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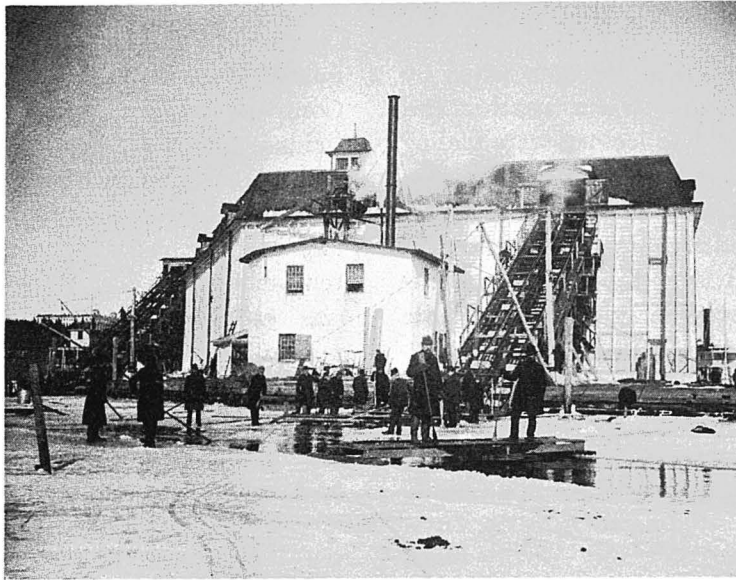
A WINTER'S ICE HARVEST — 1900-1901

—Raymond Beecher

It was the largest and finest crop of ice ever to be harvested along the Hudson River to date. The winter of 1900-1901 was almost over, a winter during which the weather had finally cooperated to provide ice of uniform thickness, of good quality, harvested with a minimum of expense. The workmen were happy, the ice companies and individual owners were happy, and the local businessmen were counting their cash intake. By late February, the men were rushing to fill the few remaining spaces. Enterprising P. V. Washburn even managed to fill several canal boats with ice, boats that were frozen in when the river closed. Between Catskill and Troy, the houses contained over 2,750,000 tons of ice, about two-thirds of the entire Hudson crop. The New Baltimore correspondent to the Catskill *Examiner* could report: "On Tuesday morning, the ice men were somewhat at sea, having worked themselves out of a job."

The season had started off on a dubious note; the weather prophets were confronted with mixed signs. Traditionally, this early December ice skating in Catskill on Hopkins Pond indicated a good ice season. But when the third white frost followed rapidly on the heels of two earlier ones, a rainy warm spell was forecast. And rain it did! On December 24 the weather turned warmer and the ice wasted away rapidly. Would the ice sheets in the Catskill Creek and in the Hudson River break up? Would the ice ever get thick enough to harvest? These questions were debated wherever the men congregated. It was the major topic of conversation in Greene County to those whose livelihood depended either directly or indirectly on the ice industry.

Inland, the small private ice houses had been mostly filled from ponds; the crews were ready to tackle Catskill Creek when given the signal. For-



Ice Harvesting at Catskill Point

—William Reynolds Collection, Vedder Memorial Library

tunately a few days of colder weather set in early in the new year, helping to freeze the ice in Catskill Creek although the river was still unsatisfactory.

Long before daylight, on Monday, January 7, the Catskill Creek was the scene of intense activity. Gangs of men were at work marking and plowing the fields staked out by each firm. The *Examiner* could report that "by seven a.m. six ice houses were being filled with fine clear water ice averaging from ten to twelve inches in

thickness. Superintendent John H. Spoor of the Consolidated Ice Company had "jumped the gun" by staking out his fields on the creek and commencing the cutting two days earlier to fill the Long Dock and the Hop-o' Nose houses. Neither was Sunday a day of rest for his crews. But by late Monday afternoon he was compelled to call a halt to the work, the ice at the Long Dock becoming too thin that far down the creek; also, the ice sheets at Hop-o' Nose had begun to crack—it was simply too dangerous for the markers and their horses.

Forty-three cakes each minute were being hustled by Chauncey Smith's men—on that Monday they harvested 1,700 tons. On Tuesday morning at his house, all work stopped when the laborers struck for another 25 cents the hour—they had been getting \$1.75. New men were hired and the work proceeded under Fred Plusch's superintendency, with Benjamin Plusch as engineer, William Webber in charge of the room men, and Patsy Regan the field crew.

Other small houses on the Catskill Creek were being filled with rapidity—Decker Bros. would hold 5,200 tons, Stead & Hughes 8,000 tons and Thomas Bell 2,500. But within 48 hours the good ice in the creek gave out and the crews were forced to wait for a second frozen crop. Russell & Son, above the ice bridge, rather than chance a second crop, kept harvesting thinner ice of eight inches. (continued on page 2)

A WINTER'S ICE HARVEST

(continued from page 1)

The small ice houses for hotels and boarding houses and for private individuals, such as Rappelyeas, the Smith House, Gay Bros., P. A. Oberts, Saulpaughs, F. N. DuBois, the Woodmere, Summit Hill, V. E. Ford, and E. Lampman were filled by a single gang under the direction of William Gavigan. Rushmore's Dam would furnish the ice for the DuBois drugstore.

