

# The Rombout Patent

Including biographical information on the two  
original purchasers, Francis Rombout and Cullin Verplanck



# The Rombout Patent

Including biographical information  
on the two original purchasers,  
Francis Rombout and Gulian Verplanck

by Henry Cassidy  
Town Historian  
East Fishkill  
Dutchess County

Collections  
of  
the Dutchess County Historical Society  
Volume XI

Published by  
The Dutchess County Historical Society  
© 1985





*Madame Brett Homestead, Beacon, N.Y. Built by Catharyna Rombout Brett, daughter of patentee Francis Rombout, and her husband, Roger Brett. Photo by Alex Casler.*

*Cover: Holwell Map of Rombout Patent*

*Although Francis Rombout and his partners were granted in 1685, surveyor John Holwell's map, dated 1689, provides the best documentation of its holdings which covered all of the towns of Fishkill, East Fishkill and Wappinger, and portions of the towns of LaGrange and Poughkeepsie. The map indicates sparse settlement including five wigwams and two structures possibly belonging to trapper-squatters near the mouth of the Wappinger. Courtesy of the New-York Historical Society, New York City.*

---

# The Rombout Patent

by Henry Cassidy

**R**ombout Patent does not refer to an invention, as the name might imply. It does not protect the rights to some newly-conceived contrivance. It does provide a grant of land – the first in the history of Dutchess County.

By this definition, a patent is an open letter, conveying ownership of a specified parcel of land to the recipient. The term applies also to the land thus conveyed.

In this way, soon after the 1683 creation of Dutchess County, Francis Rombout and his partners received title to about 85,000 acres east of the Hudson River, midway between New York City and Albany. The royal patent was issued October 17, 1685, by Governor Thomas Dongan in the name of King James II.

The acquisition covered the territory that would become the City of Beacon, the towns of Fishkill, East Fishkill and Wappinger, about half of LaGrange and a small part of Poughkeepsie.

The partners who acquired this vast tract adhered scrupulously to the legal process of land transfer in the colonial period.

First, they obtained from the British colonial government a license to negotiate with the Wappinger Indians, recognized by the British as the aboriginal owners of the land, although the Indians themselves did not acknowledge or even understand very well the white man's principle of private possession of the land. The license was issued in New York February 8, 1682.

Then, the partners made the actual purchase on August 8, 1683, by deed of sale, carefully signed at Fishkill Landing by representatives of the Indians and agents of the purchasers. The partners at this point were Rombout and his friend and business associate, Gulian Verplanck.

The negotiations took about ten months, and in later years they

---



---

became the subject of various legends.

Such was Rombout's reputation as a shrewd businessman that it was assumed he had outsmarted the Indians. According to one legend, he offered the Indians a price for "all the land he could see." Since they were standing on low land, rimmed by hills, so the story went, he could not see very far, and the Indians agreed to his terms. Then, the story concluded, Rombout climbed a thousand feet up to the peak of Mount Beacon, viewed an immense tract and claimed it all.

Actually, the negotiations were carried out by agents for Rombout and Verplanck, named Anthony Brockholls, P.V. Courtlandt and John West. If anyone got the better of the bargain, it was the Indians. They were represented by a brave named Sackoraghkigh, acting in the name of the Sachem, Megriesken, and other members of the Algonkian tribe.

A more likely account of the negotiations had it that a table was set out under the trees at Fishkill Landing. On one side of the rough board sat the white agents in homespun shirts, pantaloons, knee boots and broad hats with upturned brims. Across from them sat the Indians, naked to the waist, wearing leather leggings, mocassins and feathered head dress.

The white men pushed forward the British coins called royalls, and other objects they were offering for the land. The Indians pushed them back, crying "more . . . more." Finally, the deal was made, and the Indians let Sackoraghkigh sign the deed.

The text is addressed to "all Christian people to whom this present writing shall come," and it sends "greeting."

It transfers to Rombout and Verplanck "all that tract or parcel of land scituate, lying and being on the East side of Hudson's River at the North side of the High lands, beginning from the South side of a creeke called the fish kill and by the Indians Matteawan, and from thence Northward along said Hudson's River five hundred rodd beyond the great Wapins kill, called by the Indians Mawenawasigh, being the Northerly bounds, and from thence in the woods fouer houers goeing."\*

The "fouer houers goeing" was subsequently interpreted legally in the patent to mean 16 miles, the distance a man would walk normally in four hours.

In exchange for this land, the Indians received a handsome assortment of "particulers," including 100 royalls, 100 pounds of

---

\*See appendix for full description of Patent boundaries.



---

gunpowder, 200 fathom of white wampum, 100 bars of lead, 100 fathom of black wampum, 30 tobacco boxes, 30 guns, 20 blankets, 40 hatchets, 40 horns, 40 shirts, 40 pairs of stockings, 40 earthen jugs, 40 bottles, 40 knives, four ankers of rum, 10 half-vats of beer, 200 tobacco pipes and 80 pounds of tobacco.

