Around The Town

By EDGAR S. VAN OLINDA

Watching the television quiz show, "What's My Line" Sunday night, John Daly's multiple guests were five brothers, all bartenders. When one of the panel asked which was the most popular cocktail, the unanimous answer was "the Martini." This makes us wonder what ever happened to the Bronx cocktail, very popular around World War II? It seems to have taken a nose dive into oblivion, giving way to the Manhattan or Martini.

Jonas Bronck, founder of that section of New York, once known as Bronxland, later, the Bronx, had a son, Pieter, who established a brewery in Albany as early as 1645. The illustrious founder of the Bronck line in America, not only made a superior grade of wet goods, but accumulated a sizable fortune, invested in houses and lots which he afterwards sold, and purchased land in Coxsackie.

The Touch of Midas

On his arrival in the New World in 1639, Jonas, who seemed to have the Midas touch, bought 500 acres from the Indians in what became the Morrisania district of Manhattan. He built a house where the N. Y. Central's 138th St. station was later situated. At his death, his widow sold the property to the Morris family, and it continued to be known as Bronck's Land. Eventually, this became Bronxland, and then the Bronx.

The line seems to have died out at the original home base although there are several descendants in and around New York. Strangely enough, there is no personal telephone listed under the Bronck or Bronk name in the Bronx telephone directory.

One member of the family, Leonard Bronck Lampman, graduate of Union College, born in Coxsackie, became a prominent Presbyterian minister in New York and New Jersey. He inherited the stone house in Coxsackie which Pieter Bronck erected in 1663. After renovating the structure, he presented it with 16 acres of land to the Greene County Historical Society where it is presently a museum.

Lampman (his mother was a Bronck) had a coat of arms which is incorporated in the Bronx Borough flag, bearing the motto: "Ne Cedis Malis."

A Miniature Home

In the rear of the main house in Coxsackie is the stepmother's house, a one-room brick bungalow, built in 1800 by Judge Leonard Bronck when his daughter, by his first wife, refused to live under the same roof with their stepmother. This miniature home has a fireplace, furnished with crane, kettle, Dutch oven, a tiny cellar, and an attic stair fitted with a pulley by which it could be drawn up to the ceiling in case of an Indian raid.

In the main house, built of stone, in the Dutch motif, the woodwork including floors and huge hand-hewn beams, has been completely restored. The Dutch doors retain their original hinges, knockers and locks. In the upper room a steep ladder ascends to a platform, once a lookout and rifle station, with loopholes through the front wall.

Can't quite make up your mind when the white-coated mahogany polisher asks, "What is your pleasure?" We suggest you honor a former Albanian and reply: "How's about a Bronx? I'm getting fed up with these modern concoctions." And raise a fervent "skol" to Jonas Bronck but for whom there might not be any such "happy days" as this once, popular snifter used to invoke.

Sudden discovery: Albany has two Bronks listed in the telephone directory. "Skol" to them.
LEONARD BRONK, Jun. 1820, a resident of Coxsackie, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.
(Died: 1872)
Philomathean & Catalogue 1850
1820 LEONARD BRONK

Born June 29, 1797
Married Maria, daughter of Dr. John Ely.

Gen. & Fam. Hist. of Southern N. Y. v. 2 p. 630
Cuyler Reynolds, Ed.
New York 1914.
LEONARD BRONK

Son of Leonard and Tryntje (or Catherine) Vandenburgh Bronk.
Born June 20, 1797
Married Maria, daughter of John Ely, M. D.
Died February 3, 1872.

Children: 1. Edwin Ely  d.s. June 22, 1861
           2. Leonard       d.s. July 23, 1854
           3. Adelaide      m.Dec. 5, 1871, Rev. Lewis,
                            son of Obadiah Lampman and Elizabeth Vandenburgh.

The Ely Ancestry  p. 262
CLASS OF 1820

LEONARD BRONK

Son of Judge Leonard and Catherine (Vandenberg) Bronk was born June 27, 1797 (at Coxsackie, N. Y.).

He graduated at Union College, in 1820, studied the profession of law, and was admitted to the bar shortly after. He married Maria, daughter of Dr. John Ely, and had three children:

1. Edwin Ely, who graduated at Williams College, in 1850, and was admitted to the bar in 1852; died unmarried, June 22, 1861.

2. Leonard, also a graduate of Williams College, admitted to the bar in 1853, and died unmarried, June 23, 1854.

3. Adelaide, who married Rev. Lewis Lampman, December 5, 1871, and has two children, Leonard Bronk, and Maria Bronk.

FROM History of Greene County, N. Y. p. 254

J. B. Beers & Co., N. Y. 1884