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11-12-1847

### Letter from Elisha Ely to Nathan L. Miller

Elisha Ely

Michael Douma

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12 November 1847

Allegan, Michigan

Elisha Ely wrote Nathan L. Miller of Bloomfield, Connecticut, that "Just about 6 miles north of your lands the Holland settlement has commenced, there are now from 2100 to 2400 already there, + I have but little doubt that they will settle in south of their present location, + that will soon bring your lands into market. The lands that they have settled upon are chiefly [sic] purchased from the United States at \$1.25 per acres, myself + another own 240 acres on Section 4, Town. 3 N. R. 15 West, which we hold at two dollars an acre + which we expect to sell them at that price in the course of next season."

This is helpful information about the size of the Holland Colony within the first year of the Dutch settlement by Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte.

Original in the Western Michigan University Archives, Collection A-1561, Correspondence of Elisha Ely (Allegan, MI) to Nathan L. Miller, Esq (Bloomfield, Conn.)

Transcribed by Michael Douma, 2005.

For Ely

Western Michigan University Archives, Collection A-1561  
Correspondence of Elisha Ely (Allegan, MI) to Nathan L. Miller, Esq (Bloomfield,  
Conn.) 12 Nov. 1847.

Transcribed by Michael Douma, 2005

Allegan Nov. 12, 1847

Dear Sir,

Yours of the twenty-fifth of October was not received until [sic] day before yesterday. I now enclose you the treasurers receipt for the taxes of 1846 on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 2, Town. 3, N. R. 15 West, the treasurer informs me that all the taxes have been paid on this lot up to this time. I paid the taxes on the same lot for Mr. Isaac may for the year 1841 + 1843. I usually charge a dollar a year for paying taxes sending receipts, etc., that would make your bill amount to \$5.65 you will please send me five dollar + if the other charge should be [convenient?] in any business it will be well, if not, as well.

Just about 6 miles north of your lands the Holland settlement has commenced, there are now from 2100 to 2400 already there, + I have but little doubt that they will settle in south of their present location, + that will soon bring your lands into market. The lands that they have settled upon are chiefly [sic] purchase from the United States at \$1.25 per acres, myself + another own 240 acres on Section 4, Town. 3 N.R. 15 West, which we hold at two dollars an acre + which we expect to sell them at that price in the course of next season.

I do not know at what price you hold your land, but if you can sell at that price, I think you may find purchasers in the course of next summer – and if you conclude to sell, could not your Judge of Probate grant an order allowing the executor or administrator on the estate of the decease partner, to sell these lands + thereby save the expence [sic] of a division. It is impossible to say what those lands of yours may be worth in one year, but when we have an opportunity to sell the 240 acres as above, we shall take it – you will observe that our land is near yours –

I am Sir yours  
very Respectfully  
Elisha Ely

North East  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 3 Township 3 North Range 15 West containing 178 acres and  
77/100 of an acre in Allegan, Michigan [sic]

Laporte Lands Indiana

South East quarter of Section 29 Township 35N Range 4 West of the Principal meridian  
containing 160 Acres. East half of the South West quarter and the west half of the South

east quarter of Section 28 in Township 35 North of Range 4 West of the second principal meridian in the district of lands subject to sale at Laporte Indiana containing 160 acres.

At the close of the year in which the Dutch began their Kolonie, Elisha Ely of Allegan wrote a report to Nathan F. Miller of Bloomfield, Connecticut about the status of lands that Miller owned. Elisha Ely's comments about the Holland settlement in 1847 give an American insight into the new settlements. The second segment is from a similar letter which Ely sent in 1848. The postmark of this second letter is signed by E. Ely as Postmaster and thus had the privilege of free postage.

(Thanks to T. Wierenga)

Allegan Nov. 12, 1847.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the twenty fifth of October was not received until day before yesterday, I now enclose you the treasurers receipt for the taxes of 1846 on the N. E. 1/4 of Section 2. Town 3. N. R. 15 West. the treasurer informs me that all the taxes have been <sup>paid</sup> on this lot up to this time, I paid the taxes on the same lot for Mr. Isaac May for the years 1841 & 1842 - I usually charge a dollar a year for paying taxes sending receipt &c. that would make your bill amount to \$5.65 you will please send me five dollars, & if the other charge should be convenient in any business it will be well, if not, as well.

Just about 6 miles north of your lands the Holland settlement has commenced, there are now from 2100 to 2400 already there, & I have but little doubt that they will settle in south of their present location, & that will soon bring your lands into market - the lands that they have settled upon are chiefly purchased from the United States at \$1.25 per acre, myself & another, own 240 acres on Section 4. Town 3 N. R. 15 West, which we hold at two dollars an acre, & which we expect to sell them at that price in the course of next season.

I do not know at what price you hold your land, but if you can sell at that price, I think you may find purchasers in the course of next summer - and if you conclude to sell, could not your Judge of Probate grant an order allowing the executor or administrator on the estate of the deceased partner, to sell these lands & thereby save the expence of a

division, It is impossible to say what these lands of yours may be worth in one year, but when we have an opportunity to sell the 240 acres as above, we shall take it - you will observe that our land is near yours -

I am Sir yours  
very Respectfully  
Elisha Ely



Free E. Ely P. M. 1/2  
Allegan Mich 3

Nathan F. Miller Esq.

