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NEW AMSTERDAM YESTERDAY AND TODAY

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Dear NAHC Patrons, Sponsors, Faithful Readers,
and Anyone Interested in Seventeenth-Century New York,

As the recently elected President of the New Amsterdam History Center (NAHC), I would like to thank you for your interest in the history of our city and the colony once known as New Netherland. I am very happy that we share that interest, regardless if it is an academic one, a recreational one, or anywhere in between. The influence of the Dutch in America should not be underestimated, and I am proud of the many lectures, excursions, blogs, lesson plans, and so much more that have already been organized by the NAHC to acquaint you with the legacy. I trust that they have been interesting and entertaining.

Looking forward, we want to keep that up and provide you with high-quality events and captivating reads for years to come. My father and grandfather have always instilled in me the value of knowing and studying history to better understand the

present: geopolitical boundaries, geographical names, the expressions we use, specific spellings of certain words, our rights and duties, etc. I hope that you and I and future generations will continue to learn and let the mind wonder about those adventurous Dutch and their motivations and values as they made their way over to found and develop New Amsterdam.

Since our February lecture on Mohawk-Dutch Relations and the Colonial Gunpowder Trade, we have been challenged to reinvent ourselves in how we can keep offering you valuable content. We are in the process now of organizing virtual events after we had to postpone our May event, "Fighting the Flood." More than ever, we need your support to keep the New Amsterdam History Center a thriving organization. Please consider becoming a Patron, as we future-proof NAHC.

I look forward to engaging with you at future events and welcome any feedback on how we can meet your New Netherland history education needs.

Tom Visée,
President

PS: Are you getting bored at home? We have video recordings of many of our past events available for you to watch for free! Have a look at www.newamsterdamhistorycenter.org/past



**"A Daingerous Liberty"
Mohawk-Dutch Relations and the
Colonial Gunpowder Trade**

Shaun Sayres

On February 5, 2019, Shaun Sayres, a PhD candidate at Clark University in Worcester, MA, spoke to a New

Much to the chagrin of his boss, Kiliaen van Rensselaer, van Curler spent much of his time "in the woods," away from the prying eyes of West India Company employees. He learned the Mohawk language, and even conceived a child with a Mohawk woman, thus demonstrating his importance among

Amsterdam History Center audience on the gunpowder trade between the Dutch and their Native American neighbors, stressing how historians have lately begun approaching colonial histories from the perspective of indigenous peoples. Shaun has provided here a brief summary of his talk. The full talk can be heard on our website, www.newamsterdamhistorycenter.org.

While the fur trade between European colonists and Native Americans is well known, trade in other goods that flowed into Native hands, chief among them, guns, gunpowder, and shot, is not so familiar. As the leading arms dealers of the seventeenth century, the Dutch colonists of New Netherland were poised to become major players in the fur trade, and they did so through their relationship with the powerful Mohawks of the Iroquois Confederacy. Out of this Dutch-Mohawk connection emerged a symbiotic relationship dictated by the need for gunpowder and beaver pelts. As it turns out, this was a relationship the Mohawks largely controlled as they leveraged their own power to maintain a steady flow of Dutch goods to them that would eventually cripple the colony, leaving the Dutch vulnerable to what felt like an inevitable English invasion.

New Netherland's geographic location in this native world is more significant than scholars have realized. In the early 1600s, the French and Dutch physically entered North America at different focal points, ultimately aligning themselves on opposite sides of a longstanding rivalry between the

the Mohawk people, who accepted him as a member of their extended family. Van Curler, called Corlaer by the Indians, and the Mohawks were "brothers," and the Mohawks remembered this connection for years. The Iroquois would refer to governors of New York as "Corlaer" well into the eighteenth century.

The Dutch had successfully courted a prosperous trading relationship with one of the most powerful factions in the colonial northeast, but it was not built to last. As Iroquois warfare intensified, enemy Native nations increasingly blamed the Dutch for continuing to trade the gunpowder that powered Mohawk guns. Neighboring European colonies--French, Swedish, and English--blamed the Dutch for the rise of the Mohawks and demanded that Director-General Petrus Stuyvesant cease and desist the "daingerous liberty" of trading guns, powder, and shot to the Indians.

