

Rhinebeck: Transition in 1799

by Nancy V. Kelly

Valuable tax rolls filed in 1799 were recently discovered when the State Treasurer's office turned over some boxes of early documents to the New York State Archives. Coupled with the existence of detailed maps of the Town of Rhinebeck, prepared in 1798, they offer an unusual opportunity to study the conditions which existed in Rhinebeck at the end of the 18th century. While the 17th century had been characterized by settlement and the establishment of communities, the following would be a time of agricultural prosperity and economic development. The transition between the two periods offers useful insights into the past.

The tax list enables one to observe the economic status of Rhinebeck residents via brief descriptions of their property. This information, augmented by the maps drawn by surveyor Alexander Thompson, locate many of the larger estates, as well as the inns, landings, and mills which played an important role in the social and economic conditions in the town.

Tax rolls were prepared in conjunction with a bill which was passed in the New York State Legislature in 1798, requiring that all freemen be assessed for both personal and real property and then taxed at the rate of one percent. Although most census and earlier tax lists were prepared according to the area in which an individual was living, indicating neighboring property holders and providing a

framework for understanding the settlement patterns, the 1799 tax list does not exhibit such a system. The accompanying list (see Table I) shows the manner in which the tax roll is presented with the addition of consecutive numbers to aid in identifying individuals. The names are neither listed in order of place of residence nor of value of property. A study of the location of the names of Overseers of the Highways for 1799 as listed in the assessment roll reveals many located on the first page. Therefore the tax rolls do not seem to be prepared according to the system discussed by local historian, William Mc Dermott in a study of early census records.¹

TABLE I
TOWN OF RHINEBECK
TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL, 1799
CONSECUTIVE LISTING

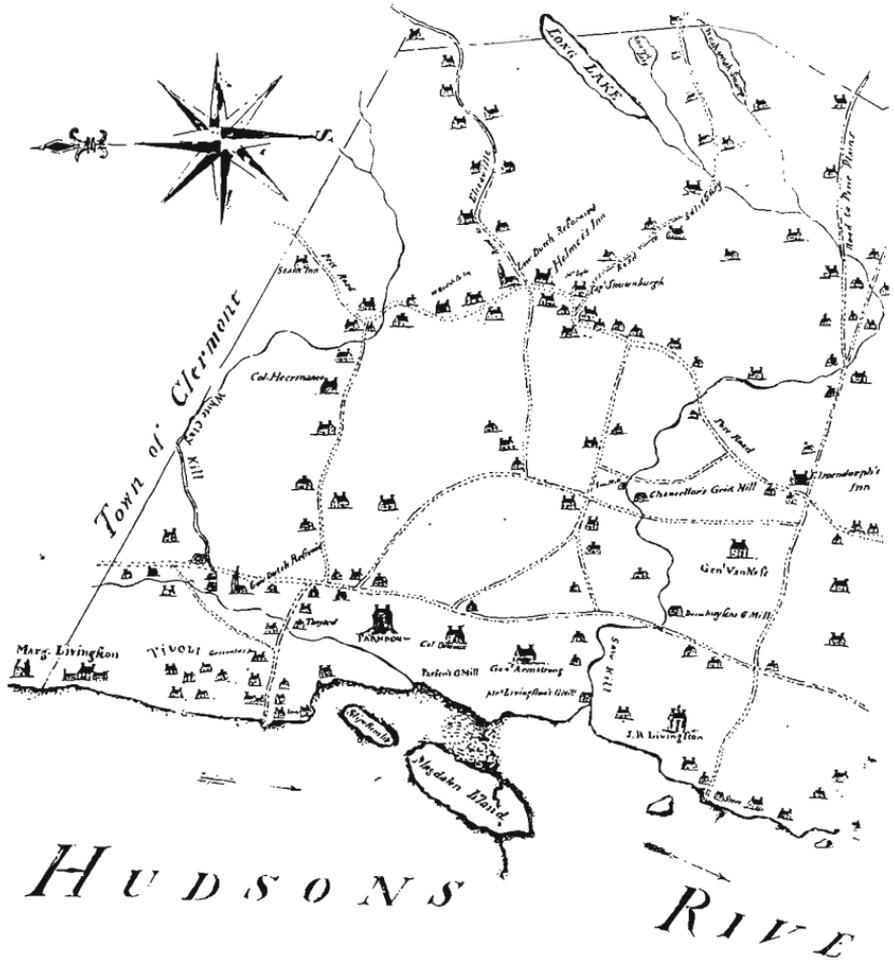
NUMBER	POSSESSOR	DESCRIPTION	REAL VALUE	PERS VALUE	TAX
1	Thomas Tillotson	house, farm & mill	6350.00	4300.00	10.65
2	Philip J. Schuyler	house & farm	7500.00	6234.00	13.82
3	Robert Sands	house & farm	5760.00	5899.00	11.65
4	Janet Montgomery	house & farm	3138.00	4378.00	7.81
5	David Van Ness	house & farm	10000.00	2525.00	14.45
6	John R. Livingston	house & farm	19460.00	2241.00	21.70
7	Henry R. Livingston	house & farm	8525.00	6000.00	14.52
8	Henry G. Livingston	house & farm	10435.00	2693.00	13.12
9	Philip H. Livingston	house & farm	6186.00	640.00	6.82
10	C.V. Andrew Devaux	house & farm	9100.00	3220.00	12.32
11	Jaspar Parsons	house & farm	13860.00	3304.00	17.16
12	Andrew Hermance	house & farm	5260.00	1485.00	6.74
13	Capt. J. Bergh	house & lot	240.00	1212.00	1.45
14	John Schultz	house, farm & store	3162.00	4893.00	8.05
15	Cornelius C. Elmendorph			1192.00	1.19
16	Peter Cantine, Jun.	house & lot	3350.00	1526.00	4.87
17	Peter Tenbrook Myers			792.00	0.79
18	Arthur H. Roorbach			899.00	0.89
19	Jacob Mowl	house & farm	3160.00	771.00	3.93
20	Andrew & Gerrit Kip	house & farm	4461.00	913.00	5.37
21	Henry Pells	house & farm	3690.00	693.00	4.38
22	Widow Lany Hoffman	house & farm	2210.00	601.00	2.81
23	David Pulver	house & farm	1900.00	966.00	2.86
24	John Armstrong	house & farm	6600.00	1482.00	8.08
25	William Radcliff, Jun.	house & farm	4385.00	392.00	4.77
26	Peter Delabigarre	house & farm	5450.00	272.00	5.72
27	Capt. John Staats	house & farm	1280.00	640.00	1.92
28	Henry Shop	house & farm	3270.00	2144.00	5.41
29	Aaron Camp	house & farm	1590.00	868.00	2.45
30	Zachariah Smith	house & farm	840.00	120.00	0.96
31	Isaac Stoutenburgh, Jun.	house & farm	3150.00	516.00	3.66
32	Gotlop & John Martin	house, farm & mill	2355.00	0357.00	2.69

33	Garret B. Van Ness	house & farm	870.00	390.00	1.26
34	David Brooks	house & farm	1550.00	282.00	1.83
35	Richard C. Ham	house & farm	1850.00	1672.00	3.52
↓					
530	Cornelius J. Elmendorph	house & farm	4792.00	518.00	5.31
531	John Masten			192.00	0.19
532	Jeremyah Nier			85.00	0.08
533	Jacob & Anthony Straat	house & farm	1060.00	82.00	1.14
534	Anthony Straat, Jun.			64.00	0.06
535	Margret Pink			74.00	0.07
536	Ann VanBenthuyssen	house & farm	1060.00	608.00	1.66
537	Anthony Lewis	house & lott	30.00	40.00	0.07
538	Anthony Straat	house & farm	3080.00	218.00	3.29
539	Herman Witbeck	house & farm	720.00	364.00	1.08
540	Thomas L. Cumble			412.00	0.41
541	Nathaniel Miller			188.00	0.18
542	William Currie			42.00	0.04
543	Hendrick Clumb	house & lott	130.00		0.13
544	Peter Heermance	house & lott	130.00		0.13
545	Jeremyah Tator			180.00	0.18
546	Nicholas Stickle	see 170			
547	Thomas Harris	see 355			
548	Zachariah Nier	see 362			
549	Barent Staats	see 367			
550	Coonrand Millham	see 217			
551	Charles Rynhaut	see 366			
552	Robert Sands	see 273			
553	Joshua Collins	see 116			
554	Abraham V. Voorhis	see 107			
555	John Snook	see 344			
556	Hart	see 339			
557	Taylor	see 339			
558	Anderson	see 339			
559	William Thompson	see 58			

This is an excerpt from the 1799 tax assessment roll of the Town of Rhinebeck. The full list is located in the New York State Archives, Albany, New York.

