

87. *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* says that in about the spring of 1671 Hendrick married a widow whose former husband had been a mason. The authors of this book know nothing more about that. But in 1675 Geertruy Barentse sued the wife of Hendrick Meuse Vrooman for three and a half beavers. Geertruy Barentse claimed that amount was due for clothes which Hendrick's wife had bought for her daughter. Hendrick appeared in court and said the agreement was that the debt could be paid in any currency. The court, having heard both sides, condemned the defendant to pay the plaintiff three and one-half beavers, or the value thereof, with expenses, within fourteen days.

88. On November 6, 1675 Hendrick and Jan Heinderick Bruyns appeared in court in Albany and declared they had balanced all debts against each other. This left Hendrick owing Bruyns four beavers, which Hendrick promised to pay in two annual instalments (1676 and 1677) of two beavers each.

89. Hendrick moved to the little settlement of Schenectady, between fifteen and twenty miles northwest of Albany, on the Mohawk River in late 1676 or early 1677 where he acquired a home on the north side of what is now State Street. His land, of about forty acres, included the present site in Schenectady of the passenger station and other installations of The New York Central Railroad.

90. Hendricks' move to Schenectady was not a long one, Schenectady being about fifteen miles west of Hendrick's leased farm on the Hudson River. The date of his move is given as 1677 in most of the writings about the Vroomans. On April 4, 1678 he gave a note in which he pledged his house and barn "standing and lying in the south end of the village of Schenectady." The court record of his request for a minister, quoted in the dedication of this book and printed in the appendix hereto, was dated January 7, 1679.

91. It may be remarked, in passing, that Hendrick's request for the services of Dominie Schaets was refused by The Court in so far as it applied to Sundays. The Court reasoned that The Dominie had previously promised to maintain divine services in Albany, and they refused to deny themselves that benefit—but they con-

ceded that Dominie Schaets could serve Schenectady on week days.

92. Eleven years later, in February, 1690, Hendrick was living in Schenectady. His son Bartholomeus, then thirty years old, was with him. His son Adam, then married, was also living there with his wife, Engeltje, and his children Barent, eleven, Wouter, nine, Peter, five, Christina, four, Hendrick, three, and an unnamed baby.

93. In the months prior to February, 1690 the Iroquois Indians, friends and allies of the people of New York, had been successfully attacking the French and their Indian allies, even up to Montreal itself. This built a feeling of over-confidence in the people of Schenectady—a feeling that the French and their Indians were in no condition to take the offensive. John Fiske, the historian, notes that over-confidence, but goes on to say that the people of Schenectady, most of whom were Leislerites (see paragraph 74), out of sheer spite and insubordination, disobeyed the orders of their magistrate, John Glen, to mount guard. Glen and Peter Schuyler, mayor of Albany, together with the people of Albany, had steadfastly refused to recognize Jacob Leisler as governor. There were incidents to support Fiske's conclusion. Yet, to the authors of this book, Mr. Fiske's point about spite and insubordination is not convincing; people may be stubborn, but rarely to the point of risking their own scalps to maintain their contention. The authors of this book think that, if Leislerism had anything to do with the catastrophe about to be related, it would sound more convincing to say that the people, rightly or wrongly, had lost confidence in their immediate governmental superiors, and hence did not credit the latter's warning. More likely the over-confidence of the people, added to the natural inertia of all human groups, led to the event that ensued. The fundamental fault, of course, was the lack, in that critical time, of a strong central government for the Province of New York.

94. On the cold, snowy afternoon of Saturday, February 9, 1690 a force of 114 Frenchmen and 96 of their Indians, lay, unknown to the inhabitants of Schenectady, within three miles of the latter settlement. As darkness fell the people of the settlement went to bed, leaving the gates of the stockade open and unguarded. Ten Connecticut militia-men slept in the blockhouse inside the stockade.

