

## Johann Geroge WINDECKER and Anna Elizabeth WALRATH - Biography

Genealogy: What follows is an overview of the vital statistics relating to George Windecker (son of **Johann Hartman WINDECKER** (1676-1754) and **Barbara Elizabeth BELLINGER** (1694-1753), his wife Anna Elizabeth Walrath, and their children:

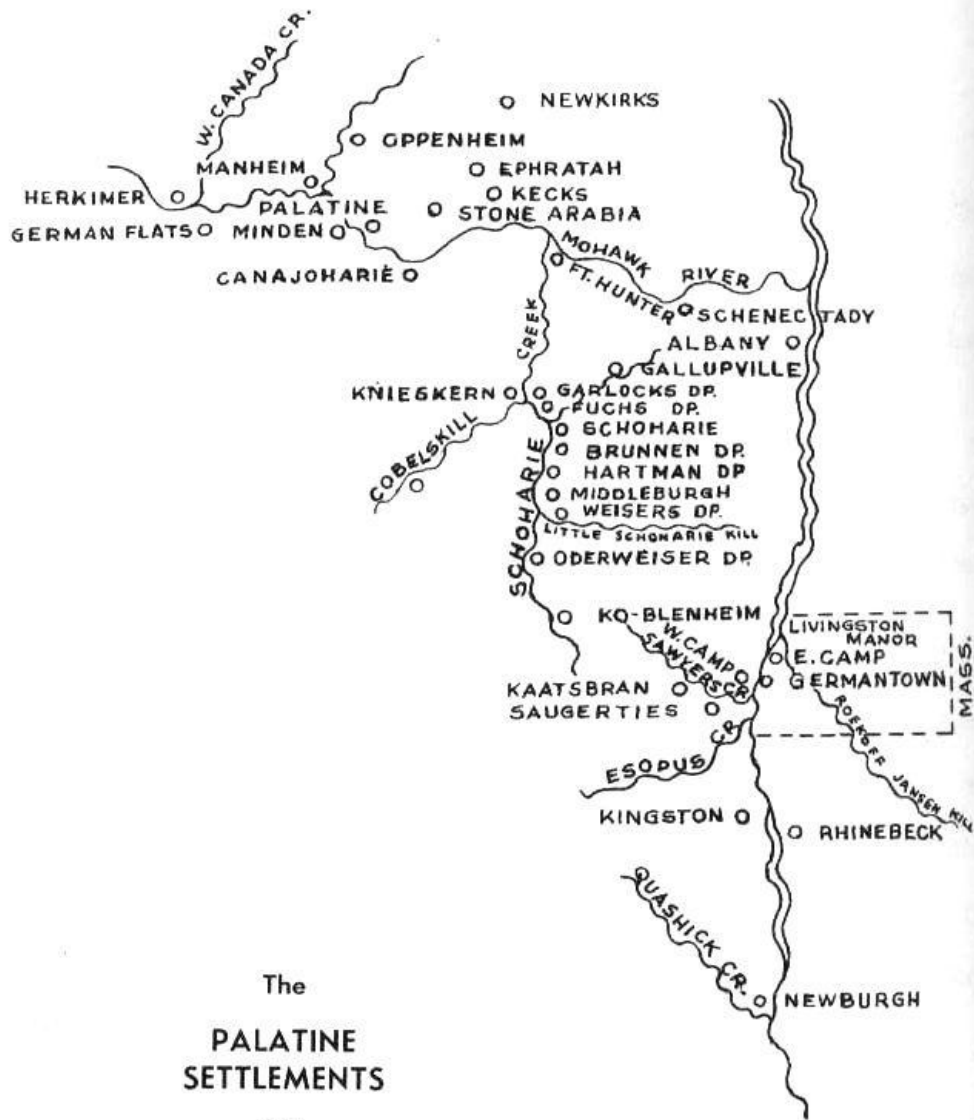
1. **Johann Georg WINDECKER** was born on 15 Oct 1715 in Neu-Ansberg (Schmidtsdorf), New York, USA. He died in Feb 1761 in Canajoharie District, Tryon County, New York, USA. He married **Anna Elizabeth WALRATH**, daughter of **Heinrich Conrad WALRATH** and **Anna Christina MATTHEUS**, on 17 Mar 1736. She was born on 15 Jul 1716 in Hartmansdorf, Schoharie, New York, USA. She died on 01 Sep 1793 in Ft. Plain, Montgomery County, New York, USA.

