The Holland Society of New York
90 WEST STREET, NEW YORK 6, N. Y.

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DR. HAROLD O. VOORHIS HEADS SOCIETY AGAIN

Re-elected for Third Time at Sixty-fourth Annual Meeting

Netherlands Official Tells of Efforts to Establish Order in Dutch East Indies

The sixty-fourth annual meeting of The Holland Society of New York was held at the Union Club, 701 Park Ave., this city, on Wednesday evening, April 6, when Dr. Harold O. Voorhis, Vice Chancellor and Secretary of New York University, was chosen for a third term as president.

The report of the nominating committee naming Dr. Voorhis and other officers was approved by unanimous consent. All of the vice-presidents of branches were reelected, except that Horace S. Van Voast, Jr., was designated from Schenectady County in place of William V. B. Van Dyck and Edgar B. Van Wagoner was named from Essex County in place of Reynier J. Wortendyke, Jr. In both instances the retiring vice-presidents were unable to continue in office.

Rufus Cole Van Aken was re-elected Treasurer; Harold E. Ditmars, Secretary, and Rev. Dr. Ernest R. Palen, S.T.D., Domine.

Trustees chosen for the class of 1953 were Col. Leigh K. Lydecker, Howard D. Springsteen, John deC. Van Etten and Ottoman H. Van Norden, who were re-elected and in addition Jacob Gould Schurman, Jr., Justice of the New York Supreme Court, who replaces Charles A. Van Winkle.

The annual reports of President Voorhis, Treasurer Van Aken and Secretary Ditmars were accepted at the business session which opened the meeting. The death of seventeen members during the last year was reported and those present stood in respectful silence as the names were read by Secretary Ditmars. He reported the membership at 905 as of April 6, 1949, with 28 members newly elected or re-instated during the year.

President Voorhis called on Col. Lydecker, a former president of the Society, to preside at the election and after it had been concluded he made a brief address to express appreciation over the confidence expressed in his selection to again head the Society.

At the conclusion of the meeting Dr. Voorhis introduced Dr. William Cnoop Koopmans, the Dutch Consul General at New York. Dr. Koopmans brought greetings of his Government to the members and declared his pleasure over the invitation extended by Dr. Voorhis to be present. He introduced Dr. Herman J. Friedericy, head of the Political Section of the Netherlands Ministry for Overseas Territories and a member of the Netherlands delegation, to the Security Council, for the address of the evening.

The pledge made by Queen Wilhelmina in 1941 to give freedom and dominion status to the Dutch East Indies has not been repudiated, Dr. Friedericy stated. Referring briefly to his imprisonment by the Japanese for two and one-half years, he declared that the invaders were responsible for terror and disorder on the part of lawless natives between the period of Japanese capitulation to the Allies and the arrival of British troops to preserve peace. The efforts to create an Indonesian Government were a result of acts of violence by men who usurped authority without the holding of elections which were the aim of the Dutch Government, he added.

An excellently prepared supper was served following the close of the meeting.
Trustee Wendell's Work on Book Is Commended

A resolution of appreciation for the work of Arthur R. Wendell, a trustee and past president of the Society, in promoting the publication and sale of "Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York" was adopted at the quarterly meeting of the Trustees of The Holland Society of New York held at the Metropolitan Club, this city, on the evening of March 10.

As chairman of the Committee on Preservation of Old Dutch Houses Mr. Wendell underwrote and directed distribution of the book. He paid tribute to the pioneering effort of the late Dr. J. Wilson Poucher, a Trustee for many years, whose research provided much of the material for the book. A committee report indicating that only 363 copies remain for sale was accepted.

The 1949 budget of the Society was adopted as submitted by the officers and finance committee. It provides for total expenditures of $9,120 compared to $9,580 last year in order to meet anticipated income. The item for publication of De Halve Maen was cut to allow for three instead of four issues and provision for a mid-winter general membership meeting was dropped to meet the cut.

Trustee William T. Van Atten reported for a committee charged with finding a way to recognize gifts to the Society that it had been decided to make suitable acknowledgment in De Halve Maen and also place the names of donors on a bronze plaque in the Society's headquarters.

The reports of President Harold O. Voorhis, Secretary Harold E. Ditmars and various committee chairmen reflected the continuance of usual activities of the Society. Trustee Howard D. Springsteen, as chairman of the membership committee, urged particular effort to encourage the relatives of present members to join and declared that the greatest source of new strength is to be found in the various branches and activities.

