



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number: 226**

**Name:** Van Rensselaer, Maria (Van Cortlandt)

**Dates:** (20 Jul 1645 - 24 Jan 1688/89)

**Colonial Society:** NY

**Date added to ROA:** June 21, 2025

**Service:** Woman of Distinction: Administrator of Rensselaerswyck patroonship, including 1 million acres of land with gristmills and sawmills

**Authority:** Leder, Lawrence H. "Maria Van Cortlandt Van Rensselaer." *Notable American Women, 1607-1950: A Biographical Dictionary*, Volume III, edited by Edward T. James, et al, Harvard University Press, 1971, pp. 510-511.

### **Biography:**

Maria was born in New Amsterdam (later New York City), the third of seven children of Oloffte Stevensen van Cortlandt and his wife, Anna (Annetje, Anneken) Loockermans. A merchant and city official under both the Dutch and English regimes, her father founded the van Cortlandt clan in America.

On July 12, 1662, Maria married Jeremias, third son of Kiliaen van Rensselaer, who had come to New Netherland as director of an estate near Albany. Jeremias died 12 years later, leaving Maria with four sons and two daughters, and responsibility for the 24 square mile property. With assistance from her brother Stephanus van Cortlandt, she proved herself a capable businesswoman.