

Frederick Jansen & Grietje Jans van Groeningen

Early Ancestors of Blauw / Blaw and associated Early Families of NY & NJ, 1651.

By H. Joel Blue, Shreveport, LA

I. TIME IN RECIFE, BRAZIL

The subject couple (the paternal grandparents of John Blaw who d.1757 in Somerset Co., NJ) was known to be in the Westindische Compagnie (Dutch West India Company), Colony of Recife, New Holland, Brazil, by 10 February, 1646 and stayed in the area through 1 August, 1649. This is shown by the Doopregister Hollanders Brazilie 1635-1654, which has three separate dates for this couple. The baptismal records of Recife have for Frederick Janss & Greitje Jans;

1. 10 Feb.,1646, unnamed child, no sponsors
(Possibly a child born at sea, in another settlement, a sick child who could have been felt to have little chance or much time left to live, or a recording made after the fact with little details to aid the recorder. The child may have been born at any time before the baptismal date).
2. 18 December,1646 ; Anna
sponsors; Cornelis Janss*,Conraet Schaep, Altjen Janss*, Grietje Reyniers*,
3. 1 August, 1649; Jan & Aeltge, (possible twins)
sponsors; Jan Dircks, Ariaen Anaens, Jacob Roeloffs, Grietje Willems, Aeltjen Janss*.

*There are some other citings in the Doopregister which may help in piecing together this family and possible relatives in Brazil and in New Netherlands. This will be covered in a later issue.

Two listings for a Frederick Janssen were found in a listing of the Military in Brazil. These records have been requested from the Archief Stadts Generaal, Netherlands, and will be shared. These listings were located from:

The Militairen in Brazilie, by Diederick Kortlang, a compiled Naamindex / name-index, of inventory number 12582.7 of the Archives of the Staden Generaal, and the archives of the Old Westindische Compagnie.

For Janssen, Frederick - files # 12582.7 6, Bloemendaal and # 12582.7 424 , van den Dam
Also, requested are files for Cornelis Cornellissen, who is seen as the husband of Aeltjen Jans, who witnessed the baptisms of the children of Frederick Janssen and Grietje Jans

Frederick Jansen van Flensborch, who was in New Amsterdam as early as 1641, is not the same person as our Frederick Janssen who was in Brazil, 1646-1649 and is the subject of our attention. With reference to the information passed on by William Blue in the 5th edition of the Descendants of John Blaw, d. 1757, we can see that the earlier possibility that our Frederick Jansen may have lived in New Amsterdam, known as FREDERICK JANSEN van Flensborch, must be set aside as NOT the Frederick Jansen we are speaking of. This earlier person , with his various lawsuits and citings in the early records of New Amsterdam died, with his wife, on the ill-fated voyage of the AMELIA from New Amsterdam to The Netherlands, in 1647. This information was passed to William Blue by NBFA member Susanna Noe who obtained it from Lorine McGinnis Schultze's, Olive Tree Genealogy website. This Frederick was married to a Metgen Barents, who also perished. Frederick Janssen and Grietje Jans van Groeningen were in Brazil at that time, living in a settlement within the jurisdiction of the Recife Dutch Reformed Church.

II. ARRIVAL IN NEW AMSTERDAM

The arrival of Frederick Jansen in New Amsterdam, New Netherlands was by 10 March, 1651. This is established by the assignment of a lot in Manhattan to Frederick Jansen. At this time it is unknown if the family came as a unit. Furthermore, it has not been determined if they came directly from Brazil or, as many did, from the Netherlands after leaving Brazil. At the time the lot was assigned it seems Frederick Jansen was alive and, most likely, in New Amsterdam.

The granting of the lot was first seen by the author in O' Callaghan's "History of New Netherlands" list of Early Land grants, by Peter Stuyvesant, as :

" 10 March, 1651, Frederick Jansen, A lot, Manhattan".

