

*Anal. p. 99, 215, 309.*

# THE NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

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DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF AMERICAN  
GENEALOGY AND BIOGRAPHY.

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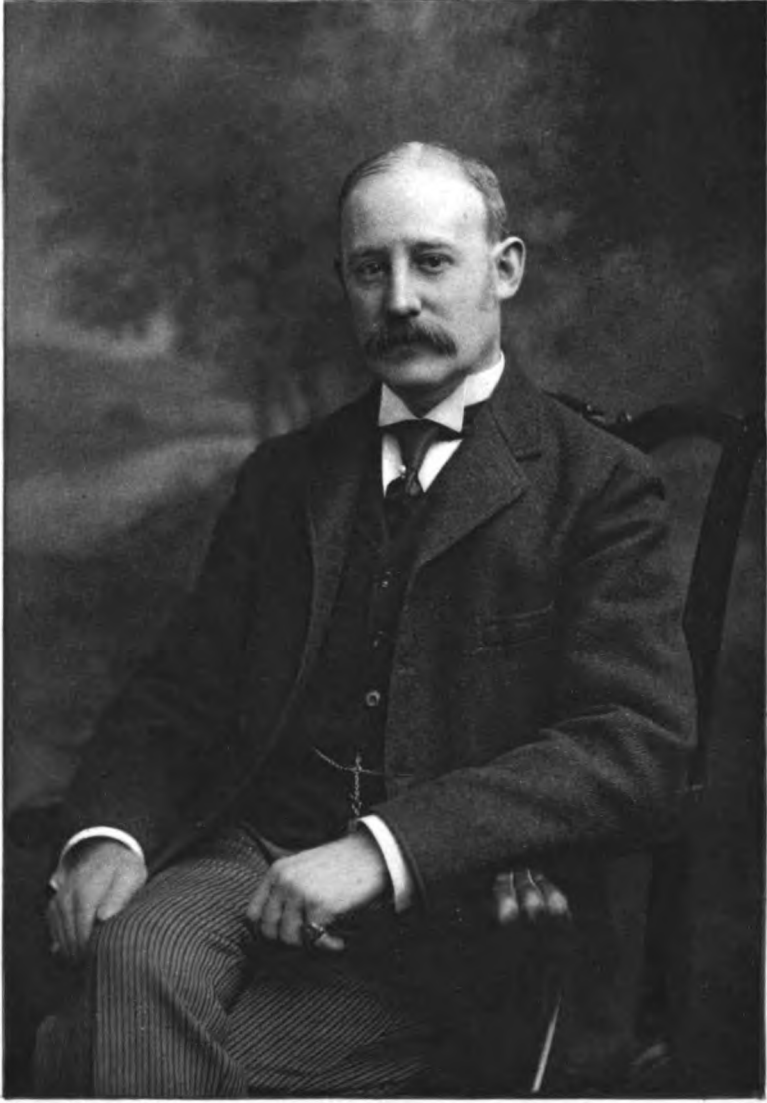
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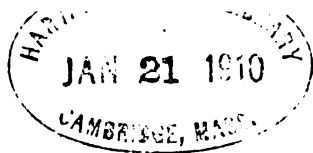


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**CORNELIUS CORNELISSEN CUYLER**



Bright fund

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NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1910.

No. 1.

## CORNELIUS CORNELISSEN CUYLER.

BY REV. DR. THOMAS C. HALL.

Cornelius C. Cuyler was born Jan. 1, 1859, in Philadelphia, where his father Mr. Theodore Cuyler was the leading lawyer of the Philadelphia Bar, and had a national reputation as a supremely successful jury lawyer. His mother was Miss Mary De Witt, a sister of Mrs. Morris K. Jesup, and both were the daughters of Dr. John De Witt, one of the most distinguished clergymen of his generation. Thus Holland contributed the family stock on both sides. The famous name of De Witt\* is linked with Holland's great struggle for freedom, and Cuyler and De Graff are both historic names in the same connection.

