



# THE MEADOW LARK

A MEADOWS FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS SUMMER-SPRING 2009

### • March •

**21st - Flappers/ Living History**  
Women's historian Trish Chambers returns with a program on the rise and importance of the 1920s flapper in the quest for women's autonomy.  
Sat. 3/21. 2 p.m.  
Tulipwood

### • April •

**11th - Bunny Jamboree**  
Sat. 4/11 - 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Van Wickie House

**26th - Queen's Day**  
We salute the Meadows' Dutch heritage and Queen Beatrix's official birthday with a lively afternoon of games, Dutch **klompen** dancing, and booths with goods for sale.  
Sun. 4/26 - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Van Wickie

### • May •

**15th - Membership Party**  
Make new friends, greet old ones, and get to know us better.  
Fri. 5/15 - 7:30 p.m.  
Tulipwood

### 16th - The Lindbergh Kidnapping

On March 1, 1922 the only child of Charles Lindbergh was kidnapped in Hopewell. Did the right man die in the electric chair?  
Sat. 5/16 - 2 p.m.  
Hageman Barn

**30th - Garden Workshop**  
Features planting demonstration, butterfly garden session, Victory garden.  
Sat., 5/30 - 1-4 p.m.  
Hageman Farm

### • June •

**19th - Classic Urban Harmony**  
Join us for a multimedia presentation the history of Rhythm 'n Blues, early 1950's Rock 'n Roll, Doo Wop, and Soul.  
Fri. 6/19 - 7 p.m.  
Hageman Barn

Addresses are posted at the end of the calendar.

(Calendar continues on pages 3 & 5)

## KONINGINNEDAG COMES TO THE VAN WICKLE HOUSE

### *A Celebration of the Birthday of the Queen of the Netherlands*

By Ellen Hamilton

Queen's Day is a national holiday in the Netherlands. This commemoration of the Queen's birthday on April 30 is the most celebrated holiday in the country. Every town has a street fair where anybody can sell anything from rummage to fine jewelry. Other activities include children's games, craft demonstrations, individual music performances, concerts and dancing. The color of the day is orange in honor of the Dutch royal family name, the House of Orange. There are orange flags, orange food and drink, orange clothing and even orange hair. Queen Beatrix and her family visit one or two of these fairs each year.



Orange ribbon flying from flagpole during the celebration of the Queen's birthday.



1. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands  
2. Seal of the Dutch Royal Family

The eldest son, Willem-Alexander is the Crown Prince. Beatrix succeeded her mother, Queen Juliana on April 30, 1980. She closely follows the affairs of government and gives a speech at the official opening of parliament. The Queen is especially interested in social welfare and has supported facilities and programs for children with disabilities.

Queen Beatrix visited New Brunswick in 1982 to participate in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the treaty between Holland and the United States. Holland was the second country to recognize the independence of the United States. My husband Bruce and I attended the Queen's speech in Kirkpatrick Chapel. I was impressed by the Queen's perfect English. There was a big festival on Voorhees Mall similar to A Queen's Day celebration. I organized the Van Wickie Dutch Dancers for this occasion. I expected that to be our only appearance but in honor of the Queen, The Meadows Foundation is going to celebrate Queen's Day on April 26, 2009, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Van Wickie House. The fair will feature the Violanta barrel organ and the Van Wickie Dutch Dancers. There will be activities and games for children and arts and crafts vendors. Dutch lunch of cold cuts, cheese and bread, including orange colored snacks and drinks will be available. There is a \$5 parking donation for the event.

