

BRADT FAMILY NEWS

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SCHENECTADY MARKS 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRE

ROLE OF BRADTS RECALLED

Of all those in Schenectady who lost loved ones on the dreadful night of Feb. 8, 1690, few suffered losses more severe than those of Catalyntje De Vos.

Twenty seven years before, she had been widowed with six children at the age of 33 by the sudden death of Arent Andriessen Bradt. It was then that this brave woman decided to honor her husband's prior agreement with Arendt Van Curler to become one of the original proprietors of a new community on the Great Flats. In 1664, she left for Schenectady with her children: Aeffie, 15; Ariaantje, 13; Andries, 11; Cornelia, 9; Samuel, 5; and Dirk, 3. That same year she married Barent Janse Van Ditmars.

The official list of those who died in the massacre included Barent Janse Van Ditmars "and son"; Andries Arentse Bratt "and child", and Johannes Pootman "and wife". (Pootman had married Cornelia Bradt). In two fateful hours, Catalyntje, now 60, had lost her second husband, her son Andries, her daughter Cornelia, a grandchild, a son-in-law, and possibly another son or step-son (Van Ditmars' son).

The Bradt house inside the stockade is said to have been one of the few which was not burned, and became a place of refuge for the wounded. Catalyntje, undaunted, married a third time, to Janse Van Boekhoven, whom she also outlived, finally succumbing in 1712 at the age of 82.

FEB. 8, 1690: NIGHT OF TERROR

At 11:00 p.m. on the frigid winter night of Feb. 8, 1690, 200 Frenchmen and Indians stealthily entered the stockade. When the village of some 40 to 80 dwellings was completely surrounded, a war whoop sounded and the attack began. For the next two hours, death and destruction reigned. *"No pen can write, and no tongue express"*, wrote Peter Schuyler, Mayor of Albany, in a letter to Governor Bradstreet of Massachusetts, *"the cruelties committed at said place, ye women bigg with childe rip'd up and ye children alive throwne into ye flames and those dash'd in pieces against the doors and windows."*

The helplessness of the sleeping villagers to resist is shown by the fact that only two of the enemy were killed and only one was even badly wounded. While many of the townspeople were able to escape and fled through the raging blizzard, many of those lost limbs to the frigid cold. A badly injured Symon Schermerhorn, in a 6-hour ride far worse than Paul Revere's, spread the word to settlers for 20 miles along the River Road to Albany.

By early Sunday morning, 60 men, women and children were dead and all but a few buildings burned to the ground. By Sunday afternoon, the invaders from Canada retreated north, taking 27 prisoners and all of the horses in the village.

These horrifying events were recounted during the 300th anniversary of the massacre last month in Schenectady,

