

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ANCESTORS ...

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NETHERLAND: III — WILTWYCK (KINGSTON)

**Hendrick Jochemse
Schoonmaker
(1624 – c. 1682) /
Theunis Eliassen
Van Bunschoten (c.
1643 – c. 1727) /
Wallerand DuMond
(c. 1635 – 1713)**

— *Bradley Rymph*

VISITS TO KINGSTON, NEW YORK:

September 2, 1995 (*with José Baquiran*)

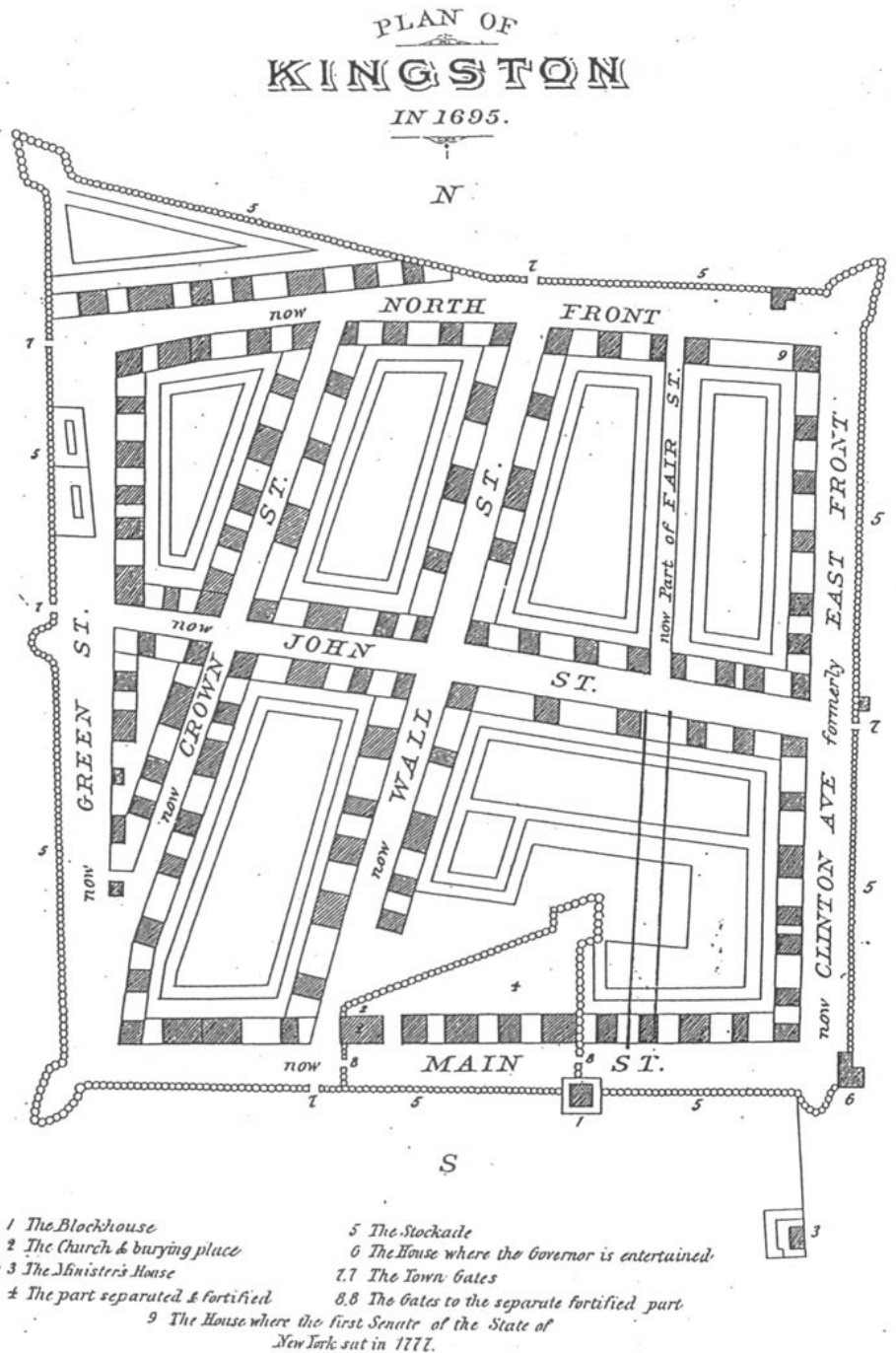
May 24, 2014

September 15, 2017 (*with José Baquiran*)

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Bradley B. Rymph.*

The Hudson River Valley in what is now New York was controlled by the Dutch as New Netherland only from 1609 until 1664. In that relatively short period of time, however, Dutch entrepreneurs established a series of trading posts, forts, and towns up and down the river. New Amsterdam, the southernmost point, became New York City. Fort Orange, the northernmost Dutch outpost, became Albany. The third major Dutch settlement — known first as Esopus and later as Wiltwyck, located between Fort Orange and New Amsterdam at the convergence of Rondout Creek with the Hudson River — eventually became known as the town of Kingston.

