

the protection of the interests of her infant children, bears the date of November 12, 1664. It binds her to pay to them their patrimonial estate of 1,000 guilders at their majority, and mortgages her land at Schenectady to secure the payment of the same.

Her second husband was killed in the French and Indian massacre, February 9, 1690, when the town of Schenectady was completely destroyed by the Indians. She was married for the third time, 1691, to Claas Janse Van Boekhoven. By their antenuptial contract, made February 27, 1691, they agreed that on the death of both, their property should go to their children.³⁸ Boekhoven died 1707, she in 1712.

The real estate in Schenectady belonging to her amounted to the sum of £976 12s. 6d, current money of the Province, and that of Boekhoven in Niskayuna and Albany, to the sum of £700.

Her home lot, says Pearson, was the west quarter of the block bounded by Washington, State, and Church streets, being about 200 feet square. Her grandson Capt. Arent Bratt sold in 1723 the corner parcel to Hendrick Vrooman, but it soon returned to the family, and was again sold by Arent J. Bratt, in 1769, to James Shutter. The remainder of this lot remained in the family until the beginning of last century, when it was sold to Robert Baker and Isaac De Graaf. "The ancient brick house standing on this lot, one of the few specimens of Dutch architecture remaining in the city, was probably built by Capt. Arent Bratt."

The eldest son of Arent Andriessen was Andries Arentsen. He had a brewery. He was living not far from his mother's house in 1690, when he, with one of his children, was slain in the French-Indian massacre. His wife Margarita, daughter of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck, and his son Arent and daughter Batsheba were spared. It was this son, Arent, who became known as Capt. Arent Bratt; who was made trustee of the common lands in 1714 and continued in office until 1765, being for the last fifteen years of his life sole trustee; who in 1745 represented the county of Albany in the Provincial Assembly; and who was the father of Capt. Andries, Johannes, and Harmanus, well-to-do men. Tradition says Harmanus was the wealthiest man of the town.

The second son of Arent Andriessen was Samuel, who mar-

³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 94.

ried Susanna, daughter of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck. He died about 1713, leaving five sons.

The third son of Arent Andriessen, Dirk, married Maritje, daughter of Jan Baptist Van Eps. He died in 1735.

Of Arent's daughters, Aeffie married John Claas van Pelten; Ariantje married first, Helmar Otten, a baker in Beverwyck; secondly, Ryder Schermerhorn; Cornelia married Jan Putnam (Postman), supposed to be the first of the Putnam family to have emigrated to America. Putnam was born in Holland about 1645. A descendant of Jan and Cornelia Putnam married into the Van Burens ("Peckham, History of . . . Van Buren . . ." p. 297 f.)

In connection with Ariantje's first marriage the records state that it was strenuously objected to by Rev. Jacob Fabritius, a Lutheran minister from Silesia, who came to serve the Lutheran church in New York. He arrived to this country in February, 1669. In April he had a pass to go to Albany. While there he behaved ill, opposed the magistrates and imposed a fine of 1000 rix-dollars on the person of Helmar Otten (of Issens) for complying with the magistrates in the consummation of the marriage with "Adriantje Arentz, his wife according to the law of the land." On this offense, one of many similar ones committed by this overzealous preacher, Gov. Lovlace ordered him to be suspended from his ministerial functions at Albany until his friends interceded in his behalf. (See Hazzard's Annals, p. 373.) Otten lived in Beverwyck from 1663 to 1676.

As to further details the reader may consult Jonathan Pearson, "A History of the Schenectady Patent," from which several verbatim quotations have been made in preparing this sketch.

The Bradts were Lutheran and the magistrates of the Dutch Reformed Colony of New Netherland severely restricted the practice of the Lutheran religion. *E. M.*

Page 1-77 has been removed because of possible copyright infringement.

This abbreviated biography of Arent Andriessse Bradt by Stefan Bielinski can be found at:

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/bios/b/aranbradt4181.html>

The biography is attractively presented, but contain no additional information than what is found elsewhere in the collection.

REBUTTAL TO "JACQUES HERTEL AND THE INDIAN PRINCESSES,"
 by Cynthia Brott Biasca which appeared in the April, 1997, *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, 128:2:91-97

In the title article Mrs. Biasca is disavowing any connection that the Bradt and Van Slyke families might have had with Jacques Hertel of Trois Rivières, Quebec. While this relationship has been much fantasized, it is my opinion that at least concerning the Van Slykes a relationship probably did exist.

Following are the three most frequently cited sources suggesting an association between various Mohawk women and Jacques Hertel/Mr. Hartell with the Van Slyke and the Bradt families of New Netherland.

