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1663

HENDRICK RYCKEN<sup>c</sup>

THE PROGENITOR OF  
THE SUYDAM FAMILY  
IN AMERICA

A MONOGRAPH

BY

REV. J. HOWARD SUYDAM, D.D.

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PUBLISHED BY REQUEST

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## HENDRICK RYCKEN.

THIS paper may be of value to all students of American colonial history, but it is prepared specially for the Suydam family in America—who are the descendants of Hendrick Rycken.

There is no attempt made here in the direction of genealogy ; all the facts obtainable by the writer relating to our common progenitor are presented in chronological order, with such incidents, comments, and reflections as seem appropriate.

For beautiful copies of legal documents from official records, carefully transcribed because of their peculiar chirography, I am indebted to Mr. Walter Lispenard Suydam, of New York.

In the study of our subject a number of questions arise to which we are not able, as yet, to find satisfactory replies.

In the interest of history, which increases in value as time passes, as well as for the natural satisfaction of kindred, it is desirable to preserve all material that can be gathered concerning our American progenitor.

Hendrick Rycken had been preceded by other members of his family. *The Annals of Newtown*, page 301, reads : " When New Netherland invited

the virtuous and the daring to seek a home in her wilds, several of the Rikers joined the adventurers coming hither. These were Abraham, Gysbert, Rynier, and Hendrick Rycken, the last of whom came out a few years after the others, and was the ancestor of the Suydam family, his sons assuming that name." Hence the Riker genealogy is the same as that of the Suydams; and the heraldry, the noble German ancestry extending back to the eleventh century; these ancestors' participation in the First Crusade, as officers in the army of Walter the Penniless, are equally their pride and glory.<sup>1</sup>

Hendrick Rycken came to New Amsterdam in 1663. There is no question about this date, as I have secured positive proof from independent investigation. In the *Documentary History of New York*, vol. i., p. 429, there is a list of the names of the residents "off fflackbush" who took the oath of allegiance to "King James the 2<sup>d</sup> of Great Britain, &c, from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September in the 3<sup>d</sup> year of his May<sup>ty</sup> Raigne Annoque Domine, 1687."

The first name in this list is "William Jacobs van boerum" who says "he was in this country 38 jeare." After the name of each person is recorded the number of years since his arrival in America.

The third name in this list is "hendrick Rijken 24 jeare" in this country. Deduct this from the date of his oath of allegiance, and 1663 will mark the year of his arrival.

In this same *Documentary History*, vol. iii., p. 52 *et seq.*, is given a list of thirty-eight ships arriving

<sup>1</sup> See *Annals of Newtown*, p. 299.

from Holland at New Netherland, together with the names of their passengers, from the year 1657 to 1664; among these I do not find the name of Hendrick Rycken; the nearest approach to it is Hendrick Hendrickson, who came over in *The Rose Tree*, March, 1663. The foundation for the probability that this is he rests upon the fact that the Hollanders frequently took the name of their father with the letters "se" or "sen" appended, meaning "son of," and dropped the surname.

A signal example of this is found in the list of supervisors of the town of Flatbush, (see Strong's *History of Flatbush*, p. 62,) where Ryck, son of Hendrick Rycken, is in one place called Ryck Hendrickson, and in another place Ryck Suydam.

It is certain, however, that all the vessels arriving during that period are not included in the list referred to. A ship named *Sphera Mundi*, commanded by a skipper named Hendrick Rycken (the same name as that of our subject), arrived in 1658. (See *Annals of Newtown*, p. 301; also *Records of New Amsterdam*, vol. ii., pp. 387, 409): It is possible that our Hendrick Rycken may have arrived on a ship not recorded.

In this connection it is interesting to note the expression of sentiment in our ancestors as evinced by the names of their ships. Among those referred to are *The Faith*, *The Love*, *The Star*, *The Hope*, *The Rose Tree*, *The Golden Eagle*, *The Broken Heart*, etc.

It requires an effort to imagine the condition of affairs in the year 1663, when Hendrick Rycken arrived in New Amsterdam. It was 113 years before the United Colonies declared their independence

of Great Britain ; Charles the Second was on the throne of England, and the reaction from the Puritan Cromwell was manifested in gross excesses ; in France, Louis the Fourteenth was at the height of his glory, and his brilliant court dazzled the world ; while little Holland, the Republic, was ruled by the pure soul of the great De Witt, and Admiral de Ruyter maintained her supremacy on the sea.

It was still the practice in England to burn heretics at the stake, and the city of London was as yet composed of wooden dwellings.

It was at this time that we first hear of tea, coffee, and chocolate in common use in Europe ; Holland was sending to England the vegetables and flower seeds she as yet had not learned to cultivate. "When Catharine of Aragon wished for a salad she was compelled to send for it across the channel by a special messenger."

An old English couplet reads,—

"Hops, reformation, bays and beer,  
Came into England all in one year."

America is still properly called the New World, when compared with the countries of the East ; but in the recorded lineage of families it is a long period since the immigration of Hendrick Rycken. Few of the titled families of Great Britain can trace an unbroken line through seven generations as do his descendants.

Considering the latitude practised in the spelling of names at this period, it is difficult to identify an individual unaided by other evidence.

Thus I find the name Hendrick Rycken given in eight different forms, as Reicken, Rijken, Rycke, Ryke, Ryck, Ryk, Rike, de Rycke.

The first authentic record of Hendrick Rycken in point of time, within my knowledge, occurs in the registry of the First Reformed Dutch Church of Brooklyn. The records of the beginning of that organization, or from 1660 to 1696, have been transcribed and published in the *Holland Society Year Book* for 1897. On page 149 it reads thus :

Baptized, 1666, Oct. 10. Ryck and Jacob. Hyndrick Rycke, Ite Jacobs, parents.

Witness : Heylte Aertse.

Again, on page 155, we read :

Baptized, 1683, September 23. Jannitje. Hendrick Rycken, Eytje Jakops, parents.

Witnesses : Engelbert Lott, Hendrickje Verplanck.

In these two records of baptism the spelling differs in four names :

Hendrick is Hyndrick.

Rycken is Rycke.

Ite is Eytje.

Jacobs is Jakops.

Yet the identity of the parties is clearly established by the will and other records. The will says the name of Rycken's wife was "Yda," and mentions these three baptized children with three others afterward born to them.

A curious question here arises : How did it come to pass that Rycken, at this time a resident of New York, had his two sons, Ryck and Jacob, baptized in the church in Brooklyn ? That it was a common practice for people of New York to cross the river and attend service in the little village there established, appears from the following quotation.

In 1660, Domine Selyns wrote to the Classis of Amsterdam in Holland :

“ We do not preach in any Church but in a barn. The congregation is passable. The attendance is augmented from Midwout [Flatbush], Amersfoort [Flatlands] and frequently Gravesend, but most from the Manhattans [New York].”

If for any reason Rycken was dissatisfied with the church in the “ Manhattans,” this would furnish an explanation ; but this could not have been the case in 1666, since the Rev. Samuel Megapolensis officiated in both places.

Another question demands an explanation :

In Rycken’s will, and by other records, Jacob is spoken of as the oldest son. He is here represented as baptized at the same time as Ryck, who, according to the *Annals of Newtown*, p. 325, was born in 1675, nine years later !

An explanation may be found in that there were two of the name of Ryck, and that the first had died. A parallel instance is furnished in my line of the family. My great-grandfather, Cornelius Suydam (grandson of Hendrick Rycken), had two sons named Fernandus, or Ferdinand. This is so written in the original records, which are in my possession, yet but one is mentioned in the *Annals of Newtown* (see p. 321). Ryck is said by another record to have been twin to Jacob.

