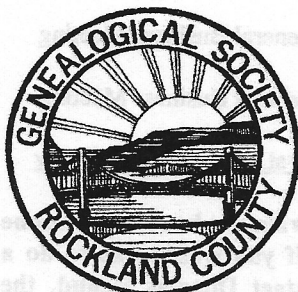


Genealogical Society of Rockland County, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

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HOME PAGE: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyrockla/GSRC/>

Heirs of Hannah [Waldron] Blanchard, wife of Eli Blanchard. Died 17 Sept 1868.

Letters of Administration dated 2 Jan 1869.

Names and relationship of heirs.

1- Margaret Waldron, sister

1- Catharine [Waldron] Weiant, sister [deceased]

2- Abraham Weiant, nephew, son of Catharine

2- Wesley J. Weiant, nephew, son of Catharine

2- George B. Weiant, nephew, son of Catharine

2- Margaret [Weiant] VanBuskirk, niece,
daughter of sister Catharine

2- Maria [Weiant] Polhemus, niece, daughter of
sister Catharine, and wife of John Polhemus

2- Rachel [Weiant] Linkletter, niece, dau of
Catharine, wife of John Linkletter

2- Catharine [Weiant] de la Montanya, [deceased
at probate] niece, wife of John de la Montanya

3- James de la Montanya, gr. nephew, son of
Catharine & John de la Montanya

3- Hudson de la Montanya, " " "

3- Matthew de la Montanya, " " "

3- George de la Montanya, " " "

3- Weiant de la Montanya, " " "

3- Phebe [de la Montanya] Goldsmith, gr.
niece, dau. of Catharine & John de la
Montanya, and wife of Alexander Goldsmith.

3- Martha [de la Montanya] DeWitt, gr.
niece, dau. of Catharine & John de la
Montanya, and wife of James DeWitt.

3- Hannah [Weiant] Knowlton, [deceased],
gr. niece, dau. of Catharine & John de la
Montanya, and wife of James Knowlton.

4- Thomas Knowlton, gr gr nephew, son
of Hannah and James Knowlton

4- Ann Augusta [Knowlton] VanHouten,
gr gr niece, dau of Hannah & James
Knowlton & wife of Jacob VanHouten.

2- Jacob Weiant, [deceased] nephew, son of Catherine,

3- Resolve Weiant, gr nephew, son of Jacob Weiant

3- George Weiant, gr nephew, son of Jacob Weiant

3- Jonas Weiant, gr nephew, son of Jacob Weiant

3- Ann [Weiant] Lowry, gr niece, dau of Jacob

3- Margaret [Weiant] Jane, gr niece, dau of
Jacob Weiant, and wife of John Jane

3- Catharine [Weiant] McKay, gr niece, dau
of Jacob Weiant, and wife of James McKay

3- Thomas H. Weiant, gr nephew, son of Jacob

3- Jane [Weiant] Dangler, gr niece, dau of
Jacob Weiant, and wife of Abraham Dangler

1- Abraham Waldron, brother, [deceased at probate]

2- Alexander Waldron, nephew, son of Abraham Waldron

2- Maria Waldron, niece, dau of Abraham Waldron

2- Louisa [Waldron] Benson, niece, [deceased]
dau of Abraham Waldron, and wife of William Benson

3- Hannah [Benson] Osborn, gr niece, dau of
Louisa & William, and wife of William Osborn

3- Sarah [Benson] Garner, gr niece, dau of
Louisa & William, and wife of David Garner

3- Henrietta [Benson] Brooks, gr niece, dau
of Louisa & William, wife of Martin V. Brooks

2- Sarah [Waldron] Byron, [deceased at probate],
niece, dau of Abraham Waldron

3- Wilhelmina [Byron] Neally, gr niece, dau
of Sarah [Waldron] Byron, wife of John H Neally

2- Jacob J. Waldron, [deceased at probate], nephew,
son of Abraham Waldron

3- Harriet [Waldron] Weiant, gr niece, dau of
Jacob J. Waldron, and wife of Samuel Weiant

3- Catharine Waldron, gr niece, dau of Jacob

3- Sarah E. Waldron, gr niece, dau of Jacob

3- Margaret Waldron, gr niece, dau of Jacob
J. Waldron

3- Abraham Waldron, [deceased at probate]
gr nephew, son of Jacob J. Waldron, and
husband of Maria _____? {Maria ____?
married #2, Owen Downs}

4- Frank E. Waldron, gr gr nephew, son
of Abraham Waldron & Maria ?, age 12

4- Charles Francis Waldron, gr gr
nephew, son of Abraham & Maria, age 17

Contributed by Richard Peterson

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Many thanks to all our members for their many continued contributions. The GSRC Newsletter is greatly enriched by your willingness to share. Without you we cannot continue to put together the kind of newsletter you want and enjoy. All members are

invited to submit material for publication. Original work is desired and encouraged. When sending information from another source, please give proper credit. The Genealogical Society of Rockland County, and its Editor, will assume no responsibility for typographical or factual errors, or for the opinions expressed or implied by its contributors. *All submitted material will be published at the discretion of the Editor, without verification, and as space permits. Submissions may be edited for length, content and accuracy.* Readers comments are welcomed. The Newsletter is published quarterly, at the beginning of September, December, March and June. The deadline for all submitted material is the first of the month preceding the month of publication. Send material, articles and comments to:

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E-mail: repete290@juno.com

Dues and Membership Annual Society dues are now \$15.00 for both individuals and organizations. The Society dues year is September 1st to August 31st.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Regular meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of every month except July, August, and December, in the all purpose meeting room in the New City Public Library, 220 N. Main St., New City, Rockland Co., NY. (845) 634-4997

All meetings will start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted

For information regarding meeting cancellations due to bad weather, call Marie Koestler, (845) 623-4046 or Sally Dewey, (845) 359-5490

PROGRAMS

March 26, 2002 General Business Meeting
April 25, 2002 General Business Meeting
May 23, 2002 General Business Meeting

Remember, meetings are now held at the New City Library

If you have an idea for a program, or know of someone who might do a program, or if you would like to do a program yourself, please contact Douglas Renud, the Program Chair, at (845) 357-6390

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OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES

Genealogical Society of Bergen County, NJ

PO Box 432, Midland Park, NJ 07432. Meetings the 4th Monday of the month (except holidays & Dec.) at 7 p.m. at the Ridgewood Public Library Auditorium, N. Maple Ave., Ridgewood, NJ. Visitors welcome. For info. call (201) 670-8106 or (201) 652-1171. *The Archivist*, the Society newsletter, is published quarterly.

