

# De Nieuw Nederlanse Maurcurius



Vol. 16, No. 3

"De Nieuw Nederlanse Maurcurius"

August 2000

## Upcoming Events

September 16, 2000. Rensselaerswijck Seminar xxiii, "New Light on New Netherland." The one-day conference will focus this year on the recovery of Dutch colonial history through new sources and new interpretations of old sources. The five speakers will be: Janny Venema, "Indians in Arnhem? The Court Proceedings of Brant van Slichtenhorst"; Evan Haefeli, "Leislerians in Boston: Some Rare Dutch Colonial Correspondence"; Firth Haring Fabend, "New Light on New Netherland's Legacy to the Religious Culture of New York and New Jersey"; Simon Groenveld, "New Light on a Drowned Princess. Information from London"; and Susanah Shaw, "New Subjects from Old Sources: Finding the Women of New Netherland." Before the afternoon session begins, the Hendricks Manuscript Award will be presented to this year's winner, Dr. Cynthia Van Zandt for her dissertation entitled "Negotiating Settlement: Colonialism, Cultural Exchange, and Conflict in Early Colonial Atlantic North America, 1580-1660." As in past years the proceedings will take place at the Museum Theater of the Cultural Education Center of

the Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY. Pre-registration is \$25, at the door \$30. To pre-register send \$25 with your name, address and affiliation to: The New Netherland Project, New York State Library, Albany, NY 12230. NB: This year everything will start one hour later. The Museum Theater will be open for registration and coffee at 9:30 instead of the traditional 8:30. The morning session will begin at 10:30 sharp.

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September 21-October 6, 2000. The Capital Region Teacher Center and the Albany Visitors Center present "An Invitation to Experience the Half Moon, the replica of Henry Hudson's ship." Student tours of the Half Moon start with an orientation film about Hudson's voyage up the river and the development of Albany in the 17th century starting with the Dutch establishment of Fort Orange. Come aboard the ship and explore authentic equipment of the time. Talk with docents about important historical perspectives involving the trip up the Hudson. This program would be most appropriate for teachers of 4th and 7th grades--those with a strong interest in the history of New York State. Tours can be reserved from September 21

through October 6. To reserve a tour for your class in the fall, call Pat Munsell at the Albany Visitors Center, 518/434-0405.

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October 14, 2000. Join the Ommegang Brewery crew under the big tent south of Cooperstown for a free performance by the acclaimed Catskill Puppet Theater, savor the freshly baked waffles, Ommegang sausages, cider, beer and Belgian music. This outdoor celebration takes place at the height of leaf peeping season. The puppets are a major hit with the children so by all means bring



OMMEGANG

them along and make a day of it. Ommegang is the only Brewery in America dedicated to producing all bottle-conditioned Belgian style ales. Cooperstown, thought of more often as the home to Amer-

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ica's favorite pastime, was once the center of a bustling hop economy. Brewery Ommegang was

built on the foundation of one of Otsego counties largest hop farms. Attendees at the annual NNP din-

ner on 16 September will be treated to a sampling of Ommegang's products! For brewery

### FNN News

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We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all members and contributors herein listed for their support of the New Netherland Project. This acknowledgment reflects donations from January 23, 1999, through June 30, 2000. Foundations, corporate donors, organizations and institutions appear in italics. Donations received after the closing date until July 1, 2001, will be recognized in the August *Marcurius* of that year, and on a yearly basis thereafter.

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tour information, other events and directions call 1-800-656-1212 or visit [www.ommegang.com](http://www.ommegang.com).

## News

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of **Eric Nooter** at age 50. Eric died peacefully at home at 5:34 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, 2000, after a courageous battle with brain cancer. Eric was known to most of you for a series of excellent exhibitions on New Netherland culture, as well as for his doctoral dissertation, "Between Heaven and Earth: Church and Society in Pre-Revolutionary Flatbush, Long Island" (Vrije Universiteit, 1994) for which he won the 1995 Hendricks Award. Eric leaves his wonderful wife Patty Dann and their four-year-old son, Jake, as well as three sisters in the Netherlands.

