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To my friend

May 31 1992.

A couple of years ago I bowed out as Editor of Dutch Barn Research Miscellany. Over the past year we have had no following issues and I have had some indication that it was missed.

Last month its "replacement" was printed. It had a new name, new pagination and in a rather elegant format.

Since my original concept of "Miscellany" was to provide a method for research minded individuals of the Society to advance their personal ideas, guesses, hunches or theories in a very inexpensive format, I have decided to revive "Miscellany" in its original form and will continue with its basic purpose in mind.

The enclosed Vol. IV No. 1, 41 pp. might be the one and only continuing issue. This will depend on my personal health, finances and energy. As in the past I will pay for publication costs.

I would welcome contributions from other individuals. I will not edit such contributions but require that they be legible and would lend themselves to direct xerox copies with at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " margins  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on left side.

While the present "essay" treats a subject of very local history and where Dutch Barns as such have only a peripheral connection it deals with the land on which quite a few Dutch Barns were built and some of the early pioneers who built such barns. I found that this research was quite fascinating. A very few copies have been made. If I am encouraged to prepare more I will be glad to send copies to all 1992 Sustaining Members of D.B.P.S. Sincerely  
Vincent Schaefer

Dutch Barn Research.

Miscellany.

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"Of the Normanskil"

by.

Vincent J. Schaefer

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## Preface

This "essay" consists of an assembly of various items which I have encountered as I pursued the question of what is "the Normanskil". In his writings, Professor Jonathan Pearson of Union College at Schenectady, frequently refers to "Normanskil" as though it was a place or a region which was well known to the early settlers of Schenectady. My studies uncovered a number of fascinating relationships which I believe merit some degree of recognition.

Such things as The Church Patent, the possible bounds of the Van Petten grant of 500 Acres, the litigation related to the Schenectady Trustees, the mills in the vicinity of the Norman's Kill, the families of some prominent individuals who resided in "the Normanskil", the location and bounds of the Elizabeth Field Grant, the location of some of the early farms, these, and other items were new to me and may also be new to my friends in the Dutch Barn Preservation Society.

Hence this issue of "Miscellany".

Vincent J. Schaefer

"The Normanskil" - - - an analysis of the possible areas

Over the fifty or more years of my interest in local history I have encountered references to the "Normans Kill people" and more recently to the reference "of the Normanskil."

Originally, I thought that this reference pertained to the settlers of the great flats along the Normanskil below Ghost Fire Bend south of Grant Hill Road and from there to where the Hunger Kill flows into the Normans Kill from the east and where Vly Creek comes in from the west.\*

More recently, my impression has been that this appellation referred to the region of the Normanskil closer to Schenectady and extending from Kelly's Station to the Guilderland-Altamont Road.

In my most recent study I examined the names of all of the persons listed in "Early Settlers of Schenectady" by Jonathan Pearson, our foremost historian, and listed all who appeared to have a definite connection with Normanskil. The list consists of 56 man and woman references at the time of their marriage. Their eventual progeny amounted to 171 children. Thus, the 56 families during the period of 1784-1796, probably had at least 50 farms. If these farms totaled about 160 acres each, this would amount of about 9000 acres. If the areal extent of these farms was considered, this acreage amounts to about 14 square miles. Since land along the Normanskil was favored, this would easily extend in a north-south direction from the Wemple-Dellamont Barn area to French's Hollow (possibly as far as Ghost Fire Bend) some of it in Schenectady County but much of it extending into Albany County and the Manor of Rensselaerswick. From East to West it would extend from Settles Hill to the Kings Road.

Among the Dutch Barns in this region would be the Wemple-Dellamont, Wemple-Diamond, Stitt Road, Old State Road Barn, Schoolcraft, Van Giseling (Van Guysling, Lainhart, Raus, Van Petten (dest.) Vrooman (dest.), Becker Rd., and the one at Alt. Orchards.

Some of the best farms of the area originally owned by the Van Pettens, Vroomans and Wemples are now covered by the Watervliet Reservoir. Several of the roads --- Quackenbush, Pangburn, Dunnsville, Wemple, Lainhart, Becker and Vosburgh retain the names of Normanskil families.

In a study of these family names as shown on the 1767 Bleeker Map, the 1779 Sauthier Map, the 1854 Gould Map and the 1866 Beers Map a number of the names of the "Normanskil Families" are indicated. It is interesting that when one takes the Bleeker (1767) and Gould (1854) Maps and searches them for the names of the Normanskil people the northern sections have twice the number of names contained in the "Early Settlers of Schenectady County" people who were "of the Normanskil." This strongly suggests that these individuals probably occupied most of the farms in the region north of the Planck Road connecting Knowersville (Altamont) with the Great Western Road (Route 20) northward to the outskirts of Schenectady.

While these indications are suggestive, I believe we must continue to search for a more definite reference to the casual references which Pearson gives to the people who settled south of Schenectady.

Note. On the Bleeker Map of 1767 near this latter place is keyed "the Normanskil People."

### THE NORMANSKIL

"Of the Normanskil" is a phrase encountered frequently in the early histories of Schenectady County. It is quoted as though there was a definite geographic entity where the person or persons lived who were cited.

One of the frustrating things about this situation is that I can find no person among our present group of local historians who can provide any specific information as to where "The Normanskil" was located. Nor can I find any local history which sheds any light on its reality.

In my documentary research I have encountered clues which provide tantalizing inferences about "Normanskil" some of which I will describe. Although the Van Bael Patent lies south of the upper Normanskill, some persons "of the Normanskil" were involved in land or farms within its larger boundaries and thus it cannot be ignored. In fact, on the Bleecker Map of 1767 there is a group of three houses described as "The Normanskill People." This was on the large flats not far from the mouth of Vly Creek. However, this is far too south to be considered in the context of this paper.

The inferences I have thus far found suggests that the southern boundary of "the Normanskil" cannot extend beyond the road crossing the Normanskil between Route 20, The Great Western Turnpike, and Guilderland Center westward to Altamont.

### NORMAN'S KILL

This drains the Rotterdam, Princetown and Duanesburg Hills west of Schenectady and the Helderhills of Albany County, flows through the southern part of Schenectady County and then into Albany County. Fed by the Bozenkill, Black Creek, Becker Brook, the Hungerkill with its tributaries of the Kaikout and Blockhouse Creeks and Vly Creek it finally enters the Hudson River at the south end of Albany City after passing through the Towns of Duanesburg, Princetown, Rotterdam, Knox, Guilderland, New Scotland and Bethlehem. For purposes of this paper only the northern reaches of the Town of Guilderland of Albany County and the southern part of Princetown and Rotterdam need to be considered.

Persons Related to "the Normanskil"  
 from Jonathan Pearson's "First Settlers of Schenectady" 1663-1800.  
 J. Munsell 1873

From "First Settlers of Schenectady 1662 -1800"  
 Jonathan Pearson Union Collete Munsell - Albany 1883.

Page

- 6 Johannes Bancker settled on the Normanskill m. Magdalena Veeder  
 8 Catharina Vrooman of Normanskill 1/14/1786 m. Teunis Barheit  
 12 Thomas Beerup of Normanskil 4/27/1788 m. Gerritje Springsteen  
 12 John Beerup both of the Normanskil m. 1/20/1793 m. Caty McGee  
 14 Andries Betzer of Normanskil m. Maria Featherly 4/3/1786  
 15 Samuel Bond of Normanskil m. Catharina Pulver 11/ /1791  
 37 Gysbert Clau of Normanskil m. Maria Barheiet 6/29/1793  
 45. Jacob Clute at Normanskil m. Sara Plott 4/7/1786  
 51 Samuel Coevenhaven of Normanskil m. Sarah Van Petten 3/31/1786  
 54 Willem Cromwell of Normanskil m. Jannetje Relyea 10/13/1783  
 59 Myndert de la Grange of the Normanskil m. Helena Swits 3/5/1769  
 59 Arie de la Grange of Normanskil m. Maria Van Antwerpen 2/18/1762  
 94 Adam Hylten of the Normanskil m. Annatje Price Oct. 7, 1784  
 99 Adam Keely m. Margareta Bragham both of Normanskil 1795  
 100 Nicholas Cass of Normanskill m. Elizabeth Cass 5/13/1793  
 104 Benjamin Lee of Normanskil m. Maria Leenhart 11/28/1784  
 110 John McGee m. Annatje Quackenbosch both of Normanskil 1763  
 111 Alexander McLeod m. Eva Wearly of Normanskil 2/22/1785  
 111 David McMarlan m. Margareta Bratt of Normanskil 1790  
 130 John Ostrander m. Maritje Heemstreet both of Normanskil 1/ /1791  
 130 Solomon Ostrander m. Hannah Tuttle both of Normanskil 1794  
 134. George Passage m. Lea Ostrander both of Normanskil 1788  
 138 Harmanus Peek m. Lena Ouderkerk of Normanskil 1785  
 142 Alexander Platt m. Barbara Ramsey both of Normanskil 1787  
 149 Isaac Quackenbos of Normanskil m. Engeltje Erickson 10/19/1798  
 149 Daniel Frederick Relyea of the Normanskil m. Annatje Van Petten 1778  
 150 Pieter Relyea of Normanskil m. Neeltje Seybert 1769  
 152 Christianne Roef m. Eva Beerup of Normanskil 1789  
 152 Caleb Robinson m. Geertruy Bragham both of Normanskil 1795  
 165 Lourens Schoolcraft of Normanskil m. Margaret Row 1785  
 167 Martinus Seybert m. Maria Bell both of Normanskil 1768  
 168 John Shannon lived at Normanskil m. Elisabaeth Schermerhorn 1781  
 168 Alexander Shannon m. Elizabeth Bragham both of Normanskil 1788  
 168 Michael Shannon m. Susanna Bragham both of Normanskil 1789  
 169 Jacob Smit m. Maria Weller of Normanskil 1791  
 169 Jacob Smit m. Effie Bratt of Normanskil 1789  
 205 Abraham Van Aalstyne m. Maritje Winne both of Normanskil 1789  
 221 Abram Van Dyck m. Annatje Erickson both of Normanskil 1792  
 231 Arent Van Petten m. Jannetje Conyn of Normanskil 1703  
 239 Dirk Van Petten m. Heyltje Pangburn both of Normanskil 1793  
 264 Pieter Veeder given land on Normanskill m. Neeltje Vander Volgen 1704  
 264 Johannes Veeder rcvd land on Normanskill m. Susanna Wemp 1697  
 267 Claas Veeder m. Catrina Van Epps half of farm 6 mi S. Schenectady  
 268 Volkert Veeder of Normanskil m. Annetje Spaan 1786; Quackenbos 1790  
 270 Jacob Veeder of Normanskil m. Catherine Spaan 1789  
 276 Hendrick Vosburgh of Normanskil m. Eletje Van Valkenburg 1785  
 282 Wouterl Vrooman of Normanskil m. Jaconytje Bareheit 1766  
 283 Jacob J. Vrooman m. Rebecca Ewing both of Normanskil 1792  
 284 Nicholas Vrooman of Normanskil m. Marie Swits 1782  
 286 Israel Walker of Normanskil m. Jan Schism 1785  
 287 William Ward of Normanskil m. Elizabeth Wageneer 1776  
 288 William Weller m. Peggy Passage both of Normanskil 1786

|     |   |      |  |
|-----|---|------|--|
| pp. |   | pp.  |  |
| 6.  | Bancker, Gerrit<br>m. Van Arnhem, Hester        | 1755 | 161. Schermerhorn, Jacob<br>m. Vedder, Maria       |
| 8.  | Duckenbos, Teunis<br>m. Vrooman Catharina       | 1786 | 152. Roef, Christianne<br>m. Beerup, Eva           |
| 12. | Beerup, Thomas<br>m. Springsteen, Gerretje      | 1788 | 165. Schoolcraft, Lourens<br>m. Row, Margaret      |
| 12  | Beerup, John<br>m. McGee, Cathy                 | 1793 | 167. Seybert, Martinus<br>m. Bell, Maria           |
| 14  | Bietzer, Andries<br>m. Featherly Maria          | 1786 | 168. Shannon, John<br>m. Schermerhorn Elizabeth    |
| 15. | Bond, Samuel<br>m. Pulver, Catharina            | 1791 | 173. Smit, Jacob<br>m. Welker, Maria               |
| 37  | Clau Gysbert.<br>m. Barheit, Maria              | 1793 | 173. Smith, Jacob<br>m. Bratt, Effie               |
| 45  | Clute, Jacob<br>m. Platts, Sara                 | 1786 | 205. Van Adl styne, Abraham<br>m. Winne, Marytje   |
| 51  | Covenhaven, Samuel<br>m. Van Petten, Sarah      | 1786 | 221. Van Dyck, Abram<br>m. Errchson, Annetje       |
| 54  | Cromwell, Willem<br>m. Relyea, Jannetje         | 1783 | 231. Van Petten, Arent<br>m. Conyn, Jannetje       |
| 59  | de la Grange, Myndert<br>m. Sevits, Maria       | 1770 | 233. Van Petter, Jacob<br>m. Brooks, Susanna       |
| 94  | Hylten, Adam<br>m. Price Annetje                | 1785 | 234. Van Petten, Dirk<br>m. Pangburn, Heyltje      |
| 99  | Keely, Adam<br>m. Brogham, Margareta            | 1795 | 264. Veeder, Pieter<br>m. Van der Volgen, Neeltje  |
| 100 | Cass, Nicholas<br>m. Cass Elizabeth             | 1793 | 264m. Veeder, Johannes<br>m. Wemp, Susanna         |
| 104 | Lee, Benjamin<br>m. Leenhart Margaret ?         | 1785 | 265. Veeder, Pieter<br>m. Vande Bogart, Maritje    |
| 110 | McGue (Megee), John<br>m. Quackenbosch, Annetje | 1763 | 276. Vosburg, Hendrick<br>m. Van Valkenburgh Eetje |
| 111 | McLeod, Alexander<br>m. Wearly, Eva             | 1790 | 282. Vrooman, Wouter<br>m. Barhydt, Jacoqntje      |
| 111 | Mc Marlan, David<br>m. Bratt Margareta          | 1790 | 283. Vrooman, Jacob<br>m. Ewing, Rebecca           |
| 130 | Ostrander, John<br>m. Heemstreet Maritje        | 1791 | 284. Vrooman, Nicholas<br>m. Swit, Maria           |
| 130 | Ostrander, Solomon<br>m. Tuttle, Hannah         | 1794 | 286. Walker, Israel<br>m. Schism Jane              |
| 134 | Passage, George<br>m. Ostrandet, Lena           | 1789 | 287. Ward, William<br>m. Wagoner, Elisabeth        |
| 138 | Peek, Harmanus<br>m. Ouder kirk, Lena           | 1785 | 265. Veeder, Simon<br>m. Van Petten, Catherine     |
| 142 | Platto, Alexander<br>m. Ramsay Barbara          | 1787 | 267. Veeder Claas<br>m. Van Epps, Catrina          |
| 145 | Quackenbos, Isaac<br>m. Erickson, Engel tie     | 1798 | 268. Veeder, Volkert<br>m. Spaan, Annet je         |
| 149 | Ramsay, Frederick<br>m. Quackenbos, Catherine   | 1794 | 270. Veeder, Jacob<br>m. Spaan, Catherine          |
| 149 | Relyea Daniel<br>m. Van Petten, Annetje         | 1778 | 168. Shannon, Alexander<br>m. Brogham, Elizabeth   |
| 130 | Relyea, Pieter<br>m. Seybert Neeltje            | 1769 | 168. Shannon, Michael<br>m. Brogham, Susanna       |
| 152 | Robinson, Caleb<br>m. Brogham, Geertruy         | 1795 | 288. Weller, William<br>m. Passage, Peggy          |
|     |   |      | 1762   |
|     |   |      | 1789   |
|     |   |      | 1785.  |
|     |   |      | 1768.  |
|     |   |      | 1781.  |
|     |   |      | 1791.  |
|     |   |      | 1789   |
|     |   |      | 1789   |
|     |   |      | 1792.  |
|     |   |      | 1703   |
|     |   |      | 1796.  |
|     |   |      | 1793   |
|     |   |      | 1704   |
|     |   |      | 1692.  |
|     |   |      | 1732   |
|     |   |      | 1785   |
|     |   |      | 1766   |
|     |   |      | 1792   |
|     |   |      | 1781   |
|     |   |      | 1784.  |
|     |   |      | 1773   |
|     |   |      | 1741   |
|     |   |      | 175  |
|     |   |      | 1786   |
|     |   |      | 1789   |
|     |   |      | 1788   |
|     |   |      | 1789   |
|     |   |      | 1786   |



THE GEOLOGY OF "THE NORMANSKIL" AREA

There is only one area in the region under investigation where the underlying bedrock is exposed and that is in the ravine and falls along The Normanskill at French's Hollow. The concrete dam which plugs this ravine forms the Watervliet Reservoir. On the western side of the Reservoir are extensive areas of glacial deposited gravel which is now being extensively mined. The soil at the surface of the land in this region is an admixture of clay, sand and gravel which extends to Guilderland Center.

