



Newsletter of the
Bergen County Historical Society

**Spring
2013**

In Bergen's Attic

As I come to the end of my third and final term as President, I would like to take this time to once again thank all our members, volunteers,

President's Message

and supporters of the Bergen County Historical Society, who provide their precious time and financial support to make all that we do possible. Through the dedication of the Officers and Board of Trustees of the Society, our membership is at all time high levels and I foresee that it will continue to rise, due to our quality programs and events. These events take a lot of time and planning by our events committee, and the high quality of the interpretation at Historic New Bridge Landing continues to tell the amazing stories of our past and drive our membership growth. I

am very proud and honored to have been able to lead this Society over the last three years and be the head of a Board of Trustees that has been so instrumental and successful in planting the seeds of the Capital Campaign to build the long needed and anticipated museum building to house artifacts of Bergen County's amazing past. This is, and will continue to

be, the most critical endeavor the Society will undertake in this generation. We are almost there, and with the help of all our members and supporters, we will make this a reality.

As I pass on the Presidency, I am



Mike Trepicchio receiving a donation from Larry Bauer, President of Teaneck Chamber of Commerce. Sue Braisted & Niel Vincent DeMario also attended the Bergen Leads event at the Stony Hill Inn where Kevin Wright spoke to 250 business leaders about the economic benefits of tourism.

confident that I am leaving the next President with a strong organization that has a quality Board of Trustees that gets stronger with every passing year. Our Board has risen to the challenges that the Society faces and continues to provide the guidance and leadership to make our organization one that people want to belong to. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us, if they are not current members. Please continue to provide your generous support of both time and dollars. There will be many great events this spring and summer at Historic New Bridge Landing and I hope to see you there. As always, I am forever grateful for your support and membership to this great organization.

Mike Trepicchio, BCHS President

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Elbert S. Carman's Veritable Eden in Paramus

by *BCHS Past President Kevin Wright*

Elbert S. Carman is no longer a household name. But in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, as owner and editor of *The Rural New-Yorker*, one of the leading agricultural publications of its day, he “won a national reputation as a journalist and an experimental horticulturist.”¹ This he achieved despite shunning publicity and preferring the retirement of his rural home in Bergen County, owing largely to poor health. However he might try to avoid the limelight, Elbert Carman’s modest home, still standing on the west side of Spring Valley Road in what is now Paramus, just north of the intersection with Continental Avenue, became the center of considerable attention. Here “he gave much of his time to testing new plants, vines, and seeds, and also to originating new varieties of vegetables, fruits and grains.”²

This neighborhood in Midland Township was then commonly designated River Edge in reference to the nearest train station and post office.

Elbert Silleck Carman was born on November 30, 1836, in Hempstead, Long Island, a village founded by his ancestor, Reverend Richard Fordham. His father, Thomas Denton Carman, descended from a landed colonial family and prospered as a merchant tailor, who could afford to educate his son in a private school in Brooklyn and later send him to a boarding school in New

Canaan, Connecticut. Elbert Carman matriculated at Brown University in 1854, but withdrew on account of brain fever after two years.

Elbert Carman clerked in the wholesale cloth and woolen business of Abernethy & Company in New York City. In 1866, he resided at 3 Poplar Street in Brooklyn. On November 10, 1866, Elbert S. Carman married Charlotte Clifton Belcher, daughter of William Belcher, in the residence of the bride’s father. From 1870 through 1873, the city directory lists him as a clerk or salesman in the cloth



Elbert S. Carman's house. Please respect private property. Photo: Kevin Wright

industry, residing at 141 Adelphi Street in Brooklyn. At some point in this interval, his first wife died.

On September 3, 1872, Herkimer S. McCombs and his wife, Sarah, sold Elbert S. Carman, of Brooklyn, New York, a parcel of land, used as an apple orchard, on the west side of Spring Valley Road in what is now Paramus, bounded north and south by lands of Isaac N. Voorhis, for \$1,200. Carman built a comfortable mansard residence and embellished the grounds with a rare collection of ornamental trees, shrubs, vines, flowering plants, close-clipped turf and inviting

walks and drives, creating “a veritable Eden.” A small lake (on Behnke Brook) divided Carman’s ornamental grounds from his fruit and vegetable gardens. In that same year (1872), he published a book, *Views of the Ahaodah Society of Paragot, on the rearing, training, and hygiene of setters and pointers*, which became a dog-breeders’ standard.

In 1873, Elbert S. Carman married Agnes Emily M. Brown (1852-1941), daughter of Professor Delwin Fruenza Brown, artist and penman at Adelphi Academy in Brooklyn, N. Y., who was also noted for his research on strawberry cultivation. The couple moved to their newly purchased property in Midland Township. In June 1876, he enlarged his holdings, purchasing an additional narrow strip of land (710 square feet) from neighbors, Abraham and Susan Van Dolsen.

Delighted with the companionship of a dozen dogs, Elbert made a hobby of writing articles on outdoor life and dog breeding, which were published in such periodical magazines as *Turf, Field and Farm* and *Forest and Stream*. Somewhat surprised with his literary success, he accepted the salaried position of assistant editor at *Moore’s Rural New Yorker*. In 1876, his father, Thomas D. Carman, purchased *The Rural New Yorker*, which had fallen on hard times, for his son, who “brought the paper up to a standard of excellence, which made it the leading agricultural and horticultural authority of America....”³ At the time, Elbert Carman was only an amateur horticulturist, “possessed of many misgivings concerning his venture in journalism, but seconded at every step by a father of strong and liberal hand, he persevered and has conquered defeat in spite of many years of ill health.”

According to a biographical sketch, published in 1890, “one of Mr. Carman’s early acts was to acquire a small country place where he built him a real garden home. There aided by a nature-loving

wife [Agnes E. Brown] his newspaper work has been done for some fifteen years. There, on two or three acres, has valuable progress been accomplished in solving questions of tillage and fertility in hybridization and improvement of varieties, a work which well might rouse the envy of more than one of the so-called State experiment stations. And there nearly all of the introduced varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowering ornamental and useful plants suitable to the climate have been tested side by side with older sorts.” Another admirer noted in March 1900, “Being a natural born experimenter, he easily conceived the idea of running an experimental ground in connection with his paper in which he might test new varieties of fruits and vegetables and try new methods of cultivation.”

By report in *The American Garden*, “Mr. Carman’s place at River Edge, N.J., is looked upon by his friends as both a real and an ideal home. Not that it is so large or fine as many that abound, or excels in number and splendor of its productions, like so many show places, but in the love and appreciation of country life and pleasures that are felt there. A new fruit or vegetable is not merely to eat, but gives enjoyment such as a picture or other work of art affords to many. There appears an idealization of everyday life, a perception of the beautiful in the useful, something of the kinship supposed to exist between a human and inanimate nature in the early ages.”