Orange County Genealogical Society is located in the 1841 Court House, 101 Main Street, Goshen NY 10924, where it maintains an expanding research room. Dues are \$10.00 annually. Meetings are the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m., usually followed by a speaker at 10:30 a.m. Call for details about speakers (845) 562-2749. Library hours are Monday & Friday, 8:30 a.m. to Noon; 1st & 3rd Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 8:30 am to 4:00 p.m.; 1st Saturday of month after speaker, noon to 4:00 p.m.; 3rd Saturday of month 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Westchester County Genealogical Society

PO Box 518, White Plains, NY 10603. Dues are \$20.00. Monthly Newsletter. Meetings Sept. through June at Aldersgate United Meth. Church, 600 Broadway, (Route 9) Dobbs Ferry, NY on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. The WCGS Research Collection is located at the LDS Family History Library, 801 Kitchawan Road (Rte 134), Yorktown, NY 10598 (914) 941- 9754. Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon & 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs>

Jewish Genealogical Society of North Jersey

The Jewish Genealogical Society of North Jersey meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month, at the YM-YWHA of North Jersey, 1 Pike Rd, Wayne, NJ. Programs begin at 8:00 p.m., and are open to all. For information call: Paul, (845) 357- 5567, Evan, (973) 595-0100, ext. 236, or Susan (973) 564-8522, or visit their web site at:

Web Site: <http://community.nj.com/cc/jgsnorthjersey>

Dennison Genealogical Society

Searchers and Providers of Dennison and other family photos and documents. Family names include Defreese, Mann, VanDunk, Peterson, Morgan, Degroat, Powell and Suffern. All information and photos are exchanged free of charge. Our mission is to collect and preserve our family history through photos and documents and to organize them into binder form. Interested parties should contact Wallace Edward Dennison III, 8 Estate Dr, Middletown, NY 10940 (845) 342-9205.

The Pierson Family

Closely tied up with the early development of Suffern were the industrial activities of the Pierson brothers of Ramapo. In 1795, Josiah G. Pierson, and his brothers Jeremiah H. and Isaac, built a factory on 119 acres purchased from John Suffern. Here they manufactured the first nails made in America, by machinery invented by Josiah Pierson. The Pierson industry grew to large proportions, turning out and shipping over a million pounds of nails a year.

By the year 1810, the establishment for the manufacture of iron and cotton founded in Ramapo by the Pierson brothers had spread thrift and prosperity in the vicinity of Suffern and increased the growth of the village of Ramapo to a population of 700 persons. This benefited the farmers in a circuit of many miles by obtaining a good paying market for grain and other farm products.

At this time the Pierson brothers, impressed with the necessity and propriety of having a resident physician in the village, induced Dr. Zebadie Wood to locate there, assuring him that if the income from his practice did not amount to \$600 per year, they would make up the deficiency. Dr. Wood remained in Ramapo for thirty five years, passing all the time in unwearied toil, ready and prompt to answer any call, and do all he could for the sick and suffering in the community. He was the pioneer physician of the southwestern section of Rockland County.

The Pierson family is descended from Abraham Pierson, who was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1613 and came to Boston, Mass., in pursuit of religious freedom, in 1639. Winthrop says, "He was a Godly, learned man," and Mather says, "Wherever he came, he shone." He was graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1632, and was soon thereafter ordained in the Protestant Episcopal Church in Newark, England. In 1666 he removed from Boston to New Jersey, where on the Passaic or Lower Ramapo, he founded a city which, after the place in England where he had first been ordained, was called Newark. His son, Abraham, was the first president of Yale College. He died at Newark on August 9, 1678.

*Suffern Historical Society Souvenir
Rockland County Sesquicentennial, 1798 - 1948*

Contributed by Richard Peterson

AT THE NEW CITY LIBRARY

Recent acquisitions (as of March 1, 2002) at the Rockland Room of the New City Library, 220 N. Main St., New City, NY 10956, compiled by Sally Pellegrini, Local History Librarian. These and other new works can be found on the bookcase against the center wall in the Rockland Room. Please return these books to the shelving cart by the entrance door when you are done with them. Thank You

026. Your Guide to the Family History Library
92 Paula Stuart Warren
War (Betterway Books, 2001)
287. Memorials of Methodism in New Jersey
67 Rev. John Atkinson
Atk (Heritage Books, 2001)
289. Quakerism in the City of New York
6 John Cox, Jr.
Cox (Heritage Books, 2000)
386. The Delaware and Hudson Canalway
4 Dorothy Hurlbut Sanderson
San (Roundout Publishing, 1974)
386. Hudson River Pilot: From Steamboats to Super Tankers
48 John G. Hamilton
Ham (Black Dome Press, 2001)
551. Weather History and Climate Guide to the Lower Hudson Valley
6 Jerome S. Thaler
Tha (Geo. Candreva Environ. Center, 2000)
557. Geology of New York: A Simplified Account
47 Y.W. Isachsen, Editor
Geo (New York State Museum, 2000)
581. Revised Checklist of New York State Plants
974 Richard S. Mitchell
Mit (University of State New York, 1997)
666. The Story of Brick
737 Charles Ellery Hall
Hal (Moore Printing, 1905)
728. Historic Houses of Palisades New York
6097 Edited by Alice Gerard
His (Palisades Historic Committee, 2001)
741. Great Houses of the Hudson River
973 Edited by Michael Dwyer
Gre (Bullfinch Press, 2001)
759. Intimate Friends: Thomas Cole, Asher Durand, William C. Bryant
3 Ella Forshay
Int (New York Historical Society, 2000)

914. The Glory of Montclair
45 Richard K. Cacioppo
Cac (Dream City Publishing, 1995)
929. The Founders of New England: Results of Some Researches Among the British Archives
Dra Samuel G. Drake (Geneal. Publishing, 1963)
929. Social Security Applications: A Genealogical Resource
1 Desmond Walls Allen
All (Research Associates, 1995)
929. Locating Union & Confederate Records
1 Nancy J Morebeck
Mor (Heritage Quest, 2001)
929. The Genealogist's Companion
2028 Rhonda McClure
McC (Betterway Books, 2002)
929. Scots Overseas: Emigrants and Adenturers
373 David Dobson
Dob (Willow Bend Books, 1996)
929. Irish Genealogical Abstracts from the Londonderry Journal
3747 Donald M. Schlegel
Sch (Genealogical Publishing, 1990)
929. The Roads of Home: Lanes and Legends of New Jersey
3749 Henry Carlton Beck
Bec (Rutgers University Press, 1956)
973. Under the Sign of the Eagle
3 William Berce
Ber (Louis Vorgetta, 1965)

