

NEW CASTLE UNDER THE DUKE OF YORK:

A STABLE COMMUNITY

BY

Louise B. Heite

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of the University
of Delaware in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Arts in American Studies.

June 1978

PREFACE

The following pages contain a microscopic history of the town of New Castle, Delaware, concentrating on the Duke of York period. Derived from an intimate, rather journalistic reading of the records, and from a close look at landholding patterns, this paper describes a stable community.

Certain inconsistencies appear from time to time, particularly in the spelling of proper names. There were three or four languages current in New Castle during the period. In the seventeenth century, spelling was a creative art. The record-keepers wrote what they heard, not necessarily what was said. Thus Alricks may be Alrigs or Alrichs; De Ring may be DeRingh or deRing or Dering. Tayne appears as Teine, Tyne, deTine, and Fynes in different records;

Tayne was also known as Lapierre. The author has made no attempt to standardize names in either the title traces or in direct quotations; only in the narrative body are proper names subjected to modern orthography.

The land title traces appear in the body of the paper, and not in an appendix. Because this body of maps and data is so important to an understanding of the town, it was deemed best to include it with the rest of the description.

The author has refrained from trying to draw broad conclusions about seventeenth-century life from this study. An examination of one town during a very restricted period cannot yield much on its own about other towns in other times. The comparisons may be made, and they will be valid, when equally close explorations of other places are available.

The frequency of quotations in this paper is a reflection of the author's belief that the records, where they can, should speak for themselves. Through a simple rearrangement process, putting records of like events together, the story has emerged on its own.

its participants were holding office in New Castle. The strife known as the 'Dyke Riot' that shook New Castle for a few days in 1675 was unrelated to disturbances elsewhere. At no time did there develop the enmity between the Dutch settlers and the English that eventually grew up in New York.

The following pages will examine several aspects of community life in the Delaware colony's principal town of New Castle. As the seat of government, New Castle seems to be the most likely place for events of significance to have occurred.

This paper will show that the early Delaware colony enjoyed stability, independence, and a strong sense of self-identity. These characteristics will be demonstrated through a close study of land-use patterns in the town; relationships between the Governor and the Court; the careers of several prominent citizens; relationships with the Native American population; the record of crime; church - state relationships, and what might be termed "neighborliness".

Although the paper will concentrate on the town of New Castle, the countryside around the town and the other courts on the river offer valuable supplementary material.

The information is nearly all found in public documents. Very few of Delaware's earliest citizens kept private diaries or memoirs; none are known to exist. A few travellers described New Castle

to a greater or lesser degree, but not in much detail.

Fortunately for the historian, Delaware's early public servants were a wordy bunch. What should be dry and formulistic records are crowded with glimpses of social life. The lack of private records has hardly hindered our understanding of the lives of private citizens. A judicious reading of public records, looking for peripheral details, should be standard practice in any history. In the absence of private records, this is the only feasible approach.

This paper cannot be considered a definitive study of Delaware in the seventeenth century. Limitations of time preclude more than a cursory look into certain fascinating questions. Among them are the relationship between Delaware's three counties and her neighbor colonies; road building and the growth of land transportation throughout the seventeenth century; the place of women and blacks in the early colony; the amalgamation of several ethnic groups into a cohesive population; the impact of the founding of Pennsylvania on Delaware's political and economic fortunes, and a comparison of individual careers in New York, Philadelphia and the Delaware.

settlement at New Amstel.²

In September of 1664, after they had occupied New Amsterdam, Nicholls, Cartwright, and Maverick commissioned Carr to go to the Delaware and subdue the Dutch. Carr's instructions required him to act with great restraint, to use force only as a last resort. He was to offer the people of New Amstel all the liberties enjoyed by the English on English lands, freedom of conscience in religion, and a continuance for at least six months of their civil government, provided that they take an oath of allegiance to England.³

Only Alexander D'Hinojossa, the commander of the Dutch forces in Fort Casimir, and a handful of soldiers, resisted. Carr reduced them handily.⁴

The Articles of Agreement under which Carr took command of New Amstel indicate that he followed his instructions; the transition from Dutch to English rule passed quietly, if not entirely peacefully. The articles contain eight points:⁵

1. That all the Burgers and Planters will submit themselves to his Majesties authority without making any Resistance
2. That Whoever of what Nation soever doth submit to his Majesties Authority shall be protected in their Estates reall and personall whatsoever, by his Majesties Lawes and Justice
3. That the present Magistrates shall be continued in their Offices, and jurisdictiones to exercise their Civill Power as formerly.
4. That if any Dutchman or other person shall desire to depart from this River, that it shall be lawfull for him so to doe, with his Goods within six Months after the date of these articles.

5. That the magistrates and all the Inhabitants (who are included in these articles) shall take the Oaths of Allegiance to his Majesty and of Fidelity to the present Government.

6. That all the People shall Enjoy the Liberty of their Conscience, in Church Discipline as formerly

7. That whoever shall take the Oathes is from that time a free Denizen, and shall enjoy all the privileges of Trading into any of his Majesty's Dominions as freely as any Englishman, and may require a Certificate for so doing.

8. That the Scout, the Burgomasters Sheriffe and other Inferior Magistrates shall use and Exercize their Customary Power in administration of Justice, within their precincts, for six monthes or untill his Majesties pleasure is further knowne.

