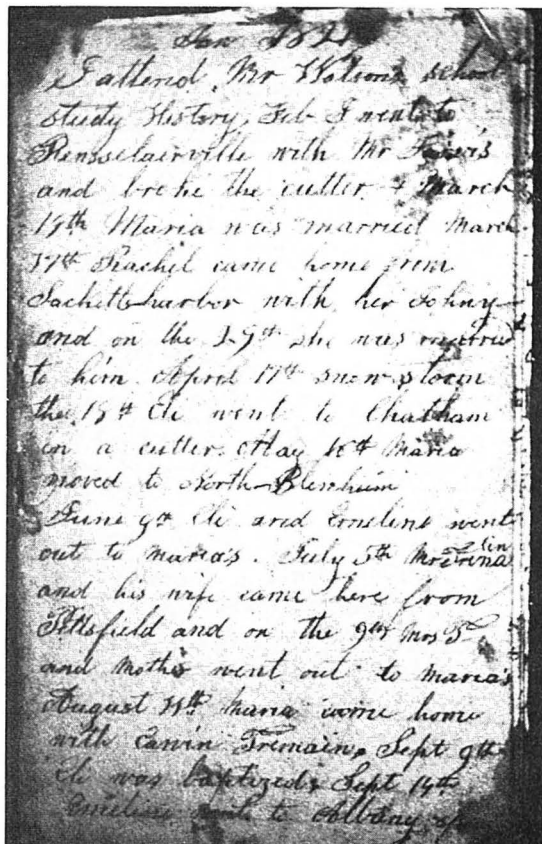
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Fall, 1979

DIGRESSIONS ON THE JOURNAL OF LOVISA KING

—Mary Vedder Kamenoff

Lovisa Peck, wife of Dr. Levi King of Cairo and my great grandmother, began a journal in January of 1821 when she was twelve years old; the last entry was January 17, 1902, eleven months before she died at the age of ninety-four, survived by only one of her nine children. Until 1871 she made her own notebooks by sewing together ruled sheets of paper into small folios of eight pages, each page measuring about four by six-and-a-half inches, the folios joined by thread into small volumes. All together the notebooks are less than an inch-and-a-half thick. The handwriting is legible though the ink is faded to a pale brown, and the spelling is dated. Entries are brief, often jotted down after the event, and there is a gap from March 15, 1840, to July 22, 1854. As a chronicle of her life the journal is a skeleton only. A history of the times she obviously did not intend it to be. So abbreviated a record of the long, full life of a woman of strong character and firm convictions teases the mind with unanswered questions.



First Page of Journal – January 1821

(continued on page 2)

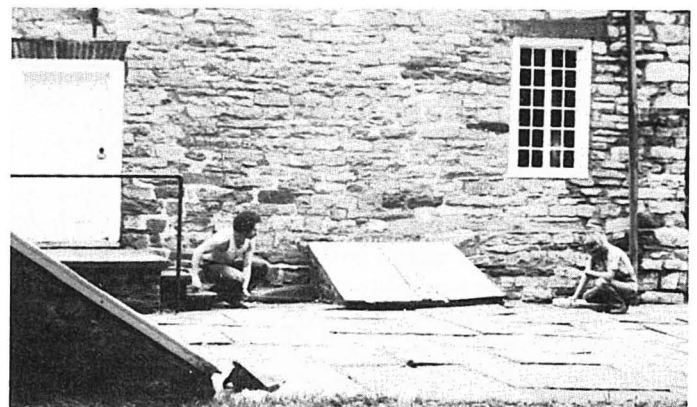
PHASE I OF RESTORATION WORK UNDERWAY

Snow fencing is up but not for winter's drifts; rather the public is being protected from test pits and trench excavations on the Bronck Museum grounds. This National Historic Landmark site will be "topsy turvey" for the next several months. With word from NYS Parks and Recreation personnel forthcoming to President García, the Executive Committee promptly met and awarded the first of several contracts for the restoration of the Bronck Houses to the lowest of three approved bidders—Murphy and Murphy-Miazga, archaeological consultants.

A series of subsurface excavations along the east and north walls of the 1738 structure, within the cellar confines of the kitchen dependency and the brick house, under the flagstones of the courtyard will certainly reveal some evidences of prehistoric Indian settlement along this eastern bank of the Coxsackie Creek. Whether or not broken pottery shards, glass, metal and other discarded household and farm objects were used to fill in the subsurface areas of the cellar walls or under the flagstones is uncertain. But if such artifacts are there, the Murphys will find them.

As part of the archaeological work, the contractors are photographing and analyzing soil structure for any evidences of Dutch-English culture here at Coxsackie. A cultural resources report concerning the archaeological procedures being followed and the scientific findings resulting therefrom will be forthcoming from Murphy, Murphy-Miazga for permanent incorporation in the Bronck archives. This report should certainly add additional insights into the earliest history of the Bronck Houses as a finite cultural resource.

