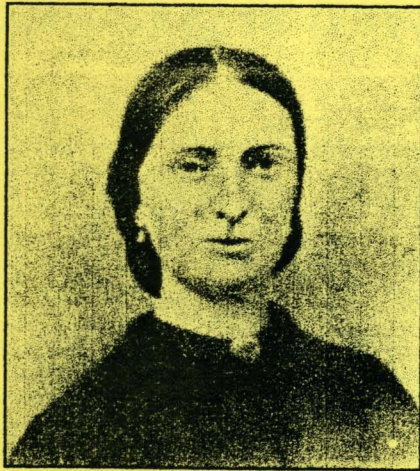


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**PERMELIA FELLER'S  
"SPENDING OF DAYS"**

**1866**



**Permelia Feller**

**Eleanor Rogers, Editor**

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PERMELIA FELLER'S

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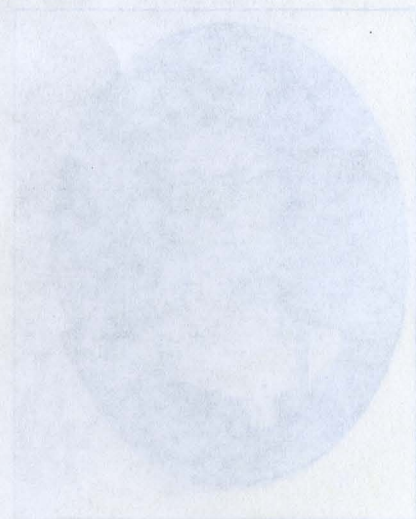
PERMELIA FELLER'S  
"SPENDING OF DAYS"

1865  
"Spending of Days"



Permella Feller - 1862  
age 24





Cover photo: Permella Feller, possibly 1891 at the time of her second marriage.

# PERMELLA FELLER'S "SPENDING OF DAYS"

1866

*Excerpts and Interpretation for a Diary Relating Mainly to the  
Towns of Milan and Red Hook in Dutchess County and the  
Towns of Gallatin and Livingston in Columbia County*

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**Eleanor Rogers**  
**Editor**

Clinton Historical Society  
Clinton Corners, NY 12514



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"SPENDING OF DAYS"

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Preface

Permelia Feller's diary, begun in 1866 when she was 28 years old, is one of three diaries which recorded her daily activities from 1866 to 1881. She was one of many women who remained single immediately after the devastating Civil War which had shrunk, through death on the field of battle, the pool of men available for marriage. Finally married at age 38, she outlived two husbands.

There seems to have been almost nothing that Permelia Feller could not do, from handling a horse to knitting lace. How typical she was of the women in Dutchess County during the post Civil War period is not apparent but her life is inspirational. Although she never revealed her feelings or a softer side in this purely factual diary, she provides an admirable record of tireless daily accomplishments during 1866, and apparently throughout her life.

I wish to thank Ethel Allendorf(Fingar) Timmer and her family for the opportunity to transcribe the 1866 diary of her step-great grandmother, Permelia Feller. Additionally, the family provided copies of portraits of Permelia which have been included in this transcription.

The staffs of the Columbia-Greene Community College, the Town of Red Hook Library and the City of Hudson Library provided resource material important to the background knowledge found throughout this work. Donna Seelbach prepared the manuscript and William P. Mc Dermott aided me through the mysteries of desktop publishing.

December, 1996

Eleanor Rogers

Pages from Permelia Feller's diary  
(actual size)



## INTRODUCTION

The 1866 diary transcribed herein is one of three Permelia Feller diaries in possession of the family of Ethel Allendorf (Fingar) Allen/Timmer; Barbara (Allen) Wild, and Linda (Wild) Kondor, Salt Point, N.Y., and Gail and Tom Wild, siblings residing elsewhere. These small volumes were recently rediscovered in a wooden chest in the Timmer attic.

### 1. Author.

The writer of the diaries was Permelia (Feller) Wheeler/Allendorf (Aug. 5, 1837-?). Her first husband was Samuel Wheeler named in the 1897 **Commemorative Biographical Record of Dutchess County**.(1) She probably married him sometime between the compilation of the 1875 census (when she was entered as single, age 37, and living with her mother) and the beginning of the year 1876, the date of the second diary where Samuel is mentioned often. No further information about their marriage has been found. Information regarding Permelia's date of death and burial place is also missing in the extant public and church records.

Permelia's second husband was Christian Allendorf, Jr. (1819-1896) of the Town of Red Hook. She was 53 and he was 72 years old, when they married on Wednesday evening, March 11, 1891, at the residence of Hiram Osterhout. Osterhout was either a current or former neighbor on Salisbury Road near Elizaville. Permelia's place of residence just prior to this 1891 marriage is not known. The marriage ceremony was performed by "The Rev. Hoag."(2)

The marriage notice appeared in the **Red Hook Journal** for March 13, 1891. Christian then lived in Upper Red Hook and we assume they continued to live there after marriage. Permelia (reported as "Amelia") was his second wife; Helen Lown who became his first wife in 1839 died in 1889. The public record reveals several details about Christian Allendorf. Between 1850-52 Christian was Town Clerk for Red Hook. He was listed in the census of 1865 at age 46 as a "shoemaker ;" in 1870 at age 51, as a "shoe repairman," in 1875 at age 56, as a "merchant," in 1880 at age 60, as a "dry goods merchant of Upper Red Hook." In an 1883/84 **Dutchess County Directory** "Allendorf & Perine," was a general store in Upper Red Hook. (Perine seems to have been a brother-in-law of Christian.) In the 1892 census he was a "mail carrier," with wife "Amelia" (51, actually 55). They lived in the 3rd election district in the Town of Red Hook.

In the 1900 census, widowed for the second time, Permelia was listed as a "servant" (age 63) for Frances A. Teator (#189:193) female and only member of her household, probably 47, born in August 1854. They lived in the Town of Red Hook. Neighbors were Orlando and Rosena Doyle and Theodore and Mary Dykeman. Kerleys (Kerley's Corners?), Lashers, Stalls, and Charles Feller were nearby.

Much earlier, in 1865, Frances A. Teator had been listed as the 12-year-old daughter of farmer Peter E. (47) and Catharine M. (42) Teator. Neighbors on Route 56 were farmers Henry and Jane A. Becker and Nicklus and Mary Hulshapple (printed on the 1867 map as "Hultsafer"). Shoemaker Anthony Fulmer (54) was also nearby. There was an "E. Teator" at the south end of Spring Lake, well off



both local roads on the 1867 map,

## 2. Author's family.

Permelia's father was Philip D. Feller, who was termed in the **Commemorative** as "a Columbia County farmer," although in 1850 he had been listed in the Milan census as a "laborer" with a house worth only \$300, and in 1860 as a "day laborer" worth \$400/150. ( He had appeared on the 1858 map also.) Son John was a "day laborer" as well in 1860.; Permelia was not listed. An illegibly written 9-year-old lived with them-- Samuel Judd? In 1865 Philip D. was described as a "farmer" worth \$250. Wife Mary, Permelia (26) and John (24) were included.

Permelia's mother was Mary Ringsdorf, third wife of Philip D. Feller. Mary (born Sept. 16, 1797, died May 8, 1880) was a descendant of Johannes (John) Ringsdorf, Palatine immigrant to Columbia County in 1710 (W.P. McDermott files).(3) The 1865 census indicated that she had been married twice. There is a possibility that the first husband was a Coon. Included in the family bible were two Coons, Hannah born in 1817 and Samuel S. (1819). Mary would have been 20 and 22 at the time of these two births. An Elizabeth Coon was the wife of Simon, a brother of Mary living in Pennsylvania.

## 3. Locale.

In studying the 1867 map, at first it seemed possible that "Mrs. Feller" on Spring Lake Road east of Upper Red Hook might have been Permelia's mother, who had been widowed according to the diary since February 12, 1866. This Mrs. Feller would have lived, it is true, close to several families

frequently appearing in Permelia's pages.

However, later findings made this assumption incorrect. The identification of the widow was finally determined to be the "Mrs. Feller" on the Milan map of 1867, living on Salisbury Road north of Route 56 at the corner of Spring Lake Road. No house is there today, but the collapsed ruin and stone foundation of a small outbuilding are nearby on the Spring Lake Road side of the supposed Feller property.

Salisbury Road is in the northwest part of Milan, running north parallel to the Town of Red Hook line and leading to Elizaville in Columbia County.

## 4. Others mentioned

In many cases Feller neighbors, social acquaintances and relatives have been located on maps in the 1867 Beers **Atlas** pages for the two Dutchess towns, as well as in census data, in the **Commemorative** articles, in church records, and in cemetery lists in **Old Gravestones**. The 1873 Beers **Atlas**, censuses, and other genealogical and church records for Columbia County were also helpful.

Most of the names in the diary appear in the rural eastern and central portions of the Town of Red Hook--mainly east of Red Hook and Upper Red Hook--and in northwestern Milan and southern Columbia County. Name-search was made more difficult because of the earlier census custom of listing by name only heads of families.

Many persons Permelia referred to in the early part of the 1866 diary when she was visiting in Pennsylvania appear to be Feller, Ringsdorf and Wheeler connected. One of them



was her older sister, second Feller child, Lucinda (born Sept. 3, 1825), and married to Ephraim Wheeler. (The Wheeler surname had now appeared in the diary for the first time.) Uncle Simon in Pennsylvania, probably a sixth Ringsdorf child and youngest brother of Permelia's mother, Mary, was married to Elizabeth Coon. Baltus Wheeler, there also, was married to Elizabeth, formerly a Ringsdorf (fourth child), and also a sibling of Mary. The two Wheeler men were probably related to Permelia's later husband, Samuel Wheeler. Permelia occasionally mentioned "Sam" and "Samuel" as a correspondent. He apparently lived in Pennsylvania in 1866.

At first complicating the identification of "Samuel" was 9-year-old Samuel Judd listed in the 1860 census with Philip and Mary Feller. He would have been the son of Mary (Feller) Judd, eldest daughter of the Fellers, and Randall L. Judd. Mary, who was born July 1 and baptized July 9, 1823 at the Red Hook Lutheran Church (records in the Red Hook Library), died April 9, 1864 and is buried in Manorton, Columbia County, at the Lutheran church there. Samuel, age 13, was listed again on p.8 of the 1865 census, identified as the grandchild of P. Feller (#52:53), born, incidentally, in Rensselaer County.

In the next extant diary (1876) Permelia was sewing and mending constantly for "Samuel", so we assume the marriage to Samuel Wheeler had taken place by that date. She also accompanied him on local trips from time to time.

### 5. Provenance.

The following will explain the relationships and reason for possession of the three "Permelia diaries" by Mrs. Ethel

Timmer, born in 1896 and living at Salt Point, N.Y. Mrs. Timmer's mother was Caroline (Allendorf) Fingar (1867-1934). She was called "Carrie" and was married in Red Hook, in 1886, to Harry Michael Fingar. Mrs. Timmer's maternal grandparents were Philip Henry Allendorf (1837-1907) and Elizabeth Allendorf (1842-1882), cousins who were married in 1863. Elizabeth's parents (Mrs. Timmer's great-grandparents) were Christian Allendorf, Jr. (1819-1896) and Helen Lown (1817-1889), who were married in 1839. Their marriage took place at the German Reformed Church of Lower Red Hook. Both are buried in the Lutheran cemetery in Red Hook.(4)

Permelia (Feller) Wheeler/Allendorf (next to the youngest of her large family of siblings) was the second wife of Christian Allendorf, Jr., and was, therefore, a step-great-grandmother of Mrs. Timmer--one whom Ethel remembers. During Ethel's childhood or young girlhood, the elderly Permelia lived with the Fingars in Clinton Corners for awhile. After residence there we have no further references to her. Ethel described her as a person constantly busy with some useful task, a fact confirmed unquestionably by all three diaries!

