

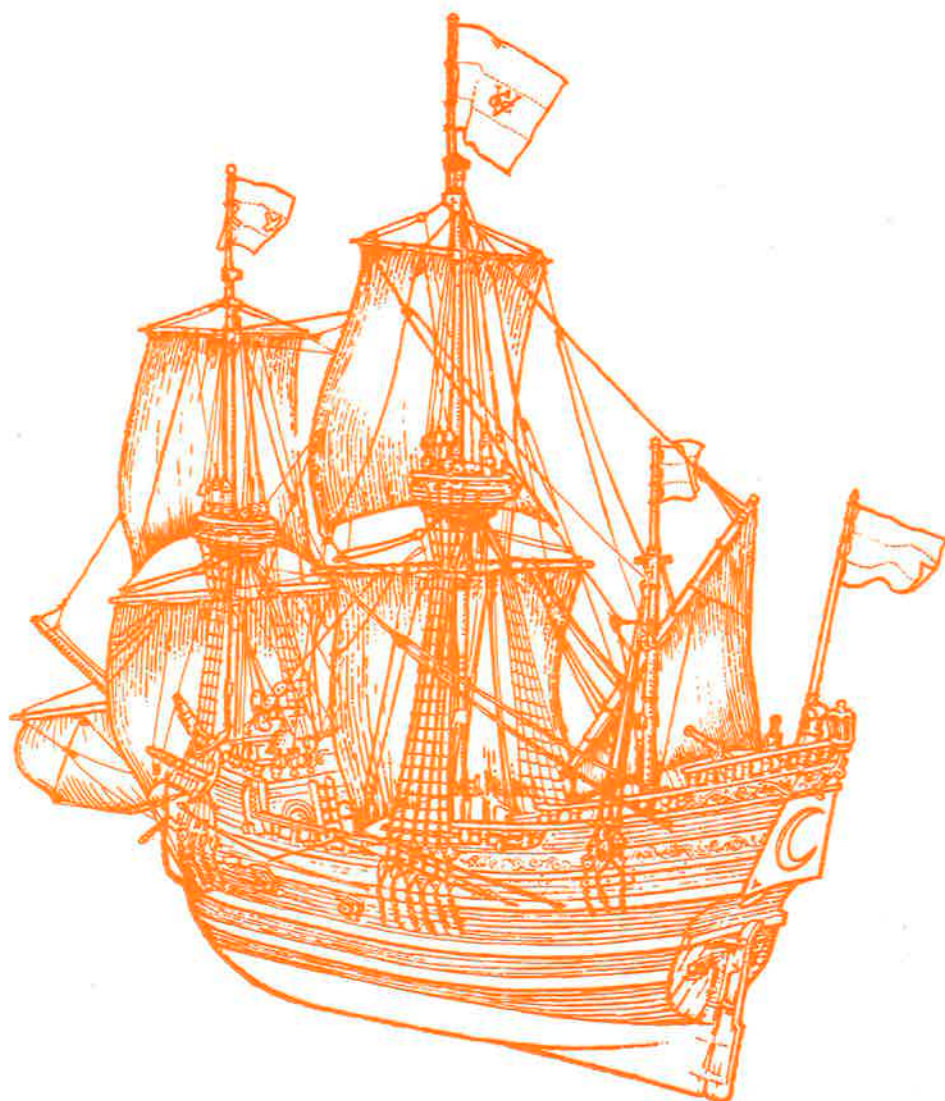
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The Holland Society of New York

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Organized in 1885 to collect and preserve information respecting the settlement and early history of the City and State of New York; to perpetuate the memory, foster and promote the principles and virtues of the Dutch ancestors of its members; to maintain a library relating to the Dutch in America; and to prepare papers, essays, books, etc., in regard to the history and genealogy of the Dutch in America.

The Society is principally comprised of descendants in the direct male line of residents of the Dutch Colonies in America prior to or during the year 1675. Inquiries respecting the several criteria for membership are invited.

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Editor's Corner

Illustrative of the historical continuity of friendship between this country and the Netherlands from 17th century colonial times to the present, and especially since 1782 when the States General recognized American independence, are the cordial messages exchanged May 29 by President Nixon and the Netherlands Prime Minister and Foreign Minister following their recent visit to the U.S. President Nixon wrote:

"Your Excellencies: As you leave the United States, I wish to express once again my real appreciation of the creative and responsible role played by the Netherlands in world affairs. It was a great pleasure to meet with you both personally and to have had an opportunity to discuss our many common concerns. Our countries' destinies have been closely intertwined for several centuries now, and I, for one, am hopeful that our meetings of the past few days will enable us to cooperate even more effectively in future endeavors. With highest personal regard for you and your great people.

