

Jacob Van Campen
of Dutchess County, New York
(1696 – c1742)

Robert Scott Shaw

Jacob Van Campen (or van Kampen) was born in the Savengonk (Shawangunk) district of Ulster County, N.Y. and baptized 16 Feb 1696 at the Dutch Church in Kingston.¹ His parents were Tietje Jans Decker and Jan Van Campen, and the sponsors (godparents) at his baptism were his mother's brother Jacob Decker and his wife, Belitje Jans.²

In 1715, at the age of 19, he is listed, along with his brothers Garret and Abraham, as a member of the Marbletown company of foot militia of Ulster Co.³ The next year he married Marretjen Westvaal, daughter of Neeltje Quackenbosch and Simon Westvaal; this was on 25 Oct 1716 at the Kingston church.⁴ She had been born in the Raysester (Rochester) district of Ulster Co. about 1694.⁵

Within two or three years Jacob had moved across the Hudson River to Dutchess County (perhaps to the Rhinebeck area), as he is first listed in the North Ward tax list for February 1718/9.⁶ We find his in-laws Simon and Jurie Westfall also appearing on the North Ward tax lists soon thereafter, as the early settlement of Dutchess County proceeded.

It was probably about 1729 when Jacob moved to what is now the Dover Plains area of Dutchess County, for in that year he is listed on the Middle Ward tax list

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¹ Roswell R. Hoes, ed., *Baptismal and Marriage Registers of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston, Ulster Co., N.Y. 1660-1809*, (1891, reprint 1980) [hereafter *Kingston RDC*]. His birthplace is recorded under his marriage.

² *Kingston RDC*; Lewis D. Cook, "Jeurian Teunissen Tappen of Albany and of Kingston, New York, and His Descendants," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* [NYGBR], v. 97, p. 216 (1966).

³ *Second Annual Report of the State Historian of the State of New York*, vol. 1 of the Colonial Series (1897).

⁴ *Kingston RDC*.

⁵ Baptized 18 Nov 1694 at Kingston (*Kingston RDC*).

⁶ *Book of the Supervisors of Dutchess Co., N.Y. 1718-22* (Vassar Brothers Institute, no date, probably pub. about 1909).

instead of on the North Ward list as in the preceding year.⁷ Jacob was an early settler of this area of the Beekman patent near Plymouth Hill. His house was on the west side of the Wassaic River, just south of the Great Nine Partners patent.⁸ A colonial act passed in September 1728 appointed Jacob one of three highway commissioners for Dover.⁹ Responding to a request of Jacob and his neighbor Dirick De Duytser for a surveyor for a road from Dover to Poughkeepsie, the county authorities in 1731 specified that the people of Dover were to choose a surveyor to lay out roads and assign road work to the inhabitants. Jacob was chosen for this office, his 1733 order establishing two public roads for the area.¹⁰ In 1737 Jacob was appointed one of the three Beekman precinct highway commissioners.¹¹

Service in the local militia was required of all able-bodied men, typically involving five or six training days per year. By 1737, Jacob had risen to captain, heading a company of 51 men; his brother-in-law Jacob DeWitt was the company's lieutenant¹²

In September 1738 Jacob, with the help of his father, bought the east half of Lot 12 of the Great Nine Partners patent, a tract of 3173 acres, from John Everson of New York City.¹³ This was in an area known as Filkintown (part of the Crum Elbow precinct), and near the Beekman precinct. Jacob soon sold off parcels of 801 and 385 acres, presumably to pay down the debt of the purchase.¹⁴ In 1739 Capt. Jacob Van Campen of Filkintown bought a nearby 212 acre parcel, paying £125 plus one good fat dunghill fowl to be delivered yearly on January first.¹⁵ Apparently Jacob moved to his new Filkintown land as from about this period he was usually described as being "of Crum Elbow." In 1741 he was chosen Assessor and Poor-Master of Crum Elbow precinct for the year.¹⁶

Soon after this, probably in 1742, Jacob died. A record shows him being appointed Assessor for 1742, probably at the supervisor's meeting of 2 Feb 1741/2.¹⁷

⁷ *Old Miscellaneous Records of Dutchess Co., N.Y.: the Second Book of the Supervisors & Assessors* (Vassar Brothers Institute, 1909).

