

Reminiscences of Red Hook (A story of the Village)

By Edmund Bassett

Edmund Bassett was born in Red Hook about 1865. He studied telegraphy and held various positions with the New York Central Railroad, among them Stationmaster at Tivoli. Later in life he went to New York City where he was very successful.

Like most people who move to a big city life in a small town is remembered with great fondness. Mr. Bassett was no exception and these reminiscences were an expression of his feeling.

Mr. Bassett started his "Reminiscences of Red Hook" in November, 1926. These were published weekly over a period of three months in the RED HOOK ADVERTISER.

The second series, "Reminiscences of Some of the Highways and Byways of Red Hook" were written in 1928 and published in the RED HOOK ADVERTISER over a period of several months from April 10, 1930 to October 9, 1930.

By using the enclosed 1867 map of the Village of Red Hook, it is possible to follow Mr. Bassett's travels and identify families, buildings, and streets mentioned in the articles.

Reprinted June 1976 by Red Hook-Tivoli Bicentennial Committee

[Transcribed for digital by Historic Red Hook, June 2019]

As good "Americans" we should love our native country, but no part of same is so dear to me as Red Hook, the spot where I first saw the light of day. We should all follow the commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself" and all men are our neighbors; but the poor and down trodden should ever have a special appeal to us, and they do; but the old neighbors at home, in dear old Red Hook, have an appeal all their own to me.

They are growing fewer and fewer and their places being taken by a new generation, or in many cases, by the stranger to my boyhood days that now reside within the gates of the old home town. As we sit and daydream of the past, we begin a pilgrimage through the walks and haunts of my boyhood.

We start from the village square and look to the Northeast, the part of the village where I was born. This is the oldest part of the village as the streets are the same as they were sixty years ago and more -- North Broadway, East Market Street, Cherry Street, running from Broadway with a curve to East Market Street, and Kent Street, running from East Market to Cherry Street or Cherry Lane as we called it in my childhood days. Kent Street is sometimes called Graves Street, also Division Street, but Kent was the original name.

The houses are about the same in number; some have been improved, but I know of only three being built and three that have been taken away. The business places have all been improved. The Aucock store building was built about 1870 by Conklin and Allendorf, two very noted business men of Red Hook.

Later they dissolved partnership, Mr. Conklin taking over the coal and lumber business and Mr. Allendorf taking the store. Later he built the brick addition on the East, shutting the roadway that led to a public shed long patronized by customers of the store and also by us boys playing tag and other games.

The old wooden horse block on Broadway was for the accommodation of the ladies to alight from the old fashioned high buggies and market wagons of the period, but we boys used it the most. Next to the driveway was a small white building that has been used for various business purposes. The last I remember it was used as a shoeshop by A. Bassett. When I was a small boy "Old Frank" Albright, an old stone mason, was given a room, free of charge, to sleep in, in this building, and Mrs. Teats always gave him a warm meal when he needed it. Her kindness to the old man made a great impression on me as a boy.

The new brick addition, consisted of two up-to-date stores, and were occupied by Coon & Hoffman as a shoe store and by Ed Hutton as a drug store. Next to the small white building was a higher frame building. Jacob Hutton, father of Ed Hutton and Nick Hutton, had a shoe store there. Later John Henry (Shoe) Shafer as we boys called him, kept the shoe store, and had his shoe repair shop in the rear. Mr. Shafer, was a very jolly man and a great checker player.

His son, Charles, worked with his father then; and I see by his advertisement in the Red Hook Advertiser, he is still doing his bit to keep the people of Red Hook walking straight. This building was owned by J. and L. B. Curtis¹ and has since become a part of the splendid building occupied by John Curtis as a hardware store.

His grandfather, John Curtis, came from Rhinebeck and founded the business before my time. I remember the old gentleman very well; he walked with a cane and had a pet dog and a temper, as all worthwhile men do. Back in the old days they sent out many tin-peddlers that traveled far and near. A few I remember are "Honest" John Eagan, his brother Morris, Ed Kelly, who was lame from the many accidents he had met with, and the Dee Boys, Ed and Dick.

There were many others whose names have slipped my memory. They used to return from their trips with their carts piled high with rags, feathers, and junk of all kinds. The J. & L.B. Curtis was a widely known firm in the old days. The tin peddler, like the pack peddler, is a memory of the past. Of the pack peddlers, Old Fredenburgh, who used to carry a pack bigger than himself and Jake, the peddler, I remember well. I have faint recollection of the old Conklin & Allendorf building. It was a frame gable end building and there were two tenants in the upper part. Part was used as a boot and shoe shop by George Reed for some years.

Mr. Reed was a political leader and in 1853 he was doorkeeper of the Assembly at Albany. He engaged A. Bassett of Albany to manage his boot and shoe business for him but he did not return to the business and Mr. Bassett was his successor. George Hart, who was the popular salesman for Hoffman and Co. for so many years, came to Red Hook as a young man to learn the boot and shoe business from Mr. Bassett.

Later on an opening as clerk in the Conklin and Allendorph store won him from the boot and shoe business and when the opening came, he went to the tobacco factory as salesman.

When the new store opened, Will Coon, now of Rhinecliff, and son of the late Jacob I. Coon, was one of the clerks, and about that time he married one of the Misses Conklin.

Some of the other clerks I remember are John and Willie Menear², John Hapeman, Jr., Harry Conklin and later George Aucock. William Holt, a tailor, had his shop in the old store and also in the new store until his death.

Mr. Holt bought the first sewing machine in the town and Mr. Bassett bought the second one to make boot tops. They were the Elias Howe machines, the first one invented. Other tenants of the new store were Squire Joseph Martin, a brother of Edward Martin, who had his law office

¹ John Curtis and Legrand Beaumont Curtis

² Surname also spelled Manier, they were sons of Mary Jane Moul and William Manier.

there; Peter M. Baum and his assistant lawyers, one of whom, Guy C. H. Corless, became the Chief Justice of the western states, were tenants also.

The Red Hook Journal, Albert Piester, proprietor, moved to the upper part of the new addition. Sometime after the death of Mr. Piester, it was sold to the publisher of the Tivoli Times. Later owing to bad management and the high price of print paper, it ceased publication. Red Hook once had two weekly papers, the Journal and the Register.

The Register was published by Chauncey Reed, who in after years published the Walden Herald. He married a Red Hook young lady, Miss Ham, whose father lived on West Market Street in the house formerly owned by John H. Decker, with his wife and another daughter, Miss Tammy Ham. After the death of her parents, Miss Tammy went to live with Mr. and Mrs. Reed at Walden. Chauncey Reed was well named as he was the tallest man I ever saw in Red Hook.

Next to the Curtis Building was the Mrs. Hale house which has now joined the business building in part, as the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. have linked it up in their great chain.

The old Heavner property has changed. The house is the same as when it was the boyhood home of Robert Heavner, who was bookkeeper at the tobacco factory for many years and later a member of the firm of Hoffman & Co. The old place was sold to Robert Marshall of Madalin, and grandfather of Robert Marshall of the Red Hook Advertiser, some time about 1874 or 1875 and he lived there until his death.

The old blacksmith shop and wheelwright shop have all passed; as have Billy .Mills, the blacksmith; John Crandell, the Wheelwright; and Ely Jewell, the wagon painter. Ely was another tall man. The Red Hook Lyceum now covers the spot where the three old shops stood.

The original building that replaced the old shops was built for a hardware store. This business was run by Ring and Stickle. Mr. Ring was a brother of Alonzo Ring, our old cigar store man, and ex-supervisor Philip H. Stickle was the other member of the firm. They were succeeded by Philip E. Fraleigh³ who had the business for some years.

The next house was owned by Aron or H. Allendorph as he was called. He married one of the Misses Piester. He was one of the five Allendorph brothers, and was with Cramer and Allendorph and later George Cramer at the Red Hook meat market for some years.

