

# Dutch influence on North America



Курс страноведения  
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МБОУ СОШ № 6 г.  
Павлово

# How the Dutch opened North America

In 1602, Dutch government chartered the Dutch East India Company ("Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie", VOC) with the mission of exploring a passage to the Indies and claiming any unchartered territories for the Dutch Republic.

The first Dutchmen to come to America were explorers under the command of the English captain Henry Hudson, an English navigator. Like explorers before him, Hudson traveled west on the *Half Moon* looking for the Northwest Passage through North America to achieve his goal. On September 10, he sailed up the river that now bears his name to Albany. The desired passage was not found, but Hudson's discovery laid claim to lands in North America for the founding of New Netherland. Dutch trading posts were established in the fertile valley and the region was loosely knit into a province by a natural highway which provided communication and transportation for merchandise. The Dutch settlement progressed slowly thereafter.



# New Netherland

- Nieuw-Nederland, or New Netherland, was the 17th century Dutch colonial province on the eastern coast of North America. The earliest Dutch settlement was built around 1613, it consisted of a number of small huts built by the crew of the "Tijger" ("Tiger") a Dutch ship under the command of Captain Adriaen Block which had caught fire while sailing on the Hudson in the winter of 1613. The ship was lost and Block and his crew established a camp ashore. In the spring Block and his men did some explorations along the coast of Long Island. Block Island still bears his name. Finally they were sighted by another Dutch ship and the settlement was abandoned.
- The claimed territory were the lands from the Delmarva Peninsula to Buzzards Bay, while the settled areas are now part of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Its capital, New Amsterdam, was located at the southern tip of the island of Manhattan on the Upper New York Bay and was renamed New York. The peak population was less than 10,000.
- The English took complete control of the colony in 1674. However the Dutch landholdings remained, and the Hudson River Valley maintained a traditional Dutch character down to the 1820s.



# New Amsterdam



European settlement began with the founding of a Dutch fur trading settlement, later called "Nieuw Amsterdam" ([New Amsterdam](#)), on the southern tip of Manhattan in 1614. Dutch colonial Director-General [Peter Minuit](#) purchased the island of Manhattan from the Lenape in 1626 for a value of 60 [guilders](#) (about \$1000 in 2006). Peter Minuit became Director of the New Netherland in 1626 and made a decision that would greatly affect the new colony. Originally, the capital of the province was to be located on the South River, but it was soon realized that the location was susceptible to mosquito infestation in the summer and the freezing of its waterways in the winter. He chose instead the island of Manhattan at the mouth of the river explored by Hudson, at that time called the North River. Minuit traded some goods with the local population and reported that he had purchased it from the natives, as was company policy. He ordered the construction of Fort Amsterdam at its southern tip, around which would grow the heart of the province.

In September 1664 an attack financed by England's Duke of York forced the capitulation of New Netherland. New Amsterdam became [New York City](#).



# Life in New Amsterdam

- Earliest life in New Amsterdam was primitive by today's standards. There were about thirty houses on the east side of the river. A horse mill with a large room above used as a meeting place for religious services. Each colonist had his own farm on the Company's land and was supplied with cows. By 1628, Fort Amsterdam was completed with four bastions, and faced with stone. There were now 270 people in the colony including men, women and children and the people supported themselves chiefly by farming. While the Dutch were known for extreme cleanliness, this did not apply to the streets. People would throw their rubbish, filth, dead animals and such into the public streets.
- Gardens were very important in New Netherland and sometimes men whose sole occupation was gardening, were the keepers of the gardens. Fruit and vegetable sellers displayed their wares in baskets in their shops and also carried them from door to door, even on Sundays.
- At a later period the Rattle Watch was instituted, consisting of six men whose duty was to patrol streets at night, to arrest thieves, to give alarm in case of fire, and all other warnings. They carried a large rattle. Each man received eighteen guilders a month.



