

WESTCHESTER COUNTY AND COOPERSTOWN, N. Y., PRESERVE LOVINGLY MANY RELICS OF JAMES FENIMORE COOPER.

COOPER AND "THE SPY."

WESTCHESTER COUNTY INSEPARABLY CONNECTED WITH THE NOVELIST.

BEGAN HIS LITERARY CAREER IN SCARSDALE—"CLOSET HALL" AND "COOPER'S FOLLY"—ORIGINAL OF HARVEY BIRCH.

Of the men of letters who have lived in Westchester County, James Fenimore Cooper has done more to make it known than any one else. His novel, "The Spy," is a chronicle of the deeds of the heroes of the neutral ground of the Revolution.



THE ANGEVINE HOUSE, NEAR SCARSDALE.

Originally built by Cooper, it has been remodelled by the present owner.

In 1814 Cooper removed from Westchester for a time, and lived at a place called Fenimore, near Cooperstown, on the shores of Otsego Lake, New York, where his father had settled years before.

He then established his home in the town of Scarsdale, on what was called the Angevine farm, from the name of a French family that had occupied the site now occupied by the house of Dr. Bruen, in the Mamaroneck Road, commanding an extensive view of the country about it and of Long Island Sound.

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Cooper settled upon the Angevine farm in 1817, before the intervening chapters had been composed, but before they had been fully conceived.

When "The Spy" appeared, toward the close of 1821, its success was almost immediate. In the course of a few weeks it met with a sale unprecedented in the annals of American literature.

It is interesting point in connection with the Jewish festivals is that the time fixed for their observance was arranged so as to interfere as little as possible with the duties of the people.

At sundown on Tuesday the Jewish religious festival of Shebuoth, or the Feast of Weeks, will be ushered in, and for the two succeeding days Jews the world over will suspend business and rejoice in the observance of the holiday.

Shebuoth is the celebration of the ingathering harvest, and is sometimes known as Chag Hagazit, or the Feast of the Harvest, but the later Jews have given it a deeper significance as the anniversary of the proclamation of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

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between the English forces stationed in New-York and the American army encamped among the Highlands of the Hudson.

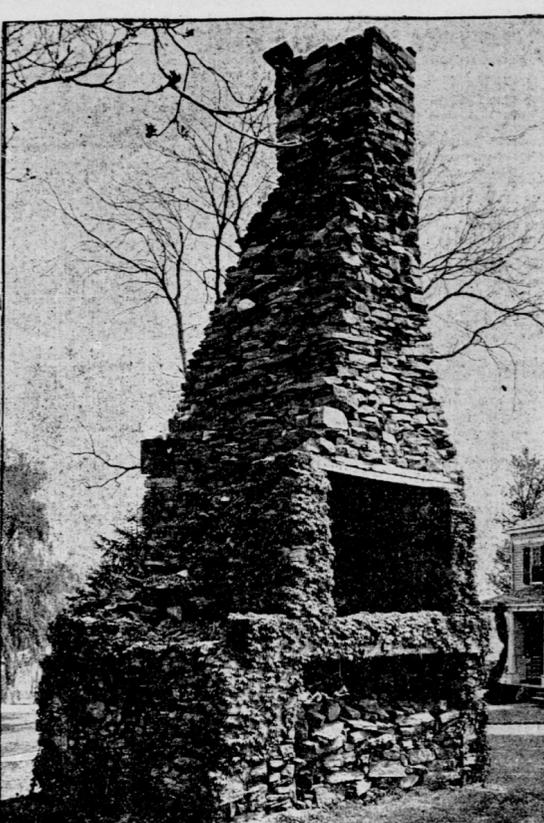
Upon it more, perhaps, than upon any other portion of the story of the revolted colonies," writes Cooper's biographer, Professor Lounsbury, "had fallen the curse of war in its heaviest form. Back and forth over a large part of it had perpetually ebbed and flowed the tide of battle. Not a road was there which had not been swept again and again by columns of infantry or squadrons of horse. Every thicket had been the hiding place of refugees or spies; every wood or meadow had been the scene of a skirmish; and every house that had survived the struggle had its tale to tell of thrilling scenes that had taken place within its walls.

These circumstances determined Cooper's choice of the locality and period. The theme of his new novel had been suggested to him years before by John Jay, while Cooper was visiting him at his home in Bedford. Jay told the novelist the story of Enoch Crosby, the spy of Westchester in the Revolution; a patriot who, while posing as a royalist, and enduring every form of persecution from the Americans in consequence.

