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Editor's Corner

Recently I returned from a kind of preaching tour of New England, centered in Boston and Providence. As a son of New Netherland, I came home with two distinct impressions.

The first was how many New Netherland names there are in those two cities. In the Providence phone book, for example, there is almost a page of "Vans". While many of them would seem to indicate representatives from later Dutch immigrations, there were enough Van Burens, Van Blarcoms, Van Buskirk, Van Giesons and Van Dykes (to say nothing of a handful of Hegemans!) to lead me to believe that New England could be fertile missionary soil for the Holland Society. I don't know exactly how a Rhode Island branch could be organized, but there is certainly plenty of raw material there.

The second impression is how little our history is known in New England and how much interest there seemed to be in it. At several dinner parties I found myself almost giving lectures on New Netherland and the Dutch Reformed Church as though they were foreign and distant institutions. More than once it occurred to me that our magazine could have a real purpose to fill here if it could gain a wider reading. Is there some charitable Dutchman out there who would be willing to help get de Halve Maen into some significant New England libraries for a year or so? It could be a real Trojan horse!

In that connection, you will be interested to know that the Editor's drawer is well filled with some excellent articles which will be appearing in future issues: the history of the Bronck House near Coxsackie, New York and a discussion of the formation of the Dutch Church in Kings County which is celebrating its 325th anniversary this year. It should be good reading, not only for our Holland Society audience, but for a much wider circle if we can find it.

With the only magazine devoted to the exclusive study of New Netherland and a record of publications exceeded by no historical society in this country, the Holland Society approaches its centennial in 1985 with enviable accomplishments. But if we have done much, we have much still to do — not the least of which is getting our story out to those who know little or nothing about it.

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The Administration of Peter Stuyvesant-IV
by Drake de Kay

...continuing the story of the stormy years of the last and greatest governor of New Netherland.

The States-General's Temporary Remedy
On April 11, 1650 the committee made its report to the States-General, offering a "remedy" which "ought to give contentment to both parties until further provision should be made." Their remedy was a "Provisional Order" for governing New Netherland which they recommended should be enacted by the States-General, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Company directors.

The proposed Order condemned the measures by which Kieft had involved the Province in war with the Indians, and required that henceforth no hostilities should be entered "against the aborigines or neighbors of New Netherland" without the knowledge of the States-General; Dam and Planck, who had petitioned for the war, should be sent to the Hague to be examined. Trade with the Indians in guns and ammunition should be gradually and totally abolished. Provision was made for additional clergy and schoolmasters; for the election of two counselors by the commonalty; for promotion of trade and agriculture. Stuyvesant should be instructed "to return to Holland and report," and a suitable person "experienced in matters relating to agriculture" should be sent "to take charge of the country lying on both sides of the great North River, extending south to the South River, and north to the Fresh River." A Court of Justice and a burgher government consisting of a Schout, two burgomasters, and five schepens should also be established in the "city of New Amsterdam."

The Provisional Order foreshadowed a considerable increase of popular rights, though it did not fully meet the views of the popular delegates. The members of the Amsterdam Chamber (West India Company), on the other hand, regarded it as a personal affront — an outrageous attempt to interfere with their privilege to govern New Netherland as they saw fit. Every clause of the Provisional Order met with their bitter opposition. Grudgingly, for the satisfaction of the colonists, they granted that two persons might be added to the council, but they should be selected by the Company from a triple nomination by the people.

Stuyvesant should not be recalled; if requisite, the vice-director could be sent for. To the provision that the Nine Men should continue three years longer and have limited judicial power in small cases "between man and man," the Amsterdam Chamber objected to any additional power being given to the Nine; furthermore, the administration of Justice had better be left "as it then stood." The Provisional Order had proposed that private vessels sailing to New Netherland be compelled to carry poor agricultural emigrants, according to their tonnage; and that the "Commissioners of New Netherland" in the Amsterdam Chamber should spend at least 15,000 guilders annually in their transportation. The directors agreed that ships should carry emigrants but declared that, in the exhausted state of their treasury, it would be unjust to their creditors to expend 15,000 guilders annually for that purpose.

Such meagre modifications of the "Freedoms and Exemptions" of 1629 and 1640 as the directors grudgingly proposed scarcely deserved the name of reforms. The Provisional Order was referred back to the committee and copies were sent to the various Chambers of the Company. Writing to Stuyvesant on April 15, 1650, the directors remarked: "We send you a copy of this resolution from which you may learn what vexations we have suffered, and how full of danger it is to irritate a furious multitude."

Couwenhoven and Bout, bearing letters from the States-General forbidding Stuyvesant to molest them, set sail for New Amsterdam on April 8, carrying 200 stand of arms and a flag for the Burgher Guard. Accompanying them was Dirck van Schelluyne with a commission to practice as a notary public in New Netherland. Van der Donck remained in Holland to prosecute the cause of the commonalty.

In order to promote education and religion in New Netherland the Amsterdam Classis sent out William Vestens, "a good, God-fearing man as Ziekenrooster" or consoler of the sick, and schoolmaster at New Amsterdam. Domine Wilhelmus Grassmeer, son-in-law of Megapolensis (then the only clergyman in the province), set sail to take charge of the Beverwyck church.

Municipal affairs at New Amsterdam still continued to be administered by the provincial government. Jan
Cornelissen was the schoolteacher, and an academy was contemplated. Real estate contracts on Manhattan had become so frequent that it was ordained, to guard against fraud, that only those contracts approved by the Director and Council should be valid. Bakers, of whom there were a proportionally large number in the capital, on account of the demand for ship's biscuit, were required to make their bread of the "standard weight of the Fatherland" and to use "only pure wheat and rye flour as it comes from the mill." Wampum was made lawfully current; "there being at present no other specie," at rate of six white or three black beads of "commercial sewan," or eight white and four black of the "base strung," for one stuyver. While the fort was being repaired inhabitants were ordered not to let their cattle run at large without a herdsman "between the fort and the Company's bouwery, and the pasture ground occupied by Thomas Hall and the house of Mr. Isaac Allerton."

On the return of Couvenhoven and Bout at the end of June 1650, news was spread abroad of the States-General's favorable action. Though the Provisional Order was not yet ratified, at least it foreshadowed reform. The Nine Men requested Stuyvesant to promulgate it officially; but he flatly declined, on the score that the Company opposed it, and he would not conform to an instrument which his immediate superiors disregarded. Obedient to the commands of the States-General the Director, however, conscientiously proclaimed the peace of Westphalia.

Stuyvesant's jealousy, which had prevented mustering the Burgher Guard for two years, now refused them the stand of colors brought out from Holland by the delegates. He also withheld the new supply of arms. The previous winter having been so cold "that the ink froze in the pen," food became scarce; yet the Director, with famine conditions threatening and against the protests of Van Dinklaken and the Nine Men, sent to Curacao cargoes of provisions to victual the Company's ships. A petty spite, one of his unpleasant traits, led him to deprive the Nine Men of the church pew which the consistory had appropriated to their use.

Writing to his superiors in mid-August 1650, Stuyvesant accused the delegates of attempting to draw the people away from their allegiance to the Company and its officers. A few days later a letter, signed by Baxter and the other magistrates at s'Gravensande, was sent to the Amsterdam Chamber, "thankfully acknowledging" the benefits "enjoyed under Company rule." The returned delegates, they averred, had given birth to "schisms, factions, and intestine commotions" which could be prevented "by supporting and maintaining our present governor against those malignants, and by our superiors in Holland discarding the false reports of discontented persons."

In opposing the "idea of popular freedom" among the Dutch commonalty, Stuyvesant made shrewd use of the English minority whose sycophancy to the provincial government and the West India Company was rewarded by special favors. Writing in September to the States-General the Nine Men reported that no improvement had followed the home government's intervention. "We can not," they declared, "undertake anything so long as nothing is withheld. We hope, therefore, that your High Mightinesses will confer on us a good and wholesome government."

Stuyvesant and United Colonies Commissioners Arbitrate

Bitterly opposed by the Dutch and strongly supported by the English residents, Stuyvesant prepared for the long-projected meeting with commissioners of the United Colonies. Accompanied by George Baxter, English Secretary, and a large suite, the Director set sail from New Amsterdam on September 17. Touching at several settlements on the Sound, he arrived at Hartford in four days.

After considerable fencing in correspondence it was agreed that "all differences" should be referred to two delegates from each side who should prepare satisfactory articles of agreement. The commissioners chose as their delegates Simon Bradstreet of Massachusetts and Thomas Prince of Plymouth; while Stuyvesant delegated Capt. Thomas Willett and Ensign George Baxter.

The award of these arbitrators proved a respite for claims made by the English during Kieft's administration, until Stuyvesant could communicate with the Amsterdam Chamber. In regard to the South River, both parties were left in statu quo prius. New Haven should acquiesce in Stuyvesant's explanation concerning the seizure of Westerhouse's ship. With regard to bounds and limits the arbitrators determined:

"I. That upon Long Island, a line run from the westernmost part of the Oyster Bay, so and in a straight and direct line to the sea, shall be the bounds between the English and the Dutch there, the easterly part to belong to the English, the westernmost part to the Dutch.

"II. The bounds upon the main to begin at the west of Greenwich Bay, being about four miles from Stamford, and so to run a northerly line up into the country, and after, as it shall be agreed by the two governments of the Dutch and of New Haven; provided the said line come not within ten miles of Hudson's River. And it is agreed that the Dutch shall not, at any time hereafter, build any house or habitation within six miles of the said line. The inhabitants of Greenwich to remain, till further consideration thereof be had, under the government of the Dutch.

"III. That the Dutch shall hold and enjoy all the lands in Hartford that they are actually possessed of, known or set out by certain marks or bounds; and all the remainder of said land, on both sides Connecticut River, to be and remain the English there. And it is agreed that the aforesaid bounds and limits, both upon the island and main, shall be observed and kept inviolate both by the English of the United Colonies and all the nation without any encroachment or molestation until a full and final determination be agreed upon in Europe by the mutual consent of the two states of England and Holland."

An agreement was also reached that the provision made in the 8th article of the New England confederation for the return of runaway slaves and fugitives from justice should be observed between New England and New Netherland.

After an ineffectual attempt to arrange an alliance against the Indians with the United Colonies, Stuyvesant returned to New Amsterdam and reported the results of his negotiations to the Chamber at Amsterdam. However, he omitted to send them a copy of the Hartford treaty; and five years later the directors expressed apprehension that the discussions

(continued on page 15)
The Van Rensselaers of the Seventeenth Century

By Eva M. Gardner

Mrs. Gardner, wife of one of the members of our Society, chronicles the beginnings of one of New Netherland's greatest families. Her article first appeared in the Yearbook for 1970-72 of the Dutch Settlers Society of Albany through whose courtesy it is published here.

Kiliaen van Rensselaer of the Netherlands, the founder of an area which ultimately became one of the most prosperous of the country, has generally been treated unfairly by historians and biographers. To be sure, very few landlords have ever been popular with their tenants. And if the landlord be an absentee, he is in a very unhappy position indeed.

The most authoritative source of information available about Kiliaen van Rensselaer's land purchase and the personal management of his colony in New Netherland is his personal book of letters, the thousand page Van Rensselaer Bowen Manuscripts to be found in the New York State Library in Albany.

