

# East Hampton History

*Including*

GENEALOGIES OF EARLY FAMILIES

*By*

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EAST HAMPTON, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

## VAN SCOY

THE GREATER part of this genealogy was compiled by the late Henry L. Van Scoy in 1897. This has been added to and brought up to date largely by Mrs. Everett J. Edwards.

With the first settlers who came to the New Netherlands from Holland were three brothers, Abraham, Peter and Isaac Van Schaick or Van Scoyack. Abraham settled in Albany, Peter near the present city of Hudson, N.Y., and Isaac in or near the Town of Oyster Bay, L.I. We find no account of their children but there is proof that Cornelius Van Scoy 1 (the East Hampton branch has always spelled the name thus), grandson of Isaac Van Schaick, came to East Hampton and in October, 1727 married Patience, daughter of Isaac Barnes of Amagansett. This Cornelius and his wife in 1737 removed to New Salem, Westchester Co., N.Y. with three or four children, one of whom was Jonathan, bapt. 1736, leaving one, Isaac, then five years old, to be brought up by his grandfather, Isaac Barnes. No Van Scoys are now living in East Hampton Township, but a few still live in Eastern Suffolk County.

The following bit of history concerning the first Van Scoy to live permanently in East Hampton was found in an old account book, and is probably a word-of-mouth tradition handed down to his great-grandson, the late Henry Van Scoy.

In February 1757, Isaac Van Scoy of Amagansett married Mercy Edwards, and in the spring moved to that section of the town known as Northwest, or Alewife Brook Neck, about six miles north of East Hampton Village. Northwest was a wooded wilderness of large timber. Into this lonely spot he went, with his wife, his axe, and his gun, game such as deer being plenty at that time. For a tenement for himself and his wife, he took out some dirt from the side of a hill, split some logs and put them up for a ceiling, putting turf on top for a roof. In a few years he built a snug frame house, and in or about 1771, he had built for himself a two-story 34 by 30 foot frame house, and in this he lived the rest of his life.

William D. Halsey, in his "Sketches from local history" relates that when Isaac Van Scoy's oldest child was born, "he set out in his doorway an oak tree (yellow bark) which was five feet high at that time. At this time (October, 1934) I have measured this tree and the following are the dimensions—height 98 ft., circumference one foot from ground 17 ft., diameter 5 ft., spread of branches 90 ft." The venerable giant was blown down in the hurricane of September, 1938.

Fifteen children were born to Isaac and Mercy in this wilderness; seven died in infancy. Mercy died in 1782, and Isaac then married the widow of Jonathan Osborn, who had a large family by her first husband. Isaac

spent his time chopping and carting wood and clearing and tilling the soil. He was a man who did not believe there was any such thing as "I can't do it." When he was married he did not know the letters of the alphabet, but he soon learned, and was a fair reader for his time. He was 85 when he died, never was sick in his life. He rode six miles to church, and home again, walked into the house, and sat down dead. The day he died his courage was equal to his will.

In the Revolutionary War, the British lying in Gardiner's Bay often made raids on Isaac Van Scoy's farm. For safety, nights he had a handy hayfork standing by the head of his bed. On a certain day he had 50 English pounds paid him by some one. Some of the British being on shore, got wind of it, and broke into his home to get it. "The money!" they demanded. He told them they should not have it. They asked him where it was. He told them—they made a rush for it. With his two-tined pitchfork he killed one on the spot, and wounded two more. Arnold Squires Van Scoy of Hampton Bays, L.I. tells the same story, which he heard from his grandfather, with this added: Isaac was taken prisoner and put aboard a British warship at Sag Harbor to await trial. One dark night some friends and neighbors rowed out to the warship and managed to free him through a porthole. He had to hide out until the war ended.

