



**Coxsackie's "Seminary"** (Continued from page 11)

P. Stevenson — 2	J. M. Browning* — 1
Abraham Vosburgh — 1	J. H. Hazen — 1
Fred G. Deming — 1	W. S. Stoutenburgh — 2
Thomas W. Gay — 2	Anthony M. Van Bergen — 4
J. C. Smith — 1	J. E. Bogardus* — 1
Jason Mapes — 1	Michael Bronk — 1
Moses H. Powell — 1	Matthias Spoor — 1
Henry Mackey* — 1	John Spoor — 1
Epenetus Reed — 2	Jonathan I. Ten Broeck — 1
(on condition)	Edward Wells* — 1
Morris Batterson* — 1	Barent Houghtailing — 1
W. W. Dobson — 1	Edward Hubbell — 1
William V. B. Adams — 1	A. Warden* — 2
Jehoiakim Collier* — 1	Morris Hazard — 1
Amos Puffer — 1	Thomas Nelson — 1
Conrad Houghtaling* — 1	Henry Wolf — 1
Ephraim A. Bogardus — 1	Tobias Teller — 6 (Lot)
Joseph Rea* — 1	William Kirtland* — 2
Anthony Van Bergen — 2	Rufus W. Watson — 1
James Hawley* — 1	William R. Kempton* — 1
Andrew T. Van Slyck — 2	

"Samuel King transferred one share to J. W. Green; Ambrose Baker transferred one share to J. W. Green; Peter Hubbell transferred one share to William Cahone, Jr.; George Reed transferred one share to Jeremiah Searle." [\*Stock not yet paid for by July 23, 1836.]

The first meeting of these stockholders of the Coxsackie Academy was scheduled for April 16, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at the public house (inn) of Morris Hazard at Coxsackie Landing. George Reed was designated Chairman and Clinton DeWitt, Secretary. On motion of Olney Wright, it was resolved that Messers Samuel King, Ambrose Baker and Clinton DeWitt be appointed a committee to procure title to the building lot offered by Tobias Teller. (This lot was on the south side of Mansion Street, almost opposite the present drug store. Willis N. Grant in later years recalled that "the west boundary of the lot was Peter Cook's residence and in the rear of that was E. H. Lounsbury's Canning factory. The east boundary was the home of Sidney A. Dwight who was cashier of the National Bank of Coxsackie for many years.) The three-man committee was further instructed to obtain a contract for the building of an academy, and to supervise its erection, the contract subject to the approval of the shareholders. At that same session, George Reed and Thomas W. Gay were authorized to solicit additional stock subscriptions.

Two months later, on June 15, the stockholders again convened, this time at the inn of Morris Hallock. The shareholders weighed the merits of the several building proposals from local contractors, and then voted to accept the one set forth by Jason Mapes, with the stipulation that brick be used in preference to wood. The Academy was underway! George Reed and Thomas W. Gay were told to start collecting the

subscription money. By July 23, 1836, all but 15 had paid.

The third meeting came the following month, on July 2. Its purpose was to hear the reports of the several committees and to elect an Academy Board of Trustees. The men selected were Messers. Wright, Stoutenburgh, DeWitt, Hubbell and King. (Leonard Bronk who had been traveling with his wife, Maria Ely, was brought on the board in November and at the same time elected President.)

With the land deed in hand from Tobias Teller, and the major portion of the money collected from stock subscriptions, the construction of the brick academy building was under way that summer. Dr. John Ely accommodated Jason Mapes, the builder, with a loan; it is thought this was to help Mapes get started with the building project before his first payment came due from the Trustees. By November of 1836 it was determined the corporation was short \$600 to complete and equip the building. A loan of that amount was suggested, pledging the lot and building as security. It was the President of the Board, Leonard Bronk, who secured this sum from his sister, Susan Bronk Van Bergen (Mrs. Anthony Van Bergen).

The potential for loss by fire was also on the minds of the Trustees; by November they had authorized insurance on the new building.

The exact date of the opening of the Coxsackie Academy is uncertain but appears to have been early in 1837. It is known the legislature of the State of New York approved the Academy's incorporation by act passed May 5, 1837. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees held at the site was on November 3 of that year. Tuition charged for the first term was set at three dollars for common branches, four dollars for higher branches, and students studying Latin and Greek were expected to meet a charge of five dollars. From its beginning, the Academy was coeducational, although there were both male and female departments, housed in separate rooms on the main floor. The second floor contained a large assembly hall.

The first principal and instructor was John W. Schermerhorn, Master of Arts. In lieu of salary, he was authorized to collect and keep the tuition plus twenty-five cents per scholar to meet his incidental expenses. In turn he was expected to pay the Board of Trustees fifty cents per student per term.

Robert Henry Van Bergen in *Ye Olden Time* credits the Schermerhorn brothers with the initial success of the Coxsackie Academy, "they being instrumental in its founding and organization. They attracted many pupils from abroad [away from Coxsackie] particularly that class of young men who were preparing to enter college." "In after years," Van Bergen wrote, "they removed to New York City where they operated a successful school for the children of wealthy parents." But surviving records for the Academy do not give this degree of credit to Principal John W. Schermerhorn. There were dis-

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**Coxsackie's "Seminary"** *(Continued from page 12)*

agreements over the financial terms of employment and no mention is made of J. W. Schermerhorn's brother. By April, 1839, the Trustees and Schermerhorn had parted company. The Reverend John J. Van Antwerp, age 34, a graduate of Union College, with up to five years experience, was appointed the second Principal.