The report of Trustee Wilfred B. Talman for the Committee on Genealogy included the names of the following who were approved for membership: Monroe B. Bevier, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; John Jacob Vrooman, Schenectady, N. Y.

Union County Branch Holds Spring Meeting

Edward M. Van Buren, Jr., was re-elected president of the Union County branch of The Holland Society of New York at the annual dinner meeting held at Novak's Farm, Old Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, on Monday evening March 14. George B. Wendell was re-elected as secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Harold O. Voorhis, President of the Society, was the principal speaker and told of the efforts on the part of the Netherlands to re-establish a strong local government in the Dutch East Indies despite the scheming of the Communists. He recounted the opinions of Ambassador Elco N. van Kleffens, ambassador to the United States from the Netherlands, expressed by the latter at a luncheon in Washington.

Activities of the Society were discussed by Secretary Harold E. Ditmars and remarks were also made by Trustees Frederick I. Bergen, Walter H. Van Hoesen and T. Morris Van der Veer. Burson Wynkoop, one of the delegation from Monmouth County, revived the proposal for a junior branch of the Society and declared it would enable the sons of members to become interested in the history and tradition of their ancestors by association.

Besides the members from Union County, others present represented Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Monmouth counties. A large delegation from New York City and Long Island also attended it. It was reported that the Union County Branch annual picnic will be held at Echo Lake Park, Cranford, on Friday, June 17.

The Chrysanthemum

By Harold V. B. Voorhis

It has been said that "a difference of opinion makes a horse race"—and the same idea may be applied to the method of raising "mums." The article by Cornelius Ackerson in the January issue of DE HALVE MAEN prompts these remarks on the raising of chrysanthemums.

There is another and easier way to raise mums for those who prefer profuse blooms instead of the single-flower cultivation. I have been using it for ten years with much success. I might comment that in Mr. Ackerson's method, one replanting may be eliminated by making the original planting in washed sand and then into three inch pots and then into dirt outside or inside of a greenhouse. They may be grown to 8-9 inches before transplanting the final time.

To develop profuse blooms: When the season is over cut off stems eight inches from ground and cover at least half way up the stems with leaves. The stems make a holder for the leaves and it keeps them from blowing away. In late April, May or June dig up all the plants and separate the roots. Plant five roots in a hole 2-4 inches deep, in soil which has been manured and turned over. Water profusely for at least two weeks. Planting should be made in two foot distances each way. Drive stakes at least four feet high alongside of each "hill." Prune off tops repeatedly until the middle of August. Start tying with raffia at two feet. Tie twice more pulling fairly tight. As time goes on fertilizer may be spread along the alleys and cultivated into the ground.

Mr. Harry P. Opdyck, of Fanwood, New Jersey, another Holland Society member, grows mums with considerable success. He uses this same method but specializes in varieties.
The homes of the early Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam were usually one story affairs, with chimneys of wood and roofs thatched with straw and reeds. As the forests were cleared and the colony increased, the style of living underwent a material change. Another story was added, the straw roofs increased, and many wooden chimneys were replaced with brick that were imported from Holland until some enterprising citizens established a brick yard as perhaps the earliest industry on Manhattan Island.

Many wooden dwellings had checkerwork fronts and end gables of black and yellow tile, with the date of erection inserted in wrought iron figures. The windows were small and doors wide, usually divided horizontally so that the upper half swung open. No less comfortable were the social “stoops” and low, projecting eaves—in appearance, a simple modification of the style of architecture then prevalent in Holland. Most every home was surrounded by a garden large enough to accommodate a horse, cow, a couple of pigs and a score or more of barnyard fowl—a patch of cabbages and perhaps, a small bed of tulips.

Such pictures of New Amsterdam houses are familiar to most of us from history, but how these primitive homes were furnished inside—in striking contrast to those of today, equipped with endless comforts and conveniences our forefathers lacked the power to even dream of—is known to comparatively few of us of Dutch descent.

In the beginning, the inhabitants of New Amsterdam were obliged to accommodate themselves to the barest necessities and their homes were furnished in the crudest manner. The stools and tables were hewn from rough planks by their own hands; wooden platters and pewter spoons took the place of more expensive crockery; hand-made candles served to supply what meager light spread their feeble rays about the small rooms.

Carpets, of course, were almost unknown in the colony until about the time of the Revolutionary War. White-scrubbed broad flooring shone in simple splendor. Now and then, a piece of Drugget, ostentatiously dignified by the name of carpet, made to serve the purpose of a crumb-cloth, was found in the homes of the wealthiest burghers, but even these were not in general use. The snow-white floor was sprinkled with fine sand, which was curiously stroked with a broom into fantastic curves. This adornment pertained especially to the parlor, a room that was only used upon state occasions. The first carpet said to have been introduced into the settlement was found in the home of Captain Kidd and was merely a good-sized Turkish rug.