ISAAC VAN SCOY 2 (s. of Cornelius Van Scoy, he actually 3d generation in America and originally Van Schaick) b. April 1732 d. Nov. 2, 1816, m. 1757 Mercy, dau. David Edwards of E.H. and settled in Northwest, E.H.,\* where she d. Oct. 5, 1782 ae 50, and he d. Nov. 2, 1816. After the death of his first wife, Isaac 2 m. Elizabeth, widow of Jonathan Osborn; she was b. a Dibble, 1729, and d. 1824. Ch. of Isaac 2 and Mercy who survived were Isaac 3 b. 1758, Mercy 3 (who m. John Edwards of Sag Harbor and had ch. Russell, Patience, Isaac, John and Abraham); Elizabeth 3 b. 1759 (who m. Jeremiah Bennett, had 10 ch. and d. Oct. 11, 1858 ae 98; Patience 3 (who m. John Payne, merchant of North Haven, Sag Harbor, and had 9 ch.); Elsie 3 (who m. John Edwards of Amagansett and had ch. Nancy, Joseph, Rebecca, John Dudley, and d. Sept. 17, 1838); Mehetable 3 (who m. Jonathan Osborn, Jr. and had ch. Polly, Harvey, Jonathan, Mulford, Abraham, Isaac Van Scoy, Betsey; and d. ae 79); David 3 b. March 9, 1765, d. Feb. 2, 1854; Mary (Polly) 3 b. July 4, 1774 (who m. Dering Ranger of Northwest Nov. 1796 and d. 1833; she had ch. Stephen b. Jan. 9, 1798, Sylvester b. Aug. 23, 1801, and Alfred b. June 29, 1807).

\*The once extensive sheep and cattle farm, the fields of grain and hay, have all reverted to forest; only a stony hollow, the well, a few lilac bushes and stunted apple trees mark where the old house stood. The old Northwest school house stood on Van Scoy property.

ISAAC 3\* (s. of Isaac 2) b. 1758 d. 1846 m. Temperance Payne; ch. Mercy 4 (who m. a Havens); Phebe 4, who d.s.p. Nov. 4, 1868 ae 81; she inherited the farm; Isaac Sylvester 4, Arnold 4, Betsey 4.

\*Isaac 3 owned the Monks place, now Camp St. Regis.

DAVID 3\* (s. of Isaac 2; generally known as Captain, or sometimes Deacon) b. March 9, 1765, d. Feb. 2, 1854, m. Hannah, dau. Stephen and Hannah Merry

Burnett, Feb. 7, 1793; they had 7 ch., of whom 3 d. inf.; Abraham 4 b. Aug. 30, 1797; Dr. David Burnett 4 b. Oct. 12, 1800; Jacob Austin 4 b. May 29, 1804; Hannah Burnett 4 who d.s.p. March 23, 1851 ae 44.

\*In 1822 the Town Trustees quitclaimed to him all of its rights in Northwest Landing and adjoining meadow-land.

ISAAC S. 4\* (s. of Isaac 3, 2) b. Sept. 5, 1790, d. Dec. 24, 1846, m. 1st, May 24, 1820 Charlotte Parsons who d. Oct. 19, 1838; ch. Charlotte 5 b. Feb. 11, 1831, who m. Samuel Green Mulford. Isaac S. 4 m. 2nd Mary C. Mulford, who d.s.p. Aug. 17, 1890, ae 86.

\*A portrait of Isaac Van Scoy, 4th gen., as a handsome young man, used to hang in the old John Henry Mulford house; Mr. Mulford said that was his grandfather Van Scoy. See E.H. Star for Nov. 6, 1952.

ARNOLD 4 (s. of Isaac 3) b. Sept. 19, 1793, d. Aug. 18, 1857, m. Mary Parker; ch. Mariette 5 b. 1818 who m. P. Parker King; Charles 5 b. 1820, d. 1822; Charles 5 again b. 1823 d. June 8, 1867; Isaac 5 b. 1827 d. 1880. He lived at Russell's Neck, near Sag Harbor.

ABRAHAM 4 of Northwest (s. of David 3, Isaac 2) b. Aug. 30, 1797, d. May 18, 1854 m. Clarissa H. Schellinger of Amagansett in 1821, she b. March 12, 1802, d. 1883; ch. Henry Lewis 5 b. Sept. 28, 1822, d. Aug. 1823; Mary Elizabeth 5 b. June 2, 1824, d. Nov. 14, 1893 (who m. James L. Sanford 1883 and d.s.p.); Henry Lewis 5 again, b. Oct. 13, 1826 d. Feb. 5, 1921; Abraham Oscar b. April 28, 1830, d. unmd. Nov. 25, 1860; George Elbert 5 b. Sept. 15, 1844.

