Joseph Ellicott and the Holland Land Company

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Published by Syracuse University Press

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Notes to the Chapters

I. THE GREAT SURVEY

1. Joseph Ellicott to Theophile Cazenove, Sept. 11, 1794, Holland Land Company Papers, hereafter cited as HLC, Sundries Unclassified. Original spellings are retained throughout, and editorial interjection made only where confusion might result.

2. Robert Morris to Thomas Morris and Charles Williamson, Aug. 1, 1797, HLC, Ea #59.

3. Theophile Cazenove to William Bayard, July 19, 1797, HLC, Ea #59.

4. Robert Morris to Theophile Cazenove, Oct. 6, 1795, HLC, Ea #59.


6. Theophile Cazenove to William Bayard, July 19, 1797, HLC, Ea #59.


8. Theophile Cazenove to P. & C. Van Eeghen, undated, probably Sept., 1797, HLC, Ea 218, #60.


13. RJE, I, 21, 22, 25.

14. RJE, I, 21, 29.

15. RJE, I, 42, 47.

16. RJE, I, 48.

II. MANY APPLICANTS, FEW BUYERS

1. James Wadsworth to the Board of Directors, undated but between Sept. 2, 1797 and Oct. 11, 1797, HLC, Written Copybooks.

2. James Wadsworth to Paul Busti, June 18, 1799, HLC, II, 152.


4. Ibid., p. 32.

5. Ibid., p. 38.
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6. Ibid., p. 95.
9. RJE, I, 105. Originally, Ellicott had wanted to name Batavia Bustia or Bustiville in honor of the Agent-General. When Busti objected, Ellicott called it the Bend. Later, Busti suggested the name of Batavia which Ellicott adopted.
12. David A. Ogden to Joseph Ellicott, Nov. 20, 1800, Joseph Ellicott Collection, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society. The Joseph Ellicott Collection will hereafter be cited as JEC.
13. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Feb. 18, 1802, JEC.

III. RELUCTANT POLITICIAN

1. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, Dec. 6, 1803, JEC.
3. Ibid., p. 163.
5. Benjamin Ellicott to Joseph Ellicott, March 8, 1802, JEC.
6. Paul Busti to David A. Ogden, March 11, 1802, JEC.
7. David A. Ogden to Joseph Ellicott, March 3, 1802, JEC. Although the description fits Elkanah Watson, the author lacks conclusive proof that E. Watson was Elkanah Watson. All quotations used in the paragraph were taken from this letter.
8. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, March 1802, JEC.
9. David A. Ogden to Joseph Ellicott, June 18, 1802, JEC.
10. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, March 1802, JEC.
11. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Jan. 22, 1802, JEC.
12. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, April 2, 1803, JEC.
13. New York State Constitution Annotated, New York State Convention Committee (New York: Burland Printing, 1838), I, part II, 15. Article XXIII reads: "That all officers, other than those who by this Constitution, are directed to be otherwise appointed, shall be appointed in the manner following, to wit: The Assembly shall, once in every year, openly nominate and appoint one of the Senators from each great district, which senators shall form a Council for the appointment of the said officers, of which the governor for the time being, or the lieutenant governor, or the president of the senate (which they shall respectively administer the government), shall be president, and have a casting voice, but no other vote, and, with the advice and consent of the said council, shall
appoint all of the said officers; and that a majority of the said council be a quorum; AND FURTHER, the said Senators shall not be eligible to the said council for two years successively."


15. New York State Constitution Annotated, I, part II, 23. Article V reads: "the right to nominate all officers, other than those, who, by the Constitution, are directed to be otherwise appointed, is vested concurrently in the person administering the government of this state for the time being, and in each of the members of the Council of Appointment."

16. New York State Constitution Annotated, Article XXIII.

17. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, April 2, 1803, JEC.

18. RJE, I, 322.


20. RJE, I, 130.

21. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, Dec. 6, 1803, JEC.

22. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, June 22, 1804, JEC.

23. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, June 22, 1804, JEC.

24. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, June 22, 1804, JEC.

25. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, June 4, 1802, JEC.

26. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, June 4, 1802, JEC.


28. Lemuel Chipman to Joseph Ellicott, March 18, 1802, JEC.

29. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, June 5, 1804, JEC.

IV. THE BIG FAMILY

1. Andrew Ellicott to Joseph Ellicott, March 12, 1804, JEC.


7. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, March 9, 1804, JEC.

8. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, Feb. 20, 1804, JEC.

9. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, June 22, 1804, JEC.

10. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, June 22, 1804, JEC.

11. Western Repository, July 17, 1804.

12. Transcript of the Original Records of the Town of Batavia, p. 31.

13. James Mower to Joseph Ellicott, May 27, 1804, JEC.

14. Henry Dearborn to Paul Busti, Jan. 16, 1804, JEC.

15. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, Feb. 8, 1804, JEC.

16. Alexander Rea to Joseph Ellicott, Jan. 10, 1801, JEC.

17. Alexander Rea to Joseph Ellicott, Dec. 22, 1804, JEC.

18. Alexander Rea to Joseph Ellicott, Feb. 3, 1804, JEC.

19. David Evans to Joseph Ellicott, Feb. 5, 1819, JEC.
V. ROADS AND THE UNHAPPY TAXPAYER

2. David Eason to Joseph Ellicott, 1808, JEC. No exact date given.
5. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Oct. 27, 1806, JEC.
6. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, July 15, 1812, JEC.
7. Pomfret Assessment Rolls, 1810–1823. When the legislature created Chautauqua County in 1808, the town of Pomfret was formed from the Town of Chautauqua. These rolls spelled out in detail the road building of the settlers and are kept at the Town Clerk’s Office, Fredonia, New York.
8. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Nov. 17, 1803, JEC.
9. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Nov. 17, 1803, JEC.
10. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Dec. 5, 1805, JEC.
11. RJE, I, 287.
12. RJE, I, 289.
13. RJE, I, 286.
14. RJE, I, 287.
15. The author was unable to locate what the Company had paid in taxes for 1806. According to Ellicott’s Annual Report of 1807 in the Reports of Joseph Ellicott, I, 345, Ellicott explained without citing figures that the 1807 tax exceeded that of the previous year. Since this increase amounted to about $100 over the 1805 figure, the 1806 taxes were probably similar to those of 1805.
16. RJE, II, 140.
17. RJE, I, 390–92. The State of Pennsylvania taxed the Company lands the monied equivalent of the highway tax.
18. RJE, II, 58.

VI. AN EXPANDING POPULATION

4. G. Hunter Bartlett, “Andrew and Joseph Ellicott” (Buffalo: Buffalo Historical Society Publications, XXVI, 1922), 28, 29n. The Ellicott building was demolished in 1887 to make room for constructing a new street, Dellinger Avenue.
6. Le Comte de Colbert Maulevrier, *Voyage dans L'Intérieur des Etats-Unis et Au Canada* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1935), p. 50. "Mr. Ellicott sentant que la Cie Hollandaise pourrait un jour tirer un grand advantage de cette situation, a persuadé aux Indiens de ne pas comprendre cet endroit dans le terrain qu'ils se sont réservés." Translated, it would read: "Mr. Ellicott, feeling that the Holland Company could one day gain a great advantage from this situation, persuaded the Indians not to include this place in the territory that they have reserved.

7. Robert W. Bingham, *The Cradle of the Queen City* (Buffalo: Buffalo Historical Society Publications, XXXI, 1931), p. 183. Using the same order, those streets in Buffalo are today named Main (to Shelton Square), Main (north of Shelton Square), Niagara, Erie, Church, Genesee, and Court.


9. JEC, II, 42.


11. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, July 31, 1802, JEC.

12. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, May 17, 1804, JEC.


15. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, May 17, 1805, JEC.

16. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, May 22, 1806, JEC.

17. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, May 22, 1806, JEC.

18. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Aug. 15, 1806, JEC.

19. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Jan. 9, 1807, JEC.

20. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Jan. 9, 1807, JEC.

21. RJE, I, 373.

22. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, July 9, 1807, JEC.

23. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Feb. 6, 1808, JEC.


25. Joseph Ellicott to Alexander Rea, Feb. 1808, JEC.


29. Daniel Tompkins to Joseph Ellicott, June 29, 1808, JEC.

30. Joseph Ellicott to Asa Ransom, July 12, 1808, JEC.

VII. THE WAR OF 1812


2. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, June 9, 1810, JEC.

3. RJE, I, 394.

4. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, June 9, 1810, JEC.

5. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Aug. 26, 1809, JEC.


