THE VAN RIPERS



# of ACQUACKANONK

Mary Travis Army.
149 Watchung Ave
Upper Montclair
N.J.

gift of Herbert Fisher

THE VAN RIPERS OF ACQUACKANONK.



THE PHILIP VAN RIPER MANSION IN 1863.

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ACQUACKANONK LANDING IN 1844.

Taken From an Old Print.

This view of Acquackanonk Landing, The old name for Passaic, shows Drummond's General Store and Warehouses, the Landing, and The Old First Church.

Before the advent of the railroad Acquackanonk Landing was one of

The most important inland sea ports in the States. Ships sailed to every port carrying iron bars from the important iron-mines of Ringwood, Sterling and North Jersey.



THE ACQUACKANONK REFORMED
DUTCH CHURCH.

The Patentees gathered for worship regularly from the earliest date of their settlement at Acquackanonk allowing a Triangle of land for the Church and the Graveyard. The limits of the Parish extended southward to Belleville and northward to Pompton. The first church was a small log structure, replaced by a larger brownstone octagonal building in 1702. In 1829 a larger building was built and C.G. Garrison built the brick structure shown here. In 1903 it was purchased by the St. Peter and St. Paul Polish National Catholic Church, and on March 17, 1931 it was destroyed by fire. It was later rebuilt. The graveyard has been destroyed and is now a park.



THE OLD TAP HOUSE ON THE HILL.

PASSAIC, N. J.

This very famous hotel stood at Gregory Avenue and River Drive until it burned to the ground in 1887. It stood near the Old Dutch Reformed Church and was originally the Parsonage.

In Colonial days it was customary for tap houses to be near the Church and often were owned by the Church. It was in 1758 the Church leased it as a tavern. It had been built in 1713.

The earliest known keeper was Timothy Day who is known to have been there as early as October 1772. In 1775 James Leslie succeeded him and the place became known as Leslie's Tavern.

The Tavern was the local news center and there it was that the first rumblings of the Revolution were heard and discussed. There, too, were held important meetings. Washington stayed there on November 21, 1776 on his discouraging defeat and his retreat across New Jersey. A year and a half later, on July 9, 1778 he stayed there again.

Lord Stirling used it for his headquarters. And on Washington's visit there, he, Thomas Paine, and three generals went to visit the graveyard behind the Church. They came across a grave stone marked "G. G. overladen 1737, January 1". Washington asked the sexton what it meant. The grave digger explained it was the grave of Gerrit Gerritsen, who died (overladen) Jan. 1, 1737 and that he lived at a time when physical strengths were sorely tried. Thomas Paine uttered his immortal words — "These are the Times that try men's souls", went back to the hotel and began his famous book "The Crisis".

Later Uriah Van Riper owned the hotel (not the progenitor; but, a great grandson)

OUR ANCESTORS.

1. THE DUTCH.

There is no question but that the Van Riper family is of Holland ancestry. Until recently it was firmly believed that the family was of Danish ancestry. Recent research has disproved this theory. (See the chapter on the Van Riper family). The Hopper family, the Hendricksen family, the Moll family, the Sip's, the Van Wagoner's, the Van Houtens, the Van Ness', the Jacobus family, the Van Vorst family, the Van Purmarent's, the Preyor family, the Stynmetzen family, the de Gray's, the Ryerson's, the Berry family, and, we may include the Van Merselis family; all were Dutchmen good and True.

The Van Merselis family was actually of Danish nobility but had become thoroughly Dutch with its close ties and relationships. The de la Mater, de Burchgraef*, and du Bois families were French Huguenot but soon became Dutch in speech, habit, and thought, after coming to New Netherland. The

* This is an error. The de Burchgraefs were Dutch.

Demarests, de Rapalies and the Tricaults were French Walloons, the Bradbury's and Conklin's were English and the Christies were Scotch. But they all fell to the persuasive powers of the Dutch.

Who were these Dutch individuals who so thoroughly influenced their neighbors? Let us go back to Holland.

Holland is an unique country. There is no other in the world like it. It is entirely man-made. Once it was merely the bottom of the sea and by long centuries of hard labor the Dutch people pushed back that sea and have created for themselves a country. It is from this stock our ancestors came. Dykes were built to hold back the waters and most of Holland, to-day, is from sixteen to twenty-four feet below sea-level! After exposing the sandy soil it was still unfit for cultivation and it took years to fertilize and enrich the vast wastes. Every square inch was utilized.

To the Dutch we owe the inauguration of hot-house planting and the introduction of crop-rotation. The crossing of fruits

and grains was invented and carefully studied. Finally Holland became known as the land of flowers.

The Dutch had few resources; merely the reclaimed land, all below sea level, and the sea itself. It was but natural that fishing, ship-building and Trading became prime industries. With the importation of products from other lands Trading establishments sprung up and with these, manufacturing centers arose.

Holland is not quite the size of New Jersey and about one-quarter the size of England. Yet her population is over twice that of New Jersey and about a quarter of that of England.

One can not help admire and respect this little country which built itself from out of the bottom of the sea into the vast Colonial Empire it was during the Seventeenth Century, carrying on a vast trade in the Indies and vying with Spain for importance.

And thus the West India Company was organized in 1621 with the fond

hopes it would bring enormous wealth to Holland and so break the power of Spain.

THE WEST INDIA COMPANY.

The West India Company soon did become powerful, capturing hundreds of ships and conquering a large part of Brazil. The Poot family became powerful in this organization which was privately owned. The colony at New Amsterdam was established but as it did not bring in enough money, quickly enough, for the Company little assistance was given to it. All thoughts were centered on Brazil which was bringing to the Dutch coffers fabulous amounts of gold.

Here the Company made a grave error for the United States and Canada could easily have been made Dutch Territory with a bit more effort.

HOLLAND IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

Holland had become a home of refugees. Huguenots, Walloons, English, and others, fled to it during the religious

persecutions. The Dutch people were easy-going and tolerant, willing to accept new ideas and satisfied to share with the unfortunates. Perhaps their struggles with the winds (for the winds swept over the low, level country) and sea had taught them to appreciate the struggles and hard ships of others. And that is how so many Walloons, and Huguenots came over to New Amsterdam.

Things were flourishing, there were but few troubles and the Dutch people, themselves were not too anxious to come over to the new lands.

THE DUTCH IN AMERICA.

In 1607 Jamestown had been founded by the English and the first English colony established in America.

On September 3, 1609 Henry Hudson anchored at Sandy Hook, making friendly relations with the Indians, discovering the "Narrows" & the "Kill von Kull", through which he came to Newark Bay, discovering the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers as well as the Hudson. He was acting on behalf of the Company and on October 2, 1609 set sail for Holland. His reports created quite a stir, and an

interest in the new land was aroused.

THE UNITED NETHERLANDS COMPANY.

A group of mercantile traders made application to the States General for permission to trade with the newly discovered land. This was granted and on March 27, 1614 an edict was issued forming the "United Netherlands Company". Trading posts were established at Manahatta and Fort Orange (New York City and Albany) and given exclusive rights to trade in the Hudson countryside.

THE DUTCH WEST INDIA COMPANY became the immediate sovereign of New Netherland and remained so until its capture by the English in 1664. The Directors were wealthy and influential men, controlling both the South American colony and the New Netherlands colony. Under its provisions any member could claim a section of land, sixteen miles in length on one side of a river, or, eight miles in length on both sides. There was no limitation as to its width.

THE PATROON.

The claimant to such a tract

became a patroon and had to provide fifty colonists willing to settle and cultivate the land. These colonists became tenants of the patroon. They were tax exempt for ten years but paid the patroon ten per cent of the harvest. The patroon reserved to himself all hunting, fishing and mill-rights.

FIRST SETTLEMENT AT MANHATTAN.

The first permanent lodgment on the New Netherland shores seems to have been made in 1613 when a trading post was established on the present site of New York City. In 1614 and 1615 forts were built at Albany and at New York and in 1614 a fort was built at Jersey City. However it was not until 1661 that Bergen, or Jersey City, began to grow.

In 1628 there were only 270 souls living in Manhattan. In 1657 there were but 224. In 1647 Peter Stuyvesant was sent over to govern the settlement. More interest was taken in it and we find well-to-do merchants beginning to transplant themselves, and French Huguenots and Walloons, of grace and refinement, establishing themselves. New York was

becoming an aristocratic little town; in every aspect a transplanted Holland town. Canals, buildings and gardens gave it the appearance of any city in Holland. Even the old feudal system of governing was attempted, which did not work out so well. The wide open spaces were unlimited and if things got too hot for the tenent he had but to pack his things and start out on his own.

THE HUGUENOTS AND WALLOONS.

The Huguenots, Walloons and Dutch Reformists were all kindred in spirit. Their religious beliefs were practically the same. Only their geographical locations made any difference. The Huguenots were from France proper; the Walloons were from Southern Belgium and the North section of modern France; the Dutch Reformists were from Holland. All were of the Reformed religion.

The Walloons and Huguenots of France were being persecuted by the Catholic rulers of France. They were known as heretics and a great number fled to England and many to Holland; two countries that were sympathetic toward them at the Time. Soon, however, England changed its rulers and things changed. Protestants were no longer welcomed and once more the Walloons and the Huguenots moved. This Time to Holland. With them came many English families.

The Walloons and Huguenots were the first to take opportunity in hand when shipments were made to New Amsterdam and they were the first to settle in New York City.

THE DUTCH SETTLEMENTS OF BERGEN AND ACQUACKANONK.

THE CHARTER OF FREEDOM AND EXEMPTIONS.

Up until 1629 the North American enterprise did not yield an adequate return to the Dutch West India Company. This was due to the lack of systematic efforts to make it a permanent development of the country. To help relieve the situation the "Charter of Freedom and Rights and Exemptions" was granted by the Company whereby special privileges were given "to such as should plant, within four years, a colony of fifty adults in any part of New Netherlands other than Manhattan Island." In 1630 Michael Pauw took advantage of this and made title to most of the present Hudson County. This purchase may be said to have begun the history of New Jersey.

AHASIMUS AND ARESSICK.

The purchase covered most of the lands along the Hudson River from

Communipaw to Weehawken and was described as Ahasimus and Aressick. At the time the Hudson River was known as the Mauritius, and New York City as Manahatas. Ahasimus later became known as the town of Van Vorst and Aressick as Paulus Hook. The whole section was named after Pauw and was known as Pavonia.

In 1633 Michael Paulusen was living at Aressick and in that year two houses were built; one at Communipaw and one at Ahasimus. A few straggling houses were built and in 1654 when the Indian out-break occurred the inhabitants fled across the River to Manahatta. In 1656 a law was passed whereby settlers were commanded to concentrate themselves into villages and hamlets.

THE BERGEN TRACT.

Once again the hardy Dutch ventured forth and on January 30, 1658 a tract of land lying on the west bank of the Hudson was purchased from the Indians. On August 16, 1660 several of the inhabitants petitioned to make a village behind Communipaw and have a drawing of lots. The Village of

Bergen was founded. Bergen meant "wooded hills." Bergen thus became the earliest settlement in Jersey, and the first permanent one.

BERGEN VILLIAGE.

The villiage was in the form of a square 800 feet long on each side, with two cross streets meeting at right angles in the center. Thus the plot was devided into four large blocks devided into building lots. The original plan is still preserved at Bergen Square, Jersey City. Academy Street and Bergen Avenue are the intersecting streets, while Tuers Avenue, Van Ryken, Newkirk and Vroom Streets mark the lines of the palisades that surrounded the Villiage. The houses were erected within the fort and the farms surrounded it.

Here it was that Urian Tomassen (Van Riper) went when he first settled in New Netherlands in 1663. and here was the first abode of the Van Ripers in America.

The Dutch were entranced by the beauty of North Jersey. Its luxuriant vegetation, dense forests, beautiful streams and abundant game, fish and fowl amazed them. And the vastness of the new country intrigued them.

THE ACQUACKANONK PATENT.

So we find the Dutchmen beginning to explore the country side, buying new tracts of land from the Indians and starting new settlements. The Secaucus Patent granted to Nicholas Varlet on December 10, 1663.; the Captain Berry Patent including Rutherford, Saddle River and Hackensack was made in 1669; the Demarest Patent for 30,000 acres of land in the Old Township of Hackensack extending along the easterly side of the Hackensack River beyond Old Bridge and easterly as far as the line of the Northern Railroad, was made on June 8, 1677. The Willocks and Johnston Patent including a large part of Ridgewood, Glen Rock and Franklin Township was soon after, followed by still others.

And in 1678 we find three men setting out from Manahatta in a canoe and eventually organizing the Acquackanonk Patent.

It all started back in Manahatta in a trading post belonging to Michiel Jansen. (meaning Michiel, the son of John) As early as 1640 he was trading with the Indians for furs. The Indians came down the Passaic River with their canoes ladened with furs to trade with Michiel for trinkets, beads, bottles, guns, shoes, and other items, brass kettles, copper pots and iron ware. Michiel did a thriving business. The Indians would tell wondrous tales of the beauties of the Passaic countryside of the roaring Totowa Falls and of the very special Island where the Kanticaws were held. The fish and eels just lay at the bottom of the river side by side there were so many, and the country was filled with deer, bear, fox, wolves, turkeys, pheasants, ducks and fowl.

Michiel had a son named Hartman who listened in open-eyed amazement to the tales the Indians told. His curiousity was aroused. However when

he was but twelve years of age his father died. Hartman went out as an apprentice learning the carpenter trade but gave it up to go with Abraham Van Horn, dealer in furs at Wall Street. Here Hartman became acquainted with the Indians and became deeply interested in the Acquackanonk area, dreaming of the great opportunity of establishing a trading post there. This, he figured, would save the Indians a several days trip. It took two days to row down the river, plus the time it took to maneuver the rapids and another two day trip back.

Meanwhile things were beginning to be too congested for the Indian, and he was beginning to think of moving farther west. Hartman Michiels was the first to hear of these plans and so he induced young Jacques Cortelyou to accompany him on a visit to the famed "Menchenicka" Island. Together, with Hans, an Indian half-breed, they set out from the present Battery to Dunder Island (Menchenicka) on March 25, 1678, which by the old calendar

was New Years Day. It took them two days to row from the Battery to Dundee. Both men immediately fell in love with the Territory and decided to buy; Cortelyou the Saddle River side and Hartman the west bank and the Island.

