



THE PERINE HOUSE

This jog where the newer building is lapped upon the old is, according to family tradition, due to the fact that when the building nearest to the road was erected a great tree stood at the end of the older (rear) portion which the family would not destroy.

The Story and Documentary History of the Perine House

DONGAN HILLS, STATEN ISLAND,
HEADQUARTERS OF THE STATEN
ISLAND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

BY CHARLES GILBERT HINE

1915

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PREFACE.

THE history of an old dwelling that has done its duty as a dwelling for two hundred years without being the scene of any historic incidents of note is not apt to be an exciting one. The situation is summed up in a paragraph which occurs in "The Song of the Pines," a story of Staten Island published some years ago, and which reads as follows: "To this day among the green hills and valleys of Staten Island, resisting as stoutly as of yore the stress and storm of passing years, we still find those early Dutch homes. Generations have come and gone, yet there has been no thought of change, nor desire for new scenes. Industrious, virtuous, they were content to live their lives quietly, happily, while their children grew to a better manhood and womanhood than ever the Old World knew." It is so with the old Perine house that has seen generation succeed generation through quiet years of thrift, while peace and prosperity reigned supreme, and of which, except for the Revolutionary period, not a great deal that is of general interest can be said.

We have been fortunate in the long and clear memory of Edward Perine Tysen, born and reared in the old home, and also in his well developed tendency to save old documents—had it not been for him this narrative would have lacked many incidents that make the tale. Howland D. Perrine, author of "Daniel Perrin 'The Huguenot' and His Descendants," has also been of great assistance in helping to trace the early ownership of the property, while some notes from Edward C. Delavan, help from the garret of the old Guyon house, and extracts from printed books have rounded out the story. For Stillwell facts we are indebted to Dr. John E. Stillwell of New York and George Hunt Prentiss of Brooklyn.

BRIEFLY SHOWING THE SUCCESSION OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE PURCHASE OF THE PERINE PROPERTY BY THE STATEN ISLAND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, INC.

AS an example of the simple early dwelling architecture of our Dutch-English ancestors the Perine house is one of the most interesting on Staten Island and, being central and accessible, it is particularly suitable as the headquarters of a historical society.

The rambling old building readily catches the eye of a lover of the picturesque, and hence it attracted the attention of Mrs. Henry F. Taylor, who interested the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Staten Island Garden Club and, through these, others in the formation of a historical society into which all efforts were merged.

The result is the Staten Island Antiquarian Society (it being impossible to adopt the word "Historical") which includes among its members many of the Daughters of the American Revolution and of the Garden Club and, in addition, persons drawn together by a common interest from every quarter of the Island.*

The house will naturally become the historical Mecca of Staten Island; a place where its ancient relics may be preserved for future generations; a museum of Staten Island antiquities.

* The first payment of \$2,200 was made on February 15, 1915, the first \$100 of this being raised by the Richmond County Chapter, D. A. R., while about \$800 came through members and friends of the Staten Island Garden Club, largely in membership subscriptions; the remainder from direct subscriptions to the Staten Island Antiquarian Society.



Stillwell.

PART I

**STORY OF THE LOCALITY NOW KNOWN AS
DONGAN HILLS, FORMERLY GARRETSONS**

HISTORY AND STORY OF THE LOCALITY NOW KNOWN AS DONGAN HILLS.

UP to quite recent times this neighborhood was known as Garretsons. This name appears to have come from the settlement here of Johannes Garretson, to whom the land was conveyed in 1738. The Garretson house still stands in the southeast corner formed by the crossing of the Old Town Road and the railroad tracks, a small stone addition to a white frame dwelling. The cornerstone bears the date and initials "AUT 4 1762 J. V. W." These initials are interesting as indicating a common form of terminology at that time. This Garretson family came from Wageningen, Holland, and in this country some of its members assumed the name of that town and were known as Van Wagenen. Johannes Garretson gave the place on the Old Town Road to his second son, Johannes, who adopted the name Van Wagenen and who is no doubt the one who erected the house in 1762. This change of name was of common occurrence in those times as a means of identification. (Van Riper came from Ripen, Van Antwerp from Antwerp, Van Bergen from Bergen, etc., and it was quite frequently a fact that some members of a family made the change and some did not, as in the case of the Garretson family.)

This portion of the Richmond Road is said to be part of the earliest white man's path on Staten Island, the way between Oude Dorp (near Fort Wadsworth) and the Huguenot settlement on the Fresh Kills. This included the present Old Town Road, this portion of the Richmond Road to the Fresh Kills and the Fresh Kills Road to the old Seaman place where the Huguenot church formerly stood.

The Richmond and Amboy Roads formed the King's Highway of pre-Revolutionary days and during the war was the main north and south road of the Island, as at present, over which troops were then constantly passing. That the local roads were in poor condition in the early days may be gathered from the following letter:—

"To His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for Staten Island.

"Gentlemen:

"The Roads on this Island being represented to Brig^r. Genl. Campbell as totally unpassable for loaded Waggon & ca. from the Ruin of Bridges & Decay of Roads—He is therefor pleased to direct

that you give immediate Orders for having them repaired & made perfectly sufficient in the usual Manner—And he expects your wonted Attention to his Commands will be exerted on this Occasion, both for the General Convenience & Ease of the Inhabitants, as well as for the Good of His Majesty's Service—

“I have the Honour to be

“Gentlemen

“Your most humble Servt.

“James Campbell

“Major of Brigade.

“Head Qrs. Staten Island
the 16th March 1778”

No doubt the roads and bridges received prompt attention.

This immediate locality does not appear to have been an important center and such few incidents as have occurred here have been largely forgotten, but the “Valley of the Iron Hill” which faces the Perine house has been the scene of two adventures which have been handed down as fireside tales and have become local tradition.

An Irishman, one Arthur Nicholson, cornet in the Seventeenth Light Dragoons, came to this country with his troop on the breaking out of hostilities in 1775. Being quartered on Staten Island he proceeded to fall in love with a Staten Island girl who had many followers. As time went on these were narrowed down to two—both army men—and as neither would give up, a duel was arranged between them, to be fought in the retirement of this forest land. Nicholson won and his antagonist was so severely wounded that he never recovered. War's rude alarms were too much for the girl, who died from shock when news of the encounter was brought to her.

James Vreeland, who has lived about here for sixty years or more, states that both of the English officers who fought this duel were quartered at the time in the Perine house, and that the fight took place under a great chestnut about opposite the house—presumably this is part of the local tradition picked up in his youth.

It is reasonable to suppose that the wounded officer was brought back to this house to die, and we should have his ghost with us, and probably have, but there is no tradition that he has ever made himself manifest to those who have dwelt in the old home. Is it not natural to



*“Hanging garlands the eaves o’er brim,
Deep drifts smother the paths below.”*

suppose that the spirits of the lovers became united, and that they whom Death had joined might have taken up their abode under this roof where peace and love have reigned for so many years and where a happy existence has not required that either should appear to disturb the serenity of the place?

Clute in his "Annals of Staten Island" tells a tale of love and war, the action taking place just within these woods. During the Revolution a prominent Tory, whose name is not given, lived on that part of the Island now known as West New Brighton. This man had a daughter who was as beautiful and charming as all girls should be, and who drew many suitors to her father's door. One Mersereau outdistanced all others in the race for the girl's affections and at the time our story opens the young couple had been "cried in the church." But now comes on the scene the villain, a young English officer whose attentions were encouraged by the Tory father. The girl, however, showed him no favor and after several months of vain endeavor, concluding that all was fair in love, he plotted with a young rascal to carry the girl off to a deserted hut which stood well back among the trees of this valley near a spring which formed the headwaters of the brook that flows by the Perine house.

One evening the assistant villain appeared at the young woman's home with the statement that he had been sent to fetch her to the dwelling of an aunt, near Richmond, who was ill and needed her care. Suspecting no evil she readily came with the man. Just beyond the Perine house two men sprang out from the roadside and seizing the horse ordered both to alight. One pretended to struggle with the driver while the other led the girl back into the woods along a footpath, cautioning her that her safety depended on silence.

Up to this point the plot had worked perfectly, but now a strange thing happened. Suddenly and without warning they were attacked by several men who seemed to spring from the ground about them. These seized the Lieutenant—for of course it was he—while one of the party, whom she quickly recognized through his disguise as Mersereau, took the girl to one side. The Englishman was then tied to a tree and told he was to be whipped, and that if he cried out he would be gagged. Two stout men properly supplied with switches then proceeded to lay on with right good will. After thoroughly impressing the

young man in this forceful way with the idea that kidnapping Staten Island girls was not his forte they gave him a week in which to leave the Island, promising to cut off his ears if he was found hereabouts after that. In the meantime the driver had disappeared. It was never explained how the plot was discovered, but there was a strong suspicion that the driver had, for a consideration, uncovered the conspiracy to Mersereau.

Because of this story William T. Davis, the first Life Member of the Staten Island Antiquarian Society, called the locality "Mersereau's Valley," and it has since been referred to by this name.

The "Yserberg" of the Dutch, "Iron Hill" of the English, part of which forms the highest land on the Atlantic coast between Maine and Florida, was worked as an iron mine as early as 1644—possibly earlier. The ore here is known as hematite or bog ore, and occurs in pockets on the surface; hence all that shows today of the workings is a few shallow basins from which the ore has been dug.

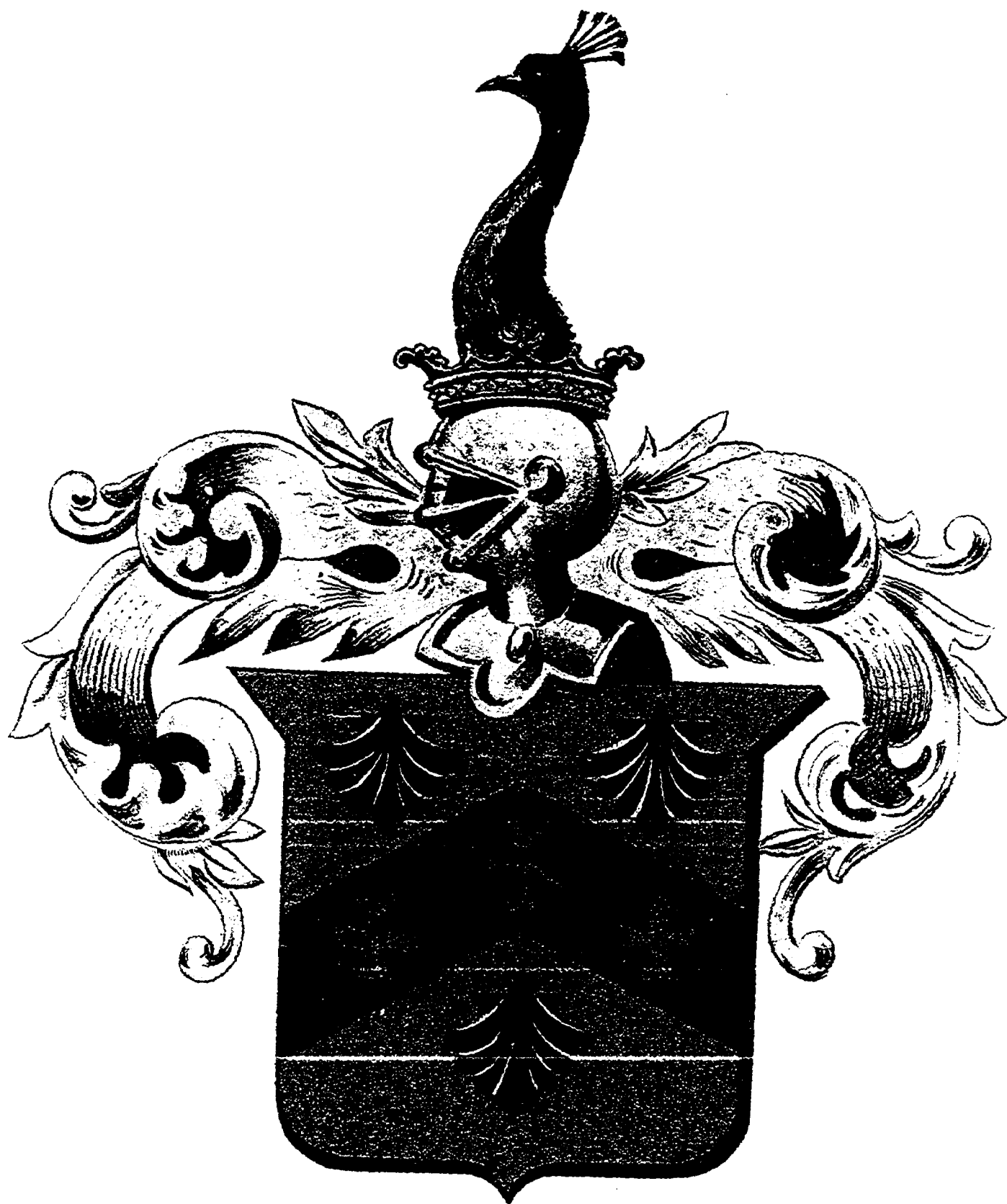
One of the early names of this height is Toad Hill, and various are the reasons advanced to account for the appellation. Crowell M. Conner used to say that it was because at certain seasons innumerable quantities of small toads were found on portions of the hill. James Vreeland states that one Todd formerly lived here, and he thinks his name may have been applied to the locality and finally corrupted into Toad. But by far the most picturesque theory is advanced by Daniel Wandle of Concord, who states that in his youth, some seventy-five years ago, the local cure for quinsy was to split a toad and bind the parts about the throat, and that as there were certain sandy spots on the hill where toads could always be found, people afflicted with quinsy came or sent here for a toad. The Dutch word "Todt," meaning death, has been substituted of late on the theory, I understand, that a small-sized Indian massacre occurred at this point in early days.

William T. Davis, in "Staten Island Names," refers to letters written by J. O. Woods to Staten Island papers in 1883 and 1898 in which he calls attention to a certain Toad Lane in England, which he had been told was a corruption of "Towd," a Holland word for "old." He then suggests that Old Town may have been corrupted to "Towd Town" and the hill back of it to "Towd Hill," and calls on all good

K N O W N A S D O N G A N H I L L S

people to stamp out “the senseless, barbarous” spelling of present times and call it Towd.

To “paint it with Toad Hill paint” was a common expression among old settlers. It simply meant that when a farmer wished to change the color scheme of house or barn he would journey to the iron mine on Toad Hill and secure a supply of the red, oxydized earth to mix with his whitewash, thereby producing a red or reddish pink tint. There was a theory that this earth added to the lasting qualities of the wash. This earth has been used in large quantities for the making of metallic paint.



Perine

PART II

**THE STORY OF THE OLD PERINE HOUSE
AS GATHERED FROM FAMILY AND LOCAL
TRADITION AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

THE STORY AND DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE PERINE HOUSE.

(On February 15, 1915, the Staten Island Antiquarian Society acquired title to the old Perine house, situated on the Richmond Road in Dongan Hills, formerly the village of Garretsons.)

THE story of this plot of ground begins for us with one Captain Thomas Stillwell. Perhaps it would be well to introduce here a brief outline of the early ownerships of the land which comes from Edward C. Delavan, Jr., who states that these results have been reached on wholly inadequate examination of available materials to verify which would require much time and labor. Mr. Delavan says:—

“Pierre Billeau, a Walloon, and one of the settlers at Old Town in 1661, received a Dutch ground brief for land opposite the Valley of the Iron Hill. How this title was disposed of does not appear, but Hans Christophel received an English patent for part of the same land. The land adjoining on the east was granted to Captain Thomas Stillwell, who probably later acquired the land so granted to Christophel.

“Captain Thomas Stilwell died in 1704 or 1705, and seems to have devised this land to his daughters, Frances, wife of Nicholas Britton, and Ann and Rachel Stillwell. Nicholas Britton may have acquired the interests of the other members of the Stillwell family for, on his death in 1739 or 1740, he left a will by which he devised his land to his daughters, Martha Moores, and Rachel Britton, who later married Thomas Dongan. Frances, widow of Colonel Nicholas Britton, Samuel Moores and Martha, his wife, and Thomas Dongan and Rachel, his wife, conveyed the land to Walter Dongan, nephew of Sir Thomas Dongan, later Earl of Limerick. Walter's eldest son and heir at law, Thomas Dongan, conveyed the land on which the Perine house stands to Joseph Holmes, innkeeper, in 1749, from whom it came by descent to his daughter Ann, wife of Edward Perine.”

