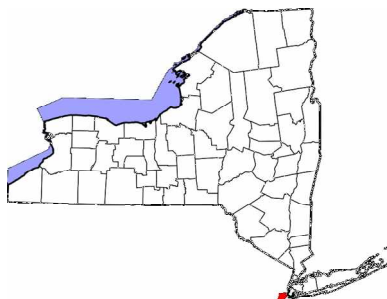


## Craft Masonry in Richmond County, New York

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[www.umdhs.syracusemasons.com](http://www.umdhs.syracusemasons.com)  
 December 2011



The Borough of Staten Island is coextensive with **Richmond County**, the southernmost county in the state of New York.



No.	Lodge Name	Village	Chartered			Notes
66	Richmond	Port Richmond	24 Jun 1825			Prev. No. 384; renumbered No. 66 in 1839; surrendered 8 Apr 1850; revived in 1851; merged with Aquehonga No. 906 on 1 Mar 1994 to become Richmond Aquehonga No. 66
66	Richmond-Aquehonga	Tottenville	01 Mar 1994	72		Richmond No. 66 and Aquehonga No. 906 consol to form Richmond-Aquehonga 66, 1 Mar 1994; Prev. name of New Dorp 1092 was Fort Wadsworth 1092, Apr 1928; Name changed to New Dorp, 24 May 1932; New Dorp 1092 consol with Richmond Aquehonga 66 to form Staten Island 66, 3 Jan 2009
66	Staten Island	Staten Island	03 Jan 2009			New Dorp 1092 consol with Richmond Aquehonga 66 to form Staten Island 66, 3 Jan 2009
145	Tompkins	Tompkinsville	06 Dec 1853			Masonic Hall burned down in 1856. Succeeded by Tompkins No. 471 in 1859.
381	Huguenot	Tottenville	10 May 1855	193 232		
384	Richmond	Tompkinsville	24 Jun 1825		444	renumbered No. 66 in 1839; Surrendered 8 Apr 1850; revived in 1851
471	Tompkins	Southfield / Middletown	Jun 1860			
685	Aquehonga	Richmond	18 Jun 1868		*	surrendered 30 Apr 1887; revived as No. 906 in 1914
701	Beacon Light	Staten Island	15 Jun 1870	322		Met at New Brighton until ca 1941; in Jun 1977 all of the Brothers became Honorary Members of Bruno Guglielmi Lodge No. 966 of Palermo, Italy
760	Klopstock	Stapleton	1875			Merged with and became Hermann Lodge No. 268 on 26 Jun 1998
906	Aquehonga	Stapleton	1914			merged with Richmond No. 66 on 1 Mar 1994 to become Richmond Aquehonga No. 66
912	Great Kills	Tottenville	14 May 1914	379		first meeting date
1092	Fort Wadsworth	New Dorp, Staten Island	Apr 1928			named changed to New Dorp No. 1092, 24 May 1932
1092	New Dorp	Tottenville	24 May 1932	404		Prev. name New Dorp 1092 was Fort Wadsworth 1092, Apr 1928; Name changed to New Dorp, 24 May 1932; New Dorp 1092 consol with Richmond Aquehonga 66 to form Staten Island 66, 3 Jun 2009
1130	La Guardia	Staten Island	ca 1949	410		

Morris's Memorial History of Staten Island, New York, Volume 2, by Ira K. Morris, 1900. page 266-274.  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=m-kTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA62&dq=%22Benjamin+Wood%22+%22staten+island%22&hl=en&ei=9-3aTsfJL8TV0QH6pMnkDQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CDQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Benjamin%20Wood%22%20%22staten%20island%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=m-kTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA62&dq=%22Benjamin+Wood%22+%22staten+island%22&hl=en&ei=9-3aTsfJL8TV0QH6pMnkDQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CDQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Benjamin%20Wood%22%20%22staten%20island%22&f=false)

#### FREEMASONRY ON STATEN ISLAND [as of 1900]

It was left to the period of the Revolution to witness the first Masonic organization on Staten Island, when a Provisional Lodge convened in the old Guyon homestead, at New Dorp. It was composed of British soldiers and a few residents of the Island. Meetings were held there at odd intervals up to the time that Sir Guy Carleton ordered the evacuation of Staten Island.

The visit of British officers, in 1812, led to a final effort to organize a lodge at Tompkinsville. They were entertained at Nautilus Hall, and a few days later prominent Masons from the city also came to the Island. They had learned of the visit of the British officers, and had come down to assist in organizing a lodge.

So far as we have been able to learn, no formal attempt was made to organize a Masonic lodge on Staten Island during the war. But about two years after peace was once more established, and Governor Daniel D. Tompkins (who was Grand Master of the State), had come to Staten Island to reside, a meeting was held for that purpose in his residence on Fort Hill. Freemasonry was growing more and more unpopular, and it was decided "to abandon the project until some future day."

More than a year passed before the little band of zealous members of the Order made another attempt at organization. A meeting was held at the residence of General Van Buren, in Tompkinsville. Beside Master Masons, several prominent citizens were present, who were anxious to join the Order, and it was the first occasion in which any encouragement was given towards the organization of a lodge. From that night, however, Richmond Lodge was a possibility. Informal meetings were held at frequent intervals, one of the leading spirits of which was Philpot Wolfe, a member of Hibernia Lodge, of London.

An incident occurred at that time which seems exceedingly ludicrous at the present. A rumor was started that the Masons were organizing on Staten Island for the purpose of controlling all the offices, schools and churches, and that Masons were to be exempted from taxation. The feeling against Freemasonry became intense, and at the general election, handbills bearing coffins, red hands, skulls and cross bones, and containing extravagant announcements, were distributed by anti-masons throughout the Island, in such a manner as to lead the unsophisticated to believe that they came directly from the Masons themselves. The result was that every candidate, known to be a Mason, was defeated.

Organizations, something on the order of vigilant committees, were formed in various parts of the Island, and every man known to be in any manner in sympathy with Freemasonry, was called upon. Threats and persuasion were indulged in, according to circumstances, and for the time being the plan for organizing a lodge was almost totally abandoned. This barrier, however, was finally broken down by means of a public picnic, given by the projectors of the lodge, on the lawn of Nautilus Hall. A general invitation was given to the people of Staten Island, and while many looked upon it with suspicion and distrust, enough were present to learn something of the good fellowship of Freemasonry, and to carry the tidings to their skeptical neighbors.

The faithful band once more set to work to organize a lodge. Quiet meetings were held in the private parlors of the various gentlemen interested, and a room on the top floor of Nautilus Hall was rented. It was fitted up as well as circumstances would permit.

The night of the organization of Richmond Lodge was a time that deserves a prominent place in the annals of Staten Island. It was a great event. At the banquet given in Nautilus Hall, in honor of the occasion, the Chaplain of the Grand Lodge, a white-haired veteran of the Order, arose and implored "Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, to let His richest blessings rest upon the infant organization, now and forever."

### **Richmond Lodge, No. 384**

The first charter was given [24 Jun 1825] to "**Richmond Lodge, No. 384**, Free and Accepted Masons." The anti-masonic crusade was at its height. There were two Grand Lodges in the State of New York—the "City Grand Lodge," with Most Worshipful Grand Master Hoffman at its head; and the "Phillips Grand Lodge," presided over by Most Worshipful Grand Master Phillips.

Richmond Lodge received its warrant from the City Grand Lodge, "to be located at Castleton, Staten Island." The first regular communication of Richmond Lodge was held in Nautilus Hall, on the evening of July 6, 1825; or, according to the Masonic manner of dating, A. L., 5825. The verbatim report of the event, taken from the original minutes, is as follows:

"At a regular meeting of Richmond Lodge, Masonic Hall. Tompkinsville, July 6th, A. L., 5825. Present:  
Benjamin Wood, W. M.;  
Augustus S. Lawrence, S. W.;  
John S. Westervelt, J. W.;  
James H. Ward, Secretary; and  
Richard Harcourt, Treasurer.

"A number of brethren convened, and the lodge opened in the E. A. Degree.

"The following candidates were proposed:

John N. Tucker,	John T. Merrell,	Robert Hazard,	Daniel Clawson,	John Clawson.
Henry Barger,	Daniel Simonson,	Benjamin Dodge,	Augustus Proalle,	
Henry H. Hibberton,	Denyse Denyse, Jr.,	Leonard Parkinson,	Stephen Kittletas and	

"After which the lodge was closed in due and ancient form." The Lodge at once began to grow, slowly but surely, and the brethren all the time were gaining confidence. A year after its organization, a public Masonic celebration and banquet were held at Richmond, on St. John's day. It is stated that there had never been so many people in Richmond as on that occasion, and the manner in which the ceremonies were conducted did a great deal to break down the anti-masonic feeling that pervaded the community.

The inadequate accommodations of the lodge-room were becoming more and more serious, and at every meeting the question was discussed. General Van Buren had, some time before, built a "large and commodious hotel" in Tompkinsville, and it contained a "large, airy, and well-lighted attic." This was rented and christened "Masonic Hall." And so, after remaining in Nautilus Hall for several years, Richmond Lodge turned its back on its first home.

During the year of 1830, the Lodge was practically at a standstill. The times were depressing. The year 1832 was one of horror to the people of Staten Island. Cholera, with all its vile and dreaded effects, scourged the Island from end to end. The result was that Richmond Lodge closed its doors for several months, until frost came, as a special dispensation from heaven, and removed the terrible epidemic.

In 1839, there was a revolution in the Masonic fraternity of this State. More than two-thirds of the lodges surrendered their charters, and went out of existence and hundreds of Masons withdrew from the Order, or affiliated with other lodges. Richmond Lodge, however, held its own, the only effect of the revolution being that it was granted a new charter, in consequence of the reorganization of the Grand Lodge, and it **became No. 66, instead of 384.**

The question of removing to the North Shore began to be agitated in 1845. This being defeated, a committee was appointed by the Lodge to select a place for "a branch of Richmond Lodge." The committee did not report satisfactorily, and another was appointed on August 18, "to ascertain if a room can be procured at Factoryville (West New Brighton), or some other suitable place on the North Shore, to have this Lodge removed at the end of the present year."

In 1849, the Lodge surrendered its charter, but the organization was not disbanded. The brethren met once a month in each other's residence, passed a social evening, and planned for reorganization. Finally it was decided to hold all its meetings at the residence of George T. Swaine, nearly opposite the Dutch Reformed Church, in Port Richmond; and it was in his parlor that they met, and kept unbroken the bond of brotherhood, which bound the founders of old Richmond together more than a quarter of a century before.

On the 21st of March, 1851, a meeting was held, and it was decided to reorganize at once, under the jurisdiction of the "Phillips" Grand Lodge, and their dispensation was issued on the 28th of the same month. Richmond was allowed to retain its old number, that of 66. On the 15th of April following, the brethren assembled in Bro. Swaine's parlor, and effected an organization. According to the minutes the following were present:

J. B. Ward,	WM;	Philpot Wolfe, Secretary;	Henry Barnes,
George W. Chambers,	SW;	and Bros.	James Smith and
George T. Swaine,	JW;	O. R. Martin,	Nicholas Kennedy.

The minutes go on to say: "The Lodge was opened in S. Degree of M. M. in due and ancient form. After an appropriate address by the W. M., the brethren visited the building that W. Bro. Swaine intended to fit up for a lodge, if approved by the brethren \* \* \* which was approved." The hall was dedicated on October 12, 1853.

Many interesting incidents occurred during the fleeting years that followed. The final effort of anti-freemasonry occurred in 1856. A political revolution was fast setting in, and down underneath the surface of public opinion there was a swift current that Masons generally were able to understand.

We now come to the period of the great Rebellion, and there were many names on the roll of Richmond Lodge that were transferred to the rolls of the great fighting armies of the nation—names [?], some of whose bearers never came back.

In 1887 a very earnest effort was made by the Grand Lodge to pay off the indebtedness resting upon the Masonic Hall and Asylum at Utica, and a per-capita tax of six dollars was placed upon the brethren throughout the State. The portion of Richmond Lodge of the debt was \$825, and at a regular communication on February 1st, the secretary was ordered to draw a warrant for the amount, as the result of the unanimous vote of those present. It was a proud hour for Richmond Lodge, and the influence of its noble act was felt throughout the State. How much suffering the act had prevented, God alone knows.

One of the great days in the long history of Richmond Lodge, was that on which the corner-stone of its new home—Masonic Hall, in Port Richmond—was laid, which occurred on June 27, 1897. Early in the afternoon Grand Master William A. Sutherland and staff arrived, and, escorted by York Commandery and a committee from Richmond Lodge, proceeded to the temporary Lodge-room in Odd Fellows' Hall, on Harrison avenue, Port Richmond. A reception was held at that place. The Grand Master made an address, in which he complimented Richmond Lodge very highly on its prosperous condition. After this the line re-formed and marched to the scene of the ceremony.

Grand Master Sutherland's staff was composed as follows: R. W. John A. Kennedy, Deputy Grand Master; R. W. J. Walter Wood, Sr. Grand Warden; R. W. George H. Tredwell, Jr. Grand Warden; R. W. Rudolph Grovesna, Grand Chaplain; Bro. William H. Prall, Grand Secretary; R. W. George W. Hayes, Grand Treasurer; R. W. J. Stewart Wilson, Grand Marshal; W. Bro. C. C. Jones, Jr. Grand Deacon; W. Bro. Collins, Grand Sword Bearer; R. W. Moses Getty, Grand Standard Bearer; and R. W. Andrew Ferguson, Grand Tiler.

The formal dedication occurred under the direction of M. W. Dwight Pownall in 1898.

Richmond Lodge celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on July 6th, 1900, W. M. Thomas M. Kelly presiding. A banquet was held.

The following have been Masters of Richmond Lodge:

Benj. Wood, 1825-27; 31-35;	J. B. Simonson, 1830;	Thomas B. Vermilye, 1834;	A. G. Dixon, 1837;
J. S. Westervelt, 1828-29-45;	Griffin Tompkins, 1832-33;	R. M. Hazard, 1836;	James Harcourt, 1838;

Philpot Wolfe, 1839-46;	J. J. Baker, 1855;	James Whitford, 1871;	Frank K. Kohler, 1885;
H. B. Metcalfe, 1840;	John LaForge, 1856;	James Davis, 1872;	William C. Carpenter, 1886;
Ralph James, 1841;	Edw. Steers, Sr., 1857-9; 60-2;	E. D. Clark, 1873-74;	George H. Tredwell, 1887-90;
J. B. Wood, 1842;	J. G. Burger, 1858;	David Muddell, 1875;	J. Walter Wood, 1888;
Oliver Vanderbilt, 1843;	W. W. Corbett, 1861;	Benjamin F. Cook, 1876;	Frank J. Wilson, 1889;
James Harcourt, 1844;	James Seguine, 1863;	R. P. Brown, 1877-78;	Charles T. Smith, 1891;
Aaron Vanderbilt, 1847;	L. A. Scofield, 1864;	Thomas J. Butler, 1879;	D. F. Simonson, 1892;
Geo. W. Chambers, 1848;	Philip Sharrott, 1865;	M. M. Brill, 1880;	Cornelius C. Jones, 1894-95;
George T. Swaine, 1849-53;	Lionel Jacobs, 1866;	Thomas W. Butts, 1881;	Frederick W. Kerr, 1896-97;
S. T. Fisk, 1850;	Isaac A. Bunn, 1867-69;	John Pelcher, 1882-93;	Frank J. Houghton, 1898;
Frederick Groshon, 1854;	Billopp Seaman, 1870;	Reon Barnes, 1883-84;	Thomas M. Kelly, 1899-1900.

Daniel D. Tompkins, the prime mover in the organization of Richmond Lodge, held the office of Grand Master. The following have been District Deputy Grand Masters:

Reon Barnes, William C. Carpenter, George H. Tredwell, and J. Walter Wood.

The following are the officers of Richmond Lodge in 1900:

Thomas M. Kelly, Master;	H. Dean Swift, J. D.;
Arthur W. Deas, S. W.;	C. Y. Decker and C. D. Post, M. of C.;
Edward I. Miller, J. W.;	Ira K. Morris, Historian;
George T. Jones, Treasurer;	Alex. M. Ross and G. Wesley Wood, Stewards;
Walden M. Braman, Secretary;	T. J. Butler, Marshal;
Rev. A. C. McCrea, Chaplain;	James S. Moore, Tiler;
Thomas R. Farrell, S. D.;	Paul V. Masters, John Pelcher, and G. H. Widner. Trustees.

Richmond Lodge meets on the first, third and fifth Monday evenings of each month at Masonic Hall, Port Richmond.

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**Huguenot Lodge, No. 381**, was organized at Tottenville nearly half a century ago.

The charter members were Bros.

E. W. Hubbard,	Wm. Totten,	John Totten,	J. W. Sprague, and
Cornelius C. Ellis,	E. R. Fisher,	W. H. Totten,	William De Waters.
L. M. Jackson,	A. H. Wood,	Thomas Marshall,	

Huguenot Lodge first met in Odd Fellows' Hall, on Amboy road. The building is now a private residence, and is owned by Mr. D. A. Joline. The Lodge was instituted on May 19, 1855. and incorporated on April 13, 1899. The first officers were,

E. W. Hubbard, Master;	L. M. Jackson, J. W.;	W. H. Totten, Secretary;	Thomas Marshall, J. D.
E. R. Fisher, S. W.;	John Totten, Treasurer;	William De Waters, S. D.;	

The following have been Masters:

E. W. Hubbard, 1855;	J. W. Russell, 1871;	H. L. Sprague, 1880;	Charles A. Thrall, 1897;
S. L. Hopping, 1859;	John D. Sharrott, 1874;	T. C. Edge, 1891;	J. H. Newstead, 1899;
Geo. C. Hubbard, 1860;	William Lamond, 1876;	G. H. Hart, 1894;	Charles U. Thrall, 1900.
A. H. Wood, 1861;	James L. Bedell, 1879;	John A. Kennedy, 1895;	

Huguenot Lodge has been honored with the following District Deputy Grand Masters:

George C. Hubbard, 1867-'70-'89;
William Lamond, 1882;
John D. Sharrott, 1887;
John A. Kennedy, 1897-'98.

The present officers are:

Charles C. Thrall, Master;	George E. Rolle, Secretary;	W. M. Carpenter M. of C.;
William McGregor, S. W.;	D. O. Depew, S. D.;	W. W. Jacklyn, M. of C.;
J. M. Velton, J. W.;	H. W. Sohl, J. D.;	J. H. Jones, Tiler.
J. A. Kennedy, Treasurer;	A. M. Cole, Chaplain;	

The meetings are held in Masonic Hall, on Main street, on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month.

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**Tompkins Lodge No. 471**, was organized principally by those who withdrew from Richmond Lodge. The Grand Lodge, on December 6, 1853, issued a warrant to Isaac Lea, Master; Jacob B. Wood, Senior Warden; and James Harcourt, Junior Warden, authorizing them to open a lodge at Stapleton, to be known as **Tompkins Lodge, No. 145**. M. W. Mordecia Meyers was the Grand Master.

The first lodge room of this organization was in the old Tompkins Lyceum, which was located where the German Club Rooms now stand. In 1856 the Lodge removed to Masonic Hall, which stood on the corner of Front (now Arrietta) and Minthorne streets, at

Tompkinsville. This building was burned down a year later (its last occupant being Bro. William C. Denyse, who is to-day the oldest member of the Lodge), and the Lodge lost everything it owned. There is no evidence that it ever met again under its old warrant.

On March 31, 1859, in response to a petition, signed by

Jacob B. Wood,	S. Herzka,	John S. Westervelt,	Thomas C. Burns,	M. Pollitzer.
Philip Bender,	John Mouseley,	James Harcourt,	Charles S. Kuh,	Aaron Vanderbilt, and
John McKee,	Philpot Wolfe,	Henry M. Weed,	Ray Tompkins,	Richard A. Locke,

a new dispensation was granted to Tompkins Lodge, by M. W. John L. Lewis, who appointed

Isaac Lee	Master;
Henry Crabtree	Senior Warden; and
Mark Cox	Junior Warden,

authorizing them to open a lodge in Southfield (now in Middletown). The first communication under this dispensation was held on the evening of April 5, 1859, in Tompkins Lyceum. In the following June a warrant was issued to Tompkins Lodge, No. 471. It moved to the Weed Building, on the west side of Griffin street, and in May, 1866, it moved again to Egbert Hall. On May 1, 1876, it moved into its present neat quarters in Tynan's Building.

