The Elizabeth Conkwright Landess Story

Compiled by Ed, Don, and Ron Guenther Written: 2015



Google Map edited by Donald S. Guenther

17th Century Dutch, The Netherlands

The Dutch stood for freedom of religion and speech movement. In the 1600's The Dutch were master ship builders. They were also at the height of their cultural and trading dominance, the Golden Age. Amsterdam in 1614 was a new haven for artists and intellectuals. Some say they were more refined than London, at the time, the University of Leyden was much more important than Oxford. A refuge for talent!

But the idea of liberty...to own a business...to make money and be free to believe and worship God in whatever way was in their heart. These were Dutch ways, at the time. England was very concerned with the Anglican Church, the Dutch not so much. The Dutch fought three sea wars with England at this time and won two of them. Our ancestors were in the thick of it. An uninterested party would be quick to point out the flaws in the Dutch system, but the Conkwrights were Dutch.

In 1609 the Dutch hired a man by the name of Henry Hudson to explore the new world for them and help them find a place to settle. When Hudson came upon the New York area he noted a 'long island', and a great river that he called the River of the Mountains

but later it was changed to the Hudson River. This would be the ideal place for the Dutch to get a foothold in America. They would trade in furs and establish farms.

The Dutch coming to New Amsterdam, or New York, were a goodly people in the main and tried to get along with the local Indians; however, their first governor was William Kieft, and his nick name was William the Testy'. He incited Indian trouble and successfully started an exterminating process of the tribes. The Wappinger Indian wars of 1643-1645 are attributed to Governor Kieft. Kieft instigated horrible massacres.

In 1600 the seven Wappinger tribes numbered somewhere about 8,000 in 30 villages. After contact, the rate of their "melting away" was dramatic. Smallpox struck the area from 1633-35 and 1692. By 1700 epidemics,including malaria, had reduced the lower Hudson tribes to 10 per cent of their original number. No question about it the Indians weren't handled properly and in this case many were murdered. Most of the Indians died from disease. To be fair, the Indians were also cruel to the new comers.

Herck Siboutszen (1620-1681)

Herck Syboutssen was born around 1620 in Langedyk Zevenwolden, Netherlands, located on a peninsula in the north. He died about 1681 at the age of 66 in Newton, Long Island, New York. His father was Sybout Herck who was born in Langedyck, Holland, near the Kuinre River in the Zevenwolden, or the Seven Forests region. In his youth Herck Siboutszen learned the trade of Scheepstimmerman, ship's carpenter. In 1641 he crossed the Atlantic, living near the Heeren Gracht, just off Astoria Boulevard in modern day New York, in New Amsterdam, next door to Abraham Riker, who had also come from Holland but was of German ancestry.

In about 1649, Herck bought 21 morgens, about 42 acres, of land in the northwest corner of Long Island, in an area that came to be called Newtown and is now part of the Burrough of Queens. Herck and his neighbor Abraham de Riker seem to have become good friends while living in New Amsterdam, because the two men bought adjoining farms in Newton, near the Armen Bouwerie, or poor farm. The Dutch in those days called the Bouwereie a farm, usually a dairy farm. The word arm means poor. The farmers of this time in New Amsterdam were a poor people. It is known that the area in New York City called the Bowery was once the Bouwereie and was a dairy farm. Herck cut his farm out of pure wilderness, and on July 2, 1654 he received his patent, or title, to the land from the New Netherland government. He later bought an additional 16 acres which were patented to him on April 18, 1644.

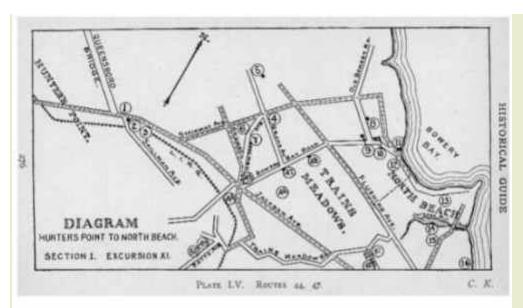


1.The Last Riker House (Waldman, 2011)



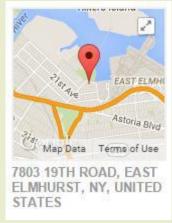
2. Lent-Riker-Smith Homestead (Schulz, 2014)

In 1656 The Riker family had a house built in East Elmhurst. It is believed that their neighbor, Herck Syboutssen, built it. It is the oldest home in America that has been continuously lived in. It is the Lent-Riker-Smith Homestead and is an American landmark.



This map, taken from the 1909 Historical Guide to the City of New York, published by Frederick A. Stokes in 1909, shows the Astoria-North Beach-Trains Meadow area in 1909.

3. Riker House Locale (Stokes, 1909)



4. Google map altered by Donald S. Guenther

The area where Herck had settled was well within the Dutch colony, but only a few Dutchmen had settled there. A good many English had filtered in from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, where they had found the religious oppression by the Pilgrims and Puritans as bad as it had been in England. In Holland and in the Dutch possessions there had always been tolerance. However, because there were so few Dutch in Herck's area, it took some eighty years before a Dutch Church was built their. But the Dutch took easily to water, and the Cornelieszens, Ryckens, Luysters, Syboutszens, Webbers and Wiltsees, all living near the Armen Bouwereie and next to navigable waters, found it easy to simply sail to church for services, baptisms and marriages. A few

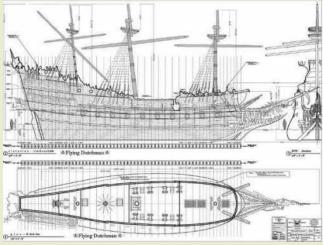
went to Bushwhyck or Harlem, but as late as 1686 most were attending the Dutch Church in New York City.

On November 16, 1642 Herck married Wyntie Theunis Quick in the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow. Born in Naarden, Holland, the daughter of Theunis Thomas Quick de Metselaer and Belitje Jacobs van Vleckersteyn, Wyntie and had crossed the Atlantic to America with them. She is said to have been a great beauty and "the toast of the town".