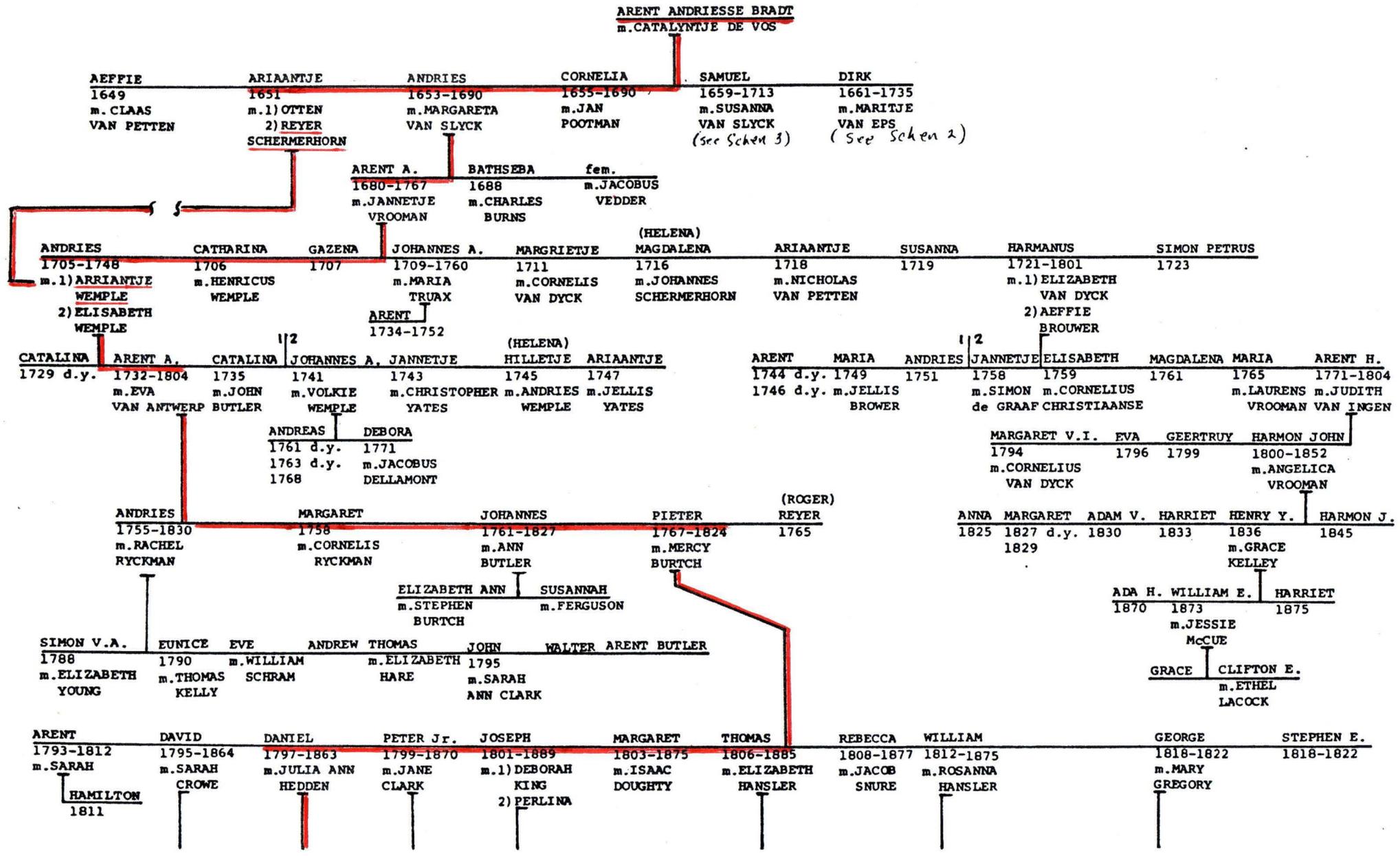
where the theme of the city's annual Colonial Festival was one of celebration and renewal. For Schenectady did indeed rise from the ashes, setting a lasting, inspiring example of triumph over adversity. The determination of the survivors to rebuild their village was encouraged by support from both the colonial authorities, who were shocked into uniting for protection, and the Mohawk Indians, who saw this attack by their long-standing enemies to the north as an attack upon them. Some of the Mohawk chiefs met with the survivors and promised them both aid and protection if they would reestablish the village. They also offered practical advice on how to build a stockade, criticizing the old fences as *"so short ye Indians can jump over them like a dogg"*. When a new fort was later authorized, the Mohawks helped build it. And less than three months after the massacre, colonial authorities met in New York City to plan common action against the threat from Canada. While the struggle between the French and English for the continent would continue for several decades, the blood spilled at Schenectady was a major factor in bringing the colonies closer together and a first step toward convening of the Continental Congress enroute to the Revolution.

