

From: "THE BEGINNINGS OF NEW FRANCE 1524-1663" by Marcel Trudel.
Pub. by McClelland & Stewart Ltd. Toronto, 1973.

Page 45: "In 1541, Cartier inaugurated the system that was to be used in the seventeenth century, that of training French interpreters by having them live with a tribe of Indians".

Page 47: "Franco-Iroquois conflict started the winter of 1541-42.

INDEX: (under Champlain)

Voyages: 1603, 1604, 1608, 1610, 1611, 1613, 1615, 1618, 1620

Page 186: "The establishment of a group of great landowners".
The Hundred Associates, seigneurs of New France since 1627.

"On Dec. 3, 1633, JACQUES HERTEL was the first to receive a fief under the new regime, Two Hundred arpents at Trois Rivieres, later reduced to fifty".

TRANSLATIONJACQUES HERTEL, COLINIST OF TROIS RIVIERES

"Nouvelliste", 30 June 1973

From the founding of Quebec (1608) to its capture by the English (1629), the Canadian Colony remained limited to proportions which would have discouraged the least demanding founder. In 20 years of stubborn efforts, Champlain had succeeded in bringing into the country only a handful of French and there was not enough cultivated land in the whole colony to support five families!.

When Canada was given back to him and he returned to it in 1633, he re-applied himself to the task with an unleashed energy. The little nucleus of population that he had been able to attach to the country had not left Canada even during the English occupation. The interpreters, in particular, had resolutely kept their place as agents of liason near the Indians and they had succeeded in keeping them faithful to France.

These interpreters hold the dominant place in the first quarter century of New France. This should not leave us indifferent since the most famous were from Troisfleuves: "Marguerie, whose courage, physical force and male beauty remain legendary, had adventures to fill up ten novels of Fenimore Cooper; Hertel, who wore gloves fringed with gold and ostentatious coats right among the "yokels" of his "desert", (vast, unpopulated areas), and who was the first mayor of the inhabitants; the three Godefroys, unrivaled oarsmen, vanquishers of the savages in athletic games, founders of noble estates, merchants and ardent Canadiens; these are the famous interpreters who have given their names to the first thirty years of the colony". (Sulte).

In these men Champlain had priceless assistance. They were young, full of spirit and vigor; their physical endurance and their knowledge enabled them to take an ascendancy over the Indians that assured to France an uncontested prestige. Equally, they made themselves the Aides of the Missionary Apostolate so that their civilizing work could be completed.

It is perhaps the finest title of glory of our town to have at its origin such men. Jacques Hertel, who had fore-seen the coming founding of our town, was the first to wish for and establish its life. He received the first grant of land on our Troisfleuves soil, at the end of the year, 1633".

.....

HARMEN JANSE RYCKMAN

Little is known about Harmen Janse Ryckman. On 10 October 1657 He and his presumed brother Jan Janse signed the Petition of the Lutherans to the Governor and Council of New Netherland. Jan signed with his mark, but Harman signed his name.¹ As the Lutherans came almost exclusively from Scandinavia, this would suggest the Ryckmans' place of origin.

Harmen was a resident in Beverwyck/Albany by at least 1661 and was a mason by trade.² He had a daughter named Grietje who was married to Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck. This is established by a court record of 22 September 1675 which identifies Grietje as Grietie Ryckmans, Grietie Harmensen and as the wife of Jacques Cornelisen.³ [See the transcript of Grietie's deposition following this summary.]

Harmen Ryckman was number 41 on a list of obligations and accounts delivered by Jan Bastia[en]sz to Mr Jeremias van Renselaer [*sic*] on the 12th of September, 1661, at Fort Orange in New Netherland. He was identified as *metselaer* or mason, and assessed 24 florins.⁴

On 3 July 1663 Harmen Janse Ryckman made his mark as a witness to the combination will of Eldert Gerbertsen Cruyff and his wife Tryntie Jans. Tryntie Jans, born at Noorstrant in Oostlant, was the widow of Harmen's brother Jan Janse Ryckman.⁵

The widow, whose name is unknown, of Harmen [Ryckman] de Metselaer arranged for an adult pall presumably for her husband on 28 November 1667.⁶

An Albany court case of May 1671, indicates that Hendrick Vrooman had married a widow whose former husband had been a mason.⁷ Could she have been the widow of Harmen Janse Ryckman? As Harmen's daughter Grietie later married Adam Vrooman, this might suggest an earlier Ryckman family association with the Vroomans.⁸

