

Arent Isaacszen van Hoeck (1623-1697)

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Arent Isaacszen van Hoeck (1623-1697) – a Narrative History

Arent Isaacszen van Hoeck, the progenitor of the VanHook family in the United States, was born about 1623 on the northern coast of Germany (East Frisia or the *ostfriesischen coast*), between Denmark and the Netherlands, facing the Wadden Sea in the village of Hooksiel, in Jeverland. From his patronymic name, we know his father's name was Isaac. As his first daughter was named *Vrowtie*, that is likely the name of his mother. His parents named him "Arent" (which means "eagle" – most likely a family name, perhaps one of his grandfathers). Other than these meager facts, little is known of his origins.*

Hooksiel

A "siel" is a water passage in a dyke served by a lock, and part of a larger drainage system. Many place names along this German coast end in "siel." The "hook" comes from the projection of land at this point on the coast.

Hooksiel was founded in 1546 as a port into the North Sea for the nearby town of Jever. In the 1600's it was the most important harbor of



Aerial view of Hooksiel, Germany

Jeverland, and the second largest trading place in the region. In the early 1800's it flourished, particularly as a shipment port for smuggled goods. The port gradually lost its importance over time, and in the late 20th century the area became a focus of land reclamation and development of recreational areas. Today, Hooksiel is a small resort town and fishing village located in the municipality of Wangerland, Friesland district, Lower Saxony region of Germany. It is about 13 kilometers northwest of the larger town of Wilhelmshaven.

Amsterdam

Arent lived in Hooksiel until he was in his late 20's. He boarded a boat in the late 1640's (possibly as late as 1651), and traveled west around the coast to the bustling city of Amsterdam. At this time, Amsterdam was the most liberal and tolerant city on earth and a bit of a melting pot for people from all over. This was the period of Dutch dominance over global trading and all types of people and goods combined in Amsterdam to make it one of the wealthiest cities in the world.

* Unfortunately, it is doubtful that Arent's birth and parents can be established through early records. At the time of Arent's birth, Hooksiel was part of the Lutheran parish in Pakens. While the parish records stretch back close to 400 years with no gaps, the records do not actually begin until December of 1632 – about 9 years after Arent's birth. Also, the early records baptism records in the Pakens parish did not contain the mother's name. Although tax records exist from the early 1600's, there is relatively little genealogical information in them.

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The end of the Thirty Years' War (fought in the Germanic provinces) and the Eighty Years' War (the Dutch Revolt against the Spanish Habsburg Empire) was at hand in 1648. That same year a massive construction project began in Amsterdam to build an impressive new city hall suitable for the great burghers of the city (many envisioned themselves as the new ruling elite of the "Rome of the north"). This city hall later became the Dutch royal palace on Dam Square. The Dutch Republic (the United Provinces) became official and a new era of prosperity began.



View of Dam Square in the late 1600's

Becoming a Citizen

Into Amsterdam, the world's most exciting city in the mid-seventeenth century, young Arent settled – locating himself on Nieuw Dijk (modern Nieuwendijk – or New Dike Street), a busy street just off the Dam Square. This street was one of the original streets of Amsterdam, dating from the 1200's. From the time of Arent it was a market street with many shops, as it still is today.

For persons that wanted to engage in business in Amsterdam, it was important for them to become a citizen – or *Poorter* in the local Dutch (synonymous with the term *burgher*), which accorded them certain rights and responsibilities. To become a Poorter as a newcomer one had to pay a significant sum. On 19 January 1652, Arent Isaacszen paid his Poorter fee (gelt), and was recorded in the Poorter Books as an official citizen of Amsterdam. He could transact business, join a guild, engage in a trade and received free copies of the local Amsterdam newspaper. This first known record of Arent, still extant in the Amsterdam Archives, gives his origin and occupation:

The above record reads: "Arent Ysaacs van Hoeksiel schoenmaker / Heeft zijn poorterseede gedaan ende het / Poortersgelt betaalt den 19 januari 1652" – translated: "Arent Ysaacs from Hoeksiel shoemaker / has made the burgher (citizen) oath / (and) paid the burgher fee 19 January 1652"

In the present era, particular attention is paid to the spelling of proper names (people and places). This was not the case in the 1600's. Names and places were spelled inconsistently in formal and informal documents, based on the clarity and pronunciation of the speaker, and the hearing and

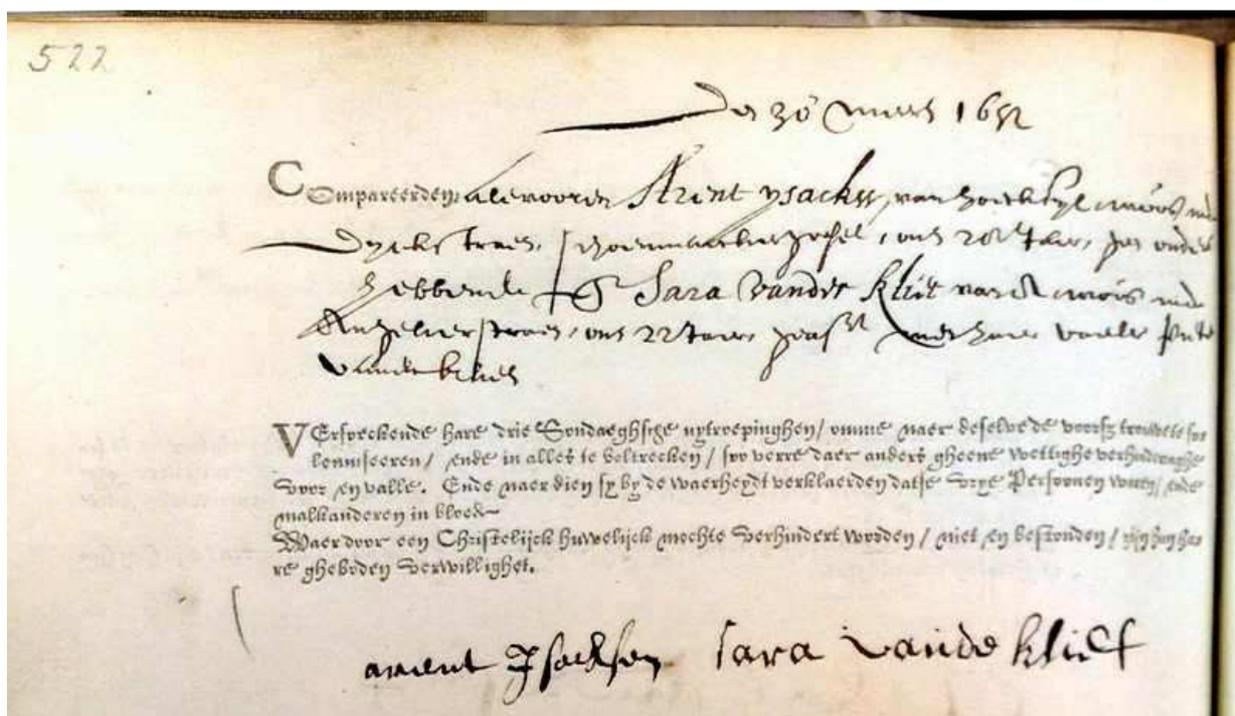
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ability of the scribe or clerk. In fact, standardized spelling was not introduced in the Netherlands until the early nineteenth century.

Obviously the *van Hoeksiel* from this 1652 document became shortened to *van Hoek* (or *van Hoeck*) over time, becoming Anglicized into *Van Hook* as Arent's descendants became English citizens in the New World. The thousands of VanHook / Van Hook descendents in the United States today have that little projection of land on the north coast of Germany to thank as the origin of their last name

First Marriage

Just a few months after attaining his citizenship, Arent married Sara van de Cliet. Their banns (intention to marry) were recorded 30 March 1652 in the Reformed Dutch Church in Amsterdam, where Arent's age was given as 28 and Sara was 22. Sara was baptized 1 May 1629 in the Reformed Dutch Church, the daughter of Pieter van de Cliet (van de Klidt) and Maritje Mathijsdr. Dutch wives kept their maiden names and did not normally take the name of their husband.



The marriage document reads as follows: “Den 30 Maart 1652 / Compareerden als vooren Arent Ysackss van Hoeksijl wonende Dijkstraet schoenmakergesel. Out 28 jaren. Geen ouders hebbende. En Sara van der Klier van Amsterdam wonende in de Anjelijsstraet. Oud 22 jaren geassisteerd met haer vader Pieter van de Klier”

Translated, the marriage document states: “The 30th March 1652 / Stood before (us) Arent Ysackss from Hoeksijl living on Dijkstraet, shoemakers helper, 28 years old, having no parents (present). And Sara van der Klier of Amsterdam living on Anjelijsstraet. 22 years old, assisted by her father Pieter van de Klier.”

