

Knickerbocker, Parks, and Related Families of Cincinnatus, New York

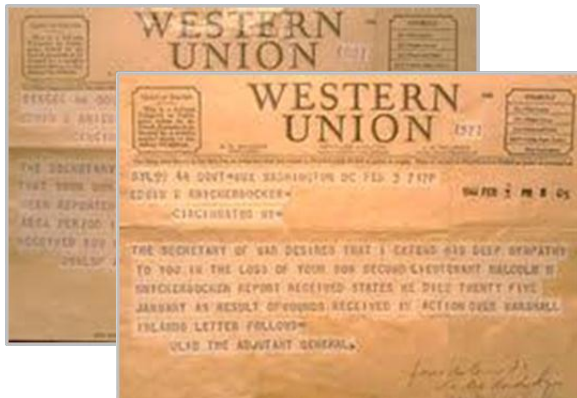
Knickerbocker / Brigham / Bourne / Bryan / Murray
Randall / Glezen / Parks / Wight

This is a history of the Knickerbocker and Parks families of Cincinnatus and Union Valley, NY. It also includes details about many related families.

This is a history, more than a genealogy. In 1639, the earliest ancestor identified here bought land from Indians by giving them blankets and mirrors. By the 1860's various family members were fighting the Civil War, with one cousin going to Andersonville prison. After another 80 years, two uncles were killed on opposite sides of the world during the second World War.

This is a work in progress. It started out as a narrow history of the Knickerbocker family, and is now being broadened to include the Parks and others. Comments, corrections, and extensions are welcome.

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*Malcolm Knickerbocker, January 25, 1944
Richard Knickerbocker, May 12, 1944*

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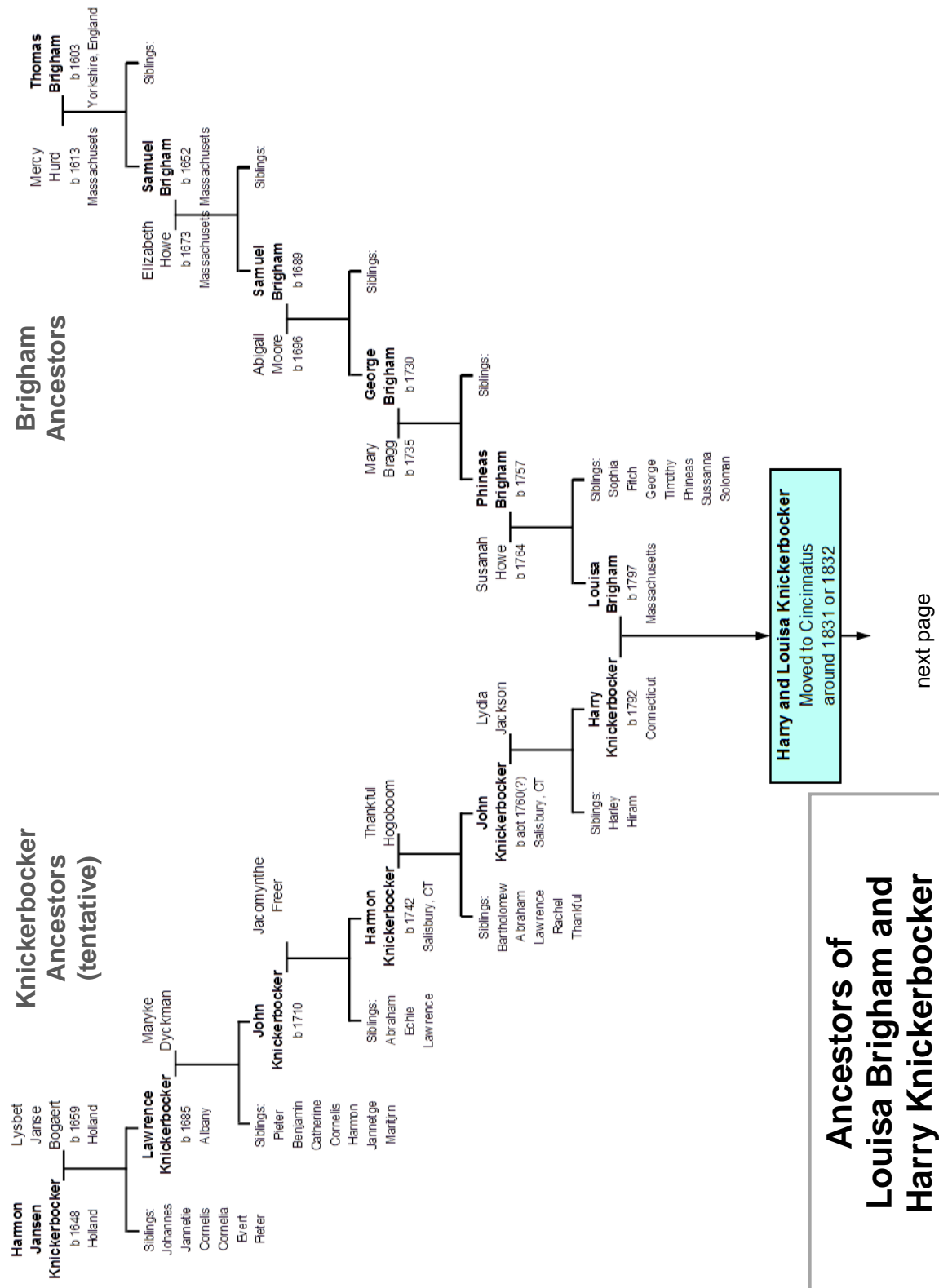
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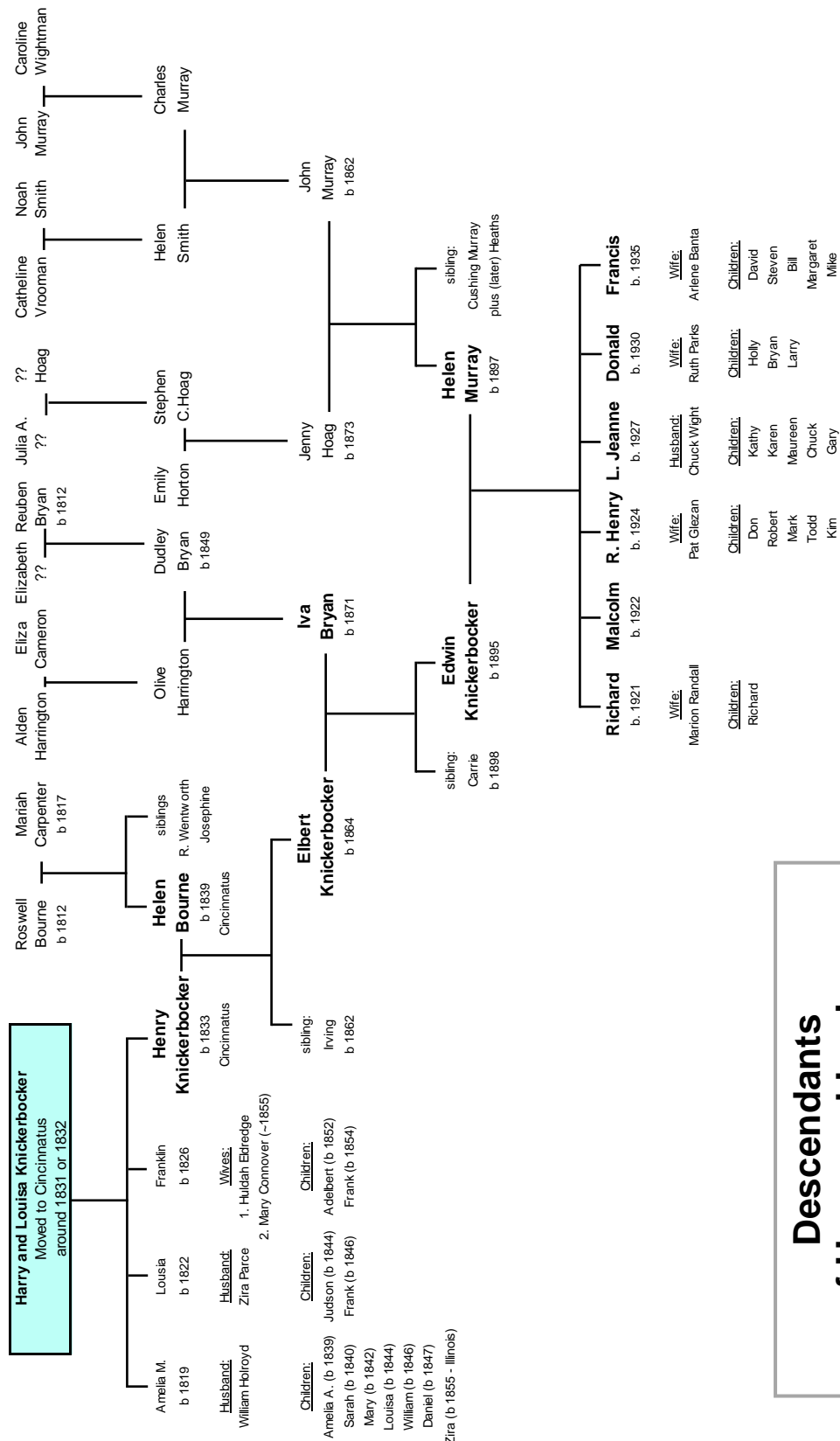
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1. Reference sheets: Simple Family Trees and Who's Who





Brief Summary: Ancestors of the Knickerbockers

Who's Who: Early Generations

This is brief guide. It does not include all family members.

generation number	<u>Knickerbocker</u>	<u>Brigham</u>	<u>Bourne</u>	<u>Bryan</u>	<u>Murray</u>
1	Harmon Van Wye "Knickerbocker"	Thomas Brigham , the Puritan	?	Richard Bryan Son of Alexander, the Puritan	?
2	Laurens	Samuel	?	Richard (2nd)	?
3	John left some land to grandson "Harmon's John"	Samuel	?	Samuel	?
4	Harmon died fairly young	George	?	Reuben (1st)	?
5	John moved from CT to Eaton; later died in Cincinnati	Phinneas ; Revolutionary War vet., married Susanah Howe	?	Reuben Bryan, Sr , early settler of Lafayette; served in NY Militia	?
6	Harry married Louisa Brigham in Eaton, then moved to Cincinnati and bought the farm	Louisa Brigham	Roswell K Bourne , born in Otselec, but his roots are not yet clear	Reuben, Jr , postmaster, etc, who brought the family to Cincinnati	John Murray ; his roots are not yet clear
7	Henry married Helen Bourne siblings: Amelia [<i>Harrold</i>] to Illinois; Franklyn ("FF") to Orleans, NY; Louisa [<i>Parce</i>] to Pitcher, NY		Helen Bourne siblings: R. Wentworth (Civil War); Josephine [<i>Riddell</i>] to Wisconsin	Dudley moved to Cincinnati with his dad, at about age 18	Charles
8	Henry Elbert married Iva Bryan sibling: Irving to Seattle area (Auburn)			Iva Bryan siblings: Abner, Eliza, and Fannie (who was mother of Don & Virginia)	John Murray (died young) and Jennie Hoag , who re- married Clayton Heath
9	Edwin married Helen Murray sibling: Carrie [<i>Newman</i>] to Brooklyn / Binghamton				Helen Murray siblings Cushing Murray; Francis & Donald Heath
10	Richard, Malcolm, Henry, Don, Jeanne, and Francis				

This summarizes the children of Edwin Knickerbocker, and their spouses

Spouses of Generation Number 10

<u>generation number</u>	<u>Knickerbocker</u>	<u>Randall</u>	<u>Glezen</u>	<u>Parks</u>	<u>Wight</u>	<u>Banta</u>
5	John moved from CT to Eaton; he later died in Cincinnati	John Randall	?	James Parks born in CT, moved to Pitcher	Harvey Wight, born in CT, moved to Taylor	?
6	Harry married Louisa Brigham; moved to Cincinnati	Denison	?	James A. not much is known; buried in Pitcher	Eli	?
7	Henry married Helen Bourne	Elias	?	Calvin ("CE") moved to Houston; most of his family followed	Charles, Sr	?
8	Henry Elbert married Iva Bryan	Ralph	William Glezen from Broome County, NY	Everett stayed in NY; 3 of his 4 children died young	Charles, Jr	?
9	Edwin married Helen Murray	John A.	Donald; Doctor, practiced in Cincinnati	Leon was the surviving son; married Stella Eaton	Glenn	Joseph Banta Bay Shore, Long Island, NY
10	Richard Malcolm (never married) Robert (Henry) Don Jeanne Francis	Marion Randall married Richard Knickerbocker	Patricia (Pat) Glezen married Henry Knickerbocker	Marilyn Ruth Parks married Don Knickerbocker	Chuck Wight married Jeane Knickerbocker	Arelene Banta married Francis Knickerbocker



Ancestors of Don Knickerbocker



2. Simplified Maps: Hudson River Valley and Cincinnatus Area

The following shows locations for a few key towns in the Hudson River Valley and Connecticut. (These are among the early locations of families included in this history.)

Eastern New York and Adjacent States



The Hudson River was a major transportation route in the 1600's and 1700's.

The Mohawk river became a major route to the "wilderness" of Western New York by around 1800. This had been a route for Indian travel. By 1800, the colonists had created an "improved road" (typically covered with crushed stone).

The Indian trail and colonist's "Mohawk Turnpike" have long since been replaced by New York State Thruway, which follows the same route.

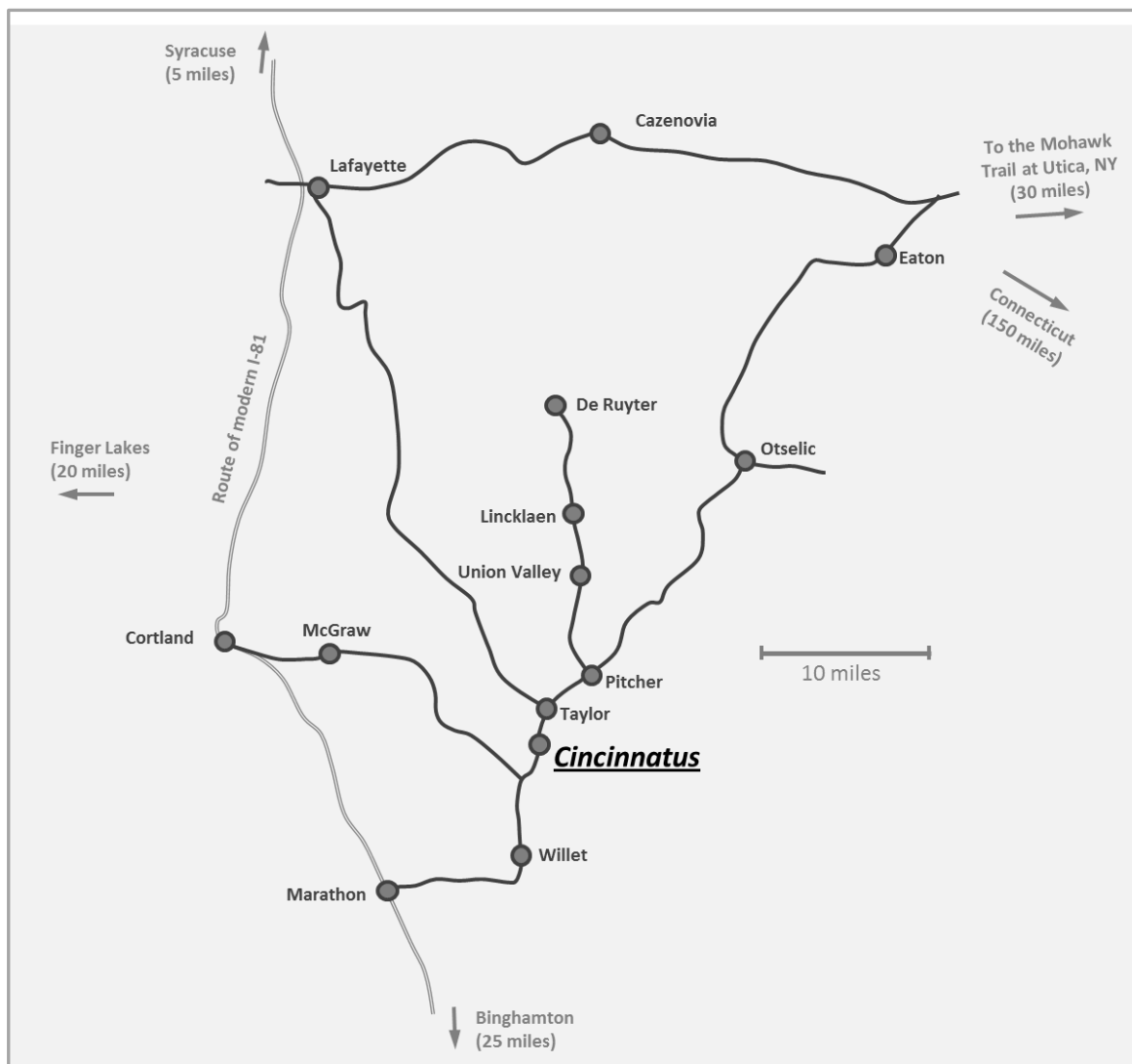
The following map shows the relative locations of several key small towns in the Cincinnatus area.

Many of these towns will be discussed in this history.

The towns in the northern tier, particularly Eaton, NY, were relatively close to the western end of the Mohawk river valley in Utica, NY.

This may be why several families in this history migrated first to the northern part of this area, before later coming to Cincinnatus. This includes the Knickerbocker, Brigham, and Bryan families.

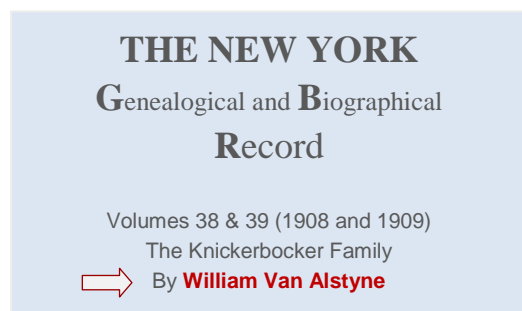
The Cincinnatus Area



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3: Origins of the Famous Name “Knickerbocker”

Origins of the Knickerbocker name



The older history of the Knickerbocker family is well known. A detailed study of the early generations, by Dr. William Van Alstyne, was published in 1908 and 1909, in a periodical called the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record (NYGBR).

This study attempted to document every family member for the first several generation.

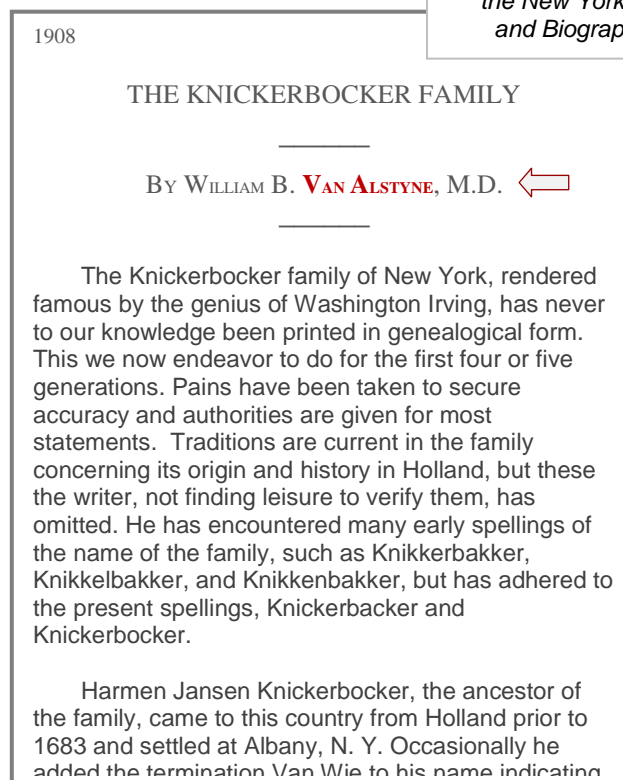
These older editions of the NYGBR are available in e-book form from Google Books.

The first “Knickerbocker” was Harmon Jansen van Wie, born in about 1648 in Holland. He immigrated sometime around 1670.

Harmon’s last name was not actually “Knickerbocker.” In fact, there was apparently nobody in the world named “Niekerbacker,” “Knickerbacker,” or anything even close.

In addition, at that time, the word “Knickerbocker” was not part of the English language. For example, boy’s short pants were not yet called “Knickerbockers.” That came later.

Genealogists have long debated how Harmon’s last name got changed from “van Wie” to “Knickerbocker.”



One theory is a classic immigrant story. Harmon spoke no English, but wanted to buy some land. The county clerk spoke no Dutch, and had to interpret Harmon’s signature. Harmon may have signed the deed with something like “Wie ker back,” which had some meaning in Dutch. The clerk mistook the W for an N, combined the signature into one word, and accidentally invented the last name “Nikerbacke.” Thus, Harmon’s legal last name, for landowning purposes, became Nickerbacke.

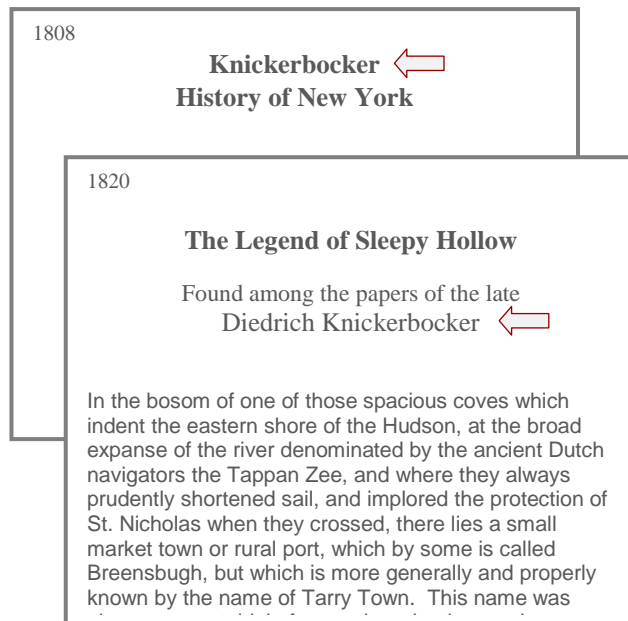
Regardless of how the name “Knickerbocker” got created, the family might have stayed relatively unknown if not for an author named Washington Irving.

Washington Irving makes "Knickerbocker" famous

The name Knickerbocker became famous not because of the size of the family, but because of an author, Washington Irving.

Washington Irving was a struggling young writer in the early 1800's. He developed an interest in the Dutch customs of recent immigrants in the Hudson Valley. At one point, he spent some time visiting the Knickerbocker family.

Washington Irving wound up writing two bestsellers that made the name "Knickerbocker" famous.



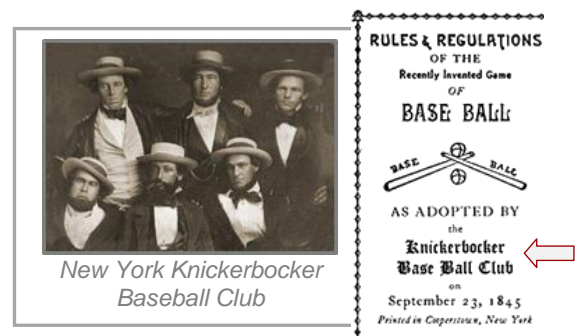
One book is often referred to as *A Knickerbocker History of New York*, though it had a longer title when first published. It did not list Washington Irving as an author. It was supposedly written by Diedrich Knickerbocker. This book is no longer widely available.

The other key book, *The Sketch Book*, was published in 1820. It included two classic short stories, Rip Van Winkle and the Headless Horseman ("The Legend of Sleepy Hollow").

Even today, *The Sketch Book* can be found at bookstores. It still includes the subtitle "Found among the papers of the late Diedrich Knickerbocker" in the heading for the two famous short stories.

Washington Irving's books have been described as the first best sellers written in the U.S. "Knickerbocker" soon became a common word. It also soon became a popular name for any business whose owner wanted to be identified with New York culture. This was especially true in New York City.

Sports teams also began adopting the name. For example, the Knickerbocker Baseball Club was formed in Manhattan in 1845. The Knickerbockers are honored in Cooperstown, and are credited with establishing many of the rules of modern baseball. Harry Cartwright, one of the leaders of the Knickerbockers, worked for a man named Daniel Ebbets. Daniel's son Charles fell in love with the game of baseball, and later built a stadium called Ebbets Field. (Source: *Baseball's First Inning*, William J. Ryczek.)



As a by-product of all this fame, the spelling of the name becomes standardized. Until that time the name was spelled many different ways. Now almost all Knickerbockers use Washington Irving's spelling.

4: The Early History of the Knickerbockers

Summary: Early Knickerbockers

1. Harmen Jansen van Wye
m. Lysbet Bogaert
- ↓
2. Lawrence Knickerbocker
m. Maryke Dyckman
- ↓
3. John Knickerbocker
m. Jacomyntje Freer
- ↓
4. Harmon Knickerbocker
m. Thankful Hogoboom
- ↓
5. John Knickerbocker (moved to Eaton)
m. Lydia Jackson
- ↓
6. Harry Knickerbocker
(moved to Cincinnatus)

The sequence to the left presents the possible origins of the Cincinnatus Knickerbockers. However, there is some uncertainty.

The doubts hinge on the exact identity of the John Knickerbocker who lived in Eaton, New York.

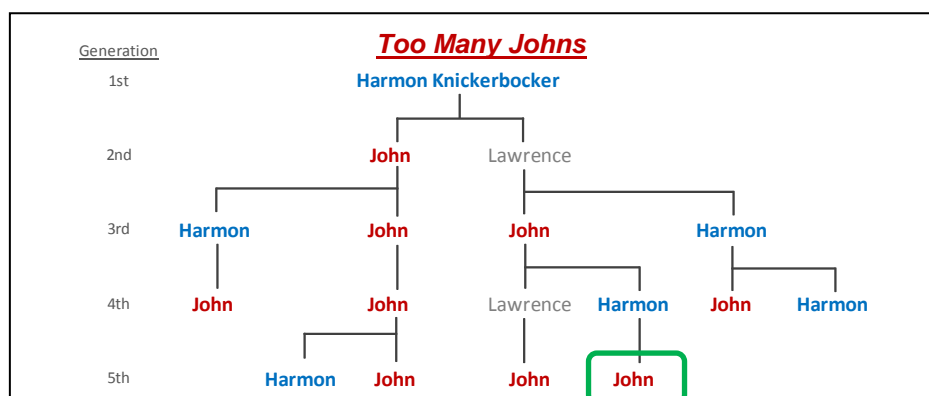
In the lineage shown here, we see John (3rd generation), then Harmon (4th generation), then John (5th generation). The 5th generation John is the one who we believe moved to Eaton.

If we're wrong about which "John" moved to Eaton, then we are wrong in the middle generations.

For now, we are relying on the lineage reported in a book called *Genealogy and Family History of New York*, published in 1913.

See Section 19 for the specific references, and a discussion of concerns raised by more recent genealogists.

The following chart illustrates the problem with identifying John Knickerbocker. This is a tiny slice of the family tree of the early Knickerbockers, focusing only on a few of the children of John and Lawrence:



There are other children in each generation who are not shown here.

Within this tiny slice of the family, there are 9 men named "John." We are lucky that at least some of these families put down roots. For example, the string of "Johns" in the left-center column were based at the Knickerbocker Mansion, north of Albany. They have known histories, and are not ancestors of the Cincinnatus family. However, there are plenty of other men named John, beyond what is shown here.

The green box indicates a specific John Knickerbocker who may connect with the Cincinnatus family; he is known as "Harmon's John." However, the connection might be through a different John. For example, next to the green box is another John, the son of Lawrence. If Lawrence's son had been the true ancestor of the Cincinnatus family, it would have changed the discussion over the next 3 pages, but only in the 4th and 5th generations.

This map indicates the migration pattern of the line of the Knickerbocker family that eventually reached Cincinnatus.

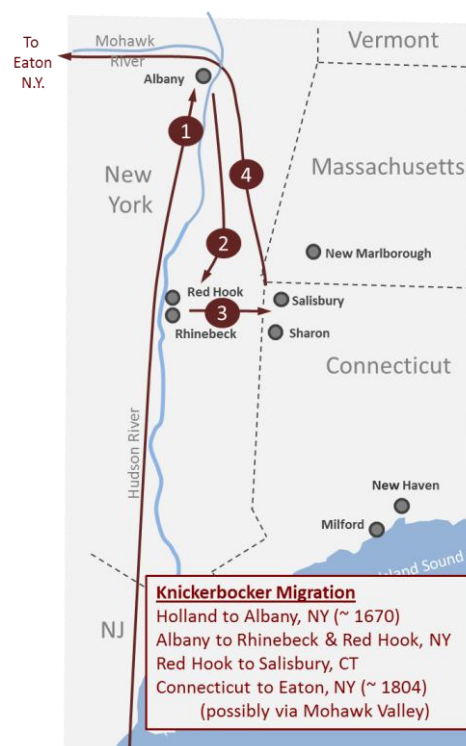
Harmen Knickerbocker immigrated to the Albany area from Holland (1). The next stop for the family was the Red Hook / Rhinebeck area (2). The elder John and his son Harmon lived in Salisbury, in eastern Connecticut (3).

The younger John also lived in Salisbury for a time. (Even if we're wrong about who John's father was, we still have a good understanding of the migration pattern.)

The younger John moved his family to Eaton, NY (4) in about 1804.

(Though not shown here, the 5th step of the migration was when John's son Harry moved his young family from Eaton, NY to Cincinnatus. This was around 1832. This is discussed later.)

The next 3 pages discuss each of the early line of Knickerbockers, beginning with Harmen Knickerbocker. We will identify each key ancestor based on the dates of their birth and death, which are approximate. We will also tie each ancestor to Edwin Knickerbocker, who was the last family member to live out his life on the Cincinnatus farm.



Harmen Jansen van Wye: The first “Knickerbocker”

Harmon was born about 1648 in Holland, and died about 1720 near Albany, NY. Harman Knickerbocker is the 6-great grandfather of Edwin Knickerbocker of Cincinnatus.

Harmon was the first Knickerbocker.

As already discussed, his last name was not originally Knickerbocker.

(The excerpt shown to the right, and the excerpts on the following two pages, are from the Van Alstyne history already discussed.)

Excerpts from Van Alstyne are shown on the next 3 pages

Harmen Jansen Knickerbocker, the ancestor of the family, came to this country from Holland prior to 1683 and settled at Albany, N. Y. Occasionally he added the termination Van Wie to his name indicating that he came from Wie, the present Wyhe, a few miles south of Zwolle, in the Province of Overijssel, Holland.

Harmen Jansen' Knickerbocker, m. about 1681, Lysbet Janse Bogaert, b. in 1659, in Holland, dau. of Jan Laurensen Bogaert and Cornelia Evertse. Jan Laurensen Bogaert with his wife and two children, seven and four years old, came from Schoonderwoerd, a town in South Holland.

Harmen Jansen Knickerbocker died prior to 1722. All of his children were born in this country, probably at Albany, where the younger children were baptized.

1. Johannes," b. in the Colony of Rensselaerwyck; m. 19 Oct., 1 701, at Albany, Anna Quackenbos.
2. Lourens, m. about 1707, Marike Dyckman.
[4 other children are detailed in Van Alstyne]

Lawrence Knickerbocker (possible 5-great-grandfather of Edwin)

Laurence was born about 1685, and died about 1760, both near Albany, NY.

In 1715 Lawrence Knickerbocker was a member of a *[British?]* military company organized and under review at Oak Hill. An oath of abjuration and fealty was required to be taken by office holder in Dutchess County in 1729. Lowerens Knickerbacker, captain, was one of the signers.

In 1750 he lived on Magdalen Island, an island in the Hudson River between the upper and lower Red Hook landings.

