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*The*  
**Discovery and Early History**  
*of*  
**New Jersey**

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*By* **WILLIAM NELSON**

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*The Discovery and Early History*  
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*A Paper Read before the Passaic County Historical  
Society, June 11, 1872.*

By WILLIAM NELSON.



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## THE DISCOVERY AND EARLY HISTORY OF NEW JERSEY

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### INTRODUCTORY.

In this age of "progress,"—of the steam-engine, the lightning printing-press, the locomotive, the ocean telegraph-cable, and universal hurry and bustle; in these days of new inventions, of labor-reform, social-reform, and world-and-mankind-reform generally—it is well for us to pause once in a while, step aside out of the on-rushing tide of human "progress," calmly to observe where we stand and whither we are drifting, and then look back to see whence we came. Thus we can judge as to the actual progress we are making, if any; and if we use our faculties aright we can see many errors committed in the past to be avoided in the future. And, thus contemplating the situation, it will be strange if there do not involuntarily arise the exclamation, *Cui bono?* For what good have we been toiling, pushing, crowding forward in such tumultuous haste? The actual progress of mankind is infinitely slow; it takes almost as long to pass from the "age of stone" to the "age of iron" as it would for a well-behaved monkey to develop into some kinds of men we know. So we might as well move more deliberately, not consuming with the fires of impatience, but restraining our impetuosity and saving our strength for use when and where most needed, only doing our appointed tasks *well*, satisfied to leave the issue to Him who hath foreseen all things to the end of time, and to whom "a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is past."

To one who thus withdraws himself, in spirit, from the concerns of the present, and gazes backward, how much is there calculated to inspire him with feelings of admiration, of emulation, and of humility! He sees that there have been men as wise, as noble, as true, as good, as generous, as any now living; that there is really very little in theology, sociology or politics that has not been discussed by men whose grandchildren have long ago turned to ashes; that the blatant "reformers," so self-styled, who arrogate to themselves the credit for discovering new ideas of one kind or another, are indeed but poor imitators of abler men and women whose names and systems were long since forgotten by a practical world that in the end preserves only the kernels of grain thrown into its vast thought-hopper; that we, who so exult in our superiority over those who are gone, are but fulfilling the destiny marked out for us a century ago, and, considering our greater advantages, are not doing so much better than our grandfathers, if so well. The study of the past inspires one with reverence, often, for the foresight of our predecessors, as we contemplate their sacrifices for the sake of principles essential to human progress and happiness.

No higher heroism nor nobler manhood is anywhere exhibited in American history than may be found in the annals of our own New Jersey, and it therefore seems all the stranger that our early history has not been more generally studied. The paper herewith submitted is a rough sketch of the leading events connected with the discovery, settlement and early government of our State, prepared in the hope that an interest in the subject may be excited not only among our people generally, but especially among those who, studiously inclined, have never deemed it worthy of investigation, only because its real importance and attractiveness have never been brought to their atten-

tion. Though hastily prepared, the statements contained in this paper are made only on the best authority, and may be relied upon as correct. The authorities are cited for every statement of importance, for verification by the critical reader, and as a guide to the young student to the more available and useful works on the subject.

#### THE DISCOVERY OF NEW JERSEY.

This part of our history, or rather introduction to our history, has been but scantily touched upon by writers on New Jersey, and is doubtless familiar to but few, which may be considered excuse enough for dwelling upon it here at some length. Our information is mainly gathered from a valuable volume of "Collections," published by the New York Historical Society in 1841, being Vol. I, New Series, of the Society's "Collections." This volume contains accounts written by some of the very earliest visitors to the American continent, from whom we shall quote freely.

Skipping over the traditional accounts of the discovery of the Western Hemisphere by the Northmen in the ninth or tenth century, or by the Welshmen in the twelfth century (*vide Gentleman's Mag., March, 1740, quoted in American Hist. Record, June, 1872*), let us remind you that while Christopher Columbus is credited with the discovery—or re-discovery—of the new world in 1492, the Western Continent was first discovered in 1497, by Sebastian Cabot, who was sent out by Henry VIII, of England, whence the English claim to supremacy here a century and a half later. In 1498 Cabot coasted what is now the New Jersey shore. At that time no fashionable villas were "on the beach at Long Branch"; no lighthouse at Cape May warned the mariner of danger; no fishing-smacks were to be seen in the numerous inlets along the

coast. The land was covered with primeval forests through whose dusky glades strange forms glided. The whole country was novel and mysterious in the eyes of Cabot's crew, and we do not wonder that in such a superstitious age the people to whom, on their return, they told of this wonderful land, were loth to settle in such a mystic and uncanny country. So we have no record that Cabot or his men ever even set foot on the virgin earth of New Jersey.

Capt. John de Verazzano, a Florentine, has given us an account of a voyage he made along the North American coast in 1524, in a letter to "His Most Serene Majesty," Francis I, King of France, under whose orders he sailed in the good ship "Dolphin." In March, 1524, he coasted New Jersey—then, of course, unnamed—and he tells how one of his sailors, in trying to approach the shore to throw some trinkets to the wondering natives, was so buffeted about by the waves as to be prostrated, and how the Indians carried him ashore and restored him to consciousness, treated him with the greatest kindness, and then let him depart. Further on, Verazzano went ashore with twenty men, and captured a small boy to carry back to France, much as he would a dog or any other animal. "A young girl of about eighteen or twenty, who was very beautiful and very tall," only escaped captivity because she shrieked loudly as the sailors attempted to lead her away, and they had to pass some woods and were far from the ship. Thus the very first visit of the whites gave the Indians just cause to fear and hate them forever after.

Verazzano greatly admired the country, which he says "appeared very beautiful and full of the largest forests." He "found also wild roses, violets, lilies, and many sorts of plants and fragrant flowers different from our own," which here for many a century had sprung up, blossomed,



bloomed and "wasted their sweetness on the desert air," or perchance had from time to time afforded to Indian youth the means of indicating to some fair dusky maiden his modest attachment. Verazzano was so pleased with this neighborhood that he remained three days, and next entered, beyond doubt, New York harbor, with a boat. He "found the country on its banks well peopled, the inhabitants not differing much from the others, being dressed out with the feathers of birds of various colors. They came towards us with evident delight, raising loud shouts of admiration, and showing us where we could most securely land with our boat." However, he was driven back by adverse winds. (*N. Y. Hist. Soc. Collections, 2d Series, Vol. I, pp. 41-46.*) He sailed next along Long Island, etc., but does not tell us what he did with his young captive.

