

three were killed in the Schenectady massacre of 1689 and William Teller, an aged man, then residing in Albany, took little interest in the Patent, and in 1692 removed to New York, where he died in 1700. Thus Ryer Schermerhorn was left in entire control of affairs, almost from the beginning. The story of his struggle to maintain his authority is aptly and clearly told by Mr. G. S. Roberts in his very interesting volume, "Old Schenectady," and it is quoted as follows:

"The reason for the Schenectady Patent of 1684 from Governor Dongan was this: The fifteen original proprietors had obtained possession of the land by deed from the real owners of it, the Mohawk Indians, and if the Colony had remained in the possession of the Dutch, any further right to the land might not have been necessary. The Colony, however, passed into the possession of Great Britain and it soon became evident that complications would arise in regard to titles,—hence, the necessity for a patent. \* \* \* The Patent of Schenectady included about 80,000 acres, the affairs of which were absolutely in the control of the five Patentees and their heirs and successors. In 1700 when Ryer Schermerhorn was the sole surviving Patentee, the people objected to being under the rule of one man. They said that he disposed of the public lands without giving any accounting of his transactions, so they petitioned for a new patent in October, 1702, which should give the right to elect five trustees to serve three years, who should be required to render an accounting of their trust to their successors. This Patent was granted in February of the following year, and Col. Peter Schuyler, John S. Glen, Adam Vrooman and John Wemp were made trustees to serve with Ryer Schermerhorn. But the Schermerhorn determination asserted itself. He continued to receive the rents and the profits of the town and brought suits in the court in his own name, without giving an account to the people. He utterly disregarded the new Patent, claiming that he was sole trustee of the village. Even the fact that he was suspended by the Governor made no difference to him. He fell back upon the authority of the Patent of 1684, which was really binding, notwithstanding the Patent of 1703. He knew that the old

Patent gave to the five trustees, their heirs and assigns, forever, the control of the land, and as survivor, he intended to live up to the rights secured in that Patent. From the standpoint of Ryer Schermerhorn and by precedent, he was right. But the germ of that great principle of government of the people, by the people and for the people, although not expressed in words until many years later, was beginning to take root, probably without any suspicion of that fact, by those interested.

The people seeing that the determination of Ryer Schermerhorn was based on very solid foundations, petitioned, by two of the new trustees, Col. Peter Schuyler and John S. Glen, for an annual election of trustees, with a more strict provision requiring an accounting of their proceedings. This petition was granted and a new charter was given in April, 1705, with Ryer Schermerhorn's name not among the trustees. In 1704, the Governor and Council gave a hearing to Mr. Schermerhorn. He was suspended as a trustee, but this mattered little to him. He disregarded the action of the Governor, insisted that he was the only trustee and persisted in refusing to render an accounting; so in July, 1705, the new trustees began suit in the Chancery Court against him. This suit was the first of a series of suits brought by both sides for a period of nearly one hundred years, the second Ryer Schermerhorn, a grandson of the first, continuing the contest until his death in 1795, but not one was ever finished. Ryer brought a counter suit against the trustees, John S. Glen, Adam Vrooman, Daniel J. Van Antwerp and J. B. Van Eps. The trustees, weary of the contest, attempted to affect a compromise, but without success, and an appeal to the Colonial Legislature also failed to accomplish anything.

In 1714, on October 22 and 23, Schermerhorn, by lease and release, conveyed his title to William Appel of New York—Appel kept a tavern in that city—with the understanding that he, Appel, should reconvey the lands to Ryer Schermerhorn, Jan Wemp, Johannes Teller and Barent Wemp. This was done on the 25th and 26th of the same month and year. To confirm the conveyance, Gov. Hunter granted the fourth

Charter on November 14, 1714. This grant was practically the same as that of 1684, the township in both patents being granted to Ryer Schermerhorn and his associates, their heirs, successors and assigns. These conveyances settled for a time the controversy over the management of the common lands.

In 1750, Jan Schermerhorn, son of Ryer, who died in 1719, claimed that all who were freeholders of Schenectady, when the Dongan Patent was granted in 1684, had equal title in the common lands. This meant that only those would inherit who were descendants from the first settlers in the male line of the eldest sons, for at this time the law of primogeniture was in force. There were, when this claim was set up, but 27 eldest sons who were legal heirs. The death of Jan Schermerhorn in 1753, before legal action had been brought, ended this claim.

