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FRONT COVER: The Hammond House — East View — Picture by Mary Andrews. Few if any 18th century farmhouses still standing in Westchester can boast the wealth of original features to be found in the Hammond House. This picturesque 236-year old building was saved from destruction and restored by The Westchester County Historical Society in 1926. It is now open to the public as a museum of early home life in Westchester and contains a great variety of fascinating furnishings and exhibits. James Hammond, colonel of the County's first Revolutionary regiment, was born here.

FRONTISPIECE: Washington Headquarters — North White Plains. Picture by Allison Albee. Unfortunately industry now engulfs this house despite its paramount importance historically. Yards of a stone company, tracks and switching terminal, contrast dismally with what Washington saw when he used it for headquarters in 1776, 1778 and 1781.

Elijah Miller, the owner, became Adjutant in 1775. Wounded in action, he died a year later, aged forty-eight. Two sons died the same year from camp diseases. Operated today as a museum, the Miller house is county-owned.

### About this Date Book

Here is the first issue of the Westchester Date Book. Every effort was made to give you an engagement book both picturesque and informative, accurate in text and useful primarily for daily reference. Limited space prevents illustrating more than a few of the many historic spots in this county, or relating more than one incident in its rich historic background. Should your favorites not appear, we trust that you will study what is shown now and watch for *your* selection in later issues.

## Now About Westchester

Organized as a political area in 1683, the bounds of Westchester County have been little changed except for that portion aligned to New York City to form Bronx County. Many stories of early settlements as well as the coming and going of the Dutch and English must be saved for other issues. Also featured later will be stories of those stirring times when so much of Westchester was changing from farm to predominately residential character. Our first issue illustrates certain historic places and tells a story that is closely associated with many of these . . . small part of a great story that was a most important crisis in our County, State and Nation . . . and, it happened in WESTCHESTER!

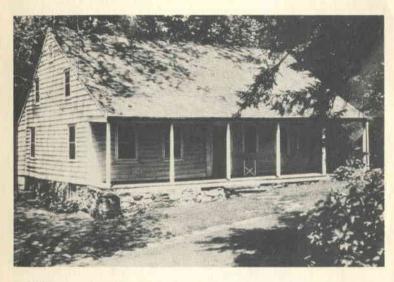
# It Happened in Westchester

Historians have been writing about the "Andre affair" for some 150 years. Many facts on it were unknown until the papers of Sir Henry Clinton were turned over to the Clements Library at Ann Arbor. It is not probable that any of these new disclosures would have changed the fate of Andre — they did increase the guilt of Arnold. Carl Van Doren has written a very compre-

(Continued on inside back cover)

# WESTCHESTER DATE BOOK

Retreat in march -



WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS - NORTH WHITE PLAINS

An Illustrated Engagement Book • Picturesque, Historical

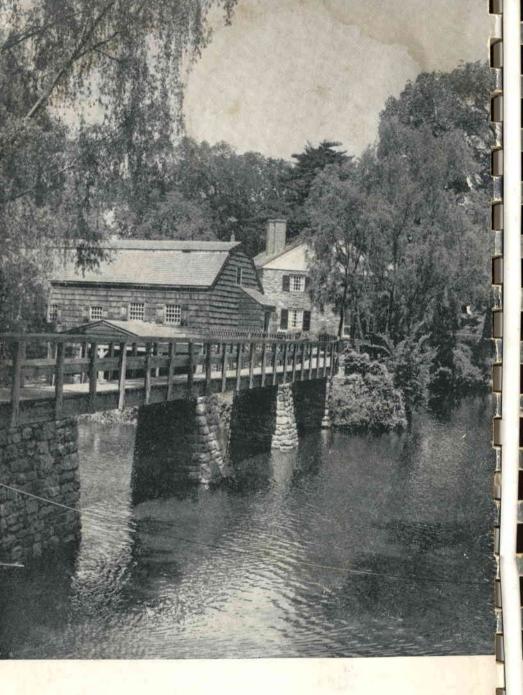
Edited and Published by

LOUIS L. MITCHELL Boston, Massachusetts
755 BOYLSTON STREET

In Collaboration with The Westchester County Historical Society

OTHER DATE BOOKS BY THE PUBLISHER

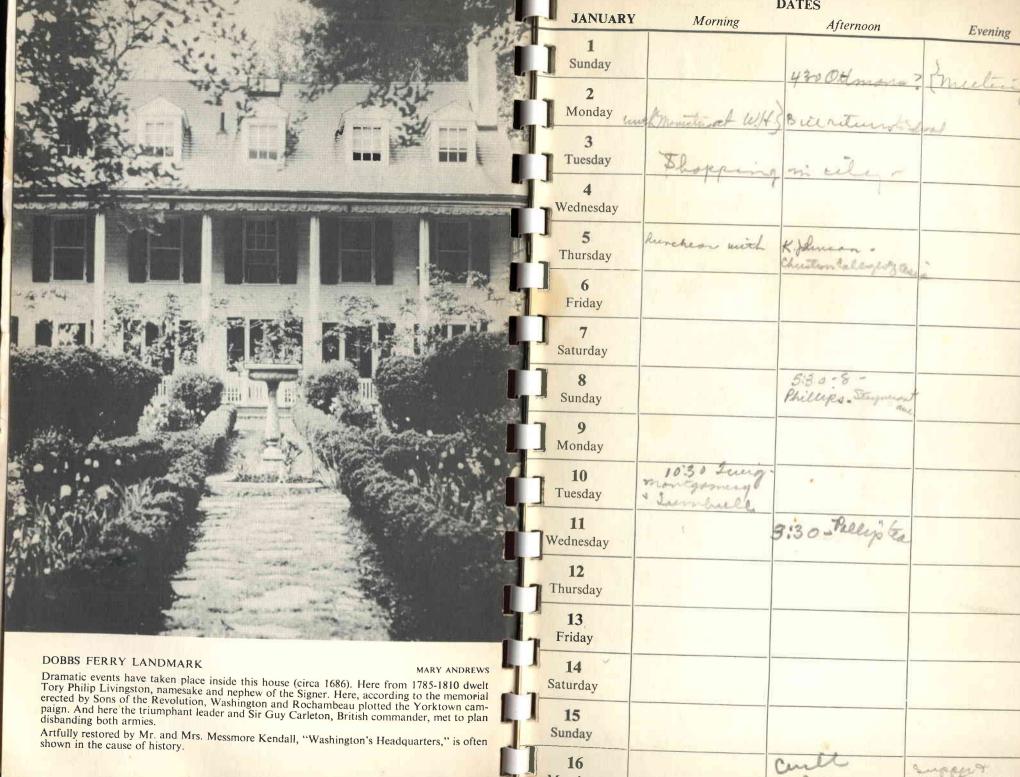
Vermont • New Hampshire • Massachusetts • Connecticut • Rhode Island

