

We the undersigned inhabitants of the Esopus,
from time to time having felt and experienced,
through very sad examples and experiences and to the
injury of all of us, the treacherous and unbearable im-
pudence of the savage and barbarous natives, and
how vain it is to trust their promises, and [seeing] the danger
and risk there is in living separated and at such dis-
tances from each other among such a treacherous and
malignant nation (upon the proposition and promise
of the Director General Mr. Pieter Stuyvesant to
provide us with a garrison, and if the need to assist
us with more troops) have resolved and deemed it
necessary for the greater security of our wives and
children, directly after subscribing to the present,
to immediately demolish in the best possible manner
our separate dwellings and to congregate on
the spot designated by the Lord General, to
surround the said spot with each other's and
with the assistance sent by the Ld. Dir. Gen.
with palisades of a sufficient height, in order
with the blessing of the only good God, to be the
better able to protect ourselves and our property
against the hostile assaults of the savages. Binding
ourselves with God's help, and under the invocation
of His divine blessing, to use all the honorable means,
and to right away, without the least delay, take
up the work, and to finish it as soon as possible
under penalty of a fine of thousand guilders to be
paid into the treasury of the community by those
who, either by word or action should oppose the work.
For greater security of which have personally subscribed to
this in the presence of the Right Honorable the Lord Dr.
General and Mr. Govert Loockermansen - schepen of the
City of Amsterdam in New Netherland this 31st day of May, 1658
Jacob Jansen Stol, Thomas Chambers, Cornelis Barense Slecht,
the mark X of Willem Jansen by himself, the mark of Pieter Dercksen by himself,
Jan Jansen, Jan Broersen his mark, Derck Hendricksen his mark
Jan Lootman.

Below signed Lord Petrus Stuyvesant & Goovert Loockermans.

The above copy made by the order of the Commissaries, has been found
to agree with the original.

(signed) Roelof Swartwoudt
Schout