

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ANCESTORS ...

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NETHERLAND: II — FORT ORANGE (ALBANY)

**Rutger Jacobse (c. 1621 – c. 1655) & Tryntje Jansen Van Breestede (? – 1711) / Anthony De Hooges (1620 – 1665) & Eva Albertse Bradt (1633 – 1689) / Albert Andriesz Bradt (c. 1607 – 1686) & Annetie Barentse Van Rotmers (1608 – 1662) / Teunis Dirckse Van Vechten (c. 1612 – c. 1685) / David Pieters Schuyler (1636 – 1690) & Catalyntje Ver Planck (1639 – 1708) /
Following Generations
— *Bradley Rymph***

VISIT TO ALBANY, NEW YORK:

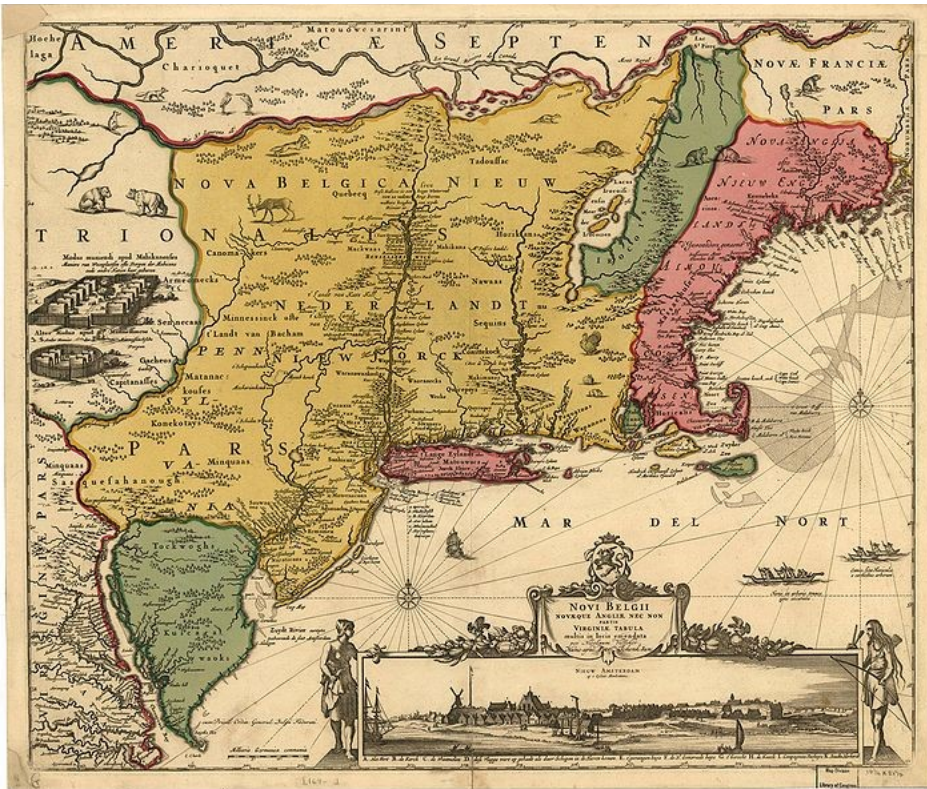
Forthcoming

In 1609, on behalf of the Netherlands, the English navigator Henry Hudson (c. 1560s/70s – 1611?) was exploring the waterways of the New World in search of a trade route to the Far East. He came upon — and claimed for the Dutch — a river, which French explorers in 1540 had named La Grande Riviere (and which the Dutch later named after Hudson himself).

Fifteen years later, in 1624, the Dutch set up their first colony on the river, roughly 150 miles up from what is now New York City. The settlement was named Fort Orange in honor of the House of Orange, the royal family of The Netherlands. Within five years, the Dutch West India Company had established a trading post at Fort Orange.

Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, a Dutch diamond and pearl merchant and one of the founders of the Dutch West Indian Company (DWIC), became one of the first *patroons* of the new colony. Under the Dutch systems of land ownership and management, members of the DWIC were given manorial rights to large tracts of land in New Netherland, the Dutch colonial lands in North America. Patroonships (the tracts of land deeded to each patroon) could be 16 miles in length on one side of a major river (such as the Hudson) or 8 miles in length if they spanned both

Map of New Netherland, 1650.



sides (as Van Rensselaer's lands did). Patroons had the legal right to sponsor individuals for immigration to America to be bound for a specified number of years as laborers on their land.

