



PETER STUYVESANT

New York Tercentenary

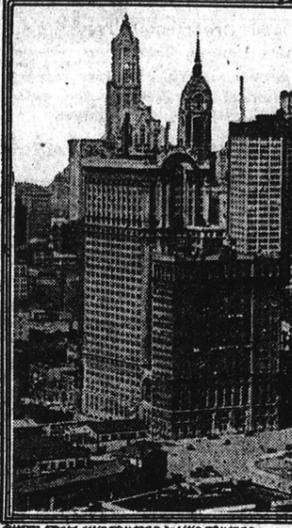


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GREATER NEW YORK, having annexed pretty much everything in sight that does not belong to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Connecticut and thereby accumulated a population of about 8,000,000 is going to celebrate its tercentenary. In fact, there will be at least two celebrations and probably more. The reason is seen in the following outstanding dates in New York's early history:

1623—The Dutch West India company found a permanent settlement on Manhattan island.

1624—Peter Minuit, director general of New Netherland, purchased Manhattan island from the Indians.

1664—King Charles of England granted to his brother the duke of York (afterward James II), them home. At this time there were only two permanent settlements on the Atlantic coast, St. Augustine (Spanish, 1565) and Jamestown (English, 1607).

In 1621 the states general of the United Netherlands granted a charter to the Dutch West India company covering the whole unoccupied coast of America from Newfoundland to Cape Horn. The charter guaranteed to colonists social, political and religious freedom. "Do you wish to build, to plant, to become a citizen?" was the main question asked of colonists.

In 1623, three years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, the first colony was landed on Manhattan island from the ship New Netherlands (200 tons), Captain May. There were 30 families, 110 strong. They were Wallons, Protestant refugees from Belgium (until 1830 a part of The Netherlands), with their cows and chickens, farm implements and household furnishings. A landing was made at Castle Garden. They were welcomed by traders and Indians. The "Christian teacher" who accompanied them prayed and gave thanks before their first meal. Captain May read to them his commission as governor. The "official figure" was a beaver with a coronet for its crest. The first-born on the island was Sarah Rapalje.

And this was the beginning of Manhattan, afterward (1653) New Amsterdam, and finally (1674) New York. Since 1612 the country between the trading posts on Manhattan island and at Fort Orange (Albany) has been called New Netherland by the Dutch.

In 1620 arrived the first director general of New Netherland, Peter Minuit of Imperishable fame. He bought of the Indians the 22,000 acres of Manhattan island for \$24 worth (at Dutch prices) of trinkets and weapons. Then he built the first Fort Amsterdam near the Battery. Then Manhattan settled down to a regular program of life. There were 270 inhabitants. Each settler owned his house, tilled the land and traded with the Indians.

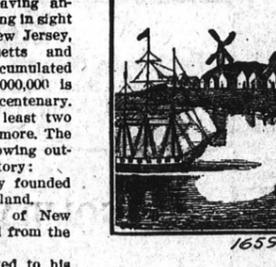
The popular conception of early New York is a city of rotund Dutch burghers, idling in the shade with their schnapps and long-stemmed pipes. Maybe. But here's a truer picture of the days just before the English captured New Amsterdam in 1664: There were about 300 houses and 1,500 people. A man with \$1,000 was considered rich. The better houses were of brick and each had its garden. The floors were sanded. There was a spinning-wheel in every home. The people rose with cock-crow and ate breakfast before sunrise. There were no idlers. Tea parties were over before milking time. Every family had a Bible and maybe a prayer-book.

Manhattan island's population increased slowly, new settlers being Huguenots (French Protestants), Dutch and English. Settlements were made in all directions. Minuit was succeeded by Van Twiller, who is responsible for Governor's Island. Kelt, responsible for the Indian war of 1643 which nearly depopulated Manhattan, came next. Then came Peter Stuyvesant, of cherished memory.