The officials who signed the Articles of Agreement for the Dutch were Fop Outhout, Henry Johnson, Gerritt Sanders Vantiell, Hans Block, Lucas Peterson, and Henry Costurier.⁶ Much later, in 1682, a list of 117 Dutch and Swedes appears in the court records as desiring to be naturalized. Many of these men had been on the Delaware since the Dutch occupation.⁷

Each of the Duke of York's administrators dealt with the Delaware colony slightly differently. The relationship between the court of New Castle and the governor in New York is the clearest during the time between 1668 and 1682; Francis Lovelace, who was governor from 1667 to 1673, was a conscientious administrator who left copious records. Much of his correspondence with the Delaware magistrates survives. From the 1674 restoration of English rule to Penn's 1682 grant, Edmund Andros was governor; both his records and the local court records exist for this period. Close comparisons

authorized the justices to transfer their loyalty and the land described in Penn's deed, to William Penn. The new proprietor, on his part,

promised immediately to honor all good titles to land on the Delaware.

Also, he recommended that the court continue to follow and enforce the laws of New York until such time as he could call an assembly and establish his own laws.¹⁰⁷ Penn and Markham attended the

monthly court sessions at New Castle through February of 1683.¹⁰⁸

The changes in government under Penn are beyond the scope of this present paper. However, on a community level, a look through the court records of the next decade indicates little functional change. The same people serve on the court; Ephraim Herman continues as clerk, and the same names appear as landowners and in lawsuits. Although the period of transition involved uncertainty and doubt, it appears that New Castle's stability continued intact into Penn's rule.

New Castle, there was surprisingly little speculation. For four years, from 1683 to 1686, Penn's government conducted a census and assessment, which has been published.²⁰ Lot owners in New Castle are readily distinguished, for their town lots are listed separately from country properties. Most of the landowners had one or two lots; only a few had more than six. Only two of these seem to have been engaged in speculation on any scale. Moreover, few owners dramatically increased or decreased their holdings throughout these four years.

CENSUS OF LOT OWNERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>1683/4</u>	<u>1684/5</u>	<u>1685/6</u>	<u>1686/7</u>
Peter Alricks	2	2	2	2
Justus Anderson (Andries)	1	1	1	1
Ambrose Baker	5	5	-	3
Giles Barrett	2	-	-	-
John Bisk	6	3	2	2
Edward Blake	-	-	-	1
John Boyer	2	1	2	1
Joseph Burnham	-	1	-	-
Anthony Bryant	8	3	1	1
John Cann	4	2	2	2
Edmund Cantwell	1	1	1	-
Judith Crawford	2	-	-	-
William Crosse (Lorrain)	-	1	1	-
Claes Daniel*	5	1	-	1
John Darby	-	-	-	1
Moses DeGan	1	-	1	1
Johannes deHaes	2	1	1	2
Arnoldus Delagrange	4	3	3	3
Aemilius deRing	5	5	3	3
Mathias de Ring	1	3	2	2
Mathyas deVoos*	-	1	-	-
Eldert Egberts	1	-	-	-

*Indicates absence from other land records. These landowners may have never properly recorded their purchases, or the record may be lost.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>1683/4</u>	<u>1684/5</u>	<u>1685/6</u>	<u>1686/7</u>
John ffolk*	1	-	-	-
Sybrant ffolk*	1	-	-	-
John fforat	-	-	1	1
John Garretson*	7	1	1	-
Josyn Hamilton*	-	-	-	1
Richard Halliwell	-	-	-	1
Adam Hay	1	-	-	-
Hubert Hendricks	2	-	-	-
John Hendrickson	1	1	1	1
Widow Hiberts*	-	3	-	-
Garrett Johnson	-	-	3	3
Samuel Land	1	1	3	-
Dorcas Land	-	-	-	3
-- Lorrain (Wm. Crosie?)	1	-	-	-
Engelbert Lott	2	3	3	3
Abraham Man	-	2	-	-
John Mandy	1	1	3	-
Mary Mandy	-	-	-	1
John Moll	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	4	4
George More	1	-	1	-
John Williams Neering	2	-	-	-
Richard Noble*	-	-	-	2
Gov. Penn*	1	-	-	-
Josyn Semple	2	1	1	-
Gerrit Smith	3	3	-	-
John Smith	2	2	2	2
Thomas Spry*	6	4	-	3
Dominy Peter Teschenmaker	6	6	2	2
Isaac Tayne	1	-	4	4
Sybrant Volk	-	1	-	-
Hendrick Vandenburg	4	5	5	3
Reyner Vanderculin	12	4	4	4
Mathyas Vanderheyden	-	-	-	1
James Walliam	2	1	2	2
John Walker	-	-	1	-
William Welch	1	-	-	-
Susannah Welch	-	2	-	-
Sarah Welch	-	-	2	1
John White*	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1
Gerardus Wessels	-	-	1	-
Hendrick Williams	3	2	2	2
John Williams (Neering?)	-	2	-	2

Maps and Title Traces

The following maps and title traces graphically describe the development of the town of New Castle from about 1670 to about 1690. The key map on page 75 shows the relationships between the block maps. In the key, each block bears a letter that corresponds to a detailed enlargement. Because the streets in the old part of New Castle have changed little since the seventeenth century, no modern map has been included.

Enlarged maps, lettered A through K, show the property lines as they occurred in the 1670's and 1680's. Each parcel is numbered; the numbers correspond to the title trace and description of the parcel that follows. Certain of the lots show a building or buildings; these symbols indicate that specific mention of some sort of building occurred on one of the transactions involving that property. On Front Street, the crosshatch symbols represent buildings shown on the bank lot surveys.

Features other than property lines also are shown on the enlarged maps. Map A shows the probable alignment of a street abandoned before 1683. Map F shows some of the larger properties on the edge of town, whose borders appear to follow the edge of usable high ground. And Map G shows several alternate locations for Thwart Street; because the street passed through low ground, it probably was impassable during the wet part of the year. The present alignment of