These letters make it clear that van Rensselaer was not primarily interested in the fur trade but regarded it as a transient phase which would end when the Indians had killed off the animals for fur trading purposes. His own purpose was to colonize for permanence through farming, since he believed that in the fertile soil of the upper Hudson valley crops could be raised which would be in demand further south where the weather was much warmer.

Like many of his compatriots, van Rensselaer had a practical knowledge of agriculture. A few years before his New Netherland experience he had reclaimed some extremely poor land beside the North Sea, near his summer home, a family property called Craio (Crow's Woods). He peopled this reclaimed area with various relatives and friends, among them those who were hungry for land of their own. This new opportunity had an appeal to this younger group. In later years, no small number from this area (Goolland, Hoesin, Duezen and Hilversum) came to Rensselaerswyck and in time became substantial citizens. No novice in "making plantation", to use the English phrase, van Rensselaer had an interest in the New Netherland project almost from its inception. When the Dutch West India Company was formed, as an influential merchant in Amsterdam, van Rensselaer was chosen as a director of the Amsterdam Chamber. The West India Company was organized as a trading company allowed to operate in the Western Hemisphere. Hendrick van Rensselaer, Kiliaen's father, the captain of a company of foot soldiers, died on June 6, 1602 in Ostend, Belgium. Hendrick and his wife, Maria Pasaar, had two children, Kiliaen and Maria (who later married Ryckaert van Twiller). Kiliaen was born while his father "lay in garrison" at Hasselt, probably about 1580. As a young man, conforming to the custom of the day, he became a jeweler's apprentice.

At that time the diamond trade was combined with trade in pearls as well as with many kinds of luxurious articles. Amsterdam was ideally situated for such trade, not only because of the imperial court but because many smaller courts were nearby, especially in Germany. After spending some time in Prague on business, Kiliaen formed his own company which later was merged with the prosperous van Wely and Company, dealers in Jewels. In late July, 1616, as a successful young man, he married Hillegond van Bijler, a wealthy young woman, and promptly built her a handsome house.

Two sons were born to this marriage, Hendrick, who apparently died in childhood, and Johannes (often called Johan), apparently never robust, who died at thirty-seven, leaving a son Kiliaen the second. The happy marriage ended in 1626 with Hillegond's death.

About a year later, on December 14, 1627, van Rensselaer re-married. His second wife was Anna van Wely, a daughter of his former partner and distantly related to him as well as to his former wife. Van Rensselaer was already possessed of a considerable wealth and his new wife, Anna, brought a tidy sum with her to the marriage.

By 1627 the West India Company had been organized for several years. Certain "chief participants" were received into the Amsterdam Chamber, van Rensselaer among the first. Since his efforts at land reclamation had proved such a success, he was deeply interested in land in the new world, discerning no insurmountable difficulties in founding and carrying on a colony in what was then spoken of as "an unpeopled and fruitful land across the Atlantic Ocean." In his words, "This settlement is for future generations"—and it was.

The word patroon, which actually means patron, is a much misunderstood and misused one. As set forth in the charter of the West India Company, a patroon was obliged to purchase fairly the lands which belonged to the natives. He was immediately to collect or furnish funds for the support of a domine and a schoolmaster and must send fifty persons above the age of fifteen to his new dominion within four years from his application. A number of well-to-do Dutchmen applied for patroonships thinking only of quick profits, little realizing the cost of founding and maintaining a colony in the wilderness. Van Rensselaer was not so naive.

"Everything needed" was an incredible amount of supplies since the necessities of life included cattle, horses, wagons, farm implements, seeds, building materials, tools, bedding, duffels for clothing and (at first) food. Almost all of the first settlers were young people, a majority of whom did not have passage money. Van Rensselaer advanced the cost of the crossing to such persons, to be repaid from their wages. Over a protected period of settlement, such an undertaking required enormous resources.

The first colonists arrived in 1630, though the group...
was assembled with considerable difficulty. The
Netherlands was then a place of almost full
employment since the long war with Spain had ended
and reconstruction was taking place. People busily
employed at home were not likely to want to emigrate
to a wild new country inhabited by aborigines. The
Rensselaerswyck contracts were clear and well
prepared. The term of service, at fair wages, was
usually for three years, though occasionally it was
extended to four. The tenant permanently owned
one-half of any livestock born on any farm during his
tenancy. The increase was his to do with as he saw fit.
When a contract expired, the tenant was free to leave.
In fact, many of the tenants, on the expiration of their
contracts, bought land from the Indians for
themselves.

At first van Rensselaer had several partners, but after
a short time of a constant outlay with no profits, the
partners sold out and the patroon purchased their
shares. Van Rensselaer's nephew, van Twiller, was at
the time Director of New Netherlands. The patroon did
not come to the new world, but thought it best to
remain home looking after his business, especially
since the voyage to the colony took three months and
was a hazardous one. Furthermore in 1630, van
Rensselaer was probably about fifty, at that time
considered well on in years.

By his second wife, van Rensselaer had a large
family, four daughters and four sons, Jan Baptist,
Jeremias, Nicolaes and Ryckert. In addition there was
his son by his first wife, Johannes, the intended heir of
the patroonship.

Various men, some more satisfactory than others,
were sent over to direct the settlement which somehow
kept growing. By 1635 only five farms had been
cleared and were producing. Since van Rensselaer had purchased his land from the Indians
through responsible agents at fair prices by tribal
consent, the settlement was never the scene of
slaughter or burning. It was known by the Indians as
the House of Peace.

In December, 1637, the patroon sent over his
cousin, Arent van Curler, who was then only
eighteen, to be secretary and bookkeeper. Mostly
interested in furthering his own ends, van Curler was
not of much help to his relative. In 1643 van Curler
married the widow of Jonas Brinck, a well-to-do
woman said to have been many years her new
husband's senior. A few years later, he became
enamored with the daughter of Domine Schaats of the
Dutch Church in Rensselaerswyck and this affair
resulted in the birth of an illegitimate son. The boy was
called Benoni (son of my sorrow) van Curler and
eventually married into one of the best families in the
colony. For a long time Arent van Curler lived at
Schuyler Flats, leaving there to become one of the
founders of Schenectady.

In spite of countless disappointments and
expensive setbacks, the colony grew slowly but
steadily. It was still in a delicate state when the only
patroon who ever settled a successful colony in New
Netherlands wrote his last letter dated August 6, 1643.
For a long time the date of Kiliaen van Rensselaer's
death was somewhat of a mystery, but today it is
known that the burial records of the Old Church in
Amsterdam confirm the fact that he was buried in the
church on October 7, 1643. In the last letter which has
survived, no mention is made of ill health. At the time
of his death, van Rensselaer was about 63, leaving
behind him a widow and a large family. His oldest son,
Johannes, inherited the difficult patroonship at the age
of seventeen.

With the possible exception of Johannes, all of the
van Rensselaer sons had received a business
education including Nicolaes who later became a
domine. During the adolescence of the sons, the
colony was managed by appointed directors, the best-
known of whom was van Slichtenhorst who was for a
time imprisoned when he attempted to defend the
patroon's rights in opposition to Peter Stuyvesant.

The first son to come to the colony was Jan Baptist,
the oldest son by the second wife. He arrived in 1651
and within a year had succeeded van Slichtenhorst as
director. Johannes, the older half brother, was
technically the patroon by inheritance, but for some
reason (possibly a matter of health) he never crossed
the ocean and apparently had little interest in the
colony. After seven years Jan Baptist returned to
Amsterdam and his brother, Jeremias, became
director. The villagers in Beverwyck, which
Stuyvesant had separated from the rest of the van
Rensselaer holdings, still thought of the van
Rensselaers as patroons.

Jeremias had been in the colony in the fall of 1654,
returning to the Netherlands about a year later. He
returned in 1656 and spent the rest of his life guiding
the badly faltering enterprise. His father's ample
money and experience were sorely needed and
greatly missed. An unsettled estate with nine or ten
heirs caused a monetary crisis here as well as in the
Netherlands.

From one small bit of testimony given in the
courtroom in Fort Orange it is clear that the first
directors lived near the fort. In a foot note Dr. Van
Laer has stated that very possibly it was the same
house in which Planck, van Slichtenhorst and other
directors had lived. From later family letters we learn
that Jan Baptist and Jeremias occupied the same
crude dwelling for a time. Part of the letters sent
to Jan Baptist by Jeremias, a bachelor, dated
September 9, 1659, reads as follows:

I have not much to write except that I am busy
repairing the house in which I live as I could not
stand it this way any longer. The past winter I
had to shore up several beams both in the
chamber and in the cellar. The beam in the
chamber, next to the chimney, was so decayed
at the tenyon that it slid off the post so that I was
afraid it would fall down. On the other side of the
chimney the beam which you had put on rests so
loosely on the posts that it was necessary to have
some rebuilding done there.

I have had the cellar and the chamber torn
down to the ground. The roof I have shored up
so that it will remain standing, but the cellar I am
having thoroughly walled up all around with
stone so as to use it as a kitchen-cellar, in two
parts; the fore part to be 24 feet long. I have had
brick burned for that purpose so that this will cost
more than if I had a framework put up. The rear
part, which heretofore was used as a kitchen, I
had somewhat repaired and another partition
built in, so that now I live in it, but earnestly hope
to have the other part done before winter so that
I may live in it...

The work was really necessary. As you well
know, there was nothing good about the
structure; neither the attic, the floor, the gable,
(continued on page 16)
Quilting Bee in New Amsterdam
by Helen Adams Amerman

A native of the Old Bay State and resident of Brookline at the time of her marriage in 1945, Mrs. Amerman, wife of the Society President, is the mother of their 13-year-old daughter and four grown sons. She attended the public schools and was graduated from Vesper George School of Art in Boston in 1940. A participant in the Society's trips to Holland in '63 and '73, Mrs. Amerman is active in church work, DAR and the Woman's Club in her home community of Rutherford, N.J., where she teaches adult courses in quilt-making and crocheting.

The big day began when the sun rose. The quilters gathered after early breakfast and promptly set to work marking off with pieces of chalk the pattern to be quilted. It was late March in the year 1660, let us say, on a thriving farmstead near New Amsterdam, and the occasion was the first quilting bee of the season. Skillfully the women created a design on the cloth, using plates or mugs to trace larger or smaller circles and perhaps to form the sweep of feathers or trailing vines against a background of diamonds. Shortly, the outline finished to their satisfaction, they would be sitting three abreast around the quilting frame, nimble fingers moving surely and quickly.

In preparation for this day, the huisvrouw had spent long winter evenings by the warmth of her kitchen fireplace, making as many patchwork tops as her supply of scraps and time allowed. For this era saw the beginning of a handiwork uniquely American, born of necessity and cherished for the beauty it gave to the commonplace. The high regard Dutch people held for thrift made every bit of material precious, whether scraps of new material saved when clothes were made or useable sections of worn-out clothing. The largest pieces were put aside to make more clothes and then even the smallest of clippings were sewn together in a pile until quilting-time came.

Now with the coming of spring, social life was resuming. It had been a long winter and there had been little activity outside their homes but for church meetings; and with few exceptions the austerity of their Calvinist religion, strict and uncompromising, precluded church functions other than worship. This, then, was the season for catching up on the gossip and the announcements of engagements and of babies to be born, and there would be a lot of them this year. If there was anything a Dutch housewife dearly loved, as much, perhaps, as keeping a spotless home, it was gossip.

