

Cornelis Antonissen Van Slyck Extracts

Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, *Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts*, trans. and ed. Arnold J. F. van Laer (Albany: University of the State of New York, 1908), pp. 255-257.

Contract between Kiliaen van Rensselaer and Cornelis Teunisz van Breuckelen⁸².

April 5, 1634

I, the underwritten, *Cornelis Theunissen van Breuckelen*,⁸² about 30 years old, acknowledge by this my signature, that I have entered the service of *Kiliaen van Rensselaer*, patroon of the colony called Rensselaerswyck lying on the North River of New Netherland, and this for the period of three years commencing with my arrival there in the aforesaid colony, to help my aforesaid patroon or him who in his stead shall have the direction or administration there, during the aforesaid period in all diligence and faithfulness in carpentering, bricklaying, farming or such other work as I shall be ordered to do or be capable of doing, without distinction of work, and that I will not engage, without the consent of my aforesaid patroon according to the Freedoms granted him by the Chartered West India Company, in any fur trade or obtain furs by gift or barter, upon forfeiture of all my goods and even on pain of peremptory correction touching my person or goods, and this for the sum of 180 guilders a year, to be paid to me or my order there or here on proper settlement of my account, provided that if possible the aforesaid patroon shall procure passage for me in the ship which is being fitted out and pay my board at six stivers a day and besides making me a present of 25 guilders for my passage going and coming, which I acknowledge that I have received, without deduction from my wages, and if within the aforesaid period of three years I quit his service without his express consent, he shall not be bound to pay me a single penny of all that I have earned and I nevertheless be held to satisfy him for the remaining time. I also bind myself under all such regulations and instructions as my aforesaid patroon has already made or shall cause to be made hereafter or which shall be made in his name, to regulate myself accordingly, under penalties and punishment thereto attached, it being understood that over and above the 180 guilders, I shall have also free board, and in case the patroon or his agents should not be satisfied with my service, they shall be free to discharge me before the expiration of the aforesaid three years at any time they please. All this in good faith and in witness of the truth I have signed this together with *Jacob Dircxsz vogel*, formerly baker, who offers himself as surety for the aforesaid *Cornelis Theunisz*, in Amsterdam, this fifth of April sixteen hundred and thirty-four. Was signed: *Jacob Dircxssen vogell, Cornelis thonissen*. Endorsed: Received from the hands of *Kiliaen van Rensselaer* according to the contents of the instrument written on the other side of this sheet, as a present for the passage going and coming, the sum of 25 guilders, this 5th of April 1634, in Amsterdam. 10 RD at 50 stivers f25 – and was signed: *Cornelis Thonissen*.

Underneath was written: Also received from the hands aforesaid the sum of five guilders in order that I may equip myself the better with axes, adzes, trowels and other tools which will not be deducted from my wages. Done as above. 2 RD at 50 stivers f5 –and was signed: *Cornelis Thonissen*. [signed] j.v.⁸³

⁸¹ *V. R. B. Mss, Letter Book f.27.*

⁸² His full name was *Cornelis Anthonisz van Schlick*, or as it was later spelled *van Slyck*; in the present work as well as in the account books among the *Rensselaerwyck Mss*, he is frequently referred to as *Broer Cornelis*. O'Callaghan, *History of New Netherland*, 1:434, erroneously includes *Cornelis Teunissen van Brueckelen* among the settlers who sailed in 1631, and on p. 439 gives *Cornelis Anthonissen van Slyck*, alias *Broer Cornelis*, the first patentee of Katskill,

1646, among the settlers of 1641. The identity of the two men is clearly established by the fact that in the account books appears but one *Cornelis Teunisz van Breuckelen* and that this man's account, running through different ledgers from Aug. 12, 1634, to May 1, 1661, contains among other items charges for rent at 500 guilders a year from Aug. 28, 1652, to Aug. 28 1658, which are stipulated by the lease printed on p. 752-53, which is signed *Cornelis Anthonisz van Schlick*. On May 1, 1661, *Cornelis Teunisz van Breuckelen* was indebted to the colony to the amount of 4337 guilders, 10 stivers, and the same sum is charged against him in a list of debtors of 1674. The name *van Slyck* appears in the account books but twice, in 1664 and 1666, in connection with an account for beer. An entry in *Proceedings of the Commissioners or Magistrates*, 1676-80. in the Albany County clerk's office, under date of Jan. 2, 1677, ordering the constables of Albany to take charge of the estate of *Broer Cornelis*, shows that *Cornelis Anthonisz van Schlick*, from Breuckelen, died in 1676.

