

Chapter 2 The Mason

On a day in August 1637 two vessels lay at anchor in the River IJ off Durgerdam being outfitted, provisioned and loaded with cargo. The larger of the two is the merchantman *Herring* owned by the West India Company. Her skipper is Symon Jansen of Durickerdam. *Dolphin*, the second of the two is a yacht chartered by the company and commanded by Jacob Teunesen of the nearby city of Amsterdam. The plan is for the ships to sail in convoy to New Netherland. The skippers are hoping for a routine crossing of the Atlantic, little different from many others they have guided to the Dutch colony in the past thirteen years.

We know the names of some of the passengers from the historical record. As for others I shall guess.¹ The most important politically is Willem Kieft, appointed the new director general of New Netherland only a few weeks earlier. Kieft, regarded by his contemporaries as a haughty dissolute bachelor, is a failure in business and in hindsight hardly the best candidate for this important post. If he seems more than eager to take on his duties it is because he imagines the revenue will clear his debts. Another proud man but of steadier mettle is a captain with the company, Oloff Stevensen van Cortlandt. Van Cortlandt, from Wyck te Durstadt near Utrecht, is destined to become a leading figure in New Amsterdam. The spirited Claes Jansen de Ruyter (the horseman) and his wife Pieterje Jans from Naarden are bound for Rensselaerswyck, a farming community near presentday Albany owned by Kiliaen van Rensselaer, a diamond merchant of Amsterdam.^{2,3} Jan Jansen Shepmoes and wife Sara Pieters with baby in her arms are preparing to board *Dolphin*. And finally, another family is almost certainly among this excited group, our Teunis and Betty and their children.

Last minute arrangements are ordinary enough. Food and luxuries are purchased in Amsterdam to augment ship's rations. Some who are better organized purchase long poles, fishhooks and line. At the appointed hour they converge on the company's headquarters for baggage inspection. That completed, they are rowed out to the ships from the traditional departure place, the Schreyers Hoek, or Weeper's Point, where friends and relatives wave last goodbyes.

The leading vessel, *Herring*, is a beautiful sight in spite of her common name. She has the classic half-moon shape of the Indies trader. Three large sails and a bow chaser provide her motive power. Twenty guns, sixteen of iron and two each of brass and stone, are mounted for defense. A wooden carving of the lion of Holland looks down from her bow; and for easy identification at sea, a carved and painted likeness of a herring is fixed high up on her taffrail, the flat part of her stern. She is a grand ship of 280 tons. *Dolphin*, by contrast, is a vessel of much smaller tonnage, far less speed, no armaments, and is leaky.

Neither vessel offers much comfort. Most passengers board *Herring*. This includes the officers of the company who each have their own tiny cabin. The rest find space in the "tween deck", a foul place holding baggage and animals, livestock in pens and chickens in cages. Also stuffed in the holds are supplies for the company store in New Amsterdam. They are late in

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- 1 For background material for this chapter I have borrowed from Henri and Barbara van der Zee's wonderful book, *A Sweet and Alien Land* (Viking, New York, 1979).
 - 2 A.J.F. van Laer, trans. and ed., *Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts* (Albany, 1908), 327. De Ruyter and wife's fares amounted to 133 florins 14 stivers, a sum consistent with a voyage of 167 days duration (5 months and 17 days) at 8 stivers a day, the cost of accommodation in the 'tween deck. (1 florin or guilder = 20 stivers). De Ruyter later settled in New Amsterdam.
 - 3 That our family was aboard this ship is a guess consistent with facts in NYHMD and RNA. Many of the passengers were friends of our family later in New Amsterdam. Families that emigrated on the same ship bonded strongly. The next likely sailing is on the *Herring* in the following year (arrival date 7 July 1639. SI, 4, 92).

embarking: it is already the third week in September when the convoy sets off across the Zuider Zee.

The Zuider Zee at this time is a great inland shallow lake, with the sea all of a hundred miles away. Traffic from Amsterdam has to navigate the sandbars and then stop awhile at Old Schildt, a village on the east side of Texel Island to await a northerly wind that will take them through the channel between the Texel and the northern tip of Holland. Once the wind shifts to the right direction towards the end of the month, a Texel pilot guides them through the channel.

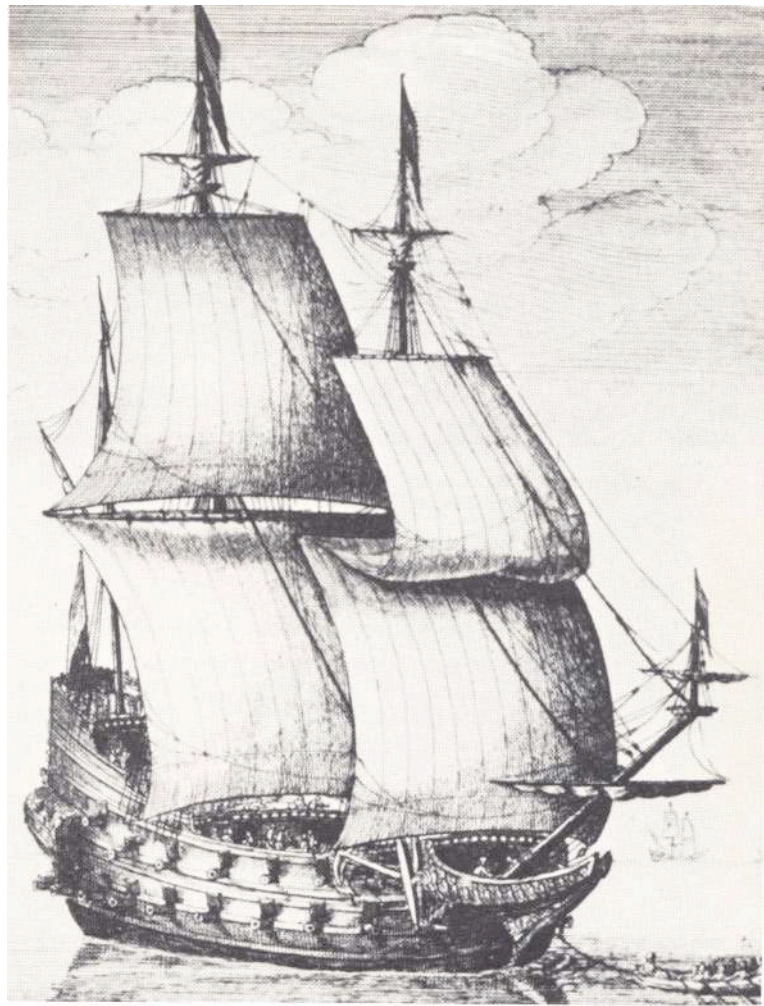


Figure 1. *A Dutch ship. A fairly accurate engraving of a ship of the West India Company of this period. The Herring was probably slightly smaller and less heavily armed than the one shown here. Courtesy Museum of the City of New York.*

Once out into the North Sea they enter the first and most dangerous leg of their voyage. The North Sea past England to the Azores is plagued with dirty weather, especially in fall and winter. High seas, cloud, and variable wind make progress a continual battle. Tacking is never-ending against the southwest winds. On cloudy overcast days when the sun cannot be seen the captain is forced to navigate by guesswork. They are tense and watchful on the lookout for the pirates the crew says are operating out of the port of Dunkirk, a place that still lies in the hands of Spain. *Dolphin*, as expected, is slow and leaky, the source of additional anxiety for the passengers of both vessels.

Even today a crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by ship in the autumn is hardly a cruise of

pleasure or relaxation. Water on both vessels was strictly rationed for drinking, so proper washing was impossible. Lice infested passengers and crew. The food was monotonous. The three daily meals consisted all-too often of a pea stew served in wooden bowls with hard bread, cheese, salt pork or pickled fish. Those who had the money bought beer. Living with animals is disagreeable at best, so passengers were seasick for long periods. After about three weeks the drinking water soured from the bacteria embedded in the wooden containers. Raindrops were captured in buckets and canvas bags. The diet of some was augmented by the fish caught with poles held out over the railing. Then suddenly, almost by magic, the grey skies cleared to a beautiful blue and the trade winds began to blow steadily west. The great sails filled and their spirits lifted.