Patroons were granted the legal authority to create civil and criminal courts, appoint local officials, and hold land in perpetuity. In exchange, within four years of obtaining their patroonship, they were expected to establish settlements of at least 50 families on their land. Van Rensselaer's settlement at Fort Orange became known as Rensselaerswyck.

In 1652 Pieter Stuyvesant, the governor of New Netherland, renamed Fort Orange as the village of Beverwyck and declared that it was no longer under Van Rensselaer's rule as patroon.

In 1664, the Dutch surrendered New Netherland to the British. Britain's King Charles II granted the territory to his brother James, the Duke of both York and Albany. Beverwyck was renamed as Albany.

Although a very successful, and key, settlement for the Dutch, Fort Orange/ Beverwyck apparently was never a large settlement. In his 1872 publication, *Contributions for the Genealogies of the First Settlers of the Ancient County of Albany, from 1630 to 1800*, Jonathan Pearson notes three facts that point to this conclusion:

First. The church built in 1643 was 34 ft. by 19 ft. and contained but nine bankens (benches) for the worshipers : yet this house served the little community until 1656.

HOW WE'RE RELATED

Teunis Dircksz Van Vechten
(c. 1612 – c. 1685)

Dirick Teunis Van Vechten
(2/17/1633 – 11/25/1702)

Jan Baptist DuMond
(1670 – 1749)

Albert A. Bradt and Anna Barents Van Rotmers were my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandparents through my father, Albert James Rymph. Teunis Dircksz Van Vechten, Rutger Jacobse and his wife Tryntje Jansen Van Breestede, and Anthony De Hooges

Jannetje Michielse Vrelant
(c. 1640 – 9/11/1714)

Neeltje C. Van Vechten
(3/24/1664-45 – 6/15/1736)

Igenas DuMond
(5/26/1701 – 9/1737)

Theunis Van Bunschoten
(1716 – 1785)

Johannes P. Schryver
(5/19/1748 – 4/1/1822)

James Budd
(12/18/1781 – 1/7/1844)

James Rymph
(5/28/1810 – 2/18/1885)

Albert James Rymph
(11/29/1851 – 7/3/1926)

Levi Budd Rymph
(6/10/1901 – 12/8/1987)

Albert James Rymph
(11/9/1925 – 2/16/2019)

Bradley Budd Rymph
(living)

Rutger Jacobse
(c. 1621 – c. 1665)

Tryntje Jansen Van Breestede
(? – ?)

David Pieterse Schuyler
(2/12/1635-36 – 2/9/1689-90)

Catalyntje Ver Planck
(2/1638-39 – 10/8/1708)

David Davidtse Schuyler
(6/11/1669 – 12/6/1715)

Catrina Schuyler
(11/25/1694 – aft. 1747)

Elsjen DuMond
(1726 – 1790)

Eleanor (Neeltjen) Van Bunschoten
(1751 – 1836)

Eleanor (Neeltjen) Schryver
(5/17/1788 – 3/24/1866)

Hannah Budd
(6/23/1815 – 2/11/1903)

Luella Maria King
(11/29/1861 – 7/3/1949)

Jessie Mae Hershey
(3/26/1903 – 11/15/1991)

Edna Mae Heath
(11/5/1928 – 9/10/2022)

José Verzosa Baquiran III
(living)

Albert A. Bradt
(1607 – 6/1686)

Anna B. Van Rotmers
(1608 – 6/6/1662)

Anthony De Hooges
(12/14/1620 – 10/11/1655)

Eva Albertse Bradt
(1/9/1633 – 1689)

Harmen Rutgers
(1647 – 4/25/1711)

Catrina de Hooges
(2/14/1647 – 1742)

Elsje Rutgers
(1674 – aft. 1756)

and his wife Eva Albertse Bradt were my great-great-great-great-great-great-grandparents. These ancestral immigrants — along with their children and grandchildren who married each other — were among the earliest settlers of what became the city of Albany, New York.