⁸³Joost van de Ven, notary public at Amsterdam.

E. B. O'Callaghan. *History of New Netherland*. 2 vols. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1846.
Vol. 2: *New York Under the Dutch*, p. 382.

Transcript of the 1646 patent, William Kieft to Cornelis Antonissen Van Slyck

The following is a translation of this patent. "WE, Willem Kieft, Director-general, and council, on behalf of the High and Mighty Lords States General of the United Netherlands, His Highness of Orange, and the Noble Lords Directors of the Privileged West India Company, residing in New Netherland: To all who shall see or hear these presents read, Health. Whereas Cornelis Antonissen, [Van Slyck,] of Breuckelen, hath appeared before Us, and with his associates requested permission to settle in free possession the land of Katskill lying on the River Mauritius, there to plant with his associates a Colonie, which he hath promised to do, according to the freedoms and exemptions of New Netherland: WE, therefore, considering the great service which the aforesaid Cornelis Antonissen hath conferred on this country, as well in the making of peace as in the ransoming of prisoners, and it being proper that such notorious services should not remain unacknowledged, We have, as Director and Council, conceded and granted to the aforesaid Cornelis Antonissen, the above-mentioned land of the Katskill, to plant there a Colonie, within the time therefor enacted, and in the order appointed, or to be appointed, by the Noble Lords Majors. Wherefore WE, in the quality aforesaid, deed and transport in a true, free, and perpetual possession, to the said Cornelis Antonissen, the aforesaid lands of the Katskill, giving him full power, authority, and special command, to enter on, cultivate, and make use of the said lands in the same manner as he should conclude to do with his other patrimonial estate, without our in any manner, in quality aforesaid, having, reserving, or retaining thereon any part, action, or authority in the least, but as regards the same, desisting from all henceforth and forever; promising to maintain this transport firmly, inviolably, and irrevocably; to perform and to fulfil every part thereof under the penalty of answering therefor according to law, without art or guile. This is subscribed, and with our Seal in red wax, fully and perfectly confirmed. Done in Fort Amsterdam, in New Netherland, this 22d of August, of the year of our Lord and Saviour one thousand six hundred six and forty.

[Signed,]

"WILLEM KIEFT.

"By order of the noble Director-general and council of N. N.

"CORNELIS VAN TIENHOVEN,

"Secretary."

Book of Dutch Patents, GG 157, translation 363. The original of the above patent, on a small piece of parchment, and written in fine old Dutch text, is among the Rensselaerswyck MSS. in a high state of preservation. It is from this last-mentioned document that the above translation was made.

The Livingston Indian Records, 1666-1723

Edited by Lawrence H. Leder.

Gettysburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1956.

Pages 144-146. The deposition of Jean Labate (translated from the Dutch) proving that Cornelis Van Slyck (Brier Cornelise) had an Indian wife.

Jean Labate born in Lorain in a village near Verdun called Bisssonveau aged 74 years Declares y^t in y^e year 1637 he was brought to this Country by y^e Renselaers, & brought up to y^e Place then calld fort orange, but y^e land Round about it was called y^e Collony of Renselaerswyck--y^e fort was then Erected by y^e west India Company a Purpose for a Tradeing house wth y^e Indians, for they had y^e Sole Indian Trade all oy^r Persons y^t came out in y^e Service of y^e Renselaers being obligd to Swear that they were not to Trade wth y^e Indians, Says further y^t y^e 5 nations Called Maquese oneydes onnondages, Cayouges, & Sinnekes, allways traded wth the west india Company & were in amity with them & y^e diverse of Indians wth Straws throu there noses came & traded likewise. When y^e Deponent came first to n: yorke y^e gov^{rs} name was Wouter van Twiller But there was any^r gov^r before him who was Called Peter Minnuit & y^e Commander of y^e fort was called Marte gerritse, & y^e Director of Renselaers Collony was Called Jacob Plank.