But this did not end the contest, for Jan left a son, another Ryer Schermerhorn, who had all the devotion to purpose, and the determination for which the family were noted. He began suit against Arent Bradt and others as patentee, in 1755, for his share in the common lands, which he claimed were his by inheritance from his grandfather, the first Ryer. For 41 years he fought for what he believed to be his rights, and died in 1795 with the struggle unfinished. So strongly did he feel on the subject, that he willed the contest to his heirs, with the penalty of disinheritance should they fail to continue it.

This second Ryer retained Judge James Duane, of glorious memory, as his attorney. Judge Duane told his client that a document in the hands of a man by the name of Appel, living in New York, was of greatest importance to his case, but for it to be of use, it must be in Albany within ten days. Between Albany and New York was nothing but a wilderness with here and there an Indian trail, and the Hudson River. To make the journey to New York and back through the woods, in eight days, was utterly impossible, and the river craft were far too slow. No Schermerhorn had yet been beaten by difficulties, and this member of the family decided that a journey could and should be made in one of the light and graceful birchbark canoes of the-Indians, with his muscle and will as motive power, so he started alone, obtained the

document and was in Albany again before the expiration of eight days. It is a most unfortunate thing for the present generation that Mr. Schermerhorn wrote no account of the trip. As he was a man who did things without talking of them, one of the most interesting journeys of the early days is left to the imagination."

Ryer-Schermerhorn, the Elder, was a large individual property owner, in addition to his being sole trustee of the Schenectady Patent. His property may be listed as follows:

(1) In addition to Bouwery No. 4, acquired through his wife, he owned the easterly half of the Seventh Flat on the north side of the Mohawk River. This property contained about 20 morgens (40 acres) and was bounded east by the Tequatsero Creek, west by another small kill, north by the hills, and south by the river, as described in deed. This property finally came into the possession of the children of his daughter, Cataleyntje, wife of Johannes Wemp.

(2) A lot on the east corner of State and Church Sts., Schenectady, 170 x 160. Part of this lot was left to his daughter, Cataleyntje, wife of Jan Wemp, and the remainder to his son, Jacob, who then dwelt upon it. The latter let it to his son, William, who sold it in 1806.

(3) A lot in Schenectady, purchased Feb. 23, 1703, on the north side of State Street, having a frontage of 73 feet.

(4) Another lot on State Street, 50 x 100, which he left to his son Arent:

(5) A tract of land on the south side of State Street, near the Coehorne Kill, 256 feet in length, which he bequeathed to his son Jan. This parcel contained 4 morgens, or 8 acres.

(6) A lot on the west corner of Union and State Streets, which he owned as early as 1684, and which he acquired through his wife. It was about 190 feet square, and later was owned by one of his wife's grandsons, Helmus Veeder.

(7) A tract of land in Bergen County, N. J., purchased from Gerbrant Claesen, Feb. 6, 1701-2. One-half of this property he deeded later to his daughters, Jannetie and Catalina, and to Catharine Helmers, his step-daughter, wife of Gerrit Symonse Veeder, each receiving a one-sixth part.

The Seventh Flat, as above mentioned, lies near Hoffman's Ferry, between the Droybergh Kil on the east and Van Eps' Kil on the west. Bouwery number 4 contained 26 morgens, or 52 acres. It was known as Schermerhorn's Mills and remained in the family 200 years. Ryer came into possession of this tract through his wife, Ariaantje, whose first husband, Helmer Otten of Albany, purchased it from the original proprietor, Pieter Adrianse Soogemakeleyck. Ryer's marriage took place in July, 1676, at which time in anticipation of this marriage, his wife made a contract with the guardians of her daughter, Catharine Helmerse Otten, by which she mortgaged the farm at Schenectady, for the payment of 225 beaver skins to her daughter, when she arrived at mature age, also to give her one-half of her late husband's property in Holland. The east line of Bouwery number 4 ran along the west line of the Schenectady car works yard, and so on northerly, following the small brook, emptying into the Binne kil. The west line was the Poenties kil. (The property was so described in 1883.)

*Anecdote of Ryer Schermerhorn, the Elder.*—When a youth, Ryer was sent to Holland at the solicitations of two maiden aunts, who each desired to make him their heir, both, however, owning separate establishments, and each wishing him to live with her. This caused so much jealousy and unkind feeling, and made him so unhappy, that he finally left without notice or intention, and went to London and there learned the shoemaker's trade. His family for a long time gave him up for lost, but he was finally discovered by a sea captain who had been a good friend of his father's, and he was induced to return to America.