⁸ Helen W. Reynolds, *Notes on Dutchess Co., N.Y.*, packet 1, LDS Family History Library [FHL] microfilm #931485. This describes the location from a map circa 1740; it is shown on a map in *Records of Crum Elbow Precinct, Dutchess Co., N.Y.* (Franklin Delano Roosevelt, ed., vol. 7 of *Collections of the Dutchess Co. Historical Soc.*, 1940; on LDS FHL microfilm [hereafter *Crum Elbow Records*]).

⁹ *The Colonial Laws of New York from the year 1664 to the Revolution* (Albany: James B. Lyon, State Printer, 1894); LDS FHL microfilm [hereafter *Colonial Laws NY*]; v.2, p.455.

¹⁰ Frank J. Doherty, *Settlers of the Beekman Patent, Dutchess Co., N.Y.* [hereafter *Beekman Settlers*], vol. 1 (1990), p336. The order was solemnized by his mark, a combined "VK".

¹¹ *Colonial Laws NY*, v.2, p.968.

¹² *Third Annual Report of the State Historian of the State of New York*, vol. 2 of the Colonial Series (1898), p. 494.

¹³ Clifford Buck and William McDermott, comp., *Eighteenth Century Documents of the Nine Partners Patent, Dutchess Co., N.Y.*, v. 10 of *Collections of the Dutchess Co. Historical Soc.* (1940); LDS FHL microfiche [hereafter *Nine Partners Documents*], Bk 1, p. 353.

¹⁴ *Nine Partners Documents*, Bk 1, p. 353, 357.

¹⁵ *Nine Partners Documents*, Bk 1, p. 425.

¹⁶ *Crum Elbow Records*, p. 2.

¹⁷ *Beekman Settlers*, vol. 1.

By 1745 he was dead, as indicated in his father's will.¹⁸ In a later deed we find mention of Jacob's will, said to have been made 18 Feb 1741/2, when he was 46 years old, so he may have died suddenly that year.¹⁹ This deed, made 8 Jul 1747, was acquiesced to by Jacob's widow, Mary (Marretjen), and is the last record we have of her.

The children of Jacob and Marretjen (all baptized in Kingston, N.Y.²⁰):

1. Jan Van Campen, bap. 9 Feb 1718. Jan lived in Crum Elbow in 1760,²¹ and in the Northeast precinct of Dutchess Co. in 1775 when he refused to sign the Association Test.²² It seems likely that the Jacob Van Camp who in 1778 m. Mary Harrington in Bangall, Dutchess Co.²³ was Jan's son.

2. Zimon Van Campen, bap. 2 Apr 1721 (a twin). He may have died before reaching maturity as no other record of him has been found.

3. Peter Van Campen, bap. 2 Apr 1721 (a twin). He m. Phebe Bergen and had nine children. They lived in Crum Elbow until about 1760, and then moved to Halfmoon, now in Saratoga Co., N.Y. Peter left for Canada about 1781, and died in Montreal in 1783.²⁴

4. Heyltjen Van Campen, bap. 7 Jul 1723. In 1744, she was sponsor for the baptism of her father's niece Heyldie De Witt in Rhinebeck.²⁵

5. Nelletjen Van Campen, bap. 4 Jun 1727.

¹⁸ *New Jersey Will Abstracts*, in *Documents Relating to the Colonial, Revolutionary, and Post-Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey* (also known as "New Jersey Archives"), First Series, vol. 30, p. 494.

¹⁹ *Crum Elbow Records*, p. 57.

²⁰ *Kingston RDC*.

²¹ Tax Lists for 1759 & 1760 from the Dutchess Co., N.Y., Supervisor's Records, transcription at Adriance Library, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; LDS FHL microfilm.

²² *Calendar of historical manuscripts relating to the war of the revolution : in the office of the secretary of state, Albany, N. Y.* (Albany : Weed, Parsons, 1868), v. 1.

²³ *Beekman Settlers*, v.6, p.174.

²⁴ Robert Scott Shaw, "A Sketch of Peter Van Camp (1721-1783)," *Annals of Genealogical Research* v.1, no.1 (2005) at <http://www.genlit.org/agr/viewarticle.php?id=2>

²⁵ *NYGBR* v. 95 p.45.