Grietie Harmense Ryckman was born about 1645.⁹ After the death of Jacques Cornelisz Van Slyck she married on 21 February 1691/2 Adam Vrooman,¹⁰ and by 1697 she was deceased.¹¹

Historian Austin Yates states that Grietie married her brother-in-law Adam Vrooman who had been married to Grietie's sister Angelica¹² This statement is suspect as both Pearson and Vrooman family historians agree that Adam Vrooman's first wife who was killed in the Schenectady massacre of 1690 was Engeltje Blom.¹³

¹Hugh Hastings, State Historian, ed., *Ecclesiastical Records, State of New York*, Vol. 1. (Albany, NY: James B. Lyon, State Printer, 1901), pp. 404-406.

²*Early Records of the City and County of Albany and the Colony of Rensselaerswyck*, 4 vols., trans. Jonathan Pearson, rev. and ed. A. J. F. van Laer, New York State Library History Bulletin 10 (Albany: University of the State of New York, 1916-1919), vol. 3: *Notarial Papers 1-2, 1660-1696*, pp. 111-112.

³*Andros Papers: Files of the Provincial Secretary of New York During the Administration of Governor Sir Edmund Andros*, 2 vols., ed. Peter R. Christopher and Florence A. Christopher, trans. Charles T. Gearing (New York: Syracuse University Press, 1989-1990), vol. 1, pp. 204-207.

⁴*Early Records of the City and County of Albany and the Colony of Rensselaerswyck*, 3:111-112.

⁵*Early Records of the City and County of Albany and the Colony of Rensselaerswyck*, 3:219-220.

⁶William V. Hannay, comp., "Burial Records First Dutch Church, Albany, New York, 1665-1676, "*Dutch Settlers Society of Albany* 8-9 (1932-34):7. Deacons' Accounts 1665-1676, widow of Harman de Metselaer paid for an adult pall.

⁷*Minutes of the Court of Albany, Rensselaerswyck and Schenectady*, 3 vols., trans. and ed., Arnold J. F. van Laer, (Albany: University of the State of New York, 1926-1930), vol. 1: 1668-1673, p. 250.

⁸Jonathan Pearson, *Contributions for the Genealogies of the Descendants of the First Settlers of the Patent and City of Schenectady* (1873; reprint ed., Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1982), p. 239.

⁹Edmund B. O'Callaghan, *Documentary History of the State of New York*, 4. vols. (New York: Weed, Parson, Public Printers, 1849), 2:206.

¹⁰*Contributions for the Genealogies of the Descendants of the First Settlers of the Patent and City of Schenectady*, p. 239.

¹¹Marriage Records: [Dutch Reformed] Church of Jesus Christ at New Albany, Part 1, 1683-1700," *Yearbook of the Holland Society of New York* (1904):29. On 13 January 1697 Adam Vrooman, widower of Grietje Rykman, married Grietje Takels.

¹²Austin A Yates, *Schenectady County, New York: Its History to the Close of the Nineteenth Century* ([S.l.]: New York History Co., 1902), p. 234.

¹³Jonathan Pearson, *Contributions for the Genealogies of the First Settlers of the Ancient County of Albany, from 1630 to 1800* (Albany, 1872; reprint ed., Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987), p. 146; and Lora Vrooman Randall and Florence Vrooman Houghton, *Josiah B. Vrooman: His Ancestors and Descendants* (El Paso, TX: Carl Hertzog, Printer, 1946), p. 29.

Compiled by:

(Mrs. Sam) Elizabeth Meredith
1720 South Gessner Road
Houston, Texas 77063
(713) 782-5597 April, 2008

The Reformed Dutch hierarchy in the New Netherland Colony discriminated against the Lutherans in a variety of ways. They restricted where they could hold services and limited the rites of the church they could perform. In the following instance their Lutheran minister Johannis Ernestus Goetwasser is being expelled from the colony because the Director-General and the Council do not recognize the legitimacy of a tenet of their Lutheran religion.

Hugh Hastings, State Historian, comp. *Ecclesiastical Record, State of New York*, 7 vols. (Albany, NY: James B. Lyon, 1901-1916), 1:405-407.

