

Summer 1998

The Joint Archives Quarterly, Volume 09.01: Summer 1998

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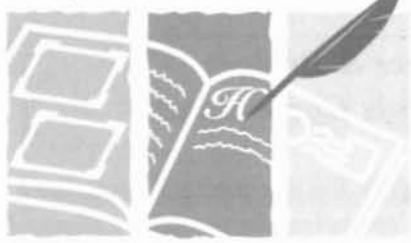
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The Joint Archives *Quarterly*

Volume 9 Number 1

Summer 1998

The Army Came to Holland

by Roy E. Berry

In the annals of time it is not worthy of an iota or jot, against the backdrop of recorded WWII events it warrants not a mention, but to the reduced student body count and the administration of Hope College, the arrival of 250 uniformed Army men, fifty years ago, bore considerable significance—at least at that time. For the financial health of the College, an Army contract improved the cash flow; to the local economy, the Army's monthly "pay call" meant welcome sales. To the citizens of the area, it was an opportunity to show hospitality and warmth; to the 250 guys, fresh from 13-17 weeks of infantry basic training, it was a bonanza of "Wow, look at all those beauties." To those beauties, on a campus almost depleted of its male population, "Wow, look at all those guys—in uniforms." To all the parents of those beauties, a cause for repeating those time-worn caveats.

For those who had an early wake-up alarm, the train whistle perhaps seemed routine. To those not yet awake, perhaps that shrill sound was an annoyance. But for all who were near the depot or on the designated route from the depot to the College campus, the synchronized marching feet and the ringing cadence of "hup, two, three, four," signaled the end of rumors and predictions: "They are actually here, the soldiers are here"—and for awhile (five months as it turned out to be) Holland, Michigan, would not be the same. For some persons, that cloudy, cool, fall morning was the start of a time period which produced permanent change.

As with many selected colleges and universities across the country, Hope College had been chosen by the Army to host a unit of the program designated as Army Specialized Training Program, also known as ASTP. The story line given those soldiers qualifying for this assignment was: Washington decision makers, confident of victory in WWII, were concerned that the supply of college trained men (it

was 1943, remember) would be depleted by the end of the conflict unless steps were taken to fill the pipelines. Hence, ASTP was established (the Navy had a similar program called V-12). How the 250 individuals were selected for assignment to Hope is a mystery, but when the listing was posted at one



HOPE COLLEGE COLLECTION - JOINT ARCHIVES

At the flagpole in front of Graves Hall

Army facility (Fort McClellan in central Alabama), excitement was evident, along with wonderment: "Where is Holland, Michigan?—anybody ever heard of Hope College?"—and off to the "day room" went a contingent to locate a map. (The first description this writer heard from the map researchers was, "It's where they have a tulip festival.")

Not all the men arrived at the same time, nor from the same basic training location, but the authorized troop level was reached by the first of November, 1943, and all systems and facilities were in place. Although well over half of the

(Continued on page 3)

From the Director

There are times in everyone's life when a little reflection is due. I found myself wandering a bit down the road of memories as it dawned on me that in August it will be 10 years since I came to the Joint Archives of Holland.

There wasn't much here then. When I was interviewed in May of 1988, workmen were still constructing our reading room, and the first collections--Hope materials moved from other storage on campus--were not due to arrive for a couple of months.

The summer that year was exceptionally hot - a record year in most of the midwest. While I was hurriedly completing my graduate program and getting ready to move, temperatures routinely hit the 90s. The day I hitched up my U-haul in mid-August the gauge read nearly 100. The drive from Ohio was a challenge--my overloaded car wanted to overheat except when travelling on the highway! Of course, the day after I moved into my Holland apartment, it was back in the 70s and very pleasant, a wonderful welcome from my point of view.

In September, we proceeded to move the Netherlands Museum's (Holland Historical Trust) collection from an old vault and the Western Seminary from a second floor storage room. It was then time to make sense of all these boxes and devise a way to find things. The explosion of computer technology in the 1980s gave us an edge that many other archival repositories could not take advantage of.

It seems hard to believe that was a decade ago. So much has happened. I'll let that story be told in our next issue, but for now, you'll have to excuse me if I relapse into a bit of nostalgia now and then. I suppose that is appropriate for an archivist who "lives" in our history while planning to preserve and interpret it for the future.

