

STORY OF THE
MAALWYCK
ITS SETTLERS; ITS HOUSE
LONG A
FAMOUS LANDMARK,
AND OF ITS
SCHOOL, THE FIRST NORTH
OF THE MOHAWK RIVER

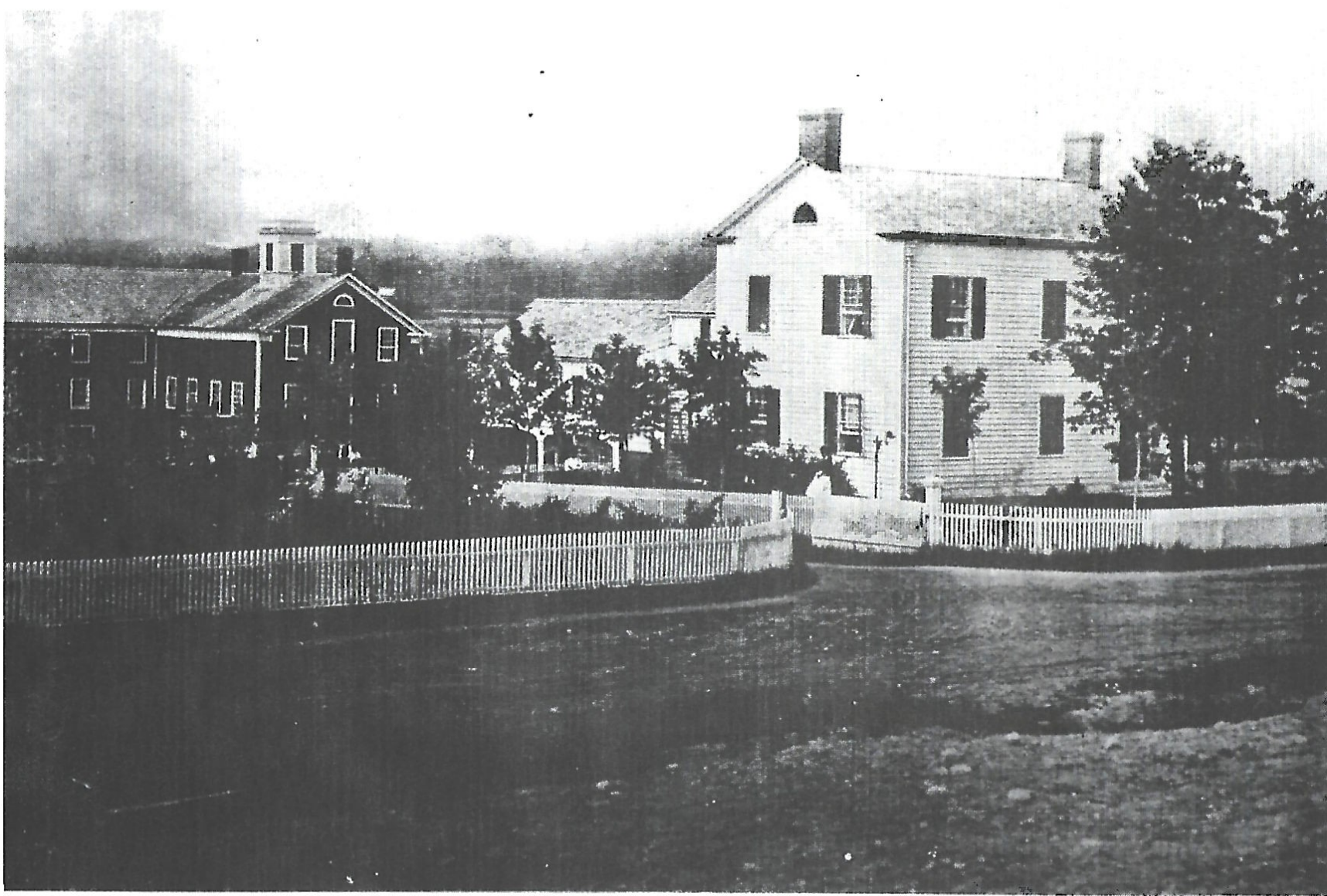
BY
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"To transmit the honors of
one age to another is a duty;
to neglect the merits of our
fathers is a disgrace."

-- Phillips

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THE SECOND MAALWYCK HOUSE LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MOHAWK AVE., SCOTIA, NEAR THE WESTERN VILLAGE LINE, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH MADE IN 1876.