Elsewhere the surface soils are fertile loams which were intensively farmed for 200 years. The northern portion of this area extending toward South Schenectady consisted mostly of sand which was deposited in the shallows of Lake Albany in post glacial times (about 10,000 years ago). During that period the original course of the Mohawk River which formed the present valley of the Norman's Kill in pre-glacial times was filled with glacial sands and gravels in the area southwest of Schenectady. The Mohawk River was then forced northward through the Ballston Lake and Round Lake regions to flow down the Anthonykill to the Hudson at Mechanicsville. Subsequently it cut through the Schenectady Shales and Sandstones at Rexford and from there to Lake Crescent and The Cohoes Falls to enter the Hudson at Waterford.

The original channel of the Mohawk River which has been measured near South Schenectady and found to have cut a channel down to sea level in the Schenectady Shales and Sandstones, is buried by more than 300 feet of glacial till, sand and gravel. The aquifer formed by these deposits produces a number of free flowing, very cold springs which combine to produce Becker Brook, a fine trout stream, the only one, by the way, of the tributaries of the Norman's Kill above the Watervliet Reservoir whose flow is little affected by dry periods during the year.

The Normanskill flows year round but during extended dry periods in the Summer, Fall and Winter is reduced to a low level of flow. With the Spring runoff it becomes a very turbulent stream and in fact provides an adventurous white water canoe route from Kelly's Station to the Watervliet Reservoir and beyond.

THE MAIN SETTLERS OF "THE NORMANSKIL"

In Jonathan Pearsons, "First Settlers of Schenectady 1662-1800," a review of each of the nearly 5000 names of "first settlers" reveals about sixty couples who are referred to as "of the Normanskil." Their names in general reflect their Dutch origins altho' some, especially after the Revolution, indicate Irish, English, German, Swiss or French ancestry.

I have searched the early maps bearing owners names of farmers and in the small hamlets of the area south of Schenectady in my effort to establish the general location of "the Normanskil."

A first natural assumption is that "The Normanskil" must be part of the environs of the Norman's Kill.

The geographic area referred to as "The Normanskil" was apparently about 4-6 miles south and southwest of the village of Schenectady bisected by the County line which also was the northerly boundary of the Manor of Rensselaerswyck. The Normanskill which flows through the region is a substantial stream which flows from the Duanesburgh and Princetown Hills and the Helderhills.



## Pioneer Families "of the Normanskil"

There are a number of pioneer families frequently mentioned in my study of "the Normanskil." Through ownership of land, the disposition of property, the intermarriage of families and the political behavior of appointed officials, my research has been replete with drama. The nearly exclusive dominance of the Dutch Culture persisted till the Revolution and then gives way in a subtle manner to the infusion of others.

The first of these pioneers, the Veeders, participated in one of the early land acquisitions in southern Schenectady County but then became involved with the LaGranges in acquiring the Van Bael Patent which took them south of the region of this study.

The second family was the Van Pettens. They also became active in the Town of Guilderland but had important farmsteads in both Schenectady and Albany Counties, the first of them being in the vicinity where the Becker Brook enters the Norman's Kill. This is referred to as the old Walker Farm which in 1939 was acquired by the Kesebergs. However it was part of the 500 acre plot bought by Myndert Veeder, Arent Van Petten and Jan Dellamont in 1714.

The third name frequently mentioned is the Bratts. Although the Bratts were not Dutch (they were Swedes and thus referred to as "the Northmen" giving this name to the Norman's kill). They were deeply involved in activities related to early Schenectady.

Two of the Bratts figured prominently in these early affairs were cousins, had identical names and came from large families. Arent Bratt, the yeoman (farmer) had his first property on the Third Flat along the Mohawk upstream from Schenectady at what is now known as Rotterdam Junction. He married the eldest Mebie girl, Carolyntje. They raised 9 children before moving to the Great Flats adjacent to Schenectady. Arent Bratt built the brick house on Hindmost Farm No. 1 which is on Schermerhorn Road and is still standing.

The second prominent Bratt also named Arent was a Trustee of Schenectady and was referred to as Captain Arent Bratt. First appointed as Trustee in 1705 he was unable to act with power until 1719 when the sole survivor of the originally appointed Trustees, Reyer Schermerhorn, died. Thenceforth Captain Arent Bratt acted as Trustee and eventually after 1749 as the sole survivor until his death in 1765 (1767?).

Although Reyer Schermerhorn (Ca 1660-1719) was not "of the Normanskil" his exercise of power as sole survivor of the Trustees appointed in 1684 by Governor Thomas Dongan was profound as he controlled all of the Common Lands belonging to the County of Schenectady. His daughter, Catalina, married Jan Wemp who was a Trustee of Schenectady from 1705 to 1749 when he died.

Jan Wemp, another Trustee, appointed in 1705 but as with Captain Arent Bratt, he was thwarted from acting as Trustee until his father-in-law died in 1719. Jan Wemp was a Master Builder and in 1711 went to the mouth of the Schoharie Creek where it enters the Mohawk River, to build Fort Hunter. While there in "the Mohawks Country" he acquired a large tract of land from the Mohawk Indians in 1736 and must have spent much time in that region. His large Dutch Barn believed to have been built in 1715 was recently moved to Albany County and rebuilt at Oriskatach on the Carl Touhey Estate along the Onesquethaw Creek. Jan Wemp died in 1749 but about 1744 along with Captain Bratt conveyed a triangular plot of land containing more than 4000 acres to the Dutch Reformed Church of Schenectady known thenceforth as the Church Patent. They did this

as Trustees of Schenectady in response to a petition from a large number of Townspeople.

In 1713 he was sued along with Reyer Schermerhorn, Barent Wemp, Johannes Teller and Arent Bratt as Schenectady Trustees, by 69 prominent citizens of Schenectady to account for the books, deeds, bonds, etc., which were to be returned to the village. Since most if not all of these materials were still in the possession of Reyer Schermerhorn, he turned everything over to Willem Appel, innkeeper of New York City, along with "all the right, title and interest --- their heirs and assigns forever."

A few months later on October 25,26, Appel reconveyed these materials back to Reyer Schermerhorn and his four associate Trustees! This action was approved by Governor Hunter November 14, 1714!!

Jan Wemp was of particular interest to me because of his activities "in the Mohawks Country." Besides being an Indian Trader he acquired a large farm along the Mohawk River east of Fort Hunter which he bought from the Mohawk Indians. His Indian deed covering 540 acres was signed by 8 Mohawk Chiefs. In addition he had built a beautiful Dutch Barn on this property, the finest in the region. When this barn was put up for sale a few years ago I managed to induce Mr. Carl Touhey to purchase it when it was rumored that it might be bought by an out-of-state buyer and moved to California. The Jan Wemp Dutch Barn was reerected on Carl Touhey's estate "Oriskatach" on a 5 acre plot of land near his beautiful stone house along the Onesquethaw Creek and made available for public visitation and use.

The sixth family mentioned was that of Jan Dellamont who along with Myndert Veeder and Arent Van Petter received a grant of 500 acres of land in 1714. It is likely that the Dellamont-Wemple Dutch Barn which in 1992 was being restored by the Dutch Barn Preservation Society was located on a part of this grant and that the nearby Van Petten (Keseberg) Farm was also part of it. It is also quite possible that this Barn was built shortly after that of the Bratt-Mebie Dutch Barn which until 1990 was located on the Third Flat near the ancient Mebie House (1670) which is still standing. Both Barns have the same dimensions and excellent workmanship. The Wemple family is closely interrelated to the Dellamonts and are the dominant family represented in the burying ground adjacent to the Dellamont-Wemple Dutch Barn. The Bratt-Mebie Dutch Barn was dismantled and its timbers moved to the old Van Petten farmstead adjacent to the Watervliet Reservoir. Its future, at the moment, is uncertain.

## The Van Pettin Patent

One of the first parcels of land shown along the southerly boundary of Schenectady County was the Van Petten Patent shown on most early maps of Schenectady.

In the "Memorial Essay" prepared by William A. Brinkman on Page 34 he remarks that the Van Petten lands became the Keseberg Farm in 1939. As a youngster one of my favorite fishing areas was the Norman's Kill and Becker Brook, the former for Rock Bass and Suckers, the latter for fine brook trout. Becker Brook enters the Norman's Kill just downstream of the Dunnsville Road where it crosses the larger stream and close to the site of the Keseberg farmstead. Incidentally, my brother Paul married one of the Keseberg girls, Carolyn.

A recent conversation with the last <sup>male</sup> survivor of the original Keseberg family, Charles, I was informed of a surveyor's monument located where the Norman's Kill enters Albany County at the Rensselaerswyck Manor Line. I hope to visit this in the near future. He also told me of the location of an early sawmill on the lower part of the Becker Brook from which he obtained some hewn timbers. He told me that when his father bought the farm it was called the Walker Farm. On the Beer's Map of 1866 a T.L. Walker is shown to occupy the farmstead.

## Van Petten Genealogy

Claas Frederickse Van Petten b. 1641 d. 1728  
m. Aeffie dau. Arent Bratt and Catalyntje de Vos

Ch.— Arent 1680  
Diewer 1681  
Cathlyntje 1683  
Andries 1685  
Geertruy 1687  
Claas 1690  
Geertruy 1690

NOTE: Claas Van Petten came to Schenectady in 1664 and with Isaac Cornelise Swits hired Willem Tellers Farm No. 5. In 1668 with Cornelise Viele bought Farm No. 8 with Cornelise Van Isselsteyn - next west of Reyer Schermerhorn. The latter Van Petten's brother in law (was a carpenter).

Arent Van Petten son of Claas m. Jannetje Conyn

Ch. \*Frederick 1703, Aug. 22 Settled Van Petten Farm on the Normanskil  
(Keseberg Farm 1939) (Old Walker Farm)

Philip 1704, July 9  
Claes 1706, Jan. 24  
Cathlyntje 1707, Oct. 16 m. Samuel Bratt  
Wyntje 1708, Oct. 30  
Nicholas 1710, Oct. 1  
Eva 1712, Nov. 13  
Feitje 1714, Dec. 18  
Mautje 1716/17, Jan. 19  
Dirk 1724/25, Jan. 3

NOTE: Arent Van Petten bought 8+ acres of land from Thomas Williams at Schenectady and in January 20, 1742/3 conveyed this land to Frederick of Normanskil.

## The Bratt Family

Arent Bratt and his brother Albert came to Albany in 1630. They were sons of Andriese Bratt of Sweden and were referred to as "de Sweedte" and "de Noorman." It was from this action that the stream where Albert built his mill was called the Norman's Kill.

While Albert remained in Albany until 1686 when he died, his brother Arent became one of the first Freeholders of the new village of Schenectady in 1662 and had a family of 6 children -- 3 boys and 3 girls. His two boys, Andriese and Samuel, married the Van Slyck sisters, Margarita and Susanna. Andriese and Margarita had two children before he was killed in the Schenectady Massacre of 1690. Samuel and Susanna had 11 children, the oldest being named Arent. His brother Andriese also had a son before he was killed and he also was named Arent! The two Arent cousins became illustrious citizens, Captain Arent lived in Schenectady and became a Trustee of the village. His cousin Arent and family of 9 children lived on the Third Flat on the south side of the Mohawk River above Schenectady until 1736 when Arent built the brick house on the Great Flats adjacent to Schenectady and moved his wife and 9 children to Hindmost Farm No. 1 in 1736.

Captain Arent Bratt lived in the village of Schenectady all of his life and became an important person in the governing hierarchy of the town. In 1714 he was appointed a Trustee of the Town and continued to serve as a Trustee until his death in 1765 or 1767. There is some evidence he may have been a Trustee earlier but it would have made little difference since Reyer Schermerhorn who outlived all of the original Trustees acted regardless of suits and petitions as the sole surviving Trustee of the village until his death in 1719.

With Reyer Schermerhorn's death, Capt. Arent Bratt and Jan Wemp emerged as acting Trustees since the other three died prior to 1725. Bratt and Wemp acted as Trustees until Wemp died in 1749 leaving Capt. Arent Bratt as sole Trustee. Until he died in 1765 or 1767 (depending on source) he was said to have operated much like his earlier predecessor, Reyer Schermerhorn! In responding to a lengthy petition signed by 44 prominent Townspeople, Arent and Jan conveyed a triangular parcel of land called the "Church Patent" to the Dutch Reformed Church of Schenectady. This Patent contained in excess of 4000 acres of land. An excellent map of this land and its boundaries is included in this essay. Since it is conveyed by both Arent Bratt and Jan Wemp, this transaction must have been made prior to 1749 when Jan Wemp died. On April 6, 1750, Captain Bratt stated that "the Church had had the income of all lands leased down to 1744 and he was willing to convey and guarantee to said Church and that he was willing yearly to give an account of his stewardship to the freeholders of the Town if they would appoint a place and persons to make such investigations." Pearson

In 1755, Reyer Schermerhorn's eldest son Reyer "inherited both his estate his claim and all of the energy of character, business tact and stubborn perseverance of his forefathers" Pearson. A series of suits and other actions were instituted by the younger Reyer but not actively pursued prior to Captain Bratt's death in the mid sixties.

After Bratt's death, suits and other public actions continued. The complexities and acrimonious debate continued to confound the issues until after 1800. However, an account of all of this strays beyond the purposes of this Essay and so will be left at this writing! Anyone interested will find an interesting account of these controversies on pages 38 to 58 of Pearson's "A History of the Schenectady Patent" edited by Major J.W. MacMurray. Munsells - Albany, N.Y. 1883.

