

The Family of Lawrence Knickerbocker and **A Tour of Key Sites in the Dutchess County Area**

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17 June 2022*

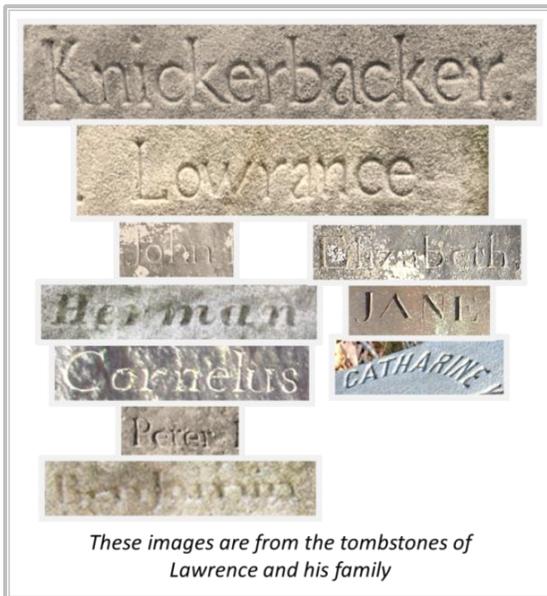
This is the story of Lawrence Knickerbocker and his children. This is part of an occasional series of studies of the Knickerbocker family.

On the simplest level, this is a driving tour. It covers several Knickerbocker houses and tombstones.

The tour focuses on seven towns. The total driving distance is about 70 miles. You can also do a virtual tour using satellite photos and roadside images from applications like Google or Bing.

1	Tivoli	<i>Lawrence & all of his children</i>
2	Jackson Corners	<i>Son Peter</i>
3	Pine Plains	<i>Sons Cornelius and Benjamin</i>
4	Smithfield Valley	<i>Daughter Catharine</i>
5	Salisbury, CT	<i>Son John</i>
6	Amenia	<i>Son Harmanus</i>
7	Dover Plains	<i>Daughters Elizabeth and Jane</i>

There is also a larger purpose behind this work. We will discuss the Knickerbocker baby boom in the mid 1700's. We will also discuss the migration of Knickerbockers out of the Hudson River Valley to far-off places such as Michigan.



Lawrence Knickerbocker had five sons: John, Harmanus, Cornelius, Peter, and Benjamin.

This was the beginning of a baby boom that lasted for several generations.

If your last name is Knickerbocker, or if you have recent Knickerbocker ancestors, then you are probably descended from Lawrence Knickerbocker, and you probably have roots in the towns discussed in this document.

Lawrence also had four daughters: Elizabeth, Jane, Maritjen, and Catherine. We can trace everyone except Maritjen.

If you are not sure which Knickerbocker line is yours, the last four pages of this document might be a useful starting point.

For example, the final page of this document lists about 130 towns where Knickerbocker males were recorded in the 1850 census. It is easy to trace back to the early generations if your ancestor was in one of those towns in 1850.

Introduction: The Knickerbocker Baby Boom

Our focus here is on the children of Lawrence Knickerbocker (1685 – 1766).

Lawrence is important to Knickerbocker history because he had so many sons and grandsons.

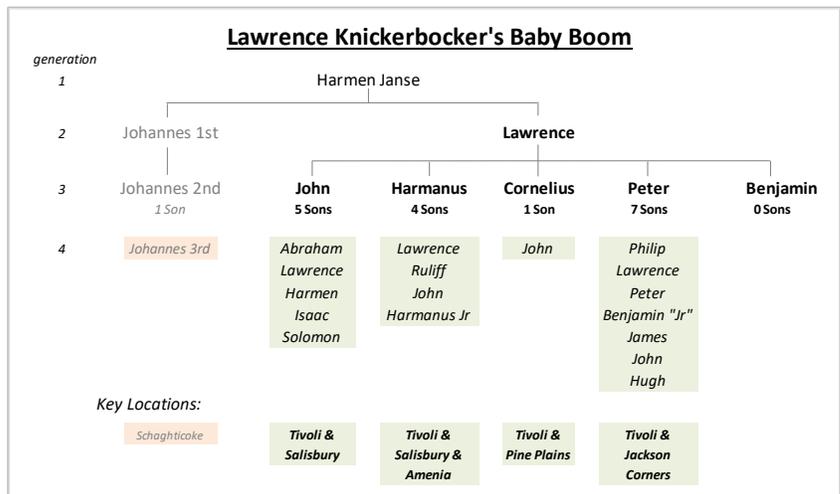
Consider the contrast between Lawrence and his older brother Johannes.

Johannes’s family gets a lot of attention. They built the mansion in Schaghticoke. They also helped make the “Knickerbocker” name famous through their friendship with Washington Irving. In reality, though, there were very few Knickerbockers in Schaghticoke.

The difference between Lawrence and Johannes is illustrated in the following graphic. This is a comparison of how effectively each family carried on the “Knickerbocker” name. We have only included sons who reached adulthood, and then had sons who also reached adulthood.

The 17 males highlighted in green were grandsons of Lawrence. This was a huge boost to the “Knickerbocker” name.

The Schaghticoke family was different. Their families were small, and many of the children died young. The Schaghticoke line hung on by a thread. Only Johannes 3rd carried on the Knickerbocker name.



Thus, Lawrence left far more descendants than Johannes. This is illustrated in far more detail on the last four pages of this document.

Table of Contents

Shown here is a list of the major destinations on this guided tour.

Each section is self-contained, describing when the Knickerbockers arrived in town, where they lived, and where their descendants wound up.

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Genealogy Details	Page 41

If you are already familiar with basic Knickerbocker genealogy, you might want to read this report backwards, beginning on page 44.

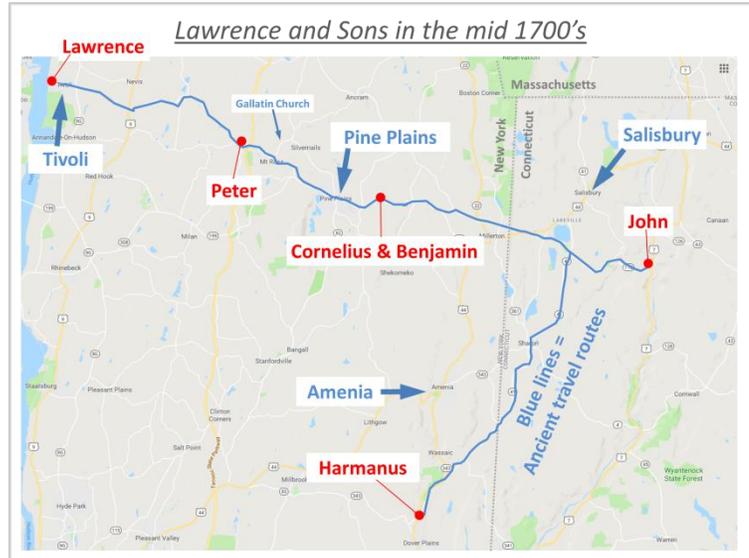
The Tour

This tour follows the same general routes used by Lawrence and his children. You can think of this as a driving tour, moving from the Hudson River to Salisbury, and then continuing on to Amenia. If don't do the driving tour, Google and Bing are useful for exploring each area.

The blue lines on this map are modern roads. Each road follows a more ancient trail.

For example, in the late 1700's the "Salisbury Turnpike" ran from the Hudson River to the Housatonic River. Cornelius and Benjamin Knickerbocker built houses within a few feet of the Salisbury Turnpike.

The Sharon Road ran from the Salisbury area towards Amenia and Dover Plains. This is probably the route that Harmanus used when he moved south from Salisbury.



Location 1: Tivoli

Tivoli is an important town in Knickerbocker history. We will discuss four locations in the Tivoli area. However, there isn't much to see, because the Knickerbockers didn't leave many footprints in Tivoli.

Stony Brook Road, at the intersection with Sengstack Lane

The first stop will set the scene for the rest of the tour. The nearest street address is 116 Sengstack Lane, Tivoli. The critical spot for us is GPS 42.0679, -73.9063.

Harmen Janse bought a 50% stake in one of Peter Schuyler's patents in 1704. Harmen built his house north of the White Clay creek. The house was east of today's Sengstack Lane, near Stony Brook Road. The location of the house was mentioned by a surveyor as early as 1707.



This photograph is looking east on Stony Brook Road, facing towards Route 9G. The White Clay Creek is behind the trees to the right.

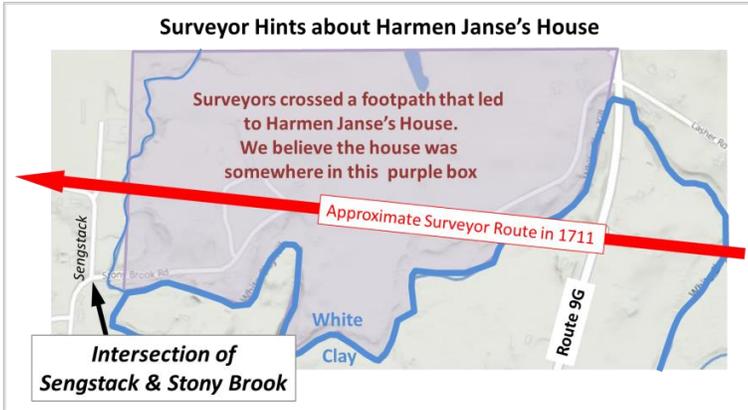
There are guard rails along the road. These mark the location of a small creek.

This picture is in the wintertime, facing south. The small creek passes under Stony Brook at the guardrails. The small creek bends east, then merges with the White Clay.



The junction of these two creeks is a landmark that was mentioned in multiple old records, including the survey discussed below.

Shown below is a modern map of the area. The red line is the approximate route that surveyors took in 1711 as they headed towards the Hudson.



The surveyors wanted to establish the southern boundary of Livingston Manor. They began their trip in the area now called Mt. Ross. They headed west / northwest towards the Hudson.

The surveyors made a mistake, and were off course. The surveyors went directly through the Schuyler / Knickerbocker lands.

The surveyors crossed a meandering creek multiple times, then passed a footpath to Harmen Janse's house, and

then crossed a smaller creek that joined the meandering creek. This sequence proves that Harmen Janse was living somewhere within the purple box on this map.

Harman & Lysbet's Family in 1704

	age
Lawrence	19
Cornelius	12
Cornelia	9
Everett	5
Peter	2

Lawrence and his younger siblings must have originally lived with their parents, somewhere in our purple box. As shown in this table, Lawrence was 19 years old when Harmen Janse bought his land in Dutchess County.

Harmen Janse died in 1714, according to court records. He left his 50% interest in the local lands to his children. Lawrence was 29, and Cornelius was 22, when their father died. These young men were free to pick the nicest spots for their homes and farms. (The co-owner, Peter Schuyler, wasn't involved in the day to day life in Tivoli. Schuyler lived in Albany.)

It appears that Schuyler eventually decided it was time to make a profit from his land. In a 1723 deed, Schuyler and the Knickerbocker children subdivided most of the land into 13 new lots. The Knickerbockers retained 7 of the 13 new lots, plus the prime real estate where Lawrence and Cornelius had established their homes. Schuyler must have been eager to make a deal. He allowed the Knickerbockers to keep more than half of the land.

1723 was the first time that Schuyler had clear title to specific lots. Schuyler immediately sold his lots to the Hoffmans of Ulster County. The Knickerbockers stayed put for 10 more years.

We are fortunate that key deeds from 1723 and 1733 still exist. The deeds provide snapshots of where Lawrence and his brothers were living.

Lawrence was in the area that we now call downtown Tivoli.

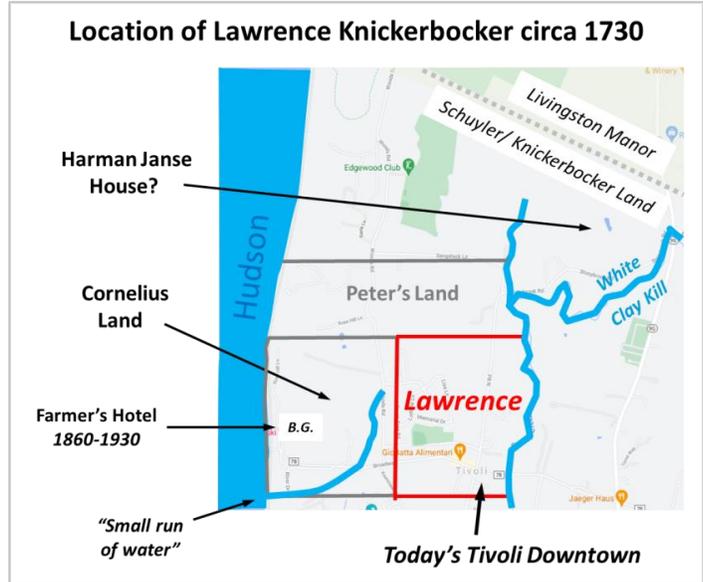
Downtown Tivoli

The next tour stop is downtown Tivoli. Lawrence lived somewhere in today's downtown area, probably along the banks of the White Clay creek.

Lawrence's property ran from the White Clay to the west.

Lawrence's brother Cornelius settled along the Hudson.

In today's terms: Lawrence owned downtown Tivoli. Cornelius owned Tivoli Landing. The brothers had picked the nicest real estate in the area, with access to both the Hudson and the White Clay.



We know Lawrence's location thanks in part to two deeds in 1733. In January, Lawrence's brother Peter sold his land to the Hoffmans. In March, Cornelius also sold his land to the Hoffmans. Both deeds mention the location of Lawrence's land. Both deeds also mention that Harmen Janse died in the area north of the White Clay.

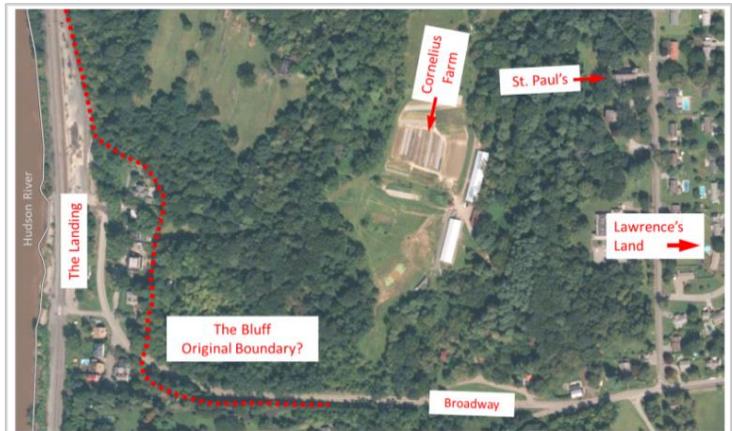
The 1733 deed for Cornelius's sale mentions that Cornelius had set aside a quarter acre as a Knickerbocker family burial ground. The deed said that Harmen Janse had been buried there.

Lawrence apparently sold his land to the Hoffmans, but the deed has been lost.

Tivoli Landing

The next stop is Tivoli Landing. Lawrence was originally buried on a bluff that overlooks the Hudson.

The bluff is the southern tip of a rock outcrop that stretches from Tivoli Landing to Columbia County. North of the landing the bluff gets higher and steeper. This is what made the landing such an attractive location. This was an easy spot to reach the Hudson from the lush basin of the White Clay.

