

## Denise Dahn, artist/writer

an artistic, imaginative look at nature and the world

# The illustrated story of Pieter Claesen Wyckoff

Posted on [March 12, 2013](#)

### History + Imagination

A few months ago, I wrote a series of blog posts based on the history of my great great great great great great great grandfather, Pieter Claesen Wyckoff. The following is a consolidation of those posts into one story, with a few revisions from the original posts. I've stayed as close as I can to available historical evidence, but I've also used a bit of imagination in telling the story.

Special thanks to the folks at the [Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum](#) for their help with historical details.

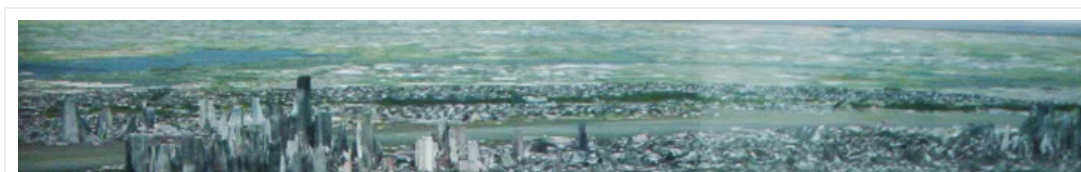
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### Introduction

When I heard that Hurricane Sandy was going to hit the east coast, I had all the same fears as everyone else. Will this be another Katrina? How many lives and livelihoods will be lost? Is this just the first of a series of coast-bashing storms, courtesy of global climate change?

But, when Sandy headed toward New York City, my concerns zeroed in on a patch of ground in Brooklyn.

I kept thinking: *"It's survived for so long. Will this be the end of it?"*





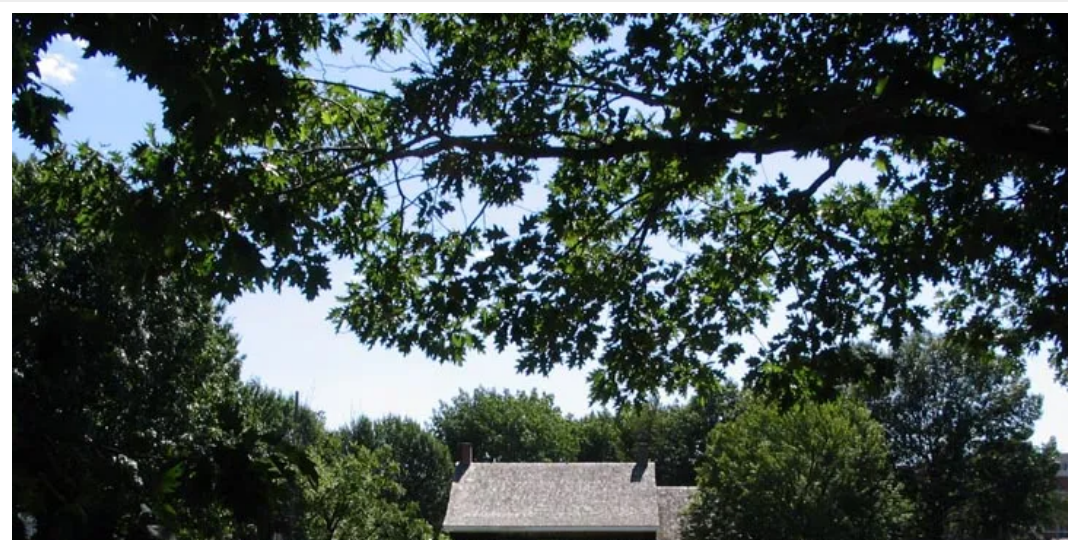
— Apple Map view looking down on Brooklyn with Manhattan in the distance.

It's an unassuming little place—a triangle-shaped lot on a busy corner, surrounded by junkyards, check-cashing stores, car repair shops and fast-food joints. Surprisingly, in the middle of this rather homely urban setting, is a tiny oasis of leafy green space surrounded by tall trees and filled with garden plots and lawn.





Tucked toward the back of the property sits a small, plain farmhouse. Officially, it holds the honor of being the Oldest Structure in the City of New York, and it's a National Historic Landmark.





- Photo of the Wyckoff House, courtesy [bridgeandtunnelclub.com](http://www.bridgeandtunnelclub.com),  
<http://www.bridgeandtunnelclub.com/bigmap/brooklyn/eastflatbush/wyckoffhouse/index.htm>

It's also my ancestral homestead.

In 1652, my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents, Pieter Claesen Wyckoff and his wife Grietje Van Ness, moved to this house.

The following is a story—based on available historical evidence—of Pieter and how he came to live in this little house.

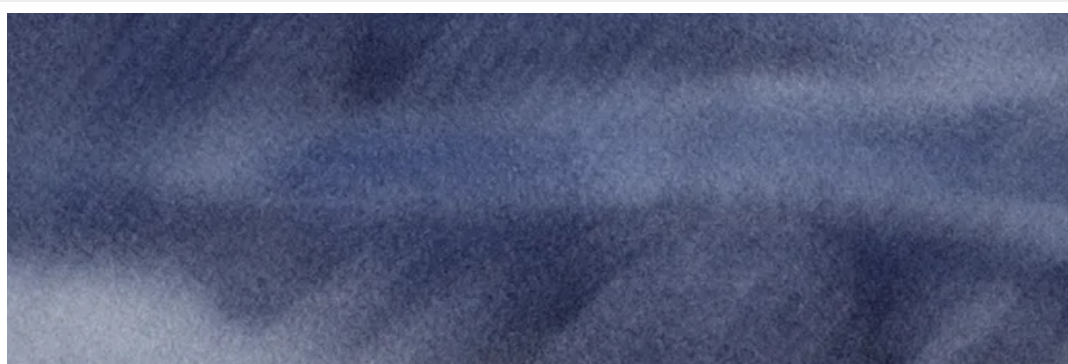
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### **Voyage to the New World**

*It's the year 1636, and a young teenage boy huddles in the damp, stuffy hold of a Dutch sailing ship. They've had bad weather since the voyage began, but this is the worst. The howling wind and the crashing waves muffle the shouts and curses of the crew up on deck. The boy clutches tightly to his bunk as the ship pitches and dives.*

*The hold is packed with 38 passengers, most of them whimpering and praying. Many are children traveling with parents or other relatives.*

*Unlike them, the boy is traveling alone.*





- Crossing the Atlantic in the 17th century was a dangerous ordeal.

*Trying not to think of the cold depths below him, he lets his thoughts drift into the past...*

*The last few years had been hard. The endless wars crippled Father's trading business, and they had been forced into bankruptcy. Then, when Mother died, Father seemed to lose his mind for a while. Things had fallen apart quickly after that.*

*One day, a man in a fancy carriage had come through the countryside, smiling and offering his gold-leafed ledger to anyone who looked his way. "Sign here," the man said, "and you will be set for life. A New World awaits—a paradise filled with riches. It only takes six or seven years... then you'll be free forever." He held out a quill pen temptingly.*

*Father had bowed to the man, accepted the ledger, and stood for a moment examining it. Then,*

*his eyes brimming with tears, he handed the book to his son.*

*"Sign," Father had ordered.*

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Many immigrants in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries came to the New World in such a way—as indentured servants or contract laborers. Many of them were under the age of eighteen. Some came with their families and were sent out to their stations upon arrival. Others made the treacherous crossing by themselves.

Imagine leaving your home, family, and friends to undertake a risky ocean crossing to an unknown world...knowing you would likely never return. What would motivate such a drastic life-choice? Desperation, adventure, hope, despair?

