

SIDMAN - SIDNAM
FAMILIES
Of Upstate New York



BY
EVELYN SIDMAN WACHTER



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FOREWORD

How many of us have yawned over the lengthy recitals of "begats" in the Old Testament and fervently wished that they had been omitted?

In olden times, ancestors were of prime importance. "Joseph, because he was of the house and lineage of David," we read in St. Luke II:4. Through his antecedents, every human being has remote contact with the very beginning of mankind, whether in the Garden of Eden or the primeval ooze.

A person comprises many ingredients -- blood, flesh, intellect, attributes -- the end result of his own special heritage. This being so, one would expect that information about his own forebears would be of great interest to everyone.

Regrettably, however, this is not the case. All too many Americans are negative toward genealogy, even their own. These become the "drop-outs" in the history of a surname, ignoring courteous requests for family data. Whether fearful of being sued for some mythical "family fortune" or too obsessed with their personal privacy, who can say?

Such disinterest results in a family line being left incomplete. What with the present mobility of our population, the sealing of all Census records after 1900, and the legislated inviolability of 20th Century birth, death and marriage records in most states, a compiler is seldom able to complete a family line down to 1980 without assistance from the family members.

On the other hand, in the compilation of this volume, I have encountered generous people who have gone to great lengths to furnish data on their own and allied branches of the Sidman and Sidnam families originating in Upstate New York.

These "angels" include: The late Maj. Frank Elliott Sidman, and his widow, Jane Robson Sidman, of Portland, OR, who graciously shared his father's extensive collection of Sidmania; my cousin, Ralph Thompson Sidman, of Binghamton, NY; Mrs. Bonny D. Virginia, of Solvay, NY; Mrs. Ted C. Masters, of Carterville, MO; Mrs. Percy M. Williams, of Winnsboro, TX;

Christine Sidman, of Norton, KS; Mrs. Vale O. Ellis, of Steamboat Springs, CO; Mrs. Ralph McGuire, of Steamboat Springs, CO; Mrs. Carl R. Kratzer, of Dixon, IL; Mrs. M. Lon Webb, of Corvallis, OR; Mrs. Irene Harp Lawson, of Joplin, MO; Mrs. Robert D. Sidman, of Wellington, KS; and Mrs. Jim Tom Akins, of Red Oak, TX. My thanks to them, and to all the others who supplied family information.

The genealogical lectures of Dr. and Mrs. Kenn Stryker-Rodda have been most instructive and stimulating.

To my long-time friend, Mrs. Dorothy S. Coleman, of Washington, DC, I owe a great debt for her research, her advice, and her encouragement of my project of tracing the Sidmans of Upstate New York and their emigrant ancestor, Lt. George Sydenham.

Above all, let me express my gratitude to my dear husband, John H. Wachter, who has lived with the preparation of this book -- in season and out -- for almost as long as he has lived with me! Without his understanding of my hobby, his patience in jaunting hither and yon and tramping through muddy cemeteries, and his physical assistance in dragging massive tomes from courthouse shelves, this compilation could never have been completed.

No fact which cannot be documented has been stated as such in this genealogy. Where an "educated guess" has been hazarded, it is clearly identified. Nevertheless, errors have probably been made. Rather than criticize, I hope my readers will help by sending to me whatever corrections and/or additions may be needed.

Evelyn Sidman Wachter

1 May 1980

* * * * *

A little of each, and a little of all,
Of my ancestors back to the day of the Fall,
Much that is good, and some that is vile
Live on in me, as I search and compile.

Eternity glimmers behind and before,
As I earnestly strive to learn a bit more
Of those who were once as exuberant as I
But are now only memories, dusty and dry.

E.S.W.

* * * * *

PREFACE

The original form of Sidman was "Sydenham," as spelled by the emigrant ancestor, Lt. George¹ Sydenham (pronounced with a short "i" to rhyme with "lid."). In the second generation, this was contracted to "Sidnam," which over the years assumed various disguises. In the Albany, NY area, in the 18th Century, German and Dutch settlers, who outnumbered the English, spelled names as they sounded to their alien ears. Moreover, in an era when comparatively few ordinary folk could read or write, spelling was a matter of individual preference. Thus, variations in the spelling of the surname have little significance until at least the 1880's.

Variants of Sidman found in records of families originating in Upstate New York include: Sidnam, Sydnam, Sidnem, Sidnum, Sidnim, Sydmán, Sidenane, Sidenham, Sidendam, Sithnem, Seddóman, Sitteman, Setterman, Sittermon, Sitnoens, Sytemon, Sitemore, Sidmore, Sidmon, Cittamon, Cittermon, Citterman, Citmon, Citmán, Citnam, Citman, and Lidman.

For a surname to qualify as a Sidman variant, it must contain an "m" or an "n" in the middle of the word, and an ending in "n" or "m" (or a conceivably mis-copied look-alike, such as "re.") Thus, while one may be tempted to welcome "Sidam" and "Sedam" and "Suydam" into the Sidman clan, persons of this surname are in fact descended from the prolific Dutch family of "Suydam," which has never had any known connection with "Sidman."

In Upstate New York, records for only about 7 per cent of the 18th and 19th Century marriages are believed to be extant; thus, 93 per cent are missing, destroyed, or were never written. Because of this, many spouses, such as the wife of George³ Sidnem, are lost to posterity.

But were not "missing persons" picked up by the census records in the 19th Century? Ah, would that they had been! First of all, since only heads of families were listed in the first six censuses (1790-1840), women were rarely recorded by name. If a person shows up somewhere in a census, it is proof that he was there at the time; but, if he does not show up, it is no proof he was not there. Many early settlers

fought shy of the census taker. Sparsely settled rural areas were often missed. Also, if no one was at home when the census taker appeared, he did not always bother to return, either omitting that household from his tally or filling in the entry by guesswork. Some census takers were probably drunk or lazy. Moreover, all original returns were copied into final form by men perhaps untrained in deciphering someone else's script and/or careless about placing entries in their proper columns. So census records can never be accepted as gospel truth, only as guideposts.

The church records which have survived for 100 to 300 years are valuable in tracing a family. Ministers of all denominations were, however, in short supply in Upstate New York, and some were itinerant, so the record of a marriage or baptism in a specific parish is no proof that the parties were residents of that area or members of the denomination. All sects which ordained their ministers recognized the validity of each other's sacraments.

In early America, some denominations, such as the Reformed Dutch and the Lutheran, believed that infants who died unbaptized were doomed to eternal damnation. Infant mortality was, of course, high in the primitive and, by today's standards, unsanitary conditions in which even the affluent lived. Hence, it was customary to have an infant baptized within a week after his birth, if at all possible.

The godparents, also known as sponsors or witnesses, were pretty much de rigeur for Dutch and German baptisms in the 17th, 18th and early 19th Centuries. These sponsors were usually grandparents, or else related to the infant's father or mother, depending on the side of the family from which the child's name was to be chosen. The sponsors' names offer clues to the identity of the infant's parents, when this is unknown or in doubt.

For Dutch and German parents, there was a standardized pattern for naming children, which was faithfully adhered to until the mid-19th Century. The first daughter was named for her paternal grandmother, the first son for his paternal grandfather, the second daughter for her maternal grandmother, the second son for his maternal grandfather. Thus, the children's names provide an excellent clue to the identity of their parents.

Until 1880, no vital statistics were recorded by the State of New York, and for many years thereafter, records of only a fraction of the actual births, marriages and deaths were sent to Albany for recording. In the west and mid-west, the

dates when states first recorded vital statistics were considerably later than 1880.

Unlike many genealogies, Sidman and Sidnam Families of Upstate New York follows female lines of descent as well as male. Regrettably, the Sidman surname has died out in many branches of the family. We can only hope that those males who still bear it will be able to perpetuate our surname, and will let the compiler know about their children and grandchildren.

A genealogy is only a beginning. Like history itself, it can be interrupted, but never completed. The generations may be expected to "blossom and flourish like leaves on a tree, and wither and perish" until the end of Time.

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1 May 1980

ABBREVIATIONS

A	(in front of name) adopted
ACC	"Minutes of Albany Committee of Correspondence 1775-1778," ed. by James Sullivan, 1923
BDC	"Baptisms 1639-1800 in Reformed Dutch Church, New York" (in NYG&B Soc. Collections)
CCM	"Calendar of Council Minutes 1668-1763," NY State Library Bulletin 58
CEM	"Calendar of English Manuscripts in Office of Secretary of State, Albany, NY," ed. by E. B. O'Callaghan, 1865
CLNY	"Colonial Laws of New York 1664-1775," 1894
DHNY	"Documentary History of State of New York," by E. B. O'Callaghan, 1849-1851
d.i.	died as infant
d.s.p.	died without progeny
d.y.	died young
ERA	"Early Records of City and County of Albany and Colony of Rensselaerswyck," by Professor Jonathan Pearson, 1916
HSYB	"Holland Society Year Book"
Icon	"Iconography of Manhattan Island 1498-1909," by I. N. Phelps Stokes, 1915-1928
KgM	"Marriage Registers of Old Dutch Church, Kingston, Ulster County, NY," ed. by Roswell R. Hoes, 1891
MCDC	"Minutes of the Commissioners for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies in the State of New York," ed. by Victor Hugo Palstits, 1909

MDC "Marriages from 1639-1801 in Reformed Dutch Church, New York," in Collections of NYG&B Soc., Vol. I, 1890

NYG&B New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

NYG&B Rec. Record, pub. by New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

NYHS New-York Historical Society

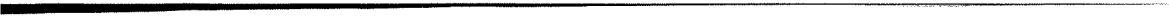
NYHSQ "New-York Historical Society Quarterly"

PA (Pearson's Albany) Contributions for Genealogies of First Settlers of Ancient County of Albany 1630-1800, by Prof. Jonathan Pearson, 1872

PS (Pearson's Schenectady) Contributions for Genealogies of Descendants of First Settlers of Patent and City of Schenectady 1662-1800, by Prof. Jonathan Pearson, 1873

TAG The American Genealogist

WNYHS "Abstracts of Wills in Surrogate's Office, New York County" (in Collections of New-York Historical Society)



CHAPTER I

ANCESTRY OF LIEUTENANT GEORGE SYDENHAM

The emigrant ancestor of the Sidman and Sidnam Families of upstate New York was George Sydenham, born probably c. 1655, at Poole in Morebath, County Devon, England. No baptismal record has been found.

