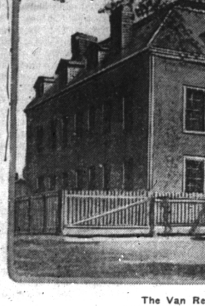


THESE HOUSES ARE FOR SALE



The Van Rensselaer House.

RENSSELAER is a small city on the east bank of the Hudson river, opposite Albany, N. Y. Although it can boast of few attractions, it has the honor of possessing within its city limits the oldest building in the United States. There has been much talk of uniting these two cities and at some future date this old building may be found in Greater Albany.

As we stood in front of this old house (facing the river) one beautiful October afternoon we thought a more desirable location for a dwelling could not have been selected. The house is situated on a hillside overlooking the city of Albany, the upper portion of its \$27,000-dollar price of marble (the capital) being plainly visible.

This old mansion faces the southern part of Albany and what we see are old broken-down buildings along the docks, old black fenceposts, old iron houses, etc. It has been said that everything earthly has something to mar its perfection and we thought this view is not an exception.

We turned toward the house. It towers above the good-sized dwellings on either side and looks very much like a fort. Between the two front windows of our left is a bronze tablet upon which is the following inscription:

ERECTED TO BE THE OLDEST BUILDING IN THE UNITED STATES. AND TO HAVE BEEN ERECTED IN 1614 AS A MANOR HOUSE. THIS PLACE WAS KNOWN AS FORT CRAILO. GENL. ABERCROMBIE'S HEADQUARTERS WHILE MARCHING TO ATTACK TICONDEROGA IN 1758 WHERE IT WAS BUILT.

That at the entrance east of the house. Near the old well the army surgeon R. SCHUCKBERG composed the popular song of YANKEE DOODLE.

We entered the small front hall in the middle of the house. Two doors opposite each other admit us into the two main rooms. At the back of the hall, at our left, is an attractive staircase. The main rooms have odd fashioned fireplaces with wooden mantels ornamented with wreaths and garlands. Under each window is a seat. Back of the room at the left is a larger hall extending across the house, with a door at either end. The north door is made in two halves, upper and lower. Back of this hall is another good-sized room. All the rooms in this building are of the same height and the ceilings are about nine feet high.

When we had ascended the front stairs we took about three steps to our right and at the top of the flight of stairs at our left is a small room with low ceilings. This was called the "dead room" because the number of the family dying was said to rest in this room. It was never used for any other purpose. Going down from this room and ascending a short flight of stairs in front of us we reached the upper hall. The arrangement of the three floors of this house is the same. One room at the right, three at the left.

How the House was built. On July 27, 1609, Killian Van Rensselaer, a gentleman who had been in Holland, purchased of the Indians (through his agents) a tract of land, 65 miles one way and 24 miles the other, containing more than 70,000 acres. It was divided in two parts by the Hudson river. The western half contained the whole county of Albany.

Chariot Put to Good Use. Lord Warwick tells this amusing anecdote at a meeting with "Lord George Sanger" and the famous showman brought his circus to Warwick.

"The show lord 'spotted' the real one, and going up to him he said: 'I've something here, my lord, that is bound to interest you.'

"He thereupon (certain Lord Warwick) ordered a man to remove a tarpaulin from a certain bulky object, displaying what seemed to be in point of gliding the most gorgeous chariot I had ever seen.

"Dye recognize it, my lord?" he asked, and I confessed that I did not.

"It is your family coach," he told me triumphantly. "When your father died I bought it for a five and had it gilded. I hope you think I've done it well."

I admitted it was more gorgeous than when I had known it more intimately.

"But what do you do with it?" I asked him.

"To with it?" he repeated. "Why, Lord George and I ride in it, of course, at the end of the procession."



THE RULING PASSION.

"I am sorry, Rolla," said the young woman, gently, "but I fear that you must not hope. I am fond of you, but we can never marry. You see."

"Yes, I see," he interrupted, bitterly. "You cannot marry me, because I weigh 200 pounds. Nobly lives a fat man!"

And with this quotation he strode forth into the night.

