

Knickerbockers in Amenia, Dutchess Co, NY Descendants of Harmanus Knickerbocker (the son of Lawrence)

Updated 8 Aug 2019. (The table on page 4 has been corrected.)

Bryan Knickerbocker

This report discusses the Knickerbockers who once resided in Amenia, Dutchess County, New York. These were descendants of Lawrence Knickerbocker of Tivoli.

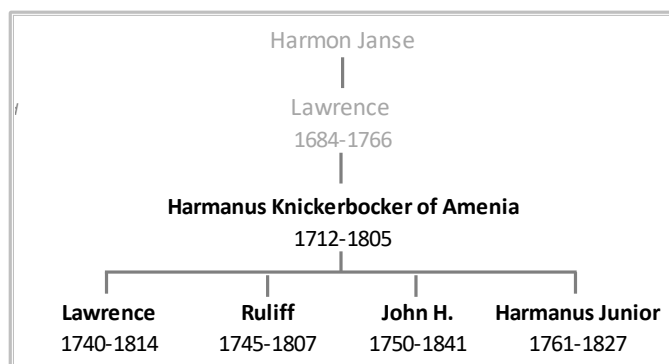
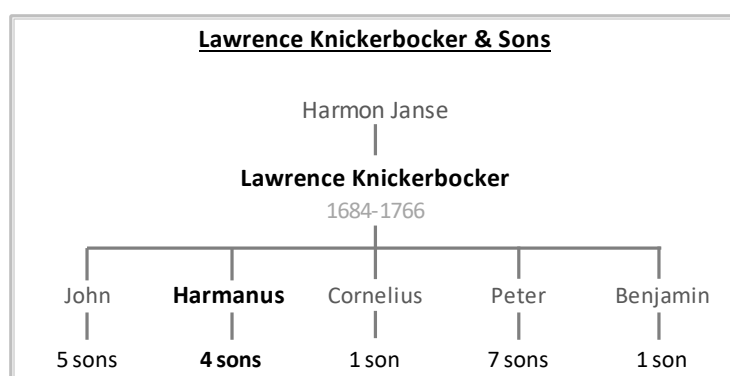
Our focus is on the parts of this story that have not been accurately reported by sources such as NYGBR, Ancestry, and FamilySearch.

Overview

Most Knickerbockers who are alive today are descended from Lawrence Knickerbocker (1684-1766), who died in Tivoli, New York.

The reason that so many of us are descended from Lawrence is that he had five sons, and each of the five sons then had sons of their own.

This report will briefly mention all five of Lawrence's sons.

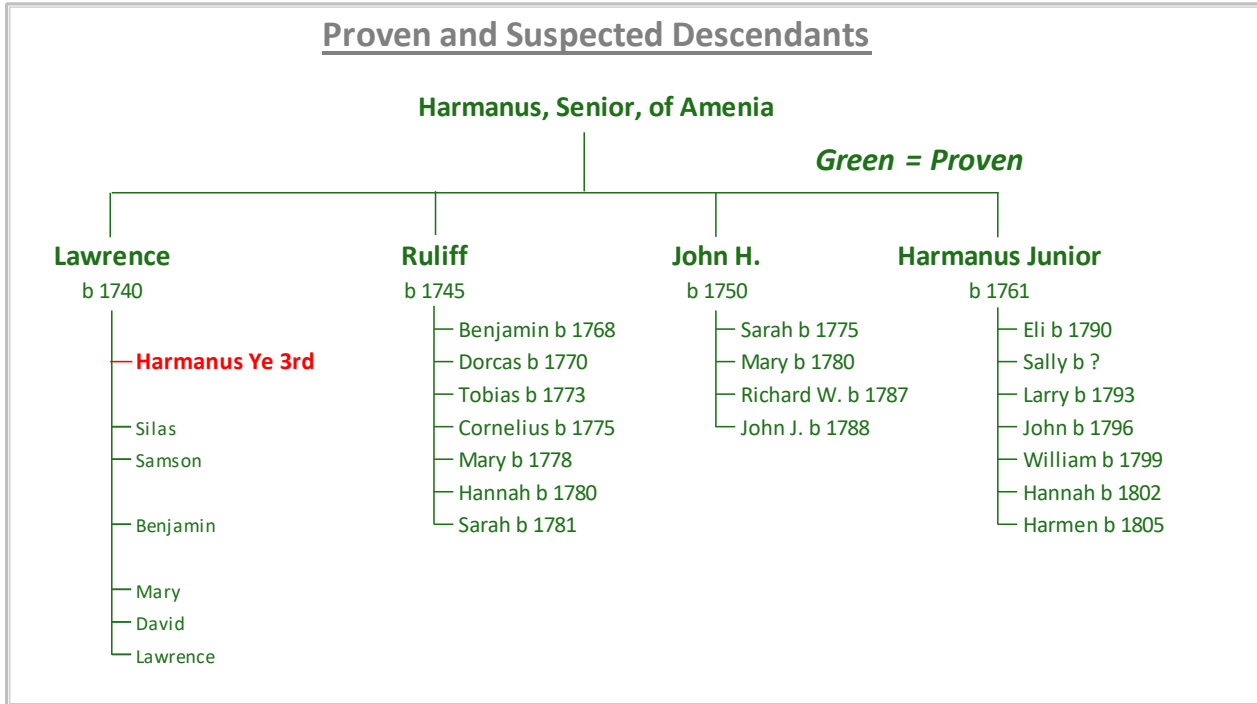


Most of this report is focused on Lawrence's son Harmanus Knickerbocker of Amenia, New York.

Harmanus had 4 sons. This report discusses each of these four sons in great detail.

Notice that this tree includes only two men named Harmanus Knickerbocker (Harmanus, born in 1712, and Harmanus Junior, born in 1761.) This is a critical detail.

Shown below, in green, are the proven descendants of the four sons of Harmanus Knickerbocker. Also shown is a single name, in red. This is the third "Harmanus" who shows up in the 1790 census in Amenia.

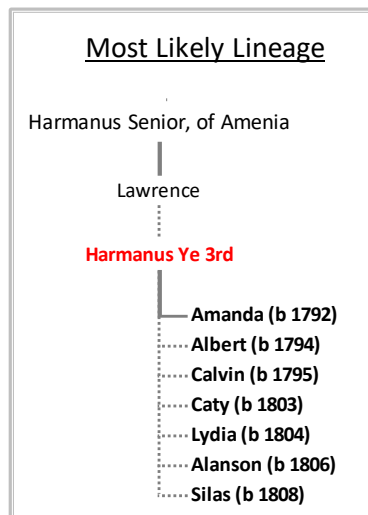


In the tree above, the three men named “Harmanus” are Harmanus senior, Harmanus Junior, and the man we have highlighted in red, called Harmanus Ye 3rd.

Amenia census results are a big part of this story. For example, shown here are the three men named Harmanus Knickerbocker in Amenia in 1790. The census taker numbered them as ye 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The numbering is discussed in detail on pages 23 and 24 of this report.

Amenia, 1790

James M. Hare	1 st
Harmanus Knickerbocker	
Matthew Van Dusen	
Amos Willcox	
John Jones	
Thomas Cowey	
Abraham Cowey	
Nathaniel Cowey	
John Benedict Spurr	
John Knickerbocker	
Justus Doolittle	
Joseph Mott	
Henry Mott	
Elizabeth Stevens	
John Angley	
Abel Knickerbocker	
Harmanus Knickerbocker	2 nd
Samuel Woolsey	
James Brinkman	
Harmanus Knickerbocker	3 rd



Amenia also had a handful of other Knickerbockers who could be considered as the “mystery Knickerbockers of Amenia.” This group includes Amanda, Albert, Calvin, Caty, Lydia, Silas, and Alanson Knickerbocker.

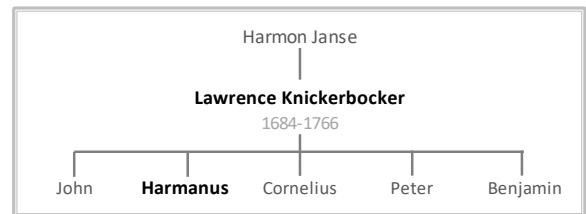
In this report, we will show why we believe that Harmanus Ye 3rd is the link that resolves several mysteries.

Background: **The Sons of Lawrence Knickerbocker (1684-1766)**

Lawrence Knickerbocker was the second son of Harmen Janse. Lawrence spent his adult years near Tivoli, along the Hudson River, where he owned a farm.

Lawrence also had a link to Salisbury Connecticut. In about 1730, Lawrence purchased land in the wilderness that later became Salisbury, Connecticut. We don't think that Lawrence ever lived in Connecticut for any length of time. Instead, it appears that Lawrence travelled back and forth between his two properties. Lawrence probably took the 30 mile trip from Tivoli to Salisbury many times.

Lawrence's five sons probably travelled with him during their teen and early adult years.



It's not surprising that four of Lawrence's sons (Peter, Cornelius, Benjamin, and John) settled and were later buried along the route that they probably knew well.

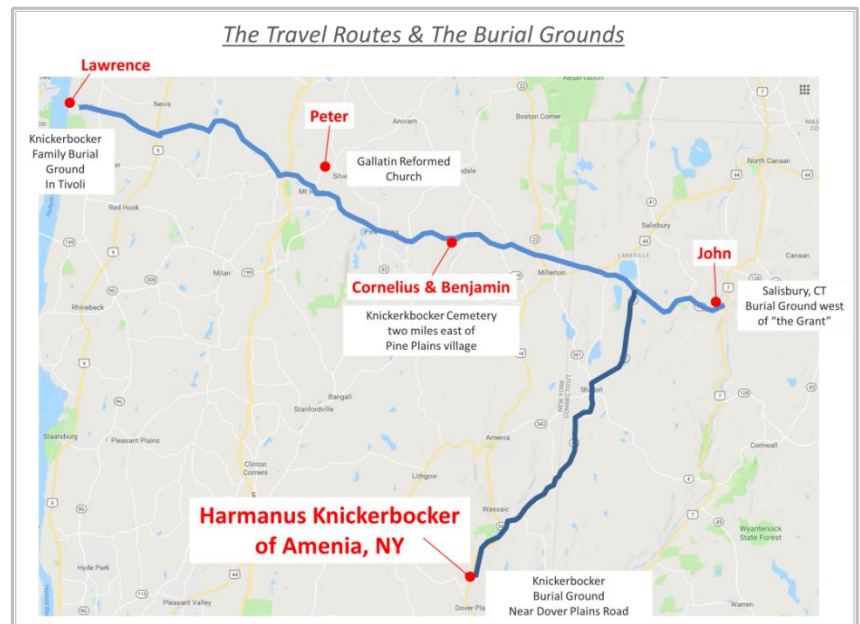
At first, Harmanus Knickerbocker appeared to be the exception. He settled and died in Amenia, which is about 15 miles farther south. Now, though, we realize that Harmanus fits the story quite nicely.

It turns out that Harmanus lived for several years in Salisbury before migrating to Amenia.

The lighter blue line on this map is the main route from Tivoli to Salisbury.

The darker blue line, running south, is the route from Salisbury to Amenia.

Today these are paved roads, but we are confident that our ancestors used the same general routes. (These routes follow the natural contours of the land. Even today, nobody wants to cross the steep hills during the snowy winters.)



The towns along these blue lines were the fertile crescent for the Knickerbockers. The vast majority of Knickerbockers who are alive today are descended from Lawrence. Therefore, the vast majority of Knickerbockers should be able to trace themselves back to the towns along this migration path.

Show below is an update on a table that we've used before. This table now reflects what we've learned as part of this research. (This report identified 2 additional people: **Harmanus #3** and another **Benjamin**).

Lawrence had 5 sons. So far, we have identified 18 grandsons, and 65 great grandsons. The list is shown below. Note that this is a work in progress.

Great Grandsons of Lawrence Knickerbocker (following only the male lines)
Updated August 2019

Sons of Lawrence	Grandsons of Lawrence ***	Great Grandsons of Lawrence ***	Contribution to List of Great GS
Benjamin	Benjamin Jr.	Peter B., Henry	2
Cornelius	John C.	Peter J., Samuel, Cornelius, Benjamin J., John P., Walter	6
Harmanus (#1)	Lawrence	Harmanus (#3) , Lawrence Jr, David, Benjamin	14
	Ruliff	Benjamin , Tobias, Cornelius	
	John H.	Richard W., John J.	
	Harmanus (#2)	Eli, Larry, John, William, Harmen	
John	Abraham	Thomas, Darius, Solomon	17
	Lawrence	Samuel, John, Salmon	
	Harmen	John, Bartholomew	
	Isaac	Cornelius, Jeremiah, Reuben	
	Solomon	David, James, William, Walter, Henry, Alvin	
Peter	Philip	Petrus, John, Philip Jr., Benjamin D.	26
	Lawrence	William, Peter L., John L., James	
	Peter	Abraham, Peter P., David, Isaac, Jacob	
	Benjamin	Unknown	
	James	Peter , Hugh, James	
	John P.	John, Henry	
	Hugh	Peter H., John H., Valentine, Hugh Jr., Frederick, Benjamin, Henry, William	

5 sons

18 grandsons

65 great grandsons

*** This table only considers the male lines, i.e. the men whose name was "Knickerbocker"

By 1800, roughly three quarters of all the Knickerbockers on Earth were descended from Lawrence. This is because Lawrence had so many sons, grandsons, and so on.