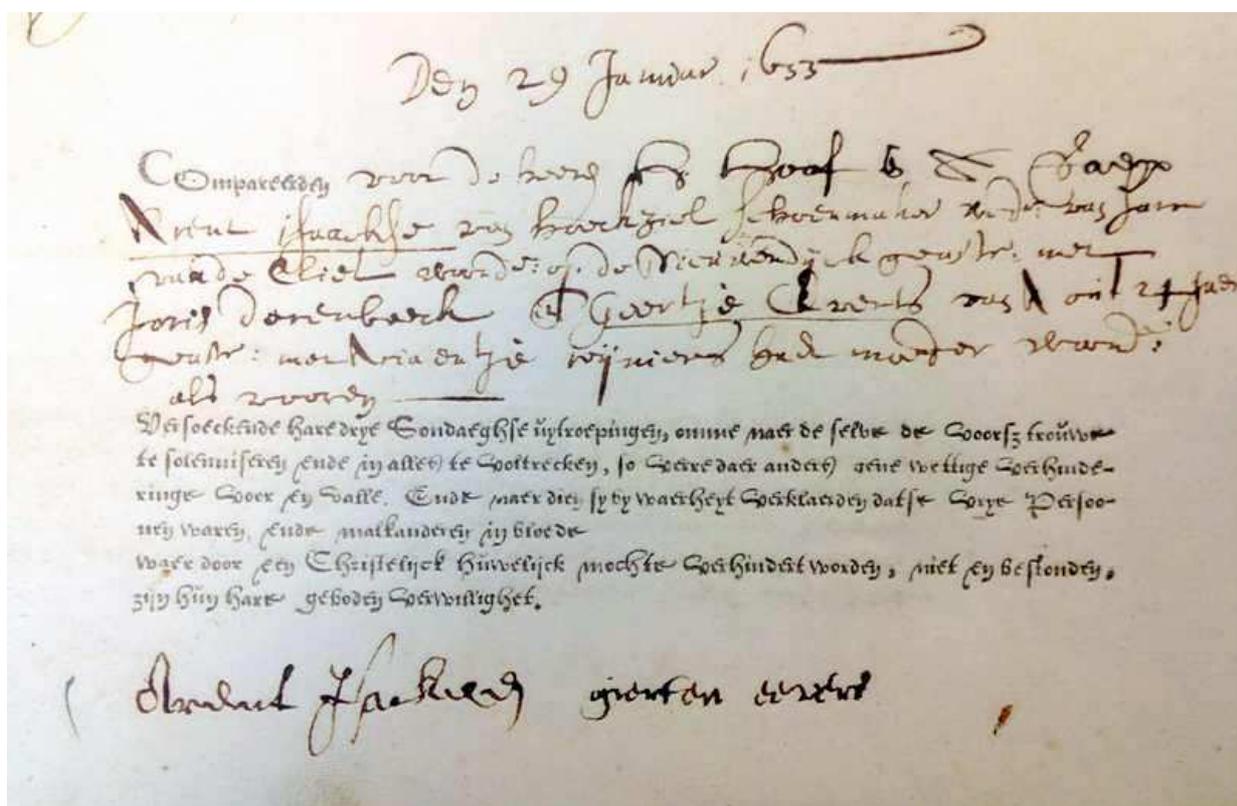
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Note that the marriage document shows the actual signatures of the bride and groom.

Second Marriage

Sara must have died early in their marriage (possibly during childbirth, a common cause of the death of young women in this period) as Arent was married for a second time less than 3 years later.

Arent's second wife was Geertje Everts, and their marriage banns were recorded 29 January 1655 in the Reformed Dutch Church in Amsterdam. In these records, as he was a widower Arent's age is not given, but his occupation is shoemaker (no longer a "helper"). Geertje was the daughter of Evert Claesz and Ariaantje Reyners, and was baptized 19 January 1631.



The marriage document reads as follows: “Den 29 Januari 1655 / Compareerden voor de heeren H Hoof en A Raep, Arent Isaackse van Hoeckziel schoenmaker, Weduwnaar van Sara van de Cliet, Wonende op de Nieuwendijk. Geassisteerd met Joris Doenbeek. En Geertje Everts van Amsterdam out 24 jaren. Ariaentje Reijners haer moeder wonende als voren.”

Translated, the marriage document states: “The 29th January 1655 / Stood before Mr. H. Hoof and Mr. A Raep, Arent Isaackse of Hoeckziel shoemaker, widower of Sara van de Cliet, residing on Nieuwendijk. Assisted by Joris Doenbeek. And Geertje Everts of Amsterdam, 24 years old (with Ariaentje Reijners, her mother living in the same place.”

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De Bonte Koe

About 3 months after their marriage Arent and Geertje set off for the “New World.” In late April of 1655, Arent and Geertje booked passage on *de Bonte Koe* and spent more than two months making the crossing to New Amsterdam.

The ship’s name is Dutch for *the spotted cow* (translated as *the speckled cow* in many of the early records), and was a popular ship’s name, especially after the publication in 1646 of the journal of Willem Ysbrandtszoon Bontekoe (1587-1657), a skipper in the employ of the Dutch East India Company. Over the years, he has become a legend in Dutch folklore.



Example of a seventeenth century Dutch flute



Dutch West Indies (VOC) Dockyard in Amsterdam

In 1659, a notary in Amsterdam describes the Bonte Koe as being 108 feet long, 24 feet wide, with a draft of 11 feet and had 10 guns, a ship of the *flute* (or *fluit*) type. This ship had been making regular runs between Amsterdam and North America during middle 1600’s. The ship is documented as departing “... from Amsterdam after 19 April 1655, arrived New Amsterdam before 12 July 1655.”

Typically, a ship would leave Amsterdam and sail for a few days through the Zuider Zee to the northern island of Texel where it would provision and prepare for the oversea voyage. This would usually take two weeks. A trip from Texel to Manhattan in the spring or summer took about 6-8 weeks one way.

New Amsterdam

From the time Henry Hudson sailed into what is now New York harbor in 1609, people saw the island of Manhattan as a strategic location.* Settlement began on the island in 1625 with the initial construction of Fort Amsterdam. During its early years, New Amsterdam was a trading outpost under the control of the Dutch West Indies Company (WIC†), and although an extension of the Dutch Republic, it was owned and administered by the Company – and mainly was a “company town” up until the conquest of New York in 1664 by the English.

* For a wonderful and vibrant history of the Dutch settlement of New Netherlands and New Amsterdam see Russell Shorto’s book *The Island at the Center of the World*.

† VOC was the abbreviation for *Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie* (Dutch East India Company) and WIC was the abbreviation for *West-Indische Compagnie* (Dutch West India Company)

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The third director, Peter Minuit, is credited with buying Manhattan from the Indians. Originally set up to guard the entrance to the North River (Hudson River) and protect the Dutch trading rights upriver at Fort Orange (later Albany), New Amsterdam developed into the largest Dutch settlement in the New World. As the city grew in size, the citizens pushed for self-government and less control by the Company. A rough and tumble place during its early years, New Amsterdam received municipal rights as a Dutch city in February 1653, but with the Company director (Peter Stuyvesant at the time) still maintaining much power.

When Arent and Geertje arrived there in the summer of 1655, New Amsterdam was becoming a proper Dutch town, modeled on the mother city – Amsterdam – with the beginnings of cobbled streets, neat gardens, a formal canal and an attempt at a structured local government.



View of New Amsterdam from the southern tip of Manhattan Island about the time of Arent and Geertje's arrival. The Dutch Church, with its steeple, is the highest building (located within the fort)

It's unclear what prompted Arent and Geertje to emigrate, but migration to New Amsterdam was accelerating at this time – driven partially by the publication of Adriaen van der Donck's *Description of New Netherland*, which painted a rosy picture of the land and the opportunity there. The population of the New Amsterdam settlement in 1655 was less than 1000 people, with up to 3,500 people in the whole province of New Netherland.

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Renting a House and Church Membership

Upon arrival, Arent and Geertje found space to live in the garret of a house leased by Pieter Jansen and opposite the store of the Dutch West India Company. Arent also rented the front room of the house, presumably as a shop for his shoemaking enterprise. He also gained access to a well and *bleaching field* (used in tanning leather) behind the house.



Redraft of the Castello Plan of New Amsterdam in 1660, drawn in 1916 (north is to the right)

Arent and Pieter also agreed jointly to try to rent the cellar of the house and split the proceeds. They both appeared before the city secretary, Cornelis van Ruyven, on July 9th of 1655 and agreed to these terms. Arent's rent for his lodgings and shop was *f* 90* until the beginning of May, 1656 – half the rent due at the end of October and the other half due the following April. Streets in New Amsterdam were not given formal names until the following year, so property agreements didn't contain formal

* At that time, florin (the name originated from Florence, Italy) was synonymous with guilder (which is the English translation of the Dutch gulden). The currency symbol used was "*f*". This was the official currency of the Netherlands from 1279 until they converted to the Euro in 2002. More commonly in New Netherlands in the seventeenth century, the currency used was *beaver skins* (valued as so many guilders each), or *sewant* (the Indian shell bead currency using black and/or dark purple shells, or *wampum* (the Indian shell bead currency using white whelk shells).

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detail. It is assumed that Arent lived at this property almost 4 years until May 1st, 1659, when he relocated up the North River (Hudson River) to Beverwijck.

Once settled, one of the first things Arent and Geertje did was to register as members with the local Dutch Reformed Church* – where they appear on page 502 of the registry as “*Arent Isaacszen en Geertie Everts, syn huysv*” (his wife).



