

THE VAN CORTLANDT FAMILY

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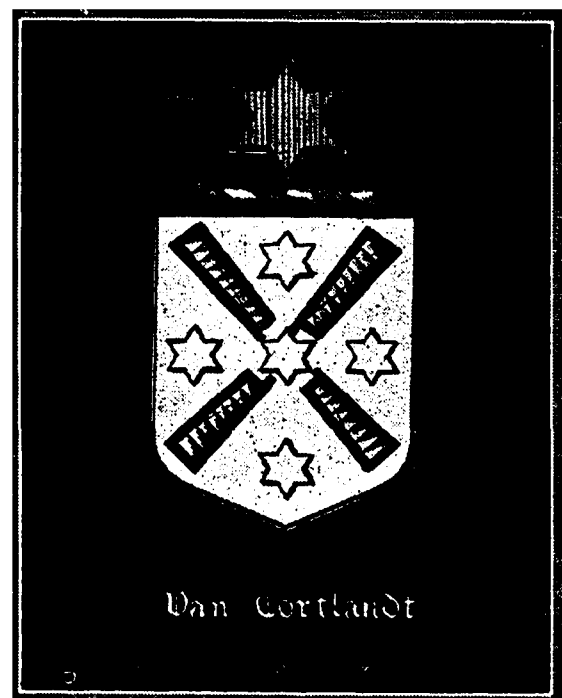
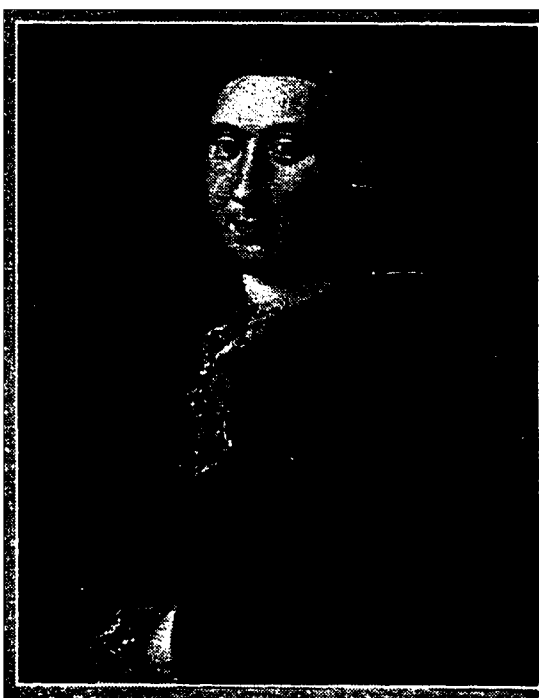
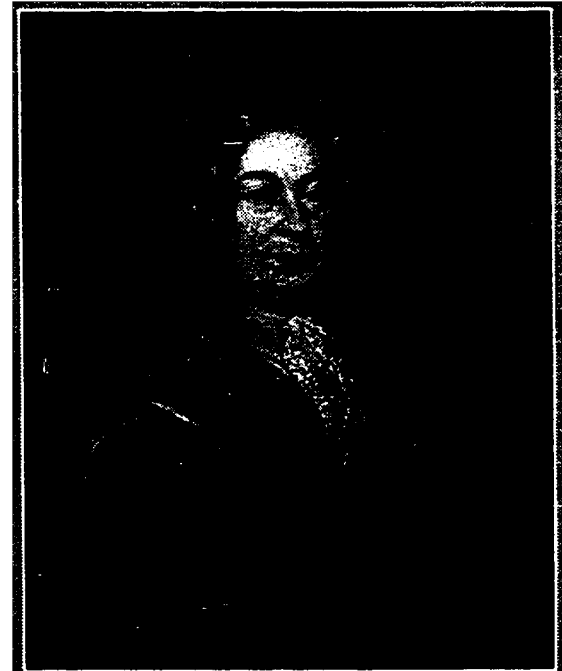
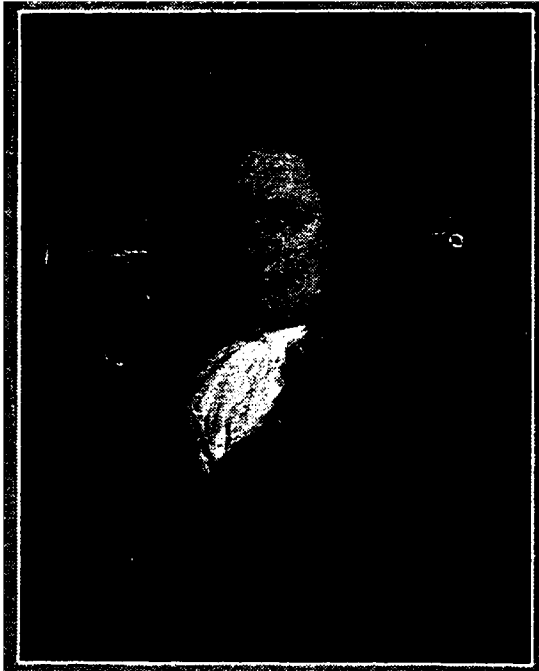
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N O T E

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THE VAN CORTLANDT FAMILY



THE VAN CORTLANDT family was one of the most influential and prominent in Colonial New York. In that small group of families interlocked by marriage and interest which largely controlled the Colony, Province and State until the decline of aristocracy in the government of New York the Van Cortlandts played a strong hand. In commercial, political and military fields their importance continued for generations.

The founder of this family in the small Dutch town of New Amsterdam was one Oloff Stevense Van Cortlandt. Of his origin many fanciful tales have been told and frequently the story has been printed that he was a descendant of the Dukes of Courland and came to this country as an officer of Dutch troops. Even Burke of the "Pærag" once published this account of the Van Cortlandt origin but it was quietly dropped from later editions of that particular work on the British gentry.

Little is actually known of the origin of Oloff Stevense. When he arrived in New Netherland, like most of his associates in the settlement, he did not use a surname. The name Oloff is neither Dutch, German nor English. It was probably really Olav, a Norwegian name, and the founder of the Van Cortlandts was probably a Scandinavian and perhaps a Norwegian. Possibly Oloff Stevense came from Courland, or had been there, as that Duchy lay opposite the Swedish Island of Gothland. When he married in New Amsterdam in 1642, he was entered as "Oloft Stephenszen j.m. Van Wyck, Tot Dúurstede" which means that he was a young man, one hitherto unmarried, from Wijk by Duurstede, which is the name of a place near Utrecht in Holland. However, there are many places in Norway called "Vik" and the name "Cortlandt" is readily translated into Scandinavian as "short land." It has been claimed that the name Van Cortlandt appears at Wijk in 1611.

The name Stevense is obviously a patronymic and Oloff Stevense was certainly the son of a man named Steven (Stephanus, Stephen). There is owned by his descendants a small portrait which has for generations been believed to be the portrait of one Catharine said to have been the mother of Oloff Stevense, and the story is that the son brought the picture to this country with him. This portrait says she died in 1630, but as he wrote to his mother in Europe after that date, the traditional attribution must be incorrect. Certain furniture now owned by the family, notably a table in the Cortlandt Manor House at Croton, was said to have been brought from Holland by Oloff Stevense. It is quite possible that in his later years when wealth had come to him he imported furniture.

Oloff Stevense did not come to New Netherland as an officer but as a common soldier in the employ of the Dutch West India Company, arriving on the man-of-war *Haering*, in March, 1638.

Before the discussion of his beginnings is finished mention must be made of the fact that he used a coat of arms, as is well established by his seals. These arms are illustrated for this article and are thus described: "Argent, the four wings of a windmill conjoined saltirewise sable voided gules between five estoiles placed cross-wise of the last." The crest as illustrated is an "estoile gules" but the description of the crest sometimes adds that the star is "between two wings displayed, the dexter argent, the sinister sable". The motto is usually given as "virtus sibi munus". These arms are recognized by the familiar continental authority, Rietstap, but Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer's valuable history of New York suggests that the windmill sails "seem to bear witness to its (the arms) assumption by an ambitious New World brewer."

The question of the origin of Oloff Stevense Van Cortlandt remains unsettled and is not of particular importance. He was indubitably a man of considerable parts and he rose in a few years to wealth and influence and started the long record of public service so well continued by his descendants.

It should be added that Oloff Stevense was a man of some education. He carried on a correspondence with Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, the first Patroon of Rensselaerswyck, who remained in the Netherlands, and Van Rensselaer did small services for him, such as forwarding letters to Van Cortlandt's mother and other correspondents and taking care of the investment of his funds. A letter from Van Rensselaer to Willem Kieft, the Director General of New Netherland, under date of May 12, 1639, seems to suggest that there had been some former connection or business relation between Van Rensselaer and Van Cortlandt, but a missing word in the letter makes its meaning uncertain. Van Rensselaer wrote: "please to greet oloff Stevesz from me, who has been my and is now in your honor's service; give him the enclosed. I should consider it a favor if he were advanced a little."

Oloff Stevense, who within a few years of his arrival, apparently in 1643, began to add the surname Van Cortlandt, was quickly advanced by Kieft. He was first made an inspector of tobacco and on July 1, 1640, was given the important post of commissary of cargoes.

The record of his later activities is a long one and can only be summarized. In 1641 he began to buy land of which he later owned many pieces. On September 12, 1641, his request that his salary as commissary be increased to thirty guilders (twelve dollars) a month was granted. In 1643 he was public storekeeper. In 1645 he was one of that small representative body called the Eight Men. In 1649 and 1650 he was one of the later body called the Nine Men and was its presiding officer in 1650. He was reappointed commissary on September 7, 1646, but was out of that post by 1648. He was an Orphan Master and a member of the Orphan Master's Court in 1653, 1657, 1660, and 1661; this court having many of the functions of the present surrogate's court. In 1655 he was elected a burgomaster and served until 1660, and in 1662 and 1663. In 1656 and 1657 he was presiding burgomaster, and also temporarily in 1660. In 1654 and 1674 he was schepen. He sat on the Director General's Council in 1645 and 1660. He was Colonel of the Burghers Corps, the city militia, in 1649. He was appointed in 1654 as administrator of monies raised from the merchants. From 1659 to 1661 and in 1664 he was the city treasurer. He was an elder and deacon of the Dutch Church in 1646 and 1670. He was a commissioner on Indian affairs in 1645, in 1660 he accompanied the Director General on a mission to Esopus, in 1663 he was one of three commissioners to proceed to Hartford to settle the boundary with Connecticut, in 1654 a commissioner to superintend the fortifying of New Amsterdam, in 1654 a com-

missioner to settle the boundary line of Gravesend and in that same year also on a commission to study the expenses of New Amsterdam, and in 1660 a commissioner to confer with certain Indian sachems. In 1653 he contributed one hundred and fifty florins to the defense fund, no contribution being larger than two hundred florins.