In this year, 1666, the first church building was erected in Brooklyn, and these two children were among the first who were there baptized.<sup>1</sup>

Although the will mentions only six children it appears from Bergen’s *Early Settlers of King’s*

<sup>1</sup> See *History First Ref. Church, Brooklyn*, 1896,



*County* that Hendrick Rycken and Ida his wife had eleven children born to them, viz., Jacob, Ryck (died in infancy), Cornelius (only mentioned once), Ryck, Ida, Jannetje (three of this name ; two died in infancy), Abraham (mere mention, once), Gertrude, Hendrick.

When Hendrick Rycken arrived at New Amsterdam, Petrus Stuyvesant was on the final year of service as governor of the Dutch West India Company. He was the last of the eight governors, and served seventeen years. The next year, 1664, the Colony surrendered to the English, who gave it the name of New York. It was reconquered by the Dutch in 1673, and received the name of New Orange. In 1674 it was exchanged by treaty for Surinam, and again became New York, which name it retained until 1898, when it reverted to the more euphonious and appropriate original Indian name of Manhattan. We are compelled henceforth to regard the subject of our sketch as a subject of Great Britain, and a citizen of New York. Edmund Andros was the first English governor.

Our next authentic record pertains to the purchase of land by Rycken in the city of New York. It was a city, with a mayor and aldermen, although the population did not exceed 1600 and the buildings numbered but about 300. Its solid portion was in and about the Fort, which is the present Battery. Beyond this, northward, the dwellings were isolated and surrounded by grounds of greater or less extent.

I present here the deed for Hendrick Rycken's first purchase of real estate in America. I may be

allowed to observe parenthetically that the name of the party from whom the purchase was made occurs in the *Court Records of New Amsterdam* as engaged in numerous lawsuits. From the same authority it also appears that he was a public cartman.

### THE DEED.

LIBER 12 CONVEYANCES.

INDEX R. REIKEN, HENRY, 11-61, PAGE 11.

TO ALL XTIAN PEOPLE to whom this present writing shall come or may concerne, KNOW YE that I, JOHN SMEADOS, of the Citty of New York, Marriner, ffor and in consideration of the sum of Two thousand nine hundred Guilders, to me paid and satisfied by Henry Ricken of the same Citty, Blacksmith, Do by these presents, Give, grant, bargain, sell, assign, transport and sett over unto the said Henry Ricken, his heirs and assignes, ALL that house and grounds with the Orchard and peece of Pasture ground and a Broad Alley toward the Water-side with all that is fast thereunto with the appurtenances as appears by the Ground breif.

Relation being thereunto had may appear and now in the possession of the said Henry Ricken, lying & being within the said Citty in a certain Place called the Smith's Fly between the houses and Lotts of Jacob Hollabek and Henry Lamberts Moll and Backward to the Shoemakers' Pasture,

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said house and Lott of grounds and premisses, with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Henry Ricken, his heires and assignes, To the only proper use & Behoofe of the said Henry Ricken his heires and Assignes for Ever.



DE SMIT'S VLY.

“The road between the city gate and the ferry, at the present site of Peck Slip, was known as ‘De Smit’s Valey,’ or ‘The Smith’s Valey.’ The origin of this name is ascribed to the circumstance that Cornelius Clopper, a black smith, established himself on the present corner of Maiden Lane and Pearl Street. Here he intercepted the country people from Long Island, and pursued a profitable business; making his shop a point of sufficient attention to give a distinctive appellation to the road on which it lay. The ‘Smit’s Valey’ was, for a long period, the common name of that part of the town lying between Wall Street and the present Franklin Square; it was, in subsequent years, known as the ‘Valey,’ ‘Vly,’ or ‘Fly.’ At the period here referred to, the road ran along the shore, near the high-water mark, and there were, consequently, no buildings on the east side.”—*History of the City of New York*, by D. T. VALENTINE, pp. 71, 72.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto sett my hand  
& seale this Eighteenth Day off February, One thousand  
six hundred Seabonty Seabon.

JOHANNES SMEADOS. (SEAL).

Sealed and delivered in the  
presence of:

FRANCOIS ROMBOUT.

DIRICK VANDER CLIYFFE.

“Smit’s Vlie” was so named many years before the arrival of Hendrick Rycken in this country, and therefore did not take its name from his trade—as has been suggested.

Rycken sold this land in 1681 to Dirck Van Der Cliff. Mr. Stone, in his *History of the City of New York*, speaking of “Van Der Cliff’s orchard,” says, “It was bounded by the East River, Shoemakers’ Land and Maiden Lane. Its original owner was Hendrick Ryker. Cliff Street yet preserves a part of the old title.”

Peck Slip was included in this property.

“Fly market” was located here—the term “fly” being a corruption of the Dutch word “vlie,” signifying “valley.”

Here then we obtain a glimpse of the first known residence of our first American ancestor. He had been in New York fourteen years before this purchase. It would be pleasant to know just where his dwelling stood during this time. We may suppose that he occupied a hired house, until he saved sufficient money wherewith to purchase this property, which appears to be the beginning of a very prosperous career.

In this deed are specified a house, an orchard,

grounds, and a piece of pasture. It is reasonable to suppose that he occupied the house, and may have already done so for years; that he here worked at his trade; that, as was the custom with mechanics at that time, he cultivated his ground; and enjoyed the fruits of the orchard.

Living on the shore of the East River we may also suppose that he owned a boat, and amused himself as an angler while he supplied his table with the excellent fish with which the waters abounded.

We may imagine this house as that of a farmer, since it was located at a distance from the built-up portion of the city. If so, it was a wooden structure, long, having a low ceiling, and a roof reaching very near to the ground. Near by there was a garden of flowers, containing many colored tulips, which at this particular period were producing a strange mania in Holland. There was also a garden of vegetables, for which the Dutch were ever famous. The milk for the family came from the cows which flourished on the sweet clover in that pasture field; and the table was never without the schnapps or the tankard of beer.

We can easily see our grandame Rycken, in her short petticoats, and wearing a linsey homespun jacket; with capacious pockets hanging from her girdle, from which are also suspended the scissors, a pin-cushion, and the keys of the pantries.

A little distance southward was the wall (Wall Street) extending from river to river. Within the Fort were many dwellings, besides the governor's residence, and the church. This was the second church edifice, the first having been built in 1633, and sold for other purposes in 1656. The bar-

racks of course were within the same enclosure. Domine Van Nieuwenhuysen was the pastor of the church.

There was in the city but one paved street, appropriately called "Stone Street," which name it bears at the present time.

Such was the general appearance of New York City at this period, viz., from 1663 to 1679.

In this year, 1679, Hendrick Rycken, and Ida his wife, were received into full communion of the Reformed Dutch Church of Flatbush, Long Island. (See *Annals of Newtown*, p. 320.) The records of the Collegiate Church covering the period of Rycken's residence in New York do not contain their names. They must have been received therefore in the church of Flatbush on confession of their faith.

#### ERRATUM.

Page 13, line 23, *for* 1663-64, *read* 1673-74.

He has left many descendants in that locality, and in and about New York City.

The other witness—Dirck Van Der Cliffe—purchased this property from Rycken on the 9th of August, 1681. He was already a land-owner in the vicinity.

I now present a copy of the Deed transferring the property from Rycken to Van Der Cliffe.

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Living on the shore of the East River we may also suppose that he owned a boat, and amused himself as an angler while he supplied his table with the excellent fish with which the waters abounded.

We may imagine this house as that of a farmer, since it was located at a distance from the built-up portion of the city. If so, it was a wooden structure, long, having a low ceiling, and a roof reaching very near to the ground. Near by there was a garden of flowers, containing many colored tulips, which at this time were in full bloom.

