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THE
HISTORY
OF
LONG ISLAND;
FROM ITS
DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT,
TO THE
PRESENT TIME.

WITH MANY
IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING MATTERS;

INCLUDING
NOTICES OF NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES;
ALSO A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF
THE DIFFERENT CHURCHES AND MINISTERS.

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COUNSELLOR AT LAW.

SECOND EDITION;
REVISED AND GREATLY ENLARGED.

"History presents *complete* examples. Experience is doubly *defective*: we are born too late to see the *beginning*, and we die too soon to see the *end* of many things. History supplies both of these defects: modern history shows the *causes*, when experience presents the *effects* alone; and ancient history enables us to guess at the *effects*, when experience presents the *causes* alone."—BOLINGBROKE.

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The German Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity, was founded in 1841, and consecrated the same year. The pastor is the Rev. John Raffener, at whose sole expense the ground was given and the church edifice itself constructed. He was born at Mals Tyrol, a province of Austria, in 1784, and graduated at Rome, Doctor of Medicine and Philosophy, May 4, 1813.

Rev. James O'Donnell is pastor of St. Mary's, which has not been long established; but we have not been able to obtain any particulars concerning the time of its erection, or of its pastor.*

TOWN OF GRAVESEND.

This is the most southerly part of Kings county, and includes, within its limits, Coney Island, bordering upon the ocean. It is centrally distant about ten miles from New York city, and is bounded east by Flatbush, south by the Atlantic, and west by New Utrecht, being of a triangular shape, with its base resting on the ocean, and terminating in a point adjoining the town of Flatbush.

Much of the territory consists of salt meadows or marsh, not more than one-third being returned as improved land. The surface of the town is, in general, quite level, except near the sea shore, where there are some ridges of sand hills.

The town, being an exception to other parts of the county, was settled by English people, some of whom were of that despised and persecuted sect called Quakers; and most of them coming from the colony of Massachusetts, where they had resided for

*To assist and amuse those who may be desirous of knowing a few of the Dutch official titles, we here give the names of some of the principal offices of the former Dutch government, with their corresponding English titles. *De Heer Officer*, (Head Officer,) or *Hoofd-Schout*, was the same as (High-Sheriff); *De Fiscale* or *Procureur-General*, (Attorney General); *Wees-Meesters*, (Guardians of Orphans); *Roy Meesters*, (Regulators of fences); *Groot Burgerrecht* and *Klein Burgerrecht*, (the great and small citizenship, which then marked the two orders of society); *Eyck-Meester*, (the Weigh-Master); *the Schout*, (the Sheriff); *Burgomasters* and *Schepens* then ruled the city, as in all cities of the Fatherland; *Geneem-Schryver*, (Recorder of Secrets).

different periods. The plantation was commenced previous to 1640, and was called Gravesend, either from the fact that many of the individual settlers had sailed from the place bearing that name in England, on their departure for America, or, what is quite as probable, from the circumstance of the shore, where they first landed, being composed of a deep and heavy sand.

Among the Quaker portion of the emigrants, was that extraordinary and heroic individual, the Lady Deborah Moody, a woman of rank, education and wealth, who, with other friends, residing at Lynn, Sandwich, and other parts of Massachusetts, entertaining opinions in common with the followers of George Fox, had become objects of disfavor, and often of ill treatment, to their puritanical brethren of the Bay State, and therefore very rationally concluded to seek a situation, which presented a better prospect of enjoying unmolested the full exercise of religious freedom.

The emigrants, having taken time to examine the country in the neighborhood of the city, finally selected this beautiful place for their future residence, where they might not only procure the necessaries of life for themselves and families, but lay a foundation also, for the transmission to their posterity, the many important advantages of an independent community. The proximity of this location to the sea, and the facilities thereby presented, of making it a place of some commercial importance, were probably among the reasons which induced the settlers to fix themselves here.

A committee was thereupon appointed, from their own body, to determine upon a plan of a village, which was proposed to be built, who, having made and presented a draught, which was well approved, they proceeded to lay off a plot, consisting of ten acres, in the most central situation, into squares and streets, intersecting each other at right angles, and so subdivided as to allow of thirty-nine lots of competent size, for houses, gardens, &c., fronting upon the extreme circle or street, which surrounded the whole.

