

Greene County Gleanings

by Raymond Beecher

Their signatures with seals affixed thereto stand out in two indentures of 20 July 1784: Peter Bronk, Reitsent Bronk, John L. Bronk, Phillip Bronk, Annake Witbeck, Charlotte A. Witbeck and Thomas Hoghtaling. It was this final chapter in the Cocksackie Patent holding that was created in 1687 to resolve the conflicting claims of Jan Bronck and Martes Gerritse Van Bergen. With the signing of this 3-page 11x16 inch legal document, consideration ten shillings, the Broncks waived all claims of title to certain subdivided lots easterly from Old Cocksackie (West Cocksackie) toward the Hudson River, to Anthony and Henry Van Bergen of Cocksackie and merchant Peter Van Bergan of the City of Albany, as well as to Harmanus Cuyler and Elizabeth, his wife.

The acreage involved is described as part of that patent "bounded on the East by Hudson's River, on the West by the Cats Kill Indian footpath, on the North by a Line drawn from the mouth of

Bronck's or Cocksackie Creek to the said footpath upon course North seventy-nine Degrees and Thirty Minutes West, and on the South by a Line of Division lately fixed on the Fountain Flatts from the said footpath to the said River between the parties to these presents and the proprietors of the patent of Lonenburgh."

In this final division the Van Bergen heirs received full title to mainly the odd lot numbers of various acreages, from 1 to 63, with the exception of 8, 16, 44, 48, 56 and other minor adjustments. Certain even numbered lots from 2 to 62, except for the inclusion of lots 13, 43, 46, 47, 57 and 61, came to the Bronck heirs.

Over the next several years the new owners would subdivide and sell, Eliakim Reed purchasing Lot 48 (Reed's Landing site) while the Lower Landing would be established on lots 46 and 47. This original indenture of 1784 is to be found in the Reed Adams Memorial Collection at the Vedder Library.

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