

Sketches of the Ancestors

By Gertrude Louisa Wood

The following is a hand written account of the ancestors from Gertrude Louisa (Snyder) Wood. She wrote this to her grand daughter Margaret Neal (Snyder) Petersen. It covers The Snyder, Blauvelt and Du Bois families:

Snyder Family Crest



Blauvelt Family Crest



Du Bois coat of Arms



Margaret Neal Snyder was my mother, she received this in the 1950's

- Mark J. Petersen

*Sketches of the
Ancestors*



*of
Margaret Snyder Petersen.*

A brief Sketch of the Snyder
Family.

Martin Snyder, our ancestor,
was born at Hackenberg in
Germany, June 1698 and was
brought up at the same place
and there married Annah Dean-
nute Bacher, born in 1703.

A son, Henry, was born in 1723.

They then emigrated to America
and came to the State of New
York, county of Ulster about the
year 1726, settling in the town of
New Paltz.

Martin Snyder brought with him
the following "certificate of char-
acter." Record taken from "Old Ulster"
An Historical and Genealogical Magazine.
Benj. Myer Brink, Editor.

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"I certify that Martin Snyder from Kilsbed; his wife and two children from the government of Hackenberg in the church district of Ploumflers felt wanted to go to America and the Kirckenberg enquired as to his standing in society. It was proven to be of good moral character and he secured some assistance in his passage. The Prinia Kerckberg granted him full power to go. Whereupon he has caused his seal to be affixed and signed in his own handwriting in

Sprenenberg 26 March

J. S. L. Grickhoff.
1726

Later Martin and his family moved from New York to the town of Kingston, in

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the neighborhood known as
Churchland near a small
stream known as Mudder Kill.
Later this section became the
town of Saugerties.

Martin was a farmer and in
1750 he built a stone house which,
so far as I know, still stands,
occupied by one of his descendants.
Thirteen children were born to
him in America - three daughters,
then ten sons - the two youngest,
Abraham and Isaac, were twins.

Martin died in 1778 aged 80
years and was followed to his
grave by these ten sons.

There were 98 grandchildren,
49 males, 49 females. Out of
these four died in their minority.

The remaining 94 came to
years of maturity, still
equally divided
as to sex;

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His sixth son, Benjamin, born Nov. 24, 1742, married Anna Brink. They had 9 children - Anna, who lived to be 102 years old, Peter, Maria, Rosanna, Martin, Rachel and Sarah, twins, Catharine and Jacob.

Benjamin died in 1831 aged 89 years and 10 months. He is our Revolutionary ancestor, fighting with an Ulster Co. N.Y. Regiment.

His youngest son, Jacob married his own cousin Nellie Snyder daughter of Isaac Snyder and Susannah Kern.

Jacob was born Mar. 4, 1788 -
Nellie, Jan. 13, 1786 - They had 8 children - the eldest, Maria, who was my grandmother. 4 more girls, then

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William and Benjamin
Franklin, twins, but born 5
days apart.

Benjamin Franklin was my
husband's (DeWitt Clinton Snyder's)
father.

Benjamin married Margaret
Van Wageningen. They had 8 children
Mary Eleanor, Wm. Frances, DeWitt
Clinton, Ralph, Margaret, Rosalie,
Jacob, and Elizabeth born Jan.
22, 1868. The last named is the
only living one and resides
in Bloomington, Ulster Co. N.Y.

DeWitt Clinton born Apr. 17, 1859
Married Oct. 10, 1899 to
Gertrude Louisa Wood born Dec. 12
1869

Laurence Hasbrouck.

Margaret Neal.

A brief History of the
Blauvelt Family

Early in the 17th century
Gerrit Hendrickson, a Dutch
boy migrated from Holland
to the Manor of Rensselaerwyck
near Albany, N. Y. to grow
tobacco for one Kilian Van Rens-
selaer. He came over on the ship
of which Pieter Minuit was captain.

He married Marretje Lambertse
Moll, daughter of New York's
first ship builder, the first white
baby born on Manhattan Island.

He settled in New Amsterdam
in 1637 and was popularly known
as "de blau boer" - the blue farmer,
probably because he owned a field
of flax which is blue when in
flower. Out of this
nickname

the Blauvelt family continued. 2-
grew the family name, Blauvelt.
"the blue field."

His farm was on the east
side of lower Broadway at
what is now about 160 Broadway -
the site of the Lawyers Title and
Guarantee Building, New York City.

Gerrit and Marpetje became
the parents of four teen children.

Potatoes grew better in Pappan,
across the Hudson River so the
Blauvelts sold out and "went
to the suburbs" and here his stal-
wart sons, coming as pioneers,
purchased land from the Indians
through the Pappan Land Patent
of 1682, paying for it in cloth,
wools, beer and rum.

In Pappan George Wash-
ington had his
headquarters.

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during the Revolution and New York State Grand Lodge of Masons have preserved the house and made it an historical monument.

Here also stands the "76 house" where Major Andre was imprisoned and on a nearby hill top was hung by the patriots.

Not far away is the town of Blauvelt, founded by the family and named for them.

Their descendants are now widely scattered and many have achieved honors and distinction.

Mr. Hiram B. Demorest Blauvelt of Oradell, N. J. in 1933-35 traveled some 30,000 miles through Africa, taking over 2000 photographs of the East African campaign and interviewed dozens of world leaders.