RICHARD NIXON"

The State Ministers wrote:

"Mr. President: Upon leaving the United States, we wish to thank you again for the warm hospitality extended to us and our delegation. Your gracious farewell message touched us deeply.

"We share your feeling that our most cordial and frank discussions on bilateral and multilateral problems have contributed to our mutual understanding and have further strengthened the happy relations between our two nations. We are particularly grateful that, thanks to your personal interest, a very satisfactory agreement has been reached on some important issues.

"Please accept our respectful and warm regards and our best wishes for you, your family and the people of the United States.

PIETER DE JONG
JOSEPH LUNS"

The Waldorf luncheon of May 29 was in all respects a notable event as well as the first ever at which we of the Holland Society acted as host to the chief constitutional officers of our ancestral nation. The capacity audience from the Society and Dutch community delighted in meeting the guests of honor, and particularly enjoyed the admirable address by Prime Minister de Jong, both for its substance and the faultless English in which it was delivered.

It is also pleasant to record that as part of the amenities incident to their visit to this country, President Nixon tendered a formal dinner to the Ministers at the White House, May 27, and that they in like manner entertained Vice President Agnew at the Netherlands Embassy, May 28, with Col. Hopper attending each occasion in behalf of the Society.

Highlights of History of Hoorn, North Holland

by Richard H. Amerman, Editor *de Halve Maen*.

Former Zuyder Zee port once home of de Vries and other pioneers in America; Townhall model for Delaware museum.



New York Public Library
David Pietersz de Vries,
famed explorer and writer
of Dutch colony here.

THE historic ties which link this country with the Netherlands are especially evident in the case of Hoorn, an old Zuyder Zee town chartered in 1356.^{1*}

Its Townhall, depicted at right, became the model for a like building, shown below, erected in 1931 at Lewes, Delaware, to commemorate the tercentenary of a settlement founded there as Zwaanendael (or Swanendael), under the sponsorship of David Pieterszen de Vries.

Hoorn, too, like many municipalities in North Holland, was the home of others who pioneered in New Netherland. More than a few descendants of those colonists are or have been active in the Holland Society, which in 1906 presented a Dutch flag to the "Zwaanendael Society" at Lewes.

Effectually barred from the sea in 1932 by the Enclosing Dam, which connected North Holland with Friesland and inaugurated the great task of reclaiming the Zuyder Zee, Hoorn, today a prosperous town of about 17,000 inhabitants, has a remarkable maritime history reaching back far into the past. As long ago as 1416, men at Hoorn developed a type of drag-net which with the herring-buss, invented at Enkhuizen, became vital factors² in the extraordinary growth of the fishing industry that produced the seafarers for an era of Dutch maritime predominance. The period of Holland's naval ascendancy, indeed, can be dated from 1573 when the "Sea Beggars" crushingly defeated Bossu's Spanish fleet on the Zuyder Zee off Hoorn.

A famous seaport during the "Golden Age," Hoorn in common with other Dutch towns at that time, used much of the wealth gained from commerce at home and far-distant parts of the world to erect or to beautify buildings which still survive as monuments of a glorious history. Examples of impressive architecture abound in Hoorn: the Townhall (of which details are set forth later in this article), the St. Jans Gasthuis, West-Friesland Government House (now a museum), churches, weigh-house, gates, orphanages, and the East India Company's spacious warehouses built in 1606.

Closely connected with two celebrated 17th century Dutch commercial ventures from their inception — the East India Company (organized in 1602), and West India Company (1621) — Hoorn also provided administrators, ship captains and colonists in a great

RICHARD H. AMERMAN, Editor 1941-42 and since 1958, graduated with honors from Middlebury College and holds the J.D. degree from New York Law School. Member of the New York Bar, WW II veteran, and retired Army Intelligence reserve officer, he was Bergen Branch President and Burgher Guard Captain. He and his wife have a daughter, four sons.



Courtesy of the Municipality of Hoorn

Townhall at Hoorn, originally two buildings conjoined in year 1429 and used for civic purposes after Reformation, has served the municipality as its Stadhuis since 1795.



