The Grammar School of Rutgers College

The school itself had a period of considerable prosperity under the Reverend Dr. Cornelius D. Westbrook. Then in 1833 Dr. Westbrook came. He was of Puritan stock on his father's side and Huguenot stock on his mother's side and was born at Rochester, Ulster County, New York. He was graduated from Union College in 1801 and, after studying theology, was tutor there for a time. Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church at Fishkill from 1806 to 1830, he also maintained an academy there which came to have considerable reputation. In 1830 he came to New York as editor of the Christian Intelligencer, the organ of the denomination, and removed "his seminary from the village of Fishkill to Harlem in this city." He had become a trustee of Rutgers College in 1829; he was familiar, no doubt, with the life of the college and the importance of the school; and his disposition to teach made the call to New Brunswick an agreeable one. He advertised, May 18, 1833, that he had taken the large and commodious house on George Street, formerly occupied by the Bank of New Brunswick, and had arranged to establish there a boarding school on "the most respectable footing," and that he would receive boarders at a reasonable rate; this was at the northwest corner of Paterson Street. He also established a female academy. He was a man of ability and character and of teaching gift; his stay might have been expected to prolong; but he kept the school only three years; in 1836 he went back to the pastorate, taking charge of the church at Cortlandt-town, New York.

History of Rutgers College
William Ha. Demarest
New Brunswick, N. J. 1924
May 6, 1900

Into the Philosophical Class (Senior) - Cornelius Westbrook

Jan. 27, 1801. The faculty convened to make the necessary appointments and order for the ensuing Commencement. After mature deliberation they agreed to the following order of appointments in the Philosophical Class:

1. The Valedictory by John Younglove

2. A dialogue by Cornelius Westbrook and Saml. S. Lush on the most advantageous employment of time by a student in college

3. And a second dispute by John Younglove, respondent, Saml. S. Lush opponent and Cornelius Westbrook, apologist on this thesis: "That smailing is inconsistent with moral obligation and sound policy."

Cornelius D. Westbrook, D. D. Tutor at Union, 1805-5
Dr. Cornelius Dupuy Westbrook was born at Rochester, Ulster Co., N.Y., in May, 1782; graduated from Union College, 1801; studied under Dr. John H. Romeyn; was licensed by the Classis of Albany, 1804; was Tutor at Union, 1803-5; Pastor at Fishkill, 1806-30; elected Trustee of Reformed Church and D. D., 1829; first editor of the Christian Intelligencer, 1830-3; Rector of the Gr. Schools at New Brunswick, 1833-6; Pastor at Cortlandtown, 1836-50 (for sketch of his life vide Torwin's Manual, p. 904). He preached generally in English, occasionally in Dutch, died 1858. The 75th Anniversary Number of the Christian Intelligencer, June 1st, 1904, comments as follows concerning the issue of the paper: "The Association secured the Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook, who for nearly twenty-five years had been the efficient pastor of the church at Fishkill and whose acquaintance with and attachment to the church as well as his natural and acquired gifts, peculiarly fitted him for the position, Dr. Westbrook had the assistance of Mrs. Brownlee and De Witt, particularly the latter, and when he resigned the arduous post in 1833, the editing was assumed by the pastors of the Collegiate Church."

In another place in speaking of the published portrait the paper adds that during his editorship he resided in Harlem and was in the vigor of his powers which were of a high order. "He did much good work as a preacher, pastor, teacher, but none perhaps more important in its permanent results than the starting aright of this weekly visitor to the homes of the Reformed Church."

He was the son of Frederick and Sarah Dupuy Westbrook.

He married Hannah, daughter of Isaac van Wyck. Issue:

1. Frederick Edward; m. Catherine Eliza Jackson, She was born June 22, 1813.
2. Elizabeth; m. Marius Schoonmaker, of Kingston, lawyer and Member of Congress.
4. Van Wyck, d. at Peekskill, aged 28; unm; was in business with Abraham Van Nest in New York City.

He married (2) Sarah, daughter of Tjerk Reekman, of Peekskill.

