

The History of Orange County New York

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PUBLISHED BY VAN DRUSEN AND ELMS

MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK

1909

Chapter 1. FIRST SETTLEMENTS AND SETTLERS TO NEW YORK.

There is a tradition, supported by some evidence, that the first settlement of Orange County was in the old Minisink territory along the Delaware River. Although the supposed settlement was mostly in Pennsylvania, the reported excavations, roads and other work of the settlers were mostly in Orange County. The story of the tradition, and evidence that it has a basis of fact, are given in a letter by Samuel Preston, Esq., dated Stockport, June 6, 1828, which is published in Samuel W. Eager's county history of 1846-7, and reproduced in Charles E. Stickney's history of the Minisink region of 1867. Eager says the letter "will throw light upon the point of early settlement in the Minisink country," and Stickney assumes that its second-hand statements are substantially true. But Ruttenber and Clark's more complete history of the county, published in 1881, discredits them. The essential parts of Preston's letter are here condensed.

He was deputed by John Lukens, surveyor general, to go into Northampton County on his first surveying tour, and received from him, by way of instruction, a narrative respecting the settlements of Minisink on the Delaware above the Kittany and Blue Mountain. This stated that John Lukens and Nicholas Scull—the latter a famous surveyor, and the former his apprentice—were sent to the Minisink region in 1730 for the government of Philadelphia; that the Minisink flats were then all settled by Hollanders; that they found there a grove of apple trees much larger than any near Philadelphia, and that they came to the conclusion that the first settlement of Hollanders in Minisink was many years older than William Penn's charter. Samuel Depuis, who was living there, told them that there was a good road to Esopus, near Kingston, about a hundred miles from the Mine holes, which was called the Mine road. Preston was charged by Lukens to learn more particulars about this Mine road, and obtained some from Nicholas Depuis, son of Samuel, who was living in great affluence in a spacious stone house. He had known the Mine road well, and before a boat channel was opened to Foul Rift, used to drive on it several times every winter with loads of wheat and cider to buy salt and other necessities, as did also his neighbors. He repeated stories without dates that he had heard from older people. They said that in some former age a company of miners came there from Holland; that they

worked two mines, and were very rich; that they built the Mine road with great labor, and hauled their ore over it; that they bought the improvements of the native Indians, the most of whom moved to the Susquehanna.

John G Borden

In 1789 Preston began to build a house in the Minisink and obtained more evidence from Gen. James Clinton, the father of Gov. Dewitt Clinton, and Christopher Tappan, Recorder of Ulster County, who came there on a surveying expedition. They both knew the Mine holes and the Mine road, and were of the opinion that they were worked while New York belonged to Holland, which was previous to 1664. Preston did not learn what kind of ore the mines produced, but concluded that it was silver. He went to the Paaquarry Mine holes, and found the mouths caved full and overgrown with bushes, but giving evidence of a great deal of labor done there in some former time.

Ruttenber and Clark's history, as stated, discredit the tradition regarding the early settlement of the Minisink by Hollanders, as accepted by Clinton, Tappan, Depuis, Preston and others. It represents the Mine road to be simply an enlargement of an old Indian trail, and the mines to have been of copper and located in what is now the town of Warren, Sussex County, N. J. It says that the Dutch at Esopus during the war of 1660-63 had little knowledge of the country, even east of the Shawangunk, and that if the Minisink was penetrated at a much earlier period it was by way of the Delaware River. The historian discusses the subject further, and concludes that the first settler of the Minisink was William Tietsort, a blacksmith from Schenectady, who barely escaped the slaughter at that place in 1689, and went to the Minisink country from Esopus, by invitation of friendly Indians, and purchased lands of them in October, 1689. "There is little doubt that he was the first settler on the western border," says the history.

But Stickney, after recapitulating the traditions and evidence of the early settlement of the region, says: "Here generations lived the fleeting span of life in blissful ignorance of any outer or happier world beside, and were alike unknown outside the boundaries of their own domain until some wanderer chanced to come across their settlement, and went on his way, thereafter to remember with gratitude and envy the affluence and comfort that marked their rough but happy homes."

If Tietsort was the first white settler of the Minisink, Arent Schuyler was probably the second, as he settled there in 1697, having been granted a patent of 1,000 acres of its lands by Governor Fletcher. The governor had sent him there three years before to ascertain whether the French in Canada had been trying to bribe the Indians to engage in a war of extermination against the New Yorkers from their fastnesses in the Shawangunk Mountains.