For example, consider Lawrence's older brother Johannes. Johannes only had 4 great grandsons named "Knickerbocker" (William W, Harmen, John, and Abraham). In terms of propagating the Knickerbocker family name, Lawrence outperformed Johannes by a score of 65 to 4.

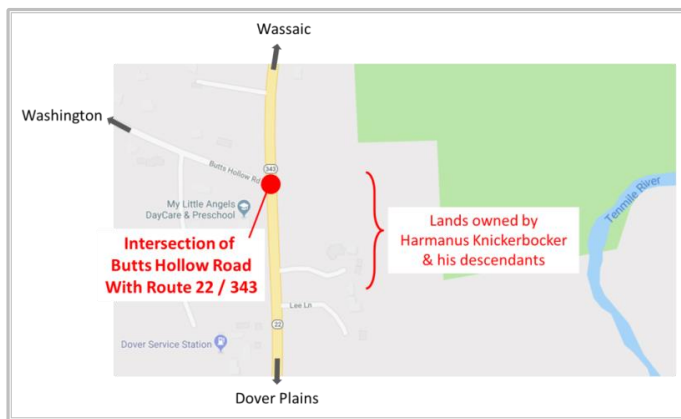
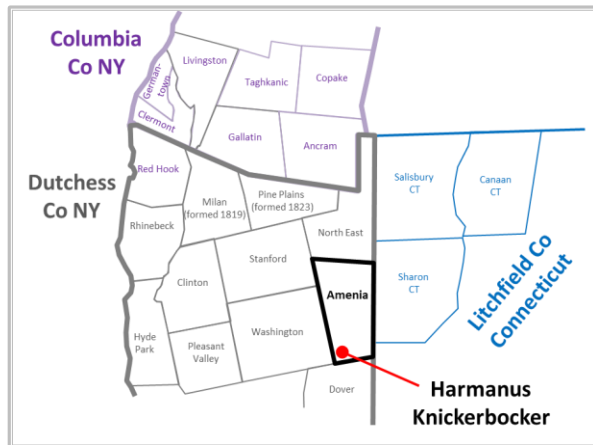
This is a highly simplified analysis, but it illustrates why so many of us are descended from Lawrence.

Background: **Amenia, New York**

We will use the word “Amenia” many times in this report. We are using this word loosely.

The township of Amenia is large, covering about 40 square miles. There is also a small village called Amenia within the larger township of Amenia.

In this report, we don't care about the large township or the small village. Instead, we are focused on a tiny slice of land where Harmanus Knickerbocker and his descendants lived.



To be more specific, this story takes place at the intersection of Butts Hollow Road and Route 22 (also known as Route 343).

This is where Harmanus Knickerbocker Senior had his farm.

The area near this intersection was center of the family for their entire stay in Amenia.

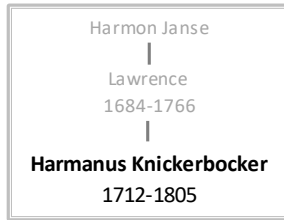
In earlier times, parts of Route 22 were called the Sharon Road, because this was an easy route to Sharon and then Salisbury.

Butt's Hollow Road heads to the west and soon crosses the line into Washington Township. Some of the Knickerbockers in our story briefly meandered slightly west of Amenia, into Washington Township.

There were two small burial grounds on land owned by the Knickerbockers. Today these are sometimes referred to as the burial grounds on Dover Plains road. The two burial grounds were near this intersection.

There have been various claims that Knickerbockers owned land in “South Amenia” as early as 1711. Those claims are probably not true. Nobody has ever shown an actual deed. In fact, “Amenia” didn't even exist in 1711, much less “South Amenia.” The area was still a wilderness, and was just starting to be explored and surveyed by a set of proprietors. There is no record of any Knickerbockers being involved with the early proprietors.

Harmanus Knickerbocker of Salisbury and Amenia



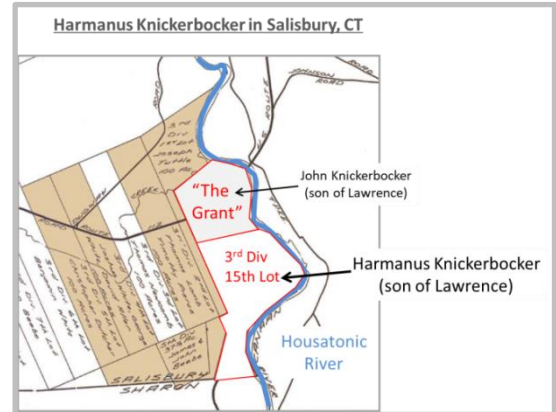
Harmanus Knickerbocker Senior (1712-1805) was probably born somewhere near where the Tivoli Library stands today.

In the 1750's, Harmanus lived in Salisbury Connecticut.

We know about Harmanus' time in Connecticut this for two reasons.

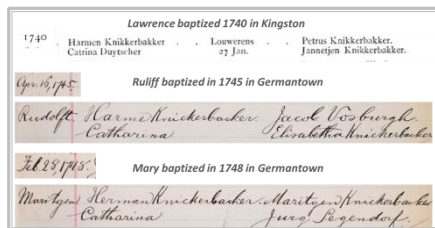
First is because his father Lawrence sold him the 3rd Division, 15th lot, which was described as touching the southern edge of Lawrence's other land (where John Knickerbocker lived out his adult years.) This map shows the location of Harmanus' lot.

Second is because Harmanus shows up in a court records in 1758. It's not clear whether he was in financial trouble, but it appears that he gave up his land in Salisbury, perhaps in exchange for land in Amenia.



Harmanus Senior arrived in Amenia in about 1758, and remained in Amenia for the rest of his life.

Harmanus had six children who survived him: Lawrence, Ruliff, Mary, John, Harmanus Junior, and Lydia. We know the approximate birth years for several of the children.



Baptism records exist for Lawrence (1740), Ruliff (1745), and Mary (1748).

John was born before about 1750. (We know this because he married in 1771.)

Harmanus Junior was born about 1762. (He stated in a deposition that he was 62 years old, as of May 1824.)

We do not know when Lydia was born.

We do not know exactly where Harmanus' children were born. The oldest ones were probably born near Tivoli. His youngest son Harmanus Junior was probably born in Amenia.

Harmanus left a will, which was proved in 1805. Harmanus' will named his six surviving children. The will of Harmanus Senior was short, but it was also complicated. In particular, the treatment of his son Ruliff was interesting.

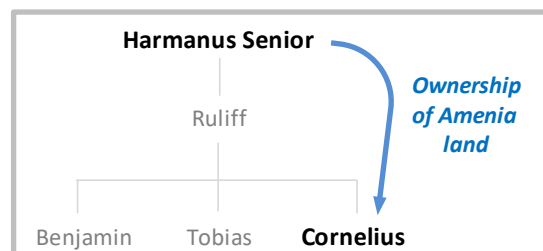
<u>Person</u>	<u>Inheritance</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Wife Elizabeth	Profits from half of the farm. Use of the newer half of the house. Also some furnishings.	<i>This was his 2nd wife. She was not the mother of his children.</i>
Son Lawrence	Profits from half of the farm during Elizabeth's remaining life. Also one third of real estate & personal property	<i>Lawrence was given more than his brothers. He was oldest, and was probably living with his father (in the old half of the house)</i>
Son John	One third of real estate & personal property	<i>John did almost as well as Lawrence</i>
Son Ruliff	Ruliff was given one third of the real estate, but in name only. Ruliff didn't get title to the land. The land was to be held for Ruliff's youngest son Cornelius.	<i>Ruliff didn't receive title to any land. Neither did his sons Benjamin and Tobias, who were completely bypassed.</i>
Grandson Moses Butt	33 pounds, to be paid out of Ruliff's share of the estate	<i>Nobody has ever figured this one out. Who was Moses Butt, and why was Ruliff assigned responsibility for paying him?</i>
Son Harmanus	25 pounds. (No real estate.)	<i>Harmanus Junior got less than his brothers</i>
Daughters Mary & Lydia	20 pounds each, plus household goods	<i>It was common, in those days, for daughters to receive very little.</i>

The most interesting sections of the will involve Ruliff. There must have been something odd going on between Harmanus Senior, Ruliff, and Ruliff's sons.

Ruliff was given one third of the real estate, but with an odd twist. Ownership of the land went to Ruliff's son Cornelius. This explains why Ruliff never shows up in any land records, and apparently didn't bother to make up a will.

This also explains why Cornelius wound up as the patriarch of the Amenia Knickerbockers.

Cornelius was handed ownership of the family farm. Cornelius' older brothers were skipped over.

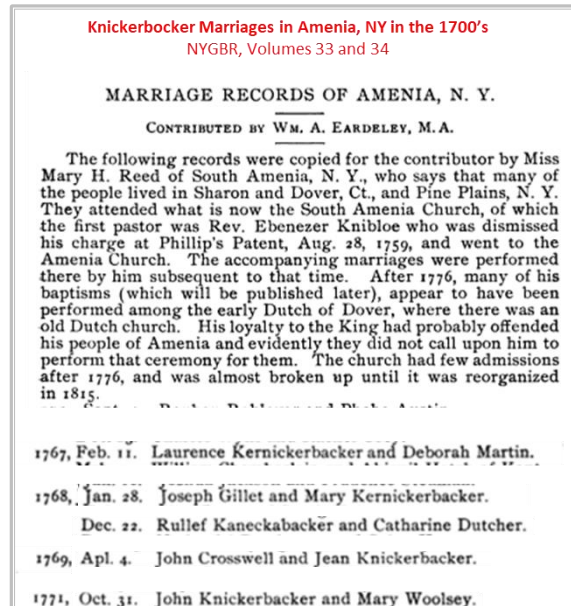


There is also a grandson, Moses Butt, who nobody has ever traced. Moses Butt received more cash than Mary, Lydia, or Harmanus Junior. The cash was to be paid by Ruliff. This seems odd.

The life of Ruliff Knickerbocker will be discussed in a separate report.

The Daughters of Harmanus Knickerbocker, Senior

The will of Harmanus Knickerbocker Senior mentioned two daughters, Mary and Lydia. There was also another daughter, Jane, who reached adulthood but died before her father.

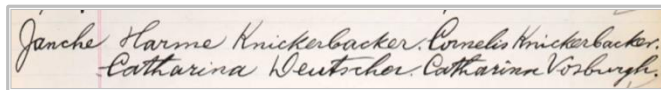


Marriage records for both Mary and Jane have been found.

We are lucky to have a few marriage records from Amenia.

However, as noted in this NYGBR article, the church where the Knickerbockers belonged went through some tough times. There are very few surviving records from this church.

Jane is the easiest daughter to trace. She was baptized in 1742 in Reyn Beeck. Jane married John Crosswell, but died soon thereafter.



Jane is buried near her father. The grave of Joseph Gillett is in the same cemetery.

Burying Grounds of Sharon, Connecticut, Amenia and North East, New York (1903)

Burying ground on the Belden farm between Wassaic and Dover:
CROFUELL, Jane, wife of John, d. Feb. 15, 1781, in her 39th yr.
GILLETT, Joseph, d. Oct. 25, 1770, in his 30th yr.
GILLETT, Joseph, s. of Joseph and Mary, d. Nov. 18, 1769, ae. 10 mos., 9 dys

Mary is very hard to trace. Her husband Joseph Gillett died shortly after they were married. Their son Joseph Junior is also there. However, we don't know what happened to Mary.

Lydia is also very hard to trace. She might be the "Lydia" who married Albert Finch and moved to Michigan. However, this is unproven. (The only real evidence is that she might have named her son Tobias Finch.)

Harmanus Knickerbocker's Heirs Sell Off Part of the Farm

The primary heirs of Harmanus Senior were his sons Lawrence, John, and Ruliff, and also his grandson, Cornelius.

Harmanus Senior died in 1805. Soon thereafter, some of Harmanus Senior's land was sold to the Belding family.

Unfortunately, there are no deeds in the years around 1806 that tell us what parts of the Knickerbocker land were sold off.

However, 100 years later, this shows up in the Dutchess County index.

1906	Charles A.				Knight			
	Eva L.				"	James L. Haight	347	188
		John H			Knickerbocker	Joseph Belding		491
		Lawrence			Knickerbocker	" "		496
		Cornelius			Knickerbocker	" "	348	1
		Cornelius Lawrence Ralph			Knickerbocker	" "		308

The Belding family apparently didn't bother to record the deeds until 100 years later, when they began to sell off the land. (Such things were common in those days. Deeds were often viewed as a private matter between neighbors, and were often stuffed into a drawer somewhere.)