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*By Christine Retz, President Meadows Foundation*



*Warm Regards  
Chris*

*I'm very pleased and excited to have assumed the honored presidency of the Meadows Foundation on January 1, 2009. This is a wonderful time for us. Our membership is over 200 now, and we have expanded to now offer quality programs, for both adult history buffs and children alike, 10 months of the year. Some months we are offering multiple programs, such as our popularity and reputation grown. A most timely and generous grant from the **Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission** has enabled this expansion, and to the commissioners we give our warmest and most hearty thanks.*

*I was particularly struck by something President Obama said in his inauguration speech. "What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility—a recognition that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so*

*satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task."*

*What I am asking you, our members and the public alike, is to volunteer your time and talents to the Meadows. Do you have knowledge of painting, wallpapering, gardening? How about computer skills? Time to make some telephone calls? If you are a member already, consider joining our board of directors. We have several open slots, and meet the third Monday evening of each month at our beloved Van Wickle house. **All paid-up members are welcome to attend these meetings and your input is valued.** If you are not a member, please consider joining via the membership form in this issue. (And see below for our upcoming membership party.) Volunteering and belonging to the Meadows is a wonderful way to "satisfy the spirit."*

*I look forward to greeting you personally at our many events this year.*

## FIRESIDE CHATS 2009

As you can see by the calendar elsewhere in this issue, we have a terrific program of events for you this spring and fall. We have been running at capacity attendance, so when you get news of our events and want to come, I urge you to RSVP right away and get to the site early to be sure of a great seat.

At press time we are already starting to plan our 2010 calendar. If you have a programming idea, I'd be very happy to have it. You can contact me at [chrisflp@aol.com](mailto:chrisflp@aol.com) or 732-748-7657. Thanks!

## HAGEMAN FARM'S HORSE & DAIRY BARN

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION & ADAPTIVE REUSE *By Mark Else*



When we first started considering the restoration of these barns twenty-five years ago, we were staggered by the projected cost of such a project. Where could we get the funds? Then once we had them restored, how could we maintain and keep them up? We had a "Save the Barns" fund going for several years at that time and had raised \$64,580.00 initially through fund raising efforts of Ann Suydam and others on the Hageman Farm Committee. Dave Munyak was the one who spearheaded the first major restoration project and prepared the first major grant we had ever gone after. As he made progress with the restoration, funded by the New Jersey Historic Trust, they gave us another \$22,989.00 making it a total of \$87,569.00 in 1993. As it turned out, we could only cover our expenses through the restoration of the sills, flooring, some foundation work on the Horse Barn, and some stabilization on both barns with temporary roofs and other items. Dave stretched the funds out considerably. It also included an excellent architectural restoration plan for the site, but with a new objective.

*(Continued on page 3)*

• **SEPTEMBER** •

**11th - 13th Civil War Living History Weekend**

The 6th New Hampshire Volunteers, Co. C, return to demonstrate the daily lives of Union soldiers during the War Between the States.

Fri. thru Sun. - 9/11 to 9/13  
Van Liew-Suydam House

**19th - The Triangle Tragedy**

On March 25, 1911, a deadly fire swept the Triangle Shirtwaist Co., claiming nearly 150 lives. The exits were locked as precaution against "the interruption of work." Would justice prevail at the ensuing trial?

Sat. - 9/11 - 2 p.m.

Hageman Farm

**20th - Hageman Harvest Festival**

Join us for an afternoon of family fun, including bobbing for apples, an apple pie contest, and old-fashioned games.

Sun. - 9/20 - 1 - 4 p.m.

Hageman Farm

• **OCTOBER** •

**10th & 11th - Colonial Times**

Original 18th-century furnishings, costumed interpreters, open-hearth period cooking. Reenactors demonstrate 18th-century activities and skills, plus demonstrations of women's role in colonial society.

Sat. & Sun. - 10/10 - 10/11

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wyckoff Garretson House

**17th - The Hindenburg Disaster**

Discover what really happened on the fateful afternoon of May 6, 1937 at Lakehurst Naval Air Station. Was espionage involved in the fiery disaster?

Sat. - 10/17 - 2 p.m.

Hageman Farm

**31st - Pumpkin Patch**

Join us for our annual Halloween festival.

Sat - 10/31 - Noon - 4 p.m.

Van Wickle House

• **NOVEMBER** •

**7th - Poetry Reading**

NJ poet Diane Lockward reads her poetry.

Sat. - 11/7 - 2 p.m.

Tulipwood

**21st - Lizzie Borden**

"Lizzie Borden took an axe, and gave her father 40 whacks. And when she saw what she had done, she gave her mother 41." But did she?