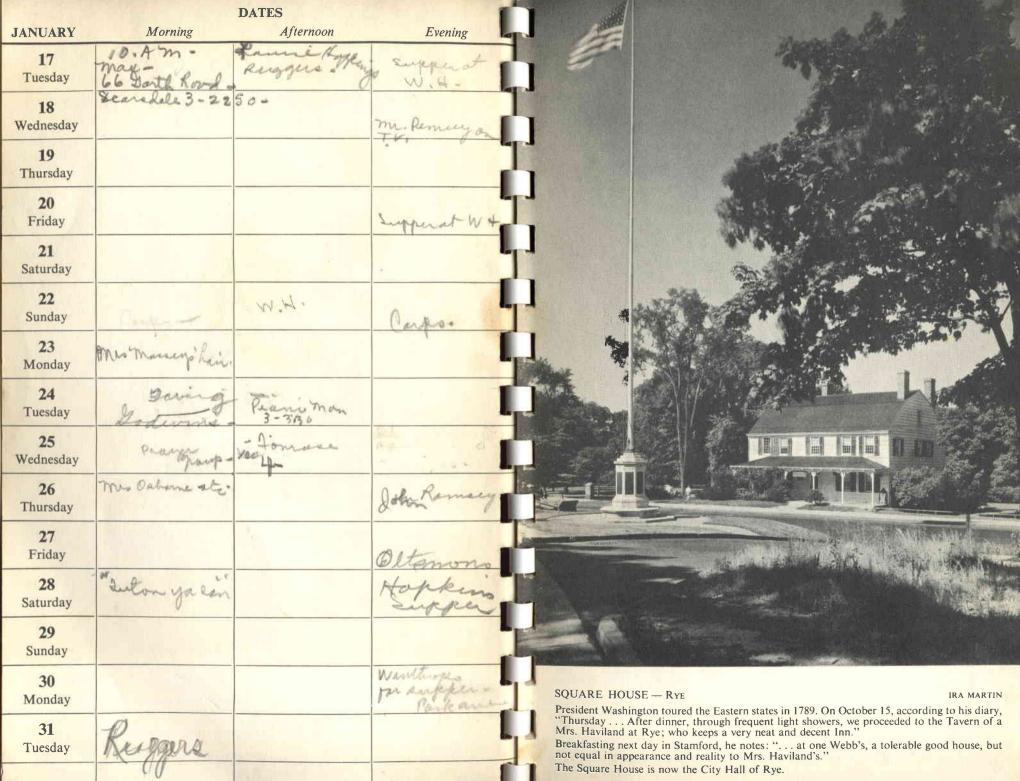




# WESTCHESTER

A NEW YORK STATE DATE BOOK







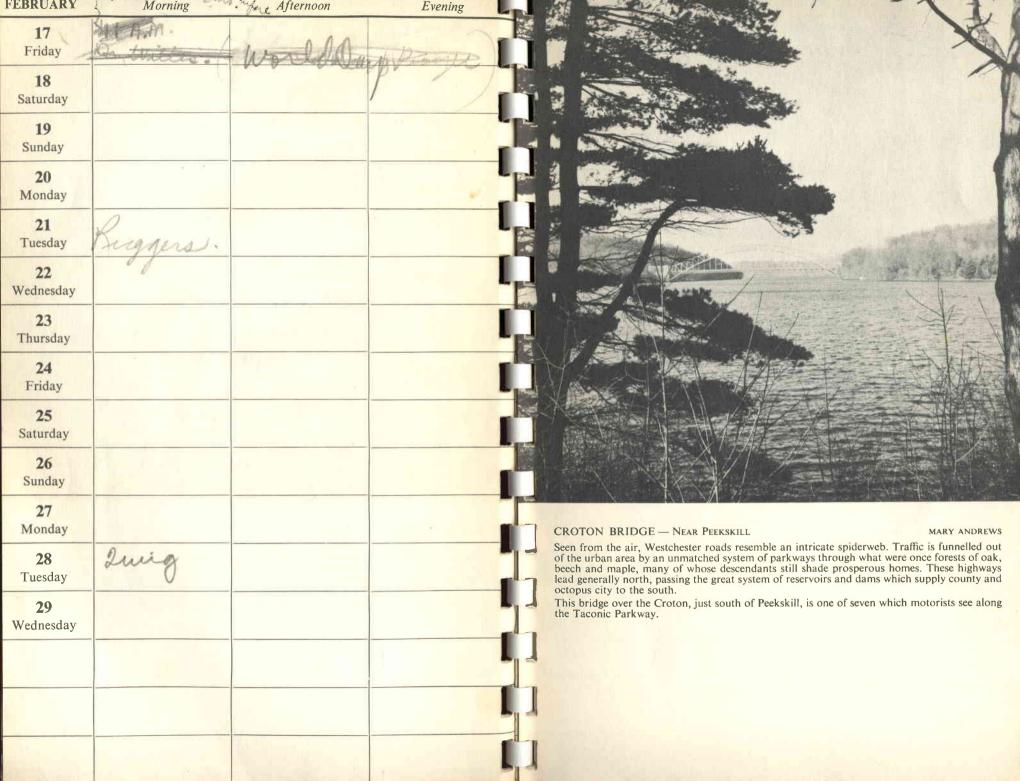
### GENERAL HOWE'S HEADQUARTERS — SCARSDALE

MARY ANDREWS

Generally known as the Griffin-Fish house, this gracious old home was headquarters for Major General Sir William Howe, commander-in-chief of the British forces, after his triumph at Chatterton Hill — usually known as the Battle of White Plains — on October 28, 1776. Nearby are supposed to be graves of several of his officers who fell in that fray. Quite likely it was here that Howe took the fateful decision not to press his advantage over Washington and his demoralized troops, but to take his powerful regiments south in an effort to capture virtually undefended New York and settle down for a winter of gracious living. The British leader never successfully explained his dilatory course nor the three days spent in Scarsdale before attacking the patriots. Tacticians, however, believe this was designed to cut off General Lee, hurrying up with the American artillery, from joining the main body of troops. At any rate Lee successfully reached his objective. The enemy did not leave the high grounds of Scarsdale till the morning of the 28th. Breaking camp in two columns, the right under Clinton, the left under de Heister, they came in sight of American forces at ten that morning. The rest is history and despite the defenders' rout, marked a turning point of the war. A tablet has been set out to indicate the tenancy of Sir William Howe at the house on Mamaroneck Road.

Here it is also believed, Scarsdale held its first town meeting. Available records purport that General Griffin of the Revolutionary army was first owner. Whatever its original ownership there is every evidence of affluence in its three storied spaciousness. Only a few signs of earlier years remain: several Dutch doors and hand-hewn beams in the dining room. Today the property is owned by Mrs. Arthur S. Meyer.

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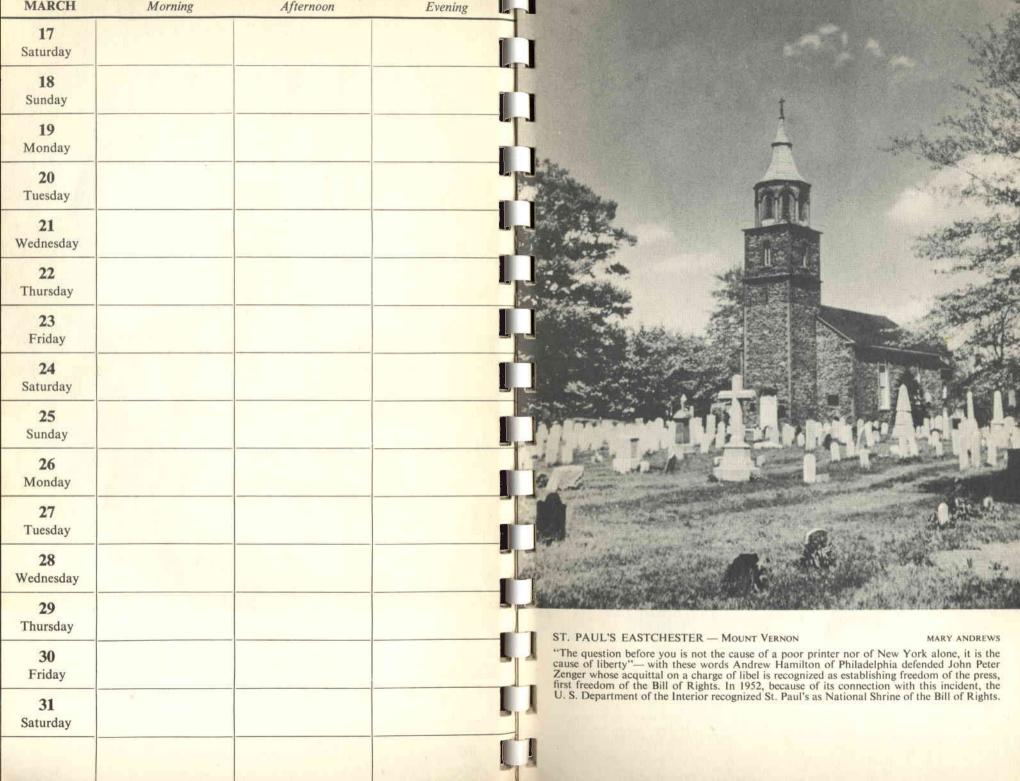
Open to the public, this notable example of Greek Revival architecture on the Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park serves as headquarters for the International Garden Club which restored it at a cost of more than \$100,000 in 1914. As the picture shows formal gardens, too, were extensively renewed. How fortunate that the Bartow Mansion with its eagle and cherub decorated parlor suite, its wrought iron balconies and distinguished oval staircase did not meet the fate of the Hunter mansion, the Bowne house and other historic places demolished by the Park department of New York.