The next finding in reference to this lot is in "Land Papers", Laer's New York Historical Manuscripts, p. 72; "HH 20

Patent to Jan Swaen; Petrus Styvesant, on behalf of their High Mightinesses, ...has given and granted unto Jan Swaen a lot lying on the island of Manhattan in the rear of the lot of Dirck Nes and the lot of Frederick Jansz, extending on the north side the lot of Jan Huygen; it is in breadth on the east and west sides 6 rods; and in length on the north and south sides 4 rods, with the express conditions, etc ... Done at Amsterdam in New Netherland, 23 October, 1654."

Finally the details of the grant to Frederick Jansen were found in:

Phelps Stokes, The Iconography of Manhattan Island, Vol II, pg. 361,

"The Dutch Grants, Lot 9, 1651:

March 10 Granted GR-br. to Frederic Jansen (Original in library of J.Pierpont Morgan, Esq.) Description: Premises for a house and garden situated on the island of Manhattan, on the W. side of the great Gentlemaen's Road (Highway), between the premises of Jan Huygen and William Fredericksen, wide, along the Highway, 3 rods; along the shore or W. side, 3 rods, 4 feet; long, both on the S. and N. sides, 9 rods,4 feet

Endorsed:

The measure of this property has been retaken and has been staked off according to this indenture, Manhattan, Apl. 4, 1659. J. Cortelyou, Sworn Surveyor."

(A translation of this grant in its entirety is presented at the end of this article in Appendix A).

One of the earliest recordings of the early settlers of Manhattan Island was made by Jacque Cortelyou, a well known surveyor and cartographer. Cortelyou made the 1660 Castello map showing the Manhattan lots, and prepared a key to the map naming the settler living on each lot in the 1659-1660 time period. This key identified the lot granted to Frederick Jansen in 1651 to be in the hands of Lucas Dircksen, Van Der Burgh. To reconcile this seeming anomaly, a search was made for land records to see how Frederick Jansen disposed of his lot. In the process, it was determined that Frederick Jansen died in possession of his lot, and it passed into the hands of his widow, Grietje (Gretchen) Janss. As will be covered in the next section, Grietje remarried Jan Pietersen (Staats) on 15 May, 1652.

The following abstracts show how and when the land of Frederick Jansen changed hands.

From Phelps Stokes, Iconography of Manhattan, Vol.II, pg. 361.

" Lot # 9,1651

June 23, 1656 Bill of sale.

Jan Pietersen, husband of 'Gretchen Jarisen (Jansen), wid. of Frederick Jansen, to Hans Steyn.

(original in the library of J. Pierpont Morgan, Esq.)

Desc(ription): A cert.(ain) ho.(use) and lot situated in this city on the Broadway, which property is bounded on the S. side by that of Lysbeth Pietersen, wid. of Jan Huygen, and on the N. side by that of Dirck Jansen's; wide and long according to the gr.-br. dated Mch. 10, 1651. As it was at the beginning of the month of April, 1655 at that time it was fenced and built upon and was entered upon by the purchaser."

Confirmed

" Nov. 15, 1663 Deed. Jan Pietersen (having m. wid. of Frerick Jansen) to Hans Steyn. (Lib. B, Deeds, N.Y. Co. ; z8.)

Recites gr-br. to F.jansen, Mch.10, 1651 ; bill of sale June 23, 1656.

Desc.: Ho. and lot W. of Marckvelt; bounded S. by ho. and lot of D. Wiggersen; N. by ho. and lot of Director-general; according to said gr-br. is br. in front on street, on the E. side, 3 r. ; in rear, on W. side, 3 r., 4 ft.; long, both N.and S. sides, 9 r., 4 ft."

(A translation of this bill of sale in its entirety is presented at the end of this article in Appendix B).

The Dutch Grants, 1656

June 30. Bill of Sale. Hans Steyn to Lucas Dirk Van Den Burgh. (Original in library of J. Pierpont Morgan, Esq.)

