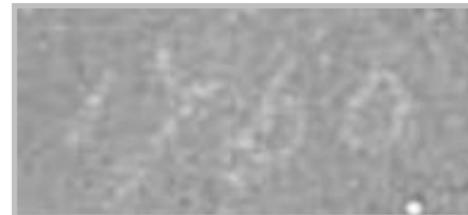


# The Birth of Harmon's John

- The Knickerbocker families in Connecticut included a man who was called "Harmon's John"



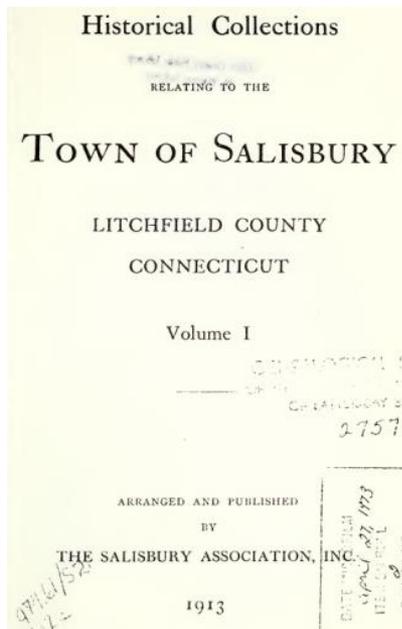
- Harmon's John lived in Sharon in 1799
  - Land records show that John Knickerbocker "of Sharon" sold his rights to 36 acres of land that were left intestate by his grandfather
  - The deed was dated in 1799, and was recorded in 1800.
- The 1800 census in Sharon shows John, a wife, 5 boys, and 2 girls.
  - The 1800 census entries exactly match the family that later lived in Eaton, New York.
- In 1804, John and his wife Lydia bought land in the "Second Township" in "Hamilton, Chenango County" (which later became the town of Eaton in Madison County).
  - John and Lydia were married in 1785, in Sharon.
- New York records show that John was born in about 1760 or 1761.
  - Census records give John's age as 89 in 1850, and 94 in 1855.
  - John's tombstone, in January of 1860, said he was in his 100<sup>th</sup> year.
- We have finally found the original birth record in Connecticut. It confirms that John was born in 1760.



*From  
Salisbury  
records*

# Some Sources Claim John Was Born in 1766

*The 1766 date is from transcriptions, not from the original Salisbury record*



Knickerbacker, Abraham, s. of John and Jamima, b. Apr. 12, 1733.  
Knickerbacker, Harman, s. of John and Jamima, b. Jan. 13, 1741/2.  
Knickerbacker, Isaac, s. of John and Jamima, b. June 17, 1750.  
Knickerbacker, Jane, d. of John and Jamima, b. Aug. 6, 1747.  
Knickerbacker, Lawrance, s. of John and Jamima, b. Sept. 7, 1739.  
Knickerbacker, Mary, d. of John and Jamima, b. Dec. 18, 1744.  
Knickerbacker, Morache of Dutches Co. and Ruluff White of Sal., m. May 24, 1748, by Aaron Phetch, J. P. Witness,— Peter White.  
Knickerbacker, Sarah, d. of John and Jamima, b. Mch. 11, 1752.  
Knickerbacker, Solomon, s. of John and Jemima, b. Oct. 12, 1754.  
Knickerbacor, Elizabeth, d. of Lawrance and Ketherine, b. Mch. 16, 1764.  
Knickerbacor, John, s. of Harmon and Thankful, b. Sept. 15, 1766.  
Knickerbacor, Molly, d. of Abraham and Jerusha, b. Oct. 21, 1762.  
Knickerbacor, Samuel, s. of Lawrance and Katharine, b. Jan. 12, 1762.

*John Knickerbocker,  
supposedly born in 1766*

# The Original Salisbury Birth Record is Shown Here

"Births Deaths Marriages Town Meetings, 1740-1780"

FamilySearch Microfilm # 007615588, on page 144 of the filmstrip.

[www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89VP-GSJX?i=143&cat=365910](http://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89VP-GSJX?i=143&cat=365910)