Our next issue of the *Joint Archives Quarterly* will feature the 10th Anniversary of the opening of our doors to the public. We are planning a special event this fall to help us celebrate the anniversary and look toward the next decade of growth for the Joint Archives. We hope you will be able to come to our celebration and help us commemorate a decade of leadership--preserving the documents, photos, and papers of our past.

Larry J. Wagenaar, Director

Breaches & Bridges Netherlands Conference

On Friday, November 6, 1998, the international conference, *Breaches and Bridges: A Comparison between the Reformed Subcultures in The Netherlands/Germany and the USA*, will be held in Kampen, the Netherlands. This bilingual conference is an initiative of three Dutch institutions: the Archives and Documentation Center of the Reformed Churches at Kampen, the Historical Documentation Center for Dutch Protestantism of the Free University at Amsterdam, and the Roosevelt Study Center at Middelburg. This conference seeks to compare the nineteenth century history of Reformed communities in the Netherlands/Germany and the immigrant communities in the United States, which were formed out of these subcultures.

The main subjects deal with the links between the characteristics of local churches in the Netherlands and the denominational preference in the US; a comparison between the growth of self-awareness through the first exercises in historiography on the Secession in the Netherlands (1834) and in the USA (1857, the birth of the Christian Reformed Churches), and a comparison of the dominant theological climate in the Netherlands and the USA.

The speakers are historians from four countries and various universities and historical institutions, including the Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht/New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Calvin College, the Open Universiteit, Joint Archives of Holland, A. C. Van Raalte Institute, de Theologische Universiteiten at Apeldoorn and Kampen and the Free University, and the organizing partners.

Joint Archives Director Larry Wagenaar and Van Raalte Institute faculty member Robert Swierenga will be presenters at this conference.

Part of the lectures will be in Dutch, part in English. The proceedings of the conference will be published in English with the Free University Press as part three in the series VU Studies on Protestant History.

For details about the program, registration, and fees, please contact: The Archief- en Documentatiecentrum, Broederweg 16, 8261 GT Kampen, the Netherlands, tel. (31) 38-3331688/ fax (31) 38-3331689; e-mail: adcgv@wxs.nl.

We will have a report on this conference in our winter issue of the *Quarterly*.

Vander Jagt Papers Project

In May, graduate student intern Helen Baer began working on the Guy Vander Jagt Papers. Vander Jagt was Michigan's ninth district congressman from 1967 to 1992 and a leader in the Republican Party. Among the papers already processed are materials from the congressman's first political campaign in 1964. Vander Jagt ran for the Michigan State Senate and won with 61% of the vote to his Democratic competitor's 38%.

Also processed are papers from his trip to Africa in 1973 when he served as Nixon's Special Representative for trade and investment in Africa. Within two years of this high-profile trip, Vander Jagt was elected chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee. His career reached a high when he gave the keynote address at the 1980 Republican National Convention.

Not all of Vander Jagt's papers involve serious political business. On a tender note, Vander Jagt's daughter Ginny is featured on flyers for the annual "Fry for Guy" cookout. Leafing through the pages, one can see her grow from a smiling two-year old into a lovely young lady.

Helen will continue working on the collection until mid-August. Additional processing work is scheduled for the summers of 1999 and 2000. The Vander Jagt Papers are scheduled to be opened in the fall of 2000.

the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) was well represented. From this VMI contingent the Army staff selected the Cadet officers. Twelfth Street (between College and Columbia) was designated as the parade ground for both early morning and afternoon (5:00 p.m.) formations. During these formations, necessary communication took place and "entertainment" was supplied to those campus and other residents who were curious and/or otherwise interested. Marching in military manner was required between most campus destinations. Military courtesy was employed in the classroom: professors were addressed as commissioned officers, cadets stood at attention when the professor entered, cadets also stood when called upon by the professor or instructor.



Serious study in the Science Hall (now Lubbers)

HOPE COLLEGE COLLECTION - JOINT ARCHIVES

The Army Came to Holland (continued from page 1)

soldiers came from close-by "Big Ten" states (reachable on a weekend pass—the Army does have a heart, after all), the Corp did resemble a melting pot with 37 states represented. The resulting diversity posed few problems, except perhaps for the 40-plus lads from the southern states. Understanding the Dutch natives and being understood by same made communication a bit more time consuming, and adjusting their internal thermostats to handle real winters, took a little doing. But those obstacles melted away when social life moved into full swing.