Between eleven and twelve o'clock that night the French and Indians stole through the gates and silently took positions around each house. At an agreed war-whoop they assaulted the sleeping people. Morning saw only smoldering ashes where the village had been. Among the dead lay the body of Hendrick Meuse Vrooman, the father of those who now call themselves Vrooman in America.

95. A party sent out from Albany after the event reported 60 killed out of a total population of about 150. 27 prisoners were reported taken away. The remainder of the people had escaped or been released. The report of the investigating party itemized: ". . . Hend Meese Vrooman & Bartholomeus Vrooman kild & burnt . . . Item 2 Negroes of Hend Meese ye same death . . . Engel the wife of Adam Vrooman shot & burnt her childe the brains dashed out against ye wall . . ." Little Barent and Wouter and one negro belonging to Adam were carried away to Canada as prisoners. Those two children were later recovered. Adam, with the still smaller Peter, Christina, and Hendrick, survived. Their escape will be spoken of when the story of Adam is told.

96. Such was the story of Hendrick Meuse Vrooman. His status was much more clearly defined than that of either of his brothers, Peter and Jacob. Here, obviously, was a man of little means coming to the New World to seek security and comfort, and perhaps even fortune, for his family. One is tempted to wax sentimental over inferences as to his qualities. It is better confidently to trust his case to Americans, who know what the qualities of a pioneer had to be. He was a pioneer.

## Adam<sup>2</sup> Vrooman

97. Just where Heindrick Meuse Vrooman's wife and his daughters Eva and Kathlyntje were at the time of the Schenectady massacre, is not known to the authors of this book. His son Jan (Johannes), thirty-seven years old, with a wife and children, must have been in or near Schenectady at the time; neither Jan nor any of his family are listed among the killed or prisoners; but on March 28, 1690, in Albany, Jan is listed among the refugees from Schenectady who received help from the citizens of New York.

Jan received thirty ells of linen. Adam received seventy ells at the same time.\*

98. At this point Eva, Kathlyntje, and Jan are, with regret, left. They are the first sources of that cloud of cousins referred to in paragraph 3, too numerous to follow in this book.† Jan alone had sixteen children. It is through Adam<sup>2</sup> Vrooman that the Josiah<sup>6</sup> B. Vrooman of this book descended.

99. 77 Adam<sup>2</sup> Vrooman, as has already been related, was born in The Netherlands about 1649.‡ He was married three times. His first wife was Engeltje Blom. They were married in 1678; she was killed in the Schenectady massacre in 1690. In 1691 Adam married Grietje Ryckman, widow of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck and daughter of Harmon Janse Ryckman. Adam's third wife, married in 1697, was Grietje Takelse Heemstraat; she survived Adam. Adam's children were as follows:

Barent, born 1679.

Wouter, born 1680.

Peter, born May 4, 1684. His story begins at paragraph 151.

Christina, born October 18, 1685.

Hendrick, born 1687.

An unnamed baby killed in the Schenectady massacre in 1690.

Jan, born 1697.

Maria, born 1699.

Bartholomeus, born December 22, 1700.

Timotheus, born November 8, 1702.

Seth, born January 7, 1705.

Jacob Meese, born July 3, 1707.

Eva Mae, born 1705.

Jannetie.

100. Before proceeding with the story of Adam a few paragraphs need to be devoted to his first wife. Adam's first wife, Engeltje Blom, was the daughter of Barent Jansz Blom and Styntie Pieters Blom. Her parents both came from Stockholm.§ In the

\*In the list of refugees given in the *Documentary History of the State of New York*, Volume II, Page 199, the names of both Adam and Jan are spelled Frooman. This is one of those instances referred to in the footnote to paragraph 6.

†For a suggestion as to the number of cousins, see paragraph 151.

‡The numbers around Adam's name mean that he belonged to the second generation of Vroomans in America, and more may be found about him in paragraph 77. For an explanation of the numbers, see paragraphs 4 and 5.

§Riker's *History of Harlem*, published in 1904, says Barent came from "Ockholm, a town of Sleswick, in Denmark." *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Records*, Volume 66, page 89, contradicts Riker and reports Stockholm, as above.

