

PROFILE:

President William Muir Manger, JR.

William M. ("Bill") Manger, Jr., at the Stated Meeting on May 17, 2012, was elected President of the Saint Nicholas Society to succeed the Reverend Thomas F. Pike, who had completed his two-year term. This biographical sketch is produced to acquaint St. Nickers with our new leader, who has been a senior-level federal official, a municipal officer, and a Congressional candidate.

Bill, 47, is the son of William M. Manger, M.D. and his wife Lynn; Dr. Manger is a noted physician who has published books and articles on hypertension. Bill's grandfather, Julius Manger, with Bill's great-uncle, ran a successful hotel business that owned and managed properties in New York City and elsewhere including the Hay Adams in Washington, DC. His mother's family from Connecticut owned and published the *New Haven Register*. Bill was raised in New York City, where he attended the Buckley School; he later was graduated from St. Albans School in Washington, DC, before entering Trinity College, in Hartford, Connecticut,

Continued on page 9

SPRING STATED MEETING AT RACQUET CLUB

Elections -AND- Recollections

New Officers Elected

The Spring Stated Meeting was held on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at the Racquet and Tennis Club, 370 Park Avenue, at 52nd Street. President Thomas F. Pike opened the festivities, which included the election of a new slate of officers. Duly elected were: William M. Manger, Jr., President (see profile in this issue of *The Weathercock*); Richard R. Vietor, First Vice President; Charles W. Neuhauser, Jr., Second Vice President; Robert A. Naud, Third Vice President; Charles R. Mackenzie, Fourth Vice President; Brian A. Blake, Secretary; W. Seton Ijams, Treasurer; John M. Shannon, Historian; Michael S. de L. Neill, Genealogist; Francis J. Sypher, Jr., Assistant Genealogist; the Rev. Thomas F. Pike, the Rev.

Martin Leslie Chase, and the Rev. Barry C. Howard, Chaplains; Paul Cushman, Jr., MD, and Francis Persse Powers, MD, Physicians.

Elected to serve on the Board of Managers were: Class of 2013, Jonathan C. Jones, Peter J. Kimber, and W. Wells Van Pelt, Jr.; Class of 2014, George Boyd V, Cody D. Constable, and Joseph vanB. Wittmann III; Class of 2015, Stephen H. Bacon, William R. Follett, and Craig H. Weaver; Class of 2016, D. Campbell McCrary, N. Gregory Pettit, and Douglas C. Wright III.

Continued on page 4

May 17



Passing the hat: Charles R. Mackenzie, outgoing Chief Steward, and outgoing President Thomas F. Pike, applaud the Society's new President, William M. Manger, Jr., attired in the ceremonial tricorne hat

Frederick Van Cortlandt (1699–1749) began construction in 1748 of what is now known as Van Cortlandt House, and after his death a year later it was completed by his son. On the surrounding property the Van Cortlandts established a grain plantation and grist mill. During the Revolutionary War, the house was used as a military headquarters and visited by Rochambeau, Lafayette and Washington. The estate was sold in 1889 to the City of New York and made into a public park, and in 1897 the house was established as a museum, the first of its kind in the city. The Van Cortlandt House was added in 1967 to the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1976 it became a National Historic Landmark.

To this attractive and Georgian-style residence a delegation of St. Nickers, their spouses, friends or significant others, headed on the first of August. Getting there was a voyage of discovery since just about no one had ever been to this region of the deepest Bronx, although one St. Nicholas member recalls participating in school soccer games and cross-country races at Van Cortlandt Park in the 1950s. Public transportation was available and one could also drive. The group gathered in the converted basement, which serves now as a visitors' reception space.

Our new President, Bill Manger, greeted the members and introduced our guides for the evening, Executive Director Laura Carpenter



Peter Schermerhorn, Jamie Schermerhorn, and Jeremiah Dart



Campbell McCrary with Sean O'Sullivan



Liddy Baker and Brian A. Blake



Michael Grillo explains a card table

Michael Grillo in period attire



VAN CORTLANDT HOUSE

The Van Cortlandt House



Joseph vanB. Wittmann, Jr.



*Gary L. Dycus with
President William M. Manger, Jr.*



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



Jill Spiller

Frederick W. Pattison, Jr.



