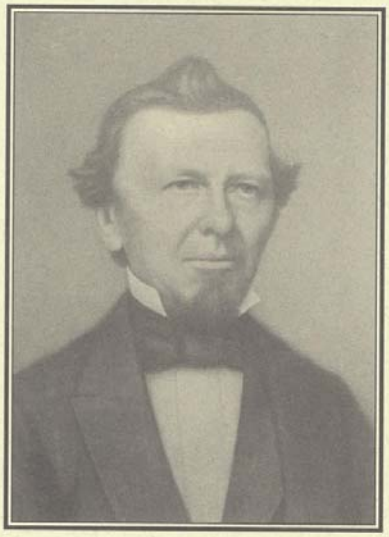
A. C. Van Raalte Institute

Annual Report 2005-2006



Hope College
Holland, Michigan
2006

A. C. Van Raalte Institute

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A. C. Van Raalte Institute
Hope College

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Annual Report 2005-2006
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A Message from the Director

Our second year in the Henri and Eleonore Theil Research Center has been quieter than the first, when we were occupied with getting settled and with the dedication ceremony described in last year's annual report. Members of the Van Raalte Institute maintain active research programs, which can be expected to lead to publications in the coming year or two. Individual reports appear later in this report. The daily interaction with each other and with visiting research fellows provides intellectual stimulation and good fellowship.

Visiting Research Fellows Program

Since launching the Visiting Research Fellows Program in 2003, we have brought in two fellows each year. In the past year, we have had two commuting scholars. Dr. James A. De Jong, President and Professor of Historical Theology, Emeritus, Calvin Theological Seminary, was here in Fall Semester 2005. He worked on a history of relations between the Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church over the past one hundred fifty years. Dr. Lynn Winkels Japinga, Associate Professor of Religion at Hope College, joined us as Scholar-in-Residence during the Spring Semester. Her appointment continues through her sabbatical during the academic year 2006-07. She is completing a book on the recent history of the Reformed Church in America.

During the past academic year, we have also brought in two fellows on short-term fellowships. One of them is a veteran scholar near the end of his teaching career; the other is a doctoral candidate anticipating a career in his chosen field. Professor J. I. Vorst, Economics and Labour & Workplace Studies, University College, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, joined us as a Visiting Research Fellow for two weeks in March. We invited him to undertake a preliminary review and assessment of the archival files of Dr. Henri Theil because he was ideally suited to the task. A former student of Dr. Theil, Professor Vorst had also served as a research assistant to Dr. Theil. During his long tenure at the University of Manitoba, he has taught and published in the field of econometrics and economic history, so he understands the significance of Dr. Theil's pioneering work in econometrics. Professor Vorst prepared an inventory of the Theil archive and helped make it more readily accessible to scholars. It is our hope that he will return next year to begin work on the materials themselves.

We also awarded a short-term visiting research fellowship to a doctoral student, Enne Koops, who came to us for three weeks in June 2006 from the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands, to conduct research for his doctoral dissertation on the emigration of Dutch Calvinists to North America during the period 1946-1963. Mr. Koops has been working under the supervision of Dr. Hans Krabbendam, our very first Visiting Research Fellow.

Three Generations of Scholars: Enne Koops, Bob Swierenga, and Hans Krabbendam

Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellowship

In March 2006, we received word from the Netherland-America Foundation (NAF) that they had awarded the Institute a grant of $10,000 to support the establishment of the Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellowship. With this grant, we hope to strengthen international understanding and collaboration by bringing Dutch scholars to the Institute annually.

On 10 May 2006, a delegation from NAF came to the Theil Research Center to present the first installment of this three-year grant. During a brief ceremony, NAF Trustee Jan J. H. Joosten, Chair of the NAF Education Committee, presented a check for $5,000 to President James E. Bultman. Also in attendance were trustees Theodore Prudon and Fred G. Peelen and NAF Executive Director Joan C. Kuyper. We are deeply grateful to the NAF for underwriting this expansion of our visiting research fellows program and for allowing us to name this new fellowship in their honor.

Dr. Jan Peter Verhave, a biomedical researcher and esteemed parasitologist from Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, the Netherlands, has been appointed as the first NAF Visiting Research Fellow. His research project is entitled “Health and disease among Dutch immigrants in the 19th century.” He is an authority on the history of malaria and tropical diseases, with many publications on the topic. He has also published a book and significant articles on church history and, with his

wife, Joke Verhave-van Duijn, on folk art. He began his residency on 7 September 2006 and will be with us until December 2nd.

Establishment of an Endowed Chair in Honor of Dr. Henri Theil

On 15 June 2006, Erasmus University Rotterdam celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Econometric Institute. The EI was established at the Netherlands School of Economics in 1956 by Henri Theil and Jan Tinbergen. The NSE later evolved into Erasmus University Rotterdam. Since its founding, the EI has received worldwide recognition for its pioneering work in this new field. At this celebration, Erasmus University Rotterdam announced the establishment of an endowed professorship in honor of Dr. Theil. The first recipient of the Henri Theil Chair is Sir Clive W. J. Granger, Nobel laureate in Economic Sciences 2003 and Professor Emeritus, Department of Economics, University of California, San Diego. We rejoice with Lore Theil at this honor accorded to her late husband. She was present at the celebration, which took place on their 55th anniversary. It was a bittersweet experience for her to attend the ceremony, for she took delight in the honor accorded Hans, but was sad that he could not be present with her to share in the joy. We offer our congratulations to Lore and celebrate with her the memory of Hans and his impressive achievements that led to this significant recognition.

Research Assistants

Michael Douma, a 2004 graduate of Hope College, joined our staff in January 2005 as a research assistant to Dr. Robert Swierenga. In August 2005 he moved to Tallahassee, Florida, to begin his graduate studies at Florida State University, where he served last year as a graduate assistant. He came back to the Institute for three months during the summer of 2006 to resume working with Dr. Swierenga. He will continue this work from a distance in the coming academic year, while working toward a doctorate in history. For the academic year 2006-07, Michael has been awarded the Kingsbury Fellowship at FSU: this fellowship is awarded university-wide to just four students. Congratulations, Michael!

