

we have had sufficient judgment we also believe possess power and authority to have our orders and commands strictly obeyed, and we desire this especially in this case, unless much can be said of the said Swartwout's life, for in other respects he is old enough to be fit, and if there were any deficiency therein, then he has time to outgrow it, as he cannot execute his duties as long as there is no court of justice established there, which will not be the case yet for some time as your Honors say yourselves." ¹

Having rented a *houwerij*, embracing forty-three *morgens* or about eighty-six acres, belonging to Jacob Jansen Stol's widow, her husband having been killed by the Indians at Esopus, in October, 1659, Roeloff Swartwout occupied it shortly after his return from Holland.²

The Reverend Hermanus Blom, called to preach at Esopus while visiting the place in 1659, having returned from Holland to New Netherland in the following year with a license from the Classis of Amsterdam, dated February 16, 1660, constituting him a minister of the Reformed Protestant Church and authorizing him to preach principally in Esopus, "both on water and on the land, and in all the neighborhood," began his pastorate there, on September 5, that year.

To provide him a home the settlers were taxed two-and-a-half guilders on each *morgen* of land possessed by them. "Roeloff Swartwout, tenant, for Widow Stol," is entered on the tax-list as having forty-three *morgens*, for which he was rated to pay a tax of one hundred and seven guilders and ten stivers.

Seventeen members of the congregation partook of the Lord's Supper, celebrated at the Esopus for the first time on Sunday, December 26, 1660. Among them were Roeloff Swartwout and his wife, Eva.³

Director-General Stuyvesant having been requested to visit Esopus and allot parcels of ground to different persons desiring to settle there, sailed from New Amsterdam, on April 26, 1661, to define the metes and bounds of the lots to be granted them. The site of the village, as he then demarcated it, extended north and south between North Front and Main streets, and east and west between East Front and Grace streets, as they were thereafter delineated on the maps of Kingston, and was about a quarter of a mile square. The wide plateau on which it was laid out has an elevation of about forty feet above Esopus Creek, which, rising in the northwest corner of Ulster County and after several deflections reaches Marbletown and flows thence on a northeast course, pass-

¹ New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Correspondence. 1659-1660, vol. xiii., p. 125. Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiii., pp. 177, 188.

² Laws of New Netherland, pp. 413, 414.

³ History of Ulster County, New York. By Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester. 1880, p. 62.