My great great great great great great great great grandfather Pieter Claesen Wyckoff spent much of his childhood as an indentured laborer. Little is known about his life before he made his Atlantic crossing to the New World, other than that he was born in Norden in Lower Saxony (now Germany) and his father was named Claes.

We will probably never know for certain why Pieter left on a ship bound for the New World—or if he made the trip alone or with family. But we do have the [ship's log](#) from the voyage, and can read first-hand the captain's descriptions of the entire trip.

### **The Voyage of the Ship Rensselaerswyck**

In 1636, when Pieter was a young teenager, he left Texxel (near Amsterdam) on the Dutch Ship Rensselaerswyck. There were 38 passengers on board, many of whom were signed as indentured laborers or contract farmers to a wealthy Dutch diamond merchant named Kiliaen Van Rensselaer. They were on their way to Fort Orange (Albany, New York) and the settlement—also called Rensselaerswyck.

The entire trip took over six months.

It was a difficult trip, even by the standards of the day. For the first seven weeks, the [captain's log](#) tells of one bad day after another:

*"In the morning, the wind changed to the west. It blew so hard that...we could not carry a single sail....There blew a violent gale from the northwest and we then drifted east with a very rough sea. The waves rose to such an awful height that the waves and the sky seemed one...it lasted the entire night." – Ships' log, Tuesday, Oct 21, 1636.*

*"That day the overhang above our rudder was knocked in by severe storm. This day a child was born on the ship, and named Storm, (Albertsz Van der Zee) the mother is Annetie Barents."*

*Ship's log, Sunday, Nov 2, 1636.*

They finally decided to reverse course and wait out the bad weather in England.

*"Seeing little hope of getting better wind and weather soon – though God knows – having few provisions for 52 or 53 souls...we could oppose it no longer...on account of the sick people whose number increase daily because of their hardships...put the helm hard up and steer in God's name toward the English Channel and try to get into Falmouth or Plymouth..." Thursday, Nov 6, 1636.*

Several weeks later, they pulled into harbor at Ilfracombe, Devon, where they found several other battered and lost ships also taking refuge from the weather. They stayed here for five weeks, until finally setting sail on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1637.

### **New Amsterdam**

After months at sea, finally reaching New York Harbor must have seemed like sailing into heaven for the passengers of the Ship Rensselaerswyck. It was March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1637—more than sixth months after the ship had left the Netherlands.



- I sketched this watercolor showing how New Amsterdam (New York) might have looked in 1637. At that time, New Amsterdam was still years from becoming the neatly laid out Dutch village shown in historical illustrations (most of them depicting the view twenty years later). The ship in the foreground is the Rensselaerswyck (I could not find definite reference for the ship itself, but there's a good chance it was a Dutch fluyt). Click on the picture to get a larger view.

Fort Amsterdam and a windmill stood on a small hill surrounded by a scattering of rough buildings. There was no proper pier—people arriving by ship would have been rowed to the shallows to splash up the muddy shore on foot. It was a primitive settlement, and the few hundred inhabitants surely had no idea of the growth spurt their little town would undergo in the next few decades—let alone that this lonely outpost would one day be the financial center of the entire world.



An AppleMap view of the original site of New Amsterdam – today Wall Street in lower Manhattan. The Fort was located behind Battery Park.

I imagine that young Pieter would have been greatly excited to finally reach New Amsterdam. It is apparent from his later achievements in life that Pieter was intelligent, strong, gregarious, and lucky. He was a born survivor, and this was the New World.

After being so long at sea, it must have been a relief to stand on dry ground once again. The group of passengers probably made their way up to the Fort to be received by the director-general of the West India Company, who must have been overjoyed at their safe arrival. They spent the next few weeks in New Amsterdam waiting for the Hudson River to thaw before they could continue upriver to Fort Orange.

I wonder...would Pieter and the other children been allowed to ramble around, exploring the beaches and woodlands, the little farms, and the town itself? What would they have found in the crude little shops, or the bakery, stables, or blacksmith? Did they peek inside the little church...



or the tavern?

The captains' log mentions another ship in the harbor—an English vessel. The waterfront might have been busy with cargo being loaded and unloaded, the muddy streets bustling with strange faces speaking foreign languages. There could have been African slaves in town, and there were almost certainly Native Americans meeting and trading with the townspeople.

It must have been strange and exciting, and perhaps a little frightening.

### The Edge of the World

After a spending a few weeks in New Amsterdam, the Ship Rensselaerswyck sailed up the Hudson River on the last 150 miles of its journey. On April 7, 1637, they reached [Fort Orange](#)—a tiny fortified settlement that had been hacked out of the towering pines a decade or so earlier. It was the last outpost of Dutch civilization.

To young Pieter and his fellow passengers, it must have seemed farther away than the moon.



- A rough watercolor sketch I did from imagination, showing the view from the banks of the Hudson River looking south toward Fort Orange (present day Albany). The entire fort was enclosed by a wooden palisade. Outside the fort, there was a scattering of dwellings on the river bank.





- This is the view from roughly the same spot today.

Behind the fort, millions of square miles of wilderness sprawled across the continent, inhabited by the Native Americans that had lived there for thousands of years, and hordes of wild animals, birds and fish and other creatures. The location of the fort along the river was key—the waterways were the main travel routes for both wildlife and the people that hunted them. The Europeans were astonished at the abundance of fish and game in New Netherlands.



- Elk, bear, mountain lions and wolves were abundant in the area. The only game animal with a larger population today is the whitetail deer.

In 1637, the Europeans had no concept of how big North America was—there was even still some debate as to whether the earth was flat or round<sup>1</sup>. In his 1655 book, Adriaen van der Donck wrote that *“several of our people have penetrated far into the country to at least seventy or eighty miles from the coastline.”*

Judging from the climate and the huge numbers of wildlife and migrating waterfowl, van der Donck concluded that the *“land stretches for hundreds of miles into the interior...”*

He would have been surprised to know it stretches for several thousand miles!

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### Welcome to America Beaverland

It would have been an appropriate name. After all, beavers were the re-landscapers of much of North America’s terrain, transforming entire watersheds and creating millions of wetlands which were rich habitat for countless other species.



- Unlike mink or river otters, beavers are vegetarians. Their preferred foods are the succulent leaves, twigs and bark of small trees. Both Indians and settlers thought beavers were the tastiest meat on the continent, and the best part was the tail.
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- Beavers were responsible for much of the wetland habitat in North America. At one end of the pond is the dam, and nearby on the bank is the lodge. Both are well-constructed of sticks, logs, mud and leaves.





- The lodge has a secret underwater entrance—cleverly hidden from land predators like wolves, coyotes, or mountain lions.

Beavers were also the main reason for early European exploration and settlement of North America. Europeans—especially the prosperous Dutch in Amsterdam—were wild for fashionable, expensive beaver fur hats, and beaver pelts became a medium of currency, forming the economic base of the New World.

The main business at Fort Orange was beaver. The Mohawk tribe hunted the animals throughout the highlands and brought down thousands of pelts to be traded for European axes, kettles, glassware, knives, and before long, guns and alcohol.

Eventually, beavers were hunted to the brink of extirpation.



- This painting from 1662 shows wealthy Dutch businessmen wearing beaver felt hats. Rembrandt van Rijn, courtesy of the Rijkes Museum.

