

Manuscript of Malcolm Tallman

This document was found at the Historical Society of Rockland County in 1999. I believe this manuscript was written in the 1920's.

The manuscript mentions:

Douwe Harmensen Tallman	Cornelius Barentsen
Johannes Verveelen	Thomas Verdon
Thomas Swartwout	Margaret, widow of David Provoost
Casper Steinmets	Walewyn Van der Veen
Jan Nagel	Tielman Van Vleeck
Governor Carteret	Teunis Douwensen Tallman
Mattys De Mott	Claes Janse van Purmarent
Cornelius Clausen	Claus Jansen (Cooper)
Cornelius Clausen (Cooper)	Jacob Lerou
Lawrence Ackerman	Allard Anthony
Lord Edmund Androse, Esq.	James, Duke of York and Albany
Dirckye Teunissenm	Thomas Fredericksen
Pieter Nys	

Doug Tallman
16 July, 2009

DOUWE HARMENSEN TALLMAN.

Tervelen. As Barentsen had himself purchased the property from Thomas Verdan under a similar contract and had already been haled into Court because he had failed to perform, and the Netherlands, came to these shores in the ship 'De Bruynvis' (The Brownfish) which sailed for America on June 19th, 1658. He was accompanied by his wife, Pirockje, and three children: Harmen, three years old; another child two years old and an infant in arms.

Douwe appeared before the Court sitting at the City Hall in New Amsterdam on Friday, November 22nd, 1658, and took the Burgher Oath and signed an obligation to pay twenty guilders in beavers within eight days for the Small Burgher Right. This must have occurred very shortly after his arrival in the City, because, on the same day, the factor of the ship The Brownfish on which Douwe and his family reached this country, applied to the Court for a permit to sell his goods and promised to deliver to the city 25 pounds of powder for the privilege. All the difficulties were eventually adjusted and on August 1st Before December 16th, 1659, Douwe Harmenaen bought from Cornelius Barentsen van der Kuyl a house and lot on the Prince Graght. This lot was on the east side of the present Broad Street, 38 feet 4 inches north of Beaver Street. The building No. 57 Broad Street now covers a part of the ground. Its dimensions were 36 feet in front, 33 feet in rear, 5 rods 4 feet on the southerly side and 5 rods 1 foot 5 inches on the northerly side.

Following the early Dutch custom when real estate was not paid for in full at the time of the purchase, the parties executed a contract of sale with deed to be delivered when the contract should have been fulfilled. Barentsen sold the adjoining corner lot at the same time to Johannes

Verveelen. As Barentsen had himself purchased the property from Thomas Verdon under a similar contract and had already been haled into Court because he had failed to perform, and further, as it would appear from the records that Barentsen had previously sold one of these Broad Street lots to Thomas Swartwout -- that Swartwout had started to build upon it but had been unable to keep up his payments -- that thereupon Barentsen had obtained judgment against him and the Court had sold the property to satisfy the judgment; it is not at all surprising that more complications should have arisen.

When Douwe Harmensen purchased the lot he also acquired all the troubles the preceding owners had been laying in store. During the next eighteen months, he was brought into Court several times on account thereof and finally, in July 1661, the Court ordered Douwe to complete the erection of the house on his lot, or if he failed to do so, that the work should be "contracted for with another at his expense."

All the difficulties were eventually adjusted and on August 12th., 1662, Cornelius Barentsen delivered the deed. Douwe immediately sold the property to Margaret, widow of David Provoost.

Before this time, however, Douwe had removed to Bergen, N. J. In 1660 he obtained a survey of a lot of land at that place, and during that year, in all probability, became one of the original settlers of the Village of Bergen where he was also one of the organizers of the Bergen Dutch Church.