The outlook for river ice turned sour when by Saturday, the 12th of January, warm weather and a drizzle prevented freezing. The icemen were feeling "blue" with some going home. Others, like ice veterans E. A. Cobb and George A. Scott amused themselves visiting old friends and recalling earlier harvests. Captain Phil Cole was advising the icemen to eat plenty of salt herring to provide grit and to enable them to stand the cold weather still to come.

Since 1790, the Hudson River had been closed to December navigation only 87 times; in 1801 it was as late as February 3; the shortest freeze-up was for thirty-one days, the longest was for 136. The Albany and Troy night boats had stopped running on Tuesday, December 12. The Catskill and Albany boats quit on Wednesday, going to New York for their last trips. The steamer *Isabella* could not get through the ice packs that day and was laid up for the winter. The Catskill night boats, the *Kaaterskill*, *Onteora*, and *McManus* tied up in the New York Erie basin. The *Redfield* and the *City of Hudson* were berthed at Catskill Point. The steamboats would not affect the river ice any more this season.

The winter months were a period of slack employment in Greene County and many men were eager to avail themselves of the opportunity to make several weeks' wages. All were awaiting the river ice call in the several villages and hamlets.

Henry D. Churchill of Cairo had left that village early in January to open the Pine Grove boarding house for the Knickerbocker Ice Company, he having been hired in that capacity for the past ten years to feed and house the crews working in the Four Mile Point area. While many icemen commuted on a daily basis, because of the long hours others hired rooms in the villages or stayed in company quarters. A few weeks later, when the weather turned favorable, New Baltimore would report, "Ice boarders flood the town at the present time." Gabriel Pantaleo often told of his having difficulty securing a room when he first arrived on the Coxsackie scene during the ice season.

The cold snap the third week in January, 1901, brought smiles to the faces of the icemen. The second cutting commenced on Catskill Creek while the river

crews began the main harvest. From Freehold "quite a colony of young men were waiting to get work on the river ice, some going to Coxsackie." Lawrenceville had already filled its small local houses from the frozen ponds and it was noted "the boys are ready for the harvest on the river." The Cairo correspondent noted that a number of local men were off to West Camp to find work on the ice.

Upriver, in the Coeymans-New Baltimore section, Corwin and Son were running twelve-inch ice of good quality from behind the dike while the American Ice Company was scratching, marking, and plowing their fields in the Barren Island section of the river. Powell and Minnock were giving priority attention to the ice from their upper pond. Miller and Whitbeck were happy—they had a fine field, averaging from eight to ten inches. The Van Hoesen house at New Baltimore was ready to harvest. E. N. Long would be their paymaster and F. S. Welbs the ticket-puncher. J. N. Briggs had been moving ice of unusual thickness at his house on the island. At Athens, the Arrow, Winne, and Briggs houses were cutting but reported being hampered by strong wind.

Cold weather was a blessing for the ice industry—seldom did the men complain if the temperature fell below zero. But on February 20, the men from Grapeville returned home at noon; it was one of the coldest days ever known on the river and it caused them to lose a day's pay.

Ice men had their own heroes that season. Burt "Papa" Van Loan was rated one of the best men on the short canal—the men never lacked for ice to store while he was on duty. Grover Conine earned the rating as the pluckiest little fellow on the ice. When leading a horse, the animal broke through. Grover, instead of running to save himself, held fast to the bridle and kept the horse's head above water, thus saving the beast.

The hard-working crews had time for good-natured humor—one crew filled the ice groves with wire nails and Joe Jacobs of the Long Dock at Catskill couldn't understand why the ice was so tough for his crew to cut. When George Palmer gave his girlfriend an expensive basket of fruit, his rival appeared and walked off with the girl and the gift. Palmer's fellow workers soon presented him with a basket filled with fruit skins.

In contrast with today's papers, the newsheets in 1901 were filled with ice harvesting news. Each river village was covered. New Baltimore could report on February 2: "George Brumis, proprietor of the Riverside is taking care of between 40 and 50 men. The Imperial has all its rooms filled as has also the New Baltimore Hotel which shows what an industry can do."

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A WINTER'S ICE HARVEST

(continued from page 2)

By mid-February Athens could predict there would be no shortage in the ice crop at that village, whatever might be the conditions elsewhere. "Already the Arrow, Every, Howland, Every & Eichhorn, and Brooks houses are filled, with a combined tonnage of something like 100,000 tons, at the lower Consolidated house, nearly 4,000 tons have been hoisted, and other smaller houses have only a day or two more of work before they will be full. The ice has been harvested at small expense, as the weather for the past few weeks has been unusually favorable, only one snowstorm having interfered with the work. The ice housed is all of fine quality, clear water ice and averages ten inches in thickness."

It was dangerous work and accidents to men and horses were frequent, both on the fields and in the houses. But the men were tough. William Gavigan at Stead & Hughes house on Catskill Creek, attempting to fix a loose slat on the elevator, went out on the run. Through a misunderstanding, the friction tender, W. B. Slingerland, started the elevator before Gavigan finished his task and the latter was carried up the run. Before the machinery could be stopped, his left foot was badly crushed. Taken home in a wagon, he was back on the job within a week.