Unfortunately deeds from 1906 are not available on line. Somebody needs to visit the county clerk's office and copy these deeds.

We believe that two parcels of Harmanus Senior's lands were sold off. One parcel was near Ten Mile River on the east side of what is now called Route 22. The other parcel was on the west side of Route 22, south of Harmanus Senior's main house along Butts Hollow Road.

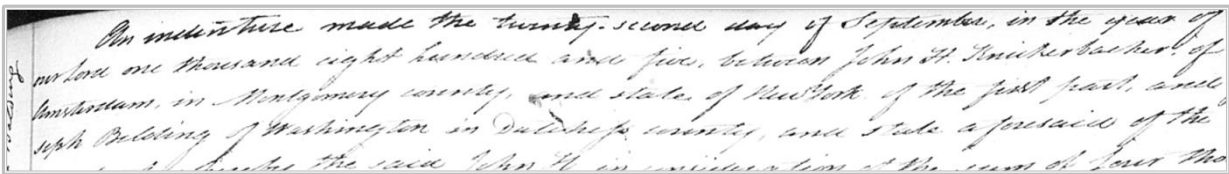
As we will discuss, John and Lawrence took their profits and moved west.

John H. Knickerbocker of Perinton, Monroe County, New York
Son of Harmanus Knickerbocker of Amenia

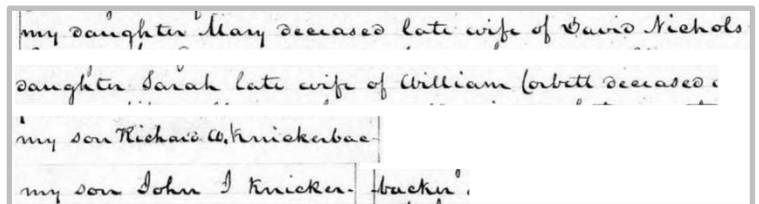
One of the easiest parts of the Amenia story involves John H. Knickerbocker, the son of Harmanus Knickerbocker. There are no mysteries here, because John left a series of very clear records.

John Knickerbocker's story is straightforward. We will only touch on the highlights.

John left Amenia and settled in the town that eventually became known as Perinton, Monroe County. When John bought his land, he took a mortgage from one of his old neighbors, Joseph Belding of Washington, Dutchess County.

A snippet of a handwritten mortgage document. The text is written in cursive and mentions a mortgage of one thousand eight hundred and five dollars, between John H. Knickerbocker of Amenia, in Montgomery county, and state of New York of the first part, and Joseph Belding of Washington in Dutchess county, and state aforesaid of the second part. The date is the 2nd day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and five.

When John died, he left a detailed will that listed his heirs. His two daughters, Mary and Sarah, were already dead. His sons were Richard Knickerbocker and John J. Knickerbocker.

A snippet of a handwritten will. The text is written in cursive and lists the testator's children: my daughter Mary deceased late wife of David Nichols, daughter Sarah late wife of William Corbett deceased, my son Richard W. Knickerbocker, and my son John J. Knickerbocker.

John Knickerbocker's Journey to Perinton

It appears that John did some traveling before he settled in Perinton. In 1850, John's son Richard W. Knickerbocker gave his birth location as Pennsylvania. In the 1850 and 1855 census, John's son John H. Knickerbocker of Perinton gave his birth location as Pennsylvania. Both sons, Richard W. and John J., were born in the late 1780's. Thus, we believe that John Knickerbocker spent some time in Pennsylvania in the late 1780's before returning to New York.

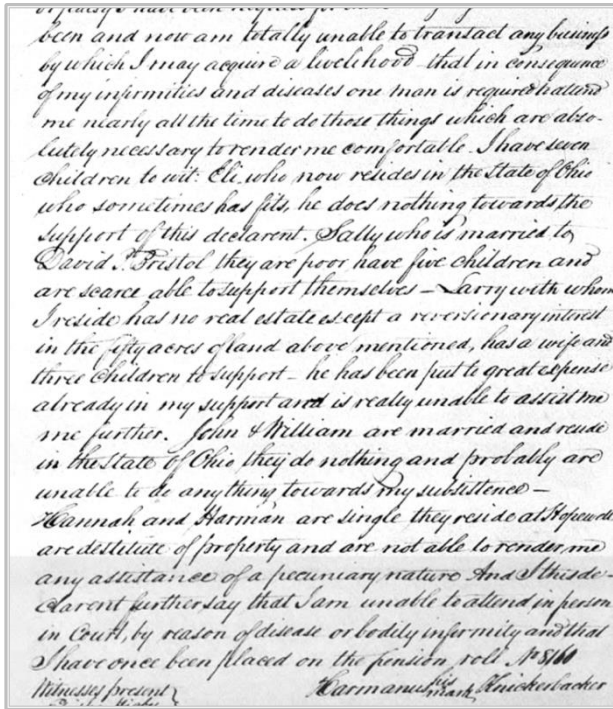
In 1805, John's mortgage said he was "of Montgomery County NY."

Although we don't know the exact details, it is clear that John did some traveling.

Harmanus Knickerbocker Junior of Ontario County, New York Son of Harmanus Knickerbocker of Amenia

Next we will tackle Harmanus Junior, the son of Harmanus Senior. The story of Harmanus Junior is straightforward.

Harmanus Junior filed for a military pension based on service during the Revolutionary War. Shown here is a portion of Harmanus' application, in his own words.



been and now am totally unable to transact any business of which I may acquire a livelihood. that in consequence of my infirmities and diseases one man is required to attend me nearly all the time to do those things which are absolutely necessary to render me comfortable. I have two children to wit: Eli who now resides in the state of Ohio who sometimes has fits, he does nothing towards the support of this declarant. Sally who is married to David Bristol they are poor have five children and are scarce able to support themselves - Larry with whom I reside has no real estate except a reversionary interest in the fifty acres of land above mentioned, has a wife and three children to support - he has been put to great expense already in my support and is really unable to assist me further. John & William are married and reside in the state of Ohio they do nothing and probably are unable to do anything towards my subsistence - Hannah and Harman are single they reside at Hopewell are destitute of property and are not able to render me any assistance of a pecuniary nature. And I this declarant further say that I am unable to attend in person in Court, by reason of disease or bodily infirmity and that I have once been placed on the pension roll. P.S.M.

Witness my hand
Harmanus Knickerbocker

I have seven children to wit: **Eli**, who now resides in the state of Ohio who sometimes has fits, he does nothing towards the support of this declarant. **Sally** who is married to David Bristol they are poor have five children and are scarce able to support themselves - **Larry** with whom I reside has no real estate except a reversionary interest in the fifty acres of land above mentioned, has a wife and three children to support - he has been put to great expense already in my support is really unable to assist me further. **John** and **William** are married and reside in the state of Ohio they do nothing and probably are unable to do anything towards my subsistence - **Hanna** and **Harmen** are single they reside at Hopewell are destitute of property and are not able to render me any assistance

Harmanus Knickerbocker Junior's Journey to Hopewell

It appears that Harmanus Junior did some travelling before settling in Ontario County.

Harmanus Junior had a son named Harmen, born in about 1805. In 1855, the younger Harmen reported his birth location as Schoharie County, New York.

Harmanus Junior had a daughter, Hannah, who was born in 1802. In the 1865 and 1875 census, she reported her birth location as Oneida County, New York.

Thus, Harmanus Junior appears to have left Amenia long before the 1810 census. He might even have been gone before 1800. If so, this would explain why there were only two "Harmanus" in the 1800 census in Amenia, and why neither of them was called "Junior."

(We suspect that Harmanus Junior is the same man as "Harmen Knickerbacker" in the 1800 census in Cherry Valley, Otsego County. The family makeup seems to match, but we can't prove the connection.)

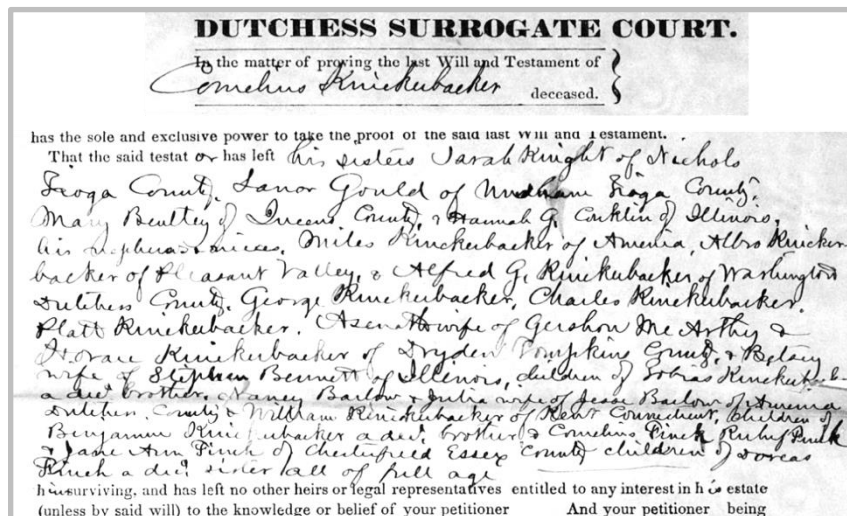
Ruleff Knickerbocker of Amenia, New York
Son of Harmanus Knickerbocker of Amenia

Now we shift to Ruliff Knickerbocker. This story is more complex. As far as we can tell, it has never been fully reported.

The single best source of information comes from the probate file of Ruliff's son Cornelius.

Cornelius died in 1850, and left a 2-page will. Unfortunately, though, his will was poorly written, and his probate process was messy. The surviving portion of the probate file had 140 pages.

This was entered into court records in September, 1850.



In the transcription below, we have highlighted the siblings of Cornelius Knickerbocker.

In the matter of the last will and testament of Cornelius Knickerbocker:

That the said testator has left his **sisters Sarah Knight of Nichols Tioga County, Lanor Gould of Windham Tioga County, Mary Bently of Warren County, Hannah G. Conklin of Illinois,** his nephews & nieces, Miles Knickerbocker of Amenia, Albro Knickerbocker of Pleasant Valley, & Alfred G. Knickerbocker of Washington Dutchess County, George Knickerbocker, Charles Knickerbocker, Platt Knickerbocker, Arseneth wife of Gershon McArthur & Horace Knickerbocker of Dryden Tompkins County, & Betsey Wife of Stephen Bennet of Illinois, children of **Tobias Knickerbocker a dead brother**, Nancy Barlow & Julia wife of Jesse Barlow of Amenia, Dutchess County, & William Knickerbocker of Kent Connecticut, children of **Benjamin Knickerbocker a dead brother** & Cornelius Finch, Ruluf Finch, & Jane Ann Finch of Chesterfield Essex County children of **Dorcas a dead sister**, all of full age

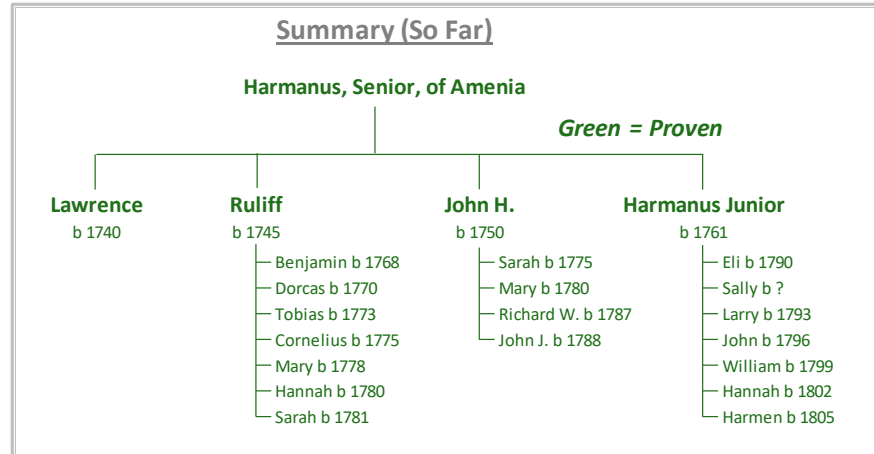
Thus, we know that Ruliff had three sons (Benjamin, Tobias, and Cornelius) and five daughters (Sarah, Lanor, Mary, Hannah, and Dorcas).

The story so far: **John, Harmen Junior, and Ruliff**

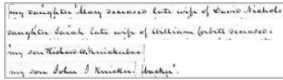
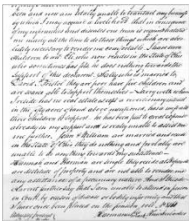

We have covered three of the sons of Harmanus Knickerbocker, Senior.

This partial tree summarizes the story.

These are the children of Ruliff, John, and Harmanus Junior.



The records that we have shown are very clear. For each of these families, there was one record that listed all of the children.

