



YESTERDAY & TODAY

Editor, Firth Haring Fabend, Production Editor, Esme Emmanuel Berg

In This Issue

- Letter from the President & the Executive Director
- Mapping Early New York
- A Spring Walk with Susan Fenimore Cooper by Vanessa Sellers
- "Path of Blood" by Evan Pritchard
- People on the Move
- NAHC's Upcoming Events
- Two New Works on Dutch America, FYI
- Get a Little Dutch Culture While Traveling Close to Home
- NAHC Giving Program



Letter from the President and the Executive Director

*Dear Friends, Enthusiasts, and Generous Supporters
of the New Amsterdam History Center,*

In January 27, 2022, NAHC Trustee and Project Manager Toya Dubin presented a vivid demonstration of Mapping Early New York to over 450 participants who were fascinated by the sliding time maps and the enormous wealth of information contained in the Encyclopedia.

On this lively journey back in time, viewers met Native American Chief Wampage II, enslaved African Manuel de Gerrit de Reus, Jewish Resident Asser Levy, Anthony Salée, aka "The Turk," and women's advocate Catalina Trico, and were treated to a walk down seventeenth-century Stone Street. The comments and questions led to a lively Q & A after the demo. "I'm impressed by how much information is linked to <https://nahc-mapping.org/mappingNY/>," wrote one viewer after the event. "It was an excellent program - everyone loved it," wrote another. The Mapping demo was just the first in a series of fascinating programs and events planned for 2022 by NAHC. Please read below for more information about our two spring programs, *How Golden for Women Was The Dutch Golden Age?*, and *The Music of Many Worlds*.

NAHC continues to develop and grow thanks to the generosity of our supporters and wonderful donors such as Kenneth Chase, the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, the Netherland-America Foundation, Humanities New York, First Families of New York, and the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. Twice a year we offer you this newsletter, New Amsterdam Yesterday and Today. We hope you enjoy its fascinating articles and images, and invite you to be a sponsor of the next edition in the Fall of 2022. We have undertaken to produce a print version as well. If you would like one sent to you, or wish to help underwrite our newsletters, please write to us at events@newamsterdamhistorycenter.org and let us know.

We look forward to "seeing" you at our next event or on our website,
www.newamsterdamhistorycenter.org,

Tom Visée
NAHC President

Esme Emmanuel Berg
Executive Director

New Amsterdam History Center's Project, Mapping Early New York, Receives Grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation

Funds will support research, exploration, and documentation of the early Dutch period in Long Island.



New York – The New Amsterdam History Center (NAHC) has been awarded a \$142,237 grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation to support its *Mapping Early New York Project* <https://nahc-mapping.org/mappingNY/>. The funds will be used to expand the reach of the current web application, which displays New York City in the Dutch Colonial period, so that it includes all of Long Island. The grant will help to increase awareness of the project and its potential value for the public, tourists, students, educators, and researchers.

We are extremely grateful for this gift from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. It allows the NAHC to support research, exploration, and documentation of the early Dutch period in an entirely new way. Presenting Long Island in an encyclopedia linked to historic maps and a time slider will give users a greater understanding of the origins of the New York area's unique and diverse perspective," according to Toya Dubin, Project Manager and NAHC Trustee.

Kathryn Curran of the Robert David Lion Foundation noted, "The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation is delighted that the New Amsterdam History Center is moving forward with the inclusion of Long Island in this exciting project. These early maps and historic documents are invaluable in understanding the evolution of our area, not only historically but also offering insights into New York's early environmental, societal, and cultural changes over time."

The *Mapping Early New York Project* provides dynamic historic context to the geography of New York State. Accessible graphic representations layer multiple maps, and original documents relate people and places to them. The Timeline feature is a window for users to see the evolution of a specific place over time, and the history of an individual mined from original Dutch documents at the New York State Archives, the NYC Municipal Archives, and other sources. For the first time, this period is available to us in its fully diverse and realistic context.

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation grant will fund NAHC's *Mapping Early New York Project* for a two-year period and will help NAHC to add online interactive maps using 17th, 18th, and 19th century maps of Long Island with verified document collections and entries to inform users about specific places and the people who lived and worked on Long Island in the Dutch Colonial period. Presentations on Long Island in collaboration with local organizations will raise awareness of the *Mapping Early New York Project*, and encourage the public, educators, and students to participate.

