

# De Nieuw Nederlanse Mauricius

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“De Nieuw Nederlanse Mauricius”

August 1999

## Upcoming Events

**18 September, 1999.** The New Netherland Project’s 22d annual Rensselaerswijck Seminar presents “New Netherland through the dec-



De Halve Maen, 1609

ades.” This year’s theme will be the anniversary of significant events in the colony’s history. Beginning with 1609, Dr. Paul Otto will speak on “Henry Hudson, Native Americans, and the Birth of New Netherland”; followed by Dr. Oliver Rink’s “1629: A Year of Decision for New Netherland”; Dr. Wim Klooster’s “Failing to Square the Circle: The West India Company’s Volte-Face of 1638-39”; Mr. Peter Christoph’s “Albany’s Colonial Lutherans: Ecumenism and Conflict among the Churches”; ending with Dr. Charles Gehring’s “Buying Time on the South River: Augustin Herrman’s 1659 Diplomatic Mission to Maryland.”

**18 September 1999.** The New Netherland Project Dinner will be held in the Terrace Gallery of the Cultural Education Center. The festive evening will once again be held under the auspices of the Consulate General of the Netherlands. For information concerning the program and dinner menu (created by food historian Peter. G. Rose) contact the FNN office at 518.486.4815 or refer to our website at [www.nnp.org](http://www.nnp.org).

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**19 September 1999.** In keeping with the anniversary theme of the Rensselaerswijck Seminar, the replica of **De Halve Maen** will arrive in Albany on the same date Hudson anchored at this point in the river in 1609. The ship will arrive at about 1pm. It will open for school tours starting 22 Sept., and will conduct school tours through 8 October. School tours must be scheduled through the Albany Visitor Center. A training session for teachers will be held just prior to the tours. Priority for tours will go to those teachers who have been through the training. The ship will

be open for public tours on the weekends of Sept. 25, 26; Oct. 2, 3; and Oct. 9, 10, 11. Cost to the general public is \$5.00 per adult.

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**19 September 1999.** The historic Dutch **Mabee Farm** will be open to the public for the first since being acquired by the Schenectady County Historical Society. It is the earliest farm in the Mohawk Valley--and, most important, it is virtually intact as it was in the late 1600s and early 1700s when the three main buildings were built. A pre-Revolutionary Dutch barn, which was moved last fall from Johnstown, is being re-erected at the site. Members of the Mabee Farm committee will be on hand for tours and to answer questions. Of special interest is the on-site archaeological dig. The opening is from 1pm to 5pm and the admission is \$3.00 per person and \$5.00 per couple. The farm is located on route 5S. From Albany take exit 26 off the thruway and follow 5S to Rotterdam Junction. Once past the railroad tracks you will see the farm on your right. For patrons of



the New Netherland Project Dinner there will be a special tour Sunday morning. [Announcement at dinner]

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**Until 15 September, 1999.** "Dutch Colonial Homes, America's Enduring Style," presenting recent photographic views of Geoffrey Gross, highlighting early American-Dutch architecture, 1664-1837. Interiors as well as exteriors are featured in this comprehensive collection. At: Mt. Gulian Historic Site, Verplanck Homestead, 145 Sterling Street, Beacon NY 12508; tel: 914.831.8172.

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**21 September 1999.** The New-York Historical Society will open "**\$24: The Legendary Deal for Manhattan,**" an exhibition investigating the infamous "purchase" that follows a trail of historic prints, maps, wampum, beads and other colonial-era items in search of the truth beyond the legend. The exhibition will run until 9 March 2000. The New-York Historical Society, Two West 77th Street at Central Park West, is open Tuesday to Sunday, 11am-5pm. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/students and seniors, children 12 and under free. For more information call 212. 873. 3400. <[www.nyhistory.org](http://www.nyhistory.org)>

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**15 October 1999.** The Netherland-America Foundation will host its Eighteenth **Peter Stuyvesant Ball** at The Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. The Ball's sponsor is ABN AMRO Bank, with P. J. Kalff, Chairman of ABN's Managing Board serving as Ball Chairman, and Gert-Jan van der Putten, Executive Vice President, U.S. serving as Ball Vice Chairman.

Hans van den Houten is Chairman of the Organizing Committee and also NAF's President. The Foundation's patron, The Honorable Pieter van Vollenhoven, and Their Highnesses Prince Maurits and Princess Marilene van Oranje Nassau will be in attendance. This black-tie event starts with cocktails at 6:30 pm, with dinner & dancing to the Hank Lane Revue at 7:30 pm. The Marvettes will perform, and at midnight the Nightclub Folly opens to Dee Jay dancing and an early-morning breakfast.

