

New Netherland Expansion By Meghan Burke

Expansion of New Netherland was strongly encouraged since the colony was seen as a business venture owned Dutch West India Company. Since the Dutch West India Company was a cooperation under a charter which demanded colonization of the new territory, therefore they needed incentives to attract more people to the New World. Their first attempt was the patroon plan in 1628 which is a section from the Charter of Freedoms and Exemptions.[1]

The patroon system gave a vast amount of land with the rights to the settle disputes other than those of capital. For these opportunities the patroon had to agree to bring over new inhabitants who would then colonize the land out of their own pockets, with no help from the Dutch West India Company.[2] However the deal had a greater hitch, no new settlers could trade fur or participate in the great fishing that the Hudson Valley had to offer, for that remained under a monopoly of the Dutch West India Company, because of this fact no one accepted the patroonship.[3]

One of the key share holders of the Dutch West India Company, Kiliaenvan Rensselear, saw how poorly the patroon plan panned out. Unwilling to lose money in this business venture he decided in the summer of 1629 to amend the rules of the patroonship. Rensselear did this by granting a larger stake of land for each patron, lessening the strict colonization rules, and allowing the patrons to trade with New England and the settlers in Virginia; furthermore the patrons were allowed to participate in fishing and the fur trade- although they were subject to taxation.[4]

The Patroonship under these new guidelines succeeded just as Rensselear hoped. New Netherland expanded greatly with new colonists and settlers. Though New Amsterdam, the capital of the providence, was the still the most populated area, expansion occurred all along the Hudson Valley all the way up to Fort Orange and to the Northeast the borders was considered to be the Fresh River- today's Connecticut River.[5]

[1] Louis Jordan, "A Brief Outline of Dutch History and the Province of New Netherland"
<http://www.coins.nd.edu/ColCoin/ColCoinIntros/Netherlands.html>

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Ibid.