

The house of Claes Jansen, from Naerden (de Ruyter), stood on the easterly half of the grant of 1644 (present Nos. 10-12 Pearl Street).

Claes Jansen, from Naerden, a house carpenter, thirty-three years of age, signed an agreement with Kiliaen van Rensselaer, August 26, 1636, "to sail in God's name to New Netherland in the small vessel which now lies ready"—the "Rensselaerswyck."—*Van Rensselaer Bowier MSS.*, 676. For some reason, he and his wife, Pietertje Jans, did not leave Holland until September, 1637, arriving in New Amsterdam March 28, 1638, in "den Harinck," the same vessel which brought Director Kieft.—*Ibid.*, 351. Like many of Van Rensselaer's colonists, De Ruyter disappointed the patroon. He failed to oversee the building of the mill and church, and obtained permission to leave Rensselaerswyck on a false promise to give Van Rensselaer half of his earnings at the Mannhattans.—*Ibid.*, 327, 351, 456, 482, 505, 511, 663, 676, 816.

Although he was in New Amsterdam as early as May, 1640 (*ibid.*, 816), he seems to have resided principally at Breuckelen, where he had a farm in the neighbourhood of Joramon Street, between Court Street and the East River.—*Rec. N. Am.*, III: 147n.

De Ruyter's wife, Pietertje Jans, and his partner, Harmen Douwes, evidently ran De Ruyter's affairs to suit themselves, both in New Amsterdam and on Long Island. The many entries in the *Records* about their dealings with their fellow settlers and with the Indians are quaint and interesting. Some of their trading adventures were of dubious integrity, and not always profitable. De Ruyter secured an appointment as Indian interpreter, March 1, 1660, and was absent in the *Esopus* until June, 1661. A month later, on July 15, he took part in a tavern brawl, at the Blue Dove:

Before the Board appeared Lodowyck Pos, who is asked, what he had to do at night at the house of the Blue Dove with quarrelling and scolding and allowing his sword to be taken from him; he answers, he came there by accident and is reprimanded and expressly charged, to guard against the recurrence of such things, look after his belongings and remain with his wife and children. He is asked, who has been there, and says, Jeremias Jansen, Wernaar Wessels, the latter, Jan de Ruyter, the servant of Nicolaas the carter and that the trouble and quarrel arose between Joghins the shoemaker's man, who is a soldier, and Jan de Ruyter, that a sailor of the ship the *Trouwe* (Faith) and others separated them and that the gunner of the *Moesman* and Anthony Karelsen made the most trouble: that a ship's boy took the sword into his hand and that the sergeant with the soldiers drank four bottles of brandy at Jan de Ruyter's.—*Exec. Min. of Burgomasters*, in *Min. of Orph. Court*, II: 95.

The Blue Dove seems to have been the house of Jan de Ruyter. This is the only reference found to this tavern. On September 30, 1661, De Ruyter's partners all joined in a deed conveying this house to Tomas Fransen.—*Liber Deeds A*: 244; *Cal. Hist. MSS., Dutch*, 207, 212, 225. Claes Jansen de Ruyter died before March, 1663.—*Rec. N. Am.*, IV: 214. His widow was married to Albert Andriessen, of Albany. (See Block R, No. 1.)