Research Assistant Shea Tuttle

Lauren Berka, class of 2008, worked as a research assistant to both Dr. Swierenga and me, but in 2006-07 she will work exclusively on my architectural history project. Early in the summer, Shea Tuttle, class of 2006, also worked on this project. We have a long tradition of training and employing student research assistants, because we believe in the value of this kind of educational experience. Some of our research assistants have been inspired through this experience to pursue advanced studies to prepare themselves for a scholarly career. We are grateful for the contribution that each of these students has made and makes to the work of the Institute.

Conclusion

Next June, we will host the biennial conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies (AADAS). Bob Swierenga is chairing the planning committee, and I am serving along with Nella Kennedy on it; Hans Krabbendam, as Past President of AADAS, serves ex officio on the committee. I encourage you to read the separate announcement about the 2007 AADAS Conference and the call for papers. I also encourage you to reserve the dates on your calendar so you can attend the conference.

It is a pleasure to introduce this report to the Hope College community and to our broader constituency—scholars and others interested in the history of Dutch-Americans and of the college and the local community. I invite you to read the reports of my colleagues and to take note of the research opportunities afforded by the Van Raalte Institute.

Jacob E. Nyenhuis,
Director
A. C. Van Raalte Institute

Theil Research Center Displays Artifacts from the Van Raalte Home

In April 2006, Western Theological Seminary assigned custody of Victorian furniture from the home and family of the late Reverend Albertus C. Van Raalte, D.D., to the A. C. Van Raalte Institute. WTS retains ownership in perpetuity, but is making these important artifacts available for permanent display in the Theil Research Center. Included in the agreement are a Victorian sofa, two upholstered Victorian chairs, and one upholstered Victorian footstool. The sofa had assuredly been the possession of Albertus and Christina Van Raalte, but the vintage of the other items has been disputed by Joel Lefever, President of the Holland Historic Trust and Holland Museum, who is an acknowledged expert on furniture. Information about the gift of these items comes from the WTS files in the Joint Archives of Holland and from more recent correspondence.

On 13 April 1976, Dr. Norman J. Kansfield, Librarian of Western Theological Seminary, wrote to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Klomparens, to acknowledge their "recent gift of the antique Victorian Couch which once belonged to Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte." Additional Victorian chairs and a footstool were donated to WTS by D. B. K. Van Raalte III. Dirk Blikman Kikkert Van Raalte, son of Albertus C. and Christina J. de Moen Van Raalte, acquired the family home in 1875, the year before the death of A. C. Van Raalte. He married Kate Ledeboer, who continued to live in the home after Dirk's death in 1910. Their son, D.B.K. Van Raalte Jr. (known as Dick), married Margret Hopson in 1913. Dick and Margret lived with his mother in the family home from 1913 until 1921. Upon the death of Kate in 1926, ownership of the home passed to Dick and Margret. The family home stood at 241 Fairbanks until 1961, when it

was razed by Hope College.

Dick and Margret's youngest daughter, Jean Van Raalte, married Roy Klomparens in April 1941 and it is likely that they lived in the house until June 1941, when they moved to 30th Street. They later operated a furniture and interior decorating business out of a commercial building that they constructed on the estate, just south of the family home. (For more information on the home and the family, see Elton J. Bruins et al., *Albertus and Christina: The Van Raalte Family, Home and Roots*, 2004.)

In e-mail correspondence of 2 June 2006, Dr. Kansfield identifies Dirk (D.B.K.) Van Raalte III as the donor of these items and asserts, "As to the materials actually coming from AC and C van Raalte, Dirk was very sure that they did, indeed, come from them. They were in the original Van Raalte house (on Fairbanks Avenue), and Dirk's father reclaimed them before the sale [in 1947]…. All in all, I would think the provenance of these materials can be pretty well trusted."

The furniture is prominently displayed in the Theil Research Center, in an alcove housing both a recently-restored portrait of Van Raalte (see below) and a bronze copy of the maquette for the statue of A. C. Van Raalte that was erected in Centennial Park in 1997. From his portrait, Van Raalte looks out across the furniture that once graced his family's home. Readers of this report are invited to visit the Theil Research Center and the Van Raalte Institute to see this new display.

Van Raalte Portrait Restored

In 1896, a local artist named Joseph Warner painted a portrait of Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte, presumably in anticipation of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the City of Holland in 1847. In the Holland City News of 13 March 1896, the completion of this portrait was announced (p. 1). The writer declared: *Joseph Warner, the artist, has painted another portrait of the late Dr. A. C. Van Raalte. A short time ago he painted one from a photograph taken when he was about thirty years old, but very few here knew him at that age. A photograph taken of him at a later date is owned by many and this was used by the artist for the last portrait. . . . The likeness is perfect and the coloring true. It is without doubt the best portrait in existence of Dr. Van Raalte at that age* . . . .

Peter Huizenga and Jack Nyenhius unveil restored Van Raalte Portrait

When the Van Raalte Institute moved to its then-new quarters on Eighth Street in 1996, Founding Director Elton J. Bruins brought the portrait out of storage and hung it in the reception area. The portrait was already considerably deteriorated by that time, and it continued to worsen with age. After we moved into the Theil Research Center, the painting was even more prominently displayed and its poor condition became more obvious.

Hope College Trustee Peter H. Huizenga, who recognized the importance of this portrait to the preservation of the heritage of Dr. Van Raalte, willingly offered to underwrite the costs of its restoration. In 2005, we contracted with Kenneth B. Katz, of Conservation and Museum Services in Detroit, to have the portrait restored. In late September the beautifully restored portrait was returned to the Van Raalte Institute, but it remained covered until its official unveiling on 14 October 2005, when Trustee Huizenga, President Bultman, and other trustees were able to be present. We offer our gratitude to Mr. Huizenga for making the restoration possible and to Mr. Katz and his staff for their superb work.

Dedication

Each year I have selected a person to whom the Annual Report will be dedicated. This year is the tenth anniversary of Dr. Robert P. Swierenga's appointment as the Albertus C. Van Raalte Research Professor at the Van Raalte Institute, so it seems fitting to dedicate our report to him. Bob enjoys an international reputation for his outstanding scholarship. He has enhanced the esteem of the Van Raalte Institute and of Hope College through his numerous books, articles, and presentations during the past decade. He also is a wonderful colleague and friend. It is with great pleasure and high esteem that we dedicate the 2005-2006 Annual Report to him.

