Personal recollections of Mr. G. S. Banker, born in 1818, as given April 9th, 1891 and 1892. Mr. Banker says: "When I was from seven to ten years old, the one hundred and seventy-seven inhabitants of that day lived in the following places":

Dan'l Denton, where W. A. Lawrence lives - West Chester
James Roe, laborer, below plaster mill
Jeremiah Cook, blacksmith
Michael Denton on D. R. Feagle farm
Thad. Seely on place now occupied by his grandson, James Seely
Major Holbert where C. H. Green now lives
Dr. Townsend Seely on the place opposite the Academy (before this the Asa Vail place) followed by Edmund Seely, then Seth Satterly
Isaac Townsend on the C. B. Wood place
Wm. Townsend opposite the Presbyterian Church
Peter Townsend in the W. N. Wood place; next Jno. Springstead, who died 1824; next Elmer Cooper. Dr. Dodd owned the place at this time and boarded with him; also sold the place to Aunty Board's
Aaron Cox in the Colfax place
Jas. Murray on Cemetery lot - East Chester
Stephen Cooper born in 1788 in H. W. Wood place
David Grossett Drake, 1763, old home below Demerest present home; old Satterly house stood on the brow of the hill beyond Demerests, was occupied by Jos. Lamoreaux and Wm. Halsey after this date, the Satterly house and two acres remained after the farm was divided, and was sold to Julius Mapes.
Kinner place where Laura Wood now lives, was the home of Wm. Daniel and Sally Kinner, Isaac Cooley place was toward Chester near the present W. H. Fitzgerald farm, on same side of road.
Jno. Boulton, M. D., lived on Isaac Gillett place before he purchased same. Now E. D. Chamberlain - Craigville Road
Birdseye Young on the Jno. Bernart farm, Henry Young present farm has been in the family for seven generations, 1724
Albert Seely Roe occupied the R. W. Chamberlain farm
Wm. Roe on the present H. S. Roe place
Samuel Denton on D. A. Conklin farm
Hez. Moffatt on J. W. Helme farm
Jos. Durland who married Sally Satterly on the present S. S. Durland farm; this farm has been owned by direct line from 1755; also his son Sam'l Durland on J. H. Board farm, afterward at E. Chester
Isaac Banker, born 1793, on the Goshen road by the present railroad crossing, before this owned by Webb, moved to Monroe
The present C. E. Johnson farm was owned by Sheriff Strong; Lawyer Everett owned the widow Seely place and lived in Goshen

CATS 4095

Major Holbert told me "When the store was built on the corner In West Chester, before 1800, that was afterward owned and kept by Joseph Durland, born 1762. In later years in the cellar of this building Wm. A. Lawrence began making Neufchatel and Cream Cheese. Where it stood was a piece of woods, that the timber was cut and the ground cleared and store built; quite probable that this store was erected about the time the first grist and flouring mill was opened just below it. This water power was utilized by the earliest settlers; it was in this upper mill pond that Jos. Durland's (b. 1762) two sons were drowned, both James 13 yrs. (b. 1789) and Thomas 9 yrs. (b. 1793), on June 10th, 1802; Nathaniel Roe of Florida purchased the farm of 326½ acres, where A. B. Roe now resides (a gr. Grandson) on December 4th, 1751, of James Renaudet of Phila. and Christopher Baneker of New York City, merchants, Executors of Petris Rutgers. This farm was 1/3 of a tract of land of 980 acres, the remainder being purchased by Cornelius Ellison for consideration of two hundred pounds. Nathaniel Roe evidently lived in Florida, N. Y., since we find by deed dated March 6th, 1759, he gave this farm to his son Nathaniel Roe (Capt.) In Revolutionary War. Witness James Roe and Phebe Roe.

Aug. 4 - 1903

Burying ground on farm now owned by Jas. M. Bull dec. on Goshen road, facts as given by Miss H. J. Garahan of Goshen, N. Y., on July 8, 1903. "Michael Jackson brought the farm of the Indians in 1731, he died in 1789; the ground was then set apart as a burying place. His son, Benjamin, sold the farm in 1812, deeding to the family, and a few neighbors, the ground and right of way to same." This was Sheriff Benjamin Jackson - the farm was known by that name.