Her portrait is on Ethel's wall--a very "no-nonsense" person, plain and stern though not completely unattractive. A miniature assumed to be the younger Permelia and a small oval portrait in an 1862 album marked as Permelia's have recently been discovered. At the time the album was initiated she was about 24. Displayed with the larger framed portrait is an octagonally framed hair-wreath said to have been made by Permelia. An 1858 Bible marked as Permelia Feller's property has been the most recent discovery. It contains useful Feller birth and death records. Ethel called Permelia "Grandma 'Meal'". In the second marriage notice



she appeared as "Amelia," not Permelia. As early as 1866, Christian Allendorf, Jr. was not mentioned by Permelia. One or two references are made in the early diary pages to both Allendorfs and Fingars but there seems to be no feeling that they were close friends or even frequent associates before the 1891 marriage of Permelia and Christian.

In 1867, among Timmer-related Allendorfs, grandfather "P.H." lived in the Town of Milan on Academy Hill Road (Route 51) and "G.N." lived on Turkey Hill Road (Route 56) in the vicinity of Torre Rock Road near Jackson Corners. Another relative lived on Cokertown Road, the western part of Route 56--Carrie (Allendorf) Fingar's Aunt Kate Allendorf, who was married to John Pell. That same year J.W. Allendorf (2 sites), P.H. Allendorf (was this Ethel's grandfather's place also?), and P.A. Allendorf had homes on Feller Newmark Road in the Town of Red Hook.(5)

A number of Fingars appear in southern Columbia County. Many are buried at St. John's Lutheran Church (organized in 1715) at Manorton. Graves of at least a dozen Fingars, not including wives and children, were discovered there. . A few are in the Gallatin Reformed Cemetery on County Route 7, in the Town of Gallatin about halfway between Gallatinville and Jackson Corners. This cemetery was used as early as 1770. The Clermont, Gallatin and Livingston township areas of the 1873 map of Columbia County show about nine locations for Fingars.

## 6. Format.

Most of the excerpts from the 1866 diary (printed in italics) have had some spelling corrections but principal additions were punctuation--unless the material was quoted verbatim

to give the flavor of the original. Personal names have been spelled, usually, in agreement with the Beers atlases. The earliest diary used the long form of s when doubled--resembling fs. It also used innovative spelling, little punctuation--and its tiny pages were done with absolutely inspired brevity, which added a further challenge to our interpretative powers. The handwriting was neat and clear but sometimes impossibly miniscule. Brief editorial comments or queries appear in brackets in standard type within the quotation. Longer notes appear indented below each diary extract. A few endnotes have been included to expand textual material, particularly that of the Introduction.

The commentary following the brief quotations assumes that the diarist was indeed Permelia(Feller) Wheeler/Allendorf, as indicated by internal evidence, by family tradition, and by research. The whole journal is merely one of daily activities with no record of thoughts or emotions regardless of the distressing events in the diarist's life.

Surprisingly, at no place in this first diary is verbal recognition given to national holidays, not even Christmas--although Permelia did go to church that year, when Christmas fell on Tuesday. I believe Christmas, if celebrated in secular fashion, was Twelfth Night in those days. And, again consistent with customary practice, very little work was regularly performed on Sunday--writing and perhaps visiting being the only acceptable pursuits.



# THE DIARY

Permelia was already visiting in Pennsylvania when the first diary entry for 1866 was made.

January, Monday, 1, (1866)

*"Spent this day at Lucindia. Pleasant sick headache."*

Not an auspicious beginning for 1866, but things improved! Lucinda, a daughter of Philip D. and Mary Feller, sister of Permelia, was married to Ephraim Wheeler and lived in Pennsylvania. There were Wheelers buried in Upper Red Hook but no connection was found. Wheelers lived also in Gallatin and Greenport in Columbia County, and in the Towns of Pine Plains and North East in Dutchess.

Tuesday, 2

*"Spent this day at Lucindia. Pleasant. Went to the shaft. Called at Uncle Simon's (apparently a Ringsdorf) and John's. Went to the fair."*

The John in Pennsylvania is unidentified--unless he was one of the several generations of related John Ringsdorfs.

Since she was in the Scranton area (see January 3, just below) her destination that day could have been a coal mine shaft. Anthracite was mined in the area since 1769 and was used for fuel after 1808 when Jesse Fell of Wilkes-Barre discovered a process for successfully burning it to provide heat. Regarding the "fair," does this not mean a church fair? It seems unlikely that an agricultural fair would have been held in January.

Wednesday, 3

*"Spent this day pleas[ant]. Went to Scranton; took the cars [railroad] for Olyphant [northeast of Scranton]. Stayed at Haas's. Maid tetton."*

These Haas's were perhaps relatives of the two Red Hook Haas's who are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery there? Tatting is a kind of thread-lace edging made with a small hand-shuttle.

Thursday, 4

*"Spent this day pleas[ant]. After breakfast I went up to Eliza. Finished my shimmy."*

I believe the garment referred to was a chemise, a woman's undergarment. There were two Elizas in Pennsylvania. This one could have been either Elizabeth Ringsdorf, wife of Baltus Wheeler, or Elizabeth Coon, wife of Simon Ringsdorf, or even a daughter of one of them--all relatives. (There were also one or more Elizas referred to in the towns in Dutchess and Columbia Counties.)

Friday, 5

*"Spent this day at Eliza. Made tetton. Knit for Eliza."*

Saturday, 6

*"Spent this day at Eliza. Pleasant [weather]... Emma died. Set up."*

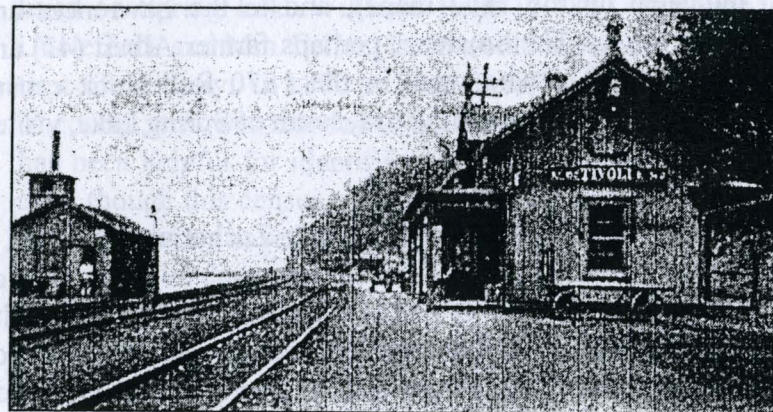
Emma is unidentified as well as dead! The ending phrase seems to refer to the bereavement custom of sitting with the family in the presence of the deceased. The writer did this for two days, then stayed all night at Henry's. (Was this Henry



A. Feller, who wrote Permelia on April 26 at her home? What was his relationship?) Emma was buried the following day, Wednesday, January 10. In the meantime the helpful diary-writer baked pies and cake, did some patching and knitting, and made more tatting. No reference was made to emotion of any kind during this normally sad occasion.

In the ensuing days the author speaks of visits to others--William, Philip (Permelia had brothers William, born Nov. 11, 1834, and Philip Feller, born Aug. 31, 1827, who might have lived in Pennsylvania at that time) and to the Smiths. On the 12th she "went down in the Shalt"--i.e., mine shaft. She cut Philip's hair, had Melia photographed, made some sort of handcrafted "box" for Hannah, went to Wilkes-Barre, made an apron for Melia (was Melia a namesake niece?), hemmed a curtain for Hannah, and made the ever-present tatting. (There was a Hannah Coon listed with the Feller family, born Apr. 26, 1817, perhaps by the first marriage of Mary Ringsdorf.) On the 23rd she visited John Miller at Hyde Park, a suburb of Reading--also saw "Norm" in the evening there. Had these New York State people gone to Pennsylvania to work in the coal mines during the Civil War?

She speaks of snow and cold, and of "writing home". There were visits to the Myers and Frank, and frequent returns to her headquarters at Lucinda's house. Finally she left for her own home on January 25, via New York City and Tivoli (Town of Red Hook), where she waited until John (the unmarried younger brother) took her home. Her first amusement there (and the only thing mentioned that day) was making more tatting! There was no reference to pleasure at seeing the family or being home again.



Tivoli Railroad Station, postcard ca. 1910

Saturday, 27

*"Spent this day home. Helped Mother do up her work, cleaned my clothes, fixed them. Made tatting."*

"Mother," of course, was Mary (Ringsdorf) Feller, descendant of the emigrant, John, and third wife of Philip D. Feller.

Sunday, 28

*"...wrote 4 letters to Lucindia, Samuel, Philip, Baltus" [all back in Pennsylvania].*

Was Permelia's subsequent husband the above Samuel in Pennsylvania?

Sunday was a day for letters but no tatting--at least at this period. She became a bit more casual later in the year as work piled up. More yards of tatting were created Monday



through Saturday that week. There were also calls at the Fulmers and Hapemans (some families of each were indicated on the 1867 maps), and to the Lawrences and Uncle Zack. The Snyders, perhaps farmer Albert (41) and Catharine (32) who were in the 1870 Red Hook census located on Hapeman Hill Road, south of Spring Lake, visited the Fellers.

"Uncle Zack" was almost certainly Zachariah D. Feller, a farmer in Milan in the 1850 census, probably a brother of Philip D. His wife was Anna or Hannah. They lived on the north side of Spring Lake or Williams Road at the corner of Salisbury Road in Milan in 1867. (The road name depends on whether you use a modern Dutchess or Columbia County map.) No house is there today. At the time of the diary he was about 66 and his wife was 64. Both died in 1870 and were buried at the Lutheran Church in Red Hook. (**Old Gravestones**, p.287)

February; Thursday, 8

*"Spent this day home. Snowed. Patched, made tatting. Peter Teats, Isaac Mead, and Philip Fulton married."*

Apparently all these weddings were the same day? Fultons and Teats are both on 1867 maps of Milan. A Fulton home is off Turkey Hill Road in the Town of Milan. The road is marked "Fulton Homestead Road" today, but the home and extensive old barns and out-buildings are easily visible from Route 56. A metal historical marker stands in front of the house, serving as positive identification. The marker reads: "FULTON HOMESTEAD/John Fulton first owner/Deed recorded Oct. 12, 1795/Has always been a possession of the Fulton family/In Fulton name until 1933."(6)

There was an Isaac Mead in the 1850 census for Milan, then an 18-year-old laborer living with Jacob Phillips. Jacob lived on Spring Lake/Williams Road in 1867, neighbor to Uncle Zack and Mrs. Feller. Isaac would have been 34 at the time of the diary. In 1870 he lived there(?) with Jacob's son, Theodore, and was married to an Anna E. The 1850 census has been helpful for identifying names, especially children, even though this census preceded the diary by sixteen years. Several persons have been found in this way.

Monday, 12

*"Spent this day home. Rained. Washed. Father died half past 1, 79[?] years, 8 months, 4 days. Text: Job, 14 chapter, 14 verse."*

Philip D. Feller was buried in the Manorton Lutheran Cemetery in Columbia County. The tombstone is difficult to read but he was probably 74 (not 79) if you compare the numbers with the 1865 census for Milan and as confirmed by the Bible genealogy. He was born June 8, 1791 and may have been the son (not confirmed) of John P. and Maria Feller, according to Manorton Church records in the Red Hook Library; or of Niclas Feller and Anna Richter, who had a son baptized in 1789. A Nichols Feller appears north of Elizaville on the 1798 Wigram map of parts of Columbia County. Neither baptismal date coincides perfectly with the dates of Philip D. Feller, unquestionably born in 1791.

Feller families had lived in Columbia County in the area between Blue Store and Elizaville since 1790. (**Columbia County at the End of the Century**, p.592, and **Ellis, History of Columbia County**, p.255) There was only an "F." Feller in the Town of Livingston in 1873, on Pleasant Vale Road west of Twin Lakes.



