

Biographical Sketch of the Life of a 1709 “Palatine” Immigrant to New York:

HENDRICK SCHREMLING

Origins:

The surname spelled either Schrembling, Schremling, Scramling (or other variations) in the USA and Canada today was spelled SCHREMMLE by English clerks (in England and New York) in 1709-12; as SCHREMLEY by Hendrick himself and his English associates from 1729 to 1741; and as SCHREMLING by German writers from 1712 onward. In seeking the origins of the Schremling family, one needs to give priority to the earliest spellings in America of SCHREMMLE in 1709; and that of the man himself, SCHREMLEY.

A clue as to the origins of Hendrick Schremling is found in the recollections of Mrs. Catharine Ehle (born Catharine Van Alstine 29 Sept. 1792 to Martin G. Van Alstine and Annah Margaret Schrembling) who provided family information to her nephew Henry M. Failing in a letter signed 6 January 1855 from Hebron, McHenry County, Illinois (DAR, NY, B&F, vol. 7, 1926-7). Mrs. Ehle stated that her great grandfather Hendrick Schrembling, “came over from Berne, Switzerland somewhere in the neighborhood of the years 1708-10”. It is often the case that anyone recalling events of long in the past is likely to provide place information correct as to country, but with the largest city being cited as well (as the present author has seen this “phenomenon” for those in the Midwestern USA who recall “Toronto” for a birthplace in Ontario when the actual place is Anderdon Township, closer to Detroit than Toronto). Mrs. Ehle was very good at identifying who in her family was of German, “Holland” or French descent so Switzerland is likely correct. The phonetic equivalent of the surname that was spelled Schremmle or Schremley in 1709 to 1741 is Schraemli – a surname found, it would seem, exclusively in Switzerland (based on extensive Internet searches by the author).

Given these facts, the author examined the available online Church registers at Ancestry.com and familysearch.org for Switzerland which included the surname SCHRAEMLI (or phonetic equivalents). While there were two areas in Zurich Canton which included families with the surname Schraemli, no individuals with this surname were seen for this time period in the records of Berne Canton – which may simply mean that there have been no transcriptions of the parishes where Schraemli families were situated.

In exploring the available Swiss records, we find that there are SCHRAEMLI families in two adjacent areas of Zurich Canton. Only one potentially viable candidate has surfaced:

Hans Heinrich Schraemli, Switzerland, Baptisms

Name: [Hans Heinrich Schraemli](#)

Gender: Male

Christening Date: 24 Oct 1676

Christening Place: EVANGELISCH, GACHNANG, THURGAU, SWITZERLAND

Father's Name: [Hans Ulrich Schraemli](#)

Mother's Name: [Anna Huber](#)

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So while Hendrick was likely of Swiss origin, it is not yet possible to state with certainty his village of origin. If he was of Swiss origin, it is likely that he settled in Germany just before “the great migration” of 1709, as did other Swiss families who were in that migration to North America.

In Germany however, Hank Jones found an adult candidate in one Henrich SPREMBLING, a widower (occupation Gerichtsverw from Alsheim on the old Rhine) who married Veronica the widow of Henrich Hauser on 20 November 1684 at Hamm. HJ believes that this is a candidate who deserves further exploration.

It may be noteworthy that a close associate to Hendrick Schremling in the Mohawk Valley was Hendrick Frey, with whom he had business dealings dating to the earliest days, Schremling’s tavern was directly opposite Frey’s home at Palatine Bridge. Mohawk Valley historian Max Reid states that, “In a history of Montgomery County we find the following: The earliest settlement in this town, and probably the first west of Schenectady on the north side of the Mohawk, was made by Heinrich Frey, a native of Zurich, Switzerland, who, in 1688, left that city for America”. Apparently Governor Dongan gave him a “location ticket” for 100 acres on the Schoharie creek, “but the Mohawk Valley having more attractions for him, he soon moved thither” (W. Max Reid, “The Mohawk Valley”, Knickerbocker Press, Putnam, New York, 1907, p.377). While this is common Valley wisdom, the question is – where is the evidence? The timing seems off, since Frey appears to be simply one of the Palatine group. Hendrick had a long stay at Canajoharie and Palatine Bridge, and was a very prominent figure in Valley politics. If he truly had arrived in 1688, say 25 years old, he would have been 50 in 1713 when the Palatine settlements along the Schoharie were getting started. In the Simmindinger Register of 1716/17, at Neu-Heesdorf (where Dewalt Jung was settled at that time), there was an Anna Barbara Freyin (widow) and 2 children. In the Kocherthal Baptismal Registers for Schoharie we find a Henrich Frey and his wife were sponsors on 21 and 22 January 1716, and Catharina Frey at a baptism in Schoharie 6 June 1717. In addition there are many candidates for the emigrant Hendrick Frey to be found in the familysearch.org baptismal records for Switzerland, and all were from Zurich Canton (as was the Hans Heinrich Schraemli noted above).

Emigration to America:

Determining the identity of Hendrick will require finding some data on his probable age. In examining the “Hunter Lists” for rations given to the emigrants from Germany in the early days after their arrival in the USA (New York), Henry Z. Jones (“The Palatine Families of New York

– 1709”, Picton Press, 2001, p.926) in his entry for HENRICH SCHREMME shows the following general census information from the “Hunter Lists” for rations:

- 1) 30 June 1710 – 1 person over 10 (years of age) and 2 persons under 10 (years of age).
- 2) 4 Oct. 1710 – 2 over 10 and 2 under 10.
- 3) 31 Dec. 1710 – 3 over 10 and 1 under 10.
- 4) 25 Mar. 1711 – 2 over 10 and 1 under 10.
- 5) 13 Sept. 1712 – 1 over 10 and 1 under 10.

If the original records are accurate, then Hendrick may have been a widower in both 1710 and 1712, although this seems unlikely. The information in these records is sometimes “irregular” so cannot be entirely trusted for accuracy.

In 1712 at the West Camp Lutheran Church: Aug. 3d: Johann Henrich, born July 20th, child of Jacob and Anna Maria KOBEL; sponsor: Johann Henrich SCHRAEMMLE. Perhaps Anna Maria was a relative of Henricher – but this is just speculation.

The earliest record of the marriage of one of Hendrick’s children is Annaatje (Anna) Schremmeling who married Joh: Thomisz (John Thomas) 11 November 1731 (Kingston, NY Reformed Church Registers). The sponsor was Hendrik Schremmeling. Hence Anna was probably born about 1710. Depending on whether Anna was a child of Hendrick’s first or possible second marriage, it is reasonable to tentatively date his birth, since he is recording as having two children under 10 years of age in 1710, at 1675 to 1685 – although this is little more than a ballpark figure (unless one wishes to accept the 1676 Gachnang, Canton Zurich, Swiss born man as “our” Hendrick).

Wife and Children of Hendrick:

Mrs. Ehle said that her grandfather Schrembling married “Mary Elizabeth, daughter of George Landgrave”. The name of his wife fits with the name recorded in the Simmindinger Register of 1716/17 as Maria Elisabeth, along with the fact that they then had 5 children and were residing at Neu-Heidelberg (near the site of today’s St. Paul’s Lutheran Church). One of the Palatine emigrants was Georg Landgraff who resided with wife Elisabeth Catharine and one child also at Neu-Heidelberg. Mrs. Ehle’s account appears to be correct in general, but the contemporary records suggest that she forgot a couple of the children. Whether Maria Elisabetha was mother to the eldest children or only those born from circa 1714 or so is unknown.

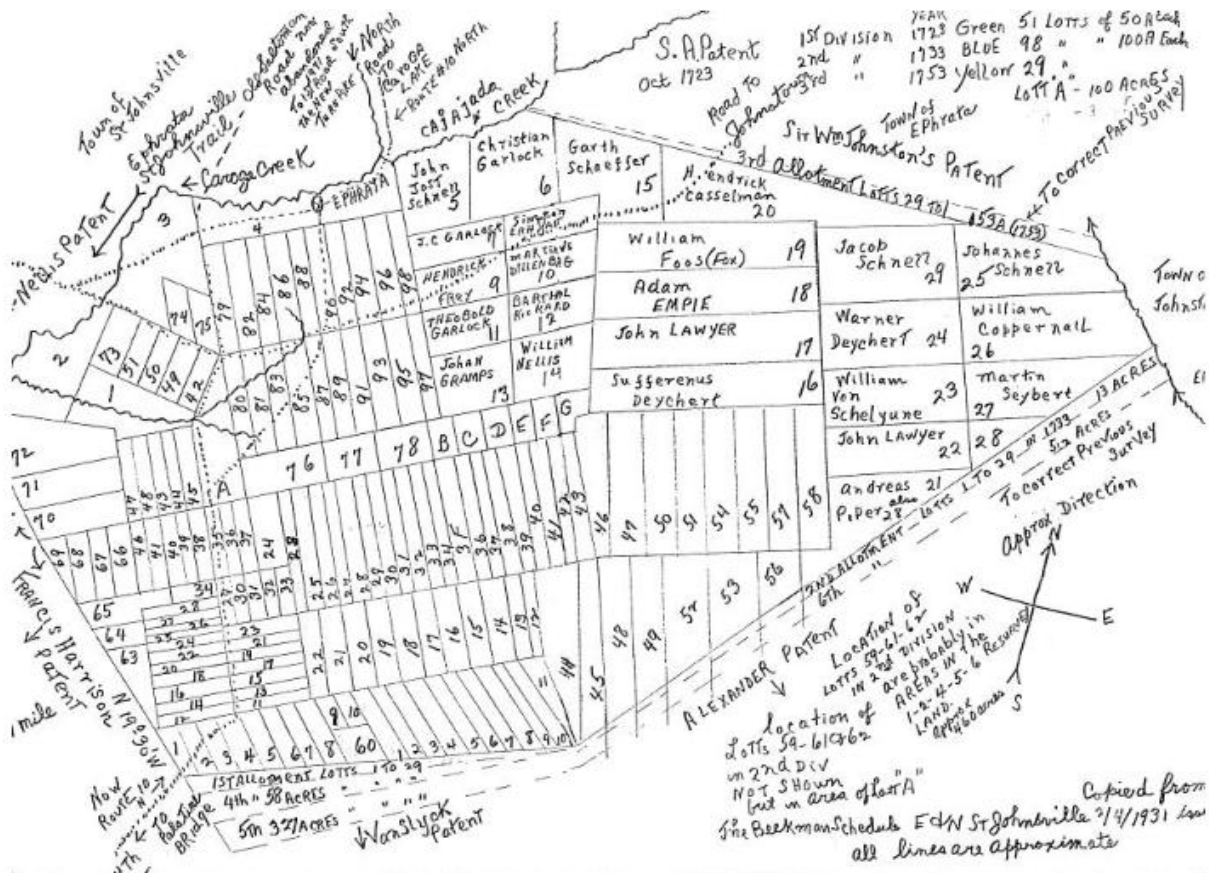
As to the children of Hendrick Schremley/Schrembling, various records including those of Mrs. Ehle suggest the following list in an approximate chronological sequence:

- 1) Anna (Annatjen) who married John Thomas 11 November 1731 at the Kingston Reformed Dutch Church.
- 2) Catharina who married Johannes Van Alstine who was born 11 May 1711.
- 3) Hendrick who married Cornelia Van Alstine who was born 20 September 1720
- 4) Catharina Elisabetha who married Johann Adam Young (Jung) who was born 17 May 1717 at Neu-Heesberg, Schoharie.
- 5) George who married Catharina Young (sister of the above Adam).
- 6) Daughter who married a Mr. Bowman (Mrs. Ehle). Possibly the Elisabetha who married Jacob Bowman (Baumann) born 1707 Bacharach, Hessen, Germany, son of Adam Baumann of Neu-Quunsberg, Schoharie in 1716/17. The entry in Hendrick Schremly's account in the Sanders Brothers Account Book (NYSL, Albany) on 11 July 1735 for the same amount of rum and molasses to C V Van Alstyn and to "Jacob Bouman Jur." supports the supposition that Mr. Bowman is Jacob Bowman.
- 7) Daughter who married a Mr. Cramer (Mrs. Ehle). Marilyn J. Cramer has done a comprehensive study on this family and has made a persuasive case for the Mr. Cramer here being Peter Cramer, son of John. Unfortunately there is no data as to the name of the wife of Peter, nor his birth date in the 9 page manuscript. Peter and family came to Eastern Ontario after the Revolutionary war. However the entries for "Mr. Hendrick Schremlyn" in the Sanders Brothers Account Books (NYSL, Albany) includes the name of his son Jurie (George) and sons in law who obtained goods on Hendrick's account (e.g., Johannes Van Alstein, William Coppernol). Therefore the entry of 8 July 1738 for "H. Cremmer" is likely for another son in law. The name of Hendrick's daughter here appears to be Margaretha, since on 9 January 1756 at the Lutheran Church of Stone Arabia, Jacob Baumann and Margaretha Kremerin were sponsors to a child of Abraham Worthman and Anna Cath. [Bowman].

