

GENEALOGY
of the
VAN NEST FAMILY

**Founded by George Van Nest who came from the
Netherlands to New Jersey about 1698**

Compiled
by
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Preface

The following information has been collected from records found among the personal effects of Edward P. Bodine and from copies made of entries in the Van Nest Family Bible by Miss Alice Lott. This record does not pretend to set forth all of the descendants of George Van Nest, but is carried down to the present time only as to the descendants of Jane Van Nest Van Doren and Ann Van Nest Bodine. The writer has been unable to reconcile some of the dates as to births and marriages, but believes they are substantially correct.

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GEORGE VAN NEST came to this country from the Netherlands in the year 1698 and about 1700 was living on the north bank of the Raritan River in the State of New Jersey on a farm about one mile west of the present village of Somerville. He had six children, viz.:

- 1: Peter Van Nest.
- 2: Rynear Van Nest, who married Jane Williamson.
- 3: Abraham Van Nest, who married twice.
Of his first wife we have no account.
His second wife was the widow of Taney Schench by which marriage he had four children, viz.:
John
George
Abraham
Maria
- 4: Jacob Van Nest, supposed to have died in infancy.
- 5: Jane Van Nest, who married William Williamson and had four children, viz.:
Maria
Kathaline
Jane
William
- 6: Maria Van Nest, who married Paul Auten. She had four children, viz.:
Maria
Anna
Christian
Christopher

PETER VAN NEST, son of the original George, was born about 1700. His first wife was a Beekman by whom he had four children—two sons who grew to manhood and two daughters who died in infancy. His

second wife was Margaret Oreanson by whom he had three sons. The names of his sons were

- 1: Henry, who had three children. (Two sons and a daughter, Hannah.)
- 2: Peter, who had three children. (One daughter and two sons.)
- 3: John, who had eight children, viz.:
 - Peter
 - Anna
 - Margaret
 - Mary
 - Catherine (usually called Tiny)
 - Ellen
 - William
 - John
- 4: George Van Nest, born August 27, 1736. Commonly known as "Prince" George. He married Kathaline Williamson, daughter of Jane Williamson, who was his own cousin and died November 2, 1821.

From an article of the Newark Evening News, published August 7, 1909, under the heading "Prince" George of Somerset, I take the following:

"George, especially, lived so sumptuously, dispensed such a royal hospitality and moved at all times with so much pomp and dignity, that nothing short of the title of prince seemed to fit him. Naturally, it rose to people's lips in speaking of him. When he went out driving, one of his many slaves in high hat and stiff 'choker' held the reins; another in equally correct garb sat by the driver with folded arms, bolt upright, ready at all times to get down and open gates, brush off stinging flies from the horses, or clear away any obstruction, alive or dead, from their path. Along-

side the lordly master himself sat his little darky page, who always followed close at his master's heels at home or abroad, ready to fill his pipe, hold his great-coat and cane, open and close doors and perform the thousand little offices of personally and obsequiously waiting upon him."

" 'Prince' George's picture hangs in the fine old homestead of his great-grandson, Henry Van Nest Garretson near North Branch and where the old-time upper and lower half doors are still to be seen."

It is said of his wife, Catherine, that she was medium size, with black eyes and very handsome and could speak very little English. To George Van Nest and his wife, Kathaline, were born ten children, several of whom died in infancy. The others were:

- 1: Peter Van Nest, whose family history is given below.
- 2: William Van Nest, who married Deborah Foulon, and to whom were born 4 children, only one of whom survived, a daughter, Deborah, who married William Plumb.
- 3: John Van Nest, who never married.
- 4: George Van Nest, who married Ann Eoff and to whom were born two children, Aletta and Catherine.
- 5: Jane Van Nest, who married John Van Doren and became the mother of
 Catherine
 Abraham
 George
 Sarah Ann

PETER VAN NEST, the oldest son of "Prince" George, was born November 15, 1753, and married

Phebe Brokaw. He was a soldier in the war of the Revolution and was present at the battles of Springfield, Long Hill, and Bound-Brook. He died April 14, 1814. His widow afterwards married Captain Joseph Stull and moved to the Town of Ovid, Seneca County, New York, taking with her three of her daughters, Maria, Jane and Ann. Captain Stull settled on Military Lot No. 18 in the Town of Ovid. He and his wife are both buried in the Gospel Lot Cemetery on Lot No. 30 in said town. To Peter and Phebe Van Nest were born 8 children.

