

THE RUTGERS FAMILY

OF

NEW YORK

BY

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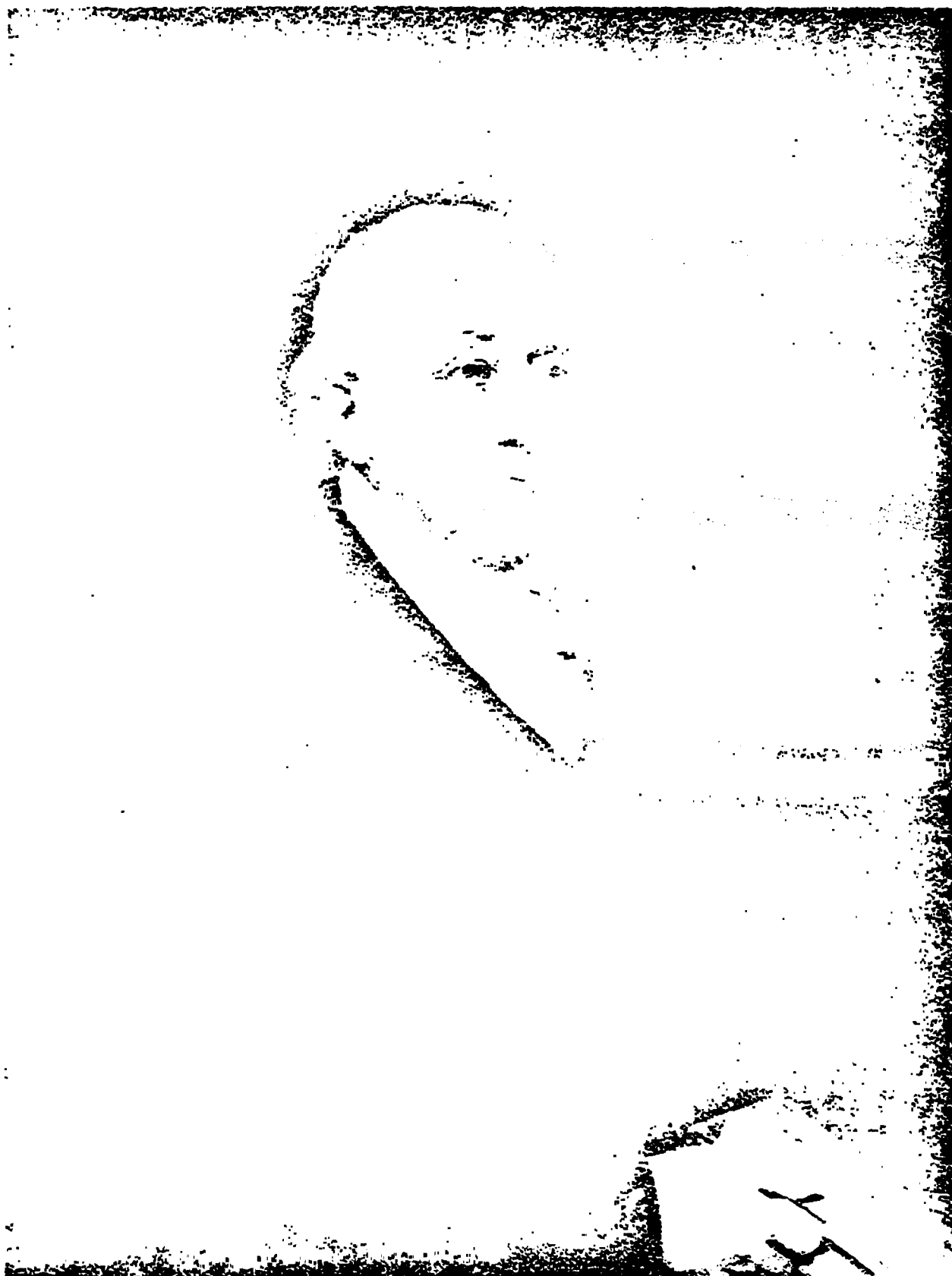
WITH PORTRAIT OF COLONEL RUTGERS

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Henry Rodgers.

THE RUTGERS FAMILY OF NEW YORK.

