January 6, 1928.

Dear Henry:

The only way to apportion the Hicks' rent of $25.00 a month between me and Mrs. Baker is to do a "rule of thumb." He uses the barns on my side of the road very little, and during the winter does not use the fields at all. I would suggest, therefore, that between now and April, when his lease is up, he should pay $10.00 to Mrs. Baker and $5.00 to me each month. Of course, I assume he will not take any wood out of my woods on the west side. If he does this, I should get a larger proportion of the rent.

Some day when you are driving past Moses Smith's place you might ask Moses if he wants to start using the two fields north of me on the Hughes farm on the west side of the road this Spring as soon as the Hicks' lease is up, and also what he would do with the barn and shed. As a matter of fact, I have, as you know, taken away from Moses Smith a good deal of land suitable for pasture and put it into spruce trees. Therefore, I am inclined to think that Moses should have the use of the two Hughes fields. He should, however, be responsible for maintaining the condition of the barn and shed. He told me that he thought he would want to keep his young cattle in the Hughes barn.

The last time I saw Moses he told me he is again in a position to pay the rent. Good news!
I have not yet got my check for the sale of the Christmas trees in New York City, but I hope to make a clear net profit of about $300.00 this year — not bad, as I sold only 1,000 trees and when I get in full production I will be in a position to sell nearly 10,000 each year.

Many thanks for the map.

My best wishes to you for the New Year.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
Jan. 4th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Franklin:

In Reply to yours of December 29th,
I have notified William Birch that he may stay in the
Hughson house until April 1st, but, that Englehardt is
to wire it. I have also notified Englehardt to the same
effect.

Enclosed herewith is a print of a
map showing the Dumphy and Hughson farms.

My next problem is to apportion the
Hicks rent of $25. a month between you and Mrs. Backer.
Kindly let me know how you want this done.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Jan. 18th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

I thought that I had all your taxes paid but found out this morning that the 13.7 acres you purchased from Wright have not been attended to.

His farm of 80 acres is assessed for the land value at $1500. or at $18.75 per acre, without buildings. The 13.7 acres at $18.75 per acre would make an assessment of $256.87. The tax on this assessment at $39.83 per thousand would be $7.41 plus 1/2 collector's fee.

I do not think that Wright pays his taxes very promptly, so I will wait until just before the 1/2 period expires on Feb. 6th and see what I can do with him about them.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

I acknowledge receipt of your check for $856.50 to pay the taxes and fire insurance premium. I have sent checks to pay the Pleasant Valley taxes and the fire insurance premium and will pay the Hyde Park taxes as soon as I receive a check from Mrs. Becker to pay her share of the taxes.

I shall be very glad to have you let me know when you can see me at Hyde Park.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
January 13, 1939.

Dear Henry:—

I think your suggestion of the apportionment of the taxes on the Dumphy farm on the basis of two-fifths and three-fifths is excellent.

Incidentally, on the assessment for the coming year, don't you think we could suggest to the assessors that the same ratio should apply on the present assessed valuation without any increase in the total? I think also the assessors should know that I propose no improvements on my part of the Dumphy farm, but will continue to use my part of it for farming and for growing trees. In the case of the Hughson farm you might tell them that there also I propose no real improvements except to make needed repairs and painting on the house and to bring in electric light from the road. In regard to the land on the Hughson farm, that will be put into trees — an operation which is made possible by keeping the taxes comparatively low.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

That part of the Dumby farm you just purchased from the Newbold Trustees is assessed at $5,200, and the tax is $149.92 plus 1%. As I do not know the exact acreage of either piece on the east or west of Violet Avenue nor the value of the buildings on either side of the Avenue, I would suggest that the tax be apportioned between you and Mrs. Backer on the same basis on which you purchased the property, viz: You paid $6,000, or 2/5ths, and Mrs. Backer paid $2,000, or 3/5ths.

Kindly let me know if you approve of this method of apportioning the tax.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
February 7, 1939.

Dear Henry:

Would you check up on the location of this farm in relation to the Hughes farm and in relation to the Fall Kill Creek, and also try to get some idea of what it is held at?

The reason I suggest this is not that I need more land but, thinking of the future, it might be possible to put in a development for small home owners by continuing the road from Van Wagner Lane into the Hughes farm house, thence east and north on the Hughes place and thence through the Smelling farm back to Van Wagner Road at some point near the bridge on the Van Wagner Road over the Fall Kill Creek.

I hope to be home over February twelfth and look forward to seeing you then.

Always sincerely,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.

(Enclosure) Letter from Joseph M. Hawkins, 7-11 N. Clinton St., Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in re Smelling Farm.
Feb. 10th, 1936.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Replying to yours of the 7th instant, the farm in question is now owned by Alfred F. Bub and wife subject to a $6300. mortgage held by the Land Bank Commissioner and a $2500. mortgage held by the Farmers & Manufacturers Bank. The present owners purchased this farm from George E. Schmaling on Sept. 29th, 1935 for about $10,500., which included the livestock and farming machinery. This farm adjoins the Hughson farm on the north and as it is now pretty well mortgaged, I do not believe the present owners will be able to carry it very long.

I would like to talk with you about it, if convenient, when you are here.

You will be surprised to know that Moses has paid one whole year's rent, $279.45 in cash and the balance by receipted bills for grass seed. As I remember, he owes a balance of $60. on the 1935 rent. This pays up the balance of $60. and $240. on account of the 1936 rent.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
Feb. 23rd, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
Dutchess County, N. Y.

Dear Franklin:

I acknowledge receipt of yours of the 21st instant in reference to the application of the New York Telephone Company for the right to place their poles along the post road.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of chapter 423 of the Laws of 1896 to which you refer in your letter.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Handwritten note: 'Personal']
AN ACT to preserve forever the New York and Albany post road as a state public highway.

Became a law April 29, 1896, with the approval of the Governor. Passed, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The old established road along the valley of the Hudson River from the city of New York to the city of Albany, known as the Albany post road, shall be a public highway for the use of the traveling public forever.

2. The said highway shall be kept open and free to all travelers, and shall not be obstructed in any way by any obstacle to free travel.

3. No trustees of any village or corporation of any city upon its route, or board of commissioners of highways of towns, or any other person or board whatever, shall have any power of authority to authorize or license the laying of any railroad track upon said highway, except to cross the same, and any such action shall be void and of no effect.

4. This act shall not apply to any portion of said road within the city of New York nor shall it apply to the road of the president, directors and company of the Rensselaer and Columbia turnpike, nor to the villages of Sing Sing or Peekskill, in Westchester county.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.
February 23, 1938.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Feb 24 11 48 AM '38

RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

I thank you for your letter of the 21st and I am in hearty agreement with you that unsightly telegraph and telephone poles should be kept off the Post Road. If there is anything I can do at any time to help in preventing the erection of new poles on the Post Road or the removal of any now so located, I shall be only too glad to be of assistance.

Very sincerely and cordially,

[Signature]

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park, N. Y.
Saint Andrew-on-Hudson
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

February 23rd, 1938.

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States of America
Hyde Park, N. Y.

My dear Mr. President:

You can count on our hearty cooperation with you in your efforts to keep poles off the Post Road.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Additional note: " RECEIVED"]
The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States of America
Hyde Park, N. Y.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park, N.Y.

Dear President Roosevelt:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 21st in which was enclosed two letters, one written by Mr. S.F. Hamilton, and the other which was especially informative and which was not signed, addressed to Mr. Henry T. Hackett, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

I was very much interested in the past history of the attempts to keep the post highway between Poughkeepsie and Hyde Park free from poles or other obstruction which would mar the landscape. I certainly am in accord with the views expressed that everyone interested should unite in an effort to prevent the marring of the scenery along this stretch of road.