Lourens Knickerbocker and Maryke Dyckman had the following children:

1. Benjamin,* m. Aletteka Halenbeck.
2. **John, b. 1710; d. 10 Nov., 1786; m. (1) about 1732, Jacomyntje Freer; m. (2) 22 Feb., 1751, at Sharon, Conn., Jemima Owen.**
3. Harmen, b. 1712; d. 19 Aug., 1805; m. (1) about 1737, Catrina Dutcher; m. (2) Elizabeth .
[6 other children are detailed in Van Alstyne]

Lourens (or Lawrence) is next in the line of ancestors of the Cincinnatus family.

Lawrence moved slightly south from his birthplace of Albany, but stayed along the Hudson River.

John Knickerbocker (possible 4-great-grandfather of Edwin)

John was born in 1710 near Rhinebeck, NY, and died in 1786, near Salisbury, Connecticut.

John Knickerbocker of the 3rd generation was born in New York state but spent most of his life in the northwest part of Connecticut, near the New York border.

Note that this is Lawrence's son John. This is not the John who lived in the Knickerbocker Mansion. This is also not one of the two Johns who served in the Revolutionary War.

The frequent use of the first name "John" by the Knickerbockers contributes to the challenge of tracing anyone named "John Knickerbocker"

John Knickerbocker b. 1710; d. 10 Nov., 1786; buried at Lime Rock, Conn., said to be the first burial in that cemetery; m. (1) Jacomyntje Freer, bap. 4 Nov., 1711, at Kingston, N. Y., dau. of Abraham Freer and Aeche Willems Titsoort; m. (2) 22 Feb., 1751, at Sharon, Conn., Jemima Owen; b. and d. at Sharon, Conn.

The will of John Knickerbocker of Salisbury, Conn., is dated 5 June, 1785, and recorded at Sharon, Conn. He wills his wife Jemima one-half the house and barn and the use of all his land adjoining the house known by the name of the Grant, during her life, also two cows, one horse and six sheep, firewood, necessary timber, etc., also one year's provisions, viz., meats and bread, and one-hundred weight of live swine.

...

To **Harman's John, so-called**, and my grandson, he wills twenty-five acres, with the house his father built.

The children of John Knickerbocker include:

4. Harmon (Herman), b. 3 Jan., 1741/2, according to Salisbury records, but 13 Jan., 1742, according to the Athens church records, spon. to baptism being Herm. Knickerbocker and wife Catha.; d. prior to June, 1785; m. Thankful .

[other children are also detailed in Van Alstyne]

Harmon Knickerbocker (possible 3-great-grandfather of Edwin)

Harmon was born in 1742, and died in about 1780, both near Salisbury, CT.

Harmon may have lived his entire life in Connecticut, though tax records suggest some gaps. His wife's name was Thankful, a common name in those times. In recent times, she has been identified as Thankful Hogoboom. (The Hogoboos were another family of early settlers, and had many interactions with Knickerbockers.) Thankful re-married in about 1785, suggesting Harmon's death was before that date.

Harmon (Hermon)* Knickerbocker b. in Salisbury, CT. Date was recorded as 13 Jan 1742, according to Athens, N. Y., church records where his baptism is recorded; m. Thankful.

Children included:

1. John, b, 15 Sept., 1766, at Salisbury, Conn.
[other children are also detailed in Van Alstyne]

Harmon apparently built a house on part of his father's farm, and had several children.

Harmon is reported to have died during or shortly after the Revolutionary War. Some sources say he died of wounds obtained during the war, but this may not be true. He is not one of the seven Knickerbockers recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution for service during the war. (There was a Harmonus Knickerbocker who is mentioned as having served in the militia, but this was a different person.)

It is clear that Harmon passed away before his father John, which is why Harmon's father left a house and some land to Harmon's oldest son (also named John).

John Knickerbocker (2-great-grandfather of Edwin)

John was born in about 1760 in Connecticut, and died in 1860 in Cincinnatus.

We know that John Knickerbocker is an ancestor of the Cincinnatus family. John is buried in the Lower Cincinnatus Cemetery. There is no doubt that John is the 2-great-grandfather of Edwin.

Furthermore, we know that John lived for a time in Salisbury, Connecticut, and that he later moved to Eaton, New York.

However, we cannot prove that John was actually the son of Herman (or Harmon). Some modern researchers doubt the accuracy of the biography below. (This uncertainty is described in section 19 at the end of this document.)

According to this biography, John Knickerbocker of the 5th generation was the son of Herman, was born in Connecticut, spent much of his adulthood in Eaton, New York, and died in Cincinnatus.

Though this publication gives his birth as 1766, we believe it was closer to 1760. Also, his death was 1860, not 1876.

John, son of Herman, was born in Salisbury, Conn. 15 Sep 1766. His father, dying soon after the close of the revolution, John Knickerbocker lived with his uncle until 1804, when he removed to Eaton, Madison County, New York and settled on a tract of land near Leland's Pond.

He married Lydia Jackson.

Late in life he went to reside with his son Henry at Cincinnatus, Cortland County, New York where he died about 1876.

Cuyler Reynolds, "Genealogy and Family History of Southern New York, published in 1913, pgs. 995 – 997. Transcribed by George F. Walker.

The above biography of John states that he went to live with his son Henry. This is incorrect; he went to live with son Harry and *grandson* Henry. (It is possible that this confusion was due to Harry being called "Henry" in a census record, or that the two names were sometimes interchanged at the time. However, we will always call the son Harry, and the grandson Henry.)

Harry moved from Eaton, New York to Cincinnatus; he is the founder the Cincinnatus family.

Harry's father John eventually moved to Cincinnatus. He lived there from about 1855 until he died in 1860. John is the weak link in connecting the original immigrant family and the Cincinnatus Knickerbockers. Part of this uncertainty is reflected in a Section 19 of this report.

There is also some doubt about how many children John had. Norma Moberg, a descendant of Peter Knickerbocker, provided initial guidance on the children of John and Lydia. Here is an updated version:

Peter b. 1789; moved from Eaton to Jersey Shore PA and then Potter, PA.

Harmon b. about 1790; Not much is known about this son; not even sure of his name.

Harry b. 1792; moved from Eaton to buy a farm in Cincinnatus.

Harley b. 1796; taught school in Potter, PA, but then returned; died in Eaton in 1881.

Hiram b. 1797; lived in Madison County for about 50 years; died in Athens, Mich, in 1878.

Daughter b. about 1794 ? No information about this daughter.

Lucy b. 1800, wife of Albert Howard, d. Volney, Oswego, NY.

All of the children were born in Connecticut.

Of Harry's brothers, we know the most about Harley, whose life is fairly well documented in biographies and newspaper stories. Some newspaper articles about Harley also mention his brothers Peter and Hiram. Some extra information about Peter is found in the obituary of his daughter, Lucy Holcomb of Portville, NY. We know less about Hiram, but have newspaper articles from Madison County documenting some of his activities, and that he died in Michigan. We believe there was another brother, but we have very little information.

Of Harry's sisters, we have solid links to Lucy, as discussed in Section 19. We think there was another sister, but we don't know her name.

It is important to note that John had at least 4 sons. This influences genealogists who are trying to link the makeup of John's family to specific census records. (Early census records show the number of males and females, but don't show children's names.)



Artist's rendering of
one of the 2nd
generation
Knickerbockers from
the Albany area.

Source: *Harper's
Monthly Magazine.*

In December, 1876, Harper's Monthly Magazine ran a feature called "The Knickerbockers of New York Two Centuries Ago." The 1876 Harper's Monthly is now available as an e-book.

The focus of the story was on the Knickerbocker family who owned the mansion in Schaghticoke, north of Albany.

This story it is not considered to be a reliable source of information about the Knickerbocker family.

5: The Early History of Central New York

Before jumping to how the Knickerbockers and related families reached Cincinnatus, here is a very brief discussion of New York history for the period around 1800.

The entire state of New York was very different than today. For example, slavery was still legal. (It was outlawed in New York state beginning in 1817.) There were Knickerbockers in New York State who owned slaves. One Knickerbocker cousin received a slave as a wedding present.

From the Van Alstyne history:

Susanna Belden [a Knickerbocker cousin, and resident of eastern New York] received Betsy, a slave, aged six years, as a wedding gift from her great-uncle

Central New York, prior to the Revolutionary War, was wilderness and considered Indian Territory. After the war, the government “purchased” the land from the Native American tribes, and gave part of it to war veterans.

Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants

The first act granting bounty lands in New York was passed in 1781. This and subsequent acts set aside land in the Finger Lakes region in central New York. Some of the land was purchased from the Onondaga, Cayuga, Oneida, and Tuscaroras Indian Nations.

The Military Tract consisted of 60,000 acres, divided into 28 townships, subdivided into farm lots of 600 acres. Each town was named after a classical literary hero. Included were the present-day counties of Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga and Seneca and parts of Oswego, Schuyler, Tompkins, and Wayne.

New York held a lottery for the land. Veterans’ names were written on slips of paper and drawn from a box.

The land was to be settled within seven years and certain fees such as surveying costs had to be paid. Four lots from each township were set aside for use of schools and churches, some were given or sold by the state to fulfill other obligations.

Only part of the land was ever settled by the veterans. Because of the time that it took for the state to get clear title, many became impatient and sold their rights to land speculators.

The amount of land set aside varied from 500 acres for privates, to 5500 acres for major generals.

N.Y. GenWeb

Regardless of the morality of how the country treated either Native Americans or slaves, it is important to note that the area surrounding and to the north of Cincinnatus was opened to settlers shortly after the Revolutionary War. To support the western migration, the state of New York approved the construction of “turnpikes” (toll roads covered with crushed stone). One of these toll roads paralleled the Mohawk River, bringing settlers into the areas south of today’s city of Syracuse. This is one way a settler could have reached towns such as Eaton or Lafayette.

The following sections of this report deal with families from the Cincinnatus area. You will see a common theme: Many of the families in the area are easily traced back to around 1800, as part of this westward migration. Tracing back farther than 1800 is more difficult.



Mohawk Turnpike (toll road),
west of Albany NY

*The Mohawk Valley,
William Max Reid, 1908*

6: The Cincinnatus Family, 1800's through 1950's

The Knickerbockers have been in Cortland County since roughly 1832, which seems a long time.

However, the Knickerbockers were not one of the original families that settled the county after the Revolutionary War. That had happened about 30 years earlier. (The elder Knickerbockers had stopped in Eaton. They had not come directly to Cincinnatus.)

The first Knickerbockers in Cincinnatus were Harry and Louisa. They arrived in about 1832.

At this point, none of the other families that would sustain the Knickerbocker line had arrived in Cortland County.

Summary: Cincinnatus Knickerbockers

Harry Knickerbocker
m. Louisa Brigham



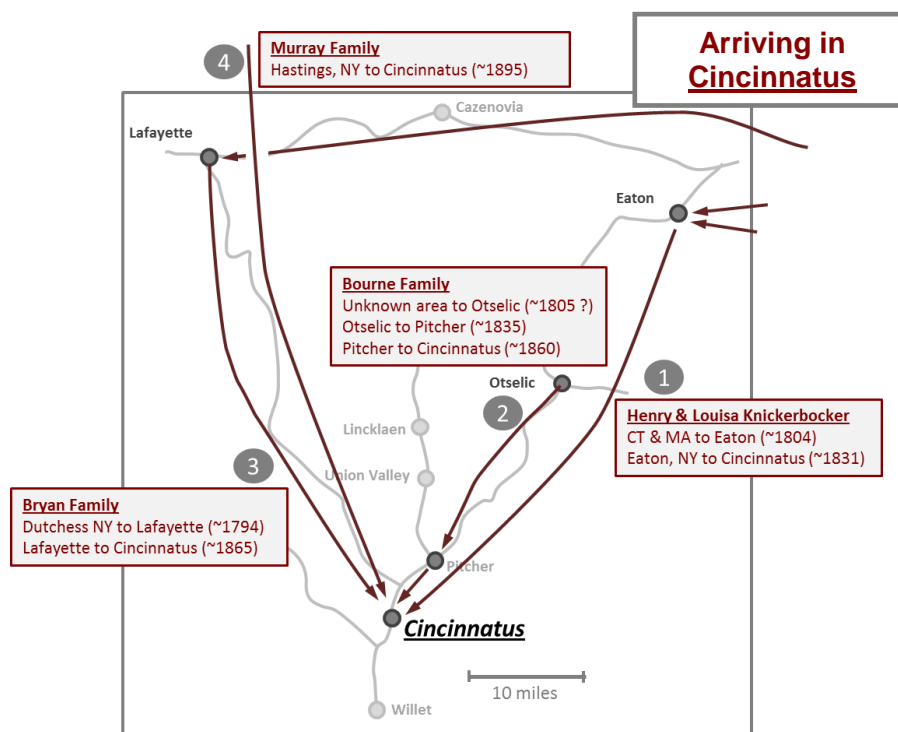
Henry Knickerbocker
m. Helen Bourne



H. Elbert Knickerbocker
m. Iva Bryan



Edwin Knickerbocker
m. Helen Murray



The families who gave birth to the Knickerbocker spouses all arrived after Harry and Louisa.

They arrived in Cincinnatus in sequence.

The Bourne family arrived in about 1860.

The Bryan family arrived in about 1865.

The Murray family arrived in about 1895.

More information about all the spouses can be found starting in Section 7.

Harry Knickerbocker and Louisa Brigham (Great-Grandparents of Edwin)

Harry was born in 1792, and died in 1871.

Louisa was born in 1797, and died in 1860. Both Harry & Louisa died in Cincinnatus.

Harry was born in Connecticut, and was about 12 when his father John moved the family to Eaton, New York. Harry married Louisa Brigham in 1817. Louisa was born in Massachusetts, but had also moved to Eaton with her family. Both the Knickerbockers and Brighams arrived in Eaton in about 1804.

The history of Louisa Brigham is well known. More of her history – and the history of other spouses of the Cincinnatus Knickerbockers – can be found starting in Section 7 of this document.

About 14 years after they married, when Harry was about 39, Harry and Louisa moved to Cincinnatus and bought a farm. This is the same farm that is still owned by the Knickerbockers today.

Harry's father John joined them later, apparently after Harry's mother, Lydia, had died. John died in 1860, and is buried in Lower Cincinnatus, next to Harry and Louisa.

Louisa Knickerbocker also died in 1860. Harry lived another 11 years. In the interim, Harry remarried a younger woman, Climena Lotridge. Climena is in the 1860 census as a single women, living with Lotridge family members. In 1870 she is Climena Knickerbocker, living with Harry. By 1880, she shows up as Climena Knickerbocker, once again living with Lotridge family members. (Harry was dead by the 1880 census.) County historic records suggest she lived some of her later life near the Baptist church in Lower Cincinnatus. Climena Knickerbocker is buried in Upper Cincinnatus, with other Lotridge family members.

Records of Harry's life are scarce. He apparently moved to Cincinnatus around 1832. His three oldest children (Amelia, Louisa, and Franklyn) were born in Eaton. His youngest son, Henry, was the first Knickerbocker born in Cincinnatus, in 1833.

Harry's family is shown to the right. We have labeled Harry and Louisa as generation 6, since each represented the 6th generation of their families in this country.

6 Harry Knickerbocker
m. Louisa Brigham
7 Amelia M. Knickerbocker (b 1819)
m. William Holroyd (b 1812, England)
7 Louisa Knickerbocker (b 1822, d 1854)
m. Zira Parce (b 1817)
7 Franklyn Fitch Knickerbocker (b 1826)
m1. Huldah Eldridge; b about 1831, m about 1850
m2. Mary Connover, b about 1829, m about 1855
7 Henry Knickerbocker (b 1833)
m. Helen Bourne (b 1839, m 1861)

A few details for the children of Harry and Louisa Knickerbocker are given on the next three pages.

Current Events during the life of Harry Knickerbocker

Harry Knickerbocker was born in 1792, the year of the second presidential election in the United States. George Washington ran unopposed and was re-elected. There were still only the original 13 states.

Harry moved to Eaton, NY, with his parents in 1804. Thomas Jefferson was President. Lewis and Clark were starting their journey westward. Abraham Lincoln would not be born for another five years.

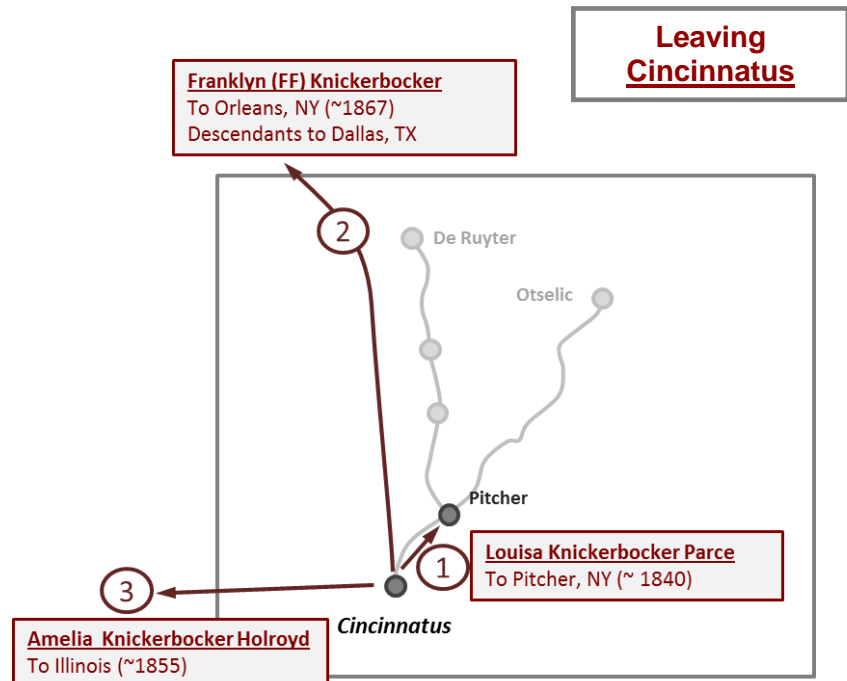
By the time Harry died in 1871, there were 37 states. Abraham Lincoln had been dead for six years, and the Civil War was over. Ulysses S. Grant was President.

Three of the children of Harry and Louisa moved from the family farm.

Amelia would move the farthest, to Wyanet, Illinois, west of Chicago.

Louisa would move less than 10 miles, to the town of Pitcher.

Franklyn moved to the town of Holley, in Orleans county, west of Rochester N.Y. (Some of his later descendants settled in Dallas, Texas.)



Amelia Knickerbocker, the daughter of Harry and Louisa, married William Holroyd, pastor of the Cincinnatus Baptist Church. William had immigrated from Wainsgate, England, around 1830. William served as pastor at local churches, including in Lincklaen, where some of the Parks family ancestors lived. William and Amelia Holroyd later moved to Wyanet, Illinois, sometime around 1852. Wyanet, is a small town about 120 miles west of Chicago.

(In addition, William Holroyd's brother, Mark Holroyd II, also married Knickerbockers. He married Cordelia Knickerbocker, a cousin of Amelia's living in Eaton, NY. Then, when Cordelia died, Mark married Susan Knickerbocker, another cousin of Amelia's from Eaton. Both Cordelia and Susan were daughters of Harley Knickerbocker of Eaton; see page 19.)

Amelia's oldest daughter was also named Amelia. Sometime around 1850, the daughter sewed a large wall hanging with the names of family members. A descendant still has the wall hanging, which says:

Amelia M Knickerbocker born August 22, 1819
m. William Holroyd born April 10, 1812
Children: Amelia A Holroyd born January 26, 1839
Sarah C Holroyd born July 17, 1840
Mary S Holroyd born April 1, 1842
Louisa S Holroyd born March 2, 1844
William H Holroyd born January 3, 1846
Daniel A Holroyd born October 31, 1847



Zira Holroyd
1855-1943
Wyanet, Illinois
*Grandson of Harry and
Louisa Knickerbocker*



Amelia Knickerbocker Holroyd had one more child after the wall hanging was complete. She appears to have named this last child after her brother-in-law (Zira Parce) and brother (Franklyn Knickerbocker).

Zira Franklin Holroyd was born in June, 1855, and died in 1943.

William Holroyd died in 1874; Amelia died in 1900. Both apparently died in Wyanet, Illinois.

Louisa Knickerbocker, the daughter of Harry and Louisa, married Zira Parce of North Pitcher.

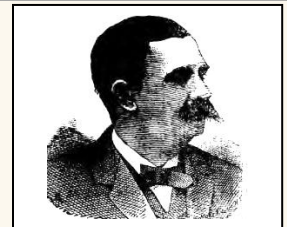
Louisa and Zira Parce had two sons, Judson and Frank, before Louisa died at about age 32.

Judson Parce was severely wounded at the second battle of Bull Run.

Frank Parce remained in the Norwich area

After Louisa died, Zira married Mariette Card, and had an additional son, Dwight.

South Otselic - Judson Parce was born in North Pitcher, where he resided until 18 years old. At that early age he enlisted in the 76th Regt. N.Y. Volunteers. His term of service was short. At the second battle of Bull Run his right knee and lower leg were shattered by a Rebel bullet, so badly that the surgeons declared the limb must be amputated. He refused to permit the operation, and after spending several weeks in the hospital was brought home, where he slowly recovered. Truly patriotic, he again offered his services, but was rejected because of a disability from the wound. When the examining surgeon pronounced against him, young Parce burst into tears.



*Judson Parce, 1844 – 1884
grandson of Harry and
Louisa Knickerbocker*

Mr. Parce married Miss Francis Mead of Laurens, Otsego Co. No children were born to them. But two members of his father's family survive – Frank B., a merchant at Norwich, and Dwight A., who has been with him at South Otselic. His father, Zira S. Parce, moved to Kansas, where he died 10 years ago. His mother has been dead some thirty years.

De Ruyter Gleaner, January 1 1885

Note: This history is now reaching the late 1800's, when newspapers became more widespread. We will illustrate many key points using newspaper articles. Most news articles were found on an amazing website, fultonhistory.com.

Current Events: The Civil War (1861–1865)

The Civil War was the key national event in the 1860's. Many young men from the Cincinnati area fought in the war. As discussed above, Louisa Knickerbocker Parce's son Judson was severely wounded at Bull Run. Section 8 includes a discussion of the service of Helen Bourne's brother, who was captured by the Confederates at Gettysburg, and imprisoned at Belle Island. Section 13 briefly discusses Everett Fuller, who was a prisoner at Andersonville, and died as a prisoner of the Confederates.

However, there were no Cincinnati Knickerbockers in the Civil War. Henry was the only young Knickerbocker male in town. He was 28 when the war started, and was getting ready to marry Helen Bourne, in December, 1861.

Franklyn Fitch ("F.F.") Knickerbocker was the son of Harry and Louisa. His middle name (Fitch) was in honor of Louisa's younger brother, Fitch Brigham. The most notable thing we know about Fitch Brigham is that he is mentioned in the memoirs of Brigham Young, who was a cousin of both Louisa and Fitch. (See section 7.)

F.F. married Hulda Eldredge, with whom he had two sons, Adelbert Brigham (b 1852) and Frank Eldredge (F.E., b 1854). Hulda died a few weeks after giving birth to son F.E. Soon thereafter, F.F. remarried. His second wife was Mary Conover.

At one point F.F. had a farm just across the road from his father's farm. However, he sold his land and left Cincinnatus around 1867, relocating to Orleans county, west of Rochester, NY. According to newspaper stories, he and the Cincinnatus family continued to visit each other for many years.

There are many stories about F.F. in the Holley newspaper. The obituary of his second wife is shown here.

This obituary clarifies that F.F. had an adopted daughter named Kate. Kate's obituary states she was born in Coventry, a small town southeast of Cincinnatus.

Kate may have been Catherine Hinesman. The connections between Kate, the Conovers, and the Knickerbockers, may have been through Mary Conover's mother (who was apparently born in Coventry) and Mary's older sister (who was married, and living in Cincinnatus, at about the time Hulda Eldredge died).

Frank Eldredge (FE) worked for many years for the railroad in New York state. When he had health problems, he worked from 1894 to 1898 for a Texas railroad company. He then returned to Batavia, in western New York, for the remainder of his life. One of his sons (also named Frank) would live in Dallas permanently, establishing a long line of Frank Knickerbockers that persists to the present day.



Frank Knickerbocker
1877-1929
Dallas, Texas
*Great Grandson of Harry and
Louisa Knickerbocker*

Adelbert worked for the New York Central railroad for 41 years. His home for most of his life was in Holley, New York, where his father also lived.

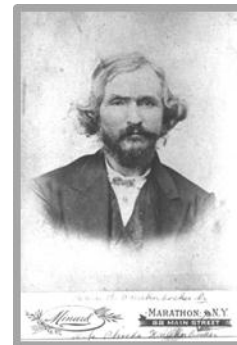
Other Knickerbockers in the Cincinnatus Area, and the “Great Alvin Hunt”

By the mid 1800's, there were other Knickerbockers in towns near Cincinnatus. Just as with the Cincinnatus family, the lineage of some of these other families has become unclear.

At the time, though, all the families apparently knew their own histories. From 1919 to 1963, there were many large Knickerbocker reunions held in nearby towns such as Marathon, which is only 12 miles from Cincinnatus. Knickerbockers came from all over – New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, etc. A total of about 35 reunions were held. Many attendance lists still exist. There is no record of a Cincinnatus Knickerbocker ever attending even one reunion. Even today, the oral history in Cincinnatus is that “we’re not closely related to those other families.” This may be true.

One of those other families is now known as the “Descendants of Alvin.” Alvin was born in about 1816 somewhere in New York’s southern tier. Three of his sons served in the Civil War. He died in 1878 in Marathon.

Alvin certainly knew where he came from, but we don’t. Several descendants of Alvin started the “Great Alvin Hunt,” without much success. Dave Knickerbocker (dknickerbocker@cfl.rr.com) and George Walker (gwalker@verizon.net) are eager to find anyone with knowledge, or even vague hints. (Recent DNA testing has provided some clues.)



Alvin B. Knickerbocker
(Alvin's son)
Circa 1875

Henry Knickerbocker and Helen Bourne (Grandparents of Edwin)

Harry was born in 1833, and died in 1907, both in Cincinnatus.

Helen was born in 1839 in nearby Chenango County, and died in 1927 in Cincinnatus.

Henry was the youngest child of Harry and Louisa Knickerbocker, and was apparently the first Knickerbocker born in Cincinnatus.

Henry led a quiet life:

Henry Knickerbocker spent his entire life of 73 years on the farm owned by his father. He was unassuming yet took an active interest in the welfare of the place, in politics and especially educational matters. From the time of the opening of Cincinnatus Academy in 1856 until it was turned into a Union School in 1895, with the exception of the first two years, he was a member of the Board of Trustees and more than 25 years its secretary.

Cortland County Historic Society

7 Henry Knickerbocker (b 1833, d 1907)
m. Helen Bourne (b 1839, d 1927)
8 Irving Knickerbocker (b 1864, d 1954)
m. Olivia Pauley (b. 1871, d. 1945)
8 Henry Elbert Knickerbocker (b 1870, d 1939)
m. Iva Bryan (b 1871, d. 1948)

Henry married Helen Bourne in 1861, shortly after her family had moved to Cincinnatus.

Henry and Helen had two sons: Irving, born in 1864, and Henry Elbert, born in 1870.

The Bourne / Knickerbocker / Murray / Hoag / Heath House in Cincinnatus

Section 8 gives more history on Helen Bourne Knickerbocker, but we will note one small-town connection here. This one house was owned or occupied by five key families: Bournes, Knickerbockers, Murrays, Hoags, and Heaths.

When Helen Bourne was a teenager, her father Roswell moved the family from Pitcher to West Main Street in Cincinnatus. When Roswell Bourne and his wife died, Helen Bourne Knickerbocker took ownership of the house. She rented the house to a young lawyer, John Murray, who had just come from Smithfield Flats. John would soon marry a Smithfield Flats girl, Jennie Hoag, and have a daughter, Helen Murray; she would later marry Edwin Knickerbocker. Thus, Helen Bourne Knickerbocker's childhood home was also the childhood home of her granddaughter-in-law, Helen Murray Knickerbocker.

When John Murray died, Helen's father Stephen Hoag apparently helped buy the house from the Knickerbockers, making sure that Jennie and her children had a place to live. Later, this would become known as the Heath house, after Jennie Hoag's second husband. Edwin's children remember playing in the Heath house, but didn't know the house had been associated with so many ancestors.

Today, Bournes, Murrays, Knickerbockers, and Heaths are buried a few hundred feet behind the house.

Irving Knickerbocker (Son of Henry; Uncle of Edwin)

Irving was born in Cincinnatus in 1864.

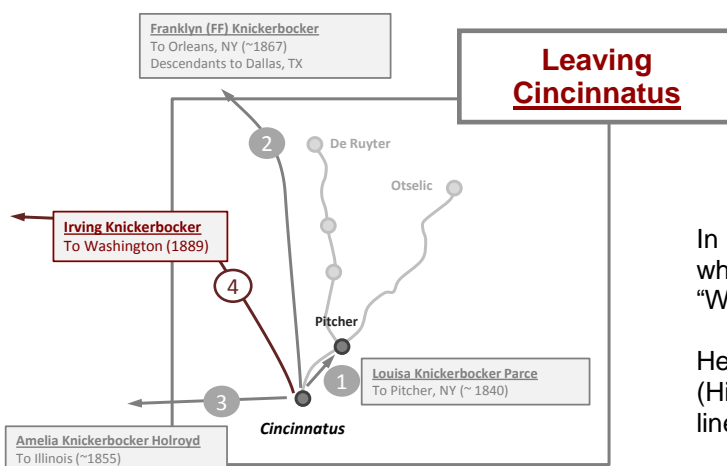
He died in 1954 in Auburn, Washington (near Seattle).

Irving was the oldest son of Henry and Helen Knickerbocker.

Irving became a lawyer, like his grandfather Roswell K. Bourne, and his uncle Roswell W. Bourne. He passed his bar exams while living in New York. His travels during his education are not clear, though he may have spent some time in Auburn, New York. (See below.)



White River Valley Museum
Auburn, WA



In 1889, at age 25, Irving moved to what was then known as the "Washington Territories."

He left New York on June 20, 1889. (His departure was noted in a one line story in the newspaper.)

It is unclear what led Irving to move west. Just before he left, he was listed in the Cortland directory of 1889 as a lawyer and surrogates clerk, working for Stratton S. Knox, the County Judge and Surrogate.

(This is the Stratton Knox who became prominent in Cortland, including a leadership role in a major bank. This is similar to the path Irving would follow.)

Irving became well known in Auburn.

Much history is available on the Internet, and more from the White River historic library in Auburn.

Irving B. Knickerbocker

One of Auburn's most notable movers and shakers, Mr. Knickerbocker was a noted attorney, an astute businessman, and a land developer. The son of a prominent New York family, he passed his bar exams in 1889 and immediately came west to settle in Auburn.

With an early partner, John Gordon, he soon represented and served on the boards of several of Auburn's major industries, including Northern Clay Company. He also formed a banking firm on Main Street with Oscar Christopher and Henry Howard.

In 1908, he was appointed Assistant Attorney General of Washington by Governor John Atkinson and also served as a State Senator.

His record of 44 years of service as Auburn City Attorney is particularly noteworthy. Knickerbocker was equally important as a shrewd land developer, having replatted a large portion of the town of Milner and annexing it to Auburn. There are also indications that his influence was instrumental in changing the town's name from Slaughter to Auburn, after his own hometown in New York.

www.auburnwa.gov

Washington State Senate Resolution 1991-8615

Whereas, on February 23, 1886, Auburn's founders, Levi and Mary Ballard, filed the plat for the town of Slaughter, and

Whereas, the town's name was officially changed to Auburn in 1893 at the urging of new arrivals like Irving B. Knickerbocker, a former resident of Auburn, New York, and along-time leader in Auburn, Washington's civic affairs

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Senate congratulate the city of Auburn on the eve of its 100th birthday.

Gordon Golob, Secretary of the Senate

apps.leg.was.gov/documents/
(this is an excerpt from a longer document)

Irving is frequently cited as having a link to Auburn, New York. Some stories suggest he was born there.