Sat. - 11/21 - 2 p.m.

Hageman Farm

(Calendar continues, on page 5)

(... Adaptive Reuse, continued from p. 2)

It would be an adaptive reuse restoration of the Horse and Dairy barns creating a community meeting and event facility. This will make it possible to generate income through rental use of the buildings to maintain the buildings.

Our restoration efforts were brought to an end by lack of funding in the middle 1990s. Then in 1998, Somerset County started its Historic Preservation program. In the ten years since that started, we have completed the Hageman Horse Barn, by David Munyak. The Hageman Dairy and Wagon Barns are being worked on by Mark Else. We have completely restored the inside and outside of the Wyckoff-Garretson House and Wagon Barn, by Mark Else, the exterior of the Van Liew-Suydam House by Gary Randolph and John Mullen as well as the exterior of

Tulipwood and its garage. John Mullen will be completing the interior this year.

The adaptive reuse plan at Hageman Farm will literally join the barns (see the drawings on page 4). This will provide a passage way between the barns, stairs between floors, create a large public space in the Horse Barn where we can have concerts, meetings, weddings, private parties or banquets, art and crafts shows, corporate retreats and the list goes on. The Dairy Barn will become a banquet facility seating up to 80 people at tables and for larger groups could serve up to 200 people buffet style. In the beginning it will only be a three-season facility, March through November. We have recently learned that there may be a possibility of heating the Horse Barn temporarily for events with a system that is used to heat tents.

In the not too distant future. . .



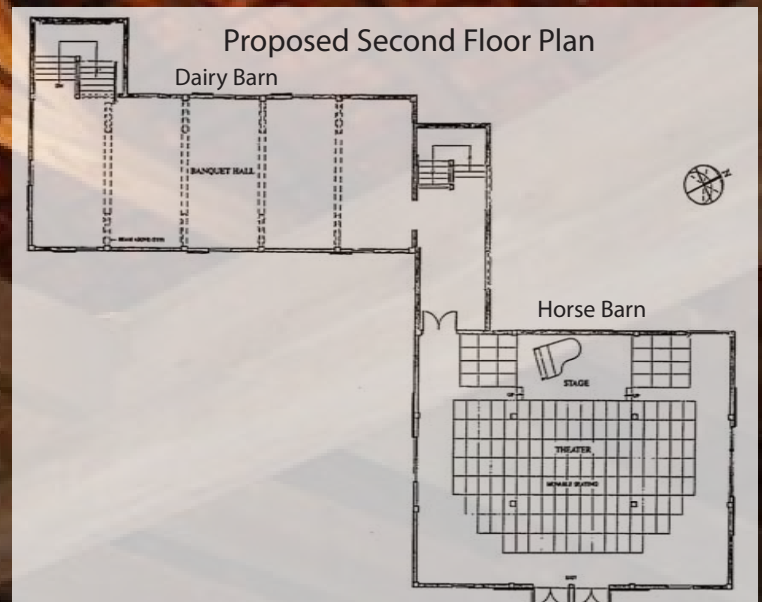
(Continued on page 4)

## MAY MEMBERSHIP PARTY AT TULIPWOOD

By Dee Trenery

*Prospective and paid-up members are invited to attend our Friday, May 15, 2009 membership gathering. Make new friends, greet old ones, and get to know us better. Complementary light refreshments will be served.*

*This social event will be at Tulipwood, 1165 Hamilton St., Somerset, at 7:30 p.m. Please reserve your place by calling me at 732-873-8334. You won't want to miss this exciting evening, so please call me today.*



In the meantime, we must prepare plans for enclosed passages back and forth between the two barns with stairways between upper and lower floors. This will allow guests to pass from one barn to the other on the same level. The ground floor of both barns must be modified to have new floors, partitions to accommodate a coat room, men and women's restrooms, and a catering kitchen on the ground floor of the Dairy Barn. An entrance to the facility is

planned on the south side of the Horse Barn. We have a way to go to fully be able to make it a functional facility. With some of the changes mentioned above, we may be able to start using the barns together within a couple of years. We must plan various site improvements such as walks, lighting and parking with a new entrance on South Middlebush Road. We recently surveyed the Hageman Farm property and found that we have enough land north of the Wagon Barn to install a parking lot. The parking lot will look

like a field. We are using a concrete grid paver with holes through which grass will grow to look like a field. We will occasionally need to mow our parking lot. Once finished, this historic site will look like it did in 1877, but inside we will be using its spaces for new purposes. It can become a major income generator for the Meadows Foundation as well as beautiful and unique, multipurpose facility for the Meadows Foundation, Franklin Township and the public at large.