Established in 1987, The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation primarily supports the study of New York state history. Robert David Lion Gardiner was, until his death in August 2004, the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner's Island, NY. The Gardiner family and their descendants have owned Gardiner's Island since 1639, obtained as part of a royal grant from King Charles I of England. The Foundation is inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner's personal passion for New York history.

For more information, please visit rdlgfoundation.org.

A Spring Walk with Susan Fenimore Cooper

Vanessa Sellers, Director, The Humanities Institute,
The New York Botanical Garden, and NAHC Trustee

“Spring in the air, in the light, and in the sky.”
Susan Fenimore Cooper, *Rural Hours*, 1850. [1]

Among the many books that celebrate nature and its distinctive seasonal changes, *Rural Hours* is one of the most appealing. In this journal, pioneering American naturalist Susan Fenimore Cooper (1813-1894) offers a unique record of daily walks in the area of her beloved Cooperstown, founded in 1786 by her grandfather William Cooper. The text follows the pattern of the four seasons, opening with spring. Fenimore describes the landscape, plants, animals, insects, and daily rural life of nineteenth-century America with a remarkable directness and acumen, yet in a leisurely tone.

Her lively descriptions are infectious, getting readers outdoors to explore their own natural surroundings. Even after two centuries, her words can inspire us, winter-weary city dwellers, to go out for a nature walk. Holding in one hand Fenimore’s book and in the other our notebook and phone – preferably with a wildlife identification app, like “*iNaturalist*” open – we’re ready to record our very own nature observations across time and space.

As in Fenimore’s day, Cooperstown’s calm, historic setting is a wonderful spot to see nature. The result of more than a century of environmental foresight and philanthropy, here one can walk through field and forest experiencing their original, early nineteenth-century rural atmosphere – an atmosphere that is reflected in her book. Fenimore’s detailed description of wildflowers are accompanied by delicate depictions, including the cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and the side-saddle flower (*Sarracenia purpurea* Var. *Heterophylla*) (illustrations 1 and 2). We can still take note of both wildflower species, fortunately, since even today they can be discovered in the fields of Otsego County, albeit not right near Cooperstown anymore. And while many birds Fenimore saw or heard on her walks are now rare, one of her favorites, the brightly yellow Meadow Lark (*Sturnella magna*) (illustration 3), still builds its nest in the region’s grasslands. A true harbinger of spring, we can also enjoy its high-pitched mating song, which has been eagerly awaited around Otsego Lake for centuries.



Illustration 1:
Susan Fenimore Cooper, *Rural Hours*, Cardinal Flower
Courtesy of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library – The New
York Botanical Garden.



Illustration 3:
Susan Fenimore Cooper, *Rural Hours*, Meadow-Lark
Courtesy of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library – The New York
Botanical Garden.



Illustration 2:
Susan Fenimore Cooper *Rural Hours*, Side-Saddle
Flower
Courtesy of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library – The
New York Botanical Garden.



Illustration 4:
Susan Fenimore Cooper, *Rural Hours*, Title page with Red-
Throated Hummingbird Courtesy of the LuEsther T. Mertz
Library – The New York Botanical Garden.

Fenimore dedicated this, her first book, to her well-known father, the novelist James Fenimore Cooper, whose editor and biographer she was, but whose fame overshadowed her own achievements as writer. In fact, following the custom of the day, *Rural Hours* was published anonymously, with its only authorship indicating it was “by a Lady” (illustration 4). After its publication, the work was much talked about in the current of nineteenth-century nature-discovery and, importantly, even inspired Thoreau’s *Walden* (1854), which makes it all the more surprising to realize that the book lay forgotten for the greater part of the twentieth century. Only recently – due to a renewed interest in the canon of American “nature-writing” and the accomplishments of female scientists in the field – has Fenimore’s book started to receive the attention it deserves.

