THE PIONEER

A

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

PUBLISHED BY THE

LIVINGSTON MANOR CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION



ON THE OCCASION

OF THE

DEDICATION

OF THE

LIVINGSTON MANOR CENTRAL SCHOOL

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NEW YORK

MAY 19, 1939

THE PIONEER

by
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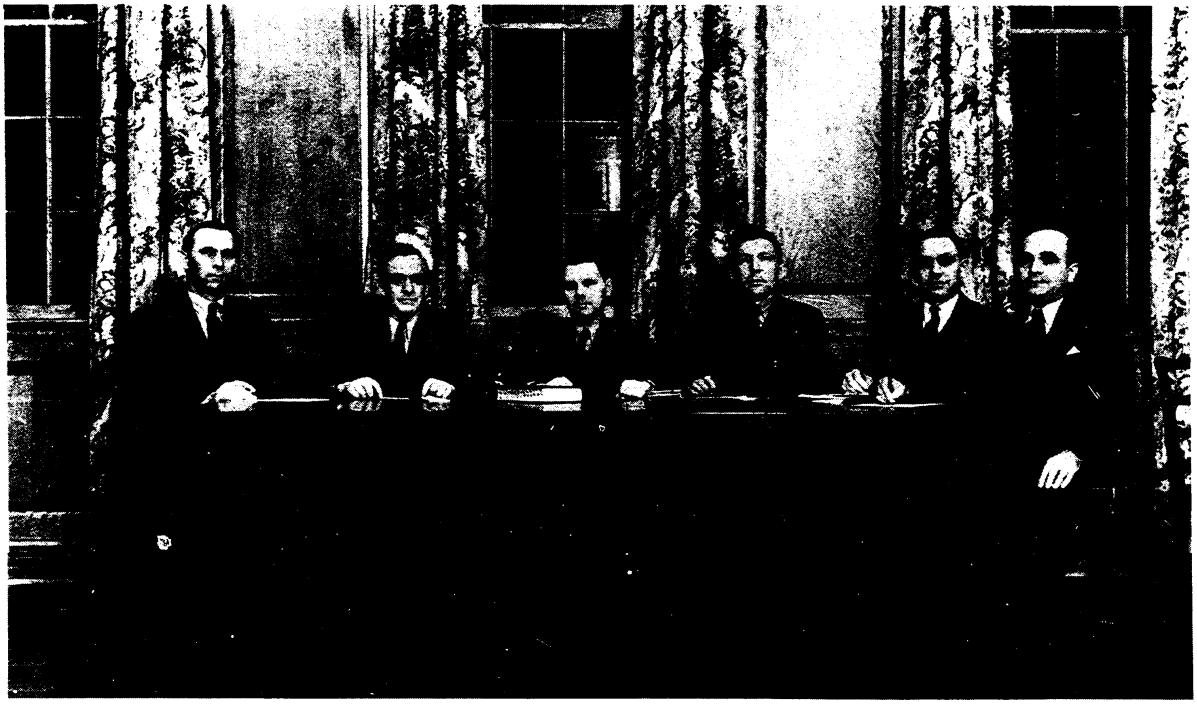
Acknowledgment

SOON after entering upon the preparation of this book it was found that considerable research was needed. I had access to histories and atlases of Sullivan, Ulster and Delaware counties. In addition to these I contacted local records, accounts and other available sources to get more definite information about the history of this particular area. I wish to acknowledge a debt to all who have contributed to my purpose. I mention in particular the following persons: Monroe H. Wright, W. H. McGrath, H. B. Spriggs, K. A. Sprague, Dr. John A. Miller, J. Emmett Decker, Merilla Morss, Mariette B. Willis, Margaret G. Engert, A. M. Scriber, J. L. Henry, A. B. Carney, William G. Birmingham, C. B. Ward, Joseph G. Cooke, Cathryn F. Smith, Louis DuBois, Roy Steenrod, Fred D. Shaver, Harry Hartig, David T. Williams, Sidney B. Kinne, William G. Johnston, Mrs. Ada Sprague, James Costello, Esther Karst, Josephine McGrath, Frank Hartig, Leonard Sherwood, C. Lloyd Mann, John N. Bailey, Wm. J. Morrisey, Moses Duryea, James Terwilliger, Everard K. Homer, Wilfred F. Smith, Martha W. S. Tobey, Irving Avery, Wm. George, Kenneth B. Curry, Carl Eugeni, Harry D. Moore, George B. Smith, Frank L. Fish, Harry Cole, Charles McGrath, Sidney Brown, Arthur Tyler, John Groesch, Mary N. Johnston, L. J. Welter.

JOSEPH F. WILLIS

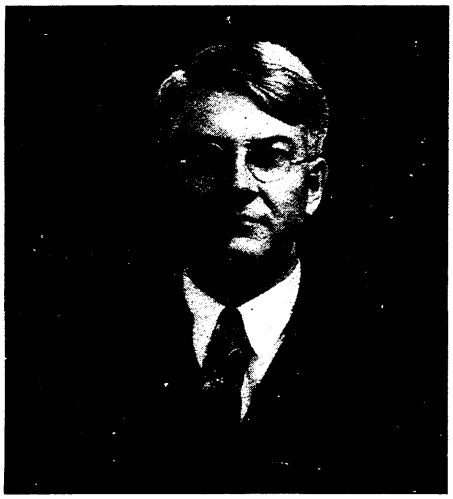
The people of the Central School district and the Board of Education express appreciation to Public Works Administration for its participation in bearing forty-five percent of the cost of this building program. Appreciation is also felt for the cooperation of Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of Interior, and all P. W. A. officials during the course of construction from Dec. 20, 1937 to February 20, 1939 when the building was first occupied by school children.

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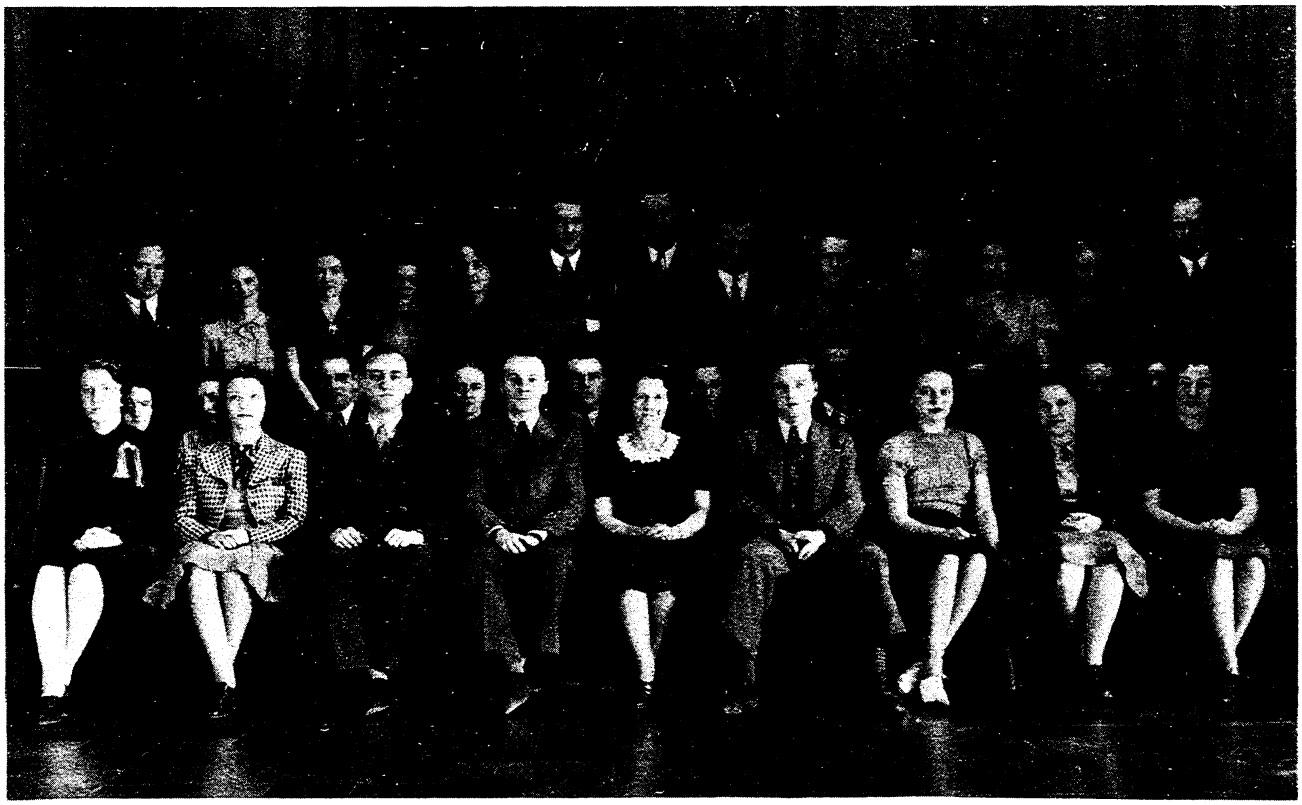
Fred D. Shaver; Thomas J. Smith; Sylvester I. Smith, President; Herbert Mussman; Wilfred F. Smith, Clerk; Abraham Friedman.



CHARLES S. HICK
District Superintendent of Schools



JOSEPH F. WILLIS
Supervising Principal



FACULTY

FRONT ROW

EDITH KNOLL, 4th grade

FRANCES WILL, 5th grade

S. TURNER RITENOUR, Junior High School Social Studies

M. P. McKaig, Art Supervisor

JULIA RICE, Morsston School

R. W. LYKE, Science

HELEN MEUMANN, Yorktown School

CATHRYN F. SMITH, Secretary

HELEN CONNOLLY, Shandelee School

MIDDLE ROW

MARGUERITE STURDEVANT, Grooville School

MARY N. JOHNSTON, Nurse

JOHN STEENROD, Beaverkill School

KATHERINE FLINT, Language

IRVING AVERY, Willowemoc School

GRACE E. RITTER, Music Supervisor

ROLAND TERWILLIGER, Hazel School

ETHEL KEELER, Lew Beach School

MARY H. BALDWIN, 6th grade

FRANCES HITCHINGS, 1st grade

HENRY G. PAUL, Physical Director and Vice Principal

ELEANOR L. BROWN, Librarian

MARY C. HUDSON, Social Studies

GERTRUDE WEINER, Kindergarten

FLORENCE SHAVER, Turnwood School

L. J. WELTER, Commercial

VINCENT LAKE, Parkston School

CHARLES MUHLIG, Junior High and Mathematics

JESSIE R. MILFORD, Penmanship and Junior High

A. L. SCHRIBER, 3rd grade

ELMA L. OSBORN, 2nd grade

JENNIE TERWILLIGER, DeBruce School

J. F. WILLIS, Supervising Principal

THE DEDICATION PROGRAM

INVOCATION . . . . . Rev. H. R. Diekmann

AMERICA . . . . . Audience

CHAIRMAN . . . . . Joseph F. Willis

OPENING WORD OF DEDICATION . . . . . Sylvester I. Smith
President, Board of Education

CHARLES S. HICK . . . . . Superintendent of Schools
Second District, Sullivan County

RAY P. SNYDER . . . . . Director, Division of Rural Education
State Department of Education

HAROLD O. FULLERTON . . . . . Architect

DR. VICTOR G. BOURKE . . . . . Remarks

COLONEL M. E. GILMORE . . . . . Regional Director
Public Works Administration

FRANK PIERREPONT GRAVES . . . . . Commissioner of Education
State Department of Education

THE LIVINGSTON MANOR CENTRAL SCHOOL BAND
with GRACE RITTER Directing,
will provide music during the program.

Building Contractors and P. W. A. Representatives

RATHGEB-WALSH, Inc., Port Chester, N. Y. . . . . General Contractors

GUSTAV VON MAUR . . . . . Traveling Engineer Inspector

H. H. WOODHOUSE . . . . . Resident Engineer Inspector
Public Works Adminstration

HAMELINE CO., Utica, N. Y. . . . . Heating and Ventilating Contractors

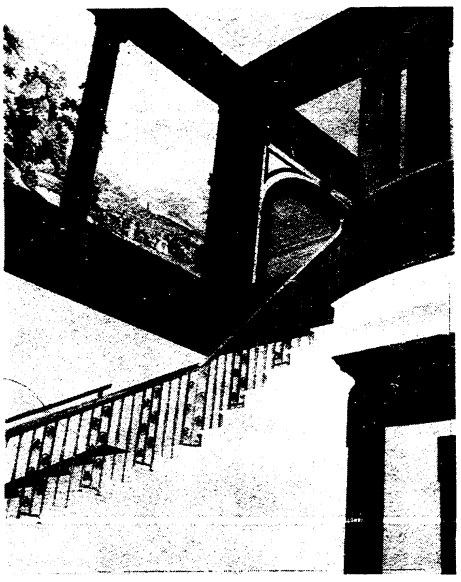
W. W. & J. M. GETTYS, Rouses Point, N. Y. . . . . Electrical Contractors

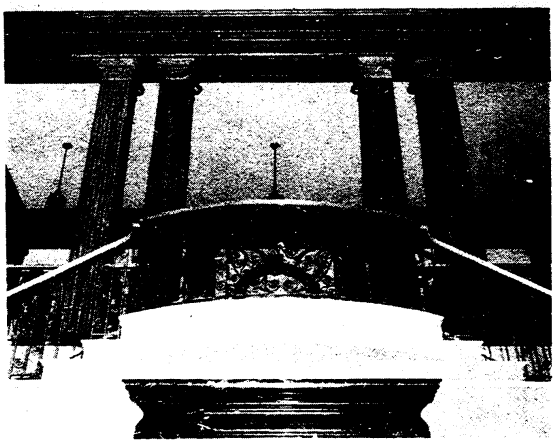
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A535898A



THE LIVINGSTON MANOR CENTRAL SCHOOL, both as to building and ground development, is one of the most outstanding in the State of New York. Situated on a peninsula of land known as the Island and facing the Willowemoc River and the village of Livingston Manor, the imposing building of Georgian Colonial architecture commands the attention and admiration of all. Approached from Main Street by a hundred foot span foot bridge constructed of bluestone native to the region, with both banks of the Willowemoc lined by beautiful walls of the same stone, it is an unforgettable picture. The bridge leads to a stone floored plaza and walks which in turn lead to the Corinthian stone porticoed entrance to the building. One enters a really magnificent entrance hall floored with terrazzo and from which rises a graceful travertine staircase with a wrought iron handrail recalling the iron work of old Charleston. The walls of





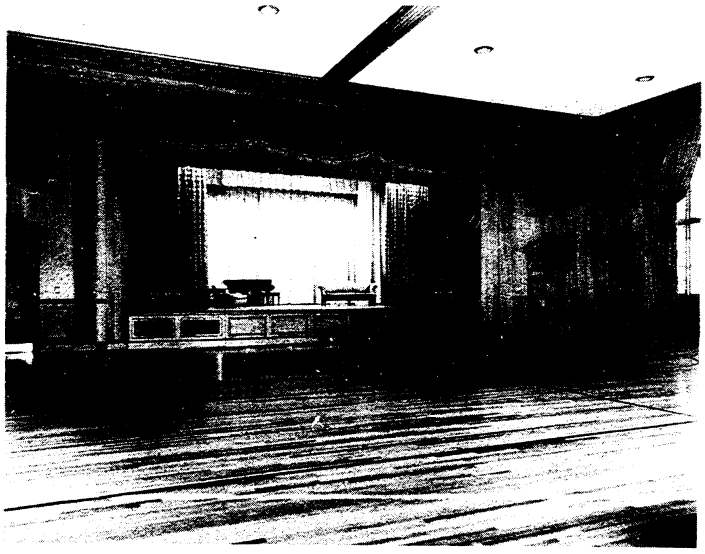
the first story are of travertine with black marble door casings and door heads. Above this there is a dado and pilaster treatment in quartered oak. The panels between the pilasters are occupied by Zuber's "Scenic America" picturing the early days of the Republic.

The corridors of the building are two hundred and eighty-eight feet long with terra-cotta tile lining either side, ceiling of acoustical plaster and terrazzo floors.

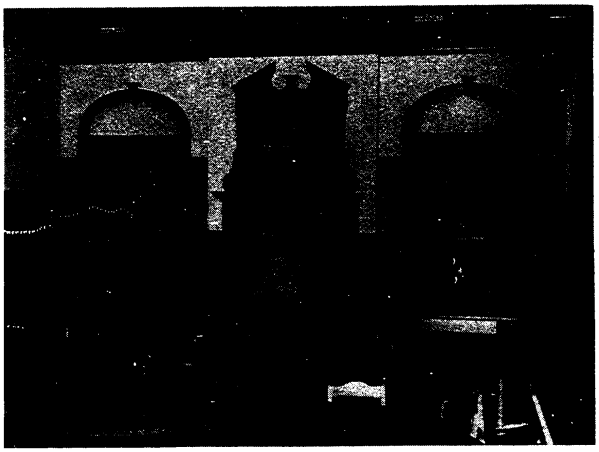
Directly off the main corridor is the auditorium-gymnasium. The walls of quartered oak are spaced by beautiful tall arched windows. The folding bleachers and the floor seating space of the auditorium will accommodate one thousand people. One of the finest features of this room is a stage, equipped with the most modern lighting and extensive drapes—a stage large enough for the most complete productions.