<u>Son of Harmanus Sr</u>	<u>Key document that lists his children</u>
John H.	John's Will 
Harmanus Junior	Harmanus' Affidavit 
Ruliff	Son Cornelius' Probate Record 

There is no reason to believe that we have missed any children of Ruliff, John, or Harmanus Junior.

Next we will discuss Lawrence. His situation is more complex.

Hopewell Township, Ontario County, New York

We will soon leave Amenia, and shift our attention to Hopewell, Ontario County.

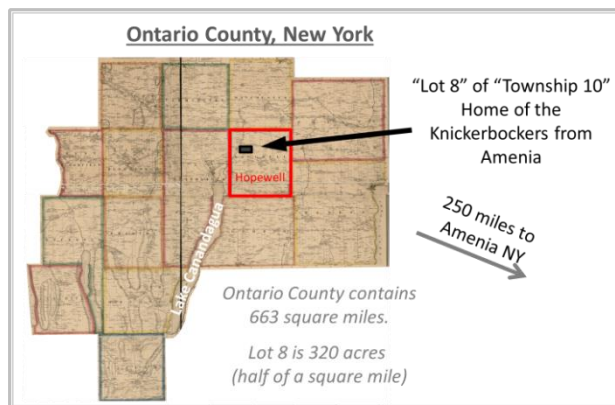
The book "History of Ontario County NY (1893) by George Conover provides useful perspective. Here is a description of how Hopewell was formed:

Gorham was an original town, formed January 27, 1789. ... Manchester was formed [from Gorham] on March 31, 1821 ... Hopewell was formed from Gorham, March 29, 1822.

We will focus on a tiny part of Hopewell. We will discuss "Lot 8 within Township 10 of the Second Range."

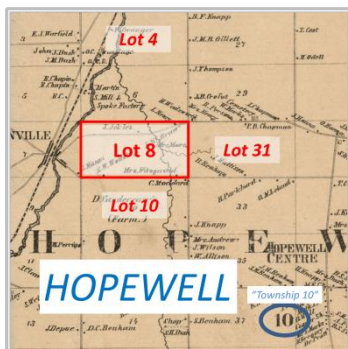
The Ontario County lingo goes back a long way. This area was originally divided up into huge ranges. Within each range were multiple townships. Within each township were specific lots.

There is an excellent county map on the Library of Congress website. It includes all of the township and lot numbers.



Referring again to the book by George Conover:

In the second range, the towns of Gorham, Hopewell, and Manchester comprised, respectively, townships 9, 10, and 11.



Here is the upper left corner of Hopewell. We have put a red border around Lot 8.

We are focusing on this lot because it was purchased by Lawrence Knickerbocker of Amenia in 1807.

Lot 8 contained 320 acres (about half of a square mile.)

On this map we have also labelled several of the lots that are near Lot 8.

Lot 8 was home for Lawrence Knickerbocker of Amenia and several of his children, starting in 1807. Lawrence's brother Harmen Junior joined him in about 1809.

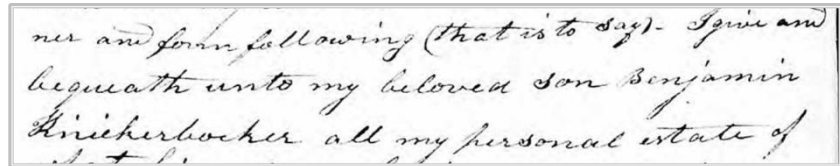
In later sections of this report, we will show that Lots 4 and 31 eventually became the homes of other Knickerbockers from Amenia.

Lawrence Knickerbocker of Ontario County, New York
Son of Harmanus Knickerbocker of Amenia

Lawrence Knickerbocker is more difficult to trace than his brothers.

There are many different historic records, but none of them tell the entire story of his family.

For example, Lawrence Knickerbocker left a will, but it only mentioned his son Benjamin.



Most wills tended to list the children in order of birth. Here, though, we have nothing to go on. The lack of an extensive will, and the lack of probate records, handicaps us in terms of both the names and ages of the children.

This means we have to do a lot of hunting. Here is a list of records for Lawrence's children, in roughly the order of their birth.

Children of Lawrence Knickerbocker: Scattered Records

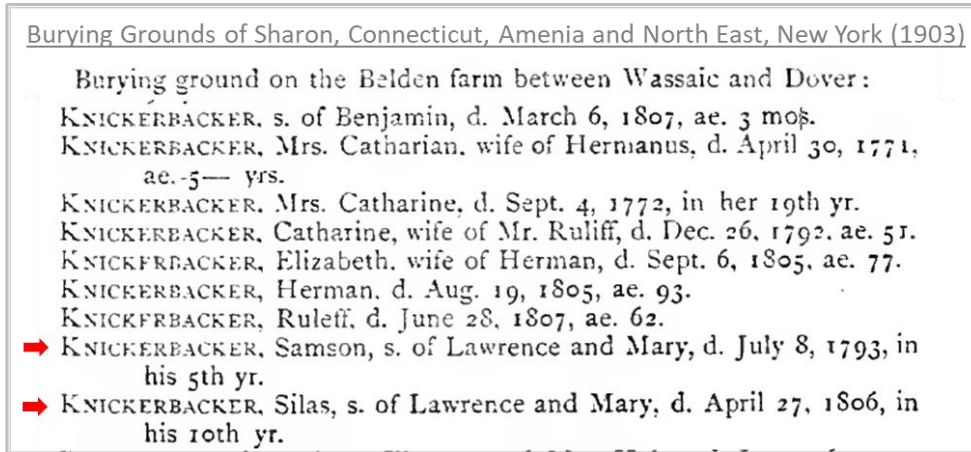
<u>Son of Lawrence</u>	<u>Mentioned in</u>
Harmanus Ye 3 ^d ?	Probably the oldest son, but he and Lawrence were never mentioned in the same document
Lawrence Junior	Deed mentioning "my son"
David	Deed mentioning "my son"
Mary	Deed mentioning "my daughter"
Benjamin	Deed mentioning "my son" & Will mentioning "my son"
Samson	Tombstone
Silas	Tombstone

We can prove the names of six of Lawrence's children. We will show the records one at a time.

We believe that "Harmanus Ye 3rd" of Amenia was the oldest son of Lawrence, but can't prove it. He will be discussed later.

Tombstones for Samson and Silas

Lawrence had two sons who died young. This is based on tombstone inscriptions.



Wives of Lawrence Knickerbocker

Lawrence might have been married twice.

Lawrence married Deborah Martin on February 11, 1767, in the Amenia church. (The marriage records in Amenia were shown earlier.) However, the tombstones shown above say that his wife was “Mary.”

There are two possibilities. One possibility is that Deborah Martin’s middle name was Mary. The other possibility is that Deborah Martin died sometime before about 1783.

1800: Lawrence in Amenia

We know that Lawrence was in Amenia in the years from 1799 to 1803. During these years we have property tax records for Amenia. (We don’t know anything about the years before 1799, or after 1803.)

Lawrence was taxed based on owning “personal property” which presumably meant horses or cattle. He did not own any land.

The tax records from 1800 are the most descriptive. Lawrence Knickerbocker had a small amount of personal property, and paid 30 cents in taxes.

1800 Taxes in Amenia	Description of Property	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Total	Tax
Herman Knickerbacker	House, Mill, & Land	\$3,953	\$221	\$4,174	\$8.34
Lawrence Knickerbacker	---	0	\$151	\$151	\$0.30

The 1800 census shows that Harmanus had two families in his household.

1800 Census, Amenia	<u>Males</u>					<u>Females</u>					Total
	<10	to 15	to 25	to 44	45+	< 10	to 15	to 25	to 44	45+	
Harmanus	2	1	1		2	2	1	1	1	2	13

We suspect that Lawrence was living with his elderly father in 1800.

Harmanus Senior's will was written in 1800. It shows that an addition had been put on the house, and that Harmanus and his 2nd wife, Elizabeth, used the south part of the house.

From the will of Harmanus Knickerbocker

to beloved wife Elizabeth ... use and profits from half of all my real and personal estate, also the use of the whole of the south new part of my present dwelling house...

to my son Lawrence the use and profits of the other half of my real and personal estate during the natural life of my said wife ...

According to the will of Harmanus Senior, Lawrence inherited land in Amenia in 1805. He apparently sold his land to the Belden family. However, the deed for this sale was not immediately recorded in county records.

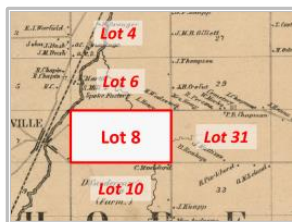
Lawrence took his money and headed west.

1807: Lawrence buys Land in Hopewell

We have already shown that John and Harman Junior took indirect routes on their journey from Amenia to Ontario County.

Lawrence might have gone directly from Amenia to Ontario County.

We know that Lawrence paid taxes in Amenia every year from 1799 to 1803 (which are the only years where there the records exist).



In May of 1807, Lawrence bought a large property in Ontario County containing about 320 acres. He paid \$1,700.

Lawrence bought all of Lot 8 in Hopewell Township (although the name "Hopewell" wasn't adopted until years later).

Each of the children who received land must have been over the age of 21.

Lawrence's wife was already gone by the early 1800's. She was never mentioned in any of the deeds. (Under New York State dower laws, a wife had to be mentioned when her husband sold land.)

Then, in 1809, Lawrence Knickerbocker sold land to a man named Harmen Knickerbocker. The deed did not specify the relationship between the buyer and seller. The deed did not use any colorful language. The deeds also involved significant amounts of money.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Party of 2nd Part</u>	<u>Colorful Language</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 1809	Harmen	None	\$500	Part of Lot #8
"	"	"	"	"

Harmen bought a total of 150 acres for a total of \$1,000

We are confident that these transactions were between Lawrence Knickerbocker and his brother, Harmanus Knickerbocker Junior.

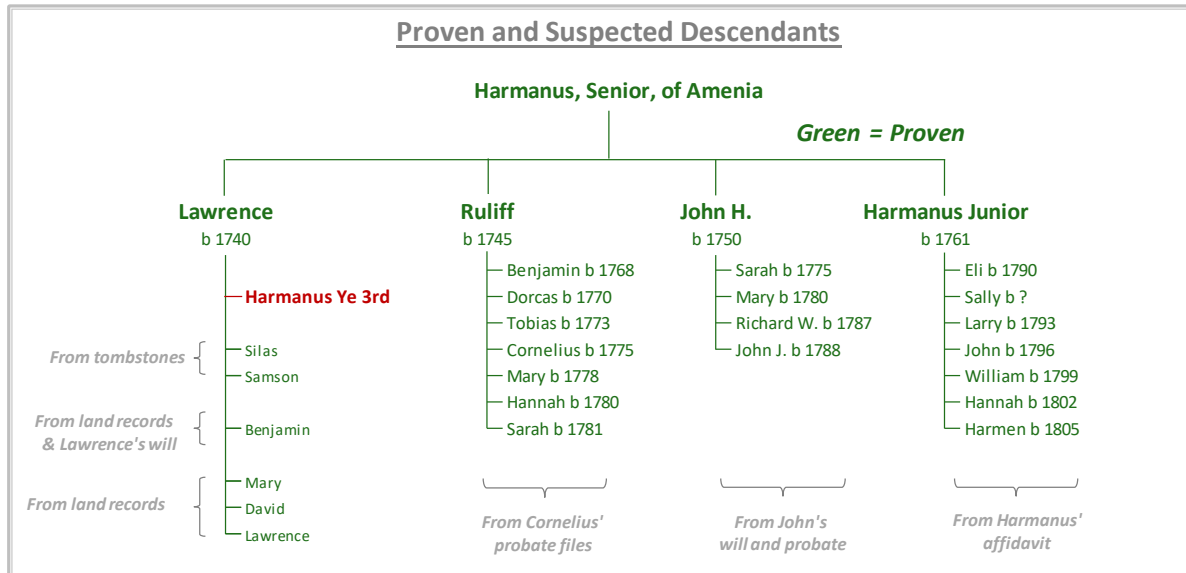
In 1807, Lawrence had paid just over \$5 per acre. In 1809, he charged Harmen just over \$6 per. It looks like Lawrence made a slight profit from his brother, but we can't be sure. Perhaps Harmen bought the nicer part of the property.

Later, in 1811, David and Benjamin Knickerbocker each sold about 42 acres of land within Lot 8 to an unrelated person. David and Benjamin each received about \$9 per acre. Again, we don't know if those particular parcels were better or worse than the rest of Lot 8. Nonetheless, this suggests shows that Lawrence Knickerbocker's original deal – at \$5 per acre – was reasonable. He apparently didn't get a huge bargain, nor did he grossly overpay.

In his will, Lawrence only mentioned his beloved Benjamin. However, Lawrence didn't totally overlook other children. He had already passed some of his wealth by selling them land for 1 cent each.

The story so far:
We have made progress, but still have huge gaps

The story that we've told so far has a very solid foundation. We have used various documents to prove the connections.



The above tree is more than enough information for most descendants of the Amenia Knickerbockers. For example, if you were descended from John or Harmanus Junior, you could stop reading now.

