



OCTOBER 5, 2004

**THE
VAN SCHAICK
FAMILY CEMETERY
1811-1868**

**SHARON HILL, TOWN OF
SHARON, SCHOHARIE COUNTY,
NEW YORK**



OCTOBER 14, 2004

THE VAN SCHAICK CEMETERY

(by Vicki Van Schaick Weinman)

1. Discovery

For years our family had been searching unsuccessfully for the grave of Koert Van Schaick. Koert is very important to our family. Koert was born on June 25, 1757 in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Koert was a Revolutionary War soldier and Patriot in Monmouth County. After the Revolutionary War, he was the first Van Schaick to emigrate to Sharon, Schoharie County where he founded the Schoharie County branch of our family, purchasing a farm in 1796 and marrying Margaret Wilson in 1800. Koert died in Sharon at 68 years old on May 5, 1826.

In researching our family history, information that I had from two sources indicated that Koert was buried on the Family Farm. Our family (descendents of Leffert Van Schaick) had searched what we had always referred to as the Family Farm on Engleville Road in Sharon which had been in the Van Schaick family for several generations until the death of my great-grandfather, Leon Van Schaick, in 1956.

After a submission to "The Van Schaick Kinsfolk Quarterly" I was contacted by Harriett Collins Geywits. Koert and his wife, Margaret Wilson, had nine children, including Leffert. Harriett and I are both descendants of Leffert Van Schaick. Leffert had ten children, including Alonzo and Jay W. Jay W. is Harriett's great-grandfather, while I am descended from Leffert's son, Alonzo. Harriett and I had grown up in Sharon, and while many of our families were acquainted, Harriett and I had never met.

Happily, Harriett had been doing research on the history of the Van Schaicks, especially the Sharon branch of the family. At the Old Stone Fort in Schoharie, Harriett had found a visual survey of Schoharie County Cemeteries. In this survey, she had discovered a Van Schaick cemetery listed which contained 5 graves. She sent me the entry, which follows:

Town of Sharon – Sharon Hill

South off Slate Hill Road

Down long farm lane, back of bee hives, locust grove – one very large locust

- 1. Koert Van Schaick, died Nov. 30, 1863, aged 33 yrs, 11m, 13ds. My Husband**
- 2. Margaret Van Schaick, died Sept. 9, 1839, aged 36 yrs, 5m, 25 days**
- 3. Koert Van Schaick, died May 5, 1826, aged 68 yrs, 10m, 9ds**
- 4. Sarah, daughter of J. W. and E. Van Schaick, died April 5, 1868, 21yrs, 11m, 18d**
- 5. Jonathan Hutton, died April 3, 1864, aged 34 yrs, 4 m, and 2ds**

Harriett had also discovered an 1866 map of the Sharon Hill area that showed houses and who owned them. On this map she found a house owned by J.W. (Joseph Wilson) Van Schaick, Koert's son. This house was **down a long farm lane on the south side of Slate Hill Road!!!** That's right! We had been looking on the wrong family farm! This map also shows the farm owned by Leffert G. Van Schaick on Engleville Road in Engleville, Town of Sharon – what my immediate family had always referred to as the Family Farm.

On Sunday afternoon, July 18, 2004, LeRoy Van Schaick, his daughter, Vicki Weinman (me!), and her husband Paul Weinman met Harriett Collins Geywits at the corner of Route 20 and Slate Hill Road to do some hunting - grave hunting, to be specific!

The four of us went to the farmhouse on the farm where it looked like Joseph Wilson Van Schaick's farm had been and asked the current owner about it. The original barn and house that were down the long farm lane are no longer there. The farm house is now on the north side of Slate Hill Road. One of the current owners said that she had been told that there were old graves on the property, but that she didn't know where they were and had never seen them. We told her what we knew about the cemetery's location. She said that there were beehives, gave us directions to them, and graciously gave us permission to search on their property. It is a very large farm, and there were groves of locust trees all around. I was not feeling confident of success as we drove down the farm lane and saw how large the farm was and how many places seemed to match the description. We drove over half a mile, parked by a cornfield, walked past the beehives, through brush and brambles and into a wooded area. We saw a locust grove which contained a very large locust and, headed toward it. **There at the base of the large locust was one gravestone standing!!** We couldn't believe it. We all had goose bumps! - Thank you, Harriett!!!

This farm on Slate Hill Road in Sharon Hill, Town of Sharon, was purchased by Koert Van Schaick in 1796. He married Margaret Wilson in 1800 and they raised their family on this farm. After his death, his son Joseph Wilson Van Schaick took over the operation of this farm. It was subsequently operated by Joseph's daughter, Catherine. The Van Schaick Family Cemetery on this farm is the resting place of some of the members of three generations of Van Schaicks: Koert, some of his children, and some of his grandchildren.



We parked by the cornfield, going past the old trailer on the right and the beehives on the left just before reaching the woods. (7/18/2004)



Vicki and Harriet leaving the clearing and entering the woods through the undergrowth! (7/18/2004)



Our first sight of the cemetery. (7/18/2004)

Note the one standing gravestone just to the left of the large locust tree. Four other headstones were lying down, partially covered by dirt and leaves.

2. What we found

The visual survey from the Old Stone Fort listed five people buried in this cemetery. Only one of the gravestones was standing, three were lying on the ground, face up, partially covered with dirt, leaves, and debris but remarkably undamaged where the inscriptions were carved. They were very legible once the debris and plant growth was removed. A fifth was broken in 3 pieces that were lying on top of each other. The entire inscription was on one piece which was lying face down and covered with moss.

The gravestone of Koert Van Schaick (grandson of the original Koert Van Schaick who fought in the Revolutionary War in NJ and then moved to NY) who died in 1863 was the one that was still standing, although leaning backwards. We then found the partially covered headstones of Margaret Van Schaick, Jonathan Hutton, and Sarah Van Schaick, which were lying on the ground. Finally we turned our attention to the gravestone that was broken in three pieces and partially buried in the dirt. It was next to a very large branch or tree that had fallen, probably breaking the headstone when it fell. The piece with the inscription on it was facing down, covered with moss, and difficult to read. After gently pushing off the moss, we discovered what we were searching for: The grave of Koert Van Schaick! The inscription read, "Koert Van Schaick, died May 5, 1826, aged 68 years, 10 mos. 9 days."

While we were there, we saw what we thought was the outline of another gravestone under the ground immediately to the left of Koert's grave. We weren't very well prepared, and ended up using a jawbone of a cow that we found as a tool to dig!! We unearthed the gravestone of Koert's son, also named Koert, who died at age 3. Of the 6 people we found buried in this small family graveyard on Sunday, July 18, THREE were named Koert Van Schaick: the original Koert who moved from New Jersey (hereafter referred to as Koert Sr. or just Koert), his son Koert who died at age 3 (hereafter referred to as Koert Jr. or Baby Koert), and his grandson Koert (hereafter referred to as Grandson Koert)!