The number of the lots was equal to that of the first settlers, and served as the rule of division in all subsequent allotments of land in the town. The village plot, thus designated, was next enclosed by a stockade or palisade defence, erected by the proprietors of the respective lots, composed of "half trees nine feet long, and standing seven feet above the ground."

1702 HISTORY OF LONG ISLAND.

This chosen spot served as the nucleus of a more populous settlement, and the outlands were so laid off, as to make the exterior lines of every plantation, converge toward the common centre; which, it may be observed, is their condition at the present day, to a very considerable extent. Although the want of a sufficient depth of water in the neighboring cove, defeated the original project of making this a commercial town, yet the place grew into importance, and became, in a short space, the capital or shire town of the county, the courts being appointed to be held here, and so continued for more than forty years, when they were removed to Flatbush. After the danger from enemies became less considerable, and the inhabitants more generally diffused, the idea of supporting the central establishment abated, and the larger squares were appropriated to other uses, than as a place of habitation and defence. The court house was built upon one of them, the church upon another, and a third was appropriated as a common cemetery. Here are a number of graves of the early settlers, but those of the Quakers have been levelled by the plough. According to the custom of these people, there were no monuments to designate the place of their interment, except that of Peter Sullivan and his wife, at the head of which is a large granite slab, containing the names of the deceased only.

It is highly probable that the first proprietors procured a conveyance from the neighboring Indians, as was the custom in the English towns, for only a very short patent was granted them during the Dutch government. But a ground brief or patent was issued by Governor Kieft to Antonie Jansen Van Salee, May 27, 1643, for 100 morgen* of land lying on the bay of the North River, on Long Island over against the Conyne Island, stretching along the strand 253 rods. North north-west from the strand, about north-east by east 236 rods, back again along an height 124 rods, about south-east, and south-west by west, 24 rods; south, 54 rods farther to the strand, south west by west 174 rods, with some *out hoecks*, lying on the south side, amounting to 87 morgen;

* A *morgen* was a Dutch measure, little less than two English acres, and consisting of 500 square Dutch rods; a *shepel* (or Dutch bushel) was nearly three English pecks; a *guilder* was about the value of forty cents, and that of a *stiver* about two cents.

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and 49½ rods, with yet an *hoeck*, stretching from the house, surrounded on three sides with meadow, stretching south-west by west 72 rods, 90 rods south-east by south, being an *oölong*, with some out hoecks, bearing 12 morgen, 550½ rods, amounting together to the aforesaid 100 morgen."

This was probably a confirmation patent, as a grant was made to him Aug. 1, 1639, and afterwards known as Antony Jansen's Bowery, (or farm) and for which another patent of confirmation was issued by Governor Nicoll, June 11, 1667, but was made to Francis Bruyne, (or Brown,) specifying the same boundaries as aforesaid, and concerning which an agreement was made between the patentee and the people of Gravesend. April 29, 1670.*

A patent was granted to Guisbert Op-Dyck, May 24, 1644, for Coney Island, called by the Dutch Conynen Eylandt, probably from an individual of that name, who first lived upon it. Pine Island, then called Conyne Hoeck, was separated from the former by a small creek, which has since disappeared.

A general patent for the town, both in Dutch and English, was obtained from Governor Kieft, Dec. 19, 1645, in which the patentees named were, the Lady Deborah Moody, Sir Henry Moody, Bart., Ensign George Baxter, and Sergeant James Hubbard, their heirs and successors, for "a certain quantity of land being upon or about the westernmost part of Long Island, beginning at the mouth of a creek adjacent to Conyne Island, and bounded on the west part thereof with the lands belonging to Anthony Johnson and Robert Pennoyre, and to run as far as the westernmost part of a certain pond in an old Indian field on the north side of the plantation of the said Robert Pennoyre, and from thence to run directly east as far as a valley, being at the head of a fly or

There is an existing tradition, that this Antonio Jansen Van Salee was by birth a Moor, and came from a place called Salee on the coast of Africa, and which caused the addition to his name, to distinguish him from another person of the same name, as there is no known reason why the Dutch governor should make so extensive a grant to a native of Africa, it is more probable that he may have been a Dutchman, who, for purposes of commerce had resided abroad, and thus acquired the above addition by way of distinction... He is said to have been a man of prodigious strength; and William, a brother of his, is reported to have carried ten bushels of wheat from his barn to the house, a distance of fifty yards, and then up stairs to the garret.

marsh some time belonging to the land of Hugh Garretson; and being bounded on the south with the main ocean, with liberty to put what cattle they shall see fitting to feed or graze upon the aforesaid Conyne Island, and with liberty to build a town, with such necessary fortifications as to them shall seem expedient; and to have and enjoy the free liberty of conscience according to the customs and manners of Holland without molestation, and to establish courts, and elect magistrates, to try all causes not exceeding fifty Holland guilders."