At A. J. Vanderpoel's in the New Baltimore area, men were going to their work in February, driving two horses before a sleigh and two behind. At a point down below the island all went through the ice. But fortunately both men and beasts were saved. Orrin Slater met with a bad accident at the Wolfe Ice house (Athens) by being struck by heavy cakes of ice and had to be transported back to Cairo. Rogers Island ice keeper for the lower house, George Bates, broke through the ice four times while going from the Point with a quarter of beef on a hand sled. On a Monday, Robert Fyfe, superintendent of the Anchor Ice house, was severely injured. He was walking under a run when it broke and a large cake of ice struck him on the head and shoulders. Bill Johnson, in charge of Friendship house near Smith's Landing, was not so fortunate; he was caught on the grasshopper connected with one of the frictions and was crushed to death.

By late February, with the sun getting higher, reports began coming in that the river ice houses were almost filled and the end of the ice harvesting season was in sight. New Baltimore's Horton & Company, Bronk & Gay, and Charles Van Hoesen ice houses

were out of space by February 18th. The local correspondent sent word: "Our boys expect to finish up their work on the ice this week, where they had about five weeks' work. Three loads [of men] have gone from this place." Coxsackie could report that Thomas Bell's new ice house was nearly filled.

At the Catskill Point at Hamburg and Knickerbocker houses some work still continued. Empire #1 and the east part of the American Ice Company were filled; the McCabe house and the Empire at Cole's Grove were finished and the Scott house on the island nearly so. The Nelson houses at the Vly had one more week to go. Corwin & Son were finished; J. N. Briggs still needed several days to fill his upper and lower houses being behind because of trouble with his steam equipment. The American Ice Company houses were all filled except for Barren Island. Miller & Whitbeck had filled theirs in nine days.

The winter of 1900-1901 was one of the high points of the natural ice industry along the Hudson. The weather had finally cooperated. The ice had gained in thickness very rapidly; it was of the finest quality, free from snow, sand, grit or dust. The weight was just right for easy handling, generally from 12 to 14 inches in thickness. Over 6,000 men had been employed in the ice harvesting between Catskill and Albany, putting into circulation over \$10,000 a day.

The future looked bright for the industry—no one could foresee the demand for hygienic artificial ice, a demand which would utterly ruin the river ice industry.

That year, 1901, D. Geroe Greene and Frank F. Bedell, both of Coxsackie, concluded arrangements with Adelaide Bronk Lampman for the purchase of 1,800 feet of river frontage, part of Ely Farm between the Wells and the Welch properties. During that summer they were to build a 50,000-ton ice house—one that would later be utilized for mushroom growing. It was one of the last of the great ice houses along the river and survived until its spectacular destruction by fire.

—As a fitting note to the successful ice season of 1900-01, the *Examiner* would inform its readers that the first tow of the season passed Catskill Point on Monday, March 25. It was composed principally of ice barges. The work of loading these boats commenced at Seaman's Hamburg house on Thursday. The winter's ice was on its way to the metropolitan market.

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DIGRESSIONS ON THE JOURNAL OF LOVISA KING — Part II

—Mary Vedder Kamenoff

LaRoy

LaRoy's must have been the bitterest death Lovisa experienced. One searches the journal for clues to his misery. Margaret's notebook disclosed that LaRoy spent the winter of 1857-58 with Edwin and Rose Gilbert in Rochester "attending School." He was twelve-and-a-half years old. Lovisa wrote:

1857. Sept. 15. LaRoy left home for the first time in his life alone. Staid in Catskill the first night with Cousin Rufus, the next went on to Rochester with Cousin Elizabeth to attend school, and now we are left childless for a time at least.

On December 29 the doctor started for Brewerton and Rochester to visit Margaret, the Gilberts, and LaRoy, and returned January 5, 1858. LaRoy came home April 9. He was home the rest of 1858 and the next three years, and was mentioned by Lovisa most often as providing transportation for family members.

1862. Apr. 26. Dr. took LaRoy to Greenville to attend school.

May 9. Sent for LaRoy, returned 12th, is much pleased with his school.

July 18. LaRoy returned from school.

Sept. 1. Dr. took LaRoy to Greenville school.

The school was the Greenville Academy.

In February of 1863 LaRoy accompanied his mother to Rochester to the funeral of Edwin Gilbert. He made trips to Catskill and Freehold and visited Caroline in Fallsburgh in August.

Sept. 7. LaRoy started for Greenville school again.

Oct. 23. LaRoy and myself went to Catskill to get clothes for LaRoy.

Nov. 25. LaRoy came from Greenville to stay. Next day Thanksgiving.

1864. June 3. LaRoy and myself went to Oakhill.

Sept. 7. Dr. and LaRoy left for Cooperstown to visit Uncle Hawley [King]. Left mother to stay with me. They returned the 14th.

Sept. 20. LaRoy went to carry Mother home.