Among the possessions of Edward Perine Tysen is a survey of this property made in 1685 by Phillip Welles, Surveyor General of the Province of New York. The few words that are illegible do not detract from the value of the instrument, which follows:—

T H E S T O R Y O F T H E

**IN OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDS OF THE HON. THOMAS DONGAN,
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF ALL HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S
TERRITORY IN AMERICA.**

HAVE Surveyed and laid out for Captain Thomas Stilwell a certain tract of Land in the New Lots at the old Town in the County of Richmond being formerly granted to Peter Belew as by a Dutch ground Briefe doth appear and part confirmed by Patent by Governor Andross bearing date the 29th of September 1677. Beginning on the West Side of a Small Runn of Water in the Valey by the Side of the Iron Hill and Runs by the Line of the Land of Hance Xtophell South east * * * East three * * * twenty Rods and is in Breadth by the Meadow upon a Right Angle fifty five Rods and is in length by the line of Abraham Lutyne two hundred ninety one Rods and is in Breadth by the Highway by the Hill Side fifty five Rods being bounded to the South West by the Land of Hance Xtophell to the South East by the Meadow, to the North East by the Land of Abraham Lutyne to the North West by the Highway by the Hill Side containing one hundred and four acres three quarters and fifteen Rods and likewise an Addition upon the front of the aforesaid Land Beginning on the West of the aforesaid Small Runn and Stretches by the Highway by the Hill Side North East Eighty Seven Rods and * * * into the Woods by a Range of Marked Trees North West Seventy four Rods and * * * in Length upon the Hill South West Eighty Seven Rods and * * * in Breadth South East Seventy four Rods to the first corner on the West of the aforesaid Small Runn containing forty Acres and thirty-eight Rods, the whole amounting to one hundred forty five Acres and thirteen Rods of Land and likewise to have Meadow ground aportionable Performed this 4th Day of April 1685.

Phillip Welles Surveyr

Secretary's Office, New York

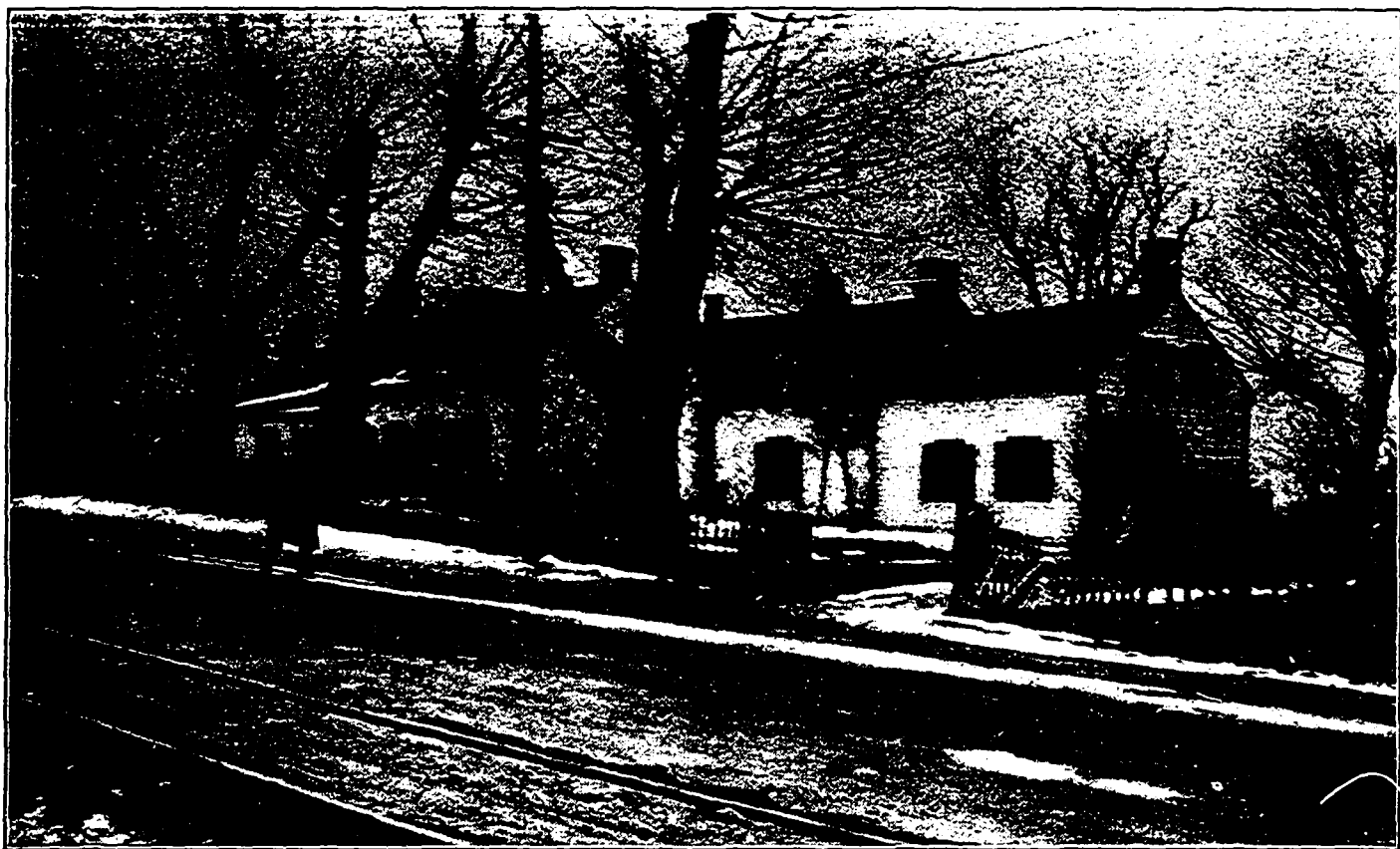
February ye 28th 1721

A trew Copy taken from the Records

Ex & Comp

J. S. Bobin D. Secry.

In "Staten Island Names," by William T. Davis, an item on "New Lots at the Old Town" gives the following information which is



THE PERINE HOUSE

Showing the length and rambling nature of the building with its frame additions at either end. For a period of one hundred years or more there were always two families occupying the old home, each operating as an independent household.

pertinent to the subject in hand: It is as follows: "At least a part of the New Lots extended along the present Richmond Road, adjacent to where it is joined by the Old Town Road." Some interesting information is contained in the following survey: "In Obedience to the Command of the Honorable Coll Thomas Dongan Governor General of all his Royall Highnesse Territoryes in America & c. I have surveyed and laid out for Hanse Christophell a Certaine Tract of Land being in the New Lotts of the Old Towne in the County of Richmond being purchased out of a Tract of Land Granted to Peeter Bellew as by a Dutch Ground Breeife begining on the South west side of a small Run of Water in the Valley of the Iron Hill which is the North West Corner of the first purchase of Thomas Stilwell and runs by his line South East etc. performed this 4th Day of April 1685 by Phillip Welles Surv'r."

Dr. John E. Stillwell of New York City furnishes the following items concerning the Stillwell family:—

"Lieutenant Nicholas Stillwell came from the county of Surrey, Old England (where the family dates back to 1324), to Manhattan Island, by way of Virginia, about 1645-6. He was a famous Indian fighter and in the Virginia uprising of 1644 had command of a troop of horse and was called the 'valiant Stillwell.' Upon the termination of this war he joined the forces of Claybourne in Maryland, who was in rebellion against the Royalist Governor Calvert who, naturally, had the support of the neighboring Royalist Governor of Virginia, Sir William Berkley. The espousal of Claybourne's cause by Nicholas Stillwell made him *persona non grata* with the two Governors and he found it expedient to move to Manhattan Island. Here he bought a house and lot and settled near the fort, but soon purchased an outlying plantation at Deutil Bay—now foot of Forty-seventh Street and East River. He soon, however, joined the English colony of Gravesend, but finally moved to Dover, Staten Island, where he died in 1671. Nicholas Stillwell was a man of great natural force and dominated his fellow citizens. He was one of the three officers in command of the troops in the Indian War (Esopus War) in 1663; was Sheriff of Long Island under Stuyvesant, Magistrate of Gravesend from 1649 to 1663; President of the Court-Martial for the Trial of Freebooters and Pirates in 1654, and following his removal from Gravesend to

Staten Island about 1664, he was elected, in 1667, by the inhabitants of the Island, Constable, which carried with it power to choose two Overseers who, jointly with himself, constituted a court of jurisdiction in cases not exceeding five pounds.

“By his wife Ann, who survived him and married twice more, he had ten children, among whom were:—

“Captain Richard Stillwell of Staten Island, Captain Nicholas Stillwell of Gravesend, Captain Thomas Stillwell and Captain Jeremiah Stillwell of Monmouth County, N. J. The preceding Captain Thomas Stillwell settled on Staten Island. He was born in Gravesend and baptized in the Dutch Church, New Amsterdam, July 9, 1651. He married in Gravesend, L. I., January 8, 1670, Martha Balieu (Billew, Biljouw, Bilyou, Bolieu, etc.), who was baptized at Leyden, Holland, February 8, 1652, and who was a daughter of Pierre Biljouw (a French Huguenot), who married at Leyden, Holland, April 20, 1649, Francoise, daughter of Chretien Du Bois of Wicres, near Lille, and who (*i. e.*, Pierre and Francoise Biljou) came to this country and finally settled on Staten Island. Five years after the death of her husband, Captain Thomas Stillwell, his widow Martha Biljou became the wife of the Rev. David de Bonrepos, the French minister in Richmond County. Thomas Stillwell was Constable of Staten Island 1676 and 1679; was Sheriff of Richmond County 1685 and 1691, and was succeeded in that office by his nephew, Captain John Stillwell, son of his brother, Captain Richard Stillwell; 1693 to 1698 he was a Member of the Colonial Assembly from Richmond County; Captain of Foot Militia, Richmond County, 1700; Magistrate, etc. For a long time he was a power in the political affairs of the Island and State. He was a man of ability and possessed much of the high spirit and arbitrary qualities of his father.

“Thomas and Martha Stillwell had issue:—

- “(1) Thomas Stillwell, Jr., who married Mary, daughter of Jaques Poillon, who outlived him and married Valentine Duchesne of Staten Island. One of his daughters, Ann, married two eminent Staten Islanders—first, Peter, son of Peter Le Conte, and second, Paul Micheaux.
- “(2) Frances Stillwell, born 1682, who married Colonel Nicholas, son of William and Mary Britton.



THE OLD PERINE HOUSE FRONT DOOR

1677 — Thomas Stillwell receives patent for land.

1709 — Stillwell's daughter refers to the dwelling as the "old" house.

1749 — Thomas Dongan, to whom property came by descent, deeds to Joseph Holmes.

1764 — Sarah, widow of Joseph Holmes, releases her rights to Edward Perine.

1870 — Elizabeth Perine Tysen sells her undivided half interest.

1913 — Hamilton B. Perine sells his interest.

1915 — February 15 — Staten Island Antiquarian Society acquires title.

“(3) Ann Stillwell, who married, first, Samuel Van Pelt, and second, Jacobus Billeau.

“(4) Rachel Stillwell, who married William, son of William and Mary Britton.”

The following is copied from material in possession of George Hunt Prentiss, 108 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. Mr. Prentiss is a descendant of this William Stillwell:—

*Mrs Prentiss
Col. James*

“William Stillwell, son of Nicholas Stillwell I, was presumably born about 1650 at Gravesend, L. I. He probably moved with his father to Staten Island, for he was not among those who received allotments of land in Gravesend in 1672, when his brothers Richard and Nicholas did. Later, however, he moved hither and acquired an estate by purchase to which we will allude further on. While resident on Staten Island he had surveyed for him by the public surveyor, October 28, 1677, a grant of seventy-eight acres of ‘Meadow and upland on ye hills of ‘Richmond County.’ 1680 Wil Stillwell’s name was on Soothoof and Hegeman’s books. It was about this time that he removed to Gravesend, for on the 15, 10 mo., 1680, Obadiah Holmes of Staten Island sells to William Stillwell of Gravesend his interest in a plantation which was some time in the possession of John Cook in Gravesend, known as No. 8, in consideration of Stillwell conveying to him a certain moyetie or parcel of land, upon Staten Island, etc. 1680 he was likewise involved in a suit about the disputed ownership of some horses with Adam Michelsen (?) He was plaintiff and Michelsen the defendant. At the trial judgment was given for the defendant. 1781, March 19th, William Stillwell of Gravesend sells to John Carsonson lots 21 and 22 on Guysburts Island.

“1683, he is found on the assessment list of Gravesend, owning forty-four acres of land, six cows and one horse, viz.:—

	£	s	d
3 cowes	00	1	3
1 cow, 3 years.....	00	0	4
1 cow, 2 years.....	00	0	2½
1 cow, 1 year.....	00	0	1½
1 horse	00	1	0
44 acres of land (i. e., a home farm of 20 acres and a “Great Woods” lot of 24 acres).....	00	3	8
	00	6	7

“1687, William and his brother Thomas have grant of land on Staten Island.”

Morris's history gives a little incident which got Sheriff Stillwell into difficulty through being too zealous in the discharge of his duty.

During the Leisler disturbances, and particularly after his trial and condemnation, many petitions were circulated for his pardon. Mr. Morris tells us that “On the 28th of April, 1691, a letter was presented to the Council in New York * * * from the Sheriff of Richmond County, ‘Giving an Account of several Riotts and Tumults on Staten Island, and that they were subscribing of papers.’ The Sheriff was ordered to secure the ringleaders that they might be prosecuted. Thomas Stilwell, the Sheriff, was not dilatory in obeying the order. He arrested several of the citizens of the county, among whom were John Theunison, John Peterson and Gerard Vechten, each of whom he fined three pounds. Others were obliged to execute bonds for the payment of that amount. It is said that one of the number refused to do either and was imprisoned.

“When information relative to the Sheriff's proceedings reached his superiors in New York orders were sent down to the Island to have the bonds canceled, whereupon the three individuals who had paid their money demanded that it should be refunded. The Sheriff, no doubt conscious that he had exceeded his powers, promised that it should be done, but delayed the matter so long that the aggrieved parties appealed to the Council.”

This would seem to indicate that the Sheriff may have kept the fines he levied for his fees, and as strong boxes were not common in those days, may account for the secret hiding place in the old house which will be taken up later.

There is much doubt as to the approximate date of erection of the buildings now standing.

Captain Thomas Stillwell secured a patent for the land in 1677. He may have built as early as 1680; his will dated in 1704 devises the property as that on which he then lived. On November 4, 1709, Martha, widow of Thomas Stillwell, released this property to her daughters, but reserved for herself “the room over the cellar of the little house which stands before the great house”—this would seem to indicate a different arrangement of buildings from the present. A few days later Anne



THE SOUTH END OF THE PARLOR

Showing the fine old Jacobean paneling. The edges of the closet shelves here, and also in the "Beam" room, are cut in a scroll, a form of decoration much in vogue in pre-Revolutionary times. The mantel itself is modern.

Van Pelt, widow, one of the daughters, conveyed her moiety of her father's lands to Colonel Nicholas Brittin, reserving to herself therefrom "the old dwelling house belonging to said farm (note that she called it the "old" dwelling). Some time after this date Anne Van Pelt married Jacobus Billeu. There appears to be no record showing how she disposed of the old house, or when, but eventually the property passed to Colonel Nicholas Brittin.

Cornelius Lake Perine has stated that there was a tradition in the family that the old house burned and that the present house was erected in 1713, presumably by Colonel Nicholas Brittin. There is also a tradition in the family that the stone building which is now the rear portion was erected first, and was the original Stillwell home. It is generally agreed that the stone building nearer the road is of later date, added to accommodate a second family, but whether the date 1713 refers to the erection of this second building or to a new building to replace the Stillwell house is not clear. All the frame additions are believed by the family to be well over one hundred years old, but nothing definite has been learned concerning this.

The following is taken chiefly from "Daniel Perrin 'The Huguenot' and His Descendants, 1665-1910," by Howland Delano Perrine, with some added matter from Edward Perine Tysen. Starting with the first of the name to come to this country the following notes are confined to those members of the family who have occupied the old house as a dwelling and who, after Edward, were born in the house and, with the possible exception of Simon Swaime Perine and those of the present generation, died there.

Daniel Perrin emigrated to this country from the Isle of Jersey in 1665 with Philip Carteret, first Governor of Nova Cæsarea, landing at Elizabethtowne Point. In the following year he married Maria Thorell, a fellow passenger, and removed to Smoking Point, now Rossville, Staten Island, where he received a grant of eighty acres from the Crown. Daniel was born in 164— and died after September 6, 1719. His fourth son Daniel was father of Peter, whose son Edward married Ann Holmes and was the first of the family to reside in the old house.

1758 - 29 yrs. old

Edward Perine was born in 1729 and died in August, 1777 or 1779; the latter date is that given in the Perrin Genealogy; the former comes from the records in possession of E. P. Tysen. He married Ann

Holmes, June 29, 1758; both were buried in St. Andrew's churchyard, Richmond. Of their sons, Joseph and Henry were left an undivided half interest in the house and a half acre of land on which it stood; each owned a farm adjoining. Both were born, lived and died in the house.

Joseph Perine, born 1759, died April 16, 1814, married Catharine Swaime of Richmond, September 25, 1782, who was born 1761 and died 1845. On February 22, 1798, Joseph Perine was appointed Clerk of Court of Common Pleas for Richmond County; in 1801 was a delegate from Richmond County to the Constitutional Convention; in 1809 was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the Richmond County Militia; in 1811 was elected Clerk of Richmond County; in 1812 was Presidential Elector from Richmond County. His son, Simon Swaime Perine, inherited his father's portion of the house.

