

Abraham Staats

by
[Stefan Bielinski](#)

Abraham Staats was born in Holland about 1618. His parents were Isaac Staats and Sara Lauwers of Amsterdam. He came to New Netherland in 1642. He was the founder of the Staats family of early Albany.

Before leaving for New Netherland, he married baker's daughter [Tryntie Wessels](#). The marriage produced at least seven children including a namesake - with whom his life is sometimes confused! By the 1660s, he was an officer and member of the Albany [Dutch church](#).

At the time of his arrival, he was identified as a twenty-four-year-old surgeon employed by the [Van Rensselaers](#) under a six-year contract. He served as such during the 1640s. During that time, his house was located within [Fort Orange](#) and then he was a householder and [prominent fur trader](#) in Beverwyck and then Albany.

In 1664, Abraham Staats was among those New Netherlanders who took the [oath of allegiance](#) to England. He was listed with Albany householders in [1679](#). His home was on the east side of Market [and](#) State Streets - south of the brewery. He owned several other parcels in Albany, an island near Castleton called "Staats Island," and extensive acreage in the vicinity of Claverack. He [skipped](#) a yacht on the Hudson and served as a magistrate. He also was referred to as "Major."

Abraham Staats filed a will in 1683 naming his wife and then six living children as his heirs. It passed probate in 1694. His wife survived him by many years.



notes



Sources: The life of Abraham Staats is CAP [biography number](#) 4545. This profile is derived chiefly from [family](#) and [community-based resources](#). The basic biographical sketch appears in [VRBM](#), 828.

During the 1650s, his nautical skills were employed against the Swedes in what became Delaware.

[Home](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Navigation](#) | [Email](#) | [New York State Museum](#)