

# A. C. Van Raalte Institute

## Annual Report 2013-2014



**Hope College  
Holland, Michigan  
2014**

© 2014 A. C. Van Raalte Institute, Hope College  
All rights reserved

Van Raalte Press is a division of Hope College Publishing

Offices located in:      Theil Research Center  
                                    9 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
                                    Holland, MI 49423

Mailing address:        PO Box 9000  
                                    Holland, MI 49422-9000

Phone: (616) 395-7678  
Fax: (616) 395-7120  
Email: [vanraalte@hope.edu](mailto:vanraalte@hope.edu)  
Website: <http://www.hope.edu/vri>

Jacob E. Nyenhuis, PhD  
Director  
Editor-in-Chief and Publisher

JoHannah Smith  
Editorial Assistant and Office Manager



# Annual Report 2013-14



# Contents

List of Illustrations	vii
A Message from the Director	1
In Memoriam	15
Dedication	17
Reports	
Jacob E. Nyenhuis	19
Elton J. Bruins	25
Henk Aay	29
Robert P. Swierenga	32
Donald J. Bruggink	37
Earl Wm. Kennedy	42
Nella Kennedy	47
Adjunct and Honorary Members	
J. P. Verhave	50
George Harinck	52
Hans Krabbendam	54
Publications	56
Presentations	59
Cummulative Publications of Scholars and Associates of the Van Raalte Institute, 1994-2014	60
Visiting Research Fellows Lecture Series	65
Applications Invited	67
Van Raalte Institute Staff (2014-2015)	68
Mission Statement	70



## Illustrations

VRI Staff at the Theil Research Center	Title page
Jack Nyenhuis	1
Elton Bruins' desk in Van Zoeren Hall, 1994	1
Theil Research Center entryway	3
Reading Room in the Theil Research Center	3
Michael Douma at colloquium	4
George Harinck	4
Gene and Mary Heideman	8
Dr. Michael Douma's doctoral dissertation	10
Conner Mulcahy	12
Stephanie Rogers	12
Jack Nyenhuis, Donald Bruggink, Peter Huizenga, and Robert Swierenga	13
Memorabilia from the Theils on display	13
Dean Rankine makes remarks at a 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration	13
Jack Nyenhuis with Alfredo and Maria Gonzales	14
Joan Swierenga (1935-2014)	15
Flowers for Joan	16
Jacob Nyenhuis	19
<i>Enduring Legacy</i> cover	20
City Council presentation	20
Placard at Midtown	21
Don Bruggink, Wm B. Eerdmans Jr., and Jack Nyenhuis	22
Presentation of <i>Enduring Legacy</i> to Mayor Dykstra	22
Elton Bruins	25
Karen Schakel works with student assistant John Krueger	25
Elton with files	26
The VRI library	27
<i>Dutch Leader</i> cover	28
Henk Aay	29
Total viewers map	30
Robert P. Swierenga	32
<i>Holland Michigan</i> covers	32
Bob Swierenga, Don Bruggink, and Jack Nyenhuis	

at the Midtown Book-Signing Event	33
Robert Swierenga signing books	34
Donald Bruggink	37
<i>The Not-So-Promised Land</i>	37
Donald Bruggink with balloons	38
<i>Minutes of the Christian Reformed Church</i>	39
<i>The City in its Heart</i>	41
Bill Kennedy	42
Bill Kennedy, a guard, in <i>Princess Ida</i>	44
Fortieth anniversary wedding announcement of Egbert Winter and Margijn Oetses	45
Nella Kennedy	47
<i>Dutch Americans and War</i>	48
J. P. Verhave At the Temple Mount in Jerusalem	50
George Harinck	52
<i>"We live presently under a waning moon"</i>	52
Henry E. Dosker	53
Hans Krabbendam	54

*All photos are VRI file photos except where noted*



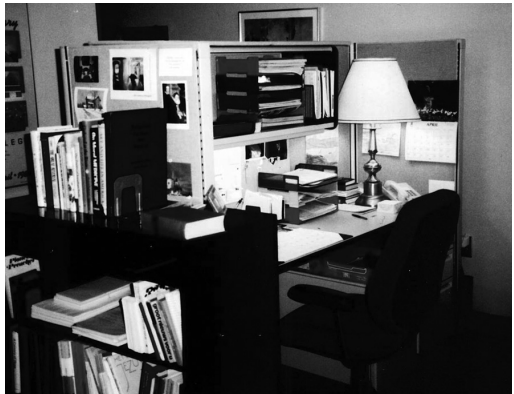
## A Message from the Director



*Jack Nyenhuis*

It gives me great pleasure to present this annual report covering a year during which we have been celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the A. C. Van Raalte Institute. We are using this annual report not merely to recount the activities of the past year but also to reflect more broadly on the development of the institute over the past two decades. During this time we have expanded from Elton Bruins at a desk in the corner of an office in Van Zoeren Hall for Hope College retired faculty to an entire building (shared with the Joint Archives of Holland) and a staff of ten, plus four honorary research fellows and a student research assistant or two.

During his eight-year tenure as the founding director of the institute, Elton set up the basic structure of the institute; developed an extensive research library; continued to build up his research files on Van Raalte and the history of Holland, which now number in the thousands and are used by researchers on a regular basis; established a vital translation project; and began a program to bring in visiting lecturers to promote an understanding and appreciation of the Dutch heritage in America. He continues to expand the research files by clipping area newspapers; he oversees the library and serves as a wonderful resource for all of us, sharing his vast knowledge of the history of



*Elton Bruins' desk in Van Zoeren Hall, 1994*

the college, the community, and the RCA. He also is conducting research on college alumni as part of the sesquicentennial history project that I am managing along with Honorary Research Fellow James C. Kennedy.

Elton worked alone at his desk in Van Zoeren Hall for just two years. In March 1996 the institute moved into spacious new quarters at 100 East Eighth Street. Elisabeth “Ellie” Dekker, who had been a student assistant and translator for Elton, served as receptionist until early 1997. She was succeeded until summer by student assistant John Krueger. On 3 September 1997 Karen G. Schakel became our first office manager and editorial assistant.

Also in 1996, Jeanne M. Jacobson joined the staff as Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Education, and Robert P. Swierenga was appointed as the first Albertus C. Van Raalte Research Professor and Adjunct Professor of History. James C. Kennedy joined the staff as Assistant Professor of History and Research Fellow in 1997, and I joined them as Senior Research Fellow in 2001, shortly after my retirement from the faculty and administration of Hope College; I then succeeded Elton Bruins as director in 2002. Donald J. Bruggink and Earl Wm. Kennedy joined the staff as Senior Research Fellows in 2003, Nella Kennedy in 2009 (but she has also served as the official translator since 1999), Henk Aay in 2013, and Dennis N. Voskuil in 2014. James Kennedy left for the VU University Amsterdam in 2003 and resigned his position at VRI two years later, and Jeanne Jacobson and Karen Schakel both passed away in 2009. JoHannah Smith joined us in April 2010 as Office Manager/Editorial Assistant.

Late in our first decade, we established the Visiting Research Fellows Program (2003). A grant from the Netherland-America Foundation in 2006 enabled us to establish the NAF Visiting Research Fellows Program, with Dr. Jan Peter Verhave as our first recipient of this fellowship. Our second NAF VRF, in the year 2007-8, was Dr. Peter Ester; he was named Adjunct Research Professor in 2008, but he resigned this post in 2011 when he became a member of the Upper House of the Dutch Parliament. In 2009 we added several former visiting research fellows as Honorary Research Fellows: George Harinck of VU University Amsterdam and Kampen Theological University (Vrijgemaakt); Hans Krabbendam of the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, Zeeland, the Netherlands; and Jan Peter Verhave of Radboud University in Nijmegen. James C. Kennedy, now of the University of Amsterdam, was added to this honorary group in 2010.

During our second decade, we moved to the new Theil Research Center (2004), hosted the 2007 Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies (AADAS), established the Van Raalte Press (2007), and organized and hosted the International Conference held in honor of the Bicentennial of the Birth of Albertus C. Van Raalte (2011).

### **Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Van Raalte Institute**

We began our celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the VRI during the third week of January 2014 with a colloquium given by one of our former research assistants who later returned as Visiting Research Fellow, Dr. Michael J. Douma.

Now an assistant professor of history at James Madison University, Douma gave a presentation on documents from the Albertus C. Van Raalte archives of Professor Dr. Melis (Mees) te Velde, Rector Magnificus of Kampen Theological Seminary (Vrijgemaakt), and from the municipal archives of Kampen. He had spent the month of June 2013 in Kampen, assisted by a travel grant from the VRI. Among those documents was a 434-page handwritten copy by Jan van Baalen of Rev. A. C. Van Raalte's Compendium or Handbook for Church History, that is, his class notes for teaching church history to students at his



*Theil Research Center entryway*



*Reading Room in the Theil Research Center*



*Michael Douma presents his research on documents from the te Velde archives*

seminary in Ommen, where he served as pastor from 1839 to 1844, and at the seminary in Arnhem where he and his brother-in-law Anthony Brummelkamp taught together from 1844 to 1846. Douma subsequently published an article on this handbook in the *Calvin Theological Journal* 49, no. 1 (April 2014).

We were also honored to have one of our honorary research fellows, Dr. George Harinck, join us for that event. We therefore were also able to celebrate the publication of his monograph on Nicolaus Martin Steffens (see publications, below), which had arrived from the printer just in time for the occasion. We

had several additional book launches which are described in the next section. Bob Swierenga and I also had a book signing for the first two publications listed below. We will conclude our celebration near the end of the year with an as-yet undetermined activity.

### **Van Raalte Press**

Since the founding of the Van Raalte Press in 2007, twelve books have been published by the VRP, including four in collaboration with William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., and at least one more will be issued before the end of the year (see next section). For the past seven years, we have been using a logo for the Van Raalte Press that was designed by alumnus Derek Nevenzel, but with this report we are introducing a new logo. The original logo used a form of the anchor different from the one used in the standard college logo, but new branding standards for the college logo no longer allow such usage.



*George Harinck, on a visit from the Netherlands, was able to join the opening event of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration*

Our new logo represents the “V” of Van Raalte, but it also suggests an open book and hints at the outstretched hand of the Albertus C. Van Raalte sculpture in Centennial Park that was cast and dedicated in 1997 during the Sesquicentennial of Holland. This logo has been designed for us by Professor Stephanie Milanowski.

Professor Milanowski is the Howard R. and Margaret E. Sluyter Assistant Professor of Art and Design at Hope College. A 1990 BFA graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, she earned an MFA degree from the University of Michigan in 1995. In summer 1994, she was one of just twenty graduate students worldwide admitted to the Yale University School of Art Summer Program in Brissago, Switzerland, where she studied with art and design luminaries.

Stephanie has also taught design at the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. She was a design apprentice to the senior creative director at Herman Miller Inc.; she has illustrated children’s books for major US publishers and designed hundreds of book jackets and covers for publishing companies and university presses nationwide. Stephanie also has restored a number of printing presses, which she has used to create handmade and hand-bound books for distinguished customers, including Oprah Winfrey; her books have been distributed by the Manhattan artists’ book collective Printed Matter Inc., and her graphic design work has won numerous honors, including a Printing Industries of America Award.

## **Publications**

The cumulative list of publications and presentations by members of the institute printed at the end of this annual report demonstrates the ongoing vitality of the retirees who comprise the institute staff. In honor of our twentieth anniversary, we are including this list of all the books published by members of the institute since its founding in early 1994: the list of thirty-seven titles includes a few books by scholars who did most of their research at the institute. In addition to these books, well more than two hundred articles and reviews by our members have been published in scholarly journals and books since 1994.

Since our last report, we have seen the publication of Robert P. Swierenga’s monumental three-volume *Holland, Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City* and *The Enduring Legacy of Albertus C. Van Raalte as Leader and Liaison*, edited by Jacob E. Nyenhuis and George Harinck, both published jointly by Van Raalte Press and William B. Eerdmans

Publishing Co. (nos. 80 and 81 in the Historical Series of the RCA) in early 2014. The latter consists of papers presented in 2011 at the International Conference held in honor of the bicentennial of the birth of Albertus C. Van Raalte.

Van Raalte Press also published George Harinck's "*We Live Presently Under a Waning Moon*": *Nicolaus Martin Steffens as leader of the Reformed Church in America in the West in the years of transition (1878-1895)*, the fruit of his NAF Visiting Research Fellowship in 2008 (published December 2013), and *Dutch Americans and War* (2014), edited by Robert P. Swierenga, Nella Kennedy, and Lisa Zylstra. The latter is a collection of papers from the AADAS conference held in Pella, Iowa, in June 2013.

Van Raalte Press is the official publisher not only of the AADAS biennial conference papers but also of a newly established series, the Congregational Histories Series of the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America. The first book in this series is *The City in Its Heart: The First 100 Years of Maple Avenue Ministries, Holland, Michigan, 1913-2013*, by Dr. John D. Cox, the DuMez Professor of English at Hope College. It is interesting to note that Maple Avenue CRC was founded as a daughter church of Fourteenth Street CRC while Rev. Peter Hoekstra, the grandfather of Robert P. Swierenga, was the pastor. Judy Parr's *Hope Church, Holland, Michigan: The First 150 Years (1862-2012)* is being rebranded as number two in the series, and Robert P. Swierenga's forthcoming sesquicentennial history of Central Avenue CRC (1865-2015) will be number three.

Before the end of 2014, Van Raalte Press will also publish *Hope Beyond Borders: The Life and Letters of Paul Fried*, by Stephen I. Hemenway, professor of English at Hope College, who spent his sabbatical in the Theil Research Center Reading Room working his way through some ten thousand letters. Paul G. Fried was a graduate of Hope College, a long-time professor of history, the founder of the Vienna Summer School (1956), and the first director of International Education (1956-81). Hemenway succeeded Fried as director of VSS in 1976 and continues very successfully in that role to this day.

In the coming year, we expect to publish the work of our last two Visiting Research Fellows, Dr. Henk Aay (2012-13) and Dr. Eugene Heideman (2013-14). Dr. Aay is completing a comprehensive monograph on the Netherlands Information Service's film program, and Dr. Heideman has just submitted his manuscript on Hendrik P. Scholte.

