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NEWSLETTER OF THE GENEALOGY CLUB
Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, Paterson, New Jersey

19th AND 20th CENTURY DUTCH IMMIGRANTS OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

by James J. de Waal Malefyt

OBSERVATIONS and HISTORY

The majority of Dutch came to northern New Jersey during two time periods. The first was during the colonial settlement of North America in the 1600s. Historical landmarks of Colonial Dutch houses and churches from the first settlements in the 17th century dot the present northern New Jersey landscape – Van Ripper-Hopper House, Dey Mansion, Old Paramus Reformed Dutch Church. Dutch descendants quickly populated the region ever since the Dutch established New Amsterdam in what is now New York City in the early 1600s. After the Dutch came the English. Within the English colony of New Jersey was an area known as Acquackanonk. It was situated in northern New Jersey and was chiefly inhabited by Dutch people during the American Revolution in the late 1700s. Part of Acquackanonk became the City of Paterson in Passaic County. A 1700's map of the area that is now Paterson shows land belonging to mostly Dutch families with surnames such as Post, Van Ripper, Van Winkle, Vreeland, Van Wagenen, Westervelt and van Blarcom. The flow of new Dutch immigrants slowed considerably after the Dutch were forced to give up their New Netherlands colony to the British in 1664. It wasn't until the mid-1800s that we again see a significant increase in Dutch immigrants to northern New Jersey.

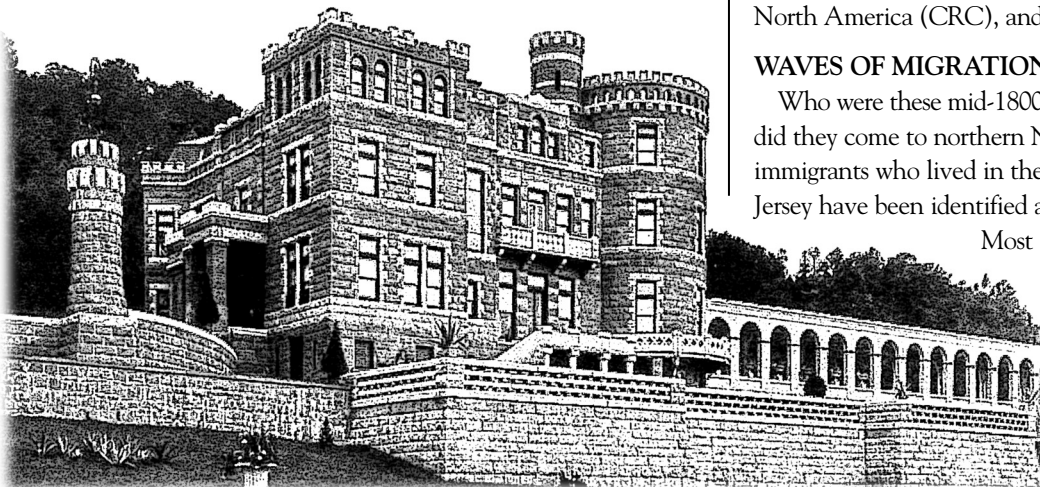
This second time period of Dutch immigration was during the 1800s and early 1900s. This second wave of emigration by "Hollanders" to the emerging textile and industrial centers of Paterson in Passaic County, and Lodi and Wortendyke in Bergen County. These Dutch immigrants were the ancestors of this author and many other people from northern New Jersey with more recent Dutch ancestry.

The people in this second wave of migration from the Netherlands were often referred to as "Hollanders" and these Dutch immigrants often used the word "Holland" to identify themselves and their religious and social institutions – "Holland" Reformed Church and the "Holland" Home. They did not join and become assimilated into the existing, English-speaking, Dutch Reformed churches, but separated themselves, at least religiously, and formed Dutch-speaking churches. They probably did this to distinguish themselves from the older Dutch families and churches who no longer spoke the Dutch language. "Holland" also reflected where they came from, as most early Dutch immigrants came from the province of South Holland (Zuid-Holland). Religiously, they were "Reformed," and their church membership records form the starting point for most Dutch immigrant families. To that extent, this compilation is biased toward immigrants who joined the "Holland" Reformed churches in the Reformed Church of America (RCA) denomination, the Christian Reformed Church of North America (CRC), and the Netherlands Reformed churches.

WAVES OF MIGRATION

Who were these mid-1800s Dutch immigrants, and when and why did they come to northern New Jersey? To date, over 3,500 Dutch immigrants who lived in the greater Paterson area of northern New Jersey have been identified and written about in this compilation.

Most immigrated in the last half of the 19th century between 1850 and 1900. The earliest Dutch in this community came in 1847 and were at first members of the Dutch Reformed Church of America (Dutch Reformed).



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Club News

The Passaic County Historical Society Genealogy Club holds meetings 10:00 a.m. at Lambert Castle Museum on the second Saturday of the month from September through May (unless otherwise specified).

Meeting dates for the 2010 year are as follows and programs will be announced as they become known:

Saturday, February 13, 2010

Palaeographically Speaking: Getting a Grip on Difficult Handwriting, presented by Daniel Donatacci. This presentation will cover the basics of palaeography, or the study of handwriting, for the genealogist, including discussions of the following: how to transcribe a document, general handwriting styles.

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Getting Organized, presented by Beverly Yackel

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Exploring the 1940 census, presented by Christopher Zarr of the National Archives.

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Five Founding Families of the Olde Pompton Township Region, presented by Richard Townsend, Columnist for the *Surburban Trends Newspaper*, *In Their Footsteps*.

All PCHS members are welcome to attend these programs. For more information about any of these events, please contact the PCHS office at 973-247-0085 extension 200.

Surfing the web...

Free Family Search:

Search millions of indexed records for your ancestors and also browse records waiting to be indexed by the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints. More records are being added every month.

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start>

Treasury of Family Heritage:

The Treasury of Family Heritage is an interactive archive where StoryKeepers can preserve their most precious memories for the benefit of future generations, It's also a social network like Facebook and MySpace, only purpose-driven and as private as you want it to be. Sharing life experiences helps families discover what makes them special.

<http://www.treasuryofheritage.com>

GenQueries.com:

This is a new service developed by Dick Eastman who writes Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. Genealogists can post queries about a surname or other family history, topic: societies can post meeting notices, and professional researchers can advertise their services.

<http://www.gengqueries.com>

Our Timelines:

This free site enables users to generate personalized timelines of five to 140 years to show how the life of a particular person fits into history, a very useful tool for tracking ancestry through time and writing a family history.