UPCOMING GENEALOGICAL PROGRAMS AT THE NEW CITY LIBRARY

Touring Rockland Lake. A Slide Show and lecture by Robert Knight. Friday, March 15th, 7:00 PM

Using Italian Surnames in Genealogical Research.
Lecture by Loretta Tito, Saturday, April 6th, 2:30 PM

Tracing 20th Century Immigrant Records.
Lecture by Leslie Corn. Sunday, April 14th, 1:30 PM

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If you'd like to be included in the next directory, or if you have a change in your e-mail address, please send e-mail to the editor at [<repete290@juno.com>](mailto:repete290@juno.com) or to the Membership Chairman at [<Robert.Protzman@Akzo-Nobel.com>](mailto:Robert.Protzman@Akzo-Nobel.com)

GSRC Member William Parker has pointed out that many of the members listed in the "On-line Directory" have not provided information on families that they are researching. [I count nearly one hundred] Bill feels that remote members would find the families of interest useful and beneficial, and urges everyone to submit family names they are researching. Don't be bashful, send us those family names and we'll include them here in the directory. It couldn't hurt! Editor

Poetry Corner

If you could see your ancestors
 All standing in a row,
 Would you be proud of them or not
 Or don't you really know?
 Some strange discoveries are made
 In climbing family trees
 And some of them, you know,
 Do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors
 All standing in a row,
 There might be some of them perhaps
 You shouldn't care to know.
 But here's another question
 Which requires a different view -
 If you could meet your ancestors'
 Would they be proud of you?

By: Nellie Winslow Simmons Randall
 Contributed by Bob Protzman

*Always remember that you are absolutely
 unique . . . just like everyone else.*

Anonymous

QUERIES

Queries will be published in the newsletter as space permits. It would be helpful if members would submit their queries beginning with the surnames concerned in the query listed alphabetically. Please keep queries clear and concise, and provide identifying data including names, dates and locations whenever possible. Address queries to: Richard Peterson, GSRC Newsletter Editor, 290 S. Middletown Rd, Pearl River, NY 10965, or e-mail to <repete290@juno.com> When answering someone else's query, please send a copy to this editor for our files and for inclusion in future issues.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT YOUR FULL ADDRESS IS NEEDED, SINCE NOT EVERYONE HAS E-MAIL

**UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, ALL
LOCATIONS ARE IN ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY**

424- ANSWER- The Leete's did come from Connecticut (note the "e" at end of the name). They have been in Guilford since the time of the Revolution and have been prominent in state history.

Jean Zamenick
20 Park Street
Belfast ME, 04915
jeanz@mint.net

455- Lent / Hamilton- Looking for info. about Mary J. Lent, d/o Benjamin Lent & Isabella Kyles. Married Wm. Hamilton 09/11/1911, Tompkins Cove, s/o John Hamilton & Anna Marand. Children of Benjamin and Mary, 1925 Census, 9 Ridge St., Haverstraw- James, b. 1912, William B., b.1913, Benjamin F., b. 1922.

Christine Szermer
17 W. Park Place
Suffern, NY 10901

456- Lent / Felter- Looking for info. about Lillian Mabel Lent, d/o Benjamin Lent & Isabella Kyles, who M. 05/23/1917 to Richard Ross Felter, s/o Charles A. Felter & Annie TenEyck. Children in 1925 Census: Richard R. Jr., b. 1919, Benj. L., b.1920, Edith E., b. 1921, Floyd L., b. 1923.

Christine Szermer
17 W. Park Place
Suffern, NY 10901

457- Lent - TenEyck- Looking for info. on children of Theodora Lent, d/o Benjamin Lent & Isabella Kyles. M. 09/04/1916 to Frank TenEyck, s/o Alonzo TenEyck & Catherine Rose. Moved to Newburg & Brooklyn.

Christine Szermer
17 W. Park Place
Suffern, NY 10901

458- Raethle / Szermer- Looking for info. on Joseph Raethle, died 1930, was married to Anna Szermer, d/o Theophil Szermer & Domicala Piochinski, b. 04/27/1857, d. 11/02/1944.

Christine Szermer
17 W. Park Place
Suffern, NY 10901

459- Haag / Giberth- Looking for info. on Dorothy R. Haag, b. 08/01/1899, Mt. Vernon, d. 09/18/1932, Orangeburg, NY, d/o Arthur Haag & Susan Giberth. Dorothy m. Alphonse F. Szermer, 07/27/1923, Bronx.

Christine Szermer
17 W. Park Place
Suffern, NY 10901

460- VanKanel / Szermer- Need for info. on Martha VanKanel, 2nd. Wife of Alphonse Szermer, b. 04/05/1906, Berne Switzerland, d/o Christian VonKanel and Anna Fuchs. Came to Pomona 09/10/1921, to her aunt, Mrs. W. Wiedermlein.

Christine Szermer
17 W. Park Place
Suffern, NY 10901

461- Cooper / Ralemon- Seek descendents of Pieterje Classen Cooper, d/o Claes Jansen van Purmarend and Annetje VanVoorst, m. 12/12/1896 Bergen DC, Jacob Ralemon. Two known children; John Jaralemon, 09/19/1697 & Claes Jaralemon, 09/25/1699.

Richard Peterson
290 S. Middletown Rd.
Pearl River, NY 10965 [repete290@juno.com]

462- Cooper / Steinmets- Seek descendents of Vrouwtje Classen Cooper, d/o Claes Jansen van Purmarend & Annetje VanVoorst, m. 03/12/1683 Bergen DC, Gerrit Steinmets. Three known children; Jannetje, 04/15/1684, Annetje, 06/25/1686, Annetje, 1688.

Richard Peterson
290 S. Middletown Rd.
Pearl River, NY 10965 [repete290@juno.com]

463- Cooper / Pietersen- Seek desc. of Lisbet Classen Cooper, d/o Clase Jansen van Purmarend and Annetje VanVoorst, m. 06/24/1690 BDC, Hessel Pietersen.. 3 known children;(1) VROUTJE, bp 08/28/1691BDC, m. Peter Gerritse,(2) Pieter, bp 03/20/1707, m. Catrina VanWinkle, (3) Rachel, b. 1695, m. Abraham Gerritse.

