

Saugerties In the Land of the Warranawonkong



Illustration of the Half Moon greeted by Indians at Saugerties taken from a 19th Century book by Benson J. Lossing

Robert Juet was a companion of Henry Hudson in his voyages of discovery, and wrote accounts of them. In his narrative of Hudson's third voyage when he discovered our fine river, and in the Half Moon, upon its bosom penetrated the country to the vicinity of Albany, he used the following language in describing the descent

of the river from the highest point reached:

"The five and twentieth was faire weather, and the wind at South a stiffe gale. Wee rode still, and went on land to walke on the west side of the Riuer, and found good ground for corne, and other garden herbs, with great store of goodly Oakes, and Walnut trees, and Chestnut trees, Ewe trees of sweet wood in great abundance, and great store of Slate for houses and other good stones.

The sixe and twentieth was faire weather, and the wind at South a stiffe gale, wee rode still. In the morning our Carpenter went on Land with ove Master's Mate, and four more of our company to cut wood. This morning two canoes came vp the Riuer from the place where we first found louing people, and in one of them was the old man that had lyeu aboard of vs at the other place. He brought another old man with him, which brought more stropes of Beades, and gaue them to our Master and shewed him all the country thereabout, as though it were at his command. So he made the two old men dine with him, and the old man's wife; for they brought two old women, and two young maidens of the age of sixteene and seventene years with them, who behaued themselves uery modestly. Our Master gaue one of the old men a Knife, and they gaue him and vs Tobacco. And at one of the clocke they departed down the Riuer, making signes that wee should come down to them; for wee were within two leaues of the place where they dwelt."

Juet's reference to the "old man that had lyeu aboard" is explained by the fact previously mentioned in his narrative, that on this voyage up the river, some of the savages came on board when the Half Moon was lying at anchor, and to discover whether "they had any treacherie in them" Hudson took some of them into the cabin and made them "merrie" with "wine and aqua uitae." "One of them," says the narrative, "had his wife with him, which sat so modestly, as any of our Covntrey women would doe in a strange place. In the end one of them was dronke, which had been aboard of ove ship all the time that wee had bene there; and that was strange to them, for they could not tell how to take it." The Indians left the drunken old man on board, and at noon the next day they came again and were rejoiced to find the savage well. He had slept quietly all night, and was sober.

Juet gives minute records of distances, in leagues, of the voyage of the Half Moon up and down the river. I am satisfied, after careful examination of the subject, that the place of anchorage when Hudson gave the notable dinner-party to the two old men, their wives and maidens, was in the vicinity of Saugerties.

Henry Hudson at Saugerties by Benson J. Lossing

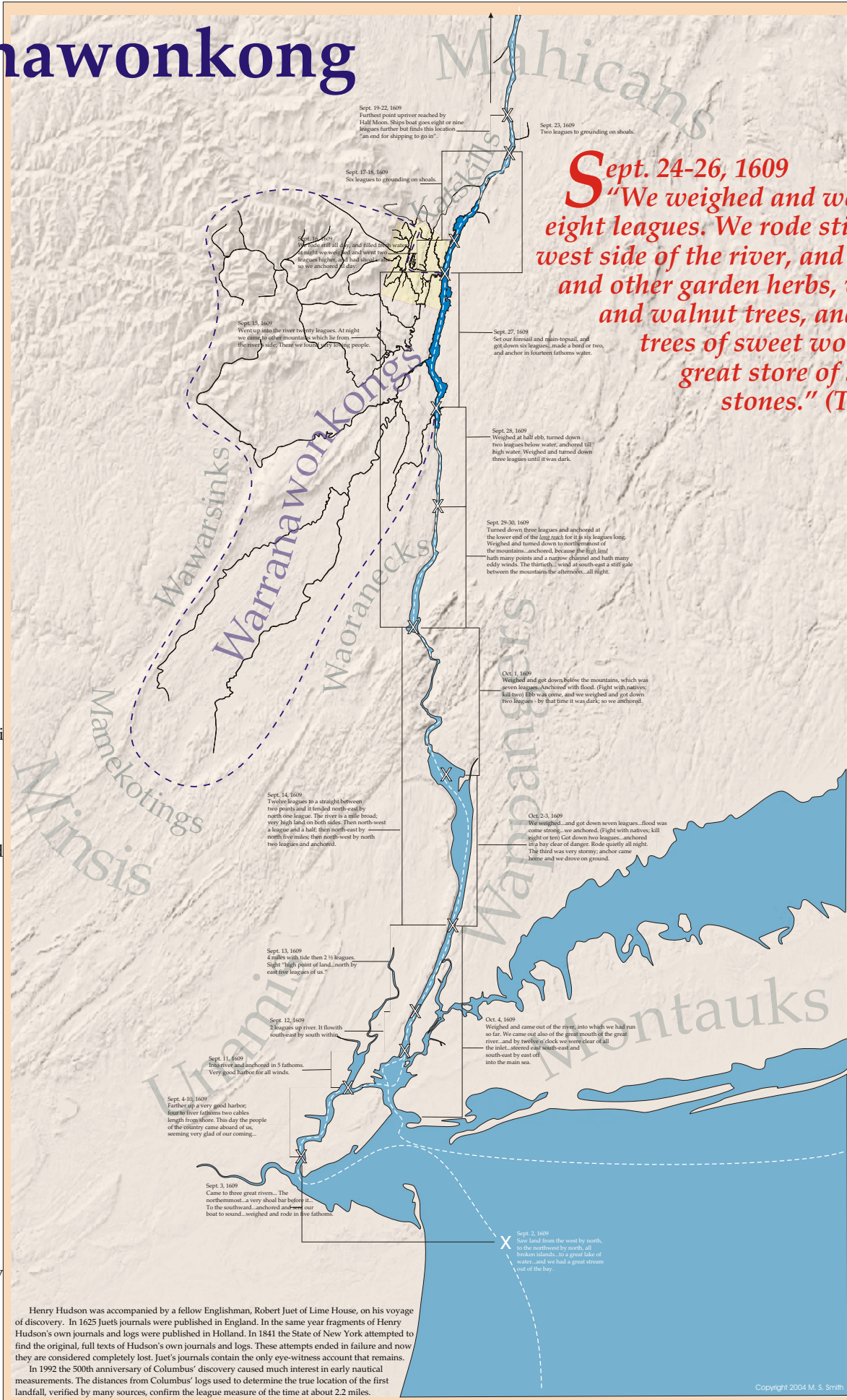
(from "The Pearl": May, 1875 issue: Vol. 1, No. 5, page 40)

Henry Hudson was friends with John Smith of the Jamestown settlement and had Smith's charts of the claims of the Virginia Company. Smith's information from the natives about a great body of water (Muhheakunnuk meaning ebbing and flowing) was what influenced Hudson's northwest passage quest. From John Smith he was also aware of the peoples he would meet at Saugerties.