We were puzzled by the small stones that we found. They were about eight inches wide and sticking up about ten inches from the ground. Some of them had initials on them and some were blank. At first, we thought that they might be small headstones. However, after further investigation, we discerned that they were actually footstones, located 6 feet from the headstone. Some had the initials of the person indicated on the headstone, while some were blank. We also noticed that there were two rows of headstones. In the back row was Margaret Van Schaick (died 1839), Koert Jr. (died 1811), and Koert Van Schaick (died 1826). In the front row was Jonathan Hutton (died 1864), Koert Van Schaick, the grandson (died 1863), and Sarah Van Schaick (died 1868). Those in the back row were older than those in the front row. The style of headstones in the two different rows is very distinctively different.



LeRoy D. Van Schaick, Harriett Collins Geywits, and Vicki Van Schaick Weinman standing behind the piece of Koert's headstone (7/18/04) which reads:

"Koert Van Schaick
died
May 5, 1826
Aged 68 years
10 mos. 9 days"

Note the large branch or tree which the headstone is leaning against. This was just to the left of the headstone and is probably why it was broken.



Paul and LeRoy with the cow jaw that we used as a digging tool on our first trip to the cemetery on July 18, 2004!

3. Restoration

The owners of the farm graciously gave us permission to return in the future to work on the cemetery. We have several specific goals that we hope to achieve in the cemetery.

1. Clean up the fallen branches and saplings, rake and clean the area, etc. Perhaps plant ferns, define the border of the cemetery and other aesthetic considerations.
2. Explore to see if any other headstones are buried under the ground.
3. Clean the headstones.
4. Set up the fallen headstones.
5. Make a record of the cemetery including rubbings of the headstones, before and after pictures, make a map of the cemetery.
6. Find information on the people buried there.
7. Document what we find and what we do. Share it with those interested.

LeRoy, Vicki and Paul returned on Tuesday, **July 20, 2004** to begin. We had a great day!

We carefully dug out and lifted the headstones of Margaret Van Schaick, Koert Van Schaick (Koert's infant son), Jonathan Hutton, and Sarah Van Schaick. We gently cleaned these four and Koert Sr.'s headstone with water and a soft nylon brush and a tooth brush. Happily, they are all marble which is more durable than limestone. They are all still legible and the water cleaned them very well. There are very few natural stones in this area. We discovered four large cobble stones on the left side of Margaret's grave. This seems to be the edge of the cemetery and was possibly a stone wall.

We moved fallen branches out of the cemetery, pulled out saplings and weeds, raked and cleaned the area. As LeRoy was raking at the far right edge of the cemetery about eight feet to the right of Koert Sr.'s headstone, he discovered a square corner of stone sticking up about two inches out of the ground. We first had to move a tall sapling about 1½" around which was growing in the dirt on the headstone. We carefully excavated it, and discovered the headstone of James A. Van Schaick who died in 1844. As we cleared the debris and discovered headstones and footstones, the layout of the cemetery started to emerge. With the discovery of James' headstone, we then found his footstone.

As we looked at the layout, it then became obvious that there was too much space between Koert Sr., and James. We carefully poked and dug, and found what seemed to be another headstone about 4 inches under the ground. We carefully dug it out, and found part of a headstone. The name was on a piece that had been broken off. The inscription on the part we found read "Died Sept. 5, 1846, AE 75 yr. 7 mo. 25 da." This is the date and the age of Koert's wife, Margaret Wilson. This and the fact that she is buried next to him, makes it obvious that this is her. We will continue to search for the top of her headstone. The big branch or tree that had originally been lying on the ground immediately to the right of Koert's headstone was over where we found this headstone. When it fell it probably broke both Koert's and Margaret's headstones. So we had discovered an eighth headstone in the cemetery, that of Margaret Wilson Van Schaick, Koert Sr.'s wife.

We then looked at the front row. It then appeared that there was too much space between the headstone of Koert (the grandson) and Sarah Van Schaick. After carefully

digging, we discovered what seemed to be another headstone buried about 4 inches under the ground. After careful excavation, we lifted out the headstone of Slingerland Van Schaick. There were now nine people that we knew of buried in the cemetery.

After cleaning off the faces of the headstones we had discovered, we took pictures, did some rubbings, and recorded what was inscribed on all of the headstones.

In the back row were the older headstones. From left to right: Margaret Van Schaick, Koert Van Schaick (the infant son who died when he was three years old), Koert Van Schaick, Margaret Wilson Van Schaick, and James A. Van Schaick. These headstones are all older, square at the top, and in the same type of script. All of them, except Koert Sr.'s which is broken, have about two feet between the bottom of the stone and the writing. These will be quite simple to set back up by digging a hole, setting them up, and filling the hole back in. We set up Margaret Van Schaick's headstone in this way on July 20, 2004.

In the front row are all headstones from the 1860s, not as old as those in the back row. The headstones in the front row are those of (left to right) Jonathan Hutton, Koert Van Schaick (grandson of Koert), Slingerland Van Schaick, and Sarah Van Schaick. All of these headstones are the same style, rounded at the top, block lettering, and thicker. In the process of digging Jonathan and Slingerland's out, and looking at Koert's we discovered that all of the headstones in this row have very large bases with slots in them. The headstones fit into these slots to stand up. The bases have been pushed by tree roots and settled with the passage of a hundred and fifty years, but are all still there and unbroken. The four headstones in the front row are also unbroken. We were able to uncover the base and clean out the slot of Jonathan Hutton's and stand it up. Of those in the front row, we found footstones for Jonathan and Koert.

I had gotten a 5" x 7" plaque inscribed to read:

KOERT VAN SCHAICK

Born June 25, 1757 – Died May 5, 1826

Revolutionary War Veteran and Patriot

Barnes Smock's Artillery Company, of the Middle Brigade in Monmouth Co., NJ

First Van Schaick to emigrate to Schoharie Co.

We laminated it and attached it to a stone. We placed this stone next to Koert's grave. We also placed an American Flag on his grave to honor his service to his country as a Revolutionary War Soldier.

We are planning to go back. On our next trip we hope to learn if there are any more graves in this cemetery, take more pictures and rubbings, finish setting up the headstones, find the missing piece of Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's headstone, and make a detailed map of the cemetery.

Due to a very rainy and busy summer, LeRoy Van Schaick and Vicki and Paul Weinman went back for a second full day of work on **October 5, 2004.**

I (Vicki) had made a sign of cement, "VAN SCHAICK FAMILY CEMETERY", which we put up on the tree in the back of the cemetery.

We set up Slingerland, Sarah's, and Koert Jr's headstones.

Also during this trip we discovered and set Slingerland's footstone. We looked for, but did not find, footstones for Koert Jr. or for Sarah.

We found the top of Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's headstone with her name on it! This was such an exciting discovery. We also found a piece from the very bottom of

Margaret's headstone. We discovered Margaret's footstone. Most of it was disintegrating and was of the consistency of hard brown sugar. However, two of the pieces can be cleaned and put together and will be big enough to set in for her footstone.