Richard Peterson
290 S. Middletown Rd.
Pearl River, NY 10965 [repete290@juno.com]

Romance of the Cherry Wood Desk

A transcript of a letter to the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, dated Monday, February 20, 1939.

In a little aristocratic town in New Jersey there stands a much treasured and well cared for ancient desk. It is not a beautiful desk, being of the flat top variety, supported by heavy piers and containing many drawers and cup-boards. It is treasured because its wood is redolent of colonial history; because the father of His Country passed to and fro beneath the spreading branches of the cherry tree from which it was made, or sat there alone to rest, to ponder, to plan, and to pray for guidance.

During the early part of the Revolutionary War it became necessary for General Washington and some of his Staff Officers to go from Continental Village (Verplanks Point) on the east side of the Hudson River, to Morristown in New Jersey. The cavalcade crossed the river by the Kings Ferry to Stony Point, then rode through Rockland County along the Egypt Road to what is now the Village of Suffern on the Erie Railroad. Thence they went southwest along the highway until they came nearly to the Jersey line. Here, not being familiar with the country they became confused, and looked for the nearest house with intent to make inquiry. This happened to be the mansion of Judge John Suffern who was living upon his estate in New Antrim. The long avenue leading up to the house was lined with cherry trees, which at this season were in full fruit. The young officers reached from their horses and gathered some of the cherries to eat.

Washington, meticulously careful in such matters chided them for so doing.

Arrived at the house, Washington rapped on the old double Dutch Doors with the hilt of his sword. Old Sam, a slave, came at the call. Washington asked who lived there. On being told, he asked to see the proprietor. Judge Suffern came forward to greet them, and asked them in for refreshment. Madam Suffern was summoned, and served them with cake and wine of the period. She had been a Southern Belle, and Washington bowed from his six feet two over her hand.

The talk became very friendly, and Washington told of the privations of the soldiery and of his firm belief that independence would one day be accomplished. The call was very short, since important matters were afoot.

Learning the right directions for reaching Morristown from his host, Washington was about to take his leave when, remembering the desire of his officers to eat cherries, he asked permission which was of course, freely granted, and the cavalcade rode away, feasting as they went. Old Sam was sent to point out the road, and subsequently often served as guide through the mountains.

While no exact date is given to this episode, except that it occurred after the Battle of Harlem Heights, it must have taken place the following summer, since cherries are ripe in early July. The Battle of Harlem Heights was fought on September 16, 1776. It was a time when the outcome of the Revolution hung in the balance.

Burgoyne's Advance: The British General Burgoyne had taken Ticonderoga, Fort Independence, and Whitehall. Fiske in his "American Revolution" says "As soon as it became known that Ticonderoga had fallen, Washington advanced through Ramapo Clove, a rugged defile in the Highlands near Haverstraw." The victories of our forces culminating in the surrender of Burgoyne's army at Saratoga on October 17, 1777, had not as yet established the prestige of Washington. He was just a young general upon whom all the colonists had set their prayerful hopes. Therefore the courtesy on the part of Judge Suffern was simply the courtesy of one gentleman to another. Later a far greater admiration and reverence were to fill his heart.

Later, Judge Suffern's house became one of the headquarters of General Washington. He used it alternately with his headquarters at Morristown, and spent many anxious days and nights there. It is known in American history as the "House in Smith's Clove," being the entrance to the pass in the mountains on the way from New Jersey to Stony Point and beyond. The cherry trees grew old; some blew down; they were dangerous to passers by. Judge Suffern finally ordered them cut down. By that time the Revolution was an accomplished and glorious success and George Washington was the idol of the citizenry. Judge Suffern shared the boundless enthusiasm and devotion of the people. He ordered boards to be cut from the trunk of one of the great trees, intending to have his coffin made from them. The boards were stored in one of the barns on the estate. But unfortunately, failing to coordinate the date of his demise with the making of his coffin, he died in 1836 and had to be laid to rest in one made of mahogany.

Judge Suffern was succeeded as Judge of Rockland County by his son, Edward Suffern. The boards lay undisturbed in the great barn. Edward died in 1873. Meanwhile, Edward's son, Andrew Edward Suffern, grandson of Judge John Suffern and later to take, in turn, the almost hereditary Judgeship of Rockland, graduated from college in 1848 and came back to his home in the house in Smith Clove. He found the cherry planks in the barn.

The house and all outbuildings were about to be pulled down to make way for a larger mansion. He had the sacred cherry wood made into a desk, the desk of this story. He treasured it greatly and used it in his law office.

Wayne's Stern Orders:

From the house in Smith's Clove were written many important documents, as may be learned from Spark's "Letters of the Revolution." Among these is one commanding General "Mad" Anthony Wayne to report to him [Washington] before the battle of Stony Point. Wayne's "Order of Battle", probably read and approved by Washington while there, is a marvel of disciplinary exactitude and severity; "If any soldier presume to take his musket from his shoulder to fire or begin the battle until ordered by his proper officer, he shall be instantly put to death by the officer next to him; for the misconduct of one man is not to put the whole troops in danger or disorder and be suffered to pass with life - Should any soldier be so lost to any feeling of honor as to attempt to retreat one single foot, or to skulk in the face of danger, the officer next to him is to immediately put him to death."

Judge Andrew Edward Suffern died at the early age of fifty one, in 1881. The cherry wood desk passed in succession to his son, Charles Carroll Suffern. Having suffered materially by having been in storage for some years - its great size rendering it unsuitable for the smaller houses of today - he had the desk rebuilt, allowing no change or alteration made in it except a new cover of baize.

In the transition of ownership that the years inevitably bring, the desk came into the possession of the writer, the widow of the last owner in direct line. There being no son to inherit, and being one who believes in "rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's" she gave it to the New Jersey branch of the Suffern family, residing in Plainfield, New Jersey. The revised spelling of the family name represents a resumption of the

correct form as it was carried with distinction in France many years ago.

So the venerable old desk now rests not far from the green countryside upon which its cherry wood grew, and where it knew the presence and even touch of the fingers of the Father of his Country.

Martha Wentworth Suffern [1939]

Contributed by Richard Peterson

The Whittier Birthday Book

**Presented to Anna Smith on her Birthday,
February 17, 1896, from her brother,
George Henry Smith**

A Birthday Book was a small, bound book, wherein the recipient could record the birthdays of friends and relatives. Each page had several dates on it, much the same as a modern day appointments calendar.