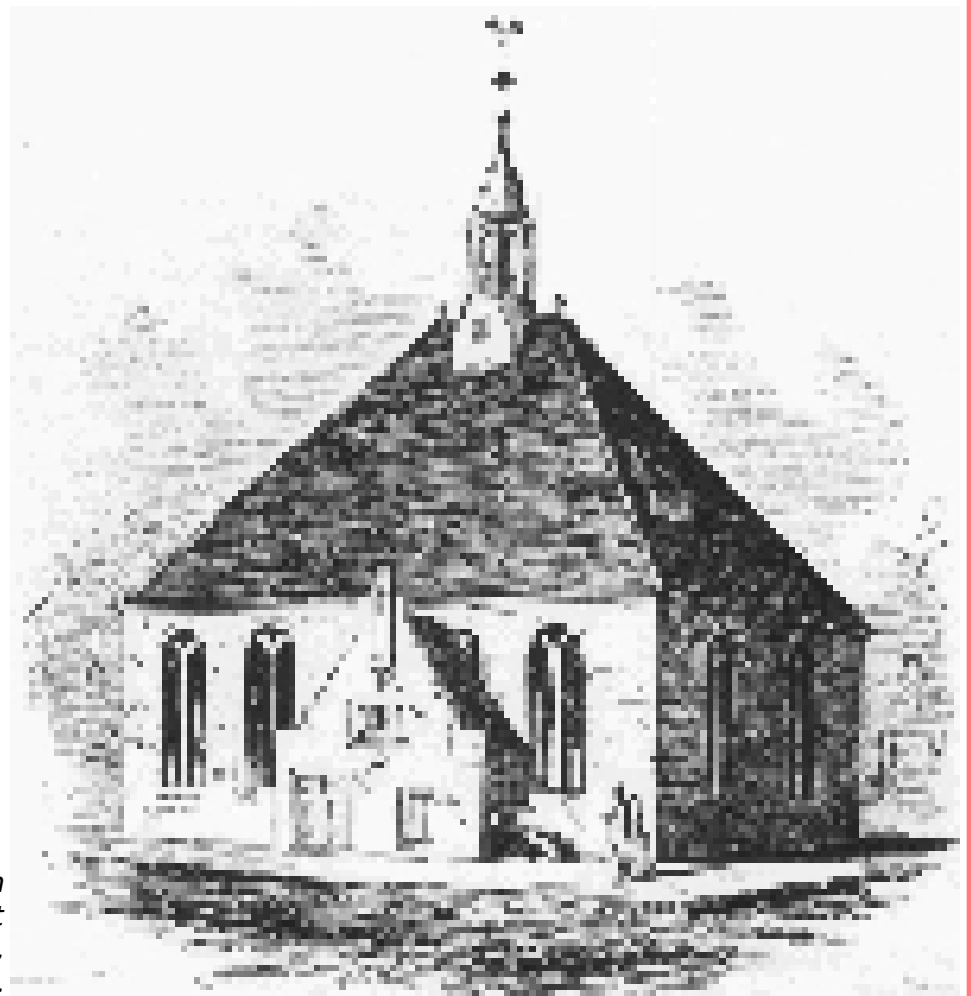
Second. A Jesuit missionary who visited the village in 1646 mentions that it contained then but ten thatched cottages, Third. The number of settlers shown by the Van Rensselaer papers as having been sent over to the Colonie up to 1664 is only 210.

At least four of the earliest settlers of Fort Orange — among the laborers under Van Rensselaer's patroonship — were among my early Dutch immigrant ancestors: Rutger Jacobse, Anthony De Hooges, Albert Andriesz Bradt, and Teunis Dirckse Van Vechten.

RUTGER JACOBSE / TRYNTJE JANSEN VAN BREESTEDE

Rutger Jacobse is believed to have been born around 1621 in the Dutch village of Schoenderwoert, about 12 miles south of Utrecht. As a very young man (or a youth by today's standards), he worked as a farmer in Schoenderwoerdt.

On September 25, 1636, it is believed that he left Amsterdam aboard a ship named the *Renselaerwyck* bound for North America. His brother Teunis is believed to have been aboard the ship with him. Both, along with the ship's



*First Dutch
church built
in Albany,
built in 1643.*

other passages, were bound for New Netherland for service there under the patroonship of Van Rensselaer.

Rutger, Teunis, and the other passengers aboard the Renselaerwyck arrived in New Amsterdam on March 4, 1637. After remaining there for a few weeks, their ship set sail up the Hudson River, and arrived at Fort Orange on April 7, 1637.

Like all passengers aboard the ship, Rutger and Teunis would have been obligated to work for their first years in New Netherland as a servant or farm hand to Van Rensselaer to pay the patroon back for their passage. Records show that Rutger left the Renselaerwyck owing Van Rensselaer 56 florins (or guilders) and 2 stivers. Once these passengers had worked off the costs of their passage, they became freemen or farmers — free to live and work where and how they wished.

