

# De Nieu Nederlandse Mercurius



Vol. 34 No. 3

“De Nieu Nederlandse Mercurius”

September 2018

## Events of Interest

**September 21, 2018.** A lecture by Julie van den Hout, author of *Adriaen van der Donck, A Dutch Rebel in Seventeenth-Century America*, published by the State University of New York Press (2018). This is the first biography of the young legal activist, an important yet understudied figure in New Netherland, whose fight to secure the struggling colony made him a controversial but pivotal figure in early America. Program begins at 6:30 pm at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site in Yonkers, New York. Admission is free. See the Facebook event page.

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**September 22, 2018.** The 41st Annual Conference of the New Netherland Institute will convene in Albany at the New York State Museum this month. This year's title is “Conflict and Collaboration in the New World.” The conference will feature seven presentations by scholars of New Netherland and the Dutch Atlantic: Jason R. Sellers, University of Mary Washington, “Colonization and the Disruption of the Hudson Valley's Native Landscape;” Shaun Sayres, Clark University, “A Dangerous Liberty?: Dutch-Mohawk Relations

and the Colonial Gunpowder Trade;” Amy Ransford, Indiana University, “Unsettled: New Netherland and the Case for Slowing Down Histories of Colonial America;” Danny Noorlander, SUNY Oneonta, “‘He Deserves to Be Severely Punished’: The Banishment and Deportation of Criminals, Political Enemies, and Religious Outsiders in New Netherland, 1638–1664;” Timo McGregor, New York University, “Fugitives and Anglo-Dutch Collaboration in 17th Century America;” Artyom Anikin, University of Amsterdam, “Many Strangers Passing: Demographic Shifts in the New Orange Period;” and Willem Klooster, Clark University, “The Afterlife of an Empire: The Second Dutch Atlantic, 1680–1815.” NNI's annual dinner will follow the event. Visit our website or give us a call to register.

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**September 23, 2018.** A lecture by Julie van den Hout, author of *Adriaen van der Donck, A Dutch Rebel in Seventeenth-Century America*. Program begins at 2:00 pm at the Albany Institute of History and Art. Included with museum admission (\$10). See [albany-institute.org](http://albany-institute.org).

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**October 5–7, 2018.** The Dutch Heritage Festival in Rhinebeck, New York is a three-day event sponsored by the Old Dutch Reformed Church of Rhinebeck. This event will celebrate the history and contributions of the Dutch in the Hudson Valley. Friday, October 5th is a three-course *prix fixe* dinner at the Beekman Arms Tavern. Festivities continue on Saturday, October 6th with the Apple Festival at the Old Dutch Reformed Church of Rhinebeck. Finally, on Sunday, October 7th enjoy the friendly confines of the Old Dutch Reformed Church as the service is conducted in both Dutch and English.

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**October 16, 2018.** “The Dutch in Us: The Remarkable Influence of the Netherlands on New York and Beyond,” a lecture by Russell Shorto. Discover how a mid-17th century Dutch colony in Manhattan established the foundation for many of America's core values, including individual rights, religious freedom, and free trade. Shorto is the author of *The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan & the Forgotten Colony That Shaped America*. Free and open to the public at the Dutchess Community College, James and

Betty Hall theater, Dutchess Hall. Visitors are advised to park in Lot D. (GPS address: 90 Cottage Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601) The program begins at 7 pm.

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**October 24th, 2018.** Hofstra University will mark the 25th anniversary of its oldest international student exchange program with a symposium entitled “New Netherland, New Amsterdam: A Celebration of Dutch Heritage and Transatlantic Exchange.” Russell Shorto will deliver the keynote address and NNI/NNRC will host a panel discussion.

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**October 26, 2018.** New York Genealogical & Biographical Society Benefit Luncheon featuring Russell Shorto. The NYG&B, which has been preserving, documenting, and sharing the stories of New York’s families since 1869, invites you and your friends to join them on October 26 for their annual Fall Benefit Luncheon, featuring a talk by award-winning author Russell Shorto, whose books include the bestselling *Island at the Center of the World* and, most recently, *Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom*. Mr. Shorto will discuss those subjects as well as his current research interest: his own family. In the process, he will talk about similarities and differences between writing history and family history, and the unique challenges of the latter. He will also be available to sign copies of his books. The program will begin at 12:30 pm at the Down Town Association, 60 Pine St., NYC, in the Wainwright Room. Register at [bit.ly/2LGpTFJ](http://bit.ly/2LGpTFJ).

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**November 15–17, 2018.** Celebrate New York History Month at the annual Researching New York Conference. The conference meets annually in November, bringing together historians, archivists, public historians, graduate students, museum curators, teachers, documentarians, and more to share their work on New York State history. This year SUNY Albany will partner with the Archives Partnership Trust to present a single expanded 2018 conference exploring all aspects of New York State history. The event will be held primarily at SUNY Albany’s uptown campus. See [nystatehistory.org](http://nystatehistory.org).