"Menchenicke" was the Indian name for the Island. It meant "Union". Here all the surrounding tribes met for their religious and holiday festivals. It was the great gathering place. It was held in high esteem as it was considered a holy place. To the Indian an island reminded him of a turtle and the turtle was the creator of all things. According to evolutionary ideas of the Indian the creation of man was as follows. Living in the ocean was a turtle. He raised to the surface and the water drained off his back upon which grew a tree. One bough bore forth a man and the other a woman. From then on the turtle supported the world upon

his backs.

The Indians in the region were the "Lenni Lenapi", pronounced "Len-ahs-pay", meaning "original" or "pure" Indian. They were a tribe of the Algonkins and centuries before had wandered out from beyond the "Great Muddy River", the Mississippi. They were a kindly and friendly Tribe and their chief was Hackpunck.

The area abounded with wild game; fruits and berries were plentiful, and as the Indians had stated "fish lay at the bottom of the stream side by side".

Chief Hackpunck was sought and with a bottle of rum the two men paid the deposit for the land. Hartmans idea, of course, was to establish a trading post on the Island. It was ideally situated being centrally located. It was not too long a trip for the Hackensack tribe of Algonkins to make. The Pomptons could row down the River; and the Third River, much larger than it is now,

led into the Stone House Plains area. He would not only please the Indians by saving them the several day trip but would corner the market in the North Jersey area.

The fur trading industry was an important one. Holland had been buying her furs from Russia and paying Russia tremendous prices. Furs were needed to keep off the wintry blasts. Now they could get furs at practically nothing. It was wonderful and great profits were being made in the business. It was the one thing that kept the New Netherlands Colony in existence.

Hartman went back to Manahatta, interested his three brothers in the scheme, and because he desired to make it a permanent and self-supporting enterprise, rounded up ten of the wealthiest men he knew. He went into great detail explaining the merits of Acquackanonk. The men were only too happy to listen to him and Hartman was chosen to

obtain a deed from the Indians and make negotiations for purchasing the territory, covering a large extent of country; supposedly 5,520 acres but actually twice that much. And so on January 6, 1685 Hartman Michielsen (Vreeland) obtained a patent and built his trading post which was to become extremely popular with the Indians and to be a prosperous venture.

Dundee is no longer an island. In 1916 one branch of the River was filled in and Dundee is now a section of the City of Passaic called the Dundee Section. Acquackanonk is now comprised of Delawanna, Allwood, Athenia Richfield, Albion Place, most of Paterson, Lakeview, Clifton, Passaic.

DUTCH GENEOLOGY.

The whole system of nomenclature was one of gradual development. First, the call name came into vogue; then the Patronymic, or Father's name, to show the line of descent; and, finally the permanent family name, or surname. Call names were derived from some physical or personal characteristic, or occupation. As population increased this system of nomenclature became insufficient and the adoption of Patronymic became necessary.

For instance: If Johns became too numerous in a village it was difficult to classify which John was meant so it was only natural to say John the Miller or John the Farmer. Still this did not make a permanent family name as John the Farmer might be the son of John the Miller and his son might be Henry the Cobbler. Or he might be known simply as Henry, John's son. Later these names became permanent and we find John Miller, John Farmer and Henry Johnson.

In the Holland language "sen", "se", "zen" or simply "s" meant "the son of". And it was not until the 18th Century that common people began to use surnames. Before then only members of nobility used surnames and then not until the Eleventh Century. Thus, it is extremely difficult to trace a family beyond the Sixteenth or Seventeenth Century.

Many Dutch surnames were from place or locality names; as: Van Riper means "from Riper", Holland. Van der Bilt means "of the mound" — Van meant "of" and Van der "of the". "Ten" meant "at the" and Ten Eyck means "at the oak". "Voor" meant "before" or "in front of" and Voorhees meant "In front of Hess", a town in Guelderland. "Onder" meant below and so "Onderdonk" meant "below Donk", a town in Brabant.

The patronymical form of surname was common in Holland up to the 18th Century. Children were known as the son of John, son of Thomas, son of Philip. To the Christian form of girls "je" was often added meaning "little one".

THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

The geneology of the Van Riper family is one of the most difficult to trace. Not only is it a large family but a family with many changes of surnames and many varieties of spelling.

Some of the names I came across were: Tomasse, Tomassen, Tomas, Thomasse, Thomassen, Thomas, Tomasson, Thomasson, Jurjense, Jurjaense, Juriaense, Juriense, Jurrie Juriaen, Jurjen, Jergen, Jannse, Jeurianszen, Aeltse, Auryansen, Urian, Van Ripe, Van Rype, Van Reype, Van Raype, Van Reipe, Van Riper, Van Reyper, Van Ripen, Van Reypen, Van Reiper, Van Reipen, Van de Ripe, Van de Reype, Yreance, Gerritse, Harmsse, Auriansen.

Present day spellings seem to be limited to: Van Riper, Van Ripen, Van Reyper, Van Reypen, Van Ryper, Yearreance, Aurianson, Auryansen, Juriaense and Jergen.

At any rate all of these persons and families seem to be descendent from one Jurien, or Urian (pronounced

"Yoo-re-awn") Tomassen, or Tomasse (son of Thomas) who came to this country on a vessel named the "Spotted Cow", or "T' Bonte Koe", which set sail from Amsterdam on April 2, 1663 with eighty-eight other passengers, men, women and children. Twenty-four of these were French among whom were David Demaree, his wife and four children.

There has been a fallacy that the Van Ripers came from Riper, now known as Ribe, Denmark. This is probably due to an error made by O'Callaghan in his "Documentary History of New York", which has been widely copied. As Riper, Holland is a very small town she probably could not find it on a map and took it for granted the Town must be Riper in Denmark. Many Danish persons came over to New Netherlands and it could have been a possibility except that the "Spotted Cow" left from Amsterdam with a boat-load of Dutch and French refugees. Surely it would not go out

of its way to pick up one passenger. Daniel Van Winkle in his "History of Hudson County" supports this theory. So does Mrs. D. Versteeg, translator for the Holland Society.

In an old Dutch atlas, in the New York City Library, published by Jan Blaew in Amsterdam, 1664 we find a settlement called Ryppe about fifteen miles north of Amsterdam. Notated just below Ryppe is "Ryperbrug" which, translated into English, means "Bridge to Ryppe". This settlement had one church, twenty-two houses and four (4) wind mills. In the Rand-Mc Nally atlas you will find it marked "de Ryp".

Ryppe was in a rich and fertile agricultural country with no river very near. So we can assume the Van Ripers were farmers or, perhaps, millers. But, as the interests of the early Van Ripers in America ran toward the soil more than milling we shall assume they were farmers. We know that Vrian Tomasse's father was a Thomas but beyond that we know no more until further research is made. Due to O'Callaghan's error, perhaps, and assuming the Van

Rikers were Danish, no thorough research has been made. In a village of so few families some one should be able to identify our Thomas.

1. JURIAN[1] TOMASSEN.

Mr. VerSteeg makes another strong point as to Jurian's Dutch ancestry in that Jurian is a Dutch name and is not found in the Danish vocabulary. The full name "Jurian Tomassen" simply meant "Jerry, the son of Thomas."

Jurian, upon arriving at New Amsterdam settled at Bergen. Here, some-time between 1664 and 1667 he purchased a plot that has been continuously in the family until the past few years; if not until the present day! Some historians are inclined to believe that Jurian did not buy property there but merely lived with relatives or friends. Early records of him are scanty. However he did settle there and since the Van Riper property is part of the Old Bergen Tract and since Daniel Van Winkle and Harriet Phillipse

Eaton confirm the fact I think it is more than probable he did purchase property. The present house was built in 1802 and is considered the oldest house in Jersey City.

Jurian married Reyke Harmsse, or Hermans, in 1667 and was a member of the Bergen Church in 1667. His marriage took place on May 25, 1667. It was in 1678 that Hartman Vreeland first became acquainted with Acquackanonk and January 6, 1685 when he, Urian Tomassen and the other Patentees purchased the lands. Almost twenty years had passed since Jurian married and it is not likely he had remained all those years with some one else. Then, too, Jurian after buying the Acquackanonk parcel did not give up his Bergen holdings. He kept returning there and some historians doubt if he ever actually lived at Acquackanonk, but that his children; rather, some of them, did.

Jurian received Lot Number One of the purchase, which was next to the Englishmans lands, including Delawanna, Allwood, part of Richfield and the Notch.

At first only 100 acres were used; then, another fifty acres; till finally his whole parcel to the Mountain was opened up. Mean while his son Harmen purchased lot number Four.

Urian (Jurian) returned to Bergen and there he died on September 12, 1695. The two houses he built were to become famous. The one as the site of the oldest house in Jersey City and the other as the famed VanRiper - Wanshair mansion of Revolutionary days where the finest horses were raised for the American Army. It was raided by the British. After the Revolution John Wanshair sold it to Lt. Col. John Cummings the great engineer.

2. HARMEN[2] VAN RIPER (JURIANSON)

Harmen Juriansen, as he called himself was the tenth child of Jurian Tomassen. He was baptised on Dec. 6, 1686 and married twice: on June 20, 1709, Maritje Frederickse daughter of Frefik Thomasse and Catherina Hopper; on some date in 1720 Judith Steenmetz (Stynmetz or Stimus).

On May 15, 1722 he purchased Lot No. 4 in the first tier of lots on the Passaic River; also the lot directly in the rear of it, in the second Tier of lots. He was chosen a deacon of the Old Dutch Reformed Church of Acquackanonk in 1715 and 1726 and an elder in 1731 and 1738. His will was proved on November 13, 1730 where he used the surname of Harme Yurryanse for himself but the name of Van Ryper for that of his Thirteen children. His lands were equally devided between them. He lived in the Van Riper-Wanshaar house going to his farm-lands daily. These lands were between the present Brooks Avenue and Van Houten Avenue.

3. ABRAHAM VAN RIPER (VAN RYPE)

Abraham, the Third son of Harmen Jurriaanse and Maritje Fredericksz was born on January 25, 1716. He married Elizabeth Bradbury of the English Neighborhood and daughter of the wealthy Thomas Bradbury, on November 28, 1747.

Although his father mentioned him as Abraham Van Ryse he was known as Abraham Van Riper. He lived at Stone House Plains in the Van Riper-Hepburn House, on Broad Streeet, Richfield. Here he had a farm, a part of the original Harmen Van Riper tract which ran from about where the house is to the Notch Road and back to the Mountain. Directly south of it was the huge Bradbury Estate running along the Third River from the Passaic River to the Mountain. His wife and he fell heir to this when Thomas Bradbury died. Abraham became an extremely wealthy man.

He lived to a great age and when ninety conveyed his property to his two sons and one daughter, Mary Van Houten. He then devided his Time between the homes of his two sons; John who lived in the old Bradbury house and Philip who lived along the Third River at Stone House Plains in the Philip Van Riper House.

4. PHILIP[4] VAN RIPER.

Philip was the younger of the two sons; John and Philip, of Abraham. He was born on January 8, 1755 and died on July 11, 1834. On March 29, 1789 he married Jannetje Sip, a sister of Halmaugh Sip. She lived in the Steinmetz-Sip house on River Road, Passaic.

They took up house-keeping in the Philip Van Riper house and had five children of whom Adrian was the fourth.

The will of Philip's was dated October 7, 1831 and witnessed by Theodore Frelinghuysen, John A. Van Riper and Philip I. Van Riper. It was proved, July 28, 1834. He was known as Squire Van Riper, owned many slaves and carried on a typical feudal estate, practically self substaining. Surrounding his mansion were work-shops, huts for the slaves, and small houses of those who worked for him.

5. ADRIAN[5] VAN RIPER.

Adrian was the fourth child of Philip Van Riper and Jannetje Sip. He was born on August 2, 1799. He married Polly Merselis, daughter of Garret Merselis of Preakness.

They lived in the Philip Van Riper mansion.

6. ADRIAN[6] VAN RIPER

Adrian Van Riper, the son of Adrian Van Riper and Polly Merselis married twice. I have not as yet traced the first wife or who the children may have been. Records are scanty due to the Paterson fire; and, the family Bible was discarded years ago. However, his second wife was Margaret Conklin. They had six children: Catherine, Abraham, Philip, John, Elmira and Mary.

Adrian died and Margaret married a Van Houten and had one daughter. When Adrian died he left no will so most of the property fell into the Van Houten-Van Reyper family.

7. JOHN[7] VAN RIPER

John Van Riper was the son of Adrian Van Riper and Margaret Conklin. His brother, Philip, remained in the old Philip Van Riper house. Abraham moved to Newarke and John purchased property in Brookdale where three children: Clare, Irvin and Wallace were born. They are of the Eighth generation in America.

ACQUACKANONK.

"Beside a stream that never yet ran dry,
There stands a town, not high advanced in fame;
Tho' few it's buildings rais'd to please the eye,
Still This proud title it may fairly claim:
A tavern (its first requisite) is there,
A mill, a blacksmith shop, a place of prayer."

– *Philip Freeman*, a New Jersey poet (1768)



THE NETHERLANDS

Home-land of the Van Riper Family.

Explanation :

★ RIPEN – Home of the Van Riper family.
• BREDA – Home of the Sip family.
• WAGENINGEN – Home of Van Wagoner, Gerritsen, or Garrison family.
• HOUTEN – Home of the Van Houten or Cornelissen family.
• VOORST – Home of the Van Vorst family.
• DEVENTER – Home of the Hendricksen, or Blauvelt family.
FRIESLAND – Home of the de Gray, or de Grauw family
• AMSTERDAM – Home of the Dey and The Ryerson families

EXPLANATION.

TOTOWA - Section around the Falls including part of Paterson.

GREAT FALLS - Passaic Falls.

POSTVILLE - Named after the Post family who owned it; now Albion Place.

WESEL, or WESSEL - Section of Paterson along the River where Eastside Park, and the cemetaries are.