Desc.: A cert. ho. and lot situated in this city on the Broadway which are bounded on the S. side by the property of Lysbet Pietersen, wid. of Jan Huygen, and by that of Dirck Jansen on the N. side, wide and long according to gr-br. dated MCH.10, 1651; another cert. strip of ground according to the bill of sale dated Aug. 28, 1655, for an alley~ft. in general width to the end of the length of the lot of John Swaen who sold same strip to Hans Steyn, along the S. side of the lot of Dirck Nes and the lot of Frederick Jansen; and this by the authority of gr-br. of date of October 23, 1654.

Confirmed

"The Dutch Grants 1663

Nov. 13. Deed Uans (Hans) Steyn to Lucas Dircksen Van Der Burgh. (Lib. B. Deeds, N.Y. Co. : 29.) Conveyss a. preceding instrustient."

" The Dutch Grants 1668

Feb. 23. Conf. Govenor Nicolls to Lucas Dircksen. (Pats. Alb., II : 163.)

Confirms the premises s.a. preceding instrument."

(A translation of this bill of sale in its entirety is presented at the end of this article in Appendix C).

Thus the seeming anomaly concerning the ownership of Lot #9, Block A, is resolved.

III. DEATH of FREDERICK JANSEN and Re-MARRIAGE of GRIETJE JANS van Groeningen; 15 MAY, 1652, DRC, Nieuw Amsterdam

It is now proper to note that the death of Frederick Jansen is not indicated in the record of Grietje Jans' marriage to Jan Pietersen van Husum in the Dutch Reformed Church of Nieuw Amsterdam:

" 15 May, 1652, Jan Pieterszen van Husum, Wedr., en Grietje Jans van Groeningen. "

She is not noted as a widow. Jan Pietersen is. This is an unusual omission, and one which did call the identity of Grietje Jans into question as being Fredericks widow. In fact, a third wife of Jan Pietersen van Husum was (and still is) felt by some associated families to possibly be Frederick Jansen's New Amsterdam widow. This confusion is found first in:

T.G.Bergen's Early Settlers, 1881, pages 272-273:

" Jan Pietersen (Staats) of Gowanus, the common ancestor of the Gowanus Family, ... 16 May , 1652 m. Grietje Jans; m.2nd, 15 November, 1663, widow of Frederick Jansen, ship carpenter."

This citing has had the effect of causing many families to place Grietje Jans van Groeningen as another person than who she was. It is understandable, but the belief is based on a misreading of the land records. Confusing the confirmation date, 1663 as the sale/transfer dates, 1656, it has placed the children and descendants of Grietje at a distance, which is false. She is listed as the widow of Frederick Jansen in the land transfer records.

The facts reshape many assumed citings of Grietje Jans van Groeningen.

It is not known whether van Groeningen is or is not Grietje Jans's surname. It is a rare name, but it has been used since 1444 as a surname. Why we cannot say, but in her marriage record there is no comma between "Grietje Jans" and "van Groeningen". A comma would indicate "from/of " the place. When "van Groeningen" is used as a surname (no comma) it does not necessarily identify where Grietje Jans came from, just where her family was from. Another possibility is that Grietje being "van Groeningen" may mean she was born in Groeningen. We do not know if it indicates the city or province. The Groeningen Chamber of the WIC (West India Company) had the control and responsibility for Recife and other settlements in Brazil ; Bahia and San Salvador, for example. Groeningen shared in 1/9 of the WIC and 1/5 of the slave trade. Greitje would not be recorded as "van Groeningen" unless she had some association with the place. Thus it may serve as a clue for further research into her ancestry. Note that her arrival from Brazilie was not part of the marriage record.

In summary, by reading the land transfers carefully, it was determined that Greitje Jans van Groeningen has been noted correctly as the widow of Frederick Jansen who arrived in New Amsterdam by 10 March, 1651. Furthermore, we can say that Frederick Jansen, of Lot #9, Block A, Manhattan, died before May, 1652, when his widow remarried.

