

THE SLE FAMILY

by

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(Note: all pencil notes and corrections in the following were made by Mr. Van Tassel. F. E. Y.)

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ISAAC SEE, a Revolutionary Soldier.

BY DANIEL VAN TASSEL.

Among those who early fled from France because of religious persecution, were Isaac See and Esther his wife, Isaac See, his son, and Maria his wife. They went to and remained in England until the ship sailed which brought over Sir Edmund Andros, the newly appointed Governor General of the Province of New York. They were of the number which came in that vessel and arrived at New York, November 1, 1674. With them came two relatives, Nicholas De Vaux, who had married Maria, a daughter of Isaac See, Sr., and Jean LeComte. They all settled in Harlem.

This story of the escape of the Sees, father and son has been preserved in the family. Miss Catharine See of Tarrytown has heard her grandfather tell of it. But her story states that the Foshays were also related, escaped with them from French territory and came over in the same vessel.

The old records of Harlem show that on the 6th of December, 1675, Isaac See, Jr., was a member of the night-watch. Whilst living there Jacobus, a son of Isaac See, Jr. and Maria his wife, was born. This was their second son, their first, Peter, having been born in Europe. They undoubtedly had other children, but no search can be complete without an examination of the records of the Dutch Church at Harlem, N. Y., and no

*Catharine*

one now seems to know what has become of them.

All that is positively known at present is that there was a son Isaac, who had two daughters baptised in the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow. He was here with his wife Antje, as late as 1707. Also there was a son Derck, who was a sponsor at the old church in 1716, but he ultimately settled in Delaware. Descendants of his are now living in that State, Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Riker in his history of Harlem says, that there was a son Simon, born 1679, but I have been unable to find any trace of him. He probably died young.

The Sees did not remain long at Harlem. On the 27th of September, 1677, they obtained a grant of one hundred and ninety-four acres of land as follows: "Two lots of land at Staten Island on Kario's Neck, at the fresh water, being in breadth by the meadow ninety rods, being bounded to the southward by the land of John Martiline, to the ——— and northwest by George Connory with twenty acres of salt meadow fronting to the said land, and sixteen acres of fresh meadow upon the Kills in the rear of the Neck, being in all one hundred and ninety-four acres." The Sees remained a few years on Staten Island and then removed to the Manor of Philipsburgh. They settled on the Saw Mill River between the present villages of Unionville and Pleasantville, at a place then called Nanegeekin, (now known as Nanyhagen) and at or near this place some of their descendant have continued to reside to the present time.

When Dirk Storm made up the church book of the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow from the records which had been previously kept by Abraham DeKevere, it was shown that in 1697 the list of members contained names of Isaac See, Senior and Esther his wife, Isaac See, Jr., Peter See and wife and Jacobus See

and wife.

The two last named were the sons of Isaac See, Junior. Peter, the eldest, who was born in Europe about 1673, married Petronella, the daughter of Dirk Storms and Maria Peters his wife. She was baptised in Brooklyn, June 11, 1673. They had two children baptised in the Sleepy Hollow Church, Susanna, 1701, and Isaac, 1703. What became of these or any other children Peter See may have had, I am unable thus far to tell.

Jacobus See, the other son of Isaac See, Jr., was born at Harlow, N. Y., in 1675. From him are descended all of the Westchester County Sees. His wife was Catharine, but her family name is as yet undetermined. Their children as baptised in the Old Dutch Church were as follows: Isaac, 1700, died young; Maria, 1702; Isaac, 1704; Esther, 1706; Jacobus, 1711; David, 1711; Abraham, 1716; Joost, 1718.

I know of no Sees residing in this vicinity other than those descended from the above Isaac, 1704, and Jacobus, 1711.

1. Isaac was born March 20, 1704 and died in 1775. He married October 5, 1731, Eva, daughter of Peter Foshay and Abigail his wife. Besides daughters they had five sons all of whom were Revolutionary soldiers, to wit: Peter, Jacobus (James), Isaac, John, Abraham.

