

Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram

Bryan Knickerbocker
24 July 2017

This report discusses the family of Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram.

Hugh and Rachel are mentioned in prior studies such as William Van Alstyne's *History of the Knickerbockers* (1908), and Isaac Hunting's *Little Nine Partners* (1897).

This report discusses multiple historical records that were not available to Van Alstyne or Isaac Hunting. These records allow us to correct the mistakes in prior studies, and to identify the true descendants of Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram.

This report is not a beginner's guide to the Knickerbockers. If you are just getting started, you should get a copy of Van Alstyne's *History of the Knickerbocker Family*. (You can download it from knic.com.)

Background, Part 1: Five Men named Hugh Knickerbocker

The early Knickerbockers kept re-using the same first names. This makes it hard to trace men named John Knickerbocker, because there were so many of them.

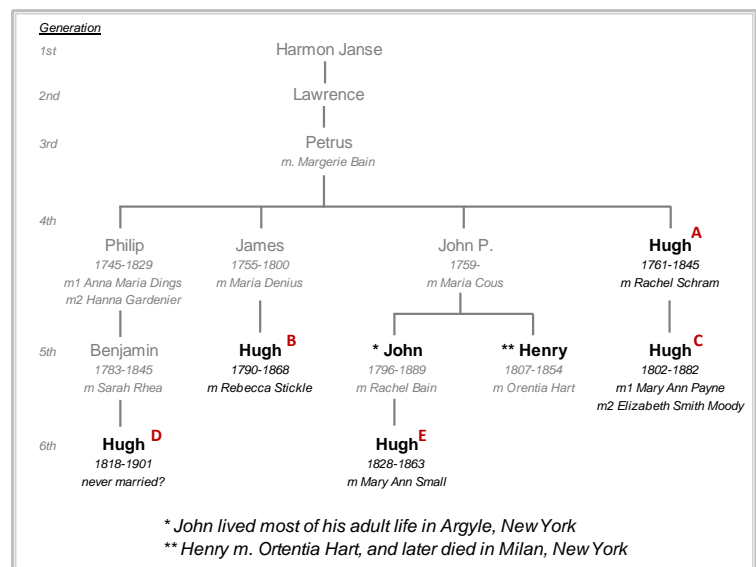
We are lucky that there were only a few Hugh Knickerbockers. Unfortunately they were clustered among the descendants of Petrus Knickerbocker and his wife Margerie Bain. Margerie's father was Hugh Bain, which explains how this got started.

Although there were only five of them, there has still been some confusion about the Hugh Knickerbockers.

Rachel Schram was the husband of Hugh Knickerbocker **A**.

The man we label as Hugh Knickerbocker **B** was the son of James Knickerbocker. Most previous studies overlooked his existence. This has caused problems.

A woman named Rebecca Stickle married Hugh Knickerbocker **B**.



We will discuss Rachel Schram and Rebecca Stickle in more detail later in this report.

Background, Part 2: Isaac Hunting's *Little Nine Partners*

Isaac Hunting was an amateur historian from the Dutchess County NY area. He eventually wrote a lengthy history of the area. Isaac Hunting was really more of a storyteller than a historian. He provided very few references to back up his statements.

Here is what Isaac Hunting had to say, as part of a long, rambling paragraph:

From Isaac Hunting's *Little Nine Partners* (1897)

... Peter, who married Margaret Bain ... had sons Philip, Lawrence, Peter, Benjamin, James, John, Hugh and daughters Elizabeth and Margaret ...

*... Hugh ... **married Rachel Stickle** and had sons, Peter, John, Valentine, Hugh, Frederick, Benjamin, William, Henry and daughters Elisabeth, Mary, Margaret, Nancy and Adaline, thirteen in all.*

... James ... married Maria Dennis and are the parents of the late Jonas Knickerbocker of the village.

Little Nine Partners completely overlooked the existence of Rachel Schram. Also overlooked was the fact that James Knickerbocker had a son named Hugh.

Thus, Isaac Hunting inadvertently created a myth regarding Rachel Stickle.

Thanks to modern technology, records for Rebecca Stickle are easy to find. She was born in February 1791 / 1792. Hugh's oldest son, Peter, was born in 1788. It is therefore impossible for Rachel Stickle to have been the mother of Hugh's children.

Church records show that Rebecca Stickle married a man named a man named "Hugh Knickerbocker" in 1811. As shown in the family tree on page 1, this was a different Hugh Knickerbocker.

Unfortunately, the marriage record has caused an interesting twist. Every major Internet genealogy site has family trees that claim that Rachel Schram died before 1811. The early death of Rachel Schram is another myth, apparently created to get Rachel out of the way.

Myth Number 1, that Rebecca Stickle married Hugh the son of Petrus, requires the creation of myth Number 2, that Rachel Schram died before 1811.

Unfortunately the myth of Rebecca Stickle is deeply ingrained in many family trees.

This myth will probably live forever.

Background, Part 3: William Van Alstyne's History of the Knickerbockers

The most comprehensive genealogy of the early Knickerbockers was written by William Van Alstyne, and published in multiple chapters in NYGB&R in 1908 and 1909.

Van Alstyne showed the following information for Hugh Knickerbocker:

From Van Alstyne's History of the Knickerbockers (NYG&BR, January 1909)

The text in red italics was reported by Van Alstyne, but is incorrect

59. Hugh Knickerbocker

Hugh Knickerbocker (Petrus, Laurens, Harmen Jansen), bap. 30 Aug., 1761, at Linlithgo, N.Y.; m. 11 June, 1786, at Mount Ross, N.Y., Rachel Schram.

