

service, to the interchange of family visits. Most of the settlers adhered to the Reformed Dutch Church,* and curiously, the baptisms of children in single families are found recorded in different churches of that persuasion at separate settlements, not far apart, on western Long Island. The reason seems to have been that, the small congregations at the several settlements being unable alone to support a minister at first, and services being therefore conducted in rotation, parents in one village often availed of the double opportunity of presenting their children for baptism at the

* "The people of the Dutch towns professed the doctrines inculcated by the Synod held at Dort, in Holland, in 1618, and were under the ecclesiastical government of the classis of Amsterdam until 1772, when the Dutch Church of this country established an independent classis and synods on the model of the Church in Holland. Each town had its own consistory, but the whole constituted but one church."—Silas Wood, 28.

The first Dutch church erected in the New Netherlands was built at New Amsterdam in 1622. The first one built in Kings County, Long Island, was at Flatbush (Midwout), begun in 1654, under the supervision of Dominie Johannes Megapolensis, pastor in New Amsterdam, assisted by the people of Brooklyn, Gravesend, and Flatlands (Amersfort). It was 60 feet in length, 38 feet in breadth, and 14 feet in height below the beams. The first pastor of this joint congregation was the Rev. Johannes Theodorus Polhemus, employed at a salary of 1,000 guilders a year, and his custom was to preach on Sundays both morning and afternoon. A circuit system of preaching was adopted in 1656, whereby the pastor conducted service in the morning at Flatbush, which was situated about equidistant from Brooklyn, Gravesend, and Flatlands, and in the evening alternately at Brooklyn and Flatlands. In an old document touching this circuit system it is stated that "Brooklyn is quite two hours' walking from Amersfort and Gravesend, whereas the village of Midwout is not half so far, and the road much better." The building first used as a house of worship in Brooklyn was a barn. The settlers of Brooklyn secured in 1660 a pastor of their own, the Rev. Henricus Selyus. A church was built at Flatlands in 1663, and one at Brooklyn in 1666. A church was built also at Jamaica in 1662, and replaced by another in 1715.

"At this early period, the houses of public worship were without the accommodation of bells, and in several of the towns, if not in all, the people employed a person to beat a drum to apprize them of the time of public worship."—Silas Wood, 32.

The successive ministers of the early Dutch churches on Long Island were:

	Settled.	Died or removed.
"Joannes Megapolensis		1668
Casperus Van Zuren		1677
Mr. ——— Clark		1695
William Lupardus		1700
Barnard Freeman	1762	1741
Vicentius Antonides	1715	1744
Joannes Aroudius		1742
Anthony Cullenius	1730	1756
Clippanus Van Sinderen	1747	1796
John Casper Rubel	1760	1797
Martinus Schoonmaker	1785	1824
Peter Lowe	1787	died 1818."

—Silas Wood, 29.