



John L. Loeb, Jr. Awarded Medal of Merit at 175th Feast of St. Nicholas



President Billick presents the Society's Medal of Merit to John L. Loeb, Jr.

The 175th annual celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas was held on Monday, December 7, 2009 at the Union Club, 69th Street and Park Avenue. The event was a day after St. Nicholas's day, December 6th, which fell on a Sunday. Our constitution provides that if that date "shall fall on Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday," the anniversary

"shall be celebrated on a day to be chosen by the Board of Officers."

The Saint Nicholas Society Medal of Merit was awarded to The Honorable John L. Loeb, Jr., former United States Ambassador to Denmark, in recognition of his service to the City of New York. For example, when Fraunces Tavern was damaged by a terrorist bomb in 1976, Mr. Loeb contributed substantially to the reconstruction efforts, and at that time a new gallery was installed there in commemoration of his grandmother, Adeline Moses Loeb. As readers of *The Weathercock* are well aware, Ambassador Loeb has been a member of our Society for many years (since October 4, 1976), and has been a prominent figure on the New York scene in celebration of colonial and Revolutionary traditions in New York. He

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Winter Stated Meeting at the Coffee House: Literary Medalist Brian Jay Jones

The Coffee House, at 20 West 44th Street, was the venue for our Winter Stated Meeting on Thursday, February 4, 2010. The building is of course the home of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, where the Saint Nicholas Society has its headquarters in room 508. One flight up, on the sixth floor, the Coffee House has fitted out a generous space for a reception room and dining hall, with long tables, Windsor chairs, and huge silver candelabra—a most elegant and at the same time extremely congenial setting for our gathering. John Hilliard and John Milnes Baker, members of the Coffee House, were our hosts for arranging the event at the clubhouse.



Medalist Brian Jay Jones

The speaker was Brian Jay Jones, author of *Washington Irving: An American Original* (Arcade Publishing, 2008), reviewed in *The Weathercock*, No. 69 (Summer 2008), p. 5. Mr. Jones spoke of Irving's youth, in which he had a decided preference for "the path of least resistance." He was intended for a career in the law, and started working for Mr. Hoffman, his future father-in-law. But when Irving's fiancée, Matilda Hoffman, suddenly died, he was devastated by her loss, and began also to be even more disinclined for the law. He then turned to journalism and began working on Knickerbocker's *History of New York*, published in 1809 with immense success. Mr. Jones detailed for us some of Irving's amusing promotional

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Pike Elected President at Annual Meeting

Spring was in the air as St. Nickers and their guests convened for a wrap-up of the 2009-2010 season at the 3 West Club on May 20 where they could look directly across to the steeples of St. Patrick's Cathedral and down on the hanging gardens of Rockefeller Center from the terrace of the Solarium Room. On this always pleasant occasion one saw friends everywhere and one noted with satisfaction that some of the tuxedoed gentlemen bore a tell-tale flower in their lapel signifying that they were to be inducted during the stated meeting. The Society can never cease to attract and recruit new members.

Refreshing libations got the evening off to a great start. Soon it was time for dinner and the crowd moved indoors and maneuvered to seize the tables with the best views or maybe the nicest people. At any rate, outgoing

President Stephen B. Billick seemed to have both, but then he was merely exercising the presidential prerogative.

This writer has no clear recollection of the meal – what was consumed, how it was served, and whether it was any good. Stated Meetings are not about mere cuisine but camaraderie and, above all, lots of drinks. This much can be recalled of the May Stated Meeting: the wine never ceased to flow in abundance even if former Chief Steward Brian A.

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Newly installed President Thomas F. Pike

John L. Loeb, Jr.

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is a superb speaker, and gave an excellent address, in which he recalled his special fondness for the Saint Nicholas Society. Several of his ancestors had also been members. He fondly remembered how his grandmother had urged him to join the Society, so as to keep up the family traditions.

In commemoration of his grandmother, Ambassador Loeb has sponsored a handsome commemorative volume (reviewed elsewhere in this issue): *An American Experience: Adeline Moses Loeb (1876–1953) and Her Early American Jewish Ancestors* (New York: Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, 2009).

The order of festivities began with an invocation by John Mauk Hilliard, followed by the traditional toasts to Her Majesty Beatrix, Queen of the Netherlands, by Stephen Bates Billick, President of the Society, and playing of the Dutch national anthem, “The Wilhelmus.” Past President Samuel Dunstan Williams then offered the toast to the President of the United States, followed by “The Star Spangled Banner.” And John Baker gave the toast to our beloved patron, St. Nicholas, “*goed heilig man.*”

The stewards, led by Cody D. Constable, Chief Steward, then carried aloft the historic Weathercock, an early gift to the Society by Washington Irving, while celebrants waved their dinner napkins to create a wind for it to sail along upon, until it came to rest at the podium, pointing northeast, to give the alert to an approach by hostile New Englanders.