For further information on the Ball, cost of tickets, advertising opportunities, or purchase of raffle tickets, please contact Age Diedrick at 212.355.6363, fax 212. 759.0913, or e-mail her at <[age.diedrick@rcn.com](mailto:age.diedrick@rcn.com)>

## Reunions

**The Van Voorhees Association** annual reunion will be held on October 9th at the Fishkill Reformed Church in Fishkill, NY. For further information contact: Scott F. Voorhees, 147 Grand Blvd., Emerson, NJ 07630.

<[www.vanvoorhees.org](http://www.vanvoorhees.org)>

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**The Association of Blauvelt Descendants** will hold its 73d annual meeting and reunion on Saturday, 18 September at the RADISSON INN, 601 From Road, Paramus, NJ 07652; tel: 201.262.6900 or 800.333.3333. <[www.blauvelt.org](http://www.blauvelt.org)>

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**David Ackerman Descendants-1662** will hold its annual on October 16, 1999 at the Zion Lutheran Church, Allendale Avenue, Saddle River, NJ.

<[ackerman-1662.rootsweb.com](mailto:ackerman-1662.rootsweb.com)>

## News

Congratulations to **Dr. J. A. Jacobs**, winner of the 1999 Hendricks Manuscript Award for his dissertation "Nieuw-Nederland: het tere begin van een pas ontluikend land." The dissertation was submitted to the Faculty of Letters of Leiden University as partial fulfillment of the requirements for a doctoral degree. Dr. Jacobs went on to defend his dissertation successfully in June of this year.

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**The Winne-Creble house** is looking for an owner interested in preserving the architectural tradition and material culture of New Netherland's descendants. Built c. 1720-30 the brick and frame house comes complete with back-to-back jambless fireplaces, knee braces, ship stairs, beam anchors, Dutch doors. It is Located on Creble Road near intersection with Route 9W, 8 miles south of Albany. Contact Paul Ehmann, Coldwell Banker at (518) 456-6265 or 577-1771.

## Publications

*Een zegenrijk gewest: Nieuw-Nederland in de zeventiende eeuw* by Jaap Jacobs. (557 pages) This publication of Dr. Jacob's manuscript, winner of the Hendricks Award, can be ordered through the Dutch cyber bookstore <[www.boeknet.nl](http://www.boeknet.nl)> for f75,00, ca. \$36.00. For non-Dutch readers an English translation is in the works and will be announced in the Marcurius as soon as details are received.

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“Dear Cousin”: A Charted Genealogy of the Descendants of Anneke Jans Bogardus (1605-1663) to the 5th Generation. This publication can be ordered by sending \$29.50 (\$33.00 for Canada and overseas) to William B. Bogardus, 1121 Linhof Rd., Wilmington, OH 45177-2917

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Patterns and Portraits: Women in the History of the Reformed Church in America edited by Renée S. House and John W. Coakley. No. 31 in the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, this volume is dedicated to Carole W. Hageman, vice-president of the FNN. Among the twelve contributors are Joyce D. Goodfriend, Firth Haring Fabend, and Carole Hageman. The 182-page volume can be ordered through William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 255 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 for \$14.00.

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Journey to a New Land--The Bradt Family in History by Joan Bradt Wood (325 pages) can be ordered by sending \$20.00 (US) to Mrs. Joan Wood, 701-2185 Marine Drive, Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6L 5L6

## Websites

For those of you who missed the several public network announcements about the genealogical website which taps the considerable holdings of the LDS archives in Salt Lake City, it is: <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>

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“The Virtual New Amsterdam Project” has developed a digitized version of the Castello Plan based on a reproduction in Peter Spier’s book *The Legend of New Amsterdam*. <[www.teachout.org/vna](http://www.teachout.org/vna)>

## News from the FNN

The FNN has a new fax number. Please use 518.473.0472 for all future fax transmissions to the office.

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**Dues.** The reminder mailed out in the beginning of April had some good results. However, there are still a number of members who have not renewed for 1999. Please realize that our very small FNN office has its own expenses like any other office. Your dues are earmarked for that purpose, and your check enables us to remain solvent.

Private donors and foundations in the various categories of membership in the FNN  
January 21, 1998-January 23, 1999.