The earliest land transfers and titles were so thoroughly investigated by Ruttenber and Clark

that we cannot do better, perhaps, than condense mostly from their history.

Warranawonkong chiefs transferred to Governor Stuyvesant the Groot Plat or Great Plot, as it was called, in which Kingston is now situated. These lands are said to be the first for which Europeans received a title from the Indians, and are somewhat indefinitely described in the treaty with them of 1665 to which reference has been made. They were conquered by Captain Kreiger in 1663, and embraced three townships in southwestern Ulster. Chronology next takes us to the extreme south of Orange County. Here Balthazar De Hart and his brother Jacob, purchased of the Indians "the Christian patent lands of Haverstraw." They were on the south side of the Highlands and extended from the Hudson westward to the mountains. On the presumption that they were included in the boundaries of New Jersey, the Harts soon transferred them to Nicholas Depues and Peter Jacobs Marius, and purchased another tract north of them in 1671, which was bounded by the Hudson River on the east and the mountains on the south. This became the property of Jacobs. They also purchased a tract north of the previous purchase, and including a part of it, which was called Abequerenoy, and passed from them to Hendrick Ryker.

On the north a Huguenot, Louis Du Bois, with some friends who had been driven from France by religious persecution, located first at Esopus in 1660; and in September, 1667, after purchase from the Indians, twelve of them became patentees of a tract of 36,000 acres lying north of the Redonte Creek, as the Warranawonkong was then called. The patent was obtained from Governor Andros in the names of Louis Du Bois, Christian Doyan, Abraham Hasbroucq, Andre Le Febvre, Jean Hasbroucq, Pierre Doyan, Louis Beviere, Anthony Crespel, Abraham Du Bois, Hayne Frere, Isaac Du Bois and Simon Le Febvre, "their heirs and others." Nine families immediately settled on the land and founded New Paltz.

Between Haverstraw and New Paltz Patrick Mac Gregorie, David Fosbruck, his brother-in-law, and twenty-five others, who were mostly Scotch Presbyterians, occupied lands at the mouth of the Waoraneck, and Mac Gregorie purchased for them 4,000 acres on both sides of Murderer's Creek, on which they settled. Mac Gregorie built his cabin on Plum Point, then called Conwanham's Hill, and the cabins of his associates were in the vicinity, and on the south side of the creek David Toshuck, the brother-in-law, who subscribed himself "Laird of Minivard," established a trading post. "Within the bounds of the present county of Orange this was the first European settlement," says the historian, but the precise date is not given. Stickney thinks the year was 1684, but it was probably a little earlier, as about that time Mac Gregorie entered into the military service of the State without perfecting his patent, mistakenly trusting Governor Dongan to protect his interests, who, in 1684, obtained from three Indian owners their title to a tract extending from New Paltz along the Hudson to Murderer's Kill, thence westward to the foot of the high hills, and thence southwesterly along the hills and the river Peakadasank to a pond; and the same year added by deed from several Indians another large tract of the land called Haverstraw. These lands included a part of those which the Indians had previously sold to

Mac Gregorie, and others which they had sold to Stephanus Van Cortlandt. The latter had preserved his deed, and succeeded in obtaining a patent attaching them to his manor across the river. Mac Gregorie was killed in the Leslie revolution of 1691. Governor Dongan sold his two purchases to John Evans in 1694, and the latter then proceeded to dispossess Mac Gregorie's widow and her family of their home, when he granted only leases to them and the other Scotch settlers. After some years, however, the Mac Gregorie heirs, in consideration of their original claim, obtained a patent of the Plum Point farm and a mountain tract.

The fourth and largest settlement was made adjoining "the Christian patented lands of Haverstraw" by emigrants from Holland, mostly of the Reformed Dutch Church. They were granted a township patent in March, 1686, under the name of the town of Orange. There were sixteen trustees of this grant, which began at the mouth of the Tappan Creek, extended north to Greenbush, and thence easterly and southerly back to Tappan Creek. The center of the township was Tappan, where a church was organized. The trustees of the grant were Claessen Cuyper, Daniel De Clercke, Peter Harnich, Gerritt Stenmetts, John De Kries, Sr., John De Kries, Jr., Claes Maunde, John Stratemaker, Staaes De Groot, Aream Lammatees, Lamont Ariannius, Huybert Gerryts, Johannes Gerryts, Ede Van Vorst, Cornelius Lammerts.