Nov. 19. Sat. LaRoy went up after Mother, to come and spend the winter with us.

1865. June 29. Dr. started for Honesdale [presumably to visit with his brother Consider King, who practiced medicine in Honesdale, Pa.] LaRoy took him to Catskill.

July 1. LaRoy took our girl Helen home for a visit.

4. LaRoy went to Albany to see the sights.

14. LaRoy took Mother to Oakhill.

18. LaRoy started for Sullivan.

Aug. 16. LaRoy left Fallsburgh with a company for a tour of the northern lakes.

Sept. 4. Mon. LaRoy arrived home safely after visiting the copper mines on Lake Superior, Niagara, &c. &c.

After he returned to Cairo, LaRoy wrote a former teacher:

I have been traveling considerably for me this summer. My Sullivan County sister & husband intended to go with a party of other Palens on a long contemplated trip "up the Lakes" to the Copper regions of Lake Superior. Owing to business &c. they could not. I was visiting there & did, obtaining permission quite unexpectedly from home. We went to Cleveland & took a boat, went as far as Houghton, a town on Portage Lake in Keweenaw Point, Lake Superior. Were on boat from Monday until Saturday night. Shook hands with General Grant in Detroit. Returned by R.R. thro' Wisconsin to Chicago, where we remained several days & thence four of us returned via Detroit, Canada, & Niagara Falls. I was absent about four weeks on the trip, . . . left the party at Buffalo. I wrote an account of my trip to Coz. Elizabeth King, who still teaches in Windham, and she had it published in W. Journal. Thus I reach a dazzling pinnacle of earthly fame!

His letter went on:

I am attending our school and reviewing Geometry & studying Surveying. Have just reached the Levelling portion. Also study Dr. Lambert's Physiology. I don't really think it is decided that I become a regular C.E. and go off all over the country on R.R. &c. I always was a local-attracted body — but the future is uncertain. The idea of assisting you was most agreeable, if I were qualified. But I guess Pa would wish me to stick to the surveying.

Lovisa's journal:

1868. Aug. 31. LaRoy left for Albany to attend lectures.

Sept. 26. Sat. eve. LaRoy came, returned Monday.

Oct. 31. LaRoy came home to vote, returned Election day.

He came home from Albany December 21st and is next mentioned as driving Cousin Betsey to Catskill March 19, 1869. He left for Albany again on September 6.

Lovisa wrote:

1869. Dec. 23. LaRoy returned from Albany, and glad enough were we to have him return to relieve us of outdoor chores.

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LOVISA KING'S JOURNAL

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October 6, 1870, "LaRoy went to Albany to the lectures." November 5, "LaRoy came down with Mr. Day, returned the 8th after voting," and December 24, "LaRoy came home, had to walk the river. Willie Stevens went down with the horse and carriage."

His mother believed her journal no place to air her concern over LaRoy's state of mind. She wrote:

1871. Jan 1. Was sent for to go to Oakhill. Mother not so well. Went with Frank Graham. 7th LaRoy came after me, Mother better but very feeble. [She died May 31st.] Very comfortable day.

Oh how little I thought it was the last time I should ever ride with that dear boy, but alas, alas, how can I write what followed. Jan. 12th, Thursday morn, our dearest, darling boy took his own life, with a pistol procured in Albany for the purpose. Was very miserable and melancholy the day previous, but was so frequently, thought it nothing unusual. Saw he looked very pale when he went out in the morning, and he says, you need not wait breakfast for me, but he often went without a meal when not feeling well so I thought nothing of that but thought his hurry to get out was on account of taking medicine. But in a few minutes, he not coming in, I thought perhaps he was faint, dared not think he would do violence to himself, although we had feared it owing to his melancholy state of mind. But what was my horror as I entered the barn to find he had done the dreadful deed and life was extinct. Words can convey no adequate idea of our feelings. We felt he was our last earthly hope, and he gone, gone, gone, forever.

In another month he would have been twenty-six years old. The subject of his study in Albany had been medicine. I can discover no documentation of the family legend that his last words to the breakfasting family as he left the house had been, "I have found the cure for all diseases."

Caroline

In the time Lovisa kept no journal, daughter Caroline had married Gilbert Willis Palen, a member of the tanning family for whom Palenville was named. Gilbert's father, Peter E. Palen, had been a tanner first in Sullivan County, then in Greene County. After his death in Acra in 1830, the young Palens with Peter's widow, Sarah Flagler Palen, returned to Sullivan County, where Gilbert, later a partner in the firm of Palen and Flagler, was put in charge of a tannery in Fallsburgh. His sister Catherine, Mrs. Horace Utter, took him to call on her friend Caroline King when he visited Greene County, according to the journal Caroline kept in 1849 and 1850.

Caroline's sister Rose also kept a journal and so did Dr. Wheeler, Dr. King's young assistant, Caroline reported. At evening gatherings the young people read aloud from their journals, supplementing the diversions of parlor games and musical offerings and, of course, conversation. Lovisa King and Rose Palen wrote for no eyes but their own and for whatever catharsis the writing afforded them; archness crept into Caroline's.

