

The

# Courier

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

of the

Lansingburgh Historical Society

December, 2014

## Best Wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season

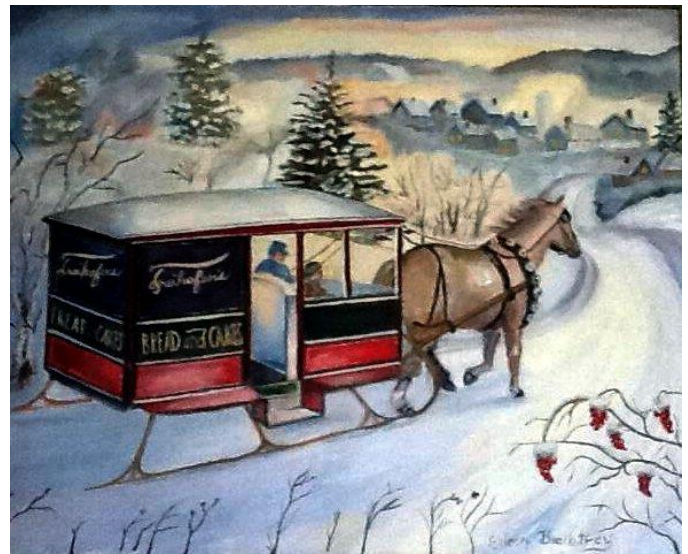
From the Trustees of the Lansingburgh Historical Society

### From the President

As 2014 comes to a close I reflect on the many good things the Historical Society has enjoyed and the challenges that 2015 will bring.

The **Cemeteries Project** has accomplished a lot because of the diligent attention and hard work of John Ward with the help of Chris Philipo. The survey of stones will be finished before the end of November. The data has been organized for the production of the map for the east section of the Village Burying Ground. Two very attractive signs were made and mounted for the Village Burying Ground and the Old Catholic Burying Ground. The 49 Veterans Administration stones are nearly all placed in the ground. Fourteen will be placed next spring. A common area was created in the south end of the old roadway (once part of Fourth Ave.) where stones for Lansingburgh veterans who have no family stones have been placed. Those with family stones in LVBG have the stone placed with their families. A collection of digital photos of all readable stones has been created and is being updated. Each is being identified by surname, given

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From a painting by Ms. Eileen Bleibtry

### From Col. 1

name and vital dates so that inquiries can be answered with a picture as well as the location of the stone. The photos have been supplied by John Connors, David Marsh, Bob Gang, Chris Philipo, Jenn Parnell and John Ward. One veteran stone was found not to belong in LVBG when genealogical research revealed his family was interred in Pomfret, Vermont. John and Chris delivered the Abiel Bugbee stone for placement with family.

**GREATER FREAR DAYS**

A SPECIAL PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE EVENT... WITH HUNDREDS OF TIMELY GIFTS FOR THE FAMILY & THE HOME AT HOME. BOTTOM PRICES! SHOP EVERY DEPARTMENT FOR OUTSTANDING SAVINGS... S.A.H. GREEN STAMPS, TOO.

**OPEN EVERY NIGHT 'TIL CHRISTMAS 10 to 9 P.M.**

<p><b>SALE OF SAMPLE JEWELRY</b></p> <p>40% off manufacturer's list prices!</p> <p>30% to 50% off</p> <p>Regularly 1.00 to 9.95</p> <p>Free's Jewelry, Main Floor</p>	<p><b>MEN'S NATIONALLY ADVERTISED INITIALED HANDECHIEFS</b></p> <p>Reg. \$2. -- \$1.00</p> <p>Reg. \$3. -- 1.50</p> <p>1/2 price</p> <p>Free's Men's Wear, Street Floor</p>	<p><b>LILLY RACHE' FILL FASHIONED HOSIERY</b></p> <p>Regularly 1.35 pr.</p> <p>88¢</p> <p>Free's Hosiery, Main Floor</p>
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In 2015 we will hope to do the stone survey and mapping of the Old Catholic Burying Ground. Until this year we were aware of only one veteran stone in that cemetery. Dave Marsh has done some research based on old reports of Civil War veterans whose stones were issued for placement in OCBG during the early 1930's. There were many Irish

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volunteers and conscripts who served in the US Civil War. It seemed reasonable that there should be more than one Civil War veteran among those buried. You will hear more about our work in the OCBG during the coming year.