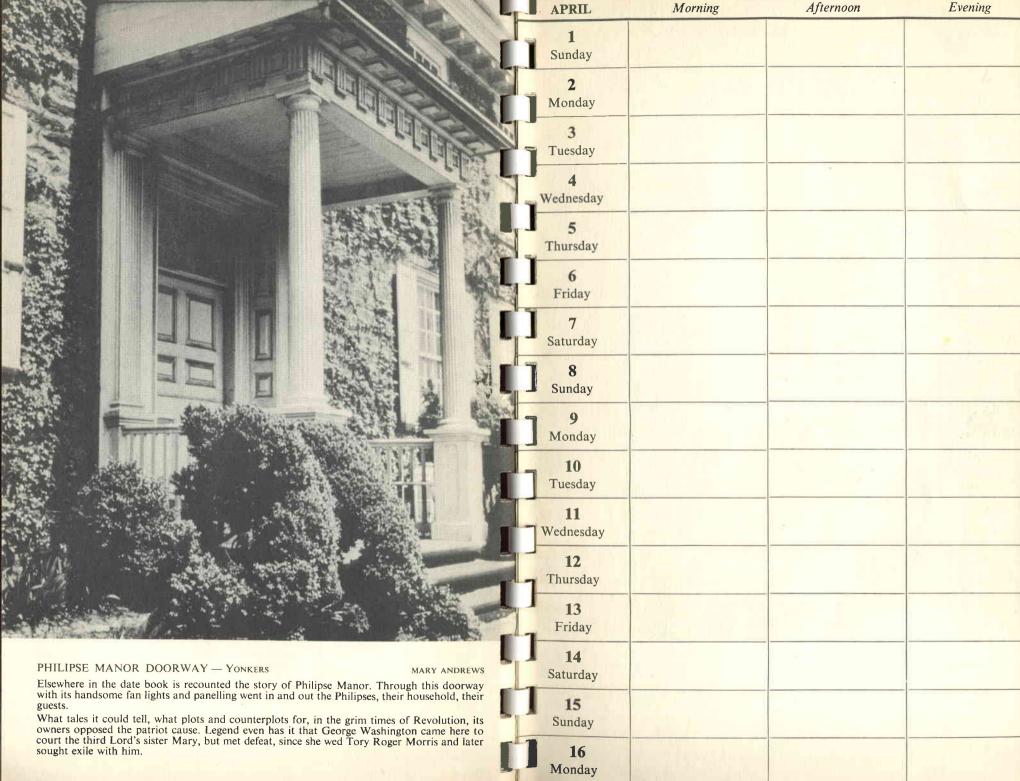
New York City bought these acres in 1888 although the present boundaries of Pelham and New York were not established till 1895. While technically no more in Westchester, the Mansion's history is inextricably concerned with this county.

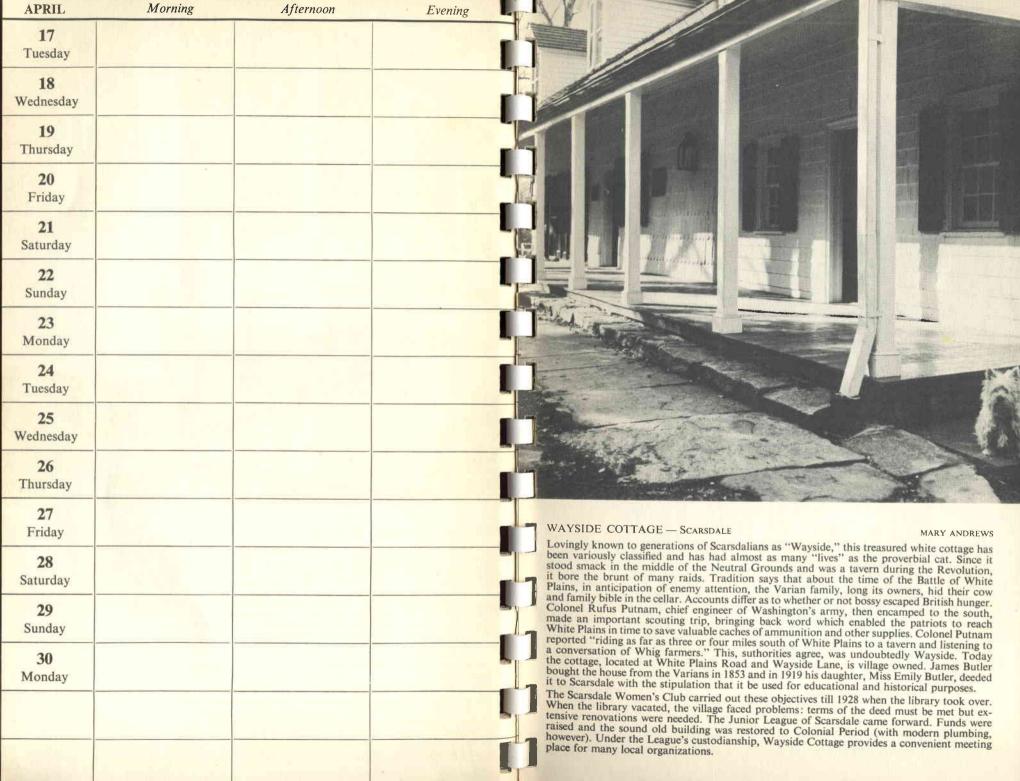
In 1954 Pelham celebrated the tercentenary of Thomas Pell's manor acquisition with proper pageantry. Pell's nephew, Sir John, married Rachel Pinckney whose father, Philip, was one of the Ten Proprietors who purchased Eastchester from the first lord. Near the present mansion, Sir John built a splendid home where he lavishly entertained and transacted manorial business. Since the Pells were mostly loyal to the Crown, many fled to New York for British protection during the Revolution. It is believed that the manor house, standing empty, was then burned. In due course, John Bartow, a man of wealth and countrywide influence, son of Theophilus Bartow and Bathsheba Pell, daughter of Thomas, the third lord and his Indian princess wife, purchased the land. From 1813 to 1836, the Le Roy family owned it but Robert Bartow, John's grandson, bought it back and built the present mansion. Just when is uncertain, as is the architect, but characteristics place the date between 1836-1842.