A vast tract of land immediately west of Haverstraw was conveyed to Daniel Honan and Michael Hawdon, January 25, 1696. Adjoining this on the south were certain tracts containing 2,000 acres which were granted to Samuel Bayard. The Indian deed for this and other purchases was covered by Lucas Tenhoven and embraced 100,000 acres, for which no patent was issued.

Between the Haverstraw lands and the township of Orange was the rocky bluff known as Verdrietig Hook, including Rockland Lake, which became the subject of controversy between the John Hutchins Company and Jarvis Marshal & Company, both parties having obtained deeds, but that of the latter proved to be of prior date (Sept. 27, 1694). A few years later, in 1708, a patent was issued to Lancaster Syrus, Robert Walters and Hendrick Ten Eyck, covering the vacant river point described as beginning at the south bounds of Haverstraw, extending west to Welch's island, thence southerly to the lower end of the island, thence east to the creek running from the pond of Verdrietig Hook, and thence north to the place of beginning, "except the grant of Honan & Hawdon."

Ruttenber and Clark's history states that the indicated foregoing patents covered the entire district from the New Jersey line to New Paltz and west to the line of the Shawangunk Mountains.

Here is the proper place for some statements made by David Barclay in his paper on Balmville read before the Newburgh Historical Society in 1899. He said that Captain John Evans in 1694 obtained from Colonel Fletcher, then Governor of New York, a patent for a tract of land on the west shore of the Hudson, extending from Stony Point to the south line of New Paltz, and westward to the Shawangunk Mountains, including two-thirds of Orange County and parts of

Ulster and Rockland Counties, and estimated to contain 650,000 acres. The only settlement thereon at that time was that of Major Gregorie's heirs and followers at Murderer's Creek in the present towns of Cornwall and New Windsor. The patent was afterward annulled by an act of the assembly, which was confirmed, and the title reverted to the crown. Included in these lands must have been those unjustly transferred to Evans in 1694 by Governor Dongan "under the title of the lordship of the manor of Fletcherdom." Ruttenber says that the Evans patents, with others, were for a long time a disturbing element, and were entirely undefined except in general terms.

Near the close of the 17th century there was active competition in the extinguishment {sic} of the Indian titles and obtaining patents, and several patents were granted. Three of them, to associations, were issued at the following dates: Chesekook, December 30, 1702; Wawayanda, March 5, 1703; Minisink, August 28, 1704.

The Chesekook patent was included in a purchase from five Indian proprietors to Dr. John Bridges, Henry Ten Eyck, Derick Vandenburg, John Cholwell, Christopher Dean, Lancaster Syms and John Merritt. The Wawayanda patent was a purchase from twelve Indians by the same parties, and five more, namely, Daniel Honan, Philip Rokeby, Benjamin Aske, Peter Mathews and Cornelius Christianse. The Minisink patent was to Mathew Ling, Ebenezer Wilson, Philip French, Derick Vandenburg, Stephen De Lancey, Philip Rokeby, John Corbett, Daniel Honan, Caleb Cooper, William Sharpass, Robert Milward, Thomas Wearham, Lancaster Syms, John Pearson, Benjamin Aske, Petrus Bayard, John Cholwell, Peter Fanconier, Henry Swift, Hendrick Ten Eyck, Jarvis Marshall, Ann Bridges, George Clark.

This last purchase was of parts of Orange and Ulster Counties, beginning in Ulster at Hunting House, on the northeast of Bashe's land, running thence north to the Fishkill River, thence southerly to the south end of Great Minisink Island, thence south to the land granted John Bridges & Company (Wawayanda), and along that patent northward and along the patent of John Evans to the place of beginning. There is no record that the purchasers received a deed from the Indians, and it was reported, probably correctly, that when Depuis obtained the Minisink lands from the Indians, he got them drunk and never paid them the money agreed upon—treatment which they resented for a long time afterward in hostility to the white settlers.

The Chesekook patent was bounded north by the patent line of Evans, west by Highland Hills, south by Honan and Hawdon's patent, and east by "the lands of the bounds of Haverstraw and the Hudson."

The Wawayanda patent was bounded eastward by "the high hills of the Highlands" and the Evans patent, north by the division line of the counties of Orange and Ulster, westward by "the high hills eastward of Minisink" and south by the division line of New York and New Jersey.