We might imagine the emotions of awe and wonderment that filled the breasts of the untutored natives of the new world when first they beheld their strange visitors, but we have an account that bears internal evidences of genuineness, handed down by tradition among the Indians from generation to generation, and obtained more than a century ago from the lips of ancient Delawares, by the Rev. John Heckewelder, for many years a Moravian missionary to the Indians in Pennsylvania. It may be found in the volume cited above, pp. 71-74. It probably refers to the subsequent arrival of Hudson, as the Indians of his day had no recollection, or even tradition, it appears, of an earlier landing of whites, but the account may not be inappropriate here. We are told, then, that the Indians watched the strange object approaching their shore with feelings of mingled alarm, awe and wonder, finally concluding the ship to be "a large canoe or house, in which the great Mannitto (or Supreme Being) himself

was, and that he probably was coming to visit them." The chiefs hastily resolved themselves into a "committee of the whole," to arrange a suitable "reception"; the women were required to prepare the best of victuals; idols and images were examined and put in order; and a grand dance was also added to this extraordinary entertainment, on this most extraordinary occasion. "The conjurers were also set to work, to determine what the meaning of this phenomenon was, and what the result would be. Both to these, and to the chiefs and wise men of the nation, men, women and children were looking up for advice and protection. Between hope and fear, and in confusion, a dance commenced. While in this situation fresh runners arrive, declaring it a house of various colors, and crowded with living creatures. \* \* Other runners soon after arriving, declare it a large house of various colors, full of people, yet of quite a different color than they (the Indians) are of; that they were also dressed in a different manner from them, and that one in particular appeared altogether red, which must be the great *Mannitto* himself." The whites land, treat the Indians to liquor, who of course get drunk, and the whites leave after the friendliest interchange of mutual regards.

More than three-quarters of a century seem now to have elapsed ere this country was again visited by the whites, Europe being convulsed with the great throes of the Reformation, and the accompanying wars that kept her adventurous spirits busily employed at home. Still, Spain was prosecuting the conquest of Mexico and Peru, and occasional adventurous sailors of other countries preferred to prowl over the seas in quest of Spanish frigates laden with the yellow gold robbed from the natives of the new world. This was a speedier way to fame and fortune, and vastly more romantic, than to settle

in the unknown wilderness, thousands of miles away from home, and there patiently delve and plant, to establish a home. Canada, indeed, was settled as early as 1535 by the French, who called their happy new home *Acadia*, and there lived the sweet, simple lives so charmingly painted by Longfellow, in "Evangeline." The Spaniards, too, laid claim to nearly the whole continent, or at least the Atlantic coast, possibly because one Gomez, a Spaniard, had about 1525 sailed under their flag along the coast, and in 1535 we find a Spanish grant for *Florida* (settled in 1512), in which its boundaries are described as extending from Newfoundland to the 22d deg. N. Lat., or south of Cuba. Even a century later the Spaniards claimed all this country, and made incursions along the Virginia coast, and colonists to the New Netherlands were warned that it was "first of all necessary that they be placed in a good defensive position and well provided with arms and a fort, as the Spaniards \* \* would never allow anyone to gain a possession there." (*Doc. Hist. N. Y., Vol. 3, p. 34.*)

Massachusetts was discovered in 1600, and in 1603-1632 Champlain thoroughly explored "New France," and skirted the New Jersey and Virginia coast, but his map of the country (prefixed to the volume just quoted) gives no idea of the shape of New Jersey, though he possibly refers to this neighborhood when he speaks of "the coast of a very fine country inhabited by savages who cultivate it." (*Ut supra, p. 21.*)

The English now assumed the ownership of the new world, by virtue of Sebastian Cabot's long-forgotten discovery, and in 1606 James I, of England, gave charters for the territory between the 34th and 46th degs. N. Lat., or say from Cape Fear, North Carolina, to Newfoundland, the southern half to the London, and the rest to the

Plymouth Company. (*Gordon's N. J.*, p. 5; *Hume's England, Vol. IV, Am. ed.*, p. 519.)

But the Dutch, proverbially slow though they be, were ahead of the "Plymouth Company," and in 1609 the Netherlands East India Company sent out Henry Hudson, a bold English sea-captain, to renew for the second or third time a search for a northwest passage to China and the East Indies—a search that had been unsuccessfully made a score of times before, as it has been since. [In 1595 one John Davis published in London "The World's hydrographical Description, whereby it appears that there is a short and speedie Passage into the South Seas, to China, &c., by northerly Navigation." *Lowndes, Bohn's ed.*, p. 602.] Many of the directors of the company opposed this expedition. "It was," said they, "throwing money away, and nothing else." However, Hudson was sent out April 6, 1609, with a mere yacht, called the *Halve-Maan*, or "Half-Moon"—earlier prophetically called the *Good Hope*—manned by a crew of sixteen Englishmen and Hollanders. He sailed northwardly, touched Newfoundland, discovered Cape Cod and called that country "New Holland," as the French had previously called the country north of that, "New France," and as it was designated till the English conquest in the middle of the last century. (*Lambrechtsen, N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll., N. S., Vol. I, p. 85.*)

On Thursday afternoon, September 3, 1609, the natives about Sandy Hook saw a vessel approach from the limitless sea. It was the "Half-Moon," commanded by Hudson. With wonder, admiration and awe they gazed on the strange sight, but after their first astonishment wore off, these aboriginal Jerseymen went on board the vessel without hesitation, and seemed to be pleased. They were civil, and gladly exchanged skins, tobacco,

hemp, grapes, etc., for knives, beads, articles of clothing, etc., betraying a disposition to get the best of a bargain—a predilection that is popularly supposed to characterize the present race of Jersey men as well. (*Journal of Juet, Hudson's Mate, ut supra, p. 323.*) Hudson penetrated the Narrows September 11th, and spent three weeks exploring the noble river whose name now perpetuates his fame (though it was first called the *Manahatta*, the *North river*, the *Rio de la Montagne*, the *Great river*, and the *Great North river*), sending a boat up as far as Albany, and perhaps above. He made no settlements, of course. With a crew of but sixteen men that would have been scarcely practicable. But he doubtless raised the Dutch flag and claimed the ownership of the country, by right of discovery, for his masters and the Dutch Government. He found the Indians changeable in disposition—sometimes friendly, and then on the slightest provocation hostile. Possibly they still remembered the previous visit of the whites—when one of their families was ruthlessly robbed of a darling son, and were on the alert for a similar attempt by Hudson's men. One of his men—John Coleman—was shot in the throat with an Indian arrow, and in one or two encounters Hudson's little crew killed ten of the enemy. At various places he found many friendly Indians, who welcomed him cordially when he went ashore, though he says they had “a great propensity to steal, and were exceedingly adroit in carrying away whatever they took a fancy to.” They got up an entertainment for him, regardless of expense, serving up “some food in well made red wooden bowls,” shot a couple of pigeons, and even “killed a fat dog, and skinned it in great haste with shells which they had got out of the water.” (*Hudson's Journal*, quoted by De Laet, and *Juet's Log of Hudson's Voyage, ut supra, pp. 289, 290,*