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

good and faithful interpreter," he was recalled and reinstated in his office.\* At the burning of Schenectady in 1690, his son Arnout was carried away to Canada and remained with the Indians three years, but on the occasion of the attack made upon the Mohawk castles by the French in 1693, he escaped.†

The above mentioned grant from the Mohawks was that parcel of flat land afterwards called the Fourth flat. It is not probable that Vield settled upon it, or that his title was regarded as good, for it was about this time occupied by Ludovicus Cobes and his son-in-law Johannes Kleyn, † under title received from the trustees of the township in 1684.

#### HENDRICK MEESE VROOMAN.

Of the three brothers of this name who came to New Netherland, two, Pieter and Jacob, settled in Albany, and left no male descendants; Hendrick, after living at Kinderhook and *Steen Raby* [Lansingburgh] removed in 1677, to Schenectady, and on the sale of the Van Curler bouwery, purchased 20 morgens of the same. This parcel was a strip of land, commencing a little south of Water street, and extending south-westerly to or near the sand bluff, embracing the land covered by the canal and railroad tracks, being bounded on the east by the land belonging to the Veeders. As there were then no public roads across the flats in this direction, Vrooman's land was reached by a lane still in existence, called Vrooman's alley, or lane, leading from Water street south-westerly, nearly parallel to Rotterdam street.

His village lot on the north side of State street, extended from *Lange gang* (Centre street), to within 49 feet of Given's Hotel, and extending back northerly about 500 feet.

Here Hendrick Meese was slain in 1690, with a son and two negroes. His two sons, Adam and Jan, inherited his estate.‡

\* Col. Doc., iv, 214, 329, 347.

† Col. Doc., iv, 17.

‡ [He may have transferred his claim under Indian title to Ludovicus Cobes *schout* and secretary. It would require no record, as no patent had been issued to him by the Governor.—M.M.]

§ Albany Annals, v, 79; Deeds, ii, 848; Not. Papers, ii.

#### ADAM VROOMAN.

Adam, son of Hendrick Meese, was born in Holland, in 1649; in 1670, with consent of his father, he bound himself for two years to Cornelis Vanden Bergh, of Albany county to learn the millwright's trade, for 80 guilders in silver and a pair of new shoes the first year, and 120 guilders in silver the second year; and in 1683 he built a mill on the *Sand-kil* where the Brandywine mill now stands. In 1690, when Schenectady was destroyed, he saved his life by his bravery in defending his house, which stood near the north gate on the west corner of Front and Church streets.\* On this occasion his first wife, Engeltje, with her infant child, was killed, and his two sons, Wouter and Barent, were carried away to Canada. In 1697, he went to Canada with an embassy to obtain the release of his sons (one of whom had become a Catholic), his brother (Jan?) and cousin (Matthys, son of Pieter Meese, of Albany), all held as prisoners. He made his will Sept. 12, 1729,—proved June 13, 1730, and died on his farm in Schoharie, Feb. 25, 1730, and was buried in his own private burying ground on lot No. 35 Front street.

Vrooman married three times, first, Engeltje —, secondly, Grietje Ryckman, widow of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck, in 1691, and thirdly, Grietje Takelse Heemstraat, Jan. 13, 1697, in Albany. He had thirteen children,—nine sons and four daughters, all living at the date of his will save two daughters.

Besides his village lot above mentioned he owned divers other parcels of land.

On the 22 April, 1703, he received a patent for his mill right on the Sand kil, described as "all that creek called Sand creek near Schenectady and the mill thereon erected and all profits &c. to the said creek belonging." He is said to have "enjoyed the same" about 20 years.†

In 1707, he petitioned to have his patent confirmed and explained because some people insinuate that two small springs or sprouts of water which run into said creek and all meet at a place called *Symonse's* [Veeder's] meadow were not included in his patent; he therefore desired a new patent, which

\* Henry Yates and Dutch Church Papers.