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### Pieter Claesen Wyckoff starts his life as a laborer

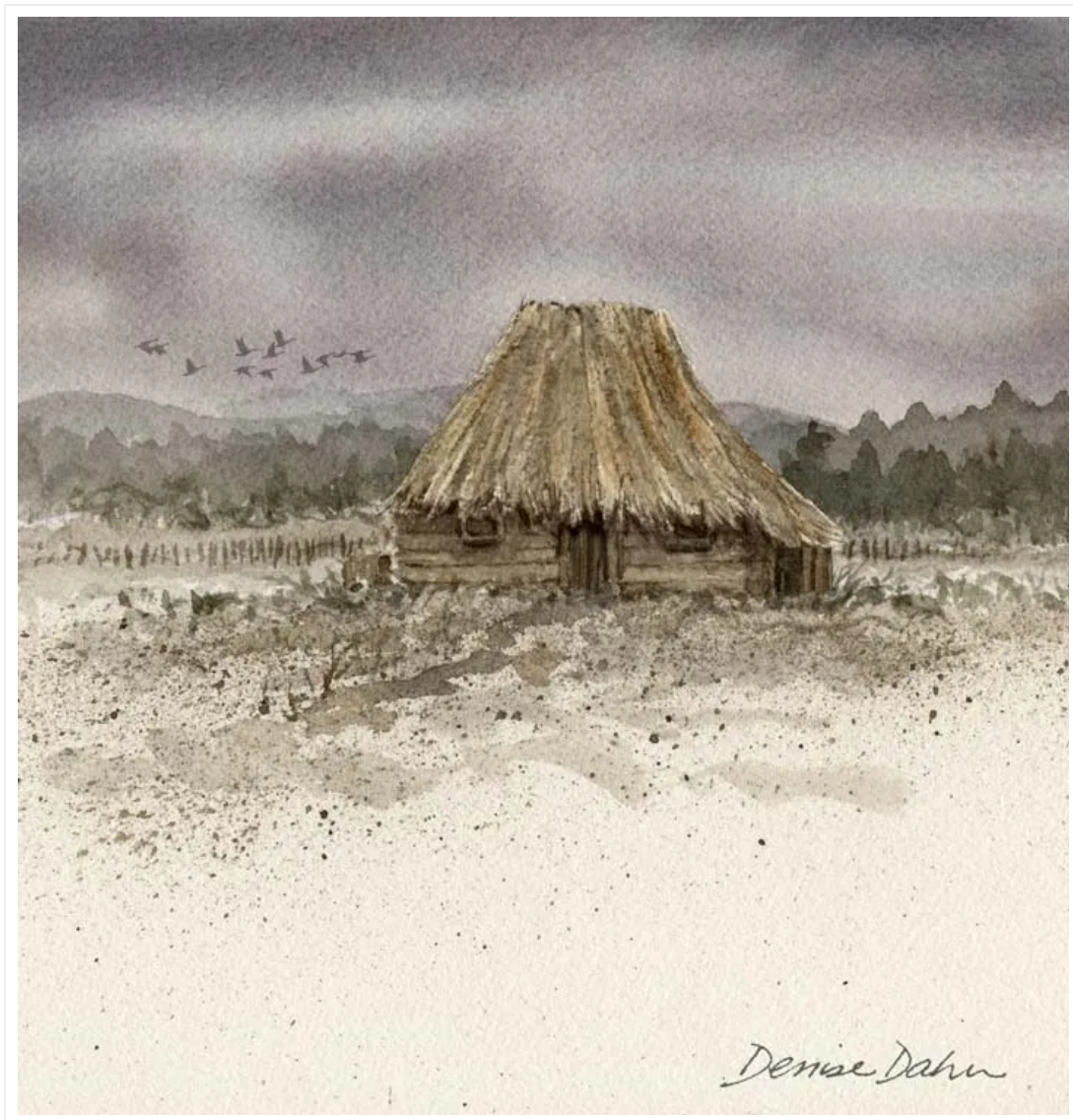
The 38 passengers of the Ship Rensselaerswyck were either farmers or laborers on a tract granted to Kiliaen van Rensselaer, a wealthy diamond merchant residing in Amsterdam. The estate, also known as Rensselaerswyck, stretched for about nine miles along both sides of the river from the Fort and inland a distance described as “two days’ journey.”

Simon Walischen was a Master Farmer and a lease-holder with van Rensselaer. He was favored by being given his choice of the laborers on the boat, and he chose Pieter. As master, Simon would have total control over Pieter’s life for the next six years. In addition to Pieter, there may have been other laborers assigned to Simon.



- A watercolor sketch I did imagining Pieter facing his new master.

After arriving at the Fort, they would have left by rowboat or small sailboat to Simon's assigned land, a large tract of previously cleared land on what is now Papscaanee Island in Albany.



- I did this watercolor sketch imagining the type of house they would have lived in. These types of primitive dwellings had no chimney—the smoke simply rose out from gaps in the thatch.

At least initially, they probably lived in a crude pithouse with a roof of planks or logs. Eventually they might have built a log and thatch hut, or even a small plank house.

I wonder...most of the settlers had wives, and if Simon was married, did the couple share the house with their servants, or did they build a separate dwelling for them?

Maud Goodwin wrote of the settlers: *“Most of them could neither read nor write. They were a wild, uncouth, rough, and most of the time a drunken crowd. They lived in small log huts, thatched with straw. They wore rough clothes, and in the winter were dressed in skins. They subsisted on a little corn, game, and fish. They were afraid of neither man, God, nor the Devil. They were laying deep the foundation of the Empire State.”*<sup>2</sup> “

Pieter stayed with Simon until the age of eighteen, then he collected his wages (a total of 375 guilders for 6 years) and left to rent his own farm on the Rensselaerswyck estate. He married Grietje Van Ness, the daughter of a prominent family, and later the two moved— possibly to a location near New Amsterdam or elsewhere on lower Manhattan Island.

At that time, New Amsterdam was a growing trading and port settlement, controlled by the Dutch. The map below shows New Amsterdam a few decades later, in 1660.



- The Castello Plan, a map from 1660 that shows a detailed depiction of New Amsterdam. Today, this is lower Manhattan, the financial and government center of New York City. You can see the layout of Fort Amsterdam, built in 1625 by the Dutch on the upper left side of the town. On the right side of town is the wall, officially built to protect against attack by the Indians, or “wilden” as they were called. Wall Street takes its name from this wall. Image from Creative Commons.

In 1652, Pieter signed a contract to “superintend the Bowery and cattle of Pieter Stuyvesant in New Amersfoort” (Flatbush, Brooklyn)—which was a West India Company- owned tract— and



Pieter and Grietje moved to what is now known as the [Wyckoff Homestead and Farm](#), the oldest structure in New York City and a National Historic Landmark.

In the mid 1600s Brooklyn and the rest of Long Island was still mostly wild country. There was a small settlement called New Amersfoort—centered a couple of miles to the southwest—that had been started about 20 years earlier as a farming community. At the time Pieter, Grietje and their 3 children moved in (they ended up with 11 kids eventually!) there were about 15 settlers living in New Amersfoort.

I imagine Pieter's farm might have looked something like this:



- I did this watercolor sketch imagining what Pieter's farm might have looked like in the 1650s. At that time the house (now the [Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum](#)) would have been a small, simple thatched hut. There may also have been a barn or hay barracks, a pigsty and other outbuildings. At first, they probably grew mostly grain.

Pieter became one of the most prosperous and influential citizens, buying land, serving as magistrate, and helping establish the Flatlands Dutch Reformed Church (now the juncture of Flatbush Avenue and King's Highway). He adopted the invented name "Wyckoff" when the British took over New Amsterdam.

Pieter and Grietje had eleven children, all of whom married, had children and went on to live somewhat prosperous lives.

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### **REWIND: The Dutch founding of New Amsterdam**

In 1609, Henry Hudson was sent by the Dutch East India Company to explore the area for a Northwest Passage—a shortcut to Asia. Instead he found the Island of Manhattan (shown below) and the North River (now the Hudson River, on the left).

At that time, Manhattan Island was a densely wooded wilderness. There were Native American villages and patches of open meadow which may have been maintained for hunting and gathering by intentional burning.



