A WELL CULTIVATED DOMAIN

A Documentary Study of Farming on the Schuyler Estates

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There was another side to his farming endeavors. In a 1777 letter to John Jay Schuyler wrote; "My hobby horse has long been a country life...". This motivation is easily understood when one considers the many problems he faced as a political, financial, and military leader.

That career has long overshadowed Schuyler's agricultural activities. Because the farms and gardens were an undramatic aspect of everyday life, no comprehensive account of them was ever made. Bits and pieces of the story are scattered throughout the family's correspondence, travelers journals, and other sources.

It is the intent of this paper to let those scraps of evidence speak for themselves. This is by no means a complete collection. Undoubtedly many other references are waiting to be found. Most of the letters and receipts used are from the collections of the New York Public Library, New York State Library, and Sleepy Hollow Restorations - Rockefeller Archives center. Credit for the laborious detective work of transcription must go to other researchers, including, but not limited to, Kristin L. Gibbons, Mary Ellen Grimaldi, and Steven Strach.

Hopefully, by bringing these scattered details together, a clearer picture of life on the Schuyler farms should emerge.

I. The Early Years: 1765-1777

Comparitively few references to agriculture exist for this period. The two most interesting documents, hint that part of the estates' gardens were under the authority of Catherine Schuyler instead of Phillip.

**1765**

Account of Lord Adam Gordon (describing Saratoga Estate);

"On this land...[Schuyler]...produces hemp, from six to ten feet high, and for two crops running" (Quoted in Gerlach, "After Saratoga" New York History, V50, #1, p12)

**July 6, 1768**

Receipt from Lebbeus Ball;

Albany 6 July 1768

cieved of Phillip Schuyler the sum of Thirty eight pounds Six Shillings and eight pence in Full for one Hundred Sheep.

Lebbeus Ball

(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 2, Reel 1)

**February 23 1769**

Phillip Schuyler's "Common Place and Receipt Book";

This book contains miscellaneous small notes which Schuyler wished to remember. Most are quotes regarding such lofty topics as religion, virtue and happiness but among them are several "receipts" of a practical nature, including this one;

**Poultice for wounds of Horses & etc.**

Take of upland willow the Root, Scrape of the outer coat, of which make a decoction Apply the boiled root by Way of poultice & bath with the liquor.
Or take of linden or lime tree the roots or leaves, used and applyed as the former. (N.Y.S.L. #13806. Copy in files of Schuyler mansion State Historic Site)

March 25, 1772

Letter from John Cochran to Phillip Schuyler;

New Brunswick March 25th; 1772

Dear Sir

I send you a Box with willow Cuttings put up in Earth, as they will by that means be kept more moist, and be more apt to grow they should be set out in a moist place about nine inches or a foot in the ground. They are of quick growth and when you cut any to transplant, the larger pieces the better. ............

........ Walter & Cornelia with your sister join in Love to you, Mrs. Schuyler & Family, with D Sir yours most Affectionately

John Cochran

(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 24, Reel 12)

October 17, 1775

Letter from Dr. Samuel Stringer to Phillip Schuyler;

This reference does not prove that the Schuyler garden contained rhubarb, but it suggests why it might have;

"[I am] very sorry to learn that your legs are diminished; perhaps the Rhubarb in small quantities may be of much service..." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 12)

April 7, 1777

Letter from Richard Varick to Phillip Schuyler, in philadelphia;

"Mrs. Schuyler begs the favor of you to procure some of the large Strawberries from Mr. Robert Morris Merchant in the City of
Philadelphia...." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 15)

These strawberries are probably intended for planting, not eating, due to the time of year.

April 10 1777

Letter from John Cochran to Phillip Schuyler;

[Gertrude, Catherine Schuyler’s sister] sends] "some of the Roots of the Tuberose, which she promised her when at Albany together with some flower seeds..." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L. Box 38)

Webster's New World Dictionary, (Simon and Schuster, 1982), defines tuberose as "a perennial Mexican plant of the agave family with a tuberous rootstock and white, sweet scented flowers."

When the last two letters were written the country had been at war for two years, but the business of planting and gardening seems to have gone on as usual. This was not to last.
II. The Ravages of War: 1776-1779

Ironically, the most revealing glimpses of the Schuylers' farming activities are the result of a crises: the Revolutionary War. In 1777 a British invasion destroyed the Saratoga property and threatened Albany. Fortunately, the invasion ended with the capture of the British force and its commander, General John Burgoyne. While Burgoyne visited the Albany mansion as a prisoner-guest, Phillip Schuyler stayed in Saratoga to rebuild his ruined estate.

The British were not solely responsible for the disruption of Schuyler's farming career. Many of the crops at Saratoga had been destroyed by American troops to keep them from enemy hands. These loses were compounded by the depredations of the soldiers guarding Burgoyne in Albany.

