

Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery Inventory

State and Water Streets, Dover DE 19903

Lot Number: 300 Space: G 33

Find A Grave # 11916152

Name: **Loockerman(s), Nicholas**

Birth date: November 10, 1697 March 6, 1769 Burial Date: March 1769 or 1771 (see next pages) Age: 71

Spouse: Sara (Sally) *Emerson* Loockerman (d. 1745); m. 1721/ 2nd wife: Hester Shurmer Loockerman

Children: Vincent Emerson Loockerman Sr. (1720 -1785); Richard Loockerman (b. before 1764, d. 1778); grandson of Nicholas was the son of Richard, named Nicholas Loockerman Jr.

Parents: Jacob Janse Loockermans (1652-1730) and Ellinor Helena *Keiting* Loockermans (1652-1699; died at birth of Nicholas); Grandson of Govert Loockermans (1681-1753)

Siblings: Govert Loockerman (1681-1753); Col. Jacob Loockerman (d. 1731); John Loockerman (b. 1686); Mary *Loockerman* Hindman Allen); Thomas Loockerman (b. abt. 1691-1714 lost at sea); Thomas Loockerman (b. abt. 1720) possibly son of Dorothy, Jacob's second wife

Residence: "The Range"; now DE State University

Cause of death/Burial/Obituary:

Service/occupation information: farmer, merchant

Officiate:

Lot Owner: Bradford family

Marker: inside the Bradford lot barrier

Inscription: see next page

DIMENSIONS: H 73" x W 36" x D 8"

STYLE: ledger and family monument?

Condition:

Large crack in middle; brickwork?



Inventory date: April 4, 2019 Recorder: Ellen Richardson

Inscription on marker:

Here are deposited the remains
of
Mr. Nicholas Loockerman,
An Affectionate Husband,
Indulgent Parent
Faithful Friend,
Kind Master and generous Neighbor.
He was In communion with the Church Of England
...continued a Member of that Society.
Departed this life
The 6th day of March 1769
Aged 71 years

Nicholas Loockerman 10 Nov 1697 – 6 Mar 1769

Father of Vincent Loockerman 1720-1785

Nicolas Loockerman was born on 10 Nov 1697 in Easton, Talbot County, Maryland. He was the son of Jacob Loockermans and Ellinor Helena Keiting; and grandson of Govert Loockermans. (His name Loockermans was changed to Loockerman when he moved to Delaware)

Govert, a native of Holland, first arrived in New Amsterdam (New York City) in 1633 at the age of 16. He was interested in Indian affairs, politics and business. He was successful in the pursuit of all three of his primary interests - especially business. When he died, he was reputed to be the richest man in North America.

Jacob was the only biological son of Govert Loockermans. He was born on 17 Mar 1652 in New Amsterdam, New Netherland, Colonial America (New York City, New York). He died on 17 Aug 1730 in Dorchester County, Maryland. He married (1) Ellinor Helena Keiting on 29 Jan 1677. She was born in 1652 in St Marys, Maryland. She died in 1697 in Dorchester County, Maryland. He married (2) Dorothy. She died in 1751. He had no interest in taking over his father's businesses nor politics. He denounced his right to inherit his father's heavily disputed estate to his brother-in-law, Jacob Leisler, the husband of his stepsister. In 1678 he was living as a barber-surgeon (one of the most common European medical practitioners of the Middle Ages, was generally charged with caring for soldiers during and after battle. In this era, surgery was seldom conducted by physicians, but instead by barbers, who, possessing razors and coordination indispensable to their trade, were called upon for numerous tasks ranging from cutting hair to amputating limbs.) He trained as surgeon under his uncle by marriage Hans Kierstede. He emigrated to eastern Maryland about 1681 and became a tobacco plantation owner in Easton, Talbot County; he was also magistrate in Dorchester County. From his first marriage he had five sons, Govert, John, Nicholas, Jacob, & Thomas (who was lost at sea in 1714 at the age of 20), and a

daughter Mary, all born in Dorchester County; and from his second marriage a son, also named Thomas, born sometime after 1714. From Jacob, all later American Loockermans' descended.

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Nicholas, the first Loockerman in Delaware, came to Dover in the early 1720's. As the son of landed Maryland gentry and the grandson of an affluent Dutch merchant, he quickly launched into the social and economic scene of Kent County, Delaware. Upon his father's death in 1730, Nicholas inherited 500 acres of "Taylor's Promise" in northern Dorchester County, and one-sixth of his father's personal estate.

Nicholas purchased "The Range," a 1000-acre property on the northeast side of the main branch of the Dover (or St. Jones) River, about three miles east of Dover's eighteenth-century town center, where he established a self-sustaining plantation on which he grew corn, barley and wheat, among other things. There was also a mill listed on his property as early as 1723, probably a sawmill. He used the river to ship agricultural products from his plantation to Little Creek Landing, where Little Creek, Delaware is today. From there, up the Delaware River to Philadelphia. He continued to accumulate property around "The Range" for much of the rest of his life.

Nicholas married (1) Sara (Sally) Emerson in 1721, daughter of Vincent Emerson, a prominent landowner in Kent County, who served as sheriff in 1713. She was sole heir to her father's estate upon his death in 1721. She died in 1745. He then married (2) Hester Shurmer, daughter of Benjamin Shurmer, a native of Bristol, England, a large landowner and an involved public servant.

During the 1730's, he was the county's coroner, which appears to have been a lucrative position. He was paid about £3 per inquisition.

Nicholas and Sally had two children: Vincent Emerson Loockerman born in 1722; and Richard Loockerman. Richard, is named in his father's will of 1765. He died in 1778 with a minor son, named Nicholas, who was over the age of 14, making him born sometime before 1764 (Richard Lockerman, (dec'd.)), according to Kent County Orphans Court Case File. In Orphans Court, Vincent Loockerman, Sr. and his son, Vincent Loockerman, Jr. were named guardians. Nothing more is known about this Richard or Nicholas.

When he wrote his 1765 will, he identified himself as a "farmer" living in Kent County. From the inventory taken at his death, it appears that he lived in a four-room, hall and parlor house with two upstairs rooms. Along with some farm animals, he did bequeath his grandson Nicholas (son of Richard), "one feather bed and furniture." The bulk of the rest of his estate he left to his grandson Vincent Jr.

Nicholas died on 06 Mar 1771* at his homestead, "The Range".

*The death date inscribed on his tombstone is March 6, 1769, but he added a codicil to his will on March 5, 1771 and signed in a barely legible, shaking hand. His tombstone claims he died at age 73 in 1769. If born in 1697, however, he would still have been 73 in early 1771. Also, his will was probated 15 March 1771. (Is it possible the headstone was done well after his death, accounting for the dispute on the date?)

~ Compiled by Holly Westmoreland, 5th great-granddaughter-in-law of Nicholas. Nearly all of this information on Nicholas I have pulled from a PDF file I found on-line:

“THINKING LOCALLY, ACQUIRING GLOBALLY: THE LOOCKERMAN FAMILY OF DELAWARE, 1630-1790 by Kathryn S. LaPrad. A thesis submitted to the Faculty of the University of Delaware in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in American Material Culture. Spring 2010 Copyright 2010 Kathryn S. LaPrad All Rights Reserved.”

Additional Loockerman Family colonial information can be found:

North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000

Title: *A genealogical history of the Dupuy family*

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

Original data:

Source Description

This collection contains genealogical research privately published in family history books and traces the Loockerman family from Govert Loockermans to the children of Govert's grandson, Nicholas. A copy of the pertinent pages is held by Christ Episcopal Church Dover.