Records indicate that Rutger Jacobse began his term of service to Van Rensselaer on April 8, 1637, as a farm hand on the farm of a Cornelis Teunisz. Rutger apparently worked there for a term of six years at 100 guilders a year. On February 9, 1643, he was engaged to serve as a foreman on the de Groote Vlacte (the Great Flats), about four miles north of Albany, for a term of service beginning on April 7, 1643. His

pay was to be 200 guilders a year, a suit of clothes, two shirts, and two pairs of shoes.

From this time on, Rutger appears to have been in a variety of businesses for himself — and therefore free of his servitude to Van Rensselaer. On January 6, 1645, his name appears as a lessee of a farm on the “Fifth Creek.” In 1647, the lease of that land was taken over by another man, and Rutger established a business partnership with a Goosen Gerritse to operate a brewery. From 1648 to 1654, he paid an annual rent of 125 guilders for one sawmill on Fifth Creek and another 550 guilders per year for a combined saw mill and grist mill also on Fifth Creek. He is also said to have owned a sloop on the Hudson River, which he sometimes operated himself. After 1649, he had a fur trader’s license. In 1654 he bought a brewery and lot on Fort Orange’s Beaver Street and began operation of it.

On June 3, 1646 — i.e., a few years after he became a free man — Rutger married (in New Amsterdam) **Tryntje Janse Van Breestede**, who in 1636 had immigrated from the Netherlands to North America with her parents, Jan Jansen Van Breestede and Engeltje Jans.

Rutger Jacobse became a prominent citizen of Rensselaerswyck, being granted the office of “raet” or

“gerechtspersoon” (a commissioner, or representative of the patroon, beginning in 1648. He held this office at various times up until 1662.

By the time of his death in 1665, according to Jonathan Pearson, in his *Genealogies ...*, Rutger Jacobse had become “a man of considerable reput and wealth” in Beverwyck. His descendants assumed the surname of Rutgers.

ANTHONY DE HOOGES / EVA ALBERTSE BRADT

A second ancestor who sailed to Fort Orange to serve in Van Rensselaer’s patroonship was **Anthony De Hooges**. De Hooges’s place and date of birth in the Netherlands is not known, but it is assumed that he was born between 1620 and 1623. His father may have

been a Johannes De Hooges, who was a shareholder and bookkeeper in the Dutch West Indies Company in Amsterdam.

In the summer of 1641, Anthony De Hooges set sail on *den Coninck David* en route from Amsterdam to New Netherland with other passengers in Van Rensselaer’s service. On July 17, 1641, Van Rensselaer issued written “Instructions to Anthony de Hooges, engaged as under bookkeeper and assistant to Arent Van Curler, according to which he must faithfully conduct himself.”

While at sea, De Hooges maintained a journal recording the events of the ship’s journey, which was long and stormy. By October 4, 1641, the ship was running short of water, and De Hooges wrote:



Albany in 1686.

We began looking at each other. At last, after some questions had been asked, we decided unanimously that for the preservation of both man and beast it was necessary to go to the island of Christoffel (St. Christopher or St. Kitts in the West Indies) and continue our voyage after we had obtained a supply of water.

Finally, on November 29, 1641, *den Coninck David* anchored in the East River in New Amsterdam.

De Hooges stayed several weeks in New Amerstam and did not reach Rensselaerwyck until April 10, 1642. He served there as assistant to Van Curler, who was the superintendent of Rensselaerwyck until October 1644, when Van Curler returned to the Netherlands. De Hooges then became responsible for the business management of Rensselaerwyck until March 1648, and from then until his death in 1655, he was secretary and commissioner of the patroonship.

Van Rensselaer apparently took a keen personal interest in De Hooges, writing him (and others) in multiple letters with concerns about the manner in which De Hooges should live his life. For example, on June 8, 1642, Van Rensselaer wrote De Hooges:

If you continue in your course and do not allow yourself to be diverted from your toil, diligence and faithfulness, you will, if the Lord spare my life, distinctly notice the results of your good conduct even during the term of years for which you have engaged yourself.

On March 13, 1643, Van Rensselaer wrote Domine Megapolensi of the Dutch church in the settlement:

I hope that Anthony de Hooges will conduct himself well. What I fear most for him is that he may become addicted to drink, against which he must be strongly warned. His sweetheart here, Anneken Sporom, married at Campen (a city in the province of Overijssel, Netherlands), so that he need not wait for her any longer. I have sometimes thought that his thoughts were too much concentrated on her and that he liked the country less on that account. You might tell him this when there is an opportunity, or have someone else tell him in order that he may be at ease, and especially warn him to abstain from strong drink and women. I understand that he says that he is little respected; let him behave well and have patience and he will be advanced in due time. One must first suffer before one can enjoy.

