



Ross, D. Reid. Rapalje Family Research Papers, 1994-2004.

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0.6 cubic ft.

Joris Janszan Rapalje (1604-1662) and Catalina Jeronimus Tricot (1605-1685) were French-speaking Dutch Protestants from Valenciennes, a Walloon village in Hainault, Belgium. They married in a Walloon church in Amsterdam, Holland, on January 21, 1624, and four days later they sailed on the *Unity* bound for the Dutch colonial province of New Netherland, where, after having lived for two years at Fort Orange (present-day Albany, N.Y.), they became part of the original group of settlers of the island of Manhattan.

On June 9, 1625, Catalina gave birth to Sarah Rapalje, the first European child born in New Netherland. Joris and Catalina went on to have thirteen more children. The family lived near Fort New Amsterdam, at the intersection of what are now Pearl and Whitehall Streets, near the southern tip of Manhattan. Joris became a prominent public figure, working as a plantation owner, tavern keeper, magistrate, and trader. Sometime after 1650, the Rapalje family moved to a lot of land adjacent to the East River in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Over the years, the descendants of Joris and Catalina became wealthy landowners in Brooklyn. Among other things, they are notable for having been staunch Loyalists during the Revolutionary War, with one great-great-grandson, John Rapalje, having been sent to jail in Connecticut after having been convicted of waging war against New York State. He was also later convicted of high treason and was banished from New York. Although his considerable land holdings and personal property were confiscated at the time, he later filed a successful claim for compensation from the British government.

John's wife, Annatie, is notable for having attempted to warn the British that Washington and his troops were retreating to Manhattan after the Battle of Brooklyn. However, the slave she sent to deliver the message was detained until the next day by a Hessian soldier who did not understand English. By the time the message was delivered, Washington and his troops had narrowly escaped.

The collection is comprised of materials that D. Reid Ross (retired urban planner, family historian and author) gathered while writing an article titled "Joris and Catalina Rapalje, The First Colonists in New Netherland." The article discusses the Reformation in the lowland countries of Europe, and the history of the Rapalje family there and in the United States. Included is correspondence regarding the editing and publishing of the article, as well letters to various research institutions and individuals; handwritten footnotes; word-processed drafts of the manuscript; research materials (mainly facsimiles) about the Rapalje family, including genealogical material, bibliographies and historical documents; request forms for research materials; and, a copy of the issue of *The Long Island Historical Journal* in which Ross' article appeared.

SUBJECTS

Names:

Rapalje Family.

Rapalje, Catalina, 1605-1685.

Rapalje, Annatie, 1731-1787.

Rapalje, John, 1732-1802.

Rapalje, Joris, 1604-1662.

Ross, D. Reid.

Subjects:

Reformation--Europe.

Places:

Brooklyn, (N.Y.)--History.

Long Island (N.Y.)--History.

New York (State)--History.

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.

Form and Genre Terms:

Correspondence.

Manuscripts.

Notes.

Publications.

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Box and Folder Listing

<u>Box /</u> <u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
	Correspondence
1-1	1994-1999
1-2	2000-2004
1-3	Handwritten footnotes, c.1999. (Facsimiles of supporting documentation attached)
	Manuscripts (word-processed)
1-4	Dec. 1997-Apr. 1999

<u>Box /</u> <u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
	Manuscripts (word-processed)
2-1	Sep. 1999-Mar. 2000
2-2	May 2000- Dec. 2000
	Research materials (includes facsimiles)
2-3	1998-2001
2-4	c.1999
2-5	c.1999
2-6	c.1999
2-7	c.1999
2-8	c.1999
2-9	Research request forms, 1998-2001
2-10	<i>The Long Island Historical Journal</i> , Spring 2001