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Caroline & Gilbert Palen



*Meandering Through The Valley
Everitt Photograph*



*"My water power turned their mills"
—Everitt Photograph*



*High Falls Covered Bridge
(demolished about 1921) —
Courtesy of Hattie Myers*



Kaaterskill Falls — Mildred Saxe Memorial Collection

SONG OF THE KAATERSKILL

by Roberta Everitt, with apologies to Alfred, Lord Tennyson

I come from haunts of fox and deer.
From South Lake forth I sally
To tumble down the mountainside,
Then meander through the valley.

By thirty hills I hurry down
Or slip between the ridges,
Past dams, through a little town,
And beneath two dozen bridges.

Till last by Overbaugh's I flow
To join the brimming river,
For man may come and man may go,
But I go on forever.

With many a curve my banks I fret,
By many a field and fallow.
Sometimes a cellar or road I wet
If my channel becomes too shallow.

I wind about and in and out
And specialize in falls,
With here and there a lusty trout
Within my rocky walls.

And here and there a quiet space
Where deeper I can glide,
And then again a foaming place
Bouldered on every side.

The wildlife track along my shores,
Then slip 'neath woodland covers.
But I've lost those covered bridges
Used once by happy lovers.

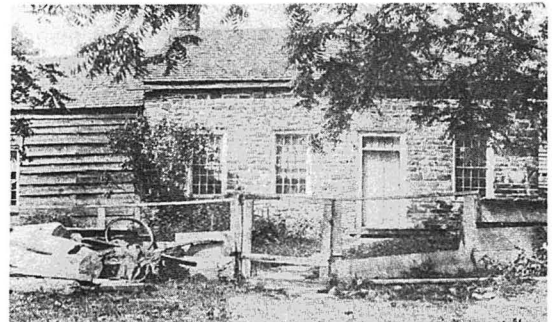
The Red Man came and lived with me
But now returns here never,
O men may come and men may go
But I go on forever.

The Dutch came first for beaver's fur
And Germans to start farming.
My water power turned their wheels;
Spring freshets were alarming.

John Bartram paved my way to fame,
Irving spread it wide;
James Cooper, Bryant, Thomas Cole
Brought travelers from every side.

Today my falls are mostly hid,
To oblivion gone my mills,
The hikers find it dangerous
To climb among my hills.

But still by Overbaugh's I flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.



*Early Farm Home along the Kaaterskill (Seeley Homestead)
—Mildred Saxe Memorial Collection*



Farm in the Cauterskill (Kaaterskill) Valley

LOVISA KING'S JOURNAL

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As to conversation, Caroline reported on August 9, 1849, "Talked until nearly 12 discussing the following question: 'Which have naturally the greater intellect, females or males.' Our views not changed in the least." On May 22, 1850, Caroline wrote: "Lib Austin, Cal and Augusta Tryon called. Had a discussion on Love & Matrimony and the Probability of Matches being made in Heaven. Dr. Wheeler opposed to us in all of our arguments – or would have us believe it to be so. Had some music, then Dr. W. made the assertion that he would not be married until some four of us were and we thought he would be. Agreed to put it in our diaries to see what time would reveal." And the next day, "Flirting discussed by Dr. W. & the King girls."

Caroline, twenty years old when she began the journal and the oldest, detailed the doings of the three lively young sisters, noting without comment when dancing was "the order of the evening" and when wine was served. The Kings and Rose Palen after them were brought up to eschew both indulgences, though Caroline and her daughter would play the piano for others to dance.

While the daughters were growing up and before they married and left home, they shared the housework with their mother, with only a woman coming in once a week to help with the washing. Caroline reported which daughter acted as "kitchenmaid," and which as "chambermaid." Lovisa was often described as away tending the sick or staying with the bereaved. Caroline's word for tidying was "regulating."

On December 31, 1849 she recorded:

This eve wrote in a book we were to present to Dr. W. & hung up our stockings as Ma wished us to.

She began the New Year with the appropriate sober reflections:

Tues., Jan. 1, 1850. Another year has passed and the new one dawned upon us. How many changes in the short space of one year have taken place, many that one year since were enjoying life in its brightest splendor are now numbered with the dead, & those of us that remain have perhaps entirely different projects in view from those we had a year since. We can all look back upon many plans that have been formed and as often frustrated and upon broken resolutions, all of which should have a tendency to (cause us to) commence the New Year as we would wish to keep it, and endeavor to fulfil our duties in every respect.

As we hung up our stockings of course the first thing after coming down was to see how

kind St. Nick had been. My own was the first I looked in, found two dollars that I credited to Pa, and Tupper's Proverbial Philosophy, bound very nicely, which I credited to Dr. W., was very much pleased of course. Next came Margaret's, as Pa had given her \$2 the day before, in which was Tupper's Poems, probably Dr. W. the giver. Rose's produced The Lady of the Lake, probably the same donor, Volney's a Bible from the same & a Testament which Rose put in.

LaRoy's stocking was not mentioned though he was just under five years old. Indeed, LaRoy appeared hardly at all in Caroline's journal. Once he broke a lamp. Once he ran away from home and was found crying in the woods, aged four.