The Yelvertons as told by Mr G. S. Banker (born 1818).

Conversation was recorded in July 1901 by Frank Durland:

"John Yelverton lived first at New Windsor, Orange County, N. Y., Will made 1760, probated 1767, the year in which he died. His Executors were his son John and grandson Abijah. This grandson Abijah Yelverton kept tavern in the old yellow house now (In 1901) owned by Joseph Durland. It was this Yelverton that kept the hotel when I first remember it when a small boy. It, at that time, had a single pole in front of same from which hung the old time sign "Yelverton House kept by A. Yelverton." My mother has often told me that this same man was proprietor of this House when the war broke out in 1776. His children were six boys, two girls, as follows: John 3rd, Anthony, Thos., Abijah, Jr., James and William, Elizabeth and Sarah. Elizabeth married a Benj. Jackson, grandfather of our present Dan'l Jackson; the other daughter married Judge Fred Hoyt of Goshen; afterwards Mrs. Jackson married Abijah Travis. Children of second marriage were Tom, Abijah, Margaret and another (Travis).

The Travis family lived in the old Lockwood (now called) house, near East Chester, remember very distinctly when Abijah Travis died as, as was the custom at that time, I sat up with his corpse. This was during the hard winter of 1835 and 1836. Referring to this man Jackson, who married a Yelverton, this family lived and occupied a house where the present Episcopal Church now stands. This accounts for the foundation of a building that was uncovered while excavating for the cellar of the present church (1899).

Additional proof of the fact that Gen'l Washington stayed at this Yelverton House, by G. W. Banker --

I have heard my uncle, Joe Cooper, who lived in the present

J. Y. Davis house in Sugar Loaf Valley say: he was born in 1759, that Gen'l Washington always put up at this house during his frequent trips from Newburgh, 19 miles away, also on his many trips to Trenton, further says that in talking with Mr. David Grosset Drake, who was born in 1763, died in 1854, aged 91, often told me that Gen'l Washington always put up at this Yelverton House. Mr. Drake lived on the farm now occupied by N. Demerest in 1901. My mother, born in Trenton, N.J. in 1778 has told me that during the war, about 1779, that a company camped in the piece of woods directly north west of the present corporation building; at this time the whole hill was a forest. Also, when I was a boy I remember seeing and handling quite a number of cannon shot about 4 in. that she told me were picked up on this field; further says in regard to the Yelverton family about the year 1828: The old man who was very feeble at that time sat in the corner of the bar room by the window all thro the day, Tommy tended bar and William drove the cows to pasture out to the 5-acre lot now occupied by W. J. Conklin lumber yard at E. Chester. When asked what changes had been made in the surroundings of this place, he said, "When I first knew the Yelverton Inn, it had a well sweep and a long dugout log for a watering trough; remember playing in it as a boy. The long square part facing the south was the original building; the kitchen part on the north was added to it by Dan'l Denton in about 1812.

A few facts regarding the road running from Jas. Seely's farm to West Chester as handed down in conversation with Mr. G.S. Banker.

"I was told by Major Holbert, born in 1785, died in 1870, aged 85, the Florida road ran from Seely's present corner watering box, over the hill back of J. Hudson Board's present home, through his lot known as the "mile board lot" down across the present lawn of S.S. Durland,

crossing the creek over the Swartout bridge, continuing back of Emily Foster's home, directly across thro the Townsend woods, down thro the parsonage property (Presby, striking the main highway to Newburgh at this point. Major Holbert said at this time all the present meadow in front of the Academy S & SE was covered with a dense growth of white birch trees. Grandfather Oldfield, who died in the house now owned by Jacob Schultz, aged 96, born in 1773, remembered distinctly while living when a boy in the present home of Oscar Durland farm, on the road to Goshen, when the soldiers would come over to his home to buy milk would often take him back to camp with them, and he would spend quite a little time both in the tents and on the cots. (Camp High School 1930)

Chester Schools

Coe Jennings of Florida taught in the first old Chester Academy in 1828. Aaron Cox sold the 9 acres of ground on part of same the present 2nd Chester Academy is now located, purchased by Chas. Beach Durland, born 1791. After his death, which occurred in 1849, his estate gave the plot of ground upon which the 1842 Academy was built. The building fund was raised by subscription managed by a Board of Trustees, supported by tuition of its scholars. The contract for the building was awarded to Mr. G. S. Banker the spring of 1842 for $2,800.00. It was completed in October of that year, opened at that time by Stephen Bross as Principal with an "Exhibition" in the large upper room 40 x 44 called an Exhibition Hall. For a long time these were the principal amusements held in the way of shows in our community.

