

islands of the Delaware River, with the adjoining flats along the Jersey shore; Mashipacoug Island, lying between Carpenter's Point [at the mouth of the Neversink River] and the Brick House, and Minisink Island lying below the Brick House. The two islands alone contain 1,000 acres of cultivated land, and together, with the shore flats and grazing lands, between the extremes named, more than 10,000 acres.

"The settlement first made [there] was located opposite the lower end of the island * * * * upon the higher portion of Minisink flats, just at the foot of the ridge on the south running parallel with the river. This settlement took the name of Minisink. * * * * Johannes Westbrook settled upon one side of the small stream (forming the present boundary between the townships of Montague and Sandyston) and Daniel Westfall (said to be his son-in-law) upon the opposite bank. * * * * Others settled above and still others below; the first settlers all placing their dwellings near the old Esopus or Mine Road. * * * * The Westbrook family was represented by three brothers, John, Cornelius, and Anthony, who located at Minisink after 1700."¹

"The proprietors under the Jersey government," as Stickney further relates, "parceled out the land in tracts to different persons, and these came on to assume possession. The Minisink people having enjoyed possession for a long time refused to agree to this [occupation of their land] and determined to maintain their claims. Recriminations and retaliations followed and a general border warfare took place. Numbers of Minisink people were taken prisoners and lodged in the jails of New Jersey, and a state of alarm and danger prevailed. The men went constantly armed, prepared to defend themselves to the last extremity, and keeping a constant lookout for the appearance of their meddlesome foes."²

Desiring to have verifiable evidence that their land lay within the bounds of the province of New York, Thomas Swartwout and his co-partners petitioned the General Assembly to take immediate action for the establishment of a boundary between New York and East Jersey. On November 1, 1700, the members of the House of Representatives collectively sent a petition to his Excellency Richard the Earl of Bellamont, governor of the province, setting forth this request of the settlers in the "Minnessinck" valley:

"Whereas, some differences do arise between the county of Orange, within this province, and the province of East-New Jersey, [we] therefore humbly pray your excellency to take into your consideration the settling of the bounds between the province and the said province of East-New Jersey."

¹ History of Sussex and Warren counties, New Jersey. Compiled by James P. Snell. 1881, p. 362.

² A History of the Minisink region. By Charles S. Stickney. 1867, pp. 48, 49.