

**A SKETCH OF FRAUNCES  
TAVERN AND  
THOSE CONNECTED  
WITH ITS HISTORY**

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A sketch of Fraunces Tavern and those connected with its history by Henry Russell Drowne

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**HENRY RUSSELL DROWNE**

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A SKETCH OF

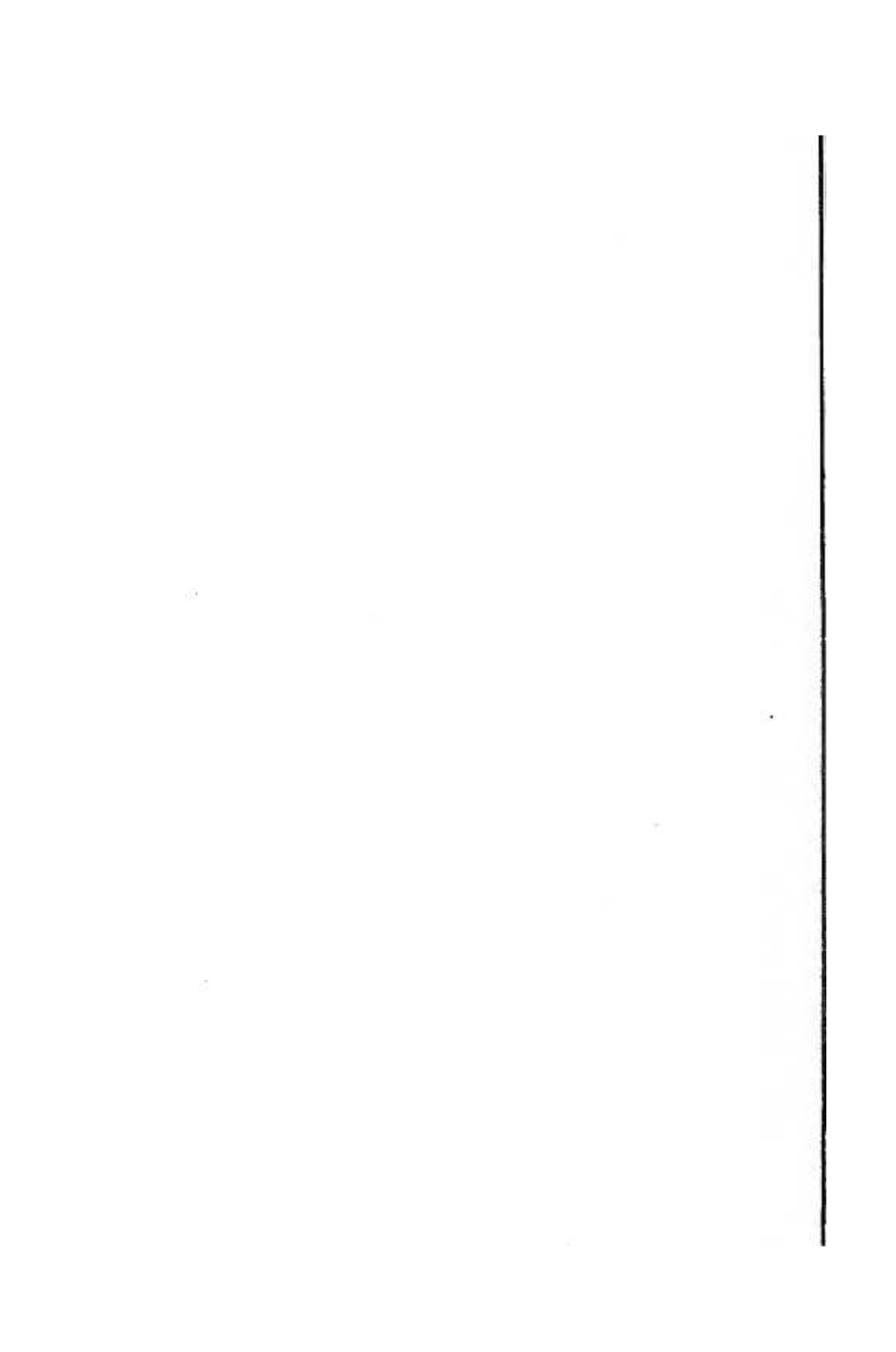
# FRAUNCES TAVERN

AND THOSE CONNECTED WITH  
ITS HISTORY



## SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

BROAD AND PEARL STREETS  
NEW YORK CITY



A SKETCH OF  
FRAUNCES TAVERN

and those connected with its history

BY  
HENRY RUSSELL DROWNE

Secretary of the Sons of the Revolution  
in the State of New York

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"For the life-thread of its site runs brightly back almost to the beginnings of the city, and the experience of its walls has struck almost every tone in the wide gamut of the city's social, commercial, civic and political career."