Austin A. Yates. *Schenectady, New York, Its History to the Close of the Nineteenth Century*. N.p.: New York History Co., 1902, pp. 16-17.

"Arent Andreas Bradt was a half-breed, the son of Andreas of Albany and Kinetis, a daughter of a Mohawk chief. Arent Bradt was an actual resident of Schenectady. Curler and Bradt were brewers and warm personal friends. Cornelise Antoinse Van Slyck had married Olstock, a sister of Bradt's wife. It was Bradt and Van Curler Slyck [?] who induced the speculative Van Curler to enter into the deal. Bradt bought his lot before Van Curler obtained his charter, had built his house and lived in it before the survey. He died in 1668, one year before the little township was plotted out. Arent's son, Andreas Arent, married a half-breed daughter of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck. He and his wife were killed in the massacre and left one son surviving, Arent Bradt, who subsequently became one of the most prominent and distinguished men of Schenectady."

The previous account is badly garbled. There was no Andreas Bradt of Albany. Arent Andries Bradt was born in Europe and his parents were deceased before he came to New Netherland.¹ Although Arent is considered one of the original proprietors, it is doubtful that he ever actually lived in Schenectady. After Arent's death in Albany about 1662/1663,² not 1668, his widow, Catalyntje De Vos, and their children settled in Schenectady.

Margarita (Van Slyck) Bradt, daughter of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck and wife of Andres Arentse Bradt, could not have been more than one-quarter Indian or possibly less.³ Margarita did not die in the 1690 Schenectady Massacre. She survived to later marry Adam Vrooman.⁴

Nelson Greene, editor. *History of the Mohawk Valley, Gateway to the West 1614-1925*. 4 Vols. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1925, 2:334-36.

"About 1620, a French trader named Hartell entered the Mohawk country and became enamored of an Indian girl, who owned the island in the river at Schenectady, now call Hog Island. The Iroquois woman was possessed of the land under the laws of the Five Nations as related in the chapter on Mohawks and Iroquois. Hartell had two children by this woman -- one called Ots-toch who married Cornelis Antonissen Van Slyck and Kenutje who married a Bradt. Ots-toch was wild and savage like her mother while Kenutje was small and handsome and very white like her father Hartell. " (See note below.)

Note: Coincidentally Hog island was the island confirmed by English patent in 1670 to Peter Borsboom validating the earlier gift to Peter by the Mohawks given in the right of Peter's wife Grietie who was related to the Mohawks. This compiler is of the opinion that Grietie Borsboom could have been a daughter of Cornelis Van Slyck.⁶

"The mother of these two half-breed (French and Mohawk) girls, at her death, was buried at the point of Hog Island toward the old highway bridge, which is shown in the illustration of the Great Western Gateway Bridge, published herein. The foregoing comprises two instances of "Indian marriages" between Dutch and French traders and Mohawk women. There were a number of such alliances and many Valley families of today have a strain of Iroquois blood of the Mohawk nation, although it is now frequently totally unknown by these very same descendants of the Canienga, as the Mohawks called themselves."

It is factual that Cornelis Van Slyck had "a squaw for a wife."⁵ The Bradt in question could have been Arent Andriessse Bradt. It is believed that Arent, who immigrated in 1637,⁶ probably did not marry his known wife, Catalyntje De Vos, until the late 1640's.⁷ This would have been a long time for a young man in the colony to have remained without a wife. There is a remote possibility Arent could have had an earlier Indian wife or at least a liaison with an Indian woman. I am not promoting this theory, merely noting that it is faulty genealogy to patently discount it when so little is known of Arent during this time period.

While this account perpetuates the same questionable legend found in the others, it has one point worth noting. Obviously the author did not find marital alliances between Dutch and French traders and Mohawk women that unusual.

Jonathan Pearson et al. *History of the Schenectady Patent in the Dutch and English Times: A History of the Lower Mohawk Valley.* ed. J. W. MacMurray (Albany: Joel Munsell, 1883), p. 189. The following appears as a footnote to the entry of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck in the chapter, "Adult Freeholders."

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

Mrs. Biasca conducted research attempting to find the origin of the information contained in the foregoing accounts. She was able to do this only to a limited degree as undoubtedly the legends had been handed down verbally in the beginning and were obviously embellished and distorted. As she could not verify the stories and as they contained obvious misinformation, she elected to discredit virtually everything found within them. In other words, she "threw out the baby with the bath water". Her article did not have the appearance of evenhandedness. No theory was ever addressed as to why the Dutchman Cornelis Van Slyck and his all or part Indian wife chose the French name "Jacques" for their son when there is no known record of this name in the Van Slyck family.