**Johann Georg WINDECKER** and **Anna Elizabeth WALRATH** had the following children:

2.
  - i. **Henry WINDECKER** was born about 1737 in Canajoharie District, Tryon County, New York, USA. He died after 1814 in pr North Cayuga Township, Haldimand County, Ontario. He married **Dorothy PICKARD (PICKERT)**. She was born about 1743 in Canajoharie District, Tryon County, New York, USA. She died in Ontario, Canada.
  - ii. **Anna Elizabeth WINDECKER** was born in 1740 in Canajoharie District, Tryon County, New York, USA. She married **Conrad HAHN**. He was born in 1740. He died on 06 Aug 1777 in Oriskany, Oneida, New York, USA.
  - iii. **Johannes WINDECKER** was born about 1742 in Canajoharie District, Tryon County, New York, USA. He died before 10 Nov 1794. He married **Catharine DIEFENDORF** on 29 Oct 1765. She was born on 20 Jul 1744. She died on 18 May 1810.  
Notes for Johnannes WINDECKER: No children.
  - iv. **Christina WINDECKER** was born on 16 Apr 1745 in Canajoharie District, Tryon County, New York, USA. She died on 22 Apr 1812 in Freysbush, Montgomery County, New York, USA. She married **Jacob DIEFENDORF**. He was born on 01 May 1740. He died on 17 Nov 1818 in Freysbush, Montgomery County, New York, USA.
  - v. **Anna Barbara WINDECKER** was born on 18 Mar 1751 in Canajoharie District, Tryon County, New York, USA. She died on 25 Feb 1807 in Herkimer, New York, USA. She married **Johannes Jost PETRY** on 24 Oct 1769.
  - vi. **Margaretha WINDECKER** was born in 1752 in Canajoharie District, Tryon County, New York, USA. She died on 05 Jul 1836 in Jamesville, Onondaga, New York, USA. She married **John Henry BELLINGER** on 22 Jan 1771 in Stone Arabia, Montgomery, New York, USA. He was born about 1750. He died in 1800 in Schylerville, Oneida, New York.
  - vii. **Katherine WINDECKER** was born on 15 Apr 1755 in Canajoharie District, Tryon County, New York, USA. She died on 13 Jan 1836 in Freysbush, Montgomery County, New York, USA. She married **John Jacob DIEFENDORF**. He was born on 12 May 1747. He died on 27 Mar 1839 in Freysbush, Montgomery County, New York, USA.

Residence in Schoharie: There is little documentation on the life of George Windecker, less for his wife Anna Elizabeth Walrath, but enough to be able to offer the rudiments of a story of their lives. As to the location of the birth places of George and Anna Elizabeth, from Preston (2009):

more motley collections of huts—were located on the east bank of **Schoharie** Creek. The villages' names—Kneskernsdorf, Gerlachs-  
dorf, Fuchsendorf, **Schmidtsdorf**, Weisersdorf, Hartmannsdorf, and  
Oberweisersdorf (from north to south)—commemorated the six **Pal-**  
atine “Chiefs” who had negotiated with the Mohawks. In plain view



The  
**PALATINE  
 SETTLEMENTS**  
 of the  
**HUDSON, MOHAWK  
 and SCHOHARIE**

Schmidtsdorf (the home of the Windeckers in 1717 according to the Simmindinger Register) was apparently where the railway station in Schoharie is today (Schoharie seen in the above map). However the various sources often provide a different positioning of these various “dorfs”. It is curious that Hartman did not reside in the village named after him (Hartmandorf), however the Walrath family did reside there in 1717.

Land in Mohawk Valley: It is not known where George and his parents lived after 1717, likely some time remaining at Schoharie, then later removing to the Mohawk Valley. There is no evidence as to the oft quoted move of Hartman Windecker and family to Tulpehocken, Pennsylvania with Conrad Weiser.

The account books of the time suggest that Hartman and family were residing in the Mohawk Valley 26 January 1731 when he brought wheat to Schenectady, at an assembly point for those living in the Upper Mohawk Valley. A document dated 28 October 1731 Hartman Windecker, Coenrad Conterman and Hendrick Schremlin, inhabitants of Canajoharie (i.e., those living on the south side of the Mohawk between the modern town of Canajoharie and just east of Indian Castle) complained that the Mohawk Indians of Canajoharie (they then residing between what is today Fort Plain and Indian Castle) were stealing their cattle and hogs. A list of residents affected by these actions also included Hendr Walraet. The names of the various complainants suggest that all were residing on or near to what was to become the 2,000 acre Windecker Tract located about 3 miles south of the Mohawk River, encompassing most of the Dutchtown Road between Fort Plain and just east of the Mohawk settlement at Fort Hendrick. A licence to purchase was issued on 16 September 1730, and the warrant for the patent was issued 11 November 1731.

