



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 236

Name: Philipse, Margaret (Hardenbroeck) Rudolphus de Vries

Dates: (c. 1637 - c. 1691)

Colonial Society: NY

Date added to ROA: June 21, 2025

Service: Merchant: Shipowner/trader. Developed the first shipping packet line between Europe and America.

Authority: Dexter, Elisabeth Williams, PhD. *Colonial Women of Affairs: Women in Business and the Professions in America before 1776*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1924. pp. 107-108. Jordan, Jean P. "Women Merchants in Colonial New York" *New York History* Vol. 58, No. 4 (October 1977): Fenimore Art Museum, pp. 418-419.

Biography:

Margaret Hardenbroeck de Vries Philipse has been called "perhaps the most enterprising of all Dutch colonists, male or female". She came to America as the young bride of Peter de Vries, who died just two years later in 1661. Together, they had bought a plantation on Staten Island, where they began a settlement. But as a widow, Margaret sold the property and invested the profits in ships.

The ships in Margaret's investment probably formed the first packet line between Europe and America. She regularly traveled aboard her ships, supervising the buying and selling that swirled around them, and soon fell in love with one of her passengers, carpenter and wealthy fur trader Frederick Philipse.

Continuing their respective businesses after their 1662 marriage, the two may have become America's first Power Couple. Margaret frequently used her maiden name for business purposes, and in 1668 she and other merchants gained permission from the Privy Council to sail the ship *King Charles* from Holland to New York. She was often regarded as "an imperious woman," "a highly-acquisitive capitalist," and "a truly-worldly woman". Together, their mutual industriousness made the pair the richest couple in New Amsterdam.

Margaret had a daughter from her first marriage, and four other children from the second. She and Frederick purchased large pieces of property in what is now Yonkers, NY, and built a home that became known as The Philipse Manor, in addition to property in Manhattan.