The next house was the home of Cal Pulver⁴, one of the five Pulver brothers, owing to an accident in his young days, he was a hunchback, a cigarmaker and worked in the tobacco factory. He was well liked by everyone who knew him.

The next house was the home of Robert B. Heavner and his sister until they built a beautiful home on North Broadway where they lived until their death. One of the saddest tragedies, a double one, that ever touched Red Hook, began in this house and ended in Pennsylvania with the death of one of the good friends of my boyhood days.⁵

The next house was built by (here a line is omitted in the article, a mechanical error) and was the home of the family hence the name of Kent Street. The house was occupied by L. B. Curtis and family and his wife's two sisters, Miss Helen and Miss Georgie Andrews, my old

³ Philip E. Fraleigh 1851-1939, son of George W. Fraleigh & Regina Waldorf.

⁴ Calvin T. Pulver 1812-1879, son of Michael T. Pulver and Rebecca Silvernail

⁵ What tragedy is he talking about? Investigate? Does it have to do with Robert B. Heavner and his sister or another occupant he's being vague about?

school teacher.⁶ The only member of the Kent family I ever met was Mrs. Robert Martin, wife of the Postmaster at Barrytown. About 1884 they moved to Chicago, Illinois.

The next house was the home of George Hart and family, and Louis Gale and his mother. The first Mrs. Hart was a sister to Louis Gale, and she left two boys, Frank and George. The second Mrs. Hart was from Vermont and she was a very kind mother to the two motherless boys. She had two girls, Hattie and Esther.

The next house was the home of John W. Hoffman, (John Bill) until he built the beautiful home on North Broadway, not the Hoffman Inn.

The next house was an old landmark but has now disappeared and the land on which it stood has been merged with Benjamin B. Hoffman place.

In the year of 1870 Peter Shields, a Deputy Sheriff from Poughkeepsie, arrested a young man on the sidewalk in front of this old place for horse stealing. I was with two ladies at the time and we all saw the arrest made. I was too young to fully understand, but I never forgot the cry of one of the ladies when she recognized both Peter Shields and the young man. The young man was sent away for some years and when he came out of jail, he married a girl who had waited for him and became a good husband and father and a well behaved citizen. He came to Red Hook to live for a time and as a boy I knew him quite well but he never knew I saw what happened to him when I was a child.

The Benjamin B. Hoffman house has been improved very much since 1870. The first time I saw Dr. Will Traver, he was a very little baby and his mother, Edith Hoffman Traver, held him up to the window for my mother and a friend to see her new born treasure.

The next house was occupied by Henry Barringer, who had a cooper shop across the street next to the Matt Near place. Soon after John Morgan bought the house and lived there for years. He had been a stage coach driver in the old days of the stage coach line between New York and Albany. His wife was a sister to Mrs. Ed Coon and Henry Lasher, father of Mrs. John Hobbs. He had one daughter, Lizzie, who married Fred Lasher of Madalin, a brother of Mrs. Frank Burnett.

The next house was the old Piester place, later owned and occupied by Walter Martin, whose home and store business had been burned at Barrytown by the big fire of 1871. The next house was the home of Henry Thompson, father of Jacob Thompson and grandfather of Charles Henry Thompson, who were very prominent officials of the Metropolitan Insurance Company of New York.

The next house was the home of Levi Pulver⁷, about 1868, but later James Daly, the father of the present owner, J. Louis Daly, purchased the same. The hotel building on the corner of East Market Street was formerly only a small building used as a saloon by Levi Pulver, James Daly, John Sheridan Stickle, Mr. Green, and last by J. Louis Daly who built the present building and used it as a hotel until he sold it to Henry D. Pink.

The next house was the John Eagen home. He had two sons and four daughters and one son and three daughters are still living in Brooklyn, all prosperous. The house on the top of Thompson Hill was the home of William and John Thompson, brothers who worked the farm. John was a bachelor and William had one son, George. The barn on the opposite side of the street had a rooster as a weather vane and the barn had been built in 1833 which is ninety three years ago.

⁶ Legrand B. Curtis married Helen Andrews, not sure if there were 3 sisters.

⁷ This is not the same as the Levi Pulver from Pine Plains who married Sally McArthur.

We wander into Cherry Street from East Market Street and the first house on the right was built by Kearn Quick. The next house on the left was the John Corrigan homestead, now owned by his son, James M. Corrigan, of Rhinecliff, who for many years held an important position with the United States Government in New York with headquarters in the Army building. Another son, Michael, lives in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn.

Next is the Mack homestead; the Misses Mack have rebuilt the old house and use it as a summer home now. The old Dee house is missing; fire did its work. Next on the right was old Auntie Grigg's little house, by the side of the silent city of the dead, the Methodist cemetery, where sleep many who went to make up the happy homes of old Red Hook. Speak kindly of them, or not at all; may they rest in peace.

Next on the right were three white houses and same were occupied by three good old families, N. P. Lasher¹ Philip Van Steenburg and William Pulver. Mr. Lasher was our school principal for many years; he had two daughters, Mrs. H. L. Curtis of Red Hook and Mrs. Victor Miller of Germantown.

Philip Van Steenburgh was the teamster for the tobacco factory for many years. He was the father of Andrew Van Steenburgh who had a grocery store in the Crane building. Mrs. Henry Miller, wife of Henry Miller, of the firm of Hoffman and Co., and mother of Mrs. Walter Schell of Rhinebeck, was a daughter; and another son, William, succeeded his father in the trucking business. Later he sold out to William Van Tassell who had his place of business on Railroad Avenue. William Pulver, another one of the Pulver brothers was a cigarmaker and worked in the tobacco factory. He had a daughter, Ida, and a son, Virgil, who kept a cigar store in the Massonneau row on South Broadway for some years and then moved to Germantown.

The next house on the right was a double house. My father, having sold his place, rented part of this house in 1865 and 1866. I was born there and Claudius Martin, who lived on the other side, was the third man I ever saw in Red Hook. In after life we were good friends; and while he had the grocery store in Hudson, I saw him quite often; and very often after he retired from business and was succeeded by his nephew, Charles Fingar.

The next and last house on that side was occupied by Charles Holsapple who married Elizabeth Kipp, daughter of David Kipp of Prince Street. The house on the opposite corner was the home of Phil and Ed Osterhoudt: Both went to early graves, victims of the great white plague. The next and last on Cherry Street was the George Becker home, later owned by Howard Ellsworth and occupied by Ellsworth Jackson, a very respectable colored citizen. His first wife was known to everyone as Aunt Jane. Sometime after her death he married a colored girl from the South. He had a son, Peter, who was a musical wonder but he met an untimely end by being drowned on an excursion.

There were only three houses on Kent Street in the old days and two of them were occupied by noted men in their day; Russ Stockings, noted for his sharp tongue and lazy ways; and the other, James Paulmier, who was a painter by trade but more interested in politics than painting. He was first elected constable and then justice of the peace, as it was called in 'the old days, for several years. In the days of Peter M. Baum, he and Al Formsbee were kept busy as Justice and Constable.

The Judge had four sons and three daughters. One son was killed in the Civil War; another, Frank, was in the war but returned safe and lived for some years after but never married. Tom, another son, lived in the third house on Kent Street, and had three children. The fourth son lived in New York and was married. The daughters all married Red Hook men, Rubin Miller, Robert Schutte and Virgil Group, who died, leaving two little girls. Sometime latex, Mrs. Group married a man from out of town by the name of Dr. DeHart.

The Judge's house was on Kent Street just north of George Hart's on the corner of East Market and Kent Streets. M. M. Green lived there for some years after the Judge.

As we drop back to the beginning and look north on Broadway, we miss the Jane Ann Moore house. She had the only kind of beauty parlor you could find in the old days. She sold hats to the ladies to beautify themselves with; the beauty parlors of today sell false faces to the ladies and call them beautiful. Let us console ourselves; it was the men of the aboriginals who painted, now it is the ladies. The Triebel garage now covers the spot.

