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Van Raalte Papers

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"Dominie Van Raalte. Sketch of the Life of This Famous Hollander," Which Appeared in the Allegan Journal

Erica D. Heeg

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November 18, 1876

“Dominie Van Raalte. Sketch of the life of this Famous Hollander, “which appeared in the *Allegan Journal*, p. 1. A brief introduction is followed by the report, which appeared in the *Grand Rapids Eagle*. The report includes a quote, which is also found elsewhere: “Dr. Van Raalte possessed great force of character and executive ability. Had he been placed by Providence at the head of a nation, he would have made a wise and powerful ruler. He would have made a bold and successful general.”

Dominie Van Raalte

Sketch of the Life this Famous Hollander.

The Rev. A.C. Van Raalte was the best known of all the Hollanders in western Michigan, perhaps in the whole state. As the founder and counselor of the large Holland colony in this and Ottawa counties, he has displayed rare courage, zeal, tact, and integrity, and surely, if ever a man did, he has gone to his reward having made the world some better by his living in it. He had many personal friends in Allegan county and was by representative? known to all our citizens, who will with interest read the following article from the Grand Rapids *Eagle*.

It is in the remembrance of many of our old residents that when Dr. Van Raalte came here he desired to find a tract of land sufficient for the colony which he led in this Grand River valley. But so much had been taken at all favorable points on the river by non-residents and speculators, that he could not find enough in a body for his purposed, and he was about to leave the state and look further west, when somebody called his attention to the large tract of low, swampy country in the vicinity of Black lake. It was such a region as would not have been attractive to any Yankee, but after visiting it he at once made up his mind to plant a colony there, finding some three or four townships of land ?. The good result of his forecast is ? apparent to everybody. To dr. Van Raalte was also due, chiefly, the ? of the work of improving the harbor of Black lake. Little or no public aid could then be had, but the little colony under his lead and counsel engaged in the work with pluck and persistence and having received authority from the legislature, Holland, and we believe on or two more towns issued bonds for its more vigorous presentation, about 1850 or 1858. At first the negotiation of their loan was up-hill work, but Mr. Jan Roost started east as agent, called on Gerrit Smith at the home of the latter, who gave him a liberal subscription at par, and soon a market was found for the whole. In all such projects for the future welfare of the colony, Dr. Van Raalte was foremost and energetic. The Holland addition to the population of this city began from that colony.

The death of Dr. Van Raalte occurred on election day. His funeral was attended by Hon. Thomas W. Ferry, and by quite a delegation from this city of Hollanders who were men of the original colony, by prominent members of the Reformed church, and others, in whose minds his memory will always be a hallowed recollection, as connected with their trials and struggles and triumphs in founding and building up that now prosperous community.

The Holland City *News* has the following:

Albertus Christiaan Van Raalte was born at Wanneperveen, Overijssel, Kingdom of the Netherlands, October 17th, 1811. He received his classical education at the University of Leyden, and after a course of theological study, entered the gospel ministry.

His energy of character and his fiery eloquence made him one of the leaders of the movement for evangelical reform of the National Church, which soon gathered strength and resulted in the secession of the reformers. A bitter persecution of the seceders by the government followed. About this time, and while in the midst of the toils and struggles of this important epoch of his life, he became acquainted with the Lady Christina Johanna de Moen, with whom he was untied

in marriage, March 15th, 1836. She shared his joys and his sorrows, proving herself a noble and true helpmeet, until June 30th, 1871, when she went before him to her rest.

The persecutions which the seceders from the National Church suffered, led them to consider the necessity of leaving their fatherland, and of seeking new homes, beyond the reach of their oppressors.

Different localities were proposed for the new settlement, and had the Dutch government offered them any encouragement, the Island of Java would have to become the seat of the new colonization. America was finally chosen, and Dr. Van Raalte crossed the ocean in 1846, and after carefully comparing the relative advantages of different localities, selected Holland as the central point for the colonies in Michigan.

After deciding the question of the locality, he addressed himself with all the energy of his ardent temperament to laying broad and deep the foundations for an intelligent God fearing community. The church and the school were considered as the most important institutions to be planted and nurtured.

How well he founded, and how successfully he builded, the present status of the Holland colonization in Michigan, numbering near twenty thousand soul, with their hundreds of schools and their scores of churches, and Hope College, the leading educational institution of the Reformed Church of America in the West, bear witness.

Dr. Van Raalte possessed great force of character and executive ability. Had he been placed by Providence at the head of a nation, he would have made a wise and powerful ruler. He would have made a brave and successful general.

In his private life, he was a most devoted husband, always according to his accomplished lady the most respectful attention; he was a kind and affectionate father, and a genial and warm hearted friend, who never forgot a favor, or betrayed a trust.

DOMINIE VAN RAALTE.

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Allegan Journal Nov. 18, 1876 1st Page

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HOW MR. HAYES BEARS THE NEWS.—

A dispatch from Columbus, O., says of Mr. Hayes that while he is not yet elected, he sits hour after hour in his office, going through the "demolition grind" of common place conversation with politicians and country visitors, and yet is expected to and does remain courteous and affable with all. He looks as fresh as he ever did, and, if anything, has gained rather than lost flesh since the Cincinnati convention. He is as physically and mentally, as sound as a man can be, and has more "meat in his craw," than any politician in Ohio. No one ever doubted that Mr. Hayes had nerve and a will of his own. A visit with him would satisfy any man who has both in large quantities.