Transcribed August, 1999, from the original now in the possession of William Wagner of California.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| <u>January 1st.</u> | Carrie Hearle, 1877
died Jan 15, 1949 |
| <u>January 2nd.</u> | Maria West |
| <u>January 3rd.</u> | James Alva Dingman, 1914
Patricia Ann Walter, 1940 |
| <u>January 4th.</u> | Joyce Ella Maxwell, 1939
Grandmother-Margaret Bardon, 1826 |
| <u>January 5th.</u> | Lena M. West
Ida Fisher, 1867 |
| <u>January 9th.</u> | George H. Budke, 1868
Mrs. John VanOrden, 1878 |
| <u>January 10th.</u> | Sihon Baker, 1901 - 1926 |
| <u>January 11th.</u> | Ann Elizabeth Tyndall, 1950
Gerard Robert Weimann, 1952 |
| <u>January 12th.</u> | Victor Fasch
Mrs. George W. Johnson, Jr. |
| <u>January 13th.</u> | Philip Bardon, 1856 |

died 17 February, 1920

January 14th. Mrs. Louise Koppe, 1852
died February 8th, 1931
Mrs. Grace Scholten

January 15th. Jennie A. Graham
Edward George Schaber, 1941
Mrs. Albert (Grace) Scholten
{see also January 14th}

January 16th. Edith Palmer Smith, 1874
died February 16, 1955
Dan E. Bradley

January 17th. Anna C. West, 1863
Micky Ruth Strand, 1954

January 18th. William Godfrey Carter

January 19th. Rev. David Wilson Jenks

January 20th. Mr. George W. Johnson, Sr. [1837]
died March 10, 1911, at 74 years

January 21st. Ella A. Mapes, 1905

January 22nd. Wanda Barclay, 1884

January 23rd. May Ransom, 1878

January 25th. Carrie E. Christ, 1882
died April 28, 1964

January 27th. Chris S. Bardon, 1894

January 28th. Martin West, 1846

January 29th. James Walker, 1883

January 30th. Jessie Potts

January 31st. Carrie Lank
Mrs. Irving Blauvelt, 1882

February 2nd. Catherine Bardon, 1865
died December 19, 1925

February 4th. Florence Marie Haerle, 1909
Gilbert Reilay [?]

February 5th. Ethel Fritz

February 6th. Alfred R. Miles
Jacob Bardon, 1864
died February 3, 1891

February 8th. Catherine O. [entry not completed]
Mrs. Ethel Arnot, 1876

February 9th. Mrs. Frank Morrow, 1875
died January 13, 1939

February 12th. Abbie Post

February 13th. Mrs. Frank Wilson, 1897

February 16th. Joseph Ransom, 1861
died July 31, 1955

February 17th. Anna C.M. Smith, 1877
died January 26, 1968
[Anna was the owner of this Birthday Book.]
Mary Ritchings
Mrs. Myrtie Davis

February 19th. Mrs. Minnie Kress, 1872

February 20th. Laura M. Post, 1888

February 24th. Mr. Charles J. Grogan, 1879
died Friday, 10:30 AM, 11/17/1939
Grandmother-Anna Catherine Smith, 1826
died January 2, 1890

February 25th. Margaret Catherine Mapes, 1903

February 26th. Anna Johnson Clark
Albert Force

February 28th. Mr. George Haerle Sr., 1846
died May 27, 1919

March 3rd. Mrs. Peter Tallman, 1840
Dr. J.B. Dingman, 1881

March 4th. Minnie Jane Bradley

March 5th. Dorothy Haerle, 1900

March 6th. Adolph Gotthardt

March 7th. Pamela Saunders, 1944

<u>March 8th.</u>	Catherine Ann Bomm, 1821 Antionette (Nettie) Wilson, 1887	<u>April 2nd.</u>	Mrs. Louis Furman Joyce Carol Sickles, 1941 Ethel Campbell
<u>March 9th.</u>	Mrs. Ella Hopper, 1862	<u>April 3rd.</u>	Frank Schalm, 1867
<u>March 11th.</u>	Mrs. Tillie Haring, 1861	<u>April 4th.</u>	Frank E. Scudder, 1903 James A. Gray Jr., 1938
<u>March 12th.</u>	George Edward Haerle, 1912 died November 24, 1939	<u>April 9th.</u>	Grandfather born 1815 Jacob F. Smith, 1815 died August 18, 1886 Grandma and Grandfather were married December 5th, 1844 <i>[Grandma was Anna Catherine Smith]</i> Mrs. Charles Oldenberg, 1875
<u>March 13th.</u>	Charles Bardon Gray, 1928 Blanche M. Valentine	<u>April 11th.</u>	Helen Siegman, 1905
<u>March 14th.</u>	Harold G. Graham	<u>April 12th.</u>	Mrs. Alvena Roth died December 5, 1930 Eugene B. Atwater, 1888 died April 30, 1964
<u>March 15th.</u>	Minnie Haerle, 1883 died January 5, 1930	<u>April 16th.</u>	William V. Wagner, 1886 died March 7, 1968
<u>March 16th.</u>	Blanche S. Hopper, 1880 died May 7, 1967	<u>April 18th.</u>	Mrs. Grace Erickson, 1873
<u>March 18th.</u>	Sophie V. Wills, 1885	<u>April 24th.</u>	Martha S. Koch
<u>March 21st.</u>	Mrs. Myrtle DeBaun, 1874	<u>April 25th.</u>	Mrs. Isabella Furman, 1849
<u>March 22nd.</u>	Anna C. Bardon, 1892	<u>April 26th.</u>	James A. Gray Sr., 1897
<u>March 23rd.</u>	Clara Krulish	<u>April 27th.</u>	Charles Haerle, 1872 Died June 27, 1946, 5:00 AM X James A. Gray, 1897 X <i>{see April 26th. Do the X's indicate <u>this</u> entry is wrong??}</i>
<u>March 24th.</u>	Alexander H. Schubert, 1871 Chester Arthur Wills, 1892 Mrs. K. Helder, 1844	<u>April 28th.</u>	Beveridge C. Dunlop, 1879 died July 2, 1961
<u>March 27th.</u>	Miss. Lottie Gross Stacy Marie Wagner, 1964	<u>April 29th.</u>	Fred Stecher Mary Bardon, 1823 E. P. Tyndall, 1893
<u>March 28th.</u>	Mrs. Mary Halliday, 1860	<u>April 30th.</u>	Catherine Gray, 1925 Ronald Merrit Saunders, 1942 <i>Contributed by Richard Peterson</i>
<u>March 29th.</u>	Elizabeth Ransom Ronald W. Mapes, 1914 died September 15, 1930 Mrs. William E. Snyder Margaret Waldron Wagner E.P.T. Tyndall, 1893		
<u>March 30th.</u>	Mary Louise Brown, 1896		
<u>March 31st.</u>	William Valentine Wagner, 1924		
<u>April 1st.</u>	William West, 1887		

To be continued

BIBLE RECORDS

This is the start of a new feature. If you have old Bible records, family or otherwise, we would like to include them here in this section. Send your bible record contribution to the Editor.