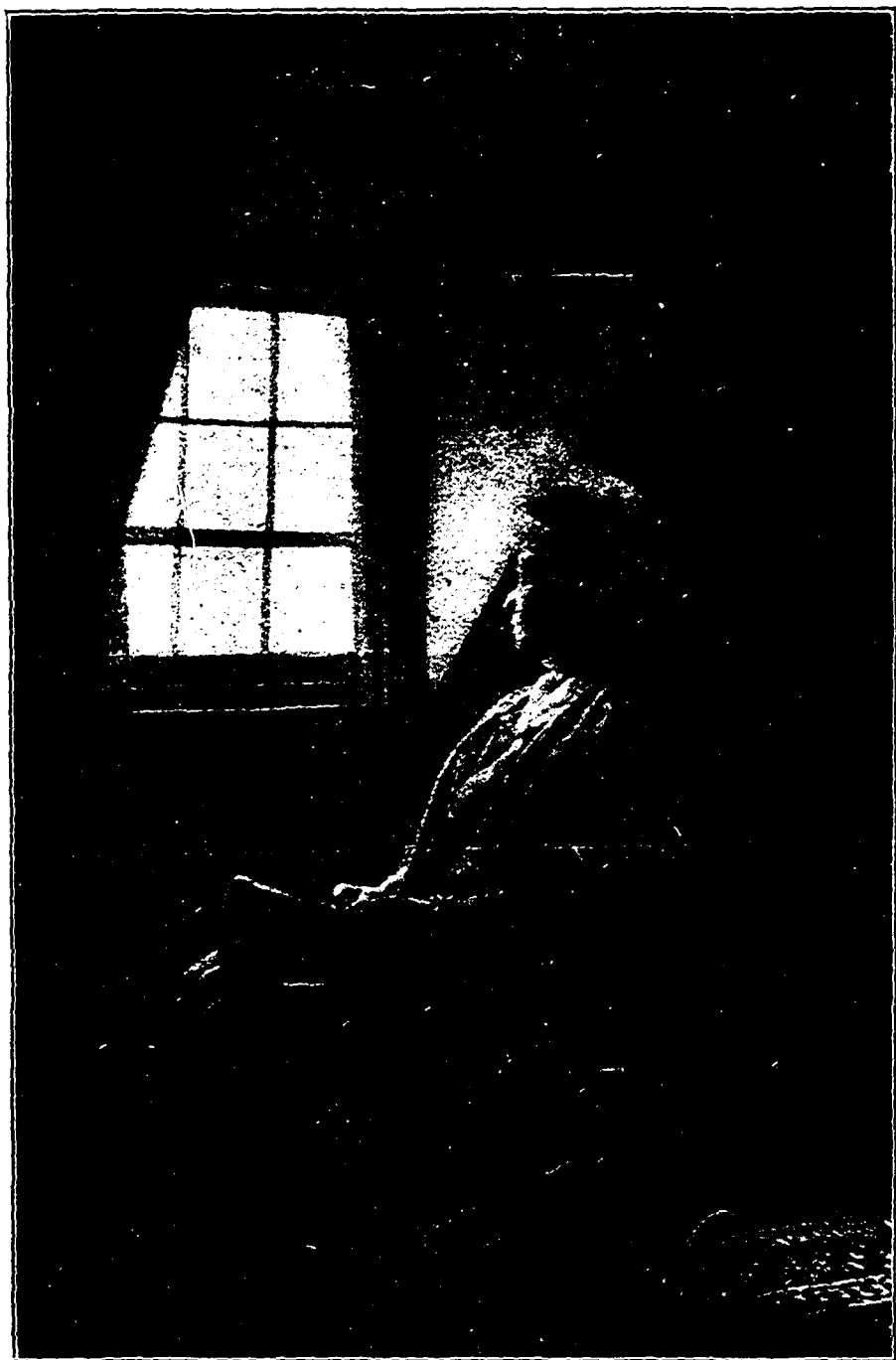
Simon Swaime Perine was born November 10, 1783, and died February 20, 1860. He married Sarah Ann Lake of Southfield in 1810. His son, Cornelius Lake Perine, inherited his father's portion of the house.

Cornelius Lake Perine was born May 2, 1821, and died March 19, 1896. He married Eliza Britton; was warden in St. Andrew's Church. His son, Hamilton Britton Perine, inherited his father's portion of the house.

Hamilton Britton Perine was born August 14, 1854. He sold his interest in the house in 1913 and removed to White Plains.

Henry Perine, brother of Joseph, above, was born November 29, 1768, and died December 3, 1860. He married Mary Winant of Rahway, N. J., June 21, 1795. He was Sheriff of Richmond County in 1815; Supervisor of the Town of Southfield in 1821; member of New York Legislature from Richmond County in 1824; during the War of 1812 was Captain Second Regiment, New York Militia, First Brigade Detached Infantry. At one time during the War of 1812 the forts on Quarantine Heights (Pavilion Hill) were commanded by Captain *married Mary Winant* Perine. His daughter, Elizabeth Winant Perine, inherited her father's portion of the house.

Elizabeth Winant Perine was born January 19, 1804, and died December 6, 1883. She married Richard Tysen of Northfield, May 19, 1830, and sold her portion of the house in 1870. Her children were Henry, who lived one month; Jacob Raymond; Mary Louisa (now



MEMORIES

An upper window that for two hundred years has been looking outward to the sea.

Mrs. J. William Stephens); Emily; Edward Perine, and Amelia (now Mrs. A. Stewart Rowley).

Joseph and his descendants occupied that portion of the building near the road, while Henry and his descendants occupied the portion in the rear, which is the older portion.

Among the mass of papers in the possession of Mr. Tysen is a little leather-bound notebook which, in spite of the fact that it has been handled for more than one hundred and fifty years, is in a perfectly good state of preservation. On the flyleaf of this appears the following:—

“Edward Perine his book
 God gives him grace therein to look
 And when the Bell for him doth Toll
 The Lord of Heaven receive his sole.
 May 22, 1743.”

Edward Perine was a weaver, but beside directions for weaving the book contains much genealogical information, recipes for the curing of various diseases of man and beast, as “A cure for polevil. Tak wite oake bark and bile it rite strong and wash it with that.” There are also directions for the “doctrine” of horses.

Under the circumstances Perine genealogy is of distinct interest, and it might serve some good end to others if we record a few such items here, which, under date of May 11, 1770, we note “was rote by me, Edward Perine”

Nov. 13, 1756, Peter Perine (father of Edward and Henry) died, aged 55 years.

Aug. 24, 1758, Edward Perine and Nancy (Ann) Holmes married.

Sept. 22, 1759, Joseph Holmes died, aged 63 years.

May 4, 1760, Joseph Holmes, Jr., died, aged 20 years.

Aug. 18, 1765, Mary Perine died, aged 59 years.

Nov. 29, 1768, Henry, son of Edward and Ann Perine, born.

Aug. 17, 1775, Mother Holmes (Sarah, Mrs. Joseph) died, aged 75 years.

Jan. 21, 1795, Henry Perine and Mary Winans married.

There is a tradition in the Perine family that at one time the house was used as a tavern, and as Joseph Holmes is down on the

T H E S T O R Y O F T H E

records as an “innkeeper” it would seem safe to assume that this occurred during his occupancy.

An old tavern score which appears on a blank page of a 1755 almanack would seem to confirm this. It may interest those total abstainers who are compelled to take a little wine now and then for their stomachs’ sake. The score runs as follows:—

	£	s	d
Richard Johnson to a mug.....	0	1	2
To a Dejh.....	0	1	0
To a pint	0	0	11
to a pint	0	1	1
to a mug	0	1	1
to a glass	0	0	10
to a Barrel of Sider.....	1	0	0
	<hr/>		
	1	6	0

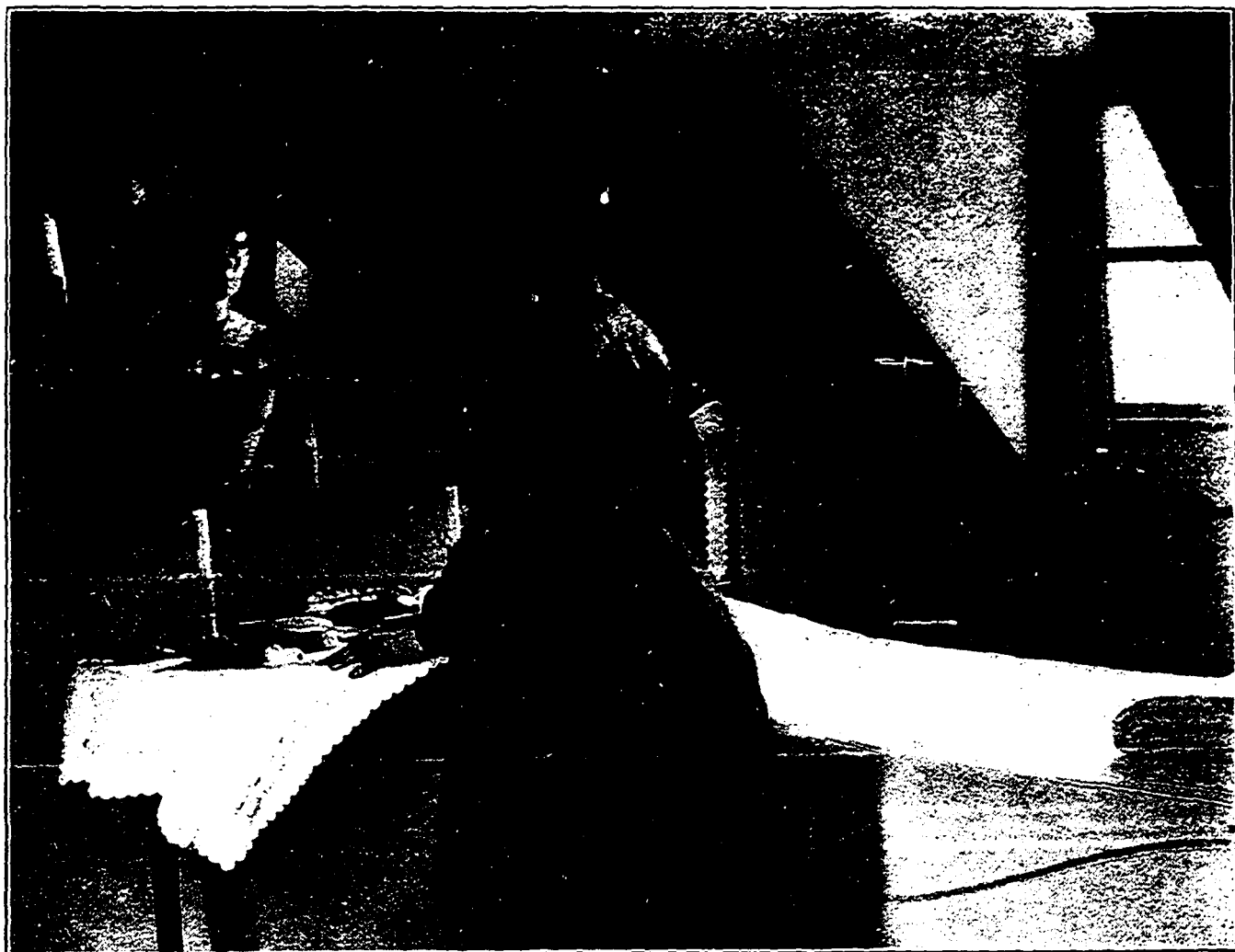
Edward Perine Tysen, who was born in the old house, has contributed much of value and interest from a very good memory of conversations held around the hearth when a boy, and also numerous documents and letters that have passed down through the hands of many generations. His grandfather, Henry Perine, was born in the house November 29, 1768, and died in it December 2, 1860, having lived in it continuously ninety-two years and four days, except such times as he was stationed on Long Island as Captain of Militia during the War of 1812, and when in Albany as member of Assembly. Henry Perine was called “Judge,” but this may have been merely a courtesy title.

It is evident from the following document that the same primitive method of road repairs which existed up to quite recent times was in vogue one hundred and fifty years ago.

August ye 7th 1752

To Mr. Peter Perine
Sir

J send the beror to you as j have not time myself to Let you know that we have agreed to work on the Road from Daniel Stilwell to



WHERE GRANDMOTHER DRESSED FOR THE BALL

An upper chamber that looks out upon the King's Highway. It is from this room that access is had to the secret hiding place where Ann Perine is presumed to have concealed her silver shoe buckles from the marauding British soldier.

Benjamin Seaman Lane the parsons that is to work on the Road is
 Abraham Lakaeman Peter Poillon Daniel Stilwell James Bebout
 Adrayan LaForge Benjamin Seaman Doctor Taylor John Stilyard
 (or Hilyard) Andrew Duckat John Jornoy John Brown Daniel
 Stilwell of fresh kill Nicholas Lazoyor? Tunis Von Pelt Anthony
 Von Pelt John Morgan Jeams Poillon & Abraham Poillon & Sir as
 the Road Suets? you to go to mill j would be glad you would send a
 hand to holp from your frind

Abraham Poillon

MARY PERINE GIVES A NEGRO BOY TO HER SONS.

TO all Christian unto whome this present writing Shall come I Mary
 Prine of the County of Richmond widdoe Send greeting know ye
 that I the said Mary Prine for diuers good causes and Valuable
 Considerations me thareunto mouing have giuen and granted and by
 these presents do giue grant and Confirm unto Henery Prine and
 Edword Prine a sarten Negro boy named Mick from hense forth to
 ther proper use and behuef with him to doe order and at thear will
 Dispoes and I firther order that Edword Prine Shall haue the hole and
 sole uses of the Sad boy tell three full years after the Dath of a Negro
 Women named Grase then to be Ecuill be twixt the Sade Henery Prine
 and Edword Prine with oute any manner of leter henderance in witness
 here of I haue here unto Set my hand and Seal this Twinty Seuenth of
 October year of our 1759 in the presents of Mary Prine

wit. Thos Arrosmith

Mary Arrosmith

On the back of this document is the following indorsement:—

“A Deed of Gift to Henry Perine And Edward Perine for a Negro
 boy caled Mick Given to us by our Mother Mary Perine. 1759. October
 the 27th be it Remembered that Old Grace Dyed the 4th of June in ye
 year 1771.

There was formerly a large collection of letters written from
 Albany and from camp on Long Island by Captain Henry Perine which
 contained much that would interest the present generation, but,
 unfortunately, these were burned by the Captain's daughter because an

occasional word was misspelled and she did not wish to have her honored father's name held up to ridicule for such a reason. The good lady was not aware that that eminent authority, Mr. Josh Billings, had "no respect for a man who could not spell a word in more than one way," nor that most men of those times, including the well-known Mr. George Washington and others, were fully entitled to the Billings respect; in fact, spelling was then a matter of individual taste such as we know nothing of in these days when all such things are ordered for us.

About 1870, when one branch of the family moved to Brooklyn, the sword which was carried during the War of 1812 by Captain Henry Perine disappeared, else it might today be hanging in its proper place over the entrance door.

It is difficult to run a narrative such as this in exact chronological order, and occasionally we must turn back for a brief space.

The Edward Perine who married Ann Holmes died in 1777 or 1779, shortly after the British troops had taken possession of Staten Island. This left his widow and six small children to face the troublous period of the Revolution as best they might. Soldiers were quartered in many of the Island homes during this period and at one time the Perine house was so crowded that the widow and her children were only allowed one room for their own use.

A Revolutionary story is told concerning the lure of Ann Perine's silver shoe-buckles which will give a slight indication of the uncertainty of valuables, as well as of human life, in those crude days. It is one of that family's traditions that has come down from generation to generation by word of mouth and finds lodgment here from the lips of Mr. Tysen.

It was then the fashion for women to wear more or less conspicuous buckles on their shoes, the social grade being indicated to a certain extent by the metal of which they were made. Common folks used common metal; those of higher station indulged in silver, which was more precious then than now, as is readily attested by the thinness of our great-grandmothers' teaspoons.

Ann Perine was possessed of a large pair of silver buckles which were the family pride, and these she wore constantly, as the skirts of



1680 or 1713

This stone structure is said to be the oldest portion of the building. Captain Stillwell built as early, possibly, as 1680. There is a tradition that his house burned; if it did not this was his dwelling; if it did this is believed to have been erected about 1713 by Nicholas Britton.

those days were short enough to display such decorations to advantage. One morning a soldier came in for a drink of water and Ann noticed that his eyes were attracted by the buckles on her shoes. When he left she concluded it would be wise to put them away and substitute a common pair, and after events proved that wisdom is justified of her children. The valuables were hidden, no doubt, in the secret chamber which still exists over the closet in the beam room.