Brian A. Blake with Leighton H. Coleman III



*Norma Wickersham, Joseph vanB. Wittmann, Jr., Theodore Wickersham,
Barbara Wittmann and Anthony C. Fountain*

and Education Coordinator Michael J. Grillo. Ms. Carpenter welcomed the members to the property, and Mr. Grillo, our guide through the building, displayed his passion for the house and its history via his period attire, which Ms. Carpenter told us he made himself: breeches, vest and jacket of gray wool. In answer to questions, he said that the wool garments were not uncomfortable in warm humid weather.

The group then was led through the rooms of the three-story house – West Parlor, East Parlor, Dutch Room, bedrooms, all containing noteworthy pieces of period furniture – such as a card table, an armoire, a portrait – though almost none, Mr. Grillo said, was made or bought for the house. Everything was appropriate but came from somewhere else (many items were on loan). Nonetheless, the overall effect was authentic and pleasing. One could easily imagine the Van Cortlandts or Revolutionary war heroes enjoying those very rooms, with their furnishings and views.

After the tour the group repaired to the basement again to savor a lavish selection of deli sandwiches and liquid refreshment (of the non-alcoholic variety, if memory serves). It was delightful to see old members and new, along with a couple of potential members as well. As we reflected upon this informative and enjoyable St. Nick experience, we felt as though we had been able for a moment to step back in time to the colonial era.



Jill Spiller, Barbara Wittmann, W. Seton Ijams, Arthur P. Sultan, Curtis M. Estes, Brian A. Blake, Jeremiah Dart, Ian Fraser, a guest, and Gary L. Dycus

SUMMER OUTING

Continued from front page

To serve on the Board of Stewards: Peter Scott Schermerhorn, Chief Steward; Eduard H. deC. Cadmus, Michael Ferrara, Scott McWhinnie, Thomas F. Pike, Jr., and Graham P. Sultan.

Recollections of Old 34th Street

Our speaker of the evening, Dr. Eugene Weise, an architectural historian, gave a PowerPoint presentation titled “A Surprisingly Interesting Intersection: Fifth Avenue and 34th Street in the 19th Century.” For the occasion he was attired in a Prince Albert coat and suitable period accessories.

Some of the 34th Street residents whose large and impressive houses were shown and discussed by Dr. Weise, were: William B. Astor, Prescott Butler, and Samuel P. Townsend, known as “Sarsparilla” Townsend on account of the fortune he made from manufacturing the popular soft drink, which in its more recent commercial form is somewhat similar to root beer.

A. T. Stewart, whose department store downtown was hugely successful, built at the northwest corner of 34th Street and Fifth Avenue an opulent, not to say ostentatious house known as the “Marble Palace.” Stewart died in 1876 and after the death of his widow in 1886 the structure became the Manhattan Club headquarters before being torn down in 1901 to make way for a bank at a time when this section of Fifth Avenue was rapidly becoming commercial.

The intersection of 34th and Fifth Avenue, was also the site of two of New York’s most famous hotels, the Waldorf and the Astor House, which merged in 1897 to become the Waldorf-Astoria, replaced by the Empire State Building in 1929–1931.

Your *Weathercock* reporter admits having a special interest in the evening’s topic because one of his relatives, Daniel D. T. Marshall (b. 1817), a member of the Saint Nicholas Society from 1870 until his death in 1888, was at that time living in a brownstone at 157 East 34th Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues. A cousin of the older generation, who remembered visits to “Grandma Marshall” at her house, mentioned especially the steep grade of East 34th Street as it rises from the edge of the East River. He said that the crosstown horse-cars often had a hard time making it up to the crest of Murray Hill.



Inductees Neils A.D. Jensen, Lee C. Park and Christian K. Keesee with President Thomas F. Pike and Chief Steward Charles R. Mackenzie



Dorsey Smith with George H. McNeely IV



Gary L. Dycus with Brian P.T. Blake



Lucy Mullen with Lindsay Byron Smith



William F. Yonkers with Curtis P. Junker



Scott Nicholls with Guy N. Robinson



Brian A. Blake, Lee C. Parks, Lynn and Victor DuPont



Stewards of the Society: Lt. Col. Thomas F. Pike, Jr., Charles R. Mackenzie (outgoing Chief Steward), Peter Schermerhorn (new Chief Steward), and Graham P. Sultan



William M. Manger, Jr. with President Thomas F. Pike



W. Seton Ijams with Peter Schermerhorn



Charles W. Neuhauser with Francis J. Sypher, Jr.



