

The History of the Census in Hudson

A Collaboration of the Hudson Area Library & The Jacob Leisler Institute for the Study of Early New York History

As Census 2020 approaches, this exhibition intends to highlight the importance of census records throughout history as well as the importance of the upcoming Census 2020. Babylonians were said to have taken the first recorded census in 3,800 B.C., when they counted the people, livestock, and quantities of butter, honey, milk, wool, and vegetables. Such early censuses were primarily taken for military or taxation purposes. They became more sophisticated with the Romans. Indeed the word census is derived from the Latin word *censere*, “to count.” Roman censuses were taken regularly and provided a register of citizens, those eligible for military and public service, and of property and wealth for taxation. After the fall of Rome, population data is largely lacking for nearly a thousand years.

Modern population censuses began to evolve in the seventeenth century along with the rise of the international shareholding chartered company, such as the Dutch East and West India Companies. More detailed records of the population in their territories—the numbers of people, size of families, and an impression of population growth—were needed for competitive purposes. The area that is now Columbia County was generally unpopulated by those of European descent during the New Netherland period, so no population counts of this vicinity were carried out by the Dutch. English colonial administrators, however, were enthusiastic in their pursuit of population statistics, and several counts of the area that is now Columbia County, then part of Albany County, are available to examine the growth of the local population at that time.

The United States decennial census has been conducted in years ending in "0" since 1790, as required by the U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2. In addition to apportioning state representation, census data is used to make decisions affecting legislation and spending on housing, highways, hospitals, schools, assistance programs, and scores of projects and programs that are vital to the health and welfare of the U.S. population and economy.

As the government and citizenry of Hudson plan for the future of the community, they regularly consult the census records. Your participation in the 2020 census helps ensure an accurate count for fair representation and distribution of federal funds.

Colonial Censuses in New York



The Jan van Hoesen House, built c. 1720, Claverack, NY
For more information visit janvanhoesenhouse.org

The Van Hoesen patent of 1667, granted by English Governor of New York Richard Nicoll, confirmed the purchase of land from Native Americans made in 1661 by Jan Franse van Hoesen while the area was still under Dutch rule in the colony of New Netherland. The land purchased includes much of the land that is now within the City of Hudson. Multiple entries bearing the name Van Hoesen can be found on the 1709 Claverack Tax List.

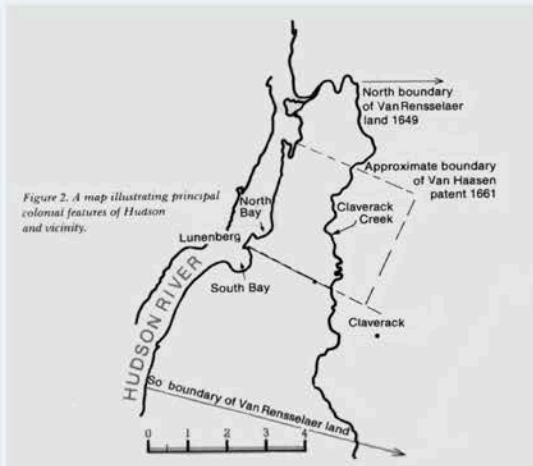


Figure 2. A map illustrating principal colonial features of Hudson and vicinity.

A map illustrating principal colonial features of Hudson and vicinity.
Ruth Piwonka, "Hudson," *The Hudson Valley Regional Review*, vol. 2 (March 1985), no. 1, page 9.

(right) John Romeyn Brodhead, Esq., Agent appointed to procure and transcribe documents in Europe relative to the colonial history of the state, E.B. O'Callaghan, MD, editor, *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New-York; Procured in Holland, England and France*, 1854, Albany, vol. 4, page 420.

Changing place names, and changes of governments that occurred as the colony was exchanged by foreign powers are just a couple of the factors that complicate the search for population information for the early colonial period. Finding surviving documents in archives in the United States and elsewhere, and the difficulty of reading documents of the colonial era, even when written in English, requires experienced scholars, transcribers and translators for the information to be made accessible to the public. Using a combination of sources in addition to the colonial census records, including tax lists and maps, an understanding of early population numbers can be gained, even though the early censuses are generally acknowledged to be inaccurate.