The native people of the Hudson Valley were of a large Algonquin-speaking group that populated agricultural lands from the Atlantic coast west to the lower Mississippi and north to the upper St. Lawrence. Those on the west side of the Hudson River belonged to a major group called Lenni Lenape or "original people". Their territory ranged from the Hudson on the north to the Potomac on the south. The northmost subgroup of the Lenni Lenape was the Minsi. The Minsis in the area of Saugerties were the Warranawonkong.

The territory of the Warranawonkong people ranged to the headwaters of the streams that watered their vast plantations in the Esopus and Walkkill Valleys. It ended at the Hudson River at the Esopus (Groote Esopus) outlet at Saugerties, the Rondout outlet at Kingston and the Black Creek (Klyne Esopus) outlet below Kingston. Into the interior their territory encompassed the lands of all the feeders of these Hudson tributaries: the Shawangunk Kill and Walkkill River of the Rondout and the Beaverkill, Sawkill and Plattekill of the Esopus. It may have overlapped neighboring territory to the north to the headwaters of the Saugerskill at Saugerties and to the south to the Danskammer above Newburgh.

The peoples Henry Hudson



Full Text of Robert Juet's Journal From the collections of the New York Historical Society, Second Series, 1841

Sept. 24-26, 1609
"We weighed and went down the river seven or eight leagues. We rode still and went on land to walk the west side of the river, and found good ground for corn, and other garden herbs, with great store of goodly oaks, and walnut trees, and chestnut trees, yew trees, and trees of sweet wood in great abundance, and great store of slate for houses, and other good stones." (This is Saugerties)

In the night I set the variation of the compass, and found it to be 13 degrees. In the afternoon we weighed and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 14.
In the morning being very fair weather, the wind south-west, we sailed up the river twelve leagues, and had five fathoms and five fathoms and a quarter fathoms, and came to a small bay between two points, and had eight, nine, ten, and eleven fathoms; and it trended northward by north one league, and we had twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 15.
The morning was misty until the sun rose, then it cleared, so we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 16.
The morning, fair and very hot weather. In the morning our boat went again to fishing, but could catch few, by reason their canoes had been there all night. This morning the people came aboard and brought us news of Indians, corn and pumpkins, which we bought for tobacco. We rode still all day, and filled fresh water at night we weighed and went two leagues higher, and had half dozen, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 17.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 18.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 19.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 20.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 21.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 22.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 23.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 24.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 25.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 26.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 27.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 28.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 29.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Sept. 30.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Oct. 1.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Oct. 2.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Oct. 3.
The morning was fair and very hot weather. In the morning we weighed with our usual care, and went down the river two leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen fathoms; the river is a mile broad, there is very high land on both sides. Then we went up northward, a league and a half deep down, then northward by north five miles, then northward by north two leagues and northward. The land grew very high and mountainous, the river is full of fish.

Atharachtou the Great Field of the Warranawonkong

met at Saugerties were of two different “Nations” or confederacies: the Lenni Lenape and the Mahican.

“Mahicanituk” is the Algonquin name for the Hudson River. The Mahican nation was named after this river valley territory. Their dominion stretched from the east bank of the Hudson eastward to include Long Island and the islands of Massachusetts. They were also referred to as Wapanachki, or “Men of the East”. The subgroup of the Mahican people on the side of the river opposite Saugerties would later be called the Wappangers. The subgroup that occupied the northern part of Saugerties were later called Katskills.

Lenni Lenape means Original People. This name represented their dominant status over the other peoples of the Algonquin tribes for ages before the Discovery. Dominance was shown by chieftaincies spoken of as either “Grandfathers”, “Uncles” or “Children” as a token of their standing. Lenni Lenapes were Grandfathers.

In 1609 a large group of forest people, the Iroquois Federation, was pressing for dominance and one of their subgroups, the Maqua (Mohawks) were already on the verge of subjugating the Mahican people. Just a few months before this meeting in Saugerties a decisive encounter between Samuel de Champlain and a war party of Maqua to the north introduced the power of firearms, killing many of its leaders. This defeat had focused their attention away from the north and toward the Hudson Valley and coastal tribes and the Mahicans were seeking the Lenni

Lenape's alliance against the ferocious Maqua.

The Mahicans and the Lenni Lenapes recognized what a bond of friendship with a Power such as Henry Hudson represented meant to their security. They were aware of the down-river uses of the firearms and canon he carried on the Half Moon.

The diner party the night of 26th of September, 1609 was with elders of these two peoples. Juet writes that they have come up the river from a village two leagues to the south. Henry Hudson returns with them for a visit to the village which would be somewhere in the vicinity of the present day Glasco in the Town of Saugerties.

Something symbolically important was taking place at the meeting on the Half Moon. The ceremony in which the two old men made Hudson welcome and honored him as one of equal status; gesturing to the lands from where the Half Moon rested on the river, north to the lands of the old man that had

come down from the north and south to those of the elder from the south; was part of a tradition that would be seen in treaties in the future. Henry Hudson, in returning a gift of a knife and afterward joining in passing tobacco between them, was recognizing their offer of friendship.

The true meaning of what

Hudson nor Juet understood Algonquin. The alliance the natives negotiated and considered sealed at this meeting, with the smoking of tobacco and the exchange of gifts, was never recognized. But it was honored and faithfully adhered to by the Lenni Lenape. Throughout the early decades of colonization the

Saugerties, it is probable that the pragmatic Dutch would never have considered colonization. But the cleared land these “loving people” offered with cultivated fields immediately capable of supporting their plantations in the Caribbean more directly than from Holland was irresistible. Though in the relatively harsh land they

claimed from Henry Hudson's discovery colonization would be expensive and much higher gain for less effort resulted from planting trading

posts in India and China, the report of these cooperative “loving people” made it seem that easy colonization could be possible. Unfortunately for these “loving people” this idea of easy colonization was not to be taken into consideration for another decade. What preceded it was a trading post, the competitive pursuit of the highly profitable fur trade and the supply of firearms as trade product to their enemies, the Maqua.

As early as 1611 the Dutch merchant Arnout Vogels had secretly established a site on the upper Hudson as a successful

fur trading post. Adriaen Block, the first explorer to follow Henry Hudson to the Hudson Valley produced a map of the potential New Netherlands in 1614. This map clearly indicates this northern post already established and named “Nassau”, later to become Fort Orange (Albany). Neither New Amsterdam nor any other future settlement location between the Delaware basin and Maine is established at the time Block's map is created. Block's voyages and maps were chartered by Vogels to promote the creation of the New Netherlands Company in 1614 as a monopoly in the fur trade. Vogels had no interest in colonization.

The trading post was established far up-river at Nassau because this site was central to the pelt-producing area of the forest Indians of the Iroquois Nation. The result of this focus on securing friendly relations for trading with the forest peoples was that, in 1614 in the same year as the chartering of the New Netherlands Company, the Maqua, with superior weaponry from trading pelts for firearms, conquered the Mahicans at the battles of Wonton Island and Red Hook.