2. Jacobus or James, was born in 1711 and died in 1785. He married Feb. 24, 1733, Catharine, the daughter of Paul Tingleback, a German Palatine. Their sons were James, John, Isaac and Paul. Three of these were Revolutionary soldiers, James, Isaac and Paul.

Isaac See, the especial subject of this sketch, was born at Nauyhaugen, in 1741. He married Feb. 18, 1768, Sarah, daugh-

tor of John Yerks and Susan Foshay his wife. His descendants know very little of his service as a Revolutionary soldier, but have not forgotten that incident in his soldierly career to which notice will be hereafter taken. He was a member of Capt. Regua's Company and at another time of Capt. Martling's Company, Colonel James Hammond's Westchester County Regiment of Militia.

When the party was made up at North Salem on the 22nd of September, 1780, to come down to Tarrytown to watch the roads for parties taking stock below to the British, Isaac See was one of the seven, and when they divided, Paulding, Williams and Van Wart, as is well known, were placed to watch the Turnpike or Post Road, whilst Sergt. John Deau, Abraham Williams, John Yearke and his brother-in-law, Isaac See, were to watch the cart road, which at this point paralleled it a few hundred feet to the east.

As it was daylight when these men began their watch, it was more probable that cattle would be driven down past Tarrytown, over the cart road, than over the Turnpike. The stronger force was therefore placed upon that road.

But fate had been weaving a chain of circumstances of which they were, unconsciously, one of the important links. The story of the Capture of Andre a few hours later, as he rode down the Post Road, need not be repeated here. After that event the seven men re-united and thus continued together until Andre was turned over to Col. Jamison. Whilst it became the especial glory of the three who were assigned to the Turnpike to make the capture, their four less fortunate but as loyal comrades were just as careful in preventing the capture or escape of the prisoner.

After the Revolutionary War was over Isaac See returned to his farm at Nanyhagen, where he died about 1806, and was buried in the Sleepy Hollow graveyard. His children were:

1. Susannah, 1760, married Harmon Yerks.

2. James, (1770-1821,) married Rachel, daughter of James See and Mary Van Tassel his wife. Their children were: Priscilla, Isaiah, James Oakley, John Israel and Elizabeth H. This Isaiah married Annic Banks, and they were the parents of Joseph B. See, Esq., the veteran Supervisor of North Castle, and the grandparents of James Melville See, of Cleveland, Ohio, and George N. See, of Englewood, N. J.

3. John, (1772-1823,) married Susannah, daughter of Abraham See and Sarah Storms his wife. They had a large family, many of whom lived in Tarrytown. Andrew married Julia Van

Wart. Barney married Jane Van Wart, a sister of his brother's wife. Barney had charge of this section of the Croton Aqueduct for many years. His children reside in North Tarrytown.

Stephen, married Rachel, daughter of Albert Miserly. They had nine children: John, the oldest, married Rosanna, daughter of Benjamin Odell, who were the parents of Station Agent, John H. See, of this place. Henry, married Nancy Tompkins and has daughters living in this place.

4. William, (1771-1857,) married Mary, daughter of Abraham Van Tassel and Elizabeth Yerks his wife. Abraham, one of their sons, married Susan Fisher, and had, among others, Frances, who married James C. Light, whose daughter Annie married the late George A. Brandreth, of Sing Sing. Abel, another son, married Matilda, daughter of James Jones and left two sons, Sylvester and Elliott H., of Pleasantville. John W., also a son, married Pebebe Dean and left Gabriel, of Reading, Mich.

5. Catharine, (1777-1862,) married John D. Yerks.

6. Mary, (1778.) married William J. Yerke.

It will thus be seen that this modest farmer of Nauyagen, Isaac See—soldier when needed—left an exceedingly vigorous and numerous line of descendants. Conscientious and, intelligent they are a credit to the various communities amid which they are scattered; examples of good citizenship; most worthy of emulation.

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