We had brought a flag to put on James' grave, as we have found out that he is a Veteran. Also we found the bottom two pieces of James' headstone.

During this trip we also discovered the three pieces of Koert Sr.'s headstone below the piece with the writing on it. (Koert's headstone was in four pieces.)

While we were cleaning off the pieces of headstones we found and fitting them together, we found that four of the stones we had discovered laying on the ground and buried behind the second row at the back of the cemetery were not marble and did not fit onto any of the headstones. We realized that these four stones were shale. They were the headstones of enslaved people.

Also during this trip, we made a grid and mapped the cemetery.

Our next trip to the cemetery was **October 11, 2004**. During this trip we brought three large pieces of plywood. We cleaned the pieces of Koert Van Schaick (4 pieces), Margaret Wilson Van Schaick (3 pieces), and James A. Van Schaick (3 pieces) headstones. We fit them together on the plywood and put them together with concrete and masonry silicone. We cleaned off the four headstones of the enslaved people with water and a brush. We cleaned and put together Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's footstone. We worked on clearing out the path through the woods from the beehives to the cemetery. We searched for any other headstones and footstones, but did not discover any more. We also set up a tentative outline for the fence to go around the cemetery. We hope to put the fence up in the spring of 2005.

On **October 14, 2004**, we again spent the day at the cemetery. We stood up James A. Van Schaick's, Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's, and Koert Van Schaick's mended headstones. We used a loose piece from the bottom of Margaret's headstone for Sarah's footstone. We also used an extra piece from Margaret's footstone for Baby Koert's footstone. We set up the headstones of the four enslaved people. We cleared more brush. We leveled ground, and planted tulips, daffodils, and crocus bulbs.

4. The Van Schaick cemetery and who is buried here

MAP:

At the back of the cemetery are the headstones of four enslaved people. These headstones have no inscriptions.

Margaret Van Schaick Died 1839	Koert Van Schaick (son) Died 1811	Koert Van Schaick Died 1826	Margaret W. Van Schaick Died 1846	James A. Van Schaick Died 1844
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Jonathan Hutton Died 1864	Koert Van Schaick Died 1863	Large Locust tree	Slingerland Van Schaick Died 1864	Sarah Van Schaick Died 1868
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Headstone inscriptions:

Back row:

1. **"Margaret Van Schaick, died Sept. 9, 1839, Aged 36 years, 5 mo., 25 days."** (Daughter of Koert and Margaret Wilson Van Schaick. Born March 14, 1893. Listed on original visual survey of Schoharie Co. Cemeteries.)
2. **"Koert, son of Koert and Margaret Van Schaick, died Oct. 2, 1811, aged 3 years, 6 mos., 9 days."** (Son of Koert and Margaret Wilson Van Schaick. Born March 23, 1808. This headstone was underground and was discovered on July 18, 2004)
3. **"Koert Van Schaick, died May 5, 1826, aged 68 years, 10 mos., 9 days."** (Born June 25, 1757. Revolutionary War Veteran and Patriot. The first Van Schaick to emigrate to Schoharie County. Listed on the original visual survey of Schoharie Co. Cemeteries.)
4. **Margaret Van Schaick, wife of Koert Van Schaick, died Sept. 5, 1846, AE 75 yrs, 7 mo., 25 days."** (Born January 10, 1771. Her headstone was underground and was discovered on July 20, 2004.)
5. **"James A. Van Schaick, died Dec. 4, 1844, aged 30 years and 20 days."** (Son of Koert and Margaret Wilson Van Schaick. Born November 14, 1814. His headstone was underground and discovered on July 20, 2004. He was a veteran, an officer in the artillery company of the State Militia.)

Front row:

6. **"Jonathan Hutton, died April 3, 1864, aged 34 years, 4 mos, and 2 days. So Jesus Slept."** (Son-in-law of Joseph W. Van Schaick. Joseph

was one of Koert's and Margaret's children. Jonathan was husband of Elizabeth Van Schaick, daughter of Joseph Wilson and Elizabeth Slingerland Van Schaick. Born December 1, 1829. Listed on the original visual survey of Schoharie County Cemeteries.)

7. **"Koert Van Schaick, died November 30, 1863, aged 33 years, 11 mos, 13 days. My Husband."** (Son of Joseph W. and Elizabeth, grandson of Koert and Margaret. Born December 17, 1829. Listed on the original visual survey of Schoharie County Cemeteries. This was the only headstone standing when we arrived at the cemetery on July 18, 2004.)
8. **"Slingerland Van Schaick, died November 27, 1864. aged 21 years, 8 mos., and 13 days. "Be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh."** (Son of Joseph W. and Elizabeth, grandson of Koert and Margaret. Born March 14, 1843. His headstone was underground and discovered on July 20, 2004.)
9. **"Sarah, daughter of J.W. and E. Van Schaick, died April 5, 1868, aged 21 years, 11 mos., and 18 days. Thou art gone to the grave but we will not deplore thee whose God was thy ransom, thy Guardian and Guide. He gave thee, He took thee, and He will restore thee and death has no sting for the Saviour has died."** (Daughter of Joseph Wilson and Elizabeth, granddaughter of Koert and Margaret. Born April 23, 1846. Listed on the original visual survey of Schoharie County Cemeteries.)

Jonathan, Koert (grandson), and Slingerland (in the front row) all died quite young during 1863 – 1864, the years of the Civil War. We are trying to find out if any of them are Civil War Veterans and if any of them died in the war. There were also widespread typhus and cholera outbreaks during this time as well.

