

**New Netherland** As you read in Chapter 2, in the early 1600s the Dutch built the colony of New Netherland along the Hudson River in what is now New York State. The colony's largest town, New Amsterdam, was founded on Manhattan Island in 1625. New Amsterdam was built to defend the Dutch West India Company's fur trading settlements along the Hudson River.

Peter Stuyvesant, the colony's governor, expanded New Netherland by taking over the nearby colony of New Sweden in 1655. The Swedes had settled the land along the Delaware River in 1638.

The Dutch West India Company set up the patroon system to attract more settlers. A **patroon** was a person who brought 50 settlers to New Netherland. As a reward, a patroon received a large land grant. He also received hunting, fishing, and fur trading privileges. The patroon system brought great wealth to the colony's elite.

The social system also included many slaves. Although their lives were harsh, they enjoyed some rights of movement and property ownership.

**A Tolerant Society** In the 17th century the Netherlands had one of the most tolerant societies in Europe. Dutch settlers brought this religious toleration to their colony. New Netherland welcomed dissenters who had been banished from Puritan New England. Quakers, German Lutherans, and French Protestants all settled in the colony. Twenty-three Jewish settlers arrived in 1654, and others soon followed. New Netherland soon became known as the most tolerant and diverse colony in North America.

 **CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain what drew settlers to the Middle Colonies.

## The English Take Control

 **KEY QUESTION** How did religious toleration grow in the Middle Colonies?

The English saw the Dutch as a threat. New Netherland lay like a wedge between New England and English colonies in the South. So, King Charles II decided that his brother, the Duke of York, should drive the Dutch out of New Netherland. When the duke's ships appeared off New Amsterdam in August 1664, the colony surrendered. New Netherland was renamed New York after the Duke of York, who became the proprietor of the colony.

**New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware** The Duke of York was now the largest single landowner in America. He gave part of his claim, the province of New Jersey, to his friends Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkeley in 1664. They tried to attract settlers by promising freedom of religion. They also promised large land grants and a representative assembly.

**William Penn** was another landowner. Penn was born into a rich family that had loaned money to Charles II. To pay off this debt, in 1681 the king gave Penn land that came to be called Pennsylvania. The name means "Penn's woods." In 1701, Penn granted the three lower counties their own assembly. The counties became the colony of Delaware.

In his youth, Penn had joined the Quakers, much to his father's disapproval. As you have read, 17th-century Quakers suffered persecution in both