

*Cromme Jath* (Crooked Passage)—the first-named running from the point of intersection southwestwardly and the second northwestwardly—permitted the occupants of the house easy access to the main thoroughfares crossing the central part of the city. Looking down the short stretch of *Lamhuinge-straat* to its termination at *Bruggestraat*, they saw the lofty tower of *Aa kerk* in high relief above the tiled roofs of the contiguous houses.

When the quaintly-proportioned two-story brick dwelling was demolished in 1884, an iron plate was removed from the back masonry of the fireplace of the lower front room bearing the figures 1446, which were accepted as denoting the year of the erection of the building. The site of it, next north of the Sedentary-Poor Hospital (*Arme-huisszitten-gasthuis*), founded in 1634, is now occupied by a two-story building, on the lower floor of which is a grocery.

There are no other particulars extant concerning Rolef and Catryna Swartwolt excepting the meagre information that she died some time prior to his decease in 1634. They both were probably well-advanced in years when they died, for three of their sons—Wybrandt, Tomys, and Herman—were married and engaged in business in the city of Amsterdam, distant one hundred and thirty English miles, by railroad, from Groningen.

At that time the beginnings of the history of New Netherland, in North America, were frequent topics of conversation at most of the marts and ports of Holland. Twenty years prior to the residence of the three sons of Rolef Swartwolt in the city of Amsterdam, or more definitely, on Saturday, March 25, 1609 (old style), Henry Hudson, the English navigator, had sailed from the harbor of Amsterdam, in the ship the Half-Moon (*de Halve Maan*), in the interest of the Dutch East-India Company, to seek in the Arctic Ocean, toward *Novaya Zemlya*, a navigable route to Eastern Asia. Meeting in his course thither an impassable barrier of ice, he proposed to his officers and crew to make a voyage to New France, in North America, between Florida and Labrador, and to explore the river now bearing his name, delineated on maps made in the previous century, as had been suggested to him by Captain John Smith of the Virginia colony, who had sent him certain maps of that part of New France in the belief that the indomitable mariner could find a waterway extending westward from that river through which he might sail to the Indian Ocean.

The project was favored, and he sailed to New France and explored the Great (*Grand*) River to its navigable height, northward as far as the mouths of the Mohawk, without finding any stream or inlet sufficiently deep by which he could pass westward from it in the Half-Moon. He sailed homeward in the month of October, having his ship freighted with beaver and otter skins and a