However, the above tree is incomplete.

So far, we haven't tackled the man we called Harmanus Ye 3rd, who showed up in the 1790 census. This is a huge problem. We cannot claim to understand this family if we ignore the first U.S. census.

There are also a handful of other mysterious Knickerbockers with connections to Amenia.

	<u>Approx Birth</u>	<u>Connection to Amenia</u>
Amanda	1792	Married in Amenia, and lived in Amenia
Albert	1794	Married in Amenia, and took mortgage from Isaac Woolsey of Amenia
Calvin	1795	Bought land from Isaac Woolsey
Lydia	1804	Husband grew up next door to the Knickerbockers of Amenia
Caty	1804	Caty became an apprentice in Amenia in 1813
Alanson	1806	Alanson became an apprentice in Amenia in 1813 and later sold land to Albert and Calvin
Silas	1808	Silas became an apprentice in Amenia in 1815

We will go through the mysteries one a time. The extra Harmanus Knickerbocker is the key to the story, so we will devote several pages to him.

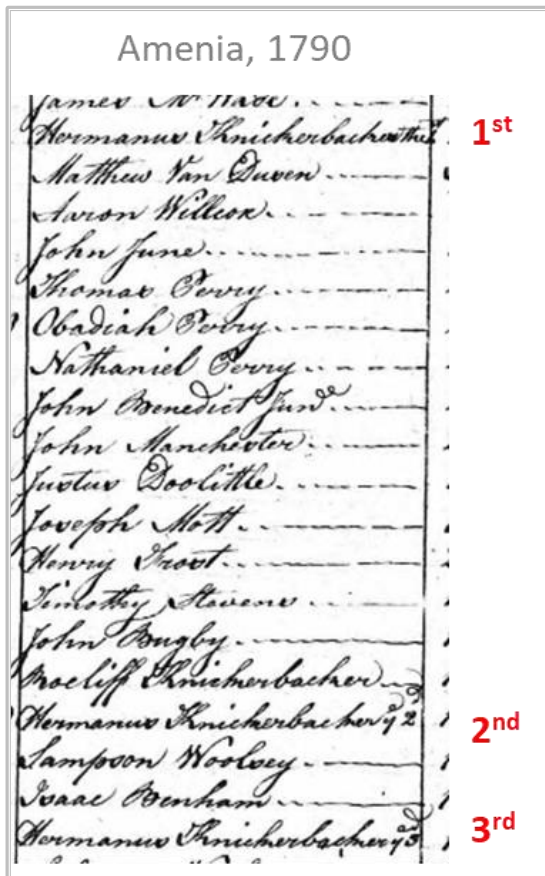
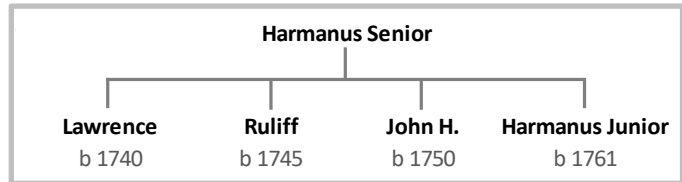
Mystery Number 1: **The extra Harmanus Knickerbocker**

Amenia Had Three Men Names Harmen Knickerbocker

Harmanus Knickerbocker, the patriarch of the Amenia, died in 1805. He left a detailed will. He mentioned his children, and also a grandson, Moses Butts.

This tree shows the sons of Harmanus Senior. We have included the approximate dates of birth for each son.

Notice that the youngest son, Harmanus Junior was about 21 years younger than the oldest son, Lawrence.



The tree above only includes two men named Harmanus Knickerbocker.

However, there were actually three men named Harmanus Knickerbocker in Amenia in 1790.

All three of them were on the same page of the census.

Thus, there is a disconnect between the basic family tree (which had two Harmanus Knickerbockers) and the 1790 census (which had three).

This extra man was heading his own household in 1790, so he was born before about 1770.

Who was the extra man?

Harmen Knickerbocker was a Common Name

The early Knickerbockers were not very creative with first names. There were several men named Harmen Knickerbocker (or variations such as Harman or Harmanus.)

However, we are talking here about 1790. There were very few adult men named Harmen Knickerbocker who could fit into our story.

For example, there was Peter's son Harmen Jansen Knickerbocker, who was born in 1734. Peter's son Harmen had a family has been traced. Peter's son Harmen was living in Rhinebeck for both the 1790 and 1800 census. (The lineage for this person was Harmen Janse / Peter / Harmen Jansen)

There was also Harmen Knickerbocker of Schaghticoke, who was born in 1779. However, he has been traced. There is no sign that he ever left Schaghticoke. (The lineage for this person was Harmen Janse / Johannes / Johannes Jr / Johannes / Harmen.)

There were other Harmen Knickerbockers, but none of them are the right age to fit into the Amenia story.

In a moment, we will dive into the details about the three Harmanus Knickerbockers in the 1790 census. First, though, we need to step back and discuss how census takers did their jobs.

How Did Census Handle Common Names?

During the period that we are discussing, the job of a census taker was simple: He was trying to get a headcount for a specific town.

The census takers didn't care about genealogy, and didn't care about the next town down the road. The census taker in Amenia was only worried about counting heads in Amenia.

As part of his work, the census takers wrote down the name of the head of each household. The census taker also recorded basic information about the number of people in the household. The census taker did not ask about the names of family members, or about anybody's date of birth.

Each census taker had his own way of dealing with common names. The examples we use here are from the census taker in Amenia in 1800.

Shown here are three examples.

First we see Jeremiah Conklin and Jeremiah Conklin Junr. It is clear that this was a father and son. This is just one example. There were many other "Juniors" in Amenia in 1800.

Next we see two men named Thomas Barlow. Presumably the census taker asked the second man if he was the son of the first. When the answer was no, he asked if they knew each other, and which one was younger. The younger one became Ye 2nd. This was an imprecise art, because the census taker was not actually asking everybody for their date of birth.

Finally, we see three men named Jacob Benson. The first household was Ye 1st, but the second household was Ye 3rd. This shows that the census taker was not using arbitrary numbers, but instead was making a stab at which person was older.

Example of Census Taker's Style

1800 Census for Amenia

Census taker used Junior to indicate a father son

	Jeremiah Conklin
	Jeremiah Conklin Jun

Census taker used numbers when it wasn't father and son

	Thomas Barlow
	Thomas Barlow ye 2

Census taker may have tried to number people by age

	Jacob Benson Ye 1 st
	Jacob Benson ye 3
	Jacob Benson ye 2

In the next section we will focus specifically on how the Amenia census takers recorded the common name "Harmanus Knickerbocker."

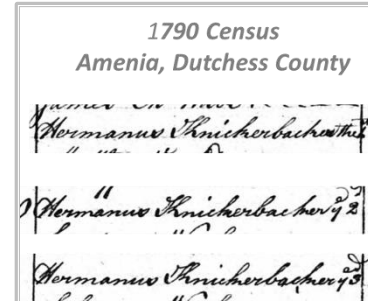
Census Records in 1790 through 1810

We already briefly showed the 1790 census records. Now we will go into more details, covering the years from 1790 to 1810.

1790

Shown here are the three men named Harmanus Knickerbocker.

The labels Ye 2nd and Ye 3rd don't tell us anything about genealogy.



	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>
1790 Amenia	u 16	16+	
Ye 1st	4	3	4
Ye 2nd	1	1	1
Ye 3rd	1	1	1

In 1790, the household of Harmanus Ye 1st was large, with 11 total people.

In 1790, it seems clear that Ye 1st is Harmanus Sr.

The other two, Ye 2nd and Ye 3rd, look like younger families just getting started. Each had one young man under 16. If we had to guess, each of those families was headed by a young man who was born about 1765.

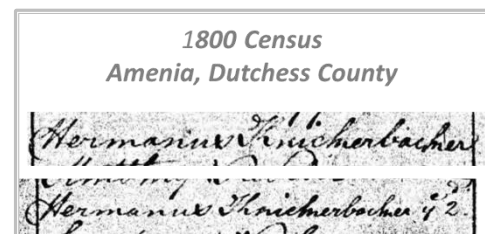
We know from his will that Harmanus Senior had a son, Harmanus Junior. In 1790, Harmanus Junior could be either Ye 2nd or Ye 3rd. (As we will discuss later, we suspect that Ye 2nd and Ye 3rd were born within a few years of each other.)

Thus, at this point, we have a mystery: Who was the third man, perhaps about the same age as Harmanus Junior?

1800

In 1800, we see two Harmanus Knickerbockers in Amenia.

Neither of the two men was called "Junior."



In the 1800 census “Harmanus” had 13 people in the household, including two men over the age of 45. We believe that this household included the man we have been calling Harmanus “Senior” and his son Lawrence. Notice, though, that the census taker did not use “senior” on the census form.

In 1800 “Harmanus ye 2nd” looks like a young but growing family. The oldest male was younger than 45, meaning that he was born after about 1755.

	<u>Males</u>					<u>Females</u>					Total
	<10	to 15	to 25	to 44	45+	< 10	to 15	to 25	to 44	45+	
1800 Amenia											
Harmanus	2	1	1		2	2	1	1	1	2	13
Harmanus ye 2nd	2			1		3			1		7

In 1800, we believe that the man called Ye 2nd was our mystery man. This is because he was called Ye 2nd instead of being called Junior.

1810

By 1810, Harmanus Senior was dead. We have proof of this from the court records related to his will. For example, his will was recorded on October 11, 1805.

Dutchess County ss. Recorded the preceding will of Harmanus Knickerbocker, the certificate of proof thereof and the letters testaining thereon this 11th Day of October 1805
James Facinade, Junr
Surrogate

Also by 1810, Harmanus Junior was Ontario County.

1810 Census
Gorham, Ontario County
Harman Knickerbocker

He wasn't called “Junior” in this census for two reasons. First, because he was the only Harman Knickerbocker heading a household in Gorham. And second, because his father was dead, and he would no longer have been using “junior.” (Note, though, that we will continue to call him “junior” because it makes our story easier to tell.)

The mysterious third Harmanus was still in Amenia.

1810 Census
Amenia, Dutchess County
Herman Knickerbocker

The 1810 census result for Amenia is useful because it is our last look the mystery family.

The family details for the mystery man are shown table below. (Just for reference, we have also included the entries for Harmanus Junior in Ontario County. The Ontario County family had a different composition.)

	Males					Females					Total
	<10	to 15	to 25	to 44	45+	< 10	to 15	to 25	to 44	45+	
1810 Amenia											
Harman	2	2	1		1	2	2			1	11
1810 Ontario Co											
Harman	1	2	3		1	1	2			1	11

For this mysterious family in Amenia in 1810, the oldest male was over 45, meaning that he was born before about 1765.

The mystery family in Amenia in 1810 had nine young people in the house (5 males and 4 females). Several of the young people were under the age of 10.

Summary of 1790 to 1810 Census

Here is our interpretation of the three census forms.

.Harmanus Knickerbocker in the Amenia Census

	<u>1790</u>	<u>1800</u>	<u>1810</u>
Harmen Senior	Harmanus Ye 1st	Harmanus	<i>Not applicable (He died in 1805)</i>
Harmanus Junior	Ye 2nd / Ye 3rd <i>No way to tell which one was which</i>	<i>Not a head of family in Amenia</i>	<i>Ontario County</i>
Mystery Harmen		Harmanus Ye 2nd	Harmanus

We need to emphasize, again, that a census taker's use of Ye 2nd was very different that a census taker's use of Junior.

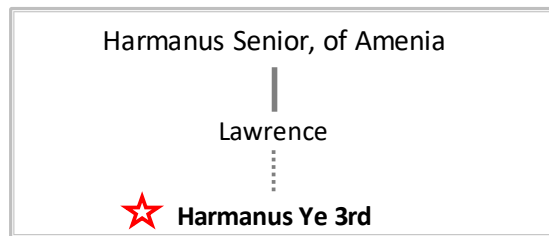
Our mystery man was either Ye 2nd or Ye 3rd in 1790. Then, in 1800, we believe that he was called Ye 2nd (because he was youngest of two, but was not "Junior"). By 1810, he was plain old Harmanus in 1810 (because he was the only one heading a household).

Where does the third Harmanus fit?

We can easily rule out several scenarios related to the third Harmanus.

For example, the third Harmanus cannot be the son of Harmanus Junior. Harmanus Junior was only 29 years old in 1790. (Harmanus Junior's son, Harmen, was born in 1805.)

It is also very unlikely that the third Harmanus was an outsider who just happened to move to Amenia around 1790. There were no other Knickerbockers in the vicinity. And, there were no "Harman Knickerbockers" who fit this person's age.



We see only one spot where Harmanus could fit. He must have been the oldest son of Lawrence.

This would fit well with old Dutch customs.

Lawrence was the oldest son of Harmanus Senior. It would make sense that Lawrence's oldest son was also named Harmanus.