Thanking you for calling my attention to the matter, I am

Yours sincerely,

Ralph P. Folsom
Feb. 26, 1838
Rye Patch
Aiken, South Carolina

Dear Franklin:

On receipt today of your letter to me and enclosing copy of your letter to Mr. Hackett, I have written Hackett saying that I heartily concur with your findings and I trust that the N.Y. Telephone Co. will
doubt that any real permanence can be achieved in the
question raised of placing telephone poles, cables, etc., along the whole of the
Aberdeen Port Road between Poynder and West Park.
I fail to see how the wires from Violet Avenue to the Port Road,
the Company can improve the service. If they contemplate
improvements over the whole area, this could be done.
Hyde Park, N. Y.,
February 21, 1886.

My dear Mr. Hackett:

I have been disturbed and distressed by the letter
from Mr. S. F. Hamilton, the Right-of-Way Supervisor of the
New York Telephone Company, suggesting that poles and cable
with the necessary guy wires and anchors be run up the Post
Road from Poughkeepsie to Hyde Park.

Probably Mr. Hamilton is not aware of the history of
this suggestion in its relation to the general attitude towards
the Post Road, going back for nearly two centuries.

As far back as 1780 the family of Mr. John Crook, and
soon after the family of Dr. John Bard, conceived the idea
of making the original road a very beautiful, wide avenue. They,
in conjunction with their neighbors, such as Judge
Johnson, Judge Pendleton, James Roosevelt, Dr. Hosack, Mr.
James Seaman, Mr. Stuyvesant and Mr. Moses Beek, planted
trees practically the whole way from the Poughkeepsie city
line to the village of Staatsburg — a distance of about eight
miles. Some of the original trees planted as early as 1780
are still standing — nearly 200 years old — and it has been
a matter of pride on the part of most of the owners on both
sides of the road, to replace trees which have died or been
blown down.

The net result has been an avenue which has no counter-
part in the State of New York.

About 1880 an effort was made by Mr. Hinkley and others
who were interested in the Poughkeepsie Trolley Company, to
extend a trolley line on the side of the Post Road, from
Poughkeepsie through Hyde Park and Staatsburg to Rhinebeck.
There was much public indignation at the prospect of ruining
this historic road and a bill was passed by the Legislature
prohibiting use of the road for trolley or similar purposes.

Later, when the old Poughkeepsie Electric Light Company —
before the organization of the Central Hudson Gas and Electric
was formed — new efforts were made to run electric line poles along the road. When Mr. Thad Beal took charge of the Lighting Company, the whole situation was carefully studied and Mr. Beal readily and wholeheartedly agreed that poles on this historic road would be an eyecore. As a result, the property owners — in most cases without compensation — arranged with the Lighting Company for the use of a strip of land for a line to be run back in the woods, and later on the main line was run west of Violet Avenue on a right-of-way around Poughkeepsie to back of the village of Hyde Park. This line has since then been in complete operation.

In other words, at that time the whole question was discussed and the present lines were run with the full understanding and approval of the Central Hudson Gas and Electric, and of Mr. Beal.

At that time the question of telephone poles was also raised and the Telephone Company fully concurred in the belief that telephone poles on the Post Road would be as unsightly as electric line poles. The Telephone Company, therefore, ran the present line and poles, which have given satisfactory service ever since. They are, as you know, back in the woods and cannot be seen from the Post Road.

As further evidence of the generally accepted desire to keep from the Post Road any unsightly objects, you will note that between the Amusement Park just north of the Poughkeepsie city line there are practically no advertising signs for a distance of six miles. In other words, until Hyde Park village is reached.

The land is owned by a comparatively small number of people and I think that there are advertising signs on only one small plot of a couple of acres on the east side of Teller's Hill. The rest of the road on both sides is clear of signs the whole distance.

To place poles and cable along the road would destroy its historic beauty, and I am confident that the great majority of other property owners will agree with this statement. Such poles would greatly decrease going values.

I am certain that the New York Telephone Company, in the light of this historic road, will not seek to press the matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
Memo. for Doc Smithers:

Will you get for me the name and title of the Head of St. Andrews Jesuit College, here in Poughkeepsie.

Also name of head of the Hudson River State Hospital, here in Poughkeepsie.

Thanks -

Robert
(COPY)

New York Telephone Company

Albany N. Y., January 7, 1938

Mr. Henry T. Hackett, Attorney and Counselor at Law,
225 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hackett:

In the interest of improved telephone service the New York Telephone Company is desirous of placing poles and cable with the necessary guy wires and anchors along the Poughkeepsie-Hyde Park highway #403 in front of the James Roosevelt and Rogers' estates. Before proceeding with the work, however, we would like to determine the feelings of the abutting property owners regarding the project.

Since it is our understanding that you represent these estates, we are writing to request that you get their opinions concerning the matter. While I believe the enclosed print of which there are three copies, will give you the necessary details of our plan, we should be very glad to furnish any further information you may desire.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

(signed)  S. F. Hamilton

Right-of-Way Supervisor.
Hyde Park, N. Y.,
February 23, 1938.

My dear Father Byrne:

I think the enclosed will interest you, and I hope that you will agree with me that we should use every effort to keep poles off the Post Road.

Very sincerely yours,

The Reverend Francis Byrne, S.J.
Saint Andrews Novitiate,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
Hyde Park, N. Y.,
February 21, 1936.

Dear Ellis:

I think the enclosed will interest you, and I hope that you will agree with me that we should use every effort to keep poles off the Post Road.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss E. M. C. Roosevelt,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
Dear Gerald:

I think the enclosed will interest you, and I hope that you will agree with me that we should use every effort to keep poles off the Post Road.

Very sincerely yours,

Gerald Morgan, Esq.,
Hyde Park,
New York.
Hyde Park, N. Y.,
February 22, 1938.

Dear Eddie:

I think the enclosed will interest you, and I hope that you will agree with me that we should use every effort to keep poles off the Post Road.

Very sincerely yours,

Edmund Rogers, Esq.,
c/o Fulton Trust Company,
New York City.
My dear Robert:

I think the enclosed will interest you, and I hope that you will agree with me that we should use every effort to keep poles off the Post Road.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert Hoe, Esq.,
Poughkeepsie, New York.
Hyde Park, N. Y.
February 17, 1938.

My dear Dr. Folsom:

I think the enclosed will interest you, and I hope that you will agree with me that we should use every effort to keep poles off the Post Road.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Ralph P. Folsom,
Superintendent,
Hudson River State Hospital,
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
Mrs. George Backer  
344 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

November 18, 1937.

Dear Mr. President:

As soon as the final deed to the property at Hyde Park arrives, I will get in touch with Mr. Hicks who has a lease on the place until April 30, and let him know my plans.

I am very excited about the little old house and am eager to reclaim it. Many thanks for your offer of trees. I quite agree with you that it is much more fun to plant little trees and watch them grow.

When I was in Hyde Park in September, I met Henry Toombs and had a long talk with him. I was very much impressed with him because he understood so well the type of house we want. We will surely have him as our architect.

I am waiting to hear what can be done about renting or selling the Oyster Bay property. I don't dare start building until I know for certain that we can get rid of our "white elephant".

Many, many thanks for the interest you are taking in our place. I can't tell you how thrilled and grateful we are.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.
Mrs. George Backer  
944 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

November 17, 1937.