Perhaps the stocking ritual was engineered by Dr. Wheeler because he wanted an excuse for gifts to the girls and Volney. Nowhere in Lovisa's journal is there mention of exchange of gifts at Christmas or of a Christmas tree in the King house. The King family had been early settlers in Massachusetts, where it was not only a social error but legally a crime to observe the pagan revelry of Christmas, and from which Quakers were banned on pain of death. By 1850 in Cairo, King stockings could be hung for St. Nicholas to fill, and the grandson of a Quaker could marry Caroline.

Thanksgiving might or might not be the occasion of a festive dinner with company, but the time of celebration varied from the 18th of December in 1823 and the 9th of December in 1835 to the end of November, but the day was always Thursday. Beginning in 1863, the day was set by presidential proclamation.

In 1849 Caroline spent Thanksgiving Day, November 29, with Margaret and Volney returning from a family visit to Chatham. They took a new road through Valatie and Kinderhook, got lost and had a "terrible time," had to wait an hour for the ferry over the Hudson, and got back to Cairo just at dark. December 25 Dr. Wheeler, Margaret, and Caroline were on the road to Durham and Oak Hill to visit Tremains, whence they returned next day, with no mention of Christmas.

Caroline did touch on events in the outside world. She wrote July 26, 1849 that 714 had died of cholera in New York that week, and on Friday, August 3, "This day was appointed by the President as a day of Fasting and prayer in consequence of the cholera which is now raging. Stores and shops all closed."

Caroline's headaches, which were often incapacitating, loomed large in her journal. She also

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complained of frequent toothaches, for which, she noted, she took morphine.

The last entry, August 23, 1850, was, "Headache this A.M. Helped Ma make cake, Wedding Cake, the first one made in this house." She did not say that it was for her own wedding on September 11. There remains no journal record of the wedding or of her life in Fallsburgh.

Nineteen-and-a-half years later Gilbert Palen died, leaving three children. Lovisa's journal reported:

1870. May 12. Received a telegram that Gilbert Palen could not live. Next morn, 13th, LaRoy and myself started for Fallsburgh, Dr. not able to go. Arrived there next P.M. (staid with Dr. Wickes first night). Gilbert died at one o'clock the night previous, the 14th of May. Funeral at the house Mon. 16th, a large concourse of people there. It was a terrible blow for his family and friends, and a great loss to community, but such is life. Our dear ones are constantly being taken from us and those which seem to us that we could not spare, but truly God's ways are not our ways. Margaret arrived at Fallsburgh the same eve that we did.

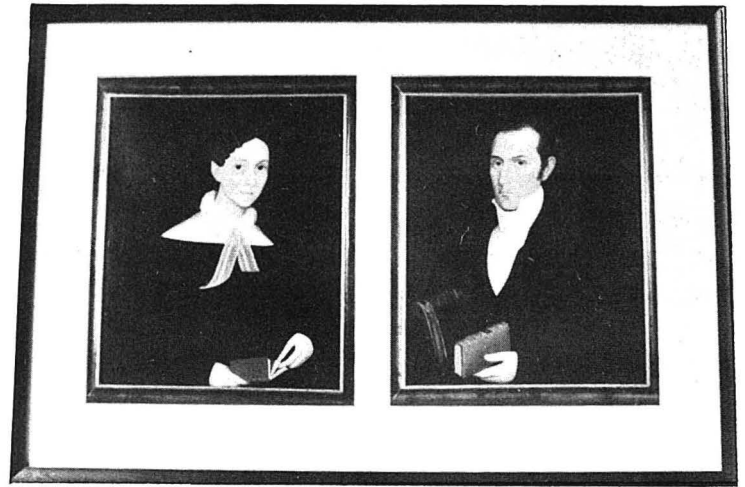
23. LaRoy came home and left me there.

25. Mr. Peloubet [Margaret's husband] came.

30. He left for N.Y., Margaret and I for Kingston. Caroline sent us to Ellenville. From there took stage to Rondout, then cars to Catskill. Arrived about 7, staid at Rufus's that night. [Rufus H. King, a lawyer in Catskill, was the son of Levi King's brother Rufus.] Next day LaRoy came after us, got home about six in the dusk.

Four years after Gilbert Palen's death, Caroline and Rose came to Cairo to live.

Both Lovisa and Levi King were tall and of imposing presence. The portraits painted by Ammi Phillips in their youth show Lovisa with large dark eyes under elaborate puffs of dark hair and with the pointed chin that still crops up in her descendants. Her off-the-shoulder black dress with sheer white guimpe decorated with a picoted ribbon was apparently a Phillips prop, for he used it in other portraits. Levi, in semiprofile to show his noble Roman nose under a wide forehead, with firm mouth and chin between the wings of a stiff white stock, is stern and uncompromising. To an eleven-year-old granddaughter brought up among warm and jolly Palens, they must have been daunting. After the tribulations of their own children, they may well have dreaded another session of child rearing. However, Rose came to love them dearly and she was unquestionably loved in return.



