

Migrations of the Early Knickerbockers

Chapter 1 of 4

Bryan Knickerbocker
1 August 2017

This report discusses the migrations of the early Knickerbockers.

This is Chapter 1. This chapter focuses on Harmen Janse van Wye, who later became known as Harmen Janse Knickerbocker. Chapters 2, 3, and 4 will focus on later generations.

Thousands of words have already been written about Harmen Janse Knickerbocker. We will not repeat them here. (We encourage readers to obtain a copy of William Van Alstyne's *History of the Knickerbocker Family* before reading this report.)

The focus here is on new information that has not been previously published. For example, we will devote about half of this report to clarifying when Harmen Janse Knickerbocker died, and where he was buried.

Overview

This map illustrates the earliest movements of the Knickerbockers.

Harmen Janse originally settled on the west side of the Hudson River, in what is now called Saratoga County (1).

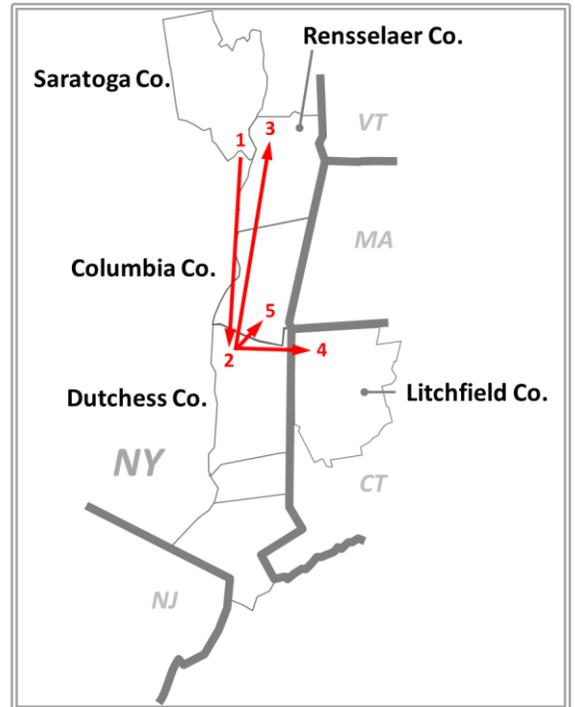
Harmen Janse left Saratoga County in about 1704. Harmen moved south to Dutchess County (2). It appears that six of his children went with him.

The oldest son, Johannes, moved to Schaghticoke in Rensselaer County (3). We are showing an arrow from "2" to "3", but perhaps should have shown an arrow from "1" directly to "3". (Johannes may have gone directly to Schaghticoke, without ever living in Dutchess County.)

Johannes' descendants stayed in the Schaghticoke area for many years. This will be covered in Chapter 2.

Unlike Johannes' family, the descendants of the other six children quickly began to migrate. Their destinations initially included Litchfield County Connecticut (4) and Columbia County New York (5), but they also quickly moved to western New York state and more distant locations such as Michigan.

The movements of the Dutchess County families will be covered in Chapters 3 and 4.



Harmen Janse Knickerbocker in Saratoga County, New York

Harmen Janse's property was in an area called Halve Maen.

We will show a full translation of the Halve Maen deed, as reported in *Early Records of the City and County of Albany and Colony of Rensselaerswyck* (1916) by Jonathon Pearson.

Contract of sale between Anthony van Schaick and Harmen Jansen Knickerbacker for a piece of land at Half Moon
 [168 and 169 blank; 170] Appeared before me, Rob^t. Livingston, secretary of Albany, colony of Rensselaerswyck and Schaenhechtady. etc., Anth^o. van Schaick of the one side and Harme Janse Kinneker-

backer of the other side, who declared that they had contracted and agreed with each other in love and friendship, in manner following:
 Anth^o. van Shayk acknowledges that he has sold and Harme Janse Kinneker Backer that he has bought of him a piece of arable land at the north or upper end of the Halve Maen¹ over against the Skachkook² path, being bounded by a little kill on the south side and likewise by a little kill on the north side, to the east the river, and to the west the high woods,³ the grantee to have two hundred paces above the heights next the woods to be fenced in and furthermore free range for his cattle, with the persons living in the Halve Maen; for which piece of arable land and the privileges aforesaid Harme Janse Kinneker Backer promises to pay to Anth^o. van Schayk the quantity of thirty good salable beaver skins, to be paid in the three following years, every time a just third part, to wit, ten beavers in January 168³/₄, ten beavers in January 168⁴/₄ and the last ten beavers in January 168⁵/₄; on the last payment the seller promises to deliver a proper conveyance of the aforesaid land, free and unincumbered (saving the lord's right); with which the contracting parties acknowledge they are content, binding for the execution of these presents their persons and estates, real and personal, present and future, nothing excepted, submitting the same to the authority of all lords, courts, tribunals and judges. Done in Albany, in presence of Gabriel Thomson and Mr Abraham van Tricht called as witnesses hereto, the 11th of December 1682.

ANTHONY VAN SCHAICK
 HERMEN JANSEN VAN WYKYCBACKER⁴

Gabriell Tomascn
 Abram van Tricht, chirurgion

In my presence,
 RO^t. LIVINGSTON, Secretary

¹ Half Moon; about 15 miles north of Albany.
² Schaghticoke.
³ T' hooge boss.
⁴ This signature, though written in a neat and legible hand, is apparently imperfect. In an indenture from Anthony van Schaick to Harmen Jansen for land at Half Moon, dated February 26, 169²/₄, in *Deeds*, 4:94-96, the grantee is repeatedly referred to as "Harme Janse Knickerbacker van Wye," and the original, according to the record, was signed "Harme Janse Knickerbacker van Wye." In an action for debt by Hermen Jansen Kinnekerbacker against Mews Hogeboom, in *Proceedings of Justices of the Peace*, 1680-85, p. 535, the plaintiff is spoken of as "Harmen Jansen van Bommel." Bommel is supposed to stand for Zalt-Bommel in the province of Gelderland, but may possibly refer to Den Bommel, on the island of Over-Flakkee, in the province of South Holland.

In addition to reporting the deed, Mr. Pearson offered some commentary on the name "Knickerbocker."

This deed shows the name Hermen Jansen van Wykycbacker, and Mr. Pearson comments on other deeds that show Harme Janse Knickerbocker van Wye.

There is also a comment about a man named Harmen Jansen van Bommel, who was supposedly the same person.