Allegan Journal Nov. 18, 1876 15th p. 2

20 November 1876

Holland, Michigan

A bill from the Phoenix Planing Mill for \$394.97 was paid in full on 29 December 1876. The bill would have been paid by D. B. K. Van Raalte because Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte to whom the bill is made out, had died on 7 November 1876. The bill of two full legal size pages and one/half page lists building materials and planing costs apparently for the enlargement of the Van Raalte home on Fairbanks Avenue. This bill included an order of three French windows.

Original in the Van Raalte collection, 300, Calvin College, box 16, fldr. 7.

Holland, Mich., 187 .

M.....

H. W. VERBEEK,
J. KRAMER,
G. SLENK,
W. WAKKER.

To H. W. VERBEEK & CO., *D^{rs}*

PROPRIETORS OF

PHENIX PLANING MILL.

Planing, Matching and Re-Sawing done to Order.

Sash, Doors, Blinds, Moulding, &c., on hand or made on short notice.

18	30	of Moulding	66
Nov	1	Planing	30
"	2	60 of Moulding	150
			<u>246</u>
			\$394 97

Reid Payment in full
H. W. Verbeek & Co

Dec. 29 1876

N C VAN NORDEN
Eastern College
Box 14, Peter 7

2. 4. 1876

20 Nov. 1876

ACV call - 700

Calvin C.

Box 16 M

floor 7

H. W. VERBEEK,
J. KRAMER,
G. SLENK,
W. WAKKER.

Holland, Mich. Nov 20th

1876.

A. C. Van Raalte

To H. W. VERBEEK & CO., ^{DR}

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Planing, Matching and Re-Sawing done to Order.

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July	22	Planing		20
April	10	Planing 560 f		1 68
"	"	" 200 f H.W.		1 00
"	"	van O's		3 51
May	20	van O's		4 44
"	"	" 512 f 2 sides		2 56
"	"	" 420 f.		1 26
"	22	" 160 f		48
		P.P. 2 B. 600 f		4 20
June	16	P.P. 1603 f maple flooring - sawed	20	1 33
"	"	P.P. 1603 f maple flooring - sawed		16 03
"	20	Planing etc.		1 26
		van O's		2 10
		van O's		20
June	18	780 f moulding ~ 3 rd		23 40
		48 f Segment ~ 30		14 40
		48 Pt Sash ~ 1.30		62 40
"	"	1 Sliding door		6 00
"	"	2 Folding doors		14 00
"	"	1 door		3 50
"	20	van O's		3 00
"	28	Moulding		2 72
July	3	Coves		1 50
Aug	2	1 Circle		75
		42 f Moulding		1 68
"	10	van O's		50
"	20	3 Doors ~ 3 rd		9 00
"	"	2 Pt Sash ~ 1.50		3 00
Rep	25	Plan 780 f		2 34
"	28	6 Sash 8x10		2 40
"	"	2 " 9x12		65
"	30	3 Segment Coves		90
		4 Pt Sash		3 00
		2 " "		80
		3 Pt French windows		9 00
		100 f Moulding circular		7 00
X		3 Doors ~ 3.25		10 75
X		P.P. 2306 f Plan 200 f		10 97

7. 37. 011

25 Oct. 1875 AC Van Ruyter call 200
 Calvin College Box 14, plate 7
 Holland, Mich., 187.

M.....

H. W. VERBEEK,
 J. KRAMER,
 G. SLENE,
 W. WAKKER.

To H. W. VERBEEK & CO., *DP*

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Planing, Matching and Re-Sawing done to Order.

Sash, Doors, Blinds, Moulding, &c., on hand or made on short notice.

Oct	25	1 Do French Windows	3 00
		1 Do Park	1 36
		1 Plansome Saw	1 50
Dec	1	1 Steps etc	3 40
"	11	2 Doors	5 00
		1 Saw Door	2 75
		1 Saw	75
(1876)	12	1 Park for Skylight	50
Jan	12	Planing 300 f.	1 50
Feb	16	Planing 500 f.	1 50
		" 680 f.	2 04
		Saw, 700 f.	3 15
		Plan 200 f.	60
"	20	Steeking 600 f and Sawing	3 50
March	30	600 f Steps	6 00
"	"	2 Doors	6 00
		7 Doors	19 25
		4 Small Doors	2 00
		3 Saw	1 50
		136 f Moulding	2 72
		144 f Steps	1 44
		500 f Planing	1 50
April	26	900 f Moulding - 3	27 00
		350 f " rabbited 2 1/2	875 11 25
		80 f Moulding 3	x 3 00
		125 f Moulding 4 inch	5 00
		225 f " 1 1/2	3 75
		384 f. Steps 1 1/4	3 00
May	10	78 f. Moulding 2	1 56
		128 f " 1 1/2	1 92
		176 f " rabbited	4 40
		168 f "	3 36
		130 f "	1 95
June	2	200 f Moulding	70
Aug	24	500 f. Doors - 2	10 00
		4 " Bars	1 55
Sept	20	2200 f P. A. Steps	40
		2200 f P. A.	8 80

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