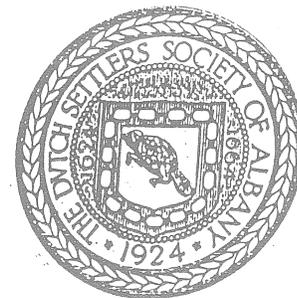


The Dutch Settlers Society of Albany



Spring 2009 Newsletter

Winter & Spring 2009 Events

The commemoration of the **Ride of Symon Schermerhorn** will take place on **Monday February 9, shortly before 11 AM**. DSSA members are invited to participate in Dutch traditional dress and assemble inside Albany City Hall on Eagle St. at 10:30 AM. Albany Mayor Jennings will welcome Schenectady Mayor Stratton who will arrive on horseback to commemorate this historic event. Kyle Jenks of American Heritage Productions and American Heritage Bicycle tours will read from the epic poem, "Symon Schermerhorn's Ride" by Harry Roy Sweny. The City of Albany will unveil 2 honorary street signs designating the block where Steuben St. meets Broadway as Symon Jacobse Schermerhorn Way. Just east of that intersection stood the North Gate to the Albany Stockade where Symon arrived to warn Albany of the attack on Schenectady. Images of the Albany Common Council Minutes from February 9, 1690 will be on display.

Join us for the Annual Mixer! We will be hosting our annual mixer again this year at the **Albany Pump Station on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** (19 Quackenbush Sq. Albany NY) In addition to socializing, we will recognize the authors who have contributed articles to this year's yearbook. We hope all our members and friends will join us at the Pump Station to meet, network, and thank those who have helped make this publication a success, and to enjoy an evening of good food and fun.

Genealogical workshop - Ted Wright and Cheryl Webber will hold a workshop on **March 21, 2009** at the Colonie Library from **10 AM to noon**.

Traveling Library Exhibit — Dean Hartley has developed a traveling exhibit for DSSA on the Dutch Heritage in Albany. It will open at the Albany Public Library in May (see details on page 4)

History Fair — The Albany History Fair will be held May 3, 2009.

Tulip Festival — The 61st Albany Tulip Festival will be held May 8-10, 2009. The State Street Scrubbing will be held at noon on Friday, May 8.

June **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday June 13 at the Albany Country Club**. Gloria Van Derpoel will chair the Luncheon/meeting. Details to follow.



400th Events

Many events are planned throughout 2009. Visit this website for a calendar. <http://www.hudson400.com/CalendarOfEvents.aspx>.

A couple of events include a flotilla of sailing boats arriving in Albany on June 13 and the Half Moon's arrival in Albany on September 19th 2009 where it will remain docked at the riverfront through the City Of Albany's celebration on September 26th.

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Member News

NEW MEMBERS

Three new annual members were approved at the January Board Meeting.

Rickey Leon Gann,
Indianapolis IN
Descendant of Jacob
Janse Schermerhorn

Darlene Nielsen,
Castleton, NY
Descendant of Jellis
Douw Fonda

**Douglass Mather
Mabee,**
Saratoga Springs, NY
Descendant of Pieter
Jacobse Borsboom



If you know of a member that needs a note of cheer, please bring that to our attention.



Connecting Through the Yearbook

Long Lost Ancestor Found
By Cheryle Webber, Registrar

A couple of months ago, I received an e-mail from a woman who wanted to thank me for including my Winnie genealogy in Volume 54 of The Dutch Settlers Society Yearbook. She wrote that she had tears in her eyes as she was writing the e-mail and that chills went down her spine when she perused the yearbook on a whim and found her whole family line from her grandfather back to the first Winnie emigrant, Pieter Winne.

Her father and aunt had always thought that their father, Bert, had died in an accident. When their mother, Effie, died from the Spanish flu they were taken in by her mother's people and adopted so that their last name was changed. She was always interested in learning about their family history and determined to find out what had happened to their grandfather.

Wasn't she surprised to find that he had not died young as they had thought but had lived into his 80s. She and her father visited my aunt and me and we

were able to share pictures of her grandfather and our shared great grandfather, as well as some family stories. It was wonderful to not only find some new family members but to be able to help someone else in their search for their roots. The yearbook is a great resource for many individuals searching their family tree.

