

Genealogy of the Van Alstyne's **By Charles Philander Smith Van Alstyne**

This genealogy states that Philander Smith Van Alstyne, known as Charles, was born 10 Oct 1851 at Brooklyn, Ontario [north west of Oshawa.] He dates the work 18 May 1925.

The work was emailed to me by Richard Lander in January 2021 and since it has been in the public domain it is presented here as copied by Richard with his permission.

Charles P.S Van Alstyne presents his account of the family before arriving in America and then follows his line down to the present. His line develops through [Lambert \(1710\); James \(1738\) on down](#). It is interesting that the "Standing Stone" story is confirmed within his family knowledge. Being born in 1851 he would have heard these stories.

Thanks to Richard for bringing this document forward.
Posted on Randy Saylor's [website](#).

FOR JOHN (JACK) VAN ALSTYNE
son of John Van Alstyne
son of William David of 1850
son of Isaac of 1821
son of James of 1776
son of Jacobus of 1738 (Jacobus of "Standing Rock")
son of Lambert of 1710
son of Isaac of 1666
son of JAN MARTIN-SE DE WEAVER (VAN ALSTYNE)
Immigrator to America in 1640. Died in 1697.

Buried in private cemetery of Van Alstyne's in Albany, New York.

The general genealogy of all Van Alstynes and those who married into the Van Alstyne family was undertaken thirty years ago by W. F. Bromfield. In 1902, he had the names of over 800 Van Alstynes, but I fear death overtook him before he finished the work. It is to this Mr. Bromfield we must thank for these events.

I wish to say that the exact dates as to births, deaths, marriages are incomplete as records in some cases are missing, others are not readable, in some cases, I have gotten as near to the dates as possible.

I now leave this work to my children, to the generations yet unborn, to carry on this genealogy, if they see fit.

May 18, 1923 Charles Philander Smith Van Alstyne

GENEALOGY OF THE VAN ALSTYNE'S (A SYNOPSIS)
by C.P.S. Van Alstyne

Born October 10. 1851

“PREFACE” The name “Van Alstyne” as stated by the Rev. William Arthur, (the historian) means “old or high rock” from a place in Holland called “Van Alst Barony”-the name translated from Alst and Stein, (stone) – the Van Alst Castle.”

According to the records of professor W. F. Bromfield of Chicago, (his mother was a Van Alstyne) and from the translation of a French genealogy of the Van Alstynes (the property of one Thomas Van Alstyne, of Albany, New York); the family originated in Germany from principalities of Holstein, Balstein and Alstein, the names of Holstein, Balstein and Alstein were all of one family.

At the coronation of Prince Otho, A.D. 968, one Henri Alstein, for his loyalty to the King, was given a Coat of Arms and crowned a Prince. At that time, the family united their names under the one name “von Alstein” and used same until 1060, when they immigrated to the Netherlands.

One hundred years later, or right after the first Christian Crusade, a descendent of Henri von Alstein, by the name of Carl von Alstein was given a Coat of Arms by the Pope of Rome for his services as an officer in the war known as the Christian Crusades. The motto on the Coat of Arms was: “Veni, Vidi, Vici” I came - I saw - I conquered

After the arrival of the von Alsteins in Holland, reports of a French genealogy of the Van Alstynes states the Holland King gave this Carl von Alstein a Coat of Arms, and the honor or Title of “VAN”; he then dropped the “von” from his name and became a devoted Christian of the Protestant Faith.

Six hundred years later in the year of 1640, two descendants of this Carl Van Alstein, Jan and Cornelis immigrated to America and landed in New Amsterdam. (New York). Since the Dutch customs, habits, and language had been adopted by the Van Alstynes, their children were named by using the given name of the father as a surname for the child. Therefore, the two immigrants, Jan and Cornelis, signed their names as Jan Martin-se de Weaver, and Cornelis Martin-se de Weaver, meaning they were the sons of Martin, a weaver of manufacturer of cloth in Holland. The majority of the early Dutch settlers did not use their original surnames, but began to do so when the English put in their appearances. It was found in the Dutch Church records, and court records that both Jan and Cornelis named their children by using their given names as surnames for their children, and it was not until their family grew up that the children dropped the old Dutch custom and called themselves Van Alstyne. When the children started to use their original name was spelled in various ways; as well as their given names. According to the Dutch Church and court records, a name would be recorded in one place as “Lammert” and in the other as “Lambert,” so in writing this synopsis of the Van Alstynes, I will write the names just as they appeared on the Dutch Church and court records for the first one hundred years after the arrival of the Van Alstynes in America.