The Indians declared themselves to be "fully paid, contented and satisfied," as well they might have been. Compared to the \$24 that Pierre Minuit paid for the whole of Manhattan, the articles delivered by Rombout and Verplanck were estimated to be worth \$1,250, at the values of exchange then prevailing.

The Indians were permitted to stay on the land, and they remained there, living as they always had, until 1756, when their last Sachem, Daniel Nimham, led them to safety in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, during the French and Indian War.

Soon after the purchase, Verplanck died. His widow, Henrica, married Jacobus Kipp, and Kipp took Verplanck's place in the partnership. Stephanus Van Cortlandt, another influential and powerful New York merchant, purchased a one-third interest in the property and became the third partner.

Under British law, the King was deemed to be "the fountain of all real property," and the source of all titles to land. Colonial governors, acting under instructions from the Crown, were given the authority to issue grants of land under the seal of the province.

Once the Indians surrendered their ancestral tribal claims to their land, Rombout and his partners applied to the governor and his council for title to the property they had purchased.

Thomas Dongan, an Irish military man, had been governor for two years. He arrived in 1683, when Charles II was the King, and his brother, James Stuart, was the Duke of York. One of Dongan's first acts was to convene the first General Assembly of the province and form the 12 original counties. In 1685, under the newly-crowned King James II, he granted the Rombout Patent as part of a program to populate the colony and protect it from encroachment by outsiders.

In flowery legal language, and with the usual disdain for spelling, the text of the patent reviewed the purchase of the property from the Indians by Rombout and Verplanck and the formation of the partnership by Rombout, Kipp and Van Cortlandt.

"Now Know Ye," it said, "that by virtue of the Commission and authority unto me given for and in consideration of the yearly rent herein after mentioned and reserved and for divers other causes and considerations me thereunto moving I have granted,

---



---

ratified and confirmed unto the said Francis Rumbouts, Jacobus Kipp and Stepanus Van Courtland all that Tract or parcel of land . . . " as described in the Indian deed.

At the point where the boundaries were measured as "into the woods fouer houers going," the patent specified: "That is to say, sixteene English miles."

The yearly rent was set at six bushels of "good merchantable winter wheat," to be paid every March 25 in New York City.

With a flourish, Dongan concluded, "IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed these presents with my hand & caused the publique Seale of the said Province to be hereunto affixed."

In 1689, four years after the patent was issued, a map was made to illustrate the purchase, drawn by the surveyor, John Holwell. It showed an expanse of trees north of the Highlands, between Fishkill Creek and Wappingers Creek, studded by wigwams, fields and swamps, two beaver ponds, waterfalls at the mouths of the creeks, and two little houses, one on the bank of the Hudson at the mouth of Wappingers Creek, labeled "ye frenchman's."

The original map, long in the possession of the Verplanck family, was donated to the New York Historical Society, deposited in the research room of the Society's building in New York City and designated "New York State manuscript map number 93."

What appeared to be an original copy of the patent turned up three centuries later at an auction of old documents in Albany, and was subsequently purchased by a local collector. In excellent condition, it corresponds closely to the text of the patent recorded in the office of the Secretary of State.

When Rombout's daughter Catharyna and her husband, Roger Brett, moved up in 1709 to the land she inherited from her father, they found Peter DuBois living on "The Island," later known as Denning's Point, at the mouth of the Fishkill Creek. Apparently, he was "ye frenchman," having moved down from Wappingers Creek, and the first white inhabitant of Rombout Patent. The Bretts made him a tenant-for-life.



---

## Francis Rombout

**F**rancis Rombout was a Walloon, a French-speaking Protestant, living in the Flemish-speaking Catholic principality of Liège, in a time of economic depression. He escaped that predicament by sailing to America in 1653, at the age of 18.

In that same year, Peter Stuyvesant, director-general, proclaimed the incorporation of the City of New Amsterdam, and established the Court of Burgomasters and Schepens, or mayors and aldermen. Rombout's early life in the colony can be traced in the records of that court.

He brought suit September 1, 1653, against Adriaen Blommaert, owner of the ship on which he came, demanding payment of wages as super cargo, or freight manager. Blommaert replied politely that he wanted first to see the shipping accounts, for which Rombout was responsible.

The court named arbitrators in the case, but Rombout apparently returned to Europe and was not heard from again for more than three years. He was back in the colony December 4, 1656, again demanding his wages, and Blommaert agreed to pay him whatever the arbitrators found to belong to him fairly.