The By-Laws adopted for the Board of Trustees were twelve in number. They covered the offices to be filled, the frequency of board meetings, how notification of sessions was to be made, the setting of a fifty-cent fine for nonattendance without valid excuse, quorums, control of the Academy building and the operation of the library.

The latter, housed in the Academy structure, was the first library in the village of Coxsackie. Like Greenville's, it was shared by both students and townspeople. Books were purchased from the State Literature Fund and were also received from the reading public. By 1840, 344 volumes had been catalogued. The library had its own regulations. Use was restricted to teachers, students, and to townspeople who had been known to contribute at least four books. The librarian (the principal or his deputy) was to open the book depository on Saturday mornings at eleven a.m. All books were loaned for seven days; a careful checkout register was to be maintained. Fines at the rate of 12½ cents the week were to be charged for each overdue book. Injuries to volumes were subject to reimbursements as set by the librarian.

In an attempt to increase attendance, the trustees turned to advertising in area newspapers; the curriculum was enlarged, and approved boarding facilities sought. (The Principal's wife, Mrs. Van Antwerp, had been boarding students to supplement the family income.) It was the consensus that good quality room and board, with washing, could be secured in Coxsackie for \$1.50 a week.

The Academy, over the years, experimented with both two and three terms the year, with interim vacations. Public examinations of one day each were held during the year to verify the quality of instruction. The Trustees even came to approve the erection of a temporary stage in the large second floor room, an about-face from their earlier negative decision. Along with the increase in the variety of subjects offered, tuition rates were raised:

Orthography (spelling), Reading	
Definitions, etc. . . . .	\$3.00
Arithmetic, Geography, Writing and	
History . . . . .	4.00
Astronomy, Chemistry, Natural	
Philosophy, Grammar, Bookkeeping,	
Mapping and Globes . . . . .	5.00
Geometry, Trigonometry, Mental and	
Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric, Criticism	
and Political Economy . . . . .	6.00
Latin and Greek . . . . .	7.00

The male department continued year after year but the female section was closed at times due to the resignation of the instructress. To assist Professor Van Antwerp in 1840, Diademia Willes, age 25, with previous experience, "and qualified to teach French and all the higher branches of an English education," was employed at a salary of \$300; Professor Van Antwerp's was \$513 for eleven months.

The Report to the Regents for the year 1840 provides insight as to the progress made in the first four year period. The building and lot were valued at \$3,600, the equipment at \$201.50 and the library at \$150. Inventories of these assets were verified. Debts unpaid amounted to \$800, of which \$600 was still owed on the mortgage to Susan Bronk Van Bergen. The treasurer reported \$674 was paid for staff salaries during 1840, nothing for repairs, and \$42 for accrued interest on debts. The heating and miscellaneous expenses for the year amounted to \$25.

In the same report it was pointed out the tuition had decreased primarily to fewer students attending, what with the shut down of the female department. Tuition income for 1840 amounted to \$729.02 which was supplemented by \$70.92 of State Aid from the Literature Fund. The net operating loss for 1840 was \$11.98. The Report listed the classical and other courses, the textbooks used, and the fact that the students enrolled in composition and declamation (oratory) were "exercised" on the average once in fourteen days.

In 1841 the staff of the Coxsackie Academy increased to three. Principal Van Antwerp both taught and administered; Mrs. Farrar taught the female students (her salary was three dollars the week and board), and Miss Mahetabel Underwood handled the primary department (at a compensation of three dollars the week net). The primary department appears to have been a new innovation.

A catalogue of the Coxsackie Academy, printed in 1846, has survived; if there was an earlier one, it has not been located. The printing was done by Joseph Joesbury of Catskill and bears his imprint. By this date the Reverend William Cahone Jr. was serving as President of the Board, the Reverend Samuel Ward as Secretary, Edwin N. Hubbell as Treasurer; others were Samuel King, Abraham Vosburgh, George Reed, Peter H. Silvester, Leonard Bronk and Walter S. Stoutenburgh. Several of these men had served faithfully since the Academy's inception in 1836.

The teaching staff, as listed in the catalogue, now consisted of four: Principal George W. Benson (M.A.), Mrs. Maria T. Benson (Preceptress), Miss Amanda M. Tenny (Music) and Miss Mary Holbrook (Assistant). The Academy year was divided into two terms of 22 weeks each, and each term into two halves. The curriculum had been expanded to include subjects of interest to female students. The rates of tuition were slightly higher for the more advanced courses:

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Coxsackie's "Seminary" (Continued from page 13)

	per qtr.
For common English branches . . . . .	\$ 3.00
Higher English branches . . . . .	\$ 4.50
Latin and Greek . . . . .	\$ 6.50
French and drawing, each extra. . . . .	\$ 3.00
Embroidery. . . . .	\$ 1.00
Music, including use of piano . . . . .	\$10.00
Incidental tax for fuel, etc. . . . .	\$ .25
Use of Library. . . . .	no charge

The price of board in village homes for those students "from abroad" was thought to be about \$1.75 per week. "A limited number of boarders are accommodated in the family of the principal, who enjoy all the advantages of a day and boarding school combined."

Students attending the Coxsackie Academy during the school terms of 1845-46 are listed below; they are from Coxsackie unless otherwise noted.