The following is a list of the Masters who have presided over Tompkins Lodge:

Isaac Lee.	Sylvanus C. Hall,	William L. Ludlum,	Maynard C. Ayre,
Francis Hamilton,	Henry Seymour,	Leonard W. Jewell,	Robert McDowell,
John L. Feeny.	Peter W. Silvey,	Samuel R. Brick,	William R. Eddy,
Henry Seguire,	Charles Dadier,	Charles A. Harreus,	William H. Prall,
George F. Hollick,	John Bale,	Oliver H. Griffin,	Charles Kappas.

In most minds, Huguenot Lodge, No. 381 is older than Tompkins Lodge. That is true only under the present Charter of Tompkins Lodge. Under the original Charter, Tompkins Lodge was instituted about a year-and-a-half earlier. A Warrant was issued on December 6, 1853, to Isaac Lea, Master; Jack B. Wood, Senior Warden; and James Harcour, Junior Warden; authorizing them to open a Lodge at Stapleton, to be known as Tompkins Lodge, No. 145. Their first meeting place was in the old Tompkins Lyceum, located at the spot later occupied by the German Club Rooms. In 1856, they removed to Masonic Hall, located at what was then Front and Minthorne Streets, in Tompkinsville. A year later the building was destroyed by fire and the Lodge lost everything. It is believed that they did not meet again under the old Charter.

On March 31, 1859, a new Dispensation was granted by M.'W.'. John L. Lewis, Grand Master who appointed Isaac Lea, Master; Henry Crabtree, Senior Warden; and Mark Cox, Junior Warden. The first communication under the new Dispensation was on April 5, 1859, in Tompkins Lyceum. In the following June, a charter was issued to Tompkins Lodge, No. 471. It moved to the Week Building on the west side of Griffin Street; and in May, 1866, to Egbert Hall; and again on May 1, 1876, into new quarters in Tynan's Building. The present Temple at Bay and Sand Streets, was occupied in 1901.

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### **Aquehonga Lodge No. 685**

The County Seat once had its Masonic Lodge. It held its meetings for a time in the Grand Jury room of the County Court House. The charter members were

Dr. C. Henry King,	Master;	Daniel L. Clawson,	Treasurer;
John W. Simonson,	Senior Warden;	Charles P. Bean, and William Ferguson,	
George C. Vanderveer,	Junior Warden;	all of whom are dead.	
Dr. Ephraim Clark,	Secretary;		

The charter was granted by the Grand Lodge to **Aquehonga Lodge, No. 685**, F. and A. M. It worked the U.D. from February 18 to May 15, 1868.

W. Bro. King	remained in the East until December, 1874, when he was succeeded by
Bro. George T. Coyne,	who held the office for one year, when
Bro. King	was re-elected and served until 1882.
Bro. Samuel W. Benedict	was then elected to the East, and held the office until the Lodge surrendered its charter in April, 1887.

Shortly after the organization, the Lodge removed to New Dorp, where it remained for a short time located in the second story of the building occupied by Mr. Henry A. Lavaud, corner of Richmond road and New Dorp lane. When the Lodge returned to Richmond, it located in the second story of a building nearly opposite St. Andrew's P. E. Church.

Bro. King served as District Deputy Grand Master while with this Lodge, and among the workers who served as wardens, were

Jacob Simonson, Jr.,	Willis Barton.	W. Lawrence Jessup,
George T. Coyne,	Henry S. Samuels,	E. T. Humphries and
W. W. Kellett,	Samuel W. Benedict,	James Coyne, Jr.

The Lodge contained about thirty members.

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**Beacon Light Lodge No. 701**, of New Brighton, was organized within the jurisdiction of old Richmond. Its warrant was issued June 15, 1876 [1870], and its first officers were  
C. Augustus Gregory, Master;

Thomas Sadler, Senior Warden; and  
W. M. Whittemore, Junior Warden.

Its first lodge-room (intended only for a temporary abode), was in the third story of Athletic Hall, near the West New Brighton Rapid Transit Railroad depot. After a brief sojourn there, it removed to its present beautiful rooms on the top floor of the building now known as the New Brighton Village Hall.

The following have served as Master of Beacon Light Lodge:

C. Augustus Gregory,	James Simonton,	Joseph Drew,	Joseph Clark,	James McMeekan,
F. E. Martindale,	John S. Clark,	Thomas Melville,	Thomas Bishop,	Alexander G. Hall
William Whittemore,	Aquilla Rich,	Henry W. Welzin,	Harvey B. Rich,	Thomas J. Clark.
William N. Hawkins,	Livingston Satterlee,	James H. Roe,	Christian Bardes,	
Thomas M. Rainhard,	William B. Wemple,	George C. Land,	William Osborne,	

The District Deputy Grand Masters selected from Beacon Light Lodge were William N. Hawkins, James Simonton, Livingston Satterlee, Aquilla Rich, Harvey B. Rich and James McMeekan.

[http://www.sirmany.org/lodge\\_history31.htm](http://www.sirmany.org/lodge_history31.htm)

Although the records of the Lodge have been well-kept; although the minute books are intact, (with the exception of two years, and for that two years we are in possession of the Secretary's notes); nevertheless there are several omissions which leave us in the dark on several important points. The first one of these is the exact location of the first Lodge Room. The minutes simply state, "The meeting was held in the Lodge room." These minutes are dated "New Brighton, S.I."

In the "History of Staten Island," compiled by the late Bro. Ira K. Morris, he states that "Prior to moving into their beautiful Lodge room in Village Hall, New Brighton, Beacon Light Lodge met in the Old Athletic Club building, located near the present West New Brighton Passenger Station." While that information is without doubt correct, repeated inquiries among old-timers have failed to find anyone who recalls that building. From the Lodge disbursements, it is disclosed that the Lodge paid rent to the Richmond County Lodge of Odd Fellows. An inquiry of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows, New York, brought the only information they had available, that that Lodge met on Shore Road (present Richmond Terrace), West New Brighton. It is a known fact that there was an Odd Fellows Hall on Richmond Terrace at the foot of Broadway. The first story of this building is still standing, but from the best information obtained, the building was constructed some time later than 1870.

Although there is sufficient evidence to prove that both were gala occasions, there is no record in the minutes of the first communication under charter, or the communication at which the new Lodge room at Village Hall was dedicated.

Could those early Brethren, who were instrumental in bringing our Lodge into existence, have foreseen that more than three-quarters of a century would elapse before the history of Beacon Light Lodge should finally be written, it is highly probably that they would have left behind interesting information, leading up to the institution of the Lodge. We have no way of knowing why those Brethren felt the necessity of a new Lodge. It may have been in their minds for some period of time, but those hectic years following the close of the Civil War may have precluded such action before the fall of 1869. In those days, each Lodge had its own territorial jurisdiction. The territory of the new Lodge lay entirely within the jurisdiction of Richmond Lodge, No. 66. The fact that Richmond Lodge approved the institution of the new Lodge indicates that such a Lodge was needed. At any rate, on January 15, 1870 the Grand Lodge received the petition to form a new Lodge, to be known and designated as Beacon Light Lodge. The petition bore the signatures of:

C. Augustus Gregory --	Richmond Lodge, No. 66
Thomas Sadler --	Richmond Lodge, No. 66
Adolph Taylor --	Richmond Lodge, No. 66
James H. Roe --	Richmond Lodge, No. 66
C. C. Valentine --	Metropolitan Lodge, No. 273
Thomas M. Rianhard --	Metropolitan Lodge, No. 273
Alonzo Durkee --	Benevolent Lodge, No. 28
Joseph H. Wilson --	St. Nicholas Lodge, No. 321
J. C. Montgomery --	Bedford Lodge, No. 574
P. Kummit --	Landmark Lodge, No. 127, Maryland
J. W. Simonton --	National Lodge, No. 12, Washington, D.C.

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**Klopstock Lodge, No. 760**, (German), was instituted in 1875, at Stapleton, and meets on the first and third Wednesday evenings in each month. In Feb 1900, it celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. The following have served as Masters of this Lodge:

Emil Zeschi,	Herman Sterzing,	Charles J. Kallmann.	Otto Credo,	George Bettke.
August Horrmann,	Julius Credo,	Dr. G. F. Odendall,	William Horrmaun,	George W. Stake.

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There are also two Chapters of Royal Arch Masons on Staten Island. Staten Island Chapter No. 196, is located at Tottenville, and Tyrian Chapter No. 219, is at New Brighton.

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The Order of the Eastern Star also has two Chapters here. Beacon Light Chapter, No. 75, meets at Masonic Hall, Port Richmond; and Huguenot Chapter, No. 88, is located at Tottenville.

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Empire Commandery, Knights Templar, No. 66, was organized, by dispensation, on April 21, 1900, and the first regular conclave was held on May 4th. The regular conclaves are on the first and third Friday evenings of each month, in Masonic Hall, Port Richmond. The following are the officers;

Sir Knight J. Walter Wood, M.D.,	Eminent Commander;	Sir Knight Arthur W. Deas,	Junior Warden;
Sir Knight Caleb V. Decker,	Generalissimo;	Sir Knight Thos. M. Drew,	Sword Bearer;
Sir Knight Chas. F. Bissinger,	Capt. General;	Sir Knight Harry Hooker,	Standard Bearer;
Sir Knight Wm. Bryan, M.D.,	Surgeon;	Sir Knight Wm. Roberts,	Warder;
Sir Knight C. D. Van Name,	Judge Advocate;	Sir Knight A. Nordenholz,	Captain of the Guard;
Sir Knight Walden M. Braman,	Recorder;	Sir Knight Fred. Crocheron,	1st Guard;
Sir Knight Arthur G. Hastings,	Treasurer;	Sir Knight John S. Warde, Jr.,	2d Guard;
Sir Knight Walter H. Holt,	Prelate;	Sir Knight G. H. Widmer,	3d Guard;
Sir Knight John S. Warde, Sr.,	Senior Warden;	Sir Knight Jas. S. Moore,	Sentinel;
Sir Knight Wm. Roberts, Sir Knight E. Mitchell, Sir Knight A. G. Hastings, Trustees.			

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There is one more organization which is worthy of the kindest consideration of every Mason on Staten Island. The Masonic Mutual Relief Association is in reality the fulfillment of one of the noblest principles which actuates the Craft.

When the charter of the Greater New York went into effect, the number of the district was changed from the Twenty-eighth to the Eleventh. R. W. Charles A. Thrall is the D.D.G.M., and W. Bro. Isaac A. Bunn, Assistant Grand Lecturer.

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### **Richmond Lodge No. 66, Port Richmond, New York**

Prev. No. 384; renumbered No. 66 in 1839; surrendered 8 Apr 1850; revived in 1851.  
Richmond No. 66 and Aquehonga No. 906 consolidated to form Richmond-Aquehonga 66, 1 Mar 1994;  
Prev. name of New Dorp 1092 was Fort Wadsworth 1092, Apr 1928; Name changed to New Dorp, 24 May 1932;  
New Dorp 1092 consolidated with Richmond Aquehonga 66 to form Staten Island 66, 3 Jan 2009

WARRANT: The first warrant was issued June 24, 1825. This warrant was surrendered April 8, 1850; it was revived in 1851. The **first number was 384**; this was changed to 66 in 1839.

MINUTES: Intact from 1853.

The first three officers named in the warrant were: BENJAMIN WOOD, Master; AUGUSTUS S. LAWRENCE, Senior Warden; JOHN S. WESTERVELT, Junior Warden.

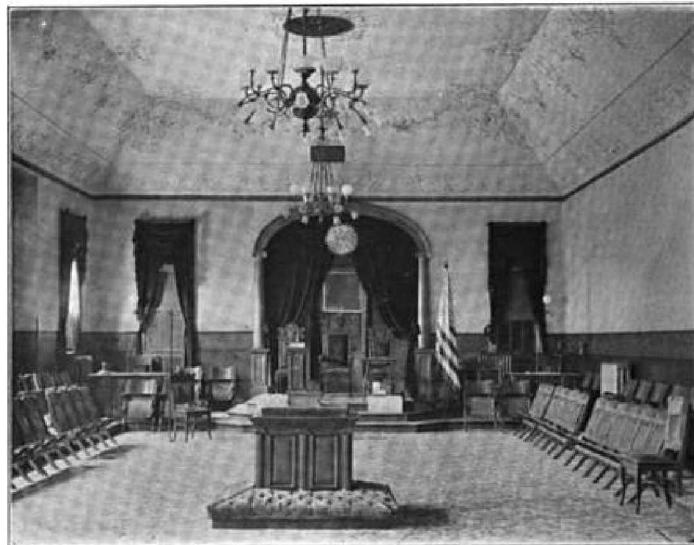
The first meeting under the charter was held July 6, 1825. The first election for officers was held December 21, 1825; the following were elected:

Benjamin Wood, Master.	James H. Wood, Secretary.	John N. Tooker, Master of Ceremonies.
Augustus S. Lawrence, Senior Warden.	Griffen Tompkins, Senior Deacon.	Denyse Denyse, Jr., Steward.
John S. Westervelt, Junior Warden.	Robert Hazard, Junior Deacon.	James McLaughlin, Steward.
Richard Harcourt, Treasurer.	Joseph Ludlow, Master of Ceremonies.	Daniel Simonson, Tyler.

Richmond Lodge owes its origin to an incident which happened in the autumn of 1812. One evening some English officers from a vessel moored in the bay near Tompkinsville came ashore and inquired of a watchman on the pier if there was a Masonic Lodge on Staten Island. He directed them to Nautilus Hall, where the proprietor, James Guyon, received them kindly and, collecting a few trusted friends, proceeded to entertain the strangers; a supper was served while a faithful sentinel stood guard at the door, and at a late hour the guests took their departure and returned in safety to their vessel. This visit was talked about, the question of forming a Lodge was discussed, and in a few weeks it was decided to "hold a meeting as soon as practicable"; but the war of 1812 broke out and the project was abandoned and nothing more was heard of the matter until some two years after the close of the war a meeting was held at the residence of Governor M.'. W.'. DANIEL D. TOMPKINS on Fort Hill. At this meeting the conclusion was reached that the existing conditions were unfavorable toward organizing a Lodge and the matter was deferred; but a little more than a year passed when this faithful band of zealous Masons decided to make another attempt to organize a Lodge. A meeting was held at the residence of GENERAL VAN BUREN in Tompkinsville. There were present not only these earnest Masons but several prominent citizens who desired to be made Masons; this encouraged these loyal Masons and from that night Richmond Lodge was a possibility. A leading spirit in this movement was PHILPOT WOLFE, a member of Hibernia Lodge of London, England, and a son of General Wolfe who lost his life at the battle of Quebec. The choice of a name created so much discussion that it threatened to prevent the consummation of the enterprise; a persistent effort was made to name the new Lodge "Brinkerhoff," the name of one of the English officers who made the visit in 1812. Finally, through the efforts of Governor TOMPKINS the name "Richmond" was selected.



MASONIC HALL, PORT RICHMOND, STATEN ISLAND.



EAST END OF RICHMOND LODGE ROOM.



WEST END OF RICHMOND LODGE ROOM.

Scarcely had the movement to organize the Lodge become known than a rumor was started that the Masons were organizing for the purpose of gaining control of public affairs and seeking to influence the religious societies. This soon aroused a feeling of bitterness against Freemasonry. To allay this condition of affairs a public picnic was given by the projectors of the Lodge to which the anti-Masons were invited. This event had a good effect; the tide of popular opinion was again turned; the hostile influence ceased and the organization of the Lodge was effected without further trouble. The night of the organization was a notable event; a banquet was given in Nautilus Hall which was attended by many prominent Masons, the Chaplain of the Grand Lodge was present and amid momentary silence arose and implored "Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, to let His richest blessings rest upon the infant organization, now and forever."

It is proper to state that at the time Richmond Lodge came into existence there were two Grand Lodges in the State of New York. Richmond Lodge received its warrant from the City Grand Lodge, and it was "to be located at Castleton, Staten Island."

The record of the first meeting held at Nautilus Hall is as follows:

"At a regular meeting of Richmond Lodge, Masonic Hall, Tompkinsville, July 5th, A. L. 5825. Present: BENJAMIN WOOD, W. M.; AUGUSTUS S. LAWRENCE, S. W.; JOHN S. WESTERVELT, J. W.; JAMES H. WARD, Secretary, and RICHARD HARCOURT, Treasurer.

"A number of brethren convened, and the Lodge opened in E. A. Degree.

"The following candidates were proposed: JOHN N. TUCKER, JAMES McLaughlin, HENRY BARGER, HENRY H. HIRBERTON, JOHN T. MERRILL, DANIEL SIMONSON, DENYSE DENYSE, Jr., ROBERT HAZARD, BENJAMIN DODGE, LEONARD PARKINSON, DANIEL CLAWSON, AUGUSTUS PROALLE, STEPHEN KITTLETASS and JOHN CLAWSON.

"After which the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form."

The Lodge prospered and grew, but occasionally the smothered feeling of hostility asserted itself in various ways. About a year after its organization a public Masonic celebration was held on St. John's Day which attracted a large number of people and had a good effect in still further disarming the suspicion concerning the motives which the Freemasons had in forming a Lodge. At a meeting held shortly after this celebration the subject of Masonry was discussed, and a clergyman who was present and whose views on all subjects commanded respect, expressed himself in this manner:

"Now, my friends, I have come to the conclusion that Freemasonry is a good thing. Its very foundation seems to me to be the Holy Bible, and nothing but good can come from such a source. I believe that if a man is a true Mason he will not lie nor cheat, nor deceive, nor wrong any human being, and that it will be his determined aim to honor and glorify God in every walk in life."

Such expressions coming from one whose influence carried weight, together with the fact that none of the dire predictions concerning the evil effects of having a Masonic Lodge in their midst came true soon ended the feeling of hostility which had prevailed for several years in this community.

In 1833 the Lodge participated in the ceremonies attending the opening of Sailors' Snug Harbor.

In 1850 for some reason the Lodge surrendered its warrant, but the members continued to meet informally and planned for a reorganization.

In 1851 several members of the Lodge petitioned the Grand Master to remit their dues, and asked for a return of the old warrant. On March 28, 1851, a dispensation to hold a Lodge was obtained, and on April 13th the first meeting was held at the house of BRO. GEORGE T. SWAINE at Port Richmond. In November, 1851, the Lodge again became dormant. In the later part of May, 1853, a movement to again revive the Lodge was made; on May 31st a meeting was held at which several officers of the Grand Lodge were present. At this meeting a proposition was made by BRO. GEORGE T. SWAINE that he would fit up a room over his store at No. 37 Richmond Avenue, Port Richmond (this building was afterward known as the Williamson Building), for the use of the Lodge. This proposition met with favor, and the next meeting was held in this building October 12, 1853.

The Lodge prospered and increased in numbers until in 1865 it became necessary to enlarge the room occupied by the Lodge. A lease of the premises for a period of twenty-five years was obtained from BRO. SWAINE, and the Lodge at its own expense proceeded with the work.

In 1870 the first movement toward securing a permanent home for the Lodge was made. This proved unsuccessful, but the seed was sown, and while no immediate results were obtained it was destined to bring forth the desired end in good time.

The subject was frequently discussed, and as the years went, by the movement continued to gain strength. On June 4, 1888, the Lodge became incorporated under the laws of the State of New York; on October 19, 1891, land was purchased and the project began to assume tangible shape. On the 26th day of June, 1897, the corner-stone of the new Masonic Hall on the corner of Richmond Avenue and Bennett Street was laid by M.'. W.'. WILLIAM A. SUTHERLAND, Grand Master, who, with his associate officers, was escorted to the site by York Commandery, No. 55, K. T., Richmond Lodge and other Lodges located on Staten Island.