New Books in Progress: Holland's History and the story of the Old Wing Mission

Dr. Swierenga reports

This year I divided my time between two books in progress. One is a comprehensive history of Holland, Michigan, which is now better than half completed, thanks to the continuing assistance of history graduate student Michael Douma. The other is a book that tells the story for the first time of the Old Wing Mission of Allegan County, Michigan, which was established in 1839 by the Rev. George N. Smith at the request of Chief Wakazoo and his Ottawa Indian band. The Mission continued until 1849, when Chief Wakazoo decided to relocate to Northport in the Leelenau Peninsula, after the Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte selected the Black River watershed as the site for his Holland Colony in 1847. By 1849 thousands of Dutch immigrants had opened farms in the area, thereby making the Indian way of life in the region untenable.

[In 1847] Van Raalte met Isaac and Ann Fairbanks, and the Reverend George Smith and his wife Arvilla. Both of the men were employed by the federal government: Fairbanks as government agent for the Indians to assist them with farming and to serve as an interpreter, and Smith as a missionary. . . . Eventually the Smiths moved with many of the Indians in the Holland area to Grand Traverse Bay, for the reason that "the Hollanders were good men, but that they would clear up the land and conditions would be unfavorable for the Indians and their mode of life [and therefore] they would better take it good naturedly and find another place because the Hollanders had come to stay."

From *Albertus C. Van Raalte: Dutch Leader and American Patriot* by Jeanne C. Jacobson, Elton J. Bruins, and Larry J. Wagenaar (1996), 34, 37.

The book, co-authored with William Van Appledorn, is now in the final stages of writing. The tentative title is: *Chronicles of Rev. George N. and Arvilla Powers Smith: Missionary Teachers of Chief Wakazoo's Ottawa Indian Band at Old Wing Mission in Western Michigan, 1832-1850*. The major part of the text includes extensive diaries of both Rev. Smith and his wife Arvilla. Both offer rare firsthand looks at daily life on the Michigan Indian frontier. Arvilla Smith's diary is even more unusual, because few pioneer women left such detailed accounts of their daily lives and sufferings in the years before white settlement.

Since the church edifice (now Pillar Church) that the Rev. Albertus Van Raalte dedicated in June 1856 was 150 years old in June 2006, the congregation celebrated the 150th anniversary of its building in a service of rededication in which I participated. I was also asked to lecture several times for various groups who wished to mark the occasion. This milestone required an extensive review of the history of the building from its construction and dedication to the present day. I consulted consistory minutes, Holland newspapers, memoirs of members, and other historical documents to construct a time-line and historical overview. Did you know that the six distinctive wooden pillars in front of the church were not completed until several months after the dedication, because the carpenters needed more time for the intricate handwork and the congregation ran out of money for a time? Only a generous $1,000 gift from the Marble Collegiate Dutch Reformed Church of New York City enabled the Holland congregation to complete the $6,000 project in a timely way.

The Minister vs. the Mobsters

An excerpt from "Masselink Challenges the Cicero Mob"

by Robert P. Swierenga

"If that Masselink doesn't shut his mouth, we'll have him riding out of town on a slab," so a Chicago mobster in 1948 threatened the Reverend Dr. Edward J. Masselink, pastor of the First Christian Reformed Church of Cicero, Illinois, for the previous four years. When his wife Clazina heard the telephone ring at the parsonage in the middle of the night, she warned her husband not to turn on any lights for fear of a bullet coming through a window. Babysitters were reluctant to come to parsonage. What had a minister of the gospel done to incur the wrath of the infamous mob once headed by the notorious "Scarface Al" Capone? Get involved in local politics, that's what. Masselink as a Christian leader felt duty-bound to help clean up the scandal-ridden government of the Town of Cicero. Ever since Capone moved his headquarters to a Cicero hotel during the Prohibition era of the 1920s, this industrial town that bordered Chicago on the west became a haven for gangland vice and racketeering. Worse, city officials came under the influence (some would say *control*) of the crime syndicate.

First Christian Reformed Church of Cicero had over 1,100 "souls" in the mid-1940s and was the flagship Dutch Reformed congregation in town. Masselink, a graduate of Princeton Seminary with a Th.D. degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, moved his family into the manse in January 1944 after serving the La Grave CRC of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He followed another high profile pastor, the learned Dr. William Rutgers, who had nurtured high quality organ and choral work at the church led by Cornelius Kickert, a Calvin College graduate of 1927 and music teacher in the local Morton High School. The reputation of the church and its pastor induced the management of Cicero radio station WHFC-AM to beam across Chicagoland Rutgers' famed Heidelberg Catechism sermons in a program called *The Reformation Hour*. Masselink, a biblical theologian with an experiential bent, took over Rutgers' microphone but changed the format to a half-hour devotional that applied the Bible to everyday life. As with his predecessor, radio made Masselink's name a familiar one in Christian circles in Chicagoland. But radio waves could not compete with newspaper headlines and photos that soon flashed Masselink's name and face across Chicago.

That Rev. Masselink would get involved in politics was not surprising, given his strong convictions, but the long tradition of corrupt bossism in Chicago-area governments had reduced his congregants to passive citizens. The relatively small Dutch Reformed community in the metropolitan area voted out of duty but seldom ran for office themselves. "Leave us alone and we'll leave you alone," was the Dutch axiom concerning the politicos. First Cicero CRC was an exception; two of its leading members were leaders in the town

government—Nick Hendrikse as town clerk and librarian, and Siebert Karsen as president of the town Parent Teacher Association. Hendrikse, a former principal of Timothy Christian School, was an elder and vice president of the consistory, and Karsen was superintendent of the Sunday school. These men and other activists in the congregation steered their willing pastor to join the Cicero Ministerial Association (CMA) and by 1948 Masselink was its president. The crusade of the Association to take Cicero back from mob racketeering is what sparked the conflict that led Masselink to fear for his life.