## Arent Bratt of Schenectady

Arendt Bratt and his brother, Albert Andries, came to Albany about 1630 . Albert Andries built a mill in the ravine near the mouth of the Norman's Kill above the Hudson River. He died June 7, 1686. His brother, Arent Andries, became one of the first Freeholders or proprietors of the new village of Schenectady in 1662.

In 1705 on May 15, Reyer Schermerhorn, only surviving Trustee of Schenectady, conveyed to Arent Bratt, grandson of Arent Andriese Bratt, a pasture containing about 5 acres. In 1702/3 Reyer Schermerhorn conveyed to Arent a lot on the West side of town extending from Mill Creek to the Binnekil. On February 5, 1713/14, Arent obtained about 25 acres of land from Jan Baptist Van Epps, the Hindmost Farm No. 2. Shortly afterward, Arent Bratt was made a Trustee of the Common Lands and held that office to 1765. (For the last 15 years of his life (1750-1765) he was sole trustee.) By his Will of 1765 he devised these Schenectady Common Lands to 23 persons in trust for the use of the inhabitants of the Town.

The first mention of Arent Bratt as a Trustee of Schenectady occurs when in 1705 the five who were appointed to assume control of the Common Lands from the "sole survivor, Reyer Schermerhorn", namely, Reyer Schermerhorn, Barent Wemp, Johannes Teller, Johannes Wemp and Arent Bratt. The maneuvering with suits and countersuits which went on between 1705 and 1714 failed to deter Reyer Schermerhorn from acting as sole Trustee and until his death in 1719 his power continued.

Presumably after 1719 the Trustees appointed in 1705 exerted the control over the Common Lands they had sought. However, by 1744 three of the five had died leaving control to the two remaining, i.e., Jan Wemp and Arent Bratt.

Their management of the Common Lands were such that in 1744 they were sued by 42 of the prominent citizens of Schenectady and requested to render a better account of their stewardship and to follow six guidelines of behavior.

Arendt Bratt's name appears on the Sauthier Map of 1779 as the owner of a triangular parcel of land adjacent to the Brain (Vought) parcel on the east. This triangular parcel is the same one drawn in 1792 by Lawrence Vrooman, Surveyor, and labeled the Church Patent. In his description on his plot he mentions that the Church Patent was conveyed to the Dutch Reformed Church of Schenectady by Arendt Bratt and John Wemp.

Thus this land must have been transferred to the Church prior to 1749 when Jan Wemp died. It is possible that this transaction occurred in 1744 at which time Bratt and Mabie were requested by petition to account for their stewardship of the Common Lands of Schenectady.

## Genealogy of the Arent Bratt (Bradt) Family

Arent Andries Bratt b.  
m. Catalyntje de Vos

- ch. 1. Jefie 1649  
 2. Ariaantje 1651  
 3. Andries 1653  
 4. Cornelia 1655  
 5. Samuel 1659  
 6. Dirk 1661

→ Samuel Bratt b. 1659 d. 1713/14  
m. Susanna Van Slyck

Andries Arentse Bratt  
m. Margareta Van Slyck

- ch. 1. Arent 1684  
 2. Margareta 1686  
 3. Anna 1692  
 4. Jacobus 1695  
 5. Cornelia 1696  
 6. Johannes 1699  
 7. Catalyntje 1701  
 8. Susanna 1704  
 9. Andries 1705  
 10. Samuel 1707  
 11. Ephriam 1712

→ Arent Bratt b. 1684 d. 1765  
m. Catharina Mebie

- ch. 1. Samuel 1715  
 2. Johannes 1717  
 3. Susanna 1719  
 4. Annatje 1721  
 5. Margret 1723  
 6. Eva 1726  
 7. Abram 1727  
 8. Jacobus 1730  
 9. Engeltje 1733

- ch. Arent 1687  
 Bathseba Ca 1689

→ Arent Andriese Bratt  
m. Jannetje Vrooman

- ch. Andreas 1705  
 Catharina 1706  
 Gazena 1707  
 Johannes 1709  
 Margrietje 1711  
 Magdalena 1713  
 Magdalena 1716  
 Ariantje 1718  
 Harmanus 1721  
 Simon 1723  
 Susanna ?



A Confusion of Names

A classic example of the confusion in historical mataters which occurs due to the propensity of our early Dutch settlers to cling to a few favorite names is found in the Bratt family 1630-1767.

The progenitors of this family were the two brothers, Albert and Arent Andriese Bratt, who came to Albany in 1630. One of them, Albert, remained in Albany; the other, Arent, went to Schenectady as one of its first settlers. He and his wife Catalyntje de Vos had 6 children. The first male child was Andries, the second Samuel.

They married and had children. Andries Bratt who married Margarita Van Slyck had two children before Andries was killed in the Massacre of 1690. Their first born was named Arent.

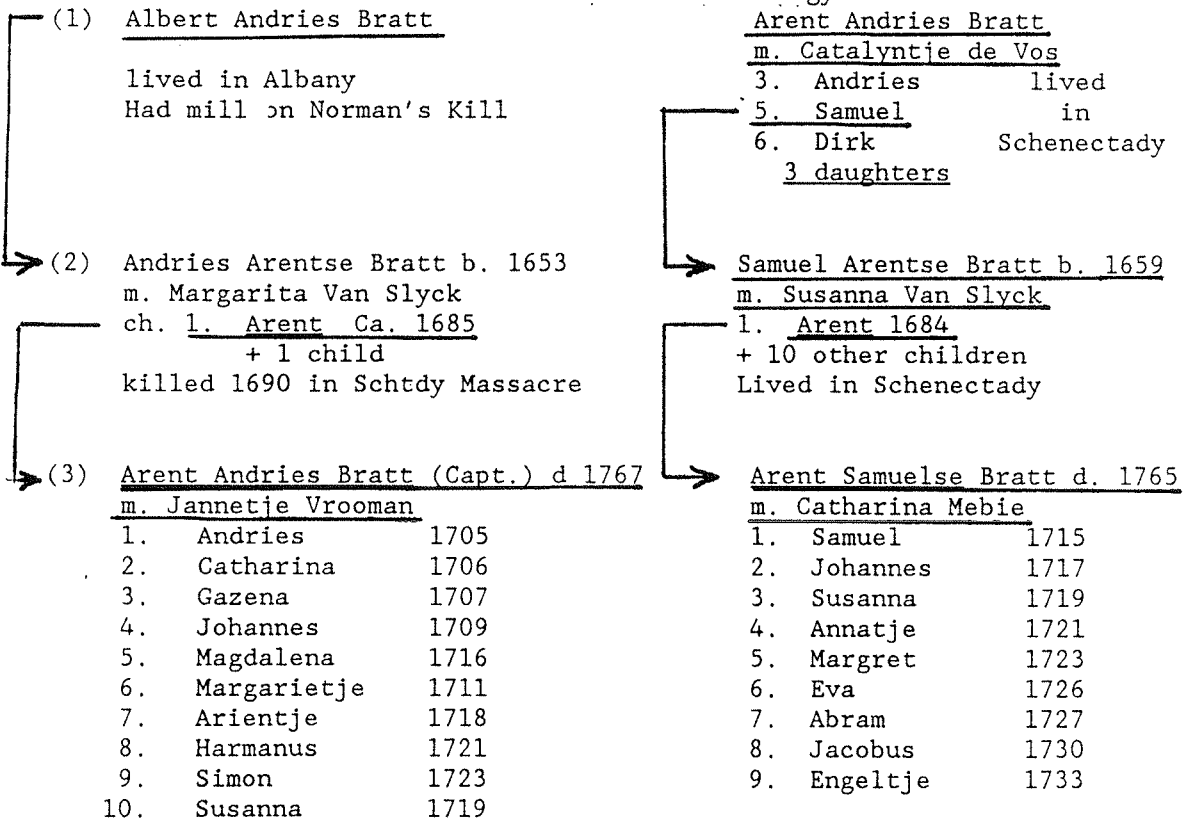
Samuel Bratt married Susanna Van Slyck and they had 11 children. Their first born was also named Arent!

Arent Andriese Bratt married Jannetje Vrooman and they had 10 children. Arent Samuelse Bratt married Catharina Mebie. They had 9 children.

Arent Andriese remained in Schenectady all of his life and was a Trustee of the village 1705-1765.

Arent Samuelse was a farmer, lived on the Third Flat on the south side of the Mohawk River 1710-1735 and then built the brick house on Schermerhorn Road in 1736 on Hindmost Farm No. 1 of the Great Flats.

See Bratt Genealogy



Trustee of Schenectady 1705-1765  
Lived in Schenectady

Lived on 3rd Flat 1710-1734  
Built brick house Schermerhorn Rd. 1736

Jacob Janse Schermerhorn b. 1622

- ch- 1. Reyer  
 2. Symon  
 3. Helena m. Myndert Van der Bogart  
 4. Jacob  
 5. Machtelt m. Johannes Beekman  
 6. Cornelis  
 7. Jannetje m. Caspar Springsteen  
 8. Neeltie m. Barent Ten Eyck  
 9. Lucas

Reyer Jacobse Schermerhorn. Trustee Schenectady  
m. Ariaantje Bratt 1684

- ch. 1. Catalina 1681 m. Johannes Wemp  
 2. Janneke 1683 m. Volkert Simonse Veeder  
 3. Jan 1685  
 4. Jacob 1690  
 5. Arent 1693

Johannes Reyerse Schermerhorn  
m. Engeltie Vrooman 1711

- ch. 1. Ariaantje 1712 m. Nicholas De Graaf  
 2. Gesina 1713 m. Philip Van Petten  
 3. Reyer 1716  
 4. Catalyntje 1718 m. John Dodds  
 5. Johannes 1720  
 6. Simon 1723  
 7. Neeltje 1725 m. Claas Viele  
 8. Bartholomeus 1727  
 9. Jacob 1729  
 10. Barnhardus 1732  
 11. Magdalena 1734  
 12. Jannetje 1736 m. Barent Veeder  
 13. Barnhardus 1739

Johannes Schermerhorn b. 1720  
m. Magdalena Bratt 1744

- ch- 1. Jacob 1745  
 2. Margrietje 1747  
 3. Jannetje 1749  
 4. Arent 1753

Jacob Janse Schermerhorn of Normanskil b. 1748  
m. Maria Vedder

- ch- 1. John 1764  
 2. Arent 1765  
 3. Engeltje 1767 m. Hendrik Banta  
 4. Sarah 1770 m. Gerrit Van Vorst  
 5. Catalyntje 1772  
 6. Catarina 1775  
 7. Maria 1777  
 8. Catrina 1783 m. Johannes Marselis

John Jacobse Schermerhorn b. 1764 d. 1814  
m. Catharina Bratt 1788

- ch. 1. Jacob Ca. 1790  
 2. Jacobus Bratt 1792  
 3. Annatje 1792  
 4. Simon 1796  
 5. Arent 1798  
 6. Peter Vrooman 1800

Jan Barentse Wemp (alias Poest) arrived in Beverwyck 1643-5. He moved to Schenectady in 1662 in company with Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck and the two of them bought the Great (Van Slyck) Island immediately west of Schenectady.

Jan Barentse Wemp b. d.  
m. Maritje Mynderst

Ch. Myndert 1649  
Grietje 1651  
Anna 1653 m. Sander Glen  
Barent 1656  
Johannes ~~ca. 1659~~  
Aeltie m. Jan Cornelise Van der Heyden  
→ Myndert Wemp b. 1649 d. 1699 Killed in Schenectady Massacre  
m. Diewer Wendel

Ch. Johannes Ca. 167 taken as captive to Canada  
Susanna m. Johannes Simonse Veeder  
→ Johannes Wemp b. 167 d. October 14, 1749 1711 "of the Mohawk's Country"  
m. Catalina dau. Reyer Schermerhorn 6/15/1700

Ch. Myndert 1701  
Reyer 1703  
Johannes 1705  
Ariaantje 1707 m. Capt. Andries Bratt

Catalina died

m. Ariaantje Swits 1709

ch. 1. Debora 1710 m. Barent Wemple  
2. Susanna 1712  
3. Isaac 1715  
4. Maritje 1718 m. Lt. Walter Butler, Jr.  
5. Rebecca 1721 m. Peter Conyn  
6. Ephriah 1724  
7. Cornelise 1726  
8. Johannes 1731

→ Isaac Johannese Wemple  
m. Elisabet Niewkerk

ch. 1. Annetje 1747  
2. Johannes 1750  
3. Gerrit 1753

→ Johannes Isaacse Wemple b. 1750  
m. Maria Swits

ch. 1. Elisabeth 1772  
2. Isaac 1773 d. 1857  
3. Folkje 1775  
4. Volkje 1777  
5. Gerrit 1779 d. 1853  
6. Engeltje 1782 m. Aaron Bratt  
7. Maria 1784 m. Peter Ward  
8. Jacobus 1788  
9. Abram 1791

### The Wemple - Dellemont Homestead

This ancient brick house located on a flat along the Upper Norman's Kill is reputed to have been built about 1760. It is likely that an earlier house occupied the site since Jan Dellemont received the grant to this land in 1714.

The fine Dutch Barn located about 150 feet east of the house has all of the features of a very early barn and may have been built about 1715. An almost identical barn in the Mohawk Valley about eight miles to the northwest is said to have been built for Arent Bratt about 1712. This is the same Bratt who conveyed the Church Patent to the Dutch Reformed Church of Schenectady prior to 1744 which was located adjacent to the Wemple Dellemont lands on the Norman's Kill.

The burying ground located immediately south of the Dutch Barn is one of the largest family cemeteries in Schenectady County. Nearly fifty burials are cited with seven different family names although the dominant origins are of the Wemple and Dellemont lines. It is likely that the others are of relatives.

As of 1992 an active effort is underway by members of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society to replace the sills and floor timbers of this fine barn.

It is probable that this farmstead comprises the northern reaches of the area referred to as "The Normanskill." Most of the names cited in the "First Settlers of Schenectady" are from the farms near the Wemple-Dellemont region and southward along the Norman's Kill on either side of it to the old Plant Road extending from the Great Western Road (Route 20) westward to Knowersville (Altamont). This region includes the southern portion of the Town of Guilderland in Albany County.

The Watervliet Reservoir now covers some of the most choice of this farm land which originally included the rich flats of the Vrooman, Wemple and Van Petten Farms.

During the early period (around 1700) a portion of this area was owned by Symon Volkert Veeder who also had a major holding in the Van Bael Patent. Veeder's holdings were later concentrated in the Van Bael lands which were south of the area being considered in this writing.

An interesting fact that bears on "the Normanskill" relates to the Wemple-Dellemont Dutch Barn located close to the upper Normanskill.

It has dimensions almost identical to that of the Bratt-Mebie Dutch Barn which until 1990 was located near the site of Arent Bratt's original house on the Third Flat where he and his wife Catharina Mebie raised their 9 children. His wife was the daughter of Jan Mebie who had purchased his stone house in 1670 from Daniel Janse Van Antwerpen. This house still stands. The Bratt Barn was dismantled and reerected on the shore of the Watervliet Reservoir near Fullers Station.

