

THE STORE ACCOUNT BOOKS OF HENDRICK SCHENK
FISHKILL LANDING, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK,
1763-1768

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Many of you are no doubt familiar with the account book of Francis Filkin, *Account Book of a Country Store Keeper in the 18th Century at Poughkeepsie*, published in 1911 by Vassar Brothers Institute, Poughkeepsie. Francis Filkin kept a store in Poughkeepsie between 1738 and 1746 and his account book, as the introduction correctly states, provides a "tolerably complete list of what people living in and around Poughkeepsie ate, drank, who made their shoes, what clothes they wore, . . . the cost of each article . . . at that time."

However, Francis Filkin's native tongue was Dutch, and his mixture of Dutch and phonetically-spelled English creates difficulties for us as we try to interpret it today. His system of bookkeeping was also highly informal. Sometimes it was simply a matter of exchange,—you give me so much wheat and I give you two pounds of tea and our accounts are clear as of this day. Then, again, the value of the wheat and the tea may be converted into pounds, shillings and pence and a running account established. Probably a C.P.A. would call it a primitive single entry system.

An interesting contrast may be found in the account books of the store of Hendrick Schenk of Fishkill Landing. These consist of double-entry ledger books, as well as day books in which daily store transactions were recorded. Ledger book "A" and several day books were in the Madam Brett Homestead when Melzingah Chapter National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, purchased it in 1953. Ledger book "B" is in the Manuscript Room of the New York Public Library.

Like the Filkin book they provide fascinating information about daily life in Dutchess County in the eighteenth century. The records begin in 1763 and are easier to study because, while the spelling is often phonetic, the base is English. Also, the double-entry bookkeeping system is accurate and the figures are legible. Hendrick Schenk consistently spelled his name Schenk, although others of the same name have spelled it Schenck.

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whom he, in turn, was indebted for his merchandise. The perils of this relationship are well summed up in a handwritten memo to be seen inside the back cover of a ledger book kept by Stephen Duryea at his Hopewell store in 1771-1772:

Tayke Good Care or you will son have Done
 Wane you Come into newyork Donte Buy no Goods
 Dane you tinck you Kone make sale of
 and wane you come Home Dont spand your money
 for finnere But wane avor you have a small
 Some of money sand it to newyork to pay of
 Your Deth Wat avor you do Tray to cape
 good your Cradit

The A Bove Advise a trador most Tayek fore a
 note in our Country or pore hime.
 Dat Jany 5 1772

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Mrs. Finkel has listed in alphabetical order all of the names which appear in the account books. The Madam Brett Homestead (50 Van Nydeck Avenue, Beacon, New York) will send a copy of the items connected with any particular name upon receipt of a written inquiry. A modest charge is made for the service and will be added to the fund for the maintenance of the Homestead.

The names are as follows:

Adgett, Benjamin	Barlow, Moses	Timothy
Samuel	Barnes (Barns)	William
Aitken, John	Elizabeth, dau. of	William, s. of William
Albright, John	Richard	Bedford, David
Alger, Judah	Henry	(carpenter)
Silas	Johannes, s. of	Becman, Samuel,
Allen, Elisha	Richard	of The City
Encrease	John (cooper)	Begal, <i>see also</i> Bedell
James	John (taylor)	Daniel
John	Richard	Begell, John
Othniel	William	Belding, Silas
William	Barnhart, John,	Bell, Harmon
Ames, Nathan, of Swago	of Stishing	Henry (Hendrick)
Robert	Bartly, Abraham	Ben, John
Archibal, David	Daniel	Bonneway, Martha
Arm, John	Jacob	(young woman)
Ash, William	Barto, Benjamin	Bergen, Jacob
Ashby, John, at	John	Beverly, Gedion
Adrian Van Anden's	Samuel	Bloodgood, Joseph, Jr.
Atherton, Cornelius	Barton, Calep	Joseph, Senior
	Lewis	Bockes, William
Backes, Adam	Becket, Daniel	Boice, Abraham,
John, of Swago	Beckwith, Abijah	s. of Abraham
Badgley, Anthony	Daniel	Peter, of Swago
Bailey, John, Jr.	Bedell (Bedall),	William, at Ostrum's
Baldwin, Elisha	<i>see also</i> Begall	Baldcn, Andrew
Banker, Goris	Daniel, brother to	Bond, Barrent
Barker, Francis	William	Joseph, s. of Barrent
Thomas	Isaac	Sarah