These variations of the name have sparked lots of discussion and speculation about Harmen Janse's origins.

We will not speculate about Harmen Janse's origins in this report.

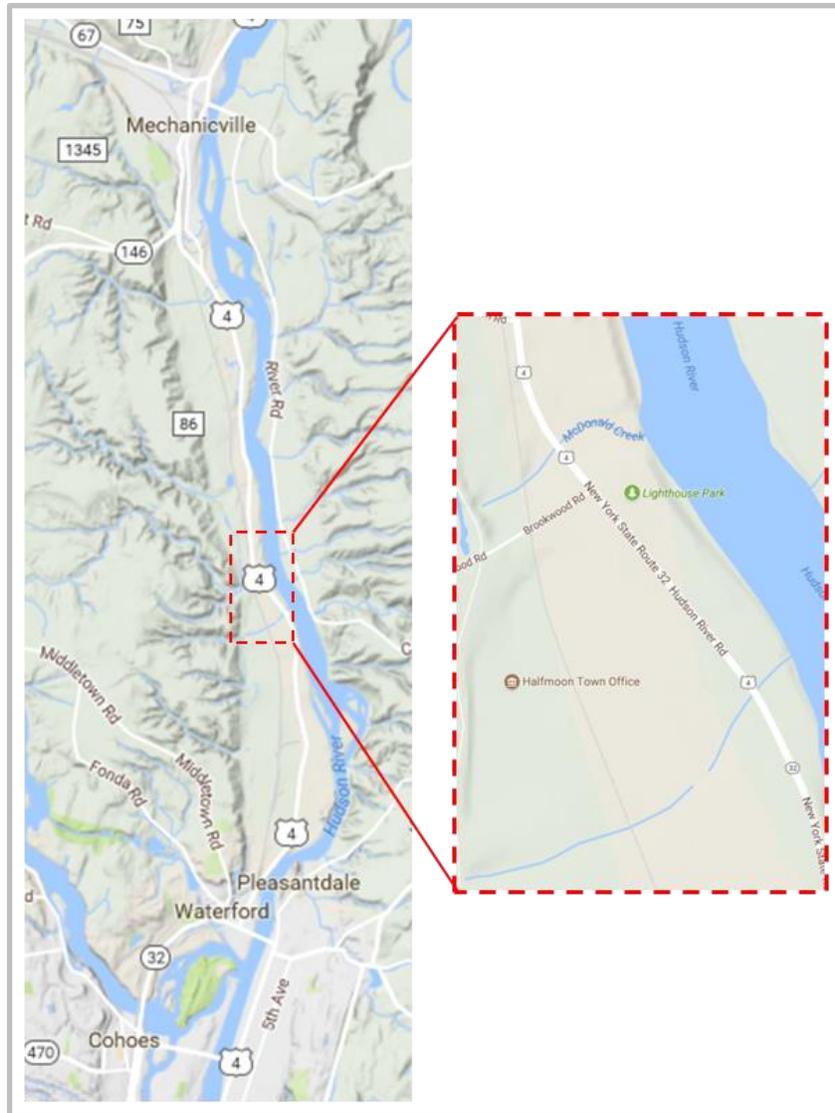
Instead, we will focus on Harmen Janse's movements along the Hudson River Valley.

Harmen Janse was in a Dutch settlement called Halve Maen, on land between two creeks.

We do not know the exact location of the original Dutch settlement, but Footnote 1 of Jonathon Pearson's work claimed that Halve Maen was 15 miles north of Albany.

Today, the town office of Half Moon, New York is about 15 miles north of Albany.

By an interesting coincidence, the Half Moon town office is between two creeks that enter the Hudson. This is shown on the enlarged map below.



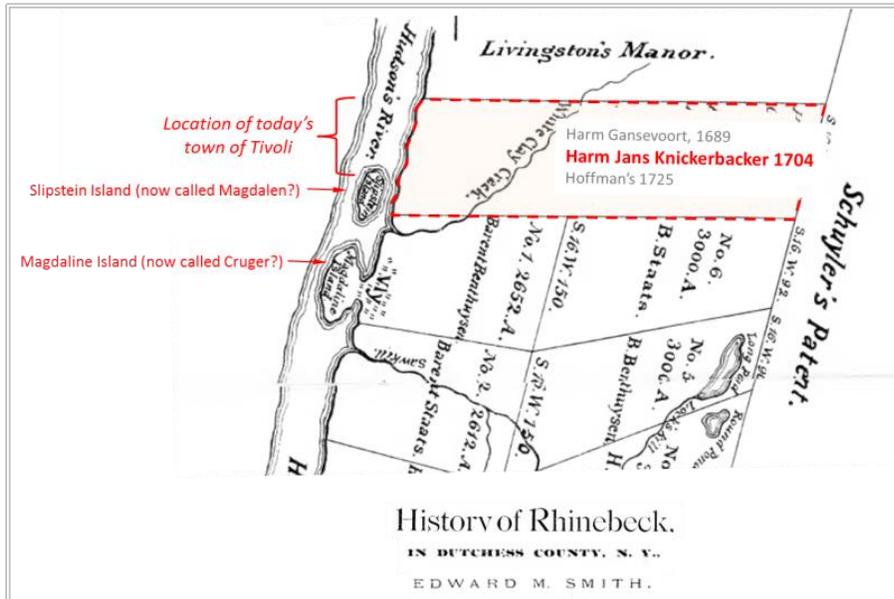
Our best guess is that Harmen Janse's original homestead was somewhere in the vicinity of today's Half Moon town office.

Harmen Janse in Dutchess County, New York

In about 1704, Harmen Janse moved south about 60 miles, to what later became known as Dutchess County.

Various land records are available that directly link Harmen and his children to the area now known as Tivoli, New York (point 2 on the previous map). Tivoli was originally known as Red Roode Hoek (Red Hook).

The approximate location of Harmen Janse's property can be found in the *History of Rhinebeck* by Edward Smith.



As shown in this old map, the Knickerbocker land was south of Livingston's Manor, and north of Slipstein Island.

