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GENERAL GUIDE

— TO —

NEWBURGH

AND VICINITY.

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GENERAL GUIDE

—TO—

NEWBURGH

AND VICINITY,

—WITH—

SKETCH OF WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.

F. DuBois.

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NEW YORK.

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— THE —

CITY OF NEWBURGH.

THE traveler standing on the deck of the steamer as it emerges from the Highlands into the broad waters of Newburgh Bay, sees spread out around him a scene of rare beauty which is in strong contrast to the wild grandeur of the Highlands. The Bay of Naples lives in romance and in the memory of those travelers who love to deify whatever is foreign, but one may visit a thousand storied haunts abroad and never see such an unveiling of nature's grand and lovely features as she offers every day from the deck of the steamer passing through Newburgh Bay.

On nearing the landing a fine view is obtained of the entire city, situated on a steep hillside with the houses rising above each other on a series of natural

terraces, and presenting a very striking effect as viewed from this point. On a commanding eminence in the southern part of the city—easily designated from the river by the large flag-staff on the grounds—stands the old stone house which was the headquarters of General Washington while his army was encamped in the vicinity, and which is referred to hereafter.

The bay, one of the finest configurations of the Hudson, is sufficient alone to give wide reputation to the place; but to the Revolutionary associations connected with the city is due the fact that Newburgh is a place dear to every American, and a shrine where thousands of patriotic hearts annually pay their homage.

The first settlement is said to have been made here as early as 1708—although the first authentic record puts the date as 1719—the settlers being nine emigrants from the Palatinate of Newburgh in Germany, and from this small collection of pioneers' cabins the city has grown to be one of the finest in the State, with a population of nearly 20,000. The city enjoys the influences of the Highland atmosphere, lying as it does in the sheltered Cornwall basin, and as a place of residence stands high in favor, its streets, arched by stately trees, being adorned with many handsome and private residences.

PRINCIPAL STREETS.

Running north and south and parallel to the river, *Front* and *Water Streets* are the principal business thoroughfares; then in regular order, going west, we cross *Smith, Montgomery, Grand, Liberty, Chambers, Lander, Johnston* and *DuBois Streets*. Leading to the river and crossing the above streets at right angles, are *Washington, Broadway, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, South, Clinton* and *Broad Streets*, in regular order from south to north. A stranger can readily familiarize himself with the streets by noting that the steamboat landing is at *Second Street*.

WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.

At the south end of Grand Street is the entrance to the grounds surrounding the old "Hasbrouck House," now so generally known as *Washington's Headquarters*. The building, a low one-story stone structure 56x46 feet, was erected in 1750, and when Washington met his army at Newburgh was occupied by the family of Jonathan Hasbrouck, a colonel in the district militia. The house was already historic, as tradition says that a small stone cabin, which formed the nucleus of the present edifice, was erected here by one of the original settlers of the place in 1708. Additions were made to the building in 1760 and 1770, leaving it substantially in its present form.

While the home of Colonel Hasbrouck, the house seems to have been dedicated to public uses, for here on the first Tuesday in April, 1763, was held the first town meeting for the Precinct of Newburgh, and at the breaking out of the war the Committee of Safety made it their headquarters. When Washington was initiated into the Masonic fraternity he was staying at the "Hasbrouck House," and it was here he matured the plans which led to the final triumph of the American army. Washington remained here until August 18th, 1783, on the morning of which day he took his departure from Newburgh. During his stay at this place he passed through the most trying period of the Revolution. A threatening spirit of rebellion was taking possession of his command through the inattention on the part of Congress to the payment of the army, when in March, 1783 the famous "Newburgh Letters" made their appearance, advising the army to revolt. Washington called a meeting of his officers and in reply to these letters read to them one of the most remarkable addresses on record, and which crushed the revolt with a single blow. This address was written at the "Hasbrouck House" and was read to the officers at the "Temple" in New Windsor, where the principal part of the troops were encamped during their stay in the vicinity.

On April 19, 1783, notice of the cessation of hostilities was read to the army, and on the morning of

November 3, 1783, the army was formally disbanded on the lawn in front of the house.

At the close of the war the old house was again in possession of the Hasbroucks until 1849, when by the foreclosure of a mortgage it came into the possession of the State of New York. A Board of Trustees was appointed and the building, which had been somewhat modernized, was as nearly as possible restored to its original condition, and on the Fourth of July, 1850, the place was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies "to be forever kept to awaken sacred and patriotic memories."