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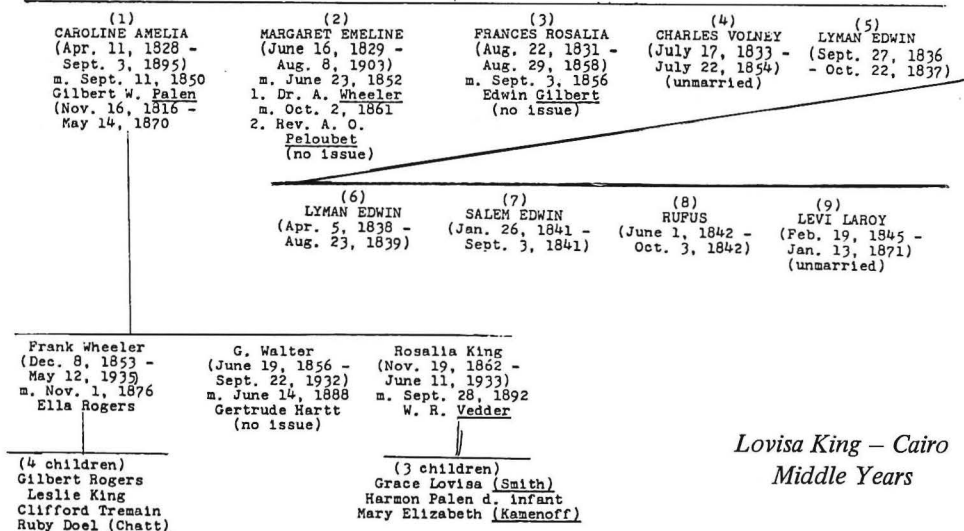


Archaeological contractors Duane T. Murphy and Theresa Murphy-Miazga on site mapping out the excavation trench.

Lovisa Peck -

Levi King Genealogy

LOVISA PECK
(Aug. 6, 1808 - Dec. 14, 1902)
m. Oct. 30, 1826
LEVI KING
(May 31, 1799 - July 10, 1878)



Lovisa King - Cairo Middle Years

The first entries are:

Jan 1821. I attend Mr. Watson's school, study History. Feb. 1 went to Rensselaerville with Mr. Jarvis and broke the cutter. March 14th Maria was married. March 17th Rachel came home from Sackitts harbor with her Johny - and on the 29th she was married to him.

How did the cutter break? Family records show that Maria was Lovisa's older sister and she married Myron Tremain. Who was Rachel? Johny?

1824. Sept. 23. I went to Albany and the 27th I commenced going to school to Miss Gilbert.

That is all she said about Miss Gilbert's school. All. January 1, 1824, she came from Albany in the stage. On April 22 her brother Eli took her to Harpersfield "to teach school" and on April 25, "I commenced my school." On May 15, 1826, she "commenced in Oakhill on the hill of science." She gave no particulars of either school.

She was less reticent about death, a conspicuous concomitant to life for her generation. (In 1798, life expectancy at birth was about 35 years; by 1850 it was 39 years, and in the 1890's only 45 years, according to *Longevity in the Thirteen Original States*, Statistical Bulletin 57, Feb. 1976, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.)

1825. June 18. Aunt Sarah died at Chatham. She had three children, one of which was drowned when about three years old. Her remains were carried to her father's (where the funeral was attended) and buried in the family burying ground.

1825. Nov. 3. Cynthia Whittlesey died of the consumption. About three months before, her husband died of the same disease. They have left two orphan children.

1826. Sept. 8. Delia Dryer died after an illness of about seven weeks in her 19th year. She had always been one of my nearest friends and companions from her childhood until her death. Her parents deeply lament her loss, as well as all her youthful companions. Yes: our little society has lost one of its brightest ornaments, one that has often enlivened our circles and rendered them pleasant: but the mandate of God has gone forth, dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return, and it must be obeyed.

Lovisa's father died at age thirty-four when she was two years and eight months old, and her brother Eli at twenty-seven. She wrote of his illness and death March 31, 1832, that it was

one of the most heartrending scenes I have ever passed through, to see a beloved and only brother wasting away with the consumption, a disease of all others the most to be dreaded, because there is no cure.

Five years later sister Emeline died at age thirty after a long illness. Sister Maria survived until age fifty-three, and Mindwell Peck Tremain, her mother, confounded statistics by living until she was in her ninety-first year.

Lovisa was born in Oak Hill August 6, 1808, the fourth child of Daniel Peck, born in 1776 in Newtown, Conn., and Mindwell Phelps, born in 1780 in Chatham, N.Y. They settled in Oak Hill, where he built a tannery. He died in 1811, leaving Mindwell with four children aged from ten years to under three. Mindwell then married Levi Tremain, a widower whose first wife, Pluma Wilcox, had died in 1806, aged twenty-four. Mindwell and Levi Tremain had five children, including Lyman Tremain, the lawyer who conducted the prosecution of Boss

(continued on page 6)

THE VAN GELDERS' STEREOPTICAN LECTURE TOUR

—Raymond Beecher

—*Editor's Note: Rebecca Pine Van Gelder's travel journal, the many letters exchanged on the trip, small advertising broadsides, newspaper clippings and a large assortment of photographic views, the gift of Mrs. Winifred Wardle Fiero of Catskill, are the primary sources of information for this article.*

"Ho! For Texas," wrote Rebecca Pine Van Gelder in her travel journal; they started from Catskill on a Wednesday morning, the 3rd of December, 1890. It was the beginning of a trip which would take James Harvey Van Gelder, Rebecca, his wife, and their son, Arthur, to the Ohio country, then south to New Orleans, westward to New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado before returning home. They were to see much of the United States at minimal cost—the Van Gelders made the most of it.

TRAVELS, SCENERY AND HISTORY

—* Graphically Described *

AND

—* Artistically Illustrated *

BY JAMES H. VAN GELDER, M.A. OF NEW YORK.



JAMES H. VAN GELDER, M.A.

What is said about his Illustrated Lectures by the pastors of churches and by the newspapers in various American cities. A course of Illustrated Lectures of the highest order may be arranged at reasonable rates.

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New York.

The Daily Mail (November 14, 1890) reported to its readers: "Prof. J H. Van Gelder is preparing for an extensive tour with his superb stereoptican, intending to give exhibitions during the coming winter in different parts of the country. Mr. Van Gelder has one of the finest outfits of this kind that can be procured and his collection of views is unsurpassed. He has treated Catskill audiences to one or two entertainments greatly to their pleasure and benefit, and we can heartily recommend him and his entertainment to the people of any town or village that he may visit. His wife and son will accompany him on his tour."

