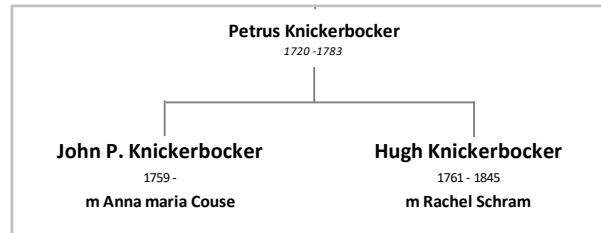


Background: Van Alstyne's History of the Knickerbockers

One of the challenges with this family is that we have to overcome some earlier misinformation.

William Van Alstyne wrote the definitive history of the early Knickerbocker families. It was published in the NYGB&R in 1908 and 1909.

Unfortunately, there were a few mistakes in the Van Alstyne work. Some of them involved confusion over the families of John P. Knickerbocker vs. his brother Hugh Knickerbocker.



58. JOHN P. ^a KNICKERBOCKER (Petrus, ^a Laurens, ^a Harmen Jansen ^a), bap. 12 May, 1759, at Mount Ross, N. Y.; m. there 22 May, 1785, Anna Maria Kaus, probably dau. of Johan Theis Kaus (son of Johan Peter Kaus) and Margareta Millius (dau. of Jacob Millius), who were m. 25 Sept., 1750, at Germantown, N. Y. Children, bap. at Mount Ross:	
i. Elizabeth, ^a b. 6 March, 1787; spon.: Johannes Kilmer and Elizabeth Allin.	
ii. Grietje, b. 19 June, 1789; spon.: Antseise and Grietje Cous.	
iii. Marjory, b. 3 Sept., 1791; spon.: Philip Knickerbocker and Maria Denius.	
iv. John, b. 19 Nov., 1796; spon.: John Kaush and Catharina Weymer.	
v. Gertrich, b. 19 March, 1798; spon.: Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram.	
59. HUGH ^a KNICKERBOCKER (Petrus, ^a Laurens, ^a Harmen Jansen ^a), bap. 30 Aug., 1761, at Linlithgo, N. Y.; m. 11 June, 1786, at Mount Ross, N. Y., Rachel Schram. Children:	
i. Peter, ^a 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 (Beck), 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 Stikkel.	
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 name Sanford. Made his will 1 Feb., 1854; proved 6 March, 1854, and recorded at Poughkeepsie, N. Y.	

Here, we have highlighted Van Alstyne's descriptions of four so-called children of Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram.

The four children in question are Maria, John, Margaret, and Henry.

Van Alstyne was wrong about these four. These were children of John P. Knickerbocker, not Hugh Knickerbocker.

Part of the confusion was caused by overlapping names. For example, both John P. Knickerbocker and Hugh Knickerbocker had sons named Henry.

As we will show, John P. Knickerbocker's son Henry is the one who married Ortentia Hart and lived in Milan, Dutchess County, NY.

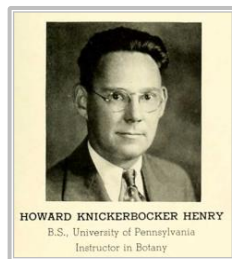
(Hugh Knickerbocker's son Henry moved to Chili, Monroe County, New York, and married Emily Sly. See the previous report, titled "Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Schram.")

Howard K. Henry

1895-1953

We will pause to acknowledge Howard K. Henry. He helped preserve some of the key records for this family.

Howard was the great great grandson of John P. Knickerbocker. (John P Knickerbocker and Maria Couse / John Knickerbocker and Rachel Bain / Hamilton Knickerbocker and Sarah Bain / Mary Knickerbocker and William Henry / Howard K Henry.)



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER 1. NAME (Print)
U. 2623 HOWARD KNICKERBOCKER HENRY
(First) (Middle) (Last)

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)
1464 DRAYTON LANE LANTANA MIAMI FLA
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County)

3. PLACE OF BIRTH
ARGYLE
(Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

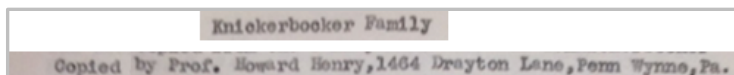
EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
CORPORATION OF HAVERFORD COLLEGE HAVERFORD PA
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT ON BIRTHDAY

Howard was born in Argyle, New York.