George was the eldest son of George Sydenham, born c. 1623, buried 12 October 1694, Morebath, Devon, England, and his wife, Mary Hill (Hall) of Bampton, who was buried 20 June 1689, Morebath, Devon, England. [Morebath Parish Reg., courtesy of Peter Wilson Coldham, Purley, Surrey, England; Sydenham, Dr. George F., Hist. Sydenham Fam., 1928; Burke, Extinct & Dormant Baronetcies, 1838].

On the earlier ancestry of George Sydenham, this compiler has undertaken no research, but notes that Dr. Sydenham and Burke are at variance in some particulars.

For the convenience of those for whom these two British books may not be available, a summary of the apparent lineage of George Sydenham, the emigrant, is given below.

In the time of Edward the Confessor (1001? - 1066), Cheping, a Saxon, is said to have held Sideham (Sydenham) by Bridgewater. After the Norman Conquest, a Norman William, "a name of all most hateful to the Saxons," obtained and held the fief of Sydenham under Roger Arundel and was thereafter known as William de Sydenham.

Following a gap of almost a century, the Sydenham line is developed as follows:

1. William de Sideham, who died 1176/77
2. Walter de Sideham, who died 1182/83
3. Robert de Sydenham
4. John de Sydenham of Milbury, eldest son, "tpe. K. John"
5. Walter de Sideham, who died 1280
6. John de Sydenham, living 9 Henry III (1225)

7. William de Sydenham, elder son, died before 1340; married Joan, daughter of William Gothaye and heiress of Kittisford in Somersetshire
8. Roger de Sydenham, eldest son, of Sydenham and Kitsford in 15 Edward III (1342) when living Brympton, County of Somerset; married Agnes _____
9. Richard de Sydenham, younger son, called "Richard the Judge," barrister and Judge of Common Pleas in Richard II (1377-1399); bought Manor of Combe, later called Stogumber, in western part of Somersetshire; married Joan, daughter and heiress of Robert Dalingrigge of Bromfield by daughter and co-heiress of Walter de la Lynde. (Simon de Sydenham, brother of Richard, Bishop of Chichester in 6 Henry VI ((1419)), ambassador to Emperor of Germany to present golden cup; tomb noteworthy in Chichester Cathedral)
10. Henry de Sydenham, eldest son, of Combe, known as "Henry of Bossington" during father's lifetime, died before 1427; married Margaret (Margery), daughter of John Whitton; had 2 sons named John living in 9 Henry V (1408)
11. Sir John Sydenham, eldest son, first of Brympton and Combe, died 30 November 1425; married Emilia Hussey, an heiress
12. John Sydenham, Esq., Knight of the shire for Somerset; married Joan, daughter and heiress of John Stourton, Esq., of Brympton
13. Walter Sydenham, Esq., of Brympton, eldest son; married Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Harcourt, Knt.
14. John Sydenham, Esq., of Brympton, born 1468; "of Combe in Stogumber" in will probated 11 April 1543; married (1) Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Humphrey Audley, Knt., and grand-daughter of Sir Philip Courtenay of Cornwall; married (2) Joan Arundel of

Lanherne, widow of John St. Aubin, who died 1581. (Large tomb in Brympton Church erected by John Sydenham, alleged brother of Thomas #15), in honor of his "father, John Sydenham, kt who died 1625." However, this date too late for father of Thomas, born c. 1541.)

15. Thomas Sydenham, second son, born c. 1541 (age 40 at I.P.M. of stepmother in 1581), settled at Whetstow, Parish of Lydiard St. Lawrence, Somerset (on lands of dissolved Priory of Taunton); married Elizabeth, daughter of William Cross of Charlynch, Somerset (who died 1624)
16. Thomas Siddenham, of Lawrence Lyddeyarde, Morebath, eldest son, born 1578, buried 4 April 1635, Morebath, Devon [Parish Reg., per Coldham]; married 5 August 1607, Dorothe, daughter of David Sellecke of Morebath, Devon, who buried 20 February 1663 [ibid.]
17. George Sydenham, 4th son, of Poole in Morebath, born prob. c. 1620, buried 12 Oct. 1694, Morebath, Devon [ibid.]; married before 1654 Elizabeth Hill (Hall) of Bampton, who buried 20 June 1689, Morebath, Devon, as previously stated. [ibid.]. Chil. (order uncertain except for sons): Mary, b. 30 Oct. 1654, bpt. 30 Nov. 1654, Morebath, Devon; George; Thomas, bpt. 16 May 1657, Morebath, Devon ; Walter, bpt. 1 March 1659, Morebath, Devon, m. (1) Joan _____, who buried 4 Nov. 1695 Morebath, Devon, m. (2) Agnes _____; Ann, buried 21 Aug. 1691, Morebath, Devon; Dorothy, bpt. 12 Feb. 1663, Morebath, Devon. [ibid.]

One of daughters married William Chapple and probably had son Henry "Chave," who was under 14 in 1692, when George left him £40 in will.

In will, George disinherited eldest son, George and left property to second son, Thomas, who named Executor, except that

3rd son Walter to "have use of 2 bedsteads in parlour chambers att 'Poolehous_' in Morebath during his life, but said 2 bedsteads to remaine in parlour Chambers at Poolehouse as long time as the said Tenement called Poole shall remain in the possession of the Sydenhams that shall be of my line."

CHAPTER II

EARLY CAREER OF LT. GEORGE SYDENHAM

Some light on George's activities prior to his arrival in New England is shed by a case in British Chancery Court [C6/273/37]. On 8 November 1693, Plaintiff George Sydenham of Morebath, Devon, declares that his eldest son, George Sydenham, "having disobliged him," he designed to settle his affairs and by a bill of sale dated 24 September 1689 made over his property to his second son, Thomas Sydenham, and to his youngest son, Walter Sydenham of Morebath, yeoman, the defendant in the case.

The father declares that he surrendered a tene-ment called Poole and his household goods, cattle, sheep, etc. to his son Walter as security for a loan and the latter has defrauded the Plaintiff by defacing the papers.

The Answer of Walter Sydenham taken at Dulverton on 20 January 1693/4 states in part: "(George Sydenham) by ill courses disobliged his father, and having lived in Northamptonshire and elsewhere for some considerable time at a great distance from him, he (George) in September, 1692 (date 3 years later than cited by Plaintiff) coming out of Northants and pretending that he had married a very great fortune there, and that unless his father would make some provision for him his wife's friends would keep her portion from him...."

No record of the alleged marriage has been located by the Chief Archivist at Northampton in his county.

Walter Sydenham further states that the Plaintiff, George Sydenham, is now aged 70 and confined to bed and in March 1692/3 "was seized with dead palsy, which much weakened his parts and memory." He adds that if the Plaintiff allows his other sons to keep going to law, he will be ruined because of the small size of his estate. [Extracts supplied by Peter Wilson Coldham, Purley, Surrey, England.]

The British Army lists at the Public Registry Office show George Sydenham was an Ensign in Colonel Francis Luttrell's Regiment of Foot as of 28 February 1689.

These lists further show George as First Lieutenant in a Company of Foot for New York as of 16 February 1693/4.

According to the story unfolded in the Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, XV, two independent companies of troops commanded by Captain James Weems and Captain William Hide embarked from England in August, 1694. On 5 October, their vessel was attacked by three French privateers and so seriously disabled as to be forced back for repairs, first to Spain and later, in November, to Plymouth, England. "Notwithstanding several orders from Mr. Blathwayt to land the two companies, the men were confined on board, where several died." [ibid.]

Upon reaching New York early in 1695, Captain Weems' company was marched to Albany. The company was then ordered to Senectady, where Lieut. Sydenham was placed in command in March, 1695. His company had at least one encounter with the Indians, but the soldiers being in need of shoes, stockings, shirts, etc. "were unable to do their duty or to go through the woods to discover Indians." [ibid.]

At some point, Lieut. Sydenham was "caned and cudgeled at Albany," by whom or why not being stated. [ibid.]

Dissatisfied with conditions, especially the alleged failure to pay him his subsistence money, George began to assail his superiors with letters, petitions and grievance lists.

On 6 February 1696, George petitioned to go to England. [NYHM, 255]

On 13 July 1696, Captain Hide wrote Governor Benjamin Fletcher of New York concerning "Mr. Sydenham's" complaint that he received no money. "I know his captain in my hearing offered him at Albany £30 upon account, when he answered that he did not want the money. I am sensible that he received £10 at Plymouth." [ibid., 276]

On 21 August 1696, Governor Fletcher advised

the Lords of Trade and Plantations in England that George Sydenham, "who often troubled me with papers desiring to be discharged, has resigned his command," along with Lieut. Matthew Shaub and Lieut. Roger Wright. They have been provisionally replaced by Lieut. Simon Young, Lieut. Abram Bickford and Lieut. Charles Oliver respectively. [ibid. 80; Doc. Rel. Col. Hist., CDNY IV, 174]

On 24 August 1696, the Governor and Council of New York issued an order to Messrs. Bayard and Heathcote to adjust the accounts between Capt. James Weems and Lieut. George Sydenham. [NYHM, 253; Cal. NY Hist. Mss., Eng. 1664-1776, Pt. 2, CEM I, 2:33]

George sailed for England on 17 October 1696, and upon his arrival at Plymouth wrote to Secretary of War Blathwayt "a full account of what my officers have suffered...We came out of New England on 17 October under convoy of H.M.S. Sirloin....In February, 1694 I applied to you for my subsistence." He "gave 'information' against Governor Fletcher," informing Mr. Blathwayt that he had "raised 50 men and ought to have £2 per man" and that he had "come to England for justice." [Cal. St. Papers, supra, 322]

On 16 December 1696, Lieut. Sydenham attended the meeting of the Council of Trade and Plantations, probably in London, along with Lieuts. Shaube and Wright, and their letters of complaint were read. [ibid.]