5. Reekman, b. 1841; m. Harriet Briggs, of Peekskill.
6. Theodoric Romeyn, b. at Fishkill, Nov. 20, 1822; Judge N. Y. Supreme Court; m. 1846, Julia Augusta, dau. of Hon. David W. Vail, of New Brunswick, N. J., he d. 1885.
7. Cornelius Dupuy, b. Jan. 15, 1823; grad. at Rutgers College 1838; Colonel in Civil War; Naval Officer from 1865; m. 1852, Harriet Bellows, of Northumberland, N. H., who d. 1894; issue Kate E., Charles B., Cornelius D., and Mary.

He died at Kingston, Sept. 24, 1905.
8. Gertrude, m. Peter Y. Cutler, law partner of Ogden Hoffman.
9. Charles Ruggles, m. at Peekskill, Sarah, dau. of Isaac Seymour; cashier of the Bank of North America.
10. Mary, m. James Lansing van Deusen, of Kingston.
11. Hannah Van Wyck, m. Charles W. Bennett, of Portland, Maine.

N.Y. Gen. & Biog. Record
v. 37 pp. 88; 90; 91
1906.
Westbrook, C.D.
From: Rochester, Ulster Co., N.Y.
Last residence: Kingston, N.Y.

Records show one
Cornelius D. Westbrook (C.D. not found)
Brigade Chaplain, Heermance's Brigade
N.Y. Militia

Commencement of service: Aug. 18, 1814
Discharged: Oct. 18, 1814
Remarks: Residence, Fishkill, N.Y.
The Grammar School attached to the College and which is under the immediate
inspection and control of its Trustees and Faculty is under the Rectorship of
the REV. CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK, D.D., assisted by Isaac A. Blauvelt, A. M. an
Alumnus of this College. Union 1801.

From: Notices in a newspaper in 1833.
CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK.

Died: In Peekskill, on Friday, the 24th. ult., Isaac Van Wyck Westbrook, son of the Rev. Dr. Westbrook, in the 29th year of his age.

Daily Albany Argus, Dec. 12, 1843.
John Beekman Westbrook, son of Rev. C. D. Westbrook died October 23, 1855. He was a graduate of Rutgers.

Ulster Republican.
Citizens of Ulster county may hold sacred to memory one of its prominent citizens, the subject of the following biographical sketch who first saw the light of day in the town of Rochester on May 8, 1872. Cornelius Westbrook was the only child of a Canadian clergyman in a small town of that name, an officer in the Revolutionary and in 1812. General West brook was of English ancestry, his wife, Sarah DePuy, being a descendant of the Huguenots, the blood of Quakers and Cluniacs mingling in the veins of the son.

The Holland language was predominant in the district where young Westbrook was reared, and he acquired the familiarity with it that enabled him in after years to translate with facility Dutch records in the state archives at Albany. The English tongue, however, held its own, destined as it was soon to supplant all others and become and remain the language of the land.

The father's purpose being to educate his son liberally, the latter was sent with this view to the Kingston Academy, in those days that institution ranked high among the few of its kind then existing in the state. Not a few of its pupils turned out to be men of prominence as well in the church as in various secular callings. There he completed his preparatory training, and entered Union College in 1798, from which he graduated in 1801. As the next step in his standing as a scholar, he was made tutor in the college, and remained in this position for two years after graduation. Designing to enter the Christian ministry as a profession, he pursued theological studies with this end in view, and after two years was licensed to preach in 1805, and in the same year was settled as pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill. His connection with this church extended to 1856. He then took editorial charge of the Christian Intelligence, a religious paper published in New York City. He was interested in the denominational interest of the denomination to which he belonged. He had his residence at Harlem, a locality within the limits of the city, during the early years of his ministry as a pastor. In 1833 he moved to New Brunswick, N. J., being chosen rector of the grammar school connected with Rutgers College. In 1838 he became pastor of the churches of Corlitt and Peekskill, in which position he remained until 1850, when he returned to his native county, making his residence at Kingston. Here he lived with out pastoral charge, though performing occasional services in surrounding churches, until his death which occurred in 1858, when he had not quite completed his seventy-sixth year.

Dr. Westbrook was twice married. His first wife was Harriet, daughter of Isaac Van Wyck, of Fishkill. By this marriage he had four children, Frederick, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Isaac. His second wife was Sarah, daughter of Capt. Tyeckman, who served in the Revolutionary war. There were seven children from this marriage, J. A. Beekman, Theodoric R., Cornelius, D., Gerrard, Charles R., Mary and Hannah. Mrs. Westbrook died in 1874, at the age of 81.