Another early view of New Amsterdam from the Washington Irving “*A History of New York*” published in 1809

1655 – The Peach War

Just 2 months after Arent arrived, the Director-General, Peter Stuyvesant, decided to take over the New Sweden settlement on the South (Delaware) River – believing it to be an encroachment on Dutch claimed territory. While he was there with his ships and army, a group of Indians from various tribes attacked New Amsterdam in 64 war canoes. Ostensibly, this was a retaliatory raid for the killing of an Indian woman by a settler for stealing peaches (although it may be viewed as retaliatory for the Dutch attack on the Swedish outposts – with which the Indians had a strong trading business). It would be called *The Peach War* by many, and casualties would be slight in New Amsterdam on both sides as the Dutch drove the Indians out of the settlement. Leaving that town, the Indians then attacked Staten Island and the Pavonia (modern day Jersey City, NJ) settlements. Here the casualties were considerably higher. Fifty settlers were killed, and almost 100 were captured.

When Stuyvesant returned, he instituted a voluntary tax to enhance the fortifications of the island, namely improving the palisade (or wall) on its northern boundary – today the location of Wall Street in Manhattan. On October 13th, Arent appears at City Hall and contributes his 6 florins to the cause.

Burgher Rights

As a move toward formal citizenship, but mainly as a licensing protection from roving traders the great burgher-right and the small burgher-right were established in 1657 in New Amsterdam. The great burgher-right was conferred on all who had been magistrates as well as on those then in office, on clergymen, on militia officers and on the male descendants of all such persons; and the small

* The New York Dutch Reformed Church became the (Marble) Collegiate Church of New York City. The original records of members, marriages, and baptisms are intact and available. The records have been published a number of times through various sources. The original records are kept in a vault at the central offices of the Collegiate Church Corporation at 45 John Street in lower Manhattan.

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burgher-right (required to keep and open shop or to exercise a trade) was conferred on all native-born citizens, on the husbands of native-born women and on all who had been residents of the city for a year and six weeks. Other persons approved by the magistrates were allowed to purchase the great burgher-right for 50 guilders or the small burgher-right for 20 guilders. Only burghers and employees of the West India Company could engage in commerce, work at a trade or practice a profession, and only great burghers could hold the more important offices. The burgher-rights were a way to become a citizen shareholder of the city, and virtually everyone participated. On April 11th, 1657, along with just about everyone else in New Amsterdam, Arent Isaacszen received the small burgher-right to practice as a shoemaker.

Starting a Family

About the same time that Arent was receiving his burgher-right, his wife Geertje gave birth to their first child, a daughter. They named her *Vrowtie* (in English *Sophronia*), possibly after Arent's mother. Like all new parents, they took her to the Dutch Reformed Church of St. Nicholas in the fort at New Amsterdam to be baptized, and this is recorded in the Church records on May 2nd, 1657. The witnesses to this baptism were Coenradt Ten Eyck* and his wife, Marie Boel. They must have been close friends of Arent and Geertje's, as the following year (on March 20th, 1658) Coenradt Ten Eyck and his wife had baptized a son *Matthys* and Geertje Everts was a witness at this baptism. (This first daughter Vrowtie died young as a later child of Arent was also given this name).

Move to Beverwijck

Beverwijck (or Beverwyck) is the popular and mythical name given to the community of Dutch fur traders that first emerged along the Hudson River, at the entrance to the Mohawk River valley, north of Fort Orange during the 1640s. The name came into official use in 1652 when the Dutch West India Company established a judicial jurisdiction for the land north of the Fort Orange. A number of years later, on 22 July 1686, Beverwijck became the city of Albany by charter from Governor Thomas Dongan.



Fort Orange – near Beverwijck

* Ten Eyck, originally a German from the town of Moers, was the most prosperous of the 7 shoemakers that lived in New Amsterdam at this time. His wife Marie Boel was from Keulen (Cologne), Germany. They were married in Amstelveen (north Holland) in 1645 and immigrated to New Amsterdam around the same time as Arent (possibly on the same ship).

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Arent had planned early for his move to Beverwijck, as he appeared there in November of 1658 to negotiate with Tierck Claessen (DeWitt)* about renting a house for the following spring. This property was rented for 200 guilders a year (paid for in beaver skins, the common currency at the time, at 8 guilders apiece), provided that Arent also perform some improvements to the house. They appeared before Johannes La Montagne, the vice director at Beverwijck and recorded this agreement. Arent moved his small family to Beverwijck from New Amsterdam on May 1st, 1659. Beverwijck was the second largest Dutch settlement at this time with about 1000 people. Arent was one of 7 shoemakers there. The family probably attended the Reformed Dutch Church there (where the pulpit shown at right was in use at the time).



Hand carved pulpit in Albany, imported from Holland in 1656 (Oldest pulpit in America)

Everyone Wants to Trade

While the Dutch West Indies Company engaged in all types of trading (primarily slave trading from Africa), the Dutch settlements in New Netherland were mainly focused on fur trading. The year 1660 marked a high point for the fur trade in the Hudson-Mohawk region between the settlers and the Indians. It also marked the appearance in the historical record of competitiveness between two groups of would-be traders. That spirit is revealed in two petitions sent to the court of Fort Orange/Beverwijck in May 1660. These documents were signed by a total of seventy-nine individuals and constitute the earliest list of Beverwijck fur traders.

The first petition (dated May 25) came from a group of twenty-five traders who expressed concern that the "*general decline and utter ruination*" of the community would occur if "*Christians*" were allowed to "*run into the woods*" and use "*surreptitious and improper ways to get the trade entirely into their hands.*" They asked that trading be confined to "*this community and its inhabitants.*" This petition represented the more well-established (principal) fur traders - several of whom would serve as magistrates.

Two days later, another group of Beverwijck inhabitants petitioned the court that "*the Dutch may be allowed to go into the woods as brokers, which, although of dangerous consequence, cannot be prevented without causing greater mischief.*" This larger group of eighty, less well-established would-be traders further observed that "*some of the petitioners*" have said that they would trade in the woods whether it was permitted or not! One of the interesting aspects of New Netherlands is that people were not limited to working within their chosen profession. A baker could take a second job working at a tavern; a brick layer may also have a side business supplying timber for construction.

* Tierck Claessen DeWitt emigrated to New Amsterdam about the same time as Arent, and they surely knew each other there before the move north. Genealogical information on Tierck can be found at <http://pastviews.net/ghtout/np29.htm>

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While a master shoemaker, Arent obviously had an interest in beaver skin trading with the Indians (a form of *currency speculation* at the time) as his signature is on this second petition.*

Family Life in Beverwijck and the Death of Geertje

Arent and his family passed the next few years in Beverwijck. Shortly after moving there (in July of 1659) he bought his wife Geertje a black petticoat (at the estate sale of Pieter Claerbout) for 21.05 florins. In December of 1661 Arent appeared to have a “cash flow” problem and borrowed 50 florins from the Church (which he paid back about 7 months later).

Arent and his wife had 3 sons there – Evert, Isaac and Bennony, and one daughter, also named Geertje. Some records from the Dutch Reformed Church in Albany prior to 1683 have been lost and therefore there are no known baptism dates of these children. Evert and Isaac followed their father in the shoemaking trade and grew up and became citizens in New York.

Bennony married Jacomyntje Teunise Swart (widow of Pieter Viele), and daughter of Teunis Cornelis Swart. He was not the best of fathers, as he was taken to court (in Albany) by his in-laws in 1686 for being abusive to his step-daughter. This family moved 20 miles up the Mohawk River to Schenectady, where Bennony died in his late twenties. He was killed in February of 1690 during the *Massacre of Schenectady* when the French and Indians attacked the blockade there during King William’s War.

It appears Arent and his family lived in Beverwijck in the house he rented from Tierck Claessen (DeWitt) for 4 years, until May 1st of 1663. At that time it appears they moved to another house on Berch Street (now Chapel Street in Albany, NY) they rented from Pieter Hartgers (rented at the rate of 224 guilders a year)[†]. However, that house may not have worked out, as Arent appears in the records as buying a house a few months later (6 July 1663) from Philip Henderickse Brouwer. Henderickse held the mortgage to this property (400 guilders payable in one year at 10% interest).

The winter of 1663/1664 in Beverwijck was difficult, with the birth of their fifth child, Geertje. Arent’s wife died about this time (possibly in childbirth) and he had to appeal to the Dutch Church (in Beverwijck) in January of 1664 for a wet nurse for his infant daughter. Jannetje, the wife of Jacob Jansen van Norstrand (a brewer), filled this role and was paid by the Church in Beverwijck in a number of installments over the following year[‡], all neatly recorded in the Deacon’s account book. It’s unclear from the records exactly where the family lived in Beverwijck during the rest of 1663 and into 1664, but Arent was back in New Amsterdam in the spring of 1664.

* NB: Arent’s name transcribed incorrectly as “Arent *Jansen* van Hoeck” in records regarding this petition.

[†] This house was next door to Philip Pieterse Schuyler, the father of Pieter Schuyler (1657-1724) who was later mayor of Albany, NY, and became acting governor of the state for a time.

[‡] In her excellent book, *Beverwijck: A Dutch Village on the American Frontier, 1652-1664* (2003), author Janny Venema on page 350 incorrectly attributes the need for a wet nurse to Arent’s second wife’s (Styntie Laurens) inability to nurse. However, Arent was a widow during this time – he didn’t remarry (to Syntie) until August of 1665.

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Back to New Amsterdam and becoming English

Shortly after the death of his second wife, in the late winter of 1664, Arent moved back to New Amsterdam with his young children. It was not unusual for citizens to move between the various settlements. Arent appears in court in New Amsterdam in March of 1664 trying to obtain 6 guilders (in beaver skins, of course) owed to him by Hendrick Aarenzen (Spaniard) for a pair of shoes sold to him some time ago.

