

PART I. - IMMIGRATION AND NEW HARLEM

- ? ? Scandinavians discover America - Nova Scotia and New England region.
- 1492 Columbus "discovers" America - Caribbean
- 1607 English settlement in Jamestown VA.
- 1614 Dutch establish trading posts on the Hudson and Delaware rivers.
- 1620 Pilgrims (Puritans?) at Massachusetts Bay.
- 1624 Dutch West Indies Company establishes permanent settlement at New Netherlands with thirty families. Peter Minit buys Manhattan Island from the Indians for trinkets (worth \$ 24.00).

Only in historical retrospect can the events of 1618 to 1648 in Germany be called the Thirty Years War. At the time the people only knew of frequent and repeated wars, rape and pillaging. Also these events involved not only Germany, but all of continental Europe, often nations outside Germany fighting on German soil. The war had religious and political roots, and there seemed to be no specific battleground or objective. The Peace of Westphalia marked an end to the continuous fighting, but at a practical level could it be believed?

At some point in this period the King of Denmark, who was also the Prince of the province of Holstein, above Hamburg, embarked on a campaign against Wallenstein, one of the German princes and was defeated. Turmoil in the area of Holstein.

It was during this period that **Jan Pietersen Slot**, a Dane, left Holstein and went to Amsterdam. Many other people from throughout Europe also joined this migration. Holland, or the United Provinces was relatively peaceful, stable, and entering an age of prosperity. Many who went there were of "excellent character, worthy people seeking freedom and opportunity".^(N-12)

Jan Pietersen Slot met Aeltie (Annetie, Annetje) Jans, probably after he came to Holland. They married and had two sons, Pieter Jansen and Jan Jansen, both born in Holland. The dates and places of birth for parents and children are unknown at the present time beyond the logic indicating Jan's birth probably in the 1620s, and the children's births before 1640.^{(I-10)¹}

The record of immigration of **Jan Pietersen Slot** to New Amsterdam is clearly indicated as during 1650. In Boyer: Ships Passenger Lists, New York and New Jersey (1600 - 1828)^(I-1) page 22 and 24 appear the references:

"Petersen, Jan, aus Holstein, vergl. Slot" (Transl.: Petersen, Jan, from Holstein, also known as Slot)

"Slot, Hans Petersen, Zimmerman aus Holstein, eingew. um 1650. Die Nachkommen heissen Slot und Sloat." (Transl.: Slot, Hans Petersen, Builder, came in 1650. The name being Slot or Sloat)

These references place the time of immigration as 1650, clearly identify Jan Petersen as Slot/Sloat, and indicate his profession as builder ("Zimmerman", transl.).

¹Note re "Patronymics" : Typically, in this period of history individuals carried the name of their father as a surname. Hence Jan Pietersen was Jan the son of Pieter, Jan and Peter Jansen were the sons of Jan Pietersen. Further, the practice was that the first son bore the paternal grandfather's name, and the second son bore the maternal grandfather's name. From this practice we could presume that Peter Jansen was the first-born son, named after Jan Pietersen's father, and that Jan Jansen was second born, named after Aeltie Jans father. (Ref: Epperson G.F. New Netherlands Roots Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD 1994).

There has been some confusion concerning the date of arrival of Jan Pietersen Slot, and events in New Amsterdam in that there was a 'Jan Petersen, woodsawyer' who came out of Husum and immigrated to New Netherlands before 1639. This individual owned property which is identified on the "Oldest Map of Manhattan" i.e. Vingboon's Manatus Map of 1639. This Map identifies Plantation No. 9 as belonging to Jan Pieterszen. The name Slot does not appear in the legend. This earlier person also had several legal and real estate matters recorded in the literature. He signed papers with a "mark" rather than a signature. Dr. Evjen clearly identifies, and separates these two in his book Scandinavian Immigrants in New York 1630 - 1674 and indicates records showing Jan Pieterszen present in New Amsterdam in 1639. Riker, and other genealogies (Frederick Parmlee Sloat, William Henry Corbusier, The Belcher Family) did not have the benefit of Evjen's research and confuse the two Jan Petersens, or construct a composite person. Older Sloat and Orange County Histories also refer to the "composite" person, or in some cases place the arrival about 1670. Between Evjen and Boyer this confusion is cleared up.