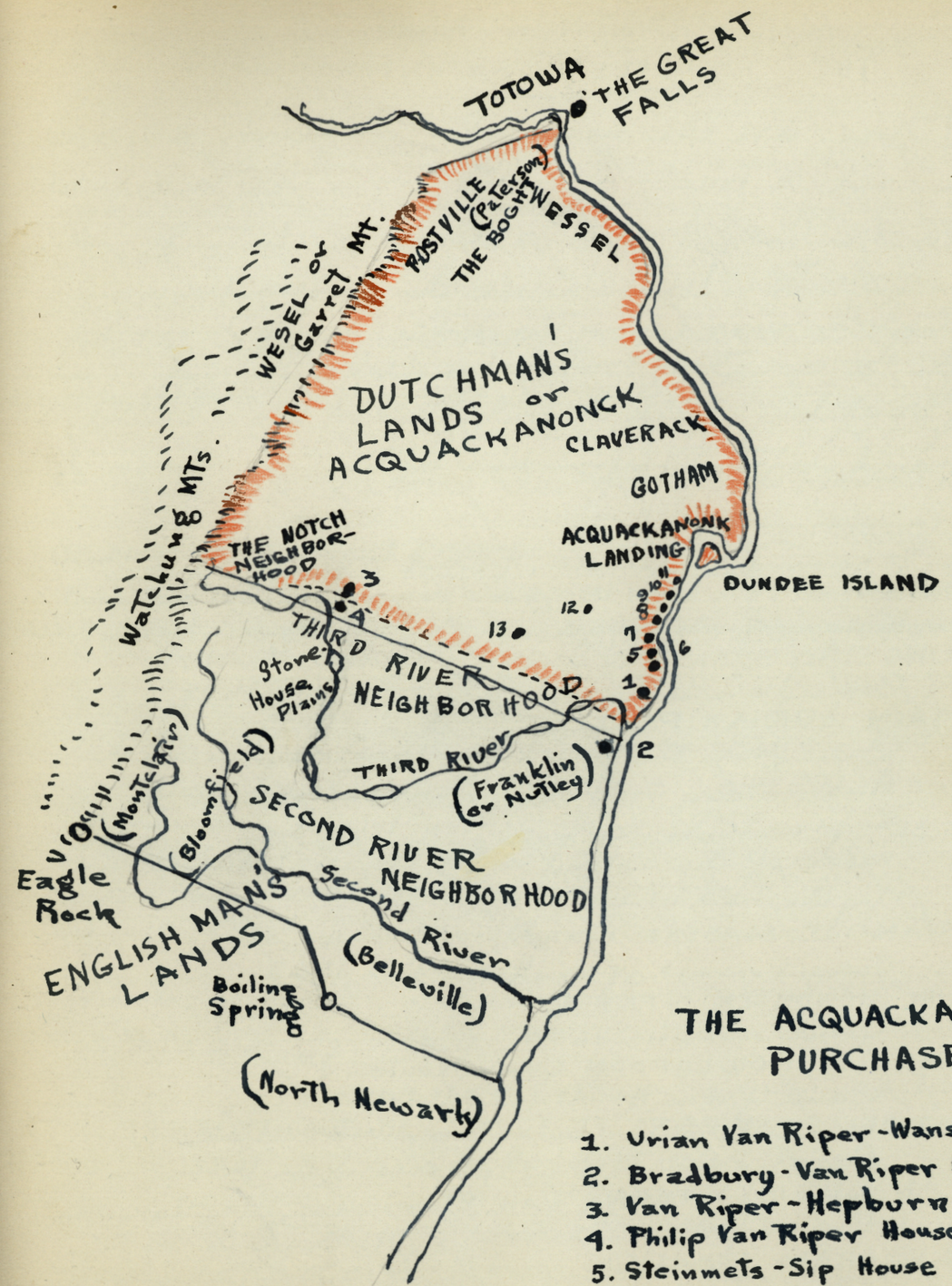
CLAVERACK - "Clover Fields"; now Clifton

GOTHAM - Territory along each side of the present Lexington Avenue.

ACQUACKANONK LANDING - Passaic.

THIRD RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD - Territory along the Third, or Hanticzw River

STONE HOUSE PLAINS - Brookdale and part of Richfield



10. Sip House (John Sip House)
11. Adrian Post House
12. Harp Van Riper House Site
13. Van Riper-Jacobus House Site

THE ACQUACKANONCK PURCHASE.

1. Urian Van Riper-Wanshair House
2. Bradbury-Van Riper House
3. Van Riper-Hepburn House
4. Philip Van Riper House
5. Steinmets-Sip House
6. Vreeland House
7. Dirck Van Riper House
8. Garret Van Riper House Site
9. VAN IDERSTEIN HOUSE

ACQUACKANONCK AND THE FOURTEEN PATENTEES.

These are the men who on March 25, 1686 purchased a tract of land from the Indians known as the Acquackanonck Patent; Taken from the Indian word "Acquanonona" meaning "a river (from the latin "Acqua") running through a country noted for it's bountiful yearly supply of all products of the field, forest and stream (from the latin "annona"):

1. HANS DIEDERICKS
   He came from Isleven, Holland to Jersey City in 1660.
2. GERRIT GERRITSE (Van Wagoner, Garrison, Garretsen)
   He came from Wageningen, in Gelderland about 1660.
3. WALLING JACOBSEN (Van Winkle, Jacobus, Jacobs)
   Came from Winkel, in Gelderland in 1639
4. CAPTAIN ADRIAN POST
   Came from the famed family of deyden and Amsterdam in 1650. He came over as the superintendent of Staten Island and was the ruler of the colony until it was burned out by the Indians.
5. URIAN TOMASSEN (Van Riper, Vereance, etc.)
   Came from Ripen, Holland in 1663
6. JOHN HENDRICK SPEER.
   Came over in 1659.
7. CORNELIS ROWLOFSON (Van Houten)
   Came from Houten in 1659
8. CORNELIS LUBERS (Lubertson, Westervelt).
   Came from Meppal, Holland in 1662
9. JAN LUBBERTSEN (Van Blaricum, Van Blarcome)
   Came from Blaricum, Holland in 1652
10. ABRAHAM BOOKEY
    Came from St. Anna Ter Mulden, Holland in 1680
11. THE FOUR VREELAND BROTHERS.

THE ACQUACKANONCK PURCHASE AND HOW IT WAS DEVIDED.

The fourteen patenteers were all Dutchmen, good and True and some came from the finest blood of Holland. They were all considered men of wealth, as we shall see later in our story. Later, as more men were attracted to the area, we find French Huguenots, Belgium Walloons, and others, who had fled first to Holland during the religious persecutions and who then came over with the Dutch, settling in Acquackanonck, Totowa, Horse-Neck (Fairfield), Little Falls, Stone House Plains (Brookdale) and the Territory westward.

Some of these men were of noble and even royal blood. Adrian Post was of one of the very oldest families in the world and of an European royal family. The Vreeland family was also from a noble Dutch branch descendant from Dirck, Count of Holland, 922 A.D.

Herron Von Post who captured Wittelburg in 980 A.D. was an ancestor of Captain Adrian Post. He was of nobility from Saxony. During the Time of Conrad Salico, the Roman Emperor, the Post family was one of Roman nobility.

They were an easy going, kind-

hearted lot and when Acquackanonk was devided they cast lots for their farm locations.

The purchase included some Ten Thousand acres and more. Deciding it was too much to tackle immediately they laid out fourteen one-hundred acre lots along the River between The mouth of the Yantacaw, or Third River and The Old Dutch Reformed (now the Polish Catholic) Church in Passaic. Urian Tomassen drew "Lot I" which was of 130 acres, due to some bad lands, and in the present Delawanna. Behind the 100 acre lots, fifty acre lots were laid out for use when they might be needed. Dwars Line Road was the devision line between these lots. and ~~Pershing Road~~ the rear.

About 1695 another devision was made and a second parcel of fourteen lots laid out. This was in the City of Passaic, extending northward about to the corner of Main Avenue and Prospect Street. These lots were much smaller. About the same time fourteen dock lots were allotted along the river bank. These lots were important for shipping and receiving goods. They were located across from the Church.

Soon after the track between Grove

Street and the mountain was devided, so that the original fourteen lots now extended to the mountain. Post Town was included in the Posh devision.

About 1697 another Track was opened up embracing both sides of the present Lexington Avenue in Passaic and Clifton. It started at Main Avenue and Prospect Street and ran to Ackerman's Lane in Clifton. This was known as the GouTum, now Angloeized to Gotham, Track. Again fourteen lots were laid out.

About 1701 a new apportionment of lots was made from the GouTum Track to the present 21st Avenue in Paterson and extending from the Passaic River on the East to the Garret Mountain on the West. This was known as the Wesel Track.

In 1714, the remaining portion, which included the greater portion of the present City of Paterson was devided, into fourteen lots. This was known as the Bogh Patent. "Bogh" was the Dutch word for "Bend" — bend in the river.

Thus the Acquackanonck Purchase was devided amongst the fourteen Patentees or their heirs; or parties who had purchased their lands.

Adrian Post had a brother, Frans Post who came to Acquackanonck and purchased one of the original Hundred-Acre Lots. So when the devisions came he was included as a Patentee. Later he purchased the Lubberts Track for £750. The first Track was from Hans Hedricksen for £760, in those days a vast amount of money. So the Post family owned three-fourteenths of the Acquackanonck Purchase.

In 1696 the track of land surrounding The Great Falls was purchased from the Indians. Known as the Totowa Patent it embraced all of the First and Second Wards of present Patterson. It had nothing to do with the Acquackanonck purchase except families intermarried. The Van Houtens, Ryersens, Godwins.

In 1711 the good farmers of Acquackanonck felt hemmed in, and needed more land. It was feared there might be a shortage of wood! So the Little Falls Track was purchased from the

Indians. Frans Poor was leader. Others included: John Sipe, Harmanus Garrison, Thomas Jervanse (Van Riper) oldest brother of Harmen[2] Van Riper and son of the original Urian[1] Van Riper (Tomasse), Christoffel Stymets who had purchased one of the original Hundred Acre lots, Cornelius Doremus, Peter Powlasse and Hessel Pieterse. The whole Track was not opened up at once, and it was not until 1723 that the present Little Falls Township was devided. The Browers, Franciscos, Van Hess' and Vreelands settled here as well as members of the above families. In all the Track included 28,000 acres which extended from the Great Falls up the River to Little Falls. Including Little Falls, Cedar Grove and a portion of Singac.

SOME DUTCH CHRISTIAN NAMES AND THEIR MEANINGS.

AnTje – Ann
Arent – Aaron
Andries – Andrew
Baertje – Bertha
BarenT – Bernard
Brechje – Bridget
CaTrina – Catherine
ClaarTje – Clara
ClaerTje – "
Claas – Nicholas
Claes – "
Dirck – Richard
Derick – "
Dirckje – feminine for Richard

Effie – Eve
Elsje – Alice
Elsie – "
Ebbe – Abigail
Engeltje – Catherine
Frans – Francis
Francoise – "
FyTje – Sophia
FiTje – "
Gilly – Gertrude
GeerTruyT – "
GeerTje – "
Geerretje – Gerardina
Gualteras – Walter
Guilliam – William

Henricus – Henry
Hendrick – "
Hendrickje – Harriet
Henrica – "
Harme – Herman
Harmen – "

Hillegond – Huldah
Hilletje – Maria, Polly.
Johan – John
Johannes – "
Joris – George
Jacobus – James, Jacob
KaTryntje – Catherine
KeeTje – Katy
Jurrian – Jerry, Yeteance
Jurrien – " "
JanneTje – Jane
KlaarTje – Clara
KlaerTje – "
Klaas – Nicholas
(There was actually no "C" in the Dutch language)

Lea – Lydia
Leendert – Leonard
LynTje – Helena, or Eleanor
Lena – " " "
LeenTje – " " "
Lysbet – Elizabeth

MariTje – Martha
Marietje – Maria, Mary.
MeTje – Mary
Paulus – Paul
Petrus – Peter
Pieter – "
Rutger – Roger
Roelof – Ralph
Teunis – Anthony
TryntJe – Catherine
Willem – William
WillenTje – Wilhelmina
Waltherus – Walter
Wouter – "

SHIPS OUR ANCESTORS SAILED ON.

T'BONTE KOE - "The Spotted Cow"
Left Amsterdam on April 2, 1663
with:
Urian Tomassen
David Demaresh, wife and four children.

NEW NETHERLANDS —
Sailed from Amsterdam in 1623
with:
Joris Jansen de Rapelje
Catalina Thicault, his wife and children.

RENSSELAERSWYCK -
Sailed from Amsterdam on October 1, 1636
with:
Michael Jansen Van Broeckhuysen (Vreeland)

KEY OF KALMAR —
Sailed from Amsterdam in 1637
With:
Gerrit Hendricksen (Blauvelt)

THE DOLPHIN —
Sailed in 1638 from Amsterdam
With:
Leendert Arentse (de Grauw)

THE OAK TREE —
Sailed from Amsterdam in 1640
With:
Cornelis Van Ness.

THE FAITH —
Sailed in 1660
With:
Gerrit Gerritsen (Van Wagoner)

THE BEAVER —
Sailed from Amsterdam in 1661
With:
Pieter Van Merselis.

THE OLD ROADS.

RIVER ROAD. This was originally an old Indian trail following along the Passaic River. In Belleville it is now known as Main Avenue. It followed the River through Nutley, Delawanna, Passaic, Clifton and into Paterson. In the Eighteenth Century it became part of

THE KING'S Highway, or Old York Road. which continued along the present Broadway and West Broadway, Paterson crossing the River and going to Pompton, Ringwood and Sterling. At first this was the only, and the main road, to New York.

DWASLINE ROAD. The road, at present connects Allwood Road and Brooks Avenue. Originally it continued across the Park to Van Houten Ave. It was the devision line between the One Hundred Acre Lots and the Fifty Acre Lots.

ALLWOOD ROAD. Originally known as Stone House Plains Road it was the first devision line between the Dutchman's Lands and the Englishman's Lands.

BROOKS AVENUE. Originally the devision line between Harmen Van Ripen's

lot and the Vreeland lot it became known as the Church lane, as the members coming from Stone-House Plains way used it to go to and come from Church.

CROOKS AVENUE. Was known as the "Patentee's lane" and was laid out so the farmers might have access to their fields and pastures near the Mountains. Originally it was the devision line between lot's 4 and 5 of the Wessel devision of the Acquackanonck Patents.

PERSHING AVENUE in Richfield. Served as a draw-line between the second (50 Acre lots) and third Tiers of lots.

GROVE STREET, or Telegraph Road. On old maps this was the Third Draw-line.

VALLEY ROAD. In the Eighteenth Century it was known as the Cranetown Cowpath.