A local newspaper, in giving an account of this event, said: "The interesting ceremony was performed in accordance with the ancient and beautiful ritual. There were over three thousand people present, at least a third of which being Masons. A number of articles were placed in the corner-stone."

Grand Master SUTHERLAND made a most interesting address, in the course of which he said that the Masons possessed advantages over their uninitiated neighbors, and he desired to impress upon their minds the important duties they owe to their country in the performance of upright and manly conduct. He said that Masons should be an example to the people around them, and should help the world to be better and truer to God and humanity.

"I sometimes hear it remarked by Masons," said the Grand Master, "that they are Masons, and therefore have no use for any other religion. There is but one answer to such remark: The man who utters it knows nothing about religion, and very little about Freemasonry. While they are separate and distinct, each can help the other to make the world better."

At the close of the Grand Master's address the Historian of the Lodge, BRO. IRA K. MORRIS, gave a short sketch of the history of the Lodge.

The building was dedicated by M.'. W.'. WRIGHT D. POWNALL, who at the time was Deputy Grand Master, on the evening of February 16, 1898.

The Lodge paid its full quota of the Hall and Asylum Fund debt, amounting to \$852, on January 31, 1887.

Among the valued possessions of the Lodge is a portrait of WOR. BENJAMIN WOOD, the first Master of Richmond Lodge, which was presented to the Lodge on October 20, 1902 ("Memorial Night"), by his grandson, R.'. W.'. B. FRANK WOOD.

#### MEN IN PUBLIC LIFE.

Philpot Wolfe, Civil Magistrate.  
Peter S. Wandle, County Treasurer.  
Daniel L. Clawson, County Judge.

Henry B. Metcalf, County Judge.  
Frederick Groshon, Civil Magistrate.

#### GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Lionel Jacobs, District Deputy Grand Master.  
J. Walter Wood, District Deputy Grand Master.  
William C. Carpenter, District Deputy Grand Master.

Thomas M. Kelly, District Deputy Grand Master.  
George H. Tredwell, District Deputy Grand Master.

#### MASTERS

1825. Benjamin Wood.	1845. John S. Westervelt.	1866. Lionel Jacobs.	1886. William C. Carpenter.
1826. Benjamin Wood.	1846. Philpot Wolfe.	1867. Isaac A. Bunn.	1887. George H. Tredwell.
1827. Benjamin Wood.	1847. Aaron Vanderbilt.	1868. Isaac A. Bunn.	1888. J. Walter Wood.
1828. John S. Westervelt.	1848. George W. Chambers.	1869. Isaac A. Bunn.	1889. Frank J. Wilson.
1829. John S. Westervelt.	1849. George T. Swaine,	1870. B. Seaman.	1890. George H. Tredwell.
1830. John B. Simonson.	1850. S. T. Fisk.	1871. James Whitford.	1891. Charles T. Smith.
1831. Benjamin Wood.		1872. James Davis.	1892. D. F. Simonson.
1832. Griffen Tompkins.	1853. George T. Swaine.	1873. Edward B. Clark.	1893. John Pelcher.
1833. Griffen Tompkins.	1854. Frederick Groshon.	1874. Edward B. Clark.	1894. Cornelius C. Jones.
1834. Thomas B. Vermilyea.	1855. John J. Baker.	1875. David Muddell.	1895. Cornelius C. Jones.
1835. Benjamin Wood.	1856. John La Forge.	1876. Benjamin F. Cook.	1896. Frederick W. Kerr.
1836. R. M. Hazard.	1857. Edward Steers, Sr.	1877. R[ichard] P. Brown.	1897. Frederick W. Kerr.
1837. Absalom G. Dixon.	1858. James G. Burger.	1878. R. P. Brown.	1898. Frank J. Houghton.
1838. James Harcourt.	1859. Edward Steers, Sr.	1879. Thomas J. Butler.	1899. Thomas M. Kelly.
1839. Philpot Wolfe.	1860. Edward Steers, Sr.	1880. M. M. Brill.	1900. Thomas M. Kelly.
1840. Henry B. Metcalfe.	1861. William W. Corbet.	1881. Thomas W. Butts.	1901. Arthur W. Deas.
1841. Ralph James.	1862. Edward Steers, Sr.	1882. John Pelcher.	1902. Edward I. Miller.
1842. Jacob B. Wood.	1863. James Seguine.	1883. Reon Barnes.	1903. Edward I. Miller.
1843. Oliver Vanderbilt.	1864. Lester A. Scofield.	1884. Reon Barnes.	1904. Thomas R. Farrell.
1844. James Harcourt.	1865. Philip Sharrott.	1885. Frank K. Kohler.	

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/richard-mather-bayles/history-of-richmond-county-staten-island-new-york-from-its-discovery-to-the-p-lya/page-68-history-of-richmond-county-staten-island-new-york-from-its-discovery-to-the-p-lya.shtml>

**Reon Barnes.** One of the most noticeable men in Richmond county and one whose foresight and energy have, perhaps, done more for its development than any other, is Mr. Reon Barnes. During fifteen years he has been a resident of Staten Island, and his face has become a familiar one to the majority of its inhabitants. Like most of our prominent American business men he owes his success entirely to his own genius, industry, perseverance and pluck. His childhood was spent in New England, and the qualities which he acquired there, together with native ambition and bold maneuvering, have slowly but surely led him to the front.

The family from which Mr. Barnes is descended was originally English. Its first members in America were three brothers, professional men, who came to Sag Harbor, Long Island, in 1652. A branch of their descendants found their way up the

Connecticut river to Middletown, where Duane Barnes, father of Reon, was born, and where he married Miss Cynthia Turner. Eleven children were the result of this union, of which the subject of this sketch was the sixth.

He was born at Middletown, CT, 9 Dec 1845, and during his youth attended the public school at that place. He also spent much of his time about the publishing establishment then conducted by his father, leaving it in his fifteenth year for New York city. Since that time his life has been a busy one and has been attended by a variety of fortune in which he has gained a vast amount of practical experience. After a few years spent in gaining a foothold in the business world, during which he traveled in various interests through every state and territory in the Union, he embarked in the general contract business which he still continues.

The numerous and extensive operations which Mr. Barnes has carried on have made him a well known man in business and financial circles, not only in New York city but throughout the whole country. Among his works are many of the piers and bulkheads at Constable's hook, the South Penn Railroad, and the Wheeling & Harrisburg Railway of West Virginia. He procured the local, state and government franchises for the bridge over the Ohio, at Wheeling, now in course of construction, and is at present engaged in the erection of extensive stock yards at St. Louis, to be opened in connection with the Belt Line Railroad of that city. He also has under way a project for illuminating the streets and buildings on the north and south shores of Staten Island with incandescent electric lights, which it is hoped will be in operation by the time this book is published.

In 1876, four years after his removal to Staten Island, Mr. Barnes procured the sale of the Garner ferry to Mr. Starin, and thus secured for Richmond county its first comfortable means of communication with New York city, which, together with recent developments in rapid transit, have been of so much benefit to its people. He has since secured a large amount of real estate on the island consisting mostly of water front.

In person Mr. Barnes is tall and portly, with features well defined, indicating the thorough man of affairs. The large experience he has enjoyed enables him to arrive at conclusions rapidly, and these are seldom found to be at fault. Few persons who approach him fail to notice his rare conversational ability or to be struck by the facility with which he decides on the practicability or impossibility of the projects submitted to his judgment. He is also possessed of a most retentive memory. Persons come constantly to his office with schemes, the scenes of which are located in all parts of the country and even of the world, and he decides on them immediately, calling upon his past reading or experience for a knowledge of the locality in which they are situated.

Mr. Barnes' genial nature, the great advantage he has derived from intimacy with the most enterprising men of the times, and the constant liberality he displays in all worthy causes have made him a power in the social life of the community, especially among the younger people.

Martha Evans Fuller, b. 13 Jan 1850; d. 23 Dec 1884; m. Mar. 30, 1872, **Reon Barnes**, of Middletown, CT, b. 9 Dec 1845; d. 1920; both bur. Pine Grove Cemetery, Middletown, CT; brother of Gaybert Barnes.

Children,

Reon, Jr. b. 03 Aug 1873; d. 6 Dec 1946; m. 2 Jun 1910, Laura B. Bowdoin.

Martha Cynthia, b. 11 Sep 1875; m. 14 Aug 1895, Harold Barnes Roberts, b. 8 Aug 1869, in Boston.

Alice Twombly, b. 09 Jan 1882; d. 1975; m. 2 Aug 1900. Joseph D. Lawrence, Jr.

<http://www.onlinebiographies.info/ny/rich/kerr-j.htm>

**James Kerr** was born in Chatham, near Detroit, Mich., 20 Mar 1858, and was educated in Toronto, Canada. He entered the drug business in 1873, and was graduated from the Ontario College of Pharmacy as a pharmaceutical chemist in 1878. When less than twenty years of age he opened a drug store in Toronto, but immature business qualifications precipitated by a general depression in business concluded this venture. A little disfigured by this encounter, but not divested of his monumental pluck and nerve, he turned his footsteps toward the Empire state and the only New York City. After clerking for a time in Brooklyn he finally was induced by Mr. L. Johnson (the originator and proprietor of the now famous Johnson's Happy Pills) to accept a position in his pharmacy at West New Brighton. After satisfying Mr. Johnson of his business tact and energy he was admitted as a partner, and this relation was maintained to the satisfaction of both parties for five years, only ending with Mr. Johnson's retirement from the business, on a comfortable competence. Since Mr. Kerr's residence on Staten Island he has been the recipient of many favors from his fellow townsmen, who know how to appreciate an active, energetic businessman, and all who have been associated with him. He has served seven years as an active member of Medora Hook & Ladder Co., No 3, filling all the offices and serving as foreman for three years.



Mr. Kerr is an Odd Fellow, a director in the Staten Island Building Loan and Savings Association, trustee of **Richmond Lodge No. 66**, F&AM, High Priest of Tyrian Chapter No. 219, Royal Arch Masons, and last but not least, was chosen at the last charter election to represent the fourth ward of the village on West Brighton, as its alderman. In conclusion, it would not be out of place to state that we confidently believe that the extraordinary efforts put forward by Mr. Kerr to increase his already large business will be crowned with success.

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<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=tritone24&id=I269>

**John Bird Simonson**, b. 26 Feb 1795 in Staten Island, Richmond, NY; d. aft 1860 in Castleton, Staten Island, NY; *Occupation*: insurance broker 1850; son of [Isacc SIMONSON](#) and [Elizabeth BIRD](#); m1. 30 Nov 1829 [Jane Maria CROCHERON](#), b. 22 Feb 1800 in Staten Island, NY

Children:

[George M. SIMONSON](#)

b. 1828 in New York

[Elizabeth B SIMONSON](#)

b. 08 Dec 1832 in Staten Island, Richmond, NY

[Anna Garrettson SIMONSON](#)

b: 11 Oct 1833 in Southfield, Richland Co

[James B. SIMONSON](#) b. 1835 in New York  
[John B. SIMONSON](#) b. 1837 in New York  
[Edward SIMONSON](#) b. 1853 in New York  
[Annie SIMONSON](#) b. 1855 in New York, Bronx, NY  
[Louisa G. SIMONSON](#)

m2. 30 May 1826 [Catherine METCALFE](#)

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**Griffen [Griffin] Tompkins**

Stapleton on the Narrows lies just beyond Clifton. It was laid out in 1837 by William J. Staples, a NYC merchant, in partnership with **Griffin Tompkins**, a local entrepreneur who was the son of New York Governor Daniel D. Tompkins.

M.'W.'. Daniel D. Tompkins, Gov of New York and Vice President of U S.

Children:

Arietta Minthorne Tompkins	1800–1837	
<b>Griffin Tompkins</b>	<b>1801–1860</b>	
<b>Hannah Ellsworth Tompkins</b>	<b>1803–</b>	<b>; m. John S. Westervelt [see below]</b>
Sarah Ann Tompkins	1805–1845	
Mangle Minthorne Tompkins	1807–1881	
Daniel Hyatt Tompkins	1810–1875	
Susannah MacLaren Tompkins	1812–1882	
John Ray Tompkins	1814–1892	
Clinton Tompkins	1816–	

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=diane58&id=I08756>

Griffin Tompkins m. [Cornelia Maghee Standerwick](#)

Children

- |  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <a href="#">Hannah Minthorne Tompkins</a> | 5. <a href="#">James H. Tompkins</a>  | 9. <a href="#">Griffin Tompkins II</a> |
| 2. <a href="#">William A. Tompkins</a>       | 6. <a href="#">Sarah C. Tompkins</a>  | 10. <a href="#">Cornelia Tompkins</a>  |
| 3. <a href="#">Mary E. Tompkins</a>          | 7. <a href="#">Daniel D. Tompkins</a> | 11. <a href="#">Arietta Tompkins</a>   |
| 4. <a href="#">Isaac Tompkins</a>            | 8. <a href="#">Zula Tompkins</a>      |  |

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[http://www.neighborhoodpreservationcenter.org/db/bb\\_files/413-Westervelt-Av.-Horton--s-Row.pdf](http://www.neighborhoodpreservationcenter.org/db/bb_files/413-Westervelt-Av.-Horton--s-Row.pdf)

**Dr. John S. Westervelt (1799-1869)**

Horton's Row is located at the periphery of Fort Hill in northeastern Staten Island at the outskirts of the villages of New Brighton and Tompkinsville. Prior to settlement by Europeans, there was a small Native American encampment near this location. The development of this section of Staten Island was first promoted by **Daniel D. Tompkins**. A governor of New York and later vice-president of the United States, Tompkins (1774-1825) spent considerable time on the island during the War of 1812 overseeing fort construction in his capacity as the Commander-in-Chief of the New York State troops.

Attracted by the island's natural beauty, he began purchasing large tracts of land in northeastern Staten Island in 1814. In 1815, he moved to Staten Island and started the development of the village of Tompkinsville. Realizing that transportation would significantly aid the development, he procured the incorporation of the Richmond Turnpike Company to establish a highway from the New Blazing Star Ferry to Tompkinsville along the route of present-day Victory Boulevard. In 1816, he acquired an interest in the steamboat monopoly of Fulton and Livingston and the following year established regular ferry service between Staten Island and Whitehall Street in New York City. In the following year, Tompkins, as governor of New York, signed the "Final Abolition Act" that freed all slaves living in the state by 1827. Although Tompkins is known as an abolitionist, the 1800 U. S. Census lists a Daniel D. Tompkins living in the 1st Ward in New York City as having one enslaved person in his household. Tompkins borrowed heavily to finance his various enterprises in Staten Island, expecting to be reimbursed for expenses he had incurred on behalf of the governmental during the War of 1812. When the promised repayment stalled in Congress, it became apparent that he was overextended. In 1823, St. Andrew's Church foreclosed on the property that it had sold to Tompkins and following his death in 1825 other creditors brought suit against his estate. The remainder of his Staten Island property was sold at auction in the late 1820s and early 1830s.

In 1830, **Dr. John S. Westervelt** (1799-1869), the first health officer of the port of New York, who had **married Daniel Tompkins's daughter Hannah Ellsworth Tompkins.**, purchased a 98 acre tract that formerly had been part of her father's estate. The Westervelts moved into Daniel Tompkins's house (demolished) on Fort Hill near the present-day intersection of Fort Place and Sherman Avenue. To provide access to this property from Richmond Terrace and the dock at the foot of Jersey Street, Dr. Westervelt had a lane opened that eventually became Westervelt Avenue. In 1870, the year after Dr. Westervelt died, his widow Hannah and their son Tompkins, as executrix and executor of his estate, conveyed three lots to Harry L. Horton and Frank S. Cornish. The contiguous lots had street frontage on Westervelt Avenue, First Avenue (now Corson Avenue) and Sherman Avenue. Frank Cornish and his wife Katie Cornish conveyed their interest in the property to Horton in 1874. Horton built the twelve identical row houses that were known as Horton's Row c. 1880-82.

Dr. John S. Westervelt served five years as mate in the Marine Hospital, from 1823 to 1827 inclusive, under Dr. John T. Harrison. Dr. Westervelt was appointed Health Officer in 1829, in which capacity he served until 1836.

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[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrichmo/prominent/brown\\_r.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrichmo/prominent/brown_r.pdf)

ROBERT P. BROWN, postmaster of West New Brighton, N.Y., was born in Rahway, N. J., on Dec. 31st, 1844, and, when sixteen years of age, became a resident of Staten Island.

In 1862, he enlisted in Company C, 30th Regiment N. J. Volunteers, and, after serving continuously through his term of enlistment, was honorably discharged, and he returned to Staten Island, where he was engaged in business pursuits until May 1882, when he received his appointment to his present position of postmaster from President Chester A. Arthur.

Mr. Brown performed his official duties with such conscientious zeal, efficiency and courtesy, that he not only won the respect and warm regard of all, but with an increase of more than one-third in the population the business of his office has been quadrupled under his vigorous administration and the office promoted from the third to the second class, and, on July 1st, 1890, it was made a free delivery office.

The efficiency and zeal of Mr. Brown were made known by his best patrons of both parties to President Cleveland, who retained him in office through his first administration, and to President Harrison, by whom he was re-appointed April 9th, 1889. He has therefore served as postmaster continuously for nearly twelve years to the perfect satisfaction of his townsmen and the post-office department.

Mr. Brown is a member of the M. E. church, of the G. A. R. and of the American Legion of Honor; he is also a member of the Masonic Fraternity and for two years was master of Richmond Lodge No. 66, F. & A. M.

Morris's Memorial History of Staten Island, New York, Volume 2, by Ira K. Morris, page 32.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=m-kTAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA62&dq=%22Benjamin+Wood%22+%22staten+island%22&hl=en&ei=9-3aTsfJL8TV0QH6pMnkDQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CDQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Benjamin%20Wood%22%20%22staten%20island%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=m-kTAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA62&dq=%22Benjamin+Wood%22+%22staten+island%22&hl=en&ei=9-3aTsfJL8TV0QH6pMnkDQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CDQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Benjamin%20Wood%22%20%22staten%20island%22&f=false)

**Benjamin Wood.** - We deem it but proper here to make special mention of Captain Benjamin Wood, who commanded Fort Tompkins for a time. He was born in New City, Orange (now Rockland) County, New York, July 30, 1780, and lived a few weeks beyond his ninety-fifth birthday. He came to New York at fourteen years of age, to seek business, and engaged himself first as an apprentice to a silversmith in Maiden Lane. In 1812, having been some years established in business of his own, he raised, at his own expense, a company of volunteers, one hundred in number, in the war against Great Britain. He was stationed first at Kill's Island, then at New Utrecht, then at Fort Tompkins on Staten Island, and finally at Sandy Hook. He served until June 15, 1815, when the army was disbanded.

Captain Wood mounted and fired the first gun put into Fort Diamond (now Fort Lafayette), at the Narrows. He was officer of the day at Sandy Hook, and boarded the vessel that brought the news of peace, in 1815, and was the first man in the country to receive the good news. He was the boarding-officer in the revenue service at Quarantine, from 1821 to 1841, and during that period exerted almost a controlling influence in the politics of Staten Island, and it was an influence never tarnished by an unworthy act.

Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of ..., by Freemasons. Grand Lodge of the State of New York, 1901. page 113.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=O31LAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA113&lpg=PA113&dq=%22Richmond+Lodge,+No.+384%22&source=bl&ots=aJilm0LPf3&sig=TDg8HG\\_E3hgEF9CM0buKo0v7fBk&hl=en&ei=mNrbTueUE6Lg0QHUtbiJDg&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CDkQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Richmond%20Lodge%2C%20No.%20384%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=O31LAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA113&lpg=PA113&dq=%22Richmond+Lodge,+No.+384%22&source=bl&ots=aJilm0LPf3&sig=TDg8HG_E3hgEF9CM0buKo0v7fBk&hl=en&ei=mNrbTueUE6Lg0QHUtbiJDg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CDkQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Richmond%20Lodge%2C%20No.%20384%22&f=false)

**Benjamin Wood,** Richmond Lodge No. 66

The first Master of old Richmond Lodge, No. 384, when it received its charter, in 1825, from the (city) Grand Lodge. A local newspaper thus sketched his career:

"It is a notable fact that this distinguished Brother wielded the gavel with unflinching dignity, firmness, and devotion during the 'dark days of Masonry' in this jurisdiction; and it is equally remarkable that this Lodge, which he founded, was one of the few who stood by their faith from the beginning, and never faltered in the noble mission which Masonry imposes.