So it is easy to see why a quilting bee was so eagerly anticipated, and was the most important social function in the neighborhood. It combined the necessity of finishing the quilt quickly (once set up, the frame could not be moved until the job was done), with the fun of getting together with friends again. They could wear their Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes, an excuse they seldom had, and it was more elegant than corn-huskings or apple-peeling parties. The women sent out invitations and each in her turn prepared for a gala occasion. This was one of the rare times the "fore-room" was used. It was hardly ever opened except for weddings and funerals and the twice-annual housecleanings. Usually the most accomplished needlewomen were invited because the Dutch took great pride in their handiwork and, like everything else they did, demanded perfection. The
The one on the frame is typical. It was made in four 36-inch-square sections, and to these pieces when "set together" was added an eighteen-inch border all around, making a super-sized quilt of about one hundred and eight inches square.

When the design was completely drawn, the workers began to stitch it down, a difficult job because of the extra thickness of the quilt. Due to the scarcity of materials, it was important to make a quilt as cozy as possible to snuggle under on the cold winter nights. The women worked steadily for three or four hours, but when eleven o'clock came they were glad enough to stretch stiff backs and cramped fingers and take an hour off from their tedious and painstaking labor to enjoy a dinner fit for Director Stuyvesant himself. In quilting-bee time each housewife vied with the others to show off her culinary skills and the delicacies of her larder and cellar.

It might be interesting to see what was kept in the "prouiekamer" as the houtenl used called her storeroom, which was really more of a cupboard. There were pots with pickled "onions," gherkins and cucumbers, flat dishes for butter, wooden racks of eggs, canisters for coffee beans and the various types of teas. There were bottles of sterilized vegetables and fruits, jars of sugars (which came in lump form and cut with sugar cutters, then ground by means of a mortar and pestle), rice and sago. Smaller ones were for spices which generally included cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg and mace. Each jar was carefully labelled as to its contents. There might be a ripe gouda cheese hanging from the rafters. This was not the only place where food was stored. One would find the potatoes and beans together with the wine, vinegar and oil in the coolness of the cellar, the apples and pears spread in the attic.

Recipes for pickles and preserves were discussed and swapped as the workers cleared the kitchen before returning to the quilt. Their task would have to be finished by five, before the sun set and the men began to return home, before it was too dark to continue with the quilting. The quilt done and ready awaited the menfolk at dinner sitting in straight-backed chairs around long oak extension tables with large bulbous legs connected by stretchers, well worn from being used as foot rests. Betty-lamps illuminated the room. These were ladle-shaped containers with hooked handles to hang them by, which burned tallow, grease or oil.

After they finished dinner, the women washed and put away the pewter plates while the menfolk had a chance to compare notes on planting and community affairs as they took down and stored the quilting frame in the storage room over the fore-room.

Then the fiddler arrived, and young and old alike joined in the fun of a country dance similar to our barn dances. It must have been a picturesque sight, the full skirts swinging rythmically atop their many voluminous petticoats, revealing brightly knit woolen stockings. It is from this activity, which invariable followed the quilting bee, that some of the quilt patterns derived their names, such as "Hands all Around," and "Swing in the Center."

In the earliest days of New Amsterdam the quilt, being a necessity, was often a hastily made expedient. Thus, little thought was given to design at first, the need being so great for warm covers for the beds and hangings for doors and windows against the cold. But as the years went by, the inherent Dutch love of beauty caused the womenfolk to produce more decorative quilts. For these they found the source of their designs mainly in three fields. Nature provided most of the basic designs: trees, leaves, flowers, vines, butterflies, and birds were among the most common. Occupations inspired names for the more abstract designs such as "The Anvil," "Ship's Wheel," "Water Mill," "The Dusty Miller." Bible stories were the inspiration for such names as "Job's Tears," "Joseph's Coat," "Jacob's Ladder," and "David and Goliath." Rose Wilder Lane, a well known writer on the subject, points out in an article that "only the Dutch women of Manhattan, Long Island and Penn's Forest had the superb skill to sew a perfect seam on a curved bias," in order to make a quilt such as "Robbing Peter to Pay Paul."

As the fun-filled festivities came to an end, the good Dutch people could look back with pleasure upon the accomplishments of the day. The quilt done and ready for immediate use on a dower chest; the memory of good meals, not fancy but rich and well seasoned and with tastefully prepared sauces in which the Dutch excel; the fellowship of friends, together with the exuberance of the dance. Simplicity of living, which characterized the Dutch people, added to their enjoyment of life and never restrained their robust natures. It had been a successful quilting bee.

(continued on page 21)
In The Netherlands With Our Members

Indianapolis Member
wins interview with Queen Juliana

by Gene Van Sickle

Precisely at 11:00 a.m., Friday the 13th of October, 1978, Her Royal Highness Queen Juliana at her Royal Palace in Soestdijk welcomed twenty members of a total group of one hundred twenty members of the "Heritage Tour to The Netherlands" on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the Dutch Reformed Church in America and accompanied by a few Holland Society members considered to be honorary members of the church.

Seven of the group which visited the Queen included four Domines of the church, one of which was the well known Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, and three of their wives. Names were then drawn from a hat to determine who the remaining thirteen lucky persons would be. The last name to be drawn was Rosalie Van Sickle's, who gave her ticket to her husband Gene VanSickle, who, since retiring from the radio business has been researching his Dutch heritage which began with the original Dutch Colony on Manhattan and Long Island.

The first five generations of the family were in fact members of the Dutch Reformed Church.

Members of the Tour left New York on October 9th via Royal Dutch Airlines (piloted by a member of the Reformed Church) and returned one week later after having completed the best possible planned tour for the time allotted. They visited six of the oldest medieval churches, some of which were being restored, the Royal Palace in Amsterdam, the Rijksmuseum with an honored reception and viewing of the famous Dutch masterpieces of art. A "candle light" cruise on the canals was breathtaking (along with the wine and cheese served). A daytime boat trip for the inspection of ship yards at Rotterdam, a bus trip on the Dijk to view the new Zuider Zee Polders, Flower Farms and Windmills, were part of the schedule.

This tour, according to Mr. Van Sickle, was nine months in planning. Included with the tour was an official tour agent of the Dutch Government as well as Domine Ferdinand VanMelle of the Venhuizen "Mother Church" of The Netherlands. A Sunday service was held in this ancient church, part of which was simultaneous in both Dutch and English with the fine old organ accompanied by a "live trumpet".

When asked specifically about the conversation with the Queen, Mr. VanSickle says it was a little difficult to remember the exact, kind, soft-spoken words of the gracious lady. The meeting was quite informal.

We were first individually introduced by Domine VanMelle. I said, "This is so nice," as she extended her hand to me. This took place in a large foyer. She suggested the weather was so beautiful we should all go outside, then after a remark about God's being with us for such a long trip, Her Majesty offered coffee. As we stood outside in a large circle two young men appeared wearing blue uniforms trimmed with gold braid. They bore silver trays of coffee, then cookies, than cream and sugar and later, cigarettes from a gold case.

It was a beautiful setting with an immaculately trimmed bright green lawn leading to the lake approximately 150 feet from the Palace. Several Mute Swans floating on the water graced the scene.

Dr. Peale broke the silence by first recalling his memory of an occasion aboard a ship some years ago when the announcement of a birth in the royal family came over the sound system and he was asked to give a prayer for the mother and new child, later named Beatrix, now next in line to become Queen.

Most of the tour group were from New Jersey or New York and the remarks were reminiscent of the Queen's past visits to New York. Others asked about her twelve grandchildren and someone suggested there was a book, "Cheaper by the Dozen." The Queen smiled and said she had a copy.

Mr. Van Sickle recalls, "A small tent of mosquito netting was on the lawn some distance from our group and when it was my turn to comment I asked the Queen who slept there (thinking one of her grandchildren might be a fresh air fan). She answered with a smile, 'My husband uses it for golf practice', and everyone laughed.

"Only four cigarettes were taken, three were smoked (including one by the Queen). I took the fourth and put it in my pocket thinking I would have an engraved souvenir. To my surprise, on looking at it later, it said 'Lucky Strike'."

"When our forty minute time was up, we each passed by the Queen, taking her hand again and I said, 'It was so nice of you to receive us.' I could not hear her final words, but I think they were, 'Stop by whenever you can.' As we walked in line back through the cross-hall Foyer lined with portraits, Her Majesty's Lady-in-Waiting wished us a pleasant return voyage home."

Monday the weather was cool and foggy, but the Royal Dutch Airline 747 scarcely shuddered on the long eight hour return flight which gave the happy group time to review the prestigious "Heritage Tour to The Netherlands".

A Visit To Winkel

by William Van Winkel

Sunday, 3/26:

Easter in London — clear and beautiful — weather is spectacular!! Up at 8:00, breakfast at the Goring & decide to take the bus to St. Paul’s for 10:30 Matins and Sermon — get to bus stop & decide time is too short — so take a taxi. St Paul's — wow — what a place — and that huge dome Sir Christopher Wren put on it — good sermon — wish they sang more recognizable hymns — also, feel more like a spectator than a participant. Shall we stay for Communion? Do we have enough time? Why not, we’re OK as long as we are back at the Goring Hotel by noon...at 12:20 we are just receiving our Communion...leave from the
Communion Rail to exit & grab a taxi & tell him that we are going to the airport, but that we have to stop first at the Goring and, while he waits, we'll get our luggage. Total cost of taxi all the way to Heathrow is only about $5 (US) more than cost of taxi to Goring, taxi from Goring to bus station & bus to airport would have been. Worth it. We make plane. British Airways Flt. No. 216 leaves at 2:30 p.m. We get small glimpses of England and Channel thru broken cloud cover. Then we see the coast of Holland.

Landed at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, on time at 3:30 p.m. (both England & Holland are on the same time zone now, but only for a short while — this because England has gone to “Summer Time” whereas Holland has not yet done so). Greeted by Nancy & Lou Bruch & their children Carl and Andrew. So good to see them!! Into the Ford van that they have rented for us and off we go — Lou drives. We go south through Alphen a.d.Rijn, Bodegraven and Waerder to Oudewater — where we weigh the girls to determine if they are witches — all came out OK!! Wind our way along one lane roads (which are two way — interesting) which are on top of the dykes. Holland is a clean, neat country — we almost feel like we are in Disney World, it is so clean and picturesque. And it is flat, and all those canals! They really do have thatched roof houses. (We later saw stacks of thatch and a man repairing a thatched roof. Some have elaborate designs carved on the front sloping face.) And windmills everywhere! It was so very, very thoughtful of the Bruchs to have Dutch guilders ready for us. We appreciated it a great deal.

On to Woerden, Harmelen & De Meers and across the Amsterdam-Rijn Canal into Utrecht. Thru Utrecht & out to the east side, where we see two old manor houses that remind us somewhat of Williamsburg. Lo and behold, we go around behind the second one and that's where we are to have dinner!! The Theehuis Rhijnaumen is great!! Dad tries Advocaat — thick & heavily spiked eggnog. Dad also has a real Dutch beer...We all enjoy crepes of different sorts etc.) — very nice, and what a view!!! Nice discussion until bedtime.