Courtesy of the Delaware State Archives

Zwaanendael Museum at Lewes, Del., a careful adaptation of Hoorn Townhall, memorializes Dutch settlement in 1631, to whose establishment Delaware owes existence as State.

age of exploration and overseas settlement. Hoorn was the birthplace of Jan Pieterszoon Coen (1587-1629) who founded the nation's long-held empire in the East Indies, and of Skipper Jan van Houten, who sailed round the coasts of South America and gave the name of his city to the Cape.³ With Hoorn are associated the names of Abel Janszoon Tasman (c.1602-1659) who discovered Tasmania, and of David Pieterszen de

*Footnotes begin on Page 10.

Vries, master mariner, explorer and writer, with whom much of the history of New Netherland is linked.

By Section 18 of the West India Company charter of June 3, 1621,⁴ the States General vested executive powers in an "Assembly of Nineteen" to act on behalf of five directorates, or "Chambers," set up for as many geographical parts of the country in ratio to their financial participation. The Chamber of Amsterdam, where most of the money came from, represented four-ninths of the Company capital, and had eight of the Nineteen. The *Noorderkwartier*, which included Hoorn and six other towns in present North Holland,⁵ had a one-ninth interest and two men of the Nineteen. In this manner Hoorn became identified with an enterprise which, having been awarded jurisdiction and well nigh sovereign powers over Dutch interests on portions of the coasts of America and Africa, would govern New Netherland until 1664.

To promote colonization in New Netherland the Company on June 13, 1629, issued its charter of "Privileges and Exemptions"⁶ by which any member, who within four years planted a colony of fifty settlers along some navigable river, was to receive — if he "satisfied the Indians of that place" — a liberal land grant and the title of Patroon, with various privileges. Three days later Samuel Godyn, a Company director, gave notice of intention to take up land in the vicinity of Delaware Bay. Soon afterward he and a fellow-director, Samuel Blommaert, were given a tract in the present State of Delaware fronting the Bay near Cape Henlopen. Three other men came in as partners in the patroonship: two to provide more capital, and one for his nautical experience, David Pieterszen de Vries.

Organized by de Vries, an expedition under orders to become self-sustaining and to set up a whaling station, sailed from the Texel in December, 1630. Although a companion vessel was lost to pirates en route, the ship *de Walvis*, Skipper Pieter Heyes, landed a party of 28 men, their equipment and farm animals a few miles from Cape Henlopen the following April. Site of the settlement made was at a place named "Zwaanendael," meaning valley of swans, near present Lewes on the right bank of Lewes River which the Hollanders, reportedly from Hoorn, are said to have called Hoornkill.⁷ Expecting no trouble from the Indians, the newcomers nevertheless built a protective palisade and within it a large shelter and cookhouse, and set to work on their assigned mission.

Soon afterward tragedy intervened, for when de Vries arrived from Holland with fifty men as reinforcements in December, 1632, he found that the Indians had destroyed Zwaanendael by fire and massacred its people, including four men who had travelled to the settlement from New Amsterdam. No one survived.⁸ Informed of what took place, but without enough armed force to retaliate, de Vries remained on the scene three months pacifying the natives by persuasion and seeking ways whereby to retrieve the situation. Short of food by then, and judging he lacked sufficient on-site resources with which to re-establish the colony or a whale fishery, de Vries sailed with his men to Manhattan in March, 1633. Not for thirty years, when Pieter Cornelisz Plockhoy of Zerkzee planted his Mennonite colony on the site of Zwaanendael, was the area re-settled.

As described in 1650 by a capable reporter, Adriaen van der Donck, lawyer from Breda and formerly *schout* of Rensselaerswyck, the disaster came about in this manner:

* * * The States' arms [coat-of-arms] were also set up at this place [Zwaanendael] in copper, but as they were thrown down by some mischievous savages, the *commis* there very firmly insisted upon, and demanded, the head of the offender. The Indians not knowing otherwise brought a head, saying it was his; and the affair was supposed to be all settled, but some time afterward, when our people were working unsuspectingly in their fields, the Indians came in the guise of friendship, and distributing themselves among the Dutch in proportionate numbers, surprised and murdered them.⁹

Short-lived the Dutch colony may have been, but to its establishment Delaware owes its existence as a State. In 1632 Charles I granted to Sir George Calvert, First Lord Baltimore, lands comprising the present State of Delaware. For years afterward his heirs claimed the territory as part of Maryland. However, the royal grant had described the land as "hitherto uncultivated and occupied by savages." In the litigation that ensued, these words, coupled with proof that in 1631 Delaware had been colonized by a Christian nation, proved decisive. The settlement at Zwaanendael compelled the conclusion that Delaware lands could not be included in Charles's grant. The claims of Lord Baltimore's heirs were therefore denied.¹⁰