Children:

- i.. Peter, b. 15 July, 1788; bap. at Rhinebeck, N.Y.; spon.: Friederick Stikkel and Elisabeth Humel.
- ii. Elizabeth, b. 8 April, 1790; bap. at Mount Ross; spon.: Anthony Crispell and Maria Schram.
- iii. Maria, b. 2 Jan., 1792; bap. at Mount Ross; spon.: John Knickerbocker and Maria Cous; m. 10 Jan. 1822, at Mount Ross, John M. Snyder. She lived and died near Mount Ross.
- iv. John, *d. at Argyle, Washington Co., N.Y., leaving children.*
- v. Margaret or Marjory (Becki), b. 9 Jan., 1796; bap. at Mount Ross; spon.: the parents; m. 1 Aug., 1811, at Mount Ross, John Robertson or Robinson. She lived and died near Mount Ross.
- vi. Valentin, b. 25 Aug., 1798; bap. at Mount Ross; spon.: the parents; may have m. Hannah Wardwell. They lived in Riga, Monroe Co., N.Y.
- vii. Nancy, b. 17 March, 1800; bap. at Mount Ross; spon.: Pieter Knickerbocker and Elisabeth Stickle.
- viii. Hugh, b. 22 July, 1802; bap. at Mount Ross; spon.: Hugh Rhea, Jr., and Christine Huyg.
- ix. Frederick, b. 8 Aug., 1804; bap. at Mount Ross; spon.: Frederick Stickle and Elisabeth Hummel.
- x. Benjamin, b. 1806.
- xi. William.
- xii. Adaline.
- xiii. Henry, b. 1813; *d. in Milan, N.Y.; m. Ortentia Hart, b. 1808, in Milan, her mother's maiden Sanford. Made his will 1 Feb., 1854; proved 6 March, 1854, and recorded at Poughkeepsie, N.Y.*

Van Alstyne found baptism records for eight of the thirteen children. The baptism records proved that Hugh Knickerbocker was married to Rachel Schram. This must have helped Van Alstyne avoid the *Little Nine Partners* myth related to Rebecca Stickle.

Van Alstyne did not provide any explanation of how he identified the five children who lacked baptism records. We will discuss the baptism records later.

Van Alstyne made two mistakes regarding the fate of Hugh's children. Van Alstyne referred to a John Knickerbocker in Argyle, NY, and to a Henry Knickerbocker in Milan, NY. In reality, John Knickerbocker in Argyle and Henry Knickerbocker in Milan were actually sons of John Knickerbocker and Maria Cous. (This was illustrated in the family tree on page 1.)

The actual fate of Hugh's children will be discussed later.

Sources of “New” Information

In the following pages, we will cite many references that Mr. Alstyne and Mr. Hunting never found.

Examples of these new references include:

- Biographies from Calhoun County, Michigan
- Probate records in Genesee County, NY
- Land records in Monroe County and Genesee County NY
- Newspaper stories from Dutchess County NY

None of these actually represent “new” sources. This information was already sitting out there, waiting to be found, when the prior studies were done.

However, we have a huge advantage, thanks to Familysearch, Ancestry, Google, e-Books, and newspaper archives such as Fultonhistory.com.

Starting Point: William Knickerbocker, son of Hugh and Rachel

We will begin the story by discussing William Knickerbocker, who was one of the younger children of Hugh and Rachel.

We are starting with William because he left many useful records. These records will set up the rest of the story.

The 1850 census for Albion, Calhoun County, Michigan shows a household headed by Wm Knickerbocker.

452-493	Mr. W. Knickerbocker	38	M			Kea	NY
	Harriet G.	24	F				"
	George M.	12	M				Mich
	John C.	8	F				"
	Rachel A.	2	F				"
	Rachel	80	F				NY

Also in the household is an 80 year old woman, Rachel Knickerbocker. This was the only census appearance of the woman we know as Rachel Schram Knickerbocker. The fact that Rachel spent her later years in Michigan may explain why she was overlooked by Dutchess County historians such as Isaac Hunting.

Years later, brief biographies of William Knickerbocker appeared in two histories of Calhoun County, Michigan. Each provides useful information about William, his parents, and his siblings:

WILLIAM M. KNICKERBOCKER.

The subject of this sketch claims his descent from the Pine Plains branch of the family, where he was born, August 29, 1811, being the twelfth of a family of thirteen children. His father, Hugh Knickerbocker, was born July 30, 1761, and his mother, Rachel Seram, December 1, 1769. The parents were married June 11, 1786. They were of the world's poor, and in consequence William was thrown at an early age upon his own resources. He obtained as good a common-school education as the times in which he lived and his opportunities afforded. In the fall of 1829 he went to the town of Elba, Genesee county, in the same State, and engaged in farming, continuing the business until the fall of 1835, when he came to Van Buren county, Michigan, and located a farm, which he afterwards sold, and purchased his present location on section 23, in the township of Albion. Returning to Genesee county immediately after his last purchase, he was united in marriage to Miss Harriet S. Babcock, August 17, 1836.