In 1777 and 1778 Schuyler was busy trying to control the damages and pick up the pieces. These problems generated a flurry of letters and documents. This correspondance contains many intriguing details about the Schuyler farms.

Crises also brings opportunities and Schuyler was too skilled a businessman not to recognize this. Several documents suggest that he sought reimbursement for his losses and that the wartime government was a customer for his farm produce.

Although the war played havoc with Schuyler's "Country life" it has provided us with the best accounts of his farming.

1776

Extract from an undated receipt;

The Public to Major General Schuyler DR(?)
to 7 teams of 2 yoke of oxen employed
in the public service from the 25th
March to the 1st December 1776 @ 10/ ......  878..10
1776
ovr 29 to 23 Waggon Loads of Indian
corn in husk @50 ...... 57..10..
to 7 Do in the ear @60/ ...... 21..--..
By the above mentioned 77 boxes of turnips which are charged to Mr. Avery
(Phillip Schuyler papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 1 Reel 1)

July 6, 1777
Letter from John Graham to Phillip Schuyler;
Saratoga July th 6 - 1777
Sir
    We this Day begin to mow grass: & would have begun before but Did not finish plowing till Saturday last & as several of our negros are sick & has been this three weeks past & not yet able fore service the general will please to order us 4 or 5 of the Botteermen other ways I am afraid the business will suffer. The Garden is over run with weeds in Such manner that I Should be Sorry the Genl or maddam Should See it till Such times as we have it in better order. We have our Corn & potates on hand & a fence to make round the turnips ground which must all be done before harvest. the ground which the french people Cleared it will not be worth Labour to fence it as there is not over half an acare of it. we have about four acars besides it
from your humble Sarvent John Graham
To the Honourable major General Schuyler
(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 33, Reel 16)
August 1, 1777

Estimate of damage;


204 Bushels wheat Sowed Calculated Bal. 2040
40 ....Do Pease ....Do 320
20 ....Do Oats ....Do 310
4 acres flax sowed 600 lb
2 acres of Beans & Squashes Planted
2 Acres of Hemp Sowed 400 lb
Bushels Potatoes Planted 4400
Acres of Corn Planted 600
400 waggon loads of hay 200 Tun

Saratoga August 1,1777 this is to Certify that the above apprisement is Just and True to the best of our knowledge.

James Hogeboom
Ephm Van Veghten ADQMG

(Phillip Schuyler Papers,N.Y.P.L., Box 1, Reel 1)

September 16, 1777

Letter from Richard Varick, (In American camp at Stillwater) to Phillip Schuyler;

By Good fortune I have laid my hands On one of Mrs. Schuyler's s Yesterday, Genl. Gates's family claimed her; however I believe I have established my Right & shall keep her here for two good
reasons, the one is to have her milk & the other least she be
Taken from the person I should send down with her when I return
shall order her to be brought to Albany by Horton(?).

Be so Good as to Make my best Respects to Mrs. Schuyler,
Miss Peggy & young Gentleman

I am Dear General Very Affectionatly
Your
Richard Varick

Letter from John Lansing Jr. to Phillip Schuyler;

... The Rifle-Men and Light Infantry being encamped on the
Hill back of the House render the Tenure on which the potatoes
held exceeding precarious. Mrs. Schuyler has detained the
servants for the purpose of securing them. The servants will be
sent up to Morrow. Your fencing on the Hill is mostly appropriat­
ed by the Troops and applyed to sheltering them, and all that can
be obtained from the officers is a promise that they will not
suffer the Materials to be burned or destroyed..... General Bur­
goyne Suite and visitors have entirely discomposed the Oeconomy
of the Family and have given no small degree of trouble to Mrs.
Schuyler. They intend to stay till Wednesday. ......

Letter from Richard Varick to General Horatio Gates;

... The scandalous depredations comitted on the property of
General Schuyler, as well as the insufferable destruction by the
troops under Major harrborn of his fences, oblige Mrs. Schuyler to
make application to you for a remedy. She requests that you will
issue your order for preventing the shameful burning and taring to
es of board fences in the vicinity of her house, and that the
troops may be further removed to prevent their robbing her of her
poultry, garden stuff, etc. ....
(Horatio Gates Papers, New York Historical Society, Quoted in

October 30, 1777
Letter from Richard Varick to Phillip Schuyler;
.... Great Part of Gates army is still here, they have dest­
royed almost all the Fences in the Vicinity of the Town. Among
others you have a great show of loss Mrs. Schuyler"s Poultry & gar­
dens have suffered in Defiance of Every Order or Threats. ..... 
(Philip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 16)

This letter and the four previous ones do more than tell us
about the appetites of Continental soldiers. They offer proof of
Catherine Schuyler's important role as overseer of the family's
gardens, livestock, and household affairs. Her contribution should
not be overlooked when interpreting farming at the Schuyler estates.