### Save the Date(s)

**May 10, 2019.** Descendants of New Netherlanders are a large and enthusiastic part of NNI’s growing membership. With this in mind, we are planning a New Netherland family history/genealogy workshop for next year in Albany. The event—which will feature consultations with professional genealogists and talks on using New Netherland’s records in your family research—promises to be an excellent opportunity to meet and chat with fellow descendants of New Netherlanders.

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**May–June 2019.** New Netherland lecture series. We are currently working with several speakers and venues to plan a series of lectures on New Netherland-related topics in New York’s Capital Region, Hudson Valley, and New York City in the spring of 2019. If you would like to sponsor a talk (monetarily, including naming rights), or even

the whole series, please send an email or give us a call. We are also open to suggestions on venues and speakers.

### Websites

Wampumchronicles.com is an impressive site, containing everything Iroquoian from past to present. I’ll let the creator and author, Darren Bonaparte [Sakoiatentha], describe it in his own words: “I have been a student of Haudenosaunee history and culture for more than a quarter century. My research began with my home community of Akwesasne, and quickly expanded to the Mohawk Nation and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The St. Lawrence Iroquoians and the Seven Nations of Canada are also big blips on my research radar. I have documented the lives of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Colonel Louis Cook, and Saiowisakeron, also known as Jake Ice and John Fire. The Wampum Chronicles has been my online base since the last millennium. This is where I post articles I have written and documents I have gathered. It is also where I promote my books, wampum presentations, storytelling gigs, and other projects. You can keep track of updates here by liking the Wampum Chronicles Facebook page. See a graphic you’d like to borrow? Want to book a presentation? Got a history question? Have a wampum belt, treaty, Indian peace medal, or a painting of a black officer from the Rev War or the War of 1812 in your attic? I’m your guy.”

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You are invited to check out the new blog, [17thCenturyDutch](http://17thCenturyDutch).

com, with resources for researchers learning to read seventeenth-century Dutch. The blog includes tips on grammar and orthography, handwriting guides, manuscripts for paleography practice, links to dictionaries and courses, and a forum feature for posting questions. Once a month, the blog will also showcase a seventeenth-century text or topic. The blog's author, Julie van den Hout, started the blog after finding it difficult to connect with others working with seventeenth-century Dutch texts. The blog creates a space for researchers to find support and exchange information. No subscription is required. Everyone is welcome at [17thCenturyDutch.com](http://17thCenturyDutch.com).

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[Heardutchhere.net](http://Heardutchhere.net). If you are learning Dutch, here's an entertaining and informative website that will keep you busy. On the site you will be able to hear tens of thousands of Dutch words and thousands of phrases; study Dutch vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar; read and listen to Dutch texts (with English translation); hear more than a thousand Dutch names; and read about Dutch history and culture.

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[Hearabouthere.com](http://Hearabouthere.com). The world around us is full of hidden historical gems and this site will tell you all about them in three minutes or less. You can hear stories about people, places, and events that happened nearby using the GPS on your smartphone. Visit to hear Janny Venema on the "Beverwijk Poor House" and "Patroon's House" and Charles Gehring on "Fort Orange."

## Research News

The Tracing History Trust of Cape Town, South Africa has announced the availability on CD of transcriptions of the following colonial records: 1) Resolutions of the Council of Policy of the Cape of Good Hope (1651–1795)—fully transcribed. A comprehensive introduction (English and Afrikaans) and a Glossary in Afrikaans. 2) Cape Transcripts, containing inventories of intestate wills, auction rolls, estate *accounts*, *Bandietenrollen*, VOC Muster Rolls. An introduction for each section in *English*. 3) Vrijboek Lists: 15 volumes photographed in the Nationaal Archief, The Hague and locally transcribed *plus Lijst van het Corps Pennisten* transcribed. An introduction in English. 4) VOC-*Dagregisters*, 4 CDs of images and transcriptions of the years 1680, 1686, 1687, 1692, 1695, 1699, 1700, 1704, 1706, 1709, 1713, 1714, and 1789. Each CD provides an introduction in English. The complete set of CDs is available for use at the New Netherland Research Center. See [tracinghistorytrust.co.za/products.htm](http://tracinghistorytrust.co.za/products.htm).

## Podcasts

In the July episode (#012) of NNI's "New Netherland Praatjes" podcast, author and museum curator Steve Jaffe chats with NNI's Steve McErleane and Russell Shorto about Jaffe's work on the "New York at Its Core" exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York, a new installation that attempts to answer the question "What makes New York New York?" In the August episode (#013), historian Peter Van Cleave chats with Steve and Russell about nineteenth-century scholar

Francis Adrian van der Kemp and Van der Kemp's much-maligned attempt to translate the records of New Netherland ca. 1820.

