



## President Thomas F. Pike — A PROFILE

The Reverend Doctor Thomas F. Pike was elected President of the Saint Nicholas Society at the Stated Meeting held on May 20, 2010. While it is customary to publish a profile of a new president in the immediately following issue of *The Weathercock*, so that fellow members may become acquainted with his character and achievements, the Editors greatly regret that none has been supplied until now.



Thomas F. Pike, President

Describing Dr. Pike simply as an Episcopal clergyman fails to accurately represent his accomplishments. He has also been active in the public life of the city, particularly in the area of architecture and preservation; and he has served in a variety of capacities in the Diocese of New York. He has sat on the boards of charitable organizations, not infrequently as a chaplain (Leake & Watts, for example). But those who know him best would probably say that his most notable features, aside from his personal charisma

*Continued on page 4*

### 176TH ANNUAL

## Celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas

Union Club, Monday, December 6, 2010

MEDAL OF MERIT TO THE REV. DR. JAMES H. COOPER  
YVETTE BIDDLE HENTIC MAKES DÉBUT



The Rev. Dr. James H. Cooper



Yvette Biddle Hentic

The Saint Nicholas Society's 176th Annual Celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas was held on Monday, December 6, 2010 at the Union Club, 69th Street and Park Avenue, with the full panoply of St. Nicholas Society tradition, as befits this central event of our Society's calendar. It is central in two ways. First of all it falls in the middle of our season of activities from fall to spring; more impor-

tantly, St. Nicholas is our supremely benevolent patron saint, and the prototype of Santa Claus, spirit of Christmas. For the occasion the Union Club was seasonally decked out with beautiful pine boughs and a magnificent Christmas tree, handsomely decorated, adorning the balcony and brightening the first entrance of our members and guests as they assembled and

*Continued on page 6*

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BE PROPOSED AT FALL 2011 STATED MEETING

### By-Law Change Would Create New Class of Associate Members, Increase Membership

At the Spring Stated Meeting (see account elsewhere in this issue), and in accordance with procedures laid down in the Society's Constitution, notice was given to the members present that an amendment to the Society's Constitution will be put to a vote at the fall stated meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the Coffee House, 20 West 44th Street. Specifically it is proposed to include the following new Section in Article II. The text of the proposed section is as follows:

#### Article II

Section 2. Notwithstanding the previous section, and only for the period beginning from the date of the adoption of this section and ending five years thereafter, any person, either male or female,



who has attained the age of 18 years, in respectable standing in society, of good moral character, and who support the objectives of the Society, shall be eligible as an associate member of the Society. Associate members are entitled to receive all communications from and attend all events of the Society on the same basis as those members described in Section 1; and pay the same annual dues. However, associate members may not serve as officers, managers or stewards, nor may they become life members, of the Society. There may be no more than one hundred associate members.

Earlier this year, the Board of Managers appointed a sub-committee to consider the state of the Society's membership. The

*Continued on page 12*

## Fall 2010 Stated Meeting at Players Club with Author Sidney Kirkpatrick

The Fall Stated Meeting was held on October 21, 2010 at The Players Club in Gramercy Park. The Players, as it is often called, was founded by the 19th-century American actor, Edwin Booth (brother of John Wilkes Booth), who bought a mansion at 16 Gramercy Park, and—perhaps inspired by London’s Garrick Club—Booth established a club that would bring actors into contact with men of different professions, such as industrialists, writers and other creative artists.

During his lifetime Booth lived on an upper floor and turned the rest of the building over to the Club. The interior and part of the exterior were designed by Stanford White. The building was named a National Historic landmark in 1962. Naturally many famous actors have been members, including John Barrymore, Tony Bennett, Christopher Plummer, Dick Cavett, Peter O’Toole, and Ethan Hawke, to name but a very few.

Members assembled for cocktails in the Great Hall dominated by an enormous stone mantelpiece. Above the mantel is a portrait of Booth’s father, Junius Brutus Booth, the patriarch of the Booth theatrical dynasty, one of two paintings of the elder Booth that hang in the Great Hall. The room was crowded and the ambiance upbeat on this particular evening. President Pike, adorned with tricorn and medal of office, diligently worked the room and greeted members.

Dinner was served in the Players’ dining room, where dozens of men and women of the theatre, from John Gielgud to James Cagney to Jason Robards, have been fêted with Pipe Nights and other glittering tributes honoring their illustrious careers. Many of the finest actors and actresses of the 20th and 21st centuries have performed on the intimate stage at the back of the room. The polished parquet floor, the rich mahogany paneling, and the suffused glow of the lamps that illuminate the portraits lining the walls contribute to the room’s warm and convivial atmosphere.

It was in this atmospheric setting that members consumed their meals and enjoyed their beverages. At a certain point, President Pike went to the podium to welcome the members and guests, and introduce the speaker of the evening, Sidney D. Kirkpatrick.



*John M. Baker and Theodore S. Wickersham*



*William P. Johns, Joseph VanB. Wittmann III and Gary Dycus*



*Brian Ross Owens and Jill Spiller*



*President Pike at the podium*



*Douglas C. Wright and William M. Manger, Jr.*



*Frank E. Morgan II and Brent H. Feigenbaum*



*George J. Hill*



*Charles R. Mackenzie*



*John Mauk Hilliard with guest*



*Barbara Wittmann and Joseph vanB. Wittmann III*



*The Rev. Martin L. Chase, Robert A. Naud and M. P. Naud*

## Fall 2010 Stated Meeting

Born in Glen Cove in 1955, Mr. Kirkpatrick grew up in Stony Brook, New York. At Kent School, he won writing awards for poetry and journalism. During college he wrote hundreds of articles for Long Island newspapers and became a stringer for Associated Press. At Hampshire College, in Amherst, Mass., he majored in Chinese language and history. After graduating in 1978, he lived in Asia, where he taught, and directed and produced a television documentary, and acted in low-budget action films. He completed his education in 1982 with an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where he worked on several short films with classmates Spike Lee and Ang Lee. It was while at NYU that he wrote and directed *My Father The President*, about Theodore Roosevelt, which won the 1982 American Film Festival and a CINE Golden Eagle. The film has gone on to become a perennial favorite at hundreds of schools, libraries and museums across the country, and can be seen daily at the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace at 28 East 20th Street in Manhattan, and at Sagamore Hill National Historical Site in Oyster Bay, New York.

Kirkpatrick's film combines a recording of TR's daughter speaking in late life while watching an old home movie of her father made at Sagamore Hill. One hears her voice and sees him, which gives one the impression that the voice is from the same period as the movie. A clip of the movie was played in the dining room.