IV. LOCATION OF THE LOT # 9 , BLOCK A, MANHATTAN, 1651

(The location of Lot #9 of the Dutch Grants is shown on the 1660 map later in this article).

In all known block indicators, Block A is the same. Lot residents are cited differently by tenant/owner at the time of the inventory. As we have the original owners, any listing of these early owners will show you where the site is, no matter what number they assign.

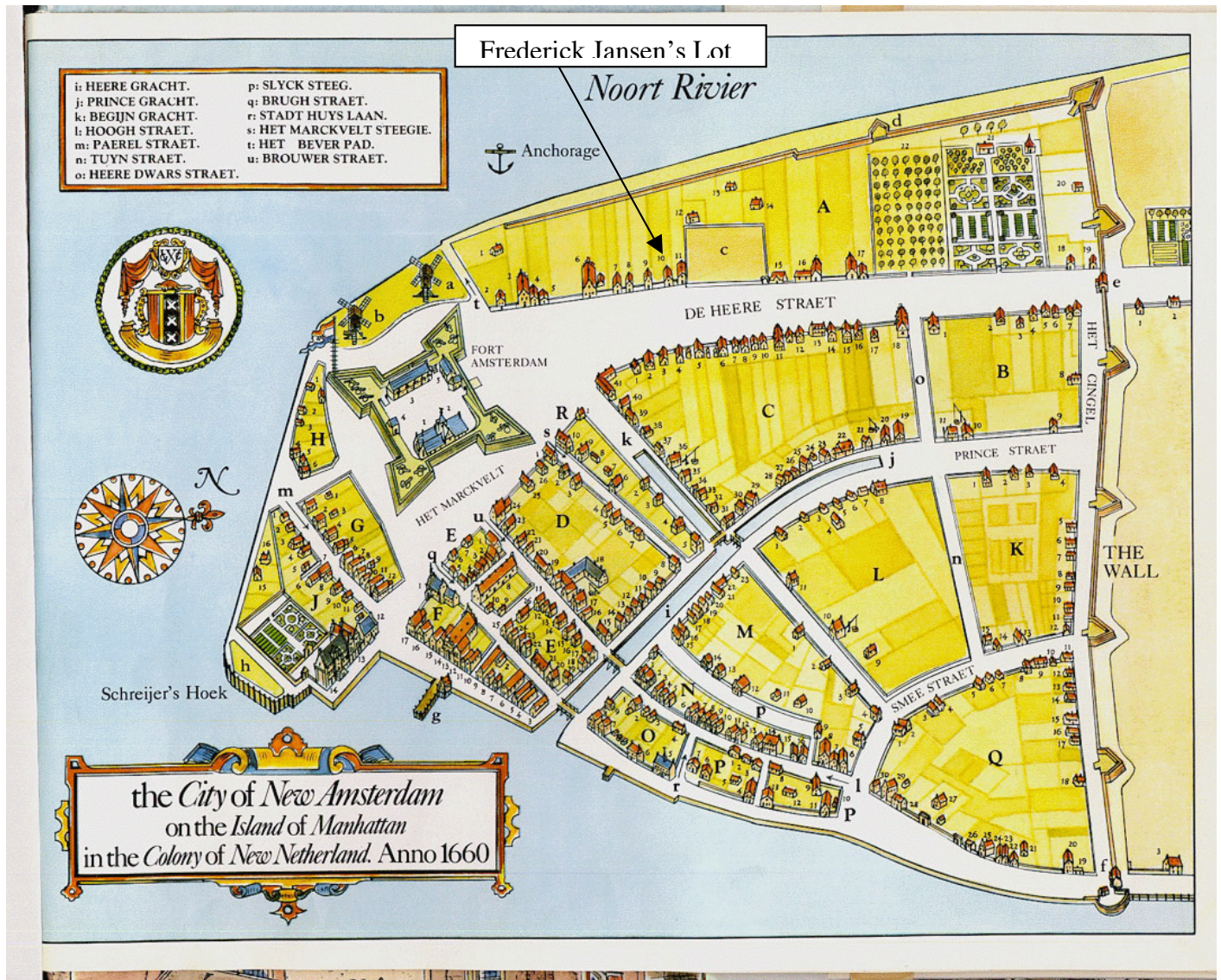
Block A was/is inside the palisades of the North River/Hudson. The river was at that time just west of the street that was named Trinity Lane (Greenwich St. today). Block A lies at the old SW tip of Manhattan, just N. of Fort Amsterdam, now Battery Park. It's southern boundary would be Battery Place, between Greenwich St. and Broadway. The northern boundary would extend westward from where Wall St. meets Broadway, to where Carlisle St. meets Greenwich St., the current site of Trinity Church. The western boundary would Greenwich St. (then the old banks of the North River) and the eastern boundary would be Broadway (then De Heere straet).