ABSTRACT FROM WILL OF RYER JACOBSE SCHER-  
MERHORN ON FILE IN SURROGATE'S OFFICE,  
CITY OF NEW YORK,—PAGE 171, LIBER 10.

In the Name of God, Amen. I Ryert Schermerhorn of Schenectady, Esq., do make this last will and testament. I leave to my eldest son John Schermerhorn 5 Pounds in lieu of all demands or pretensions

he might hereafter make to any part of my estate by virtue of priority of birth. I leave to my wife Ariantie all my real and personal estate during her life and after her death I leave to my son John all my lands where I now live at Schenectady, and he is to convey and confirm unto John Wemp's three children, viz., Myndert, Ryert and Ariantie "procreated in the body of my deceased daughter, Catalina, late wife of John Wemp," the one half of the house and farm where my said son John now lives, on the north side of the Maques River above the town of Schenectady, and the other half to my daughter Janeke, the wife of Valkert Symonsen. I give to my son John the lot of ground lying in Schenectady and adjoining to the lots of ground of Hendrik Vroman and Barent Wemp. I leave to my son Job, eight morgen of the hindermost lot called number 2, bounded east by land of Samuel Bratt; also five and one half morgen of woodland, bounded by the lots of Samuel Bratt & the woods; also part of the lot in the town of Schenectady where he now lives, and which shall be 70 feet broad at the front, to be taken in the middle of the whole lot, which is 170 feet wide, and it is to keep the same width to the end of the lot "Joyning westerly by the street, by the house now in the possession of Josias Swart." I leave to my son Arent, all that farm of land called the Second Flatts, where Simon Groot, Jr., lately lived, with the woodland thereto belonging; also one lot of ground in Schenectady, lying on the west side of the lot belonging to Dow Antes (Aukes) De Frieze, being 50 feet wide in front and 200 feet in length. "But it is my will that the 18 scheppels of wheat yearly forever to be paid for the ground rent of the said Second Flatts, are to be paid equally by my sons John, Job and Arent." I leave to Ariantie Wemp, daughter of John Wemp, one lot of ground, heretofore given to my son John, "being broad in front 50 feet and long 160 feet." I leave to my daughter Janeke, wife of Volkert Symonsen, one half of my land in the Raritans in East Jersey, and I give the other half to my three grandchildren Myndert, Ryert and Ariantie Wemp, "with the condition that my youngest brother Lucas Schermerhorn shall enjoy the same for six years at the annual rent of one pepper corn." I also leave to my brother Lucas all my cattle on said land. I leave to Wilhelminus Symonsen son

of Gerritt Symonsen, the lot of pasture ground lying on the south side of the town of Schenectady, next to the lot of Geritt Symonsen. I leave to Hannah Symonsen, daughter of Geritt Symonsen "my lot in the Jerseys, called the Garsnegat." I leave to my son John my old negro man "Tom" and my negro boy "Abraham." To Ariantie Symonsen, wife of Daniel Daniels, I give one cow. I leave all the rest of my estate to my four children and to the children of my daughter Catalina, deceased. I make my three sons, John, Arent, & Jacob, executors.

Date Apr. 5, 1717.

Witnesses Dow Aukes, Ph. Schuyler, Ph. Verplanck.  
Proved before Killian Van Rensselaer, Apr. 9, 1726.

## SECOND GENERATION.

2

RYER, J., son of (1) Jacob Janse Schermerhorn and Jannetie Egmont; bp. June 23, 1652, in New York; d. Feb. 19, 1719; m. in July, 1676, ARIANTJE ARENTSE BRADT; d. 1717; dau. of Arent Arentse Bradt and Catalyntje Vos; widow of Helmer Otten.

Children:

- Jannetje, b. —; m. Aug. 6, 1698, in Albany, Volkert Symonse Veeder.
- Catalina, b. —; d. about 1708; m. June 15, 1701, in Schenectady, Johannes Wemple.
- 6 Jan, bp. Oct. 14, 1685, in Albany; m. Engeltje Vrooman.
- 7 Jacob, b. —; m. Margarita Teller.
- 8 Arent, bp. Jan. 1, 1693, in Albany; m. Antie Fonda.

"Jannetje Cornelius (wife of Jacob Schermerhorn),  
[was] 45 on 23 June 1676."

Source: Kenneth Scott, "Early New Yorkers and Their Ages," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 57:279, citing Colonial Manuscripts of New York in the State Library at Albany 35:135. E. M.