Chief Steward Peter Schermerhorn attending to official duties, such as displaying the Society's flag at the Stated Meeting



Terry Blake with George Boyd V



Charles and Stewart Manger



William M. Manger, Jr. with William P. Johns



Brian A. Blake, Campbell McCrary and Charles W. Neuhauser



Dr. Eugene Weise with President William M. Manger, Jr.

AT THE RACQUET AND TENNIS CLUB

TITANIC CENTENNIAL

For the first meeting of his term as president of the Saint Nicholas Society, William R. Manger, Jr. arranged for the Fall Stated Meeting, October 18, 2012, a most attractive venue at Alger House, an appealingly decorated converted carriage house at 45 Downing Street in Greenwich Village. By coincidence our location was not far from the Hudson River site of Pier 59, the White Star Line berth where the *Titanic* was intended to dock upon arrival in New York.

Downing Street, narrow and only two blocks long (near Bleecker Street and west of Sixth Avenue), retains some of the atmosphere of old New York, where one might expect to encounter Washington Irving and other nineteenth-century worthies strolling by in period costume. The illusion of having traversed a time warp was enhanced by the period dress of attendees, who were offered the option of black tie or Edwardian dress, which many of the men and women adopted to fine effect.

Our speaker, Hugh Brewster, is the distinguished author of numerous studies of the *Titanic*, most recently of *Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage: The Titanic's First-Class Passengers and Their World* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2012). Copies of the handsomely-produced, illustrated volume were available for members to purchase and have signed by the obliging author.

We are grateful to Leighton Coleman, Chairman of the Speakers and Medals Committee, for facilitating this excellent event, which also included a lively comic song performed by Brian A. Blake with ukulele accompaniment, and, at the end of the evening, John Blake's inimitable recitation of his poetic salute to the spirit of Old Knickerbocker. Our venerable weathercock was nobly paraded through the room by Chief Steward Peter Schermerhorn to the singing of the "Salute to the Weathercock," and the energetic waving of napkins to waft him to his perch.

After opening words by President Bill Manger, and after our singing of "We Gather Together," as led by Past President John Baker, the *Titanic* theme began at the dinner tables, where every member and guest had a place card with



Hugh Brewster and President Manger



Anne Gwynn and Michael Sivy



*John M. Baker
with David L. Church*



*President William M. Manger, Jr.,
with Sophy Gamber and Eugene L. Church*



Michael Sivy, Michael H. Charles and W. Michael Margolin

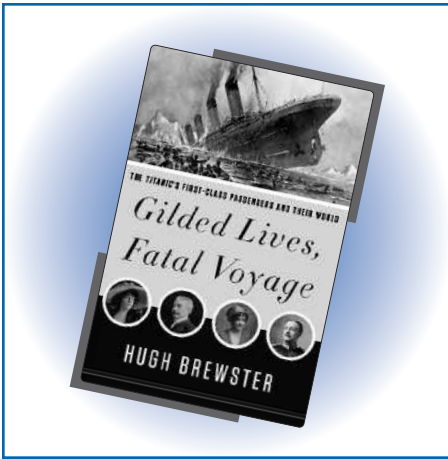


Brian A. Blake

Oct 18

FALL STATED MEETING

COMMEMORATED



Elaine Mitchell with John Shannon



*Chief Steward Peter Schermerhorn
with Ian H. Fraser*



*Brent H. Feigenbaum, Lindsay B. Smith
and Frank E. Morgan II*



*W. Seton Ijams
with Katie Ijams*



*Chief Steward Schermerhorn
with Kay and Ed Schermerhorn*

a reproduction of the house flag of the White Star line as it appeared on the original letterheads used by passengers aboard the ship. On each card was the name of a prominent passenger, together with a thumbnail biography. For example, one card read: "Mrs. Madeleine Talmage Astor," and on the other side appeared her age (18), home (New York City), and description ("Teenaged wife of 47-year-old millionaire, John Jacob Astor"). As we were taking our seats, Mr. Brewster went around from table to table and told us further details about each of the passengers identified—for example, that Madeleine Astor gave birth in August 1912 to John Jacob Astor VI. After many vicissitudes and two further marriages, she died of heart disease in 1940 at the age of 47 and was buried at the uptown Cemetery of Trinity Church (155th Street and Broadway), in an Astor vault, not far from her first husband, whom she "had last seen standing on the deck of the *Titanic*."

