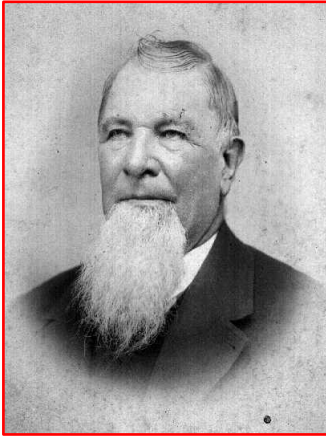


The Father of Solomon Knickerbocker (1812-92) Identified

(Authorities are presented at the end of this article. – Rev. 1 of August 2019)



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 Solomon¹⁸¹².

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 Solomon¹⁷⁵⁴ is also enumerated in Salisbury during this census and is indexed twice. This indexers are totally confused. Salmon¹⁷⁷³ is not indexed and is found on page 372. Solomon¹⁷⁵⁴ 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.
: O :
Office of REGISTRAR OF DEATHS.

Plymouth Conn., *Mar 3* 1898
The Certificate of Death required by Law having been received and recorded, permission is hereby given to remove the body of
Philo Knickerbocker
To *Salisbury Conn* for interment.

Maiden Name, if wife or widow.
Place of death, Town *Plymouth*
Date of death *Mar 3* 1898 Sex *M* Color *W*
Occupation, *Farmer* Age *79* Yrs. Mos. Days.
Single, Married, Widow, Widower, Divorced, Enter words not required.
Birthplace, Town *Salisbury*
Father's Name, *Solomon Knickerbocker*
Mother's Name, _____
Cause of Death. Primary, *L. Grippe* Secondary, *Complication*
Name of person giving Certificate of Death, *L. D. Ferguson*
Name of Undertaker, or person in charge of removal, *E. G. Root*
Edw. Timmadge Sub. Registrar.

16	Historical Collections
Harrison Brinton	Sally Welch
Nelson Tousley	Hiram Welch
Lucy Tousley	Everets Bradley
Rufus Landon	Mary Bradley
Sally Landon	William Betts
Nelson Landon	Salmon Knickibacor
Mary Williams	Philo Knickibacor
Polly Nott	
CHARLES ENSIGN, School District Committee.	

Serendipity 2

I found the following obituary online. It is a second proof that Solomon, Milo and Philo are brothers.

—Philo Knickerbocker, aged 81 years, died at Thomaston last Thursday and was buried at Salisbury on Saturday. He was born and brought up in the town of Salisbury but moved to Thomaston about twenty years ago. He leaves an aged wife and several children to mourn his loss. He was a brother of the late Solomon Knickerbocker of Sheffield, who was the father of Mrs Nelson Ham of Canaan; and he was also a brother of the late Milo Knickerbocker of Canaan, who was the father of Silas Knickerbocker and Miss Carrie Knickerbocker of Canaan.

Connecticut Western News – 10 March 1898

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.

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 Sevect 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.

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.

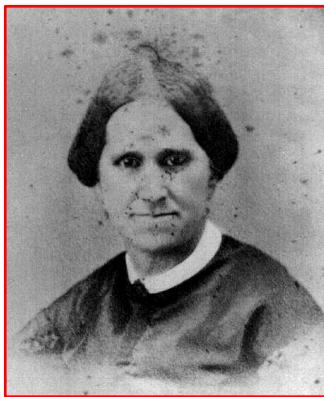
The Older Son

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 Salmon¹⁷⁷³ 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 1st Nelson W. Andrus 28 Dec 1858. He died 9 Dec 1862. They had 1 child Nellie. [1865](#) She married 2nd 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 28th 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 1st Emeline Plover. They had 2 children. He married 2nd Hattie A. Davis. 23 Dec 1872 at Springfield, MA. This was a 2nd marriage for both. He Married 3rd Mary J. Scoville. They had 1 adopted daughter. [Marriage](#) [1870](#) [1880](#) [1900](#) [1910](#)

Heart Attack Fatal To Canaan Woman

Canaan, Nov. 8.—(Special.)—Mrs. Sarah J. Hamlin, 62, died suddenly of heart trouble at her home on Church Terrace shortly before noon today. She was born in Salisbury, January 3, 1835, a daughter of Solomon Knickerbocker and Clarissa Root Knickerbocker. Her father was one of the famous sons of Knickerbocker and her mother was a descendant of Governor Bradford, who came over in the Mayflower. She was one of 12 children.

Mrs. Hamlin 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 1866 she married Nelson Andrus who died three years later. In 1871 she married Nelson Hamlin 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. G. Willis Parsons of Canaan and Mrs. Harley Kellogg of Hartford; nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mrs. Hamlin 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. Hamlin's first husband is buried.