300, 321-4.) Hudson returned with glowing accounts of the wonderful new country, and the Company sent out settlers and trading vessels in the next few years. The unfortunate Hudson came to a terrible end the year after his return to Holland. He was sent out once more to find that mysterious Northwest Passage, and discovered the Straits and Bay that bear his name, when in that desolate, ice-bound region his crew mutinied and sent him, his son and six faithful men, adrift in a small boat on the dreary ocean, and they were never heard of more. But his work was done. If he had not, indeed, discovered a new route to the Indies, he had discovered a country of far more importance to the world than the Indies have been or ever will be, and he had discovered a harbor that will one day receive the bulk of the products of the Indies, though he never dreamed that his name would yet be perpetuated in the title of a great and wealthy country, within whose limits tens of thousands of miles of iron roads would yet terminate, depositing in unbroken bulk the teas and the silks of the Far East, from away across the Western Continent.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

The first permanent lodgment on the shores of *New Netherland* seems to have been made in 1613, when a trading station was established on the present site of New York. In 1614 and 1615 forts appear to have been built by the Dutch at Albany and at New York, and in 1614 one was erected, it would seem, at what is now Jersey City—authority therefor having been obtained from their High Mightinesses of the United Netherlands. (*Lambrechtsen and De Laet, ut supra, pp. 88, 291, 299, 305; Gordon's N. J., p. 6.*) Now settlers gradually strayed over to the unknown wilderness of the new world.

We may well believe that few men cared to take their families to this mysterious land, where "immeasurable woods with swamps covered the soil," and "savages lived in their coverts, clothing themselves with the skins of wild beasts," their heads covered with feathers,—a costume that must have given them a wild aspect, soon heightened in the imagination of the whites when a band of these savages would occasionally sally out and murder some settler. Despite the glowing accounts brought home by some travelers, the old-world people were loth to leave their settled habitations for the western hemisphere, even though New Jersey already boasted an astonishing attraction in "the retired paradise of the children of the Ethiopian Emperor; a wonder, for it is a square rock two miles compass, 150 feet high, and a wall-like precipice, a strait entrance, easily made invincible, where he keeps 200 for his guards, and under is a flat valley, all plain to plant and sow." (Plantagenet's *Description of New Albion*, quoted in *Whitehead's East Jersey*, p. 24.) Apart from the uncertainty of settling in a new country, where the success of the crops would be dubious for years, the voyage across the ocean was a vastly different matter from what it is now. Instead of steamers of 3,500 or 4,000 tons burthen, whose size prevents rolling in a great measure, making the passage in seven to ten days, by the most direct route: in those days ships or yachts of 50 to 200 tons burthen were most common, and though as early as 1603 Gosnold had found a straight course across the ocean, yet for many years afterward mariners took the old route, "first directing their course southwards to the tropic, sailing westward by means of trade winds, and then turning northward, till they reached the English settlements." (*Hume's Hist. England, Am. ed., Vol. 4, p. 519.*) Or, as another writer, in 1624, says: "This

country now called New Netherland is usually reached in *seven or eight weeks* from here. The course lies towards the Canary Islands; thence to the (West) Indian Islands, then towards the main land of Virginia, steering right across, leaving in fourteen days the Bahamas on the left, and the Bermudas on the right hand where the winds are variable with which the land is made." (*Wassenaer's Historie van Europa*, quoted in *Doc. Hist. N. Y.*, Vol. 3, p. 28.) Hence we may be prepared to find that so late as 1638 vessels seldom arrived at the New Netherlands in winter, and when De Vries anchored opposite Fort Amsterdam, December 27th, 1638, he and his fellow-passengers "were received with much joy, as they did not expect to see a vessel at that time of the year." (*De Vries*, in *N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll.*, N. S., Vol. I, p. 260.)

Still, there are always adventurous men, and men to whom freedom and independence present a charm that will lead them to brave any and all danger—even the perils of a voyage over trackless oceans (for there was no Maury two and a half centuries ago, to map out paths over the "vasty deep," and the very winds), in rocking vessels, and the dangers of constant encounters with a savage and remorseless foe. And so we find ship-loads of colonists coming over from time to time, undeterred even by the massacres of entire settlements—as at Staten Island, in 1641, and at other places earlier.

Accordingly, we find settlements at Bergen as early as 1618; but that place must have increased but slowly, for it was not till 1661 that the village was large enough to be allowed a court and a Sheriff, the court being composed of the Sheriff and two Schepins (magistrates), and not till 1662 that a church was started, \$162 being raised to erect a log house, replaced by one of stone in 1680. (*Albany Records*, quoted in *Whitehead's E. J.*, p. 16.)



Had there been 250 families (say 1,000 souls) in the settlement (which then covered all of the present Hudson county and part of Bergen county), it would have been entitled to a city government composed of an upper branch of three Burgomasters and five or seven Schepins, and a lower branch of twenty Councilmen. (*Van der Donck, N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll., N. S., Vol. 3, p. 240.*) In 1661 a ferry from Bergen to New Amsterdam was established, and the undertaking seemed so risky that a monopoly had to be guaranteed, to induce anyone to operate it. In the year following we find that the solitary "ferryman complained that the authorities of Bergen had authorized the inhabitants to 'ferry themselves over when they pleased,' to the great detriment of his monopoly." (*Albany Records, quoted in Whitehead's E. J., p. 20.*) Though the church building was begun as early as 1662, as mentioned above, it was not till ninety-five years later, or 1757, that it had a settled pastor. (*Romeyn's 1st Ref. Ch. of Hackensack, p. 40.*) Even our old Totowa church was more enterprising than that, for it had a settled pastor in 1756.

It has been frequently asserted that the Puritans who sailed from Holland in 1620 intended to colonize in the New Netherlands, but that adverse winds, or the treachery of the ship's captain, caused them to land much further north, at Plymouth Rock, instead of at New York, or in New Jersey. (*Gordon's N. J., p. 7; Robertson's America, quoted by Lambrechtsen, ut supra, p. 98.*)

