
Recorded Transactions of Asser Levy at Albany, N. Y.

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purpose, my grandfather who was the oldest among several brothers went to the *mairie* (the mayor's office) of his town, and he chose for himself and the family the surname Felsenthal. Where the *maires* [mayors] were kindly disposed and honest, much freedom was granted to the Jewish citizens in selecting their names. But sometimes, ruffians and dishonest fellows were occupying the offices, and they either forced ugly names upon the trembling Jews, or compelled them to pay considerable sums before granting to them well-sounding names. Many anecdotes I could tell you in regard to this matter.

As it was in the then Franco-German provinces along the left shores of the Rhine River, so it was in other European countries. In some of them orders for adopting surnames were issued by the authorities somewhat prior to 1808, in others somewhat later. More exact dates I am unable to give, as here in Chicago I have no access to a historical or law library where the old European law books, etc., of that time might be found and consulted. . . .

A. M. F.

RECORDED TRANSACTIONS OF ASSER LEVY AT ALBANY, N. Y.

[Hon. Simon W. Rosendale has extracted from the "Index to the Public Records of the County of Albany, State of New York, 1630-1894," the various entries relating to Asser Levy. This work in thirty-six folio volumes³³ was compiled and printed pursuant to chapter 429 of the laws of New York of 1893, and the acts amendatory thereof. It was issued in a limited edition.³⁴ The work is alphabetically arranged.

F.]

³³ There are fourteen volumes of "Grantors," one of "Maps," twelve of "Grantees," six of "Mortgagors" and three of "Lis Pendens."

³⁴ Albany, N. Y., 1902-16. Asser Levy has been frequently referred to in the *Publications* of this Society; see, especially, No. 8, p. 9 *et seq.*, and No. 18, *passim*.

The entries relating to Asser Levy are, as follows:

Grantor.	Grantee.	Date.	Recorded. Book. Page.	Note.
Levy, Assar	Hans Coenraetsen, Attorney for Joseph D'Acost.	1658 July 23	72	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Debt as due according to sentence of the Court of Resid in Brazil.
" Asser		1658 Aug. 22	858	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Deposition of Asser Levy that the empty barrel brought by an Indian from the Island opposite the Fort is one of three sold to Hans Vosch with brandy. (<i>Supra</i> , p. 79.)
" Asser	Jan Van Eckelen.	1658 Aug. 26	89	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Debt.
" Asser	Jacob Loockermans et al	1658 Sept. 10	94	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Case continued.
" Asser	Hendrick Gerritsen et al	1658 Sept. 10	94	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Case continued.
" Asser	Hendrick Gerritsen et al	1658 Oct. 1	97	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Case continued.
" Asser	Dirckjen Martensen et al	1658 Oct. 1	97	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Case continued.
" Assar	Jacob Loockermans et al	1659 July 1	144	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Debt.
" Assar	Jacob Teunissen et al	1659 July 1	144	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Debt.
" Assar	Jan Roeloffsen et al	1659 July 1	144	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Debt.
" Assar	Jacob Loockermans	1659 July 8	149	Court Minutes, 1658-1660.—Debt.
" Asser	Robert Sanders	1662 Sept. 7	B 2 354	Contract of Sale and Purchase.—Lot in Beverwyck on the hill, as bought at auction from Marcellis Jansen.
" Asser ⁶⁵		1671 April 18	223	Court Minutes, 1668-1672.—Attaches wheat of Cornelis Willemssen, living at Sprinckfelt (Springfield), New England, in hands of Dirck the Swede.
" Asser	Gerrit Teunissen	1677 Aug. 14	249	Court Minutes, 1675-1684.—Debt.

* * *

Grantee.	Grantor.	Date.	Recorded. Book. Page.	Note.
Levy, Asser	Jan Michielsens	1660 July 28	B 2 208	Mortgagee.—House and Lot in Beverwyck.
" Asser	Marcellis Jansen	1661 July 15	B 2 533	House and lot, as per patent. Auction sale, Jan Verbeeck and Jochim Wesselsen Backer sureties for purchaser.
" Asser	Sophia Van Wyckersloot and husband Anthony Toinel.	1661 Aug. 1	B 2 552	Bill of Sale.—Goods to arrive from her father in Holland by the ship "Beaver."
" Asser	Marcellis Jansen.	1664 Sept. 15	B 2 506	House and lot in Beverwyck, on the hill, north, Gerrit Stichtenhorst; south, Claes Ripen (Van Dam); east and west, streets, as per patent to Goossen Gerritsen (Van Schayck) of Oct. 25, 1653.

⁶⁵ Under "Attorneys" this appears:

Grantor.	Grantee.	Date.	Recorded. Book. Page.	Note.
Levy, Asser, Attorney for Herman Van Gansevoort		1671 April 18	223	Court Minutes, 1668-1672.—Attaches wheat of Cornelis Willemssen, living at Sprinckfelt (Springfield), New England, in hands of Dirck the Swede.