# The Reformed Church in America

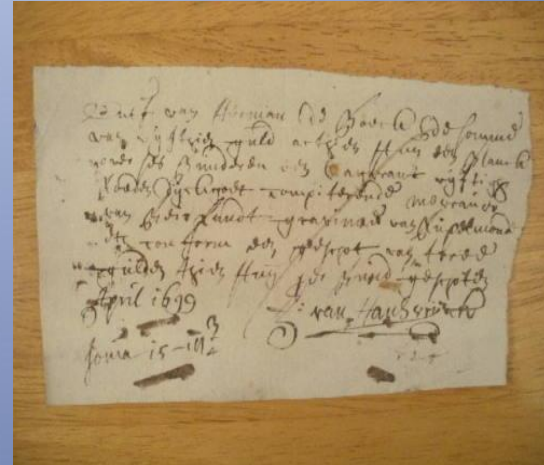
The beginnings of the Reformed Church in America date to 1628. Until the English conquest of New Netherland in 1664, the Reformed Church was the established church of the colony. After that, while still owing ecclesiastical allegiance to the church of Amsterdam in Holland, it gave civil allegiance to England. However, the church continued to expand.

By 1740, it had 65 congregations in New York and New Jersey, served by ministers trained in Europe. In 1771, there were 34 ministers for over 100 churches. Until 1764, in at least three Dutch churches in New York City, all sermons were in Dutch; Other churches with roots in Dutch immigration include the Christian Reformed Church, the Protestant Reformed Churches, the United Reformed Churches, the Netherlands Reformed Congregations, the Heritage Netherlands Reformed Congregations and the Free Reformed Church. Along with the Reformed churches, Roman Catholicism is the other major religion of Dutch Americans.



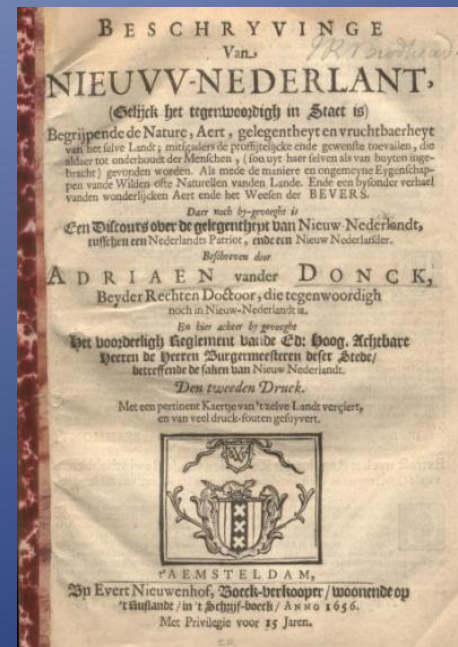
# Dutch language in North America

When the Dutch colonized New Netherland, now known as the Hudson Valley and Long Island in the State of New York, they naturally introduced their language. The Dutch colonial settlers followed their own language, customs and religion, and were numerically strong enough to influence those around them. They published books and newspapers. The Dutch language continued to be widely spoken in the New York region for over 200 years.



In the first half of the twentieth century, books and newspapers in the Dutch language were hardly spoken in North America, with the exception of the 1st generation of Dutch immigrants. But the marks of the Dutch language can still be seen. New York for example has many originally Dutch streets and place names which range from Coney Island and Brooklyn to Wall Street and Broadway.

There are also some words in American-English that are of Dutch origin, like "cookie" (koekje) and "boss" (baas), brandy, coleslaw, cruller, dope, sled, sledge, sleigh, stoop, Yankee, dam, delft, Dutch, Flemish, foist, gin, groove, kermis, measles, Santa Claus, waffle.



# Knickerbockers

- The word «Knickerbocker» is very popular in New York.
- The name "Knickerbocker" first acquired meaning with Washington Irving's History of New York, which featured the fictional author Diedrich Knickerbocker, an old-fashioned Dutch New Yorker. After Irving's History, by 1831, "Knickerbocker" had become a local byword for an imagined old Dutch-descended New York aristocracy and a nickname of New York itself.
- Knickerbockers are men's or boys' breeches or baggy-kneed trousers particularly popular in the early twentieth century in the USA.
- the "New York Knickerbockers" were an amateur social and athletic club organized by Alexander Cartwright on Manhattan's (Lower) East Side in 1842, largely to play "base ball" according to written rules, it was the first organized team in baseball history;