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

In 1711, Pieter Clement sold his half of the farm to Cornelis Vield together with *Benten* island, for £445;\* and on March 17, 1712, his brother Joseph sold the other half to Carel Hansen Toll for £400.

Roberts was also the original owner of *Poversens* lying opposite to *Maalwyck* on the south side of the river.†

## JAN ROELOFFSE.

He was the eldest son of the famous Anneke Janse, by her first husband Roeloffe Jansen. Until about the year 1670 he was a resident of Beverwyck, where he acted as the surveyor of lots. This year he accidentally killed Gerrit Verbeeck at Albany, for which he was pardoned by the Governor.‡ His house lot here was on the north side of Union street 100 Amsterdam feet west of Ferry street—the lot now owned and occupied by Messrs. Joseph Y. and Giles Van de Bogart. This lot he sold to Jan Pootman, his neighbor on the east, reserving a life interest in the same for himself and wife. The consideration to be paid by Pootman was 50 beavers at 8 guilders each, in merchantable grain at market price, within eight years from date—12 Sept., 1687, whereof, it is stated, a cow had already been paid and delivered at nine beavers.§

On the fatal night of Feb. 8, 1690, both Pootman and Roeloffse with their wives were slain. The latter left no children.

## REYNIER SCHAETS.

Reynier Schaets "chirurgion," eldest son of Dominic Gideon Schaets, was an early settler of Schenectady, where he was appointed justice of the peace by Leisler in 1689.¶ His house lot was on the north side of Union street, 100 Amsterdam feet west of Church street and extended through to Front,—401 feet, having a front on both streets of 51 feet.\*\* A portion of this lot fronting upon Union street was owned by the late Dr. Alexander G. Fonda, now by the county. Schaets and one of his sons were killed in 1690, when the village was burned by the French and Indians. His widow Catrina Bensing, afterwards married Jonathan Broadhurst of Albany, April,

\* Deeds, v, 108, 141. † See Douwe Aukes, Toll, and Vield.

‡ Albany Annals, iv, 14; Court of Assizes, ii, 524. § Toll Papers.

¶ Doc. Hist., ii, 198; Col. MSS., xxxiii, 12. \*\* Deeds, v, 106.

23, 1696. Two of Schaets' children,—a son named Gideon, who sold the above mentioned lot in 1700 to Albert Vedder,—and a daughter Agnietje who married Matthys Nak of Albany.

## SCHERMERHORN.

Jacob Janse Schermerhorn, the first settler, is said to have been born in Waterland, Holland, in 1622.\* He came to Beverwyck quite early, where he prospered as a brewer and trader. In 1648 he was arrested at Fort Orange, by order of Governor Stuyvesant on a charge of selling arms and ammunition to the Indians. His books and papers were seized and himself removed, a prisoner, to Fort Amsterdam,—where he was sentenced to banishment for five years, with the confiscation of all his property. By the interference of some leading citizens, the first part of the sentence was struck out, but his property was never recovered. These severe proceedings against Schermerhorn formed subsequently a ground of complaint against Stuyvesant, to the States General.† Nothing daunted by his misfortunes, he began anew, and before his death in 1689, acquired a large property for the times. He made his will May 20, 1688, and the year following died at Schenectady, where he had resided for some years.

By his will he gave "to my eldest son *Reyer* before partition of my "estate my lot at the river side in Albany, where *Kleyn De Goyer* ‡ lived,— "my wife to have during her widowhood the rents and profits of all my "real estate, viz., my farm at *Shotac* [Schodac],—pasture over against "Marten Gerritse's island, two houses and lots in Albany, the one over "against *Isaac Verplanck*, the other where my son *Symon* lives;—my house "and lot at Schenectady where I now dwell,—to my wife all my movable "property." His son Jacob lived on his farm at *Schotak*. After his and his wife's death, his property was to be divided equally among his nine children.§ At the final settlement of his estate, it was inventoried at 56,882 guilders.

\* O'Callaghan's Hist. N. N., ii, 63 note, 587; i, 436, 441; Deeds, ii. In 1648 he was at South [Delaware] river.—O'Callaghan's Hist. N. N., ii, 81.

† Col. Doc., i, 812, 337, 345, 428; ii, 450; iii, 179.

‡ [De Goyer — the thrower—caster—pitcher.—M'M.]

§ Wills, i, 20.

