

Ariaentje geboortigh van Nieuw Nederlandt

by

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On 1 May 1709 an inventory of an unnamed deceased estate is done at the Cape of Good Hope¹. Buried in the text at the head of the inventory is a most intriguing statement²:

Statement and inventory of the goods left behind with the death [of unknown] in favour of her half-brothers and sisters, named [1] Johannes and [2] Adriaen Wilders, [3]Catrijn married to Abraham the mason and [4] Judit, housewife of Arent Gidelnhuijs; all conceived by the two stepfathers of the deceased, Casper Wilders and [unknown], and her mother, Ariaentje [unknown], who illegally and unreasonably deserted the aforementioned deceased and her other four children, on the one hand; and (her/ the deceased's) surviving husband Hendrik Hagedoorn on the other hand.

The deceased is Elisabet Lons, the only child from the third marriage of Ariaentje Sterrevelt. Ariaentje married first Heinrich Evert Schmidt from “Eupenburen” (likely Ibbenbüren just west of Osnabrück), producing children Catharina, Hendrik and Judith; then Casper Willers who fathered children Johannes and Adriaen, and lastly Joost Lons who fathered Elisabet. The author's wife is a direct descendant of Judith Schmidt and her mother Ariaentje Sterrevelt. Herein lies a story, because Ariaentje Sterrevelt was the first ever immigrant to South Africa to have been born in North America. We know this, because the day she married Schmidt her origin was recorded as follows in the Cape Town church register³ of 1675 (Author's underlining):

Den 14 Aprill : Hendrick Evertsz Smidt geboortigh van Eupenbieren j.m. en Adriaantje Sterrevelt geboortigh uyt Nieuw-Nederlandt jonghe dochter.

The marriage of her older sister Cornelia has a similar entry in those books three years earlier in 1672

dito [22 May 1672] Barend Brinck-man jongh-m' geboortigh geboortigh [sic] van Dortmunt, met Neeltje Sterrevelts jonged geboortigh van Nieuw-Nederlant

So, let us turn back our clock to 1664 and set our sights on New York, then Nieuw Amsterdam.

Ariaentje's Nieuw Amsterdam - 1664

Nieuw Nederlandt is at this time governed by the famous Director Peter Stuyvesant. He is an impressive man indeed, particularly when he rides down Hoogh Straat to the Breuckelen Ferry on his Flanders mare. Perhaps it is his ornate wooden “peg” leg prosthesis that draws all the attention. Nieuw Amsterdam at the southern tip of Manhattan island is the capital of the Colony. The successful town is the envy of the English settlers further north along the coast. But, let us take a closer look at the town.

Manhattan Island extends for a few miles southwestwards down the east bank of the Hudson River. The burghers refer to the main western stream of the Hudson as the *Noord Rivier*. On the eastern side of the island is the “*Oost Rivier*”, which is actually some ocean separating Manhattan Island from Long Island where the settlement on the opposing bank is known as Breuckelen. In the 21st century it will be anglicised to “Brooklyn”.

The town of Nieuw Amsterdam⁴ (see Fig.1) is protected from the rest of Manhattan Island by the palisade, known as the Wall, which has seven battlements. It is constructed from heavy wooden piles. Along the

1 Cape Archives reference MOOC8/2.37

2 Author's translation of: *Staet en inventaris der goederen naergelaten en met er doot ontruijmt [.....] ten faveur en voordeele van haer halve broeders en susters, genaemt Johannes en Adriaen Wilders, Catrijn getrouwt met Abraham de metselaer en Judit huysvrouw van Arent Gildenhuijs alle verwekt bij des overleedens twee stiefvaders Casper Wilders, en [.....] en haer moeder, Ariaentje [.....] die de voorsz:en overleedene en haer andere vier kinderen onwettig en onreedel: verlaten heeft ter eenre en haer naergelaten man Hendrik Hagedoorn ter andere zijde*

3 <http://www.eggsa.org/sarecords/index.php/church-registers/cape-town-marriages-1665-to-1695/75-cape-town-marriages-1672>

4 An excellent website with an interactive digital map of Nieuw Amsterdam may be found at <http://newamsterdam.ekamper.net/>

inside of the Wall runs the street generally referred to as *de Cingel*⁵. There are two gates in the wall - the Water Gate, next to the East River, and another nearer the western end, known as the Land Gate.

The main street of the settlement is the Heere Straat⁶ and runs from the *Markplein* at Fort Amsterdam to the Land Gate. Sint Nicolaes Dutch Reformed Church is situated inside the Fort. The church is served by dominee Johannes Megapolensis who lives along Heere Straat. *Dominee* Samuel Drisius is another *bedienaer*. He lives on the Cingel. Dominee Megapolensis' son, Samuel, has also qualified as dominee and has recently returned from Nederland to assist his father.

The straightest route from the Fort to the Water Gate and the ferry to Breuckelen is known as Hoogh Straat⁷. From the tip of the island at the Fort to the Water Gate along Hoogh Straat is less than 2 km. Hoogh Straat is bisected by the Heere Gracht, a canal along which boats penetrate into the settlement. The road that runs along the gracht will one day be filled in to become a city road⁸. The bridge along Hoogh Straat over the Heere Gracht is known as the Brouwersbrug. This is probably because most of the first block of Hoogh Straat nearest the Fort is dominated by Mr Olof van Cortland's breweries. Van Cortland has been Burgemeester in the past and will be again at a key moment.

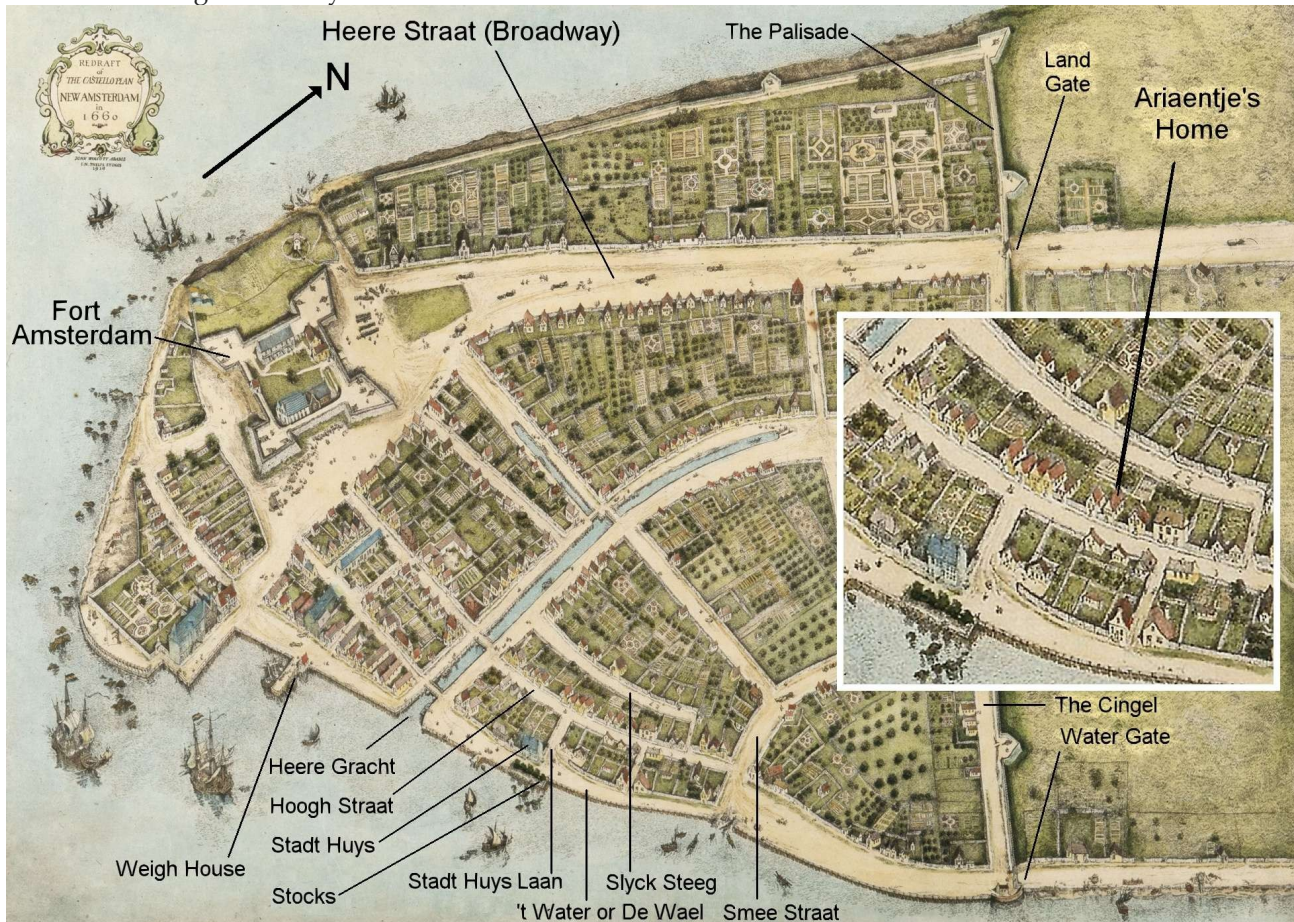


Fig. 1 New Amsterdam in the time of Ariaentje Sterrevelt – 1662

Our own focus in this work is on the second (and last) block of Hoogh Straat, from the Heere Gracht to Smeë Straat. In the middle of this block, on its northern side, located between two lanes leading to the East River, sits Aris Otte's Tavern. To the west (south west) of Aris Otte's Tavern is the house of Tielman van Vleek, the

5 Today the famous/infamous Wall Street

6 Today the world famous glittering Broadway

7 Today Stone Street parallel to South William – It is now a cobbled pedestrian plaza. It is no longer a continuous street, being blocked towards the southwest by the massive bulk of the Goldman-Sachs building.

8 Broad Street, as opposed to the more famous Broadway

Schout or Sheriff of the settlement of Bergen⁹, across the Noord Rivier. Most importantly, he is also a Notary Public. On the other side of the Tavern lives Wessel Evertsen. Most of the land on that side of the road originally belonged to him, including the parcel on which the Tavern stands.

The land parcels of the houses on the north side of Hoogh Straat extend all the way back to Slyck Steeg across which we find another house of *dominee* Johannes Megapolensis and also Aldert Coninck's house. Further along Slyck Steeg, closer to the Heere Gracht, is the Slave House of the West India Company.

The two lanes to the East River from Hoogh Straat and straddling Aris Otte's Tavern are Stadthuys Laan¹⁰ and *Hoogh Straat Steegje*. The *Stadthuys* (Town Hall and Court) is located where Stadthuys Laan reaches the East River. In front of it stand the infamous pillories where people are confined for public punishment.

The road along the bank of the East River is commonly known as *de Wael*¹¹, signifying that many Nieuw Amsterdam Walloons¹² live there. Others simply call it 't *Water*. The Notary Public Simon La Chair lives on the corner of *Hoogh Straat Steegje* and 't *Water*. La Chair is a typical Nieuw Nederland Walloon. He also maintains a tavern on the corner of *Hoogh Straat* and *Hoogh Straat Steegje*, facing Aris Otte's Tavern.

Across Hoogh Straat from Aris Otte's Tavern lives the "English Secretary" of the town, Charles Bridges, known to one and all as "Karel Verbrugge"¹³. Mr Olof van Cortland, the earlier Burgemeester of Nieuw Amsterdam is Verbrugge's neighbour, living in the house between Verbrugge and Simon la Chair's Tavern.

Aris Otte's Tavern

In the foregoing section we have sketched the setting into which we shall introduce two particular families; that of Willem Pietersen de Groot and that of Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt, Ariaentje's father. These two families will become intertwined and will live the key moment in the history of Nieuw Nederland first hand. By a quirk of circumstance they will find themselves surrounded by neighbours key to the history of the United States of America. We now focus more closely on Aris Otte's Tavern¹⁴, which is practically at the center of the impending events, both genealogical and historical. For this we have to go back in history some six years.

On 16 November 1658 a man named Mighiel Paulusen received the deed of a house on the northern side of Hoogh Straat from a man named Jacob van Couwenhoven. Van Couwenhoven owned and operated the brewery situated on the corner of Heere Gracht and Hoogh Straat, right at the Brouwers brug. It would appear the two men simply swapped properties. A month later, on 16 December 1658, Paulusen partitioned the property into two adjoining sections, presumably each containing a house. He sold the eastern part to Aris Otte and the western part to Tielman van Vleeck. The details of these transactions are given in the appendix.

By early 1660, Tielman van Vleeck is therefore living as westerly neighbour to Aris Otte, who has by now turned his own house into a tavern.

The arrival of Sterrevelt – or is it?