Our sumptuous menu was planned to parallel the fare in the first-class dining saloon of the *Titanic*. After we had been enjoying the offerings from an open bar and hot hors d'oeuvres, our four-course dinner began with asparagus vinaigrette with pâté de foie gras, served with flutes of well-chilled Champagne.

The second course was an excellent poached salmon with mousseline sauce and cucumber brunoise, and this was followed by generous portions of filet mignon "Lili," with Bordeaux sauce with minced foie gras and artichoke, plus creamed peas and potatoes Anna. White and red wine were offered with both courses; the red was an excellent Cabernet Merlot blend. For dessert, peach cobbler with crème Chantilly was accompanied by coffee and tea. The expert staff at Alger House served the tables in timely and professional style.

After such a luxurious repast we were thoroughly in the mood for the brilliant presentation in which Mr. Brewster recounted step by step each stage in the fatal voyage, illustrated by rare period photographs that he showed on the screen that had been set up at the end of our spacious room.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Following the plan set out in his book, our author began with the boarding of first-class and other passengers at Cherbourg, where the ship arrived several hours late, which was seen by some as a bad omen. We followed the people and the ship in her course to Queenstown (now Cobh), Ireland, and then steamed out across the Atlantic toward the terrible collision with an iceberg that ripped a deadly gash across the *Titanic's* hull at 11:40 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, 1912. In a shockingly short time—by about 2:20 a.m.—the immense, “unsinkable” vessel had disappeared beneath the frigid waves.

The director of the White Star Line, J. Bruce Ismay, from the *Californian*, a nearby ship that took on a number of survivors, sent a cable summing up the disaster: “Deeply regret advise you *Titanic* sank this morning after collision iceberg, resulting serious loss life.”

Perhaps the most compelling parts of Mr. Brewster’s presentation were the countless vignettes of the lives and after-lives of many of the passengers. His accounts brought the whole terrible episode vividly before us as we heard the personal details of story after story.

Reflecting afterwards we were struck by the enduring fascination of the history of the *Titanic*. Why, we wondered, does such a gruesome tale have such a hold upon our imagination? Undoubtedly part of the attraction is the spectacle of human pride chastised by the awesome power of Nature. It is like a tragic drama in which the principal actor is not an individual, like Oedipus or Macbeth, but a whole society—or rather the vessel appears as a floating microcosm of society, seemingly called to account for its overweening presumption. But many of the innocent die—poor steerage passengers, whose fares had nevertheless been a significant source of revenue for the voyage—while a disproportionate number of children of wealth and privilege survive to keep on partying. Judgement remains a problematical and elusive concept beside the inexorable working of Fate.

At the end of the evening when we walked out along Downing Street we were haunted by images and histories of the *Titanic*, and were glad to be on dry land.



Douglas C. Wright and President Manger



Mary and Lee Park



*Katie Ijams, P.J. Johnson
and W. Seton Ijams*



*Francis J. Sypher, Jr.,
with Elaine Mitchell*



David L. Church, Sophy Gamber and Christopher Church



Kent and Donna Straat



*Kathryn and D. Campbell McCrary
and guest*



*Anne Marie Pitkin, William N. Tift,
Steven Pitkin, Ellen M. Bruzelius*

Oct 18

FALL STATED MEETING

Continued from front page

where he graduated in 1987 with a BA in Political Science. He then earned an MBA from Columbia Business School (1995).

After graduation from Columbia, Bill joined Zannett Capital in 1996 where he became a vice president the following year. But he had political ambitions and in 1997 decided to run for a seat on the Board of the Village of Southampton, New York, where his family has a home on Fair Lea Road. Although he was a complete newcomer, he received 55% of the vote and was the only candidate to unseat an incumbent. Two years later he was re-elected with almost 75% of the vote. As a Village official, he was involved with labor negotiations, emergency services, budgeting, taxation, and grants.

In 2000, Bill served as an adviser to Rep. Rick Lazio during the congressman's unsuccessful Senate race against Hillary Rodham Clinton. The Bush administration then appointed Bill to the

PROFILE :

President William Muir Manger, JR.

US Department of Transportation as a senior policy adviser in the maritime administration. In 2003 Bill resigned from that position to run in 2004 for a seat in the US

House of Representatives from Eastern Long Island. Although he did not win the election, he garnered 44% of the vote against an incumbent in the closest race in Downstate New York that year and raised over \$1 million for his campaign.