Thirty-eight enumerations were made before the first United States federal census of 1790, and in New York province, the population was counted in the following years: 1698, 1703, 1712, 1714, 1723, 1731, 1737, 1746, 1749, 1756, 1771. The documents below show the dramatic change in the population of Albany County between 1689 and 1697, following the Schenectady Massacre of 1690.

Number of Inhabitants in the several Counties of New-York.

[New-York Papers, E. F. O., E. 88.]

An Account of the Number of Inhabitants in y^e Several Counties of y^e Province of New York taken by the High Sheriffs and Justices of the Peace in each respective County; as y^e order of his Excell. the Earl of Bellomont Govern' &c. Anno 1698.

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Negro.
In y ^e County and City of Albany.....	880	270	808	33
In y ^e County of Ulster & Dutchess County.....	248	111	559	156
In the County of Orange.....	29	31	140	19
In the City & County of New York.....	1019	1057	2181	700
In Richmond County his Majesty's Island.....	328	308	118	12
In y ^e County of West Chester.....	316	294	307	148
In Suffolk County within Nassau Island.....	978	1024	134	568
In King's County within Nassau Island.....	208	232	1081	296
In Queen's County within Nassau Island.....	1465	1850	521	199
	8086	4677	6164	2170

A true Copy
(signed) BELLOMONT.

Number of Inhabitants in Albany, 1689.

[New-York Papers, E. F. O.—E. 88.]

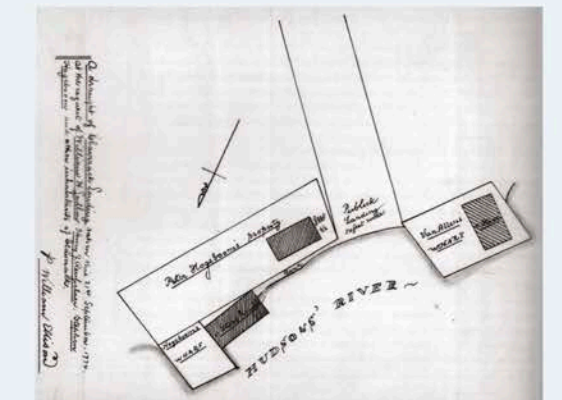
In pursuance of the Order from his Excell. Col. Benj. Fletcher, Capt. Gen^l & Govern^r in Chief dated the 3^d day of May 1697. to make a perfect reckoning of the Inhabitants of the City and County of Albany and how many families and particular persons in the said City & County are departed from the beginning of y^e Warr, how many persons killed and carried away & of what number y^e Five Nations and River Indians then were, and how much they since are lessened, so that wee find that the Inhabitants of the City and County of Albany in the year 1689 did consist—

	men.	women.	children.	and now,	men.	women.	children.
	662.	340.	1014.		382.	272.	505.
The Five Nations and River Indians, viz ^t							
The Mohoggs.....	270.	& now.....	110.				
The Onneydes.....	180	& now.....	70.				
The Onondages.....	600	& now.....	250.				
The Cajouges.....	300.	& now.....	200.				
The Sannicks.....	1300.	& now.....	600.				
The River Indians.....	250.	& now.....	90.				
In the beginning of y ^e warr.....	2800	Indians & now.....	1320				

