

**GENEALOGICAL NOTES
RELATING TO LIEUT.-GOV.
JACOB LEISLER, AND
HIS FAMILY IN NEW YORK**

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EDWIN R. PURPLE

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HIS FAMILY IN NEW YORK**

GENEALOGICAL MEMORIALS

OF

LIEUT.-GOV. JACOB LEISLER.

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

RELATING TO

LIEUT.-Gov. JACOB LEISLER,

AND HIS FAMILY CONNECTIONS

IN

NEW YORK.



By EDWIN R. PURPLE,

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THE LEISLER FAMILY

IN NEW YORK.

The accounts heretofore published concerning the family of Lieutenant Governor Jacob Leisler, who has been justly styled the Proto-Martyr of American Independence, have been when attempted in detail, in all, or nearly all instances inexact. This was doubtless owing to the fact that until within the past three years the Baptismal and Marriage Records of the Reformed Dutch Church in the city of New York, which contained the data for a correct history of his family, were sealed books, or at least open only to a favored few. The publication of these records in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record has opened a wide field for genealogical inquiry respecting the early families of New York, into which, in the present instance, the writer has availed himself of the opportunity of entering, as a humble gleaner.

By his marriage to *Elsje* (Anglicized Alice and Alida) Tymens, the widow of Pieter Cornelisen Van der Veen, Jacob Leisler became allied to some of the most prominent families in New Netherland, and we proceed, first, to notice his wife's family relations.

TYMENS—VAN DER VEEN.

There is nothing more perplexing to one engaged in tracing the pedigrees of the early Dutch settlers, than the changes sometimes found in the name of the same individual. Among these will be noted those which occur in the children of a widow upon her remarriage, who frequently bear the name of their stepfather, as well as their proper Dutch patronymic. Thus the name of *Elsje Elberts*, daughter of Elbert Janszen and *Elsje Jans*, after her mother's second marriage to Otto Grim, is sometimes recorded *Elsje Grim*. So we find *Elsje Tymens*, after the third marriage of her widowed mother to Govert Loockermans, called *Elsje Loockermans*, as though she was his putative daughter instead of his step daughter.

ELSJE TYMENS (Thymens) wife of *PIETER CORN. VAN DER VEEN* and daughter of Thymen and Marritje Janszen, was born in New Amsterdam. Her father was a ship carpenter and must have come to New Netherland as early as 1633, perhaps with Director General Wouter Van Twiller in April of that year. On the 16th of April 1639, then aged 36 years, he made before Secretary Cornelis Van Tienhoven, with Jacob Hoffelsen (Stoffelsen?), overseer, aged about 37 years, and Gillis Petersen Van der

Gouw, house carpenter, aged 27 years, a deposition in regard to the dilapidated state of the Fort, and the bad condition of affairs generally at New Amsterdam, at the time of the arrival, March 28, 1638, of Director William Kieft in the ship Haring.¹ In 1642, he obtained a patent for land on Mespat Kill, L. I., and July 3, 1643, one for land on Manhattan Island, and another, July 13, the same year for land on Long Island. He died soon after.

Her mother, Marrisje Janszen, was a daughter of Tryn Jonas (Jansen?) midwife at New Amsterdam, and a sister of Anneke Jans who married—first, Roelof Janszen, and second, the Rev. Everardus Bogardus. She married her second husband, Dirck Cornelisz j. m.² van Wensveen, Aug. 28, 1646, by whom she had Cornelis (Dirckszen), baptized March 17, 1647; he married Nov. 17, 1672, Grietje Hendricks of New York, daughter of Hendrick Willemszen, and had son Dirck, baptized March 2, 1674. Cornelis Dirckszen, above named, deceased before May 1678, and his widow, Grietje Hendricks, married October, 1678, John Robinson, merchant of New York, and had Marie, baptized July 18, 1683, and Grietje baptized October 12, 1684.