5. 17th Century Dutch Attire (Marianna, 2014)

Wyntie bore fifteen children with Herck. Living in New Amstredam, a port city which became New York, Herck would have had plenty of work in the ship yards building ships for the busy port and for Hudson River travel. Wyntje Theunis Quick was born on 23 July 1628 in Naarden, North Holland. In 1680 she sponsored her granddaughter's baptism, Wyntie, daughter of Sibout oldest son of Herck and Wyntie. She died in 1689 at the age of 61.



6. Ships Blue Print: The Flying Dutchman (Pirates of the Caribean) (Saranga, 2009)

When the Dutch first established a town on the southern end of Manhattan Island, they named it "New Amsterdam", and it remained so until 1664, when an English fleet sent by James, Duke of York and brother of the king, arrived. The Dutch were illequipped to fight, and had no choice but to surrender. New Amsterdam became New York, and Herck became an Englishman whether he wanted to or not; all citizens were required to take an oath of allegiance to England. Two years later, when the English governor re-confirmed land titles, Herck was listed as a "Freeholder of Newtown". The city was re-named "New York" in honor of the Duke. In August, 1673 the Dutch, who were then at war with England, captured the colony again, calling the city "New Orange", but the peace treaty made in the summer of 1674 gave it back to England, and again it became New York, this time for good.

It looks like the Dutch were trying to claim America when they founded New Amsterdam, or modern day New York. They just didn't have the fire power and navy to hold it. But they tried. The English tried to claim America and they couldn't hold it. America was destined to be held by free Americans.

The last twelve children of Herck and Wyntie were all born on the farm near the Armen Bouwerie. When Joseph, the last child, was born in 1681, Herck was somewhere around 41 years old. He is thought to have died about 1681 at age 61. He died on his farm, which was taken over by son Jacob.

The children of Herck Syboutssen and Wyntie Theunis were all baptized in the Reformed Dutch Church of New Amsterdam or New York City. They were:

- 1. Sibants (Sybout), baptized 12/4/1644; sponsors were Sybant (Sybout) Claessen (probably 1st cousin of Harck Syboutsszen), Hendrick Jacobsen, the child's uncle, and Sara Schepmoes. In April, 169 he married Marritje Abrahams, daugher of Abraham de Rycke, in the Dutch Reformed Church in New York City. He later moved to Westchester County, settled first on Ryck's Patent and then Pillipsburgh Manor. Joined the Dutch Reformed Church of Sleepy Hollow, and was an elder there from October 277, 100 until August 20, 1702.
- 2.Maryken (Mary), bap. 11/10/1647; sponsors Theunis de Metsslaer (her grandfather), Reynier Dominicus, Claes Janszen and Belitje Coprnelis. She married Evert Aertszen on February 2, 1673.
- 3. Tryntje (Catharine), baptized 1649-50 (between January and March). On February 2, 1673, she married Ryck Abrahamsen Lent (son of Abraham de Rycke) at the Dutch Reformed Church in New York City. She and Maryken appear to have had a double

wedding.

- 4. Beelitjen, bap. 2/4/1652; sponsors Lamberty Huybertszen, Jacon Teuniszen (her uncle), Jan Janszen and Belitje Jacobs, her grandmother. On May 19, 1575 she married Conraet ten Eyck, Jr., in the Dutch Reformed Church, New York City;
- 5. Engeltje, bap.l 5.17/1654; sponsores Jochem Calder, Dircki Janszen, Susanna Jans (wife of Sybout Claeszen), and Annetjen Lodowycks. On June 13, 1677 she married Pieter Brestede ad the Dutch church in New York; he died and she married Jan Evertszen on May 4, 1686, in the same church. When Jan died she was married a third time to John Wendover.
- 6. Theunnis, bap. July 4, 1655; sponsors Arie (aaron) Dirckszen, Jocham Calder, Belitje Jacobs (grandmother), and Susanna Jans. Teunis married Antje Banckert, moved to PHillipsburgh, and was a member of the Sleepy Hollow Dutch Reformed church. He died in 10709
- 7. Jan (John), bap. 11/28/657; sponsors Pieter Syboutszen, Jaconb Theuniszen (his uncle), Grietje Huddens, and Belitje Jacobs, his grandmother. He married Sophia Wiltsie of the well known Wiltsie family who first settled in New Amsterdam.

 8. Jacobus (James), bap. 9/7/1659;l sponsors Jacob Teuniszen de Key and Aeltje Willems. He married Elisabeth Hegeman on September 17, 1684 (she was a widow). He calls himself a yeoman. Robin Hood also called himself a yeoman. That meant a free farmer with some land and maybe other property.

Jacobus Kronckheyt Will:

Will of Jacobus Kronckheyt yeoman of Newtown, in Queens County, being in good heath but knowing that all flesh must yield to death. All debts are to be well and truly paid. I leave to my nephew Abraham Lent of Westchester County, son of my sister Tryntie, deceased, all that messuge, tenement and Plantation on which I now dwell (the homestead of his father Harck Syboutsen) in Newtown at or near a place called and known by the name of ye Poor Bowery. With all lands and meadows, salt and fresh, to the same belonging. And he is to pay to my son-in-law Jacob Ten Eyck, 60 pounds sterling soon after my decease. And he is to pay to my brothers, Sybeth and John Kronckheyt, and to Arisen and Beltie Ten Eyck, Engeltie Windeford, Aertie Van Voorst and to Henry Juman, son of my sister Jannettie and to Ariantie Ryder and Wyntie Hoff, each 5 pounds sterling. And he is pay to the children of my sister Killetie Fredericksen, deceased, 3 pounds sterling. I leave to my nephew Peter Luyster, of Oyster Bay, son of my sister, Wyntie Hoff, a mulatto girl named Molly. I leave to my niece, Margaret Snediker, a bedstead amd bed, with ye proper furniture, and my new cupboard. All the rest of my household goods I leave to the children of my deceased wife Elizabeth. All the rest of my estate I leave to my brothers Sybeth and John and my nephew Henry, son of my brother Teunis and to my sisters Maritie, Beltie, Engeltie, Antie and my nephew

Henry son of my sister Janettie and to my sister Ariantie and the children of my sister Hillitie and to the said Abraham Lent. I make my nephew Abraham lent and my friend Samuel Fish, of Newtown, my executors. Dated Nov 18, 1728 Witneses Andies Reike, Beter Berrien, one name illegible Proved March 3, 1729. Jacob' Will (WIKITREE. 2008-2015)