We also look forward with eager anticipation to the publication of Earl Wm. Kennedy's annotated minutes of the Classis of Holland of the

Reformed Church in America (1848-76). Readers of our annual reports should be well aware of the fact that he has labored on this project for well over a decade. The excerpts that we have read have stimulated our interest in the publication of his exhaustive research on the people and the issues discussed in these minutes. The copy editing of this work is nearing completion, so we expect to have it in print sometime in 2015.

In addition, we have agreed to publish a work by one of our honorary research fellows, Jan Peter Verhave. While serving as our first Netherland-America Foundation (NAF) Visiting Research Fellow, J. P. developed an interest in Paul de Kruif, a well-known writer on medical science and a native of Zeeland, Michigan. J. P. presented a number of papers and published several articles on de Kruif before concluding that he should write de Kruif's biography. The resulting manuscript is based on extensive research at various sites in the United States, including the Van Raalte Institute.

### **Appointment of a new Research Fellow**

In July 2014 we welcomed Dr. Dennis N. Voskuil as our newest Senior Research Fellow. Dennis had just retired from his position as the Marvin and Jerene DeWitt Professor of Church History at Western Theological Seminary, to which he was appointed in 2006. He had also served as president of WTS from 1994 until 2008. He is an honors graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a major in history; he received a BD from WTS and a PhD in the study of religion from Harvard University. A minister of the Reformed Church in America, he served as pastor of Trinity Reformed Church, Kalamazoo (1974-77), and interim senior pastor of Third Reformed Church, Holland (1990-92). He was on the faculty of Hope College from 1977 to 1994, the last two years as the Evert J. and Hattie E. Blekkink Professor of Religion, succeeding Elton J. Bruins in this position; he also chaired the department for many years. He received the HOPE (Hope Outstanding Professor-Educator) Award from the senior class in 1981, the first year of eligibility for it. He has served the RCA on the Commission on History and the Theological Commission, as well as on various other committees, and as co-author (with Betty Trahms Voskuil) of study guides for both the history and theology cycle and the worship cycle of the "Heritage and Hope" curriculum. His publications include essays for several books on religion in America and articles and reviews in the *Reformed Review*, *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, and the *Church Herald*. He also is the author of *Mountains into Goldmines*:

*Robert Schuller and the Gospel of Success* (1983).

A native of Baldwin, Wisconsin, Dennis joins fellow Wisconsin natives Elton Bruins and Don Bruggink. He is the only true Badger, however, since he alone attended and played football for the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

### Visiting Research Fellows Program

Since launching the Visiting Research Fellows Program in 2003, we have brought in fellows every year, usually two per year, but only one during each of the last two years.

On 1 September 2013, we welcomed Dr. Eugene Heideman as the 2013-14 Visiting Research Fellow. A native of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, a 1951 graduate of Central College and 1954 graduate of



*Gene and Mary Heideman*

Western Theological Seminary, he received a PhD from the University of Utrecht in 1959. Gene's career includes a Reformed church pastorate in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (1957-60), a missionary pastorate in the Church of South India, Madras Diocese (1960-70), service as professor and chaplain at Central College (1970-76) and professor at WTS (1976-82), and various roles on the staff of the RCA (1982-94). He is the author of several books, including *The*

*Practice of Piety: The Theology of the Midwestern Reformed Church in America* (Eerdmans, 2009), and many articles. His latest book, *A New Look at the Canons of Dort, 1618-1619: Anticipating its Four-Hundredth Anniversary*, is under consideration for publication in the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America. His work as VRF focused on Hendrik P. Scholte, with special attention to *De Reformatie*, which Scholte founded and edited for eleven years (1836-47). Gene's public lecture, "Hendrik Pieter Scholte: Catalyst in the Secession of 1834," was delivered on 13 February 2014. That lecture has been expanded into a monograph, *Hendrik P. Scholte: His Legacy in the Netherlands and in America*, forthcoming by Van Raalte Press.

For the academic year 2014-15, we welcome two new Visiting Research Fellows, one from the Netherlands, the other from Hope College.



Dr. Jan Jacob Boersema retired from his position as professor at the Institute for Environmental Studies at the VU University Amsterdam in 2012 after a decade in this post, but he has served as a part-time research professor at the Abraham Kuyper Centre for Science and Religion at the VU since January 2013. Since 2009 he has also been a guest professor at the Institute for Environmental Sciences at Leiden University but was appointed in 2013 to a newly-created chair there, “Principles of Environmental Sciences.” After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biology with a major in ethology at the University of Groningen, he earned a doctorate in theology from the same university. In 1994 he became Reader in Environmental Science and Philosophy at Leiden University, and at the same time, Secretary General of the Council for the Environment. At the same ministry he became cofounder and member of Forum, a think tank that operated from 1999 to 2002, at which time he joined the faculty of the VU. In his inaugural lecture in 2002, he developed a new theory on the ecological history of Easter Island, and he has become an internationally recognized expert on Easter Island. He is the author of numerous books and articles in his field, including two textbooks in environmental science. His book, *The Changing Faces of Easter Island: On Dwindling Resources and Cultural Resilience*, will be published by Cambridge University Press in May 2015. In 2003 he was appointed editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Integrated Environmental Sciences*. He has also been a visiting fellow of St. Edmunds College, University of Cambridge.

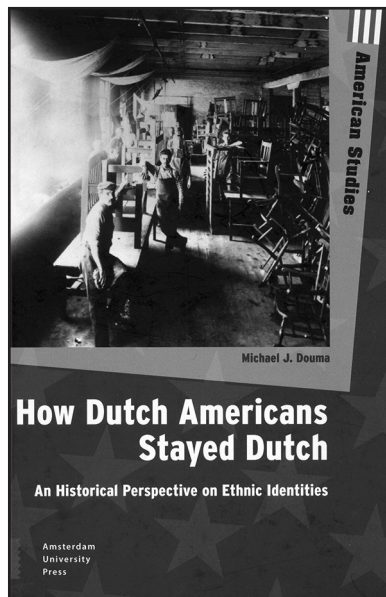
Jan’s research at the institute is a joint project with Henk Aay, entitled “From Wilderness to Cultivated Landscapes,” with a focus on Dutch settlements and Dutch settlers in the nineteenth century. He will be in residence September-October 2014 and May-June 2015. His wife Anthonia, who holds two master’s degrees—in Dutch Language and Literature and in Cultural Studies—is also working with him on this project.

Dr. Donald A. Luidens, newly retired after thirty-seven years as professor of sociology at Hope College, will be in residence November-December 2014 and March-April 2015. His project is a memoir/biography based on the experience of his parents, Edwin and Ruth (Stegenga) Luidens, as Reformed Church missionaries in Iraq and Bahrain from 1944 to 1957. He will use approximately one thousand letters as the core of his project but will devote his time at the institute to research in RCA archives to place their work in the larger context of the RCA missionary enterprise in the middle of the twentieth century, especially in relation to the Arab world.

A 1969 graduate of Hope College with a major in history, Don earned an MDiv in church and society from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1972, followed by an MA and a PhD in sociology from Rutgers University (1974; 1978). During his tenure at Hope, he served as department chair for fifteen years (1987-2002). He was a visiting fellow at Tantur Institute for Advanced Theological Studies in Jerusalem from January to April 1985; at Selly Oaks Colleges in Birmingham, England, from April to July 1985; and at the Center for Inquiry into the Liberal Arts at Wabash College from 2004 to 2005. The recipient of numerous awards, honors, and grants, he is the co-author or co-editor of well over one hundred articles and reviews and five books, including *Divided by a Common Heritage* (2006), *Reformed Encounters with Modernity: Perspectives from Three Continents* (2001), and *Vanishing Boundaries: The Religion of Mainline Protestant Baby Boomers* (1994).

### Former Visiting Research Fellow Publishes Book

We congratulate one of our former VRFs, Dr. Michael J. Douma, whose doctoral dissertation (Florida State University) has just been published as *How Dutch Americans Stayed Dutch: An Historical Perspective on Ethnic Identities* (University of Amsterdam Press, 2014; distributed by



*Dr. Michael Douma's doctoral dissertation was published in 2014*

University of Chicago Press). Michael previously held a post-doctoral appointment at the University of Illinois at Springfield but is currently an assistant professor of history at James Madison University

### **Dutch Heritage Coordinating Council**

The Dutch Heritage Coordinating Council, established in 2009, coordinates efforts to preserve and promote the Dutch American legacy in West Michigan. To that end, we held the first annual Fall Gathering in October 2012 for all the organizations in our area, at which we distributed the *Directory of Heritage Organizations in West Michigan* (published by the Van Raalte Institute; copies are available upon request). Some members of the council are selected as at-large members (for both Holland and Zeeland), whereas others represent a specific organization; Elton Bruins and Nella Kennedy are at-large members, whereas I represent the Van Raalte Institute. The 2013 edition of this directory included nineteen organizations or institutions that have Dutch heritage either as the sole focus or as a part of their mission. As a result of the 2012 Fall Gathering, the DHCC was expanded in early 2013 with the addition of representatives of five new member organizations, bringing our total membership to twenty-one. We also restructured the organization, with the creation of an executive committee (I currently serve as secretary-treasurer) and two standing committees. The Fall Gathering in 2013 was limited to the members of the council to allow us to become better acquainted with the new members and member organizations. The full council meets quarterly and the executive committee an additional four to six times per year. The third annual Fall Gathering will be held in October 2014 at the Graafschap Christian Reformed Church and Heritage Center, with invitations again extended to a larger number of organizations and individuals.

Information about the DHCC and a calendar of Dutch heritage events are available on the DHCC website ([www.dutchheritagewestmichigan.com](http://www.dutchheritagewestmichigan.com)).

### **Student research assistants**

During first part of the academic year 2013-14, Conner Mulcahy served as our student research assistant. He continued work begun by his predecessors on the indices for Bob Swierenga's *Holland, Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City* and George Harinck's and my *The Enduring Legacy of Albertus C. Van Raalte as Leader and Liaison*. He was



*Conner Mulcahy*



*Stephanie Rogers*

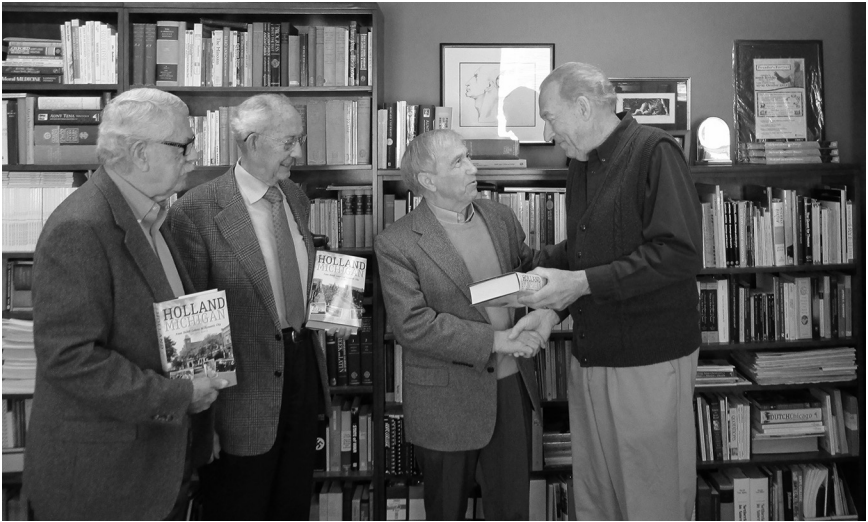
succeeded in the spring of 2014 by Stephanie Rogers, who graduated in May but continued on through the summer. She worked on the index for *Dutch Americans and War* as well as doing research on and producing a booklet of the history of the first fraternity on the Hope campus, the Fraternal Society, established in 1863 by Dr. Philip Phelps Jr. Phelps himself had been inducted into the society which originated in 1834 at Union College, whence he received his bachelor's degree in 1844. In 2014-15 our student research assistant will be Mackenzie Schumborg. A native of Roanoke, Virginia, she moved with her family to Ann Arbor when she was in middle school. A graduate of Saline High School, Mackenzie is a psychology major.

## **Conclusion**

At the cusp of our third decade, we look forward with hope and backward with gratitude. As we look back, we acknowledge with profound gratitude the tremendous support that we have received all through the years from Peter H. Huizenga and his family, who not only provided a substantial endowment in 1993 to found the institute but also have generously supported us with their own gifts and fundraising throughout the years.

We also remember with deep gratitude the magnanimity of Henri and Eleonore Goldschmidt Theil, whose gifts and bequests provided the funding for the acquisition and renovation of our building, which we happily have shared with the Joint Archives of Holland for the past decade.

And we acknowledge with deep gratitude the wonderful support that we have had from the college—from Presidents Jacobson, Bultman, and Knapp; Provosts Nyenhuis, Boelkins, and Ray; Associate Provost



*Peter Huizenga joined us to celebrate the release of Bob Swierenga's history of Holland*

Alfredo M. Gonzales; Deans William D. Reynolds and Patrice Rankine; and the office of Business Services, particularly of Doug Van Dyken—which has enabled us to flourish and thrive for two decades.

The influence of the Van Raalte Bicentennial continues to be felt in multiple ways. Van Raalte's rich legacy continues to feed our ongoing



*Memorabilia from the Theils on display next to Van Raalte's furniture*



*Dean Rankine makes remarks at a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration*

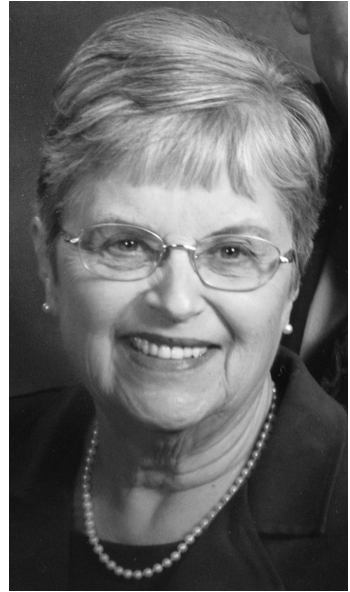


*Jack Nyenhuis with Alfredo and Maria Gonzales*

research and writing. Van Raalte's Holland has evolved from a Dutch *kolonie* to a dynamic, culturally diverse community, as is clear from Bob Swierenga's chronicle of its development. We celebrate the distinctive character and traditions not only of our community but also of Hope College and the Van Raalte Institute. It is our hope that the institute will be able to continue to contribute to the quality and character of both college and community through our ongoing research and publications. It is a privilege and a joy to be part of such an active scholarly community.

