

PRAA

Peter Praa—or as the name was originally Peter Pia—was of French origin, exiled from his country, and found refuge in Leyden, Holland, whence he emigrated to America with his wife Catherine and their family. Although he is recorded to have had three sons, none of the name survived after the second generation.

PETER PRAA, JR., born in Leyden, was one of the most picturesque characters in Colonial history. He was owner of great tracts of land in Bushwick extending through Greenpoint and Hunter's Point, and was numbered among the large land owners of his period. He was always known as Capt. Praa, from his connection with the Bushwick Company of Col. Stephen Courtland's Regiment of Militia. In a "Road Book," now among the records of Kings County, is the account of the trial of Mistress Jonica Schampf and widow Rachel Luqueer for assaulting Capt. Praa—beating him and pulling his whiskers at a general training, October, 1690. The women admitted the assault and were fined, one three pounds, the other six shillings. The cause of the attack is not given in the record, but it is thought to have come about through Praa enlisting the husband and son of the women in the company of militia of which he was captain.

The "Capt. Peter Praa Association" was in existence in New York as late as 1850 and held meetings in Tammany Hall, now the New York *Sun* Building. The object of this association was to recover certain lands in Hunter's Point formerly owned by Peter Praa, Jr., said to have been illegally sold.