The next time Rombout appeared in court, it was an entirely different case. On January 29, 1657, a young lady named Engeltie Mans brought suit against Geertie Jacobsen, charging that Geertie had accused her and Rombout of doing something disgraceful. Engeltie demanded proof of her dishonor or punishment for the defendant. Geertie confessed that she had no personal knowledge of such dishonor, but had been told that Engeltie and Rombout were such people as nobody would suspect. Geertie was found guilty of gossip-mongering and was fined 10 guilders.

From then on, Rombout was in and out of court frequently, as were other residents of New Amsterdam. Sometimes, he was a plaintiff, seeking payment for goods he had sold. At other times, he was an arbitrator.

He bought a stone house on Broadway, which was his home for the rest of his life.

After the Dutch surrendered to the British in 1664, and New Amsterdam became New York, Rombout made the transition easily, and he became active in the Mayor's Court. In 1679, at the age of 44, he was appointed by the governor and council to be

---



---

the mayor.

Soon after serving his one-year term, Rombout was accused of treason. The charge was brought by a professional gambler named John Tudor, who was convicted in the Mayor's Court of cheating Abraham Smith at cards, and ordered to return Smith's money.

Tuder charged that Rombout was guilty of treason for denying him a trial by jury. A grand jury returned an indictment of Rombout in 1683, but the indictment was dismissed. The court of assizes ruled that what Rombout had done was not a crime, but justice done to the party concerned.

Rombout married three times. In 1665, at the age of 30, he married Aeltje Wessels, and they had a son, Johannis. Both wife and son died, and in 1675 Rombout married Anna Elizabeth Maschop, his first wife's sister-in-law and widow of Warner Wessels, a wine merchant. She bore no children, and soon died.

Rombout was married for the third and last time September 8, 1683, to Helena Teller Van Ball, who had been twice widowed and had seven children from her two previous marriages. From this union, Catharyna Rombout, the future Madam Brett, was born.

In January of 1691, Rombout went to the notary, William Bogardus, and made his will. He left his money to his wife. The will noted that he had already given his "land in the Wappins" to his only surviving child, Catharyna.

In the spring of 1691, Rombout died at the age of 56.

## Gulian Verplanck

**I**n a colony made up largely of immigrants, poor farmers and transient sailors, Gulian Verplanck was a rarity – a well-to-do, second-generation, native-born American. It was his father, Abraham, who founded the family in the New World in the early 1630s.

When Abraham came from Holland, or how, was not recorded, but it was before 1635, when he was recorded as married to Maria Vigne, widow of Jan Roos. Abraham was a trader in beaver skins and a speculator in land.

In 1638, he obtained from the director-general, Willem Kieft, title to land at Paulus Hoeck, later to be Hoboken and Jersey City. He paid 30 guilders in cash, and gave Kieft a note for 520 guilders.

---



---

along the said Fish Creek into the Woods att the foott of the said high hills including all the road or low lands att the south side of said Creek with an easterly line four howers going, that is to say; sixteen English miles into the Woods and from thence northerly to the end of the foure howers going to witt: sixteen English miles or line drawne att the north side of the five hundred Rodd beyond the Greate Wappinger Creeke or Kill called Mawenawasigh together with all and all manner of Rivers Rivelets, Runns, Streams and liberty to build erect and make any mill or Mills thereon feedings pastures, woods, underwoods, trees, waters, water courses, ponds, pooles, pitts swamps, moores, marshes, meadows, easiements proffitts and commoditys fishing, fowling, hunting, hawking, mines, mineralls, Quarrayes, Royall Mines excepted Royalties, franchises and apurtenances whatsoever to the said Tract or parcell of land within the bounds and lymitts aforesaid belonging or in any wise appurtaineing, to have and to hold the said tract or parcell of land and all and singular other the premises with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Francis Rumbouts, Jacobus Kipp and Stephanus Van Courtland, their heirs, and assigns, forever unto the only proper use and behoofe of them the said Francis Rumbouts, Jacobus Kipp and Stephanus Van Courtland their heirs, and assigns forever. Yielding and paying therefore Yearly and every year for the use of our Sovereign Lord James the second by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King Defender of the faith &c. his heires or Successors or such officers as by him or them shall be from time to time appointed to receive the same, six bushells of good merchantable winter wheat on every twenty fifth days of March, att the City of New Yorke aforesaid.

IN WITNESSS WHEREOF, I have signed these presents with my hand & caused the publique Seale of the said Province to be hereunto affixed and these presents to be entered upon Record in the Secretary's office of the said Province this 17th day of October in the first year of his said Maties Reigne and in the Yeare of our Lord 1685, Thomas Dongan.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have caused the said Letters Patent, to be herein and hereby exemplified, and the Great Seal of our said State to be to these presents affixed.

WITNESS our trusty and well beloved George Clinton, Esquire, Governor of our said State, General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia and Admiral of the Navy of the same, this twenty fifth day of June in the eighth Year of our Independence, and in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty four.