Bloomfield  
Connecticut

*Orange and No of  
of this letter  
on lands in Allegan*

P. S. It is rather difficult to say anything satisfactory relative to the sale of the lands, I did suppose that there would be a fair probability of their being sold to the Hollanders, but they are inclining East instead of South as there is more Government land in that direction & they can get it at a less price than from Indian hands, if the bounty should increase as much as their head men anticipate they will want it before long, & besides the bounty is piling up, with other inhabitants - the Hollanders number now about 3200 in the colony & they stretch from 13 to 15 miles from East to West, and 2 or 3 miles wide - there are a good many Hollanders in the North part of town 4 N. R. 15. your lands lie (for the greater part of them) in the same town but near the South line of it - Your land is said to be very good for farming purposes.

The officers and the Board of Directors of the Holland Area Historical Society are listed below.

		Telephone
President	Donald van Reken	396-5836
1st Vice President	Dan Nelson	396-5435
2nd Vice President	Kim Korth	399-3704
Secretary	Barb Lampen	392-2062
Treasurer	Gerry Lengkeek	396-7322
Membership Committee	Joyce Seaman	399-5258
Board of Directors:		
	Dr. Elton Bruins	396-5809
	Elaine Cline	392-2934
	Joanne Tharin	335-9382

#### Picture Post Cards

Prior to March 1, 1907 a picture post card could only have a message on the face of the card. Cards of that period have a white space for this. The back of the post card was reserved for the address. These cards all have undivided backs.

Holland has had over 100 different post cards with undivided backs. The listing below are those of two different publishers.

#### H.R.Brink/ S. Langsdorf & Co.

S 1046 Hotel Macatawa, Holland, Mich.  
S 1047 Graves Library, Holland, Mich.  
S 1048 Steamer Puritan entering the Harbor, Holland, Mich.  
S 1049 The Ottawa, North River Street, Holland, Mich.  
S 1050 12th Street and Maple, Holland, Mich.  
S 1051 Harkema's Creek near Macatawa, Mich.  
S 1052 Central Ave. and 12th Street, Holland, Mich.

#### Pearson-Ullberg Co., Minneapolis

1450 Castle Park, near Macatawa, Mich.  
1451 Van Raalte's Memorial Hall, Holland, Mich.  
1452 Main Street, looking west from College Avenue, Holland, Mich.  
1453 Central School Building, Holland, Mich.  
1454 Hope Church, Holland, Mich.  
1455 Hope College Campus, Holland, Mich.  
1456 Central Avenue, North of Twelfth, Holland, Mich.  
1457 "Figure Eight" Jenison Park, Mich.  
1457 Ninth Street west of Columbus Avenue, Holland, Mich.  
1457 Ninth Street west of Columbia Avenue, Holland, Mich.  
1458 Centennial Park, Holland, Mich.

HOLLAND AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
C/O NETHERLANDS MUSEUM  
THIRD FLOOR CITY HALL  
HOLLAND, MI. 49423

# BULLETIN of the HOLLAND AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume I Number I

February 1981

There are many purposes for a BULLETIN such as this. One purpose is to keep members informed of the many activities and of the many agencies involved in Holland History. One of the older societies is the Holland Genealogical Society. They have been involved in census records, in family records, and in cemetery records. The Questors, of which there are 3 groups in Holland, are another group who delve into many aspects of history. For many years our city has had a strong and well developed Netherlands Museum which has collected much information and many artifacts of Holland in times past. In recent years we have had the Holland Historical Commission, the Old Firehouse Committee, and a committee concerned with historic Heritage Homes. The Herrick Public Library has also collected facts concerned with Holland history.

Besides this group activity there are many individual collectors of the facts and materials of Holland's past. This BULLETIN can serve as a vehicle for keeping individuals and groups informed about each other's activities. It is hoped that the BULLETIN will also be able to bring to light items which have been hidden for many years. The two letters on the next page are examples of such material. Up until now there has not been a society which has sought out such material. We hope that many others will come with letters and/or pictures which we can use.

Perhaps there is a better name that can be chosen than BULLETIN. If you can devise a better name, I am sure that the officers of our society will consider using it. Perhaps we should use two or three different names before we settle on one which we will continue to use.

This first issue of our BULLETIN is also a solicitation. We would like to have a large membership list of men and women who are concerned with the preservation of Holland's history. We need active members, but we would also welcome dues paying passive members. Will you join with us so that we can have an ongoing program?

The membership dues are as follows:

Senior citizen or student	\$ 3
Single person	7.50
Family	10
Non-profit institution	15
Sustaining	25
Corporate	50
Life	200

If you would like to join, please send your name, address and telephone number to the Holland Area Historical Society, c/o Netherlands Museum, City Hall, Holland, Michigan 49423.

Vol. I, no. 1, Feb, 1951

see file on

Ely, Elisha

Bulletin of the Halland  
Area Hist. Society

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