Van Schaack Family Cemetery

Proposed Fence




Fence

TREE

TREE

Large Tree

TREE

-  = Headstone
-  = Footstone
-  = slave Headstone

Margaret
V.S.
1839

Kear
V.S.
1811

Kodt V.S.
1826

Margaret
Wilson
V.S.
1846

James
A V.S.
1844

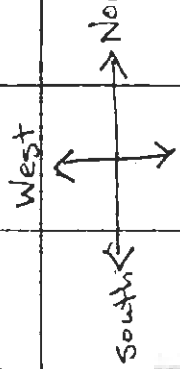
Jonathan
Hutton
H | 1864

Kert
V.S.
1863

Sling
V.S.
land V.S.
11 | 1864

Sarah
V.S.
1868

Large
Cobble
Rocks

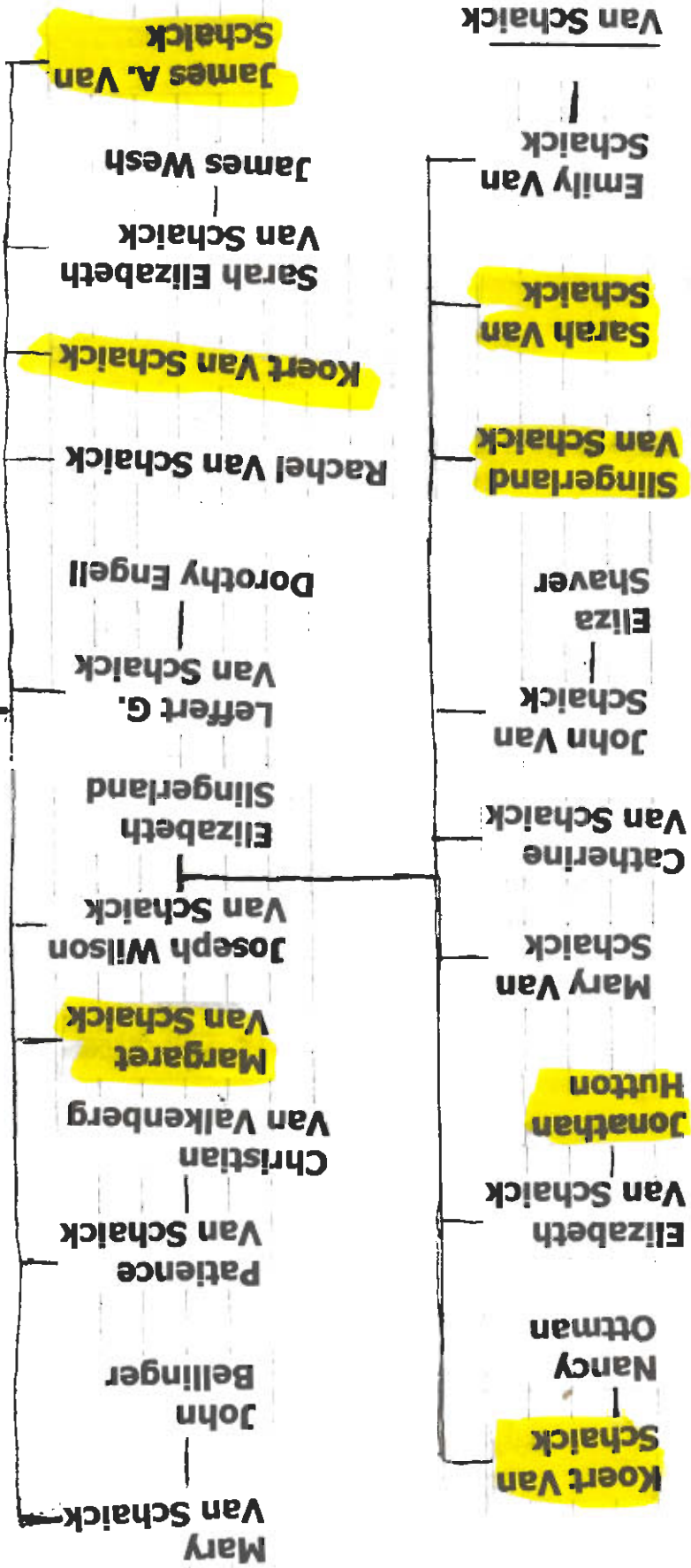



Proposed Fence

Fence

Family Tree

Koert Van Schaick — Margaret Wilson



 = Buried in Van Schaick Cemetery

BACK ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: The five headstones in the back row are older. They have, square tops, are written in script, and are kept upright by standing in the ground. They are Koert VS, his wife Margaret Wilson Van Schaick, and three of their children.

VIII-3. Margaret Van Schaick

Margaret's headstone is inscribed with script and reads:

Margaret
Van Schaick
Died Sept. 9, 1839
Aged 36 years
5 mo 25 days

Margaret Van Schaick, named for her mother, is the third child of Koert Van Schaick and Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's nine children. Margaret Van Schaick was born March 14, 1803. She married and had children.



Margaret's grave as we first found it partially covered with leaves, soil, and debris. (7/18/2004)



Margaret's headstone cleaned and standing up. (7/20/2004)

On July 20, 2004, we cleaned off Margaret's headstone, lifted it out of the ground, and set it up.

VIII-6. Koert Van Schaick
(Koert's son)

Koert Van Schaick, named for his father, was the sixth of Koert and Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's nine children, born March 23, 1808. He died when he was just three years old on October 2, 1811. This headstone was covered with dirt and not visible when we first arrived at the cemetery on 7/18/2004. His is the oldest headstone in the cemetery. His headstone is inscribed with script and reads:

Koert
son of
Koert & Margaret
Van Schaick
died
Oct. 2, 1811
aged 3 years
6 mos 9 days



Harriet watching as Vicki does a rubbing of baby Koert's headstone just after we exposed it by moving a thin layer of soil on 7/18/04. We are trying to decipher it. The headstone of Koert Van Schaick (Koert's grandson) is visible lower left.



Koert's headstone after we exposed it by brushing off a thin layer of soil and debris. (7/18/2004)



Koert's headstone after we picked it up and cleaned it off. (7/20/2004)

When we first arrived at the cemetery on July 18, Baby Koert's headstone was not visible, but was covered by a thin layer of dirt and debris. We noticed the outline of the headstone, and exposed it on July 18. On July 20, 2004, we cleaned off Koert's headstone, and lifted it up. On October 5, 2004, we set it up. We looked for, but did not find, a footstone for him. However, when we found Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's footstone, it was disintegrating. There was an extra piece that didn't fit back on, and we used the extra piece of his mother's footstone for a footstone for Koert.

KOERT VAN SCHAICK

Koert was born on June 25, 1757. He was baptized on June 26, 1757 in the Old Brick Church, Freehold, Monmouth County, New Jersey. Koert was named after his maternal grandfather, Koert Schenck. This is how the name Koert was introduced to the Van Schaick family. He was the first Koert Van Schaick, but in the next few generations this was a very popular name. Koert was the second child of William Van Schaick and Patience Schenck. He had a brother, John, who was a year older. When Koert was about five years old, his parents bought the South Hop Brook Farm in Freehold, New Jersey. Koert and his brothers and sisters grew up on this farm, surrounded by his aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. Koert's father was a very successful and prosperous farmer.

When Koert was five years old, his brother Gerrit was born. When he was seven, his sister, Anna, was born. When he was eight, his three-year-old brother, Gerrit, died. His sister, Mary, was born when Koert was nine. His sisters Jane and Rebecca were born when Koert was 12 and 15 years old respectively.

During the Revolutionary War, Koert's family was ardent Patriots. Koert, his father William, and his uncles John and Robert were signers of the Monmouth Articles of Association. This was a group of Patriots that banded together for mutual protection. The Patriots of the area around Monmouth and Middlesex Counties, New Jersey, were known as Hornets, and the general vicinity was called the Hornet's Nest.

In 1776, Koert was 19 years old. Koert's brother, John, was about 20. Since there is no mention of John in Monmouth County during the Revolutionary War, he had probably already moved to Rossville, Staten Island, where he kept an inn. In 1776, Koert's sister Anna was 12, Mary was 10, Jane was 7, and Rebecca was 4. Koert was a Revolutionary soldier. His Revolutionary musket bore the date of 1776. Koert was a member of Barnes Smock's artillery company, which was part of the Middle Brigade. This company participated in many battles, including those at Trenton, Princetown, Germantown, and the Battle of Monmouth.