The American family has a most honorable record. It is derived from Hendrick Cuyler, who was born in Amsterdam, Holland, in 1637, and came to Beverwyck, near Albany, in 1664, with his wife Annetje Schepmoes, and was a major of cavalry in the French War. His eldest son, Johannes Cuyler, married Elsje, daughter of Dirk Wessels Ten Broeck, in 1684. The second son, Abraham Cuyler, married Caatje Bleecker of New York, and had numerous descendants. Maria, the oldest daughter of Hendrick Cuyler, married John Cruger, Mayor of New York. Rachel Cuyler, the next daughter, married Myndert Schuyler, and from them many of the Schuylers and de Peysters are descended. Johannes Cuyler was the ancestor of the branch of the family now under consideration. He was a merchant and Mayor of Albany. He had twelve children who were the ancestors of families living in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Georgia. Cornelius Cuyler, his eldest son, married Cathalyra Schuyler, and their son, born in 1740, was a loyalist in the Revolution, removed to England and was made a baronet.

One of the prominent representatives of the family in the last generation was the Reverend Dr. Cornelius C. Cuyler, who was born in Albany in 1783, and died in 1850. Graduated from Union College in 1806, he studied theology and in 1809 became pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of Poughkeepsie, and occupied

\* See the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, October, 1886, for fuller account of the De Witt family in America.

that pulpit for more than twenty-five years. He then became pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, and remained in that charge until his death. He received the degree of D.D. from Union College in 1838.

Theodore Cuyler, the only son of the Reverend Cornelius C. Cuyler, was for many years a distinguished member of the bar of Philadelphia. He married the eldest daughter of the Reverend Thomas De Witt, for forty years pastor of the Collegiate Dutch Church of New York.

C. C. Cuyler spent his boyhood in Philadelphia. He had one brother older than himself, Mr. Thomas De Witt Cuyler, now of Philadelphia, and one younger brother, Theodore, who passed away after a distinguished college career. A sister, Miss Eleanor De Graff Cuyler, lives in New York.

In 1875, the subject of this sketch, went to Princeton and became a member of the class of 1879. It was one of a series of classes, beginning with 1876, that contributed largely to the new life beginning to stir in that institution, and from the beginning he threw his life into the movement. Indeed it is difficult for anyone to separate his name in thought from the new Princeton to which he contributed so much. Already in college his remarkable administrative talents had revealed themselves, and when he graduated he entered the office of his uncle, Mr. Morris K. Jesup, then at the head of the firm of Jesup, Paton & Co., and thoroughly grounded himself in the details of an extended business. For it was not simply theoretical banking, but wide railway interests that took up his time. Upon the retirement of Mr. Jesup from active business in 1884, the firm was continued by the other partners of which Mr. Cuyler had been one since 1882, and on Mr. Paton's retirement the firm became Cuyler, Morgan & Co., with Mr. Cuyler as head of the firm. Few men had greater power of work, or greater ability to get work from others, and early in his business career all sorts of directorships, etc., were urged upon him.

Last spring he was elected president of the United States Mortgage and Trust Company. Meantime he had formed many business connections. He was vice-president of the United States Guarantee Company; director of the Casualty Company of America, the Commercial Trust Company of New Jersey, the Guarantee Company of North America, J. G. White & Co., incorporated, the Mercantile Trust Company, the Metropolitan Audit Company, the Mobile and Ohio Railway Company, the National Heat, Light and Power Company, the New York Dock Company, the Orange National Bank, the Registrar and Transfer Company of New Jersey, the Registrar and Transfer Company of New York, the United States Safe Deposit Company, the Wilkesbarre Gas and Electric Company, the United New Jersey Railroad and Canal Companies, the Subsurface Torpedo Company, the Princeton Inn Company, the University Power Company of Princeton, the Princeton Publishing Company, the Princeton University Press, the Princeton Bank, the Princeton Preparatory School, etc.

He was also interested in various other institutions. He was president of the Institute of Musical Art in New York, treasurer of the American School of Classical Studies in Rome, a member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New York Historical, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Societies, and the Archaeological Institute of America. He was a member of the Princeton, the Union, the Lawyers', the University, the Century, the Down Town, and the City Clubs of New York, and the Nassau and Ivy Clubs of Princeton.

