

# **A. C. Van Raalte Institute**

**Annual Report 2006-2007**



**Hope College  
Holland, Michigan  
2007**

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**Holland, Michigan**  
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A. C. Van Raalte Institute  
Hope College

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Annual Report 2006-2007  
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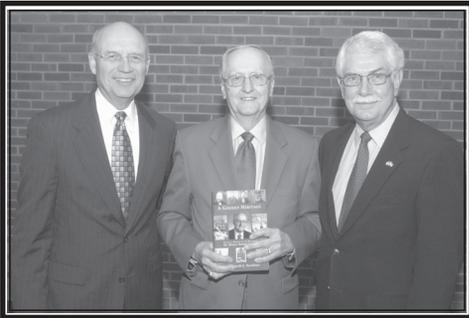
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## A Message from the Director

The past year has been a busy one for the Van Raalte Institute: we welcomed several Visiting Research Fellows, hosted the sixteenth biennial conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies (AADAS), and celebrated the eightieth birthday of our founding director with the publication of a festschrift in his honor. Individual reports from each of us who are members of the Van Raalte Institute can be found later in this report. These reports demonstrate that the Institute maintains a very active research program, which can be expected to lead to further publications in the future.

### **Festschrift in Honor of Founding Director Dr. Elton J. Bruins**

Over two years ago, after Elton Bruins had indicated his intention to retire from his position as the Philip Phelps Jr. Research Professor on his eightieth birthday (29 July 2007), I began planning for a festschrift in his honor so that it would be ready in time. On 6 June 2007, at a dinner on the eve of the AADAS conference, we surprised him with the presentation of this festschrift. A second presentation was made the next morning, at the opening session of the AADAS conference.



*President Bultman, Elton Bruins, Jack Nyenbuis*

*A Goodly Heritage: Essays in Honor of the Reverend Dr. Elton J. Bruins at Eighty*, no. 56 in the RCA Historical Series (Eerdmans, 2007), contains fifteen essays. The essays fall into three categories, all reflecting different aspects of

Bruins's career. The first ten concern church history and theology, the next two focus on different aspects of the life of Rev. A. C. Van Raalte, and the final three deal with local history. The topics range from religious conflict in the nineteenth century, to the Civil War, to Hope College history, to the effort to create the Joint Archives of Holland, to recent ideological conflict in the field of Reformation history, to the history of a congregation of the Christian Reformed Church in Holland, to contemporary issues in the Reformed Church of America.



*Festschrift contributors and Peter H. Hutzenga*

It was my privilege to edit the book and to contribute an essay of my own. Other contributors to the book are: Harry Boonstra, Timothy L. Brown, Donald J. Bruggink, Eugene Heideman, I. John Hesselink, Jeanne M. Jacobson, Lynn Winkels Japinga, Earl Wm. Kennedy, James C. Kennedy, Gregg Mast, Robert P. Swierenga, J. Jeffery Tyler, Dennis N. Voskuil, and Larry J. Wagenaar. All are friends of Bruins. Some are former students, some are religion department colleagues, and some were brought to the Institute by him. The other contributors and I benefited immensely from the superb copyediting done by our editorial assistant/office manager, Karen G. Schakel. The hardcover book totals 412 + lii pages and costs \$49. It is available at the Hope-Geneva Bookstore, through Eerdmans, and at some local bookstores.

I am happy to report that, although he has officially retired, Elton will remain in his office at the Institute for at least one more year, serving as a volunteer for the Joint Archives of Holland and preparing for the transfer of his books to the Van Raalte Institute library and his papers to the Archives.

### **Visiting Research Fellows Program**



*Lynn Japinga*

Since launching the Visiting Research Fellows Program in 2003, we have brought in two fellows each year. In 2006-07 we increased the number to three, by adding a Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellow. The first of our visiting fellows was Dr. Lynn Winkels Japinga, Associate Professor of Religion at Hope College, who returned as Scholar-in-Residence during the Spring Semester of 2006. She continued with us throughout the academic year, to the end of her year-long sabbatical. She has been working on a book on the recent history of the Reformed Church in America.



Jesse Vorst, J. P. Verbave,  
Lee Nyenhuis

We also brought back, on a short-term fellowship, Professor J. I. Vorst, Economics and Labour & Workplace Studies, University College, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. He joined us as a Visiting Research Fellow for several weeks, beginning in mid-May. A former student of Dr. Henri Theil, Professor Vorst had also served as a research assistant to Dr. Theil. During his long tenure at the University of Manitoba, Professor Vorst 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 worked on the materials of the Theil Archive in the Hope College Collection at the Joint Archives of Holland that he had organized for us last year. He intends to publish one or more articles based on this research.

During the academic year 2007-08, we will have two commuting Visiting Research Fellows, as well as another NAF Visiting Research Fellow. Dr. Harry Boonstra, Theological Librarian Emeritus at Calvin College and Seminary, will be working on "The Freemasonry Movement in the Netherlands Reformed Churches, the Reformed Church in America, and the Christian Reformed Church," focusing especially on the relationship among these church bodies. Dr. Boonstra also served as Director of Libraries at Hope College from 1977 to 1989 and as part-time Associate Editor of both *Reformed Worship* (1986-96) and *Origins* (since 2002). He is the author or co-author of two books and numerous articles and reviews in professional journals and religious publications, including a chapter in the festschrift, *A Goodly Heritage*. David Zwart, a doctoral candidate in history at Western Michigan University, will be working on "Celebrating the Past: Creating an Identity in the Dutch-American Community of West Michigan, 1926-1976." Mr. Zwart was a middle school social studies teacher in California for several years and has held graduate assistantships at both California State University, Fresno (where he earned an M.A. in history), and Western Michigan University. He has given presentations at several AADAS and various other professional conferences.

## Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellowship



Peter H. Hutzenge and J. P. Verhave at Festschrift dinner

In early September 2006, we welcomed our first Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellow, Dr. Jan Peter Verhave, a biomedical researcher and esteemed parasitologist from Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. 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 the history of science.