• **DECEMBER** •

**6th - Sinterklaas**

Join us for our annual family-oriented celebration of the Dutch Christmas when St. Nicholas comes to visit the children and discover who's been naughty and nice. Dutch crafts, food, and **klompen** dancers too! Sun. - 12/6 - 1 p.m.

**Van Wickel House**

**13th - An Old-Fashioned Christmas**

At this family event we'll decorate the Christmas tree with ornaments that the children will make on-site, and listen to a variety of carols presented by the magical **Franklin High School Madrigals**.

Sun. - 12/13 - 1 p.m.

**Hageman Farm**

(For further information, concerning the above events, please contact us at [www.themeadowsfoundation.org](http://www.themeadowsfoundation.org))

• **ADDRESSES** •

**Hageman Farm/Barn**

209 S. Middlebush Rd.

**Tulipwood**

1165 Hamilton St.

**Van Liew-Suydam**

280 S. Middlebush Rd.

**Van Wickel House**

1289 Easton Ave.

**Wyckoff-Garretson House**

215 S. Middlebush Rd.



# TULIPMANIA



*By Angela Fernan, Meadowlark Editor*

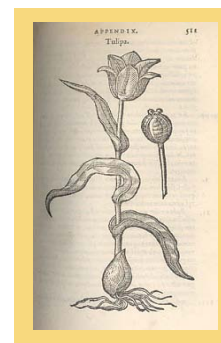


When one thinks of Dutch Heritage, one cannot help but think of the tulip. Next to beer, it is one of the Netherlands largest exports. If asked, most people believe that tulips are native to Northern Europe. Sorry, but that is a total misconception. As with many flowers today, tulips were actually a wildflower. Native to central Asia, they were introduced to Holland by way of Turkey in the seventeenth century, where they had been cultivated from about 1000 AD.

A Viennese biologist by the name of Carolus Clusius, had been given the bulbs by a friend of his Ogier de Busbecq. At the time, de Busbecq, was the Ambassador to Constantinople (Istanbul). He gave the bulbs to Clusius, so they could be studied for their medicinal properties. The word "tulip" is actually the Turkish word for turban, which the flower was thought to resemble.

From the time of the bulb being introduced to Holland, it was used primarily for medicinal purposes but it was also used decoratively in Dutch gardens. It became an ideal object for trade. As botanists began to hybridize the flowers, interest in them grew and they soon became a commodity, being sold for extremely high prices. Around 1636 - 1637, trade became so fierce, that history has designated the period as "Tulipmania."

The average person, seeing how much money the upper class was making on tulip bulbs, joined in the frenzy. Some bulbs were sold for as much as the cost of a house in Amsterdam! Huge amounts of money were being made every month. People began selling off anything of value, such as homes, businesses, even animals and dowries.



A documented sale in 1637 for a bulb of the "Viceroy" variety, lists the price at "two [loads] of wheat and four of rye, four fat oxen, eight pigs, a dozen sheep, two oxheads of wine, four tons of butter, a thousand pounds of cheese, a bed, some clothing and a silver beaker." This price was equivalent to 2500 guilders and it wasn't unusual for some to go for as much as 6000 guilders. As with any commodity, the market soon became flooded with the bulbs. The abundance soon led to lower prices and thus bankruptcy. The government had to institute trade restrictions on the bulbs due to the "Tulip Crash of '37."

Today, every spring, we see the offspring of these tulips blooming in gardens all over the world. If you have any in your garden, you may now have a new appreciation of them with the realization that they were once worth more than your house!