AMONG the colonists who, on October 1st, 1636, embarked at Texel, on the yacht *Rensselaerswyck*, Jan Tiebkens, skipper, was Rutger Jacobsen Van Schoenderwoerd. The vessel was bound for Fort Orange in the service of the first Patroon. Rutger, as his last name indicates, came from Schoenderwoerd, a pretty Dutch village, two miles north of Leerdam and four miles from Vianen, where Van Rensselaer had a country seat.* Fort Orange at this time gave little promise of the future city of Albany. Its site had been a trading-post as early as 1614. The fort had been built seven or eight years later. In 1646, however, it had only ten thatched cottages, and, indeed, there were not over three thousand Europeans in all New Netherland. In this primitive settlement Rutger became a man of considerable repute and wealth. In June, 1646, he married Tryntje (Catharine) Jansse Van Breesteede, in New Amsterdam. After three years of married life he went into partnership with Goosen Gerritse Van Schaick and rented the Patroon's brewery for 450 guilders a year, and one guilder additional for every tun of beer brewed. In the first year this amounted to 330 guilders, and in the second they used fifteen hundred schepels of malt. In 1654 Rutger bought Jan Jans Van Noorstrant's brew-house, which stood on what is now Beaver Street in Albany, nearly opposite the present Middle Dutch Church. But he was not only a brewer. We find him also engaged in shipping beaver-skins.† He owned a sloop on the river, which he sometimes commanded himself, but at other times he employed Abraham de Truwe as master. He frequently bought and sold building lots in the village and farming land in the neighborhood. In 1661 he owned a share in Mohicander's Island. While Rutger was thus becoming a rich man, he was held in honor by his fellow-townsmen. He was a magistrate in 1655, and probably held the office until his death. He took part in the proceedings of a peace commission, which was appointed to treat with the Indians. He is known as "the Honorable Rutger Jacobsen" in the records, where his signature frequently recurs. When the new church was built, in 1656, he was selected to lay the corner-stone, which he did on June 2d in that year. This church replaced the old one built in 1643, which, being only thirty-four feet long and nineteen feet wide, and containing only nine benches, had become in-

* Vide wood-cut of Schoenderwoerd in Riker's *History of Harlem*, 108.

† Munsell's *Collections on the History of Albany*, iii., 207. 208.

adequate.* The new church occupied the middle of the road at the corner of Yonker and Handelaars—now State and Market—Streets. Rutger's coat-of-arms is said to be in existence, but it is not very clear where he obtained it. He died in 1665. His administrators were Ryckert Van Rensselaer and Jan Van Bael. At the sale of his personal effects they brought 983 guilders 10 stivers. His silver and jewellery alone were sold for 512 guilders 14 stivers.† His wife and three children survived him. The widow is said to have died in 1711, after marrying Hendrick Janse Roseboom in 1695. One of Rutger's daughters, Margaret, married Jan Jansen Bleecker in 1667, and became the ancestor of the Bleecker family. Her husband was Mayor of Albany in 1700. Engeltje, another daughter of Rutger, appears to have become the wife of Melgert Abrahamse Van Deusen. Rutger's only son was Harman Rutgers.‡

The first mention of this son to be found in the records describes him as a private in the Burgher Corps of New Amsterdam, in 1653.§ He married Catarina, daughter of Anthony de Hooges, Secretary of the "Colonie" of Rensselaerswyck, after whom the mountain "Anthony's Nose" in the Hudson Highlands was named.|| Harman was a brewer, as his father was before him. He inherited the Van Noorstrant brew-house. In March, 1675, he bought a brewery on the eastern half of the present Exchange Block in Albany, and sold it two months later.¶ The Dutch Church, of which he and his wife were members,** called upon him to supply the beer for funerals.†† As the mourners could not speak English, the beer fortunately did not furnish them on these occasions with an ill-timed pun. In 1678, the Collector of Excise charged Harman with selling beer to the Indians unlawfully, but the complaint was dismissed, and he continued to prosper. He bought two houses and lots in Albany in 1683.‡‡ About the year 1693 the Indians had become so troublesome in the neighborhood of Albany, destroying Harman's barley crops, and making military service against them necessary, that he was forced to remove to New York, taking with him his two sons, Anthony and Harman (2d). On May 2, 1693, he bought the dwelling-house and brewery of Isaac de Forest (who had sailed from Texel with Rutger Jacobsen and died in 1672) from his heirs. They were on the north side of Stone Street, near Whitehall Street, in New York.§§ The well used for the brewery is said to be still visible.

On New Year's Day, 1694, Elsie, the daughter of Harman (1st), was married to David Davidse Schuyler, at one time Mayor of Albany. After his death she married the Rev. Peter Vas, of Kingston, Ulster County, whom she probably met at Albany, where he was an occasional "supply."|||

Harman's (1st) elder son, Anthony, married Hendrickje Vandewater,

* Pearson's Contributions for the Genealogies of the First Settlers of Albany County, from 1630 to 1800, 11.

† Munsell's Collections, iii., 83-85.

‡ At about this time the Dutch settlers adopted permanent family names. Some of them took a patronymic, as in the case of Harman *Rutgers*, which is equivalent to *Rutgersson*, and others derived their surnames from their native towns in Holland. Thus, the descendants of Rutger Jacobsen's brother, Teunis, who came to New Netherland in 1620, kept the name Van Schoenderwoerd, which has been shortened to Van Woert (see preface, Pearson's Albany First Settlers). For reference to Rutger Jacobsen and his family, see Munsell's Albany Collections, index; O'Callaghan's History of New Netherland, i., 436, 437; ii., 587, 591; Pearson's Albany First Settlers, 93, 94; Riker's History of Harlem, 101, 107, 108, note.

§ O'Callaghan's History, iii., 362. It is evident that Harman was not the son of Trantje Van Breesteede, whom Rutger married in 1645. He may have been the son of a former wife, although Rutger is not described as a widower in the marriage record of the Dutch Church, as was usually done in such cases. Professor Pearson is authority for the statement that Harman was the son of Rutger Jacobsen (Albany First Settlers, 93, 94).

|| Benson's Memoir on Names, 52.

