

The Red Hook Weekly Journal

HOME DEPARTMENT.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1859.

HORSE THIEVES.—A fine bay mare belonging to Henry Lambert of this town, was stolen from the stable on Saturday night last. We learn also that at the same time one or two horses were taken from the vicinity of Rhinebeck. Mr. Lambert immediately started in pursuit of the rascals, on Sunday morning, and after tracing them to Spencertown, and the mountains in the vicinity of Green River, returned without accomplishing anything.

The mountains of that region have long been known as the resort of gangs of thieves and villains, who can readily step from one side of the State line to the other, and can generally safely hide their booty among the rocks and forests of those unfrequented mountains.

Since the above was in type, we find the following in the *Rhinebeck Gazette*.

On Saturday night last the barn of Mr. E. Brooks, in this village, was entered by one or more thieves, and a horse, wagon and harness stolen therefrom. The loss was not discovered until Sunday morning, when riders started in pursuit in different directions, but returned without any tidings of the stolen property. Yesterday morning information was received that an animal answering the description of the one stolen had been taken up and cared for a few miles north of this village, near Red Hook. Parties immediately went in quest and succeeded in returning with the missing brute, which had evidently been driven a considerable distance and at no ordinary rate of speed.

Nov 18 1859

THE INDEPENDENT SOCIETY for the detection of Horse Thieves held their annual meeting on Tuesday night. The old officers were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year, viz:—Jacob Benner, President; P. G. Fraleigh, Vice President; John Elseffer Secretary; Frederick Barringer Treasurer.

This is a self-protecting Association, none but those who are members, of course, receiving benefit therefrom, and is composed of our prominent citizens who are owners of horses. It is an excellent association, and the muscle, determination and funds which it thus brings into united action will no doubt have the effect of making horse thieves extremely cautious how they select a horse from any member of the Society. Quite a number of new members were admitted on Tuesday night.

We would advise all horse dealers who procure their stock in this way to subscribe for the *Journal*, (or at least steal the reading of it, as some honest men do.) that they may not unknowingly take a horse from a member of either of the societies of this town, and thus get themselves into difficulty.

NOV. 25, 1859

There was a rumor in town on Wednesday that Mr. Lambert had obtained intelligence which might lead to the discovery of the whereabouts of his stolen horse. This is, however, incorrect. The only additional intelligence received, Mr. L. informs us, is that a horse answering the description of his was seen going up the Stockbridge Mountains about nine o'clock, on Sunday morning. This is the exact locality to which the property had been traced, rendering pursuit useless without an armed posse. Both the horse, and the wagon and harness of Mr. Brooks, of Rhinebeck, which accompanied it, are no doubt by this time disposed of in some Eastern Horse Market.

The walk between this office and the Red Hook Hotel has been materially improved. Instead of a mud-hole there is now a solid gravel walk in all kinds of weather. John Morgan is entitled to the thanks of the public.

The total value of these societies must consider deterrent effects as well as stolen horses recovered.

JOHN LOSEE ~ MAY 21, 1976

Not society members

Your correspondent was completely dumbfounded the other day in reading the following call, posted in several conspicuous places in our town.

NOTICE.—The annual meeting of the Society known as the Upper Red Hook Horse Thief Society will be held at the Hotel of Martin Lasher on the first Tuesday of October next Oct. 7th 1859 at 7 o'clock p. m., pursuant to the last adjournment—Dated Upper Red Hook September 29th 1859.
DANIEL A. CUCK Secretary.

We knew that horses had been stolen in our neighborhood, and one quite recently from the stables of the late Captain Tinklepaugh.

We also knew that a person who would steal a horse would steal oats to feed him. We also knew that oats had been stolen from the residents of the Upper Village as well as boots and shoes watches and jewelry, and even money that belonged to the treasury of the Church. But to be informed by a public placard that there was an organized band of horse thieves who would dare to meet in a respectable Hotel in one of the most orderly, moral and exemplary villages in the State of New York, was perfectly astonishing.

We are loath to believe that there is an organized gang of thieves from the rural districts who would run the personal risk of publicly meeting together, annually, to devise ways and means to steal horses and other property. If there is such a society in existence it is high time the people in this vicinity knew it—that they may lock their stable doors every night, and unchain the watch dogs.

After the foregoing was in type, the proprietor of the hotel was interviewed and said—"There is no party of Klu-Klux, band of robbers, or horse thief societies that ever meet at my house." The wholesale slander, originated with the clerical blunder of the aforesaid Secretary, who should have written the notice of the meeting to the members of the "Society for the Apprehension of Horse Thieves."