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### Report in the Grand River Eagle

E. B. Bostwick

A. D. Rathbone

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July 21, 1847

A report in the Grand River Eagle that a committee was organized in Grand Rapids to help the "worthy and enterprising pastor, the Rev. A. C. Van Raalte," and his people in their settlement. Some members of the committee were appointed to visit Holland. E. B. Bostwick was chairman and A. D. Rathbone, secretary.

The report is reprinted in a modern publication [not identified] under the title, "G. R. Welcomes Netherlanders to Michigan."

Calvin College Archives, Van Raalte Collection, Box 11.

*Received last week  
AC VR call  
Box 11.*

# G.R. Welcomes Netherlanders to Michigan

**EDITORS NOTE:** When Rev. Albertus Van Raalte and his flock of Netherlanders arrived in West Michigan, the event did not go unnoticed in Grand Rapids. As the following account indicates, local leaders quickly organized a delegation to visit the newcomers and welcome them.

At a meeting of the citizens of Grand Rapids held at Irving Hall, on the evening of the 19th inst., E.B. Bostwick as chosen chairman, and A.D. Rathbone secretary.

The object of the meeting was then stated by the Rev. Mr. Penny; and on his motion, D.D. Van Allen, T.H. Lyon and the mover, were appointed by the Chair a committee to present resolutions, who submitted the following:

1. That the inhabitants of Grand Rapids have regarded with deep interest and satisfaction the arrival of a colony from Holland, on the unsettled lands in their vicinity, as affording the pledge of a highly respectable and industrious population, and they hereby tender them a hearty welcome to the blessings of our free and happy country.

2. That we consider it both our duty and our interest to extend to these strangers every expression of aid and sympathy in the present crisis of their arduous enterprise.

3. That as a first and essential step we will take immediate measures to open a road through the intervening forest, whereby our mutual intercourse may be facilitated.

4. That E.B. Bostwick and Mr. Penny form a committee to communicate these resolutions to our new neighbors, through their worthy and enterprising pastor, the Rev. A.C. VanRaalte, and to procure from his people such aid in the work as they can afford.

Which were unanimously adopted. The meeting was then addressed by Mr. Penny, T.B. Church, D.D. Van Allen, Jas. Scribner, K.S. Pettibone, J. Withey, Esqrs, and the Chairman, in a neat and handsome manner.

A committee of five—Judge Lyon, Dr. Penny, D.D. Van Allen,—Graham and Chase—previously was appointed to visit New

Holland, and report to an adjourned meeting.

It was voted that the proceedings be published in the village papers.

Also, it was voted unanimously, and by acclamation, that this meeting adjourn to meet at the same place, July 28th, at 8 o'clock, P.M., at which time every man in town is requested to be present.

E.B. Bostwick, Chairman.

A.D. Rathbone, Secretary.

Grand River Eagle, July 21, 1847

## Visit Ludington!

Planners at the Grand Rapids Historical Society have prepared the ideal fall trip for those who enjoy West Michigan's most colorful season. On Saturday, October 11, they will lead a day-long excursion through colorful, autumn—costumed trees to Ludington's White Pine Village. There, they will find the Village's Fall Craft Festival. Tour participants will spend the morning going through the historic village's restored buildings, visit its lumbering museum, and watch numerous craft workers demonstrate their skills.

After partaking of the famous all-you-can-eat buffet at Gibbs restaurant, the group will take a guided tour of the newly opened Rose Hawley Museum and several Ludington historic sites. To conclude the busy day, they will take a casual, scenic drive back to Grand Rapids.

All-inclusive cost for the trip, including museum admissions, buffet lunch, coffee and rolls in the morning and wine and cheese on the return trip, is \$24.00. Payment should accompany reservations sent to the Grand Rapids Historical Society, c/o Public Library, 60 Library Plaza NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49503. For additional information, call 456-3640.