History of Calhoun County, Michigan
(1877)

*Portrait Biographical Album
of Calhoun County, Michigan*
(1891)

William M. Knickerbocker was born August 29, 1811, on his father's farm in Dutchess County, N. Y. He attended the common schools, and was very well educated. As the youthful age of twelve or thirteen years, he became self supporting, going out from his home to work on a farm, and in the winter seasons he did chores for his board so that he might attend school. He devoted much of his earnings to the care of his father and mother. At eighteen years of age, Mr. Knickerbocker went to Genesee County, N. Y., to take charge of the farm and family of his deceased brother John.

The father of our subject was at one time a prominent farmer, but he afterward became unfortunate in business.

His eldest son, Peter, served with a troop of cavalry during the War of 1812.

The mother of our subject was Rachael (Seram) Knickerbocker,

They died well advanced in years, his death occurring in 1845, and hers in 1858. They were the parents of thirteen children, all of whom grew to maturity, married and reared families, all of whom are now deceased except our subject.

The specific details that were included in the biography are interesting. For example:

- Hugh and Rachel were among the world's poor
- Hugh was once prosperous, but then was unfortunate at business.
 - It is interesting that William told both biographers about his father's problems. These problems obviously had a memorable impact on William's life.
- William moved to Genesee County at the age of 18, to help care for the family of his brother John.
- William's oldest brother was named Peter.
- Peter served in the war of 1812.

Each of these tidbits will be mentioned again later.

As described in the biographies, William spent time in western New York before moving to Michigan.

Land records show that William was involved in several real estate transactions in New York. These transactions included his brothers Benjamin, Valentine, and Henry. This will be discussed later.

William and Harriet (Babcock) Knickerbocker had four children:

1. Daughter Harriet Eleanor died young.
2. Daughter Sarah Arabelle married Byron S. Nelson.
3. Daughter Jane Ellen married C.W. Dalrymple.
4. Son George moved to California and enlisted circa 1860. Came home in 1867, but then moved to Kansas. Married and had two children.

We have used William to lay the foundation for the rest of the discussion. We will now shift our attention to Hugh, Rachel, and the rest of the family.

Hugh Knickerbocker, husband of Rachel Schram

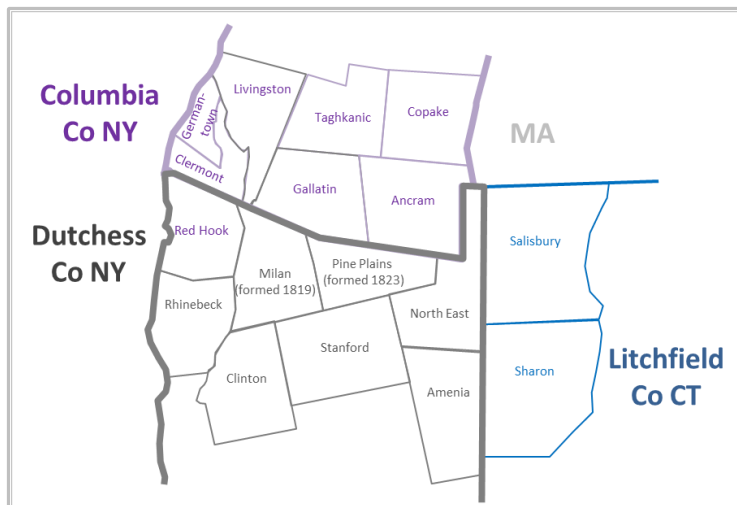
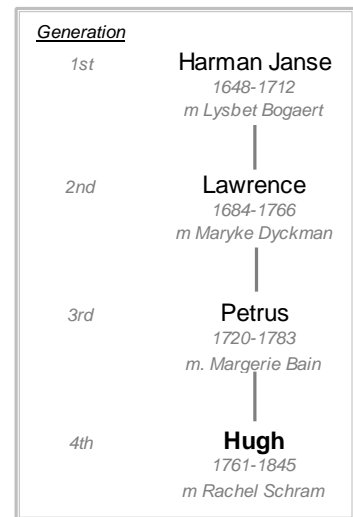
Hugh Knickerbocker was a member of the fourth generation of Knickerbockers.

Harmen Janse “Knickerbocker” lived the latter part of his life in Red Hook, in Dutchess County. The area where he lived is now part of the city of Tivoli, NY. Harmen died in about 1714 and was probably buried in a family plot on a bluff overlooking the Hudson.

Lawrence Knickerbocker also lived his adult life in the area near Tivoli. Lawrence was buried in the family plot, probably next to his father (although his father’s tombstone has never been found).

Petrus Knickerbocker’s movements are not as well documented as his father and grandfather. Petrus apparently lived in both northern Dutchess County and southern Columbia County.

More information about the first three generations can be found in Van Alstyne.



In the 1800 & 1810 census, Hugh was in the precinct of Northeast, Dutchess County.

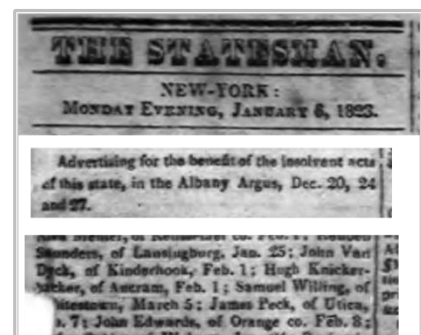
Note that the map on the left shows the modern border of North East, not the borders that existed in 1800 and 1810.

(North East originally stretched from Red Hook to the Connecticut border. The townships of Milan and Pine Plains were split off later.)

