# THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN

of the

# WESTCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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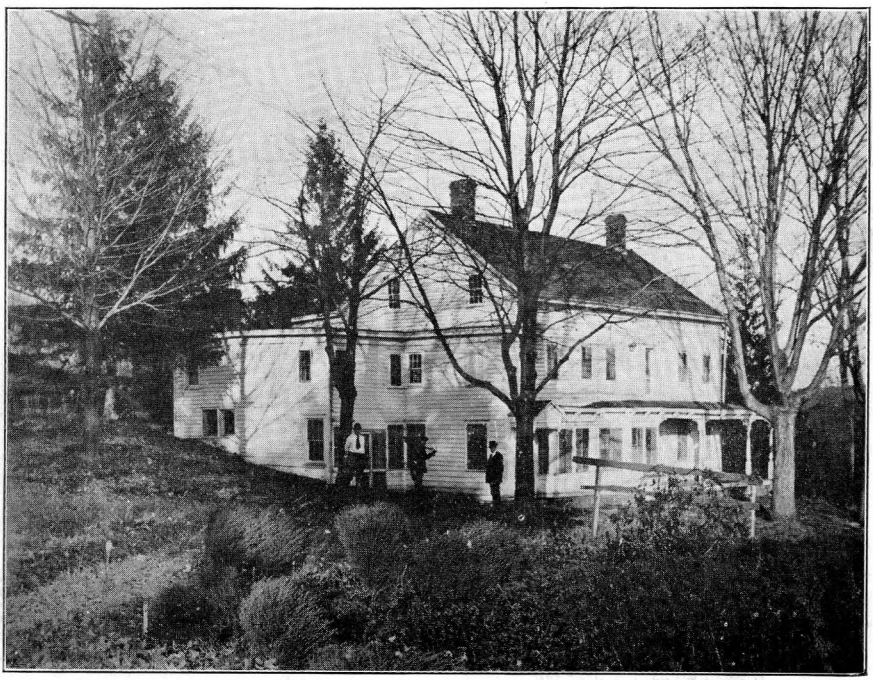

The Davenport House, where Col. Greene was killed. (Page 12.)

White Plains, N. Y.

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The temporay headquarters of the Society is Room 601, County Court House, White Plains, where the library is located and the documents and exhibits forming the beginning of our museum, can be seen. Mrs. Spaulding is in charge. The room is occupied jointly with, and through the courtesy of, the Westchester County Bar Association.

Address all contributions and communications to Richard Webber, Corresponding Secretary, 109 Hamilton Avenue, New Rochelle, N. Y.

# EARLY PRINTING AND PUBLISHING IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

(In the President's Report for 1922-1924, Mr. Dunlap stated: "The committee to investigate the practicability of preparing at this time a Westchester County Bibliography (Messrs. W. S. Hadaway, O. Hufeland and H. M. Lydenberg) has been appointed but has not reported. The work of gathering the complete list of all articles, books, and references to Westchester County is considerable and the funds for publication are not now available. Mr. Hufeland has now the best bibliography known to exist of Westchester County."

No subject is of greater importance to the historian than printed records; the above title has therefore been chosen as a test of the genuine interest in and a measure of the cooperation that may be obtained from the members of this Society in the preparation of a bibliography. This article is simply a frame-work upon which it is hoped to assemble the facts relating to Early Printing and Publishing in Westchester County. The help of every member and reader is solicited. Please address communications to William S. Hadaway, 63 Glenorchy Road, New Rochelle, N. Y.)

Replying to a letter previously published in the same paper by Mr. Alvah P. French, Curator of our Society, Mr. Robert T. Dennis, of Ossining, (now one of our members) on December 11, 1923, wrote the New York Herald as follows:

> In our possession is a copy of the Mount Pleasant Courier, Volume I, No. 1, printed in what is now the village of Ossining, June 19, 1799. It antedates the Somer's Museum and Westchester County Advertiser, first published in the Town of Somers, by at least ten years. * * *
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> Indeed, the initial journalistic venture in Westchester County to prove successful was first printed in Ossining of to-day on January 13, 1818. Originally titled the Westchester Herald and Farmers' Register, it continued until a fire destroyed the printery in 1856.

The statement of Mr. Dennis that a copy of Volume I, No. 1, of the Mount Pleasant *Courier* dated June 19, 1799, was in his possession aroused keen interest among antiquarians. Mr. Dennis very generously loaned the copy to the officers of this Society that photographic reproductions of it might be made, and a copy placed in our library.