A new feature of this year’s feast was the presentation of debutantes. Elizabeth Monroe Meeker Jensen was presented by her uncle, The Honorable Charles Carpenter Meeker, and her grandfather, Leonard Carpenter Meeker, elected to membership in the Society, November 29, 1937. Hadley Marie Nagel was presented by her father Jon Nagel, and John McConville Shannon, former president of the Society, elected February 5, 1990.

Dancing continued throughout the evening enlivened by a pause for John P. T. Blake’s stirring recitation of the “Toast to Our Ancestors” delivered as always by John with tremendous panache and faultless memory for all those difficult Dutch names.



John Milnes Baker and Jill Spiller



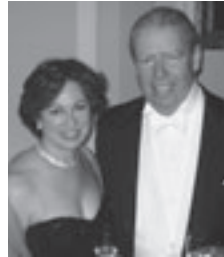
Jolanta Ilczuk and Ogen Sutro



John Mauk Hilliard, John L. Loeb, Jr. and President Stephen B. Billick



Allison White Vadhan and Charles C. Lucas, Jr.



Jennifer Griffin and Lewis S. Allen



Michael L. Sivy, Peter J. Kimber and Graham P. Sultan



M. David Sherrill and Charles C. Lucas, Jr.



M.P. and Robert A. Naud



Victor E. Stewart, Carol Stewart and Curtis M. Estes



Curtis M. Estes and Thomas F. Pike



Hadley M. Nagel with escort



Elizabeth M. M. Jensen and escort



George H. McNeely IV, Sharon Handler and John L. Loeb, Jr.



Pamela Bartlett, Leighton H. Coleman III and Ian H. Fraser



Liddy Baker



Terry Blake, Thomas F. Pike, Jr. and Jennifer Griffin



Patricia Lambert and Alan G. Moore

St. Nick and the World of Margrieta van Varick

As part of the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage and the legacy of Dutch culture in New York, the Bard Graduate Center presented *Dutch New York between East and West: The World of Margrieta van Varick*. *Dutch New York* offered an innovative approach to exhibition practice by using the probate inventory of Margrieta van Varick's possessions compiled in 1696 as a means of examining life and culture in colonial New York. There was much to appeal to members of the Saint Nicholas Society who gathered at the Center's West Side townhouse on 26 September 2009 to view the display.

Organized by the Bard Center and the New York Historical Society and curated by Marybeth De Filippis and Deborah L. Krohn, *Dutch New York* made a major contribution to the quadricentennial and to the scholarship of colonial New York by focusing on the life and times of a woman who during the 17th centu-

ry lived in the rural village of Flatbush on eastern Long Island, a neighborhood still known by that name in the Borough of Brooklyn today.

Born in Amsterdam in 1649, Margrieta spent several years at the other end of the Dutch colonial world in the Far East, primarily in Malacca (present day Malaysia) before returning to the Netherlands with her minister husband, Rudolphus. In 1686 she and her family crossed the Atlantic to settle in Flatbush, where Rudolphus was minister of the Dutch Reformed Church and where she opened a textile shop, having brought with them an astonishing array of Eastern and European goods.

This exhibition was organized in five sections, each delineating a theme of Margrieta's life as well as exploring the wide range of goods in her possession when she died in late 1695. The exhibition first examined the inventory as a document of historical research and curatorial practice.



Lindsay Smith, Curtis Estes and Paul Cushman



Erika Billick

Next, the exhibition examined the network of Dutch trading colonies in the East, particularly Malacca and Batavia (present-day Jakarta, Indonesia). These are locations where Margrieta and her relatives



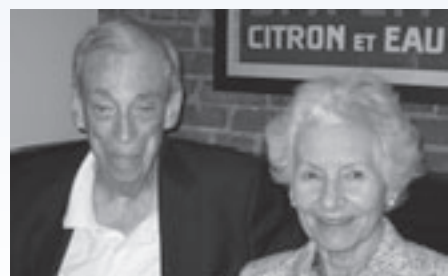
Rolly Woodyatt and Jill Spiller



Steve Billick



Norma Wickersham



Fred Pattison with Paulette Cushman



Lindsay Smith, Ted Wickersham and Paul Cushman

lived and where she may have obtained some of the goods cited in the inventory. Of particular interest is the way in which Margrieta's life parallels the history of the Netherlands during the 17th century when a growing network of global trade and exchange fostered an expansion of wealth and culture amongst the Dutch.