The fact of a female being included, and first named also, in this patent, is, as far as we know, unprecedented in the colony, and exhibits the lady Moody and her noble hearted son, in a very interesting position.

This circumstance very naturally excites a curiosity in the reader, to be better informed of the character and standing of these distinguished strangers. This curiosity we shall endeavor to gratify to the fullest extent in our power.

In Burk's "*Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies*," we find the following:

"1. *Henry Moody, Esquire*, of Garesdon, in Wiltshire, created baronet 1621-2, married Deborah, daughter of Walter Dunck, Esquire, of Avebury, in the same county, and dying about 1632 was succeeded by his son, viz.: 2. *Sir Henry Moody*, who sold the estate of Garesden, and settled in New England, where he is presumed to have died sine prole, in 1662, and the baronetcy became extinct."

"In 1625, (says another,) Lady Moody went to London, where she remained in opposition to a statute, directing that no person should reside beyond a limited time from their own homes. April 21, 1635, the court of star chamber ordered dame Deborah Mowdie and others to return to their hereditaments in 40 days. In 1640, she arrived at Lynn, Mass., and united with the church there, and on the 13th of May, 1640, the court granted her 400 acres of land. In 1641, she bought the farm called Swamscut, of Deputy Governor Humphrey, at the price of £1100. She after, says Winthrop, became imbued with the erroneous doctrine, that infant baptism was a sinful ordinance, for which she was excommunicated, and in 1643 removed to Long Island. Again it is recorded, "that in 1643, Lady Moody was in the colony of Mass., a wise and anciently religious woman, and being taken with the error of denying baptism to infants, was dealt with by many of the elders, and admonished by the church of Salem, but persisting still, and to avoid farther trouble, she removed

to the Dutch, against the advice of all her friends. Many others, infected with anabaptism, removed thither also." We shall see that in expecting entire toleration here, they were doomed to disappointment.

It was to avoid the religious intolerance which prevailed in the Plymouth and Massachusetts colonies, toward quakers, that drove the Lady Moody, her son, Sir Henry Moody, Ensign Baxter, Sergeant Hubbard, William Goulding, John Tilton, Thomas Spicer and their associates, to seek an asylum in some part of this province, where they might be allowed to exercise and enjoy freedom of opinion in matters of conscience. This, as experience showed, they vainly imagined to have been amply assured to them in the patent of 1645, which, however, in a little time, proved to be in a great measure illusory. Even the Lady Moody herself, whom Judge Benson designates as the "*Dido, leading the colony,*" was arraigned, with others, before the authorities of New Amsterdam, for merely asserting that "*infant baptism was no ordinance of God.*"

This gifted heroine, however, sustained herself in the conflict, and rendered very essential service to her afflicted companions. Her wealth and extraordinary abilities commanded universal respect, and to which her virtue and courage were fully equal.

The governor and council convened at her hospitable mansion on the 23d Nov., 1654, for the purpose of endeavoring to allay an excitement, principally occasioned by a refusal on the part of the former to sanction the nomination, which had been made for magistrates of the town, the names of Baxter and Hubbard having been sent up for confirmation. In this exigency, his Excellency was anxious to secure the influence of her Ladyship in his favor, and finally, it is recorded, left the matter of the said appointments entirely to her discretion.

June 18, 1655, the governor and council resolved that letters should be written to the sheriff, and to Lady Moody, "as eldest and first patentee, to make a nomination of magistrates for the town."

It was during this same year that her house was assaulted several times by a company of Indians from the North River, when she was protected by a guard sent for that purpose from the city. The

invaders had, however, previously landed upon Staten Island, where they murdered sixty-seven persons.