November 7, 1777
Letter from John Lansing Jr. to Phillip Schuyler;
.... Mary is much at a loss as to the Disposition of the Milch
Cows, which are daily milked by some Rascal before the Men she sends
for that purpose get to them. She requested me to beg Mrs. Schuy­
's Direction on the Subject. Mary thinks it best to put them in
pasture before the House. I shall send over a Couple of the
Guard to watch the cows all Day and try to detect the thieves. .....
November 12, 1777
Letter from Richard Varick to Phillip Schuyler;

...I sent Patrick last week to Livingstons Lower Manor & Rhynbeck for apples and cyder but fear that the [?] & the late high Winds will prove fatal to his vessel. ... (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 16)

November 16, 1777
Letter from Richard Varick to Phillip Schuyler;

... I shall send two pounds of Flax as soon as It is hetchled which with the Flax & Thread sent, will do .......

... Patrick returned last Wednesday or Thursday with the Cyder & Apples. .... (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 16)

Apparently at this time Schuyler's own orchards were not producing enough for his needs.

November 22, 1777
Letter from John Lansing Jr. to Phillip Schuyler;

" .... The Flour which was to be sent from Saratoga is much wanted for the Hogs. what was sent down in the Waggon being expended. ..." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 16)

November 26, 1777
Letter from Richard Varick to Phillip Schuyler;

" ... Agreeable to Your Request I have ordered the Horses to be shoed & send them by your servant. By him You will also recieve the Fowls...." (Phillip Schuyler Papers N.Y.P.L., Reel 16)
March 10, 1778
Letter from Richard Varick to Phillip Schuyler;

"....I wrote to Mr. Lansing by Colo. Lewis or Mr. Welles to be informed what Quantity of Hay should be sent to Saratoga & what Quantity at your House here, but have not had the Pleasure of an Answer as yet .... I had directed Mr. Willet to send up ten slays to Saratoga, which is done, but as those Sleds do not carry full loads I fear there will not be sufficient. I have also desired him to send ten slays to the Pasture. Only four are yet sent. ...." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 16)

March 30, 1778
Letter from Phillip Schuyler to Henry Glen;
Saratoga March 30 1778
Dear Sir

I wrote you before I left Albany entreating you to send up the Sawyer as soon as possible, I hope he is on the way. If not, Colo: Lewis will forward him from Albany....... I shall be greatly distressed If I do not get the pease and Oats from Major Fondas as I have only them to depend on for seed and for my horses...... If you can procure me a bushell of Flax seed pray be so good as to do it.

Ph: Schuyler

some squash seed
If you please

(Henry Glen Papers 1770 - 1801, N.Y.P.L. )
March 31, 1778
Letter from John Lansing Jr. to Phillip Schuyler;
"....I have not yet made a Collection of Garden Seeds but shall try to get a Quantity to Day. I believe few are to be had here. I shall write to Claverack for some. ..." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 16)

April 19, 1778
Letter from John Lansing Jr. to Phillip Schuyler;
"....Captain Barhydt of the Batteuamen will deliver you four Tierces <42 gallons> peas, the two boxes which were mentioned in your Memorandum, thirty six Bbs. potatoes, 2 barrels parsnips, a Barrel Hemp seed, a Cag with Yeast, two Spinning Wheels, four Turkies, 6 Geese and as many Ducks. ...." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 16)

June 12, 1778
Letter from John Lansing Jr. (at Boston) to Phillip Schuyler;
"....Mr. Carter yesterday sent a pipe of wine some Hops, nearly a Quintal of Fish and a Cask of porter in a Cart to Springfield from whence they will be forwarded as soon as possible. ...." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 16)

Although the letter does not specify, perhaps these hops were meant for planting.

November 25, 1778
Letter from John Lansing Jr. to Phillip Schuyler;
"... The Servants are now industriously employed in conveying Manure to your pasture and spreading it. ..." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 16)
July 7, 1779

Account of money owed to Phillip Schuyler; he Public In Account with Ph: Schuyler

To 2040 Bushells of wheat at 10/

320 do. pease at 12/ 192
310 do. oats at 5/ 77.10
600 a. of Flax at 1/ 30 —
400 a. of Hemp at 1/ 20 —
4400 Bush; of Potatoes a 4/ 880 —
600 Bush of Corn a 6/ 180 —
200 Tun of Hay a L 6 1200

L 1020

The Above Charged prices Are such as were paid In' the year 1777 -- since which time I have laid out of the money because General Gates ordered the Quarter master not to pay for any forrage that was delivered previous to his taking the Command, by which means I have not only lost the Interest but Shall Suffer by the Subsequent depreceation unless It Should be thought Equitable to make compens­sation for It.

Albany July 7 1779

Ph: Schuyler

(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 1, Reel 1)

July 13, 1779

Certificate of John Graham;

I John Graham the Subscriber Overseer or Bow (?) Master to the arm of the Honble Philip Schuyler Esqr. at Saratoga do certify the crop sown and planted on said Farm to be as follows, at the
Time of the Retreat of the Continental Army in July 1777.