However, there is no doubt about this being the right Irving. His death certificate lists his parents as Henry and Helen Knickerbocker, and some biographies mention the Bourne family.

Irving married Olivia Pauley in King County, Washington. She was interested in genealogy, and ultimately became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution via her family's ancestors. A partial listing of her family history is available on the DAR website.

Children of Irving and Olivia are listed in the 1910 census.

Olivia died in 1945. Irving died in 1954.

	Approx. Birth
Helen E. Knickerbocker	1894
Irving S. Knickerbocker	1898
Rosa M. Knickerbocker	1902
Henry B. Knickerbocker	1908

One of the children of Irving and Olivia achieved some notoriety, but then died young:

Irving S. Knickerbocker was a sergeant during World War I, and went on to be a well-known cartoonist. He was known as "Knick." Some of his cartoons can be found on the Internet.

He died in 1930 in a car accident near Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland, February 3, 1930

Irving S. Knickerbocker, known as "Knick" to thousands of newspaper readers through his comic drawings and sketches, which appeared daily in newspapers throughout the country, is dead as a result of an automobile accident here.

Funeral services will be held at Auburn, Washington, the home of Knickerbocker's parents.

Knickerbocker was born in Auburn, Washington and roved over the country in search of adventure while he was still in his teens. He worked on a farm, in a lumber camp, and on a railroad, enlisted in the army the day the United States entered the world war, and served in France with the A.E.F. After the war he spent some time as a sailor on an ocean liner, and then came ashore and studied art.

Newspaper Enterprise Association



Cartoon by
Irving S. Knickerbocker
September 13, 1929

Cartoons.osu.edu

There are now many Knickerbockers in the Auburn and Seattle areas. We have not tried to link this history with the modern families.

Henry Elbert Knickerbocker and Iva Bryan (Parents of Edwin)

Henry Elbert was born in 1870, and died in 1939, both in Cincinnatus.

Iva was born in 1871, probably in Cincinnatus, and died in 1948 in Cincinnatus.

Henry Elbert was usually called either Elbert or H.E. He spent most of his life on the Knickerbocker farm, then moved into a house on Taylor Avenue in Cincinnatus in 1923. Elbert Knickerbocker married Iva Bryan around 1894. She grew up on a hill farm above the Knickerbockers. (See section 9.)

Elbert died in 1939:

H. E. Knickerbocker Dies at Cincinnatus

Henry Elbert Knickerbocker, 68, died of pneumonia at his home on Taylor Avenue January 18, 1939. He was born December 12, 1870 to Henry and Helen Bourne Knickerbocker on the Knickerbocker Farm now occupied by his son, Edwin.

He spent all his life in this community, graduating from the old academy and occupying the old Knickerbocker Homestead. He moved to the village about sixteen years ago, but still worked a farm on West Hill. He was a mason, justice of the peace, treasurer of the school board and attended the Methodist Church.

He leaves a host of friends and admirers, who will miss his wise and friendly interest and advice. Although a quiet, reserved man, his influence has been felt through out the community, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

Cortland County Historic Society

Elbert and Iva had two children, Edwin and Carrie. Their histories will be discussed starting on the next page.

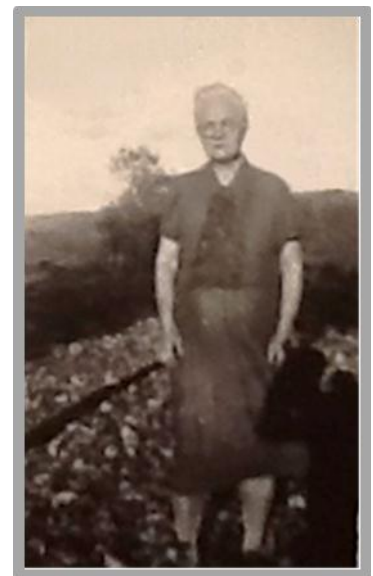
Current Events During the Life of Iva Bryan Knickerbocker

Iva Bryan Knickerbocker lived through one of the greatest periods of change in history.

She was born in 1871. She was five years old when Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, and eight years old when Thomas Edison invented the incandescent light bulb. She was in her 30's for the Ford Model A, the Wright Brothers, and the first commercial use of radio. She was in her 50's when penicillin was discovered.

Until about 1923, Iva lived on the West Hill above Cincinnatus, first on the Bryan farm, then the Knickerbocker farm. Thus she spent her first 50 years without phone service (which reached the farms in the 30's) or electricity (which finally made it to the Knickerbocker farm around 1945.)

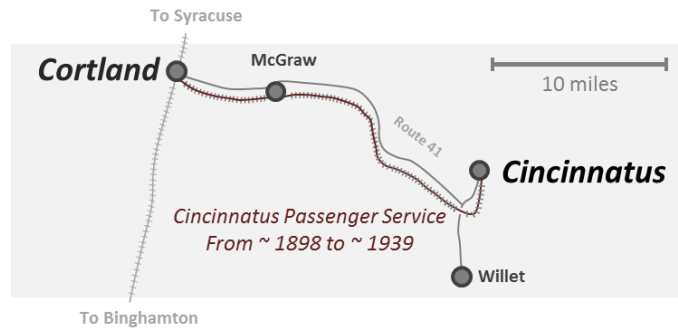
She grew up with horses and buggies, but before she died, her two oldest grandsons would become pilots in the second of the two World Wars. The "telegrams" announcing the deaths of her grandsons were actually transmitted by phone.



Iva Bryan Knickerbocker
(around 1940)

The Glory Days of Cincinnatus

Cincinnatus went through some of its best economic times during the lives of Elbert and Iva Knickerbocker. One contributor was the start of railroad service in 1898. This was a boost for the local economy. From downtown Cincinnatus, passengers and freight could connect to major rail lines and reach cities in New York and elsewhere.



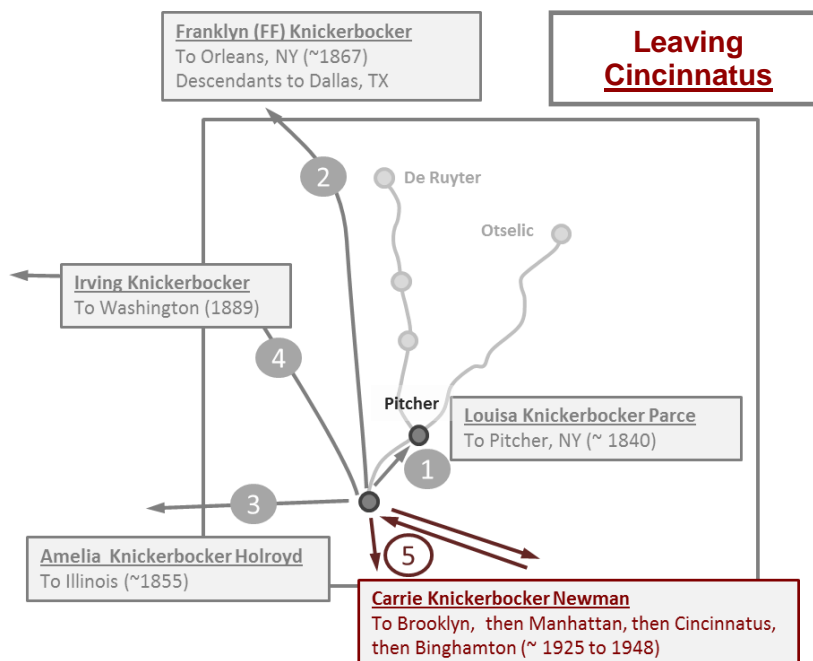
However, this was near the end of the dominant period for railroads. The Ford Model A was introduced in 1903, and by 1920 there were more than 7 million cars in the U.S. It was now possible to drive to Cortland in your own car. Passenger service from Cincinnatus ceased in 1939, due to lack of customer demand.

The good economic times in the town of Cincinnatus lasted until roughly the end of the Second World War.

Carrie Knickerbocker Newman (Daughter of Elbert & Iva; Sister of Edwin)

Carrie was born in 1898 in Cincinnatus.

Carrie Knickerbocker Newman is one of the loose threads in this history.



After graduating high school, she eventually moved to Brooklyn, New York. She married a man named Charles Newman. (His name was given in a De Ruyter newspaper article.)

By the late 1930's, Carrie was living in Manhattan, near Radio City Music Hall. Her nephews Henry and Don can recall visiting her there.

It is not clear if Carrie was still married in the late 1930's

There is a De Ruyter newspaper article mentioning that Iva Knickerbocker visited Carrie in New York in early 1940.

Later in 1940, though, Carrie returned to Cincinnatus. According to newspaper articles, she then spent several years receiving some type of occasional medical treatment. She was hospitalized in Binghamton, at least briefly, and is eventually referred to in the newspaper as Mrs. "Carey" Newman of Binghamton. (The spelling of her first name varied in both census records and newspaper articles.)

Carrie *might* have had issues related to alcohol, but this is not clear.

Carrie apparently inherited part of the farm, and part of the Taylor Avenue house, when her father died. In 1941 she sold her share of the farm to Edwin, and her share of the Taylor Avenue house to her mother Iva.

In 1948, Carrie's mother, Iva Knickerbocker, died. We have not found references to Carrie after 1948. Carrie's birthdate, taken from a newspaper announcement, was January 27, 1898. The birth place was Cincinnatus, New York. This may prove useful in future research.

Edwin Knickerbocker and Helen Murray

Harry was born in 1895, and died in 1986, both in Cincinnatus.

Helen was born in 1897, and died in 1971, both in Cincinnatus.

Edwin Knickerbocker lived almost his entire life on the family farm. The two exceptions were about 21 months in the service during World War I, and his last years in a nursing home in downtown Cincinnatus.

During World War I, Edwin served in the 503rd Engineers. His "advance sector" duty was in France.



Edwin Bryan Knickerbocker

<i>Enlisted:</i>	<i>September 30, 1917</i>
<i>Assigned to:</i>	<i>Camp Dix, Camp Merritt [both in NJ]</i>
<i>Unit:</i>	<i>Company B, 503rd Engineers</i>
<i>Date of Overseas Trip:</i>	<i>November 13, 1917</i>
<i>Service:</i>	<i>Advance Sector</i>
<i>Date of return:</i>	<i>June 24, 1919</i>
<i>Date of Discharge:</i>	<i>June 30, 1919</i>

Cortland County Historic Society

Edwin married Helen Murray. They had known each other at least since school days:

The Cincinnatus High School graduating class for 1914 is as follows: Mildred Fuller, Freda Freeman, Carrie Knickerbocker, Hazel Watson, Alice Paul, Esther Hill, and Edwin Knickerbocker.

The program for commencement week of Cincinnatus High School is as follows:

Poem: Carrie Knickerbocker

Address to Juniors: Edwin Knickerbocker ←

Response: Helen Murray ←

De Ruyter Gleaner
June 25, 1914



Like his father, Edwin was the Cincinnatus Justice of the Peace for an extended period.

After the deaths of his two oldest sons, Richard and Malcolm, Edwin also served as the first commander of the new American Legion post in Cincinnatus.

Edwin and Helen had six children: Richard (1921), Malcolm (1922), Robert Henry (1924), Lucille Jeanne (1927), Donald (1930), and Francis (1935).

The following 14 pages of this history are devoted to these six children. Later sections discuss their spouses.



This picture of the family was not labeled.

It appears to be from about 1938.

Probable identifications and ages:

Back row, left to right:
Richard (17), Malcolm (16), Edwin (father, 42)

Front row, left to right:
Jeanne (9), Francis (3), Don (8)

Henry, who was 14, is not pictured.

Richard Knickerbocker (son of Edwin)

*Richard was born July 24, 1921, in Cincinnatus.
He died May 12, 1944, in France.*

Richard's youth was spent on the family farm in Cincinnatus.

Once World War II started, Richard, his younger brother Malcolm, and Malcolm's high school and college buddy, Alan Bowen, enlisted in the Army Air Corps, the predecessor to today's Air Force.

Cadets Richard and Malcolm Knickerbocker, who have been stationed at Santa Ana, Cal, preflight school were transferred about December 15th to Primary Flight Training Field at King City, California [between L.A. and San Francisco].

They have both done solo flying.

Cadet Alan Bowen, who has been with the boys, has been transferred to Thunderbird Field at Phoenix, Ariz.

De Ruyter Gleaner January 14, 1943



Richard married his hometown sweetheart, Marion Randall, while he was in flight training.

Knickerbocker-Randall

Lt. Richard Knickerbocker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Knickerbocker of Cincinnatus and Miss Marion Randall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Randall of Pitcher, were married on Thursday, August 19, 1943, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Mr. and Mrs. Knickerbocker are both graduates of the Cincinnatus Central School. Lt. Knickerbocker enlisted in the Army Air Corps in June, 1942, and was commissioned on June 22, 1943, at Williams Field, Arizona [east of Phoenix, in Mesa].

He is now stationed at Peterson Field [in Colorado Springs].

De Ruyter Gleaner, September 2, 1943

He left for England early in 1944.

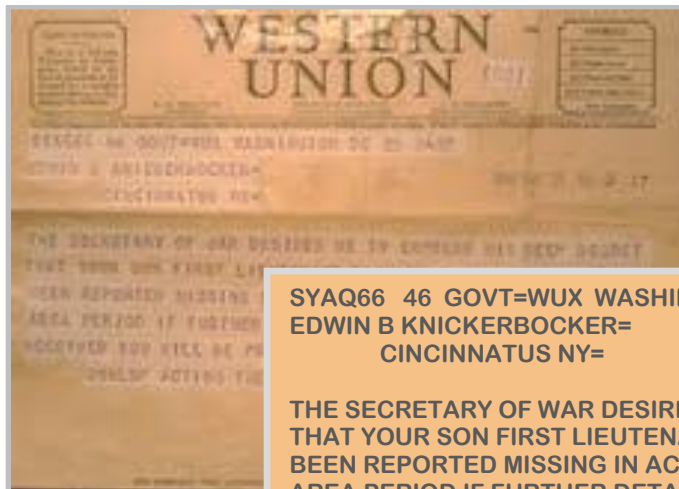
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Knickerbocker received word Saturday that their son, Lt. Richard Knickerbocker, had arrived safely overseas.

De Ruyter Gleaner April 6, 1944

Richard



34thprs.org



Richard was reported missing
in action in May, 1944.

The text from the telegram

SYAQ66 46 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTONDC 25 242P
EDWIN B KNICKERBOCKER=
CINCINNATUS NY=

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET
THAT YOUR SON FIRST LIEUTENANT RICHARD E KNICKERBOCKER HAS
BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION SINCE TWELVE MAY IN EUROPEAN
AREA PERIOD IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE
RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED PERIOD=
DUNLOP ACTING THE ADJUTENT GENERAL

Newspaper Story

Mrs. Richard Knickerbocker received the sad news that her husband 1st Lt. Richard Knickerbocker was reported missing over European area, May 12th.

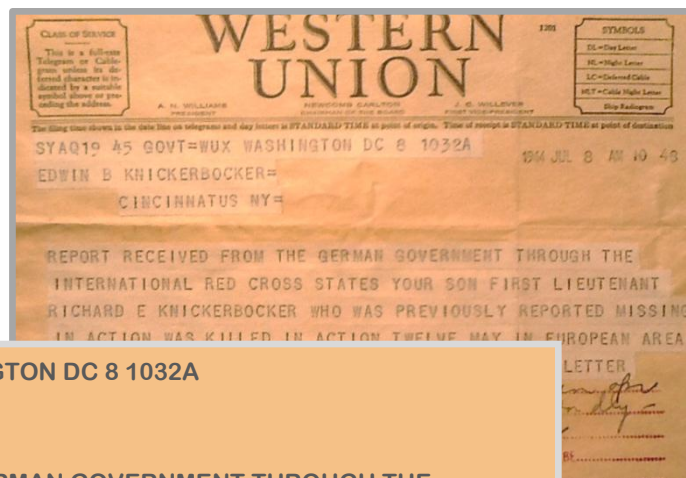
Mr. Knickerbocker left New York City the 'fore part of March, and Mrs. Knickerbocker has received letters from him very often. The last one received was May 11th.

Her many friends extend their sympathy.

De Ruyter Gleaner June 1, 1944

Richard's death was confirmed in a
second telegram in July, 1944.

Younger brother Don remembers that
Don and his dad Edwin were working in
the field in July when someone said that
Edwin needed to get back to the house.
Edwin did not come back to the field. He
had been told that Richard was dead.



SYAQ19 45 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 8 1032A
EDWIN B KNICKERBOCKER=
CINCINNATUS NY=

REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS STATES YOUR SON FIRST LIEUTENANT
RICHARD E KNICKERBOCKER WHO PREVIOUSLY WAS REPORTED MISSING
IN ACTION WAS KILLED IN ACTION TWELVE MAY IN EUROPEAN AREA
THE SECRETARY OF WAR EXTENDS HIS DEEP SYMPATHY LETTER
FOLLOWS=
UL10 THE ADJUTENT GENERAL

The text from the telegram

At the time, the family did not know the details of his service in Europe, or the details of his death. Richard's service in Europe has since been documented. He was a pilot in the 34th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, based in England. The 34th Recon Squadron has an active website, maintained by the son of one of the pilots.

Reconnaissance consisted of flying alone, hoping to avoid detection:

Flying alone and armed only with cameras, the photo recon squadrons were the eyes of the allied armies in every theater and over every battlefield.

"The average fighter pilot, if he's lucky, knocks down ten enemy planes. The average photo reconnaissance pilot at the end of fifty missions will have photographed over a thousand targets."

From the veterans group for the 34th recon, www.34thprs.org

About three weeks before D-Day, Richard was doing reconnaissance when his plane was hit by flak. He bailed out in the Normandy region of France, about 75 miles inland from what would soon become known as Omaha Beach:

From 8-15 May weather on both sides of the Channel proved to be marginal and attention was shifted from the dicing missions to coverage of tactical targets including marshaling yards, airfields, bridges. Missions providing general mapping of the areas around the invasion coast were also flown.

Lt. Richard Knickerbocker of the 34th was lost on 12 May 1944 over the "Les Beziers" in the village of Bellou-En-Houlme, France, on a mission to cover the Aerschot Marshaling Yards.

Flakabteilung 266 claimed credit for the destruction of the aircraft, s/n 43-28292.

French witnesses confirmed that Lt. Knickerbocker bailed out, but that his parachute was damaged by the aircraft and did not successfully deploy. Lt. Knickerbocker free fell approximately 20,000 feet to his death.

www.34thprs.org



As noted above, the mission involved the Aerschot Marshaling Yards. These were in Belgium, well to northeast of the crash site in France. His plane may have been damaged while over Belgium, leaving him unable to reach safe haven in England.

Richard's body was recovered by local French villagers and buried in a local cemetery.

There is memorial to Richard in Bellou-En-Houlme, France.

The memorial sits in the center of the village, at the foot of the town's memorial to its own veterans of World War I.



*Pictures from
normandie44lamemoire.com*

Richard was 22 when he died.

At the time of Richard's death, Marion was pregnant. Their son Richard (always known as Dick) was born in September 1944.

During the war, and for a period after Richard's death, Marion and Dick lived in the Pitcher area of Chenango county, where Marion grew up.

Marion eventually settled in Cincinnatus.

Malcolm Knickerbocker (son of Edwin)

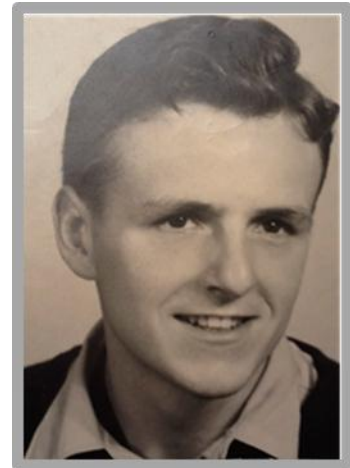
Malcolm was born September 14, 1922, in Cincinnatus.

He died January 25, 1944, while stationed on the island of Tarawa in the Pacific.

Malcolm Knickerbocker spent his youth on the Cincinnatus farm.

Malcolm's nickname was "Stub." Nobody remembers how he got this nickname. (He was actually taller than older brother Richard.)

According to his younger brothers, Malcolm was quite attracted to young women, many of whom apparently also found him attractive. He was known to praise the Mormon faith, along the lines of "polygamy sounds like a good idea." (This might have been in response to something Malcolm was told by his grandmother Iva, regarding Brigham Young. See Section 7.)

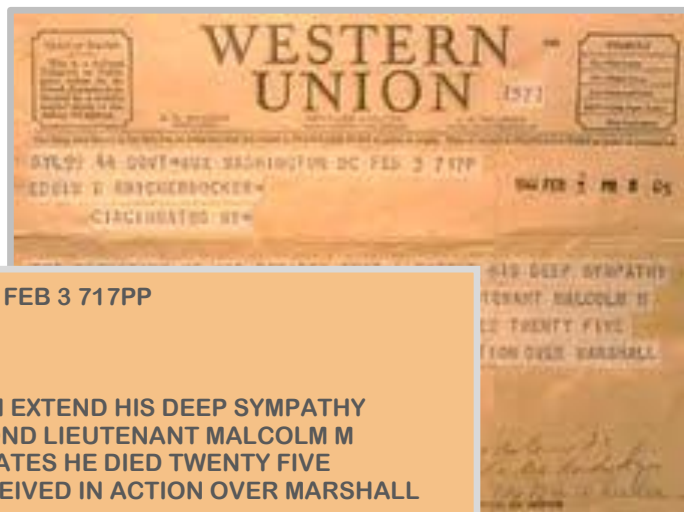


Before the war started, Malcolm and a high school buddy named Alan Bowen enrolled in Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, in the fall of 1941. They both left Duke to enlist in mid-1942. As already described in a newspaper article about Richard, Malcolm overlapped on some flight training with both his brother Richard and his buddy Alan. Once they separated, Alan wound up in gunnery school in Harlingen, Texas. Alan Bowen died there in May 1943, without making it overseas.



Malcolm made it overseas. After completing his flight training, he was stationed in Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands in the Pacific. This was during the phase of island hopping, when the Marine Corps would invade strategic islands, which then allowed the Air Force to have a base to attack the next island. Tarawa had been the site of a fierce land battle in November, 1943. Malcolm apparently arrived shortly after the land battle on Tarawa was over.

On February 3rd, 1944, Malcolm's parents were informed of his death.



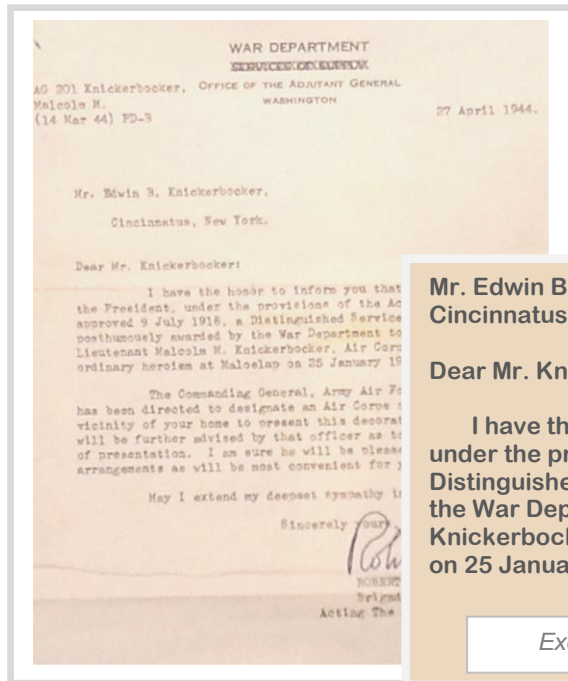
SYL99 44 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC FEB 3 717PP
EDWIN B KNICKERBOCKER=
CINCINNATUS NY=

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES THAT I EXTEND HIS DEEP SYMPATHY
TO YOU IN THE LOSS OF YOUR SON SECOND LIEUTENANT MALCOLM M
KNICKERBOCKER REPORT RECEIVED STATES HE DIED TWENTY FIVE
JANUARY AS A RESULT OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION OVER MARSHALL
ISLANDS LETTER FOLLOWS=
UL10 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

The text from the telegram

It would take several months before the details of his death became public.

Malcolm was killed during a bombing mission on January 25, 1944.



His actions during his last flight earned him the Distinguished Service Cross (sometimes called the Distinguished Flying Cross when it is given by the Air Force). This is the second highest military award, behind only the Medal of Honor.

**Mr. Edwin B. Knickerbocker
Cincinnatus, New York**

Dear Mr. Knickerbocker:

I have the honor to inform you that by direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1916, a Distinguished Service Cross has been posthumously awarded by the War Department to your son, Second Lieutenant Malcolm M. Knickerbocker, Air Corps, for his extraordinary heroism at Maloelap on 25 January 1944.

**Robert H. Dunlop
Brigadier General**

Excerpt from the letter

Malcolm died in the Pacific four months before Richard died in France. The news about Richard arrived just before Malcolm's medal was presented.

Posthumous Award to Be Given; Dead Flier's Brother Missing

Mr. and Mrs., Edwin Knickerbocker of Cincinnatus who tomorrow are to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded to their son, Lieut. Malcolm M. Knickerbocker, who died as a result of wounds received in action over the Marshall Islands, today had learned that a second son is missing after a reconnaissance flight over Nazi-held Europe.

According to a War Department telegram received by his wife, Mrs. Marion R. Knickerbocker of Pitcher, First Lieut. Richard Knickerbocker, pilot of a P-38 Lightning, had been missing since May 12. His brother, Malcolm, 21-year-old copilot of a B-25, died Jan 25 as a result of wounds received over the Marshall Islands.

At the Memorial Day services to be held tomorrow morning in Cincinnatus High School auditorium, the parents to the young Marshall Islands hero will receive the Distinguished Flying Cross which was awarded posthumously to their son.

A third son, Robert Knickerbocker, has just completed his basic training as an air cadet at Syracuse University and is being transferred to another station for further flight training.

No details were available today concerning Richard although his wife had received a letter dated May 11, the day before he was reported missing, in which the young flier said that he had been on several missions over Europe.

Binghamton Press, 29 May, 1944

Malcolm's activities on the day of his death were reported by his commander, and repeated later in a couple of different publications.

"The Seventh Air Force's combat mission was to support the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy in a campaign to seize bases in the Gilbert Islands, from which they would advance through the Marshalls to capture the major enemy base at Kwajalein -- an important stepping stone in the island-hopping strategy that would put Allied forces in striking distance of the Japanese home islands.

The Seventh launched its part in the campaign with only five B-24 squadrons, two B-25 squadrons, and three fighter squadrons. The Japanese, heavily committed to operations in the southwest Pacific, were forced to fight a delaying action in the Gilberts and Marshalls. Their most active air base was at Maloelap Atoll in the Marshalls, some 600 miles north of General Hale's B-25s at Tarawa. The Japanese could send up as many as 50 fighters to defend Maloelap. B-25 missions against that base were unescorted because of the limited range of Hale's fighters. To avoid detection, bombing and strafing attacks were at minimum altitude.



On Jan. 25, 1944, the 396th Bomb Squadron sent its B-25s against Maloelap, determined to eliminate that hornets' nest. The copilot of one bomber was 21-year-old 2d Lt. Malcolm Knickerbocker, who had left Duke University to join the AAF and had earned his wings only six months earlier. Lieutenant Knickerbocker was as close to Hollywood's concept of the all-American youth as one could have found.

What happened that January day is one of the most poignant stories of heroism in World War II, told in a letter to Knickerbocker's parents from his squadron commander, Maj. Andrew McDavid, and in the citation for the lieutenant's posthumous Distinguished Service Cross.

The B-25s approached Maloelap at wave top level but did not escape detection. Enemy fighters had time to get off the ground and hit the B-25s as they swept the base with machine-gun and cannon fire. One of the fighters came in on the right of Knickerbocker's B-25, firing at close range. A 20-mm explosive shell hit his right leg, exploding on contact and completely severing his leg at the hip socket. Crewmen could not remove Lieutenant Knickerbocker from the B-25's cramped cockpit.

Because of the location of his wound, it was impossible to apply a tourniquet. The best that could be done was to administer plasma and reduce the flow of blood with compresses. In a supreme exercise of will, Knickerbocker conquered the shock and pain of his horrible mutilation. He never lost consciousness. The enemy attack continued for 15 minutes while Knickerbocker helped the pilot handle the bomber in evasive maneuvers.

From time to time, he gave crew members a reassuring smile and the OK signal with his thumb and forefinger in an extraordinary display of self-control. He must have known that he could not survive, but he would fight to stave off death until the mission was completed.

The nearest friendly base was at Makin Atoll, an hour's flight from Maloelap. Approaching the landing strip at Makin, Lieutenant Knickerbocker, weakened by great loss of blood, completed the copilot's prelanding duties.

As the B-25 turned on final approach, a safe landing assured, Malcolm Knickerbocker died. As the crew lifted his body from the plane, they sobbed.

The next day, Lieutenant Knickerbocker's suffering and death were avenged by P-40 pilots of the 45th Fighter Squadron based at Makin. From a holding pattern stacked at 8,000 to 10,000 feet, they ambushed Japanese fighters that were pursuing low-flying B-25s on their return from Maloelap. The P-40s shot down 10 confirmed, with two probably destroyed, breaking the back of the enemy fighter threat at Maloelap. There could have been no finer tribute to a gallant airman."

The previous ten paragraphs were assembled from two sources:

Valor: In Defiance of Death. Air Force Magazine, April, 1992, and

Hale's Handful: The forging of the Seventh Air Force. Major Peter Ellis, USAF, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.



Immediately after his death, Malcolm was buried on the island of Makin.

Within a few months, Malcolm's story was national news. For example, it was featured in a story in the Saturday Evening Post on July 15, 1944.

Malcolm's name is listed on the war memorial at Duke University, along with other Duke students who died in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

(Alan Bowen, Malcolm's buddy from high school and Duke, is also honored.)

Malcolm was 21 when he died.



After the war, the bodies of Richard and Malcolm were returned to Cincinnatus for burial.



1st Lt Marvin Williams, 2nd Lt Howard Johnson of Dow Airfield, Bangor, Maine, escorts of the bodies of Lieutenants Richard and Malcolm Knickerbocker, were Friday and Saturday overnight guests at the home of Dr. D.B. Glezen.

Following the funeral and burial services Sunday afternoon, Dr. and Mrs. D.B. Glezen and daughter Nancy, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Knickerbocker, Lieutenants Williams and Johnson, had dinner in Cortland before the Lieutenants left by bus to return to Schenectady.

1st Lt Francis Heath of Camp Mead, Md, Donald Heath, son David of Middleport, Mr. and Mrs. Cushing Murray of Ithaca, attended the funeral.

Lt's Marvin Williams and Howard Johnson, escorts of the Knickerbocker brothers bodies, were Saturday evening callers of Mrs. Iva Knickerbocker, who is a patient at the Cortland Hospital with a fractured hip.

(Mrs. Iva Knickerbocker, who was already in the Cortland Hospital and underwent an operation last week Tuesday, fell last Thursday and fractured her hip.)

*De Ruyter Gleaner July 22, 1948
(compiled from a 3 news clips on the same day)*

Both are buried in Cincinnatus.

In 1971, the mother of the boys, Helen Knickerbocker, was buried next to her sons. Her tombstone honors their service.



"Gold Star Mother"

Robert Henry Knickerbocker (son of Edwin)

Henry was born June 24, 1924, in Cincinnatus.



Richard, Henry, Malcolm

Robert Henry Knickerbocker – always known as Henry – was two years younger than Malcolm, and three years younger than Richard.

Like his brothers, Henry grew up on the farm in Cincinnatus.

After the war started, he enlisted in the Air Corp, like his older brothers. He enlisted at the age of 19.

Henry Knickerbocker was in Syracuse Thursday, where he had his physical test and passed and now expects to enlist in the Air Corp.

De Ruyter Gleaner, August 23, 1943

Corp. Robert H. Knickerbocker has now been assigned to a crew and has been transferred to Charleston, S.C. Army base for further training.

De Ruyter Gleaner, April 8, 1945

Henry was training to be a pilot, like his brothers. At one point, though, the Air Force decided it had enough pilots already in training. Henry then switched to training as a gunner for a bomber.

