

## The Father of Solomon Knickerbocker (1812-92) Identified

(Authorities are presented at the end of this article. – Rev. 0)



*Solomon Knickerbocker  
- About 1880 -*

To break down my Knickerbocker brick wall I had to identify the parents of my GG Grandfather Solomon Knickerbocker who was born in CT in 1812 according to the various post 1850 censuses. The first documentation encountered mentioning him is his marriage to Clarissa Root at Cornwall, CT on 16 Oct 1832.

I have documents from family genealogists going back to the 1960s presenting many complex theories trying to prove the identity of Solomon's father. There were great changes at Salisbury, CT in this post 1800 period. The westward migrations had started, the War of 1812 was in the offing, a major epidemic came through Salisbury - and probably the greatest reason for the lack of records was the Town Clerk charging to register births.

I've been trying to solve this ancestral mystery since the early 1990s and I favored what to me was the simplest explanation. Salmon (Solomon) Knickerbocker was born 28 Feb 1773 at Salisbury, Litchfield, CT, the son of Lawrence and Katherine Dutcher. The 1820 Salisbury census was my key for trying to tie the various 19th century CT Knickerbockers to this line. Salmon is enumerated with 3 males under 10, 1 male 16-26, and 1 male 45+ and 1 female 26-45. He was almost always called Salmon and I will use this name variation to differentiate him from Solomon<sup>1812</sup>.

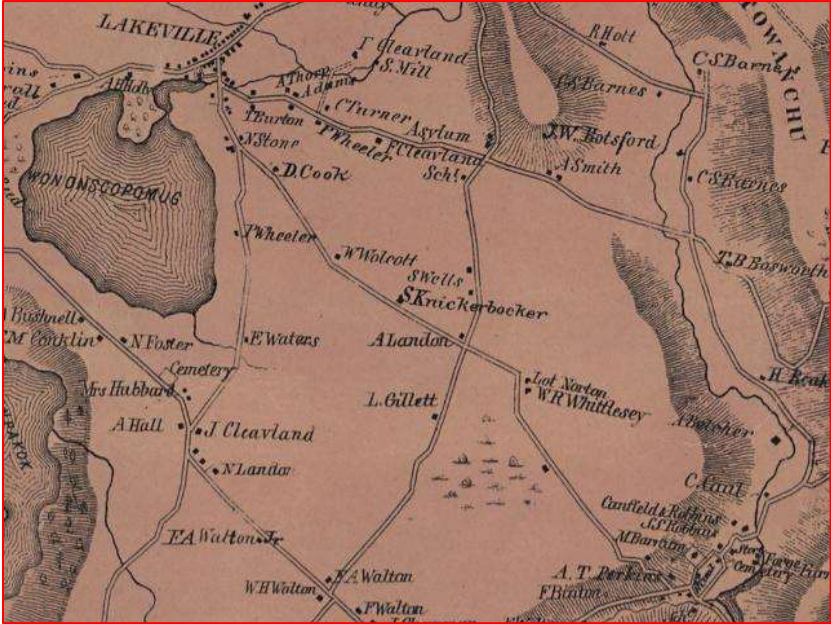
I tentatively assigned Solomon (b. abt 1812), Milo (b. 19 Jun 1816) and Philo (b. abt 1819) to this family. I have no candidate for the male aged 16-26. These three boys are the only unconnected Knickerbockers of the correct ages known to be in the Salisbury area during this period. Solomon is 47 at the time of this census.

In the earlier 1800 Federal census Salmon is enumerated in Canaan, CT with one male under 10, one male 25-45 and one female 16-25. Salmon is 27 at this point. These are the only two enumerations for Salmon. I had never found any evidence connecting the three boys as siblings but Milo and Philo are interred fifty feet from one another at the Salisbury Cemetery. The first name rhyming is telling.

Beware that the indexing of the 1820 Salisbury census is out of sequence on both Family Search and Ancestry. Salmon's uncle Solomon<sup>1754</sup> is also enumerated in Salisbury during this census and is indexed twice. This indexers are totally confused. Salmon<sup>1773</sup> is not indexed and is found on page 372. Solomon<sup>1754</sup> is found on page 374.

Salmon is absent from the 1830 census and is possibly deceased. His son Solomon buries a young son Albert in Sheffield, MA in 1838 - which is north of Salisbury. It is possible the elder Solomon is also buried here as many unmarked graves are present in this yard.