*Sidney Kirkpatrick*

Mr. Kirkpatrick went on to Hollywood and, while still working on movies, also wrote a series of books on a range of topics, including *A Cast of Killers*, about film director King Vidor's investigation of the murder in 1922 of William Desmond Taylor, another film director of the silent era. That book was followed by the screenplay *One Deadly Summer*, based on marine scientist Richard Novak's one-man war against the Medellin drug lord, Carlos Lehder. Kirkpatrick's third book was *Lords of Sipán*, which explores the trafficking of Peruvian artifacts. Then there was *Edgar Cayce: An American Prophet*, a biography of the famed Virginia Beach psychic and father of the holistic health movement. That was followed by *The Revenge of Thomas Eakins*, a biography of the artist; and most recently, *Hitler's Holy Relics*.

It was a most interesting evening, and watching the film of President Roosevelt was particularly moving since, of course, he was a member of the Saint Nicholas Society (elected February 27, 1899). The guests left the historic room regretfully but it can be said in truth that a good time was had by all.



*Lynn Tran Dupont, Joseph vanB. Wittmann, Jr. and John P.T. Blake*



*William Rabbe, Brian Owen Ross (in background) and William M. Manger, Jr.*



*Curtis M. Estes and W. Seton Ijams*



*Leighton H. Coleman III and Curtis M. Estes*



*Norma Wickersham and Jonathan C. Jones*



*Robert A. Naud, Michael S. deL. Neill, President Pike and John Mauk Hilliard*



*Michael S. Ferrara, John P.T. Blake and Barbara Wittmann*



*William P. Johns, Thomas F. Pike, Jr., and Theodore S. Wickersham*

## President Thomas F. Pike

*Continued from front page*

and speaking ability, are his knowledge of art and architecture, his well-honed ability to chair meetings, and his understanding of human nature.

Dr. Pike was born on January 10, 1938 in Dobbs Ferry, New York, and grew up in Hastings, New York, the son of Frederick R. and Elizabeth M. Pike. His father managed a newspaper and was friendly with African-American scholars, including City College sociologist Kenneth Clark and newspaper-owner Alger Adams. In the late 1950s, as an undergraduate at SUNY New Paltz, the future minister first studied painting before switching career tracks when calls for social change swept the United States. He graduated in 1960.

He later studied at the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University (M.Div., 1963; D.D., 1968) and New York Theological Seminary (D.Min., 1977). He was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 1, 1963 and a priest six months later, on December 1, by the Rt. Rev. Horace W. B. Donegan, Bishop of New York.

Over the following decades, Father Pike served as an Episcopal rector at Manhattan churches. He started out as a Curate at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery (1963–1965), with which the Saint Nicholas Society has an historical association. (Some members have heard him tell of looking into the interior of the tomb of Peter Stuyvesant under that church when it was last opened.) Subsequently he was called to be the Rector of St. Andrew's Church (now San Andres), in Yonkers (1965–1971); and then, from 1971 to 1975, Rector of Calvary Church, on Park Avenue at 21st Street. That parish was subsequently merged with two nearby churches, Holy Innocents (Sixth Avenue at 20th Street) and St. George's (Second Avenue at 16th Street), becoming known from 1976 as the Parish of Calvary–St. George's in the City of New York. Fr. Pike was its rector until he retired in 2008, and was honored with the designation of Rector Emeritus. He did not completely retire from the priesthood, however, and continues to serve as an associate priest at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue.

During his time as a clergyman he also served as a volunteer leader at city agencies and nonprofits, many having to do with architecture and preservation. Indeed, there are few more eloquent and knowledgeable spokesmen for the city's built environment. This writer well remembers an evocative talk Fr. Pike gave at St. George's Church about its construction, what the area was once like, and what building a church says about the people who built it.

Agencies that he has been involved with are many, and include the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (two

terms—a mayoral appointment). The New York Landmarks Conservancy, Partners for Sacred Places (founder), Preservation League of New York State and Partnership for the Homeless (president). He has helped run so many organizations devoted to preserving buildings and landscapes nationwide that when he walks around a place where he has been involved people stop and thank him.

In the 1970s and '80s, as he patiently dealt with repairs on those structures, fellow clergy frequently would tell him about their own buildings' hefty maintenance bills and how they were occasionally resorting to demolition.

"So I became more and more revved up about preserving religious buildings," Father Pike said. "I began to see the relationship between preservation and social justice." Old churches and synagogues, he added, "enable a community to tell its story honestly, tangibly, and graphically, in a way that can't be denied. And the diversity of American religious buildings celebrates the diversity of our whole society. If we erase the buildings, we are rewriting history."

Through numerous pro bono posts and grants-giving roles, he persuaded other religious leaders to adapt structures for outreach projects, including food kitchens, alcohol-abuse treatment programs and temporary housing for the homeless. He also advocated for the preservation of secular buildings in struggling neighborhoods, like the humble row of freed slaves' homes in Bedford-Stuyvesant now called the Weeksville Heritage Center. "Buildings do not have to be beautiful to have powerful storytelling capacity," he says. "Preservation is not an elitist pursuit, although it's sometimes thought of as a rich man's sport."

Gratitude for his organizations' support, he added, has come from surprising sources. "I've been out to a Congregationalist church in Brooklyn where a young mother living across the street in an apartment building with every window broken came up to me and said, 'Looking out every day and seeing that steeple repaired now—it gives us a sense of peace and a lot of hope.' I'm absolutely convinced that architecture can change lives. I like to quote the philosopher Ernst Bloch, who said that architecture is an embodiment of hope. You only fix the roof of a place when you believe your community will be there for a long, long time. Every repair is a gesture of commitment to the future."

He attributes his lifelong interest in historic architecture in part to his childhood in progressive intellectual circles. "The fight for civil rights was in full swing and the peace movement was in its early days," he recalled. Soon after he received his Yale divinity degree in 1963, he was at the frontlines of these causes. "I was arrested five times: that gives you a flavor of my life," he said. He spent nights in jail for alleged offenses committed while protesting workplace discrimination,

giving antiwar sermons, and leading marches demanding emergency housing for black families left homeless by suspicious fires.

Father Pike served on the board of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies in a variety of positions for many years, including as chairman; as well as on the board of United Way. In addition there were his roles in the Episcopal Diocese of New York at different times: Trustee of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, Chairman of the Building Committee, member of the Diocesan Council, to name a few.

"When I look back, I just wish I'd done more," he says. Many would say that he has done more than most.

Father Pike joined the Saint Nicholas Society on May 2, 1972. He had been invited earlier to give an invocation at a dinner of the Society. As he tells it, he had such a good time that he called his host, Robert L. Crawford (President, 1970–1972), the next day and told him that he would like to join the organization. There was silence on the other end of the line. "You have to be invited," the president finally said. "You don't volunteer." However, once his interest became known, an invitation to join was soon extended. He was sponsored by the then bishop of New York, the Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr., who had been a member of St. Nick since 1940.

