

Massachusetts, now southern Berkshire County, for the formation of the Housatonic Townships, in which he was very successful, and was present at the completion of the transaction at Westfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, acting as the interpreter, and one of the witnesses to the deed, which conveyed a very large tract, which included the present towns of Sheffield, Great Barrington, Mount Washington, and Egremont, the greater part of Alford, and large portions of West Stockbridge, Stockbridge and Lee. About 1730 he removed to the Townships, part of which were later formed into the town of Great Barrington, where he built a mansion, and acquired several thousand acres of land. Of him it was written: "He was a man of great intelligence, enterprise and public spirit, as well as of sturdy integrity, appearing to have been the most wealthy of all the settlers, and to have maintained an influential position among them, and may fairly be entitled to be called the founder of the Housatonic Colony."

His son-in-law, **Isaac van Deusen**, settled in 1735, in the Upper Housatonic Township, where he acquired a very large amount of the finest lands, some being on the banks of the Housatonic and Williams rivers, and on Monument Mountain, made famous by its majestic beauty, far-spreading views, Indian legends, and Bryant, and formed van Deusen Manor, on which he built the manor house, long since removed, after gradually falling into decay; the brick house, north of the van Deusen burial-ground; the brown stone house, at the western base of Monument Mountain; a house farther south, also near the base of the mountain, which was removed many years ago, and the white stone house, in that part of the Upper Township, called the Hoplands, which was later incorporated in the town of Lee. These houses were all of Dutch architecture, and beautifully located; the site of the manor house, south of the family and slave burial-grounds, is one of the finest in the region, commanding one of the most charming views in the Berkshire Hills,—of Monument Mountain and others, the valley, through which flows the graceful Housatonic, outlined by luxuriant trees, and a glimpse of the Dome of the Taconics. On his lands was also a house, built in 1759, by John Williams, one of the earliest and most prominent citizens, now in the village of Van Deusen, and the oldest house in the town of Great Barrington. He also owned lands in the neighboring towns of Stockbridge, Egremont and Richmond. His sons added largely to their inherited estates, and the van Deusens, together with Coonrod Burghardt,