¶ Munsell's Coll., iii., 111, 112, 114.

** Munsell, i., 97.

†† Munsell's Coll., i., 28, 50.

‡‡ Liber 3 of Deeds, p. 17, Albany County Clerk's Office.

§§ Riker's Harlem, 571, 572.

|| Munsell's Annals of Albany, i., 91.

of New York, on December 30, 1694, and went to housekeeping in the Dock Ward, east of Broad Street. He was a brewer, and for some years appears to have been a baker as well. In 1699 he was admitted as a freeman in New York.

The younger, Harman (2d), remained with his father, became a brewer, and was admitted as a freeman in 1696.

In a census of New York, taken about the year 1703, the family of Harman Rutgers (1st) is represented as consisting of two males between sixteen and sixty years of age, one female, one female child, and two male negroes. The first three were evidently the elder Harman (1st), his wife, and his son Harman (2d). Anthony's household in the Dock Ward was composed of himself, his wife, two sons, and one negro woman. Harman Rutgers (1st) died in 1711, "being very ancient and weak in body," as he describes himself in his will.* He left his entire estate to his widow Catharine for life, and directed it to be divided after her death among his three children by his "well-beloved friends," Nicholas Roosevelt, Johannes Korfbyd, and Jacobus Goelet.

We will follow first the fortunes of Anthony Rutgers, the son of Harman Rutgers (1st), and grandson of Rutger Jacobsen. Anthony was probably named after his maternal grandfather, Anthony de Hooges, the famous Secretary. In 1705 he buys a dwelling-house and lot on Smith (now William) Street and a lot beyond the land gate on the New Street. In 1710 he had become a resident of the North Ward, above Wall Street, and in that year and the two years succeeding he was an assistant alderman from that ward. He represented it as Alderman from 1727 to 1734. He was also a member of the Colonial Assembly from 1726 to 1737. In 1717 he bought land on Maiden Lane and he had a brew-house and residence on the north side of that street between William and Nassau Streets. He also purchased a tract of farm land lying northwest of the present junction of Broadway and Chambers Street, and extending to the North River. In 1723 he bought ten acres here, and in 1725 thirty-six more.

In this neighborhood there was at this time a large swamp which caused a great deal of malaria. It was included in a piece of seventy acres of public land which the local government could only lease for life. Anthony presented a petition in 1730 to the authorities in England, asking that the swamp might be granted to him so that he could drain it, which no mere life-tenant would undertake to do. Governor Cosby was directed to make such a grant by an order of the King in Council, made at Hampton Court, on August 12, 1731. An order was made accordingly in the Council of New York, on December 16, 1733.† Anthony, known as Captain Rutgers, was still living near William Street in 1731.‡ At about this time he built himself a house on his new farm. He was a member of the grand jury which in 1741 investigated the Negro plot.§ His first wife having died he had married the widow Cornelia Benson, daughter of Johannes Roos, August 25, 1716. Anthony died in 1746, and she survived him until 1760. He left behind him one son, Peter, a grandson, Anthony (3d), son of a deceased son, Anthony (2d), and five daughters,

* Dated March 5, 1710, proved April 29, 1711, Liber 8 of Wills, p. 32, N. Y. Surrogate's Office.

† London Documents, xiv., 147; Land Papers, x., 171; N. Y. Council Minutes, xvi., 277; Valentine's Manual of the Common Council for 1854, 509.

‡ N. Y. Gazette, No. 321.

§ Mrs. Lamb's History of New York, i., 582.

among whom his property was divided.* One daughter, Eisie, had married Leonard Lispenard in 1741, and he bought the other shares in the North River estate in 1748. It became known in consequence as "the Lispenard farm," and the streets which afterward traversed it took the family names of Leonard, Lispenard, and Anthony (now Worth Street). The old New York Hospital building afterward occupied a part of this estate.† Lispenard was a prominent citizen. He was a member of the Provincial Congress of New York,‡ and also of the Stamp Act Congress. Another daughter of the first Anthony was Mary, who, in December, 1749, became the wife of the Rev. Henry Barclay, rector of Trinity Church.§ His name is perpetuated in Barclay Street. His bride was a lady "of great merit and valuable accomplishments."¶ The *Postboy* ¶ contains a poem on the wedding addressed to "Inspiring Phœbus." Mrs. Barclay died in 1788, and the *New York Journal*** in recording the fact, says that she was "justly esteemed for her exalted piety, and as she was remarkably charitable, the poor have lost a valuable friend." Her daughter Cornelia married Colonel Stephen de Lancey, and another daughter, Anna Dorothea, was the wife of Colonel Beverly Robinson. Her son, Colonel Thomas Barclay, married Susan de Lancey, and had a large family. Three of his daughters married respectively William B. Parsons, Schuyler Livingston, and Peter G. Stuyvesant.