Adams, Egbert E.	Deming, Maria Louisa
Atwater, Charles (NYC)	DeWitt, John (NYC)
Atwater, E. Reed	Fitchett, James H.
Atwater, Norman	Foster, William G.
Backus, Charles (Jr.)	Gay, Elizabeth W.
Backus, Isabella	Gay, John E.
Backus, John	Greene, Minor H. (Albany)
Backus, Mary R.	Gurney, Mary Jane (New Balt.)
Backus, Susan E.	Hall, Ambrose (Greenville)
Baker, Edwin W.	Hallett, Mary E.
Baker, Emma E.	Hallock, Morris (Jr.)
Baker, Harvey H.	Hart, Lucinda
Baker, Mary J.	Heermance, Henry S.
Bedell, Ann Eliza (Hillsdale)	Heermance, Herman C.
Betts, Mary J.	Hill, Jane Ann
Bogardus, Elizabeth	Holbrook, Adaline A.
Bogardus, Margaret	Holbrook, Albert
Botsford, Anthony W.	Holbrook, Charles H.
Bostford, James W. H.	Hollister, John I.
Botsford, Phebe Jane	Houghtaling, Killiaen V. R.
Briggs, Adeline	Hubbell, Phillip C.
Briggs, Hiram G.	Keith, Edward A.
Bronk, Adelaide	Keith, Mary (listed 2 terms)
Bronk, Edward E.	Kempton, Daniel E. (Troy)
Bronk, Leonard L.	King, Mary J.
Brown, Joseph	King, Silas H.
Brown, Robert (Jr.)	Kirtland, Dorrance
Cahone, William J.	Lampman, Sarah C.
Campbell, Mary	Lane, Julia (NYC)
Carr, Thomas B.	Lane, William S. (NYC)
Cleveland, Julia A. (Troy)	Lawton, Mary Jane (Coeymans)
Collier, Anna B. (New Balt.)	Marshall, Albert
Collier, Catharine	Marshall, Ellen
Conine, Susan	Miller, Elizabeth H. (New Balt.)
Cook, Robert V. B.	Out, Rhoda Ann
Coonley, Ambrose L. (New Balt.)	Out, William H.
Coonley, Maria (New Balt.)	
Dean, Hannah	
Deming, Frances A.	

Palmer, Mary Ann (New Balt.)	Shafer, James
Palmer, Smith A. (New Balt.)	Stephenson, Augusta
Parcils, Josephine	Stephenson, William H.
Powell, David S. (New Balt.)	Stoutenburgh, C. Elizabeth
Powell, Emily (New Balt.)	Stoutenburgh, Walter S. (Jr.)
Powell, Hannah (New Balt.)	Sylvester, John L. B.
Powell, Jerusha (New Balt.)	Van Bergen, M. Christina (New Balt.)
Powell, Olive (New Balt.)	Van Bergen, Helena
Powell, Phebe (New Balt.)	Van Bergen, Henry C. (New Balt.)
Puffer, John E.	Vandenburgh, Elizabeth
Reed, Benjamin	Vandenburgh, I. Dwight
Reed, Lucy (Schodack Landing)	Vandenburgh, Isabella
Reed, William	Vandenburgh, Jane (Hudson)
Sager, James	Vandenburgh, Margaretta
Sager, John	Van Schaack, Peter
Sager, Maria	Van Slyke, Martin G.
Searle, Catharine H.	Vosburgh, Philip
Searle, Emeline J.	Wells, Charles
Searle, Jeremiah (Jr.)	Wilson, Alexander
Searle, Mary Louisa	Winans, Caroline
Searle, Stephen	

The catalogue contained other paragraphs of promotional advertising:

The Academy is located on a pleasant and airy site, midway between the landing and the village of Coxsackie, commanding a fine view of the Catskill mountains on the west, and of the Hudson river and valley on the east. It is within a few hours' distance of Albany and New York city, and accessible from either place at an expense of a few shillings. Within the year, the building has undergone extensive repairs. It is of brick, and contains two commodious school rooms on the first floor, and a spacious hall suitable for lectures, examinations and exhibitions, on the second.

Although the school had two departments, one for males and the other for females, by this time several of the classes were organized without reference to sex. Spelling was made a daily exercise. Written translations were required on a daily basis for students enrolled in Greek and Latin. A thorough preparation for college entrance was one of the major goals of the establishment.

Public speaking (Declamation) and composition were stressed, "not as irksome tasks, as is too often the case, but as pleasant and profitable exercises. During the week, each speaker rehearses to the principal in private, and is instructed as to the enunciation and gestures required for giving effect to the sentiments of his piece. The compositions are arranged in two newspapers and read, in connection with the declamations, each Wednesday afternoon in the presence of the school and such visitors as choose to attend."

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**Coxsackie's "Seminary"** (Continued from page 14)

Textbooks were identified in the catalogue, also the use of Worcester's Dictionary and the Bible. The blackboard's use was stressed.

Rules of Department were spelled out. It was expected of each student that he be in his seat at the precise time for opening the school in order to answer to his name at its calling, and to take part in the reading of the scriptures. During school hours, all communication between scholars, "either by whispering or writing is strictly prohibited." At the close of school the roll was again called, and "a record made of each scholar's diligence and deportment." Prompt expulsion, parents were informed, would occur for any student addicted to profane language or other vicious conduct.

To assure both parents, stockholders and the general public that the quality of instruction was of merit, "there will be a public examination of the classes, commencing May 4th, and continuing two days."

