

Journal of the Association of Philippe du Trieux Descendants

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President's Note

Dear Members,

Our new website is bringing a lot of visits. I am in the process of learning how to add subpages, which will offer new research tools and articles. I will mention them in the Journal when they are on the site. This issue is my 56th and I continue to discover new things about our ancestry and our living cousins. Guess we can conclude we **ARE** an interesting people.

New member Tim Bode purchased the Thura Truax Hires files available to members. His interest prodded me into looking at them again. The letter from Th. de T. Truax in this issue is a link to the "House of Truax" project. I retyped the letter, but left the punctuation, etc., in original form. The letter describes his thrill of finding his genealogy and his happiness in being able to share it with all of us that followed.

Jan Hagemeister wrote a review in the last Journal of **Island in the Center of the World** by Russell Shorto. The book is about our Dutch ancestors who were among the first settlers in Manhattan. I was unaware that Shorto wrote at least 30 books on many various topics and people. One of this Journal's articles is Shorto describing how he begins with facts and merges them with his own perceptions. I think it is so worth our reading that I have broken down the "blog" into two parts — the second to be included in the fall Journal. I hope it gives you an idea of the journey many writers of history experience.

Karen

**Karen L. Vaina, President & Journal Editor
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Russell Shorto
*history & emotions
factor in his books*

Russell Shorto's blog "400 Years of Dutch American Stories" is about the connection between Dutch and America history. On his thoughts about writing a book, he realized "I have lived at the intersection of Dutch and American history for more than 20 years, my own identity and its evolution over that time, might be a relevant topic."

After a presentation, he was asked if he had a general approach when writing his books. After "stalling a bit," he said, "I often start out at an intellectual place and end up at an emotional place....my typical entry point will be an idea, and under-appreciated aspect of history. Then, over the course of years spent researching and writing, I eventually developed my own take on the subject, I became emotionally invested in it. The subject becomes part of who I am."

Shorto remembered the moment he became interested in New York's Dutch roots. Living in the East Village, he would take his toddler daughter to a churchyard to play near the tombs of New York's early inhabitants. One of the tombs was that of Petrus Stuyvesant who was the last director general of New Netherland--likely the most prominent Dutch Colony's resident. Shorto said. "When I asked some historian friends what they knew about the Dutch period, they shook their heads. It seemed to be a black hole."



Peter Stuyvesant Park
(Wikipedia)

Shorto was put in touch with Charles Gehring. Gehring had been studying and translating the records of the colony since 1974 and continues his research today.

(cont'd on p. 3)

THOSE WHO FOLLOWED YOU ARE GRATEFUL, THEODORE

In a letter to Edgar Truax from Th. de T. Truax (that is how it was signed) written in 1905 a man describes his happiness in searching and finding information about the du Trieux family. This was the beginning of "The House of Truax." The letter was acquired by Allan L. Truax and we have it thanks to our late president, Paul Truax, who scanned many, many boxes of the Thura Hires manuscripts. Besides the information in the letter, I was impressed with the formality of the letter. The punctuation is just as he typed it. He was a New York City newspaper man. The letter follows:

Mr. Edgar Truax,
Alamo, Indiana

In 1867, moved by curiosity, I first made researching for data pertaining to my immediate family, for the sole object of establishing my male ancestry; but my initial efforts were side-tracked; for I was in quest of the proverbial "three brothers who came here from Holland." Instead, I found to my amazement that which will doubtless surprise many a patronymic wearer of the name to-day, i.e., I found in the Secretary of State Department at Albany, New York, the original signature of "Philippe du Trieux" pronounced Treoo – the progenitor of every Truax or Truex, living on this continent; at least so far as ancient records disclose. History says that (Philippe) Philip du Trieux – born 1585, a Huguenot refugee from the persecutions of the French during their religious wars, was a resident of this country during the regime of Gov. Minit, from 1624 to 1629, and became a factor in his (Minit's) administration.

The preparation of this genealogical work – the pride of my life – most justly called a life's labor of love without hope of a pecuniary profit; so rapidly grew and developed such new, interesting and larger fields of labor, until now I have classified in ten generations complete, an Historical Genealogy of the Truax and Truex families – with some few exceptions – including photos for reproduction in the volume about

*to be published, as well as that which has become the boast of every true American who has a good and clear pedigree, -- the family Coat of Arms. It is quite apparent that there exists a desire among our families, to learn and know more of their family connections and history; and, as to the older generation belongs the duty of establishing the link which binds the great lives that have been, to the truly noble ones that may come after us; and that we may review the deeds of our fathers – be they ever so *dir* (*dire? dear?*) – and pass that just verdict upon them, which we may anticipate from posterity as they turn back the pages of history, seeking in purpose and result, why this circular with its requests is presented for your favorable consideration. The work will be a most magnificent deluxe edition in size, about 500 pages, printed on American handmade paper, water-lined with the autograph of Philippe du Trieux*, the original progenitor of the Truax and Truex families, with binding and press-work to correspond in elegance.*

You can assist materially and further the desired end by filling in the blanks on the enclosed form, and returning it to my address at the earliest possible date. Our senses should not be inactive to the voice of time. Let the Truax motto be your guide.