*Jacob E. Nyenhuis*  
Director

# In Memoriam



*Joan Swierenga (1935-2014)*

Members of the Van Raalte Institute were deeply saddened on 8 May 2014 by the death of Joan Swierenga, wife of Dr. Robert P. Swierenga, as a result of peritoneal cancer. The funeral was held on Monday, May 12, at Central Avenue CRC, and committal was on Tuesday, May 13, in the Swierenga Family Plot at the Forest Home Cemetery, Forest Park, Illinois.

The following is excerpted from her obituary in the *Holland Sentinel*, 9-11 May 2014:

*Joan Swierenga, 79, of Holland, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, joined the angel chorus on May 8, 2014, with her children at her side.*

*She was a member of Central Avenue Christian Reformed Church. Joan was rich in friends and carried on a faithful card ministry. Joan enjoyed music and was a member of many choral groups-the Christian Choral Society of Chicago and the Apollo Music Club of Chicago, both of which performed at Orchestra Hall with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Kent University Chorus, in which she once performed Verdi's Requiem under conductor Robert Shaw, and the Calvin College Radio Choir, Calvin Oratorio Society, Evergreen Chorale, Zeeland Civic Chorus, and Pillar and Central Avenue church choirs. Joan was born to Theodore and Annette Boomker on April 15, 1935, in the Roseland area of Chicago, and graduated from Chicago Christian High School. She attended Calvin College, was employed by several insurance companies, and ran her own typing business for*

*students at Kent State University, where her husband was a professor.*

*She was predeceased by her parents, infant son John Robert III, and brother-in-law James A. De Boer. Joan is survived by Robert, her husband of 57 years, and children Robert Jr. of Holland, Sarah Swierenga of Okemos, Celia and Mark Groenhout of Lambertville, Daniel of Wooster OH, and Suzanna and Brent Breems of Grand Rapids. She took great delight in her grandchildren, Sydney Swierenga, Jacob (Kate), Trent, and Jillanne Groenhout and Henry, Louis, and Katherine Breems. She was much loved by her sister Celia Boomker De Boer and brother John Theodore (Ruth) Boomker; and in-laws, Raymond (Cynthia) Swierenga, Alyce (Dick) Houskamp, Donald (Mary) Swierenga, Grace (Gary) Nyland, and John (Virginia) Swierenga; many nephews and nieces.*



*Flowers for Joan*



# Dedication

For the past twelve years, the annual report has been dedicated to an individual or individuals who have played an important role in the history of the Van Raalte Institute.

Last year our report was dedicated to each and all of the student research assistants who had served during our first twenty years. Their names are there recorded for posterity.

During our twentieth anniversary year, it is fitting to dedicate this report to our wonderful supporters:

- Spouses of the research fellows and research professors: Chris Aay, Erma Bruggink, Elaine Bruins, Georgia de Haan, the late John H. Jacobson, Nella and Bill Kennedy, Simone Kennedy, Leona “Lee” Nyenhuis, the late Joan Swierenga, and Betty Trahms Voskuil, who through their love and encouragement have helped us to be such a productive scholarly community
- Geoffrey D. Reynolds, director, and Lori Trethewey, office manager, of the Joint Archives of Holland, who assist our members on almost a daily basis to obtain documents needed for research
- And last, but by no means least, JoHannah Smith, editorial assistant and office manager of the Van Raalte Institute since April 2010, who has copy edited nine books (eleven volumes) in the past four-and-a-half years; edited five annual reports; helped to organize and manage the Bicentennial Conference in 2011; organized numerous social events and book celebrations; and has kept the office running as smoothly as a well-oiled machine.

*As we celebrate this significant anniversary,  
we do so with deep gratitude to each and all of them.*

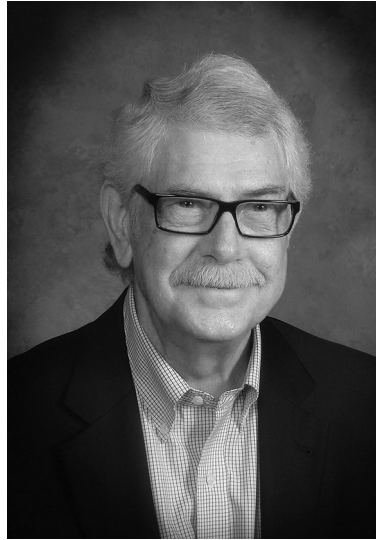


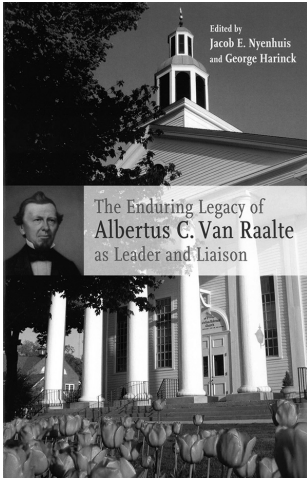
# Reports

## Jacob E. Nyenhuis

In October 2013, Rev. Marvin J. Hofman, pastor of 14<sup>th</sup> Street Christian Reformed Church and a member of a joint Reformed Church in America-Christian Reformed Church in North America (RCA-CRC) committee, met with the Van Raalte Institute staff to seek our assistance in the preparation of a history of the relationship between the two denominations over the length of their collective existence. I ended up taking on this responsibility and recruited Dr. Richard H. Harms, director of Heritage Hall at Calvin College and Seminary, and Dr. Eugene Heideman, retired RCA pastor, professor, chaplain, and RCA Secretary for Program, to assist in the task. On 10 February 2014, I submitted a twenty-one page document, “A Concise History of Relationships between Two Related but Separated Denominations: The Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church in North America,” on behalf of the three of us (published in *Minutes of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America 2014*, pp. 220-32). On 14 June 2014, both the general synod of the RCA and the CRC synod simultaneously voted unanimously to adopt the “Resolution on the Relationship between the Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church in North America: Past, Present, and Future” (*Acts of Synod 2014*, Art. 20, pp. 503-4; *Minutes of General Synod*, pp. 215-17). It is our fond hope that our modest contribution helped to bring about this resolution.

A good deal of my time during the past year was devoted to editorial work. In my role as editor-in-chief of the Van Raalte Press, I helped to see several books through the publication process: George Harinck’s “*We Live Presently Under a Waning Moon*”: Nicolaus Martin Steffens as leader of the Reformed Church in America in the West in the years of transition (1878-1895), published December 2013; Robert P. Swierenga’s three-volume *Holland, Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City* (January 2014), and *The Enduring Legacy of Albertus C. Van Raalte as Leader and Liaison*, edited





by Jacob E. Nyenhuis and George Harinck (April 2014)—both published jointly by the Van Raalte Press and William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (nos. 80 and 81 in the RCA Historical Series); and *Dutch Americans and War*, edited by Robert P. Swierenga, Nella Kennedy, and Lisa Zylstra, published July 2014.

In February 2014, I gave a presentation to the adult education class at my home church, 14<sup>th</sup> Street CRC. A kind of spiritual memoir, my presentation was part of a series entitled “My Heart I Offer,” based on a quotation from John Calvin.


I was also involved in the following series of book presentations and a book signing

- On 5 February 2014, I joined Bob Swierenga and Don Bruggink in the presentation of a boxed set of Bob’s *Holland, Michigan* to Mayor Kurt Dykstra during a meeting of the city council of Holland.



City Council presentation

- On 9 May 2014, it was my privilege and pleasure to present to His Excellency Rudolf Simon Bekink, Netherlands Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to America, not only a concise oral history of Hope College during a special luncheon hosted by President John Knapp but also autographed copies of Swierenga's *Holland, Michigan* in a boxed set and Nyenhuis and Harinck's *Enduring Legacy*. Copies of both were also presented to the Honorable Klaas van der Tempel, Consul General of the Netherlands in Chicago.
- On 30 June 2014, I was happy to join Bob Swierenga at a book signing event for his *Holland, Michigan* and Harinck's and my *Enduring Legacy*, held at the Midtown Center in Holland under the sponsorship of both William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. and the Van Raalte Press. Wm. B. Eerdmans Jr. and Donald Bruggink, the RCA Historical Series general editor, also participated in this joyous event.
- On 6 August 2014, I was privileged to present a copy of *Enduring Legacy* to both Mayor Kurt Dykstra and city manager Ryan Cotton during a meeting of the city council of Holland.



**Welcome!**

To the Book-Signing Event for

***Holland, Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City***

By Dr. Robert P. Swierenga  
and

***The Enduring Legacy of Albertus C. Van Raalte as Leader and Liaison***

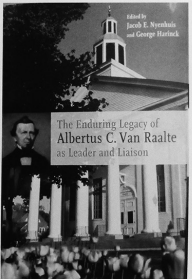
Drs. Jacob E. Nyenhuis and George Harinck, eds.

7:00–9:00 Book Sales and Signing  
Appetizers and Drinks

7:45–8:00 Welcome by Jacob E. Nyenhuis  
Remarks by  
William B. Eerdmans Jr.  
Donald J. Bruggink  
Robert P. Swierenga  
Jacob E. Nyenhuis

8:00 Dessert is Served

Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing and Van Raalte Press are co-publishers of these books and co-sponsors of this event.



Placard at Midtown



*Don Bruggink, Wm B. Eerdmans Jr., and Jack Nyenhuis*

The remainder of my time was taken up with the usual responsibilities of directing the institute, carrying on my own research, and providing service to church and community. My service to church, college, and community consisted of: (1) serving as secretary-treasurer of the local Dutch Heritage Coordinating Council; (2) serving as a member of both the Dutch American Historical Commission and the West Michigan Dutch American Heritage Day Committee; and (3) serving my church as pulpit supply coordinator, as prayer partner for two programs, and in various other ways.



*Presentation of Enduring Legacy to Mayor Dykstra, August 6, 2014*

My primary focus the next two years will be on writing the history of Hope College in time for the college's sesquicentennial in 2016. James C. Kennedy is my co-author, but I have also recruited about a half-dozen colleagues to contribute chapters or parts of chapters because of their special knowledge and expertise. Next year's annual report will provide many more details on this project.

I am grateful for both my long-time and my new colleagues at the Van Raalte Institute, all of whom provide intellectual stimulation and camaraderie.

Jacob E. Nyenhuis, "A. C. Van Raalte and his Eponymous Institute: An International Vision for Dutch-American Relations." In *The Enduring Legacy of Albertus C. Van Raalte as Leader and Liaison*.

An excerpt

In 1976 a worship service was held in Holland, Michigan, at Pillar Church to celebrate the centennial of the death of Albertus C. Van Raalte. This year, however, we celebrate the bicentennial of his birth with a Founder's Festival and an international conference on two continents. The thirty-five years between the two conferences have been marked by a strong resurgence of scholarly interest in Van Raalte and his legacy. The focus of my paper is the mission, history, and vision of the institute that was founded in 1993-94 to honor the memory of Van Raalte. The establishment and flourishing of the A. C. Van Raalte Institute has not only resulted in a greater appreciation for Van Raalte's contributions to the city of Holland and to the Reformed Church but also made possible the celebration of Van Raalte's bicentennial.

The Van Raalte Institute was founded by an endowment from the family of Hope College Trustee Peter H. Huizenga Jr. of Oak Brook, Illinois. The choice of this eponym for the new institute was very deliberate, for the eponym encapsulates the life, the character, and the vision of the founding father of Holland, Michigan. Rev. Van Raalte also played an important role in establishing Hope College by founding Pioneer School and its successor, Holland Academy, which evolved into Hope College under the leadership of Philip Phelps Jr. Van Raalte himself contributed greatly to the founding and growth of Hope College by serving as the college's chief fundraiser, making frequent and extended trips to Reformed churches in the East.

~

### *Conclusion*

When Van Raalte set out from New York in 1846, he expressed his vision: "I hope that a large colony can be established here in America which will focus its work on the

Kingdom of God.” His vision for the work of the Kingdom of God extended far beyond West Michigan to other colonies and other immigrants across the country, even to South Africa and Asia. As his eponymous institute at a Christian liberal arts college that he helped to found, we also “focus on the work of the Kingdom of God,” seeking alliances and collaboration with scholars in the Netherlands and elsewhere who share our focus and our international vision. This international conference has brought together American and Dutch scholars with an interest in the history of the communities and churches that Van Raalte and his fellow Secessionists established and nurtured in the nineteenth century, as well as in the legacy that Van Raalte and his colleagues left on both continents—and beyond—through their pursuit of a vision for presenting the Christian Gospel to the entire world. It is our desire and our hope that our relationships with Dutch scholars and institutions will continue to grow and deepen in the future and that our esteemed founder’s name will gain added luster through these collaborations.



## Elton J. Bruins

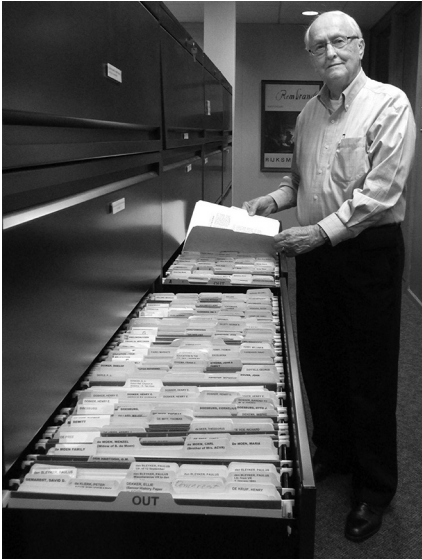
The year 2014 provides a prompt for the members at the Van Raalte Institute that it is our twentieth anniversary. The institute was founded in the spring of 1994 when Peter H. Huizenga and members of his family endowed the institute, the inspiration of Mr. Huizenga. It was my privilege to become the first appointment to the institute staff and to get the program underway. I was joined by several fine scholars and capable editors, and the members of the institute have produced many fine essays and books on the subject of the Dutch in America.



The first task as the founding director was to acquire office space for this new program at Hope College. The faculty retirees office in Van Zoeren Hall served as our first but very limited quarters. When Robert P. Swierenga was persuaded to take early retirement from Kent State University, his coming prompted the college to give us new quarters that proved to be the suite of offices in the Anderson/Werkman Center at 100 East Eighth Street. Through the efforts of Jack Nyenhuis who succeeded me as director in 2002 and the generosity of the Theil family, the institute was able to acquire our fine offices at 9 East Tenth Street in 2004.