According to Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan¹⁵ a certain "agriculturalist" named Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt arrives from Amsterdam on the "*De Trouw*", captained by Jan Bestevaer. That specific ship departs¹⁶ Amsterdam on 8 January 1660 and arrives in New Amsterdam early in 1660, but the exact arrival date is unclear. In the 1650s and 1660s the trip to Nieuw Amsterdam takes anything from around 2½ to 5

⁹ It was located between where Bayonne and Jersey City are today, on the eastern shore of Newark Bay

¹⁰ Only the southern one of the two, *Stadthuys Laan*, remains in the 21st Century – now Coentje's Alley; the section of *Hoogh Straat* between Coentje's Alley and the *Heeren Gracht* (Broad Street) has also disappeared; it now buried under the Goldman-Sachs building.

¹¹ Today's Pearl Street; in 1664 it was on the River; today it is very far from the River due to reclamation of land.

¹² French speaking Belgians; *Waele*

¹³ A man who would be successful under both English and Dutch administrations, switching his formal name between Charles Bridges and Karel Verbrugge to suit the political wind. He arrived in 1647 and married Sarah Cornell on 3 November of that year.

¹⁴ Before departing Nieuw Nederland, Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt will sell this building, hence our interest.

¹⁵ Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan, *The Documentary History of the State of New-York*, Vol.3 (1850), pp.55

¹⁶ http://www.olivetreenealogy.com/nn/mm_shipamny.shtml; the original source is at this time unclear

months, averaging around 3 months for the *De Trouw* in particular. We know this because the ship does the trip quite a few times under Captain Jan Bestevaer. Based on that average trip length, they arrive in New Amsterdam in April 1660.

However, in 1902 Theodore Banta entered a letter in the *Yearbook of the Holland Society of New York* in which he points out that O'Callaghan made a mistake 52 years before, and that the passenger list for the *De Trouw* that O'Callaghan had used actually belonged to the subsequent westward journey of the *De Trouw*. That journey departed Amsterdam at the end of December 1660 and arrived in New Amsterdam sometime near the end of the first quarter of 1661.

With the exception of Sterrevelt, none of the passengers can be identified with certainty in the early documentation of Nieuw Nederland at a date during or before this journey. This leads us to the conclusion that Banta was correct, and that Sterrevelt and the others on that passenger list were indeed on the 1660-1661 journey of the *De Trouw*.

Based on this, we have no other choice but to conclude that on this sailing of the *De Trouw* Sterrevelt is actually returning to Nieuw Amsterdam after a visit to Europe. The following section explains why.

The first mention of the family name *Sterrevelt*

On 8 April 1660, a year before the "arrival" described above, an "*Adriaen Huybertsen Starvelt*" is at the home of Notary Public Tielman van Vleek¹⁷ in Nieuw Amsterdam. He acts as witness to the signing of an affidavit relating to the unfortunate Jan Juriansen Becker, who has been charged with illicit trading of alcohol with the "savages". One of those involved in the testimony in defence of Becker is Jan Broersen. While Sterrevelt has nothing to do with the actual event, this does allow us to place him on solid ground in New Amsterdam by the first week of April 1660. This is the earliest mention that we can find of the family name Sterrevelt in New Nederland.

It is significant that the name Broersen comes up in connection with Sterrevelt. Broersen has a family name in the form of Decker. He comes from Husum in the 1600s Denmark. In the 21st century that will be the Schleswig-Holstein region of Germany. More specifically, it is Nord Friesland, and there is a strong Dutch influence in that area of the Jutland Peninsula.

In 1644 Jan Broersen worked as *knecht* for Jacob Hay on the tropical island of Curaçao in the Caribbean. What bedevils us in this work, though, is that there appears to be no reliable source of data on ships or passengers traveling between the Dutch held island of Curacao and Nieuw Nederland between 1640 and 1660. One of the intriguing possibilities, is that he was one of the roughly 150 unnamed men who arrived on the *Bleauwe Haen* in 1644 from Curacao. The bulk of these men, however, were soldiers withdrawn from Brazil when the local Portuguese expelled the Dutch. Curaçao could not support this influx of men, and a group of them was subsequently sent to Nieuw Nederland on the *Bleauwe Haen*. However, Broersen's arrival on the *Bleauwe Haen* is pure speculation. The earliest we can place him in Nieuw Nederland is 31 May 1658, when he signs¹⁸ a document as resident and co-founder of the town of Esopus, later Kingston.

The births and baptisms of Ariaentje and Neeltje

The very next time we see the man we presume to be Adriaen is on 29 August 1660 with the baptism of a daughter, Ariaentje, in the Dutch Reformed Church at Fort Amsterdam^{19, 20}:

29 Aug; Adriaen Huybertsen; Ariaentje; Christyntie Capoens

Christyntie Capoens is the sole witness. Unfortunately, the name of the mother is not given here. Christyntie

17 B. Fernow, *Documents relating to the Dutch and Swedish Settlements on the Delaware River*, Vol. 12, (1877), pp. 342

18 M. Schoonmaker, *The History of Kingston*, Vol. 1 (1888), pp.8

19 <http://www.olivetreenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcbapt4.shtml> - DRC baptism book

20 http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rbillard/na_baptisms_1639-1730.htm - DRC baptism book

Capoens will also return to our story a little later in the company of Jan Broersen mentioned above, because she is the wife of Jacob Hay. This leads us to accept that the “Adriaen Huybertszen” of the baptism is in fact Sterrevelt. There is no other candidate “Ariaentje” baptism anyway. This baptism is in line with the rough age of Ariaentje later at the Cape and there is no other other candidate “Ariaentje” baptism by any A(d)riaen Huybert(sen) in Nieuw Amsterdam for decades around this date.

The 17th century Dutch were most precise in the matter of baptisms, origins, and church attestations of individuals. It was their primary means of formal identification. We therefore accept that Ariaentje was indeed baptised in Nieuw Amsterdam, as stated at the time of her marriage at the Cape.

We already know from the introductory section that the later South African records will show Ariaentje to have an older sister named Cornelia (Neeltje). We know she will later marry at the Cape of Good Hope in 1672. If we assume that she will be a 15 year old orphan at the time of her marriage, just like Ariaentje, then it means she was born in 1657.

We now turn to some earlier Nieuw Nederland Dutch Reformed Church baptism entries. A man named “Arie Huybertszen” baptises a child named “Cornelis” on 12 August 1657, making that child precisely three years older than Ariaentje, as expected from the marriage dates at the Cape. The particular transcribed baptism reads²¹:

12 August 1657: Arie Huybertszen; Cornelis; Jacob Leendertszen, Margrietie Riemers

Of course, the “Cornelis” could very well be “Cornelia” (Neeltje), with an entirely forgivable transcription error in the on-line database, an “a” being easily confused with an “s” in 17th Century script. The author has yet to obtain access to original documentation or early transcripts of this information. The original books are believed to have been consumed in a fire in New York.

There is also an earlier baptism in 1652 that reads as follows²²:

15 September 1652; Adriaen Huybertszen; Huybert; Francois Paket, Laurens Jacobszen, Grietie Jans, Barentje Jacobs

Such a baptism would be in keeping with a man from Suid-Holland naming his first son after his father. However, any Adriaen Huybertszen could have done that, given their communal patronym. This baptism therefore does not help us to differentiate between Sterrevelt and any other Adriaen Huybertszen.

The future records show that Huybert, if he were indeed the son of Sterrevelt, did not survive to 1663. By the traditional naming convention, there also appears to be a child missing from the pattern, named for the father of Sterrevelt's wife. Possibly the son in question was indeed born, but died before baptism, and there were no more sons from the marriage. There certainly is a big enough time gap between 1652 and 1657 for another birth around 1654 or 1655.

The other men named Adriaen Huybertsen

There are at the very least three different men by the name of A(d)riaen Huyberts(en/zen) in Dutch Nieuw Nederland. The 17th century Dutch use a patronymic naming system and the names Adriaen/Ariaen/Arent and Huybert/Huybrecht are common among the Germanic nations. Furthermore, “our” Adriaen does not consistently use his family name of Sterrevelt. As we shall see, the documents associated with Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt tend mostly to relate to New Amsterdam town itself and its surrounds, such as Breuckelen (Brooklyn), and very rarely to the more distant parts of the settlement. The other candidates are:

Adriaan Huybertsen of Rensselaerwyck

The first A(d)riaen Huybertzen/Huybertsen is associated consistently with Rensselaerwyck in the north of the colony near the later Albany. He arrived as Adriaen Hubertsen at Fort Orange (later Albany) on the ship

²¹ <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcbapt4.shtml> - DRC baptism book

²² <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcbapt3.shtml>

*Rensselaerwyck*²³ from the Netherlands on 7 April 1637. The detailed and interesting log of their voyage is on the Internet²⁴. An Adriaen Huybertzen; pays his "tenth" as 6 *schepels* of oats in Rensselaerwyck in 1646. We believe him to be the Adriaen Huybertsen who appears repeatedly in the books of Albany and who is buried there on 28 August 1682 as a pauper in the care of the church, many years after Sterrevelt will have left New Amsterdam. We leave him in the north near today's Albany, and dismiss him from our consideration.

Adriaen Huybertsen of Wiltwyck

Yet another man named Ariaen Huyberts arrives²⁵ with Roelof Swartwout in the early summer of 1656 and settles at Wiltwyck (later Kingston) further up the Hudson River. In April 1660 he arrives *again*, this time on the *De Bonte Koe* in the service of Roelof Swartwout. This particular man is listed as coming from Jena in the east of the later Germany. This Adriaen Huybertsen is taxed along with Swartwout in Wiltwyck on 24 September 1661. He remains in Wiltwyck after 1665 and is part of the later "Esopus Rebellion". He is clearly not Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt who, as we shall show below, departs with his family for Amsterdam in 1665.

Adriaen Huybertsen de Tweede – Sterrevelt or not?

A further possible Adriaen Huybertsen lives around New Amsterdam at the same time as Sterrevelt and is, in fact, quite likely Sterrevelt himself. We shall refer to him as Adriaen Huybertsen "de Tweede". This Adriaen "de Tweede" is quite active in the New Amsterdam court records over the period preceding the arrival of the *De Trouw*. In March-April 1654 *Aryaen Huybertsen* is in court²⁶ claiming payment from David Wessels for work done in the Midwout area of Breuckelen. Tomas Swartwout, father of the Roelof Swartwout referred to above, is tasked to assess the work. This *Aryaen* is likely the man who receives land²⁷ at the ferry at Breuckelen (Brooklyn) in November/December 1653. In the 1800s this will become the U.S. Navy Yard. In September to October 1656 *Aryaen Huybertsen* is again in court claiming compensation from another party. This time it is for some 2-1/2 months of navigating²⁸ he has done for Lourens Cornelissen van der Wel in his yacht. It is not clear who owns the yacht. However, clearly *Aryaen Huybertsen* knows something about navigation. We also take note of the fact that he has land by the ferry.

Just as with Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt there is no record of arrival for this man. This is a condition shared by many early Dutch settlers in new countries, including the Cape of Good Hope. It just means we do not know when they arrived, because there are no passenger lists available to consult.

On 31 March 1659, at least two years before the Sterrevelt arrival on the *De Trouw*, "*Arent Huybertsen*" is witness to the baptism of Aaron²⁹, infant son of a certain "*Willem Simsons*", in the Dutch Reformed Church in New Amsterdam. On 14 Feb 1660, still before Sterrevelt's arrival, "*Arien Huybersen*" obtains the deed of a house and lot on the Cingel from Dominee Drisius. On 27 May 1660 an "*Ariaen Huybertsen*" passes the deed of the same property to Joris Stevenson. On the transaction record the neighbour to the east of that property is listed as "*Willem Simpson*". When we compare that with the name of the father at the 31 March 1659 baptism, we realise that there is repeated association of the name "*Willem Sim(p)son(s)*" with Adriaen Huybertsen de Tweede.

The 14 Feb 1660 transaction also places Adriaen de Tweede on the Cingel while the ship *De Trouw* is still heading westward somewhere on the Atlantic as part of the trip with which O'Callghan (wrongly?) associates the passenger list containing the name of Sterrevelt. This is further evidence in support of Banta's 1902 correction discussed above.

Furthermore, on 16 March 1660, also while that ship is likely still a distance short of Nieuw Amsterdam

23 E.B. O'Callaghan, *History of New Netherland*, (1855), pp.436

24 <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycoloni/rnslogp2.html>

25 M. Schoonmaker, *The History of Kingston, Vol. 1* (1888), pp.24

26 Berthold Fernow, *Records of New Amsterdam from 1653 to 1674 A.D., Vol 1*, (1897); Minutes of the Court, pp.180-188

27 Henry R Stiles, *History of the City of Brooklyn Vol.1* (1867), pp.80

28 Berthold Fernow, *Records of New Amsterdam from 1653 to 1674 A.D., Vol 2*, (1897); Minutes of the Court, pp.172-180

29 <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcbapt4.shtml> - DRC baptism book

on its 1659-1660 voyage, Cornelis Jansen of Hoorn is physically in court as plaintiff with a certain “Ariaen Huybersen” as defendant. The family name Sterrevelt is, however, not used.