On entering the house we pass into a large room with seven doors and one window. Without ceiling the immense whitewashed beams overhead suggest a strength of construction unknown to modern builders. This room was used as the family sitting and dining room, and stepping on the hearth we can look up at the sky through the wide and gaping mouth of the chimney. Hanging in the fireplace are several relics of the Revolution, found in the vicinity, and in one corner of the room stands the old arm chair, the only remaining piece of furniture used here by Washington.

Adjoining this room on the south was the family room; on the west a store room and hall, having an outer door opening to the west; on the north two bedrooms, one occupied by Washington, the other a part of the time by Hamilton. The kitchen was in

the southwest corner, and the parlor in the northwest, the store room and hall separating them.

Many valuable relics have been collected and are preserved in the building with great care. In one of the north rooms is a very ancient piano made by Geo. Astor & Co., London, 1760, and brought over by the Clinton family in 1770. In the south room is a large collection of fire-arms used in the Revolutionary war, the war of 1812, and the Mexican war. There are many other relics in the different rooms, which the visitor will find enumerated in the catalogue to be had of the Custodian of the building.

A fine view of the bay and surrounding country is obtained from the old porch. In the foreground lies the broad waters of the bay, dotted here and there with the "white-wings" of commerce, while to the eastward beyond the low lying Fishkill plains rises the twin peaks of North and South Beacons, from whose summits the watchfires signalled the patriots encamped within sight. To the north the river stretches away until lost behind the Ulster County hills, while to the southward we have a fine view of the entrance to the pass in the Highlands, with Pollipels Island standing guard in the centre of the gateway and the towering heights of Storm King and Breakneck rising on either hand.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Newburgh has more handsome public buildings

than any city of its size in the State, prominent among them the *Savings Bank*, corner of Second and Smith Streets, which in point of architecture is the finest in the city; the new *Y. M. C. A. Building*, corner Third and Smith Streets; the *Erie Building*, on Third above Water; the *Post-office and Law Building*, directly opposite, has the upper floors divided into offices, the entire top-floor being occupied by the *Telephone Exchange*; the *County Court House*, standing in the centre of the park at Third and Grand Streets; the *Public Library*, on Grand below Second; the *City Armory*, on Broadway above Liberty Street, occupied by the Fifth and Tenth Separate Companies, (formerly the Seventeenth Battalion) N. G. S. N. Y.; and headquarters of *Columbian Hose* and *Lawson Hose* Companies, corner of Second and Montgomery Streets.

CHURCH EDIFICES.

The most prominent churches in the city are:—*St. John's M. E.*, on Broadway below Grand Street; *Union Presbyterian*, corner Montgomery and First; *Associate Reformed*, corner Grand and First; *St. Patrick's R. C.*, on Grand below First; *St. George's P. E.*, corner Grand and Second; *Trinity M. E.*, corner Liberty and Third; *Calvary Presbyterian*, on Liberty above Third; *American Reformed*, corner Grand and Third; *First Baptist*, on South near

Grand; *First Presbyterian*, corner Grand and South; *St. Paul's P. E.*, on Grand above South; in addition to which there are several other smaller churches of different denominations.

PRIVATE RESIDENCES.

Among the many private residences deserving special mention is that of Mr. Homer Ramsdell, one of Newburgh's most public spirited citizens, who has been largely identified with the growth and prosperity of the city. The house stands in the midst of a park laid out in the style of those surrounding many of the ancestral homes of England, and is guarded at the entrance, on Liberty Street near Broad, by a magnificent gateway and keeper's lodge, which is a distinctive feature of many of the country seats along the Hudson.

Adjoining Mr. Ramsdell's place on the south is the residence of S. R. Van Duzer the New York druggist, and on the east side of Liberty Street, with entrance on Broad, is the handsomely laid out grounds and residence of W. W. Carson. This place was formerly owned by the late A. J. Downing, author of several works on landscape gardening, and is still known to many as *The Downing Place*.

On the southwest corner of Grand and Broad Streets is the entrance to the former residence of James Bigler, well known as the inventor of the

automatic whistling buoy so extensively used by the United States Government.

Along the line of Grand Street to the northern city limits, and on Grand Avenue, a fine drive extending from this point to Balmville, are many residences, notably those of Hon. Peter Ward; Hon. D. B. St. John; Judge C. F. Brown; Wm. Wright; David Scott; and Capt. C. S. Jenkins.

HOTELS.

Newburgh has three first-class hotels, in addition to which there are several large private boarding houses in the city and vicinity. The *United States*, on Front Street opposite the steamboat landing, is the most popular hotel in the city. During the past year the house has been enlarged and thoroughly refurnished, and is now one of the best appointed hotels on the Hudson River. Visitors from New York and other points by way of the regular Day Boats, can here get a first-class dinner and have ample time to visit all the principal points of interest before the departure of the down boat.