In addition to St. Nick, President Pike is a member of several other membership associations, which may be grouped into three broad categories. Starting with clubs, he belongs to the Century Association, the University Club, and the National Arts Club, near his present home in Gramercy Park. Then there are the British-affiliated groups: The Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (appointed by HM Queen Elizabeth II), The Pilgrims of the United States, and St. George's Society of New York, where he is senior chaplain and a longstanding member of the Beneficiaries Committee. Lastly there are the hereditary societies: the Society of the Cincinnati, Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York, the Mayflower Society and the Colonial Order of the Acorn. Dr. Pike's services as a chaplain have always been in demand and he is known among those who have occasion to hear many invocations during the year for his vivid ones, which are the opposite of brief and dry.

The president's alleged retirement has allowed him and his wife Lys, a former director of the city's Council on the Environment, more time to focus on their own landmark: a 1790 clapboarded farmhouse near Camden, Maine. They spend half the year there when not visiting their three children: Jean, an architect in New York; Nicholas, at Wharton; and Thomas Jr., an Army lieutenant-colonel who has served two tours of duty in Afghanistan. Both sons are members of the Saint Nicholas Society.

**SPRING  
OUTING  
& PAAS  
LUNCHEON**

*Visit to  
Cathedral  
of St. John  
the Divine*

The destination for this year's spring outing on April 9th was the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue. Thirty St. Nickers, some with spouses and children, convened on Manhattan's Morningside Heights area on a bright crisp day to enjoy a special tour of the sacred site led by none other than the Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Pike, President of the Society and longtime member of the Cathedral's Building Committee.

Liverpool Cathedral in England and St. John the Divine both claim to be the largest cathedral and Anglican church. The inside covers 121,000 sq. ft., spanning a length of 601 ft. and height of 232 ft. The inside height of the nave is 124 ft. It is the longest Gothic nave in the United States. The building was designed in 1888, and construction began in 1892. While the nave has been completed, the cathedral is far from finished. Nonetheless, it is a massively impressive achievement—all the more so since undergoing a thorough cleaning and restoration in the wake of a serious fire that damaged the interior in December 2001.



*Nave of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine looking west*

The sightseers assembled at the west entrance, where one could look down the nave all the way to the distant altar. The huge soaring stone columns create a kind of canopy effect. Some people believe that Europe's Gothic cathedrals, with their high vaulted naves, represent a subconscious desire to perpetuate the European forests which were increasingly being cleared in the Middle Ages.

The group followed Dr. Pike as he pointed out various noteworthy features of the cathedral: the strange mixture of architectural styles—Byzantine, Romanesque and Gothic; the altar; the choir stalls; the seven chapels known as the "Chapels of the Tongues", each devoted to a patron saint of each of seven major immigrant groups to New York at the time of construction. There was also the columbarium, where this writer recognized a name among those of the departed.

From the cathedral the group walked over to the French-style mansion that formerly served as the residence of the bishops of New York, stopping at the biblical herb garden, where every plant mentioned in the Bible grows, though little was in bloom at this time. At Cathedral House a simple lunch was served, and followed by the traditional egg-cracking ceremony, bringing the day to a joyous conclusion.



*Members tour the Ambulatory*

*St. John central portal window*



*The group visited the biblical herb garden*



*Left: President Pike speaking while Mary Lynne Bird, Victor Dupont, Lynn Dupont and Charles Mackenzie listen*



*President Pike pointing out a feature in the chancel*



*The youngest tour member was Jackson Fleming, nephew of William M. Manger, Jr.*



*Terry and John Blake*



*Lunch in the former Bishop's House, now Cathedral House*



Chief Steward Charles R. Mackenzie,  
President Thomas F. Pike and Liddy Baker  
awaiting the *débutante*



The Rev. Dr. James H. Cooper,  
Octavia (Tay) Cooper and Francis J. Sypher



Victor E. Stewart, President of St. George's  
Society, and Carol Stewart



John McC. Shannon and Alan G. Moore



Pam Bartlett and Ian H. Fraser

*Continued from front page*

began enjoying drinks and hot hors d'oeuvres passed round by a numerous and attentive staff.

Soon the Chief Steward called the group *à table* and an invocation was offered by one of our co-chaplains, John Mauk Hilliard. His cheerful yet solemn prayer was followed by a warm greeting from our president, the Reverend Thomas F. Pike, in full regalia, including the president's gold medal and neckband, and the large, black three-cornered hat, elegantly trimmed with crowquills, as his most conspicuous badge of office.

The Stewards commanded us to "charge our glasses" for the traditional toast to Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, offered by Past President John McConville Shannon, and this was followed by a most effective rendering of the Dutch national anthem, the "Wilhelmus." In good order, First Vice President William Muir Manger, Jr. offered the customary toast to the President of the United States, followed by the "Star Spangled Banner," with its challenging test of vocal ability for those who dare to try to sing along in tune with the band. Finally, Past President John Milnes Baker offered a toast to our patron Saint Nicholas, hailed in Dutch as *Goed heilig man!* and then proceeded to lead us in singing the old Dutch hymn "We Gather Together."



Dr. Erika Billick and Dr. Stephen B. Billick



John Mauk Hilliard and Donald Westervelt



George H. McNeely IV and Susan Williams



Curtis M. Estes and R. Brandon Fradd

Soon the gala gathering was made thoroughly official by the presence of our beloved antique bronze weathercock, which was given to the Society by Washington Irving around 1848. The details of its provenance have been discussed many times over the years, and clashing legendary and documented accounts of its early origin have vied with one another for general acceptance. But all parties in the dispute are agreed that it is very old and that it once indicated the direction of the wind from the top of some important building in our City of New York (see detailed discussion in *The Weathercock*, No. 66, Fall 2006). What more do we need to know? Except that at our meetings it is reverently and proudly paraded by the Stewards and always helped on its way by the soft breeze created by the guests as they wave their napkins when it passes. Thus nobly escorted the bird faithfully takes up his sentinel post at the center of proceedings, pointing eastward to warn the Knickerbocker company of potential incursions of interlopers from New England. Once settled on his perch, he is hymned with the "Salute to the Weathercock," with words composed by John Poor Townsend Blake, sung to the traditional Dutch tune "Mynheer Van Donck."

As the *convives* then began to savor their generous portions of excellent roast duck, numerous honored guests were recog-

# Feast of St. Nicholas

nized—presidents of other historical societies, and past presidents of the Saint Nicholas Society, of whom there are always many in attendance at this major event.

Soon the grand entry of the *débutante* of the evening was announced and all eyes turned to the huge double doors of the Union Club ballroom to observe the dramatic entrance of Yvette Biddle Hentic, presented by her father, Yves F. M. Hentic, a member of the Saint Nicholas Society since January 17, 1977, in right of descent from Peter Buckalew. Miss Hentic wore a particularly beautiful and stylish long dress, white of course, and after the graceful presentation she and her father opened the evening to dancing.

The hour approached for the announcement of the 71st award of the Society's Medal of Merit, this year to the Reverend Dr. James H. Cooper, Rector of the Parish of Trinity Church in the City of New York, familiarly known as Trinity Wall Street, an icon of the city since 1697. Dr. Cooper was accompanied at the feast by his wife Tay (for Octavia), a gracious figure at our festive event.