The oldest child of Anthony Rutgers (1st) who lived to maturity was his son Peter. He was born in 1701, became a brewer in Maiden Lane, and married Helena Hoogland. He was an assistant alderman from the East Ward from 1730 to 1734, and was spoken of as an "eminent merchant." He was Captain of the First Independent Company of Cadets. He died in August, 1745. "He was a gentleman much esteemed for his generosity and fatherly affection to his company, and his funeral was attended by almost all the principal inhabitants of this place, being universally lamented." †† His eldest son, Anthony, was a lawyer, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Williams, Naval Officer of the Port of New York. This Anthony died in 1754, and his widow, two years after, married Colonel Frederick Philipse, last proprietor of the manor of Philipsburgh. She was described in the *New York Mercury*‡‡ as "a very agreeable lady, and possessed of every virtue and accomplishment that can adorn her sex and make the marriage state truly happy." Peter's daughter, Helena, married John Morin Scott. He was a graduate of Yale College and a distinguished lawyer and politician. He served as brigadier-general in the Revolution. In 1777 he became Secretary of State of New York, and he was a member of the Continental Congress in 1782 and 1783. His son, Lewis Allaire Scott, was also Secretary of State of New York.§§ Helena Rutgers, the widow of Peter, died in December, 1773, "at her house in the Fly." ¶¶

Anthony Rutgers (2d), the younger brother of Peter, and son of Anthony (1st), married Margarita Kloppe on January 10, 1741, and died before his father. He left an only son, Anthony A. Rutgers, whom we

* See his will, Lib. 26, p. 12. N. Y. Surrogate's Office.

† Mrs. Lamb's New York, vol. i., 723, note: ii., 307.

‡ *Id.*, iii., 32, note.

§ *Id.*, i., 632. For an account of the Barclay family vide Hoigate's American Genealogy, p. 122.

¶ *Postboy*, December 18, 1749.

¶ December 23, 1749.

** June 12, 1788.

†† *Postboy*, August 26, 1745.

‡‡ September 13, 1756.

§§ Mrs. Lamb's New York, ii., 49, note 2, 84, note, 285, 308.

¶¶ Maiden Lane. Rivington's New York Gazette, December 30, 1773.

shall call Anthony (3d). His grandfather, Anthony (1st), left him his brew-house and residence in Maiden Lane. He also received a share of the farm on the North River. On June 6, 1762, he married Gertruyda, daughter of Nicholas Gouverneur, of Newark, N. J.; "a young lady of great beauty and merit," * which qualities seem to have been the common property of all young ladies of that day. Anthony (3d) owned the Ranelagh Gardens at the head of Broadway, where Duane Street now crosses it. They were leased to one Jones, who gave entertainments in them. A band of music played there on Mondays and Thursdays. In 1775, Anthony Rutgers is named as Captain of the Second Company of Artillery, one of the "new companies raising." He subsequently removed to Newark and died there in 1784, leaving four sons and two daughters. His son Anthony A. (Anthony, 4th) was a merchant and at one time lived at Curaçoa. He was one of the original shareholders of the Tontine Coffee House. On April 17, 1790, he married Cornelia, daughter of Hugh Gaines, the editor, publisher, and printer. "The schooner which lay in the East River was decorated in honor of the occasion with a very numerous variety of the colors of all nations and exhibited a most beautiful appearance." † Harman G. Rutgers, also a son of Anthony (3d), married Sarah, another daughter of Hugh Gaines.

Nicholas Gouverneur Rutgers was also a son of Anthony (3d). He started in business with his grandfather's house, Gouverneur & Kemble, and was afterward at the head of the firm of Rutgers, Seaman & Ogden, at 79 Pearl Street, who were the agents in New York of Anthony (4th). Nicholas G. Rutgers was also for many years president of the Mutual Insurance Company. He married Cornelia, daughter of John Livingston, and granddaughter of Robert Livingston, third owner of the manor. After her death Nicholas married his third cousin, Eliza Hoffman. He died in 1857, at the age of eighty-six, leaving behind him two sons and several daughters, all children of his first wife.

We will now return to Harman (2d), the brother of Anthony (1st), son of Harman (1st), and grandson of Rutger Jacobsen. We left him living with his father in Stone Street, and engaged in business with him as a brewer. In his family Bible he makes the following entry as of December 25, 1706: "I, Harman Rutgers, was married to Catharina Meyer by Dominie De Booy. May the Lord grant us a long and happy life together. Amen." He bought land on Maiden Lane at about this time and added to it afterward. When his father, Harman (1st), had died in 1711, Harman (2d) removed to a house on the north side of Maiden Lane, at the corner of the present Gold Street, and established a brewery there. He thus mentions the fact in his Bible: "1711, December 4th. We removed from mother's house to our own place in the Vly, and have made the first beer there the 24th of December. May the Lord bless us in the work of our hands." Gold Street, between Maiden Lane and John Street, was for many years known as Rutgers Hill. Catharine, the widow of Harman (1st), lived at the house in Stone Street until her death. It was sold in 1729. ‡ Harman (2d) lived a prosperous and quiet life. He was honored with the title of Captain, which seems to have been hereditary in the family. He was one of the struck jury in the famous Zenger trial in

* New York Mercury, June 14, 1762.

† New York Journal, April 22, 1790.