Land Owned by Hendrick Schremling:

In 1724 Hendrick purchased Lot #21 in the Stone Arabia Patent, granted to 27 partners on 19 October 1723, from Jacob Schnell and Andrew Pfeiffer. An early map and list of the holdings of the patentees of the 1st Allotment include Jacob Schnell owning Lots 4 and 17, and Adries Peiper owning Lots 21 and 37 (fort-plank.com site). Apparently each patentee was to have a total of 470 acres of land. The precise location of the land is unclear (there were three "allotments" as seen in the map below). Hendrick's patent was issued 1 September 1734 (John J. Vrooman, "Forts and Firesides of the Mohawk Country", p.48). According to Mrs. Ehle, "not long after he desired a farm with water privileges" so sold what became the Brower Farm (noted only as being 3 miles north and ¾ mile east of Palatine Bridge) and moved to the Canajoharie Creek area. Other documents show that Hendrick sold this 450 acres at Stone Arabia to William Brouwer on

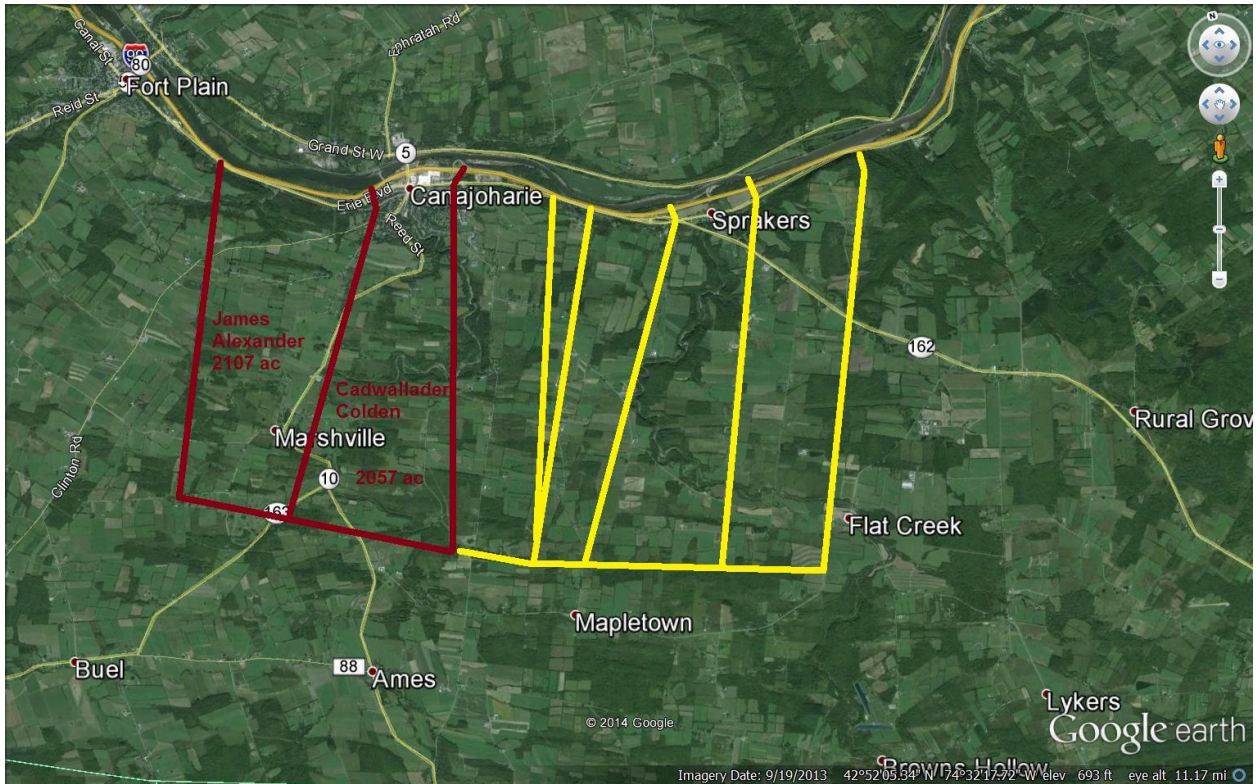
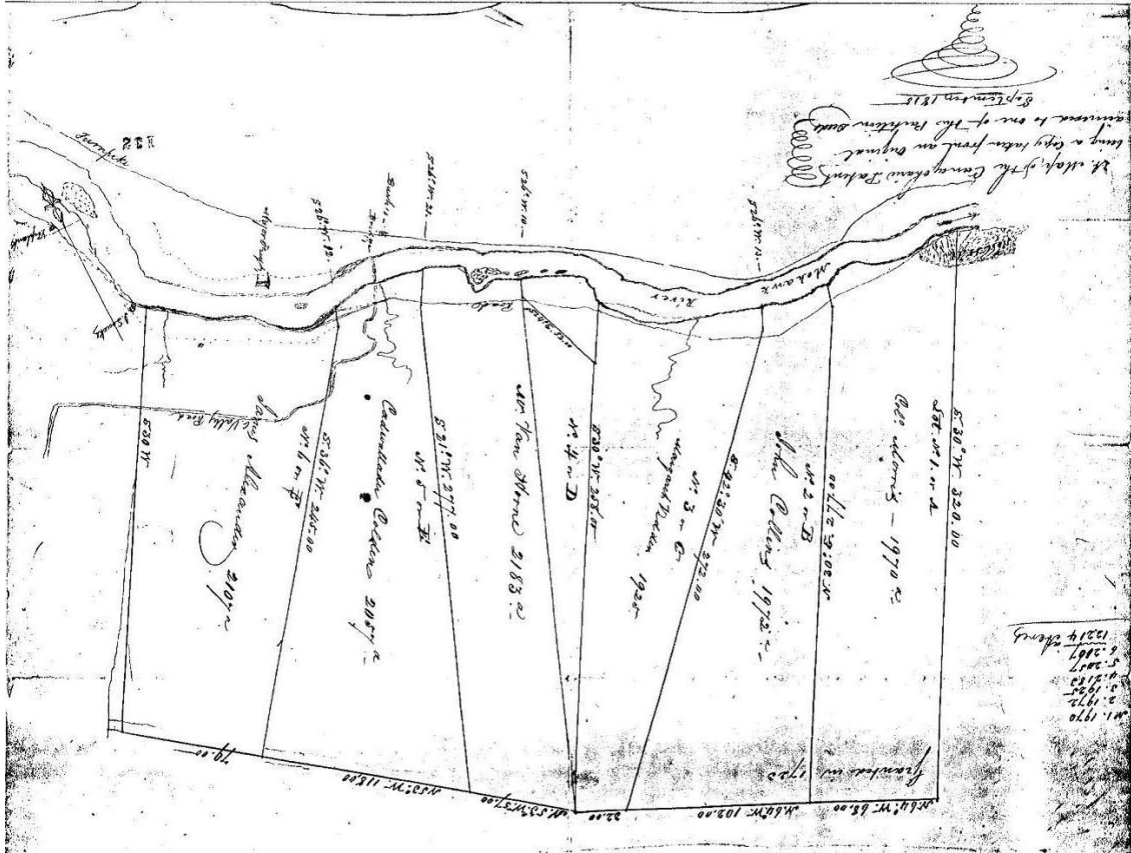
10 December 1739 (Vrooman, p.48). As we shall see later, this was not the only farm in the Stone Arabia Tract owned by Hendrick, whose descendants inherited Lot 34 (100 acres) in that Patent. The map below shows all three Allotments and the first owners, from the “indispensible” Three Rivers site [here](#):



The “Brouwer Farm” which had belonged to Hendrick appears to be the Lot 21 first owned by Andreas Piper.

It is unclear as to where Hendrick was residing in 1731, other than at “Canajoharie”, when on 28 October of that year, “Hartman Windecker, Coenraet Contreman and Hendrick Schremling appeared before this Board” to complain of the depredations committed by the Canajoharie Mohawks, largely stealing hogs and cattle. Specifically, Hendrick claimed to have lost hogs of 2 and 3 years old, 9 pigs, and 1 calf (Minutes of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs, Albany, Vol. 1, p.349, LAC, C-1220).

The land at Canajoharie Creek, Hendrick’s primary property, was purchased from Cadwallader Colden and James Alexander, and was part of the Patent issued on 20 June 1723 to Lewis Morris, Abraham Van Horne, Cadwallader Colden, James Alexander and Margaret Vedder. The extent of this property is seen when it was sold by Hendrick’s grandson George Schremling on



Also Hendrick owned part of the Patent issued to Phillip Livingston, Rudolph Keller and others dated 10 February 1762 (note – Hendrick was then alive) including the north half of Lot 48 in the 1st Tract (100 acres); the northeast quarter or one fourth of Lot 56 (50 acres); the south half of Lot 25 in the 2nd Tract (200 acres); the northerly half of Lot 34 (200 acres) – the whole containing 550 acres. Other land was owned by Hendrick was part of the Patent on the South side of the Mohawk River granted to Peter Dubois, Adam Young, Frederick Young and Company “comprehending several thousand acres of up land”. This included the northwest one quarter part of Lot 54 in the 1st Tract; part of Lots 53 and 35 (50 acres); one half of Lot 58 in the 2nd Tract (100 acres) – total of 150 acres.

At this time Canajoharie Creek was also known as “Schremling Kill” (i.e., creek). This very detailed description (survey details) of the property of Hendrick is found in the Tryon County Deed Book 1, 1772-1788 (pp.165-167) recorded 14 November 1783.

As to additional lands in the Stone Arabia Tract (Patent issued to Johannes Lawyer, Ludowick Casselman and others dated 19 October 1723 not disposed of at this time, on 17 February 1787 (Ibid., pp.305-6) Catharina Schremling (widow of the late George Schremling deceased) and Hendrick Schremling “eldest son and heir at law” and Sarah is wife, and John Winn with Elisabeth [Schremling] his wife sold lands to Melgert Batter. This was Lot 34 (100 acres).