He was an active participant in the closing days of the Dutch administration as he served as one of the three commissioners appointed September 5, 1664, to arrange the terms of surrender. The commissioners reported September 7th, and the terms were ratified the following day. Oloff Stevense Van Cortlandt continued to have influence under the English. He was an alderman in the first municipal government, appointed June 12, 1665, and was continued as alderman in 1667, 1670, and 1672. In 1674 he was on a tax commission and in 1667 was Deputy Mayor.

As early as May 16, 1689, Oloff Stevense was rated the fourth richest man in New York. Frederick Philipse was first with eighty thousand florins, Cornelius Steenwyck had fifty thousand, Nicholas de Meyer also fifty, and Oloff Stevense Van Cortlandt had forty-five thousand florins. These were considerable fortunes, and in this sudden rise to wealth Oloff Stevense had occasional temporary difficulties. His disposition to take the offensive helped to protect him.

On January 25, 1646, Oloff Stevense Van Cortlandt sued Domine Bogardus for slander. It seems that the Fiscal (State's Attorney) had been giving a pleasant dinner party at which Van Cortlandt was present with his wife, as well as the Director General and other leading citizens. The clergyman arrived quite drunk and started to make scandalous remarks about his deacons, "abusing among the rest, deacon Oloff Stevensen, as a thief." Domine Bogardus was specific enough to say that Van Cortlandt had threatened the directors of the West India Company and had enriched himself with the company's property. Van Cortlandt promptly sued his minister and pressed the case vigorously for months. Bogardus refused to submit to arbitrators but finally Van Cortlandt forced their appointment. The Council then took the pointed action of requesting Bogardus to yield his pulpit to another clergyman on the following Sunday. The same day this request was made Bogardus yielded and came to peace with Van Cortlandt.

As President of the Nine Men in 1650, Oloff Stevense Van Cortlandt did not hesitate to oppose the Director General, Peter Stuyvesant. Stuyvesant turned the Nine Men out of church and had the special pews allotted to them torn up. Van Cortlandt protested and Stuyvesant flatly charged him with making one hundred thousand guilders out of his office of commissary on a salary of thirty guilders a month. But this trouble also blew over and later Stuyvesant placed Van Cortlandt on important commissions.

Van Cortlandt's city residence was on the present Stone Street, then called Brewer's Street. He also had a farm on the North River above Canal Street, as well as other lands. In 1656 he erected a brewery from which he made large profits. That same year he was accused of smuggling. The "farmer of the burghers' excise," a tax collector, reported to the court that Oloff Stevense would not permit him to inspect his cellar and had tried to frighten him off with reminders of Van Cortlandt's official positions. Several other good citizens, such as William Beekman and Pieter Van Couwenhoven, were brought up on similar charges of smuggling beer. The others did not protest greatly and were fined but Van Cortlandt claimed the tax collector was insolent to him and insisted he be punished. Instead, Oloff Stevense was fined one hundred and thirty-three florins. Even then, he fought the case up to the Director General, before he paid.

Oloff Stevense Van Cortlandt, who died April 4, 1684, married Anneken (Ann) Loockermans in the Dutch Church in New Amsterdam, on February 26, 1642.

She was a maiden from Turnhout, in Holland, and was the sister of Govert Loockermans, who came to New Netherland in a humble capacity and rose to some distinction there. This couple had the following children:

1. Stephanus, who was born May 7th, and on May 10th, 1643, baptized in the Dutch Church, New Amsterdam. He will be discussed further.
2. Maria (Mary), who was born July 30, 1645, according to the family account, but baptized June 23, 1645, according to the Dutch Church Record. She died January 29, 1689. According to the Dutch Church record, she married Jeremias Van Rensselaer on April 27, 1662, but he wrote his mother that he had married on July 12th of that year. He was born in 1632/3 and died October 12, 1674. He was a son of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, the first Patroon of Rensselaerswyck and was himself the third director, fourth patroon, and second lord of the manor.
3. John, who was born October 11, 1648, and baptized in the Dutch Church, New Amsterdam, on October 25, 1648. He died unmarried.
4. Sophia, who was born May 31, 1651, and baptized as "Fytie" in the Dutch Church, New Amsterdam, on June 4, 1651. On May 6, 1671, in the Dutch Church, New York, she married Andries Teller, born in Albany, a son of Willem Teller.
5. Catharine, who was born October 25, 1652, and baptized January 5, 1653, in the Dutch Church, New Amsterdam. On October 10, 1675, the banns were published for her marriage to John Dervall and they were married the following November 3rd, in the Dutch Church, New York. He was an Englishman and a merchant and they lived on Brug Straet (Bridge Street) until his death in 1688 or 1689. His widow married, secondly, November 30, 1692, in the New York Dutch Church, Frederick Philipse, the first Lord of Philipse Manor, who was then a widower. On November 25, 1692, Philipse and Catharine signed a prenuptial agreement.
6. Cornelia, who was born November 21, 1655, and baptized in the New Amsterdam Dutch Church on November 28th. On July 12, 1682, in the New York Dutch Church, she married Brandt Schuyler, a son of Philip Pieterse Schuyler.
7. Jacobus, who was born July 7, 1658, and baptized the same day. He will be later mentioned.

Stephanus² Van Cortlandt, the eldest son of Oloff Stevense Van Cortlandt and his wife Anneken Loockermans, was born May 7, 1643, and on the following May 10th, was baptized in the Dutch Church in New Amsterdam. On September 10, 1670, according to the New York Dutch Church records he married Gertruyd (Gertrude) Schuyler, a daughter of Philip Pieterse Schuyler. However, the Albany Church records say: "October, 1671. On the 3rd (Wednesday) at the wedding of Stephen Kortlant 13:6 was collected in the church for the poor. On the 4th, at the wedding party, 15:9 was collected."

The career of Stephanus was long and distinguished and he held many offices. He touched every phase of the city's life and was prominent as merchant, soldier, jurist, and legislator.

Before his marriage, on August 17, 1668, he was made an Ensign of a Burgher Company. He received later commissions as ensign on July 13, 1670, and in 1673 and 1684. On September 15, 1684, he was authorized to raise a troop of horse in Kings County to consist of fifty men and of this troop he was to be captain. In 1688 and 1689 he is referred to as Major and he was on active duty in 1689 in command of the militia of Kings County, proceeding to Albany with his troops, this being a time of a French alarm. As early as 1692 he is mentioned as Colonel and continues to be given that rank, although his only known commission in that grade still existing is dated in 1700 when he was given a Kings County regiment. When he sat in 1694 with the Governor as one of the Commissioners to frame a treaty with the Five Nations he was called "Colonel."

Although not a lawyer he held many judicial offices. He was the first Judge of the Court of Admiralty, appointed October 5, 1678. On September 25, 1688, he was appointed Judge of the Superior Court of Pleas of Kings County. He served

as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1691 and 1693, and on October 30, 1700, was made Chief Justice of the Province. On May 9, 1700, he was made Justice of the Court of Oyer and Terminer and Justice of the Peace in Westchester County. In November, 1696, he was made Chancellor of the Court of Chancery and in September, 1696, he became the Register and Principal Surrogate. This appointment as Surrogate was an order that Stephanus Van Cortlandt and any two others of the Council should be keepers of the Great Seal and that, during the Governor's absence, Van Cortlandt alone should take probates and grant letters of administration.

Stephanus held many other offices. He sat on the Council from 1680 to 1688, and from 1691 to 1700. On May 13, 1689, he was made official auditor. He was nominated as a schepen in 1664 and 1673, but was not elected until 1674. He was an alderman in 1675 and 1676. On November 10, 1687, he was made Deputy Auditor General, and on March 25, 1687, was appointed Receiver General. He was the first native-born Mayor of the City of New York in 1677, and was also mayor in 1687. In 1698 he was Commissioner of the Customs and Collector of Revenue. On June 6, 1688, he was made Secretary of the Province of New York.

One of his earliest appointments was on September 30, 1675, when the joint Court of Albany, Rensselaerswyck and Schenectady appointed him to represent the Colony of Rensselaerswyck at the Court of Assizes in New York City. This came about because Stephanus Van Cortlandt's brother-in-law, Jeremias Van Rensselaer, had died in 1674, and the heir to the great Van Rensselaer properties was a small boy. Consequently, the affairs of the Colony of Rensselaerswyck were placed in the hands of a committee composed of Madam Maria (Van Cortlandt) Van Rensselaer, Reverend Nicholas Van Rensselaer and Stephanus Van Cortlandt. Van Cortlandt had charge of the books of the estate and he received one-quarter of four hundred schepels of wheat as payment every year. He held this office for some years.

Stephanus Van Cortlandt was a merchant and did a lucrative business in supplying troops and ships. He lived on Brouwers Straet (Brewer's Street, the present Stone Street). He held office in the Episcopal Church, although not an Episcopalian, being chosen a warden on January 14, 1696.

In the abortive revolution of Jacob Leisler, a public-spirited but misguided man, Van Cortlandt was one of his bitterest enemies, although the two men were related by marriage. On January, 17, 1689, Leisler ordered Van Cortlandt's arrest on charges of high treason and Stephanus had to flee the city. Leisler tried to get Van Cortlandt to give up the city charter, seals, papers, books, etc., kept at his house, but the order was received by Mrs. Van Cortlandt who threw it in the face of the messenger. Stephanus Van Cortlandt must share the responsibility for the execution of Leisler as he was one of the Council to vote at a meeting on May 14, 1691, that he be put to death.

Stephanus Van Cortlandt piled up an enormous property in land. He not only had real estate in the City of New York but large areas in Suffolk, Richmond and Kings Counties and north of the Rensselaer Manor, as well as at least eight hundred acres in New Jersey. His chief feat was the collecting of about 83,000 acres on the east side of the Hudson River, extending for ten miles along the river from the southerly shore of the Croton River to the line dividing Westchester and Putnam Counties, and extending twenty miles east to the Connecticut boundary. This estate included all the present townships of Cortlandt, North Salem, Somers, and Yorktown, and part of Lewisboro. It was assembled and the boundaries marked out about 1686, Van Cortlandt employing Indians to establish the lines. On June 17, 1697, was signed the document formally setting up this great section as Cortlandt Manor, and making Stephanus Van Cortlandt the Lord of the Manor.

The original grant, handsomely engrossed and bearing a portrait of King William III, is still preserved at the Manor House. The grant provided for courts leet (the ordinance-making body which presented offenders against the local regulations) and courts baron (trying civil actions between tenants and matters relating to land tenure), gave rights of patronage over all churches, made the Lord of the Manor sole and only Ranger, provided fully for hunting and fishing rights, and gave the Lords of Cortlandt the extraordinary privilege of sending a representative to the Colonial Assembly.