‡ Liber 31 of Deeds, p. 315. N. Y. Register's Office

1735. Zenger had reflected in his newspaper upon the course of Governor Cosby's supporters in the Council in the controversy with Rip Van Dam, President of the Council. He was indicted for seditious libel. The jury acquitted him and sustained the freedom of the press. Gouverneur Morris once said that this trial was "the germ of American freedom."* Harman (2d) laid up sufficient money in time to purchase a farm of over a hundred acres, lying east of the site of Chatham Square, and comprising all of the present Seventh Ward west of Montgomery Street and a part of the Fourth Ward. It had a long water-front on the East River. This land supplied his breweries with barley. He bought the greater portion of this estate from the widow and children of Hendrick Cornelisson Van Schaick in 1728. He acquired the rest in 1732 and 1733. The Van Schaick farm was the original Bowery No. 6, granted to Cornelis Jacobson Stille early in the Dutch regime. In 1728 the farm-house stood on the Bowery road at about what is now the southeast corner of East Broadway and Oliver Street. The barn was near the present southeast corner of Catharine and Division Streets.† On this farm Hendrick Rutgers, second son of Harman (2d), took up his residence and had a brew-house during his father's life. In 1731 the New York Assembly met in "the house of Mr. Rutgers near the Bowery road," on account of the small-pox which was prevalent in town.‡ Captain Rutgers' wharf is mentioned as one of four places for batteries in 1745. Catharine, the wife of Harman (2d), died on February 28, 1737. His Bible notes the fact as follows: "My dearly beloved wife Catharine Rutgers rested in the Lord." A newspaper of March 1, 1737, gives further details: Mrs. Rutgers "eat her breakfast as usual and about nine or ten o'clock was taken with a fit and dyed about four in the afternoon, without speaking a word, to the great surprise of her sorrowing family and friends." The widower consoled himself by marrying Margaret de Forest, a granddaughter of Isaac de Forest, who formerly owned the Stone Street brewery. Harman (2d) died in August, 1753. The *Gazette* of August 13, 1753, contains the following paragraph: "Thursday last departed this life in an advanced age Mr. Hermanus Rutgers, a very eminent brewer of this city and a worthy, honest man." He had two sons and three daughters who lived to a mature age, and they were all children of his first wife. His son Harman (3d) died before him. Of his daughters, Elsie married John Marshall, Catharine married Abraham Van Horne, and Eva married John Provoost. Eva's eldest son, Samuel Provoost, was rector of Trinity Church, and afterward the first Protestant Episcopal bishop of New York. He was the first American bishop consecrated, the rite being performed in his case by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Harman (2d) left his dwelling, store-house, malt-house, brew-house, negro kitchen, malt-mill and mill-house on Maiden Lane and Rutgers Street (on Rutgers Hill) to the widow of his son Harman (3d) for life.§ She was Elizabeth Benson, daughter of Harman (2d)'s sister-in-law, Mrs. Anthony Rutgers, by her first husband. After Elizabeth's death the estate was to go to her eldest son, Robert (1st). She appears to have carried on the brewery herself for some time, || but finally gave it up to Robert (1st)

*Dunlap's History of New York, i., 304; Mrs. Lamb's New York, i., 562.

† In Valentine's Manual, 1861, p. 521, is a view of the Bowery road showing this house.

‡ Mrs. Lamb's New York, i., 535. This may have been the new house of Anthony (1st), who was a member of the Legislature at that time.

§ Lib. 18 of Wills, p. 347, N. Y. Surrogate's Office.

|| N. Y. Historical Society Collections, 1881, xiv., p. 12.]

as her tenant. In her old age she became noted as the plaintiff in the suit of Rutgers *vs.* Waddington. She had fled from New York at the opening of the Revolution, and the defendant Waddington had occupied her house under British military authority. The Legislature of New York passed an act, giving a right of action for trespass to the former owner against the occupant in such cases. This suit was tried in 1784 and made a test case. Alexander Hamilton appeared as counsel for the defendant. His argument was successful. The court disregarded the statute and decided in favor of Waddington. This decision affected many similar actions, and was regarded as a great Tory victory. A mass meeting was held to protest against it.* Elizabeth became a resident of Red Hook, Dutchess County, and died in 1795. She had three sons and three daughters. The eldest of these was Robert Rutgers (1st), who married Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. William Beekman. Robert's son Gerard married Margaret Sarah, daughter of Nicholas Bayard. Gerard and his brother Robert (2d) became residents of Belleville, N. J. Their sister Catharine married Stephen Van Cortlandt and also lived in New Jersey.

The third Harman's second son, Harman (4th), was a merchant and died unmarried. His third son was Captain Anthony Rutgers. In 1754 he was captain of a "snow." He is mentioned once as sailing from Port Royal. In 1758 and 1759 he commanded the privateer snow "Boscawen," and sent several prizes into New York. In 1760 he had the letter of marque brig King George. In 1765 and 1766 he was Assistant Alderman from the North Ward. He owned a rope-walk in conjunction with Jacob Le Roy prior to 1769, and afterward carried on the business alone at his store in Maiden Lane. He is said to have been one of the twenty-three original members of the New York City Masonic Society. They were all sea-captains, and their certificates were dated January 8, 1770. In 1775 Anthony was a member of the New York Provincial Congress. He died in 1814.† Anthony's partner, Jacob Le Roy, married successively his two sisters Cornelia and Catharine Rutgers, and was the ancestor of a large family, among whom may be mentioned his granddaughter Caroline, daughter of Herman Le Roy, who was the second wife of Daniel Webster. A younger sister of the wives of Jacob Le Roy was named Mary, and married Anthony Hoffman. Their daughter Eliza Hoffman became the second wife of her kinsman Nicholas G. Rutgers and had no issue. She survived him and lived in New Brunswick, N. J.