Elbert S. Carman also managed an 80-acre farm in East Rockaway, Long Island, purchased by his father, Thomas D. Carman, in 1867, which, like his home and grounds on Spring Valley Road in Paramus, served as an experimental farm. A dedicated plant breeder, he worked on hybridizing wheat and rye (1883), raspberries and blackberries (1886), and in crossing *Rosa rugosa* with the *Harrison’s Yellow rose*, producing in 1892 the dark crimson *rugosa* hybrid named

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Fundraising Efforts for BCHS Museum & Library

DONATIONS: \$135,000 Updated April 26, 2013

BENEFACTOR: \$1,000 to 4,999

Robert L. Ranley, Newton, NJ

Thank you!

PATRON: \$500 to \$999

Patricia Evans, Tenafly

Jennifer Rothschild, Nyack

Outwater Militia

Peggy Norris & Joe Suplicki, Elmwood Park

Bob and Eleanor Roth, Bergenfield

CIRCLE: \$100 to \$499

Linda Huber

J. Katherine Reilly

Al Dib

Jim Millinchuk

Carol Miles

Edie H. Halligan

Marion Tandyrak

in the name of Jeanne Tandyrak

Firth H. Fabend

Katherine Lessersohn

The Smith Family, James and Catherine

Alex Bennett

Richard & Diane Castino

Stuart L. Schneider

Adelaide S. Van Winkle

Ms. Elaine Giugliano

Joyce Gusmano

Nancy Wysocki

E. Edward Hook

Donald E. Daume

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James Tosone

Michael & Susan O'Keefe

Robert & Jo Conger

Frederick Schmidt

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Elaine Pollack

Peggy Schneider

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Ronald Levine

Bob Roth

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Patricia Levins

Glenda & Martin Adelman

Richard & Lee Williams

Deborah Powell & Kevin Wright

Dave Wheildon

Carl Weil

Jeffrey & Anna Ng Chan

Sheafe Satterthwaite

Henry & Norma D. Z. Heaton

Loretta Weinberg

Irma Leeds

Robert & Karen Zimick

Jack & Janet George

J. Paul & Doris Ward

George D. & Susan E. Fosdick

Denise & Faith Montesteri

Allen Lutins

Edie H. Halligan

Courtney Powell

Robert & Eleanor Roth

Teaneck Chamber of Commerce

Barbara Zabriskie Watterston

Bob and Jo Conger

Brian and Kristi Izzo

Euclid Lodge 136,

Free and Accepted Masons of NJ

Arthur L. Jackson



Do you know anyone or any business that would be interested in contributing to our Bergen County Museum Fund? Please provide a contact.

Email me at: contactBCHS@bergencountyhistory.org or contact us at PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661. – Deborah Powell

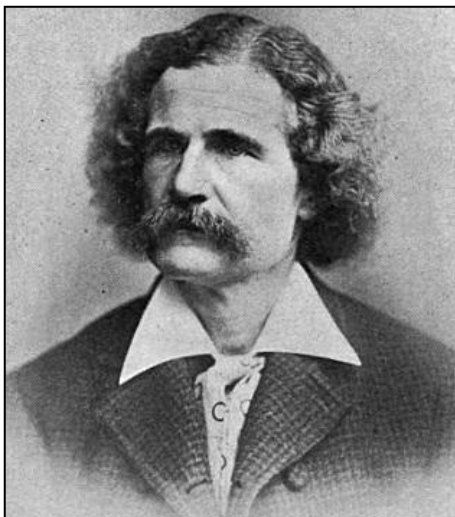
for *Agnes Emily Carman*.

On February 29, 1888 Elbert Carman paid Herbert W. Collingwood \$352 for 2.77 acres lying along the road (Continental Avenue) leading from Spring Valley to River Edge. In that same year, he experimented with growing potatoes, proving a plot of ground sown under the trench system could yield over 700 bushels per acre. His test plot, 15 by 33 feet (1/88 acre), was laid out in five rows, each row being 33 feet long with hills one foot apart. After measuring the trenches, the potatoes were counted: first trench, 684 bushels; second trench, 1,076 bushels; fourth trench, 644 bushels; the average of five trenches being 583 bushels per acre. The yield in the best Western States that year had only been 190 bushels per acre. According to a report in the *Ann Arbor Argus* on May 15, 1891, Carman's trench method revolutionized potato culture, allowing progressive farmers to produce "phenomenal yields." As a result of his research, Elbert Carman published a 150-page book entitled, *The New Potato Culture*, in April 1891. His experiments in hybridization also resulted in the White Peach Tomato (1890).

Elbert S. Carman collected rare evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, transforming his lawn into "a museum of arboreal curiosities." Interested in the culture of rare ornamental shrubs and trees, William Wilson Hilborn, Divisional Director of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, Canada, visited the Rural New Yorker Experiment Grounds in 1896, testifying, "I think it would be impossible for any one possessed with a love for the beautiful in nature, and a few roods of land, to visit Mr. Carman in his beautiful home at River Edge, N. J., without coming away with a determination to plant some of the pretty trees and shrubs to be seen on their grounds."⁴

In failing health, Elbert S. Carman sold his renowned magazine to Lawson Valentine of the Rural Publishing

Company in 1890 for the astounding sum of \$100,000, but remained its editor-in-chief until June 1899. Considered one of the pioneers of modern scientific agriculture, Elbert Silleck Carman died at his home at 5 West 82nd Street, NYC, on February 28, 1900, aged 64 years, and was buried in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn. He left a wife and two children: a son named Travers Denton



Elbert S. Carman

Carman, born in "River Edge" (Paramus) on September 22, 1879, and a daughter named Cerise Emily Agnes Carman, born in "River Edge" (Paramus) on January 6, 1874. She married one of her father's former employees, John George Jack, of Harvard University, on June 14, 1907. John G. Jack worked for the Arnold Arboretum as a botanist, accomplished photographer and Assistant Professor of Dendrology.

Even friends regarded Elbert Carman as a man "of retiring disposition, deeply absorbed in his life work, and his time is fully occupied." As he once explained, "There is but one thing that deters me from taking a more active part. It is that an affection of the eyes obliges me to keep away from tobacco smoke. It sets me wild. When I tell you that I have had

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Betsey Haring Appliqué Quilt

by BCHS Past-President Deborah Powell



I made arrangements for our really wonderful Betsey Haring appliqué quilt to be evaluated and conserved by the Textile Conservation Workshop in South Salem, NY. Betsey made the quilt in 1869 when she was 57 years of age. She placed herself at the center of the quilt and included images & pen ink labels of *Plumb* (plum), *Yellow peach*, *Horse Chesnut*, *Harts* (hearts), *Green Apples*, *Vace* (vase) with *Flowers*, *Cherry*, *Pair* (pear), *Lemons*, *Variegated Rose*, *China Aster*, *Raughton Black Bary*, *China Rose*, *Red Apple*, *The Eagle of America*, *French flower*, *Chinees Boat*, *Ring Fan*, *Strawbary Black Bary Baskets*, *Bell-flower*, *Six Shafted Bird of Paradise*, *Rooster*, *Kittons*, *Rose*, *Lilly Rose*, *Turkey*, *Bird Cage*, *Gees*, *Gees Pond*, *Sleigh Riding*, *Butter Fly*, *Buggy*, *table*, *Rusty coat apples*, *Rusty coat pair* (pear), *Dog*, *Squirrel*, *Cat*, *Pink piney* (peony), *Pear Tomatoes*, *Lilly* (lily), *Piny* (peony), *Pine Apple*, *China Rose*, *Decanter*, *Oranges*, *Goblet*, *Flower of the Dutch mans pipe Meersham*, *Strawbary*, *Red Apple*, *Lilly* (lily), *Pretty Polly* (a parrot), *Cherry*, *Paris Rose*, *Cowslips*, *Shellflower* and *Tulip*.

