

# SIGNAL CORPS ASSOCIATION

1860



1865



## Margaretta van Slichtenhorst and Colonel Philip Pieterse Schuyler Henry's Great-great grandparents

### Family

Colonel Philip Pieterse Schuyler

(1627, Amsterdam North Holland Netherlands)

(9 May 1683, Beverwyck NY)

(son of Pieter Tjercks and Geertruyt Philips Van Schuylder)

+ Margaretta van Slichtenhorst 12 Dec 1650, Beverwyck or Rennsaelaerwyck NY

(1634, Nykerk Netherlands)

(27 June 1711)

(daughter of Brant Arantse van Slichtenhorst and Aeltje Van Wenckum)

Children:

Gysbert Schuyler (2 Jul 1652 - Aft. 13 Mar 1665)

Geertruy Schuyler (4 Feb 1654 - Abt. 12 Jun 1700)

[Alida Schuyler](#) (28 Feb 1656 - 27 May 1729)

[Mayor Peter Schuyler](#) (17 Sep 1657 - 19 Feb 1724)

[Captain Brandt Schuyler](#) (18 Dec 1659 - 15 Aug 1702)

[Captain Arent \(Francis\) Schuyler](#) (25 Jun 1662) - 26 Nov 1730)

Sybilla Schuyler (12 Nov 1664 - 9 Dec 1664)

Colonel Philip Schuyler (8 Feb 1666 - 24 May 1724)

Captain Johannes Schuyler (5 Apr 1668 - 27 Feb 1747)

Margareta Schuyler (2 Jan 1672 - 15 May 1748)

### **Margarita's Poem for her Father, Brant Arantse van Slichtenhorst**

I'm young Margarita van Slichtenhorst,  
My father's the Master, we call him Baas,  
Of de Heer van Renssalaer's Bouwerie,  
This brought us here from the Zuider Zee.

My mother is dead, and I'm all alone  
To care for my father's simple home,  
But I try to do it as well as may be,  
Though I long for my home by the Zuider Zee.

My father's a man who knows so much,  
Though you'd not understand his Holland Dutch.  
He is not handsome, and yet, you know,  
He's brave and kind, and I love him so.

### **Genealogical and Personal Memorial of Mercer County, New Jersey Vol**

Philip Pieterse Schuyler, the founder of the family in this country, came from Holland in the fourth decade of the seventeenth century and settled in the neighborhood of Albany. The records show that he was appointed by Governor Stuyvesant in 1656 to the office of vice-director of Fort Orange, now Albany. He discharged the duties, which were both civil and military, in so satisfactory a manner that he retained the position, except at short intervals, until near the end of his life.

His business transactions were large and varied and he became possessed of much valuable real estate, not only in Albany, but along the banks of the Hudson and even on Manhattan Island. He died in Albany, May 9, 1683, having made his will eight days before, disposing of a large property which was divided between his wife and numerous children. He seems to have been highly esteemed by his friends and neighbors and to have enjoyed the full confidence of the leading men of the colony from Governor Stuyvesant down.

Though nothing is positively known as to his antecedents in Holland, the fact that soon after coming to this country he was married to a daughter of the distinguished house of Van Slichtenhorst, and also that he was permitted to display his armorial bearings upon a window of the old Dutch church in Albany, seems proof positive that he came from gentle stock in the old country.

Margareta Van Slichtenhorst, the wife of Philip Pieterse Schuyler, whom he married in 1650, seems to have been a

inherited from her father his courage and business ability, as also his public spirit. On several occasions when the safety of the colony was threatened by the French and Indians she was the largest single subscriber to funds for its defense. She administered her husband's estate with such success that it became one of the largest in the colony. She died in 1711 at the ripe age of eighty-two years.

### **The People of Colonial Albany, by Stefan Bielinski**

Philipse Pieterse Schuyler was the first outstanding member of early Albany's most important New Netherland family.

He was born in Holland in 1628, the oldest child of German-born Amsterdam baker Pieter Diercks and Geertruy Philips van Schuyler. By 1650, he had emigrated to New Netherland with his younger brother, David Pieterse.

In December 1650, twenty-two-year-old Philip Pieterse was in Rensselaerswyck where he married Margarita Van Slichtenhorst - daughter of the director of the colony. That union admitted a newly arrived carpenter to the upper echelon of New Netherland society. It also produced a large family of twelve American-born children between 1652 and 1672. Eight of those offspring went on to establish the Schuyler family in Albany and beyond.

Taking the surname of their mother's family, the Schuylers' success followed the meteoric rise of its founder. Settling in Beverwyck, Philip Pieterse was among its earliest householders when lots were first apportioned during the 1650s. Although nominally a carpenter or gunstockmaker, like many of his neighbors he entered the fur trade. By 1660, he stood with the principal traders of the community. He used those profits to begin a favored family practice of acquiring additional real estate. Those holdings began with the house he built on the corner of today's State and Pearl Streets. It remained a family fixture for most of the next hundred years. By 1672, he also had acquired land along the Hudson beyond the Van Rensselaer manor house. That farm became a family summer home known as "the Flats". In addition, Philip Pieterse owned houses and lots in New Amsterdam/New York, several hundred acres east of the Hudson and below Rensselaerswyck, and lots in Wiltwyck and at Halfmoon as well.

His marital connection to the New Netherland power structure set the stage for his appointment to the Beverwyck court. After the English take-over, he was appointed a magistrate of the Albany court - predecessor of the Albany Corporation. Although he retired from the court in 1671, he was considered one of Albany's leaders for the rest of his life. Sometimes referred to as "Captain Schuyler," he held military commissions under the Duke of York and also was appointed "commissary" at Albany in 1666. He was the first of many Schuylers to represent Albany in meetings with the Iroquois.

Born in Holland, Dutch-speaking Philip Pieterse was the first of several generations of independent but reasonable Albany leaders to be favored by the English and British with official appointments, access to land, and contracts.

On May 1, 1683, Philipse Pieterse Schuyler filed a joint will with his wife, Margarita. The document noted the ages of their eight living children. He died eight days later and was buried under the Albany Dutch Church. His widow

Philip Pieterse did not see sons Pieter and Johannes serve as mayors of Albany. But from his Albany house came dozens of others who made the Schuyler family early Albany's foremost and one of the major families of colonial New York as well.

## Notes

Schuyler family histories: Many works have been issued on the family of Philip Pieterse and David Pieterse Schuyler. The most useful of them will be identified and linked from here in the future. The outstanding genealogical resource (and one consulted frequently for guidance by the (Colonial Albany Project) is the two volume Schuyler Genealogy published by the Friends of Schuyler Mansion in 1987 and 1992. Chief among the antiquarian works on the family is: George H. Schuyler, Colonial New York: Philip Schuyler and His Family (New York, 1885), two volumes.

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Margarita Van Slichtenhorst was born at Nykerk in the Netherlands in 1628 - the daughter of Brant Van Slichtenhorst and Aeltje Van Wenkum. She came to New Netherland with her parents in 1647 and came of age in Rensselaerswyck where her father served as director of the colony.

In December 1650, she married Philip Pieterse Schuyler - an immigrant carpenter who, following the marriage, became one of the leading traders of Beverwyck/Albany. The marriage produced twelve children between 1652 and 1672. Eight of those offspring went on to establish the Schuyler family in Albany and beyond.

By the 1660s, these Schuylers were established in a new house on upper State Street. Before his death in 1683, Philip Pieterse had stretched the Schuyler family holdings by acquiring property around Albany and beyond.

A widow at age 55, by virtue of their joint will filed in 1683, Margarita Schuyler assumed control of her husband's extensive estate. From her Albany house and at the farm known as "the Flats," Margarita continued her husband's business and sat as the matriarch of early Albany's foremost family. Her children included Pieter Schuyler - first mayor of the city; Alida, the wife of Robert Livingston; and future mayor - Johannes Schuyler. Her other offspring established themselves in favored locations throughout the region.

Margarita Van Slichenhorst Schuyler lived until 1711. For much of that time, she was one of colonial Albany's most prominent residents. This active widow participated in business, landholding, and was an active member of the Dutch Church. Surrounded by family and supported by a number of slaves, this able women's life was full and advantaged.

Her will, filed in 1707, identified her as a "sometime...Albany merchant" and mentioned the real and personal estate she had acquired since the death of her husband. This seventy-nine-year-old widow had the presence of mind to circumvent English inheritance laws when she divided the Schuyler estate equally among her eight surviving children and their heirs. She died at age eighty-two on January 11, 1711.

