

Beyond the Water Gate, in the Smith's Valley, there were but three houses south of the Maidens' Path, in 1660. The most imposing of these, No. 7, was built by Willem Teller, of Albany.

On July 16, 1648, he and his partner, Rutger Jacobsen, purchased from Goosen Gerritsen (van Schaick) a rectangular piece of land "without the Water Port, towards the East River; striking along by Jan Damen's land 16 rods, 2 feet. By the Strand side 16 rods, 3 feet. Along Adam Roelants, 8 rods, 7 feet, and on the side of Maryn Adriaensen, 10 rods." The deed is not of record, but is recited in the confirmation to Teller of the northerly half of the land, in 1667.—*Patents*, II: 64 (Albany).

Without doubt, the original grant for this parcel was from Kieft to Tymen Jansen. Judge Hoffman gives its date as 1640, and a reference to *Liber I*: 13, in Albany, which it has not been possible to verify.—Hoffman's *Estates and Rights of the Corporation*, 1862, II: 216. However, Jan Jansen Damen's grant on the west recites Tymen Jansen as a neighbour here.—*Liber GG*: 91 (Albany).

Gerritsen may have purchased it when he made that memorable trip to the Mannhattans for which he bargained before he should finally settle down as a *gerechts persoon*, or member of the court, at Albany.—*Van Rensselaer Bowier MSS.*, 811.

Teller's house was built before 1655, for it was taxed in that year (*Rec. N. Am.*, I: 374); but, as he lived at Fort Orange from 1639 until 1692, except for "small intermissions upon voyages to New York [and other places]" (Munsell's *Collections on the Hist. of Albany*, IV: 170), the house upon the Strand was generally rented. In 1656, Frans Claessen owed Teller a balance of three years unpaid rent, presumably for this house.—*Rec. N. Am.*, II: 125.

In 1664, Teller procured a license to marry Maria Verleth, the widow of Paulus Schrick.—*Marriages in Ref. Dutch Ch.*, 29. She was his second wife, and he was her third husband.—*Rec. N. Am.*, I: 326n.

In 1693, Teller and his wife sold their property here to Marten Jansen Meyer, the smith.—*Liber Deeds*, XVIII: 234. Probably, this deed but confirmed an earlier one which was not recorded, for the smith had already conveyed the southerly fifty feet of the property

to George Heathcote in 1676 and 1683.—*Liber Deeds*, V: 35 (Albany); *Liber Deeds*, XIII: 55 (New York).

In 1692, after a residence at Albany of more than half a century, Willem Teller came to New York, where most of his family were settled; and here he died, in 1701. His wife survived him but a year. His descendants are found today among New York's most prominent families. For Goosen Gerritsen, Rutger Jacobsen and Willem Teller—all prominent in Albany's earlier history—consult Munsell's *Collections*.

The Teller plot covered the northerly one hundred feet of Tymen Jansen's land, and was nearly square. The house stood on the north-west side of Pearl Street, about twenty feet south of Pine Street. The Wall Street sub-station of the Post Office covers the site. Rut Jacobsen sold his southerly moiety to Ryer Stoffelsen, September 10, 1655.—Recitals in *Patents*, II: 85 (Albany).

On August 30, 1658, the council refused permission to Geertje, widow of Ryer Stoffelsen, "to build a house right against the wall outside the city gate [the water gate]."—*Cal. Hist. MSS., Dutch*, 200. Forbidden to build, Geertje evidently cultivated her plot; in 1662, she asked "that a sewer may be laid near the work at the Water Gate to prevent the water from the work running thro' her garden. Whereupon it was stated, that attention should be paid to the matter."—*Rec. N. Am.*, IV: 83.

The burgomasters, on March 7, 1665, purchased from Geertje Jans Stoffelsen the most southerly end of her garden, two rods wide by seven rods, seven feet, deep, more or less, giving her in exchange a lot on the Hoogh Straet, behind the City Hall.—*Liber Deeds*, B: 67, 68; cf. *Mortgages*, 1664-1675, trans. by O'Callaghan, 41-43.

This transaction is exactly like the one at the Land Gate, between the burgomasters and Sybout Claessen. Probably, the intention was to enlarge the approaches to the gates.