Shortly after dark the soldier returned and demanded her silver shoe-buckles which he had seen on his first visit. She denied the possession of such treasures and thrust forward a foot to show that its decoration was of little value. The soldier insisted that those were not the ones she wore in the morning, but she stuck to her story that she had no others and, finding argument useless, he went to the candle and began to prime his gun, thinking to frighten her. Just at this critical moment, however, a passing neighbor, hearing the noise of controversy, came in to learn the cause, and upbraided the soldier for his lack of gallantry to such good effect that the defender of Britain's might sneaked out into the dark where evil deeds are hatched.

The following documents form an interesting exhibit of one of Ann Perine's troubles. Nothing seems to be known concerning the result, but no doubt it will be safe to agree with Mr. Dongan on this point:—

“Dear Madam:—

“I have finished your memorial and thought fit to address it to the Honble Willm Pitt, Minister of the Court of Great Bⁿ, who will undoubtedly let your agent know if he can possibly expect anything, if he gives him no further assistance, I hope you may meet with success but cannot say that I am as sanguine in my expectations as I am convinced of the justness of the demand. As you have reference only to those claims registered, and farther authentication is unnecessary, but if you mean to have any farther evidence to offer with respect to the damage committed, it will then be necessary. The reason of my observing that the Governors seal would be necessary was that I saw that Mr. Micheau had signed it who was not mentioned in the papers registered. N. B. Let your agent take a copy of the Memorial &

other papers and keep one copy himself when he delivers the other to the Minister, it may be of Service to him.

“I am

“with Respect

“Madam

“Yours, etc.

“John C. Dongan

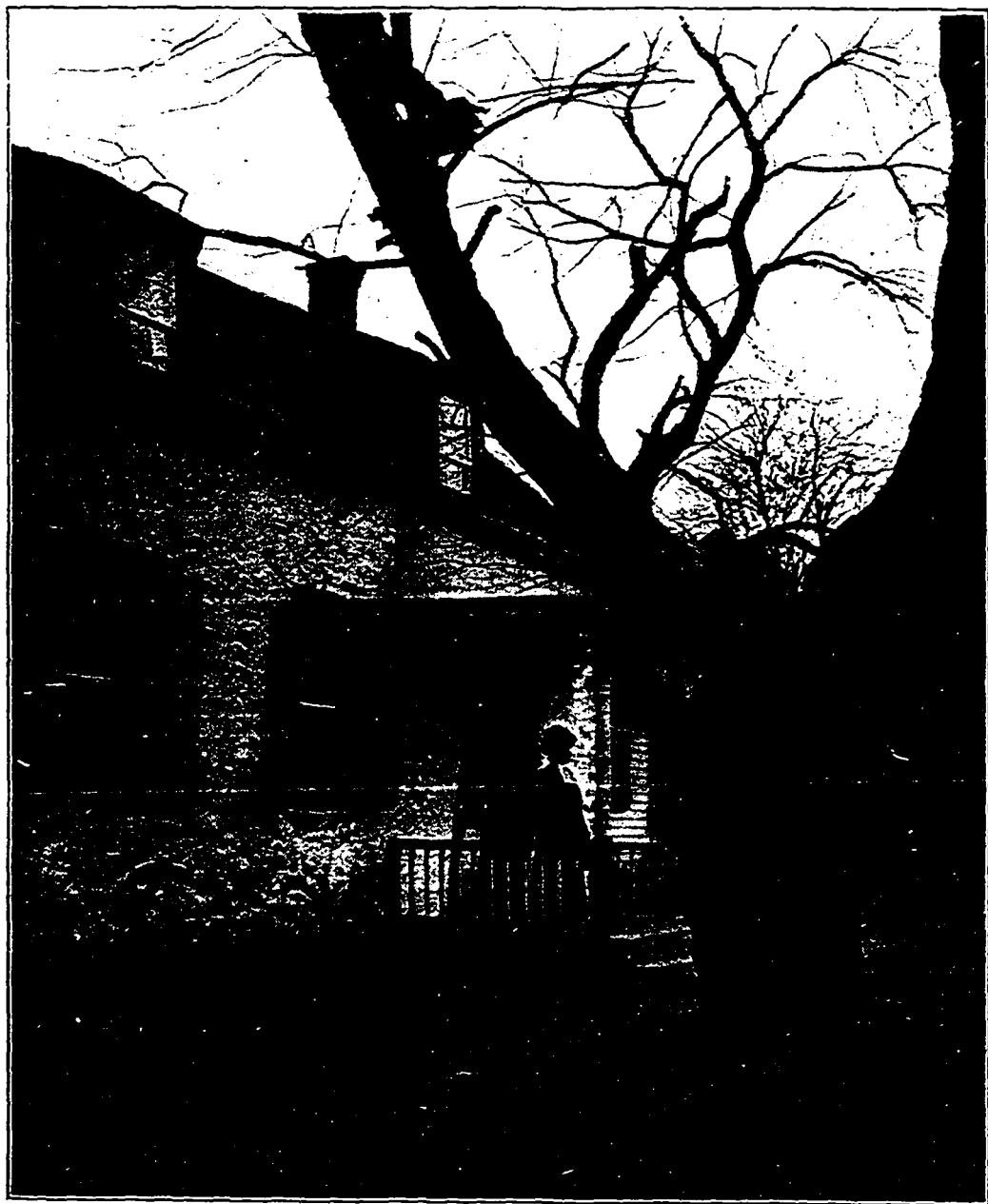
“April 8th 1788—”

“To the Hon^{ble} William Pitt, Minister
of the Court of Graat Brittain.

“The Memorial of Ann Perine, Widow,
most respectfully Sheweth—

“That your Memorialist is an Inhabitant of the County of Richmond, and State of New York, that her Husband Edward Perine died in the year 1777, that he lived and died a Loyal subject of his Gracious Majesty the King of Great Brittain, your Memorialist thinks it will here be very unnecessary to delineate the Character either of herself or of her late Husband with respect to their Attachment during the late unhappy contest between this and the Mother Country, to the Crown of Great Brittain, as she must now be looked upon as a Citizen of America, and a recital of Facts, only might be supposed stated merely with a view to obtain her Ends but she finds a peculiar satisfaction arising from a conscious integrity and faithful performance of her duty to the Crown of Great Brittain, when a subject of the same and as she suffered the grievance complained of when a Subject of the Crown, relies on the equity of her Case and the well-known justice of the Court of Great Brittain for relief.

“That your Memorialist’s property is situated within two Miles of the Works made on the Heights at the Narrows for defence of this Island, during the late War; that your Memorialist’s Woodland was entered by a body of the British Troops and great Quantities cut by Order of Sr Henry Clinton for the purpose of erecting Works at the above mentioned Place, that your Memorialist never Received any pay or Compensation for the same, that not long before this Country was evacuated by the British Troops, there was a board of Commissioners appointed by Order of Sir Guy Carlton to take up all Claims of this nature, that your Memorialist presented her claims to this board and



*ENTRANCE TO THE OLDEST PORTION
OF THE BUILDING*

that they were Registered accordingly; a Copy of the same is hereunto annexed, that your Memorialist has never been able to learn whether any notice has been taken of those Claims by the British Government. Therefore presumes to lay her Case before your Honor, induced to it from the just and Virtuous Character that your Honor sustains in this Country—and

“Prays that your Honor will grant her such Assistance in the Recovery of her just Demands as she is inclined to expect from an amiable mind susceptible of the Distresses of the Widow and fatherless.

“and your Memorialist shall ever Pray

“Staten Island

“Anne Perine

“April 1st 1788”

“An inventory taking of the Wood Land belonging to the Widow Perine of Staten Island by John Baker, Daniel Van Cleaf, Anthony Fountain and Isaac Lakerman four responsible men of sd Island being appointed by said Widow—

“We said Men Viewed & Examined the said Woodland, and find the waste and damage of the same, the Timber Cut on the said Woodland and made use of by the army for fortifications and Garrisons, on said Island at the flag Staff, compute and appraise the same to be nine hundred cords of Timber wood, valued at Twenty shillings pr. Cord New York Currency

“900 Cords at 20/s pr. Cord £900.0.0

“Staten Island 19th June 1783”

“June 19th 1783

“Personally appeared, before me Richard Conner Magistrate of Police of Richmond County, John Baker, Daniel Van Cleaf, Anthony Fountain & Isaac Lakarman and Declareth on their Oaths. that the above Account is just and true.

“Sworn before me Richard Conner

“John Baker

“Daniel Van Cleaf

“Anthony Fountain

“Isaac Lakarman”

“June 19th 1783

“Personally appeared before me Richard Conner, one of his Majesty’s Justices of the Peace for the County of Richmond, Joseph Baker, Inhabitant of the County aforesaid, who deposeth upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God as followeth, that he being a Carpenter in the Engineers Department, cut with party’s at different times by Order of the Engineers their Commanding on Staten Island, A Quantity of Timber in the woods belonging to the Widow Perine, the said Timber being appropriated for the use of his Majesty’s Works at the flag Staff.

his

“Sworn before me Richard Conner.

Joseph X Baker”

mark

Here we have one of several letters written to Ann Perine by a niece who married an English officer and who returned with him to his own country. The incidental comments made on conditions on Staten Island immediately following the Revolutionary War should satisfy us that our times are not as those:—

“Mrs

“Anne Perine

“Staten Island near

“New York

“North America

“Carlisle 23rd Jany 1785

“Dear Aunt.

“I received your Letter dated the 10th Oct. 1784 it gave me great pleasure to hear from you particularly as it is the only letter I have received from any of my Friends since I left New York I am happy to hear my Dear Mother & all my friends were well when you wrote I have wrote several letters to Mr. Ryersen but have never received answer to any of them which I am a little surprised at I am Sorry to here of the disturbance you have had occasioned by the Morouders which you have been troubled with one might have expected after so long and disagreeable War that every Person would have been happy to remain at home in peace I am also sorry to see by your papers the heavy Tax that you are obliged to Labour under I think the People in general must now be convinced that they had better yet been under their old Government than have obtained there Independancy and



A CORNER IN THE BEAM ROOM

As originally built this and the hall were the only ground floor rooms in this oldest portion of the building. How early the old kitchen was added is not known. As it was a common custom to place the initials of the builder and date of erection on a corner stone, it is possible that such a stone is here, but covered by this frame addition. The secret hiding place for valuables is above this closet and is reached by removing a floor board in the room overhead.

indeed the People in England feels the effects of the War for it has been an expensive one to them for they are severely Taxed in order to pay there Detts contracted by government to carry on the War as long as thay did. Dear Aunt I am happe to inform you that I am happely situated we have a gentleman from New York that Lodges with us and there are a number of american about Carlisle we are very happe and Mr. Heslop Frindes are very cind to me we have taken a house and moveed by our selves we Leve next dore to a Lady that is like a Mother to me Dear aunt the next I beg you will give me the perticeler about my Mother and sisters and frinds your old frind Mr. Ross is in Scotland avery lettles way from us I have been in the Castle several times it is of agreat hight you can see all round the Cuntry there is a famly leves in the Castle From New York that is very fond of me thare names is York thay have adaughter that was born in New York in Carlisle all the Calaco and Cottens is manafater there it is very cures to see them print the Cottens when we Left London we Came three hundred miles by land so that I have seen grate part of England we was through Yorkshire and anomber of touns it is a fine cuntry Mr. Heslop and I remember a grate deel of Love to my Mother and all friends your Family in particular. Dear Aunt I remain your

“affectionet Nece

“Lette Heslop.”

It is evident from the following, the original of which is now hanging on the walls of the old house, that politics were conducted along lines in those days that would be apt to call forth a libel suit if indulged in now:—

TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY
OF RICHMOND.

SHORTLY fellow Citizens you are to make a choice of a Person to fill the Office of a Representative in Assembly for this County. Lewis Ryerss, your present Representative, has resigned in favor of Joseph Perine; you no doubt know the reason of his resignation; and I think Fellow Citizens, if it ever behoved you to rouse yourselves, it is now the Time to free you of this compact of interest, and declare that you are Freemen. And this must be done by electing a Man of your own Choice. PAUL J. MICHEAU is the Man of Your own Choice; he

was proposed by you last Year, and has this Year consented to have himself again proposed. Though Mr. Micheau cannot boast of Riches, still he is a man of abilities, a friend to the Poor, and is honest in all his Dealings; he is a Man that has an opinion of his own; I should be happy if we could say as much for the opposite Representative in nomination. You certainly know, that this very Interest, that now supports Mr. Micheau, has, in former elections, held up and supported Mr. Perine (he now has left you and gone over to the other side) What have you to expect from such a Character, who like the Spaniel, the more he is chastised by his Master, the more he fondles on him, and the more he likes him If such a Man can meet with your approbation, go on—and prosper—For such a Man, I never can nor will give my suffrages for.

A Citizen of Richmond County.

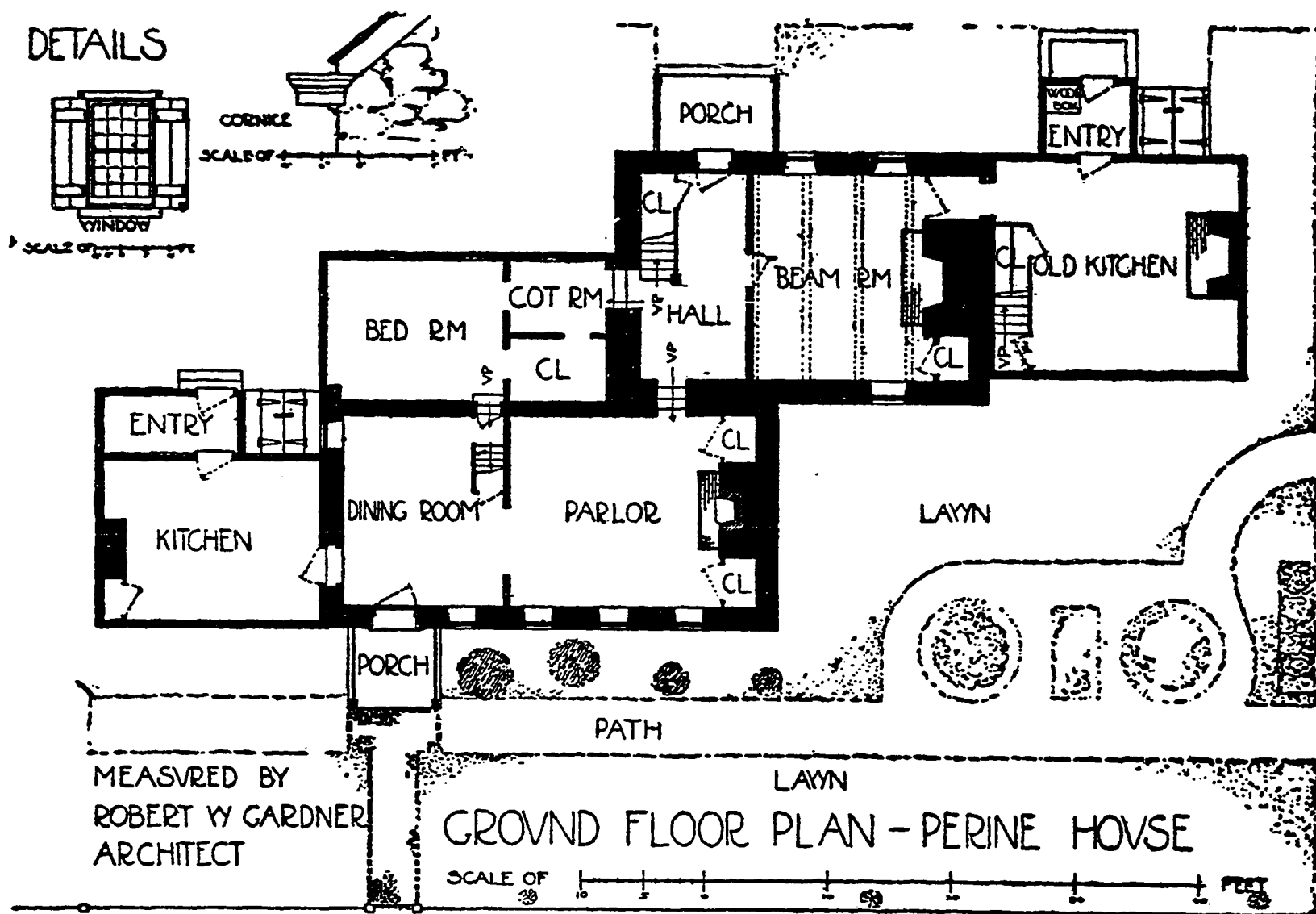
April 20, 1797.

The attic of the old Guyon house has recently yielded an interesting document dated in 1798, being the appointment of Joseph Perine to be Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, which would seem to indicate that “The Free & Independent Electors of the County of Richmond” took the advice offered in the preceding document, as it does not seem probable that one man could represent the county at Albany and at the same time act as Clerk of the local court.