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Historians David Furlow and Lisa Pennington appeared on the podcast "Interwoven" by Plimoth Plantation for the episode "Isaac Allerton: Mayflower, Merchant, and Magistrate in the 17th-century Atlantic World." A passenger on the Mayflower, Allerton later became an influential figure in New Netherland.

## Awards News

Congratulations to Wim Klooster, Reinoud Vermoesen, and Rogier van Kooten. Klooster will be awarded the Annual Hendricks Award at NNI's September 22nd annual dinner for his book *The Dutch Moment: War, Trade, and Settlement in the Seventeenth-Century Atlantic World*. Vermoesen and Van Kooten will receive the 2018 Clague and Carol Van Slyke Article Prize at the annual dinner for their article "Peasants' Paradise: A Comparison of Kings County, New York, and Inland Flanders Economies in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," in the Spring 2017 issue of *de Halve Maen*, published by the Holland Society of New York.

## Publications

*An Ocean Between: The 1646 Journey of Lysbeth Michielsen* by Ann L. Messecar is a novel for young adults and maybe grownups who need to have their backbones stiffened. As stated on the back of this affordable paperback: "Sometimes life surprises us with a different path than the one we

expect ... Worn-torn Bavaria. 1646. When 15-year-old Lysbeth Michielsen makes a terrible mistake that puts her brother in danger, she has no idea how far she'll go to fix it. Her perilous escape takes her to the city of Amsterdam, across the stormy Atlantic, and through the beautiful but deadly Caribbean. A determined Lysbeth may dream of becoming refined and educated, but that doesn't stop the farm girl from brawling with street urchins or dressing like a cabin boy to protect the people she loves ... As they sail toward New Amsterdam with Petrus Stuyveant, last Dutch director of New Netherland, Lysbeth will find some unlikely allies in Stuyvesant's powerful sister and a scheming widow." And this is just the beginning of her adventures.

### Totidem Verbis

*A Veritable Bontekoe Journey*  
By Peter A. Douglas  
(part one)



At some point in the last 350 years, the expression *een reis van Bontekoe* [a Bontekoe journey] entered the Dutch language. It signifies a journey or enterprise that meets with unusually bad luck or significant obstacles. However, there is no connotation of failure here—on the

contrary, it implies that the difficulties were overcome. The “Bontekoe” of the phrase is a Dutch East India Company (VOC) skipper called Willem Ysbrandtzoon Bontekoe.

Bontekoe was born in Hoorn in 1587 into a seafaring family. In 1618 he enlisted in the service of the VOC and embarked on his first voyage in December 1618 as captain of the *Nieuw Hoorn*. The destination was Java by way of the Cape of Good Hope and Madagascar. It is from the account of his shipwreck on this voyage and subsequent exploits that Bontekoe's lasting celebrity derives.

Disaster struck the *Nieuw Hoorn* near Sumatra on November 19, 1619, when the steward's mate set fire to a cask of brandy by carelessly dropping a lit candlewick into the bunghole. The fire spread and threatened the store of gunpowder aboard. Attempts to douse the fire were unsuccessful, and Bontekoe ordered the powder to be thrown overboard. The task was begun, but the fire reached the 300 barrels of powder remaining on board, and “the ship burst into a hundred thousand pieces,” as Bontekoe would later recount. Luckily the ship's longboat and shallow were already in the sea being towed, so many of the crew had abandoned the ship for these vessels before the explosion and were thus saved. The explosion blew Bontekoe into the sea and, wounded in the head, he clung to the shattered main mast before being taken aboard the longboat.

Seventy-two men survived the wreck, and 119 were lost. It was several weeks before the survivors found rescue. They were cold by night and in the blazing sun by day.

They made sails from their shirts, which they took down to catch water when it rained. They had bread, which soon ran out, but no water, though the fortunate arrival of seagulls and later flying fish provided a little welcome food. They drank their own urine, and against Bontekoe's advice some drank seawater. They even flirted with cannibalism, but that temptation was put aside when they arrived at an island abundant with coconut palms. During one landfall they encountered hostile natives, who killed sixteen of the crew.

In time the remaining fifty-six survivors arrived at the Sunda Strait between Sumatra and Java. A crewman who had climbed the mast shouted down that he could see ships. They turned out to be Dutch ships, commanded by the explorer Frederick Houtman, who had spotted the survivors and sent out a longboat to investigate. Bontekoe and the merchant Heyn Rol went aboard Houtman's ship, the *Maagd van Dordrecht*, and told of their adventures. Houtman provided a boat to take Bontekoe and Rol to Batavia, where they arrived the following morning at the residence of Governor-General Jan Pieterzoon Coen.



The Explosion of the Ship of Captain Bontekoe

[to be continued]