Stephanus Van Cortlandt did not live on the Manor and the Manor House, which is discussed elsewhere, was chiefly used as a hunting lodge and place for transacting business. Except for a few white people collected about the Manor House and a group at Verplanck's Point, the manor was only occupied by Indians. The census of the Manor taken in 1712 showed only ninety-one persons, including children and four slaves, on the entire area. There is no evidence that any courts were ever set up by the Lord of the Manor but as the court baron was not a court of record it may have been held.

Stephanus' last years were troubled with disease. Lord Bellomont wrote, "he has grown very crazy and infirm."

Stephanus Van Cortlandt died on November 25, 1700, in New York City. His will was made April 14, 1700, and proved January 7, 1700/1. He provided that most of his estate should be divided among his children, but his wife, who seems to have been a strong-minded woman, apparently induced the children not to divide the property until after her death. Articles of agreement for a division were drawn November 13, 1730, and a partial division made on May 29, 1733, but the final partition was not made until November 4, 1734.

After the death of Stephanus his widow made considerable trouble for the authorities as they could not recover from her the official records of her late husband. She claimed that her husband was owed a considerable amount of money by the government and she held on to the tax books. The Council had to issue a proclamation that no excise money should be paid to her and to send the sheriff to take the books away. This official was unsuccessful in recovering them and they were finally seized when the widow produced them for what she believed was to be an open audit. She claimed the government owed the estate three hundred pounds. The widow appeared several times before the Council or a committee and was presenting claims as late as the end of the year 1708. She died in August, 1723. Her will was made December 16, 1718, and proved April 15, 1724. She refers to the fact that her son Johannes died in her debt and that she had administered his estate at a loss and would not leave anything to his children. There is preserved at the Manor House an exceedingly interesting contemporary list of those present at the funeral of this Gertruyd (Schuyler) Van Cortlandt.

Stephanus and Gertruyd (Schuyler) Van Cortlandt had the following children:

1. John, who was born August 24, 1672, and baptized the following October 28th, in the New York Dutch Church. He died intestate, and letters of administration on his estate were given to his mother on December 12, 1702. On June 23, 1695, in the New York Dutch Church he married Anna Maria Van Schaick. He was commissioned an ensign in the New York City Regiment in 1691. He had two children:
 - (i) Gertrude, who was baptized July 4, 1697, and married Philip Verplanck on April 10, 1718. She died on October 13, 1771.
 - (ii) Johanna, who was baptized August 25, 1702, and died young.
2. Margaret, who was born August 12, 1674, according to the family record, but who was baptized July 29, 1674, according to the Dutch Church. She married in the Dutch Church, New York, on March 12, 1696, Samuel Bayard, son of Nicholas Bayard. She married secondly, Peter Kemble.

3. Anne, who was born February 12, 1676, and baptized in the New York Dutch Church, February 28, 1677. On January 23, 1700, in the New York Dutch Church she married Stephen de Lancey.
4. Oliver, who was born October 26, 1678, and baptized as Olof in the New York Dutch Church, on November 6, 1678. He died unmarried. His will, made December 23, 1706, was proved November 25, 1719. He is said to have died in 1708.
5. Maria, who was born April 4, 1680, and baptized in the New York Dutch Church, on April 21, 1680. By license dated October 8th she married in the New York Dutch Church on October 15, 1701, Kiliaen Van Rensselaer. He was born August 24, 1663, and was the fifth Patroon and third Lord of the Manor. Maria married, secondly, John Miln.
6. Gertrude, who was born January 10, 1681, and baptized in the New York Dutch Church on January 20, 1682. She died young.
7. Philip, who was born August 9, 1683, of whom much more will be said.
8. Stephanus (Stephen), who was born August 11, 1685, and baptized the following August 16th, in the New York Dutch Church. Of him more will be said.
9. Gertrude, who was born October 10, 1688, and baptized in the New York Dutch Church on February 23, 1687. She married on October 21, 1726, in the New York Dutch Church, Henry Beekman. She was his second wife.
10. Gysbert, who was baptized in the New York Dutch Church on October 7, 1688. He died young.
11. Elizabeth, who was born May 24, 1694, and baptized May 28, 1694, in the New York Dutch Church. She married the Reverend William Skinner, whose surname was originally McGregor. Among their children were Cortlandt Skinner, Attorney General of New Jersey and General of Loyalist forces, Stephen Skinner, Treasurer of New Jersey, and jurist, and Lieut. Col. William Skinner, 85th Regiment, British Army.
12. Catharine, who was born July 30, 1696, according to the family record, but who, according to the New York Dutch Church, was baptized July 1, 1696. She married Andrew Johnston, Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly and member of the New Jersey Council.
13. Cornelia, who was born July 30, 1698. Her baptism does not appear on record. On October 18, 1723, in the New York Dutch Church she married John Schuyler, Jr.

THE SENIOR BRANCH

Philip³ Van Cortlandt was born August 9, 1683, and on the twenty-second of that month was baptized in the Dutch Church in New York City. He was the third son of Stephanus and Gertruyd (Schuyler) Van Cortlandt, but his two older brothers, John and Oliver, died in 1702 and 1708, without sons, and Philip became head of the family. He may be considered to have been the fourth Lord of the Manor and he owned the Manor House (after the family division of November 4, 1734), but he probably did not exercise the rights and privileges of a Lord. He did not live at the Manor House, then a fort-like structure, used as a hunting lodge, trading post and office for manor affairs.

On December 7, 1710, in the Dutch Church, New York, Philip married Catharine de Peyster, daughter of Colonel Abraham de Peyster. He held many public offices as was frequent in the family. Beginning in 1711 he was placed on an auditing committee and served on many such auditing committees during the following twenty years. He was an Assistant Alderman from 1714 to 1716 and an Alderman from 1717 to 1729. On June 26, 1729, he was appointed by the Governor to the Council. On February 3, 1730, he was appointed by the King as a member of the Council, although he owed his place partly to a feeling in New York that he would be more agreeable than his predecessor to taking away some of the rights of the Crown, against which the colonists were constantly struggling. He took his seat on the Council the following April 23rd and served until

his death in 1746, receiving re-appointments on August 3, 1732, and October 18, 1743. In the Dutch Church he was a church-master in 1715 and that same year was made a deacon. He was particularly active in the affairs of the church and served on many committees. By occupation he was a merchant and he owned considerable property, including a "Coffee House" and a tavern called the "Fighting Cocks." It is sometimes stated that he was a colonel in the militia but that is not correct.

Philip³ Van Cortlandt, with his cousin Frederick³ Van Cortlandt and other members of the family presented to the City of New York, a new street which they had named "Cortlandt Street." This street was, on May 25, 1733, accepted by the Common Council. As recently as 1913, the courts have held that, owing to these circumstances, the city only has an easement in Cortlandt Street.

Catharine (de Peyster) Van Cortlandt died intestate in 1734, and on April eleventh of that year, letters of administration on her estate were issued to her husband. His own will was drawn August 1, 1746, and probated November 17, 1748. He was living as late as September 21, 1747. His estate went to his four living sons.

The children of Philip³ Van Cortlandt and his wife Catharine (de Peyster) were the following:

1. Stephen, who was baptized October 24, 1711, in the Dutch Church, New York City. He will receive further notice.
2. Abraham, who was born October 19th, and baptized October 25, 1713, in the Dutch Church, New York City. He died unmarried in 1746.
3. Philip, who was born February 29, 1716, and baptized March 11, 1716, in the Dutch Church, New York City. He died unmarried in 1745.
4. John, who was born September 9, 1718, and baptized the following September 14th, in the Dutch Church, New York City. John kept a journal which is owned at the Manor House. One extract has been published which is of interest in showing that the manner of travel to the manor was sometimes by water. He wrote in 1747: "Went to Croton River in the sloop with brother Pierre, May 27th, and arrived there the next day." He died in 1747 unmarried. He was the "John Van Cortlandt, Gentleman, Attorney at Law" who was admitted as a freeman of the City of New York on August 4, 1747. On September 19, 1746, he was appointed Coroner of New York City, was re-appointed in 1747, and served until his death. His place was filled January 22, 1748.
5. Pierre, who was born January 10, 1721, and baptized under the name of "Pierro" in the New York Dutch Church on June 18, 1721. Much will be said of him later.
6. Catharine, who was born June 26, 1725, and baptized in the New York Dutch Church, April 24, 1726. As a child she stood on the Battery on June 4, 1735, while a salute was being fired in honor of the King's birthday, and she was killed by the bursting of a cannon.

Stephen⁴ Van Cortlandt, the eldest son of Philip and Catharine (de Peyster) Van Cortlandt, became the head of the family and would have been the fifth Lord of the Manor if that title had been considered an active one. He was baptized in the Dutch Church in New York City, on October 24, 1711, and probably died in 1757, as his will, made June 7, 1754, was proved May 24, 1757. On May 6, 1738, he secured in New York a license to marry Mary Walton Ricketts, a daughter of William Ricketts and his wife Mary Walton of New York City and Jamaica, West Indies, and the marriage probably took place within a few days. By his father's will Stephen did not receive the Manor House, which went to his younger brother Pierre, but was given three farms, each of 250 acres, in South Lot No. 1, which lay towards the east. These farms were entailed, the father providing that on Stephen's death they should be held in trust by James de Lancey and Peter de Lancey "for the eldest son of said Stephen and his first born heirs, male."

Stephen⁴ Van Cortlandt was not active in either civil or military affairs which was unusual for his family. He lived quietly in his home on the north side of

Stone Street, New York City. This was not his father's old home on the same street which Stephen had inherited, as that house was leased and so held by Stephen until his death. Stephen Van Cortlandt died young, leaving a widow and two sons under age. To the elder of these, Philip⁵, was left the father's Cortlandt Manor property, then under lease to Jacob Cornwell, as well as other lands and plate, including the "large silver tankard with the family Coat of Arms." The younger son also received a good deal of land, while the widow was given for life the house her husband was occupying in New York. She married again a man named Hughes and was living as late as 1786.

The two sons of Stephen and Mary Walton (Ricketts) Van Cortlandt were the following:

1. Philip⁵, who was born November 10, 1739, and who will be further discussed.
2. William Ricketts⁵, who was born March 12, 1742. By New York marriage license dated January 3, 1765, he married Elizabeth Kortright. He was mentioned in the will of Anne (Van Cortlandt) de Peyster in 1774, and in that of Gertrude (Van Cortlandt) Beekman in 1776. He had descendants living in Westchester County, N. Y., as late as 1886, for whom see Bolton's Westchester County, vol. 1, chart facing p. 98.

Philip⁵ Van Cortlandt, who was born in 1739, and has been just mentioned, was the senior member of the family upon his father's death, and would have been the sixth Lord of the Manor, had such a designation been in use. His uncle, Pierre Van Cortlandt (1721-1814) was the owner and occupant of the Manor House, while Philip lived in New Jersey.