In 2005 the Bush administration appointed Bill regional administrator for the US Small Business Administration in New York. Assisted by a staff of 100 employees in five district offices, including the busiest – New York, Bill promoted the loan products and services of the agency. Bill's next move was to Washington, where he was promoted to associate administrator, Office of Field Operations, with almost 1,000 employees spread across the agency's 10 regional and 68 district offices throughout the United States and its territories.

Bill's employment at the SBA ended with the Bush Administration in 2009, and he returned to New York and joined Brock Capital where he seeks new engagements for the firm and helps to raise capital for businesses. As a managing director, he coordinates consulting assignments with CalPERS, the giant California public employees' retirement fund, and investment banking assignments with Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS).

In addition to St. Nick, Bill is also a member of the Society of the Cincinnati (Virginia), Colonial Lords of Manors (Plum Island, NY), Descendants of Signers of the Declaration of Independence (Oliver Wolcott, Connecticut), Society of Mayflower Descendants (William Bradford). He is a member and board member of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, owners of Fraunces Tavern in Lower Manhattan, on which Hurricane Sandy inflicted considerable damage. Bill is also a member and board member of the Down Town Association and the Links in New York City. A mason, he is a member of Holland Lodge No. 8 which was, in similar fashion to St. Nick, founded in 1787 by descendants of the Dutch living in New York.

Bill learned about St. Nick through friends, Douglas C. Wright and John D. T. Gerber, who encouraged him to join. He was elected a member on May 4, 1992. A cousin, Percy H. Goodsell, Jr., had much of the necessary paperwork. His qualifying ancestor is Joris Dirksen Brinckerhoff, of a family of prosperous Dutch farmers who had large land holdings in Queens. Bill, with a distant kinsman, Matthew Brinckerhoff, and neighborhood residents, successfully advocated for the City's Landmarks Preservation Commission to landmark the historic Brinckerhoff Cemetery in Fresh Meadows this year. The plot was originally part of a farm owned by the Brinckerhoff family, who were the first settlers in the area. Before all of the headstones were removed, maps indicated the plot held 77 graves dating from 1730 to 1898, including that of his 8x great grandmother.

As President of the Saint Nicholas Society, Bill hopes to grow the membership and increase turnout at events. He is convinced that if more people attend, they will have more fun "as the camaraderie is infectious." As part of his program to expand the reach of the Society, he plans to hold a Paas Débutante Festival at the Racquet & Tennis Club on March 15, 2013, in partnership with the Holland Dames.

In addition, Bill envisions holding informal gatherings outside of the stated meetings to foster friendships and attract new members.

In the meantime, he is excited about the upcoming Feast of St. Nicholas on December 7 at the Union Club, at which Sally Bedell Smith, biographer of Queen Elizabeth II, will receive the Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence, and former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean will be presented the Saint Nicholas Society Medal of Merit for his work on the 9/11 Commission.

Paas Luncheon at Anglers Club

The annual Paas Festival was held on April 21, 2012 at the Anglers Club, 101 Broad Street, next door to Fraunces Tavern, home of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York. President Tom Pike, a member of the Anglers Club, gave a brief tour of the clubhouse and a talk about fly fishing. Several children were guests, including Bill Manger's nephew and Konrad Keesee's grandson. Bill Yonkers won a bottle of champagne as runner-up in the egg-cracking contest, and Lynn DuPont received an exotic wooden bird sculpture was the winner. Charles Mackenzie wore a morning suit. Some took a tour of Fraunce's Tavern Museum after the festival.

— IN MEMORIAM —

George Whitman Hatfield

St. Nick Member for 82 Years

The Saint Nicholas membership of George Whitman Hatfield must represent a record. He was elected on April 28, 1930, and died on October 16, 2012 at the age of 106, with 82 years as a life member the Society. He was born in New York on September 6, 1906, attended the Wharton School of Business, and completed his studies at the Columbia Business School with the degree of B.S. in 1933. He worked in finance and as a teacher before service during World War II. In later years he was active in local affairs in East Haddam, Connecticut and served as a representative in the Connecticut General Assembly. In addition to the Saint Nicholas Society, he was a member of the Society of Colonial Wars from 1928, perhaps also a record for length of membership. *The Hartford Courant*, October 29, 2012, published a detailed article that can be consulted on the Internet.