Val Kriele Photo

Lovisa and Levi King—portraits by Ammi Phillips

Lovisa wrote:

1874. June 29. Monday Dr. went to Catskill. Caroline and Rose came same day from Middletown.

Lovisa's journal, as usual, passes over emotional upheavals. Rose, who also kept a journal for a good deal of her life, was more forthright:

Cairo, Nov. 19, 1875. I am thirteen years old today. Mother and I are at Grandpa's. My father died in Fallsburg when I was 7 years old, then Mother and I went to Ellenville and boarded, then we came here. I have two brothers, Frank and Walter. Frank is 22 years old and Walter 19 and I am the only girl. And I thought that now I am old enough to keep a journal. Grandpa is 76 years old and Grandma in the sixties somewhere. Mother is 47 years old. We used to have a house with a furnace which warmed the whole house and Grandpa's house is so very cold that I have a severe cold all the time and Mother minds it more than I. They have a girl named Maggie. Grandma says this winter I must get up six o'clock and make a fire and study an hour and she wants to keep me busy every minute and not let me go out to see the girls at all except at school. My opinion is I shan't.

Caroline was an invalid most of her life. She died September 3, 1895, at the age of sixty-seven of a gastrointestinal ailment. During her illnesses Caroline received injections of morphine to allay her distress.

In an article in the *Scientific American* for January 1971, p. 96, "The Origins of Hypodermic Medication," Norman Howard-Jones reports that

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LOVISA KING'S JOURNAL

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morphine was injected in Britain in the 1840's as a specific for neuralgia, and there was a considerable dispute as to whether the narcotic effect was local or general. There was no warning of the addictive property of morphine until 1870. In 1865 one doctor advised morphine injections "as a nerve tonic in cases of great nervous tension or of irritability or great mental depression." Howard-Jones states, "The early victims of the hypodermic syringe were not sensation-seeking adolescents but mostly respectable Victorian ladies introduced to the habit by their physicians."

When Caroline died, Rose, who in 1892 had married Wellington Vedder, assistant city engineer of Syracuse, was dividing her time between Syracuse and Cairo to help in the care of her mother.

This was Lovisa's last record of the death of a child of hers:

1895. C. was a great sufferer untill Sept. 3d, when she passed away, which has left a vacancy in our hearts and home which can never be filled, but our loss is her gain, for we feel she was ready for the change and is now free from pain and suffering.

End of Part II

Editor's Note:

Mary Vedder Kamenoff, whose interest in family records began before the death of her nonagenarian Grandmother Vedder many years ago, attended the Leeds school and the Catskill High School when it was the old red brick academy on the hill. After college in Albany and Boston, she moved to New York, worked for a national nursing organization, and married a biologist. At his untimely death, she found a job in hospital medical records, and retired several years ago as medical records administrator of a Connecticut hospital in a city where a Peck ancestor of Lovisa King had been a first settler. She now lives in Massachusetts, around the corner from her daughter Lovisa Kamenoff, head librarian of the Brockton Hospital Health Sciences Library.

□ □ □ □ □

RECENT GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

□◇ Roswell Truman, great grandson of Ezra Fitch who built the present Musial house on Route 385, Coxsackie, has donated a pen and India ink portrait of his forebear, as well as Ezra's gold spectacles.

□◇ A prime piece of Catskill silver, a shell-shaped sugar spoon made by C. S. Willard and belonging to her aunt, Miss Bogart, is the gift of Mrs. Chauncey Britt of Palenville.

□◇ A medium-sized Victorian couch used in the main entryway at the Catskill Mountain House has been added to the furniture collection by Marcel Gribbon.

VEDDER LIBRARY NOTES

□◇ More than 500 cards have been added to the name catalogue this year. Two hundred twenty-five were gleaned from the salesman's copy of Headley's *Grant and Sherman* published in 1865. This historical book item was supplied by Charles E. Dornbusch of Hope Farm Press and Bookshop.

□◇ The newspaper account of the Jenny Potter Errickson Collection brought in a Van Deusen inscribed copy of a Victorian ladies' magazine from the Salisbury-Van Deusen house attic. Mr. Lewis Wolfe of Schenectady was the donor.

□◇ Betty and Harry Miller have been inventorying the books on the main library shelves in order to prepare author cards not heretofore typed. Mrs. Chauncey Britt has been filing, pasting up clippings, checking genealogy requests, and otherwise providing most welcomed assistance.

□◇ In a less-sophisticated age, high schools frequently issued their own newspapers in typescript. At Coxsackie in the 1920-21 academic year, each class came out with its own literary effort. A series of *High School Recorders* is the gift of Mrs. Benjamin Rathbun of Delmar, the former L. Ethel Van Alstyne. The donor has, in past years, given much relating to the Bedell-Flansburg families of New Baltimore which is providing insight into the Quakers of Stanton Hill.

□◇ The *Resources of American Music History* being compiled by the University of Illinois will include several entries relating to holdings at the Vedder Library including the interesting *Tippecanoe Song Book: A Collection of Log Cabin and Patriotic Melodies*, Philadelphia, 1840. The latter was a gift from society members Helen and Mary Becker of Catskill.