- 9. Annetie, bap. April 19, 1662; sponsor Hillegond Theunis, probably her aunt. Annetie married Johannes Van Vorst on August 26, 1685 in the Dutch Church at New York City. 10. Jannetje, bap. August 3, 1664; sponsors Jacob Theuniszen Cray, Pieter Janszen, Geertie Theunis (her aunt). Jannetje married 1st John Pinkens in 1685. she then married, 2nd, a man named Yeomans.
- 11. Arisentie, bap. June 4, 1666; sponsors Jacobus de Key, Marritie Levens. On July 27, 1690 she married Jan Ryder at the Dutch Church in New York City.
- 12. Hilletie, bap. 4/22/1668; sponsorsJonas Bartelszen, Tryntie Wemeyer Frederickese. She married 1st Jan Snediker, and 2nd, a man named Frederickse, who was probably related to her sponsor Tryntie.
- 13. Pieter, bap. 3/22/1670; sponsors Jacobus de Key, Geertie Theunis. He is presumed to have died young.
- 14. Weyntie, bap. 3/27/1675; sponsors Karsten Luurzen, Engeltije HJercks (her older sister). She married 1st john Luyster in 1694, and 2nd, Peter Hoff (or Haff) in 1699-1700 (this would be between January 1st and April, 1700).
- 15. Joseph, bap. 8/6/1681. the record reads "geengetuygen" (no witnesses). He probably died before 1728.

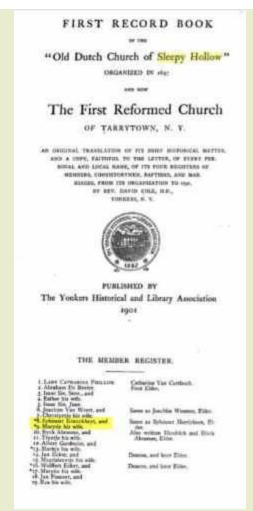
Sybout Herrickse Cranckheyt(1644-)

Sybout Herricksen Cranckheyt was the eldest son of Herck and his wife, Wyntje Theunis. He was baptized on December 4, 1644, in New Amsterdam. In April 1669 he married Marytje Abrahams Riker, who had been baptized on February 21, 1649, in New Amsterdam. She was the daughter of Abraham Rycken and Grietje Hendricks.



7. Location of Sleepy Hollow, New York (Guenther, 2015)

In 1684 Sybout joined with his Lent brothers-in-law in the purchase of Ryck's Patent, now a part of Peekskill. He lived at the Arme Bouwery until about 1790 when he moved to the "Bay of Cortlandt." Sybout and Marytie Kranckheyt are 8th and 9th on the member list of the Sleepy Hollow Reformed Church.



8. First Record Book of the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow (Cole, 1697)

Sibout and his wife, Marytje, had eight children, all of whom were baptized in New York City in Sleepy Hollow. The baptismal records record the following:

- 1. Herck, April 17, 1670. Sponsors: Theunis Thomaszen and Belitje Thomas.
- 2. Marritie, October 28, 1672. Sponsors: Herck Siboudtszen and Marrietie Hercks.
- 3. Abraham, August 16, 1676. Sponsors: Everet Aertszen and Marrietie Herck. He married Antje Broeckhout.
- 4. Wyntie, May 1, 1680. Sponsors: Herck Siboutzen and Wyntjie Theunis.
- 5. Annetie, March 19, 1684. Sponsors: Pieter Janszen and Jenneken de Key. She married Jan Beesby.
- 6. Herck, November 20, 1687. Sponsors: Jan Hercxen and Adrianetie Hercx. His name was Herck, or Herrick Siboutsen (son of Sibout) Krankheyt. From him we get the family name, "Conkwright."
- 7. Jan, November 20, 1689. Sponsors: Jacobus de Key and Anneken Hercx.

8. Hilletje, April 30, 1693. Sponsors: Johannes Van Vorst and Tryntie Hercx. She married Frank Beesby.

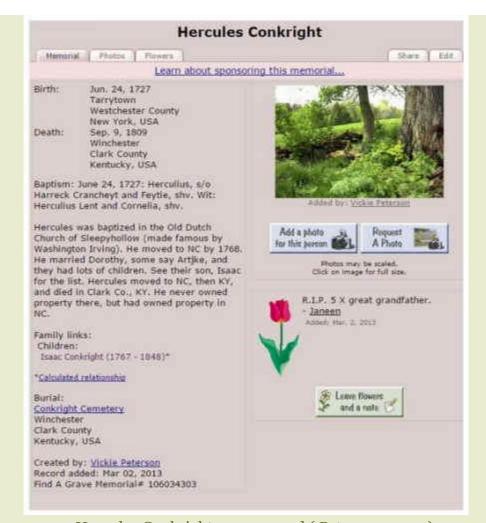
Herck Sybout Cranckheyt(1670-)

Herck Syboutsen Krankheyt was the son of Sybout Herricksen and Marytje Abrahams. In 1712 he married Fytje de Ronde, the daughter of William Hendricxen and his wife, Magdalena Helena Brouwer. They had seven children, all baptized at North Tarrytown, also called **Sleepy Hollow**, New York:

- 1. Magdalena, March 24, 1713. Sponsors: Willem de Ronde and Grietje Brouwer.
- 2. Maritje, June 11, 1715. Sponsors: Sybout Kranckheyt and Maritje Echer.
- 3. Zybout, April 18, 1716. Sponsors: Zybout Harckse Krankeyt and Marryetie Ecker.
- 4. Willem, April 22, 1718. Sponsors: Willem de Ronde and Altie de Ronde.
- 5. Abram, June 19, 1723. Sponsors: Abram Ecker and Rahel Lent.
- 6. Henreck, June 19, 1725. Sponsors: Henreck de Ronde and Catherine, his wife.
- 7. Herculius, June 24, 1727. Sponsors: Herculius Lent and Cornelia, his wife. More

Hercules Conkwright (1727-1809)

Hercules Conkwright was born in 1727 in Tarrytown, Westchester, New York. He married Dorothy Arckje(1725-1805) around 1755.