The name "Slot" in Danish has definitions including castle or manor house, country mansion.. The German has no translation, and the Dutch term "sloot" has the meaning ditch, with the Dutch term "slot" meaning lock, clasp, snap; end or conclusion; castle.

There is a wealth of information concerning the early years of New Amsterdam in the works of Riker, Fernow, and O'Callaghan. For the next section of our history we are indebted primarily to Riker's "History of New Harlem", Fernow's "Records of New Amsterdam" with additional material from O'Callaghan's "History of New Netherland", and "Documents related to the Colonial History of New York".^(N-12, N-2&3, N-7-9)

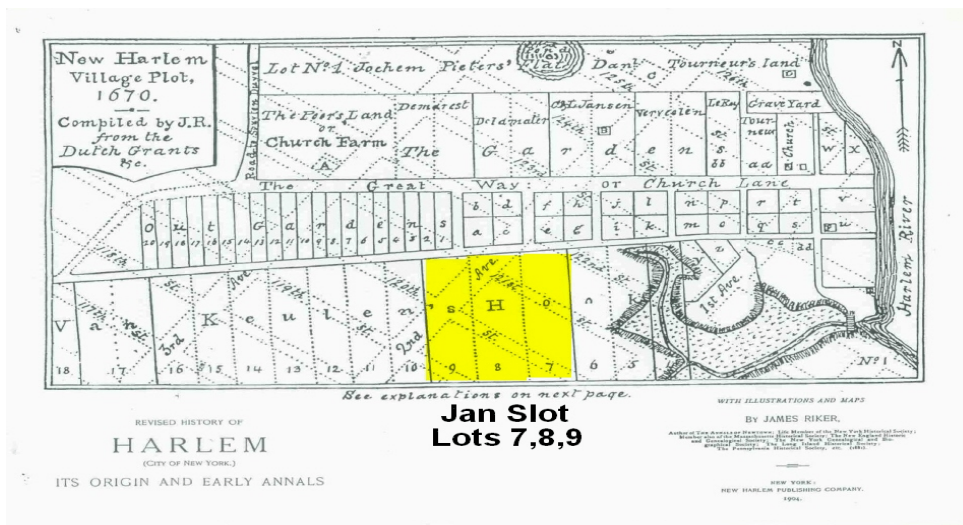
"Jan Pietersen Slot, before named as from Holstein, and ancestor of the respectable family of **Slott or Sloat**, of Orange County, and of Rockland, and the Ramapo Valley came out with his children, born and reared in Amsterdam, about the same time with Resolved Waldron; and Johannes Verveelen and Jan Sneden followed them, in 1657".^(N-12)

New Haerlem was founded approximately 1658. People were required to take possession of their lots. "- among the earliest to take up a permanent residence there being the **Slot's**, Cresson's, Tourneur and Montagne Junior, who all bore an active part in its affairs. For the security of the settlers, all of whom were required to be well armed, the government furnished eight or ten regular soldiers from Fort Amsterdam, in the pay of the company, whose presence were a necessity in the "newly-begun village" as the Indians were yet a source of anxiety, especially to the wives and families of the colonists". The unrest continued and was exacerbated by news on Sept 23 " that a fire and bloody war had broken out between the Esopus savages and the settlers there." Many left their land and went to Fort Amsterdam. Work at New Harlem was discontinued. In March 1660 (Mar 23) "the people at New Harlem were further notified that since it was 'highly necessary to keep a good watch in the newly-settled village' the Council had appointed as its military officers, **Jan Pietersen Slot, as sergeant**; Daniel Tourneur as corporal, and Jaques Cresson as 'lancepesade'. They called upon all the inhabitants to obey the commands of **Sergeant Slot**, 'til other orders should be given by the Director and Council." In August these three were also named as "commissaries" or magistrates for the growing village. The duties of schout or deputy sheriff fell on **Jan Pietersen Slot**, as senior member.

The Board of Commissaries also had charge of the religious affairs. They were all professors of the Reformed religion, and "the faithful of Harlem placed a high value upon God's word and ordinances". Since Harlem was a toilsome journey of eight miles from the church at Fort Amsterdam the Commissaries requested the services of a minister by letter to Governor Stuyvesant, which was forwarded to the Directors in Holland in a letter dated Oct. 6th, 1660.

