

Earliest Known Manhattan Map Made in 1639

Indian Settlements Occupied the Area That Is Now Called Brooklyn, and Even Coney Island Occupied Its Present Place

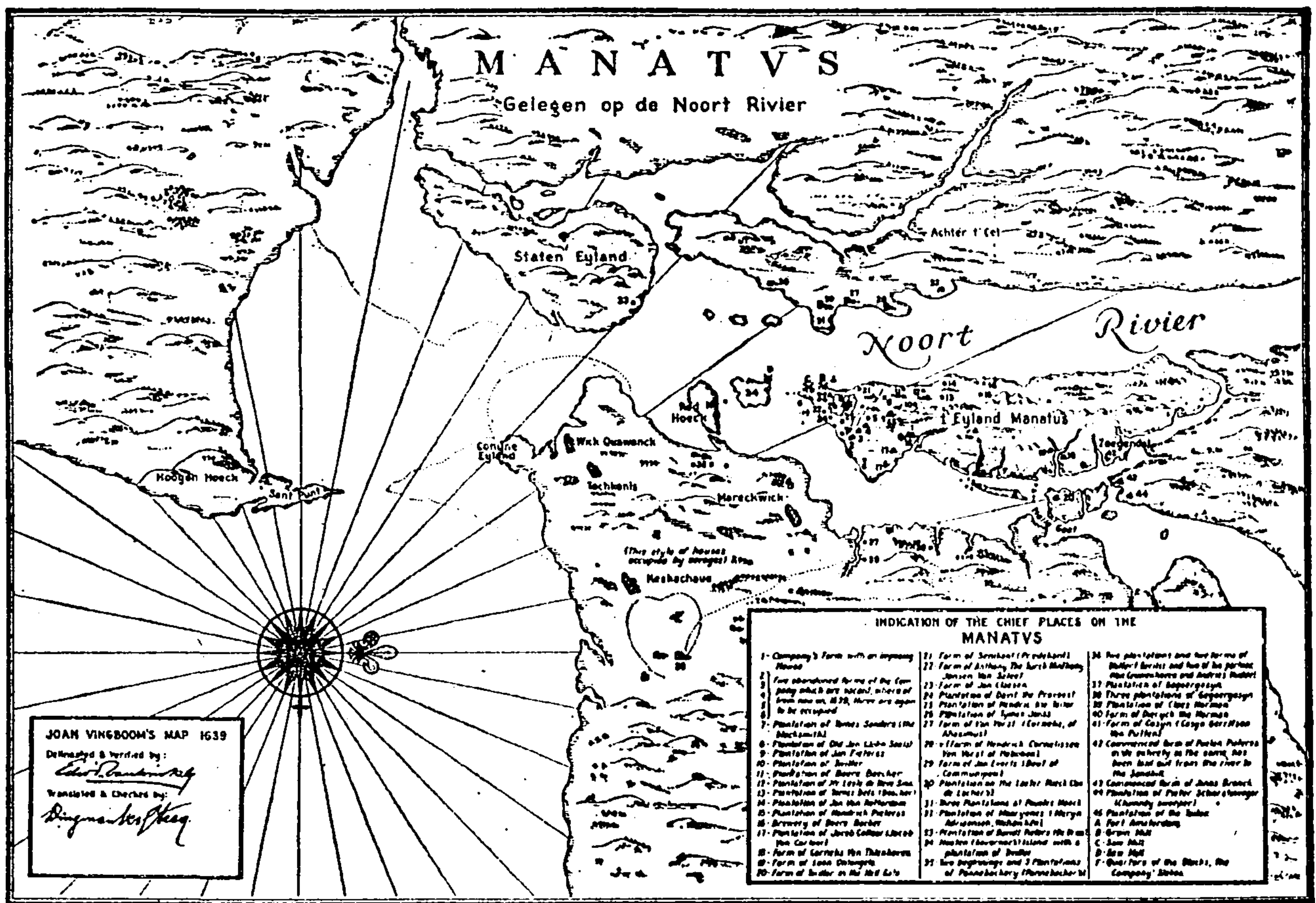
SINCE the acquisition by the Library of Congress of the famous Manatus map, students of early New York have had the first opportunity of making a detailed study of that valuable survey depicting topographical and farming conditions as they existed on and adjacent to Manhattan Island a few years after the trading settlement was established on what is now the Battery end of the Island.