In charge of the detachment was an Army captain as commandant, supported by two lieutenants, a Master Sergeant and five other enlisted men. For organizational control, a Cadet Corp was established and normal military procedures were employed. Within the members of the Corp,

In his welcoming remarks, the Commandant laid it on the line: the Corp was on Hope's campus for education. The academic content and class schedule left little room for doubt. Reference transcripts show 17 hours in class each week and 13 hours in labs. Also required were 6 hours of physical activity in the Armory and 5 hours of military training. The curriculum was that normally prescribed for engineering students: math (calculus), physics, chemistry and engineering drawing—plus, of course, English, history and geography. Study time was mandated in the evenings in the library (evening use of the library was not restricted to the Corp, which meant that studying was not necessarily confined to text books). Worthy of note at this point is that not all Cadets were starting at the same academic level; many had attended college prior to being selected for ASTP at Hope College. This made studying much more efficient for some, allowing the devotion of some library hours to establishing relationships with non-Corp persons.

Although educational pursuits were emphasized and most Cadets fully recognized their fortuitous circumstances, the campus was not a prison so there were opportunities for inter-gender socializing—surprise, surprise. Officially, free time was scheduled from 4:00 p.m. Saturday until 6:00 p.m. Sunday. For those who had not as yet established local partnerships, Grand Rapids and Chicago were the destinations of choice. Interestingly, the number of Cadets at the train depot ticket window on a Saturday afternoon were fewer and fewer as time passed; after all, Hope's dormitories housed 250-300 young ladies, as did the homes of many of Holland's citizens. And this is a good time to applaud those Holland citizens: warm and gracious hospitality abounded as homes were opened to Cadets for diversions from the routine; Sunday dinner invitations were numerous. The College, too, sought to entertain their new residents. Group events were held to facilitate the above mentioned inter-gender blending. Chief among these were the welcoming "mixer" soon after the Corp's arrival and later a full-fledged Military Ball, held at the Warm Friend Tavern. All-in-all, the military demands did not totally prevent the atmosphere from being a normal college campus life.



Mingling with Hope students

The necessities of life were much more than adequate, especially when compared to those that had been supplied during the past 3-4 months at basic training sites. Chow was outstandingly prepared and served in the then existing Carnegie Gym. The man in charge of the Cadet mess brought to his assignment experience garnered at the Castle. He was good! The Emersonian House and Zwemer Hall served as barracks, and again, compared to the tents which had recently housed us, these accommodations were castle-like.

Army tables-of-organization generally include a Special Services Officer. The Corp did also. Among other duties assigned this slot was that of promoting fun-type activities. This duty was a breeze, for predictably, many and varied talents surfaced within the Corp. Although these skills

produced many laughs and casual good times in the barracks and at social gatherings, a plan was hatched to harness these skills. Desiring to promote community relations, the commandant encouraged this objective. As good fortune would have it, one of the Cadre enlisted men had a professional history in Chicago's clubs. With this expert at the helm, Special Services put together a vaudeville type show, leased the Holland theater and had a ball! All the town and student body were invited, but admission was contingent on War Bonds purchases. With the passing of the 50 years since the event, the mechanics and details have faded from memory, but be assured no attendee felt robbed, the state participants had a blast and the several performances yielded about \$22,500 in War Bonds sales.

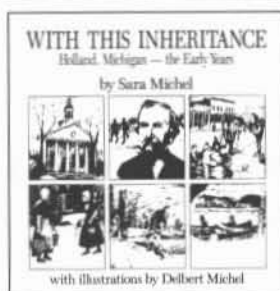
But alas, the Hope adventure was not to last. In late March of '44, without warning (not even a rumor), orders came down to close out Hope's ASTP unit. The corp was told that the families of troops on active duty were unhappy with the program and the resulting political pressure caused its cancellation. However, the *Holland Sentinel* reported that due to a 200,000 draftee shortfall, the Army cancelled ASTP, freeing up the 100,000 enrollees to partially make-up the deficit. As expediently as possible, 50 men were dispatched to Camp Crowder in southwestern Missouri and the remaining number went to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin. The fifty spent six months in Signal Corp training and thence to Pacific stations; the Camp McCoy group underwent a short refresher infantry session and over to the European scene—reportedly in time to participate in the Battle of the Bulge.