(signed) GEORGE CLINTON

Passed the Secretary's Office (the word (and) between fourth and fifth line, the word (and) between twenty first and twenty second line of first page and the word (winter) between tenth and eleventh line of page the second all interlined) this twenty fifth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty four.

(signed) Lewis A. Scott D. Secry.



---

**1784 Confirmation of the Crown Patent  
issued to Rombout and Company  
Recorded: Office of the Secretary of State,  
Albany, N.Y., Book of Patents, no. 5, page 206.**

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, BY THE GRACE OF GOD FREE AND INDEPENDENT. To all to whom these presents shall come send Greeting. Know Ye, that in our records in our Secretary's Office, of our said State we have seen certain Letters Patent in the words following, to wit: "Thomas Dongan, Lieut. Governor and Vice Admiral under his Majesty James the Second By the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith & a Supream Lord and Proprietor of the Colony and Province of New Yorke & its Dependencies in America, &c. to All to whom these presents shall come Sendeth Greeting, Whereas Francis Rumbouts and Gulyne Verplanke of the City of New Yorke, Merchants by virtue of and in pursuance of an order of lysence of the Commander in Chiefe and Council of the said Province of New Yorke bearing date the twenty eight day of February in the Yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred eighty two, Have according to the law and practice of the said Province for a valuable consideration purchased of the natives and Indian Owners, their, right, title, interest, claime and demand of, in and to all that certaine Tract or parcell of land herein after mentioned and expressed for their owne proper use as by the Indian deed of sale thereof bearing date the eighth day of August, in the Yeare of our Lord, one thousand six hundred eighty three, remaining upon record in the Secretary's office of the said Province may more fully and sit large appeare. And whereas the said Gulyne Verplanke is since deceased butt before his decease made his last will and testament in writing and therein and thereby made, constituted and appointed Henrita his widow and relict his whole and sole Executrix who hath since the decease of the said Gulyne Verplanke proved the said Will and taken upon her the burthen of Executrix and hath since intermarried with Jacobus Kipp of the City of New Yorke aforesaid Mercht., by virtue of which will and the intermarriage as aforesaid, hee, the said Jacobus Kipp is become interested in and intituled to such share, title and interest as the said Gulyne Verplancke att the time of his decease, had in the said Tract or parcell of land hereafter mentioned by virtue of the said purchase as aforesaid. And whereas in the lifetime of the said Gulyne Verplanke it was agreed between the said Francis Rumbouts and the said Gulyne Verplanke & Stephanus Van Courtlandt of the City of New Yorke aforesaid Merchants, that he, the said Stephanus Van Courtlandt paying the full third parte of the charge of the purchase aforesaid made by them the said Francis Rumbouts and Gulyne Verplanke as aforesaid should have conveyed and assured to him the one full third parte of all their right, title and interest of in and to the said Tract or pacell of land hereafter mentioned by virtue of and pursuant to which agreement they the said Francis Rumbouts, Jacobus Kipp and the said Henrita his wife have since the decease of the said Gulyne Verplanke conveyed and assured unto the said Stephanus Van Courtland, his heirs and assigns forever, one full third parte of all their right, title and interest of in and to the said Tract or pacell of land hereafter mentioned as in and by their certaine writing or conveyance bearing date the fifth day of September instant may more fully and at large appeare. Now Know Ye, that by virtue of the Commission and authority unto me given for and in consideration of the yearly rent herein after mentioned and reserved and for divers other causes and considerations me thereunto moving I have granted, ratified and confirmed and by these presents Doe grant, rattifie and confirme unto the said Francis Rumbouts, Jacobus Kipp and Stepanus Van Courtland all that Tract or parcell of land, situate, lying and being on the east side of Hudsons River Att the north side of the Highlands, Beginning from the south side of a creeke, called the Fishkill and by the Indians Matteawan and from thence northward along said Hudsons River five hundred rodd beyond the greate Wappins Kill call by the Indians Mawenawasigh being the northerly bounds and from thence into the woods foure houres goeing, and that is to say sixteene English miles, always keeping five hundred rodd distant from the north side of said greate Wappingers Creek however it runns as also from the said Fishkill Creeke called Matteawan



Tract or Parcell of Land and Primisses, or of some Parte thereof, for and in the Name of the whole, unto such Person or Persons as by the said ffrancis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke, shall be Appointed to Receive the same. *In witness whereof*, the said Sackoraghkigh, for himselfe and in the Name of Megriskar, Sachem of Wappinger Indians, Queghsjehapeieuw, Niessjawejhos, Queghout, Asotewes, Wappegereck, Nathindaew, Wappape, Ketaghkanns, Meakaghoghkan, Mierham, Peapithapaeuw, Queghhitaeuw, Memesawogh, Katariogh, Kightapinkog, Rearawogh, Meggiech, Sejay, Wienangeck, Maenemaew, Guighstierm, the Indian Owners and Proprietors afores<sup>d</sup>, have hereunto sett their Hands and Seales in N. Yorke, the Eighth Day of August, in the 35th Yeare of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Reigne, Anno Dom, 1683.