The time of Lady Moody's death is unknown, but it was certainly before 1660, having owned and occupied the farm of the late Van Brunt Magaw, Esq., a part of which was lately in possession of his son-in-law, the Rev. Isaac P. Labagh.*

In Felt's Annals of Salem, it is said that in 1651, Sir Henry Moody had an action there, in regard to the farm owned by his mother, the Lady Moody, called Swamscot, which he obtained and afterwards sold to one Daniel King.

April 10, 1656, the inhabitants of Gravesend having secured their village by a palisade defence, petitioned the governor and council for three or four *big guns*, to be used in time of danger, which request was granted with a due allowance of powder and ball.

In the year 1654, a question having been raised and agitated, as to the validity of the title to Coney Island and Gravesend Neck, a release was obtained from the Indians therefor, which, after describing the premises, concludes as follows. "The above quantity of land, being within the lymmits, graunted by Pattennt to certaine Pattenntees, Inhabit^{ts} of Gravesend, by the late Gouvern^r Kieft,

* In the council minutes of June 24, 1660, is the following entry. "Whereas Sir Henry Moody has informed us that he was arrived here as Ambassador of the Governor and Assembly of Virginia, it is resolved to compliment him in his lodgings, by two members of the Council, accompanied by *Halbediers*, and communicate to him, that the Director-General and Council were convened to hear his message."

"Sir Henry Moody, being complimented by the committee, appeared with them in council, and delivered a certain letter as his credentials," which, being read, was found to be sent by the governor and council of Virginia, soliciting a reciprocal arrangement for the encouragement of trade between the two provinces; and say "they have sent their well beloved friend, Sir Harry Moody, Knight and Baronet, (a person whose honor and integrity, as you cannot doubt, so we have abundance of confidence,) as our interested agent, to receive from you a confirmation of our former agreement, and to whom our desire is, you would give full credence, we having given him full power and authority to resolve any doubt that may occur in the articles agreed upon." This was accompanied by a private letter from Gov. Berkley, desiring a loan of 4000 pounds of tobacco, to be paid in "excellent tobacco," in the Nov. following.

the said Guttaquoh, acknowledges to have sould all his right and clayme to the said land called Narrioch, (the Island,) and Manna-haning, (the Neck,) unto the Honorable the Lords Bewint Hebbers, of the West India Company of the Chamber of Amsterdam, for the use of the said Pattentees and Inhabitants of Gravesend, having received 15 fathom of Sewan, two guns, three pound of powder, together with all the meadow land and marsh land thereunto appertaining. In confirmation, I have put my hand this seventh day of May, 1654.

GUTTA[]L]QUOH."

Other conveyances for lands in different parts of the town, were obtained at various times, and from which no little confusion sometimes arose by the clashing of boundaries, the descriptions being not unfrequently, both inconsistent and obscure. A few extracts from the town books, will exhibit the manner of conducting the public business at this remote period, particularly in the town meetings :

Jan. 7, 1656. "Att a generall assemblie of y^e Inhabitants, ordered, that all who *tapp* or *drawe* out stronge beare to sell, shall provide that y^e s^d beare bee as good y^t w^{ch} is usually sould att the manhattoes, and they are required to sell itt att y^e prise of tenn guilders the halfe flatt."

"And it is further agreed y^t y^e younge men shall bee grattified with 300 much as might buye 2 half flats of beare, out of the moneys recevd from Peter Simpson for the lott No. 37, and regard the sayd paye were in tobacco, that therefore Charles Morgan should receive £100, and the overplush when the beare is payd flor."

Dec. 2, 1658. "Agreed that every inhabitant shall bring or cause to bee brought into y^e commard yard, for ffencing y^e buriall place 12 pallisadoes of oak, betwixt 9, 10 and 11 inches broad, and 7 foot long, on forfeiture of 10 shillings a man, to be distrayd."

Sept. 27, 1644, it was voted that those who had Boweries, (farms,) should have fifty morgan of upland, with meadow proportionable to their stock; and it was further ordered, that any person who did not build a habitable house by the last of May (then) next, should be defaulted, and forfeit their land to the town.

The records of this town, which were uniformly kept in the English language, are still preserved nearly entire. They commence with the year 1645, and for a series of years are chiefly occupied with the records of wills, inventories, letters of adminis-

tration, and a variety of private contracts, bargains, sales, &c. In Jan. 1648, the town elected Sergeant James Hubbard, a man as has been seen of great respectability and influence, to execute the office of scout or constable, which was considered at that period of much importance.