At some point Hugh apparently also lived in Ancram. In early 1823, newspaper notices show that Hugh Knickerbocker of Ancram was declared insolvent. Today we would say that he went bankrupt.

The newspaper notice does not provide enough detail to prove that this was Hugh, husband of Rachel.

However, William Knickerbocker’s biography said that (a) Hugh was “unfortunate” at business, and (b) William was forced to become self-supporting at the age of 12 or 13. This fits perfectly.



(Hugh's financial problems might have been a factor in the decisions of six of his sons to head westward.)

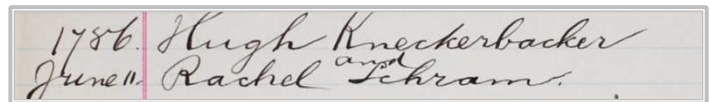
According to William's biography, Hugh died in 1845.

Hugh's tombstone has never been located.

Rachel Schram, wife of Hugh Knickerbocker

As already discussed, there has always been confusion about Rachel Schram.

Thanks to modern technology, the marriage of Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram can be confirmed very easily, using church records available on Ancestry.



The baptism records for Hugh's children also confirm that his wife was Rachel Schram.

We have already shown census records showing that Rachel [Schram] Knickerbocker was alive and well in 1850, living in Michigan. We have also shown a biography of William Knickerbocker that stated that Rachel died in 1858.

Thus, despite the claims on many internet genealogy sites, there is no doubt that Rachel Schram was the wife of Hugh Knickerbocker, and that she was still alive in the 1850's.

Identifying the Children of Hugh and Rachel

Hugh and Rachel reportedly had thirteen children. As already shown, Van Alstyne claimed to be able to name all thirteen. However, he was missing baptism records for five of them.

The lack of baptism records is a concern that we need to discuss.

Van Alstyne did a tremendous amount of research on the first three generations of Knickerbockers, and documented many of his sources. However, starting around the fourth generation, Van Alstyne was less formal, and apparently was passing along anecdotes rather than hard facts.

We have already mentioned two mistakes in the Van Alstyne history, regarding John Knickerbocker in Argyle, and Henry Knickerbocker in Milan, who were not actually sons of Hugh and Rachel.

Thus, we will take a moment and discuss our confidence in Van Alstyne's list of children.

Here is Van Alstyne's list of the children, with color coding to indicate whether there is supporting evidence.

	Name	Baptism record?	Other proof of lineage?
1	Peter	Yes	Yes
2	Elizabeth	Yes	
3	Maria	Yes	
4	John	No	Yes
5	Margaret	Yes	
6	Valentine	Yes	Yes
7	Nancy	Yes	
8	Hugh	Yes	
9	Frederick	Yes	
10	Benjamin	No	Yes
11	William	No	Yes
12	Adaline	No	No
13	Henry	No	Yes

Van Alstyne was missing baptism records for John, Benjamin, William, Adaline, and Henry.

We have solid evidence linking John, Benjamin, William, and Henry to each other, and to Peter and Valentine.

(As described later, this is the John who lived in Elba, and the Henry who lived in Riga. For these two sons, Van Alstyne had the correct names, but the wrong locations.)

This analysis gives us confidence that Van Alstyne was correct regarding the names of at least twelve of the children.

We lack data for only one of the children, Adeline.

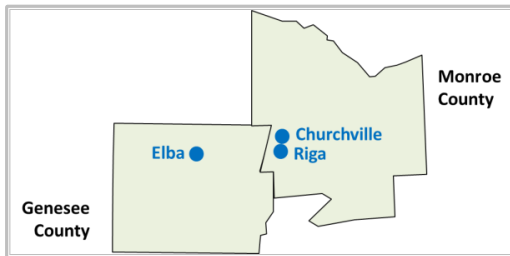
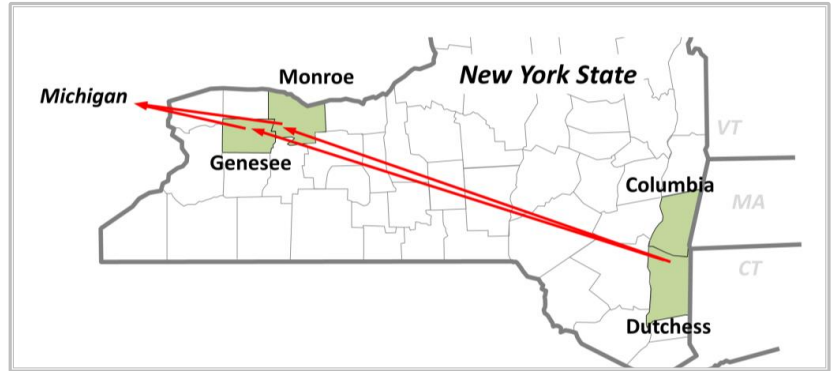
For now, we have to accept Van Alstyne and Isaac Hunting's claim, and assume that there really was a daughter named Adaline.

(Unfortunately, all of Hugh's daughters are very hard to trace.)

Migrations of the sons of Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram

We are about to discuss the children of Hugh and Rachel. More specifically, we are going to show many records for six of their sons.

Six of the sons were part of the westward migration out of the Hudson Valley.



These six sons all wound up in the area between Riga, Monroe County, and Elba, Genesee County.

Elba is 16 miles west of Riga, if we use 2017 boundaries of the two towns.