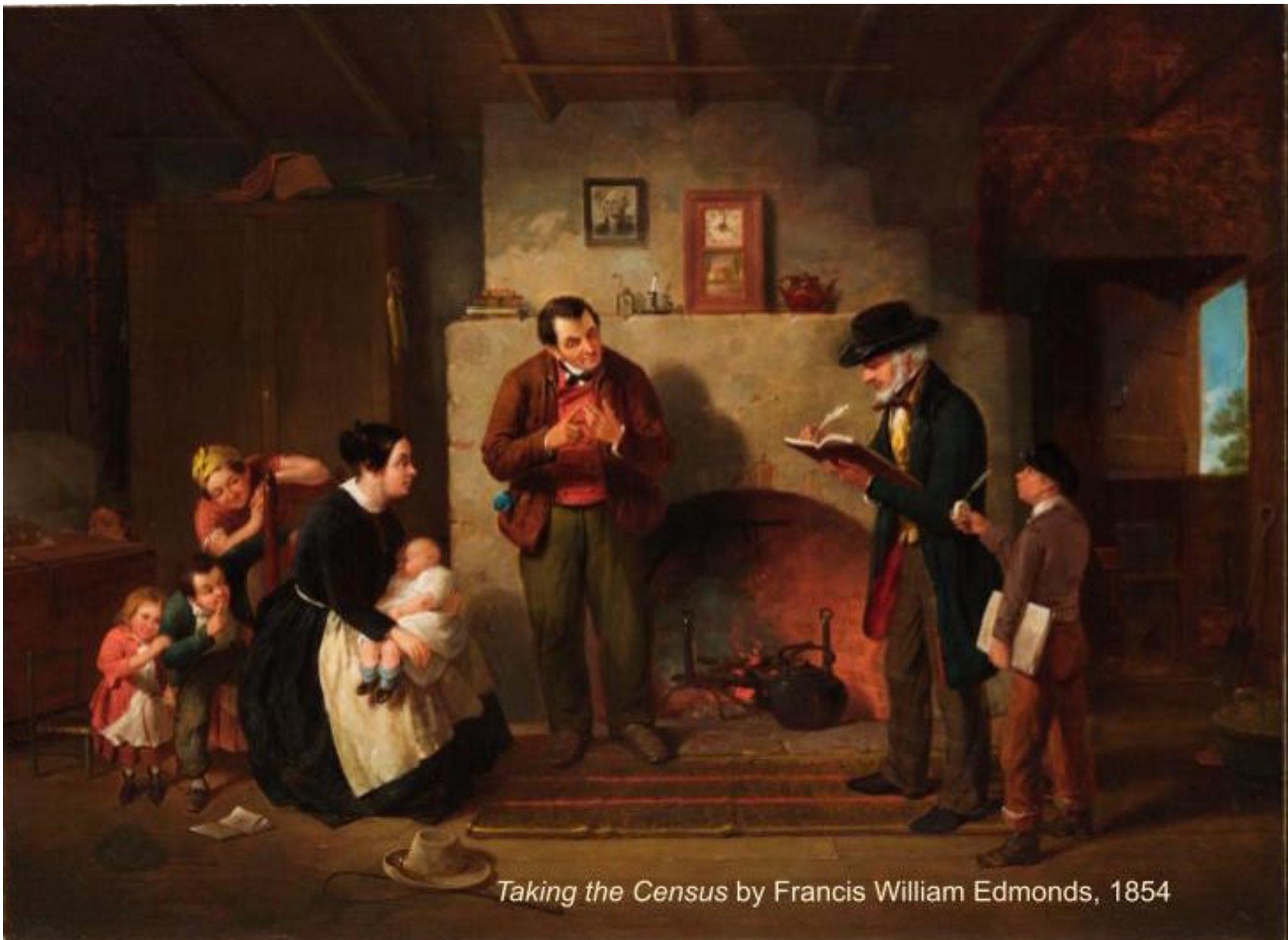


Detail of map titled "Province de New-York: en 4 feuilles", 1777
John Montrésor, 1736-1799 (Cartographer), Georges-Louis Le Rouge, (Publisher), Paris
Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library, NY, NY

The settlement of Claverack, including the river port of Claverack Landing, was part of Albany County until 1772 when Columbia County was formed from a portion of it. The settlement of Claverack Landing was renamed Hudson on November 14, 1784 by The Proprietors who purchased land from Dutch families still living in the area. The City of Hudson was granted its charter by the State of New York on April 22, 1785.