PART ONE

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THE MAALWYCK

THE MAALWYCK, says Pierson the able historian, was a place one mile west of Schenectady, known by this name from the time of its earliest settlement. Here at the foot of a low bluff was a rift in the Mohawk River, one of a series of three, thus mapped as early as 1757, which together with the peculiar configuration of the river's bank at this point and the presence of an island directly opposite, caused sort of a whirlpool, a miniature Maalstroom. This feature was known to the Indians as the "Place of Rushing Waters," according to traditions carried down in the Toll family, owners of the Maalwyck lands since 1712. French, in the "Gazetteer of New York," (1861) gives the meaning of Maalwyck, as "Whirlback," from the tortuous course of the Mohawk.

MAALWYCK LANDS BOUGHT
OF THE INDIANS, 1669

The shore lands of the Maalwyck, when first cleared, became known as the Maalwyck Farm and the first house built thereon as the Maalwyck House. This tract was obtained of the Mohawk Indians as early as 1669, says Pierson, by Benjamin (or Bent) Roberts. The Mohawks despite their readiness to sell lands to the first settlers had, however, no real ownership or claim to the lands anywhere near Schenectady. The area now occupied by Schenectady and for some ten miles both to the east and the west was, at the period of its settlement by the whites, recognized by the natives as neutral ground between the territory of the many Algonkian nations to the east and that of the Iroquoian westward. It had been unoccupied perhaps for centuries, despite erroneous statements in certain of our local histories. However, ages before, it was the seat of an extensive primitive civilization, clearly shown by the sites of many former villages, well known to the archeologists of today, yet the Dutch found this area a wilderness, terming it at once the "Woestina." This unoccupied neutral strip has been described by Beauchamp the veteran historian of the Five Nations, and by certain of the earlier writers.

Nevertheless the patent for the land at the Maalwyck acquired by Roberts from the Mohawks, like that acquired by Van Curler and others, was confirmed by the Colonial authorities. Robert's grant was signed by Gov. Francis Lovelace on July 1st, 1669. The tract granted was described as "Amounting in all unto 38 morgen Which said Peice or Parcell of Land hath bene by ye Gen'll Court of ye Indian Proprietors Given & made over unto Benjamin Roberts with ye approbacon of ye Commissaryes at Albany & Schanectade who have recommended ye same." Besides the land lying north of the river, this grant included the island lying opposite in the Mohawk River, which thenceforward

became known as Bent's or Benton's Island. On a map of Schenectady County made in 1856 it is called "Vellie's Island."

Benjamin Roberts, the first settler on the Maalwyck lands, is thought to have been of Swedish birth or descent. He was a Lutheran and is supposed to have been the same person listed in certain Moravian church records of its Swedish members as Benjamin Bagge; Pierson more than once speaks of him as Bent Bagge. He was sometimes spoken of as Bent Roberts and, as we have noted, the island included in his Maalwyck grant was called Bent's or Benton Island. An abstract of his will, dated June 28th, 1706, is in the collections of the New York Historical Society, New York City. It says:

I Benjamin Roberts, of Schenectady, in the County of Albany, being in good health. I leave to the Lutheran Church at Albany, £ 18. All the rest of my estate I leave to my wife Mary Roberts, that is to say, my farm lying at Maalwyck on the north side of Schenectady river, to the west of the land formerly belonging to Jan Rinckhout now in possession of John McIntyre, which farm is now in my occupation, to her during her life or widowhood. After her death the homestead, houses and lands are to go to my stepson called Peter Clement and his brother, Joseph C Clement, And they are to have all the rest of the lands, etc., and they are to pay to their sisters, Elizabeth and Fromantel Clement, each £ 20. I make my wife sole executor.

MAALWYCK ESTATE BOUGHT BY THE TOLLS

Evidently Mary Roberts did not long remain a widow for in 1710 we find the Clement brothers in full possession of the Maalwyck property. On that year Peter sold his share, the eastern half of the farm, including half of Bent's Island, to Cornelis Viele for 445 pounds, and two years later, in 1712, his brother sold the other half of the estate to Karel Hansen Toll for 400 pounds. In connection with this latter sale Dr. Daniel Toll in his entertaining history of the Toll family records an amusing incident: For negotiating the sale to Toll, Joseph Clement was to receive as a bonus in addition to the purchase price, his choice of the best horse in Toll's stable, a saddle and bridle, together with a complete suit of new clothes and a cocked hat, all of which was accordingly delivered to him, and -- not specified! -- he was summarily booted from the premises. Just why? good old Doctor Toll does not tell us. Later, according to one authority, Joseph Clement served as an interpreter between the Colonists and the Indians.