**PETITION OF THE LUTHERANS TO THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW
NETHERLAND, OCTOBER 10, 1657.**

To the Noble Honorable Director-General, and the Council of New Netherland—

With all due respect, we the adherents of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, here in New Netherland, and under the jurisdiction of the Lords Principals of the West India Company, hereby show, that the Burgomasters of this City of Amsterdam in New Netherland, have received an order from your Honors, first, by the City Messenger Gysbert op Dyck, and shortly after by the Honorable Fiscal, Nicasius de Sille, to the Rev. Master in Thology, Johannis Ernestus Gutwasser, that he must and shall depart in the ship, the "Waag," (the Balance), now ready to sail. Wherefore, in paying our respects to your Honors, we beg to say that in accordance with your Honors orders and public announcements he has behaved as an honest man, and has never refused obedience to your orders and edicts, but has always given good heed to them, and we too, have behaved quietly and obediently, while we expect from higher authority, the tolerance of our religion—that of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession. To this result we still look forward after receipt of another letter to us.

We humbly supplicate your Honors, that the sudden orders, the one by the City Messenger, and the other by the Fiscal, to Domine Johannis Ernestus Goetwasser, may be revoked by your Honors, until we receive further orders from their High Mightinesses, our sovereigns, and from the Noble Lord Directors of the Privileged West India Company. Remaining your Honors' faithful and watchful (servants) and good Christians, all adherents of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and having been admitted into New Netherland, we, in the absence of the others, have signed this petition: Mattheus Capito, Christian Niesen, Harmen Eduwarsen, Hans Dreper, Lourens Andriesen, Luycas Dircksen, XX **Jan Jansen**, XX Jochen Beeckman, Andries Rees, Luycas Eldersen, **Harmen Jansen**, Jan Cornelisse, Davidt Weasels, Hans Sillejavck, Hendrick Hendricksen, XX Myndert Barentsen, Harmen Smeerman, Cristian Barentsen, George Hanel, Pieter Jansen XX Winckelhoeck, Claes de Wit, XX Jacob Elders, Hendrick Willemse. We await your Honors favorable decision. Amsterdam, in New Netherland, this 10th day of October, Anno 1657.

As answer this may serve: that the Director-General and the Council do not recognize the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, much less any of the adherents of it. They confirm, therefore, hereby, their order and resolution of the 4th of September, sent to Johannis Ernestus Goetwasser, who calls himself a Lutheran preacher, at Amsterdam, in New Netherland. Since that order, five or six weeks ago, two ships have sailed, on board of one of which the said Goesswater was ordered to depart. As he has treated the order of this Provincial Government with contempt, he is hereby once again commended to leave with one of the ships now ready to sail. The Director-General and Council consider this necessary for the glory of God, for the success of the Reformed Religion, and the common quiet, peace and harmony of this Province. Thus done at the meeting of the Honorable Director-General and the Council, held at Fort Amsterdam in New Netherland on the 16th of October 1657. By order of the Hon. Director-General and Council aforesaid. 1657

C. V. Ruyven. Secretary. Having compared the foregoing petition and order, it is found correct. C. V. Ruyven, Secretary.

North Pearl, east side, Columbia to Steuben.

North Pearl street was laid out in 1730 at Steuben street 7 rods, and at Columbia street, 6 rods 10 feet wide. Columbia street at North Pearl was 3 rods 3 feet wide in 1737. In 1736 permission was given "to erect a market house where the old block house stood" at the junction of Pearl and Columbia streets.—*Alb. An.*, viii, 243; x, 70, 78.