In 1628 there were on Manhattan Island only 270 souls, living there in peace with the natives. (*Wassenaer's Historie van Europa, N. Y. Doc. Hist., Vol. 3, p. 48.*) But as the land was undeveloped, in 1629 the Dutch West India Company, anxious to encourage emigration to the new world, which had come into the

possession of that Company (from the Netherlands East India Company), issued a prospectus in which rights and privileges were guaranteed to the immigrant, quite unusual at that early date. Any who undertook to plant a colony of fifty families in four years were to be acknowledged "patroons" of New Netherland, and allowed to occupy twelve English miles along the North river shore, or six miles each side, and indefinitely into the interior, to "forever possess and enjoy all the lands lying within the aforesaid limits, together with the chief command," privileges, franchises, appurtenances, etc., "to be holden from the company as an eternal heritage." This was absolute sovereignty, though an appeal was guaranteed the colonists in certain cases from the courts of the patroons. The colonists were also promised a minister and schoolmaster, "that thus the service of God and zeal for religion may not grow cool, and be neglected among them"; also, that "the company will use their endeavors to supply the colonists with as many blacks as they conveniently can." Prior to this time two "comforters of the sick" "read to the Commonalty there on Sundays, from texts of Scripture with the Comment." The first Dutch minister in America was John Michaelis, in 1628; the first in New Netherlands was Everardus Bogardus, in 1633, who is distinguished in history chiefly by reason of the fact that he was subsequently the husband of Anneke Jans, of Trinity Church fame; the first regularly-installed Dutch pastor in New Jersey was Guilaem Bertholf, who was sent to Holland in 1693, by the churches at Acquackanonk and Hackensack, to be educated for the ministry, and was installed over those churches in 1694. (*N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll., N. S., Vol. I, pp. 370-6; Wassenaer, reprinted in Doc. Hist. N. Y., Vol. III, p. 42; Romeyn's 1st Ref. Ch. at Hack., pp. 39-40.*) The

inducements to colonists above set forth were judicious, as only by extraordinary offers could settlers have been attracted. Writing as early as 1624, Wassenaer (*ut supra*, p. 36) wisely said: "For their (the colonies') increase and prosperous advancement, it is highly necessary that those sent out be first of all well provided with means both of support and defence, and that being Freemen, they be settled there on a free tenure; that all they work for and gain be theirs to dispose of and to sell it according to their pleasure; that whoever is placed over them as Commander act as their Father not as their Executioner, leading them with a gentle hand; for whoever rules them as a Friend and Associate will be beloved by them, as he who will order them as a superior will subvert and nullify every thing; yea, they will excite against him the neighboring provinces to which they will fly. 'Tis better to rule by love and friendship than by force." (*Ut supra*, p. 36.) It would have been well if the Dutch had always cherished this as a motto, and for England if she had laid it to heart a century and a half later.

Several of the Directors of the West India Company immediately availed themselves of the extraordinary inducements above set forth, and with a promptness that has led to the belief that they purposely procured the granting of these concessions for their personal aggrandizement at the expense of the Company, for the very first tracts of land taken up under this "Charter of Liberties," as it was fittingly called, were located by Wouter van Twiller for Van Rensselaer, Bloemaert, De Laet, and other Directors. One Michael Poulaz, or Pauw, as he is generally called, who had been in the service of the Company, in charge of a colony on the site of Jersey City (*De Vries, ut supra*, pp. 257, 259), "took up" that

“section,” by deed dated Aug. 10, 1630 (*Whitehead's E. J.*, p. 17), and De Vries says called it *Pavonia*, whence the name of the ferry by which we cross to and from New York, *via* the Erie Railway. [Much erudition has been exhausted in explaining the derivation of this name. Mr. Geo. Folsom of the N. Y. Hist. Soc. derives the name thus: “The Latin of pauw (peacock) is *pavo*—hence the name *Pavonia*.” But the name of the officer generally called Pauw was doubtless the familiar Dutch nickname or contraction “Pau,” for Paul or Paulus. Hence the name “Paulus’ Hook,” by which Jersey City was most commonly known forty or fifty years ago. Hence, too, the family name Paulison, Powlson, Powelsen, etc. It is possible, even, that *Pavonia* was an Indian name, though hardly probable. The Indians applied the name *Arisseoh* to the greater portion of what is now the lower part of Jersey City—a name perpetuated in one of the steam fire engines of that now metropolitan city.]

Several other settlements along the river, at *Hobuġ*, at *Wihac*, at *Tappan*, at *Gemoenapogh* (now Communipaw—retaining the significant Indian termination *pau*, preserved in Ramapaw, Yawpaw, Pembrepow, Ramapo, etc., and possibly to be found in *Om-po-ge*, whence Amboy), etc., were made during the next ten or twenty years, but do not seem to have been successful in any important degree. The first colonies had all their houses built together, in a hamlet, for mutual protection, and during the day the planters went out about their farms. Occasionally the Indians would make a raid upon them, and thus the progress of the settlements was greatly impeded. That at Communipaw was abandoned in 1651, and not re-occupied till ten years later.

The *Albany Records* (quoted in *Whitehead's E. J.*, p. 49, *n.*) mention Dutch residents at Acquackanonk as

early as 1640<sup>1</sup>; but at that time "Acquackanonk"—spelled in a score of different ways—seems to have been the name applied to the whole country between Newark and Hackensack, from the Passaic river on the west or north to the Bergen hill on the east, including a large part of the meadows. We have no accounts whatever of the history of this neighborhood prior to 1679, when the "Acquackanonk Grant" was made by the English government of the Province to a number of persons who may possibly have already occupied the country under the Dutch, but who are named in the deed as being from Bergen, to wit: Hans Diderick, Gerritt Gerritsen, Walling Jacobs, Hendrick George, Elias Hartman, Johannes Machielson, Cornelius Machielson, Adrian Post, Urian Tomason, Cornelius Rowlofson, Simon Jacobs, John Hendrick Speare (or Spyr), Cornelius Lubbers, and Abraham Bookey. Several of these men doubtless came over from Holland, 1658-'64; Gerritsen and Lubbers probably came from Wesel, in Holland, in 1664, and tradition says Gerrit Gerritsen settled at the site of the present Broadway bridge, on the Bergen county side, in 1666. There were several Gerrit Gerritsens who came over between the years named, from different parts of Holland. "Hendrick Jansen Spiers (same as the above, doubtless) and Wife and two children" are named in the list of passengers in the ship "Faith," that sailed in December, 1659, for the new world. "Cornelis Michielson, from Medemblick," came over in the "Beaver," in April, 1659. (*Doc. Hist. N. Y., Vol. 3, pp. 52-63.*) The tract embraced in the above grant is now divided up into

<sup>1</sup>[This is an error, due to a mistranslation by a Dutchman of a document in Dutch, which Mr. Whitehead obviously was excusable for accepting. Many years ago I secured a transcript of the original document, when it was found that it was not Acquackanonk that was referred to, but Accomac, Md. *Note, 1912.*]