It was James Van Gelder's intention to seek bookings with pastors, superintendents of Sunday Schools, Y.W.C.A.'s or public educational systems. His fee was low and sponsoring organizations would find it a source of "money-raising" for supportive programs. To this purpose, Van Gelder formulated a dignified sales broadside which was distributed both before and while enroute. In it he announced: "I am about to start on a lecturing tour through the central portion of our country, and expect to go to Niagara Falls, thence to Cleveland and thence across Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and from thence to New Orleans and Texas, returning through the Western states. I shall take my camera with me and make a point of photographing and noting any matters of interest on the route. In order to better study the country and acquaint myself with the communities through which I pass, I will give a series of illustrated lectures, with photographic views, shown in the highest style of art, with calicum lights . . ."

From the Reverend A. Ostrander, pastor, Catskill Methodist Episcopal Church, and from other community leaders enroute, Van Gelder secured favorable letters of endorsement. W. A. Adams, Superintendent of Schools, Gambier, Ohio, under date of January 21, 1891, was pleased to write: "I have seen the Photographic Art Exhibition given by Prof. Van Gelder both nights and find it to be everything he represents it to be and more. It is pure, instructive, entertaining. The views are exceedingly fine and realistic and also very true to nature. No one need to hesitate concerning the morality or the religious sentiment of his views. We had the entertainment under the auspices of the Public School and found nothing amiss in it. No one can say a word against the culture or refinement of it and I know anyone who engages Prof. Van Gelder will rejoice as I have at the opportunity of seeing so much for so little money."

Travel was by rail; between lecture stops the Van Gelders managed to visit Beekman and Myer relatives in Western New York, do sight seeing of scenic and industrial spots, attend a wide variety of religious services, as well as being on site during the lynch law actions of the New Orleans mob in anger at the Hennessey trial's outcome.

In concise, descriptive phrases, Rebecca Van Gelder managed to record the highlights of each day's travel. Letters exchanged with Catskill friends and her daughter, Carrie, also contained much of interest about the lecture tour. A few journal entries will illustrate her powers of observation of persons and places. On February 2, 1891, she wrote: "Crossed the Ohio River on a long and high bridge and are in the south. Negro cabins soon appeared. Stayed at Ashland House. Visited home of Henry Clay (Ashland)—"

(continued on page 4)

Photos by Sydney Thomson

Van Gelder Lecture Tour—*from page 3*

shown several rooms—fine house.” The next day she noted “it was mountains, tunnels, ravines and rivers.” That night their room at the Key City Hotel was cold and there was an overhead transom which connected to “the swearing German plumber’s room.”

The Civil War battlefields of Tennessee, already a major tourist attraction, required a Van Gelder stop off. The Incline Railway up Lookout Mountain as well as the Cyclorama depicting the battle of Missionary Ridge were not to be missed.

The Van Gelders were sociable and made many friends during the journey. The Journal is filled with such entries. At Bellville, Ohio, the landlord’s mother entered into a discussion of Methodism with the Van Gelders, indicating she was an “old time” shouting Methodist. Rebecca was questioned, “Do the Methodists in Catskill shout?”

Arthur Van Gelder had the responsibility for the advance bookings except for one week when they engaged Mr. Inskeep for this purpose—“in no way a profitable venture” wrote Mrs. Van Gelder. Some nights’ attendance were large, at other times, especially if the weather was inclement, they “lighted the lanterns for the benefit of the pastor and family.”

In Mississippi, the lecturers barely missed a cyclone. The Warrior River was badly flooded and thousands of acres were inundated. “No train in three days due to flood.” They reached New Orleans only by crossing the flooded acres in a row boat, walking across the main part of the river on a bridge. Finding no drays available for themselves and their luggage, they could not avail themselves of overnight accommodations but slept on the train. Three weary persons reached New Orleans at 5:30 a.m.

On Saturday, March 19, these Catskillians were to view the mob’s rage over the Hennessy case and their hanging of one man on a lamp post and another on a tree’s limb. Eleven men were reported lynched that day. James Van Gelder was busy with his camera.

The Van Gelders were not the only Greene County residents in New Orleans during the mob riot. Rebecca notes that “in the afternoon we called on Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Jennings of Catskill (bank president and member of the Reformed Church consistory) at the St. Charles Hotel.”

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE

—AND—

Photographic Art Exhibition,

By JAMES H. VAN GELDER, A. M.

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Its Wonderful Hot Springs, Geysers and Grand Canyons, and on
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A Selection from other Views will also be given including
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Also some Colored Slides with Beautiful Dissolving
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Adults, 25 cts. Children, 15 cts.

At times the two male Van Gelders went off alone while Rebecca made social calls or did her own sightseeing. She missed the alligator hunt but was included in the trips to Audubon Park, Horticulture Hall, the U. S. Military Barracks, the National Cemetery, the Jackson monument and several plantation houses. Shipping was observed on the Mississippi, “the levees being guarded night and day due to high water.” A visit to a banana ship unloading from Central America and to a cotton press were other highlights of their New Orleans stay.

News from Catskill relating to the poor health of their grandson, Ralph, was a matter of daily concern and almost brought about their immediate return to Catskill. But their daughter, Carrie, assured them there was little they could do. (The lad died before their return.)

Leaving New Orleans, the Van Gelders traveled to “sugar, rice and cattle country.” Due to a break in the levee, they had to travel north about thirty miles before crossing the Mississippi. James and Arthur were interested in mining to the extent of going underground to a coal and a salt mine; Rebecca preferred staying above ground. At Galveston, they visited with Mr. and Mrs. Labadie who had formerly boarded with the Van Gelders at Cherry Hill House.