There were two hundred and four Bushels of Wheat sowed.

forty ..............Do........Peas
Twenty..............Do........Oats

Four Acres of Flax seed
Two Acres Hemp seed
Two Acres Beans and Squashes planted
Twenty Acres Indian Corn
Four hundred Bushels of potatoes
Hay on the Farm estimated at about four hundred Loads.

Albany July 13th: 1779

John Graham

(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 1 Reel 1)

These documents do not indicate whether or not Schuyler actually received the payments he desired. However, they do prove an important point. As a "farmer" Phillip Schuyler helped to feed the men and horses of the Continental Army, sometimes by sale, and sometimes unintentionally.
III. "For Benefit of... the Yeomanry": 1783-1804

After the War Phillip Schuyler continued his involvement in politics and financial affairs, however he still found time to improve his estates and his agricultural knowledge. Many documents of this period contain useful details of daily farm life, but several suggest a greater concern.

As a public-spirited gentleman Schuyler was interested in the economic potential of the new nation. His agricultural experience was one way he could promote this development. His advice on farming methods was often sought and freely given. For example, three different entrepreneurs wrote him about plans to cultivate hemp within a period of four months.

In an economy that was still based largely on agriculture, Phillip Schuyler's role as an advisor may have been more important than we realize.

December 23, 1783

Letter from St. John(?) to Phillip Schuyler;

New York 23d Decr. 1783

Sir

It will no doubt appear strange that I who am almost unknown to your Excellency should take the liberty to write to you, & even to become troublesome by a request; I am intrusted with the care of sending to the Superintendant of the King's Gardens a good quantity of the cones of the true Wrimouth(?), or white pine which grows and flourishes so well in the County of Albany, as well as those of the Balm Gilead;—the seeds of the Sugar & Curled Maple, those of the Prikly Ash, the white & the black & the Swamp Elm. — Mr. Franklin was appoyled to by the Minister of the Marine
Department for a Person who wou'd be Kind enough to give the Pro-
per orders that those Things Shou'd be Seasonably Gathered & Care-
fully Put up— he Pointed out to him Your Excellency. -- this must be my apology for the present Trouble.

In Return I am Commanded To offer Your Excellency the Seeds of Whatever Curious Plants or Shrubs the King's Gardens Contains. The Pacquets Lately Established between L'orient & thisPost offer a Channel of Conveyance Equally Sure & Expeditious. It will give me Singular Pleasure to Recieve Your Excellency's Command that I may obey them; -- when Your Excellency Shall be Pleased to Inform me what are the Charges attending & collecting those Cones & seeds, & putting them up in Seperate Bags I will Immediately Pay the Same to whoever You may appoint To recieve it.

I have the Honor To be With the Most Perfect Respect
Your Excellency's Most Obedient & Most Humble Servant
St.(?) John

(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L. Box 35 Reel 17)

According to Schuyler Mansion, a Historic structure Report, (1977, p.35), no evidence exists to show that Schuyler responded to this request. It is possible however, and if this offer were accepted, it could have affected the Schuyler farms and gardens. This letter is interesting in that it suggests how highly regarded Phillip Schuylers botanical knowledge was.

June 25, 1786
Reciept for mowing from Francis Bourne;

Received Albany June 25th 1786 the Sum of two pounds nine Shillings & Sixpence for Mowing 12\(\frac{1}{2}\) Acres of Grass at 5 per Acre
June 18, 1787

Letter from Phillip Schuyler to the Northern Centinel;
Saratoga, June 18, 1787

To the Publishers of the Northern Centinel

Gentlemen:

Turnips are frequently destroyed by a small fly which feeds on them while quite young, that farmers are, in great measure, detered from attempting to cultivate that valuable root; the following Receipts, to prevent the ravages of that particular insect, have lately been published in Europe; be pleased to insert them in your paper, for the benefits of that very useful class of citizens, the Yeomanry of the country.

I am

Gentlemen

Your Most Humble Svt.

Phillip Schuyler

To a quart of Turnip-seed, add one ounce of brimstone finely powdered, put both into a bottle large enough to afford room to shake them well every day, for four or five days previous to sowing, keeping the bottle well corked.

Another Reciept

Take such a quantity of elder leaves as, when bruised, will yield juice sufficient to cover the Turnip seed you intend to sow, in which let it soak about twelve hours, the next day mix it with the bruised leaves and sow all together.
Turnip seed is generally covered with a brush harrow; take elder bushes for this purpose, if the berries are on the effect will be increased. If not withstanding these precautions, the fly should attack the young plants, draw elder bushes gently over them.

I have found by experience, that the fly rarely attacks Turnips growing on ground from which a crop of flax has been taken the same season. I have also and with good success prevented the ravages of the Turnip fly by covering my Turnip field with straw, after it was prepared for seeding and then burnt the straw the day before I sowed.