But amidst all his activities that which claimed the greatest share of his time and heart was the University of Princeton. As early as 1885 he served as a member of the Graduate Advisory Committee on Athletics, and in 1898, was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the University. The visible fruits of his activity are seen in the well kept grounds which were his especial care as a member of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, and his was much of the energy that put up a most beautiful dormitory by the class of 1879, costing about \$115,000, and bringing in a handsome income for the endowment of the University. For he never lost sight of the real meaning of the University and the fact that the buildings are but a means to an end. He was a staunch supporter of his classmate President Woodrow Wilson, in the introduction and maintenance of the tutorial system of instruction, with its aim at more personal attention to the students' intellectual life.

From early life Mr. Cuyler had found his summers' recreation largely in foreign travel, and his interest in transportation and its problems was intense and highly intelligent. His information about steamships was so wide and accurate that steamship experts counted him as one of their number. His memory was keen and most tenacious. He had figures and facts at his fingers' ends, and was widely informed. His administrative powers were very great. He saw the critical points of a situation, and he was an adept in bringing men together in large enterprises.

On March 3, 1906, Mr. Cuyler was married to Mrs. Mary Townsend Lord. With his wife he was travelling in the Basque country in a motor car, and in July of this year (1909), met with the accident that caused his death July 31, 1909. The car in ascending a steep hill broke in some way, and the brakes failing to work went backward, overturned, and Mr. Cuyler struck on his head and suffered injuries from which he died early the following morning without regaining consciousness. The accident occurred near Bairritz, and all that could be done by medical and surgical skill was in vain. The remains were taken to Paris where services were conducted, and both in New York and Princeton the funeral rites were largely attended. The grave is at Princeton at the request of the deceased, and his fittest monument is the loving memory he has left behind him.

On Dec. 3, 1909, a most fitting memorial service was held in Princeton under the direction of a representative committee from all the classes since 1879, and addresses were made by President

Woodrow Wilson, Dr. Thomas C. Hall and Dr. Henry C. Van Dyke. From all over the country, and indeed from many places beyond the seas, hundreds of messages spoke of the loss to the cause of education and business enterprise by the sad death. Few men left a larger circle of devotedly attached friends, who looked to him for inspiration and guidance.

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CLUES FROM ENGLISH ARCHIVES  
CONTRIBUTORY TO AMERICAN GENEALOGY.

BY J. HENRY LEA AND J. R. HUTCHINSON.

(Continued from Vol. XL, p. 240, of THE RECORD.)

I PEETER HOOKER of London Tallow Chandler the sixth day of August, 1636, intending a voyage to Verginia in the good shipp called the Globb of London . . . doe declare my last will and testament in manner and forme followinge. . . . My body I comit to the sea or land as God shall dispose of it. I give to the poore of Chilcombe parish in the county of South (*ampton*) twentie shillings. I give out of my Adventure to my Aunt Stroud three pounds; to my vnckle Eger's children twentie shillings apeece; to my cusen Anne Hooker my vnckle Richard's daughter three pounds; to her brother Richard fortie shillings; to Henry Hooker my vnckle Peeter's sonne fortie shillings at his age of one and twentie; to his brother Nicholas Hooker the like sume; to Sibell Hooker my vnckle Peeter's daughter twentie shillings; to Richard Wood his children Hannah, John and Samuell twentie shillings apeece; if my aunt Stroud die before her legacy be due, then it shall be paid to her sonne and his children. I give to my brother John Hooker all my goods that I left in his hands and thirtie pounds; but if he die before the legacy be paid, I will it goe to his sonne John Hooker. I doe ordeine my beloved brother Edward Hooker my sole executor, vnto whom I doe bequeath all the rest of my estate, and I doe entreate my vnckle Edward Hooker and my cusen John Wood to be my Overseers, to whom tenne shillings apeece to buy a paire of gloves. Witnesses: Edward Hooker, Richard Potter, George Stretton. Proved 22 Nov., 1639, by the executor named (as will of Peter Hooker, deceased abroad, unmarried).† (P. C. C. Harvey, 187.)

21 March, 1608-9, I JOHN WHALE, nowe of the parishe of St. Mary the Virgin at the Walles of the towne of Colchester in the Countie of Essex, yeoman, beinge somewhat acrased (*sic*) in body . . . doe yeeld my body to be buryed in the chauncell of the

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† Probate Act Book.