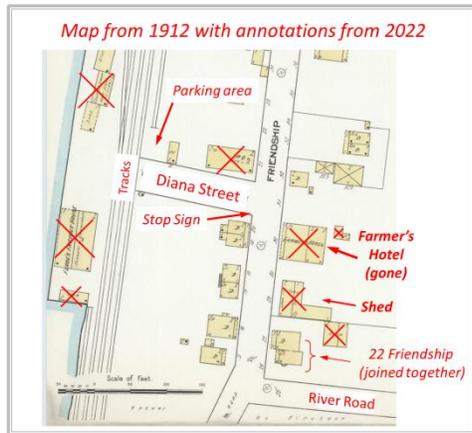
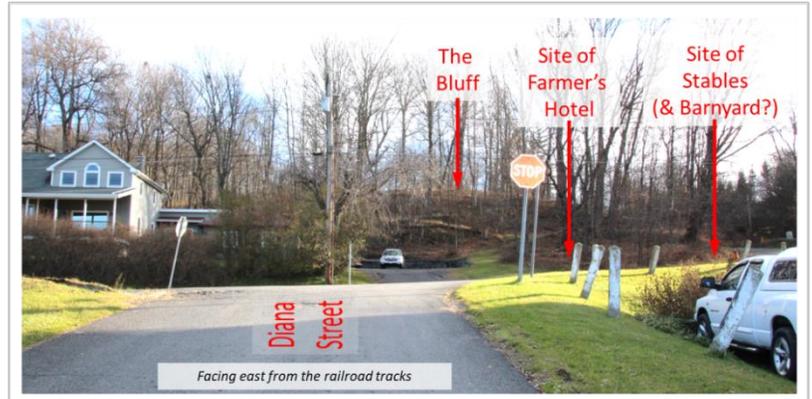


The parking lot near the railroad tracks is the starting point for this section of the tour.

There is a small creek that enters the Hudson 900 feet south of the parking lot. This creek was mentioned in the 1733 deed when Cornelius sold his land. This "small run of water" was the southwest corner of Cornelius's property.

The plateau where Cornelius had his farm is 1,200 feet east of the parking lot. The farm is not visible from the railroad tracks because of the bluff.

From this direction the bluff looks like an odd place for a burial ground. However, we'd have a different perspective if we were standing on the farm. The burial ground and farm are at roughly the same elevation on the plateau.



The origins of the burial ground were forgotten by the mid 1800's. The Knickerbocker Family Burial Ground, next to the Knickerbocker Farm, became known as the abandoned burial ground behind the Farmer's Hotel.

(Only one picture of the Farmer's Hotel has ever been found. It shows a "horse shed" next door to the hotel. There might have been a barnyard behind the shed.)

The hotel was built in the 1800's. The hotel was bulldozed in 1930 during the construction of Broadway Road.

Prior to the construction of Broadway, access to Tivoli Landing was via River Road, at the bottom of this map.

Native Americans and early European settlers were experts at finding the best travel routes. They chose the route that became known as River Road. This was probably because it avoided the southern tip of the bluff. The southern tip may have been bulldozed to make room for today's road.

Prior to the 1930, the southern tip of the bluff probably extended beyond the current Broadway Road. Unfortunately, if the southern edge of the bluff was bulldozed, then the site of the original burial ground may have been disturbed.

We may never know, because the tombstones that once resided on the bluff have been moved multiple times.

The movements of Lawrence's tombstone

By the time Lawrence died in 1766, the Knickerbockers had long since sold all of their Tivoli lands. However, Lawrence apparently chose to be buried near his father, in the Knickerbocker family burial ground created by Cornelius. (We suspect that Lawrence's mother and wife had also been buried in the family burial ground.)

Unfortunately the burial ground faded from view for over 100 years. The first-ever mention of Lawrence's tombstone was in 1882.

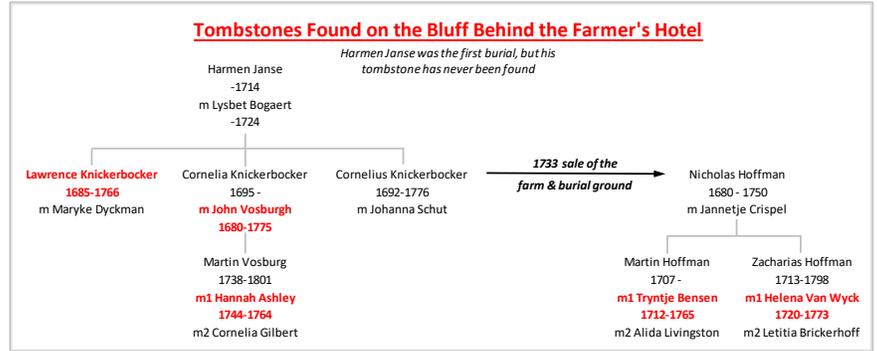
James Smith wrote about visiting the burial ground in his book, *The History of Dutchess County* (1882). Smith focused his text on the connections between the Hoffmans and the burial ground. The original Knickerbocker connection was overlooked.

James Smith saw four tombstones on the bluff, and was told about a fifth tombstone that had already been moved off of the bluff. John Vosburgh's tombstone had washed down a hill into a "barnyard." The tombstone was moved to St. Paul's instead of back to its original location.

We can trace the roots of each person whose tombstone survived.

Three tombstones were for Knickerbocker relatives, including Harmen Janse's son Lawrence and son-in-law John Vosburgh.

There is no doubt that this is the original "Knickerbocker Family Burial Ground."



This seems like great news. In an ideal world we would tell you exactly where to find the original burial ground. Unfortunately we do not live in an ideal world. As described below, the tombstones were removed from the bluff long before the 1930 road project.

We will track the movements of Lawrence's tombstone, beginning at St. Paul's Church. It's a complex story.

St. Paul's & Trinity Parish Church

St. Paul's is the next stop on the tour. This church is at 39 Woods Road, Tivoli. (GPS 42.0619, -73.9158.)



Lawrence's tombstone once resided at St. Paul's, but only temporarily. This story is messy. We will provide a brief summary. Detailed references are given at the end of this report.

Cornelius Knickerbocker sold this land to the Hoffmans in 1733. The land then passed through a series of owners. The farm and the bluff were eventually owned by the De Peyster family.



John Watts De Peyster:
The Villain of our Story

The church was funded in part by John Watts De Peyster. He was rich and famous, but in our story he is a villain. De Peyster was born and raised in Manhattan. He didn't understand Tivoli history.

During the De Peyster family's ownership of the local lands, the burial ground on the bluff was destroyed.

The first full inventory of tombstones at St. Paul's was in 1914. All five of the tombstones from the bluff, including Lawrence's, had been moved to St. Paul's sometime before 1914.

If we stopped this story in 1914, it would be simple: the De Peysters allowed the burial ground to be destroyed, which means that we will never know where Lawrence was originally buried. However, that's only the first chapter of the story. Something unexpected happened.

Today, three of the tombstones are back on the bluff. We don't know who moved them back to the bluff. It must have been someone who disagreed with De Peyster's original decisions.

Unfortunately this second set of moves opens up an entirely new set of questions. Did somebody remember where the tombstones had originally been located? Were the tombstones moved to the far southern tip of the bluff, but then moved again when the bulldozers arrived for the road project in 1930? And so on.

To top things off, Lawrence's tombstone is now in Dover Plains.

The table to the right is a scorecard showing the location of each tombstone at various times.

	<u>Tombstone Locations</u>		
	1882	1914	2022
Lawrence Knickerbocker	Bluff	St Paul's	Dover Plains
Hannah Vosburgh	Bluff	St Paul's	Bluff
Tryntie Hoffman	Bluff	St Paul's	Bluff
Helen Hoffman	Bluff	St Paul's	Bluff
John Vosburgh	St Paul's	St Paul's	St Paul's

(We will add an observation regarding John Vosburgh's tombstone: the base of the tombstone is embedded in concrete. It would be impossible to move it again. This might be why it is still at St. Paul's.)

As we said: This is a messy story. As of today:

- Lawrence Knickerbocker's tombstone is in Dover Plains.
- John Vosburgh's is at St. Paul's, near the De Peyster and Hall / Roosevelt vaults.
- Fragments of three tombstones (Hannah, Tryntie, and Helen) are back on the bluff.

All of these tombstone moves happened long after Lawrence's death. Lawrence's casket and remains were probably left in their original location on the bluff.

We will see Lawrence's tombstone when we visit Dover Plains at the end of this tour.

Wrap-up for the Lawrence discussion

The table below ends the discussion of Lawrence, and begins the discussion of Lawrence's children.

As shown in this timeline, Lawrence's children were born between 1710 and 1731. We have interspersed a few other key events that have already been discussed.

The key events span Lawrence's young adult life. All indications are that Lawrence was in Tivoli during these years.

All of Lawrence's children were probably born in Tivoli.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Key event</i>	<i>Lawrence age</i>
1704	Harmen Janse buys land in Dutchess Co	19
1710	<i>Birth of Lawrence's son John</i>	
1712	<i>Birth of son Harmanus</i>	
1714	<i>Birth of son Cornelius</i>	
1717	<i>Birth of son Peter</i>	
1720	<i>Birth of daughter Elizabeth</i>	
1721	<i>Birth of daughter Jane</i>	
1723	Schuyler/Knickerbocker deed says Knickerbockers lived between today's Tivoli Landing & today's downtown Tivoli.	38
1727	<i>Birth of daughter Maritjen</i>	
1728	<i>Birth of son Benjamin</i>	
1731	<i>Birth of daughter Catherine</i>	
1733	Peter & Cornelius sell their land. Deeds mention Lawrence's location near today's downtown Tivoli.	48

(Later in life, Lawrence bought and sold land in Connecticut, and may also have had property near Magdalin Island on the Hudson. This was after his children had been born.)

Where did everybody go when they left Tivoli?

The area now called “Tivoli” was the center of Knickerbocker life in the years between 1704 and 1733. During these years there were always more Knickerbockers in the Tivoli area than there were in Schaghticoke.

If you are descended from a Knickerbocker then there is a very high probability that you have ties to the sites that we have discussed.

However, the Knickerbocker’s time in Tivoli was brief. The exodus began in 1733, and almost all of them had moved away by 1760.

The remainder of this document discusses the destinations of Lawrence’ children after they left Tivoli.

The Early History of Tivoli

The story that we’ve told here has never been discussed in any published history of Tivoli.

Histories of Tivoli always focus on families that arrived later, including the Hoffmans, Livingstons, and De Peysters. The Knickerbocker family is overlooked.

This is probably because the Knickerbockers were simple farmers. The families that came along later were entrepreneurs.

In reality, the Knickerbockers were the earliest Europeans to settle full time in the Tivoli area.

However, not much happened in the Tivoli area in the 29 years between 1704 (when the Knickerbockers arrived) and 1733 (when the exodus began).

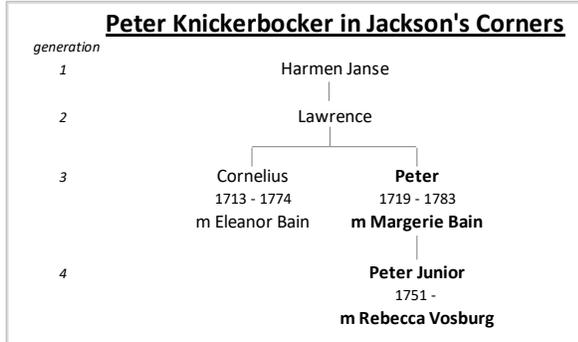
The Knickerbockers didn’t sell off small plots of land for a profit. The Knickerbockers didn’t build dams and sawmills. And the Knickerbockers didn’t build fancy monuments to themselves. Instead, it appears the Knickerbockers lived quiet lives.

The only thing the Knickerbockers left behind was a small family burial ground on the bluff. Unfortunately the burial ground was forgotten and then decimated.

We wish that later landowners, such as the De Peysters, had put a fence around the burial ground instead of allowing its destruction.

Location 2: Milan (Jackson Corners)

The next location is 11 miles to the east. This is in the township of Milan, in the area known as Jackson Corners.



In this section we will mention two of Lawrence's sons: Peter and Cornelius.

We will mention Peter many times. We will mention Cornelius briefly.

We will also mention Peter's son, Peter Junior.

We will discuss exactly where Peter lived. We will also discuss the Gallatin Reformed Church, where Peter worshiped and where he was buried.

The Knickerbocker – Kilmer House

In 1751, Peter Knickerbocker and his brother Cornelius bought a large tract of land in Milan. Peter spent the rest of his life in Milan. Cornelius didn't stay in Milan for long.

Peter Knickerbocker was married to Marjerie Bain. They had a son Peter, who married Rebecca Vosburgh.

Sometime in the late 1700's one of the Peter Knickerbockers built a house in Jackson Corners. Peter Junior and his wife Rebecca sold the house to the Kilmer family in 1808.

The house is at 11 Old Jackson Corners Road, Milan, at the intersection of Jackson Corners Road and Old Jackson Corners Road. The GPS coordinates are 42.0167, -73.7461

The house is private property, but it is visible from Jackson Corners road, especially in the winter.

This house was featured in the Poughkeepsie Journal in 2017. It is known as the Knickerbocker – Kilmer House.

The newspaper article is easy to find by Googling "Knickerbocker Kilmer House." This photograph is from the newspaper article.

The architecture is interesting. There have been many additions to the original small house. In this photograph, the oldest portion of the house is the cube-like structure on the far left.



Here is a side view of the house taken from Jackson Corners road in the wintertime.



The camera is facing north. The Roeliff Jansen Kill – the major stream through this area – is behind the camera, on the opposite side of the road.

The oldest part of the house, the cube structure, is closest to the camera. This section may have been built by Peter Knickerbocker and his wife. Or, it might have been built by Peter Junior and his wife Rebecca.

A local historian once commented that the cube structure has probably been modified over time. Her logic seems to make sense. The south cube of the Kilmer house has two stories and a flat roof. That is unusual.



The historian noted that a more common configuration involved a “garret” room: a second floor with a low sloped ceiling and small dormer windows.



Shown here is a picture of a different house that has a garret room. We suspect that Peter Knickerbocker’s house originally resembled the picture on the left.

Peter and Cornelius’s original purchase in 1751 involved 616 acres of land. Peter wound up with half of the land, 308 acres. By the time the Kilmers bought the house from Peter Junior, in 1807, the sale involved two parcels totaling only 85 acres.

We suspect that Peter sold off most of his land during his lifetime, and shared his wealth with his children. This would explain how so many of his children could afford to stay in the area.

Peter did not leave a will when he died in 1783.

The Gallatin Church

There is a beautiful old church about three miles from the Knickerbocker – Kilmer house, at GPS 42.0198, -73.7034. The street address is 234 County Road 7, Pine Plains.

This was one of the first churches in the area.

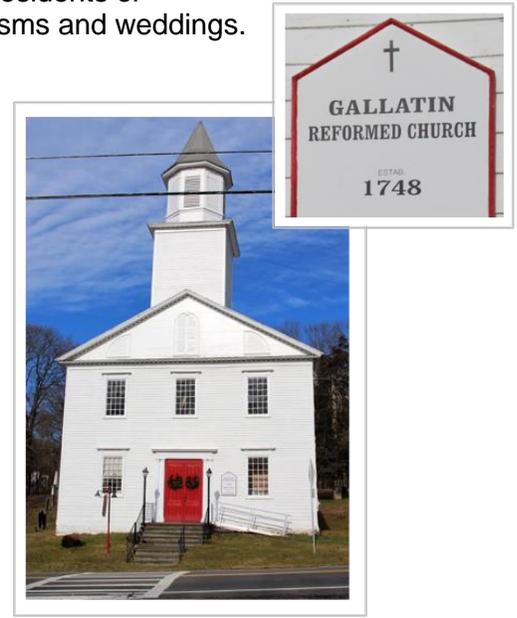
Churches were slow to arrive in the towns on our tour route. Residents of wilderness towns sometimes travelled long distances for baptisms and weddings.