Most narratives of crossings of the Atlantic Ocean surviving from this period describe running before the trade winds as a quick and uneventfully experience (outside of hurricane season!). But *Dolphin* slowed them down; December was already upon them when they sighted the Bermudas, their intended landfall. Since they were late in arriving the local pilots who would have normally led them on to New Amsterdam straightaway were unwilling. They had to stop over to wait for the following spring. They took on provisions, fresh water, salt... and waited.

Thus it was already an early morning in the spring of 1638, going on six months after their departure, when *Herring* and *Dolphin* slipped into the upper bay in what is now the State of New York. The people on both ships remembered the air “singing with sweetness”. I can imagine murmers all around thanking Almighty God for their survival.

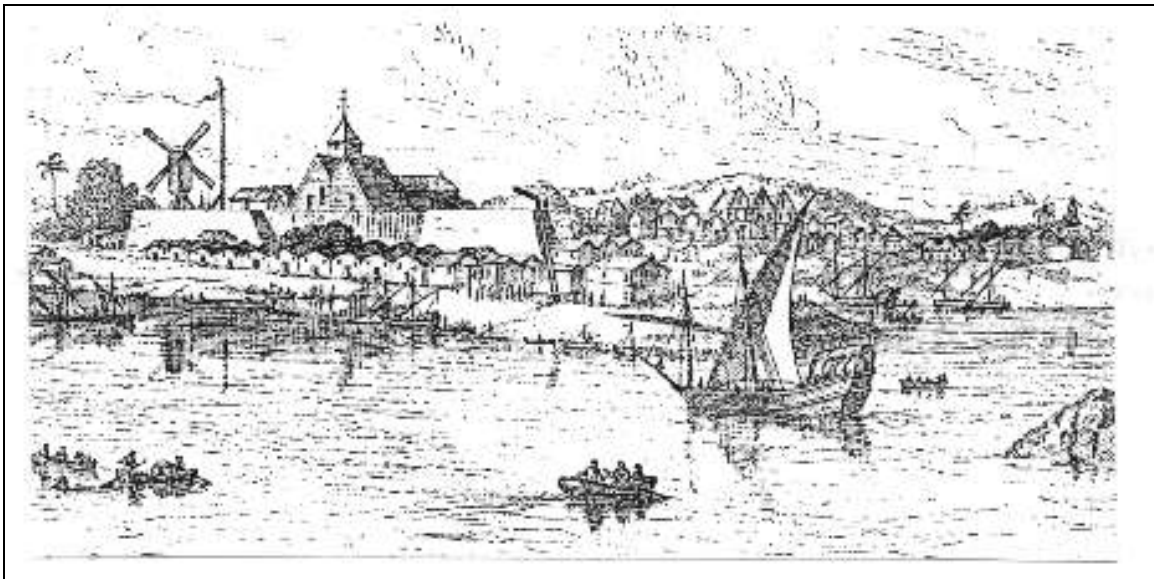


Figure 2. *A view of New Amsterdam ca. 1650 by Augustine Herrman. This view shows in essence what our family saw on their arrival in 1638. Fort Amsterdam and St. Nicholas Church can be seen in the engraving on the left. The Quick family homestead would later lay on the Marckveldt to the right of the fort.*

Anyone familiar with the sight of New York City from the harbour today requires imagination to conjure up its 17th century appearance. Our people saw two rivers flowing towards them, on their left the Mauritius or North River (Hudson) with a good current, on their right the East River almost motionless. The two rivers joined at the point of an island. Parts of it they could see in the middle distance were rocky and hilly while others in closer were low and muddy. There was a fort in a rundown condition. Trickling eastwards from the fort and down

along the shore ran a scattering of hovels. At anchor in front of them lay Dutch ships, English ships, and assorted watercraft from the neighboring English colonies flying national colors. In the distance to the northwest stretched softly rolling pastureland, already showing the pale greens of spring. Behind them on Long Island and far off to the west (on the shores of what would later be called New Jersey) waved dense, continuous, sinister-looking forests.

Captain Jansen ordered his ship's cannon fired by way of salute to the fort and to announce their arrival. In response, the fort discharged an ancient culverin in a puff of white smoke and lifted on the flagstaff the Orange, White and Blue of the Republic. Figures could be seen now collecting on the shore. The skippers pointed their ships to the East River, as close in to shore as was considered safe, and ordered anchors lowered. It was a Sunday, a chilly day, 28 March 1638.

The business of disembarkation was chaotic as facilities were primitive. Large ships had to stand off at anchor beyond the rocks some distance from the shoreline (present Pearl Street). The point of entry was a floating dock on shore. Our people waited for the Schout-Fiscal to come aboard to assess the cargo. In the interval hordes of people in boats overwhelmed them with welcome, discussed business or asked for news from home. Once ferried to the dock our Teunis and Betty, the latter with Jacob in her arms, followed by little Wendy, trailed the clerk as he led them through the streets to their first destination, the fort. They passed the "The Mean Barn" serving as church, the parsonage, and the company storehouse. When they turned onto Whitehall Street they could study the town closely: they could see it and they could smell it.

New Amsterdam began in 1626 with Peter Minuit's purchase of the land from the Indians, so on this day it was barely a dozen years old. In those years it had grown into a town of a hundred houses with a population of over 400. In fact most of the houses built in Minuit's day were still standing, built of planks and treebark packed with clay and roofed with sods. New wealth was already showing in houses being built of brick roofed with oaken shingles. Its streets were a muddy mess, containing wells and latrines, often next to one another making for dubious sanitation. This latest gaggle of employees had to wend their way through hogs, goats, chickens, unruly children, and not a few wild men with feathers in their hair and few clothes on their bodies.

Their destination, Fort Amsterdam, was not exactly the object they expected to see. About 300 feet long by 250 feet wide, its ramparts built of earth and wood were fast decaying from the passage of time, the weather and the rooting of hogs. Guinea slaves, directed by Dutch masons, were working half-heartedly at facing the gates and bastions with quarry stone but the battle seemed a losing one. The clerk explained to the newcomers the company policy of housing new employees in the barracks until they could locate a family who would board them. In spite of their optimism on their departure from Naarden, Teunis and Betty must have wondered how they had agreed to come to such a dirty, rough place so far from home.

After a few days of settling in Teunis reported to work. Conditions were much like in Holland so there were few surprises. The workday was ten hours in length and began and ended with the ringing of a bell. The punctuality of workmen and inspection of the finished job was the responsibility of the "commissary" or supervisor, Gillis de Voocht. But Teunis soon learned with chagrin that a good fraction of his wages would have to go for the food that was necessary to augment the family's ration, something the company's clerks neglected to tell them in Holland. Prices in the company store were marked up half and more over costs in the homeland. Records show Betty, like many other wives of bonded company workers, made ends meet by washing and mending.⁴

As to the clothing they wore it was made from materials purchased from the company store. I can picture Teunis in the typical craftsman's outfit: heavy woollen shirt with tight sleeves, baggy duffel trousers, heavy woollen stockings and black wooden clogs. Over his shirt and trousers he

4 This records a dispute over the amount charged Gillis de Voocht, her husband's supervisor, for her work. Adam Groen's wife was asked to arbitrate the cost. NYHMD, 4, 97. RNA, 1, 198.

tied a long red-leather apron, which extended to his feet. He had the habit of tucking one corner of it under his belt. Betty's everyday wear about the house was a number of petticoats covered by a gown of heavy store woollen and an apron. As she grew older she would brush her hair back from her forehead and cover it with a close-fitting cap of muslin or calico—as she would do if on the Zuider Zee. To church on Sunday she wore a hood of quilted taffeta, a brown duffel jacket and slippers. In the dead of winter the whole family sported large, drab duffel overcoats, all goods of the company store.

With the exception of the prices and the frontier situation, life in the new world resembled the old in many ways. Dutch law applied. Murderers were hanged. A thief could be whipped and branded on the cheek with a hot iron. Nuisance crimes brought a ride on the *wooden horse*, a crossbar that the perpetrator had to straddle in public view with heavy weights tied to his feet. He made a safe target for children who would pepper him with mud.

