

**EARLY SETTLERS OF WEST
FARMS, WESTCHESTER
COUNTY, N.Y.**

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Early settlers of West Farms, Westchester County, N.Y. by A. Hatfield

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A. HATFIELD

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WEST FARMS

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N. Y.

Copied from the manuscript record of the late
REV. THEODORE A. LEGGETT
WITH ADDITIONS BY
A. HATFIELD, JR.

EDITION OF ONE HUNDRED COPIES

NEW YORK
1913

FOREWORD.

Nearly twenty years ago the writer had the pleasure of meeting the Rev. Theodore A. Leggett and saw for the first time a pedigree chart of the Leggett family. As was quite naturally the case it followed to a large extent the direct lines of Mr. Leggett, but considerable work had been done on other lines as well.

When the writer decided to publish such parts of the Leggett family history as could be obtained, it was the obvious thing to use if possible the work of the Rev. Mr. Leggett, and through the kindness of his son, Mr. J. Dwight Leggett, the Rev. Theodore A. Leggett having died on Nov. 25, 1906, aged 61 years, the material that Mr. Leggett had collected was made the basis of this work.

As practically nothing has ever been published about the Leggett family except in the form of casual references, it required considerable time and patience to collect the necessary data. The writer wishes to make due acknowledgement to Miss A. Clizbee who greatly assisted him in the research work and to whom much credit is due for the discovery of the errors in the earlier research work.

The present genealogy is far from complete and one can easily see that much work must still be done to supply the missing data.

Owing to the difficulty in getting in touch with the various branches of the family, it was decided to publish the book in its incomplete form, and to appeal to those members of the family into whose hands this book may come to forward such missing data as they may possess to the compiler, care of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 226 West 58th Street, N. Y. City, and at the same time to include the names of the later generations.

The object of this request is to pave the way to a possible publication at some time in the future of a more complete record which will be free from the numerous corrections largely due to information arriving after the section to be corrected had been printed.

The writer trusts that your interest in our family history will be strong enough to warrant a hearty co-operation.

A. HATFIELD, JR.

New York, May 27th, 1916

NOTE.

The unusual size of the list of corrections and additions is largely due to discoveries and receipts of data after the section to be corrected had been printed. In some cases the reprint was corrected and the original printing as found in the *РѢКОМ* is incorrect thereby making the reprint the more valuable.

Below is given a list of the numbers that have corrections and a careful checking should be made before accepting the original statement in order to avoid errors.

12	17	21	23	29	63	65	66	67	69
109	124	125	129	134	135	136	139	157	167
197	198	201	206	221	226 to	236	241	247	309
319	321	322	323	325	334	344	347	350	355
363	365	365a	366	367	368	369	370	371	379
385	420	441	453 to	458	472a	519a			

[Reprinted from the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, July, 1913.]

EARLY SETTLERS OF WEST FARMS, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N. Y.

Copied from the manuscript record of the late REV. THEODORE A. LEGGETT,*
by A. HATFIELD, JR.

It will not be long before the names of West Farms and even Westchester will become obsolete. The former is already within the bounds of the city proper (23rd Ward) and Westchester is on the outer edge.

The Leggett family have lived in this vicinity for two hundred and fifty years and the progenitors were the original European proprietors of the Manor of West Farms. Excepting a few small families which have settled in the United States at various later dates, nearly all who bear the name Leggett in all parts of this country, though particularly in the middle and western states, are scions of the old Westchester stock.

A brief account of the original settlement of Westchester and its Manor of West Farms is as follows:

In 1640 this tract of land like all other lands within New Netherland was purchased from the Indians and was called Vredeland, and the town of Westchester when settled was called Oostdorp.

Bearing date Oct. 2, 1642, license was granted by the Dutch to John Throckmorton who came from New England with thirty-five families to settle in Vredeland and the following year a grant was made to Mr. Throckmorton for the land now known as Throgs or Frogs Neck. Many of these first settlers met their death at the hands of the Indians.

By permission in 1652 Throckmorton conveyed the Neck to Augustine Hermans who soon after conveyed fifty morgen to Thomas Hunt.

On Nov. 14, 1654, Thomas Pell of Fairfield, Conn., obtained a grant from the Indians (the second time they had sold it) to lands north and east of the Bronx River. As early as 1639 Jonas Brouck (after whom the river is named) bought 250 morgen of land

* Rev. Theodore A. Leggett, D.D., was the pastor of the Harlem Presbyterian Church from May 15, 1870, to Aug. 7, 1871. He died at West Brighton, Staten Island, Nov. 25, 1906, aged 61 years. THOMAS J. BURTON.

from the Indians near the point of the main, just across the river, separating it from the Island of Manhattan. This land eventually became the property of Capt. Richard Morris who came from Barbadoes in 1674 and later became known as Morrisania and was next to the Leggett Estate.

About 1647 a number of Puritans settled near where is now the village of Westchester. In 1650 Gov. Stuyvesant complains to the New England commissioners "of the English encroachments upon Oostdorp" and in 1654 it was resolved at a meeting of the Director General and Council to send an interdict forbidding them to proceed further and to abandon the spot. Continued encroachments awakened vigorous measures for it was resolved to arrest the leaders and drive the rest off. Twenty-three were arrested, carried to New Amsterdam and imprisoned on a ship. Among them Richard Ponton whose name is continually appearing in the later records of Westchester.