## Abstracts of Wills Vol II 1708-1728, Margaret Schuyler

In the name of God, Amen. I, Margaret Schuyler, widow of Phillip Schuyler, sometime of Albany, merchant, being of sound mind, and considering that there having been some unhappy differences among my children; the youngest of them being apprehensive that by the strict rules of the common law, the will made by my said husband and myself on May 1st, 1683, might not be authentick enough to make such equal division among our eight children. But that Peter Schuyler, eldest son of my deceased husband, Peter Schuyler, might be entitled to all of the real estate. Yet, not thinking that my son, Peter Schuyler, would himself endeavor to take any such advantage, he being present at the making of said will. I give to each of our 8 children an equal part of all real and personal estate. And I being further willing to dispose of the real and personal estate, which, by of my husband. And my son Peter, at my request, being agreed with the seven other children, by deed, dated August 16, 1707, by which all further differences among them are prevented, I do give to my eight children, Gertruy, Alida, Peter, Arent, Phillip, Johanes, and Margaret, and to the three children of my son Brant Schuyler, namely: Phillip, Oliver, and Johanes, all my estate, real and personal. Provided always, that my son Phillip shall have the farm called the Flatts, with the utensils, he paying therefor, the sum of 600, to the rest. And they are all to pay an equal part of 9 bushels of good merchantable wheat yearly, to the Patroon or Lord of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck. Mentions "Cornelia Schuyler, widow of my son Brant Schuyler." I make my sons, Peter and Johanes, and my son in law, Robert Livingston, husband of my daughter Allida, executors. Signed and sealed in Albany in my dwelling house.

Witnesses, Iona Rumney, Anthony Caster, John Dunbar. Proved in Albany, June 27, 1711, before William Van Rensselaer, Esq., and of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

## Rensselaerswyck, New York Settlers, 1630-58

According to *O'Callaghan, History of New Netherland*, 2:69, van Slichtenhorst was appointed director of the colony Nov. 10, 1646, and sailed with his family and servants for Virginia Sept. 26, 1647. The records of the colony show that he arrived March 22, 1648, and held the office of director till July 24, 1652, when he was succeeded by Jan Baptist van Rensselaer. Between June 29, 1651, and July 24, 1652, van Slichtenhorst was most of the time at the Manhatans and J. B. van Rensselaer acted in his stead, for the first two months apparently in conjunction with Capt. Slijter. April 4, 1650, de Hooges complained to the council that Director van Slichtenhorst had thus far rendered no accounts. The director replied that *hy wel wat souwde ontfangen dan dat het Antonij de Hooges heeft opgesnapt* (that he would have received something if Antonij de Hooges had not gobbled it up). Van Slichtenhorst was still in the colony in July 1655 and lived in Holland in 1660.

## The Flatts

built by the Van Rensselaers as early as 1654 and repaired or rebuilt by them in 1668, became a Schuyler house in 1672, when Philip Pieterse Schuyler bought the bouwerij on the river front, and it so remained until very recent years.

From Philip Pieterse The Flatts descended to his son Pieter Philipse, that picturesque and sterling personage the Indians called "Quider," whom they both feared and loved because of his just dealings and integrity.

From "Quider" The Flatts passed to his son, Colonel Philip Pieterse, who married his cousin, Margarita Schuyler. This lady, commonly known in her day as "Madame Schuyler" or "Aunt Schuyler," was the subject of *Memoirs of an American Lady*.

Colonel Schuyler died in 1758, and not long afterwards The Flatts caught fire and the flames destroyed the roof and interior. Madame Schuyler got the wing of her house rebuilt. The main part of The Flatts, facing the river, was rebuilt in its present form a little later.

### **Brandt Schuyler**

In the name of God, Amen. I, BRANDT SCHUYLER, of New York, merchant, being in health of body. I leave to my eldest son, Phillip Schuyler, 100 pieces of 8, or the sum of 30, lawful money of New York, in consideration of his birthright. I leave to my sons Phillip, Oliver, and John Schuyler, all that my lot of land, with all the privileges, situate in the East ward of New York, lying between the grounds of Mr. James Emott and Mr. William Huddlestone. I also leave them 100, and to each of them a silver tankard of 12 value. I leave to my wife Cornelia all the residue of my estate during her widowhood, but if she marries she is to deliver a full inventory, and give one half to the survivors of my children. If she dies my widow, then all my estate is to go to my three sons. My eldest son shall have his choice if he likes it, to take the dwelling house I now live in, and my bolting house and appurtenances, and he is to pay to his brothers two thirds of its value. If all my three sons should die under age, "which God in his mercy Prevent," then the whole estate is to be divided into three parts--one part to my wife's brothers and sisters, and the other two parts to my own brothers and sisters, and my eldest brother, Colonel Peter Schuyler, to have the real estate, upon paying its value to the rest. I make my wife, Cornelia, executor, and my brother in law Johanes Van Cortlandt, and my cousin, Andrew Teller, and my cousin, William Nicoll, guardians of my children. Dated, January 11, 1700/1. Witnesses, John Kip, Teunis De Kay, Isaac Kip, Jacobus De Kay. Codicil, 25 of (???), 1702, confirms the above, and makes Colonel Peter Schuyler, Geritt Schuyler, and "my son, Phillip Schuyler," executors. Proved, April 18, 1723, and Cornelia Schuyler continued as executor. [NOTE.--The lot left to his three sons, is now Nos. 218-224 Pearl Street, New York. This was a lot "from high water mark to low water mark," granted by the city to Colonel Brandt Schuyler, September 7, 1692, being 95 feet wide. Phillip Schuyler, the eldest son, died in 1722. Captain Brandt Schuyler died in 1702. His wife, Cornelia, was a daughter of Colonel Stephanus Van Cortlandt. John and Oliver left no descendants. Phillip married Ann Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Samuel Staats. He left children, Brandt, Ann Elizabeth, wife of John Joris Bleecker, and wife of Switz, and, wife of William Lupton.-- W. S. P.]

*Abstracts of Wills Vol II 1708-1728, Page 381*

## Captain Arent (Francis) Schuyler

Arent, fourth son and seventh child of Philip Pieterse Schuyler and his wife Margareta, through whom and his descendants the subject of this sketch traces his ancestry, was born in Beverwyck, June 25, 1662. An entry in the family record written in the Dutch language, translated reads thus: "1662 the 25 june is born our fourth son named Arent van Schuyler. May the Lord God let him grow up in virtue to his salvation, Amen." He began his business career as a merchant in Albany and seems early to have accumulated a competency. His public career, the records show, was a highly creditable one. He took an active part in the French and Indian wars of his day, was commissioned a captain, and soon acquired a reputation for skill and valor. He was the first man of the Dutch or English to lead a hostile force into Canada, heading a scouting party of friendly Indians in 1690, himself being the only white man. They went through the lake and down the river Sorel to Fort Chambly and under its walls they killed two and took one Frenchman prisoner. In the campaign of February, 1693, Arent Schuyler commanded a company of militia when the French and Indians were driven from the Mohawk country by Major Peter Schuyler. He was several times selected to treat with hostile tribes from his wide knowledge of the Indian character and language. Owing to his absence from home on military duties, Schuyler found his business affairs going badly in Albany, and in 1694 determined to remove to New York and resume his occupation as a merchant. Here he remained until 1702, when he took up his residence in Pompton Plains, New Jersey. He made large ventures in real estate in New Jersey, and as time went on became one of the wealthiest men of the neighborhood. He continued his residence in Pompton until 1710, when he moved to a large farm which he had purchased on the Passaic river. On this property a copper mine was discovered, which proved a source of much wealth. He was married three times, his wives being respectively, Jenneke Teller, whom he wedded in 1684, Swantie Dyckhuse in 1703, and Maria Leisler in 1724. At his death in 1730 he left a large estate, personal and real, including ample tracts of land in New Jersey and houses and lots in New York city. He was an officer in the Reformed Dutch Church of Belleville, which he assisted in organizing soon after his settlement on the Passaic, and to which he left a considerable sum in his will.

### Genealogical and Personal Memorial of Mercer County, New Jersey Vol 1

In the name of God, Amen. I, ARENT SCHUYLER, of New Barbadoes, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, Gent. "Being in good health, and being penitent and sorry from the bottom of my heart for my sins." I leave to my eldest son Philip all that my 1/3 part of 1,260 acres of land between Pompton and Peckquaneck which are in common between me and Samuel Bayard, and the heirs or assigns of Anthony Brockholst, Esq.

I having already provided for my son Casparus, by giving him a tract of land of 500 acres of upland and meadow, "at a place formerly called Lessa point, but now Wingworth's point, within the bounds of Burlington, by deed dated September 28, 1724. I therefore give him 5 shillings in full of all claim to my estate. I give and devise all that dwelling-house and tract of land where I now live in New Barbadoes, and which was sold to me by Edward Kingsland and wife Mary, April 20, 1710, with all the buildings, to my son, John Schuyler, reserving all mines and minerals. To him and his heirs male, and in default of heirs, then to my son Adonijah, and his male heirs, and in default of heirs then to my daughters Eva and Cornelia. I leave and devise, all that the large house, and grounds thereto belonging, in Elizabethtown, and all that tract of 760 acres near Rahway river and the meadows upon the sound, esteemed 27 acres, as the same was conveyed to me by Effingham Townley, December 20, 1720, together with all improvements, to my

my son Adonijah and his heirs, and in default, then to my daughters Eva and Cornelia.

I give and devise all those tracts and pieces of land at Elizabethtown point, as described in a deed to me from Effingham Townley and wife Sarah, December 20, 1721, with the large house thereon since built, and also that small piece of land at the point, purchased from William Dugdale and John Searle, January 21, 1722, with the house and improvements, to my son, Adonijah Schuyler, and his heirs (same reversions as above).

I leave to my two daughters, Eva and Cornelia, all the dwelling-house and two lots in the Broadway in New York, now in possession of Mrs. Swift, and to the survivor of them. I leave to my eldest son, Philip, 25, in full of all claims as heir at law. I leave to my daughters Eva and Cornelia, to each an Indian slave and 1,000, "current money, at 8 shillings by the ounce," when they are of age or married.