There was only the one church, the Dutch Reformed. No other churches were officially allowed, though a few other faiths were tolerated if its practitioners were quiet about it. This included Lutherans, Church of England, Anabaptists, Huguenots, Waldenses and Walloons. Quakers and Jews would be settling in New Amsterdam by 1650, though with grudging forbearance by officialdom. Though the Puritans might burn witches at the stake, and hound out nonconformists relentlessly, the Dutch of New Netherland would never pass laws against witchcraft nor torture anyone for religious beliefs (or lack of them). Indeed, the colony would become a haven for religious escapees from the English colonies. The authorities well knew that the outcasts would bring their creative and entrepreneurial skills with them.

New Netherland was unique among the colonies in America in that it was run like a company. During his nine-year tenure (1638-1647) Kieft ruled with absolute authority, tolerating a government of only four men—he himself and three of his appointees—councillor, secretary, and schout (sheriff). For the most part the object of the colony was the export of furs. Servants' contracts were limited. Once his contract expired the employee either went home or continued with the company on an annual basis. In the early years there was little expectation of permanent settlement.

But already by the time Teunis and Betty arrived this was beginning to change. Profits from furs were declining. In an effort to reduce excessive overhead caused in large part by imports from Holland, the Heeren Nineteen (at van Rensselaer's insistence) began to encourage colonization. Ex-servants in numbers began to settle down permanently to grow wheat, raise cattle and engage in a local economy of building and trades.

By the fall of 1640 Teunis and Betty had made their decision to stay in New Netherland once their contract expired. Through the secretary of the company Teunis arranged to confer on Gerrit Jansen in Naarden the power of attorney to dispose of his property he had put into storage there two years earlier:

Before me, Cornelis van Tienhoven, secretary ... for the General West India Company, appeared Teunes Tomassen from Naerden, mason...Who... empowers... Gerrit Jansen, burgher... Of Naerden, to purchase for him ... in the fatherland such goods as are specified in the letter relating thereto, on condition that the wages which...Teunes Tomassen has already earned, or may still earn, from the... Company shall be Gerrit Jansen's guaranty and security... Also...Gerrit Jansen shall have power to sell... for... the principal all such property as has been left behind by him in the fatherland... Done this 9th of October Ao. 1640, in Fort Amsterdam in New Netherland.

This is the X mark of Teunes Tomassen
(signed) Gillis de Voocht
Gilles Pietersen ⁵

5 NYHMD, 1, doc. 221. We do not know the form of the mason's mark. This document containing it was housed in the old New York State Library and burnt in a fire in 1911. The burgher in question is

Perhaps Betty's pregnancy had something to do with their decision. Certainly the cash from the sale would be welcome. In November 1640 she gave birth to a girl, Hillegond. In the next eight years, four more children would be born to them: Maritje (1642), Thomas (1644), Geertje (1645) and Dirck (1648).⁶ There was even a kind of "corporate medicare": babies were delivered by Catherine "Tryn" Jonas the company midwife. The Dutch Reformed Church, be it the one in the mean barn or the new St. Nicholas Church kept accurate records (Table 1).

Table 1. *Baptismal Records of the children of Teunis Tomassen and Belitgen Jacobus Quick in New Amsterdam, 1640-1648. The (days) of the week given here were added by the author for the reader's information and are not part of the original records.*

Parents	Child	Witnesses	Notes	Date and Place
Theunis Thomas Belitje Jacobs	Hillegond	Hendricks Janszen, Smit olof Stephensz. van courtl. Pietertie Jans	(a) (b) (c)	25 Nov 1640 (Sun) the "Mean Barn"
Theunis Thomasz., Metselaer	Maritje	Sibrant Claeszen Marritje Philips	(d) (e)	23 Mar 1642 (Sun) the "Mean Barn"
Teunis Thomaszen Metselaer, Belitje Jacobs	Thomas	Albert Janszen, Sibrant Claeszen, Claes Beydegar and Sarah Pieters	(f) (d) (g) (h)	24 Apr 1644 (Sun) St. Nicholas
Theunis Thomas, Metselaer	Geertje	Annetje Gerrits wife of Hendr. Janszen, Smit	(i) (a)	12 Nov 1645 (Sun) St. Nicholas
Theunis de Metselaer	Dirck	Hendrick Janszen van Naerden	(a)	26 Jul 1648 (Sun) St. Nicholas

Notes: Hillegond, Maritje, Thomas and Geertje were baptised by Dominie Everardus Bogardus, Dirck by Dominie Johannes Backerus.

- (a) Hendrick Janszen Smit (Smith) was also an emigrant from Naarden. He is known to have arrived in New Amsterdam before August 1638 when about 36 (and thus might have been aboard the *Herring* or *Dolphin*). Employed as a locksmith in the early years, he later owned a tavern on Bridge Street. In April 1664 he committed suicide by hanging.
- (b) Oloff Stevensen van Courtlandt, later a Burgomaster of New Amsterdam.
- (c) Pietertie Jans, 32 years old in 1640, was the wife of Claes Jansen de Ruyter from Naarden.
- (d) Sibrant Claeszen of Hoorn, Holland, a carpenter, first appears in New Amsterdam records in September 1639. He, too, may have sailed on the *Herring*.
- (e) Unidentified.
- (f) Albert Janszen, a carpenter, worked with (d).
- (g) Unidentified. Beydegar is no doubt a nickname.
- (h) Sara Pieters was the wife of Jan Jansen Shepmoes who sailed with their two children to New Amsterdam aboard the *Dolphin* in 1638.
- (i) Annetje Gerrits was (a)'s wife. Her sister, Marritje Gerrits, was the wife of Frans Janszen van Hoogten and the mother-in-law of Cornelis Jacobsen Quick, son of Jacob. (Sources: NYHMD and RNA)

possibly Gerrit Jansen Os, who was named schepen of Naarden in 1632 and 1637. The man was apparently of no relation to the Quick family. Schepen Registers, Naarden.

6 Baptismal records of Hillegond, Maritje, Thomas, Geertje and Dirck are in NYGBC, 2, 11, 13, 17, 20 and 24 respectively. All dates are New Style. The Old and New Styles of dating are explained in footnote 10 of Chapter 5.

In New Netherland girls married young. Wendy was just fourteen when she married Herck Syboutszen, a ship's carpenter, on Sunday, 16 November 1642.⁷ But this was exceptionally young even for New Amsterdam, and in view of her age the dominie, Everadus Bogardus, asked her parents for their consent. The ceremony took place in the house of the bride's parents as was becoming the new norm. I can picture Wendy wearing her mother's wedding crown—the one carefully packed from Holland—not to mention all the petticoats her mother could muster! Certainly, this first wedding of the children, the first in New Netherland after the passage of four years, was the occasion of toasting, practical jokes and exuberant overindulgence. New Amsterdam was still a small town and the couple would live in a house near the fort under her mother's eyes.

The major business of New Netherland was the fur trade and the fur trade brought the Dutch into contact with Indians. Tribes by the dozen lived and hunted in what is now the State of New York. The Mohawk, a member nation of the Iroquois, the most powerful of the tribes east of the Great Lakes, held sway over a wide area, extending from just west of Fort Orange and north into Canada. The others were less numerous and more localized. To the south of the Mohawk on the east side of the Hudson River lived the Mohecan. The Esopus made camp near the present city of Kingston, New York and the Tappan, Wesquaesgeek, Hackensack and Haverstraw Indians lived lower down the river nearer Manhattan.

The main item of trade for the Dutch was the beaver skin. For the beaver skin the Dutch exchanged kettles, knives, beads and increasingly, guns. Another prized item was the thick woollen duffel cloth that many Indians wore increasingly instead of their own traditional leather buckskin. Dutch influence on Indian culture was accelerating.

Before 1640 the Dutch had good relations with most tribes. Indians had a natural curiosity about white people and were not intrinsically hostile. But in 1640, in a policy to stimulate trade, the commissaries of Fort Orange began to treat the Mohawk preferentially by replacing the usual goods with firearms. This would backfire on the Dutch as the Mohawk were then better armed to make war on their Indian enemies, most particularly the tribes living downriver. And the latter soon blamed the Dutch for their troubles with the Mohawk. In 1640 and again in 1643 minor skirmishes flared up between the Indians of the Hudson River valley and the Dutch on Manhattan.