**Renew  
or become  
a member  
of the  
Meadows  
Foundation**



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Enclosed is my/our tax deductible 501c3 contribution.

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\$250 Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25 Individual <input type="checkbox"/>	
\$100 Donor <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25 Senior Couple <input type="checkbox"/>	

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Businesses and Organizations are asked to join at the \$100 level or above. Thank you!



Since early Dutch homes and lives are the heritage The Meadows Foundation is preserving, we thought it would be interesting to our members to learn about this largely ignored period in American history. With this issue we are beginning the series and will continue with several more over coming issues of the Meadow Lark. Please let us know if you find these interesting or not.

# DUTCH HERITAGE I. HENRY HUDSON & FIRST SETTLEMENT

By Mark Else

## PROLOGUE

"The idea of a Dutch contribution to American history seems novel at first, but that is because early American history was written by Englishmen, who throughout the seventeenth century, were locked in mortal combat with the Dutch."\* Bertrand Russell wrote regarding its impact on intellectual history, "It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of Holland in the seventeenth century, as the one country where there was freedom of speculation." "The Netherlands of this time was the melting pot of Europe. The Dutch Republic's policy of tolerance made it a haven for everyone from Descartes and John Locke to exiled English royalty, to peasants across Europe. When this society founded a colony on Manhattan Island, that colony had the same features of tolerance to openness and free trade as in its home country. Those features helped make New York unique, in time, influenced America in elemental ways."\* It should be further noted that the English Pilgrims went there in 1616 to escape religious persecution.

## DISCOVERY

Four hundred years ago in April 6, 1609, an English Captain embarked from the Dutch port Texel, on his third exploratory voyage to find the north east passage. His mission was to reach the East Indies by way of the Arctic Ocean north of Russia. He had been commissioned by the English Muscovy Company for his similar voyages in 1607 and 1608. Each time the impenetrable ice floes of the northern passage were too perilous and impossible to navigate. After his return he was unable get another sponsor or ship.



Henry Hudson

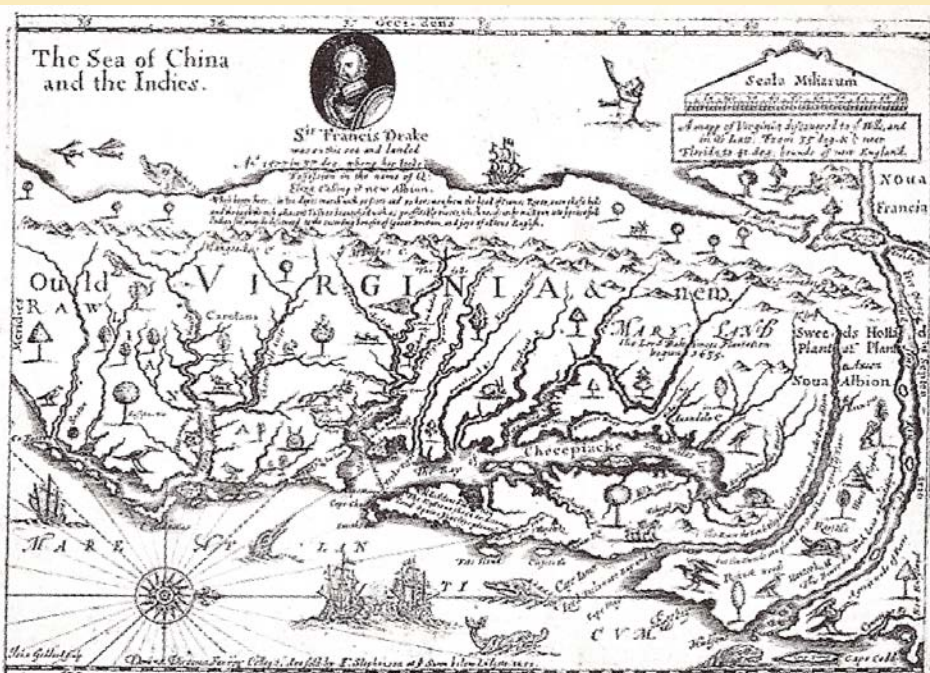
By 1608, the Dutch East India Company had a monopoly on spice trade from the Orient and also were looking for a shortened and less expensive route there. On the very day he was rejected by the English Muscovy Company in London, Hudson was approached on the street by a Dutchman named Van Meteren, who had come to England to find him. He persuaded Hudson to go to Amsterdam.