The Battle of Monmouth was an important battle in the Revolutionary War. It began on Sunday, June 28, 1778. It was one of the hottest days of the year, with temperatures well above ninety degrees. Early in the day the roar of cannons on both sides announced that the Battle of Monmouth had begun. General Washington had ordered that the Left Wing of the Army was to be under the command of Major General Lord Stirling. This included Colonel Goosen Van Schaick and the First New York. The British forces were under the command of General Charles Lee. The Battle of Monmouth lasted several days. It was fought partially on the farm of Robert Rhea, Koert's great-grandfather. This farm was near Freehold, NJ on Hightstown Road. Koert's father William's first cousin, Lieutenant Colonel David Rhea, played a significant role in the Battle of

Monmouth. Their distant relative, Goosen Van Schaick, also fought in this battle, which the Patriots won.

Koert's thirteen-year-old sister, Anna, had died in 1777, when Koert was 20.

After the Revolutionary War, there was a large emigration of people from Monmouth County, New Jersey to Montgomery and Schoharie Counties in New York State. The early graveyards at Charlestown and elsewhere in Montgomery County show many familiar Monmouth County names. Koert was the first of the immediate family to emigrate. When Koert was about 33, he moved to Charlestown, near Glen, Montgomery County, NY. In 1790, his parents sold their South Hop Brook Farm in Freehold, New Jersey, and moved to Charlestown, Montgomery County, New York. At this time Koert's sister Rebecca was 18, Jane was 21 and Mary was 24. Rebecca and her husband's family, the Van Dykes, moved with them. Koert's brother, John and his family, who had moved from Staten Island, later joined them. It is said that members of the Wilson family, the Vanderveer family, and the Van Dyke family were among those who joined with William Van Schaick and his sons Koert and John in this emigration. The Vanderveers had owned the farm next to William and Patience's South Hop Brook Farm. Koert's first cousins, David and Robert Van Schaick (sons of David, who was the brother of Koert's father, William) also moved with them. It is thought that they all had become interested in moving by Reverend William Schenck, (brother of Koert's mother Patience Schenck Van Schaick) who had a parish at Ballston Spa and occasionally preached at Cherry Valley, New York.

The next year, when Koert was about 34, his mother Patience died in Charlestown, NY.

On July 2, 1796, Koert bought the 270 acre Battis Tillipaugh farm on Slate Hill Road in Sharon Hill, Town of Sharon, Schoharie County, NY. This farm was taken over by Koert's son, Joseph Wilson Van Schaick and remained in the Van Schaick family for several generations. After Joseph's death, his daughter, Catherine, ran the farm. Among those who had moved from Monmouth County, NJ, to Montgomery County, NY, and then to Sharon in Schoharie County along with Koert Van Schaick were his first cousins, Robert and David. Their families lived in Sharon and are often referred to in the records and account books that belonged to Koert. The Wilson family also moved to Sharon.

On May 19, 1800, Koert Van Schaick married Margaret Wilson in Sharon, Schoharie County, NY, when Koert was 43 years old and Margaret was 29. (Some sources list their marriage date as March 19, 1800.) Koert was 14 years older than Margaret. Margaret was born on January 10, 1771, in Monmouth County, NJ, and her family was among those who joined the emigration from New Jersey to New York State after the Revolutionary War. Margaret Wilson was of English and Scotch descent.

Koert and Margaret had 9 children in 14 years, eight of whom survived to adulthood. The children were born when Koert was 43-57 and Margaret was 29-43 years old. They had five girls and four boys. One of the boys, Koert, died

when he was three years old. Another son, James A., died before marrying or having children. If the dates we have are correct, Koert and Margaret were married on March or May 19, 1800, and their first child was born on August 4, 1800. This would mean that Margaret was four or six months pregnant with their first child when they were married. Their children were all born and grew up on the farm in Sharon Hill and are as follows.

1. Mary, named for Koert's sister, was born August 4, 1800. She married John Bellinger, had children, and died on November 18, 1863 at 63 years old.
2. Patience, named for Koert's mother, was born November 19, 1801. She married Christian Van Valkenberg. She had a family and died on May 23, 1846 at 42 years old.
3. Margaret, named for her mother, was born March 14, 1803. Margaret married and had children. She lived to be 36 years old. Margaret died on September 9, 1839 and is buried in a small family cemetery south of Slate Hill Road in Sharon Hill, NY on the farm owned by her parents.
4. Joseph Wilson, probably named for his maternal grandfather, was born June 8, 1804. He married Elizabeth Slingerland. Joseph owned the farm on the south side of Slate Hill Road in Sharon Hill, NY, where the family cemetery is located. He died April 23, 1880 at 75 years old in Sharon, NY. Three of his children: Koert, Slingerland, and Sarah, were buried on his farm in a small family cemetery south of Slate Hill Road in Sharon Hill, NY. Also in this cemetery is buried his son-in-law, Jonathan Hutton, husband of his daughter, Elizabeth. Joseph and his wife, Elizabeth Slingerland V.S., are buried in the Slate Hill Cemetery.
5. Leffert G. was born March 24, 1806. Before leaving New Jersey, Koert Van Schaick borrowed money from Leffert Lefferts, of Freehold. He made several trips back from New York State to pay interest and part of the principle. The trip after Koert's first son was born, Lefferts asked Koert the name of the boy, and when he said it was Joseph W., Lefferts seemed displeased. The next trip after the birth of his second son, who was named Leffert G., Lefferts was much pleased. This explains how the name Leffert got into the Van Schaick family. Leffert married Dorothy Engell, from Engleville, Town of Sharon. He moved there and purchased what is known as the Family Farm, which was in the Van Schaick family until the death of his grandson, Leon Van Schaick in 1956. Leffert died April 26, 1891 at 85 years old in Sharon. Leffert and his wife, Dorothy, are buried in the Sharon Cemetery, in Leesville, Town of Sharon, NY.
6. Koert, named for his father, was born March 23, 1808. He died at three years old on October 2, 1811. Koert is buried in a grave next to his father in a small family cemetery south of Slate Hill Road in Sharon Hill, NY on his parents' farm.
7. Rachel was born March 30, 1810. Rachel married and had children.

8. Sarah Elizabeth was born June 5, 1812. She married James Welsh and had a family. She lived to be 82 years old.
9. James A. was born November 14, 1814 and died December 4, 1844. He lived to be 30 years old. He is buried in the small family cemetery south of Slate Hill Road in Sharon Hill, NY on his parents' farm. James served as an officer in an artillery company of the State Militia.

(All of these birthdates are also listed in Alonzo Van Schaick's Family Bible.)

Like his father, William, Koert was a successful and prosperous farmer. His account books show a great variety of entries. He was a man of great energy doing many commissions for his friends and neighbors as well as running his own farm. According to family tradition, Koert was a man of pioneering disposition with many interests and great ability. Koert was described in his later years as a stocky man weighing over 200 pounds and of unusual strength.

