

## Rotterdam Area Names and Connections

From footnotes to the Gazetteer of the State of New York : Embracing a Comprehensive View of the Geology, Geography and General History of the State and a Complete History and Description of Every County, City, Town Village and Locality by J.H. French in 1860 — Transcribes by Betty Fink in 1998. Numbers are original page numbers of the original which may be found in the Reference collection of the Schenectady Public Library R 974.7 F 87 (Dewey decimal system)

- **596-1:** The grantors were 4 Mohawk chiefs, named Cantuque, Sonareetsie, Aiadane, and Sodachdrasse. This grant was confirmed the next year, and the tract was surveyed in 1664. The inhabitants of Fort Orange, wishing to monopolize the Indian trade, presented to the settlers, before the land was received from the surveyor, a written pledge to abstain from trading with the Indians. A remonstrance against this injustice was signed by the following early settlers, viz: Arent Van Corlear, Philip Hendrickson, Sanders Lendertsen Glen, Simon Volkrartsen, Pieter Soghmaekelyk, Teunis Cornelissen, Marte Cornelise, Willem Teller, Bastiaen de Winter for Catalyn, widow of Arent Andries de Voss, Pieter Jacobse Borsboom, Pieter Danielse Van Olinda, Jan Barentse Wemp, and Jacques Cornelise. Their resistance occasioned several years' delay in the survey of the lands.
- **596-2:** Willem Teller, Ryer Schermerhorn, Sweer Tunison, Jan Van Eps, and Myndert Wemp were appointed trustees under this grant. The tract embraced the present city, and the towns of Glenville, **Rotterdam**, and part of Niskayuna.
- **596-3:** Previous to 1752 time was reckoned in England by "Old Style," the year commencing on the 25th of March. All dates previous to that time, between Jan. 1 and March 25, are reckoned in 1 year by "Old Style," and in the following year by "New Style."
- **596-4:** Colden's *Five Nations*, 3d ed., I. p. 120. [i.e., Cadwallader Colden's [\*The History of the Five Indian Nations of Canada\*](#)]
- **596-5:** This and West Chester were the only boroughs in the colony.
- **596-6:** The place was never visited by a hostile army after 1690. The colonial statutes contain frequent provisions for the rebuilding, repairs and supplies of this fort.
- **596-7:** This company cleared the river of impediments to navigation as much as possible, built a lock at Little Falls, and in 1796 built a short canal connecting the Upper Mohawk with Wood Creek, which flows into Oneida Lake, opening a direct water communication with the chain of lakes in the interior of the State, and with Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence. The boats employed, called "Durham boats," were propelled up stream by setting poles, and were floated down by the current.
- **596-8:** This business was stopped by the repeal of the statute prohibiting the railroad from carrying freight w. of this place.
- **596-9:** Named from **James Duane**, the principal proprietor. It was first joined with Schoharie, as "the united district of Duanesburgh and Schoharie." It was made a separate district, March 24, 1772. Mr. Duane took an active part in public affairs during the Revolution and the earlier years of the State Government, and was a liberal benefactor of the town.
- **596-10:** Roots and shoes, wagons, and sash and blinds, are manufactured here.
- **596-11:** Named from a daughter (**Maria**) of **James Duane**.