The time line for Jacques Hertel and a possible Mohawk alliance is well within the realm of possibility. If Cornelis Van Slyke's French/Indian wife were born by about 1623, she could easily have given birth to Jacques Van Slyck in 1639.⁸

Mrs. Bianca points to the fact that no mention of this episode in Hertel's life is found in Canadian archives. Regarding the absence of references in Canadian sources, would one seriously

expect to find anything in Canadian biographies or records of the Catholic Church regarding any alliances Jacques Hertel might have formed, or of any half-Indian children he might have fathered, during his forays into the wilds of what was later to become New York state?

Jasper Danckaerts. *Journal of Jasper Danckaerts 1679-1680*. eds. Bartlett Burleigh. James and J. Franklin Jamison. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913, pp. 301-314. The Danckaert interviews are the most substantial background offered. Even they afford room for interpretation. Illetie/Hillitie Van Slyck's Indian mother's aversion to Christianity could have been attributable to the support the French Catholic authorities afforded the enemies of the Mohawks or the persistent attempts of the missionaries to convert the Indians.

Danckaerts speaks of Hillitie's "full-blooded nephew Wouter." If Hillitie's mother also had children by a Mohawk man besides those begotten with Van Slyck, the implication here, the offspring of these children might well be regarded as full-blooded Indian. There is also the matter of the nephew's name "Wouter" which is clearly Dutch and might indicate that although raised as one, he was something less than 100% Mohawk. It is very possible as some researchers believe, that Wouter was the offspring of Cornelis Van Slyck's son Marten Mouris and an Indian wife who may have predeceased him. A child of this union would have been Hillitie's nephew and three-fourth Mohawk.

Mrs. Biasca is an acknowledged authority on the genealogy of the Bradt Family. She does not enjoy the same status regarding Van Slykes and their allied families.

This rebuttal is an attempt to provoke discussion. Let's cut to the quick; discard the fantasy of Indian princesses and the like and examine the possible. Arent Bradt could have had a wife previous to his marriage to Catalyntje De Vos; the French definitely came as far south as the Mohawk settlements; and there is too much similarity between the names Hertel and Hartell to disregard. Additionally Jacques Hertel was old enough to have fathered a daughter who could have given birth to Jacques Van Slyck in 1639. Lastly, there is no record of anyone in or close to the Dutch/Indian VanSlyck family by the French name "Jacques." E. M.

¹Robert G. Cooney, Jr., "Bradt Records from Amsterdam," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 118 (July 1987):133-134. This is a translation of the 1632 Amsterdam, Holland, marriage record of Albert Andriess [Bradt] stating that he was born in Norway and that his parents are deceased. As Arent Andriese was Albert's brother and is presumed to have immigrated to New Netherland with him in 1637, Arent Andriese would have to have been born in Europe.

²Jonathan Pearson et al, *History of the Schenectady Patent in the Dutch and English Times: A History of the Lower Mohawk Valley*, ed. J. W. Mac Murray (Albany: Joel Munsell, 1883), p. 93; and Peter R Christoph, *Albert Andriessen Bradt: A Norwegian Settler in Rensselaerswyck*, (Sarasota, FL: Bradt Family Association, 1987), p. 39.

³Margarite (Van Slyke) Bradt's mother was Griete Ryckman of Norwegian ancestry and her father Jacques Van Slyck was only part Indian, making her considerably less than "a half-breed."

⁴“Marriages: [Reformed Dutch] Church of Jesus Christ at New Albany, Part 1, 1683-1700,” *Yearbook of the Holland Society of New York* (1904):29. Marriage on January, 1697, of Adam Vrooman, “widower of Grietje Ryckman,” whom Grietje married after Jacques Van Slyck's death.

⁵Lawrence H. Leder, ed. *The Livingston Indian Records*, (Gettysburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1956), p.146.

⁶*New York Letters Patent, Book 3*, pp.94-95, 9 November 1670, (Albany, NY: New York State Archives) p. 89. A confirmation of an earlier Dutch patent from the Mohawks to Peter Borsboom.

⁷John O. Evjen, *Scandinavian Immigrants in New York, 1630-1674*, (Minneapolis: K. C. Holter Publishing Co., 1916; reprint ed., Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1972), p. 34.

⁸*Early Records of the City and County of Albany and Colony of Rensselaerswyck*, 4 vols., trans. Jonathan Pearson, (Albany: J. Munsell, 1869), vol. 1: 1656-1675, pp. 390-391. “Cataryn Anderiese De Vos, widow of the late Arent Andriese [Bradt]” made a contract with the orphan masters in 1664 which established the birth years of their children. Although Arent and Catalyntie's exact marriage date is not known, this suggests it to have been in the late 1640's.