Koert died May 5, 1826, in Sharon, NY. He was over 68 years old when he died. When Koert died, his children were 12 to 26 years old. He lived surrounded by his family, his extended family, and his neighbors from Monmouth County, NJ. His children had not yet married when he died. Only two of his sons, Joseph and Leffert, would marry and have children. Koert is buried in a small family cemetery south of Slate Hill Road, Sharon Hill, in the Town of Sharon, Schoharie County, NY, with his wife Margaret and their children Margaret, Koert, and James A. on the farm owned by Koert and Margaret's son, Joseph Wilson. (Also buried in this cemetery are three of their grandchildren, Sarah, Koert, and Slingerland, and Jonathan Hutton, the husband of their granddaughter Elizabeth. These are the children and son-in-law of Koert's son, Joseph W.) Koert's wife, Margaret, lived for 20 more years after his death. She died when she was 75 years old, on September 5, 1846. Her children Koert, Margaret, James, and Patience predeceased her. However, she lived to see at least two of her children, Joseph and Leffert, marry and to know many of her grandchildren.

Koert was the first Van Schaick to emigrate to Sharon, Schoharie County, NY, where his descendants still lived in 2004. He purchased his farm there in 1796.

When we first arrived at the cemetery, Koert's headstone was broken in several pieces, probably by a large branch that was immediately to the right of the headstone. The entire inscription was on one piece which was upside down. It was covered with moss and difficult to read. The inscription is in script and reads:

Koert Van Schaick
died
May 5, 1826
aged 68 years
10 mos. 9 days



LeRoy looks on as Vicki removes moss from Koert's headstone to discover if it is really his! (7/18/04)



Yes, it is really his. After years of searching!! Note the big branch which probably broke it when it fell! (7/18/04)



Koert's grave after his headstone has been cleaned off on 7/20/2004. The plaque on the left says:

KOERT VAN SCHAICK
Born June 25, 1757 – Died May 5, 1826
Revolutionary War Veteran and Patriot
Barnes Smock's Artillery Company, of the Middle Brigade in
Monmouth Co., NJ
First Van Schaick to emigrate to Schoharie Co.

The flag is to honor his service to his country as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. To the right of his grave is the broken headstone of Margaret Wilson Van Schaick, his wife.

On July 18, 2004 we cleaned enough of the moss off the writing and discovered that it was really Koert's headstone. On July 20, 2004, we cleaned the section of the headstone with the writing on it, and we brought the plaque and the flag. On October 5, 2004, we unearthed the three lower pieces of Koert's headstone. On October 11, 2004, we washed all four pieces with water and a brush, and fit them together on a piece of plywood. We joined them with stone and masonry silicone. On October 14, 2004, we set Koert's headstone up. The bottom piece had to be used to help the other three pieces remain upright, so it is shorter than it originally was, but all of the four pieces are together.



The four pieces of Koert's headstone put together to be mended. (10/11/2004)



Koert's headstone standing up with flag and plaque. (10/14/2004)

Margaret Wilson Van Schaick

Margaret Wilson was born on January 10, 1771 in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Her family was among those who joined with William Van Schaick and his sons Koert and John in the emigration to New York State after the Revolutionary War. Margaret was of English and Scotch descent. Margaret and Koert were married in early 1800 when Koert was 43 and Margaret was 29. They settled on the farm in Sharon that Koert had purchased in 1796. As discussed in the above section about Koert, they had 9 children, eight of whom lived to adulthood. Their son, Koert, died when he was 3 years old. Their son James died at age 30, unmarried and had no children. However, their sons Joseph and Leffert and their five daughters, Mary, Patience, Margaret, Rachel, and Sarah all married and had families. Margaret lived for 20 years after Koert's death. She died at age 75 on September 5, 1846.

When we first arrived at the cemetery, Margaret's grave was unknown. Her headstone was buried. We discovered her headstone on July 20, 2004 about 4 inches under ground. It was just to the right of Koert's grave. It had been broken, probably by the large fallen branch. The section with the name was missing from the top. We continued to search for it on our next trip to the cemetery. The section which we first unearthed is written in script and reads:

DIED
Sept. 5, 1846
AE 75 yr. 7 mo. 25 da



The piece of Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's headstone unearthed on 7/20/04.

On July 20, 2004, we discovered the main piece of Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's headstone. On October 5, 2004, we unearthed the top of the headstone that says, MARGARET, wife of Koert Van Schaick. We also found a

small piece that fits on the bottom of the headstone. On October 5, we also found her footstone which was buried. It was disintegrating. Most of it was the consistency of hard brown sugar. However, there is enough of it that can be put together to be reset as her footstone. We cleaned it and mended the two pieces that are hard enough on October 11, 2004. Also on October 11, 2004, we washed all three pieces of Margaret's headstone with water and a brush, and fit them together on a piece of plywood. We joined them with concrete and masonry silicone.

Margaret's headstone is engraved in script and reads:

MARGARET
wife of
Koert Van Schaick
DIED
Sept. 5, 1846
AE 75 yr. 7 mo. 25 da

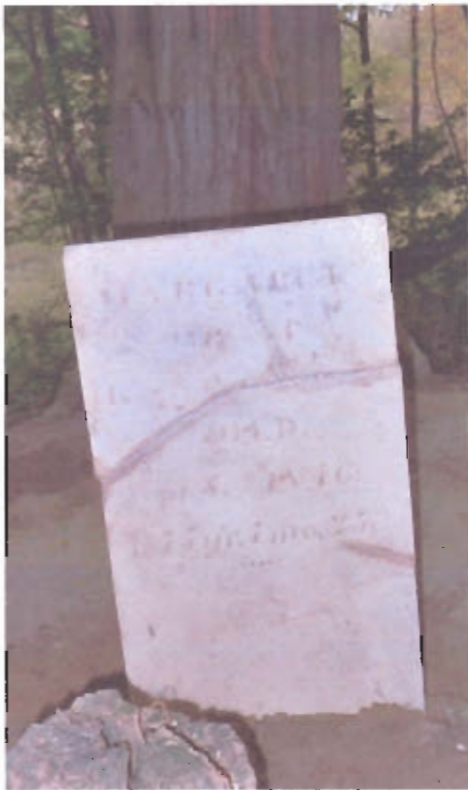
On October 14, 2004, we set up Margaret's headstone. Because it was so tall, the small piece that fits onto the bottom of the headstone, was used as Sarah's footstone. Also, on October 14, 2004, we re-set the main part of Margaret's footstone.