The appointment reads as follows:—

“The People of the State of New York by the grace of God free and independent to all to whom these presents shall Come Greeting Know Ye that We reposing especial trust and Confidence in the Ability prudence learning and integrity of Joseph Perine of Our County of Richmond in our said State (Esquire) of our special grace Certain knowledge and meer motion Have nominated Constituted and appointed and by these presents do nominate Constitute and appoint him the said Joseph Perine Clerk of the Court of Common pleas in and for our said County of Richmond and also clerk of the peace and of the Court of Sessions of the peace of in and for our said County and do hereby Grant unto him the said Joseph Perine the offices or places of Clerk of the Court of Common pleas and also Clerk of the peace and of the Court of Sessions of the peace of in and for our said County to occupy use and enjoy execute perform and exercise the said offices or places

O L D P E R I N E H O U S E



THE PERINE HOUSE

The pleasing proportions of these old dwellings that are born of simplicity and natural balance always attract the eye of the architect, and Mr. Gardner, who drew the house to scale for his own scrapbook, has consented to allow his drawing to be reproduced. He calls attention to the fact that the paneling in the "parlor" is identical in style with that in the Waitt House, Barnstable, Mass., date 1717, which was measured and drawn some years since by Frank E. Wallis, well known in the architectural profession. The present mantel is evidently of more recent origin.

of Clerk of the Court of Common pleas and also Clerk of the peace and of the Court of Sessions of the peace of in and for our said County and every thing which unto the said offices or places doth belong by him self or his sufficient Deputy or Deputies to-gether with all such fees profits perquisites salaries advantages privileges immunities commodities and liberties as to the said offices and places or either of them do or ought to belong or as any other clerk of the Common pleas or clerk of the peace or of the Court of Sessions of the peace within any other County in our said State have or hath had used or received; To have and to hold unto him the said Joseph Perine for and during our good pleasure to be signified by our Council of Appointment In testimony where of We have caused these our letters to be made patent and the Great Seal of our said State to be hereunto affixed Witness our trusty and well beloved John Jay Esquire Governor of our said State General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia and Admiral of the Navy of the same by and with the advice and consent of our said Council of Appointment at our City of Albany the twenty-second day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight and in the twenty second year of our Independence.

“John Jay.”

A description of the rambling old structure itself will make a fitting close to its story.

The building represents two periods and consists of two stone structures lapped on each other in rather an odd fashion because, according to family tradition, when the second was built a great tree stood at one end of the original house and rather than cut this down the newer portion was placed against a part of the side of the older dwelling. The oldest portion, which may have been erected by Captain Thomas Stilwell about 1680, is the rear portion; the newer building, the date of which is unknown, was undoubtedly put up before the Revolution—possibly a long time before—and is that which stands next to the road. Possibly the builder felt as did Sam Walter Foss, who wished to “Live in a house by the side of the road where the race of men go by,” for nothing that passes can well escape the eye of one who looks from these windows. There are also numerous frame additions and lean-tos, all of which are probably one hundred or more years old.



TEA IN THE OLD KITCHEN

The old kitchen, now known as the "Tap-room", in the frame addition to the south end of the earliest portion of the building, date not known, but so long ago that family tradition is silent on the subject.

Both buildings are the old story-and-a-half farmhouse model, built of undressed field stone, known as "Dutch" construction in contradistinction to the roughly-squared stone which came later and is known as "English" construction. There are eight rooms on the ground floor with seven bedrooms above, the latter in three unconnected groups each reached by a staircase of its own.

Let us begin with the newer portion, near the road. The room at the north or northeast end is a frame addition. This appears to have been used as a kitchen. Next is the entrance hall, which is amply large for a dining room or other purposes. Adjoining this hall is the parlor with its fine Jacobean paneling. The entire end of the room is occupied by this paneling and two closets; in one of the latter the decorated edges of the shelves attest the fact that they are probably the original shelves, as this style of decoration has not been used since an early period. Originally the heavy oak beams showed in the ceiling here, but these were plastered over many years ago.

A steep and narrow little flight of break-neck stairs which opens on the entrance hall gives access to the bedrooms above. These are, of course, as are the other sets of bedrooms, in the eaves, and are no place for a tall man who cannot stoop to the occasion.

Descending to the parlor we enter the older portion of the house by descending two or three steps into the hall, where stairs lead the way to bedrooms above. On the left are two rooms in a frame addition which are to be used for museum purposes.

On the right is the "beam" room. Mr. Tysen has discovered to us the secret hiding place referred to elsewhere, and which is in the ceiling of this room, in its southwestern corner over a large closet. The top of this closet has been ceiled over, leaving a space the depth of the heavy oak floor beams, amply large for the hiding of the family silver and other valuables. The only access to this is by the removal of a plank in the flooring above. The heart palpitations which have come to the dwellers in this old house when some intruder tramped over the little hoard of wealth stored here would make interesting reading if only they had been preserved in some ancient diary.

The magnificent oak beams in this room were the pride of the family. Twice each year old Betty, formerly a slave of Mr. Tysen's

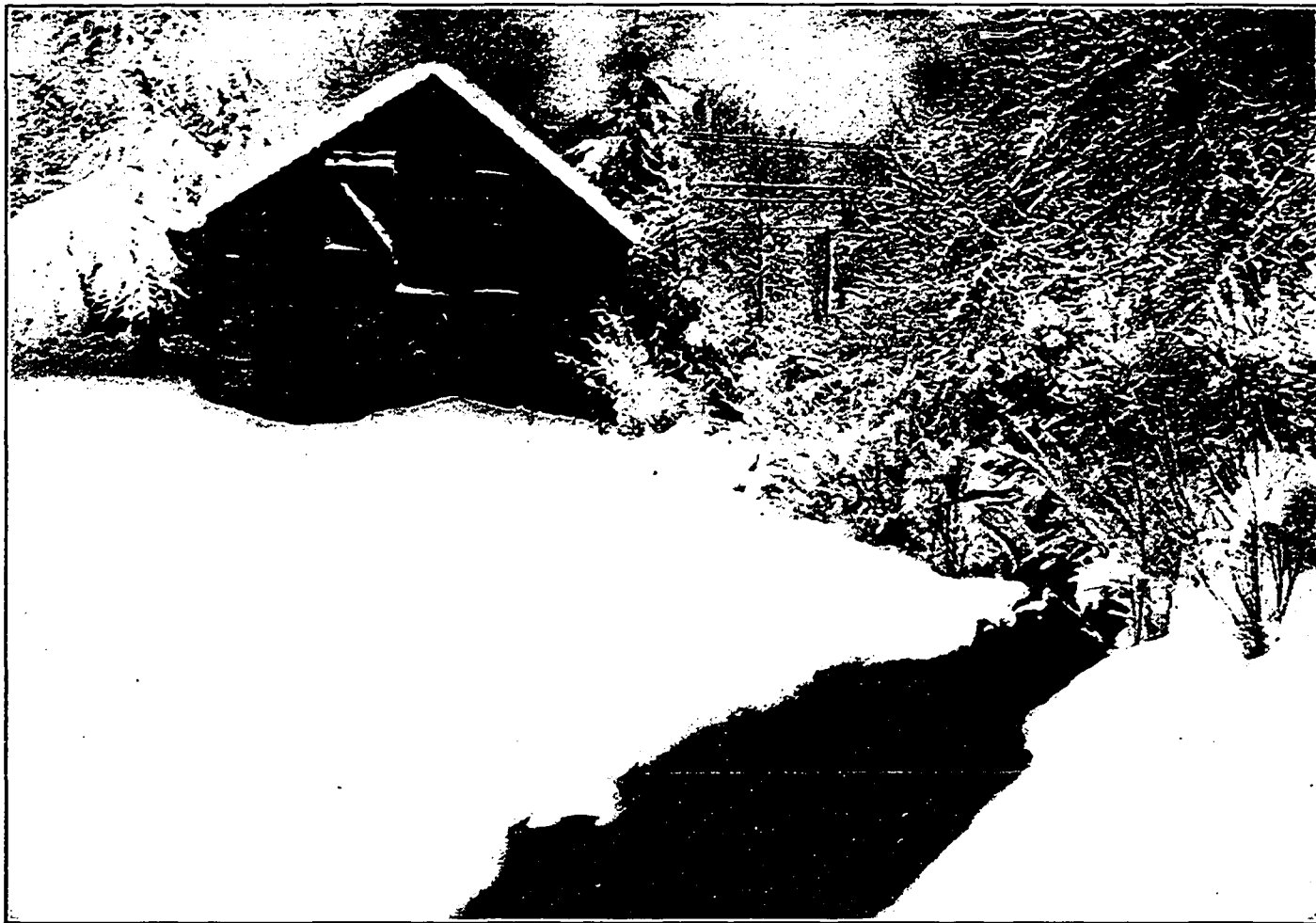
grandfather, would mount on a table and scour them until they gradually became highly polished and the grain beautifully brought out.

The last room on this floor is in a frame addition, which must have been intended for a kitchen, if one is to judge by the yawning fireplace where the only appropriate backlog is the trunk of a good-sized tree. Over this are two small rooms reached by their own flight of stairs.

There are three frame additions to this building which have evidently been erected as need required. Inquiry fails to secure, even approximately, the dates of their erection, but it is presumed that all are at least one hundred years old.

So much of the success of this undertaking is due to the art instinct and enthusiasm of Mrs. Henry F. Taylor that it is but fair to give that lady the credit she deserves.

Mrs. Taylor, recognizing the possibilities in the house, became a member of the Daughters of the Revolution in the hope that that Society might purchase the property, but finding that this was not feasible she turned to the Garden Club, which had a large membership, and it was out of the movement for the preservation of the old house that the Antiquarian Society grew. Had it not been for Mrs. Taylor and her indefatigable energy there is small probability that the house would even have been "discovered" or, having been "discovered," that good would have come of it. But into it she moved her quaint and interesting old furniture, rugs and pictures, and with a wave of her fairy wand has turned it into a fine old home once more, with herself as the interested and interesting mistress thereof.



THE BROOK THAT BOUNDS THE PROPERTY ON THE NORTH

The Stillwell survey of 1685 begins “on the West Side of a Small Runn of Water in the Valey by the Side of the Iron Hill.” It was to a hut situated at the head of this brook in Mersereau Valley, or the Valley of the Iron Hill, that the British officer hoped to escape with the abducted North Shore girl.

PART III

THE SEVERAL OWNERSHIPS OF THE PERINE HOMESTEAD AS SHOWN BY STATE AND COUNTY RECORDS

**BEGINNING WITH THE PATENT OF
SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY
SEVEN TO THOMAS STILWELL AND
ENDING WITH THE TRANSFER TO THE
STATEN ISLAND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
ON FEBRUARY FIFTEENTH, NINETEEN
HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN**

**ARRANGED AND ANNOTATED BY HOWLAND DELANO
PERRINE, A. B., LL. B., HISTORIAN OF THE PERINE
FAMILY**



The Valley of the Iron Hill

The Perine House

The Richmond Road

“Let me live in a house by the side of the road”

THE PERINE HOMESTEAD.

THE Perine homestead is located on the southeasterly side of the Richmond Road, in the Town of Southfield, Richmond County, and on what has for many generations past been known as the Perine East Farm.

Beginning with the earliest recorded title to the original tract, of which the East Farm was a part, there will be found in the records of the office of the Secretary of State at Albany a patent dated September 29, 1677, made by Edmund Andros, the then Governor of the Province of New York, to one Thomas Stillwell. An abstract of said patent follows. It is recorded in Liber 1 of Patents, at page 143.

PATENT TO THOMAS STILWELL.

“**A** PATENT for a parcel of land at Staten Island granted unto Thos. Stillwell”

“Edmund Andros Esq. etc. whereas there is a certain parcel of land upon Staten Island the which by my order hath been laid out for Thos. Stillwell lying on the south east side under the hill being in breadth by the highway northeast 52 rod in length south-east from the highway 110 rod and thence south-west in the rear 52 rod being bounded to the south-west by the land of Peter Billeau to the north-east by the land of Peter Billeau and to the south-east by the same containing 35 Acres also 20 Acres of upland more adjoining unto the lands of Nathaniell Brittain being in breadth north-east by the highway under the hills 30 and 2 rod in length to the south-east 100 rod meadow and thence south-west 32 rods being bounded to the south-west by the land heretofore laid out for Thomas Walton to the north-east by the land of Nathaniell Brittain and to the south-west by the meadows with 8 Acres of reedy swamp meadows near the rear of the said land of the meadow of Nathaniell Brittain being bounded to the south-west by the meadow of William Stillwell with a lot of meadow at the great Kill formerly No. 2 containing 10 Acres which makes 55 Acres of upland and 18 Acres of meadow being in all 73 Acres as by the return of the survey under the hand of the Surveyor doth and may appear Know Ye etc. dated Sept. 29th 1677 Quit Rent one bushel of winter wheat at New York”

ANNOTATION.

IT is supposed that shortly after securing his Patent, Thomas Stillwell erected a house for his home, and by some it is claimed that the Perine homestead is the original Stillwell house, but that statement is open to question.

That a house was erected by Stillwell, and perhaps about the year 1680, or a little earlier or later, is borne out by the recitals contained in a release dated November 4, 1709, made by Martha, the widow of Thomas Stillwell, to her daughters, Anne, widow of Samuel Van Pelt, and Rachel, wife of William Brittin, wherein Martha Stillwell reserves to herself "the room over the cellar of the little house which stands before the Great house."

A few days later, on November 8, 1709, Anne Van Pelt conveyed her moiety of her father's lands to Colonel Nicholas Brittin, reserving to herself therefrom "the old dwelling house belonging to said farm, and the yard and privileges of the well belong and remains to said Anne Van Pelt, her heirs and assigns forever."

A tradition existed in the Perine family that a house had formerly stood on or near the site of the Perine homestead and had been destroyed by fire, and that the present homestead was erected to replace it about the year 1713. If the tradition is true, then who built the homestead in 1713? The property subsequently appears in the possession of Colonel Nicholas Brittin, who did not acquire this house lot by his deed of 1709, as this lot was excluded therefrom. That he subsequently acquired its possession is a fact, though by what means the records do not show. It is possible that this homestead, which originally consisted of two connected buildings, may have been erected by Colonel Brittin about the year above given.

It is unfortunate that the early records prior to 1749 are so obscure on so many points.

In the office of the Secretary of State at Albany will be found another Patent, dated April 4, 1685, granted by Governor Thomas Dongan to one Hans Christophel for a tract of land being in the New Lots of the Old Town in Richmond County, being purchased out of a tract of land granted to Peter Belleu, as per a Dutch ground brief, beginning on the southwest side of a small run of water in the Valley of the Iron Hills, which is the northwesterly point of intersection of the

first purchase of Thomas Stillwell, and runs by his line S. 3° E. 320 rods to the meadow, and is in width upon a right angle of 46 rods, and then in length by the line of Nathaniel Brittin, N. and W., 3° W., but land of Nathaniel Brittin was laid out N.E. and S.E., but it was by a compass that varied 3° eastward, 264 rods to the Highway by the side of said Iron Hill, and is in breadth on a line at right angles 46 rods to the southwesterly point of intersection of the land of Thomas Stillwell, the whole being bounded NEly by the land of Thomas Stillwell; SEly by the meadow; SWly by the land of Nathaniel Brittin; and NWly by the Highway by the Hillside. Containing 83 3/4 acres and 32 rods.

A part of this East Farm lay within the Christophel Patent, being a strip along the northerly side of the farm. As the description begins, "On the S.W. side of a small run of water in the valley of the Iron Hills," and as there lies to the north of the homestead, probably about 40 feet, a small stream of water which starts west of the Richmond Road and runs through a small valley extending up into the hills, we have here the line separating the Christophel and the Stillwell Patents, and so parts of this East Farm lay within both said Patents.

That part of the East Farm within the Christophel Patent subsequently came into the possession of Colonel Nicholas Brittin about the year 1709.

Considering now the remaining part of this West Farm which was vested in Thomas Stillwell, under his Patent, and which he devised by his will, dated May 21, 1704, proved in New York County on May 9, 1709, recorded in Liber 7 of Wills, at page 198, and following is a copy thereof:—

WILL OF THOMAS STILWELL.