In the early 1920's he lived in Stone Harbor, New Jersey.

He later lived in Penn Wynne, PA. He was a professor at Haverford College, just outside of Philadelphia.

He died in Ocean City, New Jersey.



Howard Henry had two family records in his possession.

One set of records was from John P. Knickerbocker. The other set was from John's grandson, William T. Knickerbocker.

Howard Henry and his wife allowed the DAR to transcribe both sets of records. The transcriptions can be found in the Albany Library. They are shown on the next few pages.

We will discuss the various records one at a time.

The bible of William Knickerbocker provides a good start.

The Family Bible of William T. Knickerbocker

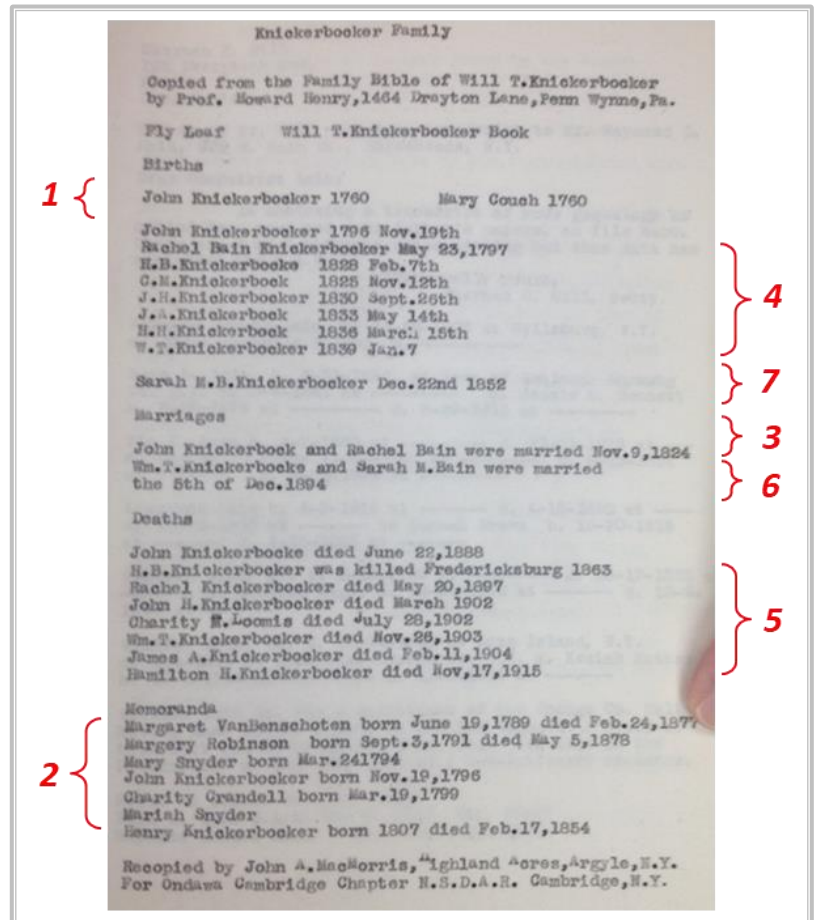
William T. Knickerbocker was the grandson of John Knickerbocker and Anna Couse. He was person number 2 on the tree shown earlier.

The State Library in Albany has a copy of the bible records for William T. Knickerbocker.

William T. Knickerbocker never had any children. Thus, he chose to use his bible to record the history of parents and siblings.

The bible was owned by Howard Henry of Penn Wynne, PA.

Included at the bottom of this transcript is a section called "memoranda." We don't know who originally wrote this information. (Was it William Knickerbocker, or was it Howard Henry?)



