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HISTORY  
OF  
JAN VAN CLEEF

OF  
NEW UTRECHT, L. I., N. Y.  
(1659)

1173  
352

AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

BY

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## FIRST GENERATION.

1. JAN<sup>1</sup> VAN CLEEF. Born in 1628 in Holland. Married, prior to 1661, Angelica Lawrence, daughter of Peter Lawrence. He settled at New Utrecht, Long Island, N. Y., as early as 1659. His name appears in a list of members of the Dutch Church of that place, 1677-85. He owned a plantation of 24 morgans and other plots of land in the Village of New Utrecht, and also 2½ lots at Yellow Hook (now Bay Ridge), L. I., N. Y., which he appears to have disposed of in 1691. Delegate from Bushwick Colony to the Representative Convention in New Amsterdam, April 10, 1664, to send delegates to Holland, to represent to the States General and the West Indies Company the distressed state of the country. In consequence of his old age the heirs of Nichols De Meyer agreed that he should occupy during life a farm, which their father had bought of him. A few of his descendants reside in New Utrecht and Gravesend, L. I., N. Y., but most of them removed to New Jersey.

### Children :

2. JOSEPH. Born Nov. 25, 1663. Soldier, Capt. Timothy Bagley's Co. Horse. Queens Co., 1715. Married Catharine Rappleye (daughter of Daniel Rappleye), and had a daughter, Sarah, born Sept. 25, 1709.
3. REBECCA. Married in 1693, Andrew Emans of Gravesend. She died in 1756.
4. CATHARINE. Born Oct. 23, 1681.
5. BENJAMIN. Born Nov. 25, 1683. 100.
6. ANGELINA. Married March 4, 1701, John Emans of Gravesend.
7. CYNTHIA. Born May 13, 1688.
8. CORNELIUS. Married Phebe Vandewater and had two children: John, ancestor of the New Utrecht and Gravesend branches, and Lawrence, born April 25, 1696.
9. ISBRANT. Resided in New Jersey. Married Jane Acstre Vanderbilt, and had three children: Mary, born Jan. 15, 1716; John, born March 8, 1720; Benjamin, born Jan. 7, 1724.
10. NELLIE. Married John Van Meteren.
11. RICHARD. Lieutenant; commission dated Sept. 10, 1684.
12. JOHN. Lieutenant, Kings Co., 1728.
13. LAWRENCE. Soldier, Capt. Thomas Stillwell's Co., Kings County, 1715.

## SECOND GENERATION.

100. BENJAMIN<sup>2</sup> VAN CLEEF. (Jan.<sup>1</sup>) 5. Born Nov. 25, 1683. Married (1st), as early as 1711, Henrietta Sutphen. Married a second time. He resided as early as 1707 in Monmouth County, N. J. His first wife was a member of the church in that county in 1711. Residence, Freehold, N. J.

### Children :

101. ELIZABETH. Born May 13, 1705. Married William Cowenhoven.
102. JOHN. Married (1st) Maria Hoffert; (2nd) Sarah Cowenhoven.
103. RICHARD. Born May 3, 1713. Died very young.
104. MARY. Born Oct. 6, 1715. Married John Berkan.
105. RICHARD. Born Dec. 21, 1718. Married Elizabeth Leek.
106. BENJAMIN. Born Dec. 3, 1721. Married July 2, 1741, Helen Cowenhoven.
107. NELLIE. Married Henry Vanderbilt.
108. LAWRENCE. 500.
109. HELENA. Married John Brown.
110. JOSEPH. Married Elizabeth Van Werkelen.
111. ALICE. Married William Bayet.
112. ANNIE. Married John Wilson.

### THIRD GENERATION.

500. LAWRENCE<sup>3</sup> VAN CLEEF. (Benjamin,<sup>2</sup> Jan.<sup>1</sup>) 108.  
Married Fannie Laan (or Loan, or Loon, or Van Loon). Soldier,  
Capt. Nathaniel Richard's Co., N. Y. City, 1746, to serve in the  
Expedition against Canada. He died before 1780. Residence,  
Freehold, N. J.

#### Children:

- 501. ISAAC. Born Oct. 24, 1724. 1000.
- 502. JACOB. Born Jan. 31, 1731.
- 503. PHEBE. Born June 24, 1733. Married Oct. 19, 1751, Abraham  
Adriance. Residence, Fishkill, N. Y.
- 504. LAWRENCE. Born May 29, 1737. Married Mary Suydam  
(daughter of Ryck Suydam).
- 505. JANE. Born Sept. 2, 1739.
- 506. JACOB.