On the ground floor there are ten class rooms, two teachers' rooms, a music room and cafeteria, a clinic department providing offices for the Physical Director and Nurse, a town library and the general offices. The radiators throughout the building are compact units concealed behind tile or metal grills. Four photo-electric cells control the lighting in the building. This device protects the child's eyes by maintaining the degree of light necessary for good vision. Each room is linked with the office by telephone and a Philco speaking system. The latter unit makes it possible for announcements, music appreciation programs, news broadcasts and the like to be sent to all rooms or individual rooms according to the demands of the occasion. Ventilation is regulated throughout the school to insure each room of conditioned air every three minutes. The children in the first six grades are provided with clothing racks concealed behind panels in the rear of their class rooms, while the students of Junior High and High School age keep their belongings in corridor lockers. Beech block floors provide a quiet and a durable surface underfoot.

One of the most interesting school rooms is the Kindergarten. It is furnished with low chairs and six-sided maple tables of a style in harmony with the Colonial architecture. The walls and woodwork are of knotty pine, most appropriate for a children's room. To add to the atmosphere the walls are decorated with bright picture panels of scenes from nursery rhymes and fairy stories. At one end of the room is a fireplace which may be used if desired. At the opposite end are two rooms, a small work and store room and a coat room off which is a lavatory for the exclu-



Auditorium



Kindergarten

sive use of the Kindergarten children. The floor of the main room is covered with brown linoleum inlaid with figures and animals familiar to youngsters. There is a small piano and a sand table as well as built-in shelves for toys and books. Each child is provided with a mat on which to rest at given times during the day.

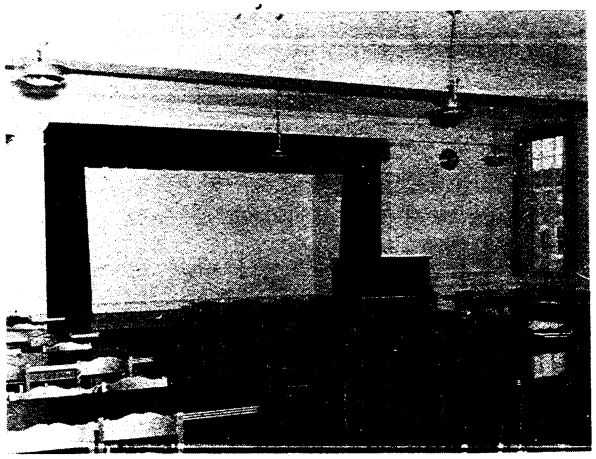
The other class rooms are furnished by Heywood-Wakefield Furniture Co. with movable table-desks and chairs of the same wood as that of the Kindergarten, but the trim of the rooms is oak instead of pine.

The cafeteria is the music room except during lunch period. A small stage provides a place for plays which are not elaborate enough to require the use of the auditorium. It is flanked by two small rooms which may be used as dressing rooms and for instrumental storage. Acoustical plaster in this room reduces the sound of music and dishes and allows greater freedom in its use.

The kitchen adjoins the cafeteria and its walls are lined with convenient cupboards for storage space. A large electric refrigerator and an electric range augment the working units of the room. The children select their food as they file past a metal topped steam table. The food is arranged on glass shelves built above the main counter in reach of all.

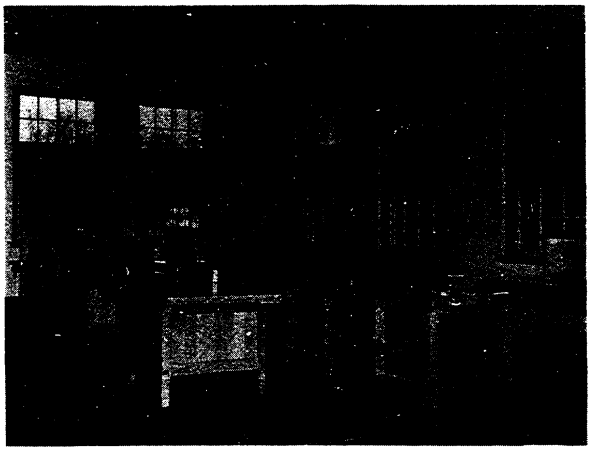
On either side of the entrances to the auditorium are shower rooms for boys and girls. In each of these there are lavatories, lockers and showers. The lockers are set up from the floor to protect them from rusting.

The teachers' rooms are attractively furnished with chairs, two small tables and a secretary of maple with a light mahogany finish. The walls in both rooms are papered with appropriate designs of early America. There are small locker rooms and lavatories connected with each of these.



Cafeteria

The Industrial Arts shop adjoins the Agriculture Room. Much of the practical work in the latter subject will be done in the shop. The Agriculture Room is furnished with long tables and movable chairs, suitable for informal class discussions and



Industrial Arts

forge, a grinder, a lathe, a circular saw, a power jig-saw, drill press, five wood working benches, a heavy metal working bench, planning tables, tool cabinets, a milk tester, and book-cases.

The Board of Education room is also used as a village library. Colorful draperies frame the windows and blend beautifully with the panelled birch walls and bookshelves. A fireplace and two green leather wing-back chairs add to the beauty and homelike atmosphere of the room. The cherry reading tables are finished in rich mahogany and provided with chairs of the same tone.

The general office is furnished



Living Room

the working out of plans for the construction of any project with which the class is occupied.

The shop is much larger. High windows line two sides and large doors open on the western exposure. The floor adjacent to these doors is of cement, grooved and sloped to a center drain. Work in auto mechanics will be done here. The permanent equipment of the room includes: a



Home-making Entrance

with a long counter under which are files. Behind the counter is space for the secretary's desk and chairs. A door leads from this room to the Principal's office. Both of these rooms are papered in quiet prints. A store room and fire-proof vault are directly off the other side of the general office.

The entrance to the Homemaking Department on the second floor is like that of many Colonial homes.

Two bluestone steps with wrought-iron railings lead to the porch of what appears to be a red brick house. Two brass lamps on either side of the door light the porch and add to the reality of the setting. Just inside of the white door is a small vestibule off which are two wardrobe closets. The woodwork throughout this unit is painted in white enamel. The large living room with painted dado is beautifully furnished in Georgian style with a sofa, comfortable upholstered chairs, mahogany console tables, an antique magazine rack, and also a refectory table and sewing machines which, when closed, are attractive pieces of furniture. True to tradition there is a fireplace at one end of the room between the arched entrances to the kitchen with carved white panels and mantle piece. The wallpaper is a delicately tinted French print, a direct copy of the paper used in the Livingston Manor mansion on the Hudson. The draperies are gold, a neutral touch in the colorful room. The plum-colored rug forms a rich base for the lighter shades in the walls and furniture. Against the wall opposite the fireplace are built full length cabinets containing fitting mirrors, shelves and drawers where sewing and any other materials for home making may be kept.

Beyond the living room is the kitchen, a completly modern room done in white with plenty of work space on tables topped with stainless steel. There are gas, electric, and oil stoves which will enable the girls to get used to the various kinds of heat and to become accustomed to the type they will be most apt to use later in life. This equipment is grouped into working units. Above these units are cupboards and below them are drawers providing ample room for cooking utensils, dishes and foodstuffs. A six foot electric refrigerator and two sinks complete the set up. In each sink is a small hose through which the water may be forced in a spray for rinsing dishes or cleaning vegetables. Cheer and efficiency are the keywords in a description of this kitchen.

The library, panelled in quartered oak and furnished with mahogany finished cherry and maple, is a room of quiet warmth and dignity. The basic color of the room, blue, is carried out in leather chair seats, the wing-back chairs and in some of the figures of the flowered draperies. Further color is added by the books which are arranged on shelves along all the walls of the room. The lighting here is particularly interesting. The book shelves go almost to the ceiling and end in a deep molding behind which is a row of indirect lighting to provide illumination in com-



Library



Laboratory

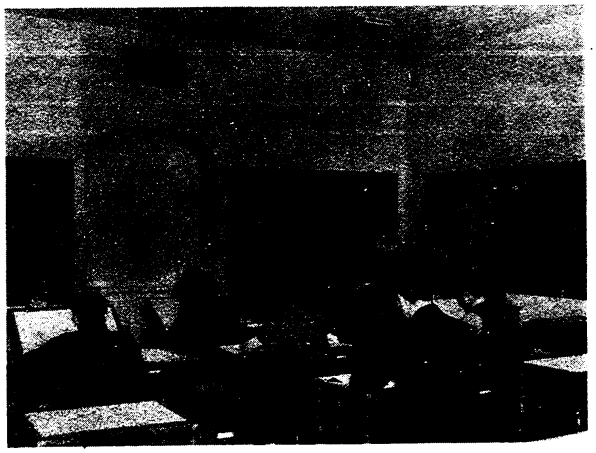
bination with the three brass chandeliers. There are two window exposures, one a Palladian window looking into the courtyard, is balanced at the other end of the room with a fine Georgian fireplace.

Adjoining the main room is a smaller one for cataloging books, book-binding and mending and other work necessary to keep the library in good working order. For these purposes there are two long tables, chairs, a sink set behind cabinet doors, cupboards and drawer space for supplies.

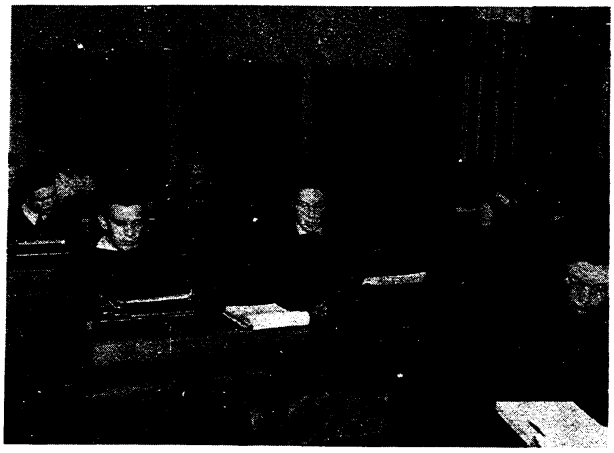
The laboratory is next to the library and is furnished with Lincoln type desks which may be used for either chemistry or physics. There is drawer space enough in each desk to store materials for individual students throughout their science course. Each student has a sink, gas, water and electric outlets to facilitate individual laboratory work. In front of the room is a fully equipped demonstration table at which the instructor may perform difficult experiments in full view of the students. This table is equipped with a fume hood to draw off objectional or harmful gases. The blackboards consist of four slate leaves suspended from a steel beam in the wall. These may be opened and closed like a book and make it possible to have all the board work in the front of the room. Closets in the back of the room are especially arranged for storing chemical supplies.

There is a General Science Room furnished like an ordinary class room with the exception of a demonstration table where experiments may be carried on by the instructor. This room is also equipped with a large aquarium for the care and study of marine life.

The Art Room faces the north to afford it the proper light for drawing and painting. The desks have adjustable easel tops. A space under the top of these desks is large enough for drawing paper or unfinished work which cannot be folded to fit in the drawers. Stools are provided instead of chairs since they are more suitable for art and craft work. A sink in the front of the room is convenient for



Art Room

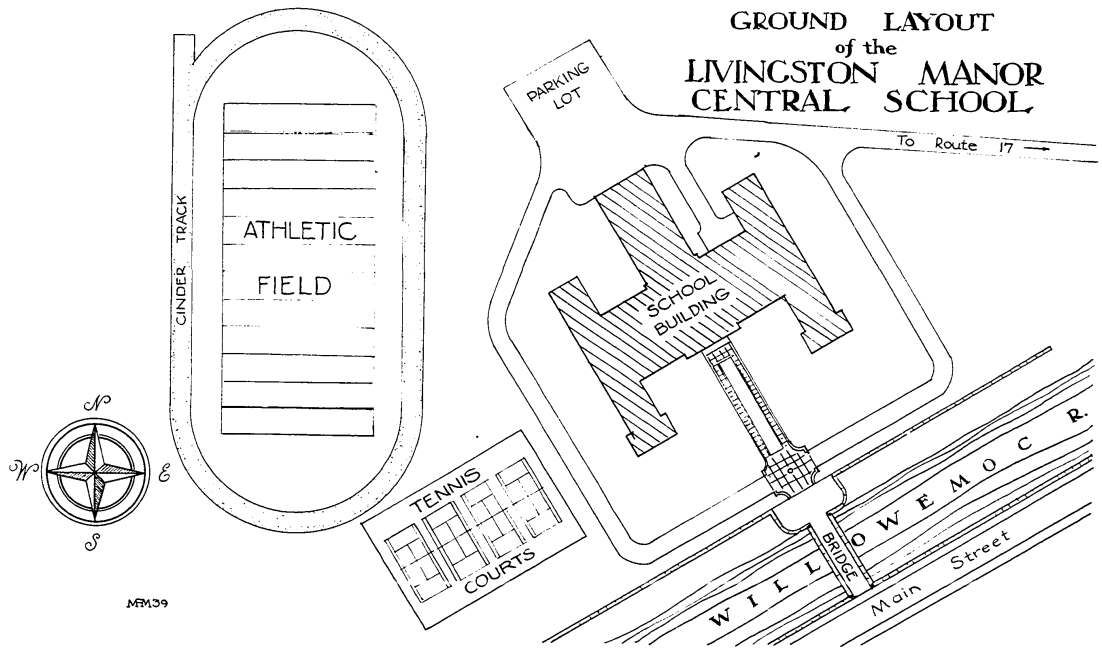


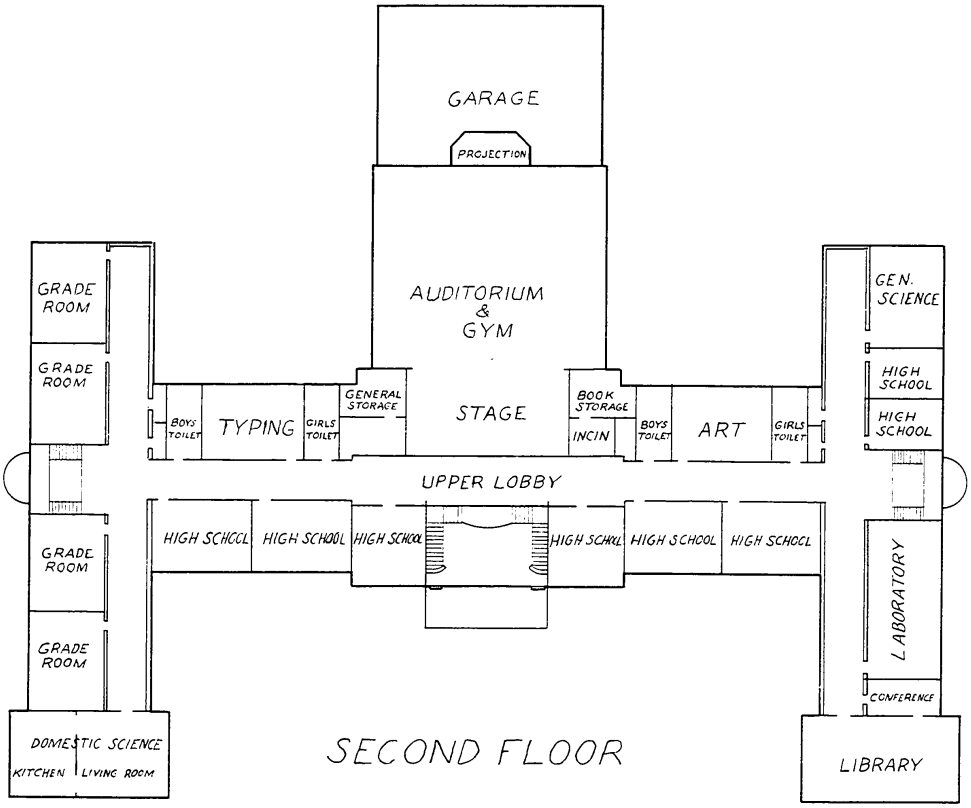
mixing paints, clay work or cleaning up after classes. On either side of the sink are large supply cabinets.

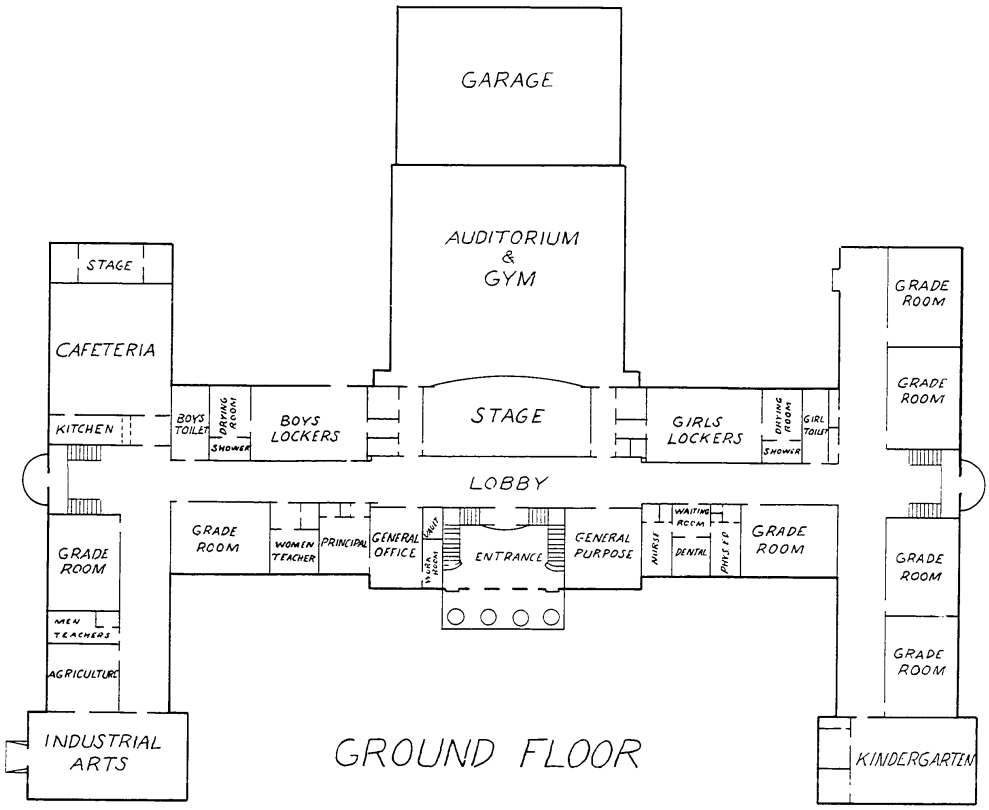
In the Typing Room a ceiling of acoustical plaster serves to absorb the noise of the machines. This unit is well adapted to the teaching of commercial subjects. Twenty pupils can be seated at the ten double drophead desks for instruction in all branches of the commercial curriculum. An adding machine, mimeograph and mimeoscope also form part of the equipment of this room.