The following transcription was found in the Sherwood Map Collection at the Rockland County Archives.

ONDERDONK FAMILY BIBLE

Family bible published and printed by Matthew Carey, Market St., Philadelphia, 1808, purchased 1815

Page 1- Marriages

James Onderdonk and Rachel Palmer, on Easter Monday, 27 of March 1780.

Their Children

John Odell and Sarah Onderdonk, m. Sept 11, 1809

Page 2-

John G. Cooper m. Rachel Onderdonk, Nov 21, 1810

James J. Onderdonk m. Ann Douglass - no date

Garret Onderdonk m. Abigail Gurnee, May 17, 1817

Elsye Onderdonk m. _____ Jessup [no date]

Page 3-

Mary Onderdonk m. Wesley Springsteen, Jan 25, 1841

Edmond Onderdonk m. Catherine Onderdonk.

Harriet Onderdonk m. George N. Collard.

Ann Onderdonk m. Thomas W. Howell

Page 4-

Births

New Hempstead, Jan 1, 1792

James Onderdonk b. 24 July 1752 - old style

Rachel Palmer b. Sept 15, 1753 - new style

Sarah Palmer, our first daughter, b. Jan 14, 1781

Rachel Onderdonk b. Sept 21, 1782

James J. Onderdonk b. 24 April 1785

Page 5-

Elsye Onderdonk b. Dec 12, 1747

Garret Onderdonk b. Dec 5, 1790

_____ Jessup, husband of Elsy Onderdonk,

b. July 4, 1748

John G. Cooper, husband of Rachel Onderdonk,

b. 31 March 1787

John Odell, husband of Sarah Onderdonk [incomplete]

Page 6-

Nancy Douglass, wife of James J. Onderdonk

b. Nov 9, 1792

Abigail Gurnee, wife of Garret Onderdonk

b. Aug 8, 1795

Children of Abigail and Garret Onderdonk

Mary Onderdonk, b. March 15, 1818

Edmund Onderdonk, b. Dec 31, 1819

Harriet Onderdonk, b. Nov 8, 1821

Page 7-

Catharine Onderdonk, b. Jan 30, 1824

Ann Onderdonk, b. March 4, 1826

Matilda Onderdonk, b. 11 March 1828

Rufus Onderdonk, b. March 11, 1831

Wesley Springsteen, b. Dec 9, 1815

Children of Wesley Springsteen & Mary Onderdonk

Page 8-

Edmund Coe Springsteen, b. Aug 30, 1845

William Henry Springsteen, b. March 29, 1847

John H. Springsteen, b. Oct 17, 1848

Deaths

James Onderdonk, d. Aug 15, 1806,

age 54 years, 22 days

Rachel Palmer Onderdonk, d. March 13, 1838,

age 84 years, 6 months, 15 days

Page 9-

James J. Onderdonk, d. Sept 3, 1828

age 43 years, 4 months, 10 days

Sarah Onderdonk, d. Oct 3, 1847

age 66 years, 8 months, 19 days

Garret J. Onderdonk, d. March 24, 1859

Abigail Gurnee Onderdonk, d. Jan 17, 1889

Mary Onderdonk, d. Jan 20, 1852

Harriet Onderdonk, d. 4 Aug, 1856

Page 10-

Rufus Onderdonk, d. Aug 17, 1886

Edmund Onderdonk, d. Sept 9, 1895

Catharine Onderdonk, d. Feb 15, 1897

Matilda Onderdonk, d. Feb 17, 1900

William Springsteen, son of Wesley and Mary

Springsteen, d. April, 1905

John Springsteen, d. Jan 30, 1894

Page 11-

Edmund Coe Springsteen, d. Jan 25, 1921

age 75 years, 9 months, 26 days.

Eliza Dennison Springsteen, wife of Edmund Coe

Springsteen, d. Feb 11, 1914

age 66 years, 6 months, 10 days

Copied by Mrs. Abigail Springsteen Post, Apr 20, 1931

Contributed by Richard Peterson

Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and

irritate the living.

BERGEN PENSION ABSTRACTS

Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Applications relating to Bergen Co. NJ and Rockland Co. NY. *Contributed by Philip O'Leary*

Philip J. Demarest

Philip J. Demarest, Pvt., NJ Militia, Revolutionary War Pension #S29114. Wayne Co., NY, Common Pleas Ct., 01 Oct 1832, Philip J. Demarest, age 71, a resident of Sodus, Wayne Co., NY, b. 1761, New Barbadoes, Bergen County, NJ. I have also resided in Rockland Co., NY. I served as a substitute for James Bogert, and my father, James Demarest. I served under Lt. John Demarest, Lt. Allen, Lt. Hyler, Lt. Campbell, Ensign Campbell, Ens. David Demarest, Ens. Freeland, Ens. Berdan. Our company was surprised by the British at John Zabriskie's house in Hackensack, and I was taken prisoner. I know the following men, all of Sodus, who can testify as to my war service; Bryan Green, Adam Tinklepaugh. Richmond Co., NY, Common Pleas Ct., 14 Jan. 1833, Elizabeth VanDusen/VanDuser: I took fresh provisions and clean clothes to the prison in NYC, where Philip Demarest was a prisoner. I was a resident of NYC at that time.

Others mentioned in pension, Rev. Silas Norton, Lyman Dunming, both of Sodus. Testifying as fellow soldiers in the Revolution, in 1832, Christopher Pope of Lyons, Wayne Co., NY, member of Bergen Co., NJ Militia, Samuel Demarest of Waterford, Saratoga Co., NY, was Captain under Col. Tunis Day in Bergen Co., NJ, Militia, Philip J. Demarest is my nephew, Benjamin Romaine, of NYC.

In a letter to the pension office dated 1897, from Miss Adelaide Mabie, of San Francisco, CA, is mentioned a Lt. Abraham Onderdonk, of the Orange Co., NY, Militia, who was killed at the battle of White Plains. He resided at Nyack and had two children, George and Altia.