On the 14th of April, 1649, John Furman agreed with the town to keep their calves three months for sixty guilders, "to be paid in money, tobacco, or corn, and some bitters, if desired." In March, 1650, it was required of every owner of a lot of ground, to pay one guilder toward the common charges of the town, to be collected and paid over by Mr. Stillwell and Jos. Tilton. In Dec. of the same year it was ordered that every man should fence the head of his lot, adjoining the town square, with a sufficiency of palisades, by the middle of April following. Within this palisade enclosure, which encircled the original town plot of ten acres, the inhabitants secured their cattle during the night, and themselves also, whenever they were apprehensive of danger from the natives; in which latter case an armed guard was also employed.

That wolves were both common and mischievous at that time, appears from the fact, that on the 8th of August, 1650, three guilders were offered for every wolf which should be killed in the town, and two guilders for every fox. It was ordered also that every man should be provided with a gun, a pound of powder, and two pounds of lead or bullets. Every owner of a house was likewise required to provide himself with a ladder, twenty feet or more in length. It was also voted and agreed in town meeting, that whoever should transgress, in word or deed, in defaming, scandalizing, slandering, or falsely accusing any one to the breach of the peace and the reproach of the place, should suffer such condign punishment according to his demerit, as should be thought meet by the magistrates, either by fine, imprisonment, stocking, or standing at a public post.

Feb. 8, 1659. — "The town agrees with Henry Brazier for the building of a mill, within the towne, for y^e grinding y^e corn of the inhabitants, and y^e towne will give him 500 guilders; and every man has a team, to cart one day, and such as have none, to give 2 days a peice, in making the dam."

At a Court held at Gravesend, on the first Wednesday of Oc-

tober, 1666, it was resolved that tax burthens might be collected in grain, beef and pork, viz. in wheat at 5 shillings per bushel, rye at 4 shillings, corn at 3 shillings, and oats at 2 shillings per bushel; in pork at 4 pence per pound, and in beef at 3 pence.

The following named persons were inhabitants, and probably freeholders of the town in 1656:—

William Goulding,	John Van Cleef,	William Nicolls,
Jacob Swart,	Thomas Spicer,	Edward Brown,
Walter Wail,	Ralph Cardell,	John Thomas,
Charles Morgan,	James Grover,	Lady Deborah Moody,
Peter Simson,	Carson Johnson,	Elizabeth Applegate,
John Cock,	Thomas Baxter,	John Bowne,
John Laus,	William Bowne,	John Peters,
Lawrence Johnson,	Thomas Whitlock,	John Applegate,
John Broughman,	Richard Gibson,	Lyman Law,
William Wilkins,	Richard Stout,	Thomas Morrell,
John Tilton,	James Hubbard,	James Curlear,
John Vaughan,	Nicholas Stillwell,	John Bowne,
Bar'w Applegate,	Pieter Abell,	Thomas Applegate,
George Baxter,	Richard Gibbins,	William Stoothoff,
Edward Griffing,	James Hubbard,	John Johnson,
Thomas Greedy,	Joseph Goulding,	Thomas Tilton,
Samuel Spicer,	William Bowne,	Richard Stillwell,
John Lake,	Thomas Marshall,	Jacob Swarts,
Laurens Wessell,	Christian Jacobsen,	John Emans,
William Barnes,	Samuel Holmes,	Edward Brown,
William Compton,	William Smith,	Thomas Morgan,
Charles Bridges,	Thomas Delaval,	John Pollard,
Jacob Spicer,	Joachim Guylock,	David Arbuthnot.

A general patent of confirmation was obtained from Governor Nicoll; Aug. 13, 1667, in which the boundaries coincide with those of Kieft's patent of 1645, in substance. And July 1, 1670, an additional patent was executed by Governor Lovelace, which is as follows:—