The Jacob w. Elseffer house is much the same as it was in the old days. All of his children have passed on to the beyond, from where no one returns, and the old place is now the home of his granddaughter and her father, William P. Adams.

The E. Teats house comes next, then the Benjamin Schults house, later owned by Benjamin Teats. Both these places are much the same with the addition of the large building on the Schults' place built by Benjamin Teats for a livery stable but now used as a garage.

The Joseph Martin house has been rebuilt and it is a very fine house now, in place of the low old fashioned house of my boyhood days. The Pinder house, now the home of Mrs. John Troy, is the same but in very fine order.

The old Inn on the corner of Broadway and Cherry Street has been changed to dwelling apartments. In the days of the Stage Coach Line, this was one of the inns and a regular stop to change horses. The old barn stood north of the Inn and was used by Philip Van Steenburgh, the teamster. He was known as "Old Daddy", not in derision but in affection, for he was a kindly old soul. Any houses above this in the old days were part of the Edward Martin estate.

I spoke of the Schults house but not of the people. My older brothers went to a private school taught by Mrs. Schults. They were both very old when I knew them. They had a daughter who married Dick Barringer of Barrytown Corners. They were a very handsome couple and Mrs. Barringer was a noted horsewoman of the day. They had a daughter, Anna, who went to school when I did. Mr. Barringer died sometime after 1875 for he called at our house that year to take the State census. Mrs. Barringer and daughter went West some time later.

Her brother was in New York and met and married Madam Anna Bishop, a noted singer of the day. After his death Madam Anna Bishop used to spend some time in Red Hook.

Another lady connected with the stage, and later the wife of A. M. Palmerfi, the noted theatrical manager, used to visit Red Hook when she was the wife of Sheridan Shook. She used to spend some time at the home of Peter G. Fraleigh, whose wife was a sister of Mr. Shook.⁸

It was a tragedy the day little Sheddy Fraleigh was drowned⁹. I was not present when he drowned but one who was present still lives in Red Hook. I believe I arrived at the scene of the tragedy before he was found and saw this poor little body taken from the water and wrapped in a blanket, in the arms of his heart-broken grandfather. That was a sad day for the Fraleigh family.

I next turn to the southeast part. There I spent the second, third and fifth years of my life. The Massonneau building I remember as far back as my memory will go.

Charles W. Massonneau and his brother Ed kept a general store with the post office and they were selling porous plasters at the same time. The north side of the brick building had a large advertisement of the porous plasters, and Charles W. Massonneau was publishing the

⁸ Sheridan Shook's partner in the theatre business A.M. Palmer ran off with his first wife. He remarried Ellen Gillespi. Peter H. Fraleigh's wife was Sheridan's sister Lydia Shook.

⁹ Sheridan Fraleigh (1868-1876), son of Irving Fraleigh & Almina Cookingham. Irving's mother was Lydia Shook, sister of Sheridan Shook.

original "Aurora Borealis" to promote the use and sale of the plasters which had been compounded by him. It was a very interesting paper for the kind, and I remember seeing many copies of the same.

Some years later, when Mr. Massonneau started his son, Harris, in business in the same store, he issued a new number of a later day "Aurora Borealis" to promote the business and it was from one of these that the Advertiser reprinted some matter last year.

Louis Gale was one of the clerks in the old store before he entered the Railway Mail Service.

Clarence Sparks, a nephew of the Massonneau brothers, was another clerk I remember well. Death claimed him early in life.

The building east of the store was divided from the store by an archway for teams to pass to the public shed. There were about four divisions in this building occupied by different parties for business purposes.

I remember John Pulver's Cigar Store; Virgil Group's fish and oyster market; some engineers connected with the construction of the Rhinebeck and Connecticut Railroad, now called the Central New England; and the Red Hook Journal. The upper part was used for storage of stock for the store. I remember well the night that fire was discovered in Virgil Group's market. It started some time after the market was closed for the night in a barrel of greasy rags. Had it been much later, the building would be only a memory now. After hard work on the part of men who gathered, the fire was subdued. It was rum.?^{red} just after the fire that there were several kegs of powder stored in the room just above the fire. Had the men known that, the fire would have won. Sometime later the archway was closed and the upper part was changed to a hall with the entrance on the east end. This hall was the means of much pleasure for the people in the old days.

The old streets in this part of the village were South Broadway, East Market Street, Thompson Street, Fisk Street, Elizabeth Street, which was only a short street and connected with Tobacco Street but since its extension is called Railroad Avenue.

The little street from Railroad Avenue to Bassett Street, if same has been opened yet, is nameless to me, as is the lane at the end of Fisk Street which leads over to East Market Street on the east side of Thompson Hill.

The first house on East Market Street was the home of Horatio Teats who was a cattle drover.

Mrs. Spurr, a widow lady, lived next. Her husband formerly had a woolen mill at Cedar Hill, now called Annandale.

The John Hapeman home was next and it was the home of John Hapeman, Jr. also; and well I remember the night he returned home from his wedding trip. The boys gave him a grand serenade.¹⁰ It was a big crowd and they made a great noise but failed to bring out John and his bride. John Pulver had opened a new home on Cherry Street with a widow lady as his housekeeper. A rumor was around that they were married so the serenading party, failing to bring out John, moved to Cherry Street. Again they failed to bring out anyone, but the son, Charles, was very angry. He tried to get a picket from the fence but thought better of it and started downtown to see his father and settle the rumor. The rumor, of course, proved to be false, but I was one of the small boys who had a good time. I saw by the Advertiser that this same son, Charles, visited Red Hook last summer, after an absence of forty years.

¹⁰ MAKE NOTE ABOUT SKIMELTON

The next house on East Market Street was the home of Mrs. Near. Her son, Charles, and her daughter, Mrs. Kate Braley, live with her. Charles was deaf from boyhood but he could speak and he was a great lover of the New York Sun of his day which was the son of Charles A. Dana, Mrs. Braley had one son, Charles, who was a schoolmate of mine.

Elizabeth Street and the harness shop of H. E. Moore were next and then the home of Edward Hendricks, one of the Hendricks family and the father of Mary and Maggie Hendricks. I remember Mr. Hendricks well but do not remember when he was proprietor of the harness shop. Next was old Sim cole and his wife. The poor lady was almost bent double in her old age. Sim worked on the Chamberlin place until he died. Albert Piester bought the place later.

The next house had different tenants; Court B. Cunley lived there at one time. He moved to Poughkeepsie where he had a cigar store and manufactured cigars also. He became quite a prominent Republican leader at one time in Poughkeepsie. John H. Shafer bought the place and lived there until his death. After Mr. Shafer moved there he had a night blooming cereus in bloom and crowds flocked there every night to see it.

The next house was occupied by Gill Cole and his family. I remember playing there in 1870 with my sister and his three little girls. The first one I remember living in the next house was Henry Lasher, father of Mrs. John Hobbs. Mr. Lasher was an engineer on steamboats for many years. He had a meat market at Red Hook at one time. Later Frank Burnett lived in this house for some years.

Next was a driveway to H. H. Conklin's barn and next to that was his house; this was the finest place on East Market Street at that time. The next house was the home of A. Bassett; he sold it to Mrs. Gifford, mother of Mrs. Conklin, in 1870 and bought the William Phillips place on the corner of West Market: Street and Phillips Street and moved there in the Spring of 1871. Mrs. Gifford lived in the house we bought until her death. Later Dr. Cookingham bought the place and lived there a good part of his fifty years of married life. I remember when the doctor came to Red Hook and I also remember his marriage to Miss Mary Nicks, one of the four charming daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nicks of South Broadway. Matt Near lived next to the doctor's house in 1870.