Then in February 1643 Kieft ordered an attack on a body of Tappan and Wesquaesgeek that had grievous repercussions. In the middle of a snowstorm 500 of them were fleeing south towards Manhattan after suffering an attack by Mohawk in the north. The snow was deep and the Indians arrived on Manhattan and Pavonia on the west side of the Hudson River (Jersey City, New Jersey) in a state of near starvation. Many farmers took pity on them and gave them food. Then Kieft unaccountably ordered his soldiers to attack them by surprise. Over a hundred men, women and children were massacred in a carnage that shocked the Dutch and turned them against Kieft. In the next few days, eleven tribes banded together to enact their revenge. Farmers on isolated plantations were hunted down and killed. Barns were burned. New Amsterdam bulged with refugees and stood the real chance of being wiped out completely. This first of the "Indian Wars" (dubbed Kieft's War) dragged on until 1645. Many Dutch took the first chance to return home.

But Teunis, and perhaps especially Betty, were not the types to be frightened into returning to Holland by a few Indian raids. In 1643 he began to build and sell houses on his own time, a year earlier than his contract strictly allowed.⁸ He took payment in cash, beaver skins and later,

7 Marriage records of Weyntje, Jacob, Hillegond, Mairitje and Geertje are in NYGBC, 1, 12, 19, 22, 24 and 33 respectively. The marriage record of Thomas is in Kingston Papers, 2, 489. I could not find Dirck's marriage record. "All references to dates of marriage in the Reformed Dutch Church, prior to 1674, apply to the first publication of the banns, the marriage usually taking place immediately after the third publication, or within a month". SI, 2, 216.

8 NYHMD, 4, docs. 174 and 175. Teunis built the house of Gillis de Voocht among others.

wampum. Wampum, strings of seashells that the Indians collected from a special place on Long Island, was a currency increasingly used by the Dutch instead of the scarce guilder. The spirit of business was infectious in New Amsterdam.

Once the years of early settlement had passed, the shacks of mud and bark made way for new houses made from more substantial materials. The mason was involved in much of this work. The houses were copies of styles known in old Holland made from locally-fired black and yellow brick and topped with a gable facing the street. The initials of the owner and the date of construction were posted in large iron letters on the house. The ground floor was raised a few feet above the street and a small porch or stoep placed in front. The front door (called a “Dutch door” today) was large and divided in two horizontally. Interiors were framed with solid hardwoods and were strong and dark. Furnishings were spartan. Stools and tables were hewn out of planks by local carpenters. Wooden bowls, platters, pewter spoons and steel knives were used at the dinner table. In a sectioned-off corner of the front room lay the built-in bedstead for the parents. A ladder led to the garret where the children slept on straw pallets all in a row.

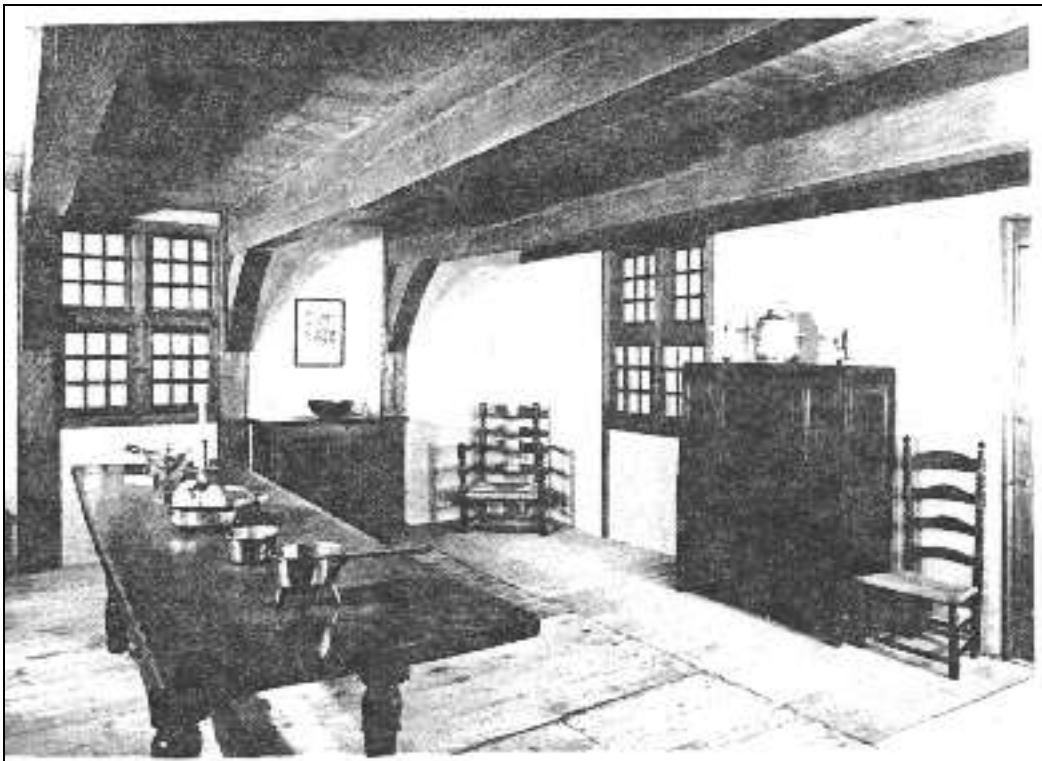


Figure 3. *The south room of the Schenck House, 1675, as restored in the Brooklyn Museum. This picture illustrates the “strong and dark” aspect of Dutch interiors. Courtesy Brooklyn Museum and used by permission.*

When his contract expired in 1644, Teunis left the company to work as a free agent. On 4 July 1645 he was granted a town lot he was probably already using as a garden. About a fifth of an acre in area the land lay just beyond the northeast bastion of Fort Amsterdam on the corner of Het Marckveldt and Het Marckveldt Steegie.⁹ It had a frontage on the former of about 100 feet

9 An ordinance allowed the issuing of patents to freemen for lands they were already cultivating as gar-

and a depth on the latter of some 70 feet. This spot, once the corner of Whitehall and Marketfield Streets in old New York, is now covered by the buildings that stand between Stone and Beaver Streets on the east side of Whitehall nearly opposite the US Customs House. Teunis built the first house upon this lot with his own hands. The gable faced west towards the fort and an open area reserved for a weekly market (soon called the Bowling Green). Betty planted a peach orchard in the backyard. Things were looking up for the family.

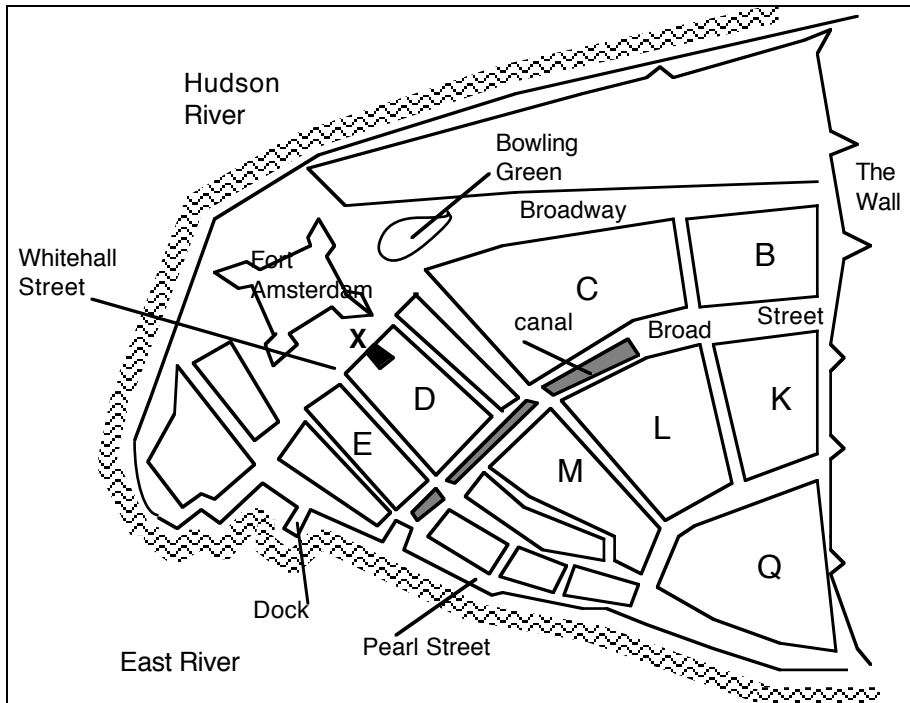


Figure 4. Sketch of New Amsterdam about 1650. Shown is the area south of Wall Street. X marks the spot where Teunis Tomassen's house stood. Letters A, B, C, etc. refer to blocks in the Castello Plan in SI.