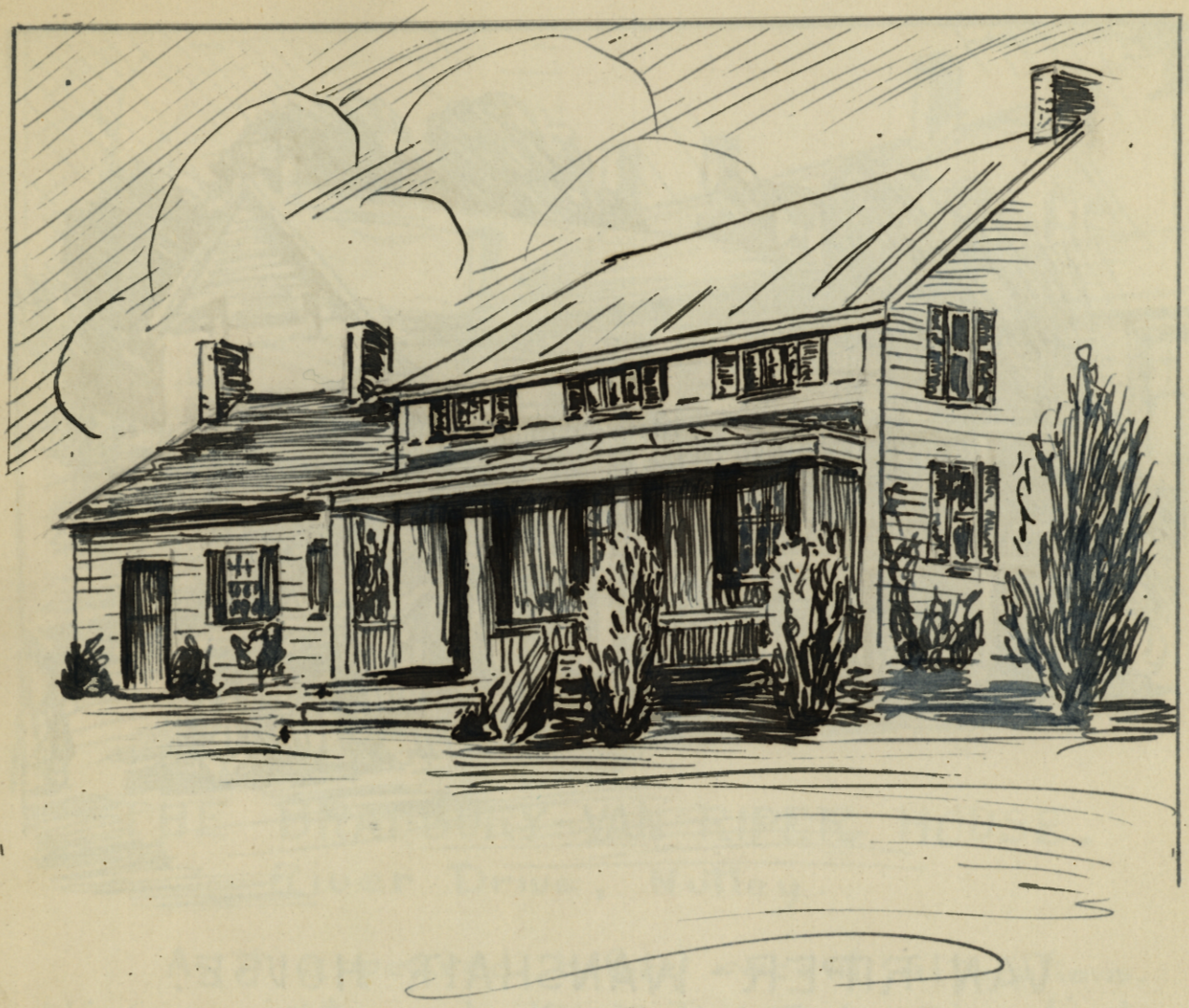
NOTCH ROAD. Originally the continuation of Stone House Plains Road. It was an important link to Horseneck and the iron-mines beyond.

BROAD STREET. Was laid out on May 13, 1796 from Paterson to Notch Lane.

HAZEL ROAD. Previously called "Patentee's Lane" or "Cowpath." It was laid out on May 13, 1796 and named after Hazel Kirke, a famous actress of her day.

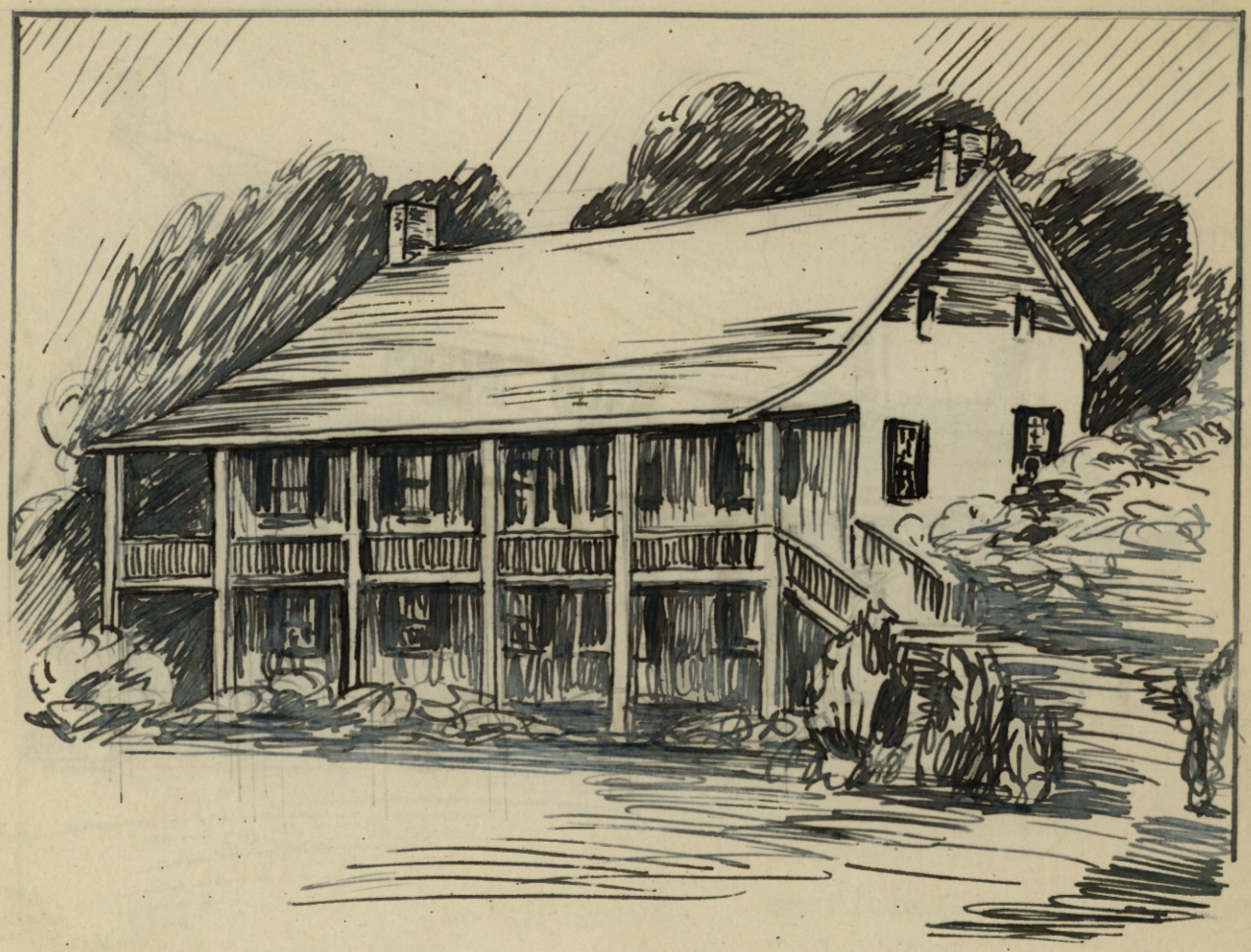
THE VAN RIPERS of ACQUACKANONCK

Their Houses and Families Affiliated with Them.



THE VAN RIPEN HOUSE.
Jersey City.

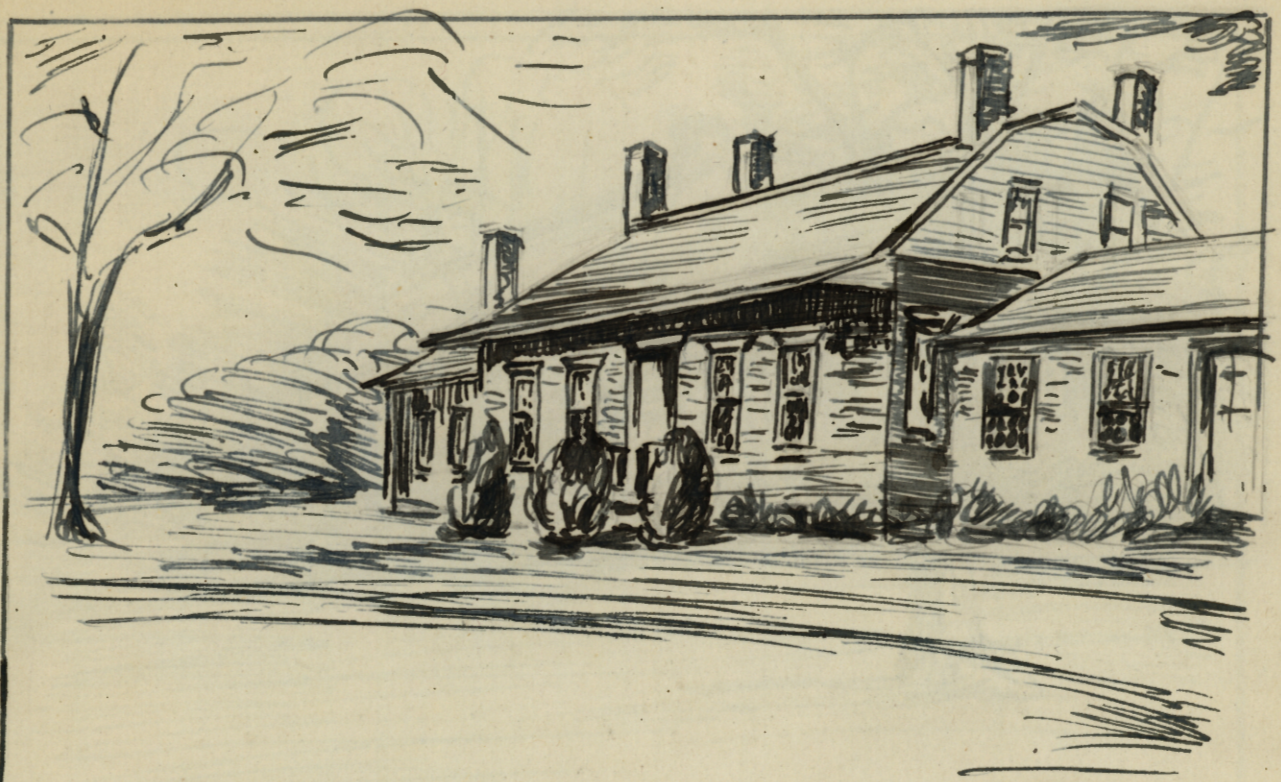
The oldest section is the wing, probably dating 1680-1710. The main section is early 19th Century. This house is on the Tract Urian Tomassen purchased. He may have built the older wing.



VAN RIPER-WANSHAIR HOUSE.

River Road, Delawanna.

As it may have originally appeared when built by Urian Tomassen about 1690. Until recently columns were thought to be Post-Revolutionary. Recent research has discovered them to be pre-Revolutionary on old Dutch houses. Several of the old houses along the Passaic River were built along the hillside and had exposed cellars in front. The house was added to until it became a mansion known as "The Reef". To-day only the portion shown remains; very much altered. This is a very historic house and should be preserved. It has a beautiful 18th Century doorway.

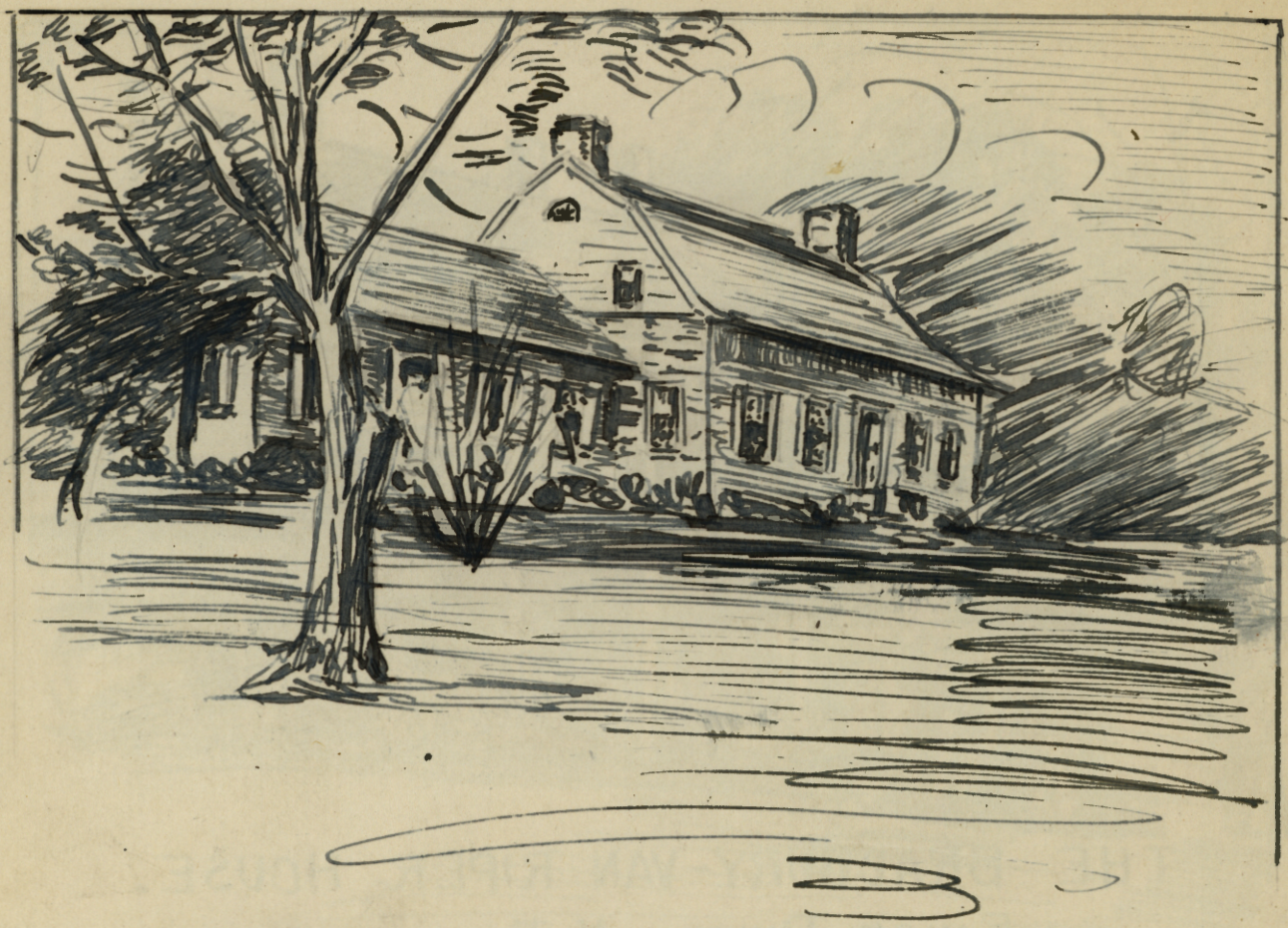


THE BRADBURY-VAN RIPER HOUSE.