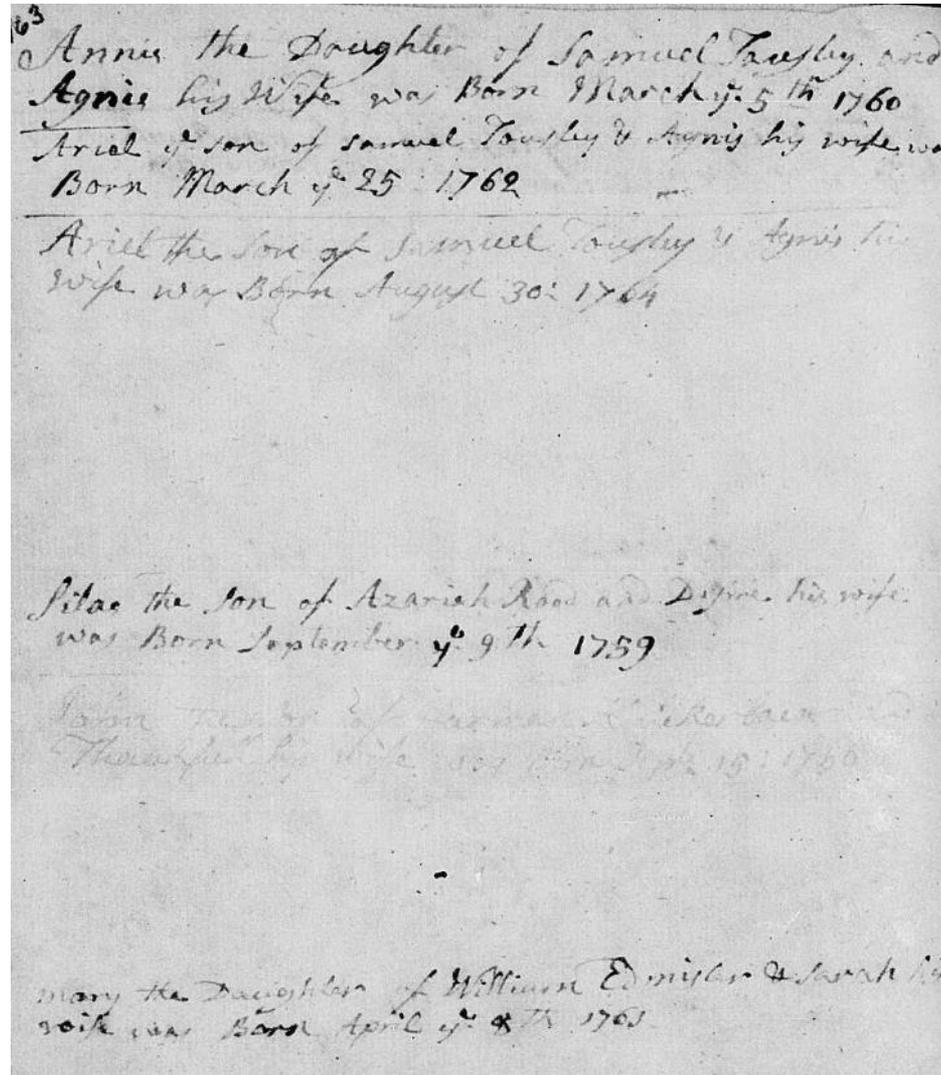
For a small fee, the Salisbury clerk would reserve space in the town record for a given family.

Here, for example, the Towsley family reserved the top of this page, and eventually used it to record the successive births of 3 children.

On this page, the Towsleys were the only family who recorded multiple births. For example, the births of John Knickerbocker's younger siblings were not recorded anywhere in town records.

