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 the famous Manuscript map, students of early New York have had the first opportunity of seeing a map 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 Borough of the Southtowns.

The Manuscript map dates from the year 1639, and is the earliest known survey of the island. Apart from its topographical features, its chief value to students of the infant colony is the fact that it designates by figures the sites of many of the early settlements, and twenty-eight of which are on Manhattan Island. In addition, small houses are marked on the grid to show the location of the scattered dwellings of the Dutch farmers cultivating the land and building up the future metropolis of America. Indian settlements are shown in a large group on the present Brooklyn area, a long house of the Iroquois being shown in the Flatbush and Flatsbland districts, with the explanatory inscription, Inhabited by the Indians. In the top right corner, the town houses were occupied by savages. On the outermost part of this Brooklyn district north of Flatbush, the name of New Dutch Amsterdam or Coney Island, revealing the interesting fact that the name of New York, long understood to be due to the Dutch settlement, is actually an abbreviation of New Yorkers was a well-defined locality as early as 1639.

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