# Dutch Influence on New York Streets and Place Names

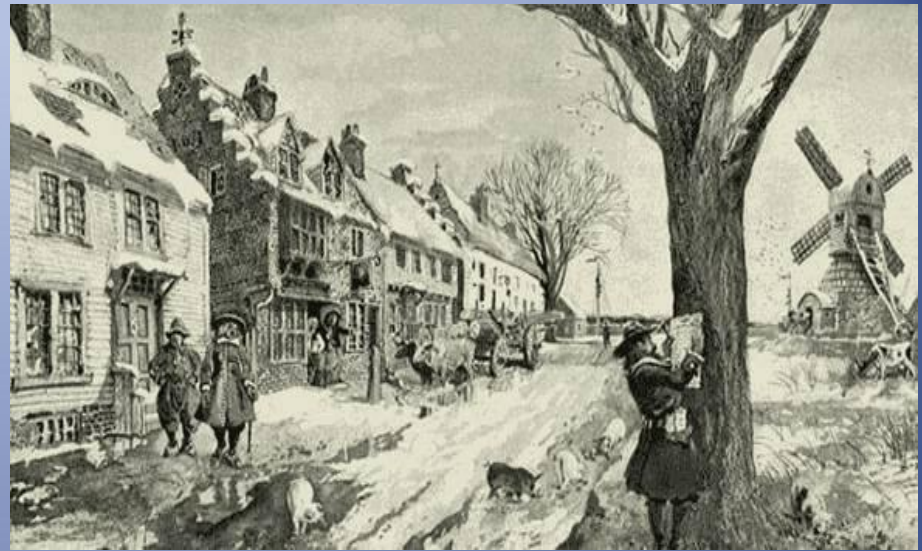
- The Dutch presence can be seen in many streets and place names. Take Amsterdam Avenue, for example, Wall Street and Broadway or Stuyvesant Park between East 15th and East 17th Streets in Manhattan, named after Peter Stuyvesant, the last director-general of the Dutch colony of New Netherland.
- Some names, like Harlem of course, Newkirk or Brooklyn, have had their spellings altered, but their Dutch origin is still apparent. Other names, such as Gansevoort Street and Hoyt-Schermerhorn Street, have kept their spellings intact, although these days they are not pronounced with the Dutch guttural back-of-the-throat sound; then the delightful Spuyton-Duyvil. The Bronx only has the Dutch pronunciation.
- Like many cities, names in New York reflect its history. Despite the Dutch having ceded control of New York over 340 years ago, reminders of their short time there are scattered all over the city up to this day.
- The influence of the Dutch is still evident in the name of one of the USA's states. Rhode Island comes from the Dutch description of the states red clay. In New York state you will see Dutch place names such as Piermont, Orangeburg, Blauvelt and Haverstraw.



# Wall Street

Wall Street refers to the financial district of New York City and centered on the eight-block-long street running from Broadway to South Street on the East River in lower Manhattan. Now it is one of the most important financial centres of the world.

There are different opinions about how the Dutch-named "de Waal Straat" got its name. A generally accepted version is that the name of the street was derived from a wall on the northern boundary of the New Amsterdam settlement, perhaps to protect against English colonial encroachment or incursions by native Americans. A conflicting explanation is that Wall Street was named after Walloons -- possibly a Dutch abbreviation for Walloon -Waal. Among the first settlers that embarked on the ship "Nieu Nederlandt" in 1624 were 30 Walloon families (French speaking Protestant refugees from the southern Netherlands).



# Harlem

- Harlem is a neighborhood in the New York City borough of Manhattan, which since the 1920s has been a major African-American residential, cultural, and business center. Originally a Dutch village, formally organized in 1658, it is named after the city of Haarlem in the Netherlands. Harlem was annexed to New York City in 1873.
- The first European settlement in the area was founded by Hendrick (Henry) de Forest, Isaac de Forest, his brother, and their sister Rachel de Forest, French – Dutch immigrants in 1637.
- The settlement was formalized in 1658 as Nieuw Haarlem (New Haarlem), under leadership of Peter Stuyvesant, and was formally incorporated in 1660.
- The Indian trail to Harlem's lush bottomland meadows was rebuilt by black laborers of the Dutch West India Company, and eventually developed into the Boston Post Road. In 1664, the English took control of the New Netherland colony and tried to change the name of the community to "Lancaster," but the name never stuck, and eventually settled down to the anglicized Harlem.



# Dutch colonial New Year's Celebrations

- The Dutch colonists had their own customs and traditions. For example:
- The celebration of New Year appeared in America in the 17<sup>th</sup> century because of Dutch colonists who brought the custom to the continent.
- Dutch immigrants in the Hudson River valley welcomed the New Year by "opening the house" to family and friends. The custom was adapted by English colonists. Ladies remained at home, offering elegantly arrayed collations laden with cherry bounce, wine, hot punch, and cakes and cookies, often flavored with the Dutch signatures of caraway, coriander, cardamom, and honey.
- New Year's Eve was especially noisy, with the firing of guns to bring in New Year. Ordinances in both the Netherlands and New Netherland eventually prohibited such behavior.
- The special treat for New Year's Day in the Netherlands was nieuwjaarskoeken. The American New Year's cake is a combination of two Dutch pastries brought here by the early settlers.