[Contributors note: See the "Demarest Genealogy" compiled by the Demarest Family Association, Voorhis D. Demarest, President, 1964, Vol.1, #5-18 (176), p.v3, for additional information on Philip J. Demarest, married Maria Oblenis.]

Albert Wilson

Albert Wilson, Pvt. NJ Militia, and Sgt. NY Continental line, Rev. War Pension #S3566. Bergen Co., NJ, Common Pleas Ct., 31 Oct 1832, Albert Wilson, age 77, born 14 Feb 1755 at Woodbridge, NJ (Union Co.) Enlisted at NYC in 1775. "I was the very man who shot and wounded John Berry, the Refugee Regular (American Loyalist in the British Army), who was advertised

as an outlaw and murderer." Others mentioned in pension, all as fellow soldiers in the Revolution and all of Bergen Co., NJ; Abraham Brower [Brewer?], age 69, John Packer, age 71, both as of October 1832, Peter Tice, age 69, Abraham Garrison, age 71, Rynhart Hopper, age 79, all as of July 1833.

Rockland Co. NY, Common Pleas Ct., 10 Aug 1830, Andries Onderdonk states he saw Albert Wilson enlist at Haverstraw, Orange Co., NY. Albert Wilson mentions while he was stationed at NYC on 25 Aug 1775 a man in his company named Samuel Dean was wounded from fire by a British Man of War.

Contributors note: An Albert and Maria/Mary Wilson had children baptized at the Paramus RDC and Waldwick Methodist Church in Bergen Co., NJ. Abstract located at the Wilson Genealogy homepage.

Abraham Lefoy

Abraham Lefoy, Pvt., NY/NJ Militia, Revolutionary War Pension #S42841. NYC Common Pleas Court, 20 Apr 1831, Abraham Lefoy, age 69, a resident of NYC, former shoemaker in Bergen Co., NJ, wife (no name) age 39 on 26 Mar 1822. Came to NYC in 1828 to the Almshouse. Served in Capt. Blauvelt's NY Militia and Capt. Beams NJ Militia. Children of Abraham Lefoy as of 26 March 1822: 1) Elizabeth, 2) Catherine, of #90 Nassau St., NYC as of 2 Mar 1831, 3) Harriet, 4) Peter, 5) Maria, 6) Abraham.

Others mentioned in pension: A very hard to read letter by Abraham Lefoy, that states that Peter Mabey and Joseph Butter were fellow soldiers in the Revolution. David Bell, of Harrington, Bergen Co., NJ, as of 7 Dec 1831, has been a mechanic for 10 years for Jacob Perry, of Orange(town), Rockland Co., NY. Thomas Dury(e)a and John Conklin, both of Bergen Co., NJ, as of 26 Oct 1831. Richard Riker, Recorder of NYC, an account of the personal property of Abraham Lefoy, dated 18 March 1818, sold to Luke Vorhes, of Hackensack, Bergen Co., NJ, in Sept. 1825.

Testifying as fellow soldiers in the Rev., Theodorus Fowler, age 76, of NYC, was an officer in Capt. Dubois NY Regt., as of 27 Dec 1831. David Brooks, of NYC, a custom house officer, was taken prisoner on 6 Oct 1777, as on 10 Feb 1831. John D. Haring, Benjamin Romaine, John A. Haring, all as of 14 April 1831. John Lefoy (no relationship stated), of Morris Co., NJ as of 04 October 1830.

Isaac Hadley

Isaac Hadley, Sgt., NJ Militia, NY Militia, NY Continental Line, Revolutionary War Pension #S44902.

NYC Common Pleas Ct., 9 June 1823, Isaac Hadley, age 70 (age 67, of NYC on 1 Apr 1818), a resident of NYC. Enlisted 1776 under Capt.'s Johnson and Blanch at Closter, Bergen Co., NJ, served guarding the NJ and NY lines. NY Militia under Capt.'s. Johnathan Lawrence and Dubois. Also in NY Continental Line under Capt. Bowers Company, 1st Lt. Alexander McCarty. When Lt. McCarty died, 2nd Lt. John Barr was appointed 1st Lt., and I was appointed 2nd. Lt.; however I did not receive an officers commission.

Others mentioned in pensions (no relationship stated, unless noted): 17 Sept. 1818, George Hadley and Henry VDL Verbryck, both of NYC. 01 Feb 1843, one of the six children (no names) of Isaac Hadley, requests that the pension payments be sent to Albany, NY.

Letter to the pension office dated 04 Nov 1892, from John Franklin Risley, of NYC: Isaac Hadley was my great grandfather and was living with his son Jacob Hadley in NYC 1821-1833, he also had a farm on Kingbridge Rd., in upper NY.

Testifying as fellow soldiers in the Revolution on 30 Nov 1822, Stephen Hadley, of New Utrecht, Long Island, Kings Co., NY, brother of Isaac. Abraham Hadley, of NYC, brother of Isaac, at time of service I was living at my fathers house in Rockland Co., NY. Henry VDL Verbruck, of NYC, was officer.

George Lawrence

George Lawrence, Pvt., NY Militia, Revolutionary War Pension #S4517. Bergen Co., NJ, Common Pleas Court 01 Nov 1832, George Lawrence, age 74, b. 22 Apr 1758, Tuckahoe, Greenburg, Westchester Co., NY. I entered service at Clarkstown, Rockland Co., in spring of 1782 moved to Westchester Co., NY for 3 years, then moved to NYC for 10 years, and now reside in Franklin Township, Bergen Co., NJ. Served under 2nd Lt. Thomas Blauvelt, 1st Lt. Walter VanOrden and Ensign John Myers. At battle of White Plains was wounded by a musket ball. Capt. Henry Tourner's company was encamped at Herman Tallman's house in Nyack, NY. John Acker, John Rodenback and I took turns substituting for each other. I know the following men who can testify as to my war service: John DeBaun, James Ryerson, David Christy and Henry Berdan. Others mentioned in pension; Stephen and John L. Goetschius, Hendrick H. Hopper. Testifying as fellow soldiers in the Revolution, on 17 Oct 1832, Peter VanOrden, John Eckerson, age 91, both of Clarkstown, Rockland Co., NY.