- View looking north on the Island of Manhattan as it would have looked in 1609 when Henry Hudson sailed into New York Harbor. Image from a screen grab from the website <http://welikia.org/about/overview/>

Today, this is one of the most intensively

transformed landscapes on the planet.

I wonder what Pieter and Grietje would think if they could see it now.





— An Apple Maps view of the southern tip of Manhattan.

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### **Climbing on the Family Tree:**

The family lineage from Pieter to me:

Pieter Claesen Wyckoff, born 1625

Cornelius Wyckoff (one of 11 children!), born 1656

Simon Wyckoff, born 1683

Cornelius Wyckoff, born 1715

George Wyckoff, born 1745

George Wyckoff, born 1795

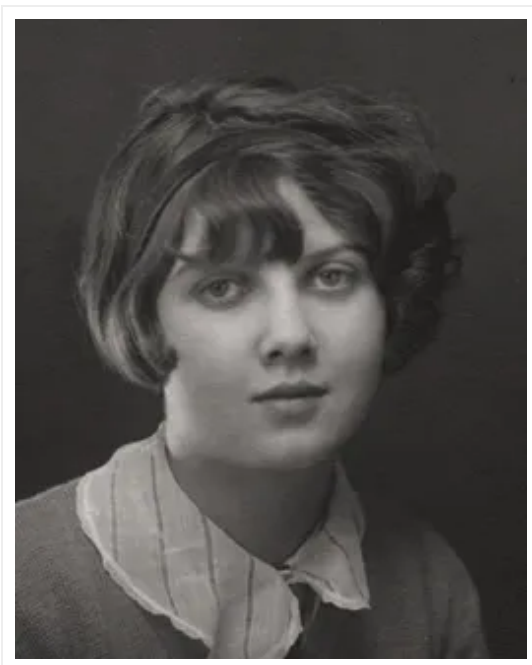
Cornelius Wyckoff, born 1820

(From here the lineage goes on the female side)



— Maloda Wyckoff, born 1853 (my great-great grandmother)





— Frances Muller, born 1908 (my grandmother)

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— Edna Moore, born 1876 (my great grandmother)



— Barbara King, my mother



— Denise Dahn (me...long ago at age 22)

**Read more about the Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House**

[http://www.historichousetrust.org/item.php?i\\_id=14](http://www.historichousetrust.org/item.php?i_id=14)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/21/nyregion/21houses.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/21/nyregion/21houses.html?_r=0)

<http://hvva.org/hvvanews5-4.htm>

**Explore historic New Amsterdam:**

<http://www.virtualnewamsterdam.com/page/page/1846100.htm>

**Explore New York City before settlement:**

<http://welikia.org/about/overview/>

**To read the entire ship's log from the voyage:**

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~clifflamere/Misc/MI-LogRenWyck.htm#Part%201>

**To read some of the ship's correspondence:** <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycoloni/rnscores.html>

**To read more about Fort Orange on the New York State Museum site:**

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/loc/fortorange.html#farmers>

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#### **NOTES:**

1. "A Description of New Netherlands", pages 6 and 70, by Adrian van der Donck, first published in 1655, and re-translated by Dederik W. Goedhuys.
  2. "Dutch and English on the Hudson", by Maud Wilder Goodwin, 1919, quoting Augustus H. Van Buren in the *Proceedings of the New York Historical Society*.
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#### **Sources Include:**

"A Description of New Netherland", by Adriaen van der Donck and first published in 1655. Newly translated by Diederik Willem Goedhuys.

"The Island at the Center of the World", by Russell Shorto

"New York", by Edward Rutherfurd

"Daily Life in Holland in the Year 1566", by Rien Poortvliet

"White Servitude", by Richard Hofstadter (article on-line)

"Dutch and English on the Hudson", by Maud Wilder Goodwin (available on-line via project Gutenberg)

The Rise of Pieter Claessen Wyckoff, Social Mobility on the Colonial Frontier, by Mortom Wagman.

The Wyckoff Families of Old Canarsie Lane, by Mae Lubitz.

The Wyckoff Family in America, Published by the Wyckoff Association in America

Lucie Chin and Joshua Van Kirk, the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum

[Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts: Being the Letters of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer](#)

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## Leave a Reply!

Are you related to the Wyckoff family? Have you visited the [Wyckoff Farm and Museum](#), or other interesting Dutch Heritage sites around New York?

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87 THOUGHTS ON "THE ILLUSTRATED STORY OF PIETER CLAESEN WYCKOFF"



**Dr. Jerry Aschermann**

on **October 5, 2023 at 12:11 pm** said:

5 October 2023. So happy to again find this great website. Have been looking at it for years and have referred other family members to the site. Wonderful presentation and information in a manner that young people will be able to read and understand— so unlike the normal history book.

My maternal grandmother — Ruth Wyckoff Scott— is is a direct descendent of Pieter. She comes from the WW I generation.

As long as this webpage stays alive, Pieter stays alive.

Thanks for constructing and posting

Dr. Jerry R. Aschermann  
Union, Kentucky





Melanie Guthrie

on [August 24, 2022 at 8:36 pm](#) said:

You are a fantastic writer and artist! I too descend., probably about the same as you, from this family.



Tom Wikoff

on [July 2, 2022 at 6:24 pm](#) said:

Nice read. A few weeks ago I stopped by the Wyckoff house. It was a Sunday and closed but I managed to be let in anyway. I was hoping to learn more about my heritage. I am a descendant of Garrett, son of Pieter. It is now called the "Fidler/Wyckoff house". Who is Fidler and how did that name get attached to the Wyckoff house?



Shandra Smith

on [December 14, 2021 at 2:06 pm](#) said:

Pieter is my 10 great grandfather. My line settled on the borders of Ross, Vinson and Hocking Counties in Ohio.



Dr. Jerry Aschermann

on [September 10, 2021 at 5:52 pm](#) said:

Greetings from Kentucky..... So happy that the Wyckoff story is still available via the internet. Now have five grandchildren that ultimately will read about their genetic heritage and their part in the development of the US.

Ages in 2021 are 15, 13, 10, 8, 3 ..... so it will be a while before all of them read it.

Again, thanks for keeping this page "hot"

Dr. Jerry Aschermann



Tony Connell

on [July 28, 2021 at 12:05 am](#) said:

Hi there! Pieter was my 10th great grandfather. I descend from his daughter Geertje, who married into another Dutch family the Romeyns which later became Romine. My grandmother was Bobbie Lou Romine, and we descend on her side from Cristoffel Romeyn, Geertje's husband! I was fascinated to read this part of my history, and being an artist myself, was amazed at your talent! Thank you for doing this, and I hope one day to actually visit NYC to see the house itself. An interesting side note: on my mother's side I descend from the Ryker and Van Cleve families, which of course gave name to Riker's Island!



TJ Hendricks

on [May 27, 2021 at 1:13 pm](#) said:

This is very interesting, thank you. Going through my recently deceased father's things, I've located an extensive family tree going back to the 1400's. My last name is Hendricks, which appears to come from Pieter's wife. According to the family tree, her father was, Cornelis Hendrickse Van Ness and her mother was, Maycke Hendrickse Van Der.. They were from Amsterdam, North Holland. I've also got Pieter's family tree going back 8 generations or so to the 1400's. If you're interested I'd be happy to send it to you.



Diana

on [April 25, 2022 at 1:51 pm](#) said:

Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. The information and the story behind them were iconic. I personally loved the story you wrote.

Thank you for all of us, who want to know who we are, and our ancestral roots, but also want to know the history behind it. How you write, draws in the audiences, and I love that you do this. I think it was clever on how you wrote on how our ancestors felt on their journey on the way to Americas.