7. Jeremiah Munson to Benjamin Ellicott, April 16, 1806, JEC.

8. A. Dox to Peter Porter, March 28, 1812; John C. Spencer to Peter Porter, Feb. 23, 1812; Jonathan Woodbury to Peter Porter, July 6, 1812; Daniel Tompkins to Peter Porter, May 29, 1812; Daniel Goodwin to Peter Porter, May 14, 1812. All these letters are in the Peter B. Porter Papers, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.


10. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Sept. 19, 1809, JEC.

11. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Aug. 7, 1811, JEC.

12. *Annals of the Congress of the United States* (Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1853), 12 Cong, 1 sess., Nov. 29, 1811, 416. Henry Adams, who described the debate in detail in his *History of the United States*, VI, 133–53, had small respect for Peter Porter and pictured him thus: “Such ideas were not unbecoming to Porter, who began life as a Federalist, and had no philosophical theories or recorded principles to explain or defend,” VI, 137.


14. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, April 1812, JEC.

15. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, May 20, 1812, JEC.


17. Joseph Ellicott to the inhabitants of Allegheny County, June 30, 1812, JEC.

18. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, July 7, 1812, JEC.

19. William Peacock to Joseph Ellicott, Oct. 27, 1812, JEC.

20. Joseph Ellicott to Alexander Rea, June 29, 1812, JEC.

21. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, March 23, 1813, JEC.

22. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, July 15, 1812, JEC.

23. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, March 23, 1813, JEC.


25. All quotations in the paragraph were drawn from Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, March 25, 1813, JEC.

26. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, June 3, 1812, JEC.


28. All quotations in the paragraph were taken from Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Jan. 5, 1814, JEC.


30. Joseph Ellicott to George Izard, Nov. 18, 1814, JEC.

31. George Izard to Joseph Ellicott, Nov. 21, 1814, JEC.

VIII. THE BANK OF NIAGARA


NOTES TO THE CHAPTERS


6. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, July 18, 1810, JEC.
7. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, July 15, 1812, JEC.
8. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, March 25, 1813, JEC.
9. Chauncey Loomis to Joseph Ellicott, Feb. 27, 1815, JEC.
10. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Oct. 21, 1814, JEC.
11. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Nov. 14, 1814, JEC.
12. All the quotations in this paragraph come from Joseph Ellicott to Chauncey Loomis, Feb. 14, 1816, JEC.
14. Joseph Ellicott to Chauncey Loomis, Feb. 14, 1816, JEC.
16. Peter Porter to Augustus Porter, June 2, 1816, Augustus Porter Papers, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.
17. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, May 19, 1819, JEC.
18. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Jan. 31, 1817, JEC.
19. Joseph Ellicott to William Peacock, March 7, 1817, JEC.
20. William Peacock to Joseph Ellicott, July 10, 1818, JEC.
21. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, May 19, 1819, JEC.
22. All the quotations in this paragraph were drawn from Archibald S. Clarke to Joseph Ellicott, July 26, 1818, JEC.
23. Board of Directors to Joseph Ellicott, July 3, 1818, JEC.
24. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Aug. 24, 1818, JEC.
25. Archibald S. Clarke to Joseph Ellicott, Sept. 2, 1818, JEC.
26. William Peacock to Joseph Ellicott, Sept. 25, 1818, JEC.
27. Archibald S. Clarke to Joseph Ellicott, Oct. 2, 1818, JEC.
28. William Peacock to Joseph Ellicott, Nov. 24, 1818, JEC.
29. Joseph Ellicott to Ebenezer Johnston, Jan. 12, 1819, JEC.
30. Joseph Ellicott to David Evans, Jan. 13, 1819, JEC.
31. William Peacock to Joseph Ellicott, Jan. 26, 1819, JEC.
33. Joseph Ellicott to David Evans, Feb. 1, 1819, JEC.
34. David Evans to Joseph Ellicott, Feb. 5, 1819, JEC.
35. Joseph Ellicott to William Peacock, March 26, 1819, JEC.
36. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, March 19, 1819, JEC.

IX. THE GRAND CANAL


10. Thomas Eddy to Joseph Ellicott, July 10, 1812, *Canal Correspondence*, pp. 24n, 25, 26. Thomas Eddy wrote to Joseph Ellicott: “The amount in Land that other large proprietors may be induced to grant to the State, will depend very much on what your Company may agree to contribute. If the whole should amount to something considerable, there is no doubt the Legislature would agree to commence the work—but it is, in truth, so materially and decidedly your interest to make a handsome & liberal offer, that there can be no doubt of your doing equal to our expectation—if unfortunately you should fall short of what might reasonably be expected from you, the whole plan would be frustrated.”