At the close of 1661 the population of New Harlem included over thirty adult males, including "**Jan Pietersen Slot, Dane**". **Slot** had been in the country less than 10 years. He and Matthyssen were carpenters.^(N-12, p183) On November 3, 1661 La Montagne was appointed schepen, with **Slot** and Tourneur as associates; and when **Slot** retired a year later he succeeded as schout, which office he retained until the end of Dutch rule.

At some time prior to 1662 Jan acquired some property in Flatbush, Kings County, Long Island. His name is included in the "Early Settlers of Kings County" with the record that on January 20, 1662 **Jan Pietersen Slotdt or Slot**, from Holsteyn, sold to Derick Jansen, cooper, a house and lot in Flatbush between the school-lot and the land of Jan Strycker, as per f.18 of Lib C of Flatbush Records.^{(N-1) 2} In 1662 the Van Kenler lots in New Harlem were drawn for ownership. **Jan Slot** drew lots No 7,8,9.



John La Montagne, one of the earliest settlers bought much land from the Company, and tried to start a neighboring village. The people of Harlem objected successfully and LaMontagne was required to conform to the town regulation against building upon the boulots, and was not to build or live upon the Point till the town saw fit to allow it. "**Jan Pieters Slot** and Simon De Ruine, owning two lots apiece on Jochem Pieters, also consented to give up one each, lying toward the further end; instead of which **Slot** was to draw nine morgen together on Van Keulen's Hook and De Ruine to draw a lot, three morgen on said tract, and enough more on Montagne's Flat to make good his quantity. Moreover both were to retain their two even"^(N-12, p186).

²The citation notes that there was a Jan Slot in New York who had children baptized about 1700. The Jan having the children baptized would be Jan Jansen Slot, son of Jan Pietersen Slot. This is confirmed in the Records of the NY Dutch Church ^(C-9).

La Montagne had taken a claim for large property including the Flat and the Point. The fee to the Company was 8 guilders per morgen. The residents had difficulty in paying this "morgen-gelt" and requested longer terms of payment. This was refused. A number of people left. On 14 March the residents were requested to indicate how much land they wanted. **Jan Pietersen Slot** requested 24 morgen. The requests exceeded the available property, so a limit of 16 morgen was set. **Slot's** request was reduced to this.

In 1662 Jan Pietersen Slot became one of the first civil Building Inspectors in the new world. On November 25, 1662 by Council action - " The Hon Heere Schepens find it good to appoint and authorize **Jan P. Slot**, former schepen as Rooy-meester (surveyor of buildings and fences), for the improvement and sightliness of the village; and the builders shall every one be charged, after this time to set no fences nor houses in the absence of the Hon. Heer Rooy-meester."^(N-12, p195) Later people were directed to set fences at north side of the village under penalty for failure - "this was called for by the great damage done the past summer to the crops of peas and buckwheat upon the land of Jochem Pieters, from the cattle getting in; and which the schout, **Slot**, had taken no means to remedy, though the fence masters and others had gone to him with loud complaint."^(N-12, p195)

In 1663 news arrived of a massacre at Esopus on June 7. Harlem was in alarm. The townspeople assembled June 12 and with the advice of the magistrates Montagne, Claessen, Tourneur and Muyden, and **clear-headed Slot**, asked to sit with them as extraordinary schepen, proceeded to take the necessary steps for enclosing the village with a line of stockades and putting it in a complete state of defense. Forty persons were formed into military companies. Of the third company Simon de Ruine was corporal and **Pieter Jansen Slot** was a cadet. **Jan Jansen Slot** was a private in the 1st company. **Jan P. Slot** was supplied with a firelock. Later another thirty pounds of powder was distributed, one pound each to thirty men including **Jan Jansen Slot, Jan Pietersen Slot, and Pieter Jansen Slot.**^(N-12, p200-203) Later the same year the board was continued, "By a recent choice of magistrates, confirmed Nov. 17th the new board consisted of Jan LaMontagne, "who for certain reasons" say the council, "shall yet be continued for one year"; besides Daniel Tourneur, Johannes Verveelen, and **Jan Pieterse Slot.**"^(N-12, p206)

In 1664 Slot received a patent for eight Morgens and two lots. The patent for this property is recorded in "Dutch Patents and Transports" in the State Library in Albany. The patent, as transcribed from a translation, is noted.