The district school house in West Chester was erected in 1843. Sarah Wells, the first teacher. A Library existed, owned by this District, began with ten volumes. Ebenezer Foster, the librarian; books were kept in his shoe shop, the small building which was our first postoffice, 1795. The brick school house on the hill in Lower Chester

was built in 1857, the one in East Chester in 1858. The present road running from the Corporation Building to the Station was opened in 1841 when the Erie R. R. was completed to Chester.

The building erected in 1829 in the center of Cemetery grounds was the second for the congregation of the Presbyterian Church. The first "Meeting House" in 1798 stood directly back of the residence of late Dr. Carpenter. This second building stood in the center of what is now the Chester Cemetery. About that time Ezra Hazard, who owned the H. W. Wood place, kept as a hotel adjoining, erected a store and blacksmith shop. The store was opened by Mr. Bailey Houser.

The road over the hill beyond East Chester to Warwick was changed about 1828.

At this time the most popular amusement was running horses, as this was before the day of the present trotting horse. The favorite ground was from the foot of the Satterly hill to the large oak tree standing between H. W. Wood's and N. Demerest's place. The start was at the Purgatory bridge below the hill. On special days in the fall and July 4th, people from miles around fairly lined this short course, sometimes as many as three or four hundred (population of billage was only about 200 at this time). Purses were made up at the course or previous bets made, men settled at the Hotel, now the H. Wisner Wood place, kept by E. Hazard. This was about the time that Webber with his great running sire from Kentucky "Whip"; a little later from 1835 to 1840 Tom Thumb and Saltnum appeared in our place.

The Edmonston house now standing on Main Street was originally an old tavern kept, when I first remember it in 1836, by Parshall Smith; before that I was told, by one James Coop, an Englishman. The long house just above it was kept as a store by one Jos. Stigney;

James Yelverton, a brother of Anthony, owned the house just above the store, being a carpenter by trade, he built the present Taft House. This was an old house when I first remember it. The old house now standing, opposite side of the street, in which Sam'l Edwards now lives, is the same old school building that I attended in 1828, later in 1842 by Jos. Durland, 10 yrs. of age. School was dismissed allowing the children to witness the 1st train on the Erie to enter Chester. He further says when he built the Durland store building in 1841, the overhang (over scales) was not added until 1842. The large pillars and stoop built the year following, 1843. The north corner of the store building proper was placed as nearly on the street line as they at that time could determine, that the S. E. corner was moved a little forward over the street line to correct as much of the angle in the front of the building as possible. The cedar post that still stands in the ground on the south side outside the cellar doors in the street line on Academy Ave., think perhaps 18 inches of the overhang on the East Corner may be in the street. The cellar doors and most of the scale platform is clearly on the store property; further says in regard to the cost of building at that period, "I started out the building in 1841, did all the carpenter work for $400.00, John Yelverton went to Troy, N. Y., and bought the lumber, had it shipped to Piermont, N. Y., by boat and thence by the Erie R. R. to Chester station. The mason work was done by Chas. Minturn and that the cost of the entire building did not exceed $1500.00.

Mr. Banker further said a small school building stood about 100 ft. beyond Derrydale farm on the Goshen road. Mr. B. was born in the Banker home, a small home in front of the present Isaac Banker house (now Stevens farm) on the Goshen road.