<http://www.ourtimelines.com>

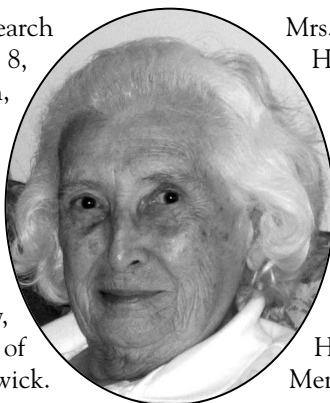
Passaic Falls WebCam:

EarthCam, an internet webcam network, has added Paterson's Great Falls to its growing list of high-definition livestreaming locations in well known places throughout the world. The camera is mounted on a utility pole on the McBride Avenue Extension at the intersection with Spruce Street. The view is framed on the left by the historic 1914 S.U.M. Hydroelectric Plant.

<http://www.earthcam.com/cams/newjerse/paterson/>

In Memory of Ruth (Shew) Bauer

Long time genealogy club member and library research volunteer, Ruth Bauer passed away on November 8, 2009. She was born on June 29, 1925 in Paterson, NJ. Ruth was the beloved wife of the late William H. Bauer Jr. - 1995, and lived in Midland Park for the 46 years. She was a former member of the Central Reformed Church, Paterson and a member of the Faith Reformed Church, Midland Park. Ruth was employed as a Bookkeeper/ Treasurer for Jacobs Manufacturing, Paterson. Subsequently, she worked in the accounting department of Johnson & Johnson Co., Ramsey and New Brunswick.



Mrs. Bauer was a member of the Passaic County Historical Society Genealogy Club, Paterson and the Genealogical Society of Bergen County. She was the loving mother of Brian H. Bauer of Griswold, CT and Kenneth W. Bauer of Glen Rock, dear grandmother of Robert K. Barbara R, Grace E. and Bryce A.S. Bauer, sister of Jane Verbeke of Hawthorne and Grace Platvoet of Hamburg. Funeral services were at the Browning-Forshay Funeral Home, 557 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, with interment at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, NJ.

Dutch Immigrants *cont. from page 1*

Migration Numbers

The historian Gerald F. de Jong (1976) wrote an article about *Dutch Immigrants in New Jersey Before World War I*. According to de Jong, from 1820 until 1845, Netherlands migration to the United States averaged less than 150 persons annually. The number of Holland-born residents in New Jersey increased significantly from 357 in 1850 to 1,328 in 1860. The number of Holland-born residents steadily rose each decade until leveling off after World War I to 12,737 Holland-born residents in 1920. Of those 12,737 Holland-born immigrants residing in New Jersey, 60 percent were living in one county - Passaic County, making it the largest community of Dutch immigrants in the East. Ninety percent were living in the three counties of Passaic, Bergen, and Hudson. The numbers of Holland-born residents in New Jersey during the federal census years are shown below:

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1850: 357 | 1880: 4,281 | 1910: 12,698 |
| 1860: 1,328 | 1890: 7,924 | 1920: 12,737 |
| 1870: 2,994 | 1900: 10,261 | 1930: - |

Origins in the Netherlands

The Dutch immigrants who settled in northern New Jersey after 1850 came primarily from three Dutch provinces, Zuid-Holland (South Holland), Friesland, and Gelderland, followed by smaller numbers from Zeeland, Groningen, and Noord-Holland. To date, the origins have been located for 3,422 individual Dutch immigrants.

Numbers of Dutch Immigrants in Northern New Jersey by Province.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Zuid-Holland: 1,461 (43%) | Noord-Holland: 145 |
| Friesland: 843 (25%) | Overijssel: 39 |
| Gelderland: 438 (13%) | Utrecht: 38 |
| Zeeland: 241 (7%) | Drenthe: 27 |
| Groningen: 182 (5%) | Flevoland: 7 |

Social Emigration Structure

Of the 3,422 Dutch immigrants in this compilation, the social composition of 3,309 individuals could be determined. Most, over three-quarters (2,876 individuals; 87%), emigrated as families (i.e., couples with children). The typical family unit was a couple with two to four children (the most was nine children). The second most common social unit was single individuals (111), mostly males. Similarly, the third social emigration group was couples without children (110 units, 220 individuals), usually newly married. The smallest social group (18 units, 99 individuals) was "mixed" family units such as a couple and their children along with a widowed mother, or a father who was followed later by his wife and their children, or a widower with unmarried children.

Three distinct waves of migration from three provinces in the Netherlands is however apparent when examining the peak periods of migration and the origins of the immigrants. The first immigrants came from Zuid-Holland, primarily from the villages on the island of Goeree-Overflakkee. The peak year for arrival in northern New Jersey was 1866 for these Zuid-Hollanders. They settled in the factory cities of Passaic and Paterson in Passaic County and in Lodi in

Bergen County. Several decades later, Gelderland immigrants immigrated, principally to the Wortendyke-Hohokus area of what is now Midland Park and Ridgewood in Bergen County. 1881-82 was the peak years of migration for these Dutch immigrants from the province of Gelderland. A decade later in 1893 was the peak year for immigrants from the province of Friesland – Frisians settled mostly in Passaic County in the cities of Paterson and Passaic.

South Hollanders (Zuid-Holland) – The First Wave Island of Goeree-Overflakkee

The origins in the Netherlands have been identified for most of the immigrants in this compilation. Many of the earliest Dutch immigrants came from the island of Goeree-Overflakkee in the province of Zuid-Holland (South Holland) and about one-half (720, 47%) of them came from one village – Ouddorp. Lesser numbers of immigrants came from nearby villages of Goedereede, Stellendam, Middelhamis, Dirksland, Sommeldijk, Stad Haringvliet, and Melissant.

About 241 individuals came from the province of Zeeland and about 150 individuals came from the island of Texel in Noord-Holland (North Holland). Many of the families from Texel actually originate from the island of Goeree-Overflakkee and moved to Texel to work in the new polders of that island.

Time of Arrival

To date, the year of arrival has been determined for about 3,063 of the 3,422 Dutch immigrants in this compilation. The first of the mid-19th century Dutch Reformed families to arrive in northern New Jersey came in 1847 and lasted into the early 20th century. The most important ten-year period of Dutch immigration occurred between 1887 and 1896 when over one-quarter (803, 26%) of the immigrants arrived. The most significant periods of immigration were 1851-1855, 1860-1873, 1879-1882 and 1887-1896.