In the winter of 1646 something happened to the family that has a jarringly modern ring. Weyntje (Quick) Syboutszen, eighteen, four years married and the mother of a two-year-old, claimed to have been molested by Adam Roelantsen Groen, the ex-schoolmaster. A moment's study of this case illustrates the workings of Dutch justice and the moral integrity and downright scrappiness of the plaintiff's mother.

Adam Groen was forty and Teunis's age. He had a house in Brewers (now Stone) Street where he lived with his wife and four children. He had experienced his own share of difficulties since arriving in New Amsterdam in 1634. Multiple duties as teacher, forereader, song leader, gravedigger, and sexton of the church had just not supplied him with the necessary wherewithall to support himself and his hungry family. Then in 1645 at a time when he was briefly absent in Holland his wife Lyntie Martense died suddenly. The children were left in the care of neighbors. He returned in 1646, no doubt a grieving and a lonely man as a result of this unexpected loss.

dens. C.T. Gehring, trans. & ed., *New York Historical Manuscripts Dutch, Land Papers, Vols. GG, HH & II* (Gen. Pub. Co., 1980), GG107. Sketches of the lot showing the placement of the house are in "The Castello Plan" and "Map of the Dutch Grants", SI, 2.

Wendy went straight to her mother who accompanied her daughter to the courthouse to lodge a complaint. On 13 December the new widower stood to hear this pronouncement made upon him:

The honorable fiscal, van (der) Hoykens, plaintiff, vs. Adam Roelantsen, defendant, charging defendant with having tried to violate the wife of Harck Syboltsz in her house, about which the said Harck Syboltsen's wife and her mother appearing in court, complain and for which they demand justice. The defendant admitted in court having touched the naked breasts of Weyntje Teunes, for which reason the defendant is placed in confinement.¹⁰

Director Kieft and council "having... considered... the serious consequences thereof which in a land where it is customary to maintain justice can not be tolerated or suffered" condemned Groen to be flogged and banished "from this country". There was a proviso: "In consideration of the fact that the... delinquent is burdoned with four motherless children and that the cold winter is approaching" the execution was to be postponed "to a more suitable opportunity when the delinquent shall be able to depart..." The sentence seems to have satisfied Wendy and her mother.

The town grew slowly as the years rolled by. In 1647 Peter Stuyvesant, a one-legged ex-soldier, replaced the unpopular Kieft as the new (and last) director general. Kieft sailed away for Holland only to drown in a shipwreck off the coast of Wales. He was not mourned. Stuyvesant, a zealous Calvinist and an aloof autocratic man, especially in the early years of his generalship, would eventually gain the respect and loyalty of the people in a way Kieft never did. He would settle in New Amsterdam, retire, and die there.

By the 1650s New Amsterdammers were enjoying a modest prosperity. The tip of Manhattan Island that a dozen years earlier had been a rocky, muddy, unpromising place had evolved into a town with discernably Dutch features. A windmill was busy grinding grain. A canal—excavated from a creek—was supporting traffic into and out of the town. By now Betty's orchard would have sported fine tulips and roses as well as the all-important vegetables for the dinner "board" on the Markveldt. The Marckveldt was now the site of a lively and colorful gathering place and market. Country people converged there with their butter, eggs, poultry and vegetables to sell and trade. By 1659 the Bowling Green would be designated the site of autumn cattle sales. Soldiers of the garrison drilled there while often subjected to the ribald comments of the townsfolk. It was an interesting place to live.

Amidst such easier circumstances the townsfolk were better able to celebrate their native customs. Manhattanites of the 17th century were always more outgoing and fun-loving than their neighbors of New England (then as now perhaps). They enjoyed their holidays with laughter, practical jokes, good food and plenty to drink. It was the custom on New Years Day to visit the houses of friends to gossip and taste whatever goodwill cheer might be available. The caller, if a young eligible bachelor, was sure to be greeted on the stoop by the eldest maiden of the household, smiling above many fine petticoats and eager to make a good impression. Later in the year on the first of May, called MayDay, they would walk out to the fields beyond the northern edge of the city to pick flowers to brighten their otherwise dark houses. Thanksgivings they celebrated too (but not always every year and not always on the same day). It was the feast of St. Martin's Eve, 10 November, that was the equivalent of the Puritan dinner of thanksgiving. The traditional dish was roast goose. Later in the year came St. Nicholas (or Santa Claus). Parents told their children the story that on 5 December, the eve of his birthday, St. Nicholas would drive his horse-drawn sleigh piled high with goods over the roofs of the town. At the houses of good little children he would stop, climb down the chimney, and leave gifts in wooden shoes. St. Nicholas, as the patron saint of New Amsterdam, was always looking down on the houses of the town to

10 NYHMD, 4, doc. 277. In time Groen returned to New Amsterdam and was reemployed by the West India Company.

ensure that all within were safe and well.

In 1653 New Amsterdam became a city. This meant being granted by the States General a municipal rule outside the control of the director general and council. The structure included a schout (fiscal), two burgomasters (co-mayors), and five schepens (aldermen). The court sat in the Stat Huys (City Tavern) on Monday mornings at nine o'clock to hear cases and make judgements.

The records of this court, all carefully preserved in English translation as well as Dutch original, are a mine of information for the genealogist. Our people stand out as a mettlesome squabbly lot. The society was one in which newspapers did not yet exist so information was disseminated via broadsheets and word of mouth. "Slanderous" gossip was apt to precipitate a lawsuit. Most litigants argued their cases themselves without benefit of lawyer or jury. The spectacles in the Stat Huys were popular well-attended entertainments.

Teunis and Betty were typical in terms of their appearances in the makeshift courthouse. On one occasion he was scolded for failing to deliver a house in the agreed-on time. He was often charged with debt and for the building of chimneys that smoked excessively or were in other ways defective.¹¹ Betty, like other citizens of New Amsterdam, worked at various occupations to bolster the family income. She took in washing, sewed linen, sold peaches from her orchard and worked, at least briefly, in one of the local taphouses. Though the family wasn't rich it certainly wasn't poor.

The records give some insight on the characters of the senior Quicks. Of the two Betty was the stronger-willed and the more energetic. Many times she defended the interests of her family by standing in court to plead her husband's case (most probably as she, unlike her husband, could read and write).¹² She was a lady of strong opinions and quite capable of carrying on a prolonged and heated debate with men in matters of her husband's business or to rebut a perceived insult.

Teunis had at least one not-so-admirable quality. Like many men of the time he put back the vaen (four pint) measure too often. (It cost only eight stivers.) He no doubt frequented "The Wooden Horse", a tavern near the corner of Whitehall and Stone Streets a few steps from the family home, and the "Blue Dove" on Pearl Street run by Claes Jansen de Ruyter his friend from Naarden. The taphouses served beer brewed in the company's brewery and served up imported wines and brandy that formed part of the company's tradestock. By 1656 the city boasted some seventeen taphouses making for a good deal of variety, and of course, temptation.

Life in New Amsterdam could be pleasant enough, but it was not entirely idyllic. In the 1650s Peter Stuyvesant worried that New Netherland might eventually be absorbed by the English colonies that were now growing rapidly and spreading along the coast to the north and south. Then in 1652 war broke out between the parent nations. To be prepared for any designs the English might have on New Netherland, he ordered the fort to be completed (again) and a palisade of logs built along the city's northern edge. The path that bordered this wall, which stretched between the East and North Rivers, was dubbed Wall Street. It turned out the wall was never tested by the English; in 1654 they called a truce.