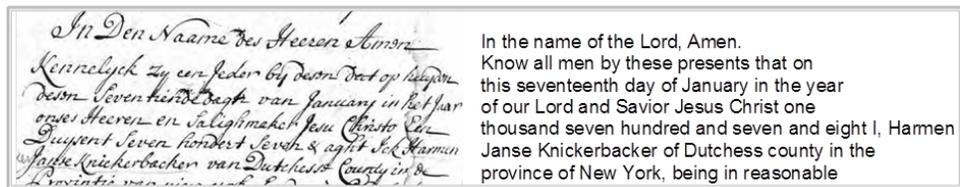
Harmen Janse purchased a 50% interest in this land from Harm Gansevoort in 1704.

Harmen Janse did not own 100% of this land. This becomes important later in our discussion.

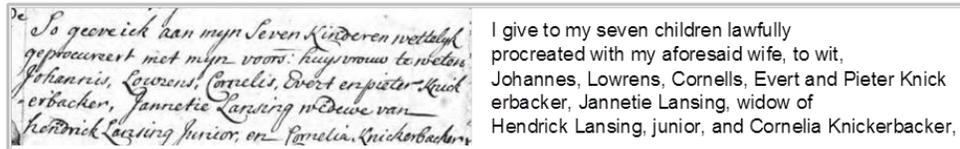
The Will of Harmen Janse Knickerbocker

Harmen Janse Knickerbocker wrote his will during the winter of 1708 / 1709.

A portion of the will is shown in the original Dutch, with an English translation.



In the name of the Lord, Amen. Know all men by these presents that on this seventeenth day of January in the year of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ one thousand seven hundred and seven and eight I, Harmen Janse Knickerbacker of Dutchess county in the province of New York, being in reasonable



I give to my seven children lawfully procreated with my aforesaid wife, to wit, Johannes, Lowrens, Cornells, Evert and Pieter Knickerbacker, Jannetie Lansing, widow of Hendrick Lansing, junior, and Cornelia Knickerbacker,

The will names his seven children.

Harmen split his holdings among his children. His holdings included the 50% interest in the land south of Livingston's Manor.

Harmen Janse's Last Years

Harmen Janse Knickerbocker spent his last years in Dutchess County.

The above will proves that Harmen was "of Dutchess County" in 1708/1709.

A county census proves that Harmen was still in Dutchess County in 1714.

And, as we are about to discuss, we can prove that Harmen Janse Knickerbocker died, and was buried, in Dutchess County.

The records showing Harmen Janse' death and burial were recorded as part of some complicated land transactions. These are discussed below.

Subdividing Harmen Janse's Property

Shortly after Harmen Janse died, part of his large property was subdivided into 13 lots. This map illustrates the location of Lot 1, which was up against the theoretical border with Livingston's Manor.

By the time Harmen Janse's properties were sold, people claimed the border with Livingston's Manor was defined by a straight line from the southernmost bend of the Roeliff Jansen Kill to the mouth of the Sawyer Kill creek. This diagonal border is illustrated by a dark black line on this map.

Livingston Manor was north of this theoretical line. Harmen Janse's properties were to the south.

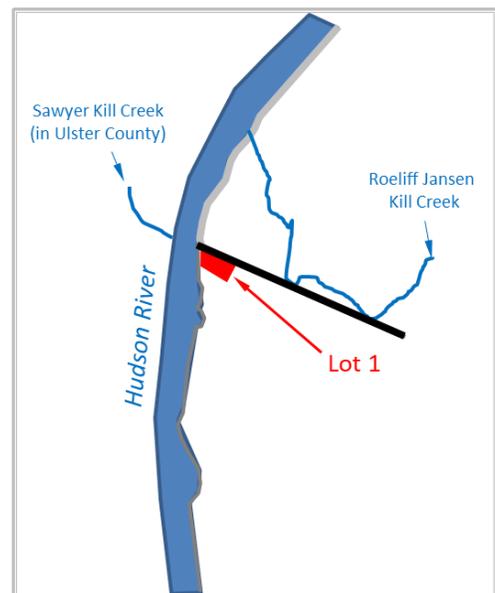
This border was different from the original perceived border, which was an east-west line.

This border was also theoretical and hard to track. It apparently disagreed with the archaic methods that were actually used to mark the property lines. (For example, property owners would carve their initials into large trees.)

For our purposes, there are two important issues related to these land transactions.

The first issue is that nobody actually knew the location of the property lines. This led to multiple lawsuits. Court records from the lawsuits tell us when Harmen Janse died.

The second issue is that only a portion of the original tract was subdivided. Harmen Janse's descendants still owned 50% of the southern part of the tract, stretching down to Slipstein Island. This southern tract was referred to as "Undivided Land." The Knickerbockers later sold the undivided land. One of the deeds tells us where Harmen Jansen died, and also where he was buried.



The Death of Harmen Janse Knickerbocker: 1714

The uncertainties about the boundaries of Livingston Manor and the Knickerbocker properties resulted in several lawsuits. Harmen Janse Knickerbocker was already dead, and was not directly involved. However, Harmen Janse’s son Peter was involved, as was Harmen Janse’s grandson Benjamin (the son of Lawrence).

Alexander Hamilton was one of the attorneys involved in the lawsuits. (See Volume 3 of the *Law Practice of Alexander Hamilton*.)

Peter Knickebacker being duly sworn saith that he is upwards of eighty two years old, and about fifty seven years ago he was preparing to build upon Lot No. 1 in Schuyler’s Patent; that he then lived in the house where his Father lived, which M^r Nicholas Hoffman jun^r now occupies; and that the North boundary of the aforesaid Lot was at the Killitie upon the Hudson’s River;

; and that his Father Hermanse Knickebacker died in the year
 → 1714;

Sworn 18th Aug^t 1784
 before me—
 Anth^y Hoffman

As part of a lawsuit, Peter Knickerbocker testified that his father died in 1714.

Peter was 82 years old at the time of the deposition. However, his father’s death, when Peter was 12, would have been a major event. We can assume he would remember the date at which he lost his father, at least to within a year or two.

Thus we conclude that Harmen Janse Knickerbocker died soon after the 1714 Dutchess County census.

The Grave of Harmen Janse Knickerbocker in Dutchess County

The above court records do not tell us where Harmen died, or where he was buried. However, it turns out that land records are very useful.

In March of 1733, Harmen’s son Cornelius sold his portion of the “undivided land” in Dutchess County.

The buyer was Nicholas Hoffman, who was living across the river in Ulster County. Mr. Hoffman decided to register the deed in Ulster County. This should not have been allowed, since the property was actually in Dutchess County. The mis-filing of this deed has apparently caused it to be overlooked by genealogists.