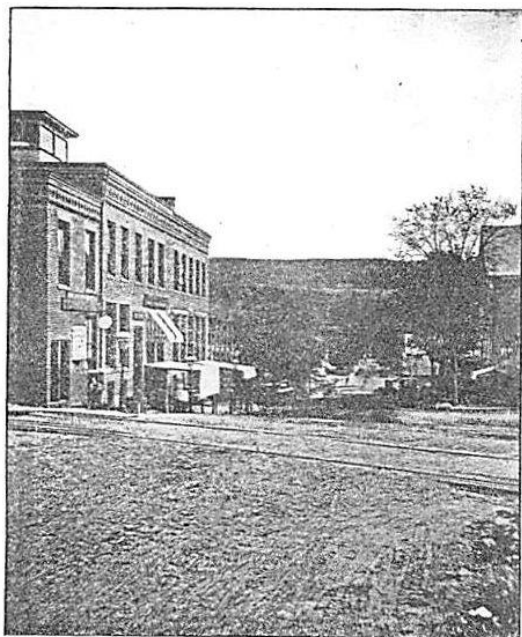
7 – John H., My G. Grandfather was born 1 Jan 1850 and died 19 Jan 1930 at Bethlehem, CT. He married Ella W. Wardwell. They had 3 sons and 1 daughter. [1880](#) [1900](#) [1910](#) [1920](#) [FAG](#)

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](#)

Solomon was a tough old bird



MAIN STREET, LOOKING SOUTH, IN 1873.

Might Have Been Fatal.

On Tuesday, near 2 p.m., an almost fatal accident occurred to old Mr. Knickerbocker, the gate tender at the Main street crossing. He lowered the gate for the passenger train going west, which was late, and, as usual, went to the south side of the tracks with his flag. After the train had passed, he started

back to raise the gate and when upon the track next to the main one he was struck by the switch engine which had backed down to the east of the crossing and started forward again, at high speed, with two freight cars attached. A by-stander says that Mr. Knickerbocker when first struck seemed to be thrown forward some little distance, and then was hit again and throw into the air. He fell just outside of the tracks and was pushed forward in the deep snow by the cow catcher for about a rod, and was finally crowded so far out into the snow that the engine and cars passed by him.

He was picked up and carried into the depot, and the belief was that he was either killed or fatally injured. He was soon taken to the residence of his son, corner of Main and High streets, and Dr. Woodward was summoned to attend him. His injuries proved not to be very severe. There was a large cut over his left eye, from which blood flowed pretty freely, and he was severely bruised on his arms and legs. Later in the day he was taken to the residence of another son on Union Hill. The prospect is that he will be out again soon. He was able to have his clothes on the next day.

(Excerpted from microfilm in the 1990s and citations lost. About 1885)

39

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 209 days
4. Secondary or contributory Mal-assimilation 5. Duration 50 days
Remarks _____

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

Signature C. E. Simonds 11/11
Capacity in which he signs _____
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.
Town State or Country
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 Salsburg State or Country Conn.
14. Father's name in full Samuel Knickerbocker
15. Father's birthplace—Town Salsburg 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](#) (Solomon¹⁷⁵⁴)

[1820 School Census](#)

[1821 Arkansas Land Patent](#)

[1840 Census – Milo Salisbury](#)

[1847 Widow Lucy dies at Sheffield, MA](#)

[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](#)

Solomon Links >:

DEPT. 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

Mode of Death Mark 36 Residence at time of Death Bristol, Conn.

Age 80 79 Color W Race Amⁿ Occupation Farmer

Years 10 Months _____ Days _____

Condition Married, if a wife or widow, Husband's Name _____

Birthplace Salisbury Town Conn State or Country _____

Father's Name _____, Mother's Name _____

Birthplace of Father _____, Mother _____

Cause of Death, { Primary Polymyositis

Secondary Hypertension

Signature of Physician, H. A. Cazzingh

Dated at Bristol this 2 day of April 1892

* Insert his or her.
† If other than white—(A.) African, (M.) Mulatto, (I.) Indian. If other races, specify what.
‡ Single, Married, or Widowed.

[BE VERY PARTICULAR TO FILL ALL BLANKS.]

Rec^d April 24 92 Remond & Aubrey Frank Hennes

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

Salisbury December 5 1812
Wth 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 ~~money~~
our own provisions and now if you will do this
and back my family together ^{one year more} I will go to
work and buy my grain and meat and wood
and flax to make a piece of Cloth and that
will be as much as I can do this winter
and I can't 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 Roney
has bin gone for my wife is not able to take
care of this troublesome family ~~any more~~
it has bin three Dollars damage to me
in three weeks by having that girl
taken out of my family

Salmon Finckeborn

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 never shall I rather will
of ever do any thing for them if
I could have a house where I could live like
folks I need furnish my family with
provisions ^{this summer} I can live where I am or I can
live in Capt John Ciffells house with
a little more cost Capt London
wants my labour and so does Capt
Ciffell ~~and~~ I will find my own wood
this summer now I write to you white
be the cheapest to do all or a part
I dont calculate to tomorrow but
I will be gamed if I live there
if my family is going to move to ever 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 ^{some} be gone they more
I wish you would come and see the
situation that the family is in
Salmon Lemmon

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

Salisbury April 4 1842
"Ezra Ditt" I see there will be due to me
Twenty back the part of Sept. twenty
dollars which will be given direct to
you on your presenting his order on
the Select men
Yours J. J. Warren

To the Select Men,
Please give an order for
the above sum to Abijah C. Putt & Oblige you
1st / 10 1842
Solomon Pinckard

Appendix D: Cover for Appendix C