Dear Miss Le Hand:

The President wrote me a letter on November 12, which was addressed to 895 Park Avenue. I did not receive the letter until November 16 because I have moved to 944 Fifth Avenue.

Will you kindly make a note of this correction so that there will be no delay in any further correspondence?

With best wishes to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Miss Marguerite Le Hand,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.
March 10, 1938.

Dear Henry:

Only you and I ever knew the location of my Father's wood lot in the town of Pleasant Valley - and I have forgotten! Every year I pay $0.00 or $10.00 in taxes -- and I do not even know what the acreage is, though I have a vague idea it is somewhere between fifteen and thirty acres.

What I am wondering is how close this wood lot is to the line of the Eastern State Parkway. If it is fairly close to the Parkway, it is worth holding on to the wood lot because the grading for that stretch of the Parkway from Hopewell Junction to Washington Hollow ought to be started within a couple of years. On the other hand, if the wood lot is quite far from the Parkway, I think it might pay to try to find a purchaser. What do you think?

Are you having any luck with the heirs of the other wood lot east of the Newfield woods?

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
225 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
March 21, 1933.

Dear Henry:-

I think you are right about the Wyatt-Jones place. As I remember it, he wanted $3,000, and we thought it was too much unless we could also get that little piece that belongs to the farm east of it on Green Street. The Jones place as a whole, including the small lot needed to round it out, would fit in beautifully between the top of the hill on the south and the east end of the Hughson place. See what you can do.

As ever yours,

Henry & Hackett, Esq.
233 Main Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:-

Replying to yours of the 15th inst, the Pleasant Valley wood-lot is described in a Deed from John R. Gesch, Referee, to James Roosevelt, dated April 10th 1897 and recorded in Liber 293 of Deeds at page 190 in the Dutchess County Clerk's Office. The area is stated in the Deed as 10 1/2 acres more or less. I believe that it is located on the outlet of Tyrrell Lake at some distance east of the proposed Parkway. I had expected to obtain some accurate information as to its location from Deyo Bennett, a brother of Willet Bennett, but this morning I learned that he had died last Winter. I will now try to find some one else who knows that country.

As to the Lent wood-lot, I am having a man run down all conveyances out of David B. Lent from 1826 to the time of his death in 1869 to ascertain if he died seized of it. He was one of the largest land owners of his time and therefore there are a large number of deeds to be examined. I understand that he left him surviving a widow and seven sons and daughters all of whom are now dead though there are a number of grandchildren living. I am sure that whoever does own it will want to see it before signing off.

Therefore, I think that it would be well to try to buy out Wyatt Jones, who owns the land to the north before taking any strangers in there to look over the scenery, as they might get some ideas of their own if Jones were still there.

Kindly let me know what you think about it.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours

[Signature]
April 16, 1958.

Dear Henry:

I am glad to have yours of April fourteenth and to know that you had shown Flag the stakes in the Wright farm and also the land and buildings on the Jones and Schaffer places.

In regard to the proposal, I am in entire agreement. Offer Schaffer $800 for the wood lot, including all wood - he to give Jones a quit-claim deed of parcel No. 3 to correct the title.

Offer Jones $2,500 for the three parcels without the dance hall, two pig pens and shack, on condition that I buy Schaffer's wood lot and get the quit-claim deed of parcel No. 3 from Schaffer. The quicker we close this up the better, as the plans are actually drawn for the little stone cottage on top of the hill, south of the Jones place. I hope, too, that you have been able to corral some of the Winne heirs to the wood lot east of the hill.

In regard to William Birch, I see no reason why he should not stay on in the Englesea farm house, as he likes it there and I have nobody in mind to put into that house this summer. I have heard nothing from the Englehardts. You could tell William Birch that he can stay on and that I will give him at least a month's notice before making any change.

I am returning the blue print herewith.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Franklin:

This morning I went over the land which you bought from Wright with William Plog and showed him the stakes driven in the ground marking the lines and corners and we also walked over and examined the land and buildings on the Wyatt Jones and Schaffer properties north of the Dumphy farm.

Within the last few days I have talked with Jones and Schaffer. In December 1935 Schaffer wanted $1000. for his wood lot and the fee of the road out to Cream Street and also wanted to reserve the wood on the wood lot. He now wants $800. for the wood lot and wants to reserve the wood. Since December 1935 most of the wood has been cut off and there are not now more than 25 trees of any size on the lot, the rest is bushes.

As the Jones place has a right of way out to Cream Street reserved in the deeds, I do not think that the purchase of the fee to the road is important as you probably would not use it if you bought it.

Schaffer's property is now encumbered by a $2500. first mortgage held by the Federal Land Bank of Springfield and a $1200. second mortgage held by Mrs. Balga.

In view of the fact that you are about to build on the hill south of the Jones place, I would suggest that you offer Schaffer $800. for the wood lot, including all wood, and that he is to give Jones a quit-claim deed of parcel No. 3 in order to correct the title.

Jones wants $2500. for his land on which there is now a $600. mortgage and this year's taxes unpaid. He wants to reserve the dance hall on the edge of the hill, Plog and I looked it over and found the roof is leaking and the hard wood floor is about to warp out of shape. Jones also wants to reserve two pig pens about 10 by 15 feet each and a shack near the dance hall 15 by 25 feet. I think if these buildings were torn down and removed it would be a benefit to the rest of the property.

I would suggest that you offer Jones the $2500. for the three parcels without the dance hall, two pig pens and shack on condition that you are able to buy Schaffer's wood
April 14th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

lot and obtain a quit-claim deed from him correcting the title
to parcel No. 3.

I am informed that William Birch, who occupies
the house on the Hughson farm, has heard that you intended to
find some other place of him to live. With that in mind I
talked to William S. Halstead about hiring space in the old
Halstead house on the Creek Road for Birch. Halstead told me
that he could have three rooms in the house for $5. a month.
Kindly let me know what you want me to do about him.

Enclosed herewith is a print showing Jones'
and Schaffer's properties.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

P. S. As this is the last blue print I have, will you
kindly send it back to me.

H. T. H.
April 26, 1939.

Dear Henry:—

I am glad you have signed up Jones and his wife and I hope Schaffer will come through.

In regard to William Birch, I see no reason why he should have to move out just because Englandardt wires the house. As far as I know Englandardt and his wife have no intention of moving into the house.

I am entirely willing under these circumstances to let Hill Birch continue to live there until something else turns up.

That is a curious development in regard to the Lent wood lot. If Franklin Townsend Lent is really the owner and lives in Canada, I still think we ought to make some effort to get an offer from him or whoever the real owners are. The reason is that it is sure to leak out toward the end of May that I am thinking of putting up a small stone house on top of the hill. Then I get to Hyde Park the weekend of May twenty-second or the weekend of May twenty-ninth, I am getting a well-digger to look over the possibility of a water supply on top of the hill. The site of the house in the woods on top of the hill is so very close to the wood lot that it would be better if we could get the wood lot before people knew about the house.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
225 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
April 23rd, 1936.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Wyatt Jones and his wife have just signed a contract to sell the three parcels of land for $2500. I paid him $250 on signing the contract and the balance is to be paid on the delivery of the deed on June 1st.

Jones reserves the frame shack and two frame pig pens which he is to remove within thirty days after the delivery of the deed. He also reserves the dance hall which he wants until Nov. 1st to remove. I have agreed to that with the proviso in writing that it shall not be occupied or used for any purpose in the meantime.