Dr. Verhave—familiarly known to us as “JP”—proved to be a congenial and intellectually stimulating colleague. His research project, “Health and Disease among Dutch Immigrants in the 19th Century,” introduced us to a deeper understanding of life in the immigrant community in Western Michigan during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Our coffee-time “colloquia” were enriched by discussion of his discoveries in the archives, as well as by his perspective on political and social developments in both the Netherlands and the United States. His residency provided compelling evidence of the value of this new fellowship program.

At the end of his tenure with us, Dr. Verhave delivered a public lecture to a very receptive audience. That lecture has been expanded into an eighty-three page monograph, *Disease and Death Among the Early Settlers in Holland, Michigan*, recently published by the Institute as Lecture Series, No. 4. It is available online and, upon request, in hard copy at a cost of \$5.00, postage paid.

The NAF Visiting Research Fellow for 2007-08 is Dr. Peter Ester, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Institute for Labour Studies at Tilburg University in the Netherlands. He has been a visiting professor at several institutions in the United States, including the University of Michigan, and was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship to Claremont Graduate School. His thirty-seven page curriculum vitae includes fifty-two books, seventy-three book chapters, eighty-four journal articles, twenty-

eight scientific reports, and 103 conference papers. Dr. Ester's research topic is: "Growing Up Dutch-American: Ethnic Identity and the Formative Years of the Older Generation of Dutch-Americans—Lasting Memories of a Shared History." He began his research during the week prior to the AADAS conference and took up residency on 1 July 2007. His public lecture, "Growing Up Dutch-American: Recollections of Cultural Identity by Older Dutch-Americans," took place on 28 August.

### Research Assistants



*Mike Douma*

Michael Douma, a 2004 graduate of Hope College, served as a research assistant to Dr. Robert Swierenga during the first eight months of 2005, came back to the Institute for three months during the summer of 2006, and continued—on a limited basis and at a distance—during the past academic year, while also working toward a doctorate in history at Florida State University, where he holds the coveted Kingsbury Fellowship. He delivered a very fine paper (on the Dutch-American novelist Arnold Mulder) at the AADAS conference.

Lauren Berka, class of 2008, worked with me again during fall semester 2006 as a research assistant on my architectural history project, but spent the spring semester on a study abroad program in Buenos Aires, Argentina; she returned in August to resume that work and will remain with us during the next academic year. Laura Shears, class of 2009, picked up the architectural history research project in January. She will work in collaboration with Lauren Berka during 2007-08. Early in the summer, Shea Tuttle, class of 2006, returned to work for a time on the project, but she also was an invaluable aide to Karen Schakel, who served as registrar for the AADAS conference.

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.

## VRI's Contribution to the Work of Other Scholars

Every year we have a considerable number of visitors to the Theil Research Center who seek assistance and archival materials from the Van Raalte Institute, as well as from the Joint Archives of Holland. It gave special pleasure this past year to Elton Bruins when the Institute received the donation of a doctoral dissertation to the Van Raalte Institute Library. The dissertation, *The Development and Role of Choirs in the Worship and Culture of the Dutch Reformed Church in America, 1785-1860*, was submitted by David Michael Tripold in October 2006 to the Caspersen School of Graduate Studies at Drew University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree, Doctor of Philosophy. Included in his acknowledgments were both Dr. Elton Bruins and Karen Schakel, who had assisted him in locating many items in the Institute collection, as well as in Bruins's personal files. It is with gratitude that I acknowledge the selfless dedication that Elton has shown year after year to visiting scholars and amateur historians who drop by for help.

## AADAS Conference 2007

The Institute hosted the sixteenth biennial conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, 7-9 June 2007. The theme of the conference, "Dutch-American Art and Letters," had broad appeal, attracting more than two dozen papers from scholars in the U.S., Canada, and the Netherlands. Well over one hundred twenty-five people registered for the conference and attendance was good for all the papers. The Christian Reformed Heritage Center at the Graafschap Christian Reformed Church hosted both a tour of their excellent museum and an ice cream social, the Holland Museum treated attendees not only to a tour of their splendid new Dutch galleries but also to a wine and cheese reception, and Hope College's Haworth Inn and Conference Center welcomed the group to a fine conference banquet, at which artist Chris Stoffel Overvoorde gave an illustrated lecture on his approach to historical painting. Many of the papers will be published later this year by the Van Raalte Institute on behalf of AADAS; copies of the collection of essays will be sent to members of AADAS. Other readers of this report may purchase a copy from the Institute. (Information will be available on our website when the collection has been published).

This conference was described by many attendees as the best-run AADAS conference they had attended. Credit for these plaudits goes to our office manager/editorial assistant, Karen G. Schakel, who served as registrar for the conference. Her organizational skills and her attention to detail insured that the conference ran very smoothly.

### **Conclusion**

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



*Van Raalte Institute Staff*

## Dedication

Each year since 2002 I have selected a person to whom the Annual Report will be dedicated. It is with great pleasure and high esteem that I dedicate the *2006-2007 Annual Report* to a dear friend and beloved benefactor, Eleonore Goldschmidt Theil, known to us as "Lore." Lee and I had the pleasure of helping Lore celebrate her eighty-fifth birthday on 26 January. With this dedication, we honor Lore for her generous support in providing us with our splendid facility, for the gift of the Theil Archive, and for her ongoing interest in the work that goes on in the Henri and Eleonore Theil Research Center. Our work and our relationship with the Joint Archives of Holland have been greatly enhanced since our move into the Theil Research Center in 2004. The daily interaction with each other and with visiting research fellows provides intellectual stimulation and good fellowship. For this and much more, we dedicate this report to Lore Theil.



*Lore Theil with Jack Nyenbuis*

## The Classis of Holland in Minute Detail

### *Dr. Kennedy reports*

During this past year, I have continued to annotate the minutes of the Classis of Holland (Reformed Church in America [RCA]), 1848-76, which was the era of the Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, the founder of Holland, Michigan. My original assignment, completed several years ago, was to provide explanatory notes for the translated but as yet unpublished classical minutes, that is, for the years 1858 to 1876. I am now daily occupied with annotating the 1848 to 1858 minutes, which had appeared in print in translation in 1943 but with minimal footnoting. I reported two years ago that I had finished the years 1848-50, and last year's report indicated that I had reached the middle of 1853. By this summer I was ready to begin the minutes of 1856, and I have already identified each of the many persons mentioned between 1856 and 1858. I now have the events of more than two crucial years to annotate, and I desire to complete the entire project before my next annual report. Considerable additional time will be needed for editing the entire twenty-nine years' notes for publication.

