

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859

Van Raalte Papers

1-13-1850

An Excerpt from the Diary of Hoyt G. Post

Hoyt G. Post

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1850s

The original documents are held in the Holland Museum. This digitized material is intended for personal research/study only. The original documents may not be reproduced for commercial use in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from the [Holland Museum](#).

Recommended Citation

Post, Hoyt G., "An Excerpt from the Diary of Hoyt G. Post" (1850). *Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859*. 450. https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1850s/450

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Van Raalte Papers at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859 by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

13 January 1850

Holland, Michigan

An excerpt from the diary of Hoyt G. Post in which he stated that he attended "Van Raalte's church" today. Van Raalte was not in good health, preaching "with difficulty." Van Raalte preached on Luke 2:13-14. He then adds to his comments, "The more I see of the Dutch, the more I see that disgusts me, they really are far below the standard of enlightenment." Post adds some particulars in his severe criticism of them.

This transcription is located in the Post Family Papers, Holland Historical Trust collection, the Joint Archives of Holland, T88-0160.



Sabbath, January 13, 1850. - Attended Mr. Van
Kaalte's church today. He is out of health and spoke today
with difficulty. His text was Luke 2, 13 & 14, "And sudden-
ly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, on earth
peace, good will toward men." I cannot understand the whole
of the discourse, it being delivered in the Dutch of course,
but the circumstances of the text were briefly rehearsed,
and the "peace on earth" was dwelt on at length. The peace is
that enjoyed by the believer, whose conscience is clear be-
fore God and man while steadfast in the performance of duty.
This peace is with him, the trials and afflictions of life are
things of little moment, and the Christian leaves the world in
peace. I have so far advanced in the Holland that I can join
in singing psalms. The reading of the words, they being
in the old Dutch character, is the principal difficulty I meet
with. The more I see of the Dutch, the more I see that dis-
gusts me, they really are far below the standard of enlight-
enment. It really is annoying to see in the house of God, that
sacred place where, above all others, order and decorum are to
be preserved, men sit, lie, or stand, as convenience dictates,
with their hats on or off, when the minister rises to give the
benediction, to have the invocation of the Trinity in solemn

tones nearly drowned by the scramble after hats and the buttoning up of coats, and, more disgusting of all, the rattle of pipes and tobacco boxes.

The sun shines warm and beautiful today for the first time in weeks; hardly a breath of air is stirring, although there was a light breeze of intense coldness from the east, and the air was full of little glittering particles of frozen vapor. Not the slightest noise disturbs the lovely stillness of this beautiful day save the noise of one little cur who is barking vehemently at his own echo. The icy lake glitters in the sun and the sky has seldom looked so beautiful, such a deep, transparent, cerulean blue. Henry is absent, has been, this is the 17th. day. Anna is gazing with tearful eyes every few moments, hoping that some chance may bring him today. We expected him yesterday. The first of this month was the scene of a pleasant visit with brother Charles. He came very unexpectedly on his way to Kalamazoo to school. He arrived late in the evening and for a time I was completely overwhelmed with pleasureable surprise. He spent a few days with us then left to attend school. I was happy to hear from home and that our folks were comfortably well.

I have just returned from a walkover the bridge and

Holland Museum Collection
at the
Joint Archives of Holland

HOYT G. POST

Part 2.

1850

T 88 - 0 160
Post Family Papers
Hoyt G. Post
Diary

January 7, 1850. - The middle of the nineteenth century! It seems but a few months since our date was 1840, but "Time, tho' old, is strong in flight"; the ten years have passed like a shadow, 1850 is here. Oh, could the resistless tide of time but be stayed, could we but live over our past experience. Time that was spent in trifling, in vain pursuit, and laying up treasures where moth nor rust doth not corrupt. But idle mourning; time has passed, and past time can never be recalled. It is seated in oblivion and our deeds are written on the page of eternity to be rehearsed at the day of final accounts. Oh, could I but realize the vast worth of time, of these fleeting moments which are hurrying us onward and onward with resistless force down through tide of time, could I but realize those awful facts as they exist, how differently would my time be spent! Certainly not in living for this mortal body but in preparing for eternity and to meet the Supreme Judge of the earth. Oh life, thou transient, fleeting dream and the fore-runner of eternity, the probationary moment we are allowed before launching into eternity! God help me to improve my time!