## FOURTH GENERATION.

1000. ISAAC <sup>4</sup> VAN CLEEF. (Lawrence,<sup>3</sup> Benjamin,<sup>2</sup> Jan.<sup>1</sup>)  
501. Born Oct. 24, 1724, at Freehold, N. J. Married Dorcas  
Pomeroy. Residence, Freehold, N. J.

### Children :

- 1001. JOHN.
- 1002. LAWRENCE. 4040.
- 1003. PETER.
- 1004. ABRAHAM.
- 1005. ISAAC.
- 1006. JACOB. Born 1779, at Six Mile Run.
- 1007. VAN MATER.
- 1008. JANE.
- 1009. POLLY.

## FIFTH GENERATION.

4040. LAWRENCE<sup>5</sup> VAN CLEEF. (Isaac,<sup>4</sup> Lawrence,<sup>3</sup> Benjamin,<sup>2</sup> Jan.<sup>1</sup>) 1002. Born April 15, 1754, in New Jersey. Married Sarah Angevine. She was born in 1763. Soldier, Col. Goose Van Schaack's (1st) Regt., N. Y. Continental Line; also, Col. James Clinton's (3d) Regt., N. Y. Line in Rev. War. Soldier in Gen. John Sullivan's Expedition against the Six Nations of Indians in Central New York. For his military services he received a grant of land in the Town of Cincinnatus, Cortland Co., N. Y. He was the first permanent settler at Seneca Falls, N. Y., in 1789. He died Jan. 15, 1830. She died April 30, 1815. The Seneca Falls Reveille of Jan. 30, 1903, says of him :

In 1779 the army of Gen. Sullivan, to which had been assigned the task of driving the hostile Indians from our then western frontier, comprised the first white men that penetrated the wilderness of Western New York. This army numbered five thousand men and came from Pennsylvania, up the Susquehanna, and down the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, through this County, carrying destruction to many Indian towns and settlements as far west as the Genesee country. On the return the forces under General Sullivan as far as the foot of Seneca Lake, Colonel Gansevoort was detached with one hundred men to march through the Indian country of the Cayugas, Onondagas and Oneidas direct to Albany. With this party of hardy warriors, was Lawrence Van Cleef, who afterwards returned and became the second of the early settlers of Seneca Falls. The detachment under Col. Gansevoort encamped the first night at this place, occupying quarters on the north bank of the river near the Hoskins homestead in Cayuga Street. The attractions of this immediate vicinity, the beautiful scenery, the richness of the soil, and the rapid flow of the river, so impressed themselves upon the minds of this body of patriotic soldiers that some of their number resolved to return and make this place their future home. Only one of the party, Lawrence Van Cleef, adhered to this resolution.

Mr. Van Cleef had served in several engagements during the Revolutionary War—at Bunker Hill, White Plains and Valley Forge—and took an active part in Sullivan's campaign

against the Indians. As a soldier of the Revolution, he enlisted for three years as a member of the Seventh Company, First Regiment of the State of New York, in the service of the United States. He served during the entire war, and for his services was granted a tract of 600 acres out of the Military Tract, being allotted Lot No. 71 in the township of Cincinnatus. A patent for this land was issued to him under date of July 8th, 1790, but he never occupied it, and continued as a resident of Seneca Falls, until his death, January 15th, 1830, at the age of 75 years. He was a brave soldier and his knowledge of the Indian character served him well in later years. In the spring of 1789, two years after the arrival of Job Smith, Van Cleef came to Seneca Falls, and located on the Flats near where Smith had erected his log house, having purchased the hundred acres which Smith claimed to own. With an eye to the future he constructed a double log house, which afterwards served as a tavern, and in which he lived with his family for many years. With Smith he shared the profits resulting from drawing by the falls the small boats, canoes and goods of emigrants on their way westward. He also began to till the soil, but the troublesome Indians, jealous of the encroachments of the white men, for a time made that occupation uncertain and unprofitable. Amicable relations were finally established and with one exception no serious trouble subsequently occurred. An Indian who was deemed vicious and revengeful shot at Mr. Van Cleef one day, while the latter was standing in the doorway of his dwelling, the ball entering the post of the door near his head. Van Cleef pursued the Indian, took his gun from him, broke it over his head, and then threw him into his canoe and set him adrift. He was subsequently found dead at the outlet of Cayuga Lake. The other Indians seemed well satisfied with Van Cleef's action.