Because textiles are fairly fragile, I felt it was important to have it looked at and to intervene before any problems develop. BCHS expended \$3,745, your donations made this possible.

Reportedly the Getty Museum has one of Betsey's quilts in their collections.

See Kevin Wright's research about Betsey Haring and the quilt on the collections page on the BCHS website.



Alison Castaneda, conservator at the Textile Conservation Workshop (on right) joins Deborah Powell and Peggy Norris (left) in a photograph with the Betsey Haring quilt.



Members, Near and Far

by BCHS Trustee & Membership Chairwoman Janet King

As past-president Kevin Wright often notes, events at Revolutionary-era New Bridge are of historic importance far beyond our corner of New Jersey. You would think, though, that membership in a county historical society such as BCHS, focused on the history of a single county, would be highly local in nature. And you would be correct. Thirty-five percent of our membership resides in the eight towns that lie at least in part within a 2-mile radius of the Steuben house. Many of our members drive past our meadow many times a week. A total of seventy-nine percent of our members live in Bergen County.

But what about the other 21%, who belong to a county historical society but don't even live in that county? True, a good many members live in neighboring

counties of New Jersey, New York and even Pennsylvania. And some former Bergen County residents want to maintain their connection to BCHS and continue to show their support even though they have moved on to North Carolina or Colorado or Florida. Others are descendants of early Bergen families who feel a tie to the history of this area. And still others are researchers and writers who have a particular interest in our local history. BCHS has members in a total of 26 states and Canada. We have members in Arkansas and Utah, in New Hampshire and New Mexico, in Ohio and Wyoming.

Bergen County Historical Society is stronger than ever because of the support and generosity of its many and widespread members. Wherever you are and whatever the motivation behind your membership, you are a valued part of the whole. Thanks for being part of BCHS! ❖

WINE FESTIVAL

HISTORIC NEW BRIDGE LANDING



A Celebration of the Wines of New Jersey

Mark your calendars

August 24, 2013, 12 noon- 5 pm

A fundraising event for the BCHS Museum & Library at Historic New Bridge Landing will feature some of New Jersey's finest wineries, live music, and food vendors. Your ticket includes an afternoon of wine tasting, a HNBL wine glass, and a commemorative event journal at the park entrance.

Check website for updates. (Event raindate: August 25).

Pre-Event Reservation: \$20.00. Day of Event: \$25.00. Designated Driver: \$10.00.

See website for PayPal link, bergencountyhistory.org. 100% of your donation goes to our mission!

Additional parking fee may apply. Take the train to the New Bridge Landing Station. Service is available from Spring Valley, NY and Secaucus on the Pascack Valley Line, arrives at New Bridge Landing at approximately 1 pm & 3 pm and leaves about 5 pm (Important: check NJ Transit schedule for the exact times).

Available to volunteer at the event?

Contact us: contactBCHS@bergencountyhistory.org.

Support us by including an Ad in the Event Journal!

Contact us: contactBCHS@bergencountyhistory.org.

See page 20 for more info.

With Their Pockets Filled With Paper Dollars

The Raid on Little Ferry, 12 April 1779

by BCHS Past President Todd Braisted



In the wake of Hurricane Sandy in 2013, Bergen County residents saw a host of utility crews pour into the area from as far away as California, Canada and the Gulf Coast. Many of these crews had never been to the New York City area, and if not for the damage wrought by the storm and the pressing need for their services may never have had the opportunity to visit.

During the period of the American Revolution, the situation in Bergen County was not terribly different. Troops of the Continental Army, stretching from New Hampshire to North Carolina visited Bergen County, sometimes with Washington's Army but other times in smaller numbers to garrison the rich farmland and lend protection to the Whig inhabitants. This particular incident involves one particular group of out of state soldiers who learned the perils of war in the Hackensack Valley.

After Lord Cornwallis and the British troops under his command left Bergen County in October 1778, Washington filled the void by detaching the 2nd Virginia Regiment under Colonel Christian Febiger to Hackensack. British intentions were unknown at the time, and there was great speculation that New York was being evacuated, due to the many embarkations which were taking place from thence. With France's entry into the war, the British switched their focus away from most large offensive operations in the New York area, in favor of action in the West Indies and South, while bolstering defenses in Nova Scotia and West Florida.

Despite the decreased risk, particularly entering into the winter season when armies generally ceased campaigning, Colonel Febiger did not feel his force adequate in an exposed position with close proximity to the

British in New York and Paulus Hook (Jersey City.) Writing to Washington on 29 November 1778, Febiger pleaded "My Regiment is hardly sufficient to keep necessary Guards for our own Security, which renders it very severe Duty to keep a Guard at the Liberty Pole and parties out to intercept the Villains that are daily carrying Supplies to the Enemy."¹

Washington recognized both the inadequacy of the force and the precariousness of the position. Febiger and his regiment would abandon Hackensack, and Bergen County, in favor of the North Carolina Brigade commanded by Colonel Thomas Clark. The station this time would be Paramus, not Hackensack.

The North Carolina Continentals had started 1777 in great strength and high spirits. Joining Washington's Army in time for the campaign to defend Philadelphia, they consisted of ten regiments of infantry, plus artillery and cavalry, under the command of Brigadier General Francis Nash. This general was not long for the campaign however, being mortally wounded by a cannon ball at the Battle of Germantown on 4 October 1777. By the time Washington ordered Colonel Thomas Clark, the new overall commander, to Paramus, the "brigade" now only consisted of but two regiments and an artillery company.