Harman (2d), having left the greater part of his Maiden Lane property to the family of his deceased son Harman (3d), provided for his younger son Hendrick, by leaving him in his will his farm near the Fresh Water, in the Out Ward, which he had bought from the Van Schaicks and others, "where he my said son now lives."‡ This devise included a brew-house which stood on that part of the farm now bounded by Henry, Madison, Jefferson, and Clinton Streets. Hendrick was born on February 20, 1712. When he was thirteen years old he was apprenticed to his cousin by marriage, Thomas Thong, merchant, for seven years. Thong undertook

*McMasters' History of the People of the United States, i. 125, 219, 220; New York Packet, November 4, 1784. See Dawson's pamphlet entitled, The case of Elizabeth Rutgers v. Joshua Waddington, determined in the Mayor's Court in the City of New York, August 7, 1784.

† The number of Anthonys and Harmans in the Rutgers family makes it difficult to be accurate in determining which one is referred to in any particular instance by contemporary records.

‡ See his will, Lib. 13, p. 347, N. Y. Surrogate's Office.

"to cause said apprentice to be taught the Art or Mistory of a Merchant."* On January 9, 1732, Hendrick married Catharine de Peyster, daughter of Johannes de Peyster, at one time Mayor of New York.† In his family Bible he states that the ceremony was performed by "my uncle, the Rev. Peter Vas, preacher at Kingston in Esopus."‡ Hendrick was the fourth of his family, son after father, who married a Catharine. In 1738 he was an ensign in Captain Van Horne's company of militia, and was promoted to the second lieutenantcy in Captain Van Wyck's. Soon after his father's death in 1753, Hendrick built a residence for himself, with bricks brought from Holland, on the East River farm near the brew-house. The site of this house is now covered by the block bounded by Monroe, Cherry, Jefferson, and Clinton Streets. This was then close to the river. We know that the house was completed by November, 1755, because the Lisbon earthquake on the fifth of that month shook down the iron window-bars which were leaning against its walls in the day-time.§ Just west of the brew-house was a fish-pond which emptied into the river between the present Rutgers and Jefferson Streets. A garden east of the house remained unchanged for over a century, and another garden and various outbuildings occupied the land between the house and the brewery.

The city in time grew toward Hendrick's farm, and he had a portion of it laid out in streets and lots. He agreed with James de Lancey on a boundary line between their farms. It ran along Division and Little Division (now Montgomery) Streets, from which circumstance those names are derived. Hendrick named Catharine Street after his wife. Madison Street was called Bancker Street and then Bedlow, after two of his sons-in-law. Henry Street bears the name of one of his sons. Harman Street has become East Broadway. The present Rutgers Street was so called on the map as early as 1775. Oak Street once bore that name, but it became so disreputable that the name was changed in deference to the family. George and Charlotte Streets have dropped their royal titles and are to-day plain Market and Pike Streets.|| When the war broke out, Hendrick, with the other patriots, was obliged to leave the city, and took up his residence at Albany. Here he died in 1779. His death is noted in Rivington's *Royal Gazette* ¶ as follows: "On the thirteenth instant died at Albany, in his sixty-ninth year, Hendrick Rutgers, Esq., a member of the Dutch Reformed Church and a gentleman of very large estate in this city." In his will he gives two hundred pounds a year to his widow. To his son, Henry, he leaves all his land between Rutgers and Clinton Streets, including his house, brew-house, and other buildings. His other property he divides among his children.** His household effects were appraised at £922 7s. 1¼d., and his silver plate alone at £119.†† He had three sons named Harman, the first two of whom died in infancy. The third was a merchant and never married. He was killed at the battle of Long Island, on August 27, 1776, while fighting against the British troops.‡‡

* Liber 29 of Deeds, p. 294, N. Y. Register's Office.

† For an account of the de Peyster family *vide* Valentine's Manual, 1861, p. 556.

‡ The original entries in this Bible and the one of Harman quoted above are in the Dutch language.

§ *Vide* picture of this house in 1765 in Valentine's Manual, 1858, p. 606.

|| See Post's Old Streets of New York.

¶ August 7, 1779.

** Lib. 33 of Wills, p. 201, New York Surrogate's Office.

†† I have an old impression of a book-plate of Hendrick Rutgers with his coat-of-arms, which I venture to describe: arms, a lion rampant surmounted of a fess, charged with a star; on a chief a demi-eagle displayed crest; a demi-wild-man holding a baton over his head: motto, *unter da dir*, which I cannot translate.

‡‡ Mrs. Lamb's New York, ii., 112.