Henry



Henry arrived in Okinawa in about July, 1945, after the land battle for Okinawa was complete. Okinawa had been the very end of the island-hopping campaign. This was during the late stages of World War II.

He was in Okinawa on V-J day, August 15, 1945, when the Japanese surrendered.

He spent an additional year in Japan, getting a supervisory assignment in an office, because, in his own words, "I told them I already knew how to type."

He was stationed at an airfield near Tokyo.

Henry would return to the U.S. in the spring of 1946. Younger sister Jeanne was then attending Rider College in Trenton, New Jersey. She took the train back from New Jersey with Henry.

Robert Knickerbocker, who has returned from overseas and has been discharged from Fort Dix, returned home Saturday night. His parents Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Knickerbocker met him with their daughter, Miss Jean Knickerbocker.

De Ruyter Gleaner, March 29, 1946

After the war,
Henry married
Patricia (Pat)
Glezen, son of
"Doc" Glezen,
the local M.D.

Miss Patricia Glezen, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. D.B. Glezen of Cincinnatus, was united in marriage to Robert H. Knickerbocker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Knickerbocker of Cincinnatus.

The ceremony took place at the home of Rev. Ernest George of Whitney Point.

Attending the bridal couple were Mr. and Mrs. John S. King. Mrs. King is a sister of the bride.

The bride was a graduate of the Cincinnatus Central School and attended the Binghamton City School of Nursing. Mr. Knickerbocker was also a graduate of the Cincinnatus Central School. He served in the Western Pacific theatre as a gunner with the 380th Heavy Bomb Group in World War II.

De Ruyter Gleaner, April 6, 1948

Pat and Henry had five boys: Donald, Robert, Mark, Todd, and Kim.

Aside from their five sons, Pat and Henry are perhaps best known for reviving and running the Knickerbocker Country Club in Cincinnatus. The club's website, www.knickerbockercc.com, explains the history of the club in detail.

Pat died in 1986.

Henry remarried in
1989. His second wife
is Brenda Baldwin
(Brown) Knickerbocker.

Henry and Brenda still
live in Cincinnatus, New
York.

Brenda Baldwin Knickerbocker's autobiography

Born in Cortland, NY. Graduated from Homer Central School in 1963. Married David C. Brown Jr. in 1965. Three children: David C 3rd, Steven Douglas, and Karen Tracy. Husband David died in 1984 from cancer.

Employed first at Durkee's Bakery, then Homer National Bank. Joined the Post Office in 1969 in Preble. Promoted to postmaster in Little York in 1974.

Promoted in 1984 to Postmaster of Cincinnatus, where Henry is a rural carrier. Married to Henry in 1989.

Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2001, and retired from work in the same year.

From Brenda Knickerbocker

Lucille Jeanne Knickerbocker (daughter of Edwin)

*Jeanne was born March 29, 1927, in Cincinnatus.
She died October 31, 1997, in West Winfield, NY.*

Jeanne Knickerbocker attended Rider College, in Trenton, New Jersey.

After graduating from Rider College, she worked for a time in Ithaca, and lived with her uncle Cushing and aunt Myra.



She married Charles (Chuck) Wight, who grew up in Cincinnatus.

The wedding was at Cush & Myra's house.

Mrs. Marion Knickerbocker and son, Dickie, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cushing Murray in Ithaca the latter part of the week, and Saturday afternoon Mrs. Knickerbocker was maid-of-honor at the wedding of Miss Jeanne Knickerbocker and Charles Wight, which was held at the Cushing Murray home in Ithaca.

De Ruyter Gleaner, July 28, 1949

Chuck Wight was a manager for Agway. Chuck and Jeanne lived in several areas of Central New York. Jeanne taught school in multiple school districts, eventually retiring from the West Winfield school system.

Jeanne and Chuck had five children: Kathy, Karen, Maureen, Chuck, and Gary.

Donald Cushing Knickerbocker (son of Edwin)

Don was born April 14, 1930, in Cincinnatus.

Don Knickerbocker grew up on the family farm in Cincinnatus.



For their senior trip, Don's class in Cincinnatus went to New York City in early April, 1947.

Don and several friends took the subway to Ebbets Field, which was built 35 years earlier by a man who learned to love the game played by the New York Knickerbockers.

The regular season hadn't started yet, so Don had to watch an exhibition game. The Brooklyn Dodgers played their minor-league team, the Montreal Royals. Don and friends saw the last-ever minor league game of Jackie Robinson. The next day, he was promoted to the major leagues.

Don was too young for service during World War II. When it came time for college, though, he had to compete for spots with many veterans of the war. He took advantage of a New York program called ACUNY (Associated Colleges of Upstate New York), which consisted of a handful of old military training facilities that had been turned into temporary college campuses.

Don spent his first year at Sampson College in Seneca Lake. His second year was at Champlain College in Plattsburg, New York, on the western shore of Lake Champlain.

For his junior year, Don followed Malcolm's footsteps by enrolling in Duke University. He received his undergraduate degree in 1952.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Knickerbocker attended the graduation of their son, Donald Knickerbocker at Duke University at Durham, N.C., held Monday, June 2nd.

De Ruyter Gleaner, June 5, 1952

Miss Marilyn Ruth Parks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon R. Parks, and Donald C. Knickerbocker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Knickerbocker of Cincinnatus, N.Y., were united in marriage on Saturday, November 14, at 8:00 pm, in the Pitcher Federated Church, Pitcher, N.Y.

Rev. Charles Ackley officiated in a lovely candlelight setting. Mrs. Harry Newcomb, sister of the bride, played traditional wedding music, and Mrs. George Ebel, also sister of the bride, sang two numbers, "At Dawning" and "The Lord's Prayer."

The matron of honor, Mrs. Boyd Kellogg, wore a corsage of pink and white carnations.

Boyd Kellogg was chosen to perform the duties of best man. Ralph Parks, brother of the bride, served as an usher.

The bride is a graduate of Cincinnatus Central School. Mr. Knickerbocker graduated from Duke University, Durham, N.C.

De Ruyter Gleaner, November 26, 1953

Don returned to Cincinnatus for two years after graduating from Duke.

He married Marilyn Ruth Parks.

Don then returned to Duke University to attend Law school. After graduation, he was employed by the U.S. Government. He was based in Washington, D.C., then Atlanta, and then again in Washington. He eventually joined Burlington Northern Railroad, moving to St. Paul, Minnesota, and then Fort Worth, Texas.

Don and Ruth are retired, and live in Homer, New York. They have three children: Holly, Bryan, and Larry.

Francis Knickerbocker (son of Edwin)

Francis was born July 21, 1935, in Cincinnatus.

Like the rest of his siblings, Francis grew up on the farm.

Francis Knickerbocker went to college at Cornell University.



Left to Right

Arlene (Banta) Knickerbocker and Francis Knickerbocker
with Dick and his mother Marion (Randall) Knickerbocker

After graduation he was hired to teach in the South Otselic school system. He remained there for his entire career.

Seven new teachers will greet students at South Otselic Central School in September, including Francis Knickerbocker of Cincinnatus, a 1958 Cornell University graduate, junior high math and science.

Binghamton Press, July 28, 1958

Francis married Arlene Banta, a native of Bay Shore, Long Island, who was attending school in Cortland. Francis and Arlene had five children: David, Steve, Bill, Margaret, and Mike.

Francis remarried after the death of Arlene. Information about his second wife may be included in the next update of this history.

Spouses of the Cincinnatus Knickerbockers

**Brigham
Bourne
Bryan
Murray
Glezen
Parks
Wight**

7: Brigham Family History

Louisa Brigham (1797 – 1860) married Harry Knickerbocker while they both lived in Eaton, New York. Louisa and Harry were the first two Knickerbockers in Cincinnatus.

Louisa Brigham Knickerbocker is the easiest person in the entire Knickerbocker line to trace, because:

- Her father's family, the Brighams, were well-known early settlers in America.
- Her mother's family, the Howes, were also well known in Colonial America.
- She was Brigham Young's cousin, via her aunt, Abigail Howe, who married John Young.

Detailed histories of the Brigham and Howe families are available from many sources.

The summary of the Brigham family below from "The History of the Brigham Family; a Record of Several Thousand Descendants of Thomas Brigham the Emigrant" (1907). This is available as an e-book.

The book includes Louisa Brigham, Harry Knickerbocker, and their children. It therefore provides a direct link between the Cincinnatus family and the long history of the Brighams.

Brigham family roots have been traced back to 1500, when Thomas Brigham was born in Holme upon Spalding Moor, in Yorkshire, England.

A later Brigham, also named Thomas, was born in 1603 in Holme on Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, England. He was reported to be the first Brigham to move to the colonies. He was the 6-great grandfather of Edwin Knickerbocker.

Thomas Brigham immigrated to Massachusetts sometime around 1630, then married Mercy Herd, who was born around 1615 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. At one point Thomas Brigham owned part of what became the Harvard campus.

The Brigham descendants remained in the area around Middlesex County (near Boston) for about 170 years, until Phineas Brigham moved to Eaton New York in about 1804.

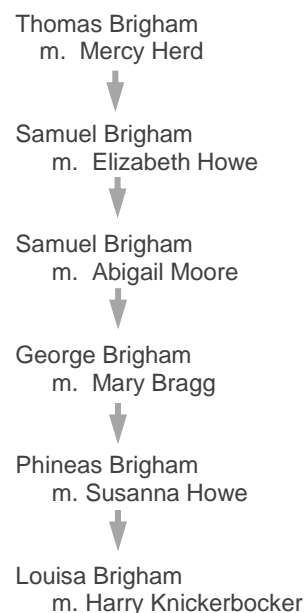
Samuel (of the 2nd generation) married Elizabeth Howe in 1684.

Samuel (of the 3rd generation) married Abigail Moore in 1716.

George Brigham married Mary Bragg in 1754. George was the father of Phineas Brigham.

(The roots of Louisa's mother's side, the Howe family, can be found in a publication called "Descendants of John How," where the last letter "e" is left off the name Howe. This traces the Howe family history from the 1640's through Louisa's birth, but stops there. It does not mention Harry Knickerbocker.)

Summary: Brigham Roots



Phineas Brigham (2-great-grandfather of Edwin)

Phineas Brigham's birth and marriage are available from many reliable sources. For example, he has been recognized as a "Patriot" by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), due to service in the Massachusetts Militia.

He was born in 1757 in Marlborough, Middlesex, Massachusetts.

<u>DAR Records</u>		
Phineas Brigham		
Birth:	10-7-1757	Marlborough, Mass.
Death:	3-17-1813	Eaton, NY
Spouse:	Susanna Howe	
Private, Massachusetts Militia		
		www.dar.org

Phineas married Susannah Howe in 1785. Phineas and Susannah eventually left Massachusetts, moving the family to Eaton, New York .

Phineas and Susannah reportedly had 10 children. The first nine were born in Massachusetts between 1786 and 1803. Their youngest child, Solomon, was born in Eaton in 1805. This tells us that Phineas and his family left Massachusetts around 1804. (This is about the same time that John Knickerbocker moved his family from Connecticut to Eaton.)

Louisa Brigham (great-grandmother of Edwin)

Louisa was born in 1797 in the town of Southboro, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and was been about seven when her family moved to Eaton. She apparently met Harry Knickerbocker in Eaton.

One of Louisa Brigham Knickerbocker's descendants would join the Daughters of the America Revolution, based on Phineas Brigham's service.

About 15 years ago, during the very early preparation of this history, a descendant of Amelia Knickerbocker Holroyd commented in an email that her grandmother Holroyd claimed Louisa Brigham was related to Brigham Young.

At that point, the descendants of Amelia had been in Illinois for about 130 years, and out of touch with the Cincinnatus family for perhaps 75 years.

This was interesting, because the same oral history existed in the Cincinnatus family. It had been propagated by Iva Bryan Knickerbocker, the wife of Elbert. (You might recall an earlier comment that Malcolm Knickerbocker was heard to say "polygamy sounds like a good idea to me." This was probably a response to his grandmother Iva talking about Brigham Young.)

This oral history prompted a brief search back in around 1998, when Internet resources were not as widely available as they are today. Even 14 years ago, though, this history was fairly easy to confirm. It's even easier now.

The Brigham Young Connection

Brigham Young was an early leader of the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS), commonly known as the Mormon Church. He was born in Vermont in 1801, but lived for a time in Chenango County when he was young. He converted to the LDS faith sometime after 1830. He helped lead the early believers to Utah. He has been credited with founding Salt Lake City, and served as governor of the Utah territories.

The genealogy of Brigham Young has been studied in detail.

In fact, the entire LDS organization has a passion for genealogy. This is because of some of their basic beliefs.

(Most of the census records used in preparing this history of the Cincinnatus family came from the LDS website, familysearch.org.)

Importance of Genealogy in the Mormon faith

The Mormon interest in genealogy is closely linked to their doctrine of baptism for the dead and their belief that the family unit will continue to exist beyond mortal life.

Mormons trace their family trees to find the names of ancestors who died without learning about the restored Mormon Gospel so that these relatives from past generations can be baptized by proxy. Once baptized, if the ancestor's spirit has accepted the Gospel, they will be able to be together with the rest of their baptized Mormon family in the celestial kingdom.

pbs.org

One example of a history of Brigham Young is shown below. This is from a history of the Brigham family. The author was a Brigham. Other statements in this book make clear that this author was not a follower of Brigham Young, and was not happy to have to admit this connection. Nonetheless, here is what he reported in his book:

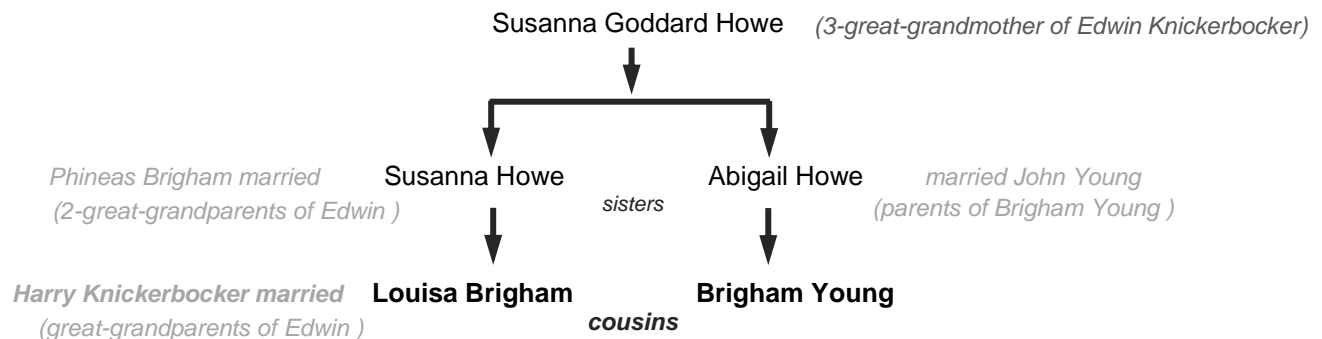
Because of Brigham Young's Christian name, the author of this work often has been called upon to explain.

Brigham Young was a son of John Young, who married Abigail Howe. Abigail had a sister named Susanna Howe, who married Phineas Brigham of Massachusetts and Eaton, NY. Susanna and her race were such estimable people that Brigham Young was honored by being christened after his Brigham aunt.

History of the Brigham Family; a record of several thousand descendants of Thomas Brigham, the Emigrant (1907)

Even in this brief excerpt, there is enough to show the link between Brigham Young and Louisa Brigham.

Louisa Brigham was the cousin of Brigham Young. This is easily confirmed using LDS data.



Any doubts about the Brigham Young connection have disappeared as more books become available in electronic form on the internet. One such book is the History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, co-authored by Joseph Smith the prophet, and published by the church. This book specifically mentions Brigham Young's cousins in Eaton, New York.

Brigham Young's own memoirs discuss the fact that he once visited Eaton. The meeting was on Friday, December 20, 1839. Brigham Young met with Louisa's brothers Phineas and Fitch Brigham. In his memoirs, Mr. Young cites his attempts to convince his cousins that their own religions were inferior.

Fitch Brigham may have joined the Mormon church, at least for a short period. There are references in Mormon documents to "Brother Fitch Brigham" traveling with other Mormon church members. However, Fitch eventually returned to central New York.

There is no evidence that Brigham Young ever visited Cincinnatus.

Louisa Brigham, Harry Knickerbocker, and their children were strongly religious, but their involvement was not with the Mormons. (At that time, the Brighams and Knickerbockers may have been members of the Baptist church. John, Harry, and Louisa Knickerbocker are buried behind the Baptist church in Cincinnatus. Harry's tombstone identifies him as having been a deacon in the church. Later, Harry's children were also active in religion. Daughter Amelia married William Holroyd, a Baptist minister. Son Franklyn was also a deacon in his church.)

8: Bourne Family History

There were many people in New England with the last name Bourne (or Bourn) during the pre-Revolutionary War times. There are many members of the DAR who trace their roots to soldiers named Bourne. However, the origins of the Chenango / Cortland county Bourne family have not yet been researched (at least as part of this document).

Roswell K. Bourne (great-grandfather of Edwin)

Roswell was born in 1812 in Otselic, NY, and died in 1866, in Cincinnatus.

Helen Bourne's father was Roswell K. Bourne, born in 1812 or 1813 in Otselic, Chenango County.

His birth date, and location, are given in many biographies from the 1800's. However, there is never any mention of his parents or ancestry. There also aren't many people named Bourne in the early census records from the area. For example, there aren't any Bournes about 25 years older than Roswell, who might be his parents.

Roswell K. Bourne was well known.

There are many widely available stories about his activities; one is shown here.

He also apparently served in multiple capacities for Chenango schools while he lived there. This includes a time as school commissioner.

He eventually moved to Cincinnatus, where he died in 1866.

Roswell K. Bourne was among the energetic lawyers of his time, and one of the comparatively small number whose descendants are still among us.

He was born in Otselic, in 1813, and, indeed, spent most of his life in Chenango county.

After completing his academic education at Cazenovia Seminary, he began the study of law with Barak Niles, in Cincinnatus. While studying for the bar he taught school in Pitcher Springs, and, on being admitted, opened an office there, where remained until 1857 as an active practitioner.

In that year he moved to Cincinnatus, where the remainder of his life was passed.

History of Cortland County, published 1885

The book celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Cazenovia seminary gives the following information:

Roswell K. Bourne

Born at Otselic, N.Y., December 18, 1812. Student in 1833.

Married March 26, 1836, to Mariah Carpenter.

Lawyer.

Died at Cincinnatus, June 23, 1866.

His wife Mariah (Carpenter) Bourne was born in about 1817. She survived another 35 years after Roswell died. She remained in Cincinnatus for several years, but then moved to Willet sometime just before 1900 to live with her son. She died in March, 1901.

Children of Roswell and Mariah Bourne, based on 1850 census results:

1. Helen, born about 1839
2. Roswell Walworth,, born about 1841
3. Josephine, born about 1849

Helen Bourne (grandmother of Edwin)

Like her father, Helen attended Cazenovia. They list the following information:

Helen M. Bourne

Cincinnatus, N.Y,
Student in 1860

Married Dec. 24, 1861 to Henry Knickerbocker, Farmer.

R. Walworth Bourne (brother of Helen Bourne)

While we do not know much about Helen Bourne's ancestors, we know a lot about her brother. His travels are worth highlighting.

Helen's brother was Roswell Walworth Bourne. He sometimes dropped the Roswell, and was known as Walworth. We will call him Walworth to avoid confusing him with his father.

Walworth Bourne served in the 157th infantry in the Civil War. The 157th was formed in the mid-1862, and therefore missed early major battles such as Bull Run and Antietam.

Walworth fought at Chancellorsville and then Gettysburg. He was captured by the Confederates on the first day at Gettysburg. He spent time in the prison camp at Belle Island, in Richmond, Virginia.

He was paroled, and travelled to Annapolis, Maryland. He was given a furlough to visit Cincinnatus. He then returned to the 157th infantry, which was in South Carolina by then. He went on to fight in many other battles.

He documented his experiences as part of a book that is available from the Cortland County Historical Society.

Civil War Travels for R. Walworth Bourne



Civil War Roster: Bourne, Roswell Walworth

Age 21 years. Enrolled, August 19, 1862, at Cincinnatus, to serve three years. Mustered in as sergeant, Co. C, September 19, 1862. Captured in action, July 1, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pa.; paroled, September 24, 1863. Mustered out with company, July 10, 1865, at Charleston, S.C.

Roster of 157th Infantry
www.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/rosters

Walworth Bourne returned to Cincinnatus, became a lawyer, and eventually settled in Willet

Walworth apparently named one of his sons after his father, Roswell K. Bourne. This younger Roswell K. Bourne shows up in Willet census records, and may be the Bourne who settled in Groton, and is buried there.

Josephine Bourne (sister of Helen Bourne)

Josephine Bourne married a local doctor, Sanford S. Riddell. He was a native of Louisiana, but had relocated after the Civil War to Chenango county. He lived in the Norwich area from 1866 to 1874.

In 1874, the family moved to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Several biographies of Josephine's husband are available on the Internet, including one from the Clark County, Wisconsin historic society.

This particular biography is interesting because it includes an extra detail about Mr. Riddell's service during the war.

According to this version of his history, he served in the *Confederate* army for three months, before the fall of New Orleans.

He later enlisted in the Union army.

There may have been some very interesting conversations in the Bourne household, given that Josephine's brother served in the Union army, including some time as a prisoner of war.

Dr. Sanford Schrager Riddell, was born at New Orleans, La., Aug. 22, 1838; married, December, 1866, Josephine, daughter of Roswell K. Bourne, of Cincinnatus, N. Y., and resides at Chippewa Falls, Chippewa County, Wis.

His literary education is obtained in the academic department of the University of Louisiana, whence he graduated in March, 1860. He has been a resident of New Orleans, Cincinnatus, and Norwich, N. Y. He has made a special study of uterine diseases.

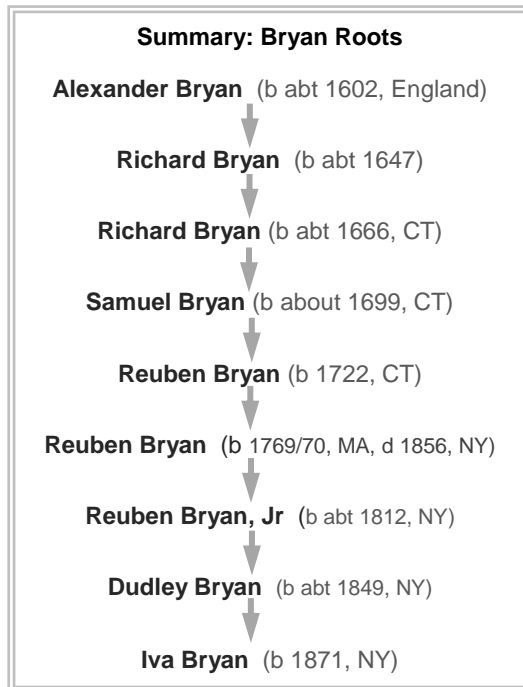
At the age of twenty-two he was called to the chair of chemistry and metallurgy in the New Orleans Dental College ; was assistant to the Texas State Geologist, in 1860. He was three months in the Rebel army, but refused to serve after the capture of New Orleans. He was afterwards captain of a company in the Fifth Louisiana White Infantry, United States Army.

Josephine died in 1911. She is buried in the Upper Cincinnatus Cemetery next to her parents.

9: Bryan Family History

Iva Bryan (1871 – 1948) married Henry Elbert Knickerbocker. Iva and Henry Elbert are the parents of Edwin.

As we will see on the next two pages, Iva is descended from Reuben Bryan, one of the first settlers of Lafayette, NY.



Later we will show that Iva Bryan is also probably descended from Alexander Bryan, an early resident of Milford, Connecticut. Alexander is like something from a cheap novel: A Puritan who bought land from Indians by trading blankets and mirrors, and later fought with Indians, and still later was involved in a trial having something to do with witchcraft.

If we have the genealogy right, Alexander is the 7-great grandfather of Edwin Knickerbocker.

(Of the families in this history, the Bryans get the prize for having arrived in America one generation earlier than any other family.)

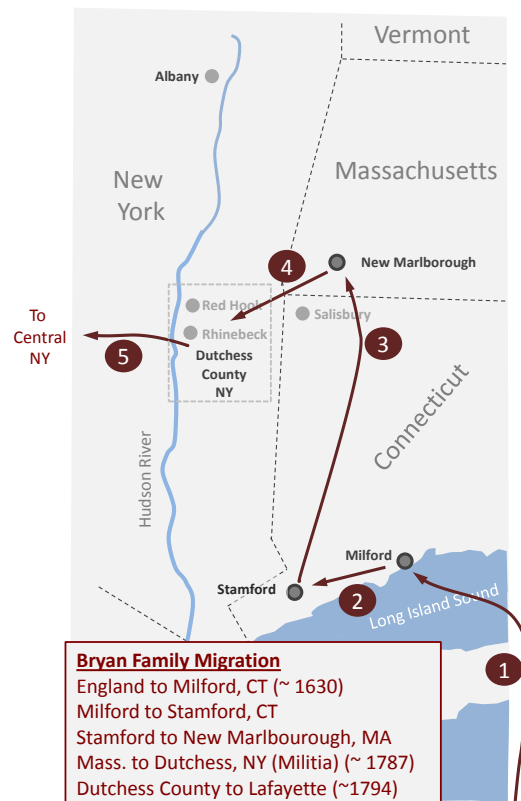
This map illustrates the migration pattern of the Bryan family prior to arrival in Cincinnatus.

There is some doubt about parts of this history.

As we will see, there is a well-documented immigrant, Alexander Bryan, who played a large part in the early history of Milford, Connecticut.

The uncertainty lies in the linkage between this early settler and the Cincinnatus family. It involves Bryan family members from Stamford, Connecticut and New Marlborough, Massachusetts.

There is then a strong linkage from Iva Bryan to a man named Reuben Bryan who was born in Massachusetts, served in the New York Militia for Dutchess County, and then moved to central New York.



We will begin by discussing Bryan family history after the Revolutionary War.

Central New York has had people with the last name Bryan since the shortly after the war.

In particular, a gentleman named Reuben Bryan was a very early settler in Lafayette, arriving in 1794.

Past and Present of Syracuse and Onondaga County (1908)

John Wilcox was the first settler on Haskin's Hill, a little east of Indian Orchard, Log 13, the site of the village of Tueyahdassoo.

...

In 1794 Isaac and Elias Conklin came and soon built a sawmill and grist mill on Conklin's creek. The latter was the first of its kind in Pompey.

...

In 1794 came John Houghtaling, Amaziah Branch, Benjamin June, James Pearce, Samuel Hyatt, Amasa Wright, and **Reuben Bryan**

Onondaga County USGenWeb site

Reuben Bryan is listed in several old histories as having served in the military, and his grave was mentioned in conjunction with a DAR listing of military veterans in Onondaga County. There is a "Reuben Bryan" listed in a roster of soldiers in the 6th regiment of Dutchess County. However, the DAR does not recognize anyone named Reuben Bryan as a Revolutionary War patriot. Given that Reuben's tombstone suggests that he was born in 1769 or 1770, his military service probably come after the war.

This man, who we will call Reuben Bryan Senior, was almost certainly the 2-great-grandfather of Edwin Knickerbocker.

One area of confusion, while preparing this history, was the date on which Reuben Bryan Senior died. Initial doubts about Reuben Senior made it hard to trace the Bryan family roots.

A clear picture of "Ruben" Bryan's tombstone can be found on the find-a-grave website. His tombstone says he died on May 20, 1856 at the age of 87. The headstone of his wife, Olive, says "Wife of Reubin" and gives a date of *April, 1850*. (Both are buried in Collingswood Cemetery.) The dates of their deaths will be important in this discussion.

Reuben Bryan

Died May 20 1850 ← *wrong*

Age 87

From an Internet source

There are many postings on the Internet dealing with Reuben Bryan. Almost all of them state that he died in **1850** at the age of 87. They then calculate his birth year to be 1763.

This confusion seems to have started years ago, possibly with an old history of Onondaga County.



findagrave.com

It is clear that Reuben Bryan did not die in May, 1850. This is demonstrated not only by his tombstone, which we have already discussed, but also by census records showing him to still be alive in the fall of 1850. (The census discussion is coming up next.)

**1850 Census Results:
Lafayette**

	Approx. Birth
Reuben Bryan	1770
Reuben Bryan Jr.	1812
Elizabeth J. Bryan	1819
Dudley Bryan	1849

*[Dudley is not yet married, and
Iva is not yet born.]*

In the 1850 census, Reuben Bryan is listed as being about 80 years old. The census sheet is very clearly dated **September, 1850**, and the elder Reuben is still alive. No wife is listed. This makes sense: his wife had just died, but he still had six years to live. The census taker also noted that Reuben was born in Massachusetts.

There is also a "Reuben Bryan Jr" in the census. On the census taker's sheet, he is in the household adjacent to the house of Reuben, Sr.

The label "Jr" label is clearly visible on the census taker's worksheet. Reuben Junior is the father of Dudley, according to the census. (Dudley is Iva Bryan's father and Edwin Knickerbocker's grandfather. Thus, Reuben Junior is the great grandfather of Edwin.)

Four other observations:

- An 1855 listing of post offices shows Reuben Bryan Junior as a postmaster in Chenango County
- An 1865 news item reports that Dudley Bryan had done some work for "his father" at the post office. It doesn't name his father (who we know to be Reuben Jr.), but it does imply that Reuben had recently left his job at the post office.
- A history of the Everingham family that notes that Reuben Bryan Junior sold a farm to Enoch Everingham in Lafayette in April, 1865.
- Reuben Bryan bought a farm in Cincinnatus in 1865.

We now jump ahead to the 1880 and 1900 census results from Cincinnatus.

In the 1880 census we find Iva's parents, Dudley and Olive. We also see Iva's younger brother Abner.

Two younger sisters were not born yet in 1880, but show up in the 1900 census. They have been added to the bottom of the table shown here.

Also living with the family in 1880 are Reuben and Elizabeth Bryan. These are Iva Bryan's grandparents, who we already saw in the 1850 census.

**Cincinnatus Census Results:
The Bryan Family**

	Approx. Birth
1880 Census	
Reuben Bryan	1812
Elizabeth J. Bryan	1819
Dudley Bryan	1849
Olive R. Bryan	1853
Iva Bryan	1872
Abner D. Bryan	1879
1900 additions	
Eliza	1884
Fannie	1888

Reuben Bryan, Junior, of Cincinnatus, died on September 26, 1905. His obituary (Cortland Standard, October 9, 1905) states that his father's name was Reuben, and that he was the youngest of seven boys, and also had two sisters.

One last jump ahead in time, to 1923. A newspaper story that was originally published in the Cincinnatus Times seems to end any doubts about the link between the Cincinnatus family and the early settler from Lafayette.

Dudley Bryan found among the papers of his late father, Reuben, a bill dated **May 23, 1856** for the burial of the latter's father. One coffin: \$6.

*De Ruyter Gleaner
June 14, 1923*

In 1923, Dudley Bryan found an old bill for a \$6 coffin. A news item ran in the Cincinnatus Times. It was reprinted by other papers.

A man in Lafayette named Reuben Bryan died on **May 20, 1856**, according to his tombstone. A man once known as Reuben Bryan Junior, had, in his papers, in Cincinnatus, a receipt for his father's casket dated **May 23, 1856**. The two Reuben's are father and son

Summary

Despite the confusion about dates, it is almost certain that Iva Bryan is descended from Reuben Bryan, the early settler of Lafayette.

It is absolutely clear that Iva's Grandpa was named Reuben, and that he was called "Junior" in 1850.

