

[The Patent for the Manor of Rensselaerswyck]¹

¹Transcribed and annotated by Peter R. Christoph

The original document on vellum is in the New York State Library, Albany, together with a 17th century copy.

Thomas Dongan

Leiutenant Governour and Vice Admirall of New Yorke and its Dependencyes under his sacred Majestye and our soveraigne Lord James the second by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith etc. supream Lord and proprietor of the Collony and province of New Yorke and its Dependencyes in America etc. **To all** To whom these presents shall come sendeth Greeting **whereas** Killian Van Ransellaer Merchant late of the City of Amsterdam in the Province of Holland under the Dominion of the States Generall of the united Provinces in Europe and the heirs of the said Killian Van Ransselaer at his and their Vast Expences Costs and Charges have beene the first settlers planters and improvers of all that and those tracts of Land hereinafter mencioned not only dureing the Government of the States Generall here but since the same has been under the Government and Dominion of his now Majesty **and whereas** Applicacion hath been made to me by Killian Van Rensselaer of the Village or Dorpe of Newkirke in the Province of Gelderland in Europe Gentleman Naturalized by Act of Generall assembly this present session at New Yorke Eldest sonne an [*i.e.: and*] heire of Johannes Van Rensselaer deceased who was the Eldest sonne and heir of the said Killian Van Rensselaer alsoe deceased for the granting satisfyeing and Confirmeing unto the heires and family of the said Rensselaers not only the said Tract and tracts of Land but alsoe the Libertys priviledges and preheminences² hereinafter mencioned **know yee** Therefore That I the said Thomas Dongan not only for the Consideracion aforesaid But alsoe in Obedience and in pursuance and performance of severall Orders direccions and Commands of his said Majestye and by Virtue of his said Majestyes Comicion and Authority to me given and the power in me resideing **Have** Given granted satisfyed and Confirmed and by these presents doe give Grant satisfye and Confirme unto the said Killian the sonne of Johannes Van Ransselaer and Killian the sonne of Jeremias Van Ransselaer their heire and Assigns **all** That and those tract and Tracts of Land called Ransselaerswijcke lyeing and being on and upon the banks of Hudsons River in the County of Albany in the Province of NewYorke aforesaid heretofore Called or knowne by the name of the Collony of Rensselaerswijcke beginning at the south End or part of Berrents³ Island On Hudsons River and Extending Northwards upp along both sides of the said Hudsons River unto a place heretofore called The Kahoos⁴ Or the Great Falls of the said River and Extending itself East and west all along from Each side of the said River backward into the woods twenty four English miles As alsoe a Certaine Tract of Land scituate lyeing and being on the East side of Hudsons River beginning at the Creeke by Major Abraham Staets⁵ and soe along the said River southward to the south side of Vastrix Island⁶ by a Creeke called Waghankasigh⁷ stretching from thence with an Easterly Line into the woods twenty four English miles to a place called Wawanaquiasick⁸ and from thence Northward to the head of the said Creeke by Major Abraham Staets as aforesaid with all and singuler the Rights members and appurtenances of the said tract and tracts of Land and of Every of them And all and singuler the Messuages⁹ Lands tenements¹⁰ houses Mill plantacions buildings Orchards Garden Meadow pasture feedings Commons woods Underwoods Rents arrearages of Rent Service Waists Estrays Royaltys Libertys Priviledges Jurisdiccions Heriditament and all other the Rights members and appurtenances Whatsoever to all and Every the said Tract and tract of Land and premisses belonging and appertaineing or Accepted reputed taken knowne or Occupyed as part parcell or member thereof together with all and Every the Isles Islands Rivers Creeks Runn of waters Mines Minerall (Royall