The most ornamental piece of furniture in the parlor was usually the bed, with its heavy curtains and valance of camlet and kilimister. Mattresses were as yet unheard of; in their stead was used a lighter one of down for a covering. The beds and pillows were cased in check coverings; the sheets were home-spun linen and over the whole was thrown a patch-work bed quilt made of bits of calico cut into grotesque shapes.

In a corner of the room stood a huge oaken, iron-bound chest filled to overflowing with household linen, spun by the women of the family, which they delighted in displaying before visitors. At a later date, this gave place to the chest of drawers of our great-grandmothers’ time—huge piled drawers placed one upon another and reaching to the ceiling, with brass rings over the key-holes to serve as knobs. In another corner stood the Holland cupboard, with its glass doors, displaying the family plate and porcelain. Plate was more common and there were few wealthy families that did not have their porringer, tankards and ladles of silver, for silver plated ware was then unknown. A few families had tea-services of china, tea pots and sugar bowls the size of a nut-shell; but more generally, the fragrant bohea (inferior black tea) was sipped from the humble pewter mugs which were arranged in shining rows upon the kitchen “dressers”. Wooden-ware too, was in universal use, and it was not until some years later that even the coarsest delft or earthen-ware was imported into the colony. Glass-ware was almost unknown. Punch was drunk in turns by the company from a huge bowl and beer from a tankard of silver. Sideboards were not introduced until after the Revolution and were usually of English origin.

Sofas, couches, lounges and that peculiarly American institution, the rocking chair, were things unknown to our Dutch ancestors. Their best chairs, with Russian leather seats, were profusely ornamented with double and triple rows of brass nails, and so straight and high-backed as to preclude the possibility of a moment’s repose. An excellent specimen of this type of chair, still in existence is the “Sarah Rapalje chair”, in the Museum of the City of New York. The parlor was usually decorated with one or two chairs with embroidered backs and seats. Mahogany had not yet come into use and nearly all the furniture was made from oak, maple or nut-wood. Tables were not ranked in the category of ornamental furniture. The round tea table, with a leaf upturned, was the most familiar to our Dutch ancestors. Their best chairs, with Russian leather seats, were profusely ornamented with double and triple rows of brass nails, and so straight and high-backed as to preclude the possibility of a moment’s repose. An excellent specimen of this type of chair, still in existence is the “Sarah Rapalje chair”, in the Museum of the City of New York. The parlor was usually decorated with one or two chairs with embroidered backs and seats. Mahogany had not yet come into use and nearly all the furniture was made from oak, maple or nut-wood. Tables were not ranked in the category of ornamental furniture. The round tea table, with a leaf upturned, occupied a conspicuous place in the corner of the parlor. Great square dining table, with leaves upheld by extended arms, stood in the kitchen for daily use.

Some half dozen clocks were to be found in the settlement with about the same number of silver watches; but these time pieces were scarcely ever known to run, and their existence was of little practical consequence. No watch maker had found it to his interest to emigrate and the science of horology was at a low ebb in the colony. So regular was their life that the lack of time-pieces made but little difference. The flight of time was usually measured by sun dials and hour glasses.

Small looking glasses in narrow black frames, with ornamented corners, were in general use. The wealthiest burghers were the possessors of large mirrors in...
HERE AND THERE WITH MEMBERS

Gerardus H. Wynkoop has been appointed an assistant treasurer of the New York Telephone Company.

P. Raymond Haulenbeek has been made administrative vice-president of the greater Bowery Savings Bank resulting from merger of the institution and the North River Savings Bank. Mr. Haulenbeek is a Trustee of the Society.

George S. Van Schaick, former Trustee of the Society and former New York State Insurance Commissioner, is a trustee of the merged Bowery Savings Bank.

Walter D. Van Riper retired as attorney general for New Jersey on February 4 after completing five years in the office and he will return to the private practice of law in Newark.

Henry E. Ackerson, Jr., as a justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, administered the oath of office to Mr. Van Riper's successor. Justice Ackerson is a former president and trustee of the Society.

Fenton B. Turck, Jr. and Mrs. Turck are parents of a son born on January 17 in Polyclinic Hospital, this city.

Marston T. Bogert, professor emeritus of organic chemistry at Columbia University, was one of two men honored at ceremonies in Havemeyer Hall on the night of January 25 for outstanding scientific achievement in 1948. In accepting the award Dr. Bogert, 80 years old, said that international chemists of New York office and he will return to the private practice of law in Newark.