Survey and mapping for the Town of Rhinebeck was prepared in December 1797 and January 1798 by Alexander Thompson, a surveyor who resided in the town. The map shows the entire town of Rhinebeck as it existed at that time, including the present Town and Village of Rhinebeck and the Town and Village of Red Hook. Three copies of the Alexander Thompson map are known to exist. One is on display at the Starr Library in Rhinebeck, another is at the Manuscripts Division of the New York State Library in Albany, and a third copy was among the personal papers of Major John Delafield of Montgomery Place, Annandale-on-Hudson. The latter papers, including the map, were donated to the library at Princeton University. (The Egbert Benson Historical Society, Red Hook, has a photostat of

this map, the Starr Library map was reprinted by the Rhinebeck Historical Society, and the Dutchess County Historical Society printed a copy of the Albany map in the 1926 *Yearbook*.)



Each of the three maps differs in some details. The most consistent element is the Albany Post Road, since a notation on the map, "Post Road prepared from actual survey", indicates that all roads were not surveyed for mapping purposes. The maps include sketches of houses and buildings. Names of tavern owners and mills are also shown, as well as names of significant home owners or estates. Curiously in some cases roads are not drawn, but houses along the roadway are depicted. All the copies were prepared at a scale of 40 chains to an inch and carry survey notations of metes and bounds along the inland borders of the town. The Delafield copy has an additional notation in the lower right hand corner: "Feb 2, 1799." Other features shown indicate that this copy was amended to include 1799 information. The Turnpike Road, which led from Long Dock to Salisbury, Connecticut, along a portion of the old Sepasco Trail, was not officially established until 1802; however, on the Delafield copy, the right-of-way is drawn over the former roadway. The addition of Rev. Freeborn Garretson's homesite on the river and the Wurtemberg Mills also indicate the update. Each copy of the map displays some information which is not found on the other copies. We are therefore fortunate to have located these three copies and to have the benefit of their variety of information.

There is no explanation why there are three versions. The Delafield map seems to be more complete and, in addition, carries more recent information. Surveys and maps were made for several other towns in Dutchess County during 1797 and 1798 by various surveyors. These maps, filed in Albany, include Poughkeepsie, Beekman, Fishkill, and a large map of Clinton, Stanford, Washington, and Amenia. No local copies of these maps are known to exist. The survey and mapping may have resulted in part from a settlement of the boundary between Dutchess and Columbia Counties and in part from anticipation of the preparation of tax assessment rolls.

An act of the state legislature, May 23, 1799, provided for a change in the southern boundary of Columbia County,³ altering the division of the counties of Dutchess and Columbia in the area between Rhinebeck and Clermont.⁴ It provided that "the line be drawn due east from the south bank of Sawyer's Kill on the west side of the Hudson, continued due east until it meets with a line established by Robert R. Livingston and Zachariah Hoffman (deceased) and others as their mutual boundary, and continued along the same course to the southernmost bend of the Roeloff Jansen Kill." Zachariah Hoffman died in 1798; therefore, the boundary must have been agreed upon prior to his death.⁵ The 1798 map of Rhinebeck and a 1798

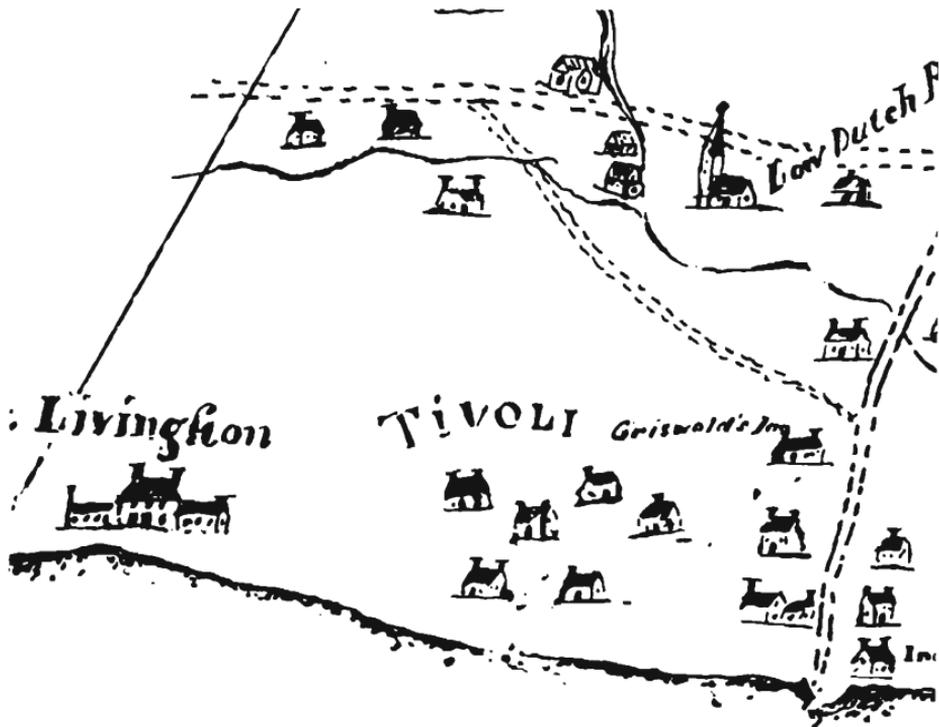
map of the towns of Livingston, Germantown, and Clermont, both show the straight line extending from the river to the bend in the Roe Jan. This boundary was maintained until 1870 when the present boundary was represented.⁶

A study, undertaken by the Rhinebeck Historical Society in 1968 to survey extant buildings depicted on the Starr Library's copy of the Thompson map, noted a correlation between the architecture of a building and the representative drawing. For the more significant structures, similarities between the drawing and the actual building can be identified (See Illustration 1), with features such as the number of chimneys and stories depicted on the map offering an indication of actual conditions.⁷

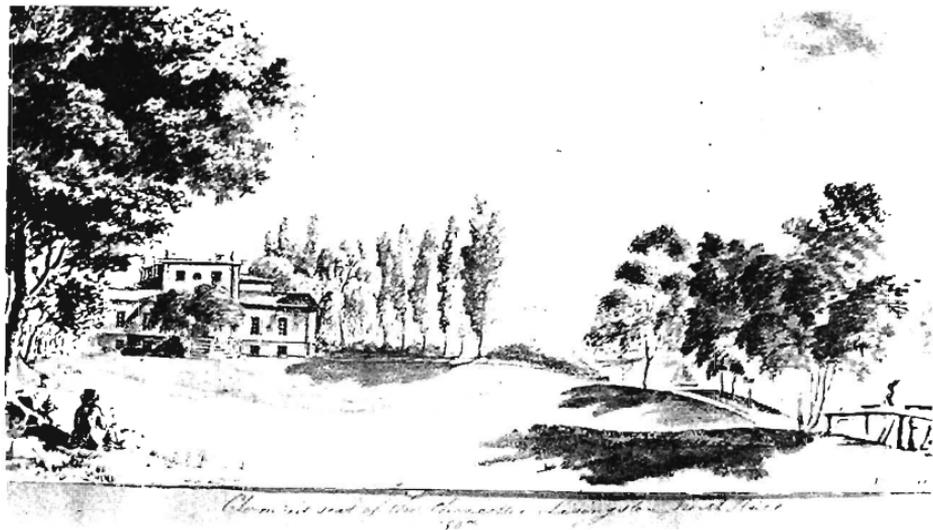
The tax assessment rolls were assigned to the New York State Library for storage and have recently been made available for research. The rolls for Rhinebeck, most of which are in a good state of preservation, are available for the years 1799 through 1804 and include the name of the citizen, a description of his property, the value of the real property, his personal property, and the tax to be paid. In some cases former owners are indicated in the description, while in other cases partnerships are indicated by listing the ownership of the property in several names.

In studying these sources of information, an understanding of the history of Rhinebeck during the period of landgrants and settlement is necessary. This information may then be used to analyze the economic and social standing of the inhabitants. A continuing genealogical study of Hudson Valley families by Arthur C.M. Kelly and the author has contributed to this analysis. During the past 20 years, this work has included Mr. Kelly's publication of over 80 volumes of churches records giving such vital statistics as marriages, baptisms, and deaths. During these years research was also conducted on hundreds of area families which supplied information about the ancestral homes of many settlers and traced subsequent generations in the Hudson Valley.

