

Dec 19, 2015

Hello Wayne and Lisa,

I've been working again on trying to connect Jacob Van Valkenburgh who married Chloe Hodges to the NAVVF genealogy. I think I've narrowed down Jacob's parents to only two possibilities. I'll send what I've put together in case you have insights.

Upon arrival in Canada in the fall of 1790, we find Jacob requesting land: "Jacob Van Valkenburgh, late of the County of Albany prays to be admitted as an Inhabitant & to have a lot of land assigned him in this district. He appears to be a young man of good character from the testimony of Lieut Sharp & his brother & of a family reputed friends to Government..." (Land Board Records, vol 7, p 204). The only Sharp fighting for the British that was a lieutenant in the American Revolution that I can find is Guysbert Sharp (also called Guisburt, Gilbert, and other variations) who settled in Ernestown about 1779. For Guysbert and his brother to both testify that Jacob's family were friends of the British, the Sharps must have known the Van Valkenburghs. Given that the document says Jacob was new to Upper Canada, and given that Guysbert Sharp had been in Canada for a decade, it seems that Guysbert must have known Jacob's family in New York State before moving north. Guysbert was from Kinderhook, so it seems very likely, then, that Jacob was also from Kinderhook. Guysbert Sharp's wife was Bautche/Bauchy Van Valkenburgh, so it is tempting to suppose that Jacob left Kinderhook for Ernestown to be with relatives – perhaps Bautche was his aunt or older sister. But it also could be that Guysbert's wife and Jacob weren't immediate family members. There were many Van Valkenburghs in the Kinderhook area at the time, all related, but some were as distant as third cousins from each other. There was a John VV in Peter Van Alstine's party that reached Ernestown in 1779 with Guysbert Sharp, so perhaps Bautche is closely connected with him.

Besides Jacob, several others reported in petitions (1788) and a pension application (1831) that they knew Guysbert while in Kinderhook:

James Wyngart - "well acquainted with Guysbert Sharp and Bauchy Van Volkinburgh of the Town of Kinderhook in the year 1770 and that he the said Wingord was a guest at the wedding of the said Guybert & Bauchy which was consummated on the fifth day of April 1770 in the town of Kinderhook at the tavern of John Vosburgh."

Peter Van Schaik - "I am well acquainted with Lieut Sharp who lived about three miles from me while I resided at Kinderhook."

Peter Van Alstine – "Claimant had a house of his own he possessed part of the Patent of Kinderhook, under his Father's will, supposed about 200 acres a considerable part of which was improved, it had a very good house..."

The Sharp, Wyngart, Van Valkenburgh, Van Schaik and Van Alstine families mentioned above can be located geographically using an existing transcript of a tax list from 1744 and a Kinderhook Patent map that seems to date from about 1763. In combination, these documents can be used to give the location of dozens of Kinderhook inhabitants: we find Van Alstines and Van Schaiks near the south edge of the village of Kinderhook, and the Wyngarts and Sharps

about three miles from them (consistent with Van Schaik's statement above) to the west on the shore of the Hudson River. A Jacob Van Valkenburgh is also on the Hudson River about a mile from the Sharps. It would be reasonable that Guysbert Sharp and wife Bautche VV, who were married shortly after the map was made, belonged to these two families given how close together they lived. It may also indicate that our Jacob VV, whose family knew Guysbert Sharp, was related to this Jacob VV.

To figure out which Jacob VV appears on the map, we notice that his neighbours appear in sequence on the tax list, but he is omitted. This tells us that Jacob VV was likely single at the time of the tax list and living with family, but was a landowner later on by the time of the map. Indeed, there is a Jacob VV b 1721 who married about 1747 and was still in Kinderhook at the time the map was made. The likelihood that the Jacob b 1721 is the one on the map is practically confirmed because his neighbour ("Sharpe" on the map; "Laurens Scherp" on the tax list) is listed as this Jacob's father-in-law at NAVVF.org. Furthermore, one source indicates this Laurens Sharp was a brother of a Gysbert Sharp

It appears that Jacob VV b 1721 is a good candidate to be a relative of our Jacob, probably his grandfather. However, a large family of Van Valkenburghs lived a short distance from the Sharps in the other direction. They are not marked on the map, but the tax list reveals their approximate location. In that cluster of VV's we find Bartholomeus VV (b 1678) and three sons, all with separate households, and a little farther north still, we find Lambert VV (b 1672) with sons and grandsons. The will of Lambert's grandson, Andries, confirms this location as it mentions lands at Eykebush Creek [Mill Creek/Petanock Creek/Eichybush], which is exactly what we would expect from the tax list.

Our Jacob is almost certainly a descendant of Jacob b 1721, Bartholomeus b 1678, or Lambert b 1672 given their locations near the Sharps. (The Sharps were in the area at what is now the north end of Sharptown Road east of Stuyvesant, and Jacob VV was at the south end of Sharptown Road at Nutten Hook.)

