

planted on them by Kiliaen van Rensselaer, under certain privileges granted him as a *patroon* of New Netherland, on November 19, 1629, by the West-India Company. They also learned that, in consequence of an order issued by Director-General Stuyvesant, in March, 1652, for the removal of the buildings erected near the walls of Fort Orange, a village, bearing the name of Beverswijk, had been founded, a little north of the company's fort. They were further informed that certain colonists were cultivating farms on States Island (*Staten Eylandt*) lying south of Manhattans Island.

Among the colonists with whom they became acquainted was Jan Snedeker, who had settled at New Amsterdam, in 1642. Circumspect and resolute, he disclosed to them privately many particulars of his experience which greatly enlightened them respecting the administration of the affairs of the West-India Company in New Netherland, and enabled them to understand what was necessary to be done by them to obtain in an eligible and accessible locality the quantity of land they desired to place under cultivation.

They also formed a lasting friendship with Jan Stryker, then thirty-seven years of age, a recently arrived colonist from Ruinen, a village in the province of Drenthe, about sixty-five miles south of Groningen and eight north of Mepel. He also was waiting the grant of a *bouwerij* on which he might reside with his family.

Individually possessing qualities of heart and mind to attach them strongly to one another in lasting fellowship, Jan Snedeker, Jan Stryker, and Tomys Swartwout solicited of Director-General Stuyvesant the right of settling together on the level reach of wild land (*de vlacke bosch*) or the flat bush, adjacent the outlying farms at Breukelen and Amersfoort. The privilege was granted them, and they were forthwith apportioned the areas of ground severally desired by them. Clearing away the trees, thickets, and vines growing upon the spaces of land intended to be placed under immediate cultivation, they speedily prepared them for seeding with such grain as would mature crops before the season of destructive frosts. The preparation of timber for the construction of their log-houses then engaged their attention. The rude architecture of their reed-thatched dwellings, having the back and sides of thick-walled fireplaces and chimneys constructed of stone or roughly made brick on the outside of one or both their gable-ends, soon began to diversify the features of the level landscape. Barns and other wooden structures also multiplied the conspicuous features of the cultivated stretches of wild land.

Through Tomys Swartwout's suggestion, it would seem, the settlement was given the name of the village of Midwout or Midwolde, lying about twenty-five miles eastward of the city of Groningen, where certain of his ancestors had long resided.