Professor H. A. Wood (M.A.) and Miss Cora A. Briggs were the teaching staff for the term 1877-78; seventy-five students were in attendance:

L. A. Austin	Jennie Kline
Homer T. Bedell	Frank E. Lampman
Melvin D. Brandow	Annie C. Larrabee
Franklin H. Brandow	William B. Leete
John H. Brandow	Lottie H. Lounsberry
Freddie Boocock	Clara Mackey
William H. Boocock	Winnie Miller
Jennie Briggs	Joseph H. Morgan
Morgan Brown	John Nebbenberg
Ida A. Budd	Allie S. Osborne
Frank E. Carter	W. Irving Osborne
Gleason E. Case	Freddie Palmer
Lillie Case	Hannah Palmer
Mary H. Case	Volnie S. Powell
Frank Cochran	Julia Reed
Roberta Cochran	Grant H. Richtmyer
Anna J. Collier	William C. Roberts
Arthur Collier	William H. Salisbury
Edward L. Collier	Annie Sharp
Libbie Cook	Charles Sharp
Anna M. Covey	Josie Sharp
Dannie Cummings	A. Lincoln Shear
William Cummings	Clark A. Sloan
Alfred W. Curtis	Frank Spoor
Daisy Dwight	Rena H. Spoor
Julia C. Fitchett	Ella C. Stephens
Ed. Forrest Flower	Libbie Strang
D. Geroe Greene	Van H. Tolley
Addie J. Hallenbeck	Jennie Townsend
Horace Hallenbeck	John R. Townsend
Allie L. Hallock	William B. Townsend
Roscoe C. Hallock	Lucius B. Van Bergen
Charles Hiseerd	Samuel D. Van Orden
Abram Hotaling	Margin G. Van Slyke
Maggie Kennedy	Samuel Vincent

Jennie A. Whitbeck  
Lizzie A. Whitbeck  
Eddie M. Wing

Stephen D. Winans  
Clarence G. Young

As a community entertainment, on Monday evening, December 24, 1877, the students invited their parents and the general public to "An Entertainment" of music and drama. Tableaux, short dramatic sketches, solos, a minstrel troupe, and selected readings were all part of the program. That printed surviving program was from the office of Franklin & Austin. The foregoing list of students is from its back page.

The Academy continued along these general lines of operation for many years, charging tuition and operating with limited personnel. It never paid off the \$600 mortgage held by Susan Van Bergen, that debt being assumed by Leonard Bronk. The exact date of the Academy's closing is also uncertain but is thought to be by 1879. It was only closed for a short time when a movement developed to abolish the three school districts in the village of Coxsackie and form a Union Free School; that movement was successful by a majority of 14, of 234 property owners eligible to vote. The new Union Free School administration rented the "old unused Academy building" until 1887.

In the year 1886 the Union Free School's trustees were authorized to purchase a site and erect a new building for educational purposes at a cost not to exceed \$25,000. Henry Greene's land on lower Mansion Street was selected, the pillared Greek Revival style house being removed to Elm Street (Kaksakee Inn). The new Mansion Street school opened for student use on February 1, 1887. A combined grade and secondary school, it was long called the Cox-


**CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP.**

*Coxsackie Academy.*  
This is to Certify, That *Etta Brown* is a member of *Coxsackie Academy*, and that at an examination held this day, she has been found to have attained the proficiency required by the ordinance of the Regents of the University, to entitle her to be classed as an Academic scholar in any Academy subject to the visitation of the Regents.

*G. P. M. Hastings*  
*Alex. M. Kehegy*  
*J. M. Breaker* } Committee  
*A. D. Jolley*, Principal.  
Dated *June 7th, 1886.*

Etta Brown Certificate 1866

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# EXHIBITION

BY THE

## STUDENTS

OF THE


### Coxsackie Academy

ON

#### MONDAY EVE'G, DEC. 24, 1877

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PROF. H. A. WOOD, A. M.  
PRINCIPAL



Franklin & Austin, Printers.

Mrs. Betts' (Kingston) Gift

sackie Academy. The first Academy building was boarded up after the new school opened. It was eventually sold at mortgage foreclosure to St. Mary's R.C. Church for a religious site; the building was demolished. But that church congregation, instead, built on the corner of Mansion and Lafayette. In 1902 Father Dempsey purchased the Lester Hulbert house on Mansion Street for a rectory, transferring the old Academy lot to Hulbert as a partial payment.

□□□□□

**CORRECTION OF ERRORS POLICY**

While the editor and the contributors make every reasonable effort to insure historical accuracy, they are not infallible. When erroneous material is printed, there is a tendency to perpetuate these mistakes. The best example locally is the "so called" Coxsackie Declaration of Independence which was actually a Protest and specifically reaffirmed American allegiance to the British Crown.

In the Spring, 1985 issue, page 1, we had Mary Allen DuBois (later Mrs. Benjamin B. G. Stone) named for her mother. This is incorrect. Joseph, the subject of the article, and Mary's mother was Sarah Allen, married to Samuel DuBois.

In that same issue, page 10, the Hotaling initials under the caption are correct. Change the text from JHT to THT.

In Volume 8, Issue 4 (Winter 1984), page 39 – cross out the name Gates before Munson, Jarius.