"Of late years, by reason of advanced age and incidental bodily infirmity, his opportunities for attendance have been measurably interfered with; but the heart was in the right place, and, when the Grand Architect summoned him above, as good a Mason passed from earth as ever entered the portals of the Lodge.

"This aged veteran of the War of 1812 has just died in Brooklyn. His life has extended through three average generations. Thirty years ago — say 1845 — few men were better known in New York City and vicinity than he.

"Benjamin Wood was born in New City, Orange (now Rockland County), 30 Jul 1780, and lived a few weeks beyond his 95th birthday. ... He came to New York at fourteen years of age to seek business, and engaged himself at first as an apprentice to a silversmith in Maiden Lane.

"In 1812, having been some years established in a business of his own, he raised, at his own expense, a company of volunteers, 125 in number, in the war against Great Britain. He was stationed first at Ellis Island, then at New Utrecht, and finally at Sandy Hook. During the war he received a Captain's commission in the 27th U. S. Infantry, and served until 5 Jun 1815, when the army was disbanded.

"Captain Wood mounted and fired the first gun put into Fort Lafayette, at the Narrows. He was Officer of the Day at Sandy Hook, and boarded the vessel that brought the news of peace in 1815, and was the first man in the country to receive the good news. He was the Boarding Officer in the Revenue Service at Quarantine from 1821 to 1841, and during that period exerted an almost controlling influence in the politics of Staten Island, and it was an influence never tarnished by an unworthy act.

"At last, in 1875, he came to his death, like a shock of corn fully ripe. His life was eminently Christian. He cherished from his early manhood the Christian hope, and exemplified it always by true devotion to his Divine Master and by an untiring consecration to his Church. He has now exchanged the infirmities of age for the rests and rewards of heaven."

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Morris's Memorial History of Staten Island, New York, Volume 2, by Ira K. Morris, page 205.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=m-kTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA62&dq=%22Benjamin+Wood%22+%22staten+island%22&hl=en&ei=9-3aTsfJL8TV0QH6pMnkDQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CDQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Benjamin%20Wood%22%20%22staten%20island%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=m-kTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA62&dq=%22Benjamin+Wood%22+%22staten+island%22&hl=en&ei=9-3aTsfJL8TV0QH6pMnkDQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CDQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Benjamin%20Wood%22%20%22staten%20island%22&f=false)

**Dr. Ephraim Clark.**—Dr. Clark was born at Wheatsheaf, near Rahway, NJ, in 1795. His father, Captain Ephraim Clark, was in the United States Army, during the War of 1812, and his grave is in the Dutch Reformed Church yard, in Port Richmond. Dr. Clark studied medicine with Dr. Valentine Mott, of New York, and afterward graduated from the College of the State Medical Society at New Brunswick. He came to Staten Island in 1820, and married Miss Ann Guyon, daughter of Major James Guyon, of New Dorp. He erected the mansion now occupied by his son, Dr. James G. Clark, of West New Brighton, and resided there for many years. He also kept a drug-store at the corner of Richmond terrace and Taylor Street, near his residence.

On the arrival of General LaFayette, on his last visit to this country, in 1825, Dr. Clark was a member of the committee that received the distinguished soldier at Nautilus Hall, in Tompkinsville. At the reception given to Kossuth, the committee was composed of Dr. Ephraim Clark, Dr. Westervelt, Samuel French and Richard Adam Locke. The latter delivered the address of welcome. General Garibaldi was also present and made an address.

When General Andrew Jackson made his famous visit to New York City, in 1832, Dr. Clark was a member of the Reception Committee that met the old soldier at Mersereau's Ferry (Port Richmond). The other members of the committee were Colonel Nathan Barrett, Rev. Dr. Peter I. Van Pelt, Dr. J. T. Harrison and Colonel Barton. The committee escorted General Jackson to New York City, and landed at Castle Garden.

Dr. Clark was physician to Colonel Aaron Burr, while at Port Richmond. He was also a member of the Committee which selected the Rev. Dr. Brownlee as pastor of the Port Richmond Dutch Reformed Church.

During Dr. Clark's long life he held a number of important positions. He was appointed Surgeon of the 146th Regiment of Infantry, composed of Staten Islanders, by Governor Yates, in 1823, and, having resigned, was, in 1837, appointed Surgeon of the 65th Regiment New York State Militia, by Governor Marcy. Afterward he was appointed aide-de-camp, with the rank of Colonel, on the staff of Major-General Van Buren, by Governor Seward. He was Post Surgeon at Camp Sprague, New Dorp, during the Southern Rebellion, and examined over 4,000 men.

Dr. Clark was a delegate to the Charleston Convention, which nominated Breckenridge and Lane. He was one of the early members of **Richmond Lodge, No. 66**, F&AM, and a charter member of Tompkins Lodge, No. 401 [471]. He was one of the organizers of the Richmond County Agricultural Society, and was its first President. For many years prior to and at the time of his death, he was the physician to the County Jail. He served as Supervisor for Southfield, and Superintendent of the Poor for several years.

One day, in conversation with the writer, Dr. Clark said: "A man living to my age naturally sees a great deal. Some have very happy lives. What has given me good health and prolonged my life, is that I have always been of a happy disposition. I do not fret, but like to be social. Always happy to see my friends. There is no man in the world I would step over my threshold to injure."

One morning, in the autumn of 1885, the noble old man arose from his bed and prepared for the usual duties of the day, in a world that was constantly growing smaller to him. Suddenly he sat down upon his bed, then rested his head upon the pillow of peace, and his gentle, loving soul went home.

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Ibid. page 339.

**Hon. Calvin Decker Van Name.**—Mr. Van Name was born at Mariners' Harbor, Staten Island, in the locality known as "Old Place," on 3 Jan 1857. He is the son of the late William Henry Van Name, a successful oyster planter, who was also a native of the same place. Mr. Van Name has always been an earnest student, and received the degree of L. L. B. from the University of the City of New York before arriving at age, and was admitted to practice law immediately on reaching twenty-one. Mr. Van Name became prominent throughout this part of the country even while a young man.

In his profession Mr. Van Name has always ranked among the most trustworthy and painstaking of men. As an attorney he was successful from the beginning. He was intrusted with important matters, and acquired a large practice almost as soon as he was admitted to the bar.



Mr. Van Name had a long and thorough training in the practice of law with the Hon. Bradford Prince, since Chief Justice and Governor of New Mexico, but then State Senator from this district. This gave him complete knowledge of the departments at Albany. That he made a favorable impression there, is evinced by the fact that he has obtained more grants of land under water than any other lawyer in the State.

Mr. Van Name's successful conduct of the Foley South Beach case, and the eviction of the Burkes and Lancaster Syms claimants from the Garretson beach, made all holders of old farm titles his lasting friends, and demonstrated the security of Staten Island titles. His real estate practice is very large, and he has in his safes complete abstracts of the titles to the farms as they once existed, in continuous line, in Northfield, from Bodine's mill to Holland's Hook.

Mr. Van Name is related to two of the oldest and largest families on Staten Island—the Van Names and Deckers. He is a member of the Holland Society, **Richmond Lodge, No. 66**, F&AM, and various other organizations. He is a large property owner in the Third Ward (Northfield), and has been identified with all public movements on the Island for many years, he was formerly a prominent Republican, serving for four years in the County and State Committees and in the County and State conventions. He declined several county nominations from his party. He joined the Democratic party in 1873 and elected Member of Assembly in 1900.

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ibid. page 512.

**Frank Foggin.**—Mr. Foggin was born in New York City on 16 Sep 1860, and with his father and mother removed to Staten Island in 1862. He attended the Port Richmond Union Free School. He has served in the Port Richmond post office for twenty-one years, in various positions. He resigned as Postmaster in 1894, having purchased the largest retail shoe establishment on the Island. He served as clerk of the Town of Northfield during the years of 1887-'88-'89, and clerk to the Town Board of Health during the same years.

Mr. Foggin was elected a member of the Port Richmond Board of Trustees in 1896, and in the following year was elected chairman of the Board, and was, consequently, President of the Village. He was serving in that capacity when the new city charter went into effect. He was re-appointed Postmaster of Port Richmond in 1898, and is still serving in that position beside continuing his shoe trade.

Mr. Foggin was the Republican candidate for Supervisor of Northfield in 1895. He has been a Republican all his life, and has labored very earnestly for party success. He always held the confidence and respect of the rank and file. Mr. Foggin is a member of **Richmond Lodge, No. 66**, F&AM, Metamora Council, No. 650, A. L. of H., Port Richmond Engine Company, No. 3, and several other organizations.



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A Standard History of Freemasonry in the State of New York ..., Volume 2, by Peter Ross, page 96.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=kWYiAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA130-IA1&dq=%22Richmond+Lodge+No.+66%22&hl=en&ei=W8LaTuunCqL20gGOpfjVDQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=3&ved=0CEIQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Richmond%20Lodge%20No.%2066%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=kWYiAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA130-IA1&dq=%22Richmond+Lodge+No.+66%22&hl=en&ei=W8LaTuunCqL20gGOpfjVDQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3&ved=0CEIQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Richmond%20Lodge%20No.%2066%22&f=false)

**Donato Antonio Lamberti** was born in Italy, 2 Jan 1853. After spending his youth in the land of his birth and receiving there a good rudimentary education, he went, when fourteen years of age, to Africa, remaining in the "Dark Continent" for three and a half years, and then went to France. Two years later he proceeded to Spain, but remained there only a short time, when he returned to France and remained there until the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war, when he went to England. In 1871 he settled in the United States, making his home in New York for seventeen years, or until 1888, when he took up his residence at Mariner's Harbor, where he still remains. As will be seen from this brief summary, Brother Lamberti has been a traveler to a considerable extent, but his travels were not without a purpose. Early in life he showed the possession of great musical talent, and he developed this as much as possible and traveled so that he might not only improve his mental ability by training and practice but also that he might by its aid gain a livelihood. In New York he became conspicuous as a musical artist and teacher and became quite a prominent figure in musical circles until his departure for Mariner's Harbor, where he entered in the hotel business, in which he has been remarkably successful.

Brother Lamberti's Masonic career dates from 1876, when he received his symbolic degrees in **Prudence Lodge, No. 632**,—a Lodge which no longer exists. On removing to Staten Island he affiliated with **Richmond Lodge, No. 66**, and received exaltation in Tyrian Chapter, No. 219, R. A. M. In 1893 he received the Chivalric degrees in York Commandery, No. 55, and then became a Noble of the Mystic Shrine by acquiring a membership in Mecca Temple.

On 20 Nov 1881, Brother Lamberti married Elizabeth Rebecca Bride, a New York lady, who has proved a true helpmate to him. With her husband she is a member of Beacon Star Chapter, No. 75, Order of Eastern Star, and has not only taken a deep interest in its work but has held all the offices leading to that of Associate Matron, which she now holds. Mrs. Lamberti is deserving of special mention in a volume of this sort for her untiring efforts in the movement which led to the erection of the new Masonic Temple in Port Richmond.

Ibid. page 98.

**F[rank] J. Houghton** - The present [1898] Master of **Richmond Lodge, No. 66**, was born in New York City, 3 Feb 1864, but as he was reared and educated on Staten Island he may be said truly to be a native citizen and lifelong resident of Greater New York. At the age of fifteen years he started to learn the trade of engineer and for eight years was in the service of John H. Starin. Some four years ago he entered the service of the Vanderbilt Corporation and now holds the position of engineer on the ferryboats on the Weehawken service. He has won an excellent reputation as a cautious, practical, but eminently progressive mechanic, a man who is certain of advancement in good time. In 1890 he married Miss Matilda J. Rottler, a young lady of German birth, and their home at Port Richmond is happy in the laughter of four children,—one son and three daughters.

Brother Houghton was initiated, passed and raised in Richmond Lodge, and his rapid advance in the craft is evinced by his holding already the honorable office of Master. In 1893 he received the Royal Arch degrees in Tyrian Chapter. He is an enthusiastic Mason, is a thorough ritualist, and endeavors to regulate his life by the precepts of the craft.

Ibid. page 106.

**Charles H. Kohler**. Probably no man is better known, personally, on Staten Island than Charles H. Kohler, whose position as Superintendent of the Staten Island Ferry, at St. George, brings him into daily contact with the thousands who go to and from New York City. Few of these travelers have any idea how much of their comfort and convenience depends upon the watchfulness and thoughtfulness of the Superintendent, yet it may be said that the matter is never absent from his thoughts. No man knows better than Mr. Kohler the requirements of the traveling public,—at least that section of it,—and the section is growing every year,—which travels between St. George and the Battery.

He was born at Mariner's Harbor, 9 Oct 1848, and after receiving the ordinary education of that place commenced the actual struggle of life by learning the art, or practice, or business, of steamboating. With that he continued to be practically identified, attaining the position of Captain and retaining it for eighteen years, until he accepted his present responsible position, a position in which he has deservedly won golden opinions on every hand. On 9 Oct 1872, he was married to Miss Cloretta Van Namee, who, like himself, was born on Staten Island, and the same beautiful birthplace is claimed by their children,— William P. and Frederick B.

Brother Kohler received the three degrees of Symbolic Masonry in **Richmond Lodge, No. 66**, in 1879. His unceasing duties in connection with the ferry leave him little time to devote to the practical work of his Lodge, but for all that he is an enthusiastic Mason, and there are few members—if there be any—of Richmond Lodge more devoted to its teachings or its advancement.

Ibid. page 110.

**John Pelcher**. As the Master of **Richmond Lodge, No. 66**, in 1882, and again in 1893, and as King of Tyrian Chapter, No. 219, Brother John Pelcher has won an enviable standing in the brotherhood on Staten Island. He was initiated, passed and raised in 1879, and exalted in 1882, and since each of these dates has taken a most active part in the affairs of both Lodge and Chapter. His activity is not confined to times of office-holding, but is continued at all seasons, for he believes Masonry is playing an important part in the affairs of the world, that that importance is destined to increase as the years speed on, and that every well meant endeavor is bound to hasten the consummation of the day so ardently desired by the brethren when, in the words of the great Scottish poet,—one of the great Masonic poets:—"Man to man the wide world o'er shall brothers be."

Brother Pelcher was born at Troy, NY, 25 Aug 1837. When he was quite young his family moved to Great Neck, Long Island, and there he received his early education. There, too, he learned his trade, that of a marine engineer, and learned it thoroughly. He followed it for over thirty-two years and then (1887) accepted a position with the Hartford Insurance Company as boiler inspector, which position he still holds. On 13 Sep 1868, he married May A. Baker, a native of Brooklyn. Their family now consists of two children,—Harry W. and Gracie. Three other children were born to them, but passed away.

Brother Pelcher has often given ample proof that he is an authority on Masonic ritual, legend and history. He carefully investigates every detail and when he makes up his mind on any point the brethren generally are ready to acknowledge that he is in the right. There are certain fundamental laws which lie at the basis of all Masonic action, and these laws he seems to have thoroughly grasped. As an exponent of the standard ritual he has never been excelled in Richmond Lodge.

Ibid. page 128-130



**Dr. J[ohn] Walter Wood, A. M., M. D.** has steadily built up a large practice in Staten Island.—the island of his birth—and is adding to it year by year. He has accomplished this by hard work and constant study. He has no belief in "royal roads" to recovery once a person is attacked by malady, or in the modern "fad" of making medical science and the lost art of miracle-making work together. Hence his progress has been slow, but at the same time it has been sure. By slow we do not mean that his progress has been less than that of the average physician, but slow compared with the returns which any other business would have brought had he applied to it the same amount of energy, thought, study and devoted attention.

Dr. Wood was born at Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island, 23 Apr 1856. After graduating at the College of the City of New York he determined to take up the study of medicine, and, entering the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, graduated in 1881. After a course at Bellevue and New York Hospitals, he commenced at once the active practice of his profession at Madison, NJ, and about the same time, as all sensible physicians ought to do, he took unto himself a wife and married Miss Made Sprague, daughter of Professor J. S. Sprague, of New Brighton, Staten Island. Three children have since blessed this union,—Agnes S., Walter D. and Leroy C. After a while, owing to his wife's ill-health, Dr. Wood determined to return to Staten Island and took up his abode in Port Richmond.

There he speedily found himself becoming popular with all classes, and he soon saw it was only a question of time before he would have built up a practice which would practically extend all along the north shore of the island and a good way into its interior. His popularity may be estimated from the offices he has held. These have included those of Coroner of Richmond County, Health Officer of Port Richmond, Visiting Surgeon to the Smith Infirmary, and Physician to the present County Coroner. He is a member of the Richmond County Medical Society and the New York State Medical Association, and the Examining Physician, for his district, of the Mutual Reserve Life Association and the Equitable Life. Such appointments mean that a man has acquired more than ordinary eminence in his profession and that his reputation, not only for professional skill but for honesty and fair dealing, is well established in the community in which he lives, the community which knows him best.

Dr. Wood was initiated and passed in **Richmond Lodge No. 66**, F&AM, 5 Feb 1883, passed March 5 following, and raised March 19; and from his first position in the northeast corner of the Lodge gradually rose in the various offices until he was elected Master in 1888. His present Lodge number is 324, and his Grand Lodge number 225,868. He was advanced to Mark Master in Tyrian Chapter No. 219, R. A. M., 27 May 1886, passed the chair of Past Master, June 13 following, received and acknowledged a Most Excellent Master, July 8, and exalted a Royal Arch on August 27,—all in 1886; and this Chapter he served as High Priest in the years 1889, 1890 and 1892. In York Commandery No. 55, K. T., he received the degrees of the Red Cross and Knight Templar, 22 Mar 1893, and of Malta 22 May 1895, and he is now Surgeon of that Commandery; and he was received into Mecca Temple, Order of the Mystic Shrine, as No. 2,584, 28 Apr 1893. In 1895-96 he was District Deputy Grand Master of the 27th (now the 11th) Masonic District, comprising Richmond County, in which office he made many friends in the Grand Lodge as well as elsewhere, adding to his Masonic relationships throughout his bailiwick; but above all he won a high reputation for his devotion to the best interests of the craft and his loyal attachment to all its provisions. While he enjoys the pleasures of the "Shrine," he still finds a higher scope for satisfactory edification in the Lodge and Chapter.

He is Chairman of the Committee on Hospitals and Charities, of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce. 6 Jan 1898, he was appointed Assistant Register of Records for the Borough of Richmond.

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John Walter Wood; b. Mariners Harbor, Staten Island, 23 Apr 1866: son of Walter Dongan Wood and Catherine S. Van Nawe; m. Mattie Sprague. 1881; ch. Agnes S., Walter D. and Leroy Collier; ed. Gram. School, NY; grad. Coll. Phys. and Surgs., 1881; lic. New York and New Jersey: deg. A. B. and A. M., M. D.; post-grad. ed. Bell, and New York Hosp.; Coroner Richmond Co.; Coroner's Phys. under three different Coroners: Health Officer Village of Port Richmond; Surg. S. R. Smith Inf.; Phys. Actors' Fund Home; Chief Med. Exam. Equitable Life Assoc., Richmond; mem. Richmond Co. Med.; Greater City N. Y. Med.; N. Y. State Med.: Amer. Pub. Health Assoc.; Past Master Richmond Lodge No. 66, F. and A. M.; High Priest Tyrian Chapter, No. 219, R. A. M.: Commander Empire Comm., No. 66, K. T.; District Deputy Grand Master, 11th Masonic Dlst.; Oriental Guide Mecca Temple of Mystic Shrine; Regular; Residence and office: 2110 Richmond Terrace, Port Richmond, NY.