As to the children I may hereafter have, I leave to them the same as my other children.

I leave to each of the four children of my late daughter Oliver, 250 each, when of age or married.

Notwithstanding the instrument executed by my beloved wife, that she would not claim any right in my estate, other than the provision made for her before marriage, I direct that she shall have and enjoy the use of my chariot, and two of the best horses I shall have, and the choice of my female slaves. And if she think proper she shall remain and live in my house where I now live, and be maintained out of my estate so long as she remains a widow.

I leave all the slaves and household goods on the farm where I now live, to my son John, and the rest to my sons John, Peter, and Adonijah. My executors are to have full power to operate all mines on my estate, and the profits to be for my sons. I make my son John, and John Walter, merchant, of New York, executors.

Dated December 17, 1724. Witnesses, William Beekman, Jacob Goelet, Joseph Murray.

Codicil confirms the above will, and leaves to his son Casparus 50 annually, and to his wife Mary 2,500 in addition to 1,500, formerly agreed to be given. To daughters Eva and Cornelia, 3,000, and also a house in the Smith's Vly, in New York, with the land. To my grand-son, Arent Schuyler, son of my son Philip, 1,000. The testator states that he then had far more money than he had when his will was made.

Dated October 30, 1730. Witnesses, John Cooper, J. Rowzet, John Cooke. Proved, February 2, 1730/1.

[NOTE.--The "daughter Oliver" mentioned, was his daughter Margaret, wife of Charles Oliver, who died in 1719. The house on Broadway, left to his two daughters, is now No. 109 Broadway. The house in Smith's Vly, New York, is now No. 133 Pearl street.--W. S. P.]

[Abstracts of Wills Vol III 1730-1744. Page 48](#)

## Captain Johannes Schuyler

In the winter of 1689, the French attacked the English colonies by three expeditions sent without warning, and at

house of the Schuylers began its great public history. The mayor gathered volunteers and pursued the French, but it was too late. At the suggestion of the Schuylers, expressed through an embassy to Boston, consisting of the brother-in-law and the nephew of Mayor Pieter, the British colonies combined for an invasion of Canada the following summer, -- by sea, under Phipps, and by land, by way of Albany and Lake Champlain, under General Winthrop, of Massachusetts.

The Schuylers looked to as the natural leaders of the people, actively arranged the local details. Difficulties proved too great, and the expedition fell through. Abraham, one of the brothers, had, however, in the spring penetrated, with eight Iroquois, into the Canadian settlements.

Another brother, Captain John, then aged twenty-two years, grandfather of the General, volunteered to Winthrop to lead a band and strike at least some blow against the enemy. With twenty-nine whites, and one hundred and twenty Iroquois he penetrated to Laprairie, opposite Montreal, burned the crops, took prisoners, and only did not attack the fort because his Indians refused to fight in the open. This daring raid was the earliest land invasion of New France. The house was fortified so that its palisades could garrison one hundred men, and became more than ever a place of Indian councils.

[The Dutch Family of Schuyler, p.18](#)



In the name of God, Amen. I, ANN ELIZABETH SCHUYLER, of New York, widow of John Schuyler, merchant, being at present in health. After all debts are paid, I leave to my grandson, Samuel Schuyler, the only son of my son, Brandt Schuyler, lately deceased, all that my lands that are a part of the tract of land called Wawayanda. I leave to my granddaughter, Ann Elizabeth Schuyler, all my wearing apparell. I leave to each of my executors 25. All the rest I leave to my 4 grandchildren, Johanah, wife of William Lupton, Catharine, wife of Cornelius Switse, Samuel Schuyler, and Ann Elizabeth Schuyler. I make my nephews, Abraham Lott and Richard Morris, executors.

Dated January 21, 1766. Witnesses, Abraham Van Deursen, John Van Cortlandt, John Clopper. Proved, February 13, 1768.

[New York City Wills, 1766-1771, Page 161](#)

**Johannes Schuyler** was born in Albany in 1668, youngest of the six sons of Philip Pieterse and Margarita Van Slichtenhorst Schuyler.

Johannes grew up in the new family home on State Street and on the farm at the Flats. Although Philip Pieterse died when the boy was just fifteen, his father was able to establish three of his sons in advantageous business situations beyond Albany. Eldest son Pieter Schuyler succeeded in his father's Albany-based enterprises. Young Johannes was able to follow in the Albany setting as well. Few New Netherland families were able to place their children so well.

Residing with his widowed mother, Johannes Schuyler grew into adulthood. An accomplished fur trader who often

militia commissions - where as Captain and Colonel he served Albany interests long and well.

In April 1695, he married the widow Elsie Staats Wendell - already the mother of eleven children. Marriage to the daughter and widow of two of early Albany's foremost families was not surprising. However, Johannes was twenty-seven and his bride a decade older. In addition, Elsie was expecting and would give birth to the first of their four children just eight months later. This union of an older women to a much younger man is without parallel in early Albany history.

Johannes moved into his wife's home on State Street and was elected to the city council in 1695. He would hold the first ward aldermanic seat for much of the next two decades. His trading experience made him one of the more active members of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs. As late as 1737, he was sent into the Onondaga country on a diplomatic mission.

In 1703, this city father was appointed mayor of Albany. Re-appointed three more times, he served until 1706. In 1710, he was elected to represent Albany County in the provincial Assembly - where served until 1713. During this time, he retained his seat on the common council.

Assessment rolls for the early 1700s show Johannes Schuyler to be one of the wealthiest Albany traders. He was a supporter and deacon of the Albany Dutch Church and the godfather of many Albany children. Like many Albany leaders, he was able to acquire extensive frontier acreage and administered his mother's lands as well. During the three decades of peace and development (1713-44), he was able to establish mills on some of those properties and engage tenants to begin to tap farm and forest potentials.

Having outlived all of his siblings, by the 1730s this onetime youngest son became patriarch of the Schuyler family - watching as children, Wendell stepchildren, and grandchildren succeeded to places of prominence and leadership in Albany and beyond. His wife died in 1737. He made his will in 1742. City father, military leader, Indian diplomat and frontier developer, Johannes Schuyler's long career spanned Albany's transition from outpost to entrepot. He died in February 1747 - a year shy of his eightieth birthday.

The life of **Johannes Schuyler** is CAP biography number 100. We know of no other narrative biography of Johannes Schuyler. Basic demographic information has been compiled in Christoph's *Schuyler Genealogy*.

This **portrait** of Johannes Schuyler has been sewn together with a portrait of his wife. It has been widely reproduced and is in the collection of the New-York Historical Society This unusual double painting was painted prior to Elsie's death in 1737. Both portraits probably were done by Scottish-born artist John Watson. In 1741, the double portrait was noted in Johannes Schuyler's will.

Between 1692 and 1731, Johannes Schuyler witnessed twenty-seven **baptisms** in the Schuyler, Staats, and Wendell families, and of other Albany children as well.

[The People of Colonial Albany, Stefan Bielinski](#)

# Robert Livingston, 1st Lord of Livingston Manor and Alida Schuyler

## Henry's Great grandparents

### Family

Robert Livingston, 1st Lord of Livingston Manor  
(13 Dec 1654, Ancram, Roxburghshire, Scotland)  
(20 Apr 1725, Manor Livingston NY)  
(son of [Rev. John Livingston and Janet Fleming](#))  
+ Alida Schuyler 9 July 1679, NYC  
(28 Feb 1656, Beverwyck NY)  
(27 May 1729, Manor Livingston NY)  
(daughter of [Philip Schuyler and Margareta van Slichtenhorst](#))

#### Children:

Johannes Livingston (1680 - 1720)  
Johanna Phillippina Livingston (1684 - Bef. 10 Feb 1722)  
[Philip Livingston](#), 2nd Lord of Livingston Manor (9 Jul 1686 - 1749)  
[Robert Livingston, Jr.](#) (1688 - 27 Jun 1775)  
[Gilbert Livingston](#) (3 Mar 1690 - 25 Apr 1746)  
William Livingston (1692 - childhood)  
Johanna Livingston (1694 -)  
Margaret Livingston (Abt. 1696 -)  
Catherine Livingston (1698 - Bef. 10 Feb 1721/22)

### The 20th Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans, Vol.6, p.458

LIVINGSTON, Robert, first lord of the manor, was born at Ancrum, Roxburghshire, Scotland, Dec. 13, 1654; son of [Dr. John Livingston](#) (1608-1672), a Presbyterian minister, who was banished from Scotland in 1663, on account of his

his flight to Rotterdam, and immigrated to America in 1673, and after spending part of a year in Charlestown, Massachusetts Bay colony, removed to Albany, N.Y., Where he was secretary of the commissaries who superintended the affairs of Albany, Schenectady, and the parts adjacent, 1675-86.

He was married in 1683 to Alida, daughter of [Philip Pietersen Schuyler](#), and widow of Nicholas Van Rensselaer. In 1686 he received from Governor Thomas Dougan a grant of land comprising large parts of what was subsequently set off as Dutchess county, and the grant was confirmed by royal charter from George I., who erected the manor and lordship of Livingston.

