

HISTORIC RED HOOK

Giles Capron, Jr.

March 3rd, 1781–June 10th, 1825

St. John's Reformed Church Cemetery, Upper Red Hook

Marble tablet with shoulders, willow and urn design and masonic symbols.

Born in Preston, Connecticut in the late 18th century, Giles Capron, Jr. came to our area sometime before the birth of his first child, Lucy in 1814. A relative of Giles', William Pitt Capron from New London also made the move and lived in Red Hook in 1810. Giles married Elizabeth Killom and they had at least three children, William, Lucy, and Giles Edmund Capron.

Giles Edmund Capron (born in 1822 and baptized at St. John's) lived in New York City and went to California in 1849 during the gold rush. He died sometime before April of 1850 and left his estate to his mother, or, pending her death before him, his brother William. William (1817-1881) married Clarinda Beckwith, a daughter of



Knickerbocker Reunion in Illinois, c.1910, given to Clara W. Losee by Mrs. Raymond Shook in 1973. Courtesy of Sarah K Hermans.

Col. Nathan Beckwith. They had several children who bear familiar names, honoring other members of their family such as Nathan Beckwith, Elle E., Mary, Lucy A., Edmund Giles, Carrie L., and Amie Sutherland Capron. Lucy (1814-199) married Benner Knickerbocker, a grandson of Hendrick Benner, Jr. Their children, all born in Michigan, were Margaret M., Edwin L., Mary E., Ellen C., Lucy E., and John Henry Knickerbocker. William and Lucy's families removed to Michigan with their mother Elizabeth who is buried with William in Pontiac.

Details about Giles Capron's life are scarce, but there is something intriguing about Capron's gravestone. "S. Bassett, North East", the name and location of the mason who provided and engraved the stone, is recorded at the very bottom. Sherman Bassett (1794-1879) was a mason from the Town of Northeast who's place of business was located near the hamlet of Northeast Center on the south side of what is probably now Downey Road. He and his wife were painted by Ammi Phillips c. 1830 and they are buried in the Amenia Island Cemetery.

The photo above of a Knickerbocker family reunion held in Illinois c.1910 may include members of Giles Capron's family.

Research and writing by Sarah K. Hermans, 2025

Sources:

DAR ancestor # A019022.

Dutch Reformed Church Records in Selected States, 1639-1989 New York Upper Red Hook, Tivoli, Mellenville, Linlithgo Reformed Church Vital Records, 1766-1899.

[findagrave.com/memorial/145034527/clarinda-l-capron](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145034527/clarinda-l-capron).

[findagrave.com/memorial/23427945/sherman-bassett](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23427945/sherman-bassett).

[findagrave.com/memorial/92195629/william-capron](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/92195629/william-capron).

[findagrave.com/memorial/92195674/elizabeth-capron](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/92195674/elizabeth-capron).

[findagrave.com/memorial/96344827/giles-capron](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96344827/giles-capron).

[findagrave.com/memorial/96344893/william-m-capron](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96344893/william-m-capron).

IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918 for Sherman Bassett New York District 12; Monthly Lists; 1864-1865.

Millerton News, 21 Sep 1933.

New York County, New York, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1658-1880 (NYSA) Will of Giles E Capron, 14 Feb 1849. Proved 25 Apr 1850.

Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast, 1704-1930 *Christian Intelligencer* of the Reformed Dutch Church Publication Date 27 May 1837.

Salt Lake County, Utah, U.S., Death Records, 1908-1949.