Today we can admire a copy of the fine, illustrated 1851 edition of *Rural Hours* at the LuEsther Mertz Library of New York Botanical Garden. Impressively bound in tooled morocco leather with gold-edged leaves, it features no fewer than 21 colored lithographs of flowers and birds and is delightful to see and read more closely. As a work of science (Fenimore identifies plants using the Linnaean system, for example), it is remarkably void of any pretension, even if Fenimore’s research, knowledge of natural history, careful observation skills, and command of language are prodigious. Curiously, Fenimore’s account remains directly relevant to this day and age, given our ongoing conversations about the environment, climate change, and biodiversity loss. It is fascinating, though heartbreaking, that she already marked a noticeable decline in the forests and watersheds of the region, lamenting the habitat loss of plants, birds, and beavers: “*which were all said to have been very numerous indeed at the settlement of the country*” (p. 311).

In addition to detailed nature and landscape observations, *Rural Hours* recounts America’s early history going back to the colonial era in a new way. Her overall objective of tracing a wide historic arc of a rapidly changing America is meant to instill, even in us twenty-first-century readers, a sense of respect for landscape and a keen understanding of the moral obligation to be a good steward of the land. To historians of early seventeenth-century America, Fenimore’s observations about the world of the former Dutch colony in New Amsterdam, its language, lifestyle, its cultigens and food traditions are particularly compelling. She mentions that only a few people still speak Dutch in her day, implying that a considerable number *did* use the Dutch language previously.

And when it comes to plant crops and food, after providing an overview of the dietary habits in the Cooperstown area itself, she recounts how Indigenous food customs influenced eating habits of the early seventeenth-century Dutch settlers further south in New Netherland. Her source, Adriaen van der Donck (1618 – 1655), was an early landowner and lawyer in New Amsterdam, whose book *Beschrijvinge van Nieuw Nederland* [*Description of New Netherland*], offers a detailed record of the geography, natural history, and lifestyle in mid-seventeenth-century New Netherland. [2] Quoting freely from van der Donck, Fenimore explains how the Dutch colonists adopted Indigenous crops, including corn (maize), pumpkin, and squash, absorbing them into their grandmothers’ own recipes from Holland. One of the most popular dishes became “sapaen” [“pap” in Dutch]: a corn-mush adopted from Native American food tradition. [3]

Fenimore then adds another important staple of American cuisine: the pumpkin. “*The great pumpkins, always grown with maize, are also lying ripening in the sun; as we have had no frost yet, the vines are still green. The old Hollander, Van der Donck, mentions the pumpkin as being held in high favor in New Amsterdam, and adds, that the English colonists—meaning those of New England— ‘use it also for pastry.’ This is probably the first allusion to the pumpkin-pie in our annals*” (page 185). Fenimore is quite right; van der Donck’s description is indeed the first record of the American craze for pumpkin pie, a dessert that is still central to our twenty-first-century Thanksgiving table. And, as a matter of fact, we know from modern archaeological excavations and pollen research on a site in Lower Manhattan (the waterfront at Pearl Street) during the 1980s that Dutch inhabitants of New Amsterdam indeed grew pumpkin and squash in their urban garden plots, providing critical, much needed sustenance for their newly arrived families. [4]

Fenimore’s text obviously is not without its contradictions. She enjoys the cultural advancements of her home village and surrounding agricultural lands, but concurrently expresses concern about the changes she observes in Otsego County and landscape across New York State. While embracing the notion of civilian progress and land-development, at the same time she recognizes its negative consequences: the cutting down of forests for roads and railroad tracks that result in the disappearance of untouched wilderness and scare away the migratory birds: “*the shrill steam-whistle... startling the quiet flocks in rural fields.*” [5] Her careful environmental assessments are still relevant for today’s ecologists and eco-florists, who can study her remarks about the rapid decline of native plants, in favor of newly imported, at times invasive European species.

The notion of nature and land conservation that Fenimore was the first to forward directly and forcefully in *Rural Hours* clearly inspired the next generation. Her own Cooperstown neighbors, the Clark family, had at the time of her death set in motion the first preservation initiatives to protect Otsego Lake and its historic landscape, efforts that are continued by The Clark Foundation and other regional organizations up to this day. Due to their combined labors and Fenimore’s timely warnings, Otsego County is one of those unique places where one can still enjoy sheltered green paths leading through pristine hills, woods, and wetlands. And as we turn up the path, we can see all the beautiful views that nature has to offer across the glimmering surface of the lake. Is that Susan Fenimore, running ahead of us? Let’s go: *Spring is here!*

Notes:

1. Quote from Susan Fenimore Cooper, *Rural Hours* (New York: George P. Putnam, 1850). opening quote, an excerpt from Fenimore’s entry dated Wednesday, March 8, 1848, comes from p. 5 in the reprint of the complete, unabridged edition of *Rural Hours* (Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press, 1998), with an introduction by Rochelle Johnson and Daniel Patterson. The page number indicated after each quote in this article refers to this edition. Links to read *Rural Hours* online:

Biodiversity Heritage Library (1851, third edition): <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/25543277#page/9/mode/1up>
University of Pennsylvania (1887, revised abridged edition without illustrations), searchable: <https://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/cooper/hours/hours.html>

2. Adriaen van der Donck, *Beschrijvinge van Nieuw Nederland - Ghelijck het tegenwoordigh in staet is, begrijpende de nature, aert, gelegentheyten en vrucht-baerheyt van het selve lant ...* Amsterdam: Evert Nieuwenhof, 1655. For the first complete and accurate English-language translation, see Charles T. Gehring and William A. Starna (editors), *A Description of New Netherland (The Iroquoians and Their World)*, University of Nebraska, 2008.

3. Fenimore writes: “*The word sapaen has sometimes been supposed of Indian origin. It is not found in any dictionary that we know of, though in very common use in some parts of the country. Van der donck speaks of the dish: ‘Their common food, and for which their meal is generally used, is pap, or mush, which in the New Netherlands is named ‘sapaen’*” (p. 242).

4. Joel W. Grossman, “Archaeological Indices of Environmental Change and Colonial Ethnobotany in Seventeenth-Century Dutch New Amsterdam,” in Robert E. Henshaw (ed.), *Environmental History of the Hudson River* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2011), Chap. 8.

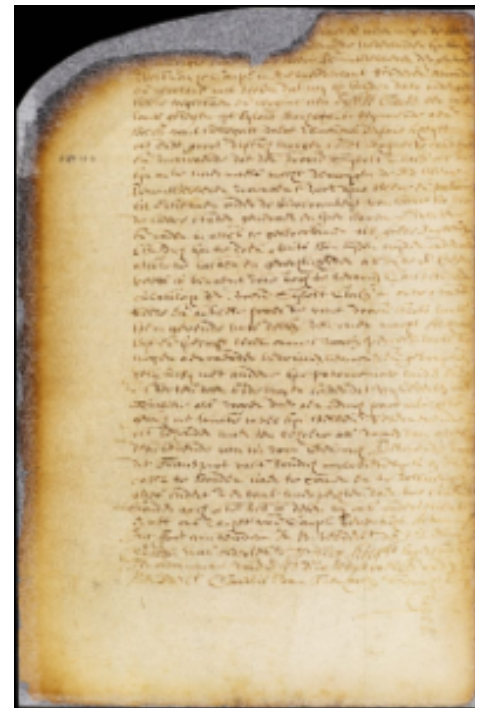
5. Susan Fenimore Cooper, *Pages and Pictures from the Writings of James Fenimore Cooper, with Notes by Susan Fenimore Cooper* (New York: W.A. Townsend and Co., 1861), p. 121. See also: <https://jfcopersociety.org/SUSAN/SUSAN-MOHICANS.HTML>

CONTACT: The Dutch Meet the Wappinger Confederacy at Hell Gate, 1645-1646

Excerpted from an essay by Evan Pritchard on Horn's Hook, commissioned by the Gracie Mansion Conservancy.

The author is Director of the Center for Algonquian Culture. He is a member of the Mi'kmaq People of the Northeastern Woodlands.

The original manuscript page in Dutch recording the grant by Willem Kieft to Sybout Claessens of land “at the point of the Hellegatt where Hogs’ Island [Varckens Eylant] separates or ends; containing 50 morgens... Done at Fort Amsterdam in New Netherland, 5 June 1646.” Courtesy of the New York State Archives. New Netherland. Council. Dutch colonial patents and deeds, 1630-1664. Series A1880. Volume GG.



PATH OF BLOOD. The Canarsie people were cousins living on the Strait’s other side as boat-going defenders of the Muscoota and its many islands. They called the zone Minnehanonck, (min-ee-HAN-onk) meaning “place of tributaries where plums grow in abundance.” This is in reference to the Graves plum and other beach varieties which grow in the area. Another abundant food here were the oysters, which according to Henry Hudson, were among the finest in the world.