*Karen Schakel works with student assistant John Krueger  
in the new 100 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street offices, 1997*



*Thousands of files collected by Elton Bruins are instrumental to the research conducted at the VRI*

My work currently as an “official” retiree is virtually much like my work when I got our program underway twenty years ago. It seemed appropriate to me right from the start to develop a research depth at the institute, so that when scholars and visitors came for information in Dutch American studies I could be of help to them. Consequently, I began to build files on the founder of the Holland colony, Albertus C. Van Raalte; Holland, Michigan; Hope College; and the Reformed Church in America. This work is never finished, so I continue to add to the now sixty-six feet of research files at the institute that include more than 2,160 files in the Van

Raalte document collection alone. Files on Van Raalte’s contemporaries of the nineteenth century, essays on Van Raalte, and descendants of Van Raalte are also part of our collection. Our files also include numerous clippings on Holland, Michigan, many of which were used by Bob Swierenga when working on his three-volume history of our city. The files on the Reformed Church in America and Hope College are also quite numerous.

For about ten years, I also conducted a translation program with the special help of Rev. William and Mrs. Althea Buursma of Grand Rapids, who translated a mound of documents that were published in Dutch. Most researchers who come to the institute for information do not know the Dutch language, so the translations are indispensable. Simone Kennedy, wife of James C. Kennedy, served as a translator while he was on the faculty and at the institute. Nella Kennedy continues our translation program. A pleasure I have is to answer reference questions that depend on the institute’s files for information.

A second major interest of mine has been the development of the library of the Van Raalte Institute. In order to get the library underway, I contributed my collection of approximately 450 volumes on the Dutch in America. The first book was one that I had acquired in 1947



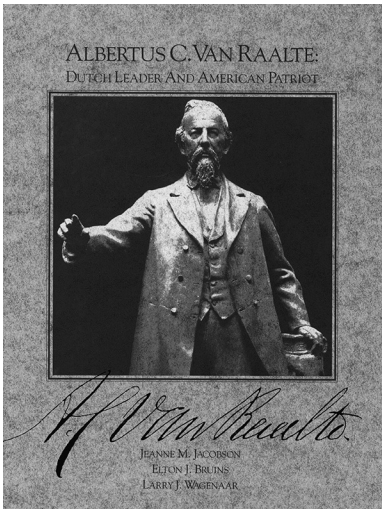
*The VRI library is a place of serious research . . .*

when I was a sophomore at Hope College. That book was the new biography on Van Raalte authored by Albert Hyma, professor of history at the University of Michigan. I also turned over my entire set of Dutch Reformed Church synodical minutes that began in 1771. Continuing to serve as the “librarian,” I now purchase new books or receive gifts of volumes from members and friends of the institute who contribute volumes both in Dutch and English.

The third purpose I had in getting the institute underway was to develop a speakers series and have guest scholars visit the institute to give lectures. One of the first visiting scholars was Barend A. de Vries, who spent a weekend with us and delivered an excellent lecture in the field of economics. He had been at both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund during his career and had a wealth of information on economics and how Christians could contribute to this field. Along with the scholars who came to lecture was the initiation



*and not-so-serious coffee time*



Dutch Leader cover

of our publication program. The first book published by the institute, I think, resulted from my collaboration with Jeanne Jacobson and Larry Wagenaar, and titled *Albertus C. Van Raalte: Dutch Leader and American Patriot* (Holland, MI: Hope College, 1996). We prepared this volume as part of Holland's sesquicentennial anniversary celebration in 1997. With the special addition of another scholar to our staff, Donald J. Bruggink, general editor of the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, the institute has now published thirty-five books including the three-volume set on the history of Holland,

Michigan, by Robert P. Swierenga, the crowning publication of the twentieth-anniversary year.

My vision for the institute, from the beginning of our organization in 1994 to the present, has been to become a premier source on the Dutch in America during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Our collection of books and files continues to grow in quality and depth of research. When our collections become available online, scholars in America, and the Netherlands in particular, will visit our website as well as our institute for their research projects. In partnership with the Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College now has a major collection on the Dutch emigration to America that began in 1847.

It gives me great pleasure to have been affiliated with the VRI from its origin in 1994 until the present. This past year, I began the processing of the eighteen boxes of records accumulated by Bob Swierenga for his book on the history of our community. I have given Jack Nyenhuis assistance in doing some processing of five boxes of records he has accumulated on the architectural history of the college. I am now assembling information on distinguished alumni/ae of Hope College beginning in 1866 in preparation for an essay for the forthcoming book commemorating the sesquicentennial of Hope College under the editorship of Jack Nyenhuis. All of these kinds of projects keep me going to the office daily with pleasure.

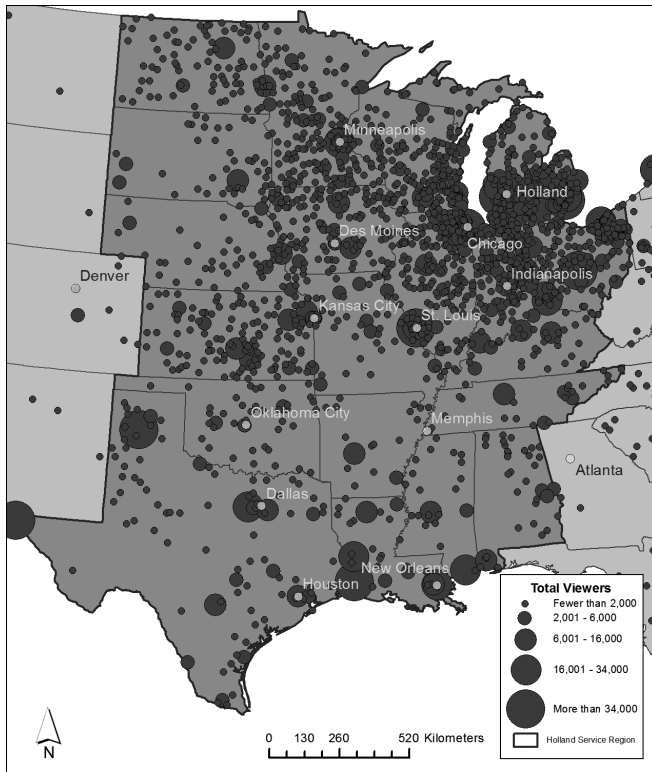
## Henk Aay

I have been at the Van Raalte Institute for two years now, the first as Visiting Research Fellow and the second as Senior Research Fellow. As with time in general at my age, these years just flew by! I continue to divide my time between Hope (3 days) and Calvin (2 days), although I work on my VRI projects at both locations. My Calvin colleagues make jokes about going over to the other side.



I am quickly beginning to feel that I am a member of the VRI team even though the others have many more years at the institute. That feeling stems from the very warm welcome and heart-felt support from everyone here. From my VRI colleagues, I am learning more and more about the history of the VRI, Hope College, and the RCA. I am tremendously taken by the quality and productivity of the academic work, by the organization of the workflow, and by the professional support and administration. I just hope I can keep up! I am finding the VRI to be an enjoyable and relaxed work environment where many resources are immediately at hand, and the staff willingly shares their knowledge and insight. For a scholar working on Dutch American topics, this is the place to be. The number of research and writing projects I would like to undertake keeps mounting!

During the 2013-14 academic year, the bulk of my time was devoted to writing a book manuscript based on my study of the more than two hundred 16 mm films in the archives of the Netherlands Information Bureau/Service (1941-74) housed in the Holland (Michigan) Museum. These films were seen by nearly three million people in a twenty-state area of the midsection of the United States. The book is tentatively titled *Projecting the Netherlands: Dutch Films in America*. The book combines an analysis of the content of the films, a study of the borrowing records, and a discussion of the Dutch places and regions shown in the films. It will include many stills and, potentially, a DVD of the most popular films. Below is a map of the viewership of the two hundred plus films from 1943 to 1974. It shows more than twenty-one hundred screening places and over eleven thousand screenings.



The other project, a long-term undertaking, is the preparation of an atlas of Dutch American history and culture. I was able to hire a Calvin student to help prepare historical Dutch American population maps from the US census using the National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS). More work and additional maps need to be prepared to complete the historical demography section of the atlas. Next, I would like to make a beginning on a section dealing with Dutch Americans and education, in particular, the establishment and development of Christian schools and colleges.

During the year, several publications based on my scholarship appeared: one a historiographic analysis of Van Hinte's appraisal of immigrant leaders A. C. Van Raalte and H. P. Scholte; and the other, a study of Dutch political propaganda films shown in the United States during the 1940s. I also had the opportunity to make presentations on different aspects of my study of Dutch films shown in the United States by the Netherlands Information Bureau/Service.

---

Outside of the VRI, I have also had opportunity to pursue my Dutch interests. During November 2013, together with a Calvin College colleague, I taught a four-week course on Dutch (fiction) feature films for Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning (CALL). More than eighty people enrolled. We provided background to the Dutch history of film, introduced each film, viewed the film together with the class, and then directed a discussion. In the spring of 2014, I led fourteen members of my congregation, Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church, on a two-week excursion in the Netherlands, with a focus on Dutch landscapes, water management, and urban design. We had a great time together and learned much.

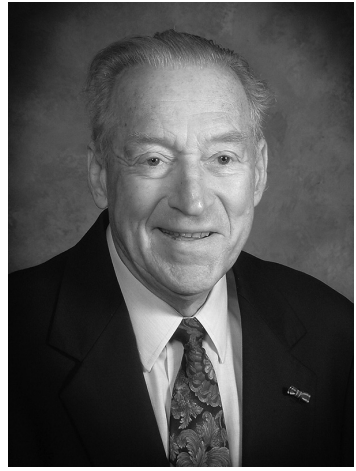
In my capacity as vice president of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies (AADAS), I am helping to plan the 2015 joint conference with the New Netherland Institute (NNI) in Albany, New York, September 17-19, on the theme of “the Dutch in America across the Centuries: Connections and Comparisons.” The conference is meant to bring together members of these two scholarly communities, one with a focus on the seventeenth-century New Netherland colony along the mid-Atlantic coast and its legacy, the other, on the Dutch immigration waves to the Midwest and beyond beginning in the mid-nineteenth century.

Besides these pursuits, I have some other responsibilities to Calvin College and our church. I serve on the travel committee of the Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning that plans educational excursions within the United States and abroad. And I serve as elder at Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church.

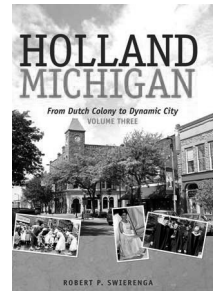
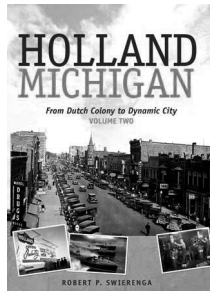
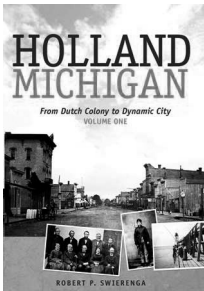
It is a real privilege for me to be a member of the staff at the VRI. I am consistently rewarded—intellectually, socially, and spiritually.

## Robert P. Swierenga

This was a banner year that saw the completion of my magnum opus, *Holland Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City* (Van Raalte Press; Eerdmans), and the publication of *Dutch Americans and War: United States and Abroad* (Van Raalte Press), for which I was lead editor. The Holland history, which turned out to be three large volumes, had quite a “roll-out.” We had a small celebration at our fabled morning coffee hour the day the book arrived in late January 2014. At the Holland city council meeting on February



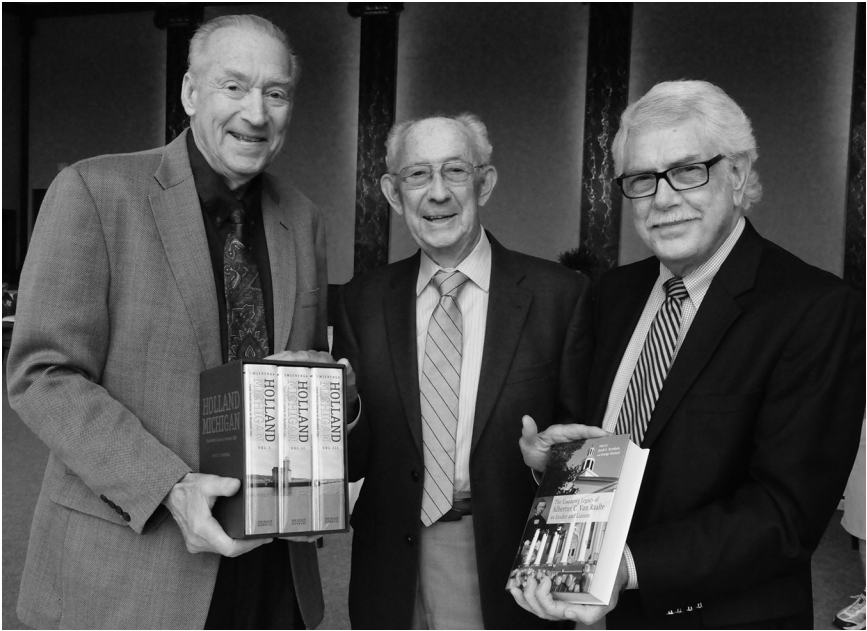
5, Jack Nyenhuis, Don Bruggink, and I made a formal presentation to Mayor Kurt D. Dykstra, with each of us presenting one volume. The book now sits on the mayor’s desk for ready reference.



A more lavish celebration took place at a staff dinner party on February 13 following Gene Heideman’s public lecture as a visiting research fellow. The June thirtieth book-signing ceremony at the Midtown Center was even more elaborate, with remarks by Mayor Dykstra, publisher William B. Eerdmans Jr., VRI director Jack Nyenhuis, Historical Series general editor Don Bruggink, and myself. I noted that three city historians—Gerrit Van Schelven, William O. Van Eyck, and Peter T. Moerdyke—had thought to write a comprehensive history but failed because of other pressing obligations. Thanks to the expertise and resources of the Van Raalte Institute staff, and the freedom allowed by my position as the A. C. Van Raalte Research Professor, I was able to write the book over the past ten to eleven years.