The Manatus map dates from the year 1639, and is the earliest known survey of Manhattan Island and its environs. Apart from its topographical features, its chief value to students of the infant days of New Amsterdam lies in the fact that it designates by figures the sites of forty-five bouweries and plantations, twenty-eight of which are on Manhattan Island. In addition, small houses are depicted on the majority of these individual settlements, showing that the landholders had made a good start toward cultivating the land and building up the future metropolis of America. Indian settlements are shown in a large part of the present Brooklyn area, a long house of the Keskachau tribe being placed in the Flatbush and Flatlands districts, with the explanatory inscription, in Dutch, to the effect that this style of houses was occupied by savages. On the outermost point of this Brooklyn district is a knob of land bearing the name Conyne Island, revealing the interesting fact that the celebrated Summer resort of New Yorkers was a well-defined locality as early as 1639.

The existence of this map, which is one of the most valuable documents extant on the early history of New York, has been known to scholars for many years, but very few have hitherto had the opportunity of studying it in any detail. After being hidden and forgotten for nearly two centuries in Holland, the map was unearthed several years ago, and eventually came into the possession of the late Henry Harrisse, the well-known bibliographer and student of early American discoveries and voyages. Mr. Harrisse valued his prize so highly that he kept it almost under lock and key, and only once, so far as is known, did he allow it to be publicly exhibited, and that was in 1892 at the exhibition in Paris of Columbian maps and globes. He permitted no reproduction to be made, but at his death he bequeathed this precious record of one of the most important American settlements to the Library of Congress, and its formal presentation to that institution by the executors of the will early this year has made it available to students of old New York days.

Appropriately enough, the first reproduction of this map, which is excellent, has been made by Edward Van Winkle, Recording Secretary of the Holland Society of New York, in a privately printed book, which the compiler dedicated to Captain Albert Harrison Van Duesen, a descendant of one of the early occupants of a Manhattan Bouwerie.

The Manatus map was drawn by Joan Vingboom, an eminent cartographer of Amsterdam. The original map is 26 5/7 inches long by 18 1/4 inches wide. It shows Manhattan Island, with Westchester and the Bronx on the north, a large part of Long Island on the east, the Bay on the south, with Sant Punt, (Sandy Hook,) and on the north Staten Island, with a good part of adjacent New Jersey shore, extending back to Newark Bay and the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers. Enough of the surrounding country is shown to form a good idea of the comparative importance of the Island of Manhattan and its location with respect to the mainland. With the map is an inset giving the names of the early settlers corresponding to the numbers of the bouweries and plantations designated on it. The translations of the Dutch names and explanatory phrases were made for Mr. Van Winkle's



Joan Vingboom's Map of Manhattan in 1639.

book by Dingman Versteeg, the Library Clerk of the Holland Society of New York.

While Mr. Van Winkle was engaged upon his work the first volume of the Iconography of Manhattan Island, by I. N. Phelps Stokes, was published, with a half-page reproduction of the Manatus map and another hitherto unknown plan of the little town of New Amsterdam in 1660, called by Mr. Stokes the Castello plan because the original was discovered through his researches in the Villa Castello, near Florence. These are briefly described in Mr. Stokes's first volume, but in the second volume they will be treated at greater length.

The appearance of these two works on early New York history at practically the same time is, therefore, of peculiar interest to all students of New York's first years of growth and settlement, and they present the largest contribution of new material relating to the Dutch period that has been made in many years.

In describing these early settlements on and near Manhattan Island, Mr. Van Winkle has gathered a mass of interesting facts regarding the personalities of the tillers of the soil and builders of the little town of New Amsterdam which contribute materially to the value of his book. Many of the most eminent Dutch burghers in later days spring from the families who were busy in cultivating the soil of Manhattan in 1639 and several residents of New York today bearing Dutch names can trace their descent to the occupants of these old bouweries and plantations. A short résumé of these forty-five settlements follows:

1. Described on the map as the Company's farm with an imposing house. This was the residence of the commander or director. It was occupied in 1626 by Director Peter Minuet. It was well out of town in the early days, and eventually the greater part of it became the celebrated Peter Stuyvesant bouwerie. Governor Stuyvesant purchased it in 1652.
2. This bouwerie and the following four farms were unoccupied in 1639, when the map was made, but the long-lost Van Rensselaer manuscript supplies the clue to the occupants of these five farms prior to that year. Bouwerie 2 was occupied in 1626 by Peter Bijlvelt, or Bylevelt, one of Governor Peter Minuet's Council of Five. Later he occupied farm number 3.
3. This bouwerie was occupied prior to 1630 by Wilfert Gerritsz, who had

formerly tilled a farm at Amersfoort, near Utrecht, Holland.