- **596-12:** Among the purchasers were Thomas Freeman, in 1736, Timothy Bagley, in 1737, A. P. and William Cosby, in 1738, Walter Butler in 1739, and Jonathan Brewer, in 1770. William North, an officer of the Revolution, married a daughter of Duane and resided several years in this town.
- **597-1:** The tract embraced about 60,000 acres, and the lands were rented at the rate of \$15 per 100 acres, on long leases. The agents of Sir William Johnson excited a prejudice against these lands which retarded their settlement.
- **597-2:** There are in town 5 other churches; Cameronian, Baptist, Universalist, Presbyterian, and Quaker.
- **597-3:** Named from the original patentee.
- **597-4: Alplaus** "Eel Place."
- **597-5: Scotia** Locally pronounced "Sco-chy."
- **597-6:** Harmanus Vedder established a ferry here about 1790, and **Hoffman's Ferry** was called Vedders Ferry until 1835, when it was bought by John Hoffman and the name was changed.
- **597-7:** In 1665 the country around Scotia was granted to Sanders Lendertsen Glen, a native of Scotland, who removed to Scotland in 1645 on account of religious persecutions. After several years there spent in mercantile pursuits, he migrated to "New Netherlands." Van Slycks Island was granted to Jacques Van Slyck, Nov. 13, 1662 — Barber's *Hist. Coll.* [i.e., John Barber's *Historical Collections of the State of New York*]
- **597-8:** On a former occasion a party of French, sent against the Mohawks, became reduced to the extremity of want, and were obliged to seek assistance of the English. The kindness shown them by Mr. Glen was remembered, and his house was spared. A stone house built in 1713 is still owned by the Sanders family.
- **597-9:** Reformed Protestant Dutch, 2 Methodist Episcopal, and Baptist.
- **597-10: Niskayuna** — Said to be a corruption of Nis-ti-gi-oo-ne, or Co-nis-ti-gio-ne, by which it is known on the old maps. The name is said to signify "extensive corn flats." The term was also applied to portions of Watervliet and Half Moon. Upon the advent of the whites this place was occupied by a tribe of Indians known as the "*Conistigione*" — Barber & Howe's *Hist. Coll. N.Y.* p. 508. [i.e., John Barber's *Historical Collections of the State of New York*]
- **597-11:** Among the early settlers were Clutes, Vedders, Van Vrankens, Groots, Tymesons, Pearces, Jansens, and Van Bockhoovens.
- **597-12:** By an act of 1805, Alexander Alexander was authorized to build a dam at this place.
- **597-13:** Named from John Prince, a member of the Assembly from Albany County at the time of the formation of the town.
- **597-14:** Upon this stream, on the farm of Ebenezer Dougall, is **Walker Falls** — a step-like cascade 60 feet high, and from this point to the Mohawk are numerous rapids and cascades.
- **597-15:** Among the early settlers were Wilhelmus Van Otto Van Curazoa, (a native of the island of Curaçoa), Ryer Schermerhorn, and Simon Veeder. The house of Van Otto stood on the site of the one now occupied by Simon Veeder. At the time of the Revolution there were families living in town by the names of Delemont, Van Pelten, and Braugham.
- **597-16:** At this place is a twine and thread factory.

- **597-17:** There are 3 churches in town: 2 Reformed Protestant Dutch and 1 Methodist Episcopal.
- **598-1:** An Indian name signifying "beyond the plains." Formerly spelled Schenectada. The city, under its first charter, contained an area of 128 sq. miles; but the successive changes which have been made have reduced it to a plat of 250 acres.
- **598-2:** The manufacturing establishments of the city consist of the railroad machine shops, locomotive works, a cotton factory, 3 carriage shops, an agricultural implement factory, 3 turning and machine shops, shawl factory, 2 breweries, 1 brick yard, 2 cabinet shops, 4 founderies, a planing mill, pump factory, tannery, 2 tool factories, a vice and spring factory, and a great variety of other mechanics' shops.
- **598-3:** The Schenectady Locomotive Works Company was incorporated June 4, 1851, with a capital of \$150,000, all of which is actively employed. When in full operation, they employ 600 hands, and can turn out 1 locomotive every 5 days.
- **598-4:** Rev. Wm. Andreas opened the first grammar school, in 1771; and before the close of the year he proposed to change it to an academy. The Consistory of the Reformed Protestant Dutch church erected a small academy in 1785. The Schenectady Academy was incorporated Jan. 29, 1793, and was merged in the college in 1795. Rev. John Blair Smith was the first President. He was succeeded in June, 1799, by Rev. Jonathan Edwards, who remained there until his death in Aug. 1801. Rev. Jonathan Maxcy was next elected president, and continued till 1804, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Rev. Eliphalet Nott, the present venerable president of the College.
- **598-5:** In 1779, the inhabitants of the northern part of the State petitioned for the incorporation of a college, but without success. The petition was renewed in 1791, but did not succeed. In 1794 another effort was made, and a subscription of \$7935 was raised from 99 persons in Albany, and of \$3425 from 231 persons in Schenectady, for an endowment. This sum was afterward largely increased by subscription. The location was fixed at Schenectady, it is said, chiefly through the influences of Gen. Schuyler, and because of its then central location.
- **598-6:** Lotteries were authorized in 1805, 1814, and 1822. — Munsell's *Annals of Albany*, VII, 126; *Semi-Centennial Celebration of Union College*.
- **598-7:** The items of this bequest are as follows:
  - \$225,000 for 9 professorships, with a salary of \$1500 each.
  - \$60,000 for 6 assistant professorships, at \$600 each.
  - \$60,000 for an astronomical observatory.
  - \$20,000 for 60 auxiliary scholarships, of \$10 and \$12 per term.
  - \$60,000 for 60 prize scholarships for undergraduates, of \$15 and \$18 per term; in certain cases to be increased to \$24.
  - \$45,000 for 9 scholarships for graduates for fellows, of \$300 each.
  - \$20,000 for a cemetery.
  - \$10,000 for apparatus.
  - \$5,000 for textbooks.
  - \$30,000 for an eclectic library.
  - \$5,000 for a geological and mineralogical cabinet.
  - \$5,000 for a historical cabinet.
  - \$10,000 for a lecture fund.