Following this the Lenni Lenape, the “grandfathers” and spokesmen for the Warranawonkong, expressed anger over the favored relationship between the Dutch and the Iroquois Federation. The Maqua feared reprisals from the much stronger Warranawonkong. To support their trading interests the Dutch established a policy that prohibited the similar arming of the Lenni Lenape to alleviate Iroquois fear. This continued for the whole of the Dutch colonization period, eventually

changing the balance of power of the native peoples and in the end the full decline and extinguishing of the Lenni Lenape.

The fate of the Warranawonkong was set in 1650 with the rapid growth in population of the New Netherlands colony. With the creation of Patroonships in 1628 to colonize the Hudson Valley and afterwards the opening of all New Netherlands to settlement it became increasingly difficult to feed this population. With the addition of the large centers of New Amsterdam and Beverwyck - the new free Dutch village in the Rensselaerwyck lands that would become Albany - the colony could not depend on a share of the surplus from the Indian crop or the production of the small leasehold farms of the Patroonships to sustain it. With the slave-based plantations of the Caribbean also needing food and the English plantations of Long Island supporting rival Caribbean interests it was strategically necessary for the Dutch to encourage a strong plantation economy in the New Netherlands.

For nearly four decades following the battle of Wonton Island the Warranawonkong and the related Catskill Indians to the north had existed as a barrier to any southern expansion of the Fort Nassau focus of colonization. The strength of their numbers and their aversion to the Maqua friends of the Dutch meant that they had generally been left alone up until this time. But by 1650 the balance of power had been fatally tipped against these peoples and this finally made possible Dutch settlement into the mid-Hudson Valley.

In the entire record of the

The Dutch responded to the one basic message of Juet's journal and Hudson's log. If it were not for the friendship shown at Saugerties, it is probable that the pragmatic Dutch would never have considered colonization. But the cleared land these “loving people” offered with cultivated fields immediately capable of supporting their plantations in the Caribbean more directly than from Holland was irresistible.

transpired in this ceremony likely was not understood by Hudson. It is likewise doubtful that much of the information available either before his journey or during the Discovery was well understood. We know that he did not speak Dutch. All of his business dealings with the Dutch East India Company, his backers, were in Latin. Neither

Warranawonkong remained separate from the difficulties that drew others to unite against the Dutch. They kept the considerable strength of their warriors at home.

The Dutch responded to the one basic message of Juet's journal and Hudson's log. If it were not for this friendship shown at



1616 paper copy of Adriaen Block's Carte Figurative drawn by Cornelis Hendricks

Overview: Geography of the “Esopus”

On Block's map of 1611 the mouths of the Rondout and the Esopus are clearly indicated, as are the islands of the Tivoli Bay that lie on the opposite shore. This area, beginning at the point of the Esopus Meadows and extending past Saugerties to Catskill, was named after the many fresh water outlets that line this stretch. Its name, given first on this map - “Esopus” - is probably a corruption of an Algonquin word for river, “sop”, and small, “us”. Their word for “small outlet” is “saugus”. Saugus is a name given to and still used by an early settlement location north of Boston and very similar to the base of the name “Saugerties”.

Block's map and those that are based on it clearly indicate the importance of these outlets. Much shallower waters were in the Hudson River and at its mouth in the early 1600's than today. The effects of the “little ice age” made tidal water levels much lower. Even the Verrazano Narrows was generally too

silted for traffic at the time. Access to New York Bay was to the west of Staten Island where the drainage of three rivers kept a deep channel.

Up river, the channel of the Hudson abruptly became narrow and shallow beginning below the outlet of the Rondout Creek at Esopus Meadows and continued to shoal north of this at the Esopus and Catskill outlets. Awareness of and attention to these navigation hazards was the main reason for the early naming of this section of the river. Eventually it was this familiarity with the river that solidified naming of the region “Esopus” and the native inhabitants “Esopus Indians”.

The territories of the native peoples are thought to relate to water rights from a stream's source to its outlet. The earliest “sales” to Europeans reference stream names. By tradition the Hudson River, because it's tidal waters flow neither north nor south, but both, was not

territorially held by any one people.

Surveying, or “Metes and Bounds” descriptions of land rather than merely naming physical landforms or neighbors' bounds, was a new science in the late 17th Century. By 1693 the demands of surveying the bounds of the many patents granted since New York became a Crown Colony required legislation setting exact points of reference for a “True North” standard. At this time the point of the most northern extent of Ulster County on the Hudson River at the mouth of the Sawyer Creek was made the origin of the line of this border running due west. This line was made possible by establishing true north as a line through this point south to the high point of what is now Cruger Island and north passing through the “Great Fountain” a pressure outlet of a body of water called the Great Vly.

The Sawyer Creek was likely chosen as the reference point for the division of the

counties because of its visual accessibility.

The mouth of the Esopus Creek is a wide delta with no exact point of intersection with the Hudson River like that of the Sawyer Creek right below its falls. Also, directly above the Sawyer outlet is the highest hill on the Hudson shoreline in this area (the heights of Seaman Park in the village of Saugerties). From this high perspective inland survey references could be easily related to those of the Hudson below. Plainly visible west from this point loomed the corner of Overlook Mountain where the north-south line of the Great Wall of the Manitou escarpment turns southwest to follow the peaks of the Catskills down the Esopus Valley.

The entire “Sawyerkill”, as it was earlier referenced, was in the territory of the Katskill Indians. Its mouth was the division point between their lands and those of the Warranawonkong to the south.

1653 - First European Settlement in the Esopus

colonization period up to 1650 there is virtually no mention of the Esopus Indians: the Warranawongkong of Henry Hudson's 1609 encounter. In 1652 Atharhacton; the great expanse of open, cultivated fields of the Warranawongkong; became the focus of the introduction of a wheat crop into New world agriculture.

The benefit of applying ox and plow technology and wheat production could make this land many times more productive than possible with native planting methods and a maize crop. Atharhacton, without much improvement, was capable of feeding all of the Dutch colonies in the New World.

Official reports on the extent of the Indian plantations in the Esopus had existed as early as 1640. In that year it was also reported that the Warranawongkong were capable of assembling a force of 2000 warriors from a much larger population in defense of their lands. There is no reason to believe that there were any less numbers in 1650.

In 1652 the first purchase of land from the Indians of the Esopus is recorded with its acceptance by the Commissary and Vice Director of the Dutch West India Company at Fort Orange. This was to Thomas Chambers. The fact that he was permitted this settlement and ownership right is a significant statement. At this time most sizable land tracts were still in the possession of businessmen backers of the Dutch West India Company; burgers of the Netherlands that had never set foot on New Netherlands soil. Thomas Chambers was not only a simple carpenter and farmer, he was also English by birth, arriving in the New Netherlands as a paid mercenary. This deed

could have signaled a major policy change toward independently owned farming settlements in the mid-Hudson region. More likely, though, it represented a blatant move to place an obstinate personality in the face of the Warranawongkong to test them.