But there is always a Chapter II. Three weeks later our hero again stood in the presence of our heroine. "I have come back to renew my suit," he said.

"But, Rolla, did I not tell you that it was hopeless?"

"Wait! Do not spurn me till you know all. I have been taking a gymnastic course. Today I am a brawny man. I am reduced from 200 to 108!"

Unable to withstand the great strength in value, she fell into his arms.

Ease and Superior Wealth. "Did you ever ride in the chariots of ease?"

"Not recently. When I was a boy I used to get an occasional ride of the ice wagon."

An Instance. "The language of flowers is very eloquent."

"Especially when the sentiment of love is conveyed by a pair of pressed two lips."

NOT THAT MOULD. (Illustration of a woman in a dress.)

Killian Van Rensselaer died at Amsterdam in 1647, never having visited America. After a time his descendants came from Holland, and occupied this building as a dwelling. As the country became more settled, they retired from the colonies, and were to receive annually, as rent, six bushels of oats, two pairs of chickens and a cord of wood, or their equivalent in cash. Many who paid this rent through two or three generations, for the farms which they had occupied, refused to pay it longer. This was the commencement of the "antirent war," which was long and bitter.

Sent Their "Wash" to Holland. The Van Rensselaers sent annually their soiled linen to Holland to be washed, although the Hudson river was in front of their home. Two old chests in which their soiled linen was, were in the attic of this old house until recently.

An addition was built on this old manor house in 1750, and the early part of 1800, Italian marble was used to place the old wooden ones. They were the first in this country, and the first in the world, to be made of one new in the building, the wood-Doctor Jeremiah Van Rensselaer died here in 1852, and was the last member of the family to occupy this house. After his death it was owned by different individuals. The last gentleman who resided here endeavored to have a bill passed by the legislature at Albany for its purchase by the state. The bill was not passed, and the house was sold, the purchase being "covered with mortgage."

Anyone seeing this old manor house a few months after this would not have had the least idea of its being the oldest building in the United States. Children played in it by day, and a rendezvous for tramps at night. The house was said to be a whole pane of glass left because it was beyond the reach of a stone thrown by the last of the Dutch. It was sold at auction, and purchased by a company of ice dealers. There are a few feet left on either side of this old mansion, as the lawn at the north was sold last year, and, upon it, a modern dwelling was erected. A similar fate was awaiting the old manor when it was purchased by the Susan De Lancy Van Rensselaer Strong of New York city.

The Reason. "I know a couple of young millionaires who are going off to hunt wild deer."

"Maybe it is because every tame deer is hunting them."

Age of the Ocean. Scientists have figured out the average amount of salt carried by the rivers of the world as a total, and have compared with the total quantity of salt in the oceans. From these data (taking into account evaporation and runoff of stream flow) it is possible to reckon how many years have elapsed since the oceans were first formed. It is estimated that the oceans are about 90,000,000 years old.

Oil for Cooking. Few people realize what a great deal of use can be made of oil in cooking, and though the price of oil has risen considerably it is cheap to fry with, considering it contains no water like lard, butter or fat, and it wastes less when frying. If care is taken while frying, not to burn the oil it can be strained after using, through a fine strainer, into a clean basin and when cold should be covered, and can be used over and over again. Let it cool a little before straining it.

Organizations That Make County Agents Effective. PLAN FOR SECURING SUPPORT. Ideas Outlined in Guide Recently Published by Agricultural Department Adapted to Various Conditions.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The county agents have been most active in co-operating with their county agents and, with rare exceptions, the ones which are reaping the greatest benefits from their services. Experience shows that help and advice of the farmers themselves are necessary for the success of county agent work, and the support of both rural and urban population is needed. The means of securing this local support which has been found most effective in the extension work in the northern and western states, officials of the United States department of agriculture say, is to establish a county organization usually known as a "farm bureau." In a guide recently published by the department and known as "Handbook of Farm Bureau Organization for County Agricultural Agents," detailed suggestions are given for forming such an organization. The plan outlined can be adapted readily to the various conditions of different counties. It may be established in counties having inefficient organizations, or in counties contemplating the employment of an agent, and in places where the agent is now unsupported by a local county organization.