Acquackanonk, Passaic Village,<sup>1</sup> Little Falls, all of Paterson south of the Passaic, and a large part of Caldwell. The Newark *Town Records* mention a commission appointed in 1683 to run the line between Newark and "Hockquecanung," said commissioners being instructed to "make no other Agreement with them of any other Bounds than what was formerly." April 6th, 1719, the line was renewed, the commissioners "present from Acquackanong Mr. Michael Vreelandt, Thomas Uriansen, Garret Harmanusen." (*Newark Town Records*, pp. 94, 128.) In 1693 the five counties of the Province (of East Jersey) were subdivided into townships, and in 1694, to raise £79 12s. 9d., Acquackanonk and New Barbadoes together were taxed £6, 15s., as much as Newark, or one-twelfth of the whole. Acquackanonk would hardly undertake now to pay that proportion of the tax assigned to East Jersey. In 1699, Newark, Elizabeth and Perth Amboy joined in protesting against a certain tax levied by the Assembly, and appealed to the town of "Acquechenonck" among others to stand by them, but we have no record of any response ever having been made. (*Whitehead's E. J.*, pp. 160, 145; *Newark Town Records*, p. 113.) If the Acquackanonk Town Records were in existence from the organization of the township they would throw a flood of light on its early history, but diligent inquiry has failed to elicit any trace of them. We cannot tell when a preaching station was established at Acquackanonk; perhaps a *Voorleser* officiated here very early. Guilaem Bertholf served Hackensack in that capacity as early as 1689, probably, and not unlikely officiated at Acquackanonk at the same time. In 1694 the church at Acquackanonk was fully organized by the election of Elias Vreeland as

<sup>1</sup>[Incorporated in 1873 as Passaic City.]

Elder, and Basteaen van Gysen and Hessel Peterse as Deacons, March 18, 1694. April 16, 1695, Frans Post was chosen Deacon. May, 1696, Waling Jacobse van Winkel was elected Elder, and Christopher Steynmets Deacon. May 2, 1697, Basteaen van Gysen was re-elected Deacon. May 22, 1698, Elias Vreeland was chosen Elder, and Hermannus Gerritse Deacon. May 4, 1699, Frans Post was re-elected Elder, and Hessel Peterse was re-elected Deacon. In March, 1726, the church actually had a membership of 197, and 53 were added during the remainder of the year. In 1727, too, there were twenty-five births and baptisms in the congregation. (*Acquackanonk Ref. Ch. Records*, fols. 1-5, 109-111, 329-331.) From these data there would appear to have been 200 families, at least, in this part of the country.

This notice of Acquackanonk has been unintentionally lengthened; but perhaps it may excite some of our older families to ransack their ancient garrets, closets, boxes and barrels, in quest of material for a really full history of Acquackanonk. The writer hereof would be very much pleased to see any old deeds, maps, manuscripts or papers of any kind throwing light on this subject.

But to resume: The West India Company had in 1621 sent out Cornelius Jacobse Mey to locate colonies in the New Netherlands. He touched first at New York and called that harbor Port Mey, with all the assurance of an original discoverer; then he entered Delaware Bay, and called the respective capes, "Cape Cornelis" and "Cape Mey" (the latter retaining the name to this day), but he made no settlements. There is pretty good evidence that the Dutch did establish a colony here as early as 1623-6, which was massacred by the Indians, 1631. (*Doc. Hist. N. Y.*, Vol. 3, pp. 49-50.)

Swedes settled on the Delaware between 1631-40, retaining a precarious hold, fighting the Indians, the English and the Dutch, till at last they were expelled from their principal fort by a "foe that appeared in countless hosts, alike incomparable for activity and perseverance, and obtained possession of the fort, and the discomfited Swedes, bathed even in the ill-gotten blood of their own enemies, were compelled to abandon the post, which in honor of the victors received the name of *Moschetoesburg*." (*Gordon's N. J.*, p. 14.) All hopes of Swedish empire in the new world were effectually dissipated by sturdy old one-legged Peter Stuyvesant, the doughty Governor of the New Netherlands, who raised the Dutch flag over the Swedish colony in 1655. The Dutch governed this colony by Lieutenants, who were empowered to issue grants of land, the deeds to be registered at New Amsterdam. We might say here that the Swedes bought the land of the Indians and were authorized by the crown to hold it "so long as the grantees continued subject to the (Swedish) government"; full sovereignty of the land was secured to the crown, the company paying an annual tribute to the crown, in return for which they were granted absolute sovereignty. Under the Swedish government, no deeds of land were given by the company; at least, there are no traces of any, except those which were granted by Queen Christina. The Dutch issued a great many after 1656. "No rents were in the meantime received, since all the land was neglected, and the inhabitants were indolent, so that the products were little more than sufficient for their subsistence." When the English came, the people were summoned to New York to receive deeds for their land, which they either had taken up, or intended to take up. The grants were made in the Duke of York's name; the rents were a



bushel of wheat for 100 acres, if so demanded. A part of the inhabitants took deeds, others gave themselves no trouble about the matter, except that they agreed with the Indians for tracts of land in exchange for a gun, a kettle, a fur jacket, and the like; and they likewise sold them again to others for the same price, as land was abundant, inhabitants few, and the government not vigorous. Hence it appears that in law-suits respecting titles to land, they relied upon the Indian right, which prevailed when it could be proved. Many who took deeds for large tracts of land, repented of it from fear of the after demand of rents (which, however, were very light when the people cultivated their lands), and on that account transferred the largest part of them to others," which their descendants doubtless exceedingly regret. (*History of New Sweden, in N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll., N. S., Vol. I, p. 427.*) The conditions of the Swedish grants were much the same as the Dutch "Charter of Liberties," but were more liberal, allowing unrestricted commerce and manufactures in the new colony. Provisions were also made for the evangelization of the natives. After the Dutch conquest most of the Swedes left the country, but those who remained were left in undisturbed possession of their lands, on swearing allegiance to the new rule. (*Gordon's N. J., pp. 12-14.*)

In 1634 the territory between Cape May and Long Island Sound was granted by the English to Sir Edmund Ployden, and the tract was erected into a free county palatine, by the name of New Albion. He is thought to have established a puny colony on the Delaware, near Salem, about 1641, but it was crushed out by the Swedes and Dutch, and English plans for the conquest of the New Netherlands again came to naught. The Dutch at this time offered, indeed, to sell out to Ployden their West

Jersey possessions for £2,500, which not being accepted they raised their demand to £7,000, and finally, became indifferent to any compromise, seeing that the English settlement was far weaker than their own. (*Whitehead's E. J.*, pp. 8-9; *Gordon's N. J.*, p. 10.)

There are vague traditions of a settlement on the Delaware, near Minising, by Dutch miners, as early as 1635. (*Gordon's N. J.*, p. 10.)

Settlements were also made at Perth Amboy as early as 1651, when a large tract of land was bought of the Indians (*Whitehead's Perth Amboy*, p. 2), and a Dutch colony planted.