In a section of the building that extends to the rear a five bus garage presents one of the most usable units in the school. Loading of busses is carried on safely and conveniently within the garage.

The ground development adds the crowning touch to make the Livingston Manor Central School a beautiful addition to the education system of the State of New York. It provides a landscaped area of approximately twenty-five acres of land immediately surrounding the building with macadamized driveways and parking area; a children's playground, fully equipped with playground equipment; macadamized regulation size tennis courts; a cinder running track; a baseball diamond; a football field and beautiful picnic spots.

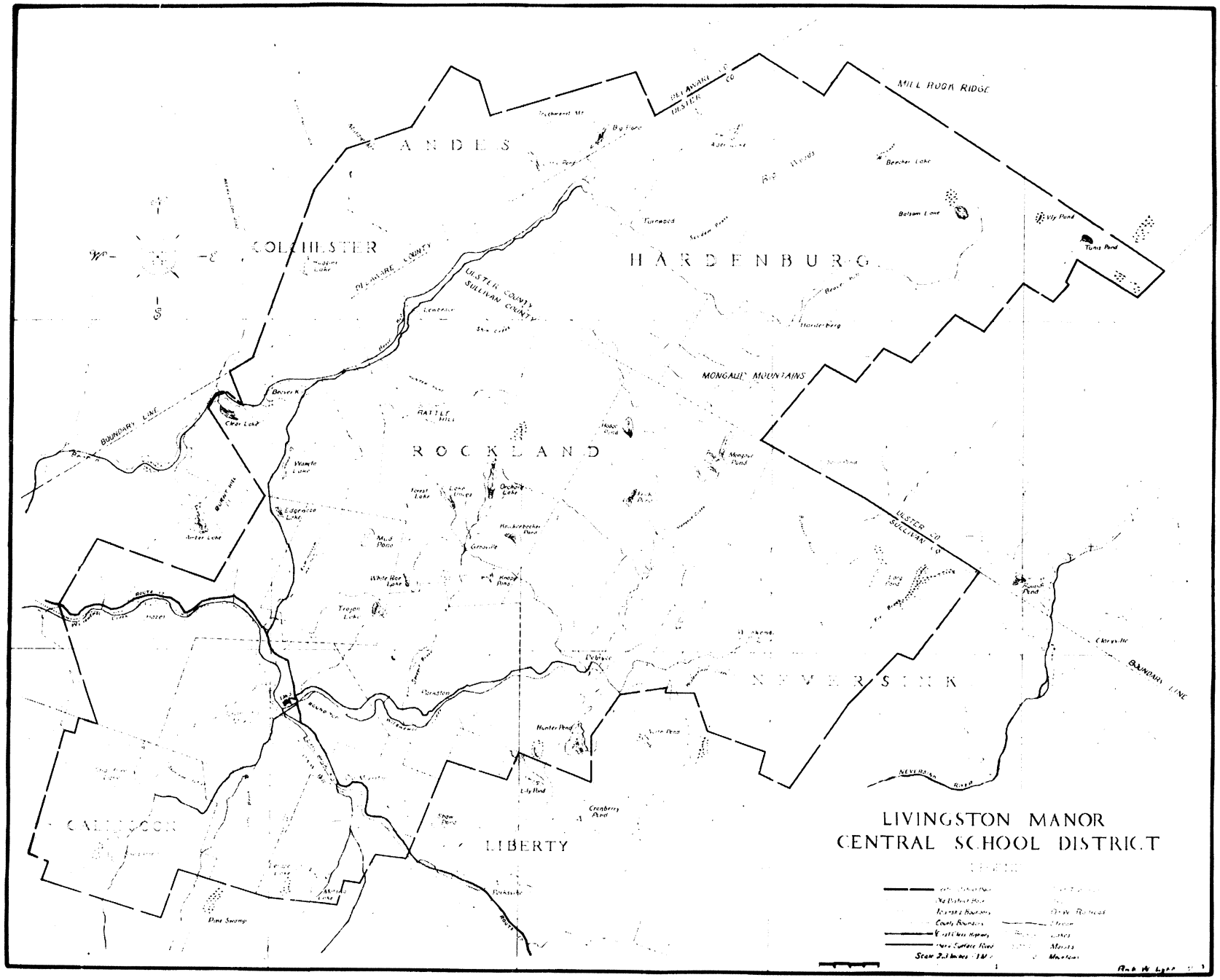




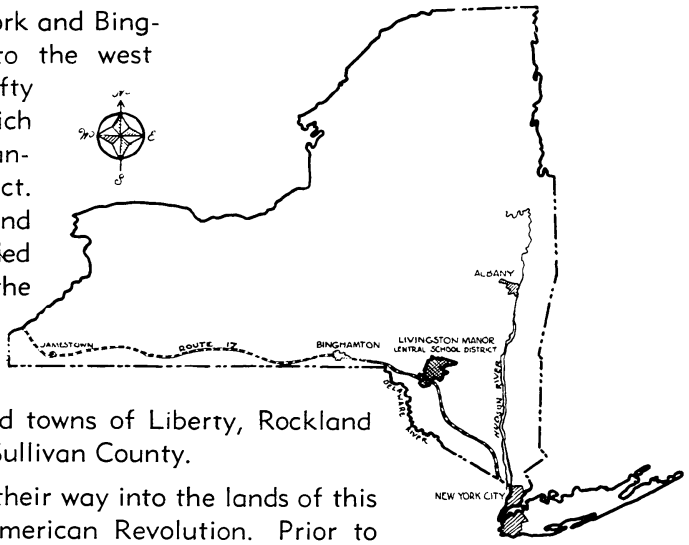


FLOOR PLAN
LIVINGSTON MANOR CENTRAL SCHOOL

R.W. Lyke 1939



This map is based upon a central school map in the files of the State Department of Education at Albany.
In some instances, the boundry lines of the district, as they were given to us, are approximations.



Halfway between New York and Binghamton on the highway to the west lie one hundred and fifty square miles of territory which comprises the Livingston Manor Central School district. Parts of three counties and seven townships are included in the centralization: the towns of Colchester and Andes in Delaware County; the town of Hardenburgh in Ulster County; and towns of Liberty, Rockland Callicoon and Neversink in Sullivan County.

White men first found their way into the lands of this district shortly after the American Revolution. Prior to their coming the red man was Lord of this savage paradise. The warm sheltered river banks provided excellent camp-sites and tillable soil where the squaws might grow maize and other cereals. This land was as popular a recreation ground for the Indian as it is for the modern pleasure seeker and sportsman. Unconscious of his woodland wealth, he roamed through dense black forests of beech, birch, maple, hemlock, fir and ash, which were to become the raw materials for the white man's industry.

Drawn to this district by an abundance of game, which included deer, elk, moose, wolves, bear, panthers and numerous other fur bearing animals, the Indian did appreciate a hunting ground which afforded him both sport and security. Wild geese, ducks and turkey provided ready food at all times. The numerous fresh water lakes and clear, swift-running streams furnished trout fishing which even today is unsurpassed in any other part of the world.

It is small wonder that the Indian was reluctant to leave this land to the white men. He received them coldly and even disputed their ownership after the land grants were claimed.

This region was the borderland between the Iroquois and Algonquin territories and was inhabited by members of both tribes. The Lenni-Lenapes, a branch of the Delaware tribe of Algonquins, were in the majority. This group had been conquered by the Iroquois, who, as a symbol of superiority took away the war hatchet and tendered to them the hoe that they might be regarded as squaws.

The Lenni-Lenapes, however, were not destined to be always in this ignoble position. During their later history they enjoyed the leadership of three great chiefs, Nanisimos, Teedyuscung and Tammany, all of whom did much to restore their honor as warriors and men. It was particularly in the French and Indian wars when the Lenni-Lenapes fought on the side of the French that they won back self respect by their displays of bravery in military exploits.



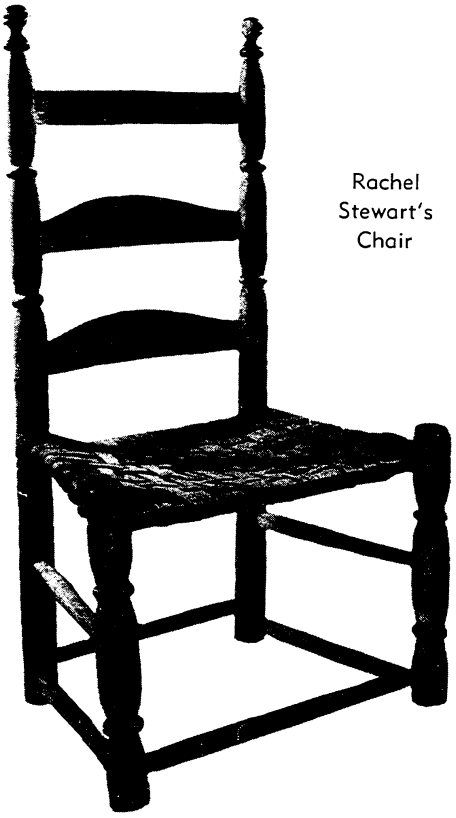
Tunis

A few Tuscorora Indians filtered into this section from the Carolinas. One of their descendents, Tunis, is perhaps the most colorful figure of Indian days which legend has preserved for us.

Tunis grew up in the home of John Henry Osterhout, an Indian scout and guide, living at Pepacton near the Pakatakan mountains. The young Indian presumably was brought up as a Christian and was named after Osterhout's grandfather, Teunis, a Dutch pioneer of Ulster County. He grew to manhood in a white man's world and came to love Ruth Yaple, the daughter of a neighboring pioneer. The protests of the girl's family made the marriage impossible. This tragic ending of his romance caused Tunis to live a hermit's life in the woods. In the course of later years the white men often had cause to be grateful to this Indian whom they had refused to accept as an equal.

On one occasion he crept into an Indian camp and cut the bonds binding John H. Osterhout and Silas Bowker, two scouts whose business it was to report to a Hudson trading company the movements of the Indians on the east branch of the Delaware. In the pursuit of their duties these scouts used the Indian trail which later became the Hunter Road in traveling from their frontier station on the East Branch to the headquarters of their employers in the Hudson Valley. They were paid one bushel of wheat per day. These men must have settled in the Neversink territory because their decendents ar still found in this section. The late Gabriel F. Curry was a descendant of Silas Bowker. While Bowker and Osterhout were crossing the Willowemoc, they were captured, spread-eagled and flayed. Their captors intended to torture them to death on the following day. The freedom granted them by the bravery of Tunis made it possible for them to prevent transportation of valuable merchandise into this region while the Indians were on the warpath.

Most interesting of the legends concerning Old Tunis is that of the knowledge he had of the location of a fabulously productive lead mine supposedly located near Tunis Pond, where he lived. Indians from the Berry Brook flats on the lower Beaverkill were reported to have returned after a two day journey into the hills laden with lead so pure that it had been cut from the mine with a hatchet. A round trip to Tunis Pond near the source of the Beaverkill would have occupied about that much time, but this is only conjecture, for the Indians kept the location of the mine a secret. The story of the lead mine persists to this day and still beckons an occasional prospector to try his luck in the search.



Rachel Stewart's Chair

that which came over the hills from Lackawack, forded the Neversink, then ran to the headwaters of the Beaverkill after which it followed that river to where it joins the Delaware. It was over this trail that Jehiel Stewart, the first white settler in the region came.

Jehiel Stewart moved to Warwarsing from Connecticut shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War. About a year later, accompanied by his family and his brother, Luther, he set out over the hills to the West and at the end of an arduous two-week journey arrived at the big flats at the foot of the Beaverkill where he decided to settle. He drove his farm stock ahead of him as he went. His furniture and household belongings were transported by ox-sled. Kenneth A. Sprague of Roscoe, one of Stewart's descendent's, has allowed us to reproduce on this page pictures of two chairs in his pos-

Pioneers from Ulster County and the East found their way into the wilds of Delaware and Sullivan counties along Indian trails. The Hunter trail, known to the Indians as the Sun trail since it traveled from east to west, connected the Esopus tribe with their large reserve store of maize and beans at Warwarsing. Over this trail went the savages who massacred Captain Graham and his men at Grahamsville in the battle of Chestnut Woods. At Turnwood another trail known as the Cross Mountain Trail branched to the north. The Mary Smith trail was west of that. Even farther to the west was the Berry Brook trail running north to Pepaction. Delaware County pioneers followed these trails in going to their new homes.

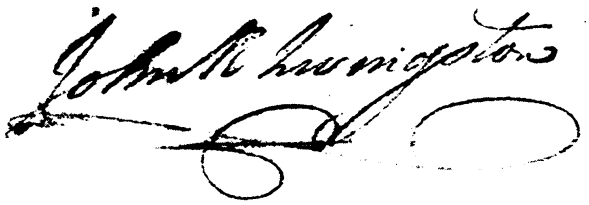
Another important trail was



Jehiel Stewart's Chair

session which Jehiel brought in on the ox-sled one hundred and fifty years ago. The runners of the sled were hewn from stout logs and, on being broken or worn down, could be immediately replaced. Pioneers such as Stewart were expert wood choppers and the single bit axe was their most valued tool. On this particular journey Stewart found it necessary to cut his way through the woods with his axe. In an effort to find easier going he crossed and re-crossed the Beaverkill twenty-five times.

His first house was a temporary shelter of bark and poles, but it was not long before he was the owner of the first house and mill and the proprietor of the first inn of the town of Rockland. Within a year Robert Cochran, Thomas Mott, Peter Williams and Cornelius Cochran followed. Other New England emigrants were later drawn to Rockland by John R. Livingston's offer to sell farm lots for seventy-five cents per acre.



Signature of John R. Livingston as taken from an old deed.

These settlers had years of pioneering behind them. The opening of a new land held little terror for them, acquainted as they were with the woods and the farm, and skilled in the use of those tools necessary to carve out an existence. Born of sturdy Dutch, Irish or English parents, their only desire was to build homes where they and their families might be comfortable, secure and independent. They brought no industry with them but that of farming as it then existed. Money and trading meant little to them because the only necessities they could not provide for themselves were articles such as: powder, salt and tools with which to work. Their food came mainly from the woods and farm. By weaving and spinning, the mothers created the cloth from which clothes for the family were made. It was the task of the fathers and brothers to clear the land, to bring game from the woods and to provide other food for the table. A white flint variety of seed corn was obtained by some of the early settlers from some Susquehanna Indians. Crops of this corn are still raised in this county.