The wall did come in handy, however, in the "Peach War" of 1655. In September a band of Mohecan, Esopus and Hackensack were canoing from their homes in the north to attack the Canarsie on Long Island. As they descended the Hudson in sixty-four canoes, a force of 1900 strong, a few landed on Manhattan to get food. Some dallied and were spotted picking peaches from the orchards that lined the Broadway. An irate Dutchman fired into the group killing an Indian woman in the act of stuffing her basket.

The result was no scene from a comic opera. The shooting had the effect of diverting the Indians' attentions from the Canarsie. They went on a rampage and in the space of three days razed 28 farms to the ground, killed 60 cattle, 40 farmers, and captured 100 women and children. Farmers fled by the hundreds to Fort Amsterdam from as far away as Esopus and Long Island.

11 RNA, 1, 188, 207, 253, 269; 2, 196, 202 and 223.

12 Betty argued her own case on at least 5 occasions: NYHMD, 4, 97; RNA, 1, 181; 2, 196, 327 and 402.

The city was panic-stricken. Many families camped refugee-fashion on the Bowling Green and the Marckveldt, a few steps from the Quick family homestead. It was a time of uncertainty and real personal danger.

At the outbreak of the violence the burgomasters rushed to repair and strengthen the three-year-old wall. When the cost was added up later Stuyvesant ordered

... a voluntary subscription...[be collected], each according to his... circumstances” to pay the debt. “And in case of opposition or refusal by disaffected or evil minded... the Burgomasters... are authorized... to assess such... to exact a reasonable contribution...

Perhaps too quickly “Teunis the Mason’s wife” pledged five guilders. She was taxed six guilders instead, a sum that was still less than average.¹³

In addition to the Indians lurking, so to speak, beyond the wall, the city fathers had their problems with the entrepreneurial English, whose aggressiveness matched if not exceeded their own. As the city grew in size and economic power, traders from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Virginia, slipped in to make a quick profit in furs and tobacco, and then just as quickly slipped out again without paying local taxes. To curb this nuisance the city fathers petitioned the States General in 1657 for the “Burgher right”, a system then existent in the Netherlands. According to the right only a burgher could trade or exercise his profession in the city. There were two forms: the “great” and the “small”. The great was intended for the wealthy, members of government, magistrates, and the like. The small went to persons who were born in the city, who had lived there for eighteen months or more, or those who kept a shop and paid twenty guilders. Teunis de Metselaer (the Mason) was admitted as a small burgher on 14 April 1657.¹⁴

By 1657 Teunis was fifty-two. He had debts. To pay them he sold some of his land. In this and the following year he disposed of the northern section of his lot in four parcels.¹⁵ The money left over after the debts were paid went to finance the building of a new house just south of the old on the Marckveldt. Ground was broken for it soon after Hillegond’s marriage to Jacob Theunissen de Kay in March 1658. Teunis mortgaged the place in February 1659.¹⁶

Though Teunis and Betty’s marriage seems to have been a happy one on the whole, by 1660 there does appear a hint of discord between them. In the springtime Betty took the unusual step of sailing back to Holland with Dirck, now twelve. Certainly the timing was right for this long and potentially life-threatening undertaking. The children were mostly grown up now and out on their own. In September, 1659, Marritje had been married, and Thomas, a young terror, was at last safely apprenticed.¹⁷ Cooking father’s meals fell to the fifteen-year-old Geertje, it would seem,

13 RNA, 1, 373.

14 NYHSC, 18, 21.

15 Primary references regarding Teunis Tomassen’s lot are in SI, 2, 374-375. Even these transactions required lengthy litigation. The contract of the first sale on 11 November 1657 to Frederick Aertsen de Drayer (the turner) was supposed to be delivered at 13 inches to the foot, a point Betty hotly contested. However, in February 1658 Teunis was ordered by the court to deliver “as promised”. Aertsen paid in beaver skins, seawant, and chairs, the latter the fruits of his trade. RNA, 2, 327, 331 and 428.

16 “Mortgages, 1654-1660, trans. by O’Callaghan, 123-4”, as quoted in SI, 2, 248. In June 1658 with the new house barely begun, the carpenter who had been hired to do the work attempted to push off to another job at Fort Orange. Betty, thinking herself double-crossed, hauled him into court. The man explained that the timber for the house was not yet ready. Once the man agreed to lay the cellar beams immediately and to continue the work in September, she relented. RNA, 2, 402.

17 Thomas was something of a lad. His antics can be followed in RNA, 3, 75, 85; 4, 162, 164 and 166. He apprenticed under Barent Gerrisen, a tailor, and under his godfather, Symon (Sybout) Claesen, a carpenter but neither trial worked out. In November 1662 Weyntje appeared in court (in the absence of her mother who was then in Holland) to support his claim Claesen had kicked him out of the house. In 1665 he took up farming in Ulster County and sired a huge family. Biographies of his descendants can be seen in *Commemorative Biographical Record of Ulster County, New York* (J.H. Beers & Co.,

the youngest daughter. The reasons for the journey are not entirely clear. The evidence suggests Betty returned to Naarden to settle family debts, perhaps her father's. (Perhaps her father had died and she intended to settle his estate. This might yield to careful research.) On Friday, 17 March 1662, nearly two years after his wife's departure, Teunis stood (we can imagine unsteadily) in the City Tavern before the burgomasters van der Grift and Oloff Stevensen van Cortlandt to make the following request:

... Teunis Tomassen van Naarden, ... wishes to know, as he has heard that Burgomaster Paulus Leendersen has received a letter from his (Teunis's) wife, what she writes and he is told, that she says in her letter, whereas she owes, as he knows, 300 to 400 fl. to several parties, he should send over enough beavers to pay these debts, and if he wishes her with him, he is to come. Teunis asks to be given the letter, to let somebody read it to him, which is granted and he is ordered to have a copy made of the contract for the purchase of his house, in order to see, how much stands to his credit.¹⁸

The phrase "if he wishes her with him, he is to come" sounds like an ultimatum. The sum in question was substantial, more than Teunis earned in a year. Van Cortlandt or his married children may have helped him raise the beaver skins; but in any case, the debt was apparently resolved without the need for him to return to Holland (or perhaps he simply refused to go). Betty remained in the Netherlands for a further eighteen months, which seems to imply she was in no hurry to return. How she lived during that time is not known.

With his wife far away and with no apparent assurance of her eventual return, Teunis continued to drink heavily in the local saloons and taverns.¹⁹ A court record reveals his state of intemperance on a Sunday in December 1663:

Schout Pieter Tonneman, pltf. v/s Maria de Trux, deft. ... he, the pltf... found last Sunday at defts. house one Lambert Barenzen and that Teunis Tomassen Quick lay asleep by the fire drunk; ... she, deft., does not have her chimney fixed, whereby great fire and danger may occur; ... Deft. denies having tapped for any one else, than Lambert Barenzen and his wife and only three pints and that such occurred after the second preaching; saying further, that Teunis Tomassen Quick came to her house when drunk and lay down there to sleep; ... Burgomasters and Schepens condemn deft. in a fine of eighteen guilders in zeawant for having tapped on Sunday and order her to have her chimney made up as soon as possible.²⁰

In August 1663 he sold the last remaining portion of his original grant, which included the new house, to his son-in-law Jacob de Kay. De Kay set up a bakery in the house.²¹ On 27 September Betty and Dirck left Amsterdam for their long voyage home. Luck was with them and they arrived safely the following spring.²²

The year 1664 was to prove an eventful one. In the first place Betty's return ended their

Chicago, 1896), 541, 831, 1061 and 1094.

18 Berthols Fernow, trans., *Executive Minutes of the Burgomasters, in Minutes of the Orphanmaster's Court of New Amsterdam, 1655-1663* (NY, 1907), 2, 131-132. These debts were owed to persons in the Netherlands. The letter was apparently written by Betty in her own hand. Teunis had to have the letter read to him.