Francis Lovelace, Esq^r, one of the Gentleman of his Majesty's Honorable Privy Chamber, and Governor General, under his Royal Highness, James, Duke of Yorke and Albany, &c., of all his Territories in America—To all to whom these Presents shall come, sendeth Greeting. WHEREAS, there is a certain Town in the West Riding of Yorkshire, upon Long Island, commonly called and known by the name of Gravesend, situate, lying and being on or about the Westernmost part of the s^d Island, containing a certain quantity or

parcel of Land, beginning at the mouth of a creek adjacent to Coney Island, and being bounded on the Westward part thereof with the land heretofore appertaining to Anthony Johnson and Robert Pennoyer, and so to run as far as the Westernmost part of a certain Pond in an old Indian Field on the north side of the Plantation of the s^d Robert Pennoyer, and from thence to run direct East as far as a valey, beginning at the Head of a Fly or marsh sometime belonging to the Land of Hugh Gerritsen, and being bounded on the south side with the main Ocean, for which s^d quantity or parcel of Land, there was heretofore a Patent or Ground-brief granted from the Dutch Governor, William Keift, unto several Patentees, thier Associates, and Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Successors or Assigns, and all other appurtenances, as also to put what cattle they thought fitting to grase and feed upon the aforementioned Coney Island, with Liberty to them the s^d Patentees to build one or more towns upon the s^d Lands, with many other particulars and privileges, as in the s^d Patent or Ground-brief, bearing date the 19th of Dec., 1645, relation being thereunto had, is at large set forth. Now for a Confirmation unto the present freeholders and Inhabitants of the s^d Town, in thier Possession and enjoyment of the Premises. Know ye, that by virtue of the commission and authority unto me given me by His Royal Highness. I have ratified, confirmed and granted, and by these presents do ratify, confirm and grant unto Thomas Delavall, Esq'r, Mr. James Hubbard, Ralph Carall, William Bowne, John Tilton, William Goulding and Samuel Spicer, as Patentees for, and on behalf of themselves and thier associates, the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the s^d town, their Heirs, Successors and assigns, all the forementioned quantity, tract and parcel of Land set forth and bounded as aforesaid, together with the Inheritance of all Coney Island, (reserving only the privilege of erecting Huts for fishing and drying of nets there, upon occasion for all persons who shall undertake that design for the public good,) including all the Land within a line stretching from the westernmost part of the s^d Island unto the southernmost part of the old Bowery of Antony Jansen, thier East bounds being the Strome Kill which comes to the marsh or Fly of Mathew Gerritsen's Land aforesaid: as also the meadow ground and upland not specified in thier former Patents, concerning which there have been several disputes and differences between the Inhabitants of the said town and thier neighbor, Francis Brown, which, in part, was issued by my Predecessors and myself, but since fully concluded and determined between them by articles of agreements, the which articles I do hereby confirm and allow, with all Havens, Creeks, &c.,—and all other profits, commodities, emoluments and Hereditaments to the s^d town, tract of land and premises within the limits and bounds aforesaid, described, belonging, or in any wise appertaining, and also to have freedom of commonage for range and feed of cattle and horses in the woods, as well without as within thier bounds and limits with the rest of thier neighbors, with liberty to cut timber there upon, for thier public or private occasions. To have and to hold all and singular, &c., unto the said patentees and their associates, heirs &c.,—and that

the place of thier: present Habitation shall continue and retain the name of *Gravesend*, and by that name shall be known, &c., rendering and paying all dues and duties, according to the good and wholesome laws already made, or that hereafter shall be established in these, His Royall Highness, his territories.

Given under my hand, and sealed with the seal of the Province at Fort James in New York, this first day of July, in the 22d year of his Majestie's Reign, Annoque Domini, 1670."

" Mathias Nicoll, Sec'y.

" FRANCIS LOVELACE." [L. s.]

On the 26th of March, 1777, an agreement was entered into between the towns of Gravesend and New Utrecht in relation to their boundaries, which was confirmed in the patent granted by Gov. Dongan on the 10th of Sept. 1686. The boundaries mentioned in this instrument are as follows :—

" Beginning at the westernmost part of a certain place called Coney Island, and from thence to the westernmost part of Anthony Jansen and Robert Pennoyer's land; and so from thence by New Utrecht fence, according to agreement, to the bounds of Flatbush, and from thence along John Ditmas his land unto the bounds of Flatlands, upon a line agreed upon between Flatlands and Gravesend, which, from John Ditmas his land, runs to a certain bound stake, and from thence to a white-oak tree, marked and standing near New Utrecht wagon path, and so to the north-west corner of Albert, the weaver's fie'd, and so going to a certain marked white oak tree that stands by the highway side in the Hollow, and from thence running along the Hollow to the head of a certain creek commonly called and known by the name of the Strome Kill, and along the said creek to the main Ocean, and so along the sea-side to the westernmost part of Coney Island."