In late summer of 1664, the English navy under command of Richard Nicolls blockaded the harbor with four English frigates and six hundred soldiers, and forced the surrender of the Dutch. Peter Stuyvesant, Director General of New Amsterdam at the time, wanted to stand and fight, but the citizens had different ideas and the terms from the English were generous. On the 5th of September a petition was drawn up and signed by 93 men to impel Stuyvesant to hand over the city to the English. These signers thought life under the English would be little changed (and they were right), and they were also bothered by the lack of support and protection the city had received from the Dutch West India Company over the previous years. From this petition, it is known that the city had about 1500 inhabitants (not counting the 350 slaves and free blacks), 250 of those capable of bearing arms. *Arent Isaacs* was one of the 93 who signed the petition.



Seventeenth-century houses in New Amsterdam

At the end of the following month, in late October 1664, 251 residents of New Amsterdam (now New York) swore to be a true subject to the King of Great Britain, and James, Duke of York. *Arent Isaackzen* swore his oath of allegiance and appears in the list from that time.

This takeover of New Amsterdam and New Netherland sparked the second Anglo-Dutch war. The English would pay dearly during the next 3 years, but when the peace terms were settled in Breda in 1667, the English got to keep New York. Less than ten years later, in July of 1673 the Dutch retook the city (renaming it *New Orange* this time). But fifteen months after that event the Treaty of Westminster took effect and the English were given control of the city again as part of those terms (and the city became New York again). Again, in 1689, the city changed hands when in the wake of the Glorious Revolution it came under the rule of William of Orange. Two years later English ownership was restored. Through all these changes, New Amsterdam (and surrounding settlements) enjoyed the protection of life, liberty and property – and everyday life proceeded as usual.

Life in New York and a Third Wife

Arent appears over the next few years in various court records and assessments. We know from one such assessment list that he was living on High Street (Hoogh Straat) in the spring of 1665. From

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this list we know his neighbors – Wessel Evertzen, Cornelius Janszen (the woodsawyer), and a few doors down from Asser Levy, the first Jewish citizen of New Amsterdam*.

At some point prior to the take over of New Amsterdam Arent owed money to a Jacob Vis (also spelled Visch and Fis), and pawned a mirror (looking glass) to him for the debt. After he paid the debt (4 beaver skins), he spent more than two years trying to recover the mirror. Jacob Vis claimed to have left the mirror at Esopus (present day Kingston, NY). From other court records, it shows Jacob left the mirror with a Thomas Chambers for safekeeping “*during the late troubles with the savages.*” Jacob had to sue Thomas to get it back because Thomas wanted storage fees. Arent may never have gotten his mirror back because



The Dutch West India Warehouse in New Amsterdam

Jacob sued Thomas on 17 November 1666 and Arent sued Jacob the next month for

“*restitution of a looking glass.*” Arent also filed a claim against a Rut Jacobsen† the fall of 1664. The terms of this claim are not known and it probably went unsettled.

In the membership records of the Reformed Dutch Church of New York a *Styntie Laurens* is listed as “being a member since 1649.” Syntie is the Dutch form of the English name *Christiana*. She became Arent’s third wife on August 9th of 1665. Arent would have been in his early forties at this time. Syntie had also been married before; she was the widow of a Jan Hendricks‡. She appears in Church records as a sponsor to baptisms as early as 1655.

In February of 1667, Arent ran afoul of an ordinance prohibiting purchasing items from soldiers. He had bought a straw bed, but claims he was not aware of the rules against such a purchase. He had to pay six guilders plus court costs. Later that year Arent filed claim against a Jan Langestraat (Longstreet), asking for 2 pieces of eight (probably in payment for a pair of shoes). Langestraat

* Asser Levy and a group of 23 Jews fled Brazil in 1654 to seek refuge in New Amsterdam. Shortly after their arrival, Governor Peter Stuyvesant attempted to evict the Jews from the settlement, but they used the Dutch legal system to prove they had a right to stay. Levy became the first Jewish citizen of the colony and was the leading advocate of civil rights for Jews, challenging Stuyvesant on such issues as citizenship, the right to bear arms, and property ownership. He was the first Jew to serve in a militia and own property, the first kosher butcher in the New World, and a founding member of Shearith Israel, the country’s first Jewish congregation. Shearith Israel’s synagogue (built 1897) is located on Central Park West. Asser Levy Place (a street between East 23rd and 25th in New York) memorializes this early settler.

† Rut’s full name was Rutger Jacobse Van Schoenderwoertin. He had come from the Netherlands in 1636 in the service of the Patroon van Rensselaer. He became a brewer and died the following year (1665) at Kingston.

‡ There is record of a Jan Hendricks Steelman who was granted 34 morgens (about 70 acres) on 25 February 1658 located on the Doughty farm (Mespath). Its unknown if this is Syntie’s first husband.

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claims to have paid half of this to Arent's late wife (Geertje) and said the remaining half was equal to 3 guilders (of sewant). The court didn't agree and ordered him to pay Arent 9 guilders (of sewant).

In December of 1671, Arent has to testify at the court martial of Melchior Claes. The unfortunate Melchior was charged with a number of things – Arent states he bought a knife from him for six stivers (about a 1/3 of a guilder), but at the same time Melchior stole a *pair of pincers* (a common shoemaker's tool used to pull out tacks) worth 20 guilders. Melchior was found guilty, kicked out of the garrison and forced to *run the gauntlet*.

Beginning in the late summer of 1670, Ariaen (or Adriaen) van Laer brings suit against Arent and Styntie for a debt of 197 beavers (quite a sum). There is no indication as to what incurred this debt, but the amount would suggest it involves real estate. In February of 1672 the Court finally settles this by ordering Arent to pay half of the debt in six months and the other half in twelve months.

In the summer of 1672, Isaac De Forest^{*}, an acquaintance (or friend) draws up a will and Arent signs this document as a witness. Arent must have been close to this family, as Sara de Forest (Isaac's widow) was a witness to the baptism Arent and Styntie's daughter in November of that year.

About 1676, Arent and his family moved across the (East) river to the settlement of Breuckelen (Brooklyn). They appear in the assessment roll there in September of 1676. As a merchant, he had no land and no livestock, and was assessed the single poll tax of 18 pounds. They were still living in Brooklyn the following year when their youngest son, Roelof, was born.



New Amsterdam about 1674

A Second Family

From 1665 to 1677 Styntie Laurens gave Arent a second family. With his 3 sons from his second wife (Geertje), an additional 5 children were born – Catherina (baptized 19 September 1666), Laurens (Lawrence – born about 1670), Vrowtie (baptized 17 November 1672), Maria (baptized 3 July 1675), and Roelof (baptized 30 September 1677 while the family was living in Brooklyn).

^{*} Isaac De Forest was born 10 July 1616 in Leyden, Holland, and died 1672 in New York. He married Sara Du Trieux 9 June 1641 in New Amsterdam. She was the daughter of Philippe Du Trieux and Susanna Du Chesne.

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Nothing further is known of Catherina, Maria or Roelof – they may have died young. Vrowtie became one of the second generation Americans to intermarry across national and religious boundaries (about 50% of the New Netherland settlers intermarried this way) when she wed George Walker, a “young man from Ireland,” in 1692. This George Walker was of the Ulster Scots, affiliated with the Scottish Presbyterians who settled New Jersey. George located in Monmouth County, NJ, in the early 1700’s near his brother-in-law Lawrence. These families stayed close over the next 50-60 years.

Arent’s son Laurens (Lawrence) was initially trained as a shoemaker like his father and older half-brothers, but later became a general merchant, constable and judge. Lawrence married Johanna Hendricks Smith, moved to New Jersey in the early 1700’s and became quite well-to-do. Lawrence is the progenitor of the majority of Van Hook’s spread across America today. One of the great mysteries of the family is Lawrence’s birth or baptism record – it has never been found.

Sometime after the birth of their last child, Arent and Styntie apparently moved upriver to Kingston, New York, though commonly still known by its Dutch name of Esopus*. Tragedy struck in the spring of 1682 when Styntie died very suddenly and of no known cause. The local authorities went through a bit of an investigation, but cleared Arent of any involvement in her death. Arent would have been close to 60 years old at this time. The original records give some indication of the thinking of innocence and guilt at that time:

From “Trial by Ordeal at Esopus” (New York Genealogical and Biographical Record 70(1939):365 – (Translated Dutch Court Records of Kingston, in County Clerk's office, vol. 3:105--excerpt by Louise Hasbrouck Zimm)). – *"Whereas on APRIL 20, 1682, the wife of Arendt Isaax [Stynie Laurns] died very suddenly, therefore the constable and two magistrates went to view the corpse. The two doctors also examined her and could not discover that her husband or anybody else was the cause of her death. Arendt Isaax, her husband, was ordered to place his hand upon her chest, which he did, calling upon God Almighty to give a sign if he were guilty of his wife's death. But no change was visible from the former. The constable and the aforesaid Magistrates after having examined and viewed (the corpse) find that Arent Isaax is innocent of his wife's death and therefore has been declared innocent and set free."*

Grandfather and Final Days

By early 1684, Arent had moved back to Manhattan Island. His renewed membership in the church there is listed on February 28th. Three years later he married for a fourth time – Lysbeth Stevens, the widow of Abraham Valdinck†. Their banns were published in the New York Dutch Reformed Church on August 1st of 1685, and they were married two weeks later on August 16th. Lysbeth was recorded as a member in the New York church in December 1684, where it is shown she had transferred her membership from the church in the Dutch village of Groede, in the Zeeland province.