A crucial point here is that, when Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt eventually leaves Nieuw Nederland in 1665, we never again find any records of *any* Adriaen/Aryaen Huybertsen in the records of Nieuw Amsterdam. In fact, we only find the very distinct Adriaen Huybertsen up in Rensselaerwyck, far to the north and the Adriaen Huybertsen at Wiltwyck.

In summary up to this point, we may or may not have two different men named A(d)riaen Huyberts(zen) in Nieuw Amsterdam at the same time. The baptisms suggest one man, but the property transactions suggest two different men. Both will disappear simultaneously from the Nieuw Amsterdam records in 1665, leading us to assume for the time being that we are dealing with a single man – Sterrevelt – who uses his family name inconsistently. Significantly, we find no entry for any man named Adriaen Huybertszen in any books of Nieuw Amsterdam over the period of his presumptive 1660-1661 voyage on the *De Trouw*.

Sergeant Huybertsen

There is also a Sergeant Huybers/Huyberts/Huybertsen. He is generally believed to be the Englishman James Hubbard/Sergeant Hubbard whose house is very near the Fort, right on the river. The author can find Sergeant James Hubbard in the New York records as early as July 6, 1644 when he is mentioned in an affidavit³⁰. He is still around³¹ in 1655. Since Sterrevelt is most assuredly a man from Holland, as we shall show, he cannot be James Hubbard.

Adriaen Huybertszen Sterrevelt – 1661 to January 1663

The next time we assuredly run into Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt is on 20 November 1661. On that date Jan Broersen of Wiltwyck produces for the Court an affidavit³² by Sterrevelt stating that he (Sterrevelt) knows that Broersen previously worked for Jacob Hay on the Caribbean Island of Curaçao in 1644. That just so happens to be the period when Governor Pieter Stuyvesant³³ was in command of that island. We conclude from this that Sterrevelt must have been on Curacao at the time. Sterrevelt provides the affidavit in support of Broersen to help the latter secure payment for that work, which payment Broersen has never received. Broersen is suing Christyntje Capoens, the widow of Jacob Hay, for this money. This is the very same Christyntje who was witness to the baptism of Ariaentje, fourteen months earlier.

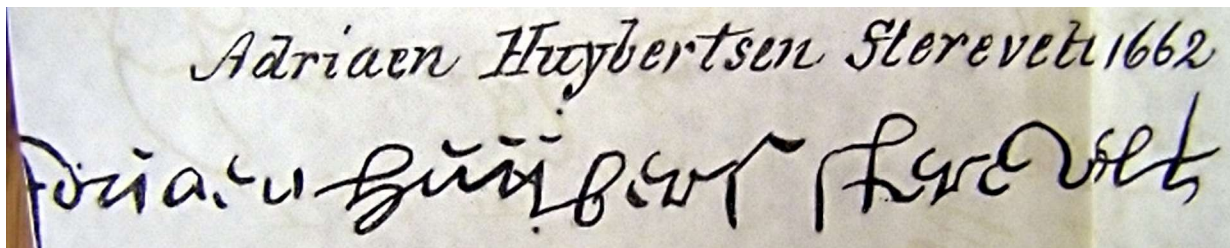


Fig. 2 The signature of Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt in 1662

On 1 June 1662 “Adriaen Huybers Sterrevelt” is called as witness along with Pieter Schaeffbanck in a property dispute³⁴ between Claes Carstens Noorman and Nicolaes De Meyer. On 19 July 1662, “Adriaen Huybertszen Sterrenvelt” is witness to the baptism of son Frans for Willem Solbij and Elisabeth Solbij. These

30 E.B. O'Callaghan, *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts (etc) Part 1.*, (1865). pp.89

31 E.B. O'Callaghan, *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts (etc) Part 1.*, (1865). pp.59

32 Berthold Fernow, *Records of New Amsterdam from 1653 to 1674 A.D.*, Vol 3, (1897); Minutes of the Court, Nov. 20, 1661; pp.412

33 In April 1644 Pieter Stuyvesant attacked the Spanish held Caribbean island of St. Martin. There he was wounded. When he returned to the Netherlands, his right leg was amputated and he was fitted with an ornate wooden leg prosthetic. In May 1645 he received the commission as Governor of Nieuw Nederland around the Hudson River in North America. On 11 May 1647 Stuyvesant, now fitted with his historic prosthetic, arrived in New Amsterdam.

34 Theodore M. Banta, *Dutch Records in the City Clerk's Office, New York, Part 1*, (1900), pp.35

entries in the old books of New Amsterdam are the only records we have of Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt using his family name over the period between the baptism of Ariaentje and the death of his wife.

In an issue of *Valentine's Manual of New York City* for 1863 we may find the signatures of some men of New Amsterdam, including most particularly Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt. The date next to his signature, taken from an unspecified document, is 1662. So, it is quite likely from the 1 June 1662 dispute, because the author has no evidence that there were signatures involved with the baptisms of that year. So, now we also know that he is a literate man. We do not meet Sterrevelt again until the end of January 1663.

Aris Otte's Tavern: 1661- January 1663

At some point before September 6, 1661 Aris Otte dies. On that date his widow, Leentie Dircks Servaes, announces that she intends to marry again³⁵. The banns for her marriage³⁶ to Lamberts Barents already ran on 3 September 1661:

3 Septemb. Lambert Barentszen, j. m. Van Weryen, en Leentje Dircks Servaes, Wede. Van Arent Otto.

Barentszen sells Aris Otte's Tavern to Gerrit Hendricx³⁷ van Hardewyck on June 16, 1662. Within two months of that date, on 3 August 1662, Gerrit Hendricx informs the court that he has sold his property on Hoogh straat to Tysje Gerrits, the widow of Willem Pieters(en) de Groot³⁸.

Somehow something goes wrong with the paperwork on this last arrangement, because in January 1663 we find two back-to-back transactions³⁹. The first formally transfers the deed from Lamberts Barentszen to Hendricx and the second transfers it from Hendricx to Thysje.

One gets the impression that the original sale from Barentszen to Hendricx was never properly concluded and had to be redone in January 1663. The details of these transfers are given in the appendix. We raise this matter, because it will lead to Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt appearing in court in 1665 at a very critical time.

The key point is that Thysje Gerrits has now been associated with Aris Otte's Tavern since August 1662.

The Sterrevelt family: February 1663 – July 1664

On 18 February 1663 Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt surfaces again from the murk of history to baptise a baby girl. He names her "Geertie"(Geertruyda). There are no witnesses recorded⁴⁰. The entry simply reads:

Ariaen Huybertszen; Geertie; no witnesses

In order to identify the father here as being indeed Sterrevelt, we rely for now on the fact that "Geertje" is Sterrevelt's mother's name, as proven later in this work. We conclude that his wife, the mother of Ariaentje, has died, likely in childbirth. We conclude this from the events immediately subsequent to the baptism, as described below. Adriaen is now a widower with three daughters; one a baby and the others respectively 2½ years (Ariaentje) and around 6 years old (Neeltje). This has to be very difficult for him. He most certainly has to find a mother for these girls - and quickly. This is where the recently widowed Thysje Gerrits comes into the picture. The records provided below will show she has four surviving children of her own, of unknown names and gender. We list here the key details of Thysje's life in her first marriage to Willem Pieterszen de Groot. In life he was a tapster (sold alcoholic beverages) which might explain Thysje buying Aris Otte's Tavern after her husband's death:

35 Theodore M. Banta, *Dutch Records in the City Clerk's Office, New York, Part I*, (1900), pp.14

36 <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcmarr1661.shtml>

37 Theodore M. Banta, *Dutch Records in the City Clerk's Office, New York, Part I*, (1900), pp.36

38 Theodore M. Banta, *Dutch Records in the City Clerk's Office, New York, Part I*, (1900), pp.39

39 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York - 1865*, (1865), pp. 697

40 <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcbapt5.shtml> - from the baptismal book of the DRC of New Amsterdam.

1. Their marriage (as per the Dutch Reformed Church books⁴¹)

24 Oct 1649; Willem Pieterszen de Groot, j. m. Van Haerlem, en Lysje⁴² Gerrits, j. d. Van Amsterd. (date of the banns)

2. The baptisms of their children (as per the Dutch Reformed Church books⁴³)

21.08.1650; Willem Pieterszen de Groot; **Pieter**⁴⁴; Aert Willemszen and his wife, Hendrick Jacobszen and his wife

03.12.1651; Willem Pieterszen; **Marritie**; Hendrick Jacobszen and his wife, Aert Willemszen and his wife

27.04.1653; Willem Pieterszen; **Grietje**; Cales Mans, Engeltje Mans, Annetje Jans

06.12.1654; Willem Pieterszen; **Pieter**; Borger Joriszen, Andries de Haes, Engeltje Mans, Tryntie Hagedoorn

16 .07.1656; Willem Pieterszen, Tysje Gerrits; **Fytie**; Jacob Van Couwenhoven, Jan Peeck, Selitje Fredricks

10.03.1658; Willem Pieterszen, Thysje Gerrits; **Gerrit**; Andries Jochemszen, Guiljam Verleth, Claertie Alders v. Criecken Beeck

15.02.1660; Willem Pieterszen, Tysie Gerrits; **Johannes**; Hans Steyn, Gelitje Fredrix

By early 1663, only four of her children from this marriage have survived, but we do not know which ones. What we do know comes from the events captured in the Minutes of the Orphan Masters Courts of March 29, 1663. These indicate that Willem Pieterszen de Groot must have died rather recently:

March 29, 1663.

The Orphanmasters resolve and order⁴⁵, that Jan Jelissen Kock shall report to this Board a list of the buried dead and how they are buried ; also to summon Tysie Willems, widow of Willem Pietersen de Groot, to appear at the next session.

On 20 April 1663 “Arien Huybersen” buys the property directly across Hoogh Straat from Aris Otte's Tavern from “Tomas Wandel”⁴⁶. The house is right next door to burgemeester Oloff van Cortland. This seems to be exactly the kind of thing a man might do if he realised his family was about to expand overnight from three to seven, with more possibly to be added. The details of the purchase are given in the Appendix.

This is followed by entries made in April and May of that year⁴⁷. For some or other reason the entries are reversed in time:

Whereas Tysje Willem, widow of Willem Pietersen de Groot, who has come in, has not made a testament with her husband, therefore the Orphan masters appoint as guardians and administrators for her children Sieur Govert Loockermans and Hendrick van de Water, ordering that a commission be given to them. It is further ordered, that guardians and administrators be appointed for the children, left by Judick Robbers, late the wife of Arien Huybersen, and Claas Gangeloffsen Visser with Aldert Coninck are chosen, of which a commission is given to them.

Whereas Arien Huybersen, widower of Judick Robbers, intends to take another wife and marry Tysje Willem, widow of Willem Pietersen de Groot, said Judick Robbers having borne him three children, still minors, for whom it is necessary to appoint guardians and administrators, to have a settlement of their mother's estate made upon the children before the contemplated marriage, so that when coming of age or marrying they may have their own, therefore the Orphanmasters of this City elect and qualify as guardians Claas Gangeloffsen Visser and Aldert Coninck, who are herewith authorised, to make with said Arien Huybersen, after appraising the property and taking an inventory of the goods left, such an agreement for settling on the children their maternal inheritance, as justice demands, reporting it to this Board for approval. [author's undelining; clearly there is no son named Huybert by this date]

*Done etc. **May 10, 1663.***

Whereas Tysie Willems, widow of Willem Pietersen de Groot, intends to marry again and become the wife of Arien Huybersen, widower of Judick Robbers, and said Willem Pietersen has left four minor children, for whom it is necessary to

41 <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcmarr1649.shtml> – from the marriage book of the DRC of New Amsterdam

42 Her name is transcribed variously as Thysje, Tysje and Lysje

43 <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcbapt3.shtml> & <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcbapt4.shtml>

44 This son must have died before 6 December 1654 when another son was given the same name

45 Berthold Fernow, *The Minutes of the Orphan Masters of New Amsterdam*, (1902), pp. 237

46 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York -1865*, (1865) pp. 700; Actually Thomas Wendell;

47 Berthold Fernow, *The Minutes of the Orphan Masters of New Amsterdam*, (1902), pp. 242. Another transcript of the same Dutch document from 1663 in the New York City archives gives the departed wife as “Judith Robbersen”.

appoint guardians and administrators, to have a settlement of their father's property made upon her children before the marriage, so that they may have it on coming of age or marrying, therefore the Orphanmasters of this City elect and qualify as guardians Sieur Govert Loockermans, late Schepen, and Hendrick van de Water, Burgher residing here, [...].

Done etc. April 26, 1663".