13. DeWitt Clinton to Joseph Ellicott, April 4, 1816, DeWitt Clinton Papers, Columbia University. Clinton had marked this letter “confidential.”


17. Joseph Ellicott to Samuel Young, Oct. 24, 1816, *Canal Correspondence*, p. 73.


25. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, Feb. 22, 1817, *ibid.*, p. 120.


27. DeWitt Clinton to Joseph Ellicott, April 16, 1817, *Canal Correspondence*, p. 124.

29. DeWitt Clinton to Joseph Ellicott, Sept. 25, 1818, ibid., p. 144.
30. Joseph Ellicott to DeWitt Clinton, April 2, 1818, JEC.
31. DeWitt Clinton to Joseph Ellicott, May 2, 1818, Canal Correspondence, p. 138.
33. DeWitt Clinton to Joseph Ellicott, Feb. 3, 1816, JEC.
34. All quotations in this paragraph came from William Peacock to Joseph Ellicott, Jan. 18, 1819, Canal Correspondence, pp. 149, 151, 154.
35. Joseph Ellicott to William Peacock, Feb. 15, 1819, JEC.
36. Laws of the State of New York, 42nd Sess., Chap. 104, April 7, 1819, 121.
37. Both quotations in the paragraph were taken from Oliver Forward, Samuel Wilkeson, George Coit, Charles Townsend to Paul Busti, April 30, 1820, C. W. Evans Papers.

X. “GIVE IN YOUR DEMISSION YOURSELF”
5. Philip Church to Paul Busti, April 13, 1822, HLC, II, #134.
7. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Nov. 2, 1819, JEC.
8. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Nov. 2, 1819, JEC.
9. Archibald S. Clarke to Joseph Ellicott, Nov. 2, 1819, JEC.
10. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Nov. 2, 1819, JEC.
12. Joseph Ellicott to Samuel Hopkins, Jan. 15, 1816, JEC.
13. Joseph Ellicott to Chauncey Loomis, Jan. 27, 1817, JEC.
14. All quotations in the paragraph were drawn from Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Dec. 13, 1819, JEC.
15. The three quotations in the paragraph came from the Niagara Journal, the first, Dec. 7, 1819; the other two, Dec. 14, 1819.
16. David Evans to Joseph Ellicott, Feb. 17, 1820, JEC.
17. Paul Busti to David Evans, March 2, 1820, C. W. Evans Papers.
22. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, June 30, 1803, JEC.
23. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, July 29, 1803, JEC.
25. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, March 7, 1820, JEC.
26. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, March 21, 1820, JEC.
27. Oliver Forward to James Sheldon, April 2, 1820, James Sheldon Papers, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.
30. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, Nov. 3, 1802, JEC.
31. Louis LeCouteulx to Joseph Ellicott, April 17, 1808, JEC.
32. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Aug. 21, 1807, JEC.
33. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, Feb. 2, 1804, JEC.
34. Circular, April 11, 1805, HLC, Eb 191 #106.
35. Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, Jan. 26, 1806, HLC, Eb 191 #106.
36. Quotations in this and the previous four paragraphs were drawn from Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, Feb. 21, 1820, HLC, Eb 191 #107.
37. Both quotations in the paragraph came from Paul Busti to David Evans, Feb. 2, 1820, C. W. Evans Papers.
38. Memorial to Paul Busti, March 10, 1821, HLC, Sundries, #13.
39. Martin Van Buren to Paul Busti, March 12, 1821, HLC, Miscellaneous, II.
40. Paul Busti to Van Eeghen & Co., Dec. 15, 1820, HLC, Eb 193 #84.
41. Quotations in this and the previous four paragraphs were taken from Paul Busti to Joseph Ellicott, April 9, 1821, HLC, Copybooks 35.
42. Joseph Ellicott to William Peacock, June 1, 1821, JEC.
43. Joseph Ellicott to Paul Busti, May 9, 1821, JEC.
44. Joseph Ellicott to William Peacock, June 1, 1821, JEC.
45. Jacob Otto to John J. Vanderkemp, Jan. 27, 1825, HLC, II, 171.
46. Paul Busti to Jacob Otto, Dec. 6, 1821, HLC, Letterbooks 77.
47. Jacob Otto to John J. Vanderkemp, Nov. 25, 1821, HLC, Copybooks 73.