

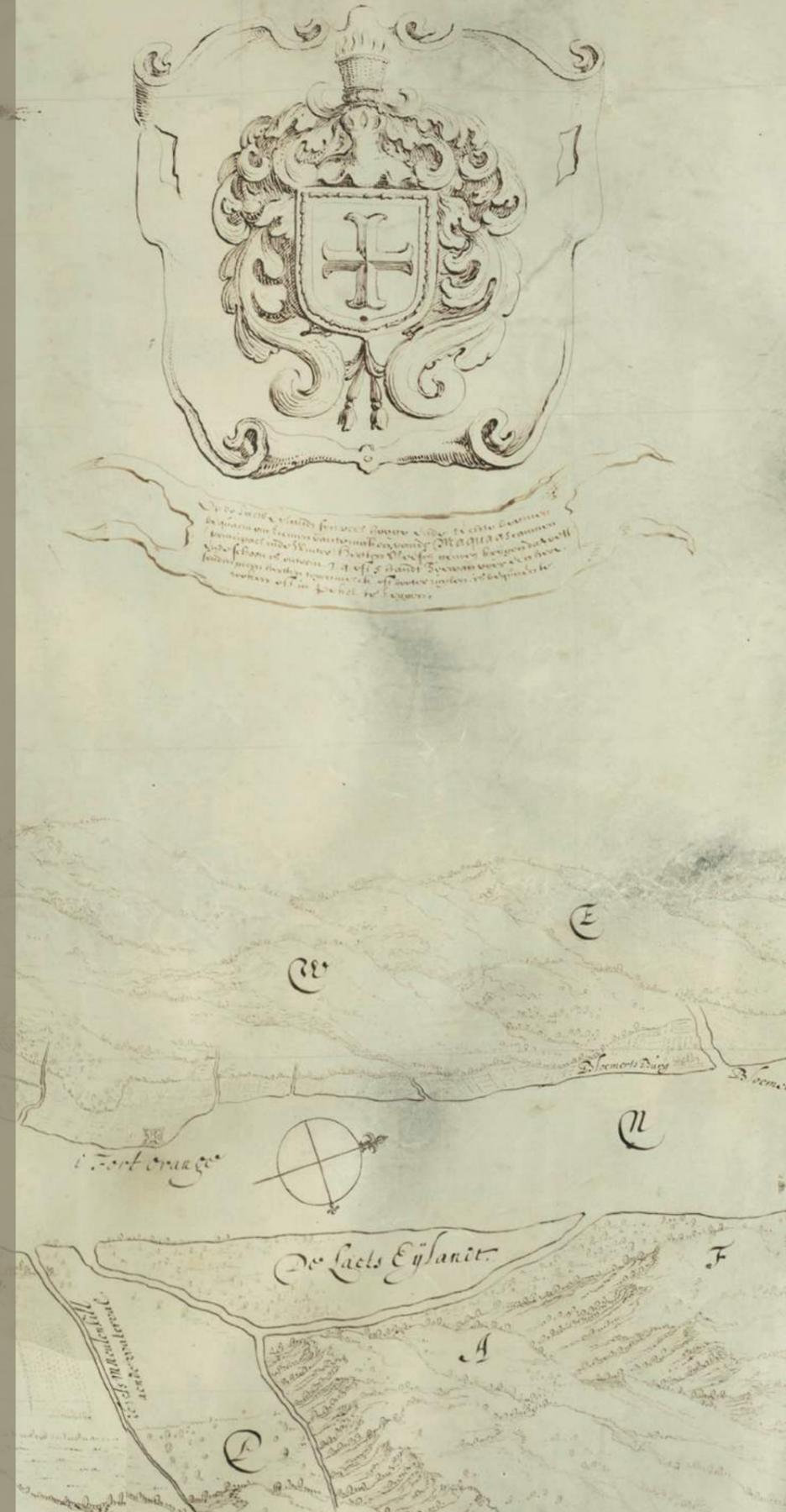


Image: Renselaerswyck Map, 1631 or 1632, Gillis Van Scheyndel (d. 1662), ink on vellum, courtesy of New York State Library



Object: Van Rensselaer Cannon, 1630, cast by Assuerus Koster (1604-1661), Amsterdam, Netherlands, bronze, with wood and iron carriage, courtesy of New York State Museum, H-19374.1

Van Rensselaer Patroonship



The Capital Region in 50 Objects

Van Rensselaer Patroonship

Following Henry Hudson's 1609 exploration, the Dutch West India Company made several unsuccessful attempts to establish long-lasting settlements in the Hudson River Valley. They created the Patroon system in 1629, which granted large tracts of land to investors who could successfully settle fifty colonists within four years at the investors' expense. The patroon system eventually led to the successful settlement of New Netherland Colony.

In 1630, a Dutch diamond merchant and a director of the Dutch West India Company from Amsterdam, Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, received a large land grant on both sides of the Hudson River around Fort Orange, the present site of Albany. However, Van Rensselaer was still obliged to purchase the land from active inhabitants. Within the first year, Van Rensselaer's agent, Bastiaen Jansz Krol, concluded negotiations with the Mahicans and purchased land that became known as Rensselaerswyck.

The Dutch West India Company granted several other patroonships, but Van Rensselaer's was the only one to survive beyond the takeover of the colony by the English in 1664. In 1685 Governor Thomas Dongan granted patents for the land and also created the Manor of Rensselaerswyck, ensuring its survival. All land in the manor belonged to the Van Rensselaer family, and those who lived on the land were tenants who owed annual rent to the Van Rensselaers. This feudal system led to a violent conflict following Stephen Van Rensselaer III's death in 1839 known as the Anti-Rent Wars.

This cannon was cast in 1630 for Kiliaen Van Rensselaer by Assuerus Koster, the famous gun and bell founder of Amsterdam, Netherlands. It may have come with the first group of Van Rensselaer colonists who arrived in the area in 1630 or could also have protected the Dutch settlement in Albany known as Fort Orange from Indian attacks.

Vocabulary

Cast - an object made by shaping molten (liquefied by heat) metal or similar material in a mold

Founder - a person who makes articles of cast metal

Manor - large area of land under the control of the patroon

Merchant - a person who is involved in wholesale trade

Negotiations - discussions aimed at reaching an agreement

Obliged - legally or morally bound to an action or course of action

Patroon - a person given land and granted certain privileges and controls within that land under the former Dutch governments of New York and New Jersey

Van Rensselaer Patroonship

Name _____ Date _____

Directions

Use the depiction of the object, image, and corresponding text to answer the following questions.

1. Name of the object: _____

2. Who made the object? _____

3. Who might have originally owned the object? _____

4. What was the main purpose of the object? _____

5. Name of the image: _____

6. When was the image made? _____

7. How was the image made? _____

8. Who made the image? _____

9. What geographic feature appears to run through the center of the map image?

10. Identify two key features of the image:

a. _____ b. _____

11. How do the object and image relate to each other?

a. _____ b. _____

12. What geographic symbol, located in the center of the river, can be used to determine directional orientation?

13. What Dutch West India Company requirements were needed for an investor to settle a successful tract of land? _____

14. Who took over the Dutch colony in 1664? _____