Esopus's major early settlement occurred in 1652 when 60–70 settlers moved down to the area from Fort Orange. Initially they farmed the area's fertile flood plains side-by-side with the area's Esopus Indians, but eventually conflicts broke out between the two groups. In 1657, Peter Stuyvesant, Governor of New Netherland, sent Dutch soldiers up from New Amsterdam to crush the Indians and help the settlers build a stockade to protect their village. Until 1664, when a peace treaty was reached with the Indians, the settlers lived inside their walled village, with the men going outside the 14-foot-high walls daily to farm their fields while the women and



children stayed largely confined within the stockade.

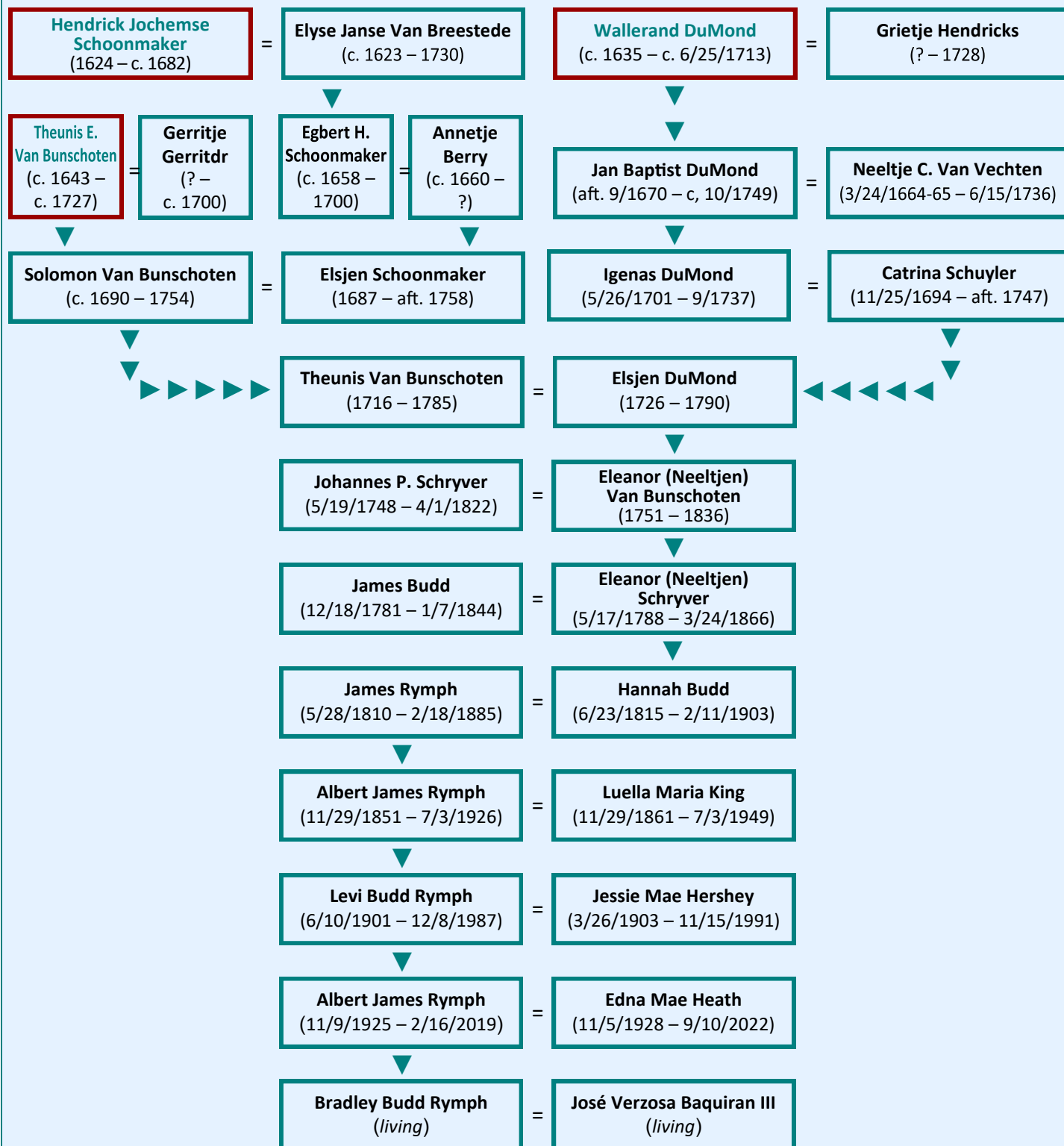
Although no longer needed, the stockade was left standing into the late 17th century. Archaeologists rediscovered wooden remnants of the wall along Kingston's Clinton Avenue during a dig in 1971. The first wooden homes of the original settlers are long