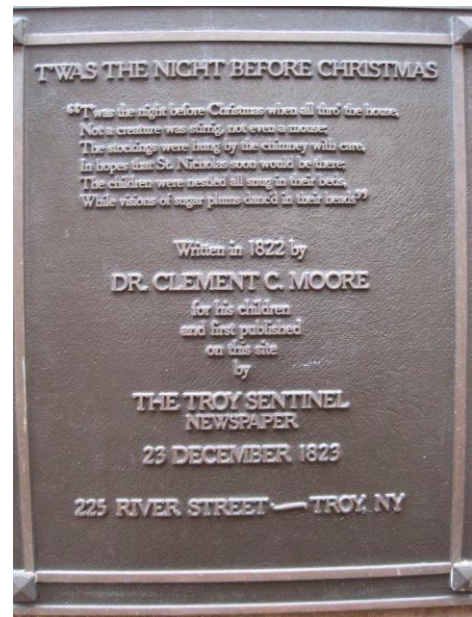
2015 will be the **Fiftieth Anniversary** of the Lansingburgh Historical Society. The trustees have decided to center 2015 events and programs on an anniversary theme. Watch the February edition of the *Courier* for the details. A program to recognize and honor Chester Arthur, 21<sup>st</sup> President of the United States is planned. Arthur was the son of a Baptist minister and lived here with his family as a young adult. He taught briefly at the Lansingburgh Academy. We will have the first tour of Lansingburgh homes in 2015. If you like our calendar photos of doors, wait till you see the houses behind those doors. In September, we plan to do a rededication of the Lansingburgh Village Burying Ground. The Burgh is justly proud of the many early citizens of the community and we plan to remember them and the veterans of the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and the US Civil War. Open House at Melville House will be held the second Saturday of March through November.

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## Cornelius Lansing

Abraham Jacob Lansing, the founder of Lansingburgh, had three sons by most accounts. Cornelius was the youngest. Jacob the oldest and Livinus the middle son. Catherine Leversee Lansing was the mother of all three. One family history indicated there may have been a fourth son of Abraham Jacob Lansing, John A. Lansing. His mother was Elizabeth Cooper.

Cornelius was a young man in his twenties when the hostilities which became the Revolution began. In October 1775 he was commissioned Captain and appointed to the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Albany County Militia “in the district of Manor Rensselaerwyck” by the Provincial Congress of New York. It was the practice for militia units to be appointed within the place of residence and at the time Cornelius lived in New City (Lansingburgh). Other units were raised in New City and other parts of Rensselaerwyck. Captain commissions were given to Christopher Tillman, George Sharp, Caleb Bentley and Jacob DeFrest. All five Captains served under Colonel Stephen Schuyler. Henry VanRensselaer was Lt. Colonel and Joseph Wager of New City was a Captain. He was also Capt. Lansing’s First Lieutenant. A weekly return dated July 13, 1777 shows Cornelius’ company had 36 men.



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**From Pg. 2, Col. 1**

Sometimes the Open House will have another event going on at the same time. Herman Melville's birthday will be celebrated with Dr. Laurie Robertson-Lorant as the guest speaker. We plan to repeat the Champlain Canal Cruise and the Clamsteam, two of the most popular events we have ever attempted.

Among the accomplishments in 2014 has been the completion of the safety rehabilitation of the front porch and steps at Melville House. People began complimenting the work even before the paint was dry. If you haven't seen it, take a look.

The historical society is dependent on donations for its survival. We get nothing in the way of support from NY State, the US or local government. Grants for historical society projects are competitive and very difficult to qualify for or receive. We are extremely grateful for the many donations we received this year. The **Golub Foundation** (Price Chopper, Market 32 and Market Bistro) was one of our benefactors. In addition there were numerous donations from Open House patrons, from two "classes" of visiting seniors, from a few people who saw the fine work being done in the cemeteries, from patrons of our genealogical service and many others. Thank you all for your expressions of support. LHS has a 501c3 designation by the IRS. Any donation made is tax deductible. **December is the month when many people make cash donations** to their favorite charity. We hope that you will choose to remember the good work LHS does in spreading the word about the Burgh, its people and history. Thank you all for thinking of us. You may send donations to Lansingburgh Historical Society, PO Box 219, Troy, NY 12182-0219.

Have you considered giving a **gift membership** in the Lansingburgh Historical Society to a friend or relative who might enjoy our programs, has an interest in our cemeteries, our Burgh ancestors, our local history or genealogy of an early local family? See the rates on the membership page. Follow

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**From Pg. 2, Col. 2**

One of the first operations ordered from New City on Sept. 10, 1777 was to seize the livestock of persons "absent from their plantations", presumably Loyalists who had fled the area after they refused to support and declare allegiance to the colonial cause. Troops were ordered to march to "the northernmost boundaries of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck and to proceed southward, and all such persons you shall find absent from their plantations, you are to drive their horses, horned cattle, sheep and hoggs to the pasture of Dirick VanDerHeyden". They were further ordered to "take care and dispose of your men in parties in such a manner as to prevent as much as possible any cattle slipping your notice or drove off to the enemy". The order is signed by Flous Bancker and Myndert Roseboom, Commissioners for the Middle District of Albany County. Thus the beginning of the order to seize the property and goods of those not loyal to the cause. The Middle District was the area under the control of Col. Stephen Schuyler.

In a deposition given in Rensselaer County Court by James Wool in Oct. 1845 he describes his memory of Capt. Cornelius Lansing's service in the Revolutionary War. James Wool was from Schaghticoke and an ancestor of Gen. John Ellis Wool whose massive obelisk in Oakwood Cemetery overlooks the Burgh and the playing fields of Lansingburgh (Knickerbacker) Junior-Senior High School and the Rensselaer Park Elementary School. Wool deposes that Capt. Lansing spent six weeks building roads in the area around Fort Ann in 1778. He also describes Lansing's service in the Schoharie Valley and at Fort Hunter in Montgomery County on the north shore of the Mohawk River. The deposition was in support of the application of the Cornelius Lansing children, asserting their rights as survivors of their father who had died three years earlier.