DR. DAVID BURNETT 4\* (s. of David 3) b. Oct. 12, 1800, d. Oct. 4, 1874, m. Hannah, dau. Samuel Mulford of Amagansett Oct. 3, 1827, had 1 ch. who d. inf. and Dr. Samuel D. 5 b. July 11, 1834, d. July 7, 1869.

\*Dr. David Burnett Van Scoy of Amagansett was quite a legendary character. He was a doctor, and a very good one. He was noted for his ready wit and picturesque profanity. When he was 13 he broke his arm at the elbow, which he thought would "unfit him for manual labor," so he decided to study medicine. He had a large practice in East Hampton and Amagansett. Dr. Van Scoy was also Postmaster of Amagansett for fourteen years, and a Justice of the Peace. In the latter connection, the late Harry D. Sleight of Sag Harbor told the following story (see E.H. Trustees' Record, 1870-1897, p. 296). "Sometimes, as still occurs, in the scramble for public office, a man unsuited for the position was elected. Such a one having been notified by the Town Clerk of his elevation to authority, went before Judge Van Scoy, a magistrate and very able man. 'I came to qualify,' said the officer-elect. The judge looked up, with a twinkle in his eye. 'I'll swear you in,' said he, 'but all hell couldn't qualify you.'"

JACOB AUSTIN 4\* (s. of David 3) b. May 29, 1804, d.s.p., m. 1st Rhoda, dau. Joshua and Anna Polley of Lisbon, Conn. who d. March 27, 1863 ae 55; he m. 2nd May 16, 1866, Mary, dau. of Lewis Parsons of E.H.

\*He lived at Russell's Neck, near Sag Harbor.

CHARLES 5 (s. of Arnold 4, Isaac 3) b. 1823, d. 1867, m. Mary Johnson and d.s.p.

ISAAC 5 (s. of Arnold 4, Isaac 3) b. 1827, d. 1880, m. Elizabeth Harkness; ch. Frederic 6, Mary 6, Florence 6, Lillian 6.

HENRY LEWIS 5\* (s. of Abraham 4) b. Oct. 13, 1826, d. Feb. 5, 1921, was one of the Argonauts to California, sailing for San Francisco from Sag Harbor in the bark Hamilton, Oct. 25, 1849, arriving there March 14, 1850, returning in the spring of 1853. He m. Oct. 12, 1853, Mary T., dau. Talmage Barnes of

Amagansett; she was b. Dec. 12, 1833, d. March 14, 1896; ch. Abraham T. 6 b. Aug. 7, 1855, Benjamin H. 6 b. Aug. 27, 1858, Harriet Barnes 6 b. Jan. 3, 1861, (who m. Edward H. Dayton Oct. 27, 1880 and had ch. Fred V. S. b. Oct. 14, 1881 d. Sept. 9, 1951; Alice Mary b. April 21, 1888, d. Dec. 30, 1929).

\*Henry L. Van Scoy was born and brought up at the old Van Scoy place at Northwest; he taught in various eastern L.I. schools.

GEORGE ELBERT 5 b. Sept. 15, 1844, d. Jan. 22, 1911, m. Catherine Maria, dau. Sineus C. M. Talmage of E.H., June 12, 1872, she b. June 29, 1851, d. 1943. They lived at Northwest, later rem. to Bridgehampton. Ch. George Elbert 6 b. Aug. 16, 1873, Fanny Terry 6 b. Dec. 17, 1875, May Talmage 6 b. May 4, 1877. This family was last to occupy the original Van Scoy house built shortly after 1757. The farm was sold to S. C. M. Talmage about 1883; both ells were taken off and moved to the Talmage farm at Georgica; the rest of the house was soon dismantled by anyone needing a little lumber. There is a "Scoy's Pond" and a "Phoebe Scoy's Road" at Northwest. Miss May Talmage Van Scoy is Librarian at the Bridgehampton Library and has been very helpful with this genealogy.