As we prepare to publish Yearbook Vol. 55, please let us know if you are aware of any members who have passed away since the last yearbook was published. Please send death notice/obituary of members to our Registrar.

So we don't lose touch with you!

Please send changes of address and email to Corresponding Secretary Jill Knapp. Also, please let us know if you want your email address listed in the year book or wish to receive notices by email.

Windmills on the Hudson

The Friends of the Windmills, a not for profit corporation, will be formed soon. Douglas Boettner, associate member of the DSSA, is the originator and project manager of The Windmills Project.

The Friends of the Windmills, in addition to raising funds to build and operate the windmills, will provide volunteers to staff the windmills and gift shops.

The Windmills Project will be implemented over a 1 to 5 year period. Phase I will build 2 windmills in the City of Albany: one, north of the

Corning Preserve along the Hudson River, and, one in Washington Park intended to be part of the annual Tulip Festival.

Phase II will be the construction of a windmill as a part of a small Dutch settlement in the Town of Bethlehem's Henry Hudson Park. It is envisioned this will include, a small windmill, a Dutch-style building that will house a Dutch heritage museum and a Dutch home and barn. The emphasis will be in bringing school age children to the windmill in an effort to teach them more

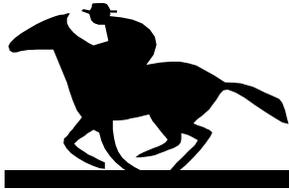
about the strong Dutch heritage of the Capital District area.

In addition to promoting the Dutch heritage of the Albany area, and the Dutch settlers role in American history by being part of the 400th anniversary celebration in 2009, The Windmills Project is expected to boost local tourism as it promotes the Dutch heritage of the City of Albany and Town of Bethlehem and will be major landmarks for many decades to come.



Ride of Symon Schermerhorn

In the frigid and snowy late night and early morning hours of February 8-9, 1690, over 200 Frenchmen and Indians attacked the Dutch settlement of Schenectady.



been brewing for some time, the stockade was unguarded and the gate wide open. No one expected an attack on such a wintery night.

As the French and Indians swept into the stockade burning houses, murdering 60 residents, and taking numerous

prisoners, Symon Schermerhorn mounted a horse and escaped through the open gate. Although wounded, he managed to ride fifteen miles in blizzard conditions to reach the fort at Albany and warn them of possible attack.

This heroic ride may have saved Albany from a similar fate.

While troubles with the French and Indians had

Museum Exhibits

The traveling exhibit "Light on New Netherland" opened December 12, 2008 and runs through February 8, 2009 at the NYS Museum 4th floor Terrace Gallery. The exhibit was developed by the New Netherland Institute of which DSSA board members Ted Wright and Jim Schermerhorn are also board members. The ex-

hibit will travel to cities within the former New Netherland in 2009 to educate people about America's Dutch Colonial history. More information is at:

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibits/special/LightonNewNetherland.cfm>

The Albany Institute of History and Art will open

its exhibit, "Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture" on February 7, 2009. The exhibit will run through January 3, 2010. More than 200 artifacts, works of art, and archival documents from both public and private collections will be on display.

Events



Karl Felsen is St. Nicholas, Jim Schermerhorn is Swarte Pete his helper, greeting Jon and Gloria Van Derpoel at the table.

St. Nicholas Dinner

Over 60 people attended our St. Nicholas' dinner on December 5, 2008. In addition to a good meal and pleasant conversation, we learned more about St. Nicholas and his place in American culture. Karl Felsen, presented a humorous and informative talk on many of the little known facts of St. Nicholas.

Empire State Plaza Booth

We had a successful booth at the Empire State Plaza Holiday Bazaar. Thanks to all of those who volunteered to make this a success and to inform the public about our activities!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

A gentle reminder to those who have overlooked paying their dues.



Please send your checks to Treasurer, Walter Milbank, to insure receiving meeting notices as well as the much anticipated forthcoming edition of the Yearbook.

SCRAP BOOK

If you have any articles, pictures, or correspondence, current or old, related to our Society that should be saved for posterity, please send it to Cheryle Webber, Registrar so she can keep the scrap book up to date.