Dr. Cooper in his address reminded the guests of the long history of Trinity, whose first church building was erected by Dirck Vanderburgh, a mason, who had the assistance of a distinguished parishioner and ship-master who lent the builders some

ship's tackle for hoisting stones. William Kidd, later known as "Captain Kidd," in after-years gained notoriety when he was condemned—many think unfairly—for piracy. Dr. Cooper reminded us that over 300 years of history, "Trinity, through its land grant from Queen Anne in 1705, contributed to the growth of New York City," helping to found Columbia University, Trinity School, and "over 1000 churches and missions." The tradition continues at Trinity: "Today, through our grants program we focus our philanthropy on funding partnerships in Africa and New York City to create jobs, support education and health care, and raise up the next generation of leaders." In the disaster of September 11, 2001, St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Parish remained standing in the midst of surrounding destruction, and during the aftermath became a headquarters for rescue and recovery workers round the clock.

After enthusiastic applause for Dr. Cooper and his award, John Baker led the group in the Scottish parting song "We're Nae Awa'," with its closing chorus:

Oh we're nae awa' to bide awa'  
 We're nae awa' to leave ye  
 We're nae awa tae bide awa'  
 We'll aye come back and see ye!



*Pandora Biddle Hentic, mother of the *débutante*, and President Thomas F. Pike*



*Yvette Biddle Hentic with her father, Yves F.M. Hentic*



*Liddy Baker and Arthur P. Sultan*



*Marguerite and David N. Platt*



*President Thomas F. Pike*



*J. Scott Glascock,  
 President of the  
 New England Society*



*John P.T. Blake*



*Joseph vanB. Wittmann III and Brent H. Feigenbaum*



*Curtis M. Estes and Jill Spiller*



*Susan Williams and Paul Whelan*

—MAY STATED MEETING—

## IRVING MEDAL PRESENTED TO NEW YORK AUTHOR EDWARD RUTHERFURD

*Four New Members Inducted into the Society,  
Proposed Constitutional Amendment Read*

Edward Rutherford, the best-selling novelist, accepted the Society's Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence at the Spring Stated Meeting held in New York on May 26. The event was held at the 3 West Club, at 3 West 51st Street, facing Rockefeller Center. Mr. Rutherford was nominated for his work entitled *New York: The Novel*, a sweeping historical novel first published in 2009, covering four hundred years of Manhattan since its discovery in 1609.

The novel retells the history of the City of New York through the lives of individuals and families that lived through its great events over a period of nearly 400 years. As the story evolves, descendants and relatives of different protagonists encounter one another, revealing the unanticipated ways in which present actions may affect generations yet unborn. The great episodes unfold as upon a magnificent stage set on which fortunes, loves, and family lives work themselves out. The author helpfully provides maps of the city at different stages of its growth, and on them one can chart neighborhood landmarks where the action takes place.

The fortunes of the Van Dyck and Master families are followed through the centuries, as are the descendants of Quash the African slave, from the early days of Manhattan's Indian settlements and Dutch New Amsterdam, through the English takeover, the Revolutionary War, when New York was the British headquarters, and the nineteenth century, when New Yorkers created the canals and railroads that opened up the American West.

Along the way the reader encounters the Kellers, German shopkeepers who produce a famous photographer; and the O'Donnell family, who emerge from the gangs of New York, rise through Tammany Hall and marry into the English aristocracy. We discover how the city almost left the Union at the start of the Civil War, and experienced the terrible Draft Riots 1863 and the Great Blizzard of 1888. At the start of the twentieth century, the Carusos immigrate through Ellis Island, witness the great Crash of 1929, and help construct the Empire State Building. The Adlers of Brooklyn experience anti-Semitism between the two World Wars, and the Masters, as bankers and lawyers, seek their fortunes through the greed of the 1980s and '90s, and come through a life-changing crisis in the tragedy of 9/11.

Larger-than-life historical characters fill the background: Stuyvesant, the Dutch Director



*Author and Medalist  
Edward Rutherford*

General; Lord Cornbury the (allegedly) transvestite English Governor; George Washington leading his troops into the city in 1783, and later officiating as president of the new republic in its first capital, New York; Ben Franklin who tried to keep America British; Lincoln, who made one of his greatest speeches in the auditorium of Cooper Union, at Astor Place; the titanic J. P. Morgan; Tammany Hall's Fernando Wood and Boss Tweed; legendary socialites like Mrs. William Astor (née Caroline Schermerhorn); and memorable modern city figures like Fiorello La Guardia, Robert Moses, and Mayor Koch.

The author explains the origins and significance of great historical events in personal terms that make them readily understandable. For example, in reading about the painful decisions of allegiance that confronted individuals and families during the American Revolution, we are led to take a sympathetic and realistic view of both sides of the question. Rutherford has been scrupulous in avoiding simplistic judgements about complex historical issues, and this is one of the great strengths of his book. At the end, as we follow with keen interest the fates and fortunes of the intertwined families, we share with him his evident relish in imagining and then bringing to life their fictional stories. He writes: "I can only hope that the reader may find that this book conveys something, at least, of the history and spirit of what is, for me, a much-loved city." His love of New York, and his enthusiasm in writing about it make this book a delight to read, and a feast of enjoyment for anyone, especially for New Yorkers.

Accepting the medal, Mr. Rutherford assumed a modest stance, telling the assembly that he had tried all his life to become a New Yorker—without success. It is a city he knows well, and has visited often, but—in spite of having American relations, his fate was to be a Briton. He is indeed a British gentleman, and many of his earlier novels are inspired from the history of the British Isles: *Sarum*, *London*, and *The Forest* are about England; while *The Princes of Ireland* and *The Rebels of Ireland* are about its neighbor island, although a later novel, *Russka*, is about an altogether different place, Russia.

In true St. Nicholas tradition, the spring meeting featured unusually high spirits. For the occasion the Society occupied the Solarium room, with its large terrace facing Rockefeller



*Liddy Baker, Terry Blake and Brian A. Blake*



*Angel Ryland and Charles Mackenzie*



*Barbara Wittmann and Liddy Baker*



*William F. Yonkers and guest*



*Stephen B. Billick and Curtis M. Estes*





*John Milnes Baker*



*Four new members: Lloyd M. Winans, Scott M. MacWhinnie, Peter S. Schermerhorn and Michael J. Burlingham were inducted*



*P. Layton Sanders and Jonathan C. Jones*



*William N. Tifft*



*Liddy Baker and President Pike*



*Konrad K.P. Keesee*



*William Rabbe*



*Brian A. Blake, Louis Hornick III, and William Rabbe*



*Mary Ann Keep and Jamie Schermerhorn*



*Ian H. Fraser, Curtis M. Estes, Scott M. MacWhinnie and Brian A. Blake*



*Cody D. Constable and Michael S. Ferrara*



*Russell and Mary Ann Keep*



*John P.T. Blake recited his "Ode to the Weathercock"*

Center. In the near distance one could see the spires of St. Patrick's Cathedral. The weather was pleasant, making it doubly pleasant to be outdoors with a cool drink in one's hand. The terrace was necessarily "popular" with a specific group of guests: smokers. It is strange to reflect that one of our most distinctive and famous traditions—smoking Dutch pipes like our Dutch forbears—is now prohibited. In another hundred years will the carrying of our cherished Weathercock be deemed no longer permissible?