Because the immigrant Classis of Holland, organized in 1848, affiliated with the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church (now RCA) 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 assimilation, leaving the classis and the denomination in 1856 and 1857 to form what would become the Christian Reformed Church, whose sesquicentennial is being marked this year.

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. Differing attitudes . . . toward the merger of 1850 were chiefly due to these preexisting divergent outlooks and emphases as well as to variation among newcomers in adapting to new situation, especially in regard to the American evangelical religious environment. Thus the Classis of Holland, led by Van Raalte, experienced unrest during most of the 1850s, including a pair of relatively minor schisms in 1851 and 1853, precursors 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 U.S.A., as well as the occasional anecdote. Also given are explanations of the events, ideas, issues, and general historical setting of these 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.



*Earl and Nella Kennedy at  
Festschrift dinner*

Outside the Institute I continue to abstract articles in the annual *Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte* for publication in *Religious and Theological Abstracts*, to serve on the Board of Directors of the Dutch Reformed Translation Society and on the *Origins* Book Series Editorial Board, and to undertake private genealogical research. My wife Nella, a part-time translator, and I both value the daily fellowship with our Institute friends as well as with our good neighbors, the staff of the Joint Archives of Holland.

### **An English Fox in a Dutch Chicken Coop?**

#### *An Excerpt*

The *Afgescheidenen* were thus already badly divided on their arrival in the U.S.A. Scholte had been suspended from the ministry in 1840 by the seceders' national synod (he was never restored), while the Northern/Drente group and Gelderlanders went their separate ways between 1846 and 1854 over the issues of clerical garb (not covered by Dort) and synodical authority. It has been aptly said, "The immigrants brought their religion in their baggage, so to speak, and church life in America continued the controversies and ways of behavior that had been part of life in the Old Country."

It is conceivable, therefore, that the Michigan secession of 1857 might have happened sooner or later, even if Van Raalte had never taken the Classis of Holland into the fast-Americanizing RPDC in the East in 1850. Recent interpreters have tended to blame the admittedly unattractive personalities of early CRC leaders for the schism and to minimize the role of doctrine, polity, liturgy, and piety. Doubtless many factors were involved, but care should be exercised not to impose current ideas of what is important or true upon people of another era, or too facilely to impugn motives or psychoanalyze at a distance.

Source: Earl Wm. Kennedy, "Richard Baxter: An English Fox in Dutch Chicken Coop?," in *A Goodly Heritage*.

## Advancing Dutch-American Studies *Dr. Swierenga Reports*

This year I finished a book that has been in progress for several years: *Old Wing Mission: The Chronicles of the Reverend George N. and Arvilla Powers Smith, Missionary Teachers of Chief Wakazoo's Ottawa Indian Band in Western Michigan, 1832-1849* (co-authored with William Van Appledorn). The book, to be published by William B. Eerdmans of Grand Rapids, is now in the page-layout and indexing stage of production and should be available late in the year.

*Old Wing Mission* tells the story of an educational, evangelical, and agricultural endeavor on the Black River that the Rev. George N. Smith established in 1839 at the request of Chief Joseph Wakazoo for his Ottawa Indian band. The Mission continued until 1849, when the Indians decided to relocate to Northport in the Leelenau Peninsula. Two years earlier, in 1847, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte had selected the same Black River watershed as the site for his Holland Colony. By 1849, several thousand Dutch immigrants had opened farms in the area, thereby making the Indian way of life in the region untenable. The major part of the text includes extensive diaries of both Rev. Smith and his wife Arvilla. Both offer rare first-hand 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.

I can now concentrate on completing the other book in progress, a comprehensive history of Holland, Michigan. In the earlier stages, I was greatly assisted by Michael Douma, who is now engaged full time in doctoral studies in history.



*Bob Swierenga at  
AADAS conference*

Another highlight of the past year was the meeting on the Hope College campus of the sixteenth biennial conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies (AADAS). The A. C. Van Raalte Institute sponsored the conference, which had as its theme "Dutch-American Arts and Letters." The conference brought together for three days of stimulating discussions more than one hundred scholars and interested laypersons, including at least eight scholars from various Netherlands universities

and research institutions. I chaired the program committee, along with colleagues Jacob Nyenhuis and Nella Kennedy, and Hans Krabbendam in the Netherlands. The four of us now have the responsibility to edit a selection of conference papers for a book to be published by the Institute.

Besides these major projects, I presented a number of lectures for academic and community groups and contributed chapters for scholarly books and academic journals.

**Albertus C. Van Raalte as a Businessman**  
*An Excerpt*

If Albertus Van Raalte had not followed his father into the Dutch Reformed Church pastorate, he surely would have been a businessman. He had the instincts of an entrepreneur and was a risk taker. It was a life-long pattern. Van Raalte had a dynamic view of money and always tried to put ready cash to work, expecting to earn market rates of interest on his investments. From his late twenties and continuing until his last years, Van Raalte was involved in various business ventures in manufacturing, milling, retailing, newspaper publishing, and especially real estate and mortgage lending. . . .

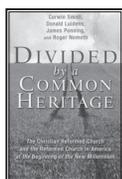
In his economic endeavors, Van Raalte can better be described as a promoter and fundraiser than a businessman. He raised tens of thousands of dollars in the East for colonial lands, Holland harbor, the Colonial Church, Hope College, and various business ventures. His prime goal at the outset was to ensure the success of the Colony, not to play the role of capitalist and accrue wealth. Yet his entrepreneurial mindset, capitalistic attitude toward money, and eagerness to take risks in various enterprises inevitably drew him into business life. Only his duties as pastor constrained him from taking a more hands-on role; he could be a partner and co-investor but not the person in charge.

