

“The *schout* and *commissaries* are ordered and commanded to appoint two fire-wardens, who shall go around once every fourteen days or three weeks, at farthest, every month, to inspect all the houses and chimneys and see if they are properly constructed and cleaned.”

“Whereas the public fence or palisades, erected around the village for its defence and that of the inhabitants at great cost and labor, begins to decay here and there, and openings are here and there made and to be seen, which remain through the night unclosed to the imminent danger of the place and advantage of the enemy, the *schout* and *commissaries*, and also, especially the sergeant, are hereby required, authorized, and commanded to have the afore-said palisades, where it is necessary, repaired, the small, decayed and rotten palisades removed and others better and more suitable put in their places.”<sup>1</sup>

Desiring to erect a dwelling for himself and family, Roeloff Swartwout obtained, in 1662, from the director-general and council of New Netherland a ground-brief, or deed, for a lot in Wiltwijck, one hundred and seventy feet in depth (Holland measure), extending one hundred and sixteen feet along the street west of it, and ninety along the one on the east side of it. The plot lay south of the lot owned by Louis Du Bois, a French Walloon, and north of the one belonging to Thomas Harmensen. At the same time, he was also allotted by the provincial authorities a plot of ground outside the village. The tenure of these two parcels of land was confirmed to him on July 16, 1668, in letters-patent granted by Richard Nicolls, governor-general of the province of New York.<sup>2</sup>

A new village or *dorp* having been laid out on the right bank of Esopus Creek, three miles southwest of Wiltwijck, in April, 1662, he further acquired on the twenty-fifth day of that month, by an allotment, eight morgens of land “lying neare unto ye New Durp,” and another parcel, contiguous to the first, containing twenty-four acres, together “with a Lott in ye Durp, to ye West of Evert Pell’s, to ye East of ye Minister’s Lott, having in Breadth Eleaven and in depth twenty Rod.” Later he purchased eight morgens, or sixteen acres, of land at Wiltwijck, previously owned by Hendrick Cornelissen van Holstein, all of which were confirmed to him by letters-patent, granted, on July 23, 1667, by Governor Nicolls.<sup>3</sup>

The organization of a militia company having been effected at Wiltwijck, on May 30, 1662, by the appointment of Thomas Chambers as captain, Hendrick Jochemsen, lieutenant, and Pieter Jacobsen, the miller, sergeant, and

<sup>1</sup> Laws of New Netherland, pp. 415, 416, 417.

<sup>2</sup> Book of Patents 3, p. 72, in office of the secretary of the state of New York.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 2, pp. 245, 246.

History of New Netherland. O’Callaghan. Appendix, vol. ii., p. 592.