DR. SAMUEL D. 5 (s. of Dr. David Burnett 4) b. 1834, d. July 7, 1869, of Riverhead, L.I., m. Hettie, dau. of Capt. Wells Griffing of Riverhead, Nov. 14, 1858, ch. Fanny 6 b. Feb. 1, 1863, d. Aug. 1863; Hannah 6 b. 1868 who m. Charles Edwards of New Orleans; Elizabeth 6 b. 1866 who m. Charles Smith of Huntington, L.I.

ABRAHAM T. 6 (s. of Henry L. 5, Abraham 4) b. 1855, d. Feb. 3, 1921, grad. Mt. Union College, Ohio, 1876, went to Illinois, m. Alice Huestis 1877, she d. 1887; he m. 2nd 1888 Estelle Warner; m. 3d. Lillian Bacon and rem. to Milwaukee, Wisconsin; no ch.

BENJAMIN H. 6 (s. of Henry L. 5, Abraham 4) b. Aug. 27, 1858, d. 1910, m. Ida F. Glover June 29, 1881; ch. Herbert Lewis 7 b. Nov. 5, 1890, Leslie B. 7 b. Feb. 2, 1894, Mary E. 7 b. April 21, 1896, d. July 15, 1916.

HERBERT LEWIS 7 (s. of Benjamin H. 6, Henry L. 5) m. Birdine Hertz Nov. 28, 1913, div. 1945, had dau. Marion Elizabeth 8 who m. Allan King in 1948. Herbert L. 7 m. 2nd Thelma S. Manson May 8, 1946.

LESLIE BARNES 7 (s. of Benjamin H. 6, Henry L. 5) b. Feb. 2, 1894, d. 1950, m. Beatrice ———; had s. Robert 8.

GEORGE ELBERT 6 (s. of George E. 5, Abraham 4) b. at Northwest Aug. 16, 1873, d. April 14, 1938, m. Dec. 28, 1898 Charlotte Squires, she b. Jan. 13, 1787 at Good Ground, L.I. (now Hampton Bays); ch. Raymond Russell 7 b. Aug. 29, 1899, Austin Squires 7 b. Oct. 26, 1901, Everett Mulford 7 b. Feb. 15, 1905, Gladys Elizabeth 7 b. March 19, 1908 (who m. Cornelius Robert Scully Nov. 16, 1935 and has s. Cornelius George b. April 27, 1939); Mildred Townsend 7 b. May 27, 1915 (who m. Charles Joseph Kent March 1, 1945).

RAYMOND RUSSELL 7 (s. of George E. 6, 5, Abraham 4) b. Aug. 29, 1899 m. Lucille Gehrig Yost March 28, 1934, ch. Robert 8 b. Jan. 21, 1935, David Gehrig 8 b. Jan. 14, 1939.

AUSTIN SQUIRES 7 (s. of George E. 6, 5, Abraham 4) b. Oct. 26, 1901 at Bridgehampton, m. Elizabeth Robertson of Dunblane, Scotland, she b. Dec. 16, 1903; ch. Lorna Elizabeth 8 b. July 30, 1925 (who is a graduate of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, N.Y., Nurses' School and m. June 27, 1952 Dr. George Redding); Sheila Vivian 8 b. Nov. 25, 1926 (who m. Dr. Albert Francis Dingley Jr., June 17, 1950 and has ch. Albert Francis 3d b. Feb. 3, 1952); Kenneth Austin 8 b. Feb. 17, 1928; twins Joan Lorraine 8 and Jane Lucille 8 b. June 20, 1929 (who are physical therapists in Women's Medical Specialist Corps at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C., with rank of Lieutenant).

EVERETT MULFORD 7 b. Feb. 15, 1905 m. Florence Raynor, no ch.

KENNETH AUSTIN 8\* (s. of Austin Squires 7, George E. 6, 5) b. Feb. 17, 1928  
m. Elfrieda R. Schwartzingen, July 1947; ch. Claudia Marget 9 b. June 14, 1948,  
Kenneth Austin 9 b. Nov. 4, 1950.

\*He served in World War II as Staff Sgt. U.S. Army Engineers, now student El.  
Eng., Union College.