From the gate, from which are also suspended the scissors, a pin-cushion, and the keys of the pantries.

A little distance southward was the wall (Wall Street) extending from river to river. Within the Fort were many dwellings, besides the governor's residence, and the church. This was the second church edifice, the first having been built in 1633, and sold for other purposes in 1656. The bar-



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It is interesting to take a passing notice of the witnesses to this deed to Rycken.

Francois Rombout would appear to be a Frenchman, as we may judge from the spelling of his name. He had been alderman under the English rule; and afterward schepen during the brief resumption of power by the Dutch in 1663-64. He was Patentee for a large tract of land in Dutchess Co., N. Y. His daughter married Roger Brett, an Englishman who made his residence at Fishkill. He has left many descendants in that locality, and in and about New York City.

The other witness—Dirck Van Der Cliffe—purchased this property from Rycken on the 9th of August, 1681. He was already a land-owner in the vicinity.

I now present a copy of the Deed transferring the property from Rycken to Van Der Cliffe.

LIBER 12 CONVEYANCES, PAGE 61.

This Deed of Sale was Recorded for  
DIRICK VAN-CLIFFE,  
August the 11, 1681.

TO ALL XTIAN PEOPLE, To whom this Present writing shall come Henry Ricken of Flattbush on Long Island, Blacksmith, sendeth Greeting: WHEREAS, John Smeedis of the Citty of New York, Marriner, Did by his certaine writeing or Deed of Sale under his hand and seale, Bearing Date the Eighteenth Day of February, One thousand six hundred seaventy seaven for the Consideration therein mentioned and expressed, Give, Grant, Bargaine, Sell, Assigne, Transporte and Sett over unto the said Henry Ricken, his heirs and Assignes all that House and Ground with the Orchard and Peece of Pasture Ground and Broad alley towards the water side with all that is fast thereunto with the Appurtenances lyeing and being within the said Citty in A Certaine Place called the Smiths Fly, Between the Houses and Lotts of Jacob Hellaker and Henry Lamberts Moll & Backward to the shoemakers Pasture, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto him the said Henry Ricken, his heirs and assignes for ever as in and by the said writing or Deed of Sale may more att large appeare, NOW KNOW YEE that the said Henry Ricken for and in Consideration of the sume of Five thousand Gilds Seewant Value to him the said Henry Ricken in hand paid att and Before the Ensealing & Delivery Hereof by Derick Vander Cliffe of the said Citty mercht. (Merchant) the Receipt whereof he Doth hereby acknowledge and thereof and of Every Part and Parcell thereof Doth freely acquitt, exonerate and Discharge him, the said Dirick Vander Cliffe, his Heires and Assignes for Ever, hath Granted, Bargained, sold, Alliened, Enffeoffed and Confirmed and by these presents Doth fully cloosely and Absolutely Grant, Bargaine, sell, Alien, Enffeoffe and confirme unto the said Dirick Vander Cliffe all that the aforementioned messuage, tennement or Dwelling House and Ground with the Orchard and Peece of Pasture Ground and Broad Alley toward the waterside, With all that is fast

thereunto and all and singular cellers, sollers, chambers, roomes, entryes, wayes, Passages, Gardens, Backsides, Lights, Water courses, Easements, Proffitts, Commodities and heriditaments whatsoever to the said Messuage, Tenement or Dwelling House and Land Belonging or in any wise appertaineing with their and Every of their Appurtenanes, together with all Deeds and writeing concerning the premises, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Messuage, Tennement or Dwelling House and Land with the Orchard and Peece of Pasture, Ground and Alley, Cellers, Sollers, Chambers and all and singular other the premises with their and Every of their Appurtennces Before by these Presents Bargained and sold or meant, mentioned or Intended to be hereby Granted, Bargained and sold and Every Parte & Parcel thereof unto the said Dirick Vander Cliffe, his heirs & Assignes, to the sole and Only Proper use, Bennefitt and Behoffe of him, the said Dirick Vander Cliffe, his heires & Assignes for Ever and the said Henry Reicken, Doth for himself, his heires, Executors and Administrators, COVENANT, PROMISE AND ENGAGE to and with the said Dirick Vander Cliffe, his heires, Executors and Administrators the said Messuage, Tennement and Dwelling House and Land with the Orchard and Peece of Pasture Ground Alley and Primises with their Appurtenences, unto the said Dirick Vander Cliffe, his heirs, Executors, Administrators and assigns in his and their Quiett and Peaceable Possession and seizin against all Persons to Warrant and for Ever by these Presents Defend and Maintaine.

IN WITNESSE WHEREOF the said Henry Ricken Hath Hereunto sett his hand and seale in New York the ninth Day of August, in the thirty-third year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne, Lord Charles the Second of England, Scotland, France and Ireland. King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

Annoy. Domini, 1681.

HENDRICK RICKEN. (SEALE).

Sealed and Delivered  
in the Presence of

JOHN COLIER.

JOHN JNANS.

JOHN WEST.

*Verte:*

} Newyorke.

August the 9th, 1681, HENDRICK RICKEN appeared Before me and Declared upon Oath that he Delivered this Deed of Sale as his act and Deed to the within mentioned and signed with his owne hand.

Sworne Before me

WM. BEAKMAN, Deipy Mayor.

This conveyance contains many things not included in the deed received from Smedos. The boundaries, however, are the same.

Mr. Stone (*History*, p. 90) presents three well defined lines, viz., the East River, Maiden Lane, and "Shoemakers' Land." He says the Shoemakers' Land was bounded by Broadway, Ann, William, and Gold Streets.

The lines may seem somewhat indefinite; they are sufficiently clear, however, to lead some of us to ask why our great-grandsire did not reserve a few corner lots for his descendants of this generation—and especially for its clerical representative!

The first blood of the American Revolution was shed on this property. A tablet in its commemoration was placed in the New York Post Office by the Daughters of the American Revolution, on the 20th day of January, in this year—1898; and another has been placed on the spot at the corner of William and John Streets, which reads as follows:

"GOLDEN HILL

HERE JANUARY 18, 1770

THE FIGHT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN

THE SONS OF LIBERTY

AND BRITISH REGULARS 16TH FOOT—

FIRST BLOOD SHED

IN THE

WAR OF THE REVOLUTION."

The proofs of this are clear. They are found in the history of New York as written by Mrs. Lamb; also in that written by Miss Booth. On pages 226 and 228 of Mr. Stone's *History* are these words :

“ It has usually been asserted by historians that the first blood in the war of the American Revolution was shed at Lexington; but such is not the fact. The battle of Golden Hill on the 18th of January, 1770, was the beginning of that contest, so fearful in its commencement, so doubtful in its progress, and so splendid in its results.”

Of course this paper has nothing to do with American patriotism; but it is pleasant for the Suydam family to cherish the sentiment aroused by recalling this important event as occurring on the premises once in possession of their American progenitor. Golden Hill was on this property.

It is well in passing also to notice the significance of the “ Shoemakers' Land,” which formed one of the boundaries of this tract.

At that time shoemakers were also tanners. At first their vats were very near the thickly settled portion of the city—near the Fort or Battery.

As their business increased they became offensive; so a syndicate was formed which purchased the land in the “ Smit's Vlie.” One of this company was Mr. Harpending, who bequeathed his property to the Collegiate Dutch Church; this property is now the principal source of its large revenue.

Subsequently these shoemakers removed to what was known as “ The Swamp,” where immense fortunes have been made in this line of traffic.