A map of Claverack Landing "taken in the year 1774."
Margaret B. Schram, *Hudson's Merchants and Whalers: The Rise and Fall of a River Port 1783-1850*, 2004, Black Dome Press, page 10.



Taking the Census by Francis William Edmonds, 1854

Hudson - 1st Ward - 1st District

STATE OF NEW-YORK.

CENSUS OF THE STATE FOR THE YEAR

1845.

Town of

Election Dist. No.

County of

Book No.

CENSUS

OF THE

STATE OF NEW-YORK,

FOR THE YEAR

1845.

AN ACT

Relative to the Census or Enumeration of the Inhabitants of the State.

Passed May 7, 1845.

The People of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Census when to be taken.

§ 1. An enumeration of the inhabitants of this State is to be taken at the end of every tenth year after the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.

Blank returns to be printed.

§ 2. The secretary of state shall, in every such tenth year cause uniform blank returns and abstracts in conformity to the forms and provisions herein contained, together with copies of this act, to be printed, for the purpose of taking such enumeration and obtaining other statistical information.

To be sent to county clerks.

§ 3. The secretary of state shall, on or before the first day of June, in such every tenth year, transmit in such manner as he may think proper, to each of the county clerks, twice as many of such blank returns and copies of this act as there are election districts in their respective counties.

Marshal for each election district to be appointed.

§ 4. The common council in each of the cities, and the supervisor, town clerk, and town superintendent of common schools in each of the towns in this state, shall respectively convene at some convenient place in each of such cities and towns, on or before the first Monday in July in every such tenth year, and shall appoint a marshal in and for each election district of the state, as heretofore provided in the third section of this act, whose duty it shall be to enumerate the inhabitants therein, and to perform the other duties prescribed by this act. A certificate of such appointment, under the hands of the clerk of the common council, and of the supervisor, town clerk and town superintendent aforesaid, shall be made, in which certificate the boundaries of the district assigned to the person so appointed shall be clearly and specifically described.

To be furnished with blank returns.

§ 5. It shall be the duty of each county clerk, on or before the fifteenth day of July in every such tenth year, to forward to the town clerk of each of the towns in his county, and to the clerk of the common council in any of the cities, a sufficient number of the blank returns and copies of this act, so as aforesaid transmitted to him by the secretary of

state, to supply each marshal of such town or city, on demand, with duplicate sets.

Duty of marshals.

§ 6. Immediately after receiving such blank returns and copies of this act, every such marshal shall proceed to enumerate, truly and accurately, the inhabitants residing in the election district for which he shall have been appointed, by making actual inquiry at every dwelling-house, or of the head of every family residing therein; and to obtain the statistical information required by this act, by such convenient means as may be in his power.

Form of returns.

§ 7. Each marshal shall enter in the blank return received by him the particulars of the enumeration so made, and of the statistical information so obtained, in the following manner and form, viz:

[For the form referred to in this section, see the body of this book.]

Persons to be enumerated.

§ 8. Every person whose usual place of abode shall be in any family, on the first day of July in every such tenth year, shall be returned as of such family; and every person casually absent at the time of taking the enumeration, as belonging to that place in which he usually resides.

Returns how verified.

§ 9. The return so made out shall be certified by each marshal taking the enumeration to be true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief; which certificate shall be subscribed and sworn to by him before any officer authorized to administer oaths, who shall certify such attestation, without charging any fee therefor.

Copy to be delivered to county clerk.

§ 10. Each marshal shall, on or before the first day of September in every such tenth year, cause the returns so certified with a duplicate copy thereof, to be delivered to the town superintendent of common schools of the town in which such marshal shall have been appointed, or where no such officer exists, to the supervisor of the town, or alderman of the ward in cities, whose duty it shall be within ten days thereafter to make and transmit to the county clerk an abstract thereof, subscribed and certified by him, containing the



Duplicate copy where deposited.

Returns by county clerk to secretary of state.

Secretary of state to report to legislature.

Expenses how paid.

