

No. 1.

A HISTORY
OF THE
State of Delaware,

FROM
ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT UNTIL THE PRESENT TIME,

CONTAINING
A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST DUTCH AND
SWEDISH SETTLEMENTS,

WITH
A DESCRIPTION OF ITS GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.

BY
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WILMINGTON, DEL.

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CHAPTER IX.

FROM 1629 TO 1633.

Delaware a part of the Dutch Colony of New Netherlands—Charter of the Assembly of XIX to settle New Netherlands—Features of the Charter Grant to Herr Samuel Godyn of lands in South (Delaware) River—First Land Grant in Delaware—Sale of land by the Indians, to Godyn and Blommaert—First deed in Delaware—Godyn and Blommaert form a partnership to settle this State—Peterson De Vries—Sailing of a Colony from Holland for Delaware under De Vries—They settle at Hoornkill (Lewistown)—They build Fort Oplandt—Name the place Swanendale—De Vries leaves for Holland—Delaware Bay called Godyn's Bay—Massacre of the Settlers by the Indians—Arrival of De Vries in the Delaware—Interview with the Indians—Their account of the Massacre—Asserted relinquishment of the Delaware by the English to the Swedish Ambassador—Governor Minuit recalled to Holland—Grant to Lord Baltimore—His death—Death of Gustavus Adolphus, through whose influence Delaware was first settled.

For the purpose of promoting the settle- [1629]
ment of what the Dutch called New Nether-
lands, then consisting (according to the Dutch claim)
of the present State of Delaware, New Jersey, New
York and part of Connecticut; the Assembly of XIX,
on the 7th of June, granted a charter of "Freedoms
and Exemptions, to all such as shall plant colonies in
New Netherlands." This gave the privilege to mem-
bers of the company to send to New Netherlands in
the company's ships, on certain terms, three or four
persons to view the country, for the purpose of select-

ing lands. Those, who after four years notice to the company, planted a colony of fifty souls, over fifteen years of age, were to be entitled to the dignity of being made patroons. They were allowed to have the privilege of selecting lands for four Dutch miles (about sixteen English) along the shore on one side of any navigable river, and as far into the interior of the country as their situation would permit. If they selected their lands on both sides of a navigable river, they had only two Dutch or eight English miles in length. The company reserved the right to the land between the limits of the colonies to themselves, under the general rule, that no person should be allowed to come within thirty-two English miles of them without their consent. The jurisdiction of the river was reserved to the States General or Company. The patroons were to enjoy and possess over the lands within their limits, fruits, rights, minerals, rivers, and fountains; have "chief command and lower jurisdiction," fishing, fowling, and grinding, exclusively. They had also the privilege of founding cities, appointing officers and magistrates, besides other powers and privileges.¹ It was, in fact, transplanting the feudal system of Europe to the shores of America. Under this grant, "The Herr Samuel Godyn (a merchant of Amsterdam), and Samuel Blommaert, on the 19th of June, obtained a grant of land on the west side of South River Bay, extending from Cape Henlopen inland thirty-two miles, and two miles in breadth. They had pre-

¹ O'Callighan, N. Y. Documents.

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viously sent persons to examine it, and purchased it from the Indians. This was the first grant of land made to any European in the State of Delaware, or on the banks of the river and bay of that name. An Indian village then stood somewhere in the neighborhood of Lewistown, possibly on the ground on which that town now stands. Moulton speaking of this purchase says, "One of three ships sent over by the department of the West India Company, this year (1629), visited the Indian village on the Southwest corner of Newport, May, or Delaware Bay, and that the purchase was then made from Cape Hindlop to the mouth of the river." What river we are left to infer. But as in the deed (in Moulton) speaks of the extent of the grant being eight large miles, and as the Dutch mile measures in length that of four English miles, therefore the extent of the Indian grant to the Dutch would be thirty-two English miles along the coast of our State from Cape Henlopen northwards.

The river alluded to therefore, must either be Jones' or Murderkill Creeks, or Mahon River. It is more than probable the latter. For as the Dutch (judging from the usual course of the dealings of the white man with the Indian) would be more apt to over than under measure their purchase, we may safely judge that the Mahon, which is over thirty-eight English miles as the crow flies, from Cape Henlopen, would be more likely to be the one alluded to, than the Jones or Murderkill, which are hardly twenty-six miles.