### Sustaining Friend (up to \$100)

Raymond Beecher  
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### Burgher (\$100+)

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### Magistrate (\$500+)

Phoebe Bender  
Marilyn & Peter Douglas  
Carol Hageman  
Ed Vandenburgh

### Burgomaster (\$1000+)

Elisabeth Funk  
Peter Paulson

### Council (\$3000+): none

Director General (\$5000+)  
Mary Van Orsdoel  
John & Sally Van Schaick

### Benefactor (10,000+): none

## Totidem Verbis

Countless visitors to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam have stood in awe of the overwhelming proportions and dark beauty of Rembrandt's *De Nachtwacht*. It is an experience not to be missed. For those of you living in the Northeast—using distance as an excuse—did you know that it only takes a short trip to Canajoharie in the beautiful Mohawk Valley to see a full-scale replica of the painting? Following is the story of its genesis by James Crawford, curator of the Art Gallery at the Canajoharie Library in Canajoharie, New York.

In December of 1924, Bartlett Arkell, founder of the Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery undertook a trip to Europe to study various museums of art looking for models for his own museum planned for construction starting in the spring of 1925. His travels took him to England, France and Holland, where he spent a week in Amsterdam both visiting the Rijksmuseum and other artistic sites in the city.

As a result of his stay in Amsterdam and his visit to the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, England, Mr. Arkell developed a clear idea of the look he was seeking for his own gallery. At the center of his favorite galleries in both museums was the same painting, *The Nightwatch* by Rembrandt. Of course, the work in England was a 3/4 scale replica of the Dutch original. The copy had been painted at the request of the Walker's Directors in the late 1800s.

Utilizing elements from the design of both rooms and one of the European paintings galleries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (now a part of the arms and armor collections rooms at the museum), Mr. Arkell decided to have a full scale replica of the Dutch painting commissioned for his gallery, and contacted the Director of the Rijksmuseum to recommend an individual to make such a copy.

He was sent to the ideal candidate for the job then active in Holland, Milton Kopershoeck, a graduate of the Royal Dutch School of Art in Amsterdam and the top of his class in making replicas of the Old Master Paintings of Holland. In addition to making copies of Dutch paintings, for museums, the artist painted portraits of contempo-

rary Amsterdam citizens into Dutch Master Settings. He was so good at making these copies that if it were not for using his own signature and paintings copy of a work by ... and naming the respective artist, he could have been a forger of Dutch works.

Arkell hired Kopershoeck to make the copy, which was a daunting task. The artist spent almost two years working on the painting, copying each figure in a sketch book at the museum,



Canajoharie's Nightwatch

then transferring the drawings to canvas, before painting them.

No other exact copy of the work had ever been or ever was authorized. The Trustees of the museum had a long standing tradition of not allowing an exact copy of this work to be painted, but Kopershoeck was clever. He suggested that if the work were exactly 3 centimeters larger than the original in either direction, it would not be exactly the same, and he was given approval to paint the work to those dimensions. The scale of the painting is so massive that the one inch difference in height or length can only be detected by measuring.

Completed in the Winter of 1926, the painting was shipped, rolled and with a partially assembled frame from

Amsterdam, where it was stored until March of 1927, when the painter and his family came to Canajoharie to supervise its installation.

While here, the artist was somewhat surprised to see a tile floor (not unlike the one at the Metropolitan Museum of Art), which he objected would clash with the colors in the painting. Beech-Nut carpenters were employed to place a carpet over the tiles and the room was set for its opening the next day.

Kopershoeck would paint about 20 copies of Dutch Master works during the next ten years. He returned to Canajoharie once, to over see the installation of another large copy of a Dutch painting at the High School next door to the library. At the same time, he painted an exterior view of Arkell's house in Manchester Vermont and his brownstone on 10th Street in New York as if they were classic Dutch works of the 1600s and a portrait of Mr. Arkell, the artist and two friends, Nelson Greene and Frank Barbour playing cards. In this canvas, it appears as if Kopershoeck is cheating.

The *Nightwatch* can still be seen in Canajoharie and like its original has been restored due to tears in the canvas but unlike the original can not be cleaned to a brighter, lighter canvas as the work in Holland has been restored. It will always be dark, surrounded in discolored varnish as it did in 1924.

In 1935, Milton Kopershoeck died in Amsterdam. With much of the work he had undertaken over the previous decade having been purchased by Mr. Arkell, his career as a copyist and painter of portraits will be seen in Canajoharie.

The Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery is open M-W & F 10-4:45; Th 10-8:30; Sat 10-1:30. From Albany take the Thruway west to exit 29. Turn right onto 5S then right at traffic light. The Library is one block on the left. Tel: 518.673.2314