The main tributary that meets the East River right here at Horn’s Hook is the Harlem River, called by the First People the “Elder River,” or “Kickeshika” (kik-eh-SHEE-ka). This was where some of the earliest ancestors settled thousands of winters before.

All those settling showed great respect for this sacred place, above all, living in harmony with it. The Dutch changed the waterway’s name to Harlem (along with the western shore’s land), as the homesick immigrants noticed that it was the same distance from New Amsterdam, as “old” Haarlem was back home to Amsterdam (plus a similar thoroughfare between them). But to the tribes already there, it remained the Kickeshika.

The waters of Long Island Sound, which the First People called Manunketesuk (man-nun-KET-ee-suhk, loosely “Where the Water Comes Out at the Great Island”), pour in from the east around a cluster of rocky islands. One of the smaller islands is called Tenkenas, after the Siwanoy sub-tribe living nearby.

The channels on both sides of Hog Island come together at its point, which is also the point of reference for the Horn’s Hook southern boundary. The islands, like several others here, such as Randall’s and Ward’s, were collectively called “Minnehanonck” by the east-shore resident Canarsie.

People on the move!

We congratulate Deborah Hamer on her recent appointment as Director of the New Netherland Institute, a post long held by the eminent translator Charles Gehring. At the NNI, Deborah will be identifying, preserving, digitizing, and translating Dutch language documents with relevance to New Netherland around the world. She researches gender and is one of the speakers at our NAHC program “How Golden Was the Golden Age for Women in the Netherlands and New Netherland?” Monday, March 28, 6 to 7:30, both live and by Zoom.

We also congratulate **Russell Shorto** on his recent appointment as Executive Director of the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Institute for New York City History, Politics, and Community Activism at the New-York Historical Society. “I’m very excited about this opportunity,” said Russell. “New York has always led the way in advancing civil rights and social justice in America. For nearly twenty years, I’ve argued that that tradition has its roots in New York’s Dutch founding.”

We expect to be hearing lots more from both Deborah and Russell!



And, Speaking of our Women’s Program on March 28, the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames has made a generous grant of \$5,100 to NAHC to support this program!
Thank you, Holland Dames!

One island was sold to the Dutch by Seyseys, Chief of the Marechkawik branch of the Canarsie in 1637; only in 1973 did it come to be known as “Roosevelt” in honor of the late namesake president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Horn’s Hook and surrounding land was under the supervision of Chief Willem, leader of the Rechgawawank, who answered to the Weequaeskeck of the Wappingers Confederacy to the north. Because of his strong leadership skills, he shared chiefly duties at times with Oritami on behalf of the great “canton,” as the Dutch labeled it. Willem and Chief Oritami served as negotiators for the Lenape natives to forge the Peace Treaty of August 30th, 1645. Along with Minqua Sachemack, a Susquehannock, they formed the triumvirate of a great commonwealth, which came to govern the Hudson Valley from Staten Island north to Bear Mountain in association with the Mohicans. All share the Mohicanituck (mo-hee-KAN-i-tuck) or North River, soon to be called the Hudson, after the Dutch-sponsored Englishman.



