

HARDENBERGH PATENT

The Great or Hardenbergh Patent consisted of approximately two million acres of land situated in Ulster, Greene, Orange, Sullivan and Delaware Counties, New York. On the 22d of March 1707, Johannes Hardenbergh, then a merchant in the Esopus (Kingston), purchased from the Nanisinos an immense tract of land, paying for it the sum of sixty pounds current money of New York, the deed being signed by the above named Indian and witnessed. In April 1708 this transaction was confirmed by royal grant under Queen Anne. Leonard Lewis, Philip Rokeby, William Nottingham, Benjamin Fanieul, Peter Falconier, and Robert Lurting were joint owners with Johannes Hardenbergh. Later an eighth interest was released to Augustine Graham. This tract was bounded "on the East by the watershed between the Hudson and the Delaware rivers; on the Northeast by a line drawn from the lakes in Pine Orchard to the head of the Delaware river; on the Northwest by Lake Utsay-antha; on the West by the Delaware river; on the South by a line leaving the Delaware river about twelve miles from north of Port Jervis and reaching the watershed by courses 45 degrees East and North 53 degrees E.

In 1749 John Hardenbergh, Jr., Charles Brodhead and Abraham Hardenbergh owned two sixteenth of the land, and the heirs of Leonard Lewis two-thirteenth. Survey of this land at this time, 1749, created great dissatisfaction among the Indians, so Johannes Hardenbergh negotiated with them and they conveyed to him by written deed signed by Suppan, Jan Palling and twenty other Indians, June 3, 1751, the portion of land in dispute for the sum of pounds 149,195 or \$750, as follows: @ "Beginning at the head of the Fishkill, and from thence running in a direct line to the head of Catrick's kill with a direct line to the head of Papagonk river, and thence down the east side of said river Papagonk to a certain place called Shohaken where the Papagonk falls in the Fishkill, and thence up the said Fishkill, including the same, to the head thereof, or the place of beginning."

In 1771, because of lack of settlement on the land, the validity of the patent was contested by Col. Bradstreet but the authorities refused to consider the patent invalid. Following is from Lieut-Col. Bradstreet's petition to the Earl of Dunmore, Governor of the State of New York: "It is necessary to inform your Lordship that the patent contains 1,500,000 acres, and was granted to seven persons only, and no more than three pounds annual quit rent reserved, whereby a manifest injustice

Olde Ulster Vol 6, p 129.

History of Delaware County - J. Gould, pp 242-244-7.

Le Fever p 504.

Schoonmaker, History Kingston p 194.