There are several themes which become apparent in the course of the analysis. First, an awareness of the Beekman heirs is important to an understanding of the social fabric, as well as the land development patterns. Since Margaret Beekman was Henry Beekman, Jr.'s only heir, the surname was lost in the next generation. The heirs of the first Henry Beekman were born to the Beekman, Livingston, and Rutsen families, and marriage of the females in these families make



Enlarged, enhanced drawing of Arryl House, detail from 1798 Thompson Map, Starr Copy.



Clermont, Seat of The Chancellor Livingston, North River (1807), watercolor on paper, 4⁷/₈" x 9¹/₂", P. Lodel. Courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park. Gift of Mark Eisener, 1933.

the Beekman connection still less apparent. Nevertheless, the heirs were predominant among the upper-class living in the town, over a century after the Beekman patent was first granted. (See Table II).

A further surprise is that Palatine families comprise a majority of the inhabitants. Many of their surnames have undergone several spelling alterations based on phonetics and a desire to make the name sound more American. Despite the difficulty in identifying their origin, a study of the middle range in 1799 indicates the predominance of Palatines.

A change in the development of the riverfront provides the last theme. Unhealthy conditions in the city and rising affluence caused the well-to-do to seek country estates to provide a safe and elegant location for their families during mild weather. The popularity of the Rhinebeck shore line, due in part to the lovely view of the Catskills and the river combined with its proximity to New York City, was largely due to the influential heirs who were already located there. During the 1790s the transition along the river from farms to estates became well advanced, with farmers displaced in favor of landowners who built expensive houses and employed farm managers.

TABLE II BEEKMAN HEIRS

Henry Beekman (1652-1716)
m. Johanna Lopers

GENERATION 1

Catharine Beekman (1683-
m. (1) Cornelius Exveen
m. (2) John Rutsen
m. (3) Albert Pawling

Henry Beekman, Jr. (1688-1776)
m. (1) Janet Livingston
m. (2) Gertrude Van Cortlandt

Cornelia Beekman (1693-1742)
m. Gilbert Livingston

GENERATION 2

Rutsen Children:

1. Johanna Rutsen
2. Jacob Rutsen m. Alida Livingston
3. Hendrick Rutsen
4. Catharine Rutsen m. Peter TenBroeck

Beekman Child:

Margaret Beekman (1724-1800)
m. Robert R. Livingston

Livingston Children:

1. James m. Judith Newcomb 3 ch.
2. Henry m. Susan Conklin 11 ch.
3. Robert G. m. Catherine McPheaders
4. Margaret m. Peter Stuyvesant
5. Johanna m. Pierre Van Cortlandt
6. Alida m. (1) Jacob Rutsen 2 ch.
m. (2) Henry VanRensselaer 7 ch.
7. Catherine m. Thomas Thorn
8. Gilbert m. Joy Darrell
(5 children of Cornelia & Gilbert
Livingston who died unmarried)

Table II Beekman Heirs (Continued)**GENERATION 3**

Rutsen Children of Jacob & Alida

1. John Rutsen m. Phoebe Carman 2 ch.
she m. (2) Robert Sands 5 ch.
2. Cornelia Rutsen

Livingston Children of Margaret Beekman
& Robert R. Livingston

1. Robert R. (Chancellor) 1746-1813
m. Mary Stevens
2. Margaret 1748-1823
m. Thomas Tillotson
3. Henry B. 1750-1831
m. Anne Hume Shippen
4. Catherine 1752-1849
m. Rev. Freeborn Garretson
5. John Robert 1754-1851
m. (1) Margaret Sheaffe
m. (2) Eliza McEvers
6. Gertrude 1757-1833
m. Gen. Morgan Lewis
7. Joanna 1759-1829
m. Peter R. Livingston
8. Alida 1761-1822
m. Gen. John Armstrong
9. Edward 1764-1836
m. (1) Mary McEvers
m. (2) Louise D'Avezac de
Castera Moreau
10. Janet 1743-1828 m. Gen. Richard
Montgomery

Livingston Children of Robert G.
Livingston & Catherine McPheaders

1. Catherine m. (1) Pierre Preissac
m. (2) Claudius Massonneau
2. Helen m. Jeremiah Tronson
3. Cornelia m. John Crooke
4. Margaret m. Augustus Van Horn
5. Robert G. m. Marthe De Reimer
6. Henry G. m. Catherine Coopernail

GENERATION 4Rutsen Children of John &
Phoebe Carman

1. Catherine Rutsen m. George Suckley
7 ch.
2. Sarah Rutsen m. Philip J. Schuyler
5 ch.

Source: Philip L. White, *The Beekmans of New York in Politics and Commerce, 1647-1877* (New York: New York Historical Society, 1956).

History

Rhinebeck was established in 1686 when a treaty, purchasing land in an area centering on the present hamlet of Rhinecliff, was obtained from the Indians. A patent issued in 1688 confirmed the title to this land. The patentees were Gerret Aertsen (Van Wagenen), Arie Roosa, and Jan Elton. Land to the north of the Roosa parcel was purchased by brothers Hendrick and Jacob Kip and was included in the patent. All patentees were residents of Ulster County. Kingston, a prominent early Dutch settlement, was located directly across the river from the patent, offering convenient church and civil amenities.

For an estate, the desirability of river front property offering a view of the Catskills was soon established, and a process began which was to result in conversion of all of the river front farms to estates, leaving the middle-class farmer to content himself with dwelling on the fertile fields to the interior. An early example of this transition was the exchange of land effected between Henry Beekman and Valentine Benner in 1721.¹³ The Benner farm was located on property which is now the site of the Rokeby estate. Beekman offered land in fee simple for the river front leasehold of Benner, and the Benners obliged by selecting land about a mile and one half southwest of Red Hook village. A later notable exchange of land occurred between Freeborn Garretson and Johannes Van Wagenen. Freeborn Garretson's wife, Catherine, was a granddaughter of Henry Beekman, Jr., and since many of her siblings lived along the river, she also desired property nearby.¹⁴ The original Garretson homesite was in the area known as Schooterhoek, near Bollenecker Road, where Rev. Garretson had established a Methodist Church on the Sepasco Trail. Despite the location of the church, a decision was made to move to the river and, in 1799 the Garretsons built Wildercliff, which still commands an imposing view down the river. Thus they joined the ranks of the elite along the river. The church was relocated three miles west in the village.

The process of acquisition of river front land for estate properties continued throughout the 19th century until the river front hamlets, which were built around the 1799 landings, became the only areas on the river where the land was not part of the estates. The last decade of the 18th century saw this pattern developing in earnest.

The assessment rolls reveal a wide range of economic means within the town. John R. Livingston, a grandson of Henry Beekman and the most wealthy property owner, possessed real estate valued at \$19,460 and personal property of \$2,241. His situation may be contrasted with those whose personal property was valued at \$10-19 and who were taxed at only one penny. Fourteen men are listed in that category, with renters and craftsmen possibly in this group.

There were over 100 persons in the town with no taxable real property and a personal estate of under \$100. Some were young men of established families who were in the process of acquiring their own property. Another group were persons whose names do not appear in later records of the town. It is apparent that these people moved on to other places before settling and acquiring land. In the lowest tax bracket, there were many listed who paid less than ten cents tax. Palatine and Dutch names are common among these. However, Jacob Burchell, John Burd, Augustus Gauty, John Logan, John McMurray, James McMurray, David L. Perkins, Henry Watt, Jun., Simon Babcock, Andrew Blake, Isaac Cain, Adam Marshall, William Currie, Cornbery Dayton, John Ellison, George Nond, Stephen Westcoat, Dena Cruys, and Samuel Fink are all examples of persons who do not appear in the 1810 census of Rhinebeck, so we may assume that they either died or did not become established here.

The only man listed as a negro was Francis Roe whose name may have been taken from the Rowe, Rau, Rauh family of Northeast in Dutchess County. It was common practice for slaves to acquire the surname of a family with which they had been closely associated. Francis Roe's personal estate amounted to \$20. There were other blacks living in the town, but they probably were not free men and so were not assessed.

The majority of the citizens belong to the occupational classes of farmers and merchants. Much of the real estate is described as "house and farm" and the value ranges from a few hundred dollars to several thousand.