Scattered within the above page are seven sets of information:

1. The marriage of John P. Knickerbocker married Mary Couch.
2. A list of the children of John P. Knickerbocker and Mary Couch.
3. The marriage of John Knickerbocker (junior) and Rachel Bain
4. The births of John and Rachel's children
5. The deaths of John and Rachel's children
6. The birth of Sarah Bain, the future wife of William T. Knickerbocker
7. The marriage of William T. Knickerbocker and Sarah Bain

The Family Bible of John Knickerbocker and Rachel Bain

Howard Henry had another Knickerbocker "bible" in his possession.

This was called a "bible" in the DAR transcriptions, but the title shows that this book was actually the history of a well-known minister from England.

The DAR transcribed this "bible" twice. The transcriptions differ very slightly.

Two DAR transcriptions of a book owned by Howard K. Henry

Knickerbocker Family

Copied from the Family Bible of John Knickerbocker now in the possession of Prof. Howard Henry, 1464 Drayton Lane Penn Wmme, Pa. August 1940

Title Page -

Life Letters and Papers of the late Rev. Thomas Scott D.D.
Rev. John Scott A.M. 1827
New Haven-Pub. Nathan Whiting

John Knickerbocker born 19 Nov. 1796
Rachel Knickerbocker 23 May 1797
Married the 9th Nov. 1824

Charity Mariah born 12 Nov. 1825
Hugh Bain 7 Feb. 1828
John Henry Sept. 28, 1830
James Alex. May 14, 1833
Hamilton Hutton Mar. 18, 1836
William Talmage Jan. 1, 1839

Hannah Bain died Sept. 20, 1850
Margaret White Hutton died Jan. -- 1842
James Patten Bain Oct. 31, 1845
John M. Snyder May 5, 1845
John Launt Jan. 21, 1847
Catharine Conklin Feb. 11, 1847

Margaret born Fri. 19 June 1789
Margery Sat. Sept. 3, 1791
Mary Mon. 24 Mar. 1794
John Knickerbocker Fri. 19 Nov. 1796
Charity Grandle Mar. 19, 1799

Died February the 17th 1854 Henry Knickerbocker
Age 47

Copied by John A. MacMorris, Highland Acres, Argyle, N.Y.
For Oudawa Cambridge Chapter N.S.D.A.R.
Cambridge, New York

These Records were found in a book belonging to John I. Knickerbocker, entitled "Life, Letters and Papers" of the late Rev. Thomas Scott D.D. published in New Haven by Nathan Whiting in 1827.

Mrs. Howard K. Henry
1464 Drayton Lane
Philadelphia 31, Pa.

John Knickerbocker born 19 of November 1796
Rachel Bain Knickerbocker born the 23 of May 1797
Married the 9th of November 1824
Charity Mariah born the 12th of November 1825
Hugh Bain born the 7th of Feb. 1828
John Henry born ~~Sept. 28, 1830~~ Sept. 26, 1820
James Alexander born May the 14th 1833
Hamilton Hutton Born march the 15 1836
William Talmage born Jan. 10, 1839

In the same book which seems to refer to Rachel's family:
Hannah Bain died Sept. 20, 1850
Margaret Hutton died Jan. 26, 1842
James Patten Bain died Oct. 3, 1845
John M. Snyder died May 5, 1845
John Launt died Jan. 21, 1847
Catharine Conklin died Feb. 11, 1847
Note We believe these to be sisters of John Knickerbocker:
Margaret born on Friday the 19th of June 1789
Margery born on Saturday Sept. the 3, 1791
Mary born on Monday the 24, of March 1794
John Knickerbocker born on Friday 19, of Nov. 1796

On A piece of paper pasted to the rear cover:
Died Feb. the 17th. 1804 Henry Knickerbocker aged 47

Jane McCrea Chapter D.A.R.
Mrs. John M. Underwood Gen. Chairman

Almost all of this information was already covered in the earlier discussion of the bible of William T. Knickerbocker.