Next to his house was the Cooper Shop run by Henry Barringer who retired from the cooper business and was a commission merchant in New York. Soon after Mr. Near built a new house on the site of the Cooper Shop and moved there. He sold the old house to A. Piester's father. I remember old Mr. Piester very well and his daily trip to Barrytown where he was employed in the office at the upper dock.

Next was the Patrick Butler house. Mr. and Mrs. Butler had two sons and five daughters, all are still alive. George Butler, now living in the old homestead, was with the Pennsylvania Railroad for many years and is now retired. Two of his sisters, Mrs. Plant and Miss Lizzie Sutler, live with him. The Ed Kelly house, on the corner of Thompson Street is a double house and in 1876 Ed Kelly lived on one side, while he was building a new house.

The Wagonmaker Shop and the Blacksmith Shop on the east corner of Thompson Street stood there for many years until they were replaced by a house built by the Hutchings family. Three of the Hutchings boys were employed with the Metropolitan Insurance Co. of New York after they left Red Hook. Burton, the eldest, died in April of this year at Mt. Vernon. Wake, who remained in Red Hook, died some years ago.

The John Bain house was built in 1867 by A. Bassett, who lived there in 1868 and sold same to George Hicks in 1869. Mr. Hicks was a butcher and had a slaughter house on the rear end of the lot, with an entrance to same from Thompson Street. John Bain, one of the heroes of my boyhood days as he was a crack shot, has passed on to the great beyond.

The next and last house was the George Thompson house, the father of William and John Thompson, who lived on the hill. Later, and for some years, this house was occupied by John Killmer who now lives in Poughkeepsie.

I remember Thompson Street when there were but four houses on same. The two Kelly houses on the west side and the John Mulcahey house and the John Butler house on the east side. The house on the corner of Thompson and Fisk Streets and the M. Cronan house were the two next built and now there are many others. Eldridge Lane, off Thompson Street, is less than fifty years old.

How many remember Dan Eldridge (Daddy Walker) and his old violin? When we read of Henry Ford's old fashioned dances, we should all remember our own Daddy Walker and the many happy evenings we all danced to his merry tunes.

Back to the Massonneau buildings and hall. The Hon. Jacob W. Elsefer had his offices there for many years, followed by Peter M. Baum, who later had his own office in the Allendorph building. I was always a teetotaler but my first pledge was taken when I joined the red ribbon movement, started by Mr. Mabee, who came to Red Hook and stayed some weeks and talked temperance in Massonneau Hall until he had the greater part of the town wearing red ribbons. Some said the rest were wearing red noses but I don't think the town was ever painted quite as red as that.

The Massonneau store was entered by burglars one night and the safe blown open and about eighty dollars taken. Suspicious characters were noticed about town and a party was engaged to set up and watch. Another volunteer party stayed in a feed store in the row under Massonneau Hall. This store had a large show window at the time and the boys would smoke and light matches...Results: the expected robbers raided two or three places in Rhinebeck that night and Red Hook watched in vain. The next night Red Hook slept while the robbers came in the silent night, opened the store and blew open the safe, took some merchandise, and walked away and Red Hook did not stir till the hour of dawn. When the wrecked safe was found, the robbers had left for parts unknown.

The row of buildings, south of the store building, were once dwelling houses and were fenced in but one by one they were changed to business places. A Mrs. De Alveris from New York, the English wife of a Spaniard, opened a millinery store in the one on the corner of Tobacco Street. She had two nice little girls. One Sunday morning she died, very suddenly, with a hemorrhage, said to have been caused by the rupture of a blood vessel. The two little girls were taken to New York by their friends.

This store had been used for business before and later Simon Dinglar had a barber shop there. He moved to New York but sometime after he returned to the town and located at Madalin where I knew him well. He was still living the last I heard of him. M. R. Green had a market in the row for some years. This row has been changed very much and part has been replaced by Scism's Garage.

We now come to Red Hook's oldest industry, the tobacco factory. This business was started by one of the Massonneau family in the past soon after they located here. At first the tobacco was cut by hand and it took a real man to turn it. I remember when Walter Shafer, a brother of John H. Shafer, the shoe man, was killed by a knife that came off a cutting machine while in motion. I also remember when one of our reckless young men, while intoxicated, broke into the tobacco factory and stole a large quantity of cigars. He was arrested and sent to the Albany Penitentiary. Most of the cigars were recovered so the poor fellow received a light sentence but he died there before his time had expired. I remember when the factory building was enlarged and when they installed the patent process of drying the tobacco.

In the days of J. & P. Hendricks they cut tobacco at the Red Hook Mill. Those were the days when they sold tobacco by the barrel. I remember when they first adopted the Red Hook as their trade mark.

The house next to the factory has been in business in part for many years. I remember the Mesick ladies, however, who lived there before that time. The first business that I can recall now was Mrs. Van Keuren's millinery store. Alonzo Ring lived in the next house for many years but I remember his living on West Market Street for at least one year in the early seventies. He had two sons: Will, who was Albert Piester's assistant with the Red Hook Journal and later manager of the Job Printing Department of the New York World. The second son, Ely, I have lost track of. H. E. Moore remodeled his house over fifty years ago. It was very advanced in style for the time. The Richard Nicks house, solid, substantial and home-like was one of the beauty spots of the village.

The next house was owned by William Cramer but I remember the house before he owned it. However, I cannot recall the owner's name now. The Jerry Hendricks place formerly owned by the Bonesteel family and in late years by George Cramer was one of the fine places in the old days as it is at the present time. Mrs. Jacob W. Elsefer was a Bonesteel and the second Mrs. Elsefer was a Mesick, and a relation of the Mesick ladies, who lived next to the tobacco factory in the old days. Next was the Allen Hendricks place. This place was sold to Miss Mary Chamberlin after the death of her father. I believe she lived there for a time but after her marriage it was sold back to the Hendricks family. Its position and quaint style of architecture always made it an attractive place.

Next on the corner of Fisk Street stood a one story building called the "Lecture Room" but it was used for the Sunday School of the Lutheran Church. Their present fine Chapel replaced the old building which was moved up Fisk Street and made into a dwelling house.

The next house was the Lutheran Church parsonage which has been the home of many very prominent ministers of that denomination. Dominie Stelling and his large family I remember best of the very old ones. His children went to school when I did and he used to visit the school sometimes. The names of the ministers I remember are the Rev. Mr. Stroble, the father of the late Mrs. Robert Massonneau, the Revs. Mr. Lutherbach, Stelling, McEntee, Weikert, Hughes and Hay. This covers up to about thirty years ago. The old Lutheran Church was built in the early part of the nineteenth century. The story I heard was that it replaced an older church that had been blown from the foundation by a terrific wind storm which swept through that part of the village that summer. This church was formerly connected with the Reformed Church and when it was changed to the Lutheran connection some of the congregation left and joined the Methodist Congregation who at that time had no church building, and holding services in the upper part of a building until they were able to build their church. The present beautiful Lutheran Church, which replaced the one of my boyhood days, was built during the time the Rev. Mr. Weikert was pastor.

Soon after the church was built, Mr. Weikert surprised the people of the town by resigning and he became a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. At first he was stationed at Pine Plains, later at Poughkeepsie and from there he went to New Jersey.

The Lutheran Cemetery was a place of historical interest to me in my boyhood days. To read the names of the departed ones and the dates of their birth and death as shown on the old tombstones was interesting. I remember the oldest born in 1699 and died in 1801. The stone was very simple but the dates made it remarkable, for the good soul to whose memory it had been erected, lived in three centuries. Born in the seventeenth, he lived through the eighteenth, and died in the nineteenth century. Many of the noted people of the old days are now at rest in

this old cemetery. It has been enlarged very much in my time, both on the north side and the east end.

Next on the south was the Peter Moul place. Mr. Moul was a brother of William Moul and an uncle of Julius Moul. A small house on the Moul place was the home of an aunt of John and Willie Manier¹¹.