Narrowing the curatorial lens to focus on the Dutch presence in North America, the exhibition subsequently considered "Dutch New York." This section considered the history of the Dutch colony and the continuing strength and persistence of Dutch culture under English rule. When Margrieta van Varick arrived in 1686, New Netherland had already been New York for over two decades. The antagonisms toward the English that culminated in the Leisler Rebellion and the realities of how the Dutch preserved a distinct way of life under English rule were central to the experience of Margrieta and her family and thus provided an important frame of reference for the exhibition. Here visitors were shown the economic and religious life of the village of Flatbush, the central role of the Dutch Reformed Church, the connections with Native Americans, and political implications of the Revolution of 1688 in England.

The fourth section of the exhibition was devoted to representations of the many goods described in the 1696 inventory—furniture, metalwork, textiles, costume, and ceramics—and to an exploration of the reasons such goods would have been in the possession of a minister's wife and shopkeeper residing in Flatbush at that time. Although most were contemporaneous, none of the items displayed actually belonged to Margrieta van Varick; instead they were "representative" of the objects listed in her will.

The final section, the exhibition addressed Margrieta van Varick's legacy by focusing on her descendants, including those for whom Varick Street in downtown Manhattan and Willets Point in Queens are named. One striking piece was a fine portrait of Richard Varick (1753-1831), sometime Mayor of New York (1789-1801), by Ralph Earl, loaned by the Albany Institute of History and Art. (Varick Street is named for him.) One of the members of the tour,

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Pike Elected

Continued from front page

Blake, an expert at organizing festivities, had to chase down the banquet manager to get the bottles on the tables.

It was exciting to witness the induction of four new members: Jonathan K. Bitting, Michael S. Ferrara, Kenneth G. Winans and William F. Yonkers. In this signature St. Nick ritual no one outdoes George H. McNeely IV, perpetual chairman of the Admissions Committee and the Society's longest-serving ever Fourth Vice

President. These positions suit him and he adorns them. No one indeed is better at introducing new members to the membership before they are inducted and President Billick performed the task of presenting a rosette and 150th anniversary book to the new members very creditably.

Then the grave and learned John Mauk Hilliard, a true scholar, delivered a short oration in praise of the evening's speaker, Elizabeth L. Bradley, author of *Knickerbocker: The Myth Behind New York* (copies of which were on sale at the bargain price of \$20 a copy – with

autograph!). The recently published tome relates the history and use of the word *Knickerbocker* since it was invented to the present. Ms. Bradley, who is lovely, spoke charmingly and won over the audience.

The last part of the program was the election of a new slate of officers and Board of Managers. President Billick concluded his term of office and was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Pike, a well-known Episcopal divine in the city who served as rector of the

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Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Pike and President Dr. Stephen B. Billick



Inductee Michael S. Ferrara



Inductee Jonathan K. Bitting



Paul L. Whalen and Brian A. Blake



William N. Tift and Dorsey Smith



John Mauk Hilliard and speaker Elizabeth L. Bradley



President Stephen B. Billick and inductee Kenneth Grant Winans



David N. Platt and Charles R. Neuhauser



Daniel H. Baldini and William P. Johns



John P. T. Blake, the Bard of St. Nick



Cody D. Constable



Jonathan C. Jones



Charles R. Mackenzie



President Stephen B. Billick and inductee William F. Yonkers

Pike Elected

Continued from page 4

Parish of Calvary/St. George for 26 years. One missed the elegant choreography whereby the presidential hat and medal are removed from the outgoing chief executive and placed on the incoming one. But the hat was somehow passed from one leader to the next, and so the deed was done.

Attired in the presidential regalia, President Pike took the opportunity to recollect how he became a member of the

Saint Nicholas Society. He thanked the members for electing him and vowed to serve the Society to the best of his ability.

In addition, at this meeting William M. Manger, Jr., was elected First Vice President; Richard R. Viotor Second Vice President; and David N. Platt Third Vice President. Other officers remained the same. Cody D. Constable, Robert A. Naud and Joseph VanB. Wittmann III were each elected to serve a three-year term as Manager. Good luck to them.

The last piece of the program was a recitation of the famous poem by John P. T. Blake, "Ode to the Weathercock." It is a sad and dreary stated meeting when he does not utter his "Ode." Although he started out bravely and rolled along nicely, he appeared to hesitate for a brief moment—leading this observer to wonder whether his memory had temporarily failed him—but then quickly regained his composure, finished the poem with brio, and brought the house down in a riot of applause. Another season of the Society was happily concluded.