The first of Dr. Westbrook was a fine commentary upon the power and influence of active benevolence raised to its most beneficent end by Christian principle and consecration.

As a religious teacher, Dr. Westbrook had qualities that made his utterances striking and impressive, especially to thoughtful hearers. He was not a popular preacher as this phrase is commonly understood; but so sober minded, intelligent, person could hear him without interest and without feeling that an original, acute, and powerful mind prompted the words with which he sought to enlighten and persuade.

His ministry, therefore, was a highly instructive and fruitful one, and left permanent influence for good in the communities where it was exercised.

There were some special occasions when his discourse exhibited his own feelings warmly, and guiding those of an audience in sympathy with the event that assembled them, was remarkably opposite to the effect of the impressions not to fade away from the memory of those who listened. One of these was his discourse on the death of Silas Wright, which had been so lamented in death. Another was that delivered over the remains of his personal friend, the artist, John Vanderlyn, in the First (Continued on page 10)
THE TWO BIG JOBS IN THE HOME NOW DONE ELECTRICALLY

The two C’s occupy as much of the housewife’s time as did the three R’s of childhood. Cooking and cleaning, the biggest jobs in the home are both made easier now by electric appliances.

The modern electric range, with its automatic controls, saves hours of kitchen time and keeps the kitchen clean. The electric storage water heater, with
He was descended on his paternal side from the Parrians, and on the maternal from the Huguenois. His father served his country in the Reformation. His mother died, leaving him a frail infant, the object of excessive solicitude.

The distinguishing feature of his mind was its originality. There was a freshness, a sort of childlike wonder in his mind, in viewing a subject. He viewed it as if he had never been told how it appeared to others. Nor did he much regard the impression it had made on others, in forming his own opinions of it. He cared little for the authority of great names. He was a bold thinker, and his views on many mooted questions, and on philosophy, history, and politics, were original and independent. He also possessed a remarkable quickness of mental capacity, both quickness of apprehension and conclusion. His judgment was instantaneous, and he would leap into the middle of a subject, to appear to condemn, almost before the statement of it was concluded. His mind was capable of great concentration and intense action. He was capable of continued effort without intermission. He was not one to yield to wishy-washy, or to be led on by the vague suggestions of his passing wishes. He would not submit to the restraint of rigid and fixed rules in anything. His arguments, though striking and convincing, were seldom strictly deductive. They did not gradually accumulate strength, but fell in successive and rapid blows.

In character he was notably disinherited—one of the most unselfish of men. He would sacrifice his time, comfort, and means, for the sake of serving a friend. There was no estimate he would not make of the advantage of his own existence, and his sacrifice to the advantage of others. He was not a man of great genius, and his soul, and were really prized by him as a means of advancing the interests and happiness of others.

He was unassuming—a peaceable man, always looking on the bright side of things, was entirely simple-hearted, devoid of slyness, and his benevolence was only limited by his means. Patriotism was with him a passion. His learning was varied and extensive, but not exclusive on any special topic. He had a remarkable power of assimilating facts. His illustrations of the character and government of God were drawn from the facts and laws of nature. His theological knowledge was rather the result of intense thought upon particular points, from a busy, vigorous, and enthusiastic investigation, than of connected study. This appeared sometimes to give an appearance of eccentricity, and variance from established views, in his opinions. His mode of study was topical; following his own taste on the pressure of necessity, and the motive of his own interest. He was not a man who could be fixed by the necessities of system, which he could not brook.

In the pulpit he was elocutionist and impressive, though perfectly natural, and wholly devoid of all traces of oratory and false solemnity. He usually preached without a manuscript. His themes were not abstract or doctrinal in character. His thought was a flow of new and graceful thoughts connected with the mind's true destiny, and the motives of his own life. He loved to expatiate on the power, wisdom, and goodness of God, in His works and grace. These themes absorbed his being. His effort was to convey his own thoughts into the minds of his auditors. To this every power of his being was made to contribute. His voice, diction, and gestures were all in harmony. He had a wonderful power of expressing his own emotions. He had a kind of natural skill in kindling and maintaining the same in the audience. He had a kind of natural skill in keeping the audience in the proper channel. He had a kind of natural power of holding the audience in the proper channel. He had a kind of natural power of holding the audience.