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of that time. Later he became
Special War Correspondent for
the New York Herald Tribune.

The "Association of Blauvelt
Descendants" meets yearly at
Pappan, N.Y. The names of
Margaret Snyder Petersen and
her husband, Donald L. Peterson
are on the file of the Secretary,

Mr. Louis Blauvelt

20 Birchwood Ave, East Orange
N.J.

Margaret's line is as follows.

Revolutionary ancestor

Major Johannes Joseph Blauvelt

wife Margrietje Smidt,

son Cornelius, wife Rebecca Pagel

son Johannes (John), wife

Jannetje Vander-
bilt.

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daughter Maria.

Maria married Benjamin Wood, Jr.
son Ebenezer B.

Ebenezer B. - Rosanna Hardenbergh
daughter Gertrude Louisa.

Gertrude L. - Rev. Dr. Hall Clinton Snyder.
son Laurence Hasbrouck

Laurence H. - Guldberg M. Herland
daughter Margaret Neal.

Margaret N. - Donald L. Petersen.

A Brief Sketch of the Du Bois Family.

When William, Duke of Normandy, afterward King William the first, of England, set forth in the year 1066 A.D. on his conquest of England, he was accompanied by Goffroi du Bois, a member of one of the oldest families of the noble houses of Cotentin, in the duchy of Normandy.

Originally the name was spelled with a small "d" and a capital "B" - the "du" being a contraction of "de la"

No quite distinct coat of arms were shown as belonging to the family.

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one portraying an eagle on a golden shield surmounted by a steel helmet of an esquire. The other shows a lion rampant on a silver shield with the family crest having the lion between two tree stumps.

The motto of the family was a staunch one - "Hold to thy Faith!" and much was it needed as persecution came to drive the members from their home in the little province of Artois.

The first member of the family to migrate to America was Louis, son of Chretien Du Bois who had fled to Mannheim, Germany.

There he married Catharine Blanchan, also a refugee.

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Later from Holland they sailed on the ship "St. Jan Baptiste," landing in America Aug. 6, 1661

Louis was a Huguenot or more correctly a Malloon and we find him frequently referred to in the old records as "Louis, the Malloon."

With a band of Huguenot and Dutch comrades this young couple settled on the west bank of the Hudson in what is now Ulster Co. N. Y. Some claim that the Kaalkill River, which runs through that section, was named for him and he seems soon to have become the leader, the advisor and chief of the colony, whose word was law.

He led a group of twelve men who secured a patent

The Du Bois Family continued - 4

for land from Gov. Andros and in 1677 some 36,000 acres were purchased from the Indians. Louis' name heads the list of signers who paid for their land in curious currency. These are some of the items included in the bill of sale.

"40 Kettles, 10 large, 30 small,
40 axes, 40 shirts, 40 guns,
60 pairs socks, half of them small,
60 duffels, 1 keg of powder,
300 fathoms white wampum
100 fathoms black wampum,
1 clear pipe."

The deed of transfer was signed by twenty sachems with most unpronounceable names.

The first settlement was called "Nieuw Dorp" and was later called Hurley's

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but in 1678 twelve families made up the little village of New Tattz.

Previous to this, however occurred one of those frightful Indian attacks. The story is told in many histories how the Indians surprised the women one day when the men were at work in the fields, carrying away among their captives

Louis' wife Catharine, and her three children, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

For three months the seven women and twenty three children were kept prisoners in the Indian stronghold in the Shawangunk Mts. while husbands and fathers searched stealthily for them. At last a friendly Indian guided them to the hiding place.

As they drew near they heard

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a clear sweet voice singing
Catharine was voicing her faith
and keeping up the courage of
the others by singing in her
French patois from the 34th psalm.
"Commit thy way unto the Lord,
trust also in Him and He shall
bring it to pass." And He did
not fail her. When the men stole
upon the Indians and overpowered
them they found Catharine bound
to a tree, fagots at her feet ready
for lighting. Spell bound by
the sweet song the Indians had
delayed to apply the torch.

Catharine lived many years
to bear six more children to do
their part in the freeing and
the building of our land.

With the building of
the solid little
stone houses

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went the building of the Church
and Louis Du Bois was installed
the first elder in the Reformed
Church of New Saltz, 1683.

"No history" says a noted histor-
ian, "would be complete without"
special mention of the Du Bois family

Margaret's line is as follows.

Louis Du Bois. Catharine Blanchard,
son Solomon.

Solomon - Ryn tje Gerritsen. son Corne lius
Corne lius Margaret Hooteting " " Jr.
Corne lius, Jr. Geertje Bruyn-
daughter Jane.

Jane - Jacob Hardenberg. son Jacob
Jacob Maria Snyder daughter Rosanna
Rosanna - Ebenezer B. Wood, " Gertrude L.

Gertrude Louisa - De Witt Clinton Snyder
son Laurence Hasbrouck
Laurence H. - Guldborg M. Herland
daughter
Margaret Neal Snyder.

Du Bois ancestry concluded. 8.

Margaret also has a line through Hendricus Du Bois, son of Solomon. married Jannetje Hooteling. had daughter Rachel, married Johannes Hardenbergh, had son Jacob who married Jane Du Bois. had son Jacob who married Maria Snyder. etc.

Hendricus was an enlisted man in Col. Levi Parling's regiment.

Cornelius was lieutenant in the First Regiment of Minute Men.