Lots and lands, however, did lend themselves to his direct management, since he could squeeze sales, legal work, and tax payments in between his pastoral duties. His dabbling in factories and mills did not prove profitable, whereas real estate dealings made him a fabulously wealthy man. Land in and around Holland gained value while he slept, due to the rapid and steady development of the community. He got in "on the ground floor" and parlayed a modest investment in land into a portfolio worth \$5 million in today's dollars. It was Van Raalte, not Den Bleyker, who deserves the title of "wealthiest Hollander in Michigan."

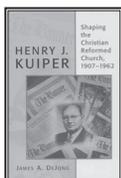
Source: Robert P. Swierenga, "Albertus C. Van Raalte as a Businessman," in *A Goodly Heritage*.

## Recording History: Reformed, and Christian Reformed, Church *Dr. Bruggink reports*

As general editor of the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, it has been my pleasure to see three volumes published in the series since my last report. *Divided by a Common Heritage* aptly describes that which began with nineteenth-century Dutch Calvinists who came to this country and continues to the present. Four scholars, Corwin Smidt and James Penning from Calvin, and Donald Luidens and Roger Nemeth from Hope, have worked together to produce this book, subtitled *The Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church in America at the Beginning of the New Millennium*. Corwin Smidt and James Penning are in the political sciences, whereas Donald Luidens and Roger Nemeth are sociologists.



The book is the most thorough study to date, which on the basis of sociological tools examines the religious, social, and political beliefs and practices of the clergy and laity of these two communions. After a brief introductory chapter outlining a history of the two denominations, contemporary characteristics and a social profile are offered of the two groups. The hard data in the following chapters set forth their theological positions, the longevity of theological orientation, creedal awareness and salience, religious practices and trends, both of laity and clergy, as well as politics, and current ethical issues. The data refute those who feel that there are no real differences between the two communions, and those who exaggerate the differences. The book concludes with thoughts on the future of the RCA and CRC. The *Christian Century* thought the book of sufficient importance that they gave it a full-page spread for their national readership.



*Henry J. Kuiper, Shaping the Christian Reformed Church, 1907-1962* was authored by James A. DeJong, president emeritus of Calvin Theological Seminary. The volume offers yet another example of bridge-building across that divided heritage. The Historical Series of the RCA is happy to cooperate

with the Historical Committee of the Christian Reformed Church in the publication of their history, which inevitably impinges upon our own.

The book chronicles Kuiper's boyhood and education, his first three pastorates, and his long career as editor of the *Banner* and influential presence in classes and synods. DeJong makes a compelling case for the determinative influence of Kuiper on the middle years of the Christian Reformed Church, with reference to Christian schools, liturgy and hymnody, religious practices, Reformed spirituality, and to the broader society. Although Kuiper's ecumenical proclivities were somewhat limited, his understanding of the outreach and impact of the gospel was not.

*A Goodly Heritage: Essays in Honor of the Reverend Dr. Elton J. Bruins at Eighty* was edited by Jacob E. Nyenhuis—a Herculean effort extending over two years. All of us at the Institute are grateful not only to our director, but also to Peter Huizenga, through whose love of the history of the church and his generous support of such publications enabled this volume to become a reality.

Shifting from editorship to authorship I had the honor of being able to contribute one of the essays in the festschrift dedicated to my friend of many decades, the Reverend Dr. Elton J. Bruins. The essay, "Extra-Canonical Tests for Church Membership and Ministry" builds on Elton's work in *Family Quarrels in the Dutch Reformed Churches in the Nineteenth Century*. At that time the Reformed Church resisted the temptation, even in the heat of the conflict over Masonic membership, to add extra-canonical tests as requirements for church membership or ministry, leaving the qualifications for such in the hands of the classes where the persons and their commitments were best known. Within recent years efforts have been made to overturn that decision, and these are cited in the essay. However, the wisdom of rejecting extra-canonical tests, which has thus far been retained through all subsequent conflicts, should be a guiding ecclesiological principle in the conflicts we face in the present.

Additionally I was invited to contribute an article to *Modern Reformation*. "From Common Grace to Means of Grace" articulates the thesis originally set forth in *Christ and Architecture* that what we see

around us does affect our belief, and as such I take the conservative, traditional position that pulpit, font, and table, their construction and placement, will all have an influence on our faith.

Five visits to Russia resulted in an invitation to present “A Tourist’s View of Russia” to the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP). I discussed the transition from Communism, through a period of economic turbulence that deprived most people of their savings, to a period of stability with incredible wealth for some. For most the economic situation can be summed up in the words of one Russian: “Under communism we had plenty of money but nothing to buy; now we have plenty to buy but no money.” The social safety net has many large and gaping holes, especially for the elderly and in the area of health care. The consolidation of power under Putin leaves concerns about the future of Russian democracy. However, we can rejoice that the church has regained its freedom, and hundreds of churches are being restored while hundreds more are being built.

### **Extra-Canonical Tests**

#### *An Excerpt*

The genius of the refusal to establish extra-canonical tests is that it allows the church to live with serious differences of opinion until a consensus is reached. When the Synods of 1870 and 1880 refused an extra-canonical test denying membership to Freemasons, it allowed Christians of varying convictions to live in one church and at the same time to live out their convictions. In the Midwest, many RCA churches denied membership to Masons, and ministers who were members of the Masonic order were unknown. In the East, members of the RCA lived out their Christian convictions, with many members, and some ministers, as Masons. But they continued in the unity of the body of Christ.

One can only hope that the church will continue to reject “new and unauthorized tests” for membership and leadership, especially when proposed hurriedly and/or in hostility. Classes and consistories should be allowed to fulfill their historic Reformed roles to exercise discipline within their proper spheres. The church should avoid the use of extra-canonical tests to address issues of disputed biblical interpretation and complex social issues. It is sincerely hoped that the precedent set by the Synods of 1870 and 1880 will continue to provide a guide to right action in the present.

Source: Donald J. Bruggink, “Extra-Canonical Tests for Church Membership and Ministry,” in *A Goodly Heritage*.

## “Much to tell . . .” *Dr. Jacobson reports*



Letters of Albertus Van Raalte's two younger sons written during the American Civil War are absorbingly productive of new paths to pursue. When Elton Bruins invited me to join the A. C. Van Raalte Center as a researcher, he and I—in the words of Van Raalte himself—were “at once to work!” With the collaboration of Larry Wagenaar, a biography, *Albertus C. Van Raalte: Dutch Leader and American Patriot*, was published in 1996.