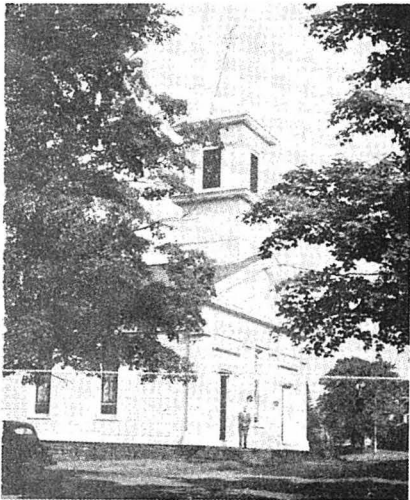
President Harrison’s visit to and elaborate reception at Galveston was an attraction for the Van Gelders; struggling through the dense crowds, they managed to hear his speech and shake hands with him.

Gradually the Van Gelders traveled westward, seeing San Jose Mission with “part of the front wall fallen in” and also the Alamo. Worthy of special notation is Rebecca’s description of overnight accommodations at Bracketville with adobe walls “decorated with sponge indigo and ceilings of sheeting.”

(continued on page 10)

THE 1848 MEETING HOUSE AT JEWETT HEIGHTS

The second and third generations of Greene County pioneers in the then township of Lexington were benefitting from the work of their forebears—crop and pasture land had been cleared, roads had been built and living was slightly easier for those who did not migrate westward to the Ohio region and beyond. In a period of pre-Civil War prosperity, the hamlet of Jewett Heights was ready to build a better meeting house. It would be the third edifice for public worship. The second was started in 1803, a few yards east of the present structure; by 1814 it had been completed with money, materials and labor from the congregation.



William Goslee and Isaac B. Hinman were the contractors for the 1848 church structure, 38 x 60 feet in size, and of New England simplicity. As in the case of the 1804 structure, the congregation was solicited for money, labor and needed materials. Pledges were payable in any of the three.

With finances assured, the congregation began the work of “leveling the old house by taking down the frame.” Much of the heavy structural timber was reused, “sills and timbers being cleared off.” Henry Johnson earned a dollar removing the old plaster; Henry Goslee and Miron Johnson got credit for leveling the old lumber.

William Goslee had located stone for the new foundation and, with others, began the digging and the hauling. Almost all the men in the hamlet spent days excavating the trenches for the footings; some came with their teams. A kiln was constructed by William Goslee in which the new lumber was stacked for drying. Bargaining with Lucius Pond for hemlock boards took William another full day of his time.

The several men and their teams were busy for a week drawing the hemlock lumber from the sawmill. Lime, white lead, nails, and probably the windows, came from Catskill. Shingles and special pine lumber were hauled from Roxbury.

As the framework was “shored up,” scaffolding was erected and the interior gradually covered with lath and plaster. Throughout its construction, the men would work by the day, giving of their time as they could spare it from their farm chores. Aaron Pond, Lucius Pond, Nathaniel Hull, Henry Peck, Miron Johnson, Henry Goslee, David Pond, Harry Johnson, Elijah and Samuel Moore, Augustus Carr, Norman Johnson, Joel Dickerman, Eri Pond, William and Milton Goslee were among those who labored to build the structure.

The cost of the new meeting house was finally calculated at \$1945.70, divided as follows:

hewn timber	\$ 20.00	lime	\$57.00
hemlock lumber	150.00	sand	20.00
stone & digging	60.00	board	50.00
carpentry	750.00	door trim	5.00
pine lumber	450.00	painting	50.00
mason work	100.00	Sophia*	30.00
paint, nails, windows	188.70	spire	10.00
		bolt	5.00

*uncertain meaning

Throughout the construction, William Goslee kept his son, Milton, busy at the site. And it was Milton who finally “cleaned the windows and swept out the house.” With the new rope affixed to the bell, church services could now begin. It was a memorable day for Jewett Heights, Pastor Buck, and his congregation.

That fall blacksmith Nathaniel Burley would bill the trustees of this Lexington Congregational Society \$5.69 for 14 irons to support the stove pipe and for the necessary staples. The stove and the pipe were sold to the society by Peck and Hitchcock. Donations were gratefully received at both the store and the treasurer’s home, heat being so necessary during the cold winter months on the mountain.

This meeting house was one of the major buildings in Jewett Heights; others, as noted by Beers in his *History of Greene County*, included the Methodist Church, an academy, the Temperance Hall, store, post office and telegraph office, and several prominent resorts. But this church is still the remaining landmark, a silent memorial to William Goslee and others who gave of their time and substance in order that they might worship God in a “fitting” meeting house.

—*Editor’s Comment: The information contained in this article was gleaned from the Goslee Family Memorial Collection recently donated to the Greene County Historical Society by Milton Brainard Goslee, Harvey Reginald Goslee, Frederick Howard Goslee, and their sister, Helen Esther Goslee Weidman. George E. Radcliffe of Kingston also informs me that his father, around 1913, built a replacement for the spire steeple which had been blown down during a storm. He also states that the old church bell hangs in a yard at South Jewett.*

□□□□

Journal of Lovisa King—from page 2

Tweed in New York in 1873 resulting in Tweed's conviction — an event unremarked in his halfsister's journal, devoted during the fall of that year to family visits and the course of housecleaning. The family of Pecks and Tremains was close, however, and Levi Tremain was "father" to Lovisa.

On October 30, 1826, when she was eighteen, Lovisa was married to Levi King, born in Rensselaerville May 31, 1799, the son of Reuben King and Betsey Frisbie, the fourth of eight children. He had been a teacher of hers in Oak Hill, where he had also taught singing and studied medicine with the local physician. He went on to graduate from the Medical College at Herkimer, N.Y., and he began the practice of medicine in Cairo in 1826. Family report was that Levi first glimpsed Lovisa at a washtub doing the family washing, perched on a footstool because she was still too short to reach the washboard. (On September 21, 1821, when she was thirteen, she wrote, "I washed for the first time.") No hint of any romantic involvement crept into the journal, and the first mention of Levi was on the day of the wedding.