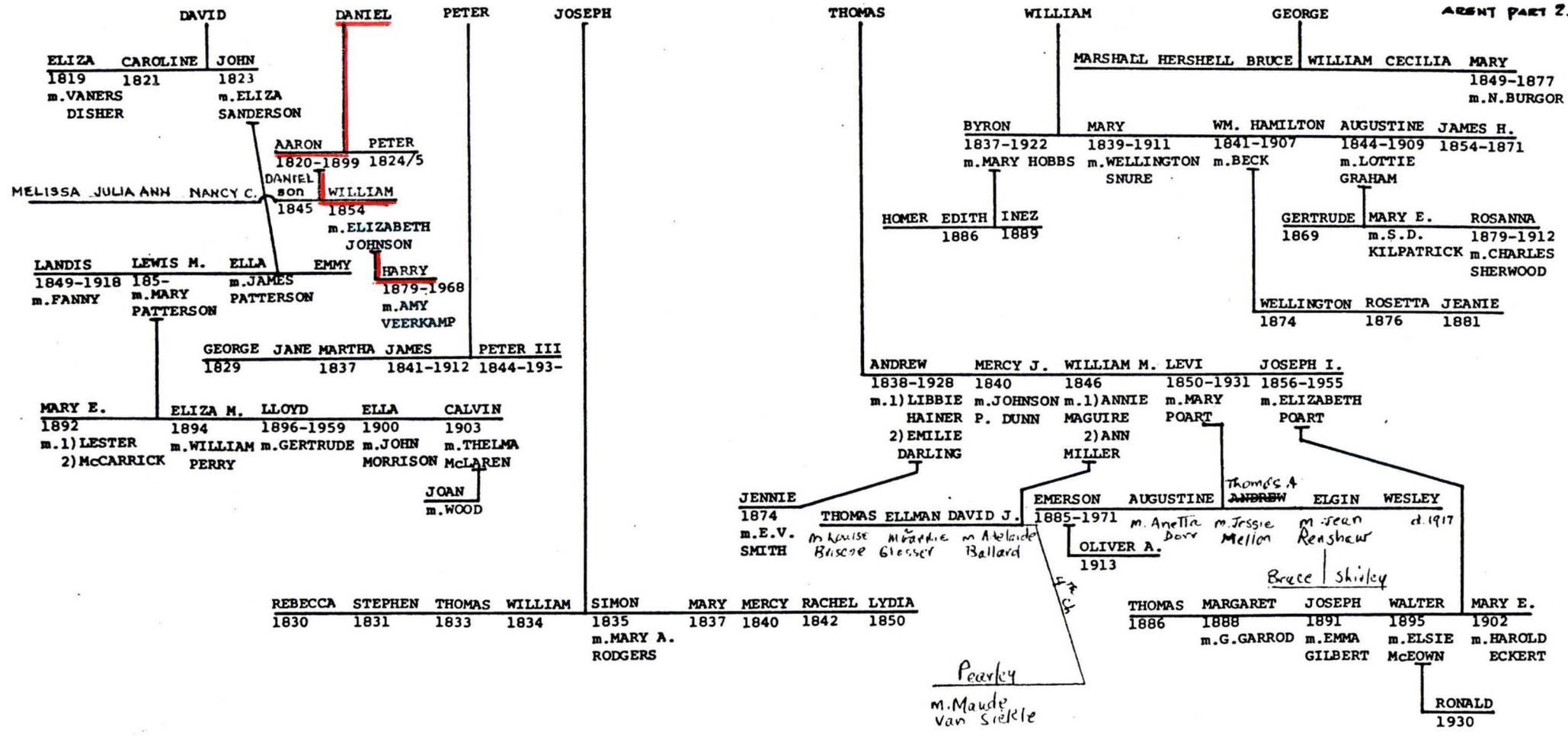
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**ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS
AND
BRADT EXTRACTS FROM PRINT SOURCES**

In some instances this material has been included in order to refute incorrect information. Otherwise it is offered as the original source for a particular statement or fact, or because it provides additional detail beyond what is found elsewhere or contains information on collateral members of the Bradt family or its associated families.

This is the portion that pertains to our Bradt line from a **BRADT FAMILY DESCENDANT CHART** which was prepared by Cynthia Brott Biasca for the July, 1987, Bradt Reunion in Albany, New York.





Page 1-72 was removed because of the possibility of copyright infraction. The article appeared in the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 118 (July 1987):133-134. It is entitled "Bradt Records from Amsterdam" by Robert G. Cooney, Jr.

This is an extremely well done article containing the original recording and a translation of the Dutch church record of the marriage Albert Andriess (Bratt/Bradt). It is basically a profile of Albert Andreiss and contains no direct information pertaining specifically to Arent Bradt except by inference that he came from Frerickstadt [sic], (Norway) and that he had an uncle named Lourens Pieters.

Although this is collateral material dealing with Albert Andriessen [Bradt], it is significant for the information it contains which also is applicable to Albert's brother, Arent Andriessen [Bradt].