## REYER SCHERMERHORN.

Reyer was the only son of Jacob Janse, who settled permanently at Schenectady. He was *gebortigh alhier in Albanie*,—his wife, Ariaantje Bratt, in Esopus.\* She was the widow of Helmer Otten and was married in July, 1676, at which time, in anticipation of this marriage, she made a contract with the guardians of her daughter Catharina, by which she mortgaged her farm, No. 4, at Schenectady, for the payment of 225 beaver skins to said daughter when she arrived at mature age, or married; also to give her one-half of her late husband's property in Holland. Tryntje † married Gerrit Symonse Veeder, in 1690, and in 1697, Gerrit and his wife made the following settlement with Schermerhorn and his wife, in relation to the patrimonial property of Veeder's wife:

Schermerhorn agreed to make over

1st. Eight morgens of land at Schenectady, out of Symon Volckertse's *hoek*.

2d. To convey to Gerrit Symonse, four morgens of land from the south end of bouwery No. 4, *hindmost* land.

3d. To make satisfaction for money of Helmer Otten obtained from Holland.

And Gerrit Symonse agreed to make satisfaction to Schermerhorn for the house the latter bought of Lewis Cobes for Catharina Otten before her marriage.‡

He was one of the five patentees mentioned in the patent of Schenectady 1684, and for nearly 15 years (1700 to 1714), was the only survivor, for which reason he was complained of as exercising arbitrary power over town affairs and rendering no account of his proceedings. In 1690 he was member of the Provincial Assembly from Albany county and justice of the peace. In 1700 he was appointed assistant to the Judge of Common Pleas. The mills on the *Schuylenberg kil*, together with the bouwery No. 4, remained in the family nearly 200 years and have but lately passed into other

\* Will made by them 7th Sept., 1678.—*Not. Papers*, II. He was baptized in New Amsterdam, June 23, 1652.—*Valentine's Manual*.

† [*Tryntje*—dutch for Catherine.—M'M.]

‡ Deeds, IV, 106, 287, 298.

hands. Schermerhorn made his last will April 5, 1717,—proved April 8, 1719, and died Feb. 19, 1719,\* leaving two daughters and three sons, all of whom had families.

Real estate owned by Reyer Schermerhorn.

*First.* In addition to bouwery No. 4, acquired through his wife, he owned the easterly half of the *Seventh flat* on the north side of the river. In 1705 he conveyed this farm to his eldest son Jan, but in 1717 devised the same in his will to the children of his daughter Cataleyntje, wife of Johannes Wemp, which bequest her brother Jan confirmed after his father's death in 1719, by a deed in which the whole flat is said to contain 40 morgens, and to be bounded east by the creek called *Tequatsero* [*Droybergh, Verf* or *Color kil*], west by another small kil, north by the hills and south by the river. In 1733 the Wemps conveyed their half of this flat to Johannes Van Eps who owned the other half.†

*Second.* He owned the lot on the east corner of State and Church streets, purchased probably of Claas Laurens Van der Volgen, having a front of 170 feet on State street and 160 feet on Church street. Of this lot by his will the corner lot, 50 feet by 160 (lately the property of Gen. Jay Cady), was devised to his daughter, Ariaantje, wife of Jan Wemp, and the next seventy feet, now belonging to the Schenectady bank and estate of the late S. C. Groot, to his son Jacob, who then lived upon it; this lot afterwards passed to Jacob's son Willem, who sold one-half of it to Cornelius Groot in 1806.‡

*Third.* On the 23d February, 1703, Johannes J. Bleecker of Albany, guardian of Catharina Otten, sold to Reyer Schermerhorn a lot on the north side of State street, next west of the present lot and building of Isaac I.

\* Wills, I, 163. The following is a copy of the sexton's bill for his funeral expenses:

Ano. 1719. Voor het aen spreken van de overledene Reyer	Gulden.
<u>Schermerhorn</u> en Voor het begraven.	54
en voor het aen spreken op Nystakayoene,	12
en voor het doot Kleet,	6
en bekenne vol daen toe zyn tato dese den 27 April.	Gulden, 72
<u>JAN VROOMAN.</u>	

† Deeds, V, 60, 70, 404; VI, 145; Toll Papers.

‡ Deeds, XIII, 513; Deeds, IV, 208.

† this should read "his granddaughter, Ariaantje, daughter of Jan Wemp,"

Truax, having a front of 73 feet. This included the lot of the late Nicholas Van Vranken, now occupied as a public house, and probably at the death of Schermerhorn or before, passed into the possession of Volkert Symonse Veeder, who married his daughter Jannetic, and who also owned the lot of 120 feet front, next east on the north corner of State and Ferry streets.