# Dutch Heritage Festivals

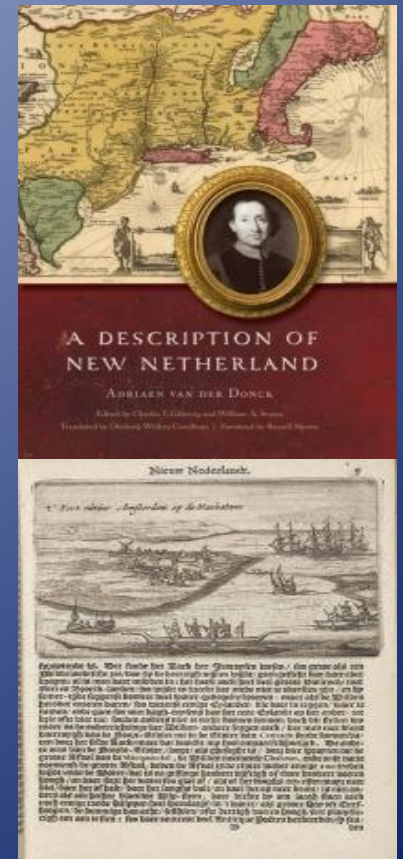
- Many of the Dutch heritage festivals that take place around the United States coincide with flowers.
- The Tulip Festivals are held in several North American cities, including [Albany, New York](#); [Ottawa](#), Ontario; [Gatineau](#), Quebec; [Montreal](#), Quebec; [Holland, Michigan](#)



Albany, New York; Ottawa, Ontario; Gatineau, Quebec ; Montreal, Quebec; Holland,

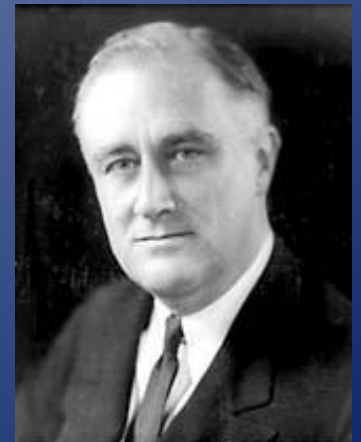
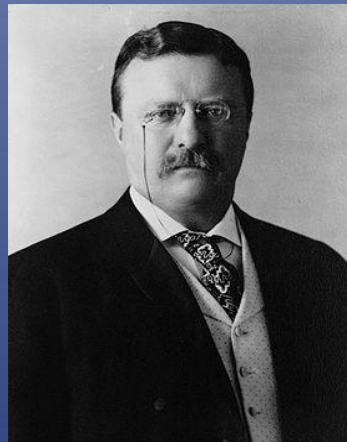
# Adriaen van der Donck

- Adriaen Cornelissen van der Donck (ca. 1618 – ca. 1655) was a lawyer and landowner in New Netherland. In addition to being the first lawyer in the Dutch colony, he was a leader in the political life of New Amsterdam (modern New York City), and an activist for Dutch-style republican government in the Dutch West India Company. He gave America its first written declaration against tyranny.
- Enchanted by his new homeland of New Netherland, Van der Donck made detailed accounts of the land, vegetation, animals, waterways, topography, and climate. Van der Donck used this knowledge to actively promote immigration to the colony, publishing several tracts, including his influential «Description of New Netherland.» It was an essential first-hand account of the lives and world of Dutch colonists and northeastern Native communities in the seventeenth century. Adriaen van der Donck, a graduate of Leiden University in the 1640s, became the law enforcement officer for the Dutch patronship of Rensselaerswijck, located along the upper Hudson River. His position enabled him to interact extensively with Dutch colonists and the local Algonquians and Iroquoians. An astute observer, detailed recorder, and accessible writer, Van der Donck was ideally situated to write about his experiences and the natural and cultural worlds around him.