The Van Raaltes' middle son, Benjamin, corresponded faithfully with his parents, who kept his letters; they reveal him as a modest but remarkably perceptive young man. Elton's extensive collection of Van Raalte papers is the source for my contribution to his festschrift volume: “Civil War Correspondence of Benjamin Van Raalte during the Atlanta Campaign, 1864,” subtitled with a quotation from those letters: “My opinion is that much will have to happen before this campaign is concluded. Whoever lives through it will have much to tell.” In June I presented a program for the Society of Florida Archivists titled “Across Time and Language: A Dutch Soldier's Civil War Letters.”

Working with photocopies of letters handwritten in the trenches by a soldier who wrote names of places and officers as he heard them, from English translations by a scholar fluent in Dutch but unfamiliar with Civil War history, was an intriguing puzzle, replete with small triumphs. One of these was piecing together the story of an officer Ben does not name in these letters: “Our Lt. Col. is a fine man and we are very fond of him.” Benjamin Franklin Orcutt survived the Civil War and returned to his young wife and three children in Kalamazoo, where he was re-elected to the post of sheriff. The story of his death in 1867, shot by an escaping prisoner, is told on the internet: <<http://www.odmp.org/agency>>, “Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc.,” an ongoing record honoring Law Enforcement Officers who have died while serving their fellow citizens.

A more recent project has involved study of mysteries published in English, written by Dutch—or partially Dutch—authors, and mysteries by American authors on Dutch themes. This provided an opportunity to

discuss with Hope College professor Dr. Albert Bell his new series based in Grand Rapids and Holland, Michigan, featuring Sarah Dykstra and a host of fictional folk with memorably Dutch names.

I continue to collect and transcribe papers of my dear husband, Hope's tenth president. During his brief years in retirement, he developed an Adult Christian Education program for the church we attended, compiling extensive materials on biblical and other religious topics into booklets for participants. In the coming Advent season, I will be teaching a course on the nativity, using his materials.

It is a source of delight and great comfort to work, from our Sarasota home, with Jack Nyenhuis and Karen Schakel, to be in touch with Elton Bruins, and to learn more about the work of Bob Swierenga—as well as others at ACVRI whom I know only through preparation of the annual report.

### **Sergeant Ben Van Raalte Writes Home**

**1 Aug. 1864. Camp 25th Mich., In front of Atlanta, Ga.**

*. . . Colonel Cooper of the sixth Tennessee is now Brigadier General. . . . I think things will get better since he has received his star—he has earned it. He was the first captain of Co. A. of the sixth Tennessee to elude capture by the Rebs. There are no better troops. He looks like a Drenthe farmer.*

Promotion was due to Cooper's excellence, but General Sherman's hot temper speeded the process. The account is given in his Memoirs. On 24 July he was informed by dispatch that two men formerly under his command had been promoted. "Both of them had gone to the rear—[one] by reason of sickness and [the other] dissatisfied with General Schofield and myself. I answered on the 25th, closing with this language: 'If the rear be the post of honor, then we had better all change front on Washington.'"

He received an immediate reply from President Lincoln himself—the promotions had been made based on commendations, including his own, sent many months earlier. On 28 July, a dispatch directed him to nominate eight colonels for promotion as brigadier generals. "I at once sent a circular note to the army-commanders to nominate officers and on the 29th I telegraphed the names. . . . These were promptly appointed brigadier generals, [and] were already in command of brigades or divisions; and I doubt if eight promotions were ever made fairer, or were more honestly earned, during the whole war."

Source: Jeanne M. Jacobson, "Civil War Correspondence of Benjamin Van Raalte during the Atlanta Campaign, 1864," in *A Goodly Heritage*.

## Heritage and Homage

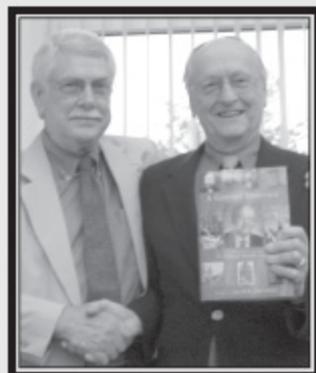
When Elton Bruins retired from Hope College in 1992 shortly before his sixty-fifth birthday, it was still the custom for retirees to give a speech at the retirement dinner. For some retirees, even very accomplished teachers, the prospect of giving a swan song before their faculty colleagues struck fear in their hearts. Others relished the opportunity. There was no fear evident on Elton's joyful face as he delivered his retirement speech.

Elton chose Psalm 16:6 as the theme for his carefully-crafted remarks, which of course had been completed well in advance of the dinner. Fifteen years later, these words still stand as witness to how Elton views his life: "The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; surely, I have a goodly heritage." I therefore chose "A Goodly Heritage" as the title for this collection of essays presented to him in honor of his eightieth birthday on 29 July 2007.

The fifteen essays in this collection were written by former students and long-time friends of Elton, many of us brought to the Van Raalte Institute during his tenure as founding director of the Institute (1994-2002). . . .

All fifteen essays are offered in homage to our dear friend and beloved colleague, who has modeled a life of devotion to God, living out among us his calling to the ministry of the Word. With Elton, we acknowledge that we all have a goodly heritage. To him we say: "To you, dear friend, esteemed scholar, beloved colleague, and loyal servant of the church, we offer this festschrift as a token of gratitude to you for enriching our lives, educating us in our rich heritage, and inspiring us in our work and in our walk of faith. God bless you on your eightieth birthday—and always!"