When this deed was given to Chambers others in the same area were being written mostly to those of the more traditional landholder class. Among the names on these deeds are two of perhaps greater importance than Chambers. The first is Christof Davits who is granted deeds to a small plot of fertile land adjacent Thomas Chambers and also to the valuable landing on the Hudson River at the mouth of the Rondout Creek. Davits is an Indian trader with a reputation as a itinerant backwoodsman who is fluent in the native language but possessing little wealth. Like Chambers, he is English and arrived as a mercenary. It is most probable



Until 1653 only Native American villages could be found at the vast planting fields of the Esopus

that he is the agent in all of these land transfers and that he and Thomas Chambers represent the lead assault on the dominance and aloofness the Esopus Indians had obstinately

maintained during the preceding decades of warfare between the Dutch and other Indians. The second name is that of the Director General of the colony, Peter Stuyvesant. His name is

The benefit of applying ox and plow technology and wheat production could make this land many times more productive than possible with native planting methods and a maize crop. Atharhacton, without much improvement, was capable of feeding all of the Dutch colonies in the New World.

found indirectly at first referencing lands worked by Jacob Jansen Stoll overseeing "servants" supplied by Stuyvesant. Later large tracts would be under the name of his brothers, Balthazar Laser and Nicolaes Willem Stuyvesant.

The description of the purchase by Thomas Chambers was simply stated: it was southwest and northeast in the Esopus with a footpath to the River. There is no way to know today the extent of this purchase in acres, where it began or what its boundaries were.

An idea of where this land actually was can perhaps be gained from a later event and an association with legend.

In 1669 the Indians of the

considerably north of the fertile Indian maize plantations around present day Kingston and Hurley. In this case the Warranawongkong would have placed the sale within allocated lands that they had honored from the time of the compact they perceived they had with Henry Hudson in 1609. These lands would actually be referenced in the final treaty after the Esopus Indians had been fully displaced twenty years later.

It is very likely that once Chambers arrived at his land, the settlers rejected it in favor of the most promising land for immediate productivity, even if it were not what the Indians had sold. There is actually little doubt that Christof Davits

would not have known the real location of the purchase or that the Esopus Indians could have conceivably sold and relocated from their most productive

Esopus brought suit against Chambers for not paying them for the land purchased in 1652. Since a deed proving that a payment was made existed, this suit clearly addresses the fact that the land occupied was not that sold. Legend states that Chambers' party first entered their lands in 1653 by traveling from a landing at Saugerties southwest following the Esopus Creek to where they settled. It is possible that Chambers' deed actually described land between a northeast point closer to this landing at Saugerties and extended southeast to a point

fields. It is possible that the final settlement site so near the Indians' homes, stores and plantations was intentionally chosen as a direct incursion and provocation by both Chambers and Davits.

By 1657 there were between 60 and 70 inhabitants on 23 individually deeded parcels in the Esopus. Over 300 acres had been sown in grain.

There were misunderstandings and conflict between these settlers and the Indians from the beginning. The very first related

to an expectation that the ox and plow technology would also be used to benefit the Indian's fields. Also, the cattle of the settlers was allowed to graze on the Indian fields while 12,000 acres of the most productive land was fenced and said not to have been put into production or used for cattle grazing. (This was actually the deHulter tract planted with the unfamiliar wheat crop). In very early documentation a ransom is paid for a captured settler, a traditional method of negotiating a grievance.

In every complaint of the Esopus Indians to the colonial authority there is documented the issue of whites giving liqueur to their youth making it impossible for the elders to control them. It would be the accidental killing of a settler by a visiting Neversink Indian, drinking with the local youth and displaying his banned firearm, that would bring these clashes to a crisis point.

By May of 1658, when friction became intense, Thomas Chambers convinced the authorities at New Amsterdam that protection against the Indians was necessary because the crop of his settlement was large enough to be critical to the welfare of the entire colony.

Director-General Stuyvesant, immediately, during that month of June, fortified the new settlement with troops and built a stockaded village with a garrison house for the militia. He made all the settlers move their houses into the village. This is the beginning of present day Kingston. He also built a barn for himself on his own land and annexed to the site of the village, which itself had been given as a gift by the Esopus Indians in an attempt to settle differences, all the land he could see from the

Overview: Early Dutch Colonization

The first record of an attempt to settle a colony on the Hudson was by England. In 1619 a patent to John Wyncop (Johannes Wyncoop) was given for land to place a colony of Puritan refugees residing in Leyden, Holland in the northern claim of the Virginia Company that overlaid the Dutch claim. These settlers were instead redirected by a competitive group of investors to the claim of the Plymouth Company and settled Plymouth in 1621. They were the Pilgrims.

The Dutch responded in 1624 to this attempt to create an English colony overlaying its New Netherlands claim by transferring the monopoly rights of the New Netherlands Company to the newly formed Dutch West India Company with the express purpose of establishing a colony. Thirty families were sent to establish settlements, most to the Fort Nassau area. A new fort named Fort Orange was erected there. Smaller numbers, about three or four families each, were left to found settlements on the Connecticut and the Delaware Rivers.

In 1626 all of these colonists were moved for safety by Peter Minuit to people the newly founded village on the southern tip of Manhattan Island; New Amsterdam. Fort Orange was again reduced to a trading post of transient habitation and New Amsterdam became the center of all New Netherlands trade. In their colonization plan the Dutch

placed their focus on the Hudson Valley and the Dutch West India Company for supporting all their possessions in the New World. All goods imported or exported from Brazil, the Caribbean and the Hudson Valley would be processed through the port of New Amsterdam.

However, by 1628 most of the colonists, because of the hardships, had returned to the homeland and this left the Dutch West India Company in default on its colonization mandate. To remove itself from the financial burden of re-settlement the Dutch West India Company created partnerships for its investors called Patroonships that exchanged grants for large tracts of land with manorial rights for taking on the responsibility of colonization. Rights to four mile stretches of river front at a depth as far as they wished to claim was granted to Patroons in exchange for settling 50 or more persons within a four year period. The first Patroonship granted was to Killian van Rensselaer for all the tract of land in the rich fur trading region at Fort Orange. This was the colony of Rensselaerwyck.

In 1630 the total population of New Netherlands was 300 with the majority farming the company plantations around New Amsterdam not Dutch but French-speaking Walloon (Belgian). The only Dutch inhabitants were temporary employees of the Company. The principal activity of the Dutch West India Company was to profit from its

privateering license along the trade routes between the Caribbean and New Amsterdam. There was little concern for the governance of New Netherlands.

Over the next decade the Patroonship scheme and the growing population it represented completely destabilize the relations between the native peoples and the Dutch.