Departure from Holland/Hope was an emotional trauma for all, but for some more than others. Not surprisingly, inter-gender blending had produced some romantic couplings. At least five of these became permanent—and three are known to have lasted to this day. [Ed. note: The author was one of the five cadets for whom the Hope ASTP assignment produced a permanent "romantic coupling," and now resides in Holland with his wife, Myra.]

On Sale

With This Inheritance Holland, Michigan— The Early Years

by Sara Michel



Available from the Joint Archives for \$11.95 plus \$3.00 p&h (list \$13.95)

General Synod Workshop Sells Out!

The Joint Archives was filled to capacity as Van Raalte Institute Director Elton Bruins and Larry Wagenaar, Director of the Joint Archives, were joined by John Tammi and Beth Marcus for a special "Biography-style" workshop on the influence Western Michigan has had on the Reformed Church in America.

Using storytelling, dramatic first-hand readings, original archival materials, and projected photographs, the audience was treated to an integrated and fast-paced program delving into the Dutch settlers arrival and their unique and powerful story of faith. Western Michigan played a leading role in the expansion of the Reformed Church throughout the country.

1998 GENERAL SYNOD



"This was the first time we tried this approach," commented Wagenaar. "Integrating several people, different methods of interpretation, and a wide variety of materials meant more than normal preparation time. The results, though, made it well worth the effort, and we received many fine comments during and after Synod."

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America met at Hope College from June 5-10, and the workshop served to kick off the schedule for delegates.

Archives Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lectures on Dutch History

Hope College - Lubbers Hall 101

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

This fall, Hope College is offering a special lecture series on Dutch history. Taught by James Kennedy, assistant professor of history at Hope, the lecture series is specifically aimed at members of the non-college community who are interested in the Dutch roots of Holland, Michigan, and the history of the Netherlands. Spanning the range of Dutch history, the lectures will concentrate on issues most likely to be of interest to an American audience. A \$40 sitting fee, payable to the Hope College registrar, covers all thirteen lectures.

- 9/7 Dikes, mounds and canals: How the Netherlands became habitable
- 9/14 The Low Countries at the Center of Europe: the Burgundian era
- 9/21 The Dutch Revolt, 1566-1609
- 9/28 Dutch Religion: Calvinism and other faiths in the 17th century
- 10/5 Trade and toleration: Why the Dutch Republic excelled
- 10/12 What made Dutch society unique in the Age of Rembrandt
- 10/19 No Class
- 10/26 How the Netherlands became a small country, 1702-1830
- 11/2 Dutch society, economics and emigration in the nineteenth century
- 11/9 The Calvinist-Catholic transformation of Dutch society, 1880-1940
- 11/16 The German Occupation, 1940-1945
- 11/23 The Sixties, and how the Dutch changed
- 11/30 Religion, morality and gender relations in the postwar Netherlands
- 12/7 Current cultural trends in the contemporary

From the Collections Archivist

A brief description of new collections ready for use by our researchers:

Holland Museum Collection:

Roamer Boat Company (T94-1368)

3.00 linear ft.

Records of this local boat manufacturer range from 1938-1996 and include blueprints of boats built by the company including cruisers (many designs by A. M. Deering and one by J. G. Alden), passenger boats, sailboats, a harbor tug boat designed by J. G. Alden and built for the U.S. Army Transportation Corps, and work boats also built under



Fun on a Roamer Boat

government contracts; brochures, descriptive fact sheets, price schedules, specifications for the harbor tugs, clippings, advertising, photographs; biographical information about company founder Robert R. Linn, I, and sons Robert "Rick" Linn, II, and David Linn. Most of the collection is from the period when Robert R. Linn owned the company, 1946 to 1956. The company then became Roamer Steel Boats Division of the Chris-Craft Corporation.

Hope College Collection:

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson (H95-1258)

1.50 linear ft.

The papers of RCA General Secretary Wesley Granberg-Michaelson are now processed and open for research. Rev. Granberg-Michaelson is a 1967 Hope College graduate and also received degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary

(1968) and Western Theological Seminary (1984). Granberg-Michaelson served as research assistant to Senator Mark O. Hatfield and served as editor of *Sojourners*, a peace and justice periodical. He served on the staff of the World Council of Churches from 1982-1992, and is now serving as General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America. The collection consists of biographical material, speeches, articles, news clippings, photographs, and other materials.