The years 1858 and 1859 saw a significant decrease in immigration just prior to the American Civil War (1861-64). However, the decade (1860-69) of the American Civil War saw the largest number of immigrants come to Paterson from South Holland and Zeeland. It would seem that instead of avoiding immigration during this American conflict, Hollanders were attracted to Paterson. Perhaps they were replacing American factory laborers who joined the Union Army and filled a growing labor force needed in the textile mills and locomotive factories of Paterson when supplies of uniforms and troop and material transport was urgently needed. One of the early Dutch immigrants, Abraham Vermeulen from Zeeland, secured a government contract during the Civil War and kept about sixty hands employed in making the uniforms for the soldiers, doing all the cutting himself. This migration from southern Netherlands to Paterson peaked shortly after the Civil War in 1866 and ended by 1873. The next and highest peak years were 1892 and 1893 when over 300 individuals arrived. This period coincides with a large influx of Frisians who came to work in the textile mills of Paterson to escape the unemployment in the coastal farm areas in the province of Friesland.

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Dutch Immigrants *cont. from page 3*

Season of Arrival

The month of arrival could only be determined for 2,243 Dutch immigrants. Nearly one-half (1,086 individual or 48%) of the immigrants arrived during the spring season of April-May-June. April was the most favored month (446, 20%) closely followed by May (420, 19%). The winter months of November-December-January had the lowest number of immigrant arrivals. December was the least favored month with only 49 arrivals. Crossing the Atlantic Ocean during the cold of winter, especially with small children, was not a desirable experience and generally avoided.

Robert Swierenga in his book, *The Dutch in America: Immigration, Settlement, and Cultural Change* (1985), states that emigration from the villages of Ouddorp and Goedereede in Zuid-Holland are prime examples of “economic migration” and not due to religious forces. These communities suffered agricultural depressions and were unable to find non-farm employment for their laborers because of the slow pace of Dutch industrialization.

In a later book, *Faith and Family: Dutch Immigration and Settlement in the United States, 1820-1920* (2000), Robert Swierenga provides more details of the migration pattern of South Hollanders who came to New Jersey. He attributes the beginning of the migration in the mid-1840s to a combination of demographic and agricultural changes. The agricultural change started with the potato crisis. In 1845

fungus blight wiped out half of the crop followed by destruction of the entire potato crop in 1846. As elsewhere in Europe, Dutch working-class families subsisted on potatoes as the cheapest food available. In addition to the potato blight, a rust disease cut the rye crop in half, another favorite grain of the working-class. Another agricultural factor, madder, a cash crop, became out moded and marginal farm workers became unemployed. Because marginal farm workers were unemployed, the number of people on government poor relief (public “dole”) doubled and tripled with over 40 percent of the 21,000 inhabitants on the island of Goeree-Overflakkee receiving government aid in 1845. Population growth on the island was also increasing because infant mortality dropped and contributed to the force for emigration.

The island of Goeree-Overflakkee had 4,200 emigrants, fully 56 percent of all emigrants from the entire province, according to Swierenga (2000). He goes on to state: “This backward, self contained

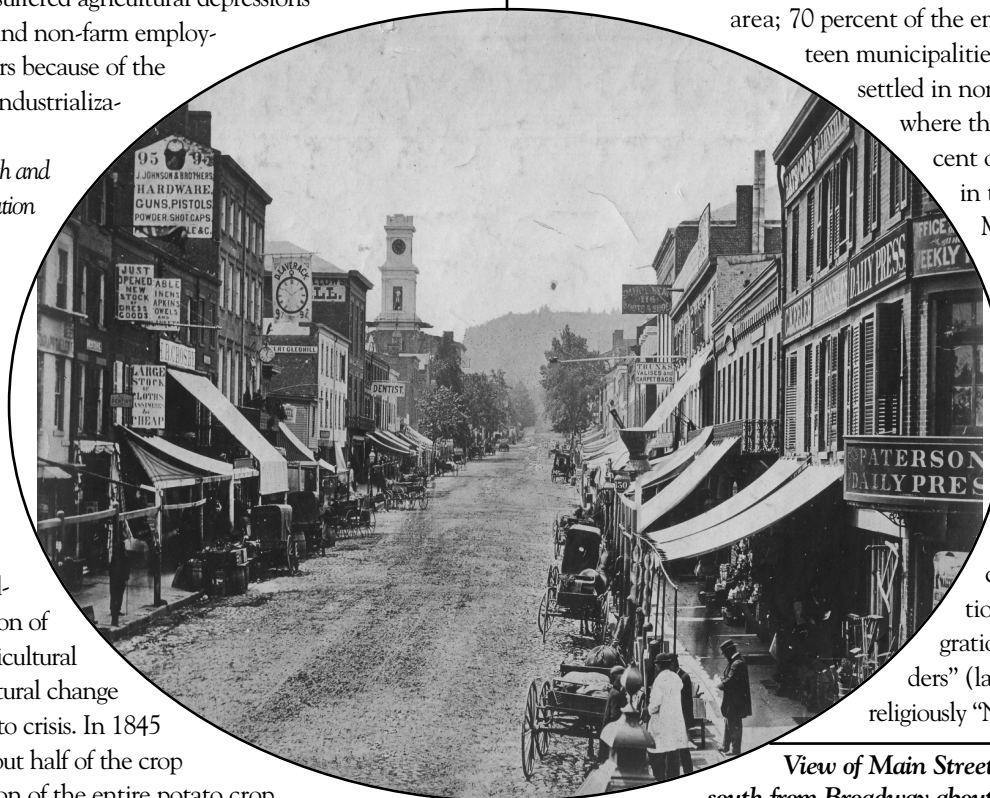
island had the highest per capita emigration in the Netherlands; indeed, it was three times higher than elsewhere. The polder village of Ouddorp in the Goeree region had 1,840 emigrants between 1835 and 1880 for a rate of 716 per 1,000 average population from 1849 to 1878. From the village of Goedereede, less than two miles to the east, another 942 persons emigrated, for a rate of 846 per 1,000. These two rates were more than one hundred times the national average of 7.2 per 1,000. Both villages and indeed the entire island suffered an absolute population decline in the second half of the nineteenth century.”

Destination: “Paterson”

Swierenga (2000) calls the people from the island of Goeree-Overflakkee – “Flakkeers.” He says “The Flakkeers are remarkable for their focused settlement in the Paterson, New Jersey area; 70 percent of the emigrants from the thirteen municipalities on the large island settled in northern New Jersey, where they comprised 97 percent of the Zuid-Hollanders in the Garden State.”

Most were poor, young, unskilled, rural farm laborers and two-thirds emigrated as families.

