

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius

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"De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius"

December 2000

Upcoming Events

December 9, 2000. Sint Niklaas visits Brewery **Ommegang**. Celebrate the Belgian children's holiday with Belgian cookies, clementines, chocolates and hot ci-



St. Niklaas arriving in Amsterdam on his white horse accompanied by Zwarte Piet

der, and learn the legends of Sint Niklaas and his side kick Black Peter. This colorful event will once again feature the incomparable Father Mack who will travel from his parish in New Jersey to tell the tales of the Bishop Saint Niklaas. Free Tours all Day. For brewery tour information, other events and directions call 1-800-656-1212 or visit <www.ommegang.com>.

December 8–10, 2000. The Friends of Schuyler Mansion invite you to the State Historic Site,

Schuyler Mansion for "Two Evenings of Holiday Candelight Tours" on December 8th and 9th from 4pm to 8pm (entrance fee); and a "Holiday Open House" on December 10th from 1pm to 5pm featuring Dutch and English traditions of the 18th-century holiday season (admission free).

32 Catherine Street, Albany; tel: 518 434-0834.

Until 7 January. "Rembrandt Creates Rembrandt: Art and Ambition in Leiden, 1629–1631." Ten paintings, including the Gardner's early Self Portrait, and ten etchings from collections in the United States and Europe will illuminate Rembrandt's evolving painting and etching styles as well as his self identity as he sought to place himself at the forefront of the artistic scene in the Netherlands and beyond between 1629 and 1631. The exhibition will reevaluate the young Rembrandt in context of the artistic, economic, intellectual, and cultural influences of the time, as well as explore the innovative painting and etching techniques he used during this period. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston MA. 617/278-5107

Until 14 January. "Vincent van Gogh Face to Face." Van Gogh Face to Face features more than 70 paintings and drawings from an international array of public and private collections, many of which have never been on view in the United States. Organized chronologically, Van Gogh: Face to Face explores the artist's fascination with his fellow human beings, and the extraordinary development of his vision. Philadelphia Museum of Art. Philadelphia, PA. 215/235-0050.

News

"The Conference on New York State History" announces its call for papers for the 2001 annual meeting to be hosted by historic Wells College in Auroura, New York from June 7–9. An invitation is now extended for individual paper abstracts, panel proposals, workshops, and other program suggestions. Presentations may consider any aspect of the history of New York over the past 400 years. Diverse theoretical perspectives and innovative methodological approaches are welcomed. The deadline for proposals is January 31, 2001. Send proposals to Stefan Bielinski, 3093 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230. Tel:

518 474-6917; email: <sbielins@mail.nysed.gov>. For further information and updates visit: <www.nysem.nysed.gov/cnysh>.

The third "International Huguenot Conference" will take place at Stellenbosch and Franschhoek in South Africa from 25-27 September 2002. The theme of the conference will be: **The Huguenots—Origins, Settlement and Influence.** The theme is formulated in this way to give as wide a scope as possible for Huguenot and Walloon descendants and researchers to propose papers and posters. Proposals are to be submitted to: <pc@maties.sun.ac.za> before May 31, 2001. For updates and additional conference information visit: <<http://www.geocities.com/huguenotblad/conference/>>

Save the date: Preliminary plans are being made for a two-day conference in NYC on October 19th and 20th. It will be a production of the Holland Society, supported by the New Netherland Project, the Huguenot Society, the South Street Seaport Museum *et alia*, and will take the place of the Rensselaerswijck Seminar for the year 2001. The theme will be "New Netherland at the Millennium: the State of New Netherlandic Research." The talks will be held at the **New York Genealogical and Biographical Society** hall on 58th Street.

Publications

David Riker's four-volume set of books entitled *Genealogical and Biographical Directory to Persons in New Netherland, from 1613 to 1674*, as announced in the May

2000 issue of the *Marcurius*, is now available. The set can be purchased from Higginson Book company, 148 Washington Street, P.O. Box 778, Salem MA 01970. The Directory is also produced as a CD Rom by Genealogy.com in their "Family Tree Maker," Family Archives. The title of the CD Rom is CD#11 *New Netherland Vital Records, 1600*. The CD is searchable and has already facilitated work at the NNP. Inquiries for purchase of this CD publication are to be directed to Brian Bond, Marketing Coordinator of Genealogy.com. Tel: 510 494 2890; email: <brian_bond@genealogy.com>; <www.genealogy.com>.

Looking for fiction with a 17th-century Dutch setting? Recently four novels have appeared featuring famous Dutch painters as main characters. If you decide to order any of the following titles through Amazon, don't forget to enter through our website. Just click on <bookstore> and then double click the Amazon logo. Ordering this way will give the FNN a percentage of the purchase price.