Western Seminary Collection:

Michigan, Holland. Sixth Reformed Church

(1916-1995) (W95-1198)

Records, 1916-1995. 16.50 linear ft.

This collection ranges in date from 1916 to 1995 when the church merged with Calvary Reformed Church. This collection covers all areas of the church's operation: Bible classes, choir, consistory, building changes, financial records, missionaries, Ladies' Aid, and Women's Guild. Bulletins from almost every year the church was in operation are also included. The photo collection is extensive, although most photos are from the time just before the church merged with Calvary Reformed. The collection also contains a large amount of information on the organ dedication, youth groups, and fellowship services. There are records of attendance and transfers. This is a thorough collection that represents the entire scope and development of Sixth Reformed Church, in addition to documenting the struggles of keeping the church alive as attendance diminished.

Michigan, Holland. Bethel Reformed Church

(1924-1997) (W97-1220)

10.50 linear ft.

First organized on September 2, 1924, headed by Rev. M. A. Stegeman. Bethel was formally named Van Raalte Avenue Reformed Church though the name was changed to Bethel Reformed Church on October 1, 1928. Organizations such as the Ladies' Aid Society, Men's Brotherhood, and Young Women's League were eventually formed. Unfortunately, due to a decline in membership over the years, Bethel Reformed Church held their final service on December 29, 1996, and dissolved formally in 1997. Records include minutes and financial records of the consistory and other church organizations, church bulletins, directories, ledgers, membership records, correspondence, and photographs.

For more information on these collections, contact Geoffrey Reynolds at 616-395-7798.

**Archives 102:
Church Records Workshop
September 26, 1998**

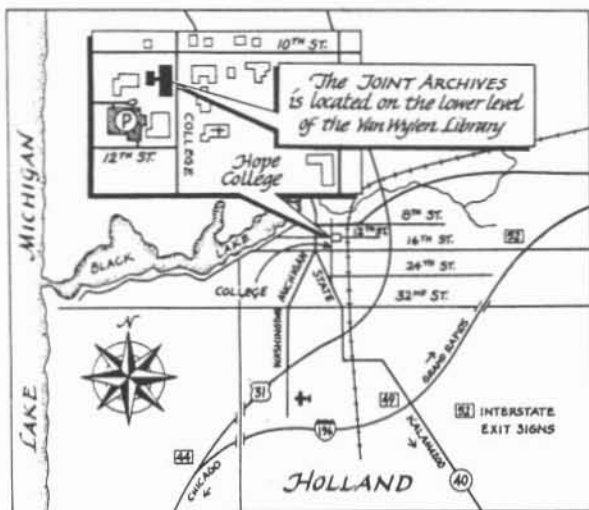
The Joint Archives of Holland, Calvin College's Heritage Hall, and the Historical Society of Michigan are sponsoring a workshop aimed at assisting people who collect and preserve congregational records and other historical materials.

In a broad scope, it will cover not only the basic principles and practices of caring for archival materials, but will also give detailed information on the how-tos: recommendations on where to go to get supplies, how to properly handle fragile documents, basic preservation steps for damaged items and the best methods for storage. It will allow for the participant to ask specific questions in an informal manner and provide hands-on experiences.

Three professional archivists will be on hand on September 26. Dr. Richard H. Harms will be the instructor of the sessions. His workshops have consistently been highly rated. Joint Archives Director Larry J. Wagenaar and Collections Archivist Geoffrey D. Reynolds will also be on hand to answer questions and assist.

We encourage people in churches who care for archival materials to consider attending this workshop. It will be very informative and cover all aspects of preserving archival materials including collection, appraisal, processing, legal considerations and storage - to name just a few. Those in non-church settings would also benefit from this workshop.

Come join us for an interesting day! Space is limited, so send in your registration now!



Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 a.m. Introductory Remarks
Larry J. Wagenaar
- 9:10 a.m. Session I: Establishing an Archives and Appraising Records
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Session II: Appraisal, arrangement and description, and conservation of deteriorating paper items
- 12:00 noon Lunch at the Joint Archives
- 1:00 p.m. Session III: Storage, providing reference help, security, and dealing with photographs
- 3:00 p.m. Evaluation and Final Remarks

Registration Fee **\$35.00**
Includes lunch, refreshments, and all materials.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Institutional Affiliation (if any) _____

Send to:
Archives 102 Workshop
The Joint Archives of Holland
Hope College
P.O. Box 9000
Holland, MI 49422-9000

For more information, call (616) 395-7798.