† Patents, 1578.

should include the same and the whole Sand kil to the Mohawk river.\* The result of this petition was a new patent dated Sept. 17, 1708, for "all that creek, called the Sand Creek and the mill thereon erected with two small springs or sprouts of water which run into the same creek and all meet at a place called Symon's meadow and so continue under the name of the Sand creek till it empties itself into the Mohawk river." This mill property and land adjoining were conveyed to his son Wouter.†

Jan. 2, 1708‡ Vrooman bought additional land of the trustees of Schenectady for the purpose of erecting another saw-mill there.†

All that remains to show the occupation of this spot for milling purposes by the Vroomans, is the ancient brick house built probably by Adam's son Wouter, still standing and used as a dwelling.

Vrooman's patent for lands in Schoharie is dated Aug. 26, 1714; this tract comprised "600 acres of lowland and upland," and was occupied by his son Pieter and his descendants.§

March 30, 1726, he obtained a new Indian title to the flats known as "Vrooman's Land" about 1400 acres of the best land in the Schoharie Valley.¶

He likewise with his brother Jan, inherited about 20 morgens of land from his father Hendrick, who bought the same of the administrators of Mrs. Antonia Van Curler.

Adam's portion, consisting of 10 morgens, lay directly south of the village and is now largely occupied by the canal and railroads; he conveyed his portion to his son Jan, in 1726.\*\*

June 5, 1688, "Adam Vrooman doth petition ye Common Council [of Albany] y<sup>e</sup> whereas Rodè ye Maquaase sachem, for divers considerations hath about three years agoe granted him two flats or plains upon both sides of ye Maquaase river above Hendrick Cuyler's land [at Crane village] containing about eleven morgens wh: said land he doth presume is included in y<sup>e</sup> grant given to this citty and inserted in their charter and therefore prays y<sup>e</sup> ye Mayor, Aldermen and commonalty would be pleased to grant him a conveyance for ye said two parcels of land lying near ye

\* Land papers, iv, 106. † Patents, 1624. Deeds, vi, 250.

‡ Groote schull boek. § Patents, 1680.

¶ Simm's Hist. Schoharie. \*\* Old deed.

"stone house [Juchtenunda] so called by y<sup>e</sup> Indians, as ye goe to y<sup>e</sup> Maquaase Country, and forty acres of Woodland adjoining them, which would be a convenient settlement for ye s<sup>t</sup> Adam Vrooman, and is willing to pay a small acknowledgement for ye same yearly."\*

These lands were granted and consisted of sixty acres, for a yearly rent of two bushels of winter wheat, conditioned that he should build a small house on it and plow a part of the land next spring. This grant is described as "being on both sides of the Mohawk river west of Hendrick Cuyler's land;—on the south side ten morgens opposite a place called by the Indians *jucktanunda* that is ye stone houses, being a hollow rock on ye river side where ye Indians generally lie under when they travill to and from there country. The other pieces on the north side of the river, one a little higher than ye said hollow rock or stone houses att a place called by ye natives *Syejodenawadde* and so eastward down the river so as to comprehend twelve morgens. . . . The other just above the marked tree of Hendrick Cuyler, . . . one morgen and three or four little islands."†

The patentees of Schenectady, on May 4, 1718, conveyed to him "a piece of woodland containing three morgens 527 rods, butting the street southward [Union street] that leads from the town 40 rods, and on the northmost end [on Green street] 40 rods, and butting westward the land of Symon Groot 47 rods, and butting the woodland of his son Barent 48 rods "all Rynland measure."‡ This wood lot commenced on the north line of Union street at the westerly line of the lot of John B. Clute, and extended along Union street to the original easterly line of the grounds of Union school, now occupied by the New York Central railroad track, and was bounded northerly by Green street. This lot he gave to his son Jan, January 17, 1726, "being four morgens of bushland with one-half of the brewhouse thereon erected, and likewise one-half of the furnaces, coppers, vats, vessels and all other utensils in said brewhouse, being at present in the use and occupation of said Adam Vrooman and Barent his son." This brewhouse stood on the easterly end of the aforesaid lot where the canal and railroad cross Union street, which was often called Brewer's street.§

On the 4th May, 1718, being about to dispose of his house and lot on the west corner of Front and Church streets, the patentees of Schenectady gave him a new deed describing it as a lot "in Schenectady fronting the street eastward [northward] that leads from the Fort to the river [Front street]

\* Albany Annals, ii, 101.