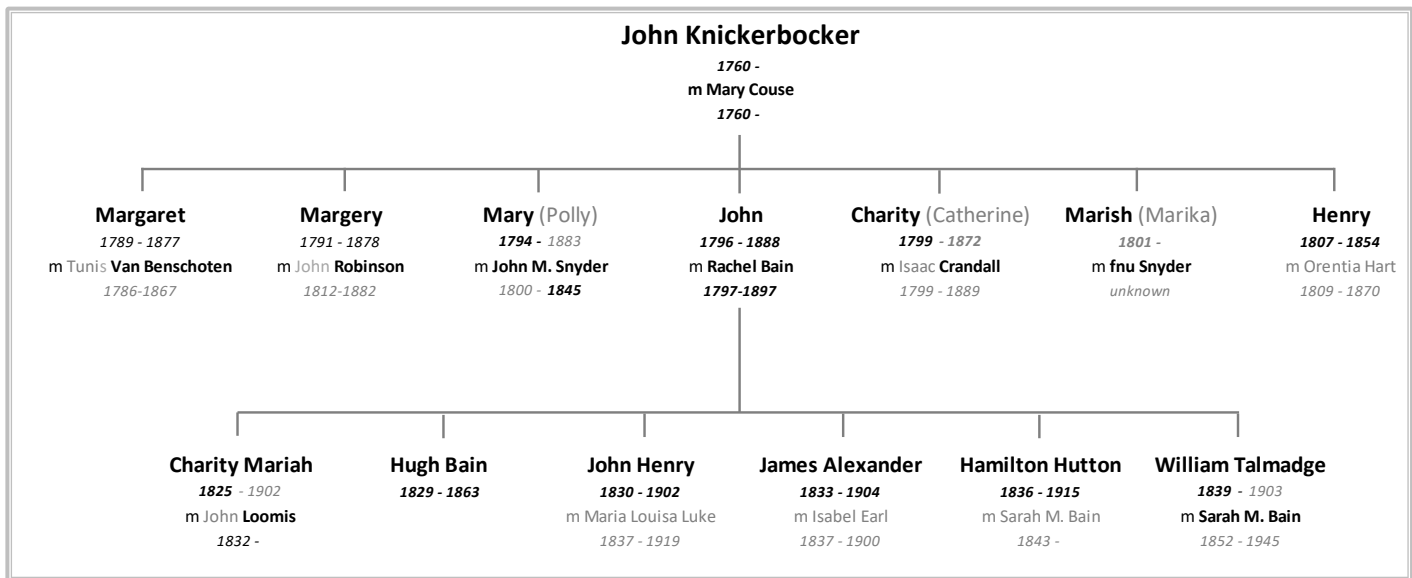
(It is possible that the information in each "bible" was cross-checked and enhanced by Howard Henry, who eventually owned both books.)

Partial Family Tree (based on the records and work of Howard Henry)

Before we jump any deeper into the details, we will pause to show a partial family tree.

The information in black bold font is based on the information from Howard K. Henry.

We have enhanced the tree slightly, adding some extra dates and names of spouses, in light gray.




The tree above is a useful reference when discussing the will and probate notice of Polly Knickerbocker Snyder. (For example, Polly's records contain numerous references to members of the Van Benschoten family.)

The Will of Polly (Mary) Knickerbocker Snyder

Mary (Polly) Snyder was briefly mentioned in the information compiled by Howard K. Henry. Now we will take a deep dive.

Polly Snyder did not have any children of her own. Polly also outlived most of her siblings. This turns out to be good break for genealogists.

The will of Polly Knickerbocker Snyder is useful because it shows her relationships to various people, including various nieces and nephews.



The image shows a handwritten will on aged paper. The text is written in cursive and is somewhat faded. It details the distribution of property and money to various family members, including nieces, nephews, and a church. The will is signed 'Polly Snyder' at the bottom right.

Persons Named in the Will

Martha Vosburg, wife of Smith Vosburg. (Martha was a niece, although the will didn't specify this.)

Niece Charity Loomis.

Catherine Couse, wife of Seth Couse. (Not sure why Polly Knickerbocker gave so much money to Catherine Teator Couse. Perhaps Catherine's husband Seth related to Polly's mother, Anna Marie Couse.)