Finally the intruders submitted to Dutch rule by allowing their Civil officers to be appointed by the New Amsterdam authorities. Ammunition was then sent to the settlers for their protection and "a writing book for the Magistrates." This was done June 3, 1657; and I have had this old book in my hands. It is now in the possession of Mr. F. W. Leggett of New York.

In 1662 they were granted the privilege of a court of their own "but in the dark and dubious matters especially in witchcraft the party aggrieved might appeal to the Governor and Council."

About this time the settlers at Westchester and West Farms were placed in a trying dilemma. Connecticut claimed the district as lying within her jurisdiction and in Assembly held at Hartford, Oct. 9, 1662, resolved so to inform the colony there which was ordered to send deputies to Hartford.

Here it might be well to remark that West Farms was so named as lying west of Connecticut.

The colony was a bone of contention between the Dutch and the New Englanders until the subjugation of the Dutch in 1664. Governor Nicolls then adjudged that the district belonged to the Colony of New York and later contributed Westchester and Hempstead on Long Island with Oyster Bay, the North Riding of Yorkshire.

Connecticut protested against the decision because their charter by King Charles II. made their western boundary the Pacific Ocean.

The question of the boundary line was supposedly settled in 1683, the two provinces having agreed on a definite boundary, but the dispute was again opened later. In 1725 a survey was begun, which was completed in 1731, and the boundary then fixed remained unquestioned until 1855, when, the old survey marks having disappeared, the question of taxes and jurisdiction near the line became very troublesome. To remedy this, a new survey of the lines as fixed by the survey of 1731 was made, and was finally ratified by Congress in the session of 1880-81. (Baird's History of Rye gives an excellent summary of this dispute.)

Westchester was the shire town from 1683 to 1759 and was by royal charter incorporated April 16, 1696.

By Act of Assembly in 1693 "a public and open market was ordered every Wednesday of the week at Westchester to which it should be lawful for all the inhabitants and sojoiners to resort and thither carry all sorts of cattle, grain, provision, etc.;" also an act for a fair to be held once a year.

As wherever there was a Puritan or a Presbyterian or an Independent Settlement a church was organized, so at Westchester where our forefathers of West Farms attended. In fact the government as in New England was by church and state united.

At a town meeting held May 5, 1696, it was "voted and agreed upon that the meeting house" (it having fallen into decay) "shall be repaired forthwith and that two men shall be chosen to see it done. Gabriel Leggett and Josiah Hunt is chosen to agree with a carpenter, to repair the said meeting house, and to bring an account to the town of the cost and expense thereof whereby a rate may be made to defray the charge in so doing."

The following is from the journal of the Dutch Commissioners who visited Oostdorp in 1656:

"31 Dec. after dinner Cornelius van Ruyven went to the house, where they held their Sunday meeting, to see their mode of worship, as they had as yet no preacher. There he found a gathering of about fifteen men, and ten or twelve women. Mr. Baly said a prayer, after which, one Robert Basset read from a printed book a sermon composed by an English clergyman in England. After the reading Mr. Baly gave out another prayer and sang a psalm and they all separated."

The first regular minister I find mentioned is Rev. Ezekiel Fogge, under date of 1674. Rev. Morgan Jones is mentioned as marrying and baptizing in 1680.

In town meeting 1684 it was resolved to extend a call "to Mr. Warham Mather as our minister for one whole year" at a salary of £60.

At town meeting Jan. 2, 1692, "it was voted and agreed that there shall be an orthodox minister in the town, as soon as possible may be, and to allow him forty or fifty pounds per annum, equivalent to money."

Again in May of 1695, an attempt was made by part of the vestry to "agree with Mr. Warham Mather and settle him with all expedition;" and Rev. John Miller describing the Province of New York in the same year says, "There is a meeting house in Westchester and a young man coming to settle there without orders. There are two or three hundred English and Dissenters, a few Dutch."

Col. Heathcote, a strong Episcopalian, had been chosen one of the Church Wardens, and he vetoed the plan to settle Mr. Mather. His purpose as admitted by himself later, and as the sequel shows being to establish Episcopacy. A very few years later the church of our forefathers became the Episcopal church of St. Peters. As in other instances after English rule was established succeeding the government of Holland, the church was virtually seized and appropriated by the established church.

Rev. Mr. Morgan, a Presbyterian minister of East Chester occasionally preached till 1702 when the Rev. John Bartow, a missionary of the Propogandist Society of England insinuated himself into the rectorship of the church or was inducted by the representative powers of church and state in the Province of New York, though not without much opposition by the inhabitants of Westchester.

The Manor of West Farms was part of the Borough town of Westchester. The original deed from the Indians, with their names attached, with "their mark" each being the rude drawing of an animal, is in the ownership or at least in the possession of Mr. Francis W. Leggett of New York. The territory must have covered some thousands of acres.

The original deed, dated March 12, 1663, I transcribe: "This may certify whom it may concern that we Shonearockite, Wapomoe, Tuckorre, Whauhaphucke, Capahase, Quanusco, Shaquiske, Passachahenne, Harrawooke have aliened and sold unto Edward Jessup and John Richardson (both my great, great, great, great-grandfathers) both of the place above said (Westchester) a