Says y^t in y^e year 1638 when Willem Kievet was gov^r of Maanhatanen or n: yorke he went frequently to y^e Sinnekes Country as far as Jagaro being Sent by y^e west Indian Comp^y & putt up y^e Companys mark upon 3 great blak oak trees on both Sides of y^e River of Jagaro and there being then a warr between y^e french & our Indians was Sent by y^e then govern^r, to Release diverse Poor french Prisoners among which there were 5 Priests w^h they [bought] of y^e Indians wth money one of w^h was called Pere Prisialie the names of y^e Rest he forgot & some they Stole from y^e Indians in great danger of there lives, & being affraid to Return to Canida they were Sent in y^e Companies Ships to holland & So to france; The french had warr then with all y^e 5 nations, and Afterwards a Peace being Concluded, There arose a Difference between y^e Maquase & y^e french inso much y^t y^e Gov^r of Canida called mons^r Tressi Came in Person in y^e Deep of winter in y^e year 1666 to Shinnectady a village 20 miles into o^r Country wth 500 men, in Pursuite of y^e Indians but y^e Indians being upon there guard y^e french were forced to Retreat & lost most of his men before he gott home as we were Informed but y^e Summer following y^e gov^r of Canada Called m^r Costell when y^e Maquase were out a hunting came wth 6 or 700 men into y^e Maquase Country & Buent there Castles & Destroyd ther Indian Corn, upon which y^e Maquase came home & Pursued y^e french as farr as Canida, but could not finds them, So came home & Rebuilt there Castles where they are now to this day, long after y^e french made a Peece wth y^e Maquase & then & never before y^e Priests came into there Castles Butt y^e Indians would not Receive them till y^e first English gov^r. y^t came to n: yorke gave them leave.

att y^e Same Time gov^r. nicolls was a Raiseing of men to assits ye Maquase & Sent up as far as y^e Sinnekes Country & Jagaro to Put up y^e king of Englands Coate of armes, in al those Places.

In y^e year 1667 y^e ottowawaes Dionendadees & Twichtwicks came & gave Presents to gov^r. nocills Desyreing that y^e 5 nations may open a Path for them to come & Trade wth y^e English; which they did & diverse have been here from time to time of those farr nations of Indians.

He Declares y^t he & one Brier Cornelise who had an Indian Squae to his wife were Sent by Cornel Nicols in y^e Spring 1665 to take Possession off y^e Simmekes Country on jagaro & y^e Rest of those nations as they were Delivered to y^e English by y^e Dutch gov^r Petrus Stuyvesant

This Deposition was taken before me
at Albany ye 2d day of July 1688.

Early Records of the City and County of Albany and Colony of Rensselaerswyck.
4 vols. Translated by Jonathan Pearson. Albany: J. Munsell, 1869. Vol. 1: 1656-1675, p. 447.

Analysis:

Taken literally this document indicates that Cornelis Teunise Van Slyck was inquiring about the possible estate of a brother by the same name who had resided in Breuckelen in Holland, but was now deceased.

Cornelis was granting Johannes Vander Bogart, Breuckelen alderman, or his successor, his power of attorney to pursue any interests Cornelis might still have in Holland as a result of the death of his brother or from anyone else.

Could the duplicate given name of the brother have been a recording error? Could this have been concerning Cornelis's brother Pieter Teunise who purportedly remained in Holland? If it were Pieter, why would his children who lived in the Colony of New York not be the beneficiaries of their father's estate? Obviously Cornelis thought he might have an inheritance coming. Nothing was located concerning the outcome of Cornelis's request. *E. M.*

Albany County Records.

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Appeared before us, undersigned, commissaries of Albany, etc., Cornelis Teunise Van Slyck, born at Breuckelen, in the province of Utrecht, late *raetsperson*, of the aforesaid colony, making known that it is certainly reported to him, that his brother Cornelis Theunisse Van Slyck is deceased, in his lifetime having dwelt at Breuckelen aforesaid at the brewery of the Vyffhoeck, also that he has had no tidings for four or five years from his aforesaid brother and other friends and relations, therefore he, the subscriber, appoints and fully empowers by these presents, the honorable Johannes Vander Bogart, alderman of Breuckelen aforesaid, and dependencies of the same, or in case of his honor's decease, whoever may have succeeded to his place, especially in his name and for his sake to find out what has fallen to him by the death of his aforesaid brother or other of his friends by will or *ab intestato*; his rights and claims with respect to the same, as well effects personal as real, actions and credits to receive, the same to his advantage to administer upon, acquittance for receipts to pass, and in case of refusal by means of justice to proceed, with power to substitute another person in his place having like or limited power, and further, all things to do, transact or perform, which he may deem needful or reasonable; promising at all times to hold true all that shall be done and performed in the matter aforesaid by virtue of these presents, by the aforesaid attorney or his substitute, without any gainsaying, on pledge according to laws, provided that the attorney be holden a proper statement to make when requested, of his aforesaid transactions and receipts.