Source: Jacob E. Nyenhuis, "Introduction," in *A Goodly Heritage*

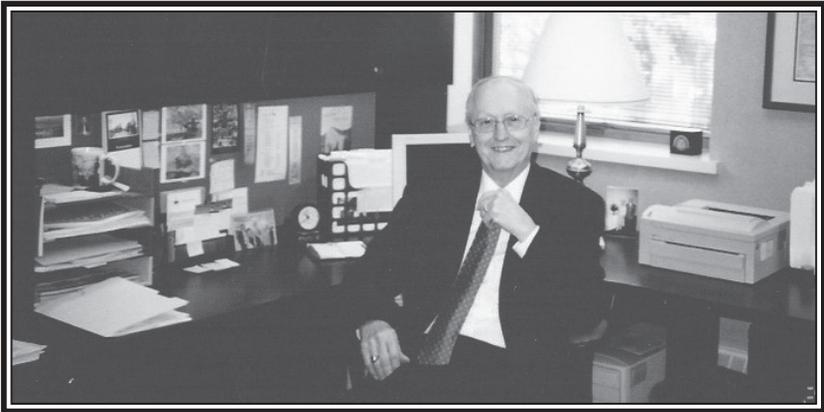


*Jack Nyenhuis presenting  
A Goodly Heritage to Elton Bruins*

## **“The lines are cast for me in pleasant places”**

### ***Dr. Bruins reports***

The highlight for me of the past year, the last year of my formal association with the Van Raalte Institute, was the gift of a festschrift edited by Dr. Jack Nyenhuis, Director of the Van Raalte Institute. The book was presented to me on 6 June at a dinner in the Haworth Center attended by nearly sixty persons. It was published in the Historical Series of



the Reformed Church in America (no. 56), of which Dr. Donald J. Bruggink is the general editor. The book consists of fifteen essays, each one written by a colleague, friend, or former student of mine, and includes a biographical sketch of my life and career followed by a list of my publications. A retired professor can receive no finer gift than a book of essays written by people he deeply admires, and I am very grateful to Jack Nyenhuis, Karen Schakel, and all the people who contributed to this fine volume.

During the past year, I continued my responsibility of overseeing the Institute's translation program. Most researchers who come to the Institute, especially college students, cannot read the Dutch language, so it is vital to have Dutch documents and records translated in order that researchers can use them and carry on their research.

I have spent considerable time this past year preparing my papers for inclusion in the Joint Archives and records of the Institute. My appreciation

goes to Geoffrey Reynolds, Director of the Joint Archives, and to Bill Van Dyke for processing my personal papers. I also continue to make arrangements to transfer the approximately 750 books in my Dutch-American collection to the Institute library. The Director has kindly allowed me the continued use of my office to finish these tasks, wrapping up my work at the Institute.

Karen Schakel, who performs the editorial work at the Institute, continues to work on my last book, which consists of annotations of the ninety-five letters of Albertus C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps Jr., 1857-75. I wrote the first draft of the introductory essay for this book this past year. Other writing this year included an essay on the subject of religion at Hope College in the 1940s for inclusion in a volume edited by Dr. George Zuidema and Eileen Nordstrom on life at Hope College during the 1940s, a vital decade in the history of the college.

Finally, I feel privileged and compelled to express my gratitude to my colleagues at the Van Raalte Institute for the great experience of working with them—talented and dedicated people who are contributing much to a better understanding of the Dutch-American experience in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. My gratitude also goes to Peter H. Huizenga and the Huizenga family for funding the Institute. Without their vision and gifts, there would not have been a Van Raalte Institute. As I now move on to the next chapter of my life, I will look back with fondness to the years of my association with the Institute.



*Display area in the Theell Research Center*

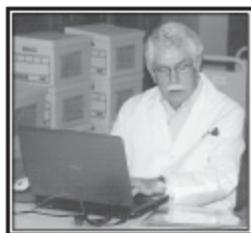
**Excerpt from “Religious Life at Hope College in the 1940s”  
by Elton J. Bruins**

Daily chapel services had been a part of college life since the first classes began in 1862 under the tutelage of Rev. Philip Phelps Jr., principal of the Holland Academy, who inaugurated the college curriculum as well as teaching all of the courses that first year. Although compulsory chapel could not be defended theologically (people cannot theologically be compelled to attend church), the practice was pretty well accepted during this decade. The president of the college, followed by the entire faculty, entered the college chapel daily at 8:00 a.m., thereby setting an example that was readily noted by students. During all of the 1940s, even after the sudden surge of a much larger enrollment in 1946, the entire student body could still fit into the Memorial Chapel (renamed Dimnent Memorial Chapel in 1959 in honor of Hope President Edward D. Dimnent). After veterans enrolled en masse in the fall of 1946, faculty members and senior, junior, and sophomore students occupied the pews on the south side of the stately chapel, while the 688 entering freshmen filled the entire north side of the chapel on the main level and the balcony. A special dimension was added to college life by having all students begin their day with chapel and having the entire faculty and student body together in one place at the same time daily. The ties of college community were deepened, and a feeling of esprit de corps was fostered. On days when the president made a special announcement, the entire student body would listen carefully to hear if he would dismiss classes for the day, which he did upon a few occasions in order to celebrate a “glory day” or to allow students to get an early start on their college vacation. . . .

[Another] major factor in the religious life during this decade—one remembered well by students during latter part of the 1940s—was the impact of fund drives for the Reformed Academy in Sarospatak, Hungary. Interest in this Hungarian school was sparked by Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven of the Bible Department, whose wife, Margaret Nagy, was of Hungarian descent and a 1942 Hope graduate. Osterhaven had a gift for languages and was able to master the Hungarian language, and in time, made several trips to Hungary. His commanding presence in his classes and his unbounded enthusiasm for worthy causes encouraged students and the Hope community to respond with compassion to the dire needs of this old academy. A carnival was held. . . . Clothing drives were organized. . . . The *Anchor* of 30 September 1948 reported that the Hope community shipped 39 large wooden boxes of clothing. The total shipment weighed over seven tons! . . . A letter from the rector of the academy, Dr. Barnabas Nagy, published in the *Anchor* on 21 October 1949, related his great appreciation and, in careful detail, how all of the clothing was distributed to people in need, including pensioners of the school.

## Broadening the Vision

### *Dr. Nyenhuis reports*



*Jack Nyenhuis at work in  
the archives*

Although my efforts this past year were concentrated most heavily on editing the festschrift in honor of Elton Bruins, I also devoted time to the administration of the Institute, various research projects, and community service.