In conversation with Mr. G. S. Banker, born in 1818, in the Town of Goshen, Orange County, N. Y., now living in Chester, Chester Township was erected in 1846. Being one of our oldest inhabitants, he says he remembers well about the old Yelverton barn in which the celebrated trial was held in regard to the final settlement of the Cheesecock and Wawayanda patents. The present old barn now owned by Joseph Durland is on the exact location of the original Yelverton barn, as in the year 1838. Chas. King and myself jacked up the old barn (which stood at that time as long as the oldest inhabitant could remember) it was in March of that year that we raised it while it was in this position, the spring rains coming on, it being on sandy ground, the whole building went down ina heap. We again jacked it up using all the old frame and timbers excepting two new sills, putting on new siding that was bought in Troy and carted from Newburgh; the foundation being built by one Chas. Minturn, as the origina. barn was without foundations as at present. He further says in regard to the old Yelverton House, now owned by W. Sanford Durland, nprth of his present store, my mother told me "that she knew General Washington often stopped at this house overnight, it being a public Inn as long ago as I can, or she could, remember it. This house must have been built about 1756 by John Yelverton, she was one of the girls that dressed in white stood on the bridge at Trenton (her home) at 11 years of age (1789). When Gen'l Washington came on to New York in 1789 to be inaugurated as our first president; she afterward came to Chester in 1790 to live.

The house now owned by Frank Durland on Academy Avenue was built in 1814 by Anthony Yelverton, a great grandson of the original John. The barn located qcross the street, south a little further upon the Allan K. Moffatt lot, was built about the same time, this barn was

taken down about 1870; the old store house that stood on Academy Avenue between the present store and home of Frank Durland was built about 1810 by Anthony Yelverton about the year 187[illegible], was bought and torn down by Joseph Durland. The two Yelverton brothers, John and Anthony, at that time owned and operated a hat factory for the manufacture of wool hats on the lot where the present store of F. Vollmer now stands; further south on Main Street stood another hat factory, owned and operated by one Aaron Cox, who lived in the house adjoining afterward owned by R. W. Colfax and occupied by him.

Wm. Yelverton, brother of the foregoing and great grandson of the original told me that the present road known as Academy Avenue was laid out (post-road) in 1803, but before this for a great number of years it was used as a thoroughfare to the great number of farms lying west of Chester Village. The building now occupied by E. T. Jackson as a store, now a stone garage, was built in 1831, before this time ground was used as a garden. About the same time an old house stood where Jacob Shultz now lives, occupied by a colored family by the name of Benj. Peterson, the original of the present large Peterson family of our place. At this time another old house stood on the north side of Academy where I (O.S. Banker) now reside; it was built sometime before the Revolutionary War, was taken down in 1854 and the present house built on the lot, the old well standing in the front of the house was at that time in the cellar of the old house. The old Peter Townsend house, where the contract for the 3rd chain was made, stood about opposite the present Presbyterian Church. I helped in taking it

down in 1859, (at this time), the Townsends, born 1775 to 1820, operated Sterling mines and also the foundry at Cold Spring as by reference to old papers we find they had a contract with the Ordnance Dept. of the U. S. given in April 1816 for 500 tons of cannon, cannon shot and shells to be delivered at the rate of 60 tons per month, also that the Gov't advanced considerable money to said Peter Townsend to assist him in beginning this work on contract, and he failing to fulfill it, his bondsmen, John Springstead (who then owned considerable of the land on which Chester now stands) was made to pay same and this accounts for the original deed being from the U.S. Marshall about 1821 and later. The back part of this old house was used as a store, the room was about 30 feet long and when the miners received their pay it was necessary for them to come up from Sterling to trade out their time at this store. Another old house was the Murray house that stands now in part of the cemetery lot. This was the house, owned by the Bulmer family, in which James Murray was murdered in Mar. 1838. This man Murray was an Irishman that came here to work on the Erie R. R., afterwards was employed by Benj. Bulmer at that time putting through the "Bulmer Ditch" (so called), now the outlet to Wickham Lake. The storebuilding now occupied by J. Durland & Son was built for Anthony Yelverton; it was raised on a cold Christmas Day in 1841, finished the following spring of 1842; was originally built for two stores, one was opened by Milton Hulse and Benj. Thompson, the other by Anthony Ackerly, both were kept as general stores in spring 1843. Mr. Hulse withdrew selling his interest to Mr. Jno. Yelverton (b. 1815), the successors were called [illegible]

other store was sold out to Milton Hulse by Ackerly. Hulse associated with him Henry Moore, the firm name being Hulse & Moore "Cash Store". They continued until 1849, afterward this part of the building was used as a store room. Yelverton & Thompson continued until 1849, the sudden death of Jno. Yelverton occurring that year (1849); the following spring, 1850, Mr. J. J. Board (from Sugar Loaf Valley farm) bought the interest of Yelverton and Thompson. Mr. T. G. Pierson was taken in later (1854), the firm name being Board, Thompson & Pierson; they continued until 1859, when Jos. Durland entered as a partner.