On June 21st., 1661, Casper Steinmets brought suit against Douwe Harmensen for slander. Both were living upon their lands at Bergen and the suit was the outcome of a public accusation that Douwe had been indiscreet, enough to make that Steinmets had removed the boundary stakes of his land. In

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Court, Douwe, at first denied having said it, but when the plaintiff proved by witnesses that he had indeed said so, Douwe replied that he knew nothing of it, and if he so said, he must have been drunk. The Court scribe quaintly concludes the record of the case as follows: "Douw Hermesen and Casper Steinmets entering, Douwe Hermesen is asked, if he has anything to say against Casper Steinmets? Answers, 'No, except what is good.' Burgomasters and Schepens condemn Douwe Hermesen to pay to the Poor (fund) the sum of twelve guilders for that he has slandered Casper Steinmets and further in the costs and loss of time: charging him to have a care of himself for the future."

Apparently, Douwe did not take to heart the warning of the Burgomasters and Schepens "to have a care of himself for the future," for in 1664, an affidavit was prepared by Notary Public Walewyn Van der Veen in New Amsterdam wherein one Jan Nagel deposed that in August, 1663, Douwe Harmensen was heard to call Tielman Van Vleeck's wife a vagabond at the time said Van Vleeck was lying sick in bed. We do not know what use was made of the affidavit, but probably it was drawn up in preparation for another suit for slander.

In 1662, the Schepens of the Village of Bergen petitioned the Director General and Council of New Netherland to provide for the community, a preacher of the gospel, and with the petition, submitted a list of those who "would be willing to pay yearly of (their) free will, affection and love for God's holy and blessed word to have a good teacher." (On this list Douwe Harmensen was a subscriber to the amount of six florins.

Later in the same year, (1662), the inhabitants of Bergen appealed to the Director General and Council against the

fencing of certain lands at the south end of the Village and Douwe Harmensen was one of the signers of the complaint.

In 1665, Douwe was one of the residents of Bergen who took the Oath of Allegiance to King Charles the Second and in 1674, he was one of those nominated by the people of Bergen for Schepens for the village. The Director General and Council did not appoint him, however.

On May 12th, 1668, Governor Carteret of New Jersey issued confirmatory patents to the proprietors of the Bergen lands. At this time, Bouwe Harmensen obtained title to twenty morgens near Bergen and other lands including a lot and tenement in the town as also a garden plot. Nearly a century later, in 1763 - a commission was created by act of the New Jersey Legislature to survey and lay out the original patents and grants, and to apportion the common lands of the Township of Bergen. According to their findings, the patent of Douwe Harmensen consisted of five parcels as follows:-

Two lots constituting a tract of upland and meadow 668 feet in width running from the present West Side Avenue to the Hackensack River and bounded on the North by the present Newark Avenue.

A tract of upland and meadow 235 feet in width running from the present West Side Avenue to the Hackensack River and now within the bounds of the Hudson County Park.

A town lot 96 feet by 153 feet, on the southeast corner of the present Academy and Van Reyden Streets, now occupied by the Van Reyden homestead.

An irregular plot about 100 feet wide and 320 feet deep, on the West side of Van Reyden Street opposite the above mentioned town lot.

The commissioners of that time allotted a certain portion of the common lands belonging to the Township of Bergen to Douwe Harmensen's patent. This parcel contained 126 acres and was located in the northern part of the Township.

Long before this, however, the heirs of Douwe Harmensen had ceased to hold any interest in the Jersey City lands. His son, Teunis Douwessen Tallman, sold the property in 1705 to Mattys De Mott.

DOUWE HARMENSEN TALLMAN became identified with Orange County, N. Y., through his landed possessions there at an early date. No official record of a land patent to him has been discovered but an early unofficial memorandum of such a grant is extant. In a collection of notes, without date but evidently made in Colonial days, there is a description of a patent said to have been granted to Douwe Harmensen, October 20th, 1678. That patent covered:

One piece of meadow at Tappan, in length twenty chains and in breadth seven chains, bounded on the North by Claes Janse van Purmarent, south by Cornelius Clausen, West by the mountains and east by Hudson's River.

No other record of this patent has been found. It bore the same date as two of the patents issued to Claus Jansen (Cooper), neither of which is in the New Jersey patent records but both of which were later confirmed to Cornelius Clausen (Cooper) - Claus Jansen's son - by the New York government.