Functions of Organization. The chief functions of a county organization, as outlined in the handbook are:

1. To co-ordinate the efforts of existing local agricultural forces, either organized or unorganized, and to organize new lines of effort. It does not supplant any existing organizations of county agents, but establishes a clearing house through which all may increase their efficiency without in any way surrendering their individuality.
2. To bring to the agent the cooperation and cooperation of the best farmers in the county in planning and executing an agricultural improvement program.
3. To furnish the necessary local machinery for easily and quickly reaching every community in the county with information of value to that community and to the county as a whole.
4. To encourage self-help through developing and exercising leadership in the rural affairs of each community.
5. To review all the needs of the county agricultural possibilities of the county and how they may be realized.

Good Farm Flock. In both satisfaction and profits, according to W. J. Lippincott, professor of poultry husbandry in the Kansas State Agricultural College.

"Taking the side as a whole, standardized flocks are giving better results than free mixed flocks, because they are receiving better care," said Professor Lippincott. "The original cost is greater. It seems to be human nature for a man to give more care to stock that costs little or nothing. When a farmer is proud of his flock of poultry, he will give it more care in receiving good care. This is in itself reason enough why standardized flocks give better results, but it is not the only reason."

Since the numerous laying contests of recent years have turned interest toward egg production, many breeders of standardized flocks are giving their attention to increasing egg production of flocks by careful selection of mating, according to Professor Lippincott. While it is entirely possible to get good production with mixed flocks, there is probably not a poultryman in Kansas who is carrying out breeding operations with mongrels for increased egg production.

Although a considerable proportion of the standardized flocks has not yet been fully selected from the standpoint of egg production, the number of conservative breeders along productive lines is constantly increasing. These breeders offer to the farmer his opportunity for improving his flock in respect to production.

Wrinkle Varieties of Peas. While the smooth varieties of garden peas are capable of standing more cold than we think the wrinkled sorts they are scarcely worth the planting. As soon as the ground becomes dry enough for the thorough preparation soil the wrinkled variety of peas.

Good Racks for Seed Corn. Wooden Affairs in Which Eggs Are Placed on Separate Shelves Are Convenient. Wooden seed racks, in which the ears are stored in rows on separate shelves, are convenient dryers, and have no drawbacks in a dry, breezy season, although the air cannot circulate freely on all sides and corners may be held where the rust of fungus rests on the surface of the grain.

Community Breeding. The advantages of community breeding which has existed before the war still hold good, and present conditions emphasize the importance of securing such a plan.

Shelter Costs Comparatively Little When Considering Damage to Unsheltered Tools. A tool shed costs little compared to the risk of neglecting the implements. Binders, mowers, hay presses, tractors, disc cutters and other machines require reasonable care, and it is economy to shelter and care for them when not in use. The shed is really insurance upon your investment from sun, rain and rust, and there is another advantage beside the loss and deterioration, and that is saving time.

Keep Young Animals Growing. Young, growing animals should be kept growing, otherwise their feed is being thrown away and waste from thrown away if the stock is allowed to become run down and stunted.

Blanching Celery. Celery is best blanched by placing clear, dry dirt about the plants when they are dry. If the work is done when the soil and plants are wet they are very certain to decay.

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BUREAUS FOR FARM

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SOME POULTRY DISEASES

When the crop is hard and unyielding there is danger of the bird becoming crop bound.

When the joints are hot and swollen and the fowl is disinclined to stand, rheumatism has taken hold.

When the nostrils are clogged with dirt and the eyes water, watch off a possible case of roup.

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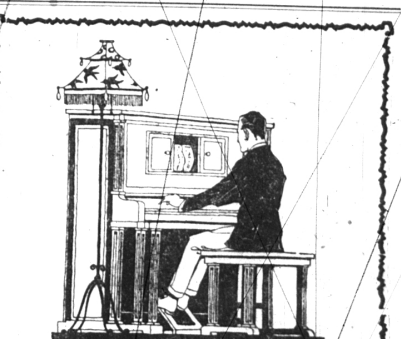
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