Rycken had already resided in Flatbush two years when he sold his New York property to Van

Der Cliffe. He had purchased it for 2900 guilders, and he sold it for 5000 guilders. In the deed of sale to Van Der Cliffe it says the consideration was in "seewant." If the purchase from Smedos was also made in seewant there was an advance of about 80 per cent. in four years. There is, however, no mention of the kind of money paid in the first transaction.

The last purchase was nearer the time of specie payment than was the first. It is fair to conclude, therefore, that Indian money was then used. This would seem to be confirmed by the following from Dr. O'Callaghan's *History of New Netherland* (vol. i., p. 60). He quotes from Dr. Miller :

"Wampum, or Seewant (the first so called by the English and the last by the Dutch) continued to constitute the common currency of this country long after it ceased to belong to the Dutch. In 1673 there was little or no certain coin in the government. Wampum passed for current payment in all cases."

If wampum was used in 1681, it was most likely the medium of exchange in 1677—an earlier period.

An interesting question arises as to the purchasing power of 5000 guilders then as compared with the same at the present time.

We come now to speak of Hendrick Rycken as a permanent resident of Flatbush ; for this was his home for twenty-two years—or from 1679 until he died in 1701.

On page 293, vol. ii., of *The Documentary History of New York*, we find that Rycken was taxed for 38 acres of land, 4 horses, and 13 cows. The land was rated at £2 an acre ; the horses from £3

to £8, according to age ; and the cattle from £1 to £5 ; the tax was a penny a pound.

This was in 1683, four years after his removal from New York, and two years after he sold his New York property.

In this year, 1683, his daughter, Jennetje, was baptized in the Dutch church of Brooklyn. (*Holland Society Year Book*, 1897, p. 155.) Engelbert Lott was a witness of this baptism, and afterwards he was also a witness to Rycken's will. This would indicate a close intimacy, or friendship, between them. This Lott was a native, and the son of Peter Lott who came to this country in 1652. Peter Lott was the progenitor of the numerous family of that name—many of whom still reside in Flatbush on the ancestral estate. In 1683 he paid the largest tax in the town. At this time there were but forty-eight tax-payers. Of these, twenty-four paid a higher tax than did Hendrick Rycken.

Rycken was one of the twenty-six Patentees of the town of Flatbush. The Patent was granted by Lieut.-Governor Dongan in 1685. The territory extended eastward to the Jamaica line ; Brooklyn, Flatlands, Gravesend, and Jamaica Bay were the boundaries in the other directions. It included all of New Lots, which afterwards became a separate town.

Rycken's part in this Patent will furnish an explanation of certain references in his will, and of the statement in the *Annals of Newtown* that "He acquired a *large estate* at Flatbush and other places."

To the general reader such documents are uninteresting, but to old Long Islanders, and especially



to the descendants of the Patentees who were the holders of so large a portion of what now constitutes the great Borough of Brooklyn, this one must ever be of increasing interest.

I herewith present it in full as transcribed from Strong's *History of Flatbush*, p. 41 *et seq.*

#### PATENT FOR THE TOWN OF FLATBUSH.

(From Strong's *History of Flatbush*, p. 41 *et seq.*)

On the 12th of November, 1685, the inhabitants of Flatbush applied to and obtained from Colonel Thomas Dongan, the fourth English Governor of the Colony of New York, a confirmatory patent for the whole town, including the several former grants, or patents of Midwout (Flatbush), the Canarsee Meadows, Keuter's Hook, and Oustwout (New Lots). The Patent runs thus, to wit :

Thomas Dongan, Lieutenant Governor and Vice Admiral of New York, &c., under his majesty James the Second, by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c, Supreme Lord and Proprietor of the Colony and Province of New York and its dependencies in America. To all to whom these presents shall come sendeth Greeting :

Whereas there is a certain town in Kings County, Long Island, called and known by the name of Midwout, alias Flatbush, the bounds whereof begin at the mouth of the Fresh Kill, and so along by a certain ditch which lies betwixt Amersford and Flatbush Meadows, and so running along the ditch and fence to a certain white oak marked tree, and from thence upon a straight line to the western-most point of a small island of woodland lying before John Stryker's bridge ; and from thence with a straight line to the northwest hook or corner of the ditch of John Oakies meadow ; and from thence along the said



ditch and fence to the swamp of the Fresh Kill, and so along the swamp and hollow of the aforesaid kill to the land of Keuter's Hook; thence along the same to a marked white oak tree; from thence with a straight line to a black oak marked tree standing upon the northeast side of Twillers Flats, having a small snip of flats upon the southeast side of the line; and so from thence to a white oak tree standing to the west side of Moschito Hole to a small island, leaving a snip of flats in the Flatlands bounds; and from thence to a certain marked tree or stump, standing by the high way which goes to Flatlands upon the Little Flats, about twenty rods from Flatbush Lots, and so along the fence six hundred Dutch rods to the corner of Flatbush fence, and so along the rear of the lots to a sasefras stump standing in Cornelius Jonsen Birrian's lot of land; and from thence with a straight line to a certain old marked tree or stump, standing by the Rush Pond under the hills, and so along upon the south side of the hill till it comes to the west end of the Long Hill, and so along the south side of the said hill, till it comes to the east end of the long hill; and then with a straight line from the east end of the said long hill to a marked white oak tree standing to the west side of the road, near the place called the gate or post of hills; and so from the east side of the post or gate aforesaid upon the south side of the main hills as far as the Brooklyn Patent doth extend; and so along the said hills to the Jamaica Patent; and from thence with a southerly line, to the hill or creek by the east of the Plunders Neck, and so along the said kill to the sea, as according to the several deeds or purchases from the Indian owners, the Patent from Governor Nicholls, and the award thereunto being had, doth more fully and at large appear;

And whereas application to me hath been made for a confirmation of the aforesaid tract and parcels of land and premises: Now know ye, that by virtue of the commission and authority unto me given by his majesty James the Second, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the

Faith, Supreme Lord and Proprietor of the Province of New York, in consideration of the premises and the quit rent hereinafter reserved, I have given, granted, ratified and confirmed, and by these presents, do give, grant, ratify and confirm, unto Cornelius Vanderwyck, John Okie, Joseph Hageman, Aries Jansen Vanderbilt, Lafford Pieteron, William Guiliamsen, Hendrick Williamse, Pieter Williamse, Arien Ryers, Peter Stryker, John Stryker, John Remsen, Jacob Hendricks, Derick Vandervelet, *Hendrick Ryck*, Okie Johnson, Daniel Polhemus, Peter Lott, Cornelius Vanderveer, Derick Johnson Hooglandt, Denise Teunis, John Johnson, Ditimus Lewis Jansen, William Jacobs, Hendrick Hegerman, and Garrit Lubbertse, for and on behalf of themselves and their associates, all the freeholders and inhabitants of the said town of Flatbush, and to their heirs and assigns forever, all the before recited tract and tracts, parcel and parcels, of land and islands within the said bounds and limits, together with all and singular, the woods, underwoods, plains, kills, meadows, pastures, quarries, marshes, waters, lakes, causeways, rivers, beaches, houses, buildings, fishing, hawking, hunting and fowling, with all liberties, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances to the said tract of land and premises belonging, or in any wise appertaining : To have and to hold the said tract of land and premises before mentioned, and intended to be given, granted and confirmed unto the [here follow the same names as above]—the said patentees and their associates, their heirs and assigns forever. To be holders to his majesty in free and common soccage, according to the tenure of East Greenwich, in the County of Kent, in his majesty's kingdom of England : Yielding, rendering, and paying therefor yearly, and every year, at the city of New York, unto his majesty his heirs or successors, or to his or their officer or officers, as by him or them shall be appointed to receive the same, eighteen bushels of good merchantable wheat, on or before the five and twentieth day of March yearly and every year.