Monday I will see what I can do with Schaffer.

Anglehart has written me that he is ready to go to work wiring the Hughson house when William Birch vacates it. Birch is still there.

The records of the Dutchess County Clerk's Office show that Franklin Townsend Lent of Ganonogue, Ontario, Canada is the last owner of record of the Lent wood lot. I would like to talk with you personally about that matter before trying to do any business with him, if he is alive.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
April 27, 1939.

Dear Henry:

What house do you suppose Oliver is referring to? Do you suppose he thinks I have bought Walt Gilbert's place? And who is Moore? I take it this is old man Oliver who lives next to the corner at East Park.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
233 Salem Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.

(Enclosure)
Peekham Road  
Poughkeepsie  
Apr. 24th, 1936

President Roosevelt,

I was up to Mr. Gilbert's last week, to see about my ladder and tools. I left them in his garage last fall. I built new gutters on the front and back of his house, and had my son put new tin on.

While I was there, I went in to see Moore, and went over the house and barn. On the front of the house, the gable and gutter are all rotten sagging down, and the tin must be in bad shape to rotton the wood. I figured the house with the best of paint stock and all and guarantee you a first class job over all $196.69 two coats.

I figured the big barn two coats of the best paint over all and roof red roof paint. I also guarantee you a first class job over all. $208.61

I will complete both buildings for the sum of $400.

$196.69  
208.61  
$405.30

The house was in cream color.

The return on the North side is the same rotten (?). If I am lucky to get your painting I will do all repairs, as reasonable as I can. My son will do the tin work if any for me. He is a tinsmith.

I put new gables and gutters on a house 188 Smith St., Poughkeepsie for the Home Loan, and painted the house. I thought as my tools was near, I would let you know.
The roof on the big barn is all solid rust. Will have
to be wire brushed before painting. Some roof in size. I will
paint that roof first, before it gets to hot up there.

My place was in both names so 5 years ago I gave my
wife the house as her half so I would have the land for myself -
after I spending all my money to get her well. She died and
left my home to her mother 65 years old. So I am without a
home, until things are settled. So I am stoping with my son
for a while.

Thanking you,

Hoping everything is all right

I remain

/s/ Mr. W. J. Oliver
Peckham Road
Poughkeepsie
April 24th, 1918

President Roosevelt:

I was up to Mr. Gilbert's last week, to see about any ladder and tools. I left them in his garage last fall. I built new gutters on the front and back of his house, and had my son put new tin on.

While I was there, I went in to see Moore, and went over the square and barn. On the front of the house, at the gable and gutter are all rotten, sagging down, and the tin must be in bad shape to rustion the wood.
The rood on the North side is in the same rotten. If I am lucky to get your painting I will do all repairs as reasonable as I can. My Son will do the tin Work if any for me. He is a tinsmith.

I put new gables and shutters on a house 188 Smith St Roughly for the home I am here, and painted the house. I thought as my tools wear down, I would let you know.

The roof on the big Barn is all solid Dust. Will have to be washed before painting. Some roof is dry I will paint that Roof first before it gets to hot up there.
I figured the house with the best of paint, stop and all, and guarantee you a first class job over all. $196.69 two coats.

I figured the big barn, two coats of the best paint over all, and perforated red paint. I also guarantee you a first class job over all.

$208.61

I will complete both buildings for the sum of $400. 1926.

The house was in cream color.
My place was in both names 20 years ago. Sue my wife the house or her half. So I sold it for the land for my half - after expending all my money to get her well.

She died and left my home to her mother 88 years old. So I am without a home, until things are settled. So I am staying with my son for a while.

Thanking you

Hope everything is all right

I remain

Mrs. W. Y. Olives
April 29, 1939.

Dear Moses—

Mr. William J. Oliver wrote that he had estimated on painting Mr. Moore's house and barn. I do not know who Mr. Moore is but just in case he made a mistake and estimated on our place, I hope you will not give him any commitment. I am sorry for him but he is in constant litigation of one kind or another.

I hope to see you when I get home in about three weeks.

Always sincerely,

Mr. Moses Smith,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County,
New York.
April 28th, 1936.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Since I wrote you this morning about Oliver I saw Joseph A. McCabe of this city, who acts as his attorney in most of his legal actions, who told me that Oliver had been in his office a short time ago and said he was going to paint President Roosevelt's house and barn.

This afternoon I saw Moses Smith, who said that Oliver had been down to his place some time ago to measure up the house and barns.

Oliver is a peculiar character and is in almost continuous litigation of some kind or another and at present is fighting over his wife's Will.

I most strongly advise you not to have any business dealings with William J. Oliver.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
Miss M. A. LeHand
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Le Hand:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 29th containing check to my order for $2,500. to close the Jones transaction.

Please tell the President that I have just received word from Canada that Franklin Townsend Lent, the last owner of record of the Lent wood lot between the Dumphy and Winne farms, died a number of years ago and that his family moved to Sterling, Mass. I am now trying to get in touch with the family at Sterling and will let him know as soon as I hear something about them.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours very truly,

Henry T. Hackett
April 29, 1936.

Dear Mr. Hackett:—

The President is just off on his trip and he asks me to send you the enclosed check for $2,600 to close the Jones transaction.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.

(Enclosure)
April 28th, 1938.

Franklin Townsend Lent, Esq.,
Cananogue,
Ontario, Canada.

Dear Sir:

The records of the Dutchess County Clerk's Office show that you are the last owner of record of a wood lot lying between the Dumphy farm fronting on Violet Avenue, formerly known as the Creek Road, and the Winne farm fronting on Cream Street in the Town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, N. Y.

It appears that most of the timber has been cut off of this lot within the last twenty years so that it is now covered with bushes and small brush.

Will you kindly let me know if you care to sell this lot, and if so, how much you want for it.

Very truly yours,

(signed) Henry T. Hackett
April 28th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Your letter containing a copy of a letter of Mr. W. J. Oliver received. I cannot very well express in writing my opinion of him, but suggest that you pay no attention to his letters.

I have just written a letter to Franklin Townsend Lent in reference to the wood lot, and am enclosing herewith a copy. I am also writing to the Postmaster at Ganonogue, Ontario, Canada in order to locate his family if he is not alive, as the deed to him was executed in 1880. I think this is better than to stir up his Poughkeepsie relatives at this time.

If you will send me $2500, I will be ready to close the Jones transaction, if necessary, before June 1st.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
April 26th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Edward Schaffer and his wife have just signed a contract to sell his wood lot for $800, which includes the wood and they have also agreed to execute a quit-claim deed to clear up the title to Jones' parcel number 3 and to convey the fee of the road running through the Jones property. I paid him $25 on signing of the contract and the balance is to be paid on the delivery of the deed on June 1st.

They will have to obtain releases from the Federal Land Bank at Springfield for the first mortgage and from Mrs. Balga for the second mortgage. As the Balga mortgage stands in the name of Mr. Balga, who is dead, and no proceeding have been had on his estate it will be necessary to have Mrs. Balga appointed Administratrix in order to execute the release, which may cause a slight delay.

Hoping this will be satisfactory to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
May 18, 1939.

Dear Henry—

She enclosed same while I was away. Don't you think it is absurd for Engalhardt to refuse to put in the wiring just because Bill Birch lives in the house? As far as I know, Bill Birch is a perfectly harmless old man. Will you look into it and tell me what you think?

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.