Penalty for refusing to give information.

aggregate result or sum total of each of the particulars required to be stated in the several columns of the returns to be made by the marshals of his town, as herein before prescribed. The duplicate copy of such original return shall be deposited with said town superintendent, supervisor or alderman, for the inspection at all proper hours of any person interested, and shall be filed immediately after the first day of October thereafter in the office of the town clerk, or clerk of the common council in the several cities of this state.

§ 11. Each county clerk shall, on receiving such certified statements of the enumeration and other statistical information, from the town superintendents of the several towns and wards in his county, and before the second Tuesday of October in every such tenth year, make and transmit to the secretary of state, by mail, an abstract thereof, subscribed and certified by him, containing the aggregate result or sum total in each town or ward in his county, specifying such towns and wards, of the particulars so as aforesaid required to be stated in the several columns of the returns to be made by the marshals as herein before prescribed; and also the aggregate result or sum total of each of the said particulars in his county.

§ 12. The secretary of state, after receiving such abstracts, shall prepare and report to the legislature, a general account of the enumeration, specifying the result thereof in the several towns, wards, cities and counties of the state, with a full recapitulation of the whole.

§ 13. The accounts for the services of the marshals in taking and returning such enumeration, and of the town superintendents and county clerks, in making out the abstracts thereof, shall be audited by the supervisors of the county where the services are performed, and in the city of New-York by the common council; and shall be assessed, collected and paid as part of the contingent expenses of such county or city.

§ 14. Any person being the head of a family or member thereof, above the age of twenty-one years, who shall refuse

to give to any marshal the information required by him relative to any of the particulars which such marshal is required to state in his returns concerning such family or person, or who shall wilfully give false information to such marshal concerning the same, shall forfeit and pay a penalty of fifty dollars, to be sued for and recovered, with costs of suit, by and in the name of the supervisor of their respective towns, and shall be paid over to the town superintendent, for the benefit of the common schools of such towns.

§ 15. It shall be the duty of the secretary of state to appoint suitable persons to take the enumeration of the Indians residing on the several reservations in this state, who shall in respect to such reservations perform all the duties required of marshals by this act; and shall also return the number of acres of land cultivated by such Indians, and such other statistics as it may be in their power to collect, and as the secretary of state in his instructions shall prescribe; for which service they shall be paid out of the treasury upon the warrant of the comptroller such suitable compensation, not exceeding two dollars per day, as the secretary shall certify to be just. All expenses incurred by the secretary of state in executing this act shall be paid by the treasurer upon the warrant of the comptroller.

§ 16. The secretary of state shall procure and cause to be bound for the use of the members of the next legislature by the commencement of its next session, two hundred lithographic maps of this state, delineating the boundaries of the several towns, wards and counties, and specifying in each town ward and county the whole population thereof, and also the population upon which the apportionment of senators and members of assembly is based, and also the population upon which the apportionment of members of congress is based.

§ 17. All previous acts relating to the taking of the state census are hereby repealed.

§ 18. This act shall take effect immediately.

Secretary of state to cause census of Indians to be taken.

Lithographic maps to be procured.

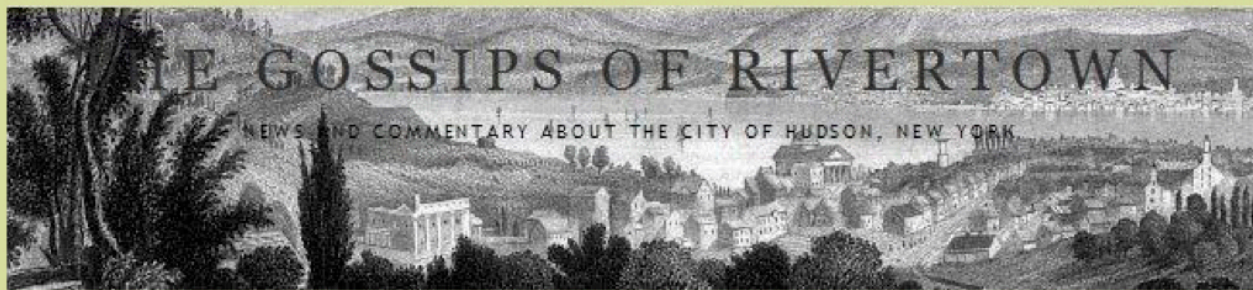
Repeat.