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**Capt. J. Mark Stevens**, owner and captain of the well known Staten Island tug "Carrie," is one of the most conscientious and enthusiastic of the "brothers of the Mystic Tie" in what is now Richmond County. He is a man of sterling honesty, scrupulous in the carrying out of every contract, and his sterling qualities, as a result of many years of trial, are thoroughly understood and appreciated by hosts of friends. It has become the fashion for the weak-minded geniuses who write for the comic papers to sneer at "the honest sailor;" but the native honesty of Captain Stevens has so often been tried and tested that those who judge of the matter from their knowledge of him fail to see any occasion for such sneers and claim they are leveled at men who, as a class, are more straightforward than, possibly, any other in the community. Captain Stevens believes in the good old rule of doing unto others as ye would have others do unto you; and in the good business precept which tells us not only to render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, but also in its simple interpretation of paying one hundred cents on the dollar.

Captain Stevens was made a Mason in **Richmond Lodge, No. 66**, Port Richmond, in 1867, and at once took an active part in one branch or other of its work, although he has never aspired higher than to "be seated with the brethren." He was exalted in Tyrian Chapter No. 219, Royal Arch Masons, and received the Knightly degrees in York Commandery No. 55. He has also assumed the dignity of one of the Nobles of Mecca Temple, Mystic Shrine. To those who know the sterling character of Captain Stevens it need not here be said that had he not been thoroughly impressed with the teachings of the first three degrees—the ancient degrees—he would never have sought further light at the Masonic altar. But like all good men and true who have been admitted into our circle he has endeavored, as far as has lain in his power, to grasp what one of the most famous English critics has called "the idea of Masonry." he has proved a most loyal craftsman.

Brother Stevens was born at Mariners' Harbor, Staten Island, on 2 Sep 1847, and commenced a seafaring life immediately on leaving school. In 1872 he married Miss Emma Frances Van Name, and they have an interesting family of four daughters and a son. Mrs. Stevens is a member of Beacon Light Chapter, No. 76, Order of the Eastern Star.

Ibid. page 147.

**John G. Belknap**. This well known resident of Port Richmond early in life fortified himself for the struggle for existence which most men have to undergo by opening for himself several callings, by any one of which he might earn a livelihood. Sometimes a multiplicity of occupations like this defeat their own ends, but Brother Belknap was able to pass from one to another with remarkable ease and finally confined himself to the one which suited him best. Being a man of common sense and endowed with a good stock of prudence and foresight, he carefully husbanded his resources as he journeyed along life's highway and now finds himself in comfortable circumstances as the result of economy, thrift and industry in by-gone years,—the very years in which most men are most extravagant and foolish. He was born at Oak Hill, Sand Lake, Rensselaer County, NY, 1 Apr 1833, and, after passing through the village school learned the trade of carpenter. Later he became an expert engineer and a practical miller. In 1866 he married Miss Clotilda Marie Barboo, and their children comprise a son, Frank, and a daughter, Anna, now the wife of Mr. John A. Franklin.

In 1874 Brother Belknap settled on Staten Island and took up his residence at Port Richmond. For some years he has been engaged each summer in steamboating, spending his winters quietly at home. He is a man of liberal views, open to conviction, but he thoroughly studies every question in which he takes an interest, and when he has formed an opinion it is always firmly expressed, as the result of deep conviction of what he believes to be right, honorable and just.

Brother Belknap was made a Mason in **Greenbush Lodge, No. 337**, Rensselaer, but on making Staten Island his home he affiliated with **Richmond Lodge, No. 66**. He received the Royal Arch degrees in Union Chapter No. 180, and was Knighted in York Commandery No. 55.

Ibid. page 201.

John S. Warde was initiated, passed and raised in **Scotia Lodge No. 634**, New York, in 1870. In that popular body of Masons he won many friends and might have attained any preferment therein did not business interests make it impossible for him to convene with the brethren. Long after settling on Staten Island he affiliated with **Richmond Lodge No. 66**, where he has proved a valuable acquisition on many occasions. In 1894 he was exalted in Tyrian Chapter, No. 219, and the same year received Masonic Knighthood in York Commandery No. 55. A year later he became initiated into membership in Mecca Temple and so acquired the dignity of a "Shriner." In all these bodies he is as active as his other duties will permit and he is ready at all times to respond when called upon to do any work in connection with each. In Masonic circles on Staten Island no man is more popular, and no man is more deserving of the warmest sentiments of the brethren.

Brother Warde was born in Westchester County, NY, 25 Jan 1840, and commenced the struggle of life in the general post-office of New York, in 1853, under Isaac V. Fowler, Postmaster. When the Civil war broke out he enlisted in the **9th Regiment, New York Militia**, and afterward in the **83rd New York Volunteers**, serving until the close of hostilities. As a member of Richmond Post, No. 524, G. A. R., he keeps alive the memories of the "times that tried men's souls," by association with others who took part in them and by performing those friendly offices which one did soldier feels it incumbent on him to pay to another. After the war he was tendered an appointment in the New York post-office, by Postmaster James, which was respectfully declined as he then held a position in the Water Purveyor's office, department city works, city of Brooklyn. In 1881 Brother Warde resigned his position in the city works department, and went to Staten Island as superintendent of the Staten Island Water Supply Company and that important appointment he still holds.

In 1861 he married Lizzie J. Clark. She died in 1895, leaving two children, and he married a second time, his choice falling on Miss Mabel E. Caughey, a native of Staten Island, NY, and they have one child, a daughter. On Staten Island, as in New York, Brother Warde has "troops of friends" and hearty well wishers, and this, not because of superficial qualities, but because of those which wear and brighten as a man advances along the highway of life.

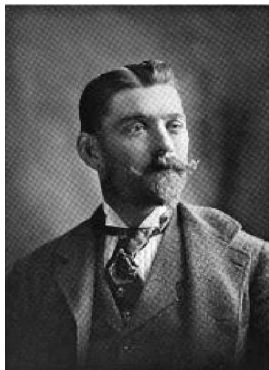
Ibid. page 309.

**A. G. Hastings** was born in England 2 Apr 1858, and received his early training there. He came to this country in 1886, with the idea of settling down in life. Selecting Staten Island as his field, he sought employment as an accountant, and speedily found it. For the past ten years he has held the position of accountant in the office of the Jewett White Lead Company, and is held in the highest esteem by all who are there associated with him in any capacity as an honored, able and warm-hearted man, a citizen without reproach, and a man whose simple word is as good as most men's bond,—a good deal better than some. In 1891 he married Miss Augusta C. Heydenberge, a native of Sweden, and has two sons,—Clarence A. V. and Harold K.,— who share with them their cozy home at Port Richmond.

Brother Hastings was made a Mason in **Richmond Lodge No. 66**, in 1895. In the following years he received the Royal Arch . degrees, in Tyrian Chapter No. 219, and was Knighted in York Commandery No. 55; and he later became a member of Mecca Temple, Mystic Shrine. He is known among his Masonic brethren for his devotion to Masonry, and in the affairs of his Lodge, in particular, he takes the warmest interest. At all times and all seasons Brother Hastings can be relied on to do all in his power to promote its welfare and extend its benign influence.

Ibid. page 331.

**Edward L. Mersereau**. - It is only within a short time that Brother Edward L. Mersereau has sought and obtained Masonic light, but the brief experience he has had in the order has been sufficient to invest him with a good deal of enthusiasm in its behalf. He was initiated in **Richmond Lodge No. 66**, and Tynan Chapter No. 219, Staten Island, in 1897, and in York Commandery No. 55, KT, in 1898, and at once threw himself with characteristic energy into the glorious work of the fraternity.



Brother Mersereau was born in West New Brighton, Staten Island, 16 Oct 1864. In early life he was engaged in the real-estate business, but in 1885 he started in business on his own account as a dealer in doors, sashes, blinds, etc., and has built up quite a large and lucrative trade. He has won a position among the tried business men of Richmond borough, and is one who can be depended upon to render substantial aid to every movement calculated to advance its highest interests. On 10 Oct 1892, he married Josephine Schoonover, of Port Jervis, and they have one daughter, Aldine.

Ibid. page 352.

< **Guy S. Brantingham**, of **Richmond Lodge No. 66**, Staten Island, was born in Springfield, Sangamon County, IL, 5 Aug 1858. When two years of age he removed with his parents to Staten Island, which has since been his home. After getting all the education the public schools afforded he turned his attention to steamboating and quickly acquired a thorough practical knowledge of all its details, and in the engineering department became recognized as an adept. From the beginning he has been identified with what are known as the Vanderbilt interests, and be it said that no railroad corporation in the world is more regardful of due acknowledgment of genuine, honest work in its

service than that gigantic corporation. In 1880, after the West Shore Railroad was practically incorporated in the Vanderbilt system, Brother Brantingham was appointed Chief Engineer of the West Shore, or Weehawken, ferries, and given personal charge of the construction department. The ferryboat *Buffalo* was built from drawings made by him and his designs have worked out, in practical operation, many of the theoretical problems on which he had long been pondering. The great increase of railroad traffic at Weehawken during the past ten years has brought into active use all Brother Brantingham's practical engineering knowledge, but he has proved equal to every demand made upon him.

But while watchful over the trust committed to his care at the West Shore Depot, he has managed to win a foremost place as a citizen of Staten Island. In 1895 he was elected a Trustee of the Village of New Brighton by the largest majority ever cast in his ward, and he was afterward re-elected with a plurality over two other candidates. In 1897 he became, by the votes of his fellow-trustees, President of the Village, a position which he now fills with much credit to himself and with abundant advantage to his constituents. In many ways he has proved a tower of strength, not only to "the Brightons," but to the entire island. He was instrumental in bringing to it the necessary capital to gridiron it with trolley lines, the means by which it is being opened up to public use as a residence locality as it never was before. Also in connection with the trolley system he built the New Midland Beach, at which over 2,200,000 people were entertained in one summer. It is said on the island that he can command capital for any project in which he chooses to engage, for he is regarded as a shrewd business man, full of practical ideas and imbued with plain, downright common sense, a man of resources and energy, a man who could not do a mean or dishonorable action and who has the happy art of associating around him only men who are of the same disposition. His judgment is regarded as unerring and he has never yet been associated with a failure.

In 1879 Brother Brantingham married Miss May Thorne, a young English lady,—a native of London,—and two daughters now share their beautiful home at West New Brighton. Among the brethren of Richmond Lodge the subject of this sketch is held in the highest esteem, for he has often shown that he possesses all the attributes of a "good Mason," although not so actively identified with the work of the Lodge as they would prefer or as he undoubtedly would be if its thousand and one other duties left him the necessary time.

Ibid. page 373.

**Edwin Mitchell** was born in Halifax, Yorkshire, England, 14 Jan 1843. In early life he learned the trade of brush-maker and worked at that business in his native land as apprentice and as journeyman. He also served in the local volunteer force, but only for one year, as his military inclinations were cut short by his determination to cross the Atlantic. In 1866 he landed in Portland, ME, and from there proceeded to Boston, but was only about six months in that ancient city, the "Hub of the Universe," when he learned that for his trade New York was not only the "hub," but the whole wheel. So he removed to New York and worked as a journeyman until 1883, when he entered into business on his own account as a brush-maker at 63 Fulton street, and began at once to prosper. He manufactured mainly toilet goods and catered only to the best trade, and his product has become so well known that he generally employs between 25 and 50 employees, varying with the season, to aid him in his manufacturing department. Since 1898 he has been located at 54 Fulton street, and his establishment has become one of the landmarks of that busy thoroughfare.

In 1895 Brother Mitchell was made a Mason in **Richmond Lodge No. 66**, Staten Island, and in the following year received the Capitular degrees in Tyrian Chapter No. 219. In 1897 he was Knighted in York Commandery No. 55, and soon thereafter became one of the Nobles of Mecca Temple, Mystic Shrine. He is devoted to all these branches of the institution, and those who know him best aver that his interest will increase as the years roll on.

Ibid. page 387.

**Gustavus H. Widmer**. One of the most esteemed business men on Staten Island is Brother Gustavus H. Widmer, of Port Richmond, who for nearly ten years has been known in commercial and building circles as a successful painter and decorator. He was born in Newark, NJ, 11 Jul 1847, and in that pleasant and prosperous city learned the painting trade, when he took Greeley's advice to "Go west, young man," and went as far in that direction as Illinois, working at his trade in Chicago and several other places. Then concluding that the East had more solid chances in his line, he went back to New Jersey and worked there until he received the appointment of foreman painter in Starin's boat-building establishment at Port Richmond. There he remained until he entered into business on his own account. His success was rapid and from the beginning he prided himself on doing honest work. As a decorative painter his taste is acknowledged as exquisite, the result not only of wide experience, but also of careful study of the art. Whatever contract he accepts is fulfilled to the letter, and this is acknowledged by all who have had business dealings with him, and has won for him the enviable position he now enjoys. On 26 Jun 1878, he married Miss Mina Lewhrich, a young lady whose birthplace was Newark, and they have three children—Henry, Arthur and Edith W.

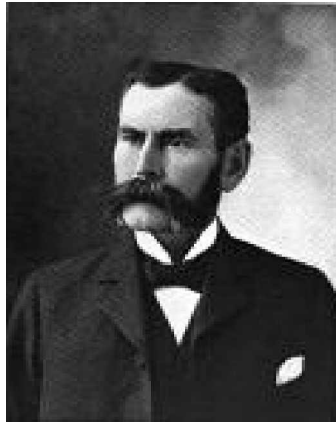
Brother Widmer is devoted to Masonry. In 1895 he was initiated in **Richmond Lodge No. 66**, and the beauties of the Symbolic degrees so impressed him that a year later he sought to gain further knowledge and was exalted in Tyrian Chapter No. 219, R. A. M. Still seeking light, he received the Chivalric degrees in York Commandery in 1896. In all of these bodies he manifests a great interest, and while perfectly content that others should seek Masonic honors in the way of office-holding, he has often shown that he is ever ready to fulfill every Masonic duty, and to answer every legitimate demand that may be made upon him. He believes in the future of Masonry and is proud of being a soldier in its ranks.

Ibid. page 399.

**Charles F. Bissinger**. As Superintendent of the Jewett White Lead Works at Port Richmond, Staten Island, Charles F. Bissinger is known and held in high esteem among a wide circle of business men not only on the Island but throughout the country. He was born at Boston, MA, 14 Aug 1865, and was educated in that grand old town,—a town which in more ways than one is the center of American life,—national, educational, literary and scientific, to mention a few. When his schooling was over he learned the trade of machinist and worked at it until 1884, when he entered the service of the Jewett White Lead Company. There he has remained until the present time, steadily rising in position until, in 1891, he received his present appointment of Superintendent. In 1886 he married Miss Clara P. Courtney, a native of Staten Island. They have one daughter, Hazel.

Brother Bissinger was made a Mason in 1891, in **Richmond Lodge No. 66**. On becoming a Master Mason he at once sought and received the Royal Arch degrees in Tyrian Chapter No. 219, and followed this up by taking the Knightly degrees in York Commandery No. 55. From there he passed into Mecca Temple No. 1, Mystic Shrine. In all these bodies he is justly esteemed for his kindly characteristics and for the devotion he has shown to each. He has given abundant evidence that he possesses the true Masonic spirit, and it is in the possession and the affection of just such men that the entire order is strengthened and upheld before the world.

Ibid. page 523.



**Benjamin J. Bodine.** In political circles—that is to say, in those pertaining to the Democratic party—no one stands higher or has a wider influence than Benjamin J. Bodine. He thoroughly understands the principles of his party, is a firm believer in the ultimate triumph of those principles and never hesitates to express the opinion that it is by the steady working out of those principles that American liberty and American citizenship are to attain their fullest development. He has enunciated this doctrine on Staten Island in season and out of season, and has ever been ready to travel any distance or work with head and hand to promulgate it. An able, even a brilliant, speaker, a ready debater, with an intuitive knowledge of the best means of getting at the hearts of his audiences, he has always won for himself a warm reception, and in campaigning, in the heat of a political canvass, he has invariably borne his share of the hard work and so won the approval of his associates. Although by no means an office-seeker, he has been designated by his party leaders for more than one office, and in each has demonstrated that their confidence was not misplaced. In 1890 he was appointed Superintendent of Poor for Richmond County and by virtue of that position became keeper of the almshouse and superintendent of the county farm. For such a position his innate sense of sympathy for the unfortunate, his unfailing kindness and his untiring patience made him peculiarly adapted, and, while his treatment of his hapless charges was all that could be desired, the rate-payers of the county had no reason to grumble at his management. His economy was perfect, but by no means niggardly, and he instituted many improvements in the management of the office—which proved beneficial to those who appealed to it or were sent to it, without, at the same time, giving rise to any thoughts of extravagance on the part of the citizens whose taxes were the basis of supplies.

In Nov 1897, he was elected a member of the City Council of Greater New York and through the exciting local canvass of that year he rendered most effective aid to his party. So far his course in the council chamber has been marked by dignity rather than prominence, but he has already done much good work in committee and will undoubtedly forge his way to the front. We are sure that Councilman Bodine will assume the same prominent position in the eyes of the municipality at large he has so long occupied in his own borough.

Benjamin J. Bodine was born on Staten Island 7 Jan 1848, and, with a short interval spent in the military service of his country, his life has there been spent. During the Civil war he enlisted in **Battery C, 3rd United States Artillery**, and at the close of hostilities was ordered to the Western frontier, where the Indians were giving considerable trouble. In this arduous service he remained until his term of enlistment had expired, and he then returned to Staten Island and resumed civil life. He secured a position as clerk in a ship-chandler's establishment and continued in that business until he was appointed Superintendent of Poor. But his army life had not quite lost its charms, and, like every other veteran, he loved to fight his battles over again. Accordingly he was one of the organizers of Richmond Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and has since been elected its Commander.

In Masonry Brother Bodine was initiated, passed and raised in **Richmond Lodge No. 66**, and was exalted in Tyrian Chapter No. 219, R. A. M. He is an enthusiastic member of both bodies—one of those diligent and zealous Masons whom the brethren can confidently rely on at all seasons and on all occasions.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrichmo/prominent/bodine.pdf>

BENJAMIN J. BODINE was born Jan. 7th, 1849, at Castleton Corners. His father, Abram Bodine, was one of the 1849 pioneers to the California gold regions.

Mr. Bodine was educated in the schools of Staten Island. When only fourteen years of age he ran away from home and enlisted in the Union Army joining Battery C., 3rd U. S. Artillery, Regulars, then stationed in the Shenandoah Valley, Captain D. R. Ransom commanding. He served in the Army of the Potomac under Gen. Hancock, taking part in many of the important battles fought along the Potomac and around Richmond. After the close of the war he was sent to the Platte Valley, Neb., where he served in the Indian war until after the surrender of Spotted Tail. He was mustered out in 1866, when he returned to Staten Island.

In 1868, he entered into co-partnership with Mr. John Smith, of Long Island, and carried on a fruit commission business at Norwalk, Conn. In 1872, he dissolved partnership with Mr. Smith and took the position of head salesman for Davis & Mayo, Hoboken, N. J., ship chandlers.

In 1876, he entered into partnership with Geo. W. Thackery, and again engaged in the fruit and vegetable business, running a sloop between New York, Elizabethport and Port Johnson. He remained in this business, doing a thriving trade, for nine years, until the death of Mr. Isaac Van Name, in 1885, made an opening for him to enter upon a prosperous grocery trade in the thriving village of Mariners' Harbor, as the manager of his son and successor, Oscar Van Name, where he remained until his appointment, in 1890, to the office of superintendent of the poor, which position he still holds.

A visit to this well-kept institution will show that Mr. Bodine's military training in the United States Regular Army has made him a model superintendent for a large institution, such as our county almshouse, and our board of supervisors have set the seal of their approval on his management not only with their "well done good and faithful servant," but have supplemented their words of praise by a liberal increase of salary.