The Knickerbocker's connection to this church started in 1748.

The oldest surviving baptism record in Gallatin was for Jane Knikebaker, the daughter of John and Jarominke Knikebaker. The witnesses were Silas and Jane Belden.

As we will discuss later, John lived in Salisbury, and John's sister Jane [Belden] lived near Amenia. The round trip to Gallatin would have taken several hours in a buggy.

For the Knickerbocker family, it appears that the Gallatin church was the first church with an acceptable affiliation that was built this far east of the Hudson.



Peter Knickerbocker and his wife Marjory bought their land in 1751. They soon joined the Gallatin Church.

Peter developed a strong connection to this church. Peter's family is mentioned in church records more than the total church records for all of his siblings combined. This is probably the result of multiple factors: (a) the Gallatin church was very good at preserving its records; (b) Peter happened to live close to Gallatin, and (c) Peter might have been more religious than his siblings.



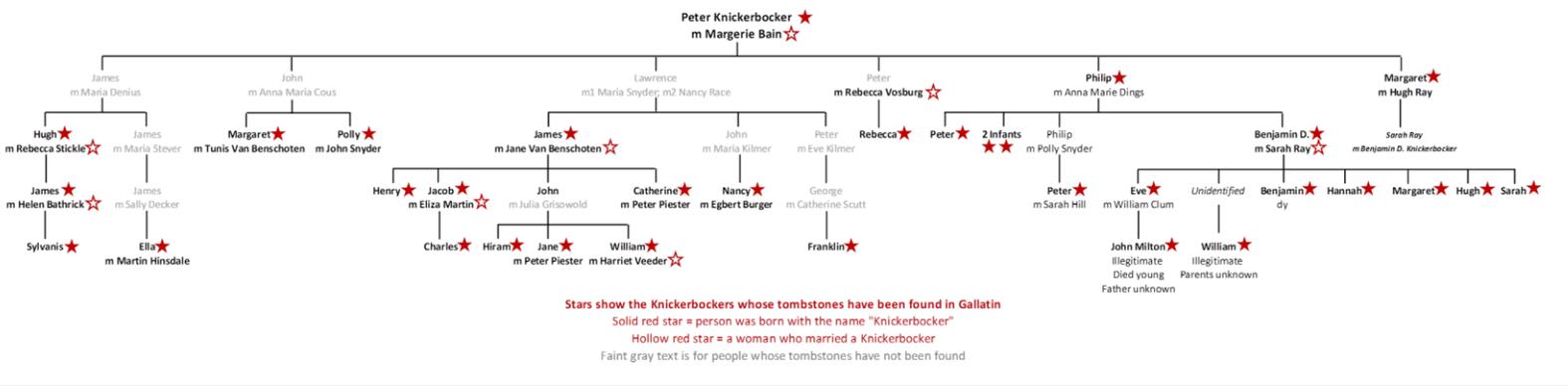
There is a large cemetery behind the church with over 1,000 tombstones.

There are many Knickerbockers and Knickerbocker relatives buried here.

The partial tree below gives a sense of how many Knickerbockers are buried at Gallatin. Notice all of the red stars. A solid red star is a person born with the name Knickerbocker. A hollow red star indicates the spouse of a Knickerbocker.

There are over 40 red stars in this graphic.

Descendants of Peter whose tombstones have been found in Gallatin



This cemetery has more Knickerbocker descendants than any other church in the area.



The matching tombstones of Peter and his wife are easy to find, directly behind the church building, up the small hill, near the tree line.

Peter and Marjorie are surrounded by their relatives.

Where did everybody go when they left Jackson Corners?

On this page we will summarize the movements of the Knickerbockers as they left Jackson Corners. This is difficult to describe in a single page. Lawrence’s family was in the midst of a baby boom, so the family tree is massive.

Instead of showing a full family tree – in microscopic font – we will show the following summary.

The top part of this table is a traditional family tree. The bottom is a higher-level summary, showing where male Knickerbocker descendants were found in the 1850 census. These were the “Knickerbocker” grandsons, great grandsons, etc, of Peter Knickerbocker.

We will describe this table using the right hand column as an example.

Hugh was Peter’s youngest son. In the 1850 census, we have identified 29 male Knickerbockers who were descended from Hugh. This made Hugh the second most prolific within Peter’s family, behind the 31 male “Knickerbockers” descended from Philip.

Hugh’s male Knickerbocker descendants had scattered to nine different towns. Some towns were in New York (blue boxes). Others were in Michigan (purple boxes). Philip’s descendants were also in nine towns, but they didn’t overlap. For example, Hugh had descendants in Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties in Michigan. Philip had descendants in Genesee County.

Peter m Marjerie Bain						
Philip	Lawrence	Peter Jr	Benjamin “Jr”	James	John	Hugh
<small>m1 Anna Dings, m2 Hannah Gardenier</small>	<small>m1 Maria Snyder; m2 Nancy Race</small>	<small>m Rebecca Vosburgh</small>	<small>m1 Catherine Teefer; m2 Christina Smith</small>	<small>m Maria Denius</small>	<small>m Anna Maria Cous</small>	<small>m Rachel Schram</small>
Number of male “Knickerbocker” descendants in the 1850 census						
31	11	7	3	21	11	29
Location of male “Knickerbocker” descendants in the 1850 census						
NY, Columbia, Claverack	NY, Columbia, Gallatin	NY, Columbia, Taghanic	NY, Dutchess, Pine Plains	NY, Columbia, Copake	NY, Dutchess, Milan	NY, Dutchess, North East
NY, Columbia, Kinderhook	NY, Dutchess, Milan	IL, McHenry, Alden	NY, Yates, Milo	NY, Dutchess, Pine Plains	NY, Washington, Argyle	NY, Dutchess, Stanford
NY, Dutchess, Milan	NY, Wayne, Galen	OH, Clinton, Liberty		NY, Dutchess, Pine Plains		NY, Erie, Buffalo Ward 4
NY, Dutchess, Pine Plains				NY, Dutchess, Pine Plains		NY, Genesee, Batavia
NY, Dutchess, Red Hook				NY, Oneida, Paris		NY, Genesee, Elba
NY, Monroe, Parma				NY, Rensselaer, Schodack		NY, Monroe, Chili
NY, Orleans, Gaines				PA, Luzerne, Greenfield		NY, Monroe, Riga
NY, Saratoga, Saratoga Springs						MI, Calhoun, Albion
MI, Genesee, Flint						MI, Kalamazoo, Comstock

Color Coding

New York
Michigan
Pennsylvania
Other

As we’ve already said, many of Peter’s descendants stayed close to home. Dutchess and Columbia counties appear frequently in this table.

Later we will show similar tables for Lawrence’s other sons.

See the last four pages of this document for more details, in a much smaller font.

Before we start the Pine Plains discussion, we will briefly mention a seemingly minor detail involving the records in the Jackson Corners area.

This involved what appears to be an odd use of the word “Junior.”

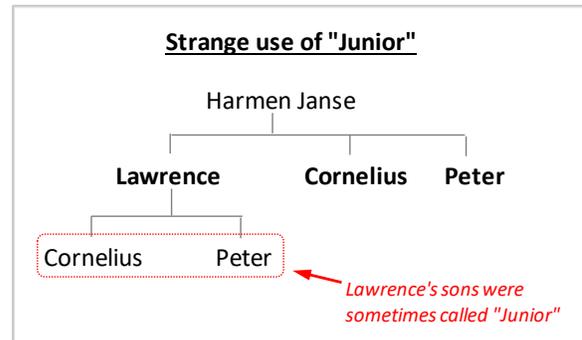
We will see another odd use of “Junior” when we get to Pine Plains.

Background information:
Beware of anyone who was called “Junior” in old records

It is easy to get confused by the way the word “Junior” was used in ancient times.

For example, consider the fact that Lawrence Knickerbocker had brothers named Cornelius and Peter, but also had sons with the same names.

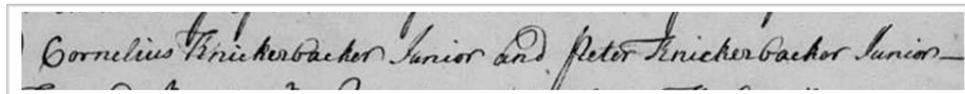
This is part of a pattern: Dutch settlers constantly named their children in honor of their parents and siblings.



Early in the history of Dutchess County, our ancestors spoke Dutch and followed old Dutch traditions. The older Cornelius would have been called Cornelius Harmanse Knickerbocker (Cornelius, son of Harman). The younger one was Cornelius Lawrencen Knickerbocker (Cornelius, son of Lawrence).

When English became the official language, record keepers sometimes used less definitive descriptors, like Junior (for the younger one) and Senior (for the older one).

When Peter and Cornelius first bought land near Jackson Corners, the deeds referred to them as Peter Junior and Cornelius Junior, even though they were actually the sons of Lawrence.



This happened fairly often. It serves a warning: Be careful about the meaning of the word Junior. Sometimes “Junior” was the son of “Senior.” Other times this wasn’t true.

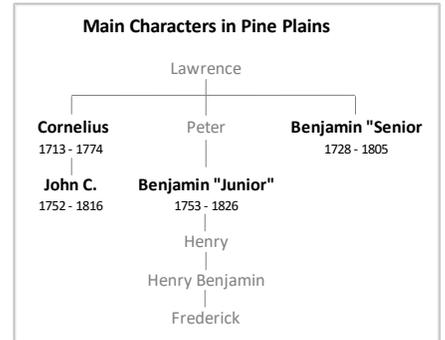
We’ll return to this discussion in Pine Plains, when we discuss a man called Benjamin Knickerbocker “Junior.”

Location 3: Pine Plains

The next stop is about 10 miles farther east. This is within the township of Pine Plains, but is about 3 miles east of the village of Pine Plains.

This is where Lawrence's sons Cornelius and Benjamin lived.

This was also the home of Benjamin "Junior."



The Pine Plains Farm Stand

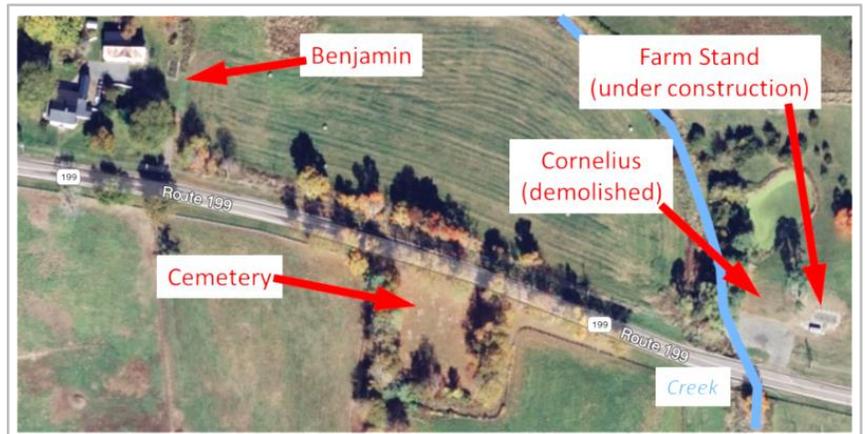


We will begin at the Sugar Hill Farm Stand at 3629 NY 199, Pine Plains. The GPS location is 41.9754, - 73.6041.

In this picture of the farm stand, notice the large driveway and parking area. This was once the location of Cornelius's house.

Shown here is a satellite photograph of the area. This was taken in about 2020, when the farm stand was under construction.

We have marked the locations of Cornelius and Benjamin's house, and the location of the Knickerbocker Burial Ground.



The road now called Route 199 has been a main thoroughfare for hundreds of years. In the years around 1800 this was known as the Salisbury Turnpike. An 1802 map of the Salisbury Turnpike showed the locations of the two Knickerbocker houses along the turnpike.

The small creek is one of the few sources of flowing water in the immediate area. This would have been an obvious stopping point for any travelers heading through the area, both for Native Americans and then European settlers.

Lawrence Knickerbocker probably watered his horses here during his trips from Tivoli to Salisbury, long before his sons bought any land near the creek.

The farm of Benjamin Knickerbocker

Benjamin's story is complex. Incorrect information has spread all over the Internet, and to hundreds of family trees. Here we will tell a simple version of the story. References are given at the end of the document.

Benjamin lived from 1728 to 1805. His date of birth is proven by court testimony. His date of death is confirmed by his tombstone.

It took several years to decipher Benjamin's story. There were misunderstandings about when he was born. There were also misunderstandings about whether he had children.

Benjamin bought his farm in Pine Plains sometime before 1776. The deed has been lost.



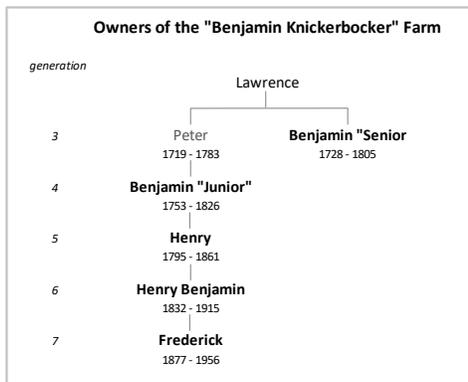
Benjamin lived a few hundred yards west of the burial ground.

This shows the approximate site of Benjamin's house.

Portions of Benjamin's original house might still exist, somewhere within this combination of buildings.

Benjamin apparently never had any children. The first clue has already been mentioned: the word Junior was used very loosely in ancient times. For example, Benjamin left a will. The wording of the will seems odd. The words "my son" never appeared in the will. Instead, Benjamin left his farm to "Benjamin Knickerbocker Junior who now lives on my farm."

It turns out that "Junior" was the son of Peter Knickerbocker of Milan. (We already showed Benjamin "Jr" in a table of Peter's descendants.)



Benjamin Knickerbocker's farm was owned by Knickerbockers for about 160 years, from roughly 1770 - 1930.

This is the longest streak of Knickerbocker ownership for any property on this tour.

Benjamin Senior was a slave owner. In his will, Benjamin Senior freed two slaves, but he left other slaves to his relatives, including nephews Benjamin Junior, Philip Knickerbocker, and Lawrence Van Alstyne. (Slavery was legal in New York State until the early 1800's.)

Benjamin and Benjamin “Junior” are buried in the Knickerbocker Burial Ground near the farm. More recent descendants of Benjamin Junior’s are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in the downtown area of Pine Plains.

The home of Cornelius Knickerbocker (son of Lawrence)

Cornelius bought property in Pine Plains in 1761. The property included the burial ground, which already existed.

Cornelius’s house is gone. Unfortunately I didn’t realize the significance of this spot until recently. We are lucky, though, because useful images are still available on the internet.

Shown here is a picture from Bing, in the summer of 2015. The burial ground is off in the distance on the left of the road. In the foreground of this picture are guardrails where the road crosses a creek.



This burned out relic might have incorporated parts of Cornelius’s original house.

The oldest part of this structure was probably on the right, with a main first floor entrance and a garret room above the main floor.

The living areas of this house were elevated. This was probably because the house is at the bottom of a small valley, adjacent to a creek. The area is marshy, especially during the spring thaw.

Cornelius’s son John C. Knickerbocker inherited the farm and burial ground. John and his wife Susannah sold the farm and burial ground in 1815.

Thus, the Knickerbockers owned this property for about 54 years.

John C. Knickerbocker was Cornelius’s only son. John died in 1816, and was buried in the Knickerbocker Burial Ground.

The Knickerbocker Burial Ground

The “Knickerbocker Burial Ground” is about 200 yards west of the farm stand.