Leonard Van Benshoten and Alvin Van Benshoten, sons of my nephew John Van Benshoten

Niece Emeline Snyder, wife of William H. Snyder

Nephew John Van Benshoten

Catharine Van Benshoten, daughter of my nephew John Van Benshoten

My nephews, sons of my brother Henry Knickerbocker, to wit Henry J. Knickerbocker, Thadeus Knickerbocker, Theodore Knickerbocker, Webster Knickerbocker, and Clarence Knickerbocker.

There are obvious overlaps with the earlier discussion. For example, Polly mentions nephew John Van Benshoten; he was the son of the late Margaret [Knickerbocker] Van Benshoten. Polly also mentions niece Charity Loomis; she was the daughter of John (junior) Knickerbocker and Rachel Bain. Polly also mentions her late brother Henry Knickerbocker and his sons.

As discussed on the next page, the will is even more useful when combined with the probate notice that was published in the Albany newspaper.

The Probate Notice of Polly (Mary) Knickerbocker Snyder

It's clear that Polly Knickerbocker Snyder had accumulated significant wealth, and that Polly never had children.

We might assume that Polly's wealth would be distributed exactly as specified in her will.

However, something odd was going on. When Polly Snyder died, the probate court decided to publish a very broad notice in the newspaper. This is the sort of thing that would normally happen if a person didn't have a will, or if there was somebody who wanted to contest the will.

The probate notice mentions many names and locations:

ALBANY MORNING EXPRESS, SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1883.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, by the grace of God free and independent: Citation. To John Knickerbocker, of Argyle, Washington co., N. Y.; Sally Ann Owens, of Otranto, Mitchell co., Iowa; John Robinson, of National Sailor's Home, Quincy, Mass.; John Van Benschoten, of Milan, N. Y.; Egbert Van Benschoten, of Hudson, Columbia co., N. Y.; Martha Vosburgh, of Philmont, Columbia county, N. Y.; Harman Van Benschoten, of Hillsdale, Columbia co., N. Y.; William Van Benschoten, of Boston Corners, Columbia co., N. Y.; Emeline Snyder, of Galatin, Columbia co., N. Y.; Jane Wiltse, of Ancram, Columbia county, N. Y.; Webster Knickerbocker, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Thaddeus Knickerbocker, of Bangall, Dutchess co., N. Y.; Henry J. Knickerbocker, of Stanfordville, N. Y.; Clarence Knickerbocker, of Elkhart, Indiana; Theodore Knickerbocker, of Leadville, Colorado, greeting:

Whereas, Polly Snyder, late of the town of Milan, in the county of Dutchess, deceased, as is alleged, has lately died, leaving a last will and testament, relating to personal estate, and Isaac S. Ferris, executor therein named, has applied to the Surrogate of said county for the proof thereof, you are hereby cited to appear at a surrogate's court to be held before our Surrogate, in said county, at his office in Poughkeepsie, on the 15th day of June, A. D. 1883, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, then and there to attend the probate of the last will and testament of said deceased.

In testimony whereof we have caused the seal of office of our said Surrogate to be hereunto affixed. Witness, Collins Sheldon, Esq., Surrogate of our said [L. S.] county of Dutchess, at Poughkeepsie, this 14th day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

OTIS SHELTON,
Clerk to the Surrogate's Court.

sp21 6w6

John Knickerbocker , Argyle, Washington Co, NY
Sally Ann Owens of Otranto, Mitchell Co, Iowa
John Robinson, National Sailors Home, Quincy, MA
John Van Benschoten, Milan, Dutchess Co, NY
Egbert Van Benschoten, Hudson, Columbia Co, NY
Martha Vosburgh, Philmont ""
Harmon Van Benschoten, Hillsdale ""
William Van Benschoten, Boston Corner ""
Emeline Snyder, Galatin ""
Jane Wiltse, Ancram ""
Webster Knickerbocker, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co, NY
Thaddeus Knickerbocker, Bangall ""
Henry Knickerbocker, Stanfordville ""
Clarence Knickerbocker, Elkhart, Indiana
Theodore Knickerbocker, Leadville, Colorado

On one hand, the probate notice mentions Sally Ann Owens, who was not named in the will. (As we will show later, Sarah Ann Owens was the daughter of a Knickerbocker.)