Here, for the first time in this work, we have an indication of the name of Ariaentje's and Neeltje's mother. It is given as "*Judick Robbers(z).*" The New York City Archives helpfully supplied the author with a 19th century transcription that gives "*Judith Robbers*". The original is simply not clear enough to settle the matter. Certainly, the name "*Judick*" also surfaces interchangeably with "*Judith*" at the Dutch settlement at the Cape of Good Hope. However, again it may be an artifact of transcription.

Guardian Govert Loockermans is a man of high standing indeed. He was one of the first traders in town and at one point had a joint business, *Allerton & Loockermans*, with Isaac Allerton of Plymouth, one of the original Mayflower settlers⁴⁸.

The banns for the marriage between Adriaen and Thysje are run starting 3 May 1663, which is before the date of one of the transactions above in the Orphan Chamber. This time his late wife, Ariaentje's and Neeltje's mother, is named as "*Judith Roberts*"⁴⁹ (assuming editor Fernow did not employ too much licence in translating):

3 May. Adriaen Huybertsz, Wedr. Van Judith Roberts, en Thysje Gerrits, Wede. Van Willem Pieterszen.

Soon enough, Thysje and Adriaen baptise their own first child⁵⁰:

1664 Feb 03; Adriaen Huybertsz, Thysje Gerrits; Franck; Huyg Barentsz Cleyne, Joost Adriaenszen, Heyltie Pieters

As we shall show later, this just so happens to be the name of Adriaen's brother in the Netherlands.

On 3 July 1664 Claes Gangelofsz Visser asks to be relieved of being guardian for the Sterrevelt children⁵¹.

Thursday, July 3, 1664

Claas Gangelofz Visser intends to move to Curacoa [Curaçao]. He requests to be relieved as guardian of the children of Arie Huybersen. In his place is appointed Coenraat Ten Eyck who will be guardian with Jan Hendricksz Steelman.

In the event, Visser will not leave and his signature will end up on a historically important document.

A key point to note concerning every single bit of data in this section, is that the family name Sterrevelt is never used. It is only after the following section that we obtain the irrefutable proof that it is indeed Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt who is the widower of Judith Robberts and who has married Thysje Gerrits and is associated with Aris Otte's Tavern. At this point in the work, however, the only evidence we have is circumstantial, being the fact that Sterrevelt is the particular Adriaen Huybertsen who signed an affidavit three years before in the presence of a man who now happens to be Thysje's neighbour. That is thin evidence indeed. However, such is history and genealogy – one follows such small clues to find conclusive evidence.

The English take New Amsterdam

Around 27 August 1664 four English warships arrive just off Nieuw Amsterdam. The peace between England and the United Provinces (Nederland) has been a very shaky one indeed, but at this point it is formally peacetime. The brazenly illegal English action catches the Dutch completely by surprise. They are completely out-gunned and outnumbered with no hope of military relief.

The English have 600 marines and more than ninety cannon. The Dutch have at best 250 ordinary burghers capable of bearing arms. One should keep in mind here that there are quite a number of ethnic English citizens in Nieuw Amsterdam at this time. Several of them live right across the road from the Sterrevelts. One good example is Richard Smith and another is "Karel Verbrugge", the "English Secretary", who is about to

48 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York -1855*, (1855) pp. 536;

49 <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcmarr1663.shtml>

50 <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/church/rdcbapt5.shtml>

51 Dutch Records in the City Clerk's Office, New York pp. 19

change his name back to “Charles Bridges”.

Given his history as a military leader in the Caribbean, Pieter Stuyvesant is hell bent on fighting. The citizens are not convinced of this course of action. It is this situation that is captured in the famous painting, which depicts Stuyvesant on the ramparts of the fort, his men ready with lit matches next to their loaded cannon, while Dominee Megapolensis and the womenfolk plead with him to desist. The *Stadsvaders* meet in the *Stadthuys*, mere yards from the Sterrevelt home, to discuss the subject. The result is a petition to Stuyvesant to not oppose the English colonel Richard Nicolls. This petition, known as the “Remonstrance” contains the following historic words⁵²:

“But (God help us!), whether we turn us for assistance to the north or to the south, to the east or to the west, 'tis all vain! On all sides are we encompassed and hemmed in by our enemies”.



Fig. 2 Dominee Megapolensis and the women pleading with Pieter Stuyvesant not to fire on the English.

They implore Stuyvesant to desist in order to spare the lives of their wives and children. It is only when Stuyvesant sees the name of his son, Balthazar, among the signatories that he agrees. The ninety signatories include three of the four original guardians of the Sterrevelt-De Groot children, Govert Loockermans, Aldert Koninck and Hendrick van de Water, as well as one of their new guardians, Coenraet ten Eyck. Another signatory is Hendrick Bos, who originally arrived with Sterrevelt on the *De Trouw* in 1661. Erstwhile Burgemeester van Cortland, the present Burgemeester Steenwyck, Ds. Samuel Megapolensis (the son) and Mr. Cossau are then deputised to conduct negotiations with Colonel Nicolls.

On Saturday morning 6 September 1664 everyone is on edge. The Van Cortland team is meeting with the

⁵² Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan, *The History of New Netherland Vol II*, (1855), pp.527; See also Brodhead Vol.II, pp.248

English at Pieter Stuyvesant's farm outside the palisades. Eventually word comes that they have reached agreement⁵³. Pieter Stuyvesant will march out of the fort with his men, and the English will take over the fort and the town. There will be no shooting. Most importantly, the people of the town shall be allowed to keep their property, their rights and their systems. They shall be allowed to commute to and from Holland in safety.

Two days later, on Monday morning 8 September 1664, Peter Stuyvesant and his men ceremonially march out of the Fort and down *Bever Straat* under a Dutch flag. The English ceremonially march in under an English one. Everyone is there to watch nervously. Later the commotion moves nearer the Sterrevelt house as the English officer Cartwright and his men take over the *Stadthuys* around the corner down *Stadthuys Laan*.

The last two months in Nieuw Nederland

Nicolls moves rapidly to enforce English authority throughout Nieuw Nederland. On the Delaware River in the south matters get very nasty indeed and the English attack even the peaceful Mennonite settlement. However, the present work is not aimed at a comprehensive study of 17th century English military practice. Our concern here is with Nieuw Amsterdam and the condition of its people under English occupation.

Over the period 21-26 October 1664 the citizens of Nieuw Amsterdam who aim to remain in the colony are required to take an oath of allegiance to the English Crown. While most of the men we have met do take the oath, including Aldert Coninck, Hendrick van de Water, Govert Loockermans, the two ds. Megapolensis and, in fact, Pieter Stuyvesant himself, there is no Adriaen Huybertsen (Sterrevelt or otherwise) on the list⁵⁴.

Having taken the town with his four ships and 600 men, Nicolls is now stuck with a problem. How is he to house his army of occupation? He anticipated this matter when he signed the agreement with the *Stadsvaders* and stipulated that some of his men would have to be billeted on the inhabitants of the town⁵⁵, which service he agreed to pay for. However, the low moral calibre of the men in his army has caused great unhappiness among the upstanding Dutch citizenry, who are soon outraged by the conduct of these men. So it is that a heated negotiation arises between Nicolls and the *Stadsvaders*. The citizens would rather pay a tax to the English army than put up with the behaviour of his soldiers in their homes.

When the *Stadsvaders* appeal to the citizens to put up some of these soldiers, the townsfolk cite endless excuses as to why they cannot help. It is to be noted that the ethnic English are quite as outraged as their Dutch compatriots and also refuse to help. The tapsters and taverners, in particular, are upset, because there has already been a case of two soldiers demanding drink against Nicoll's own orders. When they did not get what they wanted, the soldiers returned with ten more of their unit with swords drawn. They injured some of the townsfolk and behaved inappropriately toward the tapster's wife. This situation continues for several months.

It is not clear exactly what the issues are affecting specifically Adriaen Huybersten Sterrevelt under English occupation in Nieuw Amsterdam. It could have something to do with the business of his tavern being affected. It could be that potential guests are loathe to visit New Amsterdam in turbulent times; we do not truly know. All we do know, is that things now happen in rapid succession, starting on 15 March 1665 in the Orphan Masters Court, as evidenced by three entries in the minutes of that esteemed body⁵⁶:

Wednesday, March 15, 1665.

Covert Loockermans and Hendrick Van de Water, guardians of children of dec'd Willem Pietersz De Groot, notify orphanmasters of intended departure of Arie Huybersz, present husband of Tysie Willemsz, with wife and children for Holland, as he does not know how to make a living now. [author's underlining]

53 J.R. Brodhead, *Documents relative to the colonial history of the State of New York, Vol II*, (1858), pp.250 (uses Old Style dates)

54 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York -1854*, pp.524;

55 J.R. Brodhead, *Documents relative to the colonial history of the State of New York, Vol II*, (1858), pp.249

56 Theodore M. Banta, *Dutch Records in the City Clerk's Office, New York, Part I*, (1900), pp.20

Thursday, March 16, 1665.

Tysie Willemsz, present wife of Arie Huybersz, says she has a sister living at Alkmaar, Holland, named Madaleentje Gerrits, wife of Pater Vaar. Arien Huybersz, her husband, says his father Huybert Eghbersz is still living at Soetermeer.

The first time in this work that we can state with 100% certainty that it is indeed “our” Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt who married Thysje Gerrits, is on 6 April 1665, when the two of them make a security deposit with the Orphan Masters of Nieuw Amsterdam in order to obtain release of the inheritances of their children:

Thursday, April 6, 1665.

Arie Huybersz Sterrevelt and his wife Tysie Willemsz deposit security with orphans court for share of their children.

J.K. Paulding⁵⁷ provides a directory of the property owners in Nieuw Amsterdam in 1665. It lists a single “Arien Huybersen” and he lives on Hoogh Straat. Adriaen Huybertse de Tweede appears to now be absent from Nieuw Amsterdam. In 1907 Bertold Fernow will publish a second book under the misleading title of “*The minutes of the Orphan Masters Court of New Amsterdam*”. The contents of the first several pages of the book are in fact the Minutes of the Executive Boards of the City of New Amsterdam. Among these pages we find the actions of a man who is indisputably Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt, because he signs his name “*Sterrevelt*”! The transaction is the sale to Meindert Barentsen of what is clearly the house that used to be Aris Otte's Tavern⁵⁸.

Monday, 17 April, 1665

Before us, the undersigned Schepens etc., the worthy Arien Huybertsen, Burgher etc., declared that by virtue of a deed of January 28, 1663, he cedes, conveys and grants to Meindert Barentsen, also Burgher etc., a house and lot on the Northside of the Hoogh Straat, bounded West by the house and lot of Sieur Tielman van Vleek, Schout of the Village of Bergen, East by the house and lot of Wessel Evertsen, North by the Slyck Steegh, South by Hoogh Street, and according to said deed in front on the street 18 feet 2 in. woodmeasure wide, same width on the Northside, long on the West 8 rods 9f., on the East 9r. 2f., all free and unencumbered etc. etc. etc. March 17, 1665, O.S.

TIMOTHEUS GABRY ADRIAEN HUYBERSE STEREVELT

The relevant “*deed of January 28, 1663*” is no doubt the one between Gerrit Hendricksen van Hardenwyck and Tysje, as described in our section above entitled “*Aris Otte's Tavern: 1661- January 1663*”. This is the first point where that dwelling is unequivocally linked to Sterrevelt. Thus we have managed to follow the correct Adriaen Huybertsen and have been associating him with the correct wife and property all along. The very next day “*Arien Huyberzen*” is in court to clear up some last matters in respect of this particular property⁵⁹.

In April 1665 Nicolls agrees to a postponement of the billeting in exchange for some payment by the townsfolk. In this process a list is generated indicating what weekly rate each household shall contribute for a period of six weeks while Nicolls is away. The records of Nieuw Amsterdam show:

Wednesday, 19 April, 1665

On this day “*Arien Huybersen*” on “*Hoogh Straat*” is assessed to contribute⁶⁰ on a weekly basis.

On 2 May 1665 ex-director Peter Stuyvesant appears before the *Stadsvaders* at the *Stadthuys*⁶¹, around the corner from the Sterrevelt family home. He asks for and receives a letter of commendation from the collective body of town leaders. In this process he states that he plans to soon depart for “*The Fatherland*”.

The only ship confirmed to sail for Amsterdam that year is the *Gekruyste Hart* (Crossed Heart), which

57 J.K. Paulding, *Affairs and Men of New Amsterdam in the time of Governor Peter Stuyvesant*, (1843), pp. 105

58 Berthold Fernow, *The Minutes of the Orphan Masters of New Amsterdam*, (1907), pp. 9

59 Berthold Fernow, *The Records of New Amsterdam*, Vol. 5, (1897), pp. 216

60 Berthold Fernow, *The Records of New Amsterdam*, Vol. 5, (1897), pp. 222

61 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York- 1861*, (1861), pp. 620

leaves soon after⁶² on 6 May 1665. The family Sterrevelt is likely on board⁶³, along with none other than Peter Stuyvesant⁶⁴ who is on his way back to the Netherlands to clear his name. He will later return to Nieuw Amsterdam and settle as citizen under the English.

