

Beekskill April 24 1844.

My dear Sister

I wrote to you in a great hurry ^{on Monday} as I had many letters to write about the Underhill judgment against us. I will now be more particular & state all the facts respecting the property I possess here - viz - On the 27 September 1773 Henry Beekman & his wife Gertruyd gave a Lease to my Father to ^{in the manner of Gertruyd's} ~~the~~ ^{now} Lot No. 10 - called Anthony's ^{now} Lot and 3 1/2 acres of Land which is the farm I reside on, for the lives of Joanna van Cortlandt & her two sons Stephen and Pierre, for a stipulated Rent or rather a nominal Rent by the last will & testament of Gertruyd Beekman she devised this property to my Father during his natural life, & after his decease to his son Gilbert - By the Law abolishing entails the demise to Gilbert was vested in him in Fee - On the 2 Day of January 1784 my Father assigned the said Lease to his son Gilbert reserving the Rents to my Mother during her life - On the 17th September 1784 Gilbert van Cortlandt made his last will & testament and devised all this ^{mentioned in the said Lease} property to me - By the Assignment of the Lease to his son Gilbert by my Father, my Father had only his life Estate in the Land mentioned in the Lease & I by my Brother Gilbert last will & testament deriving the whole property to me - I was Born free the whole Owner & possessor of this property, no Person could claim the least right or Title to it whatever - By the Lease given by Henry Beekman & his wife Gertruyd my Father had assigned over to his son Gilbert and I could not have any Control over ^{the property} only during his

Life which he claimed his life Estate in it by virtue of the
last will and Testament of Gertrude Beckman, as for the Lease
he had no Interest for that he had assigned to his son
Gilbert - I ^{afterward} ~~know~~ my Father had got just a Lease
and I also know from hearsay that my life was mentioned
in it - But I never saw the Lease & the assignments
When I paid the Three thousand Dollars to my sister
nor had I ever said it before, I took every thing
for granted paid the money & only Van Wyck
handed me the Lease - My sister said I claim on
this property (by virtue as was said of the Lease) I
took all the papers looked them in my desk
& did not look at them - I felt much that I had
paid so large a sum of money for property which
did not cost for \$200 - in lands - Nor perhaps would
I have ever looked at them again - until I was
informed by Mr. Vochis that Van Wyck's Counsel
had intimated to him - that Van Wyck intended to
make me the Chief Debtor to the Underhills because
I possessed great property from my Father at this
place with Great valuable Leases & wished me
to inform him (Vochis) how it was - Then for the
first time since 1823 I looked at the Lease & discovered
the assignments of the Lease by my Father to my
brother Gilbert - The next day I met Mr. Vochis
at my sons - handed him the Lease with my
brother's Gilbert Will - which Mr. Vochis has
left with the Master in Chancery in New York who
is appointed to investigate the whole concern

on the exhibiting the Lease & my brother Gilbert Will -
Olesner (Van Wyck's Counsel) ^{suit} he must adjourn the investigation
until next Saturday, for he found by the assignments
of the Lease & my brother's Gilbert Will I inherited no
part of this Estate from my Father - But on the
contrary had paid \$3000 - for property which then
belonged to me -

I now intend to get proof that my
Father sold the property Estate to
pay my brother's Indebtedness to the
Society of Cincinnati & I can make
that out - Van Wyck will have to
pay the whole of the Underhill judgments
Mr. Jordan told me that he would exert
himself to saddle the whole debt on Van
Wyck -

I have written to you thus fully to let you
know all the concerns & what I have done - ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Lease~~ ^{Lease} ~~I had~~ ^{I had} ~~made~~ ^{made} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~whole~~ ^{whole} ~~dis-~~ ^{dis-} ~~closure~~ ^{closure} to save myself in the first instance
from Van Wyck's information from my Father's Will that
there was a vast deal of property left me by my
Father in valuable lands at this place, when it appears
my Father had no right whatever to the least particle
of it after his ^{my mother's} ~~his~~ life & could not dispose any part of it
as it belonged to me - When I lately discovered the
assignments of the Lease I was astonished that my Father
should have made just a devil in his Will - He must
have forgot that he had assigned it or he could not have
done such injustice to me - Had the Lease with the
assignments been shown to me before I paid the money
I should most certainly never have paid it, because

It was my property uncontrollable - But through igno-
 rance I did it - & the money I paid - and which
 was done through the ^{persuasion and} absolute promise of my Brother
 that he would immediately reimburse me and repay it
 to me again - But so it is I paid in the year
 1783 Three ~~thousand~~ Thousand Dollars - My Brother
 has not paid me a Cent on his promise - He had all
 my Father's property & I spent the most valuable part
 of my life to ^{assist} my Father & Mother at this
 place when ^{at the same time} I had the assurance & promise of General
 Hamilton to take me in his Office as a Partner in
 to do the Attorney's business with an adequate compensation
 But I chose ~~rather~~ to be here & assist my Parents
 rather than accept of ^{his great offer} - I did it & do not repent that
 I obeyed the Commandment - What may be the
 ulterior destiny of my life I cannot tell but I trust
 that I have always lived in high repute & esteemed by
 my conduct so it will end

Copy of a letter
 to John B. Schuyler
 dated 10th Nov 1789
 relating the
 foregoing to
 Jacob Schuyler
 John B. Schuyler
 to Ammanoch