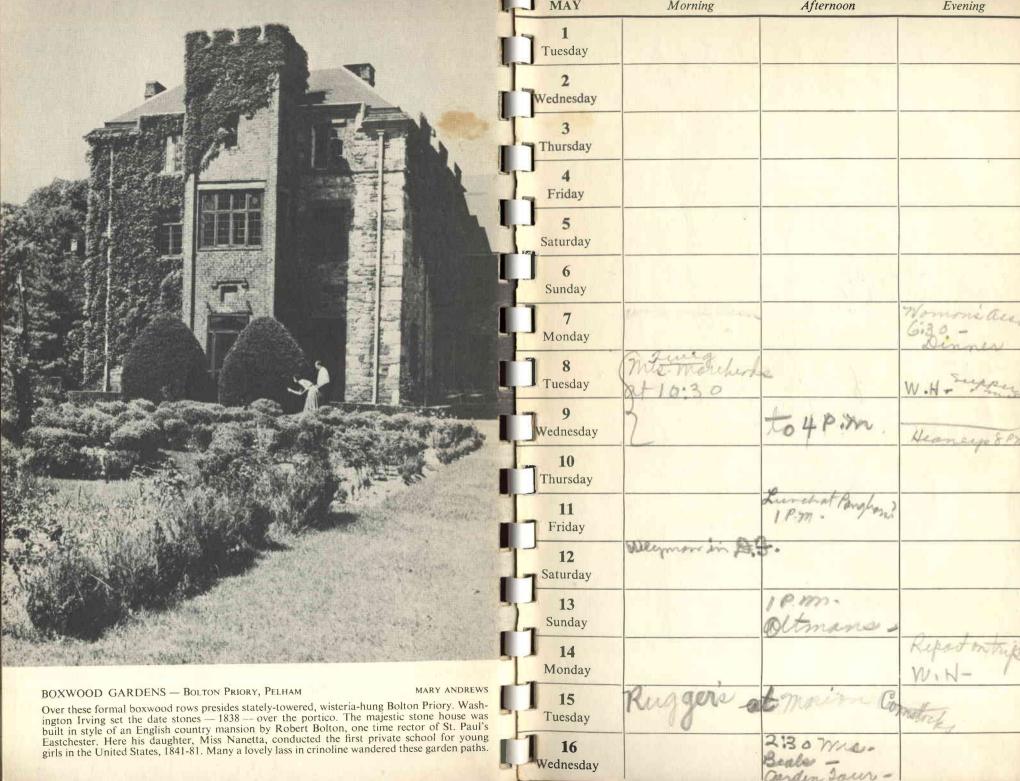
On a sheltered cove with a magnificent view of the Sound, at low tide remains of foundation stones of the original private wharf may be seen.

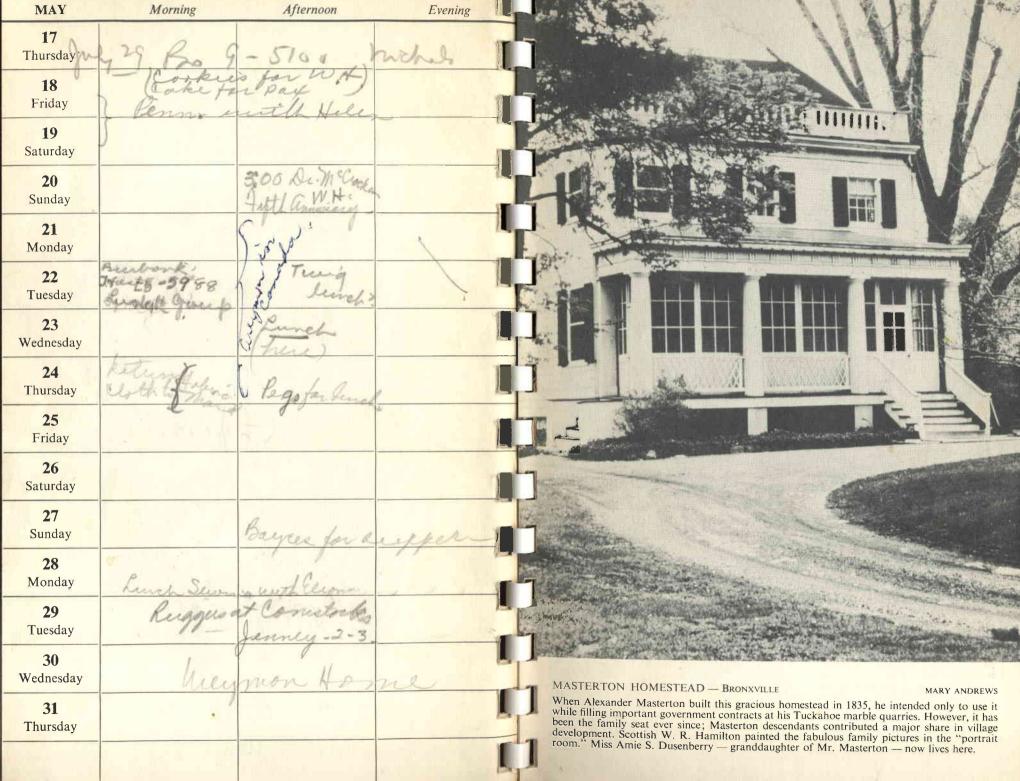
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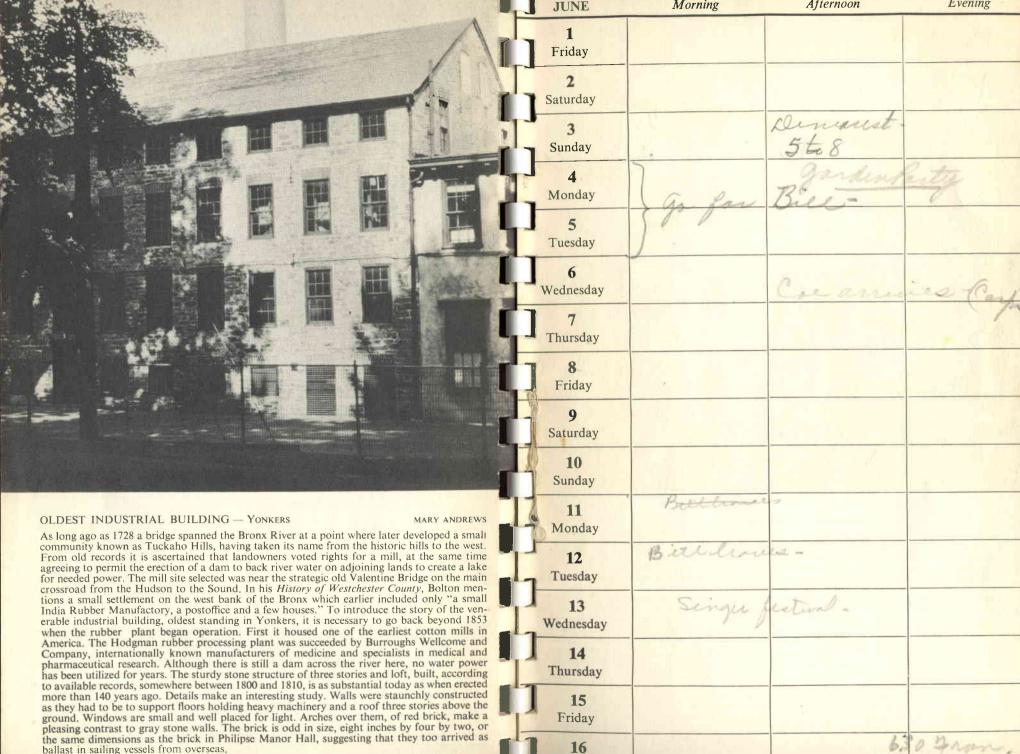