Comparedy mit ¹⁶³² ~~1631~~ Albert Andriess was ¹⁶³² ~~1631~~ Frerickstadt, wantpifil, ont 24 Jaers, ges ongetrouwt
Peder Rombout tuss, ghest mit ¹⁶³² ~~1631~~ Annetie Baerents van Oudenbrath
gest mit gheve beuont gear markt wouf in Schaepe-
steegje, ont 24 Jaer

Verfoeckende hare dize Soudaghe uytroepinghe, omme maet de selvede woortz. te wone
te sollicitate, in alle te voltreckte, soo soere daer ander gene soettige verhande-
ringe voor ey soalle. Ende maet dize 32 byde waerheyt verstaende, datte ghe-
nue waer, ende maekende in bloede
waer door ey Christelick huetelick mochte verhandert wordy, niet ey bestoude,
ziny huy hare ghebodey verwillighet.

Albert Andriessen +

A translation of a microfilm copy of this record on file in Salt Lake City was rendered by John Van Weezep and published in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, July, 1987, as follows:

Appeared as before mentioned, Albert Andriess from Frerickstadt, sailor, aged 24 years, no parents, living on the Romboutsteegh [street in Amsterdam], assisted by Lourens Pieters, his uncle; and Annetie Baerents from Oudenbrath, assisted by Gessel Baerens, her mother, living Schaepeensteegje, aged 24 years. [Entry dated 27 March 1632. Marriage followed on 11 April.]

Apparently it was permissible to sign such declarations with a mark, as a number did so, including Annetie. The cross following Albert's signature is her mark.

and as it would seem by two children, October 8, 1636, on the "Rensselaerswyck," which arrived at New Amsterdam March 4, 1637.

On this voyage, which was very stormy, his wife gave birth to a son, who received the name of Storm and who in later records is frequently called Storm from the Sea. The log of the ship ("Rinselaers Wijck") contains under the date of November 1 and 2 [1636], the following interesting entries which are given in facsimile in the "Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts," 360 f.:

ALBERT ANDRIESSEN.

Albert Andriessen, or Albert Andriessen Bradt [Bratt], was one of the earliest Norwegian settlers in New Netherland. He came from Fredrikstad, a town at the mouth of the Glommen, the largest river in Norway. In the early records he is often called Albert the Norman. After 1670 he became known as Albert Andriesz Bradt. Whether he was related to the Bratts of Norwegian nobility, can not be ascertained. The Bratt family lived in Bergen, Norway, before the early part of the fifteenth century, when it moved to the northern part of Gudbrandsdalen. It had a coat of arms until about the middle of the sixteenth century. Since that time the Bratts belong to the Norwegian peasantry. They have a number of large farms in Gudbrandsdalen, Hedemarken, Toten, and Land.¹ In the state of New York there are many families of the name of Bradt, descendants of the pioneer from Fredrikstad.

The name of Albert Andriessen occurs for the first time in a document bearing the date August 26, 1636, an agreement between him and two others on the one hand, and the patroon of the colony of Rensselaerswyck, Kiliaen van Rensselaer, on the other.² The agreement was made and signed in Amsterdam. It states that Andriessen was a tobacco planter. He may have learnt the cultivating of tobacco in Holland, where tobacco was raised as early as 1616.

As Andriessen was twenty-nine years of age when he made the agreement with Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, he must have been born about 1607. Pursuant to the stipulation in the agreement, he sailed, accompanied by his wife, Annetje Barents of "Rolmers,"

¹ Illustreret norsk konversations leksikon, Christiania, 1907 ff. Vol. I., Article "Bratt."
² Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts. Translated and edited by A. J. F. van Laer, Archivist, Albany, 1908, p. 676.

Fugam
No. 1 ditto d'el bockhuyl Lagenon seij got seufft seufft. a non
and d'woning noorden ay day, sint Z W met hart
sever end o' goz seufft ~~betenaguetend of stund~~
den vorgevnde hetsedach ende hetsenacht

No. 2 ditto godwoning 16 millo uo tog o' day sint outrent Bot
seufft by gillung' d'obolthie van 4 e grounden g'om
met hael hael seuffter dieg dach seufft out -
vorseufft booning oute voer in g'ustagion met seufft
Lagenon seufft d'achiel h'ox opt h'ijp v'v' h'ut
g'ob'ony dieg' d'ay many in g'ogony end in g'ustagion
in g'odseufft h'etony d' amoder amoder h'etony
g'ehuet h'it vorgevnde of stund

(Reduced size.)

The translation is as follows:

Novemb[er]

Sa[turday] 1. In the morning we veered toward the west and drifted north. The Wind S. W. with rough weather and high seas. The past half day and entire night.