The similarity and fine workmanship of these two Dutch Barns present tantalizing questions which will only be answered by further research.

## Dellamont Genealogy

Jacob Dellamont b. 1638 d. 1719

Jan settled in Schenectady 1684  
Martin settled in Schaghticoke

→ Jan Dellamont b. 1684 d. 1766  
1714 acquired grant w Arent Van Petten, Myndert Schuyler  
m. Johanna Kleyn 1707  
m. Eva Brouwer d. 1747

ch. Jacob 1723 murdered 1746  
Maria 1725 m. Abraham Christianse  
Hendrik 1727 d. 1743  
Catrina 1728 m. Henricus Volkertse Veeder  
Abraham 1730

→ Elisabeth 1732 m. Jacobus Bratt  
Margareta 1735 m. Abraham Swits  
Jannetje 1737 m. Johannes Teller  
Annatie 1739 m. Christoffel Felthousen  
Eva 1741 m. Claas Vedder  
Henrik 1745

Abraham Dellamont  
m. Annatje Vedder 1766 d. 1779  
m. Volkie Wemp

ch. Jacob 1768  
Jacob 1768  
Maria 1771  
Johannes 1774  
Alexander 1779

→ Jacob Abrahamse Dellamont  
m. Debora Bratt

ch. Annatje b. May 21, 1789  
Johannes Dellamont b. 1774  
m. Rebecca De Graaf Nov. 19 d. 1837  
8 ch. 1800 - 1821

## The Van Petten Patent

In 1714, Arent Van Petten, Myndert Schuyler and Jan Dellamont received a Patent of 500 acres south of the Village of Schenectady and bounded on the south by the Schenectady County Line. This also was the northern boundary of the great Manor of Rensselaerswick which had been granted to Killean Van Rensselaer in 1630.

The central part of the Van Petten Grant was bisected by the Norman's Kill. That part of the Patent west of the stream constituted the old Van Petten Farm of 240 acres which in 1866 was the T. Walker farm and in 1939 was purchased by the Kesebergs who owned it until 1992.

It is postulated that the Myndert Schuyler farm was east of the Norman's Kill extending from the Keseberg farm at its widest east-west dimension in a southeasterly direction to a point where it joined the Manor Line. The Schuyler Farm consisted of 100 acres.

The Jan Dellamont Farm also adjoined the Keseberg (Van Petten) Farm with its boundary lines projecting to the Northwest and containing 160 acres as shown on the sketch. The Norman's Kill also runs through this farm. The tentative boundaries of the Schuyler and Dellamont Farms are in theory only and the limits await confirmation by the current owners. However the total acreage is 500 acres and the suggested plots may represent the bounds of the original grant fairly accurately.

The Jan Dellamont Farm with its ancient brick house has a Dutch Gambrel roof circa 1760 quite similar to the DeFreest House in North Greenbush also of 1760. It and its exquisite Dutch Barn are located near the center of the 160 acre farm on opposite sides of Wemple Road. It is thought that the Dutch Barn could have been built in the period 1715-1725.

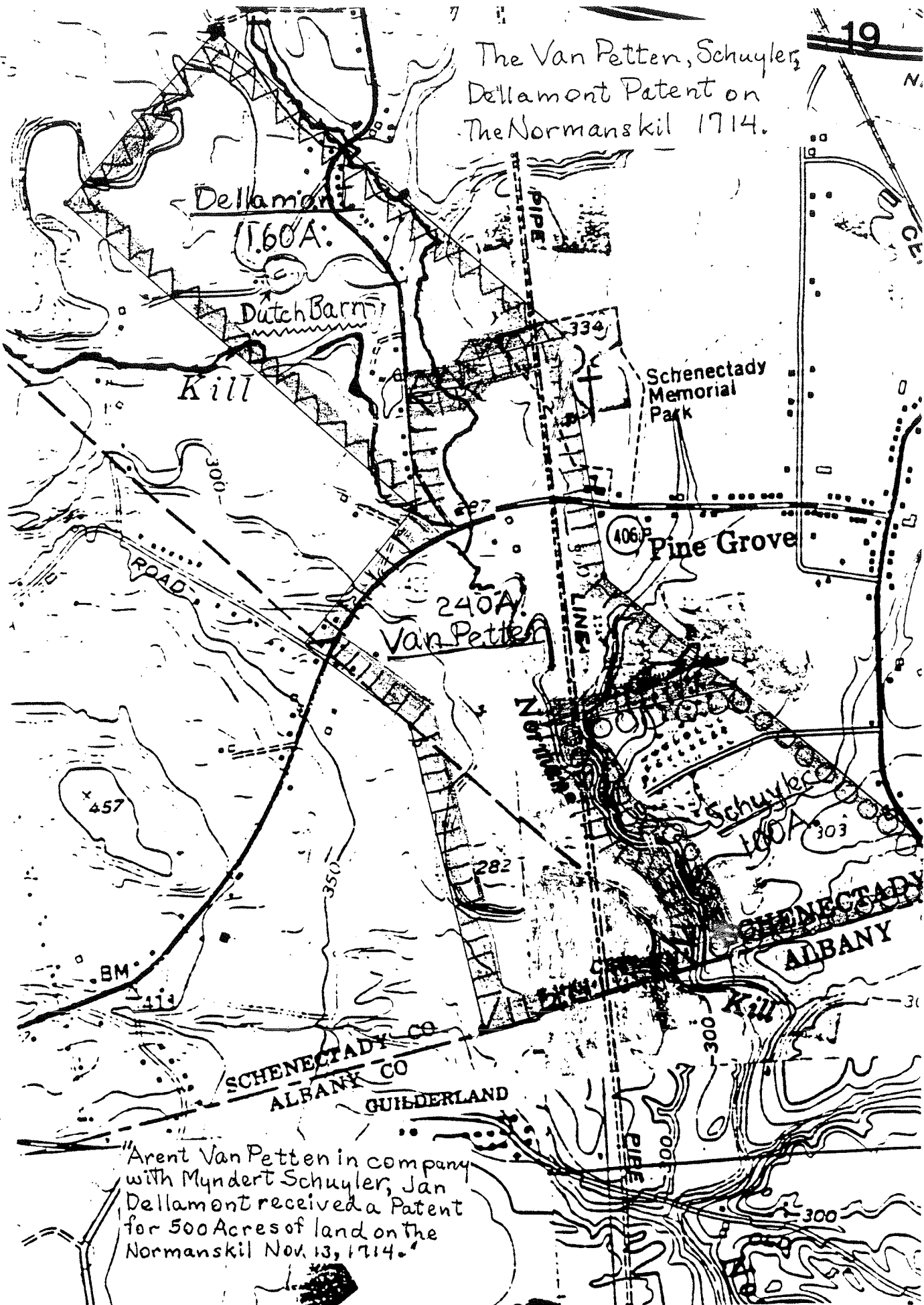
This barn has nearly identical dimensions and quality of workmanship with the Bratt-Mebie Dutch Barn which was along the bank of the Mohawk River near Rotterdam Junction about 8 miles to the northwest. The Bratt-Mebie Barn is believed to have been built in 1712. A house nearby was occupied by Arent Bratt and his wife Catherina Mebie oldest daughter of Jan Mebie. They were married in 1710 and raised 9 children at this farm which was located on the Third Flat on the south side of the Mohawk River upstream of Schenectady. In 1736, after all of their children were born, they built the Arent Bratt House at the western edge of the Great Flats adjoining Schenectady along Schermerhorn Road. This classic Dutch brick house is still standing.

The deed of the Keseberg (Van Petten) farm shown on the sketch was used in drawing its boundaries to scale by Charles Keseberg. Thus the bounds of this farm are well established and places it geographically on the topographic base map.

This Patent is an important Landmark "of the Normanskil."

The Van Petten, Schuyler,  
Dellamont Patent on  
The Normanskil 1714.

19



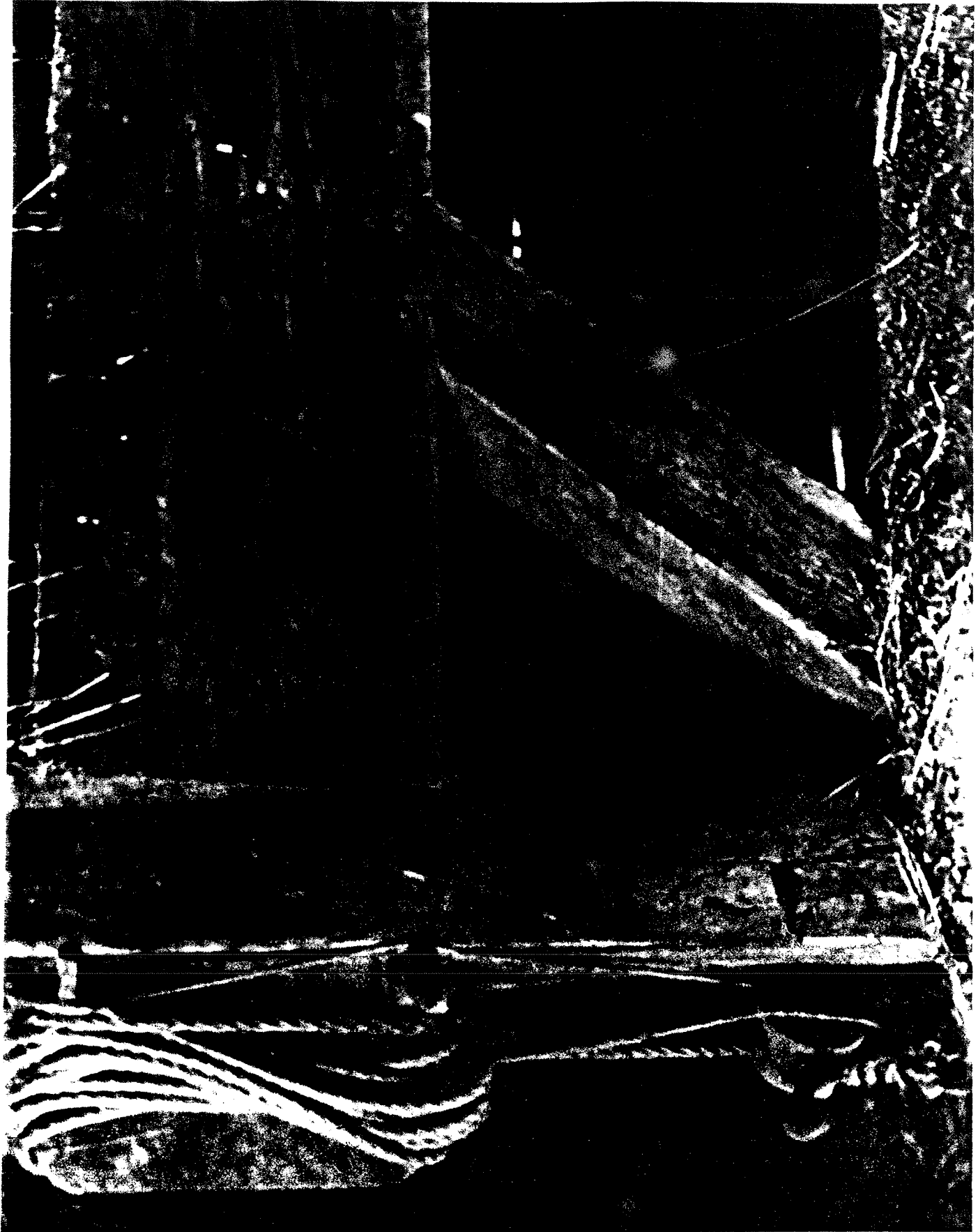
"Arent Van Petten in company  
with Myndert Schuyler, Jan  
Dellamont received a Patent  
for 500 Acres of land on the  
Normanskil Nov. 13, 1714."

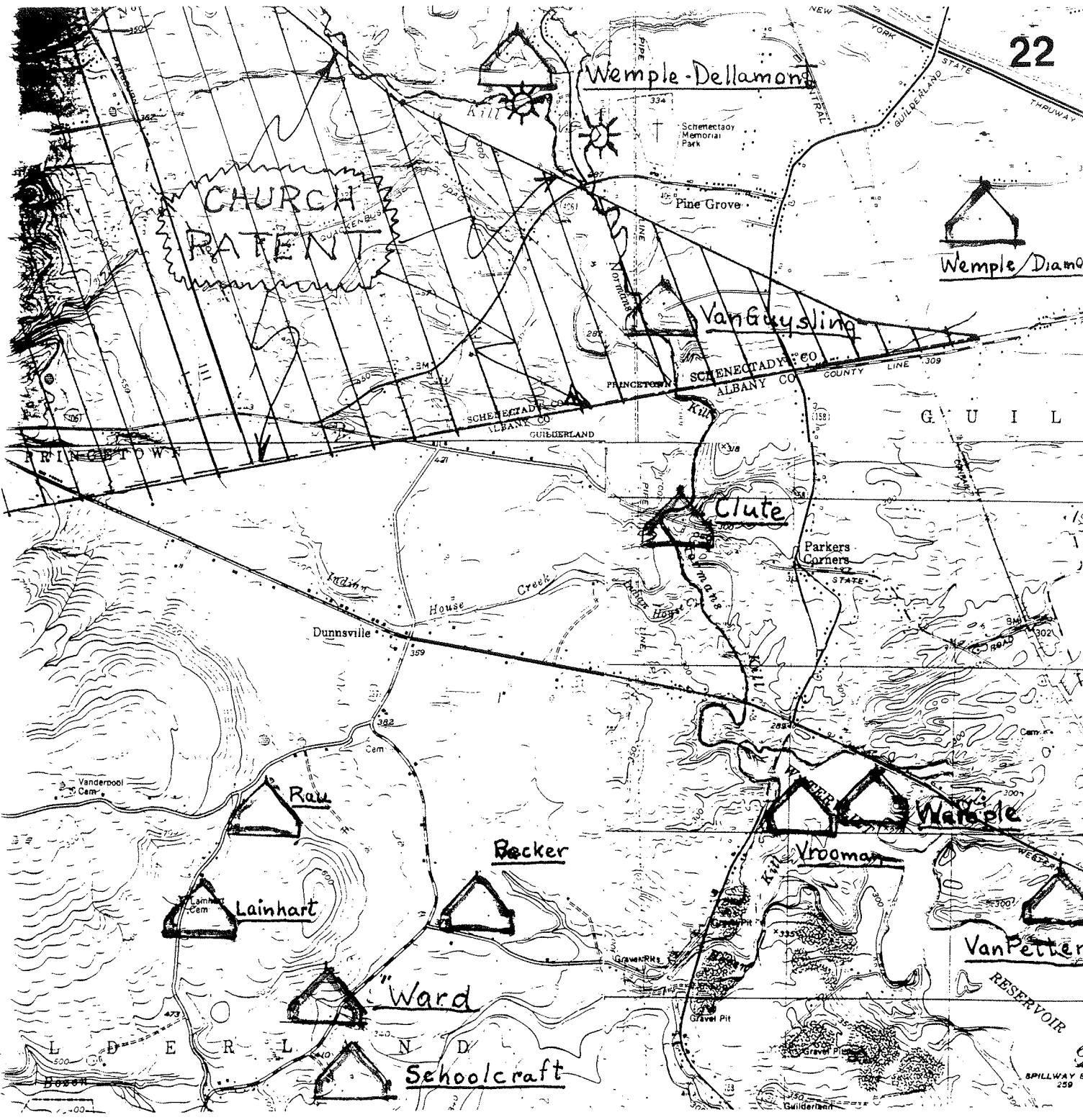
*The Wemple-Dellemont-Lazzari Dutch Barn.  
Wemple Road, Rotterdam, Schenectady County.*





*An Anchor Beam and Brace.*  
*Wemple-Dellemont-Lazzari Dutch Barn Ca 1715*





The Dutch Barns of the Normanskill are mostly if not all of a pre Revolution age. Those away from the flood plains of the Norman's Kill may be an exception. About half of them are still standing.