The Dutch descendants of the original patentees, Kip, Van Wagenen, Ostrom, Van Etten, Heermance, Pells, and others fall into the middle range of the list. During the century which had elapsed since the patents were granted, their assets had been divided among many descendants. Female heirs were given equal treatment with male heirs, and since the original acreage was much smaller than the Beekman patent, the result was that there was less wealth among this group. In the northern portion of the town, descendants of the purchasers of

the Schuyler patent shares, the Hoffman and Van Benthuyzen families had been prominent land owners in the early 18th century. By 1799 much of their holdings had been sold. John Van Benthuyzen (#522), who later sold the land that became Montgomery Place to Janet Montgomery, had a house, farm and mill worth \$5,010 and personal property of \$923 in 1799.¹⁵ Nicholas Hoffman (#403), had \$4,860 in real and \$890 in personal assets.

There were 89 individuals who paid taxes of between \$2 and \$4. No Livingston or Beekman family members are evident in this group. Palatine surnames deriving from the 1710 emigration comprise 52 percent of this group. The Dutch, a total of 22 persons, make up an additional 26 percent. The remainder are composed of later Palatine arrivals, English, and undetermined origins. The Palatine family descendants were particularly prolific, and although descendants in each generation probably left their parents to seek better prospects, many persisted in Rhinebeck so that a majority of the names on the tax list can be traced to the 1710 emigration. In 1799 the houses of Palatine descendants were mainly one- or one and a half-story stone or frame structures. The Feller (Fellor) and the Mohr houses on River Road, north of the bridge approach, are examples of the substantial but practical dwellings most occupied. They were engaged in farming and were quite self-sufficient.

The Wurtemberg families, as already described, settled about 1730. It is interesting to note that by 1799 members of these families were all in the middle wealth category (\$1 to \$2 tax). The families included the names Asher, Progue, Pultz, Wager, Cookingham (Kookingham), Marquart, and Brown. Simple one and one-half story frame houses on Wurtemberg road, such as the Pultz house c. 1760 north of the church, and sturdy stone houses on the roads to the west, such as the Progue house (1763) on Primrose Hill Road and the Asher house (1762) on Ackert Hook Road, may be easily found to illustrate their lifestyle.

In this middle range, there are few family names not carried on in 19th century Rhinebeck. Even an unusual name such as Kuit Jaquis (Wait Jaques) may be found listed on the 1810 census as living in Rhinebeck with a sizable family. A study of Rhinebeck history shows the family involved in such commercial activities as Captain of a sloop and owner of the Beekman Arms. Henry Lyle, whose name is not on the 1810 census, may have died by that time; he was a Town Clerk and prominent tavern keeper in Upper Red Hook. William Wallis is a single example of a name from this category whose name is unfamiliar and who does not appear on the 1810 census.

Forty-seven persons were taxed in amounts over \$4; thus their real and personal property was valued at over \$4,000. Among this elite group, nine Livingston children and in-laws may be identified, along with six 1710 Palatine families, two later Palatine families, and ten early Dutch families. The salient point, however, is that while most of the others had assets confined to one township, the Livingstons and newcomers in this group probably had their assets in several civil divisions.

Of the 19 persons with real property values over \$5,000, only one is of Palatine descent. John N. Traver ranks ninth with a value of \$7,010 for his house and farm. There are four Livingston men among this group: John R. Livingston, Henry G. Livingston, Henry R. Livingston, and Philip H. Livingston. Robert Sands, Philip Schuyler, Thomas Tillotson, and John Armstrong, who are also listed, each married Beekman heirs.

John Armstrong, a Pennsylvania native who married Alida Livingston, daughter of Robert Livingston and Margaret Beekman, purchased 200 acres from Garret Van Benthuisen in 1795 which included the tract of land on which Blithewood was built, now part of Bard College. In 1790 his wife's mother gave Mrs. Armstrong two mills on the Saw Kill which had been purchased in 1760 from the Van Benthuisen family.¹⁶

Henry G. Livingston, (#8) a Beekman grandson, bought land from the Hoffman family in 1794. The house called Green Hill (The Pynes) was probably built at about that time. An indication of property values may be obtained through the description written in an advertisement for sale of the property. The first, from the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, dated January 30, 1798, describes the house in detail:

The house which consists of two stories, is large and convenient, having a wing on each side connected by a piazza eighty feet long; one of the wings is a well finished breakfast room, the other is a kitchen; the house has lately been thoroughly repaired; the smoke-house, granary, overseer's house, wash-house and barn are in the best order . . . there is a well of good water, two cisterns, and excellent kitchen and fruit garden, enclosed by a high pale fence . . . also about 200 fruit trees of various kinds which were set out two years ago.

A second advertisement, from the *American Farmer and Dutchess County Advertiser*, September 3, 1797, indicates other assets, stating the farm "consists of four-hundred acres of land; three houses, three barns, . . . the stock, which at present consists of 50 cows and heifers and an

English Bull; about 30 head of other cattle; horses, mares, colts, carts, waggons, harrows, ploughs and 100 tons of hay will be sold reasonable and on a credit.”¹⁷

In total assets, Henry G. Livingston ranked sixth in the town with a house and farm valued at \$10,435 and personal assets at \$2,693. In addition to “The Pynes” where Henry was living in 1799, he also built the Parndon House and the Callendar House. Callendar House was purchased by Philip H. Livingston, a grandson of Philip Livingston, the signer of the Declaration of Independence. Philip had lived in Jamaica for some years but purchased the house and 44 acres on October 13, 1795.¹⁸ This assessment roll only allows comparison of his assets in Rhinebeck with others in the town, but he undoubtedly had property in many locations. However, this house and acreage was the subject of Philip’s assessment of \$6,186 in real property and \$640 in personal property in Rhinebeck.

Philip J. Schuyler was a member of a prominent Albany family, son of the Revolutionary War General Philip Schuyler. He married “Sally” Rutzen, the daughter of Col. John Rutzen and a fourth generation Beekman heir. His house in Rhinebeck known as “The Grove” was built in 1792 and 1793. Their children include Philip P., John Rutzen, Catharine M. who married Samuel Jones, Siby who died young, Robert, and Stephen who married Catharine Morris.¹⁹ Robert Sands was the second husband of a great granddaughter of Henry Beekman. His house, built south of the Landmanskill, was associated with that of the Schuylers. The Sands and Schuyler properties were the main inland focus of the upper-class. Their connection with the Beekman, Schuyler, and Livingston families ensured their continuing prominence. Schuyler’s house and Sand’s house both stand today on Miller Road in Rhinebeck. They are protected by facade easements and have recently undergone rehabilitation.

A closer study of more recent wealthy landowners such as Mr. DeLabigarre of Tivoli, reveals that he is also connected to the Livingston and Beekman families. The Year Book of the Dutchess County Historical Society, 1929, contains an article entitled, “Peter DeLabigarre, and the founding of Tivoli,” written by Helen Wilkison Reynolds. She explains that the sudden arrival of a number of French families in Rhinebeck was caused by increased trade relations between America and the West Indies and increased emigration from France to America due to the French Revolution. Five Frenchmen who settled in what is now the Town of Red Hook, which in 1799 was part of Rhinebeck, are identified: Pierre Joseph Preissac, Claudius G. Massonneau, Peter DeLabigarre, Cladius Gabriel Fontaine, and

Daniel Brizac or Prizock. Mr. Preissac married Catharine Livingston, daughter of Robert G. Livingston and Margaret Hyde Livingston and settled near Rock City. After he died in 1794 or 1795, his widow married Claudius G. Massonneau.

Peter DeLabigarre first gave a mortgage to Robert R. Livingston in 1793 for property in Red Hook.²⁰ His activity in property sales in the vicinity of Tivoli is shown in Deed Books from 1793 to 1802. The New York Reformed Church marriage record shows that he married Margaret Beekman June 16, 1795.²¹ She was the daughter of Gerard William Beekman, a cousin of Henry Beekman (of Beekman Genealogy). Another daughter married Isaac Cox, and a third daughter, Eliza, married Peter William Livingston. The brother-in-laws, Peter De Labigarre and Peter W. Livingston, were involved in many land transactions. The land acquired by Mr. DeLabigarre included two tracts adjoining the estates presently known as The Pines and Callendar House. One of the parcels included the area of the Village of Tivoli. He laid out a plan for a village and had a map of the proposed development prepared. A print of this plan for Tivoli is on file with the Dutchess County Clerk. While the enterprise eventually failed, Mr. DeLabigarre did build a home in the area about 1798. He died about 1807. His house was owned in later years by Johnston L. DePeyster.