The Lost Diaries of Frans Hals: A Novel by Michael Kernan

Girl in Hyacinth Blue by Susan Vreeland

Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier

Tulip Fever by Deborah Moggach
Additional historical-fiction titles of interest:

The Sea Beggars by Cecilia Holland

The Dove and the Rose (Seekers 1) by Ethel L. Herr

The Maiden's Sword (Seekers 2) by Ethel L. Herr

Chelsea House Publishers of Philadelphia has produced a children's series entitled *Colonial Leaders*. Among the ten leaders represented are Lord Baltimore, Anne Hutchinson, John Smith, and our own **Peter Stuyvesant**. The book is 80 pages long complete with illustrations (some very stereotypical), glossary, chronology, colonial timeline, further reading list, and index. The publisher also has a series of Revolutionary War Leaders, including all the prominent figures from Arnold to Washington.

As the holiday season approaches our thoughts inexorably turn to Santa Claus and the beloved poem *The Night before Christmas*. If you've ever wondered about the origin of the poem, I suggest that



"Santa Claus waiting for the children to go to sleep"
by Thomas Nast, 1889

you read Don Foster's *Author Unknown*, the final chapter of which concerns the authorship of "A Visit From St. Nicholas." Thanks to our friend Paul Palen, who made me aware of an article in the New York Times entitled "Literary Sleuth Casts Doubt on the Authorship of an Iconic Christmas Poem"

(October 26, 2000) by David D. Kirkpatrick, I learned more about Clement Moore than I thought possible and more about the possible true author than I thought was known. Fans of Josephine Tey's *Daughter of Time*, will thoroughly enjoy Foster's sleuthwork.

News from the FNN

Donor News: The NNP and FNN staff would like to express sincere thanks to all of you who contributed valuable time in preparing for the New Netherland Project Dinner and Seminar held on September 16th. A special warm thank you to Shirley Dunn, who coordinated the dinner event at the Terrace Gallery. We are also very grateful to the following who generously supported us with a gift or provided us with an in-kind donation: The Consulate General of the Netherlands, William Buehl, Anneke Bull, William and Mary Jane Crotty, George Damiano, Richard Day, Joep de Koning, Hubert de Leeuw, Firth Fabend, Arthur Fontijn, Elizabeth Funk, Carole Hageman, Liz Lane, Frank Ligtoet, Jacob Schiltkamp, Martha Shattuck, Erica Stupp, Peter Ten Eyck, John van Schaick, Anna Glen Vietor, Harold Vroman, David Wanzer, Johanna Woldring.
In kind donations: Don and Wendy

Littlefield of **Ommegang Brewery** for the beer at the cocktail hour and glasses for quiz prizes; Arthur Heydendael for piano performance; Hubert de Leeuw for prints of New Netherland for quiz prizes; H. L. Funk Consulting for the dinner programs; Montana Mills Bakery for the bread; Frederick M. Tibbitts Associates for the wine; Shirley Dunn for cocktail hour foods; Jean Gehring, Greta Wagle, Henny Newhouse for speakers' dinner foods.

Very special thanks to Dr. Andrew Hendricks for his generous gift of \$10,000 to maintain the stability of the Hendricks Manuscript Award. We are also extremely grateful to Dr. William and Erica Steffee for their generous gift in the amount \$10,000, following last year's donation in the same amount. Our heartfelt thanks for your generosity!

Grant News: The NNP received the second half of awarded funds from the **Prins Bernhard Fonds** Foundation of the Netherlands, approximating \$9,000 of the total grant of \$50,000 for work accomplished on Council Minutes, 1656-1658, Volume VIII. The Prins Bernhard Fonds is considered the most important cultural foundation of the Netherlands. It is a major contributor to the arts, humanities, sciences, cultural education, his-

toric and nature conservation in the country. It contributes more than \$14,600,000 to nearly 3000 projects annually.

Pledges: The FNN is preparing a Millennium Pledge letter for the year 2001, which will also include a request for next year's dues payable at the same time.

Dues: Some of the dues checks that have already reached our office show an annual amount of \$25.00 instead of the \$35.00 amount approved by the FNN trustees two years ago. We trust your checks will show the higher amount.

Annual Meeting: An invitation to our annual meeting scheduled for January 20, 2001 in New Paltz, hosted by the Huguenot Society, is also in the works and will reach you towards the end of December.

Websites

For a list of ships leaving the Netherlands for New Netherland, with their known dates of departure, based on records in the the Netherlands, visit <www.rootsweb.com/~ote/mm_shipamny.htm>

This page is part of "The Olive Tree Genealogy" website maintained by Lorine McGinnis Schulze.

Totidem Verbis

Because of recent developments in the Albany area it seems appropriate to reprint an article from the October 3, 2000 issue of the *Times Union* which has ramifications for anyone interested in promoting the history of New Netherland. The final installment of the piece on placenames will appear in our next newsletter.

Albany hopes its ship has come in

State grant will be used to study Fort Orange re-creation where

"Half Moon" would make its home.