If Turnip seed is sowed while it rains, it does not require to be harrowed in, and the young plants shoot so strongly that they soon gain strength beyond the power of the fly.

(from Northern Centinal, Troy Public Library, copy in Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site files.)

July 11, 1787
Letter from Stevens and Connelly (merchants) to Phillip Schuyler;
New York 11th July 1787
Cap'. Slouth (?) has Informed us by the advise of Col. Hamilton that there is a Package Aboard of his Ship (Providence) from London for you. it is said to be a Plough.

We have taken the Liberty To transmit it to you by Cap'. the Sloop Ginny (?) and agree'd with him for Seven Shillings as he Seem'd to Expect much more. We have Paid all the little Contingencies Excepting the Freight from London hear (?). I think the Say it will be five pounds or upwards Sterling money if you Chouse We Will Settle that also.
Some time ago We honor'd your draft of fifty Pounds in favour of Steven J. Schuyler -- and remain your
Very Humble Servants
Stevens & Connolly
(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 1, Box 1)

The fact that Phillip Schuyler went to the trouble of importing a plow from England indicates that it may have been an advanced design, unfamiliar to American craftsman.

December 27, 1787
Letter from Phillip Schuyler to John Bradstreet Schuyler;
Albany December 27th 1787

Dear Child

I send Mr. Tubbs to remain at Saratoga until you return there after having visited us.

If you are not ready to come on Friday send Tom(?) and Peter down with each a load of Forrage either Corn or Oats.-- Let Cuff too come as soon as you can send him, let him bring a covered Sled, and it will be as well to let him bring corn in the ear,--he must stop at Mr. Bacons and get his Oxen Shod. By Cuff I wish you to send the white faced horse which drove in the Sulky.-- If no Oats are thrashed let some be prepared to come with the next Sleds.

We all Join in the Compliments of the Season to you and Betsy accompanies with our love, may you both increase in virtue that every revolving year, and many very many do I wish you, may add to your felicity. Adieu My Child I am Affectionately Yours &c &c

Ph: Schuyler

John B. Schuyler Esqr
(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Reel 19 Box 38)
April 1, 1778
Letter from Phillip Schuyler to John Bradstreet Schuyler (at Saratoga);

"...I send you 12 half round & 3 flatt files and some cuttings of grapes...." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 38, Reel 19)

1790
Description of Gardens;

".....laid out in all the elaborate art of French landscape gardening, with here and there parterres, some of which were nicely lawned...." (Quoted in Schuyler Mansion, a Historic Structure Report, 1977, p.34. from L. B. Proctor, Historic Memories of the Old Schuyler Mansion, n.p., n.d., p. 4, thought to be a quote from the Gentleman's Magazine, London, 1790.)

Webster's New World Dictionary, (Simon and Schuster, 1982), defines "Parterre" as "an ornamental garden area in which the flower beds and path form a pattern".

August 30, 1790
Receipt from Mott Sullivan;
Recieved Albany August 30th 1790 from Phillip Schuyler the sum of Twelve pounds and Eight pence which with two pounds Eighteen Shillings heretofore received is in full for six months wages due the fourth Instant, per my wages as his Gardiner.

L 12.. 0.. 8  Mott Sullivan
2.. 18....
14.. 18... 8

(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 3, Reel 2)
October 4, 1790

Receipt from Rebecca Slingerlandt;

Jnral Scoullar

To 17 Chikins at /9 pr Chikin  - 0 - 12 - 9
To 2 Chikins at /7 pr Chikin  - 0 - 1 - 2

Sir please to pay dis to the barar

&n(?) you will oblige your fri

Rabacca Slingerlandt

Paid the above order

October 4, 1790

(Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Rockefeller Archives Center, S989)

October 8, 1791

Letter from Phillip Schuyler to John Bradstreet Schuyler;

".... When your waggon comes down I will send you a compleat set of Philadelphia Waggon Horses to which not any thing is wanted...." (Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 38, Reel 19)

May 1, 1792

Extracts of a receipt from Conradt Ruby (Cooper);

Phillip Schuyler Esqr to Conradt Ruby

1787  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>To one New Churn</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>To one New milk Cooler</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novbr 29</td>
<td>To one New milk Cag</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

788

Novbr 15 To a Day worke Done that Seison on the Grape Vines
1789

Aprill 10 To Trimming the Grape Vines — — — — 0.4.0

...........

25 To $\frac{3}{4}$ Day Work done at the Grapevines — 0.4.6

...........

August 20 To $\frac{3}{4}$ Day working on the Grapevines — 0.4.6

Novbr 13 To covering the Vines — $\frac{3}{4}$ Day — — 0.4.6

...........

Recieved May 1\textsuperscript{st} 1792 Five Pounds Thirteen Shillings & Six pence

in full of the above account.