It was at first necessary for these early settlers to carry their grain to Warwarsing to be ground. There are stories on record of these men having made this trip of forty-five miles each way with a load of grist on their backs. One of these travelers, anxious to complete his journey, yet weary with his load, is said to have stopped frequently to rest. He discouraged any impulse to linger by sitting only on sharp rocks,

All of the territory of the Livingston Manor Central School District lies within the Hardenburg Patent, an immense tract of around two million acres originally granted to Johannes Hardenburg and his associates by Queen Anne in 1708. It is said by some that the original cost to them was less than one tenth of a mill per acre. In the passing years the ownership of this land continued to reside, for the most part, in the original patentees, but one new owner, Robert Livingston, soon entered upon the scene and in less than forty years he had acquired title to almost half of the entire patent, whereas Hard-

This Indenture

Made the [illegible] Day of September in the Year of our LORD One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Eight and in the Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord

BETWEEN [illegible] of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. of the first Part, and [illegible] of the State of New York Farmer of the second Part, WITNESSETH, That the said Party of the first Part, for and in Consideration of the Rents and Covenants herein after reserved and contained on the Part of the said Part of the second Part, his Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to be paid, kept and performed, Hath DEMISED, GRANTED, and to FARM LETTEN; and by these Presents Doth Demise, Grant, and to Farm Let, unto the said Part of the second Part his Executors and Administrators, ALL that certain Farm or Plantation situate, lying and being in the County of Ulster in the Province of New-York, Part of Lot Number Six of a large Tract of Land, commonly called and known by the Name of HARDENBERGH's PATENT, granted by his Majesty's Letters Patent, bearing date the twentieth Day of April 1708, to JOHANNES HARDENBERGH, LEONARD LEWIS, PHILIP ROKEBY, WILLIAM NOTTINGHAM, BENJAMIN FANEUIL, PETER FACONNIER, and ROBERT LURTING, and which Farm or Plantation hereby intended to be demised is known and distinguished on the Sub-Division of Lot Number Six by Farm Number Three of Lot Number Six and is butted and bounded, and contains as follows Beginning on the South side of the Rondout Creek and Begins at the mouth of Stony Creek a Beech tree corner & is marked V°5, on the west side of the same and runs from the mouth of the said Creek along a line of marked trees South Fifty Five Chains to a stake & stones South Eighteen degrees West Forty Chains to a crooked Beech tree corner and marked 4.5 standing on the north side a Hill Thence by a line of trees North Thirty seven degrees Chains and Eighty Three Links to a wide Beech corner tree marked 5.6 Thence along a line of marked trees North sixty five degrees and seventy seven links to the first mentioned Bounded Beech corner tree marked 5.6 Thence by said Lot West and containing Six Hundred and Twelve Acres, including the Gores & Pasture to the place of Beginning containing Six Hundred and Twelve Acres,

Together with all and singular the Emoluments and Appurtenances thereunto belonging:---Except, and always reseved all Mines and Minerals whatsoever, which now are or hereafter may be found or discovered in and upon the Premises hereby demised, or any Part thereof: And also further excepting the sole Right and Privilege of building and erecting any Grist, Saw, or other Mill or Mills on the Premises hereby demised, and the sole Use of all Runs and Streams of Water belonging thereunto for that Purpose; together with free Liberty of Egress and Regress into and out of the Premises for the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs and Assigns, and his and their Servants and Workmen, with Cattle, Carriages, and other necessary Implements to dig up, work, take and carry away ALL such Minerals and Ores, at his and their free Wills and Pleasure, and to erect and set up any Grist, Saw, or other Mill or Mills on the Premises, and to use and employ the same for the sole Benefit of the said Party of the first Part his Heirs and Assigns, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Premises, with the Appurtenances hereby demised (except as is herein before excepted) unto the said Part of the second Part Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from the first Day of May last past, for and during the natural lives of Thomas Emerson Knight and Nicholas Van Bek and the Life of the Survivor of them, Yielding and Paying therefore yearly and every Year, on every first Day of May in each and every Year during the Term hereby demised, the Rent of a Couple of Fowls for the first Five Years, and for every Year after [illegible] free and clear from all Taxes, Charges and Deductions whatsoever. Provided always, That if it shall happen that the said yearly Rent, or any Part thereof, be behind or unpaid for the Space of Forty Days next after the Days and Times on which the same respectively are to be paid as aforesaid; or if the said Part of the second Part Executors, Administrators or Assigns, shall not well and truly perform the Covenants and Agreements herein after covenanted and agreed on Parts to be performed and kept, that then, and from thenceforth this Indenture or Demise and Grant shall be absolutely void, and the Term hereby granted and demised cease, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever: And in any of the Cases aforesaid it shall and may be lawful for him the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs and Assigns, to re-enter into the Premises, or any Part thereof, in the Name of the Whole; and to have and take the same, and every Part thereof, into the full and absolute Possession of the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs and Assigns, as if this Lease had not been made. And the said Part of the second Part, for himself his Executors, Administrators and Assigns, and every of them, doth hereby COVENANT and GRANT, to and with the said Part of the first Part, His Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, and every of them, in Manner and Form following, THAT IS TO SAY, That he the said Part of the second Part Executors, Administrators or Assigns, or some one of them, shall and will well and truly pay, or cause to be paid unto the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs and Assigns, the said yearly Rents by these Presents reserved, in such Manner as the same is herein before made payable; and also shall and will pay and discharge all Taxes and Afleilments whatsoever which shall be laid on the said Premises during the said Term hereby demised; and fully and effectually indemnify and save harmless him the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs and Assigns, from the Payment thereof. And that he the said Part of the second Part, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, shall and will plant out, upon the Premises hereby granted, within the Term of [illegible] Years enfuing the Date hereof, at least one hundred thrifty Apple Trees of good Fruit, set out at the Distance of at least thirty Feet from each other, and fenced in a regular Manner, in the Form of an Orchard; and also shall and will within the aforesaid Term of [illegible] Years, build and erect on in some convenient Part of the said Premisses, one Stone, or Framed Dwelling House, of at least eighteen Feet square, and a Barn, both to be well covered with Shingles; and also shall and will lay open a proper Road, for the Benefit of the Tenants, or him the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs and Assigns, untill such Time as public Roads shall be laid out by Commissioners for that Purpose, and that he the said Part of the second Part Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall not sell, or assign this present Lease, or any Part therein contained, to any Person whomsoever without Liberty first had and obtained in Writing of him, the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs or Assigns, under his or their Hands and Seal, or Seals; and if Liberty as aforesaid be obtained, that he the said Part of the second Part Executors, Administrators, and Assigns shall and will well and truly pay, or cause to be paid to him the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, the full equal third Part of the Money that shall be had for every Sale of the hereby demised Premises, or any Part thereof, he or they demanding the same, and also that he the said Part of the second Part Executors, Administrators and Assigns, shall and will well and sufficiently repair, amend, fence and keep at their own Costs and Charges, all the Gates, Posts, Bars, Rails, Bridges and Pales of and belonging to the said demised Premises, and all and singular the said Premises in a good and Husbandman-like Manner, and shall not during the said Term, break up, plough, sow or convert to Tillage, any Part or Field of the said demised Premises, more than once in every Seven Years, during the Term aforesaid: AND ALSO, that he the said Part of the second Part Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, shall not carry from off the said Demised Premises, or any Part thereof, any Wood, Stone, Soil, Dung, and other Manure there made, or thereon arising during the said Term, but the same shall use, spread and employ on the said Premises, or some Part thereof: AND FURTHER, that he the said Part of the second Part Executors, Administrators and Assigns, shall and will assign, and appropriate to some convenient Part of the aforesaid demised Premises, a Quantity not less than one fifth Part of the demised Premises, for the sole Purpose of raising Wood and Timber for Firewood, Fencing Stuff, and for the making and repairing Utensils of Husbandry, and all the other necessary Repairs that shall be wanted for the upholding the said Premises, during the Term aforesaid demised: And the same together with all and singular other the Premises, shall and will at the Expiration of the Term hereby granted, or whenever thereafter the same shall be demanded, by the Party of the first Part, his Heirs or Assigns, peaceably and quietly leave, yield, surrender and deliver up, unto the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs or Assigns, with all and every the Improvements thereon made, and the Houses, Buildings and Fences well and sufficiently repaired, and in good Order, without doing, committing, or suffing to be done or committed any Waste, Spoil, or Destruction, in and upon the said hereby demised Premises, or any Part thereof. AND the said Party of the first Part, for himself, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, doth hereby covenant and grant, to and with the said Part of the second Part Executors, Administrators and Assigns, in Manner and Form following, THAT IS TO SAY, That if at any Time or Times any Mines or Minerals shall be found or discovered on the Premises hereby demised, and he the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs or Assigns shall, in order to obtain the Benefit thereof incumber, spoil, or render useless any Part of the Premises hereby leased and demised, that then he or they shall or will for and during the Time, as the same shall be so incumbered, or rendered less useful, remit and abate so much of the yearly rent herein before reserved, in Proportion to the said yearly Rent, as the Land so incumbered, or rendered less useful, shall bear in Quantity and Quality to the whole of the Lands by these Presents demised. AND FURTHER, That he the said Part of the second Part Executors, Administrators and Assigns, for and under the yearly Rents payable in Manners as aforesaid, and on duly performing the Articles and Things herein covenanted, and agreed upon to be by him performed and done, shall, during the Term hereby demised, peaceably and quietly have, hold, possess and enjoy the Premises hereby demised, with the Appurtenances (except as before excepted) without the lawful Disturbance or Interruption of him, the said Party of the first Part, his Heirs or Assigns, or any other Person or Persons whomsoever. IN WITNESS whereof the Parties to these Presents have hereunto interchangeably set their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year first above written.

The said Lessee is allowed to build a saw Mill on the Stony Creek

Sealed and Delivered
In the Presence of

Sam. Verplanck

An Original Perpetual Rent Lease, Dated 1788, and Signed by Samuel Verplanck
Holder of a Large Share in the Hardenburgh Patent.

enburgh himself held only three-sixteenths of the property. Besides gaining title to this property by virtue of Queen Anne's grant the original patentees had to give satisfaction to the Indian landlord's by buying their interest from them. Hardenburgh made his purchase from Nanisimos. A violent dispute between the Indians and the white men sometimes grew out of such Indian sales. The red man, for want of a surveyor, designated the territory he wished to sell by pointing to the west and offering land in that direction as far as a man could travel in two day's time. The white man often abused these offers by hiring the swiftest runners and even posting them along the way so that they might spell each other and thereby cover the most land within the alloted time.

By various land transactions other well known landlords came to have title to large tracts of land in this area—John Hunter was one of these. John Hunter's wife was a daughter of James Desbrosses sometime owner of a good share of Great Lot Number Five of the Hardenburgh Patent. James Desbrosses died intestate and his lands were divided equally between his two daughters; Elizabeth Hunter and Charlotte Overing and conveyed on March 1, 1811 to their respective husbands. Soon after acquiring title to his 29,700 acres John Hunter employed Abel Sprague, one of the pioneers of the town, to cut out and make the Hunter Road over the old Sun Trail of the Indians. This was completed about 1815. This improvement brought the first real tide of pioneers to this territory. Early settlement had been somewhat slow for two important reasons.

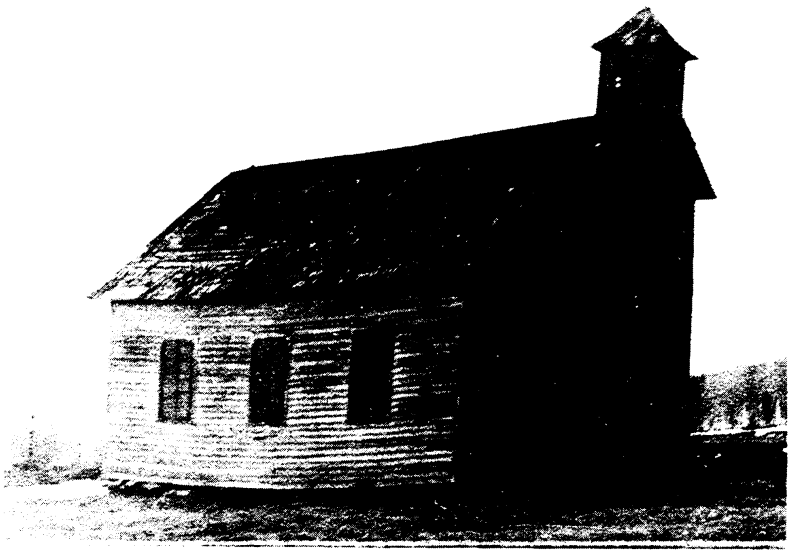
According to legend the white men were first told of the good flat lands along the rivers in Rockland by scouts who returned to Connecticut from here in 1776. No white men excepting trappers had attempted to pioneer in this area for a number of years because of the troublesome savages who camped here. When Jehial Stewart came in 1789 he was the first to surmount the other obstacle to settlement—that of natural barriers. The building of the Hunter Road did away, to a large extent, with the difficulty of travel and was perhaps the strongest encouraging factor to settlement.

Settlement was encouraged by the landlords who offered to sell their property at reasonable prices or to lease it on what, on the surface, appeared to be favorable terms. The Livingstons who owned a considerable part of these wild lands managed their affairs in such a way as to receive an income from them at the earliest possible moment. They sold a good deal of land outright at seventy-five cents per acre and offered much of their land on terms such as are indicated in this advertisement of 1808, published by John R. Livingston in the **Ulster Plebian:** "to be leased for three lives on the following terms, viz: Three years next after date of the lease, free—The fourth year at the rate of five bushels of wheat per hundred acres—Fifth year ten bushels per hundred acres—after which and during the continuance of the lease, fifteen bushels per hundred acres."

These terms seemed very favorable to the pioneer, who did not stop to reflect that $5.25 per year would pay the interest on 100 acres, whereas after the fifth year the wheat rent would amount to at least twenty dollars each year.

Other leases were much more onerous. In some instances, tenants were to lease the land forever, never to acquire title of property. They were obliged to pay an annual rent of wheat or some other commodity—sometimes "two fat fowls." They were not allowed to erect mills on the land nor could they transfer the lease without permission of the landlord. The mineral rights of the property was reserved for the lord. It was the duty of the tenant in some cases to plant an apple orchard of "one hundred thirty apple trees of good fruit, set out at the distance of at least thirty feet from each other and fenced in the regular manner in the form of an orchard." The rents were low or non-existent for the first several years of the lease, after which time they usually increased heavily.

Around 1839 the tenants throughout the state of New York became aroused at this continuance of the ancient patroon system. From Van Rensselaer County this discontent spread in an ever widening circle and the movement known as the Anti-Rent War was under way. In our school district the Union Church at Brown Settlement was one meeting place for the anti-renters. The tenant farmers who wished the rent abolished so that some day they might own the land met frequently and took strong measures for the serving of their interests. Some of them refused to join the movement. They were scorned as Tories and looked upon as "up-renters." In the anti-rent group there were two factions; one which sought to prove that perpetual rent was in itself a bad and illegal thing; and another which reasoned that since the land grant was the original source of the landlord's title and inasmuch as we had won freedom from the king who gave these titles, they should not be bound to pay rent to landlords who profited by the bounty of a monarch who no longer ruled this country.



Union Church at Brown Settlement



Disguises of the Anti-Renters, 1845.

The anti-renters had a newspaper which was published in Delhi and known as **The Voice of the People.**

Peaceful measures were favored by the tenants but they pressed their cause with vigor and made strong demands for an opportunity to purchase title to their lands in fee simple. Even those who found the annual rent a light burden felt that the system of perpetual rent was obnoxious to them. Supervisors and other officers were elected on the anti-rent ticket. Matt Decker's father was elected County Clerk of Sullivan County as the representative of that party.

Disguised as Indians organized bands of tenant farmers went to the aid of their neighbors when the sheriff came to disposses them. These disguises featured grotesque masks and calico clothes. We know them as the Sheepskin Indians.

Each farmer had in his home a tin horn to be blown to warn neighbors of the coming of the sheriff. In less troubled times these horns had been used to call the men for meals. Sheepskin Indians were soon on the scene to contest with the sheriff his right to disposses a neighboring tenant. He was ordered to cast his papers into a fire and go his way. If he refused, tar and feathers was the usual remedy. The same coat of tar and feathers was

meted out to up-renters who insisted on continuing to use the tin horns in their homes for calling men to meals instead of reserving them for use in spreading an alarm.

On one occasion a posse moving in the vicinity of Shin Creek valley found that the anti-renters had cut the sleepers on the bridge over Shin Creek at Lew Beach.

A climax was reached in the anti-rent war in 1845 when the Governor, as a result of the murder of Under-sheriff Steele, declared Delaware County to be in a state of insurrection. Sheriff More and a posse which included Steele had come to sell the property of Moses Earle of Andes. Several hundred Sheepskin Indians had gathered to prevent the sale. Warren P. Scudder, whose descendents still live in the Delaware County area of the Central School District, acted as chief of the Indians on that day. He was selected because all the men respected his determined character and knew that he would not back down and allow the Sheriff to carry out the sale. Steele tried to force a way to the road to lead the cattle out for auction and was fired upon. Seriously wounded in three places the sheriff died afted lying in agony for five hours. Two men were sentenced to be hanged and many were condemned to long terms of imprisonment, but all were later given clemency by the Governor. Warren Scudder went to the West where he remained for two years, and on his return he was immediately arrested but never brought to trial. A number of other families whose names have long been associated with the Andes and Hardenburgh townships took part in the anti-rent trouble and felt the distress of those unhappy years.

In 1846 the constitution of the State of New York was amended making perpetual rent illegal and holding the way open for all tenants to eventually gain title to their land. J. L. Henry of Kile Settlement has in his possession a satisfaction piece for one of these leases, signed by John Hunter Jr., which in effect is a deed to the property on which he now lives and shows the manner in which the new constitutional requirments were met.

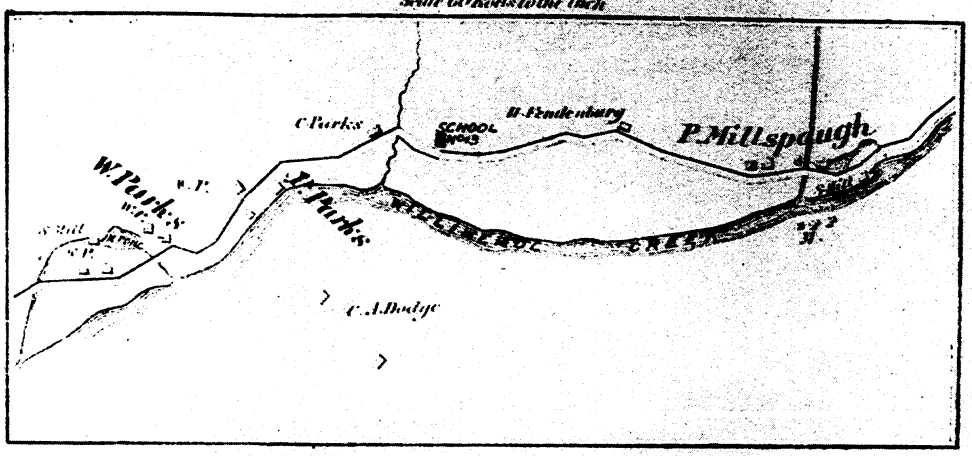
Early settlement in the Beaverkill valley began at Hardenburgh, Turnwood and Shin Creek. Hardenburgh derived its name from the original patentee, Johannes Hardenburgh. A small hand-turning mill situated near the covered bridge gave Turnwood its name. Shin Creek, on the Beaverkill, was later called Lew Beach to avoid confusing it with another community of the same name farther up the creek. Lewis K. Beach resided at Cornwall and was Congressman of the district of which this region was a part during President Cleveland's administration.