The funeral text referred to by his daughter reads: "...all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." (Job 14:14b) According to the church records only this last portion of the verse was used.

With further regard to Philip D. Feller, a head of household by that name appeared in the 1820 census of Livingston in Columbia County and also in 1840 in Taghkanic. This confirms the previous claim that he was "a Columbia County farmer." In 1820 he would have been 28 and in 1840, 48--which agrees with his reported age in 1850 and 1865. In 1850 P.D. (58) appears in Milan, Dutchess County, with wife, Mary (53), daughter Permelia (12) and son John (8).

Tuesday, 13

*"Spent this day home. Pleasant. Baked bread."*

Wednesday, 14

*"Spent this day home. Snowed. Farther was buried..."*

Friday, 16

*"Spent this day home. Pleasant. Wrote two letters [to Marilla and to Joseph Hood]. Made tatting. Ironed. Cleaned. Set in bacon."*

There was a Marilla (Feller) Stearns (born Mar. 17, 1833), daughter of Philip and, therefore, sister of Permelia. An older Joseph Hood (apparently not this one) is buried at Manorton. The last expression in the entry appears to mean that she prepared the dough for baking bread.

Saturday, 17

*"Spent this day home. Pleasant. Baked bread. Made tatting."*

Sunday, 18

*"Spent this day home. Snowed. Wrote 4 letters to Lucindia, Hannah, Eliza, Samuel... [back in Pennsylvania]."*

Tuesday, 20

*"...Jacob Hapeman was hear."*

There was a "J. Hapeman", farmer, in Milan more than halfway down Becker Hill Road, District 8, in 1867. The 1865 census for Milan showed Jacob to have been 68. His wife was Gertrude Barringer.

Wednesday, 21

*"...called at Uncle Zack. Catharine Hapeman married."*

For the bride there are three choices: 1) Catharine L. Hapeman, then 28, who was the daughter of Abraham I. and Mary H. (Abraham was a farmer who, in 1850, lived in Milan with Andrew and Catharine E. Hapeman, at a time when the men ran the farm together.); 2) Catharine H. Hapeman (30), daughter of Philip and Elizabeth Hapeman, who was listed in the 1865 census; 3) A 17-year-old Catharine, daughter of Andrew and Catharine, above, sister of Abbie who was married in 1866 also.

A great quantity of mending, sewing, tatting and handwork of various kinds was accomplished in the next few weeks: ripped apart and fixed her mother's dress and her own skirt, "cut me a pare of drawers, sewed on them," cut out another of the boxes like the one she did in Pennsylvania, and cut out "Peace work" (for a quilt?)

March; Thursday, 1

Two more weddings occurred on this date. These (hard to



read in part) appear to be the names of two girls, Mary Ett Couse and Maliss Stall--with no marriage partners' names given.

The 1865 census shows only a Malissie Stall, age 13, who was a "domestic" on the Alexander and Sarah Stall farm.

Was she married the next year at 14? A more likely choice was Malissa Stall, daughter of farmer Joel (40) and Elizabeth (39), in the 1860 census of the Town of Livingston in Columbia County. She was about 22 in 1866. A "J. Stall" lived on Pleasant Vale Road at the Roeliff Jansen Kill on the 1873 map.

Mary Ett Couse was a daughter (23) of John H. and Catharine Couse of Fitzsimmons Road near the Columbia County line in the 1850 census of Milan, but in 1866 she would have been 39, a rather advanced age in those days for a first-time bride. A few Couses are buried in the cemetery at Elizaville.

Tuesday, 6

"...went to Cousin David..." [and returned there on Wednesday].

Uncle Zack Feller (49) had a "laborer" living with him in 1850 named David Feller. Feller was 33 then, so was not likely to have been a son since Zachariah's other children were 18, 16 and 11. According to the Bible genealogy, David P. Feller appears to have been a brother of Philip D. Was "Cousin David" a son of David P.? The connection is uncertain. He is not listed in Zack's household in 1865. A David Feller's picture, dated March 9, 1863, (with wife Genett) then living in Port Gibson, Ontario County, N.Y., appears in Permelia's album of about 1862. Was this one

"Uncle David," father of "Cousin David"?

Wednesday, 7

*Emma Pells fetch[ed] me home... C. Myers [and] Elizabeth Van Tassel married."*

The Pell name appears in the 1850 and 1865 censuses for Milan, but Emma was not found. A "J. Myers" was in the adjoining northeast corner of Red Hook. The only Van Tassel mentioned in this diary volume was in Hudson, Columbia County, in December 1866. However, some are buried at Manorton in that county. Four others were living in Gallatin: "C." near Pond Lily Pond south of Lake Taghkanic; "J." less than a mile east of Elizaville; "P." south of Lake Taghkanic (roads since altered) in District 4; "S." on Hull Road north of Route 8 in District 7.

Thursday, 8

"...cut Samuel a shirt, sewed on it..."

Friday, 9

*"Spent this day in the forenoon to Uncle Z. the afternoon home. Sewed. Made tatting. Set in the bacon [baking]. Baked Cake."*

As mentioned before, Uncle Z. appears on the 1867 Milan map, living in the next house north of the Fellers.

Friday, 16

*"...to the Lower Village. Call[ed] at store, George Becker's and Henry Becker's. Made tatting."*

Is the "Lower Village" today's Red Hook? On the 1867 map



of the Town, a "G. Becker" is on Route 199 east of Red Hook, in District 5, and appears as a blacksmith in the 1870 census. A blacksmith shop was shown across the road from him. "H. Becker" is on the same map, near Spring Lake, and is listed in the 1865 census as a farmer.

Saturday, 17

*"...patched Samuel west [vest]"*

Was this spelling a perverted carry-over from the pronunciation of "w" in German? Both Fellers and Ringsdorfs were of Palatine descent.

Sunday, 18

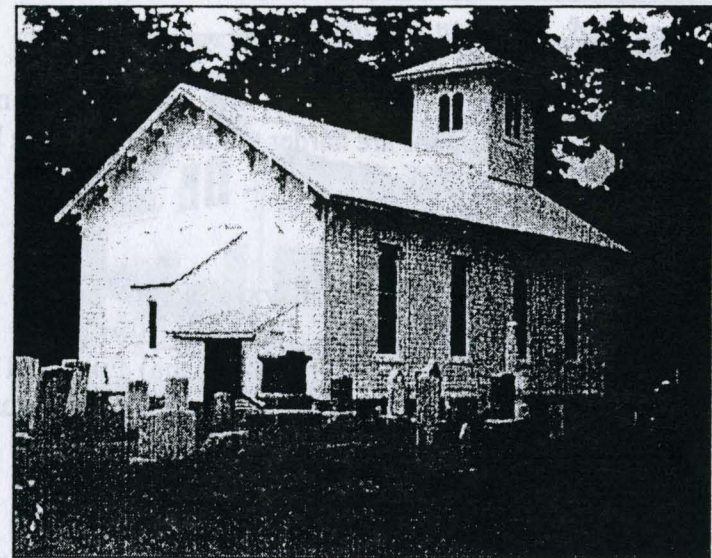
*"...in the morning went to the corner Church, then went down with Arthur... Hellen Boy was Borne."*

This is the first reference to church attendance, and was at Elizaville, a hamlet then known as Union Corner. (See the 1873 Beers map of Columbia County.) The denomination was Methodist.

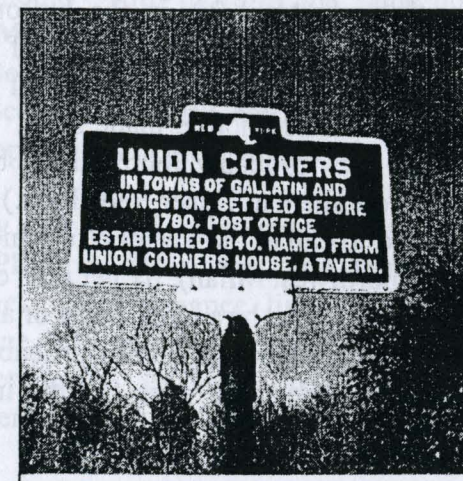
The 1865 census lists Arthur Phillips, 23, farmer, and his wife, Hellen, and a one-year-old male child of illegible name. This new baby was their second son. The 1850 Milan census had listed Arthur (the new father) as the 8-year-old son of Jacob and Maria Phillips. In 1865 he was probably living at his father's former place near the Fellers. Arthur Phillips, born in 1842, is buried in Manorton Cemetery. He died in 1894 at age 52. No other Phillips stones are near this one.

Thursday, 29

*"Spent this day home... Learned to knit lace. Made cake..."*



Elizaville(Union Corners) Methodist Church and historic marker nearby. Both photos - Eleanor Rogers





*Elizabeth & Josephen was hear."*

There was a Josephine Feller, 28, wife of Edward, in the 1865 census. Elizabeths are harder to identify and have been ignored.

Saturday, 31

*"...Eliza [Fulton?] fetched me. Worked butter."*

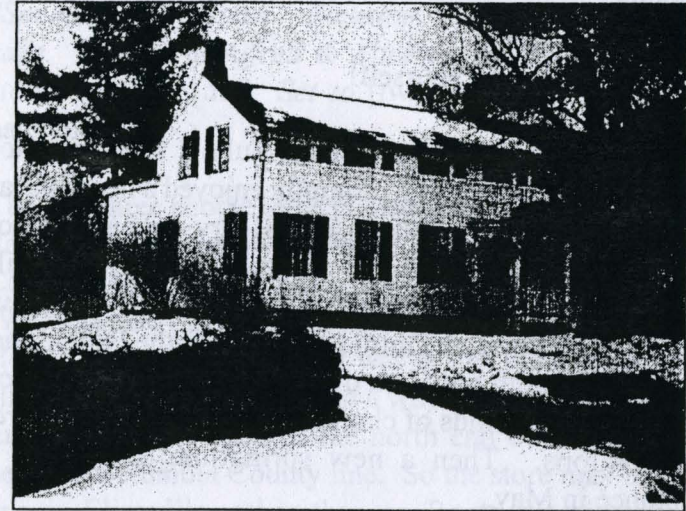
There was an Elisha (i.e., Ephraim Elisha) Fulton (1824-1903), age 42 in 1866, who lived on Route 56 just east of Mitchell Lane on Fulton Homestead Road.

April, Sunday, 1

*"Spent this day to Fulton. Pleasant. Choors about the house."*

See the February 8 note about the Fulton location; also March 31, just above, and Endnote 6. The writer spent the next month, through April 29, in the Fulton household, where she did laundry, baking, took care of the children, churned and made butter, picked feathers off a turkey, did some lawn work, cleaned house, made soap, scoured, and took care of the baby-probably John Parker, born in 1866. (See cemetery monument at Upper Red Hook.) While there, she managed also to call at the Teators (of which there were four families in northwest Milan), fix her own dress, observe that "Black E. Died," (was he a black horse or a black man?), receive a letter from Catharine Smith--probably the one in Pennsylvania, although there were Smiths in Red Hook, Milan and adjoining Columbia County.

On Wednesday, April 11, a first use of the expression, she "filled the mools," and the next day she "swep doar yard



Home of Ephraim Elisha Fulton, Route 56, Milan  
Photo - Eleanor Rogers

filled the mools"--with more of the same on Friday and Saturday. **Mool** as a verb means to crumble as bread, or to bury (Scot.). **Mools** or **mules** as a noun means a broken chilblain (Scot.) or the earth, soil, hence the grave. Perhaps she filled depressions in the lawn after the ravages of winter?

On Sunday, April 15, she made more calls--Arthur's (probably Phillips), "Hermans" and Teators. These were Milan names. J. Hermance lived at the beginning of Mitchell Lane, off Route 56, just south of a small brook. No house is there today. N. Teator lived across the road from him. (H. Hermans was farther away on Willow Glen Road.)