In addition to land, as Mrs. Ehle had said, Hendrick (Sr.) was more specifically looking for land with “water privileges”. Thus he obtained the “ideal” land from Livingstone and built a mill “near the site of Arkell & Smith dam in Canajoharie”, which was known as “Scramblings Mills” (more on this later).

Legal Woes in Land Dealings:

Many of the early records pertain to Schremling and his partner Van Alstyn’s efforts to secure land. In a letter of 11 July 1729 “Henderik Schremley” signed a letter to associates Cadwallader Colden the Lt. Governor of New York and James Alexander the Attorney General of New York asking whether they were prepared to stand by their agreement to sell him some of the land purchased by Col Groesbeck from the Indians (New York Historical Society). The letter is written in very clear handwriting and in excellent English. In the published Colden Papers of 1711-1729, 1730-1742 and Appendix (New York State Historical Society), or the Papers of James Alexander (Box 19A, Canajoharie, N.Y., NYHS, Ms) we can pick up the thread of the above letter. On 11 September 1729 Colden sent a missive to Alexander about the letter from “Schrimley the palatine”, who seemed to annoy Colden, but “That if Schrimley would Lay down Six hundred pounds in Cash before me for so much of my Lott as I had offered to Sell I would then Consider whether I would take it up, & till then I would give my Self no further trouble of treating with him, (Vol. 1, p.295-6). Colden proposed, “Letting me into half of what you agree for with Schrimley & the half of what remains of your Lott not sold to him”. On 21 November 1729 Colden again communicated with his partner Alexander informing the latter that

he had sold, “part of my Land in the Mahawks Country which lyes within one English mile of the River for 504 (pounds)” and sets out the timetable for payment, “for which sums they are to give their Bonds & mortgage the land for a further Security. Their names are Marten Van Alste & Hendrick Scirmerly”. Apparently, however, there were irregularities “in the endorsement made on them for the Division” of the lands along “Kanajohary kill”, causing considerable confusion (pp. 317-8). Alexander wrote Colden on 24 April 1732 informing him that “Scrimleys bond come to my hands” (Vol. 2, p. 62). Furthermore on 27 March 1732 Colden spoke to Alexander where, “I take the Opportunity of sending you Scrimbe & Van Alste’s Bond for 77 seventy seven pounds paya. the first of May next” (Vol. 7, p. 332). This bond and the fuss over the land involving Colden, Alexander, Schremling and Van Alstyn would haunt all of them for years to come.

Letters by Henry Holland the Sheriff of Albany County to James Alexander (NYSL, Albany: Misc. Mss. Alb. Co. 1740-44) show that the business transactions of Martin Van Alstyn and Hendrick Schremling were still at times causing some legal friction – where on 19 December 1741 Holland wrote that the business partners were willing to come to Albany to settle the matter of the arrears of the rent with the Widow of Conraet TenEyck, but were able to convince Holland that they would be able to take care of the issue that winter. About the same time Holland wrote about the case of Abraham Van Horn against Hendrick Schrimling and Martin Van Alstyn which involved a “bail bond”, wondering who was to pay his fees and that, “the Defendants are very able to pay”. Apparently despite some legal matters outstanding, the Van Alstyn – Schremling partnership was highly successful. Sometime later, on 10 December 1741 a legal document, a bond, was drawn up about this matter pertaining to the Widow Van Horn, a document which Hendrick Frey signed clearly, Marten Van Alstyn signed in a very shaky hand, and one in which Hendrick Schremling (all were of Canajoharie) made his mark (NYSL, Albany: Misc. Mss A, Albany Co. NY, folder 1740-44). As the author has seen in other matters, as individuals reach their “golden years” and have not written for perhaps a few years, they make their mark rather than sign. The actual bond was included, with the official (County?) seal and mention of George the Second who “commanded” that Hendrick and Martin be found by the Sheriff and brought to New York to answer the complaint in the Van Horn matter.

Despite all of the above “drama” the partnership must have succeeded. In speaking of the Van Alstyn family, John J. Vrooman stated that Martin Van Alstyn, “went to Canajoharie and there in 1749 built this house and a mill in partnership with Hendrick Schrembling, who had arrived a year previous.

Documentary Evidence Relating to Schremlings (Town of Canajoharie), Schremlings Kill (Creek) and Business Enterprises:

To get the clearest possible sense of the circumstances and topography of the lands chosen by Hendrick at Canajoharie, an excellent source is the Frey Papers, which provide data based on the collection of papers and records of the Frey family from 1706 onward (“[Frey Papers](#)”, 1706-

1912 by Samuel Ludlow Frey - excerpts from Vol. 3, NYSL, SC9829). What follows in italics are quotes from this manuscript, which are combined with other historical sources. It should be noted that Samuel Ludlow Frey was born in 1833, and died in 1924. Hence, when he speaks of buildings and features he is speaking of the Town of Canajoharie about the date of the map of the Town included below – 1905.

Mr. Frey says, *When **Hendrick Scrembling**, and Marte Janse Van Alstine bought the tract of wild land, they had no idea that they were founding a village on this remote frontier; they came because the Creek offered water power for a mill, and their house could be used as a trading post, and perhaps as an Inn, to accommodate the few scattered travelers that came up the Mohawk.*

It certainly was remote, and as much of a wilderness as it had ever been, in the 40 miles west of Schenectady, there were a few white settlers at the Lower Mohawk Castle at Fort Hunter; there was the trading-post of Jelles Fonda at Cauhnewaga, and then for twelve miles - nothing but wilderness, except that there were a few adventurous pioneers on the Van Slyke Patent; there was also Hendrick Freys place opposite, across the river. As to the tract as a whole, it was too rough and rugged to offer any inducements to Farmers; surrounded by rocky cliffs; the surface rocks lying bare and without soil; the steep hills covered with a multitude of boulders; and forest and brush to be cleared away everywhere, from the whole tract. Before this could have been done, the Flats must have been the only available land, and it must have taken many years of hard labor to do it. It is not probable that the road that crosses the Creek, and passes the Reformed Church to the north, and St. Johns to the South, was opened until many years after the old house was built; all the settlers built on the flat lowlands, below the cliff, and as late as 1813 there were only 20 houses in the village.

The stone house built upon the property was in later years known as Fort Renssalaer – supposedly built in 1750. Today the building is the headquarters of the Fort Rensselaer Club of Canajoharie.

The Frey Papers add that, *Let us try to realize what "the Village of Canajoharie" - that the author of the above speaks about, was at this time. There was the house on the west side of the **Scrembling Kill, built by John [Hendrick?] Scrembling**, and bought two years before, by John Roof, of George Scrembling, with the farm of 325 acres; here Roof lived with his wife and several children; his servants and workmen; it was already becoming known as "Roofs Tavern", it was the nucleus of what was soon to be known as "Roofs Village", the embryo of the present village of Canajoharie. Continuing: "Roofs Tavern", stood for many years but at last it was torn down to make place for a larger structure, which in its turn was a noted Stage House under Morgan L. Harris, who had married a Roof and this in recent times gave place to the Wagner House.*

Furthermore: *We will try to imagine the topography of what is known as the "East Hill" at that time, when **Hendrick Scrembling**, and Marte Janse Van Alstine bought it. The tract was part of the Morris Patent, and belonged to Cadwaleder Colden, one of the Patentees; it began at the Creek, above "The Great Falls", and was bounded on the East by a straight line that ran to the river; which bounded it on the North, and the Creek was the West boundary. On each side of the*

Creek there were steep sandy hills, and high walls of rock; opposite the old house, and across the space made by the opening of the street up the hill the cliff was continuous, behind the Willet Cook house, and the stone house built by Thomas B. Mitchell the cliff turns to the East, and marks the course of the river; it still can be seen along the West Shore Rail Road in the rear of the Reformed Church, and far beyond. On the West side of the Creek the cliff is seen along the street that leads to the Sack Factory; this has been formed by the cutting down of the rock by the creek; west of the Wagner House the cliff was made by the action of the river, and can be seen all the way to the Allen place. Of course there was a talus at the foot of the cliffs, caused by the fall of rock and earth from above, and the lowlands, or Flats came up to this point, but there was no way of reaching the high ground above, on either side, but by climbing the rocks.

*So, if we consider these topographical features we will understand why **Hendrick Schrembling** built the house where he did, on the bank of the creek. 1st, because it was near his mill; and 2d, because it gave him access to his flats, and the river by a road of east grade on the bank of creek. We know, from Col Freys old Ledger, that the family were engaged in batauing, and it was by this road that the flour was taken from the mill to be loaded on the flat boats, and the hardware, rum, Indian goods, and all other things brought up the river could be brought to the house.*

Hence the partners were also engaged in the forwarding of freight up and down the Mohawk River by bateaux, no doubt finding this a profitable adjunct to the milling business, being able to transport their own merchandise in their own boats. Schrembling soon sold his interest to Van Alstyn and it is the latter name which has clung to the old stone house” (“Forts and Firesides of the Mohawk Country”, Schenectady, New York, 1951, p.197). Based on the land records, it seems that it is the Schremlings whose name was associated with this property until after the Revolutionary War, and it is the Schremlings who operated the bateau business. On 22 May 1756 (during the “French and Indian War”), the Journal of Captain Thomas Butler mentions that in their stop at “Bevrs Dam” in their trip from Canada Creek to Oswego, “we made about an hours Stay here then went over to the Carrying Place to Williams Fort where we lodged here we were told That one Scramling a high Dutcher Capt of the Batto Men was tried by a Court Marshall & Recd 50 lashes for Disobeying orders &c”. It is not at all clear whether the Scramling here is father Hendrick or Hendrick Junior or his brother George – but the name is Schrembling not Van Alstyn.

Returning to the Frey Papers: *After **Schrembling** sold his interest in the property [on the east side of the Creek] to his partner, Martin Janse Van Alstine, the same business was carried on by the Van Alstines, milling, Tavern keeping, and the keeping of a Trading post.*

It is not hard then to understand the reasons why the old house stands where it does. A small addition was made to it on the North end, but as the family increased in size it came to be too small; and this leads to the consideration of the reasons for the building of "the House of Gose Van Alstine" where it was. [Note, Goshen Van Alstine appears to have been a descendant of Hendrick Schrembling.]

The Creek and the River having worn their way through the rocks, and left a steep cliff all around, the uplands of the farm were virtually inaccessible for cultivation, or improvement; they were probably fifty or a hundred feet higher than the lowlands, and of course, at that day there were no roads. But there are indications that there was a road at an early day, at this point, leading down through a low place or break in the cliff to the lowlands below; it came up diagonally, and crossing the north end of the John C. Smith place came out near "the Hose of Gose Van Alstine"; it was, no doubt a steep and rough road, but it gave access to the uplands of the farm. This may have been one reason for locating the house at this point. Another reason probably was, that from here there was an unobstructed view of the valley, and the river for miles, and of the county on the North side of the river. No enemy could approach it, without being seen, and it was on account of its location, no doubt, that it was afterwards enclosed, and called Fort Van Alstine.

A map of the Town of Canajoharie in 1905, and many of the feature and locations noted here can be found later in the present study. Here, for example, Schremling's Dam was where Hill Street crosses the Creek; and the Schremling home built in 1750 and in the possession of Goshen Van Alstine (Schremling's grandson) is just to the north on the east side of the creek noted as Old Fort Rennsalaeer.