Five days later, on March 18, Van Rensselaer wrote De Hooges:

I must admonish you for your own good to continue to be religious and faithful and especially to guard yourself against drunkenness and lewd women.... Fear the Lord; do right and fear no one ... Keep good order and peace, but not when things are wrong. .. If you walk uprightly among this wicked and adultrous generation, you will find peace for your soul.

Despite any concerns he had about potential unvirtuous behavior by De Hooges, Van Rensselaer apparently still had high regard for his assistant. The patroon wrote Van Curler:

... do not lightly reject the advice of Hooges, although he is younger than you and not so experienced; I consider him an upright young man.

De Hooges held significant responsibility in his work for Van Rensselaer, including administrator of goods suitable for merchandise and payment of the patroon's laborers. He leased farmlands and made contracts for buildings.

In October 1647, De Hooges married **Eva Albertse Bradt** in Fort Orange. She was the daughter of fellow Dutch immigrants Albert Andriesz Bradt and

Anna Barents Van Rotmers.

De Hooges is believed to have died on or about October 11, 1655. He had certainly died before August 13, 1657, when Eva signed a contract as “widow of the late Anthony De Hooges” to marry a Roeloff Swartout.

ALBERT ANDRIESZ BRADT / ANNA BARENTSE VAN ROTMERS

Albert Andriesz Bradt, “de Norman,” is believed to have been born in Fredrikstad, Norway, in 1607. At some point, his family moved to Amsterdam, Netherlands, where there was a substantial Norwegian community.

In 1632, at the age of 24, he married **Anna Barentse Van Rotmers** in Amsterdam. Anna was a native of Altenbruch, Germany. Bradt gave his occupation as “a sailor in the merchant marine.”

Together, they sailed from Amsterdam to New Netherland in 1637 (ship unknown). Albert worked at Rensselaerswyck at a plantation and settled along a stream named the Norman’s Kill (in his honor), south of Fort Orange. On it, he had a farm and mill.

After his immigration, Bradt became quite wealthy but

remained somewhat detached from the evolving center of power at Fort Orange/Beverwyck. Early on, he worked as a woodcutter, sawyer, tobacco planter, and fur trader. He acquired additional acreage along the upper Hudson and also purchased some property in New Amsterdam.

Anna died in 1661, and Albert married twice more (though no children came out of his second and third marriages). He became an elder in Albany's Lutheran Church (not its Dutch Reformed Church). As he aged, he apparently became increasingly "irascible" (in the words of one biographer) and a growing concern to his children. He eventually moved into the Albany home of his son, Dirck Albertse Bradt. Shortly after that, in

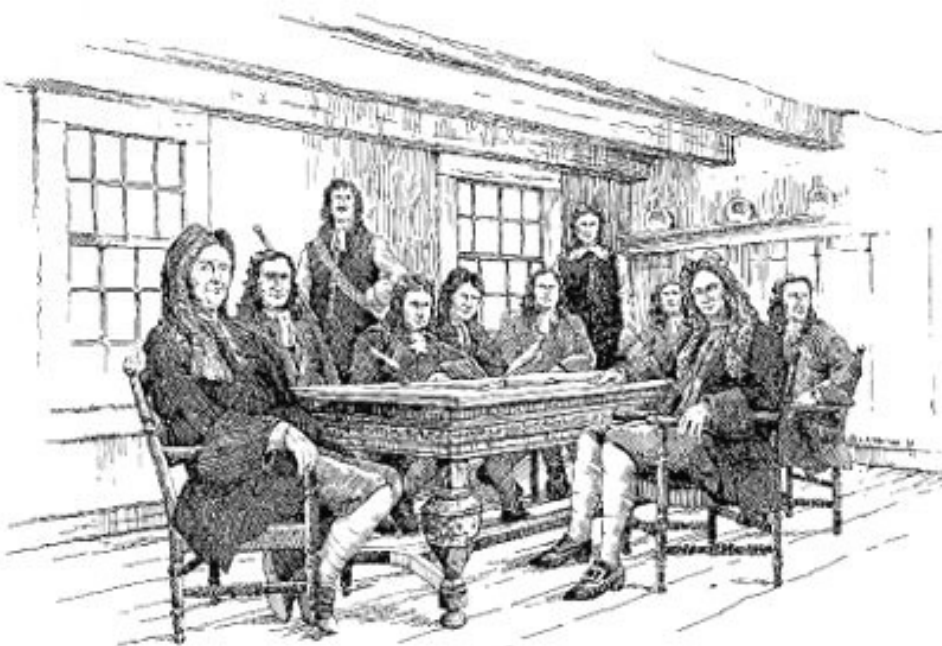
1685, his new neighbors asked the court to remove him from that house because "he throws fire around the house and threatens to burn his son Dirk."