This Philip⁵ Van Cortlandt secured a license in New York on July 30, 1762, to marry Catharine Ogden, and married her on August 2nd. She was born November 29, 1746, and died February 22, 1828, and was a daughter of Jacob Ogden. In 1758, Philip had graduated from Kings College (now Columbia) and after his marriage he removed to Hanover, Morris County, New Jersey, where he had a pearl-ash factory. He became a lieutenant in the New Jersey militia and was living in considerable style in Hanover until the War of the Revolution, when he was "reduced in the space of three months from affluence to the want of the common necessities of life," as he later wrote. On June 12, 1775, he had addressed a letter to his fellow officers of the Morris County militia, urging them to remain loyal to the King. Within a few days he was visited by a delegation of leading patriots who asked him to convert his pearl-ash works into a place to make nitre, promising him great profits from that enterprise. He was also, according to his own account, offered the commission of Colonel in the American Army. Declining these inducements he was called before his neighbors at a meeting in the county hall and charged with disloyalty to the cause of his country, but he was able to talk his way out of arrest. Soon after that he fled to Pennsylvania and Maryland. Returning to New Jersey he was fined and forbidden to carry arms. Learning that General Lee had ordered his arrest he escaped to the mountains and managed, although pursued by light horse, to reach the British troops under Brigadier General Cortlandt Skinner, who was his cousin, the son of his aunt, Elizabeth (Van Cortlandt) Skinner. Cortlandt Skinner had recently been given command of a brigade of New Jersey loyalists and on December 11, 1776, he made Philip Van Cortlandt a Major in the Third Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, part of this brigade. Van Cortlandt was given a commission in 1776 as Lieutenant-Colonel to raise his own battalion but was apparently unsuccessful in this and he remained as a Major with Cortlandt Skinner. In 1777, General Skinner made him Acting Brigade Major and in 1778 he was appointed to Skinner's Fourth Battalion, and seems to have held that rank and commission until the end of the war when he went to England. In his memorial to the Commissioners for settling claims, Van Cortlandt complained that his family was "treated in a manner that would disgrace the most savage bar-

barians," and that, "by the order of Mr. George Washington, they were inhumanly turned out of doors in a snowstorm to make room for the sick of his army." He stated that his furniture and pictures were destroyed and that the family silver, although carried away by him, had to be sold in England. In the particulars of his claims he set forth the value of all his property and claimed losses of £8,539, for which he was allowed by the commissioners the sum of £1,500, which was a low figure as his New Jersey real estate alone was sold by the patriots for over three thousand pounds. Among his property he listed what he owned in New York, including a house in New York City at the corner of Nassau and John Streets, which had been occupied by Lord Amherst, General Monkton, and others, and was worth, he estimated, a rent of three hundred pounds a year. It should be noted that he made no mention in his claims of the loss of his manorial rights, but the act confiscating his lands provided for estates in reversion, including manor rights.

Philip Van Cortlandt died May 1, 1814, at Hailsham, England, where he was Barrack Master. His obituary notice called him "Colonel" but his proper rank seems to have been major. His will was dated April 30, 1814, and left "the wreck of his fortune" to his wife. She received a pension until her death and small grants were made to his unmarried daughters in 1817.

Major Philip⁵ Van Cortlandt and his wife, Catharine Ogden, had at least seventeen children, many of whom became prominent in England. These seventeen were as follows:

1. Mary Ricketts, who was born in 1763, and married John McNiel Anderson of Maryland on July 10, 1784.
2. Elizabeth, who was born in 1764, and died in 1816. She married William Taylor (1746-1806), Chief Justice of Jamaica, W. I., of Cowley House, England. Their children included Lieutenant General Joseph Pringle Taylor, British Army, Captain Cortlandt Taylor of the Madras Artillery, and Catharine Van Cortlandt Taylor, who married Clement Clark Moore, LL.D., of New York.
3. Catharine, who was born in 1764, a twin of Elizabeth. She married Dr. William Gourley of Scotland.
4. Philip, who was born July 30, 1766 and married Mary Addison. As a boy of thirteen years he was a soldier under his father in the New Jersey Volunteers (Loyalist), with the rank of Ensign. He became Deputy Barrackmaster-General of Lower Canada. He died October 3, 1833, without issue.
5. Stephen, who was born July 30, 1766, a twin of Philip, and died young.
6. Margaret Hughes, who married Onesphorus Elliott Owen, of Binfield Park, Binfield, Berks, and of Portland Place, London, Captain in the 57th Foot.
7. Sarah Ogden, who was born in 1771 and died April 18, 1771.
8. Gertrude, who was born in 1772. She married in 1789, Vice Admiral Sir Edward Buller, Bart., member of Parliament. He died in 1829 and she died at Torquay in 1849.
9. Sarah Ogden, who was born in 1774 and died in 1859, unmarried.
10. Richard Willing, who was born in 1775 and died in 1777.
11. Jacob Ogden, who was born in 1777, and married Ann Warrington. He was killed in Spain in 1811, as a Captain, Twenty-third Fusiliers, B.A.
12. Henry Clinton, who was born in 1780 and died in 1864, unmarried. He was Lieutenant Colonel, Third Foot, B.A.
13. Charlotte, who was born in 1782 and died in 1847, without issue. She married in 1841, General Sir John Fraser.
14. Jane, who was born and died in 1783.
15. William, who was born and died in 1785.
16. Arthur Auchmuty, who was born in 1787 and died at Madras, unmarried. He was Captain, 45th and 24th Foot, B.A.
17. Sophia Swayer, who was born in 1789 and married Captain Sir William Howe Mulcaster. He died in 1837.

Pierre⁴ Van Cortlandt, the second surviving son of Philip and Catharine (de Peyster) Van Cortlandt, was born January 10, 1721, and baptized in the New York Dutch Church on June 18, 1721. He married on May 28, 1748, in the New York Dutch Church, his cousin, Joanna, daughter of Gilbert Livingston, and the following year they went to make their home at the Manor House, now converted into a comfortable dwelling. He had inherited the Manor House under his father's will, although he had an older brother, Stephen, who was really the head of the family. As this brother Stephen was a Loyalist and fled the country, Pierre was the head of the senior branch in America from the time of the Revolution.

Pierre Van Cortlandt was a notable figure in many ways and a distinguished public servant. He was elected to represent Cortlandt Manor in the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Assemblies, serving from 1768 to 1775. He was the first of the name to use the right given by the manorial grant permitting the manor to send a representative to the Colonial Assembly. His cousin, Philip Verplanck had sat in the Twentieth to the Twenty-ninth Assemblies (1734-1768), the seat being first recognized June 11, 1734. Pierre was a delegate from the manor to the second General Convention of the Dutch Church in 1772. When the Revolution came, he was a Colonel of militia and he must have had some previous military experience. It is therefore quite certain that he was the "Major Courtlandt" who led a detachment from Westchester County to the relief of Albany in August, 1757, during the last French and Indian War.

While the last years of the Colonial era passed quickly, Pierre Van Cortlandt was active as both soldier and statesman and was maintaining at the Manor House a busy and dignified life as a gentleman farmer. We have one glimpse of him as a host in a letter Lieutenant Governor Cadwalader Colden wrote to his wife in 1753. "I have had," he said, "a pleasant ride from Fishkill to Van Cortlandt's passing easily through the mountains and arrived at the Manor House by dusk. Young Pierre and his charming wife keep up the hospitality of the house equal to his late father."

In the beginning of the active unrest that led to the Revolution, the attitude of powerful families such as the Van Cortlandts was of great importance to both sides. Some time in 1774, Governor Tryon went to Croton and urged Pierre Van Cortlandt to remain loyal to the King. The Royal Governor offered Van Cortlandt large grants of land, presented the possibility of a title, and promised the son, Philip Van Cortlandt, a commission as a Major in the British Army. These offers were not accepted by father or son and when war broke out they both stood with the revolting colonists. Pierre Van Cortlandt was commissioned as Colonel of the Third Westchester County Regiment on October 19, 1775. That same year he sat in the Second Provincial Congress as a delegate from Westchester County. He was also a member of the Third and Fourth Congresses in 1776 and 1777. He was President of the Congress and Chief Executive of the State on May 14, 1777. On October 15, 1776, he became a member of the Council of Safety, and in August, 1777, was elected President of that body. On July 9, 1777, he was elected the first Lieutenant Governor of the State and the presiding officer of the State Senate. On June 25, 1778, his place was filled as Colonel of the Third Westchester Regiment and for the remainder of the war he served as Lieutenant Governor.

During the War, the Lieutenant Governor entertained at the Manor House Washington, Franklin, Lafayette, Rochambeau and other great figures of the Revolution. The Van Cortlandts had to abandon their home at one time and they sought safety in Dutchess County. It is believed they stayed with the family of their late relative, Colonel Henry Beekman.

Colonel Pierre Van Cortlandt left an account of the trip he made into New York with General Washington at the end of the war. On November 18, 1783,

he, with Governor Clinton and others, started to ride from Peekskill and spent that night at Croton with his son, General Philip Van Cortlandt. On the next day, Washington and his aides were met at Edward Couwenhoven's. The following day the whole party were guests of Frederick Van Cortlandt at his Yonkers house. Riding to Harlem the next day and then on to the Stuyvesant home outside the city, the party rested for three days, and then all rode into the city to a glorious reception.

The war ended, Pierre Van Cortlandt continued in public office. He served as Lieutenant Governor until 1795, when he declined re-election. On May 5, 1784, he was elected Vice-Chancellor of the University of the State of New York. In 1784 he was elected an honorary member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati. He continued farming at the Manor. The census for 1790 shows he had eight slaves on his property.

Pierre Van Cortlandt died May 1, 1814, and was buried in the Manor cemetery. His wife Joanna, who was born at Kingston, on August 28, 1722, died at Croton, on September 6, 1808.

On September 10, 1827, General Philip Van Cortlandt presented to the City of New York a bust of his father, the late Lieutenant Governor, and it was accepted that day with resolutions reciting the patriotic services of father and son. Unfortunately, this bust, like some other gifts to the city, cannot at present be located.

Pierre and Joanna (Livingston) Van Cortlandt had the following children:

1. Philip, was born April 21, 1749, of whom more will be said. He was baptized August 27, 1749, in the Dutch Church, New York, the only child of this group baptized there. About the time of his birth the parents moved to the Manor House.
2. Catharine, who was born July 4, 1751. She married Abraham Van Wyck by marriage license dated December 20, 1775.
3. Cornelia, who was born August 2, 1753 and died March 4, 1847. She married in 1770, Gerard G. Beekman.
4. Gertrude, who was born July 26, 1755 and died December 9, 1766, unmarried.
5. Gilbert, who was born April 6, 1757 and died unmarried November 12, 1786, according to the family record, but the Dutch Church books show his burial on September 11, 1786. His will was made September 18, 1784, and proved October 30, 1797. His estate was left to his brothers and sisters. On September 20, 1775, he was commissioned Captain in the North Battalion of Westchester County, a battalion raised in the Manor of Cortlandt.
6. Stephen, who was born February 17, 1760 and died August 29, 1775. According to family records he was a soldier in the Revolution, although he died at fifteen years, but his name does not appear on official records.
7. Pierre, who was born August 29, 1762, for whom see further.
8. Anne de Peyster, who was born June 1, 1766 and died January 10, 1855. On April 15, 1787, she married Philip Van Rensselaer.