The suburb of Cicero began as a quiet, leafy suburb for upwardly mobile Chicagoans. The town was incorporated and chartered in 1869 and the truck farms quickly gave way to brick bungalows with tree-lined sidewalks and backyard gardens. . . . Most of the "white ethnics" had fled from the encroaching African-American slums on Chicago's Old West Side, and they valued their bungalows and two-flats above all else. "My home is my God," said a Bohemian in all seriousness, as he vowed to keep blacks out of Cicero. As the industries and their union workforce expanded, Cicero's economy prospered and taxes on factory equipment and payrolls swelled the city coffers far above local needs. This bonanza attracted the mob. . . . During National Prohibition in the 1920s, powerful Chicago vice families—the Jake Guzik-Ricco-Al Capone Syndicate--opened speakeasies, gambling halls, horse racing tracks, and houses of prostitution, to rake in the easy graft. Saloons were at the heart of the vice and in their backrooms the mob ran the numbers games, bootlegging, and prostitution. To obtain the necessary legal "cover" for the ubiquitous graft, the mob put Cicero politicians "on the payroll," so to speak. Al Capone made his headquarters in the steel-armored, bombproof Hawthorne Hotel on Twenty-Second Street near the Hawthorne Works.

In the 1924 municipal election, Capone gained control of the entire town. . . . How did the average "Joe Citizen" react to this travesty? Look the other way. Norbert Blei, who chronicled life in Cicero in these years, said it best: "Yes, Capone ruled Cicero. But the locals 'never saw, or pretended not to see,' what was going on under their very eyes. Even when the city newspaper, the *Cicero Life*, did acknowledge the 'dark action,' who cared? . . . Sometimes it was impossible to look the other way." In 1926 Sieb Karsen's fiancé, the nineteen-year-old Margaret VanderBerg, while at work as a secretary for a roofing company on Twenty-Second St., almost took a bullet from Capone mobsters. Her company was located next door to a local barbershop and mob hangout. One day VanderBerg looked outside and happened to see Capone's gang coming down the street in a black car with guns poking out the windows. She dove under her desk as the thugs began iring. The target was a rival mobster sitting in the barber's chair near the front window getting a haircut. The hail of bullets missed the intended target but killed another customer.

When the firing stopped, Margaret crawled out from under her desk happy to be alive. After her marriage the next year, Karsen insisted that she quit her job, which she agreed to do.

. . . This was the state of affairs that masselink, his associate the

Rev. William McCarrell of the large Cicero Bible Church, and the Cicero Ministerial Association, which included every Protestant minister in town, were determined to end. In a quick stroke, the Association put up a reform candidate in the April 1948 local election and then went door to door during the campaign. Some 33,000 citizens turned out and, lo and behold, John Stoffel, the son of a former town clerk and scion of an old Czechoslovakian (Bohemian) family with a reputation for honesty, won the office of town president and ousted the mob front man. On the night of April 16 that Stoffel was sworn as president in front of the town board, he announced the naming of Joseph Horejs, a fellow Czech, as chief of police, with orders to enforce town laws for tavern closing hours and state laws banning gambling houses. With reporters on hand from Cicero and Chicago newspapers, the flummoxed trustees found themselves "exposed" and they approved a formal motion to endorse the new mayor's actions. The reformers went home, satisfied that the town government had been redeemed. How wrong they were!

. . . Masselink paid a personal price for leading the crusade to save Cicero. He and his family were harassed and threatened with physical harm by the mob. But he never lost the esteem of his congregation, although some members might have had misgivings about their activist pastor, believing strongly that politics should be keep out of the pulpit, or in this case, the manse. Others grumbled about the name of the church being dragged into the public eye in the frequent newspaper reports about the political battles of their pastor. Yet others thought the ministerial reform campaign was hopeless, a waste of time, and a distraction from more important "church business." A year after the crusade collapsed in disarray, Masselink accepted the call of the Twelfth Street CRC of Grand Rapids and quietly left town. One might think that he departed, shaking the dust of Cicero off his feet, but he and Clazina testified later that their seven years in Cicero were happy ones, even if they were far from tranquil.

Forty Years of Scholarship and Service

Dr. Bruins reports

After several months of research, I completed my essay on the educational endeavors of the Reformed Dutch Church, 1628-1866, which was published last winter in the *Reformed Review*, a journal published by Western Theological Seminary. The article highlighted the beginnings of three institutions of higher learning, all founded by the Dutch Church: Rutgers University, Union College, and New York University. None of these institutions remained linked with the church, however. After the Dutch immigrants came to Midwest America in the middle of the nineteenth century, the Dutch Reformed Church founded three more colleges, all of which remain denominational institutions of higher learning to this day. These three colleges are Hope College, Holland, Michigan; Central College, Pella, Iowa; and Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa. While these schools were being established, the denomination made one more attempt to found Christian Day Schools—an attempt that was led by Samuel B. Schieffelin, a New York City businessman. The attempt was unsuccessful, however, for by the mid-nineteenth century the denomination placed its emphasis on the emerging public school system.

One of the goals of the Van Raalte Institute is to translate important Dutch documents into English. It is my responsibility to oversee this translation program. There no longer are many people in the United States who can read the Dutch language, so it is vital to have key Dutch documents translated so general researchers and Hope College students can use them. Nella Kennedy is systematically translating all documents in my Van Raalte collection of documents. William and Althea Buursma continue to translate articles from *De Grondwet* that Dr. Robert Swierenga needs for writing a history of Holland, Michigan. Of particular interest is the wide coverage this Dutch language newspaper gave of the Masonic controversy that convulsed the Dutch American communities in the 1870s and 1880s.

My career at Hope College began forty years ago. My forty-first and last year at Hope College, and my thirteenth year at the Van Raalte Institute, began on July 1. I am now focused on preparations to give my collection of approximately 750 books and nearly fifty feet of files relating to Dutch American studies to the Van Raalte Institute or the

Joint Archives of Holland. My Van Raalte document collection now numbers 2,030 files. The six hundred pamphlets I collected relating to the Dutch American experience are already in the Joint Archives. Since my colleagues, as well as researchers in the Joint Archives of Holland, often find these books and files useful in their research, I am happy to make them available. It will be difficult to retire from active service at the college and the institute, but it is time to move to full retirement.