Thursday, 26

*"...scawls [squalls] of snow set in bacon ironed clams fish fill*



*the mools."*

Punctuate this to suit yourself!

On Sunday, April 29, Elisa (Elisha Fulton, I suppose) took her home at last, where she promptly enjoyed a headache and a letter from Henry A. Feller. Was Henry, probably the one in Pennsylvania, related to her and to the Red Hook, Milan and Columbia County Fellers? In 1867 an H.A. Feller lived on Turkey Hill Road, the third house east of the Fultons, near a brook. Although now in a different locale, Permelia soon took up the same kinds of chores she had just departed from at the Fultons. Then a new springtime duty made its appearance in May.

May, Tuesday, 1

*"Spent this day home. Pleasant. Ironed. Spaded in the garden. Planted cucumbers and beans. Rained. Some pepper[s]. Patched Baked."*

Bold face added to indicate gardening activities. More spading followed on May 3.

Friday, 4

*"...called at N. Phillips, Schoolhouse and Pells."*

There was a Nicholas Phillips, 49, a farmer in Milan in the 1850 and 1865 censuses. On the 1867 map, an N. Phillips was on Salisbury Road near Schoolhouse No.9, and J. Pells was on Route 56 near the corner of Route 56 and Salisbury Road, west of the schoolhouse. A "T. Phillips" lived just north of "N. Phillips." "J. Phillips" lived close to and west of the Fellers.

Saturday, 5

*"Spent this day home. Pleasant. Baked bread & pies & cake. Samuel & Alfred & Alice came hear. Went to the stoar. Osterho[uts] Set to [two] chickens" [on eggs for hatching].*

The first three people were not identified, unless Samuel was Sam Wheeler or nephew Samuel Judd. There was a store on Cokertown Road, Route 56, near the smaller pond (Warackamac Lake) east of Spring Lake in the Town of Red Hook. Hiram M. Osterhout was in the 1865 Milan census. Hiram, 35, was a farmer with a wife Cornelia, 33, and a son, Eugene, 7, who lived at the north end of Salisbury Road near the Columbia County line. So the store may have been one in Elizaville rather than on Route 56, since the trip included a visit to the Osterhouts.

Sunday, 6

*"Spent this day home. Pleasant. Took a ride [buggy?] Went to church to the Schoolhouse."*

This probably referred to the schoolhouse in District 9, south on Salisbury Road near Route 56. A converted building there appears today to have been a rather large schoolhouse long ago. A red, one-room schoolhouse still stands in Elizaville just north of the firehouse, though the other one seems more appropriate. (See May 13.)

Tuesday, 8

Tatting was finally mentioned again after a long break for more physically demanding labor.

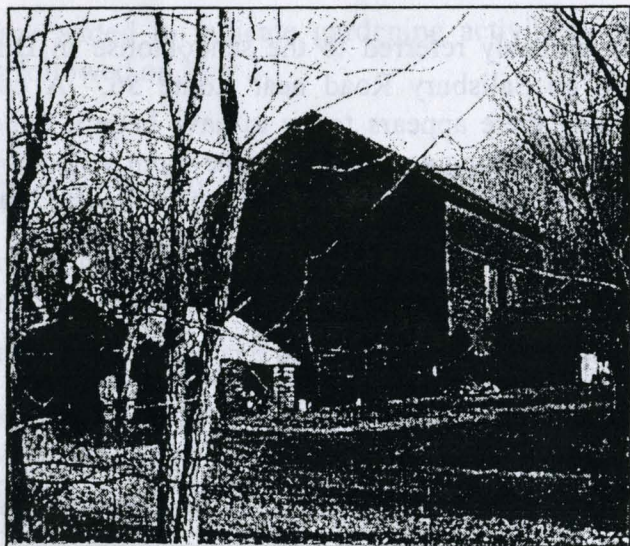
Wednesday, 9

*"...went down to Uncle Z. Maid soap. Cleaned the seller*





Upper photo: School No. 9, Salisbury Road, Milan  
Lower photo: Hiram Osterhout Farm Barn, Salisbury Road  
Both photos - Eleanor Rogers



[cellar]."

This event marked the beginning of spring housecleaning. It was time for more gardening as well.

Friday, 11

*"...cleaned house & placed things. Mary Gardener was hear."*

In the 1865 census of Red Hook, Mary Gardener, 20, lived (if this is the right one) with Leonard H. Gardener and his mother, Hannah. Their house was not located. All were born in Columbia County.

Saturday, 12

*"Spent this day home. Showers...very warm... Spaded in the garden. Swep doar yard. Took off my 'flanen' [flannels?] & woolen 'stockens'."*

Sunday, 13

*"...Thunder showers in the forenoon. To Arthur. Came down to the schoolhouse to Church. Took tea to Hapemans."*

There were one or two Hapeman families on the 1867 map of Milan. Mrs. C.E. Hapeman had two houses on Route 56, one on each side, west of Shookville Road. These were near the other persons in this neighborhood often mentioned in the diary and close to the schoolhouse as well.

Tuesday, 15

*"Spent this day home. Pl[easant]. Cleaned the pantry. Called down to Uncle Z."*



This she did often. We have already stated that he was a neighbor. On the 16th Permelia planted potatoes and cleaned house. On the 17th there was a family tragedy, reported once again without emotion!

Thursday, 17

*"...Thea [Phillips?] fetched John home. Dead in the Night."*

A compilation of death notices, prepared by Margaret E. Herrick from the **Red Hook Journal**, says: "John Feller of Milan, age 25 years, killed Thursday last by falling tree. He was cutting wood. Survived by aged & infirm mother. Funeral at Manor Church, Rev. Jos. H. Barclay." This church is the Lutheran Church at Manorton, Columbia County, at Routes 8 and 19. He, mother, father and one married sister are buried there. The "aged and infirm" mother was 70 and lived to be 82. Sister Permelia and other family members were not mentioned in the obituary. The funeral was on the 19th. The sermon text was Luke 12:40: "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." John (born Nov. 18, 1840) was 25 years, 3 months and 29 days old. That day Alfred and Sophia (unidentified) had come up. In the days which followed, the diarist wrote several letters to persons we have met before, probably informing them of John's sudden demise. John was, of course, her youngest brother in a family of eight siblings. The ensuing May days were full of normal activity.

May 22

*"Sarah cucks boy borned... Rained some. Got up. Wrote a letter to Aunt Caty. Carried [it] to the [post] office. Took dinner at Caities. Helped her hang up wash."*

Sarah A. Cuck (24) married Robert A. Pitcher (28) on

November 24, 1864. Both were from Upper Red Hook. There was a "Caty" Feller, who would have been an aunt, (born August 3, 1813, sister of Philip D.), and also Aunt Catharine (Ringsdorf) Cronk. Rock City, Jackson Corners and Elizaville had post offices. "Caitie" is not identified, but was obviously local.

May 23 - *"...set things to there place in the house. Spaded in the garden. Call[ed at] Uncle Z."*

May 24 - *"...scowered schairs...[stairs?]"*

May 25, 26, 28 - She was once again knitting lace, but also baked pies and cake on Saturday.

May 29 - *"...washed my dress. Went to the Lower Village, Hat. Uncle Z. J. Hapeman[moved?]."*

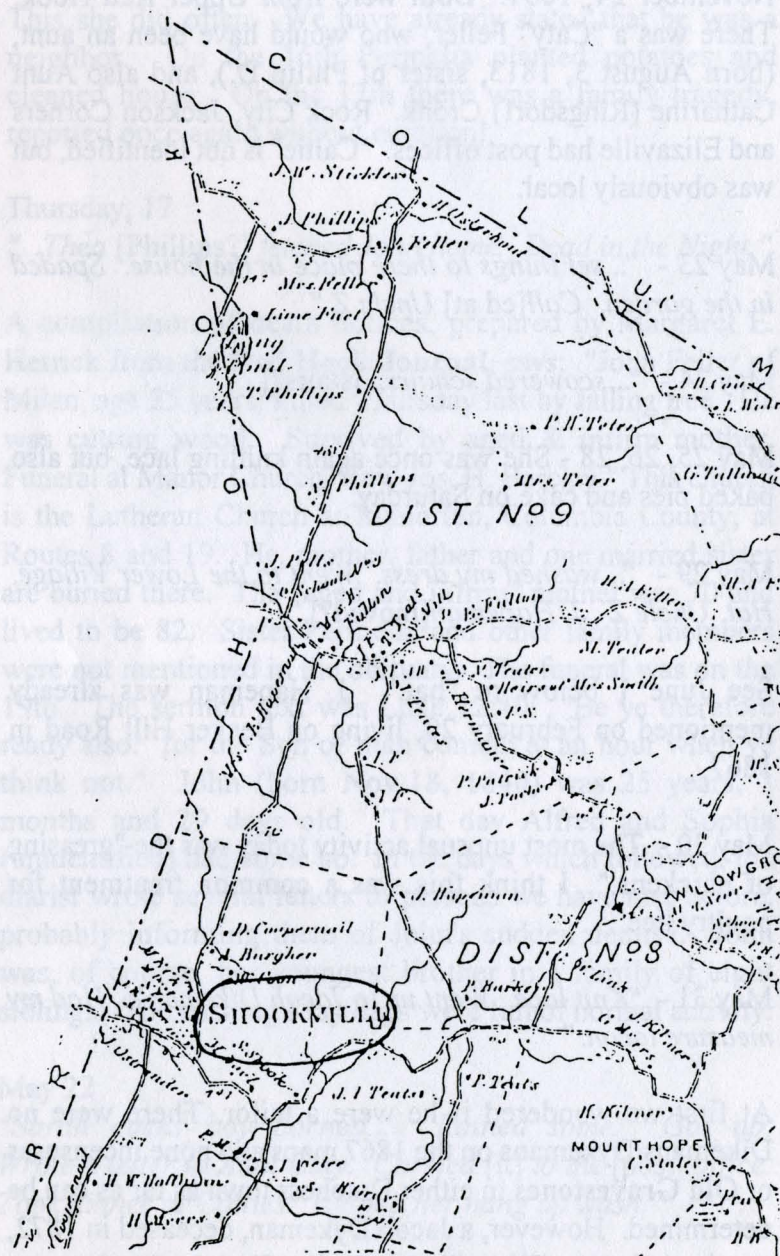
See June 1 below re "hat." J. Hapeman was already mentioned on February 20, living on Becker Hill Road in 1867.

May 30 - The most unusual activity today was the "greasing of chickens." I think this was a common treatment for poultry lice.