*Also, The street that now passes the old house by the Creek, occupies virtually the same place that the road did by which the old **Scremlings**, and Van Alstines reached the flats and the river, for there was no Rail Road or Canal intervening; and most of the streets of the village have been laid out, especially on the East Hill, since the West Shore Railroad was built.*

The likely site of the Schrembling home on the east side of Canajoharie Creek can be seen in the following map dated to 1757 and found on the Three Rivers website [here](#), where we observe that there are three structures west of the Creek, two near the Creek (perhaps associated with the mill), and one in the gore of the junction of the River Road on the south side of the Mohawk River and the road to Cherry Valley. The latter is likely where Hendrick had his home and inn.

In discussing the transfer of the property of Schremling on the east side of the Creek to Van Alstyn relatives (Goose Van Alstyn), the Frey Papers give us further insight into the topography of the time. Specifically: *no one has ever seen the bottom of the creek above the dam, since it was first built by **Hendrick Scrembling**. This dam has been the cause of much trouble, of various kinds, since it was first built; in 1775, Gose Van Alstine, who then owned the mill below the dam, to get more power, either built a new dam or raised the old one, and the water flooded Col. Freys water wheel and stopped his mills. This, of course, as the old MS account says, "gave rise to great variance, strife, debate, controversy, and suit" between the two mill owners. A Commission was appointed, by the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Tryon, to find out the facts, and appraise the damages.*

*The five men appointed for this purpose were John Butler; Jelles Fonda; Robert Adams; Joseph Chew; and Robert Martin. They made their report Feb. 21st, 1775, and all signed it, except the last. Christopher P. Yates, and Bryan Lafferty, signing, as witnesses. They decided, "First, that the new mill dam, lately erected by Gose Van Alstine, on **Scremlins Kill** is a nuisance, and damage to the said Henry Frey, and we do therefore order the said dam to be removed, so that it*

be no higher than the old dam. Second: We do order, award, and determine, that the said Gose, pay to the said Henry, in 30 days from the date hereof, the costs of the said suit, commenced by the said Henry Against the said Gose."

Furthermore, *By using the facts we have, and the probabilities, we can, with a little imagination, see the creek as it was when the **Scremblings** first came. The stream was much larger, and uniform in its flow; at the pot hole it poured over the ledge of rocks; this was the first fall; there was another, before the 3rd, or Great Fall, spoken of in the old deeds, was reached. Then it ran rapidly, between the cliffs, and over a bed of boulders, until the point was reached, about where the aqueduct is, here it began to take a westerly course, and crossed the place where St. Marks Church stands and entered the river near the dam built for the Barge canal. The creek had in time built up a Delta, which extends from the Wagner House to the river, gravel, and sand and stones, 50 ft or more in depth; it is where the village stands, - the business part of it. After a time trees covered it, and willows, and alders grew along the banks, and the deposit increased, until it finally deflected the course of the river, so that the channel was turned to the north side, when after a mile or more, it changed again to the south side, deep, and still, near "Brom Van Alstine's house", all old fishermen know the place. This meander of the river built up the wide flats on the North side, west of the old Spraker house. These bends in the River can be followed through the whole Mohawk Valley, and always when the channel is near the bank on one side, the wide flats are on the opposite side.*

Thus we see the creek as it was in its wild state, early in the 18th century; the banks lined with willows, and the stream shaded by trees which dammed the water when the great freshets, came down, bringing sand, and gravel, and stones, building up the Flats on which the village stands; usually it had an unimpeded flow, as there were no dams, or bridges, rail roads or canals; and the only way to cross was by a ford.

Apparently there was a well travelled wagon road and carrying place from "Scramlins" to Otsego Lake, as recorded in a diary entry of 13 May 1769 (Journal of Richard Smith, "A Tour of Four Great Rivers", Ed. Francis Halsey, Scribner, New York, 1906, pp. 28-9). "Scramlins" is also noted as being "nearly opposite to Col. Fry's" (at Palatine Bridge). This can be seen in the above map of the Lewis Morris Patent. Apparently, "The modern house erected in front of the old stone edifice bought of Henry Schremling by John Roof, (and kept as a tavern by him, and his son after him), which was called the "Stage House", and has a coach and four pictured on its front

..... " ("Illustrated History of Montgomery and Fulton Counties: The Town of Canajoharie", 1878, pp.95-6; 101). It seems that Hendrick was quite the successful entrepreneur. By the way, this source says that George Washington, who visited the area after the Revolution, stayed at Schremlings, at that time Roof's home (the stone building built by Hendrick Schremling).

The Frey Papers add that: *There were in the days of early batteauing on the Mohawk, a great many places that were called "Landings" where all kinds of freight was loaded, and unloaded; flour, wheat, butter and cheese, ginseng, and potash, going to market in Schenectady and all kinds of trade wares and hardware coming back. In this vicinity there were the Vanalstine*

Landings, the Hees Landing, the Frey Landings, and opposite to this was the Roof [Schremling] Landing. Major Frey's ferry crossed at this point, about on a line between the Allen place and the old Frey house. All the settlers, and farmers from Stone Arabia and the back part of Palatine came this way to ship their goods or to have their grain ground at the mill on the Creek.

The above John Roof had lost his lands, including a tavern, at Oriskany in 1777 and moved east, landing at Canajoharie, apparently seeing an opportunity there. In the Frey Papers we learn that, Roof, *moved into the little stone house built by one of the Scremlings, which stood approximately where the Wagoner House now stands. Here he resumed his old business as an Inn keeper, and Roofs Tavern, after a few years, became the best known Hostlery in the valley.*

This Roof farm as it was soon called, was bounded on the north by the river, on the east by the Creek, on the south by Col. Freys land, and on the west by a deep ditch that was dug when the Canal was made; from that point the line fence ran straight up the hill through the woods.

It also appears that Roof's opportunity to secure the property occurred when Hendrick's son George Schremling left for Fort Hunter (likely being chased away for his known Loyalist tendencies), about 1777, at which point John Roof (the later purchaser of the entire Schremling property at Canajoharie) was noted as holding the inn at Schremlings, and in 1779 welcoming General Clinton whose mission it was to destroy the Indian villages in the area, and whose troops built a road from Springfield to the head of Otsego Lake. While at Fort Hunter, on the Mohawk Flats living in a home apparently owned by the Mohawk Hill family, George Schremling, Mrs. Ehle's grandfather, was mistaken for the enemy by Sir John Johnson's troops and was killed and scalped by the Indians (a story found in a number of places, including the rather amazing Mrs. Ehle). This story is expanded in an article focusing on Catharina Kayahkon (Hill – Brant) Young which is found on the present author's website [here](#).

Entries seen in the Sanders Brothers Account Books (NYSL, Albany) between 4 July 1731 and the settling of his estate 15 June 1768 indicate that Hendrick was a good customer, and that his son and sons in law often used his account. Doubtless Hendrick had accounts with other merchants, but this one gives considerable genealogical data not found elsewhere – and an indication as to what he was purchasing.

Summary: Here follows some accounts from local histories that offer some information that helps to summarize the most salient points:

1) The “standard” Mohawk Valley historical sources which mention Hendrick Schremling:

From a Canajoharie-Palatine Bridge Chamber of Commerce brochure "WELCOME to the Canjo - Palatine Bridge Area":...In 1730, Marte Janse Van Alstyne and Hendrick Schrembling, Holland Dutchmen, from along the Hudson River, came to view lands they had purchased here. Schrembling built a log and stone house that Van Alstyne rebuilt in 1750".

From "The Old Mohawk Turnpike" by Nelson Greene... "About 1730, Hendrick Schrembling, a Palatine German, and Marte Janse Van Alstyne bought of Cadwallader Colden 775 acres at Canajoharie. Schrembling settled on the east side of the creek, while his brothers, George and John located on the west bank. In 1750 Schrembling sold the east side property to his partner, Van Alstyne, who then came to live here. Schrembling moved to the west bank farm, where he kept a tavern, store and mill. The Schremblings left Canajoharie and the Valley at the close of the Revolution. In 1778 Johannes Roof came to Canajoharie and bought out Schrembling and conducted the inn..."

From "The Mohawk Valley" by W. Max Reid.... "The first name we find applied to the present village of Canajoharie is Scramling, from a tavern kept by Henry Scramling, situated on the river opposite the Freys, as an early chronicler records it. Smith and Wells make the following entry in a journal: "13th May, 1769 - At Scramlin's we turned off from the river, pursuing a S.W. course for Cherry Valley." - "The carriers tell us that they were paid 30 shillings a load for carrying from Scramlins to Otsego lake."

From "History of the Mohawk Valley" Edited by Nelson Greene... About 1730, Hendrick Schrembling, a Palatine German, and Marte Janse Van Alstyne bought of Cadwallader Colden, 775 acres on both sides of Canajoharie Creek at the present village of that name. Shortly after Schrembling settled on the east side of the creek, while his brothers, George and John [actually his son and grandson], located on the west bank of the stream, and the Schremblings thus became the founders of Canajoharie village, Van Alstyne's arrival there about 1750 is noted later. The settlement of Canajoharie, however, is disputed and some accounts of the Van Alstyne family say that they settled there in 1723.

From "Forts & Firesides of the Mohawk Country" by John J. Vrooman... "Martin Van Alstyne went to Canajoharie and there in 1749 built this house and a mill in partnership with Hendrick Schrembling who had arrived a year previous. The partners were also engaged in the forwarding of freight up and down the river by batteaux, no doubt finding this a profitable adjunct to the milling business, being able to transport their own merchandise in their own boats. Schrembling soon sold his interest to Van Alstyne and it is the latter name which has clung to the old stone house. The mill was located about two hundred yards south of the house. It was a building with massive timbers completed about 1760 and stood until 1814 when it burned under rather unusual circumstances..."

2) An article, well sourced, that is entitled simply, "Early Canajoharie" and found on the Three Rivers site [here](#):

"From Tryon county Record, A."

"6th June, 1772, Deed from Philip Kock or Knock to Col. Hendrick Frey, Esq, of the land on the Canajoharie Creek."

This land was a part of a Patent, granted 20th June 1723, by George the 3rd, to Lewis Morris; Abram Van Horn; John Collins; Margaret Vedder; James Alexander; and Codwalender Colden; and begins at the Southern most corner of a tract formerly conveyed by the said Cadr Colden, to

Marte Van Alstine, and Hendrick Scrimlie. It contained 775 acres, with appurtenances, except mines, minerals and ores. Frey paid 400 pounds current money of New York for this land. It is what has been known of late years as the Null place, all the Cemeteries are located on the tract, also the Walter farm, and other farms as far south as Marshville.

From the same "Record".

"Page 40, 2d March, 1773. George Scrambling of Canajoharie mortgaged to Christopher Yates of Schenectady, for 344 pounds, two tracts of land lying on the south side of the Mohawk River, part of a Patent to Lewis Morris dated 1723.

Page 41, One tract on the Canajoharie, or Scramblings Creek, or Kill, begins on the kill above the third of great Fall.

On this land all of the village of the Creek stands.

From the same "Record."

"Page 225, Deed, 2d May 1778, from George Scrambling, to John Roof of 325 acres; this is all the land on the West side of the creek, on which the village stands.