PATENT FOR LANDS CONVEYED TO JAN PIETERSEN SLOT

"In the Name of the Lord Amen Ao 1664 - -

Petrus Stuyvesant on behalf of their High Mightinesses, the Lords State General of the United Netherlands, and the Lords Managers of the Incorporated West India Company, in their chamber in Amsterdam, Director General of New Netherlands, Curacuo, Bonairo, Aruba and the dependencies thereof, together with the Lords of the Council, make known and declare that we on the date underwritten, have given and granted to Jan Pietersen Slot, at Haerlem, a parcel of land lying on the Island Manhattan at Van Cuelens Hook East of Pieter Janses, West of Nicholas Meyer, in breadth thirty two rods, division line out of the road to the Creek South, contents eight morgens a corner (hoeck) in the Great Valley lying over against No. 5 in corner with Philip Cogil, containing also a lot for a garden at N. Haerlem lying North of the road West of Simon Drews, East Syperius, broad 5 rods, long twenty rods.

Also another lot South Michael Muysers, broad five rods six feet, long fifteen rods, upon express conditions and stipulations that he Jan Pietersen Slot, or those who may hereafter obtain his right shall acknowledge the Noble Lords Managers aforesaid as their High Mightinesses the Lords State General and Council in all things as good citizens are in duty bound to do, and also be subject to to all such taxes and assessments as now are or hereafter shall be imposed by the Noble Lords aforesaid - and also to the

payment of the tenth behoof of the Lords Patrons.

Putting therefore in our staid the aforesaid Jan Pietersen Sloat in the real and actual possession of the said land hereby giving him full power, authority and special charge to cultivate, occupy and use the same in like manner as he may or can do with other his patrimonial lands effects; without saving or reserving to us the Grantors in our aforesaid quality any part, right or title thereto in the least, but to the behoof as aforesaid, from all things directing henceforth forever.

Promising, moreover, to keep, maintain and observe this deed firm and irrevocable, all under obligations according to law thereto standing - without fraud or deceit in this signed by us and confirmed with our seal in red wax thereto affixed in Fort Amsterdam in New Netherlands this 4 Jan Ao 1664.

(signed) P. Stuyvesant

(below) By order of the same C.V. Ruyven, Secy.

Note: A morgen is about two acres.

Before Dominie Selyns left for Holland from his church at the Bouwery on July 23, 1664, he had received into membership 17 of the Harlem residents including **Pieter Jansen Slot** and Marritie Van Winckel his wife.^(N-12, p220)

On Jan 3, 1665 Jan married Claertje Dominicus. Riker puts it "The old Schepen Jan Slot ended his widerhood by choosing another wife."^(Source unknown) There is conflict concerning children of this marriage. John Drake Sloat reports no issue, Dorothy Sloat reports two children, Annetje and Pauline.^(G-7, G-8)

Later in 1665 Riker reports that **Jan Pietersen Slot**, the old magistrate had just before left the town with his family. Himself from Holstein as before noticed, his sons **Pieter** and **Jan** were born at Amsterdam. After giving his son Pieter one morgen of the west side of Lot No. 9, **Jan Pietersen Slot** sold his lands at Harlem named in his patent of January 4, 1664 to Johannes Verveelen, and on April 20, 1665 bought other property at the Bouwery from Governor Stuyvesant.^(N-12, p217)

On November 14, 1665 in a suit between Assur Levy and Johannes La Montagne Montagne was ordered to pay Levy for the loss of 8 head of old goats which Levy had delivered to Montagne. "**Jan Pietersen Slot** declares in court that he and - - were chosen as arbitrators, and by their award 8 head of goats were allowed to Assur".^(N-2, p315) ³

Slot sold out in the Bouwery on February 12, 1669, having sold on August 14, 1668 a parcel of meadow on the north side of Barents Island to Capt. Delavall for 10 pounds.^(N-12, p217) Jan's second wife, Clairtje Dominicus, was listed as a member of the Dutch Reformed Church in