Whether Vanderlyn quickly reached maturity which was as quickly exhausted, or that the times in America were not yet ripe for work of imagination, or that the slowness with which he worked interfered with his popularity as a portrait painter, certain it is that he became an unsuccessful and disappointed man. One day, in 1852, he reappeared at Kingston and borrowed money from a friend to pay for the transportation of his baggage to the hotel. Arrived there, he retired to his room, and the following morning was found dead.

Vanderlyn is buried at Wiltwyck Cemetery in Kingston.

VANDERLYN PAINTED HUDSON RIVER DUTCH

A family heirloom cherished by many members of the Society is an oil painting of great grandfather or other early nineteenth ancestor who sat for his portrait to be done by John Vanderlyn. He was one of the most talented American artists of his day and undoubtedly in the forefront of those of Dutch descent.

The story is tradition with a member that a Vanderlyn portrait of an illustrious relative was mutilated many years ago by a family servant who was overcome by its hypnotic power. The painting hung over the great fireplace in the parlor, which she was required to clean and dust each day.

As the woman was about to leave the room one morning her mistress entered and noticed that there were two holes in the canvas where the eyes of the subject should appear. When the servant was questioned she declared that the steady gaze from the pair of eyes seemed to follow her about whenever she entered the room and in a moment of fright she had thrust them out with a fire poker. Evidence of repairs, which may be seen from the reverse side of the canvas, lend credence to the yarn when it is also remembered that Vanderlyn was especially noted for his skill in capturing facial expressions of the people he painted.

John Vanderlyn was born in Kingston, N. Y., on October 15, 1775. His grandfather was Peter Vanderlyn, an officer in the Royal Dutch Navy and many years, are important in promoting world good will.

Colonel Justin G. Duryea, U. S. Marine Corps, retired, has been admitted to the practice of law in Pennsylvania and has associated with Schimpf & Steeley in Philadelphia.

William T. Van Atten, a trustee of the Society, has been elected president of the Albany County Society in New York.

Milton T. Vander Veer, vice-president of the Home Title Guarantee Company, is serving as chairman of corporate contributions for the Red Cross 1949 Fund Drive in Brooklyn.

Robert L. Smock has been appointed director of television and radio for Hewitt, Ogilvy, Benson & Mather, Inc., of New York and London.

John Jacob Vrooman, supervisor of historic sites for the New York State Department of Education, will be one of the faculty for the second of its annual seminars on American culture to be sponsored by the New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown from July 3 to 15.

Daniel Corbin Rapalje and Mrs. Rapalje are the parents of a son born April 4, 1949. Ernest H. Rapalje is the infant's paternal grandfather.

Francis C. Bradt has been transferred from the position of assistant manager at the Hotel Van Curler in Schenectady, N. Y., to the post of manager at the Hotel Minisink at Port Jervis, N. Y.
The Jan Pieterse Mabie house is credited as being the oldest structure in the Mohawk Valley, but its precise age is in doubt. Perhaps the best indication of when it was built is the fact that Jan Pieterse bought the land on which the house stands in 1706. He purchased the property from Daniel Janse Van Antwerp, who owned a village lot adjoining his own in Schenectady. The deed recites that the land being sold lay just west of his (Van Antwerp's) own house. The farms were located in what was then known as the "Woestina" or Wilderness, and now as Rotterdam Junction. It is possible the house was built a few years prior to the deed, or a few years later but, in either case, it would seem likely this transaction approximately dates the house.

In those early days the settlers of Schenectady owned a "house-lot" within the palisaded town as well as a "Bouwerie" or farm. Memories of the massacre and destruction of the settlement by the French in 1690 were still vivid in the minds of those fortunate enough to have survived the event.

The First Reformed Protestant Dutch Church stands on the house-lot of Daniel Janse Van Antwerp at the northeast corner of the intersection of Union and Church Streets. He gave this land to the Church in 1715, at which time he possibly took up residence in the Woestina. The Mabie lot was next north, facing Church Street.

Other "contenders" for the title "oldest house in the Mohawk Valley" are the Abraham Yates house, lower Union Street and the Brouwer-Rosa House, north Church Street, both in Schenectady. The exact age of these houses is not known but it is generally conceded they are later than the Mabie house. No house that survived the massacre of 1690 remains today. What the French and Indians failed to destroy with their torches, "progress" has since destroyed.

