

De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius



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Events of interest

April 18, 2015. The New Sweden Center of Wilmington, Delaware announces its 5th annual “Colonists Days.” This is an event for anyone associated with the colonial era in the Delaware Valley “beginning with the Lenape and the Swedes and Finns of the New Sweden Colony to the Dutch and the English, ending with the Revolution.” Anyone who can educate, inform and entertain the public is welcome. Festivities begin at noon in Fort Christina Park at 1122 E. 7th St., Wilmington, DE, until 5pm, rain or shine. Go to: www.colonialnewsweden.org.

April 18–November 15, 2015. “From Holland to Here,” featuring the “George Way Collection of Dutch Art & Artifacts,” examines the Dutch heritage of the Town of Orangetown by way of the collection of George Way of Staten Island, America’s premier collector of Dutch 17th-c art. On loan will be a stunning display of paintings, miniatures, silver, brass, delftware, prints, drawings and furniture. The collection significantly contributes to the backstory of who the Dutch were in the 1680’s, (particularly the

Blauvelt descendants and neighbors of Gerrit Hendricksen) when a group of Dutch farmers left their ‘Boweries’ off Maiden Lane in Manhattan to settle here in Orangetown. Spirited, adventurous and descended from a highly developed culture, these earliest residents got out of Manhattan. They re-settled their families maintaining their language and traditions away from the scrutiny of the English. This is an extraordinary opportunity to examine the background of a people who, through their efforts, have distinguished Orangetown as a place rich in history.

The exhibit will be on display at the DePew House, 196 Chief Bill Harris Way, Orangeburg NY. Tuesdays 10–2, Sundays 1–4 or by appointment. Admission is free: donations accepted. Contact: (845) 398–1302, special arrangements for press previews and schools. Email: otownmuseum@optonline.net.

June 18–20, 2015. The New York State Historical Association will hold its 36th Conference on New York State History at Niagara University. The Conference is an annual meeting of academic and public historians, librarians and

archivists, educators, publishers, and other interested individuals who come together to discuss topics and issues related to the people of New York State in historical perspective and to share information and ideas regarding historical research, programming, and the networking of resources and services. Monitor: www.nysha.org for soon to be published conference schedule, online registration, and lodging information.

Until June 28, 2015. “Brooklyn Remembered: The Watercolors of James Ryder van Brunt.” This exhibit presents thirteen watercolors from the Brooklyn Historical Society’s collection by 19th-century Brooklyn native James Ryder Van Brunt. Van Brunt was a descendant of Brooklyn’s earliest settlers and a gifted amateur painter who devoted decades to recording neat and colorful views of Dutch homesteads and historic landmarks. His images of these picturesque sites, a number of which had already been demolished, reflected the widespread nostalgia for an agrarian past during a period of rapid change as Brooklyn grew from a collection of villages into a

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city. For additional information, go to: www.brooklynhistory.org.

Save the Date

September 17–19, 2015.

“The Dutch in America Across the Centuries: Connections and Comparisons,” will be the theme of this year’s New Netherland Seminar to be held in Albany and jointly sponsored by the NNI and the Association for the Advancement of Dutch–American Studies (AADAS).

Publications

The *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* is the first book of its kind. More than 100 experts have reviewed and contributed content about local and regional resources and key topics in New York family history. The result is a book of 856 pages with:

Chapters on major record groups and research resources, including the most up-to-date and comprehensive review of New York State’s extremely complicated vital records system

Information on research resources for sixteen major ethnic and twelve major religious groups that have lived in New York

Gazetteers, maps, and research guides to each of New York’s 62 counties, including the five boroughs of New York City

More than 100 separate, categorized, special topic bibliographies vetted by genealogists

Timelines of key events in New York history 1609–1945 that impact genealogical research

An index of over 11,000 place names and place-name variants past and present, the first published gazetteer of its kind since 1872. Order on line: bit.ly/1JrJTV0

D.J. Noorlander “‘For the maintenance of the true religion’: Calvinism and the Directors of the Dutch West India Company.” His article appears in the new electronic version of the Sixteenth Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies. Go to: escj.org.