In Testimony whereof, I have caused these presents to be entered upon record, in the Secretary's Office in

the said Province, and the seal thereof have hereunto affixed and signed with my hand, this twelfth day of November in the first year of his majesty's reign. Anno Domini 1685.

THOMAS DONGAN.

Apart from the historic interest of this document, it also furnishes a ground for admission to the Society of Colonial Dames to the female members of the Suydam family, since their first ancestor was a landed proprietor, having, with others, received a royal grant. The terms of membership, I believe, include this.

Hendrick Rycken's last Will and Testament furnishes another important paper deserving careful consideration. This will was signed and witnessed on the 13th of December, 1689. Hendrick Rycken died in 1701 (*Annals of Newtown*, p. 320).

We have no record, but arrive at a reasonable conclusion that he was buried beneath the second church building erected in Flatbush in 1698.

We base this conclusion on these grounds :

1. He was a member of the church of Flatbush.
2. He was a man of means, and a representative citizen, having at different times held the office of Supervisor of the town.
3. It was customary at that period to bury beneath the floor of the church.
4. The following from Strong's *History of Flatbush* (p. 83) aids toward this conclusion :

"Vast numbers of human bones were dug up when the earth was removed for the foundation for the steeple to the present church. They were all carefully preserved and subsequently again buried. In front of the church and under it have been interred the bodies of three or

four generations." (See also the chapter on "The Graveyard" in Mrs. Vanderbilt's *Social History of Flatbush*.)

Whenever, therefore, we enter the old but beautiful Dutch church building at Flatbush, we doubtless tread the earth which covers the bones and the dust of our common ancestor, who came to New Amsterdam in 1663, and departed this life at Flatbush in 1701.

The will was prefaced by a proclamation from John Nanfan, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New York, June 26, 1704. It reads as follows :

#### PROCLAMATION.

John Nanfan Esqr. Lieut. Governr. & Comandr. in Chief of the province of New York & to all to whom these presents shall come or may concern Greeting Know Yee that at New Yorke the 26th day of June Instant the last Will & Testament of Henry Ricke deceased before me was proved approved & allowed of haveing while he lived & and at ye time of his death goods, chattels & credits in divers places within this province by meanes whereof the full depossing of all & singular the goods, chattels & credits & ye granting ye administraction of them also the hearing of accout callculation or reckoning of ye administraction & finall discharge & dismissal from ye same unto me alone soley & not unto another Inferiour Judge are manifestly known to belong & ye administraction of all & singular ye goods chattels & credits of ye said deced & his said last Will and Testament in any maner or wayes concerning granted unto Yda Rycke widdow relict & executrix in the same last will & testament named chiefley of well & truly administring ye same & of making a true & perfect inventory of all singular the goods, chattels & credits & exhibiting ye same into the secryes office at or before ye 26th of Novr. next ensuing & of

rendering a just and true acct. callculation or reckoning being duely & lawfully sworn upon ye holy evangelists of almighty God.

In Testimony Whereof I have caused ye prerogative seale to be hereunto affixed at New Yorke this 26th day of June anno Dmo. 1704.

M. CLARKSON. SECRY.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that on the 13th of December in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ one thousand six hundred eighty nine I HENRY RYKE of Kings County upon Long Island in the Dominion of New England considering mortality of all men certainty of death & the uncertain time thereof being willing to prevent the same wth a due disposall of my temporall estate have made ordeigned & concluded without induction or persuasion of any, my only & free last will & testament revoking cancelling & makeing voyd all other acts of last willes made by me joyntly & severally & that this only may stand in full force power & vertue being in manner & forme as followeth

Imprimis: I recomend my immortall soule to ye mercifull hands of God Almighty & my corps to a decent buriall.

Item: I do make & bequeath to my eldest sonn Jacob Rycke twelve shillings in lew of his double portion in consideration of severall benefitts already received out of my estate.

Item: I make & bequeath to my daughter Geertruda a double portion in consideration yt she is defective & simple in mind to be ordered when ye division is made of my estate.

Item: I do make give grant & bequeath to my wife Yda all my goods houses lands slaves & all other moveables of linen wooling houshold stufte actions & credits none excepted dureing her life time to do therwth as wth her owne goods, without any contradiction but she is hereby lyable & bound to aliment & maintaine my children all ready gotten or wch in the future may come to their age or wedlock & to cause their learning for an

art or trade to live by & further all duties required of a pious mother towards her children and when any of ye children shall come to age or marriage then to give to each of them as much as she shall be capable of according to her discretion without any further obligation wherewith ye children are to be contented satisfied, all wth this proviso ye my said wife Ida remains a widdow & doth not proceed to a new marriage but in case my said wife Ida should happen to come after my decease to a new marriage then shall she departe of ye half of ye estate then in her possession (my debts being paid first) to the benefit of my children or by decease of any their lawfull descendants then in being all as it shall be given in by my said wife wherein she is to doe comon justice & to deliver to the aged children their due & for the under aged to give securitie for their portion & to keep & hold the interest thereof for the Alimentation of the children till time of age when their portion shall be delivered to them. And in case my said wife Ida should happen to dye without a new marriage after her decease I make and institute my children Jacob, Hendrike, Rycke, Yda, Geertruda & Jannetie & all others that may come in ye future to be my only & universall heires of the estate then left by her decease, moveable & immoveable none *excepted* excepted, all in an equall portion except Geertruda who is to have a double portion as aforesaid with this proviso that all (except Jacob) shall have before any division is made seaven hundred guilders wampum value wch said Jacob above other things hath received by two cows & two horses which sum shall be doubled in the portion of Geertruda being fourteen hundred guilders wampum value. But in case any child or children by their mothers goodness at any time shall receive the said sume of seaven hundred guilders shall be indorse upon this will to be excepted after her decease & then ye remainders being taken from the estate to proceed to a division & my wife shall elect two tutors for the under aged children, when she might come to a new marriage to whom she shall demonstrate & give acct. of their dues wth such power as shall be requisite according to Law.

Lastly I make my wife the sole administratrix & executrix of my estate which I shall leave by decease with power to make one or more to administer & execute this will after her decease the premisses I declare to be my last Will & Testament & desire may be also accepted before any court of Justices.

IN TESTIMONY of the Truth I have hereunto sett my hand & fixed my seale in New Yorke the year month & day as before expressed.

HENRY RYKE. [L.S.]

Testors signed & sealed in the presence of us

ENGLEBERT LOTT,  
JOHANES VAN EKLEEN,  
P. D. LANOV.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }  
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, } ss.

I, J. FAIRFAX MCLAUGHLIN, Clerk of the Surrogates' Court of said City and County, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the last Will and Testament of HENRY RYKE deceased, with the original record thereof now remaining in this office, and have found the same to be a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original record.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Surrogates' Court of the City and County of New York this 17th day of Dec. in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven.

J. FAIRFAX MCLAUGHLIN,  
Clerk of the Surrogates' Court.

Recorded in Liber 1 & 2. (New)

Folios 378 & 379.

(Old folios, 128, 129, 130, 131 & 132.)

I venture to make several observations on this will :

1. The language used by the Lieutenant-Governor, that he, and not "an inferior judge," was to direct the administration of the estate, indicates it



as of unusual value. This is confirmed by the sentence, "He having at the time of his death goods, chattels and credits *in divers places.*"

2. The Lieutenant-Governor ordered an inventory of all Rycken's effects to be reported on or before the 26th of November, 1704, or just five months from the date of approval. It was customary at that time to record or place on file all the estate of deceased persons. It would be interesting now—two hundred years after—for his descendants to know just what properties Hendrick Rycken possessed.