The orderly's book says Gen'l Washington stopped at "Yelverton Inn" on July 27, 1782, and paid expenses - reported by Mrs. G. W. Van Duzer of Warwick, N. Y., who copied it from the record at Washington, D. C., in 1915.

The following is an ad which appeared in the Goshen Repository of July 2, 1793 in regard to the laying out of lots in Chester in 1793:

> The subscriber having laid out the farm whereon he lives at Chester in Orange County and State of New York into upwards of Forty convenient Town building lots and Meadow lots--The lots contain from a quarter of an acre to an acre and upwards, the whole of which lots he intends to expose for sale at Public Vendue on Wednesday the 23rd of October next, at his dwelling house on the premises.
>
> It is beautifully situated for a Town as well for Traders as for Mechanics, being in the heart of a well settled fertile country, about four miles from the Court House in Goshen and seventeen from the landing at New Windsor on Hudson's River. The vendue will begin at nine o'clock A. M. The conditions of sale will be made known at the time and place of sale, and good titles given to the purchasers by
>
> Abijah Yelverton
>
> Chester June 20, 1793

****

Copy of Deed

Made this the 19th day of May in the year of our Lord, One Thousand seven hundred and fifty-five, between John Ensign and Ruth his wife of Goshen in the County of Orange, province of New York, fuller of one part, and John Yelverton of the town and county and province aforesaid, Gent. of the other part, for the sum of 97L & 4s. current money, in hand paid, tract of land Ensign bought of John Beers part of the Cromline tract, containing 42 acres and 3/4 of land.

Witness

John Ensign

Wm. Wickham Signed
Isaac Finch

Ruth Ensign

* * * *

Chester Notes 1775-1784

From "Archives of New York in the Revolution", Vol. 1

The Chester company of militia was organized in 1775 and attached to Colonel Allison's Goshen regiment, it was officered as follows:

Capt. John Jackson
Lieut. John Wood
Lieut. James Miller
Ensign James Parshall

On February 1776, the Goshen regiment was reorganized and officered as follows:

Col. Wm. Allison
Lt. Col. Benjamin Tusten
Major Moses Hatfield
Adjutant John Wood

Captain Jackson remained in command of the Chester Company until Feb. 26, 1778, when Adjutant John Wood was promoted to Captain in his stead.

The regiment participated in the engagements of Forst Clinton and Montgomery and atthe battle of Minisink. In the latter, the Chester Company suffered heavy losses. Privates

Benjamin Dunning, Ephriam Masten and Gilbert S. Vail were killed. Captain John Wood was wounded and taken prisoner. So far as is known at the present time, no record exists giving the names of the wounded non-commissioned officers and private soldiers of the Chester Company at the battle of Minisink. Note: There was a Lieut. John Wood of the Goshen Regiment killed at the battle of Minisink. (C.H.W.)

The following is copied from the field book of the "Cromline Patent" survey made by Richard Edsall, C.E., Goshen, N.Y., dated June 6, 1741.

Lot No. 1	940 acres		Meadows			
" " 2	200		Lot No. 1	42 ac.		
" " 3	200		" " 2	38		
" " 4	200		" " 3	33		Cromline tract
" " 5	200		" " 4	38		running from the
" " 6	200		" " 5	32		Goshen road on the
" " 7	289		" " 6	38		West, to Craigville
" " 8	336		" " 7	38		Chester is located
" " 9	258		" " 8	38		on the acre plot,
" " 10	302		" " 9	38		bought by A.Yelverton
" " 11	247		" " 10	38		in 1755
" " 12	256		" " 11	38		
Total	3628 acres		Total	411 acres		

The only names mentioned in these descriptions, with reference to the families are "near the home of William Seely and along the lands of Rulof Swartwout"; also speaks of the Otterkill creek and a small creek emptying in same, then mentions the "River" which is now commonly known as the Cromline Creek, flowing through Greycourt. (Apr. 10, 1902)

The first mill I remember was located south of the present West Chester Mill as standing in 1902; Job Robbins was the miller in 1820. The mill at Bulls Mills was erected by Richard Bull long before the year 1800. Before this time the road was below the

present mill in a straight line to the David Gibson house which stood at that time near the corner of the road, now known as the dug road leading to Walton Lake.