† Deeds, iv, 2.

‡ H. Yates' and Dutch Church Papers.

§ Old Deed.

"97 feet, and butting the lot of Gerrit Symonse [Veeder] southward 97 feet, and butting the lot of Symon Groot [westward] 144 feet, all Dutch wood measure, together with the houses, brewhouses, &c."

On the 6th of May he conveyed the above lot to Pieter Quackenbos.\*

The patentees likewise conveyed to Adam Vrooman on the 4th May, 1718, "a piece of pasture land butting the road [Front street] south that leads from the north gate towards Jan Luykassé's† forty rods and four feet, northward by the Mohawk river 29 rods, butting eastward the pasture ground of Johannes Teller 46 rods, and westward the land in possession of David Lewis 42 rods, all Rynland measure, containing 2 morgens "346 rods."‡ This lot commenced on the north line of Front street at the east line of the lot of Nicholas Yates' and extended easterly along said street 498.5 feet English, to a point 194 feet westerly from the west side of North street,§ including that part of Ferry street between Front street|| and the river.

In 1727 he conveyed all that portion of this pasture lot lying between the west line of No. 35 Front street and the easterly line of said lot,—335 feet Amsterdam measure,—to his son Jan, reserving however a parcel 35 feet long and 18 feet broad, for a burying place for himself, his heirs and assigns forever.

This burying place now forms a part of lot No. 35.\*\*

#### JAN VROOMAN.

He was son of Hendrick Meese, and married Geesie, daughter of Symon Volkertse Veeder, July 4, 1680, and had fifteen children, nine sons and six daughters, the most of whom attained maturity and left families. He made his will April 24, 1732.

His village lot, inherited of his father, had a front on the north side of State street of 172 feet, extending from a point 49 ft. east of Given's Hotel lot to the Stanford block.

\* Deeds v, 417, 514.

† The north gate through the palisades was at the north end of Church street, and Jan Luykassé's lot was on the west corner of Jefferson and Front streets.

‡ H. Yates' Papers.

§ To the lot of the late Isaac Lodyard.

|| This part of Ferry street was not then opened.

\*\* Deeds, vi, 209.

His house and the westerly half of this lot, by his will were devised to his son Cornelis, who died the next year, leaving his property to his mother, by whom it was devised to her son Bartholomew, in 1734. The easterly half Jan Vrooman devised to his son Jacob, who had already built a house upon it.

In 1686 he bought half of Jan Hendrickse Van Bael's patent, on the Normanskil.\*

On March 10, 1706, the trustees of Schenectady conveyed to Jan Vrooman, "a piece of land near Schenectady, to the west the highway [Jefferson st.] that's laid out on the east side of the woodland of Philip Schuyler, "to the north and north east ye woodland of Arent Bratt, to the east and "south the highway [Pine street] that leads to Symon Groot's bridge, "containing two morgens."‡ This parcel extended the whole length of Jefferson street, from Front to Pine streets, and of a sufficient breadth to comprise four acres.

Jan Vrooman's portion of his father's bouwland was conveyed to him June 8, 1714, by his elder brother, Adam, to wit, "one half of a certain "piece of land called Juffronse Corluer's Weyland, which half contains ten "morgens or thereabouts, Bounded north by the other half belonging to "said Adam, east by the meadow of Gerrit Symonse [Veeder], south and "west by the land of Jan Wemp; together with free ingress and regress of "the waggon road [Vrooman's lane] to the said piece of land and half the "benefit of the grass growing on said road."‡ By his will, made April 24, 1732, this parcel was divided among his sons.