On 28 December 1696, the "information" of Lieut. George Sydenham dated 2 July 1696 was read to the Council. He claimed, "Since the date of my commission 16 February 1693/4 in Capt. Weems' Co., I have never received any money on account of subsistence up to the present date of 2 July 1696." He had been "forced to live on 5 pence a day New York money" and had "disbursed more money in raising men than he had received." [ibid., 275]

Included [Entry 536 vii] was the Answer given by Capt. Hide, who charged: "Lieut. Sydenham is a coward. He brought to America a cargo of peddling trade, and was more concerned with that than with his duties as an officer. He is a scandal to those bearing the King's Commission." [ibid.]

On 26 January 1697, the Sydenham "information" against Governor Fletcher, re-drawn for clarity as requested, was read to the Lords of Trade and Plantations.

At the end of 1695, the Governor had come to Albany...
"When relieved at Senectady, I obtained leave to return to New York, where I laid an information against the captains. The Governor told me it was not the part of a gentleman to inform against his officers." Sworn 13 Jan. 1697 [ibid.]

The Abstracts of the Grievances show that Lieut. Sydenham acquainted Mr. Blathwayt with the fact that he had raised 50 men and ought to have £2 per man. Also, at Portsmouth, Capt. Weems had discharged one man for 7 guineas after he had been mustered. [ibid.]

On 11 March 1697, the representations of the Council of Trade and Plantations as to the Lieutenants' complaints were referred to the Duke of Schomberg and the General Officers.

On 8 June 1697, Sydenham presented to the Council of Trade and Plantations petitions on behalf of himself and his fellow Lieutenants Matthew Schaub and Roger Wright demanding subsistence and clearings. They claimed that subsistence was paid to the two Captains both for officers and soldiers from 1 August 1694 to 31 January 1695. At their landing in New York, the Captains charged both officers and men for their provisions on board out of that subsistence. [ibid., 505]

Sydenham's earlier letter to Secretary of War Blathwayt seeking a suitable position and vindication was also presented. [ibid.]

On the following day, 9 June 1697, reading of the petitions was continued. The Lieutenants "understand that the Governor is sending over for money to discharge the same. We beg the money may not come into the hands of Governor Fletcher but may pass under control of Lord Bellomont." [ibid.]

On 18 May 1698, at the Council of New York, Lieut. George Sydenham, who had apparently returned to these shores, was called in to hear the resolution that Lieut. Young was entitled to full pay from the date of his commission. [ibid., Extracts by Peter Wilson Coldham, supra]

In 1698, Lord Bellomont was sent out to the Colonies to replace Benjamin Fletcher as Governor of New York and New England. On 9 June of that year,

George Sydenham was awarded a commission as escheator, an official responsible for the administration of intestate estates on behalf of the Crown. [CNYHS VIII, 5]

With such a lucrative and important position, George was now ready to contemplate matrimony. On 4 November 1698, George Sydenham and Elizabeth Stuyvesant obtained a New York marriage license, and were married shortly thereafter, date unknown.

CHAPTER III

THE VAN SLECHTENHORST FAMILY

Elisabeth Stuyvesant was born Elisabeth Van Slechtenhorst, second child of Gerrit Van Slechtenhorst and his wife, Aeltje Lansing, of Beverwyck. Her birth probably took place c. 1663 in Beverwyck (later Albany) in the Colony of Rensselaerswyck, New Netherland, which until 1664 was under Dutch rule.

Elisabeth's father, Gerrit Van Slechtenhorst, was the son of the first Director of Rensselaerswyck, Brant Arentse Van Slechtenhorst (son of Aert Hermansz and his wife Grietje _____), who was born c. 1588 in Nieukerck, Gelderlant, Holland, where he returned before 1660 and died c. 1668. One of his estates in Holland was on de Slichtenhorst. nr. Nykerk. Gerrit's mother was Aeltje Van Wenckum (daughter of Gisebrecht Norren Van Wenckum), who was married to Brant in January, 1614, Nieukerck, Gelderlant, Holland, and died before her family emigrated to New Netherland in 1646. [NYG&B Rec. 64:244, Hoffman, Wm. J., "Armory of Amer. Fam. of Dutch Descent"]

Gerrit Van Slechtenhorst was born in Holland, probably in Nieukerck, Gelderlant, 1615-1625. In 1646 he emigrated to New Netherland with his father and his sister, Margareta, who later married Pieter Schuyler. [ibid.]

Gerrit served for a time as Schout Fiscal of the Colony of Rensselaerswyck [PA:134] He was an officer of the Reformed Dutch Church of Beverwyck and a very prominent man, [Schuyler, George W., Colonial NY - Philip Schuyler, 1885, I:178] as indicated by the public records cited below.

Mr. Gerard Slechtenhorst, Magistrate of Fort Orange and Beverwyck, on 9 November 1663 examined three hogsheads of tobacco sold as good merchantable tobacco and "found two to be good and merchantable tobacco but the third not to be worth as much as one-half of either of the other two hogsheads." [ERA III:258]

On 10 April 1664, at the General Assembly holden at the City Hall, New Amsterdam, to consider the English menace, Gerrit Slechtenhorst was the Representative from Fort Orange. [O'Callaghan, E.B., Reg. of New Netherland, 1865, 147; also, Munsell, Joel, Annals of Albany, II:270]

On 28 June 1671, the Court of Rensselaerswyck and Schaennechte de ordered Mr. [Gerrit] Slichtenhorst sent again to Maqua [Mohawk] with three or four volunteers "to remain there seven or eight days and to make a diligent inspection of everything...for which journey the said Mr. Slichtenhorst will be given a horse and some seawan required for the aforesaid business." [Court Mins. Rensselaerswyck and Schaenhechte de, I:259]

On 1 November 1671, Gerrit was appointed magistrate of Schenectady. [ibid., 279]

On the personal side, the following records are of interest.

On 17 April 1657, a Fort Orange entry shows that Gerrit Slechtenhorst was a witness with others in the case of the Sheriff vs. Peter Bronk for drawing a knife in a fight. [O'Callaghan, op. cit. 314]

On 17 January 1658, Gerrit Slechtenhorst was "last bidder," at 1,400 guilders, for the house and lot of Cornelia Segersen van Voorhout in the village of Beverwyck, on the hill, offered at public sale. [ERA IV:13-14] This purchase probably took place shortly before or after his marriage.

On 1 and 8 July 1658, a Fort Orange entry reports the testimony of Rutgers Jacobsen, Jacob Schermerhorn and Gerrit Slechtenhorst that Cornelis teunissen Bosch "made use of scandalous expressions respecting the magistrates." [O'Callaghan, op. cit., 320]

On 25 May 1660, a Fort Orange record contains a petition of many, including Gerrit Slechtenhorst, praying that no Christian brothers be allowed to roam through the woods, and that Indian brothers only be allowed in the Indian trade." [ibid., 322]

On 26 August 1660 Mr. Gerrit van Slechtenhorst, son of, and Phillip Pieters Schuyler, husband and guardian of Margarita van Slechtenhorst, daughter of Mr Brant Aertsz van Slechtenhorst, residing in the village of Beverwyck near Fort Orange in New Netherland,

appointed Myndert Andriesz, said Schuyler's cousin, dwelling in the Nieu Straet at Amsterdam in Holland, their special attorney, in case of the death of the said principals' father Mr Brant Aertsz van Slechtenhorst aforesaid, dwelling at Amersfort, or at Nieukerck in Gelderlant (whether he be already dead, in view of his age and the fact that the principals have not heard or received any letters from him)....to claim their share of the estate of the aforesaid Slechtenhorst. [ibid., III:38]

On 13 July 1662, Mr Gerret van Slechtenhorst as attorney for his father Mr Brant van Slechtenhorst by power of the 6th of October 1654 entered into an agreement with Jan Andriessen for payment of the debts of Pieter Theunissen dec'd, husband of Catarina Gores now wife of Jan Andriessen amounting to the sum of 72 guilders and 12 stivers, with interest. Jan Andriessen to pay next autumn 3 barrow pigs, each of the value of 5 beavers; in the spring of 1663 six mudden (1 mud = 3,065 bushels) of good winter wheat; and in the autumn of 1663 three oxen, each three years old. [ibid., 169-170]

On 21 January 1664, Mr. Gerrit Slechtenhorst hired Cornelis Theunisz Hooageboom "to serve in his pantile kiln in making tiles....to have direction of the other laborers in the pantile kiln, which service shall last from this date until November next, or as long as the weather shall be suitable for tile making; for which service said Slechtenhorst promises to pay said Hooageboom the quantity of 60 beavers, half in pantiles at beaver's value, besides reasonable board during his term of service. It is further stipulated that in case said Hooageboom of his own fault happens to lose any proper work days, then for each day lost he shall be docked two beavers every time on his stipulated wages; and if he is sick or indisposed so that he can not work, he shall receive pay for his service according to the amount he has worked, without asking for or claiming more." [ibid., 266]

On 21 July 1664, Mr. Gerit Slichtenhorst, trader here [Beverwyck] "appointed Mr. Adriaen Appel dwelling at Amsterdam in N: Netherland, his special attorney to receive from the hands of the Secretary, Mr. Johannes Nevuis, a certain obligation...executed in or about the month of October 1663 by Nicolaes Boot, for the delivery of 2500 pantiles by him received to his content; furthermore, as the said Nicolaes Boot is

expected at the Manhatans from Virginia, the payment thereof from him to demand, collect and receive.... Executed in Beverwyck in N: Netherland." [ibid., 290]

On 22 July 1673, "the worthy Gerrit Slichtenhorst" sold to Jacob Abrahamsz Kuyper a piece of a lot in Albany lying on the east side of the afore-named seller's lot and on the west side of the buyer's lot "in breadth on the street on the south side fifteen wood feet"...for 15 good, whole, salable beaver skins at eight guilders." [ibid., 408]

On 19 April 1675, Mr Gerrit Slichtenhorst sold to Dirck and Johannes Bentsingh 24 morgens of arable land "in the Claverreck" "as sd. land came to sd. Mr. Slichtenhorst from Hon. Jeremias Van Renselaer, for 110 good whole salable beaver skins at 8 guilders apiece....."