1826. Oct. 28. Israel and Orin (Phelps) came from Chatham. (I guess something is going on, so many cousins coming.) Hem. Oct. 30. A large party were invited in the evening at our house on quite an important occasion. I was married to Dr. Levi King of Cairo. Mr. Willston performed the ceremony. I can truly say it was an important occasion, to look around and see all my youthful companions, those with whom I had spent so many pleasant hours, and think that I was to be separated from their company and enter into the married state—were thoughts well calculated to fill the mind with solemnity.

The next day a small party of us went to Rensselaerville to Father King's, some of the R.V. company there in the evening, had an excellent visit, came home the next day, was well pleased with my new friends.

Dec. 3. I moved to Cairo and bade a long adieu to home (the place no doubt where I have spent the happiest moments of my life), to Parents and friends, in short, to all the pleasures of youth, and commenced a new life, as it were, in search of new pleasures and enjoyments.

Dec. 20. Father and Mother made us a short visit.

Dec. 25. Eli and Emeline . . . came down to see how the old dame managed affairs alone. I presume it appeared something odd to see me here with a husband, acting in the capacity of housewife. Emeline spent nearly a fortnight with me.

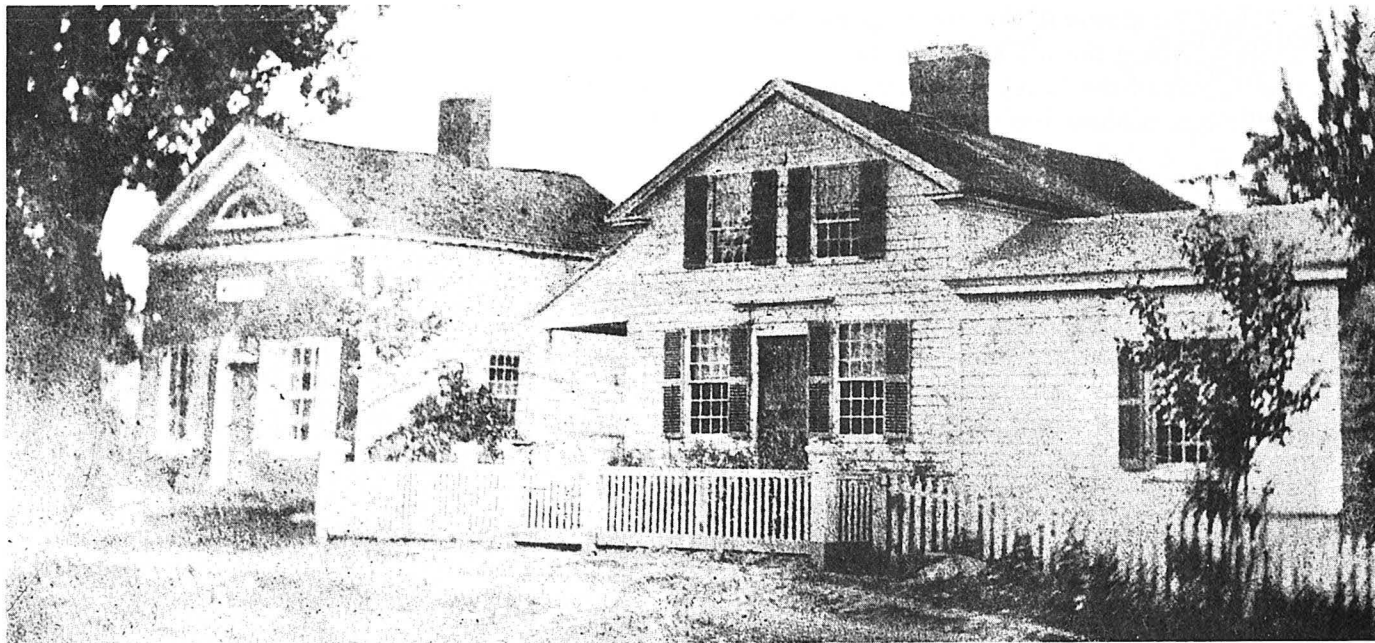
The journal in 1827 gave brief accounts of the comings and goings of family and friends and mentioned brother Eli's marriage to Lucina Flower.

Babies

The journal gave short shrift to the hazards of childbirth when the babies began to come.

1828. April 11. Caroline Amelia was born. I was very smart two or three days, when a fever set in which kept me down nearly four months, most of the time pretty sick. Rather a discouraging beginning of trouble, I thought.

But in a letter to Lovisa in 1876, her halfbrother Edwin Tremain wrote, "I well remember the many trips to Cairo with father when you were hardly expected to live from day to day." *(continued on page 7)*



Office and Home of Dr. and Mrs. Levi King, Main Street, Cairo, New York

*Journal of Lovisa King—*from page 6

Dr. Semmelweis's discovery of the infectious character of puerperal septicemia, "childbed fever," was not revealed until the 1840's nor given much credence until the studies of Louis Pasteur in the late 1860's which marked the beginning of bacteriology. Antisepsis and asepsis were accepted as medical practice in this country only after Joseph Lister's presentation at the centennial celebration in Philadelphia in 1876. Lovisa's ninth and last child was born in 1845.

In 1829 Lovisa wrote:

June 17. Margaret Emeline was born, being Wednesday. The 26th Emeline came down.

Sister Emeline stayed until July 5, when halfbrother Israel came to fetch her.

1829. Aug. 6. I went home with father, hot enough to roast eggs. . . . Something in the wind, I guess, all coming home so.

