

People to 1850

Portraits of the Rich and Powerful in New Castle (1750-1850)

By residence



By relationship



With help from Louisa Wood Ruby, Head Photoarchives Research, Frick Art Reference Library and Heather Coyle, Curator of American Art, Delaware Art Museum Online at <http://nc-chap.org/portraits>

By Occupation

Lawyer/Judge

... Too many to list, only 6 are not

Politician/Patriot

Read, McKean, Van Dyke, Bennett
MacDonough ...

Sea Captain/Tavern Keeper

Harding Williams, Slator Clay

Mother (AVDJ (8), ACB(8), HB(9)

ACC(13), CVGR (7), LRD (9)

Opium Dealer/Diplomat

William Read

Religious leaders

George Ross, John Johns, Robert Clay



By Families

- Read, Ross, Bedford, Dorsey, Williams, Dupont, Rodney, Cooch, Hassert, Davis, Fiske...
- Van Dyke, Johns, Van Leuvenigh
- Curtis, Clay, Booth, Rogers
- McKean, Hopkinson



By Artist

Active in PHL	Number	Artist, Copied from, Attr. To, School of...
1661-1669	1	Henri Couturier
1712-1746	1	Gustavus Hesselius
1741-1750		Robert Feke
1746-1759	1	Benjamin West
1749-1767		John Wollaston
1750-1778	6	John Hesselius
1784-1788	3	Robert Edge Pine
1767-1827	2	Charles Willson Peale
1795-1805	1	Gilbert Stuart
1806-1872	3	Thomas Sully
1809-1842	1	Jacob Eichholtz

Abraham Delanoy, C. K. Palmer, Charles St.-Memin,
Clawson Hammitt, John Carlin, John Crawley, John Neagle,
Laussat Rogers, Rembrandt Peale, Samuel Sartain, Spoilum,

Some Faces in the New Castle Area --- by painter

H. Couturier? <1663
 G. Hesselius c1712
 J. Hesselius c1759



Peter Stuyvesant Tobias Bjork Anna Dorothea Finney Ann Curtis Clay Slator Clay

Charles Willson Peale
 1787, 1804
 Rembrandt Peale c1815
 Sarah Miriam Peale?



Thomas, Thomas Jr. McKean



Benjamin Latrobe



Benjamin Latrobe



John Johns

Charles St. Memin
 Samuel Sartain
 <1811
 Gilbert Stuart 1816
 Thomas Sully 1832



James McCallmont



George Read II



Thomas Macdonough



Dorcas Van Dyke Dupont

Why So Many Portraits in a Small Town?

The introduction to the display "Art in Colonial and Federal America" gallery in the Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, stated that

"portraiture was the dominant art form [in colonial and federal America]. Portraits not only revealed Americans' desire to preserve images of themselves and their families, but also the Puritan view that portraiture was an acceptable art. This was because portraits were affordable only by those with an excess of income, and earthly success was believed to be dependent upon heavenly approval. Eighteenth and early 19th-century portraits also inform us about Americans' taste, social status, contemporary clothing, and life preferences."

Peter Stuyvesant
(Petrus Stuyvesant)

As painted: defiant, unyielding,
stern, self-righteous

(Merchant Kings, Stephen Bown, 2009)

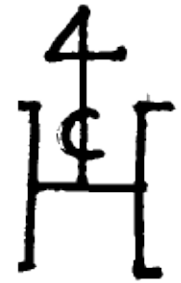
Born in 1612 in Friesland.
Attended university, forced to
leave. Joined GWIC, governor of
Aruba, Bonaire & Curacao by
age 30.

1644 led 12 battleships, 1000
troops to capture St. Martin, leg
shot off. 1645 Became director
of New Netherland.



Attr. Henri Couturier (“crude harsh style on wood panels”)

Henri Couturier, painter of Leiden, merchant in New Amstel and New Amsterdam.