I would love to have the family tree. Again, thank you.

Diana



Jennifer Wyckoff

on **December 4, 2022 at 5:25 pm** said:

Hello! I would be interested in seeing this, if you would be willing to share. My email is: [jwyckoff07@yahoo.com](mailto:jwyckoff07@yahoo.com).

Thanks,

Jennifer Wyckoff



Jim Musselman

on **January 28, 2021 at 4:55 pm** said:

Denise, wonderful job and really helpful. I especially appreciated all the links, including to the ship's log. Peter Clausen Wyckoff and Grietje Van Ness were my 10th great grandparents and their daughter Annetje Wyckoff was also my ancestor. I noticed a comment by Cherly Tift Nevius whose husband also shares that ancestry, and we both also share Neeltje Schenck as an ancestor. If I ever get back to Brooklyn, I have to visit the Wyckoff homestead! Thank you, cousin!



Sharon Pryor

on **October 25, 2020 at 8:51 pm** said:

Hello.

Pieter is my 9th great grandfather. I'd so love to find photos of my ancestors especially my 4th great grandmother Elizabeth. I am new in my research so hopefully I will. Thank you so much for writing this beautiful account.



Holly Daugherty

on **September 3, 2020 at 10:20 am** said:

I just found this and so happy I did My Wyckoff married into the Strawser Family and to see all of the info and your work, I will pass it on to my children

Thanks for sharing, by the way some time back a Strawser cousin made it to the home in New York and got my digging started.

So glad he did,

Holly



Barbara Wyckoff Kelpy

on [April 29, 2020 at 6:03 am](#) said:

Your article has inspired me to research my family tree. I am a Wyckoff, and believe I am a descendent of Pieter. Adding a visit to the Wyckoff Homestead to my bucket list. Thank you!



D Norgaard

on [April 19, 2020 at 12:54 am](#) said:

Beautiful work! I descend from Pieter and Grietje's son Nicholas and down through the Van Vliet/Van Fleet family.



Lena Radford

on [April 18, 2020 at 10:12 pm](#) said:

This is wonderful, thank you! Is it available in book form?

Lena Radford

– Granddaughter of Norma Wyckoff



Katharine

on [March 9, 2020 at 12:48 pm](#) said:

Hi

I am a Wyckoff decendant. My line comes from Pieter Wyckoff son Nicholas Wyckoff.

Wyckoff's married other Dutch families in my line.



Lois Stevenson

on **July 2, 2019 at 3:11 pm** said:

Pieter Claeson Wyckoff is my 9th great grandfather. My ancestors crossed the plains and came to Oregon. I am a retired lawyer from California. Just to think what he started, i.e., his legacy. Thank you so much for the thought you put into this and the wonderful illustrations. You made it real.



Matt Chew

on **May 30, 2019 at 7:18 pm** said:

Hi from another of your many Nicholas line cousins. I am a biologist/historian at Arizona State University. I enjoyed your account and your artwork. You breathed some life into the story. For reference, my paternal grandmother was born Seville Wyckoff.



Jill Piggott

on **April 15, 2019 at 8:19 am** said:

Hello, cousin! I'm a retired English/philosophy professor in Maine and only now learning about Pieter & Grietje, who are my grandparents 11 generations back. I love the way you've combined history and art here. I included a link to your blog on Pieter's page on the free site <http://www.familysearch.org>. It's a well-used site, and I'd encourage you to post some of your paintings there in the "Memory" section. (I didn't want to nab your images on my own, though I was tempted.)

It's a fascinating story, isn't it? And equally interesting to think of how they live secretly in us, too. All best to you, Jill



dahndesign

on **April 15, 2019 at 8:32 am** said:

Thank you Jill! I'm glad you enjoyed the post.



Marsha Myers Hopkins

on **July 18, 2018 at 2:51 pm** said:

Hi cousin



Richard an email Wyckoff

on **May 24, 2018 at 10:02 am** said:

This is darling! A wonderful evocation of time and place. Hurrah to you for recreating this story for us.

Richard Vance Wyckoff – all male line descendant from Nicholas.



dahndesign

on **May 25, 2018 at 8:05 am** said:

Thanks! I'm glad you enjoyed it.



Margaret Van Buskirk

on **March 4, 2018 at 4:14 pm** said:

Love it all! I'm researching my ancestor who appeared in New Amsterdam in 1654. Thank you for the inspiration to keep going.



Trisha Nemeth

on [June 22, 2017 at 3:54 pm](#) said:

Hello Denise,

What a wonderful story you wrote with all the information you gathered. Love the drawings, they bring your story to life.

Pieter Claesen Wyckoff is my 10 great grandfather. My line goes, Pieter Claesen Wyckoff, Nicholas Wyckoff, Peter Wyckoff, Jacobus Wyckoff, Peter Wyckoff, John Peter Wyckoff, Cynthia Wyckoff, Martha Boldman, Sarah Nelson, Lawrence Riley, Lorraine Riley, and down to me. I would love to connect with cousins.



Robert roose

on [February 14, 2017 at 9:29 pm](#) said:

I like your water colors alot my mothers maiden name was wyckoff And my grandmothers maiden name was king who married a wyckoff it seems we share common blood lines. Your story about peter claesen wyckoff is great! I had heard about him when i was growing up as an ancestor on my mothers side. we all thought that peter was a dutchman.



Robert roose

on [February 14, 2017 at 11:27 am](#) said:

My moms maiden was wyckoff as well as my grandmother was king i enjoyed your work alot i think we have very common ancestors.



Michael J Wyckoff

on [January 8, 2017 at 7:37 pm](#) said:

Bravo Denise!

Your portrayal of Grandfather Pieter's New World experience conveys a realism that could only be achieved with a true passion for 17th century history coupled with delightful artistic skill. I've never thought about the connection between the Eighty Year's

war and the bold decision for Pieter to make an Atlantic crossing on the Rensselaerwyck, basically a well built floating timber frame, but it makes perfect sense. I share your sentiment regarding Hurricane Sandy. Sadly climate change remains a threat to the Wyckoff House as well as our entire planet. I'll be sure to share your illustrated story with other family members.

Thanks, Michael.



dahndesign

on **January 10, 2017 at 6:59 am** said:

Thanks, Michael, I'm glad you enjoyed the story!



Tassie Adams

on **November 15, 2016 at 3:43 pm** said:

Dear Denise,

I have had such a wonderful time reading all that you have written and admiring the beautiful artwork! My husband is a very distant cousin of yours. I was wondering if you would ever consider sharing your writing and/or artwork on the family history site [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)? I understand if you'd prefer not to, but I just thought I would ask. I bet there are so many people out there who would enjoy it! Thanks again!



dahndesign

on **November 16, 2016 at 5:01 pm** said:

Thank you, Tassie! I'm not familiar with the site, but I'll check it out.



Trisha Nemeth

on **April 14, 2016 at 8:14 am** said:

Pieter Pieterse Wyckoff was my 8th great grandfather. What a wonderful read, thank you!





Dr. Jerry R. Aschermann

on **January 20, 2016 at 6:44 pm** said:

Dr. Jerry R. Aschermann on January 20, 2016 at 6:32 pm said:

20 January 2016..... at sometime I happened to find your Wyckoff pages... then I meandered off to something else. Found them again tonight, accidentally! 😊

Fantastic. History as it should be written for 95% of the people. My initial impression was “how does this lady know all of this?”..... then I began looking at the bibliography. You or someone has done a tremendous amount of research. Good job. The images add to the story. It all becomes “interesting” for the non-historian..... good writer!

My grandmother’s pre-marriage name was Ruth Wyckoff.... need to get into the file drawer to find out her exact line.