In my analysis of the Dutch Reformed immigrants from Zuid-Holland, the Flakkeers were typically described occupationally in Dutch emigration records as “arbeiders” (laborers or workman); religiously “Nederlands Hervormde”



View of Main Street, Paterson, looking south from Broadway about 1866 that the Dutch immigrants were greeted with upon their arrival in Paterson. The Old Dutch Church clock tower is on the left, with Garret Mountain in the distance.

(Dutch Reformed); and socially poor “behoefdig” (less-well-to-do or on public dole). Their occupations listed on ship passenger lists were usually “farmer” or “laborer.” However, there is no evidence in Dutch records they were the land owning farmers, but rather were the farm laborers or farm hands “veldarbeider.” Nearly all gave their reason for emigrating as “economic improvement.” Their stated destination was usually North America “Noord Amerika,” or New York, the port of their arrival, and sometimes, specifically stated as “Patterson,” New Jersey. Very few were part of the “seceder” groups who migrated in large groups for religious reasons to the Holland area of Michigan or Pella, Iowa.

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Dutch Immigrants *cont. from page 4*

Gelderlanders - The Second Wave

After the Civil War another wave of Dutch immigrants from Gelderland Province made their way to the villages of Ho-Ho-Kus and Wortendyke in Orvil and Franklin Townships in Bergen County, New Jersey. This area in Bergen County is only five to six miles north of Paterson. Subsequent Dutch immigrants settled in what is today the Borough of Midland Park. The 1900 federal census of the new Borough of Midland Park listed 302 heads of households of which 38 percent (115) were Holland-born. Several families came in 1873, but over one-half of Midland Park's Dutch immigrants (55 percent) came in the decade of the 1880s. The most popular years were 1881-82 when thirty heads of households emigrated from the Netherlands. They lived on small farms and worked as laborers while their teenage children were put to work in local cotton and silk mills. The wives raised their young children at home and their "occupation" in the federal censuses was listed as "keeping house." This settlement began two Dutch-speaking congregations. The larger Reformed congregation established in 1872 conducted services in the Ho-Ho-Kus public school until it moved to a new church building in Wortendyke and became known as the First Holland Reformed Church of Wortendyke. A seceder group from this congregation existed at "Spijkertown" in Midland Park from 1872 until 1885 and joined the Christian Reformed denomination. Both congregations are still in existence to date and located less than a mile apart.

Most of the Dutch emigrants to northern New Jersey sailed in small groups of several families. The largest group found to date came to the Midland Park area from Gelderland and joined the First Holland Reformed Church of Wortendyke. This group was guided by Gerrit Lokhorst, an earlier immigrant. The group of at least ten families totaling 58 people (2 infants died on the voyage) arrived in the Port of New York aboard the *W. A. Scholten* on February 28, 1881. The steamship *W. A. Scholten* belonged to the Netherlands-American Steam Navigation Company (N.A.S.M.).

The heads of the families in steerage class included Pieter Brouwer, Ryer Doornwaard, Evert Koetsier, Jan Ten Cate, Cornelis van der Weerd, Jan van den Bosch, Frerik van der Heide, Hendrik van Dijk, Hendrik van Ommen, and Gerrit Jan Vlieger. Most were young families from the municipalities of Doornspijk and Elburg, Gelderland, an area known as the "Veluwe" on the southeast side of the former Zuiderzee water body. All these families joined the First Holland Reformed Church of Wortendyke, and later, the majority of families seceded in 1892 to establish the Christian Reformed Church of Midland Park, NJ, under Rev. Enno Haan.

Frisians - The Third Wave

The third wave of Dutch immigrants who came to northern New Jersey were Frisians from Friesland Province in northern Netherlands. An article about them was published in *Origins*, a publication of the archives of Calvin College and Seminary and the greater Christian Reformed Church community ("Frisians to Paterson, New Jersey," James J. de Waal Malefyt, 2002).

A scattering of Frisians immigrated to New Jersey in the late 1860s through the 1880s, but the largest wave came in the five-year period

between 1890 and 1894. The most popular year was 1893 when at least seventeen families arrived with 90 people in the Paterson area and most joined the First Holland Christian Reformed Church of Paterson. Most of these Frisians came from the villages of St. Jacobiparochie and St. Annaparochie in the municipality of Het Bildt and from the villages of Ferwerd, Hallum, and Genum in the municipality of Ferwerderadeel. They were mostly farm laborers who were finding less and less employment as wheat prices dropped in Friesland due to cheaper North American and Argentinean wheat coming into the world market.

It is clear from the information provided by the Frisian immigrants on passenger lists from the 1890s that nearly all were going to join a relative or friend in Paterson. This is called "chain migration" and the large family of Dirk Kuiken is a good example. Dirk Kuiken and his wife Piertje van den Brink had two sons, Gerrit and Dirk, who were both married on the same day, April 28, 1892, in Het Bildt. The two couples decided to immigrate to Paterson and arrived in May 1892. The following year, Dirk and Piertje Kuiken and their younger unmarried children arrived in the Port of New York on March 16, 1893 and joined their two sons in Paterson. In 1895, another of Dirk's married sons, Jacob Kuiken and a daughter, Janke Kuiken, who was married to Foppe Dijkstra, and their two young families immigrated to Paterson. Finally, in 1898, the two oldest of Dirk's sons by his first marriage, Pieter Kuiken and Arjen Kuiken, immigrated with their young families to Paterson. Over this six-year period some 40 people from Dirk Kuiken's direct family immigrated to Paterson. Other relatives and friends from Het Bildt also came with the Kuikens on this "chain migration."

The majority of these Frisians found employment in the silk mills of Paterson. The men were primarily employed as "helpers" in the dye shops while their teenage children worked at various jobs in the silk mills. They settled into three neighborhoods. The first was on the western side of the Passaic River along Paterson's northwest boundary formed by Haledon Avenue. This neighborhood extended into Manchester Township up the hill which became the Borough of Prospect Park in 1901. The second, smaller Frisian neighborhood developed on the eastern side of the Passaic River just southeast of the Sixth Avenue bridge along Shady, Peel and Wood streets. A third neighborhood - "Riverside" - was established in northeast Paterson in an area between Fifth and Seventh avenues and between East 23rd and East 25th streets. Many Frisians worked for the Weidmann Silk Dying Company in Fifth Avenue in the Riverside section of Paterson.

The swelling of Frisian immigrants forced the establishment of Second Christian Reformed and Fourth Christian Reformed churches in Paterson in the 1890s. Both churches were dominated by Frisian families. Fourth Christian Reformed Church was often called "Riverside" due to its location in the "Riverside" section of Paterson near the Passaic River. The area around 23rd Street and 6th Avenue contained many of the Frisian immigrants who attended "Riverside Church". The Frisian immigrants may also have had an influence on the formation of Northside Christian Reformed Church in the City of Passaic as 16 of its 46 charter members in 1905 were Frisians.