* Esopus (named for the Indians who lived there) was the third largest Dutch settlement after New Amsterdam (New York) and Beverwijck (Albany).

† There have been no other records found prior to this regarding Lysbeth Stevens or Abraham Valdinck.

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In a list of Church members collected the following year by the Dominie (minister) Henricus Selyns, Arent and his new wife Lysbeth are shown as living at 15 Broad Street, East Side (*Heeren Gracht, oost zyde* – the Dutch name for the street at that time was *Heeren Gracht* – or in English the *Gentlemen's Canal*). Evert and Isaac*, Arent's sons who followed him into the shoemaker's trade, were living across the street at this time and also show up in the church census.

About this time Arent's children were getting married and starting families. He begins appearing in the Church baptism records as a witness to the baptisms of his grandchildren. His son Isaac was married to Anna Populaer on July 25th, 1686 (the banns were published a month earlier). In the marriage record Isaac is listed as *j. m. Van N. Albanien* (young man from Albany – his birthplace). Anna must have been pregnant at the time of the marriage, as they baptized their first daughter, Geertruyd, the following February (obviously named for Isaac's mother Geertje).

Isaac's brother Evert was married to Johanna Van Spyck in September of 1686, and they also had a daughter Geertruyd the following July. Lysbeth Stevens was one of the witnesses to this baptism. Eighteen months later, Evert and Johanna had a son Arent – named for his grandfather. His grandfather Arent and his aunt Anna (Populaer) *van Hoeck* were the witnesses at this baptism. The next year a similar event occurred when Isaac and Anna also had a son, also named Arent, and his grandfather Arent and his aunt Johanna Van Spyck were witnesses.

In the summer of 1690, Evert and Johanna had a second daughter, who they also named Geertruyd (indicating their first child by this name had died). The grandfather Arent was also a witness to this baptism. In the spring of 1692, Joost Paulding and Cathryn Duyts had a daughter that they named Lysbeth. Arent and his wife Lysbeth Stevens were witnesses to her baptism. Perhaps this daughter was named after Arent's wife. Joost Paulding was a Dutch Huguenot that had arrived in New Amsterdam about 1660, and was also shoemaker.

Also in 1692, Arent's son Laurens (Lawrence) married Johanna Hendricks Smith, the daughter of Hendrick Barents Smith and Geertje Willems. A year later, in the summer of 1692, this couple had their first child – a daughter they baptised Johanna. Her grandfather Arent was a witness.

Sometime in the early 1690's Arent's fourth wife, Lysbeth, died. He married after that for a fifth (and final) time to Maria Jans Van Hobocken[†], the widow of Otto Laurenzen, on January 12th, 1696.

* The membership list of the New York Dutch Reformed Church must have been enumerated in the first half of 1686 as Arent's sons are shown as unmarried – Isaac wasn't married until July of 1686. This is the same year their brother Bennony was being hauled before the court in Albany for abusing his step-daughter.

† Maria Jans and her first husband, Jan Gillisen Kock, and 3 children emigrated from Utrecht, Netherlands, in 1656 - from Holland Society Yearbook, 1902 – “Jan Jillissen "hondslager" (dogcatcher) and Marye van Hoboken zijn huysvr (his wife) are church members of New York Dutch Reformed Church before 1660.” She married second Otto Laurens j.m. van Mispadt (young man from Mispadt), in 1667 [New York Dutch Reformed Church records]. Maria and her first husband Jan had 5 children born in New Amsterdam: Maria b. 1658, Neeltje b. 1660, Jacobus b. 1664, Abraham b. 1662 and Johannes b. 1662.

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Apparently Arent died sometime over the next 18 months, when Maria shows up in October of 1697 in the New York tax lists as *The Widd Hoeck*. Arent's sons Evert and Lawrence also appear in these late seventeenth century tax lists.

Conclusion

Arent Isaacszen van Hoeck was a common man. He never held any office. He never served in any military. There are no paintings or sketches of him. He was a master shoemaker and a merchant. He was a husband, father and grandfather. He was a Dutch Calvinist. He probably spoke German and Dutch throughout his life. He lived a long life for his time – outliving many of his contemporaries.

Arent was a master shoemaker of the seventeenth century. We can imagine Arent's bench and workshop, surrounded by small scraps of leather that have fallen to the floor. He wears his shoemaker's apron, a tough leather apron, blackened with wear, to protect his thighs and body. He would have had lasts, the foot-shaped pieces of wood around which the shoes are made. His shoemaker's bench, typically made with the right-hand half divided into little trays, would hold his tools handy. He would measure his customer's feet using a measuring stick with a sliding stop. He would have knives of various shapes for cutting and paring the leather. He would shape the pieces and sew them together, using pointed awls to make the holes for the thread. The thread has to be waxed before it is used, with a ball of shoemaker's wax. In winter, the wax was kept near the fire, to keep it soft. In summer, it tended to melt, so it was kept in water inside a lead cistern or tank. Arent used a hammer to tack the soles and heels of the shoes to the uppers. He has a pair of pincers (possibly the ones Melchior Claes stole) to pull out the tacks if he makes a mistake. Finally, he has various specially shaped pieces of bone or hard wood which he rubs over the uppers to smooth down the stitches and polish the leather.

In English, Arent was a *cordwainer* – a term often seen in the early records. The word derives from the fine soft leather originally produced in Cordoba, Spain called cordovan. A cordwainer at this time was someone who produced fine footwear from fine leather (as opposed to a *cobbler* who repaired used shoes). While the Dutch didn't follow the guild system put forth by the English, members of the same trade supported one another, and sons often followed in their father's profession.

Arent was certainly not a wealthy man. He owned little property, and from the records of assessments, court documents, rental agreements, etc. he never appeared to have much in the way of personal wealth – indeed, he appears to have been in debt quite often. He associated with some of the more prosperous members of the Dutch settlement (e.g., Coenradt Ten Eyck, Isaac De Forest), but Arent himself never accumulated much of an *estate*, and did not appear to leave a will.

Arent was married five times in his lifetime. As far as we know, he had four sons living to adulthood (Isaac, Evert and Lawrence, with Bennony being killed in his late twenties) and two daughters (Vrowtie who married George Walker and Geertje who appears in 1695 as a witness to her niece also named Geertje, daughter of her brother Lawrence). He appears as a stout member of the Dutch

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Reformed (Calvinist) Church – being married in the Church multiple times and having his children baptized there.

Arent had an urge for migration and a better life which took him from his little village in the German provinces to the big city of Amsterdam in his 20's. That same urge drove him to the New World to make a home in one of the most diverse places in the world at the time – New Amsterdam. These efforts at seeking an improved life formed the seeds of family for many generations to come.

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Records of Arent Isaacksen van Hoeck

Abbreviations:

- ERA** J.Pearson and A.f.F. van Laer (translator and editor), *Early Records of the City and County of Albany, and Colony of Rensselaerswijck* (1656-1657). 4 volumes, vols 2-4 revised by A.J.F. van Laer (Albany, 1869)
Volume 1 – Deeds A and B, 1654-1678
Volume 2 – Deeds 3 and 4, 1678-1704
Volume 3 – Notarial Papers 1 and 2, 1660-1696
Volume 4 – Mortgages 1, 1658-1660, and Wills 1-2, 1681-1765
- NYDRC** New York Dutch Reformed Church in New Amsterdam (later New York) records
- RNA** *The Records of New Amsterdam from 1653 to 1674 anno Domini*; ed. by Berthold Fernow, published 1897, six volumes (reprinted 1976 Genealogical Pub. Co., Baltimore)
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- 1 May 1629** Gemeentearchief Amsterdam (Amsterdam Archives), doopregister (baptism register), volume 41, page 22, kind Sara, doop 1 mei 1629, vader Pieter van de Kidt, moeder Maritje Mathijs, religie Hervormd, Nieuwe kerk (child Sara, christened 1 May 1629, father Pieter van de Kidt, mother Maritje Mathijs, religion Reformed, New Church), <http://gemeentearchief.amsterdam.nl/>
- 19 Jan 1652** Gemeentearchief Amsterdam (Amsterdam Archives), Poorter's Books – Arent Isaaczen, shoemaker, became a citizen of the city of Amsterdam.
- 30 Mar 1652** Gemeentearchief Amsterdam (Amsterdam Archives)– Arent Isaaczen “van Hooksiel”, shoemaker's helper, was married to Sara van de Cliet (banns published Mar. 30, 1652) She was baptized May 1, 1629, a daughter of Pieter van de Cliet and Maritje Mathijsdr.
- 29 Mar 1655** Gemeentearchief Amsterdam (Amsterdam Archives) – Arent Isaaczen “van Hooksiel,” shoemaker, widow of Sara van de Cliet, married second (banns published Jan. 29, 1655) to Geertje Everts (bap. Jan 19, 1631), daughter of Evert Claesz and Ariaantje Reyners.
- 1655** *de Bonte Koe* was the only ship from Amsterdam, The Netherlands to New Amsterdam that fits this time frame for Arent and Geertje's emigration (between their marriage at the end of January 1655 and the lease of July 1655). Records and information from the Ostrander Family Association - <http://www.ostrander.org/debontekoe.htm>. Also from Lorine McGinnis Schulze research on Olive Tree Genealogy - <http://olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/nnship71.shtml>
- 9 Jul 1655** Arnold J. F. Van Laer, trans./annotator, *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch*, Vol. 3, "Register of the Provincial Secretary 1648-1660," (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1974), 405-06.
- [133b] *In the year after the birth of our Redeemer and Savior one thousand six hundred and fifty-two* [this is a transcription error and should be fifty-five], *on the 9th day of July, before me, Cornelis van Ruyven, appointed secretary in New Netherland in the service of*