Here let us remark, that the Dutch west of the Hudson do not seem to have been particularly enterprising—not as much so as those of New Amsterdam, or New York—but this apparent want of enterprise may indeed be attributed to the lack of information on our part concerning the Dutch settlers in New Jersey. For one thing, we have had no such veracious chronicler as Diedrich Knickerbocker, to do for the Jersey Dutch what he has done for the New York Knickerbockers, and 'tis to be feared the time for such an historian on our side of the Hudson hath passed. Perchance, were our Legislature as liberal as those of Massachusetts and New York, in their appropriations in aid of historical research, the archives of the Holland government might throw a great deal of light on our early history—say prior to the English conquest of this colony—and might show that the original Dutch stock of this State was as able, active and intelligent as that of any other State or Colony in the country. It is to be hoped our Legislature will not much longer delay to procure all the available material that will throw light upon our earliest history, in the days when the sturdy Dutch “planters,” as they were called, still met the

Indian face to face among the forests or on the plantations of the New Netherlands west of the Hudson, and by patient toil made possible the glorious present that we enjoy.<sup>1</sup>

But another element was now about to be introduced among the settlers of New Jersey—an element that has left its impress upon our State not only, but upon the whole country, as a similar body of men has seldom done. The Puritans who come so near landing about New York in 1620, seem never to have lost sight of the New Netherlands, and forty years later (1661-3) we find them corresponding with the Government of New York, with a view to settling in New Jersey at the “Arthur Cull”—the *Achter Koll*, as the Dutch called it; i. e., behind the hills, the Navesink hills; from a corruption of these words comes the name “Arthur’s Kill,” applied to the river so called. (See *N. Y. Col. MSS., Vols. IX and X*, quoted in *Newark Bi-Centennial*, pp. 157-166.) These Puritans subsequently (in 1666 and 1667) settled in Newark, and their descendants have since furnished the State with perhaps a majority of the men who have been eminent in legislation and government, to say no more.

In all cases of permanent settlement up to this period the land appears to have been regularly bought of the Indians, and perhaps at fair prices, though now, of course, it would appear supremely ridiculous to think of buying all Essex county for “fifty double-hands of powder, 100 bars of lead, twenty axes, twenty coats, ten guns, twenty pistols, ten kettles, ten swords, four blankets, four barrels of beer, ten pair of breeches, fifty knives, twenty hoes, 850 fathoms of wampum, two ankers of liquors, or something equivalent, and three troopers’ coats.” (*E. J.*

<sup>1</sup>[This hope has been realized in the generous appropriations by the Legislature, for the publication of the New Jersey Archives. *Note*, 1912.]

*Records, Lib. 1, fol. 69, quoted in Newark Town Records, pp. 278-9.*) And certainly \$250, and \$70 yearly rental, would not be considered a fair compensation for the territory included in Paterson, Passaic, Acquackanonk and Little Falls! (*Whitehead's E. J.*, p. 49.)

#### THE INDIANS IN NEW JERSEY.

Just here let us speak briefly of the dusky aborigines who inhabited New Jersey ere the whites came. It is exceedingly difficult to estimate their numbers. Living as they did, it were impossible for them to support themselves in large families or tribes close together, and hence they were doubtless continually on the move, or sending off branches of tribes to find new homes. People who lived almost entirely by hunting and fishing necessarily required extensive tracts of territory for their subsistence. A work published in 1648 (quoted in *Whitehead's E. J.*, p. 24) says the natives in this section of the continent were under about twenty kings, and that there were "1200 under the two Raritan Kings," so that Mr. Whitehead estimates the Indian population of New Jersey (or perhaps East Jersey) at about 2,000, in 1650. This seems to me a low estimate, that might be safely multiplied by five and be nearer the truth; but the data are so meagre that all figures under this head are little more than guesswork. From various writers (Wassenaer, 1624; De Laet, 1625; De Vries, 1632-43; Van der Donck, who came here in 1642, being the first lawyer in the New Netherlands, cited in the *Doc. Hist. N. Y.*, Vol. 3, and *N. Y. Hist. Coll., N. S., Vol. I*, already so freely resorted to; also *Gordon's N. J.*), old Indian deeds (the Tappan, Totowa, Singack, Acquackanonk and Newark

Patents), and local traditions, we have accounts of a few Indian tribes in this part of Jersey, as follows:

The *Sanhicans*, about Raritan Bay, generally well spoken of; next north the *Reckawangh* and *Machkentiwomi* or *Mechkentowoon*; then the *Tappaens*, and two or three tribes at Esopus. We also have frequent notices of the Indians of *Ackinshachy*, *Hackingsack* or *Ackingsack*, who seem to have had dominion west of the Bergen hill to the *Watchung* (Garret) Mountain, north to Tappan, and southerly to beyond Newark, one *Oratany* being their chief or *sakim* in 1640. (*De Vries*.) West of Garret or *Watchung* Mountain the *Pom-pe-tan* or *Pompton* Indians probably held sway, and beyond them the *Ram-a-paugh*s. I have not been able to ascertain whether or not any other Indian names hereabouts were names of Indian tribes. *Acquackanonk*, *Sicomac* ("Shighemeck," it is written in the Totowa patent, the Indians reserving it in the deed—it is understood for a burial place), *Preahnness*, *Wanaque*, *Yawpaw*, *Paramus* ("Perremmaus"), *Singack* or *Singheck*, *Watchung*, *Macopin*, etc., are quite certainly descriptive names of places, and probably *Totowa* refers to the Great Falls, which were sometimes called the "Totohaw Falls" by writers of the last century. Possibly, it was the name of a tribe. Unfortunately, the person who drew up the Totowa patent studiously avoided all Indian names of places, except "Shighemeck," or we should have had much more light on this subject. The Singack and Totowa patents are similarly unfortunately defective.

All the Indians of New Jersey belonged to the *Lenni Lenape*, or to the *Mengwe* or *Mingo* natives, the former being called Delawares by the whites so constantly that the very name is doubtless generally supposed to be of Indian origin, instead of being the title of Lord Delaware

or De la Warre, the first grantee of the State so called. The *Muncys* or *Monseys* were the most warlike of the *Lenni Lenape*, and stretched across Northern New Jersey. Their name is preserved in a little railroad station on the Northern Railroad. Probably the *Minisink* Indians were the same tribe. The *Senecas* and *Mohawks* also at times occupied parts of the province. The *Lenape* and the *Mengwe* waged deadly war against each other for years, and the latter getting other nations to join them finally subjugated the *Lenapes*. Both nations were subsequently transferred westward, and their meagre remnants still survive, in part, among the Six Nations in Central and Southern New York. During the French war of 1756 the Indians took part with the French, and under the notorious half-breed Gen. Brant committed a dreadful massacre at the Minisink Valley, near Walpack, Sussex county. The New Jersey Legislature at once took steps to peaceably extinguish the Indian claims, and most of the tribes emigrated to western hunting grounds. The Indians were grateful, and the Six Nations in Convention at Fort Stanwix in 1769 in the most solemn manner conferred upon New Jersey the title of the *Great Doer of Justice*. (Judge Field's *Provincial Courts of New Jersey*, p. 5, n.) Indeed, the Indians in New Jersey were ever fairly dealt with by the whites in regard to their lands, as we have seen before and shall hereafter find. When, so recently as 1832, a few distant Delaware Indians claimed compensation for certain hunting and fishing privileges reserved to them by an ancient treaty, the Legislature promptly granted them full compensation, and thus extinguished the last Indian title to a foot of New Jersey soil or the privileges thereof. At this time an aged Delaware thus addressed the Legislature: "Not a drop of our blood have you spilled in battle; not

an acre of our land have you taken but by our consent. These facts speak for themselves, and need no comment. They place the character of New Jersey in bold relief and bright example to those States, within whose territorial limits our brethren still remain. Nothing save benizens can fall upon her, from the lips of a *Lenni Lenappi*." (Judge Field, *ut supra*.)

