

grandfathers. Henry Sr. had been a tenant farmer in Brome in the late eighteenth century, holding from the Marquis of Cornwallis, a British general best known for his surrender at Yorktown, bringing the fighting in the American Revolutionary war to an end.<sup>3</sup> Grandfather George Squibb ran a well-known London auction house in the Savile Row district.<sup>4</sup> George Henry Wyatt would be the third child and eldest son among the eleven siblings born between 1824 and 1841. The first five were baptized in the neighbourhood of Brome, while after 1835 the younger ones were largely baptized in Long Ditton, Surrey, a parish to the west of London just south of the Thames.



George Henry Wyatt (from Ancestry.com)

What prompted George's family to move the family across the Atlantic is unclear, but when they disembarked from the US-flagged *Hendrick Hudson* in New York on 16 October 1843, Henry gave his occupation as "Farmer" and noted his intent to settle in Canada.<sup>5</sup> *Hudson* was one of a line of packets sailing between London and New York that year, and included a stop in Portsmouth in its thirty-eight day crossing.<sup>6</sup> The Wyatts and their brood of eleven, including the almost fifteen-year-old George, were among fifty in the ship's "cabin," the highest class of accommodation. Theirs was not the only family in the cabin, but certainly the largest. London's *Morning Chronicle* noted the families of poor agricultural labourers among the seventy "intermediate" and steerage

<sup>3</sup> County of Suffolk, vol. 2, f. 72, Land Tax Redemption Office: Quotas and Assessments, Records of the Boards of Stamps, Taxes, Excise, Stamps and Taxes, and Inland Revenue, IR23, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England (hereafter TNA).

<sup>4</sup> There is a profile of Squibb online at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Squibb\\_\(auctioneer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Squibb_(auctioneer)). The will of his son Francis, names his sister, Emma Wyatt, as one of his beneficiaries. Will of Francis Squibb, Auctioneer of Saint James Westminster, Middlesex, 23 December 1833 (PROB 11/1825/325, TNA).

<sup>5</sup> List or Manifest of all the Passengers taken on board the Ship Hendrick Hudson ... 16 Oct. 1843 in Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, Records of the U.S. Customs Service, Record Group (hereafter RG) 36, Microfilm Serial: M237, 1820-1897, National Archives, Washington D.C.

<sup>6</sup> See advertisement in the *Hampshire Telegraph and Naval Chronicle* (Portsmouth), 4 September 1843, 4. *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*, 10 September 1843, 8 (Cleared St. Katherines dock). *Evening Post* (New York), 16 October 1843, 1 reporting arrival in New York, where it listed Mr. Wyatt, his wife, and then named the five oldest children before giving up and saying "and six children."