This grant therefore, comprised nearly the whole

bay front of Kent and Sussex counties. The deeds of this land has been happily preserved in the New York State Library, and as it is the first deed ever given for land in Delaware, or on the banks of the Delaware we have published it entire. It is as follows :

"We, the Directors and Council of New Netherlands, residing on the Island of Manhattan and in Fort Amsterdam, under the authority of their High Mightinesses the Lord's State General of the United Netherlands, and of the Incorporated West India Company Chamber at Amsterdam, hereby acknowledge and declare, that on this day, the date underwritten, came and appeared before us in their proper persons, Queskacous and Entquet, Siconesius and the inhabitants of the village, situate at the South Cape of the bay of South River, and freely and voluntarily declared by special authority of the rulers, and consent of the commonality there, that they already on the first day of June, of the past year 1629, for, and on account of certain parcels of cargoes, which they previous to the passing hereof, acknowledged to have received and got into their hands and power, to their full satisfaction, have transferred, ceded, given over, and conveyed, in just, true, and free property, as they hereby transport, cede, give over, and convey to and for the behoof of Messrs. Samuel Godyn and Samuel Blommaert absent; and for whom, We, by virtue of our office under proper stipulation, do accept the same, namely, the land to them belonging, situate on the south side of the aforesaid Bay, by us called the Bay of the South

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River, extending in length from Cape Hinloffin, off
into the mouth of the aforesaid South River, about
eight leagues (*groote mylen*), and half a league in
breadth into the interior, extending to a *certain marsh*
(*lieyte*) or *valley*, through which these limits can clearly
enough be distinguished. And, that with all the action,
right, and jurisdiction, to them in the aforesaid quality
therein appertaining, constituting and surrogating the
said Messrs. Godyng and Blommaert, in their stead,
state, zeal, and actual possession thereof; and giving
them at the same time, full and irrevocable authority,
power, and special command to hold in quiet posses-
sion, occupancy and use, *tanquam Actores et Pro-*
curatores in rem propriam the aforesaid land, acquired
by the above mentioned Messrs. Godyn and Blomm-
aert, or those who may hereafter obtain their interest;
also, to so barter and dispose thereof, as they may do
with their own well and lawfully acquired lands.
Without the grantors having reserving or retaining
for the future, any of the smallest part, action, right,
or authority, whether of property command or juris-
diction therein; but now, hereby forever and a day,
desisting, retiring from and abandoning, and renounc-
ing the same, for the behoof aforesaid, promising
further, not only to observe, fulfill, and hold fast,
steadfast and unbroken, and irrevocable, that their
conveyance and whatever may be done in virtue
thereof, but also the said parcel of land to maintain
against every one, and to deliver free of controver-
sies, gainsays, and contradictions, by whomsoever
instituted against the same. All in good faith, with-

out guile, and deceit. In witness this confirmed with our usual signatures, and with our seal dependant therefrom. Done at the aforesaid Island, Manhattan, this 15th July, xvi. and thirty.¹

PETER MINUIT, *Director*,
JACOB ELBERTSON WISSINK,
JAN JANSEN BROUWER,
SIMON DIRCKSEN POO,
REYNER HARMENSEAR,
JAN LAMPE, *Sheriff*."

It would be impossible at this day, to find out the grant by these landmarks, which the deed says, "*through which by these limits can clearly enough be distinguished.*" The valley does not now (if it ever did) exist in Kent county. If the changes in the country by the encroachments of the bay has not destroyed the hills, the landmarks the deed alludes to, must have been in New Castle county. The term marsh is very indefinite, as with but few intervals of fast land (such as at Kett's Hammock, in Dover hundred, Bower's Beach, in South Murderkill hundred, Kent county, and Thorn Point, in Cedar Creek hundred, Sussex county), the whole bay coast between Mahon River and Lewistown, is marsh.

¹ A photographed copy of the original of this deed, was presented to the Historical Society of Delaware, by General Meredith Reed. This is the first time it was ever published. This deed, as given by Moulton, is published in Hazard's Annals, page 23. The name, however, of Blommaert, is not inserted in that deed. There are no signatures to it, and the name of the Indian grantors are given as Queskakous, Esanques, and Sickonesgris.