"The Educational Endeavors of the Reformed Dutch Church 1628-1866."

Excerpted from an article by Elton J. Bruins

The period beginning in 1664 and ending in 1792 was marked by the growing independence of the American Reformed Dutch Church from its mother church in the Netherlands. John H. Livingston, Professor of Theology, and other Reformed Dutch Church leaders wrote the "Explanatory Articles" to clarify and adapt the polity of Dort to the American scene. They understood that the schooling done by the church needed to be in accord with life in America. The RDC was no longer under the aegis of Great Britain but part of a new nation that affirmed the separation of church and state. The Explanatory Articles, which became part of the constitution in 1792 of the newly independent Reformed Dutch Church, added many new sections supplementing Dort church order to make Dort polity workable in America. Article 56 of the newly written articles made this statement: "The zeal of the Reformed Church, for initiating children early in the truth, ...cannot be evidenced in the same manner in America, where many denominations of Christians, and some who do not even profess the Christian religion inhabit promiscuously; and where Schoolmasters can seldom be found who are members of the church. In such a situation, it is recommended to parents to be peculiarly attentive to the religious education of their children, not only by instructing them and daily praying with them at home, but by never employing Schoolmasters whose characters are unascertained or suspicious, and especially none who scoff at the holy scriptures or whose conduct is immoral."

Getting to know them: Sketches of Those Mentioned in Handwritten 19th Century Holland Classis Minutes

Dr. Kennedy reports

Since my last annual report, I have continued annotating the minutes of the Classis of Holland (Reformed Church in America), 1848 to 1876, which was the era of Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, the founder of Holland, Michigan. My original assignment, completed a couple of years ago, was to provide notes on the previously unpublished minutes from 1858 to 1876. I am now busy annotating those between 1848 and 1858, which had appeared in print in 1943 but with minimal footnoting. I reported last year that I had finished the years 1848-50. This year I have done 1851-52 and the first part of 1853, in addition to identifying each of the many persons mentioned in the minutes up until 1858. The hope is to complete the entire project during the coming year.

Because the immigrant Classis of Holland, organized in 1848, affiliated with the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church (now the Reformed Church in America) in 1850, the years immediately following that are significant in showing how that decision began to influence the immigrants in Michigan, many of whom accepted gradual assimilation into the old, Americanized Reformed Church in the East. A few of these, however, resisted this and exited the classis and the denomination in 1856 and 1857 to form what would become the Christian Reformed Church, whose sesquicentennial will be marked in 2007.

The Classis of Holland was originally composed predominantly of people who had seceded from the Dutch public church in the *Afscheiding* (Secession) of 1834 but who had begun immediately thereafter to quarrel among themselves about various, largely subordinate, points of theology, church government, and practice. The differing attitudes of the immigrants toward the merger of 1850 were chiefly due to these preexisting divergent outlooks and emphases, as well as to the newcomers' relative (un)willingness and speed in adapting to the new situation, especially the American evangelical religious environment. The Classis of Holland, led by Van Raalte, therefore experienced unrest during most of the 1850s, including a pair of relatively minor schisms already in 1851 and 1853, premonitions of the larger one of 1857.

The annotations provide sketches, some quite extensive, of every person (ministers, elders, deacons, and others) mentioned in the minutes,

generally with their dates, origins, families, occupations, and church affiliations in the Netherlands and the USA, as well as the occasional anecdote. Also given are explanations of the events, ideas, issues, and general historical setting of these crucial formative years for the Midwestern RCA and the CRC, the former more Americanized than the latter, which has, on the whole, remained more "Dutch," even to the present day.

I continue to enjoy the daily camaraderie (e.g., jolly and informative coffee times) and professional support at the Van Raalte Institute, very much "a home away from home," not to mention the help of the always willing staff of our good neighbors, the Joint Archives of Holland. The office my wife Nella, a part-time translator, and I are privileged to share is a delight.

Outside the Institute, I continue to abstract the articles in the *Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte* for publication in Religious and Theological Abstracts, serve on the Board of Directors of the Dutch Reformed Translation Society and on the Origins Book Series Editorial Board, participate in the CRC-RCA Action Committee of the local classes, and do private genealogical research. For instance, I have contributed extensive research in the Netherlands for Eldon R. Kramer, *The Trek: How the Isaac Kramer and Onne Peterson Families Overcame Hardships to Help Settle West Michigan's Hollandsche Kolonie* (Sedona, Ariz.: Memory Works, LLC, 2005), as well as for the August 2006 family reunion of the descendants of the Rev. Antonie Jacob Betten (1813-1900), a pioneer, Midwestern RCA minister (of Pella and Orange City, Iowa).

Noteworthy Annotations

Excerpted examples of Dr. Kennedy's annotations of 19th century manuscript minutes of the Classis of Holland

[283] The appeal to "dear brothers and sisters" is striking, since it is one of only two times that "sisters" are mentioned in the whole of the Classis of Holland minutes between 1848 and 1876. Women do appear in various places in the minutes but nowhere else as "sisters." "Brother" and "brethren" occur frequently. Although women were full members of congregations, they did not have a vote and of course were not office bearers. The reason for the inclusion of "sisters" in this appeal to South Holland is not evident. Perhaps it was intended to underscore the importance of the matter, recognizing that women, although not enfranchised, could influence their husbands' votes; it may also be that there was a large number of women in the South Holland church.

[442] Albert Jans Kroes (1819-1858 [or 1859]), a native of Het Bildt, Friesland, married Johanna Henderica Grevenstuk at Harlingen, Friesland, in 1847 and left the same year as a "Reformed" (*gereformeerd*) blacksmith for Michigan with his bride. They had settled in Grand Rapids by1848 but very soon moved to Chicago, where they initially met for worship in the home of Herman van Zwoll and then opened their own house for the same purpose. Albert Kroes was one of the seven who petitioned Van Raalte to organize a Chicago congregation, and he, Van Zwol, and Lucas van den Belt were its first elders (1853). He never represented the Chicago church at the Classis of Wisconsin meetings (beginning 1854). The Kroes family had returned to Michigan by December 1854, when their child was born there and baptized by Van Raalte. In 1860 Albert Kroes' widow, aged 36, was running a boarding house in Holland, living with her three children, a servant girl, and Roelof Pieters, 36, a student, and Henrietta van Zwalenburg [Zwaluwenburg], 24, a teacher. The latter two, who presumably became well acquainted (if they did not actually meet) at the Kroes boarding house, would be married the next summer by Van Raalte, and Pieters, who was on the same seven-man Chicago committee with Albert Kroes in 1852, would succeed Van Raalte as pastor of the First Reformed Church of Holland in 1869. Van Raalte would also conduct the wedding for the Kroes widow in 1866.