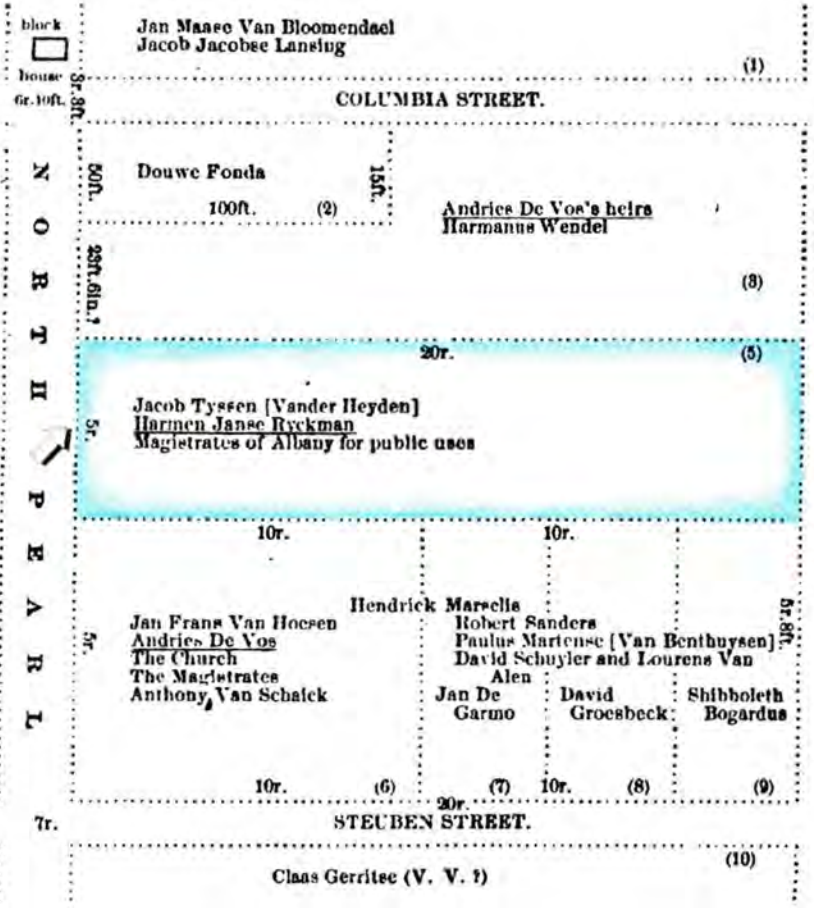
- (1). 1728, Jan Maase Van Bloemendael's house and lot; 1757, Jacob Jacobse Lansing.—*Alb. An.*, ix, 29; x, 70, 78, 410.
- (2). 1728, Douwe Fonda bought this lot for £90 of the city.—*Alb. An.*, ix, 29; x, 70, 78.
- (3). 1720, the lot on west corner of James and Columbia streets belonged to Andries De Vos; 1726, Harmanus Wendel.—*Alb. An.*, vii, 76; viii, 243, 312.
- (5). 1656-67, Jacob Tyssen [Vander Heyden]; Harmen Janse Ryckman; 1676, the magistrates for public uses.—*Patents*, 338, 427, 508; *Alb. Co. Rec.*, 171-2, 410-11.

Lots (6), (7), (8) and (9), were together patented to Hendrick Marcella, in 1654-67.

- (6). 1657, Jan Frans Van Hoesen; 1667, his widow Volckie Jurriaense; 1667, Andries De Vos; 1675, Andries De Vos conveyed this lot to the diaconate of the church; 1676, the diaconate to the magistrates of the village; 1720, Anthony Van Schaick.—*Patents*, 427, 508; *Alb. Co. Rec.*, 44, 62, 109, 131, 171, 172, 171, 175, 410, 411, 412; *Alb. An.*, viii, 251; ix, 90.

Lots (7), (8) and (9) were conveyed in 1667 to Robert Sanders; 1675, to Paulus Martense [Van Benthuysen]; 1678, to David Schuyler and Laurens Van Alen.—*Patents*, 427; *Alb. Co. Rec.*, 109, 174, 175, 410-11.

- (7). 1734, Jan De Garmo.—*Alb. An.*, x, 55.
- (8). 1731, David Groesbeck.—*Alb. An.*, x, 12.
- (9). 1720-37, Shibboleth Bogardus.—*Alb. An.*, viii, 243, 312; ix, 47; x, 55, 79.
- (10). 1667-77, Claas Gerritse [Van Vranken?] occupied a lot south of Robert Sanders's lot.—*Alb. Co. Rec.*, 171-2



GRIETIE (RYCKMAN) VAN SLYCK

Following is one of the few records citing anyone from Harmen Ryckman's branch of the Ryckman family. It is an example of the slanderous and litigious nature of the Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam. It also confirms that the Grietie Ryckman who married Jacques Cornelisen Van Slyck was the daughter of Harmen Janse Ryckman.

This translation from the original Dutch is found in Volume 24, page 140, of the files of the provincial secretary during the administration of Governor Sir Edmund Andros.