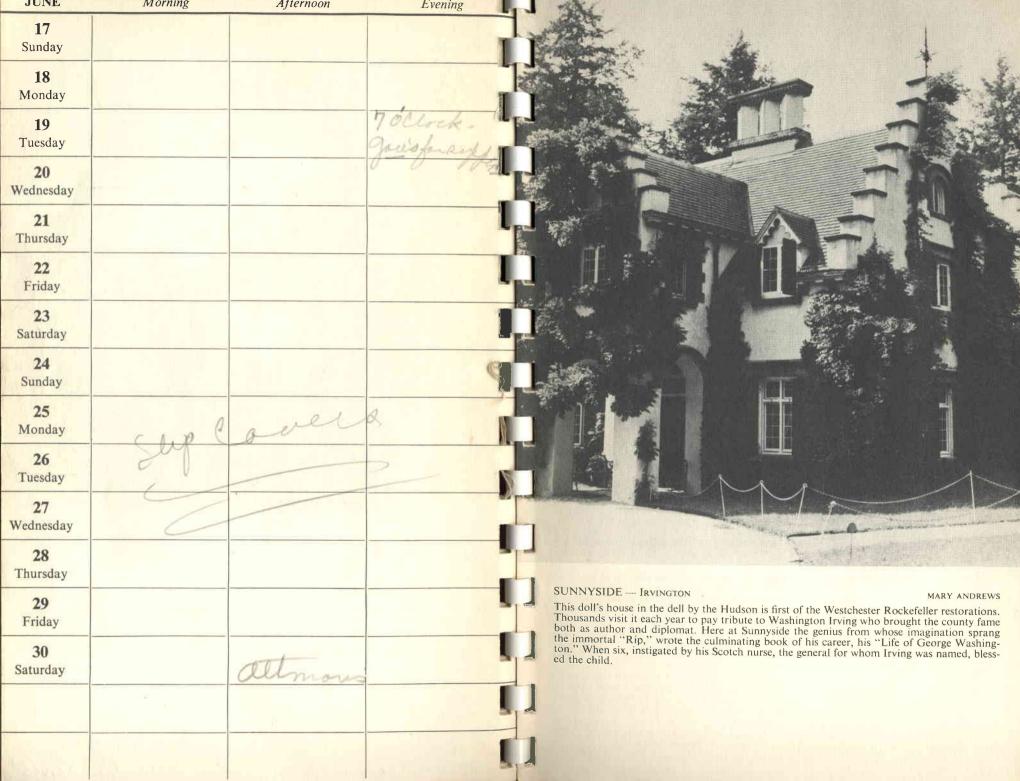


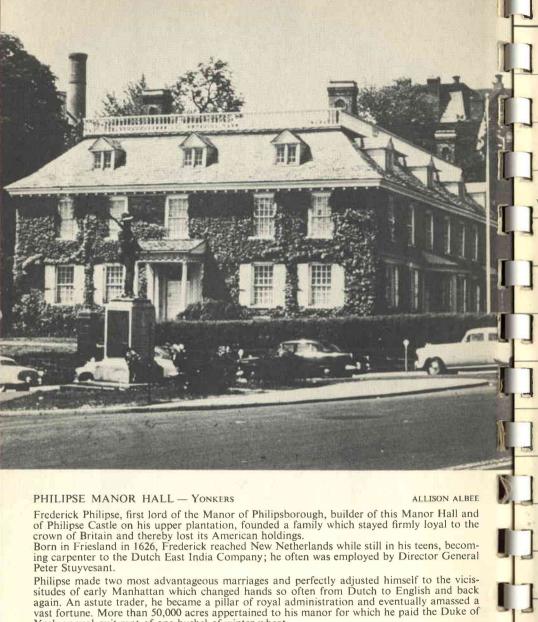






Saturday





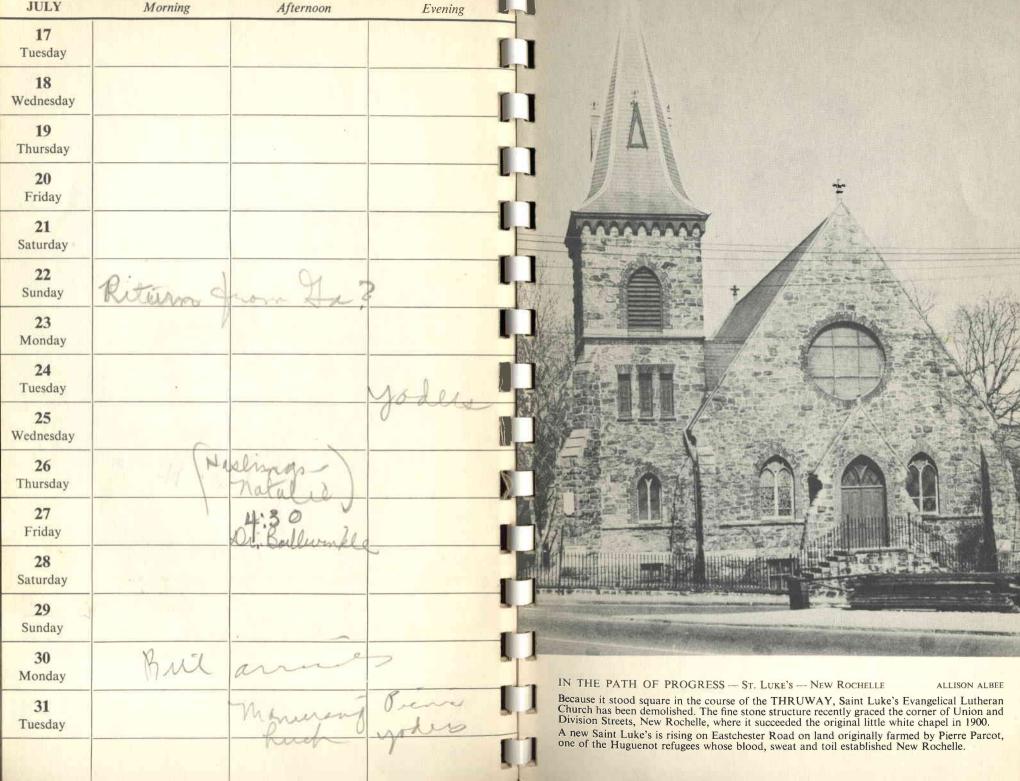
York annual quit rent of one bushel of winter wheat.

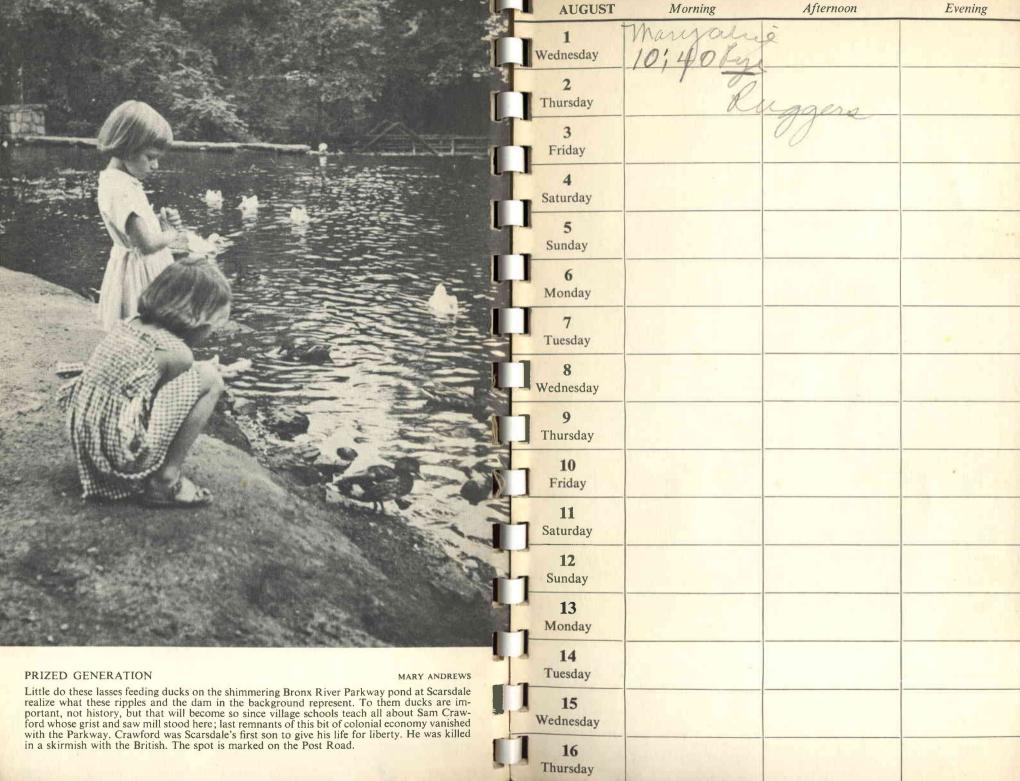
For four generations fealty to the British Lion continued and the lands along the Hudson and stretching in part to the Sound remained Philipse till, by the passage of an act of attainder in 1779, fifty-eight Loyalists were proscribed and their estates confiscated. The third Lord, also Frederick, spent the remainder of his life in comfortable English exile.