3. The language of the will is pervaded by a devout religious sentiment, which accords with what is said of Rycken on page 320 of *The Annals of Newtown.*

4. The appointment of Ida, his wife, sole executrix and administratrix of his estate, and the guardian of his children, indicates three things: (a) that he was happy in his marriage relation; (b) that his wife possessed good intelligence and capable business qualifications; (c) that her character and moral qualities commended her as the proper person to train their children.

5. It was the custom then to give the oldest son a double portion of the estate, and to give the sons much more than the daughters. But Jacob, the eldest, does not share with the others. The explanation for this is probably to be inferred from the fact that Jacob was twenty-three years of age at the time the will was made, that he became possessor of his father's business, and with it an allotment of land. For we find him on record as a blacksmith in Flatbush in 1695, six years after the will was made, and six years before his father's death.



6. We infer a large and generous nature as belonging to Hendrick Rycken from the fact that his two daughters shared equally with his two sons, Ryck and Hendrick, while the other daughter, who was of feeble mind, received a double portion.

7. His wisdom is manifest in that he required his children to be taught an art or trade whereby they could secure a livelihood. This was in conformity with the prevalent custom.

8. It is not surprising to find that Hendrick Rycken was a slaveholder. The Dutch were the first to import slaves to the American colonies; all who could afford it owned slaves at this time. In 1698 Rycken owned three slaves. (*Documentary History of New York*, vol. iii.)

9. Long Island is said in this will to be in the "Dominion of New England." This is the first and only time I have seen this title. New Netherland became New York in 1674; Long Island became "The Island of Nassau" in 1693; this title has never been changed.

10. The will provides for "two tutors" for the children under age. As this is written in connection with a possible second marriage of the widow, I am inclined (subject to correction) to regard the term as "guardians," since Madame Rycken was to "give an account of their dues with such power as shall be requisite according to law."

I have already referred to one of the witnesses to Rycken's will—Engelbert Lott,—who also witnessed the baptism of Jannetje Rycken in the Brooklyn Dutch church in 1683. I cannot quite understand why she was baptized there rather than in the Flatbush church, of which Rycken was a member. The same minister, however, officiated

in both churches; there may have been regular baptismal days, so that it became a matter of convenience.

The second witness to this will—Johannes Van Ekkelen—was the Flatbush parochial schoolmaster. The duties of this official furnish very interesting reading in these modern days. These are clearly set forth by a contract between the consistory of the church and the constable and overseers of the town of the first part, and Johannes Van Ekkelen of the second part, as published in Dr. Strong's *History of Flatbush*, p. 111. It is there shown that the schoolmaster not only instilled into the minds of the children the ordinary principles of a common-school education, but catechised them regularly every week. He held three sessions a day. He also acted as sexton of the church, to ring the bell and keep the building clean and in good repair. Besides, he assisted the minister by reading a chapter from the Bible, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostle's Creed every Sunday; he was also the precentor. He read sermons in the absence of the minister, provided the water for baptism, and bread and wine for the Lord's Supper, and was the messenger for the consistory.

He dug the graves, gave out the funeral invitations, and directed all the services. Five of Hendrick Rycken's children doubtless attended this school; the remaining one was of feeble mind.

The school was organized in 1659, and developed into Erasmus Hall Academy in 1786. This was the third chartered academy in the State. Among the contributors to the building were Robert R. Livingston, Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, and our kinsman, Hendrick Suydam; and the

latter gave more than twice as much as the distinguished gentlemen above mentioned.

Many of Rycken's descendants have received their education at Erasmus Hall. I graduated there in 1852 to enter Rutgers College.

So we find the representative of the wealthiest family in the town, and its chief educator, as witnesses to the last Will and Testament of Hendrick Rycken. Since it is customary to invite friends for such services, we may draw an inference as to Rycken's standing in the community.

Erasmus Hall has undergone a still farther evolution. It is now the property of the Borough of Brooklyn, in the 29th Ward, and known as "Erasmus Hall High School." Thus we are permitted to note the interesting fact that on, or near, the same site there has been an educational institution for two hundred and thirty-eight years; and we feel secure in the statement that from 1679 until the present time—or for two hundred and eighteen years—there has been a representative of Hendrick Rycken—from the Suydam family—in continual attendance. Van Ekkelen was also witness to an Indenture which will soon appear.

P. D. Lanoy, the last witness to the Will, was a conspicuous character. He was a member of the church in New York. He had been Mayor of the city but twenty-four hours when he appended his name to this document. (See *Documentary History of New York*, vol. ii., p. 197.) He received his commission from Lieutenant-Governor Leisler. With him he was convicted of treason, and was imprisoned. He was finally pardoned, while Leisler and his son-in-law, Jacob Milborne, were executed. Leisler's wife's nephews, Bayard and

Van Cortlandt, favored the execution of the Governor.

Lanoy accused Rycken's minister — Domine Varick — of treason against the Leisler government: for which the Governor deprived him of his ministerial functions, fined him the sum of £80, and imprisoned him for six months. He died from the effects of this ill-treatment.

It is a relief to us that we may regard Lanoy as acting in his official capacity as Mayor, and not as an invited friend, in signing Hendrick Rycken's will.

Rycken's pastors were: in New York, Samuel Megapolensis, and Van Niewenhuysen; and in Brooklyn and Flatbush (united), Van Zuuren, Varick, and Lupardus.

It remains to close our paper by some remarks upon the name "Suydam," transmitted to all the descendants of Hendrick Rycken.

The name is spelled in varied forms, as was that of Rycken.

We find it written in various documents as Suydam, Serdam, Sudam, Sedam, Sodam, Surdam, Syrdam, Siedam, and Sidam.

Analogy is in favor of the spelling generally adopted, viz., Suydam. The "uy" corresponds with Schuylkill, Schuyler, Cuyler, Frelinghuysen, etc. "Suy" means "South."

In the *Annals of Newtown*, p. 320, it is stated that the assumption of the name by the sons of Hendrick Rycken occurred about the year 1710.

The same volume speaks of this change as "a well-known fact."

A foot-note in the *Genealogy of the Bergen Family*, p. 111, also says Rycken's sons "dropped the surname of Rycken."

The genealogy is so direct as to leave no doubt. A clear example is furnished in my own line of the family. Others can do it as easily. My father's name was Henry; his father's name was Hendrick; his father's name was Cornelius; his father's name was both Jacob Rycken and Jacob Suydam at different periods; his father was Hendrick Rycken.

We have here the records to show the change of name and about the time it occurred.

I am of opinion that it was a growth to a conclusion from the custom of speech in the community. This will appear as we note the occurrence of the name, at the same time that it reveals the careless changes arbitrarily made by individuals. It was about the year 1710 that the final change took place.

Riker's *Annals*, p. 320, read, "The early records say that Rycken came from Suydam." I do not know where these records may be found. I therefore present what I have been able to gather from the books I have consulted. "Suydam," meaning "South of the Dam," may have been in many places in Holland.

The first mention of the name I have found is in a document dated 1695. It is therein attached to the name of Jacob [Hendrick Rycken's son] in such form as to indicate the place of Rycken's emigration.

I present it in full as transcribed from Mrs. Vanderbilt's *Social History of Flatbush*, p. 261 :

This indenture, made the 22d of July A.D. 1695 is to certify to all and every one whom it may concern that

Jonathan Mills, Senior, of Jamaica in Queen's Co., and Jacob Hendrickson of Flatbush, in Kings Co., Smith, are agreed and have made covenant in manner and form following:

Imprimis, Jonathan Mills, jr. son of the above named Jonathan Mills, Senior, is bound to serve his master, *Jacob Hendrickson of Zuytdam* [*i. e.*, Jacob, son of Hendrick (Rycken) of Zuyt dam] above said, the time and space of three years beginning the 5th day of June last, to expire the 5th day of June 1698, in which time the said Jonathan Mills, Jr. is to serve his said master duly and faithfully, principally in and about the trade and art of a Smith and also sometimes for other occasions.