Map of Horn's Hook and surrounds
by Evan Pritchard

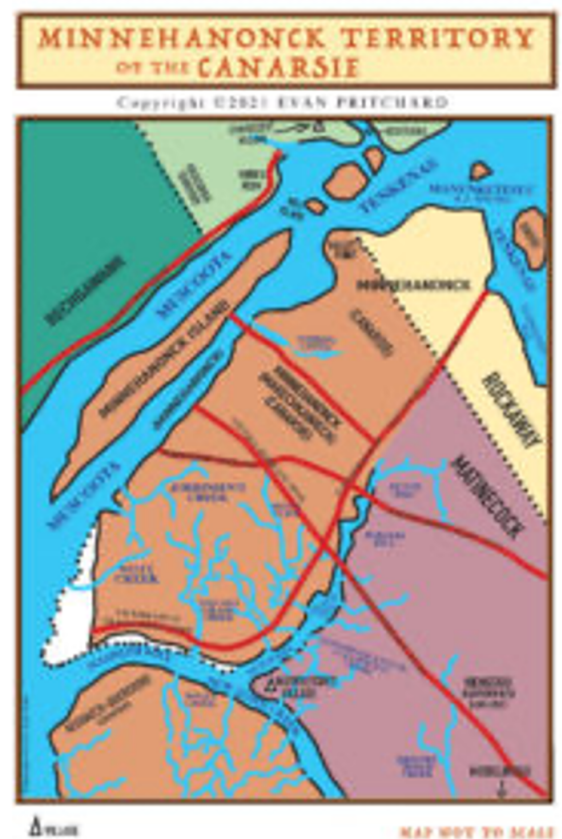
There are several small plum bush-lined tributaries around Hell's Gate most of which were later channeled through underground pipes. One was called Sunkisq, opposite today's Roosevelt Island, that the Dutch transliterated as Sunswick, "Sunny Encampment." There it meets the East River just 2500 feet away from Horn's Hook. Another waterway runs right by Gracie Mansion, while to the north (at 108th Street), is a large east-west stream where the Rechewanis lived on both sides with its source known now as Morningside Park at 125th. Just above is a village called Conykeekst (kon-ee-KEEKST).

Nieuw Stad Creek is another tributary, which meets the East River at a Canarsie village just below Roosevelt Island, named ultimately after the "new town" of Elmhurst located in Queens. On the south it is fed by English Kill and Whale Creek, and on the north by Maspeth (MAS-peth, Bad Water) Creek and Dutch Kills.

There are also several nearby trails. Just behind Horn's Hook is "the Path to the Wading Place," a major trade route. The name derives from a shallow place in the Harlem River at a village called Shorrakin, where it was best to traverse, which one day will become Harlem River Park at 128th Street. The sandy territory between the East River and the Path to the Wading Place (roughly Third Avenue), is that of the Rechgawank sachemdom, part of the Wappingers Confederacy, including the land at Horn's Hook.

There is a modest shoreside trail too which a grooved stone axe found at 77th Street at the FDR Drive serves to summon the memory of the original "New Yorkers." Another path led across Manhattan ending at a shoreline landing on the Hudson soon known as Stryker Bay, while a hilly third wound up to today's 94th Street to the village of Konaandekong village. This village was the home of another Sunkskwa or female sachem, as the Dutch village name means "The King's Queen," or perhaps "Queen, then King."

This historically transformational yet rarely explored dislocating contact endures in the place names themselves, offering a glimpse to visitors today, whether digital or live, of the lively and complex culture that thrived at this place for as many as 50,000 years before the Dutch West India Company arrived to colonize.



Map of Horn's Hook and surrounds
by Evan Pritchard

Upcoming Events

How Golden for Women Was the Dutch Golden Age?

Women's Lives in New Amsterdam and Beyond

POSTPONED UNTIL FALL 2022

This program will be presented by the New Amsterdam History Center in conjunction with New-York Historical Society's Center for Women's History



Speakers Deborah Hamer, Director New Netherland Institute, and Susanah Shaw Romney, Associate Professor of History at New York University, discuss the different pathways and options available to women in the Dutch Empire. Moderator Valery Paley will keep the conversation going.

Join us to explore the social role of women in New Netherland, Brazil, and other places in the expanding Dutch world of the seventeenth century. What pathways and options were available to women in the Dutch empire? What part did social class play in their choices and strategies? How did marriage and local marriage regulations affect the ability of wives and unmarried females to survive and to flourish, or not, in colonial imperial societies? How influential were women in building colonial societies? And how closely, or not, did those societies resemble a Dutch paradigm?