Samuel Dunstan Williams

1936–2010

Samuel Dunstan Williams, a member since 1970, and President of the Society from 2001 to 2004, died July 18, 2010. An appropriate notice will appear in the next issue. Memorial service at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, Lexington Avenue and 66th Street, September 16, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. Reception following, at the Union Club, 101 East 69th Street.

Patricia Bleecker Jones

1930–2009

Patricia Bleecker Jones, or Patty Jones, as she was known to members of the Saint Nicholas Society, served as executive director of the society for ten years, from 1987 until 1997. She had a fine sense of style and fashion, and members will no doubt recall with pleasure the attractively decorated atmosphere of our office during Patty's time, when we were still at the building of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, at 122 East 58th Street. She had a passion for organization, and kept the records in admirable order, and seemed to know everything there was to know about the society. Members who consult the records of the society often recognize her elegant handwriting on many of the files.

Patty was born in New York in 1930, daughter of Ruth Hall and Benjamin DeWitt Bleecker. She attended Abbot Academy, graduating in 1949. She served as president general of the Colonial Dames of America, and as senior warden of Christ Church, Oyster Bay, Long Island. Patty was married for 38 years to Edward Sprague Jones, a member and officer (assistant genealogist) of the Saint Nicholas Society, elected April 28, 1986 in right of descent from Valentyn Claessen; he died December 4, 1996, aged 68. Patty died October 27, 2009. Three children survive: Susanna Jones, Abigail Jones Feder, and Thomas Jones; and six grandchildren. A biographical article appeared in *The New York Times*, October 29, 2009, p. B19.



Margrieta van Varick

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Dr. Paul Cushman, revealed that he recently produced a biography of the mayor, a relation.

Of particular interest was the marriage in 1711 of Margrieta's daughter Cornelia Varick to Peter van Dyck (1684-1750), the prominent American silversmith. This familial connection to Van Dyck opens the tantalizing possibility that some

of Margrieta's possessions influenced the later history of American decorative arts.

Dutch New York presented approximately 170 objects on loan from public and private collections in the United States and The Netherlands. One third of the objects come from the collection of the New-York Historical Society;

other lenders included the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Rijksmuseum, the Amsterdams Historisch Museum, the Museum of the City of New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, the Brooklyn Museum, Yale University Art Gallery, and the Peabody Essex Museum, among others.

Brian Jay Jones

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devices, such as inserting fictional newspaper notices for a “lost person” named Diedrich Knickerbocker. Some of the more rowdy humor of the original publication was later toned down by Irving,

and Mr. Jones advised readers to consult the original text as published in The Library of America edition: Washington Irving, *History, Tales and Sketches*, edited by James W. Tuttleton (1983).

Mr. Jones’s lively, amusing presentation was enthusiastically received by those present, and there was long applause on his award by President Stephen B. Billick of the Washington Irving literary medal.

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Francis J. Sypher, Jr.



George J. Hill



*Joseph vanB. Wittmann III
and Charles R. Neuhauser*



Eugene L. Church with Stewart R. Manville



Michael Barlerin and John Mauk Hilliard



*Stephen B. Billick
and Gary L. Dycus*



W. Seton Ijams



George H. McNeely IV and William N. Tift



Michael S. de L. Neill and Jonathan K. Bitting



Ian H. Fraser



*Joseph vanB.
Wittmann, Jr.*



William N. Tift with Stephen Billick



Gary L. Dycus and Jonathan C. Jones



Thomas F. Pike



Daniel S. Curtis



George B. Wendell and Henry C. B. Lindh

Brian Jay Jones

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Another event of the evening was the induction of two new members, Gary Lyle Dycus by right of descent from Peter Nodine, and William Neville Tiftt by right of descent from George Havens.



John Mauk Hilliard and Stephen B. Billick



Graham P. Sultan and George J. Hill



Curtis M. Estes and Brent H. Feigenbaum



Ian H. Fraser and Randall L. Taylor

FALL MEETING: Russell Flinchum on Gulian Verplanck, at The Century Association

The Fall Stated Meeting of the Saint Nicholas Society was held on October 22 at the Century Association, 7 West 43rd Street, in newly designed and completed rooms that were part of a recent expansion of facilities at the club. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served while members greeted one another and examined the interesting Century memorabilia that adorned the walls and display cases.