Philip⁵ Van Cortlandt, the eldest son of Pierre and Joanna (Livingston) Van Cortlandt, was born April 21, 1749, and baptized the following August 27th, in the Dutch Church in New York City. He died November 5, 1831, never having married. (The family record says he died November 21, 1831, but Philip Hone wrote in his diary on Wednesday, November 9, 1831, "Died Saturday evening at his seat in Westchester General Philip Van Cortlandt aged eighty-two," and the records of the Society of the Cincinnati gives the date as November 5th.) He had a farm within the manor on which he had in 1790 four slaves. This was in addition to other property, such as the 1,550 acres in Onondaga County, granted him in 1794.

Philip was sent to the Coldenham Academy and educated as a surveyor. Before the Revolution he held a commission as Major in a Westchester County militia regiment and it is said, as has been told, that Governor Tryon offered him a commission of the same grade in the British Army if he would remain loyal to the

Crown. On June 18, 1775, he was commissioned by Congress as Lieutenant Colonel of Holmes' Regiment, which was later designated the Fourth New York Continental Infantry, and with this regiment he marched to Ticonderoga. While on leave of absence he met Washington at the home of James Van Cortlandt, Philip's cousin. Through this meeting, he was appointed on Washington's staff, joining the General at Kingsbridge. Van Cortlandt had the endorsement of General McDougall who wrote of him, "he is a young gentleman of family and spirit." He only served a few days on Washington's staff.

On November 21, 1776, Philip Van Cortlandt was made Colonel of the Second New York Continental Infantry, and reached his new regiment at Trenton the morning after the battle there. He served at Fishkill, in the Mohawk Valley, at Kingston, at the Hudson cantonments, was present at Burgoyne's surrender, wintered at Valley Forge, performed particularly brilliant services under General Sullivan against the Indians in western Pennsylvania, and commanded the New York Brigade at the surrender at Yorktown. He then retired to his home. Congress in 1783, gave him the brevet rank of Brigadier General in recognition of his services.

He also held important civil offices. In 1775 he was a delegate from Westchester County to the first New York Provincial Congress. He was a delegate to the Federal Constitutional Convention in New York in 1788. He served from Westchester County in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Assemblies, 1788 to 1790; was a member of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth State Senates, 1791 to 1793; a member of the Council of Appointment in 1792; member of the United States Congress, the Third to Eighth Congresses, 1793 to 1805; and a Presidential Elector in 1812. He was an original member (1783) of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati and served as treasurer of the Society. He accompanied Lafayette on his tour of the country in 1824.

Pierre⁵ Van Cortlandt, another son of Pierre and Joanna (Livingston) Van Cortlandt, was born August 29, 1762, at Cortlandt Manor, and died there on July 13, 1848.

Despite his extreme youth he was probably the one of his name who served in the Dutchess County Militia during the Revolution. It will be recalled that his parents had moved their home to that county during part of the war. He graduated from Rutgers College in 1783 and started the study of law in the office of Alexander Hamilton in New York. He later received the degree of LL.D., from Rutgers.

He continued the family's interest in military affairs and as early as June 24, 1786, was a captain of light infantry in Westchester County. He steadily rose through the various grades until he became a major general of militia, which rank he held until 1821. During the War of 1812 he commanded a brigade of infantry with the rank of brigadier general, but probably did not see any active service although he was under orders to call out his troops if the British advanced up the East River.

Pierre Van Cortlandt was also a member of the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Assemblies, in 1792 and 1794, and of the Eighteenth in 1795. In 1800 he was a Presidential Elector, and from 1811 to 1813 a member of the Twelfth United States Congress. He was President of the Westchester County Bank from 1833 to his death and for many years was a warden of St. Peter's Church in Peekskill. He succeeded in 1832 to his brother's membership in the Society of the Cincinnati.

Pierre Van Cortlandt, who inherited the Manor House and lived there, was married twice. In 1801 he married Catharine (Clinton) Taylor, a daughter of Governor George Clinton and the widow of Captain John Taylor. She was born

at New London on November 5, 1770, and died at Peekskill on January 10, 1811. His second wife, whom he married May 10, 1813, was Anne Stevenson, daughter of John Stevenson of Albany. She died March 20, 1821. The only child was by the second wife:

1. Pierre, who was born April 25, 1815, and will be further considered.

Pierre⁶ Van Cortlandt, son of Pierre and Anne (Stevenson) Van Cortlandt, was the next head of the senior branch and the owner of the Manor House. He was born at Albany, N. Y., April 25, 1815, and died at Croton, New York, July 11, 1884. He was a Colonel in the New York Militia but held no civil offices. He inherited in 1853, his father's membership in the New York Society of the Cincinnati.

On June 14, 1836, at Albany, he married Catharine Elizabeth Beck, daughter of Theodoric Romeyn Beck, M.D., LL.D., eminent in medical jurisprudence. She was born at Albany, New York, August 21, 1818, and died at Croton, January 12, 1895. This Mrs. Pierre Van Cortlandt was much interested in historical and genealogical matters and made several valuable contributions in these fields. The children of this marriage were:

1. Catharine Theresa Romeyn, who was born May 2, 1838 and died February 20 1921. She married June 5, 1873, Rev. John Rutherford Mathews, Chaplain in the United States Navy. He was born November 29, 1835, at New York City, and died December 27, 1898, at Croton, New York. They had three children:
 - (i) Philip Van Cortlandt, who was born August 19, 1874, and died July 2, 1887.
 - (ii) Catharine Van Cortlandt, who was born July 16, 1876. Unmarried.
 - (iii) Isabel Rutherford, who was born May 1, 1879.
2. Pierre, who was born September 23, 1841, and died October 16, 1879, unmarried.
3. Romeyn Beck, who was born in March, 1843 and died in infancy.
4. James Stevenson, who was born February 28, 1844 and died unmarried. He was a Captain in the Twenty-second Cavalry of New York in the Civil War. He succeeded to his father's membership in the Society of the Cincinnati. On his own death the membership became vacant as there were no living male descendants of General Philip, the original member. He died on April 28, 1917.
5. Theodoric Romeyn, who was born April 23, 1845 and died August 11, 1880, unmarried.
6. Anne Stevenson, who was born July 14, 1847. She is at present (1930) the occupant of the Manor House. She is a member of the National Society of Colonial Dames.
7. Philip, who was born October 5, 1857, and died in infancy.

THE NEW JERSEY BRANCH

Stephen³ Van Cortlandt, the fourth son of Stephanus² and Gertruyd (Schuyler) Van Cortlandt, was born August 11, 1685, and baptized five days later in the Dutch Church in New York City. In the Dutch Church he also was married, August 28, 1713, to Catharina Staats, a daughter of Dr. Samuel Staats. He inherited from his father a lot in New York City, as well as a share of his other property equal to that of his brothers and sisters, except for the share of the eldest son. Stephen moved to the place called Second River (now Belleville) in Essex County, New Jersey. His father had owned considerable land in New Jersey and probably his possessions there induced the son to remove to that province. In May, 1734, Stephen Van Cortlandt was authorized to operate a ferry between the Counties of Essex and Bergen. In his will, made November 26, 1756, and proved June 6, 1766, he mentions his ferry house and ferry over the Passaic River.

Stephen and Catharina (Staats) Van Cortlandt had the following children:

1. Joanna, who was baptized February 3, 1714, in the Dutch Church, New York City, and died without issue. She was living in 1756 and was a member of the Dutch Church, New York City, May 20, 1740.
2. Gertrude, who was baptized February 23, 1715, in the Dutch Church, New York City and married Johannes Van Rensselaer.
3. Stephanus, who was baptized September 19, 1716, in the Dutch Church, New York City, and died without issue. He was living in 1756.
4. Samuel, who was baptized December 22, 1717, in the Dutch Church, New York City, and died without issue. He was living in 1756.
5. John, who was born February 16, 1721, and is discussed below.
6. Philip, who was born in 1725. He made his will on July 7, 1798, and is said to have died in 1800. He left no issue and probably never married. During the War of the Revolution he was a Colonel in the patriot army, commanding the Second Essex County Militia Regiment and also a battalion in "Heard's Brigade." His commercial account books are in the New York Public Library.
7. Sarah, who died without issue. She was living in 1756.

John⁴ Van Cortlandt, the third son of Stephen³ and Catharina (Staats) Van Cortlandt, was born February 16, 1721, and was buried June 29, 1786 in the New York Dutch cemetery. On November 9, 1749, in the New York Dutch Church, he married Hester Bayard, a daughter of Nicholas Bayard. John Van Cortlandt and George Petterson erected before 1755 a sugar house at the north-west corner of Trinity Churchyard in New York City, on the line of the present Church Street, south of Thames Street. The partnership was dissolved about January 17, 1757, and Van Cortlandt had sole ownership until November 3, 1769, when the sugar house burned down. Van Cortlandt was on May 1, 1775, a member of the patriot Committee of Resistance, also called the Provisional War Committee, at the beginning of the Revolutionary movement. On November 7, 1775, he was elected a Deputy to the Provincial Congress as a representative of New York City and County. He was also a member of the Second, Third, and Fourth Provincial Congresses, serving in 1775, 1776, and 1777.

His will was dated June 2, 1786, and proved April 12, 1787. He left to his son Stephen all the mills, streams, buildings, and other property at Second River, N. J., which his father had owned. John's sons advertised for sale on March 16, 1790, his "pleasantly situated Dwelling House, in Broadway, adjoining Trinity Church yard." This house had been once occupied by Jacobus² Van Cortlandt.

John and Hester (Bayard) Van Cortlandt had the following children:

1. Stephen, who was born August 11, 1750, and was baptized August 22, 1750, in the Dutch Church, New York City. He died September 30, 1839. On August 9, 1784, in the Dutch Church, New York City, he married Catherine Rutgers. She was born December 11, 1758, and died April 26, 1800. She was a daughter of Robert Rutgers. Stephen married, secondly, May 21, 1801, Jane Beekman. She was a daughter of James and Jane (Ketelas) Beekman and died July 20, 1841. By the first marriage, two children were born:
 - (i) Elizabeth, who was born March 23, 1787 and died July 2, 1868. She married John Van Rensselaer (1788-1870).
 - (ii) Hester, who married her first cousin, James Van Cortlandt.
2. Elizabeth, who was born December 28, 1751 and baptized January 5, 1752, in the Dutch Church, New York City. She died unmarried after July 7, 1798, when her uncle Philip Van Cortlandt mentioned her as one of the two surviving daughters of John Van Cortlandt.
3. Nicholas Bayard, who was born September 9, 1753 and baptized September 19, 1753, in the Dutch Church, New York City. He died as an infant.
4. Catherine, who was born September 30, 1754 and baptized October 2, 1754 in the Dutch Church, New York City. By New Jersey marriage license dated October 8, 1782, she married James Van Rensselaer. She was dead by 1786.
5. Nicholas Bayard, who was born March 19, 1756 and baptized March 31, 1756, in the Dutch Church, New York City. He died unmarried.