I learned from a letter from one of the descendants of the Scramblings, that it was quite a large family that lived at Canajoharie at that early day; she mentions two Henry, two Johns, a Peter, a Jacob; but she is very uncertain as to the genealogy, and it is useless to try to unravel it. All we can say is that it was a large family, and that George was probably the most prominent one.

Col. Freys deed says, that the tract east of the creek, was "formerly conveyed to Hendrick, and Marte Van Alstine", this is indefinite; but as we know from a Family Record that on the 7th of Dec. 1737, Hendrick Scrambling and his wife were sponsors at the baptism of a child, and that on the 27th of April 1740, John Scrambling and his wife were Sponsors for another, we may assume with some certainty, that the Scramblings came about 1730, Hendrick, the partner of Marte Van Alstine settling on the property "formerly conveyed" to them, and John going to the West side of the creek, and building his little house about where the Wagner House stands. Hendrick then built the main part of the stone house, and the little mill, "with one run of stone" on the East side.

This continued for an uncertain number of years; the family increased in size; there were sons and daughters; children and grandchildren; one daughter married John Winns, a prominent man, Member of assembly; Sheriff, Member of the Convention that ratified the Constitution; another daughter married Captain Martin Van Alstine.

It seems probable that about 1750 Hendrick Scrambling disposed of his share of the farm, to his partner Martin Janse Van Alstine, who then came to Canajoharie and occupied the house that Scrambling had built, and the little mill on the creek. Some of the story is told by John Van Alstine in his Reminiscences.

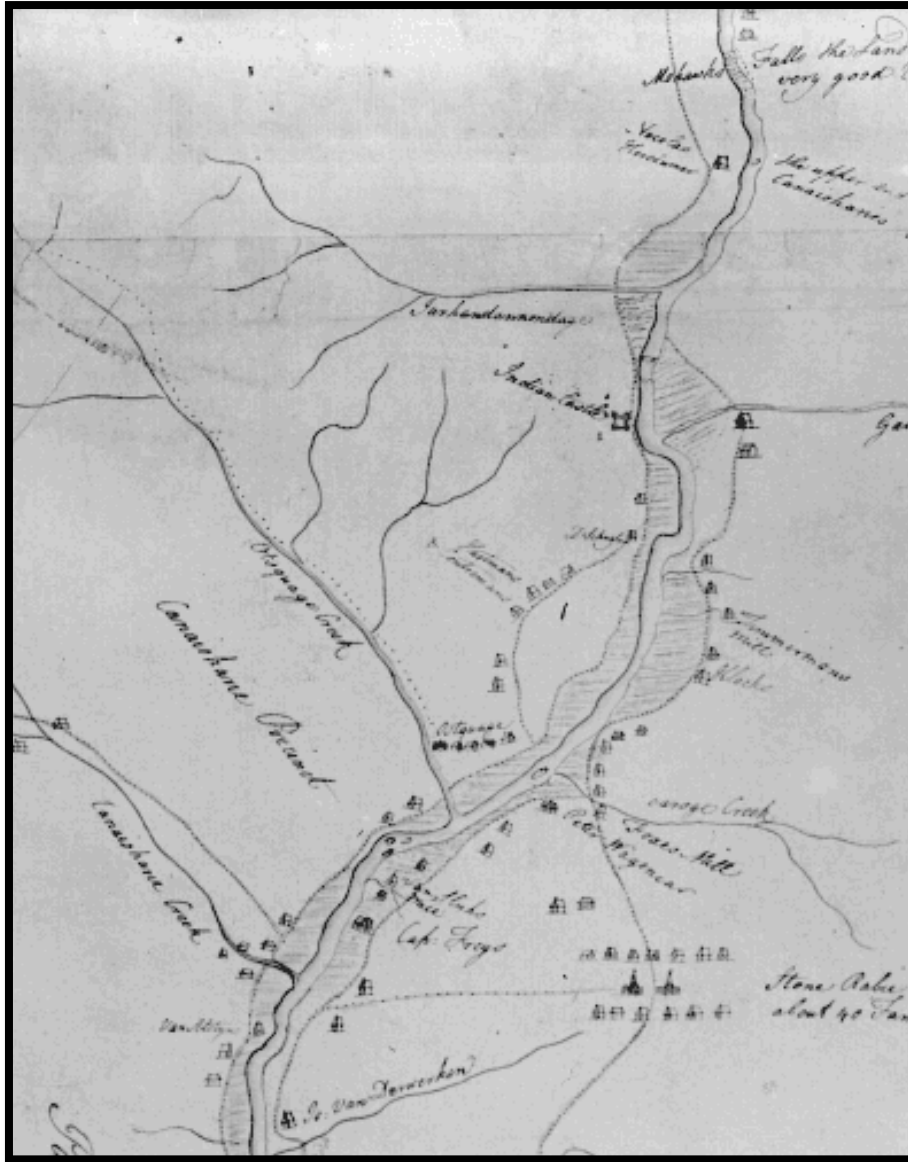
Through all of the following years till the close of the Revolution, the Scrembling family were much in evidence; in Col. Frey's ledger, John Scrembling is credited with "cutting timber for barn", and "for one trip batoing?" In March 1772, George Scrembling had three suits before John Frey Justice, as appears in the old docket; in Feb. 1773 Hendrick M. Scrembling sued Capt. Gose Van Alstine, for 2 pounds, II, 3. In Dec. 1773 Henrick M. Scrembling has a number of suits. There were a number of the family in the Army, serving in different capacities.

But that they were gradually closing out their interests here is evident, as we see by these suits to collect debts, and the sale of the farm to John Roof, and their mortgaging of other tracts, to raise money; it shows that for some years, they had been getting ready to leave this "Early Canajoharie Village."

But it is probable that it was not till the close of the Revolution that the removal took place; then they went to the Susquehanna and bought 1,000 acres of land, part of the sequestered estate of Sir Wm. Johnson ; here they lived for many years, but the family divided, after a time a part went to the Genesee country, a part to Canada, and others to Michigan; in the latter state their descendants still live, some of whom are still interested in the "Early Canajoharie: in which their ancestors were born.

Map Evidence of the Residence of Hendrick Schremling: The goal here is to present the relevant information from all of the available maps of the Mohawk Valley in chronological sequence from the time that Hendrick settled in what is today the Town of Canajoharie, until the date that Mr. Frey wrote is detailed descriptions above. This will allow the reader to determine where, precisely, Hendrick's home and tavern, for example, were built. It is likely, considering the lack of any proximal churches at the time, that both Hendrick and his wife and perhaps other descendants were buried close to the home in the early days before more formal cemeteries were organized.

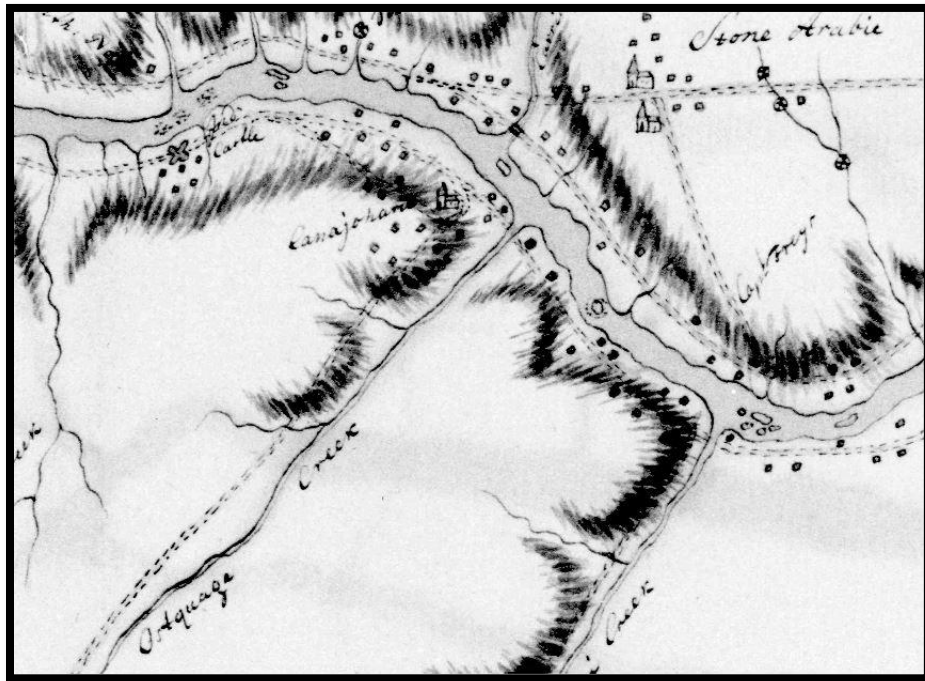
1757 map showing Canajoharie area, with three structures on the west side of Canajoharie Creek – two along the Creek, and one on the high ground in the junction of the Mohawk River South “turnpike” and the road leading to Cherry Valley. It is in this location where the documentary evidence suggests the home and tavern were located, likely after Hendrick had moved post 1750 from the stone building he constructed on the east side of the Creek which became the Van Alstein home and later the Rensselaer Club.



1763: The major features as seen in the map above are still present here, but few of the buildings around what is today the Town of Canajoharie are shown by this cartographer in the map below.



1776: Wintersmith Map.



In the above map, although the illustration of the high ground has obscured the area immediately east of Canajoharie Creek, there appears to be a very large structure in the notch between the south turnpike and the Cherry Valley Road. There are two structures on the lowlands opposite the home of Captain Frey.

1778: Sauthier Map. In the map below there is a greater attention to detail, and here we see at the same time frame as the above map that there are once again three structures clustered near Canajoharie Creek. The most northerly one on the east side of the road to Cherry Valley is right on the Creek, and the one to the south shows a symbol, which appears to be that for a mill. Also there is a building tucked in the gore west of the Creek, and two other edifices further west along the turnpike.



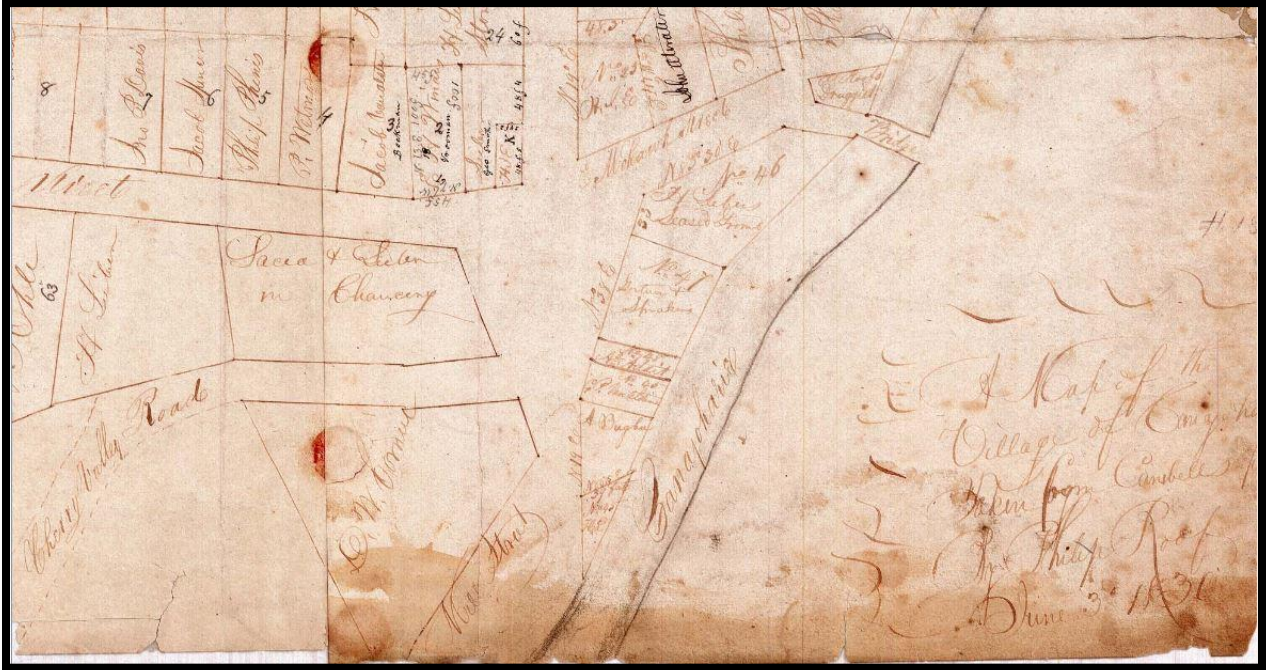
1779: Vrooman Map. Although the detail of the buildings is more restricted in the map below, one can see a structure positioned in approximately the same location as the primary one in the map previous and the map to follow.