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Dutch Immigrants *cont. from page 5*

Fourth Wave – Post WWII Frisians

Although most of this compilation of Dutch immigrants concerns itself with Hollanders who immigrated to Northern New Jersey in the 1800s, a noticeable immigration group of Frisians came around World War II and were focused in Sussex County. After World War II ended in 1945, the Dutch economy lay in ruins as did many of its cities and infrastructure. With many unemployed, the Dutch government even urged its citizens to emigrate. Many Hollanders decided to do just that and many immigrated to the countries that liberated the Netherlands – Canada, Australia, and the United States. A number of young Frisian farmhands were urged by their relatives and friends in northern New Jersey to join them and try their hand at farming in Sussex County. Oene “Owen” Aukema of Augusta, Sussex Co., is often mentioned as one of the more successful Frisian dairy farmers who enticed many single men and young families to emigrate from the Oudega area of Friesland. In *Cruel Paradise* (2005), Hylke Speerstra writes of his interview conversation with Rinze Piso during retirement in Florida: “Owen Aukema from Aldegea (Oudega, Wymbritseradeel), I mean old Oene, went to America before the war already. In the fifties he had three farms and had one *grifformearde* farm laborer after other come from Fryslan. So, large families landed in the big house on the hill that Oene owned. Eventually so many diapers were flapping on the line on that hill, that the surrounding neighbors called it Ruft Hill, or in English, Diaper Hill. That’s how it is still known.”

“Frisian immigrants. Wouter Nop from Drylts, the Talmas from the area of Appelskea, the Greidanuses from Tsjom. In Fryslan their living consisted often of some odd jobs and semi-poverty; in Sussex they became big farmers. The children would move farther west and add much more land to their holdings. Some of them had no idea that once there were poor toilers who had kept a family with ten children clothed and fed on the income of mowing a narrow shoulder of a narrow road.” “But they really flourished here! They formed close-knit Frisian friendships in New Jersey, as well as rivalry. We often helped each other out, especially in farming... But pretty decent people. Take old Teade de Groot who came from the Lemster Road below Follegea. And Andy (Anne) van den Akker who came from the area of Jobbegea. And not to forget, Wytse Falkema from Aldegea, who would become the cookie king of the States. And Oense, I mean Andrew Plantinga from Ginnum who was a hard worker too.”

To date, over 150 Frisian emigrants have been identified who settled in Sussex County, New Jersey. They represent over 25 different surnames from Abma to van Dokkenburg with Aukema (17) and Kuperus (22) con-

tributing the most individuals. Out of this group there were 9 single young men, 4 couples, and 20 couples with children ranging in number from 1 to 11 children. Many came from the southwestern Friesland municipalities of Wymbritseradeel and Gaasterland. The three Kuperus families came from Smallingerland in eastern Friesland. About 30 individuals came during the 1920s and 1930s. About 110 Frisian individuals immigrated to Sussex County after World War II with nearly 60 coming in 1947 and 1948, and another 50 coming in the 1950s.

Most of the Frisian emigrants came by steamships of the Holland America Line as did their predecessors, but for some, a single-day trip on the airplanes of the K. L. M. Royal Dutch Airlines ushered in the

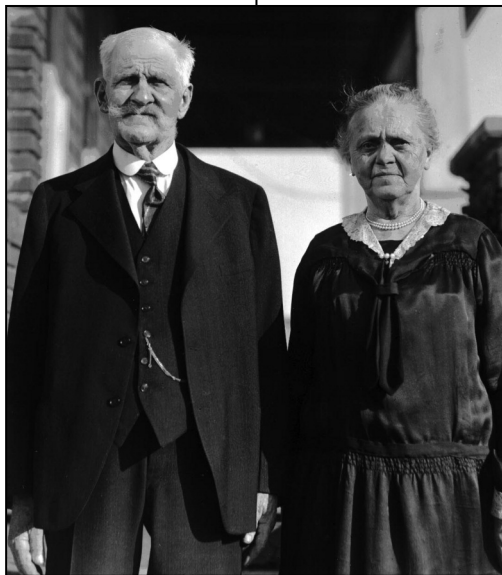
newest way to cross the Atlantic Ocean between Holland and America. Passenger manifests were shortened too, only a name and maybe an age and the number of suitcases. No more were there small boat shuttles and long hours in line at Ellis Island.

The men and their oldest teenage sons usually started working for another established dairy farmer like Owen Aukema who immigrated in 1929. After a few years when they earned enough money they could rent some farmland and establish their own dairy herds or buy a small farm. One of the proudest moments for these Frisians came in 2002 when, Charles M. Kuperus, the grandson of immigrants Jelle Kuperus and Hendrika Huizenga, became Secretary of Agriculture of the State of New Jersey.

Religiously, they were Calvinists and most joined the Christian Reformed denomination composed mostly of ethnically Dutch immigrants and their descendants in northern New Jersey. Sam Valkema, son of Wytze

Valkema, the Sussex baker, says that at first most of the Sussex Frisians drove southeast 30 miles over the Route 23 highway to the Preakness Christian Reformed Church in Wayne, NJ. They quickly decided to organize a Christian Reformed church closer to their farms and ultimately established two churches in Sussex County – one in Newton (1943) and one in Sussex (1949).

As with the 1890s Frisian wave to Paterson, this newest wave of conservative Frisians also opened a Christian school in 1958 to educate their children. One interesting way the school society raised money was through the donation and sale of heifers from their dairy herds. “At the meeting of November 7, 1956 the heifer committee reported the sale of one heifer which was donated by Mr. John De Vries and bought by Mr. Art De Boer for the price of \$225.00. The following year eighteen heifers were donated. They were sold to individual farmers prior to the first official heifer sale on Wednesday, November 6, 1957 a 2 o’clock at the Kuperus Farm on Loomis Ave. in Sussex. Five heifers were sold at that time.”



Aart “Aaron” Breen/Braen and Krijna “Katie” Meijer/Meyer on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, January 24, 1933, They were married in Paterson on June 24, 1883.