Couturier was born in Leyden, the birthplace of Rembrandt. On Couturier's marriage certificate his occupation was that of "schilder" (painter). Ten months later he is listed on a document as a "a grosgrain cloth manufacturer (groff greysnreder)". Since his first child was born about this time, he probably needed a steady source of income. That he actually was a painter is shown by his becoming an "original member" of the Leyden St. Luke's guild

Attr. Couturier



Olof Van Cortlandt

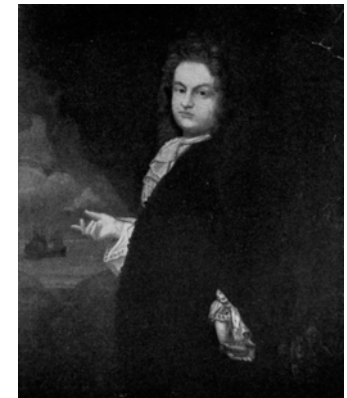


Cornelis Steenwyck

Unknown painter



William Stuyvesant



Frederick Philipse

Evidence for Couturier as painter of A Stuyvesant portrait.

Executive Minutes of the Burgomasters, page 17

Friday, June 12, 1663, at the City Hall present Messrs. Marten Cregier, Olof Stevenzen van Cortlant and the Officer Pieter Tonneman.

The wife of **Hendrick Coutrie** appearing, she is told, the Burgomasters had learned, that she sold in retail; therefore she is bound to purchase the Burgherright. She answers, it was given to her husband by the Director General : asked, whether she had not given something: for it to the General, she says, her husband has painted the portrait of his Honour and drawn pictures of his sons.

...

Monsieur **Hendrick Couterier**, living on the South River, to demand and receive in his, the constituent's, name from Sieur Augustinus Herrmans such a quantity of tobacco, as is due him ...

Residence, <http://nc-chap.org/chap/couturier/>



Erik Björk, pastor of Cranehook & Old Swedes Church

By Gustaf Hesselius

Erik Björk was one of the three Church of Sweden priests sent to America in 1697 to revive the churches and serve the remaining Swedes on the Delaware.

While initially pastor at Crane Hook, he supervised construction of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church in Wilmington and was pastor there from 1697 until 1713.

Portraits of him and his wife Christina Stalcop were painted by Gustaf Hesselius around 1712.



Hesselius lived in 'Wilmington' from 1711-1717, then PHL and MD where he painted 'first American painting to depict a 'scene' (vs portraits)



Clay Family Paintings of John Hesselius



Slator Clay



Ann Curtis Clay & Mary

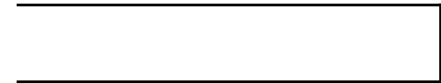


One of the earliest painters in the area,
Influenced by Feke & Wollaston (characteristic almond
shaped eyes

Traveled through DE, MD & VA

In New Castle painted c1759 Anna Dorothea Finney,
Slator Clay (owned tavern at 30 The Strand

Ann Curtis Clay, and 5? of her 13 children: (**Curtis, Robert,**
John, Thomas, Slater Jr., Jehu , Mary , Ann, Elizabeth,
William, George, Sarah), his mother in law Mary Brinckle
Curtis Van Bebber, and possibly the unrelated Jacobus
Williams



Recent `Rediscovery` of an Old New Castle Painting



- Slator Clay, Jr. by John Hesselius, c1759
- To be sold at Freeman's Auctions, PHL, Nov 11, 2015
- Last comparable sale: Thomas Clay by John Hesselius, \$44,000 in 1987, Sotheby's
- Not really lost—descendants know where it was, for ~250 years!

Image and plans for auction courtesy of a Clay descendent. Comparable price information courtesy Heather Coyle, Del. Museum of Art

Portraits of the Van Dyke & Johns Families Of New Castle



Nicholas Van Dyke

John Crawley, 1813
John Crawley, 1813
Jefferson Davis(d)
Chalfant >1900?