Done(?) Conradt Ruby

(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L. Box 3 Reel 2)

The following Map detail is reproduced from Schuyler Mansion, a Historic Structure Report, (1977, p.34). It is from a map entitled, "Plan of the City of Albany, Surveyed at the request of the Mayor, Alderman and Commonality by Simeon Dewitt", the Library of Congress owns the Original.

This map clearly shows several interesting details including a large garden to the south, an orchard to the north, various types of fences, and the large barn. Perhaps the sparse area surrounding the word "Schuyler" is the "pasture before the House" referred to by John Lansing Jr. in his letter of November 7, 1777. The rectangular forms which comprise the garden may be the "parterres" described in 1790.
Extract from William Strickland's Journal;

"Hemp might be cultivated to great advantage in this country, particularly in the western part of it, but it is attended with too much labour, particularly labour in winter, which the people of this country are not fond of, looking upon it as thier season amusement and recreation. The late Gen: Schuyler cultivated much of it and erected mills for breaking it near Albany, but gave

William Strickland was a wealthy British Traveler who briefly visited Schuyler. As a farmer and an honorary member of the British Board of Agriculture he was especially interested in American Agriculture. His journal is highly informative on that subject. However in this instance he may be incorrect. Other sources, which follow, seem to indicate that Schuyler achieved a far greater success with this crop.

November 17, 1796

Receipt from Moses Sage;

Ph: Schuyler

To Moses Sage Dr

1796

Nov: 17 To 1553 at 54/ ar _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ L41..10..7 1/2

1 bu<1l?> _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ 22._

1 Cow _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ 10. __

2 Steers at L16 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ 32. _

1 steer at L15 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ 15. __

L128..10..7 1/2

Dr. Cent(?)

322..33 (?) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ 128..10..7 1/2

Recieved Albany November 17th 1796 from Phillip Schuyler the Sum of three hundred and twenty two Dollars and thirty three Cents in full of the above Account in behalf of Moses Sage Mr(?)

Dr..322.33

Franc Sage

(Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Rockefeller Archives Center, S981)
September 12, 1798
Letter from Phillip Schuyler to Phillip Jeremiah Schuyler (at hynbech);

"......The few apples I had have been chiefly pillaged, so that your mama begs you will put her up eight barrels sorted pippens, swaer(?) apples and spitzenbergs I will get Capt: bogert(?) to call for them when I am advised where he should stop for them.——

....." (Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Rockefeller Archives Center, S947)

October 18, 1798
Letter from Phillip Schuyler to Phillip Jeremiah Schuyler:

"......—Your mama dares not venture to send him(?) of Mr. Churchs pigs, as he has ordered them to be sent down, but I am rsuaded If you write to him or to your sister and mention that you will (?) him of the breed he will let you have them.—

........

When she <Catherine> and Mr. Ten Eyck return let them come in a stage that you may not be put to the inconvenience of sending a Carriage, unless you should obtain an order for the Hogs in which case It will be best to send cairrage(?) & If you can a bag of Buckwheat meal.

........

Your mare is stolen I have sent advertisements but apprehend She is gone to N England....."

(Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Rockefeller Archives Center, S 988)
November 24, 1798

Phillip Schuyler's "List of Real Property";

Apparently prepared for tax purposes, this document provides a detailed description of the estate, including the following agricultural structures;

"...An enclosed yard made of posts and boards, with a shed roof projecting under which is an ash hole, a small room to wash in, with one window, <a small smoak room> to mash meal in, a small flour <room> and harness room, and a lumber loft, a Fowl yard, and part of a brick neccessary is also covered by the shed.

..........

Beyond the Yard and at a distance therefrom is a <wooden> framed shed <enclosed?> for Garden seeds and gardiners implements.

Also a framed coach house of wood & boards one story high is at a distance from the yard and also a framed <wooden> ice house 12ft. by 12ft. by 12ft. deep not yet occupied or completed.

..........

On the residue of the farm is a <wooden> framed barn one story high and no other buildings. ...

(Quoted in Schuyler Mansion, a Historic Structure Report, (1977, pp. 28 and 35), from Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 17)

July 2, 1800

Letter from Phillip Schuyler to Phillip Jeremiah Schuyler;

Albany Wednesday July 2\textsuperscript{d} 1800

My Dear Child

I shall compleat my hay harvest about thisday week, and promise on the Monday or tuesday following to set out on a visit to you, accompanied by your Mama and Sisters Rensselaer, &
Catherine.

I have passed a month at your Brother Rensseelaers, and brought every thing into perfect order, both in and about the house, and on the farm—his crops promise well and he is now so situated that with attention to his business he may live perfectly happy...." (Schuyler Papers, New York State Library, 9537)

August 5 1800

Receipt from Society of Shakers;
Recieved August 8th 1800 of Gen'1 Phillip Schuyler, Seventyfive dollars p' the hands of William Root, in full for an Iron bound Waggon, Also four dollars for delivering said Waggon at Albany, for the Society of Shakers at Lebanon.—Calvin Cogswell ——

S79

(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L. Box 3, Reel 2)

June 4, 1801

Rental Agreement between Samuel Bowman and Phillip Schuyler;

I will let Samuel Bowman have the house at the South East Corner of my farm, together with the land on the South side of the small stream for one year at twentyfive dollars for the year - If he finds any person stealing apples or nuts he must take them if he can, and bring them to me.