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DELAWARE.

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INSTITUTE,
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Original house established by Isaac Jones, in 1740;
transferred to Isaac R. Jones, in 1810, through Jones
& Barton, J. Sidney Jones, and F. L. T. Jones up to
the late exotic passage of arms in the United States,
commencing 1861, thence passing to J. N. Stehtlow.

J. S. JONES, Agent,
(Successor to J. N. Stehtlow.)
CARPETS, OIL CLOTHS,
MATTINGS, WINDOW SHADES,
Wholesale and Retail,
No. 147 South Second Street,
PHILADELPHIA,
Two doors above Commercial Exchange; one door
above N. E. cor. of Second and Walnut; on the line,
and in the immediate vicinity of every car in the city.

After the grant of this land to Godyn and Blommaert, they formed a partnership with several others to attempt a settlement, also with a view of engaging in the whale fishery, "whales being plenty in those regions, and fish oil being 60 guilders per hogshead" in Holland. Previous to forming this partnership, however, he met with *David Pieterszen De Vries*, of Hoorn, a port in North Holland, "a bold and skilful seaman, and master of artillery in the service of the United Provinces." He had about two months previously returned from the East Indies. An offer of a "commandership" was made to him by Godyn, or Blommaert, or both, and employment as "second patroon," such as granted by the State, and by the 19th Article of the West India Company's Charter. This he declined to accept, unless he was made equal in all respects to the others as patroon, which, being readily agreed to, a patroonship was formed by entering into formal articles of association on the 16th of October. Those who composed it were Samuel Godyn, William Van Rensselaer, Samuel Blommaert, Jan De Laet, and De Vries, to which several others were afterwards added. Preparations were made immediately for the expedition, a ship and yacht were fitted out, thirty colonists placed on board, with material for whaling and for planting tobacco and grain, and thus equipped, on the 12th of December, under command of De Vries, they sailed from the Texel, to make the first attempt at settlement in the State of Delaware.¹

¹ De Vries, N. Y. His. Collection.

[1631] When De Vries' expedition arrived in the Delaware is not certainly known, but as he sailed in December, taking the usual length of passages at that time as a criterion, he must have arrived in the Delaware Bay in the March or April of the following year. After passing Cape Cornelis, he entered a deep creek, abounding with oysters, which he named Hoornkill or Hoorkill, probably after Hoorn, the place of his residence in Holland, and kill, the Dutch name for creek. In other words, Hoorn Creek, afterwards called Whorekill.¹ It is the present Lewes Creek in Sussex county. Here he erected a house, and surrounded it with palisades instead of parapets and breastworks, which served the purpose of both trade and defence. He named it Fort Oplandt. The weather was fine, and no inconvenience was suffered from it. From the number of swans which he had seen, he named the place Swanendale, or "Valley of Swans." De Vries sailed some time in the course of the year for Holland, leaving the colony in command of Gillis Hossett, the commissary of the expedition. Either before or after the departure of De Vries, a purchase was made by Gillis Hossett from the Indians, for Godyn and Blommaert, for a tract of land, on the east side of Delaware Bay, or Cape May, in the present State of New Jersey. Both sides of the

¹ Several writers have said that this name was given from the bad conduct of the Indian women. But there is no just reason for this statement. The Dutch always called it Hoornkill. It was not until after the arrival of the English that it was called Whorekill. Until the arrival of Penn, Whorekill was the name given to the whole of Sussex county.

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river were now named Swanendale. The purchase was made on board the "Ship Walrus," or Whale, before Peter Heysen, skipper, and Gillis Hossett, commissary. This ship Walrus was probably the yacht that came over with De Vries for the purpose of whaling. Hossett, who may be called the first *governor of Delaware*, as he governed the colony of Swanendale, had formerly been agent for the purchase of lands around Fort Orange (now Albany, N. Y.) for Van Rensselaer. The bay was at this time called Godyn's Bay.