Elizabeth Meredith

January, 2012

Court Minutes, 1648-1652

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[38v] The honorable officer, plaintiff, against Cornelis Segersz, defendant.

Cornelis Segersz being summoned to appear on the 12th ditto, being an extraordinary court day, to answer the complaints made to the officer by Gysbert Adriaensz and his brother, because the defendant, last Sunday, without any reason, much less excuse, suddenly struck Gysbert in the face with a glass and severely wounded him, not only cutting a deep gash, but also severing some arteries, which is lethal; and whereas the defendant heretofore has more than once, both by word and deed, committed such outrages and is in the highest degree punishable; therefore, the plaintiff demands that he be condemned to pay double the fine of 300 guilders, in accordance with the ordinance of Amsterdam or the Manhatans, and that in addition he be arbitrarily punished as an example to others. Also that the defendant furthermore be condemned, in accordance with the complaint, to pay the costs of the extraordinary session of the court, all *cum expensis*.

Whereas Cornelis Segersz on August 1, 1648, ventured in the presence of Arent Andriesz, Poulus Noorman and the servant of the aforesaid Arent to accuse Jan Baerentsz Poest in public of being a rascal and the biggest liar in the colony and agreed to prove it by several witnesses, and upon examination in court by Officer Slichtenhorst repeated the assertion and on the 3d of the same month, being again questioned in court, was obliged to retract his statements and deny his accusations; and whereas the defendant in a similar way defamed the person of Councilor Vos, as shown by the minutes of the court of October 8, 1648; therefore, the plaintiff demands that the defendant be condemned to pay for each offense the sum of fl. [25?], two thirds to go to the poor and one third to the plaintiff, all *cum expensis*.

All of the above underlined are our direct line ancestors. Cornelis Segersz appears to have been a troublemaker.

Minutes of the Court of Rensselaerswyck 1648-1652, trans. and ed., Arnold J. F. van Laer.
Albany: University of the State of New York, 1922, pages 127-128 (reconstructed).

Court Minutes 1648-1652

[62v] Special meeting, August 20 Anno 1650

Whereas the case of Claes Gerritsz was to come up this day, we have decided and thought it advisable to leave the differences between the honorable director and him to the decision and award of two impartial men to be appointed for that purpose, provided that the wages which are still due him, to wit, those which he earned in the employ of Brant Peelen, deceased, and Broer Cornelis, and on the Vlackte, shall remain as a pledge or security for the award to be rendered by the aforementioned persons.

Meeting of the inhabitants regarding the rumors of war concerning the Maquas, held on the 21st of September 1650

Information, as to what took place on the 21st of September 1650:

⇒ Rem Jansz, residing in Fort Orange, declares that on the 20th of September 1650, it happened that a certain Tapaen savage, at the house of Arent Andriesz, unasked and unexpectedly said to him: "You Dutchmen have now been selling guns long enough to the Maquas, for they came to us last summer and made presents in order that we should help them to kill you when the ice was on the water. They also went to the savages to the south and offered them a large *nootas* of seawan, whereupon they promised to lend them the helping hand."

Jacob Jansz Stol declares that the savage [63] said the same thing to him.

Albert Andriesz declares likewise and they say that when they asked him earnestly whether it was true, he said: "Come and take me and bind me fast and if it does not happen within the aforesaid time, then cut off my head."

That this happened as above stated they declare here before the court in the presence of several inhabitants.

Witness my hand,

A. DE HOGES, Secretary

Broadway East Side, Columbia to Steuben.

(1). In 1652-67, patented to Jacob Adriaense (Soegemackelyck, *alias* Rademaker Van Utrecht); 1667, Cornelis Segerse (Van Voorhoudt); 1729, Grietje Ryckse (Van Vranken) had a lot on what is now Montgomery street.—*Patents*, 394, 444, 456, 500; *Alb. An.*, ix, 47.

(2). 1652-67. Patented to Arent Andriese Bratt.—*Patents*, 444, 456. 1700-1, Barent Albertse Bratt owned a portion of his uncle's lot (2), and was forbidden to enclose the highway (Steuben street) at the backside of the main guard. He then lived "without ye north gate westward of ye main guard."—*Alb. An.*, iv, 109, 127; x, 60; In 1729, Johannes A. Cuyler had a lot on what is now the east corner of Steuben and Broadway, a portion of this patent.—*Alb. An.*, ix, 47. On the south east corner was the main guard by the river bank whence the palisades enclosing the north side of the village passed up the hill on the present line of Steuben street. Steuben and Columbia streets from Broadway to the river were not laid out at this early day, (1667).

The owners of the above lots in 1790 may be seen in *Coll. Hist. Albany*, II, 577.