"The seller reserves to himself for this summer four morgens of land lying on the said flat of which he has promised the use this summer and no longer. The aforementioned seller delivers the same to said buyers immediately with the homestead, garden and little apple trees, where Teeuwes Abrahamsz now dwells, together with the use of the bridge, free and unincumbered (saving the patroon's right) The aforesaid buyers stipulate that they may pay a sixth part of said sum in oats at market price and a sixth part of said sum in white beans, together with 50 or 60 skipples of white beans more, at the option of the buyers, all salable and marketable, to be delivered to the seller free, here in Albany on the shore, so that about two-thirds must be paid in good beavers or good winter wheat at market price." [ibid., 426-8]

On 1 November 1675, Jan Heyndricsz van Solsberghen confirmed the sale made two years previously to Mr Gerrit van Slichtenhorst of a certain parcel of woodland "lying in the Claverrack, to wit, the just half of all the land that said seller has there in the Claverrack, beginning from the northerly end of the second Claveeren, extending eastward to the great kill, northerly to Major Abraham Staas's kill, southerly to the land of Gerrit Visbeeck, together with the kill so far as the land extends...unincumbered (saving the lord's right)." [ibid., 433]

On 25 May 1680, Mr Gerrit van Slichtenhorst and Gerrit Teunisz van Vechten made a supplementary

agreement to the contract for "a negro whom said Mr Slichtenhorst was to deliver to said Gerrit Teunisz next July of this year 1680, and said Gerrit Teunisz acknowledges that he has already received said negro named Dick to his satisfaction, two months before the appointed time; therefore, the buyer promises to pay to the seller for said two months one hundred and fifty good, merchantable hickory posts, the same to be delivered here before New Albany free, the present summer, and if said negro during said two months happen to die said buyer shall be holden to pay said seller or his order for the same according to contract (heretofore made); and if so be that the buyer does not make the first payment at the stipulated time according to contract, then the said seller (if he wishes) may take said negro back." [ibid., 491]

Also on 25 May 1680 was recorded a bill of sale from Mr Gerrit van Slichtenhorst to Gerrit Teunisz van Vechten of a certain negro (named Herry) "for whom the buyer promises to pay the seller or his order the sum of two hundred and forty skipples of good, dry, merchantable maize, two loads of good hay, twenty-four whole beavers to be paid in hogs; to wit, 124 skipples of maize next October of this year 1680, two loads of hay this summer to be delivered in the month of August here on the shore before New Albany, and 24 beavers in hogs to be paid in May of the year 1681, with the understanding that the hogs must be over a year old and that not more than four of them must be sows, and all the remainder barrows.....the remaining 120 skipples of maize must be delivered in October 1681....." [ibid., 492]

On 19 July 1680, Mr Gerrit van Slichtenhorst sold to Gysbert Mercellisz and Johannes Roose his "house and lot where he now dwells (standing and lying here in New Albany on the hill) with all that is fast therein by earth and nail" for 210 good, whole merchantable beaver skins, to wit in four instalments..." [ibid., 497] This was clearly in anticipation of Gerrit's removal to Esopus, probably later the same year.

It was in Esopus (Kingston), NY that Gerrit Slechtenhorst died on 9 January 1684. In his will, dated 12 October 1683, probated 29 September 1685, Gerrit, "being sick in bed," devised to his wife Aeltie "all the fast and real estate lying at Kingston, in Esopus; and all his movable estate.....And she shall bring up his children with Dyett and Clothes, and put them to learn Reading and writing as they are capable, and put

them to a trade, and when they are married or of age to set them forth according to her ability.....And concerning the land lying at Claverack, at present in Company with Jan Rosthaer, he leaves it to his children begotten on his said wife, viz: to Alida, wife of Peter Davidts Scuyler, 60 morgen, to Elizabeth, wife of Nicholas William Stuyvesant, 60 morgen; to Bata, wife of Jan Cloot, 60 morgen; to Hellegont, 60 morgen." The remainder of his land (location not stated) was bequeathed to his other three children, Gerrit, Rachel and Yorde. Gerrit, the only son, may have already received a property settlement.

It was specified that "the land left to his daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Nicholas William Stuyvesant, is not to be estranged or alienated by her husband or any one else without her free will." (This provision is said to reflect an old rivalry between the Van Slechtenhorst and Stuyvesant families. [NY County, NY Abstracts of Unrec. Wills bef. 1790, II:5])

These ancient documents have been quoted at some length to give the flavor of the times, some 300 years ago. Prior to the English conquest of New Netherland, the documents were of course in Dutch; after 1664, in English. Beverwyck at that time became New Albany. It should be noted that Gerrit van Slichtenhorst was always referred to as "Mr," a sign of deference to those of economic and social standing. He always wrote his signature, indicating he was an educated man; those with whom he dealt more often than not were forced to make their marks.

Also of interest in the late Twentieth Century is the barter system used in New Netherland and later in New York in the Seventeenth Century. Actual money did not change hands. Purchases of land and slaves and no doubt of most items were paid for with cattle and farm produce. Beavers were the medium of exchange.

* * * * *

Ø Aeltje Lansing, mother of Elisabeth van Slechtenhorst, was the first child of Gerrit Gerritse Lansing, of Albany, a baker, and his first wife, Elizabeth Hendrickse (ten cate). She was baptized 23 October 1637 at Hasselt, Overyssel, Netherlands. [NYG&B Rec. 64: 244] She died after June 1701, place not known. [CEM :235]

While her marriage to Gerrit van Slichtenhorst is not of record (since records of the Reformed Dutch Church in Albany prior to 1683 are not extant), it could hardly have taken place before 1654, when she was 17 years old, no doubt in Beverwyck, and perhaps not until Gerrit bought his house and lot in 1658.

Early Albany records show Aeltje to have been at odds with her neighbors on various occasions.

On 1 January 1676/7 "appeared before me, Adriaen van Ilpendam, notary public (residing in N. Albany) Madam Maria Perckers, the wife of Sergeant Percker (Sgt. William Parker) who without dissimulation or misleading of any persons, but for the sake of justice, acknowledged that she had testified, as hereby she does at the request of Mr Gerrit van Slichtenhorst, that in truth and verity she heard and saw, about the month of August last of the year 1676 (but the precise day not well remembered) Robbert Sandersz and the wife of said Slichtenhorst quarreling (near the stoop between Claes Ripsz and said Slichtenhorst): that Robbert Sandersz said to the wife of said Slichtenhorst, 'You are a vile and foul mouthed person and a trull.'" [ERA III:437-8]

On 6 January 1676/7, Maria Bord, wife of Claes Ripsz van Dam, affirmed "that the wife of Gerrit van Slichtenhorst was at my house yesterday and said to me that my husband had stolen about the half of the boards which he used for his hogpen, to wit, the hogpen which Jan Burger still has in his possession, and that these boards came from the city fence and that there were some bullets or bullet holes and shot therein: which was told her (so she said) by Robbert Sandersz." [ibid., 437]

On 10 January 1676/7, two witnesses testified that "in truth and verity they on the 8th of this month were at the house of Claes Ripsz, where Robbert Sandersz was invited and came, when said wife of Claes Ripsz in our presence said to Robbert Sanders that last Friday, the 5th of this month, the wife of Gerrit van Slichtenhorst came to her house and finding her at home alone said to her that her husband, Claes Ripsz, had stolen fully one-half of the boards which he used for his hogpen.....and that Robbert Sanders had said so. She asked him, 'What say you thereto?' Whereupon Robbert Sandersz answered, 'I do not know that I ever

thought such a thing in my life, much less have said it; God keep me from saying that your husband has stolen boards.'" [ibid., 362]

At the 1676 session of the Court of Rensselaerswyck and Schaenhectede, Alida Slichtenhorst, wife of Monsr. Slichtenhorst, called Maria Ripsz a perjurer and offered to prove it. [Court Mins. II:198]

Case #177 in the 1676/7 session of the same Court shows that "Hend. Cuyler, being sworn, declares that about 8 or 9 years ago, when Slichtenhorst was in Holland [in the summer of 1668, to settle his father's estate], he one morning passed Slichtenhorst's house, where Juffr. Slichtenhurst stood on her stoop, near the door. She said to him, the deponent, that Ro^t Sanders had stolen mackerel from her house, where they were hanging." [ibid., 204]

On 15 August 1684, "Aeltie, widow and relict of the late Gert. van Slechtenhorst" conveyed land in Albany to Gysbert Mercellis & Johannis Roos." She signed "Aeltie V: Sleghtenhorst." [Pearson, Albany, op. cit., II:398]

After the death of her first husband, Aeltje was married (2) as "widow of Gerard Slechtenhorst and resident of Kingston" on 9 December 1684, Hurley, NY to Aard Mertenz Dooren, widower of Geertruyd Andries, born at Wel, Gelderland, Netherlands, also residing at Kingston, NY [Kgm :508]

On 30 July 1686, as Aeltje Doorens, she sold land in Albany to Jacob Abrahamsen for 15 beavers. [PA II:311]

On 30 September 1697, Warrant of Survey was granted to Aeltie Slegtenhorst. [CCM I:126]

On 5 August 1699, Alletie Doorns filed a petition against George and Elisabeth Sydenham [ibid., 126] On 23 August 1699, "the difference in an account between Allete Doornes and George Sydenham" was referred to a committee for audit. [ibid., 142]

One wonders if it could have been through handling, in his capacity as Escheator, the intestate estate of Aard Martenze Doornes (whose date of death is unknown) that George Sydenham first met his step-daughter, Elisabeth Slechtenhorst Stuyvesant?