The *Baldwin House*, on the hill at the head of Third Street, is the largest hotel in the city, and is the popular family resort. The house is surrounded with roomy and well shaded grounds, and commands a fine view of the city and the Hudson River from West Point to New Hamburg. A free 'bus connects with all trains and steamers.

The *Merchants' Hotel*, on Front Street near the steamboat landing, has been enlarged and newly furnished and has one of the best restaurants in the city attached.

RAILROAD DEPOTS.

The *Union Depot*, at the south end of Front Street, near the foot of Broadway, is the point of departure of trains on the *New York, Lake Erie & Western*; *New York, West Shore & Buffalo*; and *New York & New England* Railroads. Connection with the N. Y. & N. E. is made by way of the transfer boat, *Wm. T. Hart*, the largest ferry boat in the world, having a carrying capacity of twenty-seven loaded cars.

The depot of the *New York Central & Hudson River* Railroad is located at the ferry landing foot of Second Street.



POINTS OF INTEREST

IN THE VICINITY.

Not only is the city itself historic but the whole region about here is full of interest, and a stranger having a day or more at his disposal can spend the time very pleasantly in visiting the many interesting localities easily accessible by carriage drive or public conveyance, the most prominent of which we propose to mention in the following pages.

DOWN THE RIVER.

New Windsor, two miles below Newburgh, is the oldest town in Orange County, the first settlement having been made here in 1685. There are many points of historic interest in the old town, prominent among them the old John Ellison house, which was for a time the headquarters of Generals Knox and Greene; the house occupied by Lafayette; and

near this, on the bank of *Moodna Creek*, is the old forge where Jonas Williams wrought one of the great chains which was stretched across the river in the Highlands to prevent the passage of the British ships. In this connection we may remark that there were three obstructions to navigation placed in the Highlands during the Revolution, viz.; at Fort Montgomery a chain supported by timbers; at West Point another chain; and at Pollipels Island a *Chevaux-de-frize* composed of immense spears secured in cribs filled with stone. A large section of the Fort Montgomery chain is on the Parade Ground at West Point, and one link is also among the relics to be seen at Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh, together with one of the spears of the Pollipels Island obstruction.

At *New Windsor* was also located the famous building known as the "*Temple*," which was erected in 1783 as a place of public worship. This building has always been described and pictured as an immense log structure, but it has lately been proven by historical facts that the building erected here by order of General Washington was a frame structure about 60x80 feet, and that the description so commonly accepted applies to the "*Masonic Temple*" erected at West Point about the same time.

About half a mile below *New Windsor*, on the river front, are the remains of a redoubt built by order of General Clinton, and armed with a battery

of fourteen guns, which covered the obstruction at Pollipels Island, and also swept the river down to the Highlands.

CORNWALL LANDING.

Four miles below Newburgh, at the base of Storm King lies the scattered town of Cornwall the largest and most popular summer resort in the Hudson Highlands. The place is famous as the home of N. P. Willis, to whom it owes its popularity, as it was through his writings the place became known to the world. "*Idlewild*," the home of the poet, is still one of the attractions of the place. Not less than five thousand people annually summer in the Cornwall district, many of whom came here a few years ago as invalids; and physicians are now sending patients to Cornwall for affections that it was formerly thought could not be benefitted by any climate other than the Bermudas or Bahamas.

Through the enterprise of Dr. E. H. Champlin, one of the owners of the *Cornwall Mountain House*, one of the finest drives in the country has been opened through the mountains to West Point, affording at many points magnificent views of this mountainous region. Half way up the western slope of Storm King stands the *Mountain House*, thoroughly protected from the damp marine atmosphere, and aptly named by the owners "The Climate

Cure of the Highlands." The entire slope of the mountain being covered with a growth of cedar and other balsamic trees, the air is health-giving and invigorating at all seasons.

The view of the surrounding country from the summit of Storm King, nearly 1,600 feet above the river, is one of the grandest on the continent. While there are loftier and grander views, there are none more beautiful; the beauty being of that varied kind changing at every point, so rarely found and has its parallel only in the castle-crowned hills and mountains of the Rhine. Just to the southeast lies West Point, the softened strains of its military band being borne up to us on our lofty outlook, and the deep thunder of its artillery reverberating among the mountains. On the opposite side of the river lies Cold Spring, a flourishing town hemmed in on every side by towering mountains, and four miles to the north is Newburgh, its spires glistening in the sunlight, while at our feet, in the shadow of the mountain, lies the village of Cornwall, the "Gem of the Highlands." The majestic Hudson, bearing on its tide the commerce of a nation, sweeps around the base of the mountain, passes the gateway to the sea, and is soon lost to view in the tortuous Highlands. Northward it stretches away in full view some twenty miles until hidden behind the hills, where the finest of landscapes is unfolded, disclosing cities, villages, and towns mingled with the

gently undulating hills reaching away to the Shawangunk Mountains on the west, and the Berkshire Hills on the east, while far to the north towering over all, and distant fully sixty miles, are the blue Catskills blending with the sky on the very rim of day.