Return of the enumeration of the Inhabitants of District No. *One* in the ^{City} ~~Town~~ (or ward) of *Hudson*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
THE NAME OF THE HEAD OF EACH FAMILY.	Number of male persons in the family, including its head, if male.	No. of female persons in the same family, including its head, if female.	No. of male persons in the same family subject to militia duty.	No. of persons in the same family entitled to vote for all officers elective by the people.	No. of aliens not naturalized in such family.	No. of persons in the same family who are paupers.	No. of persons of color in the same family not taxed.	No. of persons of color in the same family who are taxed.	No. of persons of color in the same family who are legal voters.	No. of married males in the same family, under the age of 45 years.	No. of unmarried females in the same family, between the ages of 16 and 45.
Stephen Gunn	2	3		2							1
William Skinnon	3	2		1						1	1
Geo Stovs	2	3		1						1	1
J & Paley	2	4		1						1	1
J & J. W. Skinnon	2	7		1			01			1	1
Renton Paine	3	2		3						1	1
David Rogers	3	3		3						1	1
Jeremiah Coles	1	1		1						1	1
Isaac Epistymus	7	6		1						1	1
Henry Akeley	3	5		1						1	1
John Akeley	3	3		1						1	1
Wm Akeley		3									
Isaac Columbus	1	1		1						1	
Wm Bryan	2	3	2	2						1	
B Bristol	2	6		1						1	1
Hannah Taylor		1									
John Campbell	1	2	1	1						1	
Wm Campbell	1	1	1	1						1	
Wm Cummings	2	3		1			03	1	1	2	
John Wm											
St Allen	3	2		3						1	2
R Dutcher	2	1		2							
Deans Van Allen		3					03				
Ed Hyatt	4	4		1						1	
Chs McArthur	6	4		2						1	1
Rev ^d Remington	4	2		1						1	
L R Mollen	2	5		1						1	
Thos. Bolman	1	4		1						1	2
John Coffin	1	1		1							
Geo A Smith	3	2		1						1	

with the other statistical information required by law to be obtained in such District.

13	14	15		16		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
No. of unmarried females in the same family, under 16 years of age.	No. of marriages in the family during the year preceding.	No. of births in the same family during the year preceding.		No. of deaths in the same family during the year preceding.		No. of members of the same family born in the State of New-York.	No. of members of the same family born in any of the New-England States.	No. of members of the same family born in any of the other States of the Union.	No. of members of the same family born in Mexico, or South America.	No. of members of the same family born in Great Britain, or its possessions.	No. of members of the same family born in France.	No. of members of the same family born in Germany.	No. of members of the same family born in other parts of Europe.
		MALES.	FEMALES.	MALES.	FEMALES.								
1		1				4	1						
1						4	1						
5			1			5	1						
1						6	1						
1						9	1						
5		1				4	1						
4						4	2						
						2	1						
1		1			1	10	1						
2						6	2						
		1				5	1						
						3							
						2	1						
						5	1						
						7	1						
						3	1						
						2	1						
						5	1						
						4	1						
						3							
2						5							
2						4	1						
1						3							
2						5	1						
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Monday, September 7, 2015