In honor of Zwaanendael on the 300th anniversary of its founding, the State of Delaware erected at Lewes an impressive memorial building which duplicates in many features part of the Townhall of Hoorn. Based upon studies of the ancient Stadhuis by an architect sent to Holland for the purpose, the design produced in "Zwaanendael House" an edifice which conforms

(Continued on Page 16)

⁴Lize Stilma, *Hoorn* (booklet pub. in Dutch and English at Baarn, Holland: Hollandia Ltd., 1963), p. 23.

⁵Charles McKew Parr, *Jan van Linschoten: The Dutch Marco Polo* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1964), p. 7.

⁶Gerald L. Burke, *The Making of Dutch Towns* (New York: Simmons-Boardman Pub. Corp., 1960), p. 52.

⁷Text of the charter is set out in Dutch and English, with copious footnotes, at *Van Rensselaer-Bowier Manuscripts*, A.J.F. van Laer, ed. (Albany: University of the State of New York, 1908), pp. 87-115.

⁸Besides the Amsterdam Chamber there were Chambers representing Zeeland, the Maas region, Friesland-Groningen, and the *Noorderkwartier*, or North Quarter, of which the "Seven Towns" were Alkmaar, Edam, Enkhuizen, Hoorn, Medemblik, Monnikendam and Purmerende. *Ibid.*

⁹*Ibid.*, pp. 137-153.

¹⁰While possibly true, evidence has not been found to prove these colonists came from Hoorn and named the river for that town. Both de Vries and van der Donck called the river "Hoere-kill" in their writings. J. Franklin Jameson, ed. & trans., *Narratives of New Netherland* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1909), at pp. 226 and 313.

¹¹Stories persisting for many years that "one man escaped," or "two boys survived," appear to be without foundation. C. A. Weslager, "Who Survived the Indian Massacre at Swanendael?", pub. in *de Halve Maen*, October 1965, p. 9.

¹²A. van der Donck, "Representation of New Netherland," pub. in *Narratives of New Netherland*, *op. cit.*, pp. 313-314. The word *commis*, meaning agent (in this instance Gilles Housset, who bought the Zwaanendael land of the Indians for Godyn and the others in 1629), has been substituted for the word "commissary."

¹³Virginia Cullen, *History of Lewes, Delaware* (Lewes: Delaware Coast Press, 1956), p. 13.

THE COXSACKIE DECLARATION OF 1775

High principle and rare courage shine through the faded writing on a document known as the "Coxsackie Declaration of Independence," signed May 17, 1775 by 225 colonists — mostly of Dutch extraction — living on the west side of the Hudson in what is now Greene County, N. Y., and vicinity. Its draftsman is believed to have been the Holland-schooled Rev. Johannes Schuneman (1712-1794), pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church at Coxsackie.

Drawn up over a year before the American Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia, as pointed out by Olive Woodworth in her recent article (*DAR Magazine*, April 1969, pp.424-425), the Coxsackie declaration discloses complete awareness of events and issues of the time. It expresses the signers' resolve "never to become Slaves," flat opposition to "oppressive Acts of the British Parliament," and plain intent to abide by decisions of the Continental Congress.

Among the signatories were 11 Hallenbecks, nine Van Loons, seven DuBoises, and many others with family names also well known in the Holland Society, such as Houghtaling, Jansen, Osterhoudt, Schermerhorn, Spoor, Vandenburgh, Van Hoesen, Van Schaick, Van Slyck, Van Vechten and Van Wagenen.

HOORN, NORTH HOLLAND

(Continued from Page 10)

closely to the Townhall's architecture. Especially well realized details are the richly ornamented gable topped with a statue of de Vries, the carved doorway, and the identical coursing and jointing of the brickwork.

The memorial was dedicated May 7, 1932 before a large concourse of citizens, who heard the dedicatory address by U.S. Senator Hastings of Delaware, and speeches by the State Governor, Netherlands Minister to the U.S., and other dignitaries. Zwaanendael House, now a museum, open daily except Mondays, contains many exhibits related to Delaware history, and also to the Dutch, such as bonnets, wooden shoes, and a wooden *koekplank* used in 17th century Hoorn to shape cookies for St. Nicholas Day.