There were evidently two other early papers besides the Courier. In the Bibliography of American newspapers—1690 to 1820—compiled by Clarence S. Brigham and published by the American Antiquarian Society appears the following record:

> [Mt. Pleasant] Impartial Gazette-1800-Weekly-Established July 15, 1800, judging from the date of the only issue located—that of July 22, 1800, Vol. I, No. 2, published by Russel Canfield, with the title of "Impartial Gazette"—Canfield printed at Mount Pleasant in 1800 and 1801.
>
> Connecticut Historical Society has copy of July 22, 1800.

In May, 1800, so an item in a Philadelphia newspaper reads, William Durell, "late printer of the Mount Pleasant Register, in New York State, has been sentenced to four months imprisonment for publishing sedition." No copy of this publication by Durell is known to exist and there is some question as to the date of its publication. Mr. Hufeland has disclosed a resolution of the Westchester County Medical Society from its proceedings of 1797 which was to be "inserted in the Danbury Journal and Mount Pleasant Register." No confirming evidence of publication, however, has been found.

The Mount Pleasant Courier referred to by Mr. Dennis is a four page newspaper, each page having four columns and measuring approximately 10½ inches by 16½ inches. The paper is of good quality and the workmanship of exceptionally high order. The title page omits the year, but this is supplied in other parts of the paper and there appears to be no question as to year of publication. Beneath the title is a line: "Vol. 1. No. 1. Wednesday, June 19. Two dollars per annum." A second division states: "Printed and Published every Wednesday by John Patterson, at his Printing Office, Mount Pleasant Landing (County of Westchester) where Subscriptions, Advertisements, Communications, etc. for this paper will be Thankfully Received."

The view-points of a publisher at this early period are worthy of record:

THE PUBLISHER OF
THE MOUNT PLEASANT COURIER
to the
INHABITANTS OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY

The real advantages resulting from the publication of Newspapers, especially in a free country, are generally acknowledged:—But at this critical and eventful period, it is of the utmost importance to circulate, in the most liberal and extensive manner possible, accurate and impartial accounts of the state of our Country—to detail the precise situation of our National Affairs—the plans and operations of our Government—and to exhibit a true portrait of our connections and negotiations with Foreign Powers—The Editor pledges himself to the Public, that his Paper shall be marked by a fair and impartial representation

of all Public Occurrences as they may arise—this line of conduct, he conceives can only be esteemed impartial in the publisher of a Newspaper.

Every exertion will be used to procure the most recent and interesting intelligence. Politics, however, form but part of the design. Whatever tend to enlighten the mind, improve the morals, or innocently amuse the imagination, will be equally the objects of selection—The respectable interests of the Farmer will claim particular attention.—Original pieces, calculated to profit and entertain, will find ready admission—But the ebulations of idle declamation, and the more pernicious clamor of personal abuse, will be invariably rejected as the Publisher will not suffer his Paper to become a vehicle of Scandal, which would only tend to disturb the peace of society, and mar the happiness of domestic felicity.

"Foreign Advices" comprise approximately 70 per cent of the contents, domestic affairs about 22 per cent and advertising nearly 8 per cent. This latter group is of great interest as it includes the following:

TO THE PUBLIC

BIRDSALL AND HUNTER,

Will give CASH, or good PAPER, at a moderate price, as may best suit the sellers, for all

CLEAN RAGS,

that are delivered to them at their

PAPER MANUFACTORY,

at Mount Pleasant, Westchester County.—The Manufacturing of PAPER in the United States of America is said (and from good calculations) to be the means of saving one hundred thousand pounds per annum in cash, which otherwise must be remitted to Europe for that Article. This is sufficient to show the great importance of encouraging the manufacturing of paper, which is but in its infancy in this country; and there cannot be a more proper method adopted to afford this necessary encouragement, than that the ladies who wish to merit the name of good housekeepers, be particularly careful to save their Rags.

(Here we have evidence of a genuine manufacturing enterprise. Boat-yards, saw-mills, grist-mills, etc. existed from a very early period; but these were established to make use of the natural resources of the region. Paper manufacturing required materials such as rags, chemicals, etc., that would be classed as foreign. Is there evidence of an earlier paper manufactory in Westchester County?)

