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Tavern Keeper, Forks Township, Pennsylvania 1760

Jan (John) Van Etten was born at Wawarsing, Ulster County, New York and baptised 17 April 1720. He died in Rowan County, North Carolina 20 March or May 1786. He married first at Deer Park, Ulster County, New York 26 March 1738 Maritje Westfall, baptised at Minisink, New York 31 January 1720, daughter of Julian and Maria (Codebec) Westfall. She died by 1757 when he married second, in Pennsylvania Margaret Lafevre, daughter of John and Christina (Wentz) Lafevre. There were nine children by the first marriage and eleven by the second.

Mary (Westfall) Van Etten was received into the Reformed Dutch Church at Deer Park 19 June 1745, and Jan Van Etten was elected Deacon the same year and appointed Prelector or Reader. About 1750 they crossed into Pennsylvania and settled near Easton in Northampton County. In 1764 John Van Etten was a judge in Orphans Court.

During the French and Indian War, Captain John Van Etten commanded Fort Hyndshaw near the present town of Bushkill, Pennsylvania, and Fort Hamilton at Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania in 1756-57. He was commissioned a Captain by Benjamin Franklin in January 1756. Franklin directed him to keep a record of the happenings at the forts and this journal is published in the Pennsylvania Archives, first series, volume 3, as well as in History of Northampton, Lehigh, Monroe, Carbon, and Schuylkill Counties, Pennsylvania, I. D. Rupp (1845).

John Van Etten was coroner of Northampton County 1759-60. It was

here that he applied for a license, on 17 June 1760, to sell liquor in Forks Township, which was "allowed".

John bought two hundred and sixty acres in May 1764 from his father-in-law, John Lafevre, on Tatamy's Creek in Bucks County, Pennsylvania for £500. He sold the land in 1775 and moved to Rowan County, North Carolina where he became a Justice. He continued to live there until his death in 1786.

- Harold L. Meeker  
#89 - 10

#### REFERENCES

1. Jacobus Jansen Van Etten, Eva Alice Scott (1952).
2. Baptismal and Marriage Register of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston, Ulster County, New York, 1660-1809, R. R. Hoes, (GPC 1980).
3. Van Eaton and Allied Families, Steven E. Coulter, (1974).
4. A Frontier Village: Pre-Revolutionary Easton, A.D. Chidsey, Jr., (1940).

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from HOYT'S CYCLOPEDIA OF PRACTICAL QUOTATIONS;

p. 433 He who has not been at a tavern knows not what a paradise it is! O holy tavern! O miraculous tavern! - holy because no carking cares are there, nor weariness, nor pain; and miraculous because of the spits, which of themselves turn round and round!

Ametino, quoted by Longfellow in Hyperion, Book 3, Ch 2.

p. 433 There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn.

Samuel Johnson in Boswell's Life of Johnson, 1776.

p. 269 Ay, rail at gaming - 'tis a rich topic and affords noble declamation. Go, preach against it in the city - you'll find a congregation in every tavern.

Edward Moore - The Gamester, Act 2, Scene 1.

Contributed by Harriet Stryker-Rodda