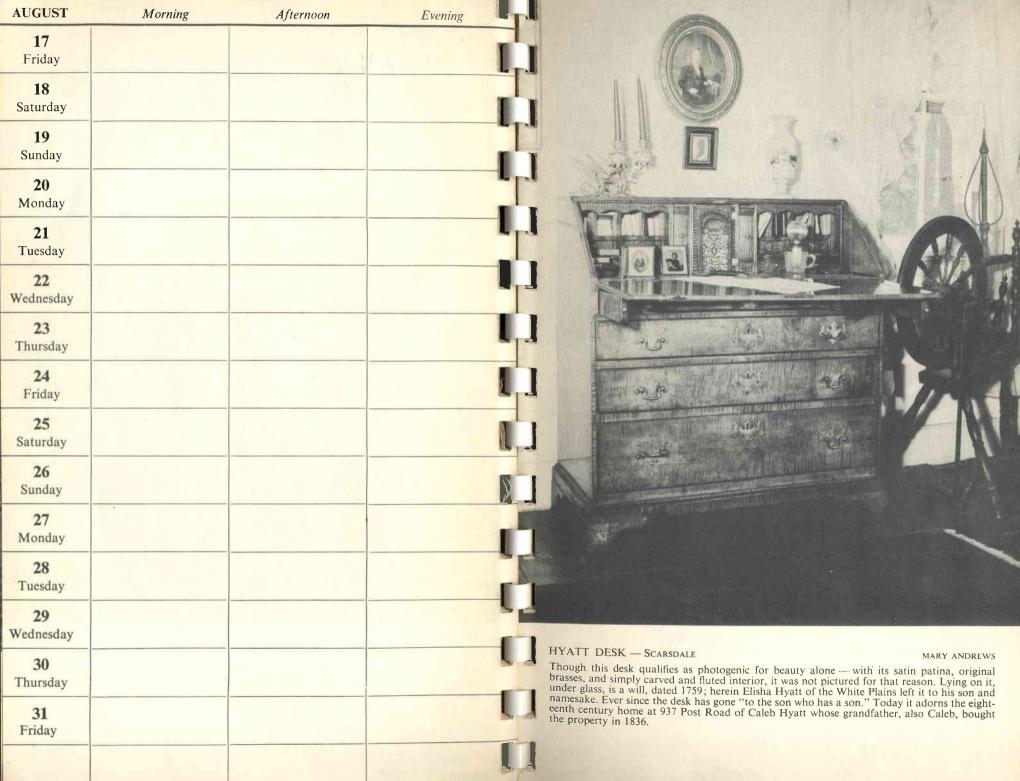
The Manor Hall he abandoned stands still, solid and reserved in the traffic-beset center of industrial Yonkers. The Nepperhan on which it once fronted and whose power turned its prosperous mills, flows under Warburton Avenue, well concealed. On its hilltop above Dock Street, the Hall reminds visitors of royal manorial life before the advent of democracy.

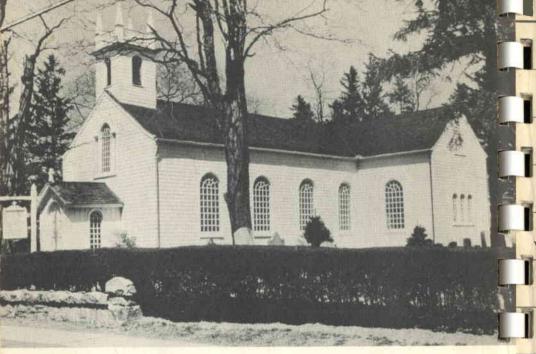
Fashioned of native stone and brick, dormer-windowed, slate-roofed, it houses a notable collection of 18th century elegance, including a famed group of portraits assembled by Alexander Smith Cochran, Fittingly enough, these include a likeness of George the Third.

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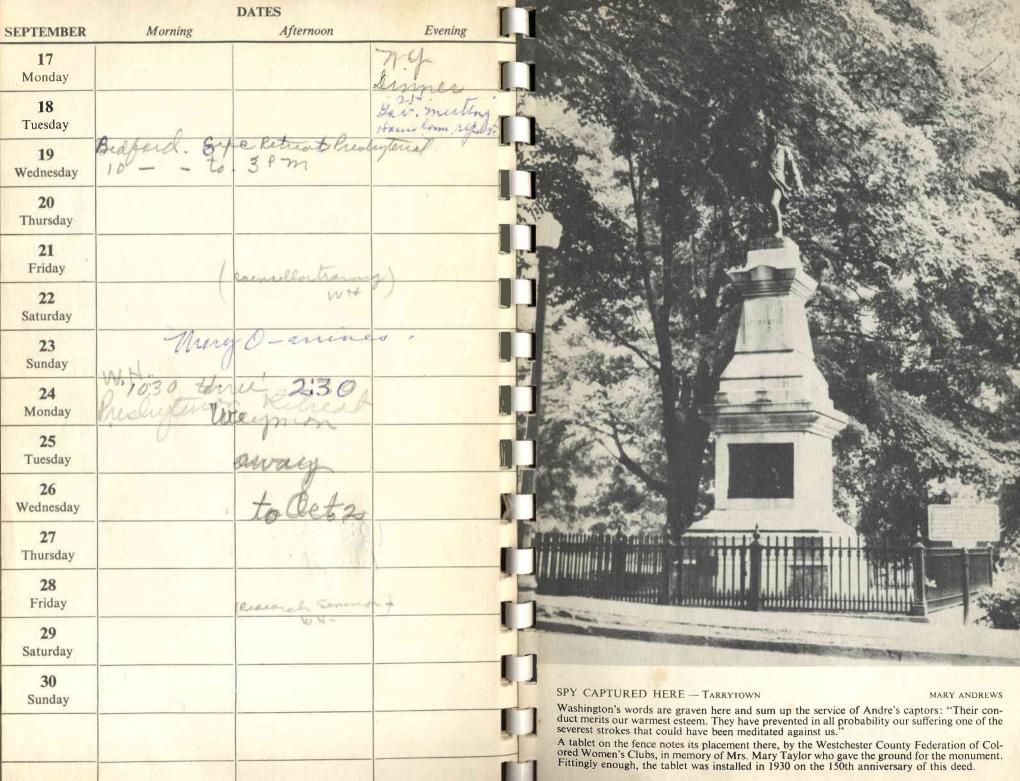
### ST. JOHN'S — COLONIAL HEIGHTS, TUCKAHOE