River Drive, Nutley.

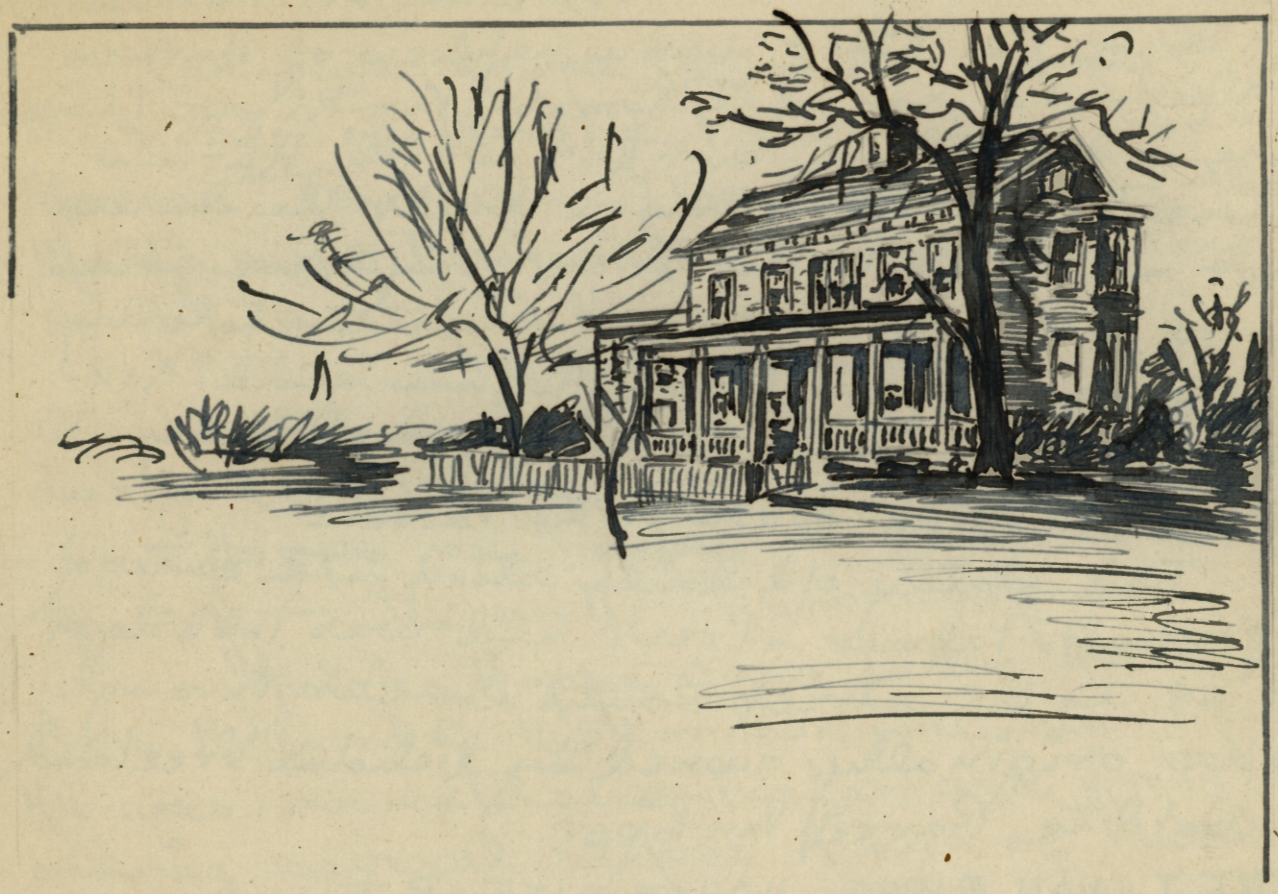
As it appeared before recent alterations. Wing on right was built about 1685, now demolised and replaced by a garage. The wing on left was built about 1690 or 1700. The main section was built by John[4] Van Riper, son of Abraham[3] Van Riper and brother of Philip[4] who lived in The Philip Van Riper House. This house was on The original Bradbury Grant. Elizabeth Bradbury became heir To it after she married Abraham Van Riper. At the rear of the main section is a stone with carving of The initials of John Van Riper and Lea Winne with The date when house was built:

I·L· VR
May 1th
1788



VAN RIPER - HEPBURN HOUSE

This is the house Abraham[3] Van Riper lived in before he fell heir to the neighboring Bradbury estate. Later on it was sold to Daniel Hepburn who made alterations so it appears as it does to-day. The house stands at the near corner of Broad Street and Route S-3, Richfield, Clifton. The property is now being developed and it is doubtful if the house will remain much longer.



PHILIP VAN RIPER HOUSE.

The house, as it stands to-day, was built about 1735. The bay-window and porch are Victorian additions. Originally This was a southern wing To an older Dutch house; the reason why The rear of The house is stone and The front is brick. When The older part of The house was torn down The stone was used to fill in The cavity. Philip[4] Van Riper probably moved here in 1789 when he married Jannetje Sip. He was The first Van Riper To permanently occupy it. It was previously a Bradbury house.

OTHER VAN RIPER HOUSES

1. DIRCK VAN RIPER HOUSE. 638 River Dr. Passaic

Dirck Van Riper was a nephew of Harmen Van Riper and son of Thomas Van Riper. The house is located on Lot No. 4 which Harmen purchased. Whether Harmen built the house or not we do not know. Dirck may have when he moved there. It is very much altered to day and stands between Brook Avenue and Kensington Avenue. It is now a road-house.

2. GARRET VAN RIPER HOUSE SITE, Passaic

This stately old house stood in the center of the present Palmer Street and was torn down in 1924 so the street could be cut through. It was originally owned by Nicholas Vreeland and sold to Garret Van Riper.

3. GARRET VAN RIPER HOUSE SITE, Paterson

The house stood on the south-west corner of Market Street and Weasel (River) Road until recent years when it was torn down for a hamburger stand. Foundation stones can still be seen.

4. THE JOHN VAN RIPER — EDO P. MERSELIS MANSION.

This truly beautiful brownstone house still stands on Lexington Ave. (~~Paterson~~) near the intersection of Parker Avenue, Clifton Built by Jan Van Riper, brother of Harmen, it overlooks the Passaic River.

THE HOPPER AND CADMUS FAMILIES.

Catherina Hoppe (Hoppen or Hopper) was the mother of Maritje Frederickse who married Harmen^2 Tomassen (Van Ripen). The father of Maritje was Frederick Tomassen, but of no relationship to Harmen^2.

Catherina Hoffes was born in 1652, the eldest child of Andreas Hoffes (Hopper) and Geertje Hendrickse.

"Hoppe" or "hoppen" in Dutch is the plural of "hof" — the well-known hop-vine.

Andries Hoppe came to New Amsterdam from Holland in 1651 or 1652 with his wife. He was an extensive trader and freighter owning several ships. A man of means he purchased, from Jacob Stol, all of the present Bronx, then called the Bronck's Land in New Harlem. Both he and Stol died before the deed passed and their widows completed the transfer. She and her brood moved to Hackensack where a brother of Andries was living. There are several old Hopper houses in Bergen County. However the male descendents of Catherina and Andries took the name of Cadmus. Those of the brother of Andries retained the name of Hoffen.

THE HENDRICKSEN or BLAUVELT FAMILY.

As was just mentioned the mother of Catherina Hoppe was Geertje Hendricks. Geertje married Andries Hoppen in Holland and was a sister of Gerrit Hendrickszen and Harmen Hendrickszen. One of her grand children, a child of Catherina Hoppe and Frederick Tomasse, married Harmen Tomassen (Van Ripen). Gerrit and Harmen Hendrickszen both came to America as did their sister. Gerrit emigrated in 1637. Harmen was shot and killed by the sheriff at New Castle, Delaware in 1662. The children of Gerrit took the name of Blauvelt.

THE NOBLE BRADBURY FAMILY.

Abraham[3] Van Riper married Elizabeth Bradbury, daughter of John Bradbury and Elizabeth, on November 28, 1747.

John Bradbury, his wife and six children came from England and was settled along the Third River, or Yanticaw River before 1698. For on March 28, 1698 he purchased a track of land along the Third River and another along Bareskin Brook. The Third River Track was where the Philip Van Riper house is located. He was a miller and owned several mills along the Third River. He was a man of great importance and wealth, and came from a family with large estates. In fact the name means "Broad domains".

The family originally was Saxon, from a village Bradbun as Ollerset in the Parish of Glosop in the northerly section of the County of Derby. From this point the family radiated to near-by Towns. No records can be found of the family before 1433, when living in Ollerset were two brothers Roger de Bradbury and Rodolphus de Bradbury. Roger is the head of the American branch and married a daughter of Robert Davenport. His son, William, married Margaret Rokell (Rockhill) and from him were descended the Bradburys of Littlebury and Wicken-Bonant, Eng.

And so was John I Bradbeery descendant from William de Braddbury and Margaret Rokell.

John Bradbury's and Elizabeth's children were: Richard who married Maria Merrill; Susanna who married Jan Ludlow; Elizabeth who married Abraham Van Riper; Mary who married Jan Berry; Jan who married Marg Baldwin; Philip who married Helena de Grauw.

THE GERRITSEN, OR VAN WAGONER FAMILY.

This family enters our story Through the marriage of ANTJE Johannes, daughter of Johannes Van Wagoner to Ide Sips. (Antje Johannes Van Wagoner)

In 1660 Gerrit Gerritsen, his wife and two year old son, Gerrit, set sail on the "Faith" and settled in Bergen. He was from the town of Wageningen in Gelderland, about ten miles from Arnheim. He came from an influential family and was appointed one of three schepens (magistrates) for Bergen on Oct. 16, 1662. He was also appointed for other important civic posts, and was one of the Acquackanonk Patentees. His son Johannes married Cathyntje Helmigse (Van Houten) and their daughter Antje married Ide Sips.

THE SIP FAMILY.

Philip[4] Van Riper, son of Abraham[3] Van Riper and Elizabeth Bradbury, married Jannetje[4] Sip, daughter of Arie Sip[3] and Gerritje Van Houten (Helmigse)

There is but scant information on the early generations of the family. However Adriaen Hendrickssen (Sip) emigrated from Breda in North Brabant to New Amsterdam where he married Grietje Warnaerts on Feb. 4, 1664. They lived in Bergen (Jersey City). Their house is still in existance but has been moved to Westfield, N.J.

Jan[2] Sip, their only son, was born May 24, 1662 and married Johanna Van de Voorst (Van Vorst) on April 23, 1684. They had eleven children born in the old Sip house. Jan was a lieutenant in the Bergen militia and later captain. He purchased much ground in Bergen as well as lot # 11 in the Acquackanonk Tract.

Arie[3] was the eldest of ten children of Jan and Johanna. Marrying Gerritje Helmigse (Van Houten) of Bergen he moved to Acquackanonk and became the founder of the family in that vicinity. He lived in the house, still standing, on River Road.

THE NOBLE VAN VORST FAMILY

The Van Vorst family was a notable and very wealthy old patroon family of New Amsterdam. Their estates were run in a feudal manner. They were lovers of fine horses, fine clothes and good living.

The name was a noble Dutch one from the Village of Voorst, near the River Yssel in Gelderland, Holland.

Cornelis I Van Vorst was an expert wood craftsman, having studied and traveled extensively. He came to Pavonia, New Amsterdam in 1626. In 1635 he was back in Holland where he was made superintendent of Pavonia. When he returned to Pavonia he built a mansion. The family entertained, wrote and sent presents to the royalty of all Europe.

THE VAN HOUTEN FAMILY

Roelof I Cornelissen was the progenitor of the Van Houten family in Passaic and Bergen Counties. He came to Rensselaerswick, near Albany, in 1638. Three of his brothers came over, also, at varying Times; Pieter, Helmigh and Thennis. He married Gerritje Van Ness and had six children. Helmigh 2 Van Houten was their eldest child. He married Jannetje Pieterse from Gelderland, Holland. She was a sister of Merselis Pieterse Van Merselis. (See "The Van Merselis Family") They lived at Lodi and their daughter, Gerritje Van Houten married Arie Slof.

THE NOBLE VAN MERSELIS FAMILY

Beside the marriage of Jannetje Pieterse to Helmigh Van Houten; and more important, is the marriage of Adrian[5] Van Ripen to Polly Merselis, daughter of and Garret Merselis and Eleanor de Gray (or de Grauw)

The Van Merselis (Marselis, Merselis) family was of Danish nobility and the family, although spreading to Hamburg, Belgium and Holland was originally from Denmarke.

The first Merselis of the American branch was Jan Van Marselis, born in 1500, who married N.N. Van der Marck. Their son, Jause, married Dina van Duffel d'Elswith. Their son, Gabriel, married Anna Ehrmit d'Ermitage. He was a commisary of the King of Denmark at Hamburg. Their son, Gabriel, was born in Hamburg in March, 1609 and was a commissary, and then made Seigneur of Huretalbgard, Vjildball, Collinburg and Illoen. He married Isabeau Van der Straten, June 15, 1635. He was knighted and became burgomaster of Amsterdam in 1659. Their brother, Pieter, became a member of Danish nobility on Sept. 17, 1643. He married; was given a splendid coat-of-arms. On May 9, 1661 he, his wife, four children and two servants set sail on the "Beaver" for America.