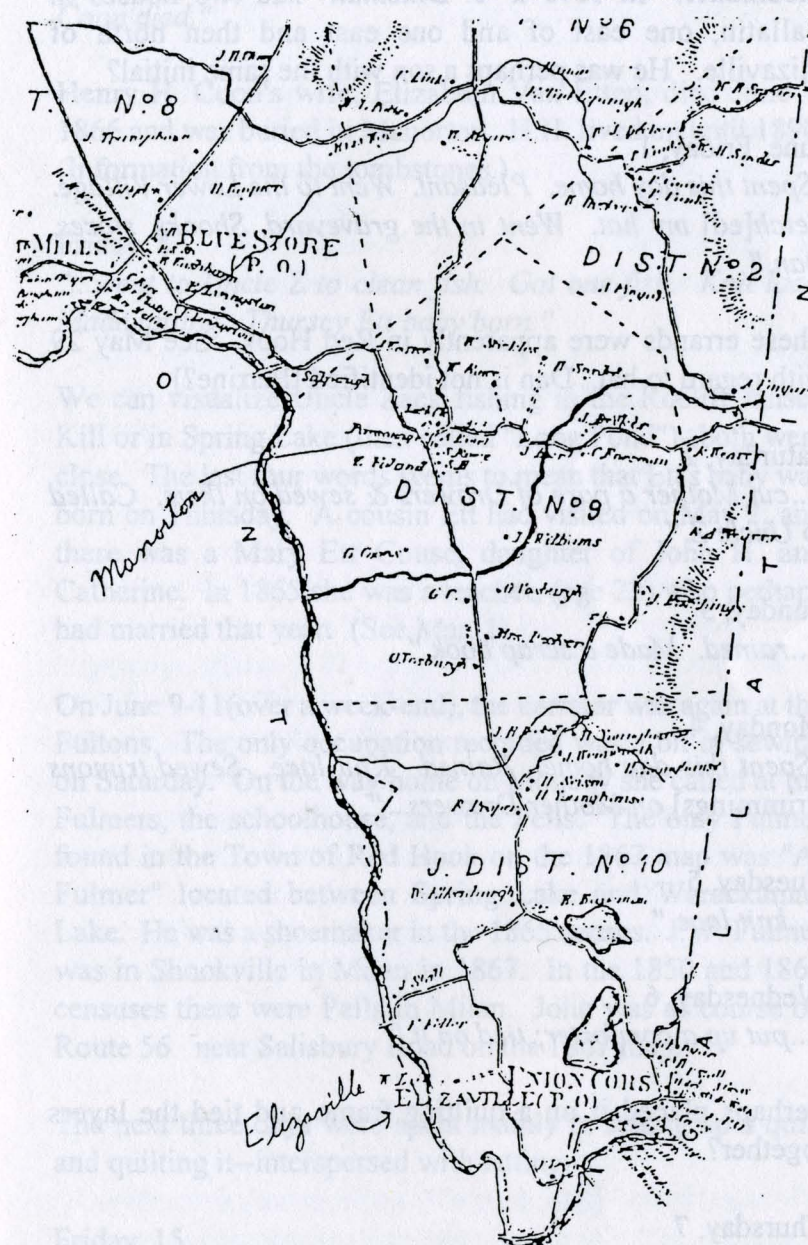
May 31 - *"Knit lace. Went up to Jacob Dikeman's. Had my measure tacon."*

At first we wondered if he were a tailor. There were no Dikemans/Dykemans on the 1867 maps and none incensuses or **Old Gravestones** in either Dutchess town as far as can be determined. However, a Jacob Dykeman, deceased in 1872, was buried at the Elizaville Methodist Church. Jacob was a





Portion of Beer's map of the town of Milan - 1867



Portion of Beer's map of Livingston, Columbia Co. - 1873



shoemaker. In 1873 a "J. Dikeman" had two houses in Gallatin, one east of and one east and then north of Elizaville. He was perhaps a son with the same initial?

June, Friday, 1

*"Spent this day home. Pleasant. Went to the Lower Village. Fetch[ed] my hat. Went in the graveyard, Shooks, stores, Dan."*

These errands were apparently in Red Hook. See May 29 with regard to hat. Dan is not identified [Perrine?]

Saturday, 2

*"...cut Mother a pare of Drawers & sewed on them. Called to Uncle Z."*

Sunday, 3

*"...rained. Made a scrap book."*

Monday, 4

*"Spent this day home. Rained. Knit lace. Sewed trimons [trimmings] on Mother Drawers..."*

Tuesday, 5

*"...knit lace."*

Wednesday, 6

*"...put up a comforter; tied on it."*

Perhaps placed it on a quilting frame and tied the layers together?

Thursday, 7

*"...knit a mat. Finished tying the comforter. Mrs. Henry*

*Coon died."*

Henry H. Coon's wife, Elizabeth Van Etten, died June 7, 1866 and was buried in Manorton. H.H. lived on until 1890. (Information from the tombstones.)

Friday, 8

*"...went to Uncle Z to clean fish. Got one fish. Knit lace. Made tatting. Thursey Ett baby born."*

We can visualize Uncle Zack fishing in the Roeliff Jansen Kill or in Spring Lake (then called "Long Pond")--both were close. The last four words seems to mean that Ett's baby was born on Thursday. A cousin Ett had visited on May 2, and there was a Mary Ett Couse, daughter of John H. and Catherine. In 1865 she was a teacher, (age 22) who perhaps had married that year. (See Mar. 1)

On June 9-11 (over a week-end), the narrator was again at the Fultons. The only occupation recorded was a bit of sewing on Saturday. On the way home on Monday she called at the Fulmers, the schoolhouse, and the Pells. The only Fulmer found in the Town of Red Hook on the 1867 map was "A. Fulmer" located between Spring Lake and Warackamac Lake. He was a shoemaker in the 1865 census. J.W. Fulmer was in Shookville in Milan in 1867. In the 1850 and 1865 censuses there were Pells in Milan. John was of course on Route 56 near Salisbury Road on the 1867 map.

The next three days were spent mainly in setting up a quilt and quilting it--interspersed with tatting.

Friday, 15

*Spent this day home. Thunder Showers. Spaded in the*



*garden. Went down to the Village. Called at W. Gardeners. Stayed all night at H. Coons."*

W. Gardener was not located (Mary's father?) but seems to have been in Columbia County, probably in or near Elizaville. What "H. Coon" was referred to? In the 1870 census of Red Hook Henry W. Coon was a farmer, 46, with a wife, Elizabeth. Henry H.'s wife was also Elizabeth but she had died a few days before, on June 7, 1866.

Saturday, 16

*"Received a letter from Sam... Went from Henry's [Coon] to Gardeners. Cut out three boxes. Made tatting. Called at Peter Wheeler's and store. Rode part way home with Phill."*  
[See also November 8.]

Was the letter from future husband, Samuel Wheeler? No Wheelers were found on the 1867 maps for Dutchess but there was a Peter C. Wheeler in the 1870 census, a carpenter, 63, with a wife, Margaret, 40, and a son William, 12, in the Town of Red Hook. There was a "W. Wheeler" north-east of Gallatinville in the Town of Gallatin, Columbia County, in 1873, and a "C. Wheeler" in District 7 in Taghkanic. There were also Wheelers in Northeast in Dutchess and Greenport in Columbia. We are beginning to be certain that Samuel Wheeler was among the relatives living in Pennsylvania at that time. "Phill" could have been Philip H. Coopernail of Shookville.

Sunday, 17

*"...went up to the White Church with Theodore [Phillips?](7)*

On the 18th of June, Permelia quilted and on the 19th "got the quilt off." She also "maid on [i.e., worked on] my box."

Wednesday, 20

*"A. Anson came here."*

No Ansons were discovered in any of the records used so far. There was someone in Permelia's 1862 album (the dated pictures extend from 1861-63) who, either facetiously or learnedly, signed himself "Alfonso Ansonio". (Was this a "conceit" by a young Latin scholar?) Neither place nor date appear on the page. Perhaps he was in school with several other youths who gave their addresses as Troy or "Troy University". There were Ansons in Stanfordville later. (CBR)

Thursday, 21

*"...commenced joining my quilt."*

Saturday, 23

[Another busy day.] *"Picked churries. Joined on my quilt. Made bows. Call[ed] at Clarks & Coons & Uncle Z."*

There was a J. Clark near Tivoli on the 1867 Red Hook map but none were located in censuses or graveyards in Dutchess. S. Clark was a butcher in Milan, in Jackson Corners, in that year. Clarks were often mentioned in the diary--Elizaville by any chance? Some were in Columbia County cemeteries.

Sunday, 24

*"...craked butternuts..."*

On Sunday! Previously nothing but writing letters and diary was ever done on Sunday!



Monday, 25

*"...washed in the morning. Washed Isaac Wagon. Started for the Hollow [where?] half past 9. Stopped to Lafett [Lafayetteville?], Standfort [Stanfordville?]. Got there [where, after 7-1/2 hours on the road?] at 5."*

Was this Isaac Mead's wagon? Note the many references to horses and wagons in Permelia's diary when speaking of Isaac. Perhaps he had a livery stable. He would have been about 34 when she was writing this entry. An Isaac Mead of Red Hook enlisted in the Civil War in September 1864. (Wm. Benson's list). If the same man he would have been 32 then, born in 1842. We also have the information that: Isaac G. Mead died in Hudson Hospital on July 23, 1904, age about 72. He was a former resident of Red Hook, later Elizaville and finally Hudson, Columbia County. Before the railroad was built he drove a stage between Hudson and Kinderhook to the north. ("Deaths in Northern Dutchess County and Southern Columbia County, from the **Red Hook Journal**," p.274.)

The railroad referred to was possibly an extension to Hudson of the Albany & Schenectady line built about (?). If not, what road was it?

Tuesday, 26

*"Spent this day to Alfred. Pleasant. Made tatting. Set up more laice [lace]. Call[ed] at Clem. Went with them to a convention..."*

Obviously she was visiting a distant Alfred, possibly in the eastern part of Dutchess County. Clem was not identified.

Wednesday, 27

*"...started home. Mr. Judd came with me. Stopped twice for rain, Thunder Showers, Hail. Got home 4."*

Mary Feller, eldest daughter of Philip Feller, (thus Permelia's sister) had been married to Randall Judd. She was no longer living, having died in 1864. Although she was buried in Manorton her husband is not there.

Friday, 29

*"...carried Mr. Judd to Tivoli. Took the Wagon to Thea & [put] horse in the lot..."*

Mr. Judd may have taken a train from Tivoli to a Rensselaer County destination. Since his son, Samuel, was born there he may still have lived in that county. Was this "Thea", whose horse and wagon Permelia had borrowed, neighbor Thea Phillips on Salisbury Road? (See also May 4.)

Saturday, 30

*"...picked Churries for pie & baked pie..."*

July, Monday, 2

*"...picked churries & pitted them. Howed [hoed] potatoes."*

Tuesday, 3

*"...howed potatoes. Cousin Jane was hear. Made tatting. Went up to Hiram for milk."*

Cousin Jane is not positively identified. She could have been the wife of Cassius Wheeler. Their child was baptized in 1868, according to church records in the Red Hook Library. Hiram was probably Hiram Osterhout, nearby, on Salisbury Road. For several days in early July the diarist



hoed potatoes and finally completed going over the patch for the first time during the current growing season. She worked in the garden also and picked raspberries and cherries between repeated thunder showers. In addition, she made a cake and baked pies and bread, sprinkled clothes and ironed.

Thursday, 12

*"...picked geese [probably at the Hits place--see several August, September, October and November notes]. Picked churries. Was sick..."*

Sunday, 15

*"...went to the Corner Church [at Elizaville]. Call[ed] at Clarks and Osterhouts. Picked berries..."*

We have finally determined that the Clarks were in the Elizaville area of Columbia County but they were not found on the maps. Pictures of Mr. & Mrs. Calvin H. Clark of "Albia, N.Y." are in the photo album. Albia was not located. Albion is in western New York. Albia may have been a suburb of Troy for it was sometimes written in conjunction with that place in the album. On the 16th she was still picking cherries as well as some kind of berries.

Tuesday, 17

*"Spent this day home. Thunder showers, very high wind. Went out[for] berries. Set in bacon. Patched. Ripped my Dress. Called on U.Z. [Uncle Zack]."*

July 21 - Baked and made calls (Pells, Fulmers and Theodore).

July 22 - *"...went to Church to the Corner. Picked peas; cleaned up the brush."* ["Brush" was often set in the ground

to support the pea vines.]

July 23-31 - She was again sewing: "Arthur shirt," "Edman's pants," "Isaac shirt." She received calls from Mr. & Mrs. Teats and Turner, Martha, Mary, Mr. & Mrs. Wheeler; kept an eye on Uncle Z., as usual, and stopped at Theodore's.