The three pieces of Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's headstone. (10/5/2004)



Margaret's headstone on plywood to be mended. This was the longest headstone, 69 inches tall! (10/11/2004)



Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's
headstone standing up. (10/14/2004)



12x12 inch plaque by Margaret's headstone.
(10/14/2004)

VIII-9. James A. Van Schaick

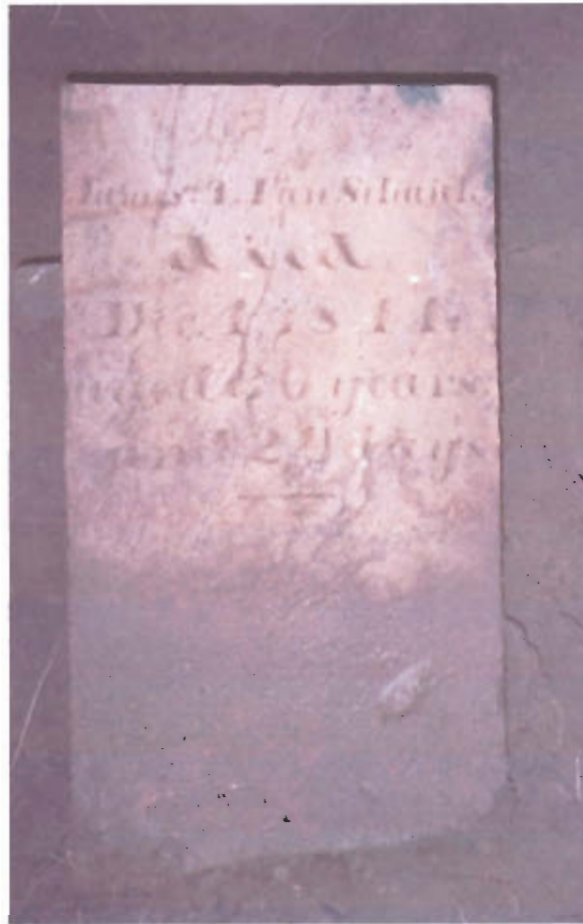
James A. was born November 14, 1814 and died December 4, 1844. He lived to be 30 years old. James served as an officer in an artillery company of the State Militia. This is from an article written in the mid-1800s "James Van Schaick was killed at a celebration when a cannon being used in the celebration exploded. It had been packed with sod and pounded stone with the idea of making it louder. Instead, it burst, throwing the trunnion several rods and killing James Van Schaick. He was the son of Koert Van Schaick, a Revolutionary veteran..." Some sources indicate that the cannon misfire took place at a July 4th celebration. However, other sources indicate that it was at a Polk/Dallas ratification meeting in the fall of 1844. Considering that the date of his death is December 4, this seems more probable. James was never married and had no children.

When we started clearing the cemetery of debris and leaves on July 20, 2004, LeRoy found the corner of James headstone sticking up about 8 feet to the right of Koert's grave. We had to move a sapling that was growing in the dirt above the headstone. After we carefully uncovered it, picked it up, and cleaned it off, it read:

James A. Van Schaick
Died
Dec. 4, 1844
Aged 30 years
and 20 days



Removing the sapling that was growing in the few inches of dirt on James' headstone. (7/20/2004)



The headstone of James A. Van Schaick after it was unearthed, picked up, and cleaned off on July 20, 2004.

Also on July 20, we found James' footstone underground and re-set it. On October 5, 2004, we dug out the bottom two sections of the headstone. On October 11, 2004, we washed all three pieces of his headstone with water and a brush, and fit them together on a piece of plywood. We joined them with concrete and masonry silicone. On October 14, 2004, we set up James' headstone. Two of the pieces that were broken are under the ground and the part above ground is all one piece.



LeRoy Van Schaick and Paul Weinman digging out the bottom two pieces of James' headstone. (10/5/2004)



The three pieces of James headstone. (10/5/2004)



James A. Van Schaick's headstone standing up. There is a flag next to it because he was a veteran. (10/14/2004)

FRONT ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: The four headstones in the front row are all from the 1860s. They are all newer, rounded tops, and stand by fitting in a slot in the base piece. Joseph Wilson Van Schaick was one of the sons of Koert Van Schaick. He owned the farm that this cemetery is on. He had eight children. Three of the people in the front row are his children, and one is his son-in-law.

Jonathan Hutton

Jonathan Hutton was the husband of Elizabeth Van Schaick. Elizabeth was the second child of Joseph Wilson and Elizabeth (Betsy) Slingerland Van Schaick. Elizabeth was born on May 9, 1832 and was named for her mother. Jonathan Hutton was born on December 1, 1829, and lived in Carlisle. On December 31, 1851, when Elizabeth was 19 and Jonathan was 22, they were married at the Independent Calvinistical Church of Sharon, later the True Dutch Church of Sharon. Jonathan died at age 34 on April 3, 1864, leaving his two sons: Willis J., age 7 years, and Jonathan Jr, age 2 years. Willis and Jonathan Jr. died when they were 25 and 20 respectively, only 6 days apart. Willis died on May 13, 1882. Jonathan Jr. died on May 19, 1882. Elizabeth died on April 10, 1895 at age 65. Jonathan is buried in the small family cemetery on the farm owned by his father-in-law. (Elizabeth, Willis, and Jonathan Jr. are buried in the Carlisle Cemetery, north of the Village of Carlisle on Argusville Rd. The cemetery monument lists her husband, Jonathan Hutton, but his actual grave is here.

When we first arrived at the cemetery, Jonathan's headstone was lying down, partially covered by dirt and debris. It reads:

JONATHAN HUTTON

Died

Apr. 3, 1864

Aged 34 y'rs

4 m's & 2 ds.

So Jesus slept



Jonathan Hutton's headstone partially covered on 7/18/2004.
(Note Margaret Van Schaick's footstone on the upper right.)



Jonathan Hutton's headstone after we lifted it out of the ground, cleaned it, and set it up on July 20, 2004. Note behind it to the left is Margaret Van Schaick's headstone after we set it up. Just behind Jonathan's headstone to the right is Margaret's footstone. To the far right of the picture is Koert Jr's headstone. Note the pile of rocks just to the left of Margaret and Jonathan's headstones.

Koert Van Schaick

This Koert Van Schaick is the grandson of the original Koert Van Schaick, and the oldest child of Joseph Wilson and Elizabeth Slingerland Van Schaick. Koert was born December 17, 1829. On February 2, 1860, when he was 30, he married Nancy Ottman, age 19, of Seward, at the home of her father, Peter W. Ottman of Seward. They were married by Rev. Henry Bellinger. They had one son, William, who moved to Rochester, NY. Koert was a well-known singer and teacher. Koert died just before their 4th anniversary on November 30, 1863, when he was only 33 years old.

When we first arrived at the cemetery on July 18, 2004, this was the only headstone which was standing. His headstone reads:

KOERT VAN SCHAICK

Died

Nov. 30, 1863

Aged 33 yrs

11ms. & 13 ds

My Husband



Koert Van Schaick's headstone as it looked on 7/18/2004.



Koert Van Schaick (grandson) in center. Note the large locust tree. In the bottom of the picture by the leaves is Koert's footstone. Up by the left side of the tree trunk is the edge of Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's headstone. Just showing on the right behind Koert (grandson) headstone in the center is the American flag which is on Koert Sr's grave. Just to the left of Koert's headstone in the center is infant Koert Jr's headstone. On the very left edge of the picture is Jonathan Hutton's headstone, with Margaret Van Schaick's footstone just to the right of it. Picture taken 7/20/2004.