The boundary lines of the three patents were defined in such general terms that for a long time they caused trouble as to titles, and in the final adjustment the territory claimed by the Wawayanda patentees was cut off, while on the west a tract called the Minisink angle, embracing 130,000 acres, was formed.

The English government began investigating the patents of such immense tracts in 1698, and the next year caused the Evans patent to be annulled, after which the territory covered by it was conveyed in small tracts issued at different times up to 1775. These conveyances, exclusive of those outside of the present county, were as follows:

1. Roger and Pinhorne Mompesson, 1000 acres, March 4th, 1709.
2. Ebenezer Wilson and Benjamin Aske, 2000 acres, March 7th, 1709.
3. Rip Van Dam, Adolph Phillipse, David Provost, Jr., Lancaster
Symes and Thomas Jones, 3000 acres, March 23, 1709.
4. Gerardus Beekman, Rip Van Dam, Adolph Phillipse, Garrett Brass,
Servas Vleerborne, and Daniel Van Vore, 3000 acres, March 24th,
1709.
5. Peter Matthews, William Sharpas, and William Davis, 2000 acres,
Sept. 8th, 1709.
6. William Chambers and William Southerland, 1000 acres, Sept. 22,
1709.
7. Samuel Staats, June 5th, 1712.
8. Henry Wileman and Henry Van Bael, 3000 acres, June 30th, 1712.
9. Archibald Kennedy, 1200 acres, Aug. 11th, 1715.
10. Alexander Baird, Abner Van Vlacque, and Hermanus Johnson, 6000
acres, Feb. 28th, 1716.
11. Jeremiah Schuyler, Jacobus Van Courlandt, Frederick Phillipse,
William Sharpas, and Isaac Bobbin, 10000 acres, Jan. 22d, 1719.

12. Edward Gatehouse, 1000 acres, Jan. 22, 1719.
13. Cornelius Low, Gerard Schuyler, and John Schuyler, 3292 acres,
March 17th, 1719.
14. Thomas Brazier, 2000 acres, March 17th, 1719.
15. Phineas McIntosh, 2000 acres, April 9th, 1719.
16. John Lawrence, 2772 acres, April 9th, 1719.
17. John Haskell, 2000 acres, April 9th, 1719.
18. James Alexander, 2000 acres, April 9th, 1719.
19. Cadwallader Colden, 2000 acres, April 9th, 1719.
20. David Galatian, 1000 acres, June 4th, 1719.
21. Patrick McKnight, 2000 acres, July 7th, 1719.
22. Andrew Johnston, 2000 acres, July 7th, 1719.
23. Melchoir Gilles, 300 acres, Oct. 8th, 1719.
24. German Patent, 2190 acres, Dec. 18th, 1719.
25. John Johnston, Jr., two tracts, Feb. 3d, 1720.
26. Thomas Noxon, 2000 acres, May 25th, 1720.
27. William Huddleston, 2000 acres, June 2d, 1720.
28. Vincent Matthews, 800 acres, June 17th, 1720.
29. Richard Van Dam, 1000 acres, June 30th, 1720.
30. Francis Harrison, Oliver Schuyler, and Allen Jarratt, 5000
acres, July 7th, 1720.
31. Phillip Schuyler, Johannes Lansing, Jr., Henry Wileman, and
Jacobus Bruyn, 8000 acres, July 7th, 1720.
32. Patrick Mac Gregorie, two tracts, 660 acres, Aug. 6th, 1720.

33. Mary Ingoldsby and her daughter, Mary Pinhorne, and Mary Pinhorne and Wm. Pinhorne, her children, two tracts, 5360 acres, Aug. 11th, 1720.
34. Jacobus Kipp, John Cruger, Phillip Cortland, David Provost, Oliver Schuyler, and John Schuyler, 7000 acres, Oct. 17th, 1720.
35. Lewis Morris and Vincent Pearce, two tracts, 1000 acres each, July 21st, 1721.
36. John Haskell, 2000 acres, August 24th, 1721.
37. Patrick Hume, 2000 acres, Nov. 29th, 1721.
38. James Henderson, two tracts, one not located, 1600 acres, Feb. 12th, 1722.
39. Jacobus Bruyn and Henry Wileman, 2500 acres, April 25th, 1722.
40. James Smith, 2000 acres, Dec. 15th, 1722.
41. Charles Congreve, 800 acres. May 17th, 1722.
42. Ann Hoaglandt, 2000 acres. May 24th, 1723.
43. Francis Harrison, Mary Tathani, Thomas Brazier, James Graham, and John Haskell, 5600 acres, July 10th, 1714.
44. William Bull and Richard Gerrard, 2600 acres, Aug. 10th, 1723.
45. William Bull and Richard Gerrard, two tracts, 1500 acres, Dec. 14th, 1724.
46. Isaac Bobbin, 600 acres, March 28th, 1726.
47. Edward Blagg and Johannes Hey, two tracts, 2000 acres each, March 28th, 1726.
48. Nathaniel Hazard and Joseph Sackett, two tracts, 4000 acres,