Wassenaer, in 1624 (cited above), has these notices of the Indian character: "They are not, by nature, the most gentle. Were there no weapons, especially muskets, near, they would frequently kill the Traders for sake of the plunder; but whole troops run before five or six muskets. At the first coming (of the whites) they were accustomed to fall prostrate on the report of the gun; but now they stand still from habit, so that the first Colonists will stand in need of protection." "All are very cunning in Trade; yea, frequently, after having sold every thing, they will go back of the bargain, and that forcibly, in order to get a little more; and then they return upwards, being thirty and forty strong." These are the Virginia Indians. Of those of the New Netherlands he says: "The natives of New Netherland are very well disposed so long as no injury is done them. But if any wrong be committed against them they think it long till they be revenged and should any one against whom they have a grudge, be peaceably walking in the woods or going along in his sloop, even after a lapse of time, they will slay him, though they are sure it will cost them their lives on the spot, so highly prized is vengeance among them." "The natives are always seeking some advantage by thieving. The crime is seldom punished among them. If any one commit that offence too often he is stripped bare of his goods, and must resort to other means another time."

When at war, "they are a wicked, bad people, very fierce in arms." (*Wassenaer, ut supra*, pp. 32, 33, 39, 40.)

De Vries, De Laet and Van der Donck, above cited, all agree that the Indians were in general peaceably disposed toward the whites, trusted in them, looked up to them. But when a young Hackensack Indian, son of a chief, in drunken wantonness one day shot a carpenter who was at work on a house-top, near Jersey City, and the Dutch Governor furiously demanded his surrender by the other Indians, one of them with great sense replied: "that the Europeans were the cause of it; that we ought not to sell brandy to the young Indians, which made them crazy, they not being used to their liquors; and they saw very well that even among our people who were used to drink it, when drunk they committed foolish actions, and often fought with knives. And therefore, to prevent all mischief, they wished we would sell no more spirituous liquors to the Indians." (*N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll., Vol. I, p. 267.*)

But the Indian is gone. His noiseless tread long ago ceased to thread the boundless forests, or to course the once great "Minisink Path," that highway from the Raritan to the Delaware, *via* the Great Notch and *Singack*; no more does he sail along the placid "Pesayack," in quest of the shad once so plentiful; nor does he hunt the bounding deer or moose or elk across our wild country. He is gone, and save an occasional flint arrow-head, or rudely-shapen axe, or infrequent skull, or bit of coarse pottery, he has left no trace behind him. *No* trace? Ah, yes! "Words are winged," says Homer, "and unless weighted down with meaning will soon fly away." The Indian has left behind him that which will never be forgotten—his local nomenclature. The musical (and I insist upon it that the Indian words *are* musical) names of



places that have so often rippled through the dewy lips of dusky maidens a century or two ago seem by a potent spell of sympathizing Nature to have been affixed forever to the places all about us, as a "memento mori," to compensate in some measure for the destruction of the people who first applied those names. And so long as the Great Falls of the *Passaic* are remembered in song or story or the annals of the chronicler; so long as the bare, scraggy *Preakness* mountain rears its rude barriers skyward; while the sonorous name *Totowa* clings to the Falls neighborhood; and the peaceful valley of the *Sicomac* reminds us of the Indians' hopeful burial-customs; and the *Singach* still describes the sunken flats or valley; and the *Wagaraw* yet reminds us of the river's abrupt bending at Riverside; and the *Pequannock* ripples and dashes and dances over its rocky bed as merrily as the vowels and consonants of its appellation do over the tongue; while the softly-spoken *Wanaque* recalls one of the most charming of valleys and prettiest of streams; or the name *Macopin* savors of delicious pickerel; or *Watchung* describes the bold bluffs of Garret Mountain—while all these aboriginal names cling to spots so familiar to us, and so dear to many of us, even though their meanings be lost to us, yet still we shall not utterly forget the mysterious children of Nature who came and went, and whose coming and going seem to us to have been only as a shadow flitting across a sunny landscape.

#### THE EARLY GOVERNMENT OF NEW JERSEY.

But this paper has been extended beyond all intention or expectation. The part of New Jersey history already gone over is so fresh, and has had so little written about it, that an unusual interest naturally attaches to it in the mind of one with a taste for historical research.

At this late hour you will gladly pardon me if I give

but the merest outline of the leading subsequent events of New Jersey history.

First let it be understood that this whole territory was included in "Florida" by the Spaniards in 1535 (*vide supra*); in 1610 was called the "New Netherlands"; in 1648 was called "New Albion" by an ambitious English adventurer; but retained the name "New Netherlands" till 1664. New York and New Jersey were all this time under one Dutch government, *Wouter van Twiller* being sent out in 1630 by the West India Company, as above stated. He was succeeded in 1638 by Wm. Kieft, a murderous, cowardly rascal, who early in 1643 instigated his soldiers to commit one of the most atrocious massacres recorded in history, upon a party of friendly natives at Pavonia. The redoubtable Peter Stuyvesant came after, and remained Governor, Director-General, etc., of the whole country till 1664. Then the English, who laid claim to the continent ever since Cabot discovered it in 1497, again because Hudson was an Englishman, and again because a daring English captain (Argal) had in 1613 or 1614 compelled the hauling down of the Dutch flag over Fort Amsterdam. The New Haven settlers were very jealous of their Dutch neighbors, and once had the temerity to attack New Amsterdam, but were promptly repelled by the doughty Stuyvesant. Foiled, but not despairing, the New England people called on the Protector, Cromwell, in 1653, to establish the English claim to the New Netherlands, and he actually fitted out a fleet for the purpose, but an unexpected peace with Holland stopped the meditated expedition. Charles II succeeding Cromwell lost no time in assuming the sovereignty over the Dutch possessions in America, and then at once transferred that sovereignty to his brother, the Duke of York, March 12, 1663-4, who in

turn (June 23-4, 1664) transferred to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret the sovereignty over what we call New Jersey. Up to this time this territory had been identified with what is now New York, as the New Netherlands, there being one Governor over the whole country. The Duke of York on his accession to the ownership sent out an expedition under Col. Richard Nicolls to take possession, and Fort Amsterdam peaceably surrendered to him Sept. 3, 1664, when the place was christened New York. The terms granted the Dutch were so favorable that they generally remained and became subjects of Great Britain. Col. Nicolls acted as Governor over the united province for a year, and was Court, Legislature and all. He prescribed the manner of purchases from the Indians, and required a public registry of all contracts with them for the soil, before their validity would be acknowledged.