Mystery Number 2: **Amanda [Knickerbocker] Alexander**

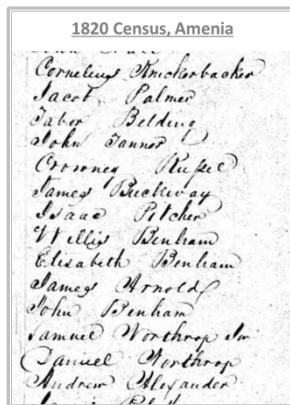
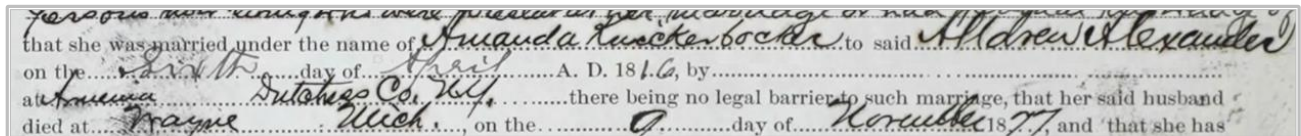
We have shown that there was a mysterious Harmanus Knickerbocker in Amenia and that his household included young people.

The young people couldn't have just all disappeared. We should be able to identify a handful of mysterious young people named Knickerbocker. Ideally, there would only be a few. (If we saw dozens of mysterious youngsters, it would demonstrate a larger problem.)

In reality, we see a handful of mysterious youngsters with ties to Amenia. It seems like we are on the right track.

The most obvious example of the mysteries is a woman named Amanda [Knickerbocker] Alexander (1792-1879) who died in Wayne County, Michigan.

In 1816, Amanda married Andrew Alexander in Amenia. This came from her application for military pension, based on the service of her husband.

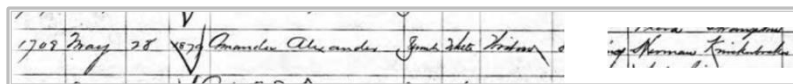


Amanda's pension application also says that she lived in Dutchess County until about 1822.

Andrew Alexander was in Amenia in 1820, on the same census page as Cornelius Knickerbocker. (By then, Cornelius had inherited the Knickerbocker farm once owned by Harmanus Senior.)

Amanda's pension application says that Andrew and Amanda moved to Ontario County, New York, and then to Michigan.

Amanda's death record in Michigan shows her father as Harmen Knickerbocker.



Our challenge is to come up with a logical family tree that included Amanda. It is easy to do.

We have already shown family trees for the children and grandchildren of Harmanus Senior.

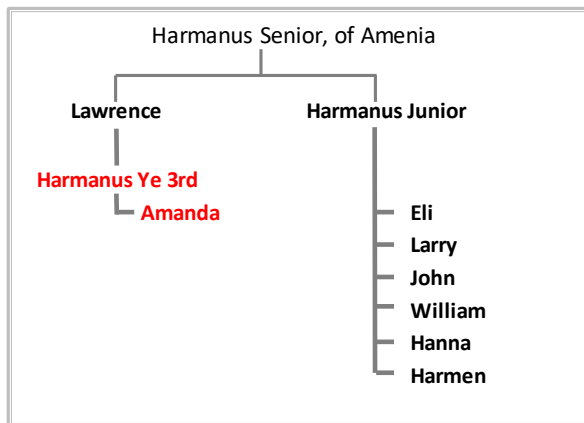
We have discussed the family of Ruliff Knickerbocker, who remained in Amenia for his adult life. We know that Amanda Knickerbocker was not descended from Ruliff.

We have discussed the fact that many Knickerbockers left Amenia before about 1807.

We have shown that Harmanus Junior left Amenia before 1810. We have also shown the affidavit from Harmanus Junior where he named his seven children. Amanda was not a daughter of Harmanus Junior.

There is no evidence that any Knickerbockers ever returned to Amenia from Hopewell. There is also no way that they commuted between the two towns. (With a horse and wagon, the 250 mile trip probably took more than a week.)

In the larger picture, we have to consider the fact that Amanda was a teenage girl living somewhere near Amenia in the years around 1810. We also have to consider the fact that her death record listed her father as Harman Knickerbocker.



It seems like there is only one way to assemble these puzzle piece.

The partial tree shown here seems obvious, yet we've never seen it proposed before.

It seems like everyone has totally ignored Harmanus Ye 3rd.


Many amateur genealogists claim that Amanda was the daughter of Harmanus Junior. That doesn't make sense.

Amanda must have been the daughter of the extra Harmanus.

Mystery Number 3: **Orphans in Amenia**

In Dutchess County in the early 1800's, there were official "Overseers of the Poor" whose responsibility included finding productive situations – apprenticeships – for orphans and children of destitute parents.

The NYGBR published a summary of apprenticeships in 2016. The list included three Knickerbockers from Amenia.

<p>THE NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD</p> <p>VOLUME 147</p>  <p>NUMBER 3</p> <p>JULY 2016</p>	<p>Apprenticeships in Early Dutchess County, New York</p>
	<p>18 January 1813. John Garnsey and Robert Willson, overseers, bind Caty Knickerbocker, age 9, as apprentice to Alpheus Leonard, physician of Amenia, to be instructed in the art of housekeeping and domestic business until she is 18, which will be "in the year one thousand Eight Hundred and twenty one." Witnesses: Milton Barlow, Tho^s Barlow. J.P.: Elisha Barlow, Tho^s Barlow.</p>
	<p>7 May 1813. Reuben Reed and Stephen Hitchcock, overseers, bind Lanson Knickerbacker, "aged Six years from the twelvth [<i>sic</i>] day of November last past," as apprentice to Richard Woolsey, of Amenia, to be instructed "in the trade of waggon making" until age 21, which will be 12 November 1827. J.P.: Cyrenus Crosby, Joel Benton.</p>
	<p>9 March 1815. Solomon Cook and Ephraim Smith, overseers, place Silas Knickerbacker as apprentice to Cornelius Nash/Nase, to be instructed in the "various branches of [the] farming business" until age 21, which will be 6 August 1829. J.P.: Jabez Flint, William Nase.</p>

There are some familiar names in this listing:

1. The first item mentions justice of the peace Elisha Barlow. Elisha Barlow was the father-in-law of Nancy and Julia Knickerbocker. (Nancy and Julia were granddaughters of Ruliff Knickerbocker.)
2. The second item mentions Richard Woolsey. Richard was the son of Isaac Woolsey. (The Woolsey family is mentioned multiple times in this report.)
3. The third item mentions Cornelius Nase, a neighbor (and possibly father-in-law) of Cornelius Knickerbocker. (Cornelius Knickerbocker was the son of Ruliff Knickerbocker. Cornelius Knickerbocker married Susanna Nase.)

The three young Knickerbockers were Caty, "Lonson", and Silas. We don't know for certain that they were orphans, as opposed to being the children of destitute parents. However, we suspect that Harmanus Ye 3rd might have died in the early 1810's. This would explain why he disappeared from census records after 1810, and would also explain why his children soon migrated out of Amenia.

Alanson is discussed later in this report. Caty is not discussed any further; she is a complete mystery.

We will discuss Silas briefly.

Silas Knickerbocker of Amenia

Silas Knickerbocker was born in New York State. According to findagrave, his birth was on August 6, 1808. This exactly matches the birth date from the apprenticeship paperwork in Amenia.

Silas might have lived in Ontario County in the 1820's and 1830's (along with many other Knickerbockers from Amenia).

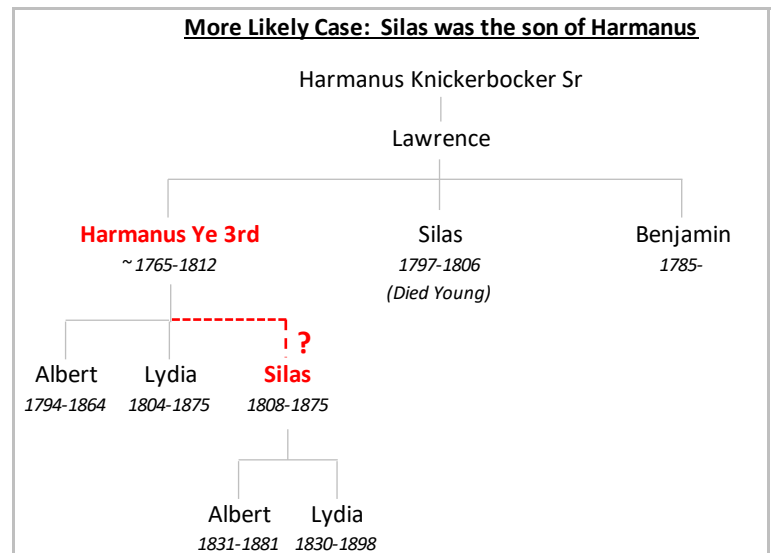
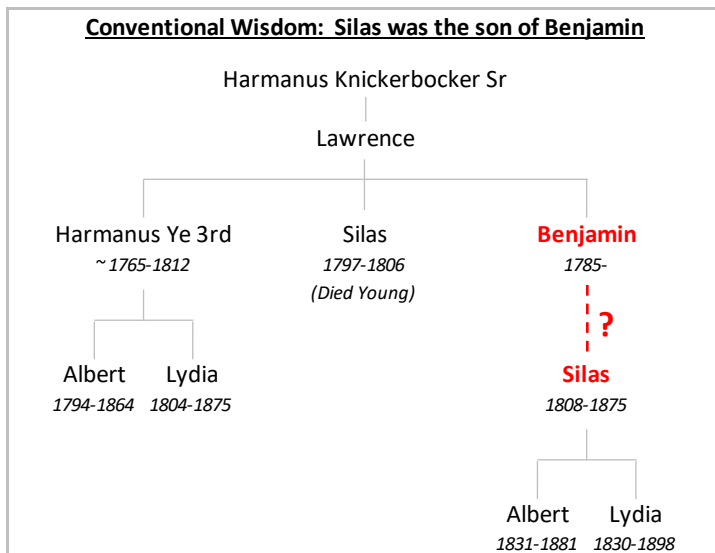
Silas made his first census appearance in 1840, in Macomb County, Michigan, just north of Detroit. Silas' probate was in 1875 in Calhoun County, Michigan.

Silas' children included a daughter named Lydia and a son named Albert.

Shown below are two possible lineages for Silas Knickerbocker.

The tree on the left shows Silas as the son of Benjamin. This has been the conventional wisdom for many years, and is by far the most common story found on Ancestry, etc. However, this may be wrong. As already shown, Benjamin Knickerbocker was the favorite son of his father, Lawrence. Benjamin Knickerbocker was in Ontario County in 1814, and was relatively wealthy, having just inherited all of his father's remaining property.

The tree on the right is more likely. Silas was probably a son of the man we are calling Harmanus Ye 3rd. This would explain why Silas was a pauper in Amenia in 1815, long after Lawrence and Benjamin had moved to Ontario County.



In either case, it is very clear that Silas Knickerbocker (1808-1875) was the great grandson of Harmanus Senior, and the grandson of Lawrence Knickerbocker of Amenia and Hopewell. We just need to iron out the exact lineage.

As always, more research would be useful.

Mystery Number 4: **The Second Wave of Knickerbockers in Hopewell**

We will now discuss Knickerbockers who moved from Amenia to Hopewell, Ontario County.

We should acknowledge that the name “Hopewell” wasn’t adopted until 1823. If we wanted to be precise, we need to keep track of which Knickerbockers originally moved to Lincoln, which was later renamed Gorham, which still later split to form Hopewell. It’s much easier for us to just use “Hopewell.”

The first wave of Knickerbockers moved from Amenia to Hopewell (then part of Gorham) in about 1807. As discussed earlier, the first wave of Knickerbockers included Lawrence, his brother Harmen, and so on.

The second wave of Knickerbockers joined them in about 1828.

The second wave can be seen in 1830 census results.

1830 Census records for Hopewell

<u>Year</u>		<u>Census Page</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1830	John Knickerbacker	21	<i>Son of Harmen Junior</i>
	Larry Knickerbacker	21	“
	William Knickerbacker	21	“
	David Bristol	21	<i>Son in law of Harmen Junior</i>
	Andrew Alexander	21	<i>See discussion</i>
	Albert Knickerbacker	17	“
	Calvin Knickerbacker	17	“

There was a large time gap between the arrival of the first wave (about 1807) and the second wave (about 1828).