Please make checks payable to the Joint Archives of Holland.

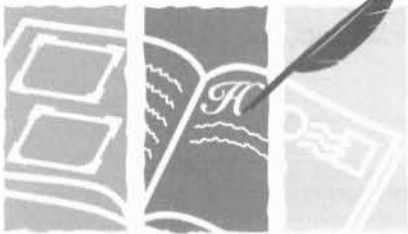


HOPE COLLEGE COLLECTION - JOINT ARCHIVES

Social gathering for ASTP soldiers and Hope students

Contact us at (616) 395-7798 • Fax (616) 395-7197 • Email archives@hope.edu • www.hope.edu/resources/arc

The Joint Archives of Holland



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NEWS

Vol. 2, No. 1

Summer 1998

JOINT ARCHIVES QUARTERLY SUPPLEMENT

1876 Historical Sketch of Holland City and Colony *The Holland City News* August 26, 1876

[Ed. note: This is the final installment of Gerrit Van Schelven's 1876 Sketch.]

The first year was in every respect a severe test of the courage and perseverance of the colonists. Sickness among them was fearful and the death rate became alarming. In some localities small-pox had broken out, and for a while it occupied about all the time and attention of the able-bodied to attend to the wants of the sick and the dying, and to the burial of the dead. Among the colonists was only one doctor, J. S. M. C. Van Nus. The services rendered by Ds. Van Raalte, as physician in those dark days and for years thereafter (until the arrival of the Doctors W. R. and C. P. March in 1853), are among the many noble deeds clustering around his career as a leader.

And how could the condition of the people be otherwise? Think of the causes that led to disease and contributed to their misery. A strange climate, a malarious atmosphere, undrained marshes, unwholesome food and insufficient shelter; want of experience in the nature of their diseases as in everything else; no refreshments or delicacies for their sick; nothing but the coarsest of victuals and that without the necessary facilities for preparation or cooking; quacks coming in from the outside palming themselves off for doctors, throwing upon the hands of the few able-bodied, an army of convalescents with poisoned systems, aching bones, and rattling teeth. We will let Ds. Van Raalte describe these trying days in his own words:

"The difficulties to contend with were many; still, the singing of Psalms in the huts and under the bushes was something inexplicable to the superficial beholder, with many there was a faith in God and a consciousness of a noble purpose."

In the latter part of that first summer our trials reached their climax for the whole colony became one bed of sickness, and many died through the want of comfortable dwellings and well prepared and suitable food...Never was I nearer to the point of despair than when I entered those crowded huts and saw the constant mingling of household duties amid sickness and death, and dressing of corpses in those huts where each family was forced to accommodate itself to a limited space of a few square feet. No wonder that we could notice an increase of despairing indifference in that hour of sore affliction. God granted a change! The sick were restored to health.

The fall was a most beautiful one, and the winter was so extraordinarily mild, that everybody could build and perform outdoor labors and even partake of their meals in the open air. The majority left for the country, and to a great extent the weak and needy remained near the landing place.

The great mortality of that season among the colonists had left them with many orphans on their hands who were promptly taken in by other families and cared for. Their constant increase however led to the building of the orphan house, a project in perfect keeping with the spirit in which they had started out. One Sunday morning a few months after the partial completion and occupation of the log church, Ds. Van Raalte suggested to his people the necessity

Upcoming Meetings...

Saugatuck Museum Tour

Tuesday, September 8, 1998 - 7:30 p.m.
Saugatuck Museum

Join us for our kick-off event at the Saugatuck-Douglas Museum. Saugatuck has been a well known artist community. Society members and guests will get a special tour of the museum and its exhibits.

Ghosts, Ghouls and Notable Figures

Tuesday, October 13, 1998 - 6:30 p.m.
Pilgrim Home Cemetery

Over the years, Holland has had a multitude of notable and notorious figures. Hear who's where at the Pilgrim Home Cemetery. From A. C. Van Raalte to Willard Wichers, this place is full of stories. Robert Taylor and Randy Vande Water will give us a special guided tour of the cemetery and its monuments.

Is it Worse than the Wound?