It is interesting to know the derivation of the names of some of the other early settlements. Beaverkill, both the river and the community, are so called because of the abundance of beaver found there. DeBruce is called after an early landowner, Elias Desbrosses, who also gave his name to Desbrosses Street in New York City. Medad T. Morss purchased a large tannery south of Livingston Manor which had been built by William Bradley of Parksville. The community which grew up around this tannery came to be known as Morsston. Purvis was an early name for what is now a part

WOOLSEYVILLE

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

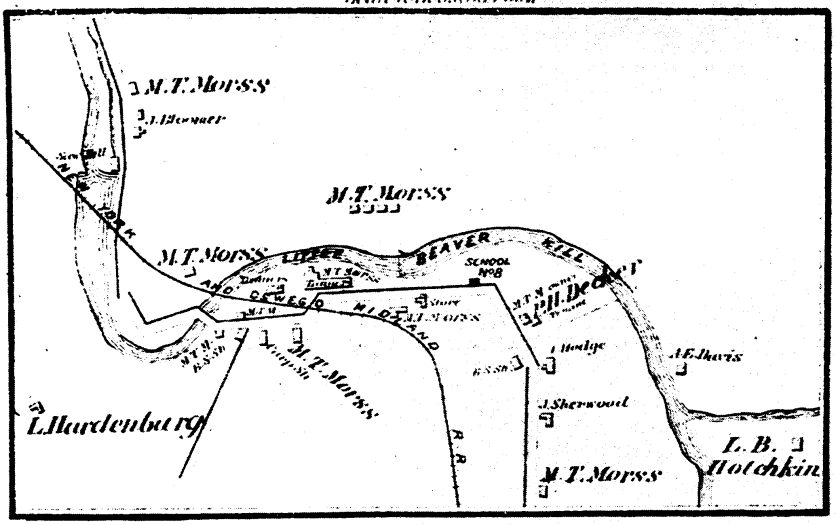
Scale 60 Rods to the inch



MORSSTON

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

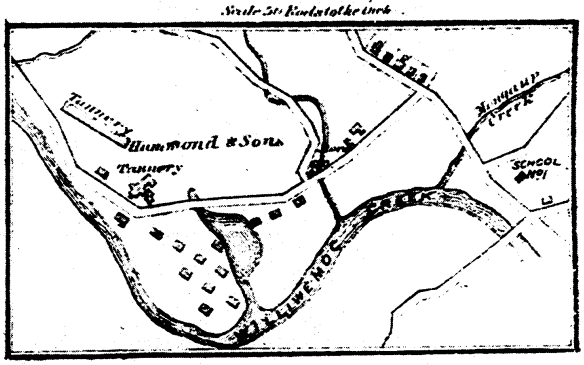
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DE BRUCE

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

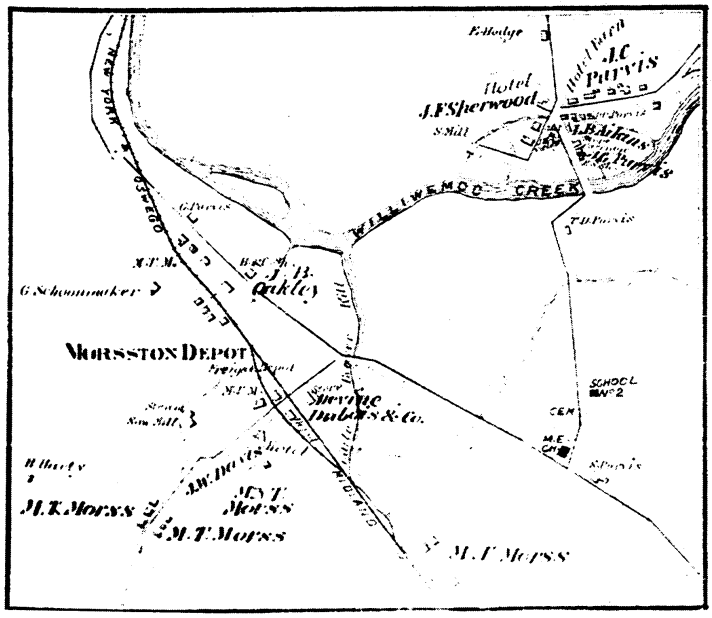
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PURVIS

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

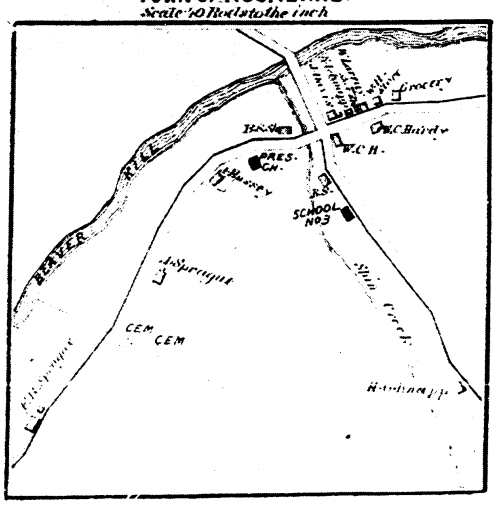
Scale 50 Rods to the inch



SHIN CREEK

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Scale 40 Rods to the inch



of Livingston Manor. At one time there were two men in this town by the name of Samuel Purvis: one was caretaker for the estate of Dr. Livingston for a number of years; the other was owner of a hotel. They were not related and, according to the older residents, it was after the latter Samuel Purvis that the village was named. The village of Willowemoc is named after a tribal group of the Lenni-Lenape Indians who inhabited that area. Emmonsville, latter changed to Grooville by the efforts of Judge Groo, a later landowner there, was originally named for Mr. Emmons who established one of the early acid factories at that point.

Lumbering ran the course of the nineteenth century as a major industry of this Central District. Sawmills were plentiful. Millions of feet of sawed timber were hauled from these mills to the banking grounds at Livingston Manor to be rafted down the Willowemoc as small colts to the East Branch where four of the colts were lashed together to make a full-sized raft. When the New York, Oswego and Midland Railroad—predecessor to the Ontario & Western was completed through the Manor in 1872 rafting activities declined until 1888 when the last raft was floated down the Willowemoc.

Saw mills were operated on the Little Beaverkill by George Young, Dan Ross, Lewis Hardenburgh and Joseph Bloomer. Medad T. Morss owned a steam sawmill at Morsston and another on the Cattail in the town of Callicoon. The Decker Bros. and William Pfleuger operated mills in the Willowemoc country. John Unkenholz on the Cattail; William Purvis in Jacktown; Joseph Mott at Frog's Hole; Peter Millspaugh at Parkston; Woolsey at Parkston and Medad T. Morss at Livingston Manor all were mill operators. Joseph Kinch had a mill at the outlet of Lake Juanita. The Sprague mill stood below Lew Beach and above that village was the Wamsley mill. On the Murdock place a mill was operated by Henry Barnhart. Amos Wamsley had a mill on the creek flowing from Alder Lake. The mills above this point on the river sent much of their timber overland to the East Branch to be rafted from there. Included in this group are the following: the Smith mill on the Alder Lake creek; the Murdock mill at Big Pond; the Tripp mill at Turnwood and the Jones mill on the Beaverkill falls.

Only soft woods—hemlock, pine, fir, spruce, basswood—were utilized in the early lumbering industry. Few maple or cherry trees were taken. One man by the name of Barr lumbered out over a million feet of fir from the swamp above Willowemoc. This was considered to be as fine a stand of fir as existed anywhere in the eastern United States. Most of this timber went into the making of masts and spars for the queenly clipper ships of that day.

With improvement of transportation facilities the lot of the pioneer grew easier, business began to boom and many new settlers came to share in the abundance. The Delhi and Esopus Turnpike, built in the early 1800's provided a transportation outlet to the north. From Turnwood settlers were connected with this highway by the Cross Mountain Road and once on it they might travel with comparative ease toward either Delhi in the west or Kingston in the east. Lumber for building the DuBois store in Livingston Manor was brought in over this turnpike in 1872.

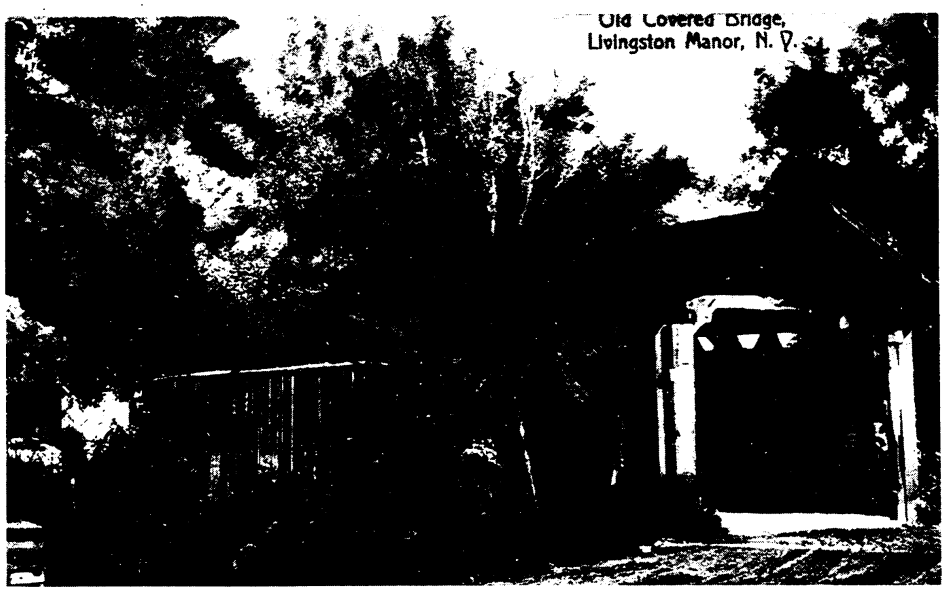
Most men either rode horseback or walked. One would have to want to ride very badly to have ridden in one of wagons or sleighs over the roads that at that time existed. Wagons had no springs and spring seats came only later. The stage coaches which wheeled over the turnpikes were, of course, exceptions in that they were far more comfortable than the average vehicle.

Roads were narrow and traveling with a team required carrying an ax to cut out of the road a tree that may have fallen. Early settlers always fed a stranger who might stop. Failure of a family to extend this hospitality brought to them a kind of disrepute. Commercial travelers found lodgings at a wayside Inn but travelers found hospitality to be almost a part of a pioneer's religion. When the supper dishes were cleared away the father and his family gathered about the fire to hear what news of the happenings along the way the stranger had brought with him. Such evenings contributed to the pioneer's education.

After three years in building the Delaware and Hudson Canal opened for business in October 1828. By following the Hunter Road and later the Pole Road the lumbering, tanning and other industries of this new country could reach this canal and make broad trading contracts to the east and south.

The Newburgh and Cochecton Turnpike, built about 1800, brought another avenue for travel and commerce. Returning riverman often walked this road on their way back into Sullivan County. After selling their rafts in Trenton or Philadelphia they made their way to the Hudson and followed that river to Newburgh and went west over the Turnpike.

Covered bridges provided safe passage over streams during the last century. These bridges of hand hewn timber fastened together with stout



Covered Bridge over Willowemoc at Livingston Manor

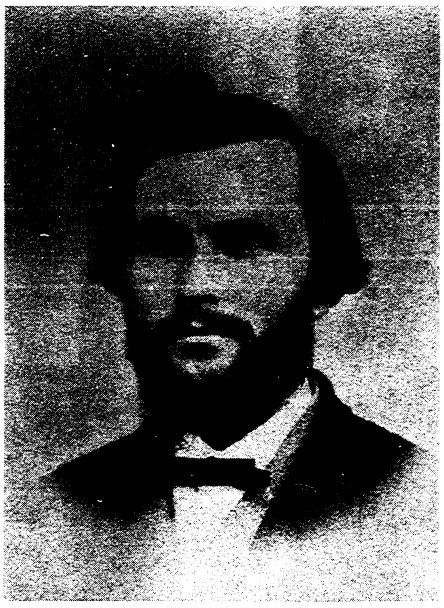
wooden pegs have stood the test of time. Today they are fast disappearing but they are a romantic symbol of the past.

Local roads were at one time maintained by farmers who enjoyed their use as an outlet—each former being responsible for the upkeep of 80 rods or some comparative distance of road. A number of roads were built by private enterprise. The Pole Road, built by Soddard Hammond in 1856 to link his DeBruce tannery with the toll road at Claryville, is perhaps the outstanding example of such an enterprise. This road was constructed of logs —rather than poles—laid side by side with their tops hewn to produce as uniformly flat a surface as possible. Although trees and underbrush have overgrown it leaving only a tunnel over what was the Pole Road, the logs encased in rich green moss are still visible in many places and are in a good state of preservation.

The statistics giving the number of sides of sole leather tanned during the boom years directly indicates the urgent need tanners of that day had for roads to draw their product to market and to bring in raw hides. In the following table the figures relate to the number of sides of leather tanned in Greene, Sullivan and Delaware Counties for a sample year of several score years during the last century.

1827	265,000 sides
1837	665,000 sides
1847	1,168,000 sides
1857	3,248,000 sides
1867	4,420,000 sides

Stoddard Hammond, in partnership with James Benedict, built one of the most extensive sole leather tanneries in the country at DeBruce when that region was a tangled wilderness. This tannery cost $70,000 to construct, employed 100 men and had a capacity of 60,000 sides per year. All of the hides used by these early tanneries came from Argentina. Three main outlets extended from DeBruce: east on the Pole Road to Claryville; south over the hill to Parksville; and later north to Roscoe and down the Gulf Road to the Erie Railroad at Callicoon. Benedict later withdrew from the tannery ownership and it was subsequently known as Hammond and Son. Stoddard Hammond also owned an acid factory at DeBruce and his son later built one at Willowemoc. For all his enterprise Mr. Hammond met financial reverses and was by no means a wealthy man at the time of his death.



Stoddard Hammond

Another tanner who, although



Medad T. Morss

wealthy and successful during his life, failed in later years was Medad T. Morss. At one time he was reputed to have been a millionaire four times over. He was perhaps the most active and widely known citizen in the county in his day. He was a man of unusual energy. He owned a store and tannery at Woodbourne, Morsston, Black Lake, and Beech Lake, Pennsylvania. To avoid carrying passengers he had a special single seat built on his buck-board. It was his custom to leave Woodbourne in this conveyance after supper and drive to his tanneries at Black Lake and Morsston during the night, returning the next day, He stayed in the tannery business too long, and was hit hard by the panic following the Civil War. He lost practically all his money and died a poor man.

The tanners were drawn here by the thousands of acres of hemlock in this area. Only the bark, offering a rich source of tannic acid, was used by the industry. Bark peeling was carried on only during the summer months.

John N. Bailey, now of Gaines, Pa., has described for us the tanning process as he knew it before he left DeBruce in 1881.

Tan bark was first ground in a mill something like a coffee grinder, only much larger. From this mill it was conveyed to a leach house where it was mixed with boiling water and kept there for about a week. After this time the liquor was ready to be piped to the tan yard as needed.

Hides, some weighing as much as 125 pounds, were first put in vats in the beam house and left for about one week. They were then taken out, pounded until soft and split down the middle into sides. The sides were next taken to the sweat pits and left for between five and eight days, according to the heat. To know when hides were ready to be taken from the sweat pits workmen rubbed a thumb over them. The odor on opening these pits was terrific and the hartshorn made the eyes smart badly. If hair could be rubbed off with the thumb the sides were ready to be milled, or pounded, to remove the bulk of the hair. Beam hands then went to work with their tools which were three in number; a flesher, worker and big knife to scrape and clean from the hide any remaining hair or flesh.

The handlers took the sides next and treated them to plump the hides —to open the pores so the leather would take the tan. A weak liquor solution was then run into the vats. Hides were thrown flat on the water by one workman. Another scattered a shovelful to tan bark over each as it sank. This bark kept the sides from setting too closely together. After three weeks the sides were turned over and the liquor made stronger. Again at the end of three weeks the hides were changed and laid down in strong liquor for three months.

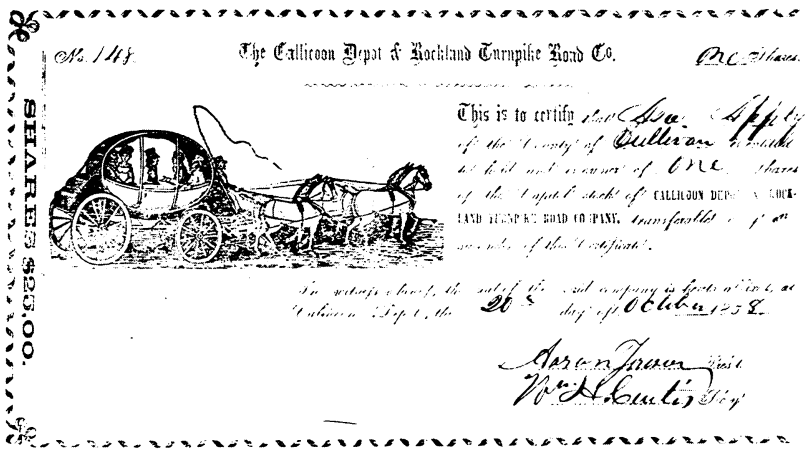
This ended the tanning and the hides were put in the loft to dry. When dry they were scrubbed and treated with fish oil and hung up again for a

short time. After this they were taken down for the last time and treated with tanners oil. Then they were rolled before being ready for the market. It is said that the man whose task it was to apply the fish oil was the worst smelling hand on the job. This unenviable reputation was held even in the face of the fact that very few tanners in their working outfits smelled like a Thanksgiving dinner.