See pg. 7 for more on the Breen & Meyer families.

cont. on page 7

Dutch Immigrants *cont. from page 6*

Most of the older individuals and couples who immigrated have now passed on to their eternal heavenly rest. Most chose burial plots in the rural Clove Cemetery in Wantage, NJ, along the northern section of Rt. 23. What stands out as one examines their memorial monuments are the Bible verses on nearly every monument – a clear testimony even after death to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Zeelanders

Although immigrants from the province of Zeeland account for only 7% of the Dutch immigrants in this compilation, there are some notable items about them that stand out upon closer examination. Most Zeelanders in this compilation immigrated after 1880 and before World War I (1914-1918). About 20 Zeelander families came during this period from villages such as s'Heer Arendskerke, Yerseke, and Goes. A notable exception to this were the five Vermeulen brothers, Joost Botbeijl, and their families, who came to Paterson from Zeeland in the early 1850s. Most of these 20 Zeelander families settled in what is now the area around and including the City of Passaic, Passaic Co., and across the Passaic River in nearby Lodi, Bergen Co., NJ. They also stand out due to their large family size. Jan Snoep and Jannetje Bakker came in 1892 with 8 children, Pieter de Leeuw and Pieternella Smit came the same year with 9 children, Maarten van Beveren and Antje van der Berge came in 1907 with 10 children, Willem Wisse and Adriana Oostdijk came in 1911 with 10 children, and even one of the Christian Reformed Church ministers from Zeeland, Rev. Isaak Constant, came to Lodi in 1896 with 10 children.

Editors Note: A special thanks to Jim deWaal Malefyt for allowing us to use a portion of his research on the Dutch Immigrants of Northern New Jersey. Jim's four books on Northern New Jersey Dutch Immigrants are available for research in the PCHS Library at Lambert Castle. They are compilation of Dutch immigrants who settled in northern New Jersey during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and some observations about them and their social and religious institutions. Jim's research provides some background information and some conclusions about where these Dutch immigrants came from, when and how they arrived in New Jersey, their employments and social structure. Some short histories are given about the early Dutch-speaking churches and some of the Christian institutions they organized. Following this "analysis" section are the individual family sketches of the immigrants and their families. The focus of the family sketch section is to determine who the immigrants were and provide enough information so descendants will be able to determine where to focus their attention in the Netherlands for future genealogical research on these families. For more information contact Jim at: malefyt@juno.com.

Breen and Meijer Family

The Breen/Braen and Meijer/Meyer families were some of the earlier Dutch immigrants from Ouddorp, NL to Paterson, NJ.

Jan (John) Breen (father of Aart/Aaron pictured on pg. 6) was born January 5, 1828 in Ouddorp, and died in Passaic Co., NJ. Jan Breen immigrated to America on April 23, 1851 with his parents and five brothers and sisters. Some time after settling in Paterson, NJ, this branch of the Breen family changed the spelling to "Braen."

John Breen was married to Matje (Maatje/Martha) Van Heest, both of Paterson, on February 11, 1854 in Acquackanonk by Rev. John Berdan of The True Reformed Church of Acquackanonk. She was born July 16, 1833 in Ouddorp, and died in NJ. She immigrated to America on April 4, 1852. Jan Breen Jr. and Matje van Heest became members of the First Holland Reformed Church of Paterson and had their children baptized there during the 1860s and 1870s.

Children of Jan Breen and Maatje van Heest are:

- i. Aart (Aaron) Breen, born February 9, 1855, Paterson, Passaic Co., NJ; died February 29, 1944, Passaic Co., NJ. He married Krijna Meyer on June 24, 1883, Passaic Co., NJ; born December 8, 1855, Ouddorp, she was the daughter of Peter Meijer and Martijntje "Matilda" Witte; died April 17, 1941, Passaic Co., NJ. They were members of the Sixth Reformed Dutch Protestant Church of Paterson, NJ.
- ii. Samuel Breen, born November 26, 1856, Paterson.
- iii. Cornelia Breen, born March 11, 1859, Paterson.
- iv. Hendrik Breen, born August 15, 1861, Paterson; died January 14, 1919, Paterson. He married Jacomijntje Tanis about 1883, Paterson; born July 20, 1864, Paterson; died June 26, 1948, Paterson.
- v. Frans (Frank) Breen, born March 18, 1864 in Paterson; died September 1905; buried September 13, 1905 in Cedar Lawn Cemetery, Paterson. He married Neeltje (Nellie) Tanis; born about 1864; died June 1941; buried June 25, 1941, Cedar Lawn Cemetery.
- vi. Geertje (Charity) Breen, born February 17, 1867 in Paterson.
- vii. Pieter Breen, born August 7, 1870, Paterson.
- viii. Jan (John) Breen, born August 7, 1870, Paterson.
- ix. Maarten Breen, born February 27, 1872, Paterson.
- x. Elisabeth Martha Breen, born November 20, 1874, Paterson. She married Harm Jan Winkeler.
- xi. Cornelis Breen, born July 12, 1878, Paterson.

Out of the Mailbag...

I live in California and unable to do local research. Do you know of anyone who would be able to do lookups at the Passaic Co. Surrogates Office. I have been told by them they have records for the years I am interested, but that research must be made locally at the office. I am trying to determine if Margaret ALMOND was adopted by Leah BROWERS and Jacob ALMOND.

Information leads me to believe that perhaps her birth parents were Elias and Eliza BROWER who had a child by the name of Margaret and died when Margaret would have been 4 years old (1851-2). Margaret was born in 1847 and appears with Jacob and Leah ALMOND in 1860 who were married in 1856. It's also possible that John BROWERS figures into this genealogy somehow. These people all lived in the Acquackanonk/ Little Falls area. Appreciate any advise or direction you may be able to give me on how I might find someone who can do this research for me.

Appreciate any advise or direction you may be able to give Thank you. Sharon MC CANN. Email: shatom@roadrunner.com

Twelve Ships Make a Midnight Dash With 10,000 Aliens

(Published in *The New York Times* - July 1, 1923)

President Wilson, Italian, First In; Canada, French, Second; Polonia, Dane, Third.

RACE TO BEAT JULY QUOTA

Commissioner Curran Will Be Assisted in Handling Crush by Washington Officials

MANY WILL BE DEPORTED

One Vessel is Bringing More Greeks Than the Law will Allow to Enter

Twelve steamships filled with immigrants eager to land in the United States are due to arrive in this port today and about 10,000 aliens hope that they will be in time for the July quota. To lessen the congestion at New York, the White Star liner Adriatic, the United States liner President Fillmore, the United States liner Mount Clay and the Anchor liner Columbia will land their immigrants at Boston today, and the Bergensfjord of the Norwegian-American Line lands her contingent today at Philadelphia. On these vessels and other ships due tomorrow and next day are about 5,000 more immigrants, of a total of 15,000 racing to beat the quote.