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the General Chartered West India Company, and before the undersigned witnesses, appeared the worthy Pieter Jansen of the one part and Arent Isacksen of the other part. The said Pieter Jansz acknowledged that he had leased and he, Arent Ysacksen, that he had hired the front room (voorhuys) and half the garret of the house in which the lessor dwells at present, situated in the city of New Amsterdam, opposite the Company's store (winckel), from now until next May. For the rent of the said front room and garret the lessee promises to pay the sum of fl. 90 in the following installments, to wit: fl. 45 on the last of October or in the beginning of November, and the remaining money, being fl. 45, on the last of April following. It is agreed and stipulated that the cellar under the house shall be offered for rent and the money which shall be received therefore or be agreed upon as rent shall be apportioned and divided, so that one half shall accrue to the benefit of Pieter Jansen and the other half to the benefit of Arent Ysacksen and bear half the expenses in having the inner door and the side door made tight, the bedstead broken out of the passage way and put into the front room and in having half the garret partitioned off when the lessee shall think it necessary; furthermore, the lessee as well as the lessor shall have the use of the bleaching field and the well behind the aforesaid house. For the performance of what is above written the respective parties bind their persons and properties, submitting the same to the control of all courts and judges. Thus done without fraud or deceit, the day and year above written, in Amsterdam in New Netherland, in the presence of Peter Janssen Kom Arent Isackxen

In my presence, Cornelis van Ruyven, Secretary

- 9 Jul 1655** New York Colonial Manuscripts III, page 133 - "*lease from Peiter Jansen to Arent Isacksen for the 'Voorhuys' fore part of the house and half the attic, of the house in which the lessor dwells at present standing in New Amsterdam opposite the Companys store from the date of the lease until May 1st next ensuing for the sum of fl.90 to be paid in two installments of fl.45 each.*"
- 1655** NYDRC – *The Book of Members or Register of the Members here since the year 1649*, page 502, lists "Arent Isaacszen en Geertie Everts, syn huysv"
The pages of this early membership list begin at 497 and end at 539. For pages 497 to 507 inclusive there are no dates, but they begin in 1649 and end in 1659. From estimating within this 11 year period, it's reasonable to assume a 1655 date for "Arent and Geertie." "syn huysv" is a Dutch abbreviation for "his wife".
- 13 Oct 1655** RNA 1:373, (Wednesday) Court minutes, tax lists - *In the City Hall. Present the Hon: Petrus Stuyvesant... Arent Isaacksen, voluntary fl. 6.-*
- 11 Apr 1657** RNA - Arent Isaacszen received the Small Burgher Right as a shoemaker.
- 2 May 1657** NYDRC baptism records - Arent Isaacszen had baptised "Vrowtie", witnesses Coenroedt Ten Eyck en syn huis vr ("and his wife").
- 20 Nov 1658** New York State Library History Bulletin II: Early Records of Albany, New York. Mortgages 1658-60 and Wills 1681-1765, page 86 -No(381) *Lease of a house from Tierck Claessen to Arent Isaacksen appeared before me Johannes La Montagne in the service of the general chartered West India Company Commission at Fort Orange and the Village of Beverwijck, Tierck Claessen, who declared he had leased as he hereby does lease his house lying in the village of Beverwijck, for the term of one year beginning on the first of May 1659 and ending next year 1660 to Arent Isacksz burgher and inhabitant of the city of Amsterdam in New Netherland for the sum of 200 guilders in good merchantable beavers @ eight guilders apiece on condition that the lessor shall raise the ground behind the*

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house and make a stoop in the front of the house the lesse persons and estates real and personal present and future. being bound to pay one half year one half of the aforesaid sum for which the parties bind their selves. Thus done in Fort Orange in the presence of Jan Willemsz and Cornelis Teunison witnesses 20 of November A.1658. (signed) Tierck Claesse de Witt and Arent isackx Van den Huock

- 16 Jul 1659** ERA, 1:249 - Goods of Pieter Claerbout to be sold, and paid for in beavers in the time of eight days, or else what is not beaver and is reckoned in sewant is to be paid at 12 guilders to the beaver. **Arent Isaackse** is listed as buying a black petticoat for f21.05 from this estate sale. (There is also a footnote on this page telling of the death of Arent's son, Bennony, in the battle of Schenectady).
- 22 May 1660** Minutes of the Court of Fort Orange and Beverwijck, 1657-1660, translated and edited by Arnold J. F. Van Laer, and published by New York State (Albany) in two volumes in 1926, 2:255-256. Arent signs petition as a fur trader in Beverwijck.
- 28 Jul 1660** *Fort Orange Minutes* (translated by Charles T. Gehring; Syracuse University Press, 1990) p. 519 – *Present: La Montagne, Sander Leendersen, Jan Ver Beeck, Frans Baerentsen Pastoren, Evert Jansen Wendel* – “*Jan Jacobsen, plaintiff, against Arent Isacksen, defendant. The plaintiff demands of the defendant 12 whole beavers for goods received, with interest of 8 beavers for 11 months, together with the costs of the suit. The defendant admits the debt, but says that he owes no interest, nor is he liable for the costs of the suit, as it was brought against his will. The honorable court, having heard the parties, condemn the defendant to pay the plaintiff the 12 beavers demanded, four of them in cash according to his promise and the remaining eight in the space of three weeks, on pain of attachment and of being then, in case of failure to pay, liable for the costs of the suit.*”
- 1660** Janny Venema, *Beverwijck, A Dutch Village on the American Frontier, 1652-1664*, page 454 – lists shoemakers in Beverwijck in 1659: *Rutger Arentsz, Hendrick Bries (first appears in 1661), Willem Brouwer, Jan Everts (first appears in 1664) Arent Isaacksz, Barent Meyndertsz, Cornelis Teunisz (Bos), Harmen Thomasz*
- 9 Dec 1661** Janny Venema (trans. and ed.), *Deacons' Accounts 1652-1674, First Dutch Reformed Church of Beverwyck/Albany, New York* (1998), page 90 – Arent Isaacksz borrowed f50 from the deaconry of the Church at Beverwijck “with *the promise to pay it back.*”
- 7 Jan 1662** ERA, 1:140 - Arent Isaackx van Hoeck, master shoemaker, witness to agreement between Theunis Dircksen van Vechten and Jacob Theunissen Quick about the exchange of a stallion for a cow.
- 18 July 1662** Janny Venema (trans. and ed.), *Deacons' Accounts 1652-1674, First Dutch Reformed Church of Beverwyck/Albany, New York* (1998), page 100 – “received from Arent Yssaacksz 50 guilders, received by him from the treasury during Slechtenhorst's service”
- 13 Mar 1663** ERA, 1:212 - *On this day... Gerard Swart, as well for himself as therein representing and undertaking for Abraham Staas, joint attorneys for Mr. Pieter Hartgers, has let and Arent Yacxsz, master shoemaker, of him has hired the said Hartger's house and lot, standing and lying on Berch street (now Chapel Street), in which Cornelis Bogardus now dwells, in the village of Beverwijck, to the lessee known; for the time of one year beginning on the first day of May next, for the sum of twenty-eight good, whole, merchantable beaver skins reckoned at eight guilders apiece, to be paid yearly; and it is further stipulated that said house and lot shall be delivered to the lessee at the commencement of the lease in proper repair, window, roof, and floor tight, the lessee being holden to deliver up the same at the end of the lease in like condition. For the performance and satisfaction of these presents,*

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the parties hereto mutually bind their respective persons and estates, nothing excepted, subject to the jurisdiction of all courts and judges. Done in Beverwijck, dated as above. G: Swart Abram Stass and Arent Isackx van Hoeck