Separation and Closeness

Dr. Jeanne Jacobson reports

The vast national conflict of the American Civil War has never ceased to enthrall historians and readers of history. One of its effects was to separate family members who might otherwise always have lived near one another, and a consequence of that was correspondence. Thanks to the untiring efforts of Elton Bruins, the A. C. Van Raalte Institute possesses a one-sided treasure trove of Civil War letters. Those that a young soldier from Holland received are irretrievably gone; many of those he sent home were preserved. Some of my research during the past year has involved a close examination of the Civil War correspondence of Benjamin Van Raalte, and as a result I will be able to provide useful annotations. Ben spelled names of people and places as he heard them; translators, in some cases, mistook his handwriting of unfamiliar terms. The internet has been a wonderful help in detection efforts. Why are Generals Haskells and McLane, for example, present in Ben's letters, but absent from histories? Because they were General Milo Smith *Hascall* and General Nathaniel Collins *McLean*. Who was the amiable lieutenant colonel whom Ben never referred to by name? Following that trail has been fascinating. You will find him on the *Officer Down Memorial Site*. Sheriff Benjamin Franklin Orcutt survived the war, but was killed near his Kalamazoo home by an escaping prisoner on Tuesday, December 3, 1867.

The combination of separation and closeness is now characteristic of my life. John inspires, comforts and guides me, and I learn about him and from him as I work with his presidential papers and Biblical teaching materials. Our online bookselling enterprise, which he named “Palm and Pine Books,” is expanding. Our annual trip to the Shakespeare Festival in Canada continues as a time for family and friends to share recollections; by the river Avon there is a memorial bench dedicated to him. It was a special pleasure this past year to have Elton and Elaine Bruins in our group.

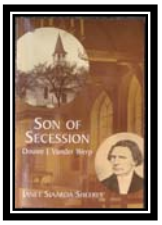
I am grateful to be linked with ACVRI, close in heart though distant in miles. It is an ongoing delight to work with Karen to prepare the annual report, which gives me the opportunity to admire so much impressive work being done there.

New and Ongoing Publications Celebrate Our Heritage

Dr. Bruggink reports

An important facet of the communication of the role of the Dutch in North America is through publishing. In recognition of the important role of the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, the Van Raalte Institute and the Historical Committee of the Christian Reformed Church are both developing closer, supportive ties with the Historical Series. Acknowledgement should also be made of the crucial role played by the Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company in the promotion of our heritage through making the series available to a broad public as the publisher of the Historical Series. Eerdmans' stellar reputation as a publisher of fine books for a broad Christian market lends prestige to the Historical Series.

Because the Nederlanse Hervormde Kerk is a little known entity in America, our publication of *The Netherlands Reformed Church, 1571-2005* by Karel Blei is an important addition to the series (Eerdmans, xvi + 176pp, $25.00). Although in Western Michigan the title, *The Netherlands Reformed Church*, might cause some confusion in view of a small denomination of that name, steeped in Dutch piety and the doctrines of Dort, the dates should make it apparent that it is the Reformed Church in the Netherlands to which the book has reference. The author, Karel Blei, is a pastor and recently retired general secretary of the Nederlandse Hervormde Kerk. The translation was done by a scholar/pastor of the Reformed Church in America, Dr. Allan J. Janssen. The content of the book follows the history of the church from its 1571 inception in the Reformation to the uniting of the Hervormde Kerk with the Gereformeerde Kerken and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 2005 as the Protestant Church in the Netherlands. I supplied the photographs for the book jacket. Russell Shorto, author of *The Island at the Center of the World* [New Amsterdam] writes, "This brisk book, while following its narrow topic—the history of the Netherlands Reformed Church—manages at the same time to function as a prism on western history itself. Karel Blei moves from the era of Luther and Calvin to today's consumer society, in which, as he states, one 'shops, and fills one's own cart' so that each person 'puts together his own spiritual package.' I can't imagine a more thoughtful overview of the topic."



Son of Secession: Douwe J. Vander Werp by Janet Sjaarda Sheeres (Eerdmans: xxii + 210pp, $25.00) was published in cooper-ation with the Origins Studies in Dutch-American History. (*Origins* is the prestigious periodical of the Archives of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary.) The manuscript carried the further endorsement of the Historical Committee of the Christian Reformed Church. Janet Sjaarda Sheeres is president of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies and chair of the Christian Reformed Church's Historical Committee. Dominie Vander Werp was the first ordained minister of the Graafschap Christian Reformed Church, the "mother church" of the denomination. The importance of this lucidly written biography lies both in his life's story, firmly set in its historical/cultural context, and the commitments of that life which did so much to shape our sister church. The volume has importance for the Reformed Church in America as well, for it is a wonderful window into the orientation of the man and his denomination.