But New Netherland's fate had already been sealed. The gunpowder trade had enmeshed them into a turbulent world of Native geopolitics that the colony proved ill-equipped to navigate.

Decades of Indian wars and declining beaver populations pushed the colonial economy to the brink of collapse, while New Netherland was embroiled in wars of its own. Conflict broke out at Esopus in 1659 and again in 1663, steadily draining the limited resources that remained in the colony as the West India Company stumbled towards bankruptcy. The gunpowder trade had evolved beyond control, and even the Munsees, with whom the Dutch were at war, could easily trade for

Iroquois and a northern Indian league of Algonquins, Montagnais, and Hurons. The effects were immediate when, in 1609, Samuel de Champlain's arquebuses gunned down three Mohawk war chiefs in a battle intended by the Northern Indians to showcase the new power that had fallen into their hands. The Iroquois needed a European partner to balance the scales, one that was also a master of this new gunpowder technology.

Conveniently for the Mohawks, the Dutch were the perfect arms suppliers and the perfect partner. By the 1630s, the United Provinces were firmly established as the leading arms dealers of the world with supply lines linked to the Baltic, Mediterranean, and East Indies. Trading in gunpowder required connections to the East Indies and the cooperation of the East India Company, allowing for the swift development of commercial markets within which guns, gunpowder, and ammunition were sold to international bidders regardless of diplomatic relations. Moreover, many Dutch traders such as Arent van Curler were perfectly willing to trade munitions for beavers, often at exorbitant prices. Van Curler himself would prove instrumental in orchestrating the colony's relationship with the Mohawks.

gunpowder with Dutch sloops on the Hudson River.

New Netherland fell in two different worlds simultaneously, having traded away the bulk of its gunpowder to the Indians, and expended most of what was left in the Esopus Wars. The colony's trading of gunpowder to the Mohawks as well as their enemies helped cultivate a mutual resentment of the Mohawk-Dutch partnership by English, French, Swedish, and Native forces. It was under these pressures, combined with the seemingly continuous state of war with local Indian groups, that New Netherland collapsed. Its efforts to retain Mohawk allegiance set in motion a current of gunpowder dealings that propelled the colony into the affairs of a powerful Indian Nation that it neither controlled nor trusted. The results were disastrous. The dangerous liberty of trading guns, gunpowder, and lead rendered the Dutch woefully unprepared for an impending invasion. And so, without a shot, New Netherland was transferred into English hands in 1664.



Mapping Early New York

Toya Dubin

Thanks to a generous grant from the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, the New Amsterdam History Center, under the direction of our Board Member Toya Dubin and Consultant Nitin Gadia, recently began work on Phase I of the project known as Mapping Early New York. This project had been awaiting an angel to allow us to move forward and create a more modern and open way for the community to access the Castello Plan and the current contents of the NAHC database, and to allow for additions and eventual collaboration with other organizations. The Holland Dames is that angel! We thank them!

Three phases or products are planned for the project, *Establishment, Tax Lot Content & Mapping, and Comprehensive Tax Lot Information.*

Our goal is to create *New Amsterdam at Any Time*, a time-slider using "Google Maps" technology linked to information in the "Encyclopedia" that refers to the Castello Plan of 1660. The Encyclopedia is a database of information, from detailed sources and connected with map features, particularly tax lots. You are familiar with it from our NAHC website.

Now in April, the first phase of *Mapping Early New York* is well under way, and a "Beta" version of the results is available for review before we include it on the website. We'd like to invite NAHC friends and members to take a look at it and send

us their feedback as we move on to the next steps in this project. To the Daughters of Holland Dames among our readers, we would like to express sincere gratitude again for your support of Phase 1, and we hope you will consider funding in future for Phases 2 and 3 of the project.

Mapping Early New York can be viewed at <https://nahc-mapping.org/mappingNY/encyclopedia/>; <https://nahc-mapping.org/mappingNY/>. Please send any questions or suggestions to: ToyaDubin@HudsonArchival.com.