Robert Livingston was appointed to proceed to New York with his brother-in-law, Peter Schuyler, to obtain a charter for the manor from Governor Dougan, under which charter he was town clerk, 1686-1721. In 1689 he attached himself to the anti-Leisler faction. He was secretary of the convention held at Albany, Oct. 25, 1689, which, while it acknowledged the sovereignty of William and Mary, opposed Leisler's proceedings. When Richard Petty, sheriff of Albany, reported to Leisler that Livingston favored the Prince of Orange, Leisler ordered Livingston's arrest, and the latter retired to one of the neighboring provinces until the arrival of Sloughter, in March, 1691.

In 1694 he made a voyage to England, was shipwrecked on the coast of Portugal, and obliged to travel through Spain and France by land. He returned to New York in 1696, accompanied by his nephew, Robert Livingston. While in England he was appointed by royal commission, dated Jan. 27, 1695-96, commissioner of excise, receiver of quit rents, town clerk, clerk of the peace, clerk of the common pleas for the city and county of Albany, and secretary for the government of the Indians in New York.

He obtained for Robert Kidd a commission to rid the American seas of buccaneers; but Kidd himself turned pirate and the expedition failed. In September, 1696, the charge of alienation was preferred against him by the council, but through the influence of Lord Bellomont, who arrived in April, 1698, to take charge of the government, he was appointed one of the council, September, 1698, and in the autumn of 1700, was reinstated in all his offices.

He was accused by the Leislerian commission of appropriating the public money for his own use, and of employing improper influences to induce the Indians to favor his going to England on behalf of their interests at the court. He refused to exonerate himself of the charge by oath and on April 27, 1701, his estates were confiscated and he was suspended from the council board. Through the intercession of Lord Cornbury he was vindicated.

On Feb. 2, 1703, he regained his estates, and in September, 1705, he was reinstated in his former offices. He was elected a member of the assembly from Albany in 1711, and from his manor, 1716-25, serving as speaker 1718-25, when he retired on account of ill-health. He died in Albany, N.Y., April 20, 1725.

### **American Ancestry, Columbia County, New York State, p.74**

ROBERT LIVINGSTON, first "Lord of the Manor" of Livingston in the State of New York (ancestor of 753, 754,

ancestor of the earls of Linlithgow and Callendar (see Burke's Extinct Peerages, in loco), an energetic preacher of the Reformed church in Scotland, who was banished for his nonconformity, and took refuge in Rotterdam, where he died, 1672. Of his seven children, Robert Livingston (born in 1654) came to New York about 1675, and in 1686 received from Gov. Dongan a large tract of land, which was in 1715 confirmed by royal charter of King George I, creating the manor and lordship of Livingston. This tract embraced large portions of what are now Dutchess and Columbia counties in the State of New York. A portion of it is still held by the Livingston family, and is known as Livingston Manor. Robert Livingston married Alida, widow of Domine Nicolas Van Rensselaer, daughter of Colonel Philip Pieterse Schuyler of Albany, and had three sons, Philip, Robert and Gilbert, who are the ancestors of the Livingstons of America.

### **The People of Colonial Albany, by Stefan Bielinski**



Although never elected to local office, Robert Livingston was the most important person to live in colonial Albany.

Born in Scotland in 1654, the fourteenth child of John Livingston and Janet Fleming, he followed his father, a refugee Calvinist minister, to the Netherlands in 1663. Considerably younger and not close to his siblings, young Robert grew up in Rotterdam learning the intricacies of business and trade and becoming fluent in both English and Dutch. By 1670, he was keeping his own Dutch-language account book. Following the death of his father, in 1673 Robert Livingston returned to Scotland and then sailed for Boston to find his fortune in America.

Livingston's father was well-known in Puritan Boston where a merchant advanced the young son enough stock and credit to undertake a trading venture to Albany. Over the winter of 1674-75, Robert Livingston set up a store in the house of Gabriel Thomson and then purchased an Albany house lot the following Spring.

Livingston's business and multi-lingual capabilities placed him in great demand in the upper Hudson region. In August 1675, he became secretary of Rensselaerswyck; in September, clerk or secretary of the town of Albany; collector of

partnership with New Englander Timothy Cooper, these offices should have provided him with substantial income. However, this newcomer experienced financial difficulty and frequently needed the intercession of Governor Edmund Andros to collect his fees. That connection to the English in New York - although of great value to Livingston personally, prevented him from gaining acceptance in still-Dutch Albany.

Local shunning and dunning abated considerably following his marriage in 1679 to Alida Schuyler, sister of future mayor Pieter Schuyler and the recent widow of Nicholas Van Rensselaer - formerly Livingston's Rensselaerswyck employer. Their marriage lasted almost fifty years and was a classic early American partnership. Mother of his nine children and the daughter and heir of two the most substantial fortunes in the region, Alida also proved an unparalleled business associate.

By the early 1680s, Livingston had turned his attention to acquiring land - first on behalf of his widowed wife, and then on his own. Livingston's enthusiasm for pursuing his wife's Van Rensselaer inheritance was applauded by the Schuylers but reviled by the Van Rensselaers. By then, these Livingstons had taken up residence in the Van Rensselaer house across from Alida's family home. From that upper State Street headquarters, Robert Livingston directed his considerable energies to amassing one of the largest fortunes in seventeenth century New York while helping structure development in Albany and in the region.

In 1686, he joined with Pieter Schuyler to persuade Governor Thomas Dongan to grant Albany a municipal charter like that awarded to New York City a few months earlier. Livingston was the architect of the so-called Dongan Charter which established Albany as an early American city and ensured that its future would be different from that of the surrounding countryside. Carved out of land within the colony of Rensselaerswyck, the Van Rensselaers had yet another reason to dislike Livingston.

In the charter, Robert Livingston was appointed clerk of the city and county of Albany. The clerk registered legal documents and collected a fee for each transaction. That position gave Livingston a hand in many aspects of the development of huge Albany County. He held that office until 1721 when it passed to his son, Philip - an active deputy for many years. That office brought the Livingstons in close contact with its appointing authority - the royal governor. Over the years, Robert Livingston proved of great value to the royal government as an advisor, emissary, and even financier. In return, he received land patents including one that created Livingston Manor in 1686, frequent and significant contracts, and a long-overdue appointment to the governor's Council in 1698.

Those connections to New York and ultimately to London enabled the astute and shrewd Livingston the wealthiest person in the upper Hudson region. But they did little to endear him to his Albany neighbors - who never really trusted the Scot and spoke out against him during his increasingly frequent absences. Although established in Albany where his Albany-born wife was raising their family, Robert Livingston's actual business went beyond the city stockade where trading in Anglo American networks kept him in New York and sent him to other cities and abroad more and more after 1690.

In the decade that followed, Livingston was closely involved in enabling the overseas mercantile interests of his oldest son John and son-in-law Samuel Vetch and wanted for a surrogate in Albany until second son Philip came of age in 1707. To fill this void, Robert Livingston had brought over his young nephew in 1687. However, Robert Livingston, Jr. proved more interested in furthering his own ends - particularly following his marriage to the daughter of Pieter

upholding the crucial Albany end of Livingston's trading empire until Philip was able to take over.

By that time, Robert Livingston was most frequently found in his substantial Manhattan townhouse where his trading ships were moored at his own dock. Then he was building his country estate below Albany on bank of the Roeloff Jansen Kil. Although he continued to contribute large sums for Albany's defense and other essential projects, by the 1700s Robert Livingston was represented in Albany chiefly by Alida and her children.

During the years from 1690 to 1710, Livingston's careers represented major stories in the growth and development of the province of New York. However, little of it had a major Albany context as he was rarely at home on upper State Street. Livingston was first elected to the New York General Assembly in 1709 - but more to represent his manorial interests and the growing downriver part of Albany County than the city of Albany. He was elected speaker of the provincial Assembly and served until retirement in 1726.

As "Livingston Manor" became more habitable, Alida and Robert were reunited on the Roeloff Jansen Kil where Alida had come to rescue her deteriorating health. As the Manor filled out, however, its owners suffered as their health was not good. In 1716, Robert Livingston was called back from New York and spent six months at Alida's bedside. Over the next decade, the health of both partners deteriorated as their conditions were of great concern to their grown children. Alida Schuyler Livingston died in 1727. Robert Livingston died at the Manor two months short of his seventy-fourth birthday on October 1, 1728.

From a humble start as an Albany clerk, Robert Livingston established one of New York's premier political dynasties. Following their father's blueprint for success, his sons and grandsons took hold of leadership positions in business, government, and the law at the provincial, state, and national levels. Through marriage, his daughters and granddaughters connected the Livingstons to the most important families of New York and beyond.

#### Notes

This handsome portrait, probably painted by Nehemiah Partridge about 1718, is now in a private collection. The image reproduced here was printed in Ruth Piwonka, *A Portrait of Livingston Manor, 1686-1850* (Friends of Clermont, 1986). The definitive work on Robert "The Founder" is Lawrence H. Leder, *Robert Livingston 1654-1728 and the Politics of Colonial New York* (Chapel Hill, 1961). The most useable family genealogy is Florence Van Rensselaer's *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins* (New York, 1949). See also, Cynthia A. Kierner, *Traders and Gentlefolk: The Livingstons of New York, 1675-1790* (Ithaca, 1992). Also recommended is a major antiquarian history of the family by Edwin B. Livingston entitled *The Livingstons of Livingston Manor* (New York, 1910).