He is not to keep a tavern in the house, or sell any kind of liquor.

Albany June 4 1801

Ph: Schuyler

(From collection of Dr. Joel Sabean, copy in Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site files.)
October 29, 1801

Letter from William Grant to Phillip Schuyler;

Sir

It gave those who were honrd with your aquaintance here, great pleasure to learn, that you and the Ladies of your family, had not an unpleasant Journey to Canada, and that you got home in better health than when you left Quebec. You gave me permission to write to you when desireous of that information which you so kindly impart. I took the liberty of asking you many questions About Plaster of Paris, as you lay it on your Hay, or wheat lands - Of the Culture, and preparing of Hemp. And the manner of dispersing by grant, or Lease for Years, or life or lives of your unimproved Lands. Give me leave now to request a sample of the Plaster, whether Paris or Nova Scotia as you use it. I have tried that is brought us from the Gulph of St Lawrence but cannot get it to boil in an iron laddle, or pot. I am therefore apprehensive, that, I laid on my land, was of a bad quality, more especially as it had no visible effect on it. Perhaps an <__> may offer to send me a bushel or two for which I will pay carriage &c. with much pleasure. Some Samples also of your Hemp, in the State you sell it to your Merchants, would be agreeable. I have had some water rotted, dried afterwards in the Sun and broken with the dutch or french hand brake, which appears very good. At least so say Ship Masters and others who have seen it and pretend Judgement. Sir Robt. Milnes has had samples of it, and sent them to England with strong recommendation to Government for liberal encouragement. I hope His Excy's endeavors will meet with success. Mr Clark of Montreal has taken great pains and gone to considerable expence.
I have only attempted on a small Scale what little I have seen of
Mr Clarke's, had I think lost of its strength by over rotting,
which the books say is a greater fault than under rotting. A lit­
tle more of your advice on the subject of Hemp will enable us to
become proficient in the growth of it: A copy of some of your
most modern Leases will be very Obliging. We have lands in Canada,
through the liberality of Government, and by purchase, and other­
wise, but know not your good methods......"
(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 37, Reel 18)

January 7, 1802
Letter from Isaac W. Clarke to Phillip Schuyler;

Montreal 7th January 1802

Sir

You will probably remember my informing you the Summer that
I had a quantity of Hemp under cultivation near this town and my
making many enquiries of you respecting the management of Hemp
and that you very politely afforded me much information on the
Subject.

I take the liberty now to inform you that the various pieces
of Grounds on which I sowed have produced about 10 thousand bundles
in general of good length, say from 6 to 10 feet, that excepting
a few hundred bundles reserved for snow rotting, it has all been
rotted in a Pond seemingly with Success and all dried and housed
for dressing what has been broken and cleaned is of very good
quality.

I found on enquiry of Mr. Platt after Mr. Cleland the Mill
Wright whom you recommended that he had been dead more than a doz­
en years.
The breaking being too slow and expensive, I have had a horse Mill erected which with 3 Nuts seems to break the hemp well, but still it is too slow, which obliges me again to have recourse to your politeness for further information, to beg you will have the goodness to favor me with a plan of the most approved Water Mill for breaking & dressing Hemp with the dimensions of its parts and to inform me the quantity which Such a Mill will clean in a given time, what Labour is requisite to attend it and what the probable expense of erecting it may be.

I beg you to excuse the liberty I take and believe me to be with much respect

Sir your most obedient Servant

Isaac W. Clarke

(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 37, Reel 18)

January 29, 1802

Letter from Daniel Foote to Phillip Schuyler;

General Phillip Schuyler

Sir,

With deference I take the liberty of addressing you, on a subject which I conceive to be of consequence to this part of the Country. As an excuse for my intruding on your time ('and perhaps on business of more importance') I will call to your recollection a small acquaintance I had with you in June last on a passage from Albany to New York at which time you gave me such information, respecting the raising of Hemp, as induced me to believe that it would be a matter of consequence to introduce the raising of it in this part of the Country a Sincethat time I have mentioned it to a number of respectable farmers in this Country, who agree with me in opinion. I am now about forming a company for the purpose of
putting in a number of Acres, at the Joint expense of the Company which is merely for an experiment. I there request of you that information which will be necessary to insure success to our undertaking) Viz. What Land will produce it, in what order of cultivation the land must be in at the time of sowing, what time is most proper for sowing what quantity of seed it will take to sow an Acre. In short all the information that will be necessary for us to receive; from the time of sowing until it is fit for market. If you should think proper to give me this information you will confer an obligation on me. And I think it will be of material benefit to this Country generally.