Hendrick's eldest daughter, Catharine, married William Bedlow, grandson of Isaac Bedlow of Bedlow's Island. He was a sea-captain, and afterward a merchant. In 1784 he was postmaster of New York City. He had a son, Henry, a daughter, Mary, who married John Beekman,* and another daughter, Catharine, wife of Dr. Ebenezer Crosby, who had come to New York from Braintree, Mass., and was at one time surgeon of General Washington's Guard, and afterward professor of medicine at Columbia College. He was the ancestor of the Crosby family of New York. Henry Bedlow's son, Henry, was at one time Mayor of Newport, R. I. Hendrick's second daughter, Anna, became Mrs. William Bancker. Her granddaughter, Elizabeth de Peyster, married Henry Remsen, who was private secretary to President Jefferson, and for many years President of the Manhattan Company. Hendrick's two younger daughters married respectively Gerard de Peyster and Dr. Stephen McRea.

The only son of Hendrick who survived him was Hendrick, or Henry, Rutgers. He was born on October 7, 1745, and was graduated at Kings (now Columbia) College in the class of 1766. He entered the Continental army at the outbreak of the Revolution. On May 8, 1775, "Captain Rutgers,† at the head of his company of grenadiers, met the Boston, Connecticut, and New York delegates to Congress at the Ferry and proceeded with them to Newark." He was still a captain in 1776 and took part in the battle of White Plains. "He continued actively and usefully employed as an officer until the close of the war."‡ Meanwhile, during the occupation of New York by the British army, the Rutgers house was used as a hospital. The marks of confiscation on its doors were visible in 1830. The brewery was used first as the hospital kitchen and afterward as a repository of naval stores.§ At the end of the war Henry had become the owner of the homestead. He kept bachelor's hall there until his death, nearly fifty years later. He was possessed of great wealth, and it seems that he never engaged in any business. He found his time sufficiently occupied in attending to his estate, which he fortunately refused to sell when he had the opportunity in 1783.|| He was an officer in the militia after the war. On October 24, 1788, we learn that the First Regiment New York Militia, under Major Henry Rutgers, was reviewed by Brigadier-General Malcom.¶ The parade ground was on his own land. On July 27, 1790, "President Washington and Governor Clinton, with the chiefs of the Creek Nation, reviewed the legion of General Malcom's brigade and Colonel Bauman's regiment of artillery. The President signified his full approbation of their soldierly behavior to Colonel Rutgers, who commanded them."** It was perhaps in honor of this occasion that the Colonel ordered a portrait of Washington from Gilbert Stuart, which hung in the hall of the Rutgers house until 1865.†† Colonel Rutgers "took a leading and zealous part in the politics of the country."‡‡ He was a Member of Assembly in 1784. In 1800 he was again

* For an account of the Beekman family *vide* Holgate's American Genealogy, p. 66.

† Probably Henry.

‡ A sermon occasioned by the death of Colonel Henry Rutgers, preached in the church in Market Street February 28, 1830, by William McMurray, D.D. (Rutgers Press, New York, 1830). This sermon gives considerable information regarding Colonel Rutgers' life.

§ See order of Major-General Patison, New York Historical Society Collections, viii., p. 233.]

|| Mrs. Lamb's New York, iii., 430, note.

¶ New York Gazette, October 30, 1788.

** Contemporary Journal: see Mrs. Lamb's New York, ii., 364.

†† F. Johnston's Original Portraits of Washington, 98, 104.

‡‡ Dr. McMurray's sermon, *supra*.

nominated by the Republicans. This campaign was especially exciting, as the Legislature was to choose Presidential electors, and the result depended on the vote of New York. A great effort was made in the city to defeat the Federalist party, as the vote of the State turned, as usual, upon the contest in the metropolis. Colonel Rutgers was elected, as were also George Clinton and General Horatio Gates. They all voted for Republican electors, and the result was the election of Jefferson and Burr. Colonel Rutgers, in a letter written at Albany, on March 5, 1801, gives an account of the festivities there on the day before in honor of Jefferson's inauguration. "The Sixth and Seventh Wards, I fancy," he adds, "were not asleep. It was often mentioned here that their exertions and success gave a Republican Presidency." It was doubtless in view of his course on this and other such occasions that Dr. McMurray says: "Of the correctness of his political principles there have been and will be different opinions;" but he goes on to say that "his unimpeachable moral character and uniform consistency gained him the confidence and respect of those who were his opponents, and procured for him an influence in his own party which he often exerted in moderating animosity and suppressing the feelings of rancor." He was an Assemblyman in 1801, 1802, and 1807. In 1811 he assisted in raising funds for building the first Tammany Hall. On June 24, 1812, he presided at an immense mass meeting in the Park, called for the purpose of supporting the war and encouraging the construction of fortifications.* He was a regent of the University of New York State from 1802 to 1826. He was elected to succeed De Witt Clinton as president of the Public School Society in 1828.†