Also enlivening the evening was the induction of new members, of whom there were four, identifiable by decorative boutonnieres (courtesy of the Society): Michael John Burlingham, Scott Morgan MacWhinnie, Peter Scott Schermerhorn, and Lloyd Matthew Winans. Each was introduced to the membership by our Chief Steward and Membership Committee Chairman, Charles R. Mackenzie.

At this same meeting, a number of members were unanimously elected to serve as officers and Managers: Thomas F. Pike, William M. Manger, Jr., Richard R. Vietor, David N. Platt 3rd were re-elected as President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Third Vice President respectively. Joining the flock of vice presidents for the first time was Charles R. Mackenzie, who succeeded George H. McNeely IV. Also re-elected were Floyd S. Sanford III (Treasurer), W. Seton Ijams (Treasurer), Thomas E. Bird (Historian), Michael S. de L. Neill (Genealogist), Francis J. Sypher, Jr. (Assistant Genealogist), and the Reverends Martin L. Chase, Barry C. Howard, and Thomas F. Pike (Chaplains). MDs Paul Cushman and Francis Perse Powers, Jr., were re-elected as Physicians. The members of the new class of Managers serving to May 2015 are: Stephen H. Bacon, William R. Follett (Past President), and Craig H. Weaver.

An unusual piece of business was the report of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Managers in February to consider and recommend ways to grow the Society's membership. John McC. Shannon, Chairman of the Committee, read a proposed amendment to the Society's Constitution designed to create a new class of membership to be styled "associate Membership." (See separate article.)

The dinner was characterized by generous portions, climaxed by a lavish *tiramisù*. No one left the table hungry. The wine flowed abundantly throughout the night, something we St. Nickers do enjoy. Somewhere during the evening, the famed Weathercock was borne by the Stewards, helped aloft by the guests waving their napkins. In what is now a Tradition, our Poet in Residence, John P. T. Blake, climbed on a chair and performed another of his matchless recitations of his "Ode to the Weathercock." It was only the fact that there was nothing left to drink that impelled the stragglers to leave the club and slope off into the night.

# Winter Stated Meeting with the Society of



Author Harlow Unger speaking about Patrick Henry



John R. Harman and Konrad K.P. Keese being inducted by Charles R. Mackenzie and President Thomas F. Pike



Kent L. Straat and Robert A. Naud



Theodore S. and Norma Wickersham



President Pike presiding

Members of the Saint Nicholas Society joined forces with the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York on Thursday, February 24, 2011 for a winter dinner at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South, featuring a presentation by Harlow G. Unger, author of *Lion of Liberty: Patrick Henry and the Call to a New Nation* (Philadelphia: Da Capo Press, A Member of the Perseus Books Group, 2010).

The Arts Club makes its home in a pair of spacious, elegantly appointed town houses that originally formed the residence of Samuel J. Tilden (1814–1886), who served as governor of the State of New York (1875–1876) and was a candidate for president in 1876 against Rutherford B. Hayes. Hayes narrowly won the election in the Electoral College, even though his opponent had gained a majority of the popular vote. Tilden is especially remembered for his generous bequest to found a public library, eventually combined with the Astor Library and the Lenox Library to create the famous and beloved institution whose full name is the New York Public Library, Astor Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

After the dinner was served, Harlow G. Unger presented a vivid biographical portrait of the famed Virginian Patrick Henry



Copies of *Lion of Liberty* sold briskly

# Colonial Wars at the National Arts Club



*Helene and George J. Hill*



*John P.T. Blake with William F. Yonkers*



*Edvard and Amoret Jorgensen*



*W. Seton Ijams*



*Eugene L. Church*



*George H. McNeely IV*



*Frank Sypher and Elaine Mitchell*



*Ian H. Fraser*



*Liddy and John Milnes Baker*



*Thomas E. Bird and Gary L. Dycus*

(1736–1799), well known for his famous exhortation “Give me liberty or give me death.” But Henry’s career has many other dimensions. In the introduction Unger writes: “Unlike Washington and Jefferson, who tied their fortunes to Virginia’s landed aristocracy, Henry achieved greatness and wealth on his own, among ordinary, hard-working farmers in Virginia’s wild Piedmont hills west of Richmond, where independence, self-reliance, and a quick, sharp tongue were as essential to survival as a musket.”

Henry’s call for liberty was not only directed at the British at the time of the American Revolution. During the Constitutional Convention, he feared the creation of an overly strong central federal government that would soon deprive states and individuals of their rights of self-determination. The spirit of his protest echoed down into the next century and lay behind the secessionist movement in the South and the resulting Civil War—or, as it is termed by some historians, the War for Southern Independence. Mr. Unger’s presentation was eloquently delivered, in an exciting and impressive style worthy of his subject. Afterward he skillfully fielded questions from the guests. A St. Nicholas member asked the interesting question—what was Patrick Henry’s position on slavery? Mr. Unger answered that Henry saw slavery as a grave problem for the nation, and knew of no simple solution. After dinner, Mr. Unger signed copies of his book, which was available for purchase. He is also the author of *The Last Founding Father: James Monroe and a Nation’s Call to Greatness* (2009), and *American Tempest: How the Boston Tea Party Sparked a Revolution* (1996).



*A. Walker Bingham III with David N. Platt*

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BE PROPOSED

*Continued from front page*

sub-committee members were: John M. Baker (Past President), W. Seton Ijams (Treasurer), Charles R. Mackenzie (Chief Steward, Membership Committee Chairman and Fourth Vice President), John McC. Shannon (Past President), Craig Weaver (Board of Managers member) and Thomas F. Pike (President).

The sub-committee considered the "internal" information. From 1960 to the present, the Society's membership has declined from over 700 to under 400, resulting in, among other things, reduced operating revenue and greater dependence on the endowment. The annual intake of new members only keeps up with attrition. There are few young members. The average age of the membership as a whole is high. As much as one third of the membership lives well out of town and does not participate in the life of the Society. The core group of the Society members who regularly attend stated meetings, Feasts of St. Nicholas and Paas Festivals numbers less than 100. The sub-committee also heard about the high cost of meals at attractive clubs, the added expense for out-of-towners (parking, babysitters) and the formality (tuxedo, jacket and tie).