The family could have lived in the Sheffield vicinity before Solomon purchases a farm in the Lakeville section of Salisbury in 1842. Milo is enumerated in Salisbury in 1840 but was associated with the Harris Scythe works in the Hammer Town section which was on the northern boundary of Salisbury and adjacent to Sheffield. Milo buys land in Sheffield in 1847 just north of the Salisbury border on what is now Under Mountain Road (Route 41). The property contains one cemetery and is close to the Ward Cemetery where young Albert was buried.



Solomon's Farm  
Lakeville 1857

## Solving the Puzzle - Serendipity at Salisbury

I was at Salisbury in January of 2016 photographing headstones to satisfy my Find a Grave fetish. I couldn't find one that I had seen 20 years earlier so my wife suggested that I stop at the Town Hall to see if they had an index to the main cemetery (they have a partial one). The assistant town clerk, Rachel Lamb, (yes that Lamb family from 1740 Salisbury) mentioned she had found and was indexing some old Removal Permits. She almost insisted that we examine them. Philo's transfer permit from Plymouth, CT was in the collection and his father Solomon was listed. The mother was not. Sometimes you get very, very lucky. I looked at the original record at Plymouth but the mother was not included.

I now needed proof that Solomon and Philo were brothers. Serendipity struck again. A subsequent online search found a document that I had not seen before. The Salisbury Association published a 1941 pamphlet containing the school census taken in 1820 of everyone between 4 and 16 years of age in Salisbury. On page 16 Solomon and Philo are enumerated sequentially in the Amesville district. The census taker made a mistake as Milo was four and Philo only one. This swap in similar names in my mind furthers the proof of these familial connections.

I will prepare separate monographs for Milo and Philo Knickerbocker.

**REMOVAL PERMIT.**

Office of REGISTRAR OF DEATHS.

*Plymouth* Conn. *Salisbury* 1898

The Certificate of Death required by Law having been received and required permission is hereby given to remove the body of

*Philo Knickerbocker*

To *Salisbury Conn* for interment.

Deceased Name, if wife or widow \_\_\_\_\_

Place of death, Town *Plymouth*

Date of death *Mar 3 1898* at *W* \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation *Farmer* Age *79* *8* *8*

Single, Married, Widowed, Divorced,

Birthplace, Town *Salisbury*

Father's Name *Solomon Knickerbocker*

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cause Primary *L. Grippe* Secondary *Apoplexy*

Death Secondary *Pulmonary embolism*

Name of person giving Certificate of Death *H. D. Ferguson*

Name of Undertaker, or person in charge of removal *E. G. Root*

*E. L. Timmaday* Sub-Registrar.

Historical Collections	
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Harrison Beltram	Sally Welch
Nelson Tinsley	Hiram Welch
Lacy Tinsley	Everett Bradley
Rufus Landon	Mary Bradley
Sally Landon	William Betts
Nelson Landon	Solomon Knickerbocker
Mary Williams	Philo Knickerbocker
Polly Nutt	
CHARLES ENDRIN, School District Committee.	

## Salmon – Additional Documentation

James Lloyd visited Salisbury in 2012 and copied four documents relating to this family at the Salisbury Historical Society. Two of the documents were authored by Salmon in 1812 and 1816 soliciting aid from the Salisbury Selectmen (Appendix's A & B).

It is obvious from these pleadings by Salmon that this was a family in a desperate situation. The wife was incapable of caring for an unruly son. Salmon seemed unable or unwilling to financially support the family. A year of military service in 1814/15 did not change his circumstances.

At the time of the 1816 document Solomon would have been a 3 year old and Milo an infant - or is being carried in pregnancy. The older son would be over 18 years old and apparently of no financial help.

The remaining two documents were Salisbury select board payment vouchers for the care of Solomon's mother in the 1842-4 period (Appendix's C & D). It is not known whether this was for his mother or mother in law.

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## Salmon - Soldier of the War of 1812

Salmon was enlisted as a private in the 37th U. S. Infantry at Northeast, NY by Capt. Riley Severt on 1 Apr 1814. He was 5'5" tall, had blue eyes and dark hair and gave his age as 38. He stated that his occupation was as a shoemaker and that he was born at Salisbury, CT. He was discharged at New London, CT on 10 May 1815.

Long Island sound was blockaded by the British and there was great fear that they would again burn New London as they had during the Revolutionary War 33 years earlier. Salmon would have been stationed at Fort Trumbull to protect the town. It is unknown where his family lived during this period.

Salmon received a patent for 160 acres of bounty land on 30 April 1821 in Prairie County, Arkansas. This was in reward for his military service. The disposition of the acreage is unknown.