Burials in the Wemple - Dellemont Cemetery.  
(South of the Dutch Barn).

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Wemple, John 86 yrs b. 1750 d. 1836             | Darrow, Marie 75 yrs. b. 1837 d. 1912         |
| Wemple, Isaac 84 yrs b. 1773 d. 1857            | De Graff, Rebecca 58 yrs b. 1779 d. 1837      |
| Wemple, Garret 74 yrs b. 1774 d. 1853           | Hildebrandt Hattie 29 yrs b. 1858 d. 1887     |
| Wemple, Cathalina 36 yrs b. 1810 d. 1846        | Vine, Eva 21 yrs b. 1813 d. 1834              |
| Wemple, John G. 32 yrs b. 1807 d. 1839          | Vande Bogert, Joseph 90 yrs b. 1760 d. 1850   |
| Wemple, Abraham 52 yrs b. 1805 d. 1857          | Van de Bogart, Peter 74 yrs b. 1794 d. 1868   |
| Wemple, Nicholas 4 yrs b. 1852 d. 1856          | Vande Bogart, Margaret 65 yr b. 1806 d. 1871  |
| Wemple, Aaron 72 yrs b. 1804 d. 1876            | Vande Bogart, Elizabeth 21 yr b. 1792 d. 1863 |
| Wemple, Oliver 60 yrs b. 1839 d. 1899           | Vande Bogart, Nellie 49 yr b. 1809 d. 1858    |
| Wemple, Jacob 64 yrs b. 1830 d. 1894            | Van Zandt, Sarah 73 yr b. 1765 d. 1838        |
| Wemple, Daniel 2 mo. b. d.                      | Van Buren, Peter d. 1885                      |
| Dellemont, Jacob 78 yrs b. 1769 d. 1847         | Moak, Nellie 63 yr b. 1773 d. 1836            |
| Dellemont, John 82 yrs b. 1764 d. 1846          | Furbeck Mary 3 yr b. 1820 d. 1823             |
| Dellemont, Nancy 70 yrs b. 1789 d. 1859         | Furbeck John 4 yr b. 1819 d. 1823             |
| Dellemont, Rebecca 29 yrs b. 1810 d. 1839       | Lewis, Jacob 79 yr b. 1770 d. 1849            |
| Dellemont, Margaret 2 yrs b. 1847 d. 1849       | Lewis, Frances 80 yr b. 1775 d. 1855          |
| Dellemont, Rebecca d. 1844                      | Van Buren 21 yr b. 1821 d. 1842               |
| Bradt, Margaret 76 yrs b. 1780 d. 1856          | Pangburn Margaret 29 yr b. 1822 d. 1851       |
| Bradt, Deborah 72 yrs b. 1772 d. 1844           | Miller, Margaret 15 yr b. 1839 d. 1854        |
| VanderPol, Jeremiah 83 yrs b. 1789 d. 1872      | Warren, Rebecca 3 yr b. 1841 d. 1844          |
| VanderPool, Hannah 98 yrs b. 1790 d. 1888       | Warren, Catherine 5 mo. b. 1844 d. 1844       |
| Van der Pol, Stephen 78 yrs b. 1805 d. 1883     | Niver Jackie 2 yr b. 1876 d. 1878             |
| VanderPool, Agnes 77 yrs b. 1808 d. 1885        | De Forest Mrs Jacob d. 1825                   |
| Van Valkenburg Nicholas 69 yrs b. 1771 d. 1840  | Miller Margaret 60 yr b. 1840 d. 1900         |
| Van Valkenburg, Margaret 61 yrs b. 1778 d. 1839 | 3 children Dellemont, Abraham                 |
| Springer Henrietta 93 yrs b. 1806 d. 1899       |   |



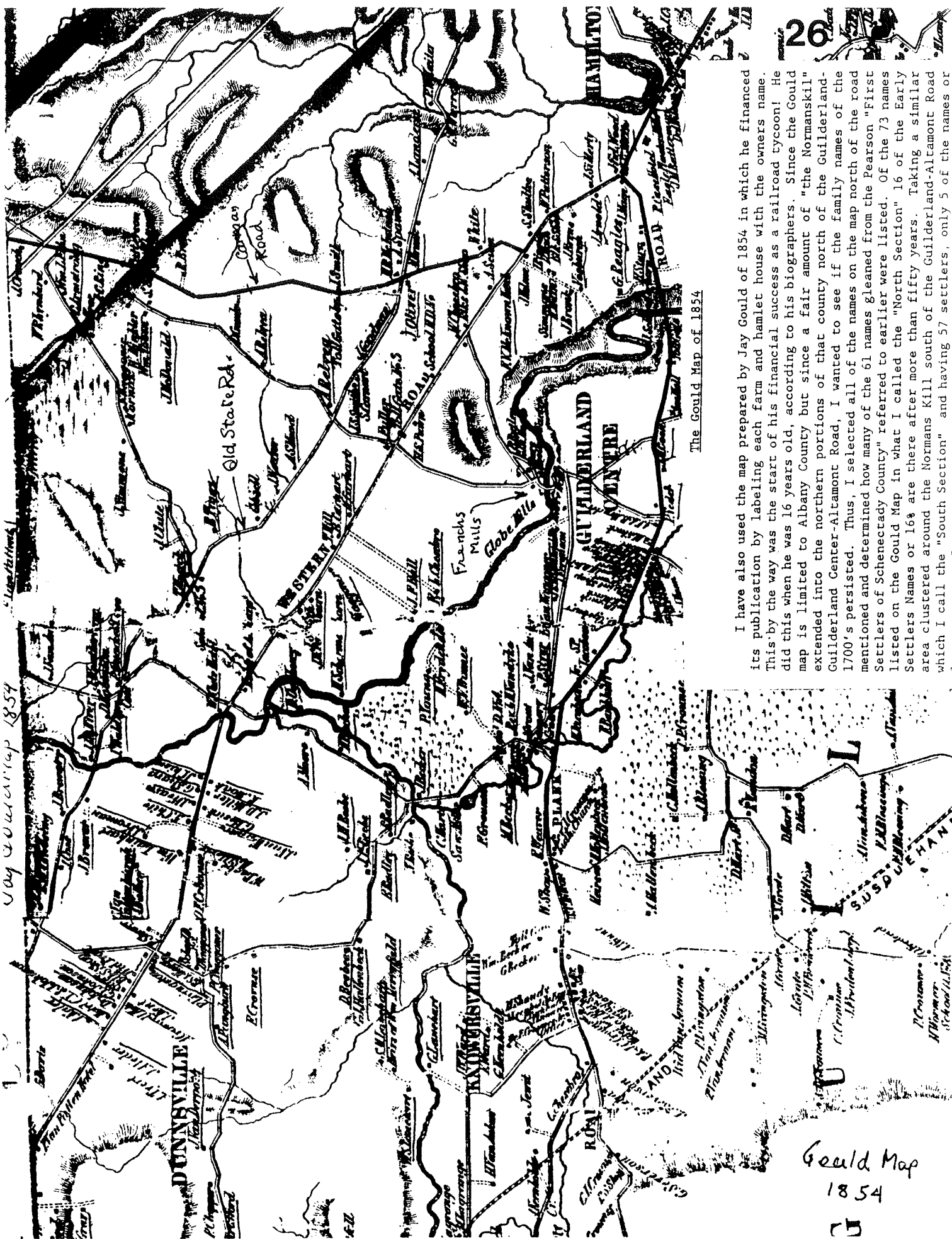
## Bleeker Map - North Section

71. Truax, Jacob  
 (N) 72. Van Petten, Nicholas  
 (N) 73. Banker, John  
 74. Ten Broek  
 75. Freeman, John  
 (N) 76. Wemp, Abram  
 (N) 77. Ouderkerk, Peter  
 78. Freeman, Jacob  
 79. Freeman, Robert  
 (N) 80. Hemstreet Take 1

## Bleeker Map Lower Section

99. Vander Wulligen  
 93. Woomer  
 70. The Normanskill People  
 60. Groot Simon  
 101. LaGrange  
 104. Koens repeat  
 94. Seger  
 95. Coper  
 102. LaGrange  
 68. Ritchies  
 103. LaGrange  
 104. Koens  
 106. Broom-Brumbly

Copy of Gould map 1854



The Gould Map of 1854

I have also used the map prepared by Jay Gould of 1854 in which he financed its publication by labeling each farm and hamlet house with the owners name. This by the way was the start of his financial success as a railroad tycoon! He did this when he was 16 years old, according to his biographers. Since the Gould map is limited to Albany County but since a fair amount of "the Normanskill" extended into the northern portions of that county north of the Guilderland-Altamont Road, I wanted to see if the family names of the 1700's persisted. Thus, I selected all of the names on the map north of the road mentioned and determined how many of the 61 names gleaned from the Pearson "First Settlers of Schenectady County" referred to earlier were listed. Of the 73 names listed on the Gould Map in what I called the "North Section" 16 of the Early Settlers Names or 16% are there after more than fifty years. Taking a similar area clustered around the Normans Kill south of the Guilderland-Altamont Road which I call the "South Section" and having 57 settlers, only 5 of the names or

Gould Map  
1854

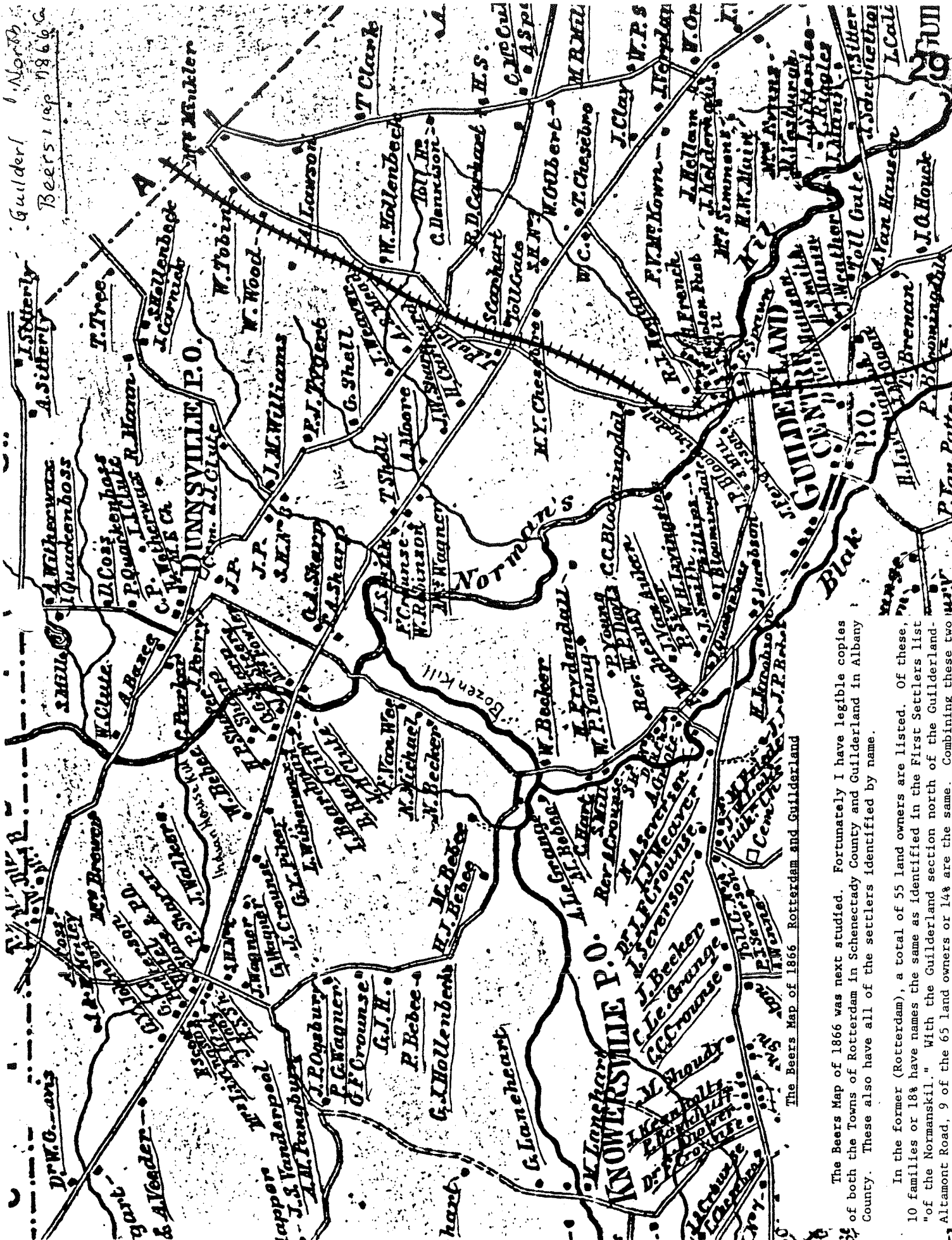
75

## Family Names Gould Map 1854 Town of Guilderland.

|             |                  |                |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| Armstrong   | McKown           | Tobin          |
| Arnold      | Mereley          | Treet          |
| Badley      | Mead             | Tygers         |
| Becker      | Merryfield       | Vanderpool     |
| Beebe       | Mesick           | Vanderberg     |
| Brewer      | Miller           | (N) Van Dyck   |
| Bronk       | Minkler          | Van Valkenberg |
| Carhart     | Moore            | (N) Van Petten |
| Chesbro     | Monk             | Van Wormer     |
| Chism       | Niver            | Vedder         |
| Chite       | Oglesbury        | (N) Veeder     |
| Coon        | Oliver           | (N) Vosburgh   |
| (N) Clute   | (N) Pangburn     | Vrooman        |
| Crouse      | Patterson        | Waggener       |
| Fuller      | (N) Quackenbush  | Waldron        |
| Gifford     | Reagles          | (N) Walker     |
| Goodman     | (N) Relyea       | Warren         |
| Gray        | (N) Schermerhorn | Weaver         |
| Hall        | Schrafford       | Weatherwax     |
| Hart        | Sharp            | White          |
| Hollenbeck  | Simmons          | Winne          |
| Johnson     | Shultes          | Wood           |
| Kaler       | Siver            | Young          |
| (N) Laihart | Silerts          |                |
| Landerer    | (N) Spaur        |                |
| Livingston  | Smith            |                |
| McDonald    | Starr            |                |







North  
 Guilders  
 Beers 1 op 1866

The Beers Map of 1866 Rotterdam and Guilderland

The Beers Map of 1866 was next studied. Fortunately I have legible copies of both the Towns of Rotterdam in Schenectady County and Guilderland in Albany County. These also have all of the settlers identified by name.

