

"Adult freeholders, who settled in Schenectady before 1700, together with a description of their house lots and other possessions."

"side of the town of Schenectady, over against the north-west corner of woodland of Adam Vrooman, running between the highway that leads to Niskayuna [Green street]* and the highway that leads to the Aal-plaas [Front street] and westward to the church yard or burial place, being butted and bounded on the west the burial place or church-yard, on the east the woodland of Hendrick Hansen, on the south and north the said two roads or highways [Green and Front streets], containing four morgens more or less." Said Williams by deed dated 7 April, 1709, conveyed the above land to Arent Van Petten of Schenectady, who by deed dated Jan. 20, 1742, conveyed the same to his son Frederic of Normanskill, for the sum of £60 [\$150].† The above parcel of land lying between Front and Green streets extended from the then burying ground of the Dutch church easterly nearly to John street and was from time to time divided into building lots and sold by Frederic Van Petten.

Arent Van Petten, Myndert Schuyler and Jan Dellamont received a patent for 500 acres of land on the Normanskill Nov. 3, 1714, on which his son Frederic probably settled.‡

CORNELIS ANTONISSEN VAN SLYCK.

Cornelis Antonissen Van Slyck *alias* Broer Cornelis is said to have married a Mohawk woman by whom he had several children, three sons, Jacques, Marten and Cornelis, and two daughters Hilletie and Lea (?)

Broer Cornelis by reason of his eminent services in bringing about peace and ransoming prisoners in the hands of the Indians, "which well known services should of right be duly acknowledged,"—received a grant of lands at Katskill in 1646.§

In 1640 he lived near Cohoes falls; he died in 1676.||

JACQUES CORNELISE VAN SLYCK.

Of the three sons of Broer Cornelis, Marten died in 1662, and Cornelis is only once mentioned in the records,—in 1659.

* [Union street was not opened out at this time beyond Ferry. The north gate (at Church and Front), opened out to the ferry, and to the Aal Plants (River Road), and Niskayuna (Green st.) roads which lead through the pasture and wood lots.—M.M.]

† Dutch Church Papers.

‡ Patents, 1678.

§ O'Callaghan's Hist. N. N. 1, 382.

|| Brodhead, Hist. N. N. 1, 306.

Jacques was born in 1640, at Canajoharie; his Indian name was Itsychosaquachka; he was also sometimes called Jacques Cornelise Gautsh.* He married Grietje, daughter of Harmen Janse Ryckman of Albany and had nine children living in 1697. He died probably about 1690, as his widow made an antenuptial contract 21 Feb., 1691, being then about to marry Adam Vrooman. His will was made 8th May, 1690.† In 1671, he was one of the two licensed tapsters in the village.

He seems to have had the regard both of the natives and the Dutch and to have had considerable influence with both peoples between whom he acted as interpreter.‡

At one time he had a house lot in the village probably on the west corner of Washington street and Cucumber Alley, having a front on the former street of about 166 feet and extending back to the Binnè kil. The alley on the north side—16 feet wide wood measure,—was the passage to the Binnè kil which was crossed by a scow to his farm on the Great island.

This lot passed to his son Capt. Harmen Van Slyck; in 1778, it was owned by Harmanus and Samuel sons of the latter, and still later by James Van Slyck Ryley their nephew, his mother being a daughter of Col. Jacobus Van Slyck.

The first patent for land at Schenectady was made Nov. 12, 1662, by Governor Stuyvesant and confirmed by Governor Nicolls April 13, 1667,—to Sweer Theunissen [Van Velsen] and Jacques Cornelyssen [Van Slyck] to each of them severally the moiety of "a certain Island,—Marten's island—near Schenectady over against the town, etc., containing [82] acres "first taking out six acres or three morgens on said island the title to which "was vested in said Theunissen, who married the widow of Jan Barentse "Wemp to whom and to the said Jacques Cornelise said island was granted "Nov. 12, 1662."§

* [Gautsh, pronounced Hotch (nearly); can it be an abbreviation of Ots-toch, his mother's name? "A squaw was queen of the island which lies back of Washington street. She is buried on the island, under an old willow tree at the point towards the bridge. She had two children by a Frenchman—Mr. Hartell. Otstoch was like her mother, savage and wild. She married Cornelius Van Slyck. Kenutje, the second child, was small and handsome, like her father Mr. Hartell; she was very white. She married a Bratt."—Statement of tradition in his family, by Laurence R. Vrooman, of Cortland county.—M.M.]