gone. However, the streets of the original village remain laid out as they were 350 years ago. In addition, several of the second generation homes still survive as examples 17th century Dutch stone buildings.

The Dutch lost New Netherland to the English in 1664 during the Second Anglo-Dutch War.

HOW WE'RE RELATED

Hendrick Jochemse Schoonmaker and his wife Elyse Janse Van Breestede, and Wallerand DuMond and his wife Grietje Hendricks, were my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandparents — and Theunis Eliassen Van Bunschoten and his wife Gerritje Gerritdr were my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandparents— through my father, Albert James Rymph.



OLD DUTCH CHURCH MARRIAGES AND BAPTISMS

The early marriage and baptismal records of the Old Dutch Church in Kingston are replete with the local ancestral names of the Van Bunschoten, Schoonmaker, DuMond, Hasbrouck, and Deyo families.

The following marriages and baptisms of direct ancestors (i.e., not including cousins and other relations) are included in the records.

Marriages:

1664 Jan 13 — Wallerand DuMond (c. 1635 – 1713) and Grietge Hendricks (? – 1728)

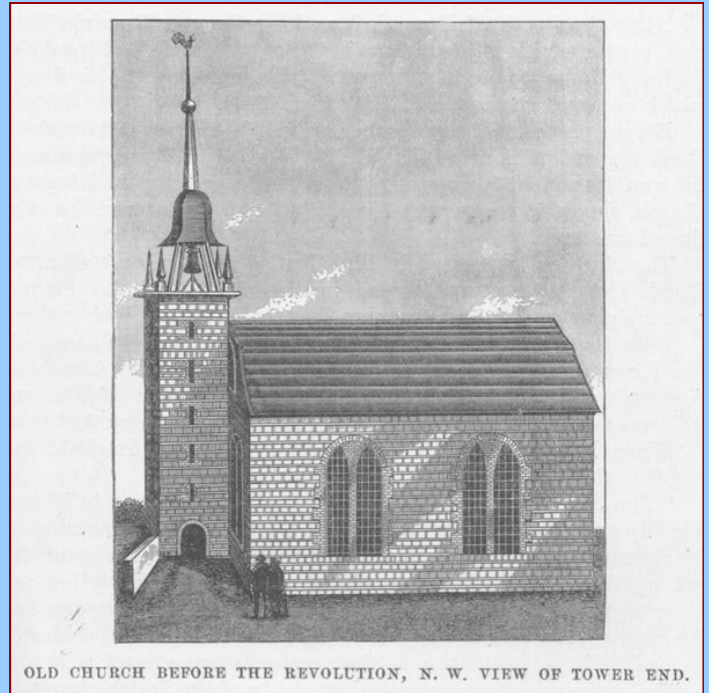
1676 — Abraham Hasbrouck (1650 – 1717) and Maria Deyo (1653 – 1741)

1684 Oct 13 — Egbert H. Schoonmaker (*listed as Egbert Hendricz*) (c. 1658 – ?) and Annetje Berry (c. 1660 – ?)

1715 Dec 17 — Solomon Van Bunschoten (c. 1690 – 1754) and Elsjen Schoonmaker (1687 – aft. 1758)

1725 Nov 13 — Igenas DuMond (1701 – 1737) and Catrina Schuyler (1694 – aft. 1747)

1743 Dec 10 — Theunis Van Bunschoten (1716 – 1785) and Elsjen DuMond (1726 – 1790)



First stone Dutch Church, Kingston, 1679–1752



Baptisms:

1688 Apr 1 — Elsjen Schoonmaker (1687 – aft. 1758), daughter of Egbert H. Schoonmaker and Annetje Berry

1694 Jun 3 — Daniel Hasbrouck (1692 – 1759), son of Abraham Hasbrouck and Maria Deyo

1701 May 26 — Igenas DuMond (1701 – 1737), daughter of Jan Baptist DuMond and Neeltje Corneliuse Van Vechten

1716 Jul 15 — Theunis Van Bunschoten (1716 – 1785), son of Solomon Van Bunschoten and Elsjen Schoonmaker

1726 Jun 19 —
Elsjen
DuMond
(1726 –
1790),
daughter of
Igenas
DuMond
and Catrina
Schuyler



Steeple of existing Old Dutch Church, built 1852 on site of original church



Site of old blockhouse of Wiltwyck Stockade. Hendrick Jochemse Schoonmaker and Wallerand DuMond served with Dutch West India Company troops defending settlers within the stockade.