Albert died in June 1686, just shy of his 80th birthday.

TEUNIS DIRCKSZ VAN VECHTEN

Teunis Dircksz Van Vechten was born about 1612 in Vechten, Utrecht, Netherlands. In 1638, he sailed with his wife, their son Dirick, and two servants from the Netherlands to North America aboard the *Arms of Norway* to serve as laborers in Van Rensselaer's patroonship.

The *Arms of Norway* arrived in New Amsterdam on August 4, 1638. Shortly thereafter, Teunis and his family relocated to a farm he had leased from



*Albany Common Council,
first meeting, 1686*

the patroon in the Rensselaerswyck community of Greenenbosch. In the community, Van Vechten had the nickname of Poentie.

In 1641, Van Rensselaer complained that Van Vechten's farm was too large and that he might not be cultivating all of it. However, by 1644, Van Vechten was delivering grain to the Dutch West India Company, and his farm was listed as "one of the best."

According to Pearson's *Genealogies ...*, Van Vechten was referred to in 1661 as "old resident here." He died around 1685.

DAVID PIETERS SCHUYLER / CATALYNTJE VER PLANCK

David Pieterse Schuyler was born February 12, 1636, in Amsterdam, in the vicinity of the Nieuw Kerk, where he was baptized.

At some point by the mid-1650s, David had immigrated to New Netherland with his brother Philip. The two of them became the progenitors of one of the most prominent families through the first few centuries of Albany's history.

The Schuyler brothers settled in Rensselaerswyck. They initially worked as carpenters, but quickly found success and fortune in the fur trade. By 1660, both of them were listed among the

colony's principal fur traders.

On October 13, 1657, David Schuyler married Catalyntje Ver Planck, the daughter of a New Amsterdam farmer and fur trader (see profile, "The Establishment of New Netherland: 1—New Amsterdam (New York City)"). The couple settled along the Albany waterfront, near the city's north gate. David Schuyler continued trading furs and also traded countryside produce. He was a member and officer in Albany's Dutch church.

Schuyler also served in numerous civic positions in Albany from the 1660s



Nieuw Kerk in Amsterdam, Netherlands — baptismal site of David Pieters Schuyler



David Davidtse Schuyler and Eltsje (Rutgers) Schuyler

through the early 1680s. In 1686, when Albany was granted its municipal charter by New York Governor Thomas Dongan, Schuyler was appointed alderman for the city's third ward. He served in this capacity until his death in February 1690.

FOLLOWING GENERATIONS

David Pieters and Catalyntje (Ver Planck) Schuyler's third son, **David Davidtse Schuyler**, was born in Albany on June 11, 1669. On January 1, 1694, he married **Elsje Rutgers**, the granddaughter of Rutger Jacobse and Tryntje Jansen Van Breestede and of

Anthony De Hooges and Eva Albertse Bradt, through their children **Harmen Rutgers** and **Catrina De Hooges**. Like his father, David built a fortune in Albany's fur trade. He became a prominent merchant in the city's first ward. He was elected that ward's assistant alderman in 1697, then its alderman in 1699. In 1705, he was appointed sheriff of Albany city and county. He was then elected mayor of Albany in 1706 and served in that office until 1710. After his term as mayor, Schuyler was reelected as alderman for the first ward in 1710, and again for the final time in September 1715.

He died a few months later, on December 16, 1715, at the age of 46.

David Davidse and Eltsje (Rutgers) Schuyler's daughter, Catrina, married Igenas DuMond. He was the great-grandson of Teunis Dircksz Van Vechten, through Van Vechten's son **Dirick Teunis Van Vechten** and his wife, **Jannetje Michielse Vrelant**, and his granddaughter, Neeltje Corneliuse Van Vechten, and her husband, Jan Baptist DuMond.

TO LEARN MORE

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