"Junior" was a postmaster, but left his job and sold a farm in Lafayette in 1865, and moved to Cincinnatus.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Reuben Bryan, m. Olive | 2-G grandparents of Edwin |
| 2. Reuben Bryan Jr. m. Elizabeth | G Grandparents of Edwin |
| 3. Dudley Bryan m. Olive | Grandparents of Edwin |
| Children of Dudley and Olive: | |
| Iva Bryan, m. H. Elbert Knickerbocker | Parents of Edwin |
| Children: Edwin and Carrie | |
| Abner Bryan, m. Anna | Cousins of Edwin |
| No known children | |
| Eliza Bryan, m. Blaine Blanchard | " |
| Child: Bryan | |
| Fannie Bryan, m. Lawrence Kelley | " |
| Children: Donald, Virginia | |

As a side note: We have called Dudley's father Reuben Bryan, Junior, because that was how he once described himself. Later, we will see that there were actually three men named Reuben, and that "Junior" actually appears to be the third in a series.

Siblings of Iva Bryan (aunts and uncles to Edwin)

We now move into brief tracing of Iva Bryan's siblings, and their overlaps with the Knickerbockers.

Fannie Bryan, born about 1888, was the youngest sister of Iva Bryan, but we will discuss her first, for reasons that will become clear.

Iva's sister Fannie married Lawrence Kelley and lived in Cortland County, then moved briefly to Buffalo before returning to Cortland County. They had two children, Donald and Virginia Kelley. Donald was born in Buffalo.

Fannie died in 1928. Lawrence appears to have returned home to McGraw to live with his mother. At some later date, Lawrence may also have died relatively young.

Donald was killed during World War II, and was listed as being from McGraw.

Virginia Kelley wound up being raised by relatives. This is discussed below.

February 1, 1945

Pvt Donald Kelley of McGraw, who was killed in action, was a nephew of Mrs. Iva Knickerbocker of Taylor Avenue, and a brother of Mrs. Virginia Kelley Holtmart of Willet.

Mrs. Knickerbocker also lost two grandsons. [Story goes on to discuss Richard and Malcolm.]

De Ruyter Gleaner

Abner Bryan, born about 1879, was Iva's older brother. In the 1905 New York state census, he is a single head-of-household. Sometime before 1910 he married a women named Anna. Abner and Anna appear in the census records for 1910, 1920, and 1930, by which time Abner was 50. No children are listed in any census.

Virginia Kelley, at 10 years old, is living with Abner and Anna in 1930.

This was their niece, the daughter of Fannie Bryan Kelley, who had died two years earlier.

1930 Census Results: Cincinnatus

	<u>Age</u>
A.D. Bryan.	50
Anna L. Bryan	46
Virginia Kelley	10

Virginia Kelley, born about 1920, was the niece of Iva Bryan. In 1930 she was living with Abner, but by the time Elbert died in 1939, Virginia was living with her Aunt Iva and Uncle Elbert, in the house on Taylor Avenue. (The house would become known as Gramma Knick's house.)

Virginia married Guy Holtmart. He appears to have been from Willet. Virginia lived out her life in the Cortland area. She is buried in Taylor Cemetery, sharing a headstone with Guy Holtmart.

Eliza Bryan, born about 1884, was the other sister of Iva Bryan

December 13, 1951

Blaine Blanchard, a lifelong resident of this community [Taylor], was found dead in the afternoon of December 5th.

Mr. Blanchard was the son of John and Mary Church Blanchard.

He was married to Eliza Bryan. To this union was born one son, Bryan, who died in 1943.

De Ruyter Gleaner

Eliza married Blaine Blanchard, and lived in Taylor.

According to her tombstone in Taylor, Eliza died in 1921. She was about 37.

Their son, Bryan, was born about 1904, according to census records. He died in 1943.

Bryan Blanchard is buried in Taylor, sharing a headstone with wife Gertrude (Potter?) Blanchard.

According to David Crankshaw, former historian for the village of Taylor, Virginia Holtmart had two children, Susan and David. Bryan Blanchard also had two children, Kenneth and James. These were grand-nieces and grand-nephews of Iva Bryan.

The Bryan Family in Colonial Times

We will now explore the earlier origins of the Bryan family in New England. The linkage to the Cincinnatus family is not proven, but this is too interesting to leave out of this history.

**Alexander Bryan of
Milford, Connecticut**
His Ancestors and Descendants

C.C. Baldwin (1889)

The starting point for tracing the Bryans is a book published in 1889. Unfortunately, though, it covers only the first four generations of the immigrant family.

This published genealogy contains some interesting information, such as the fact that Alexander was born about 1602, in Buckinghamshire, England. There are also other books containing information about Alexander Bryan, including R.R. Hinman's "Catalogue of the First Puritan Settlers of Connecticut."

However, anyone interested in the early Bryan history should download the history of the New Haven colony. The following excerpts are all taken from there.

History of the colony of New Haven,
before and after the Union with Connecticut

Edward Lambert (1838)

History related to Alexander Bryan (probable 6-g grandfather of Edwin)

The Bryan's were a big part of the history of Milford, Connecticut, which is on the north side of Long Island Sound, across from Oyster Bay and other now-famous spots on Long Island.

1639: Alexander Bryan and others purchases the first piece of land from the Indians. The price includes 6 coats, 10 blankets, 12 hatchets, and a dozen small glasses (mirrors).

1640: Alexander sends a vessel to the Bay (Boston) laden with beaver, otter, and other precious furs. In return, the ship brings back such goods as were needed by the planters, and for trade with the Indians.

1644: The Dutch are "plotting with and inciting" the Indians. Naval battles begin near New Amsterdam [New York City]

1654: Alexander Bryan arms and sends out a vessel to chase a gun ship that was trading with the Indians.

1656: The first public house in town is shut down because the proprietor is selling strong water, wine, and beer at greater prices than is allowed. He also kept a disorderly house in which he "suffers young men and maids to come there and dance." The tavern is taken over by Richard Bryan (son of Alexander).

1661: 20 acres of land is bought from the Indians by Alexander Bryan, for the town's use. The price includes 6 coats, 3 blankets, and 3 pair of breeches.

Undated: Alexander Bryan serves as attorney for Roger Ludlow, of Fairport, in an action of slander brought against him by Thomas Stables, for accusing his wife of witchcraft.

1684: Richard Bryan buys Eaton's Neck, on the east end of Oyster Bay, Long Island. Three of his sons (Alexander, John, and Ebenezer) move there. This leads to a large Bryan family presence on Long Island.

The following will clarify the probable connection between Alexander Bryan and the Cincinnatus family.

Connecting Iva Bryan's Family to the early settlers in Connecticut

As already discussed, we can link Iva Bryan to Reuben Bryan Senior in Lafayette, New York.

Here are the connections that help us to link Reuben to colonial times.

- From his tombstone, we know that Reuben Sr. died in 1856, not 1850 as otherwise reported.
- From census records, we know Reuben was born in Massachusetts.
- Census records also suggest that he was born in 1770, although he is listed as 87 on his tombstone, suggesting a birth in 1769.
- From Massachusetts birth records, we know that a man named Reuben Bryan had a son named Reuben in 1770.
- The published genealogy by C.C. Baldwin ends before the birth of any of these men named Reuben, but it does have a Samuel Bryan, who was great grandson of Alexander (via son Richard and grandson Richard).

Sources of Bryan Information	
Alexander	Baldwin book, etc.
Richard	"
Richard	"
Samuel	Baldwin & Rootsweb
Reuben 1	Rootsweb
Reuben 2 ("Sr")	Tombstone, census, etc.
Reuben 3 ("Jr")	Many sources
Dudley	"
Iva	"

The missing link may be that the Samuel Bryan mentioned in the Baldwin history had a son named Reuben. This is the linkage made by a very detailed Bryan family genealogy on Rootsweb. The Rootsweb genealogy is extensive, and has lots of additional biographical information about various Bryan ancestors. However, it ends with the birth of Reuben Bryan in Massachusetts; it did not follow him to New York. More importantly, though, the Rootsweb page appears to be inactive. It has not been updated in several years, and the web page owner's reported email address is no longer in service.

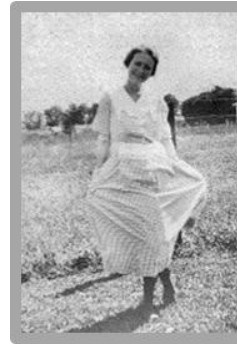
This is the only place in this family history where we have had to resort to an Internet genealogy for a key linkage, without having also done independent validation.

Confirming the Samuel / Reuben linkage will be part of a future update of this history.

10: Murray, Hoag, and Heath Family History

Helen (Murray) Knickerbocker (1897 – 1971), who married Edwin Knickerbocker, was the daughter of Jennie Hoag and John Murray.

Helen lived her early years in Cincinnatus.



*Helen
Murray
Knickerbocker*

Circa 1925

Helen's father was John Murray, who died when Helen was only about 10 years old. Helen's mother Jennie later remarried another local man, Clayton Heath.

We will discuss the Murray family first, followed by the Hoags, then the Heaths.

John Murray (Father of Helen Murray, and father-in-law of Edwin Knickerbocker)

John Murray was a graduate of Syracuse who had travelled fairly extensively after graduating. He then studied law, and settled in Cincinnatus. He was apparently quite active in the town.

John Herman Murray (1862 – 1907)

Born 7 May 1862 at Baldwinsville, N.Y.
Student from Hastings, N.Y. 1884-8. A O.B.S.
Principal, high school in Apalachicola, Fla, 1888-9.
Law student in office of S.M. Coon, Oswego, N. Y., 1889-90.
Principal, Union School and Academy, Smithville Flats, N. Y., 1890-4.
Admitted to the bar at Syracuse N. Y. Nov. 1894. Lawyer at Cincinnatus, 1895-1907. School Commissioner of the 1st District of Cortland County, 1 Jan. 1906 until death.
Married 26 Dec 1895 to Jennie C. Hoag of Smithville Flats, N.Y.
Children: Helen E., born 8 July 1897. Cushing H., born 1899.
Died 10 May 1907 in New York City Hospital.

Alumni record of Svracuse Universitv



*Murray photos and early
history provided by
Sharon LaDuke*

Cincinnatus: I am also pleased to announce the marriage of our popular young lawyer, J.H. Murray, to a Miss Hoag of Smithville the 26th. There is a host of friends to wish Mr. Murray and his young bride a long, pleasant and happy union.

*De Ruyter Gleaner
Jan 4, 1896*

J.H. Murray is seriously ill at his home.

De Ruyter Gleaner Jan 3, 1907

The Cincinnatus community was saddened Saturday morning when the news was received of the death of Attorney J. H. Murray, who passed away at the hospital in New York. Mr. Murray had been ill for some time but had gained so that he was able to get to New York for medical advice, when suddenly taken worse and passed away.

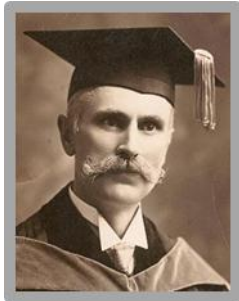
*De Ruyter Gleaner
May 16, 1907*

John Murray was the son of Charles H. Murray (b. 1829, Baldwinsville, Onondaga County; d. 1912, Carley Mills, Oswego County) and Helen Smith (1830 – 1868).

John may have worked at one of the local sawmills, as photographic evidence suggests the loss of the tips of several fingers, and the picture to the right showed him sitting in a chair in a room whose floor is covered with wood shavings.



*Charles
Murray
(Grandfather
of Helen)*



*William Murray
(uncle of Helen)*

John Herman Murray had a brother, William Smith Murray (Sept 3, 1861 – May 9, 1939) who also graduated from Syracuse University. William later got a PhD at Columbia. He was a longtime resident of Constantinople, Turkey, where he was involved in education.

John Murray was the grandson of another John Murray (July 12, 1804, location unclear, to 13 Feb 1879, Oswego) and Caroline Wightman (1812- 1860). Caroline's history has been traced, but the origins of John (the great grandfather of Helen Murray Knickerbocker) are not yet clear.

(We would love to hear from anyone with further information about the Murray roots.)

Jennie Hoag Murray (Mother of Helen Murray Knickerbocker; mother in law of Edwin)

Jennie Hoag was from Smithville Flats, about 15 miles southeast of Cincinnatus. She was born in about 1873, probably near Smithville Flats. She died in 1937 in Cincinnatus.

In various records, Jennie is sometimes called Jane. Though we will stick with Jennie, there may be some historic basis for her use of the name Jane.

Jennie was the daughter of Emily Horton and Stephen C. Hoag. We believe Stephen's middle name was "Cushing."

In an earlier generation, a male ancestor of Stephen's appears to have married a young lady named Jane Cushing, a descendant of a New England line of Cushings. This may be the subject of future research.

Jennie's ancestors are clearly the origin of the Cushing name within her descendants. Jennie named her son Cushing Murray, and one of her grandsons is named Donald Cushing Knickerbocker.

Jennie was about 34, with two children at home, when her husband died.

We will talk more about Jennie on the following two pages.

Jennie Hoag Murray: School Commissioner

Before discussing the second husband of Jennie Hoag, it is worth noting that she was apparently very active in her own right. She did not sit at home for very long after her first husband died.

About a year before he became ill, John Murray had been elected to be a School Commissioner. His term was to be 3 years. When John died, Jennie was appointed interim commissioner. The interim appointment was only valid until the fall election.

Jennie proceeded to seek the Republican nomination for the fall election, but was not selected. She apparently entertained the idea of running as a Democrat, but eventually aligned with the Prohibition Party. (Though it is not highlighted in this family history, there were apparently a number of links between the Women's Christian Temperance Union and various Knickerbockers and relatives.)

A week before the election, the Syracuse newspaper said there was "no doubt" about the outcome, and that she had no chance in the election. The newspaper was wrong. She won.

May 23, 1907

Mrs. Jane C. Murray of Cincinnatus has been appointed school commissioner by Judge Eggleston, to fill the vacancy made in the first district by the death of her husband. The appointment holds until Dec 31, 1907, a new commissioner being elected this fall to serve Mr. Murray's unexpired year

De Ruyter Gleaner

November 1, 1907

Little Interest in Tuesday's Elections Outcome is in no doubt

To all appearance next Tuesday will be one of the quietest election days that has been experienced in this city and county in years.

...

The school commissioner contest in the First district of the county is also lacking of interest, and O'Donnell, Republican, will be an easy winner. Mrs. Murray of Cincinnatus, who was a candidate for nomination on the Republican ticket, then a candidate on the Democratic ticket, but whose name appears only in the Prohibition column, will receive a very strong vote in Cincinnatus and Willet. Outside of the two towns the vote will be normal. The district gives a very strong Republican majority.

Syracuse Herald

November 6 1907

In the First School Commissioner District, Mrs. Jane Murray of Cincinnatus was elected on the Prohibition ticket over Frances O'Donnell, Republican, and Burt, Democrat. Her majority over O'Donnell was 199. Burt received only 171 votes in the entire district.

Mrs. Murray carried the eastern section of the county by heavy majorities.

She is the widow of former School Commissioner J. H. Murray of Cincinnatus, and the term that she is elected for is one year, the unexpired part of the three years for which her husband was elected.

Syracuse Herald

Jennie apparently served out the remainder of the term.

Clayton Heath (Stepfather of Helen Murray, and stepfather-in-law to Edwin)

Four years after the death of husband, Jennie Hoag Murray remarried. Her second husband was Clayton Heath.

Census records suggest they may have lived in Cortland for a brief time, then moved back to Cincinnatus, where Jennie had lived with John Murray.

Clayton Heath's history is given in his obituary:

Clayton B. Heath, 67, funeral director in Cincinnatus since 1905, died Tuesday night at his home in Cincinnatus.

He was born August 14, 1877 in Cuyler, the son of Francis and Millie Haggerty Heath. April 30, 1911, he was married to the late Jennie Murray of Cincinnatus.

He was a member of Cincinnatus F.&A.M., Cortland Chapter, Cincinnatus Lodge, I.O.O.F., Eastern Star in Cincinnatus, and attended the Methodist Church.

Surviving are two sons, Donald of Middleport, N.Y., and Lt. Francis Heath with the U.S. Army in Luxembourg; a daughter, Mrs. Helen Knickerbocker of Cincinnatus; a stepson, Cushing Murray of Ithaca; and a brother, Arthur Heath of McGraw.

De Ruyter Gleaner March 1, 1945

Jennie had died several years earlier:

Mrs. Jane Hoag Murray Heath, aged 65 years, wife of C.B. Heath, died at their home in Cincinnatus early Thursday morning from a heart attack. Mrs. Heath had apparently been feeling about as usual, and her death came as a great shock to her family and many friends.

Mrs. Heath was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Ladies Aid Society, the Women's Home Missionary Society, a charter member of the Eastern Star, the Women's club, also chairman of the local branch of the American Red Cross.

She was a happy, uncomplaining person, always ready to help in time of need. She will be greatly missed in the community.

Besides her husband she is survived by three sons, Cushing Murray of Ithaca, Donald Heath of Cincinnatus, Francis Heath of Boston Mass; one daughter, Mrs. Edwin Knickerbocker of Cincinnatus; and six grandchildren.

De Ruyter Gleaner March 18, 1937

Cushing Murray was the brother of Helen Murray, and thus the brother-in-law of Edwin Knickerbocker. Cushing and his wife, Myra, lived most of their married life in the Ithaca region. Myra was the daughter of Elwyn and Ida Skillman of Smithville Flats. Cushing and Myra did not have children.

Francis Heath was the son of Jennie and her second husband Clayton Heath. He was a half-brother to Helen Murray. (They shared the same mother.) Thus, Francis was a half-brother-in-law to Edwin Knickerbocker.

Francis served in the army during World War II.



Lt. Francis Heath, who was wounded in action, January 24, in Luxembourg, is reported in an improved condition according to word received by his father, C.B. Heath.

Lt. Heath is a son of C.B. and the late Jennie Murray Heath.

Lt Heath enlisted in January, 1942, and received his basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. He went overseas in 1943 and landed in England and was assigned to Cavalry unit and sent to North Ireland for further training.

They returned to England to take part in the invasion.

In his letter to his father was clipping regarding his outfit as follows: "With the U.S. Army, Jan 22. - We don't feel normal unless Jerry is in front of us, and behind us too. We ain't surrounded until we get caught, which we don't."

De Ruyter Gleaner March 1, 1944

Francis Heath survived his wounds, and returned safely after World War II.

11. Randall Family History

Marion (Randall) Knickerbocker, who married Richard Knickerbocker, was the daughter of John Randall of Pitcher, N.Y.

The Randall family has a long history in central New York. This history was documented in a study published in the late 1800's. Thus, the challenge here is to connect the modern John Randall to the documented family history. This is fairly easy.



Marion

Marion Randall's family can be found in census records, for example in 1930:

1930 Census Results, Pitcher, Chenango County, N.Y.

	<u>age</u>
John A. Randall	56
Gertrude C. Randall	43
Stuart R. Randall	20
Lawrence J. Randall	18
John A. Randall	10
Marion L. Randall	8

Records of Marion's grandparents can be found in the 1880 census records:

1880 Census Results, Pitcher, Chenango County, N.Y.

	<u>age</u>
Ralph Randall	40
Matilda J. Randall	35
E. Henry Randall	12
John A. Randall	6
Eunis Randall (mother)	68

These census records from 1880 allow us to tie the early family history together. They suggest that Marion's roots can be found via her grandfather Ralph, and her great-grandmother Eunis.

There are also various newspaper clippings that help connect Ralph Randall, and his son Elias Henry (or EH, who had a unique name), to the later Randall families.

The Randall family genealogy in the Chenango area is well documented. A study done in the late 1800's is now available as an e-book. We will list only a tiny part of this genealogy, focusing only on the lineage of Marion Randall.

GENEALOGY

Of a Branch of the Randall Family

1666 - 1879

Author: Paul Randall

In the eighth generation of the published study, there is a wife Eunice who is the mother of Ralph Randall.

This is where we connect to the modern family's census records.

By this reckoning, Marion Randall is at least the tenth generation of Randalls in the U.S. This matches Richard, a 10th generation Knickerbocker.

The ancestors of Marion Randall have been in central New York since the early 1800's. (John Randall the 5th died in 1818 in Norwich.)

First Generation: John Randall, died at Westerly, R.I. about 1684-5.
m. Elizabeth (Last Name Unknown).
Children include: John Randall Jr.

Second Generation: John Randall Jr, b. 1666 R.I., d. CT
m. first Abigail (LNU)
m. second Mary Baldwin
Children include: John Randall 3d.

Third Generation: John Randall 3d. "Capt." b. CT 1701; d CT 1761
m. first Elizabeth Cottrell
m. second Mrs. Mary Palmer Holmes
Children include: John Randall 4th

Fourth Generation: John Randall 4th, b. CT 1730, d. CT 1802
m. first Lucy Brown
m. second Thankful Swan
Children include: John Randall 5th.

Fifth Generation: John Randall 5th, b. CT and d. Norwich, NY 1818.
m. first Mary Swan
m. second Hannah Mary Avery Randall (widow of brother Roswell)
Children include: Denison Randall

Sixth Generation: Denison Randall, b. CT 1777, d. at Pharsalia NY 1824
m. Betsey Steward
Children include: Elias Hewitt Randall

Seventh Generation Elias Hewitt Randall, b. Pharsalia 1804, d. Pitcher 1864
m. Eunice B. Weaver
Children include: Ralph Randall

Eighth Generation: Ralph Randall, b. at Pitcher, NY 1840
m Matilda J. Hill
Children include: 2; John Alabon Randall

Ninth Generation: John Alabon Randall, b. 29th Jan 1874
(This is where the published genealogy ends. This is Marion's father.)

The much earlier history of the Randall family is given in the early pages of the book mentioned above:

The family name of Randall is traceable back to the period of the Normal Conquest of England in A.D. 1086. It first appears in the celebrated "Domes Day-Book" of William the Conqueror, in the assignment of lands to individuals bearing that name.

The name John Randall is of frequent occurrence in the records of legal proceedings and judicial decisions, from the beginning of the reign of Edward II to the end of that of Henry VIII.

From about 1620 to the end of the century, the names of several of the family appear in the ancient records and archives of the Northern and Eastern Colonies, but from their early diffusion it is really impossible to trace any one family of the present period from its English ancestors. It is known that several persons by the name of Randall were among the early settlers of New England.

12. Glezen Family History

Patricia "Pat" [Glezen] Knickerbocker, the wife of Robert Henry Knickerbocker, was the daughter of Donald Glezen, who spent his later years in Cincinnatus. She had two sisters.

Donald Glezen was a physician who was well known in the area. A biography from 1933 lists information about his parents.

William J. Glezen [*father of Donald Glezen*] and his wife are natives of Broome County. He is a graduate of Center Lisle Academy, and as a young man spent eleven years in the employ of the Parmelee Baggage Transfer Company at Chicago, Illinois. He then returned to New York and has since conducted a dairy farm of 385 acres near Lisle. His wife is Mary (Briggs) Glezen.

History of Central New York

Volume 3

By Harry Malone

Tompkins County Public Library

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Glezen: 1. Donald Briggs, born November 4, 1894 2. Winifred, married Daniel McNamara, lives at Lisle. 3. Marcena Benjamin, D. D. S., lives at Cincinnatus. By a former marriage Mr. Glezen has two daughters: 1. Ella, married Raymond Livermore, lives at Dryden. 2. Martha, married Alva Warner, lives at GlenCastle, New York.

The boyhood of Donald Briggs Glezen was spent on his father's farm near Lisle. He is a graduate of Cortland High School. During the [*first*] World War Doctor Glezen enlisted in the Medical Reserve Corps.

He is a graduate of Union College, and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine at Albany Medical College in 1921. After a year as intern at Albany Memorial Hospital, Dr. Glezen was connected with Binghamton City Hospital for one year, and in July, 1922, located at Cincinnatus.

As coroner of Cortland County since 1927, Dr. Donald B. Glezen is also prominent as a successful physician and surgeon of Cincinnatus.

On August 8, 1922, Donald Glezen married Miss Florence Acker, of Northville, New York. She is a graduate of Northville High School and Albany City Hospital. Her parents are Charles and Nellie (Lawrence) Acker, of Northville.

Doctor and Mrs. Glezen have two daughters: 1. Barbara Jean, born December 27, 1924. 2. Patricia Virginia, born September 28, 1928.

[*This biography was written before Pat's sister Nancy was born.*]



Patricia Glezen is accepted into the nursing program at City Hospital in Binghamton, where her father Donald interned in 1921-1922.

*Binghamton Press
March 10, 1948*

Dr. Glezen is a Republican, a member of the Congregational Church, and is affiliated with Cincinnatus Lodge, No. 706, F. And A. M., Master 1930-31-32; Cortland Lodge of Perfection; Central City Consistory, A. A. S. R., 32nd degree, Syracuse; B. P. O. Elks; American Legion, South Otselic Post; Nu Sigma Nu fraternity; Cincinnatus Country Club, president; and Cincinnatus Fish and Game Club.

13. Parks Family History

Marilyn Ruth (Parks) Knickerbocker, is a member of the Parks family from Union Valley. She is commonly called Ruth. She is the wife of Donald Cushing Knickerbocker (son of Edwin Knickerbocker),

Compared to the Brighams, Bournes, Bryans, etc., the Parks came along fairly late, in terms of marrying into the Knickerbocker line. However, they actually arrived in Cincinnatus earlier than any of those families.

Although the Parks family has been in the area for a long time, there are few members of the family still around. The reasons will be summarized here.

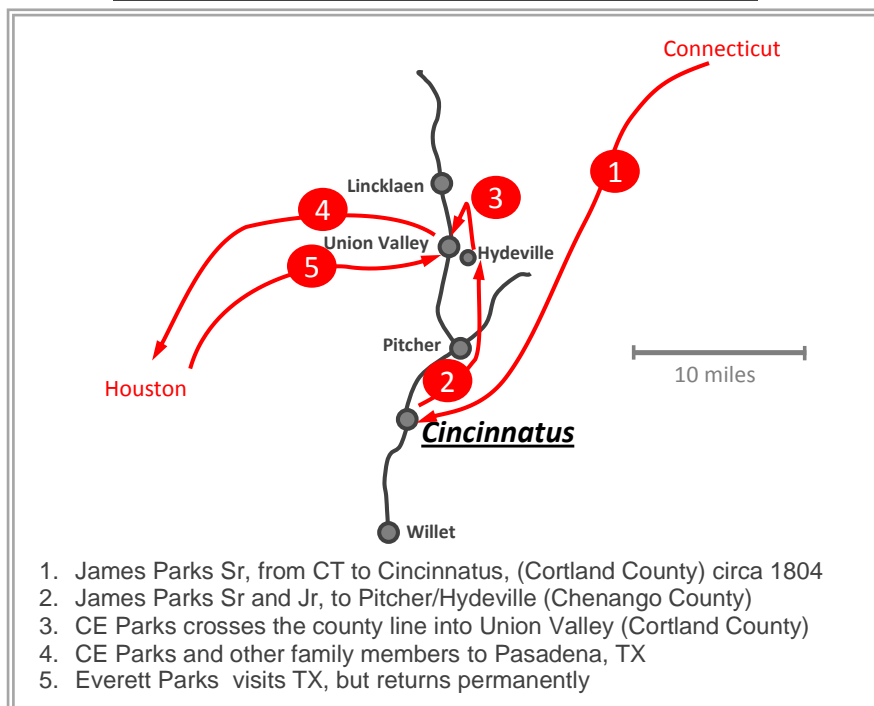
The Parks family has a much larger presence in Pasadena, Texas, which is now a suburb on the east edge of Houston. Kim Parks, of the Texas family, is the leading expert on both the Union Valley and Texas branches of the family.

We need to thank Kim Parks for all her work, and for pictures of the families.

Summary: Parks Family

James Parks
m. Elizabeth Ellsworth
↓
James A. Parks
m. Laura Sophronia Fox
↓
Calvin ("C.E.") Parks
m. 1 Caroline Fuller
↓
Everett Parks
m. Cora Belle Peterson
↓
Leon Parks
m. Stella Eaton
↓
Marilyn Ruth Parks
m. Donald Knickerbocker

Parks Family Migration to Cincinnatus and Beyond



Although the Parks family is thought of as being from Union Valley, they actually arrived first in Cincinnatus, well before the Knickerbockers.

James Parks arrived in Cincinnatus sometime before 1804. He came from Connecticut, and might have been part of the same Mohawk Turnpike migration as other families already discussed.

Both James Parks and the Ellsworths later moved to Chenango county, where they are buried in the Hinman Cemetery. In the case of James Parks, he may have lived in Hydeville, a small village that is discussed later.

First two generations

We do not know many details about the lives of the two James Parks and their spouses.

We will summarize our searches here.

1. James Parks b: 1780 in CT d: Mar 30, 1855 Pitcher, NY
m. Elizabeth Ellsworth b: Jul 04, 1785 S. Cuyler, NY d: Nov 25, 1868
Pitcher, NY m: 1804
2. James A. Parks b: 1815 in NY d: Sept 28, 1892 Pitcher, NY
m. Laura Sophronia Fox b: 1812 in Pitcher, NY d: May 14, 1871 in
Pitcher, NY

James Parks "Senior" of Cincinnatus and Pitcher

James Parks was the first of the Parks family ancestors in the area. He arrived in Cincinnatus before 1804, and was married in March, 1804. We will call him "James Senior" just to keep the names straight. (He is not actually called "Senior" in any of the historical records.)

Cincinnatus tax records show "Parke, James" living west of the town of Cincinnatus, somewhere near today's intersection of Piety Hill Road and Route 41. His father in law George Ellsworth was a about a mile away, near the intersection of today's Knickerbocker road and Route 41.

Since he arrived before 1804, James Sr. must have been one of the first settlers in Cincinnatus. However, he is not mentioned in any of the early histories of the town.

James Sr. married another recent Cincinnatus arrival, Elizabeth Ellsworth. Her father George is mentioned as being an untraced relative in a published genealogy of the Aylsworth / Ellsworth family.) We have seen George referred to as both "Ellsworth" and "Aylsworth" in Cortland County land records.

Aylsworth Information

Elizabeth Elsworth, b. July 4, 1785, m. James Parks, April, 1804, she died Nov. 25, 1868. They had four children, of whom James A. Parks, of South Cuyler, Cortland, Co., is the only one living (1883).

*"Arthur Aylsworth and his descendants
in America" by Homer Aylsworth*

James Sr. is in the 1820 census results for Cincinnatus:

1820 Census, Cincinnatus

Census record

Head of house: James Parks
1 son age 0 – 10
1 son age 10 - 16
2 daughters ages 10 – 16
1 adult male age 26 – 45
1 adult female age 26 – 45

Our interpretation of the family makeup

*James A, born 1815/1816
Older brother b 1804-1810
Two older sisters
Adult male = James, Sr.
Adult female = Elizabeth*

Unfortunately, the only names recorded in early census records were the heads of each household. Other members of the household were only documented according to their gender and age. Based on this record, we see four children (which agrees with the Aylsworth book), and we get some sense of when they were born.

By 1850, the census recorded every name, and also some other details such as age and place of birth. From this we know that James Sr. was born in Connecticut in about 1780.

(Note: Despite some erroneous data on at least one Internet site, nobody else is living with James and Elizabeth in 1850. The original census taker's sheet can be viewed on www.familysearch.org.)

1850 Census Results, Pitcher

	<u>Age</u>	<u>Birth</u>
James Parks	70	CT
Elizabeth	65	NY

Next household on census taker's sheet:

James A. Parks	34	NY
Laura	38	"
Calvin	7	"
Polly	2	"

The Origins of James Parks of Cincinnatus

We do not know exactly where James Parks came from, or who his parents were.

Multiple people with the last names Parke, Park, or Parks immigrated from England to the colonies in the late 1600's and early 1700's, before the Revolutionary War. Their descendants slowly migrated west as populations grew and good farmland became scarce. Many people with those last names had reached the western edge of Connecticut by around 1800.

(There was also a second wave of immigration in the 1800's, well after the Revolutionary War. This included at least one Park family from England that wound up in Chenango county. However, our James Parks was born in Connecticut in 1780, so he is probably descended from a pre-war immigrant.)