Karel Hansen Toll, born in Norway, after an adventurous career both on land and sea, came to the New Netherlands about 1680. He married Elizabeth ("Lybetyea") Rinckhout daughter of Daniel Rinckhout of Albany, about 1683 or 1684 and about

on the Sixth Flat, and lastly the house of Jan Van Eps on the Seventh Flat, the property first settled by Karel Hansen Toll and his wife.

It was at this first Maalwyck homestead by the river that the barns were set on fire and burned by a slave who in punishment therefore was barbarously burned at the stake in Schenectady. With the kindly Dutch of old Dorp the spirit of medieval diabolism was not yet wholly extinct; nor is it yet in certain parts of our fair country. And, too, it was at the Maalwyck that the men of the community while gathered in July of 1748 to raise the frame of a new barn -- perhaps to replace that burned by the slave -- were startled by the report of guns from the Beukendaal, where Daniel Toll, the proprietor, Dirk Van Voast and Rykert, a slave of Toll's, had gone to seek their horses that had strayed away. An alarm was at once sent to Schenectady and soldiers and men of the town hurried to the Beukendaal only to walk into a deadly ambush skillfully set by a large party of Canadian Indians led by a French officer, and the bloody battle in the Vale of the Beeches was at once in full sway, wherein so many of the men of old Schenectady and of the soldiers were slain. The first one killed was Captain Daniel Toll of the Maalwyck. A granite and bronze memorial beside the Sacandaga Road tells of this tragic fight.

THE TOLLS BUILD A NEW MAALWYCK HOUSE ON THE MOHAWK TURNPIKE

Like the first house in Scotia built by Alexander Lindsey, after its settlement by him in 1658, -- perhaps the first house built north of the Mohawk River -- which standing too near the river's bank was abandoned and pulled down due to its threatened destruction by the floods of spring, so likewise, due to the same threat, the first Maalwyck house was abandoned and razed, the brick of its walls taken to a new location on the Mohawk Turnpike where they were used as filling, or lining, in the walls of a large new house built by the Tolls. This house stood, and still stands, though remodeled, near the entrance of Schermerhorn Street in the western end of the village of Scotia. Here, the new house soon became the center of a large group of fine farm buildings. The proprietor at this time was Charles H. Toll who was listed in Child's directory of 1870-71 as owning or operating 386 acres of land. In his large broom shop as many as thirty persons were employed at the period when the broom-corn industry was at its height in the Mohawk Valley, during the last half of the past century. Then, every tillable acre of the rich flat lands of the valley was planted with broom-corn, not only at the Maalwyck and adjoining farms, but for miles westward on both sides of the river. Large broom shops were built and other buildings pressed in service for that purpose. This industry soon spread to the uplands of the town, where smaller shops were operated.

the year 1700 or perhaps a year or two before that date they became owners of the entire Seventh Flat in the Woestina. A fertile tract reaching from the Tequatsera Creek -- now the Verf Kill -- westward to the Kinaquariones, the extreme western limits of the Schenectady Patent. Here the Tolls lived for a time in a dug-out, finally gaining a competence by shrewd trading for peltry with the Indians from up the valley, thus by the year 1712 they were able to purchase the Maalwyck estate of Joseph Clement. Here at the Maalwyck living in the house built by Roberts shortly after his purchase in 1669 -- its brick said to have been brought from Holland -- Karel Hansen Toll soon became an influential man in his community. In 1714 he was elected to the Colonial Legislature, one of the three members for the County of Albany. He was re-elected in 1716 and served thenceforward continuously until 1726. He died in 1737 or 1738. In addition to the care of his Maalwyck estate and his service as a member of the Colonial Legislature, Toll was associated with John Sandersee Glen, Adam Vrooman, and John Wemp in setting -- or replacing -- stockades for the fort in Schenectady. The line of these stockades, as shown afterwards by a continuous row of stumps unearthed, ran nearly through the center of Front, Ferry, and State streets and Washington Avenue, thus inclosing the four original squares of the village. In payment for this work they received from the Legislature 95 pounds, 13 shillings, and ninepence.

