

Wessel Evertsen built this house for Asser Levy; according to the records, it was still in an unfinished condition almost a year later than the date of the Plan. Levy undertook to sue the builder, Frans Jansen, from Hooghten. (See Block F, No. 15.)

Evertsen's deed to Asser Levy was recorded June 1, 1663.—*Liber Deeds*, B: 16; *cf. Deeds & Conveyances* (etc.), 1659–1664, trans. by O'Callaghan, 318–9. Just ten years later, Levy conveyed the house and lot to Jan Herberding.—*Original Book of N. Y. Deeds*, in *N. Y. Hist. Soc. Collections*, 1913, pp. 13–14.

Asser Levy and Jacob Barsimson, Jewish residents of the town, asked, on November 5, 1655, for permission "to keep guard with other burghers, or be free from the tax which others of their nation pay, as they must earn their living by manual labor." Their petition was refused, in conformity with a previous resolution to exempt Jews from service, on payment of a tax, principally because of the "disinclination and unwillingness" of the trainbands to serve with Jews, and also because "the said nation was not

admitted or counted among the citizens, as regards trainbands or common citizens' guards" in any known city in the Netherlands.—See Oppenheim's *The Early History of the Jews in New York*, 1654-1664, pp. 24-5.

Levy's prayer seems to have been subsequently granted, as, in April, 1657, he requested the burgherright, claiming

that such ought not be refused him, as he keeps watch and ward (*tocht en wacht*) like other Burghers; shewing a Burgher certificate from the City of Amsterdam, that the Jew is Burgher there. Which being deliberated on, tis decreed as before that it cannot be allowed, and he shall apply to the Director General and Council.—*Rec. N. Am.*, VII: 154; *cf.* Oppenheim, pp. 35-6.

Levy, who was one of the sworn butchers of New Amsterdam in 1660 and 1665 (*ibid.*, V: 312; VII: 258), was also a general dealer, and lent much money on mortgages. He was one of the guardians of Wessel Evertsen's children, in 1670; and, with Jacob Kip, he administered the estate of Jan Hendricks Steelman, in 1671.—*Ibid.*, VI: 220, 354, 381.

Site: No. 59 Stone Street.

For a sketch of Asser Levy, see *Publications of American Jewish Hist. Soc.*, No. 8, 1900, pp. 9-23.