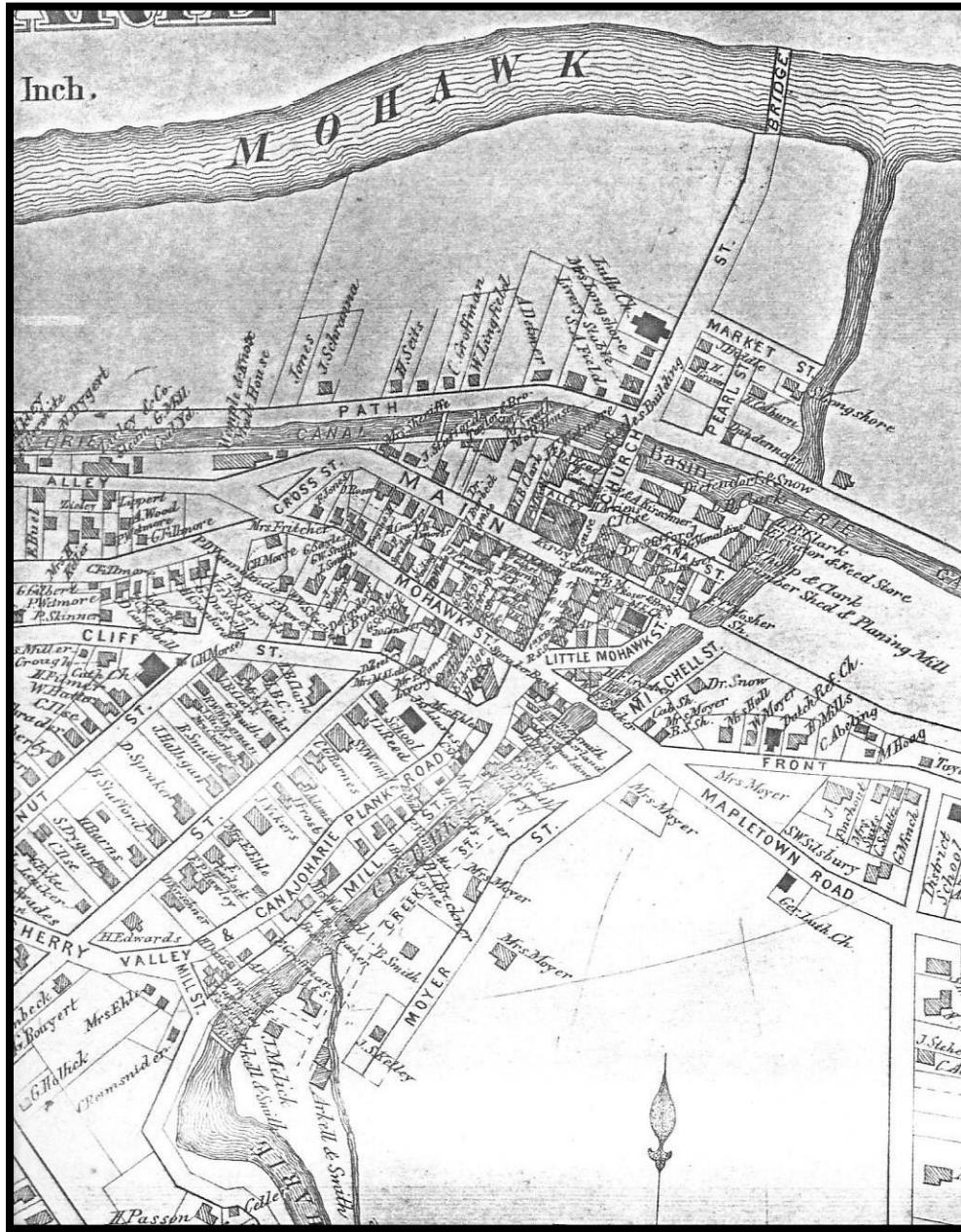
1830: By this year the Erie Barge Canal had been built, and its position can be seen below in the general view of the Town of Canajoharie in this year where it arches around to the southwest from the main north – south street in the Town. What follow will be close ups from this map, highlighting where the various properties were situated. One of the main holdings appears to be in the gore where Mohawk Street (the apparent 5S or turnpike) and the Cherry Valley Road intersect.



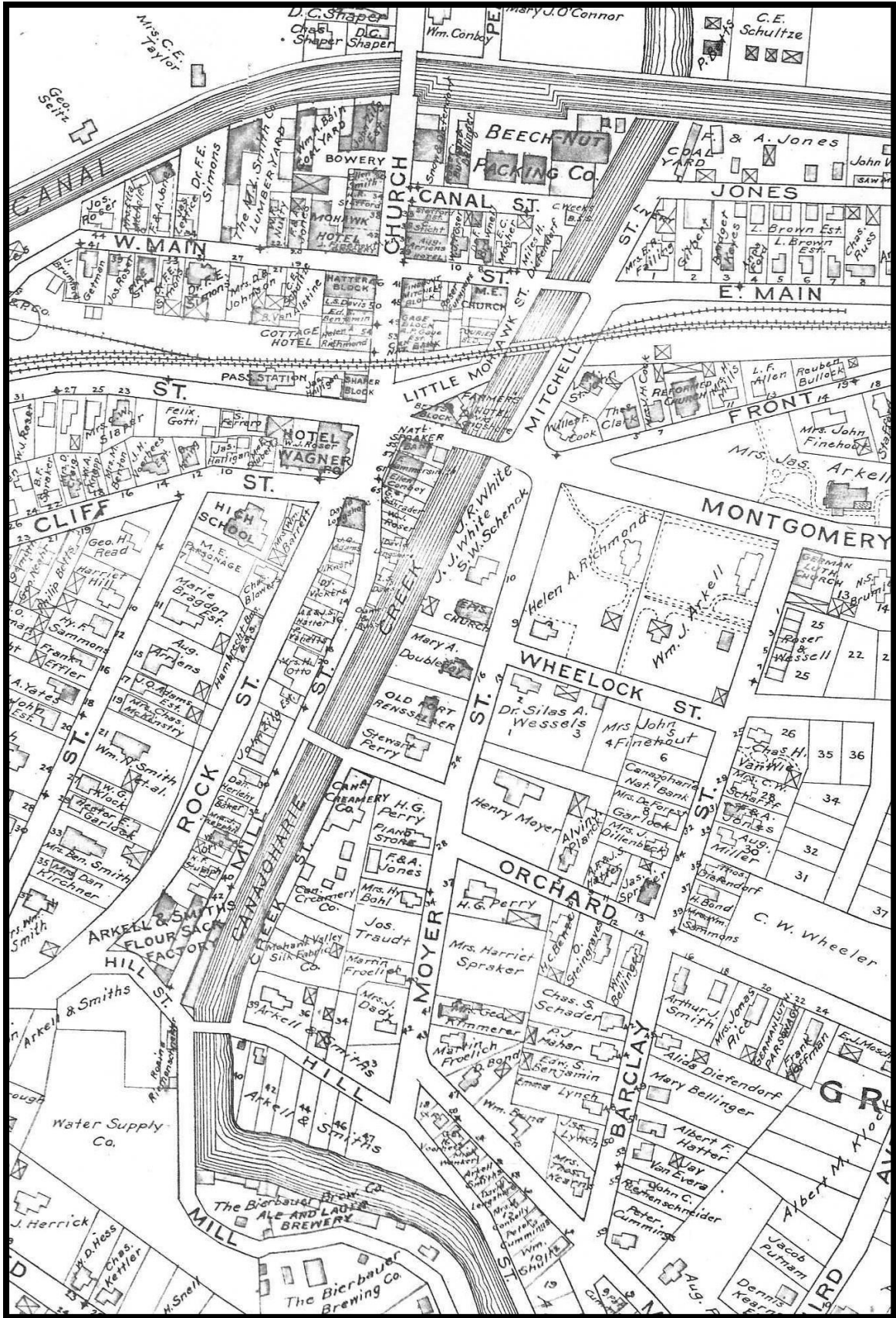
The segment of the above map shows some of Phillip Roof's property on the left side of the Erie Barge Canal. The map below highlights Roof's lands near the junction of Mohawk Street and Cherry Valley Road. Note that the property in the gore was then owned by (D.F.) Lacea & (H.) Lieber ("m Chancery").



1868: In the map below from the “Atlas of Montgomery and Fulton Counties” of the same date. Here we see some key features that can be linked to the documentation, earlier and later historical maps, as well as modern “Google Maps”.

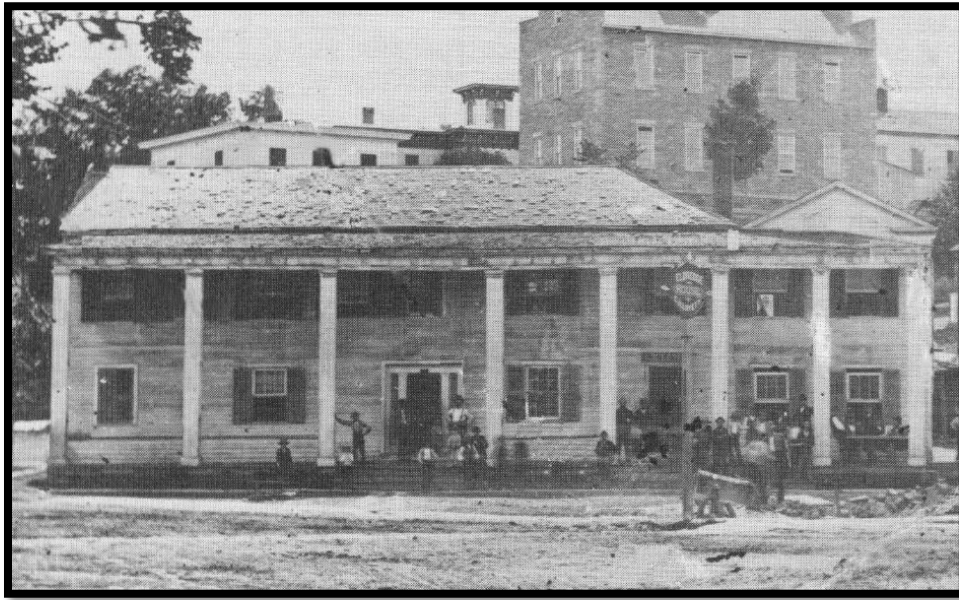


Note the intersection of Cherry Valley & Canajoharie Plank Road, Cliff Street, Mohawk Street, and Church Street which leads to the Mohawk River in the close up of the above map shown below – the “Eldridge House”.