Perhaps Edman was Edmund Phillips (23), son of Nicholas? An "Edmin Phillips" of Milan had his picture and signature in Permelia's album, dated March 9, 1863. J.H. Teats was at the south end of Spring Lake in Red Hook and "J.I." and "P." were in Milan on Milan Hill Road. Two others were close together on the north end of Becker Hill Road and opposite it on Route 56. Turner is unidentified unless this is the first name of a Teats son. Theodore was probably T. Phillips, about 32, son of neighbors Jacob and Maria on Spring Lake/Williams Road. However, a T. Phillips also lived on Salisbury Road in the next house south of Mrs. Feller. There were berries still to be picked and a constant production of baked goods. Calls were made to Thea (same individual?), the Hapemans and N.(Nicholas) Phillips--from which she got home at dusk. Letters were received from Marilia and sent to Catharine (Smith?) on the 26th and to A. Anson on the 29th (still not positively identified, but see the Wednesday, June 20, note).

August, Wednesday, 1

A visit was made to the Village Store (Elizaville? Upper Red Hook?), with calls at Uncle Z.'s, the (Hits?), and Thea again. Work was begun on pants for N. Phillips. On the 2nd she made "entons cakes". (What **are** these?) Emden was a seaport in northwestern Prussia--any connection, although



this was nowhere near the Palatinate? On the 3rd she rejoiced, "*finished them pants.*" There is a possibility that "Hits" could be Hicks or Hitz (or even Zitz), but none were found on the 1867 maps, censuses, etc. There were Hicks families in Columbia County nearby. One source mentioned a "Zitz," represented currently by a Gregory Zitz family on Shookville Road, Red Hook, and others in the area (see telephone book).

Saturday, 4

"...went down to Widow Coons."

Mrs. Henry H. Coon (Elizabeth Van Etten) had died on June 7. Henry W. Coon (46) was still living in 1870, as was his wife, Elizabeth (38). Whose widow was this one?

Sunday, 5

"Spent this day at Wi[dow] Coons. Rained very little. Went to Sunday School & Church. Got home dark."

Was this at Shookville or Elizaville?

Monday, 6

"...Mrs. Coon & I went A beering..." [berrying]

Wednesday, 8

"...drawed sod in the yard. Went up to the Church." [More sod work followed on Friday.]

Aug. 12 - "...went to Corner Church..."

Aug. 13 - "...braided onions. Sewed on Isaac vest."

Aug. 15 - "...went to clean the church. Called to Coons &

Smith."

To W. Coon near Shookville? There was an "A.S." (Smith?) house in Shookville. On the old maps the owner's full name usually appeared on another nearby house but in this case it did not. We may still question whether the church being cleaned was the one in Shookville, or the Elizaville Methodist Church.

Aug. 18 - "...went up to Hudson."

Aug. 19 - "...picked plums. [Sunday!] Rained some. Went up to E. Fulton."

Aug. 20 - "...went after Elder berries. Called to N. Phillips & Thea, Stoar & Smiths."

Aug. 21 - "...to [Hits?]. Washed. Blacked the stove... Came home. Baked pies. Call[ed] to Uncle Z."

Wednesday, 22

"Spent this day to the Corner [Church] fair... Called to Coons & Clarks."

She was present at the fair for parts of three days. On the 23rd she also called on Uncle Z., the Coons, Clarks and Smiths, and, on both the 23rd and 24th, "came home with Philip H. Coopernail." The family name is spelled both "Coopernail" and "Coppernail" on the 1867 map of Red Hook, where "J.W." lived west of Upper Red Hook on Pitcher Lane and "George" had two houses on present-day Williams Road in the northeast corner of Town. Philip H. Coopernail was a son of David, who lived near Shookville on the 1867 map of Milan. Philip was 31. J. Coopernail



lived near Rock City, in Milan, on Sawmill Road. A John Coopernail (1830-1913), married to Julia A. Hapeman (1834-1912), is buried in the Upper Red Hook cemetery.

Saturday, 25

*"Spent this day at Fulton. Road up part way with Peat [Pete] Leavy. Churned. Cleaned up. Hiram Osterhout Girl borne."*

The Leavy name did not appear on the 1867 maps or censuses of either Dutchess Town. (There are currently two "Leavys" in the Red Hook phone book.) There is a Leavy cemetery marker at Elizaville. The 1873 Beers **Atlas** of Columbia County shows a "P. Levy" on the north side of East Kerley's Corners Road near Pleasant Vale Road--west of Elizaville in the Town of Livingston. Levy (age 49) is in the 1865 New York State census. (Printed copy in the Hudson Library.) Osterhouts were Feller neighbors, who already had a 7-year-old boy, Eugene (mentioned in the 1865 census) before the birth of the girl, above.

Sunday, 26

*"Spent this day at Fulton. Pleasant. Cleaned up. Had clams soup [soup] for dinner. Got home dusk."*

Monday, 27

*"Spent this day at [Hitz?]. Rained some. Washed. Came home. Went after elder berries. Called at Uncle Z. and Elkenburg[hs]. Jacob Phillips came."*

Jacob Phillips was probably the one near the northern end of Spring Lake in Milan although there was another J. Phillips at its southern end in the Town of Red Hook in District 6. One Mrs. Elkenburgh was in District 6 also, in the far

northeast corner of Red Hook. She was not far from Uncle Z. in northwest Milan. Other Elkenburghs were in District 10 in Livingston north of Twin Lakes (1873 map). W. Elkenburgh (1786-1870) and Maria Magley (1796-1880)--therefore both living in 1866 at ages 80 and 70--were buried at Manorton. They had lived on Route 19, on the left just north of Hapeman Road near the present-day diner. His first wife had died in 1856. Today's small house does not look old, unless greatly altered and deteriorated.

The writer returned to the (Hits?) on the 28th. She ironed and peeled pears to preserve, then called at Thea's (Phillips) and Uncle Z.'s.

Plentiful garden and orchard produce was demanding instant preservation during these late August and early September days: Permelia pitted plums and peeled apples to dry and braided "onyens". (In spare moments she was sewing a dress for her mother.) On September 7 and again on the 14, some kind of berries were still being picked for pies.

On September 7, also, a Mr. Niles died. Maps, censuses and **Old Gravestones** show no Niles families in Red Hook or Milan. However, the funeral was held on September 9 at the Corner Church, where his cemetery marker has since been found. Although he began his church life at the Shookville church according to that church's records in the Red Hook Library, he was finally affiliated with the Methodist Church in Elizaville, Columbia County, where he, his wife Louisa and son Silas are buried. Jeremiah Niles' burial place is marked by a monument which is impressive when compared with most others in the cemetery. The 1860 census lists his place of residence as Gallatinville.



More geese were being picked at the (Hits?) place during this month. On the 9th "Jim Hermans" boy was born. (As noted before, J. Hermance was on the west side of Mitchell Lane in Milan, just off Route 56. No house is there in 1996.) By the 13th grapes were being picked. On the memorable 14th, John Fulmer's boy died (probably the son of the Shookville Fulmer) and Theodore Teator's boy was born. The census showed that Theodore Teator was, in 1850, the 14-year-old son of John A. and Anna Teator, in Milan. He would have been 30 at the time of the diary, but was not located on the Milan map under T. Teator or J. Teator.

On the 15th Permelia made several calls--E. Fulton, Thea Teator (father of the new baby), the Pells, and the Phillips. On the 16th (Sunday) she went "over to Shookvill." She rode part way with John Eloy (Ely? - not identified). Then she went down to the Village with Rob H. (Was he a son of Mrs. Hapeman on Route 56?) She came back with John Pells. (Of course, we already know that J. Pells was on the map west of School No.9, facing Route 56, on the north side. It is an attractive house today, set back from the road. It was then the home of John and Kate (Allendorf) Pells.)

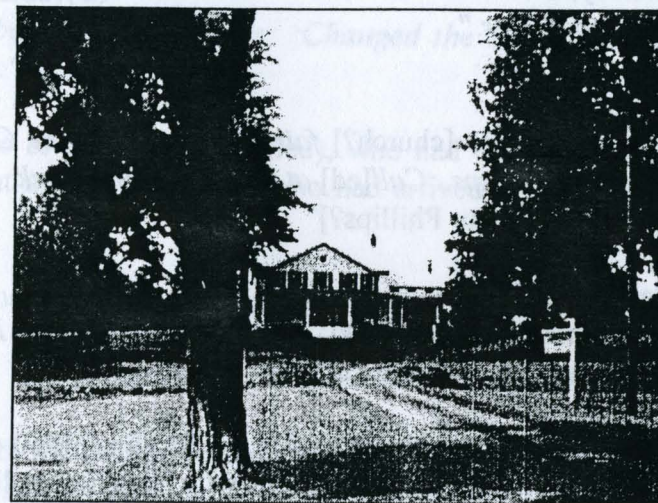
The variety and volume of the writer's activities throughout were most amazing!

Tuesday, 18

*"Spent this day home. Rained some. Washed. Pickled pears. Took Mead's Horse to shop [blacksmith, I assume]. Called at Mead's stoar and Clarks. Made tatting..."*

Wednesday, 19

*"...went in the forenoon to the Funeral. Had Mead Horse &*



Home of John and Kate(Allendorf) Pells, Route 56, Milan  
Photo - Eleanor Rogers

*Wagon."*

Someone had died on the 17th by the name of B. Magl(e)y. He was not located in Elizaville or Manorton cemeteries. A "C. Magley" lived in Elizaville in 1873, and a "Mrs. Magley" lived in District 7 in Gallatin, close to Weaver Hollow, now Snyderville.

Saturday, 22

*"...picked plums for pies. Cleaned up. Chopped wood. Made tatting."*

Sunday, 23

*"...to the Corner Church. Wrote to William Wheeler."*

Later (1873) there was a "W." northeast of Gallatinville.



Monday, 24

"...dug potatoes."

Tuesday, 25

"Mother went to [church?] fair... Went up to the Church. Washed the lamps. Call[ed] at Coons, Smith, Clark... Went up to Arth [Arthur Phillips?]"

Wednesday, 26

"Spent this day to Arth[ur's]... Hung up the wash for Hellen; took care of her Children..."

Arthur was a son of Jacob and Maria Phillips (1850 census, Milan), but in 1865 Arthur and his wife Hellen were listed in the Town of Red Hook.

Thursday, 27

"...went to the Corner Church at Night with Thea... [Theodore Phillips, or Teator?]"

Friday, 28

"...Valentine [not positively identified] came here... Betty[?] was here [also not identified]. Had a big run for Chickens."

There was once a Valentine Wheeler in **Dover**, who died in 1782. Could the above Valentine have been a grandson, or even a son of that man, since Wheelers were so prominent in the diary? There was also a Mrs. Valentine Fingar in Red Hook at a much later date (1883/84). Other first-name "Valentines" appeared occasionally in censuses. Were the chickens being rounded up for winter quarters after their customary summer of freedom? Or were a few needed for dinner or the butcher shop?

Saturday, 29

"...baked bread & pies. Changed the stoves--blackened one."

Cass & Tiny(not identified), who had come on the 27th, went away. Valentine, who had arrived on the 28th, also left.

Monday Oct. 1 - "...dug Potatoes..."

Oct. 3 - [Once more], "Eugene and I run for the chickens."

There was a Eugene Allendorf, second child of Christian, Jr. and Ellen Lown, age in 1866 undetermined, who at some time married Anna Smith. (**Commemorative**, p.920) Another Eugene was a 28-year-old butcher listed in the 1870 census for Red Hook. He might have wanted chickens to sell in 1866 when he was 24. Eugene was also a 7 or 8-year-old son of neighbor Hiram Osterhout (1865 census). That same day five women visited: Mary Barker, Josephine (Feller?), Mary Coon, Matillia Coon and Tiny Shook.

Oct. 4 - Permelia dug more potatoes.

Oct. 7 - "...Peter Wheeler & wife was hear. Uncle Jeremia [Jeremiah] & Cousin came."

Peter C. Wheeler was a carpenter in Red Hook in the 1870 census. His wife's name was Margaret. Peter would have been 58 years old in 1866. There was a Jeremiah Cronk married to Aunt Catherine Ringsdorf.

Oct. 8 - "Called at Cousin David's and Edward Coons. ...Cut off roots [root vegetables such as carrots and beets?]"