OWNED BY THE TOLL FAMILY
FOR NEARLY TWO CENTURIES

The Maalwyck farm remained in the possession of the Toll family for 186 years or until 1898. During this long period of occupancy a tract lying next north, reaching to the present Mohawk Turnpike was added to the farm, making its total acreage 125, exclusive of the eastern half of the original grant, sold by Peter Clement to Viele. Later we find that certain other detached farm lands were acquired by the Tolls, on the Sacandaga Road also a large farm at the Beukendaal, designated on Fagin's county map of 1856, as Locust Vale.

Situated on the main valley thoroughfare leading westward, closely following the course of the river -- the present Mohawk Turnpike not yet tracked out -- the Maalwyck House was unquestionably a prominent and well known landmark for over a century. Whether, like so many of the early houses of the valley, it was ever kept as an inn we do not know; records and tradition seem silent on this. However, the old brick house was deemed of sufficient importance to be shown by name on a map of the Mohawk Valley prepared by the Engineers of the British Army in 1757, which map also shows the course of the old road. But four houses in the limits of the present town of Glenville are shown by name on this map. In order from east to west these are: That of Col Glen; the Maalwyck House; that of Adam Swart

In the last decade of the century, however, competition, that could not be met, from the newly-settled lands of the Mississippi Valley, finally put an end to the raising of broom-corn in the Mohawk Valley. Nevertheless some of the larger broom shops continued to operate: indeed a certain few are yet open, getting their supplies of broom-corn from the middle West.

The story of the rise, progress and decline of the growing of broom-corn and the making of brooms in the Mohawk Valley would alone fill a large volume; of the broad acres of waving, tasseled corn, tall and thick as a jungle, in rows across the flats as straight as though lined-out by a surveyor -- though not always thus if the story is true, told of a certain resident taking as he supposed a short cut to the river, through a large field of corn whose owner was noted for his inability to mark out a straight row. Closely following the same row, this individual walked and walked, as it seemed to him, an unusual time for crossing a twenty-acre field, only to come out, as he said, "just three rows from the place where I started in."

THE RUM TREE

A sketch of the Maalwyck would not be complete did it not mention the Rum Tree. This great and famous oak stood on the Maalwyck lands close by the bank of the Mohawk, very near the foot of Pleasant View Avenue. Its spreading branches towered above and beyond those of its fellow oaks, and here, says tradition, the men of the flat boats, in the days of the Mohawk Navigation Company, toiling with pike and ropes to pole and drag their craft over the stony rifts that obstructed the channel, stopped to rest in the shade of the big tree and incidentally regale themselves with various "nips" of rum. Here, too, we can imagine that the men and boys of old Scotia and Reesville would gather to rest in the welcome shade, throwing down their poles and lines, waiting till the fish would start biting again, meanwhile swapping stories of the "big one that got away." And as for "nips" -- oh well, Glenville, it will be remembered, was a no-license town for many long and thirsty years.

At last the famous old Rum Tree came to its end. There came an unusual spring freshet; an ice dam threw back the waters of the Mohawk till the flood stood thirty feet deep on the flats of the Maalwyck and adjoining farms. The bank on which the Rum Tree stood was undermined, the roots of the tree were bared and finally it toppled over, its limbs and trunk overhanging the water. In this position it remained for some few years. There are today residents of Scotia who well remember walking out on its great prostrate trunk. Finally the outgoing ice of a succeeding year swept the old tree away.

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PART TWO

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A QUAIN RECORD OF
GLENVILLE'S FIRST SCHOOL
COMES TO LIGHT

The earliest recorded date yet found telling of a school in the area of the present town of Glenville is 1782. This we learn from a school record book kept by one John Hetherington, schoolmaster.

While Schenectady had its school commenced in 1710 by the Rev. Thomas Barclay, yet just when the first school was established in Scotia or Reesville -- Scotia's adjoining hamlet -- we do not know. As stated, Hetherington's record of service begins in 1782. In it, however, under date 1788, he speaks of the "old School House." This structure may have been standing for many years before Hetherington came to the school and doubtless there were earlier teachers. At this period Scotia and Reesville together had less than a dozen houses. Indeed, so slow was the growth of these near but distinct hamlets, that when a census of School District, No. 2, was taken in 1884 by Nelson H. Toll it had but 284 souls, men, women, and children, and the district included some of the outlying farms.

