

Having brought with them from Holland certificates of church membership, Tomys Swartwout and his wife were formally admitted to the communion and fellowship of the church at New Amsterdam. As entered on page 506 of the Book of Members, or Register of Members hereat since the year 1649 (*'T Ledematen Boeck oft Register der Ledematen alhier t' sedert de jare 1649*), their names are severally the two hundred and eightieth and the two hundred and eighty-first:

Thomas Swartwoutd and Hendrickje Barents, his wife (*"Thomas Swartwoutd, en Hendrickje, sijn huijsv"*). [*huijsvrouw*]."¹

Members of the Canarse tribe of Indians often roved over the unoccupied land around Midwout, and the recently settled colonists soon became accustomed to the presence of the ranging Wild People (*Wilden*) as the savages inhabiting the territory of New Netherland were called by the Dutch. The aboriginal owners of the western part of Long Island were exceedingly friendly in their intercourse with the settlers, although the warriors frequently complained to them of the treatment to which they had been subjected by the officials of the West-India Company. Repeated promises, as they alleged, had been made them by the provincial authorities that they should be remunerated for the tracts of land allotted the colonists, and yet no evident intention had been manifested to fulfil these declarations.

The founders of Midwout, nevertheless, became greatly alarmed on learning that a party of aggrieved Indians had slain, in May, 1652, four colonists on a *bouwerij*, near Hell-channel (*Hellegat*), because the company had not paid the tribal chiefs anything for it. Their fears were the more intensified a few days later by a report that the *Wilden* intended massacring them should the promised indemnification for the tracts of land embraced in the farms at Midwout be withheld much longer by the director-general and council of New Netherland. The principal men of the settlement at once commissioned Jan Snedeker to importune the director-general to liquidate this claim of the Indians at his earliest practicable opportunity. The value of the land in goods, which the tribe demanded in payment, was estimated at five hundred guilders, equal to two hundred dollars, money of the United States of America.

Jan Snedeker's mission was not an agreeable one. He, as other colonists, had felt the heavy pressure of the demands of the West-India Company for payments of exorbitant duties and taxes; and he, as they, had also observed

¹ On page 509, the one hundred and sixth name registered is that of "Thomas Swartwout," which seems to have been entered there first but was afterward rewritten with that of his wife.

On page 506, the two hundred and ninety-fourth name registered is that of "Cornelius Swartwout," which was evidently intended for that of "Cornelius Swart," who is assumed to be the son of "Jacob Hellakers," otherwise called "Jacob Swart" and "Jacob Swartwout," who was not related to the members of the Swartwout family.