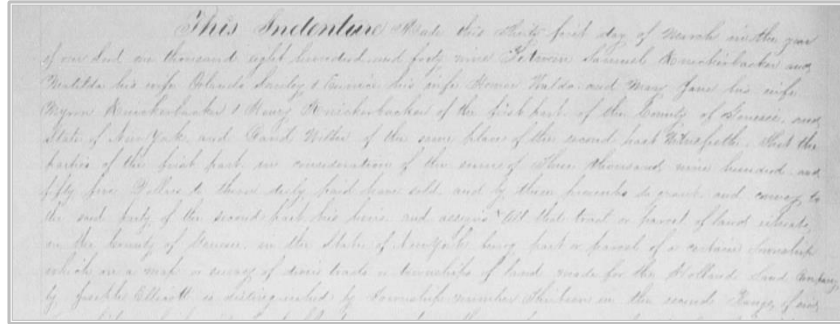
The six brothers migrated in roughly in the following sequence. The timing is approximated, based on land records.

1. John moved to Elba (1828)
2. Peter moved to Elba (1828)
3. William moved to Elba, and may also have lived briefly in Riga (1829-1834)
4. Valentine moved to Riga (1829)
5. Henry moved to Riga (before 1833)
6. Benjamin moved to Riga (before 1833)

The supporting evidence is shown as part of the discussion of each of the brothers.

Ann Lloyd Knickerbocker died in 1847. Ann's children later sold the farm of John Knickerbocker. (The property description exactly matches the earlier deed from 1828.)

Genesee County
Book 75, p 132



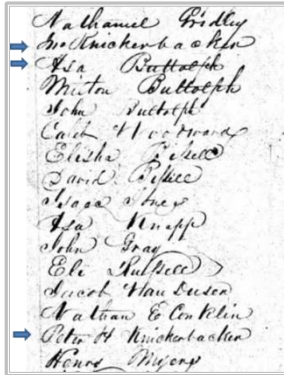
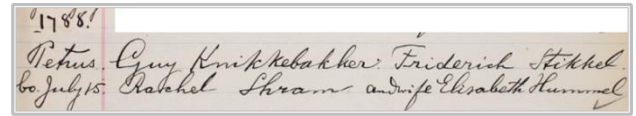
This deed does not mention either John Knickerbocker or his widow Ann Lloyd. However, the “party of the first part” appears to be a list of the children of John Knickerbocker and Ann Lloyd, plus their spouses. The list is: Samuel Knickerbocker and his wife Matilda; Orlando Smiley and his wife Eunice; Homer Waldo and his wife Mary Jane; Myron Knickerbocker; and Henry Knickerbocker.

Thus we can be confident in the names of five of John's children: Samuel, Myron, Henry, Eunice, and Mary Jane.

This doesn't tell us anything about the fate of the other three children. Perhaps one or more of them died young, or perhaps they had all moved out of state and were not available to be a party to this sale.

Peter H. Knickerbocker

Hugh and Rachel had a son Petrus, born on July 15, 1788. The church record is shown here.

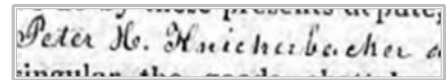


Peter H. Knickerbocker first shows up in census records in 1820 in Dutchess County, New York. Peter H. Knickerbocker was about 12 households away from John Knickerbocker and John's neighbor, Asa Buttloph.

The 1820 census includes Peter's middle initial, which was "H."

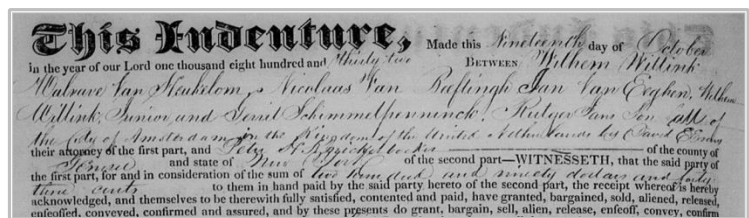
Peter H. Knickerbocker continued to use his middle initial for the rest of his life. For Knickerbockers from Dutchess County, the middle initial helped differentiate men with the same first name (i.e. Peter H. Knickerbocker vs Peter D. Knickerbocker). For our purposes, the consistent use of the middle initial proves that each record below refers to the same person.

As shown in the previous section, Peter H. Knickerbocker was mentioned in the probate notice of John H. Knickerbocker. The probate hearing was in Elba NY, in March of 1830.

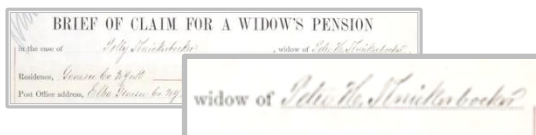


Peter H. Knickerbocker was in the Elba census in 1830. (Peter was in every Elba census from 1830 through 1870.)

Peter H. Knickerbocker became a landowner in 1832

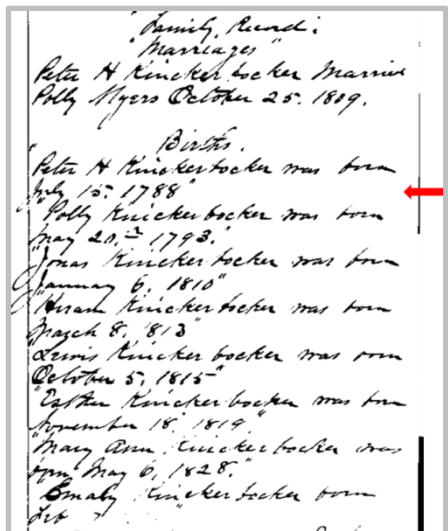


Genesee County Book 25, p 302

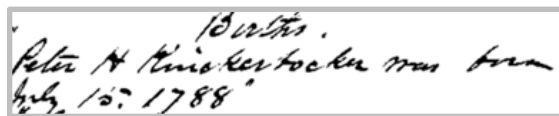


After Peter died, his widow, Polly Knickerbocker of Elba, applied for a military pension. This was based on Peter H. Knickerbocker's service in the War of 1812.

