

Agreement to Build the Stockade, May 31, 1658
Transcription of English Translation
Kingston Court Minutes, Page 1

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 impudence 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 distances 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 Swartwourdt
Schout