Further Instructions for How To Use “Mapping Early New York”: A Power Point Presentation Centered on the Castello Plan

Susan Brydon, Ph.D

The Castello Plan is a map of lower Manhattan created by surveyor Jacques Cortelyou in 1660 for the Dutch West India administrators in Amsterdam. In around 1667, the cartographer Joan Blaeu included the Plan in an atlas that he sold to Cosimo III de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany. In 1900 the Plan was discovered at the Villa di Castello near Florence and was given the name "Castello Plan" at that time. It is studied deeply in Volume 2 of Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes' six-volume work, The Iconography of Manhattan Island (New York, 1915–1928).

Below, please find a link to the Power Point presentation that former NAHC Board Member Dr. Susan Brydon developed as a guide to using the New Amsterdam History Center mapping project. This is a large file sent by Google Docs. It is a demonstration only to show how to use the website. It is not interactive, thus viewers will not be able as yet to click on individual properties or tax lots on the Castello Plan to get information. That will happen in future phases of the Project. The demonstration is set up to follow a search on a specific property owned by Michiel Jansen Vreeland, who happens to be one of Susan's ancestors! Susan would appreciate feedback, especially if you have a problem. Please let her know your thoughts. susanbrydon@gmail.com.

Enjoy the demo! [demo for early map of NY.pptx](#)

NAHC EVENTS AND MILESTONES

A New President for NAHC

NAHC's new President, Tom Vlsée, is a native Dutchman who moved to New York over six years ago having just read Russell Shorto's book *Island at the Center of the World* ,

which exposed him to the history of the seventeenth-century Dutch period in New Netherland. When he attended his very first NAHC lecture in 2015, he was so pleased that there was an organization focused on educating New Yorkers and others about their Dutch past that he immediately offered to volunteer. He joined the Board of Trustees in 2017.

Tom has made transportation his profession since he received his Master of Science (*Cum Laude*) in Urban Design and Planning from Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands. Since 2016 he has worked for the engineering firm HDR in New York City, where he focuses on freight planning and keeping cities accessible and livable by planning for the movement of urban goods.

As President of NAHC, Tom plans to continue handling social media as he has done for several years, but now intends to focus on the “big picture.” In his own words, “We are more than just an organization offering great lectures, an intriguing data base, compelling lesson plans, and a website; we have an overarching mission to educate New Yorkers about their formative seventeenth-century history.”

The NAHC Board of Trustees is very pleased that Tom has become our new leader.

New Members of the Board of Trustees

NAHC is also very pleased to welcome three new Trustees, Wijnie de Groot, Vanessa Bezemer Sellers, and Marc Yland.

Wijnie de Groot has been teaching the Dutch language at Columbia University in New York City since 2000 at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. She also teaches a course on seventeenth-century Dutch and paleography. She developed and teaches a summer course for Ph.D. students entitled *Modern Dutch for Reading Knowledge and Reading 17th Century Texts through the Shared Course Initiative* in conjunction with Yale and Cornell universities. Her research interests include the history of the Dutch language and the history of the Low Countries. Wijnie holds an MA in Slavic Languages as well as an MA in General Linguistics from the University of Amsterdam.

Vanessa Bezemer Sellers, Ph.D, is the Director of the Humanities Institute at the New York Botanical Garden. Previously she taught at the Bard Graduate Center and worked for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She also served as a Summer Fellow in Gardens and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington, D.C. Her area of expertise is seventeenth-century Dutch gardens. Vanessa earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Art History from Leiden University, the Netherlands, and continued her studies in the United States, completing her Ph.D. in Art History and Archeology at Princeton University.

Marc J. Yland, MD, is an anesthesiologist in Stony Brook, NY, and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area. He has been in practice for more than twenty years. He attended Erasmus Medical School in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, began his training in surgery at Mt. Sinai Hospital, and completed his residency in Anesthesiology at the University Medical Center at Stony Brook. He is the author of numerous articles on spinal cord stimulation, has received many awards, and was the first to introduce a number of advanced pain managements techniques on Long Island beginning in 1996. Dr. Yland served as President of the Suffolk County Medical Society. In the past few years he has developed a growing interest in the history of New Amsterdam and in exploring his Dutch roots. He has been a loyal supporter and enthusiast of NAHC activities over the years.