The patentees in this instrument are James Hubbard, John Tilton, jun., William Goulder, Nicholas Stillwell, and Jochem Guillock; and the quit-rent reserved was six bushels of good winter merchantable wheat, to be paid on the 20th day of March annually, for his majesty's use, at the city of New York forever.

To exhibit the peculiarity of the times, we present a copy of an ancient document, or prohibition of certain pastimes, on the first day of the week.

Whereas, thier is a prohibition expresse by an order from y^e Goueno of all such exercises upon y^e first day of y^e weeke, as gunning, ball-playing, horse-races, nine-pins, excessive drinking, and royetting, with others y^e like, which greatly tende to y^e dishonour of God, y^e hindrance of many from and in religious du-

ties to y^e reproach of y^e Govern^t and shame of the place; for y^e prevention whereoff, the officers of this toun^e, according to their dutye, have given due notice, that what person soever shall in the like trangresse, shall pay 10s. and answer it before the Govenor. This act proclaimed y^e 13th of 8th month, 1675."

"At a court of Sessions held at Gravesend, June 21, 1676, John Cooke and John Tilton, being Quakers, and refusing to take the oath, were ordered to give their engagement to Justice Hubbard to perform their office as overseers, under the penalty of perjury." At the same court, holden Dec. 1679. Mr. Jos. Lee, deputy sheriff, presented Ferdinandus Van Strickland for refusing to give entertainment to a stranger who came from Huntington about business at this court: upon which the court do order, that if the said Ferdinandus does not make his submission to the sheriff and the justices to-morrow, that he be dismissed from *tapping*."

Coney Island, whose shores are incessantly lashed by the ocean wave, has long been a favorite resort for visiters in the sultry season of the year. It is more than half encompassed by the sea, and is, of course, almost constantly fanned by cool and refreshing sea breezes, and affords an illimitable view upon the broad Atlantic. The island is separated from the main land by a narrow creek, meandering through a body of salt meadow or marsh, which is crossed by a bridge erected by the Coney Island Turnpike and Bridge Company. On the island are about 60 acres of arable land, the remainder being a singular looking mass of sand-hills, drifted about in wild confusion, by the action of high winds and severe ocean storms. The extent of the island, from east to west, is about five miles, including the points of the projecting beaches, and in width about one mile.

This sea-girt isle is probably the first land impressed by the feet of the venerable Hudson and his sailor companions, on their approach to the harbor of New York, in 1609, whose appearance, as well as the ship, must have produced surprise and consternation in the native inhabitants of the country. The accommodations here are upon a liberal scale; the Coney Island House being well kept by James B. Cropsey, and has been thus far duly supported by the public. Its distance from N. Y. is eleven miles, and the road almost unequalled. Regarding the loose materials of which

this island is composed, and its greatly exposed situation, it may be assumed that another century will nearly annihilate it.

We have not been able to find whether any other religious edifice existed in this town, except the Dutch church, which was first built on one of the original squares, in 1655. It was rebuilt in 1770, and in 1833 the present reformed Dutch church was erected. It was, from the beginning, associated with the other churches of the same denomination in the county, and so remained until the settlement of its present pastor in 1832.

Rev. Isaac P. Labagh, is the son of the *Rev. Peter Labagh*, an aged and respected minister of the reformed Dutch church at Harlington, N. J. Mr. Labagh was born at Leeds, Greene county, N. Y. Aug. 14, 1804, and graduated at Dickerson College, Penn. 1823. He studied theology at New Brunswick, and was settled at Waterford, N. Y. in 1826. In 1832 he removed hither and was the first pastor whose services have been confined exclusively to this church. His wife is a daughter of the late Van Brunt Magaw, who was a son of the brave Col. Magaw, of the American Revolutionary army, and the noble defender of Fort Washington, in Nov. 1776.

The population of this town is less than 1000, consisting almost entirely of industrious and enterprising farmers, who are supposed to raise over their own consumption, more than 40,000 bushels of grain annually.

Besides all this, the shad fishery upon the shore, is a never failing source of wealth to those engaged in it, occupying only a few weeks in the spring.