19 After many court appearances through the fall of 1663 Teunis was ordered to settle a tavern tab of 60 guilders. RNA, 4, 109, 115, 119, 298, 304, 311, 325, 328, 330, 333 and 339.

20 RNA, 4, 343. The term "tapped" means serving beer or alcoholic beverages. "After the second preaching" means after the second and last church service on a Sunday.

21 "Lib. B, Deeds, N. Y. Co.: 21", as quoted in SI, 2, 375. This bakery was the foundation of the de Key family fortune.

22 NYCD, 3, 41. Their names are on the passenger list of *de Stetyn*, captained by Isaac Gerritsz Schaeep. This voyage appears to have had the same kind of delays as the voyage on *Herring* 25 years earlier.

period of separation and brought to a close the financial problem. Then in July, Hendrick Jansen Smit, an ex-townsmen from Naarden and one of the local tapsters, was found hanging by the neck from a tree near the Kalckhoek (Collect Pond), an apparent suicide. Smit was a dear friend of the family and the godfather of three of their children: Hillegond, Geertje and Dirck. The suicide must have come as a tremendous shock. So serious was suicide in the Dutch Reformed Church that Jacob de Kay, Frans Jansen van Hoogten and others had to petition Stuyvesant to allow the body of their old friend to be buried in a decent manner.

Table 2. *Marriage Records of the children of Teunis Tomassen and Belitgen Jacobus (van Vleckensteyn) Quick, 1642-1672. The (days) of the week given here were added by the author for the reader's information and are not part of the original records.*

Translation of Dutch Entry	Notes	Date of Banns/Reg'n and Place
Henricus Sibelszen, young man from Langedyck, and Weyntje Theunis, young daughter from Naerden	(a)	Banns 16 Nov 1642 (Sun) The Chapel (b)
Jacob Theuniszen from Naerden and Neeltje Cornelis from Amsterdam		Banns 24 Mar 1655 (Wed) St. Nicholas Church
Jacob Toeniszen from Tuyl in Gelderland and Hilletje Toenis, from New Amsterdam	(c)	Banns 29 Mar 1658 (Fri) St. Nicholas Church
Sebastiaen Claes from Sevenhuysen and Marritie Theunis from Amsterdam in New Netherland	(d)	Banns 20 Sep 1659 (Sat) St. Nicholas Church
Carsten Luyrissen, Widower from the North, and Geertje Teunis, young daughter from New Jorck	(e)	Banns 1 Dec 1668 (Sat) St. Nicholas Church
Thomas Theunissen Quick, born at New York, and Rynbregh Jurriaensen, born at Kingston	(f)	Registration 7 Dec 1672 (Wed) Kingston Court House
Dirck Theuniszen, Hannah Jans (Hodje?)	(g)	Banns prob 1672

Notes

- (a) In the original this record has Marritje Theunis when it should be Weyntje Theunis. Henricus Sibelszen (or Syboutszen) was from Langedyck on the river Kuinre in the district of Zevenwolden (ACQ, 10). He was later granted land on Long Island. Descendants of the family later took the surname Kronkheit.
- (b) The chapel, located on the present site of No. 39 Pearl Street, was used before St. Nicholas Church was built. The latter was erected in 1643 inside the wall of Fort Amsterdam.
- (c) The name he went by was Jacob Theuniszen de Kay (also spelled de Key). Their children married into the prominent De Meyer and Willett families of New York City. (ACQ, 14).
- (d) This family later took the surname Sevenhuysen.
- (e) Carsten Luyrissen (or Luersen) was a tanner and shoemaker.
- (f) The bride's full name was Rynbregh (or Rymerick) Jurriaensen Westfall van Luyderdorpst. She was the daughter of Jurriaen Westfall and Maria Hanson, early settlers of Esopus, present day Kingston in Ulster County, New York. The family took the surname Westfall (or Westphalen).
- (g) This record taken from ACQ's book I have not been able to confirm. ACQ speculates Hannah Jans' maiden name was Hodje or deHooges.

However shocking the suicide, another event was soon to change their lives irrevocably: the invasion of the English.

Relations between the Dutch and the English, though friendly for the most part, had suffered

for fifty years from one important consideration: the English at no time had formally recognised Dutch sovereignty over New Netherland. England in fact maintained her claim to New Netherland on account of Henry Hudson's English birth. Since the founding of New Netherland the Dutch were tolerated and more-or-less ignored by the more numerous English. But as trade links developed and New Amsterdam grew in size and importance, the English came to covet its sheltered, deep water harbor. The revolution in England had diverted their attention for a few years, thus providing a kind of breathing spell. But when the monarchy was restored with the accession of James II the Navigation Act (1661) and the Staple Act (1663) were passed. These provisions were designed to bolster the English treasury sorely depleted by the revolution. The provisions forced the English colonies to export directly to England, and in return, to import European goods only from London. The presence of a Dutch port in the middle of English America made the acts impossible to enforce. Something had to be done about it.

In April 1664 King Charles ordered Col. Richard Nicolls to lead an expedition to reduce New Netherland. A summer sailing meant for little lost time. Nicolls' force of four frigates with 89 guns, 400 soldiers and 150 seamen put into Gravesend Bay on 26 August of that year.

Dutch defence of New Amsterdam was all but hopeless. Preoccupied with commerce and time after time diverted from matters of defence the Dutch had still, at this late date, to make the forty-year-old fort defensible. Its crumbling walls held two dozen pieces of out-dated, rusting artillery. Some 150 soldiers and 250 citizens, spread out over the surrounding area, were fit to bear arms and could be called upon for duty, but morale was poor and few wanted to fight. New Netherland had always harbored an English expatriate population of considerable size. The towns on Long Island, such as Newtown, Hempstead, Flushing, Jamaica and Gravesend, were largely English, and as such, simply looked the other way when Stuyvesant called for defenders.

Nicolls demanded unconditional surrender, but with generous terms. He proposed, among other things, that the Dutch be allowed to keep their lands and goods, to follow Dutch customs and to worship in their own religion. The burghers, hearing these words, pressed Stuyvesant to surrender. So on 8 September, after a token hesitation, he gave in. Nicolls was proclaimed governor and New Amsterdam became New York City. Forty years of Dutch rule of New Netherland came to an end without the firing of a single shot.

The transition to English rule proceeded smoothly and quietly. Municipal business and the fur trade continued. The Dutch soldiers and a few Dutch citizens went home. In October 1664 Nicolls called a meeting of citizens and burghers to explain to them the need to swear allegiance to English sovereignty. Among the many to do so was Peter Stuyvesant, now in retirement on his farm on the outskirts of the city, Oloff Stevensen van Cortlandt and Teunis Quick.²³

The Dutch gradually became accustomed to the English. To their silent relief Nicolls proved a tactful administrator. The biggest issue in the first few months was how to accommodate the English soldiers—not all could be quartered in the fort. At a public meeting on 3 March 1665 Nicolls grilled fifty Dutch citizens why they could not each billet at least one man. Teunis made his excuses (no doubt at Betty's insistence).²⁴ But his son-in-law, "Jacob Teunissen, baker" (de Kay) who was no doubt more aware of the political realities agreed to take one man into his big house on the Marckveldt. About 100 soldiers were eventually put up in this way. We can imagine that the Dutch and their capable wives proved congenial hosts, plying their conquerors with sweetmeats and fattening pastries such were the basic good relations between the two peoples at the personal level.

By 1665 the Quicks, now seniors, were living quietly in the northern part of the city in an area much favored by retirees. In the previous year Teunis had bought a small lot north of Beaver Street on the west side of the Princes Canal at about the present site of No. 52 Broad Street. By

23 NYCD, 3, 74-77.

24 RNA, 5, 208-209. At about this time Teunis had moved, or was in the process of moving, to upper Broad Street. He escaped being taxed for the soldiers' upkeep. RNA, 5, 220-225.

this time Jacob and his family had moved from Albany into a house on Broad Street close by.