Some time after the departure of De Vries, this unfortunate colony (the first settlers of our State) were all massacred by the Indians. The settlers under Mey had at this time abandoned Fort Nassau, and the only white residents on the Delaware were the colonists at Swanendale. The account, as learned by De Vries on his second visit, was as follows:

The Dutch, according to their custom, had erected a pillar, on which was a piece of tin, on which was traced the coat of arms of the United Provinces. One of the chiefs wanted to make it into tobacco pipes, and not knowing that it was improper, took away the tin, which gave the officers in command much dissatisfaction, so that the Indians did not know how to make amends. They went away and killed the chief who had taken the tin, and brought a token of it to those who commanded at the house, who told them that they had done wrong; that they ought to have come with him to the house, and they would have told him not to do so any more. They then

left, but the friends of the murdered man resolved to be revenged. They attacked the Dutch when they were working in the field, leaving but a single sick man in the house, and a large bull dog, which was chained out of doors. The man who had command of the house stood near the door. Three of the boldest Indians who were to perpetrate the deed, came and offered him a parcel of beavers to barter, and contrived to enter the house. He went in with them to transact the business; that being done, he went to the garret where the stores were. Coming down, one of the Indians cleaved his head with an axe, so that he dropped dead on the floor. They then murdered the sick man, and then went to the dog, which they feared most, and shot at least twenty-five arrows at him, before they killed him. They then went in a treacherous manner to the people in the field, approaching them with the appearance of friendship, and murdered one after another. "Thus," says De Vries, "terminated our first colony, to our great loss."¹ Thus also perished the first white inhabitants of the State of Delaware.

[1632] De Vries by some means had heard of the destruction of his colony before he left the Texel, which was in the latter part of the year. The news had more than probable been carried by the Walrus (which appears to have been an appendage to the colony for the purpose of whale fishing) or some other vessel, to New Amsterdam, and from there to Holland. Long before he saw the land, he knew he

¹ De Vries, N. Y. His. Soc. Coll., vol. 1, N. S., p. 52.

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was near the coast, "by the odor of the under-
wood, which at this time of the year is burned by
the Indians, in order to be less hindered in their
hunting." On the third of December he saw the
entrance of the bay, on the 5th sailed within the cape,
having a whale near the vessel, and on the 6th ran
with the boat up the Hoornkill, having first put them-
selves in a proper state of defence in case of a hostile
attack from the Indians. They found their dwelling
house and store had been burnt to the ground, and
their fortification utterly destroyed. The ground was
bestrewed with the heads and bones of the murdered
men, but he saw no Indians. Supposing that they
might be attracted by the sound of a gun, he went on
board the vessel and ordered the guns to be fired.
On the 7th the Indians appeared near the destroyed
house; afraid to approach, they wished the people
from the vessel to come on shore, which De Vries
resolved to do next day, in the yacht, that he might
"have a shelter from their arrows." Accordingly he
went in the yacht up the creek to the house. The
Indians were on the shore, but at first they would
not go on board; at last, however, one entered the
vessel. De Vries gave him a cloth dress, and told
him he desired to make peace with them. Others
then went on board, expecting also a dress, but he
gave them only trinkets, adding that the dress was
given to the first as a reward for his confidence in
venturing to enter the boat. They were desired to
come on board with their chief, called Sakimas, for
the purpose of making a satisfactory peace. One

Indian, however, remained on board all night in the yacht, and from him De Vries, upon inquiry, received the account which has already been given of the murder of the colonists. On the 9th the Indians, with their chief, came. They sat down in a circle, and concluded peace. Presents were made them of duffels, bullets, axes, and Nuremberg trinkets, with which being well pleased, and with promises of reciprocal benefits, they departed joyfully, no vengeance having been taken for the previous cruelties. De Vries now made preparations for the fishery, and for boiling oil, by forming a lodging place of some boards.

About this time it is said that upon the application of John Oxensteirn, the Swedish Ambassador, King Charles I. relinquished to the Swedes all claims to this part of the country by reason of discovery. There is no documentary evidence to support this agreement. Acrelius refers to this circumstance, but places it at a later period.¹

During this year Director Minuit, who afterwards commenced the settlement at Fort Christina, and was the first governor of Delaware after its permanent settlement, (or by any portion of the ancestors of the present people of this State,) was recalled to Holland. He embarked from New Amsterdam in the spring.