Our speaker was Russell Flinchum, Archivist for the Century Association, who presented in words and pictures a vivid portrait of Gulian Verplanck (1786–1870), a charter member of the Saint Nicholas Society, elected February 28, 1835, and a leading figure in the New York of his day. Verplanck attended Columbia College, class of 1801, and at the age of 15 was one of the youngest graduates of the college. He prepared for a career in the law and was admitted to the bar in 1807. He entered politics as a member of the New York State Assembly from 1821 to 1823, and concurrently was a professor at the General Theological Seminary from 1821 to 1824. He served as a member of Congress from 1825 to 1833; and New York State senator

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Brian A. Blake



Charles R. Mackenzie



Thomas F. Pike



Francis J. Sypher, Jr.



Douglas C. Wright



Gary L. Dycus



Inductees Owen A. Blake, Ian H. Fraser, Edvard Jorgensen, Douglas M. ("Tim") Mabee and Robert A. Radsch

Fall Meeting

Continued from page 7

from 1838 to 1841. Other public service posts of his were as a governor of the city hospital, and as one of the board of regents of the State of New York.

As a writer and journalist, Verplanck edited an early periodical called *The Talisman*, and in 1847 he produced an edition of the plays of Shakespeare. He was known for his conviviality and conversation, and served as president of the Century Association (followed by William Cullen Bryant). A favorite theme of Verplanck's was the importance of the Dutch influence in New York. He tried to counteract the "English habit of arrogance and injustice toward the Dutch character." As evidence of important Dutch influences, he pointed out the flourishing mercantilism of the city, and its reputation as a shelter for liberal ideas. He also attributed the success of the Erie Canal in part to the knowledge of hydraulics derived from Dutch experience with land reclamation.

At an early period Verplanck's family had lived in Fishkill, New York. The Verplanck family house in Fishkill was the site of the original signing of the constitution of the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783, and the house is now a museum, Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling Street, Beacon, New York, and the headquarters of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati.

For further information on his subject, Mr. Flinchum referred us to the biography by Robert W. July, *The Essential New Yorker: Gulian Crommelin Verplanck* (1951).

Induction of new members at meeting: Owen Aldrich Blake by right of descent from John Townsend; Ian Hamilton Fraser by right of descent from Louis du Bois; Edvard Jorgensen, by right of descent from Caleb Heathcote; Douglas Mather ("Tim") Mabee by right of descent from Jan Pietrese Mebie; and Robert Winmill Radsch by right of descent from John Townsend.



John Milnes Baker and Tim Mabee



Jill Spiller and Randall L. Taylor



*Samuel D. Williams, Susan Williams
and Thomas N. McCarter III*



W. Seton Ijams and Martin L. Chase



*Douglas C. Wright, George H. McNeely IV
and N. Gregory Pettit*



Leighton H. Coleman III and Brian P. T. Blake



*Terry Blake, Charles Mackenzie, Cole Palen
and Owen A. Blake*



Luigi Terruso and Jill Spiller



Paas Luncheon at

The 2010 Paas Festival luncheon was held on Saturday 14 April at the Rockaway Hunting Club, in Lawrence, on Long Island. The luncheon continued a new tradition to celebrate Easter with a lunch rather than a formal dinner dance, and the Rockaway Hunting Club was a relaxed, old-world setting for a delightful gathering of members and their spouses and friends. The club was founded in 1878 and is the oldest country club in the United States, although not originally a country club in today's sense of the word. Its principal clientèle was the "horsey" set of the time whose members enjoyed fox hunting and steeplechase racing.

In 1877, a group of young men from Bayswater in Far Rockaway took part in a chase between Lawrence and Valley Stream. They organized a club in Bayswater in 1878 but, in 1884, residential development drove it to the present location in Lawrence. There the members built a clubhouse considered the largest and most luxurious on Long Island, overlooking Reynolds Channel, Long Beach Island, with a polo field and a four-mile steeplechase course.

Rockaway's initial fame derived from polo, creating a bitter rivalry with Meadow Brook Hunt. By 1888, the two clubs were so superior to all others that a handicap system was created. The Rockaway team won national championships in 1901 and 1902. The world-champion Rockaway team was headed by Foxhall Keene, who was rated the best all-around polo player in America for eight years in a row.

Hints of this glorious sporting history abounded at the club: prints of hunting scenes, matchbooks with fox heads, and more. And while the club was situated in a maze of homes and highways (amidst which it was easy to get lost) somehow, to those within it, it seemed worlds away. From the comfortable lounge, with a

drink in hand, one saw only friends indoors and nothing in the distance but lawn and marsh. Few club members were around, surprisingly, and it was uncrowded and pleasantly quiet.