The marke of } SAKORAGHUCK, [L. s.]

The marke of X QUEGHSJEHAPAEIN, [L. s.]

Signed Sealed and Delivered

in the psen of us

Antho. Brockholls,

P. V. Courtlandt,

John West.

The marke of CLAES the Indian X Inter. [VERITE.]

The marke of a MERHAM, [L. s.]

The marke of & PEAPIGHTAPAEW, [L. s.]

The marke of 7 QUEGHHITAEMW, [L. s.]

The marke of 8 MEINESAWOGH, [L. s.]

The marke of O KOTARIOGH, [L. s.]

The marke of ∩ KIGHTAPINKOJH, [L. s.]

The marke of — REAROWOGH, [L. s.]

The marke of 9 MEGGENKSEJAY, [L. s.]

The marke of ∪ WIENARGECK, [L. s.]

The marke of O MAENEMANEW, [L. s.]

The marke of 2 GUIGHSTJEREM, [L. s.]

The marke of (- KETAGHKANNES, [L. s.]

The marke of V MEAKHAJH, [L. s.]

The marke of O OGHKAN, [L. s.]

The marke of X NIESSJAWEJAHOS, [L. s.]

The marke of X QUEJHOUT, [L. s.]

The marke of X SJOTEWES, [L. s.]

The marke of X WAPPEGERECK, [L. s.]

The marke of X NATHINDAEUW, [L. s.]

The marke of X WAPPAPE, [L. s.]

A Schedull or Peticuler of Money, Wampum and other goods Paid by ffrancis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke for the purchase of the Land in the Deed hereunto annexed.

One hund<sup>d</sup> Royalls, One hund<sup>d</sup> Pound Powder, Two hund<sup>d</sup> fathom of White Wampum, one hund<sup>d</sup> Barrs of Lead, One hundred fathom of black Wampum, thirty tobacco boxes ten holl adges, thirty Gunns, twenty Blankets, forty fathom of Duffills, twenty fathom of stroudwater Cloth, thirty Kittles, forty Hatchets, forty Hornes, forty Shirts, forty p stockins, twelve coats of R. B. & b. C., ten Drawing Knives, forty earthen Juggs, forty Bottles, forty Knives, fouer ankers rum, ten halfe, fatts Beere, two hund<sup>d</sup> tobacco Pipes, &c., Eighty Pound Tobacco.

New York, August the 8th, 1683.

The above Peticulers were Delivered to the Indians in the Bill of Sale Menconed in the psence of us

Antho: Brockhalls,

P. V. Courtlandt,

John West.

I do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the Original Record, compared therewith by me.

Lewis A. Scott, Secretary.



---

**The Indian deed of sale to  
Francis Rombout and Gulian Verplanck.  
Recited in text of Rombout Patent.  
Records of the Secretary of State, Albany, N.Y.,  
Book of Patents, 5:206**