History and Early Pictures of the Successors to the Schremling (Roof) Tavern:

The Hotel Wagner was a fixture in the Town of Canajoharie. It appears that the structure was built upon the site of Schremling's (Roof's) Tavern, but it is unknown if there was anything of the earlier structure built into the succeeding buildings. Here follows two photographs, date unknown, of the Hotel. It appears that the first is earlier than the more substantial one in shown in the second photo:



The above image is from the following reference [here](#). The sign in (via close up) says "Eldridge House". It is possible that the photo dates to about 1878 when the building was demolished.





The hotel shown above is found in the reference [here](#), which was written in 1924 and clearly the building was standing at that time. The caption reads, “**Hotel Wagner and Clinton Monument.** Monument marking the start of Gen. Clinton's army in its overland portage to Otsego Lake in the Sullivan and Clinton Indian expedition of 1779. Hotel Wagner (built 1878) is on the site of Roof's tavern, Clinton's Canajoharie headquarters. The Hotel Wagner is now owned and conducted by the Beech-Nut Packing Co” and called “Hotel Beechnut” (as per sign on left).

Conclusions as to the Home Site of Hendrick Schremling: History tells us that Hendrick first came to the east side of Canajoharie Creek. In 1750 he sold his interest on this side of the Creek to his business partner Martin Van Alstein. The site where Hendrick Schremling had his home and inn on the west side of Schremling's (now Canajoharie) Creek, built in 1750, which his son George Schremling inherited and sold in 1778, can be pinpointed with some specificity. It was situated at the juncture of the road that runs along the south shore of the Mohawk River (Mohawk Street), Cliff Street (Cherry Valley Road), and what is seen as Rock Street which becomes Church Street to the north (Highway 10) which runs down to Schremling's (Roof's) Landing and the bridge over to Palatine. However, we know that the building was made of “rubble” stone, and was subject to a fire in 1840 and demolished by 1850 – thereby removing the home of Hendrick from the topography. The larger building built in front of the old inn is what survived to modern times, as seen above.

It is most fortunate that there is an excellent verbal description of what Hendrik's inn (and home) looked like before it was demolished. Again, we turn to the Beers “History of Montgomery and Fulton Counties” where, in 1878, at a time when there would be many alive who would remember the structure, the following details are clear enough that we can picture what we would have seen “back when”. In specific, *Washington is said to have stopped, when in this quarter, at Roof's house, which was of stone (rubble work) 22x38 feet, and a story and a half high, with gable end to the public square.*

It is noteworthy that the original home was built behind the various hotels that supplanted the inn owned by Schremling then Roof. According to the “History of Montgomery and Fulton Counties”, *The modern house erected in front of the old stone edifice - bought of Henry Schremling by John Roof, (and kept as a tavern by him, and his son after him), The modern house erected in front of the old stone edifice - bought of Henry Schremling by John Roof, (and kept as a tavern by him, and his son after him), which is called the "Stage House," and has a coach and four pictured on its front* (p.101). The “History of Montgomery County” (1892) adds a bit of clarity, noting that John Roof, *purchased a farm in Canajoharie upon which Henry Schremling, one of the pioneers of the town, had erected a stone dwelling. It stood directly back of the old Eldredge or Lovett house and was demolished in 1840.*

As to the history of the broader site on which Hendrick’s inn was located, first there was:

A. Only the stone inn:

1750 – 1778: “Schremling’s Inn and Tavern”

1778 – circa 1830: “Roof’s Tavern” which according to the “History of Montgomery and Fulton Counties” (p.101), was kept in 1826 by Reuben Peake, and a few years later by Elisha Kane Roof, who, about 1833 was succeeded by George B. Murray. When Murray left, Morgan L. Harris, who had married a daughter of E. K. Roof, kept the house for about another decade. The stages ran to Cherry Valley, and originally had two horses, instead of four; but in 1844 four horse stages, carrying mail and passengers, began running to Cherry Valley and Cooperstown, leaving the Eldridge House daily; this line was kept up for about twenty years.

1830 the owner of the site shown in the above map dated 1830 was (D.F.) Lacea & (H.) Lieber “m Chancery”

B. A much larger building constructed in front of the stone building which was known as:

1850 – 1878: “Eldridge House”

1878 – 1937: “Hotel Wagner”

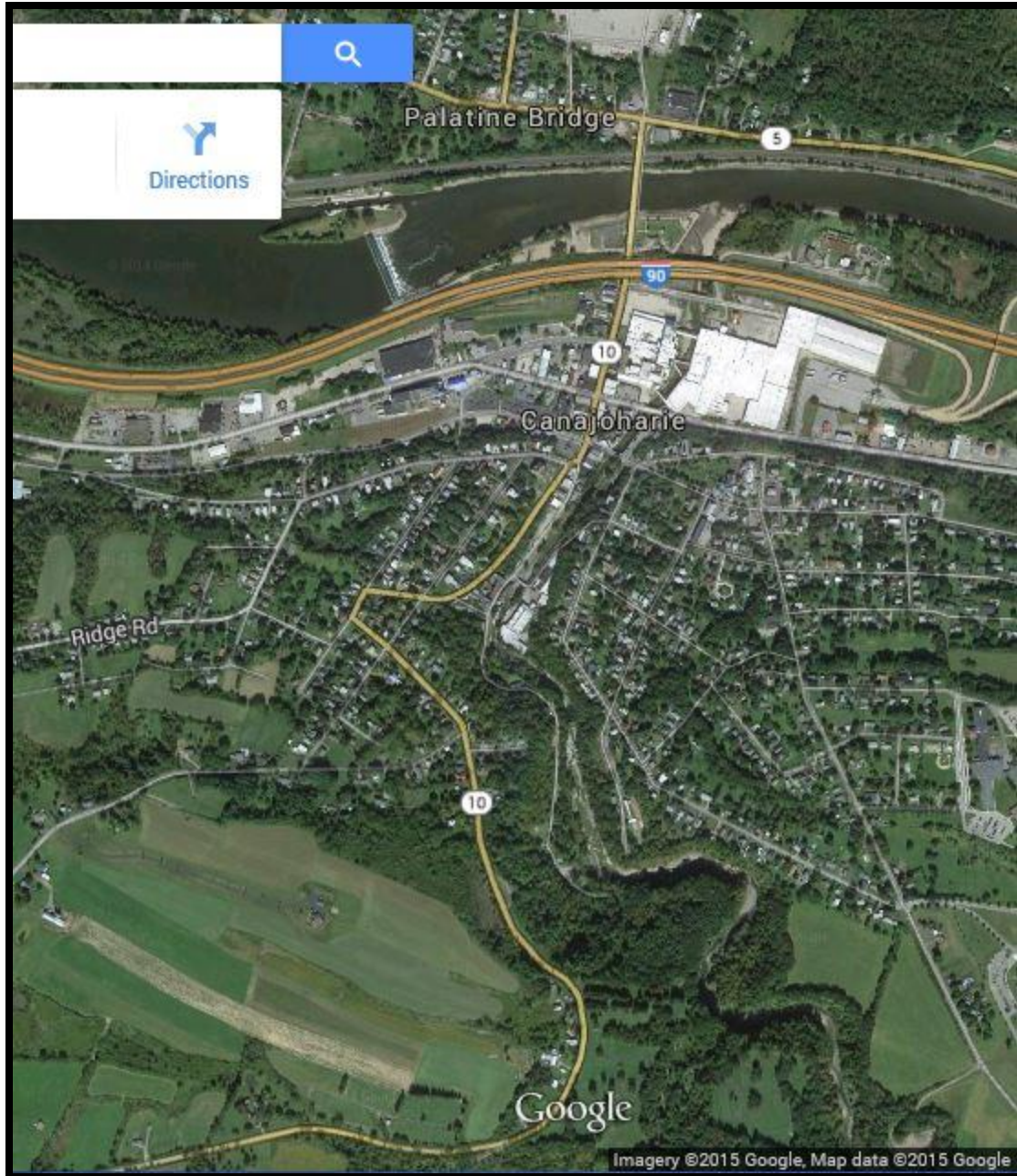
A newspaper article explains in detail what happened next, as seen below:



1937 "Beech - Nut Hotel". Perhaps a visit to The Arkell Museum in Canajoharie (see [here](#)) will be necessary to find out when the grand hotel became a parking lot - although this is peripheral to the present study.

Town of Canajoharie and Site of Schremling's Home and Tavern Today:

Google Maps below show the site of Hendrick's inn today. Note, for example, how Highway 10 appears to follow the early road from the east side of the mouth of Canajoharie Creek, to Cherry Valley, as noted on the Patent map copied in 1815 from an earlier version, and included above in this manuscript. Mohawk Street and Cliff Street are still located where they were in the 1830, 1868 and 1905 maps.







Alas, the close up view using Google mapping shows that the site of the Beech – Nut Hotel is now a parking lot. Hence, whatever is to be found of the home built by Hendrick, if anything, is now sealed off with asphalt. None the less, the home location can still be seen – although to descendants, it would be a somewhat depressing sight. After all of this work, going to a Google Street Level View, we see a State Historical Marker that reads:

**Johannes Reuff's Tavern Built
1750 By Hendrick Schrembling
Became Reuff's Tavern In 1778
Gen. James Clinton's Hdqts 1779
Gen. Washington Visited Here
1783 Recruiting Office 1812
Demolished 1850**

It would have saved considerable effort to know this beforehand, but there is something in the process of discovery, only to be proven correct, that is particularly pleasing.

The **take away** from all of the above, since the focus is on the pioneer, is that Hendrick Schremling owned what is today the Town of Canajoharie where he had an extensive farm, two stone homes, a tavern, an inn, a trading post, operated a landing which was a hub for his bateaux business for shipping by water, and his wagon transport business taking goods to and from the Lake Otsego area, and owned a grist mill. In all likelihood he also had a potash operation, and a sawmill.

It would also be very important to locate the burial place of Hendrick and Mary Elizabeth, which, since there was no Church anywhere near at the time, would in all probability have been on the family farm near the home.

Death Date and Place of Hendrick Schremling:

While there is no available Church or cemetery record, information can be inferred from other sources. It appears likely that the debts of the Estate of Hendk. Schremlyn were paid to the Sanders Brothers (Robert and John), merchants at Schenectady and Albany, on 15 June 1768 by his son George (“Son Jur: in full”). While the last purchase on this account was 16 May 1754, the 1768 entry and another reporting that, 30 May 1764 “Settled with Jurrie Schremlyn pr. note delivered him” (Sanders Brothers Account Books, State Library of New York, Albany), suggests that Hendrick had died not long before 15 June 1768, and perhaps in the spring of 1764. His name appeared in the tax list of 1764 for Canajoharie, but it is possible that this was his eldest son Hendrick Schremling who married Cornolia Van Alstine (born 1711) and who appeared as a sponsor with his wife in a baptismal record for 29 May 1763 (Johannes son of Martin Van Aalstein and Annatje). However other entries appear to be those for Hendrick Schremling Senior without his wife (suggesting that she may have passed away before 9 January 1763 when he and Gerretje Van Aalstein were sponsors for Philippus son of Goose Van Aalstein and Elisabeth).

