

It may be interesting at this point to gather up what little is to be known of Dirck Jansen Hoogland's characteristics and domestic life. Coming from a rural district in Holland and unschooled, he was not in this respect behind many of his neighbors, while in natural ability he seems to have equaled the best of them. That he was esteemed a good citizen we need not doubt, when his own official townsmen bear witness to the fact; but amid the peculiar vexations and trials which fell to his lot, some of the strong points of his character show themselves. The pertinacity with which he maintained his rights, evinces a clear head and indomitable will; and in his sharp issues with his neighbors, and the rebuffs he met with, which must have chafed him sorely, it is surprising that only once did his passion get the better of him in any overt act. This was in 1687, when, in an altercation with Denys Teunissen, son-in-law of Dominie Polhemus, each drew his knife, for which an indictment was found against both.

But in his exhibitions of parental love, and his assiduous efforts to provide for his children, we have evidence of solid redeeming traits which more than counterbalance an occasional fault.¹²

We find no record which proves that he was a church member; but when we accompany him and his pious wife, on several occasions, to the church, to present their infant children for the rite of baptism, we see that God's house and ordinances must have been revered by that father and his household. That household, in

pulled up your Petitioner's fence and put him out possession without any lawful power for so doing. Your petitioner did several years past sue the said Peter for the same at ye sessions held for that of this Province, but by your Petitioner's ignorance in the law and the sd. Peter's subtilty your Petitioner could never bring the same to issue or before jury, and the said Peter designing to prevent your Petitioner from his right, hath procured some order from the Hon'ble Capt. Brockolls, then Commander in Chief, to stay your Petitioner's proceedings aforesaid, to his and his family's utter ruin. May it therefore please yr. honor to order that notwithstanding any former order to ye contrary, your Petitioner may be at liberty to prosecute the sd. action or any other for the recovery of the premises, and your Petitioner shall ever pray," etc. Endorsed on back as follows: "Read October ye 1st, and referred to the law."

The above petition seems to have resulted in an order to have a survey made of the land in dispute. Accordingly Capt. Ja. Cortelyou, on June 13, 1681, sent to the Governor "a draught of the seven lots at Flatbush, pursuant to the Governor's order of ye 28 December past." This draft is recorded in Vol. i., pp. 214, 215, of Land Papers (surveys), and shows that "Klyn Dirk" had a lot between the lots of John Ditmatsen and Peter Lott. Each of the seven lots was 600 rods in depth, and to be 26 rods in width front and rear. But by a variation of the compass the rear of all the lots was made narrower, and as Little Dirk insisted on having his full measure, some one had to be a loser; hence the law suit.

The original Dutch draft is attached to the survey and translated by Peter de La Noy.

¹² Whether it suggests a fault or otherwise, the following statement will illustrate how a delinquency in the payment of a subscription may be recalled in subsequent centuries. The Flatbush Church Record for 1681 contains a list of seven delinquent subscribers to the "trarlament" of Dominie Casparus Van Zuren, prefaced by these words, "Dese persoenen blyven te gudet gebleven;" the first of the subscriptions being "Derck Yansen hoegelangt, 48 gl, 3 st."