once again fallen into disuse, and the official adoption of the nickname, Buttermilk Channel, which was in common use to designate the little waterway between the island and Brooklyn. The passing years had seen this shallow creek widen and deepen itself until it afforded an avenue to the New Amsterdam market by rowboat. Farm women from Long Island used the creek to carry their goods.

Since one of their chief products was buttermilk, it was inevitable that the stream be called Buttermilk Channel, and so it is to this day.

But for some strange reason the astute Stuyvesant, in company with his predecessors, utterly failed to appreciate the most vital of all the natural advantages that Nutten Island offered to the little Dutch colony — the strategic importance of its location in protecting the city behind it, against possible hostile attack and invasion. Although the island commanded all the water approaches available to enemy action, no fortifications were ever built on the island by the Dutch, nor even planned. In fact, there is no record of any member of the small military garrison in New Amsterdam having ever set foot on Nutten Island.

Consequently, in 1664 when Charles II of England decided to press his country's claim to ownership of the New Netherlands colony, by right of original discovery by the seafaring Cabots, four British frigates and three hundred men had no trouble whatever in taking possession of the city. Colonel Richard Nicolls was installed as its first British governor, and its name of New Amsterdam was changed to New York, in honor of the king's brother, the Duke of York.

After a quiet and happy regime of four years, Nicolls was replaced by Francis Lovelace who held office until 1675, when the Dutch unexpectedly showed up with a formidable fleet and force of armed men, and regained possession of their lost New Netherlands. The province resumed its original name, but the city changed from New York to New Orange, instead of reverting to New Amsterdam. Then, less than a year later, the British and Dutch successfully settled their differences without further resort to force. The province and city once more became New York, the Dutch soldiers marched out of Fort Amsterdam for the last time, and the patriotic toast of the town was "God save the King" — instead of "Oranje boven." And through it all, Nutten Island remained Nutten Island, "a very pleasant place with a garden and several walks of fruited trees," tranquilly waiting there in the bay for someone to turn the next page of its history.