Douwe Harmensen also acquired from Claus Jansen by purchase one fourth of a 400 acre patent at Nyack which was confirmed to his heirs in 1694 by Claus Jansen's widow and eldest son.

May 11th, 1681, Douwe Harmensen purchased of Jacob

Lerou and Lawrence Ackerman a parcel of land at Tappen to the southward of land of Claus Jansen (Cooper) and the said Douwe Harmensen (Tallman) in company, containing in breadth from their line, 204 rods, and in length running from the water side to the top of the hills.

The exact date at which Douwe Harmensen Tallman removed from Bergen to Nyack is unknown but probably it was not long before 1688. In October of that year, Douwe Harmensen was appointed a justice of the peace for Orange County.

*Something
fading
here*

He probably died before September 26th, 1687, as his name does not appear on the list of those who took the Oath of Allegiance in Orange County on that date. His wife survived him and in 1702 was enrolled on the census as "Dirckje, a widow" and as the mistress of one slave woman.

Douwe Harmensen and his wife made their joint last will in March, 1678, before Allard Anthony, Notary Public, in New York. He retained the original will in his own possession but recorded a copy of it in a book provided for such records by the Secretary of the Colony of New Jersey at Elizabethtown, then the seat of government for New Jersey.

The record is entirely in Dutch except the words "The last will of Douwe Harmensen and his wife; Entered 29 May, 1678," in the margin, and seems to have been written by Allard Anthony himself. Probably he recorded it on his first visit to Elizabethtown after the will was executed.

It should be borne in mind that this is not the record of a probated will. Under the Dutch practice, a will could be registered at any time but would only become operative when proof of death was filed.

A translation of the Dutch record follows:

In the name of God, Amen.

BE IT KNOWN to every one who shall see or hear this

present public instrument read, that in the year after the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ sixteen hundred and seventy-eight, on the 25th of March, in the afternoon about four o'clock, before me Allard Anthony, public notary, licensed by the High and Noble Lord Edmund Andross, Esq., Governor General under his Royal Highness James, Duke of York and Albany, and residing in New York, and before the hereafter named witnesses, in their own persons came and appeared the worthy Douwe Harmensen aged about fifty-four years, and his lawful wife, Dirckye Teunissenm aged also about fifty-four years, both living at present at Bergen in New Jersey, well known to me the notary, by the grace of God Robust and sound of body, going, standing, in full possession of their memory and understanding and fully using the same, as is entirely evident and one could not notice otherwise, recognizing that nothing is more sure than death, nor more uncertain than the hour thereof; wishing not to depart from this world; before they have made disposition of their temporal property; but first commending their immortal souls (when they shall leave their mortal bodies) to the boundless mercy of God and their dead bodies to the earth and a Christian burial; furthermore revoking and making null and void hereby all preceding testaments, codicils and all other acts of last will made, issued or suffered by them; not wishing that any one may avail himself thereof in any way whatsoever but holding the same in all points, clauses and bequests therein included powerless, null and void; Therefore now coming anew to the disposition of their temporal property, the testators declare that they appoint, the one, the other, the survivor, as guardian over their two sons, one named Harmen Douwesen, aged about twenty-three years, and Teunis Deuwesen, aged about twenty years, up to the time of remarriage, when the survivor shall be bound to surrender to the surviving child or children (or to their guardians if there be any minors) the father's or mother's property, that is to say, the half thereof. All that stands above written being read to both

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testators word by word, they said the same was their testament and final will, that they wish and desire that it shall take effect after the death of the one or the other, whether as testament, codicil, gift in event of death, or otherwise, notwithstanding any formalities of law herein necessarily required may be omitted or overlooked; hereby waiving also all statutes, ordinances and laws prejudicial or harmful in any way to this their final will and last requests. Thus done and issued in New York at the house and office of me the notary in presence of Thomas Frederickson and Mr. Pieter Nys, as reliable witnesses hereunto asked and invited, who have subscribed the original draught hereof which remains in the possession of me the notary, with the testators and myself, the notary, on the day, month and year as above.

Which I attest

ALLARD ANTHONY, Notary Public.