The St. Nick group sat around a large round table for lunch during which President Stephen Billick, wearing his presidential medal of office and sporting a highly colorful bow tie, gave a brief speech. He did not neglect to thank Seton Ijams for sponsoring the lunch on the premises. There was a raffle. The wine flowed easily and elevated the spirit to such a degree that everyone left regretfully. It was a delightful experience.



Curtis M. Estes and W. Seton Ijams



Liz Johnson and Terry Blake



President Stephen B. Billick and W. Seton Ijams



Curtis M. Estes, Thomas F. Pike and John Milnes Baker



Alan G. Moore, Patricia Lambert and John P. T. Blake



The group at the Paas Festival lunch. Front row, left to right: Joseph vanB. Wittmann III, Liddy Baker, John P. T. Blake, Terry Blake, Stephen B. Billick, Liz Johnson, Patricia Lambert, and W. Seton Ijams. Back row: John Milnes Baker, Thomas S. Johnson, John Shannon, Curtis M. Estes, Thomas F. Pike and Alan G. Moore.



BOOK REVIEWS

***Explorers, Fortunes, & Love Letters: A Window on New Netherland.* Edited by Martha Dickinson Shattuck. Albany, N.Y.: New Netherland Institute, and Mount Ida Press, 2009. Pp. xii + 172. Price: \$29.95**

This collection of 12 essays was issued as a part of the festivities surrounding the celebration of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadracentennial in 2009. The New Netherland Institute provided the initial impetus for organizing the volume. Saint Nicholas members will recall that Dr. Charles Gehring, director of the New Netherland Institute, received our literary medal in 2004, with Russell Shorto, for *The Island at the Center of the World* (Doubleday, 2004). The lead article in the present collection is by Shorto, titled “Three Conversations,” about how he met Charly Gehring, and came to write his best-selling study of Dutch Manhattan.

Other essays deal with various aspects of history and culture in New Netherland. William T. Reynolds gives fascinating details on Henry Hudson’s voyage to the New World, and William A. Starna writes on contacts between the Dutch and the Indians in the Mohawk River Valley of New York, where it was necessary for the Dutch to maintain peaceful conditions so that they could successfully pursue the trade in pelts, which was a principal commercial activity of the colony.

Noah L. Gelfand presents an “Atlantic perspective” on his subject, “Jews in New Netherland.” Naturally he discusses the arrival in 1654 of Jewish refugees from Recife, Brazil; but Gelfand pays particular attention to the contribution of Asser Levy, from Vilna, Lithuania, who settled permanently in Manhattan, and developed a successful life in business and public affairs, thus opening the way for other Jewish settlers to come to New York in the 1680s. A number of their descendants have been members of the St. Nicholas Society, and biographical articles on their ancestors figure prominently in the first Genealogical Record volume published by the society, in 1905.

Another immigrant who prospered in New Netherland was Jan Jansz Damen, who is profiled by Jaap Jacobs in his essay, “Fortune in the New World.” Jacobs is well known for his authoritative study, reviewed in an earlier issue of *The Weathercock* (No. 65, Spring 2006, p. 6): *New Netherland: A Dutch Colony in Seventeenth-Century America* (Brill, 2005).

Several aspects of the social and cultural life of New Netherland are explored in other essays. Peter R. Christoph writes on “Barber-Surgeons in New Netherland and Early New York”; Adriana E. van Zwieten gives us “Glimpses of Childhood” in New Netherland; and Peter G. Rose, in “Bread: Staff of Dutch Life in the Old and the New World,” shows the importance of the product implied in the windmill vanes on the coat of arms of the City of New York.

Dear to the hearts of Saint Nicholas members is the subject of Elisabeth Paling Funk’s essay, “From Amsterdam to New Amsterdam: Washington Irving, the Dutch St. Nicholas, and the American Santa Claus.” And Janny Venema, who has been with the New Netherland Institute since 1985, discusses and gives full English translations of Dutch love letters written by Kiliaen van Rensselaer to Hillegonda van Bijllaer in 1615.

David William Voorhees—well-known as the editor of *de Halve Maen*, the journal of the Holland Society, and as editor of the Leisler papers—is the author of an excellent study of the complex politics of the period, “Family and Faction: The Dutch Roots of Colonial New York’s Factional Politics.” The collection concludes with Joyce C. Goodfriend’s “Why New Netherland Matters.” She makes a persuasive case for the view that New Netherland presented “America’s first experiment in diversity”: “Whatever its shortcomings—and they should not be glossed over—it was a society in which men and women of all ranks and backgrounds vied for the prizes awaiting those who set foot in this new world of abundance. As a consequence its history

offers the most candid version of American beginnings, one that highlights the pluralism and materialistic striving at the heart of the American experience.”

