

The Schenck family claims a remote antiquity, tracing its descent through the Barons of Tautenberg to A. D. 330, and is said to have derived its name from Edgar Deschencken, chief butler to Charlemagne, Emperor of Germany and France, who about 798, granted to Edgar a title of nobility and assigned him a coat of arms. Be this as it may, Roelof Martence Schenck, of Dossberg, Province of Guilderland, Holland, came to America in 1650, and purchased a farm on which he resided the rest of his life, at Flatlands L. I. He was several times Justice of the Peace, also Schepen or Judge, and was appointed by Gov. Leisler Captain of the Kings County cavalry. Neeltje Gerretse Van Couwenhoven, his wife, was a grand-daughter of Wolfert Gerretse Van Couwenhoven the progenitor of the Couwenhoven or, as it is frequently written at the present day, the Conover family of America. He emigrated in 1640, from Amersfoort, Province of Utrecht, Holland, with the colonists who settled at Rensselaerwyck, near Albany, N. Y., and subsequently purchased the westernmost flats on Long Island and founded the town of Flatlands.