

That was literally the day of small things. The village of Brooklyn and the adjacent settlements were little farming communities, and the houses were scattered at considerable distances apart, with open fields and bits of woodland between. And though the first settlement of Brooklyn had been made as early as 1636, it continued in the condition of a rambling village as late as 1730, in the time of Rip Van Dam. In 1660 its population numbered only 134 persons, comprising 31 families.* Land was measured by the *morgen*, a little less than two acres. Money was scarce, but there was slight need of it, and the little business transactions of the settlers were carried on chiefly by barter and exchange of produce. Indian beads were used to some extent for convenience instead of coin. Three black beads and six white ones passed current for a penny.

Old Peter Stuyvesant was then the reigning Governor of the Colony; and that far-off period of its infancy is represented to us as a sort of Golden Age, when the air of the New World was even fresher, purer, and freer than it is now, the sunshine brighter, and the sweet tranquility of life enjoyed in a blissful elementary fashion, unencumbered by the artificial complexities of our modern civilization. Still there

* "New Amsterdam, at the time of Governor Stuyvesant's arrival in 1647, contained about one hundred and fifty habitations, with a population, it is supposed, of from six to eight hundred persons."—J. Spaulding's "Affairs and Men of New Amsterdam," 5.

There were 64 freeholders in the township of Brooklyn in 1706, and the personal estates were assessed at £3,122-10 s. The village was named after the pretty village of Breuckelen, in Holland, six leagues from Amsterdam on the road to Utrecht. Hon. Henry C. Murphy describes Breuckelen in Holland as an ancient place, containing about 1,500 inhabitants, the houses old-fashioned, and the streets irregular; and attributes the selection of the name for the New Netherland village to the striking similarity in the situation and corresponding conditions of the two places. According to Dutch authorities the name means "marsh-land." Brooklyn in New York has in its history been variously spelled Breuckelen, Breucklyn, Breuckland, Brucklyn, Broucklyn, Brookland, Broockland, and Brookline. The orthography became fixed as Brooklyn at the close of the last century.