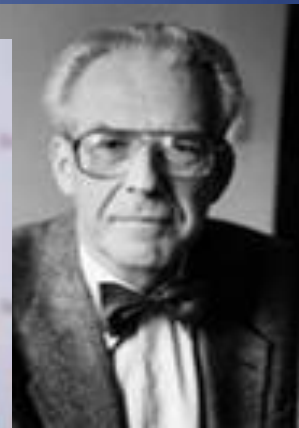
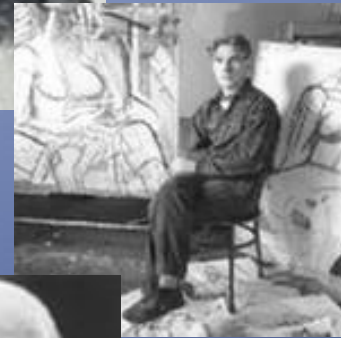
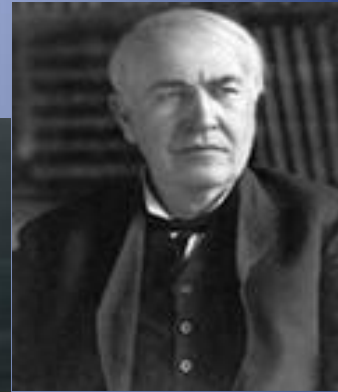
# Three American presidents had Dutch ancestry

- **Martin van Buren**, was the eighth President of the United States. He was a key organizer of the Democratic Party and the first president who was not of English, Irish, or Scottish descent. He is also the only president not to have spoken English as his first language, but rather grew up speaking Dutch.
- **Theodore Roosevelt**, was the 26th President of the United States. Roosevelt is most famous for his personality; his energy, his vast range of interests and achievements, his model of masculinity, and his “cowboy” persona. In 1901, he became President after the assassination of President William McKinley. Roosevelt was a Progressive reformer who sought to move the Republican Party into the Progressive camp.
- **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, was the 32nd President of the United States. Elected to four terms in office, he served from 1933 to 1945, and is the only U.S. president to have served more than two terms. A central figure of the twentieth century, he has consistently been ranked as one of the three greatest U.S. presidents in scholarly surveys.



# Notable Dutch Americans

- They are famous all over the world.
- In art, [Willem de Kooning](#) In art, Willem de Kooning was a leading [Abstract Expressionist](#) painter.
- In literature, [Jan-Willem van de Wetering](#) In literature, Jan-Willem van de Wetering is renowned for his [detective fiction](#).
- In entertainment Dutch actress [Rebecca Romijn](#) is best known for her TV-roles on such comedies as Ugly Betty.
- In science and technology, [Nicolaas Bloembergen](#) In science and technology, Nicolaas Bloembergen won the [Nobel Prize](#) In science and technology, Nicolaas Bloembergen won the Nobel Prize in 1981 for his work in [laser spectroscopy](#).
- In astronomy, [Maarten Schmidt](#) In astronomy, Maarten Schmidt pioneered the research of [quasars](#).
- In sports, baseball player and twice [World Series](#) In sports, baseball player and twice World Series champion [Bert Blyleven](#) In sports, baseball player and twice World Series champion Bert Blyleven gained fame





# Stuyvesant's park

- In 1836, Peter Gerard Stuyvesant (1778–1847) – the great-great-grandson of Peter Stuyvesant – and his wife Hellen Rutherford reserved four acres of the Stuyvesant farm and sold it for a token five dollars to the City of New York as a public park, originally to be called Holland Square, with the proviso that the City of New York build a fence around it. As time passed, however, no fence was constructed, and in 1839, Stuyvesant's family sued the City to cause it to enclose the land. By 1847 the City had begun to improve the park by erecting the magnificent cast-iron fence, which still stands as the second oldest in New York City. In 1850 two fountains completed the landscaping, and the park was formally opened to the public. The public space joined St. John's Square (no longer extant), the recently-formed Washington Square and the private Gramercy Park as residential squares around which it was expected New York's better neighborhoods would be built.