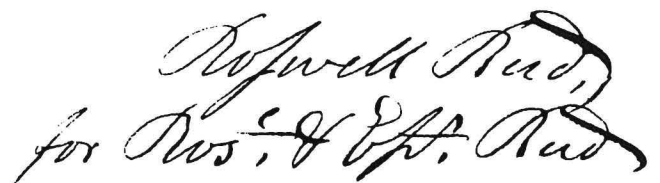
**Roswell Reed's Speculative Opportunities (Part II)**

– Raymond Beecher

*This summer issue of the JOURNAL continues the saga of the Roswell Reed family of Coxsackie. Here we gain a glimpse of the Reed domestic scene at their brick mansion south of the village of Coxsackie on the Albany and Greene Turnpike. Additional insights into Reed's business operations are also provided. Readers should recall that at the time of his death in 1838, Reed was one of the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest man in Greene County. He was among the first to use the estate trust principle in his will at a time when the income tax was still a few decades away.*

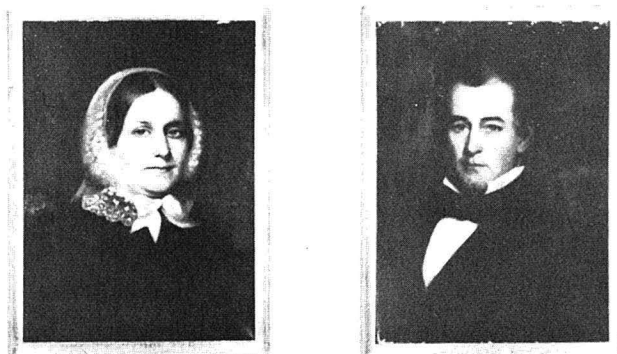
"Mama is on the stoop taking out butter – Papa is down cellar taking a view of the apples – Almet, Ezra and Roswell are in the kitchen playing chequers – Cornelia is here knitting and William, Luman and Sarah are around me with much gabble as is necessary or pleasant. Ann [Jane Ann Talmage of Greenville] left here about three weeks ago, since we have been in daily expectation of seeing Eliza [Skeel] but have been fully disappointed so far . . ." Margaret Reed, at age 25 years, was writing this family chit-chat to her married sister, Adaline Reed Adams, then living at Sandy Hill, Washington County; the date of Margaret's letter is October 22, 1827.

It was a large family of six sons and seven daughters. Even with the four oldest daughters married [Eliza Skeel, Adaline Adams, Jane Ann Talmage, and Laura Van Valkenburgh], the brick residence on the Roswell Reed 200-acre farm must have been crowded. And invitations were constantly being extended for relatives to visit, and visit they did. It was almost "Open House" for Roswell and Sally, especially during the better weather. Visits of several days duration were not uncommon. Skeels from Wilbur (Kingston area), Talmages from Greenville, "grandpa and his rib" (Eliakim and Sarah of Greenville), daughter Laura and her children, Adaline and Cuyler with their offspring – all came and all were welcomed. In turn there were visits to the Adams' in North Country, to the Skeels at Rondout Creek's Wilbur settlement, and even to the cousins in New York City whose father, Luman, provided financial support to Thomas Cole, the artist. The Reed men would generally ride on horse back while the accompanying females used the carriage or gig. Margaret would occasionally remind her sister, Adaline Reed Adams, that the former was not sufficiently experienced as a driver to think of going where there was difficulty or danger with the horse and carriage!



Roswell Reed's signature

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Margaret Reed Fitch and Ezra Fitch

Photos courtesy Mrs. Janet C. McCauley

When the river was open, the Reeds and Skeels traveled by sloops owned by relatives or family friends. On May 25, 1826, Cornelia reported they had arrived home safely “from Kingston yesterday a.m. after a nightly sail up the River . . . We looked for you in Skeel’s sloop and also went so far as to send to the sloop for you. Jane [Talmage] and I went to the [Kingston] Point on T. morning to embark for home but old Wiswall [sloop captain] had passed . . . our passage was uncommonly dreary.”

In the spring of 1827 Cornelia, with her cousins Margaret and Esther, was off to New York. One visit was to the Elias Butlers, Mrs. Butler being a Reed. “The house nicely furnished but not extravagantly. Uncle Luman [Reed] [Thomas Cole’s Patron] and daughters out – the rest of the family pretended they did not know we were in town.”

Both Roswell and Sally took their parental responsibilities seriously. The children were reasonably educated for the times, but none attended college. Baptisms were held at the First Reformed Church in West Cossackie, the Second Reformed Church at the Landing not yet established. Each daughter, at the time of her marriage, was given a dowry of \$1,500 toward “setting up” her household. The sons, in addition to receiving \$2,000 each, were provided with economic opportunities.

Mother Sally Reed was a homebody, a devoted parent who managed her large household efficiently with little or no hired help. Even after an accident which had her hobbling about the house, Margaret would write that her mother was as active as ever, on the go from morning to night, off to church every Sabbath, or else nursing sick relatives and friends. Baskets of food were constantly exchanged among the married daughters and their mother. If Adaline

Adams sent chestnuts, Sally would return the container with a crock of butter or other foodstuffs. “Did anyone need herring from the Hudson?” Or, “Mama is engaged in filling up a box with trifles for you such as currants, a few dried apples – some soft gingerbread, beef – our meat is all under pickle – as you see the beef is not smoked or we could send you some ham.” Another letter to Adaline: “Mother calculates sending some herring with Cuyler [Adams] and anything else he will carry.”

While they lived at home, unmarried, daughters Margaret and Cornelia would occasionally add a page of local news to their father’s business correspondence to his son-in-law, Herman Cuyler Adams, husband of Adaline Reed. Such notes provide a glimpse of the social life in Cossackie during the late 1820’s and early 1830’s.