Abraham J. Lansing had offered lots for sale in the new community which he had established in what became Lansingburgh. The advertising was done in

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the directions supplying the name and other information for the person to receive the gift. Need more? Just dry copy the form. We will acknowledge the gift membership to the person you name. Also be sure to indicate your name when you send the request.

We still have a great need for **volunteers to help with the general upkeep of the Melville House and grounds**. If you can sweep the porch, change a bulb, wash windows, lay out seating for an event, help clean up after an event, move furniture, help with some gardening and do miscellaneous household care duties, please get in touch. We also need **volunteers to help with the rededication of the Village Burying Ground**. This might involve some research and writing, some planning activities, writing letters, etc. Email the secretary at [lhssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:lhssecretary@gmail.com) or leave a message at (518) 235-3501 or call any trustee.

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## Cornelius Lansing

From Pg. 3, Col. 2

New England and many buyers came to the area to settle from Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. One need only look at the veteran stones in Lansingburgh Village Burying Ground to get an idea where these people came from. Abraham Lansing established a local council to govern the community and the names of all of his sons are among those who were active in council affairs from 1772 through 1775. In the same period you also see the names of others of those who became veterans of the Revolutionary War such as Tillman, Hoogland, Noble, Spotten, Gorham, Chase, Cogswell, and many others. They came here, established businesses, served in governance and then contributed to the war effort. At war's end, they returned to civilian life, their families, businesses, and their responsibilities as citizens of New City. In 1790 the NY Legislature appointed several of these veterans, including Levinus Lansing, trustees "of that part of the town of Rensselaerwyck commonly called Lansingburgh."

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Rensselaer County was formed out of part of Albany County in 1791. The legislature chose Troy to be the county seat and in 1793 authorized the building of a courthouse and jail. Cornelius Lansing was among those chosen to "superintend" the building of the court house. In 1791, the first supervisor of the Town of Troy (which included Lansingburgh) became Cornelius Lansing. He served in that post through 1799. Cornelius had been a Highway Commissioner for the town as well as its Town Clerk. All three Lansing brothers served on the board which started the first library in the Burgh in 1795. Cornelius served on the commission which convened the revision of the New York State Constitution in 1801. All of this time he was conducting a business with Elisha Alvord on a corner of State Street (Second Ave.) and Richard Street (118<sup>th</sup>) Streets. In April 1801, the Legislature defined the Village of Lansingburgh which included the northeast corner of the Cornelius Lansing farm. So the official community of Lansingburgh began.

Cornelius and Hester VanDerHeyden Lansing had eight children. Hester died in 1803 and Cornelius passed in 1842. Originally, they were interred in the Lansing Family Burial Ground which was located SW of the intersection of 109<sup>th</sup> Street and Second Avenue, near where the Lansing village home was located. That burial ground no longer exists. Their graves are now in Section F, Lot 206 in Oakwood Cemetery. Two later wives of Cornelius, Rebecca (d. 1822) and Elizabeth (d. 1839) are in the same lot. His son, the Reverend Dirck C. Lansing and a daughter Hester Lansing Seymour are also there. The information on these graves is from Frances Broderick, *The Burial Grounds of Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York, 1965*.

*David Marsh*



## Then & Now

### 499 Second Avenue



**Augustus Filley House**

This building, constructed around 1770, was originally the home of Augustus Filley. In the 1800's Filley tin ware was made and decorated (painted) here. At that time, Second Avenue was known as King Street and 113<sup>th</sup> Street was called Hoosick.



Later, 499 Second Ave. was an inn and a tavern. It was at one time known as the Cohoes Tavern. Establishments in Cohoes closed very early in the evening so the patrons came to Lansingburgh. One of the LHS member's grandfather, Julius Saerig, can be seen standing on the steps in the doorway.



In later years, 499 Second Avenue hosted a number of different restaurants. Many of us dined here when it was the Old Daley Inn, the 499 House or MJ's on the Avenue.



Today, 499 Second Avenue has opened and is operating as Collar City Animal Hospital.

*Kathleen De Rosa*



# Lansingburgh Historical Society

Our membership year begins on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Those joining in January, February or March extend their membership through the next membership year. Consider upgrading your regular membership to a sustaining membership or either of those to a life membership. Encourage friends to join. Regular Membership \$15/year, Sustaining Membership \$40/year, Life Membership \$150/year, Senior/Student Membership \$5/year, Professional/Corporate Membership \$200/year.

Donations are always welcome! **Rates effective 1 July, 2014.**

**Name----- Phone-----**

**Mailing Address----- City----- Zip-----**

**Email-----**

**Regular----- Sustaining----- Life----- Senior/Student----- Prof./Corp.----- Donation-----**

**Send to Lansingburgh Historical Society PO Box 219 Troy, New York 12182-0219**

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