Dirck Cornelissen, the second husband of Marrisje Janszen, was living in August, 1647, but had deceased before August, 29, 1648, at which date his widow gave a power of attorney to William Turck and Seth Verbrugge to receive certain accounts, &c., in the hands of Wouter Van Twiller at Amsterdam.³ She married, third, Govert Loockermans,⁴ by whom she had son Jacob, baptized March 17, 1652. Govert Loockermans died late in 1670, of whom more hereafter, and his widow was buried Nov. 20, 1677.⁵ In her will, dated May 7, 1677, with codicil, dated Nov. 1, she is styled Mrs. Mary Jansen, widow of Govert Lockermans, and names the three children of her daughter *Elsce Lysler* by Peter Cornelis Van der Veen deceased, as follows: Cornelius, Timothy, and Margaretta, to whom she gives the sum of one hundred guilders (\$40) in beavers, at eight guilders apiece; to Anna, daughter of William Bogardus, the sum of fifty guilders in beavers. Names as *her universal heirs*, her children Elsie Tymans, married *with* Jacob Leysler; Cornelis Dirkse married *with* Grietie Hendrickse, and Jacob Lockermans *not married*. Makes a small bequest to Mary Van Brugh, daughter of Mr. Johannes Van Brugh, and to Susannah Leysler, her said daughter's daughter. Appoints her cousin, Mr. Johannes Van Brugh and Mr. Francis Rombouts Alderman, of this city, executors.

ELSJE TYMENS m. 1st Jan. 7, 1652, PIETER CORR. VAN DER VEEN j. m. from Amsterdam. The first notice of him is found in the record of his marriage. He was a merchant in New Amsterdam, admitted to the rights of a small burgher April 11, 1657, and in 1658 was appointed one of the Commissioners to treat with the Esopus Indians. Soon after his marriage he erected the first brick house built in this city, and situated on the present westerly side of Whitehall between Pearl and State Streets. He was the principal projector, in company with Cornelius de Potter, of the first ship, the "New Love," known to have been built at this port.⁶ He

¹ Coll. N. Y. Hist. Society, vol. 1, New Series, p. 577.

² Abbreviation of *jong man*, a young man or bachelor. The abbreviation j. d. after a woman's name in her marriage record means *jonge dochter*, or young girl, one not before married.

³ Coll. N. Y. Hist. MSS. Dutch, p. 40, 48, 49.

⁴ Govert Loockermans j. m. van Turnhout m. July 11, 1640, Marrisje Jans j. d. Is it not probable that these are the persons above alluded to, and that j. d. after her name is an error in the marriage record?

⁵ O'Callaghan's Hist. New Netherlands, vol. 2, p. 36.

⁶ Valentine's Manual, 1860, p. 594.

died in 1661. Pieter Cornelisen Van der Veen and Elsjc Tymens had issue:

1. CORNELIS, bap. October 27, 1652; m. MAGDALENA WOLSUM and prob. d. s. p. His widow m. April 25, 1683, LEENDERT HUYGEN DE CLEYN (de Kleyne), of whom hereafter.

2. TIMOTHY, born 1654? There is no record found of his baptism; he was sponsor at the baptism of Johannes, son of Robert Walters, May 22 1687, which is the last notice found of him.

3. MARGARITA, bap. Feb. 18, 1657; m. May 15, 1682, ISAAC STEPHENZEN, mariner of New York, and had—1. Margriet, bap. Feb. 9, 1684, who m. Sept. 12, 1700, Symon Pasco (Pasko), and had Symon, bap. July 7, 1703, and Elizabeth, bap. Sept. 8, 1706; 2. Pieter, bap. Dec. 25, 1685; 3. Elizabeth, bap. Nov. 20, 1687, d. young; 4. Elizabeth, bap. July 30, 1690, who married March 18, 1710, Jacobus Mauritz, and had Elizabeth, bap. June 29, 1712, and Elizabeth, bap. April 28, 1714, who m. June 26, 1738, James De Hart, and had Margrita, bap. May 2, 1739, and Jacoba, bap. Oct. 8, 1740.

4. CATHARYN, bap. June 29, 1659; not named in her grandmother's will, and prob. died young.

LEISLER.

(FIRST THREE GENERATIONS.)