Cooper entered upon his task with but little hope that he would succeed. Fortunately, he had already explored every nook and corner of Westchester, so that he was provided with local color and history and traditions of the region. The novel was written hastily, a large part of it in a small outbuilding on Cooper's Scarsdale estate.

It is said that Cooper took such little interest in the work that the first volume was printed three months before he felt any inducement to write a line of the second. Indeed, he at one time seriously debated the advisability of abandoning it altogether, fearing that he might incur a pecuniary loss which he was in no position to stand.

"One incident," writes Professor Lounsbury, "connected with the composition of this work marks plainly the despairing attitude of his mind. While the second volume was slowly printing, he was appointed for the meeting of December, he had the work might grow to a length that would endanger the profits. The author hereupon adopted a course which is itself a proof of how much stranger is fact than fiction. To placate the publisher and set his mind at rest, the last chapter was written, printed and passed, not merely by



CHIMNEY OF THE DISBROW HOUSE IN MAMARONECK.

Hiding place of Harvey Birch, a character in Cooper's "The Spy."

of Christ Church, with its tall elms, pines and maples. Here, under a flat marble slab, which nature has darkened in the half-century just passed, sleeps the novelist. By his side are buried his wife, Susan Augusta, and his little daughter Elizabeth, and which is just as applicable today as it was fifty years ago.

A broad sheet of water, so placid and limpid that the water fore away the earth from around it, and which obtained its shape from the action of the waters during the slow progress of centuries.

"A large, isolated stone, that rested on the bottom of the lake, apparently left there when the waters fore away the earth from around it, and which obtained its shape from the action of the waters during the slow progress of centuries.

Admirers of Cooper will recall his description of Otsego Lake in the first chapter of "The Deerslayer," and which is just as applicable today as it was fifty years ago.

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NOTES OF THE STAGE.

The coming week in the New-York theatrical world presents a curious and somewhat unusual spectacle. There are no less than six light operas running in Broadway, each making its bid for summer patronage, and each intending to remain as long as the patronage can be found. With the exception of the American and Murray Hill, all the other theatres are closed.

The American Theatre players will be seen next week in "Rip Van Winkle," with Herman Sheldon in the title part. This play was selected in deference to requests from the patrons of the theatre, and remembering the need of one, he had inquired its price and, finding it phenomenally low (here he seemed overcome by some emotion, for he hid her eyes with his handkerchief and her figure shook. This had the effect of bringing his tale to a lame and impotent conclusion. When it was finally reached his wife removed her handkerchief and surveyed him with dancing eyes. Then she said: "John, I was the other bidder for that set."

The Metropolitan Theatre closed for the summer last night, with the most successful play of the season, "The Climbers." The fall season will open about August 2.

For the closing week of the season the stock company at the Murray Hill Theatre will be seen in Broadway's comedy, "Why Smith Left Home." The cast will include Henry V. Donnelly as Lavinia Daly, and all the members of the company.

"King Dodo" is still drawing well at Daly's. The Wednesday afternoon matinee will be discontinued, however, after this week, because of the strain of the weather on the actors.

At Wallack's Rice's "Show Girl" continues. "Dolly Varden" still runs at the Herald Square.

At the Casino "A Chinese Honeymoon" starts on its second week. At the New-York Theatre, "The Chaperons," a comic opera, new to New-York, enters on its first full week, having opened last Thursday.

"The Wild Rose" still continues at the Knickerbocker. The last time that the Grand Opera House will be open this season, except in the final Sunday concert and vaudeville will be given.

Duss will lead his band to-morrow night, when his third week opens at the St. Nicholas Rink, in classical music. At to-night's concert the soloist will be Alberti, barytone.

Henry B. Harris has secured the opening weeks of next season at Wallack's Theatre, and will play "The Miserable Man," a new comedy of American life by Grace Livingston Furniss. The production will employ a company of well known comedians, including Miss Alice Fisher.

Hammerstein's Paradise Gardens, on the combined roofs of the Victoria and Belasco theatres, enters on the third week of its season. Mr. Hammerstein says the record of his history of his roof garden experience. Each week new acts are introduced, while the distinctive features of the present bill are retained. The Sunday concerts continue.

