

Paulus van der Beeck was in New Amsterdam as early as 1644. From an entry dated September 13, of that year, it appears that he came out in the employ of the West India Company.—*Cal. Hist. MSS., Dutch*, 29. In 1645, he was living at Gowanus.—*Ibid.*, 31, 93. Indeed, he always had a home on Long Island, although his business kept him much in New Amsterdam.

He was the first burgher to farm the excise in the city, pursuant to the ordinance of November 29, 1655. The subsequent ordinance, of April 27, 1656, announces that the farmer, Poulus van der Beeck, or his collector, will “attend in the Weighing-house of this City from 7 to 11 o’clock in the forenoon and from 2 to 6 o’clock in the afternoon from the 15 April to the 15 of October, and from 8 to 11 o’clock in the forenoon and from 2 to 5 o’clock in the afternoon from the 15 October to the 15 April, . . .”—*Laws & Ord., N. Neth.*, 202, 221.

Van der Beeck had no intention of devoting so much time to the business. On November 20, 1656, he requested that certain hours be fixed for the issuance of licenses. The request was granted by the court, which decided that Van der Beeck, “or his collector,” should “sit each morning from 8 to 11 o’Clock, and in the afternoon from 1 to 4 o’Clock, at a certain place, which he [van der Beeck] says will be the office of Isaack d’Foreest.”—*Rec. N. Am.*, II: 228.

The comfortable office of the Red Lion Brewery was, no doubt, preferable to the weighing-house on the water-front, especially in winter. There is every indication in the records that Mr. Paulus, as he was usually called, conducted all of his affairs in life in an arbitrary fashion. Even as early as 1645, when he quarrelled with Catalyna Trico, Joris Rapelye’s wife, he calmly said in court that “he knows nothing of the plaintiff but what is virtuous and good, and, as he struck her, will pay her 2½ guilders.”—*Cal. Hist. MSS., Dutch*, 93. In February, 1663, while he was ferry-master, he was given notice that “complaints have been made against him for neglect of his duty, and warning him to conduct himself more satisfactorily.”—*Ibid.*, 244.

Van der Beeck farmed the excise until November, 1661.—*Rec. N. Am.*, III: 69, 302, 397. He also farmed the cattle excise, 1661-2.—*Ibid.*, III: 377. He married, October 9, 1644, Maria Thomas, or Marrisje Tomas, widow of Jacob Verdon, and also widow of Willem Ariensen Bennet.—*Marriages in Ref. Dutch Ch.*, 13. Twenty years later, her two families of children quarrelled with their mother and stepfather about their respective fathers' estates.—*Cal. Hist. MSS., Dutch*, 245, 246; *Register of Walewyn van der Veen*, trans. by O'Callaghan, 48-9; *cf. Min. Orph. Court*, II: 33.

Site: No. 19 and part of No. 21 Beaver Street.