On 29 September 1675 Grietie Ryckman, wife of Jacques Cornelisen, was requested by Jan Gerritse van Marcken, former schout of Schenectady, to testify before the court at Albany presided over by magistrates Adrian Gerritse [Papendorp] and Pritty [Richard Pretty], and sheriff Mr. Siston [?] regarding a slanderous incident which occurred earlier in September.

The interrogation proceeded as follows:

1. Whether on the 21st of September last she did not hear Marritie Mynderts, when she passed out of her door, say to Jan Gerritsen van Marcken: "You scoundrel, you said that I stole a raccoon coat." [Marietie Myndertse was the widow of Jan Barentse Wemp and was presently married to Sweer Teunise Van Velsen.]

Answer: "No."

2. And whether he did not answer: "No, Marritie, I am not talking about a raccoon coat; certainly not, I am not talking about it."

Answer: "I heard them talk but did not understand what they said. I heard Jan Gerritse say: 'I am not talking about the raccoon coat,'"

3. And whether he did not come into the house then and say: "That is bad of Marritie. She runs to Myndert's house, saying: 'That scoundrel, that thief says that I stole a raccoon coat.' God knows that I did not say that. [Myndert is Myndert Wemp, Marietie's son.]

Answer: "Yes, she heard Jan Gerritse say so."

4. Whether Myndert thereupon did not come into the house with evil intent, saying: "What did you say? That my mother is a thief?"

Answer: "Yes."

5. And whether he did not answer: "Why, no, Myndert, I did not say that. Your mother does wrong in saying that."

Answer: "Yes."

6. And whether his mother Marritie did not say then: "Now look at the dog; he says that he did not say it."

Answer: "Yes."

7. Whether her husband, Sweer Tuenisse, did not say thereupon: "You little scoundrel, you little thief, you slander this woman. You said that she lusted after horses. That has cost her ten nights' sleep."

Answer: "Yes."

8. Whether her son Myndert thereupon did not say: "Strike the dog, or I shall strike him. Is he to say that my mother is a thief? It is not true."

Answer: "Yes."

9. Whether I, Jan Gerritsen, did not answer: "Myndert, I am not saying that your mother is a thief."

Answer: "Yes."

10. And whether Myndert did not grab him by the head and drag him by the hair over the floor and beat him?

Answer: "I saw that Myndert dragged him over the floor but did not see who started it."

11. Whether Myndert, when he let him go and ran out of the door, asking for his hat, did not say: "Why didn't you let me alone? I would have thrown him in the cellar and broken his neck."

Answer: "Yes, but I do not know exactly whether he said broken or wrung his neck but heard one or the other."

12. Whether, further, she did not hear Sweer say: "The court record is so scandalous that we are ashamed when we open it. Yes. so scandalous is it and such [awful] things are written in it."

Answer: "Yes, but I did not hear him say: "Such [awful] things are written in it. ""

Teun On the 15th of September, or thereabouts, the aforesaid Grietie Harmensen heard Sweer isse in the presence of the whole court say to Jan Gerritse van Marken: "You are a scoundrel and a thief and I shall prove it. We have your signature and it is down here."

Grietie Harmense, aforesaid, also says in the presence of the above mentioned magistrates that when she was at Schaenechtade to submit the interrogatory under oath, in the matter of the aforesaid Jan Gerritsen van Marken, the honorable magistrates of Schaenechtade said to her: "You need give no further testimony, nor give him any affidavit of it. It is sufficient for you to have sworn to this interrogatory." All of which Grietie Harmense has confirmed by solemn oath before the aforesaid magistrates, in Albany, on the 29th of September 1675.

On the same day a second deposition is taken, this time from Jannetie Schermerhorn. Jannetie was Jannetie Cornelise, daughter of Cornelis Segerse Van Voorhoudt. She was married to Jacob Janse Schermerhorn. Both women deponents were the daughters of, and married to, substantial members of the community.

Jannetie Schermerhooren, at the request of the said Jan Gerritse and before the aforesaid magistrates, also declares that she heard Jan Gerritse van Marken say to Maritie Mynders, the wife of Sweer Teunise: "I am not saying that the raccoon coat was stolen, nor that the five beavers were stolen; nor do I say that the money of the poor was stolen." She also understood the said Jan Gerritse to say (so she thinks): "I am not saying that the letters were concealed." And he also said to her: "Is that the reward for the favors done by me? I was present when powder and lead were sold here." The deponent knows nothing further of the matter and is ready, in case of need, to confirm what is hereinbefore written by solemn oath.

