

the glory of having planted the first colonies in the United States; they also divide the glory of having set the examples of public freedom.

In 1609, Henry Hudson, having repaired to Holland, set sail in the interest of the Dutch East India Company for the north-western passage. He landed on the promontory of Cape Cod, then sailed southward to the Bay of Virginia, when he again turned northward, anchoring within Sandy Hook and explored the adjacent river. Holland thus acquired title to the territory which was known afterwards as New Netherlands.

In 1613 three or four rude hovels had been erected on the Island of Manhattan, as a summer shelter for the few Dutch mariners and fur traders whom private enterprise had stationed there. The next year the first rude fort was erected, and in 1615 the settlement at Albany began. In 1623 the era of the permanent settlement of New York commenced. Round the new block house on Manhattan the cottages of New Amsterdam began to cluster; the country assumed the form of a colony, while the office of Governor was held from 1624. In 1625 there was certainly one family on Long Island and a child of European parentage was born there. In 1627 there was the first exchange of courtesies with the Pilgrims of Plymouth, and between them the most friendly feeling prevailed.

These were the rude beginnings of New York. Its first age was the age of hunters and Indian traders; of traffic in the skins of otters and beavers; when the native tribes were employed in the pursuit of game, and the yachts of the Dutch, in quest of furs, penetrated every bay and basin and inlet from Narragansett to the Delaware. It was the day of straw roofs and wooden chimneys and windmills.

The historian of Long Island records no regular occupation of lands on that island till 1636. A few years later the limits of New Netherlands were narrowed by competitors on the east and south. The swarms of English in Connecticut grew so numerous that they overwhelmed the feeble settlement of the Dutch, at Hartford, while the tidings of the loveliness of the country had been borne to Scandinavia, and the peasantry of Sweden and Finland emigrated to the banks of the Delaware, which from the ocean to the falls were known as New Sweden. After a distinct existence for seventeen years, in 1655 New Sweden, then numbering about seven hundred souls, surrendered to the Dutch. The descendants of the colonists, in the course of generations, widely scattered and blended with emigrants of other lineage, constitutes prob-