Then there was the "external" information. Broadly stated, lineage societies are not what contemporary New York is about. The city's population (and much else) has changed dramatically since 1900. Old dominant families with roots in New York State no longer predominate socially or economically. Nowadays, being a member of a hereditary society exposes one to charges of "elitism" with implications of politically incorrect "exclusion." For those who like it, St. Nick offers opportunities for fraternization among likeminded people but so do clubs, cultural institutions, churches, and professional associations—all of which are easy to join in the sense that no proof of descent is required. Genealogy is a growth industry in the United States but it does not appeal to everyone. Even if one has the requisite pedigree to qualify for membership in St. Nick, the long application forms and demands to produce proof of birth, marriage, and death of long-dead ancestors are daunting. In sum, what is St. Nick's purpose in modern-day New York City?

A third area of discussion was women. St. Nick has no female members and never has. Why is that and is it right? What does this say about us? Are we "quaintly traditional" or "willfully reactionary"? In the world of hereditary societies, there are those that have all male memberships, those that have all female memberships, and those that have both male and female members. Some that were all male—such as the St. George's Society of New York (founded 1770) and, more recently, the St. Andrew's Society of the State of New York (founded 1756)—have voted to admit women as equal members.

Finally there was the fundamental issue of who should be a member of St. Nick. In New York back in 1835 almost anyone could join since it only required proof of New York ancestry going back to 1785—a mere 50 years. The rules were seemingly written to encompass all those deemed to be desirable because they were in the top social group at the time. It is safe to speculate that no one gave a thought to what the world would look like 176 years later, when pedigree is much more of a hurdle than social background. It was pointed out in the discussions that there are people in New York today who we know and like, and who are sympathetic to the history and objectives of the Saint

Nicholas Society. They like it but lack a genealogical connection to a resident of New York State before 1785. They are "right" and would like to join but they lack the needed ancestry. Should membership be based primarily on ancestry or on sociability?



There was a suggestion made that, instead of admitting non-hereditary members, the Saint Nicholas Society could expand membership by changing its lineage requirements, either by widening its geographical catchment area to include regions such as Vermont or Martha's Vineyard that at a certain time in the colonial period were considered part of New York; or else by changing the year 1785, which was chosen arbitrarily, to a later one.

The members of the sub-committee sought to balance all these issues. They agreed that it was important to reverse the trend of declining membership. Eliminating the hereditary aspect of the membership requirements would fundamentally alter, or even destroy, the Society and make it meaningless. No one was in favor of such a move. Creating an associate membership category, however, has a number of virtues. It would: a) maintain the hereditary character of the Society; b) allow socially compatible people without the requisite genealogy to belong; c) allow women to join; d) grow the membership; and e) bring the Society into line (almost) with current social attitudes.

An example of such a situation exists close at hand. New York's Amateur Comedy Club (founded in 1884) has an all-male category of members, limited to 125 and known as Actives, and another category of members, open to men and women who are limited to 250 and known as Associates. The differences between the two categories are that the Associates pay lower dues and receive six tickets to the Club's theatrical productions each season; while the Actives pay higher dues, but are entitled to elect the officers, perform in the plays, and run the Club. (Actives receive only five tickets each to performances because each Active is considered to hold a "season pass" to see every show as many times as he wants.)

The above is being printed in *The Weathercock* for the benefit of members who may have heard rumors about an impending change in the Society's membership rules. At the time of writing nothing has changed yet nor will anything be decided until the Fall Stated Meeting.

Colin Stoddard, a member since 1979, has created a LinkedIn discussion group for members of the Society to air their views and feelings about the membership situation. So far 26 have registered, and of those, four or five have communicated at length. These include Michael Sivy, Scott MacWhinnie, David L. Church, Arthur P. Sultan, Colin Stoddard and John McC. Shannon. Members with email addresses are pre-approved to join the Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York discussion group. Go to: <http://www.linkedin.com>. All members are urged to communicate their opinions on membership and the proposed amendment to the Constitution. Address all letters or emails to the office.

President Thomas F. Pike has tasked Theodore S. Wickersham, the Society's counsel, and Craig H. Weaver, also an attorney and a Manager, to review the Constitution and By-Laws and recommend revisions to bring the rules in line with current practice and modern times. In addition to the above matter, several other revisions will be proposed at the next stated meeting.

## Samuel Dunstan Williams 1936–2010

With sorrow we announced in our previous issue (No. 72, Fall 2010) the death on July 18, 2010 of our much-admired past president Samuel Dunstan Williams. The news came to us just as we were going to press last summer, and it was not possible at the time to publish a proper biographical notice.



Sam Williams was born on October 15, 1936 at Doctors Hospital in New York, and grew up in Lawrence, Long Island. Both his grandfather and his father were members of the Saint Nicholas Society. Sam joined in right of descent from Ichabod Williams, born in 1706, the descendant of a Welsh family from near Chester, England. He was a cabinet maker and lived in Pearl Street, in lower Manhattan. His father owned a property known as Williams' Farm, near Elizabethport, New Jersey, where the family first settled in America. Ichabod Williams, along with a partner, founded Smith & Williams, a cabinet-making company that later expanded to import materials—chiefly hardwoods—for furniture making. This firm evolved into Ichabod T. Williams & Sons, which became the pre-eminent importer of rare cabinet woods in the United States and one of the largest importers of mahogany. They were ultimately subsumed into Champion Paper.

Sam was graduated from Groton School in 1955 and from Harvard University, AB 1959. He also studied security analysis at New York University (1961). He was in the US Army Reserve, Army Security Agency, from 1956 to 1962, and saw active duty at the National Security Agency in 1962. Sam joined the Saint Nicholas Society on May 4, 1970. He was a principal in S. D. Williams & Co. from 1970 to 1981, and then was with Morse, Williams & Co., Inc. from 1981 to 1992, and then with SG Cowen Investment Counsel. In 1999 he joined Carret and Company LLC where he was a senior managing director. In the Saint Nicholas Society, Sam was chair of the Investment Committee, and his counsel on issues facing the Society was always generously offered and received with gratitude. He was especially interested in the re-launching of *The Weathercock* in 2002, and the current editors were very appreciative of his valuable advice.

Outside of his office, Sam enjoyed sailing, tennis, squash, and skiing. For five years in the early 1960s, he also raced sports cars at amateur events all over the East Coast, at such venues as Watkins Glen, and Bridgehampton in New York, and at Marlboro, Maryland, where he came in first. Sam was also a pianist, and studied at the Longy School in Boston while at Harvard. His interest in painting led to his role as chairman of the National Council of the Fine Arts Museum in San Francisco. His great-uncle, who had moved out West in the 1940s, had bequeathed his collection of 17th- and 18th-century paintings and sculpture to the Legion of Honor Museum, and that collection was one of the three founding collections of the Fine Arts Museum in San Francisco. In addition to the Saint Nicholas Society, Sam was a member of the Union Club, The Brook, and the Pilgrims of the United States. He is survived by his wife Susan W. Williams, and son Edward E. Williams.