The Mabie house is of fieldstone (or bluestone—a type of limestone), laid in dry random bond, pointed and painted outside and plastered within. The walls are exceptionally heavy and thick. The house is one and a half stories high, with steeply pitched roof and small dormer windows, all characteristically Dutch in type. The steepness of the roof provides for headroom accommodations on the second floor and considerable space in the attic area above. The house faces east, with chimneys at both gable ends. The front wall of the house is entirely of stone, but the rear or west wall is stone to the plate (or eaves) and clap-board above to the gable, as so often occurs in houses of this type. Examples of it may be seen in the Huguenot Village at New Paltz, Ulster County.

Heavy, wide planks that have been hand dressed form the second story floor. They rest on sturdy hand-hewn beams which square over a foot and are seen in the ceiling of the ground floor.

The fireplace and wooden mantle are simplicity itself and built for service rather than adornment. In the basement may still be found the larger fireplace, where so often all cooking was done by slaves.

Beside the stone house is a smaller structure of brick which legend has it was the "slave house." It is beyond doubt of considerably later date and lacks the compelling interest of the old stone building. The exact location of the house situated as it is, directly on the south bank of the river must have brought to it considerable travel in those early days when all traffic was water-borne. The surrounding farm land is as choice as any in the Mohawk Valley, as it lays level and the soil itself is rich alluvium. Thus its occupants would have had two sources of income, for few indeed were the homes of this early day, especially those outside the towns, where travelers might not find "bed and board."

The Mabie family in the later years of westward advancing settlement are found along the lower reaches of Schoharie Creek, not far from Fort Hunter. Here they were associated with the early milling activities of the region. At least one home of the Mabies is still standing in this vicinity. One finds a dozen or more Mabies listed among the soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

Descendants of this pioneer family are now widely scattered throughout the Mohawk Valley, as well as the upper Hudson in the Albany-Troy area.

What is doubtless another branch of the family is found in the Ulster-Orange County area from the time of the Revolution and even earlier.

FURNISHINGS OF NEW AMSTERDAM HOMES

two plates, the upper one elaborately ornamented with flowers and gilding; but these were luxuries which few could afford. Pictures were plentiful, usually wretched engravings of Dutch towns in Holland, hung at regular intervals upon the parlor walls. The window curtains were generally of flowered chintz of inferior quality, simply run on a string.

Stoves were never dreamed of by the worthy Dutch. They had the cheerful fireplace, sometimes in the corner, sometimes extending almost across the length of the room, with huge back-log and glowing fire of fragrant hickory wood. The kitchen fire places were less pretentious and of immense size, so large that they would permit roasting a whole ox. Over the fire swung the hooks and trammels, for the reception of the immense iron cooking pots, long superseded by our modern stoves and ranges.

Every household had from two to five spinning wheels. Looms, too were in common use, and piles of home-spun cloth and snow-white linen attested to the industry of the active Dutch maidens. Cotton cloth was a fabric unknown in those times. Books were luxuries; with the exception of the libraries of the doctor and the doctor, Bibles and prayer-books constituted the sole literature of the settlement. The intellectual wants of the community were satisfied by the weekly discourses of the dome in the Church of St. Nicholas, as yet the only one in the city.
February 18, 1648—The “Nine Men” have recommended to the Council that, while the immigration of persons who desire to make New Netherland their permanent home should be encouraged, others who merely carry on a temporary trade and who trade with the Indians improperly and then smuggle their merchandise out of the country by night should be excluded.

March 10, 1648—It is proclaimed by the Director that hereafter no person will be allowed to carry on business in New Netherland except permanent residents, who have taken the oath of allegiance and are rated from two to three thousand guilders and who intend to “keep fire and light” in the Province. “Old Residents,” however, though not possessing full property qualifications, are allowed trading privileges provided they use only the weights and measures of “Old Amsterdam to which we owe our name.”

August 23, 1648—Director Stuyvesant has ordered that the bastions of Fort Orange at Beverswick (Albany) be faced with stone and all houses within the range of a musket shot be removed. Brandt Van Slechtenhorst, Commissary of the infant patron Van Rensselaer, has protested this order and has cited the fact that in New Amsterdam the houses cluster around the Fort and up to its very walls.

September 8, 1648—A military force sent to Beverswick by Director Stuyvesant because of Commissary Van Slechtenhorst’s refusal to obey his order of August 23rd, has removed the offending houses. The Mohawk savages cannot understand why “wooden leg” would destroy houses “which were to shelter them in storms and winter.” A Mohawk Sachem remarked: “Come to us in the Maquaas (Mohawk) country and we will give you plenty of land.”