Monday 3/27:

Up at about 8 — and is it wet — raining — ugh!! Big traditional Dutch breakfast of cheeses, meats, breads and cheeses, meats and breads — very good. Lou suggests bike ride to Dad. Dad can't believe it. He is ecstatic! Off they go, in the rain, to the big Amsterdam-Rijn Canal, then down to Old Utrecht, along the canals, past the Dom, and back — about 5k in all — wet but wonderful. The Dutch really have a great set-up for bike riding, with all those special bike paths, signs and all. Into the van, Lou drives, and off we go to Haarlem, thru Vinkeveen, stop to see one of the pumping stations used to pump that area dry, down to Keukenhof to see the flowers. Wet, but worth it. Dad orders 95 bulbs to be sent to us in October. Should we buy the wooden shoes here? Oh well, no, we'll see them again.

Off to Amsterdam — where do we park? Into the Rijksmuseum — see Rembrandt's Self Portrait as well as the Apostle Paul and his Night Watch (supposed to be the most valuable painting in the world). On to the Van Gogh Museum — liked it very much. Is it too late to take the canal boat ride? No, let's do it — ride over to Anne Frank house, get there at 5:10, it closed at 5:00 — onto the canal boat ride. Rains while we are on the boat, but the trip is well worth it. Notice the different types of gables — bell shaped, etc., and the hoists to get furniture up & down, and how very, very narrow the houses are. That boat just fits under and through some of those bridges. Home about 7:50 p.m. — to a delightful dinner. Talk for a bit then to bed — for tomorrow it's Winkel!!

Tuesday 3/28:

Up & off to Winkel by 8:45 a.m. Raining. Dad drives. Driving not too bad — at least they are on the correct side of the road here. Stop to take pictures in front of the sign for Winkel. See man wearing wooden shoes — yes, they really do wear their Klompen. On to Mr. Oudt's house. Nice home in a nice area. Mr. & Mrs. Oudt are the most gracious hosts. Mr. Oudt tells us that he has never before met an American. We have coffee and goodies while Mr. Oudt shows us old maps, books, etc. that tie-in the Wallichsdyleke. He explains how people down by the Wallichsdyleke (almost due east of Alkmaar) had to come up to Winkel to help maintain the dyke there, too. Also, we find the name Weart — Dad's grandfather's (Grandpa's father) middle name — in one of the polders. And, we discover that the Oudts have three daughters, one of whom has a daughter called Carrie. Mr. Oudt is quite an artist. He has done a number of sketches of Winkel and the surrounding area. He presents us with an original sketch and a set of prints. What a kind man.

Off we go on our tour — first to the “Post” where we all mail cards to ourselves & get a piece of paper stamped “Winkel”. Then to the old Church, Dutch Reformed, where we meet Ds. J.P. Smit, the Pastor. This building dates from 1846, but stands on the site of a much older structure that burned. Some items in the Church are from the old church, such as the pulpit and the “box” where the burgemeester sits, dating from the 1600's. Steeple is tilting and has to be held to the church by means of rods. (From outside at a distance, we later observed this tilting steeple — very pronounced — also, this is a problem that we saw in other structures around Holland). They need money for the repair of their organ. Take group photo outside (in rain).

Drive over the West Friesian Dyke — built in 1240. Go to the lock that Mr. Oudt in 1945 closed to save the land behind it after the Germans had blown up the Dyke about seventy km away. He had to build a bulwark behind the gate, because water was coming from the wrong side. A man held a pistol to his face and told him to open the gates. They were not opened...A brave man.

On to Kolhorn (Gold Corner) where we see the house that the Oudts lived in for twenty-seven years (large) when he was in charge of all the polders and dykes and canals for a whole region. Then, on over the Old Dyke again seeing where it was repaired many times over the years. These Dutchmen have worked hard — building dykes, & pumping out water to reclaim land, right up to the present time. Then to
Society Activities

Annual Banquet

The University Club in New York City was once again the scene of the Annual Banquet of The Holland Society of New York which this year took place on November 8th. More than 150 members, their guests and friends mingled together for an enjoyable evening which included a reception and dinner at which the Society’s Distinguished Achievement Medal was given to Mr. C. Douglas Dillon for “eminence in the fields of public service and finance.” Following the customary parading of the Beaver by the Burgher Guard and the playing of the national anthems of The Netherlands and the United States of America, the invocation was given by the Rev. Louis O. Springsteen, Associate Domine of the Society. Toasts were then offered to the Queen of The Netherlands by Mr. Dillon and to the President of the United States by Jhr. Leopold Quaile van Ufford, Consul General of The Netherlands in New York.

During the dinner hour a brief musical program featured Mr. John L. Huyck, a member of The Society, accompanied by Dr. Donald M. Rowe, Professor of Music, Hofstra University. President Richard H. Amerman, who had prefaced the dinner with appropriate introductory remarks, then presented Mr. S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of The Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and last year’s medalist, who introduced Mr. Dillon. This was followed by the investiture of the honored guest by Mr. Robert G. Goelet, Chairman of the Committee on the Distinguished Achievement Medal.

Former Secretary of the Treasury Dillon responded with the observation that he was aware of the important work being carried on by The Holland Society and remarked that he had chosen to make a few remarks on the current “state of our dollar” and its low value throughout the world. In general, he felt optimistic about the future of the dollar, pointing out that public awareness has consistently grown concerning the plight of our currency. As a result tax-cutting propositions reflecting this public concern would have a great influence in forcing all levels of government in the nation to inhibit further inflation by cutting back. A crucial factor in bolstering the economy, Mr. Dillon remarked, is the removal and reduction of government regulations which have shackled business. Although he was loath to make “short-term predictions” he believed that by the 1980s we should have a substantially stronger dollar.

The evening was concluded with the benediction by Domine Springsteen.

Connecticut-Westchester Branch

Connecticut-Westchester convened at noon on October 14, a very dubious day with intermittent drenching downpours. The meeting place was the Griswold Inn in Essex, Conn., founded in 1776. After a leisurely Dutch Treat luncheon, the company gathered at the Essex Station and took seats on a partially reserved antique car (c. 1910) drawn by a 107 year old chuffer up the riverbed to Deep River. There they boarded a launch and sailed upriver to the area of Gillette’s Castle and the Goodspeed Opera House (1873) and a view of the Haddam Bridge and the “Seven Sisters”, a series of hills bordering the river.
present and introduced the speaker of the evening, the Dutch chef at the Club, President Daniel Van Dusen, Mr. Robert Van Gelder and guest, Mr. and Mrs. Lucy Meyer, President of the Highlands Historical Society of Ringwood. Mrs. Meyer gave a fascinating illustrated lecture on the contents of a Dutch herb garden, discussing the various plants and the uses to which they were put in colonial times. President Amerman was also present and spoke to the group in the name of the Society. Those present in addition to Mr. Amerman and Mr. and Mrs. Van Riper included Mr. Michael Albertis, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Albertis, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bogert, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Bogert, Dr. and Mrs. Howard Hageman, Mr. and Mrs. George Hulst, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Palen, Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Van Brunt, Mrs. Katherine Van Dusen, Mr. Robert Van Gelder and guest, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Van Pelt, Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Vreeland, Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Wycoff, Jr., Mr. Harold Zabriskie and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zabriskie.

Essex-Morris Dinner

A very successful dinner meeting of the Essex-Morris Branch was held on December 8 at the Montclair Golf Club in West Orange, N.J. After a delicious repast of the kind which has come to be expected from the Dutch chef at the Club, President Daniel Van Riper welcomed the members and guests who were present and introduced the speaker of the evening, Mrs. Lucy Meyer, President of the Highlands Historical Society of Ringwood. Mrs. Meyer gave a fascinating illustrated lecture on the contents of a Dutch herb garden, discussing the various plants and the uses to which they were put in colonial times. President Amerman was also present and spoke to the group in the name of the Society. Those present in addition to Mr. Amerman and Mr. and Mrs. Van Riper included Mr. Michael Albertis, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Albertis, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bogert, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Bogert, Dr. and Mrs. Howard Hageman, Mr. and Mrs. George Hulst, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Palen, Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Van Brunt, Mrs. Katherine Van Dusen, Mr. Robert Van Gelder and guest, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Van Pelt, Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Vreeland, Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Wycoff, Jr., Mr. Harold Zabriskie and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zabriskie.

Trustees Meeting

With President Amerman occupying the chair, the regular December meeting of the officers and trustees of the Society was held on the 20th of that month at the Union Club in New York. In addition to the customary committee reports, two matters of old business occupied the attention of those present. The first of these was the proposal to increase the annual dues of the Society by five dollars per year. Citing budgetary problems caused by current high inflation with its subsequent higher costs, the trustees unanimously, if reluctantly, agreed to present the proposal to raise the annual dues to thirty-five dollars a year with corresponding increases in other membership categories (except life membership) to the members for their approval at the next annual meeting. Also taken up at the meeting was a change in Article I, Section 3 of the By-Laws in which the clause requiring the trustees to be notified ten days in advance of their meeting of the names of candidates to be presented for admission, together with the waiver option of this clause, were deleted.

President Amerman's report cited the many social affairs, both of kindred societies as well as branch dinners and the 93rd Annual Banquet of the Society he had attended. From December 14-18 he was the guest of National Airlines, representing the Society on the inaugural flight of that Air Line from New York to Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and return. He later gave those present a delightful description of this four-day journey. In a brief report, Secretary Onderdonk noted that there had been two deaths of members reported since the last meeting and that the roster of the Society now consists of 945 members. Treasurer Snedeker presented the budget for the coming year projecting virtually the same total figure as that of 1977 with the reflection that it would be impossible to know the actual results of the 1978 figures until the end of the calendar year 1978.

Library Committee chairman Derick Schermerhorn announced that a microfilm covering the years 1875-1977 of the noted publication, the New England Historical & Genealogical Register, with articles and genealogical items pertinent to Dutch families intermarried with New England families, had been purchased. He stressed the urgent need for the Society to purchase or acquire a microfilm reader for the library so that wider use may be made of this and other microfilms. For the Historical Publications Committee, chairman Ralph L. DeGroff, Jr., reported that the Guide of Dutch Manuscripts with their locations, funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and published by the New York State Library will soon be "off the press." This Guide lists the location and description of "all known material relating to New Netherland other than the Dutch manuscripts in O'Callaghan's Calendar." He also informed the trustees that matching funds for the grant of the National Endowment for the Humanities were approaching the desired amount but hoped that the members would continue to contribute so that the full amount, to be used for publication of Dutch manuscript materials by the Committee, would be realized.

The Banquet Committee informed the trustees that the highly successful affair at New York's University Club had nearly achieved the break-even point. Chairman Smock made several suggestions for further cutting of costs and pointed out that the banquet this year had achieved greater financial stability in spite of a larger guest list. For the Branches Committee, Chairman Quackenbush reported that a movement had been started among the growing number of Society members in the Ohio area to set up a branch there. An effort to prepare a mailing piece suitable for soliciting funds to increase the endowment of the Society was placed before the trustees by Chairman James R. Van Wagner, Jr. He discussed various types of literature suitable for this purpose, an objective which all agreed was one of primary importance to the future of the Society.

