

For what it's worth, I offer the following narrative regarding Alvin Knickerbocker.

This explains the rationale behind recent updates to my Knickerbocker tree on Ancestry.

For all the data, see the Ancestry tree, under userid bmknickerbocker. Look up Alvin Knickerbocker (1816-1878) and Alvin elder Knickerbocker (1799 – 1886).

Background

My line is through John Knickerbocker (1) and Lydia Jackson. John (1) had 5 boys. The oldest was Harmon (2). Harmon and his son George (3) once owned a hotel in Allegany County NY.

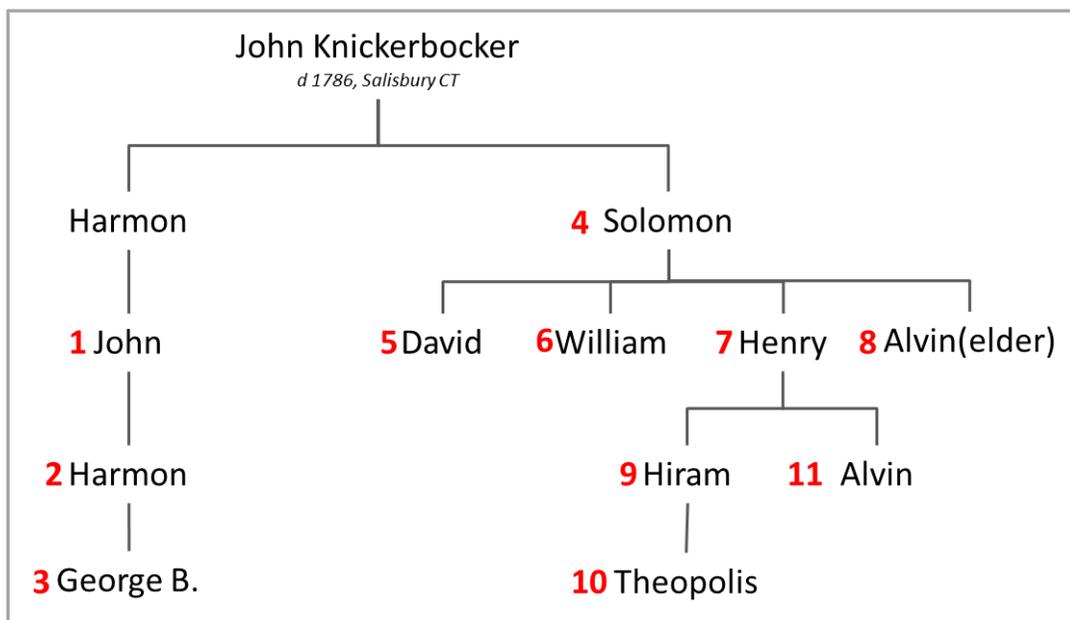
Land records show that Harmon and George were the most active "Knickerbockers" in the Allegany County real estate market.

There were three other Knickerbockers who were active in the Allegany County real estate market: Alvin Knickerbocker (11), his wife Phebe, and a man named Hiram Samuel Knickerbocker (9). Alvin and Hiram knew each other, and had real estate transactions with each other.

Who were Alvin and Hiram? How does this fit with the mountains of earlier work by Dave Knickerbocker, George Walker, Howard Knickerbocker, and others?

Thus:

Roots of Alvin Knickerbocker (1816-1878), Grandson of Solomon



The Roots of Hiram Samuel Knickerbocker and Alvin Knickerbocker

Fact: Solomon (4) had a son named David (5). [Van Alstyne.] As far as I can tell, this David Knickerbocker only shows up once in any census record. David appears in 1850, in Tioga County NY. Birth is shown as 1772 in CT. David was a pauper, living in the county home.

There is no sign that David was ever had children, so I will offer no further speculation about his role in this story.

Fact: Solomon Knickerbocker was in Greene County in 1799 and 1800. [Listed in CT land records. Also paid property taxes in NY, per Ancestry database].

Fact: Solomon had a son named William (6) [from Van Alstyne].

Fact: William had become the head of the household in NY property tax records in Green County in 1803. [From Ancestry database. Transcribed as William Knieriemen, but the handwriting is clear.]

Speculation: Something happened in Solomon's life around 1801. He moved away and left his boys behind.

Fact: William moved to Chenango County prior to 1810 [1810 census]

Fact: William's family makeup is proven from his will and probate records. We know the names of all of his sons. [From Ancestry's will and probate records.]

Fact: William has two extra young men – not his sons - living with him in 1810. [1810 census.]

Speculation: The two extra young men are William's brothers, Alvin the Elder (8) and Henry (7).

Fact: Henry Knickerbocker (7) makes his first appearance in 1820, in Chenango County. Henry has two young sons. [1820 census.]

Fact: A man named Henry Knickerbocker is in Tioga County in 1840. [1840 census.]

Fact: Land records for Tioga County are not helpful. They do not show anything about Henry or the others in this story.

Fact: A man named Hiram Knickerbocker (9) was a longtime resident of Scio, Allegany County. He died in Scio in 1901. (One line obit in Cuba NY Patriot.)

Fact: Hiram gave his son a very unique name, Theophilus (10).

Fact: The full name of Theophilus' father was Hiram Samuel Knickerbocker. This is based on tracing Theophilus through various census records. (See 1865 census record for Samuel H Knickerbocker and his son Theophilus.)

Fact: Hiram Samuel Knickerbocker (1818-1901) is easy to differentiate from all the other Hiram Knickerbockers who lived in the late 1800's. [See my Ancestry tree for obituaries, etc, of the various other Hiram Knickerbockers.]

Fact: Hiram Samuel Knickerbocker was born in Chenango County about 1818. (1865 NY census.)

Fact: Hiram once lived in Tioga County NY. (Theopolis was b. Tioga County. So was Hiram's wife.)

Fact: Hiram and Alvin were 2 pages apart in census records for Allegany County.

Fact: Hiram and Alvin show up multiple times in land records for Allegany County. [Familysearch has the records on line.] There various records were filed under the names of Hiram S. Knickerbocker, Samuel H. Knickerbocker, Alvin B Knickerbocker, Alvin D Knickerbocker, and Phebe Knickerbocker.

Fact: Hiram and Alvin knew each other well. For example, Alvin sold a plot of land to Hiram for 45 dollars. A year later, Samuel H. sold the exact same piece of land to Alvin's wife Phebe, again for 45 dollars. (Allegany County land records.)

How to pull the pieces together?

Here is how I am representing these puzzle pieces in my Ancestry tree:

- In 1810, the two extra young men living with William were Alvin the Elder and Henry.
- In 1820, the two young sons who were living with Henry were Alvin and Hiram Samuel.
- Hiram Samuel was born in Chenango County. (This agrees with census records.) He later lived in Tioga County, with his father Henry, and possibly on his own.
- Alvin probably once lived in Tioga County. (The Tioga County line is about 20 miles from Smithville Flats, Chenango County.)
- I have decided to show that Alvin was born in Chenango County, with a question mark. I know this disagrees with the 1875 census, which says "Tioga", and the 1865 census, which says "Penn".

Of course, there are other possibilities:

- David could be Alvin's father. However, there is no record of David being married or having children. Clearly he didn't have family support in the 1850 census, since he was a pauper in the poor house. I therefore cannot speculate that David ever had children.
- Gretchen's Solomon, who also once lived in Chenango County, could also have been part of this puzzle. However, I do not see how Gretchen's Solomon can connect the dots shown above.

I realize that this is speculative, and look forward to more data, both from old records and from DNA.

Bryan Knickerbocker
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