#### CAPT. HENDEICK VROOMAN.

He was the fourth son of Adam Vrooman and until 1705 was resident of Albany. He married first Geertruy ———, and secondly Maria, daughter of Barent Wemp, and had eleven children. When the church was built in 1732 he was *baas* of the carpenters.

Among other parcels of land owned by him, was one conveyed by the trustees of Schenectady 10 Mar., 1706, and described as "one morgen of "woodland on ye south side of the highway [State street], on the side of "the [Coehorn] creek that runs by Johannes Baptist Van Eps dwelling,§

\* Deeds, III, 809, 822. † Dutch Church Papers. ‡ Old Deed.

§ J. B. Van Eps lived on the east corner of Jay and State streets.

## VEEDER

This fascinating explanation of the Veeder/Vedder origins is from the *Vader Genealogy: Descendants of Simon Volkertse Veeder* by Elgin Vader found on the Internet at <http://threerivershms.com/vaderexpand.htm>. Whether it is factually correct is not known.

“Re Veeder name: a manuscript in the New England Historical Genealogical Library suggests that there was once a family in France, whose name appears variously over several hundred years as Feder, Federe, and Feeder. Around 1629 two brothers, Foulque and Albert fled to Holland with their families. In Holland Foulque Feeder found his name given a Dutch spelling: Volkert Veeder. Albert found himself Albert Vedder. Foulque's son Simon Volkertse Veeder and Albert's son Harmen Albertse Vedder ended up neighbors in Schenectady, where they became patriarchs of the Veeder and Vedder families in America. M. M.” It is most likely that the Veeder and Vedder families were French Huguenot.

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**New World Immigrants: a Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists and Associated Data from Periodical Literature**, ed. Michael Tepper. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1979 Vol. 1, Page 124:

Hendrik Willems, the leading baker at New Amsterdam in the second half of the 17th century [icon. Manh. II: 261] was a native of the small town of Esens in Holstein, as specified in a mention of him as a "baker in New Netherland" (2 Feb. 1650, Not. H. Van Velsen), when Joost Theunissen from Norden, also a baker at New Amsterdam, but in Amsterdam at the time, hired for Hendrik the baker's apprentice Symon Volckerts from Esens, Holstein.

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**Jonathan Pearson's profile of Simon Volkertse Veeder from *Contributions for the Genealogies of the First Settlers of the Patent and City of Schenectady from 1662 to 1899***. Albany, NY: 1873, p. 264:

Simon Volkertse Veeder, alias *de Bakker* born in 1624, belonged to the ship *Prince Maurice*, in 1644, which ship plied between Amsterdam, and New Amsterdam; 1652 he bought a lot and settled in the latter city; sold the same in 1654 for 30 beaver skins, removed to Beverwyck and from thence to Schenectady in 1662. He owned a bouwery on the Great Flat numbered 9, containing 24 morgans, and a village lot on the north corner of State and Ferry streets. He also owned land on the Norman's Kill; made his will Jan. 8, 1696/7, and spoke of the following Ch: Pieter; Gerrit; Johannes; Volkert; Volkie, m. Barent Janse Wemp; Geesie, m. Jan Hendrickse Vrooman; Magdalena, m. William Appel.

Simon Volkertse Veeder was one of the fifteen founders or proprietors of Schenectady. For the location of his *bouwland* and town lot, see "Division of Lands" and "Adult Freeholders" in J. H. Munsell's *History of the County of Schenectady, N. Y., 1662-1885* found on pages 74, 76 and 84 in Bradt [Volume 1].

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**Vreeland Y. Leonard. *Genealogical Record of the Veeder Family***. United States: Unknown, 1937, pp. 1-2:

### SIMON VOLKERTSE VEEDER

- B. 1624 in Holland
- M. Engeltie
- D. 1697