(Enclosure)
April 25, 1938

Dear Mr. President,

I was up to see Mr. Edward Traskett in Poughkeepsie about going to work on your house in East Park where Mr. Buck is now at and I hear he is still in the place. I do not like to work in the house while he is in there and I believe he will not let me in for the day I was there I asked him if I could go in the house and sir almost strung me up.

I suppose you know the trouble I had with John Blessing, he threatened me with a gun and was very mean and tricky and I do not want to go through the same experience again so if you can have anything done to get him out I would like to get started on the job as soon as possible. Hoping you can have him out by the 15 of May at least I can get to work.

Very truly yours, Charlesugsland

Easty, 4-4
May 13th, 1939.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

I acknowledge receipt of your check for $800. to close the Schaffer purchase. I hope to be able to close both the Jones and Schaffer purchases some time next week.

The Lent wood lot has never been assessed on the tax roll of the Town of Hyde Park as far as I know and I do not believe there are more than five or six persons who know of its existence.

I have at last located the widow of Franklin Townsend Lent, who was his second wife, and she informs me that he died on Dec. 3rd, 1919 at Sterling, Mass. I am now writing to the Court to obtain a copy of his Will so I can find out who his residuary legatee was as I do not believe that he specifically devised this lot to any one.

I will stop and see Bill Birch and find out what the situation is. After you acquire title to the Jones property we might persuade Birch to move into that house.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR
HENRY T. HACKETT

I enclose check for $600 to close the Schaffer-Jones purchase.

In regard to the Lent wood lot, can you find out who pays the taxes on it? I take it they are paid every year by somebody who has an interest in the property.

I will be home over the weekend of May twenty-ninth and count on seeing you then.

F. D. R.

(Enclosure)
May 10th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:-

The Federal Land Bank of Springfield
has agreed to release the Schaffer land without any payment
on account of principal and their release is now in the
possession of their local representative. I am informed
that Letters of Administration will be granted to Mrs.
Salka this afternoon, so that we will soon be ready to
close the Schaffer matter.

Please send me $800. to close this
matter.

I have been informed by the Postmaster
at Gananoque, Ontario, Canada that Franklin Townsend Lent
has been dead for many years and the last known address of
his family was Sterling, Mass.

I have examined the Lent Genealogy
at the Adriance Library, Poughkeepsie and found the following:

"Frank Townsend Lent born March 3, 1855 was son
of David B. and Louise M. Lent - He married Sara
daughter of Rev. John DeWitt D. D. of New Brun-
wick, N. J.
Children--
John DeWitt - born November 3, 1881
Rose De Witt - " July 18, 1883
Charlotte Elliot - born Feb. 6, 1886
Harriet DeWitt - born Sept. 18, 1892
Theodore DeWitt - born May 17, 1894"

I have written to Nelson Burton Lent
at Newburgh, N. Y., the author of the genealogy published
in 1903 but have received no reply.

Twice I have written to the Postmaster
at Sterling, Mass., Mrs. Alice Fitzgerald, for information
about the Lent family and each time was informed by her that
"a letter addressed to Lent will be delivered". Therefore,
I wrote to each of the sons at Sterling, Mass. but as yet
have received no reply.

I shall continue my search for the Lent
heirs.

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
May 25th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

I was ready to close the Wyatt Jones title this morning but learned from Mrs. Jones that Wyatt was sick in bed. She said that they would try to get down to my office some day this week.

The Schaffer transfer is being held up by Mr. Balga's attorney, who has had her appointed Administratrix but has not had her sign the release from the mortgage.

The Lent situation is as follows:
Franklin Townsend Lent died at Sterling, Worcester County, Mass. on Dec. 3, 1919, intestate, leaving him surviving --

Fannie Deane Lent, widow, Sterling, Mass.
Deane Lent, son,
Charlotte Lent, daughter, address unknown
Rose Lent,
Harriet Lent,
DeWitt Lent, son
Theodore Lent,

I have been in communication with Mrs. Lent, who informs me that she does not know the addresses of the above children.

I would like to see you and talk with you before I do anything about having the Lents sign a deed to the wood lot.

The New York Telephone Company now has another plan of connecting the old electric light pole line which extended from Dorsey Lane north to the Bracken Lane and from the old Lower Road at Hyde Park down through the Rogers property to the large red barn. In order to do this it would be necessary to erect a few poles on your property and a few on the Rogers property. This line will be at least one field east of the Post Road.

If convenient for you, would you kindly let me know if I could see you at Hyde Park about these matters.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
May 26th, 1936.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Franklin:

The Joneses signed and acknowledged their deed to you this morning and I have just filed it to be recorded so that you are now the owner of their property.

I have had the fire insurance continued at the present figures, $1500. on the house, $250. on the barn until I can see you as I think they are too high.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,
June 4, 1908.

MEMORANDUM FOR
HENRY T. HACKETT

On thinking over this proposed change in the telephone line at Hyde Park, I think you might tell the Telephone Company that I think it very inadvisable to do anything about it for a while.

The telephone service to Mrs. J. R. Roosevelt's place, to Mrs. James Roosevelt's place and to Mrs. Gerald Morgan's place is, I think, entirely satisfactory to all three subscribers.

As I understand it, the object of this change would be to abandon the present line which comes through the woods from Violet Avenue and connect up with the present line which comes to the Rogers' barn on the Post Road north of us.

As you know, the Rogers' place is for sale and nobody can tell what will happen to the
The White House
Washington

-2-

Rogers' barn and houses near it; and when it is sold there will undoubtedly be many changes made and at that time we could talk over a change in the existing routing of the telephone lines to the three houses mentioned above.

F. D. R.
June 7, 1936.

Dear Henry:

It is all right about Birch moving out of the Hughson house and into the Wyatt Jones house, and Engelhardt is to proceed with the wiring of the Hughson house in accordance with the bid he made last Autumn — it was, as I remember it, about $75.00.

My only problem is leaving the Hughson house empty. Of course, if Engelhardt and his wife live in it while he is doing the work that will take care of the matter, but I think all the wiring can be done in a couple of weeks.

If you can find some couple to occupy the house this summer, pending final decision in regard to this house, it would be fine — for if it is left vacant we have to change the insurance policy I think.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
June 4th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

William Plog told me yesterday that William Birch is willing to move out of the Hughsen house into the Wyatt Jones house and that he expects to move him over on Tuesday, June 7th.

Engelhardt stopped here a few days ago and asked me to let him know when Birch moved out of the Hughsen house. As I do not know what arrangements you have with Engelhardt, I do not want to write to him until I hear from you first.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
June 8th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

William Plog telephoned me yesterday that he had moved William Birch out of the Hughson house into the Wyatt Jones house.

Mr. Luckey, the fire insurance agent, who issued the fire insurance on the Hughson buildings, has just told me that the house may remain vacant for ten days free, but, after that it will be necessary to obtain a vacancy permit unless the ten day period is extended. He also said that the electrical work should be inspected by a representative of the Fire Insurance Company before the electrician is paid.

I am writing Engelhardt that the house is vacant so that he may go to work.

I think that the house will need a lot of cleaning and airing before anyone can occupy it.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
June 20th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Hyde Park  
Dutchess County, N. Y.

Dear Franklin:

The transfer of title from Edward Schaffer and wife to you of the small lot surrounded on three sides by the Jones property was finished this afternoon and the deeds have been filed for recording.