Herewith we have come to the end of Ariaentje Sterrevelt's life in Nieuw Nederland.

The Sterrevelt family in the Netherlands

On 29 October 1665, some five months after the departure of the *Gekruyste Hart* from Nieuw Amsterdam, the *Poorterboek*⁶⁵ of Amsterdam records a “tobacco merchant” named “*Adriaen Huijbertszoon Starrevelt*” registering as citizen. The exact Dutch wording is as follows:

“*heeft de poortereed afgelegd Adriaen Huijbertszoon Starrevelt, tabaksverkoper, komende uit Soetermeer als getrouwd hebbende Lijsje Gaerelof*”. [Author's underlining]

“Gaerelof” is simply a sophistication of “Gerritsz.” Tysje is also given as “Lysje” at her marriage.

We never hear of Sterrevelt, his wife Thysje Gerrits, his daughter Geertie by the late Judith Robberts, or his four De Groot step-children again. Therefore, this is a good place to stop and determine the ancestry of this man. He has been kind enough to provide us with his father's name: *Huybert Eghbersz* of Soetermeer (see the previous section). We also know his family name is Sterrevelt.

Fortunately the good people of Soetermeer in the Netherlands are very keen on the history of their town and have gone to great lengths to put extensive genealogical and other information on the Internet in brilliantly organised fashion. We therefore consult this online information to find the following:

1. From the Trouwboek of Zoetermeer we have the marriage of Adriaen Huybertsen Starrevelt's parents⁶⁶:

HUIJBRECHT Eggers (*Starrevelt*), *ig. van Segwart, & Geertje Arijs*, *jd. van Segwart*.
25-9-1616; *getr. Consent: met vrunden raet*

2. From the Doopboek of the reformed Church of Zegwaard outside Zoetermeer we have the baptisms of Adriaen (“Arijen”) and his siblings⁶⁷:

HUBRECHT Eggerss (*Starrevelt*), *Zegwaard*

27-10-1619	Arijen	<i>get. Arijs Eggerss, Lenert Pieterss, Annetie Jochems</i>
26-06-1622	Maertie	<i>get. Jeremias Verburch, Maertie Cornelis, Grietje Gerbrants</i>
09-06-1624	Franck	<i>get. Cornelis Dirrickxz, Cornelis Henderickxz, Ingetie Pieters</i>
02-08-1626	Fijtje	<i>get. Aris Eggertss, Ingetie Pieters</i>

3. From the Doopboek of Zoetermeer we have the likely baptisms of Adriaen Huybertsen Starrevelt's father and mother⁶⁸, there being no other Eggert with son Hubrecht, or Adriaen with daughter Geertruijt:

EGGERT Hubrechtss (*uit Soetermeer*)[father]

05-03-1595 **Hubrecht** *get. Cornelis Eggertss, Leentgen Hubrechtss, Grietgen Hubrechtss*

ADRIAEN Pieterss (*uit Segwaert*) [father- note the Pieters witnesses at the above Hubrecht/Huybert baptisms]

30-09-1590 **Geertruijt** *get. Jan Willems van Delff, Magdaleentge Cornelise (van Bleeswick), Gertgen Rook-en, mede van Bleeswick*

62 http://www.olivetreenealogy.com/nn/mm_shipnyam.shtml

63 The arrival date of the *Gekruyste Hart* in Holland is not recorded, but a date in August or September is reasonable.

64 J.R. Brodhead, *Documents relative to the colonial history of the State of New York, Vol II*, (1858), pp.470

65 *Amsterdam Poorterboek* 1665; Volume 2, pp.26 – 29 October 1665; graciously provided by Ineke Beijert-Starrevelt, Nederland

66 <http://www.allezoetermeeders.nl/bronnen/indexendtbenburgstand1576-1992/1605-1650huw1.htm>

67 <http://www.allezoetermeeders.nl/bronnen/indexendtbenburgstand1576-1992/1601-1650dopen.htm>

68 <http://www.allezoetermeeders.nl/bronnen/indexendtbenburgstand1576-1992/1586-1600dopennedgerf.htm>

We know that grandfather Egbert Huybrechts had a house around Zegwaart from 1628 to 1634 with a shed and a piece of unfertile land, because he was taxed on that according to two documents. The first is entitled “*Kohier van verponding te Zegwaart, 1628*”, and provides the following information⁶⁹:

Folio 54: “*Egbert Huybrechtszn cleermaker heeft een huysgen ende erff mit schuyter ende plantgie getacxeert ende geprijsseert in huyere vrijs gelts jaerlicxs waerdich te weesen dortyen gulden*”

The other is a document entitled⁷⁰ “*Kohier van de verponding te Zegwaart, 1634 (01/309)*”. It reads in very arcane Dutch:

Folio 22: “*Egbert Hubrechtsz Cleermaecker gebruyct in eygendom twe hont uitgemoert gebroocken ende onvruchtbaer lant oversulcx ‘tselve getacxeert op nyet dyent voor memorie*”

Folio 59v: “*Egbert Huybertsz Cleermaecker zijn huysgen, erve, schuyter ende plantage op 10 gulden is den 8e p. 1 £ 5 st.*”

We can even determine the name of Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt's grandmother, wife of Eghbert/Eggert Huybrechts. Quite fortuitously it appears in a document listing taxes paid⁷¹ in 1622. It is entitled “*Kohier van het Hoofdgeld over Rijnland 1622: ZEGWAART en ZOETERMEER (GA Leiden, Stadsarchief II, inv. nr. 4024)*”. This document simultaneously gives us the profession of the family. Evidently, the family has a long history as tailors (*cleermaeckers*) at the west side of the town of Segwaart.

Page 23: *Egbert Huijbertsz cleermaecker* [Adriaen's grandfather]

*Adriaentgen Adriaensdr, sijn huijsvrouw; [Adriaen's paternal grandmother]
met Andries cleermaker
't Dorp van Segwaert de westzijde f. 654v*

Page 32: *Huybert Egbertsz Cleermaecker* [Adriaen's father]

*Geertgen Adriaensdr., sijn huijsvrouw; kinderen: Adriaen [Ariaentje's father-to-be], Marritgen
Daniel, vuijt Vlaenderen, haer knecht
't Dorp van Segwaert de westzijde f. 650*

In fact, it turns out that Adriaen's younger brother, Franck, maintains the family tradition as tailor in the late 17th century, at least the third generation to do so. This we obtain from entries in a book⁷² of “*kopers, verkopers en borgen uit de transportakten en schuldbrieven van ZOETERMEER Rechterlijk Archief 1651-1700*”. The dates associated are 22-04-1659 and 28-05-1660:

Starrevelt, Vranck Huijbrechtss (cleermaecker, won. Segwaert)

The same document also tells us that father “*Starrevelt, Hu(ij)brecht Eggerss*” is still in Soetermeer on 1 May 1659. We also find Adriaen's younger brother Franck's marriage to Cnietje Leenderts Lapper in the *Trouwboek* of Zoetermeer⁷³:

*FRANCK Huibertse (Starrevelt), jm., & Cnietje Leenderts (Lapper), jd., beide van Segwaert.
otr⁷⁴. 19-11-1645; getr. 6-12-1645. Consent: Huibert Eggertse (Starrevelt), vader Leendert Crijnen (Lapper), vader*

The same books⁷⁵ show that father Huijbert Egbertsz remarries on 29 April 1657 after the death of his wife Geertje Adriansz. The second wife is Sijtje Janszdr, widow of Dirk Claasz:

69 <http://www.allezoetermeeders.nl/bronnen/indexenbelastingregisters1543-1742/1628verpondingzw.doc>

70 <http://www.allezoetermeeders.nl/bronnen/indexenbelastingregisters1543-1742/1634verpondingzw.doc>

71 <http://www.allezoetermeeders.nl/bronnen/indexenbelastingregisters1543-1742/1622hoofdgeld.doc>

72 <http://www.allezoetermeeders.nl/bronnen/indexentransportenenhypotheken1571-1700/zmra1651-1700.doc>

73 <http://www.allezoetermeeders.nl/bronnen/indexendtbenburgstand1576-1992/1605-1650huw1.htm>

74 The “*ondertrou*” date – the date of the banns

75 <http://www.allezoetermeeders.nl/bronnen/indexendtbenburgstand1576-1992/1651-1700huwtxt.htm>

otr 14-04-1657 Zoetermeer met attestatie naar Wilsveen 29-4-1657 Huibert Eggertsz; wpl. Zoetermeer, wed. Gheertje Arentsz; Sijtje Janszdr; wpl. Zoetermeer, wed. Dirk Claasz

With the above information in hand, we can now summarise the structure of the Sterrevelt family of tailors from Zoetermeer and Zegwaard, showing only the Huybert Egberts leg:

1. Egbert Huijbertsz +after 1634 x Adriaentgen Adriaensdr +after 1622

2. Huijbert Egbertsz Sterrevelt ~ Zoetermeer 05.03.1595

x Zoetermeer 25.9.1616 **Geertjen Adriaens** ~30.09.1590 + after 02.08.1626, bef. 14.04.1657

x Zoetermeer 29.4.1657 29 Sijtje Janszdr

3.1 Adriaen ~Zegwaard 27-10-1619

x Judith Robberts + Nieuw Amsterdam ca. 18.02.1663, but bef 26.04.1663

xx banns Nieuw Amsterdam 03.05.1663 Thysje Gerritsz, widow Willem P. de Groot

4.1 Huybert ~ Nieuw Amsterdam 15.9.1652

4.2 Cornelia (Neeltje) ~ Nieuw Amsterdam 12.8.1657 [the Cape Town orphan]

4.3 Adriana (Ariaentje) ~ Nieuw Amsterdam 29.08.1660 [the Cape Town orphan]

4.4 Geertruyd (Geertie) ~ Nieuw Amsterdam 18.02.1663

(second marriage)

4.5 Franck ~Nieuw Amsterdam 03.02.1664

3.2 Maertie ~ Zegwaard 26-06-1622

3.3 Franck ~ Zegwaard 09-06-1624

x **Cnietje Leenderts (Lapper)**

3.4 Fijtie ~ Zegwaard 02-08-1626

The frustrating reality here is that we are no wiser about Adriaen Huybersten Sterrevelt's life in Holland before he ends up with⁷⁶ Jan Broers on the island of Curaçao in the West Indies, which is 1644 at the latest. He was then 24 or 25 years old. We also know nothing about him between 1644 and 1652, when he baptises his first child in Nieuw Amsterdam. We similarly know nothing about him after he registers in October 1665 as a tobacco merchant in Amsterdam. In fact, we know much more about his father Huijbert and his brother Franck than we know about Adriaen. Both the other men were tailors, as was his grandfather Egbert. Everything we know about Adriaen Huybersten Sterrevelt himself as grown man comes from his stay in Nieuw Nederland and his affidavit concerning Jan Broersen Decker.

With this picture of the Zegwaard-Zoetermeer Sterrevelt family in hand, we turn the clock forward again to 1665 at the Cape of Good hope.

The two mysterious orphans at the Cape of Good Hope

News of the September 1664 events in New Nederland and the subsequent hostilities that have since broken out with the English in the English Channel reach⁷⁷ the Cape of Good Hope on 9 June 1665. The consequence is that the foundation stones of the "Castle" in Cape Town are laid on 2 January 1666. Defences are required against the English who are eying the Dutch success in the Far East.

In December 1667, two years after Adriaen Huybertsen Sterrevelt registered as citizen in Amsterdam, Nederland, we find a very interesting set of entries in the "Expenses and Receipts" books of the Dutch Reformed Church at the Cape of Good Hope⁷⁸:

⁷⁶ Berthold Fernow, *Records of New Amsterdam from 1653 to 1674 A.D.*, Vol 3, (1897); Minutes of the Court, Nov. 20, 1661; pp.412

⁷⁷ George McCall Theal, *Chronicles of Cape Commanders*, pp.130

⁷⁸ *Reekening van Ontfangst en Uitgaaf, 1665-1669*; Private communication, Lorna Newcomb and Mansell Upham

The widow Wiederholt is paid 65 gulder “aangaende de kostgeld van Ariaentje, een arm kind; 4.10 aen school gelt” and “12.14 aen't nuyen en klederen”, while an amount of 8.50 was given “nog voor't maken van eenige klederen voor Neeltje meede een wees kind.” [author's emphases]

At this point in the history we have no idea who orphan girls Neeltje and Ariaentje are, but they appear to be together. The only other thing we know is that they have been placed with the widow Wiederholt, they are clearly dependent on the alms of the church, and schooling is involved. So, let us stop for a moment and determine exactly who the widow Wiederholt is, as the information might just help us later.