We now come to the Red Hook School. Very different from the present beautiful building; I wonder if present day children of Red Hook and the surrounding hamlets fully appreciate the advantages they have today? There were but two rooms to the old building, and the teachers were N. P. Lasher and Miss Georgie Andrews. Jackson Bailey taught here for a time during Mrs. Lasher's absence, I believe. The small children were taught by Miss Delia Jackson¹² in a school on West Market Street. When I was a boy the old school was enlarged to four rooms. Some of the teachers of those days were Mr. Brown, Miss Andrews, Miss Lizzie Curtis, Miss Mattie Conklin, Miss Mary Aucock, and Miss Emma Rider, also L.L. Stillman. When the old school was enlarged, the school on West Market Street was abandoned and all the children went to the same school.

On Fisk Street, just east of the Lutheran Chapel, we find the long shed of the Lutheran congregation, built to protect the teams while farmers were at service. This showed a large farmer element in the congregation. I hope there is an auto now for every team in the old days, but I doubt it.

Next on Fisk Street were two houses built by A. Bassett for tenant houses. The first one built was occupied by Peter Troy and family in 1872. Mr. Troy was the father of the late John Troy of North Broadway and of Peter Troy of Poughkeepsie and Barrytown, who is now interested in the Red Hook chocolate factory. On Bassett Street were two houses built by Mr. Bassett; one for Robert Schuttie, a painter. Mr. Schuttie was with the American Naval Force under Commodore Perry who opened up Japan to the outside world in 1854. The other house was built for John McGill, who had been a captain in the Civil War. Later this house was owned and occupied by the late Daniel Van de Bogart. The next house on Fisk Street was the beautiful house built by James Fisk, Sr. He was the father of William Fisk, the first agent of the Rhinebeck & Connecticut Railroad at Red Hook, also James Fisk, Jr., a lawyer and George Fisk, who went west. Later the house was the home of James Ross, a retired feed merchant of New York. James Fisk, Sr., tried to cultivate tobacco on his farm, but it did not prove a financial success. I remember seeing a field of the tobacco growing.

The house on the southeast corner of Fisk Street and Railroad Avenue was built some years later. Peter M. Baum lived there for some years and then Philip E. Fraleigh lived there when he had the hardware store. The house at the southwest corner of Fisk and Thompson streets and the one on the northeast corner were built for the employees at the coal and lumber yard that stands at the southeast corner. This business was opened by Philip E. and Monroe Fraleigh¹³, just after the opening of the Rhinebeck and Connecticut Railroad. Our old pet name for this railroad was the Huckelbush.

At the end of Fisk Street was the old picnic grounds in the little grove. I remember the dancing platform and on Saturday nights, dances were held there. From this grove there was a short cut to the road that leads to the "Laplands", the home of James and Ann Baxter. Their

¹¹ As mentioned earlier, their mother was Mary Jane Moul Manier. This time Bassett spelled it right.

¹² Cordelia Jackson 1825-1905

¹³ Philip Fraleigh 1851-1939 and Monroe Fraleigh 1843-1921 Sons of George of Rose Hill were brothers.

home was the place that most of the people of Red Hook loved to visit, for they always received a warm welcome.

James Baxter was popular, but Ann Baxter, Aunt Ann, as she was fondly called, was beloved by every one who knew her in the old days. The original house on the Fisk Farm stood on the road that leads from the village to the "Laplands" near the railroad tracks. This farm was formerly the Poor Farm for the town of Red Hook in the days when each town cared for their own poor.

Elizabeth Street was that part of the present Railroad Avenue from East Market Street to Freeborn G. Fraleigh's blacksmith's shop. There were only four houses in the street when I remember it. Two on the east side and two on the west side that fronted on Tobacco Street. Phil Plass, a cooper, lived in the first one on the east side until he moved to Poughkeepsie. D. W. Kipp, the carpenter, lived there after that for many years. The next one had various tenants; among the number was John Near, son of Philip Near of West Market Street. Later it was bought by Matthias Linsigg who sold it to Walter Shafer.

Ed Stickles, a noted character of the day, lived in the house on the northwest corner of Tobacco Street and Elizabeth Street and in 1870 Freeborn G. Fraleigh and family moved to the house on the southwest corner. This house was the home of Mrs. Fraleigh's parents before their death and she was their heir. There was a small house on Tobacco Street where a family by the name of Kells lived for many years. The house was owned by Mary Wainwright, who lived there after the Kells family.

Another building on Tobacco Street was once used as a private school, then as a storage house by Hoffman & Co. in the manufacture of their many fine brands of smoking and chewing tobacco. Since Elizabeth Street has been extended to the Railroad Station and became Railroad Avenue, several new houses have been built.

I remember the building of the railroad and the opening of the same. I remember the first excursion run and some flat cars were used trimmed with evergreen trees. There was no regular station at the time. I was one of the large crowd who welcomed the return of the train at night. And here our wanderings end in the southeast section of our dear old village.

Our wanderings now lead us to the southwest section of the village. There I spent the balance of my life as a resident of Red Hook. The streets are as follows: running north and south, South Broadway, Church Street, Phillips Street, and Benner Street. Running East and West are West Market Street, Prince Street, now called Bank Street by many, Fraleigh Street and Garden Street.

The old Red Hook Hotel has changed some. In the old days, the bar and sitting room were on the south end of the building, but fronting to the east. On the north end was E. Teats' shoe store and on West Market Street was a store used at one time as a cigar factory and later by a Frank Beddington, who was a brother-in-law of Richard Martin, who had a meat market there. Over these two stores was a hall used as a court room and polling place for many years. Justice Paulmier and Peter M. Baum kept the Court Room busy in my boyhood days. The next building is quite new and was used by George Cramer as a meat market for many years. There used to be a public scales near this building for many years.

Next is the old Crane building, now called the Hobbs building. Dr. John improved this building very much. After Nick Hutton gave up the Barrytown stage, he had a saloon in the north end of the building. The bar was downstairs and pool and billiard tables were upstairs. I remember well 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.

Andrew Van Steenburg had a grocery store in the center division of the building and there was a meat market on the south end.

A colored man by the name of Oliver had a barber shop on the north end. Later Frank Rosell had a barber shop there, also Murray Dedrick and Frank Ellsworth of Madalin.

We now come to the Red Hook Bank. Robert L. Massonneau was president, Mr. Crouse cashier and Clarence Shook clerk in the old days. I went to the bank as a boy but I was afraid of Mr. Crouse and Mr. Shook; they seemed so stern, but everybody loved Mr. Massonneau. I remember a Mr. Ham lived in the bank building and later Gill Cole and family lived there for many years.

The next house was the home of Robert Massonneau, later home of his son, William. His other son and namesake, Robert L., is connected with the Department of Education of the City of New York and has a beautiful home on East 18th Street, New York City.

The next house was the home of Mrs. Edward Coon, mother of Mattie and John Coon, and the grandmother of the present owner of the old Armstrong Place. Miss Rose Fraleigh and her aunt also lived there, and later William Moul purchased the property and retired from his farm which was taken charge of by his son, Julius Moul.

Next was the home of John Crandell, one of the last of the old wheelwrights. Next was a small house, the home of an old lady, whose name I have forgotten. She died and the house was sold and moved to Bassett Street and remodeled for John McGill. A new house was built on this site by H. H. Conklin and the same was occupied by Will Coon and family for some years. Later D. W. Wilbur, now of Poughkeepsie, lived there for a time.

Next is the Episcopal Church. Rev. John w. Moore was rector for many years. He had an interesting family and was a very popular man.

The next place was the Armstrong place; the home of Colonel Armstrong, the brother-in-law of William B. Astor of Rokeby, Barrytown, N.Y. and father of the late James and Henry Armstrong. I remember the old Colonel and his wife well as I saw them almost daily when going to school. They lived to a good old age.