My long-term research project, an architectural history of Hope College, has benefited from the work of several research assistants, as noted in my Director's Report. In preparation for this work, I conducted an oral history interview with Dr. Gordon J. Van Wylen, ninth president of Hope College, focusing on his architectural vision for the college during his presidency (1972-87). The transcript of this interview, which has been added to Hope College's collection in the Joint Archives of Holland, will be a valuable resource for the architectural history of the College. Next year I hope to conduct a similar interview with our current president, Dr. James E. Bultman.

Now that the festschrift has been published, I can turn my attention more fully to this and two other research and writing projects. I am compiling a history of my paternal grandparents, Egbert and Pieterkje van Dam Nyenhuis, and their descendants. And in collaboration with my co-author, Norma Goldman, and a new co-author, Preston Shea, I am preparing a third edition of *Latin Via Ovid* for Wayne State University Press.

In service to the church, I was Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary (completing a six-year term of service on 30 June 2007) and chair of the Worship Planning Team at my home church, Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church. In service to community and college, I was a member of the Dutch-American Heritage Day Committee and the local organizing committee for the AADAS conference, and was project evaluator for the Michigan Humanities Council during Grand Valley State University's "Fall Arts Celebration: Enriching the Arts and Humanities in West Michigan."

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.

## A Century of Change and Adaptation

Fourteenth Street Church came into existence to enable people to worship in a language that was familiar to them. The neighborhood where the church was first built [had] . . . little ethnic diversity. Over the years, however, the composition of the neighborhood has become increasingly diverse. Fourteenth Street Church's response . . . shows varying degrees of both isolation and adaptation.

From the very beginning, Fourteenth Street Church showed a commitment to outreach, but to regions far from home. This is evident, for example, in its support for the denominational missions program from the outset. . . .

During the pastorate of Rev. Clifford E. Bajema (1983-88), the Council and the congregation sought a closer relationship with Iglesia Hispana, which is now known as Vida Nueva Christian Reformed Church. The first formal engagement with Iglesia Hispana had begun in August 1980, when the consistory approved the extension of an invitation to them to participate in a joint worship service on 5 October 1980. Six years later . . . [t]here were duplicate communion services at Iglesia Hispana in the morning and a single combined service at Fourteenth Street Church in the evening. Joint worship services also took place in 1988 on Maundy Thursday (20 March 1988) and on Pentecost Sunday (22 May 1988). In January 1989, the Council approved a recommendation from the elders that the church create "the office of special elder and deacon . . . with the specific task of offering help and assistance to the Iglesia Hispana CRC." In June 1989, the Council approved a joint Cadet Program (similar to the Boy Scouts) with Iglesia Hispana and terminated a similar program with Pillar Church. During the latter half of the 1980s, the two congregations not only held joint bilingual services, but also joint potlucks on various occasions. For a time, members of Fourteenth Street also were assigned on a rotating basis to attend worship services at Iglesia Hispana.

All these efforts were intended to strengthen ecclesiastical and personal ties and to develop a deeper mutual understanding and respect. The pastors of the two congregations began to speak openly of a merger of the two congregations. Regrettably, however, the fear of assimilation into the much larger Fourteenth Street congregation caused Iglesia Hispana to resist moves toward integrating the two congregations. In fact, they withdrew completely from the inter-congregational services and activities. . . . The foundation for friendships and mutual encouragement had been well laid, but there appeared to be a loss of vision for this cross-cultural engagement with fellow believers. The opportunity for forging a partnership of equals under God was lost, and the two congregations once again consisted essentially of people of a single ethnic group. . . .

Source: Jacob E. Nyenhuis, "A Century of Change and Adaptation in the First English-Speaking Congregation of the Christian Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan," in *A Goodly Heritage*.

## Publications

Abstracts of all articles in *Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte* 2005 and 2006 for *Religious and Theological Abstracts*. (Earl Wm. Kennedy)

“Albertus C. Van Raalte as a Businessman.” In *A Goodly Heritage: Essays in Honor of the Reverend Dr. Elton J. Bruins at Eighty*, ed. Jacob E. Nyenhuis. RCA Historical Series, no. 56. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2007. (Robert P. Swierenga)

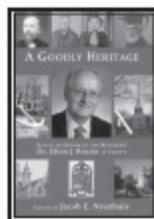
“A Century of Change and Adaptation in the First English-Speaking Christian Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan.” In *A Goodly Heritage: Essays in Honor of the Reverend Dr. Elton J. Bruins at Eighty*, ed. Jacob E. Nyenhuis. RCA Historical Series, no. 56. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2007. (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

“Civil War Correspondence of Benjamin Van Raalte during the Atlanta Campaign, 1864.” In *A Goodly Heritage: Essays in Honor of the Reverend Dr. Elton J. Bruins at Eighty*, ed. Jacob E. Nyenhuis. RCA Historical Series, no. 56. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2007. (Jeanne M. Jacobson)

“Ethnocultural Political Behavior in the Mid-Nineteenth Century: Voting, Values, Cultures.” In *Religion and American Politics: From the Colonial Period to the Present*, eds. Mark A. Noll and Luke E. Harlow. 2nd ed. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“Fruits of the Reformation in West Michigan.” In *Facts Newsletter* (League of Christian Laymen) March 2007: 6-7; April 2007: 6-7. (Robert P. Swierenga)

*A Goodly Heritage: Essays in Honor of the Reverend Dr. Elton J. Bruins at Eighty*, ed. Jacob E. Nyenhuis. RCA Historical Series, no. 56. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2007. (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)



“Jacob Maasdam’s Memoir, 1831-1840,” eds. Robert P. Swierenga and Muriel Kooi, trans. Michael Douma. In *Origins* 24, no 2 (2006): 22-30. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“Peoples of the Low Countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg).” In *The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*, eds. Richard Sisson, Christian Zacher, and Andrew Cayton. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

Poem: “Ultimate Freedom: Remembering A. James Prins.” In *A. James Prins: A Life in Literature*, eds. Kathleen Verduin and Christopher James Prins. Holland, Mich.: Hope College, 2006. (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

“Richard Baxter: An English Fox in a Dutch Chicken Coop?” In *A Goodly Heritage: Essays in Honor of the Reverend Dr. Elton J. Bruins at Eighty*, ed. Jacob E. Nyenhuis. RCA Historical Series, no. 56. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2007. (Earl Wm. Kennedy)

“Religious Life at Hope College in the 1940s.” Forthcoming in *Life at Hope College, 1940-1950*, eds. Eileen Nordstrom and George Zuidema. (Elton J. Bruins)

Review of *The Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology* by Roger E. Olson. In *Reformed Review* 60, no. 2 (spring 2007). Online at <[http://www.westernsem.edu/media/pub\\_article/rreview/spring07](http://www.westernsem.edu/media/pub_article/rreview/spring07)>. (Earl Wm. Kennedy)

“A Step Forward for Hope College: Building Graves Hall and Winants Chapel.” In *The Joint Archives Quarterly* 17, no. 1 (spring 2007): 1-7. (Elton J. Bruins)



## Presentations

“Across Time and Language: A Dutch Soldier’s Civil War Letters.” Society of Florida Archivists Annual Meeting, Boca Raton, Florida, 6 June 2007.