□◇ Mrs. Frances Dietz has been helpful in researching Moses Mead whose account book from the 1820-1830 period is at this library.

□◇ Mrs. Frances Adams and your editor have copied all readable tombstones in the Reed Cemetery, Route 385, Coxsackie. This information is now available for genealogists and will also serve for background material for the ongoing study of the life of Roswell Reed, Sr.

□◇ William Bullock (1813-1867), born at Greenville, was one of the nation's more noted inventors. We are working with his great grandson, Ronald B. Reynolds, in researching his life and keep finding additional information. Mr. Reynolds has supplied us with some excellent photographs for an eventual *Journal* article.

□◇ Glass negative plates of New York and out-of-state views, the photographic work of James H. Van Gelder of Catskill, as well as additional manuscript material, have come from Mrs. Winifred Fiero of Catskill. The Van Gelder-Pine-Wardle-Fiero Collection

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Celebration – Reconstruction – Problem

This 50th Anniversary Year has really been a roof-raiser for the Society both figuratively and literally. Our successful celebration activities have included a House Tour, a banquet at Red's, an exhibit of resorts of the Catskills, a Collections and Collector's day, an encampment of the American Revolution Brigade and a well attended series of lectures by well known speakers.

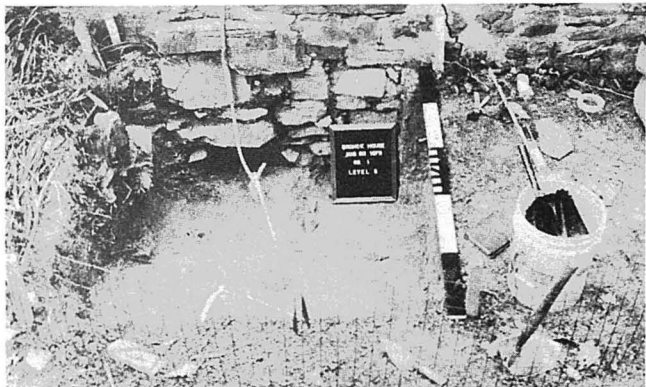
To cap all these activities, the Bronck House roof is finally being removed. Contracts for this and other restoration work were signed with Van Woert and Son, Inc. of Delmar. (By coincidence, Mr. Van Woert is a descendant of the early Van Woerts who settled in the Athens area, where some Van Woerts still reside). Work began on October 1, in a race against the cold weather and will be completed by summer of 1980.

A problem soon became evident when the bids came in, and I would like to share this problem with you. Because of inflation, prices and costs have soared and the \$131,000 we had earmarked for the restoration work will not cover the entire scope of the needed work. Priority has been assigned to the roof-removal, drainage and stabilization of the structure. The other work, including the Federal kitchen dependency and the porch will have to wait until we can raise the needed funds – and here is where I am calling to you again for help.

The enclosed 1980 membership blank carries an extra line for donations to the emergency Building Fund. When donating, please indicate the amount of your donation to this special fund so as not to confuse it with the yearly membership dues which are needed for our daily operation.

On behalf of the Trustees of the Society, I thank you for your continued co-operation and forbearance.

Sincerely,
Rubén García, President



Excavations have yielded diagnostic lithic tools of the archaic period, approximately 4,000 years ago. This is evidence of an intensive pre-historic Indian occupation underlying the colonial occupation of the Broncks.

VEDDER LIBRARY NOTES

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now fills 10 manuscript boxes, one oversize folder, and several photographic folders.

◻◇ Readers at the Vedder Library will have a more accurate idea of the Greene County manuscript holdings in the State Library through the efforts of Mrs. Louise Messenger of Delmar. We now have copies of numerous catalogue entries on the subject. She has also supplied us with a copy of a list of stones in the former Houghtaling Cemetery near the Coxsackie-New Baltimore line; the graves there were removed to Riverside Cemetery at the time of the construction of the N.Y.S. Thruway.

◻◇ Salisbury – Newkirk material continues to arrive. The latest is from Mrs. Clare T. Mullaly and her daughter, Mrs. Sharon Potter, donated in the name of the Johannes Hardenbergh Chapter, NSDAR. The gift includes Abraham Salisbury's *Book of Precedents*. There is also an account of bonds taken by Elsie Salisbury for the money bequeathed by the will of her husband, Abraham Salisbury, who died June 13, 1818; some receipts; an instrument of sale and survey of 1,745 acres by David Van Bergen and David Persen to William, Francis and Abraham Salisbury, dated June 2, 1792; as well as Alice Newkirk's genealogy records on Persen, Newkirk, Ten Broeck, Salisbury, Black and other families.

◻◇ Mrs. Eleanor Bagley (Mrs. George Bagley) has augmented the Bagley Memorial Collection with the addition of John H. Balgey's large autograph volume of House of Representative signatures. This album dates from the latter's term of congressional office and will be of further assistance in ongoing research on that important Greene County resident.

◻◇ The minutes of the *Natural Science Association of the Catskills* comes from the estate of the late John Bagley. Another generation is showing renewed interest in George H. Chadwick and others' efforts in this aspect of the Catskill region.

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