9. Hercules Conkright grave record (Peterson, 2013)

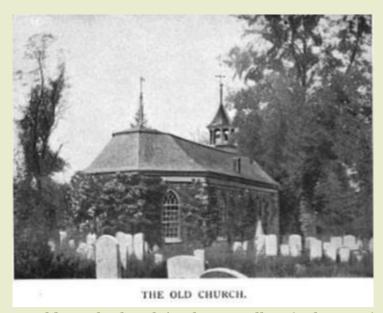
Hercules Conkright was baptized in the Old Dutch Church in Sleepyhollow, New York. The church was built in the 17th century. In 1820 Washington Irving penned the famous short story 'The Legend of Sleepyhollow", the story of the headless horseman.

Sleepy Hollow is a village in the town of Mount Pleasant in Westchester County, New York. The village is located on the east bank of the Hudson River, about 30 miles (48 km) north of New York City, and is served by the Philipse Manor stop on the Metro-North Hudson Line.

The village is known as the setting of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", a short story by Washington Irving, who lived in neighboring Tarrytown and is buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Originally incorporated as North Tarrytown in the late 19th century, in 1996 the village officially adopted the traditional name for the area, known to many via "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". To the south of Sleepy Hollow is the village of Tarrytown, and to the north and east are unincorporated parts of Mount Pleasant. The

population of the village at the 2010 census was 9,870.

The village is home to the Philipsburg Manor House and the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow, as well as the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, where Washington Irving, Andrew Carnegie, Walter P. Chrysler, Brooke Astor, Elizabeth Arden, Thomas J. Watson of IBM, Samuel Gompers, and many others are buried. (Sleepy Hollow, New York, 2015)



10. Old Dutch Church in Sleepy Hollow (Cole, 1697)

Hercules appeared in the Colonial Records of Anson County, North Carolina, as one of the "Regulars" opposing Governor Tryon in 1768 in the Colonial War of the Regulation. He can be found on the Guenther War Wall. In about 1786 Hercules sold land and is thought to have moved to North Carolina in Cabarrus County. There they bought land but by 1788 they can be found on the tax list for Fayette County, Kentucky. Kentucky became a state in 1792, the same year that ClarkCounty was formed from Fayette County. In 1793 Hercules Conkwright is listed in the tax records of Clark County.

On July 11, 1801, "Dolle Conkright" was "received by experance" in the Providence Baptist Church, near the Kentucky Rover. Then, on February 13, 1802, there was this entry: "Whare as Dolle Conkright being a member of this church rending herself from sd. church by joining the medethis (Methodist) society she is considered no more under our cear." Whatever.

During this time period, King George III was extremely popular after the French and Indian War which in Europe was the Seven Years War. They had won that war and the

fear of the French and with them the fear of the Indians who had been supported by the French disappeared. The people of New England and Virginia South felt themselves to be very English. Of course, the Dutch in New York, the Germans in Pennsylvania, the Swedes in New Jersey did not care so much, but were still happy with the resulting peace. What killed his popularity was starting about 1768 or 1769, the English decided that it was time to make the colonists pay. The English always looted their colonies and it was time to squeeze the colonies. There were a whole host of acts that were passed. In New England, the people made their living by the sea, but suddenly all trade had to be conducted on British ships, the cotton and tobacco went to English plants, trade in general was controlled by the English and good shipped in had to come from England. You had the stamp act that made sure these laws were established. The standard of living in the colonies dropped precipitously. Finally, the colonists were fed up, they blamed the king. To be a King's man in 1768 was an honorable thing, to be a king's man in 1770 was not so hot. One thing led to another, but even then, the colonists initially were fighting for their rights as Englishmen, not to separate. I can imagine that Hercules was looked up to, was proud to be a king's man, but by 1776, was as fed up as the next guy. You know, only about 1/3 of the people actively participated in fighting the English. The English brought in German mercenaries, 32,000 of them from Hesse where our own ancestor came from. At the end of the war, according to the rules, they were allowed to be sent home on English warships, but the colonists, it turned out, liked them and wanted to keep them and so they offered those fellows five acres and a cow if they stayed and 19,000 of them stayed. Many of them sent home for girl friends or wives, others married local girls, but they would have still had connections with relatives in German Hesse and probably our own great grandparents had heard what a neat place it was over here and how miserable it was in Hesse, and besides, Napoleon had been tromping around. They had heard about America either directly or from distant relatives.

Hercules and Dorothy had 9 children:

- 1. Hannah Conkwright was born on January 28, 1761, according to the late Oliver Lienhard, researcher of the Oliver family. She married Richard Oliver in North Carolina about 1778. Since Richard and Hannah lived for a time in Mecklenburg County, perhaps this is where they met and married. Richard, born on December 20, 1752, was a Revolutionary War soldier. He and Hannah settled in Clark County, Kentucky. On February 25, 1791, the Providence Baptist Church "Received Richard Oliver, Hannah Oliver and Thomas Stevens by experience." On October 8, 1796, the church "dismist Richard Oliver by letter." Richard and Hannah had these known children: Mary, William, Sarah "Sally," John, Minnie, Nancy, Isaac, and Joel.
- 2. Eleanor "Nellie Conkright" married Henry Goldman, Jr., in Rowan County, North

Carolina, on September 9, 1780. They also settled in Clark County, Kentucky. Their known children were Charles, Isaac, Jacob, Abraham and Eleanor.

- 3. Isaac Conkwright was born on March 20, 1767, probably in Mecklenburg County, according to the research of the late Bessie Taul Conkwright. He settled in Washington County, Kentucky, and later Casey County. He died on March 26, 1848, aged 81 years and 6 days, near New Salem, Illinois.
- 4. Rachel Conkwright was younger than her sister Hannah, and married Richard Oliver's younger brother, Isaac. This also probably took place in North Carolina. They settled in Clark County. They had nine known children: Nancy, John, Isaac, Elizabeth "Betsy," Polly, William, James, Joseph Mourning, and Benjamin A. Oliver. Isaac died on October 15, 1835; and Rachel died sometime after that.
- 5. John Conkwright was born on March 24, 1775, in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He married Keturah "Kitty" Lewis in Clark County on January 24, 1799. John and Nancy Vice gave their consent. John and Kitty had eight children. John Jr., Isaac, Frances, Talitha, Elizabeth, Cynthia, Sally, and Nancy.
- 6. Mary Conkwright married John Jackson in Clark County on August 17, 1795. Hercules posted the surety.
- 7. Dorothy Conkwright married Aaron Vise in Clark County on January 28, 1807. Averest Conkwright posted the surety.
- 8. Abraham Conkwright married Nancy Jackson in Clark County on November 27, 1793. Nancy's father, Jesse Jackson, signed his consent. Their known children were Larkin, John, Nancy, Rebecca, and Benjamin. (Fox Cousins by the Dozens, p. 78). 9. Averest Conkwright.