Mount Pleasant (now Ossining) was then the home of three of the pioneer newspapers of Westchester County and a paper manufactory. It was also the location of book-printing and publishing shops, and, so far as present records are available, they ante-date the newspapers. The Mount Pleasant imprints of which we have information date from 1797 and include the following:

1. The child's instructor * * * By a Teacher of Little Children in Philadelphia. Vol. 1. * * * Mount Pleasant. Printed by W. Durrell, for R. Magell, G. Harrison, C. Davis, N. Judah, E. Duyckinck and Co., T. Allen, B. Gomez, P. Mesier and Buel and Knox. M D C C X C V I I * * *
(Above from photostats of American Antiquarian Society copy in Oct. 1923.)

2. Radcliffe, Ann. The Italian, or the confessional of the Black Penitents. A romance * * * Mount Pleasant: Printed * * * W. Durell, for R. Magill, S. Campbell, E. Duyckinck and Co., Gain and Teneyck, N. Judah, P. Mesier, J. Harrisson, T. Greenleaf and Thomas, Andrews and Penninian. 1797. 2 vols.

3. Moore, John (1728-1809). Edward. Various views of human nature taken from life and manners chiefly in England * * * By John Moore, M. D. * * * In two volumes. * * *Mount Pleasant, County of Westchester, (N. Y.): Printed by W. Durell, 1798, 2 v. 12mo. V. 1, the date of imprint corrected in ink from 1789 to read 1798.

4. Yarrow, Thomas. An Oration delivered at Mount Pleasant, State of New York, on the Fourth of July, 1798; * * * Mount Pleasant: County of Westchester—State of New York * * * Printed by William Durell—1798.

5. Hillier, Richard. Liberty and Equality: an oration, wherein the principles of the declaration of independence are illustrated * * * July 4, 1800. At Mount Pleasant * * * Mount Pleasant: Printed by Russel Canfield, 1800. 11 pp.

6. Stanford, John. M. A. Discourse before Hiram Lodge, No. 72, December 27, 1800, at Mount Pleasant, Westchester County, New York. 12 pp. Mount Pleasant, 1801. Printed by Russel Canfield.

These early Mount Pleasant imprints denote highly skilled printers and good materials. They are more than the products of a country job-printing shop. No information is yet available as to whether the books were bound in Mount Pleasant.

At this point a bit of history in regard to Hunter, the paper manufacturer of Mount Pleasant, might be inserted. We are indebted for it to Rev. John Stanford:

A Sermon on the Death of Elijah Hunter, Esq., who departed this life the 22nd of December, 1815, in the 67th year of his age. To which are added some Memories of his Life and of his Departed Children.

Delivered to the Church in Mulberry Street, by John Stanford, A. M.

New York: Printed by J. Gray, 1817.

The biography at the back of this pamphlet shows that Hunter located in Mount Pleasant in 1784 or 1785. It does not tell when the paper manufactory was started but it shows that Hunter was an out-standing citizen and of the type that would influence the development of a community, and the location of industries there.

The early Mount Pleasant newspapers were pioneers and shortlived. We visualize the difficulties that beset these early publishers from Brigham's notice of the Westchester Herald, nearly twenty years after these first publishers had the hardihood to launch their enterprises. Between the date of its establishment in January, 1818, and the end of the following year—twenty-four months—the Herald had three publishers and two printers.

This record is but fragmentary. It is a topic of interest and importance. The Committee on Bibliography bespeaks the co-operation of antiquarians in making the record accurate and more complete.

(Credit is due Messrs. Hufeland and Dennis, the New York Historical Society, and the New York Public Library for information and particulars included in this article.)

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Among the many articles of interest in the Greater Westchester edition of the White Plains *Daily Reporter,* of February 25, 1925, the following subjects were featured: the history of the County, the history of the County charter, the proposed park system, the history of railroads in Westchester, and the history of White Plains.

## NECROLOGY

David H. Cromwell, a member of the Society since 1882, a trustee from 1888 to 1901, and again in 1917, and a vice-president from 1902 to 1911, died at White Plains on February 11, 1925, in the 87th year of his age.

The Society solicits donations to its library of new and old published and manuscript works on Westchester County history, genealogy, biography, and vital records, and others embodying such material.

The following are accessions to our library since January 1, 1925:

"Notes on Colonial Boundaries", by Col. Thatcher Taylor Payne Luquer, (an address given before the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York, and referring to the Connecticut-New York boundaries), from Col. T. T. P. Luquer.

An old map of Eastchester (year 1861), from the Estate of Oliver A. Hyatt, through the attorney for the Estate, John Hoag, Jr.

Five copies of the "Westchester Spy", published in White Plains, bearing dates between 1836-1840; and

Two copies of the "Westchester Herald", published in Sing Sing, 1849-1850, from Doctor Hugo J. von Hagen.