The final hurrah was a reception and dinner party on the pleasant summer evening of July 26, hosted by Peter and Heidi Huizenga at their

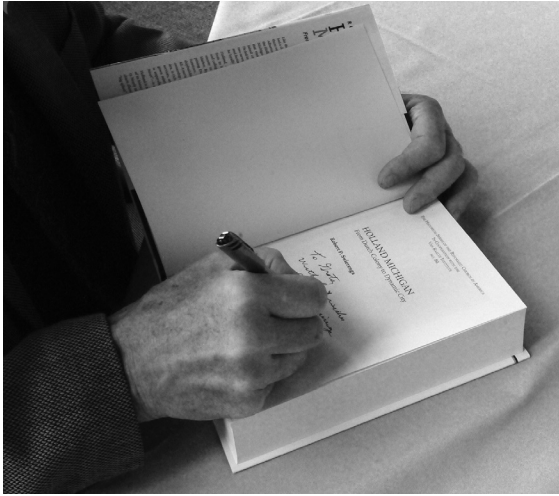




*Bob Swierenga, Don Bruggink, and Jack Nyenhuis, partners in publication, celebrate at the Midtown Book-Signing Event*

summer home on Lake Michigan. The special event was to recognize and thank the “pillars of the community” whose generosity made the publication of the book possible. Some forty-five people in attendance sat under a large tent to enjoy food and conversation while watching the sun go down over the lake. I used the opportunity to thank the donors and engage them in a lively discussion of the question: “What made Holland, Holland?” They all agreed that Holland is a special place with a rich heritage rooted in faith and family.

*Dutch Americans and War* resulted from the June 2013 conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies (AADAS) at Central College in Pella, Iowa. The twenty-one contributors, including my effort, “Home Front: Holland in the World Wars,” made this the largest book by far in the AADAS series published by the Van Raalte Press since 2008. My co-editors, Nella Kennedy and Lisa Zylstra, the latter the conference organizer, worked together to edit the papers and collect appropriate photographs and illustrations. Kennedy and JoHannah Smith, the institute’s copy editor, worked their magic in designing the cover, and Smith ensured that text and footnotes conformed to the guidelines of the Van Raalte Press. A Hope College



*Robert Swierenga signing books*

student assistant, Stephanie Rogers, helped me greatly in compiling the index. Nella Kennedy and I were recognized for editing this book at a staff dinner on August 10, 2014.

Now I'm nearing the completion of my next book, a history of Central Avenue Christian Reformed Church for the congregation's sesquicentennial in 2015. Central Avenue is the first Christian Reformed congregation in the city of Holland. Van Raalte Press will publish the book in cooperation with the new Congregational Histories series, under the auspices of the Historical Series of the RCA.

*Holland, Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City*, by Robert P. Swierenga

An excerpt

“Culture is everything,” it is said, as a way to explain differences in the development of peoples and places. Holland’s story has been shaped by its founding as an intentional Christian colony by Seceders from the national Reformed Church of the Netherlands led by Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte. Holland Colony began as a vision in his mind of a place where industrious, independent settlers could enjoy freedom of worship and schooling and could prosper from the labor of their own hands. It would be a community of devout Dutch Reformed immigrants, bound together by a common faith, a “contractual community” (a social science term to describe a homogeneous place in which citizens covenant together to live under a prescribed belief system).

The church stood in the center of the city and every crossroads village throughout the colony. Holland has always been known as a city of churches, with one standing on many a corner. Walking to church meant a church—actually two—in every neighborhood, since Reformed and Christian Reformed churches often stood facing one another. The rhythms of life revolved around worship services, catechetical instruction, and church societies.

Van Raalte and the Dutch colonists were practical as well as devout. They believed in the virtues of personal responsibility, gainful employment, and profitable enterprise. Gaining a competence was nothing to be sneered at. Van Raalte himself dealt in land, invested in mills and factories, founded newspapers, and encouraged enterprising settlers to do the same. His infectious spirit of entrepreneurship was caught by industrious colonists, including two of his sons, Ben and Dirk, who opened businesses on Eighth Street and River Avenue, respectively, and were leaders in businessmen’s organizations and development projects.

Entrepreneurship is the hallmark of business life in Holland. Three- and four-generation family businesses abound, and there are even several five-generation businesses. Enterprising industrialists are numerous in every industry: furniture, automotive parts, food processing, agricultural implements, printing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, paints, and the list goes on. Companies like Prince (now Johnson Controls), Haworth, Herman Miller, Donnelly, and Gentex are known around the globe. The work ethic remains strong, skill levels high, and employees generally eschew labor unions. These are all reasons why West Michigan leads the state in economic growth.

## Donald J. Bruggink

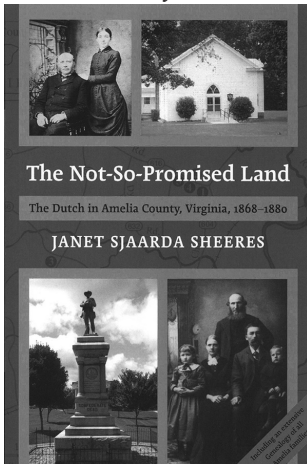
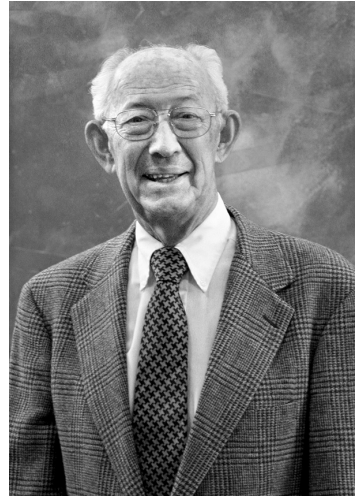
The occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Van Raalte Institute is an opportunity to reflect on how well we have fulfilled our mandate of research and publication concerning the role of the Dutch in America and the impact of these Dutch Americans abroad.

The Reformed Church in America, a part of the American scene since 1628, has long been involved in preserving the historical record through individual authorship, through such magisterial efforts as those of Edwin Tanjore Corwin, and since 1968, the Historical Series of the RCA.

In the thirty-five years from its first publication in 1968 until my joining the Van Raalte Institute in 2003, forty-three volumes of the series had been published under my editorship. In the following eleven years at the Van Raalte Institute, I have overseen the publication of thirty-nine more titles, and if we count volumes, Robert P. Swierenga's three volume *Holland, Michigan*, brings the number to forty-one.

This year's productivity has resulted in the publication of *The Not-So-Promised Land: The Dutch in Amelia, Virginia, 1868-1880* by Janet Sjaarda Sheeres. The title accurately reflects the response of the Dutch to the invitation to join Van Raalte's colony in Amelia, Virginia, and the dates underscore the depths of the disappointment of the would-be settlers.

Sheeres not only chronicles the experiences of the colonists but also offers insightful analysis of the colony's failure. Unlike the Holland, Michigan, colony, the Virginia colonists were from various provinces with different customs, clothing, religious affiliations, and dialects. Rather than fertile farmland, they found soil exhausted by excessive tobacco farming. Their relationship with former slaves was an affront to native Virginians. The Dutch were



regarded as no better than northern carpetbaggers. There was a failure to understand the physical and emotional context of post-Civil War Virginia.

In addition to an engaging telling of the experience of the Amelia colony, including detailed personal accounts, Sheeres has given us a genealogy of the participants with more than nine hundred entries, which include date and place of birth, marital status, death, denomination, occupation, children, year of immigration, ship, point of arrival, and a summary. Truly, a treasure trove of genealogical information for everyone connected with the Amelia colony.

While offering historical veracity concerning Van Raalte's failed colony in Virginia, the year 2014 also heralded an up-to-date account of Van Raalte's success in the book *Holland, Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City* by Robert P. Swierenga. Published in three volumes totaling more than twenty-six hundred pages with more than nine hundred illustrations, the history is the result of more than a decade of research.

That Holland enjoys considerable success as a community is obvious to those of us fortunate enough to live here. Swierenga, however, avoids the trap of attempting to portray, let alone prove, that Holland is the ideal community. He examines business, retail, professional, and industrial sectors, both their successes and failures, those noted for integrity and others for skullduggery. Ethnic culture, religion, education, and the arts, all play a part in community development



*Celebrating the publication of books no. 80 and 81 in the Historical Series at the Midtown Book-Signing event*

and are chronicled in remarkable detail. The role of transportation, government, the press, social services, and philanthropy are included. All of the above are placed within local, national, and international context.

Swierenga doesn't offer simplistic answers for Holland's present success; instead he objectively describes the roles of the various components of community, from which he offers a conclusion based on over two thousand pages of historical narrative.

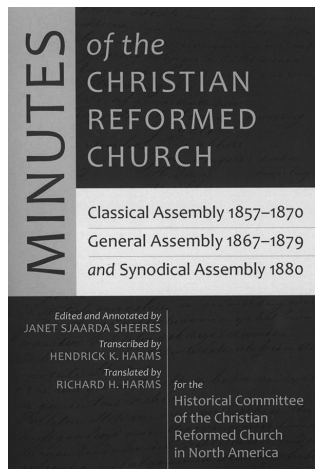
Another virtue of this three-volume history is that what might have been a mammoth bore is written with a lucid prose which continuously invites one into the narrative. In following any of the thousands of entries in the index, it is difficult to stop reading when the initial item of one's search has been found. Swierenga makes the facts of history read as exciting stories.

Returning to the founder of Holland, Michigan, the lectures commemorating the bicentennial of his birth are found in *The Enduring Legacy of Albertus C. Van Raalte as Leader and Liaison*, edited by Jacob E. Nyenhuis and George Harinck.

Preeminent Van Raalte scholars in the Netherlands and the United States have contributed the essays in this volume, celebrated in conferences both in Holland, Michigan, and Ommen, Overijssel, the Netherlands. Six biographical essays are followed by six thematic essays and three on reception. The essays are further augmented by a sixty-two-page bibliography of printed works on and by Van Raalte in two parts: part one from 1837 to 1975 is by Peter de Klerk, and part two from 1975 to 2013 is by Elton J. Bruins.

The carefully-edited content by Jacob E. Nyenhuis and George Harinck (with essays by international scholars, many writing in English as a second or third language), has been made a fluent read through the meticulous editorial efforts of Nyenhuis and the copy editing of JoHannah Smith. Copiously referenced and illustrated, the book would seem to be the final word on Van Raalte but will in fact prove to be a treasure trove of information for those who still have questions about this redoubtable visionary, minister, business man, fund raiser, educator, and leader.

The final volume published within the time frame of this annual report is number eighty-two in the Historical Series: *Minutes of the Christian Reformed Church: Classical Assembly 1857-1870, General Assembly 1867-1879, and Synodical Assembly 1880*, edited and annotated by Janet Sjaarda Sheeres, transcribed by Hendrick K. Harms, and translated by Richard H. Harms for the Historical Committee of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA).



These records were made available in typed mimeographed form in 1937. Essential to a faithful translation was an accurate transcription of the handwritten minutes. This arduous task was undertaken by Hendrick K. Harms, which enabled his son, Richard H. Harms to produce an accurate translation. Most translators will acknowledge the dangers of the grammatical constructs and idioms of the one language intruding into the other. Harms avoided this peril by arriving at work an hour early each morning to spend an hour just on translating. The result is a superbly consistent translation of the minutes into English.

Janet Sjaarda Sheeres must also be commended for taking up the task of annotation, to which she was invited by the Historical Committee of the CRCNA. In addition to providing historical context to make the issues more understandable, she, with her usual genealogical skill, has provided 120 pages of biographical data of persons mentioned in the minutes.

The publication of these minutes by Eerdmans was made possible through the cooperation of the Historical Series of the RCA and with funding from Heritage Hall at Calvin College through its *Origins* “Studies in Dutch American History” program.

For an objective insight into the origins and growth of the CRC through the labors of the above devoted scholars, one can read its history by those who contributed to it through the polity of the church.

This year also saw the inauguration of the Congregational Histories Series under the auspices of the Commission on History of the Reformed Church in America to be published by the Van Raalte Press. The series hopes to be of service to the wider church, encouraging and assisting in the publication of quality congregational histories.

Appropriately, the first volume in the series involves an ecumenical endeavor between the CRC and RCA: *The City in Its Heart: The First 100 Years of Maple Avenue Ministries, Holland, Michigan, 1913-2013*, with John D. Cox, professor of English at Hope College, as its author.

For most of its life since 1913, the Maple Avenue Christian Reformed Church ministered to its ethnic congregation which resided in its neighborhood. After WWII, the congregation began to disperse, with a resulting slow decline in church membership. By the 1970s, the immediate neighborhood of the church was becoming predominately Hispanic. In 1993 the congregation voted overwhelmingly to stay and minister to its neighbors. In 1994 they entered into a Covenant of Unity with Christ Memorial Church which sought an inner-city component



to its ministry—a unity which continues in Maple Avenue Ministries.

With the publication by the Van Raalte Press of this excellent volume by John D. Cox, the Congregational Histories Series is off to a solid ecumenical start. A copy may be obtained directly from Maple Avenue Ministries in Holland.



## The City in Its Heart

The First 100 Years of Maple Avenue Ministries,  
Holland, Michigan, 1913-2013

John D. Cox

*The City in Its Heart*, by John D. Cox

An excerpt

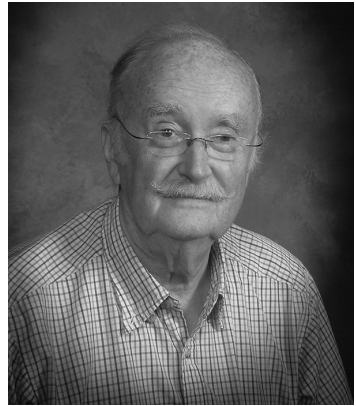
Undoubtedly [Rev. David] Sieplinga's most historic achievement during seven years of pastoring Maple Avenue Ministries was to win formal recognition for the congregation as the first union church of the Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church in America. In at least one gathering of worshipers, this achievement reconciled two Dutch American denominations that had been separated for almost 150 years. Sieplinga would have been aware of the Classical Home Mission Committee's urging in 1992 that "joint CRC/RCA ministries should be created and tracked" in response to the Core City Task Force Report that year. One of the deciding factors for him in accepting the call to Maple Avenue in the first place was the unusually close cooperation between a Reformed Church congregation (Christ Memorial) and a Christian Reformed congregation (Maple Avenue). This was not itself a union, but it was more than a smile and a handshake. The two churches formed a joint consistory that met regularly, made up of an equal number of staff members from both churches and one member of each church's consistory, to act as liaison between the joint consistory and each of the two sponsoring consistories. Members of both congregations were encouraged to participate as full members in the activities of both churches. Both churches provided tithing envelopes in support of the emerging Maple Avenue Ministries.