The question has been asked me time and again, how do I know we are from such and such a bunch; I will here state, that to trace the ancestry of the Dutch in Holland and America is easy. When a man married he gave to the Dutch minister his father’s and mother’s names which were recorded; his wife-to-be also gave her father’s and mother’s given and surname. The first child born must be named after the paternal grandfather, (if a boy) and the second son after the maternal grandfather. Bible records and the Church provided a fruitful source of genealogy facts in this work.

The records show that on arriving in New Amsterdam (which is now New York), Jan Martin-se de Weaver bought ten acres of land, which is now the heart of New York City; on December 11, 1646, he purchased of Thomas Hall and Jan Peterson a yacht and sailed up the Hudson River to Beverwyck, now known as Albany, N.Y. In 1660, the court records show he bought eight more acres of land on Manhattan Island and in 1670, he bought a large farm back of Kinderhook, New York State

(Kinderhook - a township and village in Columbia county - 20 miles S.E. of Albany).

In 1695, he deeded to his son "Abraham" a piece of land not far from Kinderhook, which has been in the possession of his heirs since then. Jan Martin-se de Weaver died in 1697 and is buried in a little cemetery across the river at Albany, N.Y., that was established by the Hon. Thomas Van Alstyne, of Albany, N.Y. It not only contains the remains of Jan Martin-se de Weaver - "Van Alstyne," but others of Jan's family. These remains were taken from the old family cemetery near Kinderhook by Thomas Van Alstyne and buried in the private ground bought by him. There is a large sandstone (of Pyramid Shape) as a monument in honor of the immigrant, John Van Alstyne, known as Jan Martin-se de Weaver, on which is engraved his name, date of his arrival in America and death.

As to the Cornelis Martin-se de Weaver, the brother of Jan, I have no complete record. He was presumed to have dropped the "Van" to his name, or at least his sons, Cornealis M. and Abraham, dropped the "Van" and signed their names Alstine and Alstyn. As we are descendents of Jan (John) Van Alstyne, known as Jan Martin-se de Weaver, the following is his record: Jan Martin-se de Weaver (Van Alstyne) married one Dirckje Harman-se, in English, Rachel, daughter of Harman. They had six children, four boys and two girls. Their names appear on the Dutch Church records as follows:

Martin - July 18, 1655 - date of death not known.

Abraham - 1657 - date of death 1746.

Lambert - 1658 - date of death October 16, 1703.

ISAAC - 1666 - date of death July 6, 1746.

Dorotch and Jenntje, daughters, no dates.

The four sons above mentioned signed their names on various deeds and church records as follows:

Abraham 1675--Abraham Jan-se--meaning Abraham, son of Jan.

1694--Abram Jan-se

1700--Abraham Van Aelsteyne--using seemingly original surname.

1703--Abraham Van Aalstein--improving on surname.

1705--Abraham Van Alsted--still incorrect.

Martin 1685--Martes Jan-se--meaning Martin, son of Jan.

1697--Martin Jan-se.

1703--Martin Van Aalstein.

Lambert 1685--Lambert Jan-se.

1702--Lambert Van Aalstein.

ISAAC 1685--Isaac Jan-se.

1700--Isaac Van Alstein--the first to adopt original surname.

Of the descendents of the four brothers, I have only the records of Lambert and Isaac. Very few of Lambert, but Professor W. F. Bromfield, who is a descendent of Lambert has a complete genealogy of this branch, which shows that Lambert had at least one son, Thomas, born 1695, who was the father of two sons, William and Thomas born 1758 and 1756. William of 1758, was the grandfather of the Hon. Thomas Van Alstyne (deceased) of Albany, N.Y., while Thomas of 1756, had a son John, born 1790, who was the grandfather of W. F. Bromfield of Chicago.