"The Record of the Maalwyck School," for such is the title of Hetherington's book, is a valuable and interesting manuscript document. It was long in possession of the Toll family, was stolen and at least twice sold, but finally came in the possession of the late Mrs. William Dalton and by her, thoughtfully presented to the Schenectady County Historical Society.

Schoolmaster Hetherington's record consists of several sections rudely stitched together, each of these the record of a single year and each with its own title page, neatly lettered. It is written on nondescript odds and ends of paper, comprising in all a book of about four by six inches, having several hundred pages. Some of its sections are bound-in upside down in relation to their fellows. The whole volume consists of a jumble of school records, lists of parents and of pupils, with their attendance, interleaved with various old-fashioned cure-alls for the gout and sundry other ills. Also random records of personal receipts and expenditures, many of the latter items carefully listing pence and shillings paid for various --numerous-- "nips," glasses and bowls of gin, toddy, "cyder" and other drinks. Also we find listed the sums received from the parents for the tuition of their children, as well as the amounts paid by Hetherington for "boarding around," the custom at that day, among the different families of the community. Interspersed, however, the old record contains diaries, kept, perhaps, for a few consecutive days, followed by a skip of weeks. These diaries, to the historian, form a valuable feature of the old record, for in these random notes light is shown on many events and forgotten customs of the period.

The handwriting of Hetherington's book is uniformly excellent, unless it may be for certain slight lapses when our schoolmaster had indulged in too many nips and mugs of grog and hot toddy. Its punctuation is particularly careful and accurate, and, showing the education and tastes of the writer, we find here and there throughout the book, sentences or quotations both in Greek, and Latin; even a few are in Hebrew characters. There are, too, certain entries written in cryptic characters, a cipher of which perhaps the writer alone had the key, possibly thus written to while away a tedious hour while his pupils were droning over their dog-eared books or slyly throwing spit-balls at each other.

That John Hetherington was a man of versatile talents we learn from various items in his book listing sums occasionally received for drawing up legal papers, deeds, agreements etc., for the people of the community. For instance, in 1795, he lists Daniel Toll one of his prominent patrons as debtor for "drawing a bill of sale for wench to Barhydt, three shillings." and for a bond for the same transaction, also three shillings. Among the Dutch of old Schenectady the sale of slaves was uncommon. They were seldom sold unless for incorrigible insubordination, and then only as a last resort. The Toll family, figuring large in Hetherington's record, though the first bearing that name in our Mohawk Valley, came from Norway, had become at this period through a century of intermarriage essentially Dutch, in speech, religion and customs. Writing twenty-seven letters at sixpence each added thirteen shillings and sixpence to Toll's bill, due to Hetherington acting as his scribe. Doubtless Toll was able to write, but with an adroit penman at his elbow he took advantage of the situation to clear up his correspondence. However, due to the scarcity of schools and the hardships and privations of pioneer life in the Woestina, as the region on both sides of the river, west from Schenectady was called for nearly two centuries, we find that many of the early proprietors, both men and women, signed their names with an X-mark. This may be seen by an examination of deeds, wills and other legal papers of that period.

Furthermore, as his quaint record shows, Schoolmaster Hetherington seemingly did a little tailoring at odd times; probably for himself only, thus in 1791 he notes the purchase of a yard of shalloon at four shillings and eight pence. Shalloon was a worsted stuff first made in Chalons, France, and by another entry we learn that he paid one shilling for buttons, and two days later he records, "finished my brown jacket." In 1790 he sells a silver knee-buckle to Benjamin Young, for one shilling and sixpence.

That our Maalwyck schoolmaster had a tinge of sporting blood from his English ancestors is shown by an entry made on January 7th, 1786, recording a debt to Nicholas Viele and Lawrence Schermerhorn, "by my reckoning at Cockfighting." Evidently a battle royal, this, for the next day we find him back

at Viele and Schermerhorn's inn, to talk over the fight, where he incurs an additional debt of one shilling for "2 Nips of Toddie."

The earliest date we find in Hetherington's record is 1782, as mentioned, evidently the first year that he taught in the Maalwyck School. Family names appearing in that year include those of Toll; Vielen (Velie); Rogers; Wendle; Veeder; Fareman; Van Patten; Van Antwerp; Lythall (Lighthall); DeGrove (DeGraff); Kelly; Bradford, and Mabee.