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We frequently are reminded about how difficult it is to find Dutch-related historical materials west of the Mississippi. For our friends living in California The Nederlof Historical Library may be just what you have been looking for. The library was founded in 1939 and during the German occupation of Holland (1940-45) became a center for prohibited books, and the creation of maps (mapmaking of the war zones was also severely restricted by the German authorities) and the publishing of underground political newsletters and pamphlets. After World War II, partly prompted by a 'nationalistic' revival in Dutch History - probably the reaction to the restrictions of

the war years - the library concentrated on Dutch and Dutch colonial history in the broadest sense. After the library moved to the US some 30 years ago, first New Jersey and later to California, the emphasis shifted towards the relations between Holland and the United States from 1500 to the present. The library is strictly a 'research' one. Apart from a strong cartography section, another prime interest is languages and their usage, from *Middel Nederlands* to American 'Slanguage' and everything in between. The last few years some (growing) support is also given to genealogists and 'heritage' seekers. Not by delving into church or city records, but by providing background information like historical facts, dates and 'period descriptions' to add additional luster to the rapidly growing number of family trees all over the world. The library consists of over 5000 books, many dating back to the 16th and 17th Century with over 1,500,000 pages of information as well as some 2,000,000 pages of information in digital format. The map section covers over 2000 maps, and is presently being re-organized as far as the cataloguing is concerned. A web site <[www.nhlibrary.org](http://www.nhlibrary.org)> is 'under construction,' and hopefully active before October 1st. It will, apart from regular essays on Dutch-American History, also figure book reviews and 'Map-of-the-Month' sections, and provide a free information service about anything "Dutch." Its activities will be limited only by the time and the number of volunteers available.

The Nederlof Historical Library

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web: [www.nhlibrary.org](http://www.nhlibrary.org)

The library is a member of the ALA, the Netherlands America Foundation, a Friend of the Holland Society, the San Diego Chapter of the SLA, the *Stichting Ons Erfdeel*, the Netherlands American Chamber of Commerce (LA), the Dutch American Heritage Association (LA) etc.

## Publications

Meet Firth Fabend author of *Zion on the Hudson--Dutch New York and New Jersey in the Age of Rivalry* at a booksigning sponsored by South Street Seaport Museum in the Whitman Gallery on 209 Water Street, New York on September 14 at 6: p.m.

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No doubt you have one time or the other heard reference to the "tulip craze" in 17th-century Netherlands. If you are looking for a highly readable and informative book on the subject, then I recommend Mike Dash's *Tulipo Mania*, which puts the flower and the craze in its botanical and cultural contexts respectively. Remember, if ordering through Amazon, please enter through the NNP website's <book store>, so that we receive credit.

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A question frequently asked at the NNP concerns music. Did the set-

tlers have musical instruments? What songs did they sing? etc. Unfortunately, the corpus of administrative records, which we are translating, contains reference to neither instruments nor songs, with the exception of drums in conjunction with the announcement of proclamations, horns to signal the opening of a bakery, and Jew's harps to trade with the Indians. It is almost certain that they brought over lutes, recorders and other instruments, and sang songs popular at the time. The latter assumption can now be easily approached through the publication of *Wilhelmus en de anderen, Neder-*

*landse liedjes 1500-1700*. Wilhelmus [Dutch national anthem] and the others [songs]. This very attractive publication not only places a variety of songs in their historical context but also comes with a CD. It is published by Amsterdam University Press. ISBN: 90-5356-440-3

### Reunions

The Van Voorhees Association announces its annual reunion on October 7th at the Highland Park, NJ Reformed Church. The featured speaker will be Peter Christoph. For more information consult the web site: <[www.vanvoorhees.org](http://www.vanvoorhees.org)>

or email Scott Voorhees at [svorhees@aol.com](mailto:svorhees@aol.com).