Samuel, of Swago	Jurrie	millwright)
Hallack (Helleck, Hallock)	Michael Pierre	Samuel, of the Oblong Judson, Samuel
Edward	Hogan (Hogin)	
Gershon	Thomas	Kelcey, James
John	Hogeboom,	Kerley, John, near Mabbits
Thomas	Bartholomew, near Maddagh	Kershow, Famitie, widow of Jacob, of L.I.
Zebulon	Hogens (Hogins)	Ketchim, Epharim
Ham, Frederick	Daniel	Ketchum, Benjamin, near Southerlin
Hammel, Nathaniel	Hogg, Lewis, of Poughkeepsie	Keys, John
Hammon, Benjamin	Hoghteling, Hezekiah	Kiblar, Johan'es
Harrington, John	Hollister, Gurdin, of the Oblong	Kinyon, Benjamin James, Junr.
Harris, Alexander	Holmes, <i>see also</i>	Samuel
Daniel (carpenter)	Hoalms	Kip, Baltus
Ebenezer	Nathaniel	Kline, Hendrick Peter, of Sharon
James	Nicholas	Klink, Jacob
John	Hopkins, Capt. Michael	Klump, Peter (taylor), of Fishkills
Joseph (blacksmith)	Horton, Jonathan	Kneckerbacker, Harcamus Jn's (schoolmaster)
Joseph (cooper)	Joseph, s. of Jonathan	Knickerbacker, Will'm, of Cannan
Joseph, near Corn.	Howard, Mathew	Kronkright, Jacob John
Van Wycks, Fishkills	William	
Nicholas (schoolmaster)	Hubbell, Ickabod (carpenter in Dover)	Lake, <i>see also</i> Leake Crappo, s. of Sam'l James, Senior of Swago Patience (young woman) Peweler (widow) Rebeckah Samuel
Peter, of Poughkeepsie	Hudson, Elijah	Lamb, Isaac
Hart, John	Silvenus	Lane, Alexander
Hauxey, Joseph	Husted, <i>see also</i>	Langdon, John, at Jacob Eversons Sarah (young woman)
Hays, Selvester	Hustead	Langfear, Asa
Hegbe, James (carpenter ?)	Ebanezer	Lapham, Benjamin
Hegeman, Cornelius	Huff, <i>see also</i> Haff	Lawrence (Lawrance) Cornel's (blacksmith) Ezekel Jacob, Junr. Jacob, Senr. Stephen
Hendrick	Angel	
Isaac	Anne	Leake, <i>see also</i> Lake Ephraim, at Allen Moore's, Swago
Janetic, dau. of John (cooper)	Ellis	Henry, at Daniel Bush John Jonathon
Johannis	Huls, James	Leavens, Peter
John	Humphrey, Cornelius	LeRoy, Francis, s. of John
John, Junr.	John	
John, s. of Joseph	Huntly, John at Joseph Greens	
Joseph, s. of Hendrick	Hurlbut, Sam'l	
Joseph, s. of Joseph	Hustead, David	
Sarah	Hyatt, Moses Roger	
Hemson, Caleb		
Hendy, David	Ingrum, Moses	
Zebulon	William, s. of Moses	
Hewitt, Collins	Irish, (David (tavern keeper) Camuel, of Swago Smiten, s. of Samuel William	
Hicks, Bernard, s. of Stephen		
Jacob, s. of Stephen	Jackson, Samuel	
Joseph	Stephen	
Stephen	William	
Thomas, s. of Joseph	Jewel (Jewel)	
Timothy	Herman	
Hill, Abenezer	John, Junr.	
Hoag (Hoog)	John, Senr., of Fishkill	
Elijah	Johnson, Robert (carpenter,	
Ezekial		
Jonathan		
Nathan		
Hoalms (Hoams)		
Zephaniah		
Hoffman (Huffman)		
Carel		