I had Hatfield write to Deane Lent in reference to his interest in the Lent wood lot and to date he has received no reply. At the suggestion of Miss Reynolds, I had Hatfield see Dr. Poucher about the other Lent heirs. He could give no definite information about them other than that he thought they were living somewhere in New Jersey. Dr. Poucher suggested that a Mr. Dutcher in the Poughkeepsie Trust Company might know something, but on being interviewed, he could not give any information. I went to Newburgh to find the writer of the Lent Genealogy and found that he was dead and that he had a son in the insurance business. The son was unable to give me any information about the branch of the Lent family in which we are interested. I shall continue to do the best I can to locate the missing Lents.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Henry T. Hackett
July 7, 1938.

Dear Henry:—

You raise my curiosity! I take it that Mr. Vanderbilt has given us our additional land for the cemetery. How much and where — and why an escrow agreement!

I am off tomorrow and I am sorry not to have had a chance to see you during those few hectic days at Hyde Park. The latest news is as follows:

1. I have let the contract for my small stone cottage on top of the hill, drilled a well and started to bring in an electric line from Green Street. The work will begin in a few days.

2. Mrs. Harker got so worried over taking out the creek on her part of the Deuphy place that she was about to give up the whole thing. I took her up and showed her the site of the dance hall on the Jones place, and, as you know, she is talking seriously of buying the whole farm east of it and swapping with me the Deuphy farm for the easterly two-thirds of the Jones place.

There is no hurry about this as she is going abroad and will not be back until the end of August.
I myself expect to get back about August twelfth and will see you then.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
Dutchess County, N. Y.

Dear Franklin:

In pursuance to instructions, I filed to be recorded in the Dutchess County Clerk's Office this morning the escrow agreement and deed from Mr. Vanderbilt to the Rector, Wardens, etc. of St. James Church.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
August 17th, 1938

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

A member of the Roosevelt Home Club of Hyde Park called me up to find out if there was any public liability insurance on the Bennett farm where Moses Smith is going to have a clambake next week. I told him that I did not think there was any.

The insurance agent who has the fire insurance on the buildings on the Bennett farm tells me that the premium on a public liability policy covering the farm on a five to ten thousand dollar limit will be about $10,50 a year.

Kindly let me know if you want a public liability policy taken out to cover the Bennett farm.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
The White House
Washington

Hyde Park, N.Y.,
September 6, 1936.

Memorandum for

Henry T. Hackett

Would you be good enough to write to Mr. Gaudino about this?

F. D. R.

Letter from Joseph Gaudino, dated September first, in re $1,000 due to Augustus Gutrie from his uncle, Gus Gennerich's estate. This represents money put in United States Secret Service Benefit Fund.
September 30, 1936.

Dear Henry:

Thank you for the enclosed letters. I do hope we can get Dean Lent's interest in the Lent woodlot. I am returning the letters herewith.

The deeds from me to Mrs. Backer and from her to me are entirely satisfactory and I am sending them both back to you -- mine duly signed -- and I think it is better that you should send Mrs. Backer's deed to her to sign. Incidentally, I sincerely hope you are sending her a bill for legal services. You have not nearly enough Scotch and Dutch blood in your veins -- let alone Hebrew!

I hope that Mr. O'Lahosch put in a line of stakes on the new boundary between Mrs. Backer and me so that I can run a wire fence.

I note that the surveyor figures twenty-seven acres in the land deeded by me to Mrs. Backer. Would you ask him to give us the acreage in the remaining part of the Jones farm which I still retain? It ought to be in the neighborhood of twenty-four or twenty-five acres, I think, though it may be a little less.

Always sincerely,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
236 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

(Enclosures)
Sept. 21st, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Your letter of Sept. 17th received.
I have had Mr. Luckey increase the total insurance on the
cottage on Dutchess Hill to $15,000.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of
the last letter received by Hatfield from Deane Lent and
also a copy of Hatfield's reply. I am very anxious to get
a deed to some part of the wood lot.

Enclosed herewith is a proposed deed
from you to Mrs. Backer of that part of the Jones property
lying east of a line drawn from the northeast corner of the
Lent wood lot to the northeast corner of the Hughson farm.
It seems that this corner is about three hundred feet further
west than where William Plog and I thought it was the day
we measured the north line of the Lent wood lot. Therefore,
all of the buildings on the Jones property are on the part
you are going to convey to Mrs. Backer.

If the deed is satisfactory, please
sign and acknowledge it before a Notary Public and return it
to me and I will notify Mrs. Backer that I have it.

Also enclosed herewith is a map of the
survey of this property showing the part you are to convey
to Mrs. Backer enclosed within the red lines.

I am also enclosing a proposed deed
from Mrs. Backer to you of the Dumphy farm for your examination,
which, if satisfactory, you may send to her direct to be
executed or return it to me, whichever you wish to do.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Oct. 3rd, 1936.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
Dutchess County, N. Y.

Dear Franklin:

Yours of Sept. 30th containing deed executed by you to Mrs. Backer and deed from Mrs. Backer to you and copies of Lent letters received.

I have sent the deed executed by you back to Washington to have a Clerk's certificate attached showing the authority of the Notary Public to take the acknowledgement.

Hatfield has just handed to me a deed executed by Deane Lent and wife to him of their interest in the wood lot, which I am having recorded. I have had Hatfield execute a deed of this property to you, which I am holding in the safe until we are ready to record it.

D'Luhosch drove stakes in the ground marking the line from the northeast corner of the Lent wood lot to the southeast corner of the Dumphy farm. I think more substantial markers should be put in their places before they are knocked out.

Tomorrow, I will look up the question of the acreage of the Jones property and also the whereabouts of the other Lents and write you.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Henry T. Hackett
Attorney & Counsellor at Law
226 Union Street
Poughkeepsie, New York
Hyde Park, N. Y.,
October 6, 1938.

Dear Henry:-

Thank you for yours of the fifth. I think the 1937 deed from me to Mrs. Baeker has a $9.00 stamp attached, both of these new deeds should have the same amount because the consideration in each case is in land of the same value as the original sale.

In regard to the taxes on her land and mine, I think they should all of them be prorated — in other words, she should pay the taxes on her part of the Dumpy farm from November, 1937, to October, 1938, and I should pay the taxes on the Jones place from the date of the transfer to me to the date of the transfer to her. If she has to pay any amount on the Jones place subsequent to October, 1938, her share would be on twenty-seven acres and mine would be on twenty-two acres. I forget when the tax year ends but I assume it to be December 31, 1938.

I am enclosing check for $300.00 to meet current taxes, the insurance premiums and the D'Lehosch survey.

I also enclose check for $200.00 to reimburse you for the amount paid Deane Lent for his deed.
I am delighted that we have at last got our feet into the deer on the Lent woodlot.

In regard to the other heirs, I am writing to the Post Office Department to ask then if they can trace Sarah DeWitt Lent who lived in Yonkers in 1903 and her children.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Mockett, Esq.,
228 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.

(Enclosures)
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Hyde Park, N. Y.,
October 6, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

I am trying to find some lost heirs and all efforts so far have been unsuccessful. I wonder if you would see if the Postmaster at Yonkers, New York, can get any information on the following:

The people in question are Sarah DeWitt Lent, first wife of Franklin T. Lent, who, in 1903, was living with her five children at 104 Waring Place, Yonkers, N. Y. The names of the five children were - John DeWitt Lent, Rose DeWitt Lent, Charlotte Elliot Lent, Harriet DeWitt Lent and Theodore DeWitt Lent.

F. D. R.
Oct. 5th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
Dutchess County, N. Y.

Dear Franklin:

D'Luhosch, the Civil Engineer, informed me this morning that the acreage of the remainder of the Jones property retained by you amounts to about twenty-two acres. That the amount you are to convey to Mrs. Backer amounts to about twenty-seven acres, which contains the Schaffer wood lot.