This block bears many links to the early Blaw /Blue and associated families. The current location of Frederick Jansen's lot was determined by the Hoagland Family/Van Der Burghs, as being near 25 Broadway, at the approximate site of the Post Office which took over the gallery floor of the Cunard Lines Headquarter Building. This location is approximately 1000 feet south of Trinity Church. Our analysis confirms this location.

Manhattan in 1660

This map was obtained from the website of the Virtual New Amsterdam Project-1660 (or thereabouts), www.teachout.org/vna/map.html. It was obtained by them from the book "The Legend of New Amsterdam" by Peter Spier. The map is commonly referred to as the "Spier Map". The VNA website also gives the names of the land owners, ca1660, and shows that Lucas Dirksen, who is shown by deeds (above) to be the owner of the lot that was Frederick Jansen's 1651 grant, was the owner of lot A-10. In the map below, this lot is in Tract A and is the second lot south (left) of Tract C (see arrow "Frederick Jansen's Lot"). The origin of the difference between the lot numbers in the Spier Map and the numbers in the Dutch Grants is unknown to the author. However, a map of the Dutch Grants compiled by J.F. & C.R. McCarty for "The Iconography of Manhattan Island" by Stokes, shows Frederick Jansen, who was granted Lot 9, in this same lot (second lot south of Lot C).

The reader should note that "The Wall" on the north (right) side of New Amsterdam is the present location of Wall Street.



V. CREDITS

Besides the works cited , the author thanks;

Mr. Bob Protzman who sent him a copy of his MAP, Plotting the Dutch Grants of Phelps Stokes' " Iconography.." and for his sharing of Phelps Stokes' KEY of the Castello Plan, and Phelps Stokes' KEY to the Dutch Grants, with the public.

(Inventories which are not based on the Dutch Grants will have, as stated, different numbers, of the current residents. The Dutch Grants have the earliest owners. They are not the same. Bob Protzman has made a work by using them both. Once you compare plans, you find the Block Lettering order to be different. This is one lucky thing for those researching Frederick Jansen. The starting with Block A at the West tip of the Manhattan Island is one of the main similarities of the different inventories. Block A is Block A, but residents will change with time.)

Frederick Jansen's Lot was just North of what wound up being, in 1660, Dirck Wiggerts/'Wiggers lot (from marrying Jan Huygens' widow), and south of Dir. Stuyvesant's, "the Honorable Director". Stuyvesant's lot which was originally owned by William Fredericks,(and Dirck Nes), is described in the Lucas Dircksen transfer as lying on the North side of the lot Lucas obtained from Hans Steyn. Hans bought it from Jan Pietersen van Husum. Jan Swaen, in rear,of both , sold his lot,# 11 to Lucas Dircksen, also.

Thanks go to ;

Margery Freas, who is compiling the Staats family History. She worked with me in examining the land transfers and original citings in Phelps Stokes and the Doopregister Hollanders en Brazilie, which will be part of another article for family researchers to use.