³In other court action, perhaps, but not necessarily, relating to the Slot family we find on March 13, 1674 a lawsuit of Thomas Lewis vs Abraham Mol, Jan Pietersen and Evert Pels regarding delay in building sloop. The judgement was that they were to finish it before taking any other work. On April 10 1674 is noted a petition by Mol, Jan Jansen Slot, Evert Pels for rehearing of previous judgement of March 15, 1674. The court stuck with original decision.^(N-4, vii 72,77) Note the different names, but some are the same ? ? Was this the March 13 suit? There was a Jan Pietersen in N.A. He was a woodsawyer - and appears in court records often.

New York in 1686. Jan is listed in lower case indicating that he was not a member. They lived at Langs de Wal ("Along the Wall" - South side of Wall Street)^(C-9). They were there in 1703. Apparently Jan lived to a ripe old age, since he had married and had two sons before immigration to America in 1650, and is reported as living in New York in 1703.

Jan Pietersen Slot's younger son, **Jan**, obtained land on what came to be known as **Sloat's Alley**, which is now Exchange place. See the inset article.⁴

SLOAT LANE (New York City, Lower Manhattan)

Jan Pieterse Slot, Dane, emigrated from Holland in 1650. Shortly after his arrival in New Netherlands he settled in New Harlem, where he became a leading citizen, holding several community offices. His sons, Peter Jansen, and Jan Jansen came to New Netherlands with him.

In 1672 Jan Jansen Slot married Judith Elsworth and took a house in the Smith's Fly. In 1672 his name appears on a list of property owners on the west side of Dock/Queen Street which had become Pearl Street by the early 1800s. The property was also identified as between Franklin Street and Wall Street, and known as Smith's valley. A map showing Nieu Amsterdam, and listing events to 1699 identifies the southern end of the present William Street as Smee, Smith Street. In 1728 Smith Street extended further north, but by 1824 the Smith name was lost and William Street extended south to Pearl Street.

On a map dated 1728, made by James Lyne we find Sloat Lane as an extension of Princes Street, close to Wall Street, with a turn south to an intersection with Hanover Square. The location concurs with the property owned by Jan Jansen Slot as described above. Possibly the lane delineated the boundary of Jan's holding. This lane does not appear in the earlier maps, but is consistently present under various modifications of appellation on maps dating to 1827.

Additional maps of the times include a 1730 map of New York prepared by Townsend Mac Coun in 1909. A "Plan of the City and Environs of New York as they were in the years 1742, 1743 and 1744" drawn by David Grimm includes Sloat Lane. It also appears on a map by F. Maerschallck in 1755. A map by T. Maerschallck in 1763 identifies it as "Slot Lane". Bern Ratzen, a Lieutenant in the 60th Regiment prepared a map in 1767 using the name "Sloat Alley". A map based on a survey in the winter 1775, prepared by John Montresor for Thomas Gage, Commander of English forces in North America also uses this name.

The location of Sloat Lane is an approximate extension of Prince (Prince's, Princess) Street, which in turn is an extension of Beaver Street. Slot's Lane has a turn from east to south. The south portion is now a part of Hanover Street. Beaver Street remains in modern New York City (1993), and includes the old Prince Street, and the route of Sloat Lane. One block north the present Exchange Place follows the old Flatten Barrack Street, and Garden Street and terminates to Wall Street.

On December 23, 1825 the Minutes of the Common Council record the change in name from Sloat's Lane to Exchange Place. It took two years for this change to be reflected on the maps of New York. Maps dated 1826 and 1827 still include the Sloat designation. The map dated 1828 is the first to show this as Exchange Place. The use of the name Exchange Place for Sloat's Lane created a "jog" in the extension of Exchange Place, and in fact an area where there are two Exchange Place streets parallel and one block apart.

F.W. Sloat 1993 Maps referenced are in the Library of Congress, Map room.

Refs: Riker History of Harlem: Evjen, Scandinavian Immigrants in New York 1630 - 1674: Fernow Court Minutes of New Amsterdam: Unpublished Sloat Family History
Smith/Sloat The Sloat Family Manuscript Genealogy, in Library of Congress & N.Y. Library
N.Y. Archives Street Name Index Card file, New York City Archives.