Next was the old Dutch Hoffman place, the father of Benjamin B. Hoffman, John w. Hoffman of Red Hook, George Hoffman of California and Mrs. Leonard Proper of Barrytown. Later Samuel Shook, father of Arthur and Emma Shook, owned this place. I understand that Shookville was named after Samuel Shok or his father.

On West Market Street, below the hotel, we find the John Curtis place. I remember John Curtis and his wife well¹⁴. Next on the West, on the same property, was the little school house where Miss Delia Jackson taught the primary grade.

When the primary grade was removed to the enlarged school building on South Broadway, Miss Jackson taught a private school. She made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Curtis until she went west and taught in an Indian school. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis had four children¹⁵: Legrand B., Edward, Herbert L. and Irene, who became Mrs. John A. Fraleigh. LeGrand was of the firm of J. and L. B. Curtis, and at his father's death the business became his until he lost his health.¹⁶ His son John is now running the business founded by his grandfather. Edward entered West Point after he returned from the Civil War and in time became a Major in the United States Army. Herbert was postmaster at Red Hook for several years.

¹⁴ John Curtis 1818-1879 and his English wife Jane Carter Beaumont 1816-1887

¹⁵ ...that Mr. Bassett knew of. "Edward" is Maj. Edwin Styles Curtis and there are more that died young.

¹⁶ ...his mental health. Legrand Beaumont. Curtis died 1906 in the Hudson River insane asylum.

Next was the Wagner place. A. Bassett bought same from the Wagner family in 1870, but later sold it to Mrs. Sparks, the daughter of Robert Massonneau, Sr. She was a widow with three children, Jessie, May and Clarence. Clarence died in early manhood. The daughters both married and moved away from Red Hook.

Philip Near lived in the next house in 1869 and for many years before, and for some years after. His son, Charles, succeeded Mr. Near. In 1869 A. Bassett owned and lived in the upper part the last month of 1869 and the first three months of 1870.

Church Street is next with the original Methodist Church on the opposite corner. The street was named for the church. The parsonage was next to the church and it has been the home of a long line of Methodist ministers. I remember a number of them, but as they changed every three years as a rule, the names of many have slipped from my memory. Rev. Mr. Wardell was a splendid man but owing to his age I think he only stayed in Red Hook one year and then retired and lived in Hudson. Two of his sons have a drug store on the corner of Warren and Front Street, Hudson. I knew them very well. The other ministers I remember were the Rev. Mr. Ackerly, Stevens, Evard Brush, Traver, and Crawford. The church was remodeled and enlarged about thirty years ago.

Peter Staley, son of Christopher Staley, lived in the next house and John M. Decker who had a blacksmith shop on Church Street where the church shed now stands, lived in the next house. His daughter, Emma, married William Wright and he had a son, George, who was deaf and dumb.

The Clearwater place was next. I remember old Mr. Clearwater when he carried the mail between Barrytown and Red Hook. He had a daughter who married a Mr. Thompson of New York. Later they lived in Rhinebeck. He had two sons, Charles and Webster. Webster married and lived in the house after his father's death for sometime. Later the house was sold to Captain Carnwright who rebuilt the house and lived there until his death. After the death of Mrs. Carnwright, the house was sold again.

Charles w. Massonneau lived in the next house in 1871 and for some years later. Later L. L. Stillman, who succeeded Mr. Brown as principal of the Red Hook school lived there until his death.

Next was the home of A. Allendorph. He remodeled the house in the late seventies. Robert Decker, who lived south of the village, was the contractor and Web Miller and Ike Harris of Annandale were two of his carpenters.

The next house was owned by Ann Burnett, a maiden lady, who kept boarders. One was Prof. Hizzard, a German music teacher, who was somewhat eccentric. In the early seventies, his sister and her two little boys from New York came to board for a time. One of the little boys was run over by a team in front of the house and died from his injuries. The poor mother returned to New York to bury her loved one and never returned. A Mrs. Morrison from New York came to board with Miss Burnett about 1873 and stayed for some years. She had four children, two girls and two boys. She went to Barrytown later and lived in the Robert Barringer house at the Corners.

The next house was the home of Alonzo Ring for a time and of George Shoemaker of Barrytown and a Mr. Grubb of Annandale before the place was bought by Mrs. Hermance, the widow of Edward Hermance, who kept the hotel at Johnstown, Columbia Co. (Livingston, P.O.) for some years. Mrs. Hermance had three daughters and three sons; one daughter, Mrs. William Burnett, still lives in Red Hook.

The next house on the corner of West Market and Phillips Street was built by William Phillips who lived there until 1871. He was a contractor and had a large carpenter shop and a sash and

blind factory on the corner of Phillips and Prince Street. The machinery in the factory was run by a form of horse power composed of a very large wheel with an axle; one end of the axle turned in a socket on the ground and the other end, which was the longest, went through the upper floor of the building where there were cog wheels. When one or two horses were hitched to the big wheel and went around and around, the cogs set the machinery in motion, if the belts were properly arranged. Mr. Phillips sold his house and other property to A. Bassett in 1871.

Peter Troy, father of John Troy, one time postmaster of Red Hook and later the manager of the Red Hook Telephone Co., and of Peter Troy of Poughkeepsie and Barrytown, lived in this house for some months in 1871 until a new house on Fisk Street was finished when he moved and lived there for some years.

There was a ten acre lot between Phillips and Benner Streets. The Group house stood on the corner of West Market and Benner Streets. Nicholas Group had a truck farm and his son, James, lived in the same house and helped his father work the farm. James' son, Harris L. Group, who was born there in 1876 was named after our good Dr. Cookingham who then was a young man.

We now go to Prince and Phillips Street where stood the factory and carpenter shop built by William Phillips. In 1874 A. Bassett had all the buildings removed and built a new house there. Later he sold the Phillips house on West Market to a retired lumber merchant from Rensselaer, N.Y. and moved to the new house he built on the corner of Phillips and Prince Streets. The last house he built on Fisk Street was the tenth house he built while a resident of Red Hook.

The first house fronting on Prince St. was the Phillip E. Coon house. Mr. Coon was a teamster and had a large family of six boys and six girls. In 1876 they moved to Snyder's Corners, North Germantown. The next house was the home of Walter Shafer who was killed in the tobacco factory in the early seventies. The next house was a tenant house. The first one I remember living there was Tom Fraleigh and family and later Charles Husted, a carpenter, lived there for several years.

The next house was the home of Miles Cookingham, the grandfather of Theodore Cookingham and the great grandfather of the Supervisor of the town. He was also a distant relative of our good doctor¹⁷. He lived there with the second Mrs. Cookingham who had no children but was a great homebody. When she was eighty-six she said that she had never been on a railroad train. The next house was the home of Sam and Eugene Ten Broeck.

Next was the Ham place, the home of the parents of Levi, John, Davis, Jim, George and Charles Ham and Mrs. John A. Shafer. Next was David Kipp's home. There were three boys and five girls in the family. Martin Kipp is the only one living in Red Hook at present. David Ham lived next and the next house was a tenant house but Wesley Myers lived there in 1888 at the time of the great blizzard. He was the only one in the village that came near keeping his sidewalk open; the streets were closed for three days.

Julius Kipp and his mother lived on the corner of Prince and Church Streets. On the north side of Prince Street, west and south of the Methodist property was the first house on the street. It was built by a colored man by the name of Prince, hence the name of the street. The next and only other house on the north side of the street in the old days was the Bugler house on the corner (northeast) of Prince and Church Streets. Opposite, on the south side of the street was the Mary Straut house. She lived there with her mother for many years and was well able to take care of the place. Later Peter Allendorph retired from his farm and bought the property.