Van Vancurlen, who searched for Grietje Jans and Frederick Janss of the Doopregister Hollanders en Brazilie.

Christine Nelson, Archivist of the Morgan Library of NY, for sending copies of the translated items ; Original Deed of 1651, the Bill of Sale of 1656 and other papers related to LOT # 9.

Vincent Van der Bergh, Archivist of the Staats General, Netherlands for his continued assistance.

Doug Buckelew who retyped and sent the full wording of the LIB. B documents which are confirmation of the sales of the Lot to Steyn and Van Der Burgh, These again identify and confirm Grietje Jans as the widow of Frederick Jansen.

William H. Blue who edited this article, and all who read this and gave feedback.

APPENDIX A

10 March 1651 Land Grant to Frederick Janssen

Translated from the Collection of J.P. Morgan Library, New York, NY

Stuyvesant Document No. 2, 1651

Peter Stuyvesant, by the Authority of the Noble High Mighty Lords, the States General, of his Serene Highness of the Noble Lord, Prince of Orange, and by the Authority of the Generals of the Authorized West Indian Company of the United Netherlands, Director-General of our New Netherlands, Curacao, Benayro, Aruba and their dependencies, Captain - Admiral of our vessels and yachts in the northern part of America, make known by these presents that, on the date hereunto signed, we have granted to Frederic Jansen, ship-carpenter, the premises for a house and garden situated on the Island of Manhattan on the west side of the great Gentleman's Road (Highway), between the premises of Jan Huygen and William Fredericksen, wide, along the Highway, three rods :

along the shore, or west side, wide, three rods, four feet ;

long, both on the South and North sides, nine rods, four feet ;

with the Express condition and provide that he, Frederick Jansen, or whoever may take over his rights in this, shall acknowledge as his sovereign lord the Noble High Mighty Lords, the States General, and the Noble Lords, the rulers and patroons of this city, and to obey their Director and Council here in everything as it behoves good citizens to do. Provided that he, Frederick Jansen, or whoever may secure his rights in this, shall further submit himself to all such obligations and just regulations as already have been or may yet be framed by the Noble Lords. Granting upon these conditions to the said Frederick Jansen real and actual possession of the afore-mentioned premises, giving him, by these presents, complete Authority to enter upon said premises, to cultivate and inhabit them. as he would be allowed to do with other of his patrimonial lands and properties, without our having reserving or retaining, as grantors, in our aforesaid capacity, any further part, right or authority in the lease of same, but relinquishing all in behalf of the afore named from now on in perpetuity, further promising to maintain this transfer firmly as valid, irrefragible and irrevocable, and to carry out everything under this indenture according to the laws in such case provided. These presents are signed by us without guile or artifice and are confirmed by our seal affixed hereon in red wax.

Done this 10th march, Anno 1651, on the Island of Manhaatan, New Amsterdam, in the New Netherland.

P. Stuyvesant. ss.

By order of the Noble Lord, the Director General of our New Netherland, Curacao, &c.

Jacob Rys, Clerk

1651

4

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Indorsement.

The measure of this property indenture has been retaken and has been staked off according to this indenture.

Manhattan April 4, 1659.

Ja. Cortelyou

Sworn Surveyor

This is retyped from the original translation provided to the writer by the Morgan Library, August, 2003; true to the original as possible.