Curious— Considering that the family had Dutch origins, lived in New York, and probably did not like the english that well, I assume that they were involved in the American Revolution. Are you aware of any actual participation that would satisfy the requirements for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution? If so, do you have a name/email address that I can contact so as to verify and document the participation?

My mother, daughter or Ruth Wyckoff, each day adds to what she calls “My Story” <an autobiography of being born in Iowa and living in Colorado for 89 years. .... Her story is long; I assume that she has stories about the Wyckoff family in Iowa in the late 1800's. Will have to check.

Unbeknown to all— you have kinfolk living in Kent, Washington. Stafford family. They moved to South Bend, WA in the 1930's . Cousin concluded that logging was going to peter-out in the early 1960's.... so he became a chemist.

Once again— fantastic. I need to go through the entire story again and conceptualize the story of Pieter.

Cheers from Kentucky...

Jerry Aschermann



dahndesign

on **January 21, 2016 at 9:45 am** said:

Thanks! I'm glad you found the post interesting.



Jerry Aschermann

on **March 16, 2017 at 11:53 am** said:

I finally took the time to look at where Pieter Clausen actually migrated from. See <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Frisian+Islands/@54.192823,4.5023564,7z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x47b419e5185b9a5b:0xd6d057f9519f2e09!8m2!3d54.0431698!4d8.546305>



Jerry Aschermann

on **March 16, 2017 at 11:54 am** said:

Frisian Islands are off the coast of the current Netherlands and Germany



Peri Lane Muhich

on **October 27, 2015 at 8:55 am** said:

Just recently found that I am related to the Wyckoff family. My branch went all the way to Texas.

Thanks so much for your research and story! Love the illustrations!

Agnes Edna Wyckoff (1893-1976) married Jesse David Lane, my gr. grandfather.



Melissa Henderson

on **March 25, 2015 at 12:01 pm** said:

I am so glad you have all this information! I just got into my families geneology about 2 years ago. I was first interested because I knew nothing about my dad's biological father's side of the family. Now that I've traced them, I've started on my mothers side.

Claes Pieterse Wyckoff is my 10th great grand-father. A trip to New York is in my future for sure!! Thank you so much for all this information!



Jim Wyckoff

on [March 24, 2015 at 8:32 pm](#) said:

Great story about our forefather!



Jaclyn Thrift

on [September 16, 2014 at 1:39 am](#) said:

This is beautiful and so well done. I am so glad I came across it 😊 Pieter Wyckoff is my 10th Great Grandfather. His first child Nicholas was my 9th ggf.



Robin Flannery

on [September 8, 2014 at 1:39 pm](#) said:

I'm a cousin, too. I love how you made our ancestor's life into a thoroughly pleasant read! Thanks so much.



dahndesign

on [September 9, 2014 at 11:32 am](#) said:

Glad you liked it, cousin.



Erin

on [September 5, 2014 at 7:52 am](#) said:

I absolutely loved this. Pieter Claesen Wyckoff was my 11th great grandfather, so we're distant cousins as well! Beautiful artwork. Thank you for compiling this!



dahndesign

on [September 8, 2014 at 11:50 am](#) said:

Thank you, Erin!



Max Cortner

on [July 2, 2014 at 1:46 pm](#) said:

I thoroughly enjoyed reading your tale of Pieter's early life. Well done! And you are a very talented watercolor artist. I hope it's in the Wyckoff genes as I want to try my hand at it when I retire. My mother was a Wyckoff from the Cornelius branch. I visited the Wyckoff house 3 years ago and was quite amazed at the extraordinarily long history of our family in America. I wish you great success.



dahndesign

on [July 2, 2014 at 3:42 pm](#) said:

Thank you so much, Max! I'm glad you enjoyed it! It is wonderful to have a tangible connection with our forebears, isn't it?



E wyckoff

on [June 15, 2014 at 6:28 pm](#) said:

Your artistic entry is lovely and the information helpful to my own research. However, appreciating the Claesen/Wyckoff history, there has been no mention of African-Americans who share this name and I wonder if there are resources as to how and when the name got passed on, particularly in LA, and regardless of the alternative spellings. Thank you.



dahndesign

on [June 15, 2014 at 6:47 pm](#) said:

I'm sure there are African Americans in the family tree, but I don't have any specific references about them. I think since the forebears were in the US for such a

long time, it is probable that many Native Americans are as well. Have you tried Facebook? It could yield some information for you.

Pingback: [The Pieter Claesen Wyckoff Story | Denise Dahn, artist/writer](#)



Jim Fetter

on [May 9, 2014 at 6:56 pm](#) said:

I first came across this page last October while searching for info on the ship Rensselaerswyck. To the best of my knowledge, my ancestors Dr. Johannes de La Montagne (a 9th G-Grandfather) and returning resident Claes Cornelus Swits (a 10th G-Grandfather) and their families were on that ship, and I just love the watercolor paintings. I put the Wyckoff House on my list of places to visit if/when I ever get back to NYC. Last night, to my surprise, while tracing another branch of the old family tree, Pieter Wyckoff came up as another 9th G-Grandfather! I thank my lucky stars that the Rensselaerwyck ship made it to New Netherland in one piece. It took four or five generations for these diverse colonists' offspring to intermarry, but I'm certainly glad they did. Thanks for posting such a well-written and illustrated essay.



dahndesign

on [May 10, 2014 at 10:03 am](#) said:

I guess that makes us distant cousins! So nice to meet you, and thanks for visiting my blog. I hope to do more about the Wyckoffs in the future. It's such a fascinating story.



Cheryl Tift Nevius

on [March 19, 2014 at 2:55 pm](#) said:

Wonderfully written and beautifully illustrated.  
My husbands relationship to Pieter Claesen Wyckoff:  
9th great grandfather – so he is another cousin!  
Annetje Pieterse Wyckoff (1650 – 1688)  
daughter of Pieter Claesen Wyckoff

Neeltje Roelofse Schenck (1681 – 1751)  
daughter of Annetje Pieterse Wyckoff  
Jannetje Albertse Covenhoven (1707 – 1783)  
daughter of Neeltje Roelofse Schenck  
Eleanor Neeltje Cornell (1739 – 1816)  
daughter of Jannetje Albertse Covenhoven  
Joseph Nevius (1779 – 1864)  
son of Eleanor Neeltje Cornell  
David J Nevius (1798 – 1869)  
son of Joseph Nevius  
Joseph Dunham Nevius (1824 – 1864)  
son of David J Nevius  
David Augustus Nevius (1853 – 1887)  
son of Joseph Dunham Nevius  
John Kline Nevius Sr (1885 – 1968)  
son of David Augustus Nevius  
John Kline Nevius Jr (1913 – 2000)  
son of John Kline Nevius Sr  
Gary Dumont Nevius, my husband  
son of John Kline Nevius Jr  
Thank you for taking the time to write and illustrate the story!



dahndesign

on [March 19, 2014 at 4:55 pm](#) said:

You are most welcome. I'm glad you enjoyed it.



Karen Schomp Noel

on [March 3, 2014 at 5:57 am](#) said:

Dear Denise: Just recently I started on the ancestry.com path and have found it to be a real eye-opener. I am descended from Pieter, also, through Cornelius, through Annetje. My paternal uncle's name was Wyckoff Schomp, and before he died he told me we were descended from French Huguenots who settled in New York in the late 1600's but I don't think even he knew the origin of his first name. I really enjoyed your artwork and research and musings about life in those early years in New Amsterdam and thank you for taking the time to share it with the rest of us descendants of this remarkable family. We are indeed fortunate to live in an age where the internet has made it possible for us to communicate easily with people we will likely never meet in person but can receive

and appreciate their thoughts through cyberspace. I have found it very humbling to think about how many people combined to make the person that is me, since prior to searching my history I never much thought past my great-grandparents, largely, I suspect, because ours is a generation that lives in a fast-paced present, which makes it especially refreshing to come to an abrupt halt, face backwards, and enjoy finding out what lies behind us instead of what is in front of us. Karen



dahndesign

on [March 3, 2014 at 9:55 am](#) said:

Beautifully stated, Karen. It is fascinating to be able to “face backwards”, like you say. I wish someone would invent a time-machine so we could visit the past in person! Maybe someday, in the distant future....