***An American Experience: Adeline Moses Loeb (1876–1953) and Her Early American Jewish Ancestors.* Introduction: Eli N. Evans. Contributors: John L. Loeb, Jr., Kathy L. Plotkin, Margaret Loeb Kempner, Judith E. Endelman. Edited by Kathy L. Plotkin. New York: Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, 2009. Pp. xxxiv + 350 (with a large, folded genealogical chart, 16" by 45", in a pocket in the back cover).**

This lavishly illustrated volume is a treasure-trove for genealogists interested in the far-flung connections of Ambassador Loeb’s distinguished ancestors and family relations. The editor, Kathy Plotkin, has done a tremendous job in bringing a huge variety of material together in this large-format volume, which is as elegantly produced as it is thoroughly researched. Ambassador Loeb provides a delightfully written foreword, filled with charming family reminiscences. This is followed by an introduction by Eli N. Evans, a Southern historian who introduced Ambassador Loeb on the occasion of the opening of the Mayor’s House in Montgomery, Alabama, the restoration of which was accomplished with major funding by the Loeb family.

The main portion of the book is, like Caesar’s Gaul, divided into three parts. Part One is primarily a biographical study of Adeline and her husband Carl Loeb by Kathy Plotkin, followed by a vividly detailed memoir by Margaret Loeb Kempner, “Mother’s Life with Father.”

Part Two, by Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr., is titled “The Loeb: Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.” The text celebrates the Loeb family’s role in the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), and in the SRNY (Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York). Loeb’s important contributions have included financial support for the repair of Frances

Tavern, headquarters of the SRNY, after it was bombed by terrorists in 1976. As reopened, the building contains an exhibition gallery named the Adeline Moses Loeb Gallery, for special exhibitions of Fraunces Tavern Museum. Also discussed is the memorable exhibition held from October 18, 1979 through April 30, 1980, "The Jewish Community in Early New York, 1654–1800." The exhibit was such a success that it soon traveled to Washington to be installed at the headquarters of the DAR, where it was open from December 11, 1980 through March 15, 1981. The reputation of the event remained fresh in mind in the museum community, and the Museum of the City of New York installed a similar but considerably larger exhibit titled "Tolerance and Identity: Jews in Early New York, 1654–1825," from May 10 through October 2, 2005.

Part Three, the major portion of the book (pp. 93–287), consists of eleven chapters about "The Ancestors of Adeline Moses Loeb." Again, the text is lavishly illustrated with archival photographs, maps, charts, and other aids to effective presentation of the family story.

Finally, an appendix presents Ambassador Loeb's essay "The Anatomy of Patriotism," the text of remarks made when the Adeline Moses Loeb Gallery was reopened on November 15, 2001 at Fraunces Tavern Museum of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York. And this is followed by brief biographical sketches

of the contributors to the volume: John L. Loeb, Jr., Eli N. Evans, Kathy L. Plotkin, Margaret Loeb Kempner, Judith E. Endelman, and David M. Kleiman, who designed the genealogical charts for the volume.

Courtney Alfred Haff. *Imagining New Amsterdam*. Published by the author, and available from Book-Surge, www.booksurge.com [2009]. Paperback. \$20.99

Courtney Haff, a Saint Nicholas member since March 6, 1991, in right of descent from Laurens Jurianse Haff, has for many years had an active interest in historical matters relating to New Amsterdam. He is a trustee of the Holland Society, and a former president of the Huguenot Society of America. In this extensively illustrated volume he has brought together a number of studies related to New Amsterdam, including his essay "Paving Stone Street: Tracing the Public Financial Beginnings of New York City's Public Infrastructure and Understanding Its Economic and Cultural Importance Today." Many members will no doubt recall seeing an earlier version of this article as it was published in *The Saint Nicholas Society: A 150 Year Record*, published by the Society in 1993. The text as given here includes several valuable illustrations not included in the earlier publication.

The first two chapters present an overview of the whole question of land use and land values in New Amsterdam and in colonial New York, down to the present time. The discussion is enriched by the inclusion of many

historic maps and other illustrations. Haff writes with special authority on these subjects because he has made his career in municipal finance of real-estate development projects, especially those connected with not-for-profit organizations and government entities.

In the final chapters, "Imagining New Amsterdam," and "New Amsterdam History Center: Putting It All Together," Haff discusses two projects that he has been intimately involved in for many years, and which are now in the process of the realization. The first is the creation of a virtual model of New Amsterdam, based on the detailed map known as the Castello Plan, and much other information on the city as it was in the mid-seventeenth century. The realization of this plan includes images of the city as recreated by Len Tantilillo, a painter and graphic artist who specializes in creating vivid and authentic images of Dutch colonial New Amsterdam and colonial New York.