This lady is Geertruyd Meyntingh, the widow of Evert Rolemoo, by whom she has had one daughter, Anna Elisabet⁷⁹ before he died. She has since married⁸⁰ the Cape sergeant-at-arms, Wilhelm Ludwig Wiederholt. He arrived⁸¹ in 1665 on the *Casteel van Medenblick*:

Den 9 Mey 1666 : Wilhelm Lodewyck Widerholt met Geertruida Meyntinghs wed:za: Evert Rooleemo:

On 9 May 1667 she bears Wiederholt a son named Willem Lodewyk, the Dutch form of the father's name. However, Geertruyd Meyntingh is destined to be very unlucky indeed in the department of husbands. Two weeks later, on 23 May 1667, she appears in person before the Council of Policy of the Cape and pleads for help to feed her two children, because her second husband, Willem Wiederholt, has also died⁸²:

De weduwe van zaliger Willem Weiderholt in sijn leven zargeant alhier met behoorlijk request in Rade verscheijnende en nedrich versouckende dat ten opsichte haer beijde mans so kort achter malkanderen was comen te verliesen, ende weijnich bij een te krijgen wist, om hare twee kinderen t' onderhouden, d' Hr. Commissaris geliefde haeren soon gent. Willem sodanige gagie toe te vougen als goet soude vinden, so is bij meerderheijt van stemmen verstaen voorsz kint 4 gl. maendeijcks toe te voegen.

No doubt the church sees this lady as someone who would respond very positively to some monies to care for two young orphans from Holland. This could very well explain how the orphans, Neeltje and Ariaentje, end up at the home of “the widow Wiederholt” supported by the welcome *gulder* of the church.

On 27 February 1668 an event occurs that will soon affect the two orphan girls. The small ship *Poelsnip* pulls into Table Bay carrying the very unpopular commander of Mauritius, George Frederik Wreede⁸³, who has been removed from his post. It is also this ship that brings the message that the much respected Danish explorer, Pieter van Meerhoff, husband of Eva the Hottentot, has been murdered in Madagsacar.

In the Meyntinghs household, fate now intervenes in the form of a new suitor for Geertruyd Meyntingh. He is Dirck Bosch from Amsterdam. In April of 1668 they announce that they aim to be married⁸⁴:

Den 29 April An' 1668 Dirck Bosch van Amstd met Geertruda Meyntes van Hasselt

The church has to find the two orphan girls a new home. Dirck Bosch is already having to raise two children from two earlier husbands of Geertruyd, and this while he is no doubt planning on having lots of sons of his own. He is not going to take care of two orphan girls as well. While the events at this point are not documented, our postulate is that the two orphan girls are placed with the highly respected ensign Dirck Jansz Smient.

At this point the Cape governor makes the fateful decision that Ensign Smient should relocate to Mauritius as caretaking commander of the island, replacing commander Wreede. Dirck has been there before and knows the place. He is a competent man and a good choice for the job. And this is how Neeltje and Ariaentje leave for the settlement on the tropical island of Mauritius on board the *Poelsnip*⁸⁵ with Dirck Smient on 29 June 1668, a mere two months after being removed from Geertruyd Meyntinghs.

79 De Villiers & Pama, *Geslagsregister van ou Kaapse Families*

80 <http://www.eggasa.org/sarecords/index.php/church-registers/cape-town-marriages-1665-to-1695/69-cape-town-marriages-1666>

81 <http://databases.tanap.net/cgh/main.cfm?artikelid=20965>; Resolutions of the Council of Policy, ref C.4, pp.11-30

82 <http://databases.tanap.net/cgh/main.cfm?artikelid=20965>; Resolutions of the Council of Policy, ref C. 4, pp. 53-64.

83 H.C.V. Leibbrandt, *Precis of the Archive of the Cape of Good Hope, Vol 14*, (1901), pp.238

84 <http://www.eggasa.org/sarecords/index.php/church-registers/cape-town-marriages-1665-to-1695/71-cape-town-marriages-1668>

85 H.C.V. Leibbrandt, *Precis of the Archive of the Cape of Good Hope, Vol 14*, (1901), pp.246

The “dagboek” of the governor does not mention the two orphans who may very well be with him. This is not convincing evidence that they were *not* there, because there is no mention of his wife Annetje Jansz Speckhaert either, while the Church Parish Membership Roll⁸⁶ shows she did accompany him to Mauritius:

“Annatjen Jans h.v. van Dirck Jansz: Smient met attestatie [deleted] vetrocken na Mauritius”

Her family name is obtained from another entry for the couple in the same roll:

Dirrick [sic] Jansz Smient [from Groningen] ; Annetie Jans Speckaert sijn huijsvrouw [from Gramsbergh]

In fact, the Council of Policy at the Cape of Good Hope determined that Anna would go with Dirck Smiendt⁸⁷:

Maandag 18en Junij anno 1668.

....een nieuw opperhoofd, in plaets van den jongst gelichte ende opgebrachten Wreden derwaerts te zenden, [...] ... Ende is uijt dese raetspersoonen tot opperhoofd op do. eijlant genomineert den vendrich Dirck Jansz smient die dan met zijn huijsvrouw per voorsz navet mede te vertrecken staet. [Author's underlining]

Their stay on Mauritius will last 18 months. So it is that the Cape Church books⁸⁸ have an entry dated 26 July 1668, stating that money is allocated “for clothes for two orphans sent to Mauritius”. A later entry in 1669 contains the peculiar statement⁸⁹:

“van Neeltje towende⁹⁰ mede van de Smient van Mauritius 18.11.0.” [Author's underlining]

On 9 December 1669 the ship *Voerman* arrives⁹¹ back at the Cape with Smient, and presumably the two girls, on board. The church books⁹² record on 22 December 1669 that Neeltje is to be placed with the Church Deacon Gerrit van der Bijl, while Ariaentje is to be placed with the Church Elder Herman Gresnich:

“zijn door gemeene goet vinden besteet twe myskens, de ouwste genaemt neeltje ten huysse van Gerrit van der Byl vryburger en diacen en het jongste geheeten Adriaantje ten huysse van herman gresnigh ouderlingh, op voorwaerde van dat de diaconie geen onkosten en sullen dragen, dan van behoorlicke kledingte tot den tyt van hare vry ... jaren, en als dan niet en sullen vermogende voornoemde kinderen

It is heartening to note that these records indeed show that Neeltje to be older than Ariaentje, though they still do not identify them as being sisters.

On 7 July 1670 Gresnich requests that the church takes Ariaentje back on its system and they place her with Neeltje at the Van der Bijl's home. For this the church makes 10 gulder a month available to Van der Bijl. The books read⁹³:

“7 July 1670 Is Adriaantje op versoek van Herman Gresnicht weder ten lasten van de Diaconie genomen en ten huysse van den Diacon Gerrid van der Bijl bestelt tegen tien gulden ter maant.”

The church provides “*slaepkisten*” and clothes, as well as money for food and for her and her sister Cornelia's schooling. It is only in September 1670 that we finally see recorded evidence of a connection between Geertruyd Meyntinghs and the Smient family. Geertruyd Meyntinghs asks Dirck Smient to be a witness to the baptism of her daughter, Sophia, by Dirck Bosch⁹⁴.

Den 7 Sept. een dochterke van Dirck Bosch en Geertryda Mentings syn huysvr' wiert genaamt Sophia tot getuyge stonden Dirck Jansz Smient en Margareta van Seurwaarde

86 Parish Membership Roll of the Dutch Reformed Church of Cape Town; supplied by Mansell Upham

87 Cape Archives; *Resolutions of the Council of Policy of the Cape of Good Hope*; ref. C. 5, pp. 12-13

88 *Rekening van Ontfangst en Uitgaaf, 1665-1669*; courtesy Lorna Newcomb and Mansell Upham

89 *Rekening van Ontfangst en Uitgaaf, 1665-1669*; courtesy Lorna Newcomb and Mansell Upham

90 The author cannot interpret the word “towende”; it is possibly a transcription error, but the entry does have “Neeltje * mede * Smient”

91 H.C.V. Leibbrandt, *Precis of the Archive of the Cape of Good Hope, Vol 14*, (1901), pp.238

92 *Rekening van Ontfangst en Uitgaaf, 1665-1669*, courtesy Lorna Newcomb and Mansell Upham

93 *Rekening van Ontfangst en Uitgaaf, 1665-1669*, courtesy Lorna Newcomb

94 <http://www.eggsga.org/sarecords/index.php/church-registers/cape-town-ngk-1665-to-1695/41-cape-town-baptisms-1670>

As a last intriguing point, on 3 November 1666, one year before the two Sterrevelt girls appear in the church books at the Cape, and one very convenient year after they arrived back in Amsterdam, the ship *Ooievaar*⁹⁵ arrives at the Cape. And its captain - the only Adriaen Huibertz. ever to sail for the VOC! Is this serendipity?

The first Sterrevelt marriages at the Cape of Good Hope

Life has been very unfair to our ancestor Ariaentje. First she lost her carefree young existence in New Amsterdam when the English Duke of York took it away. Then she lost her parents. Then she was sent to Africa, of all places, on a long and very dangerous sea voyage. Then she was moved from Geertruyd Meyntinghs to Dirck Smient. Then she was moved to the island of Mauritius with Smient; and then she was moved back. Then she was separated from her sister and finally placed back with her. It has been an utterly disrupted life as a young orphan child living on the alms of the church. Her life as an adult will prove no better.

On 22 May 1672 in Cape Town, Neeltje marries⁹⁶ Barent Brinkmann from Dortmund in Germany:

dito [22 May 1672] *Barend Brinckman jonghm' geboortigh geboortigh* (sic) *van Dortmunt, met Neeltje Sterrevelts jonged geboortigh van Niuw-Nederlant* [Author's underlining]

It seems reasonable to assume she was married at the age of 15, just like Ariaentje three years later. That would place her date of birth sometime in 1657. Given that the church has had to carry the expenses of these girls, they would no doubt like to have some smitten potential husband take over those costs.

In order to comprehend the relationships among the people surrounding the two young Sterrevelt ladies, we take note of the following baptism⁹⁷ by Geertruyd Meyntinghs and the man who is now her fourth husband, Johannes Pretorius, given that Dirck Bosch, her third husband, has now also died :

Den 3 Junij [1674] *een soontje van Johannes Praetorius en Geertruijd Mentinghs sy huisvrouw wierdt genaamt Wessell getuyghe was Dirck Jansz Smiendt Leut't nevens Margarita Meeckhoff huisvrouw van Willem van Dieden*

We notice that none other than Dirck Smiendt is the witness. However, it is the first baptism by Neeltje that really brings it home:

Den 30 Decembr [1674] *een soontie van Barent Brinckman en syn huisvrouw Neeltie Sterrevelts wiert genaamt Bernhardus als getuiyghen syn verschenen Juffr. Smient en Sr Kroes.*

Here we have Dirck Smiendt's wife, Annetie Jans Speckaert ("*Juffr. Smient*"), serving as witness to the baptism of Neeltje's first child. The choice of name for the child is with Barent Brinkmann. We take it as read he uses the name of his father. It is only the next baby boy that will provide Neeltje with her opportunity to choose a name.

On 14 April 1675 the not quite 15-year old Ariaentje Sterrevelt marries⁹⁸ Heinrich Evert Schmidt, a young German soldier from Ibbenbüren:

Den 14 Aprill : Hendrick Evertsz Smidt geboortigh van Eupenbieren J.M. en Adriaantie Sterrevelt geboortich. n'yt Niuw-Nederlandt Jonghe Dochter. [Author's underlining]

Heinrich left the Dutch East India Company in 1670 to become a Free Burgher and is now a trader in beer and tobacco in Cape Town. This is the same general line of business as that which her father, Adriaen Huybersten Sterrevelt, used to be in.

On 17 January 1677 Neeltje baptises her second son. Now it is her opportunity to name a boy child. Her southern Dutch custom is that her father's name is the first on the list. And so the baptism reads:

Den 17 Jan. [1677] *Adriaen, Barent Brinckman en Neeltie Sterrevelts ; Hendrick Evertsz Smit en Ariaentie Ster-*

⁹⁵ <http://www.historici.nl/Onderzoek/Projecten/DAS/detailVoyage/91543>

⁹⁶ <http://www.eggza.org/sarecords/index.php/church-registers/cape-town-marriages-1665-to-1695/75-cape-town-marriages-1672>

⁹⁷ All baptism information in this section and the following two is from the Baptism Books of the Cape Dutch reformed Church; <http://www.eggza.org/sarecords/index.php/church-registers/cape-town-ngk-1665-to-1695>

⁹⁸ <http://www.eggza.org/sarecords/index.php/church-registers/cape-town-marriages-1665-to-1695/78-cape-town-marriages-1675>

revelts sijn huijsvr.

