Lydia Marie Munson

Clan Joel

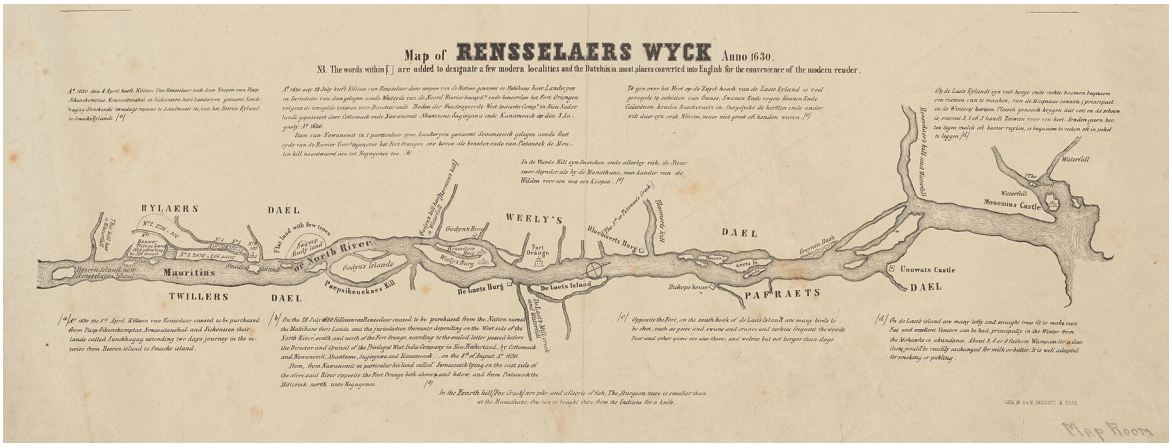
The Dutch Meet the Munsons

by Lori Hahn

We've all heard the tall tale of the Manhattan purchase from the Lenape for "$24" in 1626 by the representative of the Dutch West India Company. The Lenape had a different definition of land ownership than the Dutch, which would later cause problems.

The Dutch India Company established its settlement in 1625 as a hub for its fur trade. They selected a convenient location at the mouth of the Hudson River in order to control this lucrative business and defend its operations with Fort Amsterdam.

The first 30 families arrived in 1624 and settled in New Amsterdam. Many of these settlers were French-speaking Walloons, arrived on Governors Island (Noten Eylandt) under the command of Cornelius Jacobsen May. Several families were sent to Fort Orange (now Albany), a fur trading oupost. Due to settlement conditions, including the poor relatonship with the Mohawks, they moved to New Amsterdam. It wouldn't be until 1630 that Gillis Hoosett purchased in Kiliaen van Rensselaer's name the lands to the south and north of the fort from the natives. Later in 1630 the first permanent Dutch settlers and farmers came to Fort Orange and settled on the outskirts of the fort; their village was first called the Fuyck and later Beverwyck.



How do all these Dutch people connect to Clan Joel? Maria Hendrickse Van Rensselear, the great granddaughter of the aforementioned Kiliaen van Rensselaer, married Samuel Dirkse Ten Broeck of Albany. He was part of another leading family. The van Rensselaers were Patroons of the Manor of van Rensselaers, a system created by the Dutch India Company to encourage emigration that existed through both the Dutch and British systems. They were granted vast lands and a basically feudal society to "Lord it" over. It lasted several generations and made them fabulously wealthy. The Ten Broecks were early leaders of Albany and several served in government positions, including mayor. They, too, were fabulously wealthy.

Their grandson, Adam Jeremiah Ten Broeck (1759-1826) married Lydia Maria Munson (1762-1825), daughter of Augustinus "Austin" Munson and Annetje Oosterhout, another Dutch relative. Austin was born in New Haven and moved to Claverack, New York, between the Catskills and Mount Washington. For the rest of time the Ten Broecks and the Munsons would be connected.

Their grandson, Amasa Junius Ten Broeck (1825-1852) married Josephine Howard (1827-1899) and their daughter Mary Josephine (1851-1946), brings us to our story. There will be a quiz at the end of this tale.

In 1877, Mary J. married Abram O. Whipple (1844-1906). They had four children; two boys and two girls. Abram owned several banks in North Dakota.

Ten Broeck "TB" Whipple (1879-1954):
Born in Minnesota, he owned inherited property in Kingston, New York, got his degree from Williams College and Harvard Law, and lived in Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, and California. He was founder of First National and First Commercial Banks of Turlock and later a Bank of America executive and real estate investor in San Rafael, California. He separated from his wife with the intent to divorce just prior to his death in Majorca, Spain, while on vacation. His only child, Barbara, married British Major John Oldfield. They had met when she worked for the State

Department and he was assigned to post-war work in Germany.

Youngest daughter **Josephine Alida** (1885-1978) married Jere Linden Baxter, Jr., who was career Army from 1903 until his retirement in 1944. The couple traveled to bases all over during their marriage and had one child.