The intent of this biography of early Albany's most significant individual is to tell his story in an Albany context and to leave the larger (beyond Albany) life of Robert Livingston to his many biographers - beginning with those listed above.

Livingston's collection of the Albany Indian Records was edited and presented by Lawrence H. Leder as "The Livingston Indian Records, 1666-1723," in a special volume of *Pennsylvania History* 23:1 (January 1956). Secretary Livingston first signed the minutes in June 1677.

wife is found in Linda Biemer, "Business Letters of Alida Schuyler Livingston, 1680-1726," *New York History* 63:2 (April 1982), pp 183-207.

Livingston's holdings included two houses in Albany, pasture land outside the north gate, shares of the Saratoga Patent, and a tract of land on the Roelof Jansen Kil that became the basis for the Livingston Manor Patent - first granted in 1686.

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Alida Schuyler was born in 1656, the third of the ten children of Beverwyck pioneers Philip Pieterse and Margarita Van Slichtenhorst Schuyler. Alida grew up in the Schuyler family home - a center of Albany activity in the years after the English takeover in 1664.

As the daughter of Albany's foremost fur trading family, it was not so surprising that nineteen-year-old Alida would be matched with Nicholas Van Rensselaer, the thirty-nine-year-old son of the founder of Rensselaerswyck - thus joining two of the pre-eminent fortunes in the region. The couple had no children before Van Rensselaer died in 1678.

Less than a year later, Alida married Robert Livingston - a recently arrived Scottish opportunist and former clerk of her deceased husband. That union was for life and produced a large family of nine children who went on to establish the Livingstons and the Schuylers in the first rank of New York society.

The couple took up residence in what had been a Van Rensselaer house at the Elm Tree Corner. Encouraged by the Schuylers, Livingston pressed the Van Rensselaers for the balance of Alida's inheritance - making Livingston their sworn enemy and straining the relationship between Alida's family and the patroonship.

Robert Livingston's business frequently took him away from Albany and Alida took charge of her husband's extensive Albany operations. For the first two decades of their marriage, the often expecting wife received instructions from New York, Boston, and London where her husband was forging the largest and most active new fortune north of New York City. Her letters to Robert Livingston over a long period of time testify to the scope of her activities, the depth of her business acumen, and also to the stress the separations placed on their relationship.

With the coming of age of her son, Philip, middle-aged Alida became less active in their Albany business. By the end of the 1700s, both parents had relocated to the Livingston country estate forty miles south of Albany. While Robert Livingston rarely returned to the place that had caused him much anxiety in the past, Alida frequently visited the Schuylers and her grandchildren in Albany.

By 1716, Alida was living on Livingston Manor and in poor health. Her weakened condition raised fears for her life and brought her husband from the New York Assembly chamber to her bedside for an extended period of time. Over the next decade, neither partner would be in good health. An invalid, Alida died in May of 1727 at the age of seventy-

later and was laid to rest with her in the family vault.

#### Notes

The life of Alida Schuyler Livingston is CAP biography number 95. This profile is derived chiefly from community-based resources and from the extensive resources available for the Schuyler and Livingston families. More recently, Alida Livingston has been the subject of considerable scholarship by Linda B. Biemer. Chief among her works is "Business Letters of Alida Schuyler Livingston, 1680-1726," in *New York History* 63:2 (April 1982), 182-207, which features translations of twenty-two letters to Robert Livingston - providing unparalleled windows on their business and personal relations. Alida is one of the exceptional women profiled in Biemer's *Women and Property in Colonial New York: The Transition from Dutch to English Rule, 1643-1727* (Ann Arbor, MI, 1983).

Portrait by an unidentified artist possibly of Alida Schuyler at the time of her first marriage in 1675. This information accompanies a black and white likeness reproduced in Ruth Piwonka, *A Portrait of Livingston Manor* (Clermont, NY, 1986), 102. The "colored" image reproduced here was found unattributed on an interesting Livingston website. Like many early American portraits, the attribution of it as Alida is highly speculative.

As Robert Livingston's nephew, Robert Livingston, Jr., and son-in-law, Samuel Vetch, proved more interested in pursuing their own enterprises, Alida Livingston was called on to manage the daily operations of her husband's diverse business.

### **Mohawk-Hudson Genealogical and Family Memoirs**

Robert Livingston, youngest son and fourteenth child of Rev. John and Janet (Fleming) Livingston, was born at Ancrum, Scotland, December 13, 1654, died October 1, 1728 (some authorities say at Boston, Massachusetts), and is buried in the family vault at Livingston Manor, town of Livingston, Columbia county, New York, over which the Livingston Memorial church has been erected in recent years. It is supposed he accompanied his father to Holland as he was familiar with the Dutch language. He was eighteen years of age when his father died and he was left dependent upon his own resources for support. His thoughts naturally turned to the New World which his father had before him made an attempt to reach. He return to Scotland with his mother where he made but a short stay. April 28, 1672, he sailed from Grenock, Scotland, a passenger on the ship Catherine of Charlestown, Captain John Phillips, master, bound for Charlestown, New England. The exact date of his arrival in New England is unknown. He was soon, however, at New York, which was now under English control. Not being suited in New York, he proceeded to Albany, the next largest city in the colony and an important trading point. His knowledge of the Dutch language here was of great advantage to him and he was appointed in February, 1676, secretary of the commissaries who then superintended the affairs of Albany, Schenectady and adjacent territory, which office he held until July, 1686, when Albany being made a city, the board of commissaries was dissolved.

He was appointed with his brother-in-law, Peter Schuyler, to proceed to New York to obtain the charter of the city

farmer of the excise. He was also secretary for Indian affairs and collector of customs.

As early as 1675 he became a lot owner in Albany, owning the lot at the corner of State and North Pearl street, where he lived until his removal to the Manor. On July 18, 1683, he made a purchase of tracts along the east side of the Hudson containing 2,000 acres of land from four Indian chiefs, a purchase which was later confirmed by Governor Thomas Dongan.

His purchases were continued and on July 26, 1686, Governor Dongan issued a patent erecting a vast territory of not less than 125,000 acres into a lordship and manor to be recognized as the Lordship and Manor of Livingston, the only requirement being the annual payment to the government of Great Britain of twenty-eight shillings sterling, to be paid at the city of Albany, March 25, of each succeeding year. The land included, commenced about five miles north of the city of Hudson, running twelve miles on the Hudson, extending back to the Massachusetts line, widening as it receded from the river, so as to embrace not less than twenty miles on the boundary of the latter colony. The patent allowed the proprietor the privilege of holding a court seat and court baron with the advowson and right of patronage of the church within the manor. The tenants also had the privilege of assembly together to choose assessors to defray the public charges of cities, counties, and towns within the manor, in the same manner as those within the province. It granted the right of fishing, hawking, hunting, and fowling, the possession of mines, minerals (silver and gold mines excepted), and the right to fish in the Hudson along the boundary of said Manor. In 1715, however, the grant being confirmed by royal authority, the additional privilege of electing a representative to the general assembly of the colony and two constables were conferred upon the tenants. In 1710 more than 5,000 acres were taken to constitute a settlement for the Palatinates, which was called Germantown. This tract was purchased by the crown for this purpose, for the sum of 200 pounds sterling. The Manor of Clermont, comprising about 13,000 acres was severed from the upper manor by the will of Robert, the first lord of the Manor, and bequeathed to his youngest son, Robert (grandfather of Chancellor Livingston), to reward him for having discovered and frustrated a plot which had been formed by negroes on the estate to murder all the whites. In 1689 the tide of prosperity turned and he became involved in the troubles with Leisler, taking sides as did most of the prominent families against the Dutch governor. His party being beaten, he retired to one of the neighboring provinces probably to avoid the fury of his enemies. He made a trip to England during this period and brought back with him his nephew, Robert Livingston. His fortune ebbed and flowed alternately; in 1702 his estates were confiscated and he was suspended from the council board. But the tide again turned in his favor, and February 2, 1703, he once more obtained possession of his estates and in September, 1705, received from Queen Anne a commission reinstating him in all his former appointments. A mansion was erected on the Manor as early as 1692, but he did not reside there until 1711. In that year he was elected a member of assembly from the city and county of Albany, and in June, 1716, a representative from his Manor. In 1718 he was chosen speaker of house of assembly, which position he retained until 1725, when ill-health compelled his retirement from public life.

### **The Old Merchants of New York, Vol 3, 1864, Page 261**

He was a Livingston. People have no exact idea of what it was in those days to be a Livingston. "He is a Livingston"--"one of the name of Livingston"--conveying to the generality of people's minds something, but they don't exactly understand what. He is one of the Joneses does not mean much; while he is a Van Rensselaer has a distinctive

man who owns an enormous quantity of land, that he rents out for so much corn a-year. "He is one of the Astors," means much or little, depending very greatly upon the Christian name attached. If it is John Jacob, or William B., it indicates men who individually control many millions. But a "Livingston" in the olden times had entirely a different meaning. They were a good old race. They were exclusively New York. If they had a funeral of one of them at the manor, they had another equally magnificent at the palace at Broad street. They were not ashamed to be merchants.