On 5 June 1701, two and a half years after the marriage of George and Elisabeth, Allitie Doornes, widow, petitioned for "relief from the ill treatment received from her daughter and her husband, George Sydenham."
[CEM. 235]

The baptismal records of the Dutch Reformed Church in Albany before 1683 are not extant. The birth dates of the Van Slechtenhorst children must therefore be deduced from the will of Gerrit Van Slechtenhorst, drawn 16 October 1683. Others may have died young.

Van Slechtenhorst Chil.:

- i. Alida, named for paternal g.m., Aeltje Van Wenckum, b. prob. c. 1655; m. (1) 1678 Gerrit Van Schaick, s. Goosen Gerritse Van Schaick, who d.s.p. 11 Nov. 1679 [ERA, 134]; m. (2) 23 Dec. 1680, Albany, NY, Pieter Davidse Schuyler, eldest s. David Schuyler & wf., Catalyn ver Planck [Schuyler, op. cit., 461], & nephew of famous Philip Pieterse Schuyler; trader in Claverack in 1694, judge of Court of Oyer & Terminer, Albany Co., 1695, d. by May 1696. [ERA, 97] Grown rich in fur trade, Schuyler fam. one of leading families in Province of New Yorke. [Schuyler, op. cit.]

On 1 Oct. 1694, Peter Davidsen Schuyler & wf. Alida Van Slechtenhorst sold to Nicholas Stuyvesant (her brother-in-law) 120 acres at Claverack "between land of heirs of Van Hoese & Abraham Staats Creek as rec'd. through will of her father, Gerrit Van Slichtenhorst." [Albany Co., NY Deeds] This deed reinforces the undated deposition of Elisabeth Sydenham cited hereafter.

Undated letter (after 1681) from Alyda Schuyler to sis., Elisabeth Stuyvesant, reads:

"Sister Elizabeth, I inform you that I have received a letter in Dutch from Lievynis Van Schaick that 25 hogsheads of sugar have arrived from Amsterdam for us

jointly, of which 20 have been captured by the French and recaptured by our people so that the skipper was obliged to buy the sugar again, and we are at a great loss thereby. Schaick writes that he believes that the hogsheads have been taken so that we sustain a severe loss; that therefore there are now at Amsterdam for you 230 guilders Dutch money and he Lievynis Van Schaick can sell this for a draft or order goods for it. And herewith may you be commended to the Lord. Your sister, Alyda Schuyler." [Fish, Stuyvesant, Stuyvesant Fam. 1600-1914, 1942, at NYHS]

Chil. of Peter Davidsen Schuyler & wf. Alida Slechtenhorst: Gerrit, m. 1703 (Angie de Grood); Johannes, 1684, d.s.p. 1740; Catalina, 1686 (m. Jacob Bogart); David P. 1688, (m. Anna Bratt); Alida, 1693; Philip, 1694 (m. Sara Roosevelt); and Pieter, 1696 [Schuyler, op. cit. II:461; rec. Ref. Dutch Ch., Albany, NY]

- ii. Elisabeth, second ch. listed in father's will our heroine
- iii. Bata (Bertha), source of name not apparent, b. prob. c. 1661, no bpt. or death rec.; m. by 1682 Johannes Clute, junior, of Niskayuna, N. of Albany, on Mohawk Riv. (nephew of Capt. Johannes Clute), "de boslooper (literally, brushrunner, i.e., trader among Indians) from Neurenburgh" who buried 26 Nov. 1725, Niskayuna [Clute Fam. Folder, NYG&B, NYC]

On 27 Feb. 1683/4, Johannes Clute, junior leased house, lot, garden & orchard in New Albany to Johannes Roseboom for 1 yr. starting 1 May 1684 for "20 merchantable beaver skins, either in silver money, seawan, or good winter wheat, all at beaver's price as the market therefor shall then be." [ERA III:568]

In 1689/90, Johannes Clute served "on the frontiers of Albany" under Capt. John Thomas and on 23 Dec. 1717 was listed to be paid by Province of New York "51 ounces 7-1/2 pennyw't of plate." [CLNY I:973]

In 1692, Johannes Clute taken prisoner by Indians & carried captive to Canada. [Clute Fam. Folder, supra; also, PS]

While Johannes captive in Canada, wf. Bata managed affairs. On 28 June 1692, she cited Sander Glen & Barent Wemp, Adm'rs of Sweer Teunise Van Velsen's est. bef. Ct. at Albany demanding "nine pounds six shillings and six pence for ye remaining pay^t of a negro named Jacob sold by old John Cloet to Sweer Teunise & produces y^e book of s^d John Cloet, senior kept by her husband, John Cloet Junior." [ibid., citing Albany Annals II:118]

In 1704, Johannes Clute sold 150 A to Frederick Clute of Kingston. [PS, citing Ulster Co., NY Deeds IV:308]

On 20 June 1707, Johannes Clute & Bata his wf. conveyed Great Island in Niskayuna to s. Jacob & sons-in-law of mature age & to Robert Livingston in trust for infant chil. [ibid., citing "Gen. Entries IV:283"]. On 25 June 1707, Clute & wf. transferred same to Robert Livingston for £ 420. [ibid., citing Albany Co. NY Deeds V:54] Lastly, 9 Aug. 1707, to sd. Livingston for £ 706 together with 20 A on mainland "between the two creeks" to "free himself from embarrassment." [ibid.]

Chil. of Johannes Clute & wf. Bata Slegtenhorst:

Jacob, no date (m. 1707 Geertruy Van Vranken); Alida, 1684 (m. Peter Ouderkerk); Elisabeth, 1687 (m. Abraham Ouderkerk); Gerardus, 1689,

d.y.; Margareta, 1693 (m. Jacobus Bratt); Gerardus, 1697; Johannes, 1700; Anna, no date (m. Johannes Quackenbos); Bata, 1704 (m. Joachim Van der Heyden) [PS]

- iv. Hellegonda (called "Gonda"), source of name unknown, buried 9 Oct. 1747, Ref. Dutch Ch., NYC [DBC:192] but illeg. dau. Maria, bpt. 28 Jan. 1692, Kingston, NY [KgB:37]

Listed on membership roll of Ref. Dutch Ch., NYC 20 May 1683 as "Hellegonde Van Slechtenhorst.

By deed 6 Sept. 1686 (rec. 20 March 1706), Mrs (complimentary) Hillegonde Slightenhorst purchased from Angeneit & Cornelis Kyser 150 A betw. Marbletown & land of Jan Van Camp bordering on Rondout Creek. [Ulster Co., NY Deeds AA:198] No disposition of prop. rec.

At Sept. 1705 Session, Ulster Co., NY Court Hillegonda van Slightenhorst of Kingston, spinster, indicted for buying & receiving Indian corn, pease, bacon, flax & bread & meal from Negro slaves of Jan Heermans of Kingston & Negro slave of Hendrick Schoonmaker, then slave of Mattys Du Boys. Constable Jan Post of Kingston reported notifying Hillegonda that she was to appear in court the next day, but that she did not say she was willing to attend. [Scott, Kenneth, "Ulster Co., NY Ct. Recs. 1693-1775;" NGS Quarterly, Dec. 1972:280] Hillegonda Van Slightenhorst did not appear to answer indictment and constable reported she was sick and in bed. Court sent Dr. Hans Kierstede to see her. She then came to court, led by two men, & obtained permission to appear at next session. Reported to have called Grand Jurors "damned dogs and a cursed Jury." [ibid.]

Most intriguing is the following dated 13 April 1712: "Notice to all persons that are indebted for goods they bought of Mrs Hillegond Slightenhorst while she was factress for Rob^t Livingston Esqu^r at Kingstown that they pay unto her this severall sum or sums of money at or before the 15 day May 1712" - otherwise, they will be prosecuted... "I have Caused this Declaration to be Recorded by the County Clarke C J Indemnified (?) all these Persons their heirs & Assigns that Shall pay these s^d sum or sumes of money for these Goods intrusted with her. Wittness my hand at the Manor Livingston this 13 day of Aprill 1712. Rob't Livingston"
[Ulster Co., NY Deeds: BB:208]

Clearly, Hellegonda, in spite, or perhaps because, of her social status was a pioneer in Women's Lib, not only morally but as an independent business woman.

At meeting of Ulster Co., NY Justices Jan. 1715/16, Mrs Hillegonda van Slightenhorst complained that Jan, Negro slave of John Crook, stole money from his master and claimed that she, Hillegonda, encouraged him to steal. [Scott, supra 283]

At March 1716/17 Session of Ulster Co., NY Court, Anna Marya Swart complained that Rachel Ruiland said that Anna Marya "should have said to have seen that Hillegonda Van Slechtenhorst should have murdered a Child." At the Jan. 1717/18 Session, Rachel reported to have absconded from Ulster Co.
[ibid.]

In Oct. 1723, Petrus Bogardus, yeoman, indicted for escape by pulling down part of front wall of gaol of Ulster Co. to which committed for debts owed to Andrew Fresnua; wit. Van Dyke, Hilegonda van Slegtenhorst. [ibid.]

It is alleged that Heligonda Van Slichtenhorst "once at least furnished Robert Livingston with some supplies for the public service." [Schuyler, op. cit. I:179] No reference is offered for this statement. It may or may not be a confusion with the factress activities mentioned above. Robert Livingston was an uncle by marriage of Heligonda, having married Alida Schuyler, sister of Gerrit Slichtenhorst and aunt of Heligonda.

Also, allegedly, Heligonda "was sued for slander. The case was tried before the Council, who dismissed it as not proven." [ibid.] Again, no ref. cited.

