



Cultural Heritage Agency  
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science



# Shared Cultural Heritage of the United States and the Netherlands

*Wout van Zoelen*

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Colophon  
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**SHARED  
CULTURAL  
HERITAGE**

Author: Wout van Zoelen  
Text editors: Jean-Paul Corten and Rob van Zoelen

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Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands  
P.O. Box 1600  
3800 BP Amersfoort  
The Netherlands  
[www.cultureelerfgoed.nl](http://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl)

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The United States of America and the Netherlands share a long history, spanning more than 400 years. The material and immaterial traces of this shared past can be referred to as shared cultural heritage. But what does this heritage entail, where can you find it, who is involved and what are the possibilities for cooperation? This publication addresses these questions.

For the Netherlands government, shared cultural heritage is an important theme in its International Cultural Policy Framework for the period 2017-2020. The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed, part of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science) is one of the organizations executing this policy. Within this framework, the Cultural Heritage Agency works closely together with ten countries. The United States is one of our partner countries.

The aim of the Shared Cultural Heritage Program of the Cultural Heritage Agency is the sustainable preservation of shared heritage by capacity building and knowledge exchange. Together with our partner countries, we provide training, advice and instruments. This heritage mapping is an example of such an instrument, meant to further the involvement of heritage professionals. Of course, the publication is also aimed at others who are interested in the subject: to learn about it, or simply to enjoy our shared cultural heritage.

I wish you pleasant reading.

**Jinna Smit**

*Program manager Shared Cultural Heritage  
Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands*

At the end of the sixteenth century the Dutch started to participate in the European overseas exploration. The trade relations, colonial rule and cultural exchanges that followed, coloured Dutch history and left traces around the world. The Dutch East India Company (VOC) and the West India Company (WIC) were the main enterprises of this extensive overseas trade and colonial rule in the first centuries. The Dutch government took over control of the VOC and WIC territories and affairs, after their bankruptcy at the end of the eighteenth century, and introduced a firmer and more bureaucratic administration in the colonies. The heyday of the Dutch empire has long past and the Netherlands is nowadays a minor player in the international arena. Colonization is abandoned, the balance of power has shifted and globalization introduced a new reality in the international politics and trade. However, material and immaterial traces of the extensive Dutch trade and colonial rule are still present in many parts of the world, from Africa, to Asia, to Oceania, to the America's. At the same time, many cultural influences from these areas arrived and affected Dutch society. An area of the northern part of the last mentioned continent, America, is the subject of this heritage mapping.

In 2000, the Dutch government started a program to preserve and disclose the overseas heritage the Netherlands share with former colonies and trading partners and to enhance the bilateral relations with these countries. Over the following years the policy was considered successful by the government and appointed as a priority in the international cultural policy program, managed by the ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The program is mainly executed by Dutch embassies and consulates in cooperation with Dutch culture, the National Archives and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands. The increased interest in the shared cultural heritage program led to the development of a particular policy framework for the period 2009-2012. Eight countries were selected as priority countries in order to create focus and more impact. For these countries a platform was developed to enhance the exchange of knowledge and international cooperation and to strengthen the relationship. A new framework evolved for the period 2013-2016, with three new priority countries: Japan, Australia and the United States. Shared Cultural Heritage program remains an important area of interest within the international cultural policy for the period 2017-2020, with an emphasis on reciprocity. It is mandatory for a project that a Dutch and a foreign organization collaborate. The focus remains on a multi-annual strategy concerning the priority countries, with a substantive tightening of attention based on analyses of achieved results and trends.

To outline the possibilities for cooperation, the size and variation of the shared heritage and to map the institutions and experts involved, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands launched a heritage mapping project for Japan and the United States: The focus of this report. This is a replenishment to the mappings the Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE) already conducted, being: Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Surinam, South Africa, Russia and Australia. The aim of the heritage mapping is to present a comprehensive overview of shared cultural heritage. This overview is not complete, whereas the shared history, relationship and heritage of the Netherlands and the United States is very substantial, complex, diverse and widespread. What is attempted though, is to encompass the shared past in one document, focused on heritage. This provides a summary with a good insight of what kind of heritage we share, the size of it and the people and institutions involved. The heritage mapping can be seen as an indicator of the shared cultural heritage and a starting point for collaboration on the exchange of knowledge and can be used as a working paper, to which people can add more information.

The content of the report is divided into five historical periods, starting with the unintentional discovery of Manhattan by Henry Hudson in 1609 under the flag of the VOC and ending with our contemporary history. The periods are:

1. *New Netherland (1609-1674)*
2. *The Dutch during the English Colony (1674-1776)*
3. *The American War of Independence and its aftermath (1776-1840)*
4. *Dutch Emigration to America (1840-1940)*
5. *The Second World War up till now (1940-2016)*

Every period starts with a historical introduction with the emphasis on the traces the Dutch left behind on American soil. The emphasis in the fourth and fifth period is focused upon the migration history, whereas it has very particular characteristics and concerns a special chapter in the shared history: The Dutch founded their own colonial settlements in the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth century in which they held on to their Dutch norms and values, traditions and customs and the Reformed church as the centrepiece of the community. Furthermore, every period is divided into a number of different types of heritage, being: maritime heritage, archaeological heritage, built heritage, archives and intangible heritage. This is not conclusive, since the different types of heritage overlap one another, but it renders the document more structure and overview. For literature search there are interesting references concerning that topic. Besides, every period ends with a

list of contacts regarding experts and institutions specialized in the shared history between the Netherlands and the U.S. of that period. The emphasis in the heritage mapping lies on the heritage the Dutch left behind in the United States, but there is attention for the heritage and the influences the Americans brought to the Netherlands as well. This American heritage is intertwined in the text with the Dutch heritage, which seems appropriate since this report concerns **shared** heritage. The chronology of the periods is maintained regarding this American heritage. The heritage mapping ends with a conclusion. This conclusion consists of a few recommendations originating from a questionnaire taken at the end of 2014, concerning the possibilities and needs of the institutions and experts working in the shared heritage field and their willingness to cooperate with each other and the Dutch government. Besides the information of the questionnaire, own insights and analysis, acquired from interviews and research, are displayed in the conclusion. Before we continue with the report, first a short summary of four hundred years of shared history and heritage (the historiography per period is more extensive):

A lot of Americans today have no idea where the Netherlands are situated within Europe and in most cases only know Amsterdam. However, the history shows us that this small country played a significant role in American history. The countries share a rich and interwoven history dating back to the early seventeenth century when the Dutch landed in the New World, founding only the second permanent European settlement in North America. Although its existence was short, the legacy of New Netherland is still traceable within its old borders. Its traces can be found in multiple heritage fields<sup>1</sup>, as in topographical designations like place, district and street names, e.g. Amsterdam (several), Brooklyn, Holland, Cape May, Staten Island, Broadway (*Bredeweg*) and Wallstreet (*Walstraat*). In the American-English dictionary, several words borrowed from the Dutch occur, e.g. dollar, in Dutch *daalder*, bluff, *bluffen*, and sleigh, *slee*. Quite surprisingly, a bunch of Dutch words appear in the culinary field, which is an indirect reference to the Dutch influence on the American cuisine. Waffles, pancakes, coleslaw, cookies and even doughnuts were typical kinds of food eaten by the early Dutch settlers. In terms of architectural heritage not much is left, except for two houses from the colonial time: the Wyckoff House (1652) and the Bronck House (1663). Nevertheless, many objects relating to the Dutch material culture of the early

settlers are exhibited in museums and private collections.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, archaeological excavations revealed remnants of fortifications, houses and farms, but there is still much to dig.

In another particularly interesting way the Dutch settlement is said to have influenced the American society. The American author, historian and journalist Russell Shorto argues in his book *The Island at the Center of the World* that New Amsterdam, present day New York, can be seen as the birthplace of the American melting pot of many different cultures, ethnicities and ideas.<sup>3</sup> This relatively open, tolerant and upwardly mobile society, with religious pluralism and a commitment to free trade was left intact by the English after their seizure of the colony in 1664 and spread across the United States during the next centuries.<sup>4</sup> New York is still the symbol of multiethnicity, new chances and the gateway for immigrants from all over the world.

The English tolerated the Dutch to keep their customs and habits and gave them the liberty to practise their own religious beliefs, making it possible for them to hold on to their identity. As a result many Dutch architectural remnants and artefacts can be traced back to the eighteenth century, e.g. barns, Reformed Churches, houses, cemeteries, interiors and many objects relating to the Dutch material culture, costumes and traditions. Despite this kind gesture the relationship between England and the Dutch Republic was anything but good in the better part of the seventeenth and eighteenth century. This was manifested by the support and sympathy of the Dutch for the Americans in the War of Independence (1775-1783). The 16<sup>th</sup> of November was declared as Dutch-American Heritage Day in 1991 by president George Bush sr., commemorating the symbolic event that took place on the same date in 1776. On this day the governor of St. Eustatius, Johannes van de Graaf, ordered that cannons of his fort be fired in a friendly salute for the American warship, *Andrew Doria*, that sailed into the harbour. This meant the first, albeit unofficial, recognition of the United States. Unofficial, because the Dutch States-General didn't confirm the independence of the United States under enormous pressure of the English government, until 1782. Dutch loans, accumulated 30.4 million guilders (the complete U.S. debt at that time), were essential to the solvency of the new state in its first decades of independence.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Maritime, museological, intangible, architectural, funerary, archeologic and archival heritage and material culture.

<sup>2</sup> Located within the former border of New Netherland: New Jersey, New York City, Delaware, Connecticut and the Hudson and Mohawk Valley. E.g. the Brooklyn Museum, the Museum of the City of New York, the New York Historical Society and the Wijkof House museum.

<sup>3</sup> Russell Shorto, *The Island at the Center of the World* (Amsterdam, 2004).

<sup>4</sup> Russell Shorto, *The Island at the Center of the World*, 10-15.

<sup>5</sup> Augustus J. Veenendaal Jr., 'Dutch investments in the United States', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam, 2009), 283.

The Dutch influence in America dwindled in time, due to a strong decrease in the number of new immigrants, being outnumbered by other ethnicities, intermarriages (although the Dutch Reformed stayed clannish till the first half of the nineteenth century) and the French occupation of the Netherlands.<sup>6</sup> Losing momentum, the Dutch image blurred, making it accessible for new interpretations. Throughout the nineteenth century the Americans developed an imaginative view of the Netherlands. It started with the unflattering picture created by Washington Irving, over time complemented and altered by books, travel stories and magazines about the “real” Netherlands, focused on such places as Volendam, Marken and Zaandam. This unrealistic image was further promoted by the board of the Holland-America Line, a direct shipping line between Rotterdam and New York founded in 1873, enhancing the connection between the two countries, which published *A journey through Old Holland* only telling the story about seventeenth-century Holland. The immigrants, with their specific religious background and originating mostly from the Dutch countryside, can hardly be seen as typical representatives of the Dutch population. However, in the eyes of the Americans who visited them, they were. The hard working, rigidly Calvinistic migrants, the Holland of traditional costumes, windmills, Reformed churches, canals and the Dutch seventeenth-century Republic, painted by Rembrandt and Vermeer, imprinted their legacy on the United States and wiped away the image Washington Irving had invented.<sup>7</sup>

Although the Americans did not grasp an understanding of the real Dutch society, the image of the Dutch was changed positively. This even led to a “Holland Mania” at the end of the nineteenth century. Holland was hip and fascinating. Kids were taught about the colony New Netherland at school, Dutch consumer goods were popular as was Dutch material culture (like Delftware), many works were written about the comparison between the Dutch and American national character and history. There was even an architectural style, called the “Dutch Revival Style”, building “typical” Dutch houses in America (although these houses weren’t anything like a replica of authentic Dutch houses).<sup>8</sup> This image attracted many Americans to travel to Holland as a tourist.

The First World War inflicted badly on the image of the Americans about the Netherlands. A part of the Dutch population had sympathy for the German cause (whereas

the other half sympathized with the Allied Forces), the obvious enemy in the eyes of the Americans, and the neutrality of the Netherlands in the war, still trading with the Germans, generated aversion.<sup>9</sup> On economic grounds the war started with a great increase of the trade between the Dutch East Indies and America. The cause of this was that the European market had collapsed and the Panama canal was opened on 15 August, 1914, considerably reducing the distance between the East coast of America and the Dutch East Indies. Ultimately, the trade between the United States and Holland would cease in 1917 because the Americans did not allow neutral states, bordering Germany, to fuel their steamships in America. The final blow was inflicted when the Allied Forces issued the *droit d’angerie* in march 1918, seizing all ships in allied harbours.<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, due to patriotism English was established as the only official language in 1917, prohibiting the use of other languages till the end of the First World War. This signalled the demise of worshipping in Dutch in Reformed Churches. To counter the anti-Dutch sentiment in the United States after the war and stimulate the bilateral relations, the Netherland-America Foundation was founded, inter alia by Franklin Delano Roosevelt (himself a descendant of the early Dutch settlers).<sup>11</sup> In the meantime, American cultural influences reached the Netherlands, like Jazz and soul music, Hollywood films and consumer goods.

The United States and the Netherlands developed a strong alliance after the Second World War, for example as members of NATO and advocates of European political integration. To the present day the Netherlands acted as a loyal ally of the United States, during the Cold War against the common Soviet threat, and afterwards the Dutch supported America’s military activism and participated in military operations alongside America several times. However, there were also many frictions, conflicts and differences of opinion, especially concerning the American strife for decolonization, which was contrary to the Dutch interests.<sup>12</sup> But overall, the Dutch loyal alliance created a positive image of the Netherlands in America, benefitting the Dutch immigrants who arrived in large numbers between 1945 and 1963 and in smaller numbers thereafter. Whereas the first generations of immigrants held on to their Dutch roots and culture, subsequent generations were swallowed up in the American melting pot, a mechanization the Dutch themselves partly introduced according to Russell Shorto.

<sup>6</sup> The French occupation of the Netherlands encompassed only three years, from 1810 till 1813, but ever since 1795, after the Bataafse revolution, the Netherlands were basically a French vassal state.

<sup>7</sup> Wim van den Doel, ‘Introduction: From distant images to closer relations’, in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam, 2009), 235.

<sup>8</sup> Heleen Westerhuijs en Gajus Scheltema, *Exploring Historic Dutch New York* (New York 2011), 74-75.

<sup>9</sup> James Kennedy, *Concise History of the Netherlands* (Cambridge 2016), 302.

<sup>10</sup> Kunst en Cultuur, ‘Nederland in de Eerste Wereldoorlog (tussen twee vuren)’, (15-08-2013) <http://kunst-en-cultuur.infonu.nl/oorlog/118460-nederland-in-de-eerste-wereldoorlog-tussen-twee-vuren.html> (11-10-2014).

<sup>11</sup> The Netherland-America Foundation <http://www.thenaf.org/> (11-10-2014).

<sup>12</sup> Duco Hellema, *Nederland in de wereld: buitenlandse politiek van Nederland* (2010).

The foremost reason for the diminishing of the Dutch identity in America was the absence of new (clustering) immigrants and besides that the process of secularisation and intermingling. This development concerned the descendants of the Dutch colonists and in a later stage the Dutch enclaves formed in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Today, tulip and Holland festivals, open-air museums, Dutch-American Heritage Day and on several locations typical Reformed Churches in the landscape, commemorate the Dutch immigrant culture and rich history in America. A Dutch identity and culture continues to exist in the U.S., albeit Americanized, in a few strongholds of Dutch culture, like Holland, Michigan. In the opposite direction, the American political, economic and cultural hegemony in the world, since the Second World War, had its impact on the Dutch society. The dependency on the United States is big on the international stage. American multinationals, like McDonalds and Subway, colour the streets. American movies, music, dance and modern-art are eagerly adopted by the Dutch people. The construction of suburbs and shopping centres, the emergence of a car and consumer society and the American efficiency and economic thinking on the work floor, is fully permeated in the Netherlands albeit '*Dutchified*'.

# Period 1: The Dutch Colony New Netherland (1609-1674)

## 1.1 History

The mutual history of the Netherlands and the United States of America starts with the voyage of Henry Hudson in 1609, for the Dutch East India Company (VOC). Hudson set sail on the vessel the *Halve Maen* to find a northern passage to the riches in China and Japan. Several European countries were competing with each other at that time, to find this new and in particular shorter sea route to the Far East, because the existing route around Africa and across the Indian Ocean took long and had high risks and costs. After finding his way blocked by dangerous ice floes, Hudson, determined to find a new passage, decided to turn his ship, and headed south by southwest, disregarding the VOC instructions. Reaching the coast of northern America, Hudson sailed up the river that is now named after him, hoping the river would bring him to the other side of the continent and having no idea about the enormous size of the continent he was on.<sup>13</sup>

Hudson failed to find a new passage to the Far East, but his journey did result in opening an area of North America to the Dutch. The news and products Hudson brought to Europe, inspired several merchants in Holland to back further exploration. In no time a vivid fur trade emerged between Dutch merchants and Native Americans. In these years a few trading posts were founded. Adriaen Courtsen Block, a trader-explorer from Amsterdam, made the first map of this area, publicized in 1614, recording these place names (the island at the coast of Rhode Island still carrying his name commemorates this event).<sup>14</sup> On this map of Block you see that the first Dutch explorers set up trading posts in the coastal areas of Connecticut, Delaware, New York and New Jersey, and around the rivers Hudson (then called Noortrivier), the Delaware (Zuidrivier) and the Connecticut (Versche Rivier). The main area of the Dutch colony was the Hudson river and its surroundings and to a lesser degree the Delaware Bay. It is the first time the name New Netherland appears on a map, but the second time it appears in an official document. In the same year the name was mentioned in a resolution concerning trading licences of the States-General of the United Provinces.<sup>15</sup>

The borders of New Netherland changed during the next decades, because the adjacent English colonies, in the north New England and in the south Virginia, grew faster and



Figure 1: Adriaen Block Map (1614)

expanded in the direction of the Dutch colony.<sup>16</sup> The English claimed the whole of North America and affirmed this by settling in Connecticut and the eastern part of Long Island in the next decades and taking over the Dutch fortifications there.<sup>17</sup> However, before the entire Dutch colony was incorporated in the English colonies, it existed for half a century. This was mainly due to the founding of the West India Company (WIC) in 1621, which was granted a charter for a trade monopoly in the West Indies by the Dutch States-General. The area of operations of the WIC encompassed the west coast of Africa, the Atlantic and both the Americas.<sup>18</sup> The WIC decided to colonize New Netherland permanently to give it more sustainability and some kind of legitimacy, to counter the English claim. The first ships with residents for New Netherland set foot in America as early as 1623.<sup>19</sup> They were distributed over a few different locations, covering as much territory as possible. The main objective of the WIC was the profitable fur trade in the area. The WIC had no real interest in creating a settlement colony.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Heleen Westerhuijs en Gajus Scheltema, *Exploring Historic Dutch New York*, 22.

<sup>17</sup> Bea Brommer en Henk den Heijer, *Grote Atlas van de West-Indische Compagnie* (2011), 38.

<sup>18</sup> Charles T. Gehring, 'New Netherland: the Formative Years 1609-1632' in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam, 2009), 75.

<sup>19</sup> Charles T. Gehring, 'New Netherland: the Formative Years 1609-1632' in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 77.

<sup>20</sup> Jaap Jacobs, 'Another or newly discovered Netherland – New Netherland, a Dutch Colony in North America', in: Bea Brommer en Henk den Heijer, *Grote Atlas van de West-Indische Compagnie* (2011), 35.

<sup>13</sup> Russell Shorto, *Nieuw Amsterdam: Eiland in het hart van de wereld* (Amsterdam, 2004), 47-48.

<sup>14</sup> Adriaen Courtsen Block map from 1614, [http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adriaen\\_Block#mediaviewer/File:Wpdms\\_aq\\_block\\_1614.jpg](http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adriaen_Block#mediaviewer/File:Wpdms_aq_block_1614.jpg), 12-11-2016.

<sup>15</sup> Timeline of the Netherlands and Scandinavia relating North America, <http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/history-and-heritage/historical-timelines/the-netherlands-and-scandinavia-in-north-america/> (01-10-2014).



Figure 2: Logo of the Dutch West India Company

The colonists in New Netherland had various backgrounds. They did not only come from the Netherlands, but almost half of them came from other European countries.<sup>21</sup> The reason for this was that the Dutch had little incentives to go overseas. Compared to other European countries the economy in Holland was booming, offered good job opportunities and upward mobility.<sup>22</sup> In addition the Netherlands were relatively tolerant, there was freedom of conscience<sup>23</sup> and no religious persecution. Why then go to an uncultivated, remote, perhaps unsafe place without certainties? So the Dutch people who went to North America undertook this journey mostly for travelling, adventure or trying to become rich. Even though many colonists were not originally Dutch, they grew accustomed to conducting their lives in ways comparable to the Netherlands.<sup>24</sup>

In 1626 Pieter Minuit bought Manhattan from Native Americans for 60 guilders. Ironically this purchase is nowadays considered as of great importance, while in that time it was not perceived as a significant deal, but was only shortly mentioned to the States-General during a report about the situation in New Netherland<sup>25</sup>. The

present importance of this purchase is understandable, as it can be seen as a kind of birth certificate for present-day New York City. A start with building a fort and settlement on the most southern point of Manhattan had already been made in the previous year, 1625. The fort was named New Amsterdam and became the headquarters of the WIC in New Netherland. Around 1629 some three to five hundred people lived in New Amsterdam.

Under the WIC, with supervision of the States-General, a government of New Netherland was formed. The colony was governed by a director, who was assisted by a council of advisors, all appointed by the WIC Chamber of Amsterdam, which was responsible for rule over New Netherland. The presence of a council prevented autocracy, because the director needed the approval of the council for important decisions.<sup>26</sup> This led a couple of times to conflict between the director and the complete council or only with some delegates of the council. Like between the Director-General Petrus (Peter) Stuyvesant and councilmember<sup>27</sup> Adriaen van der Donck. Van der Donck, lawyer and landowner in New Netherland, wanted to place the colony directly under the auspices of the States-General, instead of letting the WIC rule it. After a fierce conflict with Stuyvesant and striving for this objective in Amsterdam, he got what he wanted. Unfortunately, while Van der Donck was still

<sup>21</sup> David S. Cohen, 'How Dutch were the Dutch of New Netherland?' in: *New York History* 62 (1981), 43-60.

<sup>22</sup> When you were clever and worked hard, you could rise in the ranks and gain respect. Highly unusual during that period. Russell Shorto, *Nieuw Amsterdam: Eiland in het hart van de wereld*, 44.

<sup>23</sup> The right to follow one's own beliefs in matters of religion and morality.

<sup>24</sup> Joyce D. Goodfriend, 'The Social and Cultural Life of Dutch Settlers, 1664-1776', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam, 2009), 120.

<sup>25</sup> Jaap Jacobs, 'Another or newly discovered Netherland – New Netherland, a Dutch Colony in North America', in: Bea Brommer en Henk den Heijer, 35.

<sup>26</sup> Jaap Jacobs, 'Another or newly discovered Netherland – New Netherland, a Dutch Colony in North America', in: Bea Brommer en Henk den Heijer, 35.

<sup>27</sup> Van der Donck was one of the Nine man, an advisory body instituted by Petrus Stuyvesant trying to involve the colonists. There was a lot of discontent under the colonists, created by the autocratic Willem Kieft. Stuyvesant tried to solve this conflict between the colonists and the WIC board.



Figure 3: Portret of Peter Stuyvesant

celebrating his victory, a war broke out between the Netherlands and its biggest rival at that time, England (First Anglo-Dutch War 1652-1654). The deal to displace Peter Stuyvesant as Director-General of New Netherland was reversed by the States-General. They needed the militaristic WIC for the war and decided that this was not the right moment for liberal reforms.<sup>28</sup> Only the settlement New Amsterdam was granted city rights and got its own local government. From an acclaimed reformer, Van der Donck became a *persona non grata* in the eyes of the States-General.

In the second half of the 1620s the WIC was divided as regards to the main objective of the colony. One faction only wanted to use the colony for fur trade, with the profits exclusively for the WIC, without too many costs for maintaining the trading posts. The other faction supported colonization, arguing that it was necessary to protect the colony against foreign competitors. Opening up agriculture for private investment was needed for this purpose, because that would attract immigrants. The two factions came with a solution in 1629, by allowing patroonships<sup>29</sup>: these were private colonies, which could be set up in New Netherland. The owners of these patroonships had to be shareholders of the Company. The patroonship Renselaerswijck, set up by Killiaen van Renselaer, a wealthy merchant from Amsterdam, in the neighbourhood of Fort Orange (present day Albany), was the only patroonship with real success, and lasted till the nineteenth century.

<sup>28</sup> Russell Shorto, *Nieuw Amsterdam: Eiland in het hart van de wereld*, 283.

<sup>29</sup> A Dutch land-holder in New Netherland with manorial rights in the colonial era.

The conflict in the WIC was resolved with the patroonship solution, but the colony underwent bigger threats. In the north of the colony the English boldly infiltrated and took over control in Connecticut and in the south the Swedish founded a colony up the Delaware River, thwarting the Dutch fur trade and trading posts there. In the meantime the number of inhabitants remained low, even by setting up the patroonships. This led in 1640 to abandon the fur trade monopoly of the WIC, and allowing private shipping, in order to attract more private merchants and subsequently colonists.<sup>30</sup> Unfortunately, under the directorship of Willem Kieft, a war broke out between 1640 and 1645 with the local Indians. The cause of this war was the decision of the director to let the Indians pay a fee for 'protection'. However the Indians were not willing to do so, ending up in a costly and bloody war, which deterred people in the Netherlands to immigrate to North America. In 1647 Willem Kieft was replaced by Peter Stuyvesant, who led New Netherland to its heyday.<sup>31</sup>

Some favourable events occurred for the development of New Netherland: In 1650 the colony signed the Hartford agreement with the English colonies, settling the boundary dispute. Four years later in 1654, the Dutch colony in Brazil was taken over by the Portuguese. Because of that the WIC had more attention and resources to develop New Netherland. Besides that, the general attitude about migrating to North America changed in the Netherlands because of well spread propaganda regarding the colony. It became a settlers colony, and with this increase of population, the administrative apparatus was expanded as well.<sup>32</sup> More and more areas became inhabited and the economy grew. When a certain amount of people founded a settlement, they received a limited form of autonomy and their own court of justice. In addition more patroonships were erected, and for Dutch criteria the settlement colony was a success, with seven to eight thousand inhabitants in 1664. Most people lived in New Amsterdam (some 3000 people in 1664), in nearby villages on Long Island, or along the river Hudson and Delaware (reconquered in 1655 on the Swedes).<sup>33</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Jaap Jacobs, 'Another or newly discovered Netherland – New Netherland, a Dutch Colony in North America', in: Bea Brommer en Henk den Heijer, 35.

<sup>31</sup> Russell Shorto, *Nieuw Amsterdam: Eiland in het hart van de wereld*, 140.

<sup>32</sup> Jaap Jacobs, 'Migration, Population, and Government in New Netherland', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam 2009), 95.

<sup>33</sup> Jaap Jacobs, *The Colony of New Netherland: A Dutch settlement in North America* (2005), 243.



## 1.2 Heritage New Netherland (1609 – 1674)

### 1.2.1 Maritime heritage

#### Half Moon

As mentioned, the *Halve Maen* was the first Dutch ship arriving on America's mainland, making it the starting point of the mutual maritime heritage. Unfortunately the Half Moon, property of the VOC and for that reason sent to Indonesia, caught fire during an attack of the English on Jakarta in 1618, leaving no traces. In 1909 a replica was built at the 'Rijkswerf' in Amsterdam and given as a present to the United States for the Hudson-Fulton Celebration, which commemorated the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry Hudson's "discovery" of the Hudson River and of another maritime achievement: Robert Fulton's first successful commercial application of the paddle steamer. Regrettably, this replica befell the same fate as the original copy: it was torched by vandals and burned to ashes in 1934. Despite this unfaithful history, a new replica was made in 1989 in Albany on the initiative of Dr. Andy Hendricks and since then managed by the New Netherland Museum. It serves as a floating museum, teaching mostly schoolchildren and students about the Dutch role in exploring and colonizing America, while sailing up the Hudson. Apparently this replica has more fortune than its predecessors, which it has already outlived by now.

Since 2015 the ship has been loaned for five years to the Westfries museum in Hoorn, the Netherlands. It can be visited, telling the story of the Dutch Golden Age and the hardships the sailors underwent on their ships during long journeys on sea.



Figure 5: Replica of the Half Moon

#### The Onrust

The *Onrust* was the first Dutch ship to be built in America and the first trading vessel built in America. It was constructed by captain Adriaen Block and his crew in cooperation with local Native Americans, after their ship the *Tijger* was burned in the New York Bay in 1613. The ship, 13.6m long, was completed in 1614 after four months of building. The following three years, Adriaen Block and his crew traded with Native Americans for fur and explored the Northeast Coast of the United States. During these explorations Block created the first two accurate maps of this region, of which one is shown in the history part.

A replica of this ship was built between 2006 and 2009 with seventeenth-century shipbuilding techniques. Like the Half Moon, the ship serves as a floating museum and classroom, teaching its visitors about early ship building techniques, maritime history and the Dutch contributions to North America. The ship is situated in Waterford, New York. For an impression, go to the website: <http://www.theonrust.com/>.



Figure 6: The Onrust

### The Tijger

In 1613 the Amsterdam based “Van Tweenhuysen Company”, a forerunner of the WIC, sent two vessels to North America to collect fur: the *Fortuyn* and the *Tijger*. The second caught fire in 1613 after an accident in the Hudson river, in present day New York City. Following this accident and the rising tensions between the men about the distribution of the potential profits of the collected furs, a mutiny broke out, after which a part of the crew departed with another Dutch ship, the *Naegtegaal*, and sailed for the Caribbean where they became pirates.

It was long thought that parts of the ship were found on the site of Ground Zero. The keel and the bow of this shipwreck were exhibited in the Museum of the City of New York. Unfortunately, recent research by experts Gerald de Weert and Ab Hoving led to the observation that it is probably not the *Tijger*, because the shipbuilding method was not typically Dutch.

### Prins Maurits

This ship was lost off the coast of Long Island, New York, in 1657. The ship carried Dutch immigrants for the new settlement Nieuw Amstel and transported cargo for New

Amsterdam. It was on the way to its first stop in New Amsterdam after which it would sail to its final location New Amstel, which it would never reach. Although the vessel was lost, its crew and even most of its cargo were saved.

### Eustatia

This ship was lost off the coast of Off Lewes, Delaware, in 1664.

### Slave trade introduced by Peter Stuyvesant

The Dutch were the first to introduce slavery to Manhattan. Between 1655 and 1664 at least 800 slaves were brought to New Amsterdam. Peter Stuyvesant stimulated this trade and had some 40 slaves working at his estate the Bowery. In 1664 no fewer than 291 Africans reached New Amsterdam in the ship the *Gideon*.

*For further reading:*

Ewald Vanvugt, *Roofstaat: wat iedere Nederlander moet weten* (Amsterdam 2016), 213-217.

### Potential

It's likely that there are more Dutch shipwrecks in and around North America from the colonial time. Possibly there is more to find about this in the WIC archive collections, which are managed by the National Archives of the Netherlands, situated in The Hague. The collections can be reached on the internet.<sup>35</sup> There is unfortunately no database with all the WIC ships.

The University of Leiden is under guidance of Martijn Manders trying to examine and locate more Dutch shipwrecks on the soil and in the waters of the United States.

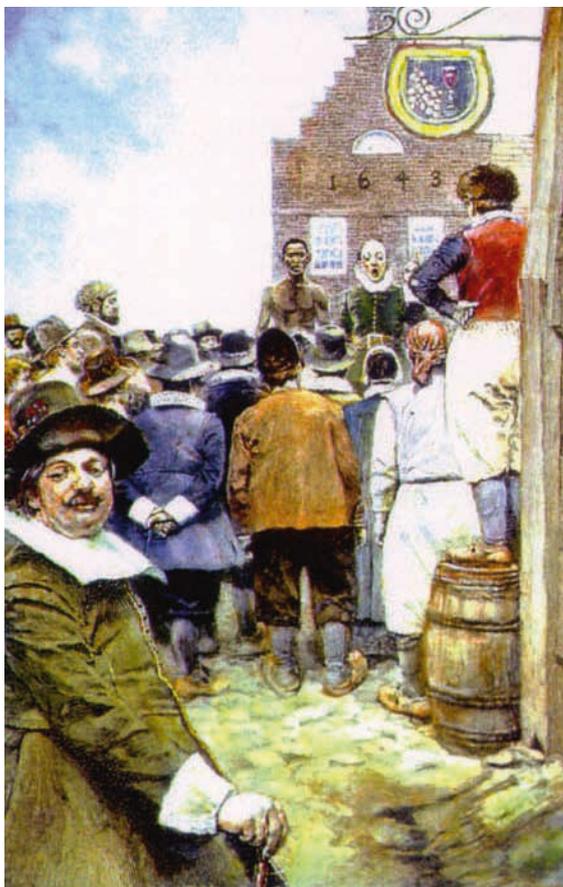


Figure 7: Slave Auction New Amsterdam

## 1.2.2 Archaeological heritage

### Dutch fortifications project

In 2012, the New Holland Foundation went to North America to compile a preliminary inventory of potential Dutch fortification sites (1609-1678) and looked for possibilities to cooperate with local partners. The organization undertook the same project in Brazil with success and identified as many as 48 Dutch fortifications along the Northeast coast of Brazil. This provided new insights into the building methods used by the Dutch in constructing forts in the New World. Their ‘Identification Mission’ in North America provided a draft list of 37 locations of Dutch defence works, most of them in New York State (18).<sup>36</sup> Unfortunately from only five

<sup>35</sup> You can find the webaddress in the list of experts

<sup>36</sup> New Jersey (5), Pennsylvania (4), Connecticut (3), Delaware (3), Rhode Island (1), Maine (1), and New Brunswick, Canada (1).

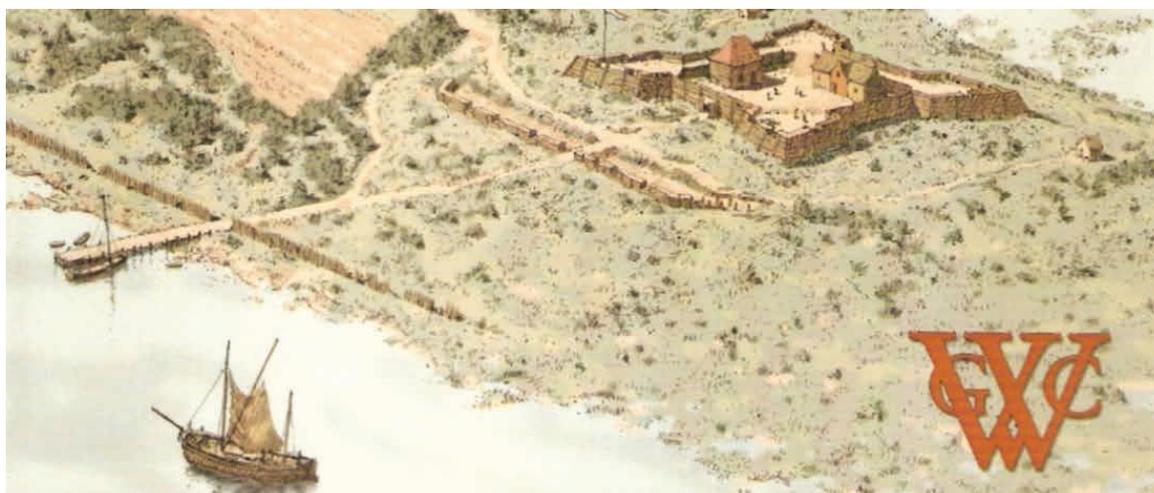


Figure 8: Dutch fortifications project New Holland Foundation

sites the location is known (shown below), from five other sites a possible or potential location is known, for which further research to identify the sites is needed. The other sites are unknown or destroyed. A link to the report of the 'Identification Mission' can be found on the website: [www.newhollandfoundation.nl](http://www.newhollandfoundation.nl), under the link publications. An atlas is supposed to be publicized in 2017 after extensive historical and archaeological research on the site of the Atlas of Mutual Heritage.

#### **Fort Nassau, Albany, New York**

This fort was the first permanent settlement of the Dutch in North America located at the port of Albany. Due to floods the fort was abandoned after a few years. The archaeological remnants of the fort are in danger, since the proposed construction of an oil plant at the site in 2014: <http://duncancrary.com/news/2014/01/27/oil-plant-could-destroy-1614-dutch-fort-in-albany-n-y/>.



Figure 9: Crailo State Historic Site

#### **Fort Orange, Albany, New York**

Constructed in 1624, the fort marked the center of the fur trade in New Netherland for a few decades and became the location of the court of the city of Beverwijck (Albany) in 1652. The fort was abandoned in 1676 due to floods. The site was excavated in 1970-71 by archaeologist Paul Huey and is marked by a memorial plaque, dating back to 1886. The site is registered as a National Historic Landmark, which can be compared with a *Rijksmonument* in the Netherlands.<sup>37</sup> The collection of Fort Orange is now handed over to the New York State Museum and will be further researched and displayed in the galleries from June 2017 on.

#### **Fort Amsterdam, New York City**

A four-pointed fort with earthen ramparts, later reinforced by stone walls. The fort was constructed on the southern tip of Manhattan in 1625 or 1626 and demolished after the American Revolution. The fort encompassed several buildings, inter alia a church.

#### **Crailo Rensselaer, New York**

At this location a fortified brick manor anno 1712 of the Van Rensselaer family, still exists. Fortifications were built at this estate as early as 1663. Palisades, constructed in 1675, were identified during recent excavations.

#### **Defensive structures at Wall Street, New York City**

A wall was built in 1653, 12 feet long (9 feet above ground), for protection against possible English attacks. Present day Wall Street owes its name to this wall.

<sup>37</sup> 'National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Today, just over 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction.' National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/nhl/> (03-11-2016).

### Wiltwijck, Kingston, New York

Due to Indian attacks, colonists from New Netherland built a fortified village, named Wiltwijck, in 1658. Recent excavations identified parts of the old stockade and are now marked by an information sign.<sup>38</sup> The Senate House in Kingston, a Dutch colonial building, opens an exhibition about the history of the 3<sup>rd</sup> country in New Netherland in April 2017.

### Castello Plan Nieuw Amsterdam

An original drawing of Jaques Cortelyou, dating 1660, of the Castello Plan of Nieuw Amsterdam is copied and subsequently vectorized and georeferenced approximately to U.S. State Plane Coordinate System, New York 3104, Long Island Zone. Plots and buildings from the period of New Netherland are visualized in a map, the names of owners and occupants included. This provides a great source for future archaeological excavations. The Castello Plan can be found under the following link: <http://www.ekamper.net/newamsterdam>.

### Farmhouse Adriaen van der Donck

Archaeological traces, found in the surroundings of the Van Cortlandt House in the Bronx, are possible remnants of the farmhouse of one of New Netherland's most

famous inhabitants: Adriaen Van der Donck (1618-1655). His book *Beschryvinge van Nieuw-Nederlant*, telling the story of New Netherland, was a famous book in the seventeenth century and a promoter for migration to the colony. It is still an important source for historians writing about New Netherland. He was also an important person in the politics of New Netherland, being a big menace to the Director-General. He tried to persuade the States-General to take over the governance of the colony from the WIC, because of maladministration. Today the city of Yonkers near New York City is a reminder of Van der Donck. This area was his property and called Yonkers because of his Dutch title of jonkheer.

### Governors Island

In 1998 excavations in present day Nolan Park on Governors Island, uncovered features that indicate plausible evidence of the wind powered sawmill that was constructed around that spot in 1625 or 1626, as is shown in an early map. Rectangular post holes, representing a circular structure with a diameter of about 11.2m, a round, compound glass trade bead, flint chips and iron nails were found on this site.

### Beverwijck (Albany)

Several sites were excavated in and around Albany, covering Dutch Beverwijck and surrounding early Dutch settlements. These excavations produced numerous seventeenth-century Dutch artifacts, e.g. pipes, glass trade beads, yellow

<sup>38</sup> O.F. Hefting, New Holland Foundation, 'Report Identification Mission Atlas of Dutch North America', (Amsterdam 2012).



Figure 10: Castello Plan New Amsterdam (1660)

bricks, delft tiles, ceramics and other Dutch goods. Furthermore, the excavations revealed remains of seventeenth-century houses, barns and lots of shoemakers, wheelwrights, master carpenters, masons and other craftsmen, evidence of brick making and the earlier mentioned Fort Orange.

#### **New Castle, Delaware**

Mid-seventeenth century majolica and ceramics were found in New Castle in 1986. The site where these artifacts were found is possibly also the location of Fort Casimir, built by the Dutch in 1651. This fort served as the main defence structure for the patroonship New Amstel. No remains are found till today, but the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is working together with the New Holland Foundation to trace them.

#### **Sylvester Manor (Shelter Island)**

Archaeological research on Shelter Island uncovered Dutch yellow bricks, pan tiles, floor tiles, and other building material, which are possible remains of the original Sylvester manor, dating from 1651.

#### **Other locations**

Excavations at Native American sites encompassing former New Netherland and in Rhode Island, exposed many Dutch trade items, indicating an intensive trade between the Dutch and Indians. The large number of Dutch artifacts, uncovered during excavations around Chesapeake Bay, Maryland and around the French Fort Pentaguout at Castine, Maine, also reveal a highly intensive trade between the Dutch and English, and between the Dutch and French, in the seventeenth century. Besides the above mentioned sites, archaeological research is also done in Schenectady, New York, Kingston, New York and other locations. As this is an inventory, meant to create merely an image of the Dutch heritage in the U.S., not all sites are mentioned.

*For further reading:*

Paul Huey, 'The Archaeology of 17th-Century New Netherland Since 1985: An Update', *Northeast Historical Archaeology* Vol. 34 Issue 1 (2012).

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### **1.2.3 Built Heritage**

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Despite the fact that the Dutch colony existed for over half a century there is almost no built heritage left of this era. This was mostly due to the building boom in the ever expanding city of New York and several big fires, like in 1776 and 1835.

#### **Wyckoff Farmhouse**

This simple farmhouse is the oldest building in New York City and because of that, a National Historic Landmark. Nowadays it hosts a museum, telling the story of the Dutch colonial life in New York, the history of the house and its residents and farming history. They started building the house in 1652 and made a lot of adjustments for over two centuries. The current condition dates back to 1820, the interior as well. The house is located in Flatland, New York City.



Figure 11: Wyckoff Farmhouse NYC

#### **Pieter Bronck House**

Constructed in 1663 by a Swedish immigrant to the colony New Netherland. The borough "the Bronx" in New York City was named after Pieter Bronck's family member Jonas Bronck, who married a Dutch woman Teuntje Joriaens and then departed in 1639 to New Netherland. Pieter Bronck followed him and built a farm more upstream the river Hudson in today's Coxsackie, Green County, New York. The house was declared a National Historic Landmark and is open as a museum.

#### **Lent-Riker-Smith-Homestead**

This farmhouse was built around the same time as the Wyckoff Farmhouse. The oldest parts of the house date back to 1656 and were built in commission by Abraham Riker (1619-1689) who obtained the piece of land from the Director-General of New Netherland, Peter Stuyvesant. In the backyard of the house there are 132 graves of former residents from the Riker, Lent families.

#### **John Bowne House**

Anglo-Dutch colonial saltbox, built in 1661 by John Bowne, an English Quaker. Director-General Peter Stuyvesant had him arrested after a Quaker meeting, but had to set him free because Bowne appealed against his arrest successfully to the Dutch West India Company.

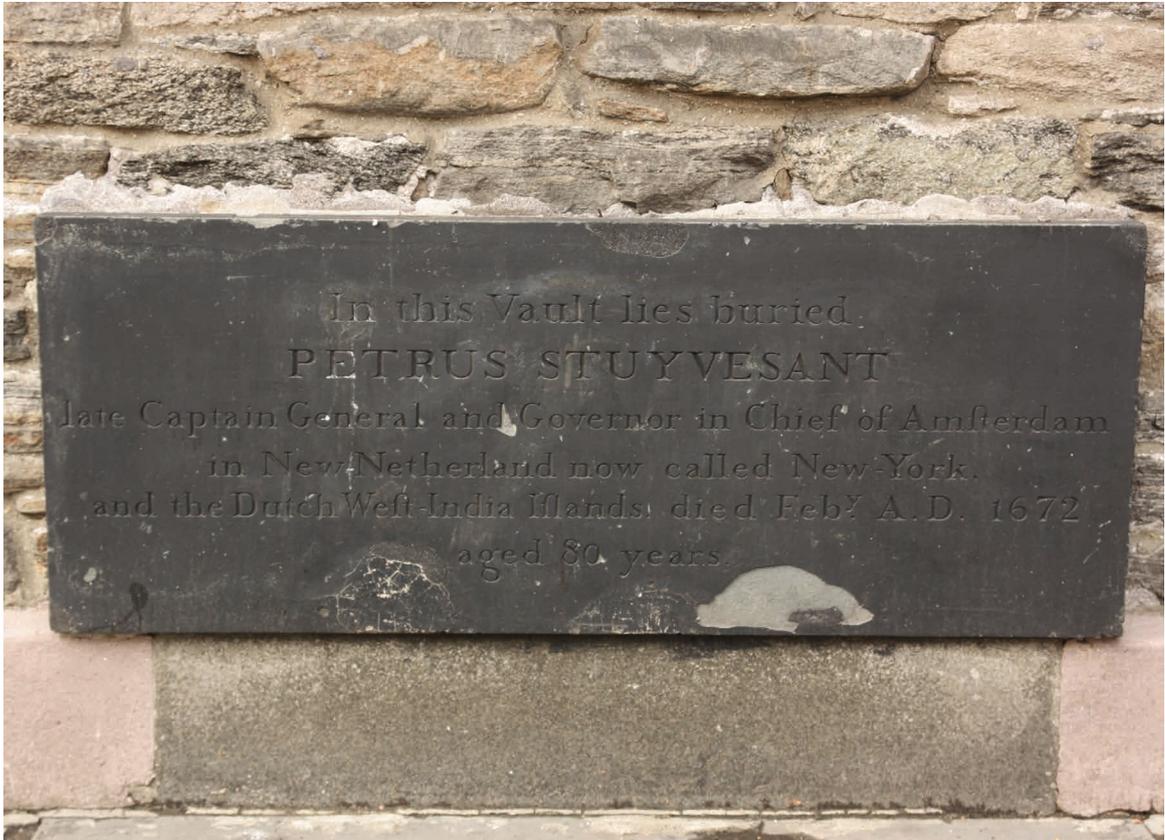


Figure 12: Grave Petrus Stuyvesant © Leon Bok

With this appeal, that became known as the Flushing Remonstrance, he established a precedent for religious tolerance and freedom in the colony. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **Stuyvesant's family grave**

The tomb where Peter Stuyvesant was buried in 1672 still exists within the walls of the Church of St. Marks-in-the-Bowery, NYC, along with a plaque.

*For further reading:*

Gajus Scheltema and Heleen Westerhuijs, *Exploring Historic Dutch New York: New York City, Hudson Valley, New Jersey and Delaware* (2011).

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#### **1.2.4 Archives**

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The written sources of the colony New Netherland are scattered around several archives in the United States and the Netherlands. The biggest amount of archival sources can be found in America, mostly in the New York State Archives and the New York State Library in Albany. Here,

the administrative records created by the Dutch West India Company concerning the colony New Netherland, are kept on state level. The Dutch National Archives (NA) have contributed to the digitization of those materials. The state archives of Connecticut, Delaware and New Jersey contain documents concerning New Netherland as well. Furthermore, written sources are kept by the municipal and county archives of the cities and administrative regions founded by the Dutch, dating back to the New Netherland-era. Examples are the Van Renselaer Papers about the patroonship Rensselaerswyck (1630 – 1840) and the Historic Richmond Town Archives concerning the Dutch history of Staten Island. The New York State Archives (NYCA) possess the largest source of WIC records on municipal level, like the Mayor's papers.

In 1978 the historian Charles T. Gehring made an inventory of all the written sources dating back to New Netherland in United States repositories. This overview named *A Guide to Dutch Manuscripts Relating to New Netherland in United States Repositories*, was updated between 2010 and 2012 and encompasses the time period from 1621, when the WIC was founded, until 1674, when the colony was finally relinquished to England. This guide gives a very good insight in all the archival

materials about New Netherland, housed in the U.S., including the church records from the Dutch Reformed Church denominations. In 2017, commissioned by the Dutch National Archives, a guide is expected from historian Jaap Jacobs in which he will have mapped all the archives in Dutch repositories for the period 1600 to 2000 concerning Dutch-American relations.

Regrettably, a substantial part of the archives of the Dutch West India Company were sold as waste paper in 1821. Because of that, the Dutch National Archives only have few documents referring to this period. Relevant archival sources are the archives of the old or 'first' WIC (1621-1674), which can be consulted online, and the archives of the States-General, which are also in possession of the Dutch National Archives. These archives contain some pages about New Netherland, regarding the correspondence between the Dutch West India Company and the States-General as well as documents received from the States-General on matters relating to the Dutch West India Company. The records of the States-General are being digitized and will become available on the internet at the end of 2017. The municipal archives of the city of Amsterdam, *Stadsarchief Amsterdam*, possess more records from the WIC and the resolutions passed/carried out by the councils in the colony. The *Zeeuws Archief* holds a lot of documents about the role the sea trade companies of this Dutch province played in the colony New Netherland and the WIC. Besides that, researchers from the Zeeuws Archives did extensive research into the slavery in which the *Zeeuwen* and the WIC were involved. These papers are accessible on the internet and in an educative form displayed in the adjacent *Zeeuws Museum*.

### **New Netherland Project**

In 1974, the historian Charles T. Gehring, started the New Netherland Project, with the view to transcribing and translating all 12,000 pages of administrative records into English in order to publicize them and enhance the awareness of the Dutch history of colonial America. Since 2010 the New Netherland Research Center, located in the New York State Research Library, continues the work of the New Netherland Project and provides a permanent location for anyone interested in the colony to get access to translations and literature about this period. The work inspired Russell Shorto to write the book *The Island at the Center of the World*.

The link to the Guide to Dutch manuscripts:

<http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/research/online-publications/guide-to-dutch-manuscripts-in-united-states-repositories-relating-to-new-netherland/>

### **Documents related to the Colonial History of New York procured in Holland, England and France**

This publication by J. Brodhead, commissioned by New York State and written in the middle of the nineteenth century, describe all European sources relating to New York. The first two parts give an almost complete list of all documents that are present in the Netherlands, with the exception of papers of the West India Company. In this review all the documents are recorded and translated, so it offers a good access to records that are found in the National Archives, namely: the archives of the States-General, the States of Holland and the Council of State (*Raad van State*).

### **Digitization Projects**

The Dutch National Archives are collaborating with the New Netherland Research Center, the New York State Library in Albany and the New York City Archives to digitize the administrative records on state, regional and municipal level of the colony New Netherland. Besides that, the NYC Municipal Archives and the Stadsarchief of Amsterdam work together to realize the 'New Amsterdam Stories' project. In this project various archives concerning the shared history are linked with each other.

### **Archives of the Dutch Reformed Church in America (RCA)**

A part of the archives, from the period 1621 until 1770, can be found in the archives of the municipality of Amsterdam. The rest of the archives of the RCA are housed at the Gardner A. Sage Library of New Brunswick Theological Seminary. The holdings date back to the 1630s and occupy over a half-mile of shelf space. The archives include correspondence between the New Netherlands dominies and the Classis of Amsterdam until 1770, up to present-era records from RCA congregations, governing bodies, etc. Russel L. Gasero is the manager of these archives and can be reached at the following address: [rgasero@rca.org](mailto:rgasero@rca.org).

**Map collections**

The Dutch National Archives hold a lot of maps made by the WIC about North America. Most of the maps are available for consultation in the resource rooms of their neighbors: the Central Bureau for Genealogy and the National Library of the Netherlands (Koninklijke Bibliotheek). Besides that, almost all of the maps are digitized and online available. The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands houses copies of all the WIC and VOC maps.

**Schagen letter**

Letter drafted by Pieter Schagen to the States-General concerning the purchase of Manhattan by the Director-General of New Netherland Pierre Minuit in 1626. The letter is seen as the birth certificate of the city of New York. It can be found in the collection of the Dutch National Archives.

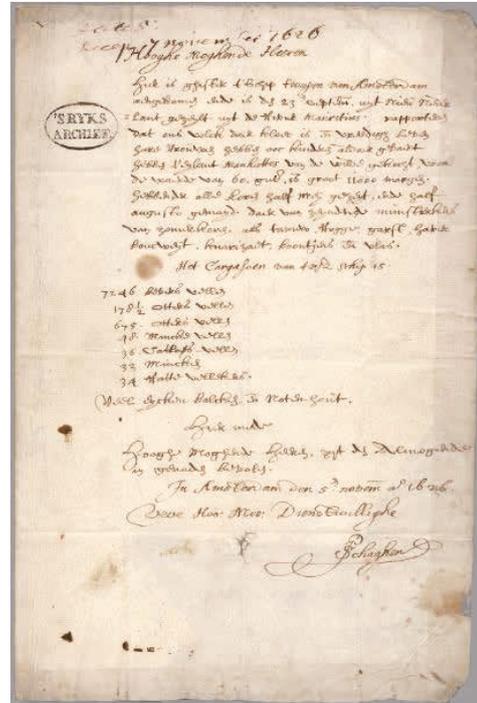


Figure 14: Schagen Letter



Figure 13: Map of New Netherland (1684)

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### 1.2.5 Intangible heritage

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There is not much tangible heritage left dating back to the colony New Netherland. All the more intangible heritage traces can be found, which are ineffaceable. Most striking are the earlier noted geographical names, like Staten Island, Zwaanendael (Delaware), Cape May and Stuyvesant Square (NYC). The Dutch influence is present in the American-English language in multiple fields. Like in the American kitchen: *waffles*, *cookies*, *brandy* and *coleslaw*. But also *Santa Claus* riding on his *sleigh*, *dumbhead* (*domkop*), *the whole boodle* (*de hele boel*) and *dollar* (*daalder*) originate from the Dutch. Besides geographical names and loanwords, a lot of sayings and expressions refer to the Dutch of the seventeenth and eighteenth century. These expressions are less flattering though, due to the fact that the English and the Dutch were major rivals back then and not in the slightest way friendly and respectful toward one another. Examples are *Dutch Courage* (courage gained from intoxication with alcohol), *Going Dutch* (split the bill) and *to talk Dutch* (talking rubbish).

The Dutch influence also occurred on a very different level. Unknown by most people, is that the Pilgrim Fathers spent eleven years (1609-1620) in Leiden, the Netherlands, before departing to America. The Pilgrims fled England because of the fear of persecution and found shelter in relative calm and tolerant seventeenth century Holland. Before getting too much influenced by the Dutch culture, what they thought too libertine, they set sail for America. The time in the Netherlands not only influenced the Pilgrim Fathers (mostly the children), but also inspired them to celebrate Thanksgiving, says Professor J.W. Schulte –Nordholt, pointing at the similarities to the Dutch celebration *het Leidens ontzet*. The most significant Dutch intangible heritage in the United States, according to the author Russell Shorto, are however the ideas of religious tolerance, upward mobility, a heterogenic society and free trade. Shorto states that the Dutch brought and implemented these ideas to and in their colony in North America, and culturally influenced this area far into the eighteenth century. The American Melting pot originated in Nieuw Amsterdam, today's New York City, which was like the Dutch Republic a diverse, heterogenic society in which different religions were tolerated. Not out of idealism though, but out of pragmatism: it was best for trade, and trade was solemnly cherished by the Dutch.

### Wars against Indians

The Dutch and the Indians had vastly different conceptions of ownership and use of land. This led to misunderstandings and violent conflict. Kieft's War (1643-1645), named after the Director of New Netherland Willem Kieft who started the war to drive off the Indians, was one of the earliest heavy conflicts between Native Americans and European settlers. The tragic and bloody war claimed the lives of more than 1,600 Native Americans, dozens of colonists and heavily damaged the colony. Kieft was recalled to the Netherlands in 1647 for the many atrocities committed in the war (like the Pavonia massacre: Dutch soldiers killing 120 refugees, including women and children) and died in a shipwreck near Wales. His successor Peter Stuyvesant also fought a war with the Indians, named the Esopus Wars (1659-1663), consisting of two wars, one started by the Dutch and the other by the Esopus tribe. The wars were aggravated by mutual misunderstanding, impatience and suspicion. The Dutch had difficulty in defeating the Esopus but succeeded in the end with help from other Indian tribes.

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### 1.3 For further reading about this period

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Russell Shorto, *Island at the Center of the World: the epic story of Dutch Manhattan and the founding colony that shaped America* (2004).

Nicoline van der Sijs, *Yankees, cookies en dollars: de invloed van het Nederlands op de Noord-Amerikaanse talen* (2009).

Joyce, D. Goodfriend ed., *Revisiting New Netherland: Perspectives on early Dutch America* (Leiden, 2005).

Firth Haring Fabend, *New Netherland in a Nutshell* (2012).

Martine Gosselink, *New York Nieuw Amsterdam: De Nederlandse oorsprong van Manhattan* (2009).

Jaap Jacobs, *The Colony of New Netherland: A Dutch settlement in North America* (2005).

Hubert de Leeuw, Timothy Paulson, *Coming to terms with early New Netherland – New York history: 1610-1614* (2013).

Walter Giersbach, *Governor Kieft's Personal War*, (published online, 26 Aug 2006).

Dutch New York: The Dutch settlements in North America <http://www.colonialvoyage.com/dutch-new-york/#>

## 1.4 List of experts

Name	Expertise or profession	Organization
Jaap Jacobs	History New Netherland	University of St. Andrews
Frans van Dijk	Archives	National Archives of the Netherlands
Johan van Langen	Archives	National Archives of the Netherlands
Martijn Manders	Maritime heritage	Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands
Will Brouwers	Maritime heritage	Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands
Christine Ritok	Curator sculpture and decorative arts	Museum of the City of New York
Lauren Brincat	Research associate	New York Historical Society
Oscar Hefting	Archaeology	New Holland Foundation
Martine Gosselink	History New Netherland	Rijksmuseum
Nicoline van der Sijs	Intangible heritage	Radboud Universiteit
Ryan Emmen	Cultural policy	FNV (Former project manager Press and Cultural Affairs of the Dutch Consulate General in New York)
Charles Gehring	Archives	New Netherland Research Center
Jannie Venema	Archives	New Netherland Research Center
Dennis Maika	Archives	New Netherland Research Center
Craig Lukezic	Archaeology	Delaware division of historical and cultural affairs
Heleen Westerhuijs	History New Netherland	The D.U.T.C.H. Foundation
Kevin Stayton	Former museum curator of the Brooklyn Museum	Retired
Katlin Crews	Museum curator	Brooklyn Museum
Joyce Diane Goodfriend	History New Netherland	University of Denver
Russell Shorto	History New Netherland	Independent journalist and author
Paul Huey	Archaeology	Retired
Michael Lukas	Archaeology	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Stephen T. McErleane	History New Netherland	New Netherland Institute
Hubert de Leeuw	Early history New Netherland	<a href="http://www.nieuwnederland.org">www.nieuwnederland.org</a>
Russel L. Gasero	Reformed Church Records	Reformed Church in America
Andrea Mosterman	Atlantic and Early American History	University of New Orleans

# Period 2: The Dutch during the English Colony (1674-1776)

## 2.1 History

Although half a century of Dutch rule came to an end, the mutual history of the Netherlands and America had just started. In the first years not much was changed under English rule. In the process of capitulation the English granted the Dutch residents liberal terms, enabling the Dutch to retain their identity. They were guaranteed their customary rights of property, inheritance, and liberty to practise their own religious beliefs. The Dutch cities retained their Dutch forms of government till the end of the seventeenth century, when the English forms of government and jurisprudence were instituted, and no changes were introduced within local administration except the adoption of English titles for public offices. The Dutch names of the bigger cities were changed into English names, like Nieuw Amsterdam became New York and Beverwyck became Albany. Other geographical names remained the same or were anglicized. Furthermore English became the official language, but the Dutch kept their own language in private affairs, as well as in the Dutch Reformed Church and for civil functions for the next century. In addition, the Dutch continued their familial and commercial ties with their homeland, consolidating Dutch cultural influences.<sup>39</sup>

Even though the Dutch immigration to North America dramatically decreased after 1664, the Dutch culture and customs remained strongly throughout the English colonial period. An important cause of this was a vast natural increase in population, alongside the fact that the great majority of New Netherland's settlers continued to live in North America. Besides that, Holland was an international exporter of culture in that era, continuing to reach the Dutch in former New Netherland.<sup>40</sup> Examples of what was then perceived<sup>41</sup> as stereotypical Dutch are: traditions of political representation, tolerance, freedom of conscience and of religion, republicanism, striving for equality under the law, and some kind of democratic decision making.<sup>42</sup> The commerce between the Netherlands and New York (New Amsterdam was renamed after the English duke of York) kept on thriving, even though the English tried to harass

that with Navigation Acts.<sup>43</sup>

In New York City the English dominance was established more rapidly than in the rest of the former colony. The main reason for this was the entry of large numbers of English and other European immigrants to New York City in the next decades. The well-to-do and ambitious Dutchmen embraced elements of English culture, because of close contacts in the economic and civic atmosphere. This ensured that well into the eighteenth century, wealthy Dutch families stayed prominent in New York, like the Van Rensselaer, Van Cortland, Beekman, Schuyler and Philipse families. The Dutch city dwellers, lower down the social scale, held more onto Dutch traditions, despite the Anglicization in New York City. They adopted English linguistic and cultural adjustments, but held a strong conviction that their Dutch identity could be mediated through the English language.<sup>44</sup>

The Dutch families in the countryside clustered together, nurturing their common descent. Because of a shortage of land on Long Island, a lot of them moved to northern and central New Jersey where they founded new typical Dutch communities. Insulated from English influence, these new communities in New Jersey and pre-existing settlements along the rivers Hudson and Mohawk, could perpetuate the customs and habits of their ancestors. Over time the Dutch culture in these isolated communities differed from the culture in the United Provinces, by a lack of systematic replenishment with new currents of thought. The Dutch Reformed Church was the focal point of the Dutch communities. Here they met, exchanged ideas, were informed about the situation in the Netherlands, identified themselves with each other and professed their common religion. Until 1772 the Dutch Reformed Church was even under the governance of the Classis of Amsterdam.<sup>45</sup>

The Dutch language was of vital importance to many Dutch descendants. The Great Dutch bible was regarded as one of the most important family possessions and was transmitted to successive generations, becoming a part of the cultural inheritance. The Dutch print culture was thus an important player in perpetuating traditional values, in both rural and urban Dutch communities. The Dutch also remained using Dutch materials, which are nowadays conserved in museums and other collections, Dutch techniques and architecture in building houses,

<sup>39</sup> David W. Voorhees, 'Dutch political identity in English New York', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam, 2009), 132-133.

<sup>40</sup> Voorhees, 'Dutch political identity in English New York', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 133.

<sup>41</sup> The historical reality was perhaps different.

<sup>42</sup> Willem Frijhoff en Jaap Jacobs, 'Introduction: the Dutch, New Netherland, and thereafter (1609-1780s)', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam, 2009), 33.

<sup>43</sup> The Navigation Acts were a series of laws that restricted the use of foreign ships for trade between Britain and its colonies. They were mainly directed against the Dutch, the biggest competitor in trade. The first Navigation Act was enacted in 1651, and stayed in force, with additives, for the next two centuries.

<sup>44</sup> Goodfriend, 'The Social and Cultural Life of Dutch Settlers, 1664-1776', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 129.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibidem*, 123.



Figure 15: Dutch Reformed Church Flatbush (Brooklyn) ©Leon Bok

churches, barns, hay barracks etc. and kept their Dutch traditions alive, like Pasen (Eastern) and Pinksteren (Pentecost).<sup>46</sup>

The Dutch communities could keep their customs and habits for over a century after the end of New Netherland, in the midst of an expanding British society and culture. This was mostly because they strongly held on to their Dutch identity, but also for a great part because the English did not intrude into their private lives, did not prevent the Dutch from professing their own religion and let them free in educating their children. The extent to which the Dutch assimilated, differentiated among the upper, middle and lower classes. In the isolated hamlets in the countryside, the influence of Dutch language and culture remained stronger as in the cities. In New York City the Dutch traditions, practices and values shifted to the background and events as the economic crisis in 1730 diminished the influence of ethno-religious loyalties over class priorities.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>46</sup> Ibidem, 125.

<sup>47</sup> Simon Middleton, 'The waning of Dutch New York', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam, 2009), 114.

## 2.2 Shared heritage under English rule (1674 – 1776)

### 2.2.1 Maritime heritage

#### Slave trade of the WIC

The transatlantic slave trade operated from the late sixteenth century to the early nineteenth century. European colonial powers, like the Netherlands, bought African slaves along the West African coast with manufactured goods, rum and textiles and then transported them to the Caribbean (mostly Curacao and St. Eustatius for the Dutch) to sell them to plantation owners in the Americas. Subsequently, the products these plantations produced, such as tobacco, cotton and sugar, were shipped to Europe. The WIC played a significant part in this profitable triangular trade, holding a Dutch monopoly of the slave trade until 1730. The company transported around half (about 300,000) of the entire Dutch contribution to the transatlantic slave trade, encompassing some 550,000 slaves. The total Dutch contribution to the slave trade, which comprised some twelve million slaves, was about 4 percent. From 1730 until the abolition of the slave trade in the Netherlands in 1814, carried out under pressure of the English, the Zeelandisch company *Middelburgs Commercie Compagnie* (MCC) took over the roll from the WIC as the biggest Dutch company in the slave trade. Their well-preserved records give a very good insight into the Dutch slave trade. It took the Netherlands until 1863, as one of the last European countries, to abolish slavery.

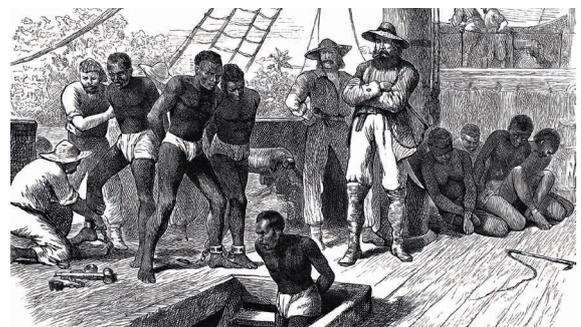


Figure 16: Slavers bringing captives on board a slave ship on Africa's west coast

#### For further reading:

D. Hondius, A. de Wildt etc., *Slavery Heritage Guide* (2014).  
Ewald Vanvugt, *Roofstaat: wat iedere Nederlander moet weten* (Amsterdam 2016).

Henk den Heijer, *Geschiedenis van de WIC: Opkomst, Bloei en Ondergang* (2011).

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### 2.2.2 Archaeological heritage

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#### Schuyler Flatts

The area known as the Schuyler Flatts is located around the Hudson River, just north of Albany, NY. Dutch colonists settled here, shortly after Killiaen van Rensselaer established his patroonship in this region, in 1629, extruding the Indians who frequented this area for thousands of years. The river flats were an ideal location for hunting, fishing, horticulture, and trade. The prominent Schuyler family lived here for over 300 years, until their farm burned down in 1962. The site tells the story of the rural colonial Dutch and offers a unique view of slavery in rural colonial America. For a period of 150 years numerous African individuals were enslaved on the Schuyler Flatts. A number of slave burials, dating back to the eighteenth and nineteenth century, were discovered during excavations started in 1998. More research is expected to be done. Some burials and documents about slavery and the life on the Schuyler Flatts is exhibited at the Museum of the State of New York in Albany.

#### Potential

There is probably a lot more archaeological heritage left from the Dutch colonists under English rule. Archaeological sites would be an interesting source to learn more about the Dutch colonists who remained in America after the English seized the Dutch colony. Further research is welcome.

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### 2.2.3 Built Heritage

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#### Reformed Churches

The first Dutch Dominie (minister) of the Reformed Church in America was Jonas Michaëlis, whom arrived in 1628 in Nieuw Amsterdam. Five years later, in 1633, the first church was erected on Pearl Street, Nieuw Amsterdam. After the English conquest of the colony in 1664, the Dutch remained allowed to publicly practise their religion. Because of that, a few remaining Dutch Reformed Churches date back to this era. Most of the traditional Dutch churches were replaced by newer buildings, but the cemeteries still house characteristic Dutch gravestones with Dutch family names and inscriptions. The oldest existing church in New York and at the same time the most famous colonial Dutch church, is the historic church of *Sleepy Hollow*, dating back to 1685. It became well known because of the scary short story *The legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving in 1820.



Figure 17: Sleepy Hollow NY

#### Others:

- First Dutch Reformed Church of Fishkill, built in 1731, exterior design dates to 1795.
- Reformed Church of Shawangunk, New York, 1752-55.

#### Houses

In the eighteenth and even into the nineteenth century, descendants of the Dutch colonists continued to build houses in the typical Dutch style, although with some alterations because of a lack of customary materials or craftsmen. As the Dutch began to prosper in eighteenth century New York, they could afford to build more expensive structures. Besides that, their cultural beliefs started to shift. This led to the newer style house with more English architectural influences. This acculturation began in New York City and was a slow progress which took a century to emanate in remote places like the upper Hudson River valley. Nowadays a few dozen houses from this era with Dutch elements still exist. A list of houses from Dutch colonists and / or with Dutch characteristics can be found in the appendix.

#### For further reading:

G. Ross, R.H. Blackburn, S. Piatt and H.S. Heeske, *Dutch Colonial Homes in America* (2002).

#### Dutch Barns

The Dutch barns form the biggest part of the Dutch colonial tangible heritage still visible in America today. Like the houses and the churches, the Dutch kept using

their traditional building methods in constructing barns, although with some different materials and adapted to the new environment. The Dutch barns were built between 1630 and 1825 in (former) New Netherland (New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Connecticut). These buildings represented the centre of historic farm activity during this period, providing housing for farm animals, a facility for threshing grain, and storage for both hay and grain. Although rapidly disappearing from the rural landscape, a few hundred Dutch barns survive in the area roughly corresponding to the seventeenth-century Colony of New Netherland. The Dutch historian Marieke Leeverink made an inventory in the United States of all these barns in 2009, in cooperation with the **American Dutch Barn Preservation Society**, the **Hudson Valley Vernacular Architectural Society**, the **New Netherland Research Center** and **Judith Toebast** from the **Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands**. She made a database of 748 barns and located them in Google Maps. A great deal, 537, of these barns still exist. The oldest surviving barn dates back to 1750 and is called the Rau Barn, situated in Ulster County, New York.

#### Roslyn Grist Mill

One of the few remaining Dutch colonial style buildings in America. The Mill was built between 1715 and 1741 and is located in Roslyn, New York. For over two hundred years the mill was in production, grinding corn. George Washington made a visit to the mill during his trip around all the states in 1790, shortly after the War of Independence.

#### Funerary Heritage

The first gravestones recovered from Dutch settlers in America date back to 1710. These gravestones and cemeteries are mainly found in smaller towns further down the Hudson. The Dutch cemeteries and inscriptions on the gravestones give an interesting insight into the burial and colonial culture of the Dutch people in America and can be used in comparison with the burial culture in the Netherlands at that time. Funerary expert Leon Bok from the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands was invited by two Americans of which one was working for Columbia University, to make an inventory of Dutch graves in the U.S.. It was the first examination of these colonial graves and only a starting point. A lot of old cemeteries are overgrown, unknown and / or hidden from the eye. There is still a great deal to be discovered.

For further reading:

L. Bok, J. Toebast, 'Nederlands cultureel erfgoed in de VS', *Vitruvius* 11 (april 2010).

Website: <http://www.dodenakkers.nl/>

### 2.2.4 Archives

#### Zeeuws Archief (Middelburg)

Contains a lot of information about the slave trade executed by the MCC. Almost the complete business-archives of the MCC are preserved, open to public and are being digitalized. Furthermore the institute made a blog about the day-by-day events on the slave ship the *Eenigheid* (1761-1763).

#### Dutch Reformed Church Records

A great deal of the Dutch Reformed Church denominations still keep the archives going back to the early days of the colony New Netherland until now. The locations of these church records can be found in the earlier mentioned guide: **A Guide to Dutch Manuscripts Relating to New Netherland in United States Repositories**.

#### NYC Municipal Archives

The New York City Municipal Archives preserves and makes available the historical records of New York City municipal government. The holdings of the archives total approximately 221,000 cubic feet, from which the legislative branch records date back to the first Dutch colonial government in New Amsterdam. The NYC Municipal Archives work in close cooperation with the Consulate-General of the Netherlands in New York and the Amsterdam Stadsarchief.



Figure 18: Old Dutch Gravestone ©Leon Bok

### Stadsarchief Amsterdam

Holds documents about the role of Amsterdam and the WIC in the triangular trade, with a focus on the slave trade, in which the WIC earned a fortune.

### The National Archives

A number of maps of New England can be found here as well as WIC records and records of the States-General concerning the WIC trade, and that of other competing companies in North America.

eighteenth century Dutch-Colonial life through the Vanderveer and Knox families, and the latter focuses on the early colonial history of New York under English rule. A very black page in history is the role the Dutch played in the slave trade to the plantations of North America and the slave labour on the farms of Dutch colonists. The heritage of that trade is also still traceable in the Netherlands, in the collective consciousness and in a great number of buildings from that era.

### The Low Dutch

The Low Dutch had the dream to establish a new Dutch colony in America somewhere on the frontier, after the English seized New Amsterdam. They called themselves the Low Dutch in order to identify themselves as coming from the low lands of Holland and to distinguish themselves from the Germans or High Dutch (the Germans from the mountainous south were for a while called Dutch by the English as well, whereas Dutch simply meant 'people' or 'nation' in Old English. This also explains why the Pennsylvania Dutch are often misinterpreted as being people from the Netherlands, whereas they have German roots). Like the Dutch in the English colony, they tried to preserve their own customs,

## 2.2.5 Intangible heritage

The cultural influence of the Dutch Republic remained strongly during the end of the seventeenth century and way into the eighteenth century, keeping to reach the Dutch colonists in the former colony of New Netherland. The colonists clung to their religious beliefs, language, customs, culture and traditions. Up till today, there are still Dutch Reformed Church communities. Institutes researching this history are the Jacob Vanderveer House and the Jacob Leister Institute. The former interprets



Figure 19: Low Dutch Station

traditions, language, church and ethnic identity. The Low Dutch moved in the eighteenth century from New Jersey to Pennsylvania and undertook the dangerous trek to frontier Kentucky during the American Revolution (1780), where they rented land, known as the Low Dutch Tract (1786) in present day Shelby and Henry County, and organized themselves in the Low Dutch Company. The Low Dutch Colony suffered setbacks at the end of the eighteenth century due to attacks by Indians. This led to a split between the Low Dutch. A number of families remained in the colony, others settled somewhere else in Kentucky. In the Low Dutch Tract, settlers turned to the Presbyterian Church, converted by the Scottish priest Archibald Cameron. They constructed the still existing Six Mile Meetinghouse in 1824 (Pleasureville, KY) where they had their services and where the Low Dutch Company held its meetings. The community existed for a few more decades.

Little has been published about the Low Dutch, which marks a gap in the shared cultural heritage. An interesting subject to examine.

*Other Low Dutch locations:*

- Old Mud Meeting House, Harrodsburg, Kentucky, constructed in 1800 to serve as the first Low Dutch Reformed Church.
- Low Dutch Station, erected in 1780 as a fort by the Low Dutch. Only archaeological remnants and a historic cemetery are left.

*For further reading:*

History of the Low Dutch Colony:

<http://vanarsdalefamilyhistory.blogspot.nl/2013/01/history-of-low-dutch-colony.html> .

History of the Six Mile Meetinghouse:

<http://www.sweet-home-spun.com/dutch.html> .

## 2.3 List of Experts

Name	Expertise or profession	Organization
Dienke Hondius	Slavery	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Andrea Mosterman	Early American Slavery	University of New Orleans
Marieke Leeverink	Dutch Barns	Dutch Barn Preservation Society
Walter R. Wheeler	Dutch Barns	Dutch Barn Preservation Society
Thijs Roes	Filmed Dutch Barns	De Correspondent
Judith Toebast	Dutch Barns	Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands
Leon Bok	Funerary Heritage	Stichting Dodenakkers
David Voorhees	Dutch under English Rule	Jacob Leister Institute

# Period 3: The American War of Independence (1776-1783) and its aftermath

## 3.1 History

‘The originals of the two republics are so much alike, that the history of the one seems but a transcript of the other...’<sup>48</sup>

These are the words of John Adams in his “Memorial” to the Dutch States-General in 1781. John Adams, founding father and the second president of the United States, was lobbying for support in the Netherlands for the American cause during the American War of Independence against the British Empire. The Dutch people and their government sympathized with the American people and were most willing to assist them in their efforts to become independent. This was more easily imagined than executed. The British were the dominant force in the world, not allowing other countries to interfere in their “domestic problems”. Serious repercussions would be the consequence. Helping the Americans was therefore a perilous business. Even though the Dutch

found themselves in a precarious position they could not resist from backing the Americans. On the one hand this was because of the hatred against the dominant English and the sympathy for the Americans and on the other hand it was profitable to do business with the Americans. What started with illicit trade and unconventional politics ended in officially recognizing the United States of America as the first state after France. It is not surprising that this meant serious implications for the Netherlands.

After fighting some costly, devastating wars at the beginning of the eighteenth century in a coalition with the English against the French, ending with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, the Dutch position as one of the greatest military powers in Europe came to an end. An inconvenient truth for the Dutch, perfectly illustrated by the following words of the French negotiator in Utrecht: “*Nous traiterons sur vous, chez vous, sans vous*”.<sup>49</sup> In response, the Dutch pursued a new foreign policy of strict neutrality, safeguarding itself of being drawn into another costly European war as a coalition partner. Despite this, the Netherlands were still a formidable power, and remained a prosperous centre of international trade and finance. The Dutch fared well

<sup>48</sup> Albert M. Rosenblatt en Julia C. Rosenblatt, *Opening Statements: Law, Jurisprudence, and the Legacy of Dutch New York* (2013), 59.

<sup>49</sup> D. Philpott, *Revolutions in sovereignty*, (2001).



Figure 20: First official salute to the American flag

under military competition by other forces, providing both sides with military supplies. The centrepiece of Dutch trade in the Atlantic was the island of St. Eustatius in the Caribbean. From St. Eustatius an intensive (mostly illicit because of the Navigation Acts) trade with the English colonies in America took place.<sup>50</sup> One of the best known goods they traded, mostly under the WIC, were sadly enough slaves from the Gold Coast in Africa.

When hostilities broke out in the spring of 1775 in America, due to tax increases imposed by the British, meant to support their mercantilist policies and defence, St. Eustatius began to play an important role in the Dutch contribution to the American war effort. The Dutch traded arms and munitions via St. Eustatius to America. The British knew this and were not amused. The commander of Fort Orange then played a historic role. First he prevented the British to seize an American ship near the coast of St. Eustatius at the beginning of 1776. Subsequently, following the American Declaration of Independence in July 1776, he offered the first ceremonial salute to an American warship (the *Andrew Doria*) when it sailed into the harbour of St. Eustatius in November 1776. The Americans interpreted this as the first official recognition of their independence. The States-General, strongly divided about the situation in America, did not confirm the recognition under pressure of the British, but did not dismiss the Dutch commander (Johannes van de Graaff) either. The United Provinces also refused a request of the British, citing a one-hundred-year-old treaty to collaborate and send troops to North America, pointing up its neutrality.<sup>51</sup>

In the meantime the Americans tried to arrange a loan in the Dutch Republic, to finance their war effort and treaties of commerce and alliance. A preliminary Dutch-American commercial treaty, drafted in 1778, was intercepted by the English and gave them an official reason to declare war on the United Provinces in December 1780. A logic outcome of the role the Dutch had played till then (the illicit trade went on till 1780). The Fourth Anglo-Dutch War (1780-1784) was devastating for the Dutch, military and economically. Several Dutch trading posts were seized, as well as St. Eustatius, making an end to the illicit trade.<sup>52</sup> Meanwhile John Adams visited the Netherlands as an official American diplomat. His task to arrange loans and treaties with the Dutch did not go well in the first years of his arrival (1780). He was not invited to the States-General and not recognized as a

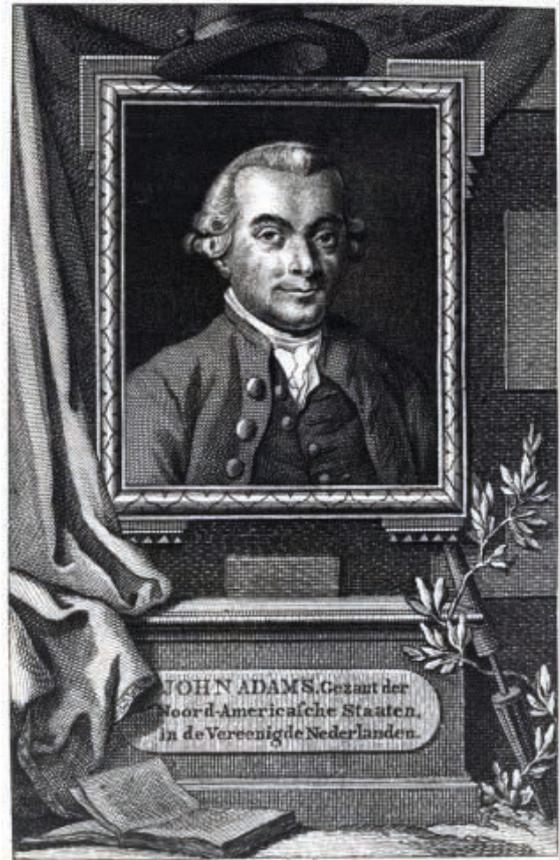


Figure 21: John Adams

diplomat. The situation changed because of a conflict in the Netherlands between the Patriots (bourgeoisie and regents) and Orangists (supporters of the stadtholder). The Patriots, growing in power, finally arranged that John Adams was recognized by the States-General as the American minister Plenipotentiary. Subsequently, as the second polity after France, the Dutch officially recognized the independence of the United States on April 19, 1782.<sup>53</sup>

John Adams' mission succeeded in the end. The Dutch Republic recognized the United States, after which several Dutch merchants and investors issued loans for the United States. From 1782 until 1795, when the Netherlands became a de facto France vassal state called the Bataafse Republiek (1795-1801), the Americans took out eleven loans in the Dutch Republic, with a total amount of 30.4 million guilders. This Dutch finance was of great importance to the development of the U.S. in its first decades of independence, granted by the British in

<sup>50</sup> Wayne te Brake, 'The Dutch Republic and the Creation of The United States', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam, 2009), 205.

<sup>51</sup> Te Brake, 'The Dutch Republic and the Creation of the United States', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 207.

<sup>52</sup> Noble, T.F.X., e.a., *Western Civilization Beyond Boundaries* (Boston 2008) 512-520.

<sup>53</sup> Ivo van der Weijden, 'Nederland en de VS: Natuurlijke bondgenoten', (2010) <http://www.historischnieuwsblad.nl/nl/artikel/26924/nederland-en-de-vs-natuurlijke-bondgenoten.html> (05-10-2014).

1783.<sup>54</sup> John Adams became the first American ambassador to the Netherlands and the house he bought at the Fluwelen Burgwal 44 in the Hague the first American-owned embassy on foreign soil. He was ambassador until 1788 and then returned to the United States where he became the second president of the United States from 1797 to 1801. Meanwhile, the Dutch loans and treaties of amity and commerce paved the way for Dutch merchants and investors for substantial private investment in the American economy. Other Dutch investments in the U.S. consisted of projects of infrastructure, mostly consisting of digging canals or improving river schemes and the purchase, loaning and selling of real estate.<sup>55</sup>

Despite the fact that the Dutch subculture in America was subject to Americanization over the generations, and the connection between the Dutch-Americans and the motherland faded, still 100,000 people labelled themselves as being of Dutch descent by the census in 1790, out of a total population of 3.9 million people.<sup>56</sup> The highest percentages of Dutch descendants could be found in New York and New Jersey, respectively 17,5 and 16,6 percent. Around that time a slang form of Dutch was still spoken in remote places in New Jersey and the Mohawk Valley. Due to the fact that the Dutch no longer formed a majority of the population, the culture and identity of the Dutch colonial descendants changed. Religion and language were the unifying factors after contacts with the motherland eroded, but these binding agents decreased as well overtime. In New York the last sermon in the Dutch language took place around the middle of the eighteenth century. The Dutch congregants in Beverwijck (Albany) held on a little while longer, till about 1830, just before the new immigration wave of Dutch people would reach America, the subject of the next paragraph.<sup>57</sup> Nowadays, some of these seventeenth century colonial descendants are still organized in “settlers societies” like the ‘Holland Society of New York’, founded in 1885.<sup>58</sup> Although, due to centuries of alienation, these societies cannot be typified as characteristically Dutch. They developed their own Dutch-American (regional) identity and culture, subject to interpretations and emphasis by new generations, that gave their own meaning to their historical ties.



Figure 22: Diedrich Knickerbocker

The French occupation of the Dutch Republic marginalized the Dutch influence in America. The American government saw the Netherlands as a vassal state of France and recalled their envoy in 1801. The Dutch did the same the other way round which led to a cessation of diplomatic relations till the end of the French period. The Dutch-American bilateral relations were reinstated after the Congress of Vienna, but not to any level of great importance. Meanwhile, Washington Irving, an American author, had great success with his satirical work: *History of New York: From the Beginning of the World to the End of the Dutch Dynasty* by Diedrich Knickerbocker. This book, published in 1809 under the name of Diedrich Knickerbocker, a fictional Dutch historian, painted an unflattering picture of the Dutch colonists in North America. They were stereotyped as a slothful, pipe-smoking, retarded people. Because of a lack of reference, this became the mental picture of the Dutch in America.<sup>59</sup>

The trade between the two countries after American independence was not inspiring either. High American tariffs on exports of goods to the U.S. and an eroding Dutch economy resulted in a minimum of trade. The election of Martin van Buren in 1837, as the first Dutch-American president of the United States, did not significantly enhance the bilateral relations, even though he grew up in a Dutch-speaking family.<sup>60</sup> Both sides had an inward view and focused on their own developments,

<sup>54</sup> Te Brake, ‘The Dutch Republic and the Creation of the United States’, in Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 215.

<sup>55</sup> Augustus J. Veenendaal, ‘Dutch investments in the United States’, in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 283.

<sup>56</sup> Hans Krabbendam, ‘Nederlanders trekken naar het beloofde land’, *Elsevier speciale edities* (04-01-2013) [http://depot.knaw.nl/5576/2/Elsevier\\_artikel\\_immigratie.pdf](http://depot.knaw.nl/5576/2/Elsevier_artikel_immigratie.pdf) (05-10-2014).

<sup>57</sup> Jaap Jacobs, *Op zoek naar Nederlands New York: een historisch reisboek* (Amsterdam, 2009), 180-181.

<sup>58</sup> Jacobs, *Op zoek naar Nederlands New York: een historisch reisboek*, 8.

<sup>59</sup> Van den Doel, ‘Introduction: From distant images to closer relations’, in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 220.

<sup>60</sup> Jacobs, *Op zoek naar Nederlands New York: een historisch reisboek*, 181.

which resulted in a minimum of influence issuing in either direction. The bilateral relations were not intensive but there was some exchange on other levels. For instance, a steady stream of American literature found its way to the Netherlands during the first half of the nineteenth century, and albeit a negative picture, the works of Washington Irving inspired other Americans to examine the history of the Dutch Republic. This resulted in several publications, although it did not provide the Americans with a realistic picture of the current situation in the Netherlands. The history works led to an interest in the Dutch masters of the Golden Age, up until today.<sup>61</sup> Multiple paintings by Rembrandt, Vermeer, van Ruisdaal and Frans Hals were being collected by Americans and are still exhibited in numerous museums in America.

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### 3.2 Shared Heritage during the American War of Independence

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#### Plakkaat van Verlatinghe

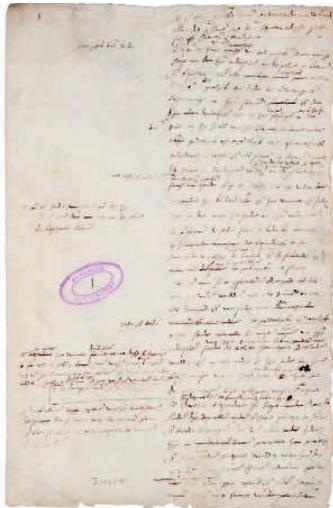


Figure 23: Plakkaat van Verlatinghe (1581)

The Americans looked into the Dutch Republic when they drafted the Articles of Confederation in 1777. Reason was the Dutch struggle against the Spanish occupation and tyranny in the sixteenth century. This constituted a useful precedent for the American colonies, which felt increasingly mistreated by the British. Besides that, the Dutch Republic demonstrated that a loosely confederated republic could become an economic success and hold its own on the international stage.

<sup>61</sup> Van den Doel, 'Introduction: From distant images to closer relations', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 223.

The same general principles as drafted in the *Plakkaat van Verlatinghe*, the Dutch declaration of independence from their Spanish overlord in 1581, were adopted in the Articles of Confederation. The *Plakkaat van Verlatinghe* is in possession of the Dutch National Archives.

*For further reading:*

Stephen E. Lucas, "The 'Plakkaat van Verlatinge': A Neglected Model for the American Declaration of Independence", in Rosemarijn Hoefte and Johanna C. Kardux, eds., *Connecting Cultures: The Netherlands in Five Centuries of Transatlantic Exchange* (1994).

Pauline Maier, *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* (1998).

#### Illegal trade between St. Eustatius and the USA

The Dutch Republic remained a major power centre in the international trade and finance in the eighteenth century. In that time St. Eustatius was the focal point of Dutch trade, throughout the Caribbean and with the English colonies of North America. The island became the most important transshipment port in the Caribbean in the middle of the eighteenth century, distributing mostly illicit trade. The Americans were the biggest trading partners with the Dutch on St. Eustatius, trading indigo and tobacco for gunpowder and weapons. The English heavily protested against this trade, but in spite of this Dutch merchants became the main suppliers of munitions for the American cause, well before the outbreak of hostilities between the American colonies and the British Empire. The trade continued during the American Revolutionary War, despite the trade embargo imposed by the British. In the year 1778 no fewer than 3182 vessels sailed from the island. This illicit trade was of great value for the Americans, because of a constant lack of war material and greatly supported them in their war effort. The trade stopped in 1781 when the British seized St. Eustatius. In previous years the British parliament stated that George Washington would long have been defeated if not for St. Eustatius.

*For further reading:*

Wayne Te Brake, 'The Dutch Republic and the Creation of the United States', in Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations*, 204-215.

J.W. Schulte Nordholt, *The Dutch Republic and American Independence* (London 1982).

#### Commemorative plate St. Eustatius

The ceremonial salute of the American warship the *Andrew Doria* in 1776 at St. Eustatius was of great symbolic importance in the American Revolution. On a visit in 1939, the American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt

recognized the importance of this event and gave the island a commemorative plate with the description: 'Here the sovereignty of the United States of America was first formally acknowledged to a national vessel by a foreign official'.

*For further reading:*

Barbara W. Tuchman, *First Salute: A View of the American Revolution* (1988).

### Treaty of Amity and Commerce 1782

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1782 John Adams, in close cooperation with the Dutch patriot Joan van der Capellen tot den Pol, finally succeeded in getting the Dutch Republic to officially recognize the United States and secure loans. After France, the Netherlands were the second polity to do that. The recognition of the USA was followed by the formal signing of a Treaty of Amity and Commerce in October the same year. Pieter Johan van Berckel, whose brother had instigated a preliminary treaty in 1778 leading to the fourth English-Dutch war, was appointed to be the first Dutch envoy to the United States.

### HMS / De Braak

The ship was built in Rotterdam in 1781 as a cutter, part of the Dutch military fleet. It was seized by the British in 1795 after the Dutch entry into the French Revolutionary Wars, when it was underway to Batavia in the Dutch East Indies. Only three years later, in 1798, the ship capsized off the coast of Cape Henlopen, Delaware.

### The Erfprins

Departed in 1783 to the United States as part of a squadron to escort the first Dutch minister plenipotentiary, thereby the first foreign minister accredited to the U.S. (!), Pieter Johan van Berckel. In the **Nassau Hall** at Princeton, from July till October 1783 the capital of the U.S., Van Berckel handed his credentials to the Congress of Confederation. Unfortunately, the warship the *Erfprins* did not make it to the shores of North America. Just in front of Cape Cod it was hit by a storm. Two masts broke down during the storm after which the ship rudderless floated around for 9 weeks before it sank. Only 40 of the 350 persons on board survived. The shipwreck is still situated near the coast of Cape Cod.

### Reformed Churches

- Blawenberg Reformed Church in New Jersey, built in 1830.
- Saddle River Reformed Church, Bergen County, New Jersey, 1819.

- First Reformed Church in New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1811/12.
- Wyckoff Reformed Church, Wyckoff, New Jersey, 1808.
- Reformed Church of Flatbush, Brooklyn, 1793.
- First Church of Albany (North Dutch Church), 1798. The pulpit was imported from the Netherlands in 1658 and it is the oldest pulpit in the United States.

### First American Embassy on foreign soil

The building John Adams bought, after the official recognition of the United States of America by the States-General on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1782, on the Fluwelen Burgwal 44 in The Hague, was the first American embassy on foreign soil. The building does not exist anymore.

### Works of John Adams

In his works John Adams points at the similarities between the Dutch and the Americans. His works relating to his time in the Netherlands, mainly consist of a letter exchange with his wife and give an important insight into the formative years of the American republic and the way Adams tries to secure recognition and loans in the Netherlands. It shows the significance the Dutch Republic had during the American Revolution and gives an interesting perspective on how foreigners saw the Dutch Republic during that time. As a remembrance of the diplomatic ties John Adams installed between the Americans and the Netherlands, the John Adams Institute in The Hague was founded in 1989 to arouse attention in the Netherlands for American culture and the special relationship between the two countries.



Figure 24: Dutch Reformed Church of Wyckoff, Bergen County, NJ  
© JERRY & ROY KLOTZ M.D.



Figure 25: Former headquarters Holland Land Company

### Holland Land Company

The Dutch loans to the American Congress marked the start of other Dutch investments in the American economy, especially in land development projects and in transportation infrastructure projects. The Holland Land Company, established in 1792 in Amsterdam, was one of the most notable Dutch investments. The company bought **five million acres of land in western New York and Pennsylvania**, known as the “Holland Purchase”. The idea was to settle it with Dutch and German farmers. It was not the success the investors had expected. Legal complications, survey inaccuracies, problems with colonists and a lack of communication and interest hindered development. Despite this, it left its mark on the area around lake Erie. For example, today **Buffalo** was founded by the Holland Land Company as New Amsterdam, and the Dutch donated land to the American government to dig the **Erie canal**. Advanced engineering technologies from the Netherlands were used to build the canal. The headquarters of the Holland Land Company, founded in 1802 in **Batavia**, New York, still exists, and is designated a National Historic Landmark.<sup>62</sup>

### Dutch loans to the USA

With the recognition of the USA by the States-General, Dutch banking houses finally dared to issue loans to the American Congress. Through the banking houses of W. & J. Willink, N. & J. van Staphorst, and De La Lande & Fynje, the Americans secured their first loans of three million guilders later increased to five million. Between 1782 and 1794 the Americans secured eleven loans amounting to a total of 30.4 million guilders in the Netherlands, which were critically important to maintain the fiscal solvency of the New American republic. Besides that, the Amsterdam banking house of Hope & Company had a big stake in the raising of 15 million dollars for the famous Louisiana Purchase (at least 6 million), enabling President Jefferson to buy the French North American colonies. In addition, the Dutch played a major role in the funding of the First and Second Bank of the United States.

#### *For further Reading:*

Augustus J. Veenendaal, ‘Dutch investments in the United States’, in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations*, 283-293.

<sup>62</sup> Westerhuijs en Scheltema, *Exploring Historic Dutch New York*.

### Martin van Buren

Martin van Buren was born in 1783 in Kinderhook (Kinderhoeck on a map from 1616), NY, near Albany. Kinderhook lay in a remote area where the Reformed church was until the 1840s the only church and where the people still spoke Dutch. Van Buren was the first Dutch-American to become president of the United States (1837-1841) in a period when the diplomatic ties between the Netherlands and America deteriorated. He was also the first president not from British descent and the first born as an American citizen. His predecessors were born as British subjects. He was also the first president whose mother tongue was Dutch instead of English. Before Van Buren became president he played an important role in establishing the Democratic Party. Besides that, in an earlier stage he was governor of New York, ambassador to Great Britain and Vice-President under the presidency of Andrew Jackson. Despite his Dutch roots, the diplomatic ties between the Netherlands and the USA were not really enhanced. Van Buren had bigger problems because of a financial crisis in America. His presidency was not a big success because of that and ended after one term.

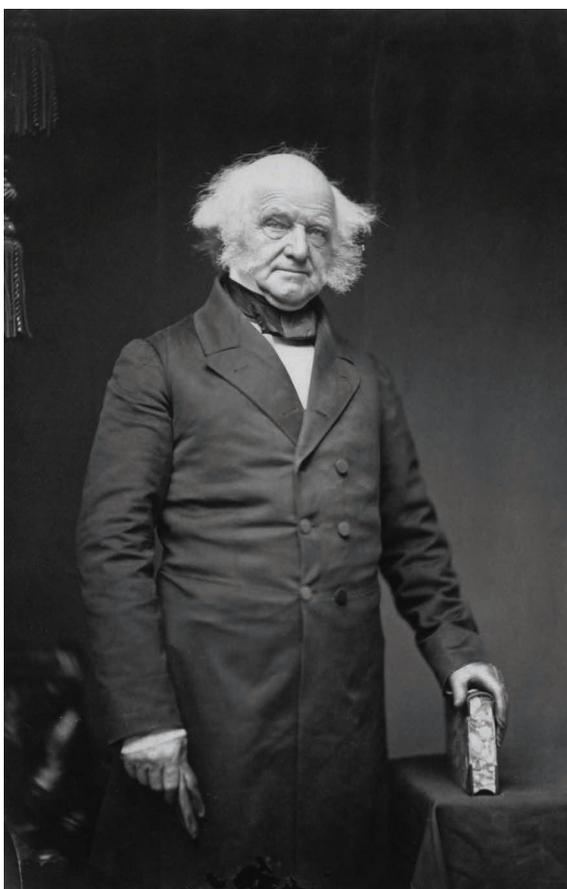


Figure 26: Martin Van Buren

After his presidency Van Buren returned to his home ground in Kinderhook and bought the mansion “Lindenwald” from one of his earlier advisors, Peter van Ness, a Dutch businessman, who had the house built in 1797. A fun fact, the abbreviation OK derives from the presidential campaign of Van Buren in 1840, having a double meaning: Old Kinderhook (his city of birth) was ‘all correct’. In the end the voters did not think that Van Buren was OK, which cost him the election, but the word OK did win.

*For further reading:*

Ted Widmer, *Martin Van Buren: The American Presidents Series: The 8th President, 1837-1841* (2004).

### Diedrich Knickerbocker by Washington Irving

Washington Irving, a friend of Martin van Buren, wrote a few not so flattering bestsellers about the Dutch colonists in New York, at the beginning of the nineteenth century: *History of New York: From the Beginning of the World to the End of the Dutch Dynasty* by Diedrich Knickerbocker, *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. For a long time the satirical representation of the Dutch colonists by Washington Irving determined the view of the Americans about the Dutch because of a lack of reference. The Dutch were seen as lazy, stubborn and retarded people, mostly lying in a hammock while smoking a pipe. This remained the main image in America during the nineteenth century, strengthened with popular paintings of these silly Dutch colonists by the painter Quidor. Most of his best works are exhibited in the Brooklyn Museum and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

### Potential

Although the Dutch played a major role in the American Revolution and withheld the country from a national bankruptcy by providing loans, the Netherlands did not get the attention they deserved in the American history. The role of the Dutch has been neglected, due to a language barrier. Studying the Dutch role in the American Revolution requires American historians to make themselves familiar with a new language, making a lot of them turn to another project.

### 3.3 List of Experts

Name	Expertise or profession	Organization
Wayne te Brake	Historian	University of California
Augustus J. Veenendaal	Economic history	
Wim van den Doel	Historian	Leiden University



Figure 27: The Headless Horseman Pursuing Ichabod Crane (1858) by John Quidor



Figure 28: The Return of Rip van Winkle (1849) - Quidor

# Period 4: Dutch emigration to America (1840-1940)

## 4.1 History

Until the 1840s large numbers of Dutch immigrants to the U.S. stayed away. This pattern was also the case in that of other European countries. Both continents, divided by the Atlantic Ocean, were inward looking, but this changed with an economic and political crisis throughout Europe, in the middle of the century. Numerous Europeans had poor prospects in their country and shifted their attention to the United States. The European population suffered under political and religious suppression and the population growth narrowed their livelihood. The most dramatic event was the potato blight (1845-1847) that led to crop failures throughout Europe, hitting Ireland the hardest. Contrary to the situation in Europe, America offered opportunities: the economy grew and there was more personal freedom than in Europe.

The Netherlands were no exception in Europe. The same issues and additional problems typified the Dutch situation during that time. The country still suffered from negative effects of the French period, Belgium broke away in 1830, diminishing the political power in the international arena of the young Dutch kingdom and losing its most industrialized region. The industrialization in the northern part of the Netherlands progressed very slowly as a result of which Holland was scarcely able to compete with the modern industries of the surrounding countries. Additionally, the bankruptcy of the WIC and VOC caused a crisis in the international trade.<sup>63</sup> The conservative government was not able to breach the economic stagnation, and limited the freedom of action of its civilians. The people working in the agricultural sector were suffering most. The crop failures led to more labour-intensive stock farming, replacing the crop production. This caused unemployment among agricultural workers and with them craftsmen and labourers who depended heavily on the agricultural sector. This hardship got worse at the end of the nineteenth century due to mechanization and land consolidation. So it is hardly surprising that of all overseas emigrants in the nineteenth century, 80 percent came from rural regions, mostly Zeeland, Groningen, Friesland and Gelderland, from which 90 percent settled in the United States.<sup>64</sup>

In the grid on the next page, the emigration waves of Dutch people settling in the United States are showed. Although it seems like there was only a moderate stream of emigration from the 1840s till the 1860s, the situation

dramatically changed compared with the decades before. The number of emigrants in the 1840s increased with almost 550 percent compared to the 1830s and almost 700 percent compared to the 1820s. The numbers of emigrants to the U.S. in the decades before that are negligible.

Decade	Number of emigrants
1820 – 1829	1,105
1830 – 1839	1,377
1840 – 1849	7,624
1850 – 1859	11,122
1860 – 1869	8,387
1870 – 1879	14,267
1880 – 1889	52,715
1890 – 1899	29,349
1900 – 1909	42,463
1910 – 1919	46,065
1920 – 1929	29,397
1930 – 1939	7,791
<b>Total</b>	<b>251,662<sup>65</sup></b>

Ultimately, around a quarter million Dutch people migrated to the USA between 1840 and 1940, with a fluctuation in numbers due to financial panics and hard times (like the American Civil War). Most emigrants settled in the Midwest where they could opt for free land and start agricultural businesses. The biggest influx of Dutch immigrants occurred in the 1880s, due to an agricultural crisis in the Netherlands (1882-1896), put in motion by the emerging industrialization.<sup>66</sup> This economic modernization was mainly a result of the inflow of cheap American wheat, starting in the 1870s. In the short run, these American imports harmed the agriculture, but in the long run it led to modernization and specialization, benefitting the agricultural sector, while imports of manufactured goods further stimulated the transformation of the Dutch economy.<sup>67</sup> Free land was the foremost magnet for Netherlanders, but this ended with the declaration in the mid-1890s that the frontier was “closed”. Many immigrants decided to go to the Dutch East Indies or Canada, resulting in the declination to 56 percent of the numbers of emigrants in the first half of the twentieth century. The immigrants settling in the United

<sup>63</sup> Krabbendam, ‘Nederlanders trekken naar het beloofde land’, 2.

<sup>64</sup> Robert P. Swierenga, ‘The New Immigration’, in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam, 2009), 296.

<sup>65</sup> Homeland Security, ‘2011 yearbook of immigration statistics’, (2011) [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2011/01s\\_yb\\_2011.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2011/01s_yb_2011.pdf) (09-10-2014).

<sup>66</sup> Swierenga, ‘The New Immigration’, in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 295.

<sup>67</sup> Jeroen Touwen, ‘American Trade with the Netherlands and the Dutch East Indies’, in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 276.

States at the beginning of the twentieth century mostly ended up as urban factory workers in the furniture factories of Grand Rapids, Michigan, the silk mills in Paterson, New Jersey, or several factories in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Chicago (where the Dutch obtained a monopoly in the garbage industry during the twentieth century).<sup>68</sup> These immigrants also clustered together and formed their own distinct communities.

The first emigration wave lasted from 1847 till 1857. Special about this first group of émigrés is that a sufficient part of them moved to America because of disagreements in the Dutch Reformed Church. This schism ultimately resulted in the founding of a separatist church, called the *Afgescheidenen* (Seceders). In the 1830s some leaders of this church were imprisoned, others were given fines and prohibited from conducting service. The open persecution ceased in 1841, but its members continued to be treated as second-class citizens.<sup>69</sup> Not able to conduct their lives prescribed by their religion, a significant part tried their luck in the United States. Some prominent ministers of the new church played an important role in the emigration of the Seceders. They persuaded a large number of their congregants to follow them to America, where there was freedom of religion and education and the possibility of founding a settlement where they could execute their own administration and stay a unity.<sup>70</sup> The best known Seceder ministers were Albertus C. van Raalte and Henry P. Scholte. Well prepared, Van Raalte was in 1846 the first to emigrate with a few hundred congregants to America and founded a city in Michigan, with the surprising name "Holland". Van Scholte departed a year later with 800 congregants and set up a village in Iowa, called Pella. The communities maintained their relations with the people back home, resulting in new immigrants who followed their family and friends.<sup>71</sup> Both places are still, albeit highly Americanized, little Dutch enclaves, cherishing the culture and history of their ancestors.

The Seceders were a minor fraction in the total number of emigrants (13 percent during the first emigration gulf). By far the biggest group, consisted of congregants of the Reformed Church, followed by Catholics and a small division of Jews. The Jews mostly settled in big cities like New York, Boston and Chicago. They built their own synagogues, cemeteries and other communal institutions but quickly assimilated and

merged in the existing American Jewish community. The Catholics were not able to keep their cultural ties with their motherland for long either. They were not as organized as the Protestants and mostly joined existing mixed parishes, preferably German or Flemish. The few parishes the Catholics founded did not survive long. Only Little Chute in Wisconsin survived for more than two generations and still nurtures its cultural ties with the Netherlands.<sup>72</sup> This is symbolized by the construction of a replica of a Dutch windmill in 2012, which serves as a monument to Wisconsin's Dutch heritage.<sup>73</sup>

The Catholics could easily find a connection with other communities as members of a universal religion, but this was different for the Protestants, who made up 80 percent of all the immigrants in the nineteenth century (the Seceders and Dutch Reformed together). The Protestants had to worship separately, because of the typical Dutch nature of their religion. Likewise, the first generations in America worshipped in their mother tongue. Like most ethnic groups, the church was the centrepiece of the Dutch communities. The uniqueness of the Dutch Reformed Church made it easier for the Dutch immigrants to cling together for worship, school, social life and work. Like the Seceders they assisted new immigrants in building up a life in America, from which most found their way to the Midwest. There they joined existing Dutch communities or founded new villages in which the church was always the first public building constructed. Despite these close ties in the Reformed Dutch communities, they showed some cracks in the middle of the nineteenth century. As the first protestant immigrants joined the existing Dutch Reformed Church, later immigrant groups founded their own religious denomination in 1857, the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). They thought the Dutch Reformed Church too Americanized, not unwarranted considering that they changed their name in 1867 to the Reformed Church in America (RCA). The CRC was stricter than the RCA, more relying on Dutch habits and traditions and in contrast with the RCA, several CRC communities kept their worship services in Dutch far into the twentieth century.<sup>74</sup>

Common about the Dutch migrants between 1840 and 1940 was that they mostly emigrated in groups, consisting of entire families, originating from the same region in Holland. They settled together in rural colonies and city neighbourhoods, quickly constituting their familiar cultural institutions and familial networks, like churches, schools and societies. The cohesive and clannish colonization created the possibility to continue and cherish

<sup>68</sup> Swierenga, 'The New Immigration', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 296.

<sup>69</sup> Van den Doel, 'Introduction: From distant images to closer relations', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 225.

<sup>70</sup> Bas Kromhout, 'De Nederlandse emigratie naar Amerika', *Historisch Nieuwsblad* nr. 2 (2007) <http://www.historischnieuwsblad.nl/nl/artikel/6889/de-nederlandse-emigratie-naar-amerika.html> (09-10-2014).

<sup>71</sup> Kromhout, 'De Nederlandse emigratie naar Amerika'.

<sup>72</sup> Krabbendam, 'Nederlanders trekken naar het beloofde land', 3.

<sup>73</sup> Travel Wisconsin "12 for 2012" (2012) <http://legacy.pitchengine.com/travelwisconsincom/travel-wisconsins-12-for-2012> (10-10-2014).

<sup>74</sup> Kromhout, 'De Nederlandse emigratie naar Amerika'.

a strong sense of Dutch identity for many generations.<sup>75</sup> Although the Dutch number of immigrants was entirely overshadowed by the 6 million Germans, 4.7 million Italians, 4.6 million Irish, 3.3 million Russians, etc., they were able to maintain their own unique character and exist as a separate group within the American society. This was achieved because of the concentrated and distinctive pattern of their settlement and the maintenance of communication with the motherland and each other, for example by means of Dutch papers (the Dutch immigrant could choose between more than twenty papers in the 1920s).<sup>76</sup> In the end, however, even these self-centred communities were not immune for being influenced by the American society surrounding it. Time was one of the reasons, causing increasing alienation of new generations (second, third, etc.) from the Netherlands. Involvement in the American politics and major events like the American Civil War and the First World War further accelerated this process, culminating in regarding the United States more and more as their homeland.<sup>77</sup>

## 4.2 Shared Heritage during the age of emigration

### 4.2.1 Maritime heritage

#### Holland – America Line (HAL)

For over a hundred years the Holland-America Line was the main transporter of emigrants from the Netherlands to America. Besides Dutch emigrants it also shipped a lot of Eastern European people to the New World. The company was founded in Rotterdam in 1873 as the *NV Nederlandsch – Amerikaansche Stoomvaart – Maatschappij* (NASM). The transatlantic connection between Rotterdam and New York existed until 1978, outcompeted by the fast growing airlines. The company still exists, but was taken over by the American company Carnival Corporation & PLC in 1989 and now focuses on cruises.

#### Texel

The Texel was a steamship managed by the company W. Ruijs & Zonen. The ship was built in Rotterdam in 1913 (latitude 38.58, longitude 73.73). It was sunk with torpedoes by a German submarine on the second of June 1918 in the western Atlantic, at the height of North Carolina. There were no casualties.

<sup>75</sup> Swierenga, 'The New Immigration', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 298.

<sup>76</sup> Van den Doel, 'Introduction: From distant images to closer relations', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 224.

<sup>77</sup> Krabbendam, 'Nederlanders trekken naar het beloofde land', 4.



Figure 29: Poster from 1898

#### N.N. Barkentine

The N.N. Barkentine was a cargo ship that shipped coffee and rattan from the Dutch East Indies to the United States. The ship was destroyed in June 1881 off the coast of Little Egg, New Jersey. It departed from Semarang, Java, and was on its way to New York.

#### Mauricio Brig

The brig Mauricio, owned by J.A. Jesaran & Son, was shipwrecked off the coast of Squan Beach, New Jersey. The brig departed from Curacao and was on its way to New York. The ship was built in 1843 and wrecked in 1864. Captain Schroeder and his crew were saved.

#### Poseidon

The Poseidon was a screw steamer (295,8m x 43,2m x 17,2m) previously owned by the Royal Dutch Steamboat Company. The ship was requisitioned by the U.S. government in 1918 along with 89 other Dutch merchant ships as part of the Allied war effort during the First World War. To legitimize this act the U.S. and UK (taking 45 Dutch vessels) governments pointed at *ius angariae*: the right for belligerents to requisite foreign vessels at reasonable cost, regardless of their country of origin, to use for war activities. This act was a big blow for the Dutch trade, which already suffered heavily due to WO1, and led to heavy protests by the Dutch government and

ship owners. The Poseidon sank in 1918 due to a collision with another steamer, the Somerset, five miles northeast of Five Fathom Bank, New Jersey.

*For further reading:*

Website dedicated to the ships, vessels and fishing craft lost during the First World War: <http://www.usmm.org/ww1merchant.html>.

Wreck site with the world's largest database: <http://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?31785>.

H. P. van Tuyll van Serooskerken, *The Netherlands and World War I: Espionage, Diplomacy and Survival* (2001).

- Little Chute Windmill, Wisconsin, 1850s, partly made in the Netherlands and shipped to America.
- Holland Grist Mill, Milbank, South Dakota, 1882.
- Golden Gate Park Dutch 'style' Windmills, San Francisco: Dutch Mill (1902) and Murphy Mill (1905). Next to the mills is the Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden, every year the spot where the Dutch community of San Francisco celebrates King's Day.
- Old Dutch Mill, Smith Center, Kansas, 1938.
- Old Dutch Mill, Wamego, Kansas, 1925.
- Dutch Windmill, Waupun, Wisconsin, date of construction unknown.

#### 4.2.2 Built heritage

##### Mills

By emigrating to the United States the Dutch people kept strongly attached to their own traditions and customs. In order to feel at home in their new country they even shipped complete Dutch mills to America or reconstructed them.

##### Reformed Churches

- Reformed Church on Staten Island, Port Richmond, 1844.
- Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie, New York, 1921.

##### Dutch colonies /enclaves – Pella, Orange City, Holland

The Dutch emigrants were strongly religious, mostly Dutch Reformed, held on to the Dutch language and formed, based on that, an own education system. The strongly entrenched customs and traditions, the many



Figure 30: Little Chute Windmill, Wisconsin

Dutch journals published in the States, the communication with relatives in the Netherlands, the constant stream of newcomers, and because most Dutch emigrants moved to only a few neighbouring states in the Midwest, made it possible for the Dutch in America to stay a close-knit community for over a century. Towns like Pella and Orange City in Iowa, Little Chute in Wisconsin and Holland in Michigan still remind of this era and cherish their Dutch history and roots. The cities possess buildings constructed in the Dutch style, museums exhibiting and honouring this past and some cities still host Dutch festivals. Pella even owns a complete museum-village, with stepped gable houses, a mill and canals.

#### Veneklasen Brick Homes

In 1848, the Dutch immigrant Jan Hendrik Veneklasen and his son Berend founded the Veneklasen Brick Company in the rich clay fields of West Michigan. A much-needed brick manufacturing industry because the Dutch colony already existed for a year and was growing fast. The Veneklasen Brick company was becoming the largest brick company in the state at the end of the nineteenth century and the Veneklasen Brick homes contributed to a unique architectural legacy in Michigan. The Veneklasen Brick Homes are a mix of traditional Dutch patterns and constantly changing American housing styles, what make them a prime example of nineteenth century Dutch-American material culture.

*For further reading:*

Michael J. Douma, *Veneklasen Brick: A Family, a Company, and a Unique Nineteenth-Century Dutch Architectural Movement in Michigan* (Grand Rapids, 2005).

#### Stuyvesant Square

A bronze statue of Peter Stuyvesant, created by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney for the New York World Fair in 1939 as part of the Dutch pavilion. The Netherland-America Foundation donated the statue to the municipality in 1941 who placed it at the current location, named Stuyvesant Square in New York City.

#### Hofstra University

The Hofstra University originated in 1935 and was founded on the land of a wealthy lumber entrepreneur of Dutch ancestry, William S. Hofstra, and his wife. Hofstra's parents, from Franeker, moved to Holland, Michigan in the middle of the nineteenth century. The motto of the university is *Je Maintiendrai*, which is the national motto of the Dutch Royal House. The prominent university is situated in Hempstead on Long Island, New York.

#### Railroads

Dutch investments in American railroads were substantial in the second half of the nineteenth century, exceeding all other investments. At the end of the nineteenth century, over one third of the foreign investment funds of the Amsterdam Stock Exchange were based in the USA, of which nearly 90 percent in railroad securities. What remains of these Dutch investments today are a couple of place names along a few railroad tracks the Dutch were involved in. Examples are: Amsterdam in Missouri, Mena and De Queen in Arkansas, Zwolle and DeRidder in Louisiana and Nederland in Texas.

*For further reading:*

Augustus J. Veenendaal, 'An Example of "Other People's Money": Dutch Capital in American Railroads', *Business and Economic History* 2:22 (1992).

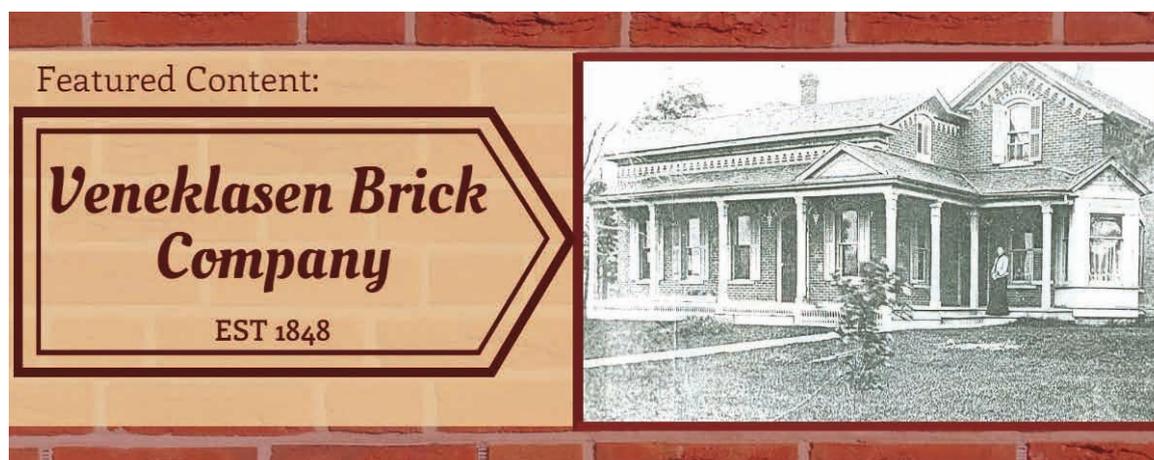


Figure 31: Veneklasen Brick Company

### Sites of Dutch Influence in Western Michigan

This short illustrated tour guide, compiled and underwritten by the Dutch-American Historical Commission in 1996, presents reminders of Dutch influence in Western Michigan. In 1847 the first Dutch came here under the leadership of reverent A.C. Van Raalte, after which wave upon wave of emigrants followed them. Several significant historical landmarks are left of this era and remind of the indelible mark of Dutch influence upon this area. The tour guide leads you through the Dutch-named cities of Holland, Drenthe, Zeeland, Graafschap, Borculo and Overijssel as well as the major metropolis in Western Michigan, Grand Rapids. The historical landmarks include Christian Reformed Churches, cemeteries, Dutch Barns, houses and monuments.

### Dutch Colonial Revival Style

The Dutch Colonial Revival Style flourished at the end of the nineteenth century until the Second World War as a result of the Holland Mania and became popular everywhere in the United States. The architecture was primarily characterized by its gambrel roofs, gabled steps and curved eaves, using seventeenth century Dutch houses as example. For example in New York City you can find a great deal of Dutch Colonial Revival Architecture, as a remembrance of the Dutch origins of the city. For instance on S. William Street in Lower Manhattan, 149 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, 119 West 81<sup>st</sup> Street, and 18 West 37<sup>th</sup> Street. A prime exemplar is West End Collegiate Church (housing the grave of Stuyvesant) at West 77<sup>th</sup> Street.



Figure 32: West End Collegiate Church

### American Wind Pumps

The American Wind Pump, designed by Daniel Halladay, is a windmill with a lot of wicks and was the successor of the classical Dutch windmills. The Dutch imported hundreds of these American windmills at the beginning of the twentieth century. Especially by the provinces of Friesland and Noord-Holland. The wind pumps were mostly used for generating electricity. Besides that, it was used to drain the smaller polders. Thirty-eight of these American wind pumps are still visible in the Dutch rural landscape, mostly in Friesland (25), although they are out of use.

### 4.2.3 Archives

#### Hope College, Holland, Michigan

Hope College is a Christian liberal arts college founded in 1866 by Dutch immigrants. The college still exists with more than 3,300 students today and cherishes its Dutch and Christian heritage. The college is linked to the Reformed Church in America in Holland, Michigan. The RCA has two other liberal arts colleges, Central College in Pella, Iowa and Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.

#### A.C. Van Raalte Institute, Holland, Michigan

The A.C. Van Raalte Institute was founded in 1994 at Hope College with the main objective to document the history of the Dutch-Americans in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Besides that, it specifically records the history of Holland and Hope College. The institute was named after reverent Van Raalte, the founder of Holland and key-figure by establishing Hope College.

#### Calvin College

In 1876, Calvin College was founded by Dutch immigrants in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The college was named after the sixteenth-century church reformer Johannes Calvijn. The college is linked to the Christian Church of America and has more than 4000 students. The CRC owns two other liberal arts colleges, the Dordt College, Iowa and the Trinity Christian College in Illinois.

#### Delpher Project

The Delpher Project was a project from the Royal Library of the Netherlands, running from 2006 until 2012. On a large scale Dutch national, regional, local and colonial newspaper were digitalized. This also applied for the multiple newspapers published by Dutch migrants in America in the nineteenth and twentieth century. The results can be found on the following website: <http://www.delpher.nl/nl/kranten/>.

### Robert Swierenga

Robert Swierenga is probably the biggest expert on the history of the Dutch Americans in the United States, especially those in the Midwest, in the nineteenth and twentieth century and for that very much worth mentioning. Swierenga was born in Chicago in 1935 in a large Dutch community, probably enhancing its interest in the Dutch-American history. Today Chicago still has a large population numbering as many as 250,000 Dutch-Americans. Professor Swierenga devoted his scholarly output almost entirely to the Dutch in America, writing more than a dozen books and well over 100 papers on the subject. Although retired in 1996 after working at Calvin College and Kent University in Ohio, he nowadays still holds a position at the A. C. Van Raalte Institute of Historical Studies at Hope College to write about his favourite subject. For more information go to his site [www.swierenga.com/](http://www.swierenga.com/) or to the website of the New Netherland Institute.

### Archives of the Reformed Church of America (RCA)

The RCA archives have already been mentioned in other periods, but here again because they are an important source for the history of this period. For more information go to their website: <https://www.rca.org/volunteers/individual/archives>. For genealogical research for family historians you can also reach the website: <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6961>.

### Archives of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC)

Via this website you can reach the archival documents of the CRC from the period 1857 until 1970: <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60767>. The official website of the CRC is still working on digitizing the archives. In the guide of Charles T. Gehring an overview of the church records is presented.

### The Joint Archives of Holland

The Joint Archives of Holland are found at Hope College, Holland, Michigan. They are extensive, well-structured and the source for historians examining the Dutch-American history in West-Michigan. The archives possess a comprehensive and convenient website: <http://jointarchives.org/>.

### Other locations

Worth noting again is that Jaap Jacobs is going to make a comprehensive guide of all the archives and published works related to Dutch-American history in Dutch repositories, from 1600 until today.

- Zeeuws Archief
- National Archives of the Netherlands
- Rijksarchief in Friesland

## 4.2.4 Intangible heritage

### Holland Mania

Already pointed out in the introduction, at the end of the nineteenth century America experienced a Holland Mania. This Holland Mania was part of the *Colonial Revival* that occurred all over America. The Americans began to romanticize their colonial roots and the country started reflecting this nostalgia in its education, architecture, art, interior and literature. As one of the former colonizers, but without the dramatic end surrounding the British colonization, the Americans put a special interest in the Netherlands. Holland was hip and fascinating. Kids were taught about the colony New Netherland at school, Dutch consumer goods were popular as was Dutch material culture (like Delftware), many works were written about the comparison between the Dutch and American national character and history. Furthermore, the Dutch painters from the *Golden Age* became immensely popular. Many prominent Americans as well as museums started collecting Dutch paintings and even travelled to the Netherlands to paint their own view of the country. Because of this interest in Dutch painters, many American museums possess large numbers of Dutch paintings from this era, like the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Collection and the National Gallery in Washington. There was even an architectural style, just mentioned in built heritage called the “Dutch Revival Style”, building “typical” Dutch houses in America.<sup>78</sup> This image attracted many Americans to travel to Holland as a tourist.

### Hudson-Fulton Celebration 1909

In 1909 New York and New Jersey celebrated the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hudson’s arrival in that area. Besides that, they celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the paddle steamer, made by Robert Fulton. It was a very big event,



Figure 33: Postage Hudson-Fulton Celebration

<sup>78</sup> Westerhuijs and Scheltema, *Exploring Historic Dutch New York*, 74-75.

attracting millions of visitors, in which the complete history of New York was displayed in parades and other activities, including the Dutch period. Centre of the naval parade was the replica of the ship, the Half Moon. Hudson's ship was constructed and donated to New York City on behalf of the Dutch government. Inspired by the revisionist history movement Holland Mania, the Dutch contributions to New York's history were particularly revered during the celebrations, as well as in teaching the schoolchildren, who played a big part in the parades, to prepare for the event.

**Holland Society of New York (1885)**

Another inheritance of the Holland Mania was the foundation of the Holland Society of New York in 1885. This is an exclusive club, making membership only possible for descendants in the direct male line of an ancestor who had lived in New Netherland before or during 1675. The main aim of the society is to underscore the Dutch presence in New York and its influence, from Dutch values such as religious tolerance to the importance of education. Collecting information, encouraging family genealogy and stimulating research into the history of New Netherland are main objectives of the society. In order to achieve these objectives they sponsor historical publications about the colony as well as institutions like the New Netherland Project. Website: <http://www.hollandsociety.org/>.

**Society of Daughters of Holland Dames (1895)**

This hereditary organization was an offspring of the Holland Society of New York but then only for women. Like the Holland Society, eligibility for membership is only possible for a woman who is lineally descended from a person who was born, prior to the Treaty of Westminster in 1674. The Society of Daughters of Holland Dames was founded ten years after the Holland Society, in May 1895. Its main objective is to preserve and promote the legacy of the seventeenth-century Dutch settlers of New Netherland. In order to fulfil its goal, the society encourages excellence in historical research relating to the Dutch in America by collecting and preserving genealogical and historical documents and establishing durable commemorative memorials as a tribute to the early Dutch settlers. The former Queen of the Netherlands, Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix, is honorary member of the society, like her mother and grandmother had been before her: Their Majesties Queen Juliana and Queen Wilhelmina. The website is: <http://www.hollanddames.org/>.

**The Netherland-America Foundation (1921)**

The Netherland-America Foundation (NAF), was founded in 1921 and seeks to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries through exchange programs in the arts, sciences, education, business and public affairs. To enhance this, the NAF provides scholarships (like the Fulbright fellowships) and other financial support. Celebrated publisher of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, Edward Bok, served as the first president of the foundation. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Thomas Watson, the founder of IBM, were among the founding members of the NAF. Since 2009, the foundation is under patronage of members of the Dutch Royal Family, namely Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and her husband Mr. Pieter van Vollenhoven. Website: <http://thenaf.org/>.

**Roosevelt family**

One or perhaps the most prominent Dutch-American family is the Roosevelt family. The family emigrated to New Amsterdam in the seventeenth century and members of the family soon became prominent people in the area, in business and politics. Most notable are the two Roosevelt presidents from two distantly related branches of the family. Theodore Roosevelt was president for the Republican Party during two terms, from 1901 until 1909. Longest U.S. president in office was Franklin Delano Roosevelt, serving from 1933 until his death in 1945. The latter also had a great interest in his ancestors. He was one of the founders of the NAF and had a special interest in trying to preserve the Dutch Colonial houses within the borders of the former colony. He even did some research after these houses himself. Another fun fact is that he kept the Dutch bible at his site during his four inaugurations as president.



Figure 34: Franklin D. Roosevelt and Queen Wilhelmina, 1942

### Jazz and Hollywood Films

Jazz was introduced in the Netherlands for the first time in the years following the First World War. Jazz also became popular under young people, but was received with a reserved attitude by the elder generations. Fear of an American mass culture, which would jeopardize Dutch norms and values, dominated in the Netherlands during the interbellum. Furthermore, a lot of people thought Jazz too primitive and erotic. Despite this, Jazz made a permanent appearance in the Dutch music scene, due to various societal and technological developments, and several Jazz dancing schools were founded. Only after the Second World War Jazz became also (really) popular among older generations.

Like Jazz, Hollywood had won over in the Netherlands after World War I, just like in most other parts of the European continent. Technological developments like subtitles and colour printed films strengthened Hollywood's position. The impact of American movies on Dutch society is as obvious as it is tricky to pin down exactly. It added a continuous and rich varied stream of stories and thrills to the Dutch cinema and brought American culture to the living room and widened the worldview of its watchers. The impact of American movies was however less profound in the Netherlands than elsewhere, because the movie-going rate remained among the lowest in the Western world.

*For further reading:*

K. Dibbets & T. van Oort, 'American Movies Reach the Netherlands', and K. Wouters, 'The Introduction of Jazz in the Netherlands', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam 2009).

### 4.3 Potential

#### Heritage inventory Dutch immigrants in the USA in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century

The tangible evidence of Dutch influence is already documented and combined in a tour guide for Western Michigan. It would be good to do that as well in the other former Dutch enclaves in the Midwest and then add them together. That provides a good overview of Dutch tangible heritage left behind by Dutch immigrants.

#### Enhance a linkage between the heritage of New Netherland and the heritage of the Dutch emigrants

What is striking is that the communities of the descendants of the Dutch colonists in former New Netherland and the newer communities in the Midwest

both went their separate ways. There is a lack of cooperation between foundations, historians, institutes and societies focussing on the Dutch colonial history in America and focussing on the Dutch emigrants to the country. Main reason is the different era in which the colonists and later emigrants went to the 'New World'. Furthermore, this is partly because a great deal of emigrants to America in the nineteenth century were Seceders, which made them different from the Dutch Reformed in New York. Besides that, between 1795 and 1840 both countries were inward looking, there was not a lot of traffic between the countries, the Dutch role in the international politics was strongly marginalized and the cultural influence of the Netherlands was dwindled over time. This enlarged the differences and undermined the affinity between the American-Dutch and the Dutch, i.e. the Dutch emigrants of the nineteenth century. To make the Dutch heritage more visible in the United States it would be recommendable to intensify the relations and cooperation between the people and institutions concentrating on the history of New Netherland and the people and institutions focussing on the heritage the Dutch emigrants left behind.

### 4.4 List of Experts

Name	Expertise or profession	Organization
Hans Krabbendam	Dutch migrants to the U.S.	Roosevelt Study Center
Cees van Minnen	Director	Roosevelt Study Center
Giles Scott Smith	Transatlantic diplomatic ties	Roosevelt Study Center
Henk Aay	Dutch migration in the U.S.	Van Raalte Institute
Jacob E. Nyenhuis	Dutch migration to the U.S.	Hope College
Robert P. Swierenga	Dutch migrants in Michigan	Hope College
Dick Harms	Archives	Calvin College
Larry Wagenaar	Heritage policy	Historical Society of Michigan
Mary Risseeuw	Genealogist, specialty Sheboygan, Wisconsin	
Ronald Rietveld	Historian, specialty Pella, Iowa	

# Period 5: The Second World War up till now

## 5.1 History

Year	Number of emigrants
1940 – 1949	13,877
1950 – 1959	46,703
1960 – 1969	37,918
1970 – 1979	10,373
1980 – 1989	11,234
1990 – 1999	13,345
2000 – 2009	17,351

The Netherlands were in ruins after the Second World War: an industry gone to the dogs, the rate of unemployment staggeringly high and a huge housing shortage, in fact a shortage of practically everything. This encouraged many people to leave the Netherlands and try their luck in another country. A Dutch historic unparalleled number of around 400,000 people emigrated between 1946 and 1963 (almost 4 percent of the Dutch population). Canada and Australia attracted most Dutch immigrants (in the 1950s respectively 128,000 and 106,000).<sup>80</sup> The United States were also appealing to a lot of emigrants. Between 1946 and 1963 some 76,000 people, 18.5 percent of all Dutch emigrants, believed in the American dream and moved to the other side of the Atlantic.<sup>81</sup> These were mostly farmers and people from the lower middle class working in the services sector, with little prospect in the first years after the war. A large number of them came from the southern and northern parts of Holland. Another significant group, consisting of some 24,000 to 30,000 people, came from the Dutch East Indies and settled foremost in California.<sup>82</sup> They left the Dutch colony due to the hardships suffered during the Japanese occupation (1942 – 1945) and the War of Independence (gained in 1949) against the Dutch following the Japanese capitulation.

Several reasons caused people to leave the Netherlands. There was not a dominant factor, but it was mostly a combination of factors. The economic conditions were poor, and the infrastructure, needed to

revise the production for consumer goods and services, was ravaged. A quick recovery was not possible, causing the government to introduce a social-economic policy of austerity. The government took control of the national economy, by implementing a regulated wage policy and a price policy, lasting till the beginning of the 1960s. The rapid population growth, due to the settlement of 400,000 people from the former Dutch East Indies between 1945 and 1962 (160,000 people would return to Indonesia)<sup>83</sup>, and the baby booms in the post-war years, induced the government to introduce an active emigration- and industrialization policy. There were grants, assistance and training courses for migrants and the media were generally optimistic about emigrating. The reason for this was that the government was afraid that the rapid population growth would lead to high unemployment rates in the future, moreover there was a housing shortage and there were limited resources. Besides that, the experiences during the war had given a group of people a feeling of expatriation, wanting them to leave the country. Others wanted more freedom than was given in post-war Holland, where the government was strict and bureaucratic in order to rebuild the Netherlands. However, besides the economic depression and housing shortage, the fear of a Third World War, due to the rivalry between the United States and Soviet Union leading to the Cold War, was one of the main reasons to exchange the Netherlands for a country that would highly unlikely become a future battleground.<sup>84</sup>

Although the United States was one of the competing forces, most people thought a new world war would again take place in Europe. Hence, people migrated to the USA for their safety, space and job opportunities. As in the nineteenth century a process of concentration took place. The existing Dutch-American communities in Michigan (and in a lesser degree Iowa and Illinois) attracted most immigrants in the first part of the post-war years till 1960, when it was surpassed by California. It is noteworthy that a specific number of emigrants were again *gereformeerden* (former Seceders, from now on called neo-Calvinists). They made up 19.8 percent of the migrants in the first emigration gulf (1947-1952) out of only 10 percent of the Dutch population.<sup>85</sup> Reasons for this were that they used the historical networks with Seceders in America, and were well organized. The neo-Calvinism was founded in 1886 by

<sup>79</sup> Homeland Security, '2011 yearbook of immigration statistics', (2011) [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2011/ois\\_yb\\_2011.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2011/ois_yb_2011.pdf) (09-10-2014).

<sup>80</sup> Han Nicolaas and Arno Sprangers, 'Buitenlandse migratie in Nederland 1795 – 2006: de invloed op de bevolkingssamenstelling', *Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, Bevolkingstrends 4e kwartaal* (2007), 38.

<sup>81</sup> Enne Koops, 'De Dynamiek van een Emigratiecultuur: De emigratie van gereformeerden, hervormden en katholieken naar Noord-Amerika in vergelijkend perspectief (1947-1963)' (2010), 110.

<sup>82</sup> Krabbendam, 'Nederlanders trekken naar het beloofde land', 5.

<sup>83</sup> Nicolaas and Sprangers, 'Buitenlandse migratie in Nederland 1795 – 2006: de invloed op de bevolkingssamenstelling', 38.

<sup>84</sup> Koops, 'De Dynamiek van een Emigratiecultuur: De emigratie van gereformeerden, hervormden en katholieken naar Noord-Amerika in vergelijkend perspectief (1947-1963)', 111-129.

<sup>85</sup> Enne Koops, 'Dutch Emigration to the United States', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam, 2009), 1007.

Abraham Kuyper, who later became the Dutch prime-minister (1901-1905). The neo-Calvinists tried to make their religion a life- and secular contemplative. They believed in freedom of the individual with respect to the state and freedom of a social circle compared to other social circles. The neo-Calvinists promoted pillarization, a form of segregation wherein Protestant, Catholic and secular groups each had their own independent schools, universities and social organizations.<sup>86</sup> This pillarization was well established after the Second World War. Thanks to the post-war influx of emigrants, the typically Dutch Reformed way of living could be preserved and expanded well into the twentieth century. The Protestants in the United States, following the example of the Dutch society, founded their own pillar (segment) with reformed schools, papers, labour unions and societies. However, the new immigrants did not feel the need to sustain Dutch as their first language, not even as the language for worshipping. They were convinced that their mission to spread neo-Calvinism in North America would benefit more from using the mother-tongue of the Americans and Canadians.

They did not really succeed in this mission. The neo-Calvinism and the Reformed Church stayed typical Dutch religious groups, binding the Dutch immigrants and descendants. Due to secularization and Americanization the Reformed community is waning these last decades. Most people of the youngest generation are not members of the Reformed Church anymore and feel that they are rather Americans than Dutch. Besides that, after the huge influx of immigrants between 1945 and 1963, the number of new immigrants considerably reduced, because of fast economic growth in the Netherlands.<sup>87</sup> The other groups of religious immigrants, consisting of Catholics and Jews, assimilated in an early stadium, joining existing congregations. The integration of the Dutch-Indonesians, who preferred California particularly, went considerably fast as well, mostly because their transnational cultural bonds with the Netherlands were weak.<sup>88</sup> Since the second half of the 1960s the number of emigrants to the United States was fairly consistent, until the beginning of the twentieth century when emigration was increasing again. At the census of 2000 4,539,369

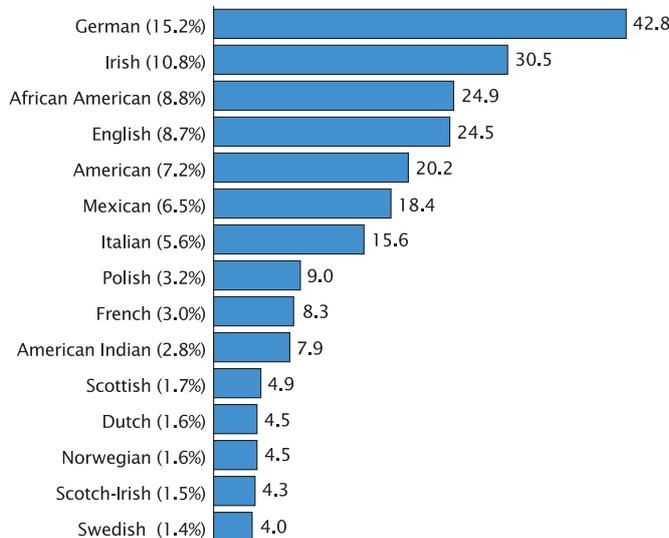
<sup>86</sup> Koops, 'De Dynamiek van een Emigratiecultuur: De emigratie van gereformeerden, hervormden en katholieken naar Noord-Amerika in vergelijkend perspectief (1947-1963)', 63.

<sup>87</sup> Nicolaas and Sprangers, 'Buitenlandse migratie in Nederland 1795 – 2006: de invloed op de bevolkingssamenstelling', 39.

<sup>88</sup> Koops, 'Dutch Emigration to the United States', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, 1013.

Figure 2.  
**Fifteen Largest Ancestries: 2000**

(In millions. Percent of total population in parentheses. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Figure 35: Largest Ancestries U.S. 2000 - U.S. Census Bureau

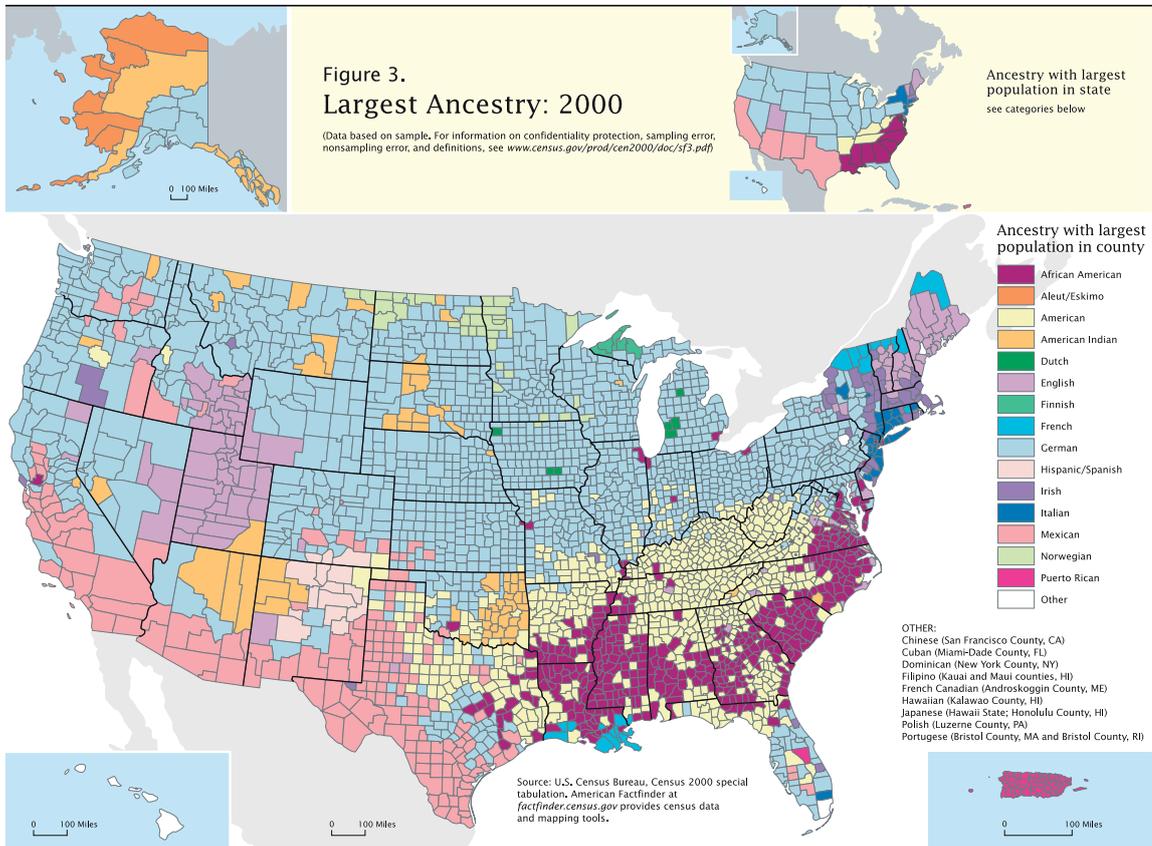


Figure 36: Largest Ancestry U.S. 2000 - U.S. Census Bureau

million people claimed total or partial Dutch ancestry.<sup>89</sup> Which ranks the Netherlands twelfth. The Christian Reformed Church still has a total of 245,217 members, although its numbers are dwindling since the beginning of the 1990s.<sup>90</sup> The total membership of the Reformed Church in America consists of some 300,000 people, with its biggest communities around the Great Lakes. Its numbers are also declining, in an even faster rate than of the CRC.<sup>91</sup>

What is left of the Dutch immigrant culture nowadays is mostly a shallow nostalgia. The shared heritage is commemorated in the former Dutch enclaves

in the Midwest with Tulip Festivals, Holland Festivals and open-air museums. The figure concerning the ancestry with the largest population per county shows us that these former Dutch enclaves still have a large Dutch community and gives us an idea where the Dutch heritage of the nineteenth century immigrants is most likely to be found. In 2009 a big event was organized in New York City, in favour of 400 years Dutch-American relations, starting with the sea voyage of Henry Hudson in 1609. A special relationship that continues and has left its traces in both countries.

<sup>89</sup> Fifteen largest ancestries 2000, <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/44/Census-2000-Data-Top-US-Ancestries.jpg> (13-10-2014).

<sup>90</sup> Christian Reformed Church, 'Membership Statistics', <http://www.crcna.org/welcome/membership-statistics> (22-10-2014).

<sup>91</sup> Reformed Church in America, 'Church Statistical Data', <https://www.rca.org/stats> (22-10-2014).

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## 5.2 Shared heritage since the Second World War

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### 5.2.1 Maritime heritage

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#### Dutch trading vessels during WOII

The trading vessels were probably the most powerful element the Dutch contributed to the Allied victory and the liberation of the Netherlands during the Second World War. However, this involvement in the Allied war effort is being neglected in the collective memory of the Dutch people. Attention was mostly paid to the years under German occupation and the local resistance. Regrettably, because the role the Dutch trading vessels played during the war is interesting and besides that, they deserve recognition as they acted far from their homes and family under dangerous conditions and never signed up for it. Due to the *Vaarplicht* (sailing duty) commissioned by the Dutch government in exile in June 1940, all Dutch vessels and their crew were obliged to continue sailing for the sake of their Kingdom and country. The Netherlands Shipping and Trading Committee (NSTC) was founded to organize this Dutch contribution to the Allied forces and was responsible for all activities of the trading vessels outside enemy lines. The NSTC had 850 ships and 18,000 (12,000 were Dutch) crew at its disposal. Vice versa, the Germans annexed all the ships still anchored in Dutch harbours. The Dutch trading vessels were mainly used during the war to ship

oil, weapons, military forces, munition, raw materials and food supplies from America to England. Sometimes, they even participated in military invasions. The war effort of the trading vessels (not only the Dutch) was vital in WOII and because of that, a major target of the Germans and Japanese. The ships and crew were equipped with some weapons, but were no match for the German U-boats and fighter planes. During the war, some 400 trading vessels were sunk with 3,600 casualties as a result, in addition over 400 crew became permanently disabled.

*For further reading:*

K.W.L. Bezemer, *Geschiedenis van de Nederlandse koopvaardij in de Tweede Wereldoorlog* (Amsterdam 1987).

L.L. von Münching, *De Nederlandse koopvaardijvloot in de Tweede Wereldoorlog* (1979).

#### Liberty Ships

The liberty ships were cargo vessels, built by the Americans in the wake of and during the Second World War in order to help the British war effort, which lost a lot of trading vessels due to the German U-boats, and as transport ships for the Americans in a later stage of the war. The ships were built in mass production, had a simple design and took little time to build. The ships played an important role in WOII, but were not finished after the war. To stimulate world trade, the Americans gave or sold the liberty ships to their European allies, for a low price. About thirty liberty ships sailed under the Dutch flag from the 1940s until the 1960s.

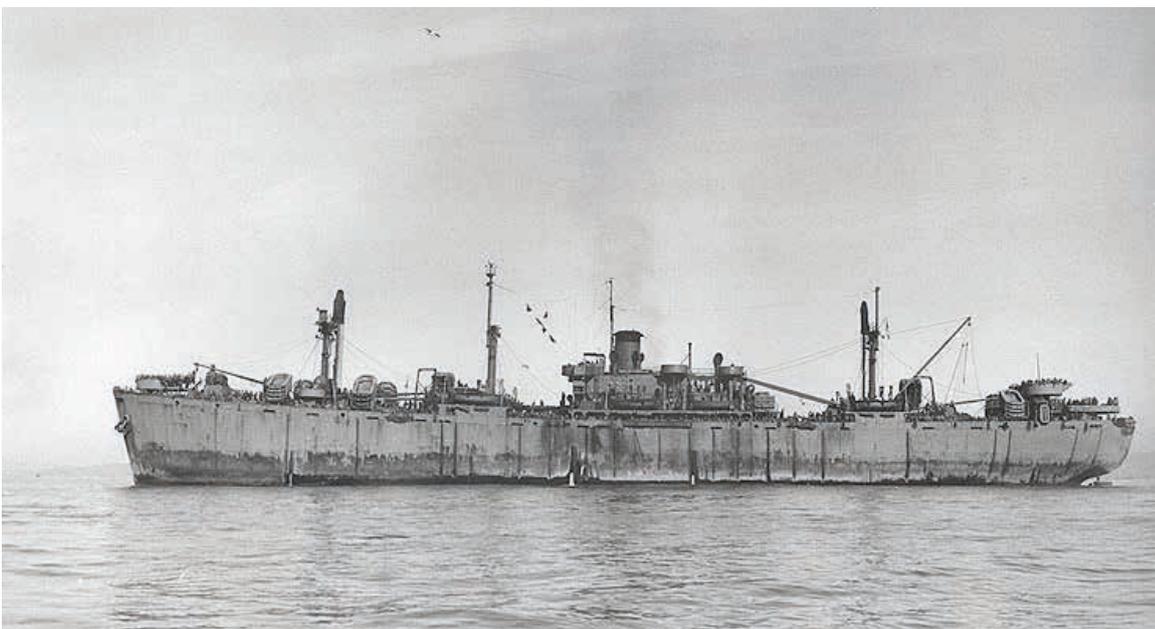


Figure 37: Liberty Ship SS. Carlos Carrillo



Figure 38: Hans Brinker, or the silver skates (1865)

#### **Arundo**

The Arundo was a trading vessel used for the Allied war effort during the Second World War. After some successful voyages in the first two years of the war, including an expedition on the French river the *Loire*, the ship was sunk by a German U-boat near the east coast of the United States (24km off the coast of New Jersey). It shipped stocks for the British army in Egypt at that moment.

#### **SS Amazone**

Like the Arundo the SS Amazone was a Dutch trading vessel. Just as the Arundo the Amazone was torpedoed by a German U-boat (U-333) near the coast off Fort Pierce, Florida, only a week later (Arundo the 28<sup>th</sup> of April and the SS Amazone the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1942). Of the 34 crew, 14 did not survive the attack.

#### **Kerwood**

The Kerwood was an American cargo vessel employed by the American army. In 1919, the ship departed from New York to the severely damaged European continent with food supplies and clothing for the people and 600 metric tons of tin and 300 metric tons of copper. On the first of December the ship hit a mine near Terschelling, broke in two and sank. The crew was saved by a German fishing boat. It took until 2002 before the ship was discovered again by a dredging company.

#### **Titanic**

Everybody knows the tragic end of the Titanic. What most people do not know is the Dutch contribution to the ship. The Royal Dutch Furniture Company H. P. Mutters & Zoon was responsible for a great deal of the luxurious interior of the Titanic. It designed and fabricated 24 luxury ship cabins, varying from an old to a modern Dutch style. Besides that, the furniture company made wooden mosaics and provided the furniture for the veranda, smoking room and the private deck on the distinguished B-deck of the Titanic.

#### **Dutch-American cooperation in water management**

The caricature Mary Mapes Dodge created about the Netherlands with her book *Hans Brinker, or the silver skates*, still holds to some level today in America. In the book the Netherlands were introduced as a land of water and the people as hard-working, conservative, clean, God-fearing and well-organized. This picture appealed to Americans and was a mirror of their self-image. The way the Dutch organized their flood protection and major projects like the Delta works attracted the attention of the Americans. Cooperation between the Netherlands and the U.S. started with American aid to the Netherlands during the flood of 1953. Since hurricane Katrina's landfall in 2005, the Dutch-American cooperation on water management issues has expanded, with Dutch techniques and innovations in demand. A task force with Dutch experts

was established by the Dutch government to assist the Americans after Katrina, responding to the call for Dutch water management knowledge. Furthermore, several Dutch companies have contracts in the U.S. to protect i.a. New Orleans against future floods.

*For further reading:*

D. Dekkers & T. Westerhuis, 'Dutch-American cooperation in water management', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam 2009), 919-928. [www.aukevisser.nl](http://www.aukevisser.nl) → on this website you can find American ships which were adopted by Dutch companies.

## 5.2.2 Built heritage

### The Netherlands-American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten

This cemetery was built during the Second World War, starting at the end of 1944. It was constructed to commemorate the American soldiers of the 9<sup>th</sup> army, who died during fights in the Battle of the Bulge, South-Limburg and the Ruhr region. The site was given to the Americans in perpetual lease-land by the Dutch government out of respect and gratitude. The designing

and decoration of the cemetery was carried out between 1947 and 1960, by the architects Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott and the landscape architecture by Clarke, Rapuano and Halleran. The cemetery is managed by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

### American Embassy The Hague

The American Embassy, located on the Lange Voorhout, in the Hague, was built in 1959 and designed by the Hungarian-American architect Marcel Breuer (1902-1981). Salient detail: the neighbourhood Bezuidenhout, where the embassy is situated, was accidentally bombed by Allied forces during the Second World War. The embassy is going to be reallocated to a spot in Wassenaar, due to the increased security levels of the embassy after the 9/11 attacks. The building will become property of the municipality of The Hague and is nominated by the Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency as *rijksmonument* (National Monument) as part of the program *Wederopbouw 1959-1965*.

### American Protestant Church, The Hague

The American Protestant Church was built for the World Fair of 1958 in Brussel and afterwards rebuilt between 1958 and 1962 in The Hague. The architects were P. Calame-Rosset and H.H. Immerzeel. The church is still in use and has a multicultural congregation. Like the American embassy the church is designated as a National Monument.



Figure 39: Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial - 1945

### Netherlands Carillon

The Netherlands Carillon on Arlington National Cemetery was a gift from the Dutch people to the United States in 1954 to thank the Americans for their war effort in the Second World War and their aid after the war. Because the carillon is situated near the United States Marine Corps War Memorial and National Mall, it attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year. The carillon consists of 50 bells and is installed in a tower with an open steel structure. Thousands of tulips are planted in the surroundings of the carillon. The carillon symbolizes the friendship between the people of the Netherlands and those of the United States and their common allegiance to the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy. The American National Park Service is going to renovate the rusty carillon this year. In 2018 the carillon will be reinstated again.

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### 5.2.3 Archives

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#### CBG

The Central Bureau of Genealogy of the Netherlands in The Hague offers support for researchers to do research into their own or other families.

#### CBS

The Central Statistical Office of the Netherlands collects and administers the demography, the business and the institutions of the Netherlands and translates this into statistics. Because of that, it is a good source for research after the Dutch emigration to America.

#### Defense POW/MIA accounting agency

M.I.A. is the American abbreviation of missing in action. When an American soldier goes missing during duty in the American army he or she gets the M.I.A. status, until he or she is identified again. The American ministry of Defense has a special department, the Defense POW/MIA accounting agency<sup>92</sup>, with the task to recover and identify the remains of WWII service members. It also has programs for M.I.A.s from other wars and conflicts. On the website <http://www.dpaa.mil/Our-Missing/World-War-II/> you can find a comprehensive database of WWII service members missing in action and news and stories about them and their families. Most American service members with a M.I.A. status who got lost somewhere in the Netherlands were from American planes crashed into waters or who participated in Operation Market Garden.

<sup>92</sup> A merger in 2014 of Defense Prisoner of War Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Accounting Command (JPAC), along with the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL).

#### NIOD

The NIOD, Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies was founded in 1945 in Amsterdam to write the story of the Second World War in the Netherlands and in the former Dutch East Indies through independent academic research. It also stimulates research into the effects of wars, Holocaust and other genocides on individuals and society. It is a good source for information about the Americans in the Netherlands during the Second World War and their lasting influence, because it collects, manages, opens up and makes archives and collections accessible about the Second World War.<sup>93</sup>

#### Archives of the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs (NA)

The Dutch Emigration Service is part of the Ministry of Social Affairs. Because of that the archives of the ministry comprise the emigration records of the Dutch people who emigrated to the United States.

#### Other locations

- The National Archives in Washington D.C.  
<https://www.archives.gov/>
- The Dutch National Archives in The Hague  
<http://www.gahetna.nl/>

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### 5.2.4 Intangible heritage

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#### Religion

As noted in the intro of this period, a number of the Dutch-Americans still go to church denominations that are descendants of the Dutch Reformed Church. Although its numbers are in decline, these denominations still attract a lot of followers. Jonas Michaelius organized the first Dutch Reformed Church congregation in New Netherland in 1628. In the following centuries a lot of changes and defections occurred in the Dutch Reformed Church, due to schisms and divisiveness leading to new denominations. Nowadays a few of these denominations still exist, mostly in the United States' Midwest but also with members in Canada:

- Reformed Church of America (RCA) – around 300,000 members
- Christian Reformed Church (CRC) – around 250,000 members
- United Reformed Churches – around 50,000 members
- Netherlands Reformed Congregations – around 10,000 members
- Free Reformed Churches – around 4,500 members

<sup>93</sup> NIOD, <http://www.niod.nl>.



Figure 40: Tulip Time Holland, Michigan

### Tulip Time Festival, Holland, Michigan

Every year, since 1929, the community of Holland, Michigan, celebrates its Dutch heritage by organizing a tulip festival. Next to the exhibition of fields of tulips, the Dutch heritage is also commemorated with other activities, like Dutch dancing in traditional clothes, Dutch parades and a Dutch marketplace. In 2015 some 500,000 people attended the festival.

For more information, see the website:

<http://www.tuliptime.com/>.

Other cities with Tulip festivals in the United States are:

- Orange City and Pella, Iowa
- Albany and Town of Holland, New York
- Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas
- Thanksgiving Point, Utah
- Skagit Valley, Washington

### Other festivals

Other cities with Dutch roots celebrate their Dutch ancestry as well with festivals: Little Chute, Wisconsin, Kermis Dutch Festival; Fulton, Illinois, the Dutch Days; Let's Go Dutch Days in Baldwin, Wisconsin; Holland Days in Lynden, Washington; Dutch Festival at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York; Holland Happening in

Oak Harbor, Washington; Holland Festival, Long Beach, California; Holland Fest in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, and the Wooden Shoe Tulip Fest in Woodburn, Oregon.

Besides that, the Dutch community of many big cities in the United States celebrate King's Day every year and the traditional arrival of *Sinterklaas*.

(!) The famous American Festival *Burning Man*, will get its Dutch counterpart in the Netherlands in 2017.

### Dutch-American Heritage Day

In 1991 President George H. Bush Sr. proclaimed the 16<sup>th</sup> November officially as Dutch-American Heritage Day. It was a homage to the 'close and natural ties between these two nations and these two peoples', a relation dating back 'to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, when the Dutch West India Company founded New Netherlands'.<sup>94</sup> The 16<sup>th</sup> of November was chosen because it was on that day in 1776 that the American warship the *Andrew Doria* was welcomed with gun salute in the harbour of St. Eustatius, which was seen back then as the first official recognition of America by a foreign entity.

<sup>94</sup> President George H. Bush, 'A Proclamation: Dutch – American Heritage Day, November 16 (1991), [http://thehague.usembassy.gov/friendship\\_days2.html](http://thehague.usembassy.gov/friendship_days2.html), geraadpleegd op 06-01-2016.

### **Dutch-American Friendship Day**

The 19<sup>th</sup> of April was appointed in 1982 as 'Dutch-American Friendship Day', commemorating 'United States' longest unbroken, peaceful relationship with any foreign country'.<sup>95</sup> Exactly two-hundred years since John Adams, the second president of the United States, was recognized as minister plenipotentiary by the States-General. This made him the first American ambassador in the Netherlands and his residence at the Fluwelen Burgwal number 18 in The Hague the first American Embassy on foreign soil.<sup>96</sup>

### **NY400 Celebration 2009**

In 2009 the Dutch government organized, in close cooperation with the authorities of New York City, a yearlong event in the Netherlands and in New York City. The event celebrated the arrival of the Dutch ship the Halve Maen, commanded by Henry Hudson, on the site of what is now New York City, in 1609. This led subsequently to the establishment of the colony New Netherland and the city New Amsterdam and was the starting point of the strong Dutch-American relationship. The celebration commemorated not only the shared heritage as well as the shared values of freedom, tolerance and the pursuit of happiness and the idea of free trade. During the year several activities and big events were organized on both sites of the ocean aimed at encouraging cultural and economic exchanges and improving the understanding and appreciation between the two countries.

*For further reading:*

Website of the NGO Henry Hudson 400, which organized a lot of events during the yearlong celebration:

<http://www.henryhudson400.com/home.php> .

Program of NY400: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/brochures/2010/01/07/brochure-ny400> .

### **Peter Stuyvesant Ball – NAF**

Every year the Netherland-America Foundation hold a black tie event, at which diplomatic envoys, influential leaders, the NAF patrons, HRH Princess Margriet and Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven and friends of the Dutch-American community from both sides of the pond gather. The ball is a source of funding for the NAF to support its activities aimed at improving and intensifying the relations and exchanges between the Netherlands and the USA.

<sup>95</sup> Ronald Reagan, Proclamation 4928 - Dutch-American Friendship Day.

<sup>96</sup> Dutch-American Friendship Day [http://thehague.usembassy.gov/friendship\\_days2.html](http://thehague.usembassy.gov/friendship_days2.html) geraadpleegd op: 06-01-2016.

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## 5.2.5 Other

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### **Atlantic World and the Dutch (AWAD)**

This program was initiated by the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies in cooperation with the Dutch National Archives, running from 2004 until 2011. The program aimed to promote the study and preservation of the mutual cultural heritage that developed from the contact between the Dutch and the peoples of Africa and North and South America. Main objective was to identify written sources in Dutch collections and abroad. A digital guide was created, offering detailed information about all the published and unpublished materials found and specialists and relevant organisations involved. It encompasses a great spectre of mutual heritage between the Netherlands and the Atlantic World, deriving from centuries of contact. On the website [http://www.culturalheritageconnections.org/wiki/The\\_Atlantic\\_World\\_and\\_the\\_Dutch\\_1500-2000\\_\(AWAD\)](http://www.culturalheritageconnections.org/wiki/The_Atlantic_World_and_the_Dutch_1500-2000_(AWAD)) you can find the database.

### **Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies (AADAS)**

AADAS is an organization in the Midwest that encourages research and nurtures a continuing interest in the history, life, and culture of the Dutch in North America. AADAS publishes and distributes information about the development of religious and governmental institutions, industry, science and the arts, education, and North American Netherlandic relations. Besides that it organizes conferences about the Dutch in North America and it is a meeting ground for people, institutions and organizations who are interested in the Dutch-American relationship. For more information, go to their website: <http://www.aadas.nl/>.

### **American Modern Art in Dutch museums**

The Stedelijk Museum, the Gemeentemuseum of The Hague and the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, together with some museums in Scandinavia, Switzerland and Germany were the first to show and collect visual art from the U.S. and bringing it to European audiences. The importance of American modern visual art was limited until the 1950s, with abstract expressionists like Gorky, de Kooning (born Dutch), and Pollock. During the third quarter of the twentieth century New York outgrew Paris as the art capital of the western world through American art. The Stedelijk Museum as a frontrunner, made a special contribution to the growing western European appreciation for American art, an interest certainly welcomed in the U.S., underlined with donations by the United States to the museum.

### Operation Market Garden

The American contribution to the liberation of the Netherlands was small, both on land and in the air. Defeating the Nazis was the chief objective of the Americans. Liberating the Netherlands was not a distinct military objective. Despite that, the Americans still occupy a prominent place in the collective memory of the Dutch. This was partly due to the dominant role the U.S. played in areas of economy, culture and defence in the years following the war, but also due to the well-known military operation Market Garden. It was the most extensive U.S. military deployment on Dutch soil and the most dramatic one as well, ending with a German victory, because the Allies could not get a foothold over the Rhine near Arnhem. Where the southern part of the Netherlands was largely liberated during operation Market Garden and could celebrate freedom, other parts of the country suffered the consequences of the unsuccessful campaign. The most dramatic consequence was the famine in the winter of 1944/45 in the west of the Netherlands. The Germans placed an embargo on all food supplies to the western part of the Netherlands as a retaliation for the railway strike in September 1944, ordered by the Dutch government in exile to further the Allied liberation efforts.

The most Americanised part of the Netherlands was South Limburg, liberated in September 1944. It became a perfect spot for rest and recreation. The American army stayed there until August 1945.

### Marshall Plan

The Marshall Plan was put into operation to aid the resuscitation of the economy of Western Europe and to suppress communism, between 1948 and 1952. The Netherlands received a rather large amount of money when compared to other countries to revive its economy, although the economic recovery predated the Marshall aid. It did strengthen the economy though, mostly because of the American aid to Western-Germany, an important market for the Netherlands. Besides a stimulus for the economy the Marshall Plan influenced the Dutch economy on another scale. It transformed the Netherlands into a consumer society and tendered and transferred the American recipe for a modern welfare state. General principles for stable economic development and for economic growth as the force powering prosperity were fully embraced. The Marshall aid was also used as a diplomatic tool by the Americans to put pressure on the Netherlands by threatening to suspend Marshall aid if the Dutch government did not stop opposing the independence of Indonesia.



Figure 41: Poster Marshall Plan 1950

For further reading:

Frank Inklaar, 'The Marshall Plan and the Modernization of Dutch Society', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam 2009), 761-772.

### Allies

Since the Second World War it is an accepted observation to call the Netherlands a loyal ally of the United States, although there were also many conflicts, like the West New Guinea crisis and the Dutch stance in the Suez and Cuban crisis and the opposition to the deployment of cruise missiles in the Netherlands in the 1980s. The asymmetrical relationship and American hegemony in the world pushed the Dutch government to turn to the U.S., to its own advantage. Curiously, after the Cold War (when the Soviet threat was eliminated) the Dutch orientation toward the United States widened, with Dutch governments actively supporting America's military activism and even fighting alongside American and NATO allies.

### NATO

The intergovernmental military alliance was founded in 1949 as an initiative of the American government to form a military bloc against the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. The members agreed on mutual defence in response to an enemy attack by an external party against

one of the member countries. Together with the United States, Canada and several other northern and western European countries the Netherlands was one of the founding members. There is a NATO basis in Brunssum, the Netherlands.

### **American influence in the Netherlands after the Second World War**

America is in many ways a constant presence in the Dutch culture. Economically, politically, socially, military and in cultural terms, America is a major international partner of the Netherlands. American influence on our daily lives and work is vast: from business, media and communication, to clothing, urban design, architecture and leisure (films, series, music, dance) activities. Developments in North American society, politics, economy and culture greatly influence the future developments in our own country. America is in that sense a reference for our country, but not all things American were accepted. The acceptance of American products varied from decade to decade as well as between cultural sectors. By no means all American products and ideas were swallowed by the Dutch people. American concepts found fitting for Dutch society got a Dutch branding. Besides that, the Dutch saw America as a society they were not and would never want to be.

Even though the Dutch are critical about the United States, many American influences can be traced back in Dutch society. Like black schools, television-dinners, the emergence of a car society, popular music, rock 'n' roll, Hollywood (Disney) films, Broadway musicals, social media like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, the idea of privatization (although not well executed), efficiency on the work floor (as well as work stress), building suburbs, big shopping malls, but also the anti-establishment movement of the hippies in the sixties. Besides that, American multinationals like McDonalds, Starbucks and Burger King are familiar in the Dutch streetscape and you can buy American products almost everywhere. Most of

these influences cannot be seen as purely American-Dutch cultural exchanges / ties, but move in a complex framework with other parties like the European cultural policies and transnational cultural institutions.

The American cultural influences were at their visible height during the 1960s, when the Dutch looked more to the United States than ever before for inspiration, says James Kennedy. The 21<sup>st</sup> century brings a new isolationism in both countries, focusing on their own economic and social problems, like the financial crisis, unemployment, immigration and how to deal with Islamic radicalism. Furthermore, the United States hegemony in the world is contested and cultural influences from other countries reach the Netherlands. Though, popular media, millions of travellers and countless networks will continue to forge the relationship.

#### *For further reading:*

James Kennedy, 'Cultural Developments in the Dutch-American Relationship since 1945', in: Krabbendam, Van Minnen and Scott-Smith, *Four Centuries of Dutch American Relations 1609 – 2009* (Amsterdam 2009), 931-948.

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### **5.3 List of Experts**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Expertise or profession</b>	<b>Organization</b>
James Kennedy	American cultural influence in the Netherlands	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Auke Visser	Shipwrecks	www.aukevisser.nl
James Delgado	Maritime heritage	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA)
Enne Koops	Dutch migration after the Second World War	Rietschans College, Ermelo
Esmee Quodbach	Seventeenth century Dutch painters	Center for the History of Collecting at the Frick Collection

What this heritage mapping shows, is that the shared cultural heritage between the Netherlands and the United States is extensive, encompasses a long period of time – over 400 years – and consists of various types of heritage. The varying categories range from maritime and archaeological heritage, concerning the WIC trade and the colony New Netherland, to intangible heritage in the form of festivals, Santa Claus and Dutch-American Heritage Day. Besides that, there is an interesting and rather large quantity of archives, including colonial papers, Reformed Church records and documents relating to the Dutch immigrants moving to the U.S.. The inventory also exhibits that there is not much tangible – let aside built heritage – left, especially regarding the colony New Netherland. The lack of an appealing and attractive Dutch colonial building, resonates in a lack of awareness in America about the former existence of the colony New Netherland and the Dutch influence on the American history. This statement was made by many experts involved in the shared cultural heritage.

The lack of an appealing colonial building is not the only shortcoming. In the grand narrative of early American colonialism, New Netherland is overshadowed by the stories of the Pilgrim fathers, Jamestown and Plymouth. Moreover, Henry Hudson was an Englishman, leaving many Americans to think that he explored the Hudson river on behalf of the English crown. Besides that, after the Dutch ceded New Netherland to the English, the lingua franca became English, which also applied for writing history. Historian Joyce D. Goodfriend states: 'the Dutch surrendered control over not only the sword, but the pen as well'.<sup>97</sup> For lack of American historians with an understanding of the Dutch language, the rivalry between the Dutch and English in those centuries and the diminishing of the political and cultural influence of the Dutch republic in the eighteenth century, resulted in the tendency to ignore the Dutch colonial presence in America or to make fun of it, like in the stories of Washington Irving. It is striking that it took centuries before an ultimate sacrifice was made to transcribe and translate the administrative records of the colony New Netherland, done by Charles Gehring. The Dutch migrants in the nineteenth and twentieth century, despite having a distinctive and remarkable migrant pattern, did not put the Netherlands on the history map either. This was mostly due to the reason that they only marked a small percentage of the total number of Europeans moving to the U.S. between 1840 and 1940, completely outnumbered by Irish (4.6 million), Italian (4.7 million) and German (6 million) migrants for instance.

Despite the uniqueness of these historical events, the American population is relatively unaware of the Dutch role in their history. The lion's share of the respondents, consisting of American and Dutch experts, who replied to a questionnaire about shared cultural heritage between the Netherlands and the USA, stated that apart from pockets in the Midwest and New York / New Jersey, being naturally more attuned to the subject as a result of their Dutch roots, the awareness is hardly there. Most common heritage image relating to the Netherlands are Dutch painters, tulips and windmills, which cannot be described as shared heritage. Overall, the reasonably well educated Americans have a sense of the strong Dutch presence in NY and surrounding areas, through history and folklore, created by such painters as Quidor and writers as Irving and more recently Russell Shorto. The fact that Shorto's book about New Amsterdam became a bestseller, shows that there is an interest and curiosity in America and the Netherlands regarding the early Dutch settlement on the American continent. So to speak, there seems to be potential to reach a much broader audience concerning the Dutch-American shared history and heritage. Realizing this would strengthen the awareness, but how to approach?

Most respondents pointed at the necessity to embark on exchanges and joint research programs. This included developing scholarship funds to support students interested in pursuing research about Dutch influence in the U.S., collaborating with universities and special interest groups to develop study trips to the Netherlands, projects that involve curricula for school age children and creating more synergy in working together to reach new audiences. Several respondents also suggested to present the mutual heritage in more popular form in order to make it more interesting and tell it in a broad forum. For instance by creating materials, like websites, social media, series and atlases, that are accessible to a broad public, online platforms to stress mutual heritage like archives, translating the more scholarly works into more popular forms and support the extension of publication regarding historical records and books. Further support for the New Netherland Institute would be recommendable in this respect, since it is a professional organisation with access to the administrative records of the colony New Netherland and because it already brought forth a bestseller (*Island at the Center of the World* by Shorto). The joint project of the Dutch National Archives and the New Netherland Research Center to digitize the colonial papers is a major step in stimulating pursuing scholarly research into New Netherland, by making it accessible via internet. The translation of the documents into English by the NNI furthers the research as well, erasing the language barrier which retained many researchers to conduct research into the colony.

<sup>97</sup> Goodfriend ed., *Revisiting New Netherland*, 1.

Encouraging research and the publication of historical records and books would be a good start to enhance the attention towards the Dutch-American history. It attracts publicity and hopefully inspires others to do more research. But, like the respondents stated, it is important that these works are translated in a more popular and appealing form. Organizing exchange programs is also preferable, whereas it enlarges the understanding of each other's country, creates more sympathy and attachment and stimulates research and the exchange of knowledge. Introducing shared researches, available via internet, could be an interesting idea as well. In this regard, education should be a focal point in the shared cultural heritage policy. Children and students are the future. If you can reach them, you secure the memory of the shared cultural heritage for another fifty years. Besides that, presumably some learners will develop an interest in this mutual heritage and will commit themselves to it. Collaborating with special interest groups and universities, for instance by providing them with research questions and sources, could encourage this and is by any means a commendable strategy. A concrete possibility is to support American students interested in pursuing research about Dutch colonialism and influence in, and migration to, the U.S., with the establishment of a scholarship fund. The Dutch consulate in New York focuses its attention on education and already developed curricula for schools that cohere with the *Core Curriculum* of New York State. This was managed in cooperation with the Museum of the City of New York, the New York Historical Society and the Brooklyn Historical Society. Since 2010, partly due to a Dutch lobby, the Dutch colonial presence in New York State is included in the social studies curriculum of public primary schools. So, its mandatory for schools to teach about the Dutch colonists. Perhaps this can be expanded to other states, in particular in states with Dutch roots.

Another good idea, pointed out by respondents, was to celebrate joined commemorations of important anniversaries like NY400 in 2009. This attracts a lot of publicity, makes the shared history more visible and recognizable, creates new initiatives and projects, and reaches a broad audience, although dependent on its scope and attractiveness. An important aspect to make these joined commemorations a success would be to involve the private sector and NGOs. By nature Americans are rather sceptical in regard to government intentions and prefer private initiatives. In this respect, it is also important that the Dutch government does not look paternalistic, too directing and overly in control. With involving NGOs and private organizations the government avoids this. The government should solely

take the role as facilitator, stimulator, partly financier and connector, bringing people and institutions together and opening new doors. This applies not only for joined commemorations but for the entire implementation of the shared cultural heritage policy.<sup>98</sup>

To create more awareness, by stimulating research and exchange programs, developing curricula for schools, and celebrating important anniversaries, it is recommendable to start by connecting solidly with the existing Dutch-American organizations and communities and then build on from there. A respondent of the Historical Society of Michigan advised to begin by linking with the institutions on a state level and then on a regional level, like the State Historical Society where he was working for. These organizations and institutions would be in a good position to provide insight and further steps in a growing awareness. Do not expect too much from working together with the federal government, the heritage preservation is mostly managed by the states. A federal organization that could be an interesting partner is the National Park Service, which manages and preserves national parks and monuments. With respect to the state historical societies, to take into account are those from Delaware and New York, which replied to the questionnaire as well and seemed interested in further unravelling the scope of Dutch roots of the state and educating Americans about it. Furthermore, the historical societies of New Jersey, Iowa, Wisconsin, Connecticut and Illinois would be good starting points because of their historical connections, through migration, trade or colonialism, with the Netherlands. These historical societies can bring the Dutch government into contact with organizations, communities, special interest groups and experts active in their state and the other way round. Problem nowadays is that there is a lack of cooperation between the organizations as well as a lack of funding. Moreover, most organizations only consist of two or three hobbyists and / or are in need of extra expertise and (more skilled and professional) staff.

What the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands and the Dutch consulate in NY could contribute to increase the awareness among Americans of the shared cultural heritage as well as accomplishing the policy goals of preserving and disclosing the shared heritage and to enhance the bilateral relations, is foremost:

<sup>98</sup> For more information about the use of shared cultural heritage during NY400 see my master thesis: W. van Zoelen, 'Instrumenteel of Idealistisch? De bijdrage van gedeeld cultureel erfgoed aan de Nederlandse culturele diplomatie in de Verenigde Staten', *masterthesis International Relations in historical perspective, Universiteit Utrecht* (2016).

- Offer training courses and advice to organizations in the United States.
- Create a platform to connect all the organizations, institutions and experts involved in shared heritage.
- Encourage organizations to work together and to share knowledge and information, pair similar institutions and create a more structured interchange of knowledge for a better continuity.
- Create an overview of all projects being executed by different actors to reduce unnecessary overlap.
- Bring interested people and experts from different institutions and organizations together by organizing or co-financing network lunches, drinks, symposia and bi-national conferences on research being conducted.
- Develop scholarship funds for students interested in pursuing research into the Dutch historical influence in the United States and develop curricula for school age children.
- Continue disclosing, transcribing, translating and digitizing archives.
- Stimulate research into the Dutch-American shared history and heritage and support exchange programs.

The latter three points have been mentioned earlier, so let us take a closer look into the first five points. Regarding the offering of training courses and advice, the questionnaire and several interviews brought forth that many organizations in the shared heritage field in the U.S. can profit from professionalization. Several organizations consist mainly of a few hobbyists, working in a conservative way, not using the full potential of technological developments like social media. The questionnaire, interviews and research also provided the observation that there is a lack of cooperation between several organizations. Moreover, a real linkage between the organizations in the Midwest and the organizations within the old colonial borders is missing. Although they examine different periods of time, different subjects and a different area, they could benefit from working together by exchanging information and knowledge, providing each other with advice, embarking on joint projects and fundraising, and enhancing awareness. Several organizations seem to be reluctant to share information, fearing that their existence would be jeopardized when they do so, being outcompeted by others. Maybe the Cultural Heritage Agency and the consulate in NY can present them the insight that cooperation and exchange and maybe even a merger, can in fact enlarge their importance and provide them with more visitors and interested parties, due to an increased attention, managed by reaching a broader audience. In the other way round, American organizations could educate Dutch organizations in fundraising.

Arising from the questionnaire it seems that the greatest need and willingness of more cooperation, exchange of information and joint fundraising, are archaeological and architectural experts and organizations. Bringing them together and launching a joint project like excavating the site of the former Fort Nassau near Albany, could generate the much needed tangible heritage to present the Americans a unique Dutch colonial experience. It will produce publicity and create a place to teach visitors about the Dutch colony, which will provide them with a better understanding of the Dutch influence in the American history. Besides the archaeological heritage – there is still much to dig – , the research into built heritage in the form of Dutch barns, gravestones and cemeteries is still in its infancy and what to think of the Low Dutch. In addition, there is relatively little known about the maritime heritage, regarding for example shipwrecks, although it played a major role in the shared history. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization (NOAA), a federal institution concerned with meteorology and oceanology, declared to be interested in a partnership with the Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency to do research into the shared maritime heritage. Furthermore, the research and attention is predominately focused upon the colony New Netherland and the immigrants in the nineteenth and twentieth century, leaving an enormous gap (1674-1840) in the historiography. Although this history is not completely ignored, it is neglected and deserves more attention, especially because the Dutch presence and influence in New York and around the Hudson in the eighteenth century for example was still considerable.

But as already mentioned in the introductory paragraph, the shared tangible heritage remains relatively limited. The intangible heritage offers far more opportunities to create awareness and to make the Dutch legacy in the United States more visual and recognizable. Shorto proclaimed that the Dutch introduced the values of tolerance, religious freedom, diversity and the idea of free trade into their colony. In the subsequent centuries these values spread from New York to the rest of the country. Because of the above mentioned Shorto states that the Netherlands played a very important part in where America stands for today and in hindsight had a remarkable cultural influence on the United States. This thesis was passed on and became popular, which shows that it is a powerful story, a story that provides opportunities for the shared cultural heritage program.

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# Appendix 2: List of Contacts

## Shared Cultural Heritage

The Netherlands			
Organisation	Person	Expertise	Contact
Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands	Jean Paul Corten	Coordinator Integrated Conservation	j.corten@cultureelerfgoed.nl
	Jinna Smit	Program manager Shared Cultural Heritage	j.smit@cultureelerfgoed.nl
	Martijn Manders	Program manager Maritime Heritage	m.manders@cultureelerfgoed.nl
	Hanna Pennock	Coordinator Collections	a.kok@cultureelerfgoed.nl
Dutchculture	Maxime Zeef	Program coordinator	m.zeef@dutchculture.nl
Nationaal Restauratiefonds Before: Centre for International Heritage Activities	Fleur Cools	Dutch-Manhattan project 2009	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/fleurcools/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/fleurcools/</a>
Centre for Global Heritage and Development	Mara de Groot	Worked at the National Archives. Has a lot of contacts in the U.S.	t.de.groot@arch.leidenuniv.nl
Henry Hudson 500	Gerard Jongerius	Organized several events for the bilateral celebration NY400	gerard.jongerius@gmail.com
	Gert Tetteroo	Executive Director HenryHudson500	info@henryhudson500.com
Universities			
Utrecht University	Hendrik Henrichs	Culture History	h.hendriks@uu.nl
	Duco Hellema	International Relations	d.a.hellema@uu.nl
	Rob Kroes	American Studies	r.kroes1@uu.nl
	Jaap Verheul	American Studies	j.verheul@uu.nl
Utrecht University College	Professor Kennedy	Dutch-American Relations	j.c.kennedy@uu.nl
Radboud University Nijmegen	Nicoline van der Sijs	Intangible heritage	n.vandersijs@let.ru.nl
Leiden University	Wim van den doel	American Revolution	h.w.van.den.doel@hum.leidenuniv.nl
	Suze Zijlstra	Maritime history	s.zijlstra@hum.leidenuniv.nl
University of Amsterdam (UVA)	Marja Roholl	Did research about the impact of the United States influence in the Netherlands	m.l.roholl@uva.nl
	Ruud Janssens	American Studies	R.V.A.Janssens@uva.nl
VU University Amsterdam	Dienke Hondius	The Dutch role in the Slave trade to the USA.	d.g.hondius@vu.nl
	Joost Schokkenbroek	Maritime History	j.c.a.schokkenbroek@vu.nl
University of St. Andrews	Jaap Jacobs	New Netherland	jacobs640@zonnet.nl
Migration			
Catholic Documentation Center (KDC)	Hans Krabbendam	Dutch Migration to the USA in the nineteenth and twentieth century.	h.krabbendam@kdc.ru.nl
Roosevelt Study Center	Cees van Minnen	Director Roosevelt Study Center	c.vanminnen@zeeland.nl
	Giles Scott Smith	Transatlantic diplomatic history	gp.scott.smith@zeeland.nl
Rietschans College, Ermelo	Enne Koops	Dutch migrants after the Second World War	ekoops@rietschans.nl
Archives			
	E. van den Bogaart	Archives WIC	<a href="http://citeweb.info/19800185031">http://citeweb.info/19800185031</a> (publication WIC archives 1621-1674)
Nationaal Archief	Frans van Dijk	Advisor Shared Cultural Heritage Program	frans.van.dijk@nationaalarchief.nl
	Johan van Langen	Advisor Shared Cultural Heritage Program	johan.van.langen@nationaalarchief.nl
Built Heritage			
Dutch Barn Preservation Society	Marieke Leeveerink	Made a research and inventory of Dutch Barns in the U.S.	dutchbarns@gmail.com
	Walter R. Wheeler	Preserving Dutch Barns	wwheeler@hartgen.com
De Correspondent	Thijs Roes	Filmed Dutch Barns in the U.S.	thijsroes@yahoo.com

Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands	Judith Toebast	Writing an article about Dutch Barns in cooperation with Marieke Leeveerink	j.toebast@cultureelerfgoed.nl
Stichting Dodenakkers	Leon Bok	Dutch Cemeteries in the U.S.	
<b>Archaeology</b>			
New Holland Foundation	Oscar Hefting	Mapping fortifications in the U.S.	oscarhefting@newhollandfoundation.nl
CLUE	Gert Jan Burgers	Heritage in urban landscapes	g.l.m.burgers@vu.nl
<b>Other</b>			
John Adams Institute	Maarten van Essen	Event coordinator	essen@john-adams.nl
	Augustus J. Veenendaal	Dutch economic interests in the U.S. after the American Revolution	
Rijksmuseum (Amsterdam)	Martine Gosselink	Artefacts	m.gosselink@rijksmuseum.nl
<b>United States</b>			
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Expertise</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York	Tessa Dikker	Cultural Officer	tessa.dikker@minbuza.nl
	Jan Kennis	Head of Press and Cultural Affairs New York	jwp.kennis@minbuza.nl
Museum of the City of New York	Christine Ritok	Curator sculpture and decorative arts	critok@mcny.org
	Steven Jaffe	Curator, historian	sjaffe@mcny.org
New York Historical Society	Lauren Brincat	Research associate New York Historical Society Museum & Library	lhbrin@gmail.com
Center for the History of Collecting at the Frick Collection	Esmee Quodbach	Seventeenth century Dutch painters	quodbach@frick.org
Historical Society of Michigan	Larry Wagenaar	Executive Director	wagenaar@hsmichigan.org
Brooklyn Museum	Catlin Crews	Chief curator	caitlin.crews@brooklynmuseum.org
<b>Universities</b>			
University of Baltimore	Craig Lukezic	Archeologist. Research fortifications New Netherland in cooperation with the New Holland Foundation	craig.lukezic@state.de.us
University of California	Wayne te Brake	American Revolution	
University of Philadelphia	Jeroen van den Hurk	What's Dutch about the Dutch	j.vandenhurk@uky.edu jeroen1966@gmail.com
University of New Orleans	Andrea Mosterman	Atlantic and Early American History	amosterm@uno.edu
<b>Archives</b>			
New Netherland Research Center, Albany N.Y.	Charles Gehring	Archives	cgehring@mail.nysed.gov
	Jannie Venema	Archives	jvenema@mail.nysed.gov
	Russell Shorto	Writer about the Dutch legacy in the U.S.	rs@russellshorto.com
	Dennis Maika	Senior historian & education director	dennis.maika@nysed.gov
	Stephen T. McErleane	Research	stephen.mcerleane@nysed.gov
Reformed Church in America	Russel L. Gasero	Archivist church records	rgasero@rca.org
<b>Migration</b>			
Calvin College	Dick Harms	Archivist Heritage Hall Calvin College	rharms@calvin.edu
Hope College, A.C. van Raalte Institute, Holland Michigan	Jacob E. Nyenhuis	Dutch-American relations in the nineteenth and twentieth century	vanraalte@hope.edu
	Robert P. Swierenga	Migration 1840 – 1960	
Association for the advancement of Dutch-American Studies (AADAS)	Henk Aay	Dutch in the American Midwest Atlas Dutch Heritage in the U.S.	aay@calvin.edu henk.aay@gmail.com

<b>Built heritage</b>			
National Register of Historic Places	John Byrne	National Register Database Administrator	nris_info@nps.gov
The D.U.T.C.H. foundation, N.Y.	Heleen Westerhuijs (Dutch)	Dutch New York	heleenwesterhuys@gmail.com
Michigan Historic Preservation Network	Nancy Finegood	Director. Expertise in American legislature on heritage	finegood@mhpn.org
<b>Maritime heritage</b>			
Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources	Victor Mastone	Maritime Heritage	victor.mastone@state.ma.us
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA)	James Delgado	Director of maritime heritage	james.delgado@noaa.gov
<b>Archaeology</b>			
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation	Paul Huey	Archaeology New Netherland	
<b>Other</b>			
	Mary Risseeuw (Dutch)	Historian, genealogist, Specialty Sheboygan Wisconsin	mrisseeuw@yahoo.com
	Ronald Rietveld (Dutch)	Historian, Specialty Pella, Iowa	rrietveld@exchange.fullerton.edu
	Joyce Diane Goodfriend	Writer about Dutch roots in the U.S.	jgoodfri@du.edu.

# Appendix 3: List of Institutions Shared Cultural Heritage

## Archives

Name	City	Website
Nationaal Archief	The Hague	<a href="http://www.nationaalarchief.nl/">http://www.nationaalarchief.nl/</a> <a href="http://www.gahetna.nl/">http://www.gahetna.nl/</a>
National Archives	Washington DC	<a href="https://www.archives.gov/">https://www.archives.gov/</a>
New York State Library	Albany, NY	<a href="http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/">http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/</a>
New York State Archives	Albany, NY	<a href="http://www.archives.nysed.gov/">http://www.archives.nysed.gov/</a>
Stadsarchief Amsterdam	Amsterdam	<a href="https://www.amsterdam.nl/stadsarchief/">https://www.amsterdam.nl/stadsarchief/</a>
Zeeuws Archief	Middelburg	<a href="http://www.zeeuwsarchief.nl/">http://www.zeeuwsarchief.nl/</a>
CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY	Hartford, CT	<a href="http://ctstatelibrary.org/state-archives/">http://ctstatelibrary.org/state-archives/</a>
New Jersey State Archives	Trenton, NJ	<a href="http://nj.gov/state/archives/index.html">http://nj.gov/state/archives/index.html</a>
Delaware state archives	Dover, DE	<a href="http://archives.delaware.gov/">http://archives.delaware.gov/</a>
New Netherland Research Center	Albany, NY	<a href="http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/newnetherland/">http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/newnetherland/</a>
Central Bureau for Genealogy	The Hague	<a href="http://cbg.nl/">http://cbg.nl/</a>
Archives of the Dutch Reformed Church in America (RCA)	New Brunswick, NJ	<a href="https://www.rca.org/rca-basics/archives">https://www.rca.org/rca-basics/archives</a>
Archives of the Christian Reformed Church in America	Grand Rapids, MI	<a href="https://www.crcna.org/publicdialogue/issues/archives">https://www.crcna.org/publicdialogue/issues/archives</a>
The Joint Archives of Holland, Michigan	Holland, MI	<a href="http://www.hope.edu/library/joint-archives-holland/">http://www.hope.edu/library/joint-archives-holland/</a>
Michigan History Center	Kalamazoo, MI	<a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mhc/0,4726,7-282-61083---,00.html">http://www.michigan.gov/mhc/0,4726,7-282-61083---,00.html</a>
Royal Library of the Netherlands	The Hague	<a href="https://www.kb.nl/">https://www.kb.nl/</a>
Tresoar (Archives of the Province of Friesland)	Leeuwarden	<a href="https://www.tresoar.nl/Pages/Default.aspx">https://www.tresoar.nl/Pages/Default.aspx</a>
Central Statistical Office of the Netherlands	The Hague	<a href="https://www.cbs.nl/">https://www.cbs.nl/</a>
Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency	Virginia, VA	<a href="http://www.dpaa.mil/">http://www.dpaa.mil/</a>
NIOD	Amsterdam	<a href="http://www.niod.nl/">http://www.niod.nl/</a>

For a comprehensive guide concerning all the archival materials relating to the colony New Netherland address:

**A Guide to Dutch Manuscripts Relating to New Netherland in United States Repositories**, <http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/research/online-publications/guide-to-dutch-manuscripts-in-united-states-repositories-relating-to-new-netherland/>.

<http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/research/online-publications/guide-to-dutch-manuscripts-in-united-states-repositories-relating-to-new-netherland/>.

**Heritage**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Website</b>
Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands	Amersfoort	<a href="https://cultureelerfgoed.nl/">https://cultureelerfgoed.nl/</a>
National Park Service	Washington DC	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/index.htm</a>
National Register of Historic Places	Washington DC	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/Nr/">https://www.nps.gov/Nr/</a>
The Netherlands Consulate General in New York	New York, NY	<a href="http://www.the-netherlands.org/organization/consulate-general-new-york">http://www.the-netherlands.org/organization/consulate-general-new-york</a> <a href="http://dutchcultureusa.com/">http://dutchcultureusa.com/</a>
US Embassy in The Hague	The Hague	<a href="https://nl.usembassy.gov/">https://nl.usembassy.gov/</a>
New Netherland Institute	Albany, NY	<a href="http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/">http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/</a>
Roosevelt Study Center	Middelburg	<a href="https://www.roosevelt.nl/">https://www.roosevelt.nl/</a>
DutchCulture	Amsterdam	<a href="http://dutchculture.nl/nl">http://dutchculture.nl/nl</a>
Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE)	Leiden	<a href="http://www.heritage-activities.org/">http://www.heritage-activities.org/</a>
Dutch Barn Preservation Society	Rotterdam, NY	<a href="http://www.dutchbarns.org/">http://www.dutchbarns.org/</a>
New Holland Foundation	Amsterdam	<a href="http://www.newhollandfoundation.nl/">http://www.newhollandfoundation.nl/</a>
John Adams Institute	Amsterdam	<a href="http://www.john-adams.nl/">http://www.john-adams.nl/</a>
Van Raalte Institute	Holland, MI	<a href="http://www.hope.edu/offices/van-raalte-institute/">http://www.hope.edu/offices/van-raalte-institute/</a>
Hope College	Holland, MI	<a href="http://www.hope.edu/index.html">http://www.hope.edu/index.html</a>
Calvin College	Grand Rapids, MI	<a href="https://calvin.edu/">https://calvin.edu/</a>
Historical Society of Michigan	Lansing, MI	<a href="https://www.hsmichigan.org/">https://www.hsmichigan.org/</a>
New York State Office of Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation	New York, NY	<a href="https://parks.ny.gov/">https://parks.ny.gov/</a>
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA)	Washington DC	<a href="http://www.noaa.gov/">http://www.noaa.gov/</a>
Brooklyn Historical Society	Brooklyn, NY	<a href="http://brooklynhistory.org/">http://brooklynhistory.org/</a>
Michigan Historic Preservation Network	Lansing, MI	<a href="http://www.mhpn.org/">http://www.mhpn.org/</a>
Association for the advancement of Dutch-American Studies (AADAS)		<a href="http://www.aadas.nl">www.aadas.nl</a>
Netherlands American Studies Association	Middelburg	<a href="http://www.netherlands-america.nl/">http://www.netherlands-america.nl/</a>
Netherland America Foundation	New York, NY	<a href="http://thenaf.org/">http://thenaf.org/</a>
Stichting Dodenakkers		<a href="http://www.dodenakkers.nl/">http://www.dodenakkers.nl/</a>
Holland Society of New York	New York, NY	<a href="http://www.hollandsociety.org/">http://www.hollandsociety.org/</a>
Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources	Salem, MA	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm/buar/">http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm/buar/</a>
Henry Hudson 500	Vinkeveen	<a href="http://www.henryhudson500.com/">http://www.henryhudson500.com/</a>

## Museums

Name	City	Website
Rijksmuseum	Amsterdam	<a href="https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/">https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/</a>
Stedelijk museum	Amsterdam	<a href="http://www.stedelijkmuseum.nl">www.stedelijkmuseum.nl</a>
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag	The Hague	<a href="https://www.gemeentemuseum.nl/">https://www.gemeentemuseum.nl/</a>
The Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET)	New York City	<a href="http://www.metmuseum.org/">http://www.metmuseum.org/</a>
National Gallery of Art	Washington DC	<a href="http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb.html">http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb.html</a>
Frick Collection	New York City	<a href="http://www.frick.org/">http://www.frick.org/</a>
Brooklyn Museum	Brooklyn, NY	<a href="https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/">https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/</a>
The New York Historical Society	New York City	<a href="http://www.nyhistory.org/">http://www.nyhistory.org/</a>
Museum of the City of New York	New York City	<a href="http://www.mcny.org/">http://www.mcny.org/</a>
Museum of Albany	Albany, NY	<a href="http://www.albanyinstitute.org/">http://www.albanyinstitute.org/</a>
New York State Museum	Albany, NY	<a href="http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/">http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/</a>
Synagoge Congregation Shearith Israel	New York City	<a href="http://shearithisrael.org/">http://shearithisrael.org/</a>
Dyckman Farmhouse Museum	New York City	<a href="http://dyckmanfarmhouse.org/">http://dyckmanfarmhouse.org/</a>
The Bownhouse Historical Society	Flushing, NY	<a href="http://www.bownhouse.org/">http://www.bownhouse.org/</a>
Van Cortlandt House Museum	New York City	<a href="http://www.vchm.org/">http://www.vchm.org/</a>
Bronck Museum	Coxsackie, NY	<a href="mailto:www.gchsbm@mhccable.com">www.gchsbm@mhccable.com</a>
Old Dutch Church Heritage Museum	Kingston, NY	<a href="http://www.olddutchchurch.org/museum.php">www.olddutchchurch.org/museum.php</a>
Hurley Heritage Society Museum	Hurley, NY	<a href="http://www.hurleyheritagesociety.org">www.hurleyheritagesociety.org</a>
Adriance Farmhouse/ Queens County Farm Museum	Floral Park, NY	<a href="http://www.queensfarm.org/about-history.html">http://www.queensfarm.org/about-history.html</a>
Holland Land Company Museum	Batavia, NY	<a href="http://www.hollandlandoffice.com/">http://www.hollandlandoffice.com/</a>
The Dimenna Children's History Museum	New York City	<a href="https://www.nyhistory.org/childrens-museum">https://www.nyhistory.org/childrens-museum</a>
Historic Richmond Town	Staten Island, NY	<a href="https://www.historicrichmondton.org/">https://www.historicrichmondton.org/</a>
Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum	Brooklyn, NY	<a href="http://wyckoffmuseum.org/">http://wyckoffmuseum.org/</a>
Zwaanendael Museum	Zwaanendael, DE	<a href="http://history.delaware.gov/museums/zm/zm_main.shtml">http://history.delaware.gov/museums/zm/zm_main.shtml</a>

# Appendix 4: Museum Collections

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## Dutch collections in American museums

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### The Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET), New York City:

The MET has a reasonable collection of Dutch art, among which paintings from Dutch masters like Rembrandt van Rijn, Johannes Vermeer, Frans Hals, Nicolaes Maes, Willem van de Velde II, Jan Steen, Willem Drost and Jacob van Ruisdael.

Besides paintings, the collection further exits of busts, ceramics, engravings, metalwork, pottery and sketches.

*Number of hits when you fill in the following words in the online database:*

Dutch: 6552  
The Netherlands: 7362  
Netherlandish: 5780

### National Gallery of Art, Washington

This is the national museum of the United States. It possesses a large quantity of Dutch works, among which three paintings of Johannes Vermeer.

*Number of hits when you fill in the following words in the online database:*

Dutch: 6344 (*Dutch nationality was only 4009*)  
The Netherlands: 368  
Netherlandish: 772

### Frick Collection, New York City

The Frick Collection consists of the personal collection of a wealthy American steel magnate and Maecenas Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919). His collection is housed in a building near Central Park, New York. The museum houses numerous European paintings, including a series about the Dutch school from the Golden Age. This series about Dutch Golden Age painters is represented by works of: Johannes Vermeer, Rembrandt van Rijn, Gerard ter Borch, Jan van de Capelle, Aelbert Cuyp, Frans Hals, Jan van der Heyden, Meindert Hobbema, Gabriel Metsu, Jacob van Ruisdael, Salomon van Ruysdael, Isaac van Ostade and Philips Wouwerman.

*Number of hits when you fill in the following words in the online database:*

Dutch: 105  
The Netherlands: 57

### Brooklyn Museum, New York

The Brooklyn Museum is located in its namesake neighbourhood, once founded by the Dutch in the seventeenth century, named after the little Dutch town Breukelen. It is the second largest museum of the city of New York and houses a permanent exhibition about the Dutch colonists in New Netherland. They possess for example the colonial Jan Martense Schenck house (1675), which is exhibited in the museum.

*Number of hits when you fill in the following words in the online database:*

Dutch: 689  
The Netherlands: 38  
Netherlandish: 12

### The New-York Historical Society, New York City:

The oldest museum of New York, founded in 1804. They have an enormous museum collection of about 1.6 million objects. The museum works together with the Dutch consulate in New York to develop curricula about the Dutch colony in America.

*Number of hits when you fill in the following words in the online database:*

Dutch: 573  
Netherlands: 35  
Netherlandish: 1  
New Netherland: 38

### Museum of the City of New York:

The museum of the city of New York explores what made New York New York. Following the story of the city's rise from a striving Dutch village to today's capital of the world. The museum cooperates with the Dutch consulate to develop curricula for school age children. It has a collection of 185,000 objects and images.

*Number of hits when you fill in the following words in the online database:*

Dutch: 228 (*drawings, ephemera, maps, paintings, photos*)  
Netherlands: 207 (*mostly -113- photographs*)  
New Netherland: 185 (*mostly -113- photographs*)

**Albany Institute of History and Art (Museum of Albany), Albany:**

Founded in 1791, this museum is one of the oldest museums of the United States. Its holdings form the best collections in the United States documenting the life and culture of the Upper Hudson Valley region from the late seventeenth century to the present day.

*Number of hits when you fill in the following words in the online database:*

Dutch:	41	<i>(paintings, drawings and watercolors, prints, ceramics)</i>
Netherlands:	24	<i>(mostly ceramics)</i>
New Netherland:	1	

**Synagoge Congregation Shearith Israel, New York City:**

Congregation Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in the City of New York, was founded in 1654, the first Jewish congregation to be established in North America. Its founders were twenty-three Jews, mostly of Spanish and Portuguese origin, who had been living in Recife, Brazil. When the Portuguese defeated the Dutch for control of Recife, and brought with them the Inquisition, the Jews of that area left. Some returned to Amsterdam, where they had originated. Others went to places in the Caribbean such as St. Thomas, Jamaica, Surinam and Curacao, where they founded sister Sephardic congregations. One group of twenty-three Jews, after a series of unexpected events, landed in New Amsterdam. They were not welcomed by Governor Peter Stuyvesant, who did not wish to permit Jews to settle there. However, these pioneers fought for their rights and won permission to remain. During colonial days, the Jewish community was relatively small.

**Dyckman Farmhouse Museum:**

A part of the collection is traceable via this website: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dyckmanfarmhouse/sets/72157625837134760/>

**Van Cortlandt House Museum:**

No online collection about this museum, situated in the house of one of the oldest colonial families in the United States: <http://www.vchm.org/>

**The DiMenna Children's History Museum:**

This can be an interesting museum to invest in. It is important to enthuse children about the shared heritage, regarding the future of the collective memory about the Dutch influence in the United States.

**Zwaanendael Museum, Delaware:**

The Zwaanendael museum is an example of the Colonial Dutch Revival Style in architecture, based on the state house in Hoorn, the Netherlands. It was created to honor the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Delaware's first European settlement: Zwaanendael, founded in 1631. The museums exhibits represent the history of Sussex County, including the Dutch colonial era.

# Appendix 5: Dutch Colonial Houses in New York and New Jersey

Name	Location	Date designated
Vander Ende- Onderdonck House	Queens, New York City	Ca. 1709
Lent-Riker-Smith Homestead	Queens, New York City	Ca. 1729
<b>The Mohawk and Upper Hudson River Valleys</b>		
Pieter Bronck House	Coxsackie, Greene County, New York	1663 (National Historic Landmark 1967)
Leendert Bronck House	Coxsackie, Greene County, New York	1738
Luykas van Alen House	Kinderhook, Columbia County, New York	1737
<b>Cornelis Schermerhorn House</b>		
Albertus van Loon House	Village of Athens, Greene County, NY	1724
Pieter Winnie House	Selkrik, Albany County, NY	1720
Arriantje and Samuel Coeymans House	Coeymans, NY	1675
Mabee Farm	Rotterdam Junction, NY	1670
Rensselaer Nicoll House / Bethlehem House	Albany County, NY	1735
Fort Crailo	Rensselaer, New York	1712 (National Historic Landmark 1961)
<b>The Hudson Highlands: Ulster Dutchess, Westchester, Orange and Rockland Counties</b>		
Jean Hasbrouck House	New Paltz, Ulster, New York	1721 (National Historic Landmark in 1960)
Abraham Hasbrouck House	New Paltz, Ulster, New York	1721 (National Historic Landmark 1960)
Bevier-Elting House	New Paltz, Ulster, New York	1731 - parts of the construction are older, dating back to the seventeenth century. (National Historic Landmark 1960)
Johannes Decker Farm	Gardiner, New York	1725
Jan Van Deusen House	Hurley, Ulster County, New York	1723
Gomez Mill House	Newburgh, Orange County, New York	1714
Cornelis Wynkoop House	Stone Ridge, New York	1772
Philipsburg Manor	Sleepy Hollow, New York	1693
Mount Gulian, Verplanck- Van Wyck Barn	Beacon, New York	18 <sup>th</sup> century
Abraham Storms-Capt. Larry Sneden House	Snedens Landing, New York	+/- 1700
De Wint House	Tappan, Rockland, New York Headquarters of Commander-in-Chief George Washington during the American Revolution	1700 (National Historic Landmark in 1966)
Hurley Historic District (10 stone houses, many with a Dutch architectural or historic legacy)	Hurley, Ulster, New York	Early 1700s (National Historic Landmark 1961)
<b>The Islands and the Jerseys: Long Island, Staten Island, and New Jersey</b>		
Pieter Claessen Wijckoff House	Brooklyn, New York	1652 (National Historic Landmark 1967)
Wijckoff-Bennett Homestead	Brooklyn, New York	1766 (National Historic Landmark 1976)
Minne Schenck House	Nassau County, NY	1730
Jacob Adriance House	Queens County, NY	1772
Voorlezer's House	Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island, New York	1695 (National Historic Landmark 1961)
Christopher House	Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island, NY	1680-1720
Joseph Guyon House	Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island, NY	1740
Cornelis Cowenhoven House	Monmouth County, New Jersey	1752-1753
Holmes – Hendrickson House	Holmdel, New Jersey	1754
Roeloff Westervelt House	Tenafly, New Jersey	1798
Derick Banta House	Dumont, New Jersey	1780-1790
Haring-De Wolf House	Tappan, New Jersey	1720
Jan Zabrieski House (Steuben House)	River Edge, New Jersey	1752
Ripper-Hopper House	Wayne, New Jersey	1786
<b>Delaware</b>		
Amstel House	New Castle, Delaware	1730s
Dutch House	New Castle, Delaware	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> century



This report gives an overview of the shared cultural heritage in the United States of America and the Netherlands. The connection between these countries started in the 17th century and is still strong today. Rather than a complete overview, this heritage mapping provides insight into the kind of heritage we share, the quantity and the people and institutions involved. This knowledge can be a starting point for collaboration on sustainable preservation of the shared cultural heritage of the United States and the Netherlands.

The Cultural Heritage Agency provides knowledge and advice to give the future a past.