Howard Gregory (1881-1959) was close to brother TB. He also attended Williams College. His career paralleled TB's. He was involved in real estate in Portland, Oregon, then went into banking, serving as president to the First National in Turlock, and ultimately becoming vice president of Bank of America when the Turlock bank was purchased until his retirement in 1946. He then went into investment banking. But, most interestingly, he became an expert in the art of intarsia (wood inlay) and showed his works across the country. He and his wife Eugenie Fisk had three children, one of whom was a renowned cardiologist, Dr. Gerald Howard Whipple.

Esther Olin Whipple (1885-1977) married Frank William Jones in 1906. He died in an auto accident in 1936, leaving two sons and a daughter. Esther did not marry again, but did make sure her children received the best education and opportunities.

Her second son, **Frank William Jones, Jr. (1912-1992)**, was schooled at Harvard and received his M.D. at Northwestern. He practiced for over 30 years at St. Luke's Presbyterian Hospital before retiring to Carmel, California.

The oldest son, **Whipple Van Ness Jones, Sr. (1909-2001)** married one of the heirs to the Beggs fortune (see box next column), **Mary Sue McCulloch "Suzie"** (1913-1996). Whipple's sister, **Elizabeth Ten Broeck Jones "Trinka"** (1915-1998) married Suzie's brother, **John Irvin Beggs McCulloch (1908-1983)**.

Jones-McCulloch Marriage



Trinka & John McCulloch 1934

Trinka's marriage to John lasted 12 years. They divorced in 1946. The new made the front page of the paper. Thei four children were left in her custody. They also became some of the heirs to the Beggs fortune. He jetted off to Havana an she with the children to Florida with the children to wait for the divorce to finalize.



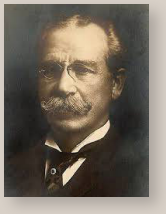
Col J T Whitaker 1942

In 1946, she remarried Colonel John Thompson Whitaker at the home of Howard Ickes, former Secretary of the Interior. He was a war hero, famous foreign correspondent, and writer. He had joined the Office of Strategic Service (the forerunner of the CIA) in 1942. Sadly, he died five months later from an illness he contracted while in China. He was 40. Tinka was with him when he died at Walter Reed Medical Center in Sep 1946.

Charles Henry Owsley (1910-1997) was the son and grandson of noted architects Charles Frederick Owsley and Charles Henry Owsley who did most of their work in Ohio. Tinka and Charles married in 1948 and it didn't end until Charles' death in 1997. Owsley was with the State Department during tense diplomatic times and worked for several years in post-war Germany. They retired to Thomasville, Georgia.

All four of her children were from her first marriage, making those children heirs as well.

John Irvin Beggs (1847-1925)



John was a close associate of Thomas Edison through his work with the early electric companies. He assisted in the creation of the Harrisburg, PA electric plant, later running the plant, which was the first successful venture of its kind.

J.P. Morgan called him to NYC to run the Edision Illuminating Co. After five years there, he ended up going to Chicago to take over the Western Edison Co. until it merged with Thomas-Houston Electric Co. to form what is now General Electric. He was on the board of GE. He started a score of electric companies across the country He ended up settling in Milwaukee. After establishing electric in St. Louis, he moved there and purchased the St. Louis Car Company (a trolley car company).

His interests were many mills, oil ventures, banks, electric companies, plow works, and more. He was also an Edison Pioneer. He would die in Milwaukee at age 78. His entire $20 million estate (worth over $517 million today) was given to his three grandchildren, two of whom married our Munson cousins.

Jones-McCulloch Marriage

Mary Sue McCulloch went by "Suzie." She met Whipple and they decided to marry before he finished Harvard. He took her back to Harvard and lived in Cambridge until he graduated. During the war and while stationed on the West Coast, Suzie filed for divorce from Lt Col Jones after a several-month separation. He was an investment banker when a civilian. Suzie also fled to Florida for the winter with her children. She ended up relocating primarily to Miami Beach and was active on the social scene, filling the society pages with her party and country club attendance.

Her next husband was James Lowell Oakes, Jr. whom she married in 1947 in St. Louis. He was a lawyer and investment broker in Philadelphia and Miami Beach. The couple had a summer home in New Jersey. Oakes died during an operation in 1958 in Miami Beach.

She waited some time before marrying again, this time to Bruce Lister Knight in 1961. He was an insurance

executive for the Insurance Co. of North America. Bruce died of cancer in 1968.

Her final walk down the aisle was to Carvel Linden, a retired bank owner from Portland, Oregon. He died in 1981.

Trinka's 1996 obituary outlined her very generous philanthropic spirit having given millions to causes in St. Louis and Miami/Palm Beach. Her four children were also from her first marriage and were Beggs heirs.

Robert Paxton McCulloch, the 3rd Beggs heir, was the guy who bought the 1831 "new" London Bridge and had it dismantled and moved to Arizona. He married a Briggs-Stratton heiress and invented many things and started many businesses, including McCulloch Saws.