Su[nday] 2. Drifted 16 leagues N. E. by E.; the wind about west, the latitude by dead reckoning 41 degrees, 50 min. with very high seas. That day the overhang above our rudder was knocked in by severe storm. This day a child was born on

Beverwyck; it was also covenanted, by these presents, by the mutual consent of the aforewritten married people, that Barent Albertse (Bratt) and Teunis Slingerland, brother and brother-in-law of the said Eva Albertse, and uncle of said children, should be guardians of said children, to which the aforesaid orphanmasters have consented; which above written contract the respective parties promise to hold good, on pledge of their persons and estates, personal and real, present and future, the same submitting to all laws and judges.

"Done in Fort Orange, ut supra, in presence of Pieter Jacobsen and Johannes Provost, witnesses, for that purpose called.

Roeloff Swartwout.

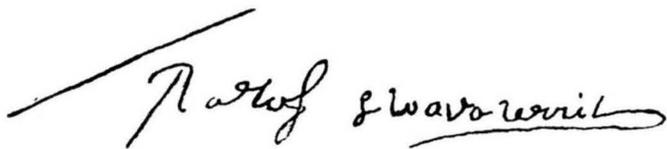
"This is the mark of + Eva Albertse.
Thomas Swartwout.
Albert Andriessen.
Jan Verbeeck.
Evert Wendel.
Teunis Cornelissen.

"Johannes Provoost, witness

"This is the mark of + Pieter Jacobsen.

"Acknowledged before me,

"La Montagne, Deputy at Fort Orange."³⁴



Signature of Roelof Swartwout, husband of Eva Albertse.

ARENT ANDRIESEN.

Arent Andriessen was a brother of Albert Andriessen, and, like him, a tobacco planter. He was from Fredrikstad, Norway. He appears to have come over with his brother on the "Rensselaerswyck," which sailed from Texel, October 8, 1636, and arrived at New Amsterdam, March 4, 1637. He also appears to have re-

³⁴ Ibid., p. 50.

mained with his brother in the colony for one year. His wages — fl. 75 a year — began April 2, 1637. However, he soon acquired a plantation of his own.

The tobacco he raised on his own farm was "extraordinary," judged from the sample he had sent to Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, the patroon whom he served, but it had "a strange aftertaste." The patroon wrote in 1640 that he was willing to grant him a plantation on the basis of that of 1639, but not at all to share expenses.³⁵

Between 1638 and 1646 Arent Andriessen is various times credited with tobacco furnished to the superintendent van Curler and Anthony de Hooges.

On April 23, 1652, he got a lot in Beverwyck, and on May 1, 1658, he obtained a lease from Jan Baptiste van Rensselaer on all the tilled land on the island opposite the center of the village of Beverwyck, that is opposite the fort, apparently what is known as Boston or Van Rensselaer Island; also on all the land which he could further obtain from the natives, with the exception of the land already cultivated by van Rensselaer. The rent should be 100 guilders a year besides tithes and two fowls as "toepacht," to be paid in good wheat and oats at four guilders a "mudde." If the lessee should be prevented from using the land by the savages or otherwise, he should be free from the obligation of the lease and pay for such a period as he did not have the use of said land. The lease was to expire May 1, 1662.³⁶

Arent was one of the first white men to settle Schenectady, a portion of the Mohawk valley, which is sixteen miles long and eight miles wide. Here he became a proprietor, but died soon afterward leaving a widow and six children. His wife was Catalyntje, daughter of Andries De Vos, deputy director of Rensselaerwyck.³⁷ After the death of her husband, the grants of land allotted to him were confirmed to her. The children Arent Andriessen had by her were: Jesie (Aeffie), Ariantje, Andries, Cornelia, Samuel, Dirk. Their ages at the father's death were 13, 11, 9, 7, 3, 1 years, respectively.

In 1664 his widow was married to Barent Jansen Van Ditmars. Her ante-nuptial contract with the "orphan masters," for

³⁵ Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts, p. 513.

³⁶ Ibid., p. 758.

³⁷ February 27, 1656, Arent and his father-in-law, Andries de Vos, were appointed curators of the estate of Cornelia Vedos, wife of Chris. Davids, at Fort Orange. See: Calendar of N. Y. Historical Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State. Edited by E. B. O'Callaghan, p. 312. Jonathan Pearson, A History of the Schenectady Patent, 1883, p. 93.