He was singularly happy in prayer. His mode of expression was his own, and he failed not to approach the circumstances and catch the spirit of special occasions. There was no stereotyped phraseology, but his thoughts were fresh, admirably expressing the feelings and intentions of the moment, while reverential and devout. When the veterans of 1812 visited the grave of Washington, in 1855, and, with the officers of the government, and the old soldiers, Mr. Woodcock, who was their chaplain, was asked to pray. He sympathized with such appropriateness, power and feeling as to leave no eye un moistened that was capable of the least sensitivity. He had a strong passion for social life and its enjoyments. His path was simple, direct, and child-like. He was humble and modest, and guileless as a child. He was always a boy. The freshness, the honest simplicity, the decorum, the justness of his thoughts, and the sentiment, were such as fall upon the minds and hearts of his interested hearers. The analysis was not very strict, and the discourse not greatly characterized by unity or complete symmetry of proportion, but rather by a succession of striking and suggestive thoughts, the elevation of its sentiment, and the largeness of its sweep.

He was singularly happy in prayer. His mode of expression was his own, and he failed not to approach the circumstances and catch the spirit of special occasions. There was no stereotyped phraseology, but his thoughts were fresh, admirably expressing the feelings and intentions of the moment, while reverential and devout. When the veterans of 1812 visited the grave of Washington, in 1855, and, with the officers of the government, and the old soldiers, Mr. Woodcock, who was their chaplain, was asked to pray. He sympathized with such appropriateness, power and feeling as to leave no eye un moistened that was capable of the least sensitivity. He had a strong passion for social life and its enjoyments. His path was simple, direct, and child-like. He was humble and modest, and guileless as a child. He was always a boy. The freshness, the honest simplicity, the decorum, the justness of his thoughts, and the sentiment, were such as fall upon the minds and hearts of his interested hearers. The analysis was not very strict, and the discourse not greatly characterized by unity or complete symmetry of proportion, but rather by a succession of striking and suggestive thoughts, the elevation of its sentiment, and the largeness of its sweep.

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CLASS OF 1801

CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK

Sarah, daughter of Capt. Tjerok and Rachel (Dumont) Beekman, married January 26, 1819, Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook, D. D. She was baptized October 10, 1790 and died 1874.

He was born May 8, 1762; died 1856. Only child of Gen. Frederick Westbrook and Sara DePuy. Dr. Westbrook was widely known as a distinguished preacher, for many years connected with the old Reformed churches of Fishkill and Peekskill. (For full sketch of his life see Sylvester's History of Ulster Co.)

His first wife was Hannah Van Wyck of Fishkill; his daughter, Elizabeth, by this marriage, married Hon. Marius Schoonmaker, of Kingston. He had seven children by this marriage with Sarah Beekman:

1. J. Beekman, married Harriet B. Briggs
3. Cornelius D.
4. Gertrude
5. Charles Ruggles

New York Genealogical & Historical Record Vol. 19 pp.48-9

1801

The Rev. Dr. Cornelius D. Westbrook was installed pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church in 1803. He used to lecture at Fishkill Landing in a small schoolhouse which then stood on the old Fishkill road, about halfway between Fishkill Landing and Matteawan, once a fortnight, perhaps oftener.---Local Tales by Henry B. B. Bailey, pubd at Fishkill Landing in 1874.


He was descended on his paternal side from the Puritans, and on the maternal from the Huguenots. His father served his country in the Revolution. His mother died, leaving him a frail infant, the object of constant solicitude.

The distinguishing feature of his mind was its originality. There was a freshness, a sort of childish wonder in his mind, in viewing a subject. He viewed it as if he had never been told how it appeared to others. You did not much regard the impression it had made on others, in forming his own opinions of it. He cared little for the authority of great names. He was a bold thinker, and his views on many mooted questions, and on prophecy, of which he was an enthusiastic student, were often striking and highly original. He also possessed a remarkable quickness of mental capacity—both quickness of apprehension and conclusion. His judgment was instantaneous, and he would leap into the middle of a subject, to approve or condemn, almost before the statement of it was concluded. His mind was capable of great concentration and intense action. He was capable of conducting a connected and logical argument, but he was not fond of it. He would not submit to the restraint of rigid and fixed rules in anything. His arguments, though striking and convincing, were seldom strictly deductive. They did not gradually accumulate strength, but fell in successive and rapid blows.

