

titled the New Market (*Nieuwe Markt*), between the *Geldersche Kaai* and the *Kloveniersburgwal*, being somewhat central, certain rooms in the building were for many years used by several societies, one of which was Saint Luke's Guild (*Sint Lucas-Gilde*), an association of painters, glaziers, and sculptors. The chamber of the Surgeons' Guild (*'t Chirurrijns-Gilde*) was in the upper part of the building, as also was the dissecting room (*de Snijkamer*), which was made famous by Rembrandt van Rijn's painting, the Anatomical Lecture, in which Doctor Nicholaas Tulp and seven other members of the guild were so notably pictured in 1632.

The antique structure, now known as the Old Archive (*de Oud Archief*), has become a depository for the preservation of historical manuscripts, and ecclesiastical and civic records of the city of Amsterdam. The baptismal and marriage registers of the different churches of the city, shelved in the stack-rooms, are highly valued sources of genealogical information.

At the time of the extension of the city westward, undertaken in 1611, the large canals, the *Heeregracht*, *Keizersgracht*, and *Prinsengracht*, running southward from the *Brouwersgracht* toward the site of the later-made *Leidsegracht*, were constructed. Westward of the first-mentioned three, another canal, which extended southward along the inner side of the new wall of the city, was excavated and called the *Lijnbaan* or *Baangracht*. A little north of the junction of this canal and the *Brouwersgracht*, the new Haarlem gate (*Nieuwe Haarlemmerpoort*), was built in 1615. Between the *Heeregracht* (once a part of the old city wall) and the new city wall, bordering westward the *Lijnbaansgracht*, streets were laid out and named, along which, in that and the following decade, a large number of dwellings and warehouses were erected.

The ease of access and egress to and from the *Keizersgracht*, for sailing vessels crossing the *Ij*, in all probability led the three members of the firm of the Swartwout Brothers to select this recently laid-out part of the city as their place of business and residence. Standing, as their dwellings and warehouse were, on the street running along the west side of the *Keizersgracht* and within sight of the *Brouwersgracht* north of them, they were not far from either the *Oude-Kerk* or the *Nieuwe-Kerk*.

Wybrandt Swartwout, probably the eldest of the three brothers, may have been the first to marry. Herman Swartwout had, on May 1, 1629, become, at Amsterdam, the husband of Geertruijt Schutte, of Lockum, a village in the province of Gelderland.

In Holland, at that time, a public announcement of an intended marriage was required to be made in the places where the affianced persons then resided and had recently been residing. It was therefore in compliance with