September 11, 1648—Domine Backerus has asked for his “dismission” from his pastorate of the church in the Fort. Stuyvesant and the Consistory have approved and have requested the Classis of Amsterdam to send them “an old, experienced and Godly minister to the end that our very bewildered people might not, by the departure of their present clergyman, be left in destitution.”

September 15, 1648—It is proclaimed that “all Scotch merchants and small dealers who come over from their own country with the intention of trading here shall not be permitted to carry on any trade in this land “until they have resided three years” in this province and unless they build “a decent, habitable tenement “within one year after their arrival.”

September 18, 1648—The Council have decreed the establishment of an annual Kermis or Fair, to be held for ten days, commencing on Monday after St. Bartholomew’s Day, at which all persons are privileged to sell goods from their tents.

October 5, 1648—The East River is declared to be free and open “from Capsye Hock (Off the Battery) to the Stadtherberg” (Coenties Slip) for vessels under 50 tons. Larger vessels will anchor to the Eastward as far as Smits Vleye (Maiden Lane).

October 6, 1648—Jacob Reintsen and Jacob Schermerhorn and his brother have been convicted and sentenced to death for illicit trade in fire arms. The sentences, however, were commuted “by the intervention of many good men” to the confiscation of the goods of the convicts.

December 10, 1648—Director Stuyvesant has issued a proclamation forbidding the townspeople from harboring run-away servants, whether of the Company “or any other persons living here or elsewhere.”

December 15, 1648—“For the last time” Director Stuyvesant has warned our community that vacant lots in the town of New Amsterdam must be improved. In default, such lots will be assigned to persons inclined to improve them and a reasonable compensation will be awarded to the original owner.

February 21, 1649—A controversy has arisen between Director Stuyvesant and his Council on the one hand and the “Nine Men” on the other and has resulted in the arrest and imprisonment of Adrian Van der Donck, one of the “Nine Men.” This resulted in a meeting of the Great Council, held in the Fort, consisting of delegates from the Burgher Guard, other Burghers, the “Nine Men,” and the Directors Council. Van Dincklagen, the Vice-Director, protested against Stuyvesant’s arbitrary proceedings and demanded that Van der Donck should be admitted to bail. This was refused, the Council siding with the Director.

April 21, 1649—There is general public complaint against Director Stuyvesant, it being charged that he is everything and does “the business of the whole country, having several shops himself; that he is a brewer and has breweries; is a part owner of ships, and a merchant and trader, as well in lawful as in contraband articles.” The people also complain that he has set aside for himself a large bouwery on Manhattan Island, not far from the town, for his private purposes, together with buildings and stock; all of which should rightfully belong to the Company.

April 15, 1649—A ship arriving today reports that King Charles I of England has been beheaded by his rebellious subjects. It is further reported that the Dutch Government will not recognize the new English regime and that the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York escaped from England and have found asylum with their brother-in-law, William, Prince of Orange, the Stadtholder, at the Hague.

May 10, 1649—Because of the threatened war between Holland and England and the uncertainty, in such an event, of our future relations with the United Colonies of New England, and because of the recent death of Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts, which makes the situation more difficult, our Director Stuyvesant has written to the Governors of the New England Colonies suggesting a general conference to be held at New Amsterdam, at which the many points of controversy between New Netherland and the New England Colonies may be discussed and peaceably settled.
DID THE INDIANS SPEAK LATIN TO THE DUTCH

By Wilfred B. Talman

Adventures in historical research are fascinating. You never know where such an adventure will take you. I began one with the intention of proving that our ancestors taught local Indians how to count beaver pelts in Jersey Dutch. The adventure left me wondering whether the Indians didn’t use Roman numerals.

Having made a list of all Jersey Dutch words I had heard around home since I was a child, I remembered some jabberwocky my father had rattled off a few times, like a tobacco auctioneer—something he called “Indian counting.” It went:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Een</td>
<td>One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen</td>
<td>Two</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tether</td>
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<td>Feather</td>
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<td>Fimp</td>
<td>Three</td>
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<td>Tather</td>
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<td>Lather</td>
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<td>Ding</td>
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This might sound like Indian to someone who didn’t know anything about it. But that “een” (one) sounded Dutch, and so did “ding” (ten). “Feather” (four) might be the Dutch for four. “Fimp” sounded German.