The social event of the year 1825, was the marriage of Maria Ely to Leonard Bronk, son of Judge Bronk. Subsequent to this marriage the couple would reside at the Bronck Homestead until the death of Dr. John Ely when Leonard and Maria took over the Ely residence on Ely Street, Cossackie. The serious illness of Mrs. Ely placed limitations on the size of the wedding and may well be the reason Maria was married from the family home rather than from the Reformed Church. If the guests were limited to close relatives and a few friends, the food served at the reception was elaborate and costly. Since the bridegroom’s brother-in-law, the Reverend Jacob Sickles, pastor of the Reformed Church at Kinderhook, was away from his parish, Leonard Van Dyck substituted. Cornelia would describe the event in a letter to her sister Adaline: “Maria Ely’s wedding took place according to appointment on the 4th, in not being able to attend which, we were quite disappointed. Mr. and Mrs. [Ralph] Barker, Russel and Emeline [Judson], George and Mary [Reed], Egbert and Mary, Capt. Kirtland and Cornelia and myself were all the persons invited except Leonard [Bronk’s] connections. The calculation [plan] at first was for me to stand with Mr. Sickles but behold he was at Hudson on the limits before the time arrived – then the conclusion was that Leonard Van Dyck, the divine, should take his place, very suitable I think as to age. Others were Miss [Ann] Sickles and Edwin Ely [brother of Maria]. The bride’s dress was an elegant figured satin (the cloth alone for which cost 15 dollars) and other things to correspond. The entertainment consisted of tea and coffee; plum, cream, citron and pound cake; rusk, biscuits; tongue, beef, cheese; sweetmeats, raisins, almonds and sugar plums; various kinds of liquor of course, besides a very handsome bride’s cake, elegantly trimmed, and last of all 15 negroes in the kitchen with Mary Ann to superintend, the girls being at school and Mrs. Ely sick abed – she was however, able to walk in and stay just long enough to see the ceremony performed, but returned immediately to her bed. I called to see Maria on Fri-

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## VEDDER LIBRARY NOTES

□◇ The Center for History of Chemistry, Philadelphia, is listing the Austin Paper Mill manuscripts in its *Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the History of Chemistry*. Their publication will include the chemical process industries such as paper making.

□◇ A Bushnell, Van Bergen, and Bunker Bible record with 25 distinguishable entries dating from the years 1798 to 1848, has come from Mrs. Polly Sherman (Mrs. Edward Ely Sherman) of New Baltimore as part of the Sherman Memorial. The Bible entries have been summarized on 3 x 5 cards for genealogical purposes.

□◇ The Saratoga County Museum has forwarded a photograph (large size) of a Tanners Bank men's get-together at an unidentified Catskill area hotel. Two of the men are Wendell Sherman and R. B. Post.

□◇ From Auke Bay, Alaska, has come an *Errata Addendum, A Collection of Fiero Family Histories and Genealogies*. It supplements the Mrs. Bernice Weir gift of the main volume.

□◇ Robert Henry Van Bergen's *Ye Olden Time* as updated by Francis A. Hallenbeck and the Reverend Delber Clark, contains a wealth of Coxsackie area information. Copies are scarce. Mrs. Millard F. Lockwood of Coxsackie has now supplied the Vedder Library with a backup copy.

□◇ Useful paper material reflecting Greenville and Norton Hill history has come from Douglas A. Thomsen of Oak Hill. Of particular interest are the billheads for the Verplanck Carriage Repository, the A. J. Cunningham Funeral Home, the Powell General Store, as well as school and church programs.

□◇ Shirley A. Mearns has completed a long term project as Chairman, Genealogical Records, Wiltwyck Chapter, NSDAR. It is the listing of names of persons appearing in Vital Statistics and in other news items in the *Ulster Republican* covering the years in the 1840's. Through the kindness of Mrs. Mearns and the NSDAR Wiltwyck Chapter, the Vedder Library now has a complete set.

□◇ A copy of Nyoda S. Schoonmaker's notes on Matthys Hoghtaling has come from her daughter, Mrs. Julia Schoonmaker Moore. The Society is gradually accumulating Hotaling information and working out some early lines of descent. There must be 50 or more spellings for Hoghtaling.

□◇ A copy of Leo Adler's application to the National Register for Lime Kiln Farm, New Baltimore, has been received and a main vertical file folder set up for that historic property.

□◇ Hundreds of original survey maps and blueprints have now been catalogued, the latest from Attorney Wiltsie of Catskill. Appropriate subject cards have been typed.

□◇ The volunteer services of persons interested in local history are always welcomed. There are numerous projects that can be completed either at the library or at home. Contact 731-6822 if you have the interest and the spare time.

□◇ The Genealogical Records Committee, Meeting House Hill Chapter, NSDAR, does an impressive body of work on Greene County families. The latest is the work of Mrs. Earl L. Simpkins – it is a copy of a Mabie family genealogy record written in 1851. The work is of added value since it contains a modern index.

□◇ For those genealogists interested in Reeve and allied families, the 1984 176-page volume entitled *Hiram Reeve, His Ancestors and Descendants* will prove to be useful. Well organized, the book contains a wealth of information on this New England, Greene and Columbia counties family. One section is a detailed report on John Reeve (blacksmith) of New Baltimore and later of Catskill. Kenneth J. Reeve and his wife, Helen, have presented a copy of this compiled material to the Vedder Library.