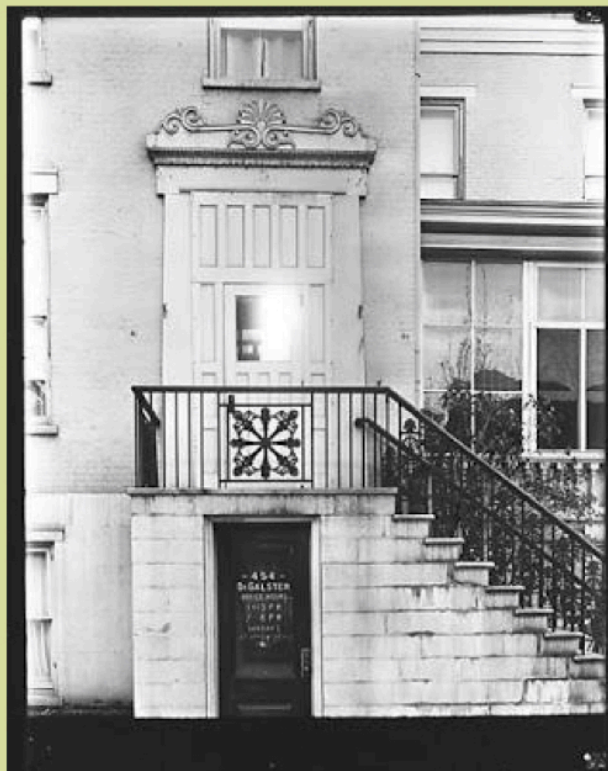
The Scandal of 1922: The Cast of Characters

Now that we know the outcome of the trial of Chief John J. Cruise for dereliction of duty, it is of interest to consider the people who played major roles in this drama. The Chief Cruise was investigated, accused, and tried by the Commission of Public Safety, a governmental body that appears to have been created by a charter amendment adopted in May 1921. (A Commission of Public Safety is not mentioned in the previous [1895 version](#) of the charter.) The commission was made up of three men who were appointed by the mayor, who at that time was Henry C. Galster.



CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN CRUISE

Up until quite recently (2004 to be exact), being the mayor of Hudson was not considered a full-time job. Mayors had other occupations, and being the mayor was just a part-time gig. Galster, who served for one term, in 1921 and 1922, was a doctor. During his term as mayor, he was in his early 30s. The 1920 census indicates that he owned 454 Warren Street (now the location of Nolita), where he lived with his wife, Kathryn, and her two younger and unmarried sisters, and practiced medicine. This picture of the house, taken by Walker Evans probably in the early 1930s, shows Dr. Galster's shingle on the street-level door that gave access to his office.



Galster appointed the three men who made up the Commission of Public Safety that took action against Cruise for dereliction of duty. He appointed a fellow medical man to be the president of the Commission of Public Safety: Sherwood V. Whitbeck. Whitbeck, who was 40 when the 1920 census was taken, lived at 363 Allen Street with his wife, Caroline, their two children, Mary and Volkert, and a servant named Grace Fuller. Whitbeck also conducted his medical practice at 363 Allen Street. Interestingly, it is also a Walker Evans photograph (discovered and identified by Sam Pratt a few years ago) that shows us Whitbeck's house. The house, which stood west of the Columbia County courthouse, where there is now a parking lot, was demolished around 1970.



The second member of the Commission of Public Safety, often mentioned in accounts of Chief Cruise's trial, was Charles A. Van Deusen, who was a bank president. In the 1920 census, Van Deusen, who was then 54, lived at 441 Allen Street with his wife, Grace, and their two sons, both in their late 20s. Also residing at the house in 1920 were Saddle Wood, a cook, and Margaret Sheldon, a servant. Van Deusen's house is now the office of the law firm [Freeman Howard](#).



The third member of the Commission of Public Safety was William Petry, who owned the Hudson Garage, located at 724-730 Columbia Street, in the building that was originally part of the Gifford-Wood foundry and was most recently [Van Kleeck Tire](#).



There is nothing out of the ordinary in the appearance of Petry's business in Hudson, N. Y. The outstanding feature is Petry's personality: makes friends with everyone and it pays. The insert shows William Petry as his customers know him best.



Petry was by all accounts a very successful business man and a well-liked member of the community, but he lived more humbly than his colleagues on the Commission of Public Safety. His house, where he lived with his wife, Lelia, and their three children (no servants), was at 538 Washington Street. When the 1920 census was taken, Petry was 50.