One Edward Coons, 46, was a hotelkeeper in Red Hook in 1865. There was a Red Hook Hotel on the 1867 map. A younger Edward was a 19-year-old laborer in 1870 (son of the above?).

Oct. 9 - "...went after nuts; cut off roots..."

Oct. 11 - "...went with Theodore to the Village; had my measure taken. Called at Snooks & Fulmers. Took tea at P. Wheelers."

There was a John (laborer, age 63) and Catherine Snook in the 1870 census and the burial records of the Red Hook Lutheran Church. St. Paul's of Red Hook was Lutheran. (The German Reformed congregation from Pink's or Wey's Corners, Town of Rhinebeck, later united with the Lutheran of Red Hook.) The Snook's residence was not located.

Oct. 12 - Henry Lambert died.

There were two Lamberts on the 1867 Red Hook map: "J." on Route 199 at Hapeman Hill Road and "H." on Route 9 opposite Rockefeller Lane, the latter perhaps remaining on the map though he had died in 1866, probably too late for the map to be changed.

Oct. 14 - "...to church to the Corner. Came down to Will Coons [at Shookville?], had dinner. Came home with A. Coon [not identified--son of Will?]"

A William W. Coon was active in the Shookville Church from at least 1847-89 at ages 47-69. One by that name died at Shookville in 1899 (**Red Hook Journal**). There was an "A. Coon" in the northeast corner of Red Hook

in 1867.

Oct. 16 - "...up to Elisa [Elisha] Ful[ton's]. Took care of the baby." [Probably John Parker Fulton, born in 1866.]

Oct. 17 - [At Fulton's.] "Took care of the baby, peeled pears, sewed."

Oct. 18 - "...At Fulton. ...peeled quinces & apples... Abbia Hapeman married."

In the 1865 census there was an Abbie Hapeman, 18, a boarder with John and Angelica Gray. A "J. Gray" lived on Route 199 west of Red Hook. See also February 21 notes on the name "Catherine Hapeman". One John Grey was a storekeeper at Union Corner (Elizaville) on the 1873 map.

Oct. 24 - Permelia called at "Alendorph" among others--Anse Wheeler (See Endnote 1.), Snooks, Cooks, and Teator. G.N. Allendorf lived on Route 56 near Jackson Corners, not too far from Permelia's neighborhood. Three other Allendorfs were on Feller Newmark Road in Red Hook, which runs between Hapeman Hill Road and Route 9, ending on Route 9 between Red Hook and Upper Red Hook.

Thursday, 25

"Spent this day pleasant. Went up to Edwin Vosburgh. Cut out a hood. Sewed. Went over to Church." [Elizaville was nearby.]

E. Vosburgh was in Red Hook, District 6, north-east corner near the Milan line. The hood was evidently for Christina Vosburgh, for on the following day the diarist wrote: "finished Christinah hood." The 1865 census listed



Christinah as Edwin's wife. Edgar (Edwin?) Vosburgh (d.1870, age 44 years) and wife Christina (d.Mar.1, 1914, age 79 years, 7 months) are buried in the Upper Red Hook cemetery.

Saturday, 27

*"...cleaned door yard. In the afternoon to Edwin Coons [the Red Hook hotelkeeper?]. Knit lace. Went to Cous[in] D.F."*

Was this the "Cousin David" mentioned so often before, probably a Feller--but not a son of Zachariah?

Sunday, 28

*"Spent this day to C.D.F. [see above]. ...went to Church in the morning. Went up with Nelson Huthings [Hutchings] in the evening."*

No "Hutchings" of any possible spelling was found in Dutchess County records of this period. However, a Nelson Hutchings was found to be the son of Jacob (40), 1825-1900, and Serena (42), 1823-96, in the 1865 New York State census of Columbia County. He would have been 17. Hutchings stones located at Manorton are illegible except for a Nelson born in 1863, too young to satisfy this diary reference. The Nelson referred to could have been this 3-year-old's father. A "J. Hutchings" lived on White Oak Road north of Twin Lakes in Columbia County in 1873. (Jacob?)

Wednesday, 31

*"Put on woolen stock[ings]. ...call to Uncle Z. & Thea. Took Mother up to Hiram Wheeler. Call[ed] to Fultons & [Hits?]. Went to Church. Came back with E.C. [Emerick Coon?]"*

What was Hiram Wheeler's location? There was formerly one by that name in Pine Plains; also a former minister at Manorton from 1851-58, who was at Woodstock from 1868-70. Only the years 1859-67 are not accounted for.

Emerick Coon was mentioned on December 23, 1866, using his full name. Emmerich, by the way, is the surname of one of the early Palatine women, born in 1716--and an Allendorf ancestor. Emerick's given name could have been derived from this family.

November, Thursday, 1

*"...berred readishes..."* [Some root vegetables were preserved in sand for winter use.]

Friday, 2

*"...went to Church to the Corner. Sheeled corne..."*

Saturday, 3

*[Busy day!] "...in the afternoon up to Fulton's taking care of Children. Fulton fetch me home. Went up to [Hits?]. Baked bread & pies."*

Sunday, 4

*"...peeled apples, cleaned Chickens, sheeled Corne. Mother Came home. Uncle & Cousin went home with Jophean [Josephine] Feller."*

Monday, 5

*"...took off the Cabbage & beets & readishes... Henry Kipp died."*

There was a Henry Kipp in the 1860 census for Milan as an innkeeper, who also appeared in the 1865 census. On the



1867 map a J. Kipp house was in District 7 in Milan, a mile or so south of Rock City. There is probably no connection because of his location so far distant from the Fellers.

Tuesday, 6

*"...cleaned house, put the bed down; put on drawers. Went to Church."*

Fall housecleaning begins in earnest and winter clothing is in vogue!

Wednesday, 7

*"...put down carpets, shook them. Put down oil cloth. Sewed. Went to Church with John Hermans."*

One J. Hermance lived at the beginning of Mitchell Lane, west side, just off Route 56 near E. Fulton, where there is no house today.

Thursday, 8

*"...went to Church. Came part way back with Mead team. Phill & M. walk[ed]."*

Permelia had a brother Philip who was or had been married to Cornelia Pulver and would not be expected to be living at home. This "Phill" could have been Phil Coopernail, however. (See Nov. 24 notes.) Did "M." stand for Mother? There must have been a series of meetings during a Methodist revival occurring about 1866, for there were church services on many week nights in addition to Sundays. This was probably the "Corner Church" (Methodist) at Elizaville.

Friday, 9

*"...fixed hoop skirt & dress..."*

Sunday, 11

*"...went to church in the morning & evening. Came home with Peter Stickle..."*

The 1865 census of Red Hook lists a Peter Stickle, 28, as a servant in the household of the French-born Fritz family. In Milan, a J.W. Stickle lived on Salisbury Road at the Columbia County line (1867 map) and might have had a son Peter. There were several Sticksles in Red Hook at this time but they were not likely subjects. A "Peter Stickle" enlisted from there in the Civil War in 1862 and was discharged on June 8, 1865. (Wm. Benson's list). He would have been 25.

Monday, 12

*"...took care of Arthur Children."*

Tuesday, 13

*"...made our 'seurow' [sour?] cabbage[sauerkraut?]. Henry Coons, Jr. Baby born."*

One Junior was found to have been buried in the Manorton cemetery: Henry H. Coon, Jun., July 14, 1813-Mar. 15, 1890. Elizabeth Van Etten was his wife (1810-66). However, they were too old in 1866 to have just become parents. This was obviously a different family, perhaps a son.

Friday, 16

*"...to the...Lower Village with Mead millners."*

The fifth building on the north side of East Market



Street in Red Hook (1867) was "Mrs. M. Millinery."

Saturday, 17

"...went down to Sands Osterhout [not identified] to Dinner & Tea. Called at Pells & Fulmers. Knit."

As stated before, an "A. Fulmer" was on the north side of Route 56 in the Town of Red Hook, near Hapeman Hill Road, (west of Warackamac Lake which is on the line between Red Hook and Milan) and not too far west of the Pell home.

Sunday, 18

"...went to Church in the morning & Evening. Came home with Emrick Coons [never identified]."

Monday, 19

"...darnt my dress & vail; ripped Mother's dress."

This was the beginning of a time of sewing.

Tuesday & Wednesday, 20th and 21st

"...sewed on Mother dress. Went to Church in the eaving."

Thursday, 22

"Spent this day home. Snowed & rained. Finished Mother dress. Made two Collars for Sam. [Which Sam?] Cut out Mother & me wone [one]."

Friday, 23

"...finished our collars, hemmed two hankercheif, knit lace. Snowed and rained some."

Saturday, 24

"...in the afternoon walked down to Shook Vill. Called at Coopernail & John Foolmer. Went to C[hurch?]. Poot on my Flanel."

David Coopernail, about 43 in the 1850 census, lived on Shookville Road just north of the hamlet of Shookville, near



Ruins, Shookville German Reformed Church/Methodist Church, built 1834 on Shookville Road, Milan.

Photo - Eleanor Rogers

the church but on the east side of the road. David was a carpenter with a son, Philip H., 15. By 1866 they were 59 and 31 respectively. A listing of deaths (p.52) in the Red Hook Library says that David Coopernail, an "Old resident of the town, died Milan Saturday." (**Red Hook Journal**, January 5, 1877). His wife, Eliza E., died in 1879.

Viewing it from the north end, Shookville Road is now a narrow gravel road. In traveling it we find many small ups, downs and curves in this road through the woods. It is three miles from the Feller site to the ruined Shookville Church.



J.W. Fulmer lived in one of a group of houses in the hamlet-not now recognizable as such. An active church was there, on the west side of the road leading north. It was a stone building originally constructed in 1834 by Jacob and Peter Shook for the use of both German Reformed and Methodist congregations but was already in ruins when Burton Coon (born in 1871) wrote his reminiscences for a volume of the church records found in the Red Hook Library Genealogy Room. His contribution is undated so is useless in determining the date of the abandonment of the ruined Shookville Church. The roofless, windowless, tree-shaded remnant with a crumbling stucco surface and a still well-groomed cemetery, is easily seen today at the south end of Shookville Road.

Sunday, 25

*"Spent this day to Coons. Snowed some. Went to Church. In the afternoon laid down until tea. Came up to the Corner with Emrick."*

A "W. Coon" lived just north of the Shookville Church on the opposite side, back from the road. Was Emrick his son? Was Burton (mentioned in the Nov. 24 note) a descendant?

Monday, 26

*"...rune the heels [heels] of Stockens."*

Knitting term. More of this work was done on Tuesday, when she also went to church again and came home with Emrick.

Wednesday, 28

*"...Thea [Phillips?] butchered & we killed our hog up there."*

Thursday, 29

*"W. Coons & [Min?] Mead married... Went up to Thea. Cut sausage meat and 'grown' [ground] it. Maid them, hung up some [link sausages?]"*

On the same day there was further meat preparation such as cleaning heads. The next day she 'fried out' (our term was '**tried out**') lard, made headcheese, and cleaned feet. This type of pork processing went on for several days. (In the same breath she wrote of the delicate procedure of knitting lace!) On Sundays and several nights during the week she continued church-going, usually riding with Emrick and sometimes with Frank (the latter not identified either).

December, Saturday, 1

*"...drawed of[f] cider..."*

Monday, 3 - Saturday, 8

Again at Fulton's for five days, where she "*cleaned barrels & scoured*" and did more work relating to pork butchering.

On the 5th, Emma LaDue was married. In the Elizaville cemetery there is a monument to Hiram Couse, 128 Reg. N.Y.V.I., 1839-1900, Emma J. LaDue, his wife, 1852-1887, and Oscar, their son, 1877-1892. But **this** Emma would have been only 14 in 1866!