† Wills, 1, 11.

‡ Col. Doc. III, 823, 434, etc.

§ Patents, 357; also the original patent belonging to, Union College.

☞ The significance of this extract is that it is one, and possibly the only, source for "Hartell" as the name of the father of the half-breed Indian wife of Cornelis Van Slyck. *E. M.*

After Van Slyck's death, Grietje Vrooman his widow, received a confirmatory patent April 2, 1695 for his moiety of said island in trust for the use of their four sons,—Harmen, Cornelis, Marten and Acue.* This island originally belonged to Marten Maurits,† Van Slyck's brother, who dying in 1662, it fell to Jacques by inheritance; hence at first it was called Marten's island, afterwards Van Slyck's and sometimes Sweer Theunise's and Wemp's island, all of whom had an interest in the same.

Besides the half island above mentioned, Van Slyck also received a grant of land on the First flat on the south side of the Mohawk river to the west of the village, described in the confirmatory patent of Oct. 30, 1684, as "situate between two creeks, one called *Stone creek* to the eastward, the other the *Platte creek* to the westward;—the low land lying along the river side to the south of the Mohawk river and on the north of the land belonging to the inhabitants of Schenectady of which said Jacques is to have forty morgens or eighty acres of the best clearest land lying between said creeks, and also forty morgens or eighty acres of woodland on the west side of the *Platte creek* adjoining to his arable land along the river side."‡

The land confirmed by this grant to Jacques Cornelise, is stated to have come to him in right of his mother who was a Mohawk woman. His sons Marten and Cornelis inherited and lived upon this farm which is still in possession and occupancy of the family.§

CAPT. HARMANUS VAN SLYCK.

Harmanus, eldest son of Jacques Cornelise, married Jannetie, daughter of Adam Vrooman, in 1704; they had twelve children. He died in 1733. His military title was given because of his commanding the company of foot in the village.

By his father's will, fourteen morgens of land on the *First flat* was devised to him, and the Mohawks gave him 2,000 acres at Canajoharie. This conveyance was made Jan. 12, 1711, "in consideration of y^e love, goodwill and affection which we have and do bear towards our loving cozen and

* Patents, 1474.

† Col. MSS., xxxix, 216.

‡ Coun. Min., v, 11, 12. Patents, 1200.

§ Will of Jacques Cornelise in Court of Appeal's office, and Deeds, Sec., State's office, vii, [See *Ante*, page 69, First Flat, page 77, Martens, Van Slycks, Wemp's Island].

"friend Capt. Harmon Van Slyck of Schenectady aforesaid, whose grandmother was a right Mohawks squaw and his father born with us in the above said Kanajoree, . . . it being his the said Harmon Van Slyck's by Right of inheritance from his father." This deed was signed by Roddab, Kahekoc, Schenaktadee* and others of the principal Indians, and witnessed by "Lea Stevens interpreter to ye above deed."†

In a deed of partition, dated 15th March, 1771, of Capt. Van Slyck's land, it is recited that Capt. Harmen Van Slyck, deceased, obtained a patent for 2,000 acres of land at "Anthony's Nose";—Nicholas Schuyler, deceased, surveyed the same 27th Sept., 1723, and divided it into sixteen lots; Nov. 1, 1731, said Harmen Van Slyck made his will and bequeathed to his three sons, Jacobus and Adam Van Slyck, both now [1771] of Schenectady, and Harmanus Van Slyck, now of Canajoharie, the half of the above mentioned tract of land, save lots No. 8 of lowland, and No. 9 of woodland, and five morgens of lowland out of the west end of No. 6 of lowland, which he bequeathed to his son Harmanus. Isaac Vrooman made a new map of this property and a new sub-division, and the same was allotted to said Jacobus, Adam and Harmanus by lot; and the above mentioned deed was given to confirm this allotment.‡

Capt. Van Slyck probably inherited the half of Van Slyck's island belonging to his father; in 1748 it belonged to his son, Capt. Jacobus Van Slyck.§

ISAAC VAN VALKENBURGH.

Isaac, son of Jochem Van Valkenburgh, of Albany, married Lydia, daughter of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck, in 1705, and settled in Schenectady.

His house lot, on the south side of Union street, was the lot now occupied by the Court House, and was bought of Carel Hansen Toll, for £53 [\$132⁰⁰]. The conveyance made Sept. 6, 1712, he being then in possession,

* [Is this only a coincidence?—M'M.]

