

Sybout Claessen, of Hoorn, on the Zuyder Zee, a carpenter, was in the colony as early as 1639, when he and two others leased the Company's saw-mill on Nutten Island.—*Cal. Hist. MSS., Dutch*, 11. In 1645, March 12th, he married Susannah Jans, daughter of Jan van Schunenburg, and widow of Aert Teunissen, from Putten, who had been murdered by the Indians at Pavonia, in February, 1643.—*Marriages in Ref. Dutch Ch.*, 13; *N. Y. Col. Docs.*, I: 328-329.

Director Kieft granted him fifty morgen of land on the East River, June 5, 1646, "beginning at the Hook of Hellegat, where Hogs Island ends."—*Liber GG*: 149 (Albany). He named this farm, which lay at the bend of the river at the foot of Eighty-ninth Street, Hoorn's Hoeck, in honour of his native city. The Archibald Gracie mansion now stands just at the point of the Hoeck.

In the autumn of 1649, Claessen returned to Holland, where he presented a statement of his grievances against Director Stuyvesant to the States General, on December 13th of that year. He accused Stuyvesant of persecuting him and of general mismanagement (*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, I: 329); nevertheless, he returned to New Amsterdam, and purchased this lot from Cornelis Melyn, April 19, 1651. It took ten long years, and many appeals to the court, to make Claessen pay for the lot. In 1655, Melyn gave a special power of attorney to Johannes de Decker "to collect, demand and receive from Sybout Clasen, . . . such sums of money as are due him, the appearer, for sale and delivery of a certain lot whereon Sybout Clasen's house stands."—*Powers of Attorney*, trans. by O'Callaghan, 148.

Three years later, Claessen

requests by petition a helping hand, as he was urged by the Schout to lay off his lot, which he bought from Cornelis Meleyn and built on, and is not yet conveyed to him, nor has the lot been Surveyed to him, and declares he bought 24 feet rear and front, but no writing is made of it; requesting conveyance thereof. Whereupon is apostilled . . . the petitioner must wait for it [the deed], until Cornelis Meleyn or some of his come here, who shall then be ordered duly to convey the lot.—*Rec. N. Am.*, VII: 186-7.

In June, 1660, again in August, and in February, 1661, Melyn was vainly trying to collect the price of the lot—550 guilders, in beavers. Finally, the court ordered Claessen to pay up, upon which the deed was delivered, March 19, 1661. It was not recorded, but its existence is vouched for by the confirmation of 1667.—*Patents*, II: 88 (Albany).

Claessen had built his house before November, 1654. He complained then that his "neighbours leave their lots unsheeted," and asked the burgomasters "to order, that the gardens from the corner of the Ditch to the City Hall, be all equally planked up," which was ordered to be done, including the City Hall building.—*Rec. N. Am.*, I: 264.

Sybout Claessen died in 1680, providing by will that (except for a bequest of 1000 gl., wampum value, to the Dutch Church) his property should pass, after the death of his widow, to her two daughters by her first husband—Wyntie, wife of Simon Barentsen, and Susannah, wife of Reynier Willemsen.—*Riker's Hist. of Harlem*, 184n.

Wyntie Aertsen, "otherwise Called Wintie Barentse," sold the Pearl Street front of the lot to Stephanus van Cortlandt, in 1686.—*Liber Deeds*, XIII: 269. Willemssen's wife sold her lot on the High Street to Abraham de Peyster, prior to 1706.—Recitals in *Liber Deeds*, XXVI: 352.