The small size of the earlier settlements was of little concern to the much larger native population. However, the competitive growth of the English colony of the Plymouth Company and its desire to show a territorial presence against the Dutch claim brought them into neighboring Long Island and Connecticut and this began to alarm the coastal Mahican chieftaincies already pressed from the north and west by the Maquas.

After the establishing of Patroonships, the Dutch West India Company totally abandoned its monopoly rights in 1638 with its "Articles and Conditions" and it officially abdicated its colonization responsibilities in 1640 through its Charter of Freedoms and Exemptions. With these events businessmen in the Netherlands that were associated with the Company were permitted permanent ownership of smaller tracts than those of Patroonships.

The first to take advantage of these opportunities were the resident officers and military personnel of the downsized

Company. Without many restrictions and little oversight they were able to use their knowledge of the colony to, independently and as agents of large trading families in Holland, establish land holdings and produce agricultural products with their own tenants, servants and slaves. This further encroached on the remaining territory of the native peoples but also on the Patroonships.

The Manorial rights of the Patroonships gave them the freedom to make their own laws and govern themselves. Rensselaerwyck was able to ignore the Director General of the Dutch West India Company and supply firearms to both the Maquas and the Mahicans in exchange for beaver and uncontested recognition of its ownership of the expanded lands it claimed. This served to arm the native population against themselves but it also threatened the newer European settlers who were economically competing with the Patroonships.

In Rensselaerwyck the displaced native population migrated by forcing itself upon its weaker Indian neighbors, pressing them against the English colony of Massachusetts. With firearms they soon began to expand and conquer other tribes, demanding tribute goods which they used to trade with the Dutch. In time warfare became their sole means of providing sustenance and they became known as Fort Orange Indians because

their hostilities and conquests would permanently establish Fort Orange and later Albany as the center for negotiating Indian treaties.

The demands of the rapidly increasing, often disorderly European population of both Dutch and English and their clashes with the native cultures led to massacres on all sides between 1640 and 1645. The decade of the 1640's was punctuated by ineptitude in governance and callousness in treatment of the natives with some of the gravest atrocities committed against a native people by any colonial power in history happened at this time. The coastal native population retreated wholly from their lands in the face of these repulsive events.

It is to the great shame of the Dutch culture of the time and the character of the system under which it settled the Hudson Valley that so little is known of the native peoples that were here then. Those responsible for promoting settlement seem to have gone out of their way to shuttle the fringes of society, with little interest in learning, to the colony. From its beginnings New Netherlands was governed by mean-spirited and abusive men with no concern for the culture and history of the tens of thousands whose race had called this land home for millennia. The Dutch left little or no record of the culture and peoples they destroyed.

1659 -

stockade parapets "suitable for fifty bouweries". The "taking" of this non-gift land without the required gift in return was the reason for an uprising which followed called the "First Esopus War".

The Warranawonkong regarded stockaded settlements a threat. With their canon and firearms they were a brazen display of power in the midst of their territory. After the first Esopus War the center of population in the Esopus officially became named Wiltwyck and it was considered unsafe for any settler to make a home far from its stockade and military garrison. Overcrowding of Wiltwyck led to creation of a new center, Nieuwe Dorp (new village) at Hurley in 1662. The stockading of New Dorp was the cause of the Second Esopus War. This land was not paid for and it extended a militant presence farther into the Indian plantations and right to the edge of their main village.

With their destruction of New Dorp and the massacre at Wiltwyck in 1663 that began the Second Esopus War the pursuit of the Indians that followed led to the discovery of the most remote plantations and villages of the Warranawonkong. New Paltz and Kerhonkson were founded in the valleys of the Wallkill and Rondout in the area of their "Indian Castle (fort)" sites that were ceded in the treaty that ended this War.

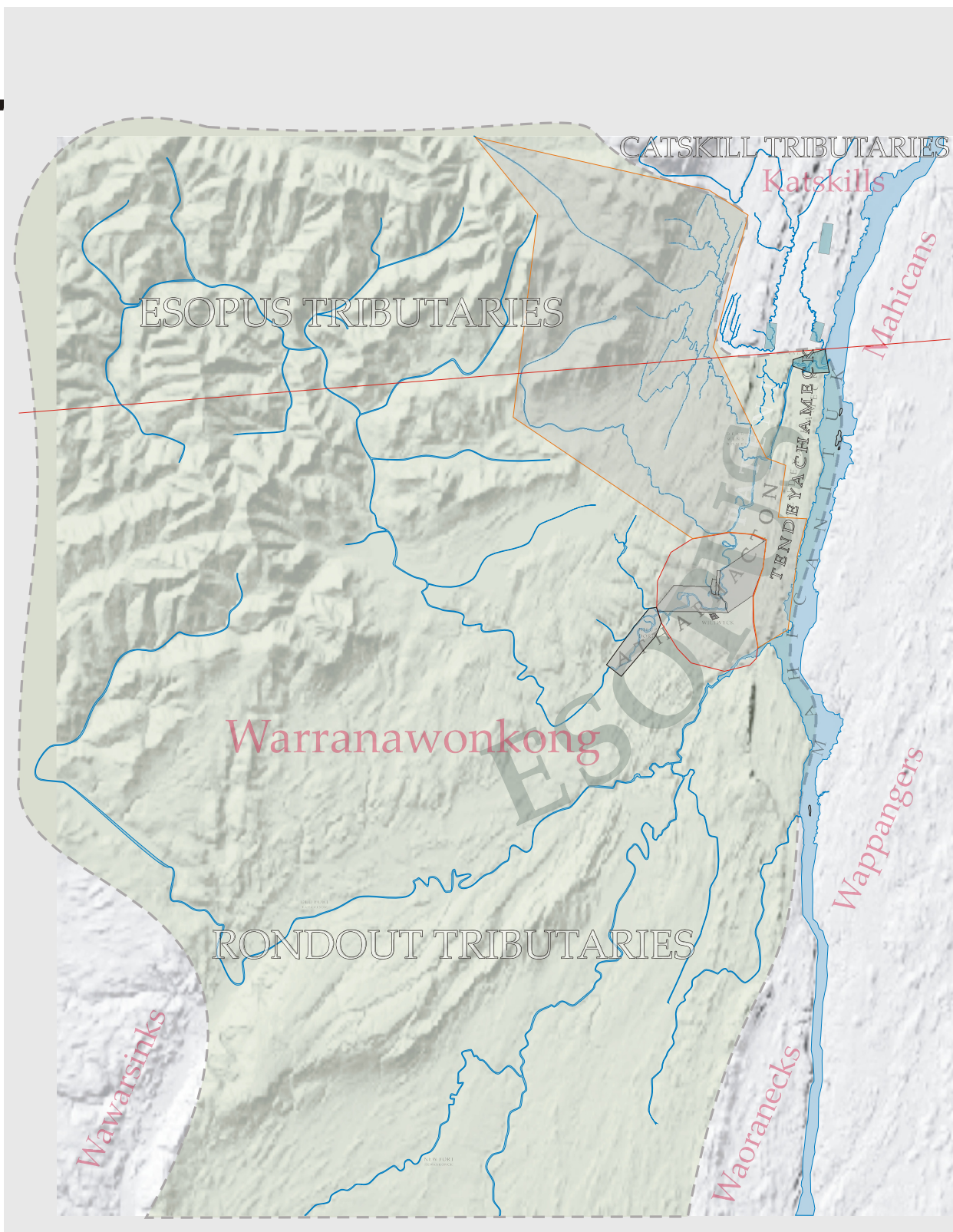
The interest of the early settlers, through purchase and treaty, generally followed the cleared planting fields of the Indians into the creek-bottom valleys to the southwest. The Esopus Indians and the Dutch shared the same cultivation preferences and always planted low, bottom lands. Between the first settlement after 1653 and the end of the Second Esopus