Looking to the NAVVF.org site for a possible descendant of any of the above VV's who is connected to Kinderhook and might be our Jacob, we find only four. The possibilities were narrowed by considering only those in the area who were born between 1760 and 1775, given Jacob's wife Chloe's birthdate (ca 1772) and that Jacob was described as "a young man" in 1790. The four Jacobs are all listed as baptised in the Dutch Reformed Church at Kinderhook:

1. Jacobus Van Valckenburgh, son of Louwrenz VV and Rachel Van Vredenburg, bap 3 Feb 1771, wit Jacobus VV and Catlyntje Scherp
2. Jacob Van Valckenburgh, son of Isaac VV and Annatje Oostrander, bap 23 June 1774, wit Jacob P VV and Cathrina VV
3. Jacob Van Valkenburgh, son of Bartholomeus VV and Hilletje Scherp, bap 15 Jan 1769, wit Jacob Scherp and Elisabeth Van Dyck
4. Jacob Van Valkenburgh, son of Isaac VV and Cathrina, bap 28 Jan 1767, wit Abram VV and Eva Van Vechten

The first Jacob's baptism was witnessed by his grandfather Jacob VV b 1721 and wife Catlyntje Scherp. Piecing together online data, Catlyntje was likely the first cousin once removed of the Guysbert Sharp who went to Canada. If Jacob #1 is ours, this would make him second cousin once removed to Guysbert Sharp. This is distant enough that we can discount the relationship through the Sharps as Jacob's reason for journeying to Canada. Furthermore, NAVVF.org already lists Jacob #1 with a wife (not Chloe Hodges), so he is not ours if the NAVVF site is correct.

The second Jacob is also married to someone other than Chloe according to the NAVVF site.

The third Jacob was baptised in 1769 with his maternal grandparents as witnesses. He was the son of Bartholomeus b 1743, grandson of Lambert b 1704, and great-grandson of the Bartholomeus above, b 1678. His mother was Hilletje Scherp, who was a niece of the Catlyntje Scherp in #1. This means that Jacob #3 is a second cousin once removed to Guysbert Sharp, so the Sharp connection is again rather insignificant.

The fourth Jacob was baptised in 1767 with his uncle and aunt as witnesses. He was the son of Isaac b 1733, grandson of Jacob b 1709, and great-grandson of Abraham b 1680, who was the brother of Bartholomeus b 1678.

These last two Jacobs are good candidates for marrying Chloe Hodges. Perhaps Jacob #4 is slightly better: in Chloe's 1800 land petition she describes herself as married to "Jacob Vanvolkenburgh Junior." "Junior" in the early Dutch records either meant "son" or "the younger" according to the *Genealogy of the Van Valkenburgh Family in America*. This means that Jacob was the son of a Jacob, or that he was the younger of two Jacobs, thus pointing to Jacob #4 above, whose grandfather was Jacob. If either Jacob could be shown to have been in the US after 1796 through a census or death record, we could eliminate him as a possibility.

I think the Jacob Van Valkenburgh of Hoosick where Chloe Hodges lived has been a red herring. I know of no reason to believe that our Jacob was ever there. (It is ironic that the first genealogy trip I took to the US in the 1980's was to Kinderhook to look for Jacob, but I later got sidetracked by Hoosick. Nearly 30 years later it appears that I was likely in the right place after all.) Now I'm thinking that Jacob left Kinderhook for Ernestown, and then soon after his 1790 petition, went to Saratoga where he met Chloe, married her, and had son David who was baptised there in 1793. Since David was baptised five days after Chloe's brother Timothy Hodges was in Augusta Twp requesting land, it's pretty clear that Timothy Hodges went to Augusta Twp first, and Jacob VV and Chloe (not later than the 1796 census) went to settle alongside her brother. That would explain why Jacob didn't return to Ernestown and settle there, even if he was related to Bautche VV.

This still leaves the matter of where Bautche fits into the family. A birthdate near her husband's (bap 1741; b 1737?) would be likely, except that she lived until 1838. This means she may have been somewhat younger, born perhaps about 1750. It's difficult to insert her as an

aunt of Jacob #3 because the earliest birthdate for her that is reasonable would be 1754, making her only 16 at marriage and at least 13 years younger than her husband. If she is inserted as the youngest daughter of Jacob b 1709 (sister of Isaac b 1733 and aunt of Jacob #4) she could be born 1751, making her 19 at marriage and 10 years younger than her husband, which is more reasonable. However, if Jacob did not go to Ernestown to be with relatives, then there is no reason Bautche needs to be closely connected with either Jacob #3 or #4. "Bautche" and "Bauchy" are almost unheard of names – I see a Bauchy VV in one source (a different Bauchy) as an alternative to Elisabeth (like the English "Betsy"). A Dutch friend of mine suggests "Baukje" (his aunt's name) and knows of a "Bautje." I also see "Baatje" and "Baata" in the early records.

Another possible scenario is this: In 1790, there is a Guysbert Sharp and family in Kinderhook that disappears before 1800. It's tempting to suppose that Guysbert and Bautche returned to Kinderhook temporarily and brought Bautche's relative, our Jacob VV, back with them to Canada by October of that year when Guysbert stated in the petition that he knew Jacob's family. However, I've decided this is probably a different Guysbert Sharp and that this census info is entirely coincidental: the numbers of children listed don't match between the Ernestown and Kinderhook Guysbert families; Guysbert was in Canada in 1788 and Oct 1790 leaving a small window for him to move to Kinderhook and back; his Kinderhook property had been confiscated; there were many Sharps and VV's in Kinderhook and a few other Guysberts with other surnames, so the presence of a Guysbert Sharp in Kinderhook isn't as conclusive as it seems at first.

I'd be happy for input. Please do let me know if you have any sources in mind that might help. I did check the land records and wills at familysearch.org, but I came up with nothing useful. Guysbert Sharp is in the Upper Canada Sundries at the Library and Archives Canada website, but again, nothing helpful.

Andrew