But now we are fortunate to have access to all this great information at our fingertips, and the capacity for imagination to bring it all to life.



Garret Ames Wikoff

on [February 27, 2014 at 7:03 am](#) said:

This is really a very nice page. Most who view it will have no idea of how much work such a production is. I am 13th generation in the Garret line. My father (William Ames Wikoff) and I attended the opening of the Home in Brooklyn in 1982. I remember it being a very warm day. Currently I am the VP & Treasurer of the Wyckoff Cooperstown group which holds a reunion each year on the first Saturday after the 4th of July. The Wyckoff Picnic, as it is known, takes place at Glimmerglass State Park a few miles North of Cooperstown New York. 2012 turned out to be a particularly exciting year as we had the pleasure of hosting the national reunion, an wonderful experience.

Thank you for your efforts.

– Garret Wikoff



dahndesign

on [February 27, 2014 at 8:31 am](#) said:

Thank you, Garret. I'm glad you enjoyed the post. It was a lot of work, but I hope to follow up with more if I get a chance. It's such a fascinating story...really fires up my imagination! I'd love to do an illustrated story that went through more of

the generations. Maybe someday...



Joan Dean

on [January 24, 2016 at 12:39 pm](#) said:

I am adopted. I have had the unique opportunity to find my birth family and trace our family origins. My birth mother died while researching our tree, however, she left very good information for me and my sister. And my birth father and uncle gave me a lot of information for that side of the family. Dorcas Wyckoff is my 3rd great grandmother on my father's side. She married George Bondurant Hopper. I traced the Wyckoff name all the way back to Pieter Claesen Wyckoff. I was amazed! And my sister (we have the same parents) was amazed as well. She grew up in New York and she has been by the original family homestead, but never visited. Back then she didn't know the family connection. She now lives close to Cooperstown, NY. I told her about the family reunion there that Garret mentioned. She wants to attend the next one. Funny thing is she knows some Wyckoffs that live there. It really is a small world!

Thanks Denise for this wonderful piece! It's great to feel a part of such an interesting and historical family.

Joan Dean



Laura Black

on [April 2, 2016 at 11:01 am](#) said:

I too am a direct descendant of George Bondurant Hopper and Dorcas Wyckoff through their son John Hopper, who married Sarah J. Bayse. Mary Jane Hopper was John's daughter and married a distant cousin of hers, E. Lemuel O'Brien. Dorcas Wyckoff was the daughter of Sarah Sally O'Brien, who would have been a distant cousin to Lemuel.



John Randolph Wyckoff

on [January 13, 2014 at 11:58 am](#) said:



Hi Denise,

I have been working on a family tree with my sister. Found your article great piece.

I have an old book called the Dutch history on New Amsterdam that has some interesting information.

My family is from Pieter's son Nicholas .



dahndesign

on [January 13, 2014 at 4:44 pm](#) said:

Nice to meet you, cousin! I'm glad you enjoyed the post!



Barb Mabus

on [December 2, 2013 at 5:20 pm](#) said:

Your article is wonderful. My husband has just started doing research and learned that he is a descendant of Pieter Wyckoff, through his son, Nicholas Class Pieterse Wyckoff, so I guess that makes us cousins by marriage. We are interested in learning more.

Thanks again for your wonderful narrative!



dahndesign

on [December 3, 2013 at 8:03 am](#) said:

Thanks, Barb. I'm glad you enjoyed it!



Jay Dee Hendricks

on [November 11, 2013 at 2:27 pm](#) said:

Your beautiful history of Pieter Claeson Wyckoff is wonderful. I am pleased to be a descendent of this great man. I am the great great great great great great great great great (9th) grandson in the following order:

Hendricks, Jay Dee

Hendricks, Milton James Sr.

Hendricks, Charles Orren

Hendricks, Joseph Smith Jr.

Hendricks, Joseph Smith Sr.

Hendricks, James

Hendricks, Abraham

Couwenhoven, Altje

Roelofse, Neeltje

Wyckoff, Annetje

Wyckof, Pieter Claeson

Your text and illustrations are wonderful. In April of 2011, I took my family to New York for a vacation. On one afternoon we went over to see the Wyckoff home in Brooklyn (Flatbush). It was the highlight of the trip for me and my sister. I tried to get my four grandchildren excited about the experience, but you know how teenagers are!!!

Your history and illustrations have brought the memory of my visit back vividly to my mind. I thank you for that. I am very proud of my Dutch ancestry and of the long history of progenitors who have lived in America from the very earliest years of the history of our wonderful country.



dahndesign

on [November 12, 2013 at 12:08 pm](#) said:

Thanks so much, Jay Dee! I'm glad you enjoyed the post – it was so interesting to immerse myself in the past while I was writing and illustrating it. It is amazing that so many of us can trace our heritage back to this one man, isn't it?



Michael Stills

on [September 7, 2013 at 10:26 pm](#) said:

Hello Cousin Denise,

Thanks for a fun and informative take on our ancestor. I just started reading "Island at the Center of the World" by Russell Shorto. As I have other Dutch ancestors, Anthony Jansen Van Salee and his wife, Gretje Rayniers who also were in NY at this time. I will try and track down William Wyckoff's article as that is new info to me, thank you. Loved the Welikia website and very much appreciated you artwork. My maternal great grandmother was Loretta Katherine Wyckoff who descends through Nicholas Pieterse

Wyckoff.



dahndesign

on [September 8, 2013 at 10:35 am](#) said:

Hi Cousin, nice to meet you!

Thanks for your comments and good luck in your research!



M. William Wyckoff

on [August 2, 2014 at 3:30 pm](#) said:

Several years of research on the origins of Pieter Claessen have now been summarized in a new book, "What's in a Name? History and Meaning of Wyckoff" available by searching [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for Wyckoff, the name of the author. That's me.

You may be interested in knowing that Pieter was probably closer to age 20 than to 10 when he contracted to work for a man's wage at Rensselaerswyck. There is much more to be discovered. Enjoy the read!



Serena M Pond

on [April 20, 2020 at 7:27 pm](#) said:

Thank you for this. My name is Serena Marie Pond. My mother was Norma Oceola Wyckoff. I have just recently been able to get some information about this side of my family and am excited about receiving any information on it. Again thank you for all of this.

Serena Pond



Gretchen Wyckoff Pinkava

on [June 16, 2013 at 5:08 pm](#) said:

Thank you!! What a delightful rendition!! I am somewhat of an artist of watercolor and loved your gentle and thoughtful faces and landscapes. I am decended from Pieter's son Nicholas. I have been trying to do some detective work on his lineage. It is interesting, the many theories and stories. You tell this story well and accurately. Thank

you again, beautiful!!



dahndesign

on [June 17, 2013 at 6:43 am](#) said:

Thanks, Gretchen. So nice to hear you enjoyed it – I sure had fun doing that post. These stories can be so absorbing, especially knowing that they come from our ancestors. Good luck on your detective work!



M. William Wyckoff

on [June 5, 2013 at 9:48 pm](#) said:

Dear Denise,

Your imaginative watercolor of a 17th century vessel crossing the Atlantic captures the frightening peril of the journey very well. I also like the watercolor showing the view of Fort Orange from the east side of the Hudson, but I think you meant to say the viewer's perspective is looking north rather than south. Fort Orange was on the west side of the Hudson. With the ship sailing north, the Fort is on the left.