Aug. 11. Emeline was married to Mr. Penfield of Harpersfield by Mr. Smith of Rensselaerville. Quite a house full there, a number from Harpersfield. Poor girl, what a pity. Hem.

As to Margaret's birth, June 17 was indeed Wednesday, but the day celebrated as Margaret's birthday, according to the journals kept by her niece Rose (my mother), her sister Caroline, and even Lovisa's own, was June 16.

The chronicle of births continues:

1831. Aug. 22. Frances Rosalia was born Monday after washing, a pretty good day's work.

1833. July 17, Wednesday, Charles Volney was born. The 21st Mother came down, spent a week, left me quite comfortable, but my breasts soon began to gather, fever set in, and all together kept me sick four or five months again (some of the sweets of married life).

1836. Sept. 27, Tuesday, Lyman Edwin was born in the morning. Sept. 30 Mother came down with Eliza Walsh, spent a week. I got about the house in four weeks this time.

1838. April 5. Lyman Edwin (the second child so named) was born about 5 in the morning (Thursday). 11th Mother came down, returned the 22nd.

There is no entry between March 15, 1840, and July 22, 1854. In this interval three sons were born, two died, and two daughters were married.

This hiatus was known to exist in the early 1900's. After the March 15, 1840 entry, Lovisa listed dates of birth and death of family members, including sister Maria's death in 1853 and niece Lovisa's in 1880. At the end of this first volume, she made an isolated entry for January 1, 1858. The evidence would indicate that a journal was not kept rather than that one was lost.

On the deaths of her children Lovisa expressed herself more freely.

1837. Sept. 21. Came home, found things all right side up, children all well, glad to see them all. (She and the doctor had been visiting in Chatham.) The next week the children were all taken down with the measles except the babe (the first Lyman Edwin). He was taken with a diarrhea about the same time which continued a fortnight very bad, then the measles and whooping cough came on, which was more than the little fellow could bear. He died Oct. 22nd, Sunday, about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. In four days he would have been thirteen months old. We had never lost a child before, and I am sure it was the most trying scene I have ever passed through, although I had lost near friends which I thought were as dear to me as any could be, but nothing had ever come as close before.

1839. Aug. 23. (On a family visit) . . . I carried Lyman Edwin with me. He was sick — was in hopes the ride would do him good, had had diarrhea all summer but did not affect his health till then, but from that time nothing appeared to do him any good. He failed rapidly until he died, which was Friday morning, the 23d, about 5 o'clock, aged 16 months and 17 days. He was a sweet child and dearly beloved by all of us, but this was no safeguard against the shafts of death. It would seem that those on whom we place our fondest hopes and dearest enjoyments are often nearest the grave, but it is painful and heartrending to look around upon the vacant cradle and our little family and find that one of our dear number is removed forever, and I feel that there is a void made and a wound inflicted that time alone can heal.

Salem Edwin was born January 26, 1841, and died September 3, aged seven months and eight days; Rufus was born June 1, 1842, and died October 2, aged four months and one day; Levi LaRoy was born February 19, 1845. There is no journal for this time.

Volney

Charles Volney died July 22, 1854, five days after his twenty-first birthday. Breaking her long silence, Lovisa wrote:

1854. July 22. Charles Volney died after suffering extremely for many weeks, swallowed no food for five weeks and but very little drink through a straw and did not swallow a drop of any thing for eight days before he died.

Caroline and Margaret both had been home for two weeks before he died. A little notebook kept by Margaret gave consumption as the cause of death.

(continued on page 8)

Journal of Lovisa King—*from page 7*

On December 3, 1853, Volney had written Margaret, married to Dr. Wheeler and living in Brewerton, N.Y.:

You can congratulate yourself on your absence from Cairo, for certainly it is the most lonely place I've seen for a long, long time. It is surrounded with an air of graveyard monotony, and there is no hum or din of business, nothing of any variety . . . and a sojourner there must "feel like one who treads alone/Some banquet hall deserted."

He had returned from a visit to Brewerton, where, he told Margaret, he had enjoyed himself well, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, and said he was quite favorably impressed with the place and its inhabitants. He went on to instruct his sister, four years older than his twenty summers but lacking the advantage of his male omniscience — and with some optimism:

You will find in all these new counties social life natural as it should be & untrameled (sic) with the fetters of odious & senseless distinctions.

He had been in Cairo for a week "posting Pa's books," and was back in Catskill at his employment with a lawyer. In the letter he spoke of the early death of a cousin. "It is sad to be stricken down thus early in the bloom of life, particularly so when one has just begun to realize its comforts and pleasures." Seven months later he too was stricken down.

Rose

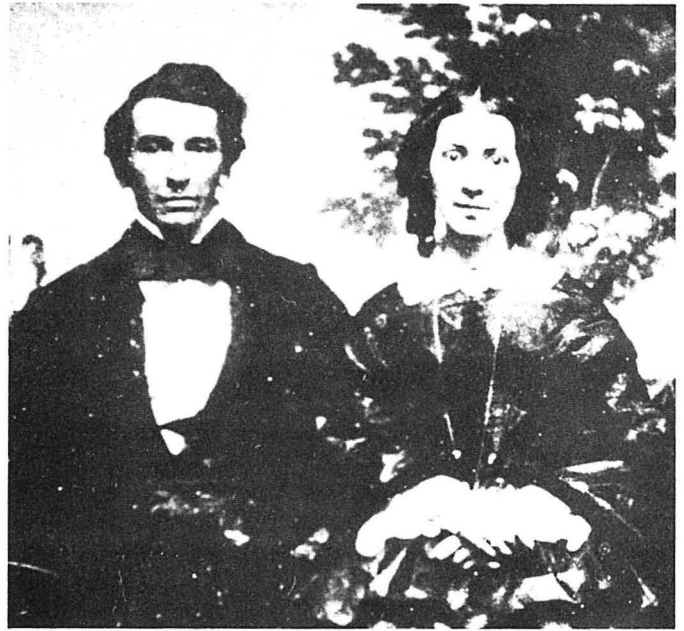
In the years when no journal was kept, both Caroline and Margaret had married.