When Cornelius sold his land, the deed was very clear: this property sold by Cornelius Knickerbocker was “whereof Harme Janse Knickerbacker, father of the said Cornelis, died.” Also, the sale was “excepting and reserving ... one quarter of an acre of land for a burying place for the Knickerbackers where the father of said Cornelis Knickerbocker lyes.”

divided land whereof Harmen Janse Knickerbacker father of the said Cornelis Knickerbacker died.

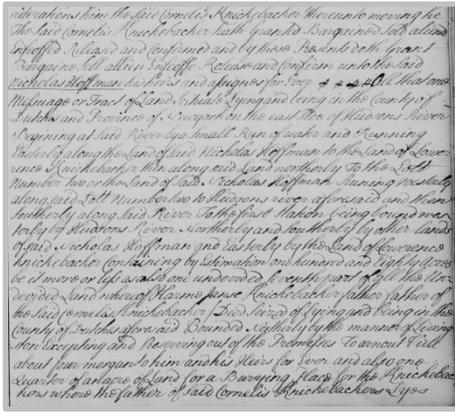
Quarter of an acre of land for a Burying place for the Knickerbackers how where the father of said Cornelis Knickerbackers lyes

This proves that Harmen Janse died and was buried in Dutchess County.

We will now describe the process of hunting for Harmen Janse' grave.

We are looking for a small burial ground where the father of "said Cornelius Knickerbocker lyes."

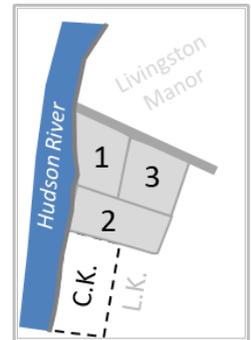
We know that the burial ground was on Cornelius Knickerbocker's property, which was described this way:



tract of land situato lying and being in the County of Dutches and Province of New York on the east side of Hudsons River beginning at said River by a small run of water and running easterly along the land of said Nicholas Hoffmon to the land of Lowerence Knickerbacker then along said land northerly to the lott number two of the land of said Nicholas Hoffman running westerly along said lott number two to Hudsons river aforesaid and then southerly along said river to the first station being bound westerly by Hundsons River, northerly and southerly by other lands of said Nicholas Hoffman and easterly by the land of Lowerence Knickerbacker containing by estimation one hundred and eighty acres

The deed mentions only one landmark: A "small run of water" at the southern edge of Cornelius' property.

Cornelius Knickerbocker's lot was south of Lot 2. Other deeds show that Lot 2 was south of Lot 1. (Descriptions of the subdivided lots can be found in Ulster County land records, book FF, page 422, and Dutchess County land records, book 2, page 398.)



We suspect that Lot 1 was oriented primarily north-south, and that Lot 2 was oriented primarily east-west. This is because Lot 2 was described as being south of both Lot 1 and Lot 3.

We can use simple algebra to approximate the location of Cornelius' lot.

The simplest algebra would occur if the lots were all perfect squares. Lot 1 (119 acres) would be 2,300 feet by 2,300 feet, so it would occupy 2,300 feet of waterfront, just south of Livingston Manor. Lot 2 (96 acres) would occupy the next 2,050 feet of waterfront, and Cornelius' lot (180 acres) would occupy another 2,800 feet of waterfront.

For this simple "square lot" example, the southern edge of Cornelius' lot would be 7,150 feet south of the original Livingston Manor line.

This simple example shows that these were large lots. The "small run of water" was at least a mile to the south of Livingston Manor.

Modern satellite imagery shows a small creek in about the right spot.

In the Google Earth image shown here, the creek runs along River Road, then through the trees, then under the railroad tracks, and finally into the Hudson River.

Topographical maps show that this creek is the result of a ridge that runs from Tivoli towards the Hudson. The location of this creek probably hasn't changed very much in the last 200 years.

This is the only creek in the area, and was probably the southern boundary of Cornelius' property.



The creek is about 8,500 feet south of the mouth of Sawyer Kill creek, which was the historic boundary of Livingston Manor. This is reasonable. The "square lot" calculation came up with about 7,150 feet. The extra distance is easily explained if we assume that both Lot 1 and Cornelius' lot were elongated.

We will now shift our focus slightly to the north.



The photograph to the left shows a larger section of the Hudson River coastline.

The small creek is near southern edge of this photograph.

The old "Lot number 2" was to the north of this photograph.

Thus, we believe this photograph shows part of Cornelius Knickerbocker's property.

We have identified two key landmarks.

One landmark is Friendship Street, a short street that runs along the low bluff above the Hudson.

The other landmark (the red star) is the intersection of Friendship Street and County Road 78. This county road was originally known as State Road 402, and was built in the 1930's.

We now turn to James H. Smith's *History of Dutchess County*, which was published in 1882.

The burial ground in which were interred some of the members of the Hoffman family was on a sand bluff overlooking Tivoli Landing, back of the Farmers' Hotel, and now a portion of the estate of Col. Johnston L. de Peyster. This is the oldest grave yard in this section of the country, and in which there has been no recorded or remembered interment within the present century.

The vandalism which denuded this spot of its trees for fire-wood was not as bad as that which had previously made spoil of the memorials. It is said that the brick supports and foundations of the slabs were appropriated to other uses, and the slabs themselves, in some instances, converted into flag stones.

Here, on this ancient Hill of the Dead, lying flat on the ground, and yearly wasting away by the elements, are still to be seen several slabs of red sandstone, erected to the memory of those who peopled this locality nearly a century and a half ago.

Another stone, commemorative of the Lowrance Knickerbocker, before mentioned, bears these words:—

“Here lies the Body of Mr. Lowrance Knickerbocker, who di'd ye 20th of December and was buried ye 22, in the 82nd year of his age in ye year 1766.”

This old burial ground is now a pasture; the few stones lie prone and crumbling on the ground, under the quaint head stone of Lowrance Knickerbocker the fowls have hid their nests,*

*This stone was slightly raised, and at the time of our visit, June 17, 1881, a hen's nest was partially hidden beneath it.

The excerpt shown here was part of Mr. Smith's discussion of the Hoffman Family, including Nicholas Hoffman.

In June of 1881, Mr. Smith visited an old burial ground behind the Farmer's Hotel, on a sand bluff overlooking the Hudson River.

This was “the oldest grave yard in this part of the country.”

The burial ground had been abandoned for many years, with “no recorded or remembered internment within the present century.”