His discussions with the Dutch East India Company paved the way for another voyage

in the spring of 1609. By September, the "Half Moon," a 70 foot, 80-ton ship with a crew of sixteen, half Dutch and half English, was well equipped for such a voyage. Its English Captain, Henry Hudson, headed his Dutch ship north along the Norwegian coast and immediately was surrounded by dangerous ice floes. Hudson's history of failed voyages did not give him a great deal of leverage with his crew. After several weeks of a dangerous and difficult passage north, his crew was on the verge of mutiny.

He was persuaded to turn back and in the process he persuaded his crew to go west. Hudson was a good friend of Captain John Smith of the Virginia colony. The two captains had traded exploration maps over a

period of several years. This included one with Smith's theory that it was possible to make a water passage to the Pacific somewhere in the middle of the Americas. Hudson's North Atlantic voyage west was extremely rough, losing the main mast on the way. They came ashore somewhere along the Maine coast, cut down, worked, and installed a new mast. They then traveled south along the East Coast to the opening of what is now called the Chesapeake Bay. Even though John Smith was leading the English colony in Jamestown, Hudson chose not to visit the settlement. There was a considerable amount of tension between the Dutch and English during the 17th century.



*"Hudson spent several weeks sailing up the river as far as depth would allow. He named this river the 'Great River' on his chart."*



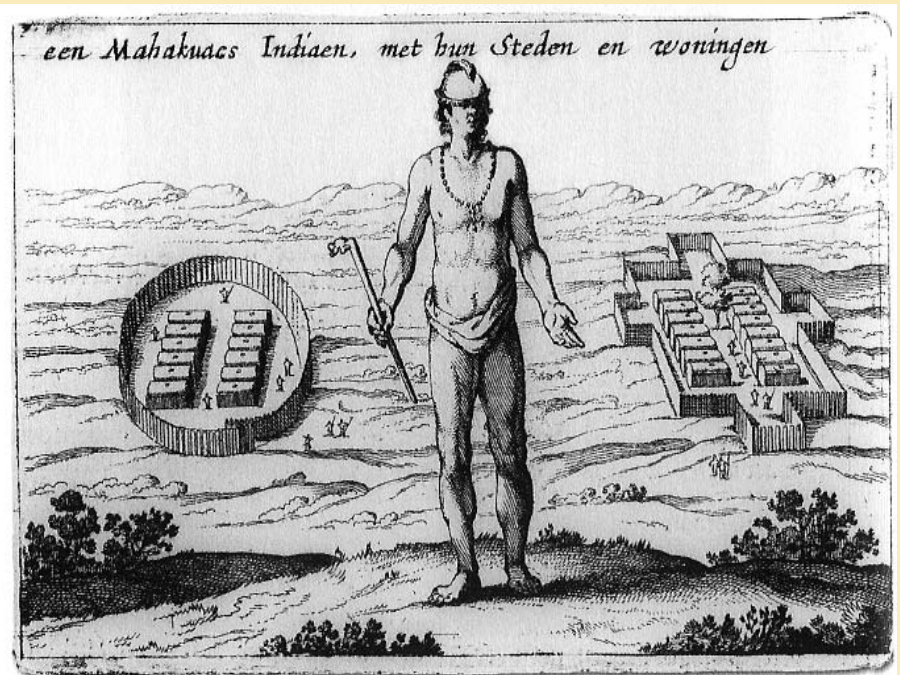
He was unable to get another ship for some time because of his violating his agreement. Regardless, he did make claim for the Dutch of all the land between the "south river," (Delaware River) north (New York Harbor & Long Island) to what is now known as the Connecticut River, for the Netherlands. It took another 17 years before the newly formed Dutch East Indies Company financed the first settlement on the island of Manhattan. Pieter Minuit was the leader and first Director of the settlement. The captain of the ship was Cornelius May, for whom Cape May is named. It is important to note that the purpose of this first settlement was not to form a colony, but establish a trading post and cultivate a relationship with the river Indians for the Dutch West India Company. In 1626 it was proudly announced that the settlement had been established. It was further elaborated that some children had been born, the harvest was a success and the "Arms of Amsterdam" had returned with 8,250 furs and 7,246 beaverskins valued at 45,000 guilders.

