

Genl P. VanCortlandt

Long Run Nov 14 1834.

Dear Sir

For the last week or more, I have been almost laid up with the influenza, but have made out to get over to the Point, & have had an interview with W. W. Underhill. William seemed to be willing to state frankly his knowledge on the subject of inquiry; But, I must confess, I was ~~as~~ ~~disappointed~~ rather disappointed in the relation he gave me, & more especially, his own views & opinions on the subject of the meadows & dykes: He recollects calling on you in the winter of 1833, reporting the dykes, & informing you that they wanted repairing the next Spring; And that you requested him to examine & see to the repairing of them &c. and he says, he tried to see Philip Van Wyck about the repairs, but he could not obtain an interview; nor did he have any communication with Van Wyck, himself, on the subject; But he says, that Jere: Lewis told him that Van Wyck was going to repair the dykes, and upon that he wrote to you; and he thinks, he probably wrote you that Philip Van Wyck said he would repair them himself, without saying to you that he had this from Lewis. Then he goes on to say: that Philip & Wyck did ~~not~~ ~~and~~ repair the dykes that Spring, but have thrown up

he does not know: but says, that Van Wyck had Lewis
to other men then at work at the dykes for ~~off~~ ^{off} for several months, - & refers to Lewis, who he says, can tell more
about the condition & repairs of the dykes than any other
person - But Underhill said that in the fall of that
year (1833) after Philip had made the repairs, there came
an unusually high tide, and crashed in upon the meadows,
& tore up the dykes, left them in a very ruinous
condition, since when, Van Wyck has done nothing to
them - & he says it will cost using two dollars to
repair - This tide he describes as very unusual
one - Underhill seems to be impressed with the idea,
himself, that the dykes cannot be kept up, of latter
years, as formerly, he says, the Muskrats abound so
much more, & so work in, & make holes continually,
that it is almost impossible to guard agt. the injury
they produce - I urged to him, that your brother
was able to keep up the dykes & protect the meadows,
that he admits, with some qualification, by them
in the latter part of his life, he says, the increased
ravages of the rats, made head so far agt. repairs,
that the meadows in many places had consider-
ably deteriorated.

To my anxious, distinctly made,
whether Van Wyck had taken the same care - repairs

The dykes to the same extent & effectually, as your
brother did in his life time - he can answer no
further, he says, than that Van Wyck has worked
more or less every year, till this, but how much he
can't tell: & refers to Lewis - Underhill ventures
the observation, that in his opinion Van Wyck
had never received as much profit from the meadows,
as he had been at expense of repairs - I have subse-
quently as far as I can, in this mode of communication, to
give you the substance of Underhill's statement -
I am afraid he is but a poor stick of a witness.
The man seems to be set against such kind of meadows
say his own, he can't keep up - the rats plough
and do such stuff - not that his opinions would control
the question - But his unfavorable impression against the
meadows, makes him view Philip Van Wyck's conduct
in a more favorable light, I think, than he w^d otherwise
- and inclines him to attribute the disaster to
the dykes left, the Philip's neglect, than he w^d if he
had a different opinion of the practicability of protecting
the meadows by fair & proper repairs - but when
we meet I will more fully comment - Lewis I have
not been able to see yet - but shall in a day or two -
The Plover in Part: but, has been secured on
all here; it is sent to Albany, to form on
M^r. V. Remondin etc - Most respectfully yours be
R. R. V. 1833

Gen. Sam Van Cortlandt

Purskill