

alleviate his sufferings. After his recovery, feeling grateful for these attentions, he presented Hans Hansen Bergen with a silver spoon, having the initial "T." (Twiller) engraved upon it. That valuable souvenir has come down into our family and is now in the possession of Mrs. James E. Cross, of Albany, New York, a granddaughter of Hon. John T. Bergen, formerly of Brooklyn and later of Batavia, New York, eldest son of Major Tunis J. Bergen, of Gowanus. Of course this interesting relic is highly prized by every member of the family.

The old homestead is still standing in a good state of preservation, and has been for a century or more the very last and only residence in that part of the city of Brooklyn, with a single exception of one fine house erected at the south of it in 1855 by Mr. Henry A. Kent.

The frontispiece gives a very correct representation of "The Old Homestead." The building seen at the right of the picture was the first house in the township of New Utrecht, and was owned by Mr. Winant J. Bennett, and probably antedated "The Bergen Homestead." Still further south looms up the bluff "Owl's Head," the beautiful home of the late Hon. Henry C. Murphy and Secretary Cornelius Bliss.

The old homestead is beautifully situated in the Eighth ward, on the bank of New York Bay, at the foot of Fifty-eighth street, Brooklyn. Eight stately poplar trees stood as sentinels before its doors and gave it a very imposing appearance, from the water as well as from the roadway (the present Third avenue), which passed through the property and was the only thoroughfare in that part of the city to New Utrecht and Fort Hamilton. Its style of architecture—a two story and attic with a two story wing adjoining—caused much comment and was considered quite an innovation (for a farm house) from the long, low but convenient buildings of that period. It had large, commodious rooms and a very wide hall, the latter being frequently used by the family in entertaining guests at their four o'clock teas. A distinctive feature also was the retaining of the "Dutch half-doors" at both the front and back entrances. Indeed, the entire structure attracted public attention to such an extent