Indenture of apprenticeship Samuel Grovenell to Enes Hatfield, of Mt. Pleasant, signed by George Pelor and Gideon Coggeshall, overseers of poor in New Rochelle, and *Records of the Town of New Rochelle,* 1690-1828 (translated from French), from Charles J. Dunlap; also

Copy of the July, 1924 *Bulletin* of New York Historical Society, with description of fortification at Pinesbridge, and of the Davenport house where Col. Greene was killed.

The cradle of Horace Greeley was on display at the Historical Room in the Pleasantville Library in February, through the courtesy of Mrs. Clendenin, of Chappaqua, his daughter.

The old library room of the Pleasantville Library has been restored and was formally opened to the public as the Historical Room on February 23rd at a Silver Tea given by the Mount Pleasant Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, under the leadership of Mrs. D. P. Chesebro. The room is to be used for a permanent loan exhibition of relics of early days in America and, as nearly as possible, of things used in the particular community.

## NEW MEMBERS

During the last quarter, the following have been elected to *membership in the Society*:

Anderson, Alexander L. ..... New Rochelle
Ayer, Charles F. ..... New Rochelle
Bacon, Mrs. Henry W. ..... Scarsdale
Baldwin, Wm. Delavan ..... Yorktown Heights
Baxter, Charles Minturn, Jr. ..... Mamaroneck
Beecroft, David ..... Scarsdale
Beecroft, Mrs. David ..... Scarsdale
Bennett, Harold H. ..... Scarsdale
Boniface, Arthur ..... Scarsdale
Brand, Albert R. ..... White Plains
Burdett, Cyril H. ..... Scarsdale
Castle, Ernest B. ..... Bronxville
Crosby, Lanman ..... Scarsdale
Farley, Robert E. ..... White Plains
Field, Geo. W. ..... Scarsdale
Field, Mrs. George W. ..... Scarsdale
Fox, Mrs. Dixon R. ..... Hartsdale
Good, Frank ..... New Rochelle
Goodale, Herbert F. ..... Yonkers
Greist, Mrs. A. B. ..... Scarsdale
Harris, Mrs. Thomas J. ..... Scarsdale
Henshaw, Franklin ..... Scarsdale
Huntington, Henry S. ..... Scarsdale
Huntington, Mrs. Henry S. ..... Scarsdale
Lent, Herbert D. ..... Tuckahoe
Mac Dowell, J. W. ..... Scarsdale
Meyer, Eugene, Jr. ..... Mount Kisco
Meyer, Mrs. Eugene, Jr. ..... Mount Kisco
Miller, Moses ..... Port Chester
Montgomery, Mrs. C. W. ..... Scarsdale
Montross, Franklin ..... Peekskill
Morrow, Ralph ..... New Rochelle
O'Connor, John J. ..... New Rochelle
O'Day, Mrs. Daniel ..... Rye
Ogilvy, Charles, M. D. ..... New Rochelle
O'Shaughnessy, James ..... Tuckahoe
Palmer, Milton C. ..... Ossining
Pugsley, Cornelius A. ..... Peekskill
Reid, John, Jr. ..... New Rochelle
Schoonmaker, Mrs. Thomas ..... Scarsdale
Schrenkeisen, Frank G. ..... New Rochelle
Sherman, Fredk. Wm. ..... Rye
Strang, Arthur J. ..... White Plains
Wallin, William J. ..... Yonkers
Wilcox, Arthur R. ..... Port Chester

## THE HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE

The third annual pilgrimage of the Society to historical localities in Westchester County will take place this year on Saturday, May 23rd. If it should rain, the pilgrimage will be postponed until June 6th.

We will gather at the monument recently erected by the D. A. R., at Grasslands (Young's Corners), at 10:00 a. m., and go to the Col. Hammond house near by, described in the January BULLETIN. This house is now vacant and can be inspected by the members. Here, Mr. Reginald Pelham Bolton will tell of the historical events that happened along this upper road to Tarrytown and repeat in part his story of last year about the conflict at Young's Corners. He will also tell something about Col. Hammond.

