

The hamlet of Marbletown, seven miles southwest of Kingston, was, at that time, in that locality, the farthest settlement west of the Hudson River. It was on the highway called the Mine Road, running a hundred miles or more southwesterly from Kingston to and along the Delaware River, where, near Paaquarry Flat, are still to be seen cavities suggestive of long-abandoned mines.

The first New York colonist to cultivate a farm in the western section of Orange County was William Titsort, one of the inhabitants of Schenectady, who escaped from that village when it was burned by the French on the night of February 8, 1690. Some of the chiefs of the Minnessinck Indians, having made his acquaintance and learned that he was a blacksmith, and desiring the services of one to keep their guns in repair, induced him to reside in their country by giving him a quantity of land, at a place called by them Schaikaeck-amick, for which he obtained from them a deed, on June 3, 1700.

The first person to acquire by letters-patent land lying along the Delaware River contiguous to the mouth of the Neversink River, was Captain Arent Schuyler, to whom Governor Benjamin Fletcher, on May 20, 1697, granted the right and title to "a certain tract of land, in the Minnessinck's country, called by the native Indians Sankhekeneck, otherwise Maghawaem; as also of a certain parcell of meadow or *vly*, called by the said Indians Warinsagskmeck, situate, lying, and being upon a certain river called by the Indians and known by the name of Minnessincks, before a certain island called Menagnock, which is adjacent or near unto a certain tract of land called by the said natives Maghaghemeck."<sup>1</sup>

Information concerning the fertility and eligibility of the last-named tract, lying north of the Delaware River and stretching along the west side of the Neversink River, having been conveyed to Thomas Swartwout and his brothers Anthony and Barnardus, Jacques Caudebecq, Pierre Guimar, Jan Tysen, and David Jamison, they entered into an agreement, in 1696, to apply as co-partners for letters-patent whereby to be invested with the tenure of it.

Thomas, the eldest son of Roeloff Swartwout, born in Beverswijck, probably in 1660, had married, about 1682, Lysbeth, daughter of Jacobus Janse and Josijna Gordinier. He was a highly esteemed yeoman of Ulster County, and had zealously participated in the advancement of the interests of the hamlet of Hurley, where he resided. Anthony, born in Wiltwijck and baptized there on May 11, 1664, had married, in 1695, Janetje, daughter of Jacobus Coobes. Barnardus, also born at Wiltwijck, and baptized there on April 26, 1673, was still unmarried.

<sup>1</sup> Book of patents in the office of the secretary of the state of New York, 7, pp. 71, 72.