In the fall of 1789, Van Cleef returned to Albany for his family, after which he engaged more actively in traffic and business with his friend Smith. They constructed rude craft for the river and lakes and continued more actively employed in piloting boats over the rapids at this place. When Smith disappeared, Van Cleef continued the business, until the locks were built in 1815, and it was his boast that he never lost or injured a boat, although there were many lost and damaged by other pilots. In

physical strength and powers of endurance he was well adapted to the business in which he was so actively engaged.

The first frame house of the place was built by Van Cleef in 1794. It was located in Fall Street, where the west end of the King block now is, and into which Van Cleef moved his family, being succeeded in the tavern business on the Flats by a Mr. Parkhurst, whose family came with him and was the second one that settled here. Parkhurst afterward built a tavern on the site now occupied by the Stanton House.

The same year Mr. Van Cleef was apprised of the fact that the State's hundred acres, which he had purchased of Smith for \$500, was to be sold at Albany. He immediately started for that city, carrying \$1,800 in specie on his person, and an axe upon his shoulder to avoid being molested. He reached Albany after a long and laborious journey, only to see his land bid away from him by the Bayard Company, for which Col. Wilhelmus Mynderse was agent. The property was sold for \$2,100, but a satisfactory settlement was afterwards made with Van Cleef by Col. Mynderse and he relinquished all claims upon the land.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Cleef were the parents of six children, their oldest daughter, Jane Van Cleef, being the first white child born in Seneca Falls, which was in November, 1790, and their son, George C. Van Cleef, being the first white male child born here, in April, 1797. The names of the other children were Polly, Martha, Harriet and Sally, and many of their descendants are still living, the greater number being in Tyre and Junius, while a few are in other localities, like Mynderse Van Cleef of Ithaca and Lawrence Van Cleef of Niagara Falls. Wherever they are they represent intelligence and manhood and are honored and respected by the communities in which they now live.

Lawrence Van Cleef was a man of courage, pluck and perseverance. He was also active, thrifty and popular. The substantial results which he achieved were accomplished in the face of difficulties that would have discouraged natures less brave and strong. He was the real founder of the town, and for many long years he was held in the highest esteem by the people of the place. Cordial in his greetings, kindly in his friendships, hopeful of the future progress and prosperity of Seneca Falls, he was happy and contented in the realization of a rapidly developing industrial community, where thrift and enterprise and genius

would ultimately find their full reward. The world owes a debt of gratitude to those who founded our early civilization and made it strong and clear, and when they passed from us after years of earnest endeavor and modest usefulness, we realized, partly at least, what we had lost in the cessation of lives unostentatiously devoted to a noble and unselfish mission. The work accomplished by Lawrence Van Cleef, when measured according to present standards, was not phenomenal, but it was unselfish and patriotic, for which his memory will ever be kindly cherished. His death occurred in 1830, and his remains were buried in the old cemetery near the Silsby residence, the last resting place of many of the pioneers of this village.

#### Children :

- 4041. POLLY. Married Mr. Chambers.
- 4042. JANE. Married (1st) Mr. Goodwin; (2nd) Col. Wilhelmus Mynderse. He was born in 1767 at Albany, N. Y., and was prominent in the early history of Seneca Falls, N. Y.
- 4043. HARRIET. Married Joseph Harpst.
- 4044. MARTHA. Married (1st) Mr. Silence; (2nd) Mr. Hancock.
- 4045. GEORGE CUNNINGHAM. Born April 30, 1797. 6000.
- 4046. SALLY. Married Mr. Hall.



## SIXTH GENERATION

6000. GEORGE CUNNINGHAM <sup>6</sup> VAN CLEEF. (Lawrence,<sup>5</sup> Isaac,<sup>4</sup> Lawrence,<sup>3</sup> Benjamin,<sup>2</sup> Jan.<sup>1</sup>) 4044. Born April 30, 1797. He was the first white male child born in Seneca County, N. Y. Married Joanna W. Squires. She was born Sept. 25, 1795. He died Dec. 14, 1844. She died Aug. 6, 1886.