(Peter H. Knickerbocker of Elba, New York is the only "Peter Knickerbocker" in Fold3 records for the war of 1812.)



As part of the pension process, Polly had to prove that she had been married to Peter. She provided a copy of the family bible.



The family bible shows that Peter H. Knickerbocker of Elba, New York, was born on July 15, 1788.

This exactly matches the birth date shown in the church record at the beginning of this section.

To summarize the data for Peter H. Knickerbocker:

- Church records show that Hugh and Rachel had a son named Petrus, born on July 15, 1788.
- The family bible of Peter H. Knickerbocker of Elba, NY shows that he was born on July 15, 1788, which exactly matches the church record.
- William Knickerbocker's biography shows that John Knickerbocker was the son of Hugh and Rachel.
- In 1820, John Knickerbocker was living near Peter H. Knickerbocker in North East, Dutchess County.
- In 1830, the probate notice for John Knickerbocker of Elba, NY mentioned Peter H. Knickerbocker of Elba.
- William Knickerbocker's biography says that his brother Peter served in the War of 1812.
- The widow of Peter H. Knickerbocker of Elba applied for a military pension based on his service in the war of 1812.

Thus, it is clear that Peter H. Knickerbocker was the son of Hugh and Rachel.

Confusion with another Peter Knickerbocker

In the mid-1800's, a man named Peter Knickerbocker was living in Potter County, PA. The Potter County man was born about the same time as Peter H. Knickerbocker.

Unfortunately, these two men are often confused by users of Ancestry, Findagrave, etc.

As shown in the table below, Peter Knickerbocker in Potter County PA was born in Connecticut, and had proven ties to Madison County NY.

Two Men named Peter Knickerbocker

Name	Peter H. Knickerbocker	Peter Knickerbocker
Parents	Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram	John Knickerbocker and Lydia Jackson
Middle Initial	"H" is shown in many records, including his brother's probate notice	No middle initial is ever shown in any record (census records, land records, etc.)
Birth Location	New York	Connecticut
Birth	July 15, 1788	about 1789
Death	January 24, 1875	about 1879
Child's birth location	Dutchess Co. NY (Hiram in 1813 and Lewis in 1815)	Madison Co. NY (Melissa's baptism record from 1820)
First Land Purchase	1832, in Elba, New York	1810, in Eaton, Madison Co, NY. (Bought land from John Knickerbocker.)
<u>Census Entries</u>		
1820	North East, Dutchess Co, NY	Eaton, Madison Co, NY
1830	Elba, Genesee Co, NY	<i>not found</i>
1840	----	Potter Co, PA
1850	----	----
1860	----	----
1870	----	----
1875	<i>died before the 1875 census</i>	Portville, Cattaraugus Co, NY
Siblings who lived Nearby	1. John Knickerbocker in Elba 2. William Knickerbocker in Elba 3. Valentine Knickerbocker in Riga 4. Henry Knickerbocker in Riga 5. Benjamin Knickerbocker in Riga	1. Harley Knickerbocker in Potter Co PA. (First schoolteacher in Ayers Hill.) 2. Harmon Knickerbocker in Cattaraugus Co, NY. (Postmaster in Lyndon.)
Served in War of 1812?	Yes	No

Peter Knickerbocker in Potter County, PA was the son of John Knickerbocker and Lydia Jackson. John and Lydia will be the subject of an upcoming report.

Benjamin Knickerbocker

We do not have any church records for Benjamin Knickerbocker. However, real estate transactions provide strong circumstantial evidence that the Benjamin Knickerbocker who lived in Riga, Monroe County, New York was the son of Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram.

Census records show a Benjamin Knickerbocker in Riga, Monroe County, NY, in both 1850 and 1855. He was born in about 1807. The 1855 census shows Dutchess County as his birth location.

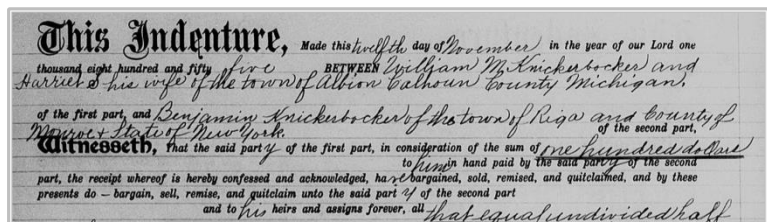
Based on the 1850 census, Benjamin and his wife had at least five children (Elizabeth, John, Charles, Frederic, and Clarinda).

Benjamin's son Frederick died in Allegan County, Michigan in 1915. Frederick's death certificate lists his mother's Mary's maiden name as Palmer.

It is possible that Benjamin moved to Michigan late in life. If so, it had to be sometime after the real estate transaction shown below.