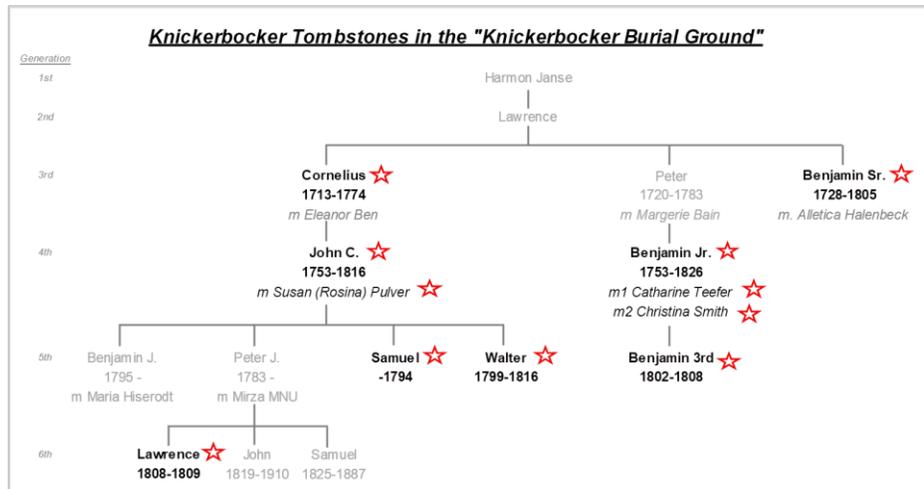
The burial ground was established before the Knickerbockers arrived in the area.

It apparently acquired its name based on the fact that various Knickerbockers lived nearby for many years.



When this cemetery was inventoried in the early 1900’s, several Knickerbocker tombstones were still legible.

Today there are only a few surviving tombstones.



These photographs are from several years ago (2008 and 2012, respectively).

The photo on the left is from Kurt Trolenberg. The photo on the right is from Lauren M. Both photos are from FindaGrave.

These tombstones are still in the burial ground, but they have degraded.

Where did everybody go when they left Pine Plains?

We will briefly discuss the movements of Cornelius’s descendants after they left Pine Plains.

This table only has a single column because Cornelius only had one son, John C. Knickerbocker. However, there is still a lot of information here. John C. Knickerbocker had several sons, so there were still multiple Knickerbockers from this line.

We have identified 26 male “Knickerbockers” in the 1850 census who were descended from this line.

(Cornelius’s line had 26 male Knickerbockers in the 1850 census. Peter’s line was much bigger, with 113.)

The bottom part of the table shows the 10 counties where John’s male Knickerbocker descendants were living in 1850.

The descendants of this line were found in western New York, including places like Genesee County. Cornelius’s descendants were among the very few Knickerbockers who lived in Wisconsin.

(The descendant who lived in Nantucket for the 1850 census was Samuel Knickerbocker, the grandson of John C. Knickerbocker. Samuel worked on a whaling boat.)

	Cornelius John C. <i>m Susanna Pulver</i>
Number of male “Knickerbocker” descendants in the 1850 census	26
Location of male “Knickerbocker” descendants in the 1850 census	NY, Columbia, Ancram
	NY, Columbia, Kinderhook
	NY, Genesee, Alabama
	NY, Genesee, Bergen
	NY, Genesee, Elba
	NY, Genesee, Oakfield
	NY, Steuben, Bradford
	MI, Genesee, Thetford
	MA, Nantucket, Nantucket
	WI, Jefferson, Fort Atkinson

See the last four pages of this document for more details.

(Note: Benjamin “Junior” also lived in Pine Plains. The descendants of “Junior” were already shown as part of the table for his father Peter.)

Location 4: Smithfield Valley (southern Pine Plains)

So far our journey has been easterly towards Connecticut. We will now take a short detour, to visit the area near 8 McGhee Hill Road, North East. This is about 2.5 miles south of Pine Plains, just off Bean River Road. The GPS coordinates are 41.9414, -73.5948.

The home of Lawrence's daughter Catherine

This was the home of Lawrence's daughter Catherine. Catharine married William Van Alstyne.



In this photo, the left side of the house exhibits the garret design that was discussed earlier.

The small structure on the left, measuring perhaps 20 by 20, was probably the original house of Catherine and her husband.

This appears to be a case where a center hall colonial was built adjacent to an older house, without totally demolishing the original structure.

(In keeping with our focus on access to fresh water: There is a small creek just to the left of the house.)

Catherine and William were buried about 500 yards from the house. This is sometimes called the Van Alstyne burial ground.

This picture shows the cemetery. The house is about 500 yards to the left of this picture.



This cemetery has been neglected for about 100 years.

This cemetery is “neglected” but the tombstones are in much better shape than the burial ground in Pine Plains. These tombstones have not been subjected to damage from modern lawnmowers.



Catherine Knickerbocker's tombstone is easy to find, in the back left corner of the cemetery.

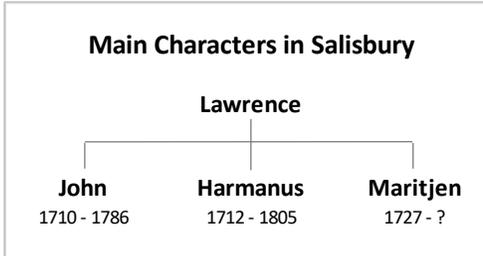
Her husband William's tombstone is next to hers, lying flat on the ground.



There were never any other Knickerbockers in this burial ground.

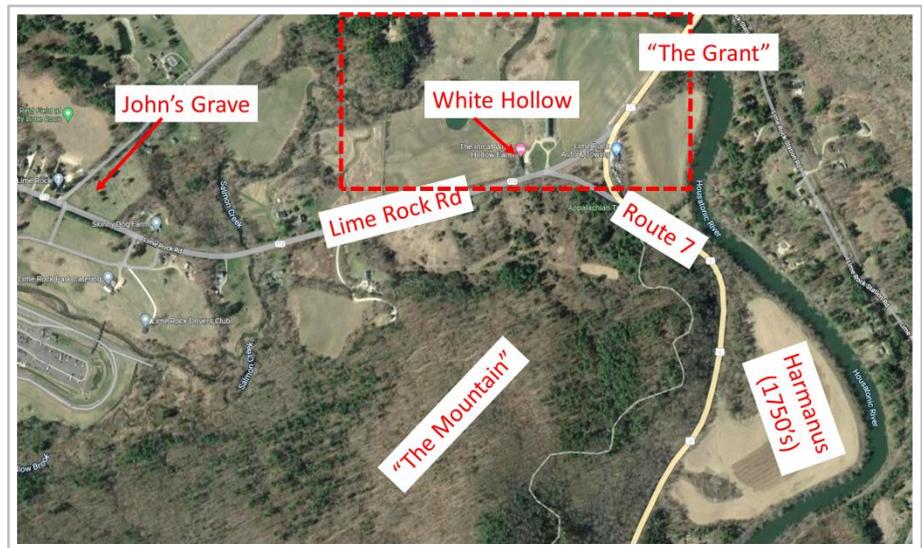
Location 5: Salisbury Connecticut

The next stop is 14 miles east of Pine Plains. It is near the southeast corner of the township of Salisbury Connecticut, on the western bank of the Housatonic River.



Lawrence's son John lived here for his entire adult life. Harmanus lived nearby, but only briefly. Maritjen lived here for at least part of her adult life.

The original Knickerbocker property contained 50 acres. This was referred to as "The Grant." This name goes back to the origins of how Lawrence got title to the land.



Lawrence Knickerbocker was one of the early landholders in what became known as Salisbury. His original partner in Connecticut was his father in law, Johannes Dyckman.

John Knickerbocker and "The Grant"

John settled on The Grant in about 1740.

Today this is the location of the Inn at White Hollow Farm, at 558 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville, CT. The GPS coordinates are 41.9314, -73.3664.

The bed and breakfast is probably built on top of the original foundation. The oldest foundation was probably towards the right side of this photograph.





Once again, the Knickerbockers had found a location with easy access to water. The Knickerbockers owned a stretch of the Salmon Clay Kill, including the spot where the Salmon Kill joined the Housatonic River.

This picture is from the White Hollow Farm website.

John Knickerbocker was a land speculator. He started out with 50 acres in the Grant. He wound up owning more than a dozen parcels of land, totaling perhaps 600 acres.

For example, John wound up owning the land where he was eventually buried, which is well to the west of The Grant.

John also wound up owning “the mountain” just south of the White Hollow.

Today, the Appalachian Trail crosses John Knickerbocker’s “mountain.”



It appears that John was so busy buying up parcels of land that he didn’t have time to share his wealth with his children. John doesn’t seem to have gifted any land to his children during his lifetime.

John’s probate process was a mess. His will neglected to mention several parcels that he had bought. In his will, and throughout the long probate process, there was never any mention of any cash.

We suspect that John’s children were land-rich and cash-poor.

As soon as John died, his children began selling off his land and moving west. Several of them apparently used their earnings from Salisbury to buy cheaper land in far-away wilderness areas such as the Finger Lakes.

Knickerbocker migrations to Pennsylvania

We will use Pennsylvania as an example of how the Knickerbockers spread to areas west of the Hudson River. We will focus on 34 male Knickerbockers from the 1850 census.

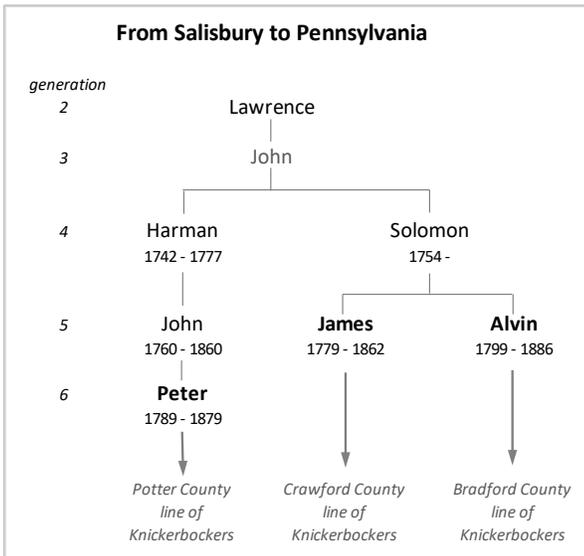
Lawrence Knickerbocker Descendants in Pennsylvania in 1850

We will break this discussion into two parts: 28 males who were descended from John, and 6 males who were not.

	Count
(A) Descended from Lawrence's son John	28
(B) Descended from Lawrence's other sons	6

34

(A) The tree below focuses on three of John's descendants: James, Alvin, and Peter.



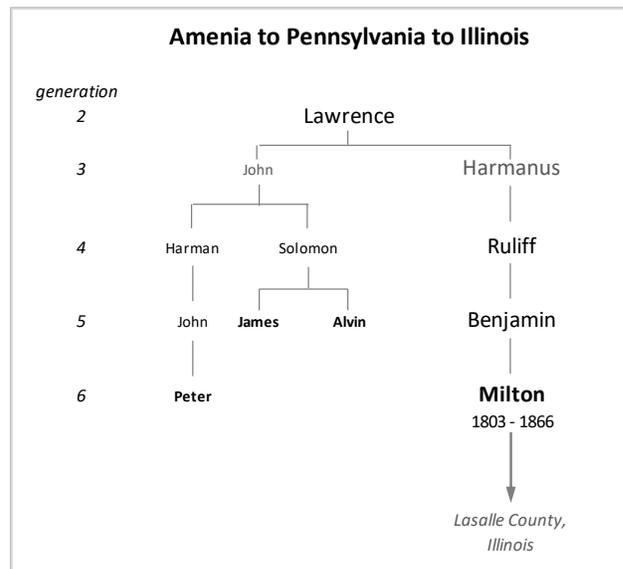
James and Alvin were in Greene County NY in 1820. James soon moved Crawford County PA. Alvin made two shorter moves, to Chenango County NY and then to Bradford County PA.

Peter was a cousin once removed. Peter made two moves. First, as a teenager, he moved from Connecticut to Eaton, Madison County NY, with his father. Then, as an adult, to Potter County, PA.

The combination of these moves established three Knickerbocker clans along the northern border of Pennsylvania. All three clans had large families.

There were **28** male Knickerbockers in these three clans in 1850. Today, all three clans have descendants nearby. (Knickerbockers left a bigger footprint in Potter, Crawford, and Bradford PA than they did in Salisbury CT.)

(B) Meanwhile, there were other Knickerbockers near Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania, about 80 miles south of Bradford County. This cluster of 6 male Knickerbockers had roots in Amenia. This group didn't leave much of a footprint. Most of this line wound up La Salle County, Illinois.



In general, these sorts of migrations were driven by individual families, searching for a better life and cheaper land. Sometimes they settled permanently. In other cases the locations were transient, and the children later moved farther west.

Where did everybody go when they left Salisbury?

In retrospect, Salisbury was a transient location.

In the years around 1750, Salisbury was the main center for the entire Knickerbocker family. John and his brother Harmanus were living along the Housatonic River. Both John and Harmanus were major participants in the Knickerbocker baby boom.

However, Harmanus moved to Amenia in the late 1750's. Then, by 1805, most of John's children were gone.

The table below uses the same format that we've already used for Peter and Cornelius. Once again we are tracing the location of male Knickerbockers in the 1850 census.

Solomon was especially prolific. We can trace 41 male Knickerbockers in the 1850 census who were descended from Solomon.

If we add up Solomon and his brothers, we see a total of 140 male Knickerbockers who were descended from John.

	John				
	Abraham <i>m Jerusha Tupper</i>	Lawrence <i>m Katherine mnu</i>	Harman <i>m Thankful Hogeboom</i>	Isaac <i>m Hannah mnu</i>	Solomon <i>m Anna Heath</i>
Number of male "Knickerbocker" descendants in the 1850 census	21	35	33	10	41

Location of male "Knickerbocker" descendants in the 1850 census	NY, Schoharie, Blenheim	NY, Delaware, Tompkins	NY, Allegany, Caneadea	NY, Montgomery, St Johnsville	NY, Broome, Lisle
	NY, Steuben, Avoca	NY, Onondaga, Pompey	NY, Cortland, Cincinnatus	MI, Ottawa, Muskegon	NY, Chemung, Cayuta
	NY, Steuben, Cameron	NY, Ulster, Denning	NY, Madison, Cazenovia	CT, Litchfield, Canaan	NY, Chenango, Smithville
	NY, Steuben, Cohocton	NY, Ulster, Wawarsing	NY, Madison, Eaton		NY, Tioga, Owego
	NY, Steuben, Greenwood	NY, Warren, Warrensburgh	NY, Oswego, Schroeppel		NY, Tompkins, Enfield
	MI, Kent, Alpine	CT, Litchfield, Salisbury	NY, Oswego, Volney		PA, Bradford, Athens
	MI, Washtenaw, York	MA, Berkshire, Sheffield	PA, Potter, Pike		PA, Bradford, Franklin
	IL, Rock Island, District 37		PA, Potter, West Branch		PA, Bradford, Smithfield
					PA, Crawford, Pine
					PA, Crawford, Spring

See the last four pages of this document for more details.

Further details on the Knickerbockers who remained in Salisbury

There were a few of John’s descendants who remained near Salisbury.