PUPILS LISTED, 1788

For the term of school, beginning August 25th, 1788, Hetherington lists the following pupils:

Mary, Daniel, and Hester Toll
 Augusta, and Alida DeGraff,
 Nicholas, Elizabeth, and Nelly Schermerhorn,
 Ann Smith,
 Nicholas Lighthall,
 John Wild,
 Mary, Chlore, and Cornelius Vielen,
 Aaron, John, and Cornelius Veeder,
 Nelly, and Jane Van Patten,
 Ernestus, and John Putman,
 Harmanus Terwilligen,
 James Major,
 Jacob Glen,
 Albert Vedder.

Schoolmaster Hetherington's fee or allowance for tuition was eight shillings per quarter for each pupil, payable by the parents. Thus on April 5th, 1783, we find his bill, entered against Captain John Van Patten who, by the way, won distinction in the Battle of Saratoga, 1777, "To schooling Nicholas, Sarah & Simon betwixt 6th. Jan'y & April 6th, each a Qr. @ 8s/" totals one pound and four shillings, with a recorded deduction for the absence of these pupils at different times.

FOREIGN COINS IN USE

Hetherington chronicles the receipt as part of the bill paid by Captain Van Patten, as quoted above, of a "French Crown," for which he credits Van Patten with nine shillings. Paid another bill he accepts a French gold guinea which he values at thirty-six shillings. Many kinds of foreign coins seem to have been in circulation at this period. The numismatist and historian scanning Hetherington's record will find frequent mention, not only of crowns but also of English coins and of "pistareens." The latter a very common Spanish silver coin worth about eighteen cents.

Spanish silver in one, two, four, and eight-real pieces -- the latter, the so-called "pieces of eight," passing for a dollar -- were here in common use before the Revolution and for many years thereafter.

PAYS A BILL TO HANTIE SCHERMERHORN

Showing the care Hetherington took at times in recording the minutia of every-day life: On May 22nd, 1787, he pays a bill of four pounds and eight shillings (eleven dollars) "As settled in Hantie Schermerhorn's Orchard," where he finds Hantie "riding manure on land himself." In 1783 he buys a pair of "Buckskin Breechs" at eight dollars, also invests in a watch costing eight pounds. This watch, as we shall see later, he lets fall, breaking its crystal and finally, in July, 1790, he loses it, having, however, noted its number, which was 3037 and that it was made by Robert Lee of London.

GOES TO TICONDEROGA

As stated, the earliest date appearing in Schoolmaster Hetherington's record is 1782 and the last, 1795. However, we find that nearly two years -- in 1791 and 1792 -- of this fourteen-year period of teaching was spent at Ticonderoga. There, he kept not only day school but also taught a night school, held four or five times each month -- and, too, he preached on Sundays. This last was a phase of his talents that he did not venture to exploit while in the Dutch community of the Maalwyck. Also at Ticonderoga Hetherington revels in his penchant for acquiring old weapons and other relics. At the famous old fort, then abandoned, and on the battlefield of 1758 in the forest before the fort he finds a rich field to gratify this antiquarian taste; like Captain Grose, immortalized by Burns:

He has a fourth o' auld nick-nackets:
Rusty airn caps and jinglin jackets,
Parritch-pats, and auld saut-buckets,
Before the Flood.

On the second day of one of the summer months spent at Ticonderoga he records finding a gun, and on the following Sunday he finds two guns. Again, on the 22nd, he finds another, likewise on the 23d.

Later in the season Hetherington buys a pound of powder and two pounds of shot, evidently planning a hunting trip. Just what happened on this trip we do not know, perhaps one of his rusty old muskets burst -- there follows a gap in his diary, but we note in a following month he writes: "My wound very uneasy;" on the 10th of the month it was "more easy," but worse again on the 11th.

That his Sunday services at Ticonderoga did not meet with lasting success we can infer from various entries in his record.

One patron, a Mr. Fetlock, he complains, refused to attend or continue support because "I did not write my own sermons." Soon after we find his congregation dwindling to the vanishing point.

Other troubles seem to have come up to worry our schoolmaster. On July 10th he writes: "Things all go contrarily uneasy." Two days later he adds, "Tolerable well but thoughtful." Shortly he visits the Maalwyck, evidently seeking to regain his former position there, but, as we can read between the lines, meeting with a cool reception from his erstwhile Dutch patrons, he returns to Ticonderoga, "discontented and much moved, Pisces sopi postanum." Despite all this we shortly find him again in full charge of the Maalwyck School, where he remains as teacher until some time in the year 1795, the last date found in his record book.