6. Hester, who was born September 21, 1757 and baptized October 5, 1757, in the in the Dutch Church, New York City. She died unmarried.
7. Margaretta, who was born September 30, 1759, and baptized October 10, 1759, in the Dutch Church, New York City. She married Mr. Darbee.
8. Gertrude, who was baptized December 15, 1762, in the Dutch Church, New York City. She died unmarried after July 7, 1798, when her uncle, Philip Van Cortlandt, mentioned her in his will.
9. John, who was born September 24, 1764, was buried February 25, 1793 in the New York Dutch cemetery. He married October 10, 1787, in the Dutch Church, New York City, Cathalina Sophia Cuyler, a daughter of Philip and Sarah (Tweedy) Cuyler. She was born at Albany, N. Y., January 19, 1766, and died at Newark, N. J., March 25, 1823. She married secondly, July 5, 1812, Archibald Mercer. John Van Cortlandt was commissioned in the New York militia as a Lieutenant on October 4, 1786; promoted to Captain-Lieutenant, April 6, 1787; advanced to Captain, May 11, 1789; and resigned September 30, 1789. John and Cathalina Sophia (Cuyler) Van Cortlandt had two children:
 - (i) James, who was born September 25, 1789 and married his first cousin, Hester Van Cortlandt, and died without issue. He was commissioned February 11, 1811, as an Ensign in the Fourth New York Militia Regiment but in 1812 refused the same commission.
 - (ii) John, who was born December 24, 1793 and died without issue.
10. Johanna, who was born September 25, 1773 and baptized September 31, 1773, in the Dutch Church, New York City. She died 1797, unmarried.

THE JUNIOR BRANCH

The Van Cortlandts styled the "junior branch" are descended from the youngest son of Oloff Stevense¹ Van Cortlandt, namely Colonel Jacobus Van Cortlandt. These are the Van Cortlandts who lived in Lower Yonkers in the house now a public museum.

Jacobus² Van Cortlandt was baptized in the Dutch Church in New Amsterdam, on July 7, 1658, which was the day of his birth. The next record of him is in 1686 when he appears in the visiting book of Domine Selyns as residing with his brother Stephanus Van Cortlandt and his wife at their home on Brouwers Straet (Brewer's Street, now Stone Street).

On May 7, 1691, a license was issued for the marriage of Jacobus and "Evah Phillips" and they were married in the Dutch Church in New York on the same day. The bride was the adopted daughter of Frederick Philipse, already risen to great wealth and influence, and something should be said of her origin. She was born Maria de Vries, daughter of Pieter Rudolfus de Vries and his wife Margriet Hardenbroeck, and was baptized in the Dutch Church in New Amsterdam on October 3, 1660. On November 23, 1662, the Orphan Masters of New Amsterdam, a court having many of the functions of the present surrogate, considered the fact that banns had already been published for the marriage of the widow Margriet de Vries and Frederick Philipse, and that they were unaware of the situation of her daughter Maria. They ordered her mother to submit a record of her late husband's property and she replied that she could not but that her marriage contract with Philipse provided that her child should share in his property like any later children of his own. The court, which considered such matters very carefully, ordered the marriage contract produced, did not like it, and directed that Philipse appear and made him sign a contract drawn by them which provided that the child was fully protected in its rights and would get all Philipse's property if there were no other children. Philipse seems to have treated the girl, who was now named Eva, with affection and always referred to her as his eldest daughter. On November 29, 1690, he made a prenuptial indenture by which he promised Eva and Jacobus Van Cortlandt upon their marriage, a house and garden. In his will Philipse was

also generous to her and her husband and gave them the house they were then living in, as well as other property.

The house in which Jacobus Van Cortlandt and his wife Eva lived for many years appears in several of the early views of New York. It was a substantial town house, standing just north of Trinity Church, on the west side of Broadway. The house was held by the family until 1791. In the great fire of September 20-21, 1776, all the houses on the west side of Broadway were consumed up to the Van Cortlandt house.

Jacobus Van Cortlandt was the son of a wealthy and influential man and the son-in-law of another and so his own prominence in New York is not difficult to understand. As early as 1691, the year of his marriage, he was a captain in the militia. He sat in the Colonial Assembly from 1691 to 1693, in 1698, and from 1705 to 1706, 1708-1709, 1713-1714, and in 1715, the First, Second, Third, Sixth, Tenth, Eleventh, Fifteenth, and Sixteenth Assemblies. He was an alderman of the City in 1686, and from 1694 to 1793. On October 14, 1702, he was appointed a Judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas of Kings County and also a Justice of the Peace. In 1713 he commanded with the rank of Colonel a Kings County regiment of militia. He twice served as Mayor of New York, being first nominated by the Governor for that office on September 29, 1710, and for the second time nominated by the President of the Council on September 29, 1719. He was an elder in the New York Dutch Church in 1715.

He was very close to the Philipse family. Not only had he married the adopted daughter of Frederick Philipse but that Lord of Philipse Manor married, as his second wife, Catharine (Van Cortlandt) Dervall, the sister of Jacobus Van Cortlandt and the widow of John Dervall. When the Philipses were building the Sleepy Hollow Church, it is stated that Mrs. Philipse would often ride up to oversee operations, mounted "on a pillion behind her favourite brother, Jacobus Van Cortlandt."

It was Jacobus Van Cortlandt who assembled the Yonkers estate. This land was originally a popular hunting ground with the Indians of the Mohican tribe who had a large village on the site of the present city of Yonkers. Adriaen van der Donck secured large grants in this region from Kieft, the Director General, in 1646, and set up a patroonship. He settled on the Sawmill River, still so called, near the present Yonkers. His land was called Colen Donck but was popularly known as Jonkheers, meaning "the young nobleman's land," hence the name Yonkers. When van der Donck died, his widow married Hugh O'Neale of Maryland and the O'Neales proceeded to dispose of the land. Frederick Philipse bought much of it and Jacobus Van Cortlandt bought fifty acres from him in 1699, and gradually added several hundred more acres. On May 13, 1718, Jacobus bought from George Tippet his part of the "Yonkers Plantation." The old family cemetery in Van Cortlandt Park, on the park road, was used by the Tippet and Betts families. Jacobus is supposed to have had some sort of a house in Yonkers in 1700, and a mill was built about this time. It was Frederick³ Van Cortlandt, son of Jacobus, who built the handsome house still standing and which is later discussed in more detail.

Jacobus Van Cortlandt drew his will on May 12, 1739, calling himself a merchant. He mentioned his wife, and all his children, leaving them much property. He owned considerable land in Bedford, part of which was deeded in 1738 to his son-in-law, Peter Jay, and became the well-known Jay property. It is interesting to note that he owned an Indian male slave as well as his Negroes. While Indians captured in war were sometimes sold into slavery the practice was happily infrequent. The will was proved September 30, 1740, and Jacobus had probably died in 1740. His widow, Eva, died intestate in 1760.

Jacobus² and Eva (Philipse) Van Cortlandt had the following children:

1. Margareta, who was baptized in the Dutch Church, New York City, February 21, 1694. On July 1, 1722, in the same church she married Abraham de Peyster, son of Abraham de Peyster.
2. Anna, who was baptized June 9, 1697, in the Dutch Church, New York City. She died young.
3. Frederick, who was baptized April 23, 1699, in the Dutch Church, New York City, and will be later discussed.
4. Anna, who was baptized February 28, 1701, in the Dutch Church, New York City. On March 26, 1737, she married in the same church, John Chambers. He died April 10, 1764, in his sixty-fifth year. She died in 1774 and was buried in the Van Cortlandt vault in Yonkers.
5. Maria, who was baptized July 8, 1705, in the Dutch Church, New York City. On January 20, 1728, she married in that church, Peter (Pierre) Jay, son of Augustus and Anna Maria (Bayard) Jay.

Frederick³ Van Cortlandt, the only son of Jacobus² and Eva (Philipse) Van Cortlandt, was baptized April 23, 1699, in the Dutch Church in New York City. On January 19, 1723/4, he married Frances Jay. She was born February 26, 1702, and baptized the following March 4th. Her father was Augustus Jay.

Frederick Van Cortlandt lived on the Yonkers property which he cultivated and considerably improved. His single appearance in public life seems to have been in 1741, when he appears as Colonel of a Westchester County militia regiment which was ordered to assemble for inspection on March 10th of that year.

It was this Van Cortlandt who built the Yonkers house, which he mentioned in his will, drawn on October 2, 1749, by saying: "Whereas I am now about building a large stone dwelling house on the Plantation on which I now live." He states that this estate is to go by his father's will, to his own eldest son, James. The will also mentions that the testator intended to build a family vault "on my Plantation, on the little hill which lies to the northeastward of Turtle Brook," and it directs that if this vault is not built by him it shall be built by his executors. Among the properties disposed of in this will were a two-wheeled and a four-wheeled chaise, two Negro girls and five Negro men. The will was proved December 20, 1751.

The will of the widow, Frances Van Cortlandt "of the Little or Lower Yonkers" was made March 2, 1771, and proved December 28, 1780. She died August 2, 1780. She wished to be buried in the family vault on the little hill behind the Van Cortlandt house.

Frederick and Frances (Jay) Van Cortlandt had the following children:

1. Jacobus (usually called James), who was born March 3, 1727, and baptized March 12, 1727, in the Dutch Church, New York City. He will be later discussed.
2. Augustus, who was born August 3, 1728, and baptized August 13, 1728, in the Dutch Church, New York City. To be discussed later.
3. Frederick, who was born March 28, 1730, and baptized the following April 5th, in the Dutch Church, New York City. He was a member of several patriotic committees in Westchester County during the Revolution. On August 24, 1775, he was nominated as captain of a militia company but was defeated in the election. He died without issue. His will which is at White Plains, was dated December 16, 1800, and proved June 13, 1804. Most of his estate went to his brother Augustus, but he made bequests to his sister Eva White, "at present in Europe," his Van Horne nephews, and to St. John's Episcopal Church in Yonkers. He owned ten slaves in 1800 and manumitted by his will his personal Negro servant.
4. Eva, who was born March 28, 1732, and baptized April 10, 1732 in the Dutch Church, New York City. She died July 10, 1733, in New York City and was buried in the Stuyvesant family vault under St. Mark's-in-the-Bouwerie.
5. Anna Maria, who was born May 22, 1736, and baptized the following June 3rd, in the Dutch Church, New York. She married first Nathaniel Marston, and secondly, Augustus Van Horne.