1: Abraham Van Nest, born in 1776, married Margaret Field and died in the City of New York in 1864. Their children were:

- 1: Phebe Van Nest
- 2: George Van Nest
- 3: Catherine Van Nest
- 4: Mary J. Van Nest
- 5: Philip M. Van Nest
- 6: Ann Van Nest
- 7: John Van Nest
- 8: Abraham Van Nest
- 9: Joanna Van Nest
- 10: Margaret Louise Van Nest.

2: Rynear Van Nest, born about 1780, and who married Ann Brokaw. Their children were:

- 1: George Van Nest
- 2: John Van Nest
- 3: William Van Nest
- 4: Magdalene Van Nest
- 5: Abraham Van Nest
- 6: Peter Van Nest
- 7: Henry Van Nest
- 8: Catherine Van Nest
- 9: John Van Nest.

3: Catherine Van Nest, born March 27, 1787, and who married David Talmage and to whom were born 12 children:

- 1: Phebe Ross, born in 1805 and who married Joseph Ross.
- 2: James R. Talmage, born in 1808, who married 1st—Grace S. Miller
2nd—Mary Shufeldt.
- 3: Sarah, born in 1810, married Thomas J. Whitenack.
- 4: Maria Talmage, never married.
- 5: Peter Talmage, born 1813, married Maria Scherr.
- 6: Daniel Talmage, born in 1816, married Hanna Foller.
- 7: John Talmage, born 1819, married 1st—Abby Woodruff
2nd—Mary Van Deventer.
- 8: Goyne Talmage, born 1821, married 1st—Anna Beekman
2nd—Corneha Beekman.
- 9: Catherine, born 1824, married Orson C. Cone.
- 10: David Talmage, born in 1826, married Elizabeth Brinkerhoff.
- 11: Mary, born in 1828, married Stephen L. Mershon.
- 12: Thomas DeWitt Talmage, born in 1832, married 1st—Mary Averey
2nd—Susie Ehittimore
3rd—Eleanor Collin

My understanding is that four of the sons of Catherine Van Nest Talmage became ministers, two of them serving as missionaries in India or China and Thomas DeWitt Talmage became the celebrated Divine who for many years preached in the City of Brooklyn, New York, and whose

sermons were published in many of the newspapers of that day.

- 4: Maria Van Nest, born October 30, 1791, and who married Isaac Brokaw and resided in the Town of Ovid on Lot No. 18 a short distance from her mother. To her were born 9 children, viz.:

- 1: Catherine Pinkerton, born September 28, 1809.
- 2: Peter V. N. Brokaw, born November 13, 1811.
- 3: Peter V. N. Brokaw, (the first Peter V. N. having died), born June 5, 1813.
- 4: Phebe Little, born September 14, 1814.
- 5: Mary J. Wilson, born November 30, 1816.
- 6: Gertrude Seeley, born October 7, 1820.
- 7: Margaret L. Myers, born August 22, 1825.
- 8: John C. Brokaw, born June 9, 1828.
- 9: Isaac Newton Brokaw, born February 18, 1832.

- 5: George Van Nest, born August 5, 1795, married Mary Talmage. They had four children, viz.:

- 1: Phebe Van Nest
- 2: Mary Van Nest
- 3: Sarah Van Nest
- 4: John Quincy Adams Van Nest.

Sarah married Judge Dummer of Springfield, Illinois, who at one time was a partner of Abraham Lincoln.

- 6: John Van Nest never married. He was a tailor by trade, also a farmer.
- 7: Jane Van Nest, born January 14, 1804, married Abraham Van Doren and lived on the southeast corner of Military Lot No. 18 in the Town of Ovid.
- 8: Ann Van Nest, born May 18, 1808, married George Bodine, the youngest son of Cornelius Bodine

and lived on Lot 29, which adjoins Lot 18, until her death.