I couldn’t trace any more Dutch in it, though—Jersey Dutch or otherwise. I looked through books on Indian languages and couldn’t find an Indian system of enumeration that resembled it. But I did find a few people who had heard something similar as “Indian counting.” One Holland Society member, Herbert S. Ackerman, had heard it from an aunt, “Indian counting.” One Holland Society member, Herbert S. Ackerman, had heard it from an aunt, another man had heard it in a Kickapoo medicine show.

I could find no aboriginal language where the natives counted first to ten and then continued with series of fives. A native Dutchman said it might have been remembered in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Ohio (where it passed for genuine Indian numeration). It had been used in England in recent times “by shepherds to count their sheep, by old women to enumerate the stitches of their knitting, by boys and girls for ‘counting out’ and by nurses to amuse children.”

It was much the same as my “Indian counting,” and various versions from Wales, England, Ireland, and New England were given. The word for “one” was variously ane, een, aina, eina, or un. “Four” was feather, futher, peddera, peppera, or pedwar. “Ten” was dick, dig, or deg. “Fifteen” was bump, bumprey, bumpit, bumpit, pumpi, or pymtheg. “Twenty” was dig it, giggy, ticket, or jicket.

So my research into the Jersey Dutch language ran off into Celtic and Cymric, and from counting beaver skins into counting sheep and stitches. But a little supposition applied as a historian is supposed to apply it, but not necessarily to swallow it, brought up some of the following questions:

Where did the Welsh, the Irish, and other Celts get this system of counting, which seems to have been handed down almost as a separate language? Un, peddero, and dix are certainly recognizable as derived either from Romance languages or the same roots.

Can it be that this score of numbers was transplanted to the British Isles during the Roman invasion of Britain? Or did it come from later intermingling of Celts and Gauls and Iberians?

What might the ancient Romans have counted on their fingers besides sheep? How about pigs? Can “the Anglo-Cymric score” or “Indian counting” be “pig Latin” or “hog Latin” passed down for centuries by word of mouth and varied in each country and locality? Could our American Indians have used a mangled version of a simple system by which Roman serfs counted their pigs?

This looks like something older than The Holland Society has ever delved into, and aside from the fact that our ancestors, too, seem to have used Indian counting, it hasn’t much connection with Dutch colonial history. So I leave it for someone better versed in philology and etymology than I am to make the definite assertion that our ancestors and the Indians wrangled in Latin over piles of beaver pelts.

In 1944 there was published “A Treasury of American Folklore,” edited by B. A. Botkin. In it were listed numerous versions of “The Anglo-Cymric Score”—a system of counting up to 20 attributed to the Wawenoc Indians of Maine, which “was really employed by the Indians in dealing with the colonists, having been remembered in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Ohio (where it passed for genuine Indian numeration).” It had been used in England in recent times “by shepherds to count their sheep, by old women to enumerate the stitches of their knitting, by boys and girls for ‘counting out’ and by nurses to amuse children.”

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HENRY CRANE SCHENCK
Henry Crane Schenck, a member of The Holland Society of New York since the thirteenth of March, 1919 and number 129 in seniority, died at his home, 349 Teaneck Road, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, the twenty-ninth of September, 1948. Death was caused by coronary thrombosis. He was the son of Henry Jacob and Belle (Crane) Schenck. He was born in the former City of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, the twenty-fourth of November, 1885. His father had also been a member of the Society. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Margaret M. Schenck and two sons, Henry A. Schenck of Kenmore, New York, and Charles E. Schenck of Ridgefield Park, New Jersey.

EVEREST B. KIERSTED
Everest B. Kiersted, a member of The Holland Society of New York since the twelfth of March, 1896 and number fourteen in seniority, died at The Hotel Edgemere, East Orange, New Jersey, the thirteenth of December, 1948. Mr. Kiersted was born in Hancock, New York, the twenty-eighth of April, 1855 and was in his ninety-fourth year. He was the son of Alexander C. and Drusilla Brewster (Beach) Kiersted. He was one of the earliest graduates of Cornell University. He carried the Charter of Psi Upsilon, a social fraternity, from Syracuse University to Cornell for the purpose of founding a unit at Cornell. For many years he had travelled extensively in Europe. After his marriage in 1912 to Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson of Jersey City, he settled in East Orange. He was a lawyer by profession. He was a prominent Mason and Knight Templar. He is survived by a stepdaughter, Mrs. Robert P. Bennett of Orange. His funeral was held from The Colonial Home, East Orange on Thursday, the sixteenth of December, 1948, with interment in Rosedale Cemetery, Orange.