Stepping back in time, Jan's first son, was **Peter Jansen Slot** who came to America with his parents

⁴ Jan Jansen Slot married Judith Elswaert in 1672⁽¹⁻¹⁰⁾ and they had several children. This branch of the family located in Dutchess County.

and younger brother⁵. He was a cadet in the 3rd Co of New Harlem in June 12 1663, and received one pound of powder September 2, 1663. Other records indicate that he was Shout, Schepen, or Sergeant in command in New Harlem in 1660-1665.

Peter married Marritje Jacobse Van Winkle in the Dutch Church in New Amsterdam on January 2, 1663. The wedding turned into a rather raucous affair as reported by Evjen from Riker:

"It happened that Pieter Jansen Slot, son of the ex-schepen, was to wed a fair damsel of Ahasimus, by the name Marritie Van Winckel. The young Roysters of the village hearing, on Friday, Feb 2nd 1663, that the bans had that day been registered, were jubilant over the news, and set to work, - it was an ancient rustic custom of the fatherland, - to honor the happy Pieter by planting a May-tree before his door. Now some workmen in the employ of Mr. Muyden and others, in for ruder sport, not only raised a 'horrible noise in the village by shouting, blowing horns, etc., while others were asleep', but proceeded to deck the May-tree with ragged stockings; at which, when discovered by Pieter, he was very wroth, taking it as 'a mockery and insult'. He at once cut the tree down, but the young men brought another to take its place; when, as it lay before the house, along came Muyden's men and hewed it in pieces. Not to be baffled, the young folk the same night procured and raised a third tree, which, however, shared the same fate.

"On Sunday morning, February 4th, Jan Pietersen, at whose house Pieter was staying and all this happened, made his complaint to Montaigne, the schout; the masters also informing him that their men were plotting other mischief, but that they had no power to prevent it. The schout, now going thither, ordered the rioters to disperse; but they only defied him, and even threatened him with their guns and axes. Only more enraged they gave the Sabbath to cutting down and burning the palisades around Jacques Cresson's barn. Next morning Jacob Elderts, who had lately bought a lot on Van Keulan's Hook, was engaged bringing thatch from Bronck's meadow. Before he had spoken "a single word" they caught and beat him, also wounding him on the head. In vain 'Meester Willem' who witnessed the assault, commanded them to desist. Perhaps it was to pay off Elderts for the death of their countryman Bruyn Barents, a cooper, five years before; perhaps not.

"The Schout, seeing that the rioters heeded not his authority, and apprehending further trouble, hastened the same day, to inform the Director, who with the Council referred the matter to the Attorney-General to take further information about it."^(1-2, p277)

The first Anglo-Dutch war occurred in 1664 with New Amsterdam being an early casualty. The British fleet sailed into town and the Dutch were powerless to resist, Governor Stuyvesant surrendered without firing a shot. The terms of surrender were very liberal with property and goods being retained by the owners. New Amsterdam was renamed New York as a result of being given to the Duke of York. At some later point the terms of victory became less beneficent. Dutch West Indies property was confiscated, as was that of any Dutch owners who would not take an oath of allegiance to England.

During this unrest **Peter** sold his property in Harlem to Resolve Waldron and moved to Bergen (New Jersey), buying land there May 14, 1665. This land was in the Pemberpook tract. He received a patent for 25 morgens on May 12, 1669.

In spite of the above dates, Fernow reports that on April 6, 1669 in a New Amsterdam lawsuit - "Plaintif demands payment for medicine. Defendant acknowledges to owe fl 53.12 silver or fl 214.8 zewant and no more and says that she paid it by conveyance of a horse now in the hands of **Pieter Jansen Slot**. - Court found for plaintiff, defendant to pay".^(N-2, vi 175)

On January 1, 1666 **Pieter's** first son, Jan, was baptized in Bergen. In 1669 another son, Jacob was also

⁵Hoffman⁽¹⁻¹⁰⁾ cites the Holland Society Yearbook 1902 in stating that Pieter Jansen Slot immigrated in 1661. This does not seem to appear in that reference, and there are records of him witnessing a baptism in New Amsterdam on August 22, 1660. Hence we conclude that he immigrated with his parents as in other records.