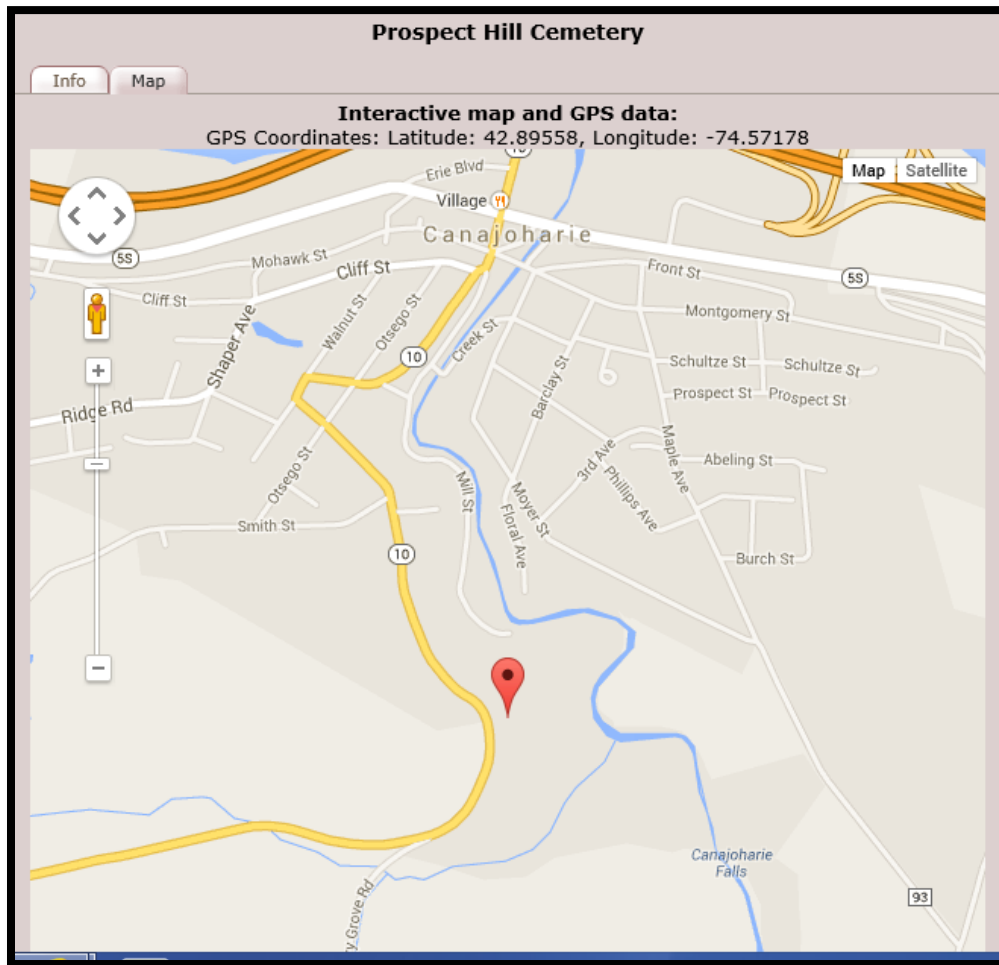
The evidence taken as a whole would suggest that Hendrick died in 1764. Mary Elizabeth likely died after the move from Stone Arabia circa 1740, and likely within the boundaries of the modern Town of Canajoharie. As to place of burial, a hint is found in the Frey Papers which suggests that there was a burial ground on the Schremling property. Here follows the quote, *Johannes Roof was buried in the little family grave yard in the edge of the woods on his old farm. Years afterwards his remains were removed to the cemetary on the hill south of the village, where any one who cares to search for it may find the stone that marks the grave of this old Soldier and Patriot.* Thus one might wonder whether Hendrick and perhaps his wife Mary Elisabeth were already buried in the plot, and that Roof’s family simply expanded on the existing burial site. If so, one further wonders whether the bodies of the Schremlings were also moved to the “modern” cemetery, “on the hill south of the village”.

There are two “old” cemeteries on the south side of Canajoharie, including the Prospect Hill Cemetery, and the nearby Canajoharie Falls Cemetery (an amalgamation of two burial grounds).

According to Williams T. Blair, “The Michael Shoemaker Book”, International Textbook Press, Scranton, PA, 1924, p.158, “*Captain Johannes Ruff* was born in Durlach, Swabia, Germany Jan. 9, 1730 and died in Canajoharie, N.Y., in 1799. The inscription on his tombstone in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Canajoharie, N.Y., describes him as the founder of Canajoharie, (formerly Ruff’s Village). His farm, Lot No. 5, Canajoharie District, adjoined the farm of Henrick H. Failing, who owned and lived upon Lot No. 6”. The author notes others including John Ruff’s wife and son Martin Ruff (died 3 April 1827), as well as the latter’s two wives, the first died in 1810 and the second who died in 1868 – all of whom were buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery. Perhaps the stones, visible about 1920, are no longer available for some reason, or were missed by the recent transcription efforts.

The site [here](#) confirms that John Roof and wife, as well as son Martin and his wife were buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery; and son John Roof Jr. was buried at Canajoharie Falls Cemetery.

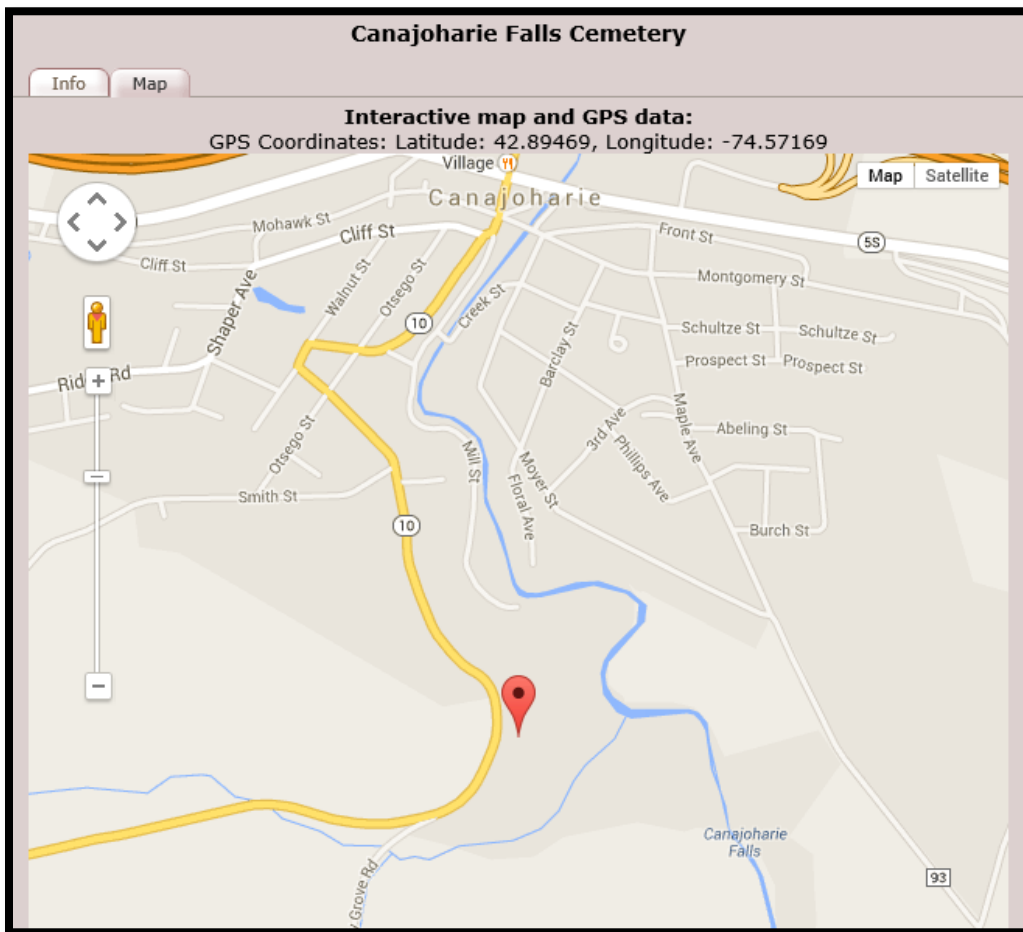
1) A Google map showing the location of **Prospect Hill Cemetery** is seen below:

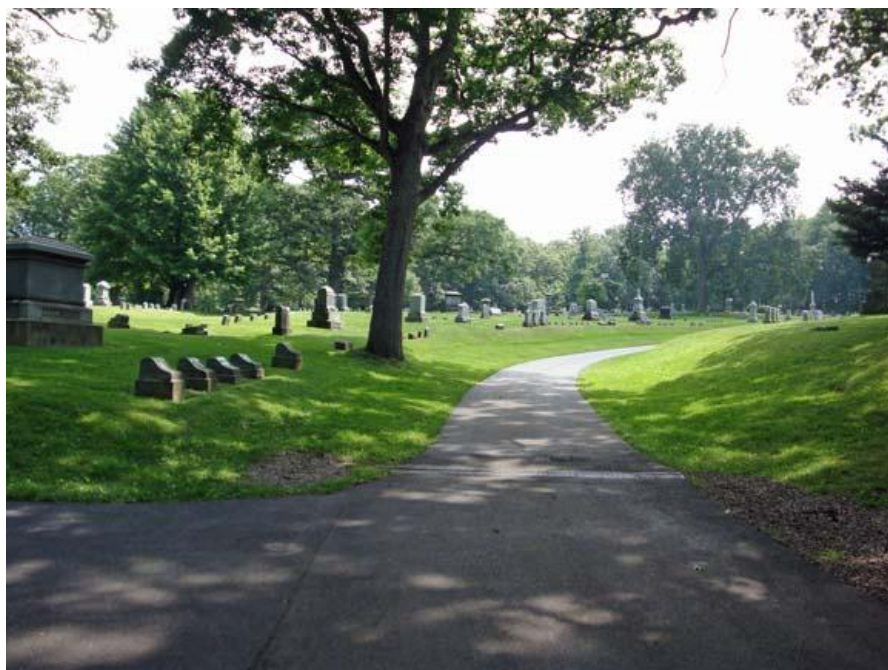


There are 489 inscribed memorials, and a photographic view from the Find a Grave site (see [here](#)), included below:



The adjacent **Canajoharie Falls Cemetery** with 1,128 known interments is seen below, with a photograph, all from the Find a Grave site (see [here](#)):





There are at least two early members of the Roof family buried here, including John Roof born 1760 or 1767 and died 30 September 1847 who was a son of the above John Roof Sr. (Ibid.). A picture of his tombstone from the Find A Grave site is included below:



Research Note: All of the above historical maps were found at one of two locations. The Three Rivers site has a wonderful genealogical collection, which includes some historical maps (see [here](#)). Secondly, a comprehensive map collection including all or most early Patent maps as well as historical maps, has been made available by Mohawk Valley researcher Ken D. Johnson (see [here](#)).

Personal Connection:

The author's tie to Hendrick Schremling is via three branches thanks to the marriages of two first cousins and two first cousins once removed.

Dr. David K. Faux, with research assistance by Thomas M. Nelson (also a descendant of Hendrick Schremling).

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