Punctually at midnight, Eastern Standard time, the nine passenger liners, Aquitania, France, Nieuw Amsterdam, Canada, President Wilson, President Adams, Polonia, King Alexander and Washington, which had reached Gravesend Bay, started for Quarantine. Swarms of motor launches were cruising around the ships with friends of aliens who shouted greetings in every language from Arabic to Zulu. The small boats became so numerous that the police boats Manhattan and Blue Boy were sent from Pier A to keep them clear of the channel where the steamships had to pass through.

The Italian liner Presidente Wilson, from Trieste with 776 aliens, was the first of the fleet to cross the imaginary line at quarantine to gain admittance to the United States under the new quotas of the restricted immigration law. The French steamer Canada from Pireaus, Greece, with 949 aliens was second and the Danish steamship Polonia from Libau with 741 was third. The President Wilson was officially timed at two minutes after midnight, standard time, the Canada a minute later and the Polonia at 12:04 A.M.

Quotas of Two Continents Filled.

Deputy Commissioner of Immigration Byron H. Uhl said that the Greek steamships would probably have enough aliens on board to exhaust the July quotas of two continents, Asia and Africa, and of five countries, Albania, Greece, Turkey, "other Asia" and Syria. There are about 10,000 aliens on the incoming vessels due today, of whom at least 2,000 are in the first or second cabins and will be passed and landed at piers in New York, Brooklyn and Hoboken.

Mr. Uhl said there were about 900 immigrants on Ellis Island yesterday for the week-end, and that the staff could take care of 2,000 more today. The staff of inspectors has been increased from seventy-nine to eighty-five, and a force of fourteen surgeons will go down the bay to board the ships in turn as they reach Quarantine. Those who are not taken to Ellis Island today will remain on their vessels until they are examined.

Additional mattresses of the best quality have been purchased during the last week and sent to Ellis Island for the use of the first and second class passengers who may be sent there. The surplus of steerage passengers will have to sleep on the soft side of the wooden benches in the main hall of the immigration building and in the detention rooms. The steamship lines will have to pay 50 cents a night for lodging and 29 cents per meal for their passengers during their stay on the island.

500 Dutch Farmers Coming.

More liners will arrive tomorrow and Tuesday and will have to wait their turn until the vessels ahead of them have discharged their immigrants. The Cunarder Aquitania, due today, will sail again on Tuesday with a full complement of passengers for Cherbourg and Southampton, and will be obliged to transfer her immigrants to the Albania and Franconia of the same line, due tomorrow, if they are not landed at Ellis Island on time.

One of the best contingents of immigrants expected today is that of 500 Dutch farmers from Friesland, Holland, with their families. They are bound for the Middle West and are in the second cabin of the Holland-America liner Nieuw Amsterdam. Of the forty-three nationalities figuring the quota list only Iceland will not be represented today or tomorrow. The Greek quota for July will be most quickly exhausted as it allows only 659 for the month and there are nearly 1,700 Greeks on the King Alexander.

Henry H. Curran, the newly-appointed commissioner of Immigration, who takes charge at Ellis Island today, announced yesterday that Assistant Secretary of Labor White, Assistant Commissioner General Wixon and Chief Inspector Silbray would arrive from Washington this morning to decide immediately on any cases of aliens who may appeal from the ruling of the local board of special inquiry. This action is taken to avoid congestion at the island.

Representative John L. Cable of Ohio, member of the House Immigration Committee arrived in New York yesterday (to learn?) first-hand facts to incorporate in a new immigration bill dealing with immigration quotas. He (said?) he would board one of the Italian steamships at Quarantine this morning and later would go to Ellis Island to observe the methods of handling new arrivals. The proposed bill, he said, would provide for additional inspectors and for alleviation of the present crowded conditions at Ellis Island in a general plan to expedite examination of aliens.

Commissioner Curran said that every effort would be made to provide for the comfort of the incoming aliens at Ellis Island, but that the facilities were sadly inadequate. Hundreds of the immigrants waiting on board the liners to know their fate were here last year and were sent back to their native lands because the quotas were full. After waiting for seven months they are taking another chance of entering the United States.

Twenty percent, of the quota from each country will be accepted during each of the first five months in the (current?) year commencing today. After that if the annual quota has been filled, no more may enter until next July.

Contributed by Annita Zalenski

The Autobiography of August Ruhren

by Anna Aukamp, Genealogy Club Member

In search for my ancestors, I found a book entitled "*Spoiled Silk: the Red Mayor and the Great Paterson Silk Strike*", written by George William Shea. Shea was a direct descendent (grandson) of my grandfather's sister, Katherine Ruhren Brueckman. This book gave me many facts about my father's ancestors and much about the history of Paterson and the beginning of Paterson and Haledon.

In his book, Shea mentioned that he had obtained a lot of information for his book from August Ruhren's (my grandfather) autobiography called "*The Wanderings of a Proletarian*". Unable to find a copy of this book, I contacted George Shea and told him I was looking for August Ruhren's book, which I could not find anywhere. He informed me that it was never published, but that he had a copy and would be happy to send it to me, which he did.

My grandfather tells his story from the beginning when he was born on January 8, 1871 on the outskirts of the city of Krefeld, Germany, situated about three miles from the River Mine. It was a bad time to enter the World that was being torn by the ravages of a war between Prussia and France.

Krefeld, Germany had a history dating back to the year 69AD, when it was part of the Holy Roman Empire. During the ensuing centuries the town assumed different names, as it was dominated by the Franks, the Earl of Moers, Prussia and Napoleon. It owes its modern name to the Mennonites who came from France in the 17th Century. These immigrants were recognized throughout Europe as skilled weavers of silk and velvet. Even today, eight out of ten ties worn in Germany are manufactured in Krefeld. This is reflected in Krefeld's official motto, "Stadt wie Smt und Seide" (A City Like Velvet and Silk).

August was raised by his grandparents on their farm from the age of 2 1/2 years old. He was well taught in those early years in the life of a farmer. When his grandmother passed away, he was sent back home to his family, which started him at an early age learning to prepare the spools and quills for his father to work with at his hand looms. His father was a weaver by trade. That was the trade that was practiced by all in the Ruhren household and they brought that trade with them to the United States when they immigrated.

Since the family was poor, my grandfather's schooling ended when he finished the 8th grade. He had excelled in arithmetic and art. His father said he was needed to help him at work and could not go to any higher education. When jobs were needed with other weavers, my grandfather was hired out at 25 cents a day. In 1891, the depression had begun and by 1892 the situation in Germany had gotten much worse and there was no work to be found. At this point in 1892, my great-grandfather left for America with grandfather's brother John. He heard there was plenty of work in the new country. Paterson, NJ, was called the "Silk City of the World." My grandfather followed later in 1893. Then his mother, sisters Anna, Katherine, Christine and brother Joseph followed in 1894.