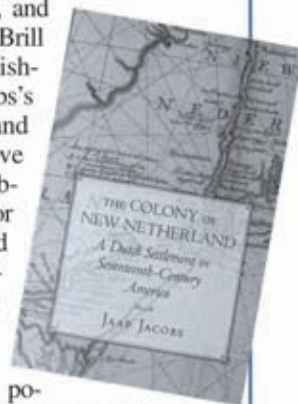
An impressive service in Sam's memory was offered on Thursday, September 16, 2010 at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, 66th Street and Lexington Avenue; the service was followed by a gracious reception at the Union Club. The large nave of this beautiful, historic church, was filled with people who had come to express their feelings of tribute and gratitude for having known Sam. Passages of music alternated with memorial addresses, including one by the Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Pike, President of the Saint Nicholas Society. Among many excellent comments made at the service one especially stands out in this writer's recollection—an eloquent speaker concluded about Sam—"he was the *real deal*."

## BOOK REVIEWS

BY F. J. SYPHER

JAAP JACOBS. *The Colony of New Netherland: A Dutch Settlement in Seventeenth-Century America*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2009. Paperback, pp. xii + 332, illustrated. \$26.95; ISBN 978-0-8014-7516-0.

Readers of *The Weathercock* may perhaps recall from issue No. 65 (Spring 2006) the review of Jaap Jacobs's *New Netherland: A Dutch Colony in Seventeenth-Century America* (Leiden, The Netherlands, and Boston, Mass.: Brill Academic Publishers, 2005). Jacobs's earlier large and very impressive study was published mainly for an academic and scholarly readership, and its high price (\$195.00 US) put it out of reach for many potential readers. With the present study, a new version of Jacobs's fine work is now readily available in a convenient format and at a price that is much more *abordable*.



The strength of Jacobs's historical account is that he has based his work upon his extensive reading of original Dutch manuscript sources both in the Netherlands and in the USA. Few other authors who have written extensively on the history of New Netherland have had either the expertise or the opportunity to pursue such wide-ranging research as Jacobs has.

His study is helpfully arranged by topic rather than by simple chronology. He presents chapters on the early explorations; on immigration; on the system of government; the organization of the economy and labor; religion; the class structure of society; and the general character of life in New Netherland.

In these two books Jacobs has—virtually for the first time, one might say—left aside the clichés and the pseudo-picturesque (often somewhat condescending)

*Continued on next page*

## BOOK REVIEWS

portraits of Dutch New York, and treated New Netherland in a serious, balanced, historical light, on the basis of admirably full research. He expertly locates the story amid the context of the history of the Netherlands and of Dutch trade and colonization in the 17th century. For anyone who would like a genuine introduction to the realities of life in New Netherland, Jacobs's book is an indispensable source.

.....

JANNY VENEMA. *Beverwijck: A Dutch Village on the American Frontier, 1652–1664*. Hilversum, The Netherlands: Uitgeverij Verloren, and Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2003. Pp. 528, illustrated. Hardcover, \$86.50; ISBN 978-0-7914-6079-5.

Paperback, \$33.95; ISBN 978-0-7914-8501-9; electronic, \$33.95; ISBN 978-0-7914-8501-9.

Janny Venema is a long-standing member of the New Netherland Institute in Albany, New York. (The director of the institute,

Charles Gehring, with Russell Shorto, received from the Saint Nicholas Society in 2004 the Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence.) She has for many years worked with Dutch documents relating to New Netherland, so she has ample and expert experience with the primary source materials. From her study of land records, Reformed Church deacons' financial accounts, and many other kinds of original materials, she has in this impressive study built up a detailed portrait of Beverwijck (later Albany). She has also consulted supporting materials at the Rijksarchief in the Netherlands.

The settlement started out as a small Hudson River trading post and fort—Fort Orange—for dealing with the Indians, principally for furs, and especially for beaver pelts (hence the eventual

name, which means, roughly, “Beaver-town”). The beaver pelts were sold at great profit in Europe, where skilled workers would shave the hair off the skins and make it into felt for use in the production of fine, expensive hats. From 1652 the trading post was established as a residential community, known as Beverwijck until 1664, when the English renamed it after the latter portion of James's title as duke of York and Albany.

Venema presents many aspects of life in Beverwijck, including, for example: the layout of the lots in the settlement; the kinds of houses that were lived in by the settlers; the trades and crafts that were practiced; government and social structures, including the role of women (who could own property and carry on trades); and the settlers' relations with the Indians. She also discusses the role of the Church, of schools, and of courts. And she comments on kinds of food consumed, and styles of clothing worn by the settlers. The reader receives as full and accurate a picture as we can expect to get from the available records. This is a truly three-dimensional portrait of the second most important settlement in New Netherland, after New Amsterdam.

For Saint Nicholas members, part of the interest in Venema's study is in the light it sheds on the lives of their Albany ancestors. In many cases members will be able to find information about their ancestors' houses, trade activities, legal matters, et al. And there are detailed biographical profiles of prominent individuals, such as Volkert Jansz, Philip Pietersz Schuyler, Sander Leendertsz (Glen), and others. Venema also gives lists of practioners of various trades, such as bakers, brewers, and tavern keepers.

Janny Venema has written an exemplary work that sets a high standard for future research into the communities of New Netherland. As further Dutch records become available, it is to be hoped that other scholars will follow her impressive example and apply her thorough methodologies to many other areas of New Netherland.

.....

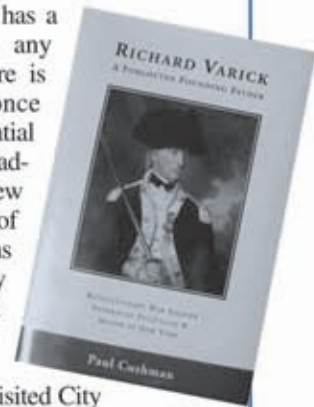
PAUL CUSHMAN, *Richard Varick*. Published by Paul Cushman, via Modern Memoirs Publishing, Amherst, Mass., 2010. Hardcover, pp. xxxiv + 284, illustrated. \$25.00; ISBN 978-0-9772337-6-2.

The name Varick has a familiar ring to any New Yorker. There is Varick Street, once an elegant residential area, and now headquarters of the New York City Board of Elections, as well as a location for many graphic-design and printing establishments.

Those who have visited City Hall may have noticed the portrait of Richard Varick hanging prominently in the superb art collection on display there. And there is also a fine portrait of him at the American Bible Society, on Broadway, near Columbus Circle and Lincoln Center.

Who was Varick, and why is he commemorated? These are the questions that Paul Cushman sets out to address in this biographical study; the answers are anticipated in the full title of his book: *Richard Varick: A Forgotten Founding Father—Revolutionary War Soldier, Federalist Politician, & Mayor of New York* (published by the author, Paul Cushman, via Modern Memoirs Publishing, Amherst, Mass., 2010). The author is a member of the Saint Nicholas Society, elected in 1989, by right of descent from Jan Varick.