Slingerland Van Schaick

Slingerland Van Schaick is the sixth of the eight children of Joseph Wilson Van Schaick and Elizabeth (Betsy) Slingerland Van Schaick, grandson of Koert and Margaret Wilson Van Schaick. Slingerland was born March 14, 1843. He died November 27, 1864 at the age of 21. According to the 1865 census of Schoharie County, he died at 21 from typhoid. According to an article written around 1900, he died in California.

Slingerland's headstone was discovered buried about 4 inches underground and unearthed on July 20, 2004. It reads:

SLINGERLAND VAN SCHAICK

Died

Nov. 27, 1864

Aged 21 y'rs

8 M's & 13 d's.

"Be ye also ready for in such an hour
as ye think not the son of man cometh."



On July 20, 2004, we discovered Slingerland's grave about four inches underground. We dug it out, lifted it up, and cleaned it off. On October 5, 2004, we set it up. Also on October 5, we unearthed Slingerland's footstone, and re-set it.



Slingerland Van Schaick's headstone and footstone on the left. Sarah Van Schaick's headstone is on the right. (10/5/2004)

Sarah Van Schaick

Sarah Van Schaick was the seventh child of eight of Joseph Wilson Van Schaick and Elizabeth (Betsy) Van Schaick, and the granddaughter of Koert Van Schaick and Margaret Wilson Van Schaick. Sarah was born on April 23, 1846. She died April 5, 1868, shortly before her 22nd birthday.

When we arrived on at the cemetery on July 18, 2004, Sarah's headstone was lying on the ground partially covered with dirt and debris. There was a lot of moss and mold on the headstone, and it was difficult to read. When we came back on July 20, 2004 and cleaned off the headstone, it read:

SARAH
DAU OF
J.W. & E. VAN SCHAICK
DIED
April 5, 1868,
AE 21 Y'rs 11 M'os
& 18 D's.

Thou art gone to the grave but we will not deplore thee
Whose God was thy Ransom, thy Guardian and Guide.
He gave thee, He took thee and He will restore thee
And death has no sting for the Savior has died.



Sarah's gravestone lying down. (7/20/2004)



After it was cleaned, Vicki rubbing the inscription on Sarah's headstone.
(7/20/2004)

On July 20, 2004, we lifted Sarah's headstone out of the ground and cleaned it off. On October 5, 2004, we set it up. We looked for, but did not discover her footstone. There was a 7" wide piece that fit onto the very bottom of Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's headstone. The headstone was so tall, that we used this piece for Sarah's footstone.



Sarah Van Schaick's headstone upright.
(10/5/2004)

ENSLAVED PEOPLE

On October 5, 2004, while we were cleaning off the pieces of headstones we found and fitting them together, we found that four of the stones we had discovered laying on the ground and buried behind the second row at the back of the cemetery were not marble and did not fit onto any of the headstones. They had fallen forward, and were intermingled with the pieces of Koert, Margaret, and James headstones, which had fallen backwards. We realized that these four stones were shale. They were the headstones of enslaved people. They have no inscriptions on them. They are not identified by name or with dates.

According to the 1790 Census, Koert's father, William Van Schaick is reported as head of household in Mohawk Township, later renamed Charlestown. The family consisted of three males 16 and older, one female 16 and under and one slave. In the 1790 Census, in Schoharie County, almost half of the families listed included slaves. In a later census, Koert's son Leffert, who had moved to Engleville, is listed as owning one slave. It is logical that during the several generations that the farm was owned by Koert, his son Joseph Wilson, and then run by Joseph's daughter, Catherine, that four enslaved people died on the farm and were buried in the cemetery.

On October 11, 2004, we cleaned them off with water and a brush. On October 14, 2004, we set the four headstones up.



The uninscribed headstones of four enslaved people at the back Cemetery. (10/14/2004)



The cemetery on the right side of the large locust tree – 7/20/2004
The headstones are cleaned and propped up out of the ground, but not set up yet.

Back row right to left:

- *James A. Van Schaick's headstone,
- *Margaret Wilson Van Schaick's headstone,
- *Koert Sr's headstone, American Flag and Plaque.
- *Just to the left of the sapling, baby Koert's headstone.
- *Koert Sr.'s smaller rectangular footstone in front of it.

Front row right to left (rounded top headstones)

- *Sarah,
 - *Slingerland Van Schaick
- (James' footstone is just out of the picture on the right.)



The cemetery on the left side of the large locust tree. (This large locust tree is truly immense and hollow in part of the middle of it.) (7/20/2004)

- *On the left in the front is the small rectangle – Jonathan Hutton’s footstone,
- *Behind it is Jonathan Hutton’s headstone.
- *Just to the right of that is Margaret Van Schaick’s small footstone.
- *Partially hidden behind Jonathan’s headstone to the left is Margaret Van Schaick’s headstone.
- *To the right of Jonathan’s headstone is Koert Van Schaick (grandson)’s headstone. (His footstone is just out of the picture in the lower right corner.
- *Behind Koert’s headstone to the left is baby Koert Van Schaick’s headstone.



The cemetery on the left side of the large locust tree. (This large locust tree is truly immense and hollow in part of the middle of it.) (10/14/2004)

- *On the left in the front is the small rectangle – Jonathan Hutton’s footstone,
- *Behind it is Jonathan Hutton’s headstone.
- *Just to the right of that is Margaret Van Schaick’s small footstone.
- *Behind Jonathan’s headstone to the left is Margaret Van Schaick’s headstone.
- *To the right of Jonathan’s headstone is Koert Van Schaick (grandson)’s headstone. His footstone is in the lower right hand corner of the picture.
- *Behind Koert’s (grandson) headstone to the left is baby Koert Van Schaick’s headstone.
- *Behind Koert’s (grandson) headstone and to the right is the flag and Koert’s headstone. (the original and Revolutionary War soldier Koert)

The Van Schaick Family Cemetery sign is on the tree. At the bottom of the tree in the back row are the graves of the four enslaved people.



The cemetery on the right side of the large locust tree. (10/14/2004)

In the lower left hand corner is a brick and a white pipe which mark part of the future fence line.

At the top of the pipe is Slingerland Van Schaick's footstone. Slingerland's headstone is right behind it.

Next to Slingerland's headstone and to the right is Sarah Van Schaick's headstone, and to the front between the two small trees is her footstone.

To the left and back from Slingerland's headstone you can see Koert's (Revolutionary soldier) footstone. Koert's headstone is not able to be seen from this direction. It is hidden by Slingerland's headstone.

To the left and behind Koert's footstone is baby Koert's headstone.

Sticking up from behind Sarah's headstone is the headstone of Margaret Wilson Van Schaick. Her footstone is immediately behind Slingerland's headstone.

In the third row back by the tree you can barely make out one of the headstones of the enslaved people.

To the very right is James A. Van Schaick's headstone with his footstone in front of it. There is a flag next to James' headstone because he was a veteran.