War in 1664 the Dutch continually appropriated the cleared land of the Indians ready for the plow. With this advantage the "granary" of the Esopus territory staged itself to be the most productive in all of the New World. This was impressive enough to become the main cause of an end to Dutch rule and for the colony to become English in 1664.

The Dutch and the English were rivals for the trade of the slave-produced sugar from their respective Caribbean island plantations. When the English Crown was restored to Charles II in 1660 there was an immediate need to restore also the treasury. Appropriating a much needed food source for the growing numbers of slave workers of the English plantations while depriving the Dutch of the same source for their competing plantations was the solution.

In March of 1664 Charles II officially annexed New Netherlands as a British province and granted it to his brother James, Duke of York and Albany, as Lord Proprietor. The English had "sea to sea" claims of the entire east coast of North America based on John Cabot's 1498 voyages. With a fleet under the command of Sir Richard Nicolls the Dutch colony was seized and by late September, 1664 New Netherlands had become New York.

Within a month of his arrival Nicolls placed a garrison of English soldiers in the Esopus. As this was just at the end of the



Map of the Esopus, Rondout and Wallkill tributaries of the Hudson River

Second Esopus War the peace was confirmed as the "Nicolls Treaty". The terms of this treaty and the disposition of the English soldiers at Esopus punctuated the fact that the Dutch and the English were at war. The Esopus Indians were treated as allies against the Dutch and their rights were considered of equal or greater importance than those of the Dutch inhabitants of Esopus.

This attitude toward the average Dutch inhabitant by the English continued well after the hostilities between the two nations in Europe ceased. Since the principal reason for seizing the colony was the grain production of the Esopus priority was placed on stabilizing this settlement and encouraging its productivity. The placing of as many farmers as possible immediately onto the

tillable fields was the policy behind granting deeds. The ceded lands of the Nicolls Treaty were basically those disputed lands that had caused the Second Esopus War. These were around Hurley and southwest following the Esopus Creek. In 1668 Nicolls named these the first and second "Great

Esopus War Expansion

Piece" and proposed their division into 30 acre tracts with separate house lots in a village and the remainder of the wooded land as a commons. 1669 the British governor that replaced Nicolls, Francis Lovelace, had these lands

centers. Wiltwyck was made into a Town and re-named Kingston. Nieuwe Dorp became the Town of Hurley. South of Hurley a new center was created and called the Town of Marbletown. Between the introduction of the English garrison in Wiltwyck

ceded lands in 1668 the germ of an ethnic division appears. The English are to settle southwest of Hurley and the Dutch from Groote Esopus (Kingston) north. When the court of Kingston in 1669 confirmed a settlement area as a precinct of Kingston at the

At the end of each of the Esopus wars more and more Indian land was ceded "by conquest" to Government of New Netherlands until there was good land between New Paltz and Saugerties that

surveyed, divided into lots and distributed between the English soldiers of the garrison that arrived with the seizure from the Dutch. At the same time he confirmed the bounds of the many farmlands of the founding settlers of the Esopus and the occupied Nieuwe Dorp lands.

With the completion of this survey, official English "Towns" to be governed under "Dukes Law" were established for the new and existing population

the Warranawonkong were allowed by their conquerors to cultivate. As this agrarian people was forced to retreat to the mountain valleys they rapidly lost their standing of dominance and the Maquas of the north subjugated them.

and this creation of the Towns in 1669 there was continual conflict between the Dutch planter population and the English soldiers. With the Nicolls proposal for distribution of the

convergence of the Plattekill and Esopus creeks this is the first recorded land grant north of Kingston into the area that will be the town of Saugerties. This grant carried the name "Dutch Settlement" well into the 20th century.

This northward expansion begins on April 9th, 1669, when a permit is given to construct a mill at a place called "Dead Men's Bones" located a mile above the "footpath leading to Albany" crossing of the Plattekill. At the same session of the court granting this mill site the farm fields below it at "a certain neck of land five miles distance from Kingston and over the Kill near the footpath leading to Albany

view: Decline and appearance of the Warranawonkong

major Indian wars were fought in this region between 1659 and 1664 as the Dutch settlers and their fields spread. At the sharing of land that caused tensions. The horses, cows and hogs of the Dutch settlers in the open Indian fields, the settlers' fencing good land and not planting it and the building of the village stockade directly atop the pathway of the ancient Indian trade route did stress the Indian's sense of fairness and reverence for their land and traditions. Rather, relative to the ancient trade route, the primary cause of the wars was the acceptance of the Dutch of the visiting and traveling of their friends, the Maquas, on this pathway and over the lands of the Esopus. The main cause of the Second Esopus War and the massacre that initiated it was the haughty statement of the Maquas in January of 1661 that they would pass to the South River on this pathway and make war if prevented on the Esopus Indians. The Dutch had heavily armed the Maquas and refused to arm the Lenni Lenape. The

Warranawonkong were always the protectors of the Hudson River terminus of the great pathway of the Lenni Lenape people whose primary Council Fire was on the South River. Removal of the Dutch from their territory because they facilitated Maqua access to this path was a duty to their "Nation" since the Dutch presence signified that all of the Lenni Lenape people were dominated by the Maquas. In the final analysis, it was not the Dutch that wiped out the Warranawonkong. They had few military encounters with this highly populace, war-trained race. Rather, it was with the help of Maqua informants that the Dutch destroyed the crop stores of the Esopus, Rondout and Wallkill plantations. This left the Warranawonkong to starve and become easy prey for the Maquas. At the end of each of the Esopus wars more and more Indian land was ceded "by conquest" to the Government of New Netherlands until there was little good land between New Paltz and Saugerties