Jane Van Nest Van Doren had four children:

- 1: Ann Van Doren
- 2: Abraham V. N. Van Doren
- 3: Mary E. Van Doren Maxwell*
- 4: Gustavus A. Van Doren.

Ann Van Doren married Lewis BoDine, who was a grandson of Cornelius Bodine, a soldier of the Revolutionary War and a nephew of George Bodine, the husband of Ann Van Nest Bodine. Her children are:

- 1: Darwin C. BoDine
- 2: Louise Davenport
- 3: Jennie Bissell.

The children of Darwin C. BoDine are:

- 1: Lewis T. BoDine; he has one son,
 - 1: Ira D. BoDine, who has one daughter,
 - 1: Rose Marie BoDine
- 2: Charles D. BoDine, M. D., has three children:
 - 1: Margaret BoDine Carter
 - 2: C. Elliott BoDine, M. D.
 - 3: Mary L. BoDine*

Margaret BoDine Carter has three children:

- 1: Peter BoDine Carter
- 2: Charles BoDine Carter
- 3: Elizabeth Mary Carter
- 3: Ira D. BoDine, he has one daughter:
 - 1: Jane B. Warren, whose children are:
 - 1: Edwin BoDine Warren
 - 2: Charles BoDine Warren.

*Died leaving no descendants.

Louise Davenport had one child, Nina B. Given,
whose children are:

- 1: Harold W. Given
- 2: Joseph D. Given
- 3: William E. Given
- 4: Helen L. Given.

Harold W. Given has two children:

- 1: John H. Given
- 2: Dorothy J. Given.

Joseph D. Given has one son:

- 1: Joseph D. Given, Jr.

Jennie Bissell had two daughters:

- 1: Harlena Hyronemus, who has one daughter:
 - 1: Lorraine H. Joly
- 2: Louise Bissell.

Abraham V. N. Van Doren had two children:

- 1: Rev. Talmage Van Doren, who I believe had two children, but whose names are not known.
- 2: William Van Doren has three children:
 - 1: George L. Van Doren
 - 2: Clifford Van Doren
 - 3: Clara W. Caughlin

George L. Van Doren has one daughter:

- 1: Mary J. Van Doren

Clara W. Caughlin has three children:

- 1: Clare E. Caughlin
- 2: Elinor Caughlin
- 3: Donald W. Caughlin.

Gustavus A. Van Doren had 11 children:

- 1: John L. Van Doren*
- 2: Ella Johnson

- 3: Etta Armstrong*
- 4: Van Nest Van Doren
- 5: Carrie Van Doren
- 6: Jennie Van Doren*
- 7: Darwin Van Doren
- 8: Abraham Van Doren*
- 9: Mattie Scott
- 10: Frederick Van Doren
- 11: Susie Crisfield.

Carrie Van Doren has one son:

- 1: Donald G. Van Doren

Darwin Van Doren has two children:

- 1: Howard G. Van Doren*
- 2: Virginia Lynch, who has one daughter:

- 1: Dixie Lee Lynch

Mattie Scott has two children:

- 1: Homer L. Scott
- 2: Harold R. Scott

Frederick Van Doren has three children:

- 1. Morrell Van Doren
- 2: Jane Van Doren
- 3: Nancy Van Doren

Susie Crisfield has six children:

- 1: Abraham Crisfield, who has two children:

- 1: Jean Crisfield
- 2: Richard Crisfield

- 2: Mary Updike, who has three children:

- 1: Jeanette Updike
- 2: Alice Updike
- 3: Norma Updike

- 3: Floyd Crisfield

- 4: Susie Warner

- 5: Louise Limner, who has one child:

- 1: Thomas Limner

- 6: Dorintha Crisfield.