Daniel Prizock, who is listed in the 1790 federal census, had a home near the Village of Tivoli which is shown on the 1798 map. Since the name is phonetically similar, it is possible that he was related to Pierre Preissac.

The fifth Frenchman described is Cladius Gabriel Fontaine, who did not purchase lots in Tivoli until 1802 but whose property remained in the family until 1864.²²

Despite the fact that most members of this group were located on the river, one isolated site existed in Rock City near Oriole Mills. The mill is Crook's Grist mill in 1799, but there were also a saw mill and a fulling mill in the area. The land was passed on in the Beekman family and, in addition to the mill sites, there was also the residence of Pierre Preissac and Catherine Livingston, who later married Claudus Massonneau and then moved to a river location. Samuel Hake also resided there. His marriage to Helen Livingston may be found recorded January 9, 1769, in the New York Reformed Church marriage record.²³

David Van Ness probably came to this area when he married a daughter of Andries G. Heermance. He first lived in Upper Red Hook, east of the Post Road to the north of the brick tavern.²⁴ He was a

member of the State Assembly in 1790 and later built a house in the present Village of Red Hook where he lived until about 1815. He was the first Supervisor of Red Hook when it separated from Rhinebeck.

Parndon was purchased by Jaspas Parsons, a “newcomer.” Henry Livingston had built the house on a solid rock, looking out toward the river. Upon completion, it was advertised for sale and purchased by Mr. Parsons, a British subject from St. Croix. The house was demolished about 1909 by Gordon Hamersley. The property became a part of Ward Manor, presently the northern edge of Bard College.²⁵ Jaspas Parsons’s personal property must have included the thoroughbred horses he was raising. *The Poughkeepsie Journal* in 1799 referred to one stallion called “Escape” which was an especially valuable animal. Parsons was also a large slave holder. His personal property was valued at \$3,304, the most for anyone on the assessment roll.

Most of the landowners in this group are descendants of the large landholders such as the Livingstons and the Beekmans; thus more than a century after the original patents were issued, the descendants still appear to own sizable property in 1799

Slavery

Slavery was found in Rhinebeck throughout the first century of development. Evidence may be found in the settlement of estates and in the census records as well as in newspaper advertisements for runaways. In 1801 legislation was passed which would free many slaves of age, who could provide for themselves. However, in the 1790 census, there were 491 listed for the town. A bill of sale dated April 19, 1785, lists the sale of a 17-year-old black man, Peete for £80 and a black “wench”, Nancy, 54 years old for £30 to Benjamin Van Steenburgh.²⁶ Slaves were considered assets and so would have been included in the assessment rolls as personal property to be taxed.

In 1790 Henry G. Livingston owned 13 slaves. Andries Heermance, Robert Sands, Volkert Whitbeck, and Henry B. Livingston each owned 11; Zachariah Hoffman owned ten; Moses Cantine and David Van Ness each had nine; Morgan Lewis, John Stickle, and Jeremiah Van Auken each had eight; and Everardus Bogardus and Johannes Kiersted owned seven each. There were others with fewer slaves.

By 1800 Andrew Heermance had twelve slaves, Andrew DeVeaux had ten, Frederick I. Sipperly and Henry Benner each had nine, Nicholas Hoffman and Volkert Whitbeck each had eight slaves, while

Zachariah Hoffman, John Klum, Jacob Van Benthuyzen, Cornelius Elmendorph, William Radclift, Jr., John Stickle, David Van Ness, Henry Shop, Martin Heermance, Henry B. Livingston, Adriana Borgardus, and Robert Sands each had six. Many other residents had slaves but in smaller numbers. All would have been included in the personal property listed in the assessment rolls.

Citizens of Rhinebeck who represented the area in the State Senate during this period were Thomas Tillotson (1791-1799), Robert Sands (1797-1800), and Peter Cantine (1798). Tillotson's assessment was \$6,350 real and \$4,300 personal. Sand's assessment was placed at \$5,760 real and \$899 for his house and farm (#3) and also part of the assessment (#273) for the dock listed with John Schultz at \$400. Peter Cantine (Jr.) (#16) is shown with \$3,350 for house and lot and \$1,526 personal. Philip J. Schuyler represented Rhinebeck in the Assembly in 1798. His assets are valued at \$7,500 for house and farm and \$6,234 for personal. Town Supervisor Isaac Stoutenberg (#31) is shown with a house and farm valued at \$3,150 and \$516 personal assets. Henry Shop (#28), Town Clerk in 1799, appears with \$3,270 for house and farm and \$2,144 for personal assets.

The Town meeting in 1799 was held the first Tuesday in April at the house of **Frederick Tator**. In addition to the election of Isaac Stoutenburgh, Jr. as Supervisor, and Henry Shop as Town Clerk, the Assessors elected were Martin Vosburgh, **George Ring**, **Peter Feller**, Martin Heermance, and Andrew G. Heermance. These men had assets eliciting taxes ranging from \$2.15 to \$7.58. The tax collector elected was **Jacob Schultz**. **John Stickle** and Martin Heermance were elected overseers of the Poor. William Radclift, **George Feller**, and David Van Ness were appointed Commissioners of the Highways; **George Hagadorn**, **Lewis Fraligh** and **Jacob Signer** were elected Constables; and Abraham J. Kip, **Gotlop Martin**, **Jacob Moul**, **Peter Feller**, and **Aaron Camp** were elected fence viewers. **Jacob Moul** and John A. Kip were elected Pound Masters, and Commissioners of Schools were Anthony D. Lemater, Isaac Davis, and Henry D. Witt, Junior. Most of these town officials were descendants of Palatine families, as shown above by the names in bold face type, with the remainder Dutch, with the exception of Isaac Davis. While the DeLamaeter name is of French origin, the family is considered of the Dutch period. George Ring's name appears English, but marriage records of the Athens Lutheran Church prove the family came from Germany.²⁷ Palatine names were often Anglicized.

Industry

The maps and assessment roll offer useful insights revealing the nature of industry within the town at the turn of the 18th century. Mills were first established to grind grain for flour, with saw mills established later to provide lumber for building. The fulling mills and an oil mill were established still later, filling needs for oil for light and cloth for clothing. The mills listed on the assessment roll were not identified as to type. Figure I describes the mills listed on the various maps. The listing may be compared with the information found on the assessment roll of 1799.

FIGURE I
MILLS SHOWN ON THOMPSON MAPS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TAX NO. & LISTING</u>	<u>REAL</u>	<u>TAX</u>
Becker's Grist Mill	White Clay Kill	521 Bennor, Peter	\$ 300	0.60
Benthuyzen's Grist Mill	Mill Road, Red Hook	113 Canfield, James	1070	1.17
Chancellor's Grist Mill	Sawkill North of Red Hook	500 Cooper, John	220	.31
Cooper Saw Mill	White Clay Kill	100 Davis, Isaac	4184	4.81
Cooper's Grist Mill	South of 9G, Clay Kill	520 Delamater, Corn.	2280	2.76
Crook's Grist Mill	Oriole Mills, Rock City	445 Eckert, George	2740	3.14
Fulling Mill	S. side of Sawkill, Rock City	336 Hake, Samuel	10080	11.81
Grist Mill	north of Schuyler's	36 Hoffman, Z.	3325	4.29
Hoffman's Grist Mill	Clay Kill, north of 9G	490 Kjp, John, Jun.	1040	1.10
Landmans Grist & Saw Mill	mouth of the kill, n. bank	32 Martin, Gotlob	2355	2.69
Livingston, Col. Saw & Oil	east side of Landmanskill	101 McCarty, Daniel	3450	3.53
Livingston, Mrs., Grist	mouth of the Sawkill	1 Tillotson, Thomas	6350	10.65
Livingston, Mrs., Grist	Landmanskill, S. of Post Road	522 Van Benthuyzen, J.	5010	5.93
Livingston, Mrs., Grist	Landmanskill, N. of Post Road	523 Williams, John	1570	1.60
Parsons, Grist Mill	mouth of the White Clay Kill			
Saw Mill	Sawkill, north of Red Hook			
Saw Mill	north of Schuyler's			
Saw Mill	Rock City			
Saw Mill, J. Marquart	S. of Lake off Crum Elbow Creek			
Wurtemberg Mills	Site of Suckley generator			