October 31, 1855, Lovisa wrote, "Rose left for Ashland to take music lessons," and February 25, 1856, "Rosalia went to Windham with Prof. G."

She went on:

1856. Aug. 19. Margaret came home. Her Pa met her in Catskill. Rained hard when they got home (to Cairo), which was about 9 o'clock, and it poured all night and the next day, 20th, about noon, the bridge, Augustus Hill's house, and part of Mr. Crocker's were carried off, the greatest freshet ever known in this region. An immense amount of damage done in the county.

Aug. 28. Gilbert, Caroline, and babe . . . arrived. Sept. 3d Dr. Wheeler came, and that evening Rosalia was married to Prof. E. S. Gilbert by Mr. Roe at 7 o'clock. Had about 30 at the wedding and a great many calls afterwards. The next day . . . they all left, Rose for her home in Lima, western New York, . . . Dr. and Margaret



Rosalia and Edwin Gilbert – 1856

for home. The 5th Gilbert and Cal left for their home and now were it not for LaRoy we should be left alone, and that's the way the world goes. I suppose it's right, but it is very hard to bring up a family of girls and then be left alone, but there is no other way but to make the best of it.

But they came back. In 1858 Dr. Wheeler "injured himself shoveling ice" and a week later died of a strangulated hernia and Margaret came back home to live until she remarried. Cal spent her widowhood at her parents' home and her youngest child, Rose Palen Vedder, grew up there. Rose Gilbert returned to die less than two years after her marriage, again of tuberculosis. Lovisa wrote:

1858. Apr. 2. Went on to Rochester. Edwin met us at the depot, found Rose very miserable. . . . Mon. 12th Edwin, Rose, LaRoy and myself started for home. . . . Rose stood the jaunt as well as we expected.

Aug. 28. After dinner Rose was brought out in the front room and had her clothes changed although it tired her dreadfully. We little thought we were doing it for the last time, but so it was. The next day, 29th, she died, about six in the P.M., after a day of dreadful suffering. Thursday, 31st, the last day of summer, we laid her in her last resting place, with the blessed assurance that her sufferings were ended and she was happy, although there is an aching void in our hearts and home that never can be filled. Mr. Roe preached the funeral sermon.

A daguerreotype shows Rose to have been a strikingly beautiful woman with a bright, expressive face framed in long dark curls. Under the picture her husband had placed a curl of dark hair and a sad little verse:

(continued on page 10)

VEDDER LIBRARY NOTES

◇□ Manuscripts and printed items from the Salisbury—Van Deusen house of 1705 (burned 1929) which had been taken to Kentucky and later housed at Oyster Bay, Long Island, have now been deposited in this library. The gift comes from Mrs. Jane E. Hutchinson in memory of her mother, Jennie Ruth Potter Errickson, whose father purchased the Salisbury stone structure from the Van Deusen family.

◇□ In a cooperative effort with the town of Hunter and the Haines Falls library, this society made available its pictorial material relating to the township to Mrs. Justine Hommel who is producing a slide collection of the earlier history of that mountaintop area.

◇□ Eighteenth and nineteenth century maps of this region contain a wealth of historical data. Unfortunately, many are scattered beyond county confines. Duplicated copies are a practical substitute for researchers. Anthony Gambino of New Baltimore has provided us with two maps—surveyor Leonard Bronk's division of the Fountain Flats, dated March 21, 1788, and John Kiersted's outline map of the Sir Henry Seton Patent in the town of Durham, dated 1810.

While attending an art conference at Hanover, New Hampshire, President Garcia found time to browse in the Special Collections at the Baker Hall Library, Dartmouth College. As a result, we now have a copy of pages 15 and 16 of Thomas Jeffrey's *Atlas of 1772*. What intrigues us is the use of the name Salisbury for Leeds, Bronkers Bridge at Cocksocket for Bronk's Bridge at Coxsackie, Lunenburg, the Kats Kill Mountains and the Kaders Kill Creek. Ah, the old spelling!

◇□ We are always pleased to acquire original or photostat copies of missing Bronk family manuscripts. Alvin Haas of Nyack has contributed two letters dated 1806 and 1807 which were written by the Reverend Jacob Sickles to his brother-in-law, Attorney John L. Bronk. A photostat of a letter written by Judge Bronk to his sons enrolled at the Kingston Academy, comes from Messrs. Stackman and Kesinger of The Homestead, Coxsackie.

◇□ From Strong Road, Cornwallville, Charles E. Dornbusch continues to send occasional bundles of material. Among the last mailing was a fine large-size photograph of the Catskill Mountain House in its final days, the victim of time.

◇□ Among the needs of this library is a copy of Delber W. Clark's *The World of Justus Falckner*, c. 1946, The Muhlenberg Press, Philadelphia.

◇□ The heirs of the late Herman E. Story of Freehold have donated a very useful collection of paper collectibles relating to the Greenville Academy, the Hudson River, etc. Here is more local history preserved.