- Jan. 11th, 1727.
49. William Bradford, 2000 acres, Sept. 1st, 1727.
50. John Spratt and Andries Marschalk, 2000 acres, April 12th, 1728.
51. James Wallace, 2000 acres, March 2d, 1731.
52. Gabriel and William Ludlow, six tracts, 4000 acres, Oct. 18th,
1731.
53. Thomas Smith, 1000 acres. May 8th, 1732.
54. Daniel Everett and James Stringhani, 3850 acres, Jan. 17th,
1736.
55. Elizabeth Denne, 1140 acres, Dec. 12th, 1734.
56. Joseph Sackett and Joseph Sackett, Jr., two tracts, 2000 acres,
July 7th, 1736.
57. Nathaniel Hazard, Jr., 2000 acres, Aug. 12th, 1736.
58. Thomas Ellison, three tracts, 2000 acres. May 13th, 1737.
59. Joseph Sackett, five tracts, 2000 acres, Sept. 1st, 1737.
60. Ann, Sarah, Catherine, George, Elizabeth, and Mary Bradley, two
tracts, 4690 acres, Oct. 14th, 1749.
61. Cornelius Dubois, two tracts, one not located, July 2d, 1739.
62. Richard Bradley, 800 acres. May 17th, 1743.
63. Jane and Alice Colden, two tracts, 4000 acres, Oct. 30th, 1749.
64. John Moore, 280 acres, Oct. 30th, 1749.
65. Peter Van Burgh Livingston and John Provost, 3000 acres. May
26th, 1750.
66. George Harrison, three tracts, 2000 acres, July 20th, 1750.

67. Jacobus Bruyn and George Murray, 4000 acres, Sept. 26th, 1750.

68. Thomas Ellison and Lawrence Roome, six tracts, 4000 acres, Nov. 12th, 1750.

69. Alexander Phoenix and Abraham Bockel, 1000 acres, July 13th, 1751.

70. Thomas Ellison, 1080 acres, Dec. 1st, 1753.

71. John Nelson, 550 acres, Oct. 4th, 1754.

72. James Crawford, Jr., Samuel Crawford, James White, and David Crawford, 4000 acres, May 17th, 1761.

73. Cadwallader Colden, Jr., and Daniel Colden, 720 acres, June 20th, 1761.

74. Vincent and David Matthews, 1800 acres, Nov. 26th, 1761.

75. John Nelson, 1265 acres, Oct. 4th, 1762.

76. Thomas Moore and Lewis Pintard, 2000 acres, Dec. 23rd, 1762.

77. Peter Hassenclever, March 25th, 1767.

78. William Smith and Edward Wilkin, 2000 acres, April 17th, 1768.

79. William Arisen and Archibald Breckenridge, 400 acres, 1770.

80. Daniel Horsemanden, Miles Sherbrook, Samuel Camfield, and William Sidney, 3210 acres, 1772.

81. Thomas Moore and John Osborne, 2000 acres, March 14th, 1775.

82. Henry Townsend, 2000 acres.

Only a small part of the Minisink patent was in the present county of Orange, but the Wawayanda and Chesekook patents were wholly within its limits, and covered its most fertile sections. The Wawayanda patent caused much trouble, and was unoccupied by settlers until 1712, when the surviving shareholders—Christopher Denne, Daniel Cromeline and Benjamin Aske—determined to make settlements thereon, and to facilitate their ends were made justices

of the peace. Parties were sent out by each of them, and these began the settlements of Goshen, Warwick and Chester, where houses were soon completed and occupied. The agent who preceded Denne into the wilderness was his adopted daughter, Sarah Wells, then only 16 years old, who was accompanied only by friendly Indian guides. She married William Bull, the builder of Cromeline's house, and lived to the great age of 102 years and 15 days.