By ELIZABETH BENJAMIN
Staff writer

A \$300,000 state grant will fund a study of the feasibility of re-creating Fort. Or-

ange—Albany's original Dutch settlement—and building a permanent berth for the replica of Henry Hudson's *Half Moon* on the banks of the river that bears his name, Gov. George Pataki announced Monday.

City and state officials outlined a tentative plan in which 12 to 15 acres between the U-Haul building on Broadway and the Port of Albany would be developed into a living history museum in the style of Jamestown Colony in Virginia and Connecticut's Mystic Seaport.

The re-created fort would feature staff in period costume, a shipyard, pastures with livestock and a demonstration of colonial-era trades like blacksmithing. Artifacts unearthed over the years during construction projects and archaeological studies would be gathered from storage sites and put on display.

"New York state has a magnificent history that for too long has been lost. What we must do in the 21st century is not turn our backs on history but embrace it," Pataki said at a news conference held next to the contemporary incarnation of the *Half Moon*, docked at Albany's water-pumping station.

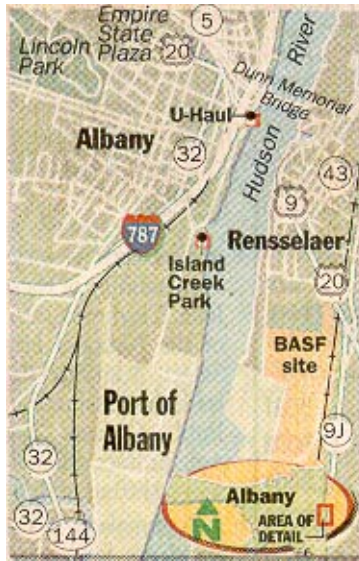
The city has long been separated from the Hudson River by Interstate 787. Mayor Jerry Jennings said the proposed re-creation of Fort Orange would complement Albany's planned \$14.2 million redevelopment of the Corning Preserve to the north, including construction of an outdoor amphitheater, a festival field large enough to hold 10,000 people, and a pedestrian bridge spanning the highway at Maiden Lane.

"If we don't take advantage of our history, we are doing an injustice to our entire revitalization effort," Jennings said. Ground-breaking for the \$7 million bridge is scheduled for November. A buy-a-brick campaign to raise about \$1.5 million for the bridge through the sale of personalized bricks has so far netted about \$200,000, officials said.

Jennings has long been a supporter of making Albany the home port for the *Half Moon*. The replica of the ship that Hudson sailed to Albany in 1609 was built here at the Port of Albany's Snow Dock in 1989. Since then, the 85-foot ship has traveled up and down the East Coast and the Hudson River, taking on student crews.

For several years, the ship has been based in Verplanck, Westchester County. Captain Chip Reynolds said he has advocated moving his ship to Albany—which he called "a font of Dutch heritage"—because

Historic re-creation



The Fort Orange feasibility study would focus on the waterfront from the existing Port of Albany to just south of the U-Haul Building at the Dunn Memorial Bridge.

it "has the best combination of factors that would allow us to do something with real significance."

The state grant pledged by Pataki will be given to the Albany Local Development Corp., which will issue a request for proposals from firms interested in undertaking the study, Development and Planning Commissioner George Leveille said. Completing the study will take an estimated six to nine months.

At this point, there is no estimate of how much re-creating the fort complex would cost, Leveille said. The study will attempt

to answer that question, as well as determine how much money it would take to run the attraction after it is built.

"If you create something like this, the key question is, what's it going to take to work financially so it doesn't require ongoing subsidies," Leveille said.

The proposed complex must be located south of the Dunn Memorial Bridge, officials said, because other historical tall ships that might one day visit the site aren't able to lower their masts far enough to sail beneath the bridge's span.

The area under consideration encompasses the city-owned Island Creek Park as well as some privately owned land. It is actually closer to the original site of Fort Nassau (built in 1614 but washed away in a flood), than it is to Fort Orange, which was constructed in 1624 across from what is now the southeast corner of the Ramada Inn on Broadway.

Some preservationists oppose the planned re-creation when much of the original Fort Orange lies undocumented beneath the cement supports of Interstate 787. "It would be an uninformed substitute for reality," said local historian John Wolcott. "It's better to have the ruins of something than a hypothetical. That's tending toward Disneyland and, Frontier Town and other types of fake-believe lands."

State and city officials said they would like the Fort Orange museum to be completed by 2009 to coincide with the 400th anniversary of Hudson's voyage for the Dutch East India Co., which made him the first European to explore the river and its opportunity for trade.

Pataki has twice vetoed bills from the state Legislature that would have created a commission to begin planning New York's quadricentennial celebration, arguing that it would usurp executive functions. The governor has said he will form his own panel of agencies, organizations, officials and citizens to start planning.

[See same **Times Union** issue B section for Fred LeBrun commentary; Oct. 6 issue for editorial.]