During all these years his property was increasing in value. He remembered the time when his father could stand at his door and call his men working on the farm where Chatham Square now is, and he lived to see his private grounds reduced in size to the two blocks bounded by Madison, Cherry, Clinton, and Jefferson Streets. The entrance was on Jefferson Street. The rest of the farm was rapidly covered with houses, but the work of building was not completed until after his death. Meanwhile his transactions in real estate were very extensive. He was accustomed to rent his lots on long leases to tenants who built their own houses. Over four hundred deeds and leases of his are on record in the Register's Office, but they were not all given for a valuable consideration. In 1793 he gave seven lots to the Dutch Church, but the gift lapsed, as the church was not built within the specified time. A present of four lots to the Scotch Church failed for the same reason. Some years later he gave two lots to the Second Baptist Church. In 1797 he made a gift of five lots on the northwest corner of Henry and Rutgers Streets to the First Presbyterian Church, and he added two lots at another time. He contributed a large amount toward building this church, and was one of its elders. A new church edifice was erected on this corner some forty years ago. It was finally sold, and became St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church. The old congregation moved up-town, and is now known as the Rutgers Presbyterian Church of Madison Avenue.‡ Colonel Rutgers also gave the ground for the Market Street Dutch Church at the northwest corner of Market and Henry Streets.

* Mrs. Lamb's New York, ii., 580.

† *Vide* Bourne's History of the Public School Society, p. 109, and portrait of Col. Rutgers at p. 96.

‡ Mrs. Lamb's New York, ii., 456.

He made a large subscription to the building fund, and was an elder of this church from its organization to his death. The building belongs now to the Presbyterian Church of the Sea and Land. In 1806 he presented a lot to the Free School Society for a school-house, and an adjourning lot in 1808.* He was always much interested in the college at New Brunswick, N. J., which was founded in 1770 as Queen's College by the Dutch Church.

After the Revolution it lay dormant until Colonel Rutgers aided in calling it to life. It received the name of Rutgers College from the trustees, "as a mark of their respect for his character, and in gratitude for his numerous services rendered the Reformed Dutch Church."† Colonel Rutgers was accustomed to spend one-fourth of his income in charity. For many years, he made it a rule to give a cake and a book to every boy in the ward who would call on him on New Year's Day. The children always collected before the door, and he would make them an address of a religious character. In 1819 he was a member of a committee appointed to enter into correspondence with citizens in various parts of the country, with a view to devising some plan for checking the spread of slavery. "There is scarcely a benevolent object or humane institution which he has not liberally assisted."‡ He relieved the poor individually, and supported deserving young men.§ In person he was a tall, plain-looking man, with a kindly expression of face.|| He died in 1830, in the house in which he had lived nearly eighty years. In his will he divided his "worldly estate with which God has abundantly blessed me" among his numerous relatives, but the largest share, including his "mansion house and all the land attached thereto," he gave to his great-nephew, William B. Crosby, the grandson of his sister, Catherine Bedlow. He had been left early an orphan, and "Uncle Rutgers," as he was affectionately known in the family, became his guardian and virtually adopted him. Colonel Rutgers had always lived simply, and in his will he directs his executors to avoid all ostentation at his funeral. The sum thus saved he leaves to an infant school. He gives a suit of clothes to each of several servants, "but not a mourning suit." It seems strange to read in a will, made in New York in 1823, the clause in which he directs that "my negro Wench slave named Hannah, being superannuated, be supported out of my estate."¶ His real estate at his death consisted of 429 lots, and was appraised at \$907,949. After Colonel Rutgers' death Monroe Street was carried through the two blocks surrounding the house, and this block on Monroe Street was called Rutgers Place. The house was remodelled and its north side made its front. It stood thus, with a block of ground in lawn and garden around it, until after Mr. Crosby's death in 1865.** It was then sold and torn down. Its site is now occupied by tenement houses.

Colonel Rutgers was almost the last direct male representative of the family in New York City. Since his death the name has entirely disappeared here as a surname. In the City Directory of 1883 it only occurs in the "Rutgers Female College," and the "Rutgers Fire Insurance

* Mrs. Lamb's New York, ii., 316.

† Centennial of the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, pp. 113, 379.

‡ Dr. McMurray's Sermon: see Appleton's Biographical Cyclopædia, tit. Henry Rutgers.

§ Sermon, supra.

|| The portrait published with this article is taken from the original painting, by Inman, still in the family. Duplicate originals are owned by the N. Y. Historical Society and Rutgers College, N. J.

¶ Lib. 65 of Wills, p. 130, New York Surrogate's Office.

** Vide picture of the house in 1858, in Valentine's Manual, 1858, p. 268.

Company." The former was named in honor of Colonel Rutgers, at the instance of Mr. Crosby, who in 1838 gave the lots in Madison Street on which its original building stood. The insurance company was organized in 1853, and took the name on account of the situation of its principal office on Chatham Square, near the old Rutgers farm. Its scrip and certificates of stock bear the Colonel's portrait. But while the family name has become extinct in this city, the descendants of the first Harman Rutgers, bearing other surnames, who reside here, may be numbered by hundreds. To many of them it may be interesting to learn something of their ancestors, and to find that they were honest, industrious, well-to-do, pious Dutchmen. It is in this interest only that the justification lies for collecting and publishing these simple records.