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## Salmon's Wife

Salmon's wife would have been born about 1780 according to the marks in the early censuses. This would be consistent with having a son born shortly before 1800. There is nothing in the records indicating if there was more than one wife. The 13-14 year span between the birth of the

first son and Solomon in 1812 might suggest a second wife. There are no candidate interim children in the post 1800 decade.

The selectmen provide full time support for Solomon's mother in the 1842-44 period as evidenced in the attached two documents below. There is a women 50-59 years old (1781-90) in his 1840 household. Whether this is a mother or mother-in-law cannot be deduced.

Milo has a women 60-69 (1770-79) years old in home in the Hammer Town section of Salisbury in 1840.

A Lucy Knickerbocker, aged 70 and thus born about 1777, dies of cancer in Sheffield, MA in 1847. She is noted as a widow with no other supporting information. Milo is living in Sheffield at this time. I made extensive inquiries at Sheffield but found no additional information.

Fred Chamberlain prepared a family history in 1974 [Link](#). He states that Salmon was possibly married to a Lucy Olds but the source has not been ascertained.

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## The Older Son

Salmon has a young boy enumerated in the 1800 census. The apparent same male is counted as being 16-25 years old in 1820. Solomon has a male 40-50 years old in his 1840 household. I've found no records for this older brother and assume he never married. There is always the possibility of additional children beyond the known 4 but no candidates have been identified.

I had initially penciled in Samuel who was enumerated in Canaan in 1830 as the older unruly son mentioned in Salmon's pleas to the Selectmen and appearing as marks in both the 1800 and 1820 Salmon<sup>1773</sup> census enumerations. It seemed logical as he would have been named after his uncle.

On page 13 of the school census Samuel is enumerated in the Ore Hill school district (NY border, Rte. 44). This is many miles from Amesville. Since the school census and 1820 Federal census were taken near simultaneously, it appears Samuel is not a member of the Salmon household. He would have been 16 years old or less (b. aft. 1803) which makes him ineligible for the 1800 census mark I had assigned him. This district listing is in alphabetical order and thus we cannot associate Samuel with any particular family.



## The Solomon (1812-1892) Family



Clarissa Root  
about 1880

Clarissa's parents have never been identified. The obituary of her daughter Mary Jane claims Mayflower lineage but that certainly has not been proven. Her daughter Harriette's death certificate gives Clarissa's place of birth as Canaan. A possible clue to her Root family is naming her first son Albert. That name has not been seen in the Knickerbocker families.

She died at West Hartford, CT in 1882. The records there have been lost and thus our best chance of identifying her parents are gone. No transfer documents were found at Sheffield where she was interred in the Ashley Fall's cemetery. All ten children were born at Salisbury.

1 - Harriette C. (Hattie), 11 Sep 1833 – 5 Jun 1911. She married Charles G. Johnson at Salisbury and lived at Andover, CT. They had 3 sons. [1860](#) [1870](#) [1880](#) [1900](#) [1910](#) [FAG](#)

2 – Sarah Jane, 3 Jan 1835 – 1927. She married 1<sup>st</sup> Nelson W. Andrus 28 Dec 1858. He died 9 Dec 1862. They had 1 child Nellie. [1865](#) She married 2<sup>nd</sup> Nelson Ham 23 Nov 1871. He died before 1900. They had 2 Sons and 2 daughters. [1880](#) [1900](#) [1910](#) [1920](#)

3 – Albert G., 1836 – 12 Feb 1838. [FAG](#)

4 – Mary Frances, 1838 – 27 Nov 1916. She married Myron N. Andrus (1836 - 1912) of Sheffield 22 Feb 1863. 1 son & 2 daughters. [1865](#) [1870](#) [1880](#) [1900](#) [1910](#) [FAG](#)

5 – George A., 22 Jul 1840 - 9 Jul 1883. He married Hattie E. Smith at Winsted 30 Nov 1861. They had 1 son and 1 daughter. He was a Civil War veteran having served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment of CT Volunteers. He died heroically as a railroad engineer at Bristol, CT. [1865](#) [1870](#) [FAG](#) [Probate](#)

6 – Franklin David, Dec 1845 – 29 Oct 1923. He married 1<sup>st</sup> Emeline Polver. They had 2 children. He married 2<sup>nd</sup> Hattie A. Davis. 23 Dec 1872 at Springfield, MA. This was a 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage for both. He Married 3<sup>rd</sup> Mary J. Scoville. They had 1 adopted daughter. [Marriage](#) [1870](#) [1880](#) [1900](#) [1910](#)

**Heart Attack Fatal  
To Canaan Woman**

Canaan, Nov. 6.—(Special.)—Mrs. Sarah J. Hamm, 62, died suddenly of heart trouble at her home on Church Terrace shortly before noon today. She was born in Salisbury, January 2, 1835, a daughter of Solomon Knickerbocker and Clarissa Root Knickerbocker. Her father was one of the famous line of Knickerbocker and her mother was a descendant of Governor Bradford, who came over in the Mayflower. She was one of 12 children.