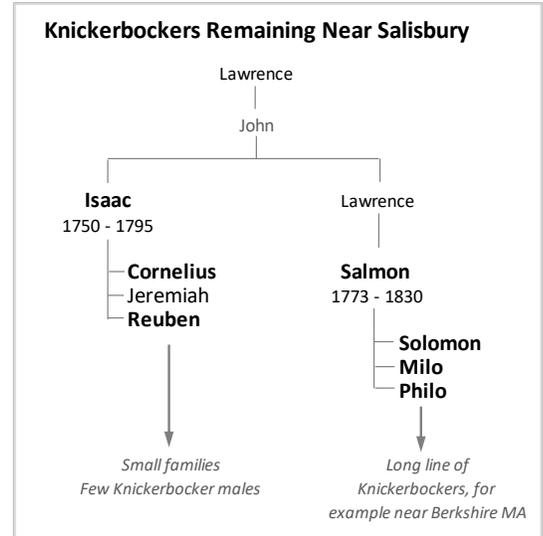
Isaac, son of John: Isaac apparently lived near Salisbury for his entire life (although he once bought land in the new territory of Vermont).

Isaac had children, but some of them died relatively young, and others had small families.

In 1850 there were “Knickerbocker” men in New York, Connecticut, and Michigan who were descended from Isaac. However, these families were small, and, as far as we can tell, there were very few sons. As of now, we cannot identify any living “Knickerbocker” descendants of Isaac. This is an example of a line that died out soon after 1850.

Salmon, grandson of John: John’s son Lawrence had a son named Salmon / Solomon who stayed near Salisbury.

Salmon’s sons Solomon, Milo, and Philo left Knickerbocker descendants in the Salisbury and Berkshire areas. Some of them are still there today.



Lawrence’s daughter Maritjen (or Morache, or Mary)

We need to mention Lawrence’s daughter while we are in Salisbury.

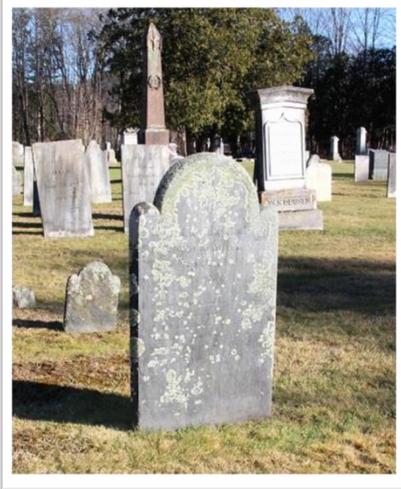
Maritjen was born in 1727, while her father was definitely living in Tivoli.

On 12 May 1748, “Morache” married Ruluff White. Maritjen and Ruluff apparently remained in Salisbury, but they didn’t leave many records. For example, we don’t know where they lived, or where they were buried.

The Salisbury Cemetery

John Knickerbocker is buried at the cemetery near Trinity Lime Rock Church, 484 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville CT. The cemetery is about a mile west of The Grant.

John Knickerbocker once owned this land, but he was not the first burial in this cemetery.



The cemetery is huge, but John's tombstone is easy to find.

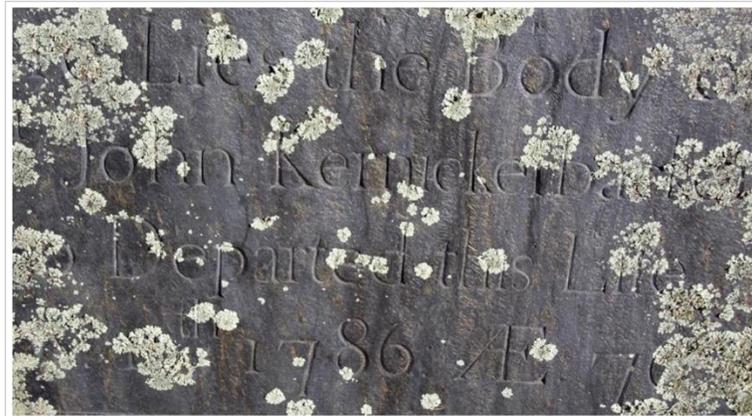
Enter the cemetery through the opening at Lime Rock and Dugway roads. Walk 150 feet to the northeast. Look for the tall monuments that are a few rows behind John's tombstone.

The GPS coordinates are 41.93074, -73.37871.

Notice the spelling of John's last name: Kernickerbacker.

John was apparently one of the last people to stick with the original pronunciation of the name, with a hard "K" sound.

(Our ancestors spoke Dutch. The "K" in "Knickerbacker" would not have been silent. The pronunciation would have been something like Kenickerbacker.)



John is buried near two of his grandchildren who died in infancy: Hanna, daughter of Solomon, and an unnamed infant, son of Isaac.

Once upon a time there may have been a small number of other Knickerbocker tombstones in the open area near John's, such as tombstones for John's two wives. However, there were never many Knickerbockers in this cemetery. This is because the vast majority of John's children moved away.

Subdividing wealth during a baby boom

We will pause for a moment to discuss the apparent financial situation of these Knickerbocker families.

Lawrence was blessed with lots of land. Lawrence owned all of what is now downtown Tivoli. Lawrence would be rich if still owned the land today.

Lawrence was also blessed a large family. For example, he had 5 sons, 17 “Knickerbocker” grandsons, and approximately 70 “Knickerbocker” great grandsons.

This is where it gets interesting.

Most early Knickerbockers were farmers. Farmers have always had a classic problem: It is nice to have several teenage sons to help on the farm, but it is impossible to keep subdividing the farm for each larger generation.

Thanks to the baby boom, it was inevitable that many of Lawrence’s descendants would have to move away to find cheaper land.

In general, the Knickerbockers tended to share their wealth among all of their sons. This was very progressive for those times. In many other families the oldest son inherited everything. (Daughters were generally out of luck when it came to inheritances.)

If anything the progressive policy of splitting wealth among all of the sons made matters worse. Even the oldest son of the oldest son would eventually have to move in search of cheaper land.

The desired destination for a particular family depended on timing.

In the 1700’s, land in eastern Dutchess County was cheap. This is why Lawrence’s sons migrated to the east.

By around 1800 the preferred direction was to the west. For example, the “bounty lands” south of Syracuse were an attractive area.

By around 1820, areas near the Finger Lakes were attractive. Soon, though, Michigan became more attractive.

If we plot the various moves on a map it looks like a game of leapfrog. Each successive generation would jump to the next frontier in search of cheap land. The Knickerbockers were just one of many families involved in this leapfrog.

None of the individual moves were outlandish in nature. The vast majority of Knickerbocker moves were along a narrow line from Dutchess County through the area now known as Detroit, and then farther west towards Lake Michigan.

Transition from Salisbury to Amenia

We will soon end our Salisbury discussion and move on to Amenia. First, though, we will discuss one other detail:

Lawrence's son Harmanus once owned land in Salisbury. Harmanus might have lived in Salisbury, but only very briefly.

Harmanus Knickerbocker's farm in Salisbury

Lawrence's son Harmanus owned property Salisbury in the 1750s.

Harmanus's land was between The Mountain and the Housatonic River.

To see Harmanus's land, drive a half mile southeast of the White Hollow Inn on Route 7.

Cornelius's land is east of Route 7, along the Housatonic River, for example at GPS 41.9257, -73.3607.

Harmanus owned this land from before about 1750 until about 1757.

The sequence of deeds is confusing, but Harmanus might have bought the land from his father Lawrence.



Harmanus and his children are usually associated with Amenia. However, Harmanus might not have arrived in Amenia until about 1757. Thus, it is possible that Harmanus and his oldest children briefly lived in Salisbury.

Harmanus and John Knickerbocker each had large families and left many descendants. Our rough estimate is that about 50% of all Knickerbockers are descended from either Harmanus or John.

This means that a huge fraction of Knickerbockers have connections to Connecticut, and more specifically to two properties along the Housatonic River: The Grant, where John lived for many years, and the farm shown above, which Harmanus owned during the 1750's.

Location 6: Amenia

The next stop is about 20 miles south-southwest of Salisbury, on the south edge of Amenia. It is just south of the intersection of Route 22 with Butts Hollow Road. The GPS coordinates are 41.7683, -73.5773.

On some maps, the address of this property is listed as 3565 NY-22, Dover Plains, NY. The location is easier to find by searching for Butts Hollow Road.



The house is just south of Butts Hollow Road on Route 22, on the west side.

This is the roadside view from Bing.

There is a large driveway along Route 22, just south of the house. The driveway is easy to spot.

This land is owned by a local businessman. The driveway is the entrance for the business that is behind the house.

(I would recommend contacting the town historian, in advance, if you plan to visit. She has a good relationship with the land owners.)

Harmanus Knickerbocker's House

Here's what Harmanus Knickerbocker's house looks like from the front.

The house was occupied from about 1760 until the mid 1900's.

The house has clearly been modified several times.

This front section was probably added after Harmanus had moved away.



This is the side view.

The rear section, with the garret room, may be the original house.



Harmanus Knickerbocker owned this property from the late 1750's until his death in 1805. At the end of his life Harmanus was sharing the house with his second wife Elizabeth, and with his son Lawrence.

Harmanus owned two large tracts of land. He owned the farm behind the house, and also owned a larger parcel across the street to the east, stretching past the river. The farm had access to Butt's Hollow creek on the north side, and Ten Mile River on the east.

Harmanus, like his brother John, may have been slow to share his wealth with his sons. Two of his sons moved away before Harmanus died. After he died, his sons quickly sold off most of Harmanus's land. The sons may have been land-rich and cash-poor.

Harmanus had one son – Ruliff – who remained in Amenia. However, there was some kind of a family feud. Harmanus essentially disowned Ruliff. Most of Ruliff's children – with no hope of any inheritance – moved to the southern tier of New York (the area near Ithaca) to start their own families.

Ruliff's son Cornelius appears to have been the "chosen one." Cornelius inherited his grandfather's house. Cornelius lived in this house until he died. Cornelius was a lucky man ... until all of Cornelius's family died from various causes. Cornelius wound up with no survivors. When Cornelius died, he left his estate to his nephews.

The house was left to Cornelius's nephew, Milton Knickerbocker. Milton was living near Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, but would soon move to Illinois.

The end result of all the family chaos? By about 1861, nobody with the last name "Knickerbocker" was living near Butts Hollow.

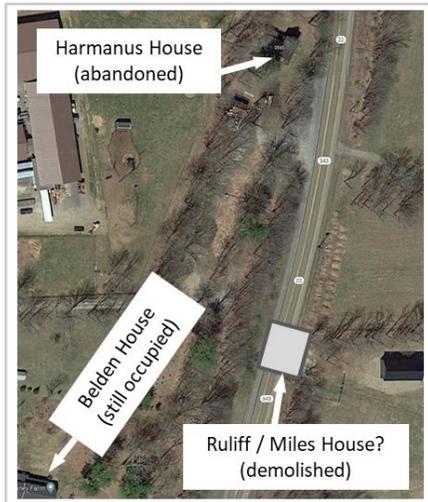
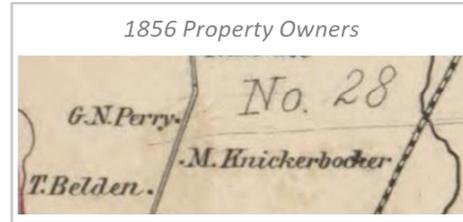
The house of Ruliff Knickerbocker and then Miles Knickerbocker

Miles Knickerbocker was a great grandson of Harmanus Knickerbocker. Miles was the last person named Knickerbocker who lived near Butts Hollow.

Shown here is a map of the area from 1858.

The map shows the location of G. Perry, who had bought the Harmanus house. T. Belden was to the south.

M. Knickerbocker was on the other side of the street. This was Miles, Ruliff's grandson.



Today the “M Knickerbocker” house is gone. This appears to be a result of widening the road and shifting it to the east. The modern paved road is perhaps 30 feet farther east than the original dirt road.

The original track of the dirt road was closer to the front doors of both Harmanus Knickerbocker's house and the Belden house.

The old road bed is somewhat visible on satellite photographs, and is especially visible when standing at Harmanus's front door.

Miles Knickerbocker moved away in about 1861. Miles never had any children, so this ended the Knickerbocker presence near Butts Hollow.

The Beldens and the Knickerbockers

The land along this stretch of Route 22 is often referred to as the old Belden Farm. We will describe the reason for this, and the interactions between Knickerbockers and the Beldens.

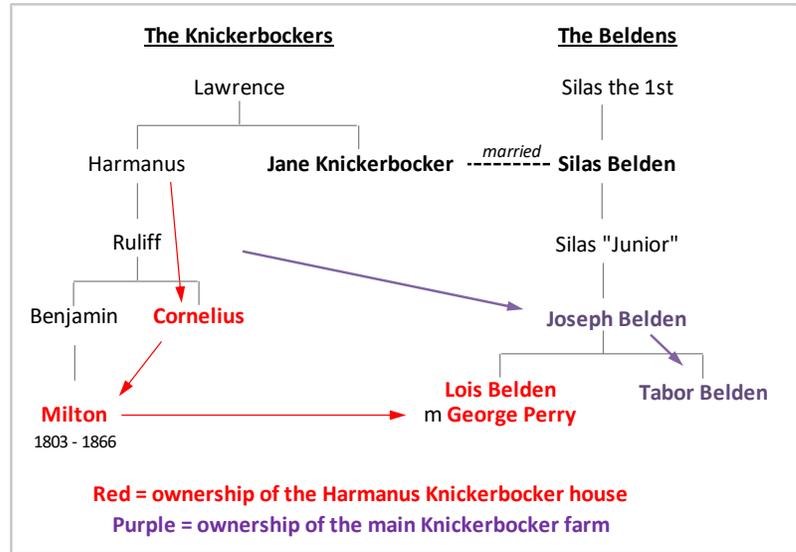
We are using “Belden” as the spelling of this family's last name, but many members of the family used “Belding.”

Harmanus Knickerbocker's sister Jane was married to Silas Belden. Jane and Silas lived in Washington Township. (The Amenia / Washington town line is just up Butts Hollow road.)

This tree shows parts of both the Knickerbocker and Belden families.

The **red** shows the sequence of owners for the Harmanus house.

Harmanus left control of his house to Cornelius, who later left the house to his nephew Milton. Milton, who lived near Wilkes-Barre PA, quickly sold the house to a distant relative named George Perry. (George was married to Lois Belden, the great granddaughter of Jane Knickerbocker.)



The **purple** shows the ownership of the main Knickerbocker farm, east of the road, along Ten Mile River. 1805 Harmanus left his main farm to his four sons. In about 1807 the sons sold the farm to Joseph Belden. When Joseph died in 1837, he left the farm to his son Tabor. Tabor was a great grandson of Jane Knickerbocker.



Just to the south of the Harmanus Knickerbocker house is a large white house.

This is where Tabor Belden lived from the 1830's to 1850's.

The middle rear section of this house looks to be the original structure.

We haven't figured out how the Beldens got ownership of this house. We know that Tabor inherited the house from his father Joseph, but we don't know how Joseph originally got the title to the house.

It is possible that Harmanus once owned the land under this house, before the Beldens.

Where did everybody go when they left Amenia?

Harmanus’s descendants left Amenia and scattered to many places.

Once again, we will use the 1850 census to illustrate the movements of various Knickerbockers.

Ruliff and Lawrence were the most prolific family lines.

Lawrence and his children originally moved to Hopewell, Ontario County, New York. Ontario County turned out to be a transient location. Many of Lawrence’s descendants wound up in Michigan.

Ruliff’s family story was complicated. Several of Ruliff’s descendants settled in the southern tier near Tioga County, NY. Ruliff also had descendants in Litchfield County, CT; these were descendants of Ruliff’s son Benjamin and his first wife. Descendants of Ruliff’s son Benjamin and his second wife, Letje Milius were in Luzerne PA and LaSalle, Illinois. Ruliff also apparently had an illegitimate son who we can’t find. Ruliff’s family had some turmoil.