**John Knickerbocker**

Faint image; a close-up shown later in this package



## Dates on this page

1760

1762

1764

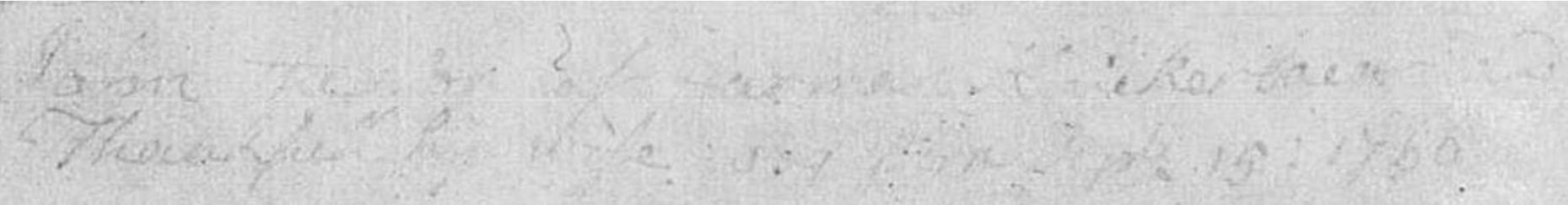
1759

1760

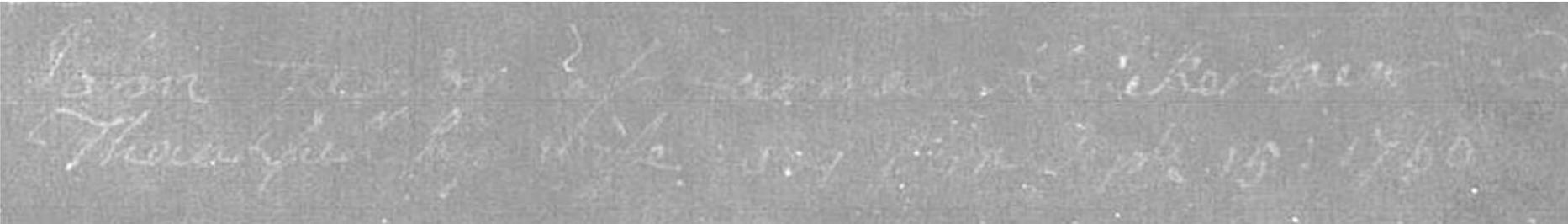
1763

# The Original Record Shows John's Birth in 1760

*Original Image with Added Contrast*

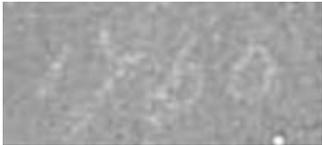


*Negative Image with Added Contrast*



*“ John the son of Harman Knickerbacor and  
Thankful his wife was born Sept 15 1760 “*

*The year is “1760”*



# John's Father Was Born in January, 1742

FamilySearch Microfilm # 007615588. See page 159 of the filmstrip.

**Harmon Knickerbocker  
born January 13, 1742**

During colonial times "January 1741/2" indicated the January that occurred during the winter between '41 and '42. Today, we write this as "January 1742".

A photograph of a handwritten document, likely a town record, showing several entries for children of John Knickerbocker and Jamima. The entries are written in cursive and include names, birth dates, and parents' names. A red bracket on the left side of the image highlights the entry for Harmon Knickerbocker, born January 13, 1741/2.

Abraham & Son of J<sup>o</sup> Knickerbocker and Jamima  
his wife was Born April y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1733

Laurance y<sup>e</sup> son of John Knickerbocker & Jamima  
his wife was Born September y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1739

Harman y<sup>e</sup> Son of John Knickerbocker & Jamima  
his wife was Born January y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1741/2

Mary y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of John Knickerbocker & Jamima  
his wife was Born December y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1744

Jane the Daughter of John Knickerbocker & Jamima  
his wife was Born August y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1747

Joan y<sup>e</sup> Son of John Knickerbocker & Jamima  
his wife was Born June y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1750

Sarah y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of John Knickerbocker & Jamima  
his wife was Born March y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1752

These entries appear in the section of the town records from the early 1750's. It appears these births were entered into Salisbury records in 1752, after Sarah was born. (There are many examples in the town record where a family waited many years, and then recorded the births of all their children in a single transaction with the town clerk.)

Thus, Harmon's birth wasn't recorded until 10 years after he was born. This 10 year delay might cause us to question whether this record is reliable. However, the date is confirmed by a separate baptism record.

**Harmon was only age 17 years and 11 months when his son John was conceived.**

# The Baptism of John's Father Harmon

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record Image

Article Baptismal Records Of Zion Lutheran Church, Loonenburg, Now Athens, Greene County, New York  
Volume 82  
Issue 4

## 236 *Baptismal Records Zion Lutheran Church, Loonenburg, Greene Co., N.Y.*

1742

*Harmon Knickerbocker  
Born January 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Baptized May 27<sup>th</sup> in Ancram*

	<i>Children's Names &amp; When Born</i>	<i>Parents' Names</i>	<i>Sponsors</i>
May 27 Goghkameko, Ankrom	Herman	Hannes Knickerbacker Jacomyntje	Herm. Knickerbacker Catharina, h.w.
"	Philip Jan. 13	Jurge Philip Finkel Lisabeth	Philip Finkel Anna Gertrud, h.w.
May 30 Staatsburgh*	Anna Margreta May 10	Elias Zeller Maria Barbe	Ludwe. Leichsenring Anna Maria Tornerssen
"	Anna Barbel 10 May	Christoffel Rink Maria Marlene	Jost. Henr. Scheffer Anna Barbel Detern
May 31 near Rhine- beck in Mart. Weidman's house	Anna Margreta May 27	Martin Weidman Anna Maria	Hannes Weidman Anna Margr. Bergs

*Baptisms were done by a travelling minister. The baptisms were eventually recorded at a church in Greene County, New York. The church records were later transcribed and published in multiple places, including the NYGBR article shown above. This multi-step process might cause us to worry about transcriptions errors. However, the date of Harmon's birth shown here – January 13, 1742 – exactly matches the entry in Salisbury town record.*

*In his articles on the Knickerbocker Family, William Van Alstynne claimed the baptism record showed the birth as January 3<sup>rd</sup>, instead of January 13<sup>th</sup>. In any case, though, everyone agrees the year was 1742.*