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*CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK*


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*REV. CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK, D.D., Cortlandtown, N.Y., "1558*

D.D. (Rutgers, 1829).

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*CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK*


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*NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY*
Rev. Cornelius Westbrook, D., D.D., was born in Rochester, Ulster County, N.Y. on May 8, 1782 and died at his home in Kingston of the same county, March 25, 1858. He was the only child of Gen. Frederick Westbrook who was an officer both in the Revolutionary war and in that of 1812. General Westbrook was of English ancestry, his wife, Sarah DePuy, being a descendant of the Huguenots, the blood of Puritan and Huguenot thus mingling in the veins of the son. The people of the two ancestries settled in considerable numbers in the region since become Ulster County. At an early period in the history of this county intermarriages were common not only among themselves but between them and the Hollanders, who formed the most numerous part of the early settlers. In the blending of these races the Holland element predominated, giving gradually its own form to the customs, manners, and language of the whole people, compacting them together, virtually, into Dutch communities. The Holland language was the vernacular in the district where Dr. Westbrook's childhood was passed, and there he acquired the familiarity with it that enabled him in after life to translate with facility Dutch records in the State archives at Albany. The English tongue, however, held its own, destined as it was, soon to supplant all others and become and remain the language of the land. The father’s purpose being to educate his son liberally, the latter was sent with this view to the Kingston Academy. This institution at that time ranked high among the few of its kind then existing in the State. Not a few of its pupils turned out to be of mark, as well in the church as in various secular callings. Here he completed his preparatory training, and then entered Union College in 1798, from which he graduated in 1801. As an evidence of his character and standing as a scholar, he was made tutor in the college and remained in this position for two years after his graduation. Designing to enter the Christian ministry as a profession, he pursued theological studies with this end in view, and after two years was licensed to preach in 1806 and in the same year was settled as pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill, N.Y. His connection with this church extended to 1830, a period of a quarter of a century. He then took editorial charge of the Christian Intelligence, a religious paper published in the city of New York in the interest of the denomination to which he belonged. He had his residence at Harlem, a locality then and now within the limits of the city, during the three years that he edited this paper. In 1833 he removed to New Brunswick, N.J. being chosen rector of the grammar school connected with Rutgers College. In 1836 he became pastor of the churches of Cortlandt and Peekskill, N.Y. in which position he remained until 1850, when he returned to his native county, making his residence at Kingston. Here he lived without pastoral charge, though performing occasional services in surrounding churches, until his death, which occurred in 1858, when he had not quite completed his seventy-sixth year. The office of Trustee in Rutgers College, to which he was elected in 1828, he held until his life closed. Dr. Westbrook was twice married. His first wife was Hannah, a daughter of Isaac Van Wyck, of Fishkill, N.Y. By this marriage he had four children—Frederick, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Isaac Van Wyck—all living but the last. His second wife was Sarah, a daughter of Capt. Tjerck Beekman who served in the Revolutionary war, whose widow, a woman remarkable for her intelligence and energy, died in 1856 at the advanced age of ninety-three. There were seven children of this marriage—J. Beekman, Theodoric R., Cornelius D., Gertrude, Charles R., Mary, and Hannah—of whom all except Beekman and Gertrude are living; two sons and a daughter, with the two daughters of the former marriage, being residents of Kingston and heads of well known families in the community. Mrs. Westbrook died in 1874 at the age of eighty-one. The life of Dr. Westbrook was a fine commentary upon the power and influence of active benevolence, raised to its most benign exercise by Christian principle and consecration. The precepts of the Divine Master, exemplified in doing good to all men, were not only regarded by him as worthy of honor and reverence in the abstract but as a practical system...
ming truth adapted to all times, calculated to exalt and purify society confit men and bless the world had his heartiest belief and life-long advoca-
cacy. As a religious teacher, Dr. Westbrook had qualities that made his
utterances striking and impressive, especially to thoughtful hearers. He was
not a popular preacher as this phrase is commonly understood; but no sober-
minded intelligent person could hear him without interest and without feeling
that an original acute and powerful mind prompted the words with which he
sought to enlighten and persuade. His originality was marked, prevailing
his whole character and showing itself as well in speech and manner as in
thought. He did not and could not follow in the track beaten hard by the
feet of others, but struck out boldly into paths which his quick vision
pointed out. He was a rapid thinker as well as a bold one. He seemed to
seize at once and almost intuitively the merits of a question arrived at by
others only after a long and wearisome process of induction. And his
judgement as to the truth of the matter surveyed and brought to light was
usually as sound as his method of reaching it was rapid. His speech was
often like his thought—bold, sententious, original incisive. It had some-
times an epigrammatic point and force that was really startling. A single
brief, pithy sentence had, occasionally, the effect of a long argument
and would place the justness of a conclusion in a transparent light that forced
the hearer's assent. This style of expression was his own as natural and
spontaneous seemingly as a child's utterance yet none the less the outcome
of a bold suggestive thought or deeply sagacious opinion. He was not only an
independent thinker himself but taught and stimulated others to do likewise,
to take large views of the Maker and Law-giver, of His works and word-and
in this light to do, with honest hearts and all their might, what their hands
found to do for the glory of God and the welfare of man. His ministry,
therefore, was a highly instructive and fruitful one, and left permanent in-
fluences for good in the communities where it was exercised.