Her sister Ariaentje Sterrevelt and Ariaentje's husband, Hendrik/Heinrich Evertsz. Smit/Schmidt, are the witnesses.

On 29 August 1677 Ariaentje is at the church as witness, this time for the stamvader of the author's wife, Arnoldus/Arnout Willemsz. Basson from Wesel in the Rheinland. He is also known as "Jagt" and is married to the freed slave woman who arrived in 1657 and worked in Jan van Riebeeck's household, Angela van Bengale:

Den 29 Aug. Elsie ; Arnoldus Willemsz van Wesel en Angela van Bengale; Oolof Bergh van Gotteburg Sargeant in dienst van de E. Comp en Adriana Sterreveldt huijsvr' van Hendrick Everts Smit

On 23 October 1678 Ariaentje, now 18 years old, baptises her first child. The baby girl is named Catrijna. Since Schmidt is a German, he as husband gets to make the first call on the naming of the child:

den selfden dito [23 October 1678] ~~Elizabeth~~ Catrijna; Hendrick Everts Smith en Adriana Stervelt ; Harmen G[ravers], Cornelia Stinvelt

The name "Harmen Gravers" refers to Harmen Gresnight, the company gardener and church elder with whom Ariaentje was placed on her return from Mauritius. "Cornelia Stinvelt" is obviously Cornelia Sterrevelt, Ariaentje's sister. The Parish Membership Roll⁹⁹ of the Cape Town Dutch Reformed Church records for the year of 1678 states:

Ao. 1678 Decemb[er]. Die jaer tot de gemeinschap des H.[eilige] avontm.[ael] Hebben begeben door belydenis van haer gelove Arriantie Sterrevelt huisvrouw van Hendrick Everts Smith met attestatie syn gecomen: [Author's underlining]

It would be enormously helpful to be able to obtain that attestation that served to have Ariaentje confirmed in the Cape Church. One assumes it reads "Nieuw Amsterdam" and might even confirm her date of baptism and the names of her father and mother, all of which we have had to deduce from other evidence.

On 29 December 1680 Ariaentje baptises her first son. He is named after his German father:

29 dito (December) Hendrick; Hendrick Everts Smith, Arriantie Stervelt ; Martinus van Banchem en Catarina van Suurwarden

Ariaentje now assumes an entirely different position in the parish at the Cape. For reasons that are unclear, a feud erupts between her and Catharina van den Berg (married to Marquard). The two ladies are slandering each other. By August 1682 the situation is so intense that the board of the church actually has to make a resolution in the matter. It asks them to make their peace and forgive each other¹⁰⁰:

"Also daar enige twist en hevige uitvaringen syn ontstaen enige maende verleden tusschen Catharina Marquardt en Adriaantje Hendriks, so ist dat de kerkenraedt heeft [resolved] dat deze questie behoorde in liefde ter nedergeleit te werden, om alle verwydering van onzuste voor te komen, daer op beide de partien verclaert het dat de lasteringen en scheldwoorde tegens malkander uitgebraekt, .. te syn en valsch; voorts niet als alles goets eere en malcander in baerheit te weten belovende het geproseerde en genoeg te vergeven en te vergeten. Aldus in begin van Augustus 1682".

Signed by Johannes Overnei D.M. and Joh. Hampen.

On 25 April 1683 Ariaentje baptizes her third child. This time it is a daughter and it is Ariaentje's turn to name the child. And this is the moment when Ariaentje finally closes the genealogical loop for us by naming the baby, ancestor of the author's wife, after her own mother Judith Robberts who died in faraway Nieuw Nederland twenty years before.

den 25 dito (April) Judith; Hendrick Everts Smith: en Arriantie Sterrevelt; Jan Vlock en Maria Jansen

Neeltje Sterrevelt, "'geboortigh' van Nieuw Nederlandt" has named the first son she could after Adriaen

⁹⁹ Parish Membership Roll of the Dutch Reformed Church of Cape Town; supplied by Mansell Upham

¹⁰⁰ Information from the Dutch Reformed Church at the Cape provided by Lorna Newcomb

Huybertszen Sterrevelt, and Adriaentje Sterrevelt, her “*meede weeskind*”, has named the very first daughter she could after Judith Robberts, the wife of Adriaen Huybertszen Sterrevelt. It is very difficult indeed to see how serendipity could possibly be so willful as produce this combination of facts without these two ladies being the daughters of Adriaen and Judith Sterrevelt of New Amsterdam.

However, Ariaentje has not yet had a chance to name a son after her father. She loses this opportunity for the time being when Heinrich Evertsz. Schmidt dies soon after the baptism of this last child.

Ariaentje marries again – life becomes complicated

On 17 September 1684 Ariaentje marries Casparus Willers, the VOC company scribe who arrived at the Cape in 1680 from Hamburg as soldier, the basic rank in the VOC¹⁰¹:

den 17.dito [September 1684] Casparus Wilders garnisoen schryver, jonghman, en Arriantje Sterrevelt, weduwe van Hendrick Everts Smith.

He was confirmed¹⁰² in the Dutch Reformed Church at the Cape on 2 September 1681:

Den 22 Mei [1681] Casparus Wilderts van Hamburg soldaat

The first child of the couple, a son, is baptised on 2 September 1685:

den 2 September [1685] Joannes; Caspar Willerts en Arriaentje Sterrevelt; Joannes Smith en Catrina Brons

The new father gets the first opportunity to name the son. However, when a second son is born in early 1687, Ariaentje finally has her long awaited opportunity to name a son. It is very instructive to note the name she elects. It is the same name as that chosen by her sister Neeltje for the first son she could name:

den 2 Febr. [1687] Adrianus; Caspar Willers en Arriaentje ; Claes Hendricks en Annetje Sterre[...]

Ariaentje has named her son after her father, Adriaen Huybertszen Sterrevelt!

However, on Thursday 30 January 1687, a mere three days before Adrianus is baptized, Caspar Willers is banished to Mauritius for six years for being chronically in arrears on his payments to the company¹⁰³. He is also sentenced to be flogged, but governor Simon Van der Stel stays that particular punishment, because Willers is an epileptic.

The Master of the Court is also sent to Willers' house to seal it and attach all the goods. Somehow Caspar Willers is never heard from again. Ariaentje's life is shattered yet again. She appears in the 1688 *Opgaaf* (census) as a widow resident in the Cape District, listed with two sons and two daughters.

It is quite unclear how Ariaentje now provides for her set of children by two husbands. This is rather important for the author, because little Judith is his wife's ancestor. What *is* known, is that Ariaentje has at least 50 sheep and a slave named Anthonij van Malabar. Anthonij was bought for 48 Rijksdalers on 7 July 1679 from Marthinus van Banchem by her first husband, Heinrich Evertsz. Schmidt¹⁰⁴.

On 5 December 1687 it is reported to the Council of Policy that the throats of fifty of Ariaentje's sheep have been slit and her slave Anthonij has been murdered¹⁰⁵. The culprit seems to be Jan van As, one of Angela van Bengale's illegitimate children before she married Arnoldus Basson.

Mansell Upham does a tremendous job of explaining the characters, their mutual relationships, and the events leading to the execution of Jan van As¹⁰⁶.

101 <http://www.eggza.org/sarecords/index.php/church-registers/cape-town-marriages-1665-to-1695/87-cape-town-marriages-1684>

102 Parish Membership Roll of the Dutch Reformed Church of Cape Town; supplied by Mansell Upham

103 Cape Archives; Resolutions of the Council of Policy of the Cape of Good Hope; ref. C. 18, pp. 105-109

104 A.J. Böeseken, *Slaves and Free Blacks at the Cape, 1658-1700*, (1977), pp.137

105 Cape Archives; Resolutions of the Council of Policy of the Cape of Good Hope; ref. C. 19, pp. 71-72

106 Mansell Upham, *Mooij Ansela and the Black Sheep of the Family*, Capensis, Every issue from 4/1997 to 2/1999

Ariaentje's third marriage – and life falls apart

On 23 July 1690 Ariaentje, who is definitely pregnant at this time, marries again; this time to Joost Luns (or Lons) from Brussels¹⁰⁷:

Den 23 Dito: sijn in den huijwelijken staet vereenigt, Joost Luns van Brussel, jonghman, ende borger aen de Caep, met Ariaentie Sterrevelt, wede. ende borgeresse aldaer.

On 8 October of the same year Ariaentje and Joost baptise the first child, a daughter whom they name Elisabet. Elisabet is the last of the descendants of Eggert Huyjberts Sterrevelt of Soetermeer in Holland whom we follow in this work, because she shall return us to where we started:

den selfden Dito [8 October 1690] een kindt gedoopt waer van vader is Joost Lons van Brussel de moeder Adriana Sterrevelt, als getuijge stontd Willem Visscher, ende Jusith Duyscker, ende genaemt Elisabetha

The genealogical picture of the Sterrevelt family now looks as follows:

1. Egbert Huijbertsz +after 1634 x **Adriaentgen Adriaensdr** +after 1622

2. Huijbert Egbertsz Sterrevelt ~ Zoetermeer 05.03.1595

x Zoetermeer 25.9.1616 **Geertjen Adriaens** ~30.09.1590 + after 02.08.1626, bef. 14.04.1657

x Zoetermeer 29.4.1657 **Sijtje Janszdr**

3.1 Adriaen ~Zegwaart 27-10-1619

x Judith Robberts + Nieuw Amsterdam after ca. 18.02.1663, but bef 26.04.1663

xx banns Nieuw Amsterdam 03.05.1663 Thysje Gerritsz, widow Willem P. de Groot

4.1 Huybert ~ Nieuw Amsterdam 15.9.1652

4.2 Cornelia (Neeltje) ~ Nieuw Amsterdam 12.8.1657

x Cape Town 22.05.1672 Barend Brinkmann

5.1 Barend ~Cape Town 30.12.1674

5.2 Adriaen ~Cape Town 17.01.1677

4.3 Adriana (Ariaentje) ~Nieuw Amsterdam 29.08.1660

x Cape Town 14.04.1675 Heinrich Evertsz. Schmidt + ca. Middle 1683

xx Cape Town 17.09.1684 Caparus Willers, +after 2 Feb 1687

xxx Cape Town 23.07.1690 Joost Lons

5.1 Catharina ~Cape Town 23.10.1678

5.2 Hendrick ~Cape Town 29.12.1680

5.3 Judith ~Cape Town 25.04.1683

(second marriage to Willers)

5.4 Joannes ~Cape Town 02.09.1685

5.5 Adrianus ~Cape Town 02.02.1687

(third marriage to Lons)

5.6 Elisabetha ~Cape Town 08.10.1690 [*Estate inventory on first page of this work*]

4.4 Geertruyd (Geertie) ~Nieuw Amsterdam 18.02.1663

(second marriage to Thysje Gerritsz)

4.5 Franck ~Nieuw Amsterdam 03.02.1664

3.2 Maertie ~ Zegwaart 26-06-1622

3.3 Franck ~ Zegwaart 09-06-1624 x **Cniertje Leenderts (Lapper)**

3.4 Fijtie ~ Zegwaart 02-08-1626

¹⁰⁷<http://www.eggasa.org/sarecords/index.php/church-registers/cape-town-marriages-1665-to-1695/93-cape-town-marriages-1690>

If we return briefly to the baptism of Ariaentje's son Joannes, we notice that Johannes Smit and Catharina Brons, a married couple, were the witnesses. This man is Johannes Smit van Hulst, the *Kranckenbesoeker*. As such, he is generally seen as a good man in the community, having social responsibilities but a little short of those of the formal *dominee*. It is possibly this particular Jan Smit to whom the following very unfortunate document¹⁰⁸ of 10 July 1692 refers. It could also be free-burgher Jan Smit who married Adriana Tol, as the former Jan Smit was a company official and we have no evidence that he was ever a free-burgher¹⁰⁹:

Inventaris den meubile goederen, dewelcke bij den g'aufugeerden Joost Lons en desselfs huijsvrouw hier gelaten kijneren ten huijse van den vrijburger Jan Smit, alwaer laest gelogeert geweest hebben, nog berustende zijn bestaende in 't navolgende als [list follows of all their property]

This document hints at something having gone badly wrong. The sheer scale of it is evident from another document¹¹⁰ dated a few days later on 29 July 1692, being the report on the auction of all their property, as instructed by the Council of Justice on 23 July 1692:

Verkoping der goederen van den vrijborger Joost Lons en sijn huijsvrouw Arriaantje Sterrevelt; die naar alle gevoelens met de retourloot weggeloopt zijn; welke eenige naargelaten goederen en drie kleijne kinderen van den Edelen Hr:e Gouverneur, en den E: A: Raad van Justitie op den 23 Julij 1692, aan de E: Weeskamer geweest sijn; welke goederen van de E: Weesmeesteren op den 29 Julij 1692; bij openbare opveijlinge aan de meestbiedende; in presentie van de ondergeschreeven gecommiteerde Weesmeesteren sijn vercocht geworden en hebben gerendeert als onder compt tevolgen, namentlijk [list follows of all the individual sales]

Ariaentje and Joost Lons have fled the Colony on the 1692 Return Fleet from Batavia to Holland, which left Saldanha Bay. In the process they have abandoned their children with their landlord, Jan Smit.