NEW SAINT NICHOLAS SOCIETY TIES

A new shipment of silk neckties, both four-in-hand ties and bow ties, has arrived at our office and they are available for purchase by members. There are also matching cummerbunds. All show an attractively-designed weathercock pattern on a navy blue background. The consensus is that these designs, by a new manufacturer, are a substantial improvement over the ones previously available. The regular ties are \$50.00; bow ties, \$35.00; and cummerbunds, \$75.00.

St. Nickers Attend Royal Ceremony at

This year Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain marked her 60th anniversary on the throne and her Diamond Jubilee was celebrated around the kingdom. Streets and stores were decorated with British flags and the royal countenance was displayed everywhere. Ordinary royal events took on a special significance because of the sovereign's exemplary record of service to her country. One such event, always popular, was the service of the Order of the Garter on 18 June at Windsor Castle. Tickets were eagerly sought by Her Majesty's loyal subjects and admirers, some of them Americans. It is pleasing to report that five members of our society were among the chosen few who attended the service, including: Curtis M. Estes; John C. Harvey and Kazie M. Harvey, who is a director of the American Friends of the Foundation of St George; Stanley D. Heisler; Robert A. Naud, a Descendant of the Knights of the Garter, and M.P. Naud; and John McC. Shannon, President of the College of Arms Foundation. King Edward III of England founded the Most Noble Order of the Garter in 1348, dedicated to St. George, and made his St. George's Chapel the chapel of the Order. Knights and Ladies of the Garter are all personally selected by the Queen, and include high-level public officials (such as ex-prime ministers), aristocrats (usually dukes), and personal friends, in addition to members of her family (her husband, children, senior grandson, and cousins) and foreign monarchs. In 1948, King George VI revived the tradition of holding an annual service for the Knights and Ladies of the Garter at Windsor to mark the 600th anniversary of the Order's founding. It is now a popular pageant drawing thousands of spectators each year.

WINDSOR



*Curtis M. Estes, Victoria C Kirsten
and John McC. Shannon in front of St. George's Chapel*



M.P. and Robert A. Naud



*Blondel Cluff, Sir Henry Bedingfeld, the Norroy
& Ulster King of Arms, and John C. Harvey
at a reception after the Garter service
hosted by the College of Arms in Windsor Great Park*



*Stanley D. Heisler with
Lady Bedingfeld at a picnic
before the Garter service*

SALMAGUNDI

Adam Van Doren on October 25, 2012 at the Renaissance Studios, 130 West 57th Street, had the opening reception for "New Directions," a show of his expressionist watercolors. In the introduction to the catalogue Patricia Hickson states: "Adam Van Doren has traversed the expanse between Ruskin and Whistler to the expressionists and emerged triumphant, now eager to paint even bigger, broader, and looser."

Frank Sypher is the author of *Strangers and Pilgrims: A Centennial History of the Laymen's Club of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine* (New York: The Laymen's Club, 2012). The Laymen's Club, founded in 1908, has over the years made many significant contributions to the construction and operation of the famous Cathedral on Morningside Heights.

Bull Family Picnic near Goshen, New York

Bill Yonkers sends word of his attendance at the 145th annual picnic of the Bull family, near Goshen, New York in early August 2012. The numerous members of the family trace their origin to the marriage of Sarah Wells, born in 1686, and William Bull, who came to New York from Dublin, Ireland, in 1716. This year they were celebrating the 300th anniversary of the arrival of Sarah Wells in 1712 in what is now Orange County, New York, together with equipment for establishing a homestead there. When William Bull arrived in New York he was hired by Daniel Crommelin to build a house in the area near where Sarah Wells lived. Thus the two met, then married, and started the family that now numbers descendants in the hundreds, of whom Bill is one. Further details are in an article titled "William Bull's Fortune: A Romance of the Orange County Wilderness," in *The New York Times*, September 14, 1884. Note that Daniel Crommelin's descenant Gulian Crommelin Verplanck, served as the second president of the Saint Nicholas Society.

Janny Venema, *Kiliaen van Rensselaer (1586–1643): Designing a New World*. Hilversum: Uitgeverij Verloren/The State University of New York Press, 2010. Pp. 352. Illustrated. Paperback. \$34.95. ISBN 978-90-8704-196-0.

Janny Venema—as mentioned in our earlier review of her *Beverwijck: A Dutch Village on the American Frontier, 1652–1664*, in *The Weathercock*, No. 73 (Fall 2011)—is a member of the New Netherland Institute in Albany, New York, where she and Charles Gehring, the director, and others have for many years been enriching our knowledge of New Netherland with their lengthy and important series of scholarly translations and studies.