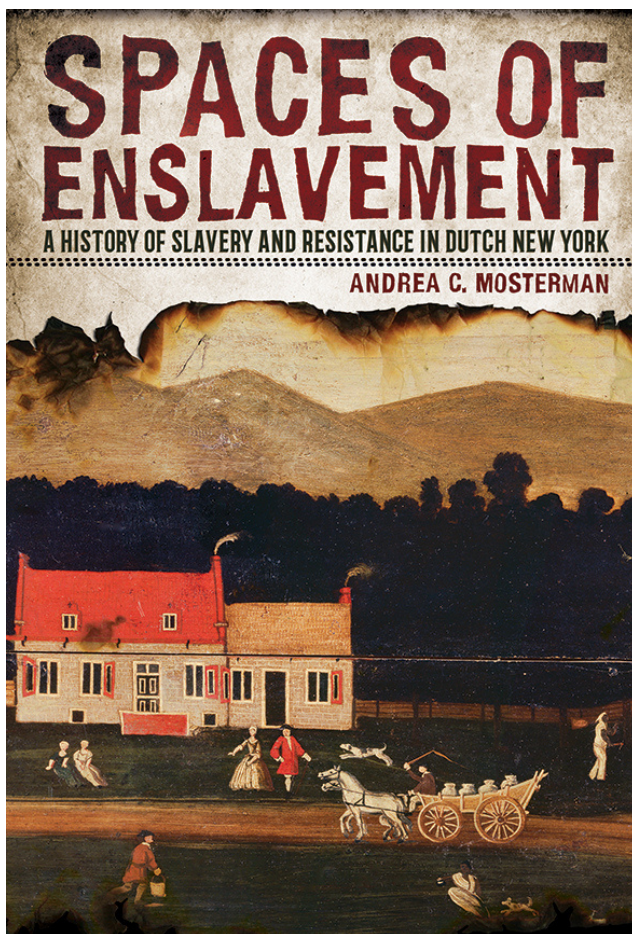
The Music of Many Worlds – Concert and Program

Sunday, May 1, 2022

Jonathan Salamon, harpsichordist, pianist and composer will present a program featuring performances of rarely heard eighteenth-century vocal music from Amsterdam's Portuguese (Sephardic) synagogue.



The music spans many moods and covers a range of liturgical functions for Amsterdam's community. By performing this music, the rich tradition of Amsterdam's Portuguese Jewish community comes to life. The event will also consider the historical and cultural conditions that brought together many worlds— ancient, and modern; divine, and secular—mediated by the community's Iberian past and integration into a Dutch identity. As populist politics in the West threaten to dismantle norms of tolerance established in the aftermath of World War II, engaging with the humanities is more important than ever to strengthen our community ties. The music of Amsterdam's Sephardic synagogue is a special model of cross-cultural exchange and proves that a commitment to open-mindedness yields great achievements in a diverse society.



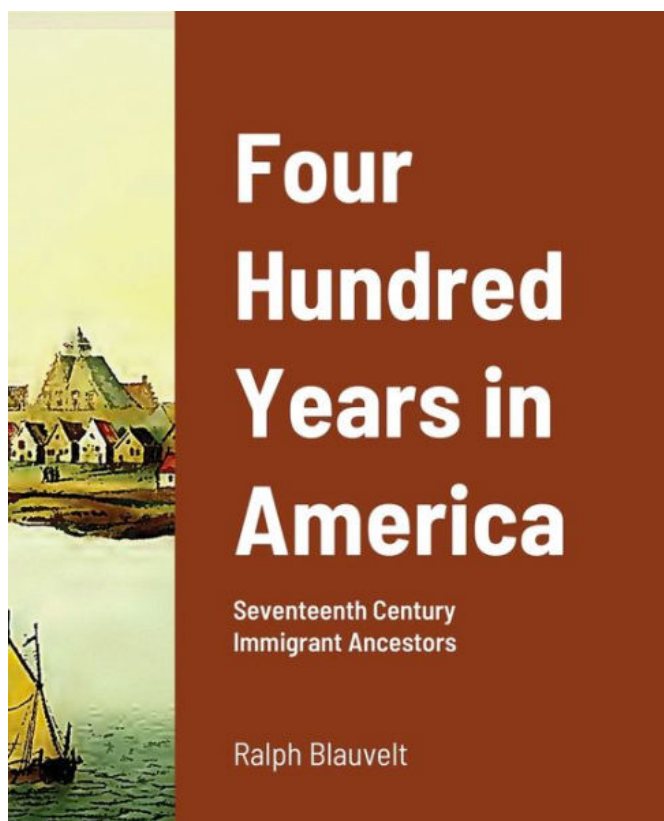
Two New Works on Dutch America, FYI

Spaces of Enslavement by Andrea C. Mosterman tells the story of how New Amsterdam's enslaved people used the spaces available to them, such as churches, courts, neighborhoods, and their own living quarters, to create a semblance of dignified community in the face of an undignified absence of freedom. Even though some succeeded in this endeavor in a limited way, their resistance was noticeably nuanced, and their lives were yet lived in the bleak knowledge that they would never be truly free.

