

**DISTINGUISHED FAMILIES IN  
AMERICA. DESCENDED FROM  
WILHELMUS BEEKMAN AND  
JAN THOMASSE VAN DYKE**

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Van Dyke by William B. Aitken

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**WILLIAM B. AITKEN**

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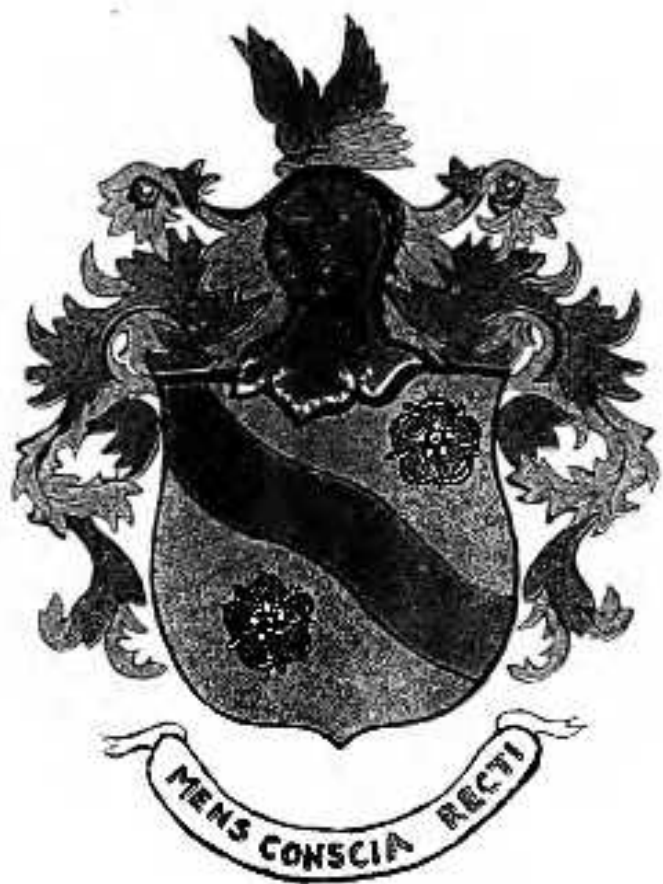
Distinguished Families in  
America

Descended from  
Wilhelmus Beekman  
and  
Jan Thomasse Van Dyke

By  
William B. Aitken, A.M., Ph.D.

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1012



BEEKMAN.

## PREFACE

"For example, I gaze down, of the former age, and prepare myself to the search of their fathers."—Job viii., 4.

It is a duty not to be lightly considered, to preserve from obscurity and oblivion family records; and it should be done before the memory grows dim or the deaths of aged relatives cause details to be lost. The value of family records is fully realized by historians in preserving pride of country and promoting patriotism, and all the States are now making an effort to print at public expense, because of their public value, family records, church records, graveyard inscriptions, and those showing the services of citizens to the State.

The ancestors mentioned in this book were, without known exception, men and women who lived honest, diligent, Christian lives, and it fills our hearts with pride when we think of the hardships they underwent when as pioneers they established homesteads; the bravery they showed in battles with the Indians and in the Colonial and Revolutionary wars.

Notwithstanding the limited opportunities at hand they seem to have surrounded themselves with all that goes to make refinement and culture. They educated their children and they went forth into the world to do their share in making a great nation.

The families recorded in this book were of gentle birth, and in many instances they were of the nobility. Bishop Warburton is reported to have said that "high birth was a thing which he never knew any one to disparage except

those who had it not, and he never knew any one make a boast of it who had anything else to be proud of."

There were several families of the name of Beekman or Beeckman who came to America at about the same time as Wilhelms Beekman, the ancestor whose descendants this history is intended to enumerate.