In 2013 the New Netherland Seminar was held in New Castle, Delaware. The theme was “The Dutch on the Delaware: New Netherland’s South River.” The conference demonstrated how intertwined relations were between the Swedes and Dutch in the 17th c. About half of the more than 100 attendees were of Swedish ancestry and/or members of Swedish–American societies.

Last year, on the occasion of 400 years of Swedish–Dutch relations, the Embassy of Sweden in The Hague initiated a book presentation entitled *The Swedes and the Dutch were made for each other*. The book was written by authors from a variety of fields who approached this relationship from their unique perspectives. In Part I a chapter is devoted to “Neighbors in America: New Netherland and New Sweden.” For access to this book, go to: bit.ly/1EJgJUG.

Walter Liedtke

The art world mourns the tragic loss of Walter Liedtke, eminent curator and scholar of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for 35 years. He was one of the six people who died in the Metro–North train accident on February 3, 2015, in Valhalla, NY. The many major exhibitions he organized at the Met were revered by scholars and embraced by millions of visitors, including Rembrandt/Not Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Delft School, The Age of Rembrandt, Vermeer’s Masterpiece “The Milkmaid,” and the recent El Greco in New York. Besides catalogues accompanying those and other exhibitions, he masterfully catalogued the Museum’s Dutch and Flemish paintings collection and was at work cataloguing the Met’s Spanish paintings. RIP

Call for Sailors!

The replica ship Half Moon is issuing a muster call for experienced sailors. The ship will leave Verplanck before mid-March for farewell celebrations in NYC and participation in a feature film being shot in Boston. After filming the ship will rendezvous with a transatlantic transport vessel in RI for its transfer to the Netherlands. May 22–23 will occasion the ship’s arrival in Hoorn, culminating in Dr. Andrew Hendricks’s formal hand over of the helm to the Westfries Museum. If you want to join the crew, reply to: musterroll@newnetherlandmuseum.org as

soon as possible with telephone number and qualifications. For details of the “crew call” go to: goo.gl/3myqX6.

NNI News

Join us for the Annual General Meeting of the New Netherland Institute being held at the University Club of Albany, 141 Washington Avenue at Dove Street, Albany NY 12210 on Saturday, **May 16** beginning at 10:15 am. At the business meeting, Dennis Maika, our Associate for Education will provide an update on curriculum related activities and Peter Christoph, Director Emeritus, New York State Library Manuscripts and Special Collections will talk about his current research activities.

At 1:30 our featured speaker, Jeroen Dewulf, Associate Professor in the Department of German at UC Berkeley will speak on “‘A strong barbaric accent’: America’s Dutch-speaking black community from 17th-c New Netherland to 19th-c New York and New Jersey.”

Although it is estimated that as late as the mid-eighteenth century some sixteen to twenty percent of the slaves in New York and New Jersey spoke (some) Dutch, very little research has been done on America’s Dutch-speaking black community. Despite the paucity of sources, this presentation attempts to provide an overview of the importance of the Dutch language for the black community from the 17-c colony of New Netherland to

nineteenth-century New York and New Jersey. It also raises the question of whether not only Dutch-speaking whites, but also blacks may have played a role in the transmission of Dutch linguistic elements into American English.

Dr. Dewulf teaches courses in both German Studies and Dutch Studies. He is the current director of Berkeley’s Institute of European Studies. As the incumbent of the Queen Beatrix Chair, he is also the director of the Dutch Studies Program and chair of the Executive Committee of the Designated Emphasis in Dutch Studies for graduate students. As an affiliated member of the Center for African Studies and core member of the faculty board of the Latin American Studies Graduate Group, he is also active in the field of African Studies and Latin-American Studies.

Both members and non-members of NNI are welcome to attend the business meeting, luncheon, and/or program. Further details will be found on our web site.

NNI announces the Clague and Carol Van Slyke Prize for the best article published since 2013. Four copies of articles for consideration (non returnable) must be submitted by the author, editor, colleague, or other interested party by 1 April, 2015. Articles should be sent in hard copy to the Article Prize Committee, New Netherland Institute, P.O. Box 2536, Empire State Plaza Station, Albany, NY

12220–0536. You may inform us before the deadline by email that you plan to submit an article for consideration. The winner will be notified by August 1, 2015 and the prize will be presented at the annual New Netherland Seminar in Albany on September 17–19.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 Kenney Award for contributions to colonial Dutch studies and to understanding the Dutch significance in North America. Deadline is April 15th. Application details can be found on our website.