Richard Varick was a descendant of the immigrant Jan Varick (d. 1736), who settled in Manhattan, but soon moved to New Jersey. Richard Varick was born in Hackensack in 1753. He was educated privately, and he prepared for a career in the law by clerking in the office of John Morin Scott, a prominent attorney of the period. But when the Revolution began Varick joined the New York City militia, and soon entered the Continental troops as a captain in the First New York Regiment, under Col. Alexander McDougall. He then was appointed an aide-de-camp



## BOOK REVIEWS

to Gen. Philip Schuyler, and served also in the Department of Musters. In 1780 Varick became an aide to Gen. Benedict Arnold, who was then in charge of the fortifications at West Point, which he was secretly plotting to turn over to the British. When Arnold's treachery was revealed, Varick was naturally concerned for his reputation, and demanded and received a formal enquiry into his conduct, which was entirely vindicated. He was then appointed by General Washington in 1781 to copy the general's official correspondence so that it would be recorded and available for posterity. Varick continued in this post of high trust and responsibility until 1784. He was an original member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, and served as president of the New York State Society from 1806 until his death in 1831.

After the Revolution Varick at first began to re-establish himself in legal practice in New York, but he soon began to participate in local and state politics as an active member of the Federalist Party, and became a member of the New York State Assembly. He also served as attorney general. He was elected mayor of the City of New York in 1789, serving until 1801, when the Federalists were resoundingly voted out of office amid a rising tide of populist sentiment.

In later years Varick was active in many civic organizations, including the American Bible Society, the New York Sunday School Union, and the American Tract Society. These organizations all played a vital role in promoting educational opportunity at a time when there

was no regular public school system. The Sunday schools taught not only religion, but also a good introduction to the three R's for people who had no other chance for formal schooling. The Bible Society and the Tract Society produced inexpensive publications that served as readers for use in schools and at home. At that time, regular books were an expensive luxury, and few libraries were open to the public. Varick was also a member of the board of trustees of Columbia College, and took a special interest in the development of medical education. He was also actively involved in early banks and banking in New York.

Richard Varick in 1786 married Maria Roosevelt (1763–1841); there is no record that any children were born of this marriage.

Paul Cushman in this attractive study has written the first readily available book on Varick. The only other book-length biography is the Columbia University doctoral dissertation by John G. Rommel, *Richard Varick: New York Aristocrat*, 1966 (available from University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, Michigan). There is also a recent scholarly notice of Varick in *New York State Society of the Cincinnati: Biographies of Original Members and Other Continental Officers*, by F. J. Sypher (Fishkill, N.Y.: New York State Society of the Cincinnati, 2004), pp. 552–555.

Cushman's book is attractively produced and enhanced by numerous color illustrations. His account is supported by extensive endnotes and a bibliography of

source materials. Especially informative are his discussions of Varick's interests in education, banking, and medicine. Cushman (himself an MD) gives a vivid account of efforts to combat yellow fever, which was rampant in New York in the late 1790s and early 1800s. Also enlightening are Cushman's discussions of Varick's activity at the Columbia medical school. Cushman has certainly presented a valuable portrait of Varick as a soldier, politician, and philanthropist who deserves to be remembered for his significant achievements and contributions to the city and to the new nation.

*Exploring Historic Dutch New York: New York City, Hudson Valley, New Jersey, Delaware.* Edited by Gajus Scheltema and Heleen Westerhuijs. Museum of the City of New York and Dover Publications, 2011. Paperback, pp. 254; illustrated. \$19.95; ISBN 978-0-486-48637-6.

There is no space here for a regular review but we want readers to be aware that this brand-new volume is a wonderful guide, the first of its kind, filled with beautiful photos of historic Dutch colonial sites, and with interesting articles on many aspects of Dutch colonial history and culture. More in the next issue.

## SALMAGUNDI

**Hayden Sheffield Baker** and Lauren announce the birth of their daughter Hadley Gillen Baker, April 28, 2010.

**Herndon Werth** was profiled as "The Sage of Sutton Place," in the newspaper *Our Town*, May 12, 2011, with discussion of his local history expertise and dedication to historical preservation causes in his East Side neighborhood.

**Kenneth Grant Winans** received the Distinguished Achievement Award of the Holland Society of New York, at their 125th Annual Meeting on April 6, 2011 at the Union Club.



## 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>
John Robert Harman, Jr.	Feb. 18, 2011	Gerrit Hendricks DeWees
Konrad Kent Peyton Keesee	Feb. 18, 2011	Louis du Bois
Michael John Burlingham	April 7, 2011	Isaac de Forest
Eduard Henry de Cuyper Cadmus	April 7, 2011	Thomas Frederickson
Philip Allen Reeser	April 7, 2011	Isaac de Turck
Peter Scott Schermerhorn	April 7, 2011	Jacob Schermerhorn
Richard Merrill Schermerhorn	April 7, 2011	Jacob Schermerhorn
Peter Allen Wallingford	April 7, 2011	Lewis Morris
Lloyd Matthew Winans	April 7, 2011	Susan Melyn-Winans

### 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>
Stephen Baker Finch	Nov. 3, 1941	Feb. 7, 2011
Edward Ridley Finch, Jr.	March 3, 1947	Sept. 4, 2011
John Grenville Winslow	Feb. 28, 1949	Sept. 15, 2011
Lispnard Suydam	Sept. 28, 1953	Oct 26, 2010
Gilbert Donald Wehmann	Feb. 6, 1961	July 20, 2009
Robert Reinhold Pauley	May 4, 1964	May 3, 2010
Thomas Anderton DeLong	May 4, 1970	July 12, 2010
William Audley Snedeker	April 26, 1993	Apr. 15, 2011

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thursday, September 29, 2011	Board of Managers Meeting	Society Office
Thursday, October 20, 2011	Fall Stated Meeting	Coffee House
Wed., Nov. 2–Sun., Nov. 6	5 Dutch Days	5 Boroughs
Monday, December 5, 2011	Feast of St. Nicholas	Union Club
Saturday, April 14, 2012	Paas Luncheon	TBA

### THE SAINT NICHOLAS SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

20 WEST 44TH STREET, ROOM 508  
NEW YORK, NY 10036-6603

TELEPHONE: 212-991-9944

FAX: 646-237-2767

EMAIL: [info@saintnicholassociety.org](mailto:info@saintnicholassociety.org)

#### OFFICERS

THOMAS F. PIKE  
PRESIDENT

WILLIAM M. MANGER, JR.  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

RICHARD R. VIETOR  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

DAVID N. PLATT  
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLES R. MACKENZIE  
FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT

W. SETON IJAMS  
TREASURER

FLOYD S. SANFORD III  
SECRETARY

JILL SPILLER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### THE WEATHERCOCK

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

FRANCIS J. SYPHER, JR.  
JOHN McC. SHANNON