Secondly, *Jacob Hendrickson of Zuytdam* above said is bound to said Jonathan Mills, Jr. to find washing, sleeping, victuals, and drink during the said time of three years and also to endeavor to instruct said Jonathan in said art and trade of a Smith during said term of three years, and also that said Jonathan may have the liberty to go in night school in the winter, and at the expiration of said time his master is to give him a good suit of clothes for Sabbath-day, and also two pair of tongs, and two hammers, one big, and one small one.

In Testimony and performance whereof we have set hereunto our hands and seals the day and year above written.

JONATHAN <sup>his</sup> + MILLS.  
mark

JACOB HENDRECKSE

Witness

van Zuyt dam

JOHANNES VAN EKELEN.

The spelling is Zuyt-dam. The document was drawn in 1695, six years before Hendrick Rycken's death. From this time, if not before, Rycken's sons were associated with the place from which he came. At length the surname was dropped, and they were known as "from Suydam." That Jacob signed himself "Jacob Hendrickse" does not

affect his identity, although it is confusing; it means that he was simply Jacob, the son of Hendrick, who came from "Zuytdam." Other examples will follow to render this clear.

Bergen's *Genealogy*, p. 111, says this indenture of Mills was to Jacob, son of Hendrick Rycken from Zuytdam.

The census of King's County "about 1698" represents Hendrick Ryke living at Flatbush, his wife still living and three children at home. At that time he was the owner of three slaves. The children were the three girls, Gertrude, of the feeble mind, Jannetje, now sixteen years of age, and Ida, named after her mother. Ida married Jan Aertsen, and Jannetje married Tunis Rapalje.

The three sons were married and settled, Jacob as smith and farmer, and Ryck also as farmer, in Flatbush, and Hendrick at Brooklyn, on a farm he had purchased from his father. (*Annals of Newtown*, p. 323.)

At this time, 1698, Jacob had six children, and owned one slave. Seven more children were afterward born to him—thirteen in all.

Ryck had one child and one slave. This indicates that he had gone from the homestead. He was now twenty-three years of age.

Hendrick had one child and one slave.

I introduce this incidental history, gathered from the census of 1698, as published in volume iii. *Documentary History of New York*, p. 134 *et seq.*, as leading to the fact that the names of the sons of Rycken had all at this time become "Hendrickson." They are recorded as the sons of Hendrick.

There were, in 1698, 62 heads of families in Flatbush, and a total of 476 in the population.



Among these there was another Hendrickson, *i. e.*, another man whose father was named Hendrick. It therefore became necessary to distinguish the one from the other, and in this fact may be found a reason, that having already been known in the community as Hendrickson, or, the sons of Hendrick, henceforth Rycken's sons became known as sons of Hendrick "from Suydam." And so, gradually, the "Hendrickson" disappeared, and "Suydam" became the surname.

The first use of the surname I have found is in the list of officers and soldiers belonging to the regiment of militia in King's County in 1715.

Here the name of Rick Vansudam<sup>1</sup> appears as Lieutenant, and Hendrick van Sudam as a private.

Not only is this the first record of which I have knowledge of this surname, but the spelling is peculiar, and it has the prefix "Van," which is natural. I am inclined to the opinion that this was the original spelling. This was in 1715.

The *Annals of Newtown* say that Jacob Suydam served as Supervisor of the town of Flatbush in 1706 and 1717, and that Ryck served in this office repeatedly. Strong's *History of Flatbush*, p. 62, gives the names and dates of the Supervisors of the town from 1703 to 1842. And in this column we find in 1706 the name of Jacob Hendrick Ryck, and in 1717 the name of Jacob Suydam. This is the first spelling in our form, and Jacob Ryck and Jacob Suydam are here shown to be the same person. In this same list we find the name of Ryck Hendricks serving as Supervisor in 1711; and Ryck Hendrickson in 1714; and again in 1722

<sup>1</sup> *The Report of the State Historian of the State of New York*, 1896, p. 482, has: "The Troop—Rick Van Suydam Leff."



Ryck Hendrickson; and then in 1728 Ryck Suydam. These names all belonged to one and the same individual. There was no other Ryck in the town.

Among the questions suggested in the progress of this paper is one respecting the place in Holland from which our progenitor emigrated.

Was it "Zaandam" or "Saardam," near Amsterdam, and famous for its numerous windmills, and the whilom residence of Peter the Great when he was learning the art of ship-building?

Or was it "Schiedam" of world-wide reputation because of its distilleries—and its gin?

In the *Dutch Records* there are two references to a girl on trial who came from "Serdam," in Holland.

This must remain an open question for future investigation.

This collation of facts concerning our first American ancestor is certainly remarkable in the respect that so many have been secured.

There is no portrait in existence, and no biography has ever been attempted; this presentation, therefore, is of considerable value, and it will become more so as time advances.

In these documents Rycken is portrayed as a religious man standing well in his community; also as possessing unusual intellectual vigor, and prosperous in his business career.

His domestic life is seen in an attractive form. His was a rounded character and he manifested strong common sense.

According to an estimate made in my own line, there are and have been about one thousand per-

sons bearing the name of "Suydam." The descendants of Hendrick Rycken on the female side may be about the same in number.

They are scattered over the country, although the most of them still cluster about the ancestral home.

I received an invitation to the funeral of Henry Suydam in New Orleans, printed on a black-bordered paper in the French language. I met a gentleman on shipboard whose family had resided for a hundred years in Nova Scotia, and whose maternal ancestor, named Suydam, went from Jamaica, Long Island.

These were doubtless descendants of the one hundred thousand Loyalists who were expatriated at the close of the Revolutionary War.

There are numerous Suydams as farmers on Long Island, in Western New York, and in New Jersey.

There is a suburb of Cincinnati named Suydamville.

There is a Suydam Street in Brooklyn, in Jersey City, and in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

For generations the Suydams have been in the front rank of New York's high-minded and successful merchants.

They are always included among the supporters of churches and objects of philanthropy.

There was a lawyer of great reputation in Kingston, New York, and more than one physician in New Jersey bearing the name of Suydam. I am the only clergyman of the name of whom I have ever heard.

There is an apartment in the Academy of Design, New York, filled with paintings, the collection

and productions of an artist named Suydam, which, with characteristic generosity, he presented to that institution.

Rutgers College and the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick attest the princely liberality of the late Mr. James Suydam, of New York.

In the respects of character, enterprise, thrift, intelligence, patriotism, social standing and religion, there are, at this time, none whose ancestors lived in New Netherland during the government of the Dutch West India Company who occupy a higher position than do those who have descended from Hendrick Rycken and Ida, his wife.

A fac-simile of a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. It begins with a large, decorative initial 'H' that loops back. The rest of the name 'eyndryck Rycken' is written in a more fluid, connected script. The final 'ck' has a small flourish.

Fac-simile of the signature of HEYNDRYCK RYCKEN, ancestor of the SUYDAM FAMILY.