There were some special occasions when his discourse, enlisting his own feelings warmly,
and guiding those of an audience in sympathy with the event that assembled
them, was remarkably apposite and effective, and produced impressions not to
fade away from the memory of those who listened. One of these was his dis-
course on the death of Silas Wright, so honored in life, so lamented in death.
Another was the delivery over the remains of his personal friend the artist,
John Vanderlyn, in the First Reformed Church of Kingston. Though hastily
prepared and without the manuscript—which Dr. Westbrook never used—the im-
pression was universal upon a large and appreciative audience that, for de-
licate and truthful discernment of the deceased artist's character, for digni-
ified and persuasive assertion of the claims of genius and art, for genuine
paths and striking illustration, it was a performance of wonderful power.

But it was wholly characteristic evidencing the rapidity of his conception,
his facility of seizing instantly the salient points of a subject, and of com-
bining them felicitously which formed the most strongly marked feature of his
mind. This quality was shown in his studies and reading, in public
and private discourse, in debate in prayer. In the last he was uncommonly
happy, adapting himself with ready appreciation to the circumstances of
varying occasions and putting his petitions in words which tersely, fitly
and fully expressed the breathings of a devout and humble soul. When the vet-
nerans of the war of 1812 gathered around the grave of Washington in 1855, Dr.
Westbrook was called upon to offer prayer on an occasion so interesting to
the veteranable survivors. This he did in a manner so strikingly adapted
and impressive as to move all the assemblage to tears. In debate, too, he was
at times hardly less magnetic, and, when fairly aroused a few sentences of
trenchant argument or of felicitious retort not unfrequently carried his
point against strong assailants, or brought down the house in favor of his
views. His patriotism all knew well who knew him at all. He served as
Chaplain in the war of 1812 and found delight in praying for and serving to
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His disposition was eminently social. He loved his many friends with steadfast constancy; was a prized visitant in the humblest abodes; took delight in the society of little children, into whose artless feelings he entered with a freshness and zest which attracted them irresistibly, and made them fastest friends thenceforth. There was about him, wherever seen, the outgush of kindly sympathies, disclosing a genial warm heart, retaining its youthful buoyancy in spite of advancing years. Thus he seemed far younger than he was; and when during the summer of 1857, he revisited the shrine of his Alma Mater, at the season of her annual celebration and rejoiced to meet many of the friends of his earlier years, and uttered in a meeting of her alumni one of his short, pithy, telling speeches, and conveyed to other hearts the cherriness which welled up from his own, it was a remark often made that it was hardly credible he had taught in the institution nearly fifty-five years before. He died in the spring succeeding this summer, in a good old age, surrounded by friends who honored and loved him and followed to the grave by many who sorrowed that they should see his face no more. What remains in the record of strong powers devoted to high purposes issuing in a worthy and beneficent life work. Having served his generation faithfully by the will of God, and passed from among the actors still playing their several parts on the mortal stage, he has left the impress of what he was and what he did as a monument to perpetuate his name.