(Jeanne M. Jacobson)

“The Americanization of an Immigrant Family, 1847-1997.” Lecture at a Hope Academy of Senior Professionals class, Hope College, 8 November 2006. (Elton J. Bruins)

Comments on *Son of Secession: Rev. Douwe J. Vander Werp*, book written by Janet Sjaarda Sheeres, at the Sixteenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, Holland, Michigan, 7 June 2007. (Earl Wm. Kennedy)

“The Formation of Holland’s Religious Character in the Nineteenth Century.” Lecture for Leadership Holland Council, 12 October 2006, Pillar Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“Freedom of the Press or Prior Censorship: Albertus C. Van Raalte and Hermanus Doesburg of *De Hollander*.” Paper presented at the Sixteenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, Hope College, 7 June 2007. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“From the Secession of 1834 to a New Denomination in 1857.” Colonial Heritage Lecture Series, Graafschap Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, 22 April 2007. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“The Fruits of the Protestant Reformation in West Michigan.” Lecture at Reformation Day Rally, Messiah’s Independent Reformed Church, Overisel, Michigan, 1 November 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“Greece: Spirituality, Art, and Architecture.” A five-week seminar for Journey Overseas, a continuing education division of Western Theological Seminary, 15 June – 4 July 2007. (Donald J. Bruggink)

“Hans Krabbendam and the Writing of Dutch Immigration History.” Talk at ceremony upon publication of Hans Krabbendam’s *Vrijheid in bet verschiet*:

*Nederlandse emigratie naar Amerika, 1840-1940* (Hilversum: Uitgeverij Verloren, 2006), Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, The Netherlands, 27 October 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)



*AADAS Conference 2007 participants*

“The Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America—and CRC.” Illustrated presentation at the Sixteenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, 9 June 2007. (Donald J. Bruggink)

“History of Pillar Christian Reformed Church at 150 Years.” Lecture for the Holland Area Historical Society, Pillar Church, Holland, Michigan, 12 December 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“The Holland Colony and the Origins of the Reformed Churches in the Midwest.” Lecture presented to international students from Calvin Theological Seminary at Central Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, 29 August 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“Hope College: Its Origin and Development, 1851-2006.” Lecture to new faculty and staff members of Hope College, 23 August 2006. (Elton J. Bruins)

“De Kolonie.” Bus tour lecture on the historic towns and villages of the Holland Colony, Pre-Conference Bus Tour, Sixteenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, Hope College, 6 June 2007 (Robert P. Swierenga and Michael Douma)

“150th Anniversary of the Christian Reformed Church in 2007.” Published in serial form in twelve weekly bulletins of the Central Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, March-June 2007. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“Pillar Church Building at 150 Years: A Sesquicentennial History.” Lecture for the Holland Museum docents, Pillar Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, 20 June 2006. (Robert P. Swierenga)

Presentation of Dr. Gordon J. Van Wylen, President Emeritus of Hope College, for the West Michigan Dutch-American Leadership Award, Dutch-American Heritage Day Celebration, 16 November 2006. (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

“The Reformed Church in America: Its History, Nature, and Relationship to Hope College.” Presentation at a Hope College faculty workshop, 29 May 2007. (Elton J. Bruins)

“Religious Life in Early Holland.” Presentation for Netherlands Tour Group, Graafschap Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, 4 May 2007. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“Research Possibilities in Holland, Michigan, Music History.” Presentation to the Senior Seminar of Music Majors, Hope College, 29 and 30 August 2006. (Elton J. Bruins)

“Research Possibilities in the Joint Archives of Holland.” Presentation to a Hope College political science class, 28 February 2007. (Elton J. Bruins)

“The Stained Glass Artistry of John Vander Burgh.” Illustrated presentation at the Sixteenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, 9 June 2007. (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

“Theology in Shape and Form: Church Architecture through the Ages.” Presentation for Western Seminary’s Journey Academy, 10 October to 14 November 2007. (Donald J. Bruggink)

“A Tourist’s View of Russia.” Illustrated presentation at Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP), 1 May 2007. (Donald J. Bruggink)

“The Uniqueness of Chicago’s Dutch Community in Roseland.” Presentation for the Van Vlissingen School June 1949ers Mini-Reunion, Glenwood, Illinois, 28 June 2007. (Robert P. Swierenga)

**VRI Visiting Research Fellows Program  
Lecture Series**

Inaugural Lecture – 18 September 2003

*Dutch-American Identity Politics: The Use of History by Dutch Immigrants*

Hans Krabbendam, Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, Netherlands

Lecture Series, No. 2 – 2 April 2004

*The Rain of God: Reformed Church in America Growth and Decline in Historical Perspective*

Lynn M. Japinga, Hope College, Holland, Michigan

Lecture Series, No. 3 – 16 February 2006

*Reassessing 1857: Overlooked Considerations Concerning the Birth of the Christian Reformed Church*

James A. De Jong, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Lecture Series, No. 4 – 9 November 2006

*Disease and Death among the Early Settlers in Holland, Michigan*

Jan Peter Verhave, Radboud University Medical Center, Njmegen, The Netherlands

Copies of these lectures are available upon request from the Van Raalte Institute.



**Applications Invited**  
**Visiting Research Fellows Programs for**  
**Academic Year 2008-09**

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 (see following page), 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 2008 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 founder of Holland, 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 segments of 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.