Then there were the lawyers--two for the prosecution, representing the City of Hudson, two for the defense. The lead prosecutor was city attorney, a.k.a. corporation counsel, William J. DeLamater. In 1920, according to the census, DeLamater was 38 years old and lived at 604 Gifford Place, in one of the houses originally built for the sons of Elihu and Eliza Gifford. DeLamater's household included his wife, Anna, their son, William, who was then a toddler, a servant named Lucy Sowdek and her 8-year-old daughter. Today, the block where DeLamater lived is no longer called Gifford Place but Columbia Street.



Assisting DeLamater was Samuel B. Coffin, an attorney who has figured in more than one historic tale retold by *Gossips*. When, in 1914, Malcolm Gifford, the eldest son of the eldest son of Elihu Gifford and heir to the Gifford Iron Works, learned that his eldest son, Malcolm, Jr., had been arrested and indicted in Albany for murdering a chauffeur somewhere near Watervliet, the elder Malcolm rushed to his son's side, bringing with him the family attorney: Samuel B. Coffin.

When, in 1916, Mabel J. Hoffman, daughter of Fred W. Jones sued the New York & New England Cement and Lime Company for damages caused by cement dust to real and personal property at what had been her father's home on Route 9 just south of Hudson, Samuel B. Coffin represented the cement company in the case.

In 1920, according to the decennial census, Samuel B. Coffin was 55 years old and lived at 5 Willard Place, which is now the bed and breakfast The Croff House, with his wife, Frances, his mother-in-law, Cecelia Lewis, and a servant named Mary Monthia.



Coffin was still living at 5 Willard Place in 1941 when a fire destroyed the third floor, with its mansard roof, and tower of what had been a Second Empire house similar to several others on the street.



Coffin was not at home when the fire occurred in the early morning of Memorial Day, 1941, although his wife, his sister, and a servant named Alice Moore were. Coffin, then 76, was in Rhode Island, about to embark on his annual cruise along the eastern seaboard in his yacht.

Early accounts of Chief Cruise's trial make reference to the "formidable line-up of counsel" assembled to represent him. Principal among them was Robert Monell Herzberg. In the decennial census for 1900, Herzberg is a 20-year-old law student living with his mother, Mary Herzberg, at 123 Union Street. Mary Herzberg is identified as the head of the household and her status is given as married. Her husband (Robert's father) is not listed, but his place of birth is given as Germany. Also in the household are a cousin, Louisa Waldron, and German servant named Tillie Bierson.



Robert Monell Herzberg cannot be found in the census records for 1910 or 1920, but the Hudson city directory for 1912 indicates that he is practicing law in partnership with Mark Duntz, and the offices of Duntz & Herzberg are located at 542 Warren Street, now The Barlow Hotel. The directory indicates that both men live in Claverack.

In the 1930 census, eight years after the Cruise trial, Herzberg reappears. He now lives at 3 Willard Place, a house valued at \$7,500 which he owns. He now has a wife, Sarah, and a son, Robert W. In 1930, Herzberg is 49 years old, and his wife is 61. According to the census records, they were married when he was 25 and she was 37, and their son in 1930 was 24.



The census, of course, does not indicate when Herzberg bought the house, but it's intriguing to contemplate the possibility the Cruise's principal attorney lived just two doors away from the attorney who was representing his accusers.

Cruise's other attorney, John J. Moy lived nearby at 316 Allen Street, directly across the street from Willard Place. There is no longer a house at that address, but the one that was there in 1920 must have been substantial, because it accommodated two households.



The first household living at 316 Allen Street in 1920 was headed by Daniel Moy, then 67, who had immigrated from Ireland in 1873. Daniel lived there with his wife, Mary, an unmarried daughter, Catherine, and a married daughter, Winnifred O'Rourke, who had a 10-year-old son.

The second household was headed by John J. Moy, presumably Daniel's son, who was 32 in 1920. His household included his wife, Anna, their two sons (one 3 years old, the other 6 months), Anna's father, Marcell Frananski, who had immigrated from Poland in 1890, and her brother John Frananski. The census records indicate that both Daniel and John Moy owned the house.

And that is the cast of characters who played major roles in the 1922 trial of Hudson police chief John J. Cruise.

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