6. Eva, who was born November 5, 1737, and baptized December 6, 1737, "op de Mannor" (at the manor). She died August 19, 1836 in New York City. She married Henry White, Sr., Member of His Majesty's Council for the Province of New York, President of the Chamber of Commerce of New York (1772-3), and a wealthy merchant. He was a loyalist and retired to England at the peace. He died in London, December 23, 1786. His widow returned to New York to live. One son, Henry White, Jr., married Anne, daughter of Augustus⁴ Van Cortlandt. Other sons were Vice Admiral Sir John Chambers White, British Navy, and General Frederick Van Cortlandt White, B.A.

James⁴ Van Cortlandt (who was baptized as Jacobus and known under both English and Dutch names), son of Frederick and Frances (Jay) Van Cortlandt, was born March 3, 1727, and baptized the following March 12th. He died April 1, 1781, at New York City, and was buried in the family vault at Yonkers. On January 31, 1754, at the Albany Dutch Church, he married Elizabeth Cuyler, a daughter of Cornelius and Catalyntie (Staats) Cuyler. She was born August 8, 1731, and died November 11, 1761. Her younger sister Elsie married Augustus⁴ Van Cortlandt in 1760.

Like his brother Frederick and unlike his brother Augustus, James was a patriot during the Revolution. He and his cousin, Philip Van Cortlandt, were members of the first Provincial Congress in 1775. They were representatives of Westchester County, selected by a committee of twenty-two men, of whom Frederick Van Cortlandt was one. With the other members of the Congress, James Van Cortlandt signed the Association on May 26, 1775.

James Van Cortlandt was one of the eight men whose petition of April 1, 1762, resulted in the formation of an Episcopal church in Yonkers.

He had no children and his will, made March 23, 1781, and proved the following April 9th, left his property to his widow, Elizabeth, his brothers, Frederick and Augustus, and his sisters, Eva and Anna.

Augustus⁴ Van Cortlandt, the second son of Frederick and Frances (Jay) Van Cortlandt, was born August 3, 1728, and on the following August 13th was baptized in the Dutch Church in New York City. He married twice. His first wife, to whom he was married April 25, 1760 (marriage license dated April 19th) was Elsie Cuyler, a daughter of Cornelius and Catalyntie (Staats) Cuyler. She was born April 9, 1737. After her death he married, in Trinity Church, New York City, November 10, 1763, (marriage license dated November 8th), Catharine Barclay, a daughter of Andrew and Helena (Roosevelt) Barclay. She was born in 1744 and died March 7, 1808, at the Yonkers house.

Augustus Van Cortlandt was "brought up" by his uncle John Chambers, according to Chambers' statement in his will, in which he left to his nephew one-half of his law library and manuscripts. Chambers also left to Augustus the house the nephew was living in, as well as Chambers' own house and office, subject to the life use of Mrs. Chambers. John Chambers was a Justice of the Supreme Court, a member of the Council of the Province, and powerful in the affairs of Trinity Church, to which he left a thousand pounds. He must have had a large influence on his nephew. Augustus Van Cortlandt evidently studied under his uncle and he was admitted to practice as an attorney about 1751, and on March 22nd, of that year, he was formally made a freeman of the City of New York and was appointed Deputy to his uncle, John Chambers, then serving as the Common Clerk of the City. On May 3, 1753, Augustus Van Cortlandt presented to the Common Council his appointment, signed and sealed by Governor Clinton, to the several offices of "Common Clerk, Clerk of the Court of Record and Clerk of the peace and of the Sessions of the peace for the City and County of New York." He also had the King's Commission under the great seal of the Province. John Chambers had re-

signed and evidently had seen that his nephew was given this appointment. Van Cortlandt in his new office, which he held for many years, through the difficult period of the Revolution, had the custody of the charter, city seal, the public records, the seal of the mayor's court, and all papers belonging to the corporation.

Augustus Van Cortlandt was loyal to the Crown during the Revolution and was placed by the patriots on a list of "suspected persons" and his estates were ordered confiscated. There were three classes of suspected persons, respectively: those to be summoned, those to be arrested, and those to be apprehended, and Van Cortlandt was in the second class. He was placed on this list on June 15, 1776, but the occupation by the British of New York City probably saved him from any confiscation of property. Sabine states that the patriot sailor, Captain Marrener, who seized Theophylact Bache and other Tories, attempted to capture Van Cortlandt in 1778 but that his party was frightened off. It seems certain that Van Cortlandt held together his great estate and also, during the war, inherited the Yonkers mansion from his brother, without interference by the patriots. After the evacuation by the British he lost his old position of Common Clerk but does not seem to have been troubled in any other way.

To Augustus Van Cortlandt the City and County of New York owe the preservation of their official records. As early as September 5, 1775, the New York Committee of Safety inquired of him, on behalf of the Provincial Congress, as to the safety of his records. He replied that he had anticipated their inquiry by having built in his garden on his city property at his own expense a great vault of stone and brick laid in cement, which he was assured was perfectly dry, and that he had removed to this hiding place three cartloads of official documents. He further stated that "should the City be invaded by an army from Great Britain, or any British troops, he in such case intended to remove them to his brother's at Yonkers, in the County of Westchester."

A wit of the time said that "while other men were quarrelling about their duty to liberty and to the King, Augustus Van Cortlandt saw only his duty to his books." However, later New Yorkers owe him a great debt of gratitude for his faithfulness to his trust.

Augustus Van Cortlandt was a vestryman of Trinity Church in New York from 1779 to 1784 and left the Dutch Church for the Episcopalian as did others of his family about the time of the Revolution.

On November 25, 1783, the British troops evacuated New York but even before that time the American authorities had planned to take away the post of Clerk from Augustus Van Cortlandt. Richard Morris wrote Governor George Clinton on September 27, 1783, asking the place for his son Lewis "if it should be taken from Mr. Courtlandt." On November 19th, John Morin Scott reported to Clinton that he had conferred with Van Cortlandt about getting control of the records and that the Clerk had offered to deliver them when wanted. On February 17, 1784, Augustus Van Cortlandt was ordered to deliver the records to his successor, Robert Benson.

Augustus Van Cortlandt continued to live quietly at his mansion in Lower Yonkers until his death on December 20, 1823. He had added considerably to the estate and had grants of several thousand acres in addition to his inheritance. For example, in 1752 he secured 2,000 acres at Schoharie and in 1766 got one thousand more "on the west side of the Connecticut River." The 1790 census shows that he had seventeen slaves at the Yonkers estate.

His will was made December 21, 1822, and proved May 6, 1824, and is on file at Albany. He was concerned about the preservation of his old estate and the continuation of his family name and in his last testament he says: "Whereas, the

greatest part of the lands and real estate which I occupy and hold in the town of Yonkers, was derived to me by inheritance from my ancestors.....it is my desire that the same remain entire and pass from time to time to one of my surname and family." He therefore left practically all his estate in trust for his son-in-law, Henry White, the husband of his deceased daughter, Anne, for his natural life, and after that to his son Augustus White, on condition that from the time of the death of Augustus Van Cortlandt he "do take and constantly and exclusively use the name of Van Cortlandt." This grandson, Augustus Van Cortlandt (formerly White) lived to get the whole property, succeeding by fee simple and not by entail. He, in turn, having no children, left the property to his brother, Henry White, who was to take the name Van Cortlandt, and to this brother's eldest son, or, if Henry White had no son it was to go to Augustus Van Cortlandt Bibby, son of the sister of Augustus and Henry Van Cortlandt (formerly White). This chain of descent will be made more apparent by the following record of the children and other descendants of Augustus⁴ Van Cortlandt.

Augustus Van Cortlandt and his second wife, Catharine Barclay, had the following children:

1. Anne, who was born January 18, 1766 and died August 3, 1814. On November 17, 1785, "at Yonkers, the seat of Augustus Cortlandt, Esq.," she married Henry White, Jr. He was the son of her uncle, Henry White. Henry White, Jr., was born September 12, 1763, and died April 11, 1822. Among their thirteen children two sons and a daughter follow:
 - (i) Augustus White, who was born June 19, 1794 and died April 1, 1839, unmarried. He took the name Van Cortlandt and inherited his grandfather's property.
 - (ii) Augusta, who was born July 9, 1795 and died August 21, 1871. She married Edward Newenham Bibby, and will be further discussed.
 - (iii) Henry White, who was born April 20, 1802, and died October 13, 1839, unmarried. He took the name Van Cortlandt and inherited from his brother the family estates.
2. Helena, who was born January 4, 1768 and died April 3, 1812. On February 1, 1796, at the Yonkers estate she married James Morris. He was born in 1764 and died September 7, 1827. Among their children was a son Augustus Frederick Morris (1797-1859) who took the name Van Cortlandt and will be mentioned further.
3. James, who was born February 8, 1770 and died July 17, 1773.

Augustus Frederick Morris, son of James and Helena (Van Cortlandt) Morris, was born October 3, 1797. He died December 18, 1859. On December 10, 1823, he married Harriet, a daughter of Peter Jay Munro. She was born June 21, 1798, and died March 10, 1836. He married, secondly, April 3, 1839, Jane Catharine Maitland, a daughter of Robert Maitland. Although he did not fall heir to the estate, Augustus Frederick Morris took the surname Van Cortlandt and his children, whose names follow, used that name:

1. A son, who was born and died March 4, 1825.
2. Augustus, who was born August 30, 1826 and died December 23, 1884. He was unmarried and a physician.
3. Peter Jay Munro, who was born September 28, 1828 and died August 8, 1897. He married November 27, 1860, Ann Munro Hunter. She was born November 23, 1839 and died April 23, 1863. They had a daughter:
 - (i) Jessie, who was born April 21, 1863 and died July 5, 1863.
4. Frederick Morris, who was born March 5, 1836 and died March 17, 1836.

As has been explained, Augustus Van Cortlandt (formerly White), who died April 1, 1839, left the family estates, including the mansion at Yonkers, to his brother Henry Van Cortlandt (formerly White), and at his death it was to go to Augustus Van Cortlandt Bibby, a nephew. This nephew was the son of Augusta White, (a daughter of Henry White and his wife Anne Van Cortlandt) who was born July 9, 1795, and died August 21, 1871. On October 16, 1821, she married

Edward Newenham Bibby, M.D. He was born October 23, 1791, and died November 24, 1882. They had six children, including a son who follows:

1. Augustus Van Cortlandt Bibby, who was born July 31, 1826, at New York City, and died June 28, 1912 at Pelham Bay Park, New York. He took the name Augustus Van Cortlandt as directed in his uncle's will, and succeeded to the estates of his great-grandfather of the same name. He was a member of the New York Assembly in 1859. On June 2, 1852, in New York City, he married Charlotte Amelia Bayley Bunch, who was born May 27, 1826, and died January 24, 1890; both in New York City. She was a daughter of Robert Henry Bunch (1795-1856) and his wife Mary Fitch Bayley. They had six children, all born at Kingsbridge, as follows:
 - (i) Augustus, who was born July 29, 1855, for whom see further.
 - (ii) Henry White, who was born May 15, 1858, and died unmarried, on October 1, 1916.
 - (iii) Mary Bayley, who was born February 3, 1860 and married in London, in 1894, John Mathews. He died in 1928. His widow lives in London.
 - (iv) Robert Bunch, who was born August 14, 1862 and died February 18, 1918, at Mt. Kisco, N. Y., unmarried.
 - (v) Edward Newenham, who was born December 6, 1864 and died March 28, 1910, at Pelham Bay Park.
 - (vi) Oloff de Lancey, who was born February 6, 1868 and died April 14, 1900, at Pelham Bay Park, N. Y., unmarried.