The following authorities are referred to in this paper :

1. RIKER's *Annals of Newtown.*
2. STRONG's *History of Flatbush.*
3. *Genealogy of the Bergen Family.*
4. STONE's *History of the City of New York.*
5. Mrs. LAMB's *History of the City of New York.*
6. Miss BOOTH's *History of the City of New York.*
7. *Documentary History of New York*, vols. i.-iii.
8. *History of the First Reformed Church, Brooklyn* (1896).
9. *Holland Society Year Book*, 1897.
10. *The Puritan in Holland, England, and America* (CAMPBELL).
11. *Social History of Flatbush* (Mrs. VANDERBILT).
12. *New Amsterdam, New Orange, New York* (DARLING).
13. *Court Records of New Amsterdam* (7 vols., 1897).
14. CORWIN's *Manual of the Reformed Church in America.*
15. O'CALLAGHAN's *History of New Netherland.*
16. BERGEN's *Early Settlers of King's County.*
17. *Suydam Family Genealogy*, in MS., by B. F. THOMPSON, 1835.
18. *History of the City of New York*, by D. T. VALENTINE.
19. *Early Long Island*, by FLINT.

This paper was read at a meeting of the descendants of Hendrick Rycken, in April, 1898. The audience passed a vote of thanks to the author, and requested that the paper be published. The cost of publication was divided into twenty shares, which were taken by the following named ladies and gentlemen. One hundred copies were distributed to the subscribers. The remainder of the edition is in the possession of the author.

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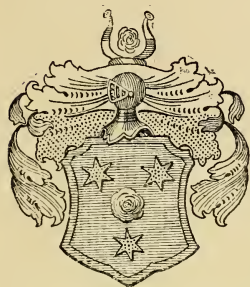
#### COAT OF ARMS.

In the Middle Ages every family of respectable standing had its escutcheon. These were adopted during the Crusades by armies, divisions and sub-

divisions. Others again were used to designate the family, or clan, as they say in Scotland.

The Rycken Coat of Arms reproduced here is taken from page 299 of Riker's *Annals of Newtown*.

The other also here shown has been in use by one branch of the Suydam family for at least four generations.



RYCKEN



SUYDAM





VIEW ON THE EAST RIVER, 1679.









GENEALOGY





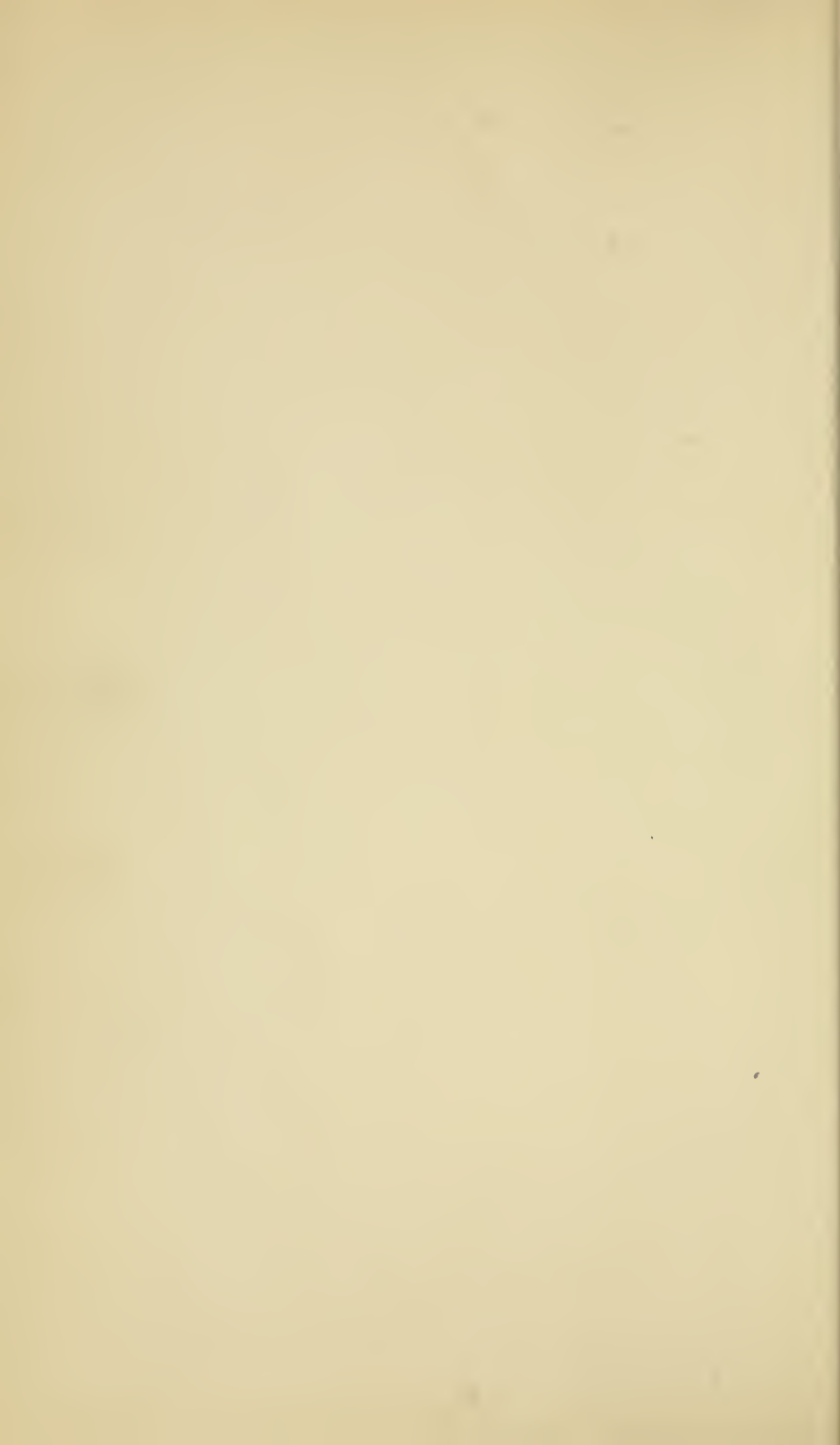






















# OLD GRAVES REVEAL DATA ON CITY'S PAST

Queens Library Will Publish  
Facts Found by Search of  
23 Family Cemeteries.

## C. C. MOORE STONE STUDIED

Markers Going Back as Far as  
1691 Enrich Biographies of  
Many Historical Figures.

Historical data and records of the twenty-three oldest private family cemeteries in Queens, containing the graves of some of the forebears of prominent Manhattan families, have been compiled by surveyors of the Queens Topographical Bureau. Borough President George U. Harvey of Queens said yesterday this material would shortly be published in book form by the Queens Public Library Association under the direction of Owen J. Dever.

Surveys of the cemeteries were begun June, 1919, and finished recently. Compilations were made of 830 headstones and a special study was made of the graves of relatives of Clement C. Moore, author of the poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

"Genealogists will find much of interest in this record," Mr. Harvey said. "Graves have been marked on these surveys showing the resting places of forebearers of the Riker family, the Leveridges and the Stuyvesant Fish family. Other graves were found to be the resting places of members of the Provincial Congress of 1776, foreign Ambassadors, Supreme Court judges, Generals of the Revolutionary War, Indian chieftains, bankers and freeholders of the early town that made up the present Borough of Queens.

"One of the earliest headstones discovered by the surveyors marked the grave of some one who died in 1691. Seven other graves were found to be more than 200 years old. Altogether, 167 graves were dated earlier than 1800. Only seven of the twenty-three cemeteries studied have graves more recent than 1890. Eight of the cemeteries ended their activities long before the Civil War. One headstone commemorates the grave of Captain Abraham Riker, who died at Valley Forge, Pa., while serving in Washington's army. Tragedies of long ago may be read from some of these old inscriptions. An unusual number of deaths in 1928 apparently indicates an epidemic at that time."





John Van Hooker fought under Col. Aaron H. Smith's Regt.  
Capt. One of the companies + was present at the  
battle of Fort Island.