After comparison the former was acknowledged by Robert Livingston.

Post script:

Nothing was found regarding the final disposition of the aforementioned court case. On 9 February 1690 Maritie Mynderse, Sweer Teunise van Velsen/Westbroeck and Myndert Janse Wemp were brutally murdered in the French and Indian raid on Schenectady [see volume 1, pages 86-89]. The names of our direct line ancestors have been underlined.

The interrogation portion included above can be found in the *Andros Papers: Files of the Provincial Secretary of New York During the Administration of Governor Sir Edmund Andros 1674-1678*, 2 vols., Peter R. Christoph and Florence A. Christoph, trans. Charles T. Gehring (New York: Syracuse University Press, 1989), 1:204-206.

The Van Slyck Family in the New World by Ouida Blanthorn is a scholarly work, though not as extensive as *The Van Slyke Family in America*, and perhaps not sufficiently challenging of some traditional information. The historical background is well done and paints an excellent picture of the environment in which Cornelis Antonissen put down roots and became the patriarch of the Van Slyck Family in the New World.

Author: Ouida Blanthorn
 Graduate Student of History
 Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
 P. O. Box 15, St. John, UT 84069
 July 1, 1973

Family History Center
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 Film Number 924474.6

THE VAN SLYCK FAMILY IN THE NEW WORLD

By Ouida Blanthorn

The story of the Van Slyck family in America begins in 1623, when plucky Dutch colonists were sent over by the West India Company in a ship, which dropped most of its passengers off at New Amsterdam (New York), and then sailed up the Hudson River, dropping off its remaining passengers on the river's western bank at a post called "Ft. Orange," now Albany.

The government of Holland had created the West India Company to promote Dutch trade and colonization in the New World. Governed in Holland by a board of directors, some of whom never saw their New World enterprise, but simply directed its affairs from the old, the company was granted a monopoly in a charter reserving use of all rivers and navigable waters for the company's ships only. The charter also granted the company the right to appoint a director-general or governor over the people, to buy land, build forts, and raise armies. In addition to the shipping monopoly on all imports and exports, the company also reserved the sole right to trade with the native American Indians for furs.¹

One member of the company's board of directors saw a way of transporting colonists to the New World at less cost to the company. Kiliaen Van Rensselaer's plan was to give free vast tracts of land in the New World

¹

Walter D. Edmonds, The Musket and the Cross (Boston, 1968), p. 157.

- 2 -

to members of the board, if they would send over 50 or more settlers every four years to live on the grants of land.¹ Kiliaen decided to settle his colonists near a fort for protection; so in 1629, he wrote the commander of Ft. Orange, which had been built by the company, to buy up land. Sebastiaen Crol, the commander, bought land extending 11 miles below the Fort and nine miles above the Mohawk River mouth, reaching 24 miles both east and west on either side of the Hudson, 700,000 acres in all.²

In Holland, meanwhile, Van Rensselaer began advertising enthusiastically for people to colonize his New World enterprise. One Dutchman, Cornelis anthonnisen van schlick,³ from Breuckelen (near Utrecht), must have been impressed with the circulars, as most any Dutchman with a keen appreciation of the table would be, telling all about the abundant free fish and wildlife available in the New World, because he signed a contract on April 5, 1634,⁴ with Kiliaen Van Rensselaer and sailed on the ship de Eendracht for America.

1

Edmonds, p. 175. Kiliaen's plan was to develop into the "Patroon System," with the landowner becoming a kind of feudal lord over his tenants as in the Middle Ages. A tenant was bound to work for the Patroon, until a specified time in his contract; however, at the expiration of his contract, the tenant found he could sell his land only at a great loss, and was thus bound economically to remain with his landlord.

2

Edmonds, p. 178. Two other patroonships had failed in New Netherland because of lack of protection, and Van Rensselaer saw the advantage of establishing his colony near a fort maintained by the company at no cost to him.

3

This is the way Cornelis signed his name in the Van Rensselaer Manuscript.

4

Letter, dated 19 June 1972, from Schenectady Co. Historical Society to Ouida Blanthorn enclosing a copy of page 809 from the Van Rensselaer Bowler Manuscripts, hereafter called in this paper the Van Rensselaer Manuscript. (Bowler is the Dutch equivalent of town.)