There was probably no man better fitted for the position of superintendent of the almshouse than Mr. Bodine. His long experience in business had made him thoroughly acquainted with the value of provisions and the cost of supplies; and since he has been superintendent there has been no complaint of favoritism in the purchase of goods either in price or quality, but all the affairs of the almshouse have been managed after careful business methods by an experienced business man.

## **Staten Island Lodge No. 66**

[http://www.sirmany.org/richmond\\_aquenhonga\\_lodge\\_hi.htm](http://www.sirmany.org/richmond_aquenhonga_lodge_hi.htm)

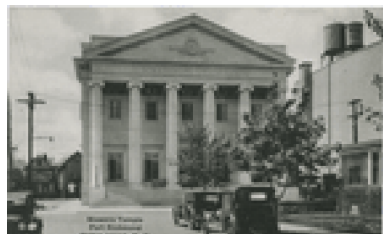
### *Staten Island Lodge No. 66 History*

The story of Masonry is a component part of the history of Richmond County. Without the story of Richmond Lodge and Aquehona Lodge, the annals of Staten Island would be incomplete. During the period of the Revolution, a provisional Lodge convened in New Dorp, Staten Island, NY composed of British officers, soldiers and a few residents of the Island. Meetings were held at intervals until the evacuation of the British in 1785.

Richmond Lodge owes its origin to an incident which occurred in autumn of 1812. British officers who had attended the Provisional Lodge during the Revolutionary War approached James Guyon inquiring if there was a Masonic Lodge on Staten Island. There was no lodge at that time but the visit of the officers led to the question of forming one. The War of 1812 intervened and the project was

abandoned. In 1814, a meeting was held at the residence of Governor Daniel D. Tompkins who was the Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York (and later Vice President of the United States). It was decided that the existing conditions were not favorable for forming a Lodge and the project was abandoned. The following year a meeting was held in the residence of General Van Buren who encouraged the group that the organization of a Lodge was possible. Anti-Masonic sentiments were starting to become evident but men who were known to be in sympathy with Freemasonry were called upon and a general invitation to all the people of Staten Island to a public picnic was given. While there was some suspicion and distrust, there were enough present to learn of the good fellowship of Freemasonry and to carry this news to their skeptical neighbors. This was the beginning of Richmond Lodge.

The Charter to "**Richmond Lodge, No. 384, F&AM**" was received on July 6, 1825. In the first meeting, 13 candidates were proposed for membership after which the Lodge was "closed in due and ancient form." The Lodge continued to prosper until 1832 when an outbreak of cholera and Yellow fever scourged the Island. The result was that Richmond Lodge closed its doors for several months until the frost came and the epidemics ceased. In 1839 there was a reorganization of the Grand Lodge of New York State and Richmond Lodge was given a new charter as Richmond Lodge No. 66 F & AM.



The Lodge had its highs and lows over the following years but on 27 Jun 1987, the cornerstone of the Masonic Hall in Port Richmond at the corner of Bennett Street and Richmond Avenue was set in true Masonic Tradition. This building is now the CYO headquarters on Staten Island.

In 1904, a charter was given to **Aquehonga Lodge No. 906, F&AM**. Many of the original members of this Lodge had been members of Richmond Lodge. On 11 Jul 1925, a special communication was called to lay the cornerstone of the new Temple on Anderson Avenue. The Grand Master and 32 Grand Lodge officers joined over a thousand Masons, in columns of marchers, 400 of whom were Richmond Lodge members. Because of the hardships caused by the great Depression and World War II, it was necessary for the Lodge to move out of the Anderson Avenue Temple on 1 Feb 1943. However, in 1956, the Lodge purchased Svea Hall as a home. After many years the building needed renovations that the Lodge could not afford so the building was sold in 1980, and the Lodge moved its meeting site to the Tottenville Masonic Temple. Svea Hall is now the Mandalay Catering Hall.

In 1994, Aquehonga Lodge No. 906 merged with Richmond Lodge No. 66 and the Lodge was rechartered as Richmond Aquehonga Lodge No. 66. During the year 2000, the 175th Anniversary celebration was held with many events.

The Lodge meets on the First and Third Mondays of every month except July and August or national holidays at the Tottenville Masonic Temple. In 2010 Richmond Lodge merged with New Dorp Lodge to create Staten Island Lodge No. 66.

## Huguenot Lodge No. 381, Tottenville, New York

Warrant: 10 May 1855

Lodge Website: [http://www.sirmany.org/lodge\\_history.htm](http://www.sirmany.org/lodge_history.htm)

Huguenot Lodge, No. 381 was instituted on May 19, 1855 with E. W. Hubbard as the first Master; and incidentally, the second, third and fourth, also. The first meeting place was in the Odd Fellows Hall, on Amboy Road. In 1859, the Lodge moved to the Chapel of St. Paul's Methodist Church, which it occupied until 1883, when rooms were procured over Fisher's Drug Store at Main Street and Arthur Kill Road. The last place of meeting, prior to the erection of a Temple, was in Knights Pythias Hall. The corner-stone of the present Temple on Main Street, Tottenville, was laid on June 12, 1909.

**E. W. Hubbard**, the first Master, served for four years. This was nothing compared to the record created by his son, **George C. Hubbard**, who was raised in King Solomon's Lodge, and affiliated with Huguenot Lodge in 1857. He was Master of Huguenot Lodge in 1860, and again in 1867 through 1870, then again in 1888 through 1890 and finally 1893. He was District Deputy Grand Master on three different occasions, 1867-1868; 1870-1871, and then, nineteen years later, in 1889-1890. In 1894, he affiliated with Tompkins Lodge No. 471.

Huguenot Lodge, No. 381, was organized at Tottenville nearly half a century ago.

The charter members were Bros.

E[ben] W. Hubbard,	Wm. Totten,	John Totten,	J. W. Sprague, and
Cornelius C. Ellis,	E. R. Fisher,	W. H. Totten,	William De Waters.
L. M. Jackson,	A. H. Wood,	Thomas Marshall,	

Huguenot Lodge first met in Odd Fellows' Hall, on Amboy road. The building is now a private residence, and is owned by Mr. D. A. Joline. The Lodge was instituted on May 19, 1855. and incorporated on April 13, 1899. The first officers were,

E. W. Hubbard, Master;	L. M. Jackson, J. W.;	W. H. Totten, Secretary;	Thomas Marshall, J. D.
E. R. Fisher, S. W.;	John Totten, Treasurer;	William De Waters, S. D.;	

The following have been Masters:

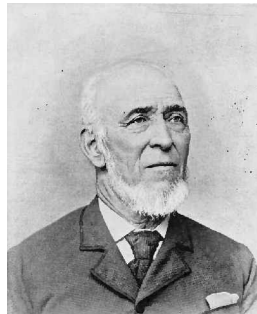
E[ben] W. Hubbard, 1855;	J. W. Russell, 1871;	H. L. Sprague, 1880;	Charles A. Thrall, 1897;
S. L. Hopping, 1859;	John D. Sharrott, 1874;	T. C. Edge, 1891;	J. H. Newstead, 1899;
Geo. C. Hubbard, 1860;	William Lamond, 1876;	G. H. Hart, 1894;	Charles U. Thrall, 1900.
A. H. Wood, 1861;	James L. Bedell, 1879;	John A. Kennedy, 1895;	

Huguenot Lodge has been honored with the following District Deputy Grand Masters:

George C. Hubbard, 1867-'70-'89;	William Lamond, 1882;
John D. Sharrott, 1887;	John A. Kennedy, 1897-'98.

The present officers [1900] are:

Charles C. Thrall,	Master;	H. W. Sohl,	J. D.;
William McGregor,	S. W.;	A. M. Cole.	Chaplain;
J. M. Velton,	J. W.;	W. M. Carpenter	M. of C.;
J. A. Kennedy,	Treasurer;	W. W. Jacklyn,	M. of C.;
George E. Rolle,	Secretary;	J. H. Jones,	Tiler.
D. O. Depew,	S. D.;		



The meetings are held in Masonic Hall, on Main street, on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month.

<http://www.tottenvillememories.net/apps/photos/photo?photoid=40730123>

< William H. Totten was born in 1825 and was a grocer and ran a successful grocery store on Main Street. Mr. Totten was one of the oldest business men of this part of the Island. He is the son of Capt. John Totten, who was one of the original settlers and was regarded as the founder of Tottenville. Capt. John Totten, built the first dock in the village and opened the first store. Capt. John Totten died in 1866.

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/william-d-murphy/biographical-sketches-of-the-state-officers-and-members-of-the-legislature-of-th-pru/page-12-biographical-sketches-of-the-state-officers-and-members-of-the-legislature-of-th-pru.shtml>

#### EBER W. HUBBARD.

Dr. Hubbard was born in 1797, in Steuben, Oneida, NY While very young, his parents, who were natives of Connecticut, removed into Jefferson county, and thence to Lorain county, Ohio, where his father, Fairchild Hubbard, is still living [1858], at the age of 88. His mother, whose maiden name was Ward, died at the advanced age of eighty. Dr. H. was chiefly educated in the Fairfield academy, in

Herkimer county, receiving, at the same time, instructions from a clergyman in the languages, and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the college of Physicians and Surgeons at Fairfield, in 1822. Since then he has followed his profession, save when employed in official duties. In 1826 he located in Lorain county, Ohio, and while in that state entered prominently into the political contests of that period.

He held the office of Justice of the Peace three terms, and in 1831 was elected associate Judge of Lorain county, for a term of seven years. During the years 1836, '37 and '38, he was a member of the lower branch of the Ohio legislature, and in 1838 received the entire Democratic vote of that body for Speaker. He held the office of Bank Commissioner in 1839 and '42, and in 1843 was elected Acting Canal Fund Commissioner. While occupying this position he obtained, in connection with the Hon. John Brough, Auditor of State, a loan of \$1,500,000, in the city of New York, to pay arrearages to contractors on the Ohio canals.

During the prevalence of the cholera in 1849, Dr. Hubbard was attacked, through excessive professional labor, with inflammation on the lungs, and after 73 days' confinement to his bed, gradually improved until he was able to go South, where he spent the winter in Florida, and where his health improved, returning to Ohio in the spring. In 1853 he removed to Staten Island, where he now resides [1858]. He was elected to the seat he occupies by a majority over the combined American and Republican vote.

He was married in 1828 to Miss H. M. Kingsbury; is a sound, reliable man; a faithful representative; and has always been a National Democrat.

<http://www.freemason.com/library/hfmoh05.htm>

#### KING SOLOMON'S LODGE NO. 56 OF ELYRIA, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO

Brother P. H. Boynton in his historical report of this lodge briefly states that "King Solomon's Lodge No. 56 F. & A. Masons was organized originally under a dispensation granted by Grand Master Chester Griswold, dated December 20, 1819, and that a charter was granted in December, 1821.

"Both dispensation and charter were granted to Heman Fly, W. M.; Jabez Burrell, S. W., and John Reading, J. W.

"Labor ceased in this lodge from 1828, doubtless from the strong anti-Masonic feeling engendered by the Morgan excitement.

"In 1847 an application of the **Hon. Eber W. Hubbard** and others for permission to resume labor under its charter was rejected by the Grand Lodge.

"The charter, however, with its old name and number was finally restored to King Solomon's Lodge, September 26, 1848, to Brothers **Eber W. Hubbard, W M . . .**

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/richard-mather-bayles/history-of-richmond-county-staten-island-new-york-from-its-discovery-to-the-p-ly/page-48-history-of-richmond-county-staten-island-new-york-from-its-discovery-to-the-p-ly.shtml>

**George C. Hubbard, M. D.**, is a grandson of Fairchild Hubbard, who resided in Jefferson county, NY. By his marriage to Miss Ward were born four sons and four daughters, the eldest, Heber [Eber] W. Hubbard, also a native of the same county, having removed to Ohio, where he engaged in the practice of medicine. He was united in marriage to Honor Martha Kingsbury, of Massachusetts, and had children, **George C.**, Delia D., wife of D. C. Clapp, Van Buren, William W., Edwin K., and Alice S., wife of David Pepper.

The birth of George C., the eldest, occurred on 8 Jun 1831, in La Grange, OH, from whence he removed with his parents to Elyria in the same state. Here he pursued his academic studies, and subsequently entered Delaware College, located at Delaware, Ohio. Soon after he entered mercantile life and remained thus occupied until 1856, when the profession of medicine proving more

attractive, he became a student in his father's office, and was graduated from the NY Medical University in 1859. Doctor Hubbard began his professional career at Tottenville, where his father had previously removed, and has since that time continued in active practice at this point. On the 16th of September, 1862, he entered the United States service as assistant surgeon of the **165th Regiment NY Volunteers**, was later commissioned surgeon, and continued with this regiment until his discharge 16 Sep 1865.

The doctor on his return from the service resumed his practice at Tottenville, where he has since resided. His thorough medical training and wide experience have enabled him to take a leading rank in his profession, and brought a correspondingly extended field of labor. His skill in diagnosis and success in the treatment of disease in its various forms have caused his presence to be much sought in consultation. In 1883 he was appointed physician to the mission of the Immaculate Virgin at Mount Loretto, Staten Island. The doctor is a member of the Richmond County Medical Society. He is also an active mason, and was raised in **King Solomon's Lodge**, and affiliated with Huguenot Lodge in 1857. He was **Master of Huguenot Lodge No. 381**, of Tottenville, and High Priest of Staten Island Chapter No. 196, R. A. M. Doctor Hubbard was married 26 Feb 1866, to Miss Carrie L., daughter of Joseph Wesley Totten, of Tottenville. Their children are: Van Eber, Fannie, deceased, and George C., Jr.

HUBBARD, GEORGE C - Age 31 years. Enrolled [165th NY Inf. Vols.], 12 Sep 1862, at New York city, to serve three years; mustered in as assistant surgeon, 16 Sep 1862; as Surgeon, 9 Sep 1864; mustered out with regiment, 1 Sep 1865, at Charleston, SC. Commissioned assistant surgeon, 3 Dec 1862, with rank from 12 Sep 1862, original; surgeon, 27 Jun 1864, with rank from 10 May 1864, vice J. F. Ferguson discharged.

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Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Family ..., Volume 2, by William Smith Pelletreau, page 300.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=bSjmr5O0yJMC&pg=PA282&dq=%22Huguenot+Lodge+no.+381%22&hl=en&ei=QLjcTtHZDKrwOqGq--SFDq&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=5&ved=0CE4Q6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22Huguenot%20Lodge%20no.%20381%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=bSjmr5O0yJMC&pg=PA282&dq=%22Huguenot+Lodge+no.+381%22&hl=en&ei=QLjcTtHZDKrwOqGq--SFDq&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5&ved=0CE4Q6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22Huguenot%20Lodge%20no.%20381%22&f=false)

#### ANDROVETTE FAMILY

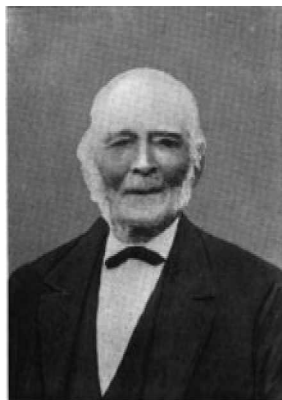
This Huguenot family, well known in the annals of Staten Island, is descended from Jean Andrivette, who was a native of Merindal of Provence in France. His wife was Antoinette Buffie. They had children: Jean, b. 9 Mar 1694-95; Anthaine. B. 5 Mar 1696-97. Jean Andrivette married (second) Jeanne de Lowmeaw, 18 Oct 1699. The name of Jean Andrivette was changed into John Androvette, and by that name he was known on Staten Island, where he purchased land of Tunis Egbert, 27 Jan 1699.

John Androvelte, his son, married Leah Swaim and had a son baptized 7 Apr 1729, and a daughter Leah baptized 17 May 1724.

Peter Androvette, who was probably another son of Jean Androvette, also lived on Staten Island. He had a daughter Rebecca, baptized 27 Mar 1720, and Elizabeth and Anna (twins), baptized 1 Jan 1726. He appears to have had also a son Peter, who had wife Caty (or Catharine), and had a son Peter, born 6 Jul 1765. He also had other children: Catharine, wife of Dow Storr; Elizabeth, wife of Peter La Tourette; Mary, wife of Joseph Totten.

Such are the earliest notes we find relating to this honored family, concerning whom a more extended notice will be given.

Charles Androvette, in direct line of ancestry, was probably born in the vicinity of Charlestown, now Kreischerville, borough of Richmond, where he spent the greater portion of his life. He was a tiller of the soil, and one of the most useful and highly respected citizens of the community. He married three times. His first wife was Elizabeth ———, who bore him five sons and four daughters, as follows: Peter, of whom later. Lewis, m. Lydia Manee; Daniel, m. Elizabeth Androvette; Charles, m. Susan Manee; John, m. Adeline Arnot; Margaret, m. William Lyons, of Staten Island; Rachel, m. Alfred Bovee, of New York City; Mary m. James Thomson, of Staten Island; Catherine, m. James Weir, of Staten Island. Each of these children reared a family of sons and daughters, and their descendants are numerous in the borough of Richmond. Charles Androvette (father) died in 1842, at Charlestown, aged nearly four score years, and his wife died in 1834; their remains were interred in the old Woodrow cemetery.



Peter Androvette, Sr.



Clarissa Androvette

Peter Androvette, eldest son of Charles and Elizabeth Androvette, was born at Charlestown, now Kreischerville, in 1798. He was educated in the schools of the neighborhood, and was reared to manhood under the parental roof. Upon taking up practical duties of life he engaged in farming, which he pursued for some time, later engaged in the oyster planting and shipping business, which line of enterprise he conducted with a marked degree of success, and finally engaged in the transportation business, sailing his own vessels to the ports of the southern states for a number of years. He succeeded in building up an extensive and lucrative trade, and served for many years in the capacity of captain of his own vessel. He was just and upright in all the affairs of life, and won the confidence and esteem of all with whom he was brought in contact. He was a consistent member of the Woodrow Methodist Episcopal Church, where the family have worshipped for several generations.

Peter Androvette married Clara C. Van Schoick, d/o William and Elizabeth (Wright) Van Schoick, a representative of an old Holland family of the Mohawk Valley, state of New York. She was also a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Their children were: **John M.**, m. Elizabeth Worth; **Peter** of whom later; Daniel, m. Esther Marshall; George, m. Sarah McFadden; Margaret, m. Reuben Worth; Christiana, m. Daniel Flannagan.

Peter Androvette (father) died 24-25 Dec 1875, leaving to his children the priceless heritage of an honorable name. His wife passed away in 1858.



Peter Androvette

**Peter Androvette**, second son and child of Peter and Clara C. (Van Schoick) Androvette, was born at Kreischerville, borough of Richmond, 11 Jun 1834. His educational training was acquired in the schools of the neighborhood, and at the early age of twelve years he went forth in the world to earn his own livelihood. By industry, thrift and practical economy, he was enabled to accumulate sufficient capital to engage in business on his own account, and accordingly he turned his attention to the transportation business in the harbor of New York, becoming in due course of time master of his own vessel. By indefatigable perseverance and tireless energy, coupled with straightforward and honorable methods in business affairs, he succeeded financially, became the owner of numerous vessels and barges, and won a reputation second to none, the line which he conducted becoming one of the leading concerns of its kind. In 1890 he organized the Androvette Towing and Transportation Company, became its president and served in that capacity up to the present time (1906). In 1900 he purchased the B. Kreischer & Sons Fire Brick Works at Kreischerville, and in 1902 organized the Kreischer Brick Manufacturing Company, in which he has served as president up to the present time. He was for five years a director of the Perth Amboy Dry Dock Company, his incumbency of office being noted for integrity and reliability. In addition to his numerous and varied interests, Captain Androvette has at all times given freely of his time and substance to church and charitable enterprises. He is a member of the board of trustees of Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church of Tottenville. and an active member of **Huguenot Lodge, No. 381**, F&AM, of Tottenville. Energy, enterprise, and a fearless and indomitable will are the chief characteristics of Captain Androvette, and to these qualities are

attributed the success which has crowned his business career.