IN the Name of God, Amen. I Thomas Stilwill of Stattien Island in ye County of Richmond, Esqur., being sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory praised be ye Almighty God for ye same calling to mind ye certainty of death but ye uncertainty of ye time & However of Death Do make and declare this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say first and principally I comend my soul to the hands of the Almighty God my maker hoping for a blessed Resurrection of my body through the only merits of my Saviour Jesus Christ & ye body I commend to ye earth to be Decently Interred at ye discretion of my Executrix hereafter named & as to that Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me I dispose thereof as followeth. Item I give and bequeath unto Nicholas Stilwill Son of my son Thomas Stilwill deceased all that plantation or farm commonly called Wallbons farm lyeing on ye east side of ye old Town & also ye half of ye meadow belonging to it that is to say that part of ye meadow that lies next to ye Ditch he ye said Nicholas Stilwill paying out of ye same unto his two sisters Mary and Ann Stilwill ye sum of 50 lbs. a pece Current money of N. Y. when they shall attain ye severall ages of 18 yrs. or if either of them should happen to depart this life before ye said age of 18 yrs then ye whole to ye survivor & also that he ye said Nicholas Stilwill shall pay out of the said Land unto Martha Brittin daughter of Benjamin Brittin when she shall attain ye so age & in case ye said Nicholas Stilwill shall happen to depart this life before ye age of 21 yrs then my will is that ye said farm and premisses shall come too ye said Mary & Ann Stilwill his Sisters equally to be divided between them they paying to ye said Martha Brittin ye sum of 100 lbs. out of the same Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Frances now wife of Nicholas brittin 60 acres of land yoyning to ye land that now I live on as it is now in his possession during her natural life and after her decease unto her son Nicholas Brittin & his heirs for ever he paying out of ye same unto his sister Mary Brittin ye sum of 25 lbs. current money of N. Y. at her age of 18 yrs. I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann Stilwill & Rachell Stilwill ye message and Tenement with all the Housing and Buildings and all that Lot & three quarters of a lot of land with a lot of salt meadow at ye Great Hill Marked

number 2 which is ye land I now live upon after ye decease of my wife hereafter named or her intermarriage & if either of ye said daughters do happen to depart this life leaving issue then living then such issue shall have and enjoy all ye mothers equal share & part of ye said Lands & further that ye said Ann & Rachell shall upon the takeing of possession of ye same pay unto my said Daughter Frances Wiffe unto ye said Nicholas Brittin The sum of 50 lbs. if she should happen to depart this life before ye said time then to be equally divided amongst her children who shall be then living Item I give and bequeath unto my dear & loving wife Martha 1 negro woman called Jeno to her sole and proper use forever & all my estate that I now live upon both real and personal during her widowhood but in case she enter marry then only 1/3 part of my real and personal estate & I make her ye said Martha Sole Executrix of this my Last Will and Testament & I do also make and ordain my loving friends John Stilwill & Abraham Tayler, Esqr. and Richard Murrell Senjor. Trustees of this my Last Will and Testament desireing them to assist my so Executrix in ye execution of this my Last Will & Testament & ————— to be Trustees for ye use of my said children & I do hereby revoke Dissannul & make void all former & other will & wills, Gifts, Grants, Bequeasts & Legacies by me at any time before given willed or bequeathed Either by work or by writeing & this only and none other to stand for remaine and be as my Last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 21st day of May 1704 A.Dmo.

THOS. STILWILL (L. S.)

Signed, sealed, published and declared to be
the Last Will & Testament of ye Testator in ye presence of
Nathaniel Whiteman Ellis Duxbury Alex Stuart.

ANNOTATION.

From his will it appears that Thomas Stillwell devised all his estate, both real and personal, unto his wife Martha, during her widowhood, but if she remarried she was to have but one-third of the estate, the remaining two-thirds passing to his daughters, Anne and Rachel Stillwell, in equal shares, and on the death of the widow, her one-third passed to these daughters.

On November 4, 1709, Martha Stillwell, widow and relict of Captain Thomas Stillwell, deceased, released to Anne Van Pelt, widow of Samuel Van Pelt, deceased, and to Rachel Brittin, wife of William Brittin, daughters of said Martha Stillwell, all the lands and plantations whereon said Martha Stillwell now lives, with the meadow ground thereunto belonging, excepting the room over the cellar of the little house which stands before the great house. This release will be found recorded in Liber B of Conveyances, at page 571, Richmond County.

On November 8, 1709, Anne Van Pelt conveyed to Nicholas Brittin, for a consideration of £185, all that westernmost moiety, or one full half part of the land or plantation formerly belonging to Thomas Stillwell lying on the S.E. side of Staten Island, under the Hills, with the meadow ground, both fresh and salt, thereunto belonging, or in any ways appertaining, the land being bounded: Northerly by the Highway; East by the land of Vincent Fountain; South by the Meadows; and West by the land formerly belonging to Hans Christophel, now in the possession of said Nicholas Brittin. Also the moiety or full one half of 20 acres of land lying at the rear of the land that said Nicholas Brittin now dwelleth on.

Nevertheless, and it is the true intent and meaning of said Anne Van Pelt, and said Nicholas Brittin, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding, that the old dwelling house belonging to said farm and the yard and privileges of the well belongs and remains to said Anne Van Pelt, her heirs and assigns forever.

This deed is recorded in Liber B of Conveyances, at page 576, Richmond County.

On September 4, 1713, William Brittin and Rachel, his wife, conveyed their moiety in the said tract to said Nicholas Brittin, but no reservation respecting "the old dwelling house" appears.

This deed is recorded in Liber B of Conveyances, at page 591, Richmond County.

Martha Stillwell survived her husband, and married secondly Rev. David Du Pon Repos, and removed to New Rochelle, Westchester County, N. Y., where she died in 1735.

Her will was dated March 3, 1734/5, was proved October 23, 1736, and is recorded in Liber 13 of Wills, at page 29, in New York County Surrogate's Court. In the record the name is given as "Debunrepo," being probably a phonetic form of the correct name of "Du Pon Repos." A copy of her will follows:—

WILL OF MARTHA DEBUNREPO (DuPonREPos).

KNOW all men whom it may in any way concern that I, Martha Debunrepo, widow, of Staten Island, in the Co. of Richmond and Province of New York, being very sick and weak in Body of sound mind and memory, thanks be to God for the same and Calling to mind that it is appointed for all men once to dye, I do hereby appoint, make and ordaine this to to be my last will and testament in manner following,.....

First. I will and bequeath my soul to God who gave it and my body to the Earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my exec^{rs} my will is that all my just debts be paid, my will and Intent is that all my Estate and movables be sold Excepting two beds and two brass Kettles and my negro girl bes, and the old negro wench Teno, by my exec^{rs} hereafter appointed hereby giving full and absolute power to my exec^{rs} of this my Last Will and Testament to sell all my Estate as aforesaid. Item. I give and bequeath to my Beloved Daughter Rachell my negro wench tenno, and my large brass Kettle, and to her Daughter Martha my negro girl named Bess, and also to her Daughter Mary, my bed and furniture whereon I now Lay, and to my Daughter Anne, Daughter Rachell, my other best Bed and furniture and a Brass Kettle, and to my son in law Cobus Billoe all what he owes me or any ways I may Claim of him, and a silver Cup of five pounds piece to each of my grand Daughters (y^t is to say) Martha Brittain, William Brittain, Daughter Nicholas Brittain, Daughter Martha Cobus Billoe, Daughter Martha potter Laycount, Daughter Martha, and the remainder of my Estate to be Equally divided amongst my children (that is to say) Francis Brittain, Annie Billoe, Rachell Brittain, and Thomas Stillwell three children Nicholas Stillwell, Anne Musho, Mary Luppes, two oldest Daughters Mary Jane and Elizabeth Jurne, to all of them as one of my Daughters frances, Anne or Rachell.

I do hereby make and appoint John Lay Count and Richard Stillwell executors of this my Last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal

T H E S E V E R A L O W N E R S H I P S

the third day of March in ye year of our Lord One Thousand
Seven hundred thirty ffour five.

^{her}
Martha m Debunrepo L. S.
_{mark}

Sealed & Delivered in the presence of us

William Muachun

^{her}
Susaniah E Ramah
_{mark}

Ebenezer Salter

ANNOTATION.

Some time after November 8, 1709, Anne Van Pelt married secondly Jacobus Billeu of Staten Island, as appears from her mother's will, and was living when the said will was executed March 3, 1735. No will of hers is found in either New York or Richmond Counties, nor is there any record showing how she disposed of the "old dwelling house" or how it got into the possession of Colonel Nicholas Brittin, as it did about September, 1713, or mayhap earlier.

Colonel Nicholas Brittin died in January, 1740, his will being dated January 5, 1740, and was proved in New York County on February 27, 1739 o. s. (1740), and is recorded in Liber 13 of Wills, at page 345, in the New York County Surrogate's Court. A copy of his will follows:—

WILL OF NICHOLAS BRITTEN.

I N the Name of God, Amen, the fifth day of January being in the thirteenth year of his Majesties reign in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred and forty, I, Nicholas Britten in the County of Richmond and of the Province of New York, Gentleman, being very sick and weak of body, but of perfect mind and memory thanks be given unto God, therefore calling unto mind mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament, that is to say principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul unto the hand of God that gave it and for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a christianlike and decent manner at the discretion of my Executor, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same back again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such wordly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life, I give and devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form *Imprimis* my will and desire is that my Executors shall pay all my just and lawful debts and that my dearly beloved wife Francky Britten shall have a good and sufficient maintenance out of my estate and also to be furnished with good clothes, good horse and saddle when she wants to go abroad, and likewise I give unto my wife my negro woman named Tinah during her widowhood with the provision that she my wife, Francky Britten, will surrender up and relinquish the sixty acres of land that she claims to be her own, and if my wife Francky Britten will not surrender the sixty acres and relinquish it then the above mentioned maintenance and other things mentioned in her behalf to be void and of none effect Item, I give and bequeath unto my two daughters Martha Moore and Rachel Britten all my lands, messuages and tenements and all my estate both real and personal by them freely to be possessed and enjoyed by them, their heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Rachel Britten a negro child named Bert for her only use. Item, my will and desire is that my two daughters Martha Moore and Rachel Britten shall pay unto my son Nathaniels three daughters Mary Britten, Francky Britten and Martha Britten the sum of fifty pounds to each of them to be paid out of my estate when they come to the age of one and

twenty years or at the day of marriage, and if in case that if any of the three mentioned should come to die before they come of age or married, then the said fifty pounds to be returned to my two daughters Martha Moore and Rachel Britten to them or their assigns. My will is that my son's two daughters Mary Britten and Francky Britten shall be brought up and have the maintenance of my estate and likewise have learning by my two daughters Martha Moore and Rachel Britten after my decease and likewise my will is that my two daughters, their heirs or assigns shall give unto my apprentice Randel Sline a good horse saddle and bridle when he shall be at the age of one and twenty years or fifteen pounds in good and current money of New York. Item, my will is that my two daughters Martha Moore and Rachel Britten, they, or their heirs or assigns shall pay unto their mother Francky Britten the interest of one hundred pounds if she marries after my decease. Item, my will and desire is that Samuel Moore and Samuel Holmes my daughter Martha Moore and my daughter Rachel Britten whom I constitute, make and ordain my only sole Executors of this my Last Will and Testament. I utterly disallow, revoke and disanul all and every other testaments, Wills, legacies and Executors by me an any ways before this time named, willed and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament. IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Nicholas Britten (L. S.)

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by the said Nicholas Britten as his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us the Subscribers, viz:

Richard Stillwell, Vincent Fountain, Solomon Comes.

ANNOTATION.

On August 13, 1746, there was an unrecorded deed of release executed by Frances Britton, widow, Samuel Moores and Martha, his wife, and Thomas Dongan and Rachel, his wife, to Walter Dongan of the farm or plantation of which Colonel Nicholas Britton died seized, excepting 60 acres held by Frances Britton, widow, for life.

Walter Dongan died in 1749 intestate. On November 12, 1749, Thomas Dongan, "eldest son and heir at law of Walter Dongan, deceased," executed a deed to Joseph Holmes, which is recorded in Liber E of Conveyances, at page 29, Richmond County. The deed recites:—

DEED TO JOSEPH HOLMES.

WHEREAS one Capt. Thomas Stillwell was seized in his lifetime of several land, etc. upon Staten Island, and among the rest of a certain piece, lot or parcel of 60 acres, situate at South side of said Island, and being so thereof seized did in and by his last Will and Testament, dated 5/21/1704 give, devise and dispose of the same 60 acres unto his daughter Frances, then wife of Col. Nicholas Britton, during her natural life, by means of which devise said Frances was, in her lifetime seized of said 60 acres as tenant for life; and—

Whereas said Col. Nicholas Britton, her husband, as will by means of his intermarriage with said Frances, as by virtue of several mesne conveyances and instruments in writing to him past etc. was in his lifetime seized of a certain farm or plantation etc. inclusive of said 60 acres, and situate and being in the south side of said Staten Island, within the County of Richmond, lying along under the Hills, and is bounded to the southwest by land now possessed by Samuel Holmes, or his assigns to the southeast by the meadows; to the northeast by land now possessed by Thomas Stillwell, formerly Vincent Fountain's land, and to the northeast by the road, or highway. Containing by estimation (inclusive of above said 60 acres) about 190 acres of upland, more or less. Together also with a tract or parcel of fresh and salt meadow in quantity about 60 acres, more or less, lying and being at the rear of said land or plantation and appurtenant thereto.

With a lot of salt meadow, also at the Great Kills, in said County, belonging and appurtenant to the same plantation, and

Whereas also said Nicholas Britton was in his life time for many years possessed of a certain lot or parcel of ground, fronting the land or plantation aforesaid, situate and being to the northward or northwest of the Road or Highway aforesaid, ranging from thence up the Hills, the said lot containing 40 acres of thereabouts, and supposed to have been many years since, through mistake, surveyed and laid out for Capt. Thomas Stillwell, above mentioned, father of Frances, and hath since been possessed under colour of his supposed right, by his daughters and her husband, Nicholas Britton, aforesaid.

And is butted and bounded as in and by the return of said survey may appear, the several quantity and parcels of land and meadow as above mentioned, and described, containing in the

whole by estimation (inclusive of above 60 acres, for life) 290 acres or thereabouts more or less.

And, said Nicholas Britton, being so seized and possessed of the said farm or plantation, and other the said lands in manner as aforesaid did in and by his last will and testament, bearing date January 5, 1740, give, devise the said plantation and all other premises aforesaid under the denomination of all his lands, messages, and tenements and all his real estate unto his then two surviving daughters, Martha, at that time married to Samuel Moores, and Rachel, since married to the above said Thomas Dongan, and now deceased, and to their heirs and assigns forever, and left his said widow still seized of the 60 acres of land aforesaid, part of the said plantation, for the term of his natural life, but only to enjoy her dower in such others of the said land and tenements of her said husband as had been solely vested in him in fee etc., as by the same will and testament of Nicholas Britton, may appear, relation being thereunto had. And, lastly—

Whereas said Walter Dongan, by virtue of a certain deed of release under the hands and seals of said Frances Britton, Samuel and Martha Moores, and Thomas and Rachel Dongan, dated 8/13/1746, was in his lifetime seized and possessed of the said farm or plantation and other lands and premises as aforesaid, as by the same deed of release may appear, relation being thereunto had, and after the decease of said Walter Dongan, all the said farm or plantation and other the lands and premises aforesaid (exclusive of said 60 acres for life) did descend unto said Thomas Dongan as eldest son and heir at law of said Walter Dongan, by virtue whereof the same became solely vested in him, the said Thomas Dongan.

Now this indenture witnesseth, that said Thomas Dongan for and in consideration of 820 pounds current money of the Colony of New York to him in hand paid, by said Joseph Holmes, etc. etc., doth give, grant, alien, release, and confirm unto said (2) heirs and assigns.

All that the farm or plantation aforesaid as herein before particularly butted, bounded, located and described, or as possessed and enjoyed by said Col. Nicholas Britten, in his lifetime, and since by his said Widow, and legateen aforesaid (excluding the said 60 acres devised to her for life, as above mentioned) and the said 40 acres of land to the northward of the road or high-

way, possessed as aforesaid by them for many years passed, with all and singular other the lands meadows and premises aforesaid, the whole tract together (exclusively of the said 60 acres for life) comprehending 230 acres of land and meadow more or less, with the said lott of salt meadow at the Great Kills, appurtenant to said plantation.

Together, etc, etc.

All of which said premises are now in the actual possession of said party of the second part, by virtue of an indenture of B & S. to him made for term of 1 year, dated 11/11/1749.

Habendum in fee. (Excluding and excepting said 60 acres.)

ANNOTATION.

Joseph Holmes, while in possession of the lands above described, died in or about the year 1759, leaving his widow, Sarah Holmes, and two children, Ann, the eldest, wife of Edward Perine, and Joseph, a minor. The son Joseph died shortly after his father and, being a minor, the property devised to him in his father's will passed to his sister Ann Perine.

The will of Joseph Holmes was proved in New York County on May 21, 1760, and is recorded in the Surrogate's office, in said County, in Liber 22 of Wills, at page 80. A copy of said will follows:—

WILL OF JOSEPH HOLMES.