## Earl Wm. (Bill) Kennedy

In light of the twentieth birthday of the A. C. Van Raalte Institute, we have been requested to reminisce a bit about the long haul. Looking over the annual reports that include me in one way or another (in the past decade and a half), I started thinking about how it all began, even before I came to be associated with the institute.

My first close encounter with its founder, our esteemed colleague and “elder statesman,” Elton John Bruins, was about thirty-five years ago at Calvin College, at an early gathering of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies. I was then teaching American church history, among other subjects, at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. The Bruins-Kennedy ties were strengthened with Elton’s official two-day “visitation,” perhaps around 1990, to evaluate the college’s religion department. After I retired, my wife and I moved in 1998 to Holland, Michigan, where our son James was already teaching at Hope College as well as serving with Elton as a part-time member of the Van Raalte Institute. Five years later, our son left Holland for the other Holland, where he had accepted a professorate at the Free University of Amsterdam. Meanwhile, however, my wife Nella and I, at Elton’s behest, had begun spending our spare time at the institute; Nella, a native of Rotterdam, did translation work (initially associated with our son’s wife, Simone, likewise Dutch born), while I was a “consultant” annotating the recently translated minutes (by Bill and Althea Buursma) of the Classis of Holland minutes, 1858-76. My training in church history, theology, New Testament, and genealogy (a hobby), as well as knowledge of the Dutch language, helped qualify me for the task. Nella and I made our debut in the institute’s annual report of 1999-2000, mentioned in Elton’s section.

I gave my initial report as a senior research fellow in the report of 2003-4, but already the year before, I was engaged by the institute to annotate the previously published (1943) minutes of the Classis of Holland between the years of its organization in 1848 and 1858, since this volume had been only very minimally annotated and since the institute had deemed my work on the 1858-76 minutes to be



satisfactory. Moreover, the Dutch American Historical Commission had agreed to help fund the publication of the entire annotated minutes of the Van Raalte era (1848-76) in the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, under the general editorship of our colleague Donald Bruggink. Thus, with the additional encouragement of our new director, Jack Nyenhuis, I had hoped to finish the entire project by 2007, in time for the sesquicentennial of the 1857 departure of a number of congregations from the Classis of Holland to form what would become the Christian Reformed Church. But this was not to be, owing to the care required in interpreting those crucial and controverted years, other scholarly endeavors (e.g., the preparation of articles for other occasions), and my own meticulousness. Having missed the “deadline,” I went on to finish the work up to 1858 but then began to review and upgrade the project I had “finished” for the period from 1858 to 1876, since my self-imposed standards had risen since I first began the annotations in 1999. The time for terminating the entire revision process and preparation for the press of this two-volume work has at last arrived (the endpoint has frequently appeared to be like a mirage in the desert), and the final editing is in the competent and encouraging hands of our fast-tempoed editorial assistant, JoHannah Smith, with my aid in tidying up numerous loose ends. Thus, my decade-and-a-half “marriage” to the Classis of Holland Minutes should come to an end within the next few months.

Other activities with which I have been engaged during the past year require relatively little space to recount. I prepared two versions of the paper I delivered at the June 2013 Pella conference of the AADAS on the Rev. Arie Gerrit Zigeler. The shorter version has already appeared in *Dutch Americans and War*, edited by Robert Swierenga, Nella Kennedy, and Lisa Zylstra, published this year by the Van Raalte Press. A longer version awaits “publication” online by the same press in the coming year. My earlier article on Van Raalte’s vision for Christian schools, previously announced, saw the light of day in the *The Enduring Legacy of Albertus C. Van Raalte as Leader and Liaison*, edited by Jacob E. Nyenhuis and George Harinck. I also revised and shortened my biography of the pioneer New Jersey dominie Guiliam Bertholf (1656-1726) for publication as a “lemma” in the forthcoming *Encyclopedie van de Nadere Reformatie* (Kampen: Uitgeverij Kok, 2015), edited by W. J. op’t Hof, F. W. Huisman, A. de Reuver, and W. van’t Spijker. In addition, I made some minor emendations of the lemma on Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen for that encyclopedia. I continue on the board of the Dutch Reformed Translation Society.



*Bill Kennedy, a guard,  
in Princess Ida*

On a very different note, so to speak, I appeared in May as a chorus tenor (debut), playing a guard, in five performances (not quite sold out) at the Wealthy Theatre in Grand Rapids of the West Michigan Savoyards' production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Princess Ida* (1884). Twice-weekly rehearsals for that (beginning in January) and a little macular degeneration (more or less under control) may have slowed me down slightly, although I hope not much (perhaps the musical diversion energized me for my "day job" at the institute!). The singing was a sort of "bucket" thing, partly in honor of my

Anglophile operatic-tenor father. Finally, my Netherlands connection has not been neglected, with two prolonged stays in the old country in the past year.

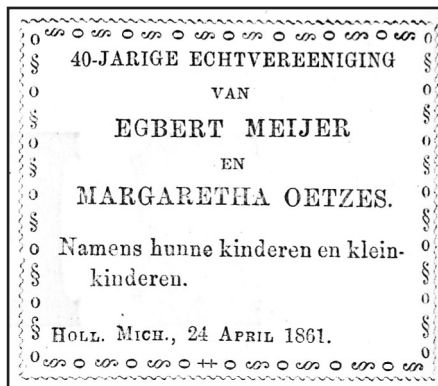
The sample annotation in this year's report features Egbert Meijer, a somewhat elusive figure, a bookbinder-farmer, about whom I wish I knew more. A proposal had come to the April 1860 Classis of Holland session to approve a local religious weekly, *De Paarl*, published by Meijer and Cornelis Vorst (later a Christian Reformed pastor). The classis declined to act on this, since it was published by "private parties," but five years later, it would back a new, classical newspaper, *De Hope*, emanating from Hope College.

#### An excerpt

Egbert Meijer (1802-post 1861) was a native of the city of Groningen in the province of the same name. He was evidently the oldest and eventually only surviving son of Harmannus Meijer (ca. 1773-1852), a bookbinder and bookseller, whose profession Egbert would follow. He married early, in 1821, a woman a few years his senior, Margijn Oetses, who bore him (a "bookseller") two children in Groningen city before the family moved by 1827 to Sneek, Friesland, her hometown, where he (a "bookbinder") and she had several more children before settling

in Rotterdam by 1836, in which year a final child was born to them but died in infancy. Egbert Meijer is perhaps next heard of in 1847, when “Egbert Meijers” sailed first class from London, as a “farmer,” to New York with one of his children, a twenty-year-old daughter. Then, (the Groningen) Egbert and his wife appear in the 1850 census living in Jennings Township, Putnam County, Ohio, with their five surviving children. Once again the erstwhile bookman is listed as a farmer, together with his two sons of the same occupation.

Between 1852 and 1855, three of the Meijer children married in Putnam County, but a daughter married in 1857 in Milwaukee, which may indicate that her parents had once again moved. In any case, after an apparently long hiatus as a farmer, Egbert Meijer had returned to his earlier profession of bookbinding, this time in Holland Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, by the time the census enumerator visited him and his wife (with no children living with them) in August 1860. He partnered with Cornelis Vorst in publishing *De Paarl* from 1860 to 1861 and also in printing edifying Christian literature (distributed as a bonus to the paper’s subscribers), such as the letters of Samuel Rutherford and of John Newton, a short



Fortieth anniversary wedding  
 announcement of Egbert Winter  
 and Margijn Oetses in *De Paarl*,  
 24 April 1861

message of John Owen on the Holy Spirit, as well as a church history—all in Dutch translation. In the last extant issue of *De Paarl*, 14 August 1861, Vorst reported that Meijer was still away on a trip that had already lasted three months. Were he and his wife on a fortieth wedding anniversary journey back to the Netherlands? In a departure from custom for *De Paarl*, an anniversary announcement by their children and grandchildren appeared prominently in the issue of 24 April 1861. In any event, nothing further is known of Egbert Meijer after August 1861. Oddly, the Meijers do not appear in the church membership books of Holland's First Reformed Church or CRC (that began 1865), of Graafschap's CRC, or of South Holland's Associate Reformed Church (information on the latter two courtesy of Richard Harms of Calvin College), the four local churches to which they most likely would have belonged.

## Nella Kennedy

I have been privileged to be part of the Van Raalte Institute for three-quarters of its life. In 1999 I began my work as translator and occasional reviser of previous translations at the old location at 100 East Eighth Street, where I was seated at a computer in a windowless room, surrounded by microfilm readers. After five years, the VRI moved to the Theil Research Center, where my husband Bill and I share a wonderful office—with

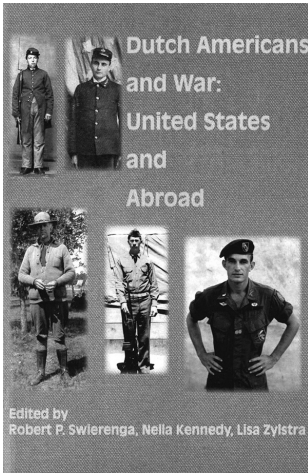


windows! In December 2009, I was promoted to senior research fellow and official translator. Thus during the past five years, I have been given the rewarding experience of research and writing in the company of inspiring and congenial colleagues. As the American song proclaims: “Where never is heard a discouraging word”—even on cloudy days! I continue to transcribe and translate Dutch-language documents in the collection and aid my coworkers with the Dutch material they need to have translated.

A fellow Rotterdammer, Erasmus, once wrote: *Een leven zonder boeken is onleefbaar* (a life without books is not livable). That seems to be true for the Van Raalte Institute and certainly has been this year. For the third time, I collaborated with two others in editing papers given at conferences of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies (AADAS), published by the Van Raalte Press (2008, 2012, and 2014). The last book came out in August of this year, entitled: *Dutch Americans and War: United States and Abroad*. This most hefty volume to date contains the lectures given at the AADAS conference in Pella, Iowa, in 2013. My chapter on the aid of food and materials sent to the Netherlands from Holland, Michigan, after World War II is included as well.

Apart from editing the manuscripts, I checked illustrations submitted by the authors for sources, copyright, the correct resolution for publication, and occasionally researched additional illustrations. The 2014 front cover was my second effort at design; the previous one was *Diverse Destinies: Dutch Kolonies in Wisconsin and the East* (2012).

I have just finished translating the Dutch minutes of a short-lived debating society (1873-77) in Holland, Michigan. These minutes are



on loan from a Holland resident, and the society's existence was unknown to Holland historians. The notes give another glimpse into the lives and minds of early settlers. I hope to use this information for an article in the next few months. The debates, as required by the society's constitution, needed to alternate between secular and sacred subject matter. Two sample questions illustrate this: "Resolved: that the ladies do not have the right to vote in the political arena" and "Does a Christian have the right to enjoy worldly amusement?"

The members had to vote on who had best spoken and covered the subject matter, but the notes rarely gave the gist of the debate.

I continue to participate in an advisory capacity at the Holland Museum. In April the museum hosted Grand Valley State University's Kutsche Office of Local History, and I was then part of a panel discussing the lives of immigrants. Early in the year, I wrote some history plays about the work of women at Third Reformed Church, covering almost a century and a half. One was based on the diary of Geesje VanderHaar Visscher, an early settler in Holland and friend of the Van Raaltes. The VRI has a copy of that diary; the original (in Dutch) is in the Holland Museum Archives. I continue to serve as a member of the Dutch Heritage Coordinating Council, with Jack Nyenhuis and Elton Bruins. Contact with various members representing institutions interested in Dutch heritage has been rewarding.

Letters by the earliest RCA missionaries to Chiapas, Mexico, Rev. John R. Kempers and Mrs. Mabel Van Dyke-Kempers, await my translation. This extensive Dutch-language correspondence appeared in the *Sioux Center Nieuwsblad* (Iowa) in the late 1920s. In spite of our searches, no English versions have turned up. The material is of great interest to present scholars researching the life and ministry of this missionary couple.

Although the majority of the institute's files on Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte have been translated, there is still more material of the later years to be done and perhaps especially the revising of some previous translations.



“Packing Underwear, Cod Liver Oil, and Stockings,” by Nella Kennedy, in *Dutch Americans and War*

An excerpt

Every citizen was issued a distribution card, which made them eligible for periodic ration coupons for food and other items, such as bike tires, shoes, textile, etc. Rising demands from Germany for food and goods, as well as shortages occasioned by Allied blockades, created greater scarcity as the war dragged on.<sup>1</sup> To stand in long lines in front of shops became a daily routine. Good footwear was difficult to obtain, since some shoe manufacturers were prohibited from making leather shoes, and many went about on insoles made of wood. Frequent repairs and reconfiguring stretched the life of textile items. Tobacco, tea, and coffee, were already rationed in June 1940, and by the end of the war were virtually impossible to buy, except on the black market. Coffee-loving Dutch, however, were able to make a coffee surrogate which was the best in Europe.

## Adjunct and Honorary Members

J. P. Verhave



*At the Temple Mount in Jerusalem*

I am happy to report that the staff of the Van Raalte Institute and the Van Raalte Press have accepted my biography *A Constant State of Emergency: Paul de Kruif (1890-1971) and the Health of Americans* for publication. The manuscript is now being edited, and I hope that the book will be published in 2015, the 125<sup>th</sup> year of birth of Paul de Kruif (the quasiquicentennial year, as Jack Nyenhuis calls it).

Also this year, my article on Paul de Kruif and Ernest Hemingway came out in *Hemingway Review* 33, no. 2 (Spring 2014), 143-50. In addition, I submitted a manuscript on Hideyo Noguchi, Paul's colleague at the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, to the *History of Social Medicine* journal.

The article in the *Hemingway Review* can be summarized as follows: In 1929 Paul read for the first time a book by Ernest Hemingway and was flabbergasted. But only in 1940 did he approach the author, whom he considered to be a teacher of writing. During the following years, the two men met occasionally and exchanged their books. De Kruif's book,

---

*The Male Hormone*, was particularly revealing to Hemingway, because he used to present himself as a virile man.