John A. Blauvelt

John A. Blauvelt, NY & NJ Militia, Revolutionary War Pension # S956. NYC Marine Ct., 9 July 1833, John A. Blauvelt, age 71, a resident of NYC, b. 14 Aug 1760 at Tappan, NY. Living at Closter, Bergen Co., NJ when enlisted in service, then Harrington, Bergen Co. After the war., then in May 1832 moved to NYC. I also served as a substitute for ___ Banta or ___ Demarest. In May 1835 asked for pension payments to be transferred to Harrington, Bergen Co., NJ.

I know Benjamin Romain and Henry VanHouten who can testify as to my war service.

Others mentioned in pension; Jacob Westervelt, High Sheriff of NYC. All testifying as fellow soldiers in the Revolution; Matthias Riker, James Riker, and Sylvester Marius, all of NYC as of July 1833.

See the Blauvelt Genealogy, "Revised Edition", by Dorothy A. Moos, 1987: #5-522, for information on John A. Blauvelt. Also see the pension records of Abraham Ferdon [W7254], Paul Powles [W15877], John A. Blauvelt married Maria Naugle, the widow of Paul Powles/Paulison.

Henry Cooper

Henry Cooper, Pvt., NY Militia, Revolutionary War Pension # S981. Bergen Co., NJ Common Pleas Ct., 28 March 1832, Henry Cooper, age 71, a resident of Saddle River, Bergen Co., NJ, b. 28 May 1761 in Haverstraw, Orange Co., NY. Enlisted in 1776 at a place called New City, in the now Town of Clarkstown, Rockland Co., NY. Served with Steven Stevens. Others mentioned in pension: Rev. Zacharia H. Cooper, of Franklin Township, Bergen Co., NJ.; John G. Doremus, of Saddle River.

Testifying as fellow soldiers in the Revolution in 1833, John Tiso, age 67, of Franklin Township, John Magie, b. 1762, Clarkstown, Rockland Co., NY; Joseph Van Cleve, of Bergen Co., NJ; Tunis VanHouten, age 72, of Ramapo, NY.

Mentions that the headquarters for the company was at the house of W. (or N.) Williamson at Nyack, NY. In the pension record was correspondence from 1925 mentioning a William Young and Jacob Young, and his wife Ann Christie, all of Bergen Co., NJ.

Every family tree has some sap in it.

An abstract of the diary of Catharina Schrader (1656-1746), a midwife of Friesland in the 17th and 18th century.

The way Catharina started her career as a midwife had nothing to do with a mission, but with survival. When she was 38 years of age the father of her six children died, and she started working as a traveling midwife in the poor and isolated hamlets near the Friesian coast of Hallum, and the islands nearby. In those days most midwives submitted to the authority of the surgeon, first of all because they were men, and second because they had at least some medical knowledge. But if Catharina objected to their opinion, she did this because she knew what she was talking about, her husband had been a surgeon too. And she objected a lot. According to her dairy, surgeons were a much bigger threat to mother and child than all the obtuse superstitions which effected birth.

She was a very strong woman. The physical circumstances of her job- long distances, bad transportation and poor payment- must have been discouraging. Her very first visit almost killed her. On Shrove Tuesday, 1693, she had to go to the village of Wijns in a horse drawn sleigh, a three hours journey in a piercing snowstorm. When she arrived, she was nearly dead. "They carried me into the house, broke my mouth open, which was covered with ice, and poured some brandy in my mouth. That was good". She soon recovered and got to work. After a long confinement she delivered a healthy girl.

The fee for a midwife depended on the duration of the confinement and not on the result, which was often negative for mother or child, or both. At an average confinement of two days she earned about two guilders, comparable with a week's pay of a skilled workman. In her best days, between 1696 and 1712, she made about two to three hundred guilders a year, not a fortune - more than a schoolteacher or a vicar, but not as much as a prosperous shopkeeper - but enough to accommodate, feed and dress her children. Her income, and maybe her social status, were equal to those of a guardian of an Orphanage.

In about 1695 the family moved to Dokkum, the largest town in the area, where she would stay for the next fifty years. In Dokkum, Catharina Schrader must have built up a respectable reputation in no time, because in the first year she delivered 80 babies. In her busiest year, 1706, she helped deliver 137 babies and earned three hundred guilders, not bad for a widow from the country. In Dokkum she was well-known by the local magistrates and the common people, obviously indefatigable, pious and a respected member of the church.

In her diary Catharina Schrader mentioned one specific incident with a surgeon called van den Berg. In Feb. 1711 she had to go to the village of Nijkerk to help a farmers wife, who had labor pains for three days and was being treated by another midwife and van den Berg. In the surgeons opinion the child was dead, but he had to get it in order to save the mother. The child was in such position that he had decided to perform an amputation, "in utero", of legs and arms, an operation the mother most certainly would not have survived. At that moment Catharina arrived and sent away the midwife, the surgeon and the neighbors. (In these communities the birth of a child was a public event) She put the mother in a clean, warm bed, and gave her a little tepid broth. After an hour the contractions started again and the mother gave birth to a healthy daughter.

Catharina's battle was not only against the ignorance of the surgeons, but also against the traditional treatments administered by her colleagues. The worst mistakes were the continuous treatment with purgatives, in order to accelerate the contractions, and over feeding. In 1708 she was called to a desperate woman, who just appeared to be drunk. Next to her bed was a large pint of beer. Catharina used alcohol too, diluted brandy in order to relax the muscles during a long confinement. She also used "mothers-herbs," practically the same as in Roman times, tinctures of myrrh, saffron and anise seed, as slight painkillers, and melted butter as lubricant. But her main tools were her own hands. She knew how to turn the fetus by the shoulders, or where she could put her fingers under the jaw of the child in order to gently pull it into the world. She had seen the mutilations caused by pulling ears and putting a hand in the mouth of a fetus in order to get grip.

In 1713 Catharina married the goldsmith and Mayor of Dokkum, Thomas Higt. She probably stopped her practice to please her husband, or maybe she just retired, because her diary records only 65 deliveries between 1714 and 1722. After seven years of marriage her second husband died and Catharine, now in her sixties, picked up her old job. The first years she had an income of 260 guilders, and at 78, she calculated, she had earned 8500 guilders in this profession. Despite her vitality -she delivered her own grandchildren- she could not keep up the tempo of her profession, two times a week confinement, which sometimes lasted two or three days. But she went on, In 1741 (she was 86) she had 28 deliveries, in 1743 still twenty, and two in 1744 and 1745.

In 1746 Catharina died, with three thousand children on her securely updated list.

*Contributed by Les Baisley,
as found on Dutch-Colonies-L@rootsweb.com*

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