- 6 Jul 1663** ERA, 1:328 - *Appeared before me, Johannes La Montagne, in the service of, etc., in the presence of the honorable Jan Verbeeck and Stoffel Janse [Abeel] commissaries, etc., Arent Isaackse Van Hoeck burgher and inhabitant of the aforesaid village, who acknowledges and declares, by these presents, that he is well and truly indebted to Philip Henderickse (Brouwer), inhabitant of Schannhectade, in the sum of four hundred guilders, which sum he, the subscriber, promises to pay in good whole merchantable beaver skins in the month of July, A.D. 1664, with interest on the same at ten percent, to begin at this date; for which he pledges his person and estate, real and personal, present and future, especially the subscriber's house and lot, lying in the village of Beverwijck, next to Philip Pieteron [Schuyler's] house, being the same that the subscriber bought of said Philip Henderickse and which he offers as a fast pledge and special mortgage, that in case of necessity, the payment of said four hundred guilders may be collected without loss and cost. Done in Fort Orange the 6th of July, A.D. 1663. (signed) Arentse Isaackse Van Hoeck*
- 30 Sep 1663** Janny Venema (trans. and ed.), *Deacons' Accounts 1652-1674, First Dutch Reformed Church of Beverwyck/Albany, New York* (1998), page 116 – “received from Arent Eysacksz for one *schepel* of corn 3 florin”
- 1664** Paul R. Huey, "Under the Parking Lots: Archeological Remains of Beverwijck and Colonial Albany Waiting to Be Found," *de Halve Maen* 76 (Spring 2003):5-6: *"Additionally, in 1664 the Church paid his wife [Jacob Jansen van Noorstrant], Jannetje, for wetnursing Arent Isaacszen's child."*
- 13 Jan 1664** Janny Venema (trans. and ed.), *Deacons' Accounts 1652-1674, First Dutch Reformed Church of Beverwyck/Albany, New York* (1998), page 122 – “paid to Jacob *de brouwer's* wife because of Arent Isacksz's child in sewant f120 florin”
- 13 Feb 1664** Janny Venema (trans. and ed.), *Deacons' Accounts 1652-1674, First Dutch Reformed Church of Beverwyck/Albany, New York* (1998), page 127 – “to Jangen *de brouster* for wetnursing Arent Isack's child 35 florin”
- 19 Feb 1664** RNA 5:28, (Tuesday) Court minutes - *Arent Isaackzen, pltf, v/s Hendrick Aarenzen Spaniard, deft. Both in default.*
- 3 Apr 1664** Janny Venema (trans. and ed.), *Deacons' Accounts 1652-1674, First Dutch Reformed Church of Beverwyck/Albany, New York* (1998), page 126 – “to Jantie *Brouwers* for wetnursing Arent Isacksz's child 20 florin”
- 18 Mar 1664** RNA 5:35, (Tuesday) Court minutes - *Arent Isaackzen, pltf. v/s Hendrick Aarenzen Spaniard, deft. Pltf. demands from deft. six guilders in beavers for a pair of shoes received long since from him. Deft. says, that he assigned the pltf. over to Young Kees to receive his pay in wheat for the shoes and he accepted it; which the pltf. denies. Burgomasters and Schepens condemn the deft. to satisfy and pay the pltf. the six guilders in beavers.*
- 18 May 1664** Janny Venema (trans. and ed.), *Deacons' Accounts 1652-1674, First Dutch Reformed Church of Beverwyck/Albany, New York* (1998), page 127 – “paid to Jacob *de brouer* for wetnursing Arent Isacksz's child 60 florin” (note – this was paid to Jacob, the husband of Jannetje)
- 5 Sep 1664** Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New York, 2:248 - *Remonstrance of the People of New Netherland to the Director General and Council* – Arent Isaacqs signed the

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petition to surrender New Amsterdam to the English. (NB: also signed by Timotheus Gabrie, Balthazar Stuyvesant (Peter's son), Isaac de Foreest, Conraet Ten Eyck, Jan Vinge, Isaacq Bedloo and others)

- 1664** *A History of New York, from the beginning of the world to the end of the Dutch Dynasty*, By Diedrich Knickerbocker [pseud], Washington Irving, 1783-1859, published 1809. Chapter VII, page 242, (describing the capitulation of New Amsterdam to the English) “*There came on the intrepid Peter... Then came waddling on the sturdy chivalry of the Hudson. There were the Van Wycks, and the Van Dycks, and the Ten Eycks, ... There were the Van Hornes, the Van Hooks, the Van Bunschotens;...*”
- 27 Sep 1664** RNA 5:125, (Tuesday) Court Minutes - Arent Isaackzen, pltf, v/s Jacob Vis, deft. Deft in default.
- 3 Oct 1664** RNA 5:130, (Tuesday) Court Minutes - *Arent Isaacksen, pltf. v/s Jacob Vis. deft. Pltf. says, he gave the deft. a looking glass in pledge for a debt; and as he has paid the same, he demands that the deft. shall give him back the looking glass or its value. Deft. admits to have been paid the debt and to have had the looking glass; saying that it had remained by accident at the Esopus. The W. Court order the deft. to return the looking glass to the pltf. or to satisfy him for it.*
- 21-26 Oct 1664** Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New York, 3:74 - Names of the Dutch who swore Allegiance after the surrender of New York. “*A Catalogue Alphabeticall of ye Names of such Inhabitants of New Yorke etc. as tooke the Oath to bee true subjects, to His Majestie, October the 21st, 22nd, 24th, and 26th dayes 1664. – Arent Isaackzen*”
- 8 Nov 1664** RNA 5:154, (Tuesday) Court Minutes - Arent Isaacksen, arrestant and pltf. v/s Rut Jacobsen, arrested and deft. Deft. in default.
- 11 Jan 1665** NYDRC – *The Book of Members or Register of the Members here since the year 1649*, page 512, lists Styntie Laurens
- 19 Apr 1665** RNA 5:222, (Wednesday afternoon) Court Minutes - Assessment taken to in relation to lodging of soldiers with the citizens. Arent Isaackzen is listed (with no assessment amount) on High Street.
- 9 Aug 1665** NYDRC marriage records – “*9 Aug. Arent Isacszen, Wedr. Van Geertje Everts, en Steyntje Laurens, Wede. Van Jan Hendricks.*”
- 19 Sep 1666** NYDRC baptism records - Arent Isaacszen and Styntie Laurens had baptised "Catherina", witnesses Hillegond Joris.
- 11 Dec 1666** RNA 6:49, *Arent Isaacksen, pltf. against Jacob Vis, deft. Ordered that Pltff. shall deliver in his a/c at the next Court Day.*
- 18 Dec 1666** RNA 6:50, *Arent Isaacksen, pltf. v/s Jacob Vis, deft. Pltf. demands from deft. restitution of a looking glass, which pltf. heretofore placed in pawn with the debt of 4 beavers, now with costs. The deft. produces and a/c of expenses, which he says he paid on said mirror in the Esopus. The W. Court having heard parties, condemn the deft. to return the looking glass. What regards the expenses which he says he has paid on said looking glass, they decide, that those appertain to the deft. himself and must be by him defrayed, with costs.*
- Feb 1667** RNA 6:64, *The Schout (Allard Anthony), pltf. v/s Arent Isaacqsen, deft. Pltf says, that deft. bought a straw bed of a soldier in direct contravention of the Placard. Deft. admits it, but says, he was not aware, that it was forbidden. The W: Court condemn the deft. in a fine of six guilders; with costs.*

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- 11 Sep 1667** RNA 6:94, *Arent Isaacksen, pltf. v/s Jan Langestraat, deft. Pltf. demands from deft. 2 pieces of eight with costs. Deft. says, he paid 1 piece of eight to pltf's late wife decd. (this must refer to Geertje Everts) and says, that for the remaining piece of eight, he could have discharged it, when the debt was contracted, with 3 gl. zewant. The W. Court condemn deft. to pay pltf. the sum of 9 gl. zewant and costs.*
- 27 Sep 1670** RNA 6:260, *Ariaen van Laer, Plt. v/s Arent Isaacqsen, Deft. Parties Agreed.*
- 20 Dec 1671** RNA 6:350, *Arian van Laer, Plt. v/s Arent Isaacqsen, Deft. the deft one default. Arian Van Laer, Plt. v/s Styntie Arents, Deft. the deft one default.*
- 28 Dec 1671** New York Historical Manuscripts: English, Vol. 22, *Administrative Papers of Governors Richard Nicolls and Francis Lovelace, 1664-1673*, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), Peter R. Christoph, ed., pages 163-64
- 22:123 [Minutes of the Court Martial of Melchior Claes, accused of theft] ...held at Fort James the 28th day of December 1671. Present: the Governor, Mr. Thomas Lovelace, C. John Manning, Capt. Dudley Lovelace, The Secr.
- Mary Dobson makes Complaint against Melchior Claes a souldyer of the Garrison who was at her house with Jack Luck and Abell Hardenbrooke on Christmas day and having no Credit for Rumme hee offer'd to pawne a paire of stockings which proove to bee the widd. Webber, who was at Mary Dobsons a while before, when hee went out and left her, and its thought hee went to her house thinking to find the doore open, but went over the fence and in the yard took these stockings and scared a boy there by offering to draw his sword. The widd: Webber also produces a smoothing Iro[n] which Melchior left with her, for a small matter hee owed her but whose Iron was Its not knowne. **Arent Isaacks** shewes a knife which hee gave six stivers to Melchior for, and at the same time hee stole away from him a paire of pincers that cost 20 G which a sick Child saw him take and put in his breeches. Melchior stands in his Justification about the pincers and saith hee bought them of Jack Luck and that they are now at Abells. Jack Luck saith he did sell a pair of pincers for 10 g and halfe a pint of wine to him; and that hee had them of one Blackleach now at Deawa[re] for the stockings Melchior saith hee gott over the fence there, but hee was drunke and did not know what he did. The smoothing Iron was knowne by Osburnes wife to bee her Landladys, who is gone away, but before shee went shee made great complaint of the losse of it, and shee said shee did beleve that New Eyes had it, who is the person accused. The person is found Guilty of what hee is accused and for punishment, The Court Marshall doe adjudge that hee shall run the Gantlope once the length of the fort, where according to the Custome of that punishment the souldyers shall have switches delivered to them with which they shall strike him as hee passes through them stript to the wast, and at the fort gate the Marshall is to receive him and there to kick him out of the Garrison as a cashiered person where hee is no more to returne, and that if any pay bee due to him, it bee forfeited: This is to bee done this present day at the Parade before the Guard bee relieved.*
- [Endorsed:] At a Court Marshall Dec. 28. 1671. Melchior Claesen run the Gantloppe.
- 13 Feb 1671/2** RNA 6:359, *Ariaen van Laer, pltf. v/s Arent Isaacqsen, deft. Pltf. demands fl. 197 beavers according to a/c with costs. Deft admits the debt, but requests some delay. Parties being heard by W: Court, they condemn deft. to pay the pltf. one half in six months and the other half in twelve months after date hereof.*
- 4 Jun 1672** Calendar of Wills on File and Recorded in the Offices of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, of the County Clerk at Albany, and of the Secretary of State, 1626-1836, Berthold Fernow,

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ed., Page: 97/98 – Will of Isaack De Foreest, witnesses Arent Isacksen and Janssen Romeyn.

