

Ecclesiastical Records

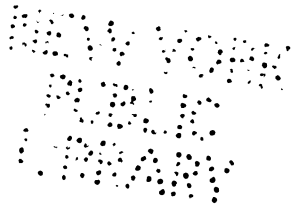
STATE OF NEW YORK

~~NY (1812), State Historian~~

Published by the State under the supervision of

HUGH HASTINGS, State Historian

Volume I



ALBANY

JAMES B. LYON, STATE PRINTER

1901
C.A.

Checked
May 1912

place to which he may be sent. Furthermore, he has also **had** his brother orally request Rev. Mr. Mensoo for a **testimonial** concerning the examination which he passed, **some-what** broader and ampler than that usually given; also, that **the** Brethren, the Deputies would request the Directors for **an** increase of his salary. Resolved, in regard to the first **and** second, that we abide by the ordinary formula, instituted **by** Rev. Classis for that purpose. Touching the third, an **increase** of salary, we understand that this must be done by order of Classis, whither this request is referred. Also as it is understood upon good authority that Megapolensis is at present studying **medicine** at Leyden, in order that he may obtain a doctors degree before his departure, so that he may practice medicine in New Netherland, in addition to preaching, Resolved, that we inform **him**, when he returns here, in respect to the resolution of several Synods which oppose this practice; also at the same time to make this matter known in Classis.

In reference to another request to send a pastor to New Amstel on the South River, of which mention was made in previous minutes, Rev. Mr. Stoot reports that Mr. Van Polsbrock has been conferred with on this subject, and has replied that the City Council has not yet acted in this matter. The reason is that the Hon. Commissioners appointed for this business were to furnish them with further advice, which they were expecting on the arrival of the Governor-General. After receiving said advice they would act upon it. xxi. 3, 4.

Correspondence from America. Rev. J. T. Polhemus to the Classis of Amsterdam.

1663, Sept. 11/21.

Reverend, Very Learned and Pious Gentlemen —

Dear Brethren in Jesus Christ:—

With my humble salutations, I herewith inform your Reverences of my actual condition, and that by the grace of God, I still continue in my calling and in my services to the congregation

here, for which the Lord be praised. I wrote last year, that there is no communication among the churches here, in reference to ecclesiastical business. As there is yet no improvement in this respect, I now mention it again, that I may not neglect my duty therein. You will undoubtedly hear from our colleague, Domine Gideon Schaats, at Fort Orange, that his oldest daughter, who is not married, has been brought to bed with a child by a strange married man, whose legal wife publicly complains of the matter. Her conduct for some years past has not been above reproach; but nothing having been said about her, I was silent, for I did not wish to intermeddle with another man's affairs. I only mention it to your Reverences now, for I do not think I should remain strictly silent. As to the congregation I say: Quicquid delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi (Whenever the Kings are mad, the Greeks weep). But the good God has assisted us in promoting the salvation of his people, and has granted us the desired deliverance, for which we give him our best thanks. Herewith I commend you all to his blessing. Given at Midwout in New Netherland, on Long Island, the 11th of Sept. 1663.

Your Reverences specially obliged,

Johannes T. Polhemus.

DOMINE BLOM'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH OF KINGSTON.
— ACCOUNT OF THE MASSACRE AT THE ESOPUS, 1663.

1663, Sept. 18.

Reverend, Wise Right Learned, and Pious:

The state and condition of my Church, situate in the village of Wiltwyck, in the Esopus country, in New Netherland, since my three years residence there is somewhat prosperous, through God's blessing and mercy, as well in members, which have increased from sixteen to sixty, as in hearers, and all was well ordered in Church matters and Consistory, so that everything is placed on a good footing. I have also laid a good foundation, both by private and public Instruction of Catechists, both within and without my house, as also by the explanation of the Catechism, so that this newly rising community began to grow and to bloom right worthily, when a cruel blow overtook it, and the Heathens fell on, and right sorely treated our Church and Commonality, and under the guise of friendship murdered and also captured many; they intended to destroy this Church altogether, and to devour it alive, had not the Lord our God wonderfully protected it, and they fled, having taken a fright in their heart, when no person drove them away. So that we escaped with the most part of the inhabitants, and have still retained the place. The Lord only be thanked therefor, not men — for men's help was far from us: for the soldiers whom we had before were discharged and sent to Holland. There lay the burnt and slaughtered bodies, together with those wounded by bullets and axes.