THE CONKLIN FAMILY.

Adrian[5] Van Riper, son of Adrian Van Riper and Polly Merselis, married Margaret Conklin.

I
John Conklyne was of Nottinghamshire, England and married Elizabeth Allsealbrooke in St. Peters Church in 1625. In 1638 they came to Salem, Massachusetts, with John's brother Ananias. Here they established the first partly permanent glass house in America. In 1650 they removed to Southold, Long Island. The reason for their removal is not known.

John's[I] grandson, Nicholas[3] settled in Rockland County, New York, and was a patentee at Haverstraw in 1711. He is the ancestor of Margaret.

THE HUGUENOT FAMILY OF LE MAITRE, or DE LA MATER.

The Paternal ancestors were of Norman, or Armorican blood; Huguenots from France who found a temporary home in England and finally a permanent home in America. Their name was originally Le Maître, or "The Master"; and the family is descendent from a very ancient one in Britany. Their house and estate is in the diocese of Nantes. The family is known to have existed in the 13th Century and first authentic records are of Arthur le Maître, Lord of Boisvert, in the Parish of Aubtey, district of Nantes. It was an Eminent family in military service, the Church and in the law. Members of the family spread to Paris, Languedoc and Picardy where we find Claude le Maître, a grandfather of Claude who came to America. He was allied with the Lords of Caumartin in Picardy and a staunch Protestant. He was prosecuted, fined and imprisoned in 1588.

His grandson, Claude, came to America in 1652, after fleeing to England. He married Jean de Launoy who died in England and on May 24, 1652 he married Hester du Bois

in Amsterdam, where he had come to previously to sailing to America.

He settled in Flatbush, Long Island but in 1662 removed to New Harlem. He was one of the first settlers at Flatbush and was recognized as a prominent man there. In Harlem he became a magistrate

Claude and Hester had six children of whom Isaac was the third child. He married Cornelia Evertse of Albany. They had nine children of whom Hester was the eldest. She was born in Albany and baptized, Apr. 7, 1683. She married Simon Van Wesp.

THE HUGUENOT FAMILY OF DU BOIS.

Any family that can be traced with the same surname prior to 1200 is a noble one. Prior to 900 no fixed names existed.

The Du Bois family was from Normandy originally, and was descended from the Counts de Roussay who built the de Roussy Castle in 948. From him Hester du Bois was descendant from a long line of noble persons. She married Claude de la Mater.

THE NOBLE VAN NESS FAMILY.

Cornelis Hendricksen Van Ness, the son of Hendricke Gerritse Van Ness, came to America about 1640 in the "Oak Tree" and settled at Bethlehem, soon removing to Greenbush, on Aug. 25, 1650. He was a member of the City Council of Albany, also acting Indian Commissioner, and a magistrate at Fort Orange. He was Captain of the Night Watch at Rensselaerswyck in 1663. He married Maykeu Hendrickse Burchgraeff in Holland in 1625. She died in 1664 and Cornelis married Maria Damen. Their oldest son, Simon, married Twice: 1, Rachel Van Deusen 2. Hester de la Water and by his second wife he had Hendrick who married Catryntje Jacobusse. Their daughter married Roeloff Van Houten.

THE NOBLE DE BURCH GREF or VAN ALTENA FAMILY.

Jan de Burchgraef was born at Alnelaarke in the land of Altena in 1290 A.D. In 1321 he received the feudal rights to thirty morgens of land situated at Ter Wiele. He was the first of the Van Antena family to use the name of de Burchgraef. The family was a large one and connected with the Counts of Cleve and trace their ancestry back to the Swan knights in the year of 945 A.D.

Starting with Jan we can trace the family through thirteen generations in Holland to Hendricke Burchgraef. They were all heroic and noble men. Hendricke was the son of Adraien Burggrave and was born at Lekswond, South Holland near the City of Vianen He was born in 1582 and died in New Netherlands in 1664. He married in 1605, Annetje Jansse (Janssen) who died in 1630. Their daughter, Maeyken was born in South Holland; married, in 1625, Cornelis Hendricksen Van Hess and died about 1663 or 64.

THE JACOBUSSE FAMILY

Roelof Jacobussen was born in Holland about 1665 and died at Paper Berg in Essex County, New Jersey. He settled on the mountain south of what is now Singac, and possessed a great amount of land. His daughter, Catherine married Hendricke Van Hess on May 20, 1726.

Early records of the family are scanty, and although the family was numerous it is difficult to make a history of it.

THE PRIOR FAMILY.

In the year of 1760 Jacob Prior erected a mill and house in Jersey City on the flats along the Hudson River on Bergen Creek. Here he ground corn and took it to Manhattan in his scows. His house was of stone, and stood a quarter of a mile away from the Van Vorst Mansion., of two and a half stories in height with a thatched roof. Its fire-places were embellished with Dutch Tiles.

During the Revolution it became famous as General Mercer and General Green often visited here. In 1779 Lord Sterling established headquarters here. Light-Horse Harry Lee stopped here to rest before his famous capture of Paulus Hook. Washington was a frequent guest.

THE NOBLE CHRISTIE FAMILY.

Robert Bruce, of Scotland conferred upon the Abbot Christinus a coat-of-arms. The Abbot was of the Monastery Kendoree, and had been a comrade-in-arms of Bruce at the victorious Battle of Bannockburn on June 24, 1314. The Abbot had four children and from them descended four famous branches of Christies.

The name of Christinus (Christie) appears as early as the 12th Century.

James came from Aberdeen, Scotland about 1685 while still a boy. Well educated he became a teacher at Hackensack where he met Magdalena Demaresh.

THE DEMAREST FAMILY.

The Demaresh family was an ancient Walloon family of France, and of nobility. For more information see "The Demaresh Family of Walloons". They had coat-of-arms.

David de Marets came over on the "Spotted Cow" with Urian Van Riper and his granddaughter Magdalena married James Christie. She was the daughter of Jean de Marets.

THE EARLY NEW YORK FAMILY OF DE GRAUW.
(de Gray)

Although the name has a French sound it is, however, of Dutch origin. meaning "The Gray".

Leenderts Arentse was the common ancestor who came over on the "Dolphin" in 1638 with his family. It is believed they came from Grouw, a village in Friesland. He leased Bouwerie (farm) No. 3 on Manahatta Island. In 1663 he sold his farm to Peter Stuyvesant and it was to become famous as Peter Stuyvesant's beloved summer and country home. It was considered quite a mansion at the time and had beautiful gardens and fruit orchards.

His son, Arent, came from Holland with him. He used the name of Arent Leonartzen.

Leenderts de Grauw, his son, married Sara Christie and their son, Jan de Gray married Helena Ryerson.

THE ANCIENT RYERSON FAMILY.

The name of Ryerson is of considerable antiquity being noticed in the history of Holland as early as the Twelfth Century. It is traditional the family was French Huguenot, seeking refuge in Holland.

In 1646 Adrian and his brother Martin Ryerson emigrated to New Amsterdam. They were but boys at the time. They settled at Flatlands, Long Island. where Martin married Annetje de Rapalie. Their son, Frans, was their Eleventh child. He married Jennekin Dey. In 1723 he moved to Goffle Road, Hawthorne, N.J. where his house stood until recently. It was to become famous as the headquarters of La Fayette during the Revolution.

Helena was the Thirteenth child of Frans Ryerson and Jennekin Dey. She married Jan de Grauw (de Gray).

The Ryersons owned much land in Totowa, Saddle River and in that Territory. A prominent and prosperous family.

The family had a coat-of-arms.

THE NOBLE DE RAPALIE FAMILY.

The name of de Rapalie goes back to the Eleventh Century when the family possessed huge estates in Bretagne and ranked among the arriere-ban of French nobility. They were military leaders at the Time of the Crusades. The name was originally spelled "Rapallier" and the ancient home of the family was Valenciennes.

In the 16th Century the family fled to England when the Spanish lay seige to the Territory. Gaspard Colet de Rapalye, a noble from Chatillon sur Loire fled to Holland, however. This was in 1548. He was an ancestor of Joris Jansen de Rapelie, who came to New Netherlands on the ship "New Netherlands" in 1624.

Joris settled in the Walloon Colony on Staten Island but fled from the Indians in 1626 to New York City, then Manahatta. He lived on the present Pearl Street and was one of the first settlers of Manhattan.

In 1625 while at Staten Island Sarah de Rapalie was born. She was the first white child to be born in New Netherlands.

The family had a coat-of-arms. Annetje, daughter of Joris de Rapalie and sister of Sarah married Marten Rycksen.

THE INVENTIVE THICAULT FAMILY

In 1624 a ship, the "New Netherlands" set sail for New Netherlands with Joris Jansen de Rapalje and his wife Catalina Tricot, or Thicault. She was to become one of the famed ladies of early New Amsterdam. A highly educated and intellectual person, she came from a highly respected French family.

Although born in Paris she came from a Walloon family of weavers from the ancient city of Douay, not far from Lille and near the present Belgium border. The family was internationally known and became perpetuated through the invention of the Thicault (now known as the Tricot) process of weaving.

The family was associated with the city of Douay for centuries, but when Valenciennes and Douay were taken by the Spanish they fled to England, later returning to France.

THE FAMED DEY FAMILY.

Dirck Janszen was the progenitor of The famed Dey family of New York and of Preakness, N.J. He was a soldier in the service of the Dutch West India Company and was in New Amsterdam before 1641. He was married Twice; first to Jannetje Theunis from whom we are descendents, and second to Geertje Jans Hangedyk.

Theunis Dey was the second son of Dirck Janszen and Jannetje Theunis. He lived in New York on Dey Streek at Broadway. The Godwins were neighbors of his and when young Abraham Godwin became possessed with the idea of moving out into the wilderness of the Great Falls and creating a settlement and Town there The Deys offered him all sorts of inducements to remain in New York.

But young Dirck Dey, son of Theunis went there on a visit, became converted and built the mansion that was to become famous.

Dirck had a sister, Jennebin Dey, who married Frans Ryerson.

THE BERRY FAMILY.

There were two original Berry families in New Jersey; the one English and started from Bergen County by the famous Captain John Berry, an Englishman from the Barbadoes, who purchased the huge Berry Track between Rutherford and Hackensack and between the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers. The other was started by Samuel Berry, from Vlissingen, Flushing, Holland. He settled in Powlton Plains about 1695 and is the one in whom we are interested.

Whether there was any relationship between the two families I have not been able to ascertain. It is quite possible there was some relationship and that the family was originally English, some members fleeing from Holland to America after fleeing there from the religious persecution in England.

Samuel Berry was the son of Cornelis Berry who was on the assembly roll of Brooklyn in 1675. Cornelius Berry was the progenitor of the American branch of the family. Samuel married Chatherine Ryersen March 31, 1690. Their Son, Henry married Keziah de Mott and their daughter, Marytje married Jan de Gray.

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES IS A
CHRONOLOGICAL CHART
OF THE ANCESTORS OF
JOHN VAN RIPER.

ANCESTORS OF JOHN VAN RIPER and his children CLAIRE, IRVIN, WALLACE.

HN
N RIPER

ADRIAN VAN RIPER b. Aug. 2, 1799

ADRIAN VAN RIPER B. 1828

MARGARET CONKLIN

PHILIP VAN RIPER b. Jan. 8 1755

JANNETJE SIP

ABRAHAM (VAN RIPER) TOMASSE b. Jan. 25, 1716

ELIZABETH BRADBURY

HARMEN (VAN RIPER) TOMASSE bp. Dec 6, 1686

MARITJE FREDERICKSE

URIAN TOMASSEN — CAME FROM HOLLAND, 1663

PRYNTJE ditto HERMANS

FREDERICK TOMASSE

CATHERINA (HOPPER) HOPPE

JOHN BRADBURY — CAME FROM ENGLAND

ELIZABETH — CAME FROM ENG.

ADRIAN SIP — CAME FROM HOLLAND d. 1663

GRIETJE WARNAERTS

ARIE SIP b. Oct. 25, 1684

JAN SIP b. May 24, 1662

JOHANNA VAN VORST

IDE VAN VORST

HILLETJE JANS

GERRITJE VAN HOUTEN b. 1690

HEILEMEG VAN HOUTEN b. 1648

ROELOF (VAN HOUTEN) CORNELISSEN — CAME OVER, 1638

GERRITJE VanNES

JANNETJE (MERSELIS) PIETERSE

PIETER VAN MERSELIS — CAME FROM ? HAMBURG, 1661

POLLY MERSELIS b. Mar. 17 1801

GARRET MERSELIS b. Oct. 7, 1777

ELEANOR de GRAY

EDO MERSELLIS b. Jan. 27, 1729

ARIANTJE SIP

PIETER MERSELIS b. 1687

JANNETJE PRIOR

MARSELIS (Van Marselis) PIETERSE b. 1656

PIET VAN VORST

ANDRIES PRYOR

JOHANNA STEINMETS

IDE SIP b. 1695

ANTJE VAN WAGONER

JAN SIP b. May 1662

JOHANNA VAN VORST

JOHANNES VAN WAGONER

CATY VAN HOUTE

JAN de GRAY b. Aug. 1752

MARYTJE BERRY

JAN de GRAY b. 1718 *

HELENA RYERSON

LEENDERT de GRAY

SARA CHRISTIE

FRANS REYERSE

JENNEKIN DEY

HENRY BERRY

KEZIAH de MOTT

MARTIN BERRY

MARIA ROOME

The Conklin Geneology will be Given in Another Section.

AS YET IT IS INCOMPLETE

* Continued on next page

GERRIT HENDRICKS

MARRETJE LAMBERTS (MOLL)

LAMBERT HUYBERTSEN (MOL) — CAME FROM HOLLAND before 1641

HENDRICKJE CORNELIS

HOLLAND

CORNELIS VAN VOORST — CAME FROM VOORST, HOLLAND, 1626

VROUTJE IDES

HENDRICK VAN NESS b. 1702

CATRYNTJE JACOBUSSE

SIMON VAN NESS

HESTER de la MATER

CORNELIS VANNESS — CAME TO BEVERWYCK, 1692

MAYKEN BURCHGRAF

ISAAC de la MATER

CORNELIA EVERTS

CLAUDE LE MAISTRE — CAME FROM LILLE, FRANCE, 1652

HESTER Du BOIS — CAME FROM FRANCE, 1652.

ROELOF JACOBUSSE b. in Holland, 1665

?

PIETER VAN MERSELIS — CAME FROM HAMBURG, 1661

?