In the former (Rotterdam), a total of 55 land owners are listed. Of these, 10 families or 18% have names the same as identified in the First Settlers list "of the Normanskill." With the Guilderland section north of the Guilderland-Altamont Road, 9 of the 65 land owners or 14% are the same. Combining these two

Beers Map 1(N) 55 18%

Rotterdam 1866

Beers Map 9(N) 64 14% 30

Gulderland 1866

|              |                 |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Belch        | Murch           | Becker       | Michael         |
| Boink        | (N) Pangburn    | Beebe        | Miller          |
| (N) Brougham | (N) Peek        | Blessing     | Minkler         |
| Bullock      | (N) Quackenbush | Bloomingdale | Mills           |
| Campbell     | (N) Rowe        | Brewer       | Minn            |
| Christer     | Schermerhorn    | Carhart      | Moore           |
| Crane        | Scrafford       | Chesbro      | Ogsbury         |
| Crouse       | (N) Shannon     | Clark        | (N) Pangburn    |
| Dannenberg   | Shear           | Clay         | Parker          |
| De Forest    | Simon           | (N) Clute    | Patterson       |
| Dellamont    | Sitterly        | (N) Cross    | (N) Quackenbush |
| Fairlee      | Truax           | Cornect      | Radcliff        |
| Fisher       | Valk            | Crouse       | (N) Robinson    |
| Forbeck      | (N) Van Dyck    | Davis        | Scott           |
| Ford         | VanGuysling     | Dennison     | Severson        |
| Freeman      | VanValkenburg   | Fowler       | Shafer          |
| Fuller       | VanPetten       | French       | Sharer          |
| Gifford      | VanWormer       | Frydenhall   | Sharp           |
| Green        | Vedder          | Gilbert      | Siver           |
| Ham          | (N) Veeder      | Hallenbeck   | Sitterly        |
| Herrick      | Vine            | Johnson      | (N) Spawn       |
| Houghtaling  | Vrooman         | Keenholt     | Steele          |
| Hunt         | (N) Walker      | LaGrange     | Tobin           |
| Jenner       | Walsh           | (N) Lainhart | Tree            |
| Livingston   | Weaver          | Lawson       | Tygert          |
| McCaffrey    | (N) Wemple      | Livingston   | Van Auken       |
| McDonald     | Westcott        | McCullough   | Vander Pool     |
| McMichael    |                 | Mead         | (N) Walker      |
|              |                 |              | Veeder          |
|              |                 |              | Van Wee         |
|              |                 |              | (N) Wagner      |
|              |                 |              | Weaver          |
|              |                 |              | Wetherwax       |
|              |                 |              | Williams        |
|              |                 |              | Wood            |
|              |                 |              | Young           |

The Origin of the Church Patent

This patent contained lands which originally were owned by the Freeholders of Schenectady. Their representatives administered the lands together. However, as they died the control narrowed until Reyer Schermerhorn was the sole survivor. He managed the land with a "high hand" much to the dismay of the descendants of the original Freeholders.

In 1705, five Trustees of the Town of Schenectady joined suit against Reyer Schermerhorn seeking an accounting of the land which he apparently was handling as though he owned it. He apparently dealt with John Wemp, Barent Wemp, John Glen, Gerrit Veeder, John Vrooman, Claas Van Petten and others and "does sell and give away the lands of said patent and cut down and carry away the timber of such land and refuses to give the inhabitants any account of his doing"

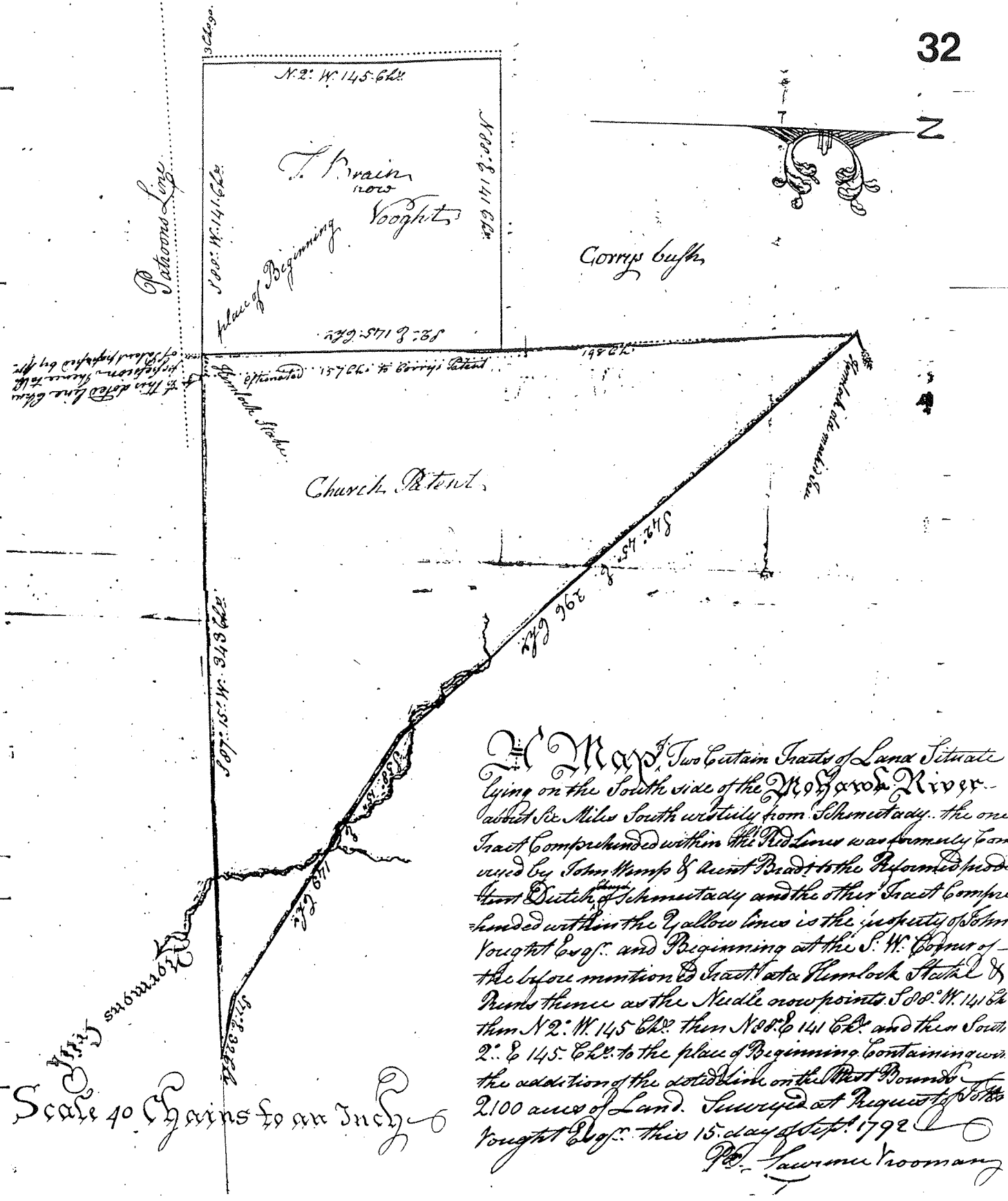
This was followed by another suit of June 13, 1706, by the same Trustees of the City of Schenectady --- Peter Schuyler, John Sanderse Glen, Daniel Johnson (Daniel Janse Van Antwerpen), John Baptist Van Epps and Adam Vrooman against Symon Groot, Jr., Syas Swart, and Jonathan Stevens who apparently had received lands from Reyer Schermerhorn from the Patent.

Pearson relates that of the several suits against Reyer Schermerhorn and his grandson Reyer, a period of nearly 100 years no suit was ever determined."

The foregoing is only a very brief account of the litigation which apparently led to the grant of the Church Patent to the Dutch Reformed Church of Schenectady by Jan Wemp and Arent Bradt some time prior to September 15, 1792, when Lawrence Vrooman prepared the plots "A Map of Two Certain Tracts of Land lying on the South side of the Mohawk River ---." The southern boundary of these two tracts, i.e., the Church Patent and the lands of John Vought, Esq. The latter containing 2100 acres of land, is common with the northern boundary of the Van Rensselaer Patent of 1640 comprising the Manor of Rensselaerswyck west of the Hudson River.

This Vought Parcel is apparently the same patent depicted on the Sauthier Map of 1779 as the Brain Patent, while the Church Patent is identified by the name Arent Bratt.

The Vrooman Plots prepared by that surveyor in 1792, is located geographically by his depiction of the Normans Kill which flows across the southeastern extremity of the Church Patent and then comes down more or less parallel to it along the hypotenuse of that plot of land and then comes into it from the Princetown Hills, This line is fairly close to the present boundary between the Town of Princetown and Rotterdam.



*Map* Two Certain Tracts of Land Situate  
 lying on the South side of the *McHaxox* River  
 about six Miles South westerly from Schenectady. the one  
 Tract comprehended within the Red Lines was formerly con  
 veyed by John Kemp & David Beadt to the Reformed *Presb*  
*terian* Dutch of Schenectady and the other Tract compr  
 ehended within the Yellow lines is the property of John  
 Vooght Esq. and Beginning at the S. W. Corner of  
 the before mentioned Tract at a Plumlock Stake &  
 Runs thence as the Needle now points S 87° W. 141 Ch  
 then N 2° W. 145 Ch. then N 88° E 141 Ch. and then South  
 2° E 145 Ch. to the place of Beginning containing  
 the addition of the said Stake on the West Round  
 2100 acres of Land. Surveyed at Request of the  
 Vooght Esq. this 15. day of Sept. 1792  
 P. Lawrence Roomany

Scale 40 Chains to an Inch

Litigation Related to the Church Patent

On the Sauthier Map of 1779 there are two land grants of particular relevance to "the Normanskil." One of these along the southern boundary of the present line between Albany and Schenectady County is designated as belonging to Brain, the other adjacent to it on the east having the name Arent Bratt. This latter parcel has a triangular shape and is the Church Patent plotted in 1792 by Lawrence Vrooman, Surveyor.

More than a hundred years of suits and counter suits are involved in the history of this small part of the United States! The record is voluminous so I'll try to condense it in chronological form.

Its origin goes back to the Indian Deed of 1670 which was signed by 5 Mohawk Indian Chiefs which led to the granting of 128 square miles in the vicinity of Schenectady by Tho. Dongan, November 1, 1684. At that time five trustees were appointed to be responsible for administering all of the public or Common Lands of Schenectady. Of these five Trustees three of them, Myndert Wemp, Jan Van Epps and Sweer Tennise Van Velsen, were killed February 9, 1690, leaving only Willem Teller and Reyer Schermerhorn as survivors. Willem Teller died in 1700.

Thus there was about 80,000 acres of land in the Schenectady Patent and after 1700 these were all under the personal control of Reyer Schermerhorn. Apparently, he assumed complete control, acted as though the lands were his personal property and made no attempt to render an accounting of his activities in this respect to anyone.

In 1702 a petition bearing the names of 38 prominent settlers of Schenectady approached Edward, Lord Viscount Cornbury who was the Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New York, with a request to change this arbitrary behavior of Reyer Schermerhorn.

As a result of this petition a new patent was issued in 1703 naming four trustees along with Reyer Schermerhorn. The latter ignored this new decision and continued to act as sole Trustee!

On April 16, 1705, the Governor of New York granted a third charter to the petitioners this time omitting the name of Reyer Schermerhorn. This action failed to have any effect!! Other suits by the 5 Trustees followed.

However a counter suit dated July 28, 1705, and signed by 56 inhabitants of Schenectady was followed by another action dated November 13, 1705.

Pearson says "Of the several suits at law ---- commenced by the contending parties down to the death of the second Reyer Schermerhorn, grandson of the first, a period of nearly 100 years no one was ever determined."

Reyer Schermerhorn continued his sole control over the Common Lands until his death in 1719.

Following Reyer's death, Jan Wemp and Arent Bratt who had been appointed Trustees along with the three others who died prior to 1725. When Jan Wemp died in 1749, Arent Bratt remained as sole Trustee. He operated in a manner similar in many respects to that of Reyer Schermerhorn.

Before Jan Wemp died in 1749, he and Arent Bratt transferred a portion of the Common Lands to the Dutch Reformed Church of Schenectady.

A very lengthy "paper" signed by 44 of the prominent town people in 1744 requested that Wemp and Bratt keep proper records and render an accounting of their actions concerning these Lands. There is no firm evidence that these two individuals did as requested except for the transfer of the land mentioned above which became known as the Church Patent. However on April 6, 1750, Arent Bratt replied that the Church had had the income of all lands leased down to 1744 and that he was willing to give the Church a yearly account of his stewardship.

This agreement was soon cast aside by a new contest instituted by Jan Schermerhorn, son and heir of Reyer Schermerhorn. However, Jan died in 1752 before he had become deeply involved in his new litigation! However, his eldest son and heir (through primogeniture) inherited his estate and as Pearson states "his claim and all the energy business tact and stubborn perseverance of his forefathers."

The claims and counter claims instituted by the grandson of the first Reyer Schermerhorn continued from then on --- into the Revolution and beyond! These problems continued until 1798 when an act was passed by the State Legislature to vest the responsibilities of the Common Lands to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City and Towns of Schenectady.

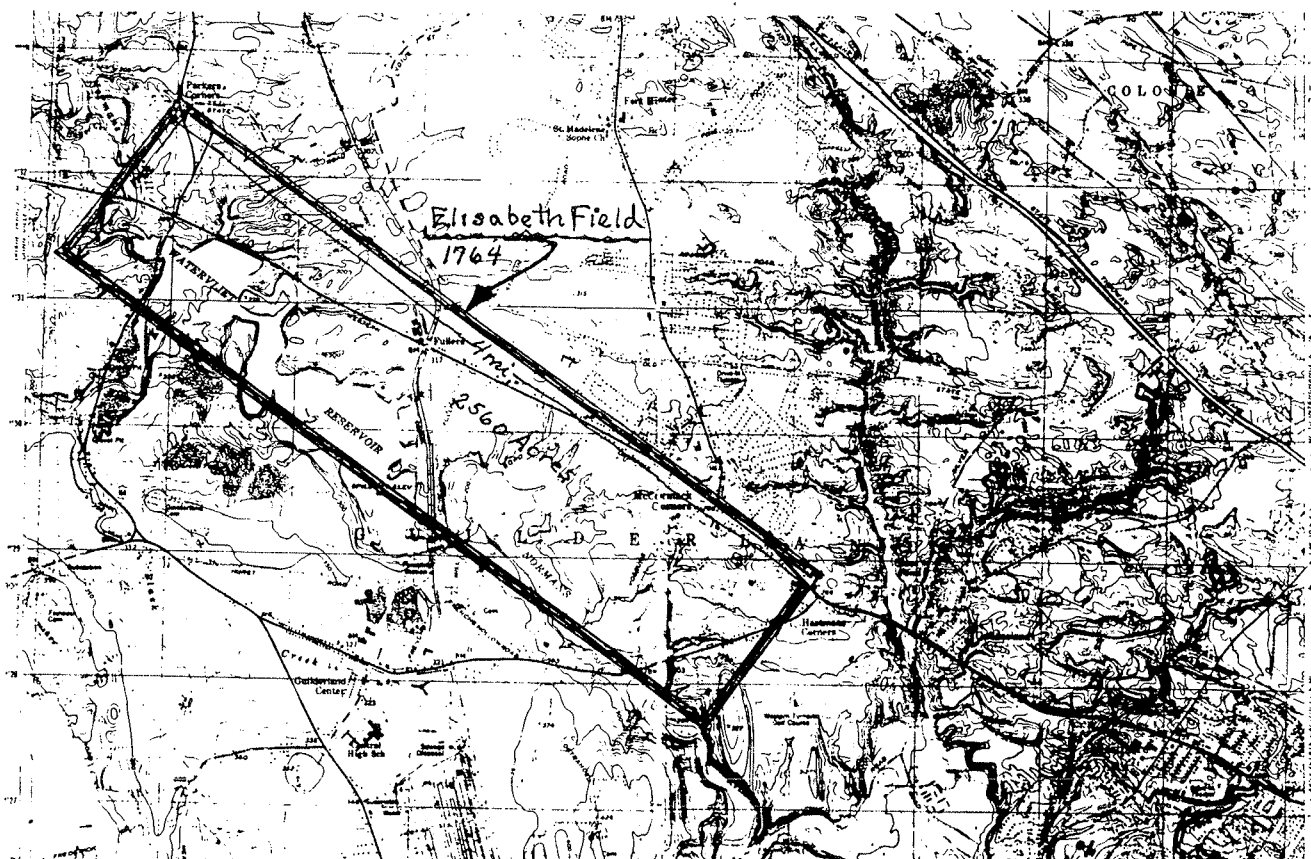
This is a fascinating story about the trials and tribulations of a pioneer community and it bears heavily on the lands of "the Normanskil" where the prime actors had lands and interests and where the transfer of a portion of these lands were conveyed by two of the principal actors --- Bratt and Wemp while they were deeply involved with these responsibilities. The eventual disposition of the 4000+ acres of the Church Patent is a mystery to me at this writing [March 1992].