Totidem Verbis

Our offering for this issue by Peter A. Douglas is quite appropriate for this time of year. Read on!

The South Sea Voyage of Jacob Roggeveen

1721–1723

From the 15th to the 18th century, one of the great legends among the seafaring and trading nations was the existence of a vast southern continent, *Terra Australis*. This hypothetical continent was imagined to encompass Antarctica and extend far into the South Sea (Pacific Ocean). The discovery of Australia, New Zealand, and many of the South Sea Islands was the outcome of the search for this land. Several of these discoverers were Dutch, and as the navigators of many countries gradually explored the southern ocean they finally realized that Antarctica was not

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connected to Australia or to any other great landmass.

In the company of the many notable Dutch navigators, the name Jacob Roggeveen (1659–1729) does not stand very tall, though his achievements do warrant an examination for it was Roggeveen who was the first European to set foot on an island that would become one of the most mysterious and culturally significant archaeological sites in the world.

Before he found fame as an explorer, Roggeveen had already lived a full and active life, having been notary of Middelburg, graduated as a doctor of law at the university of Harderwijk, and worked for the Dutch East India Company in Batavia. In 1721, at the age of 62, he decided to pursue his father's dream of searching for *Terra Australis* and persuaded the Dutch West India Company to outfit three ships for the voyage, the *Arend*, the *Thienhoven*, and the *Afrikaansche Galey*.

The expedition left the Netherlands in August 1721 and sailed down to the South Atlantic to the Falkland Islands and then through the Le Maire Strait and around Cape Horn beyond 60° south and entered the Pacific Ocean. The fleet ran into ice and rough weather and proceeded north up the coast of Chile and reached the Juan Fernandez Islands in February. Here Roggeveen made repairs and resupplied for his voyage into the unknown ocean. His course was west-northwest, expecting any time to sight the edge of the new continent. Instead, after

around 1,500 miles, on Easter Sunday of 1722, he came upon a small island that he named *Paaschen Eylandt*, or Easter Island, for the date of its discovery.

Easter Island is the easternmost of the Polynesian islands, and is considered to be the world's remotest inhabited island. Because of its isolation, the inhabitants developed a unique culture whose most remarkable feature is the hundreds of huge monolithic rock figures called *moai*. Roggeveen and his Dutch crews were the first Europeans to see these imposing statues. The landing party described an island with no large trees, a rich soil, bananas, sugar cane, and figs. The Dutch spent about a week on the island, investigating the strange stone idols and interacting with the inhabitants, encounters that created some friction and resulted in several native deaths by nervous Dutch sailors.

After leaving Easter Island, the three ships steered northwest, often changing course, Roggeveen always thinking that the mysterious continent might be just over the horizon. In the end he decided to head for Batavia, going by way of the Tuamotu Archipelago, the Society Islands, and Samoa. They ran into many difficulties. On May 19 in Takapoto the *Afrikaansche Galey* was wrecked on a coral reef and most of the expedition's food was lost, and Roggeveen faced hostile islanders and desertions.

In September 1722 the *Arend* and the *Thienhoven* arrived in Batavia, but the party did not receive a warm welcome. Because Rogge-

veen was associated with the Dutch West India Company he was considered a trespasser. The officials of the Dutch East India Company seized the ships and their cargos and arrested Roggeveen and his men for violating the company's monopoly in the area. The company was very touchy about this sort of thing. They were not released until November and were sent back to the Netherlands, almost as prisoners on company ships, arriving in July 1723. Roggeveen immediately started legal proceedings to get back the value of his ships, and negotiations between the two companies ultimately resulted in compensation for Roggeveen and his backers.

The Dutch navigator had not found the great southern continent, but he had traveled extensively through the South Pacific and added to contemporary geographic knowledge. The voyage failed to solve the question of the existence of this mythical continent, but it helped others to know which areas still remained to be explored. Most important perhaps, Roggeveen had discovered Easter Island, which in 1995 became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It remains unique and mysterious and has become a place of continuing interest to anthropologists.