In Mayor's Court of NYC, Hellegonda Van Slechtenhorst, g.m. of Gonda Pearson, accused by Richard James, father of Jeremiah (under 21) that she on 5 April 1727 in North Ward "with Force & Armes etc. in and upon him the said Jeremiah an assault did make & She the Said Helegonda did then & there with her hand Give him the Said Jeremiah Soe many Greivous Blows upon the Nose & Mouth of him the Said Jeremiah that forthwith by means thereof there Gushed thereout a great quantity of Blood..." Plaintiff asked £ 19. Hellegonda claimed that Jeremiah had first assaulted grand-dau., Gonda Pearson & she merely defended her. Fined 4/14/6 plus 6 pence 3 farthings costs (total 4/15/6/3). [Select Cases Mayor's Ct. NYC 1674-1784, 1935]

Sole ch.: (Surname Van Slichtenhorst): Maria, bpt. 28 Jan. 1692, Kingston, NY [KgB :37], m. Thomas Pearson (Persons) & had dau. Gonda Pearson, who tried to kill g.m. Hellegonda bef. Nov. 1722. [Photocopy of ct. indictment #1684 11/22/1722 in Schoonmaker Fam. Folder, NYG&B Library, NYC]

- v. Gerrit, named for father, 5th in father's will 1683 when apparently a

minor, bequeathed land other than Claverack shared with 2 minor sis. No mar. or d. rec. Per deposition of sis., Elisabeth, went to Holland, poss. lost at sea or d. there, no further rec.

Only one public rec. said to have been found of Gerrit, "that, in 1691, an invoice of medicines was sent to him." No ref. cited. [Schuyler, supra]

- vi. Rachel, source of name not apparent, listed 6th in father's will, minor in 1683. No mar. or d. rec., but sd. by Schuyler to have m. Thomas Ecker of NYC. [ibid.]

In Court of Common Pleas for Ulster County held at Kingston, NY 4 March 1696, Rachel Slightenhorst sued Margnus van Aken, complaining that deft. Pieterella van Aken, wf. & attorney of s^d Margmes van Aken owed her 19 Schipples of wh[e]at, and Jury found for Plt. Case cited because 2 women allowed to plead, one for self, other for husb. [NYHS Pubs. #78 I:109] This shows Rachel unm. in 1696, also that she had spunk.

- vii. Yorde, source of name not apparent, listed 7th in father's will, minor in 1683. No other rec. Not cited by Schuyler. [ibid.]

CHAPTER IV

THE STUYVESANT CONNECTION

Back now to our heroine, Elisabeth Van Slechtenhorst. Based on her marriage in 1681, her birth is postulated for c. 1663 in Beverwyck. As previously explained, records of the Reformed Dutch Church at Albany prior to 1683 are not extant.

On 9 October 1681, Esopus, NY, "Elysabeth van Slegtenhorst, j.d., born at Albanien & residing in Esopus," was married as his second wife to Capt. Niclaus Wilhelmz Stuyvesant, widower of Maria Beekman, residing at the bouwery of the late Hon. Petrus Stuyvesandt." First publication of banns was made 25 September 1681. [KgM :505]

By 3 December 1681, Elisabeth Slechtenhurst was listed on the membership rolls of the Reformed Dutch Church of New York, her husband's church. [NYG&B 9:167] It should be noted that in church records Dutch women were recorded by their maiden names.

Nicolaus Willem Stuyvesant, son of Director-General Petrus Stuyvesant and his wife, Judith Bayard, had been baptized 2 December 1648, Reformed Dutch Church, NY, with "their Excellencies, the Directors of the West India Company" as sponsors. [BDC:25] Thus, at the time of his birth, Niclaus' father, the famous governor with the wooden leg, was the most important man in New Netherland. Niclaus was named for his maternal grandfather, Nicholas Bayard. [Van Hovenberg, Alma R., "Stuyvesants in Netherlands and New Netherlands," NYHS Quarterly, April 1926:8] The origin of the second name "Willem" is baffling.

On 5 May 1672, Reformed Dutch Church, NY, Niclaus had married (1) Maria Beeckmans, daughter of Wilhelmus Beekman, a German who was a favorite of Gov. Petrus Stuyvesant and at one time vice-governor of New Sweden (Delaware), and his wife, Catharina de Boogh. [Hamm, Margherita A., Famous Fam. of NY, I;



Niclaus Willem Stuyvesant
(Courtesy of The New-York Historical Society,
New York City)

NYHS Coll. - New Series I:455; Stuyvesant Fam. chart at NYHS]. Maria's baptismal record has not been found, and the exact date of her death between August 1678 and October 1681 is unknown. She was probably interred in the Stuyvesant Burial vault, now incorporated in St. Marks in the Bowery Church in New York.

Niclaus William Stuyvesant, the only member of the illustrious Stuyvesant family remaining in New York after the death of the Governor in 1672, occupied the prominent position in private life to which his birth entitled him, and took an active interest in church affairs and philanthropy. [Spooner, Walter W., Historic Fam. in America, III:138]

The Stuyvesant farm comprised Bouwery No. 1 of the Dutch West India Company and a large tract of land north of Bouwery No. 1; Bouwery No. 2; Part of Bouwery No. 3; and the Meadow belonging to the Old Company's Bouwery. [Stokes, I.N. Phelps, Iconography of Manhattan Island, VI:141]

The Stuyvesant property went along the East River from approximately 6th St. to 15th St. and as far west as 3rd Ave. The road leading from this farm to New Amsterdam is the present-day Bowery. [Hults, Dorothy Niebrugge, New Amsterdam Days & Ways - Dutch Settlers of NY, 60]

Governor Stuyvesant's old farm house was 200 feet east of 3rd Ave. between 12th and 13th Streets,



GOVERNOR STUYVESANT'S HOUSE
(In the Bouwerie)

near the famous pear tree he planted, which is said to have bloomed as late as 1868, more than 200 years after its planting. [Nevins, Allan, Hamilton Fish, Inner Hist. of Grant Admin., 1936, 19] Behind his house lay spacious fruit orchards and tulip gardens. [Ellis, David H.; Frost, James A.; Syett, Harold C.; Carman, Harry J.; Short Hist. NY, 29]

On 1 August 1698, Nicholas Stuyvesant by deed of gift to his wife Elisabeth confirmed her possession of "all that tract or parcell of land lying scituate and being up Hudson River commonly called or known by the name of Clavarack...which land I have allways held and enjoyed in right of my said wife and itt is but just and lawfull that unto her and her heirs forever I should return itt." This was the land willed to Elisabeth by her father, Gerrit Slechtenhorst, in 1683 and augmented by portions received from her siblings. The deed, witnessed by Johannis Outman, John Thomassen and John Clapp, attorney of New York, was recorded 10 March 1698/9 for M^{rs}. Elizabeth Sydenham late Widdow of Capt. Nicholas Stuyvesant." [NY Co., NY Deeds 23:25]

Niclaus died shortly after he wrote his will on 13 August 1698 and was buried beneath his bowery chapel, now incorporated in the Episcopal Church of St. Marks in the Bowery, 2nd Ave. at 10th & 11th Streets, NY. His will follows:

"I give and bequeath unto my Loveing wife Elizabeth Stuyvesandt all my whole and sole personall and Real Estate that I now possess & Injoy all that Estate I have Lying and being here in the Bowery In the City of New Yorke or any other Place or places in this world whether It be in Land houses Goods & Chattells etc. And that for and Dureing his naturall Liffe to have hold posses_ occupy & Enjoy the same During all the sd terme of his naturall Life aforesd, and if it shall so Please Almighty God that my sd wife come to Dye before my three children viz^t Petrus, Ghenardus and Anna that then and in such case my will and pleasure is that all my whole sole and absolute Estate as aforesd shall be Equally and proportionally Devided amongst and Between my sd three Children share and share alike Save only the one halfe part of all my moveable

Estate Aforesd. I give and bequeath unto the disposing of my wife aforesd as she shall Soe caire to leave Give or Bequeath the same. Item. I give and bequeath unto my ouldest son Petrus one Negro Boy over and above his one third part of all my Estate aforesd..... In case my daughter Anna should live to marry and that at that time one or both of her brothers should also live that then my sd. estate shall all be valued & the one-third part thereof shall be payd Down unto her upon her marriage day aforesd as her Dower or portion or if it shall happen that she marry During the life of her mother aforesd then my will and Pleasure is that what his sd. mother Seis cause to give her she may Do it and no more. Lastly my will and pleasure is that my sd wife Elizabeth be my sole & absolute Executrix....."

(No witnesses are recorded, but this may be a holiographic will written by the testator.) [Photocopy of will as in NY County, NY Will Book V:252]

Note that the next entry in this Will Book reads: "Lycence of Marriage granted unto George Sydenham of the one party & Elizabeth Stuyvesant of the other party dated the Novem^r: 4th 1698."

In the New-York Historical Society Quarterly (1958), Vol. 42, there is an article by R. W. G. Vail titled "The Case of the Stuyvesant Portraits." On Page 180, it is stated that among the family portraits included in the estate of Augustus Van Horne Stuyvesant, Jr., in 1923 was a "fraudulent portrait" allegedly of "Mrs. Petrus Stuyvesant," which is now believed to have been painted 1685-1695. It is said to have been painted in America in the Spanish style. Upon inquiry by the compiler, Miss Mildred Steinbach, Librarian, Frick Art Reference Library, 10 E. 71st St., New York, NY 10021 stated on 23 January 1975 that the "fraudulent portrait" is listed by Frick as a "portrait of a woman by an anonymous American artist active between 1651 and 1701."

It is postulated by the compiler that this portrait was painted of Elisabeth Slechtenhorst Stuyvesant between her marriage in 1681 and her husband's



(Postulated by compiler as)
Elisabeth Slechtenhorst Stuyvesant
(Courtesy of The New-York Historical Society,
New York City)

death in 1698. This would account for its being included in the collection of Stuyvesant family portraits. On this hunch, the compiler has included on the opposite page a photograph of the portrait, obtained from the New-York Historical Society.

Miss Elizabeth Ann Coleman, Curator of Costumes at the Brooklyn, NY Museum and President of the Costume Society of America, dates the portrait as "late 17th Century, 1695-1700, based on the dressing of the head, i.e., the height and shape of the fontage."

STUYVESANT chil.