that the Warranawonkong were allowed by their conquerors to cultivate. As this agrarian people was forced to retreat to the mountain valleys they rapidly lost their standing of dominance and the Maquas of the north subjugated them. Within the next fifty years their identity was completely lost, as was the greater part of the Munsie clan. Eventually the Council Fire of the once great Lenni Lenape Nation was extinguished. Even the most remote ceded lands at the Esopus, Wallkill and Plattekill headwaters had been divided among the Dutch and later English farmers and soldiers so that there was not an unoccupied place for them to visit for attending to their traditional rituals to honor their long husbandry of their lands. It is said that well into the late 19th Century a single Indian would appear and camp every year between the planting and harvest times wherever allowed on the strand at the Rondout. At times it was an old squaw with a young male. The reason was unknown at that

time but was likely the fulfillment of a combination of deep-set religious ritual and a treaty obligation. At the end of the Second Esopus War the terms of the treaty with the Dutch and the Nicolls Treaty required that an Esopus Indian elder, with some chosen youth of the people to witness, appear and reaffirm the peace each year at Kingston. A dwelling place for the Indians to house themselves on the strand was also provided in the treaty "over the kil, where they can remain". It is recorded that a hundred years after the original treaty a destitute band of Indians living among the Mohawks asked for help of the government to cover the expense of their journey to Kingston to fulfill this treaty obligation. The Indian visitors that appeared over a hundred years after this may have been from some remote remnant of this presumably extinguished race faithfully fulfilling this annual pilgrimage out of honor and as part of a ritual process unremembered by their negligent western conqueror.

1664-1684 Esopus in the Proprietary Colony of New York

containing about 54 acres of good and clear land” was also granted provided that all the grantees build their houses together “on the other side of the Kill due north from the land of Thomas Chambers” so as to make a “township within the precinct of Kingston”. This “township” is today Ruby on the Ulster side and Plattekill on the Saugerties side of that Plattekill crossing.

The “township” was centered on the innship of Jan Burhans, a commissary of Kingston, and Jan Oosterhaut. The mill was that of Tjerck Claesen de Witt, also a Commissary, and Willem La Montagnie, the teacher in Kingston and its Secretary of the Court. These are all prominent Dutch names well established before the English period.

A noteworthy inclusion in this “Dutch Settlement” grant is the “desire” of Thomas Chambers, the most pre-eminent of the original planter class (and of English ancestry), to build a house for a servant and one for his son-in-law (possibly his stepson of Dutch ancestry) in this same neighborhood. Thomas Chambers was to receive a manorial charter on October 16th, 1672 under the title of the “Lordship and Manor of Foxhall”. This “considerable Estate” was later enlarged yet more with the granting of an additional 300 acre tract in 1686. The bounds of this manor have never been precisely defined so the wording of the 1669 “Dutch Settlement” grant may be an indicator of its extent beyond the farm lands he first plowed as founder of the original Esopus settlement fifteen years earlier. The locations and periods of Thomas Chambers' acquisitions may also be taken as guideposts to a course of events that forms the northward expansion of the

original planter class of the Groote Esopus. In the early stages of this northern expansion the Groote Esopus experienced a brief return to Dutch rule. In the summer of 1673 New York was taken by Anthony Clove under the flag of William III of Orange, Stadholder of the United Netherlands. New York was again New Netherlands until early fall, 1674 with the arrival of New York's new governor, Edmond Andros, Lord Salisbury, representing James, Duke of York, after the Treaty of Westminster. With this treaty the Dutch and the English were no longer at war, the colony was once more English and the peace meant the garrison at Kingston was permanently disbanded. By 1677 the earliest claims of the original Dutch inhabitants of the mid-Hudson valley were finally recognized and confirmed as deeds and new patents were being granted over the entire region.

At this time the Court of Kingston, which was comprised mostly of Dutch planters, sought the surrender of all the Esopus Indian land that remained both south in the New Paltz area and north in the Saugerties area. The Lenne Lenapes, further threatened by the agreements between Andros and the Maquas during the Indian wars in Massachusetts in 1675-76, supported the final transfer of any remaining Minsi land to the English. On April 27, 1677, the Warranawokong released to Governor Andros all their rights to the northern territory of the Esopus. The following day Andros gave a license to twelve individuals to purchase from the Indians their remaining southern lands around New Paltz.

By 1683 the entire colony of New York comprised 10,000 inhabitants. 3,000 lived in and around Manhattan and 2,000 lived in the Esopus with the rest scattered in the Albany area and in the towns of Long Island. The grain shipped from the colony to the plantations of the Indies was 60,000 bushels, all ground, packaged and transported by the population of Manhattan but mainly grown in the Esopus fields of Kingston. With this increase in both population and commerce the colony's new governor, Thomas Dongan, was directed to organize New York into administrative districts. In 1684 the colony of New York was divided into 12 counties in which “corporations” and “Manors” were the governing bodies and “Patents” were the ownership deeds. The name “Sagers” became firmly associated with the mouth of the Esopus at this time when the

original County of Ulster was described as the land containing “the towns of Kingston, Hurley, Marbletown, Foxhall and the New Paltz, and all the villages, neighborhoods, and Christian habitations on the west side of the Hudson's River, from the Murderer's Creek, near the Highlands, to the Sawger's Creek.”

The name used in this document and others that closely

the Sagiers” (yet another transitional spelling) appears as an official location in the patent descriptions for the earliest land transfers using the mouth of the Esopus as a reference.

James, Duke of York, became King James II in early 1685 with the death of his brother, Charles II. This immediately made his proprietary colony into a Crown colony. Those with influential

relationships in the court of the king immediately began to petition for patents to the newly available Crown lands. George Meales and Richard Hays petitioned the Crown for a patent to lands in the “Sagiers” in 1685. These lands totaled 1,194 3/4 acres. At about the same time another large patent petition was placed for 797½ acres to the north at a location called Wanton. The petitioner was

Robert Fullerton who was also the surveyor for the Meales and Hays lands. Finally, the largest petition was made in 1686 by William De Meyer and Jan and Mattys Mattyson representing 12 individuals in all. This was subsequently granted in 1688 as the northern part of the much larger Kingston Patent. That petition essentially covered all the lands of the Andros Treaty with the rest of the Kingston patent lands stretching all the way south to the New Paltz patent. On May 31, 1687 the Meales and Hays patents were granted. The Fullerton Patent was granted on January 9, 1692. These were probably at the time considered to be in the County of Albany as the Kingston Patent was the northernmost grant in the County of Ulster.

With the Nicolls proposal for distribution of the ceded lands in 1668 the germ of an ethnic division appears. The English are to settle southwest of Hurley and the Dutch from Groote Esopus (Kingston) north. When the court of Kingston in 1669 confirmed a settlement area as a precinct of Kingston at the convergence of the Plattekill and Esopus creeks this is the first recorded land grant north of Kingston into the area that will be the Town of Saugerties.

followed it; “Sagers” Kill, “Saeger's” Kill and “Sawger's” Creek; illustrates the early transition from Dutch to English of the name (ignoring the Algonquian). By 1687 the term “in

Overview: The Treaty that Surrendered Saugerties

The document that surrendered the northern lands of the Warranawokong, called the “Andros Treaty”, originally covered the area that is now the western half of the present town of Saugerties. It conveyed all the land “from the Rondout Kill till a Kill named Kahakasink northward along the mountain ridge to a Kill named Magowasinck, thence to the second Falls, toward the East till Tendeyachameck on the Great River, southward along the river till the Rondout Kill with everything included in the same, good and bad, mountain and valley, waters etc.” In Indian place-names this wording describes the Sawkill to its source at Shens Lake (Echo Lake) on top of Overlook Mountain, along the ridge to the source of the Plattekill, down the Plattekill to the Glennerie Falls, east to below Turkey Point and then the entire river frontage south of this to the Rondout outlet. It does not include the land of Saugerties between the Plattekill and the Hudson River or the Indian lands known as Tendeyachameck.