□◇ The Van Bergens have a basic place in the history of Greene County, Marten Geretse Van Bergen being of Norwegian birth but with a strong Dutch cultural background. There are numerous descendants. The latest contact has been with Philip B. Woodroffe of Philadelphia who has supplied the library with copies of his Van Bergen indices.

□◇ Ms. Townsend-Reed of Connecticut and her compatriots have purchased the historically interesting property "Farview" on Route 385, Coxsackie, once owned by the Van Loons and the Adams families. Restoration is in process. A copy of the National Register application for that property is on file at the Vedder Library.

□◇ Four bound manuscript volumes relating to the New Baltimore-Coxsackie area, and designated as part of the Edward Ely Sherman Memorial, have been added to the research collection through the interest and generosity of Mrs. Polly Sherman (Mrs. Edward Ely Sherman). The Shermans removed from Tiverton, Rhode Island, shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War and settled along New Baltimore's river front. Paul Sherman became both a ship builder and a sea captain with trading interests as far away as the West Indies and London. Son Joseph continued the family's trading activities but on a more localized scale. Three of the volumes reflect Sherman commercial interests while the fourth, a daybook, relates to the Van Bergen mill and trading store. The Society is particularly interested in the Sherman items since the Shermans and Bronks married Ely daughters, who were cousins. Dr. John Ely's possessions are in the Bronck Museum and its Vedder Library.

□◇ More progress is reported with the computerization of certain Vital Statistics information listed in the mid-nineteenth century *Examiners*. This major undertaking is a Kenneth Van Vechten Parks – Darean Day – Paul T. Zeisset project of two volumes. One is a 77 page index of names, etc.; the other is an exact listing of the information as it appears in the newspaper.



**Roswell Reed** *(Continued from page 18)*

day — she and Leonard both looked very feeble, great exertions you know do not agree with persons of a delicate constitution.”

Other such notes of a social nature appear in the letters such as “Catharine Bronk [daughter of attorney John L. Bronk], report says is to be married to Mr. Sylvester [Peter Silvester] of Kinderhook and Adeline Hubbel to Olney Wright.” (Both marriages did take place.) Other news tidbits: “Sarah Atwater is at her father’s, her husband has gone to sea and is not expected to return this year.” And, “All moves well around the peaceable brick mansion. Mrs. Anthony Van Bergen is very low with the pleurisy and she has a little son . . .”

At the time there were two distinct social groups in Coxsackie among the more affluent, not on the best terms with one another. Margaret wrote “Every wedding strengthens the opposition and widens the breach. We are particularly partial to neither, but maintain a friendly intercourse with both parties.” What a problem for hostesses as when the Olney Wrights planned an elaborate party after they moved into their new house nearly finished by October 1826.

More fortunate than many families, thirteen Reed children grew to adulthood but in the process of maturation there were close calls with the grim reaper. One comes to realize the medical limitations of that time, even in families with financial resources.

Son Eliakim, in the later spring of 1826, came down with an undiagnosed illness and his father would write: “After you went from here, Eliakim has been continually growing worse — is deranged the most of the time & growing weaker every day with the fever — skin moist & medicine operating — but no abatement of the fever as yet. 12 o’clock Thursday — Eliakim remains growing weaker & is very sick.” A week later we find the father writing at five o’clock in the morning: “I employ my time in allotting to Eliakim & as my watch tour commences from 2 to 3 in the morning — I have the satisfaction of saying that he is & has been since Saturday in a convalescent state although yet confined to his bed.” Slowly, in the following weeks, Eliakim improved and managed to get out-of-doors “but not to the village or the landing as yet.”

It was daughter Cornelia’s turn in December of 1827. “We are as usual except Cornelia who remains about the same with bleeding every 5 or 6 days — with partial improvement for 3 or 4 days & then almost about the same — we apprehend dropsy in the head.” Through much of January 1828, the patient was confined to her bed but finally it was reported “we have at last succeeded in causing a moderate perspiration — hope for the best but prospects is not flattering.” All that year Cornelia’s health remained in a precarious state. Roswell stressed the tiredness of the household members with his wife Sally and daughter Margaret taking the brunt of the nursing duties since doing without sickroom watchers, “they are quite worn down.”

Late in November (1828) daughter Cornelia’s life was at a low ebb, causing the family to get up in the night and send for medical help, “Cornelia being much frightened by a stranger & his horse being in the house.” This derangement seems to have been the worst for by February 1829 Reed could finally write that Cornelia was gaining a little; and on July 3, “Cornelia is convalescent on the whole.”

On matters of health Sally Reed had practical ideas, as to her advice to daughter Adaline: “drink the ale pretty freely as it will be good for you and the child.”

It must have seemed to the Reeds that they had just nursed one son and one daughter back from death’s door when disaster struck again. Now it was their married daughter Laura’s turn. Married to Robert I. Vandenburg of Coxsackie, she had earlier lost her youngest child and was now in poor health. Finally Mrs. Reed went in the family carriage to Laura’s home and returned with her to the parental homestead with Laura “in a state of decline apparently & miserable & if she never goes back I [Roswell, the father] shall not be disappointed.”

On December 31, 1830, Roswell in writing to the Adamses, had sad news. “The year closes with sadness here — I have now to tell you of the death of Laura last evening at 10 o’clock. I have too [sic] things to say — that I regret you did not state the health of Adaline, etc. — the other that would be now consoling, would be that I could feel that poor Laura’s long and severe sufferings were not hastened by premature wrongs.” Daughter Laura was buried in the new Reed family cemetery opposite the brick homestead, a burying place eventually to receive the remains of Roswell, Sally and other family members.

