

# Gerrit Graverat

by  
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[Gerrit Graverat](#) (or Graveraet) was born in April 1745. He was the last of eleven children born to the marriage of [Isaac](#) and [Alida Gerritsen](#) Graverat. However, most of his ten siblings did not survive to raise families of their own. His father was an middling mainstay of the water level [north end](#) of the city.

In [1766](#), he joined his neighbors in signing the constitution of the Albany Sons of Liberty. The next year, he was on the [roster](#) of an Albany [militia](#) company. Perhaps he was the "son" living in the [third ward](#) with "Alida Geveraet" (his widowed mother) in [1767](#). However, that individual may have been his older [brother](#) who did become an Albany resident

Some time after that, this younger son went west - reaching Detroit as early as 1769 (reportedly in the employ of [Israel Ruland](#)). He ultimately become a [silversmith](#) in association with the Albany [Harsens](#) who would establish themselves on an [island](#) in the St. Clair River as early as 1778. Gerrit Graverat married their daughter [Sara](#) - who was twenty years younger than Graverat. The marriage produced four sons and a daughter who settled in the Great Lakes region.

Gerrit Graverat died about 1790 on Harsen's Island. His widow lived until 1802.



## notes



**Sources:** The life of Gerrit Graverat is CAP [biography number](#) 8234. This [sketch](#) is derived chiefly from [family](#) and [community-based resources](#).

The terms of Graverat's arrival in Detroit are the subject of some [debate](#). Did he work for the Long Island-born Ruland or for [Jacob Harsen](#) - his future father-in-law? He sometimes has been referred to as "Isaac" Graverat. The Lakes-region [story](#) of this Albany native and of his in-laws is fascinating but beyond the scope of this website.

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