On 4 December 1778 Washington ordered Clark to move his men out of the area of the Clove and Suffern and down to Paramus, later sending more complete instructions as to his duties and disposition:

You are, agreeable to my orders of the 4th instant, to take post this Winter with the Brigade under your command

at Paramus. You are to quarter the men in as compact a manner as possible both for the preservation of discipline and the conveniency of drawing your force speedily together in case of an Alarm. Your position is intended to effect three purposes — to cover the communication to King's Ferry — to afford countenance and protection to the well affected inhabitants of Bergen County and to be within supporting distance of the Posts in the Highlands. The more effectually to secure the communication to King's Ferry you are constantly to keep a Captain and fifty men at Kakiatch which is the junction of several Roads leading to the North River and a place much infested by the Banditti of the Country. The Officer is therefore to see that his men are in their quarters at night and their Arms always within their reach. A succession of small scouting parties down towards Bergen and along the North River will be preferable in my opinion to stationing pickets, as they will not be liable to surprise and will be more likely to fall in with marauders from the enemy and with those of the inhabitants who make a practice of supplying the Enemy with provision. They will moreover, if they do their duty, prevent you from any danger by surprise. But this I leave to your own Judgment. The third object, that of supporting the post in the Highlands is the most material and what you are, next to your own preservation, principally to attend to. Should you receive information that the Enemy are moving up the North River in force, you are instantly to send advice to Genl. McDougal, and fall back with the Troops to Sufferans at the entrance of the Clove, giving him information of your removal and of acting afterwards agreeable to his directions. You will in such case send your Baggage to Pompton for its security.

As the establishment of good order and discipline will depend much upon a proper number of Officers remaining with the men, you are in granting Furloughs to observe the following Rule as near as circumstances will permit.

Two Field Officers to remain with a

Regiment except in particular cases, and two Commissioned Officers to remain with a Company except in like cases.

You will cause the Brigade Inspector to put in practice the maneuvers and discipline introduced the last Campaign, as often as the State of the weather will admit. And you are above all things to attend to the Behaviour of the Troops and punish severely marauding or any kind of insult or damage to the persons or properties of the Inhabitants.²

Colonel Clark and his Southerners arrived in Paramus on December 11th, settling into their new quarters and duties. On the 18th, Clark reported to Washington his concerns regarding the men's quarters, "from the scattered Situation of the Buildings, the Soldiers are not Quartered in so compact a manner as I could wish, but the attention & vigilance of the Officers will I hope make up for this inconvenience." One of the houses used for quarters may not have been entirely welcoming of the North Carolinians, that of Albert Terhune. Terhune had renewed his oath of allegiance to the British upon their arrival in Bergen County in November 1776. After the British had left and Continental troops again moved in two months later, Terhune and a number of others "voluntarily" recanted and once again pledged their allegiance to the new United States.³ His grandson, Casperus Kough, years later recalled that Thomas Barco, of the 2nd North Carolina Regiment "was Quartered that winter at his Grandfathers Albert Terhune house as a Solger in the Northcarlina troops."⁴ The family, some clandestinely and some openly, continued in their loyalty to King George. Albert's son Stephen was a sergeant in the New Jersey Volunteers from their initial raising. Casperus Kough, who married into the Terhune family, enlisted 29 June 1780 as an 18 year old into the Volunteers, eventually being promoted to corporal.⁵ Both Stephen Terhune and Casperus Kough took their discharge at New York City

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on 3 September 1783 and appear to have gone home to Bergen County.

Contrary to Washington's recommendation of using constantly moving scouting parties, Clark opted instead for fixed guard posts, reporting at the same time: "Since the removal of Col. Febegeer I have found it necessary to keep a Strong guard at the New Bridge, little ferry & Liberty Pole, for the purpose of cutting off [f] all intercourse between the Inhabitants & New York."⁷ This would set the stage for yet one more incident of *le petite guerre*, the little war that would characterize much of the fighting in Bergen County between 1776 and 1783.

While the first two months of the North Carolina garrison of Paramus passed in relative quiet, things would soon change. At some point during the last week of February, the 4th Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers, the Loyalist corps commanded by Lt. Col. Abraham Van Buskirk of Teaneck, removed from their quarters on Staten Island and took post at Hobuck, now Hoboken. The main British post in Bergen County, since September 1776, had been the heavily fortified Paulus Hook, modern Jersey City. Prior to the war, Hobuck had been the "country seat" of the very wealthy Loyalist, William Bayard, through whose influence and money the Loyalist King's Orange Rangers would be raised, commanded by his son John. Bayard's house and barn would be converted into a fortified barracks of sorts for the 200 or so men under Van Buskirk's command, mostly ruining the estate. Bayard and his family had long before sought refuge in New York City, but he chronicled his financial hardships to the British after the war, providing an excellent glimpse of the early commerce between Bergen County and New York City:

That at the time this unfortunate Rebellion began he laid out in ready Cash to improve and enhance the value of his Hoobock Ferry and Estate near if not full Four thousand pounds that Currency first

by making a Road over a piece of Rotten Meadow for near One Mile between his Weehauck and Hoobock Estates of twenty five feet in breadth and five feet in height and filled up level to the top, with Cedar brush the Mud out of the Ditches and Gravel; which when he left his native Country was equal to any Turnpike Road, and in addition to his Hoobock House was an exceeding good one before, he (as it was intended for a Tavern, and called the Kings Arms) built an additional Brick building of Seventy five feet in length with a room on the second Floor its full length for Public Entertainments which from its uncommon beautiful Situation and the great abundance of the best of all kinds of Fruit, and of its easy access would have been much frequented, added to all this he had gone to a very great Expence in building a very large and Handsome Wharf of two Hundred feet in length into the North River, and to make it the more Convenient. to the Traveller, he had blocks sunk on the different sides & Stairs to each of them, so that let the Winds and Tides be as they would, Horses, Carriages, and the vast extensive Northern Country could go and come with the greatest Convenience and Security and for which purpose he had large flat bottom sailing Boats and smaller ones for foot Passengers: This new inlet into the City of New York, and over which such numbers came, that it was thought an Object by the Mayor and Corporation of that place to build a very large wharf on the New York side of the North River for the reception of your Memorialists boats and the people of the Country, who with their own waggons brought down their produce of all kinds, Venison, and wild Fowl in great abundance for fifty Miles back. In the summer there was the best of Pasture for their Horses, and in the Winter dry food of all kinds, and Stables newly built for that purpose, and separate ones for Gentlemen's Horses & Carriages of which many went that road. The Corporation soon after established the same number of Boats from their own side by which means

there was always Boats upon the River either going or coming and afforded the most pleasing prospects of being the greatest Ferry he believes he may safely say in America, so that besides the House, Wharf, Stables, and one hundred acres of Land and Meadow, let with the Ferry, Your Memorialist held the remainder under Village and Improvement in his own hands, from whence his family was supplied with every necessary of Life and fish in the greatest Abundance, there being one of the best Fisheries so near the Town on that part of the North River, and Orchards sufficient, exclusive of what he let with the Ferry, to make in good years five Hundred barrels of Cyder of the best fruits.⁸

This post would be strengthened with the addition of two iron artillery pieces along with 6 rockets, to be used to signal New York City in case of serious attack.⁹

The first notice Washington had of the new post came not from Colonel Clark in Paramus, but rather Brigadier General William Maxwell at Elizabethtown, writing on 2 March 1779 that “some of the Enemy had been fortyfying themselves for several days past at Hobuck or thereabouts” adding the next day “it is believed that Buskirks Corps Joined by some Refugees lies somewhere near Hobuck.”¹⁰ The “Refugees” referred to was almost certainly referring to a recently raised, loosely organized group known as the King’s Militia Volunteers. The brainchild of William Franklin, New Jersey’s last Royal Governor, the Refugees would not serve as regular soldiers like the New Jersey Volunteers, but would hopefully attract Loyalists whose station in life led them not to serve as common soldiers. Such Bergen County Loyalists as Weart Banta, David Peak, Samuel Peak, Peter Earle and Peter Myer served as officers in the corps.