1. JACOB LEISLER¹ (Loyselcr, Leysler, Leydsler, Leydser, Iysler), from Frankfort, came to New Netherland a soldier in the West India Company's service in 1660. He embarked in the ship Otter from Amsterdam, the 27th of April of that year. There was a tradition among his descendants that he came originally from France, and a vague report, a hundred years or so ago in New York, that he was a Swiss.² It is more likely that he was born in Frankfort, and was, therefore, a native of Germany. A Susanna Leydser was one of the sponsors at the baptism, Feb. 10, 1664, of Susanna, his eldest daughter. The conjecture is a fair one that she was his mother. He joined the Dutch Church in New Amsterdam Oct. 2, 1661, and married, April 11, 1663, Elsjc Tymens, widow of Pieter (Cornelisen) Van der Veen, who was, in his day, a reputable and wealthy merchant of this city. He probably succeeded to the business left by Van der Veen, as a few years after his marriage we find him engaged in mercantile pursuits, through which, and by his marriage, he acquired a large estate, and was ranked among the wealthiest citizens of his time. In 1678, while on a voyage to Europe, he was taken prisoner by the Turks, to whom he paid a large ransom for his freedom. On the 10th of Sept., 1684, he was commissioned Captain of a Militia Company in New York. He purchased for the Huguenots, Sept. 20, 1689, of John Pell and Rachel his wife, six thousand acres of land within the manor of Pelham, now the township of New Rochelle, in Westchester Co., New York.³

Early in 1689 news reached New York of the overthrow of James the Second, and the accession of William, Prince of Orange, to the English throne. The people having determined to seize Fort James, in the interest of King William and Queen Mary, they selected Capt. Jacob

¹ N. Y. Hist. Society Coll., 1868, p. 424. 54

² Bolton's Hist. of Westchester County, vol. 1, p. 376.

Leisler to carry their design into effect. On the 3d of June, 1689, the day following its seizure, Lieut.-Governor Nicholson left New York for England. The same day Leisler issued a proclamation declaring that his intention in holding the fort was to preserve the Protestant religion, and that he should hold it only until the arrival of a Governor with orders from his Royal Highness, the Prince of Orange, then daily expected, into whose hands it would be immediately delivered up. But this expectation, unfortunately for him, and the peace of the Province, was not realized until the arrival of Gov. Sloughter, in March, 1691. In the meantime, Leisler, on the 16th of August, 1689, was commissioned Commander-in-Chief, by a Committee of Safety, who represented a majority of the community.

In Dec., 1689, a messenger arrived in New York, bearing a letter from the English Government, addressed "To Francis Nicholson, Esq., or in his absence, to such as for the time being takes care for preserving the peace and administering the laws in His Majesties province of New York." This letter gave authority to the person addressed to take chief command as Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, and to appoint a Council to assist him in conducting the government. By the advice of the Committee of Safety Leisler, on the 11th Dec., 1689, assumed the style of Lieutenant-Governor, and selected as his Council, Pieter De La Noy, Samuel Staats, Hendrick Jansen (Van Feurden), Johannes Vermeije, for the city and county of New York; Capt. Gerardus Beekman, for Kings County; Samuel Edsall, for Queens County; Capt. Thomas Williams, for Westchester County; and William Lawrence, for the County of Orange. They appointed Jacob Milborne Secretary of the Province and Clerk to the Lieutenant-Governor and Council. On the 28th Jan., 1691, Capt. Richard Ingoldsby arrived in New York, bearing their Majesties' Commission as Captain of Foot, and, without producing any legal authority, he demanded of Leisler the possession of the fort, which was refused. Henry Sloughter, who had been appointed Governor in Chief of the Province, arrived on the 19th of March following, late in the day, and Leisler, "having notice thereof, that same night (though very late) took care to deliver the fort to his order, which was done very early the next morning." Sloughter immediately ordered the arrest of Leisler, and his friends with him, and called a special Court of Oyer and Terminer, which was held for their trial in April following. By this court, composed of some of his most virulent enemies, and which from the first had prejudged him and his associates,¹ Leisler, and Jacob Milborne, his son-in-law, were convicted and attainted of high treason, for not delivering the possession of the fort to Capt. Richard Ingoldsby, and sentenced to death. They were executed together near the site of the present Hall of Records,² on Saturday, May 16, 1691, while the populace was overawed by military force, and their enemies "were carousing in beastly triumph and drunkenness."

Leisler's dying speech bears testimony of his Christian spirit and heroic fortitude. While not denying that excesses had been committed, oftentimes against their will, "during the unhappy abode" of himself and Milborne "in power,"—which required in such great and weighty matters of state more wise, cunning, and powerful pilots than either of them could claim to be,—he declared their common object to have been the glory of the Pro-

¹ Gerardus Beekman, Johannes Vermeije, Thomas Williams, Meyndert Coerten, Abraham Brasher, and Abraham Gouverneur were convicted, with Leisler and Milborne, of high treason.

² Moulton's View of the City of New Orange in 1677, p. 22.