Henry Ellsworth of Beaverkill was another famous tanner. His tannery was established before the DeBruce tannery. At that time hides were moved in and out over the Hunter Road. After 1851, then the Erie Railroad was built, Mr. Ellsworth sent his teams to Roscoe and down the Swamp Ridge Road through part of the Township of Fremont to the Station at Callicoon. Later the road was built lower in the valley and became known as the Gulf Road. A company known as The Callicoon Depot & Rockland Turnpike Road Co. sold shares of stock to raise funds for improving this road and as a toll road it came to be the main traveled road to the Erie railroad for the entire area. Callicoon Center profited by the travel because this became the stopping over place. Teams had to be stabled and fed and teamsters lodged.

Roscoe, Livingston Manor and Parksville had much in common in the early days. The three towns were isolated from the rest of the county before the coming of the Ontario and Western Railroad. The Masonic Lodge at Callicoon Center in 1861 was a major organizing force for the men of these towns when there were few outside social contacts. On the membership roll of that lodge the name of Wm. H. DeKay of Parksville appears. J. D. W. M. Decker of Deckertown is also listed as a member. Many other men from Livingston Manor, Lew Beach, Roscoe and other neighboring communities availed themselves of the opportunity to share in the fraternal and social advantages it offered. Attending lodge meetings in those days meant remaining for at least one night.

Many early settlers of Parksville, such as the Spragues, the Sherwoods, and the Stewarts, came out of the town of Rockland. This community was at one time a part of Rockland Township but was annexed to Liberty Township because no roads connected it with the rest of Rockland. Later traffic



Share of Turnpike Stock

from DeBruce, Brown Settlement and Willowemoc passed through Parksville. It prospered because of this and for years after the coming of the railroad was a more important trade center than Liberty. The coming of the railroad was heralded at Parksville as the advent of a new era and the village looked forward to the time when it would become a city. A parade led by a brass band marched through the village, upon the arrival of the first train, to herald this new day. Wm. G. Johnston, who has been a prominent Livingston Manor business man for many years was present on this occasion and remembers it very well.

In addition to the pioneer stock from the New England states many European immigrants came to settle in this locality. Most of these came after 1845 and were largely of German and Irish extraction. The Germans were refugees from the revolution of 1848. A number of these, such as Carl Schurz later became great American patriots. Many of them were highly educated and some had been professors in German Universities. In later years Germans came to escape compulsory military duty or in response to letters from relatives who wrote glowing reports of opportunities here. The Irish came because of the famine in their homeland. Although the potato was native to America, it came to be known as the staff of life for the Irish people because the climate and soil of their country was ideal for its culture, and the yield was immense. In 1845 the potato blight reached Ireland, the crop rotted and famine gripped the land.

The Germans and Irish went in large numbers to the tanning industry for employment. They did not rely solely upon this for support. They purchased land each year with the money they could spare from their wages. As their earnings from the tannery decreased with the decline of that industry, their farm incomes increased. Women and children did the farm and house work, while the men worked in the tanneries or bark woods. The cattle were red, suitable for producing good oxen and as soon as a pair of calves grew into oxen they were put to work earning for the family by hauling bark. Even cows were broken to the yoke to do farm work. By the time tanning ceased to be an important industry, these immigrants had become self sustaining.

From the very earliest days of settlement the white residents of this section have taken the fullest advantage of its hunting and fishing. The Indian too considered this as his fishing and hunting paradise and it seems that he came here for this recreation.

Originally only brook trout were here. Now there are also German brown and some rainbow trout. These streams have been fished by fishermen who have followed the sport of Isaac Walton the world over and they all agree that no one can lay claim to knowing much about trout fishing who has not heard of the Willowemoc and Beaverkill streams.

Along both these streams many fine estates and fishing clubs have been founded by wealthy people. Owners in these valleys include: John T. Foote, Irving Berlin, John R. Mott, Chas. B. Ward, E. C. Dickerhoff, P. H. Flynn, Warren Sumner, Mrs. Jenny Henderson. Fishing clubs such as: Fontinalis, Balsam Lake, Orchard Lake, Beaverkill, and Beecher Lake have been established for a great many years. Some others who have fished or made

their homes along the streams in our district are: Malcom D. Whitman, famous tennis star; Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.; Kingdon Gould; Gifford A. Cochran, famous yachtsman; Arthur H. Marks, Pres. of Skinner Organ Company; Joseph P. Knapp, President American Lithograph Company; Dr. Henry Van Dyke, author; Walther M. Van Orden; Col. Charles H. O'Dell; Frederick G. Moore.

There are many summer camps within the bounds of our district. About 3,000 boys and girls can be accommodated at one time in these camps. The Orange-Sullivan Boy Scout Camps are at Hunter Lake; Camp Townsend and Spruce Ridge Camp. Other important camps are: St. John's Camp; Our Lady of Lourdes, and Acadia above Grooville; Maple Lake Camp at Grooville; Camp Nimrod at Old Morsston; Camp Raleigh at Grooville; Camp Winnipeg at Amber Lake.

Beecher Lake is named after James Beecher, brother of Henry Ward Beecher, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. An interesting fact concerning the Beecher family is that all eight sons were clergymen. While at Beecher Lake, James used to preach in the Hardenburgh school house. On one occasion he lost track of the days and surprised the neighboring farmers by showing up on Monday to preach his weekly sermon. Advised of his error he returned home to a lone observance of his tardy sabbath.

The most plentiful game ever known to inhabit this region were the passenger pigeons, a species now extinct. Audubon has described flights of these birds which he witnessed in his time. One flock was estimated by him to include 1,115,136,000 birds. Such a flock would consume over eight and one-half million bushels of food each day. The last known survivor of this species died in the Zoological Gardens in Cincinnati during the summer of 1914.

The passenger pigeon was a large, slender bird, having a small head, a notched beak turned at the base, short legs and a long slender tail. It was a beautiful, finely colored bird and its movements depended on the failure of a supply of food in one locality and the necessity of seeking it in another. They were at-



A Family of Clergymen

A Family of Clergymen

tracted to our district by the abundance of beech nuts.

These birds often put as many as one hundred nests in a single tree. They frequently flew in flocks of eight to ten miles long and in some of their movements they have been known to darken a strip of sky one mile broad and more than one hundred and fifty miles long. When they visited a community it was sometimes necessary for lamps to be lighted in the daytime.

Commercially minded men were attracted to this great natural food resource and killed off the birds in large numbers for sale to restaurants and hotels. The complete disappearance of a bird once so plentiful is almost unexplainable. It was sudden and no one has the least idea where they went, but it is another proof of the fact that biological bankruptcy always follows any attempt to commercialize wild life.

The mountains in back of DeBruce, up along Shin Creek, and the region that runs from Turnwood to Hardenburgh were favorite nesting grounds of the passenger pigeons in our area. Mrs. Ada Sprague has given us the following story of her recollection of these birds:

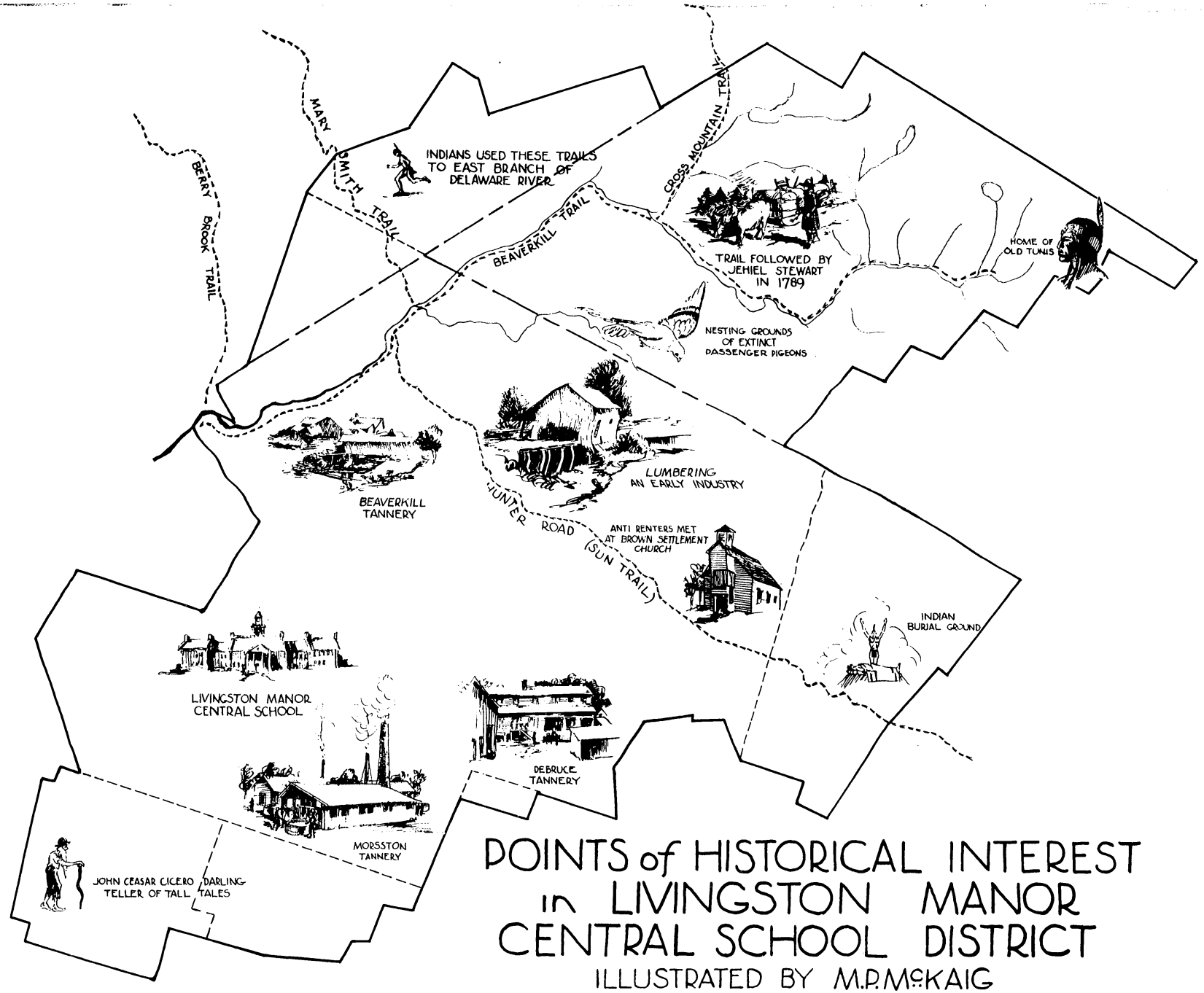
"When I was about thirteen years old (I am now seventy-nine) or about 1873, there came a great flock of pigeons to my father's farm (James Clayton) which was located on upper Shin Creek. They built nests in the trees which looked like a robin's nest except that it was larger. Where these pigeons came from, no one knew. They were so thick that when you went near their nesting places the air was black with them. They would fly at you and make a terrible noise.

"Along about the middle of the summer, six men came to my father's house (loghouse) to get board and lodging. They were going to catch pigeons. They built huge nets. In the middle of the net they placed buckwheat to attract the pigeons. The pigeons were skeptical and did not land in the net. The men caught a few and put them in a cage. They took these and sewed their eyelids together and placed them on a high pole. When the flock would circle over that spot where the net was located, the men would jar the pigeons off the perch from which they fluttered to the net. Great numbers of pigeons would follow and the nets were thrown over them. (The captive birds were killed by crushing their heads between the thumb and forefinger.) They were then dressed and put down in barrels for shipment to restaurants in New York. Some hunters only packed the breasts of the pigeons for shipment.

"The pigeons whose eyelids were sewed shut were called 'stool pigeons'. At night the stitches were taken from their eyes so that they might see to eat. (James Costello tells of stealing a pair of these stool pigeons. His mother sent him back with them but, fearing the anger of the pigeon hunters, he gave the birds their freedom and washed his hands of the matter in that way.) Not content alone with the larger birds hunters finally even climbed the trees and took the young squabs from the nests.

Roads were actually cut into the mountains to carry out the immense loads of pigeons. In addition to this food traffic hunters also caught and delivered live pigeons to shooting clubs.

Early industry developed because of abundant forest resources. At first the projects were small and were carried on in the home. Shingles, scoops,



POINTS of HISTORICAL INTEREST in LIVINGSTON MANOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ILLUSTRATED BY M.P.McKAIG

trays, hoops and brooms were all produced at one time by individuals who turned out these money products during the winter months when farm work was less urgent. The scoops were carved by hand from cherry or maple. They were of varied sizes and were widely used in grocery stores for the vending of bulk goods. They also had wide use in handling grain and later became the safest type of shovel for use in powder mills. Frank Conklin of Willowemoc still makes these scoops and has made six a day for over fifty years.

At one time shingles were shaved from native hemlock. These shingles were from 12 to 24 inches long and from ½ to 1½ inches thick. From the standpoint of durability these shaved shingles may be considered to be superior to the sawed cedar shingles in use today. Simeon Simpson, most frequently known as "Simmie", a native of the Willowemoc valley, is one of the few former craftsman who still engages in this art.

There was a time before the coming of wire and steel bands when practically every farmer made barrel hoops. These were brought from the woods in the shape of hoop poles of birch about 2 to 2½ inches thick at the butt and as long as possible—provided the pole did not taper too sharply.

These hoop-poles were split lengthwise and yielded 3 and 4 foot lengths of hoop strips. The usual pay for such work was 2 or 3 dollars per thousand and a man usually made about one thousand hoops in the course of a day.

Housewives contributed to the family income by knitting fringe mittens of wool obtained from the sheep of their farms. Many mothers were able to knit as many as a pair a day and sold them for about sixty cents each. The mittens were knitted plain or in color—sometimes stripped, or with a gay shade of wrist band. In the process of knitting, loops were made to stand out all over the surface of the mitten. On its completion the loops were cut and the entire outer part of the mitten was covered with a fuzzy layer of fringe. In former days these mittens were much prized by teamsters and they found particular favor among farmers who were engaged in cutting ice. Nowadays a large quantity of fringe mittens still have a market. Many New York department stores and large sporting goods houses retail such mittens to hunters and skiiers for three or more dollars.



Frank Conklin

An important tray factory was established at Willowemoc about eighty years age. During good years enough raw material was required to have sixty teams go out from this factory every day for loads of

wood. Above Shin Creek one valley was so noted for the turning of trays and wooden bowls that it became known as, and today is still called, Tray Valley.

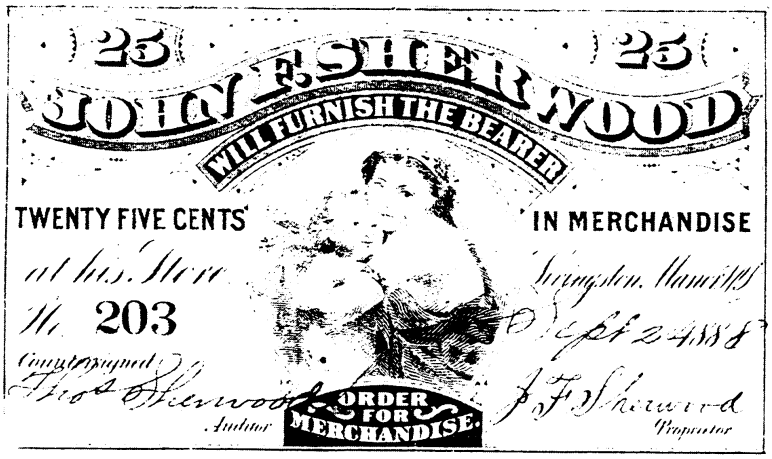
Turning mills have flourished at various points in the district. The Koons' Mill at Grooville has been important for the turning of table legs.



The Raceway

In Livingston Manor John Fanton Sherwood began his mill on the raceway in back of the Island in 1868. With a second-hand hand turner from Big Indian he started making table legs out of maple. From this start he developed it to twenty-two hand turners and made other articles such as Indian clubs, dumbells, and baseball bats. When the water froze on the Delaware-Hudson canal about sixty or more teams were brought up from Ellenville to be used during the winter in drawing logs from the old protectory hill. Until 1900 all Spaulding baseball bats were made in this factory in back of the Island. Until that time only a few bowling pins were made. About 1905 Mr. Sherwood moved his factory to the building formerly occupied by the Merkland Furniture Co. and continued turning out sporting goods and ten pins. In 1916 this factory was completely wiped out by fire. The site of the present Sherwood factory was then occupied.