□□□□

CURATOR'S CORNER

—Shelby Kriele

◇□ The opening months of 1979 have seen several additions made to the Bronck Museum collections. A group of handmade lace edgings have been added to our textile collections through the generosity of Mrs. Betty Miller. As part of a family memorial, the Goslee family of Jewett have given a small dome top trunk covered with an interesting early wallpaper, and a stencilled tin deed box. Another addition to the costume and textile collections was made by Mrs. Elizabeth Bagley who has donated a delicate velvet trimmed silk wedding gown. The gown was worn by Lydia Wight when she married John H. Bagley in 1856. Mrs. Bagley also gave a lithograph map of the Village of Catskill. Both are in memory of the late John Bagley. Louis Bush of Athens donated two weighty pieces of blacksmith's equipment used by a local smithy to shape the iron rims for wagon wheels. Another curious machine donated by Edgar White of Athens was used to make shoe laces.

◇□ Occasionally, in the coming issues of the "Journal" the Curator's Corner will be singling out specific items from the Bronck Museum holdings to highlight. We begin in this issue with one from the textile collections at Bronck Museum—an item which could as well be considered a piece of American folk art.

Among the most unusual of the samplers produced in the first quarter of the nineteenth century are the map samplers. Bronck Museum is fortunate to have in its collections such a piece of needlework. The sampler, embroidered in 1812 by Elizabeth Bogardus of Catskill, came in 1970 as part of the Katharine Decker Memorial. Elizabeth's sampler is a map of the world embroidered with silk and chenille thread in outline and couching stitches on a delicate white silk ground. A ribbon painted in watercolor across the top of the sampler serves as a label as well as a starting point for the cascades of colorful watercolor tulips and roses which fill the upper corners of the work.

Map samplers, such as Elizabeth's, were used as a method of combined instruction in fine needlework and geography. In England this form of sampler was very popular during the late 1700's, so popular in fact that commercially printed patterns were available and widely used in the private girls' schools. Less than thirty map samplers made by American girls are known to exist; this comparative rarity, the spontaneity of design, and the diversity of subject among the American map samplers make it seem unlikely that printed ones were ever commercially produced. The rarest of all map samplers are the embroidered, stuffed silk terrestrial and celestial globes produced by the young ladies at the Westtown School in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

(continued on page 10)

Journal of Lovisa King— from page 8

The swift-footed hours of two joyous years
Soon fled away, and she who was my love, my light,
my all in life
Departed to return no more
Oh God pity me, alone in this heartless world.
I lived for her who is dead.
If to me you cannot give her back
Then take me too.

In less than five years his wish was granted.

After Rose's death, Edwin Gilbert continued to be thought of as a son, and often visited the Kings in Cairo. Lovisa wrote:

1862. Sept. 8. Edwin arrived from the war on his way to Rochester. Were rejoiced to see his face once more. Went on to Rochester next day.

There he married Miss Hattie Hicks, whose picture shows a sober, sensible face under a trim coronet of braided hair. The journal reported:

1862. Sept. 30. Edwin and his wife came here. (It was the first day of our County Fair.) They left Thursday, Oct. 2. Had a very pleasant although a sad visit with them, for it brought our dearly loved Rose so vividly to mind that it was painful to see another filling her place by Edwin's side, although I did not blame him at all.

Lovisa wrote:

1862. Dec. 13. Edwin came from the Army, sick. Went on to Rochester 16th. Was very feeble indeed.

The music teacher had by this time reached the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Union Army.

1863. Feb. 23. LaRoy and myself started for Rochester to see Edwin. When we got in Catskill heard of his death. Died 22d, Sabbath, at four in the morn. We went on immediately, arrived in Rochester Tuesday morn at 11 o'clock. Attended his funeral at two in the same P.M. in St. Peter's Church. Went on with the body the same night as far as Livonia, the next day to Hemlock Lake, where another funeral sermon was preached, then went three miles farther and buried him in an old family burying ground, much to the regret of his wife and all of her friends and us. We all wanted him buried by the side of Rose in Cairo, whom he so dearly loved, and I hope he may yet be laid there. It was with a sad heart that we left the dear one so far away from us. Can hardly realize that we shall see his face no more, for we had loved him as an own son and brother.

His widow was mentioned affectionately in the journal of Rose Palen as "Aunt Hattie Gilbert" and she continued to visit Cairo after she had remarried.

Lovisa noted:

1891. Aug. 5. Hattie Webster came here, on her way to Buffalo and Rochester.

There is no indication that Edwin Gilbert's last resting place was ever changed.

The protocol governing which mate the deceased was buried beside when he had had more than one, is not clear. Lovisa's halfsister Pluma Tremain, who had married Fred St. John, died suddenly of pneumonia in 1878, aged fifty-six. Four years later he remarried and Rose Palen continued to visit "Uncle Fred and Aunt Anna" in their New York home. Lovisa wrote:

1901. Oct. 29. Fred St. John died in Newburgh, 82 years of age. Was taken to Monticello to be buried by the side of Sister Pluma, his first wife.

Eli Peck's Lucina, a widow with two daughters at age twenty-eight, later Lucina Henderson of New Hartford, Conn., lies with Eli in the Oak Hill cemetery.

—Editor's Note: *Digressions on The Journal of Lovisa King will be continued in the Winter Issue.*

□□□□□

Curator's Corner— from page 9

As a group map and globe samplers were an undertaking which demanded so much time and skill that the completion of such a sampler established the maker as an accomplished needlewoman, if not a geographer. □□□□□

Van Gelder Lecture Tour— from page 4

From Santa Fe they were off to Las Vegas and then on to Colorado's scenic spots. James was busy with his camera in such places as Green Lake, Colorado Springs, Cheyenne Canyon, Garden of the Gods, Williams Canyon and the Royal Gorge.

But the months were passing; traveling was more expensive than anticipated, even with lecture tour receipts. And the news of the death of their grandson was overwhelming. The return trip east was direct and rapid. For James and Rebecca Pine Van Gelder it was the experience of a lifetime. Son Arthur, however, would soon leave Catskill, would be graduated from the Columbia School of Mines, and would specialize in the field of explosives, eventually authoring a major book on that subject. □□□□□

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