Benjamin's Connection to William Knickerbocker

In November, 1855, William Knickerbocker and his wife Harriet sold land in Riga New York to Benjamin Knickerbocker of Riga, Monroe County, New York. (Monroe Co, 125, p 285.)

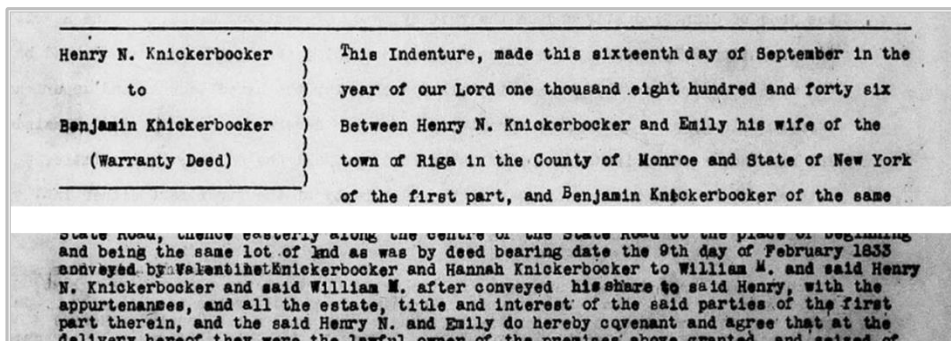


The 1855 deed does not describe the relationship between Benjamin and William. If we only had this single deed, we could entertain the notion that Benjamin and William might only be cousins, rather than brothers. However, as shown below, this deed is part of sequence.

Henry Knickerbocker

We do not have church records for Henry, but he was part of the sequence of real estate deals that we have already mentioned.

In 1846, in Monroe County, is a deed that mentions Henry Knickerbocker and his wife Emily; Benjamin Knickerbocker; Valentine Knickerbocker and his wife Hannah, and William M. Knickerbocker:



*Monroe County
Book 71, p 479*

Henry Knickerbocker and his wife Emily Sly are in multiple census records, in Monroe County towns that are all near Riga:

- 1850 and 1855 in Chili
- 1860 in Ogden
- 1865 in Riga
- 1875 and 1880 in Chili

Henry died in 1885. A brief obituary said he was struck by a train while walking near his farm.

Henry and Emily had four children. Daughter Mary was married to Edward Johns. Daughter Ellen was married to William Cumine. The two sons, Edwin and Albert, apparently stayed single throughout their lives.

Valentine Knickerbocker

Valentine Knickerbocker bought land in Monroe County in 1829. (Monroe County, book 13, p 632). He was in Riga for the census in 1830, 1840, and 1850.

In 1851, he made his last real estate transaction in Monroe County. Valentine's next census record was in 1860, in Albion, Calhoun County, Michigan. Valentine died in 1867, and was buried near his brother William.

EDGAR KNICKERBOCKER died at his home in New York early Sunday morning, November 20, 1904, of heart failure.
He was born in Riga, Monroe County, N. Y., January 29, 1827, being the second son of Valentine and Hannah Wardwell Knickerbocker. His boyhood was spent in Riga, Churchville and Caryville.

Some information about Valentine can be found in the biography of his son Edgar. (*Year Book of the Holland Society of New York*, 1905.)

In the 1850 census, Valentine had 5 children living with him: Edgar, John, William, Velina, and Albertus. His wife Hannah was gone. (A brief note in the Northern Christian Advocate says that Hannah Knickerbocker of Riga died in April, 1850.) The oldest son was also gone.

Valentine Knickerbocker appears to have started the chain of real estate transactions that connected him with his brothers.

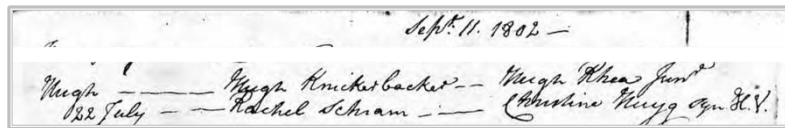
Shown below is the 1833 deed that apparently started it all. This one involves Valentine, William, and Henry.

Valentine Knickerbocker } This Indenture made this ninth day of February one thousand eight
to }
William M. Knickerbocker } hundred and thirty three between Valentine Knickerbocker and Hannah
& } Knickerbocker his wife of the town of Riga in the County of Monroe
and State of New York of the first part and William M. Knickerbocker and Henry M. Knickerbocker
of the town of _ in the County of _ of the second part witnesseth that the parties of the first
part in consideration of the sum of one hundred and twenty five dollars to them duly paid have
sold and by these presents do grant and convey to the said partys of the second part their
heirs and assigns all that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Riga and described

*Monroe County
Book 28, p 275*

Hugh Knickerbocker Junior

Hugh Junior was the son of Hugh Senior and Rachel Schram. Hugh Junior was born July 22, 1802, and baptized on September 11.



Based on census records, it appears that Hugh Jr. lived his entire life in Dutchess County.

Hugh Junior had several children. The children were in Dutchess County during the golden age of newspapers. This allows us to confirm key details about the family of Hugh Junior, using stories and obituaries available on Fultonhistory.

We will show only one story about Hugh Junior. This is from the biography of Hugh Junior's son Edwin. The source is *A Commemorative Biographical Review of Dutchess County, NY* (1897).

We are showing this biography for two reasons.

The first is because it is the single most comprehensive description of Hugh Junior's life.

The second is to illustrate, again, that there is a lot of misinformation related to Hugh Knickerbocker.