The second project is Haff's plan for the New Amsterdam History Center—a museum and study center for New Amsterdam History, where one of the major exhibits will be the virtual city, which visitors will be able to tour, street by street, and building by building. Saint Nicholas members will be eagerly looking forward to the full realization of this ambitious project to help align New Netherland and New Amsterdam into a more prominent position in the American historical consciousness.

F. J. Sypher

□ SALMAGUNDI □

In May 2009 **Brian A. Blake** earned his MBA from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College. He is currently working in the South Bronx in acquisitions and business development at CheckSpring Bank, a newly founded community redevelopment bank.

Patricia and **Bromme Cole** have announced the birth of Waverley Hayes Cole, July 10, 2009.

On new books by **Courtney Haff**, and by **John L. Loeb, Jr.** see reviews elsewhere in this issue.

Robert Morse and Lauren Worthington were married October 17, 2009 at the Church of Christ the King, New Vernon, New Jersey. Officiating were Msgr. Patrick E. Brown, Roman Catholic, with the Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Pike, Episcopal, participating. Notice in *The New York Times*, October 18, 2009.

Frank Sypher is the editor and translator of *Liber A of the Collegiate Churches of New York, 1628–1700* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans, 2009). This is the first publication of the full Dutch text of these records. Also, his *St. James' Church in the City of New York 1810–2010* (St. James' Church) was published in April 2010.

Adam Van Doren's latest book, *An Artist in Rome* (Kelly-Winterton Press, 2009), combines his paintings with the work of the poet John Tagliabue, who wrote verses based on the paintings, completed by Adam while he was a Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome in 2004.

Abigail Viotor, daughter of Rosemary Schmitt Viotor and **Richard R. Viotor**, was married October 31, 2009 to Holland Arthur Sullivan, Jr. at the Church of the Heavenly Rest, 90th Street and Fifth Avenue.



The Saint Nicholas Society
of the City of New York
 20 West 44th Street, #508
 New York, NY 10036-6603

New Members Elected

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Election</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Owen Aldrich Blake	Sept. 24, 2009	John Townsend
Ian Hamilton Fraser	Sept. 24, 2009	Louis Du Bois
Edvard Jorgensen	Sept. 24, 2009	Caleb Heathcote
Scott Morgan MacWhinnie	Sept. 24, 2009	Willem Pieterse van Slyke
Robert Winmill Radsch	Sept. 24, 2009	John Townsend
Gary Lyle Dycus	Jan. 21, 2010	Peter Nodine
William Neville Tiftt	Jan. 21, 2010	George Havens
Jonathan Knight Bitting	Apr. 15, 2010	Anna Maria Ver Planck
Michael Stuart Ferrara	Apr. 15, 2010	Johannes Van Deusen
Claude Jay Rutan	Apr. 15, 2010	Elbert Elbertsz Soothoff
Kenneth Grant Winans	Apr. 15, 2010	Susannah Melyn-Williams
William Frederick Yonkers	Apr. 15, 2010	Sarah Wells Bull

NECROLOGY

The Society has received notice of the death of the following members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Election</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
William H. Moore	March 2, 1936	Jan. 2010
Charles Langdon Stout	Apr. 30, 1951	Dec. 30, 2009
Francis George Geer	Oct. 3, 1955	Dec. 10, 2008
Emery Walter Harper	Jan. 20, 1969	Oct. 26, 2009
William Stafford Bucknall	Jan. 19, 1970	Sept. 14, 2010
Dennis Benson Ross	Jan. 19, 1970	Aug. 24, 2009
Samuel Dunstan Williams	May 4, 1970	July 18, 2010
Gerrit Livingston Lansing	Jan. 18, 1971	July 27, 2010
John R. Burton III	May 2, 1972	July 6, 2009
Ronald O'Neal Johns	May 5, 2003	June 27, 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2010

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010	Board of Managers Meeting	Society Office
Thursday, October 21, 2010	Fall Stated Meeting	The Players Club
November 17-21, 2010	Five Dutch Days	
Monday, December 6, 2010	Feast of Saint Nicholas	The Union Club

THE SAINT NICHOLAS SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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THE WEATHERCOCK

AN OCCASIONAL PUBLICATION
 OF THE SOCIETY, WRITTEN, EDITED,
 AND PRODUCED BY

FRANCIS J. SYPHER, JR.
 JOHN McC. SHANNON