

## The early Skillman line in America

Starting with immigrant Thomas Skillman, who arrived in America in 1645 as a soldier in the British Fleet that conquered New Netherland (without firing a shot)

He married Annetje Aten, whose father was a Dutch Immigrant

Thomas established a large plantation in what is now Long Island City in Queens

### An excerpt from *Our Duryea and Turner Lines*, by Rhea Duryea Johnson

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(I have not determined how the Skillmans fit into the author's Duryea and Turner lines)

The excerpt starts at the bottom of page 39

Note 26 The Skillman line: The name has been found spelled Schedaan, Schedman, Schilman, Shilleman, and Shillman. From "The Skillmans of America and Their Kin" by William Jones Skillman (New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Vol. 37): Although "the Skillmans of the New World are quite commonly assumed to be of Dutch descent, this is a mistake in one way, and in another it is clearly a fact. They are Dutch in two respects. First, the mothers of them on the continent were of Dutch or Huguenot lineage, while the father was an Englishman....Secondly, even in England, the Skillmans were of Dutch stock originally. Their maternal forebears came to Britain from the Low Countries....and a

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John Skillman is of record in the Hundred Rolls of Edward I in 1275....They were Dutch as, indeed, were the Jutes, Saxons, and Angles of an earlier time...." The head of our family, Captain Thomas Skillman, "probably came from London". A musician all of his life, he was a soldier "under Col. Richard Nicholls in Expedition of Duke of York, ordered by the King, Feb. 25, 1664, sailed from Portsmouth, May 15, and dropped anchor in the harbor of Nieuw Amsterdam (near present Fort Hamilton) August 18, same year. Nieuw Amsterdam surrendered to Col. Nicholls, becoming New York."

Captain Thomas Skillman was next listed among some sixty persons on February 19, 1665 at Elizabeth Town, N. J. He took the oath of allegiance to Charles II; but he did not stay in that first N. J. settlement. He was named "inhabitant and freeholder" of Newtown on January 23, 1660. He was sent with a special contingent by the Governor to chastise the Indians who three years previously had perpetrated the cruel Wiltwyck Massacre. Discharged as a soldier, he was given "14 oz. of plate for services at Albany under Captain Lewis".

b. 1635/40; d. about 1697

m. 1669 Sara Petit (or Petet), dau. of John and Sara (Scofield)

Petit of Newtown. (History of Stamford and Bridgeport: "John Pettit was in Roxbury in 1639, and at Stratford in 1651. Probably soon removed to Stamford - 1657 - and thence to Newtown, L. I.")

#### Issue:

1. Thomas Skillman (see below)

2. Elsje Skillman b. 1672

3. Sara Skillman b. 1675 m. Cornelis Hendricxen Bries 1694

4. Lijsbet Skillman b. 1677 m. Jan Aten of Flatbush

Thomas Skillman "inhabitant of Halgate Neck" in 1705; commissioner of Highways in Newtown in 1714; joint owner of a plat for a schoolhouse; subscribed £5 for the erection of Dutch Reformed Church of Newtown in 1731; one of first "Kerck Maesters" (wardens or trustees) of this church - chosen in 1736 (Petrus Schenck was another one of them - see the Schenk line, Note 19); his pew was No. 1 in this church; he took the oath of allegiance in 1687.

b. 1671; d. 1739/40 (see abstract of will at end of this note)

m. 1693 Annetje Aten dau. of Adriaen Hendricksen Aten who was born 1615 and d. after 1696; an "immigrant 1651" from Holland; settled at Flatbush; constable 1665; took oath of allegiance in 1687. Annetje was a communicant member of Newtown Dutch Reformed Church 1741.

Issue:

1. Peter Skillman bp. Brooklyn Dutch Reformed Church Mar. 4, 1694; d. in infancy
2. Elizabeth Skillman (twin with Peter) d. 1718; m. 1717 at New York City Hendrick Van de Water
3. Jan (John) Skillman b. 1696
4. Mary Skillman b. 1698 m. Johannes Bond (or Band, Bant, Bandt, Bondt, Bund)

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Note 26 - continued

5. Marcy Skillman (see below)
6. Annetje Skillman b. 1703 m. before 1739 her sister Elizabeth's widower, Hendrick Van de Water
7. Abraham Skillman b. 1704
8. Isaac Skillman b. 1706
9. Jacob Skillman b. 1708
10. Benjamin Skillman b. 1710
11. Joseph Skillman b. 1712

Marcy Skillman bp. Brooklyn Reformed Dutch Church February 2, 1701  
(sponsors: Isaac Brockhaar (or Brokaw) and Mercy (Van Hove))

d. (living in 1739).  
m. June 3, 1722 John Fijn (or Fine) - see Note 25  
Their daughter

En (or Ann, Antje, Aulse) Fine (see Note 25)

m. Charles Duryea "of Oyster Bay" (see III, p. 13)

Abstract of will of Thomas Skillman: I, Thomas Skillman, of Newtown, in Queens County, being sickly, I leave to my wife Anne, all my estate, real and personal, except my negro man and negro woman, during her widowhood. If she marries, then she shall have £20. I leave to my son John, 10 shillings, "and that for his birthright". I leave to my sons Abraham and Benjamin, £50 each, and my wagons, ploughs, and harrows. After my wife's decease, all the remainder of my estate is to go to my sons John, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Benjamin, and Joseph. All the rest of my movable estate, after my wife's decease, I leave to my daughters Mary, wife of John Bond, Mercy, wife of John Fine, Anne, wife of Hendrick Vandewater, and to my granddaughter Ann, wife of Jones Martin. Whereas, my son Jacob, has, at his own cost, built a house on my plantation, at Swamp in Newtown, the house is to be valued after my wife's decease, and the value allowed him. And whereas, I have a deed from John VanHorne and his wife Catharine, for a tract of land at Raritan, in the Jersies, and my sons John and Jacob have paid part, they are to have it if they pay the rest. I make my sons Abraham, Jacob, and Benjamin, executors. Dated February 23, 1739. Witnesses: Bernardus VanZandt, John Rapalye, Cornelius Berrien, Jr. Proved July 4, 1740. (New York Historical Society Collections 1894 - Abstract of Wills)