Contemporary Biography of New York; published in March 1882;
Cornelius D. Westbrook

Was born in Rochester, Ulster Co., N. Y., on the 8th day of May, 1782. He was the only child of Gen. Frederick Westbrook, who was an officer in the Revolutionary war and in that of 1812. Gen. Westbrook was of English ancestry, his wife, Sarah De Ruy, being a descendent of the Huguenot, the blood of Puritan and Huguenot thus mingling in the veins of the son. The people of the two ancestries settled in considerable numbers if the region since become Ulster County. At an early period in the history of the county intermarriages were common not only among themselves, but between them and Hollanders, who formed the most numerous part of the early settlers. In the blending of these races the Holland element predominated, giving gradually its own form to the customs, manners, and language of the whole people, compacting them together, virtually, into Dutch communities. The Holland language was the vernacular in the district where Dr. Westbrook's childhood was reared and there he acquired the familiarity with it that enabled him in after life to translate with facility Dutch records on the State archives at Albany. The English tongue, however, held its own, destined as it was soon to supplant all others, and become and remain the language of the land.

The father's purpose being to educate his son liberally, the latter was sent with this view to the Kingston Academy. This institution at that time ranked high among the few of its kind then existing in the State. Not a few of its pupils turned out to be men of mark, as well as in church as in various secular callings. Here he completed his preparatory training, and then entered Union College in 1798, from which he graduated in 1801. As an evidence of his character and standing as a scholar, he was made tutor in the college, and remained in this position for two years after his graduation. Designing to enter the Christian ministry as a profession, he pursued theological studies with this in view, and after two years was licensed to preach in 1805, and in the same year was settled as pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill, N. Y. His connection with this church extended to 1830, a period of a quarter of a century. He then took editorial charge of the "Christian Intelligencer," a religious paper published in the city of New York in the interest of the denomination to which he belonged. He had his residence at Harlem, locality then and now within the limits of the city, during the three years he edited this paper. In 1833 he removed to New Brunswick, N. J., being chosen rector of the grammar school connected with Rutgers College. In 1836 he became pastor of the churches of Cortlandtown and Peekskill, N. Y., in which position he remained until 1850, when he returned to his native county, making his residence at Kingston. Here he lived without pastoral charge, though performing occasional services in surrounding churches, until his death, which occurred in 1868, when he had not quite completed his 76th year. The office of trustee of Rutgers College, to which he was elected in 1829, he held until his life closed.
Dr. Westbrook was twice married. His first wife was Hannah, a daughter of Isaac Van Wyck, of Fishkill, N. Y. By this marriage he had four children,—Frederick, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Isaac Van Wyck,—all living but the last. His second wife was Sarah, daughter of Capt. Tjerk Beekman, who served in the Revolutionary war, and whose widow, a woman remarkable for her intelligence and energy, died in 1856 at the advanced age of 93. There were seven children of this marriage,—J. Beekman, Theodoric R., Cornelius D., Gertrude, Charles R., Mary, and Hannah,—of whom all except Beekman and Gertrude are living; two sons and a daughter, with the two daughters of the former marriage being residents of Kingston, and heads of well-known families in the community. Mrs. Westbrook died in 1874, at the age of 81.

The life of Dr. Westbrook was a fine commentary upon the power and influence of active benevolence, raised to its most benign exercise by Christian principle and consecration. The precepts of the Divine Master, exemplified in doing good to all men, were not only regarded by him as worthy of honor and reverence in the abstract, but as a practical system, containing truth adapted to all times, calculated to exalt and purify society, benefit men, and bless the world, had his heartiest belief and life-long advocacy.