By this time upper Broad Street had become a suburb of the city. Just beyond lay open countryside. Tanners and shoemakers congregated here on account of the undesirable waste products they produced. The Princes Canal ended just north of Beaver Street, along which ran the smaller Beaver Canal for a short distance. Roadways, twenty-five feet or so wide, ran up each side of the Princes Canal between the bank and the houses. At high tide small boats carrying cargoes from ships moored in the East River would travel up the canal as far as the depth of water allowed. The air stank as the waterway received the effluent from household potties, animal carcasses, and the contents of the tan pits. But in spite of these annoyances the mason and his wife, like many other couples of their generation, enjoyed a quiet evening stroll along the banks of the waterway after supper. The sight and the foetid smell of the place reminded them of Holland, a place they would never see again.

To be sure, the nostalgia of the elder Dutch seemed to intensify with the spreading influence of the English. In their view, English changes made their way all too quickly to the court. On 12 June 1665 the Dutch form of municipal government was abolished to make way for the English system of mayor, aldermen and sheriff (which, at least superficially, did not differ a great deal from the Dutch system). The courts were ordered to be conducted in the English language. As a means of raising revenue Dutch citizens were ordered to renew the titles of their lands and to pay a fee under penalty of forfeiture. So on 20 April 1667 de Kay confirmed the lot Teunis had sold him.²⁵ Reluctantly, the mason had his own lot confirmed on 15 May 1668.²⁶ Englishmen in greater numbers were settling in the city and English was heard more commonly in the streets. To the discomfiture of the Dutch, Anglican services, as well as the Dutch Reformed, came to be held in the old stone church in the fort.

The records reveal that Teunis kept active at his trade well past his sixty-fifth birthday. On 15 March 1670 Betty rose in the now-foreign court to defend his interests. At issue was the wages demanded by Dirck Claesen Pottebacker (the pottery-maker), who was the mason's hodman (carrier of bricks). But her argument had no effect on the mayor and aldermen: "Defts wife appearing says that it must be paid by Abram Carmer as said Carmer agreed for the attendance of the masons in said work". Teunis had to pay up.²⁷ This was the mason's last court case.

On 17 April there occurred an event that must have brought tears of joy to them—standing in St. Nicholas Church as the honored godparents for their very first great-grandchild. The baby was Herck Hercksen, the grandson of Herck and Weyntje (Quick) Syboutszen.²⁸ No doubt they thought that already, in no time at all, they had produced a large family.

By 1672 their children were married and doing their best to populate New York colony, from the shores of Long Island to the backwoods of Kingston. Weyntje (Quick) Syboutszen lived with her husband and at least ten children on a farm on Long Island. Jacob and his wife and four children occupied a house on Broad Street. Hillegond, married to the ambitious Jacob de Kay, lived with her brood of eight children—to be fourteen eventually—in the Quick homestead. Marritie (Quick) Sevenhuysen had one daughter. Geertje had married Carsten Luersen, an ambitious tanner and shoemaker, and would eventually have eleven children. Luersen, a widower, already owned a fine house in the most fashionable part of the city, "t' Water Side" (the west side of Pearl Street between Wall and William Streets). Thomas and Dirck, the two youngest sons,

25 "Pats. Alb., II: 16", as quoted in SI, 2, 375.

26 "Pats. Alb., III: 35", as quoted in SI, 2, 372. Maps in SI show the placement of the lot. Purchased from Abraham Lubberts, it lay about 150 feet north of Beaver Street on the west side of Princes Canal. To the north lay the houses and tan pits of Conraet ten Eyck. To the south lay the lot of Nicholas de la Paine. "Lib. B, Deeds, N.Y. Co.: 32" *ibid*.

27 RNA, 6, 224.

28 NYGBC, 2. This baptism was unusual in that the godparents were the baby's great-grandparents, not grandparents, in spite of the fact that it was named after its grandfather. This might indicate the esteem held for the old couple. Walter Cronkeit, the broadcaster, is a descendant of this branch of the family.

were both married in 1672. Thomas, the older, married Rynbreggh Westfall van Luyderdorpst and lived on a farm in Ulster County near Kingston, New York, surrounded by her large extended farmer-family. They would have nine children. Dirck, the baby of the family, married Hannah Jans and lived in New York City.

Teunis died sometime before June 1673. Though we do not know exactly the date of his death or his burial the events of his funeral can be told with some accuracy as they proceeded by well-established custom. Once the news he had passed away reached the notice of the current voorlezer the bell of St. Nicholas was rung slowly and mournfully in his honor. The aansprecker (funeral inviter) went about the city inviting his friends and relatives to the funeral. This was important as no Dutchman attended a funeral unbidden. Betty saw to it that the news was conveyed to the members of the family on Long Island and Kingston. I can picture family members converging from near and far.

The proprieties were observed. The coffin was of plain pine covered with the black fringed pall of St. Nicholas Church. It lay in the front room of the house on Broad Street for two days prior to the funeral. Betty and her children watched over the coffin by turns through the nights preceding the service. They told stories of the old man, smoked their long pipes, drank a little schnapps, and nibbled the cakes they had baked for the occasion. I can picture the old grandmother retelling her stories of life in Holland, of crossing the ocean and of smelling the sweet air of the new world. These stories had been heard many times before and were known by heart.

A funeral was held in the house of the deceased not in church. On the day of the service and at the appointed hour, Dominie Wilhelmus van Nieuwenhuysen entered the house and sat himself down in a reserved place next to the head of the coffin. The family sat watching in respectful silence. The Sexton appeared with glasses and decanter and offered around wine, and a pipe and tobacco to those inclined to smoke. The dominie finished his pipe, rose, and in a quiet, subdued monotone, gave a short memorial for the deceased. A simple prayer concluded the service.

The sexton took the lead out of the house, followed by the dominie, the pallbearers carrying the coffin, and the male mourners. Once outside, the procession was joined by a few male friends who had waited there respectfully during the proceedings inside. In this order they made their way slowly along the road by the Princes Canal, then northwesterly across the grass of the Sheeps Pasture to the new cemetery beyond the wall.²⁹ The men then returned to the house to tuck into the food, wine and beer prepared by the women, who according to custom stayed behind.

Teunis Tomassen had almost certainly prepared for his death by following the custom of the Dutch of distributing his worldly goods equally amongst all his children. Neither Betty nor any of the children had the old man's death declared intestate in the English court, nor did any of them make any legal claim on the estate at any time. This implies the existence of strong family bonds, not to mention good planning.

From this time onwards Betty, the old grandmother, now a great-grandmother, lived alone in her simple house. The place in 1674 was described in the records as "third class" and in 1677 was assessed a house tax of only six shillings and six pence.³⁰ She was a lady of spirit to the last. On 7 June 1673 she stood as a witness to the baptism of little Theunis, the first born son of Dirck and Hanna (Jans) Quick, and when asked her name gave—no doubt in a loud clear voice—Belitje

29 This was a time before burial records were kept by St. Nicholas Church. From the earliest days of New Amsterdam the Dutch buried their dead in churchyards or cemeteries, never on their own lots. The first cemetery was located in the area of Nos. 27-37 west side of Broadway, becoming the "Old Church Yard" when it ceased to be used before 1673. In this year the "New Burial Place Without the gate of the City" is first mentioned in the records. Teunis was buried there. In 1703 the land was granted to Trinity Church. SI, 3, 927. The church was built southwest of the burial grounds, some of which ground was later covered by city buildings.

30 In 1673 her house was described as "third class". D.T. Valentine, *History of the City of New York* (Putnam, 1853), 319 and 328. In 1677 she paid a tax of 6 shillings 6 pence on it, which was a small sum. Com.CM, 1, 59.

Jacobs van Vleckensteyn.³¹ Sometime before September 1678 she died, and went to rest beside her husband.³² She too left no will.

The Dutch legacy in New York City took awhile to play out. To the great joy of the Dutch, the city yielded to a Dutch fleet in August 1673 and for a few months thereafter carried the name New Orange. But in November of the following year the city reverted by treaty back to the English in whose control it remained. Also in 1674 the Dutch West India Company, now squeezed out by the more numerous and powerful English, ceased all operations in British North America. The era of New Netherland had truly ended.

31 NYGBC, 2, 110. This use of her maiden name van Vleckensteyn underscores her proud independent character.

32 This is a reasonable conclusion based on the fact that by September 1678 Jacob had returned to Albany. He remained there for the rest of his life.