*"Bien faire et ne rien craindre"
(Do the right and fear nought)*

*Yours very truly,
Th. de T. Truax
(Theodore de T. Truax)*

(Cont'd from p. 1)

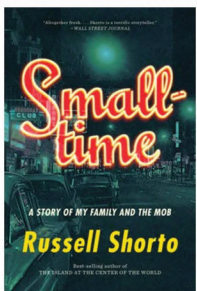
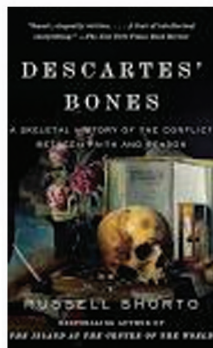
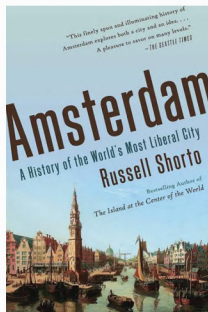
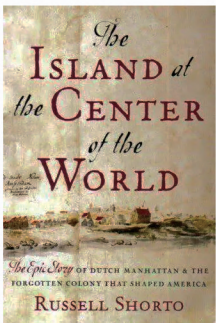
"I began to realize not only that the Dutch contributed mightily to American history, but also one could tell the early story of European settlement in America not just by looking at the Puritans and Pilgrims of New England, as had traditionally been done, but by focusing on Manhattan." American history wouldn't start out as Anglo-centric. "The Dutch colony was a multi-ethnic, polyglot place — on that closely resembles not only New York today but the U.S. as a whole."

Far from the "dark hole," is New York's Dutch period, thanks to the official records found by **Charles Gehring's** 12,000 pages of material. Much of the material is located at the New York State Archives in Albany, New York, as well as The National Archives of the Netherlands.

Back to the way Shorto begins his books. His next book is about Rene Descartes, the French Philosopher, who spent a good part of his life in the Low Countries. Shorto decided to spend a year in Amsterdam researching it and was offered the director's job of **John Adams Institute**. He found himself to be "the unofficial bridge between Dutch and American cultures."

"Most of my work involved bringing prominent Americans, including novelists, politicians, scientists—to speak to the Dutch audiences. He would receive calls from Dutch journalists asking me to comment on events in the US. And so, I began not only to see the Netherlands and its history through American eyes, but, to some extent, to look at the U.S. from a Dutch perspective.

--excerpts and pictures from Shorto's blog
"400 Years of Dutch American Stories"



Janke, Booz, Koekje, & Sinterklass!

Hundreds of English words come from the Dutch. Here are some common words that you probably never guessed were originally Dutch derived.

1. **YANKEE** This term originated in New Amsterdam where it was used as a derogatory word for the English colonists in neighboring Connecticut. The word "yankee" may come from the Dutch name **Janke** (there are other similar names). It was a generic nickname, at the time, for the Dutch. The term was first used insultingly towards the Dutch, who later turned it around on the English themselves. (Irony when you think of the song that says the Yanks are coming to save England --300 years makes a big difference).
2. **BOSS** It turns out the Dutch also invented the expression "like a boss." The Dutch word "**baas**" was first used in the 1620s as the standard title for a ship's captain. The Americans may have taken the word on as their own to avoid the use of the word "master," which implied slave subordinates rather than free laborers.
3. **BOOZE** This slang word for alcohol comes from the old Dutch verb used which meant to "drink heavily." The origin of the word "booze" is often mistakenly credited to **E.C. Booz**, an American alcohol distiller in the 19th century. However, his appropriate surname was simply a happy coincidence as the Dutch word predates him.
4. **SANTA CLAUS** I was going to skip this due to several past Journal article about **Sinterklass**. But a little more clarity here as to why he became revered. Sinterklass was named after St. Nicollaus, Bishop of Mira, who lived in Turkey in the 3rd century. According to the legend, he saved the town from starvation, revived a couple of dead children, and offered gifts to poor girls so they didn't have to become prostitutes. It is often claimed that during the American War of Independence, the residents of New York City (formerly a Dutch colonial town) reinvented the Sinterklass tradition of St. A Claus.
5. **COOKIE** The word is borrowed from the Dutch word **koekje** (biscuit or cookie), which is pronounced kook-ye. The English spelling of Dutch words typically omitted combinations of vowels which do not exist in English (like oe) and replaced them with existing vowel combinations respectively like "oo". koekje became cookie.

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6. **SPOOKY** This Dutch word and its variations made its way into the English language as early as 1801. Spook, in Dutch, is defined as a "specter, apparition or ghost." In English it is a verb used to frighten a person or animal. As an adjective it is a ghostly way that causes fear and unease.
7. **COLESLAW** The English word is a bastardization of the Dutch word **koolsla**. The Dutch word literally translates to "cabbage salad." That was easy.
8. **QUACK** We all know what a quack is (not Donald Duck's word). The term is derived from the now obsolete Dutch word **quacksalver** (spelled kwakzalver in contemporary Dutch). Kwakzalver literally means "hawker of salve"s (salve being a medical ointment).
9. **SKATE** With the Dutch dominance in Olympic skating, it's no wonder they invented the word. It is said that the word (derived from the Dutch word **schaats**) was brought to England in the 1660s by the exiled followers of King Charles II, who had taken refuge in the Netherlands.
10. **CRUISE** The origin of this word is the Dutch verb **kruisen**, which means "to cross" or to. "Sail to and fro." With the Dutch being one of the seafaring nations, it's no wonder so many English words relating to the sea or sailing have their origins in the Lowlands. (Sloop, buoy, deck, pump, bow, skipper, and yacht.)
-- Brandt Family News, Spring 2023

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Good news, Mr. Smith!...



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A warm welcome to all our newest members.
We are happy that you have joined us.

Usually, we list them here, but our membership database keeper, and treasurer Jan took a bad fall this week and is recovering from breaking five ribs.

Send her your get well vibes.

Happy
Fathers
Day