Done in Albany, the 3^d July, 1668.

KORNELIS VAN SLICK.

Philip Pieterse Schuyler.

R. V. Rensselaer.

In my presence,

D. V. SCHELLUYNE, Secretary, 1668.

"Adult freeholders, who settled in Schenectady before 1700, together with a description of their house lots and other possessions."

"side of the town of Schenectady, over against the north-west corner of woodland of Adam Vrooman, running between the highway that leads to Niskayuna [Green street]* and the highway that leads to the Aal-plaas [Front street] and westward to the church yard or burial place, being butted and bounded on the west the burial place or church-yard, on the east the woodland of Hendrick Hansen, on the south and north the said two roads or highways [Green and Front streets], containing four morgens more or less." Said Williams by deed dated 7 April, 1709, conveyed the above land to Arent Van Petten of Schenectady, who by deed dated Jan. 20, 1742 conveyed the same to his son Frederic of Normanskill, for the sum of £60 [\$150].† The above parcel of land lying between Front and Green streets extended from the then burying ground of the Dutch church easterly nearly to John street and was from time to time divided into building lots and sold by Frederic Van Petten.

Arent Van Petten, Myndert Schuyler and Jan Dellamont received a patent for 500 acres of land on the Normanskil Nov. 3, 1714, on which his son Frederic probably settled.‡

CORNELIS ANTONISSEN VAN SLYCK.

Cornelis Antonissen Van Slyck *alias* Broer Cornelis is said to have married a Mohawk woman by whom he had several children, three sons, Jacques, Marten and Cornelis, and two daughters Hiletie and Lea (?)

Broer Cornelis by reason of his eminent services in bringing about peace and ransoming prisoners in the hands of the Indians, "which well known services should of right be duly acknowledged,"—received a grant of lands at Katskill in 1646.§

In 1640 he lived near Cohoes falls; he died in 1676.||

JACQUES CORNELISE VAN SLYCK.

Of the three sons of Broer Cornelis, Marten died in 1662, and Cornelis is only once mentioned in the records,— in 1659.

* [Union street was not opened out at this time beyond Ferry. The north gate (at Church and Front), opened out to the ferry, and to the Aal Plants (River Road), and Niskayuna (Green st.) roads which lead through the pasture and wood lots.—M.M.]

† Dutch Church Papers.

‡ Patents, 1678.

§ O'Callaghan's Hist. N. N. I, 382.

|| Brodhead, Hist. N. N. I, 306.

Jacques was born in 1640, at Canajoharie; his Indian name was Itsy-chosaquachka; he was also sometimes called Jacques Cornelise Gautsh.* He married Grietje, daughter of Harmen Janse Ryckman of Albany and had nine children living in 1697. He died probably about 1690, as his widow made an antenuptial contract 21 Feb., 1691, being then about to marry Adam Vrooman. His will was made 8th May, 1690.† In 1671, he was one of the two licensed tapsters in the village.

He seems to have had the regard both of the natives and the Dutch and to have had considerable influence with both peoples between whom he acted as interpreter.‡

At one time he had a house lot in the village probably on the west corner of Washington street and Cucumber Alley, having a front on the former street of about 166 feet and extending back to the Binnè kil. The alley on the north side—16 feet wide wood measure,—was the passage to the Binnè kil which was crossed by a scow to his farm on the Great island.

This lot passed to his son Capt. Harmen Van Slyck; in 1778, it was owned by Harmanus and Samuel sons of the latter, and still later by James Van Slyck Ryley their nephew, his mother being a daughter of Col. Jacobus Van Slyck.

The first patent for land at Schenectady was made Nov. 12, 1662, by Governor Stuyvesant and confirmed by Governor Nicolls April 13, 1667,—to Sweer Theunissen [Van Velsen] and Jacques Cornelyssen [Van Slyck] to each of them severally the moiety of "a certain Island,—Marten's island—near Schenectady over against the town, etc., containing [82] acres "first taking out six acres or three morgens on said island the title to which "was vested in said Theunisson, who married the widow of Jan Barentse "Wemp to whom and to the said Jacques Cornelise said island was granted "Nov. 12, 1662."§

* [Gautsh, pronounced Hotch (nearly); can it be an abbreviation of Ots-toch, his mother's name? "A squaw was queen of the island which lies back of Washington street. She is buried on the island, under an old willow tree at the point towards the bridge. She had two children by a Frenchman—Mr. Harttell. Otstoch was like her mother, savage and wild. She married Cornelius Van Slyck. Kenutje, the second child, was small and handsome, like her father Mr. Harttell; she was very white. She married a Bratt."—Statement of tradition in his family, by Laurence R. Vrooman, of Cortland county.—M.M.]