The family settled in Paterson, NJ. They first lived in a boarding house and then rented different apartments. All the Ruhrens, including the women, were weavers and all of them were in high demand at

the time of their arrival. The average pay was \$16.00 a week, which was much higher than other trades at the time, but the hours were long hard hours.

One by one, his brothers and sisters all married. August married in 1894. When my grandfather married, they spent the day having a picnic at the Great Falls. They had to go back to work the next day. My grandmother worked along side him in the mills until she had children. They had five children.

In 1913, The "Great Paterson Silk Strike" had begun and my grandfather was out of work for a long time. During the beginning of the strike, Paterson threw out the union and would not let them meet in Paterson. My grandfather's sister, Katherine, was married to the Mayor of Haledon at the time, William Brueckman, who allowed the union to meet in Haledon. This did not make him too popular in Paterson, but the labor force really appreciated his efforts. He said it was not constitutional to forbid them from meeting. They had their headquarters at the Botto House in Haledon, which today is a Labor Museum.

Just before the strike, my grandparents rented a farmhouse with a lot of land. Since my grandfather was well tutored while growing up as a young boy and loved to work the land, he and grandmother worked the farm. They had cows, chickens and a vegetable garden. My grandmother took care of the children and household, plus working in the farm. They canned a lot of their produce for themselves and sold the rest to neighbors and anyone who wanted to buy. This kept them going through the bad times. They were both very hard workers. After a while, my grandfather decided not to pay rent any more and bought his own farm in the Preakness area, which was much larger. There he had produce, cows and chickens, vegetables, horses and a fruit orchard. He worked the farm and had a delivery route to deliver milk, chickens, eggs and vegetables to many customers along the route. The winters were hard on him and his livestock, so he sold the farm and went back to be a weaver.

At this point, my grandmother went back to work and they saved enough money to buy some land in East Paterson, (now Elmwood Park) and my grandfather built his own home. Later he also built his daughter, Gussie, her house on some of his land.

My grandfather never was without a job. He tried his hand in many different occupations. He took courses in accounting and English, but did not like accounting. He said he could not do that for a living. He worked all his life and had many talents. Around the holidays, he also made his special home made liquors to celebrate. During the Second World War, when we were all rationed, his whole family had to contribute their food stamps so he could buy enough sugar to make his liquors.

He wrote his autobiography at the age of 83 and died at 84. His last paragraph in his manuscript mentioned that he had worked hard all his life and can't say it ever killed him. I am happy that he has left us all wonderful memories of his life and the way life was at that time.

I have given the Historical Society of copy of his manuscript if you care to read it.

Woman, 90, defies judge.

No, she says, she will not give the county Crockett's marriage license.

Margaret V. Smith inherited the 1805 marriage license decades ago, after her uncle claimed to have found it outside a Tennessee courthouse. The prospective groom? Davy Crockett.

Now, Jefferson County, Tenn., officials say they want the valuable document back. "Well, they are not going to get it," said Smith, 90, of Tampa.

In November, a Tennessee judge ordered Smith to "instantly" surrender the yellowed note. She did not. Tuesday, the battle spilled into Hillsborough Circuit Court, where Jefferson County filed papers trying to have the judgment enforced.

"It's Jefferson County's document. The title is in Jefferson County, period. She's got to return it," Jefferson Senior Judge Allen W. Wallace said in his ruling. Smith politely disagrees.

She said her uncle Henry Vance found Crockett's marriage license on the lawn of the courthouse when officials were cleaning house.

"They were just pitching it out into the yard, and my uncle happened to see this David Crockett thing, and he picked it up because he was interested in the adventures of David Crockett," she said.

Jefferson County officials, including the judge and county historian Robert Jarnagin, don't buy that explanation.

Wallace said "circumstantial evidence" suggests that one of Smith's ancestors took the document from the county's depository.

Jarnagin noted that Smith's uncle worked at the Jefferson County Courthouse during the 1930s and '40s.

There's no evidence that documents were discarded, Jarnagin said. Other marriage licenses from the era, even stud-horse licenses, remain on file.

Crockett, who died in the Battle of the Alamo, "is probably one of our most famous citizens of Jefferson County," Jarnagin said. "We would not have thrown something of his away."

Beyond historical value, the document has monetary value. In 2005, Smith had it appraised on the PBS program Antiques Roadshow in Tampa. Francis Wahlgren, a book and document expert for Christie's, called the license irreplaceable, appraising it at from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

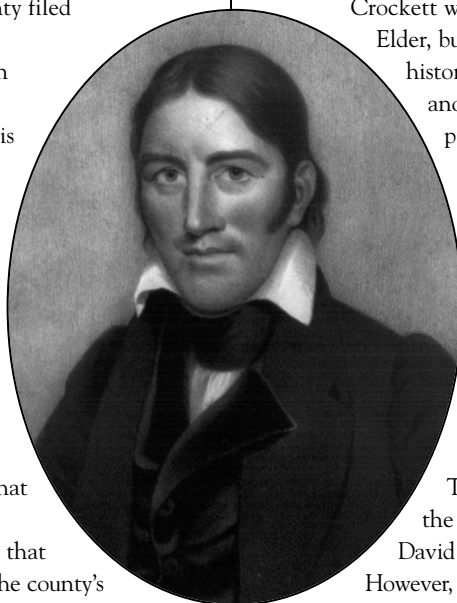
"It's well documented in the lore of Crockett that he had been about to be married and that there was a license issued, but it was never executed," Wahlgren said on the program.

Crockett was 19 when he filed for a license to wed Margaret Elder, but days before the wedding, she changed her mind, historical accounts say. Within a year, Crockett married another woman. Smith said the document is now part of her own history.

"It has been out of (Jefferson County's) possession since long, long, long ago," she said. "I consider it part of my family papers."

In November court proceedings, Wallace said Smith could be held in contempt of court in Jefferson County or fined for each day she fails to return the document.

from the St. Petersburg Times, January 2, 2010



There's been a controversy in the news lately over the possession of an unexecuted marriage license for David Crockett and Margaret Elder issued in 1805.

However, this website indicated that Davy Crockett's cousin, also named David, actually did marry Margaret Elder. Davy Crockett and Polly Finlay were married in 1806.

From the website: www.detourthroughhistory.blogspot.com

More information on this story can be found on Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at: http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/

Contributed by Doris Bauer



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PCHS Genealogy Club meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month (September through May). For Membership information, please contact the PCHS at 973-247-0085 or visit the Society's website at www.lambertcastle.org.