Hercules and his wife died in Clark County on land owned by their son, John Conkwright, and are buried there.

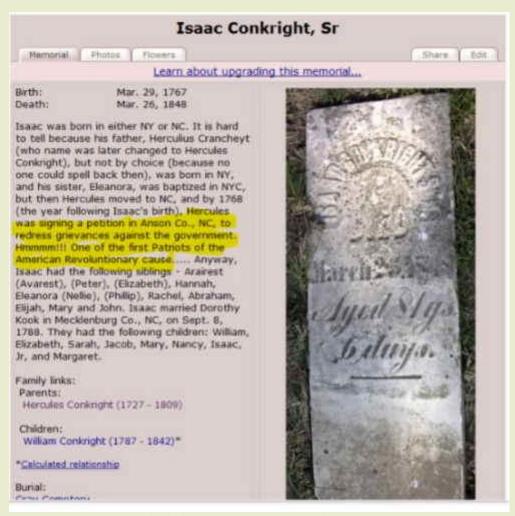
Isaac Conkright(1767-1848)

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Isaac married Dorothy Kook(1774-1848) in Meklenburg County, North Carolina, on September 8, 1788. In 1831 Isaac picked up stakes and moved to New Salem, Pike County, Illinois, with sons Isaac and William. His wife Dorothy had died in 1836.

They had the following children:

- 1. William
- 2. Elizabeth
- 3. Sarah
- 4. Jacob
- 5. Mary
- 6. Nancy
- 7. Isaac Jr.
- 8. Margaret



11. Isaac Conkright, Sr grave record (Peterson, 2013)

Elizabeth Conkright(1795-1876)

Elizabeth was born in 1795 in Casey County, Kentucky. On February 24, 1811, Casey County Records show Betsey Kinkright, our Elizabeth, marrying Abraham Landess. By 1847 Elizabeth's mother had died and her father Isaac Conkright was living in Pittsfield, Illinois. Elizabeth and her husband Abraham had moved from Kentucky and were living close to Quincy, Illinois.



12. Landess Family (Guenther, 2015)

In 1847. Elizabeth Conkright Landess, her husband Abraham, and 4 of her sons and 1 daughter left Illinois and set off for Oregon. Her son Henry came a few years later. Isaac Conkright lived nearby in Pike County, Illinois. It must have been difficult for him to see his daughter Elizabeth leave. Isaac died the following year in 1848.

The Oregon Trail 1847

The Landess wagon train combined 23 wagons, probably all ox drawn. Families on the train included the Browns, Richardsons, Scholls, Humphreys, Ritchies, Catherine and Jane McNary, Whitleys, Stewarts, Walters, Johnsons, and Wallers. They left Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, on April 5, 1847.

Here are the Landess families on the train:

Parents **Abraham Landess Sr.** with his wife **Elizabeth Conkwright**. Abraham and Elizabeth's 4 sons:

Felix Landess(1820-1903) with his wife Elizabeth Jane White(1822-1914).

John Landess(1823-1904): John's future wife, Leodisa Ingram(1847-1909), would travel the Oregon Trail in 1852).

Abraham Landess Jr.(1825-1855) with his wife **Diann Decker(1824-1882)**. With them came their three daughters:

Elinor(-1884); Mary Jane(1845-1920), and Nancy Ellen(1847-1928) was born on the Oregon Trail.

William Landess(1833-1895).

The Landess train brought with them much fine stock -- cows, horses, sheep, geese, and chickens. They also brought the first orchard trees from Iowa. The trees grew in boxes, which were fastened on behind the wagons all the journey through. They brought farm implements -- hoes, plows, shovels, harrows, and other items. The Landesses used vast experiential knowledge in planning out their trip. They were coming to Oregon to build, and to stay. They would be part of a great movement that brought people, churches, and schools to the farthest reaches of the West.

The Oregon Trail was about 2200 miles, depending on the cut-offs that were taken. Trappers and fur traders began mapping it out in 1811 and wagons rolled down the trail in the 1930s. From 1846- 1869 it is estimated that around 400,000 people traveled over it. In 1869 the Railroad was the preferred travel. Today, many of the interstate highway still follow the course laid out by the trappers and traders.

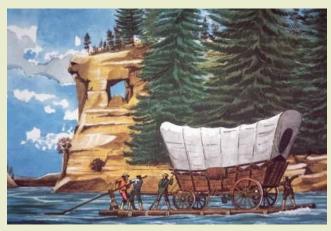


13. 200-mile long army road (Thomas, 2009)

Missouri River Crossing

Initially, the main "jumping off point" was the common head of the Santa Fe Trail and Oregon Trail—Independence, Missouri/Kansas City, Kansas. Travelers starting in Independence had to ferry across the Missouri River. After following the Santa Fe trail

to near present-day Topeka, Kansas, they ferried across the Kansa River to start the trek across Kansas and points west.



14. RAFTING A WAGON ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER ON THE OREGON TRAIL IN 1843 (American School, n.d.)

The Landess train ferried across the Missouri River on May 1, 1847 for about \$30, a month's wage. The ferries were expensive but necessary at dangerous crossings. Rivers could be deadly even when not at flood stage. Kansas was gently rolling hills and travel relatively easy. Sometimes they would have to break out the shovels to get through creek that had cut deep.

Nebraska

In Nebraska they purchased supplies at Fort Kearny. They they traveled along the Platte River valley, a good course mostly but the water was thick and not desirable for drinking. Starting in 1849 the polluted waters of the Platte brought epidemics of cholera to the wagon trains. They sought to get water from the creeks coming into the river. Mud was an issue, bogging down the heavy wagons.



