

HISTORIC RED HOOK

Martin Ostrander

C. February 2nd, 1818–January 13th, 1883

Red Hook Lutheran Cemetery

Curved top marble tablet toward the center back of the main old section, near Brewster and Barringers.

Martin Ostrander was a farmer and farm laborer born around 1818, probably in Red Hook, to Johannes Ostrander and Catherine Like. He married Elizabeth Kipp (C. 25 Jan 1818–8 Jun 1877, possibly daughter of Jeremiah Kipp) and had only one child that lived to adulthood. Their only son, David William Ostrander (1844–10 Nov 1919) would marry Mary Frances Hart in 1868 and they had at least five children together. Two of Martin's grandchildren are buried with him, an unnamed infant granddaughter and a grandson, Frank who died in 1871. David's children that lived to adulthood were Warren Ostrander 1884–1925, Fannie Ostrander Adsit 1837–1960 (Mrs. George), and Howard Ostrander born 1880.

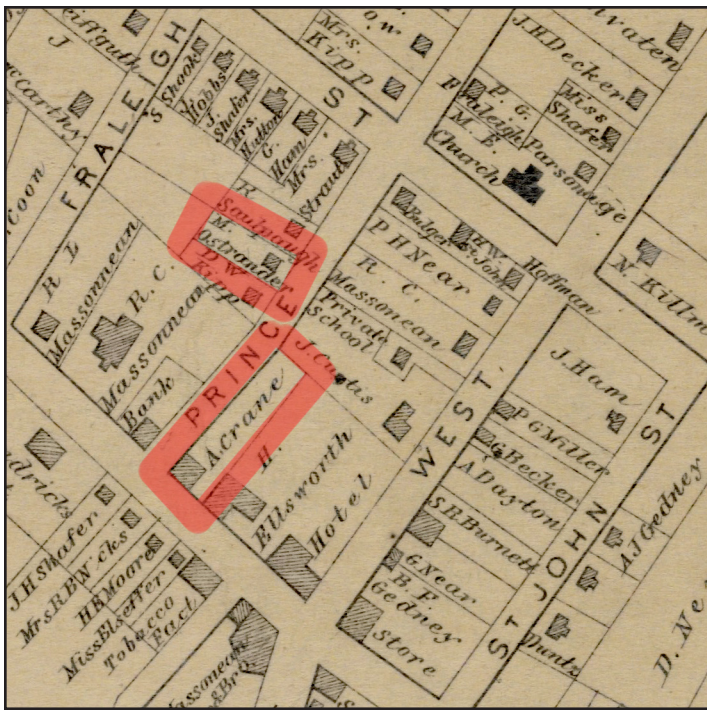


In the 1875 New York State census of Red Hook David is listed as family #265 and and Martin and Elizabeth are #266, indicating that they probably lived close by if not next door to each other. After Elizabeth died, Martin lived with his son's family. David was a carpenter by trade while his father remained a laborer.

On August 12th, 1871, William Pulver was found guilty by Judge Paulmeir in Red Hook of assault and battery on Martin Ostrander. Three days later on the 15th, two men, Richard Daw and John Conway were arrested for "entering [Martin Ostrander's] house and breaking his furniture." The report did not say they broke in, so one wonders why they showed up and made a scene in such a way. Was it tied to Pulver's assault?

By 1880 things were not going well for the Ostrander family. Elizabeth had died three years previous and David and Mary had lost at least one child when David's property, mortgaged to the Coon family, was foreclosed on.

After his death, Martin's property was sold off to pay his debts and David moved his family to Catskill where, per his obituary, he was the "bridge tender on the (Catskill) town bridge in this village for several years".



1876 Red Hook map detail. "M. Ostrander" is marked on Prince between D.W. Kipp and R. Saulpaugh. The saloon might be where it's marked "A. Crane" on Broadway on the corner of Prince where the parking lot is now.

Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. "Red Hook [Township]" New York Public Library Digital Collections. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e3-4f46-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

In the late 19th century, Red Hook resident Nicholas R. "Nick" Hutton operated a saloon on the north end of what was at the time called the Crane building. This structure (which once housed a grocery store and was demolished in the 1960s) sat where the Red Hook Chamber info hut, the parking lot, and electric vehicle charging stations are today on the corner of Prince and Broadway. There was a bar downstairs in Hutton's saloon and upstairs there were pool and billiard tables. On Saturday, January 13th, 1883, Martin Ostrander was seen staggering and walking with some difficulty from his house (which was just a few doors down on the other side of Prince Street) to the Crane building. The Red Hook Journal reported "He was helped into the saloon of N.R. Hutton, sat down in a chair, and a physician sent for, but before he arrived life was extinct." Martin had died of heart disease. Edmund Bassett would recall "the day poor old Martin Ostrander died while sitting in a chair in this saloon. I

saw him just after it happened while he was still in the chair."

Martin was laid to rest at last beside his wife and two grandchildren.

Research and writing by Sarah K. Hermans, 2025

Sources:

1850 Federal Census, Red Hook, Dutchess Co NY - Martin Ostrander.

1860 Federal Census, Red Hook, Dutchess Co NY - Martin Ostrander.

1870 Federal Census, Red Hook, Dutchess Co NY - John Lord.

1875 New York State Census, Red Hook, Dutchess Co NY - David Ostrander.

1876 map of Red Hook - Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. (1876). Map of Dutchess County New York.

1880 Federal Census, Red Hook, Dutchess Co NY - David Ostrander. Bassett, Edmund. Reminiscences of Red Hook (A story of the Village), Red Hook-Tivoli Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

findagrave.com/memorial/110705851/martin-ostrander.

Hudson *Columbia Republican*, undated paper c.Nov 1919.

Poucher, J. Wilson, Reynolds, Helen Wilkinson. *Old Gravestones of Dutchess County*, DCHS, 1924. p. 290.

Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle, 21 Aug 1871.

Red Hook Journal, 18 Aug 1871.

Red Hook Journal, 19 Jan 1883.

Red Hook Journal, 8 Jun 1883.

Red Hook Journal, Jan 27 1868.



The Crane building later became known as the Hobbs building. This photo of Kipp & Horton's bar in the Hobbs building in the early part of the 20th century might be the same location where Martin passed away. HRH Archives.