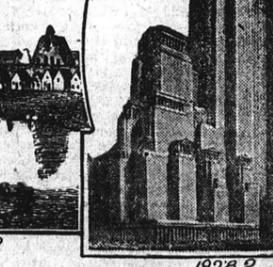
Governor Stuyvesant was a one-legged, fire-eating veteran of the wars, but he could not make his people fight the English fleet under Nicolls in 1664. They did not intend to do anything that might take them away from New Amsterdam. And it's quite likely that they figured Nicolls might be less of a tyrant than was Stuyvesant.

Nicolls proved to be quite mild-mannered. He made the burghers swear allegiance to England, but confirmed their social, political and religious liberties. In 1665 the Dutch autocratic municipal government was wiped out by proclamation and the English system of mayor and aldermen was substituted. Thomas Willett was the first mayor. Of the five aldermen two were English and three Dutch.

When the Dutch fleet appeared in 1673 there were but eighty men in the garrison to withstand 1,600. So again the city changed hands without fighting. Within two years a treaty of peace restored New Netherlands to the English. Fort Amsterdam became Fort James and New Amsterdam became New York for all time, while Fort Orange became Albany (York's second title).



1659



1923



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more than 500 carloads of onions; from California more than 100 carloads of tomatoes, more than 200 carloads of celery, and more than 5,000 carloads of grapes; from Florida 1,000 cars of cabbage and 1,800 cars of lettuce; from Washington more than 2,000 carloads of apples; from Colorado more than 500 carloads of cantaloupes; from Georgia more than 1,500 carloads of peaches, and from Illinois more than 400,000 eggs.

New York's history can be conveniently divided into five eras:

1623-1783—Colonization period. Population in 1790 was 49,401.

1783-1825—Recovery from damages of British occupation during Revolution; first attempt at a city plan; coming of the steamboat. Population in 1820 was 152,056.

1825-1865—Opening of Erie canal, which gave New York supremacy over Philadelphia as the premier trading city; introduction of gas; establishment of railroads; improved local transit facilities. Population in 1860 was 1,174,779.

1865-1895—Realty booms; introduction of passenger elevator; commercial use of electricity; use of steel skeleton in building construction, which enabled the city to grow vertically. Population in 1900 was 3,437,202.

1895-1923—Rapid transit in all directions, enabling the city to grow horizontally. Population in 1920 was 5,620,048.

The future of New York and its immediate environs invites speculation. Certainly New York intends so far as it can to ignore artificial political boundaries. It has begun the constructive development of the metropolitan area within a radius of fifty miles from Battery park. A Committee on the Plan of New York and its Environs has divided this area into six sectors with an expert studying each. These sectors include areas in Connecticut and New Jersey. The experts will report on the possible uses of land and the densities of population in the different sectors. The general question of regional zoning and the distribution of industries, business and residences will be considered, with indications of probable future tendencies and dangers. As relief from congestion of population is one of the things most sought, questions relating to decentralization with observations regarding the location of new industrial areas and business and social centers will receive considerable attention in the surveys.

Contrast New York's present skyline with that of 1659! Yet New York isn't satisfied. It has a new zoning system and a new "set-back" style of architecture and expects within five years to have buildings 1,000 feet high and even higher. "New York is bound to become the most beautiful and distinctive city in the world," say its architects.

When Gall Meredith entered the heretofore unknown homes of her mother's relatives she told them, sweetly appreciative, that her stay must be short, because of her needed attendance upon the old lady, who was her friend.

"But Gall, my dear," Mrs. Demming playfully said, "you will one day leave your charge, you know." She smiled meaningly. "We have heard, here in Wilfred Towers' own city, of Wilfred Towers' devotion to our young relative."

The blue eyes of Gall widened questioningly, then drooped in evident pained confusion.

"But," she said stammeringly, "there is nothing serious between Mr. Towers and me—nothing beyond friendship. He is, you know," she hastened to explain, "Mrs. Hunter's lawyer. It was necessary for him to be at our house a great deal."

"But your visits at the homes of his friends here," Mrs. Courtney sharply questioned: "Why, Mr. Towers own sister entertained for you. Was there no significance in that?"