Henry Beekman may have been influenced by the land management policy of the Livingston family to the north. He maintained

control of many mill sites and preferred to sell his land by leasehold rather than transfer title in fee simple. Soon after his patent was confirmed, Henry purchased the rights to a mill at the mouth of the Landmanskill. The Beekman-Livingston mills near the spot where the Landmanskill is crossed by the Post Road were erected in 1715.²⁸ This excellent mill site probably had a great influence on the eventual development of Rhinebeck Flatts. On the 1798 map, five mills are attributed to Beekman descendants, and seven mills have no surname connected with them. These may have been operating under a lease with their heirs. Hoffman and Benthuisen mills were operated by other early land holding families. Parsons was a new landowner, having purchased his property in 1795.²⁹ The Wurtemberg Mills, shown on the Delafield map, were erected in 1800 by Gov. Morgan Lewis.³⁰

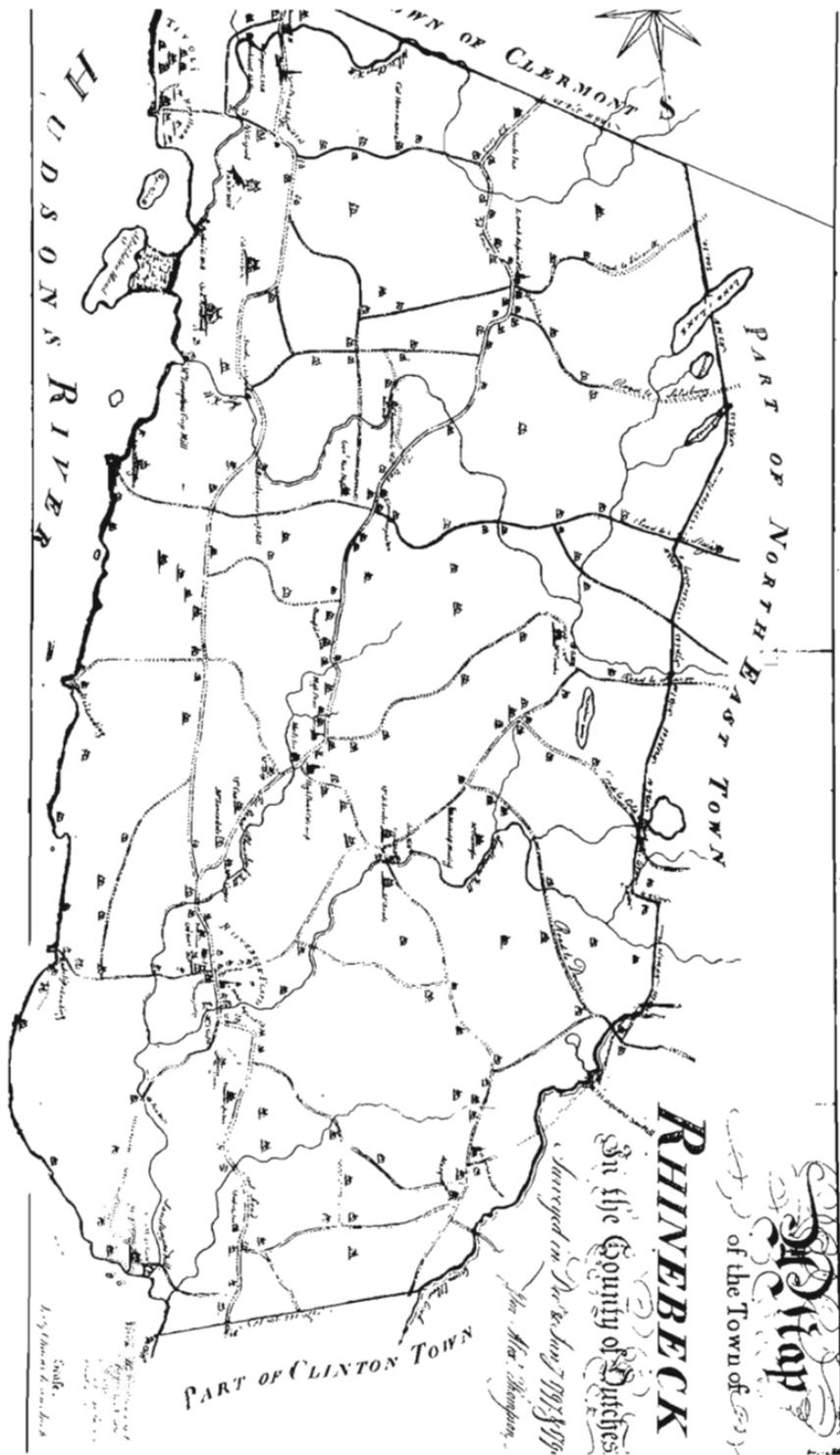
In the 18th century, the river offered the most important means of transportation for commerce. In 1798 there were four docks located at convenient intervals along the town's shoreline. The Schultz dock, primarily for the Palatine settlement at Kirchehoek Corner, was located to the south of the present Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge. A road led from Wurtemberg, through Schuyler's past the mills, through the German settlement near Stone Church to the river.

Cantine's dock, near present-day Tivoli, served the area then known as Red Hook (now Upper Red Hook), Livingston's Landing in the present Barrytown area served the lower Red Hook area, and Radcliff's Landing was at Long Dock near the area now known as Rhinecliff. Not shown on either the maps or assessment rolls are Beekman's former dock at the mouth of the Landmanskill, which had served the southern part of Rhinebeck and was later supplanted about 1802 by the Lewis dock a bit further north.

Few mills have survived. There is a mill building near Schuyler's which has been converted into a dwelling and is now owned by Henry Staley. An undated mill building stands in Rock City on the Sawkill, near the Milan line. Fire seems to have been a common means of destruction of the mills and it is unfortunate that most succumbed.

Many of the docks have also disappeared. Those at Barrytown and Tivoli are the only ones shown on the map which are still used today.

Figure II lists the docks as shown on the 1798 maps.



Map
of the Town of

RHINEBECK

In the County of Dutchess

Surveyed in New York 1797 & 1799

John Mac'Alpin

PART OF CLINTON TOWN

Scale
1/2 Mile = 1000 Feet

THOMPSON MAP
TOWN OF RHINEBECK
December 1797, January 1798

NAME	DESCRIPTION	MAP
Armstrong, Gen'l	north of Sawkill	Starr, NYS, Del
Armstrong's Saw Mill	Upstream on Sawkill	Starr, NYS, Del
Becker's Grist Mill	White Clay Kill	NYS, Del
Beckman (may be Becker's)	south of 9G, Clay Kill	Starr Library
Benthuyzen's Grist Mill	Mill Road, Red Hook	Starr, NYS, Del
Bogardus, Mr.	Post Road (Beekman Arms)	Starr, Del
Bonastale's Inn	Red Hook/Rhinebeck Line	Starr, NYS, Del
Brooks, (Judge)	Tivoli area	Delafield
Camp's	s of H. Shop	Delafield
Cantine's Landing	Tivoli	Starr, NYS, Del
Cantine's (Judge)	Tivoli	Del
CEDAR HILL	near Benthuyzen's	Delafield
Chancellor's Grist Mill	Sawkill north of Red Hook	Starr, NYS, Del
CLERMONT, TOWN OF	Columbia County	Starr, NYS, Del
CLINTON, PART OF TOWN	southern boundary	Starr, NYS, Del
Cooper Saw Mill	White Clay Kill	NYS
Cooper, E.	Old Post Road, s of Cox	Delafield
Cooper, Mrs.	Post Road, south	NYS
Cooper's Grist Mill	south of 9G	Starr, NYS, Del
Cox Inn	Long Dock	Starr, Del
Cox, Mr. John	Old Post Road	Starr, NYS, Del
Crooke, J.	south side of Oriole Mills Rd.	Starr, NYS, Del
Crook's Grist Mill	Rock City	Starr, NYS, Del
CRUM ELBOW CREEK	Eastern boundary of town	Starr, NYS
DeLabegarre	North Bay	Delafield
Delamater, A. (Esq.)	E. of Post Road, s of village	Delafield
Deveaux, Col.	Bard College area	Starr, NYS, Del
Eckert's Inn	west of Violet Hill Road	Starr, Del
Elmendorph, Edg.	near Stoutenburg in Red Hook	Delafield
Elmendorph's Inn	Red Hook	Starr, NYS, Del
Fulling Mill	south side of Sawkill, Rock C.	Starr, Del
Fulling Mill	south side of Sawkill, Rock C.	Starr Library
F. Schultz's Inn	Clinton side of Crum Elbow	Starr
Garretson, Mr.	west of Bollenbecker Road	Starr, NYS, Del
Garretson's, Mr.	on the river	Delafield
German Calvinist Church	Old Graveyard on Post Road	Starr, NYS, Del
German Lutheran Church	Stone Church	Starr, NYS, Del
German Lutheran Church	Wurtemberg	Starr, NYS, Del
Grist Mill	north of Schuyler's	Starr, NYS
Griswold's Inn	Tivoli	Starr, Del
Heermance, Capt.	same as Kierstead?	NYS
Heermance, Col	W. Kerley's Corner Road	Starr, NYS, Del
Hoffman's Grist Mill	north of 9G	Starr, NYS, Del
Holmes' Inn	Upper Red Hook, so. of church	Starr, NYS, Del