Soon after the settlement thus started in 1712 John Everett and Samuel Clowes, of Jamaica, L. I., took charge of the patent, and proved to be enterprising and efficient agents. Recorded sales to settlers and others prior to 1721, as well as to Everett and Clowes, were as follows:

1. Philip Rokeby sold his undivided twelfth part to Daniel

Cromeline, John Merritt, and Elias Boudinot, June 10th, 1704.

Merritt sold his third to Cromeline in 1705. Boudinot sold his third to George McNish, who sold to Clowes, Feb. 5th, 1714, for 150 pounds.

2. Cornelius Christianse sold to Derrick Vandenburg, Sept. 8th, 1704, all his twelfth part. Vandenburg sold to Elias Boudinot, and the latter sold one-sixth of same to Everett and Clowes, July 20th, 1714, for 66L 13S. Boudinot's heirs subsequently sold five-sixths to Everett and Clowes for 41L 13S 4D. This tract embraced New Milford, in the present town of Warwick.

3. Hendrick Ten Eyck sold his twelfth part to Daniel Cromeline, Dec. 8th, 1704. Cromeline, who also owned two-thirds of the Rokeby share, sold to Everett and Clowes, Jan. 1st, 1714, the sixth part of his interest for 83L 6S, excepting two tracts, one of which contained three thousand seven hundred and six acres. This tract was principally in the present town of Chester, and embraced the site on which he had made settlement and erected a stone dwelling, and to which he had given the name of "Gray Court."

4. Ann Bridges sold to John Van Horne, merchant, of New York, July 4th, 1705, all the equal undivided twelfth part held by her husband, Dr. John Bridges for the sum of 250 pounds. Van Horne was also the purchaser of a part or the whole of another share and sold to Everett and Clowes one-sixth part of one-sixth of one-thirteenth part for 58L 6S 8D. Amity was in Bridges's parcel.

5. Daniel Honan sold to John Merritt, 1705, all his twelfth part. Margery Merritt widow, and John Merritt, son, sold to Adrian Hoaglandt one-half and to Anthony Rutgers one-half. Rutgers sold to Everett and Clowes one-twelfth of his half, and Anna, widow of Hoaglandt, sold to the same parties one-twelfth, the latter, April 12, 1714, for 75 pounds.

6. Derrick Vandenburg died holding his original share, and his wife, Rymerich and his son Henry, his heirs, sold the same to Elias Boudinot, Aug. 8, 1707. Boudinot sold his entire share to Clowes, Oct. 27th, 1713, for 355 pounds. This parcel embraced what is called in the old deeds the "Florida tract;" the name "Florida" is still retained.

7. John Cholwell sold his twelfth part to Adrian Hoaglandt, Oct. 5th, 1706 for 350 pounds. Anna Hoaglandt, his widow, sold to Everett and Clowes one-sixth of the share, and the remainder descended to Christopher Banker and Elizabeth his wife, James Renant and Bertilje, his wife, Petrus Rutgers and Helena his wife, her heirs.

8. John Merritt held his share at the time of his death, and his

heirs, Margery Meritt, widow, and John Merritt, eldest son, sold one-half to Adrian Hoaglandt. John (then a resident of New London) sold to John Everett, Feb. 25th, 1714, the remaining half for 120 pounds.

9. Benjamin Aske sold to Everett and Clowes, July 20th, 1714, one-sixth of his thirteenth part for 50 pounds. He subsequently sold a portion to Lawrence Decker, Feb 28th, 1719, another to Thomas Blain, May 20th, 1721; and another to Thomas DeKay, Dec. 8th 1724.

In all cases the land conveyed is described as part of his farm, called Warwick and in all cases the parties to whom the deeds were made were described as residents of the county and upon the land conveyed.

10. Lancaster Symes sold to Everett and Clowes, July 20th, 1714, one-sixth of his thirteenth part for 50 pounds.

11. Peter Matthews, then living in Albany, sold all his thirteenth part to Clowes Feb. 11th, 1713, for 200 pounds.

12. Christopher Denne sold, July 20th, 1714, to Clowes and Everett one-sixth of his share for 50 pounds. He also sold to Robert Brown three hundred and ten acres Sept. 3rd, 1721. Elizabeth Denne sold to William Mapes, Joseph Allison, John Yelverton, Ebenezer Holley, Joseph Sears, John Green, and John Worley, the Mapes deed bearing date March 1st, 1729. The remainder of her interest in the patent passed by her will to Sarah Jones, spinster, of New York, and Vincent Matthews. Sarah Jones afterwards married Thomas Brown.