In the Duke of York's grant to Berkeley and Carteret it was provided that the tract transferred to them should thereafter be called *Nova Caesarea* or New Jersey—because Sir George Carteret had been governor of the Island of Jersey, in the English channel, and had there afforded a refuge to the future Charles II. (*Whitehead's E. J.*, pp. 30, 31.) The new proprietors in 1665 made arrangements to induce settlements, and proclaimed a written constitution for the government of the new colony—perhaps the very first in America, for it went far beyond the Dutch "Charter of Liberties" granted in 1629. The government of the province was entrusted to a governor (appointed by the proprietors), and a council of 6 to 12 persons chosen by the governor, and an assembly of twelve representatives, chosen annually by the freemen of the province, and this Legislature was given, virtually, absolute power in the government of the

province, so much so, indeed, that "no tax could be justly imposed on them, without their own consent and the authority of their own general assembly"—which right they insisted upon, and successfully, too, as early as 1680 (*Whitehead's E. J.*, p. 81), or nearly a century before that plea was generally raised by the American colonies, and with far greater justification than in the case of most of the others.

As Grahame puts it: "Thus the whole of New Jersey was promoted at once from the condition of a conquered country to the rank of a free and independent province, and rendered in political theory the adjunct, instead of the mere dependency, of the British empire. It would not be easy to point out, in any of the political writings or harangues of which that period was abundantly prolific, a more manly and intrepid exertion for the preservation of liberty, than we behold in this first successful defence of the rights of New Jersey. One of the most remarkable features of the plea which the colonists maintained, was the unqualified and deliberate assertion, that no tax could be justly imposed on them without their own consent and the authority of their own provincial assembly. The report of the commissioners and the relief that followed, were virtual concessions in favor of this principle, which in an after age was destined to obtain a more signal triumph in the national independence of North America." (*Grahame's Col. Hist.*, quoted by Judge Field, *ut supra*, pp. 38, 39.)

Philip Carteret, brother<sup>1</sup> of Sir George, was commissioned as Governor in 1665, sailed for New Jersey, and landing at Elizabethtown gave that spot (settled a year or two earlier) its name, in honor of his brother's wife. He made arrangements to settle Perth Amboy and

<sup>1</sup>[A fourth cousin. *Note*, 1912.]

Woodbridge, and the former was the seat of government of East Jersey for a century afterwards, and to this day there are deposited there the earliest registers of land-titles and transfers, from 1676-1702.<sup>1</sup> In 1668 Gov. Carteret summoned the first Assembly, which met at Elizabethtown, fifteen years before the first Assembly of New York. Bergen sent Casper Steenmetts and Balthazar Bayard to this first Legislature in New Jersey. At this time and for some years later, judicial powers were also vested in the Governor and his Council. (*Field's Provincial Courts of N. J.*, pp. —.)

Under the new government the land was granted on condition of the payment of a yearly quit-rent to the proprietors, of half a penny an acre. In 1672, on one plea and another, many of the settlers refused to pay this rent, and anarchy ensued. Governor Carteret went to England (leaving John Berry as Deputy), and had his authority confirmed by the Duke of York and King Charles himself, and Berkeley and Carteret.

Now the Dutch suddenly swept down on the country and again took possession of the quondam "New Netherlands," but they interfered with no individual rights, and the code of laws promulgated "By the Schout and Magistrates of Achter Kol Assembly," held at Elizabethtown, Nov. 18, 1673, was very mild. A few months later peace was declared between England and Holland, and the American provinces were restored to the English.

Now the Duke of York obtained from King Charles a new patent for New York and New Jersey, and sent out Edmund Andros as Governor, July 1st, 1674, all former grants being reaffirmed. About this time Carteret's title

<sup>1</sup>[An error. These records were transferred to Trenton, in accordance with an Act of the Legislature, passed November 25, 1790. *Note*, 1912.]

was renewed by the King, and the Duke gave him individually the northern half of New Jersey, and Philip Carteret returned to assume the rule of the province. The southern or West Jersey half of the province had been sold by Lord Berkeley, and a few years later passed into the hands of a company. The two halves of the Province were thenceforward, for nearly a century, known as East Jersey and West Jersey, sometimes having two Governors, and always having two Assemblies, and their government, mode of selling lands, etc., were entirely different. The line between the two Provinces gave no end of trouble for sixty years. The general course of that line as laid out in 1687 may be noticed on any county map of New Jersey.

Gov. Andros of New York continually interfered with Gov. Carteret, and finally assumed authority over East Jersey, at Elizabeth, in 1680; brutally seized Carteret, carried him to New York, and had him tried by a special court on a charge of unlawfully assuming authority. The court refused to convict, though ordered to do so by Andros, but Carteret was required to stay away from East Jersey, while Andros went over to Jersey and asked the Assembly to confirm him in possession. This they nobly refused to do, and asserted that the great *Magna Charta* and the "Concessions" of the Lords Proprietors were superior to his claims, or even to a subsequent decree of royalty itself! A few months later the Duke of York disclaimed Andros's acts, and Carteret was restored to the government of East Jersey. Sir George Carteret dying in 1679, devised East Jersey to certain trustees, who offered it for sale to the highest bidder, and in 1681-2 it was bought by Wm. Penn and eleven other Quakers, for £3,400, and they took in twelve other associates.

Gov. Carteret died December, 1682, and was buried in New York—the precise place being unknown.

He was succeeded by others from time to time, who ruled with indifferent success, the people gradually growing more discontented, till in 1702, in response to the popular demand,<sup>1</sup> the Lords Proprietors resigned the government to the English Crown. For some years New York and New Jersey were under one Royal Governor, but this did not suit the Jerseymen, who were ever jealous of their liberties, and thereafter they were given a Governor of their own. Of the events that led to the Revolution, there is not time now to speak. Suffice it to say, that New Jersey was in the van of patriotic colonies, and her Provincial Congress proclaimed the independence of the Province, July second, 1776,—two days before the immortal Declaration of the United Colonies at Philadelphia. New Jersey's part in the subsequent Revolution, and her career from then till now has been glorious, and unmarked by a single stain on her bright escutcheon. That it may be ever so, should be our earnest wish and constant endeavor.

<sup>1</sup>[And conceding the doubtful legality of the royal grant of Charles II, alienating from the crown its sovereignty over New Jersey.]











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