Paul and his wife Rhea spent the winter months of 1947-48 in Cuba and visited the Hemingways in their home. They met again in 1951 in Havana, when Paul attended a scientific conference on hormones (and received a distinction). Paul brought along various hormonal drugs and vitamins and advised Ernest how to use them. Though Paul was not a medical doctor, he was a user himself and thus had experience. Thereafter, they kept contact through Christmas cards and one or two letters. In 1957, when Hemingway had psychiatric problems, Paul sent him his newest book, *A Man against Insanity*, in which the effects of new drugs like ritalin were described. But the situation deteriorated, and Ernest shot himself in 1961.

Paul wrote: "If you aspire to be a real writer, Ernest Hemingway says you must be equipped with a special apparatus to detect what is finally not true and good." Both men shared this trait.

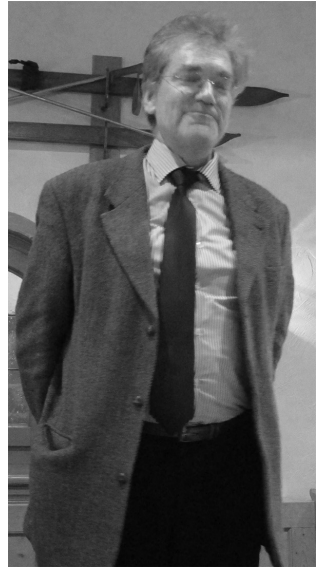
The contacts between the two were never intense, but still worth describing because of the caring advice and the cordial contacts of Rhea de Kruif and Mary Hemingway. None of the biographers of Hemingway mentions Paul de Kruif in any detail.

## George Harinck

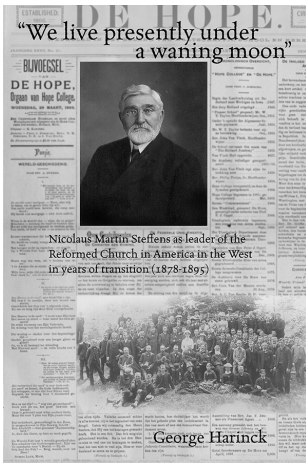
This year I spent time on my research for the biography of Geerhardus Vos. In January 2014, I was at the VRI and researched the Dutch American press (*De Hope, De Wachter*) on Vos's time as a teacher at the Theological School of the Christian Reformed Church (1888-93). Next summer I hope to write the Michigan chapter of Vos's biography at the VRI. I attended the Kuyper Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary and researched Karl Barth's visit to the United States in 1962. Over the year, I also worked on my book on the Reformed Dutch American academic relations from 1880 to 1930.

As to publications, this was a year of harvesting. I was co-editor with Jack Nyenhuis of *The Enduring Legacy of Albertus C. Van Raalte as Leader and Liaison*, and the Van Raalte Press published "*We live presently under a waning moon*": *Nicolaus Martin Steffens as leader of the Reformed Church in America in the West in years of transition (1878-1895)*, the result of my visiting research fellow lecture in 2008.

I am also glad that my article on Henry Dosker and Anabaptism was published in the festschrift for my retiring colleague Prof. Piet Visser, *Religious Minorities and Cultural Diversity in the Dutch Republic* (see below, under publications). Dosker is a well-known figure in the history of the Dutch American colonies, but since he left no papers, I had to collect my (often small) pieces of information on him from many places. Visser did not know of my research and publication on Dosker, and—to my surprise—he presented Dosker in his public farewell lecture as a Reformed historian who had presented a fair view of the Anabaptists, and he showed a big picture of Dosker on the screen in the Aula (largest auditorium at the VU University).



*At the celebration of his lecture publication and the twentieth anniversary of the VRI*



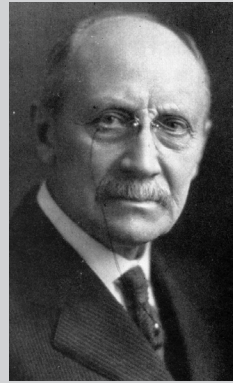
“‘The Tares in the Wheat.’ Henry E. Dosker’s Calvinist Historiography of Dutch Anabaptism”

An excerpt

The American Baptist historian Henry C. Vedder framed the Anabaptists as propagators of the social gospel and labeled these “real reformers” as communists or anarchists. Dosker adopted this view as far as the radicalism of the Anabaptists was concerned: “What Bolshevism is today, radical Anabaptism was then. . . . Success for the Münsterites would have brought chaos to the whole continent.”

The Anabaptists did not belong solely to the lower class; the bulk belonged to the middle class. With the recent Russian revolution in mind, however, Dosker had new reasons to reject the radical and individualistic elements in Anabaptism—“both their strength and weakness, their glory and their bane”—in favor of the constructive ability of Calvinism; there will be no other book on Anabaptism that refers to Kuyper, Warfield, and Bavinck.

After Münster, the name Anabaptist became a menace, and based on abundant proof in the BRN [Bibliotheca Reformatoria Neerlandica], Dosker sharply distinguished the Mennonites or Doopsgezinden from these radicals. The BRN volume ten afforded Dosker the insight “into the real world of thought and action of the new branch of the Anabaptist movement” after Münster. Though he stated that the Mennonites, unlike other Protestants, did not place the center of gravity in doctrine, but in life, Dosker’s lectures are most valuable for the exposition of their doctrine. Among these conservatives, Obbe Philips’s “Confession” was most dear to Dosker: “None of the Anabaptistica . . . affected me as did this one.” In the struggle between radicals and Doopsgezinden, or later on between rigorists and moderates, implacable justice and divine mercy, Dosker time and again chose sides with the latter, as he had done in his own Reformed denomination.



*Henry E. Dosker,  
ca. 1920*

## Hans Krabbendam

Two decades of the Van Raalte Institute have brought me many gifts, most importantly a fellowship of scholars deeply committed to researching the Dutch American heritage next to an active conference climate and rich archival collections. I particularly cherish the institute's desire to keep the links with the country of origin viable. The establishment of research grants was a key instrument to strengthening the relationship, and I gratefully acknowledge this grant that allowed me in 2003 to design my book on Dutch immigration to the United States. The series of lectures and publications resulting from this program have greatly contributed to the development of the field.



*Hans Krabbendam (left) with Phil Roosevelt in the the Roosevelt Study Center library*

In the past season, I added new chapters to my book on American Protestants and their interest in postwar Europe and was able to publish a few articles about this exciting topic. The Roosevelt Study Center is moving toward involvement in education. I taught two MA seminars, one at the University of Amsterdam, "American Immigration from a Global Perspective," and the other at Utrecht University, "Christianity in American History." Both were very rewarding experiences and enriched my primary research interests.

On the organizational side, I hosted conferences on the abolition of the slave trade in the Netherlands and the biennial conference of the European Association for American Studies in The Hague. Closer to home I made contributions to the celebration of the bicentennial of the Kingdom of the Netherlands by organizing a symposium on two hundred years Zeeuws-Vlaanderen (the most southern part of the province), in combination with a research project on emigration to the United States from the Flanders side of the border. Opening new horizons can begin quite close to home.

“Three-Way Chess: Arie Kok and the Failure to Organize American Fundamentalism in Europe,” in *Church History and Religious Culture* 94 (2014)

An excerpt

It is Kok’s life story more than that of the attention-getting Americans that explains the development and significance of a fundamentalist protestant presence outside the United States. McIntire was predominantly occupied with US concerns and so dominated the stage, that in the historical literature, his role has obscured other international aspects of the fundamentalist Protestant movement. It was Arie Kok who formed the impetus for this international expansion. The tandem of Kok and McIntire opened a transnational perspective on militant conservative Protestantism after World War II while paying tribute to its American roots. Whereas McIntire and Schaeffer pursued at the core an American agenda, Kok had acquired a much wider geographical horizon, which entitled him to a representative position as the transnational figure in Protestant fundamentalism. McIntire’s rich repertoire of international experience and different perspectives qualified his patriotism, while Kok’s equally resolute rejection of all connections to liberal Christians undermined a successful outcome.

# Publications

Aay, Henk. "Dutch Propaganda Films in America: Documentaries from the Netherlands Information Bureau in the 1940s." In Swierenga, *Dutch Americans and War*, 221-49 (Henk Aay)

Ester, Peter and Henk Aay. "Jacob Van Hinte's Appraisal of Immigration Leaders Hendrik Pieter Scholte and Albertus C. Van Raalte." In Nyenhuis, *The Enduring Legacy*, 297-322 (Henk Aay)

Bruins, Elton, comp. "Bibliography on Van Raalte: Part 1: Works from 1975 to 2013." In Nyenhuis, *The Enduring Legacy*, 345-59 (Elton Bruins)

Harinck, George. "Aan boord van de Red Star Line." *Nederlands Dagblad*, 1 March 2014 (George Harinck)

Harinck, George. "Amerikaan bedwingt Mount Kuyper." *Reformatorisch Dagblad*, 6 February 2014 (George Harinck)

Harinck, George. "Neo-Calvinism and Democracy: An Overview from the Mid-Nineteenth Century till the Second World War." In *The Kuyper Center Review, Vol. Four: Calvinism and Democracy*, 1-20. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014 (George Harinck)

Harinck, George. "'O, may the Lord give this country a mighty revival.' Van Raalte's trip to the Netherlands in 1866." In Nyenhuis, *The Enduring Legacy*, 67-88 (George Harinck)

Harinck, George. "Review van Richard J. Mouw, Abraham Kuyper. A Short and Personal Introduction." *Journal of Reformed Theology* 8, no. 1 (2014): 98-99 (George Harinck)

Harinck, George. "'The Tares in the Wheat.' Henry E. Dosker's Calvinist Historiography of Dutch Anabaptism." In *Religious Minorities and Cultural Diversity in the Dutch Republic. Studies presented to Piet Visser on the Occasion of his 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday*, 268-79. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2014 (George Harinck)

Harinck, George. "*We live presently under a waning moon*": Nicolaus Martin Steffens as leader of the Reformed Church in America in the West in years of transition (1878-1895). Visiting Research Fellows Lecture Series, no. 7. Holland, MI: Van Raalte Press, 2013 (George Harinck)

Harinck, George. "'We may no longer restrict our horizon till one country.' Neo-Calvinism and Internationalism in the Interbellum Era."



In *European Encounters: Intellectual Exchange and the Rethinking of Europe 1914-1945*. European Studies 32: 225-45. Rodopi: Amsterdam/New York, 2014 (George Harinck)

Harms, Richard H., Eugene Heideman and Jacob E. Nyenhuis. "A Concise History of Relationships between Two Related but Separated Denominations: The Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church in North America," In *Minutes of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America 2014*, 220-32 (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

Krabbendam, Hans. "Europeans Writing American History: The Comparative Trope." *American Historical Review* 119, no. 3 (2014): 791-99 (Hans Krabbendam)

Krabbendam, Hans. "Foreign Relations in European Perspectives: Geopolitics and the Writing of History." In *Historians Across Borders: Writing American History in a Global Age*, 118-40. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014 (Hans Krabbendam)

Krabbendam, Hans. "Inleiding: Zeeuws Vlaanderen tussen noord en zuid." In *Scharnierend gewest. Tweehonderd jaar Zeeuws-Vlaanderen 1814-2014*, 1-8. Aardenburg: Heemkundige Kring West Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, 2014 (Hans Krabbendam)

Krabbendam, Hans. "Nederlander probeerde Amerikaans fundamentalisme te planten in Europa." *Transparant* 24, no. 4 (November 2013): 17-21 (Hans Krabbendam)

Krabbendam, Hans. *Scharnierend gewest. Tweehonderd jaar Zeeuws-Vlaanderen 1814-2014*. Aardenburg: Heemkundige Kring West Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, 2014 (Hans Krabbendam)

Krabbendam, Hans. "Spanningsbronnen in de Verenigde Staten, 1860-1930." In *Boer vindt land. Vlaamse migranten en Noord-Amerika*, 130-47. Leuven: Davidsfonds, 2014 (Hans Krabbendam)

Krabbendam, Hans. "The Education of Albertus Van Raalte." In Nyenhuis, *The Enduring Legacy*, 1-22 (Hans Krabbendam)

Krabbendam, Hans. "Three-Way Chess: Arie Kok and the Failure to Organize American Fundamentalism in Europe." *Church History and Religious Culture* 94 (2014): 227-58 (Hans Krabbendam)

Kennedy, Earl Wm. "From Amsterdam and Antwerp to Otley and Harrison: The Rise, Fall, and Restoration of the Maverick Rev. Arie Gerrit Zigeler." In *Dutch Americans and War*, 323-49 (Earl Wm. Kennedy)

Kennedy, Earl Wm. "Van Raalte and Parochial Schools." In Nyenhuis, *The Enduring Legacy*, 171-95 (Earl Wm. Kennedy)

Kennedy, Nella. "Packing Underwear, Cod Liver Oil, and Stockings: Holland, Michigan, Responds to War-Ravaged Netherlands, 1940s." In Swierenga, *Dutch Americans and War*, 159-75

Kennedy, Nella. "Twice Torn Asunder: The Life of Christina Johanna de Moen Van Raalte." In Nyenhuis, *The Enduring Legacy*, 43-66 (Nella Kennedy)

Nyenhuis, Jacob E. "A. C. Van Raalte and his Eponymous Institute: An International Vision for Dutch American Relations." In Nyenhuis, *The Enduring Legacy*, 323-42. Also introduction (xix-xxxiv) and major portions of appendices 2-5: 409-80 (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

Nyenhuis, Jacob E., and George Harinck, eds. *The Enduring Legacy of Albertus C. Van Raalte as Leader and Liaison*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 81. Holland, MI: Van Raalte Press; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014 (Jacob E. Nyenhuis and George Harinck)

Swierenga, Robert P. "Herman Hoeksema and the 'Flag in Church' Controversy." *Leben: Journal of Reformation Life* 10, no. 3 (July-September, 2014): 5-6, 17-21 (Robert P. Swierenga)

Swierenga, Robert P. *Holland Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City*, 3 vols. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 80. Holland, MI: Van Raalte Press; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. (Robert P. Swierenga)

Swierenga, Robert P. "Home Front: Holland, Michigan, and the World Wars." In Swierenga, *Dutch Americans and War*, 137-58 (Robert P. Swierenga)

Swierenga, Robert P., Nella Kennedy, and Lisa Zylstra, eds. *Dutch Americans and War: United States and Abroad*. Holland, MI: Van Raalte Press, 2014 (Robert P. Swierenga and Nella Kennedy)