† Wills, I, 11.

‡ Col. Doc. III, 823, 434, etc.

§ Patents, 357; also the original patent belonging to, Union College.

☞ The significance of this extract is that it is one, and possibly the only, source for "Harttell" as the name of the father of the half-breed Indian wife of Cornelis Van Slyck. E. M.

After Van Slyck's death, Grietje Vrooman his widow, received a confirmatory patent April 2, 1695 for his moiety of said island in trust for the use of their four sons,—Harmen, Cornelis, Marten and Acue.* This island originally belonged to Marten Maurits,† Van Slyck's brother, who dying in 1682, it fell to Jacques by inheritance; hence at first it was called Marten's island, afterwards Van Slyck's and sometimes Sweer Theunise's and Wemp's island, all of whom had an interest in the same.

Besides the half island above mentioned, Van Slyck also received a grant of land on the First flat on the south side of the Mohawk river to the west of the village, described in the confirmatory patent of Oct. 30, 1684, as "situate between two creeks, one called *Stone creek* to the eastward, the other the *Platte creek* to the westward;—the low land lying along the river side to the south of the Mohawk river and on the north of the land belonging to the inhabitants of Schenectady of which said Jacques is to have forty morgens or eighty acres of the best clearest land lying between said creeks, and also forty morgens or eighty acres of woodland on the west side of the *Platte creek* adjoining to his arable land along the river side."‡

The land confirmed by this grant to Jacques Cornelise, is stated to have come to him in right of his mother who was a Mohawk woman. His sons Marten and Cornelis inherited and lived upon this farm which is still in possession and occupancy of the family.§

CAPT. HARMANUS VAN SLYCK.

Harmanus, eldest son of Jacques Cornelise, married Jaunetie, daughter of Adam Vrooman, in 1704; they had twelve children. He died in 1733. His military title was given because of his commanding the company of foot in the village.

By his father's will, fourteen morgens of land on the *First flat* was devised to him, and the Mohawks gave him 2,000 acres at Canajoharie. This conveyance was made Jan. 12, 1713, "in consideration of y^e love, goodwill and affection which we have and do bear towards our loving cozen and

* Patents, 1474.

† Col. MSS., xxxix, 216.

‡ Coun. Min., v, 11, 12. Patents, 1200.

§ Will of Jacques Cornelise in Court of Appeal's office, and Deeds, Sec., State's office, vii. [See *Ante*, page 69, First Flat, page 77, Martens, Van Slycks, Wemp's Island].

"friend Capt. Harmon Van Slyck of Schenectady aforesaid, whose grandmother was a right Mohaug's squaw and his father born with us in the above said Kanajoree, . . . it being his the said Harmon Van Slyck's by "Right of inheritance from his father." This deed was signed by Roddab, Kahekoc, Schenaktadee* and others of the principal Indians, and witnessed by "Lea Stevens interpreter to ye above deed."‡

In a deed of partition, dated 15th March, 1771, of Capt. Van Slyck's land, it is recited that Capt. Harme Van Slyck, deceased, obtained a patent for 2,000 acres of land at "Anthony's Nose";—Nicholas Schuyler, deceased, surveyed the same 27th Sept., 1723, and divided it into sixteen lots; Nov. 1, 1731, said Harme Van Slyck made his will and bequeathed to his three sons, Jacobus and Adam Van Slyck, both now [1771] of Schenectady, and Harmanus Van Slyck, now of Canajoharie, the half of the above mentioned tract of land, save lots No. 8 of lowland, and No. 9 of woodland, and five morgens of lowland out of the west end of No. 6 of lowland, which he bequeathed to his son Harmanus. Isaac Vrooman made a new map of this property and a new sub-division, and the same was allotted to said Jacobus, Adam and Harmanus by lot; and the above mentioned deed was given to confirm this allotment.‡

Capt. Van Slyck probably inherited the half of Van Slyck's island belonging to his father; in 1748 it belonged to his son, Capt. Jacobus Van Slyck.§

ISAAC VAN VALKENBURGH.

Isaac, son of Jochem Van Valkenburgh, of Albany, married Lydia, daughter of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck, in 1705, and settled in Schenectady.