There is an obvious problem with this biography: It describes Hugh Junior's grandmother as being a "Miss Stickle." Red flags should go up anytime a biographer claims to know the maiden name of a woman, *but doesn't know her first name*. This is a sure sign of problems.

We know from church records that Hugh Junior's mother was Rachel Schram.

EDWIN KNICKERBOCKER.

For several generations the homestead of the family has been at Pine Plains, Dutchess county, and here our subject's grandfather, Hugh Knickerbocker, was born, and here he followed farming for many years, moving later to Northeast. He married a Miss Stickle, and reared a family of six children: Peter, Valentine, John, Nancy, Hugh and William.

Hugh Knickerbocker (2), our subject's father, was born in 1801, and passed his early life at Pine Plains, attending the district schools of the neighborhood, later engaging in farming there and at Northeast, and in the town of Stanford.

He married first Miss Mary Payne, of Northeast, and had four children: William, Theron, and Henry, all three residents of the town of Stanford, and Niles deceased. The mother of these died about 1850, and for his second wife Mr. Knickerbocker married Miss Elizabeth Smith, born in 1817, a daughter of John Smith, a well-known citizen of New Jersey. Four children were born of this union: Edwin, Jennie, Fannie (who married Edward Loomis, of Pittsfield, Mass.), and McClellan.

Regardless of those concerns, the above biography appears to accurately reflect the life of Hugh Junior. The details are confirmed by census records and the obituaries of a couple of his children.

We will offer one additional detail. Hugh Junior's second wife was known as both Elizabeth Smith and Elizabeth Moody. (This was apparently her second marriage, too.)

Frederick

The baptism record for Frederic Knickerbocker, son of Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram, is available on Ancestry. Frederic was born August 8, 1804.

Frederick is hard to trace.

There is a Frederic Knickerbocker household in Spafford, Onondaga County in 1830, with a male and female who are both age 20-29. This might be Frederic and a first wife (?).

In Oswego County there is a marriage record for Frederick Knickerbocker and Wealthan Loomis in 1835. She was "of Cicero." (The Oswego County line is just north of Cicero.)

In 1840 there is a Frederick F. Knickerbocker in Cicero. He was 30-39, but the female in the house was 20-29. There was one male under 5. Could this be Frederic, a second wife, and a son?

In 1850, F. Knickerbocker (age 46) was in Chenango, Broome County, with Ann Knickerbocker (age 36) and Addison Knickerbocker (age 14), plus a 17 year old named Adelia Loomis. F Knickerbocker was a hotel keeper, but his birth location is shown as Connecticut.

More research is needed.

Daughters of Hugh and Rachel

Van Alstyne shows three daughters of Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram:

- Elizabeth, who was born April 8, 1790.
- Maria, who was born January 2, 1792.
- Adaline, whose birth date is unknown.

Unfortunately all three of these daughters represent brick walls. There is no sign of any of them in any of the records discussed here, such as histories of Dutchess County, Monroe County, Genesee County, or Calhoun County Michigan.

The families of Dutchess County were pretty well documented by early historians. The fact that none of the three daughters are ever mentioned suggests that they married and then quickly left Dutchess County as part of the westward migrations.

Unfortunately it is hard to be optimistic about our ability to break through the brick walls related to the three daughters of Hugh and Rachel.

***This page is in support of the ongoing effort
to identify every Knickerbocker in the 1850 census***

***Knickerbockers in the 1850 Census:
Descendants of Hugh Knickerbocker & Rachel Schram***

<u>Generation</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location in 1850</u>	<u>Last Known Location</u>	<u>Marriage(s)</u>		
2		Lawrence	1684-1766	Deceased	Tivoli, Dutchess Co, NY	Maryke Dyckman
3		Petrus	1720-1783	“”	Columbia Co, NY	Margerie Bain
	4	Hugh	1761-1845	“”	Dutchess Co, NY	Rachel Schram
	5	Peter H.	1788-1875	Elba, Genesee Co, NY	Elba, Genesee Co, NY	Polly Mary Myers
	6	Jonas	1810-	Deceased?	“”	unknown
	6	Hiram	1813-1894	Elba, Genesee Co, NY	“”	Ruamy Brown
	6	Lewis	1815-1895	“”	Shelby, Orleans Co, NY	Betsey Cole
	5	John	1793-1829	Deceased	Elba, Genesee Co, NY	Ann Lloyd
	6	Samuel	1820-1903	Comstock, Kalamazoo, MI	Richalnd, Kalamazoo, MI	Matilda Whitney
	6	Myron	1822-1896	Batavia, Genesee Co, NY (as “Hiram”)	Albion, Calhoun Co, MI	Sarah Waldo
	6	Henry	1825-1891	Batavia, Genesee Co, NY	“”	
	5	Valentine	1797-1867	Riga, Monroe Co, NY	“”	Hanna Wardell
	5	Hugh the 2 nd	1802-1882	Stanford, Dutchess Co, NY	Stanford, Dutchess Co, NY	M1 Mary Ann Payne M2 Elizabeth Smith
	5	Frederick	1804-	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	5	Benjamin	1808-	Riga, Monroe Co, NY	Riga, Monroe Co, NY	Mary Palmer
	5	William			Albion, Calhoun Co, MI	Harriet Babcock
	5	Henry	1813-1885	Chili, Monroe Co, NY	Chili, Monroe Co, NY	Emily Sly

This is a work in progress