15. Platte River Valley, Nebraska (Kimball, 1984)

Through Nebraska and Wyoming rains, wind, and lightning were frequent in the spring when they traveled. The mud got worse. Grass was good and reported to be so high in

this area that when a man walked you could only see his hat. The bison were roaming the prairies by the hundreds of thousands, providing meat and jerkey to diminished supplies. Fires were stoked by buffalo chips, but it took a huge amount to provide a fire to cook with .

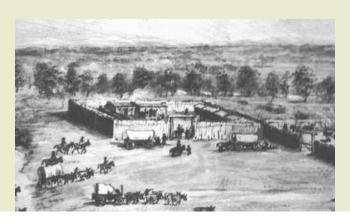
The Landess train crossed the Platte by ferry on May 29th and arrived at Fort Laramie in Wyoming on June 4, 1847. When they arrived at Fort Laramie, the soldiers warned them of danger, both from Mormons and Indians.



16. Fort Laramie (Miller, 1958)

Wyoming

Following the Sweetwater River Valley, the Landess train moved toward South Pass in the Rockies. Fort Bridger was established in 1844 to outfit the growing number of wagon trains. The Landess train would have come to this outpost about the end of June. Supplies were expensive but there were no shopping malls around. Somewhere after Fort Laramie they crossed into the land of the Sioux and Pawnees. One day, while eating dinner, a band of the Sioux, numbering 800 warriors blocked the trail. Hiram Waller records in his journal that they intimidated the Indians by firing a pistil repeatedly. This is detailed in Hiram's journal below.



17. Fort Bridger, on the Oregon Trail (Rayne, 2008)

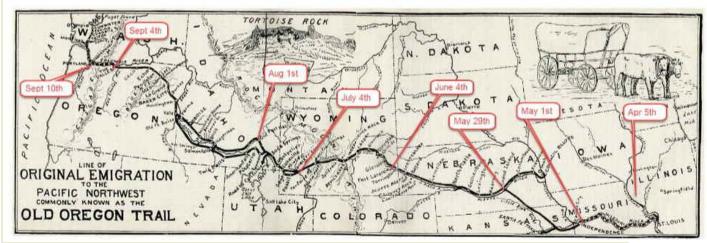
They crossed the Sweetwater 9 times before coming to the Continental Divide at South pass.



18. Wagon train crossing a river (n.d.)

Idaho

Landess wagon train; 23 wagons left Pittsfield, Pike Co, IL Apr 5, 1847 and reached Oregon City about the 10th of September, 1847.



19. Another Route to Zion: Rediscovering the Overland Trail (Kimball, 1984)

Coming into Idaho they encountered Big Hill. Getting up was one thing, requiring double teams, but the descent was a nightmare. Block and tackle was the safest approach... if you had the apparatus. It is suspected that the well planned trip by the Landesses had it covered. It was August and the weather was stifling hot. The deceptively dangerous winding Snake River

would be crossed a couple of times, probably floating their wagons. They found supplies at Fort Hall, established in 1836.



The Oregon Trail in 1849 by William Tappan for Major Osborne Cross 20. The Oregon Trail (Tappan, 1849)

Crossing the Snake for the last time they came to Fort Boise.

Oregon

By late August they passed into Oregon. Ahead was the Blue Mountains. The final obsticle was rafting down The Columbia River into Oregon City.

They arrived in Oregon City about the 10th of September, 1847. Hiram Johnson noted that it was a pleasant trip. As the Landess clan sought out the Hillsboro area for settling, to the North at Whitman Mission a massacre took place in November of 1847. The Whitman massacre, also known as the Walla Walla massacre and the Whitman Incident, was the murder of Oregon missionaries Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife Narcissa along with 11 others by the Cayuse and Umitialla Indians. They accused Dr. Whitman of killing 200 of their people with Poison. This began the Cayuse War.

REMINISCENCES OF H.M. WALLER, a member of the Landess Oregon Trail wagon train:

To one whose love of home is great and who loves the association of early life, it is no easy task to fold up tent and hie away to a wild and distant land. But now comes "good bye" to old friends, and while "tears do unbidden start," the oxen, with their slow tread, begin their long, weary journey.

On the morning of April 5, 1847, with his mother, younger brother and neighbors, Mac, is seen to pass over the hill top, and Illinois has lost a son she loved....Among those who set sail..the following families Father Landis, Felix Landis, Abram Landis, ____ Shull, Sam Whitley, H A Johnson, Nathan Richardson, H M Waller and G T Waller. There was also a bachelor wagon with John Richie, James Richie, Thomas Humphrey and Frank Barrow.... they pass through Missouri and over the river into Nebraska. Here two other families join them. Nearly all in this train are members of the Church of Christ.... Unite with a train immediately succeeding them... "Karl's train" for ten or eleven days, but separate because of lack of feed for cattle.... Waller train taking the lead....

Soon he is told that he must die of consumption. He is no longer able to work much. He had always been a slender, puny lad physically, but now all thought the end had come. Some advised him to go to Texas, others to join the emigration to Oregon. This he did. An ox team and wagon are soon secured, and a bed fixed in the wagon for the sick boy. The Brethren in Pittsfield must hear there own Mac again before he leaves, so he is hauled and carried to the rocker in the pulpit, and on the Lord's Day, April 4, 1847, he preached, while sitting in the chair, his last sermon in Illinois. On Monday morning, April 5, 1847, he, with many others, set sail in the ship of the American Desert, the ox team, for the land of the Willamette.

On Monday morning, April 5, 1847, he, with many others, set sail in the ship of the American Desert, the ox team, for the land of the Willamette. To one whose love of home is great and who loves the association of early life, it is no easy task to fold up tent and hie away to a wild and distant land. But now comes "good bye" to old friends, and while "tears do unbidden start," the oxen, with their slow tread, begin their long, weary journey.

On the morning of April 5, 1847, with his mother, younger brother and neighbors, Mac is seen to pass over the hill top, and Illinois has lost a son she loved, and Oregon begins to gain one who is to be a prominent character in her formative period.

Among those who set sail in the "Ship of the Desert" were the following families: Father Landis, Felix Landis, Abram Landis, --- Shull, Sam Whitely, H.A. Johnson, Nathan Richardson, H.M. Waller and G.T. Waller. There was also a bachelor wagon with John Richie, James Richie, Thomas Humphrey and Frank Barrow.