† H. Yates' Papers.

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§ See Jan Wemple's will; Wills, ii, 4.

This is critical source material!

(Partial listing)

Adult Freeholders.

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‡ Col. Doc. III, 823, 431, etc.

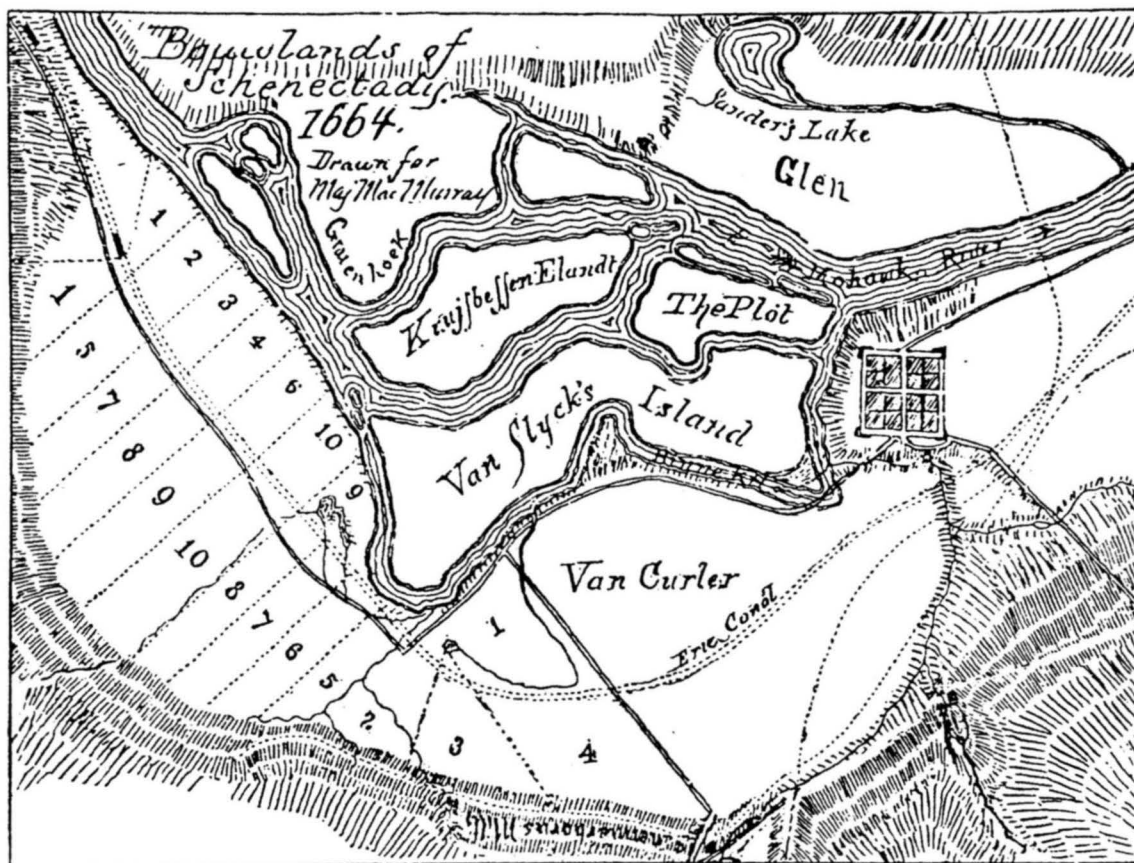
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☞ It is unlikely that Jacques' mother ever removed from the Canajoharie castle.

The significance of this extract is that it is one, and possibly the only, source for "Harttell" as the name of the father of the half-breed Indian wife of Cornelis Van Slyck. The reference to Kenutje's marriage to a Bradt is suspect. E. M.

A History of the Schenectady Patent in the Dutch and English Times:
Being Contributions Toward a History of the Lower Mohawk Valley.
Albany, NY: J. Munsell's Sons, printers, 1883.

ORIGINAL SCHENECTADY LAND ASSIGNMENTS
 from Rev. J. H. Munsell's *History of Schenectady County, 1662-1885*



For descriptions of all of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyke's additional land assignments plus those of the other original recipients in the Schenectady area see:

"Division of Lands," pages 10-15.

(See BRADT Vol. 1, pp. 50-55.)