

is done to his Majesties revenues, and the patentees have been in possession of the land since April 10, 1706 yet there are not ten families settled thereon at this time." In this controversy Col. Bradstreet endeavored to show that the patent was issued on false suggestions and without the forms necessary to make it legal and valid, relying upon a letter from Sir William Johnson which said that the chiefs of the Six Nations declared that some of the land was their property. Col. Bradford was given a grant for 20,000 acres of the land in dispute as compensation for expenses in endeavoring to prove his allegation of fraud. When the Earl of Dunmore informed the British government of the result of the controversy, the Earl of Hillsborough, Secretary of State, protested the grant of land to Bradstreet, saying, "I am at a loss to guess on what grounds the Council should grant so large a quantity of land to one person. I cannot but condemn such proceedings as irregular and shall advise his Majesty not to consent to the grant." This controversy was the cause of great bitterness and animosity, especially in Sullivan County. The lands were leased under long leases subject to small rentals. In 1844 the settlers refused to pay the annual rent any longer. For some of the Hardenbergh Patent lands the annual rent paid was "a hen and a rooster." The Great Patent never profited greatly the original owners. A great portion of the land has passed out of the possession of the descendants of the original proprietors, much of it by sale, but much also, by adverse possession for a long term of years. One section, the Town of Hardenbergh, is left to commemorate the name. Vast patents were considered by some a species of monopoly, and acts were made later to limit further grants, of such large territory. The Great Patent was truly a royal domain. As descriptions contained in royal grants were necessarily very general, and not usually accompanied by any previous survey, much room was left for litigation between adjoining owners.

One reference says Johannes Hardenbergh was knighted on the recommendation of the Duke of Marlborough, by Queen Anne for gallantry at the battle of Blenheim, and given the title of "Sir," at which time he was given the large grant of land. (*Colonial Families of U.S.*, Norbury & McKenzie, p 221; *Journal of American History Magazine*, Vol. 7, p 831). Benjamin Myer-Brink in his *Olde Ulster*, Vol. 6, says that this is not true as Hardenbergh was in this country at the time of the Battle of Blenheim, August 13, 1704. Mr. Francis S. Dellenbaugh in 1934 had some research done in England in regard to this statement but up to the time of his death had found nothing to substantiate the tradition. He and the compiler were trying to get at the facts. The compiler finds that Johannes had children born in this country about the same time as Hardenbergh was supposed to have been abroad, and is of the opinion that the tradition is not based upon facts.