

The Genealogy of Walter Gilbert

Anneke Jans Bogardus and Her Farm

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ANNEKE JANS BOGARDUS AND HER FARM.

IN the year 1630, when Pieter Minuit was Governor or Director-General of New Netherlands, under "the Right Honorable Prudent Lords, the Lords Directors of the Honorable West India Company, of the United Provinces of the Netherlands," there landed at New Amsterdam a sturdy Dutchman named Roeloff Jansen. He had been a man of some position, and even of official standing, in his native town of Maasland.

The spirit of adventure, however, was abroad. Emigrants of high and low degree were leaving old homes for new fields of enterprise and industry. Bold discoverers were revealing new wonders of the sea and land, and bringing to light the hidden mysteries of the geographical world. New maps were planned; new enterprises stimulated the curious or the avaricious.

Hardy mariners were bringing into the Zuyder Zee the spoils of captured galleons, the golden fruits of Mexico and Peru, and adding new domain to the now independent and triumphant United Provinces of the Netherlands. Others cheerily sailed away, sanguine to discover a new passage to China by the northern seas. The household gods were being disturbed from their old nooks. The rich plantations of America, the golden Ind, and the balmy tropical isles were beckoning to the old European to come and rescue them from barbarian hordes. El Dorados and fountains of youth and spice islands and Golcondas glittered through many a dream and stirred many a restless spirit. Colonists were flocking over the Eastern and Western worlds from the crowded European cities, some for spiritual, some for political freedom, most of them for commerce and gain.

Roeloff Jansen caught the spirit of unrest. He had a strong young wife, willing to brave the seas, and a little family, and there was a future to make for

Jansen's name was perpetuated therein that of the kill or creek called "Roeloff Jansen's Kill," which runs into the Hudson River between Red Hook and the present city of Hudson.

After a sojourn of a few years, filling the duties of his post under the patron's agents at Rensselaerswyck, Jansen seems to have moved with his family to New Amsterdam, having obtained from Director Van Twiller, in 1636, a ground brief or patent for the farm or *Bouvery* of about sixty-two acres which has been for nearly two hundred years a prominent bone of contention.

Roeloff Jansen did not long enjoy his new possessions; he was called to another world about the year 1637 or 1638, leaving behind him five sturdy little children, and a buxom, attractive widow, then and now widely known as Mrs. Annetje or Anneke Jans.

The little colony, where there was a comparative scarcity of the fair sex, could not well afford to let any of its members remain idle. A female, too, in those bustling and dangerous days required protection; besides that, the widow was of a lively and coquettish disposition, and fair to look upon. She required sympathy in those stirring times, when the red man used to make eccentric and sudden visits to the settlement, and no man's life was safe, and no man's property secure.

These inducements, and the gentle pleadings of Hymen, in the person of Domine Everardus Bogardus, soon caused the widow to dry her tears, and within a year of her bereavement the subject of our monograph could boast of being the wife of one of the most prominent and remarkable characters in the early history of our city.

The widow, however, was of a prudent turn of mind, and before her marriage to her new husband she took care to make a proper settlement of her estate. Her

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