¹⁷ Dr. Harris Llewellyn Cookingham 1850-1932

Next was the Saulpaugh home. At the time of the big fire on this street, the house was cut down to prevent the spread of the fire. The new house, erected in place of the one cut down, is now the home of Charles Saulpaugh, one of his sons. Edward Saulpaugh, his twin brother, now lives in Rhinebeck, I believe.

The Martin Ostrander house was burned as was the next place, the David W. Kipp house, with the large carpenter shop and the other buildings. At the time of the fire, the large building was being used as a livery stable by John Ingles. A can of glue boiled over on a hot stove one afternoon during the momentary absence of Mr. Ingles, causing the fire which destroyed the livery stable and four houses and but for favorable winds and the hard work of over a hundred men, would have been far more destructive. This fire brought about the incorporation of the village and the fire protection of the present time. The fire house stands where the fire originated.

In the old days Prince Street ended where the fire house stands but later it was extended to South Broadway between the bank and the Crane buildings. Both buildings were built before the extension of the street, hence the street is narrow where it connects with South Broadway. The name Bank has been used for the street but Prince was its name before the bank was built.

Next is Fraleigh Street, better known as Gil Fraleigh Street, named for Peter Gilbert Fraleigh¹⁸, who developed this part of the village by selling a large part of his farm as building lots. The balance of his farm was owned of late years by the late Daniel Van de Bogart. From South Broadway, the first house fronting on Fraleigh Street was the home of James McCarthy and the next one was the home of a cigarmaker by the name of Strichtcote. Later Sandy Osterhout bought this place and lived there for some years. Next was the Nick Hutton place. Mr. Hutton ran the stage between Red Hook and Barrytown Station in the early seventies and Will Hobbs drove the stage at that time. Later Mr. Hutton had a saloon in the Crane building.

Next on the south side was the Peter Hapeman place, later owned by Martin Kipp. I remember when the Henry Miller house was built.

Next on the corner of Fraleigh and Phillips Streets was the E. Hutton place. Mr. Hutton sold same to Emmett Horton and bought the Sparks place on West Market Street.

Back to the corner of Fraleigh and Church Streets was the Proper home. I remember the old folks well. The boys were Len, Ed, Matt, Walter (Hooker), and Charles. There were two girls; one married Martin Lasher who used to keep a hotel at Upper Red Hook some years ago and the other married but I fail to remember who.

Next was Jacob I. Coon's home. Mr. Coon had been interested in various enterprises, from farming to the undertaking business. The next house is new and was built by David Ostrander but later it was owned by Edward Massonneau who rented same to various tenants in the passing years. The next house was the home of Mrs. Andrew Fraleigh and her two children. Andrew Fraleigh was killed in the Civil War. Frank Paulmier, son of Justice Paulmier, was beside him when he fell.

On the northeast corner of Fraleigh and Phillips Streets was the Reuben Traver place. Mr. Traver was a very old resident. On the northwest corner, fronting on Phillips Street, was a house. I remember several parties who lived there. A Mr. Finger from Germantown was one of the number. He kept the meat market at one time. Later Jacob Straut bought the house on the northwest corner and lived there for several years.

The house where Mr. Jaycox lived was one owned by Loren Shook. He went farming and later owned the Sipperly farm south of Red Hook. Sim Clark and his son, Charles, lived in that

¹⁸ Peter Gilbert Fraleigh 1813-1895, grandson of Johan P. Frolich 1720-1792.

house in 1875 and in 1876 they moved to the farm just this side of the Fraleigh school house. The next house was the home of Edward Baxter and family.

The next house was built by Mans Fredenburg who sold it to someone and later John Heynes bought same. The next house was sold by the builder and it was bought by Louis Smith, father of Everett Smith, and he lived there until he bought the Spurr place on East Market Street. James Group bought this house from Mr. Smith and Mrs. Group still lives there.

Peter Rynders built the next house and lived there many years until his death. The next house was built by Beekman Rynders, a brother of Peter, but he only lived there for a time and then it became a tenant house.

Bill Kipp built the next house and it may still be in the family. Bill was the son of David W. Kipp the carpenter and was one himself. The last house in the row was owned by James Ahern, who was a coachman for William B. Astor at Rokeby, just south of Barrytown. Later Mr. Ahern secured a position with the Federal Government which he held for many years until he retired. James M. Corrigan of Rhinecliff, his brother-in-law, now owns the place.

In the old days there were only three houses on Garden Street. Ezra Myers' house on the west end, the John McCory house, near Phillips Street, and the Peter Wagner house on the southeast corner of Garden and Phillips Streets. Later the Charles Proper house was built; this is now the home of his daughter, Mrs. Lottie Albrecht. The next house was a tenant house and owned by John Thompson. Later Oscar Stickle bought it. Other houses have been built and the street has been cut through to South Broadway.

Church Street had a few houses fronting on same. On the east side was the George Ham house; next the Jacob Hutton house where Campbell Hicks lived. Next was the Stephen Burnett house, later owned by James Shaver and next was the Hobbs house, the home of Mrs. Hobbs and her three children, Will, John and Ida. There was another daughter who died after a long illness. And Mrs. Nick Hutton was another.

The house on the corner of Church and Fraleigh Streets was a tenant house. A family by the name of Horn lived there before he moved out of town and I remember others. The next house was built by Daniel Van de Bogart, some time before he moved to Bassett Street. The next house was where our editor and his twin sister were born.

On the west side the home of Stephen Kipp stood between Prince Street and Fraleigh Street. Steve was with the Red Hook meat market for many years. owners came and owners would go, but Steve was still on the job. He peddled the Barrytown route a long time and was very popular with everyone. He died early in life.

The next house was at the corner of Church and Garden Streets. I don't recall who built it, but Andrew Van Steenburgh owned it for a time before he moved to Schenectady. There was another house south of this one in the old days where Jerry Coon, and a brother of Jacob I. Coon, lived for a time. Later it was moved to Garden Street.

Phillips Street ran from West Market Street to Charlie's Pond that had been made by Charles Massonneau, and the boys and girls, both old and young, had a good time skating when skating was good. Benner Street had three houses fronting on same at one time. The two on the end of the ten acre lot have been removed; the third was on the corner of Benner and Garden Street. Emmett Kilmer lived there fifty years ago. Many houses have been added to this section of the village in the last fifty years and many have been improved.

Our wanderings now bring us to the last section of the dear old village. Hemmed in on the north by the Martin estate, west by the Timpson place, it had little or no room for expansion, but it did grow in the last fifty years, thanks to the enterprise of our old friend, Benjamin F. Gedney. The streets are few and are as follows: North Broadway, West Market Street, St. John Street,

and Linden Avenue. The owners of the land north of the end of Church Street would do well if they would open Church Street through their land as far north as the Martin place at least and sell building lots on both sides of the street. That could be made a beautiful residential section and there would be room for a dozen or more houses. This would bring the houses in the village limits, and not beyond same as are some of the new places on the north side and the south side of the village.

The Gedney building on the corner of North Broadway and West Market Street was new in 1871, but I do not recall when it was built. I remember the hall over the store, and a saloon in the basement, and I remember when they changed the hall into rooms for city boarders. I also remember when Mr. Gedney built the row of stores on West Market Street. At first they had an archway to drive to the rear of the buildings but that has been closed. There used to be several small wooden buildings that were used for business purposes on the north side of West Market Street in the old days, but they were, one by one, replaced by larger and better buildings. Stephen R. Burnett and George Near had a carpenter shop on the rear of his part of the property. For some years this has been a cooper shop. The Burnett building has been enlarged.

Next was the Dayton place. A. Dayton was a watchmaker and he had the new business. His son, Charles Dayton, was a fine young man and built up the business, but death claimed him too early in life. H. P. Schaeffer succeeded Charles Dayton in the business and he did well for a time. He married a sister of A. Dayton and her health was so poor and other reverses came, so he moved to Brooklyn. George Becker had a blacksmith shop next to Dayton's but that building is now a dwelling place.