They pass through Missouri and over the river into Nebraska. Here two other families join them. Nearly all in this train are members of the Church of Christ. Mac was in his bed till they crossed over into the territory country. Then he begins to ride out a little, and soon he is strong enough to ride anywhere.

This train, with others who followed them, brought with them much fine stock -- cows, horses, sheep, geese, chickens, etc. They also bring the first orchard trees from Iowa. The trees grew in boxes, which were fastened on behind the wagons all the journey through. They bring farm implements -- hoes, plows, shovels, harrows, etc.

It was quite a treat, away out on the desert, to hear the quaint screech of geese, and the crowing of the cock. A picket-and-cord fence securely enclosed the sheep from the ravages of wolves and coyotes. The wagons corral every night, and thus form their works of defense. Guards kept watch through the stilly night.

When they passed a United States fort, the soldiers inform them that the Mormons are on the war path, and they had better wait for another band, and unite with a train immediately succeeding them, whose leader gives it the cognomen of "Kerl's train." They are now combined, and travel and camp with military precision for about ten or twelve days. With the great herd of cattle they now have in the combination, they find it difficult to secure sufficient grass for all in any one place. So they separate again; the Waller train taking the lead, as before.

When they arrive at Fort Laramie, the soldiers warn them of danger, both from Mormons and Indians. The soldiers inquire if they had any parties with them from Nauvoo. They replied there were two such with them. "Then," say the soldiers, "they will either kill them or you all if you attempt to pass that way in such a small body." They drive on, however, and soon cross the Platte. While crossing the Platte, Mac gets wet, and has a temporary relapse, and takes his bed again for a few days; but soon he rallies, and is roaming about on his favorite saddle-horse again.

Here some heavily armed Mormons come up and ask for stray cattle. They are informed that they have one stray, belonging to Mr. Miller of "Kerl's train." They get a description of this fine cow, and at last get the cow away from the train. Soon a number of men go after them and capture the cow and bring her back, amid the threats of blood from the Mormons.

They now soon cross into the land of the Sioux and Pawnees. One day, while eating dinner, a band of the Sioux, numbering 800 warriors, come up, and the train orders them to halt; but do not do so till the men are about ready to fire upon them. They then slip down on the opposite side if their horses, and in a moment they are all dismounted, stack their tomahawks, and run up a white flag. The chief wants to see inside the corral; but the men won't let him, knowing he means something evil. The pipe of peace is smoked, and presents passed. The train men give the Indians a vast amount of "grub,"

and the 800 warriors set themselves in a semi-circle across the road, and proceed to eat their dinner. The emigrants want to start on, so they ask the Sioux to give them the road. They refuse, saying that if they are obliged to break the semi-circle, then the peace would be broken.

Here our hero has a thought. There are several of those old "pepper-box" pistols in the crowd, and he orders one of the men to load one carefully, so not a single load would fail. Then he orders him to hold it up in the air, and pull up his sleeve, so there might be no possible seeming of deception. He them orders him to shoot, and "bang!" goes the old pistol. While the arm and pistol are still up in the air, he commands "fire," again. "Bang," goes the old thing again. The Indians' eyes begin to stare.

Again he commands "fire," and again the pistol "bangs." This is repeated twice more, and the Indians are just about to conclude this is the devil, or some other terrible thing. For the sixth time the command comes, "fire." And for the sixth time the old "pepperbox" goes "bang."

The Indians ask how long that thing would shoot, and they receive the reply: "As often as we want it to."

Says the chief: "How many you got?"

"All we want," says the leader.

This about brings them to time. He now steps towards the Indians with his loaded whip-stock and says: "Get out of the way! or I'll kill everyone of you." He draws the whip stock on them and they scatter. They drive through, and the Indians depart. The chief concludes they are a brave band, and lets them depart in peace. He also sends two of his braves to pilot them through the territory of the Sioux. They bade the migrants "good bye" and return to their people as soon as they bring them to the border of the Pawnee territory.

On they go down the Columbia till they arrive at a place called Ten Mile. Here they meet two messengers from Governor Abernathy, who tell them of some trouble they are having at The Dalles over the misdeeds of some Boston men. In the melee one white man was killed, one wounded, and the rest flee into the mountains pursued by the Indians. Now the Governor is at The Dalles, trying to quiet the red fellows, and wants this train of emigrants to come to his relief. They bear the wounded man to Oregon City, and the Governor soon sends a band of soldiers to find the men in the mountains. After a long search, they find them, half naked and nearly starved.

Landed at Oregon City, Oregon, on the ninth of September, 1847, with fairly good

health. Before he arrived in Willamette Valley he received messages from Brethren James McBride, of Yamhill county, Glen O. Burnett, of Polk county, and (John) Foster, living up in Clackamas, asking him to come to their places and aid them in meetings. (*Christian Standard* Magazine, 1893; Shared by Charles Daily, 2001; http://ncbible.org/nwh/ProWaller.html)

From Walt Tucker:

Abraham Landess was born March 15, 1789 and died March 27, 1855. Asmentioned, his wife's name was Elizabeth Conkright (no birth or death dates). His occupation was listed as Wagonmaker. They had four children named Abraham, William, John, and Felix (note that his son's name was also Abraham). Abraham Landess and Elizabeth Conkright arrived in Oregon in 1847 via the Oregon trail. Being early pioneers on the leading edge of the Oregon trail migration, they had donation land claim #635 in Washington county. Abraham Landess is buried in Lewis cemetary south of Hilsboro, Oregon. Their departure point for Oregon in 1847 was Adams county, Illinois.

My information about the Landess family comes from the Oregon historicalsociety and Washington county historical society. Because they were early Oregon pioneers, and I still live in Oregon, there was quite a bit on file about them. However, I haven't been able to trace any further back the Abraham Landess/Elizabeth Conkright I've given above. It would be great if my information meshes with yours. If it does, be sure to write back.Landess isn't a name that pops up much anymore. (Tucker, n.d.)

Waller's Reminiscences:

One day some of the Pawnees attempted to drive off a cow when Johnson, one of the emigrants who was an old Indian fighter, and several others, started in pursuit of them. When near them, Johns puts his horse down to a hard run, and draws a rifle to his shoulder to bring down one of those thieving Pawnees, when up the Indian throws his blanket and Johnson's horse is frightened and throws him to the ground. He is picked up about dead, and borne back to the wagons, and a bed fixed in the "bachelor wagon" in which he rides for a few days, when he is recovered. Of course they get the cow. Some days later Bro H A Johnson, now of Salem, Oregon, bought a pony off some of the Indians, and stakes it near camp. While the people are sitting around, and a great body of Indians, too, one Indian is seen pulling the lasso stake to steal the pony. Mac (Waller) stops it.