In tracing out the various branches of the family it is necessary to know of the other Beekmans who were pioneers in the new country and who were not related, as far as is known, to Wilhelms Beekman. They were: Joachim Beekman, who married Marguaret Hendricks; John Beekman of Saratoga County, N. Y.; Christopher Beekman and John Beekman of Albany, N. Y., and Hendrick Beekman, who in 1710 lived about three miles above Somerville, N. J., who married Annetje Quackenbos and is the ancestor of the Beekmans who settled along the Raritan River in New Jersey.

In order that there may be less confusion in distinguishing the descendants of our ancestor William Beekman from those of Hendrick Beekman or Beeckman, some of the descendants of the latter are here given. He had children:

- I. Pieter Beekman, who settled near Somerville, N. J., and had no male descendants.
- II. Hendrick Beekman, born June 1, 1692; died March 19, 1769, at the age of 77 years, and appears never to have married, for in his will—made in 1769—he devises and bequeaths all his property to the children of his brother Martin Beekman to be equally divided between them.

- III. Martin Beekman, born in 1685; died October 27, 1757; married Elizabeth Waldron.

Children:

- (1) Elizabeth Beekman, born August 30, 1725; died November 9, 1810; married Francis Bragie.
- (2) Hendrick Beekman, born March 24, 1727; died January 26, 1796; married Phoebe Bloomfield.
- (3) Samuel Beekman, born November 26, 1729, died October 19, 1808; married Elizabeth Waldron.



daughter of Samuel Waldron. She died April 7, 1806. Children:

- (a) Captain Samuel Beekman, born September 21, 1767; died in 1831. He lived in the old homestead of his grandfather on the south side of the Raritan; married Helena Ten Broek, daughter of Cornelius Ten Broek of Harlingen, N. J.

Children:

1. Cornelius Ten Broek Beekman, born in October, 1789, resided near Harlingen, N. J.
  2. Peter T. Beekman, born April 21, 1796, married Elizabeth Carpenter and was a miller on the South Branch at what was afterwards called Corles Mills, N. J.
  3. Rev. Jacob T. Beekman, born April 10, 1801, a minister of the Reformed Dutch Church.
  4. Abraham T. Beekman, born July 15, 1803, married Eliza Vanderveer.
  5. Elizabeth Beekman, born in 1788.
  6. Margaret Beekman, born in 1792.
  7. Cornelia Beekman, born in 1794, married Nicholas Veghte and lived on a farm near Griggstown, N. J.
  8. Anna Beekman, born in 1798, married Abraham J. Dumont.
  9. Catharine Beekman, born November 25, 1805.
- (b) Elizabeth Beekman, born July 8, 1768; died November 11, 1791; married William Baker.
- (c) Cornelia Beekman, born February 24, 1770; died January 24, 1853; married Benjamin Martin, born May 14, 1773, died in 1844.
- (d) Anna Beekman, born February 24, 1770; died February 26, 1846.
- (e) John Beekman.
- (4) Annatie Beekman, born January 28, 1734; died September 5, 1795; married John Waldron, who died September 10, 1795.
- (5) Johannes Beekman.

The Beekman family is undoubtedly one of the most distinguished families of America, because Wilhelmus Beekman's sons and their descendants held high civil and military positions of honor and responsibility as well as those requiring learning and literary attainment, and they as well as his daughters married into the most distinguished families of America.

The families of Wilhelmus Beekman the founder of the Beekman family who came to America in 1647 and of Jan Thomasse Van Dyke who came to America five years later were very well acquainted and their sons and daughters were good friends. The Beekman estates at Flatbush, Long Island, were not far distant from the Van Dyke estates at New Utrecht, and again the estates of the Beekmans living on or near the Millstone River, New Jersey, were near to the estates of the Van Dykes.

The Van Dyke family frequently intermarried into the Beekman family and although smaller in the number of descendants must be considered with the Beekman family as among the distinguished founders of America.

The author has tried to include in this family history all the descendants and their children of whom he had a record, but in many cases he could not ascertain the name of some person and had to leave it out.

"Great families of yesterday we show and Lords whose parents were the Lord knows who" (Daniel de Foë in *The True-Born Englishman*).

W. B. A.

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