Although I have not been able to confirm whether any of my ancestors were among the initial settlers to move from Fort Orange to Wiltwyck in 1652, at least five ancestral families were living in the town within the following two decades — the Schoonmakers, the Van Bunschotens, and the DuMonds, who settled and remained in Wiltwyck/Kingston, and the Hasbrouck and Deyo families, who initially settled there and in the adjoining village of Hurley before moving a few miles south in Ulster County to establish the community of New Paltz with fellow French Huguenots. These families were some of my earliest Rymph ancestors in America.

SCHOONMAKER FAMILY

Hendrick Jochemse (Schoonmaker) came to America from Hamburg, Germany, to New Amsterdam in the military service of the Dutch West India

Company, in which he was a lieutenant. He was married in Albany to Elsje Jansen van Breestede in 1653 and became an innholder in Fort Orange and apparently owned considerable real estate. Legal records there describe proceedings against him on November 6, 1653, for

smuggling a half barrel of good beer laid in last Saturday. Defendant acknowledges the fact but states that he has not been able to enter the same on account of the inconvenience of his wife being in childbed. Resolved this first time to overlook the matter, he to pay the excise without any fine, but that in the future he shall have to guard himself against repeating the offense, on pain of paying the full fine provided in such cases.

In *The History of Kingston, New York* (1881), historian Marius Schoonmaker writes:

In the fall of 1659, his company was ordered to Esopus for the defence of the settlers in their troubles with the Indians. He was there in 1660, and at the expiration of his enlistment he settled at Esopus.

Hendrick Jochemse served as a member of Kingston's Burgher Guard and is mentioned in historical records as fighting in a battle with the Esopus Indians at the Wiltwyck Stockade on July 7, 1663. In that battle, he was shot and wounded in his home, and one of his children was taken captive by the Indians. In his "Journal of the Second Esopus War," Capt. Martin Kregier of the Dutch troops records on December 1, 1663, that he was given a letter from Kingston's Military Council to the Director-General of the Dutch West India Company. Schoonmaker was one of the letter's signers (as Hendrick

Jochemse), as was Walleran DuMond (*see below*).

Hendrick Jochemse's wife, Elsje Janse van Breestede, is believed to have come to New Netherlands in 1636 with her Danish parents, Jan Jansen and Engeltje Jan Van Breestede. In *Scandinavian Immigrants in New York* (1972), John O. Evjen briefly tells of her three marriages:

She was married, on May 17, 1643, to Adriaen Pietersen van Almar, widower of Grietje Pietersen.

The Council minutes of that period tell us how Adriaen wooed and won her as his wife. It appears the Elsje was in the service of Cornelis Melyn of Staten Island. She left the service before her term had expired, in order to marry Adriaen. Melyn was much displeased at this, and brought

Original fireplace in original portion of Matthewis Person House, built in the mid-1660s by a soldier in the Dutch military who came with his troops to Kingston in 1663 and decided to settle in the town after the British took control of New Netherlands in 1664.



suit against Egbert Woutersen, her stepfather, “husband and guardian of Engel Jan, her mother,” for damages on account of Elsje’s marriage engagement.

Elsje appeared in court on September 11, 1642, and testified that “her mother and another woman had brought a young man to

Distant “Cousins”

A notable figure in history who shares descent with Theunis and Gerritje (Gerritdr) Van Bunschoten is:

- ♦ Elvis Aron Presley (1935 – 1977) — Popular singer and actor, who was the great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandson of Theunis and Gerritje



The “Four Corners”: The only intersection in the United States where 18th-century (or earlier) stone houses stand on all four corners. Clockwise from top left: “Kingston Academy” house, built 1774; Dr. Matthew Jansen House, built 1777 (after the British burned Kingston), with one room and the front door retained from the original c. 1700 structure; Franz Roggen House, built c. 1752; Matthewis Person House, for which the earliest portions were built c. 1661. As one of Kingston’s three officials tasked with inspecting all chimneys and fireplaces, Theunis Eliassen Van Bunschoten likely would have inspected each the original structures on all four corners, including the fireplaces and chimneys in the original portions that remain of the Jansen and Person houses.