On the 20th of June, O. S., Cecilius, Lord Baltimore received the grant for the present State of Maryland. His intention was to settle in Virginia, but being a Catholic, and finding himself uncomfortable on account

¹ Hazard's Annals.

remained on board all night in the ship. De Vries, upon inquiry, received the land which has already been given of the colonists. On the 9th the Indians came. They sat down in a circle, and peace. Presents were made them of beads, axes, and Nuremberg trinkets, and they were all well pleased, and with promises of peace, they departed joyfully, no vengeance being taken for the previous cruelties. They made preparations for the fishery, and by forming a lodging place of some

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year Director Minuit, who afterwards settled at Fort Christina, and was Governor of Delaware after its permanent cession by any portion of the ancestors of the State, was recalled to Holland. He returned from New Amsterdam in the spring. On the 10th of June, O. S., Cecilus, Lord Baltimore granted for the present State of Maryland. He was to settle in Virginia, but being ailing and finding himself uncomfortable on account

of his religion, he departed for England, and obtained a patent for the land between that of the North and South Virginia companies. There he died before his return. The next year his son had his patent confirmed to himself. The terms of his grant included not only the present State of Maryland, but the whole of Delaware, and that part of the State of Pennsylvania from the Delaware line a short distance north of Philadelphia, including in its limits the present city of Philadelphia, and a great proportion of the counties of Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, York, Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford, and Somerset. The following description will show the extent of the grant:¹

"By letters patent of this date reciting the petition of Cecilus, Lord Baltimore, for a certain country thereafter described, *not then cultivated and planted, though in some parts thereof inhabited by a certain barbarous people, having no knowledge of Almighty God*, his majesty granted to said Lord Baltimore all that part of a peninsula lying in the parts of America between the ocean on the east and the bay of Chesapeake on the west, and divided from the other part thereof by a right line drawn from the promontory or cape of land called Watkins' Point (situate in the aforesaid bay, near the river of Highco) on the west, unto the main ocean on the east, and between that bound on the south, unto the part of Delaware Bay on the north which lieth under the 40th degree of north latitude, from the equinoctial where New

¹ Hazard's Annals.

¹ Beverly, 47, 48; Barks' Virginia, 11, 39; Bosman's Maryland.

England ends; and all that tract of land between the bounds aforesaid, *i. e.* passing from the aforesaid bay, called Delaware Bay, in a right line by the degrees aforesaid promontory, or place called Watkins' Point."

This grant was a consequence of many disputes, both with the Dutch, the Duke of York, and Penn. Under it Baltimore claimed possession of Delaware. This matter will be found treated of more at length in another portion of this history.

Gustavus Adolphus lost his life at the battle of Lutzen, the 16th of October. A short time before his death, whilst at Nuremberg, he drew up a scheme of a company, which was ready for his signature, but which was prevented by his death. It was however the next year submitted to the people by his chancellor, Oxensteirn. It was in a great degree to the exertion of this renowned prince that Delaware owed her first permanent settlement.¹

¹ Statement of Penn's cases, by Murray. Reg. Penn., vol. 2, p. 204.

DELAWARE.

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CHAPTER X.

FROM 1633 TO 1637.

De Vries sails up the Delaware to Fort Nassau—He is warned by an Indian woman of treachery—Massacre of English boat's crew—Indians warned to go on shore—They make peace with De Vries—De Vries sails for Virginia—Is informed the English claim South River—Is told the murdered boat's crew belonged to Virginia—De Vries returns to South River—Bad success of whale fishing—He returns to Europe—War between the Timber Creek Indians and the Minquas—Publication of the Charter of the Swedish West India Company by Chancellor Oxenstiern—Grant to Sir Edward Plowden by Charles I.—Sale of the colony of Swanendale to the Dutch West India Company.

DE VRIES, whom we made mention in the previous chapter as having concluded a peace [1633] with the Indians, remained some time in the neighborhood of Lewes Creek, during which interval it is supposed he engaged in whale fishing, proceeded in his yacht up the Delaware, to procure beans from the Indians. At the mouth of the river he saw a whale. When opposite Fort Nassau, he found a few Indians disposed to barter some furs, but wanting only Indian corn, and having disposed of most of his articles at Swanendale, he had none to trade for furs. The Indians advised him to proceed to Timmerkill (now Timber Creek). But he was prevented by the kind interference of an Indian woman, to whom he had given a cloth dress to induce her to communicate