The next building was built by Peter Miller for a hardware, tin and stove store, but it did not prove a success and he moved to Ancram where he did better. This building has now been converted into dwelling apartments.

The home on the corner of West Market and Church Streets was built by Norman Kilmer, but later Andrew Gedney bought same and lived there for many years until his death.

The next three houses are quite new and were built by Ely Collins, George Aucock, and Dr. Carroll. The Crouse house on Linden Avenue is also new. They formerly lived on West Market Street in the house Mr. Crouse bought from Mr. Charles W. Massonneau. L. L. Stillman bought the place after the death of Mr. Crouse.

Linden Avenue was built by William Chamberlin and given in exchange for the street he was permitted to close. That street was opposite Phillips Street and ran through the Chamberlin place to the Chamberlin bridge, the same as Linden Avenue goes but it was too near the big house to please Mrs. Chamberlin. I remember William Chamberlin, Sr. very well. He was very stout and had a little low basket phaeton to ride in going about his large estate and going about the village. His daughter, Mary, was a very kind-hearted lady and had many calls on her charity and was often imposed on. When Mr. Chamberlin died he left his daughter only a yearly income, in spite of the fact she had sacrificed her young life to remain with her father in his old age. It was said at the time he was afraid she would give away the money if she had control of same. William Chamberlin, Sr. was a poor boy and sold oranges on the streets of New York. He was a great Democrat in politics and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1860 at Charleston, S. C. when the party split and he helped nominate Stephen A. Douglas. He was a candidate for Congress from the Dutchess and Columbia District in 1860 but was defeated. He drove a team of valuable horses to Upper Red Hook to a town meeting in the old days; it was such a terrible cold day that the horses went blind.

I remember James Reilly the coachman; William Aucock, the gardner, and Charles Heynes and his brother John, the herdsman, who were in charge of the large flock of imported merino sheep they had on the place over fifty years ago.

On the death of his father, William Chamberlin, Jr. inherited the place but he died suddenly a few years later and the place was divided into three parts and sold. Mr. Chamberlin had a brother Warren, but he was killed in the Civil War. Theodore Timpson, a friend of Mr. Chamberlin, bought the big house which is called Maiseland.

Back to the Gedney house on the corner of North Broadway and West Market Street. This is one of the oldest buildings in the village and was formerly owned by William DuBois, a bachelor, and a very interesting man, who had lived in many places and seen much of life. A Mary Dixon was his housekeeper at Red Hook. After his death Miss Dixon moved to Johnstown, Columbia County, where she lived for many years.

The next house on North Broadway was Doctor Benedict's; I remember him well as he vaccinated me in 1870. He died a couple of years later from an infection of black erysipelas and was greatly missed. Mrs. Benedict was a Miss Newcomb before her marriage and her father and mother lived with her in this house for many years after. The next place was a tenant house and many different families lived there.

Next was the Sumner Curtis place¹⁹. Mr. Curtis was connected with the coal and lumber business at Barrytown. I remember when he remodeled his house and when his daughter died, which was a hard blow to the father and mother.

Next was the home of Clarence Shook, the Clerk of the Red Hook Bank. His mother and sister lived with him. Miss Libbie Shook was a dressmaker in the old days. Later she married Edward Parsons. William Aucock, the, old gardner for William Chamberlin, bought the place and it is still in the Aucock family.

Next were two tenant houses owned at one time by Howard Ellsworth. The next house was the home of Dr. Benedict's parents and sister.

Next was the beautiful home of John w. Hoffman. I remember when it was built; they were living on East Market Street at the time. Mr. Hoffman was a sterling business man in his day. At the time of his death, he was connected with Hoffman & Co., the tobacco manufacturers and also the shipping business at Slate Dock, Rhinebeck. He was a big hearted man and a friend of the poor. He had eight children, six boys and two girls. The boys were William, Allen, George, Horace A., Otis, and Robert. The girls, Margaret and a younger one, Harriet, who was never in good health. Both girls died in girlhood and Otis died in boyhood. All the rest grew to manhood and entered business but at present only two, Horace A. and Robert are living; all the rest have passed to the great beyond as have the great majority of the friends of my youth.

The next house was built by Doctor Bates and was the first of the three to be built. Next is the Robert B. Hevenor home. These three houses were a great addition to Red Hook.

Next is the Martin Homestead. The house was built in 1776 and on July 4, 1876 there was quite a celebration of the event. They fired the old cannon, now owned and controlled by the Democratic Party of the town, there and they fired a salute of one hundred guns. The place is still in the Martin family.

I now turn to St. John Street, so named because John St. John built the first house on the street. Later a Mr. Duntz, father of Mrs. George Near, built another. Mr. Gedney who did so much to develop this part of the village built another and sold it to John Ham on an easy payment plan. At the time of the big fire on Prince Street over two blocks away, the family locked

¹⁹ This might be Sumner/Summers Curtis, son of John Curtis 1758-1814 and Eunice Summers.

up the house to go and see the fire. While absent, the sparks were carried by the wind and dropped on the roof of this house, and when discovered it was too late to save it and only part of the contents could be saved. Mr. Ham did not rebuild but bought the Henry Thompson house on East Market Street.

My wanderings are now over as I have in spirit visited each street and each building and house of the old days. What I have written has been wholly from memory, as I have used no diary or records of any kind. Many other things I would have written of had I remembered them at the right time and many other things that my memory called to mind, were passed over because I thought it better so. I hope I have not wearied any of my readers by my ramblings. I will now dream awhile of other things I see in my mind's eye.

One is the military company that used to drill on the streets of Red Hook and were made up of the citizens of the town. We used to have a band formed before or about the beginning of the Civil War. They adopted a gray uniform before the Rebels did and were very sorry for it. This band was in the fire at Washington Hollow County Fair and John Gray's horses were burned. Some years later there was another Red Hook band which lasted some years. In the old days Red Hook had a ball club that won many laurels. A. Allendorph was the pitcher and in those days, they pitched the ball; they did not throw it as they do now. Edward²⁰ Curtis, who in after years as a Major in the United States Army, was the catcher. They won games from many noted clubs of the day.

The great revival meetings held in the Methodist Church about 60 years ago made quite a stir in this part of the town. I remember the funeral of Henry Staats as it passed through the village to the Lutheran Cemetery. It was the greatest line of carriages I ever expect to see.

We had great town meetings in the old days when about twelve hundred men would gather to see who would be the town officers for the following year. It was like the gathering of the clans when the Knights of the different sections would meet to see who were the best men. There were no blue ribbons given in these contests, but black eyes were handed out sometimes. Those days have passed and the many polling places make our elections a time of peace and not of turmoil.

In 1884 on May 9th we had a heavy frost and fruit and gardens were badly damaged and the grape crop of the Hudson Valley was cut off entirely. It was said at the time that we had a heavy fog on the 29th of February but I cannot verify that story. In the latter eighties we had three consecutive winters that were very cold with over a hundred days of sleighing each winter.

I have written North and South Broadway, but properly speaking Broadway covers from the South line of the village to the North line without the prefix of North or South. Red Hook has improved very much in the last fifty years. A few of the old houses have disappeared and some of the old ones have been remodeled and a great many new ones built. All the business places have been enlarged and improved. It has become a center for the automobile trade. It has some of the finest stores in the country and one of the best banks and a little newspaper to be proud of and for hotels, inns, boarding houses and restaurants, they all have a fine reputation.

The chocolate factory and the milk station, both near the railroad station, have added greatly to the business section and the apple packing plant and the proposed cold storage plant have been and will be of great benefit to business in general. All the churches have been rebuilt or remodeled and now another is being added to the number. Let us hope all will be well filled each according to their choice. The school has made wonderful progress, and it is to be hoped that

²⁰ Edwin

the young people will appreciate the advantages they now enjoy and make good and work for a bigger, better and happier Red Hook.