Robert Livingston was the first that came to this country about 1676. He was the first proprietor of the mansion on the Hudson River. In 1686 he and his brother-in-law procured the celebrated charter of New York City from Governor Dougan. That is a funny charter, dated 22d day of April, 1686. It recites that "Whereas the City of New York is an ancient city of the Colony or Province of New York, of which James the Second is Supreme Lord and Proprietor."

It calls it "Said City at Manhattan Island," and gives the privilege of hunting and digging mines (except gold and silver). His Majesty never dreamed of Wall street and the mint in those days, or the Sub Treasury and John J. Cisco. It made Nicholas Bayard mayor, and John West town clerk. Shortly after West was succeeded by Robert Livingston, who soon after had the office of Farmer of the Excise annexed to his clerkship.

The quaint old charter also provides that "upon the feast day of St. Michael, the Archangel, yearly, the Lieutenant Governor, for the time being, with the advice of his Council, should nominate and appoint such person as he shall think fit to be mayor of said city, &c."

That day should be kept by all good citizens of the present day, viz., "The Feast Day of St. Michael."

It was in July, 1686, that Gov. Dougan issued a patent erecting 150,000 acres of land that Livingston had purchased, on the east side of the Hudson River into a lordship or manor, to be recognized as the "Lordship or Manor of Livingston," for which he was to pay an annual rent of twenty-eight shillings sterling.

In 1691 Leisler tried to arrest him, but failed. In 1694 he went to England, but was shipwrecked on the coast of Portugal. He returned in 1696.

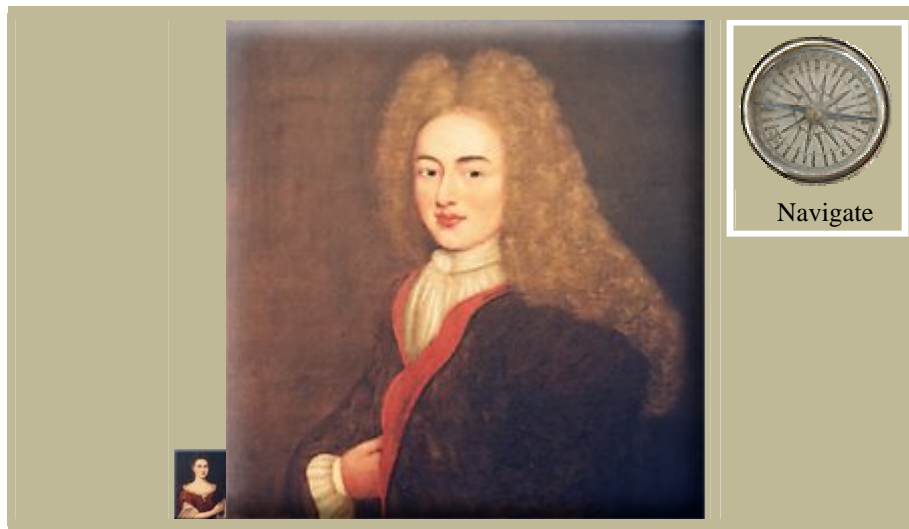
A mansion was erected on his manor in 1692, but he did not reside there until 1711. He died in 1726.

His son Phillip was born in 1686. He was second proprietor of the manor. In 1725 he was a member of the Council, and continued so until he died, in the city of New York, in 1749. His funeral rites were performed both in the City of New York and at the manor of Livingston. All the lower rooms of the house in Broad street were thrown open to receive visitors. A pipe of wine was spiced for the occasion, and to each of the eight bearers, with a pair of gloves, mourning ring, scarf and handkerchief, a monkey spoon was given.

A mansion was erected on his manor in 1692, but he did not reside there until 1711. A monkey spoon differed from the common spoon, in having a circular and very shallow bowl, and took its name from the figure of an ape or monkey, which was carved in solido at the extremity of the handle.

A mansion was erected on his manor in 1692, but he did not reside there until 1711. At the manor the whole ceremony was repeated, another pipe of wine was spiced, and besides the same present to the bearers, a pair of black gloves and

expensive funerals long continued a nuisance in New York, though the custom was a pleasant one, as it made a solemn scene at best, lively, entertaining and desirable. How many more would go to funerals now, if such a jolly good time was to be had. Fancy drinking a pipe of choice old Madeira spiced!



## Cornelia Beekman and Gilbert Livingston Henry's Grandparents

### Family

Gilbert Livingston  
(3 Mar 1690, Albany NY)  
(25 Apr 1746, Kingston NY)  
(son of [Robert Livingston and Alida Schuyler](#))  
+ Cornelia Beekman 22 Dec 1711, Kingston NY  
(18 Jun 1693, Kingston NY)

(daughter of [Hendrick Beekman and Joanna Lopers](#))

Children:

Robert Gilbert Livingston (11 Jan 1713 - 27 Oct 1789)

[Dr. Henry Livingston, Sr.](#) (27 Aug 1714 - 10 Feb 1799)

[Alida Livingston](#) (13 May 1716 - 16 Sep 1798)

Lt. Gilbert Livingston (10 Dec 1718 - 9 Sep 1789)

John Livingston (19 Sep 1720 - Aft. 1740)

[Joanna Livingston](#) (17 Aug 1722 - 10 Sep 1808)

and Lt. Governor Pierre Van Cortlandt

Wilhelmus Livingston (1724 - died in childhood)

Philippus Livingston (26 Jun 1726 - 8 Jun 1751)

[James Livingston](#) (29 Mar 1728 - 2 Jun 1790)

Samuel Livingston (29 Jan 1729/30 - 2 Jul 176x)

Cornelius Livingston (28 Apr 1732 - Aft. 7 Dec 1748, in childhood)

[Catharine Livingston](#) (17 Jul 1734 - 3 Nov 1769)

[Margaret "Peggy" Livingston](#) (20 June 1738 - 1818)

## Green Livingston Book

HUBERTUS or GILBERT LIVINGSTON, fourth son and sixth child of Robert Livingston and Alida (Schuyler-Van Rensselaer) Livingston, was born March 3, 1690. He was registrar of the Colonial Court of Chancery in 1720, and county clerk of Ulster the same year. From 1728 to 1738 he was a member of the Assembly for the Manor; major of Dutchess County militia and received the commission of lieutenant-colonel in 1739. Under his father's will he inherited one-seventh part of the Saratoga patent. It was on this land that General Burgoyne surrendered to General Gates in October, 1777. Died, April 25, 1746, at Kingston NY. Married, December 22, 1711, Cornelia Beekman, daughter of Colonel Henry Beekman and Johanna (de Loper-Davidson) Beekman, daughter of Captain Jacob Lugt de Loper, of Stockholm, and widow of Joris Davidson. Cornelia Beekman was born June 18, 1693; baptized August 15, 1693; died June 24, 1742.

## Will

Page 623.--In the name of God, Amen. I, GILBERT LIVINGSTON, of Kingston, in Ulster County, being sick and weak. Whereas there is to be raised out of the land given by my father-in-law Colonel Henry Beekman, to my beloved spouse Cornelia Livingston, deceased, the sum of 3,000, for my 10 younger children, Henry, Gilbert, Philip, James, Samuel, Cornelius, Alida, wife of Captain Jacob Rutson, Joana, Catharine, and Margaret, The said sum shall be equally divided among them. And whereas there is to be raised the sum of 1,000 for me and my heirs and assigns, I give the same and all my lands and estate to my eldest son, Robert Livingston, and my other 10 children. My executors have full power to sell all lands to pay debts. I make my sons Robert and Henry, and my son-in-law, Captain Jacob Rutsen, and my beloved nephew, Robert Livingston, son of my brother, Robert Livingston, executors.

December 12, 1745. Witnesses, Thomas Beekman, Jacobus De Lameter, Job Viele.  
Proved, August 29, 1746.  
End of Liber 15.



**Alida Livingston and Colonel Jacob Rutsen and Henry Van Rensselaer**  
[Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman](#)

Jacob Rutsen was an officer in the Militia Regiment of Ulster and Dutchess Counties. He was also Alida's first cousin, since he was the grandson of [Henry Beekman](#) and Joanna Lopers. Which means that Henry's aunt was marrying Henry's uncle. The joys of interbreeding.

For her next husband, Alida turned to Henry Van Rensselaer, marrying into the same family as had her grandmother, Alida Schuyler, whose first husband had been Nicholas Van Rensselaer. Rev. Van Rensselaer had been sent to the new country to manage the estate for his deceased brother Jeremias's children. Henry Van Rensselaer was the grandson of Jeremias, his father Hendrick having been a younger son who inherited Claverack, a 60,000 acre estate

to have inherited enough to make a lasting impression on history, though he did, obviously, on Alida.

Alida's children with Jacob Rutsen included Henry's first cousins Catrina Rutsen, Hendricus Beekman Rutsen, Colonel John Rutsen (who married Phebe Carman) and Cornelia Rutsen (who married General Robert Van Rensselaer (Henry's 3rd cousin, and the brother of Major General Philip Schuyler's wife).