The burial ground contained tombstones of Hoffman family members.

The burial ground also contained the degrading tombstone of Lawrence Knickerbocker, the second son of Harmen.

This burial ground was not associated with any church, which suggests that it began as a family burial ground.

More recent documents show that the Farmer's Hotel was on Friendship Street. The hotel was torn down in the 1930's to make way for a “state road.” The red star on the preceding satellite photograph is at the intersection of Friendship Road with Route 78 (old state road 402).

The red star is important for two reasons.

First, the red star is a connection to James Smith, because this was the approximate location of the Farmer's Hotel and the abandoned burial ground.

Second, the red star is a connection to Cornelius Knickerbocker's deed. The red star is north of a “small run of water,” east of the Hudson River, and south of the old Lot number 2. Thus, red star is clearly within the boundaries of the old property of Cornelius Knickerbocker.

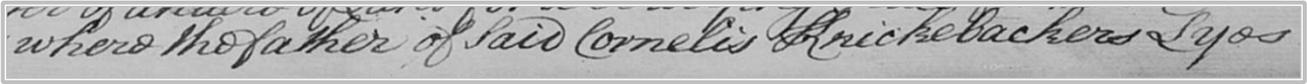
The obvious conclusion: The burial ground discussed in the *History of Dutchess County* is the same quarter-acre burial ground set that was aside by Cornelius Knickerbocker.

This burial ground was the location of Harmen Janse Knickerbocker's grave.

The deed specifically stated that the burial ground was going to be used as a “burying place for the Knickerbackers.” Thus, in 1766, Lawrence Knickerbocker was buried near his father. More than a century went by before anybody documented the tombstones in this family burial ground. Mr. Smith arrived in 1881, just in time to find Lawrence's tombstone.

Harmen’s tombstone was already gone by 1881. There is no hope of finding it now.

It has taken us about five pages of text to describe the search for Harmen Janse’s grave. To close this discussion, we will repeat eight important words from the deed shown earlier:



“where the father of said Cornelis Knickerbockers lyes”

These eight words prove that Harmen Janse Knickerbocker was buried in Dutchess County, on the property later owned by his son Cornelius.

Knickerbocker Finances

Since we discussed the court records earlier, we should also offer a brief observation about the Knickerbocker family’s financial situation:

Starting in the early 1700’s, Harmen owned a 50% interest in several square miles of real estate along the Hudson River. Today this would make him a multi-millionaire. (For example, a single large house on Friendship Street recently sold for \$710,000.) However, the scale of Harmen’s land holdings may be deceiving.

We will quote one more section of the court records as reported by Alexander Hamilton.

Peter Knickerbocker testified during a lawsuit, and apparently thought the Knickerbockers were short-changed as a result of the property dispute.

One of the lawyers objected to Peter Knickerbocker’s credibility, saying that Peter was poor and had more motivation to stretch the truth. Hoffman had no inducement to commit fraud, since the land had little value anyway.

Objⁿ Knickerbocker poor. |
If poor more reason to claim—Schuyler bound
Hoffman not poor—
If land little value no inducem^t commit act fraud

Thus we can conclude that Harmen’s land holdings did not make him a wealthy man, and that at least one of his sons – Peter – was a poor man, even after selling his inherited land.

End of Chapter 1

Chapter 2 will discuss the family of Johannes Knickerbocker in Schaghticoke.

Migrations of the Early Knickerbockers **Chapter 2 of 4**

Bryan Knickerbocker
1 August 2017

This document discusses Johannes Knickerbocker, the oldest son of Harmen Janse Knickerbocker.

Johannes is well known for founding the line of Knickerbockers in Schaghticoke, New York. Sources of information about this family include William Van Alstyne's *History of the Knickerbocker Family*; Kathlyne Knickerbocker-Viele's history; and the Knickerbocker Historical Society, which is based at the Knickerbocker Mansion in Schaghticoke, New York.

Since the Johannes line has been documented elsewhere, this report will be brief, and will attempt to shed some new light on all of the prior information.

Johannes Knickerbocker of Schaghticoke, New York

Johannes Knickerbocker moved to Rensselaer County in about 1708, and remained there for the rest of his life. Johannes was buried in Schaghticoke.

Johannes was approaching 30 when his father, Harmen Janse Knickerbocker, moved from Saratoga County to Dutchess County. Johannes probably went directly from Half Moon to Schaghticoke, without ever living in Dutchess County.

Schaghticoke is about 70 miles from Tivoli. This means that Johannes and his children were somewhat isolated from the rest of the Knickerbockers. As discussed below, many of Johannes' descendants tended to stay close to home. Thus, we will refer to this group as "the Schaghticoke family."

The Schaghticoke family achieved a certain degree of fame and fortune,

However, there are relatively few "Knickerbocker" descendants of Johannes who are alive today.

Most "Knickerbockers" alive today are descended from Lawrence Knickerbocker of Dutchess County, not from Johannes Knickerbocker of Schaghticoke.

This is discussed below.

Fortune and Fame

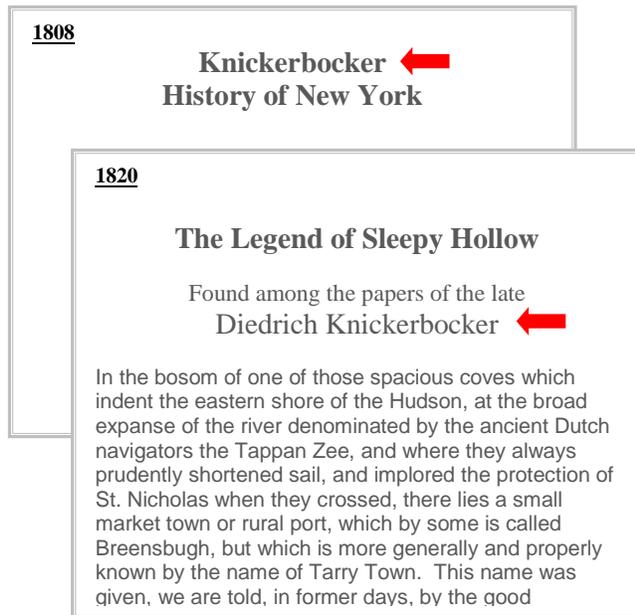


The “fortune” of the Schaghticoke family is illustrated by the Knickerbocker Mansion in Schaghticoke.

This has recently been restored, thanks to the Knickerbocker Historical Society.