Hooghtaeling, Dr. Inn	Rhinebeck, east at Cantine's Landing	Delafield Starr Library
Kierstead, Dr.	north side of Rhinecliff Rd.	Starr, Del
Kipp, Dr.	near Henry B. Livingston	Delafield
Kip's Inn	south of Post Rd., Rhinebeck	Starr, NYS, Del
LAKE	flows into Crum Elbow	Starr, NYS, Del
LANDMANS KILL	flows southwest thru Rhinebeck	Starr, NYS, Del
Landmans Kill Grist & Saw Mill	mouth of the kill, n. bank	Starr, NYS
Linendale, Mr.	Old Post Road east side	NYS
Livingston, Chancellor's	Arryl House (in Dutchess)	Starr, NYS, Del
Livingston, Col. H.B.	Rhinecliff	Starr, Del
Livingston, Col. Saw & Oil Mill	east bank of Landmanskill	Starr Library
Livingston, John R.	north of Barrytown	Starr, NYS, Del
Livingston, Marg'	Clermont Estate	Starr, NYS, Del
Livingston, Mrs. Grist Mill	Mouth of Sawkill	Starr, NYS, Del
Livingston, Mrs. Grist Mill	Landmanskill no. of Post Road	Starr, NYS
Livingston, Mrs. Grist Mill of	Landmanskill, so of Post Road	Starr, NYS, Del
Livingston, Mr.	northeast of Tivoli	Delafield
Livingston's Landing	Barrytown	Starr, Del
Lodge Room (Montgomery Lodge)	so. side of West Market St.	Starr, NYS
LONG LAKE	Spring Lake	Starr, NYS, Del
Low Dutch Reformed Church	Landmanskill no. of Post Road	Starr, NYS Del
Low Dutch Reformed Church	St. John's Reformed	Starr, NYS, Del
Low Dutch Reformed Church	Red Church	Starr, NYS, Del
Lyle, Mr. H.	Upper Red Hook	Starr, Del
MAGDALEN ISLAND	Magdalen Island	Starr, NYS
Marquart's Inn	between Vlie Rd & Primrose H.	Starr, NYS, Del
Marvin's Inn	Upper Red Hook	Delafield
Methodist Church (Meeting)	south of Garretson's	Starr, NYS, Del
Montfort's Inn	near foot of Primrose Hill	Starr, NYS, Del
Montgomery's Mrs.	Grasmere	Starr, NYS, Del
Moore's	south of Benthuyzen	Delafield
Morris's Inn	Patten Road	Starr, Del
Mowl's Inn	Pink's Corners	Starr, NYS, Del
NEW ROAD	Fox Hollow Rd to Mill Road	Delafield
NORTHEAST, PART OF TOWN	Eastern boundary	Starr, NYS
Ostrander's Inn	Rhinebeck, east	Delafield
PARNDON	South of Tivoli	Starr, NYS, Del
Parson's Grist Mill	mouth of White Clay Kill	Starr, NYS, Del
POND	Crystal Lake	Starr, Del
POST ROAD	running north & south inland	Starr, NYS, Del
Potter's Inn	Rhinebeck, N. Post Road, west s	Starr, NYS, Del
Radcliffe, M.	near Flat Rock	Delafield
Radcliff, Sheriff	W. Kerley's Corner Road	Delafield
Radclift, W. & Son	Upper Red Hook	Starr Library
Radclift's Landing	Long Dock	Starr, NYS, Del
RED HOOK	Landing at Tivoli	NY
RHINEBECK KILL	near Old Post Road	Starr, NYS, Del

Road to Coldspring	Round Lake Road	Starr, NYS
Road to Dover	White Schoolhouse Road	Starr, NYS
ROAD TO ELIZAVILLE	near Upper RH Reformed Church	Starr, NYS, Del
ROAD TO PINE PLAINS	Thru present Red Hook (E to W)	NYS
ROAD TO POUGHKEEPSIE	Miller Road, Rhinebeck	Delafield
ROAD TO SALISBURY	Cokertown Road	Starr, Del
ROAD TO SHARON	Rock City Road	Starr, NYS, Del
ROUND LAKE	Milan	Starr, NYS, Del
ROUND LAKE	Cokertown	Starr, Del
Sands, Mr.	south of Landmanskill	Starr, NYS, Del
SAW KILL	Flows east & west through R.H.	Starr, NYS
Saw Mill	Sawkill north of Red Hook	Starr, NYS, Del
Saw Mill	Rock City	Starr, Del
Saw Mill	north of Schuyler's	Starr, NYS
Saw Mill (J. Marquart's)	so of lake on Crum Elbow	Starr, NYS
Schultz's Landing	near Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge	Starr, NYS, Del
Schuyler, Mr.	north of Sepasco Trail	Starr, NYS, Del
SEAPASCOT LAKE	Lake Sepasco	Starr, NYS, Del
Shop, Mr. (Esq.)	near Hook Road & Post Road	NYS, Del
Slaxon, J.	Rhinebeck, east	Delafield
SLIPSTEIN'S ISLAND	South of Tivoli	Starr, NYS, Del
Stahl's Inn	south of Columbia Co.	Starr, NYS, Del
Steenberg's Inn	south of Rhinebeck village	Starr, NYS, Del
Store	Barrytown	Starr, NYS, Del
Store	Long Dock	Starr Library
Store	Between Schuyler's & the Kill	Delafield
Stoutenburgh, Cap't	Upper Red Hook	Starr, Del
Tanyard	Madalin area	Starr, NYS
Tarvis Inn	s of Bonasteel's	Delafield
Thompson, A.	Rhinebeck, east	Delafield
Tillotson's, Mr.	north of Landmanskill mouth	Starr, NYS, Del
TIVOLI	hamlet	Starr, NYS, Del
Tremper, William	Rhinebeck, east	Delafield
TURNPIKE ROAD	Sepascot Trail	Delafield
Van Ness, Gen'l	Maisefield	Starr, NYS, Del
Van Ness, G.	Upper Red Hook	Delafield
Vish Clipje	spot at South Townline in Cove	NYS
Wessel's Inn	Upper Red Hook	Delafield
Wheeler, Dr.	west of Upper Red Hook	Starr, Del
WHITE CLAY KILL	Flows south from Columbia Co.	Starr, NYS, Del
WRAKAMAK SWAMP	Warackamac Lake	Starr, NYS, Del
Wurtemberg Mills	Fox Hollow	Delafield

**FIGURE II
DOCKS SHOWN ON THOMPSON MAP**

NAME	DESCRIPTION
Cantine's Landing	Tivoli
Livingston's Landing	Barrytown
Schultz's Landing	Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge
Radclift's Landing	Long Dock

**FIGURE III
INNS SHOWN ON THE THOMPSON MAP**

NAME	DESCRIPTION	TAX NO. & LISTING	TAX
Bogardus, Mr.	Beekman Arms	99 Bogardus, Evert	\$2.88
Bonastale's Inn	Red Hook/Rhinebeck Line	158 Bonesteel, Nich.	1.84
Cox Inn	Long Dock		
Eckert's Inn	west of Violet Hill Road		
Elmendorph's Inn	Red Hook village	530 Elmendorph, Corn.	5.31
F. Schultz's Inn	Schultz Hill Road	(Town of Clinton)	
Griswold's Inn	Tivoli	486 Griswold, Ira	.46
Holme's Inn	Upper Red Hook	407 Holmes, Stephen	1.56
Inn at Cantine's	Tivoli	16 Cantine, Peter	4.87
Kip's Inn	Rhinebeck village, (Tammany)	89 Kip, John A	.78
Marquart's Inn	Wurtemburgh		
Marvin's Inn	Upper Red Hook		
Montfort's Inn	Post Road & Primrose Hill	59 Montfort, John	.96
Morris's Inn	Patten Road	247 Morris, Isaac	3.10
Mowl's Inn	Pink's Corners	19 Mowl, Jacob	3.93
Ostrander's Inn	Turnpike Road		
Potter's Inn	Rhinebeck village, west	90 Potter, Asa	3.86
Stahl's Inn	near Columbia County	476 Stall, Jacob	1.85
Steenberg's Inn	south of Rhinebeck Village		
Tarvis Inn	south of Bonesteel's Inn		
Wessel's Inn	Upper Red Hook		

Inns

One benefit which is offered by the assessment rolls and corresponding maps is the valuable information available to those studying historic buildings of the area. The location of buildings shown on the 1798 map combined with the tax records and land records on file at the County Clerk's office allow for more accurate dating of buildings and a more complete history of their background.