On the other hand, the probate notice ignores Catherine Couse, even though she was mentioned in the will. (From other records, it appears that Catherine's maiden name was Teator. Catherine Teator might have been a niece of Polly Snyder's late husband.)

The probate notice seemed to have focused on descendants of the Knickerbockers. Even Emeline Snyder, who was mentioned in the probate notice, was actually born a Van Benschoten, and was the daughter of a Knickerbocker.

Perhaps Polly Knickerbocker had appropriated of some of her parents' assets. This might have caused someone to contest the will, and cause the probate court to decide that they needed to find all the surviving heirs of John and Anna Knickerbocker.

Regardless of their motivation, the probate court did us a favor by publishing a list of living relatives.

Polly's only living sibling was John Knickerbocker of Argyle, New York. This means that Polly's probate listing lacks any details about the Argyle families. Again, though, we genealogists are lucky. We're still in good shape, thanks to the family bibles that have already been discussed.

Independent Confirmation of the Family Lines

It is easy to confirm many of the names and facts from the bibles, the will, and the probate notice. We will show a few examples.

Henry Knickerbocker (Son of John P. Knickerbocker)

Henry Knickerbocker (1807-1854) is easily traced using census and cemetery records.

For example, the book *Old Graveyards of Dutchess County* shows the tombstone inscriptions for both Henry and his wife Ortentia Hart.

Old Graveslones of Dutchess County

36. Knickerbocker, Henry, 1807-1854;
Ortentia Hart, his wife, 1808, 1870.

1865 NY State Census, Milan, Dutchess Co, NY

Ortentia Knickerbocker	58	F	
Henry Knickerbocker	54	M	Child
William Knickerbocker	31	M	Child
Robert Knickerbocker	17	M	Child
Clarence Knickerbocker	15	M	Child

Henry's wife Ortentia and four of the sons were together in Milan for the 1865 state census.

There is no doubt that the nephews referred to by Polly Snyder were the children of Henry and Ortentia.

Theodore Knickerbocker is the hardest of Henry's sons to trace. Polly Snyder's probate, in 1883, says that Theodore was living in Leadville, Colorado (which was a mining boomtown.)

The 1880 census confirms that Theodore was in Colorado.

1880 Census, Leadville, Colorado

Knickerbocker Theodore	W	M	33	Ortentia	1	Labron
------------------------	---	---	----	----------	---	--------

Sally Ann Owens (daughter of Catherine Knickerbocker and Isaac Crandell)

Polly Snyder's probate notice said that Sally Ann Owens was in northern Iowa. In fact, she was just across the state line, in southern Minnesota.

Her obituary is on Findagrave, from the Mower County Transcript from 27 December of 1905.

She was the only surviving child of Catherine Knickerbocker Crandell.

Mower County Transcript December 27, 1905

At her home in this city, Sunday afternoon, December 24, 1905, of old age, Mrs. Calvin H. Owen, aged 83 years. She was one of the earliest settlers of Lyle township, Sarah Ann Crandell was born in Milan, Duchess county, New York, on May 18, 1822.

She was the only daughter of Isaac and Catherine (Knickerbocker) Crandell, who came to Austin in 1870, and both of whom died here. Her only brother was John S. Crandell who died here on July

14, 1873. She was married to C. H. Owen on January 27, 1846. They settled in Dutchess county until 1856 when he started west to find a permanent home. He came to Decorah and then bought land four miles west of Osage. He also bought land in section 30, Lyle township, the same year. The family moved from New York to the Lyle farm in the fall of 1857, and the home has since been there until about three years ago when they moved into Austin.

John Robinson (husband of Margery Knickerbocker)

As expected based on Polly Snyder's probate file, John Robinson was in the Sailor's Home in the 1880 census:

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Wilkeson gold mining, in the County of Nevada, State of Nevada, enumerated by me on the 2 day of June, 1880.