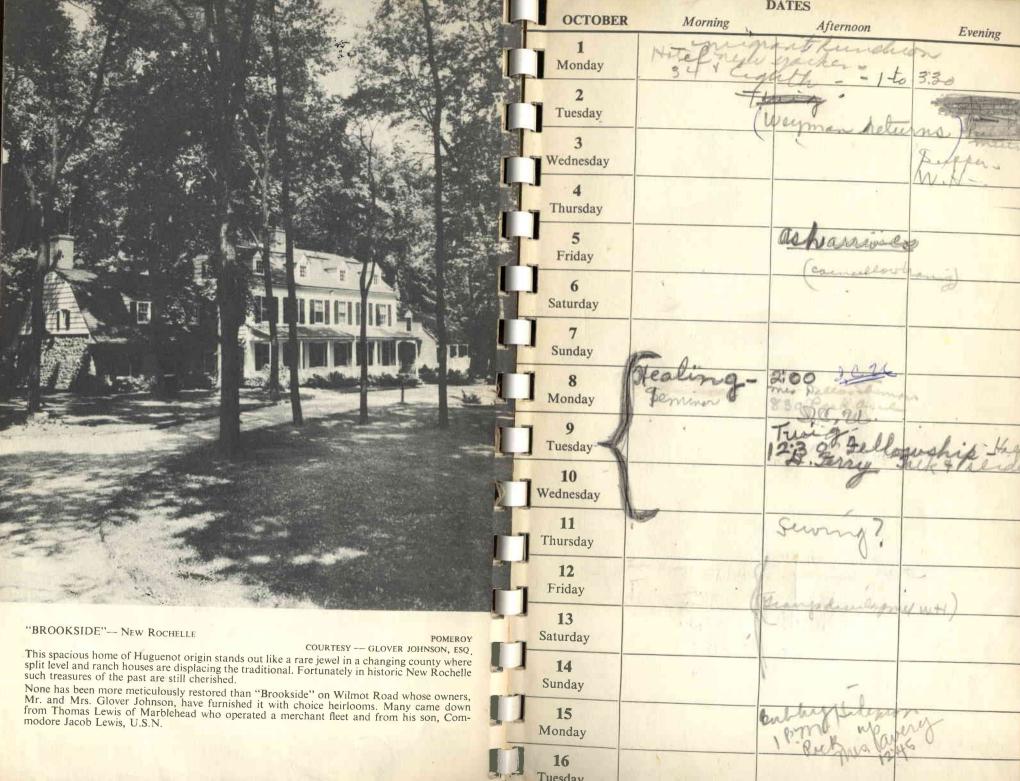
MARY ANDREWS

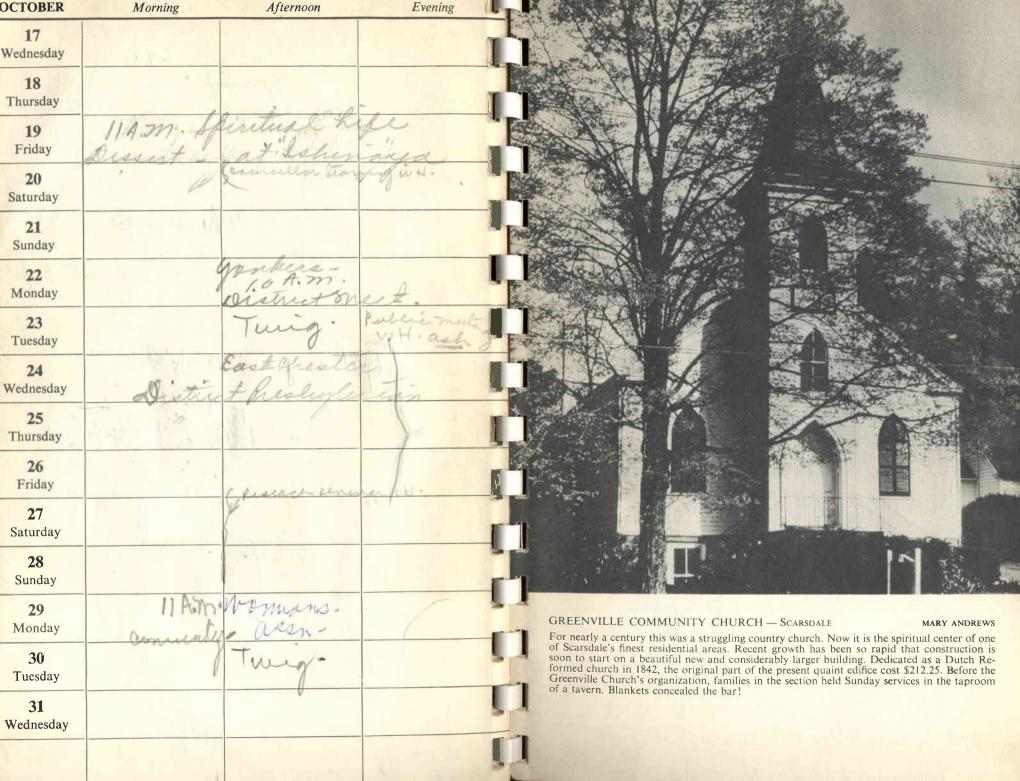
John Bowne, who gave the land for this church, submitted on December 24, 1798 an accounting of building costs which totalled 203 pounds, 4 shillings, 11 pence. "But," as their obedient servant concluded, "the best part of it all is that as we stand here today in this new house of God we have paid all these monies and there is no debt left to plague us." The original square, with frame of hewn timber, had no cellar and was only started in September of that same year. Yet it still stands anchored on its commanding height among the Turkey Hoe hills. Nearby was once located the first school of the English manor. Bowne's reckoning of what went into St. John's included among the customary shingles, nails, glue and putty, three gallons of rum. The list of laborers who hammered the nails and doubtless drank the rum during cold snaps, includes names which have resounded through Westchester since Indian days — Sherwood, Odell, Fowler, Williams.

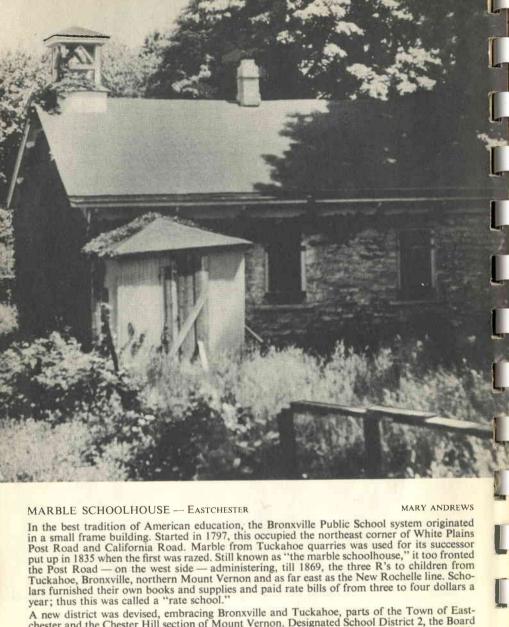
Actually the Parish was founded nine years earlier by Rev. Elias Cooper, rector of old St. John's Church in Getty Square, Yonkers' first place of worship. Mr. Cooper made regular trips to his mission on horseback, wearing the small clothes of that period with the three-cornered Continental hat. He held services in neighborhood homes. In 1855 the church became an independent organization. The congregation celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1948. Because of increased communicants, St. John's has since expanded with an ample parish house, meanwhile cherishing the beautifully restored original building with its tidy cluster of graves. Outside the front door, though no longer functional, is a carriage stop of white Tuckahoe marble.

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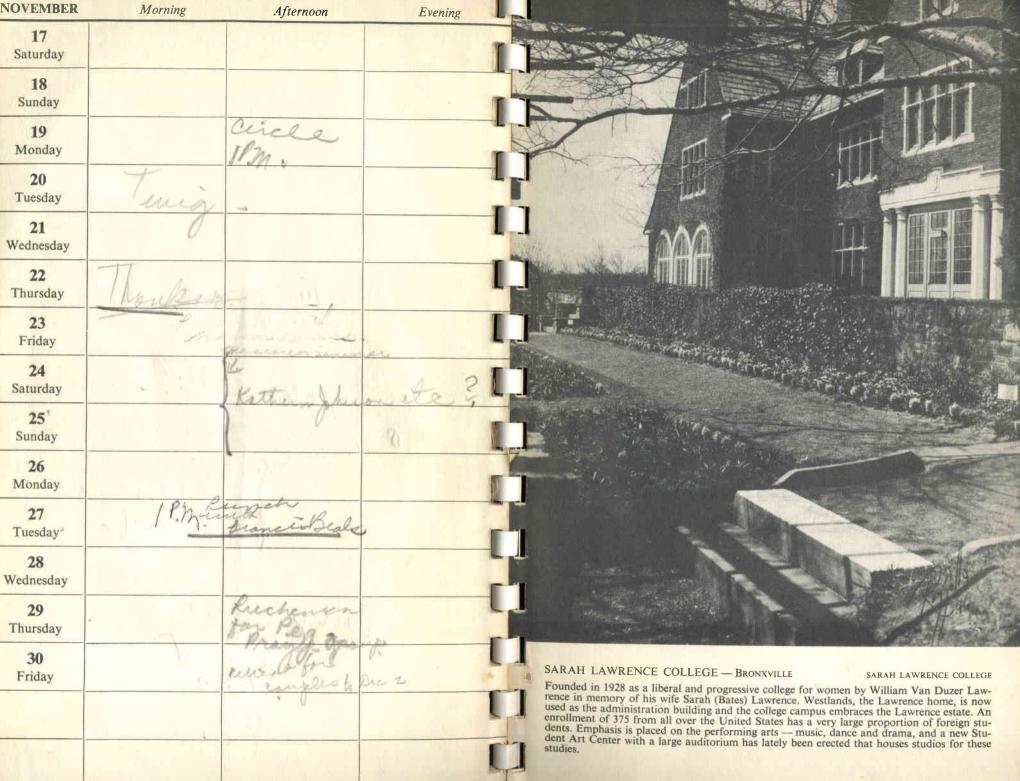