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The Fishkill Historical Society has arranged a get-together for the descendants of Cornelis Barentse Van Wyck and Anna Polhemus and those of Martin Van Wyck of New Jersey. It is to be held on the weekend of October 7, 2000 at the Van Wyck Homestead Museum in Fishkill, NY. Contact Roy Jorgensen at 914/896-9560 or email: [royjorg@aol.com](mailto:royjorg@aol.com) to make reservations.

### Totidem Verbis

This issue continues the four-part listing of Dutch-related placenames, mostly contributed by Coen Blaauw. Corrections cited for the previous installment are Greenwich, NY and Harlem, NY, neither of which are on Long Island but in Connecticut and on Manhattan respectively.

PRIMEHOOK (DE). - A navigational point along the upper Hudson originally called *Pruime hoek* meaning "plum hook" from the occurrence of wild plum trees.  
 RENSSELAER (NY) - From the Dutch West India Company director, Kiliaen van Rensselaer, who founded the patroonship of Rensselaerswijck (approximately Albany and Rensselaer counties).  
 RHODE ISLAND (RI) - derived from the Dutch *Roode Eylandt* meaning "Red Island."  
 SANDY HOOK (NJ) - A Dutch map of 1656 records *Sant Punt* meaning "Sand Point" but *hoek* was commonly used for the site.  
 SAUGERTIES (NY) - Recorded in 1663 as *Zagers Killetje* meaning sawyers creek, as the stream serviced many sawmills.  
 SAYBROOK (CT) - A Dutch map of 1656 refers to this site where the Connecticut River empties into the Atlantic Ocean as *Zeebroeck*, meaning marshy land by the sea.  
 SCHUYLKILL (PA) - "Hidden stream" A thicket at the mouth of the stream probably made it possible to conceal vessels, or made it difficult to see the entrance of the stream.  
 SPARKILL (NY) - *Spar* meaning "spruce, fir."  
 SPUITEN DUYVIL (NY) - Literally

"devil's spout" with obvious reference to whirlpools created by the dangerous tidal currents in the narrow passage at the north end of Manhattan Island.  
 STATEN ISLAND (NY) Named in honor of the States General, the governing body of the United Provinces of the Netherlands in the 17th century.  
 STONE ARABIA (NY) - Derived from Dutch *steen raapje* meaning "stone turnips" probably because of the prevalence of stones harvested in the fields every spring. Variants of this name appear throughout the original New Netherland territory, e.g., Stone Robbie Rd. near Oneonta; Steinraupie, inscribed on the cornerstone of a 1717 farmhouse in Bergen County, NJ, among others.  
 TEANECK (NJ) From *tiende neck* or tenth neck, i.e., strip of land formed by the tenth stream flowing into the Hackensack River.  
 TENAFly (NJ) From *ten* "at the" and *vly* from *vallei* meaning "valley, low land, marshland," thus *Ten Vly* meaning at the marsh, cf., *Ten Eyck*, at the oak tree.  
 VALATIE (NY) - From *valletje* meaning "little falls."  
 VLY LAKE (NY) - See Tenafly; also Fly Creek, NY, and Vly Rd in Colonie near Albany.  
 WALLABOUT BAY (NY) - From

*Waaen Boght* meaning "Walloons Bend." WESTERLO (NY) - Named for Rev. Eilardus Westerlo, domine of the First Church of Albany from 1760 to 1790. He was the last domine to preach in Dutch in Albany. Also Westerlo Island, now Castle Island, location of the Port of Albany.  
 WHOREKILL (DE) - From the folk etymology that *Hoerckill* means "whores stream" because of a locality where the Indians were generous enough to give their young women and daughters to the Dutch seamen who frequented there. The real meaning comes from *Hoornkill* recognizing the city in Holland where many of the earlier Dutch mariners came from, such as Mey and David Pietersz de Vries. Confusion derives from the spelling pronunciation of Hoorn as Hoeren where oe can also represent long o in 17th-c Dutch; the pejorative version probably developed from a mariners' delight in fantacizing about the name. The Swedes called and wrote the placename *Hornkyl* which leaves no doubt about its meaning. Besides, it is doubtful that the Calvinist directors of the WIC would have sanctioned the pejorative version.