- 17 Nov 1672** NYDRC baptism records - Arent Isaacszen and Styntie Laurens had baptised "Vrowtie", witnesses Timothy Gabry and Sarah De Forest.
- 3 Jul 1675** NYDRC baptism records - Arent Isaacszen had baptised "Maria", witnesses Carsten Luurszen and Geertie Theunis.
- Sep 1676** Assessment Roll of Breuckelen, made up September 1676 – *Aerent Isaack – 1 poll, £18*. From *A History of the City of Brooklyn:...* by Henry Reed Stiles, published 1867, page 434.
- 30 Sep 1677** Brooklyn Dutch Reformed Church baptism records - Arent Isaacszen and Styntie Laurens had baptised "Roelof", witnesses Hendrick Slegt and Jannetjen Roemers.
- 20 Apr 1682** New York Genealogical and Biographical Record 70(1939):365 – (Translated Dutch Court Records of Kingston, in County Clerk's office, vol. 3:105--excerpt by Louise Hasbrouck Zimm). "Trial by Ordeal at Esopus" – "*Whereas on APRIL 20, 1682, the wife of Arendt Isaax [Stynie Laurus] died very suddenly, therefore the constable and two magistrates went to view the corpse. The two doctors also examined her and could not discover that her husband or anybody else was the cause of her death. Arendt Isaax, her husband, was ordered to place his hand upon her chest, which he did, calling upon God Almighty to give a sign if he were guilty of his wife's death. But no change was visible from the former. The constable and the aforesaid Magistrates after having examined and viewed (the corpse) find that Arent Isaax is innocent of his wife's death and therefore has been declared innocent and set free.*"
- 28 Feb 1683** Reformed Dutch Church of New Amsterdam Members List (Selyns recods - *'t Ledematen-Boeck oft Register der Ledematen alhier 't sedert de jare 1649*) – lists Arent Isacxen
- 5 Dec 1684** Reformed Dutch Church of New Amsterdam Members List (Selyns recods - *'t Ledematen-Boeck oft Register der Ledematen alhier 't sedert de jare 1649*) – lists *Lysbeth Stevens, met attestatie van Groede in Zeelt*. ("with attestation of Groede in Zeeland")
- 16 Aug 1685** NYDRC marriage records – "*1 Aug. Arent Isacszen, Wr Van Styntie Laurens, en Lysbeth Stevens, Wede Van Abraham Valdinck, beyde wonende alhier. 16 dicto.*"
- 1686** *A catalogue of the members of the Dutch church, with the names of the streets in the city of New-York, A. D. 1686*. From the original manuscript of Rev. Henry Selyns, pastor of the church. New York historical society. Collections. New York, 1841. 2d ser. v. 1. Computer file. Ithaca, NY : Cornell University Library, 1994. 14 image files - <http://historical.library.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/cul.nys/docviewer?did=nys170&seq=1>
Arent Isaczen en syn huysvr Elizabeth Stevens were living at 12 Broad Street, East Side
- 16 Aug 1685** NYDRC marriage records – "*25 dicto. (25 of June) Isaac Arentszzen, j. m. Van N. Albanien, en Anna Populaer, We Van Elias de Windel, beyde woonende tot N. Yorke. 25 Jul.*"
- 17 Sept 1686,** Minutes of Common Council, Albany: IV - B. Van Hoek, was cited to appear before the court at Albany on a complaint made by Cornelis Vielè and others,
"yt Bennony Arentse doth most crewelly and barbarously Beat ye Daughter of Pr Vielè deceased of wh he is the step-father, wh child being stood before ye justices of Peace is found all blak and blew, and ye said Bennony being sent for by a Warrant and appearing before ye justices doth excuse himself Because she is a whole night and somethings half a night out a seeking cows."

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"Whereupon ordered yt ye sd Girle shal be delivered in ye hands of ye Trustees Jacob Meese [Vrooman] & Arnout Cornelise [Vielè], who is to dispose of her as they shal see meet, and if ye said Bennony Arentse shal for ye future abuse any of ye said children of Pr Vielè upon complaint they shall be delivered to ye Trustees who shall have Power to dispose of ye same accordingly and ye Bond of good behaviour given, ye tenth of ye instant to Remain in force."

- 9 Feb 1687** NYDRC baptism records - Arent Isaacszen and Janneken de Windel were witnesses at the baptism of Geertruyd, daughter of Isaac Arentszen and Anna Populaer.
- 10 Jul 1687** NYDRC baptism records - Arent's wife, Lysbeth Stevens and Joris Van Spyck were witnesses at the baptism of a child, Geertruyd, born to Evert Arentszen and Johanna Van Spyck.
- 25 Jan 1689** NYDRC baptism records - Arentszen Isaacszen and Anna Van Hoeck were the witnesses at the baptism of Arent, son of Evert Arentszen and Johanna Van Speyck.
- 20 Apr 1690** NYDRC baptism records - Arent Isacszen and Johanna Van Spyck were witnesses at the baptism of Arent, son of Isaac Van Hoeck and Anna Popelar.
- 29 Jun 1690** NYDRC baptism records - Apparently their previous child (Geertruyd) died, because on this date Evert Van Hoeck and Johanna Van Spyck baptized another daughter, Geertruydt. Arent Isacszen Van Hoeck and Janneken Le grand were the witnesses.
- 24 Apr 1692** NYDRC baptism records - Arent Isaacksz. Van Hoeck and Lysbeth Steevens were witnesses at the baptism of a child, Lysbeth. Parents were Joost Palding and Cathryn Duyts.
- 11 Jun 1693** NYDRC baptism records - Arent Van Hoeck and Aeltje Hendricx were witnesses at the baptism of a child, Johanna, born to Laurens Van hoeck and Johanna Hendricx.
- 12 Jan 1696** NYDRC marriage records - *Den dict Dec. 27, 1695 (the banns) Arent Isackzen Van Hoeck laest wedr. van Elizabeth Stevens enn Maria Van Hobocken laest wede van Otto Laurenzen beyde wonende alhier getrouwt Jan. 12, 1696. :*
- 1695-1699** *Tax lists of the city of New York, December, 1695-July 15th, 1699 - .* Computer file. Ithaca, NY : Cornell University Library, 1994. 228 image files – (note – these tax lists are difficult to use in that the dates the lists were collected are unclear)
<http://dlxs2.library.cornell.edu/n/nys/>
- Dec 1695** Page 13 – West Ward, *Lawrence Van Hookes house, 25 pounds, 6pence*
Page 13 – West Ward, *Evert Van Hooke house & Estate, 30 pounds, 7 pence*
Page 17 – West Ward, *Arent Isaackes [Isaacksen] Estate, 5 pounds, 1 pence*
Page 21 – North Ward, *Lawrence Van Hooke lott, 5 pounds, 1 pence*
Page 28 – South Ward, *Lawrence Van Hooke, 10 pounds, 2 pence.*
Page 44 – South Ward, *Lawrence Van Hooke, 10 pounds, 10 shillings, 3pence*
Page 48 – West Ward, *Lawrence Van Hookes house, 25 pounds, 9 shillings, 7 pence*
Page 48 – West Ward, *Evert Van Hooke house &c, 30 pounds, 11 shillings, 6 pence*
Page 51 – West Ward, *Arent Isaacksen, 5 pounds 1 shilling, 11 pence*
- 7 Sep 1696** Page 85 – Dock Ward, *Lawrence Van Hooke house &c, 70 pounds, 10 shillings, 2 pence*
Page 90 – West Ward, *Evert Van Hooke house &c, 30 pounds, 4 shillings, 8 pence*
- 28 Oct 1697** Page 117 – Dock Ward, *The Widd Hoeck (Van Hook) House &c, 15 pounds, 2 shilling, 4 pence*
Page 121 – North Ward, *Lawrence Van Hooke lott, 10 pounds, 1 shilling, 6 pence*
Page 126 – West Ward, *Arent Isaac Estate, 5 pounds, 9 pence*

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- Page 126 – West Ward, *Evert Van Hooke house &c, 25 pounds, 3 shillings, 10 pence*
Page 156 – West Ward, *Aerent Isaack Estate, 5 pounds, 8 pence*
Page 156 – West Ward, *Evert Van Hooke house &c, 25 pounds, 3 shillings, 6 pence*
Page 164 – Dock Ward, *Lawrence Van hooke, house &c, 70 pounds, 9 shillings, 10 pence,*
Page 166 – Dock Ward, *Widd [Van Hook] house &c, 15 pounds, 2 shillings, 1 pence*
Page 186 – West Ward, *Arent Isaac Estate, 5 pounds, 8 pence*
Page 186 – West Ward, *Evert Vanhooke house &c, 20 pounds, 2 shillings, 10 pence*
Page 194 – Dock Ward, *Lawrence Van hooke, house &c, 70 pounds, 10 shillings, 2 pence*