References for Parke / Parks Genealogies

Genealogy of the Parke families of Connecticut, including Robert Parke, of New London, Edward Parks, of Guilford, and others (1906)

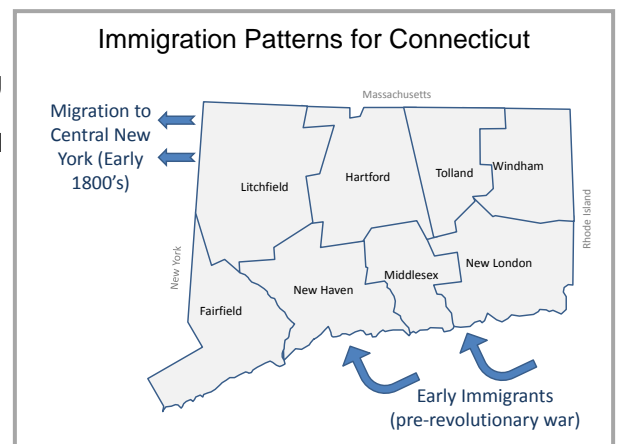
Genealogy of the Parke families of Massachusetts, including Richard Parke, of Cambridge, William Park, of Groton, and others (1909)

Both books by Frank Sylvester Parks

There are two old books that discuss the migration of the Parke / Park / Parks families. Unfortunately they do not include our family line, so neither has proven too helpful, yet. They may be useful later once we finally link James Sr back to his parents.

As discussed briefly in Section 5, there was massive migration out of Connecticut and Massachusetts after the Revolutionary War. One driver was the government opening up the central New York area, the Bounty Lands. This helped lead to the creation of the Mohawk Turnpike, a gravel road running west from Albany. It opened in about 1803, and enabled the residents of Connecticut to migrate to the wilderness of central New York, along the same path as today's New York State Thruway.

John Knickerbocker, from Litchfield County in Connecticut, was part of that western migration. Litchfield was ideally situated as a jumping-off point.



Our James Parks is the only person with that last name who seems to have come all the way down to Cincinnatus by 1810. Most early settlers did not come all the way down the Otselic river to Cincinnatus. Instead, they stopped in places like Eaton. (Eaton is where the Knickerbockers originally stopped.)

By the 1850's, there were lots of people names Parks, etc, in central New York. Several of them were born in Connecticut. Unfortunately we have not found any firm link between James Sr. and these other settlers.

Further research will explore a multitude of possible origins for James Parks.

One intriguing possibility arises from the fact that the Knickerbockers in Connecticut had a neighbor named Parks. Specifically, in the late 1700's, there was a man named James Parks, whose wife was named Mary. They lived not far from the Knickerbockers, in Salisbury, Litchfield County, CT. James

and Mary had a son named James Parks. This James Parks would have been perfectly positioned to migrate west when the Mohawk Turnpike opened in about 1803.

Another possibility is related to all of the other Parks who showed up in Pitcher in the early 1800's. Two of those families migrated from Plainfield, in Windham County Connecticut. Douglass Park and Steven Park arrived in Pitcher in the 1820 – 1840 period, well after James Parks had arrived in Cincinnatus.. However, it is possible that our James Parks was a relative of Douglass and/or Steven, and that Douglass and/or Steven later followed their cousin to central New York.

Given our inability to trace the roots of James Sr, the rest of this section will focus on his descendants.

The Children of James Parks, Sr.

James Parks Sr. (b: 1780 in CT, d: 1855 in Pitcher) and his wife Elizaeth had four children.

James A. Parks was the son of James Sr., and was probably the youngest of the children. We will discuss him later.

Mary Parks is probably one of the daughters of James Sr. She buried in Hinman Cemetery in Pitcher, right next to James Sr. Her tombstone says she died at age 28, and suggests a birth date of 1808. We do not have any records related to her.

Almira Parks is probably related. She may be either the daughter or daughter-in-law of James Sr. We know she was the second wife of Horace Chandler, who is also buried in Hinman cemetery. (The Chandlers were another local family, and one of the Chandlers boys was married to one of the Ellsworth daughters.) Almira apparently died in the mid 1870's in Cincinnatus.

Future research should be able to determine whether Almira was a daughter who lived with James Sr. until her marriage, or a widow who had been living with a husband named Parks.

Almira Parks Marriage Records

CHANDLER, Horace, 55, of Pitcher, was married to PARKS, Almira, 42, of Pitcher, on June 15, 1849 by H P Turner, Esq., Lincklaen, NY

12 Aug 1870 Married. LIVINGSTON - CHANDLER - In Pitcher, on the 24th ult., by R. P. CHAPMAN, Esq., Mr. John LIVINGSTON, of Cincinnatus, and Mrs. Almira CHANDLER, of Pitcher.

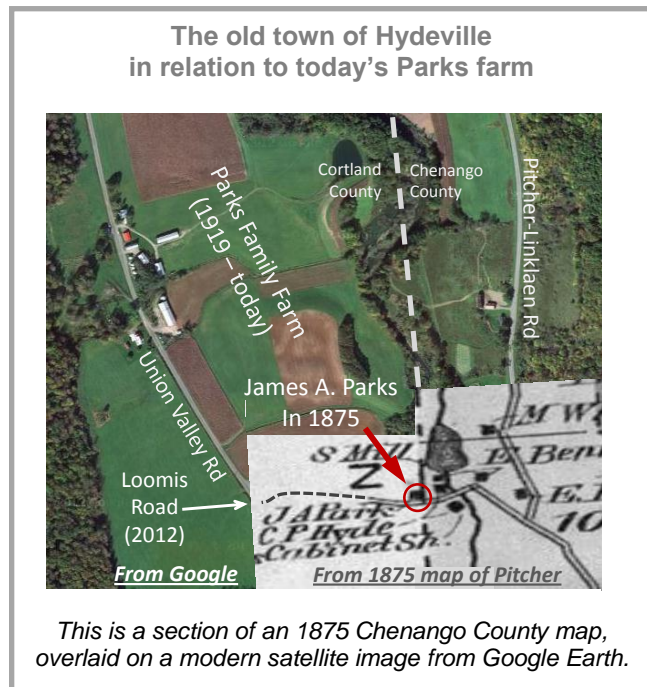
The oldest son of James Sr. is a complete mystery. We do not have any candidates who were born in New York, were about the right age, and died before 1875 (as mentioned in the Aylsworth book). By the mid 1800's, there were other Parks in the Cortland / Chenango / Madison area, including Nathan Parks, Steven Parks, and Asa Parks. However, in every case so far, either the ages are way off, or they were born in Connecticut, or both. None of them appear to be a son of James, Sr. We will keep looking, and will explore the possibility that the oldest son either died young or moved out of the area.

In any case, it appears that none of James Senior's children has been documented as part of any published genealogy study. Therefore learning about these children might not help us link back to the Connecticut parents of James Sr.

James A. Parks of Pitcher, Hydeville, Cuyler, and Cortlandville

James A Parks (b: 1815 in NY, d: Sept 28, 1892 Pitcher, NY) was the son of James Parks Sr. and Elizabeth Ellsworth.

Based on historical records, it appears there was at least one other man named James Parks in central New York at about this same time. Our ancestor was almost always referred to as James A. Parks in both census records and newspaper stories, to differentiate him from that other person.



In census records from the mid 1800's, James A. Parks is listed under the town of Pitcher. However, we believe he was in the tiny, unincorporated village of Hydeville. A county map from 1875 puts his house almost exactly where a bible camp sits today – in the narrow strip of land between the creek and the county line.

Hydeville, named after the Hyde family, is largely forgotten today. It was once the site of a dam that supported a sawmill, which in turn supported a woodworking and cabinet shop. Today, the only access to this area is from the Cortland county side, via Loomis road. In the 1800's the access was from Hydeville road, from the Pitcher side of the valley.

James A. Parks' first wife was named Laury. We believe her full maiden name was Laury Sophriano Fox. James and Laury are buried in the Pitcher Congregational Cemetery.

James A. Parks remarried after his first wife died. By the time of the 1880 census, James A. was living in Cuyler with his second wife, Philena Ford Parks, the daughter of Lovisa Ford. The Ford family was from Lincklaen. After James died, Philena moved to Marion, Wayne County, NY. James and Philena did not have any children.

Later Generations

Our knowledge of family history increases in the third generation. This is thanks to the records kept by the Texas descendants, and to the emergence of newspapers.

3. Calvin Elson Parks b: July 31, 1843 in Pitcher, NY d: Jan 08, 1920 in Pasadena, Harris Co., Texas Cause of death: Apoplexy
m1: Caroline M. Fuller b: 1840 in N.Y. d: Jan 14, 1889 in Union Valley, NY
m2: Flora Peterson, who moved with him to Texas.
3. Polly Maria "Aunt Rie" Parks b: Aug 5, 1848, in Pitcher, d. April 6, 1935, McGraw.
m. William H. McElheny, d. June 2, 1934. Married on April 15, 1874.

(There are hundreds of newspaper stories dealing with the Union Valley Parks family and its relatives. For access to both the DeRuyter Gleaner and the Cortland Standard, see the amazing website www.fultonhistory.com.)

The Children of James A. Parks.

The oldest child of James A. Parks was Calvin Elson Parks. He was almost always known as CE. His life will be discussed in detail a bit later.

Polly Maria (or Mariah) Parks McElheny

Born August 5, 1848, Pitcher, NY. Died April 11, 1935.

Maria was the youngest child of James A. Parks. We believe her childhood was spent primarily in Pitcher. Although the birth announcement describes Maria's mother as Sephona Parks, we believe her mother's full name was Laury Sophronia Parks. (Laury Parks is buried next to James A. Parks.)

*Maria's Birth Announcement
Chenango county records (1848)*

Parks, Polly Mariah, Aug 5, to James A
and Sephona Parks



Mariah Parks and William H. McElheny

In 1874, Mariah married William H. McElheny of McGraw. He was the son of George and Charity McElheny of McGraw. (He was almost always called William H. in newspaper articles, because he had a cousin who was also named William.)

William McElheny was in the construction business. His specialty appears to have been slate roofing.

During their married life, Maria and William lived in Cortland and McGraw. They did not have any children.

Maria and William interacted frequently with her brother and his children. Based on postcards she sent to her nephew, she was called "Aunt Rie."

Surprisingly, Maria's obituary says that her mother's name was Mary. Her obituary was apparently written by a person in McGraw, after Maria and her husband had both died. We think the writer was mistaken.



*Maria's Obituary, DeRuyter Gleaner
April 11, 1935:*

Mrs. Maria Park McElheny, 86, died Sunday evening at her home in McGraw, following an illness of several months duration. Mrs. McElheny was born in Pitcher on August 5, 1848, the daughter of James and Maria Park.

On April 15, 1874, she was married to Will McElheny, who died on June 2, 1934. Mrs. McElheny, who lived alone at her home in McGraw, was a member of the Baptist Church and of the McGrawville Grange.

The surviving relatives include several nieces and nephews: William, Ralph, Dever, and Erma Park in Pasadena, Texas, and Everett Park of Union Valley.

Burial will be made in the McGrawville cemetery.

Before jumping into the descendants of CE Parks, we will briefly discuss the Union Valley area, and the spouses who helped form the Union Valley family.

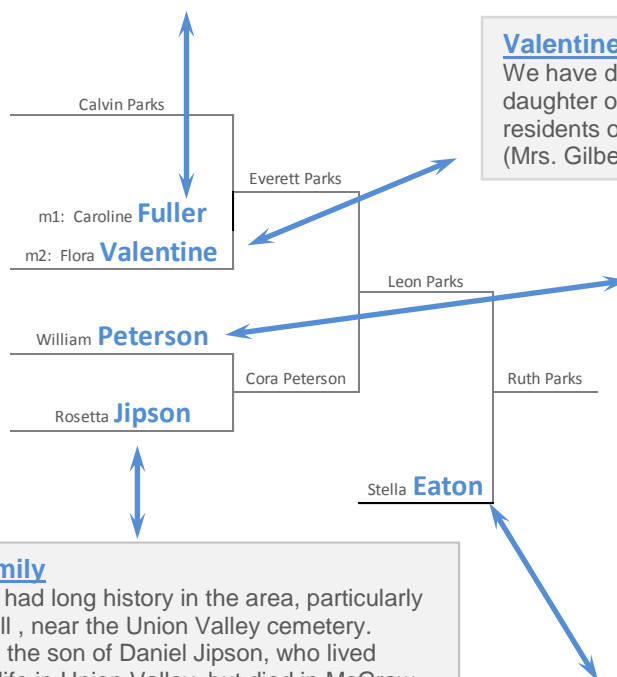
Spouses of the Union Valley Parks Families

Fuller Family

Sullivan Fuller was the patriarch of the Union Valley family. He was born in Rhode Island, and reached Union Valley in about 1829. He married Polly Cole. Caroline was their daughter.

Caroline had two brothers who served in the 76th NY infantry in the Civil War. One brother, Jonathon Burdette Fuller, returned safely, and remained a close friend of the Parks family. The other brother, Everett Fuller, was wounded at Gettysburg, and later was captured by the confederates at the Wilderness. Everett died in a Confederate prison camp. We believe he was sent first to Andersonville, the most notorious of the Confederate camps. Many Andersonville prisoners were transferred elsewhere when William Tecumseh Sherman captured Atlanta during his southern campaign. Everett Fuller was apparently one of those transferred out of Andersonville. He wound up in Florence, South Carolina, where he died.

We believe Everett Parks (who was born in 1867) was named for Everett Fuller (who died in 1864).



Valentine Family

We have done only basic research on the Valentines. Flora was the daughter of William and Mary Anne Valentine, who were longtime residents of Marathon. Flora had at least three siblings: Edgar, Alice (Mrs. Gilbert Wavle), and Emma (Mrs. James Henry "JH" Wavle.)

Peterson Family

William Peterson was the son of Philip and Minerva Peterson of Lincklaen. We have not found much information on his parents.

William became a master carpenter. He was employed making wheels and carriages, as well as building houses and barns. He married Rosetta Jipson. They spent most of their lives in Union Valley. They had only had one child, Cora Belle.

The Petersons apparently lived with Everett Parks during various periods of their later lives.

Jipson Family

The Jipsons had long history in the area, particularly on Jipson Hill, near the Union Valley cemetery. Rosetta was the son of Daniel Jipson, who lived much of his life in Union Valley, but died in McGraw at the home of a daughter. Daniel was the son and grandson of men named Micah Jipson.

The elder Micah's wife was named Mary. We believe they are the Micah and Mary Hawkins from *A History of the Descendants of John Jipson* by Norton Jipson (1917). That book traces the Jipson roots back many generations.

Eaton Family

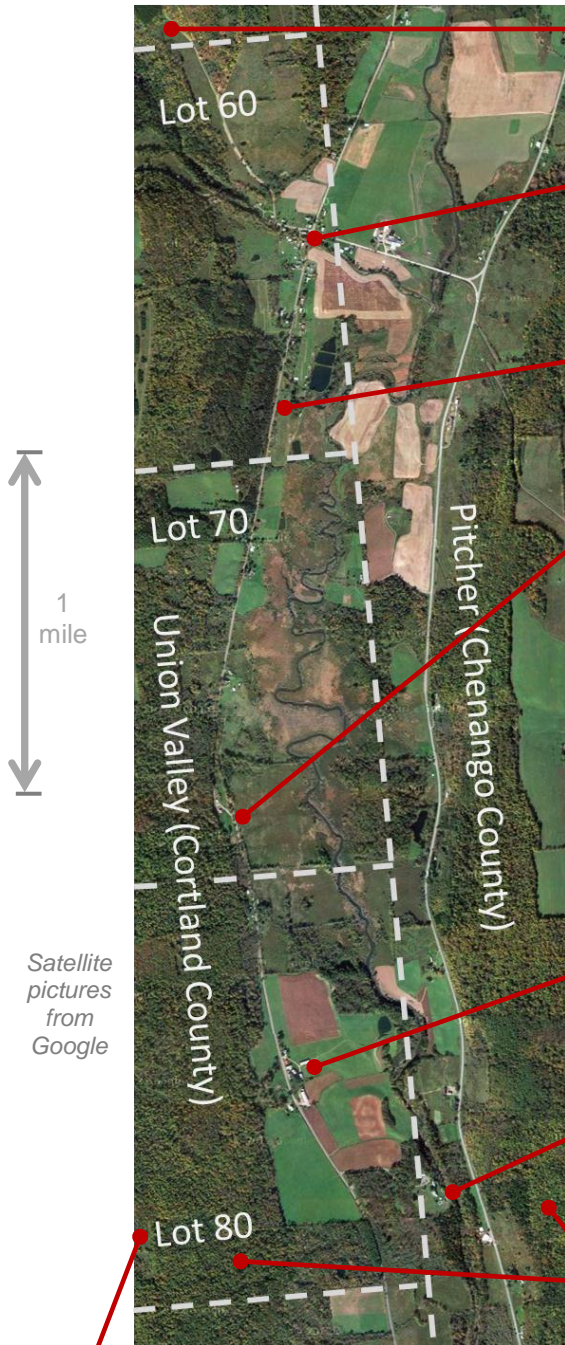


John Eaton and
Jane Parslow

The Eatons are another of the old families from the area. The patriarch, William Eaton, was born in Massachusetts in 1779 and came to Chenango County before 1810. His son, John Eaton, married Jane Parslow. Their son, DeForest Eaton, was the father of Stella Eaton Parks.

Union Valley Geography

“Union Valley” is a small area within Cortland County. It is less than 4 miles long, has only 1 main road, and officially encompasses only the Cortland County side of a creek valley. The other side of the creek valley is officially part of Pitcher, in Chenango County.



Jipson Hill, the historic home of the Jipson family.

Town of Union Valley. From the 1869 Cortland Gazetteer: “Union Valley contains a church, a hotel, several shops, and about 25 houses.” Like the rest of the area, the town hasn’t grown much in the last 140 years.

Union Valley Cemetery, where Sullivan Fuller, Caroline Fuller Parks, William Peterson, Cora Peterson Parks, Everett Parks, and other ancestors and relatives are buried.

Lot 70. Calvin Parks bought and sold multiple properties in Union Valley, but we believe his primary farm was here, in the southern part of Lot 70.

By 1894, CE owned land in Lots 50, 60, 70, and 80. When he left for Texas, CE made one last sale, selling everything to a person named Livia Olds.

About 16 years later, Everett Parks bought a farm at the very north end of Lot 70, near the Fullers. Everett sold this farm in 1919, and then bought a larger farm in Lot 80.

Today’s Parks Farm, in Lot 80, was purchased by Everett Parks in 1919 from Hiram Boyd. The farm used to be called the Lake Farm after its longtime owners. This is now the home of Ralph, Marge, and James Parks.

Hydeville. Once the site of a dam, sawmill, furniture shop, and school. James A. Parks lived here in the mid 1800’s.

400 Foot Hills. The valley is bounded by steep hills that rise 400 to 500 feet above creek level.

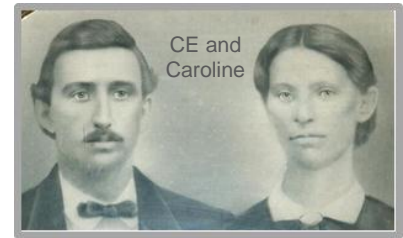
Lot Numbers. After the Revolutionary war, the area was divided into “Lots” containing 640 acres (1 square mile). The typical farm size in the 1800’s was only about 30 acres, so one “Lot” contained many farms.

Calvin Parks, the great grandfather of Ruth Parks Knickerbocker

Born 1843, Pitcher, NY. Died 1922, Pasadena, Texas

Calvin Elson (CE) Parks spent his early years in the Union Valley area, and his later years in Pasadena, Texas.

Calvin's first wife was Caroline Fuller. She is an example of how the Parks family became connected to the oldest families in the Union Valley and Pitcher area. These included the Fullers, the Jipsons, the Coles, and the Eatons. All of these families appear to be descendants of early settlers of the colonies, and all appear to have roots in England / Scotland / Ireland. (In fact, of all the families mentioned in this history, the Knickerbockers are a rare example of a non-British family.)



Many thanks to Kim Parks for Parks family pictures.

When Caroline and CE Parks had their first child in 1867, they named him Everett. This was probably in honor of Caroline's brother, who died in a Confederate prison camp. CE and Caroline had a total of six children:

- 4. Everett Edward Parks b: April 23, 1867 in NY d: Mar 06, 1942 in Union Valley, NY
m. Cora Belle Peterson b: 1875 d: 1939 in Union Valley, NY m: Oct. 17 1894
- 4. Ralph Emerson Parks b: 1869 in NY d: Jul 04, 1939 in Pasadena, TX
- 4. William Sullivan "Willie" Parks b: Oct 08, 1870 in Union Valley, NY d: Oct 11, 1947 in Pasadena, TX. Cause of death: Heart Attack
m. Leora Gwartney b: Nov 13, 1885 in Marquette, Hamilton, NE d: Jan 21, 1975 in Pasadena, TX m: Mar 23, 1906 in Pasadena, TX
- 4. Irma Parks b: January 24, 1873 in Union Valley, NY d: 1946 Cause of death: Coronary Thrombosis
m. Will N. Blakesley b: Dec 19, 1871 in Black River Falls, WI m: August 20, 1896 in Deepwater, TX
- 4. Nora Elsie Parks b: 1876 in NY d: Jul 25, 1888 in Union Valley, NY
- 4. James Devere Sr. Parks b: 1879 d: 1949 Cause of death: Heart Attack
m1. Francis Lanora "Nora" Thurman b: Sept 30, 1879 d: Aug 30, 1919 in Pasadena; m: 1901 in Pasadena
m2. Frances Collins



We believe CE and his family lived in Union Valley from around 1860 until CE left for Texas in 1893. However, we are not sure exactly where the family lived. As described later, CE bought and sold quite a bit of real estate. In addition, newspaper stories state that CE owned multiple farms, and multiple houses, for at least a few years. We have a picture of CE's house, probably from the early 1880's, with Ralph and the two girls sitting in front, but we don't know exactly where this house was.

One of the girls, Nora, died young, at the age of 13; her obituary describes her as a "bright, pleasant girl, kind and affectionate, and a quick scholar." Caroline Fuller died in January, 1889, at the relatively young age of 49. Her obituary describes her as having devoted her life to her family and children.

James A. Parks, the father of Calvin, died in the fall of 1892. James A. Parks may have had health problems for a number of years before he died.

A year after his father died, C.E. Parks decided to spend the winter in south Texas:

C.E Parks intends to winter in Texas. Wm. Peterson will accompany him.

De Ruyter Gleaner, November, 1893

At this stage, in late 1893, the newspaper records diverge from the family's oral history.

The Texas descendants of CE Parks believe that CE may have visited the World's Fair in Chicago in the summer of 1893, and may have bought land in Texas, site unseen. This is an interesting theory. It is true that Texas real estate was advertised and sold at the World's Fair. However, various Texas histories show that the mass land sales at the World's Fair were focused on La Porte, which is farther east than the area where Calvin Parks settled. Also, newspaper articles suggest that Willie, not Calvin, was the only family member who went to Chicago. (Willie went with his uncle Burdette Fuller.)

A newspaper article, cited below, supports a competing theory: CE bought the Texas farm during his first Texas visit in the fall of 1893. CE could easily have learned about the area without ever visiting the World's Fair. Investors from central New York were heavily involved in real estate speculation in Texas. (For example, they eventually created a Texas tourist attraction called Sylvan Beach, named in honor of the popular beach on Oneida Lake, near Syracuse.) The speculator's activities were mentioned in multiple newspaper stories in the Gleaner and the Standard, and at least one of the leading speculators visited Cortland. Thus, according to this theory, CE had heard about the area, went for a visit, and went as far as the rail line would take him in 1893. (The rail line wasn't extended all the way to La Porte until about 1896.)

In any case, CE went to Texas in the fall of 1893, and, according to the newspaper, bought a farm:

November 15, 1893

C. E. Parks, who went to Texas about a month ago, was so delighted with the Lone Star state that he bought a farm there. He expects to winter in a warmer climate than New York state, hereafter.

[Cortland Evening Standard]

Sometime in late 1893, CE had sold his cows and farm equipment:

January 4, 1894

C. E Parks recently sold his dairy [*i.e. his cows*], hay, utensils, etc, to Henry Howe of Cuyler.

[De Ruyter Gleaner]

On December 27, 1893, the local paper said CE would return to Texas, and would travel with a friend:

December 27, 1893

C. E Parks and Frank Deming are getting ready for their Texas trip, January 9.

[De Ruyter Gleaner]

However, things changed. Within 2 weeks, CE had remarried and permanently relocated to Texas:

January 11, 1894

C.E Parks and bride left town Sunday night for their home in the sunny southland. Mr. Parks is something of a "hustler" and we bespeak success for him in his new home.

[De Ruyter Gleaner]

C.E. Parks and Real Estate

We will pause to talk about CE's apparent passion for real estate. This might be the reason the newspaper described CE as a hustler. Real estate issues may also have contributed to CE's decision to leave Union Valley.

Starting at age 25, CE made twelve real estate transactions in Cortland County. He then made one additional large transaction in 1894, selling all of his remaining properties to Mrs. Livia Keator Olds.

This list does not include Chenango county, where real estate records are harder to find. This list also does not include the multiple transactions made by James A. Parks or Maria Parks McElheny.

At least some of these transactions involved mortgages.

Cortland County Real Estate Transactions

1868 Calvin E Parks from James and Laura Parks
1868 Calvin E Parks from Daniel Shufelt
1869 Calvin E Parks from Herman Ripley
1870 Calvin E Parks from William Gorsline
1871 Calvin E Parks to William Gorsline
1872 Calvin E Parks to William Gorsline
1875 Calvin E Parks to Chauncey Keator
1875 Calvin E Parks to Harrison Wells
1882 Calvin E Parks from Arthur B. Fox
1887 Calvin E Parks from Sullivan Fuller
1887 Calvin E Parks from Sarah Eldredge
1887 Calvin E Parks to Ira Green

1894 Calvin E Parks to Livia Olds

The Depression of 1893-1900: Bursting A Bubble in Farm Values?

REMEMBER THE PANIC OF 1893!

From an editorial in the Cortland Standard

The depression that began in 1893 was the worst the country had ever experienced. Financial markets were in disarray, real estate values plummeted due to overbuilding, foreclosures were common, and the government resorted to issuing bonds to cover its debts. The analogies to today's economy are obvious. Hundreds of articles are available via Google. We will rely on a summary posted on *eh.net encyclopedia* by David Whitten of Auburn University.

The economic contraction began early in 1893. It appeared to ease in late 1894, but the economy fell into a double dip that didn't finally go away until after 1900.

The economics of farming contributed to the country's issues. Key points that are highlighted in the work by David Whitten:

- Farming had boomed in the preceding years.
 - Between 1870 and 1890, the number of farms in the U.S. grew by 80%.
 - Total production of crops like wheat doubled, outpacing population growth.
- However, most farmers were no longer self-sufficient.
 - Less than half the workforce was now involved with farming.
 - Most farmers now relied on selling products, making them sensitive to the broader economy.
- Farm property values increased by 80 % between 1870 and 1890, even though production was outgrowing consumption. Farm values fell dramatically when the economy slowed.
- Mortgages had become more common, just at a point when real estate values were climbing.

Unemployment Rates

1892	3.0 %
1893	11.7 %
1894	18.4 %
1895	13.7 %
1896	14.5 %
1900	5.0 %

The mid 1890's saw decreases in crop prices and farm values, and a surge in foreclosures. All of this happened at an unfortunate time, because Calvin Parks and his sister appear to have been accumulating real estate. We believe that both Calvin and Maria lost some property due to foreclosure.

This was not a good time for an ambitious man to be making his fortune in Union Valley, NY. This may have contributed to CE's decision to move to Texas.

Flora Valentine, the Second Wife of CE Parks

CE's second marriage started with an interesting twist: the De Ruyter Gleaner and Cortland Standard stories that mention his second marriage did not include the name of CE's wife. This is unusual; the bride's name was often prominently featured in any story about a wedding. The implication is that neither the Gleaner or the Standard knew about the wedding in advance, nor did they know the bride's name before CE and his new bride left for Texas.

Of course, we know that CE's second wife was Flora Irene Valentine. Her parents were William and Mary Ann Valentine, who lived most of their lives in Marathon.

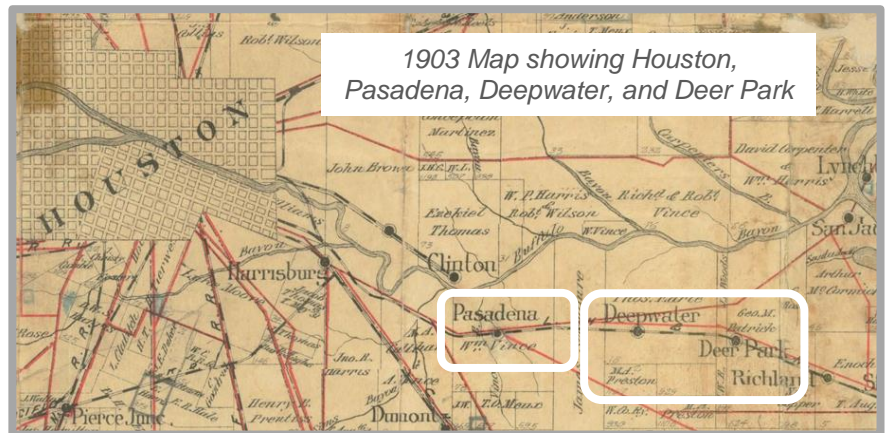
We do not know how CE and Flora met. Marathon and Union Valley are 14 miles apart. The family's oral history says that Flora may have been related to Maria's husband William McElheny, which led to Flora meeting CE. They might also have met via the Wavle family. Two of Flora's sisters married into the Wavle family, which had a presence just to the west of Union Valley, on the other side of the hill.



CE and Flora

The family's move to Texas

C.E. and his new bride moved to Texas in January, 1894. CE moved first to an area called Deep Water, which is about 15 miles east of Houston. (His letters also mentioned Deer Park, which is nearby.) Later, in the early 1900's, he moved to Pasadena, which is 5 miles closer to Houston.



1903 Map showing Houston, Pasadena, Deepwater, and Deer Park

CE's oldest son, Everett, was already living on his own before CE left for Texas. Everett is discussed later. We will focus here on the younger siblings.

The younger siblings (Ralph, Willie, Irma, and James Devere, or JD) ranged in age from 24 to 14. They remained in Union Valley, but needed a place to live. The younger siblings moved to Hydeville, and apparently lived in the old house on James A. Parks' old farm. There are multiple newspaper stories about the activities of the younger siblings during 1894, their last summer in New York. For example, JD and Irma attended school in Cortland. Ralph was a hired man on the Lake family's farm, but caught the mumps, and stayed for a while with his uncle Burdette Fuller. Also, the siblings had an auction to get rid of household goods, including tables, chairs, bedding, dishes, and an organ; the auction was advertised under Ralph's name.

Union Valley: The Parks boys have left here, en route for Texas. Luck to them.

Cortland: Misters Ralph and Willie and Miss Irma Parks passed through town this morning on their way to Texas.

Cortland Standard, October 30, 1894

The siblings left for Texas on October 30, 1894. This is documented in multiple newspaper stories. The stories name different family members, but it is clear that Ralph, Willie, Irma, and JD all left New York in late October, 1894. (Somebody else soon moved into the house on the old James A. Parks' farm.)

CE and Flora obviously fell in love with Texas.

For example, CE and Flora wrote numerous letters to the DeRuyter Gleaner newspaper, and to Maria McElheny, pointing out the great weather and the long growing season. Several letters mention the great strawberries.



CE Parks (1913)

Letter to the Editor

We have moved five miles nearer Houston; shell road to city limits, then gravel and asphalt – one of the finest drives you ever saw. Autos and the rigs from the city are out there every day. It is a lively little town. They are shipping more than hundred crates of strawberries every day from here now. We are not five minutes walk from station, post office, and store.

Have nine three-year old orange trees that have not dropped a leaf from the cold this winter. Have several acres of oats sown in October that are heading out now.

Come to South Texas.