Superintendent of Census James Tracy Deputy

Subordinates & Deputy Clerks furnish attached the following table

NAME	SEX	AGE	COLOR	INDUSTRY	EDUCATION	RELIGION	REMARKS
Robinson John	M	48	W	Farmer	V		
Saia		19					Resident

The Van Benschoten Family

The connection between the Knickerbockers and the Van Benschotens is easily proven.

Polly Snyder's will mentioned her nephew Egbert Van Benschoten.

Egbert was the son of fMargaret Knickerbocker.

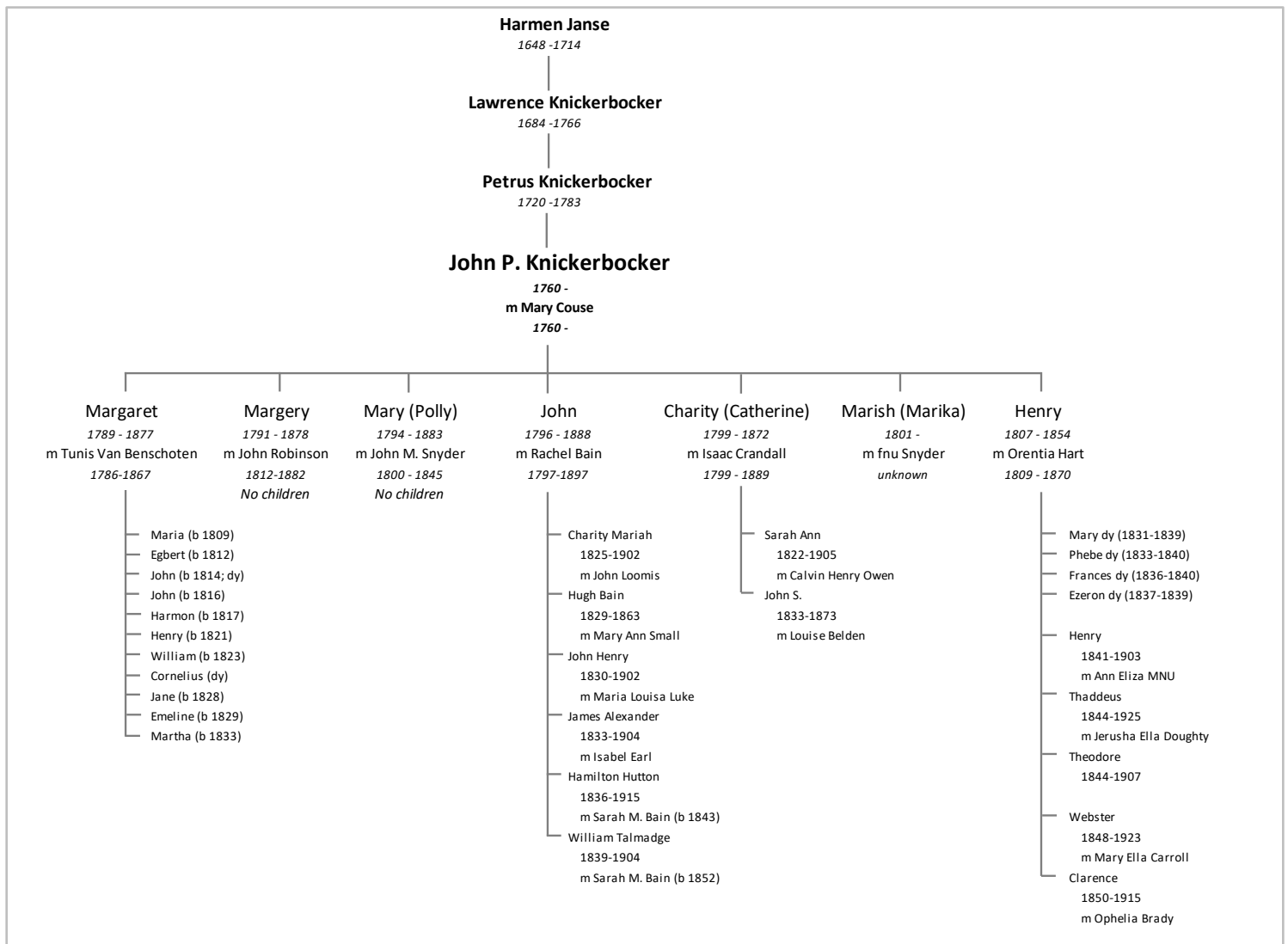


Conclusion

It can be hard to trace the Knickerbockers who were born in the late 1700's.

In this case, though, it's easy. This is one of the best documented Knickerbocker lines from that time period.

The overall family is shown below.



Appendix: **The Third (Incorrect) Entry in DAR Records**

Old Knickerbocker bibles are scarce. Only about a dozen have ever been reported.

An amazing fact: The DAR has three bibles that relate to the family of John P. Knickerbocker and Anna Maria Couse.

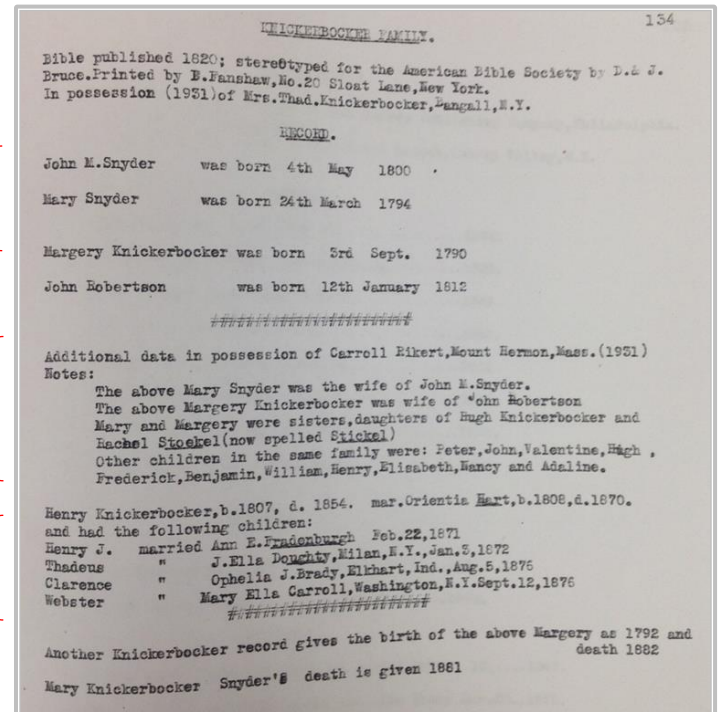
So far, we have emphasized the two bibles that were in the possession of Howard Knickerbocker Henry. Now we will show the third one. This one needs to be treated with caution.

In 1931, there was a bible in the possession of Mrs. Thaddeus Knickerbocker of Bengall, New York. We can tell from the location and from census records that this must have been Jerusha Ella (Doughty) Knickerbocker, the widow of Thaddeus Knickerbocker. (Thaddeus was the son of Henry Knickerbocker and Ortentia Hart.)

The first part of this appears to be reasonable (although John Robinson was called John Robertson). These might actually have been entered into a family bible.

The problem is the "Additional data in the possession of Carroll Rickert." It claims that these were children of Hugh Knickerbocker and Rachel Stickle.

The information related to Henry is more reasonable. This makes sense, since the book was in the possession of J. Ella (Doughty) Knickerbocker, who is mentioned.



The "additional data" was wrong. It came from a man named Carroll Rickert, who was born in Dutchess County and later became an instructor at an exclusive school in Massachusetts. It doesn't appear that Mr. Rickert was a close relative of any Knickerbockers. However, Mr. Rickert apparently was aware of a book called Little Nine Partners. That book reported the same misinformation about the family of Hugh Knickerbocker, including the incorrect claim that Hugh married a "Rachel Stickle."

In the end, this third bible doesn't add or detract from our story.