Sunday, 9

*"Spent this day, got breakfast to Fultons, washed up the dishes. Came down home... com[b]ed & dressed. Went up to Hudson with Mr. Fulton. Stayed to Van Tassel's."*

It was at least 20 miles to Hudson. Was Van Tassel's a hotel



or a family? A few Van Tassels are buried at Manorton. Some lived in the Town of Gallatin as well. (See notes for Mar. 7.)

Monday, 10

"Spent this day. [!] Got up in the morning. [!] Breakfast to Van Tassel's. Went out in streat, don traiding. Got shoos, dress, diary. Had my dinner to Tass [Van Tassel's]. Started home. Coons hear."

The W. Coon family? Their home, if correctly identified, was about three miles from the Fellers, near the Shookville Church.

Tuesday, 11 - Another reference to "set in five emton cakes." What were they? The words are clearly written. These items were "set" as bread dough was also "set" to rise.

Dec. 12 - "Catharine Coon married. ...maid emton Cakes."

Catherine was not identified in any Coon family investigated but Coons were too numerous to search thoroughly.

Dec. 13 - "Tiny Dikeman married. ...walked down to the village, had my dress cut. Sewed on it."

Was Miss Dykeman Jacob Dykeman's daughter? (See May 31 entry.)

Dec. 14 - "...sewed on my skirt."

Dec. 15 - "...went to the Corner Church quarterly meeting, spent the eaveing to Uncle Z. [with] other company."

Dec. 16 - "...our first snow...went to the Corner Church." [Very cold the next day.]

Dec. 19 - "...went up to Fultons, then to Art. Called at schoolhouse. Rode home with Henry Becker."

H. Becker is on the 1867 map of the Town of Red Hook, in the Joint District near the south end of Spring Lake, and was a farmer in 1865.

Dec. 20 - "...poot up my skirt & quilted it. Commenced Arthur west [vest]." [Continued sewing on the 21st and 22nd.]

Dec. 25 - [Tuesday - Christmas Day] "...call[ed] to Cous[in] David [and] Edwin Coons. Went to church [with] Emric[k]."

Dec. 26 - "...snowed in the Night... Martin Fellers died."

A "Martin Feller" is buried in the Feller Ground one mile east of Upper Red Hook, according to **Old Gravestones**, p.276. This cemetery, somewhere around the south end of Spring Lake, has not been observed. It is apparently difficult to spot from a car at any time of year. In 1867 a "Mrs. Feller" lived between Spring Lake and Upper Red Hook--was she the widow? (An "A. Feller" had two places nearby.)

In the **Gravestone** book the date of Martin's death was reported as December 28, 1867, age 63 years, 8 months. The dates don't agree, probably due to the illegibility of the stones, but this is very likely the same person. There was no Martin Feller in the 1865 census of Red Hook, however. At the very end of Permelia (Feller) Wheeler/Allendorf's



1866 diary, there appears an unusually low-key entry (even for her!) to terminate the year:

Monday, 31

*"Spent this day pleas[ant]. Washed. Home. E[d]gar Vosburg[h] fetch[ed] me. Cut drawers & sewed."*

## AFTERWORD

As we reflect on the Feller diary we are aware that Permelia was influenced both by her Palatine heritage of hard work, and by the fact that her father (having lived in 1820 and 1840 in Columbia County) was later listed in Milan censuses from 1850 to 1865 only as "laborer," "day laborer," and "farmer". Therefore, especially in his older years they were a poor, but hard-working, and respected family, involved constructively in various ways with many of their neighbors and with nearby relatives. The need to contribute financially also influenced Permelia strongly. In 1860 and 1865 grandson Samuel Judd was part of the household. In 1860, for unknown reasons, daughter Permelia was not included but in 1865 she and youngest son, John, were also with Philip and Mary at the corner of Salisbury and Spring Lake Roads. Their other children were no longer at home.

Early in 1866, Philip had died at age 74. Three months later John (25) was killed by a falling tree, leaving Permelia and her mother alone to care for themselves, possibly aided by nearby relatives. The energetic Permelia was already 27 and

a very capable person whose cash income derived from housework, child care and sewing and mending for neighbors. At home she baked, sewed, knitted, made lots of tatting, did all sorts of "fancy-work," and gardened and split wood and cleaned house as well--the latter no easy task in those days when a thorough annual job was made of it. She was frequently concerned with shoes and hats and hoop skirts, too-- in spite of her practicality.

The Feller home place apparently had a few fruit trees and some berries, which were supplemented by wild berries and nuts whenever possible. The two thrifty housewives maintained chickens and a pig, but no cow, for milk was gotten from a neighboring farm. There seemed to be no horse either, for reaching distant destinations was on foot or by chance or planned rides with acquaintances and neighbors. Very occasionally travel was by borrowed or rented horse and buggy, especially for funerals or unusually long trips.

The Feller house seems to have been fairly large, for there was occasionally one (or even two) overnight guests, with references made here and there to pantry, cellar and a second floor.

Self-sufficient and unafraid, Permelia had travelled alone via New York City in the winter of 1866 to places in and around Scranton, Pa., where she visited relatives. Later on, nearby Tivoli, Hudson, and two nights at an unidentified spot in eastern Dutchess County were her only other excursions during 1866. From the context, she seems to have travelled alone on the latter trip, but brought Mr. Judd, her sister's widower, back with her.



## ENDNOTES

1. In the 1855 census of Columbia County a Samuel Wheeler appears as the fifth child (age 5) of six in the family of Andros (44, b.1811) and Polly Jane (34, b.1821) Wheeler of Gallatin, respectively 55 and 45 in 1866. The family lived in a frame house, neighbors to Snyders and Rows. (State census, Columbia County, at Columbia-Greene Community College Library) As for the need to check Civil War lists, he was only 11 at the beginning of the war so would not have appeared. Due to the wide age difference between Permelia Feller and Samuel (12 years), the above child may not have been the one who became her husband Samuel in the mid-1870's.

An Andris (1786-1867, age 81) and Catharine (1790-1862, age 72) Wheeler are buried in Gallatin--perhaps the parents of Andros (above), who was married to Polly Jane.

2. Rev. Henry I. (J?) Hoag, born in 1851, is buried in the cemetery of the Elizaville Methodist Church. His death date has not been added to the stone, a small, weathered, light gray obelisk. At age 40, in 1891, he probably performed the marriage as minister of that church which Permelia had attended.

3. Johannes (John) Ringsdorf, native of Germany who emigrated in 1710, had a son, Lorenz, born between 1718-20, who had a son, Johannes (John), baptized October 15, 1750. This grandson of the immigrant (whose wife was probably Mary Lasher) was apparently the father of Mary Ringsdorf, third wife of Philip D. Feller. The first American-generation Johannes had also an older son, Johannes, who in turn had a son Johannes (baptized 1738),

cousin to Lorenz's son Johannes, father of Mary (Ringsdorf) Feller. (W.P. McDermott files) There were John, Philip and Simon Ringsdorfs, heads of families in the 1820, 1830 and 1840 censuses of the Town of Taghkanik in Columbia County. In 1830, an 80-90 year old male was living with Philip, perhaps Johannes (John), son of Lorentz, who had been baptized in 1750. It is impossible to verify individuals with certainty because only age-range groups are given in the early censuses.

4. Ethel Timmer's maternal great-great grandfather was Christian Allendorf, Sr. (1761-1833) whose father, Henrick Anton (1735-95), emigrated from Germany to Columbia or Dutchess County. Reportedly, Christian, Sr. was a carpenter who became a farmer in the Town of Red Hook. (He fought in the Revolutionary War with the 6th Regt.) Henrick's wife's grandfather (a Becker) also emigrated to the U.S. in 1710. His first marriage was to a Miss Fraleigh. Their children were: Philip (m. Elizabeth Stickle), Henry C. (m. Miss Fraleigh), William (m. Miss Stickle), and Maria (m. Daniel Paults). His second wife was Margaret Cole. Their children were Elizabeth (1811?-67), who married Daniel C. Perine (1805-52), and Christian, Jr. (1819-96). (CBR, p.919-20)

5. A daughter of George and Emeline C. Allendorf, Georgianna, was married to a Tompkins. This proved to be Richard Tompkins of Red Hook. Georgianna and Richard were married on January 20, 1875, in a ceremony performed by the Rev. D.B. Wyckoff. She was 31, born ca.1844 in Dutchess County according to the 1865 state census. In the 1880 census she was again living at home with parents George N. (1815-92) and Catherine (Stall) Allendorf (1811-99). The latter are buried in the Gallatin Cemetery. (Are



Catherine and Emeline C. the same person?) Brother William was also a member of the household. Tompkins seems to have died in the 5-year period between his marriage to Georgianna and the census of 1880.

6. John Fulton, to whom the Fulton homestead was deeded in 1795, was born in 1740 and died in 1832. His wife was Eliza Teator (1747-1816). Their son was Ephraim (1783-1856) who married Susannah Feller (1784-1865). Ephraim and Susannah's son was Ephraim Elisha (1824-1903). His wife was Margaret Smith (1827-1884). Their children were Susie (1861-1913), Ephraim (b.1863, died at 8 months), Jennie Z. (1864-1956), John Parker (1866-1932), and Warren (b.1867, died at one year 10 months). All of the family above are listed on a monument south of the church building in the cemetery of St. John's Reformed Church in Upper Red Hook. It appears to be a pink marble column topped with a gray stone Corinthian capital, standing on a sturdy gray stone base.

Apparently, according to the historical marker at the farm off Route 56, the Fulton property passed out of the family in 1933 after the death of John Parker Fulton in 1932.

7. The "White Church," (referred to in this way according to **Old Gravestones**, p.294, to distinguish it from the "Old Red Church," founded ca.1752), was located east of Tivoli at an intersection with the road to Germantown. This road is Route 9-G at present, which, from Annandale Road on its west side, northward to Lasher Road leading east, closely follows the old road. The White Church(1818-68) was at the northwest corner of the intersection of 9-G and West Kerley's Corners Road, which runs directly into Tivoli. The 1867 map of the Town of Red Hook shows a church called "St. Paul's" there. (No historical marker is present on 9-G

there today.) St. Paul's Episcopal is now in the center of Tivoli.

The "Old Red Church" was a Reformed Dutch Church described as being at Madalin (**Old Gravestones**, p.282). Madalin appears to have been incorporated into Tivoli. Grist and plaster mills were shown on the 1867 map just north of the church on what was called "Stony Creek" (now White Clay Kill). The church was identified as a "D.R.Ch. [and] Cem." It was scarcely a mile north of "St. Paul's Ch." (the White Church). If we may believe the date marker above the door of "Old Red," this wood-frame building would be 243 years old. Is this possible? Or has the original structure been replaced at least once, as would seem likely?



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## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

### Primary sources

Two major sources of information were the Federal Censuses, 1820-1900 and the New York State Census, 1865. Maps, particularly the Beer's Dutchess County Atlas, 1865 and the Beer's Columbia County Atlas, 1873, and also Wigram Map, 1798 and recent road maps, were especially useful in locating families noted in Permelia Feller's diary. Additionally, the following microfilm copies of newspapers were consulted: the Hudson Register, the [Hudson] Register-Star and the Red Hook Journal.

Dutchess and Columbia County church records(births, marriages and deaths) transcribed by Arthur C.M. Kelly, were valuable sources of information about many of the families mentioned in the diary. Additionally, Arthur C.M. Kelly's **Settlers and Residents** volumes for the Town of Livingston in Columbia County provided information on families. The **Dutchess County Directory**, 1883/1884 was also consulted. Permelia Feller's bible and photograph album provided personal information about the diarist.

### Secondary sources

Dutchess County: J. Wilson Poucher, ed., **Old Gravestones of Dutchess County** (Poughkeepsie, 1924) and the **Commemorative Biographical Record**(Poughkeepsie, 1897). The latter should be used with special care.

Columbia County: Ellis et al, **History of Columbia County**(Hudson, 1878) and **Columbia County at the End of the Century**.

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