Gall's embarrassment caught the observant eye of Miss Cornelia. "Gall ought to know whether she is engaged to Mr. Towers or not," she suggested brusquely.

"I am not," the guest slowly and distinctly declared.

Gall's leave-taking lacked the demonstration of her welcome. "Good-by," the relatives who had long before ignored her existence, said. She was not asked to repeat her visit.

FLEUR-DE-LIS PARK

By MOLLIE MATHER
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"AFTER all," said the cousin, Mrs. Courtney, "Gall is our near relative, and we ought to make it as pleasant for her as possible. I shall have her to visit."

Mrs. Demming nodded in commendation. "My husband's niece is, in a way, my responsibility. Especially, as he himself is engrossed with business affairs and apt to neglect his kin. When Gall Meredith comes to you, Helen, I shall also wish to entertain her, of course. She must stay over a week or two."

"Why?" asked Cornelia Demming, "this sudden interest in Gall? I have grown to womanhood without making her acquaintance. Has the quaint little country cousin come into a fortune?"

Mrs. Demming frowned upon her too frank daughter. "Gall has not come into a fortune," she coldly replied, "and it would have been impossible for you to make her acquaintance when much of your girlhood was spent away in 'improving' schools, which, I must say, have fallen short of their object. Your cousin lived with her poor, but delightful parents, in a small country town. After their death she busied herself in earning her living. To have invited her to either Helen Courtney's home or to mine during that time would have been a mistaken kindness. It was wiser that Gall should learn to stand alone. She has done so. I believe that the old lady who engaged her as a companion has become very much attached to your father's niece. Gall went to her at the suggestion of her own father's friend, a lawyer."

"I have always thought," put in Mrs. Courtney, "that Gall must be more housekeeper for this Mrs. Hunter than companion. Do old ladies in country towns have companions, as a rule?"

"I don't know about that," Mrs. Demming replied, "but Lucy Wolcott, who stops occasionally in the small town where Gall is employed, tells me that it is a very beautiful town, with really wonderful old homes. The Standish place is especially noted. However, Gall certainly was fortunate in meeting at this Mrs. Hunter's Wilfred Towers, the famous lawyer."

Cornelia sat up abruptly. "So," she remarked, "I find the secret of our solicitation. Wilfred Towers has discovered our hidden young cousin and brought her into the light, and my family hastens to share the sunshine. Who told you of his attention to Gall, mother, and how serious is it? I thought him adamant, where young women were concerned, else I, myself, should have long ago set forth to woo."

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Smiling, Gall clasped Cornelia's hand. "I hope that you will come to see me," she said. "Drive out when you can. You would enjoy my fleur-de-lis park."

Weeks passed and the country cousin was again forgotten.

It was at the invitation of Lucy Wolcott that the relatives drove out one beautiful afternoon to view the new gift to the public—"Fleur-De-Lis park." The city papers had been filled with praise and pictures of the generous donor. Douglas Standish had offered to the public a part of his old family estate, in the close neighboring town.

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Protecting Fruit From Sun.

In California, where fruit is frequently damaged by sudden warming at sunrise after being exposed to frost at night, it has been found that a screen of lath, poised like a roof above the trees, serves as an effective protection by preventing the too precipitate action of the sun's rays. Investigation has shown that "air drainage" plays an important part in the prevention of frost. Little damage being caused by the latter in places where the air is in motion. Wherever the air is stagnant the injury from frost is found to be most marked.

Her First Love Affair.

We were both about eleven years old. My only rival gave a party and invited him, but not me. I asked him not to go. The night of the party I was sitting on the porch across from his house. Out he came, all dolled up, carrying a package. I knew then he was going to the party and was taking a cake. From that night on my love for him waned.—Chicago Journal.

REFLECTIONS

Too many men try to build a skyscraper on a one-story foundation. A woman isn't necessarily an old hen because she is set in her ways. Few men are able to retain their self-conceit after they get married. A wife's idea of a perfect husband is one who will leave a dressing room as tidy as he finds it.