Three miles below Cornwall, and lying within the great natural amphitheatre of the Highlands, is

WEST POINT

with its romantic history and present national importance.

To the lover of the picturesque the place has many attractions, and nowhere in the country can such glimpses of mountain and river scenery be obtained as from many points within the Academy grounds—notably the view of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands from the north piazza of the *West Point Hotel*. This is a favorite spot both familiar and dear to every cadet, and we can imagine how many have lingered here in the evenings with their comrades' pretty sisters; how many hands have been clasped; and how many parting tears shed by the graduates and their sweethearts, who met here in some instances for the last time. Many a boy in cadet's uniform said his good-bye here in the moonlight, before the war, and thought of it when a lieutenant down South on the night before his last

battle; and many a girl reading the news of his death, has recalled his face and the touch of his hand the evening they sat together outside the brilliantly lighted windows of the dear old hotel.

The *West Point Hotel*, the only one on the Government Reservation, is finely located on the north side of the Parade Ground, and was formerly known as "Roe's Hotel" by which name it is still known to many, as distinguishing it from *Cranston's West Point Hotel*, a mile further south.

The *Officers' Quarters*, are on the west of the Parade Ground; the *Cadet Barracks, Chapel, and Library*, are on the south, together with the old *Riding Hall*, now used for recitation rooms, gymnasium, art-gallery, and museum. The most prominent building here is the *New Observatory* erected for the Government by the West Shore Railroad Company, the tunnel of that company passing directly under the old building and making it useless for that purpose.

On the summit of *Mount Independence*, an irregular hill some distance back from the river, are the ruins of *Fort Putnam*—such as are left of the once stout work—and climbing to these we get a new glimpse of the Highlands.

To see the Point in all its beauty one should visit it during the month of June, when the magnificent scenery and foliage are bright with their summer freshness. The place is also more attractive at this

time as the annual examinations and graduating exercises are in progress, and hundreds flock here from all parts of the country, to witness the various military drills by day, and mortar firing by night.

During the Revolution West Point was the most important fortification in the Highlands, and one of the saddest lessons of that period is connected with it in the history of the treason of Benedict Arnold.

Returning to Newburgh, and following the line of Grand Street north, we come to

BALMVILLE.

This section derives its name from the large *Balm of Gilead Tree* at the junction of the Marlborough road, about two miles from the city. The tree is said to have been planted here in 1750, and since the year 1860 has been gradually decaying until it now presents a strong contrast to the surrounding foliage, its gnarled and knotted trunk and many bare arms spreading in every direction giving it a very weird appearance.

CONVENT OF MERCY.

Passing up the Marlborough road a short distance north of the "big tree," on the summit of the hill and easily distinguished by the large cross on the roof, we come to the building formerly known as the *Thayer Homestead*, now occupied by the Sisters

of Mercy, who conduct an institution here for the education of Catholic orphans. The building is a large stone edifice surmounted by a mansard roof, and commands a magnificent view of the surrounding country.

CEDAR HILL CEMETERY.

Five miles north of the city on the same road is this beautiful cemetery. Laid out a few years ago on ground finely adapted for the purpose, the place is now one of the finest "cities of the dead" in New York State. One feature of the cemetery is the entire absence of the conventional headstones—all the plots being marked by monuments, many of which are not only expensive but very handsome in design and execution.

DANSKAMMER POINT.

A short distance above the cemetery is this famous point, now a portion of the Armstrong estate. The name, signifying the "Devil's Dance Chamber," was given to the place by Hendrick Hudson after witnessing the Indian pow-wow here at night. The point will be remembered as the scene of the wreck of the steamer *Thomas Cornell*, on the night of March 27, 1882. It has always been considered by river pilots as a dangerous point during dark and foggy nights, and since the above disaster Congress has made an appropriation for erecting a lighthouse here.

HAMPTON POINT.

On the line between Orange and Ulster Counties, seven miles from Newburgh, was twenty years ago one of the principal landing places on the river. The only boat landing here now is the little *Hudson Taylor*, plying between New Hamburg and Marlborough. The point is covered with a magnificent growth of cedars, said to be the finest species found in the United States.