It is intriguing that the Orphan Chamber should report there being only “*three small children*”, when in fact there are at least five living children. Referring to the inventory that prompted this work, it is clear that only Hendrick Schmidt Junior is not alive at this point in time. Perhaps they refer to the three youngest, who are all less than 7 years old. Catharina, at 14, is already a competent young lady and Judith (9), our family ancestor, is at least already useful around the house and beyond the age of typical childhood mortality issues.

Flight on the Return Fleet

The key to Ariaentje and Joost's flight from life at the Cape is locked up in a document in the Cape Archives that is indexed in the NAAIRS system¹¹¹ as Court Judgment CJ780 ref. 222 of 1690 - “*Sterreveld, Ariaentje -Vonnis*”¹¹². It makes for fascinating but upsetting reading.

The document, dated 13 December 1690, is a description of an assault on 19 November 1690 by Joost Lons and Ariaentje on a boarder named Coenraad Hogenkamp. It appears that Joost and Ariaentje tied the hands of the poor man, suspended him from a beam in their house, and then beat and tortured him. His condition was eventually so severe that he was committed to the hospital. Ariaentje had a direct hand in this process and spurred Joost Lons to even worse torture of the man.

Lons is sentenced to be tied to a post and flogged; “*aen een pael gebonden sijnde met roede wel strengelijck gegeesselt te werden..*” while Ariaentje is sentenced to be bound and forced to observe the “*execution and the justice*”; “*om met roeden in d'armen die executie en de justitie t'aanschouen*”. Thereafter they are to make a payment to the “*fiscus*” (pay a fine) and be banned for the rest of their lives to the Island of Mauritius: “*...en band haer Den tyd van haer Leven op't Eijlandt Mauritius...*”. They are also condemned to pay the costs of this trial and execution of justice. Scribbled in the left hand margin of this extensive document, mostly obscured by signatures, is a very compressed, abbreviated and very difficult to transcribe note that amounts to a commutation of the sentence:

108 Inventories of the Orphan Chamber; Cape of Good Hope, ref. MOOC8/1.4

109 Private communication; Mansell Upham

110 Inventories of the Orphan Chamber; Cape of Good Hope, ref. MOOC10/1.4

111 National Automated Archival Information Retrieval System; <http://www.national.archsrch.gov.za/sm300cv/smws/sm300dl>

112 Kindly supplied by Richard Ball

Op heden den 15 d[it]o gepubliceerd, dog sijn de gecond:[emneerd]es van 't pub:[lieke] schandael door d'Ed.[ele] heer Command:[eu]r gepardonneerd, blijvende de [ver]dere leden van de sententie in sijn geheel.

in kennisse van mij

[signed] Melchior Kemmels

pt[?] en Secretaris

It indicates that the “public scandal” part of the sentence is hereby commuted two days later, but that the rest of it is to be carried out. By implication, Ariaentje and Joost are waiting to be banned for life to the subtropical hell of Mauritius, which she has seen before. Whether their children will have had to go with them is unclear.

These then are the circumstances under which the couple elects to flee the Cape by the most obvious means, namely the VOC Return Fleet from Batavia. They choose to leave their children with their landlord at the Cape. This return fleet consists of nine vessels. Of these, five, including the *Waterland*, sail not via Cape Town, but via Saldanha Bay. Of the four that stop at Cape Town, three come from Ceylon. Only one ship in the entire fleet of nine vessels is sailing from Batavia via Cape Town. This ship is the *Moerkapel* under Jasper de Leeuw and it is the ship with the shortest stay in Cape Town. All of them depart their respective anchorages on 26 June 1692. It is at this point that we say goodbye to Ariaentje Sterrevelt and Joost Lons, without knowing for certain on which ship they have managed to secure passage to *Patria*.

This would be the end of our story but for one small point. This fleet is attacked by the French Navy and the *Waterland* is sunk with all hands on 12 September 1692 at 45 degrees north. Does our ancestor meet her Maker on the *Waterland*? Is she on the *Moerkapel*? Does she arrive safely in Nederland?

We shall likely never know.

The little Chinese doll

The single image that remains in the mind of the author whenever he considers the matter of the enigmatic Ariaentje Sterrevelt is the little Chinese doll among her and Joost's possessions in 1692 Cape Town. Along with it, in a kist of assorted crockery, cutlery and kitchen implements, are a ship's lamp and a copper trumpet. The 10 July 1692 Lons inventory document¹¹³ refers to these as follows:

Nog een kist en daer in:

1 koperen trompet ;

1 scheepslamp ;

1 Chineese pop

On 29 July 1692, at the auction¹¹⁴ of the Lons estate, a Burger named Bouman buys the ship's lamp and Willem Duijster buys the trumpet. But it is the author's own ancestor Ockert Corneliszen Olivier who buys the little Chinese doll, along with some other crockery, for 1 single Rijksdaler. One imagines that the little doll, described at the auction as a “beeldje”, was either Ariaentje's, or that it came from her mother, Judith in America. Olivier's own inventory early in the next century does not shed any light on what becomes of the doll. Thus far the author has not managed to secure the inventory of Judith Robberts' estate in 1663 New Amsterdam either. So, we are left merely with the imagery and our imaginations.

It is all we have of “Ariaentje geboortigh van Nieuw Nederlandt”, the four year old who regularly watched the famous peg-legged Peter Stuyvesant ride past their front door on his Flanders mare – the 32 year old lady with the broken life who deserted her children in Africa to escape justice.

Three centuries later she will give Maaij Ansel's descendant a daughter and the author his wife.

And I see her smile as she turns away, her Chinese doll in her hands, to watch Peter Stuyvesant ride once more down Hoogh Straat on his Flanders mare to the Breuckelen Ferry.

¹¹³ Inventories of the Orphan Chamber; Cape of Good Hope, ref. MOOC8/1.4

¹¹⁴ Inventories of the Orphan Chamber; Cape of Good Hope, ref. MOOC10/1.4

Appendix : Nieuw Amsterdam Property Transactions

The detailed property transactions employed by the author to place individuals surrounding the family Sterrevelt are captured here in order of date. This is summarised here to ensure that the details do not clutter the flow of the main article. We present the translated texts of the actual transactions:

1658 November 16 Jacob Wolfersen Van Couwenhoven to Mighiel Paulusen¹¹⁵.

A lot north of the Hoogh Straat, bounded west by house and lot of Nicolaas de Meyer: north by the Slyck Steegh ; east by house and lot of Wessel Everson Visser, and south by the street. Width in front on the street, 3 rods 2 feet. Depth west and east sides, 9 rods 2 feet, being premises conveyed to said Jacob Wolfersen Van Couwenhoven, 22d October, 1658.

1658 November 22 Mighiel Paulusen to Jacob Wolfersen Van Couwenhoven¹¹⁶.

A lot north of the Hoogh straat, bounded west by house and lot of said Jacob Wolfersen; north by the Slyck Steegh; east by Claes the Norman, and south by the Hoogh straat. Width in front on south side, 3 rods 2 feet 5 inches, and in the rear, 2 rods 6 feet 2 inches. Depth on east side, 7 rods 1 foot 3 inches and 4 peppercorns; and on west side, 7 rods 8 feet, being premises patented to said Paulusen, 21st January, 1647.

1658 December 16 Mighiel Paulusen, to Arts Otte¹¹⁷.

Cons[ideration].—600 guilders and a mortgage for 900 guilders. A house and lot north of the Hoogh straat, bounded east by house and lot of Wessel Eversen, south by the Hoogh straat; wes by house and lot of said Paulusen, and north by the SlyckSteeghe; width, north and south side, 18 running feet. Depth on west side 8 rods 9 feet, and on each side, 9 rods 2 feet, being premises conveyed to said Paulusen, 16th November, 1658.

1658 December 16 Mighiel Paulusen to Tielman Van Vleec¹¹⁸.

Cons[ideration].—750 guilders in wampum, including 48 guilders in beavers, and a mortgage for 1,250 guilders. A lot north of the Hoogh straat, bounded east by house and lot of Aris Otte ; south by the Hoogh straat; west by house and lot of Nicolaas de Meyer, and north by the Slyck Steeghe ; width, north and south sides, 23 running feet 2 inches. Depth on east side, 8 rods 9 feet, and on west side, 9 rods 2 feet, being premises conveyed to said Paulusen, 16th November, 1658.

The “English Secretary”, Charles Bridges (“Carel Verbrugge” or “Carel van Brugge”), sells the corner property of Hoogh Straat Steegje to Simon la Chair on 16 April 1661. This is across the road from Aris Otte’s Tavern:

1661 April 16 Carel Van Brugge to Solomon La Chair¹¹⁹.

Hoogh Straat. A lot north of the Waal bounded west by the house and lot of him the appearer north by the Hoogh straat east by a certain lane and south by the Waal aforesaid. On the S and N sides 24 feet on the E and W sides 77 feet 6 inches.

1661 September 24 Solomon La Chair to Oloff Stcocsen Van Cortlandt Ancient Burgomaster and actual Orphan Master of the city¹²⁰

A house and lot north of the Waal bounded west by house and lot of Carel Van Brugge north by house and lot of him the appealer east by a certain lane and south by the Waal aforesaid On the south and north sides 24 feet on the east and west sides 64 feet 8 inches.

At some point before September 6, 1661 Aris Otte dies. On that date his widow, Leentie Dirx Servaes, announces that she intends to marry again¹²¹. She duly marries Lamberts Barents. Lamberts then sells Aris Otte’s Tavern to Gerrit Hendicx¹²² on June 16, 1662:

115 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York - 1861*, (1861), pp. 601

116 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York - 1861*, (1861), pp. 601

117 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York - 1861*, (1861), pp. 602

118 Theodore M. Banta, *Dutch Records in the City Clerk's Office, New York, Part 1*, (1900), pp.60; states the date is 20.12.1658

119 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York - 1865*, (1865), pp. 672

120 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York - 1865*, (1865), pp. 684

121 Theodore M. Banta, *Dutch Records in the City Clerk's Office, New York, Part 1*, (1900), pp.14

122 Theodore M. Banta, *Dutch Records in the City Clerk's Office, New York, Part 1*, (1900), pp.36

1662 June 16.

Lambert Barents, burgher of New Amsterdam, at present husband of Leentie Dirx Servaes, last widow of Aris Otte, grants to Gerrit Hendrix, house and lot situated at New Amsterdam, in the Hooghstraat, on the East the house and lot of Wessel Everts, West the house and lot of notary Tielman Van Vleck, extending from the street to the Slyck-steegh. Witnesses, Warnar Wessels and Roelof Jans.

1662 August 3¹²³.

Gerrit Hendricx, weighingmaster, and Tysje Gerrits, late widow of Willem Pieters De Groot, deceased, appear, and Gerrit Hendricx declares to have sold to Tysje Gerrits, his house and lot on the Hooghstraat at New Amsterdam, Eastward the house and lot of Wessel Everts, Westward house and lot of Thielman Van Vleek. Extending from the Hooghstraat to the Slyksteegh. Witnesses, Hans Steyn and Bartholdus Manus [or Maen].

The above transaction seems to only be concluded later:

1663 January 21¹²⁴

Lambert Barenzen having married the widow of Aris Otte to Gerrit Hendricksen van Hardenwyck A house and lot east of the Hoogh Straat bounded east by the house and lot of Wessel Eversen north by the Slyck Steegh west by the house and lot of Tielman Van Vleek and south by the street aforesaid. On the south and north sides 18 running feet 2 inches on the west side 8 rods 9 feet on the east side 9 rods 2 feet Hoogh Street

1663 January 28¹²⁵

Gerrit Hendricksen van Hardenwyck to Tysje Willems widow of Willem Pietersen De Groot Same property as last deed

On April 20, 1663, an "Arien Huybersen" buys¹²⁶ the house directly opposite the Aris Otte Tavern on the south/southeastern side of Hoogh Straat.:

1663 April 20

Tomas Wandel to Arien Huybersen : A house and lot south of the Hoogh Straat; bounded east by lot of Jan Hendricksen Steelman; south, by house and lot of grantor; west, by lot of Olof Stevensen Van Cortlandt; and north, by the Hoogh Straat. On the north and south sides, 3 rods 8 feet 8 inches; east and west sides, 24 feet.

Acknowledgement

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123 Theodore M. Banta, *Dutch Records in the City Clerk's Office, New York, Part 1*, (1900), pp.39

124 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York -1865*, (1865), pp. 697

125 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York -1865*, (1865), pp. 697

126 D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York -1865*, (1865), pp. 700