Toune of Marbletown		Brought over	
Colt Jacob Rutsen	£1100	Jacq van der marke	£20
Major Jacob Aartsen	£200	Jacob van der marke	£20
Mattys Blancher	£315	Jacob van der marke	£5
Wm Nottingham	£140	<del>Thomas van der marke</del>	
John Beatty	£62	Thomas Jansen	£110
Cornelis Eltinge	£240	Jacob Keyser	£8
Wm N. Pawling	£205	Jan van Kampen sen	£140
Gysbert Krom	£145	Nicolas Du pass	£210
Richard Brodhead	£160	Gysbert Roosa	£30
Engeltie Maurits	£80	<del>Johan Brodhead</del>	
Peter Maurits	£18	Deborah Eltinge	£30
Heirez of John Bigges deed	£12	Rebecca Bogart	£26
Cornelis Tack	£25	Rachel Bogart	£20
Widow Kattel	£2	John Bigges	£5
Joris Middaugh	£20	Cornelis Keyser	£10
Jacobus De Lametter	£160	Jacobus Bop	£20
Gysbert Lambertsen	£80	Johannis Cool	£8
Jozias van der marke	£50	Nicolas Blancher	£10
Charles Brodhead	£170	Jannetie De witt	£160
Nicolas Sluyter	£2	James Roberson	£75
Hendrick Clauser	£80	Johannis van Leuven	£10
Thomas Loch	£100	Lambert Dolberbrink	£10
<del>Thomas Garton</del>	£380	Maeter Bogart & g	£10
John Cook	£125	Heermus Krom	£15
Jannetie Davits £25	£25	Henry Pawling	£20
Cornelia Ennis	£10	Jonias Best £20	£5
Jeremiah Kattel	£20	Christopher Den marke	£2
Class Keator	£12	Jacob Kleyn	£5
Carried over	£11928	Baltus Wiedrich	£5
		Jacob Boeshair	£2
		Johan Gorg Brodhead	£5
		Jozet van Lampe	£5
		Jakob van Lampe	£2
		Jodt Jante	£5
		Total Sum	£5109

Tax Assessment List for the County of Ulster, 1716/7

**James Livingston and Judith Newcomb**  
 Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman

James Livingston was born in Kingston, New York, March 29, 1728, the son of Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman, who was a daughter of Colonel Henry Beekman. James was a grandson of the first Robert Livingston and Alida Schuyler. He married November 11, 1751, Judith Newcomb (born in 1733, at Lebanon, Connecticut, and died August 31, 1808), the daughter of Thomas Newcomb and Judith Woodworth.

James Livingston came to Poughkeepsie to live about the time of his marriage in 1751, and in 1753 bought a plot of land and built his home where he lived the rest of his life. This plot of one hundred and fifteen acres lay between the King's Highway (now the Post Road from New York to Albany) and the Hudson River, and extended from the land owned by his brother, Henry Livingston, who had come to Poughkeepsie several years before, north to the road which is now Pine Street, Poughkeepsie. This tract now contains many streets and homes as well as the grounds of Vassar Brothers Hospital, Eastman Terrace, Eastman Park and the former location for many years of the Riverview Military Academy.

During the War of the Revolution a Continental shipyard occupied a part of the shore line, where two large frigates, the *Congress* and the *Montgomery*, as well as other naval vessels, were built. In later years the cove where the shipyard was located has been practically filled in and is now the site of the DeLaval Separator Company. A point of land extending into the river is still known as Shipyard Point. The James Livingston residence stood on a knoll not far from the entrance to Eastman Park.

James Livingston was a captain in the Provincial Militia from 1760; was sheriff of Dutchess County 1761-1768; was a member of the Provincial Congress, 1776-1777, and served as chairman of the Committee of Safety in 1778. He died in 1790, aged 62 years. His wife died August 31, 1808, aged 75 years and three months. They left three children: Cornelia, born December 16, 1753; Judith, who married John Moore (the license was dated October 16, 1773); and Gilbert James, born October 14, 1758, married Susanna Lewis, and died April 7, 1833.

"James Livingston, and Some of His Descendants, by J. Wilson Poucher,  
Duchess County Historical Society Yearbook, Vol 28, 1943, pp.67-8.

Oct 27 '72

"Exchang'd with James Livingston for a 2 years old Heifer by 2 yearling Black Bull"  
*Henry Livingston Day Book*

**Cornelia Livingston and Dr. Lawrence Van Kleeck  
and Major Andrew Billings**

James Livingston and Judith Newcomb  
Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman

in 1769 (the license was granted February 15), was Dr. Lawrence Van Kleeck, born May 4, 1749, in Poughkeepsie. He was a practicing physician and died about 1775 or 1776, leaving her with four children: Lawrence, born Jan. 11, 1770, and died young; James Livingston, born April 1, 1771; Sally, born in 1772; and baltus Livingston, born in 1774.

After the death of Dr. Lawrence Van Kleeck his widow married August 2, 1778, Major Andrew Billings of Poughkeepsie. The *New-York Journal and General Advertiser*, published by John Holt at Poughkeepsie, for Monday, August 10, 1778, contained the following announcement:

Last Sunday, se'nnight, by the Rev. Mr. Fryligh, Andrew Billings, Esq. to the amiable Mrs. Van Kleeck, relict of the late Mr. Lawrence Van Kleeck and daughter of James Livingston, Esq., of this place.

"James Livingston, and Some of His Descendants, by J. Wilson Poucher, *Duchess County Historical Society Yearbook, Vol 28, 1943, pp.67-8.*



Oct 16 '72

"Andrew Billings Crdt by 12 sh & 6p for a box bt of him"

Jan 1 '73

"Paid Andrew Billings 12s6 for a snuff & smelling box bt of him last fall"

May 24 '75

"Andrew Billings Credt by 9s9 on my giving him an old pair of silver shoe buckles for a new pair of the same 0-9-9 "

Jun 18 '75  
"Andrew Billings Credit by making and engraving fare to a seal.  
Jul 1 '75  
"Andrew Billings Dr to 11 1/2 lbs old brass"  
Aug 19 '75  
Letter to Col James Clinton; ready to leave to join General Montgomery's  
expedition;  
Captain Dubois with him; maybe also Capt. Billings; need more arms; wants  
Dr. Cooke  
with regiment  
Dec 18 '77  
"Andrew Billings bd by cleaning 2 watches"  
Feb 22 '92  
NYPL: Statement of Cornelia Billings, signed before Smith Thompson and  
Gilbert  
Livingston, delivered in the presence of Smith Thompson and James Kent;  
Survey map  
with lots of little houses, showing land conveyed from Andrew Billings to  
Henry Livingston  
Mar 3 '92  
NYPL: Andrew Billings appeared before Gilbert Livingston, as recorded by  
R.H.  
Livingston, Clerk  
May 30 '03  
Survey of the land Henry Livingston bought of Andrew Billings, part of  
the farm of the  
late James Livingston

### [Remarkable Watch of Andrew Billings](#)

After the war, Pierre's son, Gilbert, entered into a business partnership with a fellow Revolutionary veteran and relative, Andrew Billings. The partnership proved to be both brief and unfruitful. Gilbert's death, some time before 1790, apparently left Billings saddled with expenses, leaving him to plead with Pierre and later, Pierre, Jr., to help settle the debt.

The Andrew Billings Papers contain six letters written by Andrew Billings, two of which are addressed to Pierre Van Cortlandt, Sr., three to Pierre Van Cortlandt, Jr., and one to Gilbert Van Cortlandt, Pierre's son and Billings' partner in the failed firm, Cortlandt, Billings & Co. The collection also includes two account sheets and a letter written by Gilbert during the Revolution, probably addressed to Pierre Van Cortlandt, Sr.

Three letters in the Billings Papers are of substantial interest beyond the information they provide on the business transactions of the Van Cortlandt and Billings families. In the first, dated March 6, 1776, Billings discusses his hardships in raising troops in Westchester County. In the later two letters, dated June 15, 1785, and October 16, 1790, he bemoans the poor business climate of the early national period, the scarcity of

interesting idea for creating a co-operative among Poughkeepsie-area merchants.

University of Michigan, Clements Library

## Four Dollars Reward.

**S**TRAYED or Stolen out of the pasture of the subscriber, on the 26th of July last, a dark bay Horse, four years old, about 14 hands high, handsome carriage, natural trotter. Whoever takes up said horse, and returns him to the subscriber, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges, from

ANDREW BILLINGS.

☞ It is suspected this Horse has been exchanged for a red roan Mare, with one white hind foot.—Any person knowing of such an exchange, will do a good act to the public, by giving information to the subscriber, and shall be entitled to the above, and an additional reward.

*Poughkeepsie, August 4, 1791.*

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## FOR SALE.

**T**HE Farm, lately the seat of James Livingston, Esq. Deceased, in the flourishing town of Poughkeepsie, beautifully situated on the North river, and on the Post road from New-York to Albany. Said farm consists of about 70 acres of very excellent land, and has a good stone house, with a brick front, a large commodious barn, smoke-house, and other convenient buildings or out-houses; with a very valuable orchard, containing a great variety of the best ingrafted fruit, equal to any in the state, and a large proportion of meadow, which affords the best English hay. It merits the attention of the gentleman or merchant.

Likewise, one other small FARM, within a mile of the said town of Poughkeepsie, containing about 130 acres of valuable land. On it is a good stone house, barn, and an excellent orchard.

An indisputable title will be given by the subscriber in Poughkeepsie.