Swierenga, Robert P. "Off the Pulpit: Van Raalte as Community Leader." In Nyenhuis, *The Enduring Legacy*, 125-50 (Robert P. Swierenga)

# Presentations

“Cor meum tibi: A journey of faith.” Presentation to the adult education class at 14<sup>th</sup> Street Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, 9 February 2014 (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

“De reis als ritueel? Een cultureel aspect van emigratie naar Amerika, 1840-1940” (The trip as ritual? A cultural aspect of emigration to America, 1840-1940). Maritime Museum Amsterdam, 20 November 2013 (Hans Krabbendam)

“Dutch Documentary Films in the Holland Museum Archives and Research Library.” Presentation at the Holland Museum, Holland, Michigan, 10 October 2013 (Henk Aay)

Interviews regarding the death of Maya Angelou: “Live at Five,” WOOD TV8, Grand Rapids, 28 May 2014; MLive and *The Grand Rapids Press*, 28 May 2014 (quoted on MLive); *Holland Sentinel*, 29 May 2014, A2 (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

“Pillars of the Common Good? Dutch American Relations in Past and Future.” Holland Society of the Niagara Frontier, Buffalo, New York, 18 September 2013 (Hans Krabbendam)

“The Netherlands Information Bureau during WWII.” Presentation, part of the exhibition “Art and Propaganda in Nazi Occupied Holland,” at the Holland Museum, Holland, Michigan, 12 June 2014 (Henk Aay)

“Theodore Roosevelt, Immigration and the Future of America.” Theodore Roosevelt Association, Buffalo, New York, 19 September 2013 (Hans Krabbendam)

“Workshop Frontiers and Borders in Global and Transnational History,” University of Gent, 6-7 September 2013 (Hans Krabbendam)

# Cummulative Publications of Scholars and Associates of the Van Raalte Institute, 1994-2014

Bruggink, Donald J., and Kim N. Baker. *By Grace Alone: Stories of the Reformed Church in America*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 44. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004

Bruins, Elton J., Karen G. Schakel, Sara Fredrickson Simmons, and Marie N. Zingle. *Albertus and Christina: The Van Raalte Family, Home and Roots*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004

Bruins, Elton J. *The Americanization of a Congregation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 26. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995

Bruins, Elton J., and Karen G. Schakel, eds. *Envisioning Hope College: Letters written by Albertus C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps Jr., 1857 to 1875*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 71. Holland: Van Raalte Press; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011

Cox, John D. *The City in Its Heart: The First 100 Years of Maple Avenue Ministries, Holland, Michigan, 1913-2013*. Historical Series of the RCA Congregational Histories Series, no. 1. Holland: Van Raalte Press, 2014

Ester, Peter, Nella Kennedy, and Earl Wm. Kennedy, eds. *The American Diary of Jacob Van Hinte*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 69. Holland: Van Raalte Press; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010

Ester, Peter. *Faith, Family, and Fortune: Reformed Upbringing and Calvinist Values of Highly Successful Dutch American Entrepreneurs*. Holland: Van Raalte Press, 2012

Fessler, Paul, Hubert R. Krygsman, and Robert P. Swierenga, eds. *Dutch Immigrants on the Plains*. The Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies Fifteenth Biennial Conference Papers. Holland: Hope College/Joint Archives, 2005

Harinck, George, and Hans Krabbendam. *Breaches and Bridges: Reformed Subcultures in the Netherlands, Germany, and the United States*. Amsterdam: VU Uitgererij, 2000

Harinck, George. "We live presently under a waning moon": *Nicolaus Martin Steffens as leader of the Reformed Church in America in the West in years of transition (1878-1895)*. Visiting Research Fellows Lecture Series, no. 7. Holland: Van Raalte Press, 2013

Heideman, Eugene P. *The Practice of Piety: The Theology of the Midwestern Reformed Church in America, 1866-1966*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 64. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009

Hemenway, Steven. *Hope Beyond Borders: The Life and Letters of Paul Fried*. Holland: Van Raalte Press, forthcoming

Jacobson, Jeanne M., Elton J. Bruins, and Larry J. Wagenaar. *Albertus C. Van Raalte: Dutch Leader and American Patriot*. Holland: Hope College, 1996

Japinga, Lynn. *Loyalty and Loss: The Reformed Church in America, 1945-1994*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 77. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013

Kennedy, James C., and Caroline J. Simon. *Can Hope Endure: A Historical Case Study in Christian Higher Education*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 47. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005

Kennedy, Nella, Mary Risseeuw, and Robert P. Swierenga, eds. *Diverse Destinies: Dutch Kolonies in Wisconsin and the East*. Papers from the Eighteenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies. Holland: Van Raalte Press, 2012

Krabbendam, Hans. *Freedom on the Horizon: Dutch Immigration to America, 1840-1940*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 65. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009

Nyenhuis, Jacob E., Suzanne M. Sinke, and Robert P. Swierenga, eds. *Across Borders, Dutch Migration to North America and Australia*. Holland: Papers from the Seventeenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies. Holland: Van Raalte Press, 2010

Nyenhuis, Jacob E., Robert P. Swierenga, and Lauren M. Berka, eds. *Aunt Tena: Called to Serve. Journals and Letters of Tena A. Huizenga, Missionary Nurse to Nigeria*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 63. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009

Nyenhuis, Jacob E. *Centennial History of the Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, 1902-2002*. Holland: Fourteenth Street CRC, 2002

Nyenhuis, Jacob E., and Jeanne M. Jacobson. *A Dream Fulfilled: The Van Raalte Sculpture in Centennial Park*. Holland: Hope College, 1997

Nyenhuis, Jacob E., and George Harinck. *The Enduring Legacy of Albertus C. Van Raalte as Leader and Liaison*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 81. Holland: Van Raalte Press; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014

Nyenhuis, Jacob E. *A Goodly Heritage: Essays in Honor of the Reverend Dr. Elton J. Bruins at Eighty*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 56. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007

Nyenhuis, Jacob E. *Myth and the Creative Process: Michael Ayrton and the Myth of Daedalus, the Maze Maker*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2003

Parr, Judy. *Hope Church: Holland, Michigan. The First 150 Years, 1862-2012*. Historical Series of the RCA Congregational Histories Series, no. 2. Holland: Van Raalte Press, 2012 (2014).

Sheeres, Janet Sjaarda. *The Not-So-Promised Land: The Dutch in Amelia County, Virginia, 1868-1880*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 56. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013

Sheeres, Janet Sjaarda. *Son of Secession: Douwe J. Vander Werp*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 52. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006

Stellingwerff, Johan. *Iowa Letters: Dutch Immigrants on the American Frontier*. Robert P. Swierenga, ed. Walter Lagerwey, trans. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 47. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003

Swierenga, Robert P., Nella Kennedy, and Lisa Zylstra. *Dutch Americans and War: United States and Abroad*. Papers from the Nineteenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies. Holland: Van Raalte Press, 2014

Swierenga, Robert P., Jacob E. Nyenhuis, and Nella Kennedy. *Dutch American Arts and Letters in Historical Perspective*. Papers from the Sixteenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies. Holland: Van Raalte Press, 2008

Swierenga, Robert P. *Dutch Chicago: A History of the Hollanders in the Windy City*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 42. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002

Swierenga, Robert P., Donald Sinnema, and Hans Krabbendam, eds. *The Dutch in Urban America*. The Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies Fourteenth Biennial Conference Papers, Holland: Joint Archives/Hope College, 2004

Swierenga, Robert P. *Elim: A Chicago Christian School and Life-Training Center for the Disabled*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005

Swierenga, Robert P. *Faith and Family: Dutch Immigration and Settlement in the United States, 1820-1920*. New York: Homes & Meier, 2000

Swierenga, Robert P., and Elton J. Bruins. *Family Quarrels in the Dutch Reformed Churches in the Nineteenth Century*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 32. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999

Swierenga, Robert P., and Joel Lefever, eds. *For Food and Faith: Dutch Immigration to Western Michigan, 1846-1960*. Holland: Holland Museum/Van Raalte Institute, 2000

Swierenga, Robert P. *Holland, Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City*. 3 vols. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 80. Holland: Van Raalte Press; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014

Swierenga, Robert P., and William Van Appledorn, eds. *Old Wing Mission: Cultural Interchange as Chronicled by George and Arvilla Smith in their Work with Chief Wakazoo's Ottawa Band on the West Michigan Frontier*. Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, no. 58. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008

Van den Broeke, Leon. *“Pope of the Classis”? The Leadership of Albertus C. Van Raalte in Dutch and American Classes*. Visiting Research Fellows Lecture Series, no. 10. Van Raalte Press, 2011

Van Hinte, Jacob. *Netherlanders in America: A Study of Emigration and Settlement in the 19th and 20th Centuries in the United States of America*. Robert P. Swierenga, gen ed., Adriaan de Wit, trans., and Gordon De Young, ed. Grand Rapids: The Historical Committee of the Christian Reformed Church, 2003



# VRI Visiting Research Fellows Lecture Series

## Inaugural Lecture

*Dutch American Identity Politics: The Use of History by Dutch Immigrants*  
(2003)

Hans Krabbendam, Roosevelt Study Center, the Netherlands

## Lecture No. 2

*The Rain of God: Reformed Church in America Growth and Decline in  
Historical Perspective* (2004)

Lynn M. Japinga, Hope College

## Lecture No. 3

*Reassessing 1857: Overlooked Considerations Concerning the Birth of the  
Christian Reformed Church* (2006)

James A. De Jong, Calvin Theological Seminary

## Lecture No. 4

*Disease and Death among the Early Settlers in Holland, Michigan* (2007)

J. P. Verhave, Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, the  
Netherlands

## Lecture No. 5

*Growing Up Dutch American: Cultural Identity and the Formative Years of  
Older Dutch Americans* (2008)

Peter Ester, Tilburg University, the Netherlands

## Lecture No. 6

*The Dutch Equation in the RCA Freemasonry Controversy, 1865-1885*  
(2008)

Harry Boonstra, Calvin College and Seminary

## Lecture No. 7

*“We live presently under a waning moon”: Nicholas Martin Steffens as leader  
of the Reformed Church in America in the West in years of transition (1878-  
1895)* (2013)

George Harinck, VU University Amsterdam

## Lecture No. 8

*Preachers, Pews, and Pupils: Commemorating the past in twentieth-century Dutch America* (2011)

David Zwart, Dordt College

## Lecture No. 9 – unpublished

## Lecture No. 10

*“Pope of the Classis”? The leadership of Albertus C. Van Raalte in Dutch and American classes* (2011)

Leon van den Broeke, VU University Amsterdam

## Lecture No. 11

*Dutch Americans and the Rise of Heritage Studies* (2011)

Michael Douma, Florida State University

## Lecture No. 12

*Hope: The Legacy of Van Raalte* (2012)

Rein Nauta, Tilburg University, the Netherlands

Published lectures available upon request at [bookstore@hope.edu](mailto:bookstore@hope.edu)

**Applications Invited**  
**Visiting Research Fellows Programs for**  
**Academic Year 2015-16**

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 will be awarded, each for not more than ten weeks in duration and with a stipend of up to \$3,000.

The Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellowship was established 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 United States in order to enhance mutual understanding and respect.

**Criteria for Selection:** Proposals for support must demonstrate that the proposed research fits the mission statement of the institute, 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 2015. Further information about expectations, arrangements, and the application process may be obtained from our website at [www.hope.edu/vri](http://www.hope.edu/vri).

## Van Raalte Institute Staff (2014-2015)

Henk Aay                      *Senior Research Fellow* (2013)  
BA (Hons.) Wilfrid Laurier University  
MA Clark University  
PhD Clark University

Donald J. Bruggink      *Senior Research Fellow* (2003)  
BA Central College  
BD Western Theological Seminary  
PhD University of Edinburgh  
DD (honorary) Central College

Elton J. Bruins              *Philip Phelps Jr. Research Professor* (2002-2009),  
*Emeritus* (2009); *Founding Director, VRI* (1994-  
2002); *Blekkink Professor of Religion, Emeritus*  
(1980-1992); *Professor of Religion* (1966-1980);  
*Dean for Arts and Humanities* (1984-1989); *Acting*  
*Provost* (Fall 1989)  
AB Hope College  
BD Western Theological Seminary  
STM Union Theological Seminary, New York  
PhD New York University

Sander deHaan              *Research Fellow* (2013) and *Professor of German*  
*and Dutch* (1979)  
AB Calvin College  
MA Northwestern University  
PhD Northwestern University

George Harinck              *Honorary Research Fellow* (2009)  
BA Leiden University  
MA Leiden University  
PhD VU University Amsterdam

Nella Kennedy              *Senior Research Fellow and Official Translator* (2009)  
AB Northwestern College  
MA University of Iowa

Earl Wm. Kennedy        *Senior Research Fellow* (2003)  
AB Occidental College  
BD Fuller Theological Seminary  
ThM Princeton Theological Seminary

---

ThD Princeton Theological Seminary

- James C. Kennedy     *Research Fellow* (1997-2005); *Honorary Research Fellow* (2010)  
BSFS Georgetown University  
MACS Calvin College  
PhD University of Iowa
- Hans Krabbendam     *Honorary Research Fellow* (2009)  
MA Leiden University  
MA Kent State University  
PhD Leiden University
- Jacob E. Nyenhuis     *Director, VRI* (2002); *Senior Research Fellow* (2001-2002); *Provost Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Classics* (1975-2001)  
AB Calvin College  
AM Stanford University  
PhD Stanford University  
LittD (honorary) Hope College
- Stephanie Rogers     *Student Research Assistant/Intern* (2014)
- Mackenzie Schumborg *Student Research Assistant* (2014)
- JoHannah Smith     *Office Manager/Editorial Assistant* (2010)  
AB Hope College
- Robert P. Swierenga     *A. C. Van Raalte Research Professor and Adjunct Professor of History* (1996)  
BA Calvin College  
MA University of Iowa  
PhD University of Iowa
- J. P. Verhave     *Honorary Research Fellow* (2009)  
BS VU University Amsterdam  
MA VU University Amsterdam  
PhD University of Nijmegen
- Dennis N. Voskuil     *Senior Research Fellow* (2014)  
BS (with honors) University of Wisconsin  
BD Western Theological Seminary  
PhD Harvard University

**Mission Statement of the  
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 to 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 founded 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.