MRS. M. F. PIERCE.

"The ancient and famous inn where the Commander-in-Chief tenderly parted with his officers."

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

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FRAUNCES TAVERN  
NEW YORK  
1919

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### FRAUNCES TAVERN

Broad & Pearl Streets

New York City

Our story starts at a very early period in the history of this great city, for historians tell us that shortly after Hudson returned to Holland with the "Half Moon," five trading vessels were sent over here, among them the "Tiger," commanded by Captain Block. The "Tiger" caught fire and was completely destroyed in 1613, and a new ship was finished and launched the next spring (1614) called the "Onrest" (Restless), which was built on the site of what is now Fraunces Tavern. This was the first ship built *here*, and the third on the American Continent.

The plot of ground upon which this building stands was diagonally

across the way from the site of the original "Stadt Huys" of New Amsterdam and was a water lot granted to Stephanus Van Courtlandt by the Mayor and Alderman of the City of New York, Nicholas Bayard, Mayor, on November 19, 1686 (Liber A of Water Grants, Page 22-23). It is described as bounded westerly by Prince's Graft Street (now Broad) and northerly by Strand Street (later Dock, Queen and lastly Pearl), originally the line of the strand at high water. On every 25th of March the rent was to be one peppercorn, if same be legally demanded.

This was the twelfth grant, dated November 19, 1686, made by the Corporation under the power conferred by the Dongan Charter of April 27, 1686.

Stephanus Van Courtlandt is recorded as having been, at the age of thirty-four, the third Mayor of the City in 1677, and again in 1686 and 1687, and was the first Mayor who had been born in America; the date of his birth being May 7, 1634. The family came from Keurtlandt (Courtlandt) in Holland, and they adopted van (from) Courtlandt as a surname.

His father was Olof Stevensen Van Courtlandt, who bought the opposite corner of Broad and Pearl Streets as early as February 24, 1665, which plot belonged to the family until 1785. He was made Commissary of the Customs Office of the Dutch West India Company in 1639 and had charge of the public stores until 1648. He then became a merchant, later was one of the richest men in the community, and in 1642 married Annetje Loockermans. In 1654 he was appointed Burgomaster of New Amsterdam, remained in office almost continuously until 1664, when the colony was surrendered to the British. He died in 1687.

The origin of the name Stone Street is said to be from the fact that he established his home and had a large brewery in Brouwer Street, where the dust raised by his great wagons so vexed his good wife that she persuaded him to lay a stone pavement before their property. This excited so much curiosity and comment that it was soon called "Stone Street," which name it still bears.

Stephanus Van Courtlandt married Gertruyd, daughter of Philip Pieterse Schuyler, in 1671 and died in 1701. They lived in New York until his estates were erected into a manor by patent from William III, King of

England, on June 17, 1697, after which time he built the first Cortlandt Manor house on the shore of Croton Bay. This manor was held by a feudal tenure, for which the rent of forty shillings (about \$10) was paid annually to the crown on the feast day of the Annunciation. During the Revolution the proprietors of Van Cortlandt Manor were Pierre, grandson of Stevanus, and his son, Philip Van Cortlandt. They espoused the American Cause and were among the staunchest allies of Washington, despite the fact that the Phillipses and younger branches of the Van Cortlandt family were Tories.

New York was, about 1680, a city of some three thousand inhabitants and comprised some three hundred and fifty houses. Pearl Street was first known as "The Strand" and faced the river, as indicated by the name.

On April 11, 1700, Colonel Stephanus Van Cortlandt gave the lot on which Fraunces Tavern now stands to the husband of his daughter Anne, who had married in 1699 Etienne (or Stephen) de Lancey, a merchant (it is recorded in Liber 23 New York Deeds, page 147), and then described as being at the corner of Broad and Dock Streets. Etienne de Lancey, a French Huguenot, born in Caen, Normandy, October 24, 1662, came to this country in consequence of the repeal of the "Edict of Nantes." It is said that his mother gave him her jewels, which he took to England and sold for three hundred pounds. With this little fortune he came to New York in 1686, and started in business as a merchant. He was a member of the Assembly for some twenty-six years and at the time of his death, in 1741, was buried in Trinity Churchyard.

The house was built by him in 1719, and was then one of the finest residences in the city, and during his occupancy historians say no hostess was more hospitable, gracious or popular than Mrs. Stephen de Lancey—the year is confirmed by the Minutes of the Common Council of New York under date of April 14, 1719, as, "Mr. de Lancey applies for a small strip of land to make his lot more regular in shape, as he is now going to build a large brick house, etc.,"—and was granted three and a half feet at one corner to straighten the lot and for the better regulating of said street and building.

Just beyond on the water front were the two great sea basins which