So it is fair to assume that by 1730 both the Windecker and Walrath families were living in close proximity, likely along the Dutchtown Road.

Marriage: George married Anna Elizabeth Walrath, a near neighbor, 17 March 1736. The author has been unable to find the original source for the marriage date.

Early Records of George: George (Jurrian) (first appears in the records as an adult in 1738), and was living in the Mohawk Valley (likely on the Windecker Tract) as seen in the following entries from the Sanders Brothers Account Books from Albany (AL) and Schenectady (SC) – from Marilyn J. Cramer:

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AL39:19      Mr. Jurrian Windecker
3 Oct 1743 - 6 Apr (1745)      1/1    0/0
AD42:42 CR 6 Apr 1745 Accepted your father in Law Hendk. Walraet
    for your Accot. with me *3.12.6
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SL30:198    Mr. Jurrian Windecker
14 Oct 1738 - 18 Feb [1744/5]  7/3    0/0
    DR 25 May 1742 salt pr. Cons. Son
    CR 18 Feb [1744/5] By including *6.1.3 in a mortgage yr. fathr.
    executd. to me
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There are similar entries for his brothers Conrad and Frederick Windecker and their father Hartman Windecker.

Mr. Jurie Windecker also had an account with Johannes Harmanus Wendell of Schenectady. In 6 July 1742 he had over 12 pounds on credit, and on 7 February 1744 he discharged the debt. In addition, receipts have surfaced in for example the collection of Milford Decker as below:

dan ontfangie tehabbe van Hendrick Walraet  
die <sup>Land</sup> van deif Dount In doot van alle Rechten  
van Jurys Windacker en alle Houste  
dit dar van sommit ontfangie by myt sobya  
Schonegtad  
1715 April 9

then Recd. this 30<sup>th</sup> May 1749 from, Jury Windackers for the use of  
the heirs of Phillip Livingston, Deceased, the sum of three pounds  
four shillings & seven pence I say Recd by me  
Peter Groenendyck  
£3:4:7

Death of Father in Law: Wills from the year 1746 are rare indeed. However, as noted in a manuscript written by the present author, the will of Hendrick Conrad Walrath date 1 October 1746, as well as later land documents, show that he was residing on the Windecker Tract, on two adjacent lots which were inherited by two brothers of Anna Elizabeth (Walrath) Windecker.

Residence of George: There is no evidence, and no reason to assume, that Hartman Windecker and his eldest son George resided anywhere but the Windecker Tract from at least the very early 1730s. It is likely that Hartman died in 1756 or thereabouts (the widely circulated specific date cannot be verified with any primary source documentation). The matter is addressed in greater detail in Hartman Windecker's biography.

George did own land in the vicinity. The above receipt from 1749 suggests that George was paying off a mortgage or debt relating to land in the Van Horne Tract (much of it owned by Phillip Livingston) which adjoins the Windecker Tract. Later purchases north of the Mohawk (see below) appear to be for speculative purposes only.



1768 Map of Van Horne (Livingston) Patent just north of Windecker Patent



As seen in the tax list of 1766 which was composed (and published) in the order in which the assessor travelled from west to east along Dutchtown Road, the only two male Windeckers residing in the Windecker Tract were Henry (the eldest son of George), and Johannes (George's youngest son), brother Conrad Windecker, plus daughters and their husbands such as Gertrude (Windecker – Hartman) Pickard and her husband Jacob Pickard. The younger son, Frederick, moved north of the Mohawk River to the Mannheim area.

So while it seems clear that George resided on the Windecker Tract, he was not exclusively a farmer. He had two other avenues to travel in the quest for cash.

Merchant – Indian Trader: Quite by chance the Reverend Gideon Hawley came upon George Windecker while the latter was trading in the area of Oneonta along the Susquehanna River. The pertinent parts of his diary are shown below.

with him his looking glass and paint; and does not consider himself as dressed until he has adjusted his countenance by their assistance.

“Mr. Woodbridge and Mrs. Ashley, our interpreter, could not travel any further by land. We therefore concluded to get a canoe and convey them by water. From this place (now Colliers) to Onohoghwege is three days’ journey; and how bad the traveling is we cannot tell.