Many of the buildings which are noted on the map as inns are still in existence. The innkeepers are not noted as such on the tax records. Those who can be identified vary in wealth. Figure 3 shows the inns which were noted on the maps. Where the innkeepers could be identified, their names are included in a separate column. The Steenburgh Inn, south of the village of Rhinebeck, Mowl's Inn near the 9 & 9G intersection, Bogardus' Inn (the Beekman Arms), and the Elmendorph Inn in Red Hook are among those buildings still standing and are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In Upper Red Hook, a brick tavern stood on the southeast corner of the junction of the Post Road and the road to Salisbury.³¹ This building has also been nominated for the National Register.

The number of inns available indicates the presence of a good deal of travel by land. This probably included stage and horseback transportation. Drovers may also have taken advantage of the inns on their way to the landings. The inn also served as the local area tavern and was a gathering place for the exchange of news, social pleasantries, and most important, alcoholic beverage.

Churches

An important factor in the development of the area was the establishment of churches. The earliest church building was established by the Palatine community about 1714 and was used for both Reformed and Lutheran services. A school was also established in connection with the church;³² the minister provided instruction in the three R's in addition to his pastoral duties. The existence of the church and the availability of services conducted in the German language certainly influenced the settlement of additional German families once the first Palatine settlement was established.

By 1730 there was a church building for both the Reformed and Lutheran German congregations, and, at about that same time, a building for the Dutch Reformed congregation in Rhinebeck Flatts was erected. None of those early structures survives.

The Wurtemberg Lutheran Church answered the need of the Wurtemberg settlers who found the German church on the Post Road too far distant from their area in the southeast portion of the town. The church, first built in its present location in 1760, was rebuilt in 1802.

In 1766 a Dutch Reformed church was built in an area of Red Hook which never did become a community center. The Red Church

on State Route 9G still stands today, abandoned by its congregation who, centered in Upper Red Hook, constructed another building there. Architectural historians question if the present structure dates to 1766, but since no evidence has been discovered in the church records to indicate another building, it may have been changed through remodeling.³³

The Stone Church, built in 1786 on the site of the first Lutheran church, may be the only church building appearing on the 1798 map which is still standing, although it is possible that parts of the Red Church structure date from the earlier period. Another church depicted on the map is the Methodist church which was later moved to the present Rhinebeck village.

The State copy of the map is careful to denote the difference between the High and Low Dutch Churches. The Rhinebeck Reformed, the Upper Red Hook Church, and the Red Church near Tivoli are marked "Low Dutch," while the German Reformed, the Stone Church Lutheran, and the Wurtemberg Lutheran are "High Dutch." The Rhinebeck Reformed, Upper Red Hook Reformed, and the German Reformed at Kirchehook are all marked with the abbreviation "Calv" for Calvinist. The Methodist location is called "Methodist Meeting" on the state map. Certainly by the end of the its first century of existence, the town was rich in ecclesiastical history!

Houses

Some discussion of the estates has already been included under the analysis of large land holders. The only estate shown with a name other than the landowner is Parndon. Unfortunately this building is no longer standing. However, many of the substantial structures built during the last decade of the century have survived to lend their rich heritage to the town. The first of the large brick houses was Grasmere built during the Revolutionary War. Those of this genre from the 1790s include Callendar House, The Pynes, Maisefield, and the Grove (Schuyler's). These are supplemented by frame houses of similar proportion such as the Robert Sands House and Wildercliff. Arryl House, the home of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston which stood just within the Dutchess County border until 1870, has since burned, but the ruins are preserved on the grounds of Clermont State Historic Site. The houses built for the elite include fine detailing and finishing such as the Adams mantle found in the Schuyler house and the Van Ness house.³⁴

While Helen W. Reynolds, in her book *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley*, states that stone was a common building material for the early settlers, not very many of the early houses have survived. Many have been demolished by land owners who desired more commodious and convenient dwellings, attesting to the affluence which allowed them to build new houses. A few of the stone houses which have survived include the two Kip houses near the river; the Feller, Mohr, Martin, and Heermance houses in Red Hook; two stone houses near the Rhinebeck village boundaries; and several in the south and eastern parts of the town.

Frame house construction is somewhat more difficult to date. There are a number of houses in Upper Red Hook which have been surveyed for the National Register of Historic Places which are of the 18th century. Some Rhinebeck village homes such as the D.A.R. house and the Schaad house are easily identified, typical of average frame homes of the period. Brick houses, in Miss Reynolds' words, "represent a period the followed that of the pioneer, one in which prosperity reached a point where it was possible for a householder to exercise preference in the material selected for his dwelling" The brick inn in Upper Red Hook illustrates a notable example of a pre-Revolutionary War dwelling of those in the middle-income range.

Conclusion

There were 565 citizens recorded on the 1799 tax list. Of this number, 24 had property valued in excess of \$10,000; the majority was composed of the middling wealth German and Dutch. Names on this list are still prevalent among the present residents of the area. While it must be recognized that many members of the often large families moved away, Rhinebeck still offered good mill sites, fertile soils, and easy access to markets which enabled other family members to find sufficient security to remain.

While 18th century developments in the region established the bases for settlement, a period of rapid change—in large part helped along in the Hudson Valley counties by the Erie Canal—lay ahead with increasing diversity of social and economic structures. However, the 1799 picture represented by the tax list was to remain an accurate snapshot for another two decades.

Notes

1. Dutchess County Historical Society, *Yearbook* (Poughkeepsie: 1981), pp. 127-139.
2. Dutchess County Historical Society, *Yearbook* (Poughkeepsie: 1926), p. 21.
3. *Laws of the State of New York*, Chapter 37, p. 347.
4. Dutchess County Historical Society, *Yearbook* (Poughkeepsie: 1936), p. 85.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 87.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 88.
7. Rhinebeck Historical Society, unpublished survey sheets.
8. Edward M. Smith, *Documentary History of Rhinebeck in Dutchess County, New York* (Rhinebeck: 1881), p. 16.
9. *Ibid.*, p. 23.
10. Walter Allen Knittle, *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration* (Philadelphia: 1937), p. 148.
11. Howard H. Morse, *Historic Old Rhinebeck, Echoes of Two Centuries* (Rhinebeck: 1908), p. 48.
12. Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, *Dutchess County Doorways and Other Examples of Period Works in Wood 1730-1830* (New York: 1931), pp. 245 and 246.
13. Smith, *Documentary History of Rhinebeck in Dutchess County*, New York, p. 175.
14. *Ibid.*, pp. 39 and 69.
15. Katerine M. Babbitt, *Janet Montgomery: Hudson River Squire* (Monroe, New York: 1975), p. 23.
16. Dutchess County Historical Society, *Yearbook* (Poughkeepsie: 1930), p. 20.
17. Reynolds, *Dutchess County Doorways and Other Examples of Period Works in Wood 1730-1830*, pp. 154 and 155.
18. *Ibid.*, p. 158.
19. Dutchess County Historical Society, *Yearbook* (Poughkeepsie: 1929).
20. Dutchess County Mortgages: 6: 308.
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22. Dutchess County Deeds, 47: 182; 126: 400.
23. Purple, *Marriages in the Reformed Dutch Church, New Amsterdam and New York City 1639-1801*, Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Volume IX, p. 232.
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25. *Ibid.*, p. 188.
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28. Morse, *Historic Old Rhinebeck, Echoes of Two Centuries*, p. 56.
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31. Reynolds, *Dutchess County Doorways and Other Examples of Period Works in Wood 1730-1830*, p. 248.
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