As illustrated by the 1830 census, much of the first wave was already gone before the second wave arrived. For example:

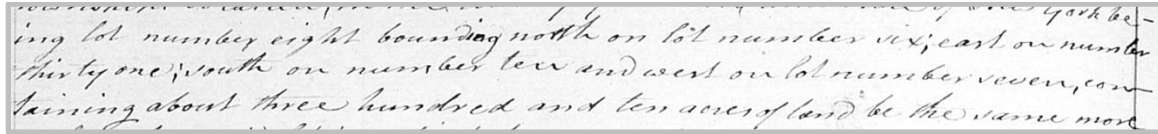
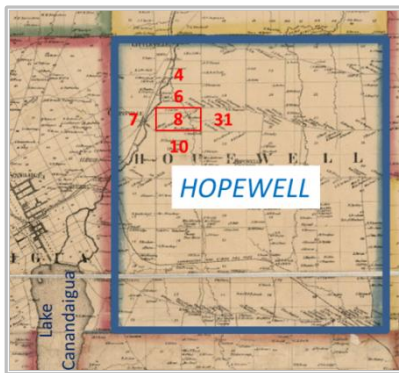
- Lawrence and his son Lawrence Junior were dead.
- Lawrence’s sons Benjamin and David are not found in the 1830 census. We don’t know where they were.
- Harmanus Junior (Lawrence’s brother) was dead.
- Some of Harmanus Junior’s children had moved to Ohio, although they might not have stayed there.

The table above shows that John, Larry, and William Knickerbacker were in Hopewell, clustered on the same census page. In 1824, Harmen Junior said that that William and John were in Ohio. They must have returned to Hopewell before 1830. We don’t see any evidence that another “John” or “William” arrived as part of the second wave.

The First Wave: Lawrence, Harmen, and their Kids

We have already described the deeds for the first wave of Knickerbockers. Lawrence, Lawrence Junior, Mary, David, Benjamin, and Harmanus Junior all owned parts of Lot 8.

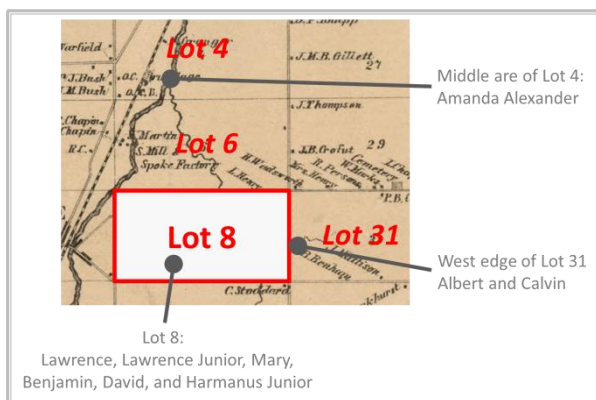
Lawrence's original purchase from 1807 described the location of his property as lot number eight bounding north on lot number six; east on number thirty one; south on number ten and west on lot number seven, containing about three hundred and ten acres of land to be the same more.

A snippet of a handwritten deed from 1807. The text describes Lot 8 as being bounded north by Lot 6, east by Lot 31, south by Lot 10, and west by Lot 7. It also mentions that the land contains about three hundred and ten acres.

This map shows Lot 8 and the surrounding lots, from a map from the Library of Congress.

The Second Wave: Amanda, Albert, and Calvin

Albert Knickerbocker, Calvin Knickerbocker, and Amanda [Knickerbocker] Alexander all wound up in Hopewell Township. Each one shows up in the 1830 census. None of them stayed very long. For example, Albert and Calvin were not there in the 1840 census.



The crucial part of this story is told by the deeds.

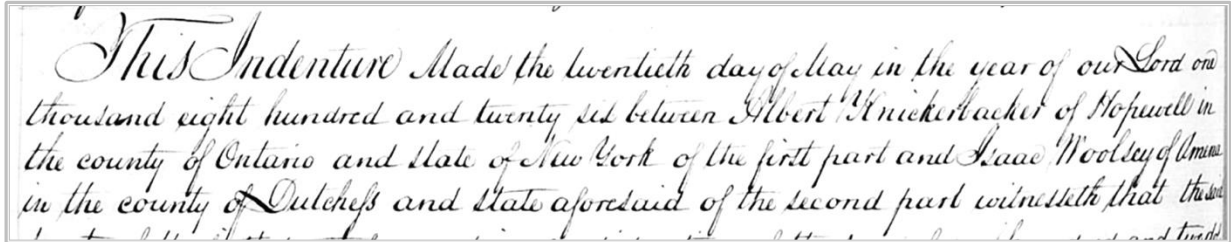
This map shows the locations where this second wave bought land.

The second wave had moved 250 miles west from Amenia, and wound up within walking distance of Lot 8.

1826: Albert Knickerbocker moves to Lot 31

We know that Albert Knickerbocker had strong ties to Amenia. We know that he was married there.

We also know that Albert needed a mortgage in order to afford his property in Hopewell, and that the mortgage was from Isaac Woolsey of Amenia.



Albert Knickerbocker was not a rich man. The loan was foreclosed in 3 years. Isaac Woolsey took over ownership of Albert's land in Lot 31.

1828: Andrew Alexander Bought Land in Lot 4

Andrew Alexander and his wife Amanda [Knickerbocker] Alexander bought land in 1828. They were in Lot 4.

1835: Calvin Knickerbocker buys land in Lot 31

Calvin Knickerbocker bought land in 1835.

Calvin bought his land from Isaac Woolsey, the same man who had mortgaged property to Albert Knickerbocker, and later foreclosed.

In fact, Calvin bought exactly the same property that Albert had lost in foreclosure.

Albert mortgage from 1826

Mortgaged through Isaac Woolsey in 1826

[within Lot 31] bounded as follows
namely west on the west line of said lot
the distance of 24 rods south by lands owned by
Bazel Benham also part of said lot thirteen rods and
eight links to a stake and stones from thence by a line running
north twenty four rods to a stake and stones thence on a line
running due west to the west line of said lot
containing two acres and no more

Calvin deed from 1835

Purchased from Isaac Woolsey in 1835

[within Lot 31] bounded as follows
namely west on the west line of said lot
the distance of 24 rods south by lands now formerly owned by
Bazel Benham also a part of said lot thirteen rods and
Eight links to a stake and stones from thence by a line running
north 24 rods to a stake and stones thence on a line
running due west to the west line of said lot
containing two acres and no more

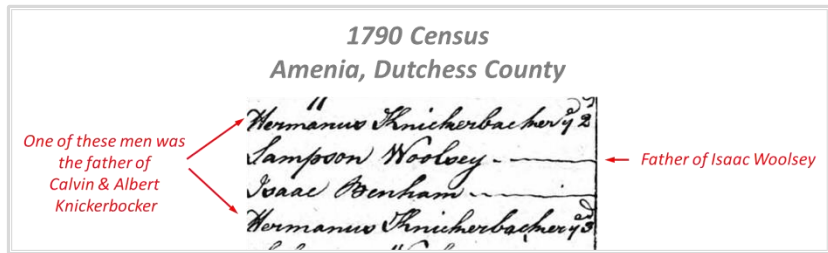
Isaac Woolsey of Amenia is easy to trace, thanks to land records and his mother's will. Isaac was born about 1789.

Isaac was the son of Sampson Woolsey.

In 1790, the Woolsey family was between Harmanus Ye 2nd and Ye 3rd.

Isaac Woolsey had probably known Albert and Calvin Knickerbocker since they were born.

Isaac Woolsey had a brother named Richard Woolsey. He will be mentioned later.



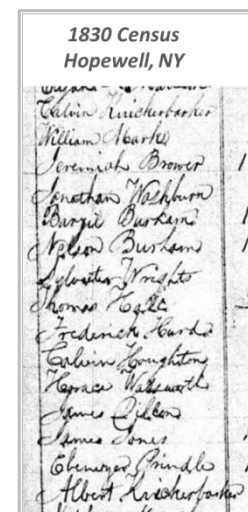
Calvin Knickerbocker and Albert Knickerbocker

Calvin and Albert Knickerbocker were living near each other in the 1830 census in Hopewell.

It is interesting that both households had an elderly person. These could be Knickerbockers, or in-laws. There is no way to tell.

Persons in the Household

<u>Calvin</u>	<u>Albert</u>
1 young male	1 young male
No young females	3 young females
1 male, 30 to 39	1 male 30-39
1 female, 30-39	1 female, 20-29
1 Female, 60-69	1 Male, 50-59



Calvin Knickerbocker and Albert Knickerbocker each left Ontario County before 1840. They each moved about 400 miles to Handy Township, Michigan.

Lake Erie lies between New York State and Handy Township. The most direct route is to go over the top of the lake, via Canada, and enter Michigan through Wayne County (the Detroit area). The alternative is to go below the lake, and through Toledo, Ohio.

We don't know which route Calvin and Albert used when they travelled to Michigan.



1840 Census
Handy Township, MI

Alanson Knickerbocker	
Mary Knickerbocker	2
Albert Knickerbocker	2
John Lawrence	
John C. Lawrence	1
Almon Ray	
John Ray	2
Calvin Knickerbocker	
Wesley Bennett	1
1840	2

After the move, Calvin and Albert were neighbors, once again.

The elderly people who lived with them in 1830 were gone in 1840.

From 1840 on, Calvin and Albert are easy to trace using census records. Unfortunately, though, there aren't many documents in Michigan that can help us prove their lineage.

However, there is a fascinating detail about their move to Michigan: Each man has bought his property from Alanson Knickerbocker.

Calvin was first, in February 1838.

Know all men by these presents That I Alanson Knickerbocker of Howell Livingston County Michigan party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred dollars to me in hand paid by Albert Knickerbocker of the same place of the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge do by these presents grant bargain sell remise release alien and confirm unto him his heirs and assigns all that certain lot or parcel of land situate in the Township of Howell County of Livingston State of Michigan containing more or less than is therein expressed as follows to wit

hereto set my hand and seal the twenty third day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and thirty eight

Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of

Alanson Knickerbocker (S)
Maria Knickerbocker (S)

Dennis Conrad
Benjamin H. Briggs

Albert bought land 8 months later, in October.

This Indenture made the Twenty Sixth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight Between Alanson Knickerbocker Livingston County Michigan of the first part and Calvin Knickerbocker of Washtenaw County and State aforesaid of the second part Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred dollars to me in hand paid by the said party of the second part do hereby grant bargain sell remise release alien and confirm unto him his heirs and assigns all that certain lot or parcel of land situate in the Township of Howell County of Livingston State of Michigan containing more or less than is therein expressed as follows to wit

Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of

Dennis Conrad
Maria Knickerbocker

Alanson Knickerbocker (S)
Maria Knickerbocker (S)

In both of these deeds, Alanson's wife was listed as Maria. This proves the identity of this "Alanson."

Calvin was listed as "of Washtenaw County." Washtenaw County is just south of Livingston County.

We haven't tried to trace exactly where these lots were, but we know from the census sheet that Calvin and Albert were close to each other, once again.

As we have shown, Calvin and Albert were closely linked to each other. They both made real estate deals with Isaac Woolsey of Amenia. They each owned the same lot in Hopewell, at different times. They both moved to Michigan, and wound up neighbors once again. And, the both bought land from Alanson Knickerbocker.

We believe that Calvin and Albert were brothers.

Furthermore, there was only one "Knickerbocker" in Amenia who could possibly be the father of Calvin and Albert. They must have been sons of Harmanus Ye 3rd.

Mystery Number 5: **Alanson Knickerbocker, the Blacksmith**

We will discuss Alanson Knickerbocker, the blacksmith, who sold land to Calvin and Albert.

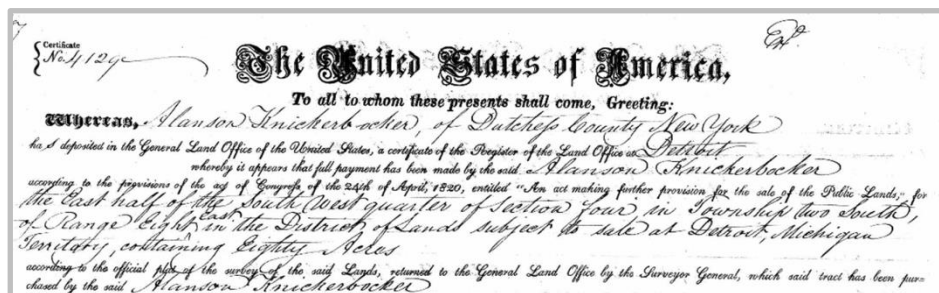
There were two men named Alanson Knickerbocker. We will call this one "Alanson the Blacksmith" to differentiate him from another Alanson Knickerbocker, who is discussed later.

This Alanson was apparently in Canada in 1830. Later census records show that Alanson's son George was born in "CW". (Canada West is now called Ontario.) This suggests that Alanson the blacksmith took the northern route from New York to Michigan.

Alanson was apparently very successful at his craft. For example, he had enough money to buy several pieces of land during his adult life.

Alanson's first land purchase was in 1831, in Wayne County Michigan (near Detroit). A local history said that he was the first blacksmith in the area.

Alanson the Blacksmith claimed to be from Dutchess County when he bought land in Michigan. This might have been to avoid being flagged as a native Canadian, which could have interfered with his land purchase.



Alanson's first wife was Hannah Harrington. Her maiden name was given on the death certificate of her daughter Delia [Knickerbocker] Bradley. Delia's death certificate lists her father as Alanson Knickerbocker.