Sir, with sentiments of the utmost esteem and respect I am Your obedient Servent

Daniel Foote

Seipio Cayuga County Jany 29th 1802

(Phillip Schuyler Papers, N.Y.P.L., Box 38, Reel 19)

December 15, 1803

Receipt from Peter Furlong, (blacksmith);

Albany Dec'r 28. 1802

Gen'l P'. Schuyler

To Peter Furlong

1803

March

16th repairing axletree of waggon ______ 0 8 0

29 2 shoes & 3 removals ______ 0 8 0
repairing a share  0 5 0


 g. 3 repairing hoe  0 1 6

Pd  Albany December 15 1803 the sum of sixty three dollars and fifty cents by a check on the bank of Albany in full of the above account

$ 63 50 /100

Peter Furlong

April 12, 1805

Phillip Schuyler's Estate Inventory;

INVENTORY of

Phillip Schuyler's Estate,

true and perfect Inventory of all the goods, chattels & Credits

Phillip Schuyler late of the City of Albany......

...........

Implements of Husbandry ........................................10.00

...........

Horses & furniture..............................................300.00

...........

Horned Cattle and Sheep........................................84.00

...........

Appraised by us the day & year above written <April 12, 1805>

Jas. Van Ingen

Jerh. Lansingh

(Quoted in Schuyler Mansion, a Historic Structure Report, 1977, p. 40

om a document in the Albany County Surrogate's Office.)
IV. Other Sources

Although Phillip Schuyler was known to experiment, most of his methods would have been similar to those used by other eighteenth century farmers. Therefore, some accounts which do not directly document Schuyler's farming may still be useful. Three sources in particular, describe agriculture as it was practised by people who were close to the Schuylers. While these sources are too long to be included in this report, they deserve mention.

In 1749 famed Swedish Naturalist Peter Kalm visited Albany. His interest in botany and horticulture made him an excellent observer of the way farming was done in and around Albany. His remarks are contained in; Travels in North America, (New York, Dover, 1964). He provides many interesting details about the crops, livestock, and barns that he encountered. He relates how the produce was processed and served, along with his judgement of its quality, and even his candid opinions of his hosts.

Phillip Schuylers aunt and uncle owned an estate near Albany known as "The Flatts". This estate, its grounds and barns, were described in great detail by Mrs. Anne (Macvicar) Grant in her book; Memoirs of an American Lady, (New York, Research Reprints Inc., 1970 First printed 1808). As a young lady Mrs Grant lived at the Flats and was well acquainted with the areas society. One point which she makes in her reminiscences seems to verify the importance of Catherine Schuyler's agricultural role: "...not only the training of children, but of plants, .... was the female province. Every one in town or country had a garden; ...... a woman, in very easy circumstances, and abundantly gentle in form and manners, would sow, and plant, and rake, incessantly. These fair gardeners were
Another young Lady who knew the Schuyler family was the Marie De La Tour Du Pin. She came to The United States in 1795 as a wealthy refugee from the French Revolution. Later she wrote about her experiences in; Recollections of the Revolution and Empire, (Walter Geer, Editor and Translator, New York, Brentanos, 1920, originally entitled; "Journal D'une Femme de Cinquante Ans").

Phillip Schuyler hosted her family during their exile, and helped them to establish a small farm of their own near Albany. Farming was an intriguing novelty to the young noblewoman, so she recorded some very helpful descriptions of such everyday tasks as, apple cider making, butter making, and corn husking. Her comments on the countryside, her neighbors, and on the clothing which farming people wore are also invaluable.

These sources provide a fascinating, though incomplete, picture of how farming was carried out in the vicinity of the Schuyler Mansion. They, and the many Schuyler documents exhibited in this report may help those who are interested in interpreting the lifestyle of Phillip Schuyler and his family, and the activities at their estates.

The Schuyler family's agricultural endeavors were a source of food, cloth, rope, and sometimes knowledge, for his contemporaries. Perhaps today we can also benefit from some of that knowledge.
APPENDIX

Crops, Livestock, and Poultry, which are documented to have belonged to the Schuyler family, 1765-1804.

**Crops**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crops</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apples</td>
<td>Parsnips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>Peas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckwheat*</td>
<td>Potatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn (Indian Corn)</td>
<td>Rhubarb*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flax</td>
<td>Squash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapes</td>
<td>Strawberries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>Tuberose (Ornamental)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hemp</td>
<td>Turnips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hops*</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts</td>
<td>Willow (Ornamental)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
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**Livestock**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bull*</td>
<td>Chickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cows (Milk)</td>
<td>Ducks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hogs</td>
<td>Geese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses (Including &quot;Waggon&quot; Horses)</td>
<td>Turkeys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
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**Poultry**

<table>
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<th>Poultry</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chickens</td>
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<td>Geese</td>
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<td>Turkeys</td>
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* These items are only documented indirectly and may or may not have been raised by the Schuylers.