

RELIC OF DAYS WHEN HORSE THIEVERY WAS RAMPANT

Cornwall, New Windsor and Monroe

Horse Thief Detecting Society.

Cornwall, Orange Co., N. Y. . . . . 189 .

### Directions to Riders.

You will receive the Directors' orders as to Route and place to go. You will keep your Directors informed by Telegraph where you are and where you may be reached by telegram.

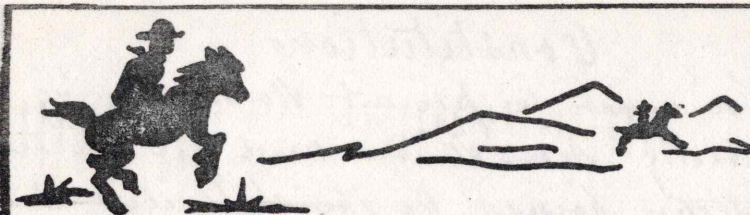
Telegraph if you have a trace and give it.

If you have a clue, pursue it, and telegraph your suggestions, that the other riders, by the Directors' orders may close round the thief and stolen horse. If led on in hot pursuit and your money becomes exhausted, telegraph where to send more and it will be forwarded by telegraph money order or otherwise.

In sending telegrams be careful to give correctly the place you desire an answer sent; also the exact date and time of sending.

**Your business is to catch the thief and recover the horse.**

Although instructions like those shown in the above reproduction have not been issued for thirty-five years, the Cornwall organization still exists.



Red Hook, N. Y.

Society for the Apprehension and Detention  
of Horse Thieves

Founded 1796

Member.....

## THE RED HOOK SOCIETY FOR THE APPREHENSION AND DETENTION OF HORSE THIEVES

welcomes the

BICENTENNIAL WAGON TRAIN

to Red Hook

It is appropriate that the society, which for so long has held the horse in such high regard as an aid to man, should sponsor the dinner for the members of the wagon train who are also reliant upon the horse for their transportation.

### Horse Thieves!

PUBLIC Notice is hereby given, that a Society is established in the upper part of Rhinebeck, for the purpose of recovering Stolen Horses and apprehending the Thieves, and to carry the same into effect, a number of riders are engaged to go immediately in pursuit of stolen horses, at the expense of the Society, for which adequate funds are established. Published by order of the Society,

October 28, 1796. 83:8

The Society is only 20 years away from its own bicentennial, having been established in 1796 and has been in continuous existence since that time.

Organization notice in  
The Dutchess Observer

1796



## Constitutions

In order to prevent Horse Thieving and detecting Horse Thieves and for the recovery of stolen horses. We the Subscribers do hereby agree to the following Rules - to wit -

We do agree that the officers of this Society shall be and consist of a chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Collector - to be elected annually -

We do agree that eight <sup>riders</sup> shall be elected, and four outy shall be sent, in different directions, to pursue the thief or thieves. Horse or horses stolen from any of the subscribers, and that the Riders shall be paid each of them their reasonable expenses to be adjudged by the Annual Meetings and their wages adjudged to be eight shillings per day -

That whenever any person or persons shall have a horse or horses stolen, from him or them. That such person or persons, shall immediately on discovery thereof, give notice to the chairman, in his absence to the Treasurer, and in his absence to the Secretary - who shall duly examine such person or persons, so giving notice. Whether the horse or horses, is or are, probably stolen and in case he shall find that the horse or horses, is or are, probably stolen, he shall immediately take the description of such

## Other Similar Societies

Cornwall. New Windsor & Monroe  
Horse Thief Detecting Society  
organized 1805  
still active in 1885 1951  
Cornwall. Orange Co. N.Y.

(Enfield Society for Detection of Thieves & Robbers)  
Enfield Society  
Enfield, Conn.  
organized 1815  
still active 1936.

First Meeting of Red Hook Society  
held 1796, in 1896  
Centennial Meeting 1896

"Independent Society of Red Hook"  
Organized Nov. 15, 1827  
Resolution to disband offered by  
Howard Ellsworth at a meeting Dec. 15, 1914  
Schodack, Stuyvesant, Kinderhook and  
Chatham Society for the Detection  
of Horse Thieves  
Founded 1824  
Still active 1976