The writer is a descendent of Isaac Jan-se of 1666, who was one of the first to look up and take his original surname as used by his ancestors. I will now carry the genealogy down to my family as shown by Church and court records to 1760, and from that date from information obtained by my grandfather, father, and my own personal knowledge.

Isaac Van Alstein, as he spelled his name in 1700, married Marite A

Vosburgh on October 20, 1689. They had one son, born June 16, 1695, named Peter after the

maternal grandfather, (it is reasonable to presume they had a son before Peter that was named after his paternal grandfather as the rule of the Dutch was to name the first born after the paternal grandfather, he no doubt died young as there is no record of his baptism). After the death of Marite, Isaac Van Alstein married Jannetje-Jockem-se, Van Volkenburgh on February 20, 1698. Of this second marriage, the following children: (In both marriages Isaac gave his name as Isaac Jan-se).

Jochum--Jan. 8, 1699
Harmen--Nov. 11, 1700
Bartholomens--May 19, 1702
Dirkje--Feb. 13, 1704
Eva--June 9, 1706
Maria--Oct. 31, 1708
LAMBERT--April 30, 1710

We are descendants of Lambert, born in 1710.

Lambert married Rebeka (Rebecca) Van Volkenburgh in the year 1732, and raised ten children, as follows:

Isaac--September 1, 1734.
Lambert--1736, married, had one son, went to the West Indies.
JACOBUS (James) 1738--married in 1759 to Lydia Larroway.
Jannetje--May 16, 1739.
Eva--March 20, 1746.
Jochum--March 20, 1747.
Harme (Harman)--June 4, 1749--married in 1770 to Dinna Larroway.
Jantje--August 30, 1751.
Margatha--January 18, 1758.
Lydia--date, unable to read.

We are the descendents of Jacobus (James), born in 1738. Jacobus (James) Van Alstyne married Lydia Larroway in 1759, (called the Lady from France), and they lived in Green County, New York until 1769.

Jacobus and his father-in-law, Simon Larroway, owned 950 acres in Green County and were interested in the lumber business. In the year of 1769, Jacobus and his father-in-law went to eastern New York, first to a place now called Layroy, then to Batavia, New York. Jacobus remained there until 1772. He then went south to take a King's Patent for land on the Susquehanna River, near Wyoming, Penn. (At that time the section near Wyoming, Penn., was supposed to be in New York State). Jacobus had a patent for 600 acres on the Susquehanna opposite a rock in the river known as "Standing Stone", which is standing to this day. And Jacobus was called by all "Jacobus, of Standing Stone". The land was cultivated by Jacobus and his sons and they were extremely prosperous.

When the word came to them of the American Revolution, the settlement was divided in their opinions. It was reported that Jacobus Van Alstyne, of Standing Stone, was a British sympathizer and was a Royalist, and of royalty; his 600 acres of land, a King's Patent. His son, Simon, was taken and imprisoned at Wyoming, Penn. After two months in prison, Simon escaped and notified the Dutch Settlement that it was the intention of the Revolutionists to wipe out all the "Dutch Sympathizers", as they were called. The Colony had a meeting and decided the nearest protection and settlement of any size was in the northern part of New York. They hired Indians to pilot them north and Jacobus with his family and six hundred other settlers headed north to what is now Buffalo. They buried their household goods, silverware, priceless possessions at "Standing Stone", never again to claim their

property.

On reaching Buffalo, they found the British soldiers were at Detroit –again they hired Indians to take them by boats to Detroit for protection under the British.

Jacobus (James) Van Alstyne's family at that time consisted of nine children and his father, Lambert. The other children of Lambert, brothers and sisters of Jacobus, remained in Green County, New York, at what was then known as Redfalls on the Batavia Kil (fiver).