Wawayanda Patent.

According to the Deed on file in the Orange County Clerk's Office im Goshen, we find this large tract of land was deeded on March 5, 170-2/3, by 12 Indian Chiefs for a certain sum of money and other goods in hand paid, to the original 12 Patentees. We further find that the above Indians made prior deed as early as 1691. This Wawayanda patent was bounded as follows: On the East by the high hills of the Highlands; on the North by the patented lands of Capt. John Evans, the Division line between Orange and Ulster County; on the West by the high hills to the Eastward of Minisink; on the South by the division line between the province of New York and East New Jersey. This original deed of the Wawayanda patent was entered in the Clerk's Office at the request of one of the patentees Dan'l Cromline on the 1st day of July in 1707.

The Cromline Tract.

The Village of Chester is located partly on this tract of some 4039 acres; it covers the land from Craigville on the East including the upper Village of Chester on the West. This deed was issued to Dan'l Cromline on the 9th day of December in 1704, signed by Hendrick TenEyck and Peternella, His Wife; consisted of 1/12 of the Wawayanda Patent.

Reign of Queen Anne

Her reign of the Province of New York began on Mch. 8, 1702; this land grant was made by Queen Anne, deed was formerly enrolled at the request of Dan'l Cromline on the 26th of July 1705.

Presbyterian Church in Goshen

At the request of a number of citizens of Orange, (the number was no less than 24). A deed for the land or the erection of a Presbyterian Church and Parsonage we find recorded in Page B on July 17th, 1721; a deed was given to one John Yelverton of Cornwall and later of Chester, as sole trustee; Rev. John Bradner was installed in the parsonage as minister in charge.

The Charles Durland Farm

Chas. Durland, the founder of the Durland family in Chester, was born near Oyster Bay on Long Island, March 19, 1731, a member of a large family, who came to America from Holland with others and paid taxes as early as 1666; he married in 1755 in Chester one Jane Swartwout, by this union had a family of five boys and four girls; later on were all married and produced by these unions, no less than 57 grandchildren. Charles came to Chester from Long Island in 1754; was said to have participated in the French and Indian Wars, at its conclusion settled down to farming. Chester is included in a list of "exempts" from military service on a list of signers of the Association in Goshen Precinct, Orange County, June 21st, 1775. On August 29th, 1788, he purchased 100 acres from Joseph Manning and wife Margaret, for L36-6s-8d in deed recorded Lib. D, 434, March 6, 1789, designated as Lot No. 4 in the sixth division of the Minisink patent. This farm in West Chester is continued as the Durland Homestead, now in 1944, occupied by Wm. Pelton Durland, the sixth generation in direct line.

* * * * * * * * *

From Frank Durland
Chester, N. Y.

History of the "Yelvertons" in Chester as recorded by me, in July 1901 - as told by Mr. George S. Banker, born in Chester in 1818- (who died at 84 yrs. in 1912)

John Yelverton settled first after coming to America early in 1700 - settled in New Windsor by his will made in 1760, died in 1767, at the age of 74 years. Some time ago, I found his headstone in the overgrown Presbyterian Cemetery in New Windsor, which reads as follows:

Here Lyes the Body of
JOHN YELVERTON who
departed this life
July 12, 1767 aged
74 years

By permission, I had the remains removed with the original headstone now lies resting in the Yelverton plot, in Chester, New York, cemetery.

* * * * * * * *

Mr. Banker further said -

His executors were his son John and grandson Abijah. This grandson kept tavern in this "Yelverton Inn", when I was a small boy. During these years, there was a single pole in front, on which was hanging a single old time sign, reading, "Yelverton House Kept by A. Yelverton". This continued from 1767 until his death, which occurred in 1832.