Since sales of the Society's Christmas cards incurred a loss in 1978, Chairman Charles A. Van Patten recommended to the trustees that Christmas cards no longer be produced by the Society. There are, however, he said, a number of boxes of both 1978 and 1976 cards still available which are offered to members at half-price.

In due recognition of contributions by individual members of the Society to further specific beneficial projects, resolutions of thanks were voted by the

A notary public in New Amsterdam was an official of the law courts and also privately served inhabitants about as an attorney would. He had to be examined to prove his competence, and Salomon Lachaire was once denied appointment before finally attaining office early in 1661. He was required to keep a true and accurate account of his activities and be the official registrar of deeds, contracts, depositions, apprenticeships, indentures, wills, settlements of estates and whatever else might come in litigation before the courts. In complying, he agreed to keep his records “that the writings inscribed by me therein may be preserved for future testimony and merit full credence as they ought.”

Salomon Lachaire was a journeyman tailor when at age 22 he was married in the Walloon church at Amsterdam, and he was probably in New Amsterdam before 1655. In his petition for appointment he said he had studied and practiced law for some years and had acquired a reasonable knowledge of the English language. He knew Dutch and probably some French also.

In spite of his office, he was no more exemplary than some of the litigants whose cases he recorded. He opened a tavern in 1655 which his wife managed, bought and sold commodities, had obtained and lost a job as tax collector by 1660, and not only was sued on occasion for his debts but was fined for intemperate behavior.

Some days he profited just from translations and making copies of petitions and affidavits. Sometimes he credited clients instead of cash for “a tub of plug tobacco,” “a bundle of black wampum,” “a gun and 12 pounds shot,” or “15 pounds of cheese and eight stivers.”

Salomon Lachaire’s tenure was brief. He died at the age of 34 about the end of 1662, still holding his job but leaving no worldly goods to one or more minor children and his wife who soon remarried.

Dr. Scott’s introduction to this book explains that the Lachaire two-volume manuscript in the New York City clerk’s office was translated about 1860 by Dr. O’Callaghan but never printed.

This does not mean that Lachaire’s facts were kept from the light. The Holland Society in its 1900 Year Book published a thorough digest of Lachaire’s material, some of it translated by O’Callaghan and some probably by Dingman Versteeg, the society’s Dutch-born library clerk. It added the records of another notary, Walewyn Van der Veen; also digests of burgomasters’, schepens’, and surrogate’s records and similar public papers presumably missing from seven volumes of the Court Records of New Amsterdam that have been published. They cover events over a broader period than Lachaire’s two years.

Thus there are now two interpretations of Lachaire’s activities for meticulous scholars to compare. The present publication makes one of them generally available now that the 1900 Year Book is out of print and hard to find. The editors’ footnotes do not show that the 1900 digest was consulted in this new publication. Variations can be noted. For instance, Lachaire’s client’s name is omitted from a memorandum and listed dated Aug. 30, 1662, of those from whom he was to collect debts; Versteeg shows it as Pieter Jillesz. Among the debtors’ names, two are rendered in one case as “Frans Pieters Kort of Weelde (and) Mr. Labatie,” but in the other “Frans Pieters alias Kind van Weelde (and) Man Labate.” Such differences attest translators’ varying expertise in deciphering ancient handwriting.

It seems fair to conclude that the Society’s Year Books, which before today’s sophisticated historical research could hardly be given away, contain much that is now recognized to be highly valuable.


Within this little book of 189 pages of narrative history one finds a surprising amount of factual data and detail concerning the birth, settlement and growth of the former English colony in New Netherland settled in 1645 by a group of Anabaptists from New
England. One of five “Dutch” towns across the East River from Manhattan, its pioneer settlers were a mixture of Dutch and English with the latter predominateing. Within the bounds of Gravesend, on its eastern shore line, Conen Eylandt or Coney Island, became, perhaps, the best known “Amusement Land of the World” due to both its natural features and its later, 19th century man-made amusement parks such as Steeplechase and Luna Parks.

Nor were its attractions limited just to these pleasure-producing features. Here one also found the Sheephead Bay and Brighton Beach racetracks, large, commodious Victorian hotels with their bathing beaches and in the 20th century the famous Boardwalk with its appetizing food specialties such as seafood of many kinds and the popular hot dog which is said to have originated here. But before all this came into being, there was, as the author points out, a village laid out by the original settler and patentee, Lady Deborah Moody, an expatriate from Lynn, Massachusetts, containing many old Dutch colonial style homes intermingled with New England type houses. Only a handful survive today, with the majority having been altered, enlarged or otherwise changed. Except for what is purported to have been the Lady Deborah Moody house and perhaps one or two others, the old Gravesend Cemetery is the last vestige of an otherwise vanished 17th century Gravesend.

In addition to narrative, the book also contains a picture section of 36 pages and an appendix of five colonial documents covering the various patents issued for Gravesend 1645-1686 plus the purchase deed from the Indians of that land spit called Coney Island.

The Family Tree Coloring Book by Martha Hughes Griffith; Genealogical Consultant, Ann Ridgely Hardy. Charles Scribner’s Sons. $5.95

Coloring book enthusiasts know that for some, coloring books are a serious business — witness the success of, for example, Bellerophon Books A Coloring Book of the Middle Ages and A Medieval Alphabet to Illuminate. There has now come along a different kind of coloring book with an equally serious intent: The Family Tree Coloring Book, a multi-purpose volume designed to amuse, instruct, and serve as a permanent record of family history. On close examination the “coloring” bit serves only as a vehicle to get one started on a quest. As described as a “family experience” book, it is designed to cover every aspect of family history. In addition to charts on which names of family members (back to great-great-grandparents) are to be recorded, the book contains maps on which migrations to America as well as journeys across the United States can be traced. Somewhat superficial are the pages devoted to early means of transportation, but the texts which accompany the pages lined with flags to be colored (both early American and foreign) contain valuable information for the neophyte genealogist. Also helpful and an indication of the hopes of the author is a bibliography of standard works of genealogy and other resources useful for genealogical research.

If, as is the custom with toys today, an age designation were to be assigned, “ages 10 to adult” would suffice. Both the designs to be colored and the text would probably be too complicated for all but the most precocious younger child. If it is designed to serve into adulthood is verified by the last page on which it is to be recorded the names of “you and the person you marry, the parents of the person you marry and your first child.”

The book is attractive and sensibly put together with a spiral binding, making it easy to work with. The folk designs are intricate enough to be interesting, but not so complicated as to be overwhelming. (Available from the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York, who hold the copyright, for $5.95 plus $1.00 for postage and handling.)

Visit to Winkel...continued from page 8

Schagen for a good Dutch lunch at the De Roode Leeuw (“The Red Lion”).

After lunch through some picturesque small old Dutch villages over to Lujte Winkel (Little Winkel) & then on to the brand new Town Hall (Raadhuis) for the three towns of Oude Neidorp, Nieuwe Niedorp & Winkel. Here we meet Jan. L. de Reus, who is most excited by our copy of the “Van Winkel Record” book and, especially, the Coat of Arms — makes a xerox copy of it. He tells us that about twenty years ago a man came through Winkel with a copy of that same book. He shows us a document, with a wax seal about two and one-half inches in diameter, that was written in 1415, mentioning “Wynkel”. He gives me a xerox copy of it. He has a stack of old documents which he keeps in the safe. Then on to have coffee with the Burgemeester, Mr. A. Anker, and his Council Members, H. de Beurs (a lady), C. Wit and B.H. Broxterman. The Burgemeester is appointed by Queen for a six year term. The Council Members are elected for four-year terms. All are very interested in our book. We look at old maps and a family tree on the wall of an office and talk about Winkel. They give Dad a copy of an old map and all sign his daily log book. The three towns together are about 7,000 in population. Take a group photo in the main meeting room & off we go, back to Mr. Oudt’s home. The price of Dutch houses is unreal. Mr. Oudt presents Lou and Dad with copies of the book which he wrote (while the Germans occupied the area and he had nothing else to do) about one of the polders under his jurisdiction. He autographs the books. Mrs. Oudt very kindly gives our girls presents of wooden shoes. It is sad for us to leave the Oudts — they have been so kind to us — but it is getting late and we must go. We stop in the center of Winkel, take a picture of the old town hall, purchase postcards, write them and mail them at the Post (after a bit of time to find stamps).

On to the Great Dyke, completed in 1932, across the “Zuider Zee” now called the Ijsselmeer.” Extremely impressive. Drive on thru the Friesland country, Sneek, Lemmer, at Emmeloord reaching the most eastern point we have ever been, at 5°50'E Long. Then turning southwest over the most recently reclaimed land in Holland, it is still so new that not all the water is out yet and the grass is still brown from the salt. Leizlstd is a brand new planned community. We arrive back in Utrecht about 8:30 p.m. A long but very enjoyable day.

(Concluded)
Wynant D. Vanderpool Jr., was recently elected to the board of directors of the American Historic House Association, of Washington, D.C., which is dedicated to the preservation of the nation's privately owned historic properties.

James M. Van Buren II and Dr. Roland Van Zandt are serving as board members of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, at Hobart, N.Y., of the area comprising Albany, Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster counties.

Col. David S. Quackenbush recently retired from the Active Reserve, U.S. Air Force, after serving 27 years, principally with the Office of Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, USAF, Washington, D.C. Commissioned a 2nd Lt. upon graduation from Yale '51, and promoted through grades, Col. Quackenbush had previously served 36 months with Army Ground Forces in the ETO during World War II.

Appleton Fryer, Niagara Frontier Branch president, in November was named chairman for 1978-79 of the Buffalo area Chamber of Commerce Buffalo-Kanazawa Sister Cities Committee. Since 1956 Mr. Fryer has headed Duo-Fast of Western New York, distributors of industrial fastening equipment, including such products as nails, staples and glue.

Spencer T. Snedecor, M.D., eminent physician and for the last 53 years orthopedic surgeon at Hackensack, N.J., Hospital was depicted with Horace F. Banta of its Board of Governors in The Record, of Hackensack, November 6, when honored on the occasion of his retirement. A graduate of Dartmouth '20 and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons '23, Dr. Snedecor established his practice and joined the hospital in 1925, subsequently founding its orthopedics department and gaining professional distinction for his achievements. Formerly president of the New Jersey Medical Society and the New Jersey College of Surgeons, he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Medical Corps from 1942-46 and, besides serving as an Elder of the Second Reformed Church, spent vacations for many years as consultant, lecturer and surgeon to mission hospitals throughout the world.

Charles A. Van Patten published in early '77 a book which reproduces in 641 pages the handwritten diary of his wife, the late Barbara Pate Van Patten, of their honeymoon trip abroad by ship, train and auto in Europe, northern Africa and the Far East from August 1932 to July 1933. Comprising a notable record of social history of the period, and now on the shelves of the Society and many other libraries, the book ( which Mr. Van Patten will gladly lend out) is illustrated and contains prefatory material, a table of contents and 17 page appendix.

Carl A. Willsey, active in real estate circles since 1936, has returned from Rotterdam, where he was guest speaker on "Real Estate Investments in the United States" before a group of Dutch investors allied with the large exporting corporations and their pension funds. Mr. Willsey also is advising them, in advance of their trip to Chicago, Houston, Washington and New York in early April when seminars on the same topic will be introduced.

John Milnes Baker's own house in Katonah, N.Y., was featured in the cover story of "Better Homes and Gardens" Building Ideas (Fall 1978) along with several other houses he designed. One of the houses was first published ten years ago and has since become "Better Homes and Garden's" "most popular house plan." His book, How to Build A House With an Architect published last year by J.B. Lippincott, is coming out in paper this spring.

Joseph Van Vleck, III and Mrs. Van Vleck are parents of Miss Kathleen Dell Van Vleck whose engagement to Robert Scott Haskell was announced in February. The bride-elect, an alumna of Pine Manor Junior College and Dickinson College, is a personnel representative for Northeastern University. Her fiance, son of Richard B. Haskell of West Hartford, Conn. and the late Kathleen P. Haskell, was graduated from Denison University and is a corporate credit analyst with the New England Merchants National Bank of Boston. A June wedding is planned.

Langdon Van Norden served on the Honorary Committee of the Metropolitan Opera Club's gala Ball honoring the Dutch musical heritage that was held under the patronage of Ambassador and Mrs. A.R. Tammenoms Bakker in the Opera House following the performance of "Norma", March 31.

Montagnie Van Norden and Mrs. Van Norden are parents of Miss Kristina Norden whose engagement to John Andrew Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Anderson of Kenosha, Wis., was announced in March. The prospective bride, an alumna of the Spence School, attended the Hewitt School and Skidmore College, and was graduated from New York University '79. Mr. Anderson, a graduate of University of Denver '74, received the M.B.A. degree from New York University '79. He is vice-president of a Denver company which builds, owns and operates athletic complexes in the South and West.

Robert G. Goelet and Mrs. Goelet recently became parents of their second child and first son, Robert Gardiner Goelet, born in New York City, December 26.

J. Cornell Schenck was recently honored by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II with admission as an Associate Officer of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. The English branch of this Order, since the Reformation the Protestant counterpart of the Catholic Order of the Knights of Malta, was founded in A.D. 1144. The investiture of Mr. Schenck took place in the Cathedral of St. John...
Robert A. Van Riper and Mrs. Van Riper are parents of the former Miss Alexandra Jay Van Riper, who was united in marriage with Peter Cameron Bulkley at the Van Riper home in Bronxville, N.Y., December 31. The bride, who attended Smith College, is an actress and singer, and has appeared in "Shenandoah" and "Fiddler on the Roof" in national tours. The bridegroom, son of Mrs. Marilyn Bulkley of Irvine, Calif., and Roger C. Bulkley of New Canaan, Conn., was graduated from Peddie School and the University of Colorado; he is an assistant account executive with SSC&B Inc., a New York advertising company.

Robert W. Blauvelt was elected a vice-president and Rev. James A. Blauvelt a director of the Association of Blauvelt Descendants at the 52nd annual meeting held in the Reformed Church of Tappan, N.Y., last September 16.

Samuel Thorne is serving on the Council of the New York State Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the U.S., of which Walter E. Hopper and Louis F. Bishop III are Past Commanders and Edward F.L. Bruen a Past Senior Vice Commander.

Ralph L. DeGroff was presented with a plaque last October by the staff of Sandia Laboratories, Albuquerque, N.M., in recognition of his services in aid of technological advances made in converting waste materials to beneficial uses.

Society Activities...continued from page 10

trustees to Robert G. Goelet for his generosity to the Library and Historical Publication funds, to the DeGroff family for their gifts to the Historical Publication fund, to Trustee Hubert T. Mandeville for a special grant to the Scholarship fund and to Trustee Emeritus Charles A. Van Patten for his personal work and for underwriting the cost of producing and placing on tape for future revision, the Membership Roster by Localities, sent to all members.

The following candidates for membership presented by the Committee on Genealogy as duly qualified and accepted as members by the trustees reflect the growing trend of greater geographical dispersion of Society membership in recent years:

Donald Reid Tallman, Jackson, Michigan
Roger Michael Laurence Schmitt, N.Y., N.Y.
Frederick Albert Wyckoff,
South Yarmouth, Massachusetts
William Thomas Heyer, Downers Grove, Illinois
Arthur John Heyer, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Carl Roger Fonda, Durham, North Carolina
Pieter Van Houten, Boston, Massachusetts

Amerman Addresses Midwest

"Our Dutch Forbears and the Holland Society" was the subject of Holland Society's President Richard H. Amerman at the Annual Branch Dinner held at the University Club of Evanston, Illinois, Saturday, October 21, at which the Branch began the celebration of its Silver Jubilee Year. Other guests of honor were

President Amerman addressing the Mid-West Branch.

In his discourse President Amerman recalled the many fine attributes brought to our nation by our Dutch forebears as individual liberty, religious tolerance and public education, qualities unknown elsewhere except in 17th century Holland. He asserted that when Calvin's teaching that man must seek his own salvation from the Bible was embraced by the Dutch, the ability to read and write became widespread throughout Holland long before the other countries. He then told how the Holland Society was backing the translation and preservation of the wealth of Dutch letters and documents from colonial times and of their importance in understanding and appreciating that important period in our nation's history.

Other guests and members attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Banta from Indianapolis, Ind., Stadsomroeper and Mrs. Arthur J. Heyer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Heyer, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Longstreet, Branch Treasurer and Mrs. Francis R. Schanck,
Branch Vice President and Mrs. Robert R. Schenck, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel M. Schuyler, Mr. and Mrs. Dana H. Staats, Mrs. Henry N. Staats, III, Mr. Henry N. Staats, IV, Miss Carol Seaton and Mrs. Elmer B. Vliet.

1978 New Netherland Family Reunions

The Association of Blauvelt Descendants who estimate the number of their members at 29,000 descendants of Gerrit Hendrickson, emigrant to New Netherland in 1638, held their 52nd meeting at the Tappan Reformed Church, Tappan, N.Y., in September. Present at the meeting were 91 members who discussed the projected re-publication of an updated edition of The Blauvelt Genealogy. First appearance of the family genealogy which traces 12 generations of the family, was in 1967.

Another held during the month of September found over 50 members of the Demarest Family Association gathering at the First Reformed Church in Hackensack, N.J. Among other items, the descendants of David Demarest decided to incorporate their association. Voorhis D. Demarest of Hackensack is the president of this family group.

The 17th Annual Meeting of the David Ackerman Descendants took place in October at the Ramapo Reformed Church, Mahwah, N.J. Over 100 Ackerman-related members traveled to the Bergen County meeting from distant points that included Florida and South Carolina. Stanley E. Oren of Leonia, N.J. was elected president for a two-year term.

The annual meeting of the van Voorhees Association was held in New Brunswick, N.J. on October 28. After lunch at the Rutgers Alumni-Faculty Center, the group adjourned to Alexander Library where, following the business meeting, they were addressed by Dr. Howard Hagueman, Domine of the Society, on "The Dutch Reformation Was Different." Miss Helen M. Voorhees of New Brunswick was unanimously re-elected President.

Florida Luncheon

The luncheon meeting of the Florida Branch was held on December 2 at the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club with thirty-nine members and guests in attendance, the largest attendance to date. After a delightful meal, President J.D. Van Atten told the group some of the highlights of the 1973 trip to the Netherlands in which he had been a participant. He expressed the hope that another such trip would be held in 1983 and urged those present to think about going at that time. Mr. Van Atten's nephew, Col. (ret.) William T. Van Atten, who recently became a permanent Florida resident, was chosen president for 1979-80. It was voted to hold the April meeting at the Lighthouse Point Club since the greater number of branch members live near that location. In addition to Mr. Van Atten and Col. Van Atten, members of the Society in attendance were Mr. Robert Banta, Mr. John Blauvelt, Mr. Bruce Cornell, Mr. Edward Dimitras, Mr. Frank Freer, Mr. David Ringo, Mr. Theodore Schoonmaker, Mr. William Schoonmaker, Mr. Leon Van Deusen and Mr. William Van Tassel.

Peter Stuyvesant...continued from page 2

with the Commissioners had not resulted in a definite arrangement.

Stuyvesant's choice of two Englishmen as arbitrators was naturally felt as an insult by his countrymen who bitterly opposed a treaty which they had no part in framing. The Director, they complained to Holland, had surrendered more territory than might have formed 50 colonies; moreover, he had ceased to consult his Vice-Director and the Fiscal, reposing confidence in an Englishman who did not understand the Dutch language and a Frenchman heavily in debt to Germany.

Once again, on Dec. 22, 1650, the Nine Men appealed to the States-General through Van der Donck at The Hague. Stuyvesant had just refused to select from their nominations to fill vacancies in the board, which was thus threatened with dissolution.

Learning that Van Tienhoven intended to return to New Amsterdam "to exercise his vengeance" on the popular party, Van der Donck obtained an order from the States-General for the examination of the Secretary on 59 specific points touching the province's misgovernment. A long report on the subject was submitted to their High Mightinesses. The September 13th letter of the Nine Men renewing their demand for a "good and wholesome" government arrived opportunistically; and publication of the Remonstrance caused so much comment that at last the West India Company found it necessary to make a formal defense of their administration.

Accordingly, after a year's delay, Van Tienhoven on Nov. 29, 1650, submitted to the States-General "a brief statement" in answer to some of the points in the Vertooogh. In this able paper the Secretary ignored the charges against himself, made a succinct and skillful defense of the Company and its officers, and ended with short and by no means flattering character sketches of the signers of the Remonstrance.

Van der Donck soon rebutted with another memorial to their High Mightinesses (Jan. 14, 1651), which impelled them, on March 14, 1651 to direct the Amsterdam Chamber to send Van Tienhoven and his family to The Hague, Jansen Dam, to The Hague for examination. Van Tienhoven was about to return with the spring fleet to New Amsterdam where, in appreciation of his "long and faithful services," the Company had renewed his appointment as provincial secretary, giving him in addition the post of receiver general of revenue and a well stocked farm. The directors were accordingly ordered to prevent his embarkation until he had appeared at The Hague.

During the past winter Van Tienhoven, whose wife remained in New Amsterdam, had seduced a poor girl of old Amsterdam, which caused his arrest immediately upon his arrival at The Hague. Fined for adultery, in spite of the States-General's prohibition a week later he managed to embark and, accompanied by his paramour, he returned to New Amsterdam. It was said the rich cargo of a Portuguese prize, captured on the voyage, procured his acquittal when the girl entered suit against him for breach of promise.

Meelyn, who had brought before the States-General Stuyvesant's "irreverent neglect," left his undecided case in charge of an attorney and, taking advantage of the increasing interest in New Netherland, induced Baron Hendrick van de Capellen of Ryssel, a member of the States-General committee, and several Amsterdam merchants to form an association for the
the sides, the window panes, nor anything else in it was of any account.

This quotation from the Correspondence of Jeremias van Rensselaer, translated by van Laer, should dispel any notion that early directors, even those called patrons, lived in luxury.

Maria van Cortlandt, daughter of Oloff Stevensen van Cortlandt, became the mistress of this inelegant domicile when she married Jeremias on July 12, 1662. She bore him five children, one after his death: Kiliaen, Anna, Hendrick, Johannes and Maria. Nearly seventeen when she came up the Hudson to live, Maria left a comfortable home for little more than a cottage near the fort. During the birth of her first child, Kiliaen, she practically lost the use of her right hip. At first her difficulty was called "a cold of the weakened nerves." The "cold" did not disappear, however, and she was forced to use a crutch for the rest of her life. This affliction did not prevent her from producing a house full of off-spring!

In July, 1664, just a few weeks before the surrender of the colony to the English, the third van Rensselaer brother, Ryckert, arrived in New Netherland, bringing with him a beautiful christening gift for Kiliaen the third. Grandmother Anna van Rensselaer in Amsterdam had sent the child two large handsome salt cellars. Kiliaen III was a very bright child, often going by sailing yacht to visit his grandparents down the river at what is now Van Cortlandt Manor. When they visited the van Rensselaer home in Fort Orange, the little child always mourned for them for several days after their departure.

Ryckert van Rensselaer was a valuable person while he was in the colony, serving as a member of the court of Albany, Rensselaerswyck and Schenectady. He greatly improved the house at the Flats which had fallen into poor condition after van Curler had left it to live in Schenectady. Ryckert returned to the Netherlands in 1670, married there and became treasurer or administrator of Vianen, Maeyde and Harlaer.

When Kiliaen III was about two, a baby girl named Anna was born to Jeremias and Maria. A short time later, three holes appeared in Maria's hip joint--holes which never properly healed. One day a large sliver of bone worked out of one of the holes, making the rest of her life difficult for this suffering young woman. The house was so extremely crude that nothing was easy for anyone.

In the spring of 1666 Jeremias wrote the following letter to his father-in-law, Oloff van Cortlandt.

April 13, 1666

Dear Father,

Our sad situation here you will learn from the passengers who go by the same boat as this letter. This will serve to Let you know that on the 7th of April (new style) the ice in the river began to move. This caused so much damage that, counted roughly, full forty houses and barns have been carried away here, among which was our house in which we lived, the barn and the brewery: the new as well as the old are lost also so that hardly any traces can be found where they stood. We have, thank God, at least managed to save our lives, but not without great peril. We also salvaged a trunk and the little case with linen in it. Further on the 8th ditto at...
dawn, when a large piece of ice began to move, our house was carried away. We have fished up a few of our household goods, but the grain and the oats which we were to have sent to you and also those intended for Governor Nicolls are lost. My garret and also our rear chamber were all filled with oats, but that is all gone now. We hope that the Lord who took it away will return it to us and will bless that which remains to us.

My farm in the Groenen Bosch, is thank God, saved beyond all the hope that I had of it. I lost there not more than two of my cows and one heifer, one-half of my pigs and a large part of my fencing. Poor Marten Gerretsen on the island saved all of his good farm, not more than one horse, some cows and three hogs. All else is washed away. The damage which was suffered here through this ice flow cannot yet be estimated.

From another writing--

Thus were carried away all of our household goods, bedding, linen, woolens and merchandise belonging to me and to others, the colony's chairs, bedding and bedsteads, all the secretary's records and everything. My proofs, my vouchers, my accounts and my personal papers (many of which were bought back at New York from the Indians) so that I do not know what to charge for loss and damage as the same is very large. I will have to leave it to the judgement of the relatives overseas.

A letter dated the following November stated that "many of the farmers had not enough wheat for seeding or even for bread. Yet the English governor, who had taken over two years before, would not release the colony from paying the 400 scheeps of wheat asked for, and promised before the disaster." Jeremias wrote his last letters in 1674. In these he complained of a very severe pain in his arm. His death occurred on October 12. His wife, Maria, was a constant source of misery. She was anything but fit to continue alone with this brood of children, to say nothing of carrying responsibilities for the colony in its unstable condition. To her everlasting credit, however, she did it.

Within a year Nicolaes van Rensselaer came over to help with the problems and was formally appointed director of the colony the following year. Since there was need of a deacon, Nicolaes also filled that vacancy. He soon became embroiled in a dispute over church principles. Since Nicolaes had been ordained as a deacon in the Church of England, although he was skilled in making crullers or flaky pie-crust filled with juicy apples, berries and the like. The Dutch were not dependent upon corn for flour since fine wheat was produced along the upper Hudson. (The English were locally blamed for a "smut" which arrived shortly after they began to farm in the area and local wheat was spoiled as a crop.) Wheat was once as common as oats are now and of exceptional quality.

Kiliaen III returned to Albany in 1683 when he was about twenty years old. His relatives overseas were anxious to have him come to Amsterdam to continue work as a silversmith and goldsmith, which had been his grandfather's trade. But his mother felt that this was impossible. Now she was subject to very severe fevers and fainting spells. Probably there was an internal infection in the hip which now and then emitted small slivers of bone. She wrote to the family in the Netherlands, "Kiliaen must remain with me here. I need him so badly. All of the others are still too young to take charge of anything." She added that he was to set up business "Here in the country."

By "country" Maria meant the home which Jeremias had built north of Fort Orange after the dreadful washout of April, 1666. For about two years the director had rented and paid for unoccupied houses in the settlement. In June, 1668, Jeremias had written that he was building a new home. The site chosen was again beside the Hudson, close to its banks, not far from what to-day we know as Schuyler Flats. The new home, christened Wateruliet (not to be confused with the present city of the same name) was
far from elegant, but somewhat better than the old building in which the family had lived.

It was to Waterliet that Kiliaen, the young silversmith, returned. How much he continued to work at his trade we cannot be sure since he was extremely busy trying to hold the colony together at its lowest ebb. Some few rare objects are said to bear the stamp of his workmanship. The van Cortlands offered to purchase needed supplies and tools for him, even importing alum and other items from the Netherlands, but all the details of this period are not known.

Political matters headed up very rapidly after a long and tortuous time for the van Rensselaers. The English government finally set up their property as a manor, ending decades of indecision. Under this agreement the van Rensselaers ceded the settlement of Albany to the English government together with considerable other property. They did this as a huge gift which is little known to-day. Shortly after the legal settlement, the government appointed Kiliaen II of Amsterdam (the son of the Johannes who had never been in the colony here) as lord of the Manor of Rensselaer. According to British laws of inheritance, this was the proper procedure. So the eldest son of the eldest son of the first patron, the original Kiliaen, was appointed.

But it must have been a bitter blow to Maria who had struggled so desperately to keep the colony alive. The new lord, Kiliaen II, came over to assume the management of the colony. Within a short time he fell in love with Maria's daughter, Anna, and married her. Kiliaen II had a brief tenure, however, since he died soon after from an unexpected illness. There was no one else to be appointed as head of the Manor of Rensselaer except Kiliaen III. His mother lived to see him so installed. In 1686, Maria, who had held on so courageously for fourteen years after her husband's death, closed her eyes for the last time. She had lived to see her son assume what she felt was his rightful position. She must have been aware that by her indomitable courage she had held the property together while all other patroonships had failed within five years of their founding.

Kiliaen III lived in Waterliet, a brick house on a stone foundation with a small wooden lean-to, longer than broad in its proportions and one and one-half stories high, the usual Dutch house of the Albany area. The roof had a steep slant and a picture of 1839 shows that it had small dormers. Waterliet (water-course) continued to be the residence of the patroons until 1765.

In 1765 the resident patron decided to have a larger and more beautiful home. He built a spacious house in the Georgian style not far from his earlier residence. For a time the business agents of the manor occupied the old dwelling which remained until 1839 when it was torn down to widen the road. The new manor house stood until late in the nineteenth century when it was moved to Williamstown, Massachusetts, where it still serves as a fraternity house.

The house in which Kiliaen III lived was actually no better than those in which many citizens were living at the time. Due to the Esopus war, the beaver trade was poor in 1663; after the English takeover of the colony in 1664 the fate of the van Rensselaer holdings was in doubt; the flood of 1666 was devastating and followed by poor crops. The home that Jeremias built in 1668 was a necessity and not a luxury. It was, however, a substantial dwelling which served its purpose as the patron's residence for almost a century.

In 1704 Kiliaen shared his land with his brother Hendrick who went across the river and occupied Crailo in the Groenen Bosch on the east bank of the Hudson where Hendrick made his permanent home until his death in 1740. All was not yet smooth sailing for the manor but with two competent adults, brothers, living close to the land which they administered, conditions began to become stable with the promise of greater prosperity in the future.

(Concluded)

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Research and Publications in New York State History is an annual compilation of new research and writing on the history of New York State published by the Division of Historical Services of the New York State Museum. The 1977 edition is available at public and college libraries, historical agencies and research centers, and to academic and officially appointed local historians. Research and Publications - 1978 is now in preparation and intends to include all New York history-related work either published, reprinted, or in progress during calendar 1978. If you have completed or had a project ongoing during 1978 on any aspect of New York's heritage, concerning anything from Archaeology to Young Readers, contact Stefan Bielinski, Division of Historical Services, 10D59 Cultural Education Center, Empire State Plaza, Albany, N.Y. 12230, (518) 474-5375.

How They Cut Fire Hazards

A former Mayor of New York, William Dervall, was among the first citizens fined for a violation of the fire-prevention laws in Manhattan in 1680, under British rule. The Dutch authorities had begun early to protect New Amsterdam against fires; in those days any house in flames could start a holocaust in the village. The Dutch regulations were partly grounded in the prevailing rule that houses had to be built close together for defense against sudden attack from hostile Indians.

Fire wardens were instructed as early as the 1650s to make sure no householder used reeds, straw or other inflammables for roofing. It was also illegal to build chimneys of plaster or wood. Early in New Amsterdam's growth as a village, it had been learned that dirty or defective chimneys or fireplaces were a primary source of serious conflagrations. Firemasters were empowered to collect three guilders from homeowners for every chimney they found to be fouled or otherwise neglected. In addition, fines were imposed upon villagers whose houses burned down as a result of the owner's failure to keep the fireplace or chimney in proper condition.

Under the Dutch, and later under English rule, fire prevention was naturally considered an essential plank in laws for public safety, and this extended beyond the precaution of frequent inspection of chimneys and other sources of a blaze. By 1680, for instance, the crews of ships lying at the wharves of New York were forbidden to keep fires lighted. Fines were imposed for violation of this law. No doubt the ordinance was adopted after some shipboard blaze had not only destroyed dockside buildings, but spread into the town from the waterfront's ramshackle structures.
Putting New Netherland Into Print

Since 1973, the Historical Publications Committee of the Society under its able and energetic chairman and former trustee, Ralph L. DeGroff, Sr., has been engaged, with the capable assistance of a group of scholars versed in 17th century Dutch language and historiography, in the task of locating, translating, editing and publishing documentary records and cognate material of the New Netherland era in American colonial history. Thus far 15 volumes have been published with another four in preparation, three of which are scheduled to appear during the current year.

Under the sponsorship of The Holland Society, these books with the general heading of New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch include, to date, three volumes of the Register of the Provincial Secretary 1638-1660, the Council Minutes 1638-1649 (executive, legislative and judicial proceedings of the Director-General and Council of New Netherland), the Kingston Papers 1660 to 1675 in two volumes covering the court minutes and secretary's papers (contracts, agreements, bonds, wills, powers of attorney and other legal transactions), the Delaware Papers 1664-1682, which reveal hitherto unknown data on the Dutch who settled in this southernmost area of New Netherland and the Notarial Papers of Solomon LaChaire 1661-1662.

The latter volume is a valuable source of information both for historians and genealogists with its calendar of legal documents executed by LaChaire for New Amsterdam residents. Solomon Pieterse LaChaire appears to have combined his practice of law with the vocation of tavern-keeping. He has been called "Father of the Bar" in New Amsterdam, a double meaning which was applied originally only to his legal talents.

The seven-volume set of Records of New Amsterdam is a reprint of the edition first published in 1897 which has been out of print for many years. Through the generous support of the Asiatic Petroleum Corporation who wished to mark the nation's bicentennial in 1976, these primary source materials have once more been made available to scholars and students of the Dutch-American colonial period. A total of three hundred sets of these records were printed.

One of the difficulties encountered in preparing the New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch for publication has been the problem of finding translators capable of putting into English the 17th century Dutch language in which many of the documents were written. In the case of the first four volumes published, three of which were the Register of the Provincial Secretary 1638-1660 and the fourth, Council Minutes 1638-1642, the translation by A.J.F. van Laer, Dutch-born Archivist of the State of New York 1904-1939, was already accomplished but essential editing and indexing was supplied by two historians of the New Netherland period, Dr. Kenneth Scott and Dr. Kenn Stryker-Rodda. Other untranslated manuscripts have required the talents and knowledge of Dr. Charles Gehring, who together with Peter R. Christoph, Associate Librarian of the Manuscripts & History Library Division in the New York State Library, have recently opened a "school" in Albany to train others to read and translate 17th century Dutch.

In marked contrast to the large number of books and material available on the founding and settlement of New England and Virginia, the Dutch colonial era in America has received little attention. To a degree, this has been due to the lack of primary source materials on New Netherland, a factor which has denied scholars access to the resources necessary to reconstruct and write Dutch-American colonial history. By contributing to the publication of these and other volumes still to come in the New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch series, The Holland Society of New York is taking an important and invaluable step towards its constitutional goal of making known the role played by the settlers of New Netherland in the early days of the nation.

Cultural Events to Take Place in the United States and Organized in Collaboration with The Netherlands Authorities

Exhibition to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the Union of Utrecht
Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
Fall 1979

"William and Mary and their House"
Exhibition on objects that belong and have belonged to the House of Orange since 1550.
Pierpont Morgan Library, New York
December, 1979

Lucas van Leyden (1489-1533)
Exhibition of etchings and prints of this early Dutch artist.
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
October 1980

Paintings of The Hague School
Plans are under discussion to organize in the course of 1982 an exhibition of paintings of The Hague School, a group of late 19th century painters.
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Commemoration
In the course of 1982 a commemoration is planned for the celebration of 200 years uninterrupted diplomatic relations between the United States of America and the Netherlands.
In Memoriam

WESLEY B. VAN BENSCOTEN

Wesley Butts Van Benschoten of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., a member of the Holland Society of New York since 1943, died at the age of 61 on Monday, May 15, 1978. Descended from Theunis Elisesen van Bunschoten who came to this country from Holland in 1671, he was born at Poughkeepsie, June 2, 1916, son of John Van Benschoten and Caroline Lamerore Butts. Owner and president of one of the country's oldest automobile agencies, a well known amateur golfer and wartime naval officer, he attended Raymond Riordan Preparatory School and was graduated from Colgate University in 1937. The sales and service agency he headed was founded in 1902 by his father, an early advocate of the automobile, who directed the business until his death in 1966. A past president of the New York State Automobile Dealers Association, as was his father, he was formerly a board member of the Farmers & Manufacturers Bank, secretary of the Dutchess County Airport Commission, a director of the Poughkeepsie Chamber of Commerce, and president of the Sales Executives Club of the Mid-Hudson Valley. During World War II he served as Lieutenant Commander, USNR, with the Naval Air Arm in South Pacific areas and received the Air Medal, Presidential Unit Citation and other awards. An all-around athlete in his undergraduate years, he captained the hockey and golf teams besides participating in football, basketball and lacrosse, and was elected to Konosioni, student honor society, in recognition of his achievements. In 1966 he became the seventh alumnus to receive the Silver Puck, symbol of pre-eminence in Colgate hockey. For years the seventh alumnus to receive the Silver Puck, of which he had been a member for 50 years, he belonged to the Princeton Club of New York, Union League Club, Nassau Club of Princeton, and Baltusrol Golf Club. He is survived by his wife, the former Editha Robinson, and a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Giersch. Following the services, interment was held at St. Stephen's Cemetery, Short Hills.

WARREN E. GARRETSON

Warren Evans Garretson of Plainfield, N.J., a member of the Holland Society of New York since 1957, died at the age of 84 on Friday, July 21, 1978. Descended from Garret Remerson who in 1658 came to this country from the village of Pelet in East Friesland, and whose son took the surname Garretson, he was born at Franklin Park, N.J., April 19, 1894, son of Charles Beekman Garretson and Martha Gertrude Evans. A retired banker, he attended the public schools and was graduated from Rutgers Preparatory School. During World War I he served overseas with the 345th Infantry, 87th Division, in the American Expeditionary Force. Afterward he was associated with the Brooklyn Savings Bank for many years, attaining the position of first vice-president and retiring in that capacity in 1959. Formerly a member of the Common Council of the City of Plainfield, and a past president of the Pleasant Plains Cemetery Association, he was a director of the Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. A member of the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, he belonged to the Bankers Club of Brooklyn and was a past commodore of the Fair Haven Yacht Club. He is survived by his wife, the former Marion Crawford of Tarrytown, N.Y.; a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Ross of Pompano Beach, Fla.; two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. His son, John M. Garretson, died in 1977 in Phoenix, Ariz.

SAMUEL F. NEWKIRK, Jr.

Samuel Frank Newkirk Jr. of Elizabeth, N.J., a member of The Holland Society of New York since 1931, died at the age of 87 on Sunday, March 12, 1978. Descended from Garret Cornelissen van Nieuwkirk who came to this country from Holland on the ship De Moesman in 1659, he was born at Sandy Lake, Pa., August 27, 1890, son of Samuel F. Newkirk Sr. and Cassie Smith. A well known civil engineer, he attended Sandy Lake Institute and was graduated from Pennsylvania State College with the B.S. and C.E. degrees. After spending ten years in various engineering assignments in Pennsylvania, Alabama, New Jersey and New York, he joined the National Board of Fire Underwriters as an engineer and served from 1921-27. In the latter year he became superintendent of the Elizabethtown Water Company. When the City of Elizabeth acquired the company's plant in 1931 he was appointed engineer and superintendent of the Water Department by the municipal Board of Water Commissioners, and continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1961. Formerly vice-president and a director of the American Water Works Association, which presented him with the Diven Medal in 1942 for his work on meter specifications and the Fuller Award in 1943 for
"Distinguished service in the water supply field", he was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the New Jersey Civil Service Association and the Adirondack Mountain Club. His wife, the former Eleanor Bates, died in 1969. He is survived by a niece, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Hach of Miami Shores, Fla.

BARTOW VAN NESS, Jr.

Bartow Van Ness Jr., of Baltimore, Md., a member of the Holland Society of New York since 1966, died at the age of 79 on Monday, October 2, 1978. Descended from Cornelis Hendrickz van Nes who in 1640 came to this country from Vianen, Utrecht province, the Netherlands, he was born at Omaha, Neb., July 16, 1899, son of Bartow Van Ness and Jane Perry Butler. A widely known electrical engineer and power company official, he attended the Baltimore public schools and was graduated from City College and the Johns Hopkins University, subsequently receiving the master of science degree in electrical engineering from M.I.T. in 1922. Joining the Pennsylvania Water & Power Company that year as an electrical engineer, he was promoted to chief engineer in 1952. After the concern was merged with the Pennsylvania Power & Light Company in 1955, he became chief electrical mechanical engineer and continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1964. He held numerous chairmanships in the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, of which he was also a fellow, the Edison Electric Institute and the American Standards Association. He was a member of the National Electric Light Association, American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and belonged to the Engineering Society of Maryland, Maryland Academy of Sciences, the Johns Hopkins Club, Maryland Historical Society, Society of Colonial Wars, L'Hirondelle Club and the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity. A varsity trackman during his college days, he was the great-great-great-grandson of Col. Peter Van Ness (1734-1804), who commanded the 9th New York Regiment at Saratoga in 1777 and later built "Lindenhald," the family's spacious residence at Kinderhook, N.Y., which became the home of former President Martin Van Buren from 1841-1862 and is now a national historic landmark. His grandfather Eugene Van Ness II, Baltimore banker, and a first cousin Eugene Van Ness IV, were Holland Society members. He is survived by his wife, the former Josephine Carter Redwood; a son, Bartow Van Ness 3d, of Chestertown, Md., and a daughter, Miss Barbara Van Ness of Baltimore. Interment followed the memorial service held at St. David's Episcopal Church, Baltimore, October 4.

LESLEI A. HALLENBECK

Leslie Austin Hallenbeck of Baldwin, L.I., a member of the Holland Society of New York since 1951, died at the age of 88 on Monday, September 18, 1978. Descended from Casper Jacob Hallenbeck who in 1651 came to this country from Schleswig, Denmark (now Germany) via Holland, he was born at Hammondsport, Steuben County, N.Y., December 3, 1889, son of William Austin Hallenbeck and Ella E. Goodnough. A veteran official of the U.S. Postal Service, he attended the local schools and graduated in 1908 from Binghamton High School where he was known as a versatile athlete. In 1910 he went to work for the Postal Transportation Service in Binghamton and remained there until 1933, when transferred to the New York area. Promoted to positions of increasing responsibility, he became head of the Railroad Section in the office of the Regional Transportation Manager for New York. In this capacity he traveled extensively throughout the State inspecting the cars and providing guidance for efficient movement of the mails by rail. He retired in 1960. A resident of Baldwin since 1933, he was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Binghamton Lodge No. 177 F. & A.M., and the Sons of the American Revolution. His late brother, Ralph H. Hallenbeck, was a member of the Society. He is survived by a nephew, Ralph H. Hallenbeck Jr., of Turnersville, N.J., a life member; a niece, Mrs. Lois H. Starrett of Baldwin, and three great-nieces. Following the services, interment was at Chenango Valley Cemetery, Hillcrest, N.Y.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


(Concluded)

Crime in New Amsterdam

Crime in the streets of New Amsterdam in the 17th century — a period of strong growth in numbers and variety of population — gave the authorities much trouble. Historians have indicated a fairly wide range of lawless activities. Relatively minor trends in crime, turn up in the annals — people who stole bedsheets from taverns, for example, and burglaries and nocturnal disturbances traced to sailors on shore leave. In the late 1630s a law was adopted that forbid crews of ships in the village's harbor from remaining ashore overnight. Runaway slaves and horse thieves were many.

One result was, of course, greater effort by the authorities to deter the unruly by strong measures. A convicted felon might, if caught, be banished at once from the colony. One woman caught reselling stolen goods was not only heavily fined, but threatened with being horsewhipped out of town. Another who was charged with arson when her master's horse burned down was condemned to burning at the stake. A miller was subject to enough physical punishment to force him to confess stealing grain. In one odd case, a series of thefts was traced to the city hangman, who the suffered severe lashing and loss of an ear, and would probably been hanged had there been anyone available to do that job.