The history of the mansion is well documented, and will not be discussed here.

The “fame” of the Schaghticoke family is the result of their friendship with the author Washington Irving.



Washington Irving’s books have been described as the first best sellers written in the U.S.

Washington Irving’s pen name was Diedrich Knickerbocker. Even now, when you buy or download a copy of the Headless Horseman (“The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”), it includes the heading “found among the papers of the late Diedrich Knickerbocker”.

As a result of Washington Irving’s books, “Knickerbocker” soon became a common word. It also 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 (although few Knickerbockers ever lived in New York City).

The Knickerbockers have always been a tiny little family. The early generations included mostly middle-class or lower-middle-class farmers.

Our “Knickerbocker” name would never have been as widely known, except for the works of Washington Irving.

Bad Luck and/or Poor Health

Despite fame and fortune, the Schaghticoke clan did not have the best of health or the best of luck.

An example can be seen in church records. Partial records for the Dutch Church of Albany were reported in the book *Annals of Albany, Vol 1*, by Joel Munsell. The records cover 30 years, 1727 to 1757. These records show only eight “Knickerbockers” buried in this cemetery. All eight were children:

Knickerbockers in the cemetery of the Dutch Church of Albany (1727-1757)

1737	1750
Novr 29 Wouter Knickerbacker's child	Mar 4 Child of Jhs Knickerbacker
1739	1757.
Agt 26 Wouter Knickerbacker's child	Oct 22 Child of Johs Knickerbacker
1743	
Oct 9 Wouter Knickerbacker's child	
1747.	
July 16 Child of Wouter Knickerbacker	
Dec 2 Child of Harme Knickerbacker	
1752.	
Sep 26 Child of Wouter Knickerbacker	

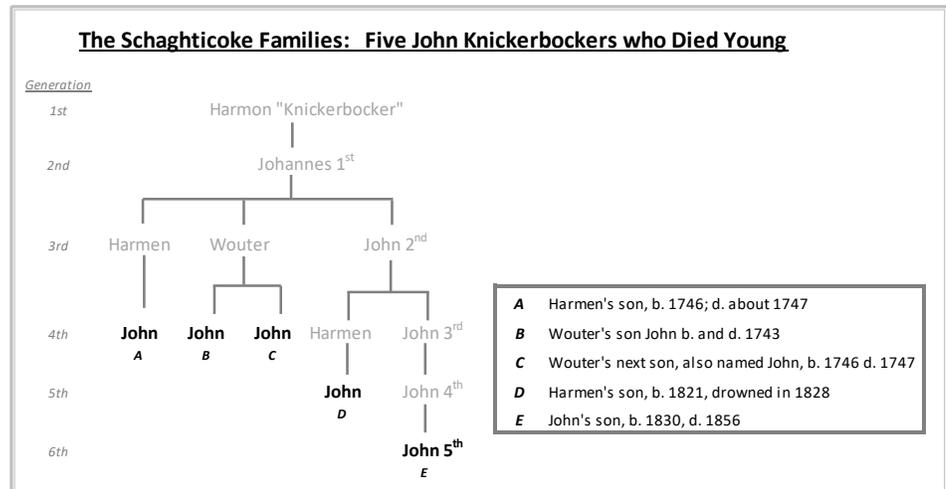
These were all grandchildren of Johannes Knickerbocker. Five of them died before their grandfather. Infant mortality might have been unavoidable in the 1700's, but these Knickerbockers had more than their share of early death.

By connecting birth records with the above cemetery records, we believe that three of these eight burials were for children named John or Johannes Knickerbocker.

If we shift our focus exclusively to men named “John Knickerbocker,” we can again illustrate that the Schaghticoke family had bad luck and / or poor health.

As shown here, the Schaghticoke families had five “John Knickerbockers” who died before the age of 26.

Johannes the 1st lost 3 grandsons, 1 great grandson, and 1 great grandson who were named “John Knickerbocker.”



(Note that we are using John and Johannes interchangeably here.)

Partly as a result of the early deaths, the Johannes branch of the family was never very large. This can be seen by looking at the 1800 census.

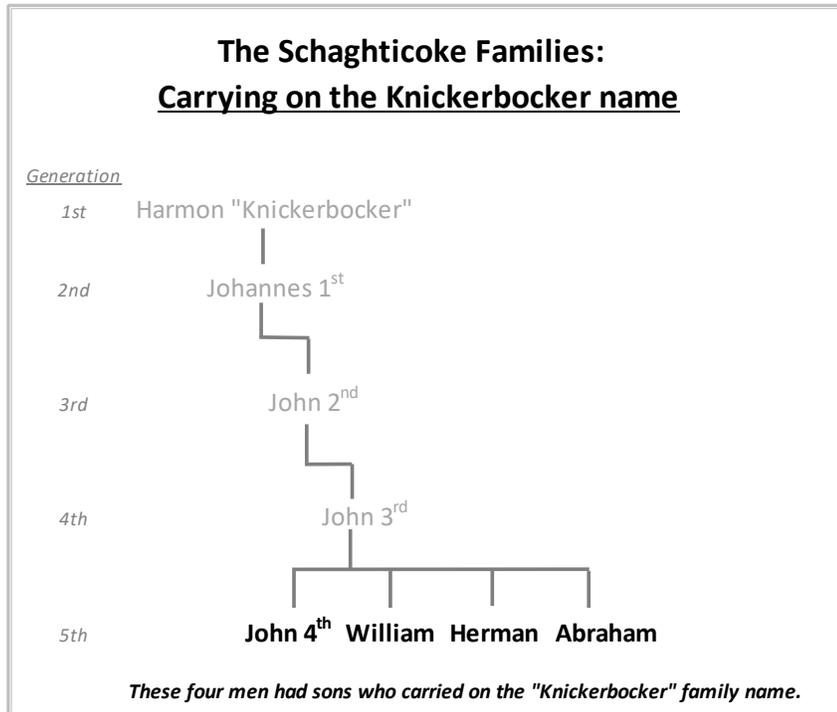
In 1800, there were only 21 free persons in the households associated with Johannes and his sons / grandsons / etc. The Schaghticoke Knickerbockers were actually outnumbered by their slaves. (Slavery was legal in New York state until about 1818.)