Staten Island.” She claimed that she had never seen him before. They desired that she should marry him. She declined at first, but finally consented. “She concluded her testimony by returning in court the pocket-handkerchief she had received as a marriage present.”

Five days after she made the declaration that she sent for Adriaen Pietersen, and that on his coming to Staten Island she accompanied him on board his yawl.

A week later, Melyn and the Fiscal had Pietersen before the court, charged with Elsje’s abduction. Pietersen was ordered to bring her into court, deliver her to Melyn, and receive her again from him “on giving security for the payment of the damage Melyn may have suffered.”

After the death of Adriaen Pietersen, Elsje married Hendricksen Jochemsen, of Esopus. After his death she married Cornelis Barentsen Slecht (Sleght), who was in New Amsterdam in 1662, and at Wiltwyck (Esopus) in 1664.”

VAN BUNSCHOTEN FAMILY

Hendrick Jochemse and Elyse Janse (Van Breestede) Schoonmaker’s granddaughter Elsjen Schoonmaker married Solomon Van Bunschoten. He was the grandson of two other early Esopus/Wiltwyck residents, Theunis Eliassen and his wife Gerritje Gerritdr — who were the forebears of much, if not all, of the Van Bunschoten (Benschoten) family on this continent. It is not even known for sure whether Theunis and Gerritje were born in their family homeland of the Netherlands, in America, or in between at sea — although baptismal records for a Theunis Eliassen on November 26, 1643, at the Reformed Church in Bunschoten, Netherlands, may likely be for him.

In any case, Theunis was living in America and in Wiltwyck at least by 1671. On April 3 of that year, he appears as an official witness to a transaction between two men in the town, and his name appears numerous times in the town’s civil records over the next several years. He served 13 years as a deacon in Kingston’s Dutch church, as well as a long term as an elder. He apparently became a wealthy man, who gave generously to the poor.

The birth and parentage of Gerritje also remains mysterious. Many of Kingston’s

earliest Dutch residents moved there from Albany, New York, and both she and Theunis may have been among these persons. No church records exist for Albany prior to 1683, so no birth or baptismal files have been found which might answer these questions. Theunis and Gerritje apparently married in Beren, New Jersey.

In June 1682, Theunis was among three men appointed by the Kingston court “as reviewers of chimneys and all places where fires are lit.” Since the town’s roofs were made of easily-inflamed thatch, this was an important responsibility. Theunis and his colleagues were to check all chimneys and fireplaces every three to four weeks to ensure they were clean; Theunis was to fine anyone found in violation.

Theunis was one of the most prominent and respected participants in Kingston’s municipal affairs. He was one of the Trustees of the Corporation of Kingston and served at least nine terms in this capacity representing the town’s interests.

Theunis and Gerritje’s names reflect what remained the traditional Dutch custom during the colonial period, as well as the way Dutch immigrants created family names upon immigration to America. The Dutch did not use

family names that were passed from generation to generation. Instead, they identified themselves by their parents’ names. “Eliassen” meant son of Elias. “Gerritdr” meant daughter of Gerrit. After coming to America, Dutch immigrants commonly adopted a variant of their home town in the Netherlands as their surname. Thus, Theunis Eliassen eventually added “Van Bunschoten” (or “from Bunschoten”) to his name. This evolved into “Van Benschoten,” as well as other surnames that survive in the United States today.

DuMOND FAMILY

Solomon and Elsjen (Schoonmaker) Van Bunschoten’s son Theunis married Elsjen DuMond, the great-granddaughter of Wallerand DuMond, a Huguenot from Coomen, Flanders (which later became Commines, Pas-de-Calais, France, eight miles north of Lille). He emigrated to Amsterdam, Netherlands, to New Amsterdam (i.e., New York City) about 1657 as a cadet in a company of soldiers sent by the Dutch West India Company. By December 1663, when he was one of the signers of the Kingston Military Council’s letter, he had settled in as a resident of Kingston. On January 13, 1664, he married Grietje (Margaret) Hendricks.

Most of Kingston was burned to the ground by the British on October 16, 1777, as punishment for Kingston's hosting New York's revolutionary state government and for providing Washington's Continental Army with food supplies. Nevertheless, a few of the 17th century Dutch colonial homes still stand in Kingston and are preserved in the city's Stockade Historic District. In addition, Kingston's historic Old Dutch Church, built in 1852 and a key landmark today in the Stockade District, is itself descended from the earlier Dutch church building on the same site in Kingston, in which the initial generations of our ancestral families would have worshipped in Kingston.

TO LEARN MORE

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