Colonel Clark did not seem terribly concerned with the new post, writing

to Washington on March 12th: “The enemy remain quiet at Pawles Hook and Hobuck. 5 deserters came in, a few days ago from Col. Buskirks Corps Stationed at the latter place, from them I understand a general discontent prevails in the Corps...”¹¹ The period of quiet though quickly came to an end, when just two days later Lt. Col. Van Buskirk discovered one of Colonel Clark’s patrols near his post:

On Sunday morning, March 14th 1779, Colonel Van Buskirk received intelligence that a Captain and Lieutenant, with a party of Carolina Troops, were at the Three Pigeons in Bergen Woods. He dispatched Lieutenant Haselop, of the Fourth Battalion of N.J. Volunteers, and a party of Refugees, in quest of them; but the Rebels, being apprized of his approach, took to their Heels, when, after pursuing them twelve miles into the country, came up with the party, and firing a few shot, made two of them prisoners, one of whom was wounded; the rest, with the advantage of sleighs and their wonted precipitancy, escaped, tho’ not without carrying some wounded with them; as appeared from the blood that was seen in the road for several miles.¹²

One of the North Carolinians involved in the skirmish at the Liberty Pole was Private Uriah Leftler, who had served in the brigade since enlisting in March 1777. Leftler would soon desert the Continental Army and make his way to Hobuck, where he promptly enlisted in the New Jersey Volunteers under Van Buskirk. He was one of at least five who did so.¹³ Desertion to the enemy was not uncommon on either side of the American Revolution. After taking post at Hobuck, Van Buskirk and his men enlisted twenty men through 24 April 1779, including the five known North Carolinians. By way of comparison, only three of the remainder are known to have been from Bergen County.¹⁴

Any of these North Carolina recruits would have at least some knowledge of

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the disposition of their former brigade, where the guards were posted, patrols, strength, etc. The county's numerous Loyalist population, coupled with their frequent interaction with the British posts, likewise provided any enterprising Crown commander with excellent intelligence should they choose to utilize it. Come April that is just what happened.

While the picket at the Liberty Pole may have been the closest to the British and most vulnerable to attack, the weakest outpost was that of Little Ferry, a few miles south of New Bridge, and just south of the village of Hackensack. The purpose of this guard was most likely to intercept any small craft attempting to go down the river with goods to sell to the British. Indeed, Governor William Livingston had grave concerns about the illegal practice, which he believed not only happened, but with approval by Bergen County's leadership:

I am informed that some of the Magistrates of the County of Bergen make a practice of granting permissions to the Inhabitants to go into the Enemy's lines; & that you, naturally supposing them to be thereto authorized by our Law, suffers the bearers of such permissions to pass accordingly. As this practice of the Justices is not only contrary to, but very penal by, the Laws of this State, I shall be obliged to you for stopping in future all the bearers of such passes, & to transmit the passes themselves to me, that I may be enabled to direct prosecution against the Magistrates who presume to grant them.¹⁵

For Bergen County in March and April 1779, the big news of the day was not illicit trade with the British, but rather the trial of two men for robbery and other crimes, Thomas Welcher and William Cole. These men were thought to be Loyalists, but their true history is not well known. *The New Jersey Gazette* however offered their opinion of them without reservation: "They were famous all over the country for robbery, house-breaking, pocket-picking and horse-stealing, few

so eminent in that vocation. Americans may perhaps wonder, but they will be pleased to know these are recommending qualifications in a loyalist."¹⁶ Many Bergen County militiamen were called out to keep guard over the prisoners, and many recalled with varying degrees of accuracy the details of the moment. John P. Post, a militiaman from Slooterdam, recalled "I served three months at Hackensack guarding prisoners under Lieutenant Post untill two of them, Cole and Welcher was Executed."¹⁷ Daniel Vanhorn recalled seeing militiaman Peter Van Allen of Franklin Township "act as one of the guard at the time when one Cole and one Jack Straw or Welsher was Executed near the Red Mills in Bergen County State of New Jersey."¹⁸

Brigadier General William Maxwell, commanding at Elizabeth Town, was concerned the British were planning a massive rescue operation of the two condemned men, something that was never in contemplation however. Maxwell still penned his concerns to Washington, and the relief that nothing had occurred when the men were executed on April 9th:

Some day last week they had laid a plan to go up the River as far as Fort Lee or further with between one & two thousand men and land, and push for Hackinsack to rescue two robbers that was condemned there, a good many of the boats and men had gone out of the East River into the North but a contrairy wind stop'd them; and the two men being hanged last friday I suppose that Expedition is intirely at an end.¹⁹

Unbeknownst to Maxwell, at the very moment he was writing his report to Washington, Captain William Van Allen was leading a party of New Jersey Volunteers out of Hobuck to attack the North Carolina picket at Little Ferry. Van Allen was the senior captain in the battalion. He lived in a single story stone house in Hackensack Township, at New Bridge, when the war commenced, which naturally was confiscated by the state for his loyalty to the British. Where exactly

the picket was posted is unknown today. Only one household in New Barbadoes Township, where Little Ferry was located, filed any claim at the end of the war for damages suffered at the hands of the British in April 1779, and that was Cornelius Vanderhoof. Someone of that name was baptized in Hackensack Church in 1751, but it is unknown whether he lived at Little Ferry, or his house was used as the quarters for the picket.