While it is true, as you write, that Peter Claessen adopted Wyckoff as his surname, it was not invented. He chose the name of the Wykhof estate, the most likely place of his origin, which was six miles south of Norden. The name was Friesian, not Dutch. There is no such Dutch name. It is a common name in Friesland. I submitted an extensive article on the History and Meaning of Wyckoff to the Wyckoff Association for publication some time ago, but have not heard if, when, or how it will be disseminated. Are you a member of the Association? Maybe we can meet someday at one of the annual reunions. I would be so pleased to meet you.

M. William Wyckoff



dahndesign

on [June 6, 2013 at 7:18 am](#) said:

Mr. Wyckoff, thank you so much for your comments! I'm glad you enjoyed the post.

Regarding your points, the general location of Fort Orange in my illustration and caption are correct. The Fort was indeed located on the west bank of the river, as you say, but I think you are reading the illustration incorrectly. The view shown is not upstream across the river, it is downstream along the west bank,

which has a natural bend along the shoreline that disappears from view. The viewpoint is a quarter mile or so north of the Fort, and the view direction is down-river, to the south, with the Fort on the west side of the river. In the post, I included a photo of the present-day view from the same location, to help orient viewers. As you can see, the freeway straightens out the bend a little, as freeways often do, but it's still there, more or less.

As I was writing this post I found quite a bit of written history about Pieter, but discovered that today, much of it is considered to be incorrect. For both the text and the illustrations, I relied on the expertise of the historians at the Wyckoff Association, who kindly reviewed the post for me and helped ensure its accuracy. There are many things about Pieter we do not know for certain, and I have identified which points in my text are speculation or imaginative and which are based on historical evidence. According to the Association, we know little about Pieter's life before he came to North America other than that he was born in Norden in Lower Saxony (now Germany) and that his father was named Claes. As you say, there is no indication that the name Wyckoff was of Dutch origin, but I have never heard any indication it was Friesian. I have never heard of the Wykhof estate in Friesland. That is an interesting connection, and I'll look forward to hearing more about it.

Thank you again for reading this post and taking the time to respond with your thoughtful comments. Putting together the historical details for the text and the artwork was a fascinating exercise and kept me absorbed for quite some time, imagining the life of a young man/boy named Pieter who so many of us are tied to in our family roots. When I was working on the section of the Atlantic Crossing, I actually had a sleepless night or two imagining what that must have been like!

I'll look forward to reading your article and possibly meeting you one day at a Wyckoff event.



M. William Wyckoff

on **June 6, 2013 at 7:32 pm** said:

Denise, You say that you consulted the expertise of the "historians" at the Wyckoff Association, but that you never heard of the Wykhof estate in Ost Friesland. Since you wrote that you look forward to hearing more about it, you should find the following reference very informative:

Wilhelm Wykhoff, "An East Frisian Theory of Wyckoff Origins," Bulletin of the Wyckoff House & Association, 350th Anniversary Issue, vol. LI. (New York: Wyckoff Association, 1988): 9-21.

I include the modern photo of The Wykhof , and a floor plan ca.1840, in

the article I submitted on the origins, meaning, and history of the surname. The evidence for the Frisian origins of Wyckoff, Wykhof, et al. is actually overwhelming and conclusive.

Cheers, Bill Wykoff



Susan Irene Wykoff Young

on **April 16, 2013 at 7:24 pm** said:

I live in Elizabethtown, PA. I was born in Coudersport, PA. My line goes Pieter Wyckoff, Garret Pieter Wyckoff, Garret G Wyckoff, Aukey Wyckoff, William Aukey Wikoff, William E. Wykoff, Henry D. ( it says Henry M on the internet, buy i think it was D) Arnold Moses(my father). Found on the internet. I haven't read all of your post. It's reall nice. I would like to visit the Wyckoff House some day. I was born in 1949. I had wonderful parents. I never met my grandparents. She died in childbirth and he raised the 8 children. Dad said he was a wonderful father. He died in 1937(Henry D Wykoff) My dad died in 1963 when I was 14. My mom is 93 and doi g well. Sincerely, Susan Wykoff Young



dahndesign

on **April 17, 2013 at 7:59 am** said:

Thank you Susan! Wonderful to meet another Wykoff!



Rich Wykoff

on **March 1, 2018 at 9:16 am** said:

What a wonderful thing you have done here! You have taken a very interesting journey of a young boy and brought it to life in living color! With that, you have created a place for cousins to find each other and share their stories! Thank you!

Hi to cousin, Susan! 😊 My family (3 brothers & 4 sisters) Is from Keating, Pennsylvania. Grandfather, Garrett H. Wykoff was born and raised in Sinnemahoning. He, like his father, Alexander, worked in the lumber industry that was predominate during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Garrett was an engineer on a Shay Gear locomotive for the Barclays Brothers Lumber Company.

Alex's father was William Auke Wykoff (son of Auke Wyckoff). He came to Sinnemahoning from Tinton Falls (New Schrewsbury), New Jersey and settle Wykoff Run. Interestingly, he dropped the "C" from his name after he was here a while. Dad continued the tradition and love of working in the woods as a "CCC Boy", forestry laborer, and then Forest Ranger for the Keating Division of Sproul State Forest.

We invite all of our cousins to come to our "neck of the woods" to take in the remote and natural beauty that attracted our ancestors to this region and continues to be home to hundreds of Wykoff kin 😊 Consider our home your home!

Thanks again, Denise!



Sharon Pryor

on **August 24, 2018 at 4:08 pm** said:

Sorry I'm a few years late to the party. ? Pietre is my 9th great grandfather. I enjoyed reading this.



Doriana Musselman

on **April 16, 2013 at 6:56 pm** said:

Hello Denise!

My sister, my mom and I were talking about our ancestry tonight and my sister mentioned this blog post!

My mom's maiden name is Wykoff.

Pieter Claesen Wyckoff is my great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather! (I guess that makes us distant cousins?)

Thank you so much for writing this blog! It was so wonderful to read, and your artwork is beautiful!

~Doriana Musselman



dahndesign

on [April 17, 2013 at 7:52 am](#) said:

Hello cousin! So nice to meet you! And to think...we can trace our family heritage back to one little boy who took a fateful ocean journey back in 1636. Boggles the mind.



Doriana Musselman

on [April 19, 2013 at 4:30 pm](#) said:

Yes it does! It surely is amazing!



Noel Schoneman

on [March 14, 2013 at 2:24 pm](#) said:

Denise –

Always appreciative of your posts. Most amazing!

There is a Wycoff Ave in Bremerton. Although the spelling is a little different, I wonder if there is a connection.

Noel



dahndesign

on [March 14, 2013 at 3:42 pm](#) said:

Thanks, Noel. It's a name that Pieter invented when the English took over control of New York and ordered the Dutch to adopt surnames (they hadn't before). But back then, spelling was a lot more free-form than it is today, so all kinds of words and names were spelt in diferant wayz. 😊



Phil Lanoue

on [March 13, 2013 at 5:17 pm](#) said:

Wonderful and amazing history and terrific photos!





dahndesign

on [March 14, 2013 at 10:55 am](#) said:

Thanks, Phil!



**Christina**

on [March 12, 2013 at 8:13 pm](#) said:

Wow, absolutely fascinating... How fortunate for you to have these correspondences!  
What a history — and your images are just beautiful.



dahndesign

on [March 12, 2013 at 9:27 pm](#) said:

Thanks, Christina! It is interesting to think about family connections, even if they  
are distant. It was a fun project.