“May 31st, (1753). We met with difficulty about getting a canoe, and sent an Indian into the woods to get ready a bark, but he made small progress.

“In the afternoon came from Otsego Lake, which is the source of this stream, George Windecker and another, in a small batteau, with goods and rum, going down to Onohoghwege upon a trading voyage. We agreed with them to carry the interpreter and Mr. Woodbridge in their batteau; and bought a wooden canoe to carry our flour and baggage.

“We soon saw the ill effects of Windecker’s rum. The Indians began to drink and some of our party were the worse for it. We perceived what was coming.

“June 1st, 1753, is with me a memorable day, and for forty years and more has not passed unnoticed. We got off as silently as we could with ourselves and our effects. Some went by water and others by land, with the horses. I was with the land party. The Indians, half intoxicated, were outrageous, and pursued both

Further to the above, apparently Windecker was not allowed to land on Sunday – I suppose this was a merciful thing. Apparent the women were “howling” over the dead, and the men chased the cortege down river. All because of the effects of the alcohol that George Windecker brought. One wonders if he was aware of the horrid social effects of plying this trade, or it was a matter of self justification such as “if I don’t do it, someone else will”.

Doubtless this extra source of income allowed George to engage in another enterprise.

Land Speculation: George was one of multiple purchasers of a tract of land known as Klock's Purchase (otherwise Klock and Nelles Patent) on 21 December 1754.



*EXPLANATION*  
of  
*KLOCK'S purchase*  
granted 21 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1754 to.

George Klock	GK	Adam Klock	AK
William Nellis	WN	Johannis Dygert	ID
Jacob Klock	JK	Seobald Nellis	TN
Jurrian Nellis	JN	Leonard Helmer Sr.	LHS
Johannis Klock	JK	Adolph Walrath	AW
Severinus Dygert	SD	Johannis Windecker	IWD
Henry Klock	HK	Henry Walrath	HW
Leonard Helmer	LH	Joseph Klock	JK
Konrad Klock	KK	William Fox	WF
Johannis Hejs	JH	Philip Pier	PP
Goefrid Helmer	GH	Philip Garlag	PG
Casper Koch	CK	Carl Garlag	CG
George Windecker	GW	Johannis Nellis	JN
Jacob G Klock	JGK	John Haddock	JH
Johannis Shauman	JS	Adam Gray	AG
Henry G Klock	HGK	Johannis Sellinger	JS
Warner Dygert	WD	James Wallace	JW
F. erick Sellinger	FS	Henry Nellis	HN

The lots owned by George Windecker were as follows: 15, 86, 103, 121, and 144 – George Windecker being J(I)W (Jurrian Windecker) and his brother Johannis being J(I)WD.

On 27 September 1765, the lands owned here by George Windecker (deceased) and Henry Walrath (deceased) were sold by their executors Johannis Windecker and Henry Walrath respectively.

Below are a few of the signatures on a petition dated 22 April 1755 for 50,000 acres of land between East and West Canada Creeks (near Burnettsfield). Included are Jerg Windecker and his eldest son henrick Windecker. The author has not happened upon papers which would detail what happened with this petition.



Marcus [unclear]

Henry [unclear] Klock  
Jong [unclear] Windecker  
Klock [unclear] Klock  
Kulter Klock [unclear]

Abraham [unclear] & von der wa  
marck

Lutero [unclear] de [unclear]  
William molles  
Jenny Klock [unclear]  
henrick Windecker

Death of George Windecker: It is unfortunate that no further documents have come to light to tell a more in depth story of the events of the life of George Windecker, such as whether he continued his activities selling merchandise to the Indians in the Susquehanna region.

George did not live a long life – he died at age 46. In the Sir William Johnson Papers (Vol. 3, p.343) is a letter from Rev. John Casper Lapius of the Sand Hill (later Fort Plain) Dutch Reformed Church. He wrote to Johnson on 20 February 1761 reporting that Adam Helmer Senr. and Lorenz Hurter's Wife spoke about a plan of the Indians to destroy the Valley with bow and arrow, noted that "they told me So on the burring Day of Jurry Wendeker". Thus it is safe to assume that George Windecker died in February 1761.

Anna Elizabeth (Walrath) Windecker re-marries: On 17 March 1762 "Anna Elizabeth Windecker, widow, married Christophel Fox, widower", at the Dutch Reformed Church of Stone Arabia.

Death of Anna Elizabeth: The burial records of the Reformed Church of Fort Plain record that on 8 September 1793, "Anna Elisabeth, widow of Christoph Fuchs, was buried".

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