By a route not mentioned in any account, Van Allen and his force reached the east bank of the Hackensack River, where he detached some of the men to cross and surprise the picket. These men were commanded by Lieutenant John Heslop and Ensign Justus Earle. Heslop was a 24 year old Englishman who had served as a lieutenant in the battalion since 15 March 1777. Earle was a 30 year old Loyalist from Hackensack Township, whose brother Edward was a lieutenant in the battalion. The remainder of the detachment almost certainly included Leftler or any number of the other Carolinians to help guide the troops to their destination. What happened next is recorded in the New York City newspapers, under the heading "Intelligence from Hobuck:"

Last Monday night [April 12, 1779] a detachment of the 4th battalion of New-Jersey Volunteers, (Lieut. Colonel Buskirk's) commanded by Capt. Van Allen, Lieut. Heslop, and Ensign Earle, surprised a rebel guard at the Little Ferry, consisting of two non-commissioned officers and twelve privates of the Carolina brigade and one militia-man. Lieut. Heslop and Ensign Earle with 15 or 18 men were ordered by Capt. Van Allen to cross the river, which they did, by Lashing two canoes together, and after marching thro swamps and woods about three miles (during the violence of the storm) to get in the rear of the guard, they came up undiscovered to the centry at the door, and upon being challenged, rushed in, killed two, wounded two who attempted to escape and made defence, and took the

remainder prisoners, with all their arms and accoutrements, without any Loss to the Loyal party who returned this morning, after sunrise, with their pockets filled with paper dollars.²²

No official report on the raid has been found, either by Captain Van Allen, Colonel Clark or any of their subordinate officers. The only account from the Congressional side comes from a brief newspaper article:

On the 12th instant a detachment of the enemy, consisting of about 60 men, belonging to Buskirk's corps, commanded by a Capt. Van Allen, by taking a circuitous rout surprised one of our guards posted at Little Ferry, near New-Barbadoes in Bergen county. It consisted of two non-commissioned officers and 10 privates of the Carolina brigade, and one of our militia; two of the former escaped, the others were made prisoners and carried to New-York.²³

In many cases, it is impossible to reconcile casualty figures from opposing sides, which universally differed, as above. However, in this particular case, the British prepared an actual list of the prisoners taken. The return, by name, shows one sergeant, one corporal, and six privates of the 1st North Carolina Regiment, along with one Bergen County militiaman, Private Lucas Brinkerhoff of Old Hackensack.²⁴ Whether anyone was actually killed or wounded is not known. A numeric list of prisoners taken by Van Buskirk's battalion, prepared in 1780, claims two non-commissioned officers and twelve privates taken at the "Little Ferry, Moonachie Picket" by Lieutenant Heslop.²⁵ The only problem here is that one other North Carolinian claims to have been a prisoner taken at Little Ferry, but there is no record of it. Shadrack Elkins enlisted in the 6th North Carolina in March 1777 before being transferred to the 1st North Carolina later that year. After that, it gets fuzzy, as his pension application, made out some fifty years later, shows:

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[I] continued to serve in Captain [Joshua] Bo[w]man's Company until I was made a prisoner of war on the Hackensack River at a place called the little Ferry near the New Bridge in the State of New Jersey some time in the month of January 1779, and was placed on board a prison ship by the name of *Stumbelow* and went to Long Island and there remained a prisoner until after the surrender of Charleston and then was exchanged at King's Bridge near Fort Washington in the State of New York in company with Captain Collins of the Maryland line who was also a prisoner of war with me and exchanged with me at the same time & place, from there I came and joined Washington's Army at a place called Tapan on the North River and on the Jersey side of said River — in a few days after my arrival there I was called on to pilot General Wayne's Army down to the Enemies Block house on the North River which was taken by us at that time, at which place I got holt of a very good horse. I then voluntarily Joined General Lee's troops of horse and came into the South with that Corps of horse, and was at the hacking match with them at the defeat of Proyles [Colonel John Pyle] on Cane Creek in Orange County North Carolina, and in all my time of actual service was for years although I never was discharged by any officer, nor have I ever petitioned for any pension but the present, for want of proof as I was ignorant of the modes of proceeding and of the provisions made by Congress...²⁶

Whether or not Elkins was captured at Little Ferry is impossible to say, but a close look at the above shows some inconsistencies. An examination of the records shows no "Captain Collins" in the Maryland line. The *Strombolo* was a naval prison hospital ship, and the prisoners taken at Little Ferry were confined in the main British prison, the Sugar House, in Manhattan. Prison exchanges took place at Elizabeth Town, New Jersey, not generally at Kingsbridge. Washington's Army was not at Tappan when he claims to have been exchanged, but rather in

New Jersey and West Point. It is unlikely a North Carolinian, with little to no local knowledge, would be called upon as a guide for Anthony Wayne's Army in its attack on Bull's Ferry, particularly when over two dozen local state troops and militia were with him. There is likewise no record of him in Lee's Legion. Perhaps the most damning evidence though was the certificate annexed to his pension application: "Shadrack Elkins a musician in Dohertys Compy. of the 6th Regt. mustered 23rd March 1777 for the War, was a private June 1778, and Deserted 1st Janry. 1780, as appears by the muster rolls in the Secretary's Office of the State of No. Carolina."²⁷ Primary documents are excellent sources of information, but even they need to be verified whenever possible, rather than universally taken at face value.

In the final outcome of the war, this raid mattered not a bit, other than to those who took part in it. Of the eight North Carolinians taken prisoner, only two, Privates James Sexton and William Clark were still held captive in New York nine months later.²⁸ One of the captives, Private William Williams, would be exchanged in four months' time. He would rejoin the 1st North Carolina in time for their march to the South to help defend the City of Charleston, South Carolina against the British, and consequently share in its surrender on 12 May 1780.²⁹ What he neglected to tell the government in his pension application, and which they never found out, was that Williams enlisted with the British nine months later, serving as a private in the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment, a corps composed of 500 fellow former Continental Army soldiers, destined to garrison the Island of Jamaica. Williams would remain there until the end of the war and the corps was disbanded in the summer of 1783. For Colonel Thomas Clark, he would be would likewise be captured at the fall of Charleston, exchanged and eventually retire from

the army on 1 January 1783.³¹ For the New Jersey Volunteers, Hobuck would be evacuated over the summer of 1779, the troops being added to the garrison of Paulus Hook. Some would be in the fort when it was attacked and over-run by 400 Continental troops under Major Henry Lee. Amongst the prisoners would be Ensign Justus Earle.³² Earle would be exchanged by January 1781 and be promoted to lieutenant later that year. Van Allen, Heslop and Earle would all survive the war and settle afterwards in the Province of New Brunswick, along with thousands of their fellow Loyalists. But that was all in the future for them. After the raid on Little Ferry, the war would continue four more grueling years.

¹ Febiger to Washington, Hackensack, 29 November 1778. George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence, 7 November – 17 December 1778, Library of Congress. Hereafter cited as LOC.

² Washington to Clark, Middlebrook, 21 December 1778. George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence, 7 November – 17 December 1778, LOC.

³ Department of Defense, Military Records, Revolutionary War, Revolutionary Manuscripts Numbered, Document No. 21, New Jersey State Archives. Hereafter cited as NJSA.

⁴ Deposition of Casperus Cough, 9 April 1818. . Collection M-804, Pension and Bounty Land Application Files, No. S33253, Thomas Barco, North Carolina, National Archives and Records Administration. Hereafter cited as NARA.

