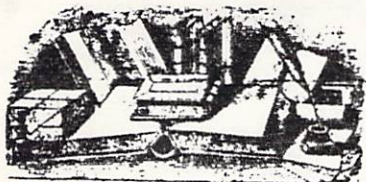


AN OLD ACCOUNT

The manuscript from which the following items were taken is among the collection of papers from the Hall-Eckerson Family, donated to the Society some years ago. Like others of the same period, it has more than one sphere of interest. The estate involved was that of Thomas Eckerson who had then lived on present Weiss Road in Upper Saddle River, in a homestead later owned by William Gillespy. He died September 25, 1818, leaving a Last Will and Testament made the previous June 11th. The brief record apparently covers disbursements made by the executors in connection with a "vandue" and for other purposes. The inventory of the personal estate of the deceased was taken December 2nd and included a Dutch Bible, spoons and case, dresser, bedsteads, chairs, looking glass, cupboard (\$1.00), Dutch cupboard (\$4.50), spinning and wool wheels, loom and gears, farm items, barracks with hay, 10 shoats, 4 horses, 9 sheep, 9 horned cattle, 2 seats in the Saddle River Church, etc., all totaling \$760. The Will was filed on December 7th.

James Demarest mentioned in the account, was a well-known land surveyor who also functioned in a legal capacity at times by drawing Wills and Deeds for his customers. Perhaps he had possession of the Will in a sealed envelope which was the reason for the charge and expression "to open the Will." He also made a survey of some land at a cost of \$5.50. John A. Boyd was the Surrogate of Bergen County. The "plancks" may have been the wood from which the coffin had been made, or a bill incurred previous to Eckerson's death, as were those for mending a chest and a brass kettle. The Reverend Stephen Goetschius was then Pastor of the joint charges of Saddle River and Pascack. Thomas J. Eckerson, a relative of the deceased, may have been the sexton or undertaker who took care of the burial. The whiskey, rum, wine, pipes and tobacco were the customary display of hospitality by the family to those attending the funeral, which in this case amounted to the largest expenditure. Mary and Jenny were the two daughters of the deceased. It is not noted what service Peter S. Van Orden performed, or why that amount was due him. He was then a resident of Rockland County and not only a veteran of the Revolution, but had risen to the rank of Major-General in the War of 1812. The last item cannot be explained.



Paid the Persons	Dol	Cents
December 1, 1818 James Demarest to open the will	1	60
To Thomas T. Banta to praise and write	1	50
To Henry An Hopper to prove the will	2	0
To James Demarest to measure Land	5	50
To John A. Boyd	6	50
To John Debaun for wiskea	1	50
To David J. Ackerman for rum and wine	7	0
To Stephen Hopper for plancks	1	0
To domany Goechies to preach	2	0
To Cornelius Crouter to mending a Chist	1	25
To Thomas J. Eckerson for Berring	2	0
To Peter Post to tending vandue	2	19
To mending a Brass Cittel	0	68
To John Peake and Henry Banta, Crews, pipes, tobacco	1	0
To Mary and Jenney	1	62
To Peter S. Van Orden	0	75
To John Van Valen for a head stone	4	62½
Hudson money lost by it	7	50