\* From Russell Shorto's book, *Island in the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan & the forgotten Colony that Shaped America*.

Instead, he took the Chesapeake opening as a navigational point to start his voyage north along the East Coast looking for that middle passage. On September 12, 1609 he discovered a "good entrance between two headlands," in what is now New York Harbor. (Of course, Giovanni da Verrazano found the same opening and welcome eight-five years earlier. However he did not go up the great river or make any claims.) Hudson proceeded on "as fine a river as can be found with good anchoring grounds on both sides." He sailed further up river and found a "friendly and polite people, who had an abundance of provisions, skins and furs," which they traded amicably with the crew. Hudson kept a detailed journal of the ship's voyage. He recorded how surprised the Anglo-Dutch sailors were to find a country so "full of great and tall oakes, inhabited by natives dressed in Mantles of Feathers, and some in skinnies of diverse sorts of good Fures." Hudson spent several weeks sailing up the river as far as the depth would allow. He named this river the "Great River" on his chart.

It was his journal and its description of the abundance and variety of great trees and furs that became Hudson's most valuable prize from his voyage. In Amsterdam he had been instructed by the Dutch East India Company that he was not to share any of his discoveries with anyone before he returned to the Netherlands. However, he pointedly broke this agreement by stopping in England and sharing this information with his English friends. That was the 17th-century equivalent of selling company secrets.

When Hudson returned to Amsterdam, the Dutch East India Company had already heard of his stop in England.



A Dutch depiction of a Mohawk Indian and Mohawk longhouse villages, dated from the time of Van der Donck's travels among the Mohawk.



STEWARDS OF EARLY DUTCH & AMERICAN HERITAGE

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The Meadows Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to give the past a future by preserving and restoring historic sites with an emphasis on early Dutch and American heritage.

[www.themeadowsfoundation.org](http://www.themeadowsfoundation.org)

ph. 732-828-7418

*The Meadows Foundation receives operating support and other grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State; NJ Historic Trust, Somerset County Historic Commission; Franklin Township Open Space Commission and from generous members, individuals and business donors.*

NJHS



## HELP HISTORY COME ALIVE, JOIN US AT THE MEADOWS

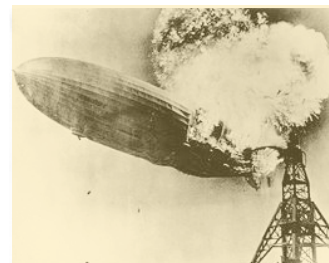


### THE TRIANGLE TRAGEDY

Come see if justice will prevail on September 19th at 2 p.m. at the Hageman Farm. We will be exploring what transpired on March 25th 1911, when the Triangle Shirtwaist factory was consumed by flames. Many deaths occurred because the exits were locked due to company policy against the possibility of "the interruption of work."

### THE "HINDENBURG" DISASTER

Most of us were children or not even born yet the afternoon of May 6, 1937. That was the day that the dirigible *Hindenburg* hit the tower at Lakehurst Naval Air Station here in New Jersey. The famous announcement "oh, the humanity" aptly described the tragedy that ensued. This will be discussed on Oct. 17th at 2 p.m. at Hageman Farm.



### LIZZIE BORDEN

On Nov. 21st at 2 p.m., at the Hageman Farm, we shall try to discover whether or not Lizzie Borden gave her father forty whacks. Did she enjoy it so much that she turned around and gave her mother forty one?? Or was she even there?



*For further information on all events, contact us at [www.themeadowsfoundation.org](http://www.themeadowsfoundation.org)*