

of the shrewdness which has always characterized his descendants. This portion of the country had already, even at that day, become famous throughout the American Colonies for its fertility. Its fruitful soil at that time was from fifteen to twenty feet in depth, requiring no fertilizers as incentives to production; the eminences, which bounded the low grounds, possessed the same soil, and their summits were crowned—as many of them are still—with rich and beautiful meadows. The staple commodity was wheat; but maize (Indian corn), buckwheat, potatoes—then just introduced from South America—water-melons and various other delicious fruits were also successfully cultivated. The harvest, likewise, was uncommonly plentiful, and, withal, easily and speedily housed—an advantage, in those days of frequent Indian alarms, not to be overlooked. The lay of the fields, moreover, the expanse of the banks of the Mohawk, and the swelling hills and mountains, offered a delightful and variegated prospect, and, to one, like Nicholas Ster, accustomed to the monotonous lowlands of his native Holland, an agreeable change that was not without its charms; while, in addition to all this, low fevers of the typhoid type—so dreaded by the early settler—were in this part of the country almost unknown. All these advantages were quickly perceived by Nicholas Ster, and, as before stated, they led him to select this place as a per-

rises to a height of three hundred or four hundred feet, and spreads out into an undulating upland. The valley of Fulmer Creek divides this upland into nearly equal parts. Among the original ninety-two patentees of the Patent of German Flats were Mary Eva Staring, Johan Adam Staring, Frederick Starin, Johannes Valden Staring, Nicholas Staring, Joseph Staring and John Valden Staring, Jr.