

EDITOR: The Journal-News,

Dear Sir,

The letter in your County Forum of May 23 from "one of the Grand of Grand View" could most probably be answered in complete detail from the little book prepared and privately printed by Mr. W.S. Gilman, the late antiquarian of Sneden's. A copy of it as well as many items of history connected with the immediate vicinity of the Landing can be seen at the "Big House" on WV which the late Miss Margaret Lawrence made useful as a community library. I haven't a copy of the book, but a note or two from it may be slightly interesting.

As far back as 1719 "Corbet's Old House" stood on the shore at the foot of the steep hill, and a Snede named Dobbs who was a tenant of Philipps Manor on the opposite shore rowed a ferry boat across for the occasional traveller. There was a ship building industry beside the ferry or rather, at first, a boat-building yard, which grew in a hundred years to a ship-building capacity- a ferry boat named the "Union" having been built there twenty-five years after the "Glenmont",^{steamed} called past for the first time.

Sneden followed Corbet as owner of the old house by the ferry, but when he came or whence I am not sure. His daughter Sally was a hot tory during the Revolutionary period, but as she operated the ferry herself at that time she had to ferry Washington,^Lafayette-even Martha Washington herself, before she became the first "First Lady", on their frequent trips to the "Big House" where conferences were held with General Greene who commanded the Continental Army in Washington's absence.

No Sneden appears on the census list of Grants town in 1712. On an old panoramic picture of the whole Sneden which can be seen either in the Stuart Collection at the Public Library in New York or in the N.Y. Historical Society Library, Published in 1847, by Wade and Groves, the old house is

plainly shown, a fine big block of a structure.

R.L.Dickinson's book on the Palisades Interstate Park.(Am.GeoGraphical Society,1921) is a source book every Rockland County library should have. Also, of course, the "New York Walk Book", that inexhaustible mine of all kinds of information about our County. A little book about the Palisades was privately printed in Edgewater in the year of the Hudson-Pulton Celebration by A.C.Mack and is in several New York Historical Libraries.

By the way, on that Wade and Croome map Nyack is described as having one hundred houses and eight hundred inhabitants. The houses are all along the River with fine farms running up the slope behind them. The only mansion with a name attached to it is that of Hugh Maxwell on upper Broadway, looking much as it does today.

Mary Nowbray-Clarke.

Old Brownstone Architecture

Richland County shares with North Bergen the honor of an indigenous architecture not often enough studied for new houses. It is usually called Dutch, but Holland has no ~~wood~~ buildings of this style, having no rocks of which to build the

The thin sedimentary rock known as New York
sandstone ^{or} ~~beds~~ in many stream valleys, and early
thick settlers found it an easy rock to work
and developed a comfortable type of house with
curt roof and, with or without dormers, extending
out from front and back to shield the walls. This
plaster only was used and the dressing of the
stone varied from very smooth accurate cutting
generally by slave labor, to more or less roughly
worked with stones in more irregular courses.
This rock known as red-rock or brown stone
is as reported to New York ^{as the sandstone} for the "Brown Stone fronts" of
New York City in the 17th century.

Many of the oldest houses were built in the late
17th Century and the newest just before the
Revolution. After the foundation of the new nation
the Georgian style superseded what might have
become our universal architecture.
Fortunately new owners to the County are finding
examples of these old stone houses and restoring
them in many parts of the County.

22. A-C.