IDE VAN VOORST

HILLETJE JANS

CORNELIS VAN VOORST — CAME FROM VOORST, HOLLAND, 1626

VROUTJE IDES

ADRIAN SIP CAME FROM HOLLAND d. 1663

GRIETJE WARNAERTS

IDE VAN VOORST

HILLETJE JANS

CORNELIS VAN VOORST — CAME FROM HOLLAND.

VROUTJE IDES.

GERRIT GERRITSEN (VAN WAGONER) — CAME FROM HOLLAND, 1660

ANNETJE HERMANS — CAME FROM HOLLAND, 1660

HEILMEG VAN HOUTEN b. 1648

JANNETJE PIETERSE

ROELOF VAN HOUTEN — CAME OVER in 1638

GERRITJE VAN NES

HENDRICK VAN NESS

CATRYNTJE JACOBUSSE

SIMON VAN NES

HESTER de la MATER

CORNELIS VAN NESS 1692

MAYKEN BURCHGRAEF

ROELOF JACOBUSSE b. in Holland, 1626

?

THEUNIS DEY b. 1656

ANNETJE SHOUTEN

DIRCK DEY — CAME TO NEW YORK about 1640

JANETJE THEUNIS

SAMUEL BERRY — SETTLED IN POMPTON PLAINS, 1695

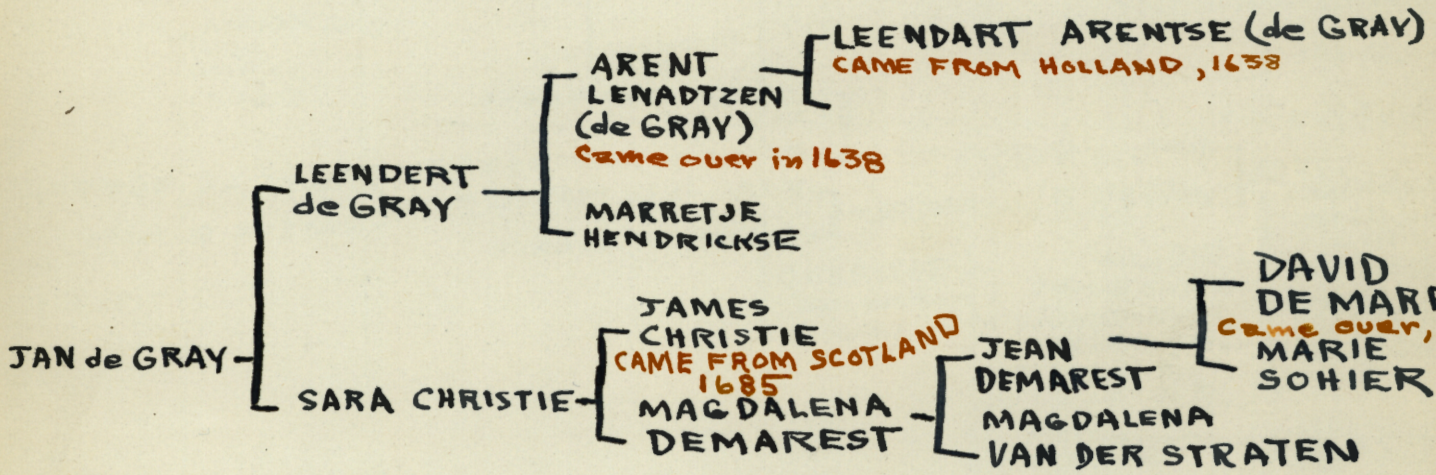
CATHERINE RYERSEN b. 1671

MARTIN RYERSEN — CAME FROM AMSTERDAM, 1646

ANNETJE de RAPALJE b. Feb 8, 1646

JORIS de RAPALJE — CAME FROM LEYDEN, 1624

CATALYNTJE TRICAULT — CAME FROM PARIS, 1624



continued from Eleanor de Gray Line

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE
IS SHOWN
THE LINE OF DESCENT
OF
JOHN VAN RIPER.

EXPLANATION:

b. = born
bp. = baptised
m = married
d. = died
d.y. = died young.

JURIAN[1] TOMASSEN — PRYNTE HERMANS

Came to New Amsterdam 1663

m. May 25, 1667

THOMAS bp. June 10, 1668 m. Jannetje Straet June 2, 1691

GERRIT bp. Sept. 1670 m. Beelitje Coster June 6, 1693

AELTJE d.y.

AELT m. Gerritje Matheus July 7, 1695

CHRISTYNTSE m. Peter Gerbrantse

JAN m. Neltje Gerbrantse

MARRITJE

HARMEN d.y.

HARMEN[2] bp. Dec. 6, 1686 m. 1. Marritje Fredericksa June 20, 1709 2. Judith Steinmets

GRIETJE bp. 1691

JURIE m. Elizabet Steinmets

JURJAEN b. Sept. 12, 1710 m. Aeltje Van Winkle

FRERIK b. Feb. 22, 1713

ABRAHAM[3] b. Jan 25, 1716 m. Elizabeth Bradbury Nov. 28 1747

JOHANNES b. July 21 1718

Christophel

Maritje

Jacob Isaac

Sarah

Gerrit

Thomas

Christina

JOHN b. Feb. 12, 1753 m. Leah Winne Sept. 22, 1776.

PHILIP[4] b. Jan. 8, 1755 m. Jannetje Sip Mar 29, 1789 d. July 11, 1834

MARY (Maria) m. Dirck Gerrebrant Van Houten.

ABRAHAM b. May 14, 1789 d.y.

ANNATJE b. Aug. 22, 1790 m. John Gerrebrant Lived at Stone House Plains

ABRAHAM b. June 7, 1795 m. Sophia Post dau. of James I. Post.

ADRIAN PHILIP[5] b. Aug. 21, 1799 m. Polly Merselis dau. of Gerrit Merselis.

ELLEN JANE m. 1. Cornelius H. Van Houten 2. —— Kingsland.

ADRIAN[6] m. Margaret Conklin

CATHERINE b. Jan. 28, 1846 m. William Hamilton d. Mar. 20, 1920

JOHN[7] b. 1848 m. Anna M d. 1926

ELMIRA m. Charles Dunbar

PHILIP b. Apr. 7, 1854 m. Amy Elizabeth Post

ABRAHAM

MARY b. 1850 m. Robert Armstrong.

The COATS of ARMS

BELONGING TO FAMILIES ALLIED WITH THE VAN RIPERS.

ALSO

A FEW STORIES ABOUT THE VAN RIPERS.

COATS OF ARMS BELONGING TO FAMILIES ALLIED WITH THE VAN RIPERS

A Coat of arms was given to a person only when some noteworthy achievement was performed, to be used by that person, his immediate family and his heirs. The coat-of-arms usually told the story of that achievement and thus a bit of the family history. A coat-of-arms was not designed to be a pretty ornamentation but as a means of letting people know of the value of the person receiving it.

Each figure, each color, each design had it's special meaning. For instance in the de Rapalie crest we find a ducal crown and only dukes who earned the right to a coat-of-arms could use it. Barons had the baron's crown, and so on. Pains were taken to make

certain the designs would be correct. Coats-of-arms were patented and only persons entitled to them were permitted to use them. It was an honor to be permitted to use such a badge of distinction.

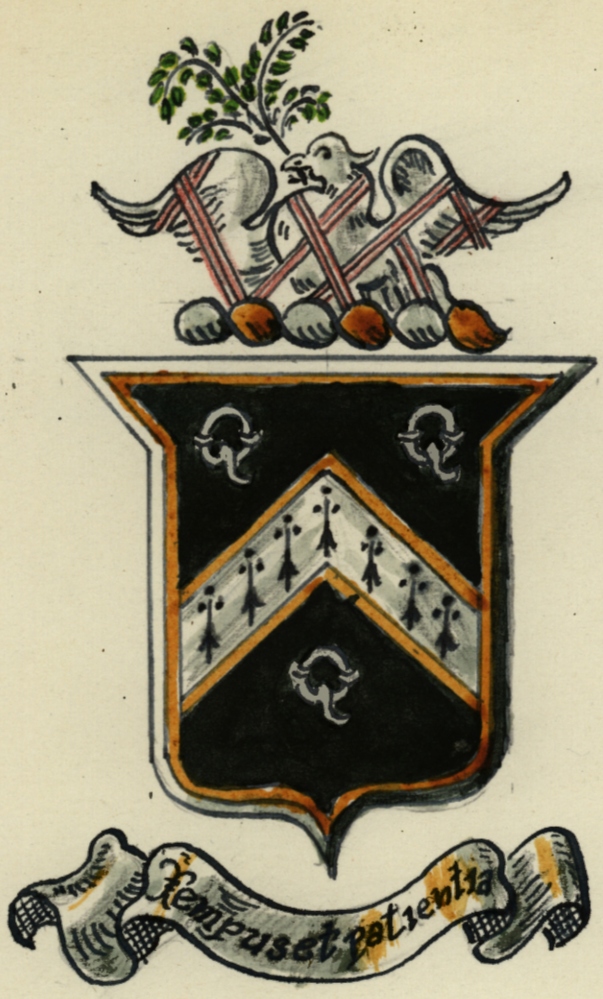
When members of nobility fled, from the religious persecutions and terrors, to America they dropped everything that reminded them of the old customs. It is not until the past fifty years that persons became interested in their European backgrounds. Many have applied to genealogists to trace their family trees and coats-of-arms; only too often to have incorrect designs given them. It takes a lot of patient research and study to ascertain if a person is permitted to use a certain coat-of-arms. Several families have been issued more than one coat-of-arms; that is, members of different branches have been honored. Therefore if Sam Jones received a coat-of-arms only his descendents have the right to use it and not the descendents of his brother John.

If Henry Jones received a coat-of-arms for some deed of merit it would be different from the one Sam received and only Henry's descendents would be permitted to use it. The descendents of Sam would have one coat-of-arms and those of Henry another. Therefore if your name is Jones and you discover you are a descendent of Henry you have no legal right to use the coat belonging to Sam's descendents, even if his is more decorative.

The coats of arms on the following pages are authentic and to the best of my knowledge are the correct ones for the families we are interested in. I have checked each one with Burke's "Peerage"; the "Americana"; and other sources of information. I have carefully traced each family tree, checking and rechecking; searching old records, family Bibles, birth and death and marriage records, grave stones, geneologies and histories. The descendents of Adrian Van Riper have the right to use these coats-of-arms.

However I have been able to find no arms for the Van Riper family itself. European records of the family seem to have been lost.

Some day these records may be found with research. One must go to Holland to even begin such a study.



ARMS OF BRADBURY OF ESSEX.

ARMS: Sab. a chevon ermine between three round buckles; the tongues hang downward.

CREST: A demi-dove udant arg. fretty gu. holding in beak a slip of barberry, vert.

ARMS OF DE BURCHGRAEF D'ALTENA.

ARMS: Two Salmon addorsed sable on a field or.
CREST: Salmon or. reversed between Two flames sable.
MANTLINGS: Vert and or.

ARMS OF LE MAITRE D' AUBREY.

THE DE LA MATER FAMILY.



ARMS OF DU BOIS D'ARTOIS.

ARMS: Shield gold; Eagle black; Feet, Tongue and beak red.

CREST: Helmet silver; shadow red; visor stripes red. Locket and chain gold.



ARMS OF VAN MARSELIS

ARMS: Field silver; Elephant natural; upon green meadow and three Trees, one in middle placed before elephant. On back a Tower from which a woman rises seen from aside in red.

CREST: Elephant with Tower and female.

THIS COAT OF ARMS PATENTED TO YAN VAN MARSELIS
Sept. 17, 1643.



ARMS OF CHRISTIE OF LENDOREE AND BANNOCKBURN

A hill (Caluary) covered with the vine of immortelles supporting a cross and encircled by "SIT VITA NOMINI CONGRUA".

CONFERRED BY ROBERT BRUCE UPON THE ABBOT CHRISTINUS ON JUNE 24, 1314.



ARMS OF DEMAREST
DE BEAUCHAMPS.

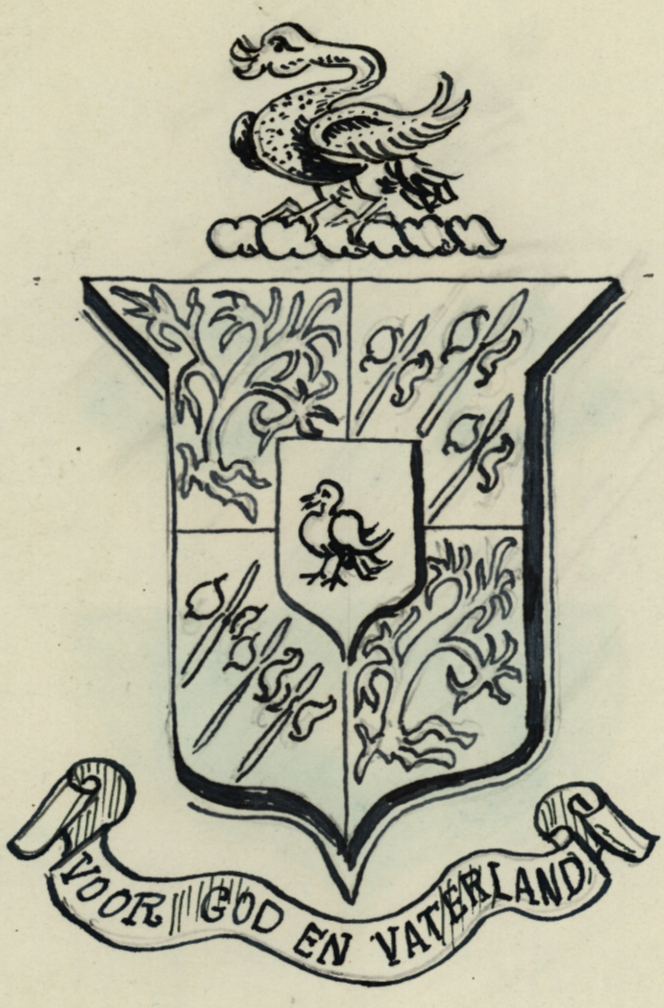
Although the family is entitled to use other coats-of-arms, this is the one seen in the old Reformed Church at Hackensack. And the one used by the Demarest Society.
ARMS: Field red with white cross.
CHEVRON: black with escalop shells, white.



ARMS OF VAN NESS

ARMS: Az. a fess arg. met by a pale from the chief to the fess. point, bet. Two stars of six points in chief and another in base, or.