I N the Name of God, Amen, the 3rd day of August in the year of our Lord 1756, Joseph Holmes Senr. of Staten Island in the County of Richmond and Province of New York, being not well but of perfect mind and memory thanks be given to God therefore, calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men to die, do make, and ordain this my Last Will and Testament, that is to say, Principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul to the hand of God that gave it, and for my body I commend it to the Earth to be buried in a christianlike and decent manner at the discretion of my Executors. Nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the Almighty power of God, and as touching such wordly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

Imprimus: I give unto Sarah my well beloved wife all my lands, messuages and tenements, both movable and immovable, both real and personal freely by her to be enjoyed during her widowhood, and in case my said wife shall come to marry again, then my said estate shall be divided as follows: I give to my son Joseph Holmes all my lands and tenements whereon I now dwell freely by him to be enjoyed to him and his heirs and assigns forever, and when my son Joseph Holmes comes in possession of the land and tenements above mentioned then he shall pay to his mother the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds and my son Joseph Holmes shall pay to my daughter Ann Holmes the sum of one hundred fifty pounds when he is in possession.

Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann Holmes one negro girl called Polly when my daughter shall come to age or marriage. My movable estate I order to be sold by my Executors to pay my lawful debts when they see necessity for it and in case there is any money left after my debt is paid then it shall be divided between my wife and my daughter Ann.

Item. I give to my wife one negro wench called Febe and the best bed and furniture in the house, that is in case my movables should be sold and if my movable estate will not pay my lawful debts, then I empower my Executors to sell all my lands and Tenements and after my debts and legacies is paid the remaining part of my estate shall be for my son Joseph Holmes,

and I do otherwise constitute, make and ordain Sarah my well beloved wife Executrix and Samuel Holmes of the County of Richmond and in the Province of New York Executor of this my Last Will and Testament, and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all and other former testaments, will, legacies and Executors by me in anyways before this time named called and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Joseph Holmes (L. S.)

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced declared by the said Joseph Holmes to be his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us the subscribers viz the words age, New York are interlined before the ensealing hereof.

Henry Rulyea, Elisabeth Inyard, Frankey Rulyea.

ANNOTATION.

On April 6, 1764, Sarah Holmes, the widow of Joseph Holmes, having found the care and management of the estate "too cumbersome for her," released her rights thereto to Edward Perine, subject to certain covenants and agreements set forth in the following recitals.

This deed will be found recorded in Liber E of Conveyances, at page 28, Richmond County.

DEED TO EDWARD PERINE.

WHEREAS, JOSEPH HOLMES did on August 3rd, 1756, make and publish his Will in due form of law, wherein he gave his wife, the aforesaid party of the first part, all his estate during her widowhood, and after her marriage his Real Estate he gave to his son Joseph, then a minor, he paying certain legacies as mentioned in said Will, and Joseph Holmes, the younger dying soon after the father, in his minority and without issue, by which means the reversion of said Real estate descended to Ann Perine, the only daughter of them, said Joseph and Sarah Holmes, and wife of said Edward Perine, as the indisputable heir, and said Sarah finding the care, trouble, charge and oversight of said estate too cumbersome for her, and being willing at the same time to advance and promote her children, the aforesaid Edward and Ann Perine,

HATH, for and in consideration of certain covenants, privileges and agreements hereinafter expressed to be paid, kept and performed by said Edward Perine, his heirs, executors, or administrators on the part and in behalf of said Sarah Holmes, as hereafter follows, to-wit:

Item—In the first place he, the said Edward Perine, shall take all the debts the estate of the above said Joseph Holmes is justly chargeable with on himself and free and clear the said Sarah Holmes of all demands on that account, and she shall have the use and privilege of two rooms in the house the same she has now the possession of and find and provide for her sufficient firewood at the door, and to keep for her a cow and hog, winter and summer, and she shall have the privilege of a garden and fruit for her own use and pay her the annual rent of 20 pounds a year, and that in four equal or quarterly payments (if she demands the same) all which rents, privileges and advantages to continue and be payable during the life of said party of the first part.

NOW, THEREFORE the party of the second part, his heirs, executors or administrators keeping, performing and fulfilling all and singular the above covenants and agreements according to the true intent and meaning of these presents, shall and may lawfully, peaceably and quietly have, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy all and singular the farm, plantation and real estate the said Joseph Holmes died of possessed, with all the members right,

privileges, hereditaments and advantages whatsoever to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining or taken, deemed or known to be part, parcel or member thereof, without any ley hindrance, molestation, ejection, eviction or denial of her, said party of the first part, or any other person by, from or under her.

ANNOTATION.

Edward Perine died in August, 1779, leaving his widow, Ann Perine, and the following children: Joseph; Mary, wife of Albert Journeay of Westfield; Sarah, wife of Daniel Lake of Staten Island; Edward; Henry; Ann and Margaret Ann, wife of John Barnes of Four Corners, Staten Island.

The will of Edward Perine was proved on September 2, 1779, and is recorded in the office of the Surrogate's Court in New York County in Liber 32 of Wills, at page 121. A copy of said will follows:—

WILL OF EDWARD PERINE.

I N THE NAME OF GOD AMEN, the twentyeth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven I, EDWARD PERINE, of the County of Richmond and Colony of New York, farmer, being at this time very sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory and my understanding good and sound, do make this my last will and testament; in the first place I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in a christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my executors and as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give and dispose thereof in the following manner *Imprimis* my will is and I do hereby order that all my just debts and funeral charges shall be paid and satisfied. I give and bequeath to Ann, my dearly beloved wife, the use and possession of all my real estate until my youngest child shall arrive to the age of twenty-one years. Item: I give and bequeath to my son, Joseph, all the farm I now live one, except six acres of salt meadow to him, my said son Joseph, and to his heirs and assigns forever, he paying to his brother Henry when the said farm shall come into his possession the full sum of four hundred and fifty pounds and likewise I give him my bay mare called Joe. Item: I give to my son, Edward, all that farm or plantation I bought of Capt. Stanton and six acres of salt meadow before reserved but of the farm before given to my son Joseph located thus binding on the rear of the land of Lewis Ryersz his width and to extend southeastwardly until it shall make or comprehend the full quantity of six acres to him my said son Edward and to his heirs and assigns forever and likewise my horse colt called Molton out of Doe. Item: I give and bequeath to my son Henry the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds to be paid him by son Joseph as aforesaid and a horse colt out of the yellow mare. Item: I give and bequeath to my four daughters; namely Mary, Sarah, Ann, and Margerette all my money now in possession in cash and due to me on bond or other ways to be equally divided amongst them, share and share alike, and paid to them when they shall respectively arrive to the age of twenty-one and married until which time it shall be put to interest for their use and all the rest and residue of my estate after paying my debts

and funeral charges I give to my said wife, Ann, at her own disposal, all of which legacies and privileges I give in lieu of her right of dower and lastly I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my brother Henry Perine and my brother-in-law Richard Conner, Esq., executors of this my last will and testament hereby revoking and disannuling all other wills by me heretofore made ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

Edward Perine (L. S.)

Signed, sealed published and declared by the said Edward Perrine as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us the subscribers and in the presence of each other.

Elisha Lawrence, Benjamin Seaman,
Patience Reolph, George Taylor, Jun.

ANNOTATION.

On April 3, 1806, Ann, the widow of Edward Perine, died, leaving all the aforementioned children surviving her except two daughters, Sarah Lake and Ann, who predeceased her.

The will of Ann Perine was proved on April 16, 1806, and is recorded in the Surrogate's Court in Richmond County in Liber A of Wills, at page 332.

A copy of said will follows:—

WILL OF ANN PERINE.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. the 28th day of May 1800, I, ANNE PERINE, of the town of Southfield, in the County of Richmond and State of New York being in perfect health of body and in perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God, therefor, calling unto mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed for all mankind ever to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament. That is to say principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and for my body, I recommend it to the earth, to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner, at the discretion of my Executors nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

In premises—It is my Will and I do order, that in the first place, all my just debts and funeral charges be paid and satisfied.

Item—I give and bequeath unto Anne Perine, daughter of my son Joseph, my best gold ring.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my granddaughter Ann Lake, my other gold ring.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my other two granddaughters that is named after me, namely Ann Perine, daughter of my son Edward, and Ann Barnes, daughter of my daughter Margaret, all my silver tea spoons, to be equally divided between them two.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my two daughters, Mary and Margaret, my silver table spoons equal between them two.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my two daughters, Mary and Margaret and my granddaughter Ann Lake, all my linen and wearing apparel, to be equally divided between them three.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Margaret, a negro woman named Phebe.

Item—I give and bequeath to my son Joseph a negro man named Mike.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my son Henry, a negro boy named Peter. Also twenty pounds in cash. This I give to my

son Henry, in lieu of that 450 pounds which his father left him in his last Will. Also I give to my son Henry, all my part of the grane which at my death may be in the ground, and also that which may be already housed, together with all my stores of provisions which I may then have by me of all kinds and my meat casks and my part of the cider casks.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my two sons, Joseph and Henry, my waggon, ploughs, harrows, and all my farming utensils to be equally divided between them, my two sons.

Item—It is my Will and I do Order that my executors hereafter named do purchase a head stone for me out of my estate, that they may know where my body lies. And also that my pew in Saint Andrews Church must not be sold but to be and remain for the use of those my children as would wish to sit in it.

Item—I give and devise unto my son Joseph and to his heirs and assigns for ever, the one half of my land lying southerly from the Main Road, and that half which joins the land in possession of the Widow Van Cleft to begin at the Main Road, and run down through the middle thereof to the end or meadow. Also all my lands that lies Northerly of or from the Main Road, Excepting 12 acres adjoining lands of Anthony Fountain, John Garnetson, Esquire, and Abraham Burbank, and half of the lands, which the Barn, barracks and hovels stands on, and half of the yard.

Also I give and devise unto my son Joseph and to his heirs and assigns All that premises my house which he has now in possession, with half of the kitchen, half of the cellar, half of the fowl house, half of the barn, half of the Barracks, half of the yard around the house, half of the garden, and half of the well of water, and half of the fruit that shall be on the land hereunder given to my son Henry, for 10 years from the date hereof.

Item—I give and devise to my son Henry and to his heirs and assigns forever the one-half of my land lying Southerly from the Main Road and that half which joins land of Anthony Fountain, to be equally divided between him and his brother Joseph to begin at the Main Road and running down through the middle to the end or meadow, share and share alike in said land lying below said Road. And also I give to my son Henry, the half of my house; or that part which I myself and my son Henry now

hath in possession. Also half of the cellar, half of the kitchen, half of the fowl house. Also the crib and shop, half of the barn and barracks, and the ground they stand on, and half of the cow yard, half of the garden.

Also I give and devise to my son Henry, and to his heirs and assigns, 12 acres of land adjoining land of Anthony Fountain, John Garretson, Esq., and Abraham Burbanks, to begin so far along the Main Road to the Westward of Anthony Fountain's line of land so that running from thence with a straight line to the land of Abraham Burbank shall contain 12 acres of land.

Also I do order and my Will is that if either of my two sons, Joseph or Henry, should wish to sell their part or share of the lands hereby given, they may not sell their part or share of the houses, barns or barracks without the consent of the other; they must all be valued, and the one that keeps his part of the land may have them for one half the value if he choses to purchase them, as they belong equal between them.

I also give to my son Henry half of the yard around the house.

Item—I give and devise to my son, Edward, six acres of Salt Meadow lying and binding as his father directed in his last Will, which 6 acres I give and devise to my son Edward his heirs and assigns forever.

Item—I give and devise to my two sons, Joseph and Henry, and to their heirs and assigns forever, the remainder of my Salt meadow, that is to say the $\frac{2}{3}$ thereof to my son Joseph, and the $\frac{1}{3}$ thereof to my son Henry, to be divided good and bad just as it is.

Item—I do order and my Will is, that after my just debts and funeral expenses are paid, and also the legacies here before mentioned be also paid, then the remainder of my estate shall be equally divided among all my children and my two grand children, namely Ann and Daniel Lake, they the said Ann and Daniel Lake to have one equal share with my children or with one of my children, which being the $\frac{1}{6}$ part of such remainder.

Lastly—I likewise constitute, make and ordain my three sons namely, Joseph, Edward and Henry, my only and sole executors, of this my last Will and Testament, and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all my every other former testaments, Wills, legacies and Executors, by me in any ways before this

OF THE PERINE HOMESTEAD

time named, willed and bequeathed, notifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

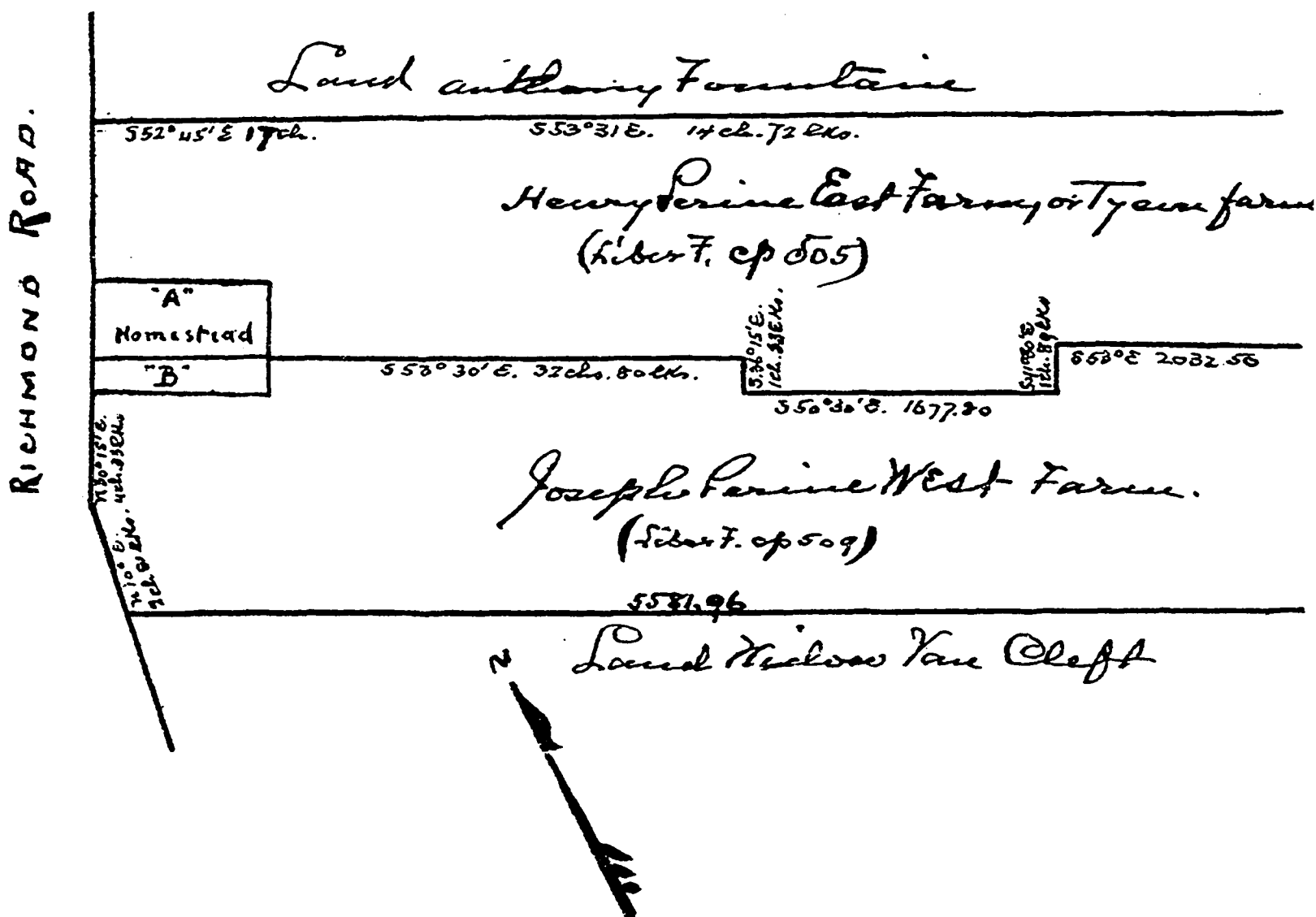
ANN PERINE (L. S.)

Signed, Sealed, Published, Pronounced and Declared by the said Ann Perine as her last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, the subscribing witness.

Richard Conner.

John Garretson

Elizabeth Garretson.



ANNOTATION.

By this will the farm of Ann Perine was divided between her sons, Joseph and Henry Perine. To Joseph Perine she devised what subsequently became known as the West farm, being the one-half of her land lying south of the Main Road, now Richmond Road, being that half which joins and extends west to the land of Widow Van Cleft, containing about 88½ acres. To Joseph, Ann Perine also devised "all that premises my house which he has now in possession, with half the kitchen, half the cellar, half of the fowl house, half of the barn, half of the barracks, half of the yard around the house, half of the garden, and half of the well of water, &c."

To Henry, Ann Perine devised "the one half of my land lying southerly from the Main (now Richmond) Road, and that half which joins land of Anthony Fountain, to be equally divided between him and his brother Joseph * * * share and share alike."

This tract subsequently became known as the East farm, and later as the Tysen farm, it extending from the easterly line of the aforesaid West farm devised to Joseph Perine, easterly to the line of the land of Anthony Fountain, containing about 60½ acres.

