

Isaac Van Benschoten (1723- aft. 1786) P-309225

Patriot and Soldier

The earliest record of Isaac Van Benschoten is September 11, 1723 in the registers of the Dutch Reformed Church in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York, where, he was baptized. It is assumed that he was born at the family home in that county.

Isaac's grandfather was Teunis Ellison an indentured farming teenager from Bunschoten, Holland, who in 1666 was contracted by the Dutch West India Company to serve on the Hudson River plantation of Jan Post for five years. By 1688, Teunis was a land owner and soon a trustee and incorporator of the City of Kingston, Ulster County, New York.

Isaac was born to Major Elias Van Benschoten and his second wife Catrina Keyser. Elias was a prominent Dutchess County community leader, land owner, and organizer of several Dutch Reformed churches. He was a long time officer in the Dutchess County Militia.

The record of Isaac's marriage is lost, but it is clear that he married Pieterella Van Vliet before 1746. He was Sheriff of Dutchess County between 1761 and 1767. Records show that prior to 1774, he moved his family across the Hudson River to Hurley, Ulster County, New York, where in April 1775 he signed the local oath to the "Declaration of Independence" called the "Articles of Association". On April 23, 1779 he is listed in the Company of Capt. Jacob Conklin, his son-in-law. A family story is that earlier, he and his son Garret were at Valley Forge. Besides Garret, his sons Aaron, Elias, and James also served as soldiers on behalf of the patriot cause.

The last reference to Isaac and Nelly is on December 29, 1786, when they act as sponsors at the baptism of a grandchild at New Hurley church.

Submitted by Gregory Thomas Scotten
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