baptized in Bergen.^(C-5) On January 30, 1671 he sold his land in Bergen and on March 23 bought a place in New York under the wall of the fort, and moved there. The Dutch had recaptured New York. In 1673 his house and others were moved to enlarge the grounds around Fort William Hendricks, and he was given a lot near what is now Wall Street. The records of the court include the following:

17 8ber, 1673⁶

"This date is published from the City Hall, by order of the Hon. Governor and Council and Burgomasters of this City, the Placard regarding the demolishing and removal of divers houses, gardens and orchards lying right under the fortifications of the Fortress Willem Hendrick and the Fort of this City N. Orange, which reads as follows:-
Whereas the Fortress Willem Hendrick and City N.Orange, situate on the Island Manhattan is much incumbered and obstructed by the houses, gardens and orchards, which lie so close under its walls and bulwarks, that it is impossible when requisite properly to defend it against its enemies, unless some at least of said houses, gardens and orchards be demolished or removed; Therefore the Hon. Governor General with the previous advice of his Council has judged it necessary to demolish, break up and remove the undermentioned houses, gardens and orchards; And the owners thereof are hereby strictly ordered and charged forthwith to commence the demolition, throwing down and removal of their houses, gardens and orchards to such lots as the Governor has laid out for this purpose within this city and the Burgomasters shall indicate to each of them under penalty that all those, who shall refuse or be found negligent therein shall *de facto* be excluded from the indemnity, which according to the tenor of this publication is granted and allowed to the following persons or those of them, who shall remove their undermentioned houses gardens and orchards, and that moreover their said houses shall be demolished and burnt on the first arrival of some ships: The houses gardens and orchards of Pieter D'Reimer, Lodeu Post, George Cobbett, Jan Diecksen Meyer, Jacobus v: Waeter, Symon Blanck, Andries Meyer, Gerrith Hendricksen, **Pieter Jansen Slodt**, Gerrit Janses Roos, Pieter Stoutenburgh, Henry Taylor, The Lutheran Congregation, William van Fredenburgh, Pieter Janses Mesier, Marten Meyer, smith; Augustin Hermans, Lysbet Tyssen, Pieter Harmensen, situate under the fort and bulwarks of the City of New Orange. The gardens and orchards of Johan V. Brugh, Sarg Kierstede.

But inasmuch as said houses cannot be removed without great and excessive costs to the owners, to whom in justice indemnity and satisfaction ought to be made, therefore as the said removal is for the benefit and better defence of the public, it is resolved, that the ground and lots of said persons together with the necessary expense, which they shall incur by the removal of their houses shall be estimated by impartial persons and that in place of said lots shall by similar valuation, be indicated and given to the owners in possession some other lots, whereupon they shall have power to remove their said houses, and what their lots, which they are to lose and the expenses of removing their houses shall be found to exceed the same in value those, which shall be indicated to them instead shall be promptly made good, paid and satisfied to them from the extraordinary impost, which for this purpose it is resolved and agreed shall now or hereafter be paid, until the same indemnity and damage shall be promptly paid and no longer, to wit: - from all beavers and peltries which after publication hereof shall be exported from within this government to *Patria*, or elsewhere, two and one half per cent; from duffles and blankets, which shall be imported from *Patria* or elsewhere into this Government two per cent; and from powder, lead, guns, wines, brandies, distilled waters, and rum, five per cent. They hereby order and charge" - - pay or suffer confiscation - - "Done Fort Willem Hendrick on the Mannhattans in N. Netherland the 17th 8ber 1673"^(N-2, vii 14)

New Amsterdam was finally ceded to England by the Dutch as a part of the final settlement of the strife between the nations. The Dutch let the English have New York, and the Dutch kept some trade routes.

By 1681 **Pieter** had moved to Esopus (Kingston) since his son, Jonas, was baptized at Kingston ^(C-1). In 1683 he returned to Bergen. Soon he was back in New York living on property he owned at Crommassne, near Stuyvesants Bomvenie. He sold this April 10, 1688. (Perhaps shortly before his death?). The Crommassne property is now Gramercy Park as is described in the article below.