4. This bouwerie was occupied in 1626 by Gerrit Theusz de Reux and Jehan Ydes.
5. This bouwerie was occupied by Jacob Walich Van Winkle and Claes Cornelissen Switz in 1624. The former was one of the twelve men who served on Governor Keift's advisory board in 1641.
6. This was the Geurd Van Gelder farm, but very little is known about the first occupant. Later it was the home-stead of Cornelius Jacobsen Stille, also Wortendyke, and the founder of the family in this country of the latter name.
7. Occupied in 1630 by Evert Focken and Rutger Hendriksen Van Soest.
8. The plantation of Olf Jan, (John Seals.)
9. The plantation of Jan Pietersz Slot, the ancestor of the Slott, or Sloat, family, of Orange and Rockland Counties and the Ramapo Valley. At one time he was Chief Magistrate.
10. The tobacco plantation of Governor Wouter Van Twiller.
11. Called the plantation of Boere Baecker, but evidently meant for Edward Fiscock, who was both a farmer (boere) and baker (backer) by trade. He is also associated with Bouwerie 16.
12. The plantation of Lesle de Neve.
13. The plantation of Thomas Bets, or Bescher, now a part of the Greenwich Village district.
14. Plantation of Jan Van Rotterdam.
15. Plantation of Hendrock Pietersz, or Hendrick Pietersen.
16. The bouwerie of Edward Fiscock.
17. The plantation of Jacob Collaar, better known as Jacobus Van Corlaer, who has given his name to Corlaer's Hook.
18. The farm of Cornelis Van Thienhoven.
19. The famous De la Montagne, or Montanye, farm, known as Muscoota, Indian for the flat land. It originally comprised about 200 acres, extending from Morningside Heights to the Harlem River, with the northerly boundary about 124th Street. De la Montagne was one of the earliest physicians on Manhattan Island.
20. The Ward's Island farm of Governor Van Twiller, who also owned Blackwell's Island, but Van Twiller's title to the latter was annulled by Governor Stuyvesant in 1652.
21. The farm of Senikant. This, explains Mr. Van Winkle, is evidently a mistake for Predikant, meaning preach-

er. It is the famous farm of Anneke Jans, who married Dominie Bogardus in 1638.

22. The farm of Anthony Jansen Van Salee, called the Turk.
23. The farm of Jan Claesen.
24. Plantation of David Provoost, or David the Provost.
25. The plantation of Hendric the tailor, which was later transferred to Jan Damsen. It occupies part of the Salt Meadow section in the swamp.
26. The plantation of Tymen Jansen.
27. The farm of Cornelius Van Vorst. His family was the first that settled permanently in New Jersey.
28. Supposed to be the farm of Hendrick Cornelissen Van Vorst, at Hoboken.
29. The Communipaw plantation of Jan Everts.
30. The plantation of Jan de Lacher, south of Communipaw.
31. Three plantations at Poules Hoeck, now Jersey City.
32. The Wechawken plantation of Maryn Adriaesen.
33. The Staten Island farm of David Dieters.
34. Nooten Island, now Governor's Island.
35. The Pannebacker farm at Red Hook, Long Island, opposite Governor's Island.
36. The plantations of Wolfert Gerits Van Couwenhoven and Andries Hudde in the Flatlands district of lower Brooklyn.
- 37 and 38. Four plantations credited on the map to one Gegoergestyn, later occupied by Joris Jansen Rapelje, the founder of the family of that name in this country.
39. The Long Island plantation north of Wallabout of Claes Norman.
40. The farm of Dirk Volkersen, known as Dirk the Norman.
41. The farm of Cosyn Van Putten. It is not indicated on the map, but it was situated in the upper Greenwich village section of Manhattan.
42. A farm on the south side of the Harlem River, between Kingsbridge Road and the Harlem River, settled by Poelen Pietersz. He was Captain Jochem Pieters Kuyter. He and his wife were killed by the Indians.
43. The original Jonas Bronck plantation in the lower part of the Bronx section of Morrisania.
44. Another Bronx farm adjoining the Bronck farm. In 1639 it was occupied by Pieter Schorstinveger, the chimney sweeper.
45. The plantation of the tailor, evidently meant for Hendrick Kip, who was there in 1639.