APPENDIX B

23 June 1656 Bill of Sale, Lot #9, Block A

Library of J. Pierpont Morgan
Thirty-Three East Thirty-Sixth Street
New York

Translation of Hans Steyn Document

Today, June 23, 1656, appeared before me, Mathews de Vos, public Notary licensed by the Very honorable Director General and their Honorables residing at Amsterdam in New Netherland, and the witnesses hereafter named, the worthy Jan Pietersen, husband and guardian of Gretchen Jansen, widow of Frederick Jansen, Carpenter, who also appeared, who together declared to have sold, and Hans Steyn who declared to have bought a certain house and lot situated in this city on the Broad Way, which property is bounded on the southside by that of Lysbet Pietersen, widow of Jan Huygen, and on the north side by that of Dirck Jansen's wide and long according to the thereof existing letter of ground-grant dated March 10, 1651. And that at the beginning of the month of April, 1655, as at that time it was then fenced and built upon and was entered upon by the purchaser ; and that for the sum of 1050 guilders, to be paid in three installments, of which the first is to be paid in coin, to wit, the sum of 350 guilders in the month of June of the same year; and the second installment in the month of June, 1656, likewise the sum of 350 guilders, one half in beavers and one half in coin; and the third and last installment, also 350 guilders, in the month of June, 1657, likewise one half in beavers and one half in coin, and on the part of the Seller to hand over the house and lot clear without any additional charges; and to carry out this agreement the parties pledge their persons and properties without reservation for the enforcement of all rights pertaining thereto without deceit or guile. The aforesaid Jan Pietersen and Gretchen Jansen also declared to have received of the purchaser the first two payments on the days of expiration, according to the conditions herein before mentioned.

Done thus in Amsterdam in New Netherland in the presence of Jacob Moesman and skipper Jacob Jansen, witnessed hereto invited , and who with the other parties appearing signed the minutes on the date as above.

Upon collation found to be in accord with the minutes.

Which attests

Mathews de Vos, Public Notary,
1656

Endorsed
Certificate of Sale & Purchase
of
House of Hans Steyn

This is retyped from the original translation provided to the writer by the Morgan Library, August, 2003; true to the original as possible.

APPENDIX C

30 June 1656 Bill of Sale, Lot #9, Block A

Library of J. Pierpont Morgan
Thirty-Three East Thirty-Sixth Street
New York

Translation of Lucas Dirck Vanderburgh Document

On this the 30th of June, 1656, appeared before me Matheus de Vos, public notary licensed by the very honorable Director General and the honorable council residing at Amsterdam in New Netherland, and the witnesses hereafter named, Hans Steyn who acknowledged to have hired and bought, and Lucas Dirck Vanderburgh who likewise acknowledges to have hired and bought a certain house and lot situated in this city on the broad way which are bounded on the south side by the property of Lysbet Pietersen, widow of Jan Huygen, and by that of Dirck Jansen on the north side, wide and long according to the letter of ground-grant of the date of March 10, 1651, existing thereof, according as it stands fenced and built upon and is taken possession of by the buyer, with, besides, another certain strip of ground according to the bill of sale existing thereof dated August 28, 1655, passed before the Notary D. Van Scheluynen, up to an alley four feet in general width to the end of the length of the lot of Dirck Nes and the lot of Frederick Jansen: and this by authority of the letter of ground-grant thereof existing of the date of October 23, 1654; and for this to pay the sum of 1450 guilders, fourteen gold guilders besides the acceptances (costs) in good current coin, the three hundred and fifty guilders half in coin and half in beavers the coming year 1657 in the month of June, besides the interest. Together to deliver house and lot free without any taxation, and the seller promises, after warning, to hold the buyer clear in everything and without loss or damage for all time; and the Seller promises declared to have received from the hand of the buyer the promised sum of 1400 guilders, declaring himself in this respect satisfied and contented; and to carry out this agreement the parties bind themselves in their persons and properties, without exception, to the enforcement of all rights thereof provided: all without fraud.

Done at Amsterdam in New Netherland in the presence of Anthony Lodewyck Baeck and Lawrence Andries van Bostkerk, witnesses invited for this purpose, who, together with the parties interested, signed the minutes of this transaction.

Collated.

Which attests

Matheus de Vos, Notary Public
1656

Endorsed: Certificate of Sale of a house between Hans Steyn and Lucas Derck Vanderburgh.