<u>Head of Household in 1800</u>	<u># of Free Persons</u>	<u># of Slaves</u>
John Knickerbocker <i>[Johannes 2nd]</i>	4	10
John Knickerbocker Jr. <i>[Johannes 3rd]</i>	11	10
Wm Knickerbocker	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
<i>Totals</i>	21	23

For perspective, the total population of Rensselaer County was about 30,000. Only about 0.07% of the county population was named Knickerbocker.

This line of Knickerbockers would have died out if not for the large family of Johannes the 3rd (who was called "John Jr." in the above census record).

The Johannes Knickerbocker line had only four "Knickerbocker" great-grandsons who successfully propagated the family name: John the 4th, William, Herman, and Abraham.



A later section of this report will discuss the descendants of these four men.

Perspective on the small size of Johannes' line of Knickerbockers

We will pause for a moment to provide some perspective.

Harmen Janse Knickerbocker had five sons. These sons each married and had children. However, the sons had very different "success" in terms of carrying on the Knickerbocker family name.

Lawrence Knickerbocker was clearly number 1, and left by far the most "Knickerbocker" descendants. Below is a partial list of the fifth generation Knickerbockers who were descended from Lawrence. We show 36 names, but this list is only a best guess. (Lawrence will be discussed in Chapter 4.)

Petrus Knickerbocker comes in at number 2, in terms of number of descendants. His line was carried on by about 9 members of generation five. (Petrus will be discussed in Chapter 3.)

Johannes Knickerbocker was number 3. Johannes' line was carried forward by John the 4th, William, Herman, and Abraham.

<u>Generation 2 "Knickerbocker" Males</u> (Sons of Harmen Janse)	<u>Generation 5 "Knickerbocker" Males</u> (Great Great-Grandsons of Harmen Janse)	<u>Rank</u>
Lawrence	36 ? Samuel, John, Salmon, John, Bartholomew, Cornelius, Jeremiah, Reuben, David, William, Walter, James Tobias, Cornelius, Petrus, Johannes, Philip, Benjamin, Peter L., John L. James, Abraham, Peter, Isaac Jacob, Petrus, James, John, Peter, John, Valentine, Hugh, Frederick, Benjamin, William, Henry	1
Petrus	9 (or more?) John, Herman, Edmond, Hiram, Evert, Edward, William, Peter, Louis (and Oscar?),	2
Johannes	Four William, Herman, John 4 th , Abraham	3
Evert	Zero ?	
Cornelius	Zero ?	

Thus, the descendants of Johannes are a small subset of all the Knickerbockers who are alive today.

We will return to our main purpose, which is to discuss the descendants of Johannes.

For the Johannes Knickerbocker line, the list below shows the Knickerbocker men who reached adulthood, and their location in the 1850 census.

Also shown is their last known location. The last location comes primarily from the location of their death. In some cases, the last known location comes from a census entry, or from a newspaper article, published histories, or relative's probate notice.

Sons of Johannes Knickerbocker of Rensselaer County, NY
This table only lists "Knickerbocker" sons who reached adulthood

<u>Generation</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location in 1850</u>	<u>Last known location</u>	
2	Johannes 1 st	1679-1749	Deceased	Rensselaer Co, NY
3	Johannes 2 nd	1723-1802	"	"
4	Johannes 3 rd	1751-1827	"	"
5	William Winne	1773-1846	"	"
6	Derrick	1795-1877	Monroe Co, NY	Monroe Co, NY
6	John W.	1809-1840	Deceased	Rensselaer Co, NY
6	Abraham V.	1811-	Possibly deceased ?	Cook Co, IL
6	Herman W.	1813-1898	Rensselaer Co, NY	DuPage Co, IL
6	William	1815-1900	"	Rensselaer Co, NY
5	Herman	1779-1855	"	"
6	Herman	1831-1894	MN territory ?	Wright Co, MN
6	David Buel	1833-1894	"	Marion Co, IN
6	Abraham Lansing	1802-1865	Albany Co, NY	Rensselaer Co, NY
5	John 4 th	1783-1862	Saratoga Co, NY	Saratoga Co, NY
6	John 5 th	1830-1856	Unknown	Madison, WI
6	Thomas Adams	1838-1922	Saratoga Co, NY	Rensselaer Co, NY
6	Nanning Vischer	1807-1857	Steuben Co, NY	Steuben Co, NY
5	Abraham	1796-1869	Rensselaer Co, NY	Rensselaer Co, NY
6	John Hale	1829-1858	"	"
6	Henry	1833-1897	"	New York City
6	Joseph Foster	1824-1882	"	Rensselaer Co, NY

The Schaghticoke clan tended to stay close to home. In the above table, there are only five "Knickerbocker" men whose last known location was outside of New York State. This may be due, in part, to the relative wealth of this family.

(In general, there was a large western migration during the mid 1800's. This was partly driven by land prices. Good farm land in the Hudson Valley became scarce, so poor farmers could not afford to keep all their sons close to home. This apparently didn't impact the Schaghticoke Knickerbockers.)

The Schaghticoke clan was small, but produced some well-known Knickerbockers.

We will briefly highlight the accomplishments of two of the Schaghticoke Knickerbockers:

Johannes Knickerbocker the 2nd (1723-1802) was well known for having served during the Revolutionary War. Quoting Van Alstyne: Revolutionary War records show that he was Colonel in the Fourteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia.

Herman Knickerbocker (1779-1855) was also well known. Again quoting Van Alstyne: He was a lawyer and lived at Schaghticoke where he dispensed such generous hospitality that he became known as Prince of Schaghticoke. He was elected to the 11th Congress as a Federalist and served from 1809 to 1811. In 1816 he was chosen to State Assembly and also filled the office of County Judge. He is alluded to by Washington Irving in the Knickerbocker's History of New York as "My cousin, the congressman," and when Mr. Irving visited Washington he introduced him to President Madison as "My cousin Diedrich Knickerbocker, the great historian of New York."

Fifth and Sixth Generation “Knickerbockers” from the Johannes Line

It can be difficult to trace Knickerbockers in the fifth and sixth generations. This is partly due to the large numbers of Knickerbockers in those middle generations. It is also due to their migrations away from home.

The Schaghticoke clan is different. There were very few of them, and they tended to stay close to home.

It will take us only a couple of pages to present a brief discussion of every sixth generation Knickerbocker man who was descended from the Johannes line. This seems worthwhile, since the earlier published studies generally stopped at generation number 5.

The list below shows the 5th generation father (such as William Winne Knickerbocker), and then describes the fate of the 6th generation sons. We have left out the sons who died young.