Reports of other deaths appear in several letters. “She [Sally] is at Uncle Epenetus [that Reed homestead on corner of Ely and New Streets] and Aunt Irene lies at the point of death.” When Aunt Irene died on a Wednesday afternoon, she was buried on Friday with her little infant “a solemn lesson of the uncertainty of life.” And Margaret made note of the loss in Dr. John Ely’s family — “the death of their son and brother is deeply felt. Maria’s situation is particularly unpleasant — she may spend the next summer at her father’s [on Ely Street rather than at the Bronck Homestead]. And in another communication: “Robert [Vandenburg] lost little Adaline with the dropsy — she soon followed her departed mother [Laura Reed] where we hope they are at rest.” And “Old Mr. Conine is this day carried to his long home after a short illness.”

Almet Reed, writing to Adaline Adams on April 17, 1831, indicates other family and community changes. “We have lost a number of relatives and friends. I am not married yet but suppose you have heard I am to be. Coxsackie is improving — we have a paper published here every week — you probably have received a number before this and you can judge from it something of the style and manner that it will

Roswell Reed (Continued from page 19)

be conducted. [This was probably the *Coxsackie Standard*.] Sister Margaret and Ezra Fitch are standing upon the brink and ready at a moment's warning to take the vow and make one out of two."

The family circle at the Reed homestead gradually decreased in size. Daughter Margaret married Ezra Fitch of Kingston area in the First Reformed Church at Coxsackie on October 10, 1831. This anticipated event would be news to Roswell's daughter Adaline: "Your sister Margaret with her husband E. Fitch when and if so made on Monday morning next, is to sett off in a gig in company with Cornelia and Roswell [Jr.] on a visit to you. Margaret is now this evening or tomorrow to New York – quite in time you say – for [wedding] dress, etc. etc. in company with cousin Rebekah [Rebecca] who is also on the same business. Uncle Epenetus is going in the same line [another marriage] and under full sail." And on November 25, 1831, Reed would tell the Adams family that Margaret was moving to her new home in two weeks.

With the failure of Herman C. Adams' North Country affairs, and his temporary relocation in Oswego County about to occur, Reed would send word to his son-in-law: "Why does not Adaline & the children stay here until you go to Albion & make all the necessary arrangements & the [Erie] canal gets open & weather good."

The progress of the cholera epidemic of 1832 was reported in letters as it spread up and down the river valley. "Apollos Cooke [Catskill merchant] is dead – had removed his family to out to Windham to avoid the cholera & in the act of mounting his horse there, the saddle turned with him and he came down speechless." The cholera spared the Reeds although Roswell had been unwell for three weeks that August and was yet unwell when married daughter Margaret Fitch came to visit, bringing her first child, a son. They were all awaiting the news of the death of Roswell's sister, Mrs. Eliza Butler of the Upper Landing, the Butlers having removed from New York City upon retirement.

#### Roswell – Sally Reed Family of Coxsackie

□ □ □ □ □

Roswell Reed (1769–1839), son of Ezra Reed (1740–1807) and Sarah Kellogg (1742–1818), married his second cousin, Sally Reed (1777–1845), allegedly at Greenville, New York; the year was 1793. The children of this marriage were:

1. Eliza, born July 7, 1794; married Theron Skeel October 9, 1810; she died in the year 1843 at age 49 years, and is buried in the Reed family cemetery, Route 385, Coxsackie, New York. Theron Skeel had a freighting business at Twaalfskill (Wilbur–Kingston) which he eventually sold to Ezra Fitch. Ezra Fitch had married Margaret Reed, daughter of Roswell and Sally.

2. Laura Rebecca, born April 19, 1796; married Robert I. Vandenburg of Coxsackie June 24, 1817. She died December 30, 1830 and is buried in the Reed family cemetery.
3. Jane Ann, born March 4, 1798; married Henry Talmage of Greenville September 24, 1817. She is probably buried in Talmage family plot in Greenville cemetery.
4. Adaline, born March 1, 1800; married Herman Cuyler Adams (1798–1876) son of Dr. Peter C. Adams of Coxsackie, September 30, 1821. She died in year 1859; buried in Adams cemetery.
5. Margaret, born February 5, 1802; married Ezra Fitch (1805–1870) on October 10, 1831.
6. Eliakim, born 1807; married Sally Wells September 7, 1829. He died in 1834 and is buried in Reed family cemetery.
7. Cornelia, born 1808; married the Reverend Wyckoff of the Reformed Dutch Church. She died in year 1855.
8. A female infant who died shortly after birth, unidentified.
9. Almet, born 1810; married Helen Van Duesen; partner with Russell Judson in store and freighting business at Stockport, Columbia County and at Coxsackie. He died in year 1880.
10. Ezra T., (born June); married Sarah Eldridge. He died in year 1882.
11. Roswell Jr., born April 19, 1814; married Rebecca Van Bergen of Coxsackie September 4, 1838. He died in year 1861. Had the farm along Route 385 and Hudson River later owned by Adams-Grosbeck and called Meadow Ridge.
12. William, born August 10, 1816; died in California in year 1890; unmarried. For a time he owned a portion of the Hallenbeck farm at Four Mile Point area which he purchased from his brother, Roswell Reed Jr.
13. Luman, born October 1, 1818; died in year 1837, unmarried.
14. Sarah, born January 21, 1821; married Henry F. Lombard in 1844. She died January 26, 1911.

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