Let us now consider the original *Stadhuis*. Since 1795 the municipality of Hoorn has occupied as its Townhall a building of notable antiquity that had been used for civic purposes almost continuously from the time of the Reformation. Originally two convent houses which were joined together in 1429 — that of the Hieronymites, dating back to 1385, and that of St. Cecilia, founded 1402 — the interiors were extensively altered beginning in the 16th century. For a time the town schools were housed in the rear of these premises while the front part, and a chapel built about 1429, were converted into quarters and a dining room for delegates to the Council of the "Seven Towns" in the region.

On the front of the Townhall that faces *Nieuwstraat* appear the arms, dating from 1613, of the Seven Provinces, Holland, West Friesland, and the Seven Towns. In 1796, a year after the abolition of the Seven Towns Council, the burgomaster and aldermen of Hoorn held their first meeting in this building. Since then no great changes have been made. The council chamber is well worth seeing for its beautiful panelling, a mantelpiece of 1788, and chandeliers and chairs which are noteworthy specimens of craftsmanship. Over the

mantelpiece hangs a vivid picture of the famous naval battle on the Zuyder Zee near Hoorn in 1573, painted in 1663 and placed within an exquisitely carved frame.

While relatively few people came to America from Hoorn during the "Golden Age," the majority of its emigrants founded families which flourish to this day. An exception to this was David Pieterszen de Vries, who, after seeking to establish patroonships in the 1630s and '40s at Zwaanendael, Staten Island and Vriesendael, returned to his ancestral city, Hoorn. Born about 1594 in France, of Dutch parents (his father was from Hoorn), and a resident of Holland from childhood, he won favorable notice as a sea captain, administrator and ordnance expert from voyages to the Mediterranean and the East Indies while still a young man. Highly competent, though unlucky in his American ventures, de Vries in 1655 published his journal, which for its straightforward style and wealth of detail provides one of the best contemporaneous accounts of New Netherland.¹¹

Well known American families, such as the Van Horns and Harings, relate back to pioneers who emigrated to America from Hoorn.¹² At least four men are recorded with the place-name "van Hoorn" in addition to their given names and patronymics: Jan Cornelisz, Sibout Claessen, Reindert Jansen, and Christian Barents. The last mentioned, however, was more likely a Dane or of Danish descent although his descendants adopted the surname Van Horn. Jan Pieterse Haring, thought to be descended from the gallant Jan Haring of Hoorn, killed in the Zuyder Zee battle of 1573, was born in 1633 and settled at New Amsterdam in 1660. His wife Grietje Cozyms was a daughter of Cozyn Gerrits from Petten.

Another colonist, Harmen Bastiaens Visscher, came here from Hoorn about 1639. A carpenter by trade, he and two other men ran a sawmill on Governors Island for a time. Later on, with his wife Hester Tiercks and children, Harmen removed to Beverwyck in 1647 and became surveyor of Albany in 1667. His father, Bastiaan Harmensz de Vyselaer, was still living at Hoorn in 1675. Other Hoorn residents who settled in New Netherland were Pieter Jansz de Boer, in 1648, and Jan Gouwenburg, in 1658.

Among the women of Hoorn who became brides in America was Marietje Jacobsz, daughter of Jacob Walings van Winkle and Tryntje Jacobs. She married, first, Pieter Jans Slot, in 1663; and second, Jan Demarest, son of the Huguenot leader David Demarest, in 1692. Leuntje Pieters, who had relatives in Hoorn, married Cornelis Janz Cloppenburg, who died in 1659. There were three sisters named Pieters from Hoorn: Sara, wife of Jan Janszen Schepmoes from Delft; Elizabeth, wife of Dirck Mayers from Hoorn; and Marietje. In 1655 Janneke Dircks "van Hoorn," possibly the daughter of Dirck Mayers and Elizabeth Pieters, married Michiel Rembout "van Amsterdam" at New Amsterdam.

¹¹D. P. de Vries, *Korte Historicael ende Journael Aenteyckeninge* ("Short Historical and Journal-Notes"), pub. Alkmaar, 1655. His likeness as shown on the engraved frontispiece is reproduced on Page 9, courtesy of the Rare Book Div., N. Y. Public Library.

¹²Details which follow are mainly based on part of unpub. Mss. captioned "Colonists from Hoorn," by William J. Hoffman, in library of New York Genealogical & Biographical Soc.