

Village History 1738-1929

In 1738 Pothat was part of the hunting grounds of the Leni Lenape Indians. A nation of the Delaware Confederacy, their territory extended from the Catskills to the Potomac River, with the council fire in the environs of Philadelphia. The Leni Lenapes were comprised of three tribes, the Minsi, the Unilacto, and the Unami, each of whom occupied a separate section. Pothat lay in the area owned by the Minsis, and it was from the five Indian proprietors, Manis, Sewes, Ayco, Wacken and Nakama, that Wynant Van Gelder purchased the tract of land that was to become Sloatsburg.

The original deed to the land is now in the possession of Mr. Frank Zamboni of Harrison, NY. and reads:

Whereas I manis, Wacken, Sewes, Ayco, nakama, Being by all natur propriator of a certain tract of Land Laying at a plas caled Pothat Beginning at a Rak so alan the montan to a Wit ook tree marked onfower sidsfrom dans all a Lang the Lyn of John Van Blarcoms ws to a Blak ook tree marked from dans kraws the Rever to brook by an austree standin on the est side of the Brook, from dans all along the brok aginst the strem, to a wit pin tree marked on for sied, from dans to a brok so along the brok aginst the strem to a hakkerre tree marked on for sidsfrom dans allang the montain to the bons of Ysack Vanduesen a blak ook tree marked, from, dans allang I he Ling of Ysack Vanduesen to a Rack waer it first began, and have from generation to generation held the same in peacable and quit possession without the mollestation of any poina or potanlate whatsoever, now Bee it know unto all people and nations unto whom this present Writing shall or may come that I the said manis by and with the consent of my friends and Relations as our manner is Viz, wacken, sewes, Ayco, nakama, have given granded and freely conveyed and for Dives good causes, valueable consideration thirunto esyenally moveing freely fully and absolutely geve grant and make over unto Wynnant Vangelder of the county of Bergen and province of East new jersey subjects to the good and great king of England our royal I Friend and Alie and their heirs and asstgnes for Ever, all that piece or per cell of the above mentioned Land butted and Bounded as aforesaid with all and singulaer its Rights titles previledges and appertaining with all ponds medows marshes swamp brook creeks coves wallers waiter courses vt oods under woods timber and timber trees stonse and quaries ofstons ways passages Easmanls pro ffits and Commoditias watsoever, as hawking fishing fowling, to have and to hold the said Land and premises with all and singuler before mentioned appurtenances unto the said wynnant I 'angelder his heirs and assignes for Ever and to be and Remain to the sole proper benefits and behoff of them the said Wynnant Vangelder their heirs and assignes for Ever and we the said manis, wacken, sewes, Agco, nakama, doe for ourselves and our heirs and Every of us Covenant grant and agree to and with the said wynnant Vangelder wee will well and fully warrat and for ever defend the said Wynnant Vangelder his heirs and assigns (he peaceable and quiet possession of the above granted Land andpremeses with their appurtenences and Every part and rt/vv// thereof against all person and persons Lawfully claimin any Right or title in and to the not an questioning the good king of England in his great justice his Rattefiemg and g the same to the use wee hereby inland and no other whatsoever. In testimony whereof we have according to the English manner set our hands and fixed our seels this 7 of march in the year of our Lord and saviour 1737/8 and in the Eleventh year of the Raigne of our

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Soveraigne Lord the good and great King of England garsq, the Saxkond over England, Scotland, france, and Irland defend of the faith.

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Although the Indian sachems who signed the deed were the natural owners of the land, no Indian titles were ever recognized. Valid titles were obtained only from the Crown or State, and several years later when Stephen Sloat and three other landowners under Indian deeds, petitioned the Crown for confirmation of their titles, they were refused; and, in order to save their lands, the early settlers had to re-purchase their lands from the holders of the patent granted by the Crown

Van Gelder held his land only a few years and on June 13, 1747 gave his tract, by an assignment on the original deed, to his father-in-law, Isaac Van Deusen.

Around 1654, Jan Pietersen Sloat, with his son and daughter, came to this country from Holstein, Holland and settled in Harlem. On January 12, 1663, the son, Pieter, married Marretje Van Winkle and moved to New Amsterdam. Their son, Jacobus, moved his family to property he had obtained in Bergen County, New Jersey, where his grandson, Stephen, was born in 1726.

The descendants of Jan Pietersen Sloat married into many of the prominent Dutch families in New Amsterdam and northern New Jersey and, through dower or purchase, owned large parcels of land in these areas, extending westward to the lower Ramapo valley.

Stephen Sloat was about twenty-eight years old when he married Marritje Van Dusen and settled on his father-in-law's property in the upper Ramapo valley. There he built his home in 1754 and raised his four children, John, Isaac, Elizabeth and Maria.*