While the Historical Series has previously published *Our School: Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church* by Harry Boonstra (number 39 in the series), and *Dutch Chicago: A History of the Hollanders in the Windy City* by Robert P. Swierenga (number 42 in the series), as well as *Elim: A Chicago Christian School and Life Training Center for the Disabled* also by Robert P. Swierenga (number 49 in the series), the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, and the Van Raalte Institute, are delighted to continue celebrating the continuance of our Dutch heritage in both denominations in our publications. *Kingdom, Office and Church: A Study of A. A. van Ruler's Doctrine of Ecclesiastical Office* by Allan J. Janssen (Eerdmans, xvi + 317pp, $35.00, number 53 in the series) adds yet another dimension to our continuing Dutch relationship. A. A. van Ruler, late professor of theology at the University of Utrecht, was hailed by Prof. Paul R. Fries of New Brunswick Theological Seminary as "one of the most creative although little known theologians of the twentieth century." Janssen's book focuses on Van Ruler's perception of the role of the Holy Spirit in the understanding of the church and its offices. Inclusion of Janssen's study in the Historical Series offers an example of the continuing cross-fertilization of thought between the Netherlands and America. Further integration of ideas is evidenced in Janssen's receipt of a Ph.D. from the Free University of Amsterdam. Presently the pastor of Community Church of Glen Rock, New Jersey, his prior books in the series are *Gathered at Albany: A History of a Classis* and *Constitutional Theology: Notes on the* Book of Church Order *of the Reformed Church in America.*

“Gallia omnis in tres partes divisa est”

Dr. Nyenhuis reports

My time this past year was divided, like Gaul, into three parts: one part for the administration of the Institute, another for my various research projects, and the third for community service.

President Bultman, Jack Nyenhuis, Fred G. Peelen

The administration of the Institute included writing the grant proposal to the Netherland-America Foundation described in my opening message. I represented the Institute and the College at the NAF Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C., on 12 May 2006. Administering the Institute also involved arrangements with and for the four visiting fellows, as well as the normal duties that come with a small organization.

My long-term research project, an architectural history of Hope College, has benefited from the work of two research assistants: Lauren Berka worked for me during 2005-2006 and has returned to assist me during the new academic year. During the first part of summer, Shea Tuttle, a 2006 graduate, worked virtually full time for a few weeks, before heading home to prepare for seminary. A second research project involves the writing of a history of my paternal grandparents, Egbert and Pietertje van Dam Nyenhuis, and their descendants. I updated the family tree prior to our family reunion in July 2006, but do not expect to finish the project before next summer. A third project consists of collaborating with my co-author of *Latin Via Ovid*, Norma Goldman, and a new co-author, Preston Shea, on a third edition for Wayne State University Press.

I was engaged in several smaller projects. I completed revisions of my entry “Daidalos et Ikaros” for the forthcoming Supplement to the international *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*. I gave a paper and chaired a session at the American Classical League Institute held in Philadelphia in June. In addition, it was my privilege this past March to conduct an oral history interview with Mrs. Eleonore Theil, which has now been added to Hope College’s Theil archive of the Joint Archives of Holland.

My service to church and community consisted again primarily of service on the Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary and as chair of the Worship Planning Team at my home church, 14th Street Christian Reformed Church. I was re-elected as Vice Chair of the CTS Board. I also served as Co-Convener of the Hope College Retirees for the second year of my two-year term, helping to plan the program for five meetings a year, recruiting speakers, sending out notices of meetings, and the like.

I remain grateful for the wonderful colleagues with whom I work at the Institute. I consider myself truly blessed to be able to work with them in the fulfillment of the mission of the Van Raalte Institute.

Dinner with Visiting Scholars

Jack Nyenhuis, Karen Schakel, Bob Swierenga, Lauren Berka, Jim De Jong, Nella Kennedy, Don Bruggink, Bill Kennedy, Elton Bruins

Publications

Abstracts of all articles in *Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte* 2004 for *Religious and Theological Abstracts.* (Earl Wm. Kennedy)

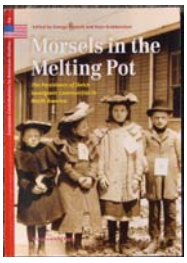
Dutch Immigrants on the Plains. Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, Fifteenth Biennial Conference Papers, eds. Robert P. Swierenga, Paul Fessler, and Hubert R. Krygsman. Holland, Mich.: Joint Archives of Holland, 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

"The Americanization of a Congregation," parts one and two. In *Family Ties: Holland Genealogical Society Newsletter* 31, no. 2 (January 2006): 14-17; no. 3 (April 2006): 5-7. (Elton J. Bruins)

"The Educational Endeavors of the Reformed Dutch Church 1628-1866." In *Reformed Review* 59, no. 2 (winter 2005-06): 165-83. (Elton J. Bruins)

"Iowa Letters, A Review Essay," with Douglas Firth Anderson and Robert Schoone-Jongen. In *Dutch Immigrants on the Plains*, eds. Robert P. Swierenga, Paul Fessler, and Hubert R. Krygsman. Holland, Mich.: Joint Archives of Holland, 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

"Masselink Challenges the Cicero Mob." In *Origins* 24, no. 1 (2006): 36-41. (Robert P. Swierenga)



"Unholy Mess: The IRM California Real Estate Debacle in the Christian Reformed Church in North America in the 1990s." In *Morsels in the Melting Pot: The Persistence of Dutch Immigrant Communities in North America*, eds. George Harinck and Hans Krabbendam. Amsterdam: Free University Press, 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

"Walls or Bridges: The Differing Acculturation Process in the Reformed and Christian Reformed Churches in North America." In *Morsels in the Melting Pot: The Persistence of Dutch Immigrant Communities in North America*, eds. George Harinck and Hans Krabbendam. Amsterdam: Free University Press, 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

Presentations

"Being Political in Holland." Paper for the Holland Historical Society, 14 April 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

Chair, session of the American Classical League Institute, Philadelphia, 23-25 June 2006. (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

"Chicago in the 1890s: The White City and Grey City." Paper for the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP), 5 January 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

"Elim Christian Services of Palos Park, Illinois." Lecture tour sponsored by the Calvin Academy of Life-long Learning, Calvin College, 19 October 2005. (Robert P. Swierenga)

"Hope College: Its Origin and Development, 1851-2005." Lecture to new faculty and staff members of Hope College, 24 August 2005. (Elton J. Bruins)

"A Humanities Approach to Latin: 3rd Edition of *Latin Via Ovid*." Presentation to demonstrate the rich artistic heritage offered by artists who were inspired by Greek myths associated with Athens and Crete, delivered at the American Classical League Institute, Philadelphia, 25 June 2006. (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

"Key Dates in Raising the Awareness of the Unique History of the Holland, Michigan, Community." Lecture to the Holland Area Historical Society, 8 November 2005. (Elton J. Bruins)

"Old Wing Mission of Holland, Michigan, and the Dutch." Paper for the Seniors Group, Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, 23 October 2005. (Robert P. Swierenga)

"Origins of the Christian Reformed Church." Lecture given at Pillar Church, Holland, for the Senior Group of First (Bates Street) Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, 15 November 2005. (Robert P. Swierenga)

Panel presentation on the history of efforts to increase cultural diversity at Hope College for Dr. Charles W. Green's class, "Race in America," 20 February 2006. (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

"Pillar Church Building at 150 Years: A Sesquicentennial History." Lecture for the Holland Museum docents, 20 June 2006. (Robert P.