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE TO WHOM THIS PRESENT WRITING SHALL COME, Sack-oraghkigh for himselfe, and in the name of Megriesken, Sachem of the Wappinger Indians, Queghsjehapaein, Niessjawejahos, Queghout, Asotews, Wappegereck, Nathindaeniw, Wappapee, Ketaghkainis, Meakaghoghkan, Mierham, Peapightapeieuw, Queghitaeuw, Minesawogh, Katariogh, Kightapiuhogh, Rearowogh, Meggrek, Sejay, Wienangeck, Maenemanew, and Ginghstyerem, true and Lawful Owners and Indian proprietors of the Land herein menched, send Greeting, KNOW YEE – that for and in Consideration of a Certain Sume or Quantity of Money, Wampum, and diverse other Goods in a Schedull hereunto Annexed Perticularly Menconed and Expeded to them the said Indians, in Hand Payed by Mr. ffrancis Rumbouts and Gulyne Ver Planke, both of the City of New York, Merchants, the Receipt whereof they, the said Indians, Doe hereby Acknowledge, and therewith ownes themselves to be fully payed, Contented and Satisfied, and thereof of every Parte and Parcell, Doe hereby Acquitt, Exonerate and Discharge them, the said ffrancis Rumbouts and Gulyne V. Planke, their Heires and Assignes, have Given, Granted, Bargained, Sold, Aliened, Enfoeffed, and Confirmed, and by these Presents Doe fully Cleerly and Absolutely Give, Grant, Bargaine, Sell and Alien, Enfeoffe, and Confirme unto the said Francis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke, All that Tract or Parcell of Land Scituate, Lyeing and being on the East side of Hudson's River, at the north side of the High Lands, Beginning from the South side of A Creek Called the fresh Kill, and by the Indians Matteawan, and from thence Northward along said Hudson's River five hund<sup>d</sup> Rodd beyond the Great Wappins Kill, called by the Indians Mawenawasigh, being the Northerly Bounds, and from thence into the Woods fouer Houers going, always Keeping five hund<sup>d</sup> Rodd Distant from North side of said Wapinges Creeke, however it Runns, as alsoe from the said fresh Kill or Creeke called Matteawan, along the said fresh Creeke into the Woods att the foot of the said High Hills, including all the Reed or Low Lands at the South side of said Creeke, with an Easterly Line, fouer Houers going into the Woods, and from thence Northerly to the end of the fouer Houers Going or Line Drawne att the North Side of the five hund<sup>d</sup> Rodd Beeyond the Great Wappinger Creek or Kill called Mawenawasigh, together with all the Lands, Soyles, Meadows, both fresh and Salt, Pastures, Commons, Wood Land, Marshes, Rivers, Rivoletts, Streames, Creekes, Waters, Lakes, and whatsoever else to the said Tract or Parcell of Land within the Bounds and Limitts aforesaid is Belonging, or any wise Appurteining, without any Reservacon of Herbage, Trees or any other thing Growing or Being thereupon, To have and to hold said Tract or Parcell of Land, Meadow, Ground, and Primisses, with their and every of their Appurtennces, and all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Clayme and Demand of them the said Indian Proprietors and each and every of them, of, in, and to, the same, and Every Parte thereof, unto them the said ffrancis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke, their Heires and Assignes, to the Sole and only Proper use, Benefit and Behoofe of them, the said ffrancis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke, *their* Heires and Assignes for Ever, And they the said Indians Doe for themselves and their Heires and every of them Covenant, Promise and Engage that the said ffrancis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke, their Heires and Assignes, shall and may from henceforth for ever Lawfully, Peaceably, and Quettly have, hold, Possesse, and Enjoye the said Tract or Parcell of Land, and all the Singuler other the Primisses, with their Appertences without any Lett, Hindrance, or Interrupcon whatsoever of or by them, the said Indians, Proprieters or their Heires, or of any other Person or Persons whatsoever clayming or that hereafter shall or may Clayme by, from, or under them, or Either of them, And that they shall and will, upon reasonable Request and Demand made by the said Francis Rumbouts and Gulyne Ver Planke, Give and Deliver Peaceably and Quiettly Possession of the said



---

## Appendix:

### The License to purchase land that was granted to Francis Rombout and Gulian Verplanck.

*Documents Relating to  
the Colonial History of the  
State of New York, Vol. XIII  
Old Series, Albany, N.Y.  
Weed, Parsons & Co. 1881*

A LYCENCE TO FFRANCIS RUMBOUTS AND GULYNE VERPLANKE TO  
PURCHASE LAND OF THE INDIANS ON HUDSONS RIVER,  
(FISHKIL, DUTCHESS CO.)

By the Commander in Cheife.

Whereas *Francis Rumbouts* and *Gulyne Verplanke* have by their Petiçon Desired Liberty to purchase A Quantity of Land Lyeing on *Hudsons River* not yett taken up or Purchazed from the Indians as may be A Suitable and Convenient Settlem<sup>t</sup>. For Each of them thereon to make Speedy Improvem<sup>t</sup> These may Certifie that the said *ffrancis Rumbouts & Gulyne Ver Planke* have hereby Liberty and Lycence to purchase of the Indians A Quantity of Land on s<sup>d</sup> River According of which Survey and Returne to be made According to Law. Given under my hand in *New Yorke* this 28th Day of February 1682 (1683).

A. B.

---

by the Dutch of trading with the enemy, meaning New England. Gulian testified that he went to New England only to inquire about acquiring property. The court found that he may have gone there in ignorance, and fined him 50 florins.

Their biggest deal was the purchase in Dutchess County in 1683. Suddenly, a year later, at the age of 47, Gulian died.

Gulian's oldest son, Samuel, who was born December 16, 1669, and was only 15 years old when his father died, might have been expected to carry on his father's business. But on November 21, 1698, when he was only 28 years old, Samuel died at sea on a voyage from Curaçao to Jamaica. He was buried on the island of Jamaica.

Gulian's widow turned his share of the Rombout Patent over to Gulian's grand-children, and a second Gulian, son of Samuel, obtained the property that was to become Mount Gulian.

## Partition of the Patent

**R**ombout's daughter, Catharyna, and her husband, Roger Brett, filed a friendly suit in Supreme Court in 1707, asking for a division of the Rombout Patent among the partners. There was no contest from the Verplancks or the Van Cortlandts, and the court issued a writ March 15, 1708, calling for partition of the property.