Mary Van Leuvenigh Van Dyke



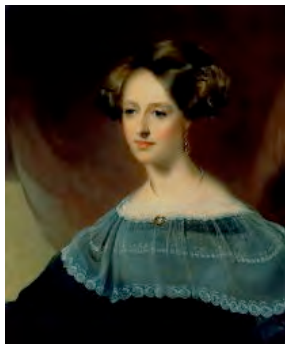
Nicholas Van Dyke, Jr.



Ann Van Dyke Johns Kensey Johns, Sr.

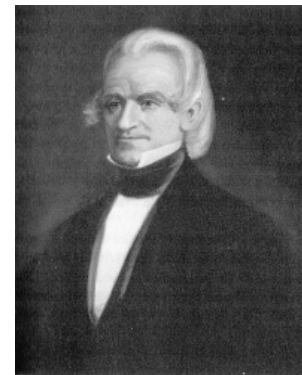
Jacob Eicholtz
Jacob Eicholtz, 1825

Thomas Sully, 1832



Dorcas Montgomery Van Dyke Dupont

Sara Miriam Peale?

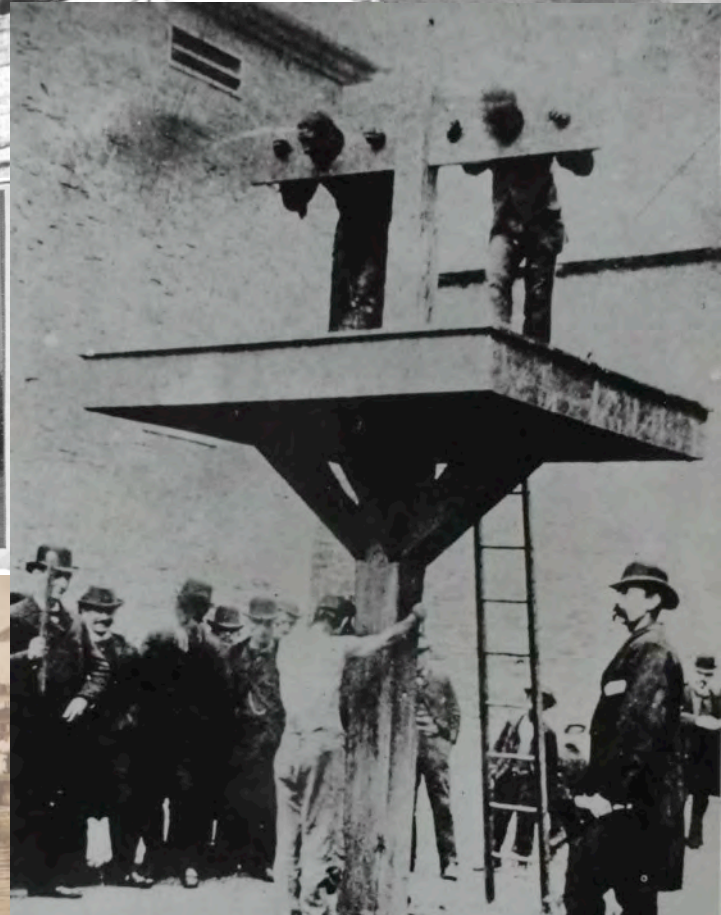
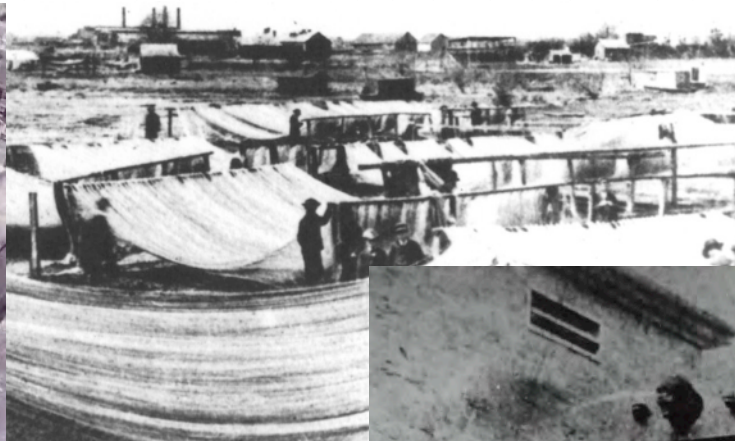
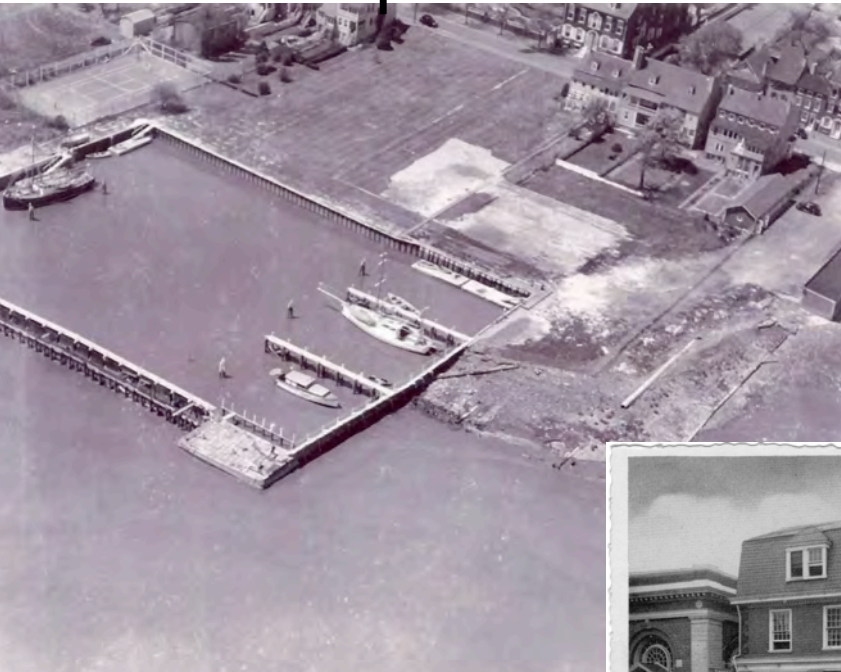