During the war they offered their factory to the government and were awarded a sub-contract for the making of cap blocks, iron bound wooden blocks used in Navy yards in pile-driving. At the termination of the war the factory went into the manufacture of bowling pins and continues today in turning out first grade ten pins of rock maple with a production capacity



Script issued by J. F. Sherwood



Pins in the Rough

of over five thousand per day.

About 1875 Stoddard Hammond established the factory at Livingston Manor which today is operated by the Treyz family. This factory utilizes only hardwoods: beech, birch, maple, and some black cherry. The major products of the acid factory are: charcoal which is used by steel mills in the production of steel; wood acetate, a valuable chemical in the manufacture of acetic acid and an ingredient in many high explosives; and alcohol which is used as an anti-freeze.

A creosoting plant is operated on the flats above Livingston Manor. Here railroad ties and telephone poles are treated with this preservative.

In 1903 an attempt was made to raise angora goats at DeBruce. Congressman C. B. Ward shipped 2,600 such goats from Silver City, New Mexico to Livingston Manor in September of that year. They were unloaded at the station in Livingston Manor and driven along the road to DeBruce by cowboys that Mr. Ward had brought from the West to care for the herd. Many of the goats died and he sold out inside of three years. Some say that the goats ate the laurel on their range and were poisoned by it. Mr. Ward contends that he did not have enough range for so many and that a small number would have thrived.

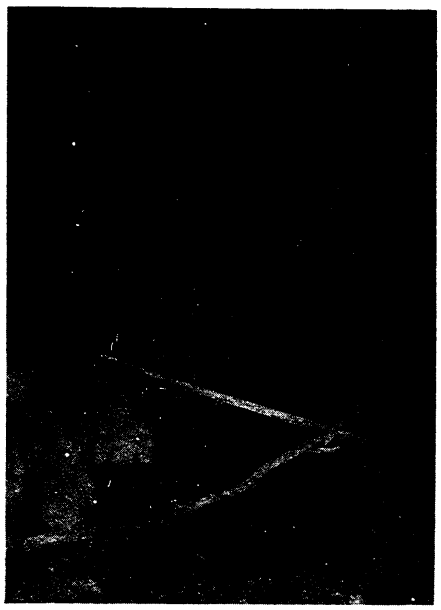
Bluestone has been quarried around the Livingston Manor area for a good many years. One quarry was situated on the lower part of the Shandelee hill, another was operated by Monroe H. Wright on his farm. The sidewalks of New York were largely a product of northern Sullivan County.

A large fish hatchery on the Robert Ward estate at DeBruce continues producing stock fish by the thousands each year.

Attempts have been made at various intervals to discover mineral resources in the district. Stories of rich gold, lead, and coal deposits have cropped up from time to time. Several years ago a tunnel was dug about sixty feet into the side of a hill near the



John Baldwin, Sr.
with one of Ward's goats.



Coal Mine at Millowemoc

falls above Willowemoc in an effort to find coal. A Mr. Moffat filed a mining claim in the County Clerk's office protecting his rights in this potential mine, but the venture has gone no further.

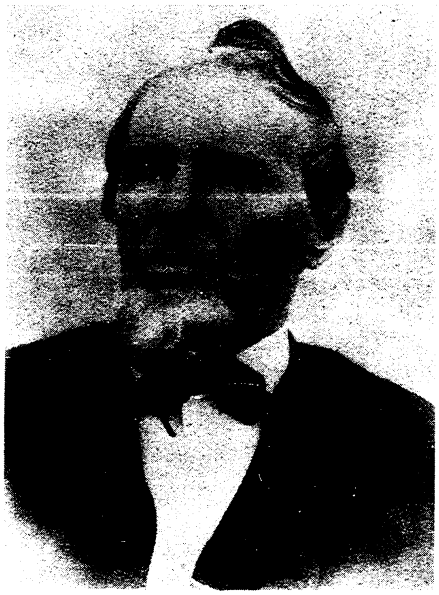
During the warm months large shipments of ferns, moss, princess pine, and evergreen boughs are shipped to the New York florists. A skilled fern-picker can gather as many as 10,000 ferns in a single day. Each winter great truckloads of Christmas trees leave here to provide the homes in the cities with the universal symbol of the yuletide.

Nathan Murdock, father of Mrs. W. H. McGrath, and brother of James Murdock, prominent landowner and lumberman on the Beaverkill, operated a tavern in the early days on land now owned by Jack Moris and the Barker family. Donation parties and oyster suppers were frequently held here. It was also a favorite stopping place for travelers. Drovers from Ohio with one hundred or more head of cattle or sheep often stopped here.

A gigantic hotel industry has since developed in the central district. At one time there were only boarding house which catered to summer boarders, hunters and fishermen. Guests were brought by carriage from the Erie station at Callicoon. Joseph Jefferson, the character actor was a famous visitor during these first years. Now many homes such as Wright's Farm provide comfortable havens to which hunters and fishermen come in large numbers to enjoy the sport of wood and stream during the open season.

Summer hotels attract a vast army of vacationists. At such hostelries the visitor finds every advantage of rural life coupled with the conveniences and amusements of the city. Facilities are provided for swimming, boating, dancing, dramatic productions, athletic recreation —in fact, the fullest enjoyment of a restful stay at a mountain resort.

One of the most interesting places in this part of the state is "The John Karst Museum" at DeBruce. Miss Esther Karst, daughter of the famous maker of wood-cuts, who illustrated the McGuffey Readers, has here collected countless antiques and relics of the past.



James Murdock

Dr. Edward R. Livingston was a son of John R. Livingston and resided at our Livingston Manor on the site of the present Manor House or John R. Baldwin property. Of him, Quinlan in his history of Sullivan County, says; "He was a member of one of the most distinguished families in the State. There was no society however exclusive which did not welcome him to its charming circle. He married a lady of his own station in life. Both were rich and both had reason to anticipate a large measure of the pleasure of this world. But for some unexplained cause she became hoplessly insane and spent the remainder of her days in an asylum." "Except at brief intervals he lived at Purvis for 40 years. He was noted for his liberality to the Church (Methodist) at Purvis, for kindness to the poor, and for spending large sums of money in building and improving the place."

He would not permit any warmed-up portions of food to be served him; and it is said the same roast fowl or turkey never appeared on his table but once, regardless of the fact that he might be dining alone. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and fished with the Frenchman De Chandla for whom Shandelee Lake is named. He was not a 'teetotler' as an old day-book of the store kept by William Sprague at Lower Westfield shows an entry of July 8th, 1824: "Edward Livingston Dr. to 2½ gals. of whiskey at 4 shilling per gal. 10 shillings; ½ lb. Tobacco at 1 shilling; total 10 shilling 6 pence.

The gates to the Manor House were located above the bridge which now spans the Little Beaverkill. From this point to the house the road was lined with maples.

Dr. Livingston's Uncle, Robert R. administered the oath of office to President Washington on his first inaugeration in 1790. He was minister to France from 1801 to 1804, and probably to him more than to any other man was due the successful negotiations culminating in the Louisianna Purchase.

The names of twenty-seven Livingstons appear on the muster rolls of New York in the Revolution. Eight of these were officers including three colonels.

Dr. Edward Livingston was proud of his horsemanship, and was something of a painter,—infact, he seemed to have talents in various directions. He died without direct heirs; but his pride of family prompted him to attempt to entail his property,



Dr. Edward Livingston



The U. S. Mail.

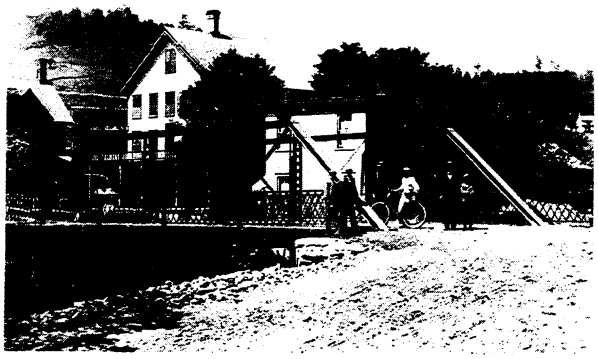
which resulted in extended and unhappy litigation for the present land owners in Livingston Manor with his grand-nephew.

Part of the recreational equipment of Edward Livingston's home included a bowling alley—a fact unwittingly prophetic of a great future industry of the town. This bowling alley was later converted into a cottage for a resident of the village. Legend has it that the door knobs of this building were of solid silver and that this was accidentally discovered by the woman of the house when she was cleaning what she had thought to be ordinary door knobs that were covered with a coat of paint.

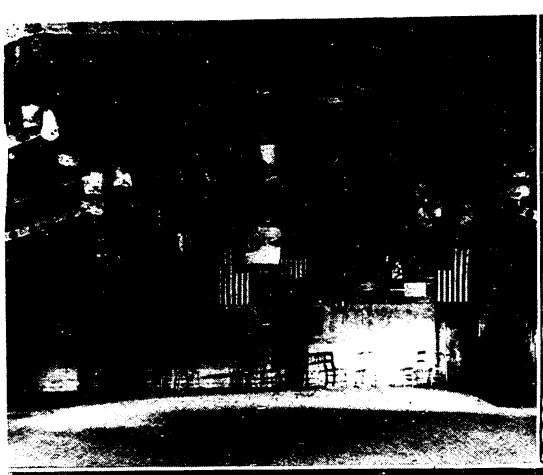
Mail was first carried by horseback riders and later by buckboard but the service was weekly or bi-weekly. Salaries of Postmasters in 1870 indicate the amount of mail traffic that existed. In Beaverkill the salary was $15. per year. It was the same in DeBruce. At Morsston and Purvis it was $11. Shin Creek Paid $19., and Turnwood paid $47. At Parksville the salary was $100 per annum. No Post Office existed at Livingston Manor at that time.

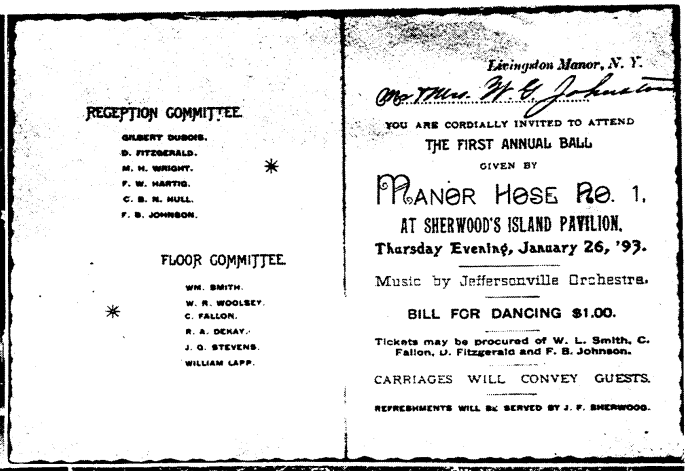
In 1840 when Liberty and Monticello were wrangling over which site was the more desirable for the location of the county seat, a humorous deviation from the proceedings was brought about by a Mr. Wheeler of our district when he nominated Brown Settlement hill as the most logical site to be honored with the county offices. It was his waggish contention that this spot would mean economy to the county. With the court house, jail and other units located there the sheriff would be able to intercept all who wished to escape into Delaware County to avoid paying their debts and lodge them in jail at a minimum of expense.

In our present district there were a number of common schools which no longer exist. Both Brown and Kile Settlements had schools. A school existed at one time on Conklin Hill near DeBruce. The Blue Hill School district now included in Willowemoc was situated about two miles east of the village on the Hunter Road. For about four years a school was operated at Pflugertown. The Balsam Lake school was joined with Hardenburgh many years ago.



Former Bridge on Main St.









Island Casino
Jack Sherwood and his entertainers.

Invitation to First Firemen's Ball
One of the famous "Bakes" on the Island.

The most recently organized school district was Grooville. Common schools now included in the L. M. C. S. District are: Hardenburgh, Turnwood, Beech Hill, Yorktown, Lew Beach, Shin Creek, Beaverkill, Little Ireland, Hazel, Shandelee, Parkston, Old Morsston, Grooville, DeBruce, and Willowemoc.

School was first held in Livingston Manor in the Dr. Livingston farm house on what is now Bruce Davidson's property, corner of Church and Main Streets. Later it was held at Red House place, now the Louis Schweimler property south of the village on Route 17. The first school house was built on Jacob Mott's land down by the School House Brook. Later a one room building was erected next to the Presbyterian Church. The one-room structure was supplanted by a two room building in which both Mr. and Mrs. W. H. McGrath were teachers. Before 1894 two more rooms were added and Mr. M. H. Wright was principal. Other teachers up to this time (1894) were Mary Davis, Wm. Murphy, Mrs. Cyrus Mott, Almeda Martin, Joseph Apply, Geo. Woolsey, Miss Seeley, Grace Cochran, Miss Little, Miss Lighthall, Grace Davidson, Herber Russell, and Addie Bussey. This building was demolished and parts of it were turned into dwellings about the village. The recently vacated building was erected about 35 years ago and the brick annex was built in 1928. The children left these structures at 2 P. M. on Feb. 20, 1939 to occupy the newly completed central school building on the Island. Colored moving pictures of this event were taken and are being kept on file as a historical record of the day. Livingston Manor has been fortunate in having many educational leaders. At one time four county School Commissioners



made their homes here: M. H. Wright, H. J. Knoll, Volney Vorhess, and George S. Woolsey.

Mr. Wright gives us the following information concerning the Island when it was a recreational center for this part of the State: "When Jack Sherwood owned the Island he made it famous with his clambakes. The annual bake held for the O. & W. R. R. conductors was an immense affair calling together men and women of distinction from the entire line of the railroad. Enough linen, silver and crockery was provided to accomodate 2200 people at a sitting.

"Later the Agricultural Society built a race track and held fairs and race meetings for prizes and purses of money. Many fast horses of that day or any day performed. We call to mind Wall Davis' 'Cricket', the Hagan mare, 'Flora H', 'Britto', and John Watson's 'Tobaggan', and Webb. Sherwood's 'Gypsy Queen'. Early mornings we used to watch Davis and John Brooks, two Grand Army men, train their horses at 2-10 clips on this old track. Peter Parks, long a leading citizen of the village was president of this



An Early Manor Team



"Kip"

society. Mr. Eastman, ever alive in matters of this kind, gave time and energy to make it a success."

Many fine ball teams had victorious seasons on the Island Ball Park. At one time the team was known as the "Spaldings" and the mainstays of the team were Cotter and Etts.

Jack Sherwood brought the lumber from the Old Protectory after the Christian Brothers abandoned it in 1884 and used much of the timber to build his casino on the spot now occupied by the parking lot of the new school. There amateur shows, dances and basketball games were held until the building was taken down about one year ago.

During the last century most men wore heavy leather boots rather than shoes. On social occasions the pant legs were very likely to be outside the boot tops, but when the men were about the main business of life the pant legs were tucked inside. To say they wore their "pants in their boots" expressed a particular type of man.

The country store was the principal gathering place for the men of each community. Here they used to sit around on low benches not too far from the cracker barrel. Those who could not find a seat on the benches sat on blocks of wood or other make-shifts. It was not at all uncommon to see men sitting on their haunches. In gatherings of this kind dominoes was a popular game. Tobacco chewing was an art.

Many fine story tellers developed their magic yarns in this atmosphere. John Darling of Shandelee told the biggest whoppers. His tall stories attracted the notice of Carl Carmer and a sample of his work was included in "Listen For a Lonesome Drum". One of his very tallest explains about the trouble he once had shingling a roof in a thick fog. In fact, the fog was so thick he found when it lifted that he had shingled beyond the edge of the roof and had six foot of shingled fog to show for it.

Kip Whipple of Brown Settlement, horse trainer extraordinary, unfolded many a fine story from behind his majestic, flowing beard. His companionship as a wit was sought. He loved and always drove a team of spirited horses that responded to his mastery at the reins. He greatly relished buckwheat cakes and maple syrup. Each spring he came to town to get his whiskers trimmed.



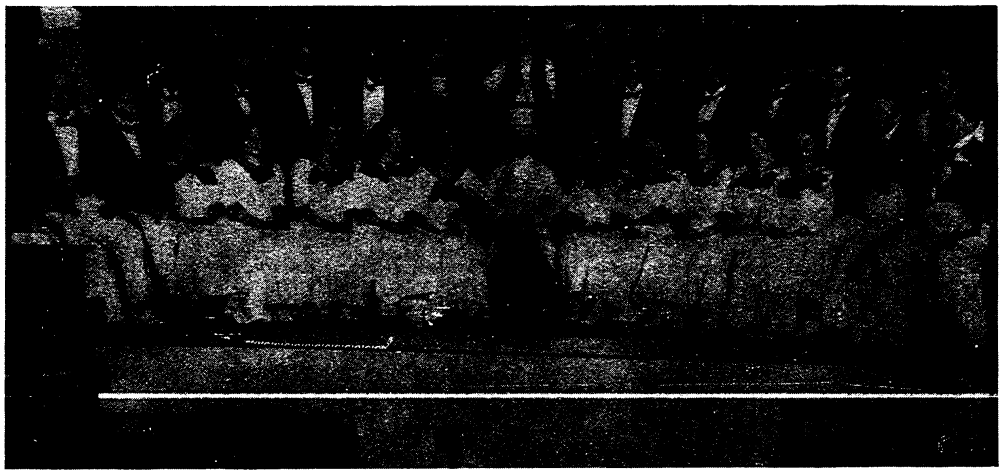
"All of Neversink"—Famous Painting of a Typical Gathering.



He took the remnants home to his sister who tried them out. They usually yielded about four pounds of maple syrup. This is his story.