Harmanus				
	Lawrence	Ruliff	John	Harmanus Jr
	<i>m1 Deborah Martin m2 Mary mnu</i>	<i>m Catherine Dutcher</i>	<i>m1 Mary Woolsey m2 Isabel mnu</i>	<i>m Anar Benham</i>
Number of male “Knickerbocker” descendants in the 1850 census	30	34	10	14
Location of male “Knickerbocker” descendants in the 1850 census	NY, Livingston, Springwater	NY, Dutchess, Amenia	NY, Monroe, Perinton	NY, Ontario, Canandaigua
	NY, Monroe, Pittsford	NY, Dutchess, Pleasant Valley	MI, Wayne, Nankin	MI, Jackson, Jackson
	MI, Calhoun, Marengo	NY, Sullivan, Liberty		OH, Seneca, Reed
	MI, Livingston, Handy	NY, Tioga, Owego		
	MI, Oakland, Farmington	NY, Tompkins, Danby		
	MI, Washtenaw, Ann Arbor	PA, Luzerne, Providence		
	MI, Washtenaw, Sylvan	CT, Litchfield, Warren		
	MI, Wayne, Livonia	IL, LaSalle, Manlius		
	IN, Clinton, Michigan	IL, LaSalle, Mission		
	OH, Medina, Spencer			

See the last four pages of this document for more details.

The Knickerbocker’s time in Amenia was relatively short. Jane’s “Belden” descendants were in the Amenia area much longer than Harmanus’s “Knickerbocker” descendants.

The Burial Grounds on the “Belden Farm”

There are two burial grounds near Harmanus Knickerbocker’s old house. They are often referred to as being on the Belden Farm. These were documented in the 1903 book *Burying Grounds of Sharon, America, and North East*.

The western cemetery had only 7 tombstones, all with the last name “Knickerbocker.”

The eastern cemetery had 34 tombstones. The most common name was Perry, with 13 tombstones. Knickerbocker was the second most common, with nine tombstones. There were also 3 other tombstones that we have not shown here, for people who related to the Knickerbockers. For example, Joseph Gillett and Joseph Gillett Junior were buried in the eastern cemetery. Joseph was the husband of Mary Knickerbocker, and therefore was the son-in-law of Harmanus.

Shown here are the Knickerbocker tombstones, as listed in the 1903 book.

Belden Farm, east of the road. Tombstones that say Knickerbacker or Knickerbocker

1771	Knickerbacker, Mrs. Catharian, wife of Hermanus, d. April 30, 1771, ae. 5— yrs.
1773	Knickerbacker, Mrs. Catharine, d. Sept. 4, 1773, in her 19th yr.
1792	Knickerbacker, Catharine, wife of Mr. Ruliff, d. Dec. 26, 1792. ae. 51.
1793	Knickerbacker, Samson, s. of Lawrence and Mary, d. July 8, 1793, in his 5th yr.
1805	Knickerbacker, Elizabeth, wife of Herman, d. Sept. 6, 1805, ae. 77.
1805	Knickerbacker, Herman, d. Aug. 19, 1805, ae. 93.
1806	Knickerbacker, Silas, s. of Lawrence and Mary, d. April 27, 1806, in his 10th yr.
1807	Knickerbacker. s. of Benjamin, d. March 6, 1807, ae. 3 mos.
1807	Knickerbacker, Ruleff, d. June 28, 1807, ae. 62.

Belden farm, west side of the road. Tombstones that say Knickerbacker or Knickerbocker

1832	Knickerbacker, Susanna, wife of Cornelius, d. Feb. 2. 1832, ae. 43 yrs., 6 mos.
1836	Knickerbacker, George Milton, s. of Milton G. and Sylvia, d. March 28, 1836, ae. 5 yrs., 8 mos.
1841	Knickerbacker, Myron N., d. May 20, 1841, ae. 30 yrs., 5 mos.
1849	Knickerbacker, Milton G., d. Aug. 4, 1849, ae. 44 yrs., 5 mos.
1850	Knickerbacker, Cornelius, d. Sept. 12, 1850, ae. 75.
1850	Knickerbacker, Tobias, d. May 3, 1850, ae. 77 yrs., 7 mos.
1858	Knickerbacker, Sylvia, wife of George M., d. April 22, 1858, ae. 75.

Both burial grounds still exist. However, the Belden Farm burial grounds are not part of this tour.

The owners of the two burial grounds know the history of their land. They are both working with the town historian to preserve these bits of sacred ground. If you are related to anyone who is buried here, and would like to see the burial grounds, contact the town historian.

Tombstones that have been moved

Early in this tour we talked about tombstones being moved from the burial ground in Tivoli. The same thing has happened on the Belden Farm. There are tombstones in Dover Plains that were once on the Belden Farm.

The four tombstones that have been spotted so far are all Knickerbocker relatives. We will discuss this when we get to Dover Plains.

Location 7: Dover Plains

Our last stop is the Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains.

The cemetery is large and has multiple entrances.

Lawrence's tombstone is nearest the north entrance. This entrance is across the street from the house at 123 S. Nellie Hill Road, Dover Plains.

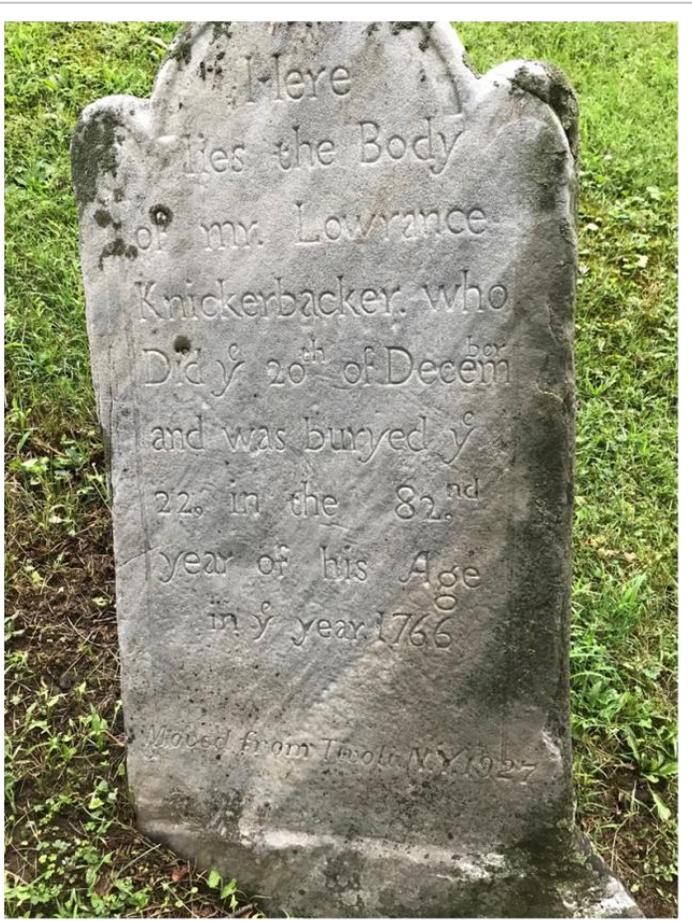
Lawrence's tombstone

At the north entrance there is an access road into the cemetery. There is a small white shed along the access road. There are two mature trees north of the white shed.



Lawrence's tombstone is slightly southeast of the two trees. The approximate GPS coordinates are 41.7344, -73.5769.

This small picture shows Lawrence's tombstone (in the center, leaning backwards) in relationship to the two trees.



We have come full circle. We began in Tivoli, where Lawrence was first buried. We are ending in Dover Plains, where Lawrence's tombstone is now found.

At the bottom of the tombstone there is an extra line of inscription, in a different font than the original. It says "moved from Tivoli NY 1927."



Lawrence had been dead for over 100 years when his tombstone was first moved off the bluff. He had been dead about 160 years when his tombstone was moved to Dover Plains. It is very unlikely that his body was ever moved. Lawrence's remains are probably still on the bluff.

We don't know who moved the tombstone to Dover Plains, but we suspect it was descendants of his daughters. Lawrence is now within a few feet of his daughters Elizabeth [Dutcher] and Jane [Belden / Belding].

Also nearby are four tombstones that came from the east side of the road on the Belden farm.

Tombstones that were moved to Dover Plains from the Belden Farm

1770	<i>Gillett, Joseph, d. Oct 25, 1770, in his 30th yr.</i>
1771	<i>Knickerbacker, Mrs. Catharian, wife of Hermanus, d. April 30, 1771, ae. 5— yrs.</i>
1773	<i>Knickerbacker, Mrs. Catharine, d. Sept. 4, 1773, in her 19th yr.</i>
1805	<i>Knickerbacker, Herman, d. Aug. 19, 1805, ae. 93.</i>

(Many thanks to S. Zeller for her work in the Dover Plains cemetery.)

Somebody decided to move these specific tombstones, without leaving any documentation.

It is unclear why someone would pick these four tombstones. There are numerous other tombstones that are still on the Belden farm that clearly say Knickerbacker or Knickerbocker.

Unfortunately, we are ending our tour with the same depressing issue that was first mentioned in Tivoli: unexplained movements of tombstones.

----- *End* -----

This ends the tour. The next six pages are:

- 1 page summary, with some closing thoughts.
- 1 page list of key references, and
- 4 pages of data, dumped from the unified family tree

Summary and Postscript

This has been a tour of important Knickerbocker sites in Dutchess County and Salisbury. We have focused on the sons of Lawrence Knickerbocker. As it turns out, Lawrence and his sons had a huge impact on the growth of the family.

We have shown that Lawrence's children could be found all along the road from Tivoli to Salisbury, and along the road from Salisbury to Amenia. We have shown the locations where the Knickerbockers lived, and where they were buried. And, we have started to tell the stories of the Knickerbockers who moved to Western New York and beyond.

----- Postscript -----

The Knickerbockers are a tiny family. We'd be even smaller if not for Lawrence Knickerbocker's baby boom.

Even today there aren't many Knickerbockers. The 1940 census – the most recent one that is totally vetted – showed only 1,900 people with the last names of Knickerbocker / Knickerbacker / etc. The overall size of the Knickerbocker family changes very slowly. (In the 1900 census there were about 1,500 Knickerbockers.)

The Knickerbocker family might now be shrinking. If so, the family name could eventually disappear.

If we look at the ages reported in each census, we see that an average of 15 boys per year were born with the last name Knickerbocker. That's barely more than one birth per month, in the entire country.

In the history of the Knickerbocker family from the late 1600's until today, there have probably been fewer than 4,000 boys born with the name Knickerbocker.

Our name is famous, as evidenced by the New York Knickerbocker basketball team.

However, that fame has far outpaced our actual numbers.

The entire Knickerbocker family could fit into Madison Square Garden with lots of room to spare.



If every living person named "Knickerbocker" attended a Knicks game, there would be lots of empty seats

The motto on knic.com is *"We are all related. The fun is figuring out how."*

After many years of effort, from many people, we now understand how most of are related.

References

Here is a partial list of references. The knic.com website is the best starting point.

- The original Van Alstyne study, *The Knickerbocker Family*, was published in several chapters in 1908 / 1909 in NYGBR. This is still a good starting point. The full document is posted on the website.
- The early generations in Schaghticoke are discussed in *Sketches of Allied Families Knickerbocker – Viele* (1916) by Kathlyne Knickerbocker Viele. A summary is posted on the website.
- Familysearch has the key deeds (or at least the ones that have not been lost). The ones listed here are a good starting point. Note that many deeds were recorded years later, and sometimes even in the wrong county. (About half of all deeds were never recorded.)

Deeds mistakenly filed in Ulster County: *Liber EE pages 422 & 424*

Deeds filed in Dutchess County: *Liber 2 pages 398, 409 & 411; Liber 5 pages 230, 238 & 242; Liber 9 page 236; Liber 32 page 297; Liber 213 page 536*

- The best sources for tombstone inscriptions are (a) *Old Gravestones of Dutchess County* by Poucher and Reynolds (1924). Individual cemetery visits happened before 1924. For example, Poucher visited St. Paul's in Tivoli in 1914. And, (b) *Burying Grounds of Sharon, Connecticut, Amenia and North East, New York* by Van Alstyne (1903).
- The Knickerbockers were mentioned frequently during court battles between the Hoffmans and the Livingstons. See the book *Law Practice of Alexander Hamilton, Volume 3*. For a summary, see *Alexander Hamilton and the Knickerbockers* on the website.
- For information on Harmen Janse and Tivoli, see the website for *The Death and Burial of Harmen Janse Knickerbocker* and also *Cornelius Knickerbocker's Farm and the Burial Ground Behind the Farmer's Hotel*.
- Information on family lines can be found in various files on the website, including:
 - *The Knickerbockers of Pine Plains*
 - *The Knickerbockers of Amenia* and the sequel *Ruliff Knickerbocker of Amenia*
 - *The Knickerbockers of Smithville Flats*
 - *Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram*
 - *John Knickerbocker and Lydia Jackson*
- Harmen Janse's early life is not discussed in this document. There is still work to be done here. For example, see the 3-part series titled *The Many Names of Harmen Janse Knickerbocker*.

Details

Knickerbocker Baby Boom: Great Grandsons of Lawrence Knickerbocker

So far we have identified 71 Knickerbockers who were great grandsons of Lawrence. This includes several who died young.

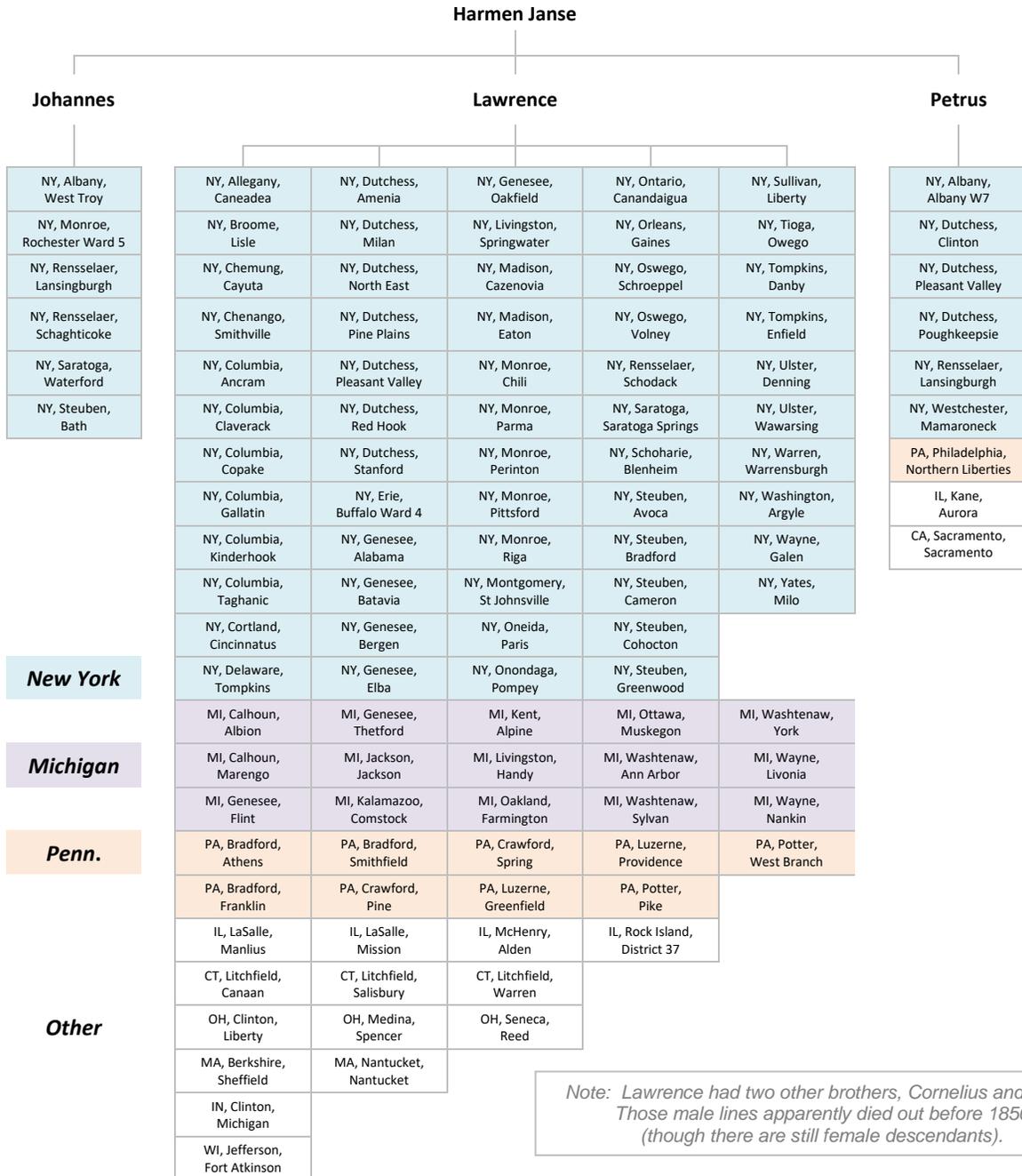
This can be confusing. Among the great grandsons are 9 Johns, 7 Peters, and 6 Benjamins.