- The miscellaneous fund was left discretionary with the trustees to fill deficiencies and extend the operation of any of the foregoing objects. At the time of this gift the greater part of the funds were invested in real estate in Greenpoint village, opposite New York City.
- **598-8:** This building, on lower Union St, formerly known as "*West College*," was sold to the city, and, with an adjoining building, accommodates the 10 departments of the public schools of the city.
- **598-9:** Other buildings have since been erected, for library, cabinet, and lecture rooms. The corner stone of the Central Chapel was laid July 28, 1858.
- **598-10:** Total receipts, \$14,423.06; total expenses, \$14,423.06. Volumes in district libraries, 3045.
- **598-11:** See page 596.
- **599-1:** By an act of 1780, all the people living within a half mile of the Dutch church were assessed, in labor and materials, for the erection of defensive works — the work to be done under the direction of the field officers and magistrates.
- **599-2:** Rev. Peter Tasschemaker, the pastor and first teacher, was killed, and all of his papers were destroyed.
- **599-3:** On the 7th of Oct. 1701, the Governor granted a special license for the inhabitants, or their agents, "to gather, collect, and receive the free and voluntary offerings and contributions of all and singular his liege subjects, inhabitants of this province, at any time from the day of the date hereof for and during the term of six months then ensuing." The funds raised were restricted to the rebuilding of the church; and all justices of the peace, high sheriffs, and all others his majesty's friends, with all Protestant ministers, were exhorted to use each their utmost diligence to excite and stir up the charities of the inhabitants. — *MSS. Sec. Office*
- **599-4:** Besides these, the census reports 10 churches; 2 Reformed Protestant Dutch, 2 Methodist Episcopal, Universalist, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, African Methodist, and a Jewish Synagogue.
- **599-5:** Letter of Sir William Johnson.
- **599-6:** A Lancasterian school was incorporated Nov. 12, 1816, and was taught 25 years. It was superseded by the present system of public schools.
- **599-7:** The Vale Cemetery, containing 50 acres, is located in a beautiful vale about one-fourth of a mile from the city. It is covered with pines, and is finely laid out and ornamented.
- **599-8:** In 1699, 70 men took the test oath.  
In 1710 there were 16 English and 100 Dutch families.  
In 1714 the census reported 591 persons.  
In 1790 there were s. of the Mohawk (in Schenectady, Princetown, Rotterdam and a part of Niskayuna) 3472 persons. The following table shows the progress of population since 1820:
  - 1820: 3939
  - 1825: 4068
  - 1830: 4268
  - 1835: 6272
  - 1840: 6784
  - 1845: 6555

- 1850: 8921
- 1855: 8389