

Richard Merrill in 1788, and by others until 1800, when the title of whippers seems to have been discarded (Morris II: 51).

In 1803, two acres of land on the road leading from Richmond to New Dorp was bought for a county poor house. There was a house on it by no means large enough to house all the county's dependents; but it was a beginning. On a small piece of paper laid in the Westfield Town Book is the following: "Whereas it is thought expedient that the poor of the County of Richmond should be kept together in some proper & convenient place. Be it therefore enacted by the [Trustees of the—these three words erased] Freeholders of the Town of Westfield & it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same That the overseers of the Town of Westfield & the Justices resident in the said Town are authorized to enter into a contract with the overseers & Justices of the other towns of the County of Richmond, to keep the poor of the different towns together upon the most equalable plan that can or may be devised. Town of Westfield, 7 April, 1812." There was opposition, however, on the ground of expense and it was 1829 before the necessary legislation was obtained.

In 1805, Staten Island became a Democratic county as the term is now understood. Previously those who had been Tories during the Revolution and their descendants, continuing their conservative ideas, had voted with the Federalists and carried the elections in spite of ugly epithets applied by their opponents. In September, 1804, the county gave a majority for Gordon S. Mumford for Congress; but in the following spring it gave a majority for George Clinton, Jr. The election returns of the period show an almost even division of the votes.

About 1809, experiments in firing shot across the Narrows must have stirred up considerable local interest. Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill's account in Valentine's Manual, 1868, p. 878, is "The gun-boat dropped down to the Narrows, and came to anchor in twelve feet of water, on the edge of Hendrick's Reef, at three hundred and fifty yards distance from Long Island shore. The direct distance across the Narrows from this place is fourteen hundred and eighty-six yards; but as bushes and other obstacles rendered it difficult to place a target to advantage in that direction, a spot free from any obstacles was chosen on a bluff under the southernmost private signal staff on Staten Island, from the obliquity of which, the distance was increased to seventeen hundred and fifty yards, or one mile."

As an example of the possessions of a Staten Islander during the Revolution, we quote from the inventory of the personal estate of Stephen Martino, a document dated 26 August, 1779, found among the papers of Dr. Ephraim Clark, viz:

One Negroman Minck
 One Wench Diana
 One Negro Boy York 7 years
 One Dito girl Anny 5 years
 One Dito Bett 3 years
 One Dito Boy: James 1½ year
 Cash in the house £69.5.6

LIFE STOCK.

Ten Cows: Two three years old
 Six yearlings & Five dringing Calves
 Three Horsses, & one Two year old Colt
 Six Hogs, & Six Shoath, Eight Fowels
 Two Hives of Bees.

FARMING UTENCELS.

One wagon with Tackling & one Plow with Tackling, One large Iron Tooth harrow, one dito with wooden Tooth, One Iron Tooth Corn harrow, one Corn Mill, Two Scitch with Tackling, one Cradle Two Hids, Two Scigth, Three Forks, two Spads, Three Skins, One Hobernhow, two Corn hoes, one Broad ax, One Bedel & three wages, one wood ax, one hatchet, One Pleasur Slay, one wood slay: one Block Slay, three augers: one hand Saw, one Stone hamer, one gouge, Two Flax brake, one Cannon, halv of a Fishing Sane, Twenty-three Buchels wheate, Thirty Buchel of indian Corn, Four dito of buckwheat, one Brass Redel, Twelv Bushel of wheat in the ground, Three Bushel of Roy: Five Bushel of oatch & Three Bushel of Flaxseed all in the ground in good order.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

Five Feather Beds, two sets of Cortain, Five Bedsteads, Three Rogs, Five Ross Blankets, two spotted dito, one Bedquilt, Five Bolsters, Ten Pillows, Two Looking glasses, one Cobert, one Dining Table, one Tea Table, one stand, one Gum Chest, one Silver Tanckart, Six Silver Tea spoons, one Large chiany Bowls, one small Dito; Twelve Teacops & Sauzers, Three glass tumblers, Five wine glasses, one large earthen Bowl, Six Small ditto, Twelv earthern plates, one large Bibel, Twelve Chairs, one warming pann, Two pair of hand Irons, one showel & one pair of Tounges, Two Smoothing Irons, Three bags, one halv Bushel, one Coffe Mill, one hair Broom, Two spinning wheals, one large Dito, one Large Pine Cheast, Two Iron Candelstick, Scals & some weigh^s, one Side Saddel, one Loom & Tacklin, one warping barr & spool wheal, one hatchel, one grinestone.

KITCHING FURNITURE.

Five Pewter Platters, Three dito Bassons, Eight dito Plates, one dito Tea pott, one Coffe pott, one Large Brass Kettle, one Iron ditto, one Copper Tea Kettle, Three Iron potts, one dito Pay pann, one Skellet, Three Trambels, one pair of Bellows, one Dozen knifs, Eight Forks, Six Pewter spoons, Two Cyder firking, Four killers, Four pales, one Small Cyder washing tapp, one Iron Candelstand, one greadiron, one Tosster. N. B. The Tablelinen, Sheats: Pillow casses, Towels, & Cloathing to be divided emediately Sundry Ticketts outstanding for Hay & Straw, to be accounted for when received &c.

By us

RICHARD CONNER
 CHRISTIAN JACOBSON.

The above enumeration of the possessions of a fairly well-to-do farmer seems to present, as one reads the items, an epitome of his life.