THE BOULAND

Directly across the Mohawk River from the Maalwyck was the old Dutch community of the Bouland, as it was then known, homes built on the area of the farm plots -- Bouwries on the "Groote Vlachte" -- severally allotted to the first families who settled Schenectady. Schoolmaster Hetherington during his period of service at the Maalwyck also in the year 1788 taught at the Bouland, as we learn from his Maalwyck record book. This he could easily do, for holding school but three days each week at the Maalwyck, he had the rest of the week to himself, teaching the alternate days at the Bouland, in the winter months crossing the river on the ice, and with a skiff in the summer.

Among the supporters of the Bouland school we find, as the record shows, certain family names not found at the Maalwyck. Among these are the Bradts; the Beckers; the Putmans; the Guyslins; the Tellers; the Delamonts, and the Truax and Van Eps families. Nearly all of these are family names yet persisting in that region.

JOHN HETHERINGTON, SCHOOLMASTER

"If in your bounds ye chance to light
Upon a fine, fat, fodge wight,
O' stature short, but genius bright,
That's he, mark weel."
-- Burns

Looking back through a century and a half we may fairly picture schoolmaster Hetherington, clad in his buckskin breeches with silver knee buckles; his jacket of brown shalloon, his own handiwork as we have seen, adorned with a profusion of bright buttons -- fourteen of them, a shilling's worth; a gay Barcelona handkerchief -- bought of John Toll, storekeeper, for 9s/ -- loosely knotted about his neck; his

Robert Lee watch with heavy chain and pendent fob; crowned with a new hat, priced at three dollars, for which he dickered, offering "20 \$/, then we split the difference," perhaps an old musket on his shoulder, just acquired, -- we know of his taste for old firearms -- jauntily wending his way to Simonsee Groot's tavern on the Sacandaga Road, there to spend the afternoon -- no school on alternate days -- discussing the events of the times and, of course, various nips of grog and bowls of sling.

THE HETHERINGTON FAMILY

None of our local records tell us whence John Hetherington came to the Maalwyck community nor save for that of the schoolmaster can this family name be found in that vicinity at that period except that one Joseph Hetherington is listed on the rolls of the Second Albany County Militia. This Joseph may have been a brother or relative of the schoolmaster and that he lived in the precincts of the Maalwyck is evident, for the schoolmaster, in 1790 records a debt for boarding with this Joseph, also a charge for tuition. After the last date appearing in Hetherington's book, 1795, no further mention of this Joseph Hetherington nor of the schoolmaster can locally be found. They seem simply to have dropped out of sight.

However, the name Hetherington is occasionally seen today, and in the middle West there are several branches, descendants of the Hetheringtons of Carlisle, England. The Hetheringtons of Carlisle at one time were embroiled in negotiations with Ireland, sponsored by the Crown, and one of that name was sent by the King on a mission to that rebellious isle. While there his estate was confiscated by the Crown, due to machinations of Lord Brougham, an enemy. Of this Carlisle branch of the family was the late Frederick A. Hetherington, prominent inventor and manufacturer, and an artist of merit, who illustrated many poems for James Whitcomb Riley, and who died in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 21st, 1936.

LOCATION OF THE MAALWYCK SCHOOL

No records are available showing just where the first-built Maalwyck School stood. That it was still standing and in use after 1780 Hetherington's record book shows, for in 1788, then ensconced in a new schoolhouse, he makes out and records a bill against Daniel Toll for "Schooling 3 children in the Old School House, betwixt Oct. 14th & Nov. 25." Evidently a bill incurred the foregoing year, 1787, therefore we may justly infer that the older Maalwyck schoolhouse -- perhaps the first -- was standing and still in use in that year. Furthermore, the new schoolhouse, still known as the Maalwyck School, was probably built either in 1787 or the following year.

Doubtless sponsored and perhaps instituted by the Toll family, proprietors of the Maalwyck Farm for nearly two centuries, some have inferred that the first schoolhouse stood

very near the original Maalwyck home, not far from the banks of the Mohawk River, Lending strength to this belief, it must be remembered that the Mohawk Turnpike in its present course westward from Scotia was not tracked out till about the time of the Revolution, or shortly before. The first road north of the river leading westward, as described in the first part of this paper, as late as 1757, ran near the first Maalwyck House, approximately following the course of the river.