To Henry, Ann Perine also devised "half of my house, or that part which I myself and my son Henry now hath in possession. Also half of the cellar, half of the kitchen, half of the fowl house, also the crib and shop, half of the barn and barracks, and the ground they stand on, and half of the cow yard, half of the garden."

Ann Perine also provided that if either of her sons wished to sell his share of the lands devised, "they may not sell their part or share of the houses, barns or barracks without the consent of the other," and said share "must be valued, and the one keeping his part of the land may have them for one half the value, if he choses to purchase them, as they belong equal between them." Ann Perine also devised to Henry, "half of the yard around the house."

From this we see that all the West farm vested in Joseph Perine absolutely, while the East farm vested in Joseph and Henry equally, one-half each, and that the homestead parcel was divided equally between these two sons. Later on in the will Ann Perine devises some salt meadow, two-thirds to Joseph and one-third to Henry.

Considering these proportions along with the devise of all the West farm to Joseph, and the equal division of the East farm between Joseph and Henry, and that Joseph was the eldest son, the reason for the difference is apparent.

In 1807 Joseph and Henry Perine had agreed upon a partition of these two farms—East and West farms—and executed mutual deeds of release, whereby Joseph quit-claimed to Henry all his interest in the so-called East farm, but reserving to himself “the one half of the house, door yard and garden, according to the last will and testament of Ann Perine, late deceased,” while Henry quit-claimed to Joseph all his interest in the so-called West farm, if any, but without any reservations.

These two deeds are of record in Richmond County in Liber F of Conveyances, at pages 505 and 509.

By this deed of Henry Perine a small piece of the homestead parcel lying west of the division line between the West and East farms passed absolutely to Joseph, while the remaining portion of the homestead parcel continued to be vested in them in equal shares. The diagram which follows the will of Ann Perine will show this detail more fully; viz.: parcel “A” being vested in Joseph and Henry Perine jointly and parcel “B” alone in Joseph Perine.

Let us first consider the subsequent history of the West farm.

In the following partition action of Simon S. Perine against Joseph Perine and others, that by an unrecorded deed dated August 2, 1809, Joseph Perine and Catherine, his wife, conveyed the lands therein described, being this West farm, to his sons Simon S. and Edward O. Perine, in equal shares, and the purpose of this conveyance is said to have been for the purpose of qualifying his two sons so they could vote at elections.

In 1814 Joseph Perine died, leaving surviving him his widow, Catherine Swaime and two sons, Simon Swaime and Edward O. Perine, and two daughters, Ann, wife of Major James Guyon, and Hannah, wife of Isaac Houseman, his only heirs at law.

The will of Joseph Perine was dated June 8, 1810, and proved in Richmond County on April 18, 1814, and is recorded in Liber B of Wills, at page 527. A copy of said will follows:—

WILL OF JOSEPH PERINE.

IN THE NAME OF GOD—AMEN: I JOSEPH PERINE of the Town of Southfield, in the County of Richmond and State of New York (Yeoman) considering the uncertainty of this mortal life, and being of sound and perfect mind and memory, blessed be Almighty God for the same, do make and publish this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say. In the first place it is my Will that all my just debts be paid and satisfied.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Catharine Perine the full possession and enjoyment of all my real and personal estate whereof I am possessed until my youngest son Edward shall arrive to the age of 21 years or two years from the date of this my Last Will at the expiration of which time of two years. It is my Will and I do hereby order and direct that all my real and personal estate whereof I am possessed (Except such parts thereof as shall be hereafter named and bequeathed) shall be equally divided between my two sons Simon S. Perine and Edward Perine, share and share alike between them, they paying certain legacies hereafter particularly expressed. If it should so happen that a division or divisions of either the real or personal estate should be wanted or required by either of my said sons Simon or Edward, they can do it themselves, but if they should not agree it shall be done by two respectable neighbors each of my said sons choosing one man, and if those two men cannot agree for those two men to choose the third man whose decision shall be conclusive to my said sons Simon S. Perine and Edward Perine, their heirs and assigns forever.

Item—I Will and bequeath unto my beloved wife Catharine Perine, my negro wench Deyan, my Wriding Chair and a horse that she may choose, one room in the house and such furniture as is sufficient to make her comfortable and also a sufficient quantity of fire wood brought at the door and provisions of bread and meat with provisions for one horse for her support to be provided by my two sons Simon and Edward, they also my said two sons Simon S. Perine and Edward Perine paying her my said wife Catherine, the further consideration of Fifty Dollars per year yearly and every year so long as she shall remain my widow in lieu of the dower right of her my said wife Catherine.

Item—It is my will that after the decease of my said wife Catharine, the property heretofore left to her or such part of it as shall remain shall belong and be equally divided between my two sons Simon S. Perine and Edward Perine or unto their lawful representatives hereafter named.

Item—I Will and bequeath unto my two daughters Ann Guyon and Hannah Houseman, One Thousand Dollars to be paid to them by my two sons Simon S. Perine and Edward Perine or their Executors, Administrators or assigns in the following manner, to wit: The sum of \$250. to be paid to my said daughter Ann Guyon, and the sum of \$250. to be paid to my daughter Hannah Houseman, within four years from my decease and the further sum of \$250. to be paid to my said daughter Ann Guyon, and also the further sum of \$250. to be paid to my said daughter Hannah Houseman within six years from my decease as the legacy above expressed.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my grandson Joseph Perine Houseman my silver headed sword.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my son Simon S. Perine my negro man Mike, and my negro boy Mink to him forever.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my son Edward Perine, my negro boy Dreacre to him forever.

Item—It is my Will and I do hereby direct that if my son Edward should die under age or without leaving lawful issue the whole of the Real and personal estate above expressed and devised to him shall belong unto my said son Simon S. Perine he paying out the legacies before expressed and after my son Edward Perine shall arrive to the age of 21 years and whilst the property is undivided they, my two sons bring tenants in common during this period if either of my said sons should die and not leaving any lawful issue it is my Will that the survivor of them shall possess and enjoy the whole of said Estate, Real and personal, he paying out the legacies above named and expressed to them forever.

Lastly, I recommend my body to be buried in a decent and christianlike manner at the discretion of my executors hereinafter named and for them to procure a headstone to be erected to show where my body lies.

I do hereby appoint my beloved wife Catharine Perine, ex-

ecutrix, and my two sons Simon S. Perine and Edward Perine, and my loving trusty Brother Edward Perine, my Executors of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former Wills my be made.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 8th day of June, A. D. 1810.

Joseph Perine, (L. S.)

Signed, Sealed, Published and Declared by the above named Joseph Perine to be his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses in the presence of the Testator.

Edward Perine

Henry “

Mary “

ANNOTATION.

Edward O. Perine (the Edward of Joseph's will) died February 26, 1818, intestate, leaving his widow, Margaret Kreuser Fountain, and Joseph and Margaret Ann Perine, his only children and heirs at law.

In March, 1832, an action for partition was brought in the Court of Chancery before the Vice Chancellor wherein Simon S. Perine was the complainant and Joseph Perine (a son of Edward Perine, who had deceased intestate,) and others were the defendants, to partition the parcel of land heretofore referred to which had been conveyed by the unrecorded deed to said Simon S. and Edward O. Perine, on August 2, 1809, by their father, Joseph Perine, and including other lands belonging to the estate of said Joseph Perine.

At a sale of the property under the judgment in partition in above action had on March 15, 1834, Simon S. Perine became the purchaser of the West farm, together with the one-fourth interest of Edward O. Perine in the homestead parcel. The Master's deed thereto will be found recorded in Liber Z of Conveyances, at page 218, Richmond County, the entire parcel containing 88½ acres.

On May 9, 1854, Simon S. Perine and Eliza, his wife, conveyed this same parcel to his sons, Cornelius L. and Joseph E. Perine, by a deed recorded in Liber 168 of Conveyances, at page 260, Richmond County.

By sundry mesne conveyances Joseph E. and Cornelius L. Perine, in 1886, had acquired the undivided one-half interest in the homestead that had belonged to Henry Perine, which will be referred to later, and thus became the joint owners of all said premises.

On October 9, 1893, Joseph E. Perine and Margaret J., his wife, and Cornelius L. Perine, widower, by a deed recorded in Liber 231 of Conveyances, at page 376, Richmond County, conveyed this same tract of 88 acres to George Cromwell, but excluding from said conveyance "a small part of the garden appurtenant to the house of Cornelius L. Perine," which was a small piece of land 26 feet and 2 inches in width along the Richmond Road, and shown on the diagram as parcel "B."

Joseph E. Perine died January 10, 1898, leaving a will which was proved on February 2, 1898, and is recorded in Liber 4 of Wills, at page 89, Richmond County. By his will he disposes of his moiety in the homestead.

A copy of his will follows:—

WILL OF JOSEPH E. PERINE.

I JOSEPH E. PERINE of the Town of Westfield, C. of R., and State of N. Y. do make publish and declare this as and for my L. W. & T. as follows to wit:

1st I direct my executors to pay all my just debts and funeral expenses as soon after my decease as practicable.

2nd I give and bequeath to my wife Margaret J. Perine all my household furniture and personal effects in the house and premises where we now reside, except the horses, cattle and other stock, vehicles and farming implements which I dispose of as part of my residuary estate. Provided, however, that I give and bequeath to my said wife one horse, wagon and harness to be selected by her therefrom.

3rd I give and devise to my said wife the use and enjoyment for and during her natural life of the one half of the old homestead and garden & ground connected therewith, being about 3/4ths of an acre, at Garretsons, on the Richmond Road.

4th I give and devise to my said wife 1/3rd of the net income of my share of the farm at Garretsons, owned by my brother and myself in common, until the same shall be sold and upon the sale thereof, I direct that out of the proceeds of sale (or if sold during my lifetime, then out of my personal estate) my executors hereinafter named shall set apart and invest the sum of \$8,000. and pay the interest and income thereof to my said wife during her natural life and upon her death, I give and bequeath the said sum to my nephew Hamilton B. Perine and my niece Sarah Margaret Perine, to be divided equally between them share and share alike.

5th All the rest and residue of my estate real and personal I give, devise and bequeath to my brother Cornelius L. Perine and I direct that in case of the death of any of my legatees or devisees above mentioned before me or before coming into the enjoyment of said legacies, the said legacies shall not lapse but be payable to the issue or personal representatives of the one so dying.

6th I direct that the above provision to my wife shall be in lieu of dower.

7th I hereby nominate and appoint my brother Cornelius L. Perine and my nephew Hamilton B. Perine, executors of this

my L. W. & T. and I hereby authorize and empower my said executors or the survivors of them to sell my said real estate or any part thereof upon such terms as to them may seem best and execute proper conveyances therefore.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this
25th day of April 1892. Joseph E. Perine

George J. Greenfield, Clifton, S. I.; Henry J. Greenfield, 131
West 23rd St.

ANNOTATION.

Cornelius Lake Perine died March 19, 1896, and left two children, Hamilton Britton Perine and Sarah Margaret Perine, who died unmarried on January 23, 1901. The will of Cornelius L. Perine was proved May 4, 1896, and is recorded in Liber 2 of Wills, at page 417, Richmond County Surrogate's Court.

A copy of his will follows:—

WILL OF CORNELIUS L. PERINE.

IN the Name of God Amen. I Cornelius L. Perine of the Town of Southfield C. of R. and State of New York do make, publish and declare my L. W. & T. as follows to wit:

1st I direct my executors to pay all my just debts and funeral expenses as soon after my decease as convenient.

2nd I give and bequeath to my son Hamilton B. Perine \$2,000. to reimburse him for moneys expended on my farm and homestead.

3rd I give, devise and bequeath all the rest, and residue of my estate real and personal to my wife Eliza Perine during her natural life and upon her death I give, devise and bequeath the same to my 2 children, Sarah Margaret Perine and Hamilton B. Perine in equal shares and if either of them shall die before me leaving lawful issue surviving, such issue shall take the parent's share, or if either shall die without issue, such share sha^{ll} go to the survivor.

4th I hereby appoint my son Hamilton B. Perine and my friend Crowell M. Seguire executors of this my will, hereby revoking all other wills by me made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of April 1893.

Cornelius L. Perine (L. S.)

The foregoing instrument, etc.

George J. Greenfield, Clifton, S. I.

Henry Greenfield, 127 West 22nd St., City.

ANNOTATION.

Hamilton Britton Perine, the last owner of the Perine homestead, conveyed the homestead lot, on February 13, 1913, to one Donald C. Craig, and said Craig on February 15, 1915, conveyed the same parcel to one Alexander B. Lyon, who was the grantor on same date to the Staten Island Antiquarian Society.

The description in the deed of the homestead from Hamilton B. Perine is as follows, and let it be noted here that the ancient brook is again noticed as purtenant to this ancient parcel of land.

DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES IN LIBER 415, cp. 256:

ALL that certain lot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, situate in the Fourth Ward of the Borough of Richmond, City of New York, County of Richmond and State of New York, described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the southeasterly side of Richmond Road, distant northeasterly, one hundred and eighty-nine feet and seven one hundredths of a foot from a monument marking the point of intersection of the northerly line of Cromwell Avenue and the old easterly line of the Richmond Road, running thence along a picket fence along said southeasterly side of the Richmond Road the following courses and distances:

North thirty degrees six minutes twenty-six seconds east ninety-seven feet and sixty-four one hundredths of a foot, north thirty-four degrees nine minutes twenty-one seconds east seventy-nine feet and forty-seven one hundredths of a foot, north forty-three degrees ten minutes thirty-one seconds east thirty-seven feet and eighty-four one hundredths of a foot to a hedge; thence along said hedge south fifty-one degrees thirty-seven minutes forty-five seconds east one hundred and seventy-three feet and five one hundredths of a foot to a corner of said hedge; thence still along said hedge and part of the distance along the southeasterly side of a frame barn and loft situated on said premises, south thirty-seven degrees forty-one minutes twenty-nine seconds west one hundred and seventy-five feet and eighty-nine one hundredths of a foot to a post and rail fence; thence along said post and rail fence north sixty-one degrees thirty-nine minutes twenty seconds west ninety-two feet and twenty-six one hundredths of a foot to a picket fence; thence along said picket fence north seventy-three degrees thirty-eight minutes forty-nine seconds west forty-five feet and thirty-five one hundredths of a foot; and thence still along said picket fence north sixty-one degrees fifty-five minutes twenty-one seconds west twenty-five feet and ninety-six one hundredths of a foot to the point or place of beginning.

Containing in area seven hundred and six one thousandths of an acre.

Subject to drainage rights of adjoining property owners in a small brook which passes through above described premises.

T H E S E V E R A L O W N E R S H I P S

TOGETHER with all right, title and interest of party of the first part in and to Richmond Road in front of and adjoining said premises to the centre line thereof.

CONCLUDING NOTE.

Having thus considered the history of the West farm, let us now pass to that of the East farm, which in 1807 had become vested in Henry Perine, excepting that portion which included the homestead parcel.

Henry Perine died December 3, 1860, intestate, leaving no widow and an only child, Elizabeth Winant, wife of Richard Tysen, his only heir at law.

In September, 1870, Elizabeth W. Tysen conveyed all her interest in this East farm, by the same description as recorded in Liber F of Conveyance, at page 505, to one Charles B. Warring, by deed recorded in Liber 89 of Conveyances, at page 337, Richmond County, but excepting therefrom "the one-half of the house, door yard, and garden, according to the last will and testament of Ann Perine, late deceased," and taking back a first mortgage on these premises. At first it was supposed that this exception referred to the half interest that was vested in Mrs. Tysen, but after full consideration the title insurance company decided that the deed given by Mr. Warring carried not only his title to the entire East—or Tysen farm—but also Mrs. Tysen's half interest in the homestead parcel, and that the exception in the deed had reference to the remaining half interest in the homestead then vested in Joseph E. and Cornelius L. Perine, and was inserted so as to specifically protect and preserve that interest.

On February 27, 1886, Mr. Warring conveyed to Joseph E. and Cornelius L. Perine, by a deed recorded in Liber 163 of Conveyances, at page 445, Richmond County, "all the undivided one half of all that tract of land situated in the Town of Southfield, County of Richmond, and State of New York, being the one undivided one half of the house, door yard and garden, as the same are now occupied by Cornelius L. Perine, one of the parties of the second part, the same being intended to include all that part of the Perine farm, so referred to in the last will and testament of Ann Perine, deceased, and excepted and reserved in the conveyance of the said farm to George Alter, and all the right, title and interest of the party of the first part (Mr. Warring), of, in and to the said house, door yard and garden, as now occupied and enclosed."

T H E S E V E R A L O W N E R S H I P S

Thus the entire fee to this old homestead parcel became vested in Joseph E. and Cornelius L. Perine, and the subsequent history of this parcel has been heretofore set out in the history of the West farm of Joseph Perine, until the title to the homestead became vested, on February 15, 1915, in the Staten Island Antiquarian Society as sole owner.

HINE BROTHERS :: PRINTERS

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