New wax figures of General Kitchener and Oom Paul Kruger have been placed on exhibition at the Eden Musée. Other new wax groups will be placed on exhibition this week. The new orchestra of the Metropolitan will present the opera, "The Merry Widow," and new moving pictures will be shown hourly in the winter garden.

CURED OF AUCTION HABIT.

ACCIDENT PRODUCED RESULT—POUNDS AND GUINEAS—THE BOY WITH—OUT OPINIONS.

The auction habit is a fatal one to contract, as it has been known frequently to lead to much domestic discord and unhappiness. Once, too, the habit has gained hold upon a person, it can only be shaken by the exercise of conquest will power, which often is not the possession of those who have fallen under its baneful influence. So the weak go on filling their homes with useless articles purchased at auctions at what seemed bargain prices. Sometimes, however, an accident will effect a cure.

There was once a man and his wife who were rapidly becoming addicted to the auction habit. They were not fatally engaged, however. After each fresh auction they would bewail their unhappy lot and determine to have nothing further to do with them, and then a fresh auction would be advertised and in the front row of bidders would be that unhappy couple. Finally matters came to such a pass that they entered into a compact to avoid auctions altogether. Shortly after this another and most attractive sale was advertised. The man and his wife, while they read the advance notice with interest, nevertheless remained firm in their determination. The morning of the fateful day arrived, and the husband started for his office, and neither he nor his wife mentioned the auction. His wife, however, who had been waiting for the opportunity to go to the auction, and to listen to the spirited bidding would afford innocent amusement. Of course he fell and soon found himself in an obscure corner of the auction room. For a while all went well, and then an especially attractive lot was put up. It was just what was wanted at his house, and the husband halted at an absurdly low figure. It seemed to him criminal to let such a chance go by, and so tentatively he made an advance to bid. From the opposite corner and beyond his sight the auctioneer received another bid of a small advance. The man who was forward responded, but the unknown bidder met him. The result was that after a heated battle the man who was to buy no more bargains

at sales became possessed of the tea set at a price at least three times its worth. He ordered it sent home, and went on to his office. In course of his possession. That evening he told his wife how attracted by the set in china store window and remembering the need of one, he had inquired its price and, finding it phenomenally low (here he seemed overcome by some emotion, for he hid her eyes with his handkerchief and her figure shook. This had the effect of bringing his tale to a lame and impotent conclusion. When it was finally reached his wife removed her handkerchief and surveyed him with dancing eyes. Then she said: "John, I was the other bidder for that set."

The conservatism of the English is traditional, and in no place does it show more than in the British system of coinage. The rest of the world has come in the main to the decimal system, but England still clings to her pounds, shillings and pence, and will probably so cling for a century to come, although the system is as inconvenient and antiquated as one as could well be imagined.

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an active part in the game, with the result that the broker is laboriously learning to write with his left hand.

The letters R. S. V. P. are so common that those who do not know their meaning are the exception. But when they first began to come into use on this side of the water they created a lot of discussion and inquiry. In the nation's capital a hostess started her proposed guests a quarter of a century ago by an invitation carrying these letters. Not one of the recipients knew the meaning, but Robert G. Ingersoll, who received one of the cards, firmly announced that they stood for "Right smart victuals provided."

Speculation becomes a mania, and those indulging in it are apt to regard all news from the market point of view and to weigh everything by its effect on stocks, cereals or whatever it may be that they are dabbling in. Some time ago an amateur who was attempting a short cut to fortune by speculation in cotton was standing by the telegraph board on the Cotton Exchange. On this board is posted the varied and various information that may be forthcoming about cotton, and in consequence it is the Mecca of all cotton devotees. As the tyro looked about one of the employees approached with a bulletin, which he posted on the board. The last line of the telegram read, "Worms in cotton in Texas," and this distressing piece of information caused the amateur speculator to race for his broker's office, where he breathlessly sought out his long cotton and went down to the board in search of further information. He got it, for the original telegram had been added to, and now read "Worms in cotton in Texas are fast disappearing." The "are fast disappearing" was on a second sheet which he had not waited long enough to see posted. Then came a second rush, with a \$50 loss at the end of it, which convinced him that the race is not always to the swift.

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JEWIS WHO WEAR PIGTAILS

HEBRAIC COLONY IN CHINA WHO HAVE FORGOTTEN EVEN THEIR RITUAL. It is not generally known that there is a colony of Jews in China—Jews who wear pigtails, bear Chinese names and speak the Chinese language exclusively, and who have forgotten the