His house lot, on the south side of Union street, was the lot now occupied by the Court House, and was bought of Carel Hansen Toll, for £53 [\$132⁰⁰]. The conveyance made Sept. 6, 1712, he being then in possession,

* [Is this only a coincidence?—M'M.]

† H. Yates' Papers.

‡ H. Yates' Papers.

§ See Jan Wemple's will; Wills, II, 4.

This is critical source material!

(Partial listing)

Adult Freeholders.

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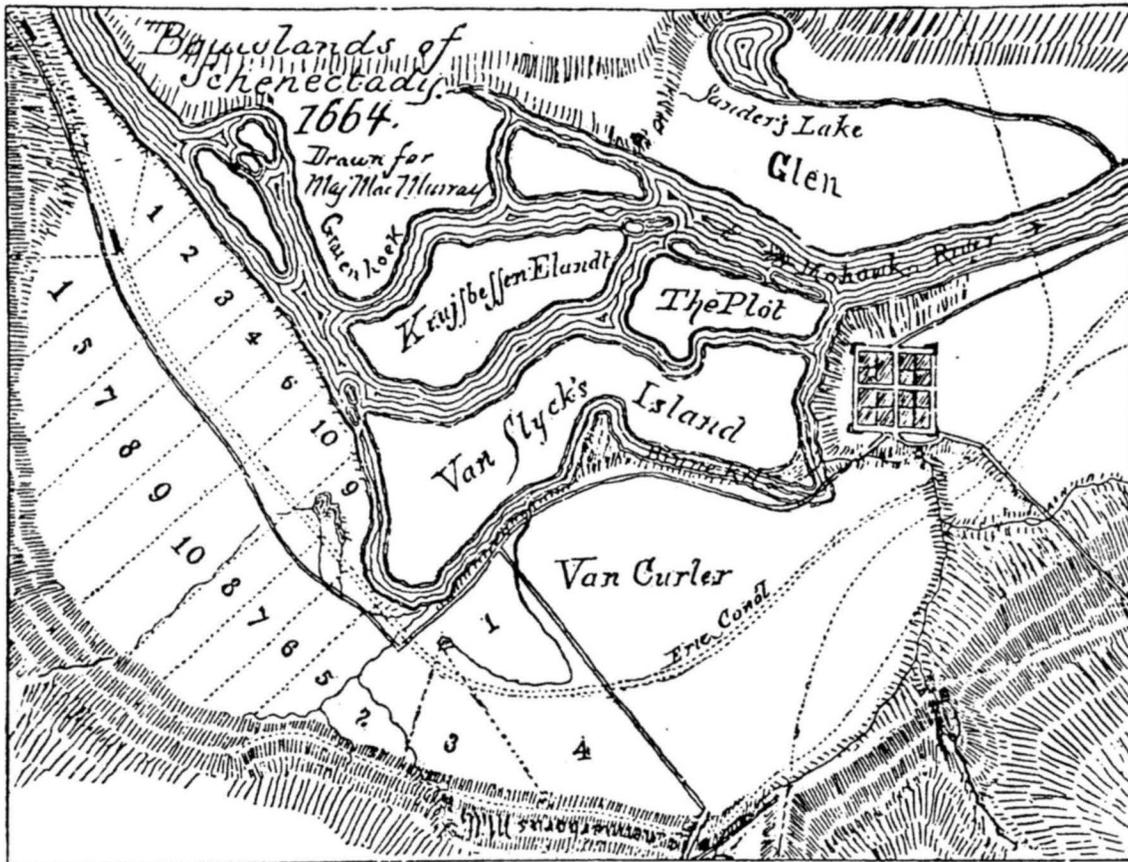
☞ It is unlikely that Jacques’ mother ever removed from the Canajoharie castle.

The significance of this extract is that it is one, and possibly the only, source for “Harttell” as the name of the father of the half-breed Indian wife of Cornelis Van Slyck. The reference to Kenutje’s marriage to a Bradt is suspect.

E. M.

A History of the Schenectady Patent in the Dutch and English Times: Being Contributions Toward a History of the Lower Mohawk Valley. Albany, NY: J. Munsell's Sons, printers, 1883.

ORIGINAL SCHENECTADY LAND ASSIGNMENTS
 from Rev. J. H. Munsell's *History of Schenectady County, 1662-1885*



For descriptions of all of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyke's additional land assignments plus those of the other original recipients in the Schenectady area see:

"Division of Lands," pages 10-15.

(See BRADT Vol. 1, pp. 50-55.)