

merchants, for certain measures of powder, lead, wampum, rum, beer, hatchets, knives, pipes, tobacco, blankets, cloth, and other goods, the desired quantity of land lying on the east side of Hudson's river, north of the High Lands, and more particularly described as "beginning from the south side of a creek called the Fresh Kill and by the Indians *Matteawan*, and from thence northward along said Hudson's river five hund^d. rodd [about one and a half English miles] beyond the Greate Wappins Kill [or Wappingers Creek], called by the Indians *Mawenawasigh*, being the northerly bounds, and from thence into the woods fouer houers goeing, alwayes keeping five hund^d. rodd distant from the north side of said [Greate] Wappins Creeke, however it runns;—as alsoe from the said Fresh Kill or Creeke called *Matteawan*, along the said Fresh Creeke into the woods, att the foot of the said high hills, including all the reed or low lands at the south side of said creeke, with an easterly line fouer houers goeing into the woods, and from thence northerly to the fouer houers goeing or line drawne att the north side of the five hund^d. rodd beyond the Greate Wappinger Creeke or Kill, called *Mawenawasigh*." ¹

Gulian Verplanck having died before letters-patent were granted him and François Rombout as possessors of the tract, Stephanus van Cortlandt became associated with François Rombout as a partner, who, with Jacobus Kip, then the husband of Henrica, the widow of Gulian Verplanck, obtained, on October 17, 1685, the right and title to it by letters-patent.

Meanwhile, on September 26, 1683, François Rombout married Helena van Balen, a widow, by whom he had a daughter named Cathryna, who, when eighteen years of age, became the wife of Roger Brett, an Englishman merchandising in the city of New York. Having inherited on the death of François Rombout, in 1691, his property, they, about the year 1712, settled on that part of the Rombout manor comprising the site of the village of Matteawan, and built a home, later known as "the Teller Mansion," on a rise of ground, on the north side of the Fish Kill, about a mile east of the Hudson River. At the mouth of the Fish Kill, on the north bank of the stream, they erected and operated a grist-mill, which, for many years was titled "Madam Brett's mill."

In the act erecting Dutchess County, on November 1, 1683, its territory is described as lying within the following boundaries: "The Dutchesses County to be from the bounds of the county of Westchester, on the south side of the Highlands, along the east side of Hudson's river as farr as Roelof Jansen's Creek, and eastward into the woods twenty miles." ²

On the division of the province into counties, or more accurately, on July

¹ Book of patents, 5, pp. 206-210.

² Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiii., p. 575.