Include information as to the who, what, when and where if available. Use soft pencil rather than ball point ink if writing on back of photo.



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 descendants 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.

Traveling Exhibit

A display focusing on the Dutch Heritage of Albany will open in May at the Albany Public Library. It will travel to the Guilderland Public Library for the month of June and to another site for the month of September.

We are indebted to Dr. Dean W. Hartley, Associate Member of DSSA for chairing and coordinating this exhibit.

A timeline will tie the exhibit together from the discovery of the area in 1609 up to the current

400th celebration. Fifteen key historical incidents or items will be noted. Along with appropriate text discussing the dates, small items will be on display.

No small display at 12 feet long and 8 feet high, Dean has creatively developed the exhibit around a quote from the novel **The Great Gatsby** which emphasized the wonder of the discovery.

The display which includes the founding of the Dutch Settlers Society of Albany will provide a great oppor-

tunity for the public to learn more about the Dutch settlement of the area and our society's educational role in fostering the study of the Dutch influence on the region.

We cannot thank Dean enough for taking on such a significant project for us. Others who have helped and who we thank also include Gloria Perrault, Joan Burns, Cheryle Webber, Barbara Pagoda, Jim Schermerhorn, Ed Knolauch, Kathy Quandt, Amy McLaughlin, and Mark Curiale.

Greetings from Your President!

Hope you had a very pleasant holiday season and I wish all of you the best for the forthcoming new year, 2009.

I would like to bring you up-to-date since our Fall 2008 Newsletter. We were involved in many activities and projects, some on-going and some new ventures. In September, some of our members attended a luncheon meeting as guests of the **Holland Society** of New York, Patroon Branch. It was held at the Hudson Harbor Restaurant and the speaker was William (Chip) Reynolds, Captain of the Half Moon replica ship. An optional tour of the ship was offered. Thank you President Bob VanVranken for your hospitality.

Another Fall event was the annual **Mayor's Halloween Party** in October at Martel's Restaurant for those who have volunteered for the City of Albany. Thank you Mayor Jennings!

Jim Schermerhorn and his

daughters Sophia, Lauren, and Alexandra marched in the annual **Columbus Parade** with the DSSA banner.

Our **Annual Tea** was held in November at the State University of New York at Albany at the Alumni House. Our thanks go to Gerald Boileau who chaired the very successful event and Committee members Cheryle Webber and Betty and Ed Bogardus. Speaker was Peter Rose, an authority on Dutch food.

In December, we held our annual **St. Nicholas Day Dinner** at the Desmond Hotel. Our thanks to Jim Schermerhorn who chaired the event, Cheryle Webber, Co-Chair and committee member Walter Milbank. We had excellent attendance and a box full of toys donated by guests was given to the Marines campaign, Toys for Tots.

In December we participated for the second year in the **Holiday Bazaar** held at the Empire State Plaza. Thank

you Gloria and Jon Van Derpoel, John Wemple, Ted Wright, Jill Knapp, Linda Dingman and Debbie Dingman for staffing the table that had Dutch items for sale and membership information. Thanks also to Ann Wemple for coordinating the supply of Dutch items needed for the event.

We had two Board meetings since September and several **Yearbook** meetings. The Yearbook is nearing completion. Thank you Editor John Wemple and staff. I know it will be a high quality publication and we look forward in the spring for its distribution. We initiated four **grant** applications, three of which have been approved and one is pending. The Scanning project is well on its way.

Thanks to John Wemple, Cheryle Webber and Joe Halenbeck for their hard work in this endeavor.

We have our own new **Web Site**. Thank you Web Master

Jim Schermerhorn. Also, we are slowly converting our mailing list from postal service to electronic mailing for those who agree to this. Thank you for being patient during this process. Notify us if there is a problem.

Looking ahead from January to June, we will continue to work hard on projected goals.

The Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee recently started their work and had their first meeting. If you have any suggestions for this group regarding this document, please contact me with your suggestions or questions. We have many late winter and spring events on the calendar as noted in this issue. Please feel free to join a committee. Your ideas and input are always welcome. I thank all of you for your continued support in our many endeavors.

Sincerely,

Joan Burns