Tendeyachameck is the land that today comprises the Flatbush/Glasco/Barclay Heights area of the southern corner of the Town of Saugerties. The word itself

means Flatbush. It is the plantation land referred to in Robert Juet's journal entry of 1609 as the home of the Indians Henry Hudson visited two leagues south of the Half Moon anchorage on the river. These are the same Indians that were trading their grain at the Rondout landing after the hostilities of the Second Esopus War and those referred to as peacefully planting in Captain Cregier's journal during the war. To cover this discrepancy in the treaty the Court of Kingston recorded what can be considered an addendum.

The day after the Andros Treaty Kaelcop, a sachem of the Esopus Indians at Saugerties, agrees that “the limits of Kingston or the Land of Esopus shall extend Northward to the Great Falls of the Kill which appears there named Fendeyachameck in the language of the savages and the “Sagers Kill” in the Dutch language, along the mountains below which runs the road from Katskill.” This language encompasses all the land from Turkey Point north to the mouth of the Esopus Creek and west to the Plattekill Creek including all of the Churchland. This made all the land of the Indians north of what they had supposedly

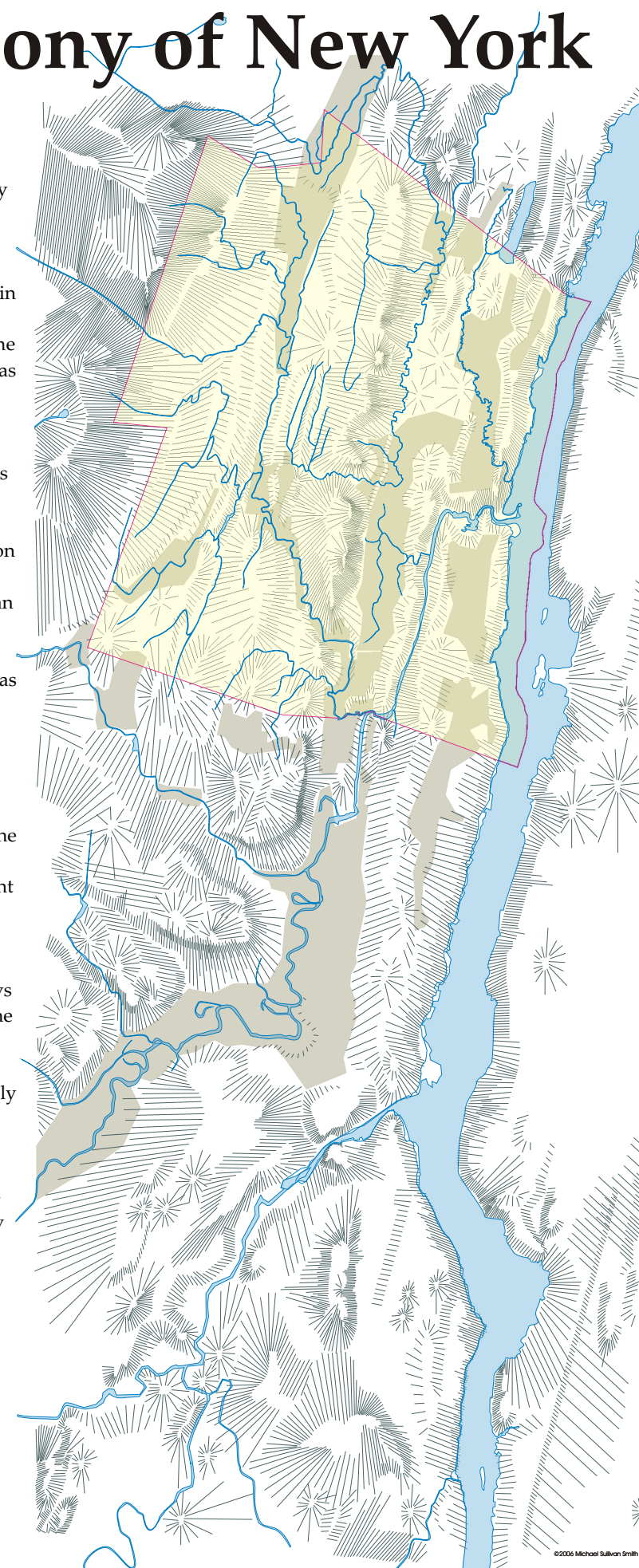
deeded a quarter century before open to colonial expansion.

It was in this “clarification” of the 1677 “Andros Treaty” that mention was made of the lands given by the Indians to the “Old Sawyer”. The Sawyer's was all the lands between the lands described and the lands of the Katskill Indians and included the Sawyer's rights to the Kill, or the “Saeger's” Kill. It is noted in this treaty that the term “Sagers” and “Saeger's” both represent the mouth of the Esopus Creek at Saugerties. In the Algonkian language this name would translate more as a description of this mouth, “Saugus”. But there still remains a long tradition that “Sagers” was actually a name that referenced the “Old Sawyer” of the 1677 addendum and that Saugerties is named after him.

At the time of the Andros Treaty there is no record of settlement or homesteads in the area of either Tendeyachameck or this addendum part of Saugerties. A deed written ten years after this time does reference previous habitation near or around the mouth of the Esopus. John and Johanna Wood were deeded their already improved homestead on November 22, 1687. This was all the land

from the bend of the Esopus above Stony Point eastward to the Hudson River and bordered north by the Esopus Creek. They have a house, herd pens, gardens, orchards and conveyances to a sawmill already built on this site according to the wording of this deed. A 1705 deed granting land at the wagon road that crosses the Esopus above the falls at Stony Point places the location of John Wood's homestead house on this road at what is now called Esopus Bend. The conveyance to a sawmill would thus have been from above the Stony Point fall to a mill site in an area below later flooded by the Barclay dam of 1825. If this sawmill made the Woods the “Old Sawyer” of the Tendeyachameck reference then they would have been on this site previous to 1677.

Or the reference could have harkened back to a decades-old memory of a perceived agreement made at the time of the famous dinner to the Henry Hudson's Half Moon. In any case, the Andros Treaty represents the end of Warranawokong occupation of the land that had been their home for thousands of years.



©2006 Michael Sullivan Smith