Swierenga)

"Pioneer Holland." Paper for Seniors Dinner, Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Zeeland, Michigan, 9 November 2005. (Robert P. Swierenga)

"The Reformed Church in America: Its History, Nature, and Relationship to Hope College." Presentation at the workshop taught by Dr. Steve Bouma-Prediger for new Hope College faculty, 30 May 2006. (Elton J. Bruins)

"Suffering and Survival: The Lives and Families of Three Women of Third Reformed Church, 1867-1901." Lecture for Women's Ministries, Third Reformed Church, Holland, 3 April 2006. (Elton J. Bruins)

"A Touch of Dutch." Paper for YMCA Senior Executives, Holland, 2 May 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

Interview

Oral history interview with Eleonore Theil, in St. Augustine, Florida, for preservation in the Joint Archives of Holland, 6 March 2006. (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

Call for Papers

The Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies (AADAS) will hold its 2007 biennial meeting at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, on 7-9 June 2007 (Thursday noon -Saturday noon). You are invited to submit proposals for individual papers or panels. The conference theme is **Dutch-American Arts and Letters.** One of the features of a strong subculture is the presence of a corpus of ethnic literature and art. How did art contribute to the formation of a Dutch-American subculture? What distinctive elements did Dutch-American artistic expressions possess? Were these inspired by trends in the Old Country? Which influence did these expressions exert inside and outside the subculture? Subjects could include:

* Dutch-American artists
* Dutch-American authors (David Cornel De Jong, Frederick Manfred, Sietze Bunning, Peter DeVries, James C. Schaap, etc.)
* Dutch-American autobiographies and memoirs
* Dutch-American newspapers and journalists
* Reading culture among Dutch immigrants
* Publishers and art dealers as culture brokers
* Sermons and eulogies—rhetorical styles, themes, etc.
* Dutch literature in translation
* Teaching of Dutch language skills and its impact
* Storytelling in Dutch-America
* Dutch-American scientists
* Dutch-American musicians and musical writings
* The Dutch image in youth literature

Paper proposals on Dutch-American topics not related to the theme will also be considered. Papers relating to the conference theme will be considered for inclusion in a book to be published under the auspices of the Van Raalte Institute. The program committee consists of Robert P. Swierenga (chair), Jack Nyenhuis, and Nella Kennedy, all of Hope College, and Hans Krabbendam of the Roosevelt Study Center.

Proposals, consisting of abstract (ca. 300 words) and one-page cv, should be submitted by December 1, 2006 to Robert P. Swierenga at <Swierenga@hope.edu> or by mail to A. C. Van Raalte Institute, Hope College, P.O. Box 9000, Holland, MI 49422-9000

Applications Invited

Visiting Research Fellows Programs for Academic Year 2007-08

The Van Raalte Institute at Hope College invites applications from qualified scholars for a fellowship offered through the Visiting Research Fellows Program. Up to two fellowships per academic year, each for not more than ten weeks in duration, will be awarded. Stipend: Up to $2,500, at $250 per week.

The Van Raalte Institute also invites applications from qualified scholars for a Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellowship made possible by a grant in 2006 from the Netherland-America Foundation. The goal of this fellowship is to promote international linkage between the Netherlands and the U.S.A. in order to enhance mutual understanding and respect. Only one NAF fellowship will be awarded for each academic year, normally for a period no less than ten weeks. Stipend: $5,000.

Criteria for Selection: Proposals for support must demonstrate that the proposed research fits the Mission Statement of the Institute (p. 32), that the scholar is qualified to conduct such research, and that the resources of the Institute and that of the Joint Archives of Holland are essential to the conduct of that research. A current *curriculum vitae* should be submitted with the application. The NAF Fellowship is intended solely for respected scholars from the Netherlands.

Application Process and Deadline: The Candidate is to submit a written application no later than 15 January 2007 via e-mail, fax, or post. Further information about expectations, arrangements, and the application process may be obtained by contacting the Van Raalte Institute at <vanraalte@hope.edu> or from our website at <http://www.hope.edu/vri/>.

Mission Statement
A. C. Van Raalte Institute at Hope College

The A. C. Van Raalte Institute is a department of Hope College. Hence, its mission relates directly to and supports the mission of Hope College, an undergraduate liberal arts institution offering academic programs in the context of the historic Christian faith. The Institute is closely related to another department of Hope College, the Joint Archives of Holland.

The mission of the Institute is to honor the memory and the vision of the Reverend Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte, the found of Holland and Hope College, by studying his life and work. From this mission also is derived the scholarly investigation and publication of materials concerned with the immigration and the contributions of the Dutch and their descendants in the United States of America. Furthermore, the Institute is dedicated to the study of the history of all people who have comprised the community throughout its history.

The Institute derives its vision from a letter dated 27 November 1846, by A. C. Van Raalte, written shortly after his party landed in New York. As he was headed westward, he declared, "I hope that a large colony can be established here in America which will focus its work on the Kingdom of God." His vision also extended far beyond the boundaries of Holland, Michigan, to other colonies and immigrants throughout the United States. The bold Christian vision that he had for the church, education, and community continues to have an impact on the "colony" that he found on 9 February 1847, and on the college which he helped to establish fifteen years later.

The Institute carries out its educational mission not only through research and publication, but also through the sponsorship of lectures and presentations by its members and its invited guests. Through liaison with scholars and educational and cultural institutions in the Netherlands and other countries, the Institute seeks to promote the understanding of the history of this community. From time to time, the Institute will host visiting scholars from these countries to enable them to engage in research in our local archives and to provide a broader perspective to our own endeavors.