Kensey Johns, Jr.



John Johns

Next Week: People to 1950, Videos of People Who Remember These Scenes:



Boulden's Store

25 The Strand

Building, People, Hunting, Ecology



Back of 23 and
25 The Strand
(Boulden's
Store)

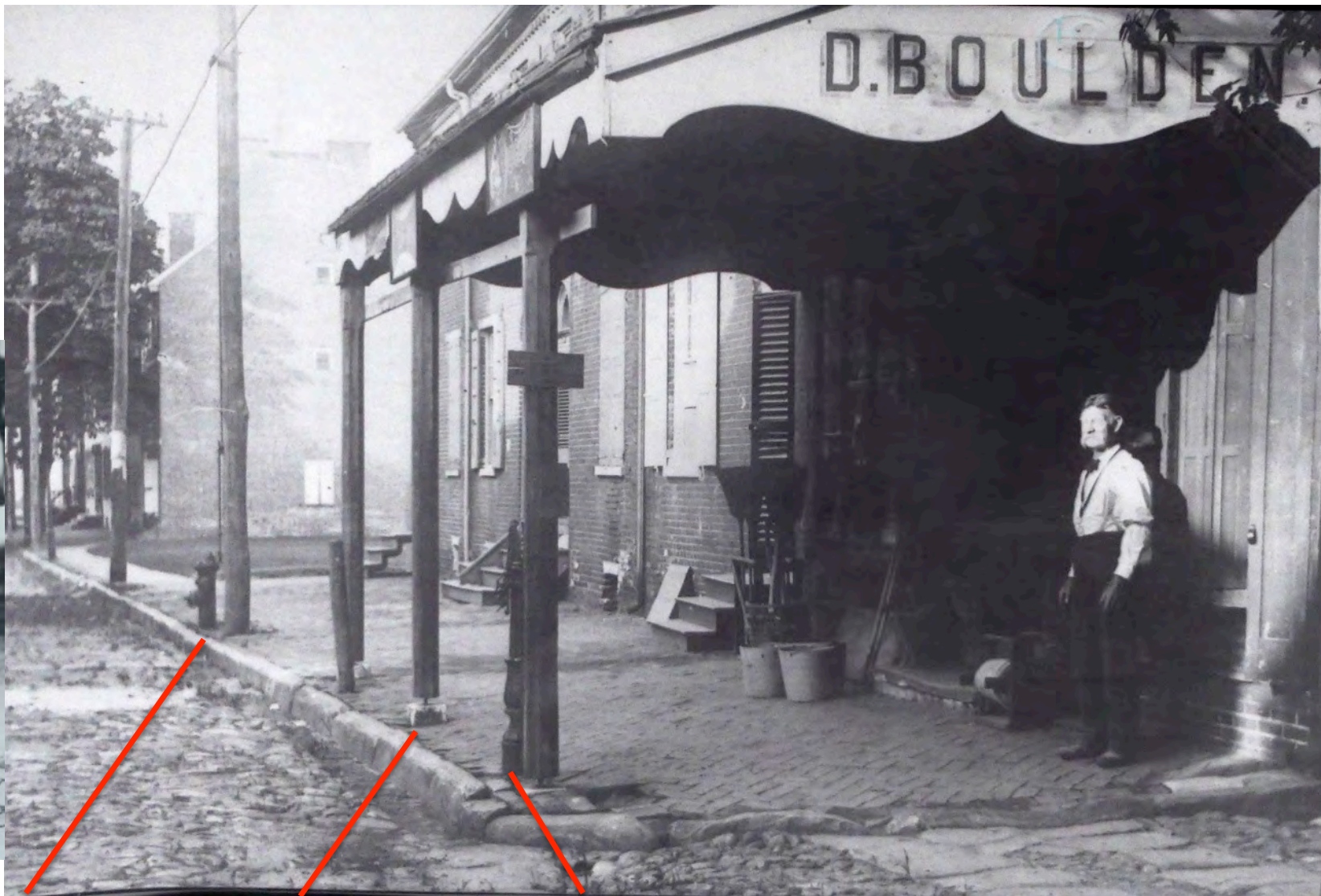
c1905



HARRISON'S "TOWN & COUNTRY" REFRIGERATORS & PAINTS

IVORY SOAP





Fire hydrant (>1870), marble pillar footings, ornate hitching, plain hitching post,



NO CARS!! Gas light, gasoline pump, small sign on wall, 2nd floor hoist, vacant lot next to Packet Alley <1906

Boulden the Hunter

some time in the 1860's [Crippen] sold out the entire business to David Boulden, who has owned and kept the store ever since [1906]. About 35 years ago, Boulden erected a back building to the store and ...

In the rear of the room he partitioned off a small room which was used for depositing guns, gunning paraphernalia and the accommodation of a number of the sportsmen of the town. At that time Mr. Boulden was one of the leading gunners of the town—a fine shot—and was particularly fond of shooting railbirds, which were to be found in all of the marshes along the river in great abundance. They are now, however, becoming very scarce. [!!!!] The small room spoken of was a rendezvous for the gunners, and often when they returned from a tide's shooting, it was an astonishing sight to see the number of birds they had succeeded in killing and which were strewn upon the floor.

With a good tide and a man who was both an experienced pusher and marker, a single expert shot would often kill from 100 to 200 birds. The writer recalls that during the storm of October, 1878, Mr. Boulden on the high tide in the morning and the back water in the afternoon, killed and brought home nearly 400 railbirds.



Upper Bay Museum, North East, MD

Railbird Hunting

“While the pusher poles a small skiff over the flooded plain, the hunter stands in the bow with gun in hand.

It is next to impossible to make rail take wing when they are able to run. Because of this, rail are hunted only when the tide is so high that the flooded marshes afford no shelter.”