Trustees Emeriti

In recognition of their many invaluable contributions and sharing of wisdom during their tenures, NAHC is pleased to have confirmed three of our recent retired Board Members as Trustees Emeriti, Christopher Moore, Rett Zabriskie, and Kenneth Chase. We are very grateful for their support and dedication to the New Amsterdam History Center over the years.

Upcoming Events

Please check your inboxes for future information.

New Amsterdam's Continued Legacy – On Zoom-planned for October, 2020

Two well-known historians will talk about the continued influence of the Dutch presence in New York.

Fighting the Flood: Dutch Approaches to New York's Climate Change Challenges - Planned for December, 2020

A panel discussion featuring a moderator and three representatives from major Dutch companies who are currently working to help New York City deal with rising oceans and rivers resulting from climate change is planned for early December, 2020. (Postponed from May 5.) The panelists will speak about innovative, multi-functional solutions that foster cooperation and local involvement, hallmarks of how the Dutch build the vast systems of polders and pumps that keep the Netherlands from sinking into the sea, and what can be done in our archipelago to affect the same. Please watch your in-boxes for the exact date.

The NAHC would like to remember and pay tribute to our friend, loyal member and supporter, the late R.J. Jippe Hiemstra. As President of the New Netherland Institute, Jippe was dedicated to preserving the history of New Netherland and early New York.

He was born on October 3, 1941, in De Bilt, The Netherlands, and moved to Amsterdam with his family when he was fifteen where he graduated from the Amsterdam Reformed Lyceum in 1959. He earned a Masters in Economics from the University of Amsterdam in 1966. Jippe spent his business career with Hoogovens, a Dutch steel producer. He moved to New York in 1976 to serve as director and president of Oremco, Inc. He was also president of his own company, Twin H Marketing LLC, selling recycled plastic steel coil storage solutions to steel warehouses in North America.

Following his retirement from Oremco, Inc., Jippe took an increasingly active role in Dutch related activities in the United States. He was always interested in the role the Dutch had in shaping early American history and he served as President of the Manhattan-based The Netherlands Club from 1996–2002. For his role in helping to promote Dutch culture in the United States and abroad, Queen Beatrix bestowed upon him the honor of Membership of the Order of Oranje Nassau on April 30, 2005, at The Netherlands Club's centennial ball. He joined the New Netherland Institute's board of trustees in 2007 and served as its president beginning in 2013 helping to guide the Institute through a period of considerable growth.

Mr. Hiemstra is survived by his wife Annette van Rooy of Manhattan and Buskirk, New York, son Thomas Hiemstra and daughter-in-law Melinda Murphy and grandchildren Maisie and Hudson of Singapore; daughter Nathalie and son-in-law Jeffrey Koehne and grandchildren Tyler and Phoebe of Syracuse, NY; step-son Nikolay Wilen; and his sister Marjan Raap-Hiemstra of Krommenie, The Netherlands. He will be greatly missed.

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AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a small percentage of the purchase price to the NAHC, **at no cost to you.**

NAHC relies on volunteer help and contributions for its existence. Only by partnering with history enthusiasts like you we can continue to preserve, share and enrich public understanding of this singular American story.

Your contribution to the NAHC large or small continues to help us:

- Maximize our story-telling capacities
- Further develop our website as an information-rich and dynamic educational portal
 - Organize events and substantive public programs
- Further develop a virtual experience that reveals the multifaceted history of New Amsterdam
- Help us achieve our ultimate goal – creation of a physical center of exploration and learning about New Amsterdam.

Please consider using the AmazonSmile NAHC link to make your next purchases and help support our upcoming programs and beyond! Please remember, the pennies add up.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/65-1259949>

Thank you,
NAHC Board of Trustees

PATRON PROGRAM

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