

The false declarations embodied in the last sentence are rendered conspicuous by the wording of the summons issued by the director-general on November 24, for the attendance of delegates at the convention to be held in New Amsterdam on the twenty-sixth day of that month, in which he refers to "the secret and thievish abduction of ten or twelve horses *from* the village of Amersfoort," which as early as the year 1647 was recognized as a settlement of some importance; and also by a communication addressed him by the Directors-General of the West-India Company, on July 24, 1650, in which they wrote: "Many free people have taken passage on these two ships, the '*Fortuyn*' and the '*Jaager*,' as by inclosed lists, we desire that you may allot to each, according to his capacities and family, sufficient *quantities of land where they choose* [to settle], but not on land reserved by the exemptions for the company, as for instance at Pavonia, which the company bought in for certain reasons. * * * * It looks as if many people will come over by every ship, and * * * * we desire that you shall accommodate all newcomers as well as possible."¹

Five days later the settlers at Midwout were notified to elect delegates and send them to the convention.

"Dear Friends:

"As the Board of *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of this city have resolved with the knowledge of the Honorable Director-General upon calling for two delegates from each of the adjacent villages, to wit: Amersfoort, Breukelen, and Midwout, to write jointly to the Lords-Patrons concerning the condition of country, we request herewith our friends in the village of Midwout speedily to select two delegates and to send them to this place to-morrow, the ninth instant, provided with the necessary credentials, and directing them to report at the City-hall. Relying thereon, we remain, your affectionate friends.

"By order of the *burgemeesters* and *schepens*.

"New Amsterdam, Decbr. 8, 1653.

JACOB KIP, Secretary.

"To the Honorable, Dear, and Good Friends, the inhabitants of the village of Midwout."²

The settlers at Midwout, upon the reception of this request, held a meeting and elected and accredited Tomys Swartwout and Jan Stryker to represent them at this first provincial assembly or *landdag* of the colonists of New Netherland.

¹ New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Council Minutes, vol. v., pp. 155-158.

Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiv., pp. 228, 80, 126.

² New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Council Minutes, 1652-1654, vol. v., p. 159.

Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiv., p. 230.