*Fourth.* He also owned a lot on the west side of the lot of Douwe Aukes De Freeze, of 50 feet front on State street and 200 feet deep, which he bequeathed to his son Arent. This is the lot on which stands the house and store of the late G. Q. Carley.

*Fifth.* He also owned a parcel of land on the south side of State street, extending from the lot of Edward Ellis to the Coehorne kill—256 feet English, which in 1717, he devised to his son Jan. In Jan's will made 1752, this lot is said to comprise four morgens, it must therefore have extended in the rear from 1,000 to 1,500 feet.

*Sixth.* In 1684, he owned the lot on the west corner of Union and Church streets,—about 190 feet square, which he acquired through his wife.\* This lot subsequently became the property of Helmus Veeder, grandson of Mrs. Schermerhorn, to whom he devised the "lot of pasture ground lying on the south of Schenectady next to the lot of Gerrit Symonse [Veeder] and now in occupation of said Gerrit Symonse."

This pasture was between Mill creek and the Canal, east of Ferry street extended south:

Reyer Schermerhorn in his will bequeathed to his children the following parcels of real estate:

"To his son Jan, all his real estate, provided he shall convey to his deceased sister Catalina's three children, Myndert, Reyer and Ariaantje Wemp, one-half of the house, farm and land where my son John now lives on the north side of the Maquaas river, [Seventh Flat] and the other half to my daughter Jannetic wife of Volkert Symonse [Veeder]:—to his eldest son Jan, that lot of ground lying in Schenectady adjoining to the lots of Ground of Hendrick Vrooman and Barent Wemp, [east end and south side of State street]:—to son Jacob, eight morgens of the hindmost boundary No. 2, bounded east by land of Arent Bratt and west by lands of Samuel Bratt, with 5½ morgens of woodland bounded by the lands of heirs of Samuel Bratt and the woods:—also part of the lot of ground in the town of Schenectady where he now lives which part shall be broad on

\* Deeds, III, 324.

"on the front 70 feet, to be taken in the middle of the whole together with a passage of four feet broad from the north end of said lot going Westerly to the street [Church] by the house now in possession of Josias Swart:—  
"to son Arent the farm called the Second Flat, where Symon Groot Jr., formerly lived with the wood lands thereunto belonging; also one lot of ground in the town lying on the west side of the lot of ground belonging to Douwe Aukes De Ffreeze being broad in Front 50 feet and long 200 feet [the late G. Q. Carley's lot]:—to Ariaantje daughter of Jan Wemp a lot of ground in Schenectady lying on the west side of the lot of ground hereinbefore devised to my son Jacob, being broad in front 50 feet and long 160 feet, [lot of the late Gen. Jay Cady]:—to daughter Jannetic wife of Volkert Symonse [Veeder] half of my lands on the Raritan in East Jersey, and the other half to my three grandchildren, Myndert, Reyer and Ariaantje Wemp:—to Hannah Symonse [Veeder] my lands in the Jerseys called *Ganse gat*.\*—to Wilhelmus Symonse, son of Gerrit Symonse [Veeder] the lot of pasture lying in the south part of the town of Schenectady next to the lot of said Gerrit Symonse, now in his occupation.†

#### SYMON SCHERMERHORN.

When Jacob Janse made his will in 1688, he spoke of his son Symon residing in Albany; in 1690, when Schenectady was destroyed he was a resident of the village, and though wounded in the leg rode to Albany on the night of February 8 to carry the news. His son Johannes and three negroes were killed. Subsequently he removed to New York where he died about 1696, leaving his widow Willempie, daughter of Arnout Viele and one son Arnout; from whom have descended the Schermerhorns of New York city.

In 1693 Symon Schermerhorn was a skipper on the Hudson river.‡

#### MANASSEH SIXBERY.

He was a young Englishman from London; coming to Schenectady he married in 1699 Pietertje, daughter of Jan Janse Joncker and settled upon the easterly portion of the *First flat*, called Hazlenut flat. Ten years later, in 1709, being a soldier at Fort Nicholson [Fort Edward] and sick, he made a will giving his property to his wife and four children, Johannes, Wilhelmus, Cornelis and Mary.

His son Wilhelmus settled in Maquaasland about 1720.§

\* [Query, Goose pond.—M'M.]

† Col. MSS., xxxix, 71.

‡ Wills, I, 163.

§ Toll Papers.