## **Judith Newcomb Livingston and John Moore**

James Livingston and Judith Newcomb  
Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman

Judith Livingston was named for her mother, Judith Newcomb. She married, in 1773, John Moore, Esq., of New York. He was a member of the New York Chamber of Commerce in 1768; a freeman of the city in 1769; Deputy Collector of His Majesty's Customs and Quit Rents; Deputy Naval Officer; Deputy Superintendent of the Port; Assistant Commissary General and Examiner of Stoppages for the Army and all the Staff and Departments; Deputy Secretary of the Province 1765-1783.

They had eight children: Elizabeth Channing Moore, who died in infancy; Eliza Elliot Moore who married Alfred Livingston, Esq.; Townsend Moore who died unmarried; John; Maria Seabury Moore who died in infancy; a second Maria Seabury Moore who married the Rev. David Moore, D.D.; Lydia Hubbard Moore who married the Rev. William Henry Hart; and Thomas William Channing Moore who died unmarried.

"James Livingston, and Some of His Descendants, by J. Wilson Poucher,  
Duchess County Historical Society Yearbook, Vol 28, 1943, pp.72.

**Terri Bradshaw O'Neill**

In early December 2001, I was contacted by Terri O'Neill.

"I have spent the last two days at your Henry Livingston website, fascinated by your research and your resulting conclusion that Henry Livingston was the author of A Visit From St. Nicholas . I have ordered Don Foster s book and will order yours tomorrow and read them thoroughly before jumping on the HL bandwagon, but from what is on your website, the evidence is pretty convincing. I, too, am a descendant of the New York Moore clan, though not Clement Clarke Moore. Rather, I descend from Col. John Moore of New York, whose grandson, John Moore (1745-1828) married Judith Newcomb Livingston, daughter of Sheriff James Livingston, of Gilbert's line."

Between Terri, who knows her Moores, and I, who know my Livingstons, we've had a breakthrough. For those who are wondering how a poem could make its way from the Livingston household in Poughkeepsie to the Clement Moore household in New York City, Terri and I can now add a close Livingston/Moore connection to the mix.

**Henry's first cousin and near neighbor  
was married to the brother of Clement Moore's uncle**

Well, actually, Judith Livingston was married to John Moore, the brother of the *husband* of Clement Moore's aunt, Judith Moore, the sister of Clement Moore's father, but it's likely that Clement Moore thought of Rev. Thomas Moore as his uncle rather than his aunt's husband.

Judith Newcomb Livingston and John Moore  
James Livingston and Judith Newcomb  
Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman

Lydia Hubbard Moore (1790-1830), the seventh child of Judith Livingston and John Moore, married in 1815, the Rev. William Henry Hart, assistant minister of Monumental Church, Richmond, Va., and afterwards rector of St. John's Church, Richmond.

They had seven children, including Frances Livingston Hart (1816-1895), who married in 1836, the Rev. Clement Moore Butler, D.D., rector of Grace Church, Washington, D.C., Chaplain of the United States Senate, and had three children: Frances Livingston Butler, Helen Moore Butler and Clement Moore Butler.

"James Livingston, and Some of His Descendants, by J. Wilson Poucher,  
Duchess County Historical Society Yearbook, Vol 28, 1943, pp.72-3.

**Maria Seabury Moore and Rev. David Moore, D.D.**

Judith Newcomb Livingston and John Moore  
James Livingston and Judith Newcomb  
Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman

**Gilbert James Livingston and Susannah Lewis**

James Livingston and Judith Newcomb  
Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman

Gilbert James, only son of James Livingston, born October 14, 1758, served as a young man in the army of the Revolution in the Second Regiment, New York Continentals, under Colonel Van Cortlandt. He entered as an ensign, was made second lieutenant November 21, 1776, and became first lieutenant June 28, 1779. He served through the Burgoyne campaign of 1777. He resigned on account of poor health April 5, 1780. In July of 1780 he became a captain of Levees under Colonel Lewis DuBois and served in this body in the defense of the frontiers against the Tories and Indians under Colonels Pawling and Weissenfels until July of 1782, the end of the war.

In 1780 Gilbert married Susanna Lewis, (daughter of Richard and Susanna Van Der Burgh Lewis), who was the

her first marriage, the mother of Colonel Lewis DuBois of the Revolutionary War.

A few years after his father's death in 1790, the estate was sold, the southern part to Henry Livingston in 1792 and the northern part, including the residence, to John Reade. The wife of John Reade was Catharine Livingston, daughter of Robert G. Livingston who was a brother to James and Henry, and therefore a cousin to Gilbert James. Where Gilbert and Susanna with their children went to live after the home was sold is not clear. They had five children baptized in the Reformed Dutch Church of Poughkeepsie.

"James Livingston, and Some of His Descendants, by J. Wilson Poucher, Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook, Vol 28, 1943, pp.75-6.

Gilbert James, the son of James and Judith, and Henry's first cousin, was the 5th great grandfather of President George W. Bush, and 4th great grandfather of President George H.W. Bush.

### **Catharine Livingston and Jonathan Thorn**

[Gilbert Livingston](#) and [Cornelia Beekman](#)

Jonathan Thorn, born in 1724, married Catharine Livingston, born in Kingston, July 17, 1734, the daughter of Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman. They lived on land in Beekman Precinct in Lot No. 17, (now in the Town of LaGrange and at one time owned by Mr. John L. Buck), which had come to Catharine through her mother, the daughter of Henry Beekman, the patentee. Her brothers, Henry, Gilbert and James were already living at Poughkeepsie. Jonathan and Catharine were the parents of at least eight children. All these children, except Johannes Rutsen, was living at the time Jonathan made his will September 30, 1776.

Jonathan, the elder, was apparently possessed of some of the traits of character displayed by his grandson and namesake, Captain Jonathan Thorn, some sixty years earlier. Because he had married a daughter of Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman, it might have been assumed that he would sympathize with the American cause. Along with other military officers and those holding public office in Dutchess County, on April 1, 1758, as a second lieutenant, and on June 14 of the same year, as first lieutenant, Jonathan signed the oath of allegiance to King George and the Declaration of Belief in the Protest Faith. And, in 1776, he refused to sign the "Articles of Association," or Revolutionary pledge, together with Robert Thorn, Gilbert Thorn and Jesse Thorn, among others. In October of that year Jonathan, Nathaniel, Stephen and Robert Thorn, and a number of other Dutchess County men who were listed as "notoriously disaffected and inimical to the measures pursuing for the safety and defense of the United States of America," were sent by the Committee for Detecting Conspiracies to Exeter, New Hampshire, as prisoners. They were held there until February of the following year when they were permitted to return to Dutchess County to visit their families, having given bonds to return to Exeter by the first day of May, unless they should obtain leave to reside at home. On the 20th of March they were granted six days to consider of their taking the oath and on the expiration of

the prison ships stationed in the Hudson River at Esopus. Dr. Stephen Thorn was paroled on June 7 and ten days later he subscribed to the oath of allegiance. In the fall, threatened by a British invasion, the Commission for Detecting Conspiracies was charged with the removal of prisoners from Kingston to Connecticut. Jonathan Thorn died at Hartford on November 14, 1777, and was buried there as a prisoner of war in the burying ground of the Center Church. His wife had died November 3, 1769.

"Lt. Jonathan Thorn, U.S.N., by Amy Pearce Ver Nooy,  
Duchess County Historical Society Yearbook, Vol 28, 1943, pp.83-84.



LIEUTENANT JONATHAN THORN, USN  
(1779-1811)

### Margaret "Peggy" Livingston and Peter S. Stuyvesant

[Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman](#)

Margaret Livingston, baptized, June 23, 1738, at Kingston; buried January 10, 1818; married, October 17, 1764, Peter Stuyvesant, great-grandson of Governor Stuyvesant (1602-82), born October 13, 1727; died October 7, 1805. Issue, six children.

[Livingston, by Ruth Lawrence](#)

Margaret Stuyvesant to Pierre. ALS

SHR

Bowery house January 8th 1808.

Dear Uncle

It affords me sincere pleasure in expressing to you, the Gratification Mama received from your Affectionate letter, it

as yourself & Aunt. -- Separated by some distance & so little communication between us, there was reason to suppose that an indifference might take place (from circumstances being misrepresented) through the kind interference of Cousin Beekman this supposition has been removed and the Amiable part she has acted has increased my love & respect towards her.-- Our religion as well as what we owe to our own Comfort & happiness lead us to live in love and goodwill towards each-other, with us, this duty & pleasure is strengthened by the ties of relationship. -- My mother is much inclined to testify her regard personally, by making you a visit, this however will not be practicable during the winter, should her health be spared until the spring & the traveling becomes Good she anticipates the happiness of again meeting you -- be pleased dear Sir to present our love and regards to Aunt & Cousin Vanwick - with great respect I remain your Affectionate Neice M. Stuyvesant

The author of this letter was most likely Margaret Stuyvesant, daughter of Petrus and Margaret (Livingston) Stuyvesant. Reynolds, III, 1015.

*Papers of Van Cortlandt, p. 235*

Petrus Stuyvesant built this house at 21 Stuyvesant Street in 1803. It was a wedding gift to his daughter Elizabeth, who married Nicholas Fish, a close friend and political ally of Alexander Hamilton. Son Hamilton Fish became New York State governor, senator, and secretary of state. It is now known as the Stuyvesant-Fish House.