These are excerpts from the Unified Family Tree. This table was created by hand, and may contain typographical errors.

Son	Grandson	Great Grandson	Approx b-d	Comments
John	Abraham	Thomas	1766 – ?	m Betsey McIntyre. Lived in Blenheim Schoharie Co NY in 1850.
		Darius	1770 – 1853	m Prudence Ann Ellsworth. Lived in York Washtenaw Co MI in 1850. Died in MI.
		Solomon	1795 – 1831	m Rebecca, whose maiden name might have been Hood. Died in Cameron Steuben Co NY in 1831. Many descendants near Steuben Co in 1850.
	Lawrence	Samuel	1762 – 1844	m Judith Wright. Died in Waterloo Ontario Canada in 1844.
		John	1766 – ?	m Annis, whose maiden name may have been Inghram. John died before 1850. Annis was in Shandaken Ulster Co NY in 1850 with daughter Catharine [Hasbrouk]. (Several Ancestry trees claim that this "John" married Pheby Nichols & moved to Vermont. Wrong.)
		Salmon	1773 – 1830	Wife might have been named Lucy. Apparently died before 1830. Sons Solomon, Milo, and Philo remained near Salisbury.
	Harmen	John	1760 – 1860	m Thankful Hogeboom. Birth often quoted as 1766 due to a transcription error; actual handwritten Salisbury record says 1760. Moved to Eaton Madison Co NY circa 1804. Died in Cincinnati in 1860. He was in his 100 th year according to his tombstone. John was living with his daughter in Volney in the 1850 census.
		Bartholomew	1774 – 1852	Moved to Vermont with his mother and stepfather Stephen Pangborn. Bartholomew married while living in VT but his wife's name is unknown. He moved to Madison Co NY before 1820 with his family. He was near his brother John. Bartholomew was in Cazenovia in 1850.
	Isaac	Cornelius	1774 – 1812	Hard to trace. In Salisbury in 1810 census as "Cor K Baker." Several children including John (lived in St. Johnsville NY in 1850) and Whiting (lived in Canaan CT in 1850).
		Jeremiah	1776 – 1826	m1 Mary Smith. m2 Anna Fin. Moved to Hamilton NY in 1820. Died in 1826 near Ellisburg Jefferson Co NY.
		Reuben	1781 – 1809	Like his siblings, Reuben had a relatively short life. No wife? Lived in VT briefly? Died of diabetes in Salisbury.
	Solomon	David	1777 – ?	Hard to trace. Might have been a pauper in Owego Tioga Co NY in 1850. No sign of wife or children.
		James	1779 – 1862	m1 Charlotte, maiden name unknown. m2 Sarah, also mnu. Lived in Pine Crawford Co PA in 1850. Patriarch of a large family in Crawford Co.
		William	1780 – 1858	m Arpatia, whose maiden name might have been Parker. Lived in Smithville Chenango Co NY in 1850. Patriarch of a large family in Chenango Co.
		Walter	1782 – ?	Hard to trace. Birth recorded in Salisbury records, but no sign of him after that.
Henry		1792 – 1872	m1 Polly Rittenburg. m2 Tabitha Crosby. It took years to fully trace Henry. Sons by first wife included Alvin (1816 – 1878) who was a major mystery for many years. Henry was in Cayuta Chemung Co NY in 1850. Moved to Yankee Springs Barry Co MI with his 2 nd wife and 2 nd family.	
Alvin	1799 – 1886	m1 Lucinda Kelly. Large family in Athens Bradford Co PA in 1850. Late in life married Eliza mnu.		
Harmanus (#1)	Lawrence	Harmanus (#3)	1765 – 1812	Very difficult to decipher. Harmanus was in Amenia in 1790, 1800, and 1810, but no birth record exists. He had a large family but early census takers did not record family names. It seems clear that Harmanus was the father of several orphans who popped up in Amenia records circa 1815 (Amanda, Albert, Calvin, Alanson, Silas, etc).
		Lawrence Jr	1780 – 1814	Lawrence Jr and his younger siblings moved to Ontario Co with their father, circa 1807. He married Jane mnu. They might not have had children.
		David	1781 – 1838	m Diadama Diana Haviland. He was in Cattaraugus Co NY in 1830. He apparently then moved to IL. His wife applied for a military pension that said David died in IL in 1838 or 1839.
		Benjamin	1786 – 1855	Another complex story. He moved to Ontario Co with his father. He m1 Jane Wilcox. They had a small family. Then it appears that Benjamin divorced Jane. By the 1835 NY state census, Benjamin was in Italy Yates Co NY and begun a 2 nd family. In 1850 Benjamin and his second family were in Sylvan Washtenaw MI. His 2 nd wife was Sarah Emeline Meacham.
		Samson	1788 – 1793	Died young. Information is from his tombstone.
		Silas	1796 – 1806	Died young. Information is from his tombstone.
	Ruliff	Benjamin	1768 – 1826	m1 Lucy Beardslee. m2 Letje Milius. Benjamin was a long-standing mystery. The story finally came together thanks to divorce papers from 1 st wife Lucy, as well as deeds related to Benjamin's son Milton. (Milton inherited the Knickerbocker house in Amenia from his uncle Cornelius.)
		Tobias	1773 – 1850	Tobias's wife might have been Sylvia Squires. Tobias died near Amenia just before the 1850 census. He left many descendants, some of whom settled in the southern tier of NY.
		Cornelius	1775 – 1850	m Susanna Nase. Cornelius inherited the family home from grandfather Harmanus. Unfortunately Cornelius's wife and 2 sons died by 1849. Cornelius left his property to nephews.
	John H.	Richard W.	1787 – 1867	Richard was in Monroe Co NY in early 1800s. Richard m1 Patience Smith, and late in life m2 Anna mnu. Richard moved to MI by 1840. In the 1850 census he was in Nankin Wayne Co MI.
		John J.	1788 – 1861	John was in Monroe Co NY his entire adult life. He m Sarah Brodock. In 1850 he was in Perinton Monroe Co NY.
	Harmanus (#2)	Eli	1790 – ?	Lived in Jackson, Jackson Co MI in 1850. Might never have married. Might have suffered from "fits" accordig to his father's pension application.
		Larry	1793 – ?	m Nancy mnu. Lived in Canandaigua Ontario Co NY in 1850.
		John	1796 – 1883	m Angeline Jenkins. Not found in 1850 census, but lived in Otter Creek Linn Co Iowa in 1860.
		William	1799 – 1885	m1 Sally Knapp. m2 Martha Ackerman. Lived in Jackson, Jackson Co MI in 1850.
Harmen		1805 – 1880	m Sarah McCartney. Was in Canandaigua Ontario Co NY in 1850.	
Cornelius	John C.	Peter J.	1783 – ?	m Mary Miza Ferguson. Was in "Wayne Steuben Co" NY in 1820, near his brother Andris. By 1845 his brother Andris reported that Peter was in Kinderhook. (Rare case of someone moving east.) Peter was in Kinderhook for the 1850 census.
		Samuel	1785 – 1794	Died at age 9. Buried in Pine Plains.
		Cornelius	1789 – 1844	m Betsy Stickle. Left numerous records. Died in Gates Monroe Co NY. Many descendants.
		Andris	1792 – 1873	m Margaret Hiserodt. Was in Oakfield Genesee Co NY in 1850. Dictated his family story shortly before he died. (Available on Ancestry.)
		Benjamin J.	1795 – 1848	m Maria Hiserodt. Was in "Wayne Steuben Co" NY in 1820. (Yates Co had not yet been formed.) Was in Benton Yates Co in 1835 NY state census. Was still in Yates Co in 1845 according to his brother Andris.
		John P.	1795 – 1860	In 1845 Andris said his brother John was in Claverack Columbia Co NY. This might be the "John" who married Lydia Wheeler, and lived in Ancram Columbia Co for the 1850 census.
		Walter	1799 – 1816	Died at about age 17. Buried in Pine Plains.
		Peter's probate records are very clear, and state explicitly that Peter was never married. (This "Peter" is often confused with other men with the same name.)		
Peter	Philip	Peter	1769 – 1842	m Maria Benner. Hard to trace. Probably lived near Red Hook. Wife buried in Poughkeepsie in 1820. Sons Philip & Edwin stayed near Red Hook. Son Benner went to MI.
		John	1771 – ?	m Polly Mary Snyder. Lived in Saratoga Springs in 1850. Large family.
		Benjamin Jr.	1776 – 1852	m Sarah Rhea. Remained near Gallatin. Another large family.
		Benjamin D.	1783 – 1845	m Sarah Rhea. Remained near Gallatin. Another large family.
		James Gardener	1807 – 1869	Son of Philip and his 2 nd wife, Hannah Gardener. James was in Kinderhook Columbia Co in 1750. He was in Will Co IL by 1860. Married Sally Millius.
	Lawrence	William	1777 – ?	Baptized in 1777, son of Lawrence and Geertje. However, he disappeared. May have died young.
		Peter L.	1780 – ?	m Eve Kilmer. He was in Ghent Columbia Co NY in 1855, but his 1850 census entry has not been found.
		John L.	1781 – 1860	m Maria Kilmer. Remained in Columbia Co area, but his 1850 census entry hasn't been found yet. Death notice in 1860 said he died in Hudson Columbia Co but was interred in Gallatin.
		James	1784 – 1859	m Jane Van Benschoten. Lived in Gallatin in the 1850 census.
		Abraham	1791 – ?	Might have died young. His birth was recorded in church records in Claverack Columbia Co NY, but there is no further sign of him.
	Peter	Peter P.	1795 – 1857	m Melissa mnu. Lived in Liberty Clinton Co OH in 1850. No doubt about lineage. Peter's daughter Mary was married to Norval Dickson. Their children were mentioned in the will of Peter's brother Jacob.
		David	1798 – 1874	m Susan Conse. Lived in Alden McHenry IL in 1850. No doubt about his lineage, because his brother Jacob named David's sons in his will.
		Isaac	1800 – 1866	Probably never married. Lived with brother David in Alden McHenry Co IL in 1850.
		Jacob	1806 – 1877	Lifelong bachelor. Lived in Taghkanic Columbia Co NY in 1850. Left his money to sister Rebecca and some nephews in Illinois.
		Benjamin "Junior"	Peter B.	1791 – ?
James	Henry	1795 – 1861	m Lydia Pulver. Inherited the family farm in Pine Plains near the burial ground. Lived there his entire life. Was in the 1850 census in Pine Plains.	
	Benjamin	1802 – 1808	Died young.	
	James	1804 – ?	Died young.	
	Peter D.	1783 – 1871	m Maricca Miller. Living in Pine Plains in 1850 census. Large family.	
	Hugh	1790 – 1868	m Rebecca Stickle. Cannot find him in the 1850 census, but he was in Gallatin Columbia Co NY in 1860.	
John P.	James	1791 – 1849	m Maria Stever. Died near Copake Columbia Co NY in about 1849. (His wife and family were in Copake in the 1850 census.)	
	John	1796 – 1888	m Rachel Bain. We get lucky here: John's sister Polly [Snyder] left very detailed records of her siblings. John was in Argyle Washington NY in 1850.	
Hugh	Henry	1807 – 1854	m Ortentia Hart. Again the records left by sister Polly [Snyder] are helpful. Henry was in Milan Dutchess Co NY in the 1850 census.	
	Peter H.	1788 – 1875	m Polly Mary Myers. Moved from Dutchess Co to the south edge of Elba. Brothers William and John were nearby (briefly).	
	John H.	1793 – 1829	m Ann Lloyd. Moved from Dutchess Co to Elba. Died suddenly? Brother William came to Elba, briefly, to help John's widow.	
	Valentine	1797 – 1867	m Hannah Wardell. Was in Riga Monroe Co NY in 1850. Apparently moved to Albion Calhoun MI before 1860. (Buried very close to brother William in Albion.)	
	Hugh Jr.,	1802 – 1882	m1 Mary Ann Payne. m2 Elizabeth Smith Moody. Lived in Stanford Dutchess Co NY in 1850. Tombstone has not been found, but biography of son Edward says Hugh died in 1882.	
	Frederick	1804 – 1835	Moved to Van Buren County MI. Died suddenly. Buried on island in the lake that he owned. (Now "Knickerbocker Lake.") Widow Angeline [Kneeland] then married David Southwick.	
	Benjamin	1808 – 1890	m1 Mary Palmer. m2 Phebe Wilcox. Lived in Riga Monroe Co NY for many years, including in 1850. Moved to MI with son Frederick after 1 st wife died. Ben & Fred served in Civil War. Married 2 nd wife in MI but separated by 1865. Died about 1890 in Michigan. Widow Phebe filed for military pension.	
	Henry	1813 – 1885	m Emily Mary Sly. Lived in Chili Monroe Co NY in 1850 and for the rest of his life. Batavia newspaper story said he was killed by a train in 1885.	
	William	1814 – 1898	Lived in Elba and Van Buren Co MI briefly, after his brothers died. Was in Albion Calhoun Co MI in 1850. His mother Rachel [Schram] was with him in 1850.	

Where Were Knickerbocker Males in the 1850 Census and Which Line Were They From?

- We have attempted to trace every male Knickerbocker in the 1850 census.
- The table below shows the census locations where we can trace Knickerbocker males. Most of these Knickerbockers were descended from Lawrence.
- This is a work in progress. It is not perfect.