The Society will then drive up the Briarcliff Road to Ossining, and if the road, which is now being constructed by the County Park Commission, is passable, we will go to Indian Fort, Kitchiwan, at Croton Neck. We will then proceed up the Post Road to Crugers, the new County Park, near Montrose, where we will arrive about 12:30 p. m. Here we will have our lunch together on the lawn of the old Dykeman (later Cruger) mansion. The house will be open for inspection. The story of the events on the Hudson in this locality will be told while we are there. At 2:00 o'clock, we will leave Crugers for Peekskill and drive through Peekskill to Cortlandville, where near the fifty-mile post are located St. Peter's Church (built 1767), where Washington worshipped during the Revolution, the VanCortlandt mansion (built 1773) used as Washington's headquarters, Gallows Hill, the scene of Putnam's camp, and historic execution of the Tory Spy, the grave of Paulding (one of the captors of Andre), and burial place of Seth Pomeroy (a hero of Bunker Hill buried in the cemetery of St. Peters). We are scheduled to arrive at Cortlandville at 2:30.

After the story of these historic places has been told us, we will drive to Yorktown, where in the cemetery, by the Presbyterian Church, are buried the patriots, Col. Christopher Greene, Major Flagg, the guide Abraham Dyckman.

The original church and parsonage were burned by the Tories during the Revolution. We will gather in the present Presbyterian Church, now nearly 100 years old, or on the lawn nearby, while Rev. H. B. Roberts, one of our members, and local historian for Yorktown, speaks to us of the events in this locality. Mr. W. S. Hadaway, who has made a study of the Westchester guides will tell us about Abraham Dyckman. Mr. Roberts will then guide us past the scene of the French encampment during the Revolution, to the Underhill house, which still stands, where Andre had his last breakfast before his capture, and from there to the Davenport house where Col. Greene was killed by Delancey's Tories.

We are scheduled to be at Yorktown at 4:00 p. m. All members are invited with their friends and can fall in line with their own cars wherever most convenient to them. If those who have no cars will communicate with the President or Mr. Richard Webber, of New Rochelle, and those who are driving with room to carry others will also let us know, everyone can be accommodated. A more detailed announcement will be made later. Members should bring their own lunch, as it is not provided by the Society, and the pleasant noon hour together has, in the past two years, been a feature.

In preparation for the trip, we suggest the reading of Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution, Vol. 1, page 739-740 and 754, also Vol. 2, page 88, regarding Col. Greene. Scharf-Subject Cortlandt, page 365, Bolton Vol. 1, page 119 (revised edition). Bolton Vol. 2, page 673, particularly as to Col. Greene.

Richard H. Lawrence, of South Salem, was in March elected by the executive committee a trustee of the Society to represent the Town of Lewisboro. Hon. Seabury C. Mastick, of Pleasantville, was also elected a trustee to represent the Town of Mt. Pleasant. Mr. Lawrence has been a member of the Society since 1901 and was a vice-president from 1902 to 1911. Mr. Mastick is now State Senator from the upper district in Westchester. He has been a member of the Society since 1917.

## THE DAVENPORT HOUSE

Col. Christopher Greene distinguished himself in the Battle of Red Bank, where he defeated Count Donop's battalions of picked Hessians, in October, 1777. For this bravery, he received the approbation of Congress and was presented by the Board of War with a sword. Greene had enlisted at the outset of the Revolution, and was appointed Colonel of a regiment from his own State, Rhode Island, after the Battle of Bunker Hill. He accompanied Arnold on his wilderness trip and attack on Quebec. He was in command at Pine Bridge, in May, 1781, and was staying in the Davenport house, when he was attacked by DeLancey's Tories, and after a valiant defense was killed. He was asleep in one of the rooms of the house, and being attacked, defended himself with his sword, killed and wounded several of his assailants. Finally, with two bayonet wounds and his right arm nearly cut off, he was dragged out and died on the road. He was buried in Yorktown.

The house is located on a cross-road, leading from the main road from Pine Bridge Road to Yorktown Heights, to the east and is on a high hill overlooking the lake. The house is said to have been new in 1776, and used as a tavern. It was altered and extended about 1840. We are indebted to Reginald P. Bolton, who took the picture, and the New York Historical Society, for the use of the cut for the Davenport house.

Dr. Thomas J. Harris, in his article on the Fish-Freeman House at Scarsdale in the last issue of the BULLETIN, said that he had been unable to ascertain the birth place and time of death of Captain Jonathan Griffin. From family memoranda, Ernest F. Griffin, president of the Village of Tarrytown, a colaterial descendant of Captain Griffin, and a member of this Society, is able to supply some information. Captain Griffin was born June 20, 1708, and died April 27, 1786. Perhaps some other reader of the BULLETIN can give more particulars of Captain Griffin.

Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, of Van Cortlandt Manor House, Croton-on-Hudson, was elected an honorary member of the Society in February, thus transferring her name from the active membership.