Mrs. Hamm received her education in the public schools and at a private academy in Salisbury. Later she taught school in Cornwall and Salisbury for a number of years. In 1856 she married Nelson Andrus who died three years later. In 1871 she married Nelson Hamon of Hudson, N. Y. There was one child by the first marriage and four by the second.

She has been a widow about 37 years. She leaves a sister, Mrs. Nettie K. Webster of Torrington; a brother, John Knickerbocker of Hockanum; three daughters, Mrs. Nellie A. Preston, Mrs. O. Willie Parsons of Canaan and Mrs. Harley Kellogg of Hartford; nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mrs. Hamm has lived in Canaan 31 years. She was for many years librarian at the Canaan Library and was a charter member of the Canaan Methodist Church.

The funeral will be held at her home Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. W. A. Hudson, pastor of the Canaan Methodist Church, will officiate. Burial will be in Sheffield, Mass., in the plot where Mrs. Hamm's first husband is buried.

7 – John H., My G. Grandfather was born 1 Jan 1850 and died 19 Jan 1930 at Bethlehem, CT. He married Ella W. Wardwell. They had 3 sons and 1 daughter. [1880](#) [1900](#) [1910](#) [1920](#) [FAG](#)

8 – Ward W., 16 Sep 1852 – 28 Oct 1925. He married Mary Etta Swarthout 17 Jun 1886 at Torrington. They had 1 son & 1 daughter. [1900](#) [1910](#)

9 – Clara E., 20 Mar 1855 – 20 Jun 1860. [FAG](#)

10 – Nettie M., 22 Sep 1858 – 1930. Married William J. Webster 27 Apr 1884 at Bristol. [1900](#) [FAG](#)

Howard Knickerbocker / July 2017 / Middlefield, MA

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State of Connecticut Bureau of Vital Statistics

**Medical Certificate of Death**

1. Full name of deceased Harriett C Johnson  
2. Primary cause of death Chronic Gastritis 3. Duration 20y days  
4. Secondary or contributory Mal-assimilation 5. Duration 50 days

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby Certify that I attended the deceased in his last illness, and that the cause of death was as above stated.

Signature C. E. Simonds M.D.  
Dated June 5 1911 Address Willimantic

**Undertaker's Certificate Personal and Statistical**

1. Full name of deceased Harriett C Johnson  
2. Place of death—Town Andover Conn. Street \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Number of families in house one  
4. Residence at time of death Andover Conn.  
5. Occupation Housewife  
6. Condition (state whether single, married, divorced or widowed) married  
7. If wife or widow, give name of husband Charles F. Johnson  
8. Date of death—year 1911, month June, day 4  
9. Date of birth—year 1833, month Sept., day 11  
10. Age 77 years, 8 months, 23 days  
11. Sex Female  
12. Color White  
13. Birthplace—Town Salesbury State or Country Conn.  
14. Father's name in full Solomon Knickerbocker  
15. Father's birthplace—Town Salesbury State or Country Conn.  
16. Mother's maiden name Clarissa Root  
17. Mother's birthplace—Town Panay State or Country Conn.  
18. Place of burial Andover Conn. Cemetery Center  
19. Name of informant Charles F. Johnson Address Andover Conn.  
20. Was body embalmed Yes If so name of embalmer F. H. Colmore License No. 158

Signature of Undertaker Colmore & Shepard Address Willimantic Conn.

## Authorities

### Salmon Links:

[1800 Census Cannan](#)  
[1812 Letter to Selectmen – Attach. A](#)  
[1814 Military Enlistment](#)  
[1816 Letter to Selectmen – Attach. B](#)  
[1820 Census Salisbury Page 372](#)  
[1820 Census Salisbury Page 374 \(Solomon<sup>1754</sup>\)](#)  
[1820 School Census](#)  
[1821 Arkansas Land Patent](#)  
[1840 Census – Milo Salisbury](#)  
[1847 Widow Lucy dies at Sheffield, MA](#)