⁵ Muster Roll of Captain Jacob Van Buskirk's Company, 4th Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers, Staten Island, 14 July 1780. RG 8, "C" Series, Volume 1859, Page 25, Library and Archives Canada.

⁶ Both men served in Lt. Col. Abraham Van Buskirk's Company for the last three years of the war. Minutes of Abstract for the 3rd [late 4th] Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers from 25 August to 24 October 1783. Adjutant General's Office, Loyalist Manuscripts, No. 180-L, NJSA.

⁷ Clark to Washington, Paramus, 18 December 1778. George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence, 18 December 1778 – 9 February 1779, LOC.

⁸ Memorial of William Bayard to the Commissioners for American Claims. Audit Office, Class 12, Volume 12, Pages 60-69, Great Britain, The National Archives. Hereafter cited as TNA.

⁹ Royal Artillery Orders, 6 March 1779. James Pattison

Papers, Royal Artillery Brigade Orderly Book, The Royal Artillery Institute.

¹⁰ Maxwell to Washington, 2-3 March 1779. George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence, 10 February 1779 – 24 March 1779, LOC.

¹¹ Clark to Washington, Paramus, 12 March 1779. George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence, 10 February 1779 – 24 March 1779, LOC.

¹² *The Royal Gazette* (New York,) March 17, 1779.

¹³ Leftler, despite his desertion and joining the British, was living in Franklin County, Indiana in 1832, where he applied for a veteran's pension from the U.S. His desertion was discovered through a routine verification of his service through muster rolls. Collection M-804, Pension and Bounty Land Application Files, No. R6271, Uriah Leftler, North Carolina, NARA.

¹⁴ "Accompt of Bounty due the Recruits of the 4th Battrn. of New Jersey Volunteers between the 24 Feby. and the 24 April 79." Department of Defense Manuscripts, Loyalist Manuscripts, Box 19, No. 183-L, NJSA.

¹⁵ Livingston to Clark, Elizabeth Town, 4 February 1779. William Livingston Papers, New York Public Library. Hereafter cited as NYPL.

¹⁶ *The New Jersey Gazette* (Trenton,) April 28, 1779.

¹⁷ Pension Application of John P. Post, 31 October 1832. . Collection M-804, Pension and Bounty Land Application Files, No. W121, John P. Post, New Jersey, NARA.

¹⁸ Pension Application of Peter Van Allen, 31 October 1832. Collection M-804, Pension and Bounty Land Application Files, No. S6301, Peter Van Allen, New Jersey, NARA.

¹⁹ Maxwell to Washington, 12 April 1779. George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence, 25 March 1779 – 26 April 1779, LOC.

²⁰ "Evidence on the Claim of Captain William Van Allen late of New Jersey" Saint John, New Brunswick, 13 January 1787. Audit Office 12/16/91-92, TNA.

²¹ "Evidence on the Claim of Justus Earle, late of New Jersey" Audit Office 12/16/105, TNA.

²² The last line is a reference to the highly depreciated paper money issued by the states and congress, as opposed to British gold currency, which was universally accepted by both sides. *The Royal Gazette* (New York,) April 19, 1779.

²³ *The New Jersey Gazette* (Trenton,) April 28, 1779.

²⁴ "Return of Prisoners taken at Hackensack Ferry & received in New York 13th April 1779." Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Volume 56, item 18, University of Michigan, William L. Clements Library. Hereafter cited as CL.

continued on page 16

With their Pockets filled with Paper Dollars, continued from page 16.

²⁵ “List of Rebel prisoners taken by His Majesty’s 4th Battn. N[ew] J[ersey] V[olunteers] since December 1776.” Cornwallis Papers, PRO 30/11/2, folio 19, TNA.

²⁶ Pension Application of Shadrack Elkins, 27 September 1830. Collection M-804, Pension and Bounty Land Application Files, No. R3286, Shadrack Elkins, North Carolina, NARA.

²⁷ Ibid, Certificate of Secretary William Hill, 19 June 1821.

²⁸ “List of Rebel Prisoners in New York 23rd January 1780.” Frederick Mackenzie Papers, CL.

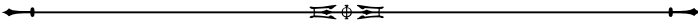
²⁹ Pension Application of William Williams, 1 July 1833. Collection M-804, Pension and Bounty Land Application Files, No. S46082, William Williams, North Carolina, NARA.

³⁰ “Recruiting List of the Continental Prisoners of War,

Taken at the Surrender of Charlestown, the 12th day of May 1780 and at Gates’s defeat by Cambden, the 16th day of August 1780 Now inlisted in His Majesty’s Service, since the 10th February 1781 For the West Indies, in His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland’s Regiment of Carolina Rangers; Commanded by the Right Honble Lord Charles Montagu.” State Papers, Class 41, Volume 29, TNA. See also the muster roll of Captain William Oliphant’s Company, 1st Battalion, Duke of Cumberland’s Regiment, Fort Augusta, 24 August 1783. War Office, Class 12, Volume 10684, folio 14, TNA.

³¹ “Roll of Continental Officers, Prisoners of War in South Carolina as they stand for Exchange, regulated by a Board of Officers, and sent to Sir Henry Clinton and General Greene.” Emmet Collection, Mss No. Em. U, NYPL.

³² *North American Army List for the Year 1783*, Published by James Rivington, Page 83. ❖



Albert S. Carman’s *Veritable Eden in Paramus*, continued from page 5.

fears that I would lose my eyesight, you will appreciate this.” In final tribute, one friend and eulogist wrote on September 14, 1909: “Born in affluence, he spent his whole life in improving plants, fruits, and flowers, his work initiating the first Government agricultural experiment work in this country, and whose name is borne in all the catalogues of seedsmen and florists throughout the whole world.”

1 Homer C. Price, editor, *Annual Report of the Columbus Horticultural Society for the Year ending December 31, 1900*, (Columbus, Ohio: Columbus Horticultural Society, 1900), 9.

2 Frederick Converse Beach, Editor-in-Chief, *The Americana, A Universal Reference Library*, (New York: Scientific American Compiling Department, 1912).

3 *The Shield, A Magazine Published Quarterly in the interests of Theta: Delta: Chi*, Volume VI, Number 1, (Elmira, N. Y.: Advertiser Association, 1890), 160.

4 Linus Woolverton, editor, *The Canadian Horticulturist*, Volume XX, (Toronto: The Fruit Growers’ Association of Ontario, 1897), 161. ❖

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The Zabriskie Hopper Burial Ground of Paramus

by Past Vice President & Trustee Peggy Norris

The Zabriskie-Hopper Burial Ground in Paramus, NJ, holds much interest for the genealogist, the student of gravestones, and the local historian. The cemetery is on private property and is not open to the public. However, local historians are now making it digitally accessible by posting a list of burials and available photographs on findagrave.com. Albrecht Zaborowski, the Polish progenitor of all the early Zabriskies, came to New Netherland in 1662. He eventually settled in "Old Hackensack" and purchased extensive landholdings in Bergen County, one of which was the Paramus patent. Of Albrecht's four sons, three (Christian, Jacob, and Hendrick) settled on part of this patent along Paramus Road between Arcola and the Old Paramus Church and descendants of all three are buried in the cemetery.

