

mutual covenant of the aforewritten married people, that Barent Albertse [Bratt] and Teunis Slingerland, brother and brother-in-law of the said Eva Albertse and uncles of said children, should be guardians of said children, to which the aforesaid orphan-masters have consented; which above-written contract the respective parties promise to hold good on pledge of their persons and estates, personal and real, present and future, the same submitting to all laws and judges.

“ Done in Fort Orange, *et supra*, in presence of Pieter Jacobsen and Johannes Provoost, witnesses called for the purpose.

“ This is the mark of + Eva Albertsse.

“ ROELOOF SWARTWOUT.

“ THOMAS SWARTWOUT,

“ ALBERT ANDRIESEN,

“ JAN VERBEECK,

“ EVERT WENDEL,

“ TEUNIS CORNELISSEN.

“ Johannes Provoost, witness.

“ This is the mark of + Pieter Jacobsen.

“ Acknowledged before me,

“ LA MONTAGNE,

“ Deputy at Fort Orange.”¹

Of the little information extant concerning Roeloff Swartwout while residing in Beverswijck, there appears to be none regarding any business to which he may have devoted his attention. The *patroon* of Rensselaerswijck, Jeremias van Rensselaer, who, being the second son of Kiliaen van Rensselaer, had taken, in 1658, the management of the affairs of manor, it would seem was somewhat apprehensive that Roeloff Swartwout's presence in Beverswijck might be associated with unknown interests detrimental to those of the colony and sought to discover what they were by instituting an inquiry regarding them. Evidently nothing prejudicial to the interests of the *patroon* was learned, for the records of the manor do not disclose any information elicited by the inquiry.

Four years prior to Roeloff Swartwout's marriage, a number of colonists in Rensselaerswijck, believing that they could more advantageously advance their individual interests by cultivating land exempt from the restrictions and jurisdiction of a manorial proprietor, bought from the Indians several tracts of land lying along Esopus Creek, on the west side of the Hudson, about fifty-five miles south of Beverswijck.

¹ Deed Book A, p. 131, in Albany County clerk's office.