Captain Androvette married, 22 Dec 1859, Ann Maria Marshall, b. 20 Nov 1842, d/o Thomas and Susan (Woglom) Marshall, both of whom are descendants of old and honored Staten Island families.

Their children are:

1. Elizabeth Etta, b. 10 Apr 1861; m. Henry Scott, and their children are: Mabel b. 20 Sep 1886; Susie Ethel, 6 May 1889; Peter A., 28 Nov 1892; Viola Elizabeth, 4 Jun 1894.
2. Clarissa, b. 16 Nov 1863; m. William Toland, d. 28 Dec 1896; issue, one daughter, Maud Toland, b. 10 Jul 1893.
3. James Murray, b. 17 Feb 1866; m. Mary Delaney, Ch: Mary Androvette, b. 21 Dec 1903, and Margaret, b. 13 Feb 1906.
4. Susan Esther, b. 12 Feb 1868; m. Albert Kilmeyer, 23 Oct 1889. Children: Hazel, b. 20 Mar 1892; Edna May, 19 Dec 1894; Albert, 23 Oct 1898; Chester, 12 Feb 1902.
5. Jesse Alfred, b. 11 Oct 1878

Ibid. page 305.

**John M. Androvette**, eldest son of Captain Peter and Clara C. (Van Schoick) Androvette, was born in Kreischerville, borough of Richmond, 23 Nov 1831. He attended the schools of his native town, thereby acquiring a practical education, and upon attaining manhood engaged in navigating in the waters of New York harbor and the coastwise trade. By paying careful attention to every detail and by close application to each duty, in due course of time he became thoroughly proficient in this line, and was appointed to the position of master of a vessel, in which capacity he served for a number of years. Later he engaged in the shipping and transportation business, which proved a lucrative source of income, and throughout the port of New York is well known as a reliable and skillful navigator. He possesses many admirable characteristics which endears him not only to his immediate family, but also to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. He takes an active interest in all that concerns the immediate neighborhood in which he has spent the years of his long and useful life, and is ready and willing to contribute both of time and money to the advancement of the same. He is an active and honored member of **Huguenot Lodge No. 381**, F&AM, of Tottenville. He is a consistent member of Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church, and for many years served as a member of the board of trustees.

Captain Androvette married (first), 5 Dec 1852, Elizabeth Worth, born at Plainfield, NJ, 30 Jan 1833; d. 1 Mar 1876; d/o Reuben and Elizabeth (Edwards) Worth, Mrs. Androvette was a most estimable woman, possessed of many excellencies of character, and her demise was sincerely mourned by those who knew her best in life. The children of this union were:

Reuben Worth, b. 23 May 1854, a sketch of whom appears in this work.

Peter, b. December 6, 1855, d. 13 Feb 1858.

Anderson, b. 10 Apr 1858; d. 23 Nov 1878.

Laura, b. 10 Aug 1861; m. Alfred Mersereau of Tottenville; two children: Milton and Estelle Mersereau.

Edward, b. 01 Apr 1863; d. 1 Nov 1863.

Clara Sutton, b. 21 Mar 1873; m. George Brightman, of Rutherford, Now Jersey, no issue.

Captain Androvette married (second), 21 Jan 1878, H. Elizabeth Flazelton, widow of Charles M. Hazelton, and d/o William and Ann (Totten) Joline, descendants of old Staten Island families. One daughter was the issue of this marriage, Bessie Hazelton Androvette, b. 6 Aug 1884, a graduate of the high school and a post-graduate of the high school of Stapleton, borough of Richmond.

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Ibid. page 347.

Abraham C. Brown, a leading representative citizen of Tottenville, borough of Richmond, where he has been for many years engaged in the shipbuilding industry, is of Holland extraction. His grandfather, Tunis Brown, formerly spelled the name Bruen. He was for many years a resident of New Jersey, where he was born January 28, 1766. He was a shipbuilder by trade, and followed

that line of occupation at what is now Lindhurst. He was a skillful and competent mechanic, and during his day became known as one of the leading shipbuilders of small vessels.

Tunis Brown married Sarah Kingsland, b. 7 Oct 1768, and of this marriage had born a family of seven children as follows:

1. Mary, b. 04 Aug 1788, married.
2. Hendrick, b. 16 May 1790, married and had a family of four children; he followed in the footsteps of his father, learned the shipbuilding trade, which line of work he pursued throughout the active years of his life.
3. John, b. 20 May 1792, married and had a family of sons and daughters. He took up seafaring life and for many years was captain of his own vessel.
4. Abraham, see forward.
5. Catherine, m. a Mr. Campbell.
6. Ann Kingsland, b. 31 Jan 1799; d. 27 Oct 1818.
7. Sarah, b. 29 Nov 1809; m. John King, no issue.

Tunis and Sarah (Kingsland) Brown spent the latter years of their lives at Lindhurst, NJ, where they passed away and their remains were interred in the old Dutch Reformed burying ground, at Belleville, Essex, NJ, of which congregation they had been members for many years.

Abraham Brown, fourth child and third son of Tunis and Sarah (Kingsland) Brown, was born at the family homestead at Belleville, 4 Apr 1794, and there received his educational training. He remained under the parental roof until manhood years, and learned the shipbuilding trade under the tuition of his father. He subsequently became associated with his father in the business, and after his father's death continued the establishment up to the latter years of his life. Abraham Brown, not unlike his worthy ancestor, was a man of great energy and perseverance, and in every way worthily upheld the traditions of the family. He was a member of the Dutch Reformed church at Belleville, and was a conscientious and straightforward man in all his affairs.

Abraham Brown married, Feb 1818, at Aquacauouk. Passaic, NJ, Gitty (Gertrude) Christie, b. 25 Jul 1798, d/o James and Hannah Christie, the latter being of Holland extraction, and the former of Scotch lineage. Of this marriage were born twelve children:

1. Tunis, b. 29 Jul 1818; m. Margaret Jacobus.
2. Ann, b. 01 Dec 1820, m. Charles Osborn.
3. William Henry, b. 12 Jul 1823; m. Margaret Picton.
4. Sarah Maria, b. 25 Nov 1825; m. John Berry.
5. Catherine, b. 08 Nov 1827; m. Myron Allen.
6. James, b. 04 Nov 1829; m. Carrie Van Houten.
7. Margaret, b. 15 Nov 1831; m. Peter Joralemou.
8. **Abram Christie, see forward.**
9. Alvin, b. 08 Apr 1836; m. Jennie Donnelly.
10. Emeline, b. 20 Sep 1839; m. William Waltier.
11. Gertrude, b. 15 Sep 1841; d. aged eleven years. She lost her life by accident.
12. Mary Louisa, b. 11 Mar 1845; m. George Boetell.

Abram Brown, the father of the aforementioned children, died 10 Jun 1860. His faithful wife died 17 Sep 1882. Their remains were interred in the family burying plot in the cemetery of the Dutch Reformed church at Belleville, Essex, NJ.

**Abraham Christie Brown**, whose name introduces this review, was born 2 Apr 1834. He was educated in the schools of his native town, and remained under the parental roof until manhood years. He learned the trade of shipbuilding under his father's tuition. At the age of seventeen he took up the practical duties of life on his own account, his first undertaking being a trip at sea, and he continued seafaring for about one and a half years, during which time he was advanced to the position of first mate of his vessel, as a result of his fidelity to duty and obedience. Upon his return home the young mariner again took up his trade at Greenpoint, borough of Brooklyn, where he entered the employ of Edward Williams. After pursuing his trade at various places in New York and Jersey City up to 1860, Mr. Brown came to Tottenville in Nov 1860, and here entered the employ of Jacob S. Ellis in the capacity of foreman, and continued thus engaged up to 1873, when he was enabled to begin business on his own account. He first established his plant on the east shore of Raritan Bay, where he has since continued at shipbuilding. During this period of over 32 years Mr. Brown has constructed many seagoing vessels in addition to many smaller pleasure crafts of various kinds, making a total of about 187 complete craft that have been turned out from his establishment. The Brown shipyards have become one of the leading concerns of its kind on the shore of Raritan Bay, the establishment giving employment to many operatives, and through its influences has contributed much to the growth and development of the neighborhood. In addition to his manufacturing interests. Mr. Brown has at all times taken an active interest in the public affairs as well as the social interests of the neighborhood wherein he resides. He is an active member of **Huguenot Lodge No. 381**, F&AM; Staten Island Chapter No. 196, of the same craft.

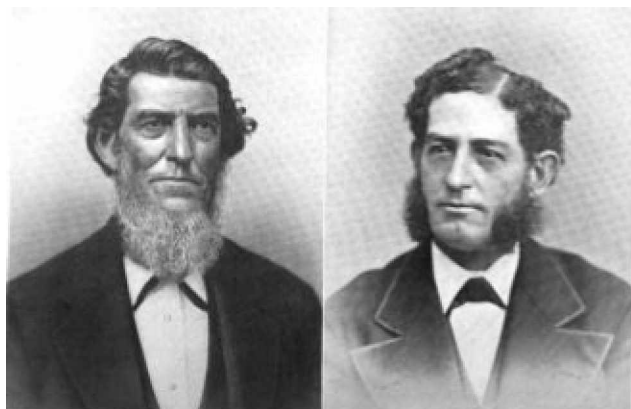
Abraham Christie Brown was married 2 Jan 1854, at Belleville, NJ, to Emily Watts, b. 12 Sep 1836, d/o John and Mazey (Thornycraft) Watts, a native of Warwick, England. Of this marriage Mr. Brown had born to him a family of eight children:

1. John W., b. 10 Oct 1856; m. Josephine Buckholz, and has children, Marie and Marjorie Brown.
2. Everett, b. 17 Jun 1859; d. 26 Jan 1901.
3. Victor M., b. 27 Oct 1861.
4. Jacob E., b. 11 Dec 1863; d. 14 Mar 1882.
5. William M., b. 03 Mar 1866; m. Emma Sleight, b. 30 Sep 1866, d/o James and Amelia (Buss) Sleight, of Tottenville
6. Emily, b. 24 Sep 1868; m. Isaac Demarest; one child, Merritt Demarest, b. 5 Nov 1896.
7. George Christie, b. 07 Feb 1871; m. Susie E. Decker; four children: Madeline Christie, Helen, George C, Jr., and Susie Brown.
8. Bessie B., b. 08 Mar 1879; m. Robert Smith; one son, Royal Smith.

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Ibid. page 349.

#### MOSES.VAN NAME.



Moses Van Name, a venerable and highly respected citizen of Tottenville, where he was born 27 Feb 1835, and where he has spent his life, is descended from an old Holland family whose ancestors were among the early settlers of Richmond county.

Aaron Van Name, father of Moses Van Name, was born at Mariners Harbor, 5 Oct 1803, and was a son of Moses and Mary (La Grange) Van Name. Aaron Van Name, upon taking up the practical duties of life, became engaged in seafaring and in the coastwise shipping trade, and by careful study of the details of his work and his fidelity to duty soon became master of a vessel, and for many years was known as one of the leading captains of the coastwise trade sailing from New York harbor. Aaron Van Name married Mary Mersereau, b. 28 Jan 1807, d/o John and Deborah (Britton) Mersereau, both of whom were descended from old Staten Island families. (Of the Mersereau family a more extended account will appear elsewhere in this work.) Mr. Van Name died at Tottenville, 18 Jul 1882, and his wife, Mary (Mersereau) Van Name, d. 23 Mar 1893. The remains of both were interred in the family burying

ground in Bethel Cemetery at Tottenville. They had five children:

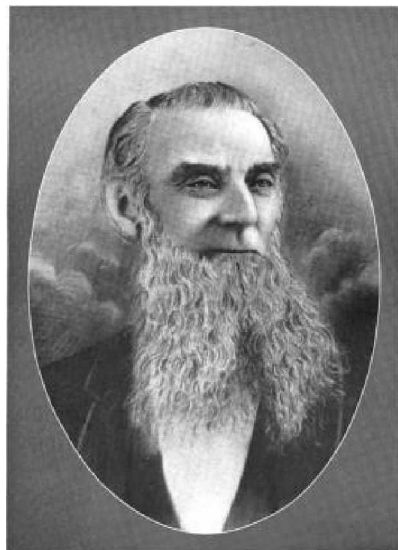
1. Deborah Ann, b. 04 Jun 1828; d. 5 Oct 1828.
2. Joshua N., b. 15 Aug 1830; d. 13 Mar 1869; m. Martha Ann Sprague.
3. A son, unnamed, b. 25 May 1833; d. in infancy.
4. **Moses, b. 27 Feb 1835, whose name introduces this review.**
5. Paul M., b. 18 Jan 1838; m. Susan Ann Cole.

**Moses Van Name**, fourth child of the above mentioned family, received his educational training in the schools of Tottenville, where he was reared to manhood years, and upon taking up the practical duties of life became engaged in the oyster planting and shipping trade, which line of enterprise has been his chief occupation up to the present time. Upon his father's death in 1882, Moses Van Name succeeded to the homestead at Tottenville, which was his home and residence up to 1904, in which year he erected for himself a modern and commodious cottage on the grounds of the family estate, which has since been his residence. In addition to his material interests, Mr. Van Name has been active in fraternal and social affairs of the neighborhood. He is an active member of **Huguenot Lodge, No. 381, F&AM**, of Tottenville. Mr. Van Name has at all times given generously to church and charitable enterprises, and is regarded as a useful and highly respected citizen.

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Ibid. page 227.

#### CAPTAIN CORNELIUS C. ELLIS.



Captain Cornelius C. Ellis, deceased, a highly regarded citizen of Tottenville, borough of Richmond, New York, was during a long and peculiarly active life known as one of the most experienced and resourceful seafaring men of the great port of New York, and his services extended to duty as its harbor master, and also in foreign waters.

He is descended from the Ellis family of England, three branches of whom emigrated to the American colonies in early days, anterior to the Revolution. Of one of these was Garret Ellis, born 1720, died 1797, who was one of the pioneers of Staten Island. His son, Captain Garret Ellis, born in Westfield, Staten Island, in 1756, died at the age of 71 years, was a wealthy farmer, and one of the heroes of the struggle for independence. During the period of hostilities he was seized at his home at midnight, by British soldiery, and compelled to walk for many miles shoeless, over frozen ground, to Fort Richmond, where he was long held a prisoner. He married Mary Tappan, of New Jersey, of Dutch descent, born 1767, died aged 77 years. She and her husband were members of the Dutch Reformed church. They were the parents of ten children, five sons and five daughters, the three eldest children dying young. Their eldest son, **Cornelius**, is to be further referred to. Their second son, Garret Ellis, married Susan Butler, a descendant of a Nathaniel Butler, a Scotch-Irish emigrant. She was born 1801, and lived to the remarkable age of nearly 100 years. Her home was in the famous old colonial Ellis homestead at Kreischerville, Staten Island, which was in early days the social center of the county, where the Vanderbilts and other honored old families were frequently guests. Mrs. Ellis distinctly remembered events of great historical importance, among them the war of 1812, and a public meeting and parade in honor of General Andrew

Jackson when he was Democratic candidate for the presidency. Mrs. Ellis was a cousin of Miss Tappan, first wife of Commodore Vanderbilt. Garret Ellis and wife had thirteen children. Abraham, third son of Captain Garret Ellis, was sheriff of Richmond county; he married Alice Murray, and they had ten children. Of the daughters of Captain Garret Ellis, Fannie, born 1785, died in her 82nd

year, married Captain Peter Winant, who died at sea in 1823. Leah married Jacob Simonson. Lany married Henry Butler. Polly married James Johnson.

Cornelius Ellis, eldest son of Captain Garret and Mary (Tappan) Ellis, married Belah Butler, and to them were born five children, all of whom came to maturity: 1. Jacob S., see sketch elsewhere. 2. Sarah, married a Mr. Brightman, of Scranton, Pennsylvania. 3. **Cornelius C.**, see forward. 4. Sophia, married Poring Jackson, of Brooklyn, NY. 5. **Sebastian (see sketch below)**. The father of his family died about 1833, and his remains were interred in the family burying ground in Woodrow cemetery. His widow married (second) Cornelius Woglom, of Brooklyn, NY, and of this marriage were born two children, William and Alice. The latter married James Garney, of Scranton, PA.

Cornelius C. Ellis, third child and second son of Cornelius and Belah (Butler) Ellis, was born in Kreischerville, town of Westfield, Staten Island, 7 Dec 1823. He received his educational training in the schools of his native town. Upon taking up the practical duties of life he engaged in seafaring, a vocation for which he showed a special aptitude and preparedness. While yet a young man he became master of a vessel, and by his careful study and practical knowledge came to be widely known as one of the most successful navigators and commanders of his day. During his long and useful career Captain Ellis entered upon many hazardous tasks, especially in navigating and sailing vessels during the civil war blockade, but always discharged his trust with entire fidelity and success. Of necessity he was a strict disciplinarian, yet he was of warm and sympathetic heart, and ever held the respect and esteem of his sailors. **During the civil war** Captain Cornelius C. Ellis carried a cargo of war material to the Federal troops, and was in Mobile Bay in August, 1864, at the time of Farragut's famous battle. While returning, his vessel came in close contiguity with the "Hartford," the flag ship of Admiral Farragut, and was a target for the fire of the Confederate forces, but fortunately escaped unharmed. During the civil war period he made numerous successful voyages conveying government stores to southern ports, undertakings which involved dangers not measurable at the present time. In 1868 he made his last voyage abroad, touching at various Italian ports. During the administration of Governor Lucius P. Robinson, Captain Ellis was appointed harbor master of the port of New York, and during a period of three years rendered important service to the government. Upon his retirement from this position he engaged actively in navigating and towing in the harbor of New York, at times extending his tasks to outside waters and considerable distances. He was owner of the "Cyclops," the largest seagoing tug of its day, and which is yet in commission. This once famous craft enabled Captain Ellis to perform an undertaking which was among the wonders of the times. An immense raft of lumber was at St. John's, Newfoundland, awaiting towing to New York, a distance of 1,100 miles, much of the route laying near a rocky and dangerous coast. The dangers of disaster were so apparent that not a towing line would undertake the commission, and the project was about to be abandoned and the raft broken up, when knowledge of the fact was brought to Captain Ellis. "It can be done," said he; "I'll bring the raft here with the 'Cyclops.'" He was as good as his word, and safely brought into port the immense raft, winning the plaudits of the entire maritime fraternity, and furnishing material by his act for many a column of spirited narrative in the maritime columns of the press in every land. He also towed to New York the immense passenger steamers "Richard Peck" and "Pilgrim" from Philadelphia, where they were built.

Captain Ellis passed the last eighteen years of his life in a pleasant and well-earned retirement at his home in Tottenville, where he had built a handsome and commodious residence. He possessed ample means, and spent money with great liberality but without recklessness. He displayed his regard for a friend by his acts rather than by words. At the time of the failure of the Marine Bank of New York, when Mr. Fish, the receiver, was called upon to execute a bond for \$100,000, Captain Ellis and the then proprietor of the Astor House qualified as sureties, each for one-half of that amount. Captain Ellis was an active member of the Marine Society of New York, which conducts Sailors' Snug Harbor, and a **charter member of Huguenot Lodge, No. 381, F&AM**. In politics he was an ardent supporter of the principles of Democracy as laid down by Thomas Jefferson.

He was married, in the town of Westfield, Staten Island. 22 Feb 1845, to Mary A. Joline, b. 25 May 1824. d/o Benjamin and Elizabeth (Manee) Joline, and of this marriage were born children:

1. Jacob C, d. 09 Feb 1888; m. Louisa Lyon; no issue.
2. Loring J., d. 09 Oct 1895.
3. Benjamin Franklin, m. Sadie Keller; children: Mabel and Franklin.
4. Minnie E., b. 25 Aug 1866; m. Milton C. Quimby, b. at the family homestead, in West 59th street, New York City, 1 Feb 1855, son of John S. and Adele (Mayer) Quimby, both natives of New York City. John Quimby was a son of John Quimby, who was well known and a successful contractor in that city, as was also the maternal grandfather, John Mayer. No issue.