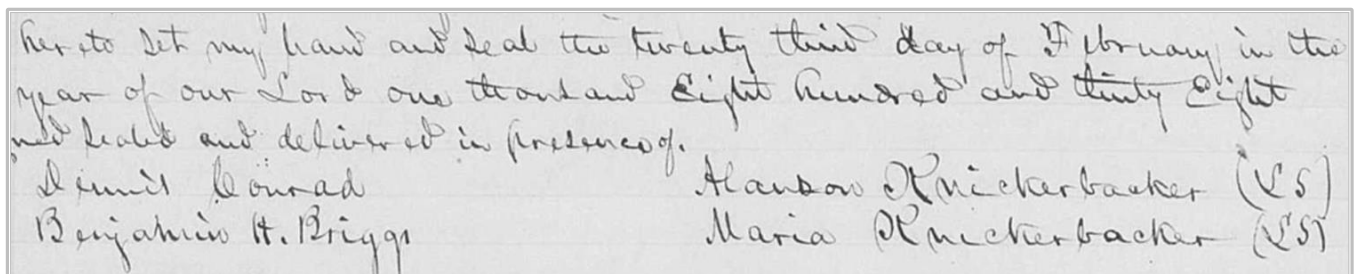
Hannah died in Wayne County Michigan. Her tombstone says that she was the wife of "Alonzo" Knickerbocker. It appears that Alonzo and Alanson were used interchangeably by this line of Knickerbockers.

Hannah probably died in late 1837. By the spring of 1839, Hannah's probate was already complete, and Alanson had already sold off her land. (Hannah's tombstone says that she died June 3, 1839. The date on the tombstone is wrong. It appears that her tombstone was erected later, perhaps by her children.)

Alanson's second wife was named Maria. She is the one who was mentioned when Alanson sold land to Albert and Calvin.

Maria was clearly Alanson's second wife. We know this from her age (born in 1820, vs. 1808 for Alanson), and from the ages of Alanson's children. (Son George was living with Alanson and Maria in 1850. George was only 10 years younger than Maria.)

Alanson and Maria were already married in 1838, when they sold land to Albert and Calvin. Here is a close-up from one of the deeds.



Hereto set my hand and seal the twenty third day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight and sealed and delivered in presence of.

Samuel Leonard
Benjamin H. Briggs

Alanson Knickerbocker (VS)
Maria Knickerbocker (VS)

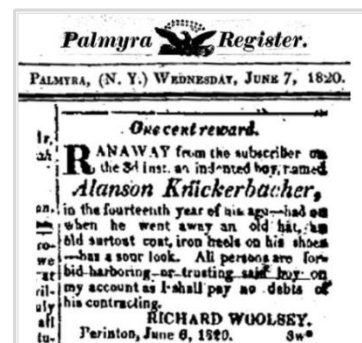
Based on his close connection to Calvin and Albert, we suspect that Alanson the blacksmith was another son of Harmanus.

Earlier we showed that "Lanson" Knickerbocker was apprenticed to Richard Woolsey of Amenia in 1813.

7 May 1813. Reuben Reed and Stephen Hitchcock, overseers, bind Lanson Knickerbocker, "aged Six years from the twelvth [sic] day of November last past," as apprentice to Richard Woolsey, of Amenia, to be instructed "in the trade of waggon making" until age 21, which will be 12 November 1827. J.P.: Cyrenus Crosby, Joel Benton.

Seven years later, in 1820, we see that Alanson Knickerbocker ran away from his boss, Richard Woolsey of Perinton, Monroe County.

Richard Woolsey was involved in the construction business. (In 1822, Richard was killed when a log fell while he was building a house.)



The sequence of events appears to have been as follows: (1) Alanson became an orphan in the early 1810's; (2) Alanson was apprenticed to Richard Woolsey in Amenia; (3) Alanson moved to Perrinton, Monroe County with his master, Richard Woolsey in about 1818; and then (3) Richard Woolsey died in 1822.

We don't know what happened to Alanson after Richard Woolsey died in 1822.

The inter-connections between all of these families are incredible. Richard Woolsey of Perinton was born in 1782 in Amenia. Richard's father Sampson Woolsey and brother Isaac Woolsey were mentioned earlier in this report.

Sampson Woolsey lived near Harmanus Knickerbocker, Senior, in Amenia. Thus, as a child, Richard Woolsey knew all of the Knickerbockers of Amenia.

Richard Woolsey eventually moved to Perinton. Richard Woolsey lived near John H. Knickerbocker, the son of Harmanus Knickerbocker Senior of Amenia.

Richard Woolsey lived about 25 miles from Hopewell, Ontario County, which was the home of Lawrence Knickerbocker and Harmanus Junior.

The Other Alanson Knickerbocker

We will refer to the other Alanson as being "of Ontario County" to differentiate him from Alanson the blacksmith.

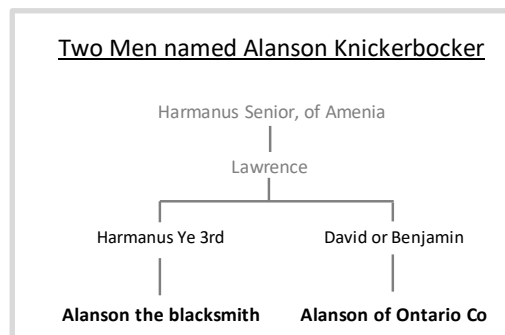
Alanson of Ontario County was born about 1807. He married Eliza Hancock. They had a son William who was born in Ohio in about 1837. Therefore, Alanson of Ontario County apparently took the southern route to Michigan.

Alanson and Eliza were in Michigan in 1840 and 1850, and then moved to Illinois by the 1860 census.

We believe that the two Alansons were cousins.

Alanson the blacksmith was closely linked to Calvin and Albert, and was probably their brother.

Alanson of Ontario County was probably the son of either David Knickerbocker or Benjamin Knickerbocker.



The two Alanson Knickerbockers once lived within about 20 miles of each other in Michigan, but we can't prove that they ever interacted with each other.

Mystery Number 6: **Lydia Knickerbocker, wife of Thomas Tompkins**

Earlier we showed an Amenia map that focused on the intersection of Butts Hollow Road and Route 22. Three miles south of Butts Hollow Road is a cemetery called Valley View.

Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains contains a tombstone for Lydia Tompkins, the wife of Thomas Tompkins.

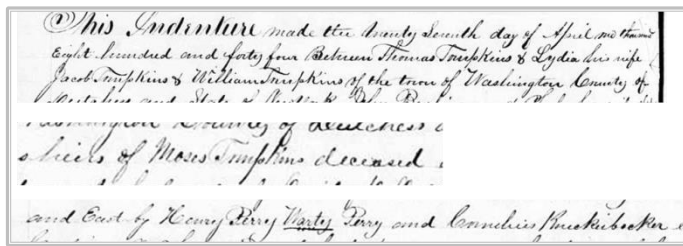
The tombstone shows Lydia's maiden name, Knickerbocker.

Lydia was born in 1804.



From Findagrave user Susan

In 1844, Thomas Tompkins and his wife Lydia were part of a land transaction in Washington Township. This involved land that had been owned by Thomas' father, Moses Tompkins.



1844
Thomas Tompkins and Lydia his wife

heirs of Moses Tompkins deceased

bounded by Cornelius Knickerbocker

Thus we know that Thomas Tompkins grew up on land adjacent to the Knickerbockers. The Tompkins family must have been at the eastern edge of Washington, near Butts Hollow road.

(There were two men named Thomas Tompkins in the area. The younger one was the son of Moses Tompkins, and was married to Lydia. The older one was married to Abigail. Here, we are focused on the younger one.)

The deed and tombstone are sufficient to tie Lydia [Knickerbocker] Tompkins to the Knickerbockers of Amenia.

There is only one potential father for Lydia. She must have been the daughter of Harmanus Ye 3rd.

Lydia is in the same category as Amanda. As young single females circa 1810, they had to be living with either their parents or a close relative. The two young ladies were not mentioned in any of the records for Ruliff, John, Harman Junior, or Lawrence.

Lydia and Amanda must have been from Harmanus Ye 3rd. We consider Amanda to be "proven" because we have a death record. We consider Lydia to be very likely.

Summary for the Amenia Knickerbockers

We have shown many details about the Knickerbockers of Amenia, Dutchess County.

We have been very specific about the children of John, Ruliff, and Harmen Junior. There are excellent records for each of these men. This is an important foundation when trying to resolve other mysteries.

We discussed the first migration from Amenia to Ontario County. This is when Lawrence, John, and Harmanus Junior moved west.

We have discussed Ruliff Knickerbocker, who remained in Amenia. Our story differs from prior studies such as from Van Alstyne. This is because we have additional information. (Ruliff is covered in a separate report.)

We have talked about Lawrence Knickerbocker of Hopewell, who was the oldest son of Harmanus Senior. We have pointed out that Lawrence's records are less complete. For example, his will named only the favorite child, Benjamin. Thus, we don't have a complete list of Lawrence's children. However, we know that several of them joined Lawrence in Ontario County, and that they congregated around Lot 8 in Hopewell.

We have also shown that there was a mysterious Harmanus Ye 3rd in Amenia and that he had several children. We discussed the way that census takers recorded names, and the fact that Ye 2nd and Ye 3rd meant different things than words like "Junior."

We have discussed Amanda [Knickerbocker] Alexander, who was married in Amenia in 1816, and whose father was named "Harmen." The date of her marriage is critical, because it was long after the first wave from Amenia to Ontario County. She must be the daughter of Harmanus Ye 3rd.

We have described why Harmanus Ye 3rd is the lead candidate (in fact, the only candidate) to have been the father of Amanda, Calvin, Albert, Alanson (the blacksmith), Caty, and Lydia.

We have explained why Harmanus Ye 3rd might also have been the father of Silas Knickerbocker, and why the alternate theory (that Silas was the son of Benjamin) has a huge problem.

We have shown that Harmanus Ye 3rd was probably the oldest son of Lawrence.

As always, more work is needed. We need to be particularly alert for records that refer to men named "Harmen Knickerbocker." As we have shown, there were three of them in Amenia, and we need to be careful about telling them apart.

-----End-----

Appendix:
Various Descendants of Harmanus Senior in Census Records

<u>Year</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Head of House</u>	<u>Probable Identity</u>
1790	Amenia, Dutch Co	Harmanus Ye 1 st Harmanus Ye 2 nd Harmanus Ye 3 rd Ruliff	Harmanus Sr Junior (son of Senior) Oldest son of Lawrence Son of Harmanus Sr
	Washington, Dutch Co	John	Son of Harmanus Sr
1800	Amenia, Dutch Co	Harmanus Ye 1 st Harmanus Ye 2 nd Ruliff	Harmanus Sr Oldest son of Lawrence Son of Harmanus Sr
	Sharon, CT	Tobias	Son of Ruliff
	Cherry Valley, Otsego Co	Harmen	Probably Harmanus Junior
1810	Amenia, Dutch Co	Harmen Cornelius	Oldest son of Lawrence Son of Ruliff
	Washington, Dutch Co	T B	Tobias, son of Ruliff Benjamin, son of Ruliff
	Boyle, Ontario Co *	John H.	John, son of Harmanus.
	Gorham, Ontario Co*	Harmen Lawrence David	Harmanus Junior. Son of Harmanus Sr Son of Lawrence
1820	Amenia, Dutch Co	Cornelius Lucy	Son of Ruliff Divorced ex-wife of Benjamin
	Washington, Dutch Co	Tobias	Son of Ruliff
	Perinton, Monroe Co	John H. John J.	Son of Harmanus Sr. Son of John H.
	Gorham, Ontario Co	Larry John Benjamin	Son of Harmanus Jr Son of Lawrence Son of Lawrence
1830	Amenia, Dutch Co	Cornelius Milton G. Charles T.	Son of Ruliff Son of Cornelius Son of Tobias
	Washington, Dutch Co	Tobias	Son of Ruliff
	Perinton, Monroe Co	Richard John J.	Son of John H. Son of John H.
	Hopewell, Ontario Co	Calvin Albert William John Larry	Son of Harmanus Ye 3 rd Son of Harmanus Ye 3 rd Son of Lawrence Son of Lawrence Son of Harmanus Jr.
1840	Amenia, Dutch Co	Cornelius Milton Henry	Son of Ruliff Son of Cornelius Unknown
	Washington, Dutch Co	Miles	Son of Tobias
	Perinton, Monroe Co	John	Son of John H.
	Canandaigua, Ontario Co	Herman	Son of Harmanus Jr
	Naples, Ontario Co	Larry	Son of Harmanus Jr
	Providence, Luzerne Co, PA	Milton	Son of Benjamin
	Handy, Livingston Co, MI	Albert Calvin	Son of Harmanus Ye 3 rd Son of Harmanus Ye 3 rd
	Nankin, Wayne Co, PA	Richard W.	Son of John H.

* Perinton, Monroe County was originally part of Boyle, Ontario County.
Hopewell, Ontario County was originally part of Gorham, Ontario County