The task was assigned to Sheriff Noxon. He recruited a team of 12 men who surveyed the 85,000 acres and divided them into three comparable parts.

The Bretts obtained Lot No. 1, the southernmost section, of about 28,000 acres, including the fertile Fishkill Valley. The Verplancks received Lot No. 2, the middle tier, and the Van Cortlandts took Lot No. 3, the northernmost tier.

The patent provided legal title to the land, but civil division was required to permit administration of public affairs. Precincts were created by the colonial government in 1738, replacing patents, and most of the Rombout Patent became Rombout Precinct.

After the Revolution, the precincts were abolished, replaced by towns, and in 1788, Rombout Precinct became the Town of Fishkill, later to be sub-divided.

Rombout Patent no longer existed legally, but its legend lived on in the names of places and institutions of the region and in the history of Dutchess County.

---



---

Anthony, a merchant and warehouse owner. At the age of 18, Gulian made his first appearance in the Court of Burgomasters and Schepens.

On July 27, 1655, Gulian's father, Abraham, brought suit to get Gulian out of his contract of apprenticeship on grounds that Anthony slapped him.

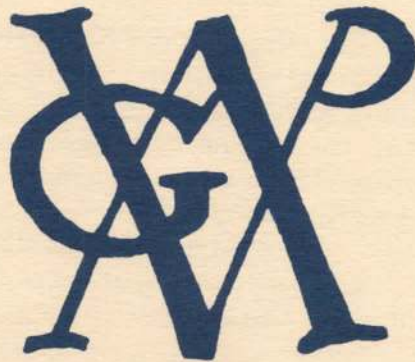
The court declared Gulian "free from the obligations of the contract," and ordered Anthony to pay Gulian "for the time which he has served." But the director-general, Peter Stuyvesant, ruled that Gulian "left his master without good cause," and was not entitled to his wages.

Gulian was then employed by another merchant, Peter van der Veen, as a clerk. Van der Veen died, and his representative Govert Loockermans, filed suit against Gulian, asking an accounting for the money he had handled. Gulian insisted he had accounted to van der Veen directly, and the court found for the defendant.

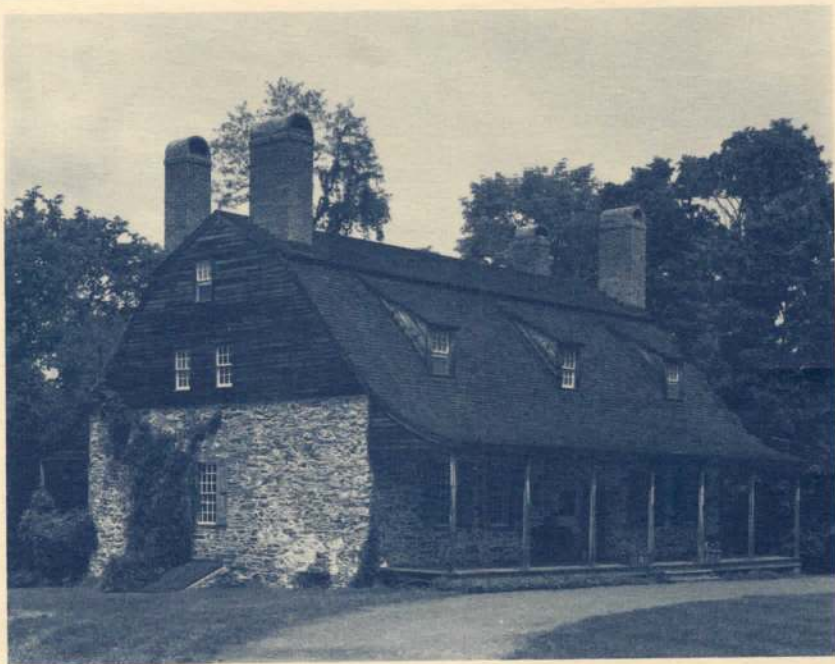
By 1658, at the age of 21, Gulian was in business for himself, primarily the beaver trade. In that year, he was accused of smuggling beaver skins, but he was acquitted. His trade extended to Holland and the West Indies. He had a house and warehouse on the Strand.

On June 20, 1668, at the age of 31, Gulian married Henrica Wessels, sister of Rombout's first wife, Aeltje.

The two men went into business together, and were accused



*Cipher of Gulian Verplanck. The "A" stands for Abraham, "G" for Gulian, and "V" and "P" for Verplanck, together signifying "Gulian, son of Abraham Verplanck."*



*Mount Gulian, Beacon, N.Y. Built between 1730 and 1740 by Gulian Verplanck, on land that had been purchased by his grandfather, the patentee, Gulian Verplanck. Photo by Alex Casler.*

Abraham was a cantankerous fellow. He was arrested once and fined 300 guilders for slandering the authorities and tearing down a notice, posted at the fort. He also was blamed for starting an Indian war.