Augustus Van Cortlandt, son of Augustus and Charlotte Amelia Bayley (Bunch) Van Cortlandt, was born at Kingsbridge, N. Y., July 29, 1855, and is at present a resident of New York City. On September 26, 1889, at Kingsbridge, N. Y., he married Ethel Wilson, who was born December 17, 1867, at Kingsbridge, N. Y., and is living in 1930. She is a daughter of the Reverend William T. and Caroline (Bleecker) Wilson. They have the following children:

1. Charlotte Amelia, who was born at Kingsbridge, N. Y., November 29, 1891, and is unmarried.
2. Augustus, who was born at Kingsbridge, N. Y., May 15, 1893. He is a graduate of Harvard, Class of 1915, and resides at Mt. Kisco, N. Y. On June 22, 1916, he married Katherine Gibson, a daughter of Robert W. and Caroline J. (Hammond) Gibson of Woodbury, N. Y. They have four children:
 - (i) Carolyn, who was born September 2, 1917, at New York City.
 - (ii) Katherine, who was born January 7, 1919, at New York City.
 - (iii) Augustus, who was born September 7, 1922, at Mt. Kisco, N. Y.
 - (iv) Eva De Vries, who was born December 13, 1924, at Mt. Kisco, N. Y.
3. Carolyn Bleecker, who was born at Tuxedo Park, N. Y., March 5, 1895. She married May 31, 1921, Thomas Turlay Mackie, M.D., son of David Ives Mackie of Great Barrington, Mass. Doctor and Mrs. Mackie have two daughters and live in New York City.

THE VAN CORTLANDT HOUSES

Of the three early houses of the Van Cortlandts still in existence the most important historically is naturally the Manor House. This interesting structure stands on the north side of the Croton River, near the point where the Croton enters the Hudson, and is plainly visible from the highway which crosses the Croton bridge. Mention has already been made of the vast estate accumulated by Stephanus Van Cortlandt (1643-1700) in upper Westchester County, embracing from eighty-three to eighty-seven thousand acres, according to the varying estimates. It was in 1687 that Stephanus had rounded out his property and assumed control of it, although the manorial grant was not made until 1697. It seems well supported that in 1687 the shell of the present manor house had already stood many years. Possibly it was there as early as 1665, simply as a square stone building with a flat roof, with walls three feet thick, built of red sandstone, and pierced with funnel-shaped openings meant for musketry embrasures. This fort and shelter was used as a trading house and was situated at that spot because the Indians had a village, fisheries and a burying ground at the mouth of the Croton and the white settlers came there to trade in furs, fish and game. At some unknown later date the Van Cortlandts replaced the flat roof with a roof of single slant and adapted the interior to a dwelling. However, the house was not occupied as a permanent residence by any of the family until 1749 when Pierre Van Cortlandt (1721-1814) moved into it. Before that date it was used as a hunting lodge and as an office to conduct business with the tenants.

As explained elsewhere, the manor house at the division of the property of Stephanus Van Cortlandt, the first Lord, passed into the ownership of his son Philip (1683-1746), and from him to his son Pierre (1721-1814). During the Revolution, Pierre Van Cortlandt and his family had to abandon the manor house and sought safety in Dutchess County. It is believed that they went to stay with their relatives, the family of the late Colonel Henry Beekman, whose second wife was Gertrude Van Cortlandt, and who himself was uncle of Pierre Van Cortlandt's wife. Returning to the manor house the Van Cortlandts found it sadly in need of repair. The panelled woodwork now in the four rooms in the main part of the house dates from this time. The next owner of the house, Philip Van Cortlandt (1749-1831) added a wing to it at the northeast rear corner and about 1845 the current owner added another wing at the northwest rear corner. A broad veranda was erected across the south front, probably about or after 1845.

At this house have stayed many famous guests, including Washington, Lafayette, Rochambeau, Steuben, Dongan, Joseph Brant, Franklin, and de Lauzun. George Whitefield preached from its veranda.

The manor house which, in 1930, is occupied by Miss Anne Stevenson Van Cortlandt, is discussed at some length by Eberlein and Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, and the second-named departs from her usual temperate and unsentimental manner to say: "The Van Cortlandt Manor-House is one of that small number of houses now remaining in the Hudson Valley which were established as homes before the Revolution and which are not only still occupied by descendants of the original owners but which have been maintained in accordance with rising standards of living. At Croton the best of the past has been retained, the best of each later period incorporated. The house is filled with the treasures of successive generations in furniture, portraits and documents and is instinct with the spirit of hospitality. Could the message of the manor-house but penetrate the consciousness of some modern nomads, the nomads might realize that the easily folded tent is found wanting when weighed in the balance with the things the old homes stand for."

Another Van Cortlandt house, far more generally known than that at Croton, stands in Van Cortlandt Park. This fine example of a Colonial mansion was erected in 1748, by Frederick Van Cortlandt (1698-1749) of the junior branch of the family and remained in the possession of his descendants until 1889, when the City of New York purchased the house and land for Van Cortlandt Park. In 1896, the house was leased to the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York to be opened as a museum and it has been under the intelligent and devoted care of that organization ever since, and is annually visited by thousands of people. On the small steep hill rising a little distance behind the house to the north is the family vault and cemetery of the former Van Cortlandt owners.

There is a third Van Cortlandt house less than three miles north of Peekskill. This was within the limits of the manor property but the house was only used when convenient for the owners to be in that part of their property, rather than at Croton. It dates back at least to the time of Pierre Van Cortlandt (1721-1814), and is believed to have been built in 1773. During the Revolution it was the home of Gertrude (Van Cortlandt) Beekman, who was once forced to flee from marauders and returned to find the house stripped of all its furnishings. General Israel Putnam supplied her with the necessary kitchen articles to continue housekeeping, Washington and his staff occupied the house while the army headquarters were at Peekskill. This house was built of brick and originally had a gambrel roof but the roof has been changed and wings and piazzas added to the building so that it does not appear to be either an old or an interesting place. It was sold by the Van Cortlandt family about the middle of the nineteenth century. The house bears a historical tablet placed by the Daughters of the Revolution in 1904.

FAMILY PORTRAITS

- Pierre Van Cortlandt (1762-1848) by William Collins.
Collection New York Historical Society.
- Pierre Van Cortlandt (1762-1848) by John Trumbull. (Dated 1790).
Collection Delancey Kountze of New York, N. Y.
- Pierre Van Cortlandt (1762-1848) Engraving by St. Memim.
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Stephen Van Cortlandt (1750-1839). Artist unknown.
Collection New York Historical Society.
- Mrs. Stephen Van Cortlandt (Jane Beekman) (-1841). Artist unknown.
Collection New York Historical Society.
- Philip Van Cortlandt (1749-1831) by James Sharples. Pastel.
Collection National Museum, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Stephen Van Cortlandt (1750-1839) by H. Bridport. Watercolor. Dated 1822.
Collection Mrs. Antonie P. Voislowsky of New York, N. Y.
- Mrs. Stephen Van Cortland (Jane Beekman) (-1841). Dated 1822. By H. Bridport. Water color.
Collection Mrs. Antonie P. Voislowsky of New York, N. Y.
- Oloff Stevense Van Cortlandt (-1684) by Henri Couturier.
Collection Thomas B. Clarke of New York, N. Y.
- Stephanus Van Cortlandt (1643-1700) by Evert Duycking.
Collection Thomas B. Clarke of New York, N. Y.
- Abraham Van Cortlandt (1713-1746).
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Pierre Van Cortlandt (1762-1848) by William Collins.
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Mrs. Pierre Van Cortlandt (Catharine Clinton) (1770-1811).
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Mrs. Pierre Van Cortlandt (Anne Stevenson (-1821).
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Mrs. Pierre Van Cortlandt (Catharine Beck) (1818-1895).
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Gilbert Van Cortlandt (1757-1786). Minature by Malbon.
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Pierre Van Cortlandt (1762-1848). Minature by Malbon.
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Mrs. Pierre Van Cortlandt (Catharine Clinton) (1770-1811). Minature.
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Philip Van Cortlandt (1683-1747/8) and wife, Catherine de Peyster.
Location unknown. On loan in Manor House until about 1835.
- Augustus Van Cortlandt (1728-1823).
Collection of Augustus Van Cortlandt of New York, N. Y.
- Augustus Van Cortlandt (1826-1912).
Collection of Augustus Van Cortlandt of New York, N. Y.
- Augustus Van Cortlandt (1855-).
Collection of Augustus Van Cortlandt of New York, N. Y.

- Mrs. Frederick Van Cortlandt (Frances Jay) (1702-1780).
Location unknown.
- Philip Van Cortlandt (1749-1831) by A. U. Wertmuller. Dated 1795.
Collection Thomas B. Clarke of New York, N. Y.
- Mrs. Stephen de Lancey (Anne Van Cortlandt) (1676-). Dated 1699.
Collection Thomas B. Clarke of New York, N. Y.
- John Van Cortlandt (1718-1747). As child.
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Philip Van Cortlandt (1749-1831). Miniature.
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Pierre Van Cortlandt (1815-1884) by Elliott.
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Mrs. Pierre Van Cortlandt (Joanna Livingston) (1722-1808).
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Mrs. Gerard G. Beekman (Cornelia Van Cortlandt) (1753-1847)
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Mrs. Henry Beekman (Gertrude Van Cortlandt) (1688-1777)
Collection Richard Wayne Parker, Orange, N. J.
- Mrs. William Skinner (Elizabeth Van Cortlandt) (1694-1747)
Collection Richard Wayne Parker, Orange, N. J.
- Mrs. Kiliaen Van Rensselaer (Maria Van Cortlandt) (1680-)
Collection?
- Pierre Van Cortlandt (1721-1814). As child.
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Pierre Van Cortlandt (1721-1814) by John W. Jarvis.
Collection Miss Anne S. Van Cortlandt, Cortlandt Manor.
- Catharine Van Cortlandt (b. 1566; d. 1630).
Owned in Jay Family.

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