Most of the basic information has been summarized by me from the Introduction section of Pearson's "History of the Schenectady Patent," Munsells Sons, Albany, 1883.

## The Elizabethfield Grant

An interesting parcel of land which may have a bearing on "The Normanskil" is that called Elisabethfield. It is a rectangular piece of land said to have been given by Stephen Van Rensselaer to his sister in 1764. This land was a portion of the Manor Rensselaerswick and encompasses some of the finest fertile lands in the Normanskil Valley. It stretches from Parkers to Hartmans Corners in a northwest-southeast direction with its southerly boundary 1 mile away and parallel. This parcel contained 2560 acres of land. In later years the southern side of this land was the site of the Watervliet Reservoir. It was northwest of the large parcel of land called the Van Baal Patent which was about a mile away to the southeast.

Since Elisabethfield remained a portion of The Manor it is quite likely that the rules governing its lands remained in effect that is --- the land could be rented but not bought. Since the Vrooman, Wemple and Van Petten Farms were in this region it is quite possible that these restrictions were in force even after the Revolution.



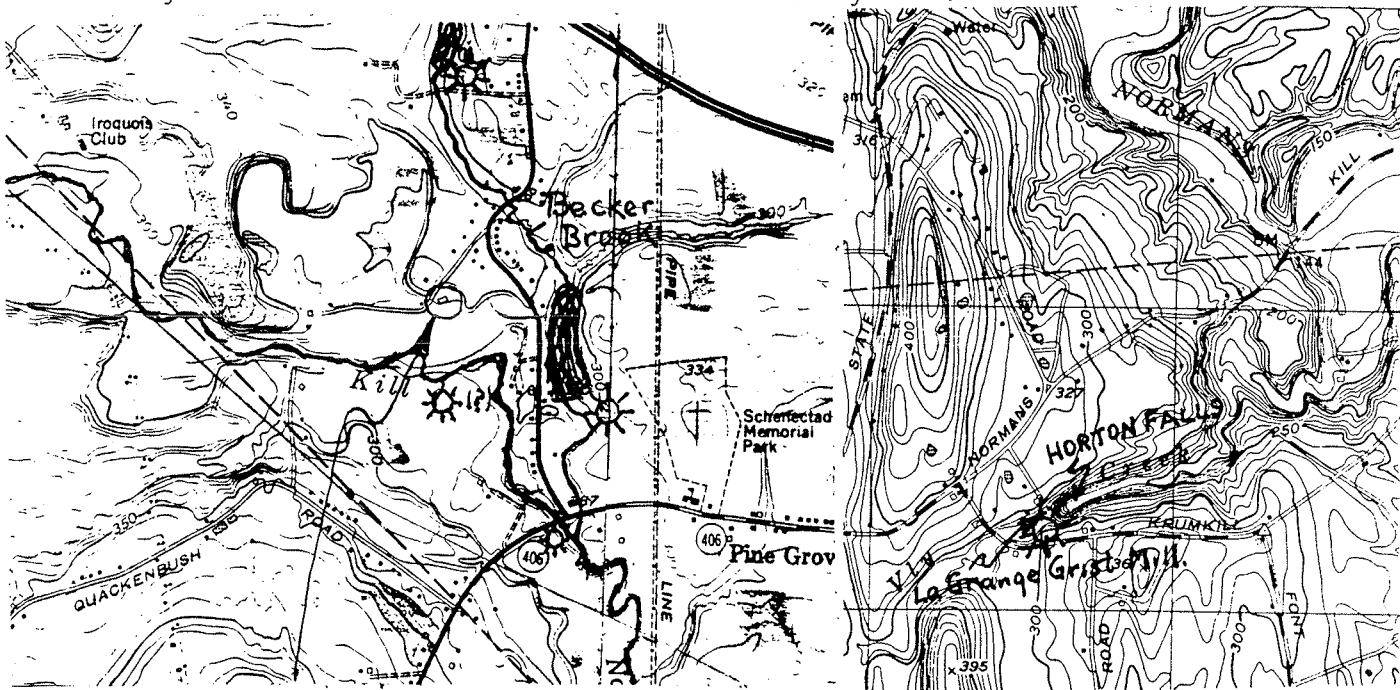
### The Mills of the Norman's Kill

As with most pioneer regions, the Norman's Kill had a number of water powered mills. The majority of them were devoted to the preparation of lumber and flour. The sawmills were used primarily for the production of boards and planks used in the construction of houses and barn buildings. The larger timbers for framing were mostly hewn while in some instances the adze was used to smooth the larger timbers likely to be exposed after the house or barn was finished.

The first mill on the Normanskill was built at the southern edge of Beverwyck by Andriese Bratt "the Norman" who arrived in 1630. His mill was located in the ravine near Normansville.

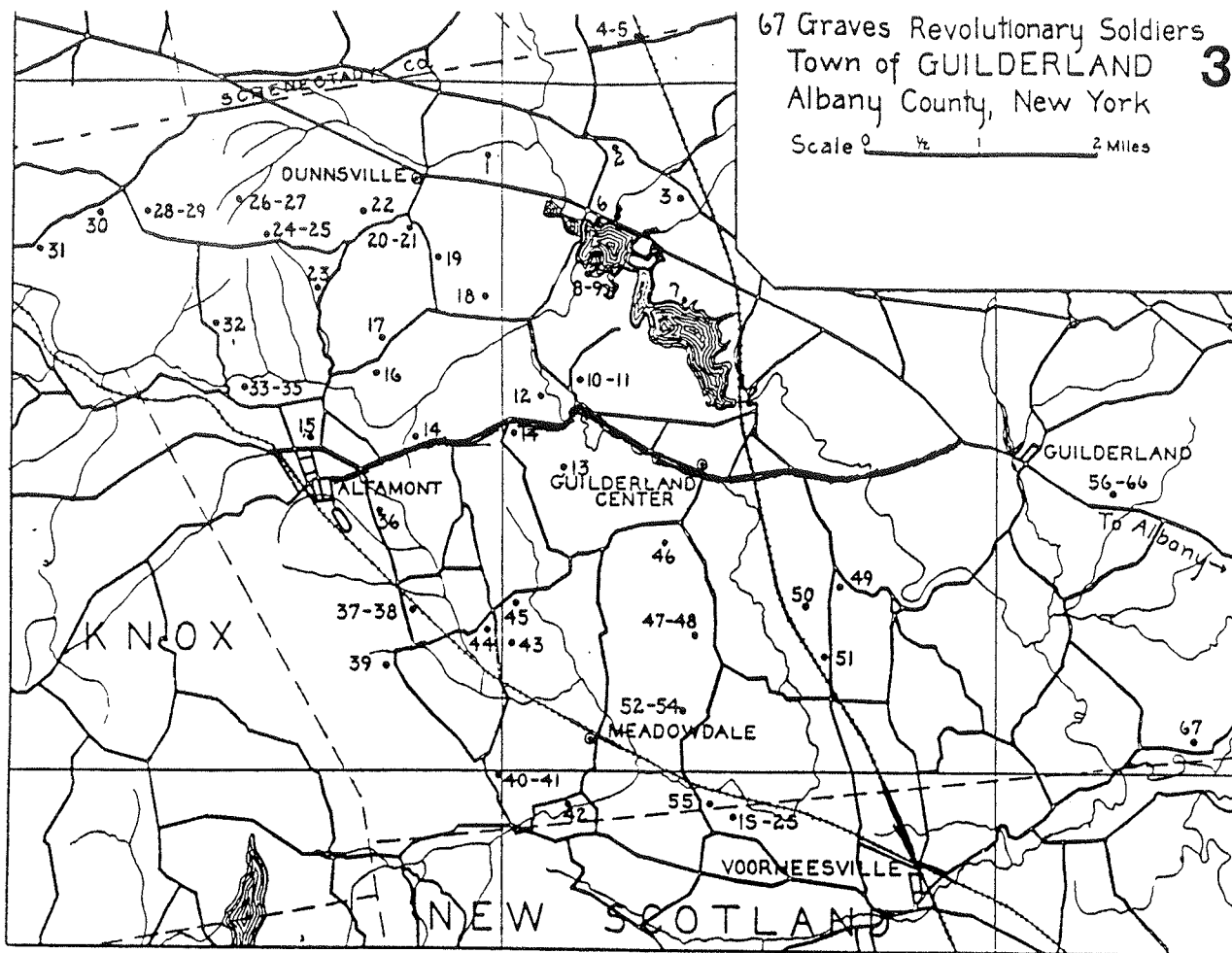
Other mills were built not far from Schenectady in the region known as "the Normanskil." At least three and possibly a fourth were located near the Van Petten, Dellamont, Wemple, Bratt holdings. So far as we know, they all were sawmills utilizing the virgin timber of the local forests --- mostly pitch (yellow) and white pines. Two of these sawmills were on Becker Brook, one above the Becker Farm. The other close to or a part of the Van Petten Patent less than a half mile north of the Normanskill. Another mill of a somewhat later period upstream on the Normanskill from its confluence with Becker Brook. A fourth mill may have been located not far from the Wemple-Dellamont Farmstead. At least a primitive dam was revealed to have been in that region when a Spring floe washed out the main component which was a wattle work structure made of braided large saplings which held a clay cored dam. Whether or not it could have been high enough to provide a sufficient head of water was not clear.

There was a combined sawmill - gristmill at the high falls of Vly Creek which for more than a hundred years provided lumber and flour to the surrounding farms. This was owned and operated by the LaGrange family. Although located at Horton Falls, the mills utilized the waters of Vly Creek ponded by a timbered dam located a hundred feet or so upstream of the crest of the 85 foot falls. The excessive head which was available was too powerful for the primitive machinery available in early days. It wasn't until Robert Horton obtained a vertical and a horizontal turbine which he used to generate electricity that this head of water could be effectively used.



Wemple - Dellamont - Lazzari Dutch Barn.





The Brinkman Map

The final map I have utilized is one prepared by William A. Brinkman, historian of the Town of Guilderland in Albany County. This map locates the farms where individuals lived who served in the Revolution and was prepared in 1947.

In his Index of the individuals identified as having served in the war against the British there are a total of 61 families listed. I find a total of 29 names or nearly half of the total having names or nearly half of the total having names which match those listed in the "First Settlers of Schenectady" as being "of the Normanskil." Thus the evidence strongly supports the notion that "the Normanskil" is a region rather than a place or a hamlet. This region involves an area of about 20 square miles. It is centered along the stream called the Norman's Kill. It is a delightful area of very fertile agricultural land south of Schenectady.

The Wemple-Dellamont-Lazzeri Dutch Barn is located in the northerly part of the Van Petten Patent one of the first grants in the region. The area then extends southward to the region bordered by the Plank Road which extended from Hartman Corners near Guilderland on the Great Western Turnpike (U.S. Route No. 20) to Knowersville (Altamont) at the foot of the Helderbergs.

The lower valley of the Bozenkill and the upper valley of the Hunger kill constitute the western and eastern limits of the region.

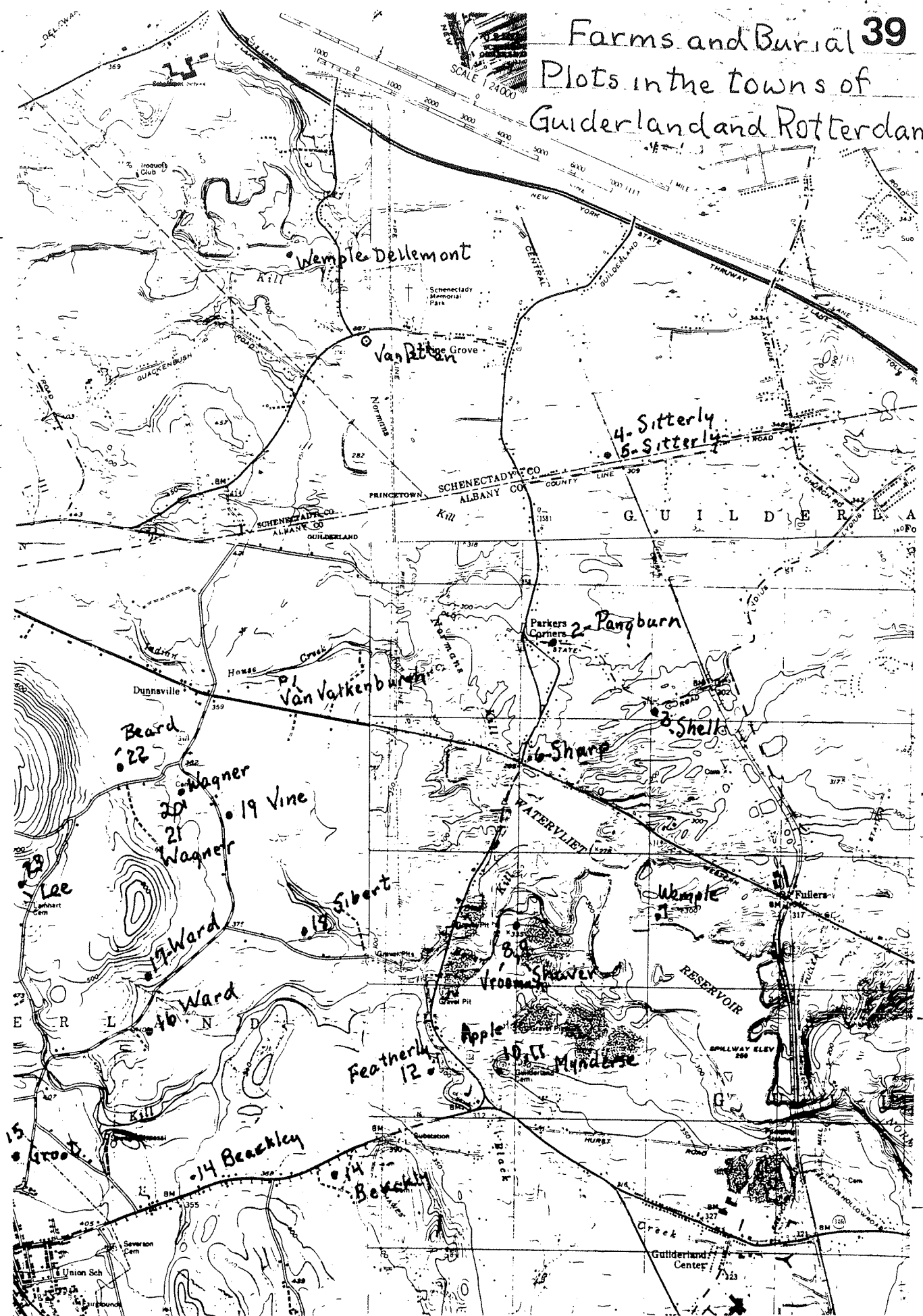
While the development of homes is rapidly eradicating the productive farms of the region, a few still persist and hopefully will be able to remain as a reminder of the way it was when the pioneer farmers of Schenectady and Albany began to establish their homes in the wilderness along the Norman's kill.