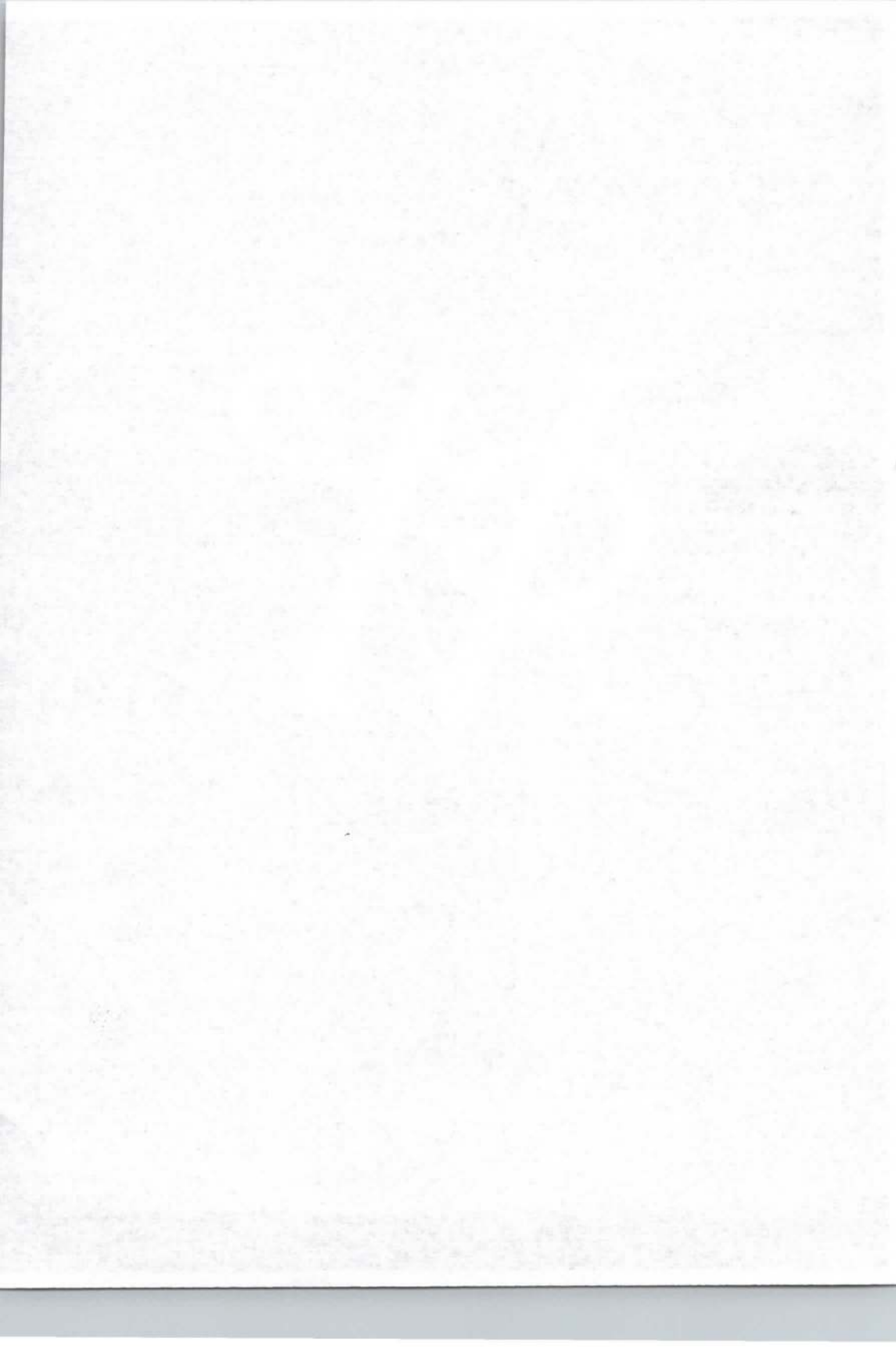
Abraham and his friends petitioned Kieft in February 1642 for permission to punish the Manhattan Indians, normally a peaceful tribe. Reluctantly, Kieft agreed and a raiding party surprised the Indians in a night attack near Abraham's New Jersey land, killing about 80. The Indians replied in a rampage that went on, on both sides of the Hudson, into the summer of 1642.

Abraham and two others were summoned to The Hague in 1649, to answer charges of provoking the war. The certificate of service of the summons noted: "Abraham Planke made answer that he did not know when the war commenced." He did not go to The Hague, and he suffered no apparent loss of reputation.

Abraham died about 1690 at his home in Smits Vly, or Smith's Valley, on the East River. He and Maria had had nine children. The second was Gulian, born January 1, 1637.

Gulian went to work while in his teens, as apprentice to Allard





WAP