An exhaustive examination of the facts, assiduously documented. Cornell University Press.

Genealogist Ralph Blauvelt tells another story of our first ancestors in America in his new work. *Four Hundred Years in America* gathers together in one convenient place and in chronological order published documents and excerpts from all the standard histories and genealogies. As the author makes clear, he has made little attempt to relate these events to one another. However, this does not diminish the usefulness of the work. It is a rich collection of such material and valuable to the myriad descendants of all mentioned, whose names include the familiar from Jesse de Forest to Cornelis van Tienhoven and Rachel Vigne, and all of whom are ancestors of his father, Theodore Blauvelt, 1900-1982.

251 pages, plus index. Available online.



Get a Little Dutch Culture While Traveling Close to Home

Planning a Trip? Boston's Your Place

From ArtNews, January 2022

ArtNews has reported that the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston has nearly doubled its Dutch and Flemish holdings, adding 114 donations from two collecting couples to its already good collections. The works are now on view in the reinstalled Dutch and Flemish galleries. In addition, a new Center for Netherlandish Art, including 43,000 volumes and working space for scholars “propels the 151-year-old institution into elite company,” according to ArtNews.

“The Boston Museum of Fine Arts will now be known for its Dutch and Flemish art, with just the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Art in Washington boasting better holdings” in the U.S., said Frederick Ilchman, The MFA’s European art chair.



Or How About a Weekend in the Hudson Valley?

Russell Shorto’s 2019 *New York Times* article is full of ideas. It was published just before the pandemic broke out, but now that the pandemic is, we hope, waning, you might like to take another look at it. See <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/17/travel/hudson-valley-dutch-russell-shorto.html>.



REMEMBERING CHRISTOPHER PAUL MOORE
{1952-2022}



The Trustees of the New Amsterdam History Center are saddened to learn of the passing of Chris Moore. He was a valuable member of the NAHC Board from its inception in 2005 until he became ill, one of the NAHC “founding fathers,” always there to remind us - with eloquence and deep knowledge -- that New Amsterdam’s history was complicated and diverse, with an ancestral legacy that included modern New Yorkers like him.

Chris Moore played a critical role in the accumulation of verifiable sources of information for the NAHC encyclopedia as a member of our Scholarly Review Committee. He patiently educated, reviewed, and wrote encyclopedia entries, and gave a balanced perspective on the very difficult topics of slavery, freedom, and half-freedom. His work will remain a foundational portion of our Mapping Early New York project.

Chris possessed many talents, including those as a noted historian and writer. His mother was a de Vries, and a direct descendant of a New Amsterdam member of its Black community. He had a remarkable chain of heritage, but he took it all in stride. One NAHC Trustee recalls that she invited him to the 2012 celebration of Peter Stuyvesant’s 400th birthday at St.-Marks- in-the-Bowery, to be there to be recognized as a descendant of the freed Blacks who farmed in the very neighborhood. Even though he wasn’t well at the time, he came and made the occasion meaningful with his presence. Above all, he was a kind and thoughtful person, a true gentleman. The world needs more like him. His presence will be very much missed but he will always remain part of the spirit of the New Amsterdam History Center.

We hope you’ve enjoyed this newsletter, which is made possible through the support of our contributors and donors. If you would like to help NAHC continue to offer this newsletter free of charge, please contribute as described below. To be a sponsor of the newsletter, please email events@newamsterdamhistorycenter.org. Thank you.

NAHC GIVING PROGRAM

JOIN THE NAHC FAMILY AND support our mission to inform the public about the history of New Amsterdam and New Netherland during the short period of Dutch rule in the 17th Century. Support our programs or become a sponsor of some of our events. All contributors will receive invitations to exclusive events as well as free or reduced admission to general programs. NAHC is a 501(c)(3) corporation. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

SELECT YOUR GIVING LEVEL - ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

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If paying by check please make payable to New Amsterdam History Center, and mail to: New Amsterdam History Center, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10105

To pay by credit card, click below, call 212-874-4702, or write to us at events@newamsterdamhistorycenter.org.

THANK YOU



New Amsterdam
HISTORY CENTER



Spring 2022 Newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 2

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Editor, Firth Haring Fabend, Production Editor, Esme Emmanuel Berg

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