

or another of them were trying to do or make something for him to show their appreciation. They made and sent to our mother a very pretty large mahogany work-box, with her initials engraved on ivory and inlaid on top, and also sent to the children similar boxes of a smaller size, all of which we still possess and prize most highly.

Soon he returned to the old home in Fifty-eighth street, where he resided until about three months prior to his death in 1845.

In 1838 and 1839 he was a Representative of Kings County to the State Assembly. While there he rendered very valuable services to the Greenwood Cemetery Corporation in getting bills and amendments passed to their charter, in appreciation of which service the said corporation donated to his family after his decease a fine burial plot in said Greenwood Cemetery.

In 1840 he was nominated for County Clerk on the Whig ticket, but was defeated by a small majority.

An editorial in the *Long Island Star* at the time of his death in 1845 states as follows:

“Mr. Cornelius Bergen deservedly ranks as a man of genius, and his talents were peculiarly mechanical, which resulted in several valuable inventions, one of which was the self-sharpening plough, which was tested and proved in the various agricultural exhibitions throughout the country, and repeatedly took the premiums for the best plough on the grounds and was extensively used. He invented the first cylinder churn, the dash-board being turned with a crank, producing butter in from three to five minutes, and many other valuable inventions, the last being an ingenious machine for weaving plaid ribbons, which, at that time, were only made by hand. It was pronounced a very valuable invention.

“Besides being a successful farmer, he also turned his attention to raising silk-worms and matured two sets in one season, the second being the progeny of the first.”

A specimen of some of these inventions are deposited with the Long Island Historical Society.

We quote from an obituary notice that appeared in the *Brooklyn Eagle*, of November 26, 1882, as follows: