

The Dutch Settlers Society of Albany

September 2009 Newsletter

Fall 2009 Events

For all events — see contact information at right.

Albany County Clerk, Thomas G. Clingan will present an informational program on "**Albany County's Collection of Dutch Records, 1652 - 1833**" at the Albany County Hall of Records, 95 Tivoli St Albany on **September 23, 2009 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM.**

Tours and exhibits will follow the presentation.

DSSA has been asked to participate. Those wishing to attend NOT in costume should RSVP to: ccarlson@albanycounty.com

The **Holland Society** will host an all-day event on **Friday September 25, 2009**, starting at 10:30 AM with an Aqua Ducks tour followed by luncheon at the Pump Station and a 1:45 to 3:00PM tour of the Half Moon.(no charge for luncheon or events). For more information, please contact Cheryle Webber.

Albany's celebration of the **Hudson 400th** will be held on **Saturday, September 26.** The event centers around the Half Moon which will be docked at Corning Park. The event will include artifacts and demonstrations associated with 17th century Dutch settlements in New York. Members of the Mahican Tribe from Wisconsin represent

the native Americans at the event. We will participate with an information table and as greeters.

The Rensselaerswyck seminar of the **New Netherland Institute** will be held on **October 1-3** at New York State Museum and Hampton Inn, in Albany. The focus this year will be on genealogy. Some family associations may meet simultaneously.

The annual **Columbus Day parade** will be held on **Saturday, October 10** If you would like to participate in costume, please contact Darlene Nielsen.

Tuesday October 13 will be our first fall meeting It will be held at the First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl St. at Orange St. The Board will meet from 6:45-7:30. The general meeting will be held from 7:30 - 9 p.m. The speaker will be Erica Nuckles, from Crailo State Historic Site in Rensselaer who will talk about 17th century Dutch clothing.

The New York State Museum will be holding a **children's day** on **Sunday October 18 from 1 to 4 PM.** We will have a display with an activity for children. If you would like to help staff our table, contact Ted Wright or Darlene Nielsen.

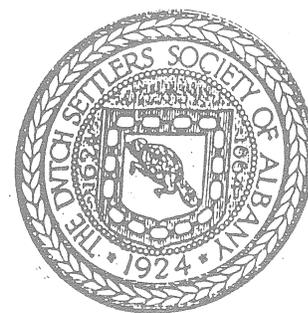
Our **Annual Fall Tea** will



be held on **Sunday November 8, 2009 from 2-4 PM**

at the UAlbany Alumni Houses uptown campus. We are pleased to announce that Dr. David Oestreicher has agreed to present his program "The Lenape: Lower New York's First Inhabitants." Dr. David M. Oestreicher is recognized as a leading authority on the Lenape (Delaware), our region's first inhabitants, having conducted linguistic and ethnographic research among the last tribal traditionalists for over 30 years. This program, which is free and open to the public, is made possible through the support of the New York Council for the Humanities' *Speakers in the Humanities* program.

St Nickolas Dinner will be held on **Friday December 4**, time and location to be determined. Watch your mail or email for further information.



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president@

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Louis Hallenbeck
Jonathan F. Van Derpoel
John G. Wemple, Jr.

website:

www.dutchsettlerssociety.org

Books by Members

Gary Donhardt, husband of member Pat Donhardt, wrote "*Indian Ladder A History of Life in the Helderbergs*," in 2001. The book is a history of the settlement of the Helderberg Mountains near present day John Boyd Thacher State Park. The book contains information on a number of families that settled the area such as, Winne, Ketcham Schermerhorn, VanWormer, and Van Zandt. For more information visit: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyschoha/books.html>

Gloria Waldron Hukle's third historical novel was released this summer. *Threads: An American Tapestry* is the story of strong-minded, resourceful Margaret Vandenberg as she struggles to maintain control of her estate in upstate New York in 1723 amidst the threat of the new census and issues of racial prejudice. Gloria's other two novels are *Manhattan — Seeds of the Big Apple* and *The Diary of a Northern Moon*. See Gloria's web site for more information.



www.authorgloriawaldronhukle.com

Member News

Welcome to our new members:

Scott D. Burns of Kagoshima, Japan, a descendent of Jan Barentsen Wemple (Wemp)

Thomas James McCormick of Missouri City, TX a descendent of Jan Barentsen Wemple.

Charlotte Ann Reed Stearns from Niskayuna, NY, descendent of Jacob Janse Gardenier

Floyd James De Witt, Richmondville, NY descendent of Philip Pieterse Schuyler

Pamela Jean Harrington Han-

nan from Clifton Park, NY descendent of Pieter Winne. Also a new supplement Ronalds Sherburne Grand descendent of Hendrik Martense Witsie.

Gerald D. Jennings, Mayor of the City of Albany - Honorary Membership.

We have been notified of the passing of the following members:

Dorothy Fulkerson from Granby CT.

Clifton Rowland Brooks. 86,

of Norman OK.

We extend our sympathy to their families.



Mary DeGiorgis celebrated her 100th birthday at her home in Pittsfield MA on August 1, 2009. Congratulations!

Ro Cramer Milbank is back home recovering from an automobile accident. She is doing well. She thanks all of you for your concern and cards.

Message From Past President, Joan Burns

I thank all of you for your support during the past three years serving as your President. It was a very busy period!

- The latest edition of our Yearbook was completed and distributed (thank you Editor John Wemple).
- We secured three grants—one for our yearbook, another to obtain a well-known speaker, and a third for scanning our application papers.
- We have our own web site and our newsletter has been revised to a "newspaper" format.
- We had several fundraisers—river boat cruises, our tea bag party, a book sale (story of Owey the Dog), and Dutch novelty items to raise money for the next edition

of our yearbook.

- We continue to give a monetary award to an Albany High School senior who excels in history.
- We are more visible resulting in being sought out as speakers and participants at local events.
- We are converting to email where possible as a cost savings means—thank you for your patience!
- We give back to the community by participating in area events (e.g., State Street Scrubbing, Coronation Procession and greeters at the Tulip Ball, Albany History Fair, and donating to the Toys for Tots program).

As an organization, we are trying to keep in step with

our fast paced world yet blending with our long standing traditions which make us who we are. I wish our new President, Darlene Nielsen, success and the hope she enjoys her Presidential role as much as I did. I have been assisting with the transition of the leadership role and after doing a "look back" have made suggestions to your Board for areas that might need to be evaluated and revised thus strengthening our organization. I also suggest that we collaborate with other historical and genealogical groups through networking yet never losing our own identity. I will remain active in your organization as a member of the Executive Board. Thank you so much for three wonderful years of friendship.

Windmill Project Update

At the end of June, Mr. Lukas Verbij of the Netherlands was the overnight guest of Gloria and Jon Van Derpoel, DSSA board member, at their home in Glenmont, NY. The Van Derpoels are working closely with "windmill



guy" Douglas Boettner, who has plans to construct authentic Dutch windmills along the Hudson River.

Mr. Verbij traveled to the Albany area to visit the locations currently being

considered for the construction of windmills. Prospective windmill sites are in the town of Coeymans and Bethlehem and the City of Albany.

Jon and Doug arranged for Lukas to meet with the

various town authorities (except for Albany where the three went unaccompanied) to review and discuss site feasibility along with potential construction designs and/or styles.

Lukas's family has been in the windmill design, construction, maintenance and restoration business since 1868. Lukas will

be submitting detailed plans and projected construction costs for the design and style of windmills best suited for the towns of Coeymans and Bethlehem for their consideration and approval.

Once a town signs a contract with Lukas, Doug Boettner will form a non-profit 501 (c)

3 Corporation titled "Friends of the Windmills" to assist the towns in obtaining financial resources from individuals and business who wish to have their support recognized. Contributions to this organization will be tax deductible.

Recent Events & Royal Visit, Reported by Dean Hartley

Officers Darlene Nielsen, Ted Wright, Jim Schermerhorn and associate members Dean Hartley, Gerry Boileau and John Swartwout attended the ceremonial "Presentation of the Key to the City of Albany" to Dutch Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Maxima on September 8, during royal couple's visit to the city in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Dutch discovery of the Hudson River.

Dean and Jim were spotted by a camera crew and reporter from the Netherlands who asked them to do an interview for Dutch TV. Since Jim and Dean were noted as "laymen," the crew was anxious for some "local color." Needless to say, both DSSA loyalists talked up the Society's achievements, as well as their own interests in the Hudson400 events of the Quadracentennial. The media was impressed that both Jim and Dean had been to the Netherlands, and forgave them for calling it, occasionally, "Holland." Jim impressed them by pronouncing his last name with the typical Dutch explosion of consonants. Then they turned back to the speechmaking, which was graciously done by the Prince (NOT Crown Prince, just Prince, as The Netherlands is a constitutional Republic; for example, the monarch is not given a coronation, but an inauguration). Both Royals, Willem-Alexander and



Princess Maxima & Prince Willem-Alexander in Albany on Sept. 8, 2009.

Maxima, were young and handsomely attired, and unaffected. His tribute to Albany ("your lovely city") was tactful, given the fact that lower State Street appears to be in ruins. Dean and Jim will be on Dutch TV sometime in the near future. They're the ones who are casually dressed for such a formal affair, and cheerfully touting the virtues of the Dutch Settlers Society and of that strange former colonial capital of Fort Orange.

Our 2009 Annual Meeting was held on Saturday June 13, at the Albany Country Club in Voorheesville. Following a delicious breakfast, we held a brief business meeting which included the election of officers for the year. Albany City

Mayor Gerald Jennings was present to receive an Honorary membership in our society. We presented him with a membership certificate in recognition of his support of our organization.

The DSSA had a booth at the Town of Bethlehem's 400th Celebration on August 16 at Henry Hudson Park along the Hudson River. It is believed that this park lies very near the location that Henry Hudson landed when he sailed up the river in 1609. Thanks to volunteers Darlene Nielsen, Jim Schermerhorn and his daughters, Ted Wright, John Wemple, Cheryle Webber, Jon and Gloria Van Derpoel for helping promote our society and sell items to replenish our coffers.

Our Records Preserved!

As mentioned previously, we received a grant to scan all of our membership applications to create a permanent electronic file of these historical documents.

Registrar Cheryle Webber and Joseph Hallenbeck, former registrar, sorted and prepared the applications which were given to a local firm for scanning. The data has been put in a retrievable system that can be accessed by computer.

Going back to our founding in 1924, over a thousand records were scanned. This project will be completed by the end of September.

Thanks to Cheryle and Joe and to John Wemple who initiated and managed the grant process.





THE DUTCH SETTLERS SOCIETY
OF ALBANY
ALBANY, N.Y.

Our Society was founded in 1924 to perpetuate the memory of the individuals who resided there during the time that it was a Dutch Colony.

Our major contribution is to foster the study of, and to perpetuate and preserve the history, memories, memorabilia, genealogical records and virtues of the early settlers and their descendents without regard for race, creed, or country of origin. Society's Yearbooks are published studies and general information relative to the early history of this Hudson River Region previously unavailable to the general public.

The Society participates in community activities which perpetuate the history of New Netherland, with special emphasis on The Settlement of Fort Orange, which later was called Beverwyck, and the Colony of Rensselaerswyck prior to 1664, and encourages others to study and teach such history.

Goede Dag from Your President!

My name is Darlene (Fonda) Nielsen and I have the honor and pleasure of serving as your DSSA President. Like you, I am very proud of my Dutch heritage and the legacy that stretches over 400 years here in New York. I hope that everyone is as excited as I am about the many Quadricentennial celebrations and events taking place this year. After all, we need to remember that there's a little bit of all of us in what is being celebrated! You'll be proud to know that the DSSA has, and is, participating in many of the key events taking place throughout the Capital region.

There's something important I would like to talk to you about. First, however, I would like to thank our past-president, Joan Burns, for her leadership and contributions to our society and especially for her mentorship as "I learn the ropes" and become acclimated to this new responsibility and opportunity. I also want to thank our Board and Executive Committee for their help, direction and patience in helping me gain momentum.

The Dutch Settler's Society of Albany celebrates and commemorates our rich heritage throughout our community to ensure that the significant contributions of the Dutch here in the New World are preserved. The Society accomplishes this task of perpetuating this heritage and history through educational efforts, social outreach activities and community events. In this regard, I have something very special to ask of you. I want to reach out to our membership at this time and extend my invitation for all of you to take an active part in the Dutch Settler's Society – YOUR Society. Only through your active participation and willingness to "lend a hand" will the vitality and energy of the DSSA come through. And here it comes – yes, by volunteering - because the DSSA really needs you!

Now tell me, where are you ever going to find a fun job that includes "no experience necessary?" All we need is a little bit of your time and your ideas. We have several committees, programs and upcoming events and we need people to help make them happen. We need YOU! Won't you

please consider sharing some of your time and talents to help in these activities?

There are various committees that need a helping hand; we have the annual tea in November and the SinterKlaas Dinner in December.....all of these need willing, helping hands. So please consider my request and contact me (email: president@dutchsettlerssociety.org) and let me know that you can help.

Never worked on a committee before? Not a problem.

Don't have a lot of time to spare? Not a problem.

Not sure of what you'd like to do? I'll be happy to give you a selection of opportunities from which to choose.

I sincerely look forward to hearing from all of you real soon. Together we can help guide the Dutch Settler's Society of Albany into the future by making sure that the past, our past, remains honored.

Oprecht,
Darlene



Additions & Corrections to Yearbook

With any undertaking of this size, a few typos are bound to happen. We apologize for any mistakes and/or deletions. Please clip and save the following corrections to Volume 55 of the Yearbook.

Email additions:

Nielsen, Darlene president@dutchsettlerssociety.org
Perreault, Gloria Waldron Hukle ghukle@nycap.rr.com
www.authorgloriawaldronhukle
Stoodley, Charles Case casestoodley@yahoo.com;
Trimmer, Robert trimmerrw@aol.com
Van Derpoel, Jonathan jvanderpoel@hotmail.com
Wright, Theodore Wright15@juno.com

Corrections

P. 78 correct address: Barry, Wilma Jean Brink 2074 N. 28th St. Boise, ID 83703

- P. 79 correct address: Collins, Eva Mae Lomerson, 875 Greenview Court, #58 Rochester Hills, MI 48307
- P. 79 add: Betty Breithaupt 8955 Petit Ave Northridge, CA 91343
- P. 79 correct state & zip: Dates, Mrs. Donald, Chapel Hill NC 27517
- P. 83 correct address: Moats, Nancy Schermerhorn, 131 Courthouse Rd. SW Vienna, VA 22180
- P. 84 correct spelling: Nielsen, E. Darlene
- P. 84 correct spelling: Perreault, Gloria Waldron
- P. 85 correct zip: Schuyler, James, San Carlos, CA 94070
- P. 88 correct address: Hartley, Dr. Dean Wilson 232 Morton Ave, Albany NY 12202
- P. 88 add: Swartwout, John B. Jr. 1219 5th St. Watervliet, NY 12189
- P. 96 add: Darlene Nielsen under FONDA, Jilles Douwese