By Wf. #1 (Maria Beekman):

- i. Judith, named for paternal g.m., Judith Bayard Stuyvesant, bpt. 22 Sept. 1673, Ref. Dutch Ch, NY, sp. Willem Beeckman & Catharina DeBoog; d. bef. 5 Dec. 1694, when admin. granted to father, Capt. Nicholas Stuyvesant. [Fish, Stuyvesant, Anc. Hamilton Fish; NY Co., NY Wills I:245] On 18 Aug. 1714, Letters of Admin. granted to bro., Gerard Stuyvesant. [Coll. NYHS, 1903 Series, Abstr. Unrec. Wills II:139] Inherited 1,000 guilders by will 1/20/1678 of g.m., Judith Bayard Stuyvesant. [Fish, op. cit.]
- ii. Petrus, named for paternal g.f., Gov. Petrus Stuyvesant, bpt. 18 July 1676, Ref. Dutch Ch., NY, sp. Nicholaes Bayard, Catharina de boog, d.y. [ibid.]
- iii. Catharyntje, named for maternal g.m., Catharina de Booge, bpt. 17 Aug. 1678, Ref. Dutch Ch., NY, sp. Wilhelmus Beeckman, Judith van Isendoren [BDC:133], d.y. 15 Sept. 1681, Esopus, NY [ibid.]

By Wf. #2 (Elisabeth Slechtenhorst):

- iv. Petrus (again), named for paternal g.f., Gov. Petrus Stuyvesant, bpt. 26 Dec. 1683, Ref. Dutch Ch., NY, sp. Gerrit Slechtenhorst, Judith Bayard [BDC:160], d.i. bef.

21 March 1685, when a third Petrus bpt. (This sp. poss. Gerrit Slechtenhorst, Jr., bro. of Elisabeth, as her father d. only 2 wks. later on 9 Jan. 1684; however, Gerrit files prob. a minor in 1683)

- v. Petrus³(yet again), named for paternal g.f., Gov. Petrus Stuyvesant, bpt. 21 March 1685, Ref. Dutch Ch., New York, sp. Brandt Schuyler, Judith Beyert [BDC:166], said to have drowned 1706 [Spooner, Walter W., Hist. Famous Fam. in Amer. III:138] or d. unm. 11 Dec. 1705 [Fish, op. cit., 168] On 2 May 1706, Benoni, son of Petrus Stuyvesant and Rachel Eckeson, "Ongetrou" (out of wedlock), bpt. Ref. Dutch Ch., NY, sp. Jan Eckeson, Jeremias Borres, Ariaant je Montagne. [BDC:315] Stuyvesant Fish in Petrus Stuyvesant claimed "Benoni, son of Petrus³ Stuyvesant and a washerwoman's daughter to whom he was legally married under English law, was illegitimate under Dutch law and got no share of the Stuyvesant property because under Dutch law no child under 21 could marry without the consent of the parents nor could any child of such a marriage inherit." No legal rec. of alleged mar. located by compiler. Name of "Benoni" traditional for male chil. b. out of wedlock. Stuyvesant Fish reported that "Hamilton Fish, grandfather of the author, suspected fraud on the part of Chief Justice Delancey before whom the case was tried [no rec. of case found by this compiler] and in 1838 he was planning to re-open the case." [ibid.] 6 yrs. later, on 1 Feb. 1712, Rachel Ekkesse, j.d., Bouwery, m. Frans Pieters, j.m. Van Dokkumin Friesland beide woonende aldaar" at the Ref. Dutch Ch., NY. [MDC:407] by whom she later had 6 chil. bpt. 1713-1726, Ref. Dutch Ch., NY; 3rd ch. named Petrus, bpt. 3 Sept. 1718 [BDC:407]
- vi. Elisabeth³, named for mother, bpt. 13

March 1687, Ref. Dutch Ch., NY, sp.
Wilhelmus Beeckman, Blandina Kierstede
[BDC:178] prob. d.y., as not in father's
will 1698.

- vii. Anna³, named for paternal great-aunt,
Anna Stuyvesant, bpt. 17 April 1689,
Ref. Dutch Ch., NY, sp. Samuel Staats,
Anna Stuyvesant [BDC:190]; d. between
7 June and 14 July 1759, NY. [Will]
At age 16, by NY License of 11 June 1705,
m. Rev. Thomas Pritchard [NY Mar. Lic.
Prior to 1784:502], s. Edward Pritchard,
b. 1677, Machynlleth, co. Montgomery,
Wales; he matric. Jesus College, Cam-
bridge Univ. 2 March 1698/9 ae. 22; A.B.
1702; license fr. Henry, Bishop of
London, 15 Nov. 7 1703 [Weis, F. L.,
Col. Clergy of Middle Colonies:293];
arr. NY April 1704. On 10 April 1704,
Col. Caleb Heathcote, owner of Manor of
Scarsdale (100,000 A) vestryman of
Trinity Ch., NY, later Mayor of NY,
wrote Venerable Soc. in London: "Mr.
Pritchard is arrived...he is a promising
young gent."

On 20 April 1704, Rev. Pritchard named
rector of ch. in Rye, NY, formerly a
Puritan ch., now a mission ch. of Trinity
(Episcopal) Ch., NY, & in May 1704,
was "put into possession" of its rectory.
No ch. bldg; services held in Town House.
[Hist. Christ's Ch., Rye, NY, pamphlet,
1945]

Thomas' first report to Sec., Venerable
Soc. fr. Mamaroneck 6 June 1704, com-
plained of receiving "but fifty pound per
annum, which falls short in the payment
of ten pounds." [Bolton, Robert, Hist.
Prot. Epis. Ch. Westchester Co., NY.:141]

On 1 Nov. 1704, Rev. Mr. Pritchard
wrote Sec., Venerable Soc. and after
reporting on progress in propagating the
faith, said he rec'd only £ 30 per
annum, though £ 50 had been settled by
Act of Assembly; this "pd. in corn and

other country pay."; invited to ch. at Hempstead, but would continue at Rye, Mr. Bartow "having the care of Westchester, Eastchester, Yonkers and New Rochelle and I the care of Rye, Bedford and Mamaroneck." [ibid. :143] Natives of Rye reportedly averse to Ch. of Eng. and its liturgy, which they called "the gagging of geese." [ibid.]

The Rye ch. pamphlet reports entry in Journal of Madame Knight who passed through Rye Dec. 1704: "They told me one Church of Eng. parson officiated in all those three towns (Mamaroneck, Rye, Greenwich) once every Sunday, in turns, throughout the year, and that they all could but poorly maintain him, which they grudged to do, being a poor and quarrelsome crew, as I understand by our host. Their quarreling about their choice of a minister, they chose to have none but caused the government to send this gentleman to them."

26 Feb. 1705, Caleb Heathcote wrote Sec. Venerable Soc. "how uncommonly unhappy and unfortunate we were in Mr. Pritchard who during his stay totally ruined the interest of the church in this Parish. His management is so strange and unaccountable that but barely to relate what that gentleman does not blush to do, looks more like malice than a true account of things. I do assure you he has not for near a quarter of a year now past, preached 4 sermons in any part of his Parish, nor scarcely been there in all that time; he living at a public house in a french town called New Rochelle, about 6 miles from his church, that being so intolerably careless of his flock when he preaches, nobody will come to hear him." [ibid.]

"Mr. Pritchard's mission in Rye terminated by his death in March or April 1705." [ibid.] This clearly an error, as m. in May, 1705.

Admin. of est. Thomas Pritchard, clerk,
granted to Anna Pritchard, his widow,
13 Feb. 1705/6 [NY Co., NY Wills VII:290]
Perhaps upon mar. to a wealthy Stuyve-
sant girl, Thomas gave up his charge
at Rye and settled in NY.

In an era when widows and widowers
customarily remarried within a year
after the death of a spouse, it is note-
worthy that Anna Stuyvesant Pritchard
remained a widow for over half a century.
She was no doubt financially independent
and devoted her life to good works.
Whether her brief experience of marriage
sufficed for a lifetime, or whether she
was inconsolable in the loss of her
first love, is anybody's guess.

On 10 October 1722, Anna Prichere stood
sponsor at bpt of nephew, Nicholaas
Willem Stuyvesant, s. of her bro., Gerar-
dus Stuyvesant, & wf. Judith Bayard at
Ref. Dutch Ch., NY. [BDC:437]

Partition of Stuyvesant property made
by writ 20 April 1742 between Gerardus
Stuyvesant and sis., Anna, only sur-
viving chil. of Niclaus Willem Stuyve-
sant. [Lamb, Mrs. Martha J., Hist.
City of NY, 1896, II:654 (footnote)]
Compiler unable to locate doc. Stuyvesant
Fish [Petrus Stuyvesant, 33] stated that
in a partition suit in 1741 Anna Prichard
rec'd 130 A of total 360 A and bro.
Gerardus received rest & later purchased
most of hers. Mrs. Lamb [op. cit.]
alleged that Anna conveyed "the Rosehill
property" to James DeLancey 24 June 1746,
but no rec. of conveyance found by compiler.

In her will written 7 June 1759, NY, pro-
bated there 14 July 1759, Anna Pritchard
of NY, widow, asked to be interred in
Trinity Church-Yard in NY [Poss. husb.
Thos. buried there, but early ch. rec.
burned 1776]; £ 50 to be divided equally
among 12 poor widows of good character;
to nephew, Peter Stuyvesant - gold ring,

gloves, mourning band; to Judith Vincent of Monmouth Co., East Jersey, & dau. Phebe - £ 30 [not identifiable as relatives, poss. former servants]; to nephew, Nicholas William Stuyvesant - jewel box, etc.; to Samson Broughton, who lives at Raritan in East Jersey - £ 10; to Sarah Southard, who now lives with me - £ 10 & bed (these 3 prob. servants); to Elizabeth Skinner of Amboys, widow - gold mourning ring; to Elizabeth Van Hoes, widow & dau. of John Sydenham - desk, table, camlet gown, 6 shifts.

"Pall-bearers at funeral to be men and followers women, excepting my relations, ministers and doctors."