Respectfully Yours

C.E. Parks

De Ruyter Gleaner April 7, 1904

Cortland Standard, March 29, 1909

Letter from Texas Gives People Chance to Envy the Fine Weather There

With freezing temperature and the ground covered with 6 inches of snow on Friday morning, Mrs. W. H. McElheny took occasion to make public the contents of a letter just received from Pasadena, Texas, telling of green trees, singing birds, blossoming roses, ripe strawberries, green fields of waving grain, and all sorts of new vegetables. Perhaps Mrs. McElheny's intentions were good, and she wished to give people something pleasant to think of, but the contrast between the two pictures is too great to be anything but terribly aggravating.

Cortland Standard, March 4, 1914

Snow Isn't Piled High and People Aren't Shivering

And right here in the midst of cold and snows comes a letter from Mrs. Flora Valentine Park, of Pasadena, Texas, telling of the warm, sunny weather there, with people comfortable in their homes, with open doors and windows, birds singing and flowers blooming and ripe strawberries. Well, never mind, maybe we will have warm weather again some time and birds and flowers and strawberries and just possibly new potatoes.

CE, Flora, and the younger siblings lived in Texas for the remainder of their lives.

Several Parks family members are buried in the Crown Hill Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Pasadena. In this picture, the graves of CE and Flora are marked by the stone to the right. CE's son Ralph has the larger stone to the left.



The Parks family of Pasadena, Texas

The Parks family is well known in Pasadena, Texas. For example, CE is credited with helping to bring strawberry farming to Pasadena, which briefly became the strawberry capital of the U.S.

CE's children also had some impact on the town of Pasadena. Ralph Parks served as the first mayor. Ralph, James Devere (JD), and JD's sons were active in business and banking. (There is now a JD Parks Elementary School, named in their honor. Ralph is believed to have donated the land for the school.)

Willie Parks' house is now a historic landmark, and is owned by the Pasadena Historic Society. The house is known as the Strawberry House because Willie described it as having been built with money from strawberry farming.

Inside of Willie's house are several pictures of members of the Parks family of Texas. One picture, taken in 1913, shows CE, his second wife Flora, and several of CE's children and grandchildren.



Willie Parks (son of C.E.)

The Parks family of Pasadena, Texas in 1913

The names of CE's children are underlined.

Far Back

Ralph Parks, Calvin Parks

Back Row

William Parks, Irma Parks (baby), Leora Gwartney Parks, Ethyl Blakesley [Hargrove], Irma Parks Blakesley, Margie Blakesley [Partwood] (baby), James Devere Parks Sr., James Jr (baby), Lanora ("Nora") Thurman Parks

Center

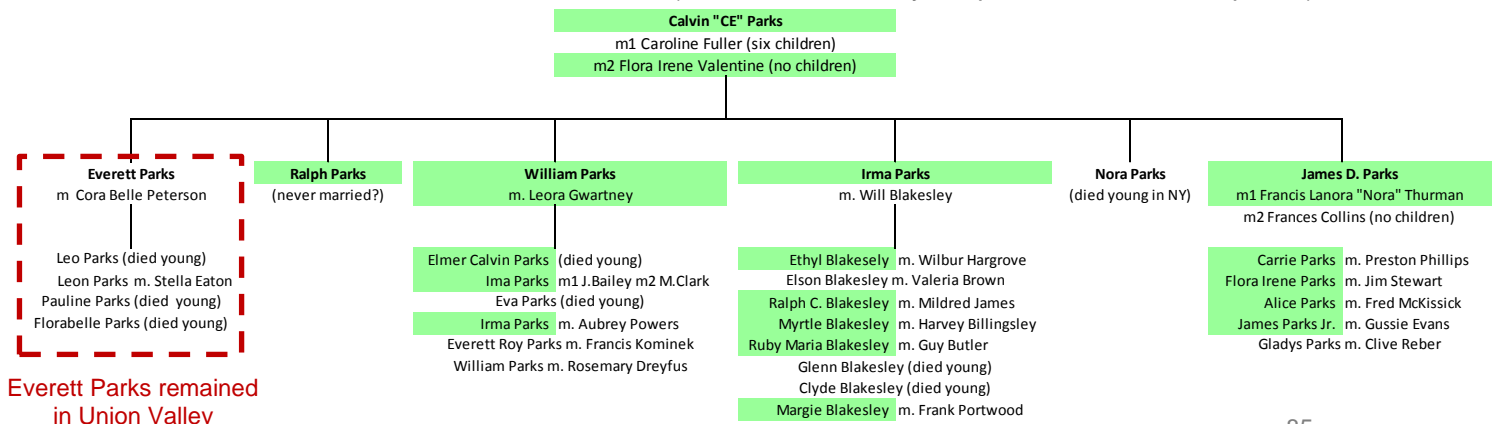
Carrie Parks [Phillips], Flora Valentine Parks (wife of CE), Myrtle Blakesley [Billingsley]

Children (kneeling)

Elmer Parks, Alice Parks [McKissick], Ima Parks [Clark], Ruby Parks [Butler], Irene Parks, Ralph Blakesley



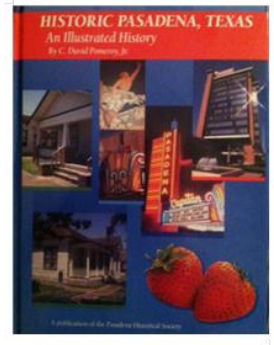
Children and Grandchildren of C.E. Parks. (Green indicates they are pictured in the Texas photo.)



The Growth of Pasadena, Texas

When CE Parks arrived in Texas in late 1893, the area was even less densely populated than Union Valley. CE first lived in a town called Deepwater, and then moved to Pasadena in about 1904. Both Deepwater and Pasadena were tiny villages, with populations that probably totaled less than 100.

The Pasadena Historical Society has published an excellent history of Pasadena by David Pomeroy. The Parks family is mentioned several times in this book.



CE's house in Pasadena was near the intersection of Main Street and Shaver Street. The area was undeveloped. (This 1908 picture was taken about 2 blocks away, at Main and Eagle.)

Pictures from David Pomeroy's book



CE is credited with being one of the key driving forces behind turning Pasadena into the strawberry growing capital of the country. However, this period lasted only a few years.

Pasadena Texas in 2012

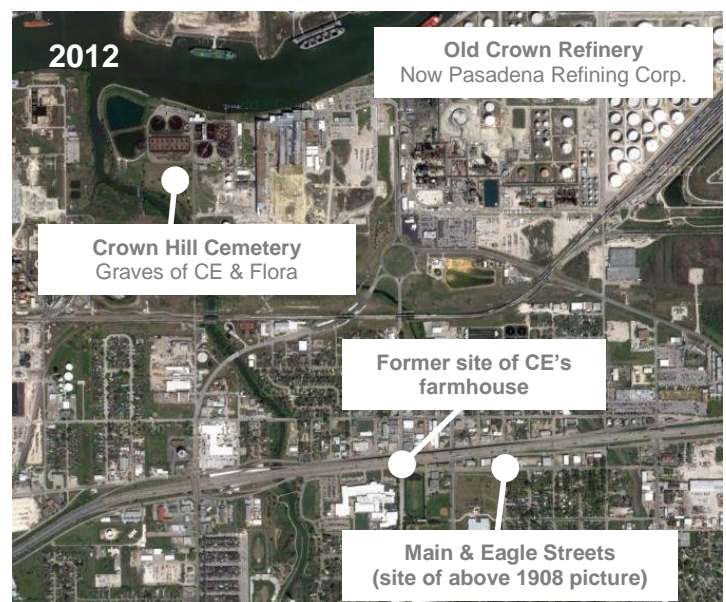
As David Pomeroy explains in his book, strawberries fell victim to larger events in the area. Specifically, Pasadena was close to some of the early oil gushers in Texas. By 1920, the area began to transform into a refinery town.

If CE came back today, he would easily recognize Union Valley, which has barely changed.

This is not true of Pasadena, Texas. CE's old Pasadena house is long gone, replaced by an interchange on the Pasadena Freeway. The old Crown Refinery is just down the street. Shell and ExxonMobil have refineries a few miles to the east.

The city of Pasadena now has a population of 150,000.

*Satellite picture
from Google*



The Parks family of Union Valley, NY

Everett Parks (1867 – 1939), the grandfather of Ruth Parks Knickerbocker, remained in New York when his father migrated to Houston.

Everett Parks was CE's oldest child. Everett was living on his own for at least a year before CE went to Texas. For example, the 1892 state census shows that Everett was living near or with the Petersons, probably towards the north end of Union Valley. (In 1892, CE and the younger children were near the Warners, probably at the south end of Lot 70.) By 1893 a newspaper article says that Everett was living on the Beebe Farm. (The Beebes were another old local family; their farm was apparently for rent by the early 1890's.) The story says that the Wm. Peterson family was living with Everett.

When CE left for Texas, Everett was 26, and was only a few months from getting married.

Everett married Cora Belle Peterson, the only child of William and Rosetta Jipson Peterson. Cora was born just up the road, in Lincklaen, but she and her parents were living in Union Valley by the time she was a teenager.

Wedding Invitation for Cora and Everett



Cora and Everett, probably around 1890

Cora Peterson was about 7 years younger than Everett Parks.

They had probably known each other for many years before they married..

Cora's father William, the local carpenter, had built a barn for CE Parks in the 1880's. Later, Cora and Everett attended school together.

By the time of the 1892 New York state census, it appears Everett was living on his own, next door to the Petersons. He may even have been living with the Petersons.

Cora Peterson was a music lover, and passed that trait on to her children.

According to newspaper articles, Everett spent part of the 1890's doing carpentry and construction work, both with his uncle William H. McElheny and his father-in-law William Peterson. He also did some farming, and lived in various rented farms along Union Valley Road. At one point he moved to DeRuyter, a few miles to the north. He returned to Union Valley about 2 years later.

By 1910, Everett appears to have overcome any hardships caused by the 1893 panic and the subsequent recession. Everett seems to have become fairly successful. He bought his first farm in Union Valley in about 1910. By 1915, he also owned other properties in Union Valley.

In 1919, Everett sold some of his other properties and bought a larger farm. The farm was in Lot 80, at the southern edge of Union Valley, near Hydeville. The farm is still in the Parks family.

Today's Parks farm may be adjacent to the Hydeville land once owned by James A. Parks, and also might overlap with land once owned by Calvin Parks. However, when Everett bought the farm from Hiram Boyd, it was called the Lake Farm, after the family that had owned it in the mid 1800's. The chain of ownership appears to have been from the Lake family, to the Warner family, to the Boyds, and then to Everett Parks. Everett did not inherit the farm, nor did he just buy back his ancestor's land.

Everett's oldest granddaughter, Margaret (Peg) Parks Ebel, has clear memories of Everett and Cora. Cora was an energetic, upbeat woman, who learned to drive a car and taught piano lessons. Everett was active in community activities, and, as we will discuss later, Everett loved the farm.

Everett and Cora's Obituaries from the DeRuyter Gleaner:

Everett E. Parks

This community was greatly shocked to hear of the sudden passing of Everett E. Parks, March 6, 1942, aged 74. Mr. Parks was a lifelong resident of the Town of Taylor. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Parks, born April 23, 1867. He was highly respected, a successful farmer, a member of the Board of Education of the Cincinnatus Central High School.

He was united in marriage in 1894 to Miss Cora Peterson of Union Valley. Four children were born to them, Leo, Leon, Pauline, and Florabelle. Mrs. Parks passed away February 13, 1939. Mr. Parks was a member of the Methodist church at Union Valley. He is survived by his son, Leon Parks, and four grandchildren, Margaret, Murial, Ruth, and Ralph Parks; a sister, Erma; two brothers, Devere and Will, who reside in Texas.

The funeral services were held at the late home, on the Taylor-Union Valley highway, Monday at 2 p.m., and were very well attended. Rev. Paul E. Merritt, pastor of the M.E. church at Union Valley officiated, assisted by Rev. Philip French of Pitcher. Rev. and Mrs. French sang "The Christians Good Night."

The Cincinnatus High School closed for the afternoon Monday, and members of the Board and the school faculty attended the service.

The great profusion of floral tributes from the school, the church, relatives and friends showed the esteem in which the deceased was held in the community. Burial being made in the family plot in Union Valley cemetery.

Cora Peterson Parks

Mrs. Cora Peterson Parks, aged 64 years, passed away at 6 a.m., February 13th, 1939, at her home in the town of Taylor, from the effects of a fall suffered January 9th. On January 14th she was taken to the Cortland hospital for examination, where it was determined her hip was fractured.

An operation was performed on the fractured hip to enable her to return home and on February 3rd, she was permitted to leave the hospital and was apparently slowly gaining under the loving care of her family. With the family, a wide circle of friends sincerely mourn this dear wife and mother and regret the suffering she had endured in her last days.

Cora Peterson was born in the town of Lincklaen, June 28, 1874, the only child of William and Rosetta Peterson.

In 1894 she was united in marriage to Everett E. Parks of Union Valley and her home has been made continuously in the vicinity since. Four children were born to them, Leo, Leon, Pauline, and Florabell. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Union Valley and was organist for the choir for many years, as well as active in all other church affairs.

She is survived by her husband, her son Leon, her mother and four grandchildren, Margaret, Muriel, Ralph, and Ruth Parks.

Funeral services will be held in the late home Thursday, 2:30 p.m., with burial in Union Valley cemetery.

The Children of Everett and Cora Parks

Everett Parks and Cora Peterson had 4 children.

The two oldest were boys, Leo (b 1896) and Leon (b 1900).



Leon and Leo, around 1902



Cora and Everett, probably around 1910

The two boys were followed by two girls, Pauline (b 1903) and Florabelle (b 1905). Only Leon would live to adulthood.

- 6. Leo Parks b: 1896 in NY d: Oct 23, 1916 in Cortland Co., Cause of death: Polio
- 6. Leon Robert Parks b: Oct 01, 1900 in Taylor, NY d: February 22, 1976 in Cortland Co., NY
m. Stella Mae Eaton b: June 20, 1901 d: Jan 20, 1963 in Pitcher, NY
- 6. Pauline Parks b: Jan 30, 1903 in Union Valley, NY d: Dec 25, 1918 in Cortland Co., NY
- 6. Florabelle I. Parks b: 1905 in NY d: Mar 12, 1911 in Pasadena, TX



Leo,
Leon
Pauline,
and
Florabelle

Circa 1909

The next few pages will discuss these the children in detail.

The accounts of the deaths of Florabelle, Pauline, and Leo are taken from newspaper stories. The surviving family members (Everett, Cora, and Leon) never talked much about these events. None of their descendants can remember ever hearing a complaint about what must have been very hard times.

The first major event involving Everett's children was triggered by a visit to Texas.

After CE moved, the Union Valley and Texas families remained in contact. For example, according to newspaper accounts, CE's sister Maria visited Texas on multiple occasions, particularly during winter months. The McElhenys did not have any children, and apparently loved to travel.

Willie Parks also apparently loved to travel, and returned frequently to Union Valley from Texas. Willie spent winters in Texas, but he spent his summers in Union Valley. (For example, he was a hired man on the Lake family's farm in 1895.) He continued this pattern from 1894, when he first moved to Texas, until 1901. His visits to Union Valley seemed to be less frequent after 1901.

There is a newspaper story from 1899 stating that Willie was trying to convince Everett to come to Texas with him. However, Everett didn't visit Texas until 1910. This timing was probably influenced by the health of Everett's father-in-law. Cora Parks was an only child. Her father, William Peterson, lived with Cora and Everett during his later years, and died in 1909 after a long illness.

A year after William Peterson died, Everett sold all of his cows and hay, much like what CE had done in 1893.

It is said that E.E. Parks has sold his entire dairy [*i.e. his cows*] and his hay.

De Ruyter Gleaner, September 1, 1910

Everett and Cora then took their young family to Texas. Everett and Cora might have been considering permanent relocation to Texas. However, their Texas visit did not go well:

Entire Family Ill, Child Dies on Visit; Mr. and Mrs. Everett Parks Bring Home Body

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Parks of Union Valley arrived on the 1 o'clock train over the Lackawanna Railroad today from Houston, Tex., bringing with them the remains of their 5 year-old daughter, Flora Belle Parks who died in Houston Sunday night from pneumonia, following measles.

Mr. and Mrs. Parks and their four children went to Houston to visit relatives in December. Mr. Parks and two of the children contracted measles before they arrived at their destination. All were quite ill. One after another the other children were afflicted with the disease, which was followed by Texas fever and rheumatism, the entire family being seriously and continuously ill.

The youngest child did not fully recover from the measles and pneumonia developed.

The family decided to start north as soon as possible and arranged to leave Monday night, but train connections were such that they did not get started until Tuesday night.

*Syracuse Post-Standard
March 18, 1911*



Based on newspaper accounts, the trip home from Texas, with Flora Belle's body, took about four days.

After this event, Everett and Cora Parks remained in New York state permanently.

(Leon was 10 when his sister Flora Belle died. About 50 years later, one of Leon's granddaughters had a bad case of the measles. Leon's daughter-in-law, Marge Calhoun Parks, remembers that Leon was very worried. He checked on his granddaughter a dozen times to make sure that she was OK. However, Leon never explained why he was so worried, and never mentioned Flora Belle.)

Five years after Flora Belle died, central New York and the rest of the country experienced an epidemic of polio. Polio once caused fear every summer when it would spread for reasons that were not clear.

Today we worry if a couple of people get the bird flu. Things were far worse in 1916, when thousands of people were paralyzed or killed by polio. Entire towns were quarantined. Children in Cuyler, just north of Union Valley, were forbidden from even attending *church*:

Notice: In view of the fact that infantile paralysis continues to increase throughout the state and in accordance with the recommendations of the State Department of Health, the Board of Health of Cuyler have passed the following resolution:

1st. Be it resolved that **all children 16 years of age and under, from out of the Town of Cuyler shall be excluded from said town.** Also that any person harboring such children without immediately reporting it to the Board of Health shall be subject to a fine of not less than twenty- five dollars.

2d. **All children 16 years of age or under, residing in the town of Cuyler, shall stay within the limits of said Town under a penalty as aforesaid.**

3d. **No child 16 years of age or under shall be allowed to attend any public gathering, such as church or Sunday School services, moving picture shows, picnics, etc.**

DeRuyter Gleaner, August, 1916

Polio cases were carefully tracked, and even suspected cases were reported in the newspaper:

It is reported that there is a case of infantile paralysis near Union Valley.

Cortland Standard, October 24, 1916



Unfortunately, the suspected case in Union Valley was one of Everett's sons. Leo Parks died within days.

Union Valley has suffered a sad bereavement; one of the most distressing that has happened in years. Leo Parks, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Parks, being taken away in the prime of his young manhood. The suddenness and mystery of it is so startling that everyone stands aghast. Neighbors and friends were helpless, although most willing to render assistance and when the internment took place on Tuesday afternoon, had to manifest their sympathy and sorrow by standing at a distance on the road near the cemetery.

Leo was born May 17, 1896 and died Oct 23, 1916. With the exception of a brief residence in De Ruyter, he had lived in Union Valley all his life. The family are very well known and highly respected. A week previous to the day of his burial, Leo was in Cortland taking a music lesson. He had considerable musical talent. It was natural to him, both vocal and instrumental exercises were a delightful pleasure. His place will be hard to fill. The life and hope of his parents and home, a strong support in the church choir, a member of the Methodist Sunday School, a bright light in the community and one of Union Valley's most promising young men.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon in Union Valley cemetery. The service was very brief. Rev. A. L. Bridden, minister of the Lincklaen Congregational church, read a passage of scripture, sang a beautiful song, at the request of the family, and offered prayer.

A few days before his death, Leo realized that the end was drawing near and with great calmness comforted his parents assuring them all was well. This is a most pleasing testimony and a sure evidence of the real worth of Christian teaching.

De Ruyter Gleaner, October 26, 1916

Two years later, a flu epidemic killed millions around the globe. This virus became known as the "Spanish flu." It probably germinated in the trenches during World War I before it spread.

Pauline Parks was one of the victims of the Spanish Flu:

The dread influenza came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Parks and snatched away the remaining daughter, breaking hearts already crushed by the losses of other days. Miss Pauline was a bright young girl of sixteen years. She finished her grades in the home school and entered the High School at Cincinnatus where she was doing fine work, when she was taken ill and brought home, only living a few days. With the natural heart weakened, she quickly succumbed to the disease. Dr. Andrews attended her and did all in his power to save her, remaining there night and day.

She died Christmas day at 8 o'clock in the evening and was buried Saturday at the home.

The bearers were six high school girls, Helen Freeman, Agatha Potter, Helen Murray, Stella Eaton, Cecile Moore, and Marion Orion. An abundance of flowers were in evidence. C. B. Heath of Cincinnatus conducted the burial. Burial is in the Union valley Cemetery.

De Ruyter Gleaner, January 2, 1919



Stella Eaton and Helen Murray were pallbearers at the Pauline Parks funeral in 1918. Stella Eaton was the future wife of Leon Parks and mother of Ruth Parks. Helen Murray was the future wife of Edwin Knickerbocker and mother of Don Knickerbocker. Don and Ruth were married in 1953, thirty five years after their mothers had been pallbearers together.

Neither Stella Eaton Parks or Helen Murray Knickerbocker ever told their children about having been pallbearers for Pauline.

Parks & Son

Everett bought the current Parks family farm in 1919. By then, the Union Valley family consisted of Everett, Cora, and Leon.

Leon and his father were active farmers. Peg Parks Ebel remembers having electricity in the *barn* before some other families along the valley had electricity in their houses.

Everett and Leon also branched out into the chicken and farm supply business.

The seeds of the family business can be seen in newspaper items in 1904:

Everett Parks has an incubator and will soon be in the chicken business.

De Ruyter Gleaner, April 28, 1904

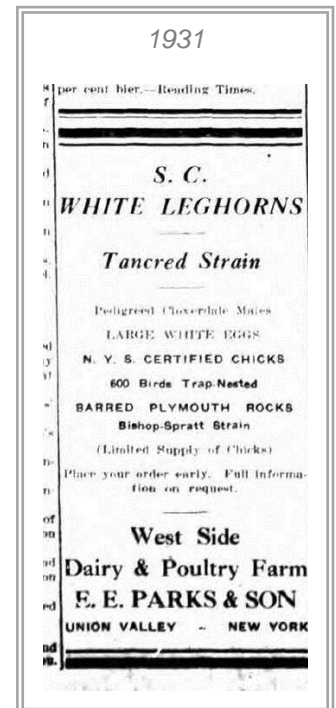
Wm. Peterson is home this week building a brooder for his daughter, Mrs. Everett Parks, who is about to make her fortune with poultry.

Cortland Standard May 7, 1904

By the mid 1930's the family business was thriving. It was known as Parks and Son, but it was primarily Leon's enterprise.

De Ruyter: Mr. Leon H. Parks, the chicken man from Union Valley, was in town on business Tuesday.

*De Ruyter Gleaner
January 7, 1943*



*Leon Parks' henhouses,
probably in the 1930's.*



*Everett Parks' barn in the 1930's, with William McElheney's car parked in front.
This picture was taken from the front yard of the house where Jimmy Parks
now lives.*

Leon Parks married Stella Eaton, the daughter of DeForest Eaton and Isodene Alexander.



*DeForest Eaton and
Isodene Alexander*

Everett (E.E.) Parks

Leon Parks

Cora Belle Peterson

De Forest Eaton

Stella Eaton

Isodene Alexander



*Leon Parks and
Stella Eaton Parks
Circa 1924*

Obituaries From the DeRuyter Gleaner:

Memorial for DeForest Eaton

DeForest Eaton, aged 71, a lifelong resident of Pitcher, died at his home Thursday forenoon, January 6th, 1938, after a brief illness of pneumonia. He is survived by his widow, Isodene Alexander Eaton, whom he married in January, 1889. Of this union five sons were born: Walter J., Pitcher, N.Y.; Willard, deceased; Clare, Cleveland, Ohio; G. Clinton, Beaver, Pa.; Clifford, Pitcher, N.Y.; and one daughter, Stella May, Mrs. Leon Parks of Union Valley, and fifteen grandchildren; also two brothers, Emory Eaton, New York City, and DeCal Eaton, of Utica, N.Y.

Mr. Eaton was a devoted husband and father, a kind and thoughtful neighbor, and will be greatly missed not only in his own home but by the community.

Funeral services were held Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Federated Church in Pitcher. Rev. Terwilliger and Rev. French officiated. Burial is being made in Pitcher cemetery.

Relatives and friends from out of town were: Clare Eaton of Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. G. Clinton Eaton of Beaver, Pa., DeCal Eaton of Utica, Ernest L. Warner, Mrs. Florine Fairbanks, son Richard and daughter Alice, Mr. and Mrs. Warner Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Smith, Harold Alexander of Cortland; Ernest and Julia Alexander of Syracuse, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Silvernail and daughter, Betty, Lawrence and Alfred Alexander and Claude Hall, Johnson City; Mr. and Mrs. Eaton, Binghamton; Mrs. Devere Simmons and son, Earlville; Leslie Parks, Virgil; Mrs. D.C. Geer, McGraw; Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Poole, Thomas Holl, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Saunders, Lincklaen.

Isodene A. Eaton

Isodene A. Eaton, aged 77, a lifelong resident of Pitcher, NY, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Leon R. Parks of Taylor, N.Y., Wednesday evening, May 2, 1945.

Funeral services were held from the Federated Church in Pitcher, Sunday afternoon, May 6, 1945, Rev. J. Phillip French officiating. Robert Hakes of Pitcher sang "Sunrise Tomorrow." The bearers were six nephews, A.D. Hakes, Burr Hakes, S.L. Poole, Thomas Holl, Leon Maricle, and E.L. Warner.

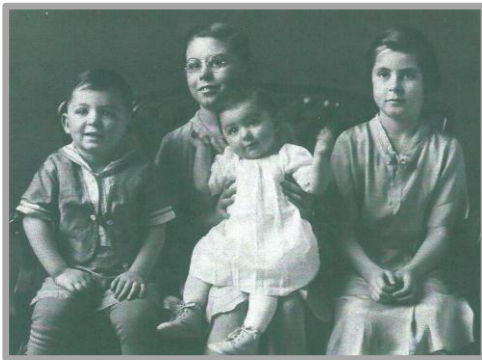
She was born in Pitcher, November 7, 1867, daughter of Asa and Angeline Swan Alexander. In 1889 she married DeForest Eaton who died January 6, 1938. Surviving are Walter J., Pitcher, D. Clare, Cleveland, Ohio, G. Clinton, Beaver, Pa., Stella M. Parks, Taylor, and Clifford S. Eaton, Homer; 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild; on sister, Mrs. Frances Hakes, Pitcher, and two brothers, George Alexander of South Otselic and Water C. Alexander of Pitcher.

Mrs. Eaton was a member of the Pitcher Congregational Church and for many years was very active in all church activities.

Relatives and friends from out-of-town were: Clare Eaton, Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. G.C. Eaton, Beaver, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Eaton and daughter of Homer; Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Warner Smith, Herman Miles, Mrs. Florine Fairbanks and son, David; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Alexander of Cortland; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Alexander, and Julia Alexander of Syracuse; Mrs. Laurence Alexander, Mrs. Alfred Alexander, Mrs. Glenn Silvernail, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Eaton and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Welsh of Johnson City, Mr. and Mrs. P.C. Geer and Mrs. Elizabeth Baldwin of McGraw; Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Poole, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Holl of Lincklaen.

Leon and Stella lived in Union Valley for the remainder of their lives. They had four children:

- 7. Margaret June Parks b: Jun 11, 1925
m. George H. Ebel
- 7. Muriel Dawn Parks b: Oct 15 1927
m. Harry Newcomb
- 7. Ralph Parks b: 1932
m. Marjorie Calhoun
- 7. Marilyn Ruth Parks b. Mar 04, 1935
m. Donald Knickerbocker



*Left to Right:
Ralph, Peg, Ruth, and
Muriel in 1935.*



*Leon Parks
Circa 1968*

Margaret (Peg) Parks graduated from the Ithaca College of Music. She married George H. Ebel, a graduate of Cornell University in Ithaca. George is the son of John Ebel of Maplewood, NJ, and was attending Cornell as part of the navy's V-12 program during World War II. Peg met George while she was working in the canteen at Cornell. After graduation, George served in the Navy for a couple of years, after the conclusion of the war. Peg and George later moved to northern New Jersey, where they have lived for most of their adult lives.

Muriel remained in central New York. She married Harry D. Newcomb of Cuyler. Harry is the son of Kenneth and Joyce (Wing) Newcomb. The Newcomb family has been in the area for over 140 years, going back to a harness maker in Homer, NY, in the 1800's. For many years, Harry owned Newcomb Motors in Cuyler and then Cortland.

Ralph Parks remained in Union Valley. He married Marjorie Calhoun, daughter of Cres (Creston) and Marian Dennison Calhoun of DeRuyter. In his younger days, Ralph was Leon's partner in Parks and Son. More recently, Ralph has sold the feed business, and expanded his farming business by buying land in other parts of Cortland County.

Ruth Parks of Union Valley married to Don Knickerbocker, reconnecting the Parks family with their earlier roots in Cincinnatus. Don worked first for the IRS, and then for Burlington Northern Railroads. Don and Ruth have lived in North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Texas, and have retired back in Cortland County.

More information about Leon, Stella, and their children will be added to future versions of this history.

14. Wight Family History

Charles Wight (1925 – 2006) married Lucille (Jeanne) Knickerbocker (1927 – 1997).

As with many families in this history, the Wight family has been in the area for many years. The recent ancestors of Charles Wight lived in Taylor, until his father Glenn moved to Cincinnatus.

Charles appears to be very easy to trace. We know from census records that Harvey Wight, born about 1780, was the first Wight in Taylor NY. Census records also clarify the names of the in-between generations: Eli, then Charles Sr, Charles Jr, and Glenn. Thus, Harvey was the 3-great grandfather of "Uncle Chuck."

It turns out that all of these ancestors appear in a genealogy that was published in the late 1890's. Unfortunately, there is a catch: the dates and locations reported in the published study do not always seem consistent. In this case, the author of the published work, William Wight, realized that he might have an issue.

Note: *This is the lineage presented in the published work. It may be missing one generation.*

First Generation: Thomas Wight, b. before about 1620, England.

Second Generation: Thomas Wight, b. abt 1640, Mass.

Third Generation: Joshua Wight, b. 1679, MA

Fourth Generation: Joshua Wight Junior, b. 1708, MA

Fifth Generation: Harvey Wight, b 1779, VT.
Harvey is the 1st Wight in Taylor, NY.

Sixth Generation: Eli Wight, b. 180233, NY

Seventh Generation Charles Wight, b. 1827, NY

Eighth Generation: Charles H. Wight, b. 1858, NY

Ninth Generation: Glenn Wight, b. 1886
This is where the published genealogy ends.
This is Chuck's father.

THE WIGHTS

A record of Thomas Wight of
Dedham and Medfield and his
Descendants
1635 - 1890

William Ward Wight

The published work expresses doubt about showing Harvey Wight in the 5th generation. The author suspected there may have been another person (Joshua the third) between Harvey and Joshua, Junior.

There are other issues, beyond those the author noted. The author may have overlooked other cousins. There may have been more than one person named Harvey or Eli, causing the author to show incorrect locations and spouses for some Wights.

Nonetheless, this history does seem to link the Cincinnatus family to the immigrant family.

The published genealogy contains many details about the various Wight family members, but doesn't speculate about why Thomas Wight came to New England in about 1635.

Other biographies of the Wight family state that the family originated on the Isle of Wight, off the mainland of England, and that Thomas Wight left because of religious persecution.

15. Banta Family History

Arlene Banta (May, 1937 – June, 1999) married Francis Knickerbocker.

Arlene was raised in Bay Shore, Long Island. She attended college in Cortland, which is apparently how she met Francis.

Arlene's obituary, from June 1999:

Arlene B. Knickerbocker, 62, of South Otselic died Saturday at home. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from the State University College at Cortland. She retired after 26 years as a first-grade teacher at Otselic Valley Central School. She was a member of the United Methodist Church of South Otselic and active in the church choir. She ran the food pantry and started the summer reading program for area children. Survivors: Her husband of 41 years, Francis E.; a daughter, Margaret Kage of Endicott; four sons, David of Cincinnatus, Steven of DeRuyter, William of South Otselic and Michael of Taylor; six grandchildren.