The second Maalwyck School, built during John Hetherington's service, stood on the east side of the Sacandaga Road, on the corner opposite the present (1937) Martinec Meat Market. Finally in the first part of the next century, the 19th, it was abandoned as a school and a new schoolhouse of brick was built on the west side of the road, a little way above the corner. This new structure was designated the schoolhouse of District Number Two.

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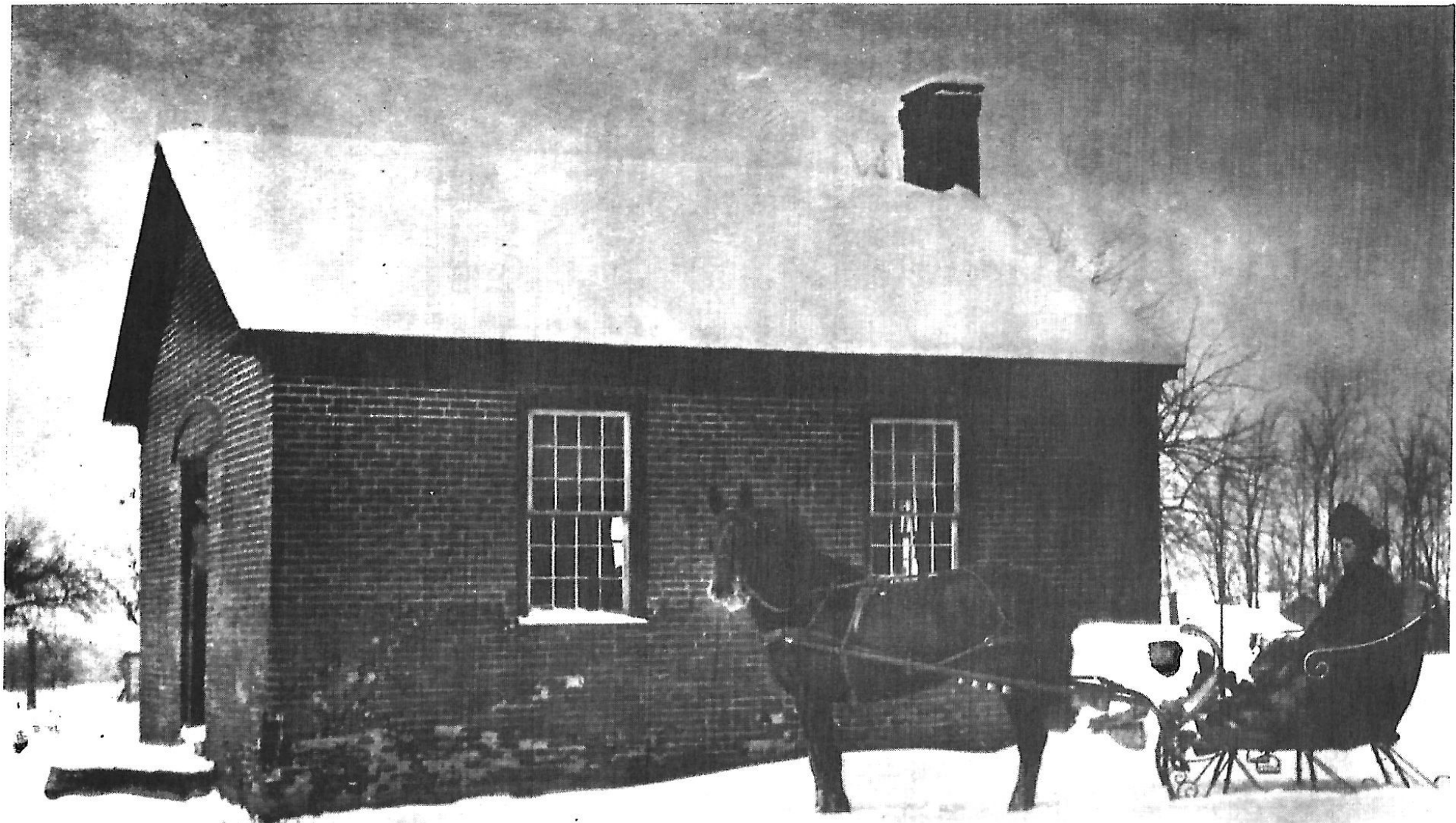
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