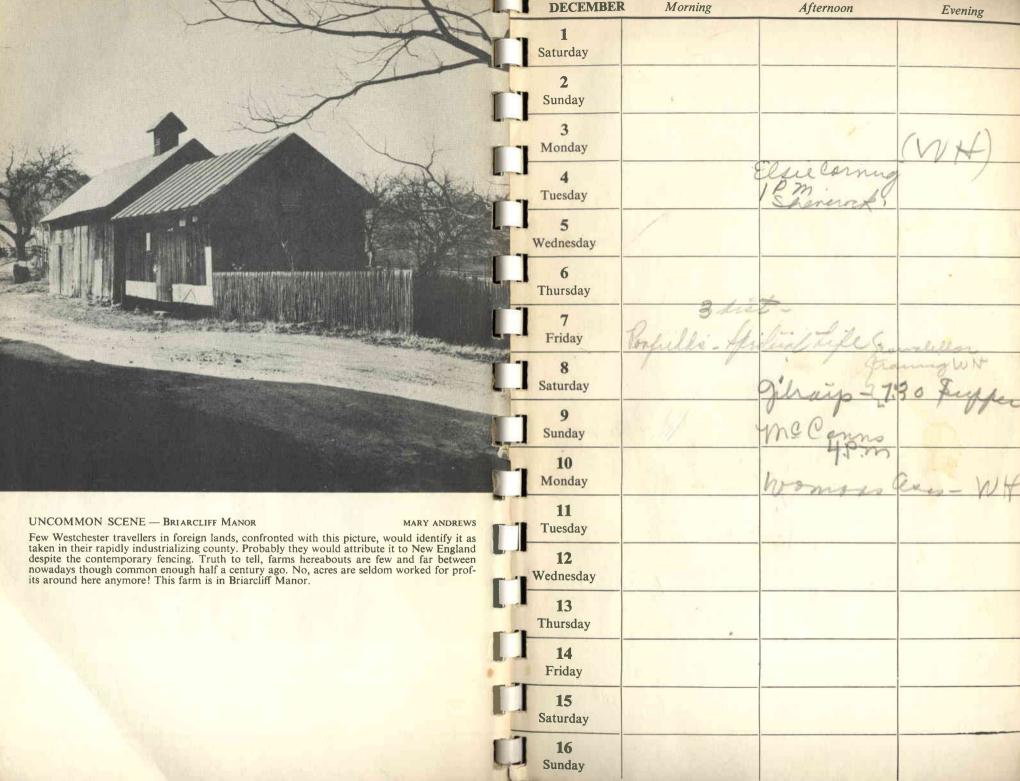


chester and the Chester Hill section of Mount Vernon. Designated School District 2, the Board bought a plot of land on California Road in Union Corners; there, block by block, the marble

building was transplanted to its present site in 1869. Fifteen years later the door closed finally behind the younsters of Union Corners School as they raced out for their summer vacation to resume studies that fall in the new brick edifice on the Post Road, now an apartment house. Meanwhile from 1878 till 1885 the Reformed Church of Bronxville conducted Sunday afternoon services in the marble school and sometimes the women's sewing society also met there. No longer essential for purposes of education or faith, trustees sold the property to the Klopfer farms. Some two years ago, it was bequeathed to the Town of Eastchester, whose historian, Mr. Bertrand G. Burtnett, annually escorts seventh graders through it. Their guide is well qualified for he himself learned his sums there, entering in 1880 when his maternal grandfather, Robert M. Masterton, was Board president.

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DECEMBER	Morning	DATES  Afternoon	Evening
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31 Monday		Supper at	7:30

# It Happened in Westchester

hensive account of this entire story in his Secret History of the American Revolution. Here we consider only a small portion of the story that took place in Westchester.

Benedict Arnold, whose courage in battle was proven at Quebec, Saratoga and lesser engagements, by subterfuge gained command of West Point, key control of the Hudson River. Long before he gained command, Arnold planned to sell vital information to the British. His secret correspondence with Clinton is ample proof of his disloyalty. At Arnold's request, Major John Andre was chosen as contact to arrange the details of the treason. A meeting took place on the west bank of the Hudson on the night of September 21, 1780 at a spot about opposite Ossining. Plans that were discussed this night were completed the next day and Andre was then ready to return to the British lines. He had come in the ship Vulture that had been forced to retire down the river when attacked by a shore battery. About sunset of the 22nd, Andre, accompanied by Tory Joshua Smith and his servant, the entire party being supplied with horses, crossed the Hudson and landed at Verplanck's Point in Westchester.

Major John Andre was a man of exceptional talent and ability who had served Clinton in many confidential missions. Leaving Arnold after the treason plans were complete, Andre took with him papers prepared by Arnold that were relative to the fortifications and military stores and supplies at West Point. Arnold's general plan was to offer only ineffectual resistance to an attack by Clinton. Besides these papers that he carried, Andre also changed from his military dress and these two facts weighed heavily against him when he was captured — at Tarrytown, in Westchester.

Andre and his escorts rode towards Peekskill and turned east on the Crompond Road. Before going far — it was then very dark — they were stopped by a party of guards of the Westchester militia and warned of the danger of going farther that night. Andre showed a pass that was made out to "John Anderson — to pass him through the lines to White Plains or beyond." The party stayed that night at the house of Andreas Miller. Very early next morning they again set out but were soon halted by other militiamen . . . In each instance the pass seemed to satisfy the guards and they were allowed to proceed. A stop was made for breakfast at the home of the Underhills' in Yorktown. Here Smith and his servant left Andre to ride on alone to White Plains or wherever he could find the British lines.

Andre rode on past the Underhills' to Pine's Bridge and crossed the Croton River. A turn to the right brought him to Underhills' Corners and the home of the Quaker named Stevenson Thorne where he asked directions. He was shown the way along Kipp Street — Hardscrabble Road and southward towards the Old Bedford Road and to Mekeel's Corners. At this point Andre took a left turn and came upon Hammonds' sawmill and house. A rough map that Arnold had given him showed this to be the best route. If he had gone along this road there is little doubt but that he would have soon found safety, but, David Hammond, a young lad, warned him that there were scouts along that road and Andre retraced his steps to Mekeel's Corners to follow the Old Bedford Road towards Tarrytown.

Near the juncture of Old Bedford Road and Albany Post Road — today a busy highway in the city limits of Tarrytown — Andre came upon three other guards more careful than those that he had met before. Suspicious of his answers to their questions, and not satisfied with the pass that he carried, they decided to search Andre and took him off the road for this purpose. Those damaging papers were found in his stockings. To their everlasting credit, these three scouts were not taken in either by the pass, Andre's story, or his offer of bribes. The names of these were — John Paulding, Isaac Van Wart and David Williams. Andre was taken to the nearest outpost of the Westchester militia and turned over to the proper officers. His identity was soon known and there was an immediate hue and cry for Arnold who had escaped to the British lines. Andre was tried as a spy — found guilty and hanged within the week.

Today this journey of Andre is over roads that are modernized, straightened and many new corners and names exist. Historians, it always seemed, would prefer a happier ending for Andre and a sadder one for Arnold (who lived to collect his money and lead British troops against his countrymen). Arnold was by no means the only traitor to the American cause . . . his was perhaps the boldest scheme. Others lived out their lives unsuspected — but their importance is dimmed by the Arnold treason which came to its end . . . in Westchester.

BACK COVER: Philipse Castle — North Tarrytown. Picture by Mary Andrews.

Here, in Sleepy Hollow country, flourishes a restoration second to none. Backed by Rockefeller funds, Philipse Castle shows two aspects of the Westchester scene: early *Colonial*, as seen in the stone section begun by the First Lord of the Manor soon after he secured the mill site in 1683, and early *Republic*, typified by Gerard Beekman's wooden addition, circa 1754. No pains were spared; from minuscule pipkin to massive Dutch dower chest, collections are in glossy condition.