The Zabriskie-Hopper Burial Ground is sited on a rise above the floodplain of the Saddle River at the back of the homestead lot purchased by Garret A. Hopper in 1833 from John J. and Caty Ann Zabriskie (*Bergen County Deed Book L3*, p. 98). The descendants of those buried in the cemetery are scattered from New Jersey to California (and probably beyond) and the cemetery hasn't been in the hands of the Zabriskies or Hoppers for many years. However, it has survived and the Internet creates a space for sharing this old family cemetery.

In 1946, when Ackerman and Goff wrote down the inscriptions on the stones, there were about 100 burial sites -- 88 stones with lettering, three sandstone markers with the faces "shelled off," and "numerous field stones without marks." By 1987 there were 46 identifiable stones. It is unknown how many survive today, but efforts are being made to find and photograph all of them. The earliest dated stone is marked "A H 1769." (Burials, indicated by the unmarked fieldstones, probably significantly precede that date.) Of the dated markers one-third (28) are in the 30 years before 1800. Most of

those are marked only with initials, making identification difficult. After 1800 all of the gravestones are marked with full names, dates, and sometimes relationships and epitaphs. Ninety % of the dated burials occurred in the century between 1769 and 1863. The last burial is that of Polly Lutkins in 1888.

Until 1859, the alternative to the family burial ground was the Paramus Reformed Churchyard Burial Ground. However, Valleau Cemetery (across the road from the Old Paramus Reformed Church, now in Ridgewood) opened in

1859. It followed the new concept of the garden or rural cemetery, with winding roads, family plots, and changing marker styles. It was no longer "fashionable" to be buried in the churchyard or the family burial ground, with a plain sandstone marker, and the once-rural communities



Photo: Jackie Jensen

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around the church were well on their way to becoming suburbs. When Garret A. Hopper, the owner of the homestead lot and the burying ground, died in 1881 his will directed that he be buried in Valleau, and his lots there descended to his sons. There was no mention of the family cemetery in the will or in the deed that transferred the land.

It is easy to imagine the evolution of the burying ground over time. The first burials were probably marked with a fieldstone to identify the site of the grave. Family members knew who was buried in each one. As the number of burials increased and the older generations passed on, the knowledge of who was buried in each grave began to fade and they start identifying each fieldstone with initials and then initials and dates. As custom and economics changed commercially produced, flat sandstone markers, called tablets or gravestones, came into use, providing a surface for recording much more information. Toward the middle of the 19th century marble tablets came into use. There are no monuments of later styles in the burying ground.

Of the 34 markers for which there are photographs 23 are sandstone, and most of those in remarkably good shape, still upright and with crisp lettering. Four are marble, a beautiful material used in the mid-19th century, which unfortunately erodes quickly in acid rain. Seven are marked fieldstones. There may be others under the leaf litter and undergrowth. None of the sandstone markers have been decorated with images, but there is a remarkable variety in the shape of the marker and in the style of the lettering. The tops of the markers range

from a gentle curve to an extravagant three-lobed crown. The lettering ranges from deeply engraved block letters to a more delicate hand. The fieldstones are all marked in untutored styles, though with a remarkable variety, from crude scratching to that of “W A W” whose initials are like those from a school letterbook. One of the early sandstone markers, that of J. J. Zabriskie (Jacob J. Zabriskie, who died in 1779) is lettered by an inexperienced hand. The marble markers are plain with gently curved tops and one of the fieldstones has been shaped, the remainder being of their natural shape.

Also telling are the inscriptions and epitaphs. Andrew G. Hopper died in 1860 at the age of 81. His epitaph reads: “His years of affliction are o'er/His days & nights of distress/ We will see him in anguish no more/He has gained his happy release”. (He is listed in the 1860 census as “invalid.”) The epitaph of Harman S. Lutkins, who

died in 1837 at the age of 39, is not about him, but is a reminder to the living: “Remember me as you pass by/As you are now so once was I/ As I am now so you must be/Prepare for death and follow me.” Jacobus Rutan’s stone tells us that he “was accidentally killed.” He died in 1795 at the age of 55. Jacobus and his son Albert, who died in the 18th century, have both fieldstone and later sandstone markers. The latter were probably erected at the same time as the stone for Jacobus’ wife Willemtje, who died in 1826.

The information on the gravestones tells us about the community, as well as each individual’s names and dates. Two-thirds of the deaths (of the 69 with recorded months) occurred June through November, indicating the heavy toll from the epidemic



Photo: Jackie Jensen

diseases of summer. The average age of death was 45. The highest premature mortality (in five year periods) was before the age of 5 (20%). An equal number lived beyond the age of 75, with the oldest recorded burial at age 88.

Virtually everyone buried in the cemetery is a descendant of Albrecht Zabriskie or of Hendrick Hoppe. Five generations of Zabriskies and Hoppers and a few of their inlaws are buried in the Zabriskie-Hopper Burial Ground--12 married couples and often 3 generations of the same family. However, couples were sometimes divided by the changes of time. John H. Voorhis who died in 1859 is buried in the Zabriskie Hopper Burial Ground. His widow Elizabeth Bogert Voorhis, who

Sources: This research is based on transcriptions of the cemetery markers by Ackerman and Goff (1946), Allen Lutins (1987), Budke (ca. 1920), and an unidentified partial list. Photographs were provided by Jackie Jensen and Pete Evans. It was possible to identify the relationships of those buried here by using George Olin Zabriskie's, *The Zabriskie Family* (1963), and Maria Jean Pratt Hopper's *The Hopper Family Genealogy* (2005). Rich Hrazanek has posted all of the updated

To visit the virtual burial ground, visit findagrave.com, choose "Search for a Cemetery," type in Zabriskie and you're there.

information and photos on findagrave, making this cemetery virtually accessible (search for Zabriskie Cemetery in Bergen County). Additional sources include wills



Photo: Jackie Jensen



Photo: Pete Evans

died is 1892, is buried with other family members in Valleau Cemetery. Henry and Patty Zabriskie, who have five children under the age of 21 interred in the Burial Ground, are both buried in Valleau.

Bergen County is dotted with family burial grounds, tucked away on private property, sometimes neglected, almost all difficult to access. Making these cemeteries virtually accessible on such sites as findagrave.com, not only makes the information available world-wide, but opens these burial grounds to study and analysis and honors the men, women, and children who are interred in them.

(familysearch.org) and deeds (Bergen County Courthouse), the *Bergen County Historic Sites Survey Paramus*, and the *Bergen County Historic Sites Survey Cemetery Inventory*, as well as maps, histories, etc. ❖



Photo: Peggy Norris

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