As a religious teacher, Dr. Westbrook had qualities that made his utterances striking and impressive, especially to thoughtful hearers. He was not a popular preacher as this phrase is commonly understood; but no sober-minded, intelligent person could hear him without interest, and without feeling that an original, acute, and powerful mind prompted the words with which he sought to enlighten and persuade. His originality was marked, pervading his whole character, and showing itself as well in speech and manners as in thought. He did not and could not follow in the track beaten hard by the feet of others, but struck out boldly into paths which his quick vision pointed out. He was a rapid thinker as well as a bold one. He seemed to seize at once and almost intuitively the merits of a question, arrived at by others only after a long and wearisome process of induction. And his judgment as to the truth of the matter surveyed and brought to light was usually as sound as his method of reaching it was rapid. His speech was often like his thought—bold, sententious, original, incisive. It had sometimes an epigrammatic point and force that was really startling. A single, brief, pithy sentence had, occasionally, the effect of a long argument, and would place the justness of a conclusion in a transparent light, that forcible hearer's assent. This style of expression was his own, as natural and spontaneous seemingly as a child's utterance, yet none the less the outcome of a bold, suggestive thought or deeply sagacious opinion. He was not only an independent thinker himself, but taught and stimulated others to do likewise,—to take large views of the Maker and Lawgiver, of his Works and Word,—and in this light to do, with honest hearts and all their might, what their hand found to do for the glory of God and the welfare of man. His ministry, therefore, was a highly instructive and fruitful one, and left permanent influences for good in the communities where it was exercised.
There were some special occasions when his discourse, enlist-
ing his own feelings warmly, and guiding those of an audience
in sympathy with the event that assembled them, was remarkably
appropriate and effective, and produced impressions not to fade
away from the memory of those who listened. One of these was
his discourse on the death of Silas Wright, so honored in life,
so lamented in death. Another was the delivery over the
remains of his personal friend, the artist, John Vanderlyn, in
the First Reformed Church of Kingston. Though hastily prepared,
and without manuscript,—which Dr. Westbrook never used,—
the impression was universal upon a large and appreciative
audience that for delicate and truthful discernment of the
deceased artist's character, for dignified and persuasive
assertion of the claims of genius and art, for genuine pathos
and striking illustration, it was a performance of wonderful
power. But it was wholly characteristic, evincing the rapidity
of his conception, his facility for seizing instantly the salient
points of a subject, and of combining them felicissimally, which
formed the most strongly marked feature of his mind. This
faculty was shown in his reading and studies, in public and
private discourse, in debate, in prayer. In the last he was
uncommonly happy, adapting himself with ready appreciation to
the circumstances of varying occasions, and putting his petitions
in words which tersely, fitly and fully expressed the breathings
of a devout and humble soul. When the veterans of the War of
1812 gathered around the grave of Washington in 1855, Dr. West-
brook was called upon to offer prayer on the occasion so inter-
esting to the venerable survivors. This he did in a manner so
strikingly adapted and impressive as to move all the assemblage
to tears. In debate, too, he was at times hardly less magnetic,
and when fairly aroused a few sentences of trenchant argument
carried his point against strong assailants, or brought down the
house in favor of his views.

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and serving to the best of his ability the commonwealth he loved.
His country and her institutions had a high place in his heart,
and he never wearied in speaking of her greatness, and of her
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bitterness toward those who differed from him, but a generous
tolerance toward the honest and patriotic of all parties, among
whom he numbered many of his most valued friends.

In the cause of education he always took the liveliest interest,
and was a patron, as far as his power went, of all institutions
and of all measures designed to lift the masses to a higher plane
of intelligence and knowledge. The common school, the academy,
the college and seminary were all regarded with favor as efficient
means toward making our liberties stable and secure, by erecting
safeguards against the vices and excesses springing from popular
ignorance. He loved to encourage poor young men sighing for an
education, but seeing no prospect open before them of reaching
the object of their wishes. He not only cheered such with
hopeful words, but gave at times more substantial aid, and there
are instances in which young men owed directly to his timely
helpfulness their rising, through education, to positions of
of honor and usefulness. He felt it a pleasure as well as
duty to impart knowledge, to scatter light for others’ benefit,
and freely opened the stores of his own large library for the
benefit of any who needed and sought for information therein
contained. He was not selfish even in the hoarding of his
books, but gave them on occasion to persons likely to prize
and profit by a gift of this kind; and this was so frequently
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prompting him, the following extract from a letter written by
the late Hon. A. Bruyn Hasbrouck on the demise of his life-long
friend, may be fittingly presented.

"The generous impulses of his nature were always aroused in
my behalf upon every occasion that presented itself to him;
and, in one or two of the most important events of my life, his
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obligations which I was proud to acknowledge while he was
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1867, he revisited the shrine of his Alma Mater, at the season
of her annual celebration, and rejoiced to meet many of his
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FROM    History of Ulster County, N. Y. pp301-303
Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester

Everts & Peck    Philadelphia    1880