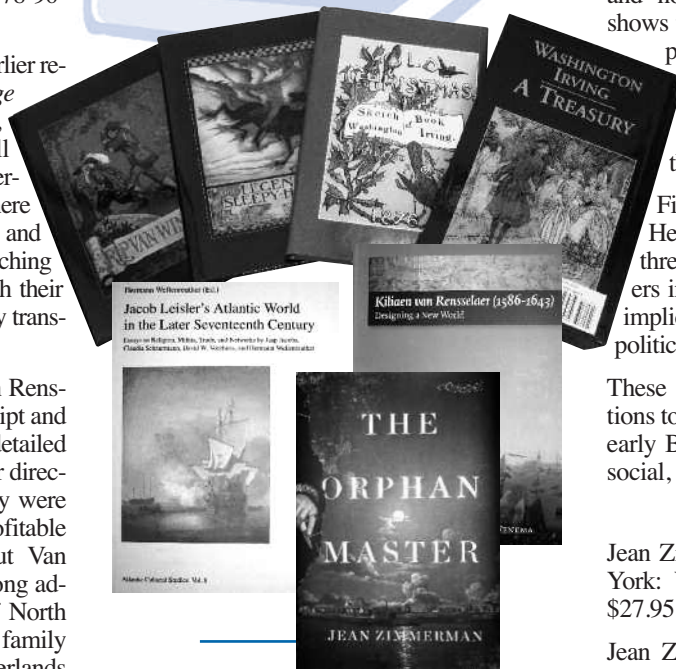
In this substantial study of Kiliaen van Rensselaer, Venema uses extensive manuscript and archival materials to construct a fully detailed biographical portrait. Some of the other directors of the Dutch West India Company were mainly interested in developing profitable trading links in New Netherland but Van Rensselaer, by contrast, became “a strong advocate for the colonization of part of North America,” and Venema shows how his family and business connections in the Netherlands helped him to shape his distinctive point of view. Her work is therefore not simply biographical, but may be called a social history of the milieu in which ideas of Dutch colonization developed. As she states in her preface: “By analyzing the process of interaction between him and his surroundings, I hope that we will not only better understand the uniqueness of his contribution, but also some of the motivation for the colonization of New Netherland.”

For example, one key factor in Van Rensselaer’s perspective was the ongoing war with Spain over political and religious control of the Low Countries. He deeply felt that Spain’s presence in the Netherlands should at all costs be resisted and ultimately defeated.

The range of source materials used by Venema in this study is an illustration of scholarly methodology for extending our knowledge of the Dutch colonial period. Not only has she used materials in the municipal archives of Amsterdam (*Stadsarchief Amsterdam*), but she has located some manuscripts that had earlier been used by the historian and curator at the New-York Historical Society, A. J. F. van Laer, but which had for many years disappeared from view until they were recently rediscovered—correspondence between Van Rensselaer and his wife-to-be, Hillegond van Bijljer in 1615. The letters had been discussed earlier by Venema in “Searching for True Love: Letters from Kiliaen Van Rensselaer,” in *Explorers, Fortunes & Love Letters: A Window on New Netherland*, edited by Martha Dickinson Shattuck (Albany, New York: New Netherland Institute and Mount Ida Press, 2009), pp. 116–128 (reviewed in *The Weathercock*, No. 72, Fall 2010).

BOOK REVIEWS

F. J. Sypher



Jacob Leisler’s Atlantic World in the Later Seventeenth Century: Essays on Religion, Militia, Trade, and Networks, by Jaap Jacobs, Claudia Schnurmann, David W. Voorhees and Hermann Wellenreuther, edited by Hermann Wellenreuther, in the series American Cultural Studies, edited by Claudia Schnurmann, vol. 8. Berlin: Lit Verlag, 2009; distributed in the USA by Transaction Publishers, Rutgers University. Pp. ii + 249. Hardcover. \$44.95. ISBN 978-3643103246.

This collection of scholarly essays on the Atlantic community touches upon many aspects of the colonial period in New York. The first essay, by Jaap Jacobs, deals with the military organization of the West India Company in New Netherland. Many of us are familiar with the activities and organization of British colonial troops and militias in New England and in the Southern colonies, but very little has been written about their military counterparts in New Netherland. Thus for most readers Jacobs’s study will be filled with valuable new information.