Two of the most famous and best loved merchants and country storekeepers were John D. W. M. (Alphabet) Decker and his brother Matt. John was the proprietor of a store and the post master of Purvis Post Office then located in Deckertown. A story is told of the volume of business he had one day at mail time. After he stored the mail and the store was clear of customers he discovered that a sack of flour was missing. Unable to determine who had taken it he billed twenty customers for the flour, collected from nineteen and ever after felt that the one who failed to pay was the guilty person. From this episode a local expression has grown. Now when a man has more customers than he can wait on he says he is doing a "John Decker business."

Matt Decker began his business career in the Army. As an enterprising Union private he had cases of apples shipped to him and retailed them to fellow soldiers. At the end of the war he began business with a fox skin which he sold for $9, reinvested in calves and made a profit on them as he did on almost anything he touched in his later years as a trader in Willo-



wemoc. Farmers could bring anything they produced to him—butter or maple syrup; hoops or wooden scoops, and be sure of a fair trade. He took whatever was offered whether he saw an immediate use for it or not.

Lonny Briggs was a contemporary of Matt's who was sometimes known as the Hoop Pole King. Matt considered him an excellent victim for a joke now and then. One day a man came into Decker's store and asked the price of a pair of boots which normally sold for $6.50.

"They're $5.00," Mr. Decker said.

The would-be customer looked around the store for a few minutes and then went out. Matt turned to a visiting store-keeper from Roscoe. "That about what you get for them down your way, young fellow?" he asked.

The merchant visitor had to admit he got even more than that.

"So do I," grinned Matt, but he's one of Lonny Brigg's customers and I want to give them something to talk about up in Clareyville."

Matt Decker was active in politics and at one time would have been run on the Republican ticket as Lieutenant Governer of New York if he had not declined the honor. Before the nomination got out of his hands he began to realize that becoming Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York would mean that he had to leave Willowemoc. That was unthinkable to Matt.

Today the tanneries are gone and the mill ponds are drained. The events of bygone days are fast being forgotten in a time of new industry and enterprise. It is my hope that a more comprehensive treatment of the subjects presented here may result from these brief historical notes.

The State is now aiding the conservation and development of our resources. Conservation is the keynote of modern living—here as in the rest of the world—to us this means conservation of all that makes our land beautiful; the woods, the streams, fish, and game, so that for all who come here life may hold the charm and solace it held for James Beecher, the minister from Beecher Lake, when life moved so gently that he did not notice each days passing and mistook a Monday for a Sunday.



Many graduates of Livingston Manor's academic department have given their aid in preparing this list of names of those who have earned their diplomas at Livingston Manor. Every effort has been made to see that it is a complete list and that no former student has been forgotten. With a hope that no omissions have occured the roll of graduates is presented on the following pages.

The earliest recorded class, that of 1905, graduated only Amelia Fitzgerald. Before that it is known that Louis Murdock, Myra Hodge, and Florence Yonker, now Sr. M. Philomena, O.S.D., were graduated. In 1906 four were graduated; Virginia Barker, Estella Smith, Geo. Benton, Josephine McGrath.

A certificate issued by the State Department of Education in 1909 states that in that year Livingston Manor became a Senior School and, as an accredited High School, graduated its first class since 1906. Two were graduated: Lulu Robinson Cuyler of Bloomfield, New Jersey, and Alice Gray Burgess of Oneida, N. Y.

1910—Bardsley, Frances Yonker—Teacher in N. Y. C.; Bowen, Helen; Hodge, Ruth.

1911—Bowen, Susan; *Collins, Maurice J.; *Fitzgerald, Mary C.; Reynolds, Hazel E.—N. Y. S.; Treyz, Harry A.—Livingston Manor.

1912—Durland, Gladys Chase—Monticello, N. Y.; Pine, Emma Smith —Walton, N. Y.; Wollsey, Ruth—Vermont.

1913—Alexander, Inez Corgill—Livingston Manor; Bardenstein, Mathilda—Attorney at Law, Principal of Los Angeles City Schools, Los Angeles, Cal.; Fitzgerald, Leo—Attorney in N. Y. C.; Katz, Aaron; Katz, Pauline; Keeler, Adda Moshier—Youngsville; Verdenburgh, Florence Smith—Livingston Manor.

1914—McCune, Stanley—Navy Dept.—Washington, D. C.; Smith Louis E.—Fort Thomas, Ky.; Younkeer, Robert—N. Y. C.; *Younkeer, Maybelle Millspaugh; Sherwood Bessie—Nurse Johns Hopkins, Baltimore; Yonker, Ellen—Yonkers.

1915—Davidson, Don—Delancy, N. Y.; Davidson, Elizabeth Trenz—March Field Cal.; Denike, Edythe Green—Nurse, Belleville, N. J.; Johnston Roy C.—County Treasurer, Livingston Manor.

1916—Benjamin, Marjorie—Binghamton; Fitzgerald, William—Attorney—N. Y. C.; McGrath, Mary—Teacher, N. Y. C.; Pope, Pearl Bardenstein—Hollis, L. I.; Riley, Elsie; Smith, Wilfred—Vice-President and Cashier Livingston Manor Bank; Wilkinson, Ruth Lincoln—N. Y. C.

1917—*Finch, Pearl; Friedman, Dr. Harry—Dentist, Brooklyn.

1918—*Swarthout, Mildred McCune.

1919—Fitzgerald, Eleanor—N. Y. C.; Sprague, Hilda Woolsey—Scranton, Penna.

1920—Schriber, Chandler; Treyz, Lillian—School Nurse, Jackson Heights; Unkenholtz, Eleanor Roberts—N. Y. C.; Ackerly, Lucy—Secretary Liberty, N. Y.; Smith, Frances—Nurse—Utica; Green Gladys.

1921—Barnhart, Grace Denman—Lew Beach, N. Y.; Denman, Aquila —Doctor, Livingston Manor, N. Y.; Hoos, J. Fred—Baker, Livingston Manor; McGrath, William—Chemist, N. Y. S. Racing Commission; Reynolds Lester.

1922—Orman, Louise Brown—Livingston Manor; Wright, Muriel Davis —Maplewood, N. J.; Rose, Henrietta Hoos—Livingston Manor; Hoffman, Mildred Yorks, N. Y. C.; Johnston, William—Livingston Manor, Johnston & Johnston; Reich, Louis—Livingston Manor, Accountant; Van DeCar, Marion Misner—Lakewood, Ohio.

1923—Benton, Reginald—Teacher, Bay Shore, L. I.; *Bucken, Max; Rice, Julia Bussey—Teacher, Old Morsston; Lyman, Beatrice Davidson, Livingston Manor; Benedict, Emelie DuBois—Syracuse U. Library; Johnston, Mary—Nurse, Livingston Manor Central School; Morris, Dorothy Loucks—Oneonta; Love, Bertha; Allen, Louise Rose—Livingston Manor; Sherwood, Frances Husch—Livingston Manor.

1924—DuBois, Dorothy—Plainfield, N. J.; Poly, Hilda Husch—Youngsville; Lare, Edith; Madow, Rose; Many, Millard; Sorkin, Lillian—Social worker, Chicago; Turner, Russell—General Electric, Schenectady; Smith, Freda Vogt—Livingston Manor, N. Y.; Weiner, Julius—Attorney, Livingston Manor.

1925—Solomon, Clare Davis—N. Y. C.; *Gray, Harold; Burns, Ruth Green, Liberty; Litchman, Ida—Long Island; Sherwood, Maybelle, N. Y. C.

1926—Allison Mattie; Baldwin, Chas. Roderick—Post Office, Livingston Manor; Wonnberger, Annetta Bouton—Bloomfield Hills, Michigan;

*Deceased

Cohen Oree; Koons, Inez Cutler—Grooville; Denman, Lewis—Teacher, Youngsville Central School; Dutcher, Fred—Livingston Manor; Bulson, Edna Finkle—Peekskill, N. Y.; McDonough, Irene McGrath—Denver, Colorado; Peters Emil E., Jr.—Attorney, Schenectady; Sheridan, Helen—National Broadcasting Co., N. Y. C.; Sturdevant, Dora—Nurse; Tait, Idabelle Ward —R. F. D. Delancey; Ziely, Marguerite.

1927—Milford, Jessie Rose—Teacher, Livingston Manor Central School; Barnhart, Dorothy—Cornwall; Connolly, Josephine—Teacher, Neversink School; Wells Jeanette Miner; *Sorkin, Ben; Cohen, Harry; Wood, John—Livingston Manor; Unkenholtz, Albert—N. Y. C.

1928—Stewart, Margaret—Librarian, Greeley Memorial School, Chappaqua; Katz, Margaret; Unkenholtz, Louise Kampher; Meyer, Geraldine Hornbeck—Huguenot, N. Y. C.; Goodman, Mildred; Decker, G. Emmett—Teacher, Claryville School; Cohen, Bessie; Avery, Irving Ray— Teacher, Willowemoc School.

1929—Anderson, Frances; Connolly, Helen—Teacher, Shandelee School; Dayton, William G; Morris, Ethel Denman—Liberty; Knickerbocker, Verl B.; Knoll, Edith M.—Teacher, Livingston Manor Central School; Krupp, Leonard M.; Meyerson, Morris I.—Dentist, Livingston Manor; Resnick, Isadore D.; Roosa, Wade L.—Brooklyn; Sparaga, Milton; Scott, Ethel L.; Terwilliger, Jennie F.—Teacher, DuBruce School; Dutcher, Dorothy Vernooy; Vogt, Jack M.—Livingston Manor.

1930—O'Keefe, Evelyn Decker—Livingston Manor; Beattie, Harriette —Nurse, Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn; Fiske, Irene Wood—Liberty; Meyerson, Helen; Chapman, Madalyn—Livingston Manor; Meyers, Edward, N. Y. C.; Denman, Robert—State Trooper, Waverly; Weiner, Morris—Livingston Manor; Eugeni, Carl—Livingston Manor; Seeley, Walter—Livingston Manor.

1931—Chavis, Ann; Marion, Irene—Teacher, Reconstruction Home, West Haverstraw; Knickerbocker, La Verna; Goodman, Albert; Kahn, Sam —Chemist, N. Y. C.; Sweeney, Kenneth—Teacher, Spring Valley; Rose, Thelma Jagger—Livingston Manor; Dutcher, Dorothy Henry—Livingston Manor; Wood, Nettie Cammer—Roscoe.

1932—Stewart, Robert Spencer—Teacher, Barryville: Ward Dorothy; Strait, Russell, Ruth—Massena; Pollack, Hyman—N. Y. C.; Knoll, Geneva —Teacher, Youngsville Central School; Kahn, Irving—Brooklyn; Benton, Charles—N. Y. C.

1933—Avery, Ulysses—Teacher, Windsor, N. Y.; Bouton, Emerson—with I. B. M.; Binghamton; Giles, Anita; Giles, Mildred—Nurse, Middletown State Hospital; Kellman, Abe—C. C. N. Y.; Seeley, Vernon, Teacher in Margaretsville; Siegel, Marion—N. J.; Shane, Rita—Teacher, North Branch; Steenrod, John—Teacher, Beaverkill School; Vantran, Margaret—Livingston Manor; Will Frances—Teacher, Livingston Manor Central School; Wortman, Muriel—N. Y. C.; Decker, Gilbert, Livingston Manor.

1934—Stewart, Virginia—Nurse, Willowemoc; Smith, Cathryn—Secretary, Livingston Manor; Cooley, Harold—studying for ministry; Decker, Elinor—student at Albany State Teachers College; Denman, Fred—student at Cornell Agricultural School; Goodman, Merrill, Livingston Manor; Husch, Marie; Jauernig, Russell—Medical course at N. Y. U.; Kahn, Sophie—

*Deceased

Livingston Manor; Myers, Ellamae—Teacher Cooperstown; Sarles, Maude Barker—Livingston Manor; Fries, Martin—Shandelee; Hartig, Winifred—Livingston Manor; Sherwood, Harriette employed in law office—Livingston Manor; Sussan, Phillip—Chiropodist; Vantran, Marion—Nurse—New York City; Ward, Lena—Student at New Paltz Normal.

1935—Hempstead, Herbert—Livingston Manor; Simpson, Ralph—Livingston Manor; Seeley, Glenn—Teacher, Bayshore, L. I.; Wood, Carl—Liberty Register; Hoos, Otto—Livingston Manor; Weeks Edgar—Roscoe; Simpson, Paul—Livingston Manor; Krom, Helen—New York City; Benton, Luella Merritt—Livingston Manor; Krom, Alice—Mannequin—New York City; Schwartz, Evelyn O'Keefe, Livingston Manor; Smith, Gertrude; Meyerson, Harry—Livingston Manor; Tuttle, Clifford—trucking—Livingston Manor; Sorkin, Belle—Livingston Manor; Sturdevant, Elizabeth—dental nurse—Livingston Manor; Avery, Woodis Neuman—Windsor; Decker, Frances McCune—Livingston Manor; Terwilliger, Tessie Cetiz—Livingston Manor; Reynolds, Arlene—Beautician, Livingston Manor.

1936—Stewart, Harry, Lynch—Willowemoc; Adler, Tillie—New York City; Alexander, William—Livingston Manor; Anderson, Helen—Livingston Manor; Benton, Lois—Livingston Manor; Decker, Jeanette—employed in law office, Livingston Manor; Eugeni, Lois—Public Library, Livingston Manor; Fontana, Theresa—Fredonia Normal School; Garber, Anne—New York City; Husch, Fred—Livingston Manor; McLean, Constance—New Jersey; Denman, Helen Miner—Waverly; Moskowitz, Sam—N. Y. U.; Sturdevant, Harry—Garage, Livingston Manor; Weiner, John—Cornell; Wortman, Vincent—New York City.

1937—Barnhart, Kenneth—Livingston Manor; Bennett, Evelyn—Livingston Manor; Berkowitz, Morris—C. C. N. Y.; Finkle, Virginia—Training in Binghamton City Hospital; Halpin, Iona—Livingston Manor; Krom, Alberta—Livingston Manor; Mauer, Harold—Oneonta Normal School; Merritt, Blanch—Doctor's secretary—Roscoe; Resnick, Abe—Ohio State University: Resnick, Beatrice—New York City; Vantran, Kathleen—Livingston Manor; Wehner, Walter; Westfall, Paul—Shandlee; White, Mary—Cashier in Manor Theatre; White, Thomas—Manhattan College; Wortman, Joseph—New York City.

1938—Adler, Ida—Packard Business School; Alexander, Marian—Livingston Manor; de Vaughn, Harold; Roscoe; Husch, William—Livingston Manor; Kreutler, Anna, Livingston Manor; Labik, Mildred—Delhi Business School; Lorenz Marion—Young's Business School; Lyons, Ann—Delehante Business School; Neumann, George, Jr.—New York City; Neumann, Natalie; Peters, Lillian—New York; Radney, Charlotte; Resnick, Ruth—N. Y. U.; Siegle, Leon—Ithaca College; Simpson, Helen—Clerk in store, Livingston Manor; Stewart, Elizabeth—In training at Long Island College Hospital; Terwilliger, Myrtle—Livingston Manor; Treyz, Josephine—Penn. State; Wirth, Evelyn—Oneonta Normal; Holiski, John—Shipping Clerk, N. Y. C.

1939—To be graduated this June: Adler, Irving; Barker, Lelia; Halpin, Bernard; Kleinholz, Bertram; Lorenz, Robert; Johanaman, Madlyn; Krom, Jean; Scudder, Ella; VanDusen, Clarence; Sarles, Harry; Shaver, Victor; Shaver, Richard; Dolgas, Irma; Decker, Gerald; Silverman, George; Kinch, Henrietta; Yager, Natalie; Elderkin, Virginia; Farley, Thomas; Collins, Helen; Steenrod, Bertha; Dutcher, Frank; McGar, Marion; Loucks, John.





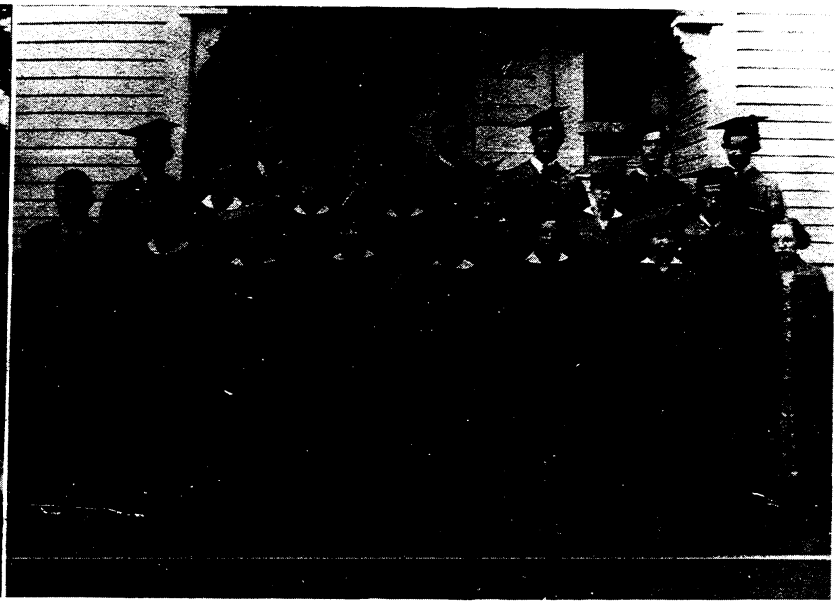
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