Civil War Surgery

Monday, November 9, 1998 - 7:30 p.m.
Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College

Grand Rapids surgeon Dr. Brad Bengston will give a multi-media presentation focusing on medical practices during the Civil War. He has authored books on surgical techniques during that conflict and will show how misconceptions still exist about medical practices of that time.

that something of this kind should be done, and that forthwith. He urged it with all the power and force of language at his command. The result was not only the opening of a subscription list and the pledging of money, labor and material, but with a commendable devotion, the jewelry of the wives of the colonists was freely contributed towards this object.

The building was begun in May, 1848. Mr. W. J. Mulder was principally charged with superintending its construction. It was not completed until the year following; owing to various reasons it has never been occupied for the purpose for which it was built. It was afterwards used for a parochial school, townhouse, and Holland Academy, and at present as the *De Hope* printing office.

During the fall of 1847, the Village of Holland was platted. The first surveys were made by E. B. Bassett, County Surveyor of Allegan county. The administration and sale of the village lots was placed in charge of a Board of Trustees, elected by the people at the *Volkvergadering* of which Ds. Van Raalte was the head. As members of said Board, we find the names of J. Schrader, J. Verhorst, J. Van Der Veen, O. D. Van Der Sluis and B. Grootenhuis. We cannot go into all the minute details of those early real estate transactions. In their character they partook of the mutual spirit in which all the business of those days was transacted. The price of the village lots was first fixed at \$10 and \$15, but was soon raised to \$40 and \$45. This was found necessary in order to obtain funds for the building of church and school, the opening of roads, payments on the lands, taxes, support of the poor, salaries of the Dominie, doctor and teachers, and diverse other purposes...

In 1847, the State made an appropriation of 400 acres of land for the building of a bridge across Black River, commonly termed the "Grand Haven Bridge." No contractors could be found to take the job and so the colonists as a body concluded to take the job themselves. How this was done and in what manner the work was regulated will be seen from the proceedings of the *Volkvergadering*. The work was begun in the winter of 1848, but towards the last the work began to drag, when Ds. Van Raalte and J. Binnekant took the job of finishing it. In the building of this bridge, Hon. F. J. Littlejohn, of Allegan, represented the State.

The Post Office was established in 1848, and named "Black River." Mr. H. D. Post was appointed postmaster. The first mail was a private route from Manlius, the nearest post office, and was brought in once a week. Mr. William Notting was mail carrier and brought it in on his back to his house, when his wife would carry it to town. Very soon routes were established to Allegan, Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. The first regular mail carriers and stage-drivers were J. Trimpe, Jan van Dijk, P. F. Pfanstiehl and G. J. Haverkate.

The present cemetery was laid out or rather designated as such in 1848. Nevertheless owing to the distances and for want of roads and suitable burial arrangements during the years 1847-1848, many were buried in other localities as necessity dictated. Besides those buried on Van Der Haar's farm, many were laid at the head of the Lake between 3rd and 4th streets, where the old man De Wit lived, who was the first sexton. A few are buried at Point Superior. Several were buried at the mouth of Black Lake, on the hills north

of the present harbor. The winds, however, so shifted those hills that years ago these coffins became exposed, scattering the remains along the beach.

Much that is interesting is centered around the first attempts at manufacturing by the colonists, also in their harbor, the improvement of which they considered as of primary interest. The organization of the first churches and their formal joining with the "Reformed" denomination, the opening of schools, the Holland Academy and Hope College, the history of township and city government, the proceedings of the *Volkvergadering*, the settlement of Zeeland and surrounding townships, the early history of Point Superior and of the Indian settlements, the development of our commerce and shipping interests and many other points of local interest, each constituting its part of the history of this city and colony will all be touched in separate chapters.

What we wish to call the attention to now as a sort of a key to the past is the great extent to which the colonists combined all their interests, religious, educational, political and social into one, and placed them under one supervision, and how to that same extent the church and its religious interests was secondary to none, but if anything, was made to underlie the entire network of their existence.

Finally, as we dismiss from our minds the local events of these memorable years 1847 and 1848, let it be in the words of him to whom we have endeavored to do honor as the founder of this Holland Colony:

"And the sweet fruition of independence and full liberty which we so bountifully enjoyed gave joy and strength to our hearts. Especially was it the pleasure of the Sabbath, the invigorating power of God's truth, and united prayer and associated labor of many neighboring settlements, which gave enjoyments, support and courage, and caused us to persevere in a great and difficult undertaking. God's temporal deliverances were many; each settlement and each family has a history of its own."

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