I have just received the deed from you to Mrs. Backer back from Washington, where I sent it to have a clerk's certificate attached. It is now ready for delivery to her. I sent Mrs. Backer the deed from her to you yesterday for execution. The Federal Laws require stamps to be attached to deeds in the amount of fifty cents for each $500 or fraction thereof. The deed from you to Mrs. Backer dated Nov. 27, 1937 has a $9. stamp attached. Kindly let me know the amount in stamps you want me to attach to each deed.

Mrs. Coapman, the school tax collector of district number 5, in which the Jones property and the Peter C. Rohan farm are situated, has just received the tax book, but as she is away today, I am unable to obtain the amount of the taxes until tomorrow. All your other school taxes, including those on the Pleasant Valley wood lot have been paid, amounting in all to $429.71. Mrs. Backer has sent me a notice of her school taxes amounting to $55.98 plus collector's fees on that part of the Dumphry farm she is going to convey to you and seems to be in doubt as to who is to pay it.

The present balance on the special account is $167.45. There are now unpaid bills of Lucky for additional premium on the Dutchess Hill property of $114.99
D'Luhosch for surveying the Jones property 42.32
The school taxes on the Peter C. Rohan place, 246.44
the east end of the Dumphry farm and the
Briggs wood lot last year amounted to
and in addition to that there will be
the Jones property this year.
$ 403.75

Will you, therefore kindly send me about $300 to meet these bills.

It appears that when Franklin T. Lent died
intestate at Sterling, Mass. on the 3rd day of December, 1919 he
Oct. 5th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

left him surviving the following:

Fannie Deane Lent, widow, Sterling, Mass.
Deane Lent, son, " " "
Charlotte Lent, daughter, address unknown
Rose Lent, " " "
Harriet Lent, " " "
DeWitt Lent, son, " " "
Theodore Lent, " " "

I am informed that Sarah DeWitt Lent, the first wife of Franklin T. Lent, was living with her five children in 1903 at 104 Waring Place, Yonkers, N. Y. I am unable to find out where her children are now, to wit:

John DeWitt Lent
Rose DeWitt Lent
Charlotte Elliot Lent
Harriet DeWitt Lent
Theodore DeWitt Lent

I thought that you might have someone see if they can locate any one of these children, and if so and will let me know, I will have Hatfield get in touch with him at once.

Also, will you kindly send me a check for $200. to reimburse me for the amount I paid to Deane Lent for his deed.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
October 14, 1938.

Dear Mr. Hackett:—

The President has your note of October eleventh and asks me to thank you and tell you he shall be very glad to see you at Hyde Park on Sunday afternoon, October 16th, at 5 P.M.

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
Oct. 11th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

I now have the deeds from Mrs. Backer to you and from you to Mrs. Backer ready to be recorded, but before doing so I would like to have the opportunity to talk with you. Will you kindly let me know when it would be convenient for you to see me the next time you are at Hyde Park.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
Oct. 25th, 1936.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

On Monday, I recorded the deed from Mrs. Backer to you and the deed from you to Mrs. Backer and write to her for money to pay her share of the school taxes. Will you please send me $300, so I can clear up your school taxes, fire insurance premiums, etc.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
Oct. 26th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White-House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter containing check for $300. to pay the taxes, insurance premiums, D'Luhosch, etc. and check for $200. to reimburse me for the amount paid to Deane Lent.

In compliance with your directions, I have attached $4. more in stamps to the deeds from you to Mrs. Backer and from Mrs. Backer to you and have had the County Clerk correct the records in his office accordingly.

I have already written Mrs. Backer in regard to the taxes and am enclosing a copy of my letter to her. The only unpaid taxes are the school taxes. Mrs. Backer paid the general taxes on the Dumphy farm in January.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Mrs. George Beaker
944 Fifth Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Beaker:

This morning I recorded the deed from President Roosevelt to you of part of the Jones property and the deed from you to the President. The President will pay the school tax on the Dumphy farm, which amounts to $23.98 plus 5%, but he expects you to pay one-half of the school tax on the Jones property which amounts to $10.20.

The school tax on the Schaffer farm amounts to $40.91. Will you kindly send me a check to the order of Laura W. Cozgan, collector, for $20.45 to pay the school taxes on the Schaffer farm and on half of the Jones property.

I will have Mr. Luckey cancel the fire insurance policy on the Dumphy House and issue a new one for the President.

I will have the Graham Agency, which holds the fire insurance on the old house and barn on that part of the Jones property which you have purchased, cancel the old policy and issue a new one in your name. At present there is $750. on the old house and $250. on the old barn, making $1,000. in all.

At present, William Birch is occupying the house on the Jones property. He is over eighty years of age and has a dog and a few chickens. He has been allowed to stay there in order to avoid paying vacancy insurance on the house and I think it would be just as well to let him stay there this Winter. He has no income except a small amount from the Relief Administrator and now and then he works out by the day.

If you will please send me a check to pay the school taxes and the old fire insurance policy on the Dumphy farm, I will attend to them, and as soon as the deed has been recorded and returned to me, I will send it to you with the deed of the Schaffer farm and a statement of all the other expenses.

Very truly yours,

(signed) Henry T. Hackett
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1938

MEMO FOR HENRY HACKETT:

I enclose certificate of New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization covering the
Hughson farm house electric wiring.

F.D.R.

Certificate No. 74986
To: Charles Engelhardt, Purdy Station, Somers, N.Y.
Premises of F.D.Roosevelt, dated Oct. 11, 1936.

Henry T. Hackett,
226 Union St.,
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Hyde Park  
Dutchess County, N. Y.

Dear Franklin:

I acknowledge receipt of your note of November 1st containing letter from Henry J. Toombs dated October 3rd, 1938 requesting that the insurance on the Dutchess Hill cottage be increased to $15,000. I have just called up Mr. Luckey and he informs me that there is now $15,000 insurance on the Dutchess Hill cottage.

I acknowledge receipt of your note of November 2nd and certificate issued by the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization approving the electrical installation in the Hugheson house by Charles Engelhardt.

Hatfield has written to Mrs. Leo, one of the Lent heirs, to ascertain the places of residence of her brothers and as yet has not received any reply. He told me today that he will write her again on Monday if he does not hear by that time.

The deed from Anna Duplka to Frank Jacobs and Charles Jacobs dated June 28, 1917 and recorded in Liber 398 at page 521 contains the following:

"Except a right of way, if any, over the premises above described from what is known as the Lent wood lot to the public highway."

I will write to Frank Jacobs and tell him that you have no desire to purchase his farm at this time.

Judge Rosenman has written me that he thinks the Rohan price is too high.

Hoping to see you before you return to Washington, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

HENRY T HACKETT
228 Union Street
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

PLEASE HAVE NECESSARY D'NEE TO END LEAK AND ASSURE SAFETY OF
WATER SUPPLY. SHOULD TYPHOID INOCULATIONS BE GIVEN

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT.
Nov. 12th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Mrs. Johannessen reported to me this morning that the cesspool is leaking into the well on the Tompkins place, so that the water is unfit for use.

Kindly let me know what to do about it.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 17, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HENRY T. HACKETT

I wired you yesterday about the well. If it is driven just west or northwest of the Tompkins house and close to the house, it would be well above and out of the way of the cesspool on the other side of the old road.

I really do not want or need Jacobs' farm — and, incidentally, the price is still about twice too high.