CREST: Helmet silver. Locket and chain, or.



ARMS OF RYERSON OF AMSTERDAM.



ARMS OF DE RAPALIE DE VALENCIENNES.

ARMS: Field, azure blue with three bars orange or gold.
CREST: Issueing from ducal crown, azure blue six ostrich feathers or. and azure.

STORIES OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOME VAN RIPER MEMBERS.

ABRAHAM[3] VAN RIPER – The part he played in The Revolution.

The farmers, merchants, traders, river-men and men in other walks of life bore, nor without murmering, the oppressive acts of the British Parliament. Even the cutting down of white pine trees was prohibited and many a man was thus deprived of a fruitful source of revenue. The manufacture of iron into iron-bars for shipment was prohibited. There were huge mines at Ringwood and Sterling, and throughout North Jersey; copper mines in Bloomfield and Belleville. And many men had sunk huge fortunes into them. They were not even permitted to govern their own taxes.

A meeting was held of the inhabitants of Essex County, (now Essex, Union and Passaic Counties) and measures were taken to protect themselves. This was on June 11, 1774. at Newark.

On May 3, 1775 a meeting was held at the "Tap-House-on-the Hill" in Passaic. Twenty-three men attended including Captain Frans Post of Paterson; Henry Post, Jun. of Wessel; Thomas Post; Captain Abraham Godwin of Paterson who later gave his life

for the Cause; Jacob Van Riper and Abraham[3] Van Riper of the Third River Neighborhood. Others were the noted author, Stephen Crane, Michael Vreeland, Robert Drummond who turned traitor, John Berry, Henry Garritse and Thennis Dey. Members were elected to attend the General Assembly and measures were taken for organizing the inhabitants, forming a militia, and selecting a group of minute men. They served all during the war.

RICHARD[3] VAN RIPER – A SPY.

Richard[3] Van Riper, was a son of Thomas[2] Van Riper and a ~~first~~ cousin of Abraham[3] Van Riper, mentioned above and our ancestor, was recognized by Washington as one of his most capable spies. He served as a private in the American army and few knew of his actual activities. His brother, Garret, also served in the Army. Richard's house, still standing on River Road, Passaic, corner of Brook Avenue was raided by the British doing considerable damage. His four sisters were forced to hide and so saved themselves.

(Obtained from the "Daily News" Passaic Saturday April 20, 1929).

Richard Van Riper, whose Jersey Dutch stolidity enabled him to fool Colonel Robinson of the British Army with much misinformation, gave the Colonel the impression of being very ignorant of public affairs. However this was not the case. He was a shrewed, intelligent person and a Captain in the batallion of attached militia of Colonel Thomas.

That Richard was able to deceive Colonel Robinson is evident by a letter the Colonel wrote on February 28, 1781 to Sir Henry Clinton at New York:

> "Christian Lowzier and Richard Van Riper say they live at Acquaquenunck, which place they left Monday last. It was reported that part of Washington's army were to go to the Southward, etc. etc."
>
> P.S. The above two men are come in, as it seems to me only on the scheme of trade; they appear to be ignorant of public matters.

JOHN A. VAN RIPER.

John Van Riper, born Feb. 12, 1753; was the son of Abraham Van Riper and a brother of Philip. He married Lea Winne who was related to the Egbert family of Montclair. He died about 1835. He lived in the Bradbury-Van Riper house in Nutley and was a soldier in the Revolution, serving in the Essex Troops.

JACOB A. VAN RIPER — A SPY.

Washington's campaigns were always facilitated by the employment of bold and numerous spies. As the inhabitants were devided into two groups, Tories and Patriots, it was easy to pass in and out of the British ranks on pretext of business. When Washington was at Acquackanonk he chose Jacob Van Riper as Jacob was well acquainted with the territory for miles around. Washington called his spies the eyes of his army. They were men of more than average intelligence.

VINEGAR DICK VAN RIPER.

Richard Van Riper had a fine house and many slaves. One day he had a jug of whiskey he wished to have taken up to the attic. Calling a slave he gave orders to that effect.

"Wat am in this, massa?" asked the slave.

"Oh, vinegar" replied Van.

The darkie toted the jug up the stairs and then the ladder into the attic but stayed up there a long Time. Finally he managed to get down stairs without stumbling. He had tasted the "vinegar" and from then on Richard was known as "Vinegar" Dick Van Riper.

CAPTAIN ABRAHAM VAN RIPER, THE SALTY.

The National Bank of Passaic now occupies the site of the homestead of a sailor who had sailed the briny deep and the Passaic River for seventy odd years. And perhaps this is the reason why every fourth or fifth word the venerable Captain, Abraham Van Riper, used was a cuss-word. He was present on May 28, 1830 when the first Train of two cars, drawn by horses, started on its first trip from Passaic to Paterson. This was the first railroad in North Jersey and the second in the State!

He was the son of John[4] Abraham Van Riper who was the brother of Philip[4] Van Riper. He was therefore a nephew of Philip[4] and a grandson of Abraham[3] who inherited the Bradbury Estates.

THOMAS VAN RIPER — "The Negroe Has a Soul".

The Dutch families of Bergen and Passaic Counties imported and purchased slaves. A good slave brought two and three hundred dollars. Slavery continued until the Civil War and until then it was the general opinion that the negroe possessed no soul, but was no better than the animal in the field. In fact, in many cases, the animal received better care than the negroe slave.

The Van Ripers owned slaves and Thomas Van Riper, the son of John Van Riper and grandson of Abraham, lived on the River Road in Nutley. He owned hundreds of acres of land. He was a kindly person and treated his slaves well; in fact so well that people began to wonder if he was not a bit touched in the head. He began wondering if the colored person did have a soul. He set about comparing the daily life of the white and the colored folk. And this is how it happened:

One day while walking along the River Road he came upon two white men engaged in a fight and using vile language.

Thomas, upon separating them probably gave them a lecture on good behaviour; receiving a tirade of abuse in return. Two men, in a boat on the river, sang out:

"There goes Ole' Van Riper
He's the Devil's own spiper!"

Van Riper knew the two men well. They lived on the River Road and went daily upon the river fishing with a jug of rum. By night-fall they would be in a drunken stupor and a colored man from across the River would bring them home.

Continuing on his way he came to the house of Halmagh Sip (The Steinmetz-Sip house; still standing) where two colored men were unloading hay. He spoke to them receiving respectful and decorous answers in a cheerful tone; joined in by a third slave from across the street.

Van Riper continued on, mulling over the preceeding incidents and wondering, which ones had the more right to a soul, the black or the white, when he came to a small bridge crossing a stream at the present Brook Avenue. Ralph Vreeland was there, driving and thrashing his horse which stubbornly refused to go over the bridge. A slave, belonging to Garret Van Riper, who lived near-by,

called out:

"Stop your clubbing. I'll make him move!"

Picking up an apple from under a tree he ran to the horse, rubbed his nose and neck while talking gently to him, all the while watching the horse's ears. In a short time the ears relaxed; the strain was over, and the slave there-upon held the apple about six inches away from the horse's nose, who unconsciously took steps leading across the bridge.

The Reverend John Berdan happened to come out of his gate when Thomas passed by. "Has the colored man a soul?" asked Thomas. The Dominie looked at him with contempt and replied with a sneer "I will ask you one, the answer to which will be my answer to yours: Has a cow a soul? — I am surprised that a cobbler of your intelligence should ponder over a question which was answered when Noah cursed Ham, the accredited father of the colored race, and his descendents forever. You, and others like you, are causing them to assume an independence never attempted in the history of the world!"

Still puzzled Van Riper went on to his shops on the present Van Houten Avenue. He asked everyone the same question: "Has the negroe a soul?" The replies were varied. One man gave a decided "NO." Two were undecided and two felt quite certain he had a soul. They all met that night at Van Riper's and Henry Paxton suggested they attend a public meeting of the slaves on Sunday afternoon which was being held in Adrian Lefe's barn at the corner of the present Hitch Lane and Broad Street, Richfield.

When they arrived they found a large crowd. Van Riper recognized Hen and Will, the two men who had been unloading the hay. Hen was the speaker and Will led the singing of old and familiar hymns. This led Van Riper to enquire and he was informed that they had heard their "white folkes" sing the songs, read the scriptures and so they had memorized them. Hen stoutly claimed that the colored folk had a soul same as the white.

The next day Thomas met Elias Vreeland who owned forty slaves, and started telling Elias of his experiences. Elias interrupted him exclaiming: "Oh, go tell that to Peter Jackson's wife!" and abruptly left.

Mrs. Jackson was a great friend of the slaves and the daughter of the Rev. Benjamin Van der Linda, who had been pastor

at Paramus, and other Reformed Churches. Through him Mrs. Jackson had become interested in the slaves.

To Mrs. Jackson he went and it was decided she would conduct a class for the children of slaves. Such an unheard of thing! One can imagine the indignant rath and consternation of the good people of Acquackanonck. No wonder he was called the "Devil's own Decipple".

Previously, when slaves drove their masters to Church, they were not permitted within the building but were forced to remain out-of-doors. Van Riper began making adjustments and accomodations for the slaves in the galleries. Four benches were finally set aside for them and were called the "Slaves Benches" or "Slaves Gallery". Thus began the custom of churches having a slaves gallery. Van Riper, like all true genius', was unadmired in his day; except, perhaps, by the "Negroe, who had a soul."

SOME HOUSES BELONGING To Families ALLIED WITH THE VAN RIPERS

1 GERRIT HOPPER HOUSE, Upper Saddle River.

In Upper Saddle River, on the East Saddle River Road is an old Dutch house built by Gerrit Hopper, brother of Andries Hopper. This is where the widow of Andries came with her brood.

THE HOPPER HOUSE is a majestic place standing well back from the road with beautiful old Trees. The one wing was built in 1700 and on a map made in 1713 it is marked as the Gerrit Hopper House. It is now a restaurant.

2. STEIN METZ - SIP HOUSE, 714 River Rd., Passaic.

In 1699 The house was conveyed by the Patentee, Vreeland, to his son-in-law Christopher Steinmetz. In 1750 it was sold to Arie Sip, whose descendants owned it until 1900. Jannetje Sip, who married Philip Abraham Van Riper lived here. Her brother Halmagh lived here during the Revolution. The older wing, in the rear, has been torn down.

3. THE SIP MANOR, Jersey City.

Claas Ariance Sip built this old Dutch house in 1666 and was owned by descendents until 1902. It stood in the old Village of Bergen and was always beautifully kept and was famous for its gardens in Colonial days. It played an important part in the Revolution. In 1902 it was removed to Westfield, N.J. where it still stands.

4. VAN WAGONER - HAMILTON HOUSE, Great Notch.

One of the finest preserved of the old Dutch houses is the Van Wagoner House on Valley Road, Clifton. It was built about 1760 and very few alterations have been made since.

5. GERREBRANT VAN HOUTEN HOUSE, Paterson

On Totowa Ave, in the present West-side Park, stands a house, the wing of which was built in 1741. The larger section was built following the Revolution.

6. ISAAC VAN NESS HOUSE, Fairfield, N.J.

Along the Passaic River, on the river road, between Pier Lane

and Grand View Avenue is a house built about 1725. Isaac Van Ness bought the property in 1710 and it remained in the Van Ness family until 1906 when it was sold to Tom Pier. It is now a restaurant.

7. EDO MERSELIS HOUSE, Upper Preakness.

The house is marked on Erskine's Revolutionary Map as Marselis'. It was built by Edo about 1764 on the Paterson-Pompton Road, near the Hennion and Berdan Houses. It is of stone, plastered and white-washed, and stands on the corner of Berdan Ave. not far from the Church.

8. JOHANNES RYERSON HOUSE, 367 Goffle Rd, Hawthorne.

This lovely old house was still standing in 1950 when the Passaic County Park Commission decided to tear it down. A controversy arose; when the issue was decided by a fire. It was an historic old house built by Martin Ryerson about 1750. In the fall of 1780 Lafayette used it as his headquarters. It stood in Goffle Park.

9. "BLOOMSBURY MANOR" - Dey House, Preakness.

Built in 1740 by Dirck Dey, brother of Jeneken Dey. Dirck was a builder by trade. It is now a museum.

Cynthias Mother was Mary Rapelier — Facts correct. Feb. 23 '80

Dear Mary.

Thank you so much for the interesting information about the Rapelyeas — that is how my great grandmother spelled it —.

My family tradition, backed by maps, deeds and family diaries, holds that Sarah was the first white child to be born on Long Island and that the Indians, with whom the settlers were on excellent terms, were so entranced by the little white girl that they gave her father, Jans Joris de Rapelyea the acreage that became their farm. This house survived with additions until the mid-19th Century and Susan Elizabeth Rapelyea was born in it in 1839. I remember her quite well as a very old and rather dreadful old lady.

I own a lithograph

and a print of this house and a map of the property. It was in the section of Brooklyn that now is the U.S. Navy Yard.

What can have happened to my last letter? I cannot imagine- Andy didn't get one I mailed at the same time so they are probably under some defective conveyor belt in Newark or Jersey City.

I do thank you for the charming plaque - It is hung in our bedroom surrounded by family pictures and looks very impressive.

We have had a fairly dull but not unpleasant winter. I rather like these quiet months, when there is little pressure from the demands of garden and guests and the hours are ours to fill as we wish. I have met some very nice women through my closest neighbor and we meet for lunch and bridge and/or

that every Wednesday - They have all retired up there and we are from different parts of the world and different back-grounds. It is interesting to compare our life experiences and attitudes and expectations. I am very grateful to have found such a compatible group — although it doesn't make up for the comfort of your next door!

We are in a sea of slushy, mushy snow now but there is something in the air that portends Spring - I have started a few Broccoli and Brussels Sprout seeds in flats to encourage my hope and this morning I saw a few signs of green. I do believe after years of experimenting I am beginning to get an understanding of and a feeling for vegetables.

All our large and growing family seem to be

busy, well and happy as of this moment. We plan to go en masse to Andy's wedding in May - It is a rite of passage for Thom and for us all as our youngest starts out on his own.

Do write or call and keep in touch - I love to hear from you and miss our good long talks dreadfully -

Give our best to Bob, and remember us to the children when you write.

If I get to Montclair soon — I still haven't seen the interior of David's new house on Forest St. #39 - I'll drop in and beg you for a cup of tea -

Until then - keep well and warm and happy.

Love,

Cynthia