**Knickerbocker Males in the 1850 Census
Sorted by the County of Their Residence**

Generation 2 Generation 3	Johannes 2 Johannes 3	Lawrence John	Lawrence Harmanus	Lawrence Cornelius	Lawrence Peter	Petrus Abraham	Petrus Harmon	Totals
NY, Albany	3						2	5
NY, Allegany		1						1
NY, Broome		4						4
NY, Chemung		5						5
NY, Chenango		12						12
NY, Columbia				7	18			25
NY, Cortland		3						3
NY, Delaware		6						6
NY, Dutchess			6		31		5	42
NY, Erie					1			1
NY, Genesee				10	8			18
NY, Livingston			1					1
NY, Madison		12						12
NY, Monroe	3		7		13			23
NY, Montgomery		3						3
NY, Oneida					2			2
NY, Onondaga		4						4
NY, Ontario			9					9
NY, Orleans					4			4
NY, Oswego		5						5
NY, Rensselaer	11				3		4	18
NY, Saratoga	2				10			12
NY, Schoharie		3						3
NY, Steuben	1	10		4				15
NY, Sullivan			1					1
NY, Tioga		1	3					4
NY, Tompkins		3	5					8
NY, Ulster		11						11
NY, Warren		7						7
NY, Washington					5			5
NY, Wayne					2			2
NY, Westchester							1	1
NY, Yates					1			1
MI, Calhoun			1		2			3
MI, Genesee				2	2			4
MI, Jackson			4					4
MI, Kalamazoo					2			2
MI, Kent		4						4
MI, Livingston			3					3
MI, Oakland			5					5
MI, Ottawa		2						2
MI, Washtenaw		3	4					7
MI, Wayne			11					11
PA, Bradford		6						6
PA, Crawford		10						10
PA, Luzerne			6		3			9
PA, Philadelphia						2		2
PA, Potter		12						12
CA, Sacramento						1		1
CT, Hartford	1							1
CT, Litchfield		9	5					14
IL, Kane							1	1
IL, LaSalle			8					8
IL, McHenry					5			5
IL, Rock Island		1						1
IN, Clinton			5					5
MA, Berkshire		3						3
MA, Nantucket				1				1
OH, Clinton					1			1
OH, Medina			3					3
OH, Seneca			1					1
WI, Jefferson				2				2
Totals	21	140	88	26	113	3	13	404

Note: This table includes the 404 male Knickerbockers in the 1850 census whose lineage is known. The census had an additional 70 male Knickerbockers whose lineage is not yet clear. Those unidentified Knickerbockers are excluded from this table.

Lineage of Knickerbocker Males in the 1850 census

If you can find your "Knickerbocker" ancestor in 1850 then you are in luck.
We know the early roots of almost all males Knickerbockers in the 1850 census.

Example of how to use this table

Suppose that you have traced your roots to a Knickerbocker family that lived in New York, in the county of Allegany, town of Caneadea. The table below shows the early lineage for these Knickerbockers: Harmen Janse's son Lawrence, followed by John, then Harmen, then John, and then Harmen. The family had roots in Salisbury.

Descendants of Lawrence			Descendants of Lawrence		
Location in 1850	Generations 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / etc	Root town	Location in 1850	Generations 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / etc	Root Town
NY, Allegany, Caneadea	/Lawrence/John/Harmen/John/Harmen	Salisbury	NY, Steuben, Cameron	/Lawrence/John/Abraham/Solomon/Henry	Salisbury
NY, Broome, Lisle	/Lawrence/John/Solomon/Henry/Alvin	Salisbury	NY, Steuben, Cohocton	/Lawrence/John/Abraham/Solomon/James	Salisbury
NY, Chemung, Cayuta	/Lawrence/John/Solomon/Henry	Salisbury	NY, Steuben, Greenwood	/Lawrence/John/Abraham/Solomon/Charles	Salisbury
NY, Chenango, Smithville	/Lawrence/John/Solomon/William/Cameron	Salisbury	NY, Sullivan, Liberty	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Ruliff/Tobias/Horace	Amenia
NY, Columbia, Ancram	/Lawrence/Cornelius/John C./John P.	Pine Plains	NY, Tioga, Owego	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Ruliff/Tobias	Amenia
NY, Columbia, Claverack	/Lawrence/Peter/Philip/John/Philip H	Jackson Corners	NY, Tioga, Owego	/Lawrence/John/Solomon/David	Salisbury
NY, Columbia, Copake	/Lawrence/Peter/James/James/Jacob	Jackson Corners	NY, Tompkins, Danby	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Ruliff/Tobias/Charles	Amenia
NY, Columbia, Gallatin	/Lawrence/Peter/Lawrence/James	Jackson Corners	NY, Tompkins, Enfield	/Lawrence/John/Solomon/Henry/James	Salisbury
NY, Columbia, Kinderhook	/Lawrence/Cornelius/John C./Peter J.	Pine Plains	NY, Ulster, Denning	/Lawrence/John/Lawrence/John/John O.	Salisbury
NY, Columbia, Kinderhook	/Lawrence/Peter/Philip/James	Jackson Corners	NY, Ulster, Wawarsing	/Lawrence/John/Lawrence/John/John O.	Salisbury
NY, Columbia, Taghkanic	/Lawrence/Peter/Peter/Jacob	Jackson Corners	NY, Warren, Warrensburgh	/Lawrence/John/Lawrence/Samuel/Seymour	Salisbury
NY, Cortland, Cincinnatus	/Lawrence/John/Harmen/John/Harry	Salisbury	NY, Washington, Argyle	/Lawrence/Peter/John P./John	Jackson Corners
NY, Delaware, Tompkins	/Lawrence/John/Lawrence/John/Lawrence	Salisbury	NY, Wayne, Galen	/Lawrence/Peter/Lawrence/Peter L./Byron	Jackson Corners
NY, Dutchess, Amenia	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Ruliff/Cornelius	Amenia	NY, Yates, Milo	/Lawrence/Peter/Benjamin/Henry	Jackson Corners
NY, Dutchess, Amenia	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Ruliff/Tobias	Amenia	MI, Calhoun, Albion	/Lawrence/Peter/Hugh/William	Jackson Corners
NY, Dutchess, Milan	/Lawrence/Peter/John P./Henry	Jackson Corners	MI, Calhoun, Marengo	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Lawrence/Harmanus/Silas	Amenia
NY, Dutchess, Milan	/Lawrence/Peter/Lawrence/James	Jackson Corners	MI, Genesee, Flint	/Lawrence/Peter/Philip/John/Benner	Jackson Corners
NY, Dutchess, Milan	/Lawrence/Peter/Philip/Benjamin	Jackson Corners	MI, Genesee, Thetford	/Lawrence/Cornelius/John C./Andris/Walter	Pine Plains
NY, Dutchess, North East	/Lawrence/Peter/Hugh/Hugh Jr/Theron	Jackson Corners	MI, Jackson, Jackson	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Harmanus/Eli	Amenia
NY, Dutchess, Pine Plains	/Lawrence/Peter/Benjamin/Henry	Jackson Corners	MI, Jackson, Jackson	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Harmanus/William	Amenia
NY, Dutchess, Pine Plains	/Lawrence/Peter/James/Peter D.	Jackson Corners	MI, Kalamazoo, Comstock	/Lawrence/Peter/Hugh/John H./Samuel	Jackson Corners
NY, Dutchess, Pine Plains	/Lawrence/Peter/Philip/Benjamin	Jackson Corners	MI, Kent, Alpine	/Lawrence/John/Abraham/Darius/Cyrenus	Salisbury
NY, Dutchess, Pleasant Valley	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Ruliff/Tobias	Amenia	MI, Livingston, Handy	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Lawrence/Harmanus/Albert	Amenia
NY, Dutchess, Reed Hook	/Lawrence/Peter/Philip/John/Edwin	Jackson Corners	MI, Oakland, Farmington	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Lawrence/Harmanus/Alanson	Amenia
NY, Dutchess, Stanford	/Lawrence/Peter/Hugh/Hugh Jr	Jackson Corners	MI, Ottawa, Muskegon	/Lawrence/John/Isaac/Jeremiah/John Hen	Salisbury
NY, Erie, Buffalo Ward 4	/Lawrence/Peter/Hugh/John H./Hiram	Jackson Corners	MI, Washtenaw, Ann Arbor	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Lawrence/Harmanus/Calvin	Amenia
NY, Genesee, Alabama	/Lawrence/Cornelius/John C./Andris/Andris	Pine Plains	MI, Washtenaw, Sylvan	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Lawrence/Benjamin	Amenia
NY, Genesee, Batavia	/Lawrence/Peter/Hugh/John H./Henry	Jackson Corners	MI, Washtenaw, York	/Lawrence/John/Abraham/Darius	Salisbury
NY, Genesee, Bergen	/Lawrence/Cornelius/John C./Cornelius/Hiram	Pine Plains	MI, Wayne, Livonia	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Lawrence/David/Aaron	Amenia
NY, Genesee, Elba	/Lawrence/Cornelius/John C./Cornelius	Pine Plains	MI, Wayne, Nankin	/Lawrence/Harmanus/John H./Richard/Chauncey	Amenia
NY, Genesee, Elba	/Lawrence/Peter/Hugh/Peter H.	Jackson Corners	PA, Bradford, Athens	/Lawrence/John/Solomon/Alvin	Salisbury
NY, Genesee, Oakfield	/Lawrence/Cornelius/John C./Andris	Pine Plains	PA, Bradford, Franklin	/Lawrence/John/Solomon/Alvin/Alvin	Salisbury
NY, Livingston, Springwater	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Lawrence/David/Hebron	Amenia	PA, Bradford, Smithfield	/Lawrence/John/Solomon/Alvin/William	Salisbury
NY, Madison, Cazenovia	/Lawrence/John/Harmen/Bartholomew	Salisbury	PA, Crawford, Pine	/Lawrence/John/Solomon/James	Salisbury
NY, Madison, Eaton	/Lawrence/John/Harmen/John/Harley	Salisbury	PA, Crawford, Spring	/Lawrence/John/Solomon/James/William	Salisbury
NY, Monroe, Chili	/Lawrence/Peter/Hugh/Henry	Jackson Corners	PA, Luzerne, Greenfield	/Lawrence/Peter/James/Hugh/Jeremiah	Jackson's Corner
NY, Monroe, Parma	/Lawrence/Peter/Philip/Philip J/Benjamin	Jackson Corners	PA, Luzerne, Providence	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Ruliff/Benjamin/Jonas	Amenia
NY, Monroe, Perinton	/Lawrence/Harmanus/John H./John J.	Amenia	PA, Potter, Pike	/Lawrence/John/Harmen/John/Peter	Salisbury
NY, Monroe, Pittsford	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Lawrence/David/George	Amenia	PA, Potter, West Branch	/Lawrence/John/Harmen/John/Peter	Salisbury
NY, Monroe, Riga	/Lawrence/Peter/Hugh/Benjamin	Jackson Corners	CT, Litchfield, Canaan	/Lawrence/John/Isaac/Cornelius	Salisbury
NY, Monroe, Riga	/Lawrence/Peter/Hugh/Valentin	Jackson Corners	CT, Litchfield, Salisbury	/Lawrence/John/Lawrence/Salmon/Solomon	Salisbury
NY, Montgomery, St Johnsville	/Lawrence/John/Isaac/Cornelius	Salisbury	CT, Litchfield, Warren	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Ruliff/Benjamin/William	Amenia
NY, Oneida, Paris	/Lawrence/Peter/James/Peter D./Cornelius	Jackson Corners	IL, LaSalle, Manlius	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Ruliff/Benjamin/James	Amenia
NY, Onondaga, Pompey	/Lawrence/John/Lawrence/Samuel/Levi	Salisbury	IL, LaSalle, Mission	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Ruliff/Benjamin/Nelson	Amenia
NY, Ontario, Canandaigua	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Harmanus/Harmen	Amenia	IL, McHenry, Alden	/Lawrence/Peter/Peter/David	Jackson's Corner
NY, Ontario, Canandaigua	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Harmanus/Larry	Amenia	IL, McHenry, Alden	/Lawrence/Peter/Peter/Isaac	Jackson's Corner
NY, Orleans, Gaines	/Lawrence/Peter/Philip/Philip J/Adam	Jackson Corners	IL, Rock Island, District 37	/Lawrence/John/Abraham/Solomon/Solomon	Salisbury
NY, Oswego, Schroepel	/Lawrence/John/Harmen/Bartholomew/Robert	Salisbury	IN, Clinton, Michigan	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Lawrence/David/David Jr	Amenia
NY, Oswego, Volney	/Lawrence/John/Harmen/John	Salisbury	MA, Berkshire, Sheffield	/Lawrence/John/Lawrence/Salmon/Milo	Salisbury
NY, Rensselaer, Schodack	/Lawrence/Peter/James/James/Milton	Jackson Corners	MA, Nantucket, Nantucket	/Lawrence/Cornelius/John C./Peter J./Samuel	Pine Plains
NY, Saratoga, Saratoga Springs	/Lawrence/Peter/Philip/Philip J/George	Jackson Corners	OH, Clinton, Liberty	/Lawrence/Peter/Peter/Peter P.	Jackson's Corner
NY, Schoharie, Blenheim	/Lawrence/John/Abraham/Thomas	Salisbury	OH, Medina, Spencer	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Lawrence/David/Lara	Amenia
NY, Steuben, Avoca	/Lawrence/John/Abraham/Solomon/Philo	Salisbury	OH, Seneca, Reed	/Lawrence/Harmanus/Harmanus/John/William	Amenia
NY, Steuben, Bradford	/Lawrence/Cornelius/John C./Benjamin/Andris	Pine Plains	WI, Jefferson, Fort Atkinson	/Lawrence/Cornelius/John C./Benjamin/Andris	Pine Plains

Descendants of Lawrence's brother Johannes					
NY, Albany, West Troy	/Johannes/Johannes/Johannes/Harman/Abraham	Schaghticoke	NY, Rensselaer, Schaghticoke	/Johannes/Johannes/Johannes/Harman	Schaghticoke
NY, Monroe, Rochester Ward 5	/Johannes/Johannes/Johannes/William/Derrick	Schaghticoke	NY, Rensselaer, Schaghticoke	/Johannes/Johannes/Johannes/William	Schaghticoke
NY, Rensselaer, Lansingburgh	/Johannes/Johannes/Johannes/Abraham/Joseph	Schaghticoke	NY, Saratoga, Waterford	/Johannes/Johannes/Johannes/John	Schaghticoke
NY, Rensselaer, Lansingburgh	/Johannes/Johannes/Johannes/William	Schaghticoke	NY, Steuben, Bath	/Johannes/Johannes/Johannes/John/Nanning	Schaghticoke
NY, Rensselaer, Schaghticoke	/Johannes/Johannes/Johannes/Abraham	Schaghticoke	CT, Hartford, Hartford	/Johannes/Johannes/Johannes/Harman/David	Schaghticoke

Descendants of Lawrence's brother Peter					
NY, Albany, Albany W7	/Peter/Harmen J/Peter/Edmond	Unclear	NY, Rensselaer, Lansingburgh	/Peter/Harmen J/Peter/Oscar	Unclear
NY, Dutchess, Clinton	/Peter/Harmen J/Peter/Edward	Unclear	NY, Westchester, Mamaroneck	/Peter/Harmen J/Peter/Everett	Unclear
NY, Dutchess, Pleasant Valley	/Peter/Harmen J/Peter/John	Unclear	PA, Philadelphia, Northern Liberties	/Peter/Abraham/John/John	Unclear
NY, Dutchess, Poughkeepsie	/Peter/Harmen J/Peter/Herman	Unclear	PA, Philadelphia, Northern Liberties	/Peter/Abraham/John/Lafayette	Unclear
NY, Rensselaer, Lansingburgh	/Peter/Harmen J/Peter/Hiram	Unclear	CA, Sacramento, Sacramento	/Peter/Abraham/John/Bolivar	Unclear
NY, Rensselaer, Lansingburgh	/Peter/Harmen J/Peter/Lewis	Unclear	IL, Kane, Aurora	/Peter/Harmen J/Peter/William	Unclear

The colorful tables in this document were created using Excel macros. The family tree was downloaded from Ancestry to Roots Magic v7, then dumped into Excel, and then sorted by family line and location.