**More details about the Banta family might be included
in a future update of this history.**

16. The Cincinnatus and Union Valley families in 2012

For about 130 years, the focal point for Knickerbockers in Cincinnatus, New York was the family farm. This began to change with the opening of the Knickerbocker Country Club in 1960. This was driven Henry and Pat Knickerbocker. (The history of the club is available at www.knickerbockercc.com.) In recent years, the focus on the farm has decreased even more, as dairy operations have now ceased. The old farmhouse is gone, as the result of a fire in 1980. (Along with the house, the fire destroyed pictures and memorabilia.)

There are still several Knickerbockers who call Cincinnatus home. And, thanks to the Country Club, the Knickerbockers are still a strong presence in the area.

The Parks arrived in Cortland County before the Knickerbockers, but the Parks family went through a lot of changes during the 1800's. Ralph, Marge, and son James still live in Union Valley, on the farm Everett Parks bought in 1919. However, there are more Parks relatives in south Texas than in central New York.

Many of the other family lines, such as the Bryans and Brighams, have faded from the Cincinnatus area.

17. Postscript

The seeds for this were planted 56 years ago, when I was born to a father that loves history. I grew up listening to the family's oral history, including the stories of my uncles, Richard and Malcolm, and the stories of the passing of the siblings of Leon Parks. Since I never lived in central New York, it all seemed a bit mysterious when I was growing up. I always wished somebody would write it down.

Later I met three distant cousins with a passion for genealogy: Howard Knickerbocker, Norma Moberg, and George Walker, and also connected with Dave Crankshaw, who now lives in Florida but is the past historian extraordinaire for the Cortland County area.

To complete the puzzle, Kimberly Parks of Rusk, Texas provided historic information about the Parks family, and dug into her trunk of family memorabilia for the Parks family pictures that were used here.

This document is the result of all of those influences.

Bryan Malcolm Knickerbocker
son of Don Knickerbocker and Ruth Parks



1984

Standing (from left to right)
Harry and Murial (Parks) Newcomb
George and Peg (Parks) Ebel
Henry and Pat (Glezen) Knickerbocker
Don Knickerbocker
Seated:
Lori (Lindstrom) and Bryan Knickerbocker
Marilyn Ruth (Parks) Knickerbocker

Detailed Appendices

18. Details: Descendants, Births, Deaths, etc.

Descendants of Henry Knickerbocker and Helen Bourne

- 7 Henry Knickerbocker m. Helen Bourne
 - 8 Irving Knickerbocker
 - 8 Elbert Knickerbocker m. Iva Bryan
 - 9 Carrie Knickerbocker m Charles Newman?
 - 9 Edwin Knickerbocker m. Helen Murray
 - 10 Richard Knickerbocker m. Marion Randell
 - 11 Richard Knickerbocker
 - 10 Malcolm Knickerbocker
 - 10 Robert Henry Knickerbocker m1. Pat Glezan
 - 11 Donald Knickerbocker. m. Nancy
 - 12 Patricia Knickerbocker
 - 12 Donald Knickerbocker
 - 11 Robert Knickerbocker
 - 11 Mark Knickerbocker
 - 12 Shyla Knickerbocker
 - 11 Todd Knickerbocker
 - 11 Kim Knickerbocker
 - 12 Brooke Knickerbocker
 - 12 Brittany Knickerbocker
 - 12 Casey Knickerbocker
 - 10 Lucille Jean Knickerbocker m. Chuck Wight
 - 11 Kathy Wight
 - 11 Karen Wight
 - 11 Maureen Wight
 - 11 Chuck Wight
 - 11 Gary Wight
 - 10 Donald Knickerbocker m. Marilyn Ruth Parks
 - 11 Holly Knickerbocker m. Mark Jensen
 - 12 Ryan Jensen
 - 11 Bryan Knickerbocker m. Lori Lindstrom
 - 12 Kevin Knickerbocker
 - 12 Courtney Knickerbocker
 - 12 Trevor Knickerbocker
 - 11 Lawrence Knickerbocker m. Linda Clark
 - 12 Andrew Knickerbocker
 - 12 Thomas Knickerbocker
 - 10 Francis Knickerbocker m. Arlene Banta
 - 11 David Knickerbocker
 - 11 Steven Knickerbocker
 - 11 Bill Knickerbocker
 - 11 Margaret Knickerbocker
 - 11 Mike Knickerbocker

Descendants of Amelia Knickerbocker and William Holroyd

- 7 Amelia M. Knickerbocker (b 1819)
 - m. William Holroyd (b 1812, England; immigrated in 1830)
- 8 Amelia A. Holroyd (b 1839, Cincinnatus)
 - m. Samuel W. Jackson (b 1834, England, Civil War vet)
 - 9 Mary Jackson
 - 9 William Jackson
 - 9 Leo Jackson
 - 9 Dorcas Jackson
 - 9 Edward Jackson
 - 9 Eva Jackson
 - 9 Emma Amelia Jackson
 - m. Alexander L. Walker
- 8 Sarah Holroyd (b 1840, Cincinnatus)
 - m. William H. Root
- 8 Mary Holroyd (b 1842, Cincinnatus)
 - m. Joel Barber
- 8 Louisa Holroyd (b 1844, Cincinnatus)
- 8 William Holroyd (b 1846, Cincinnatus)
 - m. Ann Rebecka Carter
- 8 Daniel Holroyd (b 1849, Cincinnatus)
- 8 Zira Holroyd (b 1855, Wyand, IL, family moved to IL abt 1852.)
 - m1. Mary Dutro
 - m2. Mary White

Descendants of Louisa Knickerbocker and Zira Parce

- 7 Louisa Knickerbocker (b 1822) m. Zira Parce (b 1817)
 - 8 Judson Parce (b 1844)
 - 8 Frank Parce (b 1846)
 - m2. Zira Parce and Marietta Card
 - 8 Dwight Arthur Parce

Descendants of Franklyn Fitch ("F.F.") Knickerbocker and Hulda Eldridge

7 Franklyn Fitch Knickerbocker (b 1826) m1. Huldah M. Eldridge (mother of ABK & FEK) m2. Mary Conover (no children)

8 Adelbert Brigham Knickerbocker (b 1852)
m. Charity M. Fowler (b 1857)
9 Edward F. Knickerbocker (b 1877)
m. Margarite Switzen
10 Ruth Knickerbocker (b 1907)
10 Elsie Knickerbocker (b 1910)
9 May S. Knickerbocker (b 1882)
m. Clarence Serven
10 Dorothy Serven (b 1819)
9 Elsie Knickerbocker (b 1889; d 1890)
9 Leland Knickerbocker (b 1893)
m. Julia Bailey
10 Yvette Knickerbocker (b 1919)

8 Frank Eldridge Knickerbocker (b 1854)
m1. Nellie A. Stearns (b 1855; d 1880)
9 Adelbert Knickerbocker (b 1874)
9 Fred W. Knickerbocker (b 1876)
m. Emma Weiss (b 1873)
10 Glenn Frank Knickerbocker (b 1901)
m. Mary Brannan (b 1904)
11 Fred Knickerbocker (b 1932)
m. Nancy Norgaard (b 1934)
12 Catherine Knickerbocker (b 1960)
9 Frank Knickerbocker (b 1877)
m. Lida Metzger (b 1886)
10 Frank Knickerbocker (b 1912)
m. Margaret Haislip (b 1916)
11 Frank Knickerbocker (b 1936)
m. Betty Ballard (b 1940)
12 Frank Knickerbocker (b 1960)
m. Nancy Bailey (b 1960)
13 Frank Knickerbocker (b 1991)
13 Tyler Knickerbocker (b 1993)
12 Christine Knickerbocker (b 1962)
11 Margaret Knickerbocker (b 1937)
m. Robert Maddox
12 David Maddox
11 James Knickerbocker (b 1939)
m. Regina Looper (b 1939)
12 Mary Knickerbocker (b 1959)
12 James Knickerbocker (b 1960)
12 Jeffery Knickerbocker
12 John Knickerbocker
11 Jocelyn Knickerbocker (b 1942)
m. James Warren (b 1942)
12 Jocelyn Warren
12 Michelle Warren
11 Robert Knickerbocker (b 1944)
m. Dianne ?
12 Jason Knickerbocker
11 Thomas Knickerbocker (b 1946)
10 William F. Knickerbocker
11 Carolyn Knickerbocker (b 1938)
m Billy C. Templeton (b 1937, d 2007)
12 Bobby Joe Templeton (b 1964, d 2011)
11 Kathryn Knickerbocker (b 1947)
Divorced; no children
9 Myron Knickerbocker (b 1879)
m1. Daisy Young (b 1880)
10 Helen Knickerbocker (b 1905)
m. John B. Hendrick (b 1911)
m2. Elinor Ruth Nicholas (b 1887)
m3. Anna Baldwin (b 1857)
9 Avis Knickerbocker (b 1884)
m. Wade Theetge (b 1882)
10 Ernest Theetge (b 1902)
10 Marian Theetge (b 1904)
10 Anna Theetge (b 1907)
9 Hays Knickerbocker (b 1892)
m. Lavilla Passe (?)
9 Nellie Knickerbocker (b 1899)
m. Dewight Glendenen (b 1900)

Selected dates of birth and death (Note: Parks relatives have not yet been added here.)

		<u>Best dates</u>	<u>Source</u>
Knickerbocker			
	John Knickerbocker	d 23 Jan 1860	tombstone, Lower Cincinnatus; died in 1860, "in his 100th year"
	Harry Knickerbocker	1792 - 10 May 1871	1792 CT (from 1850 census) D May 10 1871 (tombstone - Lower Cincinntatus)
	Louisa Brigham Knickerbocker	6 Jun 1797 - 11 Feb 1860	June 6 1797 - 14 Feb 1860 m Nov 27 1817 (Brigham book) but d. Feb 11 1860 on tombstone
	Climina Lotridge Knickerbocker	Apr 1837 - 7 Feb 1914	Apr 1827 (from 1900 census) - 7 Feb 1914 (tombstone, Lower Cincinnatus)
	Amelia Knickerbocker Holroyd	22 Aug 1819 -	Aug 22 1819, m William Holroyd (Brigham book)
	Louisa Knickerbocker Parce	25 Apr 1822 - 6 Jan 1854	April 25 1822 - Jan 6 1854 m Zira Parce children 1 Judson; 2 Frank (Brigham book)
	Judson Parce	1844 - 1884	Obituary, DeRuyter Gleaner
	Franklin Knickerbocker	25 Mar 1826 -	March 25 1826 m Huldah Eldredge (Brigham book)
	Huldah Eldredge Knickerbocker	1831 -	b. 1831 NY (from 1850 census)
	Henry Knickerbocker	29 Nov 1833 - 1907	Nov 29 1833 m Dec 24 1861 (Brigham book) d 1907 (tombstone - Upper Cincinnatus)
	Helen Bourne Knickerbocker	Jun 1839 - 1927	Jun 1839 (from 1900 census) d 1927 (tombstone ")
	Irving Knickerbocker	Jun 1864 - Apr 1954	b Jun 1864 (1900 census) d 19 Apr 1954 (Wash death certificate);
	Olivia Pauley Knickerbocker	Dec 1873 - 7 Dec 1945	dates from David Crankshaw; m Irving on 31 Oct 1891 (marriage record).
	Irving S.	Jan 1898 - 26 Jan 1930	d. 26 Jan 1930 Sgt 116 Field Sig Batt. 41 Div (tombstone - Auburn)
	Henry Elbert Knickerbocker	Dec 1870 - Jan 1939	Obituary 12 Dec 1870 - 18 Jan 1939
	Iva Bryan Knickerbocker	1871 - 1948	July 1871 (from 1900 census) d 1948 (tombstone - Upper Cincinnatus)
	Edwin B Knickerbocker	29 Dec 1895 - Jun 1986	29 dec 1895 - Jun 1986 (ss records); 1895 - 1986 (tombstone - Upper Cincinnatus)
	Carrie A Knickerbocker	27 Jan 1898 - after 1948	b. 27 Jan 1898 (from a news item in the Syracuse newspaper)
	Helen Murray Knickerbocker	8 July 1897 - 2 Apr 1971	tombstone - Upper Cincinnatus
	Richard Knickerbocker	24 July 1921 - 12 May 1944	tombstone "
	Malcolm Knickerbocker	14 Sept 1922 - 25 Jan 1944	tombstone "
	Robert Henry Knickerbocker	June 24, 1924 -	
	Lucille Jeanne Knickerbocker Wight	29 Mar 1927 - 31 Oct 1997	tombstone "
	Donald Knickerbocker	14 April 1930 -	
	Francis Knickerbocker	July 21, 1935 -	
Wight			
	Charles B. Wight	20 Nov 1925 - 26 June 2006	tombstone "
Glezen			
	Patricia Glezen Knickerbocker	1928 - 1986	tombstone "
Murray			
	John Murray	1862 - 1907	tombstone "
	Charles H. Murray (father of John)	1829 - 1912	tombstone; link from Sharon Laduke; b Baldwinsville (Onondaga); d Carley Mills (Oswego)
	Helen Smith Murray (wife of Charles)	1830 - 1868	From Sharon Laduke
	John Murray (grandfather of John)	1804 - 1879	"
	Caroline Wightman Murray	1812 - 1860	"
Hoag / Murray / Heath			
	Jennie Hoag Murray Heath	1874 - 1937	tombstone - Upper Cincinnatus
	Clayton Heath	1876 - 1945	tombstone "
Parks (Union Valley Cementary)			
	Caroline Parks (1st wife of CE)	1839 - 14 Jan 1889	tombstone says d 14 Jan 1889 age 49
	Nora Parks (sister of Everett)	1872 - 13 July 1888	tombstone 13 July 1888 age 13
	Everett Parks	23 Apr 1867 - 6 mar 1942	tombstone 1867 - 1942 obituary 23 April 1867 - 6 March 1942 m 1894
	Cora Belle Peterson Parks	28 Jun 1875 - 13 Feb 1939	tombstone 1875-1939 EE obituary says 28 June 1874 - 13 Feb 1939
	Leo Parks	17 May 1896 - 23 Oct 1916	tombstone 1896 - 1916; obituary 17 May 1896 - 23 Oct 1916
	Pauline Parks	1903 - 25 Dec 1918	tombstone 1903 - 1918; obituary d 25 Dec 1918
Peterson			
	William L Peterson	9 July 1834 - 19 July 1909	tombstone 1834 - 1909 obituary 9 July 1834 - 19 July 1909 m 34 years
	Rosetta Jipson Peterson	5 April 1853 - 11 Nov 1941	obituary 5 April 1853 - 11 Nov 1941

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19. Details: Who was the John Knickerbocker in Eaton, New York?

We are about to summarize a discussion that has gone on for several years among genealogists.

Harry Knickerbocker, who moved to Cincinnatus in about 1832, was the son of a man named John Knickerbocker.

Genealogists have spent a lot of time tracing the parents of young men named John Knickerbocker, and where these young men went. The next six pages are part of that debate.

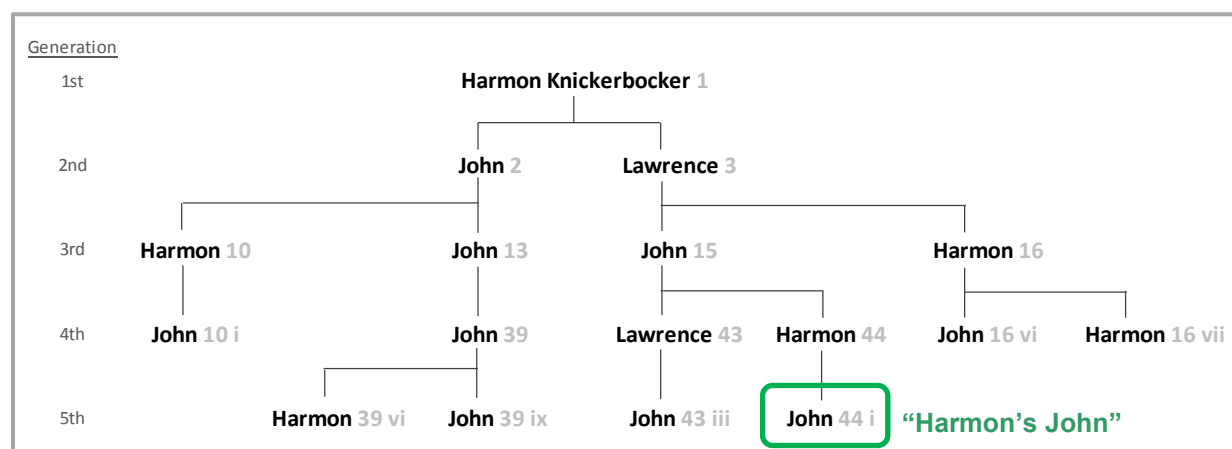
Some readers might choose to skip the next six pages.

Too Many “John Knickerbockers”

Tracing Knickerbockers with the first name “John” can be difficult.

To illustrate the problem, here is a partial family tree of the first 5 generations of Knickerbockers, focusing only on a few of the children of John Knickerbocker and Lawrence Knickerbocker. (A simpler version of this was shown early in this document.)

Partial Family Tree of the First Generations of Knickerbockers



The chart above includes light gray numbers. Readers with access to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record's articles on *The Knickerbocker Family*, by Van Alstyne, can use these numbers to link to specific individual from that study.

Within this tiny slice of the family, there are 9 men named John, and 6 named Harmon. (We have lumped variations such as Harmon and Harmen, and John and Johannes.)

We used this chart earlier to illustrate how often the family used “John” as a given name, not to suggest all of these men could be “Eaton John.” Specifically, on the left side of the chart, these descendants of John(2) are *not* suspected of being Eaton John. However, the Johns on the right (descendants of Lawrence) are of more interest.

One of the men on the right is specifically referred to in his grandfather's will as being “Harmon's John.” We will mention him several times within the next few pages.

“Eaton John”

John Knickerbocker lived for a time in the town of Eaton New York. He died in Cincinnatus, and is buried in Lower Cincinnatus. We know this man existed. We will call this man “Eaton John,” to differentiate him from all the other men named John.

“Eaton John” is the weak link in connecting the Cincinnatus family to the original Knickerbockers. One theory is that “Eaton John” is the same person who is called “Harmon’s John” in his grandfather’s will.

The following few pages presents basic information on John. (There is much more information available from Connecticut researchers, but it will be mentioned only briefly here.) The information is presented in chronological order.

1850: Census Records for Volney, Oswego County, NY

John left Eaton sometime around 1830 or 1840, but we don’t know his exact movements. By 1850, a John Nickerbocker, age 89, with a birthplace of Connecticut, is living in Volney, NY, with the family of Albert and Lucy Howard. A published history of the Howard family identifies her as Lucy Knickerbocker, and shows two of her children being named Lydia and Harley. This ties Lucy to the Eaton family, but this doesn’t help in identifying John’s parents.

1855: John Knickerbocker in the Census Results for Cincinnatus

By 1855, the New York State census shows John Knickerbocker living in Cincinnatus. He was a boarder with a landlord named Daniel Sperry. John gave his age 94. In the 1855 census, John’s son Harry is listed as “Henry.” It is not clear if this was actually his given name; he is called “Harry” in other records, and on his tombstone. However, the fact that “Henry” was recorded in the New York census may have triggered later confusion over his first name, which is discussed on the next page.

1860: Tombstone of John Knickerbocker

John Knickerbocker is buried in the old Lower Cincinnatus Cemetery, next to his son Harry and daughter-in-law Louisa Brigham Knickerbocker.

His tombstone is broken and degrading. However, it is still clearly readable. It gives his date of death as January 23, 1860. The tombstone also says that he died in “the 100th year of his age.” This would again put his birth around 1760.

1860: Obituaries of John Knickerbocker

Brief obituaries of John appeared in local papers. The Oneida Sachem newspaper reported John’s death in Cincinnatus, on January 23, 1860, at an age of 97.

These items were written by reporters, not genealogists, but they would have placed his birth around 1763, which is three years later than the birth date suggested by his tombstone or the census.

1890's: Biographies from Madison County

Next in line are two very different biographies written in the 1890's, roughly 130 years after John was born.

The biographies focus primarily on two brothers, Andrew and Edwin Knickerbocker. Both were sons of Harley Knickerbocker, and grandsons of John Knickerbocker.

The full text of the biographies suggest that both Andrew and Edwin were still alive when these were written. Presumably, the writers would have talked to Andrew and Edwin. One of the biographies even references the other biography. These were not done in a vacuum.

However, the biographies give very different information about John.

From the biography of Andrew Jackson Knickerbocker

[Grandfather] John Knickerbocker was born in Connecticut, and removed to Madison County in 1803.

[John] spent his last days in Cincinnatus, Chenango County, NY, dying there when he was 100 years old.

From the biography of Edwin Knickerbocker

[Grandfather] John Knickerbocker was born in the suburbs of New York City.

The father of John Knickerbocker fought on the side of the colonists in the Revolutionary War, and in the cause of freedom surrendered his life.

Soon after his death his son John went to live with an uncle in Connecticut, residing in that State until 1804, when he emigrated to ... Eaton. [John] continued to reside upon his first purchase for a number of years, after which he sold his possessions, and made his home with his son Henry at Cincinnatus, Cortland County.

He lived to the remarkable age of one hundred years. The maiden name of his wife was Lydia Jackson.

*BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE LEADING CITIZENS OF
MADISON COUNTY NEW YORK
Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1894
Emphasis added*

Since these were apparently written about the same time, we would have expected them to be more consistent with each other.

The first biography simply states that John was born in Connecticut, moved to Madison County, and later died in Cincinnatus at age 100. There is nothing that would complicate our genealogy search.

It is the second biography that causes problems. The second biography is also much more colorful, and therefore is the one that has propagated all over the Internet.

The second biography contains a vague statement about John being born in the "suburbs of New York City," but doesn't give any specifics. It goes on to state that John's father died in the "cause of freedom." It then says that John lived with an uncle in Connecticut.

The second biography also says John went to live with "his son Henry" in Cincinnatus. Eaton John had a son named Harry, not Henry. The "son Henry" issue is minor; Harry was once called Henry in a census, and, by the time the biography was written, the head of the Cincinnatus family was Harry's son Henry.

The other points will be discussed later.

1908: Van Alstyne's reference to "Harmon's John, so-called"

Next in our chronological list of information are the Van Alstyne genealogies, published in 1908 and 1909. (It has now been almost 150 years since John was born.)

The original genealogy work by Van Alstyne presents a clear lineage from Harmen Jansen Knickerbocker (the 1st generation), to Laurens Knickerbocker (of the 2nd generation), to John (3rd generation).

The family of John included a son, Harmon (4th generation). Harmon's oldest son was also named John, making him the 5th generation, or John(5).

It is clear from the will of John(3) that Harmon died before his father. John(3) mentions "Harman's John, so-called" in his will, and gives him 25 acres and the house his father built.

John Knickerbocker b. 1710; d. 10 Nov., 1786; buried at Lime Rock, Conn; m. (1) Jacomyntje Freer at Kingston N.Y.; m. (2) 22 Feb., 1751 Jemima Owen at Sharon, Conn.

The will of John Knickerbocker of **Salisbury**, Connecticut., is dated **5 June 1785**.

To his eldest son Abraham he gives thirty acres of feasible land and fifteen acres on the mountain; to his second son Lawrence, three acres and twelve acres, and to his fourth son Isaac fifteen acres adjoining that given Lawrence. To "Harman's John, so-called, and my grandson" he wills twenty-five acres, with the house his father built.

Children:

Abraham,* b. 12 April, 1733

Lawrence, b. i or 7 Sept., 1739, according to Salisbury records, but i Nov., 1739, according to the Athens, N. Y., church records

Harmon (Herman), b. 3 Jan., 1741/2, according to Salisbury records, but 13 Jan., 1742, according to the Athens church records, spon. to baptism being Herm.

Knickerbocker and wife Catha.; d. prior to June, 1785; m. Thankful .

[and other children]

*From Van Alstyne
Emphasis added*

Van Alstyne reports that John(5) was born on September 15, **1766**.

More recent researchers report that Harmon's wife, Thankful Hogoboom, was re-married by 1785, again suggesting that Harmon had died before the elder John had signed his will in June, 1785.

Harmon (Hermon) Knickerbocker, b. 3 Jan., 1741/2, according to Salisbury, Conn., records, but 13 Jan., 1742, according to Athens, N. Y., church records where his baptism is recorded; m. Thankful

Children:

John, b, 15 Sept 1766, at Salisbury, Conn.

Bartholomew,

Abraham,

Lawrence.

Rachel, &

Thankful (twins)

*From Van Alstyne
Emphasis added*

The Van Alstyne history does not also contain any further information about "Harmon's John." This is not too surprising. For example, he did not track down the birth dates of Harmon's later children.

(More recent research has shown that Harmon disappears from the county tax roles in about 1777. This is consistent with the possibility that Harmon died *during* the Revolutionary War, but does not prove that he died *because* of the war.)

1908: Van Alstyne's reference to Lydia Jackson

The Van Alstyne genealogy contains one other key piece of the puzzle: He found the marriage record for John Knickerbocker and Lydia Jackson.

Van Alstyne's focus was primarily on the first four generations of Knickerbockers. He apparently travelled to all the county courthouses gathering records. He then tried to piece all the information together. He wound up with several puzzle pieces that he couldn't place into his known genealogy. He called these "Unlocated Items."

In his "unlocated" section, Van Alstyne reports that Lydia Jackson married "John Kernickkerbakker, Jr."

John Kernickkerbakker Jr. of Salisbury
m. 9 June 1785 at Sharon, Connecticut.,
Lydia Jackson of Sharon.

Emphasis added

From Van Alstyne

This places "Eaton John" in exactly the right place. According to this marriage record, "John Kernickkerbakker" was from Salisbury. As shown on the prior page, Salisbury was the home of the elder John Knickerbocker, who wrote a will stating that he planned to give 25 acres of land to "Harmon's John, so-called."

This also places "Eaton John" in Salisbury at exactly the right time. The marriage was recorded as being on June 9, 1785. This is four days after the elder John signed his will. This sounds like a thoughtful grandfather, assuring that Harmon's eldest son has a place to live with his new bride.

However, there are some concerns.

More recent reviews of tax records suggest that three different men named John Knickerbocker resided in Litchfield County, at one time or another, in the late 1700's.

Two young men named John Knickerbocker were still heads-of-households in the Salisbury/Sharon area for both the 1790 and 1800 census. One of them is believed to have been Harmon's John. The other one is believed to have been Lawrence's son John. (In the chart on page 85, Lawrence's son John is next to Harmon's John, and is person number 43iii in the Van Alstyne sequence.) By the 1810 census, there was nobody named John Knickerbocker living in Connecticut.

Various researchers are trying to identify the specific families and movements of these men.

(As also circled in the wedding record above, John Kernickkerbakker is described as a "Junior." We can't read too much into this. The elder John was apparently the senior Knickerbocker in the area. A county clerk recording the wedding might have added the word "junior" simply to indicate that the groom was not the elder John.)

1913: "History of Southern New York" apparently ties it all together

We now move forward to a book called the "History of Southern New York," published in 1913. This is only 4 to 5 years after Van Alstyne was published, but is ever farther removed from John's birth.

An early edition of this book was found by George F. Walker, who was looking for Knickerbocker-related material.

This book contained brief information about both the elder John Knickerbocker, and about Harmon Knickerbocker.

However, this book did not simply copy either Van Alstyne or the Madison County biographies; it tells an enhanced story.

This book is unique in stating that the John Knickerbocker from Eaton was, in fact, the son of Harmon and Thankful. This would mean "Eaton John" is "Harmon's John."

Herman, Harmon or Herman, son of John and Jacomyntje Freer Knickerbocker, was born in Sharon, Conn. 3 Jan 1741/42, and was baptized in Athens, New York.

With the exception of Abraham and Lawrence, his children are named in the will of their grandfather, John Knickerbocker, and Abraham and Lawrence are called children and heirs of Harmen in the Sharon records, book g, pg 97. He married Thankful [last name unknown]. Children include:

John, son of Herman and Thankful Knickerbocker was born in Salisbury, Conn. 15 Sep 1766. His father, dying soon after the close of the revolution, John Knickerbocker lived with his uncle until 1804, when he removed to **Eaton, Madison County**, New York and settled on a tract of land near Leland's Pond.

Late in life he sold his property and went to reside with his son Henry at *Cincinnatus*, Cortland County, New York where he died about 1876.

He married Lydia Jackson.

*Cuyler Reynolds, "Genealogy and Family History of Southern New York, published in 1913, pgs. 995 – 997. Transcribed by George F. Walker.
Emphasis added*

This would seem to be convincing: A historian in 1913 (a hundred years closer to the actual event than we are today) claims to know the lineage of John Knickerbocker in Cincinnatus.

Again, though, things are not that simple.

Mr. Reynolds provided no documentation of any kind. We have no idea how he made this connection. (Did someone tell him about it? Did he do some further research? Was he speculating based on Van Alstyne? And so on.)

Because there is no documentation for why Mr. Reynolds made this claim, modern genealogists are uncomfortable.

If nothing else, Mr. Reynolds was certainly not very meticulous. For example, he is way off on the date of death. He clearly had not seen the tombstone in Cincinnatus, which presumably was easily readable in those days. Therefore, Mr. Reynolds did not notice the discrepancy between Van Alstyne's reported birth date of 1766, an actual date of death of 1860, and a reported age of near 100 years.

Summary: Cincinnatus family probably descended from "Harmon's John"

As briefly described on these seven pages, there are several puzzle pieces related to John Knickerbocker.

There is no doubt that "Eaton John" was in just the right place – Salisbury – at just the right time – June of 1785. One biography of Eaton John, and multiple census records, say that John was born in Connecticut. Thus, Eaton John might be the son of Harmon.

However, there is consistent data suggesting that Eaton John was born around 1760. There are multiple sources that suggest "Harmon's John" was born in 1766. (Only a small portion of all the data has been shown here.) Discrepancies in dates are common when looking back 250 years. However, this one is still annoying.

In addition, there is the issue that one biographer from Madison County claimed that Eaton John was born in an unidentified suburb of New York City. Salisbury and Sharon could be described as suburbs of New York *State*, since they are on the very western edge of Connecticut, and share a border with Dutchess County, NY. However, they are about 100 miles from New York *City*.

The troublesome biography also mentioned something about an uncle of Harmon's or John's.

We are now considering the possibility that Harmon and/or John might have spent time with Harmon's aunt and uncle in New York City. Harmon had an aunt named Neeltje Freer, who was the older sister of Jacomyntje Freer. (Neeltje was also related to Harmon via her husband, Pieter Knickerbocker.) Neeltje and husband Peter lived at least some of their lives in New York City. They were apparently the first Knickerbockers ever to live in the city.

We know that Harmon's mother, Jacomyntje Freer Knickerbocker, died when Harmon was only about 10 years old. We also know that Harmon died when his son John was somewhere between 12 and 18 years old. If we could prove that Harmon and/or his son John spent any time with aunt Neeltje and uncle Peter, then we could be satisfied that the 2nd biographer from the 1890's was picking up glimmers of the truth, but got the details wrong.

For now, we conclude that Mr. Reynolds' book from 1913 was *probably* right. **The John Knickerbocker who lived in Eaton and died in Cincinnatus, is *probably* "Harmon's John."**

Thus, Section 4 of this history of the Cincinnatus family showed the lineage as being Harmon / Lawrence / John / Harmon / John, which fits with the book published by Mr. Reynolds.

This is worthy of continued research. Among other things, this will involve continued dialogue with Knickerbocker genealogy experts.

However, there are also many other holes in this family history that deserve attention. This includes the origins of the Parks, Bourne, and Murray families, and the connections between the Cincinnatus Bryan family and the Puritan family in Milford, Connecticut.

This remains a work in progress.

----- End -----