A mile farther north is the village of

MARLBOROUGH

lying at the head of a picturesque ravine about a mile back of the river. The country around here is noted as one of the largest fruit-growing districts in the Hudson River valley. The night-boats landing here often occupy an hour in receiving fruit; the line of wagons on the road to the landing sometimes being nearly half a mile long.

Visitors to Marlborough and Cedar Hill can vary their drive by returning over the "River Road" which leaves the main road at the cemetery entrance and joins it again at the "Balmville Tree." This road affords fine views of the river at many points.

ORANGE LAKE.

This is a popular summer resort about six miles west of the city, having on its shores several

boarding houses and a race-course, and can be reached by the stages run by the proprietors of these houses to meet the regular morning and afternoon boats.

MUCHATTOES LAKE,

a large body of fresh water at West Newburgh, about a mile southwest of the business centre, is reached by way of Broadway. This lake is the source of Newburgh's ice supply, one party owning large ice-houses on its shore and supplying the entire city and vicinity.

ACROSS THE RIVER.

Fishkill Landing opposite the city is an important manufacturing centre and the river outlet for several manufacturing towns on the line of the Newburgh, Dutchess & Connecticut Railroad. It is also a point of considerable historic interest; for while Newburgh was the headquarters of Washington during over one-half of the seven years of the Revolutionary struggle, Fishkill was a centre of equal importance in another respect. The public stores were removed from New York to this place in 1776, and the depot for supplies was maintained here until near the close of the war.

Among the historical buildings still to be seen here are the headquarters of Baron Steuben, the Wharton House, and the old Dutch church which has been made famous through Cooper's story of "The Spy."

Denning's Point a mile below the landing, was the residence of Captain William Denning during the war, and the place now known as *Presque-Isle* is still in possession of his heirs.

Low Point, formerly known as *Carthage Landing*, four miles north of Fishkill, was once a prominent landing for the night-boats, its old dock and tumble-down store-houses being the only remaining landmark of its former importance.

New Hamburg, directly opposite Hampton Point, will be remembered as the scene of the great railroad disaster which occurred here a few years ago. The draw-bridge where the accident happened spans *Wappinger's Creek*, which reaches back to *Wappinger's Falls*—a large manufacturing town.

COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIES.

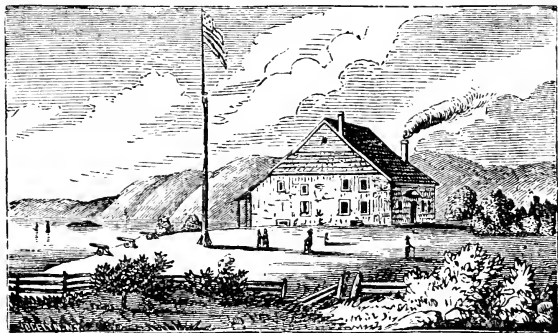
Foremost among the commercial industries located here is the *Ship Yard and Marine Railway* of Ward, Stanton & Co., at the "south end." During the past few years this firm has entered the arena of iron boat building, having built the *Lackawanna*, *Hoboken* and *Paunpeck* for the Hoboken Ferry Co., the *Newburgh*, *Kingston*, and *Albany* for the West Shore Ferry in New York; *City of Newburgh*, now

running on the Newburgh and Fishkill Ferry; the new Government tender *John Rodgers*; and have under way and contracted for several additional boats for the above-named ferries. They have also gained wide reputation as builders of several of the largest and finest steam tugs and steam-yachts afloat, among them the *Robert Lockhart*, *Dassori*, *E. Lukenbach*, and *L. C. Ward*, and the steam-yachts *Vedette*, *Henriette*, *Rhada*, and *Namouna*. The latter vessel, owned by James Gordon Bennett, is the largest and most luxuriously furnished private yacht in the world, and has probably attracted more attention than any ever built.

The Newburgh Steam Mills, on the river bank a short distance above the steamboat landing, is the largest building in the city and presents a very imposing appearance from the river. This company gives employment to hundreds of women in the manufacture of cotton cloth for the various bleacheries and print works in the United States.

Among the other manufacturing interests in the city are: *The Commercial Paint Works*, foot of South Street; *Beveridge's Brewery*, foot of Fifth Street, where the celebrated "Newburgh Ales" are manufactured; *Wright's Engine Works*, foot of Washington Street; *Whitehill's Foundry*, on Renwick Street, west of the Ship Yard, and the *Saw and Planing Mill* of Thos. Shaw & Sons, house and steamboat joiners, on the same street.

1850 ↔ 1883.



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.

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