The remainder of Lammert (Lambert) Vanalstine (who was born 1710) family we have no record except Jacobus (James). Of him we will say, he owned with his father 960 acres of land in the Northern part of what is now known as Green County N.Y. He married about 1759 one Lydia Larroway. a daughter of Simon Larroway and in 1767 he borrowed 1,056 pounds. 6 shillings of one William Van Bergen and gave a mortgage payable in two years (A copy of which the writer has duly certified to by Judge Volckert G. Douw). and with this money went with his father and father-in-law to Batavia N.Y. where they were interested in the milling business. And here I will mention for the benefit of the descendents of this Jacobus (James) and owing to their being a dispute as to who he married, that the name of Laroy. Larroway and Larrowy have all the same pronounciation in the French. I find where Simon Larroway spelt his name Larroway and Lorway. but the church records shows him to have married Lydia Larroway. About the year 1772 this Jacobus (James) moved from Batavia, N.Y. down into Pennsylvania on the Susquehanna. a kings patent for 1000 acres of land fronting on the Susquhanna River, it was there he was living when the revolutionary war broke out. The people were pretty well divided in their opinion, some joining the British and the others the revolutionists. The Indians at that time were very troublesome, and it was reported at the time that Jacobus (James) sympathized with and was a Royalist and owing to this his son Simon was taken prisoner and carried to Wyoming, Penn. He escaped after being kept a prisoner for two months and notified the settlement that the rebels were coming to massacre them; owing to this rumor Jacobus (James) Vanalstine buried his household effects and all other movable property, and together with six hundred other settlers started for Canada, taking Indians as guides. They followed a northwest course coming out at Buffalo, N.Y. where they took boats to Detroit, claiming protection if the British soldiers from Detroit. He went with his family which consisted of eight children and his father. (He had lost his first child who died young in 1761 at Eastern New York. His youngest child was born in Batavia, N.Y. when en route from the Susquehanna to Buffalo, N.Y. Of the children born Jacobus (James) Van and Lydia (nee Larroway) Vanalstine, we have the following record

Jochum Lammert	Born Jan. 26-1761 (Died young)
Jacob Jachen	Bapt. Feb. 26-1763 (Went to Canada, Died in (British army 1777.)
Simon	, Bapt Feb 26 1763 (Went to Canada. Died in British army 1777.)
Lambert	" Mar. 4-1765 (Was married, twice. Had 13 children. Lived in Canada)
Jonas	_ " Jun 21-1767 (Went to Canada 1776. Died Ticonderoga,Ont.)
Margarita	Bapt. July 4-1769 (We have no record of her)
Isaac	" (No date) Went to Canada 1776)
Aaron	" ' (No date) (Went Canada 1776 and returned to the U.S. 1802
James	Born June. 6-1776 (Genealogy continued. Died Jul. 19-1864)

Of the above family we will say that the father Jacobus (James) died shortly after reaching Montreal about the year 1777-78. His wife (nee Larroway) married one-Isaac Crowter and moved to Richmond Twp.Ont and settled near Fredricksburg, Ontario. Of the children of Jacobus and Lydia Vanalstine, I find that Jochum Lambert died at the age of two. Jacob and Simon were forced into the British army about the year 1777-8 after reaching Canada and died in the army. Lambert the next eldest was married twice and had thirteen children whose names were Lambert. James, William, Duncan, Jonus, Jacob. Alexander, Isaac, John, Barnard, Secord,. Lydia and Lathine. Lambert, (the son of Jacobus and Lydia) died in 1823 in Canada. Jonas went with his father to Canada in 1776. Died at Ticonderoga. Ont. 1830. Had no family. Margaret we have no record of. Isaac went to Canada with his father in 1776 married and went to Niagara county Ont. Had one son John. When last heard of in 1850 the son was living there. Arron went with his father to Canada in 1776. Returned to Sharon, N.Y. 1802 and died there leaving four children. Williams and James and two daughters (names not known). James the ninth child Jacobus(James) and Lydia, Vanalstine. who was born at Batavia, N.Y. in 1776 while they were en route from the Susquehanna river to Buffalo, and of whom the writer is a direct descendant, was married to Rebecca Forshee at or near Fredericksburg .Ont. where he lived. He died at Richmond 1854. leaving a large family of children whoso names are as follow.:

James Van Alstyne resided at a place called Standing Stone on the Susquehanna River in the province of Pennsylvania. At the breaking out of the rebellion James joined the Royal Standard in 1778 and was a private in Sir John Johnson's Regiment and died in Montreal in 1782

We are descendents of James of 1776, who was born while en route from "Standing Stone" on the Susquehanna River to Canada, at or near Buffalo. Jacobus (James) Van Alstyne died in the British Army as did his two eldest sons (the twins). They are buried near Montreal, Canada. Lydia, after Jacobus's death, married one Isaac Crowter and moved to Richmond, Ontario, settled near Fredrickburg where she raised the younger children born to her through her marriage to Jacobus; she died and is buried there.

James, the ninth child of Jacobus and Lydia, married one Rebecca Forshee (French) at or near Fredrickburg about the year 1798. He died in Richmond Township in 1854, leaving a large family of ten children. The names are as follows:

James--May 11, 18XX--died at Napanee, September 14, 1887. He was "Mayor" of Napanee, Ontario, in 1862-63.

PETER--April 20, 1802--died at Medina, Wis. April 6, 1891.

Simon--June 6, 1804--died at Addington, Ontario.

John--November 21, 1806--died at Napanee, Ontario, 1879.

Lambert--March 13, 1808--lived in Watertown, N.Y. in 1880.

Mary--1814--died at Napanee, Ontario, about 1890.

Lydia--1816--died at Napanee, Ontario.

Barnard--1818--died at Park Hill, Ontario, 1899.

ISAAC--December 9, 1821--died at Sacramento, Calif in 1904?.

Jacob--July 8, 1825--died at Sacramento, Calif. in 1913.

My father was Peter Van Alstyne of 1802, son of James of 1776.

My third wife, Genevieve Van Alstyne, was the granddaughter of Isaac of 1821, son of James of 1776.

Isaac of 1821, was the ninth child and the seventh son, of James and Rebecca. He married a Miss Morgan, in Canada, in the year 1848. They had one child, a son, born in 1850, and named William David Van Alstyne, who on November 20, 1872 married a Miss Katherine Young at Napanee, Ontario.

Isaac came to California in 1861, after several years in California, he returned to Canada. In 1877, with his son, William David, he again came to California. They located on the coast at Duncan Mills and later sent for their families. When the families arrived - Isaac Van Alstyne's wife and William David's wife, Katherine, and three children, Isaac, Horace, and Maud, they settled on a ranch they owned at Fall River Mills, in Shasta County, California; later they moved to Willows and then to Sacramento, Calif.

William David and Katherine Van Alstyne's children are as follows:

Isaac--the eldest--married a Miss Galvin, has one daughter. Alice, and resides in Sacramento, Calif.

Horace--died shortly after the Spanish War.

Maud Ellen--married a Dr. John Milton Ward, has one son, John and lives in Oakland, Calif.

Genevieve Edith--married Philander Van Alstyne, has three children,

Naomi Audrey, Charles William and Ralph Beryl.

William (Willie)--died at the age of 22.

John Jacob Astor--the youngest--married a Miss Rose Davis, has two children, John Sinclair (Jack) and Glenn William.

Peter Van Alstyne, the second son of James and Rebecca, who is the father of the writer of this genealogy, was born in Richmond Township, Ontario, April 20, 1802. He married in 1830, the widow of his cousin; Amanda Forshee, whose maiden name was Amanda Powers, born in Vermont, and a member of the Power's family--Hiram Powers, the sculptor of 1805-73, and Horatio Powers, the poet of 1825-90. She had three children when she married Peter Van Alstyne; her husband Cyrenus Forshee had died when their baby boy was an infant. She was to have eight more children by her marriage to my father.

My mother inherited a large tract of wild land near Brooklyn, Ontario.

In 1834, they settled on this land. The country was wild, and it was a struggle for the first few years, but my father was a strong man and my mother, a woman of efficiency; when they sold their farm in 1856, it was one of the most prosperous farms in that section.

It was at Brooklyn that the last five children were born and my birthplace. I was the youngest child, named Philander Smith Van Alstyne (known as Charles), date of birth, October 10, 1851.