William Winne Knickerbocker (1773-1846) married 1. Derkje Van Vaechten (-1807) and 2. Eve Viele (1775-1865).

William Winne Knickerbocker had five sons.

One of the sons (Herman) was part of the western migration, and left “Knickerbocker” descendants.

Another son, John, stayed closer to home, and also left a small number of “Knickerbocker” descendants in the Hudson Valley.

Three of the sons (Derrick, Abraham, and William) apparently did not help carry on the “Knickerbocker” name.

The sons of William Winne Knickerbocker were:

- Derrick Knickerbocker (1795-1877) married Anna De Ridder (1795-). They moved to Lima, NY, then to Rochester, and then to Parma, Monroe Co. NY. Derrick left multiple records, including a will. He had two children, Valentine (1819-) and Anna Jane (1820-).
 - Valentine married Gertrude Dutcher (1820-1886), and had two sons, Edward (1849-1926) and Henry Clay (1852-1926). Neither Edward or Henry had any sons. Thus, there appear to be no living “Knickerbockers” descended from Derrick.
- John W. Knickerbocker (1809-1840) married Susan De Ridder (1811-1885). Their descendants remained in the area. John and Susan had two sons:
 - Simon Knickerbocker (1835-1894) lived in eastern New York and in Connecticut. Simon died while visiting Brooklyn, where he had business. Simon and his wife Francis (maiden name Somers?) had a daughter and a son. The son, George D. Knickerbocker (1864-) married and had a family.

- John Junior (1841-1916) lived in Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties. He married Sarah Bryan. They had two sons, Bryan (1864-1893) and Simon (1871-1903). Both Bryan and Simon were killed in railroad accidents; neither had children.
- Abraham Viele Knickerbocker (1811-) is hard to trace. According to his father's probate notice, Abraham was living in Chicago in 1846. However there are no census records. He might never have headed a household, and might have died before 1850. There may not have been any Knickerbocker descendants.
- **Herman William Knickerbocker (1813-1898) of Illinois** is the only one of William Winne Knickerbocker's sons who migrated west and left a large footprint. His life is fairly well documented. He married 1. Sara Groesbeck (18130-1843), 2. Clarissa Seelye, and 3. Nancy LNU. Herman died in Naperville, Illinois. His sons Abraham Viele Knickerbocker (1839-1917) and John W. Knickerbocker (1840-1900) both had families.
- William Knickerbocker Junior (1815-1900) remained in the Rensselaer County area. His obituary said that he left a wife and granddaughter. Thus, there are apparently no "Knickerbockers" descended from William.

Herman Knickerbocker (1779-1855) married, 1. Ariante Lansing, 2. Rachel Wendell, and 3. Mary Buel.

Herman had four sons.

One of the sons, Herman Junior, founded a long line of Knickerbockers in Minnesota. Another son, Abraham, stayed in the Hudson Valley, but helped carry on the Knickerbocker name.

Two of the sons (John and David) did not successfully help carry on the name.

The sons of Herman Knickerbocker were:

- Abraham Lansing Knickerbocker (1802-1865) apparently lived his entire life in Rensselaer County. He married Maria Patience Bryan and had two sons (Bryan and Edwin) and two daughters.
- John Knickerbocker (1821-1828) died at age seven. John didn't live to adulthood, so we normally wouldn't mention him here. However, it is interesting that he drowned in a river. This is the only documented case of a John Knickerbocker ever drowning in a river, but this person obviously could not have been the father of the mysterious David Baker "Knickerbocker" who was born in about 1800.
- **Herman Knickerbocker (1831-1894) of Minnesota** founded a long line of Knickerbockers in Stearns County, Minnesota (near St. Cloud). Herman was married to Jane Hutchinson and had a large family, including several sons.
- David Buel Knickerbocker (1833-1894) was a well-known Reverend whose history can easily be found on the internet. There are no living "Knickerbocker" descendants of David Buel Knickerbocker. (David and his wife Sara Moore had one son, David Junior, who died at about age 9.)

John Knickerbocker the 4th (1783-1862) married 1. Rachel Vischer, and 2. Carolyn Chester.

John had three sons. However, as described below, it appears that this line of Knickerbockers died out, since Nanning had only daughters, and Thomas had only granddaughters.

- Nanning Vischer Knickerbocker (1807-1857) married Catherine (maiden name unknown) and spent much of his life in Steuben Co, NY. Nanning and Catherine had two daughters, but no sons.
- John Knickerbocker the 5th (1830-1856) died in a hotel in Madison, WI, according to his obituary. His body was brought back to Rensselaer County for burial. It's not clear if John actually lived in Wisconsin, or if he was only visiting. It doesn't appear the John was ever married.
- Thomas Adams Knickerbocker (1838-1922) married Helen Porter. Thomas was described in his obituary as being one of Troy's leading men. Thomas and Helen had one daughter and one son. The son, John (1869-1947), married Kathleen Hayes but apparently had only daughters. Thus, the obituary of Thomas Knickerbocker mentions granddaughters, but no grandsons.

Abraham Knickerbocker (1796-1869) married 1. Laura Sturges, and 2. Mary Ann Hale.

Abraham had three sons, but this "Knickerbocker" line also appears to have died out.

- John Hale Knickerbocker (1829-1858) died at age 29 and was buried in Schaghticoke. He was one of the five "John Knickerbockers" discussed earlier who died relatively young. He apparently never married.
- Henry (1833-1897) spent his life in Saratoga County and New York City. He married Helen Blood (1839-1922) and inherited part of her family business. Henry and Helen had two sons, William Hale Knickerbocker (1859-1913) and Henry Knickerbocker Junior (1863-1888). William's obituary mentions only his wife as a survivor. Henry Junior's obituary says he was unmarried.
- Joseph Foster (1824-1882) lived most of his life at the Knickerbocker Mansion in Schaghticoke, although he died in New York City while visiting his brother Henry. Joseph never married.

This ends the list of 6th generation "Knickerbocker" men who were descended from Johannes Knickerbocker.

It is possible that we have missed a few, but it is clear that the descendants of Johannes Knickerbocker made up only a tiny fraction of the "Knickerbockers" who migrated out of New York State.

End of Chapter 2

*Chapter 3 will discuss the families of Evert, Cornelius, and Peter Knickerbocker
Chapter 4 will discuss the family of Lawrence Knickerbocker*