mines Excepted) fishing fowleings hunteings hawkeings and all other Royaltye power Franchise Harbours profitts Comodityes and Heriditaments whatsoever to the said premises or any part thereof belonging or appertaining (Except and always reserved out of this present grant and Confirmation all that the Fort Albany and the towne of Albany from the southermost End of the pasture lyeing Over against the north End at Martin Garretsons Island to the post on the North side of the said Towne where it was formerly marked by Governour Styvysant and soe backward into the woods Northwest sixteene English miles As alsoe a Free Liberty for his Majesty his heires Successours or Assignes to Cutt and Carry away out of any part of the within granted premises (provided it be not within any fenced or inclosed Land) Firewood and timber for building and fenceing for his or their use dureing the space of twenty one yeares from the date of these presents and noe Longer and all and Every the messuages Lands tenements Erections and buildings within the same Fort and towne of Albany scituate lyeing and being on Hudsons River And all and Every the Rent and rents Quitt rents and other Reservacions due or oweing or to become due and oweing in for or concerning any the messuages Lands tenements or premisses in the Fort and towne of Albany aforesaid Saveing only all such messuages Lands tenements Ereccions and buildings scituate leying and being within the same towne of Albany which the said Killian Van Rensselaer party to these presents or any other the heires of the said Killian Van Ransselaer the Grandfather or any their Assignes have and hold by pattend or Pattents or other grants under his said Majesty that now is Whilst James Duke of Yorke and Albany or otherwise or under some or one of his Leutenants and Governours or Comanders in Cheife under his said Majesty of the said province of New York **and moreover** by Virtue of his said Majestyes direccions Comicions and Authority to me the said Thomas Dongan given and the power in me resideing As aforesaid And for the reasons and Consideracions aforesaid I have And by these presents Doe Erect make and Constitute the said Tract and Tracts of Land Together with all and Every the above granted premisses with Every off [*i.e.*: of] their appurtenances into one Lordshipp and [Page 2] **Mannor** To all intents and purposes And the same shall from henceforth be called The Lordshipp and Mannor of Rensselaerswijcke And I The Said Thomas Dongan have alsoe given and granted and by these presents doe give and grant unto the said Killian Van Rensselaer party to these presents and the heire and Assignes of the aforesaid Killian Van Ranselaer Grandfather of the said Killian party to these presents and their heires and Assignes forever full power and authority at all times forever hereafter in the said Lordshipp and Mannor One Court Leet and one Court Baron to hold and keep at such time and times and soe often yearly as he or they shall see meet And all fines issues and amerciaments as well at the said Court Leet and Court Baron as at the Assizes Courts of Oyer and Terminer and Sessions of the Peace holden or to be holden within the said Lordshipp or Mannor To be sett forfeited or imposed and payable or happening at any time to be payable by any the inhabitants of or within the said Lordshipp or Mannor of Rensselaerswijcke or the Limitts or bounds thereof And alsoe All and Every the powers and authorityes herein before mencioned for the said holding and keeping of the said Court Leet and Court Baron from time to time and to award and issue out the Customary Writts to be issued and Awarded out of the said Court Leett and Court Baron To be kept by the Heires and Assignes of the said Killian Van Rensselaer forever or their or any of their Steward Deputed and appointed with full and ample power and authority to Destrain for all rents Services and other Summes of mony payable by reason of the premisses And all other Lawfull Remedyes and means for the haveing possessing Receiveing Levyeing And Enjoyeing the said Premisses and Every part and Parcell of the same And all waists Estrayes Wrecks Deodands¹¹ goods of Fellons happening and being forfeited within the said Lordshipp and Mannor of Rensselaerswijcke and all and Every summe and summes of mony to be paid as a post fine¹² upon any fine or fines to be levyed of any Lands tenements or heriditaments within the said Lordshipp or Mannor of Rensselaerswijcke Together with the Advowson¹³ and Right of Patronage of all and Every the Church and Churches Erected or Established or hereafter to be had Erected or Established in the aid Mannor of Rensselaerwijcke **And Lastly** I the said Thomas Dongan By Virtue of my said power and authority

have given and granted and by these presents doe give and grant unto the said Killian Van Rensselaer his heires and Assigns and the heires of the aforesaid Killian Van Rensselaer the Grandfather Inheritors of the said Lordshipp and Mannor of Rensselaerswycke That the Freeholders and Inhabitants within the said Mannor shall and may at any time hereafter (upon any writt or writts or other warrant from his Majestye or his Leiutenant Governour Or Comander in Cheife in the said Province of New Yorke to Elect and Choose Deputyes to sitt in Generall Assembly for the said County of Albany) the Right and Priviledge to Elect and Choose returne and send One Deputy or Representative to sitt in Generall Assembly to represent the Freeholder and inhabitants of and within the said Lordshipp and Mannor of Rensselaerswyck **To have hold and enjoy** All and Singuler the said Tract and tracts of Land The said Lordshipp or Mannor of Rensselaerswijck and all and singuler the above granted or mencioned to be granted premisses with their and every of their rights members Priviledges preminencyes and appurtenances (Except before Excepted) unto the said Killian the sonne of Johannes Van Ransselaer and Killian the sonne of Jeremias Van Rensselaer their heires and Assigns forever **In trust** To and for the only use and behoofe of the Right heires and Assignes of the said Killian Van Rensselaer Grandfather of the said Killian Van Ransselaer party to these Presents forever **yeilding and paying** therefore yearly and Every year from henceforth unto our soveraigne Lord the King Majestye his heires successours or Assignes or his or their Receiver Comicioned or impowered to Receive the same on the five and twentieth day of March yearly forever from henceforth the Quitt rent of fifty bushell of good winter wheat at New Yorke in full of all rents or former reserved rents services and Demands whatsoever **Given** Under my hand and sealed with the seale of the said Province at Fort **James** in the City of New Yorke the fourth day of November In the Yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred Eighty and five And in the first yeare of the Raigne of our Soveraigne Lord James the Second by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the faith etc. Supream Lord and Proprietor of the Province of New Yorke etc.
Thomas [seal] Dongan

[ON THE BACK:]

Recorded in the secretaryes office for the province of New Yorke in lib. No. Booke of pattents began 1684. Page 102 to 110. This fifth day of November Annoque Domini 1685.

[Note: abbreviated words have been written in full when the last letter of the word is present, or when marks indicate that a particular letter or letters should be inserted, and ampersands are replaced with 'and'. Otherwise, the text is written as spelled there having been no standardized spelling in the 17th century.]

² perhaps *preeminence*, superiority in quality or rank

³ Barren Island, now part of the mainland in the present-day Town of Coeymans, Albany County

⁴ the Cohoes falls are actually on the Mohawk River, west of the confluence with the Hudson

⁵ now Stockport Creek in present-day Columbia County

⁶ now Rogers Island, part of the present-day Town of Greenport, Columbia County

⁷ In present-day Columbia County it formed part of the boundary between the Claverack and Livingston patents.

⁸ formerly part of the boundary between the Claverack and Livingston patents, and now between the towns of Claverack and Taghkanick in Columbia County

⁹ dwellings with outbuildings and land

¹⁰ properties or rents

¹¹ animal, equipment or other chattel which has caused a death and is forfeit to the crown

¹² a duty or fine owed to the king

¹³ The right to name clergy to a vacancy; the writing is unclear but a 17th century copy has 'advowson' and the term makes good sense here.