13. Dr. Samuel Staat's thirteenth part descended to his children,
Gerturv wife of Andries Codymus; Sarah, wife of Isaac Gouverneur;
Catalyria wife of Stevanus Van Cortlandt; Anna, wife of Philip
Schuyler; Johanna White, widow; and Tryntie Staats, who sold to
Clowes and Everett one-sixth of said part for 50 pounds, Sept. 2, 1720.

By these conveyances Everett and Clowes came into possession of lands equaling four of the thirteen parts, and, as required by the terms of their deeds, laid out the township of Goshen in 1714, dividing it into farms and opening roads, and assigned 200 acres of land for the support of a minister.

Some of the first settlers—those of 1714—were: Michael Dunning Johannes Wesner, Solomon Carpenter, Abraham Finch, Samuel Seeley and John Holley.

The most prolonged and bitter contest of titles was between settlers of Orange County, mostly in the original Minisink region, and settlers of Northern New Jersey. This was continued for sixty-seven years with occasional border frays. The dispute had reference to the boundary line between New York and New Jersey. King Charles II of England in March, 1663, gave to his brother, the Duke of York, a patent of all lands "from the west side of the Connecticut River to the east side of Delaware Bay." The following year in June the Duke of York granted release of all the territory now known as New Jersey to Lord Berkley and Sir George Carteret. The northern line as described in this grant extended from "the northwardmost branch" of the Delaware River, "which is in latitude 41 degrees 40 minutes and crosseth over thence in a straight line to the latitude 41 degrees on Hudson's River." Sir Carteret took the east half of the province and Lord Berkley the west half. In 1673 the Dutch reconquered New York from the English, but on February 9, 1674, in a treaty of peace between the two nations, it was restored to England. Sir Carteret immediately took the precaution to have a new patent made out, which defined the boundaries in about the same general terms as before. Then came controversies as to which should be called "the northwardmost branch" of the Delaware. The point of 41 degrees on the Hudson was agreed to, but the New Yorkers insisted that the line should touch the Delaware at the southern extremity of Big Minisink island, and the Jerseymen {sic} that the point should be a little south of the present Cochection. This difference made the disputed triangular territory several miles wide at the west end. Under the New Jersey government the land was parceled out in tracts to various persons, and when these came to take possession the men who had settled upon them long before, resolutely maintained their claims. In the border war that resulted numbers of the Minisink people were captured and confined in New Jersey prisons. The first series of engagements resulted from efforts to obtain possession of the lands of a Mr. Swartwout, who was a major in the militia of Orange County. One day the Jerseymen

{sic} surprised him and put his family and household goods out doors. He went to Goshen for help, and a formidable company returning back with him, they in turn put the New Jersey occupants and their goods out of the house, and restored it to the major.

Then a spy was employed to watch the Jerseymen, and through the information which he continually furnished, their future operations were generally frustrated. About 1740 the "Jersey lines" made another attempt upon the major and his possessions, but they were anticipated and driven or frightened back, no one, however, being killed. In 1753 a Jersey raid was made to get possession of the lands of Thomas De Key, colonel of the Orange County militia and a justice of the peace. He tried to negotiate with them, and induce them to wait until the boundary question was determined, but they refused, and he then barricaded himself in his house, and threatened to shoot the first man who tried to enter, and they finally retired vowing that they would bring a larger force. The last important raid was in 1765, on a Sunday, when the Jerseymen came in considerable force resolved to capture Major and Captain Westbrook. They surrounded the church where the Westbrooks were worshiping, and when the service was over there was a fight, amid the screams and sobs of women, with fists and feet, in which the Jerseymen, being the more numerous, conquered and captured the Westbrooks. They were confined in the Jersey colony prison awhile, and then released.

In 1767 hostilities were suspended, and commissioners were appointed to run a boundary line, and soon afterward the territory was surveyed, and about equally divided between the claimants, and peace thenceforth was established between the two sections.

In 1683, when the county was organized, it did not contain more than twenty families. In 1698 a first census was ordered by Governor Bellmont, and it showed the population to consist of 20 men, 31 women, 140 children and 19 negro slaves. In 1860 the population had increased to 63,812; in 1880, it was 88,220; in 1900, 103,850; and according to the last census of 1905, our population was 108,267.