

became a proverb amongst those who had dealings with them, that 'the word of a Dutchman was as good as his bond.'"

In 1639 Hans Hansen Bergen married Sarah, daughter of Joris, or George Rapelye, who with his wife immigrated to this country in 1623 from Rochelle, France, and settled in Fort Orange, near Albany, where probably Sarah was born in 1624 or 1625.

The record states that she was the *first white* child of European parentage born in the Colony of New Netherlands, which then covered the States of New York, New Jersey and a portion of Connecticut.

They had eight children—four daughters and four sons. His name frequently occurs among others in all the transactions of the early settlers. It seems to appear that most of the Brooklyn Bergens and the New York and New Jersey Bergens, with many in other places as well, are descendants in the line of his second son, Michael Hansen Bergen.

MICHAEL HANSEN BERGEN, born 1646, died 1732, married Femmetje Theunise Denyse, whose parents immigrated from the Netherlands.

After the capture of New Netherlands from the English by the Hollanders October 20, 1673, he was appointed Lieutenant of Militia by Anthony Clove, the Governor. In 1675 his name appears on the assessment roll of Brooklyn for 20 morgin, the amount of his patent.

November, 1679, the names of Michael Hansen Bergen and Femmetje Theunise, his wife, appears as members of The Reformed Dutch Church of Brooklyn, and from 1680 to 1683 he held the office of Deacon in said church. ("The first establishment, in the form of a church at New Amsterdam, was the Dutch Reformed Church in the year 1628, and the first church on Long Island was established at Midwout, now Flatbush, in 1654.")

Here occurs a curious transaction in the purchase of real estate in those days. In March, 1674, Michael Hanson Bergen agreed to purchase a plantation in Breucklen for 8,500 guilders. One thousand guilders to be paid down; one-fourth (1,875 guilders) of the remainder to be paid at