Ann Van Nest Bodine had 8 children:

- 1: Thaddeous Bodine
- 2: Peter Van Nest Bodine
- 3: Phebe J. Lott
- 4: Rev. George DeWitt Bodine
- 5: John A. L. Bodine*
- 6: Margaret A. Donaldson
- 7: Joseph Stull Bodine
- 8: Edward P. Bodine.*

Thaddeous Bodine was a lawyer by profession and was the first man in Seneca County, New York, to answer Lincoln's call for volunteers in the war between the States. He had one son,

- 1: Goyne Bodine*

Peter V. N. Bodine had five children:

- 1: Charles E. Bodine, whose children are:
 - 1: Frances Boyer
 - 2: Preston C. Bodine
 - 3: Dorothy Bodine

Frances Boyer has two children:

- 1: Charles Boyer
- 2: Elizabeth May Salzer
- 2: George Bodine*
- 3: Helen Traphagen, whose children are:
 - 1: Parks V. N. Traphagen, who has four children:
 - 1: Doris Eleanor Traphagen
 - 2: James Alfred Traphagen
 - 3: Gertrude Bernice Traphagen
 - 4: Robert Van Nest Traphagen
 - 2: Gertrude Traphagen
- 4: Willie Bodine*
- 5: Hugh Parks Bodine*

Phebe J. Lott had two children:

- 1: Alice Lott
- 2: Anna Mary Lott*

George DeWitt Bodine had three children:

- 1: Georgiana Bodine
- 2: Donaldson Bodine*
- 3: Kate Bodine*

Margaret Donaldson had eight children:

- 1: Anne Tuttle, who has one daughter
 - 1: Margaret Wade Heller, who has two children:
 - 1: Donaldson Wade Heller
 - 2: Peter Van Nest Heller
- 2: William Donaldson*
- 3: Isabelle Donaldson
- 4: Robert Donaldson, who has two children:
 - 1: Stuart Shaw Donaldson
 - 2: Harriet Donaldson

Stuart Donaldson has four children:

- 1: Robert Donaldson
- 2: Richard Shaw Donaldson
- 3: Mary Dianne Donaldson
- 4: Nancy Louise Donaldson
- 5: James P. Donaldson*
- 6: Ethel Donaldson*
- 7: Douglas Donaldson, who has two children:
 - 1: Dorothy Doig Griffith, who has one child
 - 1: David Leithold Griffith
 - 2: Janet Doig Veysey
- 8: Dorothy Archer

Joseph Stull Bodine has four children:

- 1: Jennie E. Harris*
- 2: George F. Bodine, has three children:
 - 1: J. Seward Bodine
 - 2: Gertrude H. Loebell
 - 3: Joseph Warren Bodine

The children of J. Seward Bodine
are:

- 1: George Edward Bodine
- 2: Peter Van Nest Bodine
- 3: Mary Conant Bodine

Gertrude H. Loebell has one daughter:

- 1: Lillian Sandra Loebell
 - 3: J. Seward Bodine*
 - 4: Hugh Van Nest Bodine has two children:
 - 1: Josephine Bodine Lathrup
 - 2: Barbara Bodine*
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Cornelius Bodine, the founder of the family of that name, who settled in the "lake country" of Central New York, had eight sons: One of his sons, Isaac Bodine, was the father of Lewis BoDine, who married Ann Van Doren, above referred to. The descendants of Isaac are the only persons who spell the name with a capital "D."

As a small boy, I recall an argument between my father and Isaac Newton Brokaw, in reference to the proper spelling of the name "Van Nest." One of them took the position that the word was spelled with a "t" and the other that it was spelled "Van Ness." Some years ago, I visited the old cemetery in Ovid, known as the Gospel Lot Cemetery, in which Maria Van Nest Brokaw, Jane Van Nest Van Doren and Ann Van Nest Bodine were buried, to ascertain, if possible, from their tombstones, just what was the proper spelling. I was unable to find the grave of Maria Brokaw but Ann Bodine and Jane Van Doren are buried within a few feet of each other and on the headstone of one, the name is spelled "Van Ness" and on the headstone of the other it is spelled "Van Nest." The spelling of the name "Van Ness" on the one stone may have been an error in lettering the monument, but whether it was or not, from the records of the old Bible, it is quite apparent that the original spelling was "Van Nest."