Soldiers from The Revolution (after Brinkman)  
North of Plank Road.

15 Normanskil - 45 33%

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Apple         | Shaver              |
| Batterman     | Shell               |
| Beard         | (N) Sibert          |
| Beebe         | Sitterly            |
| Berckley      | (N) Smith           |
| (N) Coss      | Truax               |
| Crouse        | (N) Van Aernam      |
| Drum          | Van Auken           |
| (N) Featherly | Van der Pool        |
| Frederick     | (N) Van Valkenburgh |
| Fryer         | Van Wormer          |
| Gray          | (N) Veeder          |
| Groot         | Vine                |
| Hallenbeck    | (N) Vrooman         |
| (N) Hilton    | (N) Wagner          |
| (N) LaGrange  | (N) Ward            |
| (N) Lee       | (N) Wemple          |
| Livingston    | Westfall.           |
| Mynderse      |                     |
| Ogsbury       |                     |
| Osterman      |                     |
| Pangburn      |                     |
| Perry         |                     |
| Reelman       |                     |
| (N) Relyea    |                     |
| Scrafford     |                     |
| Sharp         |                     |

# Farms and Burial Plots in the towns of Guiderland and Rotterdam.



"The Normanskil"

There is a strong likelihood that the term "of the Normanskil" refers to the pleasant region below the Helderberg Escarpment stretching from the headwaters of the Bozenkill to the Liberty of Albany which passed through the western edge of the Pin Bush and the area which extends from the southern suburbs of Schenectady to the old Plank Road which connected the village of Guilderland near Glass house Pond with the town of Altamont. Elizabethfield is part of this region in its east central portion. In its early days it was mostly the home of prosperous farm families. The decline of this feature is a sad development in our present economy. The Norman's Kill which flowed through the central portion of the area provided the unifying theme which provided the identity "of the Normanskil."

We hope that enough of the present landowners will adopt the sense of stewardship which has pervaded the region for more than 300 years so that the rash of malls, condominiums and similar aberrations will not destroy this countryside.



"The Normanskil"

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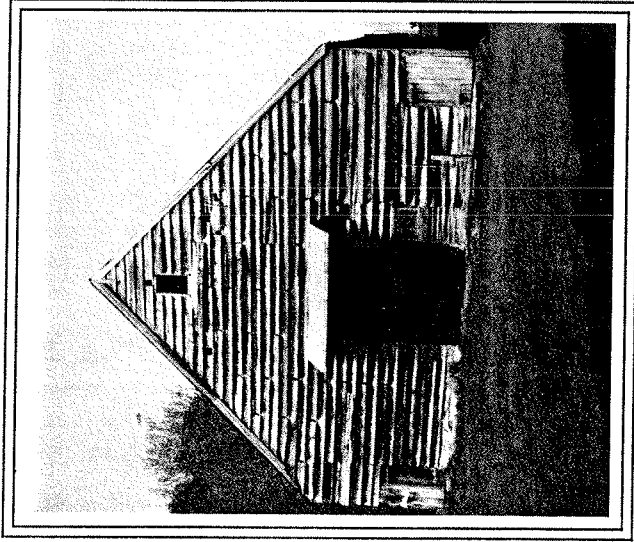
"The original channel of the Mohawk River which has been measured near South Schenectady and found to have cut a channel down to sea level in the Schenectady Shales and Sandstones, is buried by more than 300 feet of glacial till, sand and gravel. The aquifer formed by these deposits produces a number of free flowing, very cold springs which combine to produce Becker Brook, a fine trout stream, the only one, by the way, of the tributaries of the Norman's Kill above the Watervliet Reservoir whose flow is little affected by dry periods during the year.

The Normanskil flows year round but during extended dry periods in the Summer, Fall and Winter is reduced to a low level of flow. With the Spring runoff it becomes a very turbulent stream and in fact provides an adventurous white water canoe route from Kelly's Station to the Watervliet Reservoir and beyond. "

"This is a fascinating story about the trials and tribulations of a pioneer community and it bears heavily on the lands of "the Normanskil" where the prime actors had lands and interests and where the transfer of a portion of these lands were conveyed by two of the principal actors --- Bratt and Wemp while they were deeply involved with these responsibilities."

"While the "development" of homes is rapidly eradicating the productive farms in the region, a few persist and hopefully will be able to remain as a reminder of the way it was when the pioneer yeomen of Schenectady and Albany began to establish their homes in the wilderness along the Norman's Kill."

# THE DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY



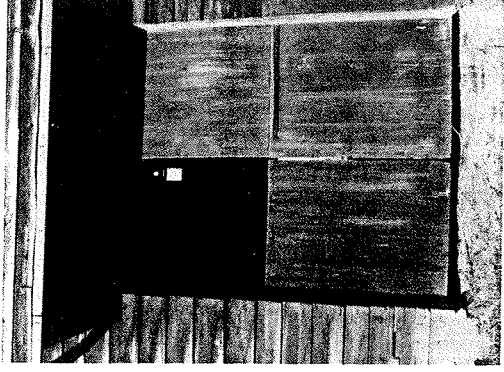
*Dedicated to the  
Study and Preservation  
of New World  
Dutch Barns*

## Introduction

The New World Dutch Barn, as it has come to be known, is one of the last physical reminders of the pre-industrial agricultural heritage of eastern New York and New Jersey. The efficient, heavy timber structural system, adapted from Northern European precedents, reflects the practical construction and engineering skills of the predominantly Dutch immigrants who settled the area, and their descendants. These barns are now rapidly disappearing from our rural landscapes and are in urgent need of increased study and preservation efforts.

## Historic Legacy

Built in large numbers between 1630 and 1825, New World Dutch barns served as all-purpose working farm buildings in a region dominated by grain farming. These buildings represented the center of historic farm activity during this period, providing housing for farm animals, a facility for threshing grain, and storage for both hay and grain. Although rapidly disappearing from the rural landscape, a few hundred Dutch barns survive in the area originally settled by the Dutch, an area roughly corresponding to the seventeenth century Colony of New Netherland. Concentrations of historic Dutch barns can still be found in rural portions of the Hudson, Mohawk and Schoharie valleys, and in northern and central New Jersey. Examples have also been reported on Long Island, in Pennsylvania, and from the Province of Quebec.

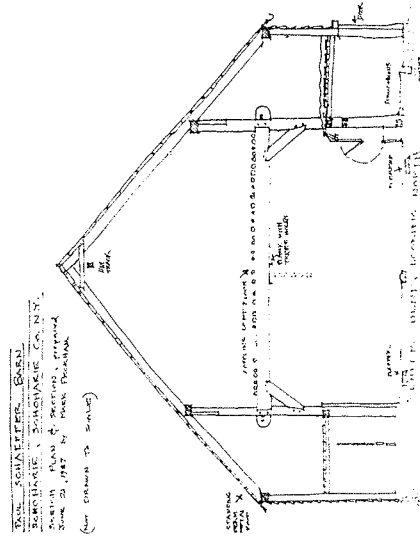


## Rural Character

Dutch barns are different from other historic barns in their distinctive shape, arrangement of interior space, and H-shaped structural frames which provide a rigid core supporting the external roofing and walls. With a little experience, searchers can identify these barns in the landscape by their box-like shape, low side walls and broad, steep gabled roofs. Those barns which retain their original characteristics exhibit double wagon doors centered in the gable end, with flanking animal doors at the corners, and wide horizontal siding. One side of the wagon door may be divided in the Dutch fashion. Look for small holes, intended to admit swallows, high in the gable. Although these barns often have been modified with additions, silos, the insertion of a lower story to house dairy cows, and new sheathing materials, the distinctive H-frames and the resulting exterior profile remain as distinguishing characteristics.

## Interior Layout

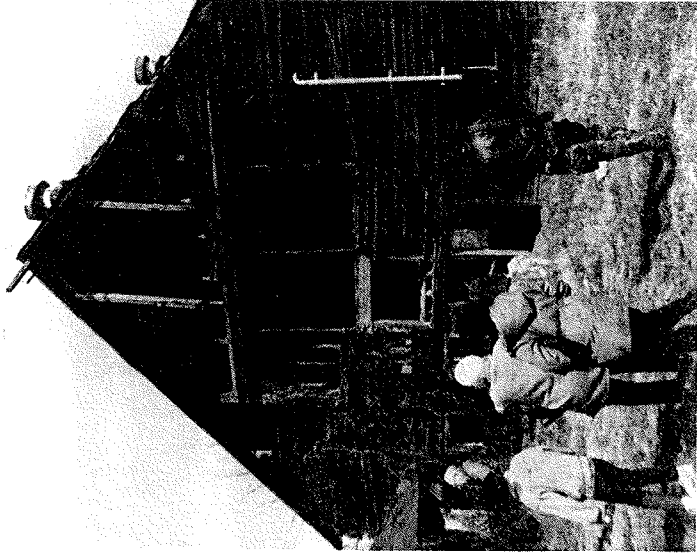
On the interior, Dutch barns include a spacious center aisle with a plank floor designed to accommodate unloading wagons and to provide space for grain threshing. The center aisle is typically spanned by three to five massive anchor beams, 20 to 30 feet in length, which form the horizontal members of the H-frame. These beams also once supported sheaves of grain stored on sapling poles in the loft above. The anchor beams usually include distinctive rounded "tongues" which protrude through the supporting columns, where they are secured by wooden pins and wedges. Flanking side aisles provided storage and housing for cows and draft animals. Unlike most other historic barns, the internal structural system characteristic of Dutch barns is relatively protected from the effects of the elements, and can often survive exterior decay for protracted periods of time before collapsing. In summary, this structural system, unlike any in the barns that followed, represents an early and distinct agricultural system and culture.



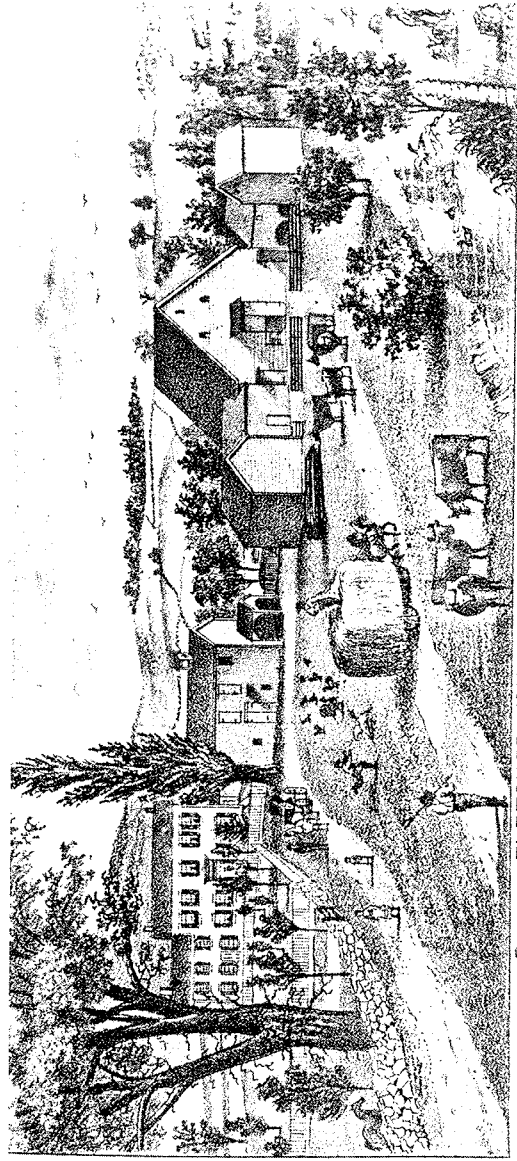
## Preservation Challenges

Like many other symbols of our agricultural past, Dutch barns are rapidly disappearing. Losses are resulting from the deterioration and collapse of abandoned barns, fires, the sale and removal of historic barns in whole or as parts for the construction of contemporary buildings and the outright demolition of these barns due to obsolescence or new development. If the present trend continues unchecked, few of these venerable buildings will survive the next twenty years.

As a generation, we have the responsibility to see that these rare and significant artifacts from our agricultural heritage are conserved for future generations to observe, understand, and appreciate. When these barns can't be saved, it is incumbent upon us to record their presence through maps, photographs, measured drawings and the compilation of historical records.



PETER SINCLAIR



MES. OF FLETCHER VAN WIE TOWN OF FROOT MONTGOMERY CO. N.Y.

## Membership in the Society

- YES**, I would like to become a member of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society and help preserve these important landmarks.

### Membership Levels *(Check one)*

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting     | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing   | 20.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular        | 10.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student        | 5.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational | 20.00   |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

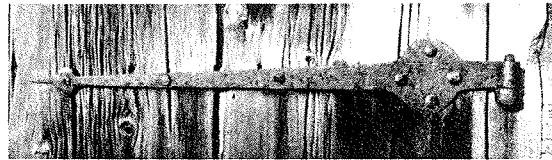
Do you currently own a Dutch barn?

- Yes       No

Please detach this enrollment form and return with your check to:

### Dutch Barn Preservation Society

P.O. Box 176  
Rensselaer, NY 12144



## The Society

The Dutch Barn Preservation Society was organized in 1985 and incorporated in 1986 by the Regents of the State of New York as a not-for-profit organization by barn owners, historians and other concerned individuals alarmed by the barns' rapid disappearance. Membership has grown steadily since the Society's inception, making new preservation initiatives possible.

The Dutch Barn Preservation Society sponsors recording projects, educational barn tours, and publications, and is a source of technical and historical information. Members have been instrumental in preserving and restoring threatened barns, and are continually exploring opportunities to offer technical advice and financial assistance.



CLARKE BLAIR

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