F. D. R.
TELEGRAM
OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

NIGHT LETTER

The White House
Washington

November 16, 1938.

HENRY T. HACKETT, ESQ.,
220 UNION STREET
POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW YORK

THINK BEST DRIVE WELL JUST WEST OF TOMPKINS HOUSE STOP
WILL YOU ASK FELLER OF RED HOOK TO DO IT

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
Nov. 14th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Saturday afternoon I looked over the situation at the Tompkins place and found that the driven well and cesspool are very close to each other in the old Tompkins garden across the road from the Tompkins house. It would seem that the cheapest way would be to drive a well on the same side of the road as the Tompkins house and if this cannot be done, to connect the Tompkins house with the Artesian well in the building occupied by Mrs. Johannessen. There is an old well across the road from the Tompkins house which could be used, but would have to be cleaned out, covered over and a pipe put down under the road.

Jacobs was here this morning and said that he would be willing to reduce his price from $14,000 to $12,000, for his farm between the Rohan farm and the Schaffer farm now owned by Mrs. Backer.

Kindly let me know what you want done about the well on the Tompkins place as there are now two families occupying the Tompkins house and paying rent.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Franklin:

I got in touch with Joseph Fimbel, the plumber who does the work at the cottage, as soon as I could after I received your telegram. He promised to have his men try to drive a well on the same side of the road as the Tompkins house is located this morning.

I stopped to see Mrs. Johannessen on my way home last night and she told me that she did not think that the Artesian well at her roadstand would furnish enough water for both places as it is only about forty feet deep. She also told me that she didn't think there was any danger of typhoid fever or need or inoculation. Her son, Harry Johannessen, occupies the second floor and Art Larsen occupies the first floor of the Tompkins house.

If Fimbel is unable to drive a well, do you want an Artesian well drilled near the Tompkins house?

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Your telegram received. I have just talked with William Plog, who will see Feller at once about drilling a well west of the Tompkins house as soon as possible.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett

Nov. 17th, 1938.
Dear Henry:

I very much wonder if there is somebody in Poughkeepsie who would be willing to organise a company for the purchase and subdivision of the whole of the Hayler place.

The amount of cash necessary would be comparatively small. I think $20,000 would be the whole thing including surveys for subdivision and putting in a few access roads so that prospective buyers could at least see the property.

Under the new Federal Housing Administration methods the actual cost of building homes is reduced to a low figure and it is my thought that no lot of less than two acres would be sold to anyone -- in other words, a restricted, high-class development with land selling at about an average of $200 an acre.

It would be necessary before anything was put through to make an agreement with the Town Board, including the assessment, that the unsold portion of the property would be kept at its present assessed value for say ten years, and that the town would put in the necessary highways through the property.

Possibly Hatfield, who seems to be an energetic soul, would be interested in a thing of this kind.
If this property were developed it would help the Village of Hyde Park materially and, on the eastern end, would have full use of the new Creek Road.

You might talk to Hatfield about it in confidence.

Obviously I do not want to do a thing like this myself, for the obvious reason that I could not possibly afford it.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Mackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
Nov. 29th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Warm Springs, Georgia.

Dear Franklin:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 26th containing letter from Brett & Wyckoff, Inc. in reference to the Huyler property. I will take up this matter with Hatfield at my first opportunity.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,
Warm Springs, Ga.,
December 3, 1938.

Dear Mr. Hackett:—

The President is not sure whether he sent back the leases for Mr. and Mrs. Rie and Arnold Berge or whether he has mislaid them. If he has not sent them back to you, would you send copies for him to see?

Very sincerely yours,

N. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
228 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.
GOT: The President asks whether he sent the two leases back to Henry Hackett for the two tenants as he, the President, cannot find them. Will you take this up with him when you next go out.

RB
Nov. 4th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
Dutchess County, N. Y.

Dear Franklin:

Enclosed herewith are proposed leases with Christian Bie and Arnold Berge. Kindly look them over and if they are satisfactory, sign each and return to me and I will have Bie and Berge sign them.

Please let me know if you want me to collect and keep track of the rents.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
I find this on the hall table, I want it in case you need it as a reminder.
December 9, 1938.

Dear Henry:—

I am delighted that you have acquired another one-sixth of the title to the Lent wood-lot. I enclose my check for $300.00 for the share owned by John DeWitt Lent.

I think the leases are all right and have signed them and return them herewith.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.

(Enclosure)
Dec. 6th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Replying to a letter just received from
Miss LeHand, in reference to the leases I sent you on Nov. 4th with Christian Bie and Arnold Berge, I have had them rewritten and am enclosing them herewith.

Christian Bie has paid the November and December rent. I have not received anything from Arnold Berge.

Feller is drilling a well alongside the Tompkins house. I think he has been delayed considerably by the rain and snow.

We have acquired another one-sixth of the title to the Lent wood lot by a deed from John DeWitt Lent and wife of Peru, Ill. We now have two-sixths, or one-third, of the title. I have had Hatfield write to Theodore DeWitt Lent, a son of Theodore DeWitt Lent, deceased, Highland Park, Ill., to ascertain if he is the only heir of his father.

Will you kindly send me $200. to reimburse me for that amount which I paid to John DeWitt Lent.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett
Dec. 12th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

I have gone over the Huyler matter with Hatfield and he suggests that it be held in abeyance for awhile as he understands that the estate is being settled and the property may be bought at a lower figure.

He has in mind that part of the Vanderbilt property east of the Post Road already provided with roads, some buildings and a partial water supply as a better object for development.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Dec. 19th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Franklin:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 9th instant containing check for $200. to my order to reimburse me for that amount paid to John DeWitt Lent; also leases signed by you with Arnold Berge and Christian Bie.

I will have these leases signed by Berge and Bie as soon as possible.

Feller has finished drilling the well at the Tompkins house and Mrs. Johannessen has just told me that the plumber has connected it with the water system in the house.

Peter C. Rohan paid today his installment of rent amounting to $250. which is due this month.

With kindest regards and best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Henry T. Hackett
Attorney & Counsellor at Law
226 Union Street
Poughkeepsie, New York
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 27, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JOHN M. HACKETT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

F. D. R.

Copy of memorandum to the
Postmaster General and Admiral
Peoples sent to John M. Hackett.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 31, 1930.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL
ADMIRAL PEOPLES

Before anything is done with
the old Post Office site and build-
ing in Poughkeepsie, please speak
to me. As a matter of essential
city planning, this site should not
be encumbered with a new office
building or even City Hall which
would add to the present extremely
congested condition at that par-
ticular point. Actually the city
ought to buy the building and site,
widow both Union and Market Streets
at that corner and devote the rest
of the site to a small park.

F. D. R.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr President:

Thank you for your letter of the 19th and for the care and interest you have taken in my own personal troubles.

My appeal is very earnest. I am certain that as soon as the City takes title to the old P.O. site the same old gang whose ambition is to tear down Hackett's law office will at once start an enlargement agitation of the building and the site. Anything to accomplish its purpose. To do so they will, as usual, use good and well intentioned people as mouthpieces, who of course will not know what is behind the scenes.

I respectfully suggest that the U.S. convey to a private business concern and stipulate in the deed by proper reservations that the present width of sidewalk shall always be maintained and that no building shall ever encroach thereon.

Your idea of a museum or park is splendid, but thirty years of experience in this City has taught me that an enlargement agitation will start at once.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year believe me

Very sincerely yours

[Signature]
In re-Gus Gennerich Estate

SEE--Gus Gennerich folder-Drawer 1--1937