EUGENE M. VAN VECHTEN
Eugene Montgomery Van Vechten, a Life Member of The Holland Society of New York since the seventeenth of June, 1910 and number seventy-five in seniority, died the thirteenth of December, 1948, at his home, 36 King Street, Hillside, New Jersey. He was born at Roselle, New Jersey, the seventh of May, 1889, the son of Arthur and Harriet Stevens (Clarkson) Van Vechten. He received his education at the Pingry School, Elizabeth. For many years he was a member of the New York sales division staff of the Grinnell Company of Providence, Rhode Island. He had a summer residence at Bay Head, New Jersey. He was a member of The Colonia Country Club, The Colonial Lords of The Manor and The Baltusrol and Spring Lake Country Clubs. He had also served as a member of the Vestry of Saint John’s Episcopal Church of Elizabeth. He is survived by his wife, the former Helen Isabel Halsey and a brother, Arthur L. Van Vechten. His funeral took place on Wednesday, the fifteenth of December, 1948 from the Ogden Funeral Home, Elizabeth.

THOMAS W. LYDECKER
Thomas William Lydecker, a member of The Holland Society of New York since the eighth of June, 1905 and number forty-six in seniority, died the twentieth of January, 1949, at his residence, 228 Grand Avenue, Englewood, New Jersey. He was one of the oldest residents of that community. He was born in the same homestead in which he died on the eleventh of August, 1869 and was the son of Abraham and Rachel (Demarest) Lydecker. For many years he operated large commercial green houses. He was a valuable and active member of The Bergen County Historical Society. He was also a member of The Sons of The American Revolution. He was ninth in descent from Ryck Lydecker who came from the Netherlands to New Netherland in 1640. His funeral was conducted from his late residence the twenty-second of January, 1949. He is survived by two nephews, Garrett of Pelham Manor, New York, and Robert of Englewood, N. J. and two nieces.

GEORGE S. VAN VLIET
George Stockwell Van Vliet, a member of The Holland Society of New York since the ninth of December, 1897 and number eighteen in seniority, died the twentieth of January, 1949 at his home, Pleasant Plains, New York. He was an active member and a former Trustee of The Dutchess County Historical Society. He possessed a magnificent library of some two thousand volumes. He was born in the old family homestead at Pleasant Plains, N. Y., the seventeenth of September, 1865, the son of Henry R. and Hannah (Le Roy) Van Vliet. His wife, the former Mercedes Tremper, died in 1945. He is survived by a son, H. Richard Van Vliet, and a daughter Helena G. Van Vliet. His funeral was held on the thirty-first January, 1949, and interment was in Pleasant Plains.

On Our Book Shelf
From Collegiate Reformed Protestant Dutch Church: Year Book 1948.
From Cornell University: Third and Fourth Annual Reports of the Curator, Collection of Regional History, 1946-1948.
From Arthur J. Goff: “Ancestry of and Descent from Captain Pieter Praa (1655-1740) of Bushwick, Kings County, N. Y. (83 pp.)
From Raymond W. Storm: Old Dirck’s Book—A Brief ac­count of the life and times of Dirck Storm of Holland, his antecedents, and the family he founded in America in 1662, by Raymond W. Storm, 1949.
MEMORIAL FUNDS

Commencing with this issue of "de Halve Maen," the names of members and friends of the Holland Society of New York who, through acceptable gifts or bequests of One-thousand Dollars or more to the Society, help perpetuate the memory of the early Dutch settlement of America and promote the principles of Dutch ancestors, will appear regularly in this space.

Funds received for this purpose will be kept intact and, as permanent recognition of their generosity, contributors' names will be engraved on a bronze tablet in the quarters occupied by the Society.

Qualifying under this arrangement are the following (deceased) persons, to whose memory grateful acknowledgment of gifts received is made:

H. Russell Voorhees
Ellen Peabody
Francklyn Hogeboom

Ulster Meeting

Vice-President David Van Zandt Bogert has announced that the annual dinner meeting of the Ulster County Branch will be held this year at the "Old Fort" in New Paltz on Saturday, May 14. It is a date significant as marking the anniversary of the peace agreement in 1654 marking the end of the war with the Esopus Indians. Preceding the meeting at 7 o'clock members and guests will be guided on a tour of the ancient houses along Huguenot Street and to other places of historic interest.

Church Service

The ninth annual church service of The Holland Society of New York was held at the Middle Collegiate Church, Second Avenue and Seventh Street, this city, at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning, April 24. The Rev. Dr. Ernest R. Palen, pastor and Domine of the Society, conducted the service and President Harold O. Voorhis read the names of the sixteen members who died during the year. The Burghers Guard, under Trustee T. Morris Van der Veer, carried the colors in the processional.