CROMMASSIE - GRAMERCY

From New York Times, Jan. 31, 1937

"A reference to a lot 'near Grommersie' in the records of the Common Council of the City of New York for year 1716 sent research workers and editors of the Historical Survey of the WPA on a hunt for the authentic origin of

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Note the date of "8ber". The Julian calendar had New Years Day in March. Hence the present October, our tenth month is the old 8th month. This explains the present legends of September through December.

'Gramercy Park'.

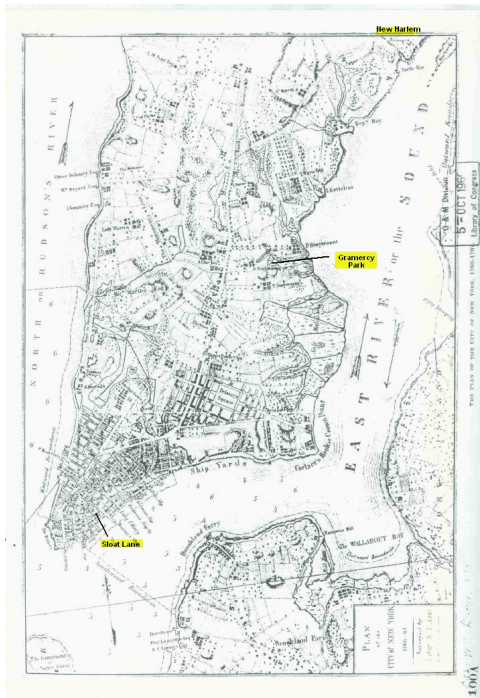
"The records of the Common Council for 1716 contain an entry on May 23, recording the petition of Sarah Van Arnem 'Being a very poor widow woman with two fatherless children to maintain and bring up' for a plot of ground on which to make a home and a garden. Her petition was granted, and she obtained the life tenure of a 'piece of land 150 foot in breadth and 200 foot in length lying on the west side of John Hernes lott near Grommersie'.

"For many years the origin of the name of Gramercy Park has been in dispute. It was pointed out by the supervisor of early Dutch records of the survey, who directed the research in the subject. Confusion of the subject has existed not only in popular magazine and newspaper articles, but even in scholarly and historical circles. Although several of the many theories appear logically sound, the true source of the name is at least obvious.

"The Dutch word for 'crooked knife' was the original name of Gramercy Park. The most obvious of the popular explanations is that Grammercy is derived from 'Great merci' a portion of the early French expression 'May God reward you greatly'. This was the common meaning in English from as early as the sixteenth century, used primarily as 'Thank you'. One might stop here did not a rival school of thought insist that more logically, the park was originally Cramoisi (Gramoisy) a word that came from the Arabic through the early French, meaning crimson and is now in good usage 'deep red' because a hill of that color sand stood near this location.

"In examining early New York maps, however, one finds that the Crommessie Farm lay on the side of the present Gramercy Park. According to Valentine's Manual of 1852 this name came from the Dutch. In earlier papers we find that James Duane purchased the Crumshie Farm in 1780. Still further back in the minutes of the Common Council in 1710, the farm was referred to as Cromshe, Crommessie, and Crummshie. Working back from this we find a reference to Crummshie as the land of **Pieter Jansen Slot** and in 1674 Edith Stuyvesant mentions this farm in a letter as Crommessie.

"Clearly the farm was originally named by the Dutch. In the usage of the period Crommessie could have either of the two definitions: Crommeshie meant 'winding brook' - - there still exist in Holland many survivals of 'shie' as river in local geography. And certainly we have authentic evidence that in the early days of Manhattan a brook rose west of what is now Madison Square and wound its way to the East River at Kips Bay.



"But Crommassie was more probably the corruption of Crommessie, 'Crooked Knife'. Of this we are convinced by a glance at the early records and map of Crommessie Farm. The shape is clearly that of a crooked blade, such as carvers use. It is not hard to see how the word became Anglicized into the more conventional Gramercy. The later changes of the spelling were inclined to spell phonetically. Gramercy Park is on the site of **Pieter Slot's Crooked Knife Farm.**"

(James Duane Esq. farm shows on a "Plan of New York Surveyed in the Years 1766 & 1767")