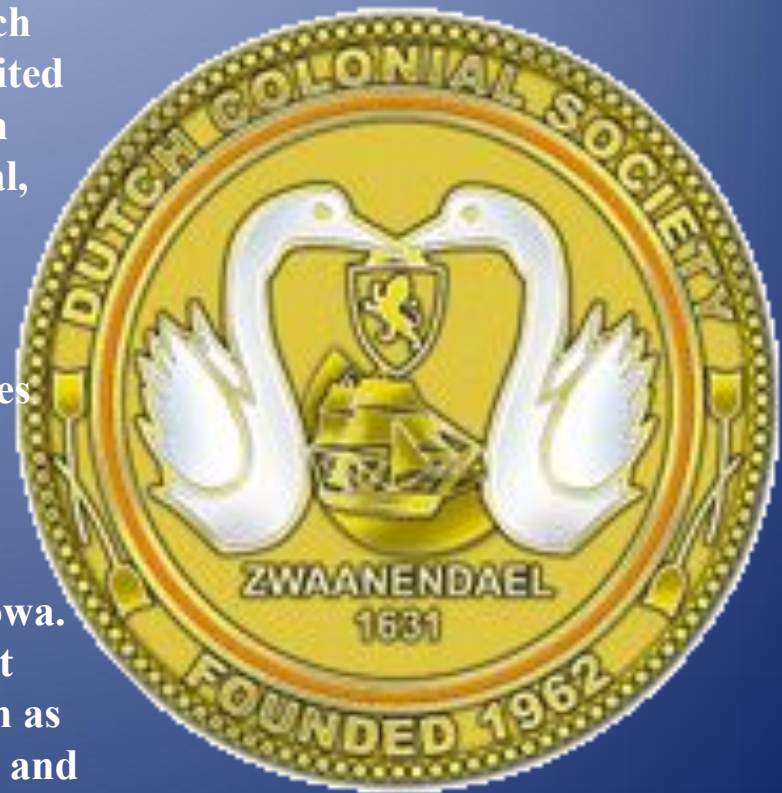


# Dutch Americans Today

- **A Dutch American is an inhabitant of the United States of whole or partial Dutch ancestry.**
- **In 1614 the first Dutch settlers arrived and founded a number of villages and a town called New Amsterdam on the East Coast, which would become the future world metropolis of New York**
- **Between 1820 and 1900, 340,000 Dutch immigrants from the Netherlands came to the United States of America. In the aftermath of World War II, several tens of thousands of Dutch immigrants joined them, mainly moving to California and Washington State. In several counties in Michigan and Iowa, Dutch Americans remain the largest ethnic group.**
- **The Dutch settlers who arrived in the United States in the late 1950s and 1960s were mostly Eurasian refugees of mixed Indonesian and Dutch blood called Indos.**
- **Nowadays, most Dutch Americans, more than 5 million (27%) live in California, followed by New York, Michigan and Pennsylvania.**

# Dutch Colonial Society

- Dutch colonial Society appeared in North America in 1962.
- Ladies and gentlemen who have attained the age of eighteen (18) may be eligible for membership in one of the following categories:
- Colonial member: Proven direct descent from a Dutch settler born in the Netherlands, and, who immigrated, no later than 19 April 1775, to any settlement in what is now the continental United States.
- Also eligible are direct descendants of selected non-Dutch ancestors who settled in what is now the continental United States no later than 19 April 1775, and who have proven significant service to Dutch heritage in business, cultural, military, religious or political affairs either in the Netherlands and/or the United States.
- Non-Colonial member: Proven direct descent from any native of the Netherlands who settled in the United States after 19 April 1775.
- Membership is by invitation only.
- Now they are particularly concentrated around Grand Rapids, Michigan, Sioux City, Iowa, and Des Moines, Iowa. These areas are surrounded with towns and villages that were founded by Dutch settlers in the 19th century, such as Holland, Michigan and Zeeland, Michigan; Pella, Iowa, and Orange City, Iowa. Other Dutch enclaves include Lynden, Washington, Nederland, Texas; and places in New Jersey and California.



# The role of the Dutch

- The Dutch played an important part in the development of the United States of America. The establishment of Dutch settlements in America was a small but nevertheless significant phase of the great European movement for colonization of the New World in the seventeenth century.
- The English conquest of 1664 brought Dutch sovereignty to an end, but for over a century afterward Dutch influence continued dominant in local political activity, social life, agricultural pursuits and architectural developments throughout much of New York and northern New Jersey.
- The colony of New Netherland made a contribution to colonial religious history when it introduced the Dutch Reformed Church into North America. Established in an age of religious bigotry in Europe, the Dutch colony was a landmark in the struggle for the freedom of religious conscience in the New World.
- The Dutch in the Hudson Valley with their pioneer trading posts and later plantation settlements overcame the physical and human hardships of the wilderness and laid the colonial foundation upon which the permanent English settlement of these regions was established in due course.
- The penetration of the Dutch into New York and northern New Jersey provided these areas with a fundamental European culture which strongly influenced their subsequent development as English colonies and American states, and of which remains are observable even today.