Claudia Schnurmann presents an important study of commerce and merchants in the period, and a discussion of the role of merchants and others in the Leisler controversy of 1676, which preceded the revolutionary events of 1689. She also contributes a discussion of the impact on the colonies and the Atlantic world of the “Glorious Revolution” of 1688, in which King William and Queen Mary came to the throne when King James II abandoned it and fled to France.

David Voorhees, well-known as the editor of *de Halve Maen*, the journal of the Holland Society, and director of the Leisler Papers Project

at New York University, offers an insightful analysis of the “Ideological Origins of Leislerian Political Thought.” The political developments of the period are extremely complex and not easy to grasp. Voorhees expertly shows the interlocking nature of political and philosophical currents throughout the Atlantic community. He reminds us that the colonies were intimately related with developments in other parts of the world.

Finally, the general editor of the volume, Hermann Wellenreuther, is the author of three studies focusing on Leisler and others in the Glorious Revolution, and on the implications of related events for Atlantic political culture in the period.

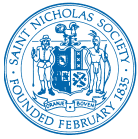
These studies are highly valuable contributions to the understanding of New York in the early British colonial era as seen in a broad social, political, and economic context.

Jean Zimmerman. *The Orphanmaster*. New York: Viking, 2012. Pp. xiv + 418. Price: \$27.95. ISBN 978-0-670-02364-6.

Jean Zimmerman’s historical mystery novel set in New Amsterdam begins in October 1663. She presents period characters, including a strong-willed Dutch “she-merchant,” Blandine van Covering, and Aet Visser, the “orphanmaster” of the title, as well as Indians, Africans, and others. The city is tormented by a series of gruesome child-disappearances which seem to be caused by a strange beast or spirit known to Native people as *witika* (another form of the name is *wendigo*). The story is presented somewhat cinematically, with extensive dialogue and sharp cuts from one scene to the next. Together with historical vignettes, including one of Petrus Stuyvesant stamping his wooden leg in anger, there are some gory episodes before the various strands are tied up at the end.

Washington Irving. *A Washington Irving Treasury: Rip Van Winkle, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, and Old Christmas*. New York: Universe Publishing, an imprint of Rizzoli, New York, 2012. 3 hardcover volumes in a single slip-case, 396 pages, with 24 color and 150 black-and-white classic illustrations. Price: \$35.95. ISBN 978-0-7893-1843-5.

Rizzoli has used virtually every element of deluxe book design to produce this very handsome, just-published boxed set of Irving’s best-known and best-loved stories from *The Sketch Book* (1819–1820). The volumes feature handsomely reproduced pictures by famous masters of the art of book illustration: N. C. Wyeth (*Rip Van Winkle*), Arthur Rackham (*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*), and Randolph Caldecott (*Old Christmas*). The edition would make a fine Christmas present for readers of any age and especially for those with connections to the Saint Nicholas Society.



The Saint Nicholas Society

of the City of New York

20 West 44th Street, #508

New York, NY 10036-6603

New Members Elected

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Election</i>	<i>Ancestor</i>
Robert J. Devine	April 30, 2012	Gerardus Wynkoop
Niels Avard Daniels Jensen	April 30, 2012	Joseph Carpenter
Lee Crandall Park	April 30, 2012	Roelof Martense Schenck
Robert Todd Griffin	Oct. 1, 2012	William Teller
Nicholas Mears Loeb	Oct. 1, 2012	Asher Michaels de Paul

2012 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER The new *List of Members* of the Saint Nicholas Society was published this fall, the seventh edition in the present series, which has been published every two years since it began in 2000. We note with pleasure that the total number of members shows an increase over the last edition, and we respectfully suggest that any corrections or updates be promptly reported to the Society office.

NECROLOGY

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Election</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
George Whitman Hatfield	April 28, 1930	October 16, 2012
Eckford James de Kay	Nov. 1, 1943	January 13, 2012
Douglas Grahame Smyth	Jan. 20, 1958	August 22, 2012
Brent Tappan Blake	May 19, 2005	November 20, 2012

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Friday, December 7, 2012	Feast of St. Nicholas	Union Club
Monday, January 7, 2013	Board of Managers	Office
Thursday, February 7, 2013	Winter Stated Meeting	Coffee House
Friday, March 15, 2013	Paas Ball (tentative)	Racquet & Tennis Club
Thursday, May 16, 2013	Spring Stated Meeting	TBA

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

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