Families made life long friends on these trips. Robert Merchant, on the train, his son William married Abraham Jr's daughter Martha. Mr. William Merchant united in

marriage to Martha A. Landess. born 1851...her father Abraham Landess Jr, a native of Illinois, came to Oregon in 1847, in the same train with Mr. Merchant's family. Her father died in 1854, and her mother was subsequently married to John Fryer. Mrs. Fryer died in May 1882. Lucretia Stewart(1818-1891) married married Robert Merchant in 1838. (Standard, 1893)

Elizabeth Conkright was an amazing woman. They say the Oregon Trail was easy but it is thought that it was made easy because they had people who knew what they were doing.

People who had migrated up from Kentucky and knew how to prepare for a trip. Abraham Landess was a wagon maker and knew how to repair wagons. They didn't have an over crowded trail and on this trip did not have to fight disease but on the other hand they had a TB ridden minister they took care of. These people were all Christians. That may be the single biggest difference for their successful journey. A group working together. What an example of a healthy family and group.



21. Farmington Church, (Pioneer History, 2000)

The Farmington Christian Church was built on the Landess Donation Land Claim somewhere around 1870, the land at that time donated by Mrs. S. E. Scarlough. The church was torn down in 1970. The original settlement of the area was near the Harris Bridge as it crosses over the Tualatin River.

Farmington Christian
Church. Taken at
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least 50 years ago 354
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Sanders D. L.C.
Church torn down, Cot. 1970
156%
WASHINGTON COUNTY MUSING.

22. Farmington Christian Church papers (Washington County Museum, n.d.)

Abraham and Elizabeth had the following children, all in Casey County:

- 1. Marry Landess(1812-)
- 2. Patsy Landess(1814-)
- 3. Henry Landess(1816-1891). Henry married Mary Jane Richardson and died in Portland, Oregon.
- 4. Joseph Landess(1818-)
- 5. Felix Landess(1820-1903). Felix married Wlizabeth Jane White and died in Washinton county, Oregon.

FELIX LANDESS.

In the earlier years of his residence in Oregon Felix Landess was identified with agricultural interests, but after his removal to Portland gave his attention merely to his investments in property. He was born in Kentucky in 1820 and was a son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Conkright) Landess. His education was acquired in the schools of his native state to the age of seventeen years, when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, the family settling upon a farm in Adams county, near Quincy. While there residing he was married in 1846 to Miss Elizabeth J. White, whose parents died in the state of New York during her infancy, after which she was reared by strangers. The young couple began their domestic life in Illinois, but remained in that state for only a brief period when they decided to come to the northwest. They made the journe across the plains with ox teams in 1847, traveling after the primitive manner of the times in a train composed of twenty-five wagons. The parents of Mr. Landess were also of the party and they completed the trip in five months, this being considered a very speedy trip for those days. The roads were often in very poor condition, streams had to be forded and at night the party camped out along the wayside, building fires and preparing their food. It was often difficult to secure a good place to pasture the stock and to obtain fresh water. Yet without serious mishap the party continued on their way. Of the entire party only six are living. Mr. Landess' father died soon after reaching their destination and a brother died some months before. The mother lived to an advanced age, passing away when about seventy-seven years old.

The great majority of the settlers, who came at that early date, secured claims and turned their attention to farming. This Felix Landess did, taking up a section of land about fifteen miles from Portland and soon bought the adjacent half-section. The present city was then a tiny village. Five years later its population numbered but one thousand and in 1847 there were only a few log cabins on the river bank to mark the site of the future metropolis. The city, however, enjoyed a steady growth as the tide of emigration flowed in this direction and in 1861 Mr. Landess removed to Portland and later sold his section of land. His son George continued to occupy the half-section until his only daughter was old enough to enter school, when he removed with his family to Portland in order to give his daughter the advantage of instruction in the city schools. The half-section of land was then sold. After retiring from the farm Felix Landess gave his attention to the supervision of his investments and from time to time sold property, taking advantage of the increase in values to make profitable sales.

23. Felix Landess bio(Gaston,1911)

6. John Landess(1823-1904). John married Leodicia Ingram and died in Washington County, Oregon. After Abraham dies Elizabeth lived with son John, and his young niece Nancy, brother Abraham's daughter. Later, Elizabeth went to live with son William.

7. Abraham Landess (1825-1854). Abraham married Diann Decker (1824-1882) and died in Washington County, Oregon.

These Oregon Trail stories are written by men. Try telling Abraham Landess's wife Diana Decker it was an easy trip. She gave birth on the trail to Nancy Ellen Landess. When Abraham Landess Jr, her dad, died in 1854 and her mother Diana remarried she was raised by her grandmother Elisabeth Conkright Landess and her uncle John

Landess, our great grandfather. This may be where the idea came from for Leodisa Landess to raise her granddaughter, our grandmother, Wilda Wiley.

- 8. Elizabeth Landess(1827-)
- 9. Isaac Landess(1830-)
- 10. William Landess(1833-1895). William married Elizabeth Carloline Graham(1837-1884) and died in Washington County, Oregon.

John Landess

John married Leodisa Ingram from a neighboring farm . His brother William had married Leodisa's older half sister, the daughter of Sarah Winn and Moses Graham. All attended the Hillsboro Christian church located on the Landess DLC. John and Leodicia had a daughter, Corena.

Corena Maylona Landess(1873-1931)

Corena married Wilbur Wiley(1856-1909) in 1889.

Elizabeth and Abraham Landess are both buried in the Lewis Pioneer Cemetery in Hillsboro, Oregon.



24. Elizabeth Conkwright Landess gravestone (Guenther, Jereme, 2014)

Picture Credits:

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Guenther, Jereme (2014) Elizabeth Conkwright Landess gravestone [image], Taken at Lewis Pioneer Cemetery in Hillsboro, Oregon on 2014

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Jacob Theuniszen de Key [uncle], Aeltje Willems

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