Exec. - Nephew, Nicholas William Stuyvesant. Wit.: Johannes Quackenboss, Peter Quackenboss, Whitehead Hicks. [NY Co., NY Wills 5:323; NYHS Pub. Fund Series, Abstracts of Wills, V:323; Charles Carroll Gardner's Loose-leaf notebook at Rutgers Univ. Library]

- viii. Col. Gerardus³, named for maternal g.f. Gerrit Slechtenhorst, bpt. 25 Oct. 1691, Ref. Dutch Ch., NY [Title "Col." fr. obit. of s. Nicholas W.⁴ in Rivington's NY Newspaper], sp. Balthazar Bayard, wf. of Jan Merritt [BDC:205], d. 18 Sept. 1777, NY [NY Gazette-Mercury, where 1st name given as "Peter"], m. 5 March 1722, Ref. Dutch Ch. NY [MDC:136] second cousin, Judith Bayard, youngest dau. Balthazar Bayard & wf. Maria Lookermans, bpt. 25 May 1685, Ref. Dutch Ch., NY [BDC:168], d. 5 Oct. 1751, NY [Stuyvesant Bible Recs. in NYHSQ] Magistrate 30 yrs., man of culture, interested in literary matters; alderman & Deputy Mayor 1739 & 1747 [Select Cases Mayor's Ct., New York City: 383, 593]; progenitor of surviving line of aristocratic Stuyvesants.

Chil.:

- a. Nicholas William⁴, named for paternal g.f., b. 1 Oct. 1722 [Bible Rec., supra], no rec. in pub. BDC; d.s.p. unm., "30 July 1780 in 58th yr. of a fever at his seat in the Bowery & remains interred in family vault on patrimonial estate of the old governor." [Scott, Kenneth, Rivington's NY Newspaper; Excerpts from Loyalist Press, NYHS Coll. LXXXIV] His mansion in Bowery burned to ground 28 Oct. 1778. [ibid.]
- b. Petrus⁴, named for paternal uncle, b. 6 June 1724, NY [Bible rec., supra], bpt. 24 June 1724, Ref. Dutch Ch., NY, sp. Adolph Phillips, Ariant je Wormstaal [BDC:449], d.y. bef. 1727, NY
- c. Gerardus⁴, named for father, b. 20 June 1726, NY [Bible rec., supra], bpt. 3 July 1726, Ref. Dutch Ch., New York, sp. Gelyn Ver Plank, Anna Maria Bayard, wf. of Augustus Jea. [BDC:467], d.y.
- d. Petrus⁴ (again), named for paternal uncle, b. 13 Oct. 1727, New York [Bible rec. supra, bpt. 15 Oct. 1727, Ref. Dutch Ch., New York, sp. Pieter Jea, Francyntje Jea, wf. of Fredrik Van Cortlant [BDC:478], d. 7 Oct. 1805, New York [New York Post Obit.], buried fam. vault, St. Mark's - in Bowery Ch.; m. 17 Oct. 1764, Ref. Dutch Ch., New York by mar. license of same date [NY Mar. Bonds VIII:359] Margaret Livingston [MDC:218] youngest ch. Gilbert Livingston & wf. Cornelia Beekman, bpt. 23 June 1738 [Fish, Stuyvesant, Anc. Hamilton Fish, 68], d. 8 Jan. 1818, New York [New York Post obit.]

Chil. of Petrus⁴ Stuyvesant & wf.
Margaret Livingston:

- (1) Judith⁵, named for paternal g.m., b. 25 Dec. 1765, New York, d. 7 March 1844 in 79th yr, New York. [Obit. in New York Post], m. 19 Jan. 1785 [Stuyvesant, R. Van Rensselaer, Equestrian Statues & Genealogy, 1861, ms. notes at NYHS] prob. New York, Benjamin Robert Winthrop, desc. of John Winthrop, (1st Gov. of Mass.), s. of John Still Winthrop and wf. Elizabeth Sheriff, b. 17 Sept. 1762, d. 9 Jan. 1844, place not given. [Van Rensselaer, Florence, Livingston Fam. in America], 7 Winthrop chil.: Peter William, Eliza Sheriff, Benjamin Robert, Edgerton Leigh, Gerard Stuyvesant, John Hay, Margaret Cornelia. [Stuyvesant, R. Van Rensselaer, op. cit.]
- (2) Gerard⁵, named for paternal g.f., d.i. [ibid.]
- (3) Cornelia⁵, named for maternal g.m., b. 21 Oct. 1768, New York, d. 24 Feb. 1825, Trenton, NJ, m. 6 Sept. 1785, New York, Dirck Ten Broeck of Albany (parentage not given), b. 3 Nov. 1765, Albany, NY, d. 30 Jan. 1833, North Castle, Westchester Co., NY [Livingston Fam., supra] 23 Ten Broeck chil. [Equestrian Statues, supra], 4 survived to adulthood: Abraham Stuyvesant, Margaret Stuyvesant, Petrus Stuyvesant, Stephen Philip Van Rensselaer. [Livingston Fam., supra]
- (4) Nicholas William⁵, named for paternal uncle, b.c. 1771, New York, d. 10 March 1833 in 63rd year., New York [Obit. in New York Post], m. 31 Jan. 1795 Catharine Livingston Reade, dau. John Reade and wf.

Catharine Livingston [Livingston Fam., supra] b.c. 1777, d. 27 Nov. 1862 in 86th yr. [Equestrian Statues, supra], 9 chil.: Petrus⁶, John Reade⁶, Catharine Ann⁶, Nicholas William⁶, Gerard⁶, Margaret Livingston⁶, Helen Cornelia⁶, Joseph Reade⁶, Robert Reade⁶. [ibid.]

- (5) Margaret⁵, named for mother, b. prob. c. 1773, d., unm., 29 Oct. 1824, New York [Anc. Hamilton Fish, supra]
- (6) Ann Catharine⁵, d.i. [Equestrian Statues, supra]
- (7) Eliza(beth)⁵, b. 11 Dec. 1775, New York, d. 6 Sept. 1854, New York, buried Stuyvesant Vault, St. Mark's Church in the Bowery; m. 30 April 1803, St. Mark's Church in the Bowery, New York, Col. Nicholas Fish [New York Post 5/2/1803], who fought through Revolution; lifelong friend of Washington and Lafayette, founding member of Society of Cincinnati; only s. Jonathan Fish and Elizabeth Sacket, b. 28 Aug. 1758, New York. [Anc. Hamilton Fish, supra] d. 20 June 1853 at #21 Stuyvesant St., NY, buried in Stuyvesant vault. [Nevins, Allan, Hamilton Fish] 5 Fish chil.: Susan Elizabeth, Margaret Ann, Hamilton (Sec. of State under President Grant), Elizabeth Sarah, Petrus Stuyvesant. [Anc. Hamilton Fish, supra]
- (8) Peter Gerardus⁵, named for father & paternal g.f., b 1778, d.s.p. by drowning 16 Aug. 1847 in 70th yr., Niagara Falls, NY [Obit in New York Post 8/20/1847], buried in Stuyvesant vault at St. Mark's in the Bowery, New York; m. (1) 20 Aug. 1803, St. Mark's Church in the Bowery, New York, Susan Barclay, dau. Thomas Barclay,

Esq. of Britain, Consul - General
[New York Post] b. 1784, prob.
England, d. in childbirth 10 Jan.
1804 ae. 20, New York [Obit. in
New York Post, 1/10/1804]; m. (2)
11 May 1809, St. Mark's Church in
the Bowery, New York, Helena Sarah
Rutherford, dau. John Rutherford,
Esq. [New York Post 5/12/1809]
b. 1789, prob. New York, d. 17
Aug. 1873 ae. 84, New York [Obit
in New York Post 8/17/1873]. No
surviving chil. by either mar.
Devised fortune to great-grand-
nephew, Stuyvesant Rutherford, s.
Lewis Morris Rutherford and Peter's
grand-niece, Margaret Stuyvesant
Chanler (whom Peter had brought up),
on condition that he change his
name to Rutherford Stuyvesant (done
by Act of NY Legislature). [Jay,
Elizabeth Clarkson, "Desc. James
Alexander," NYG&B Rec. 12:63]

(9) Gilbert Livingston, named for
maternal g.f., d.i. [Equestrian
Statues, supra]

(10) Catharine Ann⁵, d.i. [ibid.]

These lines have been continued by R. Van Rensselaer Stuyvesant and Florence Van Rensselaer into the 20th Century, but to devote further space to this distinguished family in a Sidman genealogy is unwarranted. Details have been given here as a matter of interest, since the descendants of George Sydenham share with Stuyvesant descendants a common ancestress, Elisabeth Slechtenhorst Stuyvesant Sydenham.

CHAPTER V

THE GEORGE SYDENHAMS AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE

"I never thought very highly of Elizabeth Van Schlechtenhorst. Perhaps this feeling is due to the fact that she married a second time after she had been a widow for a very short time." [Fish, 1600-1914, supra, III] It is difficult for the compiler not to concur in this opinion, although she might not be here today had Elizabeth not done so.

Following his marriage to Elisabeth Stuyvesant, "Mr. Sydenham" had the most valuable property of any person on the Bowery tax list of 7 March 1698/9, his assessment being £260 01 sh. 15 d. 02 gr 1/8 " at the Rate of one penny halfe farthing Pr. pound for the Maintenance of the minister and poor." [NYHS, 1911, 170]

On 9 December 1698, Lieut. George Sydenham, Escheator of the Province of NY, laid information against Gabriel Legatt for usurping possession of the estate of Thomas Williams, deceased, in Westchester County which estate was properly escheated to the King, and that much of it had been disposed of. A committee was appointed to inquire into the matter. [CCM, Vol. 1697-1698:572]

On 12 January 1699, at Fort William Henry, the memorial and accounts of George Sydenham, Escheator of the Province, were read and referred to a committee, [ibid., Vol. 1699:17]

On 19 January 1699, again at Fort William Henry, payments of accounts of fees and expenses in escheating the estate of Thomas Williams of County of Westchester were ordered to George Sydenham, John Shute, High Sheriff, et al, all of the county of Westchester. [ibid.:21] Does this mean that George did not immediately go to live on the Stuyvesant bowery with his bride?

On 31 August 1701, Elisabeth Slechtenhorst, wife of "Robert (obviously an error) Siddenham," stood