### Solomon Links >:

[1832 Marriage – Cornwall, CT](#)  
[1838 Find A Grave for young son Albert](#)  
[1840 Census Salisbury](#)  
[1842-4 Care of mother – Attach. C & D](#)  
[1850 Census Salisbury](#)  
[1860 Census Salisbury](#)  
[1865 MA Census Sheffield, MA](#)  
[1870 Census Sheffield, MA](#)  
[1880 Census West Hartford, CT](#)  
[Find A Grave – Clarissa](#)  
[1884 Marriage to Ruth Bristol](#)  
[1892 Bristol, CT - Solomon's Death](#)  
[Solomon's Probate](#)  
[Find A Grave - Solomon](#)

OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS. State of Connecticut.  
**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.**  
To be returned to the Registrar of the Town in which the Death occurred, as the Law directs.

I CERTIFY the following return to be correct from the best information which I can obtain:

His name in full was Solomon Knickerbocker  
Name, if wife or widow \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Death, No. Sumner Street, Town Bristol  
Number of Families, if tenement house 2 Duration of Disease Five months  
Cause of Death Mark 51 Residence at time of Death Bristol, Conn  
Sex Male Color W Race Am<sup>n</sup> Occupation Farmer  
Age 80 79 Years 10 Months \_\_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_\_  
Condition Married, if a wife or widow, Husband's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Birth Salisbury Town Conn State or Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Birth of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of Death, } Primary Polymyositis  
                          } Secondary \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Physician H. A. Canning  
Dated at Bristol this 12 day of April 1892

\* Insert Sex or Age.  
† If other than white—(A.) African, (M.) Malatto, (I.) Indian. If other race, specify what.  
‡ Single, Married, or Widowed.

(BE VERY PARTICULAR TO FILL ALL SPACES.)  
Rec<sup>d</sup> April 27/92 Remond J. Ashley Frank H. Mason



Appendix A: Salmon's letter to the Salisbury Selectmen of 5 Dec 1812

Salisbury December 5 1812  
W<sup>th</sup> halley sir you told my wife when you  
was here that you would give me 5 Dollars  
at the end of every month if I would  
take care of my family and now if you  
will hire this house of Capt Jonston and  
my Cow Capt four months I will take  
the rest of it in Clothing for my family  
I have agreed for a place to move on to the  
first of April when I can raise ~~wood~~  
our own provisions and now if you will do this  
and back my family <sup>one year more</sup> together I will go to  
work and buy my grain and meat and wood  
and flax to make a peas of Cloth and that  
will be as much as I can do this winter  
and I cant do nothing if you do not let  
that girl come home for my family is so  
helpless that I can not go from home  
long enough to do a days work my oldest  
boy has grow to be so much trouble that  
it seems as tho we never can get  
through the winter with him I am  
Obliged to stay at home ever since Roxey  
has bin gone for my wife is not able to take  
care of this troublesome family ~~and~~  
it has bin three Dollars damage to me  
in three weeks by having that girl  
taken out of my family

Salmon Fenickson

Salisbury April 20 1816  
To the gentlemen selectmen of this  
town I understand that you are going to  
move my family in to a house where there  
is 6 families as for my going there to live  
with them or now shall I rather will  
of ever to any thing for them if  
I could have a house where I could live like  
folks I need furnish my family with  
provisions. I can live where I am or I can  
live in Capt John Bigsells house with  
a little more cost Capt London  
wants my labour and so does Capt  
Cassell. I will find my own wood  
this summer now I write to you whether  
be the cheapest to do all or a part  
I dont calculate to transport but  
I will be glad if I live there  
if my family is going to move to you so  
good a place they want to stay a week  
or ten days longer to fix things  
my wife and Child are almost naked  
and they have not a garment to put  
on and they must have <sup>some</sup> be gone they more  
I wish you would come and see the  
situation that the family is in  
Salmon Lemickson

To the Select Men of the town of Salisbury  
 Gentlemen  
 Pay to Daniel S Cluff the  
 sum agreed between you & my self for  
 keeping my mother for our year from  
 the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1843 to the 1<sup>st</sup> of  
 March 1844 according to our contract  
 Solomon Pinckard  
 Salisbury

Salisbury April 14 1842

Esq<sup>r</sup> Pitt  
 Sir there will be due balance  
 I make back the part of Sept. weekly  
 calls which will be given direct to  
 you on your presenting his order on  
 the select men  
 You J. J. Barlow

To the Select Men

Please give an order for  
 the above sum to - Elijah C. Pitt & Oblige you  
 1<sup>st</sup> / 10 1842  
 Solomon Pinckard

Appendix D: Cover for Appendix C