Mary (Joline) Ellis, mother of the children above named, d. 21 Jun 1886. She was a consistent Christian woman, possessed of many excellent traits of mind and heart, and an earnest member of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church at Tottenville.

Captain Cornelius C. Ellis died at his home in Tottenville, 27 Mar 1905, having survived his wife nearly 20 years. He had many staunch friends both in New York City and on Staten Island, where he was held in high respect by all who knew him, and it was correctly said that in his death the community had lost a most worthy and useful citizen. The funeral, which was very largely attended, was conducted with the time honored rites of the Masonic fraternity, by **Huguenot Lodge No. 381**, of which he was one of the oldest and most revered members. A fitting discourse was delivered by the Rev. J. Fair, rector of St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal Church, and the remains of the lamented deceased were interred in the family plot in Bethel Cemetery.



5403 Arthur Kill Rd. at Tyrrell Street. The house was constructed in 1853 for Cornelius C. Ellis, a tugboat captain and NYC harbormaster — likely the Ellis the street adjacent to the Staten Island Railway was named for.



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**Captain Sebastian Ellis**, deceased, an old time seafaring man, who had large experiences upon both open and inland waters, was born 22 Oct 1832, at Tottenville, borough of Richmond, NY. He was educated in the local schools, and at the early age of sixteen years took to a seafaring life. In 1849, when 17 years old, he voyaged to California, via Cape Horn, and for several years saw service with Captain Hudson's vessels, between San Francisco and Aspinwall. About 1853, upon the discovery of gold in Australia, he sailed thither, and passed several years at Sydney and in that vicinity. Returning home he resumed his original occupation, and for some years sailed between American and European ports. **During the American Civil War** he ran the blockade at Port Royal, SC, in the schooner "Gush Banker." He also sailed the *Susan M. Anderson* several voyages in the Brazilian trade. He was known as an experienced mariner, and he encountered many dangers and rescued his vessels from many perilous situations. While a strict disciplinarian, he was of warm and sympathetic heart, and was beloved by all with whom he came in contact, whether as officer or man before the mast. He retired from his profession in 1865, and entered the service of the United States Coast Survey, with which he was usefully employed until 1890, when he finally abandoned active pursuits. He passed his latter days at the famous Sailors' Snug Harbor, Staten Island, where he died, 18 Jun 1905. He married, at Tottenville, Delia M. Rutter, d/o William and Phebe Rutter, of Ocean county, NJ. They were the parents of four children:

1. Edgar W., b. 17 Nov 1861; m. and resided at Sailors' Snug Harbor.
2. Captain Raymond D. Ellis, see forward.
3. Lillian M.

4. Sebastian, has not been heard from for several years, and is supposed to be following the sea in distant latitudes.

The mother of these children died 7 Mar 1888.

**Captain Raymond D. Ellis**, son of Captain Sebastian and Delila (Rutter) Ellis, was born 27 Dec 1863, at Rossville, borough of Richmond. He was educated in the schools of his native village, and at an early age entered steamboat service in the harbor of New York. For eight years he commanded a ferryboat between New York City and Bay Ridge, in the New York and Staten Island line. For eighteen years past he has commanded a boat in the Tottenville and Perth Amboy ferry line. He is a master of his calling, and has never suffered suspension or been responsible for a disaster in those overcrowded waters. He is a member of New York Harbor No. 1, and of **Huguenot Lodge No. 381**, of Tottenville.

Captain Ellis married, 15 Jun 1889, Anna DuBois, b. 21 Nov 1864, a d/o Richard Cole and Susan A. (Post) DuBois, the former of Staten Island. Of this marriage was born one child, Lila, 6 Jan 1892; died aged six months.

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[http://books.google.com/books?id=p39LAAAAMAAJ&pg=RA1-PA245&dq=%22Huguenot+Lodge+no.+381%22&hl=en&ei=QLjctHtZDKrw0gGq--SFdg&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CEkQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22Huguenot%20Lodge%20no.%20381%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=p39LAAAAMAAJ&pg=RA1-PA245&dq=%22Huguenot+Lodge+no.+381%22&hl=en&ei=QLjctHtZDKrw0gGq--SFdg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CEkQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22Huguenot%20Lodge%20no.%20381%22&f=false) page 245.

**James Francis Ferguson M.D., 33°**, [b. ca 1840] died 6 Jan 1904, aged 64 years. Although he did not reach advanced age, he was best known to a generation of which a majority has already passed away. Many friends are yet living, and to them particularly his death marked the removal of a respected and sincere friend.

His life was not attended by many of the struggles and difficulties which mark the career to wealth and position, but in all he did he was earnest, and his ability was well known and appreciated. The greater part of his career, professional and Masonic, was closely connected with the City of New York.

He was graduated from the Medical Department of the University of New York in 1861, and from Bellevue Medical College in 1862. He served in the **2nd New York Volunteers** and the **165th New York** during the civil war. He was brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel of New York Volunteers. He was attending surgeon of the Bellevue Hospital Outdoor Department, 1870-71; visiting surgeon to the Blackwell-s Island Hospital, 1872-92; visiting physician to the Hospital for Nervous Diseases, 1886-92, and Consulting Physician of the Charity (now City) Hospital since 1892. For a number of years he conducted a sanitarium for nervous diseases at Central Valley, NY, where he died.

In Freemasonry he first saw light in **Huguenot Lodge, No. 381**, but in 1864 became a member of **Kane Lodge, No. 454**, and was its Senior Deacon in 1869, its librarian from 1883 to 1904, and Delegate to the Board of Masonic Relief from 1864 to 1877.

After several years of preliminary service in Capitular Masonry, he became Scribe of Jerusalem Chapter No. 8, in 1869, King in 1870, and High Priest in 1871 and 1872. As a Knight Templar, he was a member of Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 23. In the Scottish Rite, he was active in the Bodies in the City of New York, but was not disposed to accept official position. The Thirty-third Degree was conferred upon him at Boston, Mass., 18 Sep 1888.

The funeral ceremonies included the Masonic service, and the distinguished Craftsmen present, including Past Grand Masters J. Edward Simmons, 33°, and William Sherer, 33°, and Past Grand High Priest Rollin W. Morgan, attested the respect in which his memory was held.

FERGUSON, JAMES F. - Age 22 years. Enrolled [82nd NY Inf. Vols.] at New York city, to serve three years, and mustered in as assistant surgeon, 21 May 1861; **captured in action, 21 Jul 1861, at Bull Run, VA**; paroled, no date; discharged, 26 Aug 1862. Commissioned assistant surgeon, 23 Jan 1862, with rank from 21 May 1861, original.

FERGUSON, JAMES FRANCIS. - Assistant surgeon, 82nd Infantry; mustered in as surgeon, this regiment [165th NY Inf. Vols.], 11 Sep 1862; **discharged for disability, 15 Mar 1864**. Commissioned surgeon, 3 Dec 1862, with rank from 9 Sep 1862, original.

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/richard-mather-bayles/prominent-men-of-staten-island-1893-ywe/page-4-prominent-men-of-staten-island-1893-ywe.shtml>

**Charles C. Kreischer**, the second son of the late Balthasar Kreischer, was born, in New York city, 15 Sep 1850. He received his first schooling in the German schools of the city, after which he took a course of study in St. Francis Xavier's College, which was supplemented by a thorough commercial education at Bryant & Stratton's Business College.

After completing his education, his father placed him in his large fire-brick factory at Kreischerville, where he learned, practically, every branch of the work in order to fit him thoroughly for the responsible position which he was afterward to take, as general overseer of the manufacturing branch of his father's business.

After spending two years in the factory, Mr. Kreischer went to Germany and entered the Polytechnic University at Zurich, Switzerland, where he remained four years. On his return he again went into the factory at Kreischerville, and in 1872 was made superintendent of the factory. In 1878, he was made a member of the firm of B. Kreischer & Sons, and at the opening of the New York Anderson Pressed Brick factory, he was made superintendent of that business, which he managed successfully until the spring of 1891, when he resigned and went to Europe.

Mr. Kreischer has held several town offices and has been trustee of the Kreischerville school district for the last twenty years and an elder in St. Peter's Church since it was organized. He is the first regent of Arthur Kill Council 1408, Royal Arcanum, and a member of **Huguenot Lodge 381**, F&AM, and Staten Island Chapter 145, R. A. M.

On 19 Jun 1879, Mr. Kreischer married Antonia G. Wanier, second daughter of Mr. George Wanier, of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Kreischer have one son, Arthur G., aged eleven years, now a student at St. Austin's school, New Brighton.

Mr. Kreischer has always been a staunch Democrat and has wielded a potent influence in the councils of the party, and has often been tendered the nomination for important offices, but has preferred to devote his time to his large business interests.

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/richard-mather-bayles/prominent-men-of-staten-island-1893-ywe/page-6-prominent-men-of-staten-island-1893-ywe.shtml>

**Cornelius Shea** was born at Richmond Valley, S. I., in May 1863, just one week after the battle of Chancellorsville, and was named after his uncle who was killed in that battle. In 1887, he removed to Tottenville and has, ever since, been a resident of that village.

Mr. Shea, is a story writer or author by profession, and has been for five years a regular contributor to Golden Hours, a young-people's weekly, published by Norman L. Munro, of New York city, a paper of very extensive circulation. His stories have been honored by some of the finest and most prominent illustrations of those of any contributor of Golden Hours, and have always taken a high rank; always being of the most entertaining and exciting character.

Mr. Shea, who is somewhat of a politician, as well as an author, is always prominent in the local contests in his town, and has twice been elected town clerk on the Democratic ticket, when nearly every other candidate was defeated. Mr. Shea is also an enthusiastic club and secret society man, and is a member of **Huguenot Lodge**, F&AM, Richmond Lodge, K. of P., Bentley Lodge, IOOF, of Tottenville, of Eureka Engine Co. No. 2, of Tottenville, and the Staten Island Press Club.

<http://www.newyorkroots.org/bookarchive/historyofnewyorkstate/bio/pt68.html>

**William L. Vaughn** - Highly regarded in Tottenville, Staten Island, William L. Vaughan has for many years pursued the vocation of mason and builder. His influence has been widespread in politics and his contribution to his community far from negligible. He is the son of John J. and Sarah F. (Lucas) Vaughan. William L. Vaughan was born 12 Aug 1866, in Glen Cove, Long Island. He attended the grammar school of Richmond County as a boy. Mr. Vaughan early fitted himself to become a mason and builder, and since going into business for himself has made a continued success of his undertakings. He has served his State politically as Assemblyman, having been elected in 1922, and re-elected for two succeeding terms.

Mr. Vaughan takes a comprehensive interest in fraternal organizations. He is a member of **Huguenot Lodge, No. 381**, F&AM; of the Knights of Pythias; Independent Order of Odd fellows; Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; and is a veteran fireman. His church affiliations are with the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church of Tottenville. Mr. Vaughan's children are: 1. Horace R Vaughan. 2. Hope Josephine (Vaughan) Peterson. 3. And an adopted daughter, Elsie Condie.

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/john-p-john-patrick-wall/history-of-middlesex-county-new-jersey-1664-1920-volume-3-lla/page-7-history-of-middlesex-county-new-jersey-1664-1920-volume-3-lla.shtml>

**David J. Williams** was born in Lemont, PA, 25 Dec 1872, the son of John R. and Sarah Z. (Young) Williams. He obtained his education in the public schools of his native place, and then learned the trade of marble cutting. In 1900 he came to Perth Amboy and established monumental works on South Second street, where he remained for eight years, at the end of which time he moved to his present location, No. 311 New Brunswick avenue. The enterprise which he started in a small way has consistently grown and developed until it is now one of the largest and most successful of its kind in the county, and is the result of determination, perseverance and strict attention to business duties. Mr. Williams is prominent in the fraternal life of the city and affiliates with **Huguenot Lodge, No. 381**, F&AM, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, the Woodmen of the World, Camp 31, and the American Order of United Workmen, Great Kills. His hobby is hunting and he devotes a portion of what little time he can take from his ever increasing business duties to this particular pastime.

On 28 Jun 1896, Mr. Williams married (first) Alene M. Petersen, d/o Frederick and Emma Petersen, of Tottenville. Staten Island, NY. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams were born three children: Helen E., 4 Jun 1899; Kenneth D., 24 Apr 1905; D. Leonard, 23 Jun 1906. Mrs. Williams passed away in 1909. Mr. Williams married (second) 2 Jun 1912, Marie A. Neilsen: they have no issue.

## **Aquehonga Lodge NO. 906, Stapleton, New York**

Warrant: 1914

Merged with Richmond No. 66 on 1 Mar 1994 to become Richmond Aquehonga No. 66

[http://www.sirmany.org/richmond\\_aquehonga\\_lodge\\_hi.htm](http://www.sirmany.org/richmond_aquehonga_lodge_hi.htm)

In 1904, a charter was given to Aquehonga Lodge No. 906 F & AM. Many of the original members of this Lodge had been members of Richmond Lodge. On July 11, 1925, a special communication was called to lay the cornerstone of the new Temple on Anderson Avenue. The Grand Master and 32 Grand Lodge officers joined over a thousand Masons, in columns of marchers 400 of whom were Richmond Lodge members. Because of the hardships caused by the great Depression and World War Two, it was necessary for the Lodge to move out of the Anderson Avenue Temple on February 1, 1943. However, in 1956, the Lodge purchased Svea Hall as a home. After many years the building needed renovations that the Lodge could not afford so the building was sold in 1980 and the Lodge moved its meeting site to the Tottenville Masonic Temple. Svea Hall is now the Mandalay Catering Hall.

In 1994, Aquehonga Lodge No. 906 merged with Richmond Lodge No. 66 and the Lodge was rechartered as Richmond Aquehonga Lodge No. 66. During the year 2000, the 175th Anniversary celebration was held with many events.

The Lodge meets on the First and Third Mondays of every month except July and August or national holidays at the Tottenville Masonic Temple. In 2010 Richmond Lodge merged with New Dorp Lodge to create Staten Island Lodge No. 66.

## **Great Kills, Lodge No. 912, Tottenville, New York**

Warrant: 14 May 1914

Lodge Website: <http://www.sirmany.org/pictures.htm>

During February and March, 1913, meetings were held to develop the possibility of a Masonic Lodge in the Great Kills district of Staten Island, New York. The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York granted authority for the establishment of the Lodge, to be known as Great Kills Lodge, and a communication was held in the Stapleton Masonic Temple on Monday, 12 Jan 1914 to organize the Lodge.

The First Stated Communication of Great Kills Lodge, U.D., was held at 22 Hillside Terrace, Great Kills on 15 Jan 1914. Many of the members volunteered their services, both in time and money, in order to obtain the necessary paraphernalia to furnish the Lodge. On January 15th and 22nd of that year the first members were proposed for Initiation.

On 14 May 1914 a Stated Communication was held by Great Kills Lodge No. 912, now fully chartered by Grand Lodge. The 100th Communication was held on 25 Sep 1919 and by Dec 1920, there were 120 members.

On 10 Nov 1921, the Building Committee recommended the purchase of the property on the corner of Amboy Road and Lindenwood Road in Great Kills. This property was paid for in full that December and the Lodge was flourishing with 206 Master Masons as members.

A Masonic Temple was erected on this property starting on 13 Oct 1925. The cornerstone was laid on 3 Apr 1926 and the Temple was completed on 11 Oct 1926. It was dedicated on 15 Nov 1926. The Lodge continued to grow and by Dec 1931 there were 363 members however, during the 1930's times were hard and the Lodge suffered greatly due to the loss of many members because of non-payment of dues.

By Dec 1935 membership had decreased to 275 and the hard times for the Lodge continued when in 1940, the Richmond Insurance Company foreclosed on the mortgage for the Great Kills Masonic Temple. Four years later the Lodge had recovered sufficiently so that, in June 1944, a committee was appointed for the purpose of buying back the Temple. On 8 Mar 1945 it was repurchased and the deed was recorded in the County clerk's Office. By Dec 1945, there was a noticeable but gradual increase in membership to the extent that by Dec 1955 there were 406 members of Great Kills Lodge. The Temple mortgage was completely paid off and a celebration was held on 13 Nov 1958.



The Lodge continued to prosper for several years but by the 80's, membership had dwindled to around 200 many of whom had moved South to warmer climates. The bowling alley that had been in the basement was removed and a portion of the building was leased out in order to gain revenue. By the end of the decade, with aging and dwindling membership, a building that had need for massive electrical, plumbing and heating repairs with no air conditioning or paved parking lot to attract banquet renters, Great Kills reached a crisis. Property taxes and insurance premiums continued to rise and, with no prospects of relief and a very definite threat of a tax foreclosure, the building was sold in 1993.

Since the sale, the Lodge has prospered. While it is nice to have ones own building, Lodge membership is higher than it has been for years and the average age of the members is steadily decreasing as we attract fine upstanding young men most of whom are taking an active role in the leadership of the Lodge into the 21st Century. Great Kills Lodge No. 912 is a leader in charity and fellowship and is a welcome home to all who desire to learn more about the Craft.

## Fort Wadsworth Lodge No. 1092

Warrant: Apr 1928

Named changed to New Dorp No. 1092, 24 May 1932

## New Dorp Lodge No. 1092, Tottenville, New York

Warrant: 24 May 1932

Lodge name under Dispensation was Sojourners Lodge.

Prev. name New Dorp 1092 was Fort Wadsworth 1092, Apr 1928;

Name changed to New Dorp, 24 May 1932;

New Dorp 1092 consol with Richmond Aquehonga 66 to form Staten Island 66, 3 Jun 2009

At New Dorp, in a little Lodge room in Miller's Hall on Amboy Road, on June 19, 1928, New Dorp Lodge, No. 1092, was instituted. At the time of its institution, **it was known as Sojourners Lodge**, a name later **changed to Fort Wadsworth Lodge**, and still later to New Dorp Lodge. In 1929, it moved into quarters in Koch Hall, New Dorp Lane and Second Street, where it remained until 1947, when it moved to the Great Kills Temple. H. Lafayette Keeley was the first Master; J. Harold Brown, SW; Alexander Granat, JW; C. R. Jacobson, Treasurer; and; F. Bingeman, Secretary. New Dorp Lodge is the only Lodge in the District to have changed its name from the original one named in the Dispensation. Meetings are now held at the Tottenville Temple.

## LaGuardia Lodge No. 1130, Staten Island, New York

Dispensation: 20 May 1949

Instituted U.D.: 17 Jun 1949

[http://www.sirmany.org/laquadia\\_lodge\\_history.htm](http://www.sirmany.org/laquadia_lodge_history.htm)

On 4 May 1849 a group of dedicated Masons met at a house at Lincoln Place, Ft. Wadsworth, Staten Island, to form a new Lodge.

Present were:

Stewart Walker	Pasquale Lombardi	Charles Bang	John S. Mayer
Thomas Salucci	August Puca	Dominic Rufolo	[DDGM]

Subsequently at a meeting in the home of Emil Rapp 19 Jan 1948, 21 Brethren signed the petition for a Dispensation.

In 1949, nearly a century-and-a-quarter after the beginning of organized Masonry on Staten Island, a Dispensation was granted to form a new Lodge to be known as La Guardia Lodge. It was instituted on 17 Jun 1949, with quarters at Great Kills Temple.

W.'.Thomas Salucci was named the first Master; W.'. Domenick Rufolo, SW; W.'. Pasquale J. Lombardi, JW; Emil B. Rapp, Secretary and William F. [T.] Gebhardt, Sr., Treasurer. A charter was granted assigning the number 1130. The Lodge was duly constituted on 1 Jun 1950 by M.'.W.'. Richard A. Rowlands, Grand Master, assisted by his staff. The officers mentioned in the dispensation were duly installed by R.'.W.'. Leroy C. Robers, District Deputy Grand Master. The new Lodge has found a hearty welcome in the District. The Lodge is named in memory of Fiorello LaGuardi, past Mayor of New York City.