### Children:

- 6001. WILLIAM G. Born Nov. 8, 1814. Married Feb. 27, 1844, Hannah M. Green.
- 6002. HARRIET S. Born March 6, 1817. Married Nov. 8, 1837, Alanson Morehouse.
- 6003. GEORGE A. Born March 12, 1819. Married Jan. 1, 1846, Maria Knox.
- 6004. ALEXANDER MARTIN. Born Feb. 19, 1821. 8000..
- 6005. JANE G. Born June 22, 1823. Died July 3, 1825.
- 6006. MARGARET M. Born Oct. 14, 1825. Married, Nov. 4, 1846, William J. Smith.
- 6007. SARAH JANE. Born Map 21, 1828. Married, Oct. 21, 1847, Nelson Kline.
- 6008. MARY EUPHANIA W. Born Jan. 28, 1830.
- 6009. EDWARD M. Born Aug. 12, 1833. Married, June 1, 1864, Nellie H. Green.
- 6010. CHARLES M. Born April 11, 1836. Married Nov. 10, 1862, M. Elmina Huff.
- 6011. LAWRENCE. Born Sept. 19, 1838. Died Aug. 4, 1839.
- 6012. JULIA PHELPS. Born Aug. 13, 1841.
- 6013. JAMES S. Born Jan. 8, 1844. Died Jan. 8, 1844.

SEVENTH GENERATION.

8000. ALEXANDER MARTIN<sup>7</sup> VAN CLEEF. (George Cunningham,<sup>6</sup> Lawrence,<sup>5</sup> Isaac,<sup>4</sup> Lawrence,<sup>3</sup> Benjamin,<sup>2</sup> Jan.<sup>1</sup>) 6004. Born Feb. 19, 1821. Married Jane Elizabeth Garlick. He died Aug. 1, 1879. Residence, Ithaca, N. Y.

Children :

8001. DR. CHARLES EDWARD. Born Sept. 29, 1850. 9000.

8002. MYNDERSE. Born Aug. 29, 1853. 9020.

## EIGHTH GENERATION.

9000. DR. CHARLES EDWARD <sup>8</sup> VAN CLEEF. (Alexander Martin,<sup>7</sup> George Cunningham,<sup>6</sup> Lawrence,<sup>5</sup> Isaac,<sup>4</sup> Lawrence,<sup>3</sup> Benjamin,<sup>2</sup> Jan.<sup>1</sup>) 8001. He was born Sept. 29, 1850, at Seneca Falls, N. Y. He prepared at Canandaigua Academy and graduated at Cornell University, 1871, and the Homeopathic Medical College of New York City, 1873. He settled in the practice of his profession in Brooklyn, N. Y., where he was resident surgeon at the Homeopathic Hospital and a member of the Brooklyn Board of Health. He removed to Ithaca in 1880 where he practiced medicine until his death. He was president of the Tompkins County Homeopathic Medical Society and of the Cornell University Alumni Association of Ithaca, and a Director in the Ithaca Trust Company. Member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. He died, unmarried, Aug. 4, 1896, at Ithaca, N. Y.

9020. MYNDERSE <sup>8</sup> VAN CLEEF. (Alexander Martin,<sup>7</sup> George Cunningham,<sup>6</sup> Lawrence,<sup>5</sup> Isaac,<sup>4</sup> Lawrence,<sup>3</sup> Benjamin,<sup>2</sup> Jan.<sup>1</sup>) 8002. He was born Aug. 29, 1853, at Seneca Falls, N. Y. He prepared at the Ithaca Academy and graduated at Cornell University, B.S., 1874. He attended the Columbia Law School, 1875-6. He also studied law in Ithaca and was admitted to the Bar in September, 1876. He married Dec. 21, 1882, Elizabeth Lovejoy Treman (daughter of Elias Treman, and sister of Robert H. Treman and Charles E. Treman of Ithaca, N. Y.). He is one of the leading attorneys of Ithaca, has been referee in many important law-suits and executor, administrator and trustee of many important estates. He is a Republican in politics, was President of the campaign club in the presidential campaign of 1896, and was Commissioner of the United States Circuit Court, 1880-1900. President of the Ithaca Trust Company and the Ithaca Security Company. Attorney for and a Director in the Tompkins County National Bank. Attorney and Trustee, Ithaca Savings Bank. Attorney for Cornell University. Director in Cayuga Lake Cement Company, and various other business corporations. President Corporate Association of the Kappa Alpha college fraternity since 1886. Alumni Trustee of Cornell University, 1881-91; Trustee by election of the General Board since 1895. Trustee of the Cornell

Library Association. Trustee of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca. Member of St. Augustine Commandery, Knights Templar, and Country Club. Member of the Town and Gown Club. Member of the Protective Police of the Ithaca Fire Department. Residence, University Avenue, Ithaca, N. Y.

Children :

9021. EUGENIA. Born Aug. 18, 1886. Graduated at Vassar College, 1908.
9022. JEANNETTE. Born March 14, 1888. Student in Mrs. Dow's School, at Briarcliff Manor, N. Y., 1906-1908.













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